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The lawnmower injury problem is not a tree problem but a people problem. It is a classic case of communication breakdown. The solution is to educate lawnmower operators about tree

## The lawnmower injury problem in not a tree problem, but a people problem.

wounds and then to hold them responsible for any tree wounds they cause.

### Injury treatment

Bark can often be successfully reattached to trees if the wounds are treated within a few hours after injury occurs. Torn bark should be positioned as much as possible in its exact position before the injury and held in place by a few small tacks or staples.

If several days or weeks have passed since the injury, torn or

loose bark should be cut away and the edges of the wound should be traced using a hand tool such as a pruning knife.

Pruning tools should be sterilized between trees. There is no need to cut additional tissue around the wound to achieve a certain shape. Avoid making deep scribes or any vertical sharp points which serve as additional sites for bark dieback and starting points for bark cracks.

Older injuries with callus development all around the wound are best left alone. If any bark around old wounds is dead it is advisable to trace the area back to live bark. Application of wound dressing for cosmetic purposes is optional.

WT&T

Shigo, A. L. 1970. Tree decay—an expanded concept. USDA Forest Service Agric. Inf. Bull. 419.

Shigo, A. L. 1977. Compartmentalization of decay in trees. USDA Forest Service Agric. Inf. Bull. 405.

Shigo, A. L. 1982. Tree Health. J. Arboriculture 8:311-316.

Tattar, T. A. 1978. Diseases of Shade Trees. Academic Press, N.Y. 361p.



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**University of Florida, Ft. Lauderdale**  
Evaluation of turf-type bermudagrasses for sod web-worm resistance.

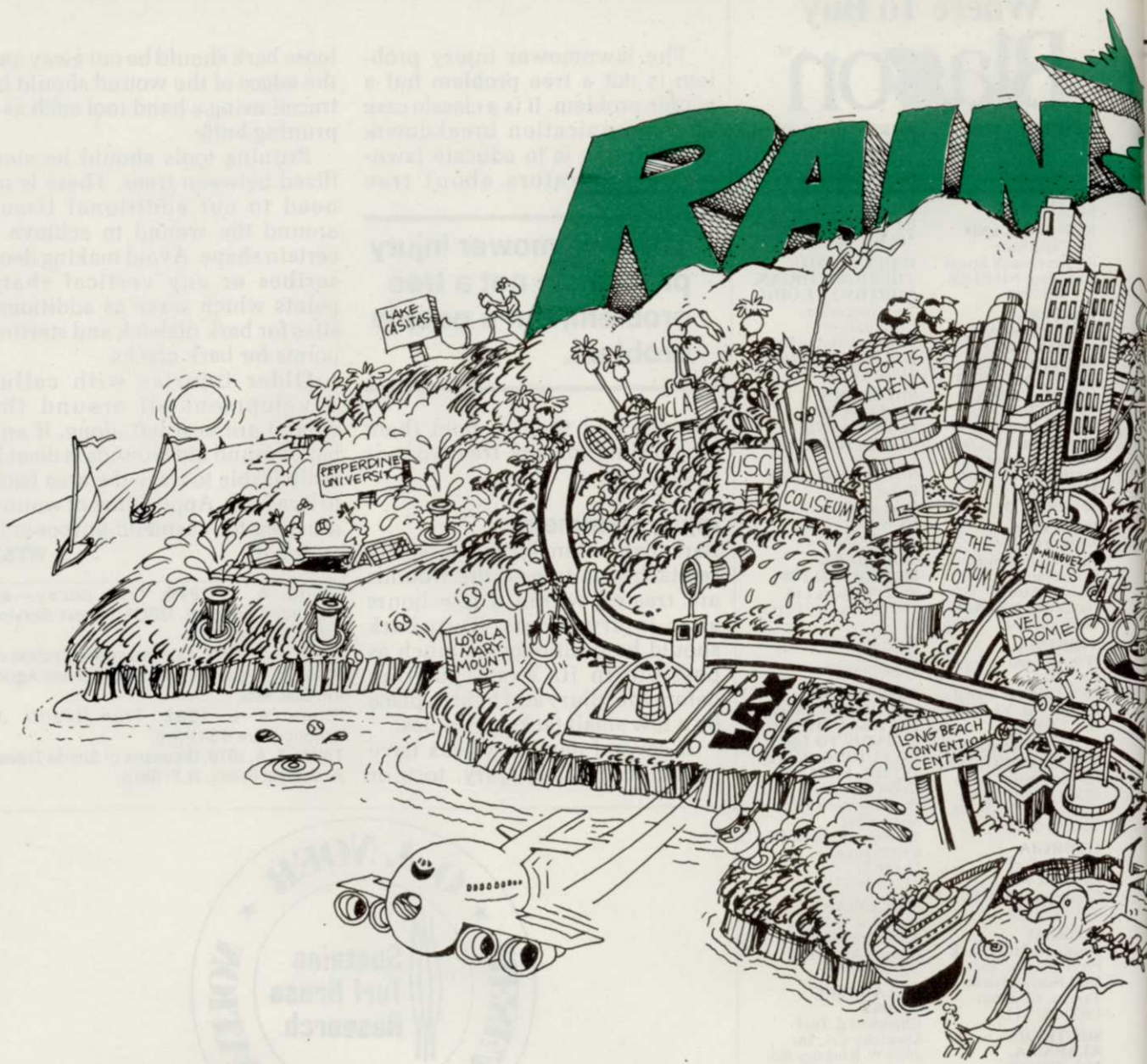
**Iowa State University**  
The mode of action of leafspot development related to light and herbicide effects on leaf physiology.

