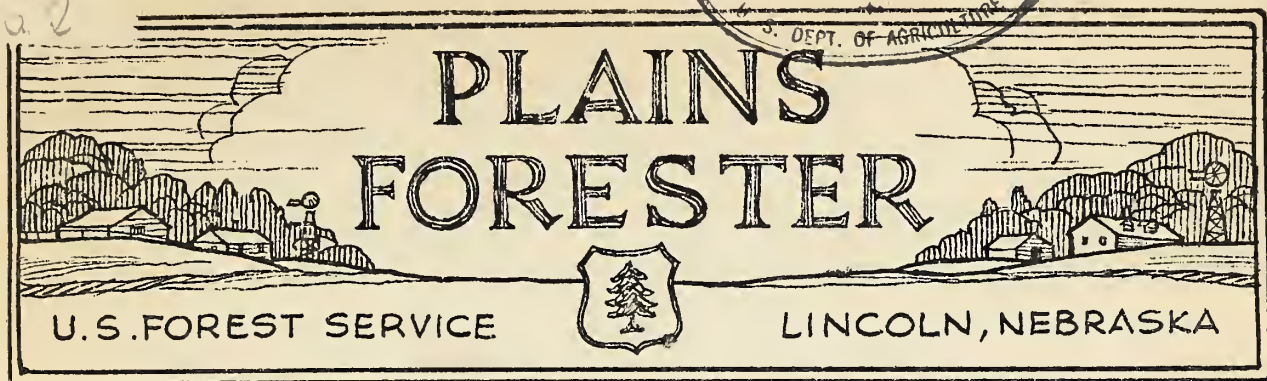


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Vol. 2, No. 11

November - 1937

THE VIEW FROM THE HILLTOP

Back in the old days of the Forest Service when a Forest Ranger was pretty much both captain and crew on a ranger district, I sometimes got so wound up in the petty details of administration that it seemed to me the job had degenerated into one of repairing broken tools, cussing out tin-pot saw-mill operators, and counting sheep in at the forest boundary. Forestry became a shadowy something hidden behind a thick wall of necessity for doing a multitude of daily tasks; I was no longer steward of a property, but merely a handy man about the premises. Many were the times that I would certainly have chucked the whole thing overboard had I not early learned a remedy for the ailment.

Always when I had reached this sort of mental impasse I could go up on my lookout mountain, and by the time I had climbed to the top of the tower, everything was in its proper perspective again. Here below me was my quarter of a million acres of responsibility, with problems so numerous, so vast, and so unscratched that the broken shovel handles down at the station and the slightly-too-high stumps on the timber sale area shrank to microscopic proportions as part of my job. I have written a whole new work plan in the solitude of a lookout cabin, and most of the ideas of any importance that I have ever had have come when I have resolutely divested my mind of the cares of the daily grind and allowed it to roll out and beyond the immediate horizon.

Our Project offers a broader field for wide-range thinking than any I have ever known, and despite the fact that we are harried by the devils of hand-to-mouth existence, inadequate facilities, and the difficulties inherent in starting a revolutionary enterprise, so that the day seems all too short for the solving of its own pressing problems, it will pay all of us to occasionally withdraw to a mental mountain top and look out over the cloud of dust of our own making into the clear air beyond. Brethren, it's glorious up there. You can look down a long vista of years of rapidly expanding forestry development, and at the end see an entirely man-made farm woodland stretching limitlessly in every direction - the most stupendous forestry enterprise ever undertaken in the history of the world.

You can visualize a permanently prosperous farming region where men once looked fearfully forward to the coming of the desert; you can see uncounted

thousands of farmers who can no longer visualize a crop being blown out of the ground or burned up by an August blast, and an equal number of thousands of farm women who can only dimly remember the days when the "black blizzards" made life all but unbearable. Out there religiously tended shelterbelts, windbreaks, and woodlots are as much a part of the farm economy as sowing and reaping; steep slopes are dedicated to woods, gullies have long since been healed by a judicious use of shrubs and trees, and rivers have been chained to their normal courses through the art of the forester. A fine people have been liberated from bondage, and the lifeblood of a nation made secure.

All of these things you can see with the material eye and much more that is comprehended only by the heart. And it is a magnificent spectacle. It will pay you to look at it. The current year's planting program, for all its sweat and turmoil, will click into its place as one tiny block in a grand mosaic, millions of acres wide and decades of time in length, and the illuminating thought will come to you that the true stalwarts in this work are those with the vision and ability to keep clear the path to the ultimate goal.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

#### HATS OFF TO OUR NURSERYMEN

When everything goes all right, it's a good nursery. When everything goes wrong and the nursery is still all right, it's a good nurseryman.

