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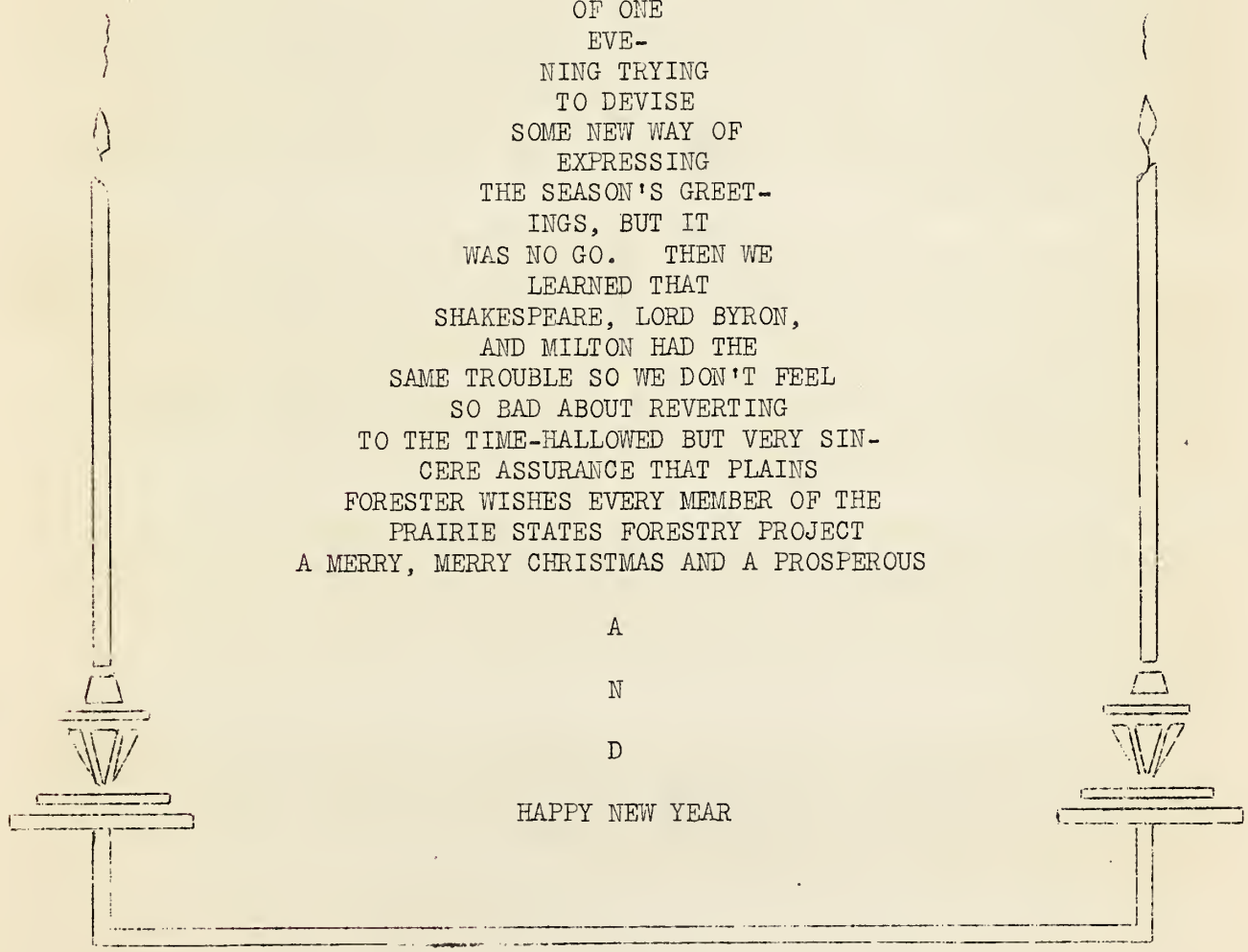
Vol. 2, No. 12

December - 1937

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FORESTER WISHES EVERY MEMBER OF THE
PRAIRIE STATES FORESTRY PROJECT
A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



AGAINST THE "PROPHETS OF DISASTER" APPROACH

In a recent Weather and Crops Seminar held at Topeka, Kansas, strenuous objection was voiced by two speakers to "libels" on the fertility of the State by Federal Conservation agencies. Mr. J. C. Mohler, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, said: "The Soil Conservation Program is a desirable one and can stand on its own merits. However, I do object to the fact that in their zeal for conservation, they are trying to scare us to death. Records show that our soil has not lost its fertility. Yields have been lower only during periods in which moisture was lacking."