**Michigan State University**  
Development of procedures to enable the prediction of plant disease occurrence.

**Texas A&M University**  
Water management relating to stress and drought.

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- Pentathlon, Coto de Caza • Rowing, Lake Casitas • Shooting, Prado Regional Park
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## Time to Specialize

Government agencies reap new benefits from computers and specialized landscape managers.

by Bruce F. Shank, executive editor, and Maureen Hrehocik, managing editor

Government landscape managers range from volunteers to school superintendents, from janitors to generals, and from football coaches to engineers.

Despite the inconsistency, all landscape managers seem to be facing the same challenges; intensive use of baseball and soccer fields, the increasing need to justify expenditures, and dealing with the boss, the taxpayer.

We polled a variety of government landscape managers to get a feel for their problems and their solutions. This is more a slice-of-life report than a numerical listing of purchases or acreage.

### Computer use up

We discovered the computer is rapidly gaining acceptance with government landscape managers. They are using computers to keep track of trees, equipment repair parts, scheduling, and to keep taxpayers posted on department activities.

Community size doesn't seem to matter. Eric Anspaugh, superintendent of Kettering, OH, parks, and George Eib, superintendent of forestry and landscaping for Kansas City, MO, both use computers.

Landscape managers may have to share computer time with the street

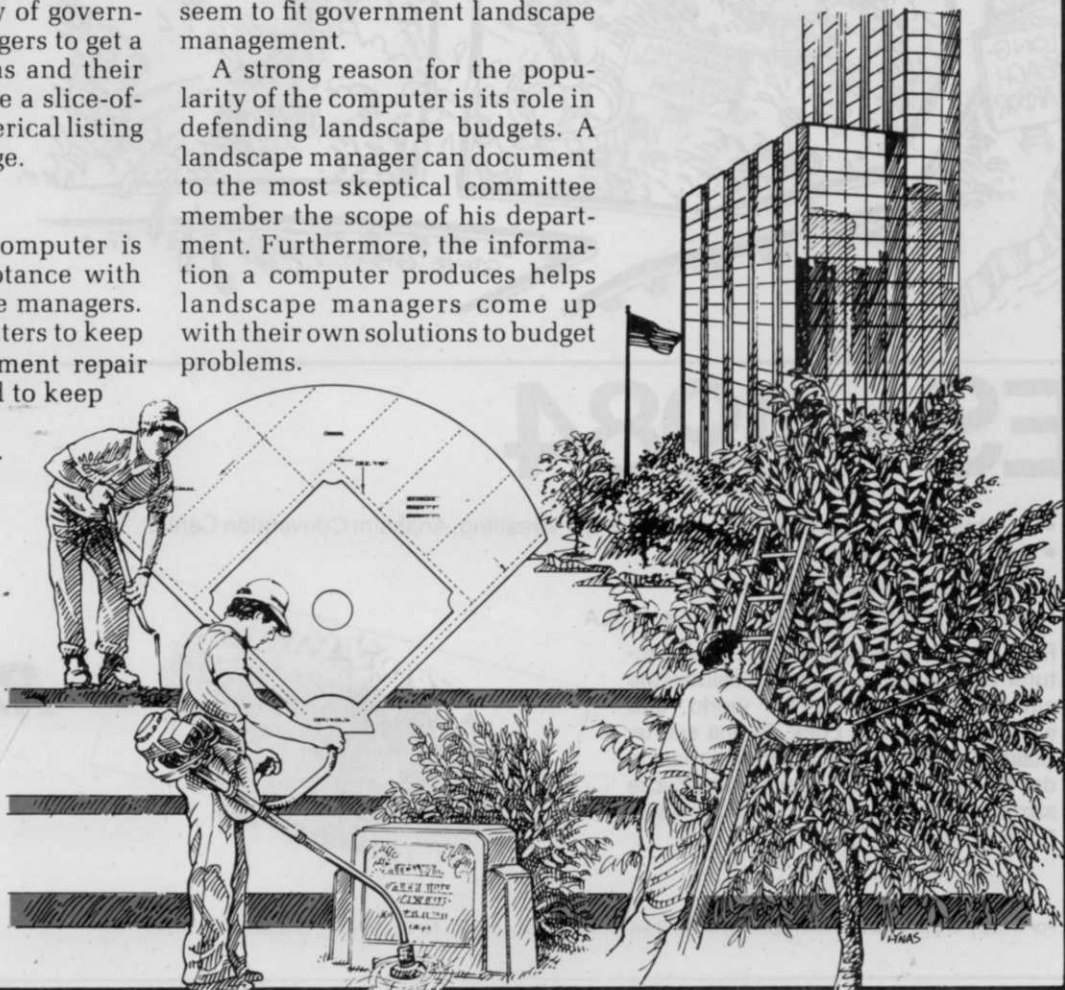
recreation departments, but they have access to a tool that helps them control labor, communicate with taxpayers, and justify needs.

Access to a computer does not seem to be a problem. Every person we talked to indicated their agency was willing and even anxious to help them. Setting up programs and record keeping systems are cited as early hurdles, but once these are cleared, computers seem to fit government landscape management.

A strong reason for the popularity of the computer is its role in defending landscape budgets. A landscape manager can document to the most skeptical committee member the scope of his department. Furthermore, the information a computer produces helps landscape managers come up with their own solutions to budget problems.

Kansas City is an example of creative computer use. Faced with smaller and smaller increases in his budget, George Eib realized he had to find a method to guarantee his department would have money to replace important equipment as it aged.

With the help of a computer, he devised an equipment amortization program. The replacement







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value of key equipment (trucks, cars, mowers, etc.) is divided by its useful life. This amount is built into his budget each year and placed into an equipment replacement account. Eib does not have to make a capital expenditure request each time a piece of equipment needs to be replaced. It paid off this year when Kansas City froze Eib's budget.