I recently saw three nurseries in the south that took enough punishment last spring to discourage the stoutest hearts. Nursery stock for Oklahoma's and Texas' planting programs looked mighty slim last June and July. First the Mangum Nursery was smeared with a hailstorm; then the Noble Nursery was covered with mud and water by the Canadian River flood; again the elements visited the Mangum Nursery, this time water inundating the entire nursery; and finally the Plainview Nursery was hailed out by a four-hour bombardment. Luke, at the Noble Nursery, drained off water, scraped off mud, and resowed in mud in early summer. He fought an uphill game all the way, but won out through his persistence with better than two million fine assorted usable seedlings. Byars at Mangum had just about patched up his hail-damaged nursery when one morning coming to work he couldn't find the dang nursery. The whole country was under water. When the water had receded sufficiently to get located, Sam hastened drainage with hastily constructed ditches; more resowing to patch up the new acreage, and finally won out. Klein, handicapped with a late start on the high plains at Plainview, Texas, saw his entire nursery wiped out by hail in late May. He and his assistant, Short, resowed when it seemed almost impossible to bring so late a crop through to maturity. Coaxing, nourishing, with the magic hand of a nurseryman, Klein and Short produced about three million fine usable seedlings in the face of these odds.

There are others among our nurserymen who have overcome similar difficulties, this year and previous years, less spectacular perhaps but equally difficult to recover. In fact, every nurseryman is kept on the jump from the time the seed is sown until the trees are dug, trying to bring his nursery through the long continuous gauntlet of enemies. My hat's off to you fellows who have so successfully met and overcome the adverse conditions of this Plains country to nursery production.

- D. S. Olson, R.O.

.....WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD?

Below is a quotation from a letter received from a farmer who wanted six miles of trees planted parallel to an east and west highway and six rods north of the road. The plantings requested were outside of our concentration area and the applicant insisted on having the trees next spring.

".....Your statement of reasons for refusing this application contained this most delectable information: that you made a practice of planting where the most damaging winds first strike the farm..... After 40 years in North Dakota, I cannot determine where the most damaging winds strike the farm first....."

"There could be no more fortunate location for a shelterbelt than on the north side of a highway. You would beautify the highways and keep roads free from snow and it would certainly do as much if not more when it comes to stopping erosion....."

- \_\_\_\_\_, N. Dak.

WOULD THAT THERE WERE MORE "VIKINGS"

Hark ye now to the tale of a "Viking" Forester. Alex Alin, a resident of Fullerton, North Dakota, first took up residence on the treeless Plains in the '80's. He was used to trees in his native land, so he took up forestry as a hobby. Cash was scarce, so Alex started a small commercial nursery of his own to help pay the cost. He did his first planting in 1900 and the bulk of it from 1910 to 1918.

At one time he was the proud possessor of 156 species of trees and shrubs, and he now has a total of 18 acres in plantations. We know not what legendary background prompted his style of planting, but the results are somewhat unusual. He has both conifers and broadleaves. His planting was not according to any standard system; some rows of trees run northeast - southwest and in one corner he has a group of pines planted in a circle, perhaps to form a council circle for communion with Viking ancestors. From a grove of ponderosa pines planted four feet apart, he removed every other tree and built a log cabin that now graces the west side of his council circle.

About one-third of the exotic specimens have succumbed to drouth. He has some excellent pines. Spruce has suffered, especially the Black Hills variety, but the Blues have stood up fairly well. Forest conditions have not been established, since all plantings lacked outside shrub rows, and the area is quite soddy.

Some of the ponderosa pines are about 40 feet tall, and Alin told me with pride that he'd "have pines over 100 feet tall long after he was forgotten."

Since 1918 Alin's 18 acres of trees have furnished all fuel wood for his six-room house. Conservatively speaking, this fuel must have saved him \$2,000.00. Much of the 18 acres in trees is included in the area of the farmyard, so it cannot be said that a full 18 acres of tillable soil has been planted.

- \_\_\_\_\_, N. Dak.

## WE'RE FOR YOU, COWBOY!

Land negotiations time is with us again - and how we know it in District 2, Texas. Some two weeks ago when the boss told us to set our own quota we thought we'd be nice and figured that we were doing fairly well by him and ourselves in marking up 400 miles for the coming season. We didn't tell him, but kept it as a surprise. The other day who should "casually" drop in but Messrs. Olson and Webb, as they have a habit of doing sometimes. We proudly pointed to our quota (?) expecting a slap on the back. We got the slap all right, but in the neck - to the tune of 200 more miles! Can this district get 600 miles and plant it? Well, you help us guess! Anyhow, we'll be found trying.