While we would take exception to a valuation of our soil resource fertility as equaling a condition 10, 20, 30, or 50 years ago, this statement coming from a man well versed in conditions surrounding Kansas agriculture should provoke an examination of our own approach to the farmers and citizens of the States where the Prairie States Forestry Project operates. We are concerned with the conservation of agricultural resources, and we are sponsoring a program which we all believe will result in fixing permanent wind erosion structures in an important agricultural region. Is our approach to our future cooperators one which tends toward scaring these farmers into cooperation or is it a logical examination of a problem that has confronted our farmers in our operations area for many years? Are we bringing to the attention of these future cooperators the facts that wind erosion is an old problem to this part of our State, that many means have been tried to prevent destructive effects of wind to crops and agriculture in general in this section, and that after careful consideration of all factors we believe the planting of field windbreaks on cultivated lands will constitute a framework structure which offers more protection and more results per dollar expended than any other scheme?

We need to take sober thought of this matter. We ought not resort to such a term as "menace" nor build our approach on fear. We ought to agree with farmers from the first, that they have confronted this problem of soil blowing for many years, that they have tried various control methods, and they have found some measures more valuable than others in effectuating control. Our job is to convince them that a newer method and one not tried so generally consisting of planting of windbreaks of trees, is better than other measures in accomplishing a solution of this problem.

In this connection, the Prairie States Forestry Project must not stand alone and our personnel must not proclaim that it is sufficient in itself in the field of conservation. Tree planting must be integrated with the other phases of land management. We must properly claim for trees their full value but we will be wise to recognize other practices as valuable wherever such value exists.

Some farmers are more awake to the possibilities that can be expected from tree planting in handling this problem than are others. We have a job ahead of us to make them all conscious of the possibilities. Ours must be not a program of fear, but an aggressive attack upon the solution of an old problem, with trees in their proper place.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

OKLAHOMA LAND OFFICE WANTS SHELTERBELTS

Jess Larson, Secretary to the Commissioners of the Land Office in Oklahoma, has addressed the following letter to all tenants on State lands:

"It is the policy of the Commissioners of the Land Office to cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service in all Shelter Belt projects in this State, and the Commissioners of the Land Office hereby encourage you as a tenant on state land to accept the help which the Forest Service has to give in the prevention of erosion, etc. Please cooperate with them in any endeavor which they might wish to undertake. You may rest assured that the Commissioners of the Land Office will look with favor upon such cooperation."

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, BUT IT SORTA RHYMES

I note a piece in the Daily Press that says that we, out in the West, are finding some diffuegalty in keeping our fences on top, by gee.

It said that out here north of town the fences were so buried down by sand that blew across the plain, that Friend Ed Casey had tried in vain to keep them up above the ground. And so he worked the year around, 'till when he stopped to collect his senses, he found that he had built three fences, each one atop the one before when the last could be seen no more.

I've checked the thing, and to my surprise, I find the story was not all lies. The thing that gripes us in Dakota, is that the AP surely oughta give us credit for what we've done, tho' our work is just begun.

Casey says we all should know that his sandy land cannot blow, since he has planted on his farm a belt of trees to stop the harm done by the wind as it does blow, and pile up sand in his fence row. The trees, he says, have done the trick and his fences stay on top, by heck.

He says that it is no disgrace to have the sand shift on your place, when you are doing what you can to save the value of the land.

Then let those who made fun of us, for having fences in the dust, take heed and give some serious thought to the fact that we have fought the wind and won from it, by gee, by planting rows of sturdy tree.

And by conserving what is left, we will never be bereft of those simple things that oughta make a heaven of South Dakota.

Very respectfully submitted,
I. DOENOE

- From Mitchell, S.Dak. "Daily Republic"

(The above whimsical complaint resulted from a Washington AP dispatch which related that the Forest Service had excavated a tier of three fences on the Casey farm, but failed to go on and tell about the shelterbelt which had been planted to correct the situation. The fence part of the story, which was widely printed, was used merely as a peg on which to laud the shelterbelt, but the omission of the shelterbelt left us sort of hanging in the air. Happily, the Greater South Dakota Association smoothed the troubled waters by publishing shelterbelt pictures to prove that all is going well in South Dakota.--Ed.)

