

# Tree-Lined Telegraph Honors Lover Of Trees

By BETTY FRANKEL  
Special Writer

Trees will soon be growing in the middle of Telegraph Road. This busy highway is in the process of being beautified. Islands have been constructed to separate traffic lanes and soon some of them will be planted with tall shade trees and also smaller flowering trees.

Part of this planting project is sponsored by the "Keep Southfield Beautiful" committee which has organized a "Trees for Telegraph" program. Also, part of the project is to be a memorial planting in honor of Campbell Allen Harlan, founder of the Harlan Electric Co., who was a great lover of trees.

Harlan died suddenly last June and it is appropriate that his employees and friends are establishing a memorial planting in the traffic island on Telegraph in front of the company Harlan founded.

Harlan was well known for his love of trees and nature. He planted thousands of trees on the property around his home, and over the years donated hundreds of these to schools and churches and cities. He inspired people to plant trees, and often "led the shovel brigade" that did the planting.

In 1963 he helped organize the "Keep Southfield Beautiful" program which

includes tree planting as an integral part of its activities. The trees to be planted in the Harlan Island include some of Harlan's favorite—European sycamore (Acer platanus), European beech (Fagus sylvatica), Tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera), tulip or black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), red maple (Acer rubrum var. October Glory), Redbud (Cercis canadensis) and crab apple (Malus var. Royalty).

HOWEVER, when plantings are being made in the center of a busy highway many things must be considered including which kinds of trees can tolerate the less than ideal

growing conditions. Planting details are being worked out by Southfield's planning department and the Michigan State Department of Highways.

The state has made studies to determine which trees are most resistant to toxic fumes and to salt damage which is a real problem. Also, the state has established guidelines to regulate the placement and spacing of trees planted along highways.

In accordance with the guidelines, trees in the island must be placed so none are closer than 150 feet from the centerline of a cross street. The distance they may be placed from a crossover area

varies from 40 to 60 feet. The actual distance is determined by the speed of the traffic on a particular highway.

On Telegraph Rd. the required set-back is 40 feet. The spacing of the trees in the island is also determined by the speed at which the cars go by.

Highways with fast traffic call for wider spacing. On Telegraph the large trees as well as smaller trees 100 feet apart with their trunks 20 feet from the through traffic lane. No branches on the mature trees can hang over the curb. Small ornamental trees, which have low branching, are grouped beneath the taller trees. They have a

set-back of 28 feet so their branches can stay within the designated planting area.

THE ISLANDS on Telegraph Rd. are about 60 feet wide, narrowing in some places to only 40 ft. This allows only a narrow planting zone of 20 feet or less. Moreover, safety is a paramount consideration. Vision can't be obstructed and space must be left in case a car goes off the road.

Maintenance must be considered, too. Although rock or pebble mulches have been tried in some areas, grass still seems to be the most attractive and satisfactory ground cover. However, space must be left so mowing

machines can get between the plants.

ANOTHER problem encountered on Telegraph Rd. but one that the average home gardener is not apt to have, is the concrete of old Telegraph that is located about two feet below the ground level of the traffic islands. This has to be removed when planting holes are dug for large trees or must be pierced with holes or broken up when small trees are being planted. Fortunately, below the concrete is a layer of gravel which facilitates good drainage.

The Harlan memorial planting have been planned so there will be a sequence of color so they will be attractive at all seasons.

In spring the plantings will be enhanced by the delicate but colorful blooms on redbuds and crabs. In summer there will be an attractive blend of foliage textures—the small leaves of crabs and tupelo contrasting with the

large, lobed leaves of maple and sycamore. In fall the tupelo and maples will blaze scarlet and crimson and the redbud will be pale clear yellow. In winter the Austrian pines will provide a welcome bit of green and added interest will come from the berries on the crabs and also from the mottled green and cream colored bark of the sycamores.

In other traffic islands on Telegraph you will see Norway maples, green ash, and the skyline locusts. Smaller trees will include corkspear hawthorns, Japanese flowering crabs and the shrubby amur maple.

Between 10 and 11 Mile roads where the road dips down into a small valley created by the Rouge River the plantings will include trees that naturally grow in flood-plain areas.

Special plantings are also planned for high-use areas such as the islands in front of Tel-Twelve Mall.