Our concentrations at Turkey and at Dunlap have thus far responded nobly, and at this time we have approximately 100 miles at Turkey and 50 at Dunlap negotiated for, and the going is still good. At Paducah, the county seat of Cottle County wherein Dunlap is located, the Lions Club has appointed a committee of Trouble Shooters. When we strike an obstreperous customer, and sometimes even we do, we just sic the Committee onto him, and as a rule it's not long before he hunts us up. They are a live bunch, that Lions Club; wish there were more like 'em. And we just got word that the County Judge and Commissioners Court wanted us to talk to them this coming Monday and tell them what they could do to get their county planted to trees. So I guess we'll be a-courtin' come Monday next.

We will have to admit to a little sagging of the spirit when we got the arbitrary seven-rod edict from the R.O., but are thankful to be able to say that we don't believe we have so far lost a customer on this account. If the prospect is at all interested, and most of them that we have talked with are, it doesn't seem to make much difference to him whether the strip is to be seven rods wide or five. Looks like a busy winter, though.

- Edgar H. Kemp, Tex.

## "GRASS CONSCIOUS"

What to do about the vanishing range is becoming a noticeable concern among stock interests of the Prairie States. Nebraska is doing something about it.

On November 9, 540 key stockmen and county agents from 49 counties of the State gathered at Omaha to attend a "pasture clinic" that had for its object the building up of tame and native grass pastures. The pasture clinic is held each fall and follows a year-long pasture program that is sponsored by the United Chamber of Commerce of Omaha in cooperation with the Nebraska State Agricultural Extension Service. This is its third and best year. It is an educational program and is organized into districts under the auspices of groups of local Chambers of Commerce with active committees that include representative stockmen, business men, county agents, Chamber of Commerce members, and extension service workers. Pasture forage meetings are held in each county and individual pasture plans are laid out on the ground.

Enthusiasm was high at the "clinic." The stockmen apparently were alive to the benefits of good range management and anxious for information, stimulated somewhat by the award at a closing banquet of trophies and certificates for outstanding accomplishments in pasture improvement.

- D. A. Arrivee, R.O.

(Dave modestly failed to record the fact that he gave an address at this clinic, and a darned good one, too. - Ed.)

## THINNING NURSERY STANDS

The following summary covers an experiment made at the Fremont Broad-leaf Nursery to determine the amount of benefits from thinning very dense stands of seedling trees.

Osage orange having a stand of 20 to 50 trees per foot was on July 1 to 7, thinned by pulling out all the trees from the center of the bands and thinning the remainder to a stand of 10 to 16 trees per foot. The seedlings were about 4 inches high at the time, and though irrigated July 12 and 13, some died from too much root disturbance. All looked floppy for a few days after thinning, but later straightened up. (Soaking rain came July 18.)

Two check rows were left unthinned, and one row adjoining these was carefully re-thinned to a maximum of 10 seedlings to each foot. This re-thinning was done selectively, the weaker appearing seedlings being removed.

Throughout the season the check-rows, unthinned, seemed to have somewhat better vigor and were as tall as the thinned rows. Severe drought during August and September somewhat stunted the growth of all species at the nursery, and caliper inventory of all species contradicted assumption that 5/32" trees at that date would make 7/32" by digging time. The caliper inventory August 25 of these check-rows showed 9.36 trees of 5/32" caliper on the unthinned rows, 9.25 per foot on row actually thinned to 10 maximum per foot, and 8.75 per foot on row thinned to 10 to 16 per foot.

The final result upon digging is as follows:

Row re-thinned to 10 maximum per foot (680' row)..	3,700	7/32"	2,665	Under
Average on two unthinned rows.....	3,475	"	12,355	"
Row thinned as in field practice, 10 to 16 per ft.	3,700	"	3,908	"
Average for the entire field treated as above.....	3,637	"	4,000	(est)

The field labor of handling the great number of culls during grading about offset the thinning cost of \$64.60 per acre.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

## KANSAS EXHIBITS

The county farm agent helped in putting on an exhibit at the Stafford County Fair at Stafford, Kansas, and the County Agent of Pratt County helped with an exhibit at the Fall Festival at Pratt.

About the same idea was used in both cases. Using a box one yard square and about five inches deep filled with sand, representing a section of land, we placed shelterbelts, using small evergreen twigs on the section and half-section line. The pasture was represented by a Turkish wash rag died green with the edges buried in the sand, and by placing small piles of sand under the wash rag the pasture could be made as rough and hilly as desired. Then we had a small house and barn with a few trees around it for a farmstead. The exhibit also had a small mirror partly buried in the sand representing a lake, with small ducks resting on it.