1937 SURVIVAL COUNTS

The plan for making survival counts in 1937 involved using one crew for the entire region. Counts were based on a 100% count of 10% of the strips in each State. Selections of the strips to count were made on a mechanical basis, by picking every tenth strip from an existing list. Some of the selections were made from cultivation charts, others from alphabetical lists of cooperators, and others from geographical lists of the strips themselves. Statistically, no difficulty is encountered in getting a "good sample," no matter what type of a list is used.

On September 13, 1937 a crew of three men was started in the northernmost district of the region, planning on working southward with the autumn season. This was a logical plan to follow and proved very satisfactory. Just at the time the frosts were taking the leaves from the trees in each area, the crew had finished its counts and left for warmer weather in the next area southward.

The time required to complete the job and the distance to be traveled was considerably underestimated at the outset. It was thought that six weeks would suffice for time and that 6,000 miles of travel would cover the region. An estimate of the walking required was not arrived at, but everyone knew it would be enough to keep the crew in trim.

The work was finished Thanksgiving Day at Shamrock, Texas, and a few statistics may prove informative:

Travel by automobile (3 in a panel) - - -	13,000 miles
Travel by foot (each crew member) - - - -	400 miles
Time consumed - - - - -	10 weeks
Total number of trees counted - - - - -	967,309
Average survival for the region - - - - -	70%

Other statistics, while not very accurate, yet probably underestimated, should be interesting to some:

Pairs of shoes worn out per man - - - - -	2.5
Trousers rendered useless per man - - - - -	2.7
Sandbars collected and painfully removed- 10 to the nth power	
- A. H. Briggs, Lake States	

OKLAHOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL PLEDGES SUPPORT

The Harmon County (Oklahoma) Agricultural Council recently adopted the following resolution:

"(1) We approve and appreciate the efforts being put forth in our county by the U. S. Forestry Service in its shelterbelt projects. We hereby pledge our whole-hearted cooperation in reaching the objectives in this work as outlined to us by your county and district field forces. We realize the great importance of shelterbelt work in carrying out our soil conservation program.

"(2) In order to more effectively assist the U. S. Forestry Service in serving our needs, we hereby set as our objective - a goal of 150 miles of shelterbelt plantings to be completed in our county by the end of 1938. We further pledge our 'working' cooperation in this objective."

THE DETAILERS WING(?) THEIR WAY SOUTHWARD

"When the frost is on the pumpkin and the corn is in the shock," (and we do have some of each) a feeling of restlessness begins to steal over the North Dakota field force as well as some of the State Office workers.

The swallows, orioles, and most of the other birds have long since left. None linger on but the faithful robin and the meadow lark, who await the first snowflakes before making the seemingly regrettable decision to go to warmer climes.

Finally the long-hoped-for clarion sounds and possible detail schedules are called for from R.⁰. From former pleasant tales of southern sojourns, every one wants to leave at once -- or as soon as each can be spared. Some even casually mention previous bright spots and wouldn't feel at all disappointed if they were sent there. The restlessness continues on an ever-mounting crescendo until the final word as to times of departure and southern stations is announced.

But unlike our avian friends, the detailed men must go heavily burdened. Some are lucky to just drive a pickup or panel; others must load aforesaid equipment on larger trucks. But even that is not all. They must carry a miscellaneous assortment of tools, picking up some along the way or discharging it further down.

Occasionally even more is specified. They must not only carry a $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck on a poor old $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck, but must find some room for from 1500 to 1800 pounds of sacked seed.

Warnings are issued to look out for low underpasses, trolley wires in the cities, and other low-hanging obstructions to proper movements of heavy traffic. Objections are raised by the drivers and finally it is decided that it would be best to trail the excess rolling equipment. So the northerners start their annual trek south, hoping to arrive at their proper destinations on time to avoid telegrams as to their delay. Some have trouble before the State line is reached; others before the next State line is crossed, but all eventually reach that bright and happy land in the South they have so longed for. Something like the old "forty-niners."

All have now departed and the State Office settles down to a long cozy winter with the mercury trying to keep from getting lost in the bulb of the thermometer. We are regaled from time to time, however, with letters from the South tantalizing us with the information that yesterday it was 90° in the shade - but alas, today is only 25° and they are wishing for their heavies. Or that they had to lose some time in their planting jobs as it was impossible to see their trucks for the dust that was blowing, and wished for some real nice weather.