Kettering's Anspaugh is lucky to have funds from a recent income tax increase in this city south of Dayton. Nevertheless, with the help of a computer he has documented the cost of maintaining each of 33 baseball fields under his care. Armed with this information, it's easier to win financial support from leagues using the fields. During summer

leagues his crew has to drag and reline nearly 30 fields each day. When leagues ask for fancier dugouts or bullpens, he has the data to negotiate.

### Specialization

Many of the battles with boards can be eliminated when public agencies recognize the special knowledge and needs of landscape managers and provide them with a more direct link to decision makers.

Lenoir, NC, has specialized all city landscape needs into a single department whose manager reports directly to the city manager.

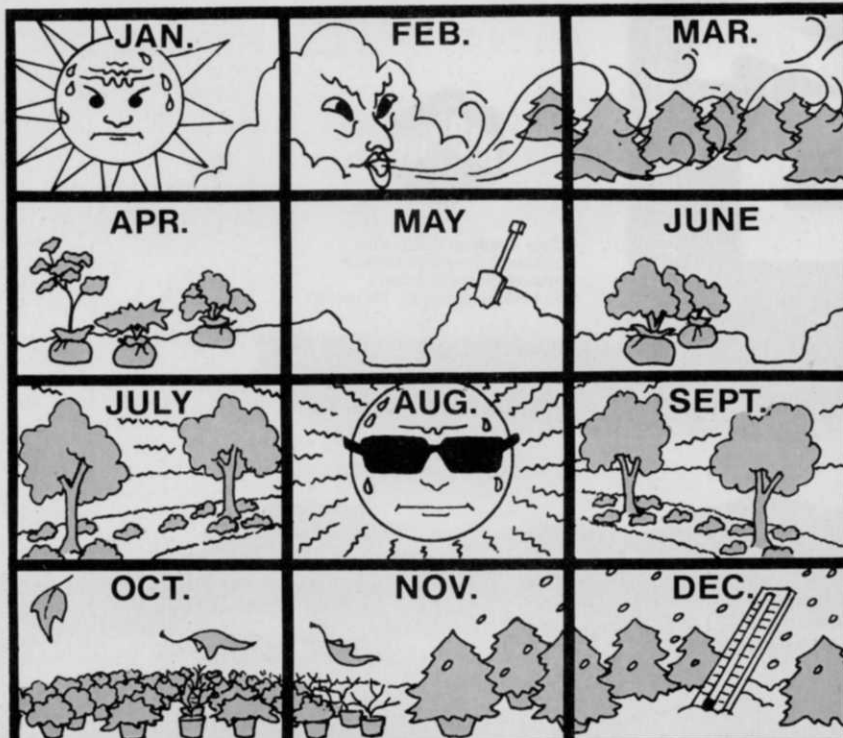
John Abernethy, the first person to be certified by the Professional Grounds Management Society in 1981, is the landscape superintendent in Lenoir, an important furniture manufacturing center. "My department does many of the things public works and recreational departments normally do," he explains. "We take care of street trees, cemeteries, athletic fields, and parks, and plant 4,000 tulips and 6,000 annuals each year around the city. The advantage is I go directly to the city manager when I need something, not a citizen committee."

"Recreation and public works departments simply don't understand what's needed to properly care for public landscapes. They tend to look at landscape maintenance as an area to cut when budgets get tight. It's much easier to explain the biological needs of plants to one person than a group," Abernethy stated.

Specialization plays an important role at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. All pest control, from mice to weeds, is the responsibility of Theodore Copertino. His crew of seven controls weeds, diseases, structural pests, and outdoor pests from nematodes to gypsy moth.

This specialization gives John Nosick, head of maintenance, time to focus on facility maintenance.

*continued on page 88*



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The parks maintenance department in Oak Ridge, TN, encourages citizens and workers to grade its work.

## Report Card for Parks

by Maureen Hrehocik, managing editor



One of the picturesque flower gardens in Jackson Square.

Not too many maintenance departments receive comments about their maintenance practices from the public, that is unless they make an all-out effort to solicit them.