Behind the section hung a large map of the county showing the shelter-belt locations, and a placard telling the number of acres of trees already planted in that county. At each side of the section was a number of pictures of different shelterbelts.

At the Stafford County Fair the exhibit was displayed among the 4-H Club booths, one of the 4-H Clubs helping in fixing the display. There were approximately 700 or 800 spectators daily.

At the fall festival lasting three days at Pratt, Kansas, a town of 6,300 population, the festival was held on main street, and the display was in the show window of one of the leading clothing stores.

The exhibits attracted considerable attention, and I believe they were well worth the effort.

- Glenn W. Spring, Kans.

#### "DING" TELLS 'EM

"Not a rise out of 9 million sportsmen!"

"Not a textbook on conservation for 80 million people!"

"Everyone silent as an oyster!"

So said "Ding" Darling, President of the National Wildlife Federation in an address at a luncheon of the Nebraska convention of the Izaak Walton League in Lincoln, November 19. It was a rousing speech on conservation - of wildlife, soils, water, forests, and all renewable natural resources, and an appeal to prevent the reduction of our country to another Gobi Desert, North Africa, Yucatan, or Mesopotamia - all once paradises for human habitation, now uninhabited deserts.

"Over 80 percent of our renewable resources have been used up in the last 100 years," said Mr. Darling, "and the drainage of 17 million acres of spongy surfaces in our prairies, stream pollution, and silting of streams has almost destroyed wildlife in this part of the country."

After citing many striking examples of extremes in destruction of wildlife that has extended to almost the last whitefish in Lake Superior and to greatly depleted food sources in both of our oceans, Mr. Darling struck the keynote of his plea - the restoration and improvement of environment for wildlife of every kind by providing natural cover, natural foods, and reasonable protection. He stated that this could be accomplished by popular demand and action and that if not done soon, it would be too late.

At the morning session, Mr. Perry of the Office of Information and Education, directed attention to the value of our shelter plantations as environment for many forms of wildlife, and illustrated his talk with slides.

- D. A. Arrivee, R.O.

#### ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY VISITS SOUTH DAKOTA UNIT

On November 12 the South Dakota State Office was honored with a visit by Mr. Paul H. Appleby, Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. He came in alone and unannounced. He asked many questions about the work and progress we are making. He was especially impressed with the before and after pictures of the Ed Casey strip at Mitchell. He had several other contacts to make and felt that he could not spare the time to personally inspect a sample of our strips.

On November 13 I had an opportunity to drive Mr. Appleby to Sioux Falls and return to Brookings, which afforded additional time to discuss the project. He was especially interested in learning about the attitude our landowners are taking in the Project. The fact that our full quota of land for 1938 planting is already completely signed up with many additional applications untouched seemed to especially impress him.

- A. L. Ford, S. Dak.

### TREES AND THE PLAINS

To a person who has never lived in the bare, treeless sweep which the high plains once were, the affection of plainsmen for trees can hardly be appreciated. A score of years ago, a small town stood out on the flat levels of the vast buffalo grass panorama in Southwestern Kansas. It had been built there as a way-station for a westward forging railroad, and its citizens after building their homes, attempted to grow shade trees with indifferent success, only a few sickly saplings struggling for life for all the care given them.

By some strange freak, however, one mature tree stood on a vacant lot near the Methodist church - a cottonwood tree, frayed and blasted by hot summer winds and cold winter blizzards, but still a tree. And in that tree a pair of mockingbirds built their nest.

In the summer evenings, after the manner of their kind, the mockingbirds would sing, warbling the liquid notes of their brilliant repertoires, indulging from time to time in the pirouettes and somersaults in the air which distinguish the species. And every evening, the townspeople strolled toward the vacant lot, to sit on the steps of the church. Country people in their buggies and lumber wagons sometimes would join the little, wistful group, all drawn by the same attraction - the tree and the music of the singing birds.

The plains have manifold charms. To those who know and love them there is no beauty akin to the limitless distances and the feeling of breathless scope which they inspire; the changing colors of the shifting cloud and shadow. The plains even have their singing birds, the meadowlark, the bunting, and the redwinged blackbird in the swales. But these cannot cure, even to the lover of the plains, the nostalgia for the trees, whose loveliness those of us fortunately situated in wooded countries sometimes fail fully to evaluate.

- Editorial in Kansas City Star

### TREES AND WATERMELONS IN TEXAS

If anyone thinks we don't grow both here in Texas, just ask Jim Kyle of Oklahoma and Bill Ihlanfeldt. A while back these two worthies made a trip through the wilds of the Sooner and Lone Star States and apparently developed quite a yen for melons growing in the strips - and some probably not quite so close. In fact, we hear that melons are now pretty scarce along the route traveled.

