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Published weekly on Fridays at Estacada, Clackamas County, Oregon. Entered in the postoffice at Estacada, Oregon, as second class matter. Subscription rates in Clackamas County one year \$3.00; outside the County and in the State of Oregon one year \$4.00; outside the State of Oregon, one year \$4.50. Subscriptions payable in advance.

THE WAYSIDE

By John Inskeep, County Agent  
Planting forestry or Christmas trees this coming season? If so, may we suggest late fall or early winter planting where possible. "Early plantings usually re-

sult in better survivals," so says Project Forester Alvin Parker. To illustrate the point, during a recent tour of the Clackamas River Basin, the group saw a 1948-49 Douglas fir planting. On one side of the road the trees were transplanted in the fall on the other side spring planting occurred.

On which side did we find the better stand? You guessed it. On the fall planted side. Fall planting resulted in high perfect survival. On the spring planted side, survival is only 50 percent. "This is a common experience," Parker reports. "But in some winters we expect quite a bit of heaving. You just have to guess whether more trees will die from heaving or late planting. Quite generally the early plantings are better."

We are happy to report a much larger supply of seedling trees available this fall from both private and public sources. The public agency is the State Board of Forestry, Salem. Order blanks may be obtained direct or from the County Extension Office, Oregon City. Names of private sources may be had for the asking. Certain of the latter will furnish the trees and plant

them also. Just a word or so of precaution here. Don't set out forestry trees in heavy soil and expect them to survive. Always firm the soil well around the roots. Careless planting can only result in unsatisfactory stands. Air pockets around the roots of transplanted seedlings can result in trouble, plenty of it.

When planting early the earth settles around the roots and the trees are set, the better to withstand dry weather. Soddy ground should be summer fallowed prior to setting out seedlings.

Want to obtain a good natural stand of Douglas fir? Willard Deardorff, Liberal and Walter Hardy, Russellville have found that a fair scraping of the surface by a bulldozer blade results in a good natural stand, that is if a fair cone supply is found in the vicinity. The general idea is to scrape and pile the old debris of braken or other material which prevents seeds from reaching the mineral soil.

Of course, it is not always feasible to bulldoze the ground as described. But in many cases this method of obtaining a stand is less expensive and more satisfactory than planting seedlings.

The life of our old hunting and fishing partner from out Molalla way becomes more difficult each year, it seems. Perhaps we should say, his wife becomes more difficult each year.

"Can't understand that woman" Louie says. "She can't stand the sight of me and still she doesn't want me out of her sight, especially when I want to go fishing or hunting. She wants me to work self to death all the time while she spends her time gadding about."

We had started to drive into Louie's place that day in late September, only to see his new sedan parked near the house. That meant his wife was to home so we beat a hasty retreat. Later we found Louie working in his Christmas tree stand. The rains had come. Both of us welcomed the passing of the intolerable heat wave. We dropped down by the spring which gushes sparkling cold from the foot of the big fir tree. There Louie had a jug of sweet old cider exhaled in readiness for just such an occasion. We drank to Autumn and the hunter's moon.

"She says I can't go hunting this year and she is going to stay at home to see that I don't set a foot off the place. That's what she says. Got any ideas?"

"Well, we replied, "Some of the boys might."

Right there the matter stood until the morning of October 1. On that morning to telephone in Louie's house rang early and with insistence. Louie's wife took down the receiver.

"This is Western Union, we have a telegram for you." "Mother very ill come at once."

Shortly after Louie called us at the office. "Everything packed and I am all ready to start for Eastern Oregon. Say, I wonder if the old lady really is ill?" We didn't know for sure.

Scientists are eradicating the maggot laying worm by turning loose male flies which sire sterile eggs which cannot hatch. The screwworm is a most serious blowfly of livestock in the warmer states of the country even as far north as northern California.

This is the way the eradication plan works. The female screwworm fly mates but once. Millions of screwworms are raised in the laboratory. At the right stage of development the maggot pupae are bombarded with cobalt 60 gamma rays which destroy the ability to reproduce. Just before the pupae hatch they are scattered far and wide by plane. Soon after hatching both males and females mate with wild flies but the resulting eggs do not hatch. In control areas complete eradication has resulted.

FIR MARKET FIGHTS FOR PRICE STABILITY

The green Fir lumber market has been encountering serious obstacles in its fight to achieve price stability, according to the Crow Lumber Market News Service. Lumbermen are finding it one of the most difficult and confused situations in several years. At the moment, prices on Standard and Better grade random length green Fir dimension are about last week's level, or only slightly lower, but how long this level can be maintained is a question. Crow's said.

Mills the past week have resisted lower priced offers as strongly as possible, and orders are not too easy to place for prompt shipment in some cases, especially if anything unusual is involved. Nevertheless, the price trend has been downward for specified length dimension. Utility and Economy grades have suffered severely too. Kiln-dried dimension has reflected the downward trend also.

While lumber for water shipment has lost less ground than rail, there has been some sinking in prices.

Dry White Fir dimension is moving to lower levels, keeping pace with the general trend. No. 4 common Ponderosa Pine boards

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have been somewhat easier to buy and prices have dipped slightly, Crow's said. No. 2 and 3 common Pine boards are also on the weak side but prices have not changed during the week.

While unsanded Fir plywood (sheathing) has reflected somewhat of a hesitant trend, prices at the moment are much the same as last week. Sanded plywood has remained firm in price.

The problem of life consists mostly of subtracting what a man owns from what he owes.

The man wit money to burn is usually the kind who keeps up the payments on his fire insurance.

Ted Kiggins and Marshall Laughlin are ill and are occupying the same room in the Holladay Park Hospital.

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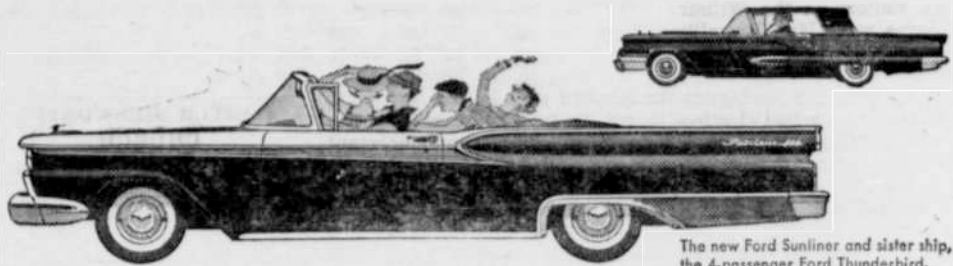
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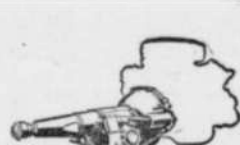
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