They all come back in the spring, however, echoing each other's praises of the sunny South and begin to look forward again to the coming fall.

Do a good job, fellows, for we expect more of you in the spring with all the experience and new ideas you will have gained; and watch us pile it on to get all that planting done in 26 working days with time out for rains -- or snows.

- F. E. Cobb, N. Dak.

'RAY FOR ROTARY!

Applications had been coming in rather slowly on the Valley City district. As a matter of fact the outlook was getting pretty dreary when finally on October 29, Martin Connolly, Secretary of the local Civic and Commerce Association, approached me to inquire as to our progress. My reply must have been gloomy indeed, because the next day he told me he wanted a stack of applications a foot high. We finally compromised on about a six-inch stack and the Rotary Club elected one business man to visit each township in the county and solicit applications for shelterbelts. A few returns from this venture have indicated quite a little promise and, we will have to hand it to the business men, they certainly have picked a good bunch of co-operators so far.

Our hopes were rather raised, too, when Elmer Wicks, local representative of the Federal Land Bank and an ardent supporter of our Project, showed me a letter from his home office advising him that the "Bank" would be very agreeable to the establishing of shelterbelt strips on the farms of all tenants who would sign an agreement to cultivate the strips.

Today I received a letter from them requesting an itemization of the fencing material needed on their lands to date, as they wanted to purchase it right away.

- A. W. Taylor, N. Dak.

RANGE PROGRAM AFFORDS FOREST SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCING CONSERVATION

Grazing capacity estimates were made on a total of 4,999,965 acres of range land on 2,573 ranching units in North Dakota and Kansas during the 1937 range program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The range survey was accomplished by 12 Forest Service examiners and two instructor-inspectors in Kansas, and 18 examiners and four instructor-inspectors in North Dakota. In addition, ten instructor-inspectors supervised the work of the local examiners in Nebraska and South Dakota and four instructed local examiners in Texas and Oklahoma. Our men also took part in many informational meetings and gatherings of stockmen in furtherance of recognition of range needs and of desirable action.

In the Agricultural Conservation Program benefit payments to ranchers are based upon the grazing capacities of their range lands through compliance with certain requirements for the improvement of the ranges.

Although the estimating of grazing capacities was the immediate purpose of cooperation by the Forest Service, of far greater significance was the opportunity it afforded us for first-line attack on the very serious range depletion problems of the Prairie States. It permitted personal contact with the ranchers out on their own grasslands where the application of fundamental principles of range management as practiced on the National Forests was taught to them directly. In this way the contribution of the Forest Service toward the restoration of the range has been most vital. Our organization has literally pointed the way.

- D. A. Arrivee, R.O.

WHY 7-ROD SHELTERBELTS?

Before going into a discussion of this question, it might be well to explain that while we generally speak of our standard shelterbelt as seven rods wide, we are actually thinking in terms of number of rows of composition. Seven-rod wide belts, or ten rows in the South and thirteen rows in the North, have been established as standard for the sake of uniformity, and this discussion does not deal with the need for that exact number as against eight or nine rows, or five rods or ten rods, but rather the so-called wider belts versus the hedge rows or two and three-row belts.

Frequently the question is raised why we plant the wide belts when narrow belts will be equally effective in stopping wind erosion. Unquestionably the narrow belts have a place in this program, both for wind protection and general forestry purposes, and they will form an important step in the development of concentration areas when we have erected the skeleton framework of these basic, wide shelterbelts.

Why the wide belt in our basic pattern?

The answers to this question fall in three classes: Purposes of shelterbelts; general requirements or specifications of shelterbelts; and other considerations.

Purposes Served by Shelterbelts

The primary purpose of shelterbelt planting in this region for the present is protection of soil from wind erosion and crops from being blown out. In addition, protective strips, whether narrow or wide, conserve moisture, reduce water erosion, protect livestock and dwellings, add to the scenic value of the country, and to a certain extent protect wildlife. However, there are multiple values that may be added to these protective plantings, such as fuel, fence posts, and other timber products, food and adequate protection for wildlife, recreational values, and so on. A very important purpose of any Federal planting program of this kind is its demonstrational value to the region as a whole, to stimulate interest and educate the people in proper and safe methods.