The parks department of the City of Oak Ridge, TN, has done just that, and the results have shown a "dramatic" increase in productivity as well as quality of work.

Bill Sewell, director of recrea-

tion and parks and Larry Bailey, parks superintendent are behind the project that lets citizens grade the landscape upkeep of the city's buildings and facilities, athletic fields, community parks and flower gardens.

"What we found is that our personnel began to look at their work more than just a job and more as a personal responsibility because they knew the citizens of the town would be looking carefully at

what they did," said Bailey. "Their specific areas of responsibility improved dramatically."

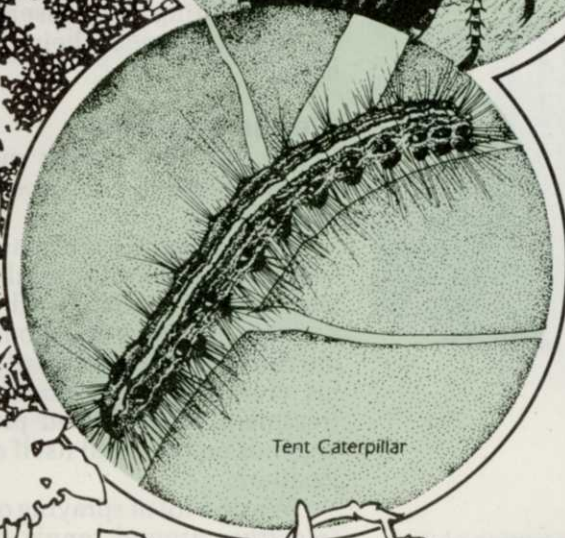
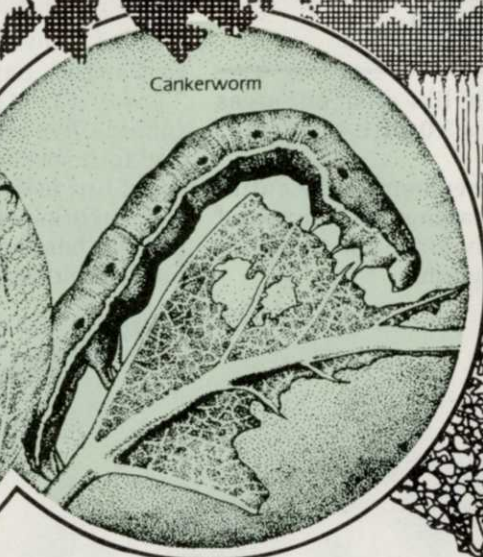
Bailey has taken the concept one step further. The employees also grade their work.

"They're their own worst critics," he said.

Bailey, 36, has devised a comprehensive 81-page grading manual with guidelines and photographs of "acceptable" and "unacceptable" levels of mainte-



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nance in certain areas. The areas are then given checks. At the end, the checks are tallied up and converted to a percentage, much like in school.

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**... specific areas of responsibility improved dramatically,**

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"We would like all of our areas to be at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)," said Bailey.

The improvement to the entire city's landscaping has improved tremendously since the outset of the new program.

and was considered a "boom town."

All of the flurry has long since passed, but a commitment to the town hasn't — especially when it comes to maintenance.

Bailey has been with the division of recreation for 13 years and supervisor for six of them. He oversees 1,100 acres of turf including 15 public buildings, 12 athletic fields, 12 flower gardens, eight city parks, two baseball fields with Tifway (T- 419) bermudagrass infields, five regular softball fields and four soccer fields. The majority of turf is K-31 tall fescue.

He works with a \$194,399 budget and has the help of 6.5 people year-round and two extra helpers

tions related to grounds maintenance, athletic field maintenance, beautification, safety, preventive maintenance on equipment and other related topics and use the department's VCR as a training tool," Bailey explained.

Bailey's degree is in Forestry from the University of Tennessee. He has also taken short courses on turf management and landscape

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**Bailey has made an on-the-job training program a long-term goal to have implemented by summer 1985.**

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maintenance, but the availability of taking his crewmen with him to such seminars, hasn't been there.