Anyhow, to get on with our story, we had made so much noise about our Turkey area that Jim Kyle got curious and came down with Jack Nelson, Bill, and Mr. G. D. Cook of Washington, to look it over, and to prove to himself that Texas had nothing on Oklahoma in the matter of trees and, specifically, on the trees Jim had planted. All the way Jim kept bragging about how tall his trees were, and was promptly called by Walt Webb and me.

Jim thought that maybe the Turkey concentration was all right, but still stoutly maintained he had the tallest trees. I think Jim was trying to ring in some of his '36's against our '37's, anyhow he made it necessary for us to take the party to Dunlap. There he had to pull in his horns since the balance of the crowd quit him and made him "shell 'er down."

It just so happened that in this particular strip there were a large number of luscious-looking melons (of the pie variety) and Jim, a little bit disgruntled, I guess, started in to tout them up to Bill. Bill fell for it, but after whittling away industriously and ineffectually for some minutes on a large, rattlesnake-striped one, got disgusted and quit. "What the heck kind of a dern watermelon is this?" he wanted to know. Poor Bill! ---

From later advices, Jim sure wants to watch his step next time he gets into Bill's baliwick. Bill says he's out to even things up if it takes the rest of his life.

- Edgar H. Kemp, Tex.

#### POSTMASTER GENERAL SEES SHELTERBELTS

Last month Postmaster General James H. Farley passed through South Dakota and made a side trip from Mitchell to Aberdeen to dedicate a new post-office there, State Director Ford reports. He was joined at Mitchell by Senator Hitchcock and Postmaster Tony Rozum, and as the party drove north Mr. Farley remarked upon the desolate appearance of the country, with its burned-out cornfields and drifted fence rows. Turning to his companions he asked what the remedy for the situation might be, and both replied, "More shelterbelts and more grass."

By prearrangement Senator Hitchcock had agreed to show Mr. Farley some of our strips enroute, and did so. Mr. Farley was very much impressed by the fact that the trees had come through the drouth in better condition than the crops.

At Redfield the party was joined by Mayor Ira Kruger of Aberdeen, and shortly afterward a dust storm came up which twice forced the party to halt because of zero visibility. Addressing Mayor Kruger, the Postmaster General asked what the cure for this condition was. With a promptness that caused Mr. Farley to remark upon the unanimity of opinion on the subject, Mayor Kruger replied, "More trees and more grass."

#### DEFENDS FALL PLANTING

In defense of fall planting, I would like to refer you to the Froetschner planting south of Offerle which was planted in the Fall of 1935. This one-mile strip on the fifteenth of June, 1936, had a survival of 98%, plus, which far exceeds the survival in any other strip. The replanting on the Parker strip last fall of two blank rows indicates about 90% survival. Other strips have also made good growth and have good survival.

In my own experience I believe that fall planting has its advantages providing conditions are right at the time of planting. If there is plenty of moisture in the ground at the time the trees are planted in the fall the trees have a chance to establish themselves and get an earlier start in the spring; however, if the ground is dry the trees will naturally dry out and poor survival will result.



Were it possible to complete all of our plantings in March, the spring planting would probably succeed equally as well as fall planting, but plantings late in April do not have any opportunity to establish themselves before the drouths and hot winds begin. I believe our experiences in the past justify these conclusions and that a more thorough study should be made of these plantings in Kansas before fall plantings are condemned.

- Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.

#### THE IDEAL "HUNT CLUB"

In Nebraska we claim a perfected cooperative rabbit "hunt club." No, we don't claim credit for its organization - that belongs to our cooperators who realized that rabbits are a menace to their shelterbelts and crops.

To substantiate our claim, we cite the results obtained by a group of our cooperators at Stapleton, Nebraska. Early last spring they held a meeting and formed an organization, electing president, secretary, treasurer, and line captains, for the purpose of ridding their farms of rabbits. Definite rules for safety were formulated and enforced during the ensuing drives. Six drives were held before the spring planting season; 36 sections were hunted, and 1072 rabbits killed. Seventy-five to 100 hunters participated in each hunt.

The pleasing part is that these cooperators actually made money on their hunts. At the end of each day's hunting the rabbit carcasses were sold for fur and tankage.

Mr. O. A. Schlentz, a strip-owner and president of the club, makes the following claims: 90% of the rabbits on the ground covered were killed; most of the rabbits that escaped were carrying too much shot to live; that he later crossed the scene of the hunts and saw only three rabbit tracks and no live rabbits; that they have a substantial sum of money left in their treasury on which to start drives this fall; and that, as the rabbits were killed in the spring, enough feed was saved to support 300 head of cattle. He is really optimistic!