Foresters have been assigned to this Project to do more than plant trees for wind erosion protection. Their job is to incorporate all the multiple purposes of trees with the present primary objective of stopping soil erosion. This region has more than a headache. Long neglected illness has brought on numerous critical complications for which forestry will serve, with various other remedies, as a tonic and cure.

When we combine these other purposes, the farmer must have more than the minimum number of rows essential for wind protection. For wood products he must have extra rows that may be removed in later years without affecting the protective value of his shelterbelt. For social values he must have sufficient variety to give a pleasing appearance and to provide a sanctuary within itself. He must have variety to provide fruit and nuts, so scarce in this Plains region. Few farmers are interested in trees for a single purpose, but nearly all of them cherish tree growth on their farms because of their multiple uses. Obviously when we can combine most of these values

in one planting such as our wider shelterbelt strips, there is economy in the land used, in the cost per established tree, and in the time devoted by the farmer to the maintenance of such a combination planting as compared to numerous scattered plantings on his farm specifically for each of these purposes.

General Requirements or Specifications for the Ideal Shelterbelt

The soil blowing problem and crop damage in this region is acute, and effective means of stopping this damage must progress rapidly, or it will be too late. Fast growing hardwoods must be planted to make these protective strips quickly effective.

The area protected is in direct relation to the height of the planting, so tall growth is necessary through the use of high trees. These high trees must be banked up on the sides with lower forms to stop the wind down at the ground.

These belts must be effective throughout the year, but particularly in the spring and fall when the soil is more subject to blowing. Unfortunately, at these times of the year, the hardwood trees are bare of leaves. However, a dense growth of trees, even without leaves, is quite effective in stopping the wind. This is not true with a single row of trees. The ideal for year-long effectiveness is a belt that has a solid barrier of evergreens.

It is the aim to make the protective belts more or less permanent, using long-lived species. Unfortunately these are the slow growing species, such as the evergreens, which are sometimes more difficult of establishment. It would take at least twenty years to obtain worth-while effectiveness from such slow growing trees as ponderosa pine, cedar, and hackberry, but these species are very important because of their long life, their drought hardiness, and in the case of the evergreens, their year-long effectiveness. While these important and necessary species are becoming established and gaining growth, the more rapid growing species are necessary as associates to give early effectiveness.

The unbroken length of a wind barrier is very important to gain the maximum protection possible. "Holes" in the barrier will permit wind currents to sweep through and spread out over the fields that would otherwise be protected. There are bound to be failures, leaving gaps here and there, but with a sufficient number of rows the survival in one will support the failures in the others and plug these holes. This same consideration must be given not only to the shelterbelt as a whole but separately to classes of trees used. For example, one row of high trees might have holes that would let through the high currents of air. Also, holes in a single row of evergreens would cause the loss of full effectiveness in the spring and fall or in later life when only the evergreens remain, if full dependence were placed upon them. Several rows will greatly reduce this danger. It is practically impossible to fill these holes in later life by planting the failed spaces. Severe competition set up by the established trees makes this practice unsuccessful.

Other Considerations

In addition to the above, there are numerous other reasons favoring the wider belts. A wider planted area establishes forest conditions within itself that are favorable to natural reproduction. This has not become manifest in hedge rows or in narrow belts. Forest-like conditions induce maximum height growth, increase absorptive condition of the soil, particularly following heavy rain, create a safer refuge for wildlife, and have numerous other values not inherent in hedge rows.

A reasonable assortment of species by rows safeguards against entire destruction of the planting from insects, diseases, and other causes that are likely at any time to wipe out some of the species.

After all, our most important function in forestry for these Prairie States is to demonstrate the value of trees to the farm economy and the social security of the region. We know that some of these benefits to the farmer are not sufficiently recognized to promote the program on the scale necessary, but those same farmers recognize other values. By planting the multiple purpose belt he may at present accept the shelterbelt planting for its future woodlot value, but is still skeptical about its value as a means of stopping wind erosion or crop destruction. Most of us have in our time taken castor oil to get the reward of a nickel offered with it, and not because we believed that the castor oil would do us good. Until the merits of our shelterbelt plantings are firmly established throughout the region, it seems highly desirable to use the same method, by offering the farmer something that he wants, wrapped up in the same package with the things we feel he should have.