"I'm hoping this will give us an opportunity to offer our employees something very essential to the performance of their duties," he said.

**Weeds & insects**

Bailey says his biggest maintenance headaches are weeds and pest control.

Chickweed, dandelions, nutsedge, crowfoot, annual bluegrass, henbit, kudzu, wild garlic, plantain, purslane and ground ivy are the weeds that give Bailey and his crews the most trouble. His treatment for the weed problem depends on the weed itself and its location.

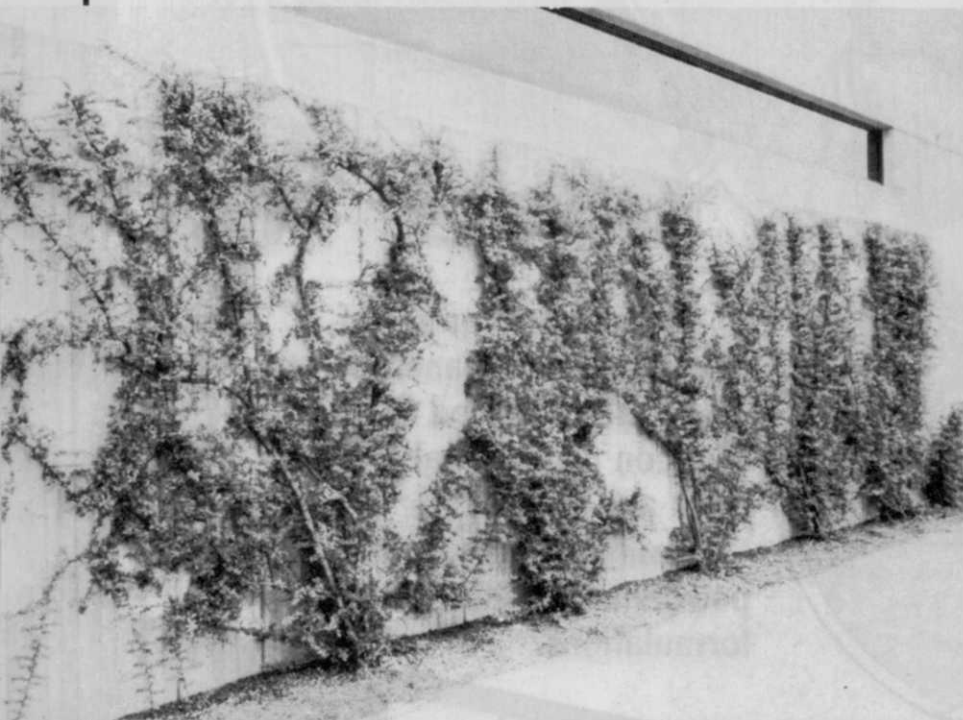
"We do a lot of spraying of non-selectives around tennis courts, bleachers and play equipment," he explained.

Soil testing is done to decide fertilization on areas that receive intensive landscape maintenance which would include athletic fields, flower gardens and the grounds around public buildings.

For the past few years he has had an increasing problem with Japanese beetles.

"At first we started setting traps out for them, but they didn't

*continued on page 92*



*Spurred by public review, the Oak Ridge crews use attention-getting plant displays for extra attention, like these climbing shrubs.*

"We're here to put in more than our eight hours," said Bailey. "We take a lot of pride in what we do."

**Energy center**

Oak Ridge with a population of about 29,000, is a major energy center.

During World War II, the atom bomb that destroyed Hiroshima was developed in Oak Ridge. It had a population then of 75,000

in the summer, mainly to work on the ballfields.

**Training is goal**

Bailey is very concerned about the training of his employees and has made developing an on-the-job training program a long-term goal to have implemented by summer, 1985.

"I'd like to acquire video tapes and other audio-video presenta-