Members of the club are getting "itching feet" and they tell us that as soon as corn husking is over they are rarin' to go again. They even hint that this season the drives might develop into an "invitation" affair.

- Weldon B. Robinson, U.S.B.S., Nebr.

#### FOREST SERVICE RANGE INSPECTORS CONVINCED KANSAS STOCKMEN

As an example of the beneficial after-effects of the Range Conservation Program in Kansas, in regard to both its educational and its range improvement aspects, Wabaunsee County may be pointed out as a stellar example.

At the beginning of range examination work this past season in that county, the range inspector was received with skepticism not unmixed with a little hostility, because of the average stockman's doubt regarding "Government experts" and his fear that the Forest Service range-carrying capacity figures would injure the Flint Hills prestige as a pasture area, especially in the eyes of the Texas cattlemen, from whom most of the cattle were received in the "Hills" for grass-fattening and finishing. At one time this hostility reached such a proportion that the examiner was temporarily forced to suspend range-inspection work for a period of a few days.

However, the confidence of the Flint Hills operators was gradually restored by establishing a forage acre requirement figure especially derived for that region, and more than anything else by the untiring and enthusiastic efforts of the range inspector in bringing the gospel of good range management and the conservation of a great natural resource to them. Among other things, at his instigation a county grazing association was formed, to promote the spread of range management ideas and ideals, and to consider ways and means for the eradication of broomweed, vervain, and other Flint Hills range weeds, and to disseminate range management information to those desiring it.

At the conclusion of our part of the RCP work in Wabaunsee County, this feeling of good will and respect toward the Forest Service and its range management ideals and objectives had been built up to such an extent that I was invited by the County Committee, formerly the spearhead of opposition and resistance to our methods, to participate in a day-long inspection trip of range improvements made under the 1937 RCP, and to instruct them and the group of representative stockmen accompanying them regarding range-carrying capacity and management practices, the identification of important range forage plants, and the eradication of noxious pasture weeds. At the conclusion of the trip, every one present expressed his great satisfaction in a day well spent, and his appreciation of the part the Forest Service had played in the 1937 RCP.

- Victor O. Goodwin, Kans.

#### DR. BRESSMAN INSPECTS PROJECT

Dr. E. N. Bressman, Scientific Adviser to the Secretary, made a trip over part of the Project with Messrs. Roberts, Olson and Emerson last month, and was apparently much pleased with what he saw. Commenting upon the trip he said that he felt that he had benefited greatly by seeing at first hand the accomplishments of the Project; that while he had been told that we were obtaining fine results, it was necessary for him to actually see the work in order to realize what can be done in the Plains States with proper tree planting. He said that he was "amazed" at the progress which is being made.

#### I'LL TAKE THAT SUIT

A man and his wife enter a retail clothing store to buy a suit of clothes - for the man. The situation is not new to the salesman; he works on the rule "Sell the woman on the suit." The salesman directs much of his attention to her. Of course, the man may say, "I'll take the suit," but usually the woman's nod prompted that remark. It's an old, old story, not an old joke. For not only between man and wife, but man to man has the prospective buyer or seller leaned upon the judgment of another. Read the Cletrac ad on the back cover of the November issue of "American Forests." Note the attractive Shelterbelt pictures and the cut of the tractor. Read the copy. Tractors and Shelterbelts - they're pals. There is nothing wrong with the wife who gives the affirmative nod to the clerk concerning the suit for her husband. The Cletrac Company did the same thing. The Fleischmann Company encourages housewives to buy more baked goods. It follows that the baker will use more Fleischmann's yeast. Remington and Winchester Companies are active in game management. More shells will be used if game is plentiful. Examples of this type of advertising are not difficult to find in the smallest town in the Prairie States.

I heard a remark about being "Shelterbelt conscious." Ads like those of the Cletrac concern would help to bring about the spirit in the Prairie States. Perhaps an advertiser of fence material would be interested in shelterbelt pictures, especially those that show a portion of the fence, since increased use of a product is one of the reasons for advertising. I recently visited an art exhibit and saw many landscape and farm scenes. One picture included a single row of Lombardi Poplars along the side of a road, but that was the nearest approach to a picture of a shelterbelt in the entire exhibit. Every one looked at the prize-winning farm picture. Nobody became shelterbelt conscious, because that was not in the picture.

A Plains Forester who previously worked in Range Management, told me that in his examination work on the various farms in the Prairie States he saw Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck catalogs in 96 out of 100 farm homes that he visited. "One night," he said, "I dreamed that I visited all of these farms again and the covers of these catalogs depicted a farm scene which included a shelterbelt about 20 feet high. Every one was shelterbelt conscious, because these catalogs are the 'book of the month' in the Prairie States, twelve times a year."