We have successfully demonstrated to the people of the region that our method of establishing tree growth is successful. To those who have spent a good deal of time in the field observing the survival of our plantations, it is easy to comprehend that an entirely different attitude might have developed toward the program had we started out with two or three-row belts and sustained the row losses that have occurred. In a good many cases the fine looking shelterbelts have, upon closer examination, one or two rows with very poor survival, or the trees entirely missing, due to grasshopper injury, use of wildings, regrades, or damaged stock, trees killed by rodents, and any number of other causes. Had the farmers planted hedge rows or two to three-row belts at this stage of the Project and encountered these row losses, there would have been much disappointment, and skepticism toward our ability to establish successful shelterbelts.

Adding these points all together, the needs for the wider belt are something like this: Two rows of conifers are needed to get a dense year-long wind protective barrier, and these become the permanent part of the planting for wind erosion protection. A row of shrubs is advisable to protect them at least until establishment. But because these necessary rows of conifers are so slow growing that it would be years before they became effective and made an encouraging showing to the farmer, the faster growing hardwoods must be planted. Here at least two rows of high trees are necessary for the crest of the belt, with the sides banked by sufficient rows of intermediates to give wind resistance during all seasons of

the year until the conifers have become established. An extra row or two of intermediates may not be essentially necessary for wind protection, but they safeguard that objective and at the same time add to those other valuable uses of the planting such as wood products from later thinnings, fruit and nut species for food, support of losses in other species, and contribution toward forest conditions and subsequent natural reproduction.

Points might be discussed expounding the advantages of narrow belts, but these would of necessity have to be limited largely to their value in wind protection, and as such would have to be recognized as risky measures on which to launch such a large program as we are undertaking. The narrow belts would not meet the other purposes which we are hoping to accomplish in this program, so their use should be limited to intermediate or supplemental belts after the multiple values and multiple objectives of our program have been provided with the basic plantings of wider belts.

- D. S. Olson, R.O.

DUST STORM SIFTS OUT RICH SOIL, LEAVING SAND BEHIND

A dust storm is like a giant sieve, according to the Soil Conservation Service. It sifts out the lighter, richer soil particles and often carries them for hundreds of miles, leaving the coarser, less fertile grains to skip and roll along the ground surface or pile up as dunes.

Last spring soil-conservation men collected soil material laid down in Iowa by a dust storm that originated in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. They also gathered samples from a sand dune formed by the same storm near its origin. Comparison of the two soils reveals in striking fashion the sifting action of wind erosion.

The dust sample from Iowa - 500 miles from the source of the storm - contained 10 times as much organic matter as the dune sand left behind and was far richer in plant food. Furthermore, this windborne material was finer in texture and more fertile than a third soil sample taken from virgin panhandle grassland.

"Wind erosion," says H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, "is skimming the very cream of our Great Plains soil. In its wake it is leaving choking sterile sand that so often kills crops and gathers in dunes."

- Clip Sheet

TO PRESERVE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

This morning, among our Christmas cards, we received this letter:

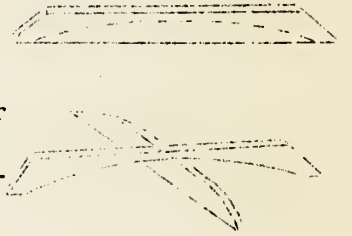
"I would like to pleasantly shock my wife this year by fixing a stand for the Christmas tree. I want to do this some day this week while she is down town shopping. Our married life has always been a beautiful romance and I want to keep it that way. We have two children - a boy of five and a girl, seven. For tools, I have a saw and hammer." --Bill

With our characteristic desire to be of service to our subscribers, we turned the problem over to our associate editor in charge of domestic relations, who offers Bill the following advice:

"You have a noble idea. I wish there were more men like you. If there were, there would be fewer divorces. You have ample tools. All you need is about ten eight-penny nails and a few pieces of 1x2 or 1x3. Cut four pieces each about ten inches long. Nail them to the tree and to each other as indicated in the sketch. This size of stand will do nicely for a tree about six feet high. Increase the size of the stand for larger trees. It is simple and quick to make. Its ease of construction and certainty of results always helps to promote the Christmas spirit.



