

Fabulous Yule firs are becoming scarce

Finding that fabulous fir to adorn one corner of the family room this Christmas will require more than luck, according to some tree industry spokesmen.

Increased demand for the real trees, as consumers tire of their artificial trees, as well as price hikes in the industry are resulting in some shortages, according to industry observers.

But while some growers are dismissing the idea of shortages, large quantity consumers have already felt the first tinge of short supplies.

The Farmington Area Jaycees were caught in the tree bind in early November when the grower who promised them trees for their sale informed the group his Michigan farm had been sold clean out of trees.

That left Jaycee president Terry Sever out on a limb. The group had promised the proceeds of the tree sale to help the Farmington Area Advisory Commission (FAAC) with its drug program.

"We canceled the sale last Thursday, then Friday morning I knew I just couldn't tell FAAC that the sale was canceled. We had a commitment to them," Sever said.

The ensuing phone calls finally led Sever to the western Michigan town of Reed City. There he contacted a grower who had sold his trees, but, in turn, referred Sever to Leo Dunbar.

AFTER 12 PHONE CALLS and 2 1/2 hours, Sever found a grower who could supply the Jaycee sale.

Dunbar's office manager, Bill Reaveley, attributes a return to tradition for the increased number of sales.

"People tried the artificial tree and found it wasn't part of the tradition," he said.

Hunting down a tree with the family is coming back into practice, according to Reaveley.

But while artificial trees were taking over the Christmas market 10 years ago, growers were planting the crop that is this year's harvest, Reaveley said.

A standard seven foot high tree takes between six to 12 years to attain its height, according to the National Christmas Tree Association, in Wisconsin.

Because growers underestimated the demand 10 years ago, there is a shortage of about one million trees in the United States, according to Mary Garlity, spokeswoman for the organization.

This year, about 30 million trees were harvested for the Christmas season.

son. The trees are intentionally grown to be harvested at the end of the year and aren't a part of the national forest system, according to Ms. Garlity.

WHILE WAITING FOR this year's plantings to mature into Christmas firs, traditional tree fars will be forced to bear a minor shortage in the industry, according to Reaveley.

Grower's planted fewer trees for several years and it wasn't until recent years that they have enlarged their plantings.

Increased demand has been coupled with inflation to bring about higher prices on some trees, too. Generally, according to the industry, the price of a tree should be about \$1 more than a comparable tree last year.

But Reaveley says that the cost of harvesting the trees has gone up about 20 per cent from last year. Those costs include trucking, wages and materials.

While other growers are warning of higher prices and shortages, Marvin Dreyer, president of the Michigan Christmas Tree Growers Association, isn't so sure there is a shortage in the state.

Michigan is a leading producer of Christmas trees, according to Dreyer and the national association.

While Michigan grows enough trees to take care of residents' needs, it also exports them to other states, according to Dreyer.

Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Indiana are experiencing a greater demand for the real trees than they can fill. Those states are contacting Michigan growers.

"THERE'S THE SAME number of trees. There's an increased demand and that's causing some shortage, but I seriously believe it's been overplayed. There really should be no panic buying," Dreyer said from his Holland farm.

Michigan produces about 4 1/2 million Christmas trees a year, according to Dreyer. About 60 per cent of those trees are shipped for sale in other states.

Many of the Michigan growers Sever contacted for his group told him they sell outside of the state.

Sever and the Jaycees will be selling their trees, beginning Dec. 8, in the parking lot in front of the vacant Federal's Department Store building on Grand River. Prices should range between \$15 and \$20.

The trees will be on sale during the day and evening and on weekends.



Mark Snider searches through the Christmas trees at Franks Nursery in Farmington. Some tree growers say there may be a shortage this year. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthner)

Hoo-Hoo's highlight lumberjacks

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Warren G. Harding was a Hoo-Hoo. Although he rose to become president of the United States Harding never attained the position of Snark of the Universe.

He was just a plain old Hoo-Hoo in the International Order of Hoo-Hoo. Still thriving today, the Hoo-Hoo is a fraternity of lumbermen and those whose occupation concerns itself with that industry.

Founded in 1892 and named after a tuft of hair on the otherwise bald head of the group's first president, the group has officers and branches across the U.S., Canada and Australia. Its national second vice-president Robert VanEvery is the president of H. A. Smith Lumber and Supply in Farmington.

Hoo-Hoo deals with the advancement of the industry and sponsors lectures and displays to interest more persons in the field.

Its unusual name has nothing to do with the lumber industry although at one time members thought it was the cry of a lumberjack lost in the woods.

McCarver, whose head lent itself to the cause of naming the organization,



BOB VANEVERY

was one of its seven founders. The group considered the idea of organizing the industry as they waited for a train to take them away from a lumber manufacturer's convention in Camden, Arkansas.

BOLLING JOHNSON, a lumber trade journalist, is responsible for

coming up with a nickname for a tuft of hair. History tells us the train was delayed for five hours. That gave the group plenty of time for serious organizational thought.

Years later in 1924, Johnson addressed a Hoo-Hoo International Convention in Minneapolis wearing a smoking jacket covered front and back with association badges.

Fittingly enough, Johnson's jacket was dubbed a Hoo-Hoo jacket.

But it was more than a mere nickname for hair that popped up that fateful day in 1892. The organizers knew Lewis Carroll's poem, "The Hunting of the Snark." Using the terms Bojum, Snark and Jabberwock, the group came up with names for its officers.

The president of the group came to be known, modestly, as Snark of the Universe.

Johnson was familiar with Egyptian mythology, too, and used it as the basis for the new group's orders. One group is named Ramesses.

