



Bob Skipper of Skipper's Nurseries climbs aboard his tractor for some spring work.

Photo by Shannon Kelley

## Nurseries

lot, some from books, but mostly from experience and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Laszlo Pomazi worked with McCoy's Nursery in Boring for 12 years when he decided to go into business for himself. Pomazi decided on the Sandy area because his father-in-law had bought some land in the area and he lived there.

"It's a good location," Pomazi said. "The people like the ground out here." Pomazi grows mugho pine, scotch pine, hedge plants, averidas and fruit trees on his 17 acres of land on Bluff Road. He also owns a greenhouse for propagating. Most of Pomazi's stock is sold to one broker, but he also sells some directly to buyers.

"It doesn't matter who the buyer is, as long as they have a good reputation," he said. Most of Pomazi's stock goes to Washington and Idaho, though some goes to Colorado and Utah. He also feels that planning ahead is important.

"You make money in the spring and fall and the rest of the year you just spend," Pomazi said. "You kind of plan ahead to get an idea of how much it's going to cost you to get through the year."

"It's kind of risky," Pomazi admitted. "You gamble all the time and you can never tell; it goes with the business."

Chatelain's Nursery, located on Kelso Road, used to be a grower of berries, but the business now concentrates on nursery stock.

"Berries went out and nurseries took over," said owner Jim Chatelain, who took over himself as owner from his father. The nursery began 15 years ago as a proprietorship and changed to a corporation. Chatelain's now raises evergreens of all kinds on 65 acres and sells directly to retail outlets as well as through a broker.

"A lot of people won't sell to brokers," Chatelain said. "A broker gets up to 25 percent, depending on

how big they are." Brokers can be risky because they handle so much more. If a nursery sells its entire stock to a broker, who in turn goes bankrupt, the nursery would be in bad shape.

Chatelain's most popular items are Austrian pines and Colorado spruce. "They go more places, can't be shipped to all places." Determining factors include climate and there aren't many states which can handle plants used to the Oregon weather.

"There are a lot more year-round employees now than there were when they grew berries here," Chatelain said. "The berry pickers just lumped up in the summer."

Chatelain agrees that the nursery business is a risky one.

"If you're on top of it and participate in an accredited spray program, disease and insects shouldn't be a problem," he said, "unless the pine-shoot moss puts you under

quarantine. If a plant becomes contaminated by the disease, it can't be certified to ship out of state.

"When you're dealing with the weather, the economy and the public, too, you're bound to have problems," he added. "It's a gamble."

Staab's Nursery is owned and operated by Lance Staab, who began in 1961. He had been in business with his family in Portland and began is own. Boring suited his taste purposes for growing his main stock — rhododendrons, azaleas and ground cover.

"It's climate is right for my particular plants," Staab said. "The ground is good and the weather is nice. It's also a nice area to live. It's close to Portland and accessible to out-of-state buyers."

Climate, location, soil and a good market — all reasons why the Sandy and Boring area is one of the leading producers of nursery stock in the nation.

## Recent study shows

# Carbon level alters climate

Studies in oceanography may shed new light on the global dangers posed by the rapid increase in carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere.

The carbon dioxide concentrations have been boosted dramatically in recent years because, scientists say, of the widespread burning of fossil fuels — oil, gas and coal — and the worldwide clearing of forests.

One of the results of increased carbon dioxide levels could be significant global warming that might melt polar icecaps, causing widespread flooding which, in turn, could alter crop producing patterns around the world. Northern areas, for example, might be able to grow grain for the first time.

The increased levels of carbon dioxide in the air trap outgoing energy emitted from the land and oceans.

This produces something of a "greenhouse effect" that warms air temperatures and could touch off significant climatic changes.

An Oregon State University study in oceanography is related to the carbon dioxide impact theory because it is generally believed that

oceans act as an important sink or disposal site for human-induced, or excess carbon dioxide.

Professor Chen-Tung A. Chen and other scientists have developed a new process for estimating the levels of excess carbon dioxide in the ocean. Their ship-board process is much faster, cheaper and more accurate than present systems which have to use laboratory analysis of ocean radiotracer elements.

"The preliminary analysis of existing data indicates that the excess carbon dioxide has penetrated deeper and farther into the major oceans of the world than previously realized," said Chen, the project leader.

Chen added that oceans may have been a much larger sink than some of the theoretical models predicted.

Findings of the study will allow calculations of how quickly the excess atmospheric carbon dioxide is taken up by ocean waters and how it is circulated throughout the world oceans.

Pacific Ocean studies during the next two years will be boosted by a \$95,000 grant

from the National Science Foundation. Measurements will be made from aboard a Seattle-based research ship of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Measurements will also be made in the ice-covered Weddell Sea near Antarctica from a United States-U.S.S.R cooperative research vessel in the winter of 1981. About \$97,000 in funds will be provided by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Since the existing data was mostly collected in the summer, the urgent need for winter data cannot be overemphasized, Chen said.

"In winter, the strong wind and intense cooling set up conditions most conducive in air-sea carbon dioxide exchange," Chen said. "Better knowledge about the rate, amount and extent of excess carbon dioxide penetration in the oceans and about the past and present season trends will certainly lead to better prediction of future trends."

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## 4-H volunteers sought for state fair

Clackamas County 4-H volunteers are being sought for the 1981 Oregon State Fair in Salem.

Interested persons should sign up for the volunteer positions by May 5.

High school sophomores, juniors and seniors are need-

ed to work with college students in arranging and conducting 4-H activities and programs at the fair. Each teenage volunteer will be at the fair for three to five days.

"Although there is no money to pay teen staff

members, we are able to provide room and board during the time they are helping," said State Fair 4-H superintendent Barbara Sawyer.

The first high school volunteers with work with the 4-H horse show from

Aug. 21-25. A second group will work from Aug. 25-27, helping receive exhibits and arranging the building in preparation for the opening.

For more information, contact the Clackamas County Extension office at 655-8635.

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