"If your tree is very small so that it can be set on a table, you can make a stand out of one piece of 1" stock. A jig or coping saw may be used advantageously. Merely cut on the line and then form a cross with the two pieces. A nail through the center holds the two pieces together and projects into the tree. If your table tree, or the larger one for that matter is not symmetrical, remember there is no law to prevent you from cutting a branch or two from the heavy side and inserting it into a hole at a point where you decide a branch should have grown. The youngsters will tell you where to bore the hole.



"Most people, however, like to make their stands the most difficult way. They make a cross with two small boards so that it will lie flat on the floor. Then they proceed to brace with short pieces at 45 degree angles. This method is certain to help wreck the Christmas spirit and cause the children to run for cover. The 45-degree braces are always either too short or too long. The mental condition induced by making this type of stand will dampen all romance for at least a week. There is only one way to make things worse and that is by using a soap box for a stand with a hole in the top. This is also a sure-fire way to set the tree crooked so that the youngest member of the family will call Daddy's attention to it."

TREES

There is a serene and settled majesty in woodland scenery that enters into the soul and delights and elevates it and fills it with noble inclinations. As the leaves of trees are still to absorb all noxious qualities of the air and to breathe forth a purer atmosphere, so it seems to me as if they drew from us all sordid and angry passions, and breathed forth peace and philanthropy.

There is something nobly simple and pure in a taste for the cultivation of forest trees. It argues, I think, a sweet and generous nature to have this strong relish for the beauties of vegetation, and this friendship for the hardy and glorious sons of the forest. There is a grandeur of thought connected with this part of rural economy. It is, if I may be allowed the figure, the heroic line of husbandry. It is worthy of liberal, and free-born, and aspiring men. He who plants an oak, looks forward to future ages, and plants for posterity. Nothing can be less selfish than this.

- Washington Irving

: KANSAS :

We are pleased to have Victor C. Rosenwald assigned to this Unit as Senior Clerk. He reported for duty at Manhattan on November 5. He has taken over vouchering and pay roll work, and allied jobs.

Kenneth W. Taylor, Junior Forester, and Merrill Willson of the North Dakota Unit have arrived for a period of detail to this State. Mr. Taylor is scheduled to give a series of illustrated lectures in the districts during December and will then take up a more or less permanent assignment on land negotiation in the Kinsley district for the remainder of his detail. Mr. Willson will be a planting instructor-inspector when weather permits planting work in this State, and when planting is not possible, he will assist in the St. John district on land negotiation work. We are glad to have the services of these two men.

William G. Baxter recently spent one day on the Pottawatomie Indian Reservation north of Topeka. The Pottawatomie authority requested information and help on tree planting and cooperative arrangements are now being considered.

Robert L. Bennett, our Senior Administrative Assistant since April 18, 1936, has been transferred to the Regional Office. The Kansas Unit has profited greatly by having Bob's services - to say nothing of his good fellowship. Best wishes are extended to him in his new assignment, which carries new opportunities and greater responsibilities.

Cold weather has handicapped nursery and planting work this fall. One more week's work will be required to complete the digging of nursery stock at Manhattan and Hutchinson. So much time has been lost that replanting cannot now be completed by January 1 in all districts. Some more cottonwoods must be dug to reach the quota of that species. Usually work can be carried on advantageously until Christmas but such has not been the case this season.

: NEBRASKA :

Carroll F. Orendurff, Senior Biological Aide, has replaced Weldon P. Robinson on Rodent Control supervision in the State. Mr. Robinson returned to Wyoming where it is understood he will be employed on predatory animal control. Mr. Orendurff has had considerable experience in rabbit control work in Kansas so no break in the work is anticipated.

Noble Buell, of the Cheyenne, Wyoming District Biological Survey Office, stopped off briefly in Lincoln early in December. Accompanied by his family Mr. Buell was returning from a three weeks' leave which he spent in Kansas City.

District offices are being audited during December. Senior Clerk Swim audited the Arnold and Alliance offices the week of December 6 to 11 and Mr. Smith will audit the Pierce and Neligh offices during the period December 18 to 24.

Nursery work is about completed for the season with the completion of digging about two-thirds of our total acreage and fall sowing of 28 acres. Nurserymen Meines and Moffet have been detailed to Oklahoma and Texas for the winter months and Carl Taylor is taking some of his annual leave to visit California and other west coast states.

The first planning and organization meeting of a series of such meetings for Shelterbelt Assistants is being held in the State Office on December 13 and 14. Work plans are being formulated and preparations already started for meeting the spring planting job. Our 1938 spring planting program will be by far the largest yet undertaken and we intend to be ready to take off with a flying start just as soon as spring opens up.

