

WEEPING SPRUCE, A RARE TREE, CAN BE FOUND IN THIS AREA

One of the rarest trees in the world is a neighbor of ours. Very few foresters, even, have come upon it and very few would recognize it as it does not become

prominent until well along in years. Its technical name is Picea breweriana, and its common one, Weeping Spruce. It is one of the most spectacular of conifers and

is rarely found below 3 or 4,000 feet in elevation.

It has been reported in the upper reaches of the Chetco, the Illinois and scattered here and there in the Siskiyou, usually the textbooks state, on the north side of ridges. It is known to reach tree size, 80 to 100 feet tall and a 12 foot diameter, breast high.

There is quite a stand of Weeping Spruce in the vicinity of Boar Basin Butte, near the head of Siskiyou Creek, a tributary of Smith River.

The tree is easily identified by a long, slender trunk, with reddish brown bark and very few needle bearing limbs below. The wood does not have attractive commercial value, being soft and shot through with knots. It is in the upper branches and the foliage that we best identify the tree. The limbs have a very definite droop throughout their length and the needles attached in long festoons, deep yellow green, resembling Christmas tree decorations, and are swayed, in ripples, with every passing breeze. These festoons do not become noticeable until the tree is 30 or 40 years old. Fre-

quently, in early summer, each festoon is terminated with orange yellow "blooms," which later develops into seed ones. These cones, first size, are odd in the spruce family, having stubby, smooth edged scales. The seeds are mature in early fall and may stick to the cones until the next year.

Attempts to grow the Weeping Spruce away from where Nature put them have met with failure and it is for this reason and the fact that few people inhabit or travel in its native range which makes it quite unknown. While it grows in with other trees, should you come upon a specimen standing by itself, you will be seeing one of the world's most beautiful plants.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

This is the time of the year when all those people who own property or who are in the process of buying it receive the sad news as to what the tax bill is for the coming year. And as is so common these days, one never receives the pleasant surprise of being informed that said taxes have been reduced.

In spite of the fact that most of us are aware that taxes and death are always with us, we still never fail to complain loud and long when our annual statement arrives. Of course, we overlook the fact that every time we get the gas tank filled we are paying taxes. Yet we pay these without

October Traffic Count Is 38

Oregon's October traffic death count was set tentatively at 38 Thursday, eight fewer than the 46 fatalities reported in October a year ago.

Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry said this pegs the toll for this year thus far at 327 as compared with 332 at the same time last year. He said the margin may be narrowed, however, if delayed fatality reports force an upward revision of the October figure.

The state has an excellent chance of completing the year with a net reduction in traffic deaths if the November and December totals can be held at or below 1954 levels, the secretary said. Thirty-seven Oregonians died in traffic last November and December accidents claimed 53, the worst month of the entire year.

Suspend 289 Drivers Licenses

Licenses of 289 Oregon drivers were suspended during October either on court recommendation or through discretionary action of the Secretary of State.

Figures released by Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry showed that a bad driving record—too many accidents or traffic violation convictions—accounted for 95 of the 289 suspensions. Five other drivers were "grounded" because of involvement in fatal mishaps.

The October accounting disclosed that the state's courts convicted 11,061 persons of violating traffic laws. Driving while intoxicated convictions, a charge which calls for mandatory loss of license under Oregon law, resulted in 305 suspensions.

Total convictions and number of suspensions for various charges varied little from the previous month.

and then keep silent. For I know that the amount I pay is but a small proportion of the value which I and my family receive.

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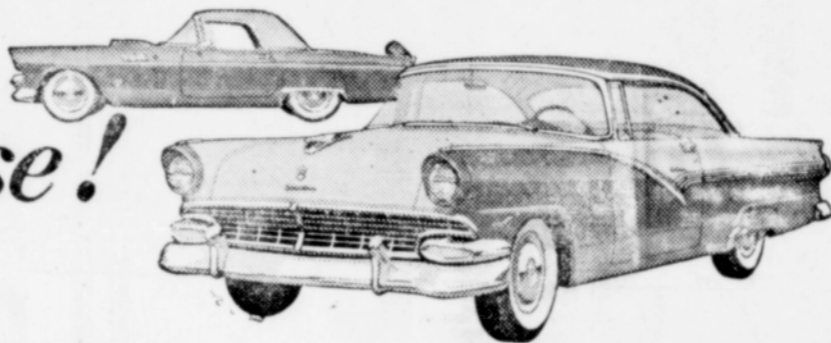
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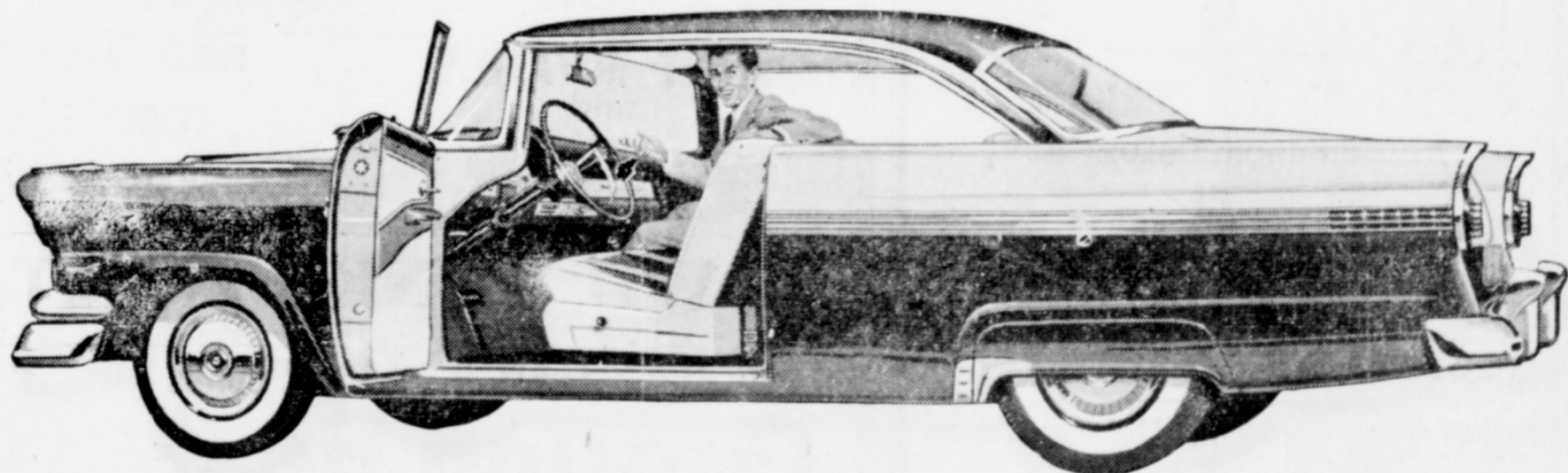


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