

More Tree Farms Needed in America

Thirty years ago this month, a tract of 120,000 acres of young trees in western Washington state were designated as the first American tree farm.

Today, more than 33,000 tree farmers are growing healthy forests on over 72 million acres.

But, according to American Forest Institute, (AFI), that tremendous increase isn't nearly good enough if the nation is to meet future needs for wood.

The Institute says this is

because the biggest portion of privately owned forest land is not being maintained to insure a future crop of growing trees.

The Institute, which manages the American Tree Farm System on behalf of the forest products industry, points out that nearly 300 million acres of timber are owned by four million individuals, many of whom either can't afford to maintain their forestland or don't have the necessary knowledge.

Certified tree farmers are woodlands owners who have permanently dedicated their land to the growing and harvesting of trees. Tree farmers are encouraged to utilize their timberlands for recreation, watershed protection and scenic values as well.

AFI says that today the nation is growing more trees than it was just a decade ago. AFI states that tree farms have played a significant role in this improving situation.

The Institute points out that in 1941, when the first tree farm was established, less wood was being grown on American forests than was being harvested. Today, that situation is reversed. For every eight cubic feet of wood fiber removed by harvesting, nine cubic feet are growing.

AFI says that demand for paper and wood building materials is increasing rapidly and that, despite the emergence of recycling and substitute materials, we will still need to have all our commercial forests scientifically managed in order to insure there will always be enough trees.

More woodlands owners must be convinced of the merits of managing their forest land acres to keep a healthy, thriving forest alive, AFI believes. The tree farm program costs

nothing to join, the Institute says, and can even make money for the landowner. But since trees are the only renewable natural resource, it is imperative that all the lands be kept as productive as possible for the greatest good of the greatest number of people.

Thirty years of tree farms have shown what we can do, AFI concludes. If we can continue to do as well in the next few years, we won't have nearly the problem, as a nation, in meeting the demand for wood fiber and keeping our forests growing and thriving.

No Motors

Avoriaz, France's fashionable and ultra-modern ski resort, last winter banned motorized vehicles. Sleds, some horse-drawn, others reindeer-powered, handled the transportation chores.

MIRROR MIRTH

It's never a happy marriage unless both get better mates than they deserve.

If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, and neither is the ignorance of lawmakers.

A kiss is what the child receives free, the young man steals, and the old man buys.

You can mark it down that the girl who looks like a dream always gives a fellow insomnia.

It's a fact of life that a rich husband is always a rich man, but a rich man is often a poor husband.

There are four kinds of girls, the mental, temperamental, accidental, and experimental.

The future is often bright for those who work hard, but that can scarcely be called bright.

Children almost always laugh at a fat man. They have fun at his expanse.

There are two reasons for drinking. One is, when you are thirsty, to cure it. The other,

when you are not thirsty, to prevent it.

A critic is a person who can appreciate something he doesn't like, and depreciate something everybody else likes.

The reason women buy so many clothes is because they can't get them for nothing.

An antique is the only thing we know of whose price increases as its value decreases.

There's a world of difference between a tongue and an automobile. The tongue runs fastest when the brain is in neutral.

Leland Mason

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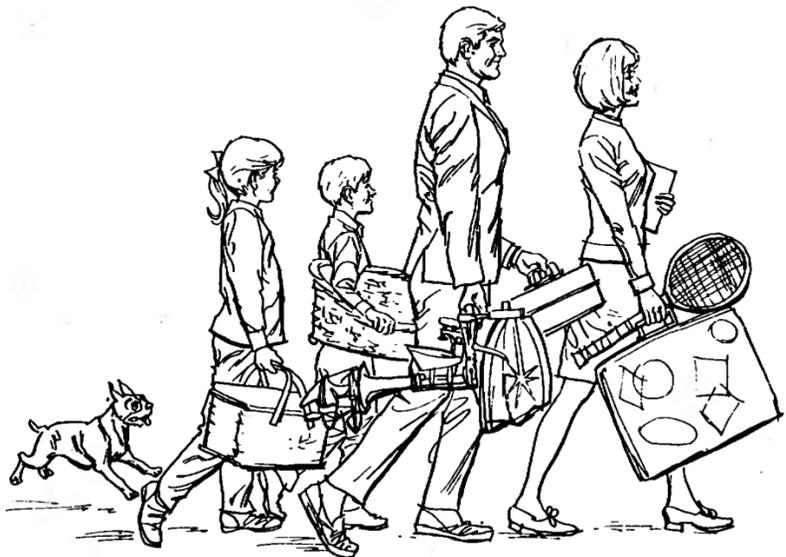
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