Land negotiations for 1938 planting is progressing favorably. One district expects to "ring the bell" with 300 miles signed up by Christmas. The other districts are slightly less optimistic but plans call for completion of our 900-mile quota by January 31.

Wedding bells have again rung for the Nebraska field organization. Sterling C. (Whitey) Neubauer, Junior Foreman in charge of the Alliance district, was married Thanksgiving Day. The new Mrs. Neubauer, who by the way was an ex-sister-in-law of Whitey's, has been making her home in Kearney - which explains the many trips which Whitey regularly made to that place. To say that the Alliance district is lucky in securing so fine a hostess and cook as an addition to their staff is putting it mildly. The writer knows, having been royally entertained at Alliance within a week after the wedding.

Besides the nurserymen previously mentioned, the men detailed to the southern States this year are Harold D. Cramer, Senior Clerk, and Harry Eaton and Walter Davis, both Junior Foremen. It's kind of tough on some of the single fellows to be away from home on Christmas but then this zero weather is tough on us too.

: OKLAHOMA :

An unusually late fall has proved very beneficial to the cotton crop in Oklahoma but has delayed digging operations in our nurseries, and consequently, our planting operations in the field. Our first killing frost occurred November 16; however, since that date, weather has averaged five degrees colder than during the same period of past years, which has further delayed operations.

Other Government agencies, as well as numerous private individuals, recognize the protective value of shelterbelt strips. The Indian Service and this Unit have effected plans for a cooperative shelterbelt planting program, wherein the Forest Service furnishes technical supervision and nursery stock for planting the equivalent of 25 to 35 miles of shelterbelts on Indian lands, and the Indian Service furnishes labor for planting, cultivation work, and necessary fence construction.

The following comments are taken from replies to our request to co-operators for information regarding replanting needs:

"What do you expect me to do with the thornless honeylocust they planted for me and turned out to already have thorns two to three inches long?"

"Assuring you that I fully appreciate the work you are doing and the way you are getting it done. I am a booster."

"I had a dandy crop of yellow-meated watermelons in my shelterbelt this summer. Why didn't you come and get some?" (We have a promise card on this strip for next watermelon season.)

"Sure would like to replace all these with apricots, plums, and cherries if possible. The two rows of cottonwoods are the prettiest trees I ever saw."

We welcome to this Unit the following personnel from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, who have reported to this Unit for temporary details: L. A. Williams, E. C. Wilbur, W. F. Cozine, Meine K. Meines, Harold Devick, Wendell Lane, Carl O. Davis, Bruce Arnold, H. W. Eaton, Walter Palmer, and C. F. Pears.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Roberts joined the personnel of the State Office and their partners in a theater party on November 7. We were happy to have them with us.

Sid Burton, Henry Lobenstein, and Harold Engstrom are also honoring us with their presence for a few days.

: REGIONAL OFFICE :

Everyone is so engrossed in individual plans and activities for the holiday season that your reporter is forced to make the trite complaint that "nothing ever happens here." Or maybe things have happened, and we have been too engrossed to notice it. If anyone knows of any major life dramas occurring recently will you kindly put us wise?

We do hear a number of people quoting railroad time schedules and learn that Miss Peterson plans to spend the holiday season in North Dakota with her family, and that Miss Nobles will spend a week or so in Missouri. (You ought to get her to tell you how they do things in Missouri some time - it's really amazing.) Mr. Hurren apparently thinks California has something Nebraska hasn't, (besides a moving mountain), because he's been out there now for some time. Mr. Pfaender, now on detail from the South Dakota Unit to the Regional Office, is going to Louisiana for a short holiday vacation. (We decline to say the "sunny South," after hearing the disparaging remarks about the southern climate by some of the returning field men.)

Mr. Briggs, who has been flitting up and down the territory counting trees to ascertain survival percentages and if not, why not, has completed his field counts and will be in the Regional Office for several weeks.

It has been rumored that some of the men who think they're pretty good at bowling contemplate challenging the girls' bowling team in the near future. We haven't seen any such thing on paper, but this is just to let you know that if anyone mentions it to you, tell them that the girls will be glad to accept such a challenge, if and when offered, and even suggest that the middle of January might be a good time.

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.