- Harold G. Peterson, R.O.

#### AHA! THE GAUNTLET IS CAST!

Hear ye, Hear ye! Texas has an idea! We hear numbers of varied and sometimes conflicting accounts of the feats of certain Regional Office bowlers in something known as the Banner League, and there are also faint reverberations from a Commercial League thereabouts. We folks of the deep South (including the Northern assimilations) claim some slight proficiency as pin-topplers ourselves; and doubtless the other States feel that they are entitled to some recognition too. Well, it occurs to us that it might be a good idea to conduct a project-wide (including the R.O. if they agree to follow the rules laid down for the units) bowling tournament, teams to bowl weekly or as often as might be decided on, and the averages reported through PLAINS FORESTER. That should eliminate the familiar alibis of travelers in foreign territory, such as "I don't know whether it's the alley or the ball I'm using, but they just won't fall for me today," or "I can't understand why I'm not bowling more than 127 tonight, when my average back home is 182."

Incidentally, it should be understood that sex is to be no barrier to holding down a berth on a team. In Texas, at least, it is an absolute necessity that the writer make the fifth member of the bowling team.

So far as we are concerned, there is no necessity for confining this contest to bowling. Just name the sport you happen to be most confident of, and we'll take you on. What if North Dakota should challenge us to a skiing match? We can always retaliate by proposing an orange-picking bout! So we shouldn't be getting ourselves out too far on the proverbial limb by issuing this general challenge. We'll wait for developments - and be practicing, just in case.

Seems to us it might be a supplemental good idea for the P. F. Editor to incorporate into his staff a Sports Editor for the purpose of straightening out any entanglements, deciding on rules, etc., because it requires no prophet to see that it is likely to run into complications.

- Maurine Alexander, Tex.

(Editor's Note: PLAINS FORESTER needs no sports editor. This writer is

thoroughly conversant with all sports, including mumbly-peg, jai alai, and draw poker, and once carried off first prize in a pie-eating contest. We think that this bowling tournament proposal is a swell idea, and if any of our sturdy masculine bowlers have any scruples against competing with a mixed team, they had better save them. The best game we ever rolled was against the charming Maurine - and it wasn't good enough. What say ye, brethren, shall we have a tournament?)

#### SHELTERBELT A BOON TO CROPS

The arrival of a government unit of shelterbelt workers in the neighborhood reminds the Gazette of several things. Lately we noticed an article in the Osmond Republican telling of an unexpected experience of one of their county commissioners with an eighty-acre field of corn which was a part of his farm.

It seemed that a good many years ago a belt of trees five rods wide was planted along the south side of this particular eighty. Some years ago the commissioner had the trees cut, intending to clear the land up for cultivation.

Circumstances prevented him from finishing the job and since that time suckers from the stumps had grown to a height of about 15 feet. The consequence was a shelterbelt on the south side of his eighty and a corn crop of good average yield. There was no other corn in the vicinity.

Anyone who has cared to look at the condition of the corn crop this year in the bottoms of the Platte River could not fail to notice that where it was protected by the bluffs on the south side of the river there is a good crop, but wherever there was an opening in the hills and the wind had a clear sweep there is only very poor corn. In other words, there was plenty of moisture to produce corn where it was shielded from the hot south winds and no corn where there was plenty of moisture but no shelter. Even up high on the sheltered side of the hills there is good corn. So the failure is due more to wind than drouth.

- From editorial in Ashland (Nebr.) Gazette

#### THE REVERENT TOWN

I	I
like a town	like a reverent town,
that sees the sacredness	that hews no tree trunk down,
of trees, Acknowledging their right	but lets it stand to know sidewalks
To whisper half the night	around can go, As if, "I comprehend;
And all the day to talk above a shaded walk.	You were here first, my friend."
	- Chas. Divine (From "Daily Contact")

#### : NEBRASKA :

Four men have been detailed from the Dakotas for work in Nebraska during November. Ralph Deede and Francis Gill from North Dakota are temporarily stationed at Arnold. Walter Cozine from South Dakota is helping out in the new Pierce district and Thomas Hutchinson, Nurseryman from North Dakota, has charge of cottonwood collections in the vicinity of Fremont. These experienced men have certainly been a great help to this Unit during our rush fall season.