Egypt's ancient cat goddess Bast was the inspiration for the group's symbol, a black cat.

As the year's rolled on, the Egyptian

influence of the group became more blurred.

"SOME OF US can't pronounce some of the Egyptian names," VanEvery admitted.

But a recent visit by Snark of the Universe Eugene D. Zank to Farmington had local Hoo-Hooes humming. Each of the Snarks are given a travel allowance to visit the group's nine regions each year.

The only region which doesn't receive an official snark visit is Australia. It would take up all of the snark's travel allowance to visit that region, according to VanEvery.

When the Snark of the Universe visited Farmington, the group conducted its luncheon at 12:45 p.m. Cocktails were served at 11:29 a.m. and the lunch lab for each guest was \$11.99.

The attention to the number nine is based on the legend that cats have nine lives. Since the cat is the mascot of the group, there are nine jurisdictions headed by Supreme Nine members.

Next year's Hoo-Hoo convention will be conducted in September, the ninth month of the year.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

THE FOLKS down at Farmington Lanes are proud today. Al Blum called the Inside Angles to let us know that his wife, Irene, scored high in three games recently with scores of 220, 213 and 211. Bowling has been the pastime for 10 years which has aided Irene in keeping healthy.

ARMY SPECIALIST 6 David Anderson, of Farmington, recently participated in Veterans Day activities in Washington D.C. Highlighting the day's activities were ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery where President Jimmy Carter unveiled a plaque dedicated to the veterans of the Vietnam conflict and placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in honor of the veterans of all wars. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson, is a member of the U.S. Army Chorus at Fort Myer, Va. He is a bass soloist with the chorus.

BRIAN CHEETHAM, a graduate of Farmington High School, recently participated with the Ferris State College Collegiate Singers before a near-capacity audience at FSC's Starr Auditorium for the 1978 "Bandorama" presentation, which also featured the Bulldog Marching Band and the Jazz Ensemble.

JACK McDONALD, Oakland County Commissioner from the Farmington area, has been named as a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Criminal Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee. The appointment was made by NACo President Charlotte Williams. NACo's 12 steering committees form the policy-making arm of county government. Each committee is composed of approximately 35 county officials who meet during the year to examine issues critical to local government. Their recommendation on county legislative goals are presented to county officials from across the nation at NACo's annual conference. If approved, the recommendations become part of the American County Platform, NACo's official policy document.

MATHEMATICIANS, ATTENTION. The Detroit Metropolitan High School Mathematics Club will have a general meeting at Lawrence Institute of Technology on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Larry McCollister, a lecturer in mathematics at LIT, will make a presentation on "Modern Algebra: the game of Nim and interplanetary communications." He will use a fictional interplanetary tournament to discuss algebra concepts. The club's membership is open to all interested high school faculty, students and parents from the metropolitan area. There are no dues and members have access to LIT computer

facilities without charge. Meetings are in Room 321 of the Science Building on campus at 21000 Ten Mile, west of Northwestern Highway.

CAN HEART ATTACKS be prevented by lowering cholesterol? That's the question facing a team of University of Minnesota researchers conducting a study of the relationship between heart disease and cholesterol. The University is seeking persons who have had only one heart attack in the past 36 months and who are between 30 and 59 years old. Anyone interested in more information may call the University of Minnesota Hyperlipidemia Study collect at 612-376-4694.

SIMON CARMEL, a nationally known lecturer, author and member of the deaf community, will speak at Madonna College on Dec. 9 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the science lecture hall, Room 144. A \$5 registration fee is payable at the door. Advanced registration is recommended by calling 591-1200 ext. 47 or 591-1203. Interpreters will be provided. He will speak on the various types of deaf legends, beliefs, and customs passed on from person to person. Carmel speaks five languages including International Sign Language and Israeli sign language. He is past president and active member of the U.S. Deaf Skiers Association and ski team. His experience also includes acting in several major plays and freelance writing for local and national magazines and newsletters for the deaf. His published works included "International Hand Alphabet Charts and International Hand Number Charts." Both deaf and hearing persons are invited to the workshop.

EVERY BUSINESSMAN wonders where his advertising dollars go and how it could be used more wisely. Ted Seldanko, assistant director of advertising and creative services for WJBK-TV Channel 2, will review media choices and costs and follow an ad from its inception to conclusion at a principles of advertising workshop at Madonna College on Dec. 8 and 9. The seminar will investigate the internal and external aspects of advertising and review both cultural and social influences of advertising. The workshop will be in Room 117 of the college administration building from 6-10 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. The class is offered for one credit at \$47 or non-credit at \$30. For additional information call Terri Spinelli at 591-1200, ext. 45.

DEADLINE

Material submitted for the Inside Angle, 22170 Nine Mile, Southfield 48064, should include the name and phone number of the sender and should be typewritten if possible. Items should be received at least one week before publication.

holiday home sale



Save over 20% on our Magnalite Country Collection of cookware

Combining all the beauty of cooking in its thickest cast aluminum for better heat distribution, and faster cooking with lower heat. With select hardwood handles, hand-polished, mirror-bright finish outside.

A. Six-piece cookware set consisting of 2 qt. covered saucepan, 5 qt. covered Dutch oven, 10" open skillet (5 qt. cover fits it), and meat rack; 200 units, reg. \$94, sale 69.99.

B. 1 qt. covered saucepan; 100 units, reg. 29.95, sale 22.99. In The Marketplace, at all Hudson's stores.

*Total units available at Metropolitan Detroit Hudson's stores while quantities last.

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