## IRS 'Rent Watch' Protects Tenants

DETROIT Internal Revenue Service investigators are checking rents in Michigan buildings in a national "rent watch" to prevent landlords from boosting rents to take advantage of tenants' increased Social Security payments.

This month, 28 million Social Security recipients will receive a 20 per cent increase in their payments. Thomas A. Cardoza, IRS district director, said, "We are urging landlords not to raise rents unless they are certain such increases are legal."

"In many cases, landlords have already raised rents this year and must wait until 12 months have elapsed since that increase before raising rents again," Cardoza said.

Landlords must not raise rents beyond a maximum 2.5 per cent a year increase plus prorated pastthroughs of increased taxes, municipal fees and services, and capital improvements. Tenants also should receive a detailed 30 day notice.

The Cost of Living Council has given the IRS new administrative sanction powers to protect tenants from illegal rent increases. Now the IRS can order landlords violating regulations to restore overpayments to tenants, roll back rents to legal limits and impose penalties of double the overcharged rent.

The Revenue Service will refer to the Justice Department for prosecution cases of flagrant and willful violation of rent rules, the district director said.

Cardoza urged tenants to report rent increases which they consider illegal. The IRS gives priority handling to rent complaints from Social Security recipients.

"TO INSURE their complaints receive handling priority, citizens should identify themselves as Social Security recipients when they contact us, especially by telephone or letter," Cardoza said.

All residential rental units under controls are covered by "rent watch." This generally includes all units owned by landlords with an interest in more than four units. Excluded are landlords with less than four units and housing controlled by the federal, state and local governments.

IRS offices have copies of Form 535, which shows the detailed information landlords must supply in notifying tenants of proposed increases.

"Use of the form, however, does not mean the IRS has approved a rent increase."

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## Forester Explains Why Leaves Fall

**EAST LANSING** Shorter days--not colder weather--cause leaves to change color and drop from the trees each fall, explains Dr. Melvin R. Koelling, MSU forester.

"The beautiful autumn leaf colors are caused by the chemical substances found in most living things," says Koelling. Most of the pigments responsible for the bright fall colors are present in the leaf

from its formation. During the spring and summer, however, the colors are masked by chlorophyll, the dominate green pigment. Chlorophyll is formed by exposure to light, or the process of photosynthesis.

In the shorter fall days, photosynthesis ceases and production of new chlorophyll in the leaves diminishes while the breakdown of old chlorophyll continues. Soon all the chlorophyll is gone and the

other pigments emerge as the characteristic fall colors, says Koelling.

**WEATHER** does have some effect on leaf color. Cool nights and warm days favor the production of colorful scarlets, lavenders, and purples. Freezing temperature, on the other hand, kills the leaf cells and prevents color formation.

Shortened days are also responsible for the chemical

change in the leaf which causes it to detach from the tree. This chemical reaction takes place in the leaf stalk where it joins the twig. The substance binding the cells breaks down, and the leaf eventually falls to the ground, Koelling explains.

No one is certain why the seasonal behavior of plants is more often a response to light than to other environmental factors.

"Perhaps the reason is simply that most environmental factors, such as temperature, rainfall and food supply, vary from year to year," speculates Koelling.

"Changes in the hours of daylight, on the other hand, are the result of the regular movement of the earth around the sun, and don't vary from year to year."

## Indoor Herb Garden Grows On Windowsill

Grow chives, tarragon, mints, sage, parsley and other herbs on a windowsill this winter and enhance your meals year-round, suggests Michigan State University horticulturist Dr. J. Lee Taylor.

Most herbs grow well indoors when cared for like common house plants, Taylor says. Plant seeds in pots of light, sandy, well-drained soil in ample fresh air, humidity and sunlight.

For fragrance, grow lavender, lemon verbena, rose geranium, pineapple sage and rosemary. Most other herbs are also aromatic, Taylor points out.

Harvest your indoor herb garden during leafy, blooming and seed stages, depending on use. Cut leafy herbs just before flowering, when richest in aromatic oils, the specialist advises.

Use your indoor crop throughout the winter. If you plan to transplant herbs outdoors in spring, start seeds indoors in February.

Perennials such as sage, lavender and thyme make good outdoor garden borders, Taylor says. Tops can be clipped for use in fall, and plants come up again in spring.

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