Dr. H. N. Wheeler delivered two illustrated lectures in Nebraska on November 9 and 10; one at Lincoln, and the other at North Loup. Fine crowds were present at both meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

We very sadly report the death of Mrs. R. W. (Vera) Smith at her home in Lincoln on November 10. Funeral services were held at Pagosa Springs, Colorado, November 14. Mrs. Smith had been seriously ill for several months but although her death was anticipated it was a severe shock to her many friends both within and outside the organization. The sincere sympathy of the entire organization is extended to Ray and Vera's immediate family.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fall planting is progressing satisfactorily, and if moderate weather prevails we will complete replanting by November 20 and new planting by November 30. Only one day with freezing temperatures has occurred this fall so that all fall operations have been carried on without interruption.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our quota of 2,200,000 cottonwoods was completed November 12, which is ahead of last year's schedule by more than a month. Three hundred thousand of these wildings are to go to Kansas.

: OKLAHOMA :

Mr. F. E. Dunham, cameraman from Region 5, was detailed by the Washington Office to Oklahoma to take approximately 1,000 feet of Kodachrome film of shelterbelt work on this Unit.

Shots were taken of a picnic in the shade of trees in a 1935 strip; cattle grazing on the lee side of a strip; Forest Officers measuring trees for height and diameter; seed picking from ladders; cultivation of 1937 strips; seed cleaning; picking cotton near shelterbelt strip; cotton growing in lee of belt, and others.

Don't be surprised if you hear of Ed Perry, Jack Nelson, Elvin K. Ferrell, James W. Kyle, et al., leaving Teepee Town for Hollywood in the near future. They really take to this movie stuff like ducks to water.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nurseryman Elmer W. Luke reports finding a very unusual walnut tree while collecting walnut seed recently. This tree bore several hundred double walnuts (twins). Mr. Luke states that occasionally a double walnut is found but never has he seen a large number on one tree before.

This tree is located near Norman, Oklahoma, home of the State Insane Asylum. This fact prompted the following remark from one of the seed pickers: "That tree must be 'nutty.'"

: REGIONAL OFFICE :

If you were inclined to view with derision the article in the September issue describing the valiant efforts of two feminine kegglers to keep pace in the bowling league, you may now compose your countenance. The last laugh is ours, the aforementioned LEC and EKD being members of the team which, sponsored by Pall Mall cigarettes and aided and abetted by a sizeable handicap, captured the title of State Champions in the handicap team brackets of the First State Women's Bowling Tournament to be held in this State. Even the newspapers expressed surprise, and insinuated that there was something slightly awry, but we assure you it was all on the up and up.

\*\*\*\*\*

Along about November 1 of this year the Regional Office had a party, if our memory serves us right. We danced to various accompaniments, became as hilarious as possible on pop, and hoped our special guests, the State Directors, were enjoying themselves. If someone will agree to whistle the current dance tunes with not too, too much swing rhythm and Big Apple variations, or keep the nickelodeon well plugged with nickels, we'll get together again sometime.

\*\*\*\*\*

When you see the Lobenstein youngsters in shiny new shoes, you can figure that Daddy has a corner on the football pools, having won three of them. We expect he'll be mighty sorry when the football season is over and he has to depend on poker for his winnings.

\*\*\*\*\*

In acknowledgement of the article "Facts Affecting Range Program Work" written by Lee Kirby before he returned to R-3, the Regional Office has received fourteen letters of commendation from stockmen, colleges, and members of the Agricultural Extension Service in the Prairie Region.

\*\*\*\*\*

The general exodus south has begun, and every day or so a uniformed and interesting-looking detailer leaves the equipment he is escorting, long enough to make a call in the Regional Office. Our only complaint is that they don't stick around long enough for us to get acquainted. Can't you arrange these things a little more conveniently for us, Mr. Hausherr?

- Lucille Clark, R.O.

MAYBE IT WAS US THAT INSPIRED THIS!

An anonymous but obviously soul-racked musical aesthete has the following to offer:

:		:
:	<u>WHISTLING PERMIT</u>	:
:		:
:	Authorizes _____ to whistle during office hours at the	:
:	following hourly rates payable to the Social Fund:	:
:		:
:	Hymns . . . . . 25¢	:
:	Opera . . . . . 50¢	:
:	Popular Melodies . . . . . 75¢	:
:		:
:	(Note: Surcharge of 10¢ for whistling off-key)	:
:		:
:	Signed _____	:
:	Head of Department	:

: PURELY PERSONAL :

We are glad to welcome Elton Howland, our new messenger, to the Regional Office.

\*\*\*\*\*

Beulah Bowen has been transferred to the Division of Fiscal Control from Range Management.

\*\*\*\*\*

North Dakota welcomes Auburn S. Coe (Chief Kills-a-Gopher) of Montana, who will direct and make plans for the demise of an abundant rabbit and rodent population. Mr. Coe arrived November 1.