

### TAXPAYERS ASK IRS

This column of questions and answers on federal tax matters is provided by the local office of the U. S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.

Q.—May a commercial tax preparer sell information he obtains from a person's tax return?

A.—No. It is a misdemeanor for any person engaged in the business of preparing tax returns, or providing services in connection with such a business, or for any persons who receive compensation for filing out a return to disclose Federal tax return information or use it for any purpose other than to assist in preparing the return. Violations may be punished with a \$1,000 fine or a year in prison or both.

Q.—Why does this year's tax return ask taxpayers how many of their dependents filed returns or did not live with them at the end of 1972?

A.—To distribute revenue sharing funds properly to states,

counties, townships, and municipalities, the Federal Government must know how many people live in each place. Tax returns can count much of the population but the government must subtract from this amount anyone who should be counted somewhere else. That is the purpose of this question.

Remember that dependent students who were away at school on Dec. 31, 1972, but who live with you when not at school, are to be considered as living with you at year's end.

Q.—I operate my own business. Do you have a booklet that will help me fill out my business tax returns?

A.—Yes. IRS Publication 334, 1973 "Tax Guide For Small Business," provides detailed information on tax matters that may arise in setting up, operating, or disposing of a business, whether it is a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation. The booklet is available for 75 cents at IRS offices, U. S. Government Printing Office bookstores, and some post offices throughout the country.

Q.—Last year I paid \$15 to have my tax return prepared. Can I deduct this amount on my 1972 income tax return?

A.—Yes. If you itemize your deductions you may deduct expenses for tax counsel and assistance.

Q.—I earned more than \$10,000 last year. Will the IRS still figure out my tax for me?

A.—Yes. If your adjusted gross income is \$20,000 or less and consists only of wages or salaries and tips, dividends, interest, pensions, and annuities, the IRS will be glad to compute your tax at your request. However, you must take the standard deduction instead of itemizing your deductions, fill in certain lines, and file your return by April 15, to have the IRS do the figuring for you. Be sure to read the instructions that come with the Forms 1040 and 1040A as to the lines that have to be completed.

Q.—My tax return asks a question about foreign bank accounts. I don't have one. Do I still have to answer the question?

A.—Yes. Just check the box marked "no" if during the year you had no interest or authority over a bank or other financial account in another country. Persons who did have foreign bank accounts during the year must

### Top Award To Blake

CHARLOTTE.—Padgett (Pat) Blake of Bessemer City, district sales manager for the N. C. State Motor club, won two top awards for his outstanding performance during 1972.

Blake qualified for membership in the Century Club and received a merit award for his sales efforts. He was presented a plaque at the company's annual meeting by President Thomas J. Watkins.

Blake has been with the motor club since 1969 and has won numerous honors since that time, including Man of the Year for the Charlotte division.

complete and attach to their return IRS Form 4683. Use the order blank on the back of your tax forms package to obtain a copy.

### Sculpturing With Plants Decorative

If you want to "fancy things up" around the yard a little, sculpturing with plants may be just the ticket.

"Sculpturing" in this case means the old horticultural practice of espalier. It's done by closely pruning to control growth and training the trunk and branches of a plant to lie on one plane.

Espaliered plants are used to give a decorative accent to a bare outside wall, for example. They can also be quite a conversation piece.

North Carolina State University extension horticulturists suggest using a substantial frame for your plant sculpture. Just how heavy or strong you will need depend on the type plant being grown.

Reinforcing steel rods used in construction of buildings are useful in forming the frame for espalier shrubs and trees. They're especially useful against a background into which you can't drive nails. They will have to be bent and welded into the desired pattern.

Large-growing trees such as

magnolia will need a heavy frame of metal pipe to support large limbs. Espaliers can be established on a frame of heavy wire, such as clothes line wire strung between posts. Whatever you use, the limbs you're training will have to be tied to the frame as they grow. Soft plastic-coated wire is suggested.

There are numerous patterns you can use for your espalier. A checker-board pattern is popular with pyracantha. The Swedish Christmas tree is distinctive and also well adapted to pyracantha.

Almost any design can be worked out with proper pruning. However, the simpler the design the easier the maintenance, caution the NCSU horticulturists.

They suggest sketching the design you like before starting the plant. Tender new growth of espaliers can be trained in any direction. They can even be trained to grow around the corner of a building.

### Writer's Club Contests Set

Entries are being accepted for the Annual Juvenile Story Contest sponsored by the Charlotte Writer's Club. The contest, for writers in the twelve Metrolina counties of North and South Carolina, is open to all Metrolina writers who have sold fewer than three juvenile stories in the preceding year. Prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10 will be awarded.

Juvenile stories are for readers ages 10 - 15 years. Manuscripts should be typed, double spaced, on one side of 8 1/2 x 11" paper. The author's name must not appear on the manuscript.

Author's name, address, telephone number and manuscript title must be enclosed in a small, sealed envelope attached to the manuscript. A self-addressed envelope with ample postage should be included for return of the manuscript.

Limited to one entry, contestants must send three copies of an original, unpublished story, 500 - 2000 words, to Mrs. Patsy I. Wright, 427 Hermitage Court, Charlotte, N. C., by March 9, 1973.

### Will Rhodes' Rites Conducted

Funeral rites for William Rhodes, 83, of East Ridge street, were conducted Saturday morning at 11 o'clock from St. Paul Methodist church with Rev. T. A. Powell and Rev. L. Garvin officiating.

Interment was in Kelly's Chapel church cemetery.

Surviving are seven sons: Alonzo Rhodes of Evanston, Ill., Willie Rhodes of Bronx, New York, Richard Rhodes and Fred Rhodes, both of Gastonia, Buford Rhodes of Baltimore, Md., Jesse Rhodes of Kentucky and John Henry Rhodes of California; one daughter, Mrs. Emma Jean Mackey of Bronx, New York; one brother, Robert Rhodes of High Point; two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Rhodes and Mrs. Viola Curry of Kings Mountain; 23 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

73. Entries received after March 9 will be disqualified. Nonmembers of Charlotte Writer's Club must enclose a \$1.00 entry fee.

# REMEMBER

## The Movie Monster Who Destroyed Lives, Homes and Entire Cities?

## The Drug Pusher Stole His Act

What's more, he does encores.

Unlike the monster on the screen, the drug pusher stalks furtively, contacting only the addicts who keep him in business, dreading those who can ring down the curtain on his performance.

Because concerned citizens are working to rid their communities of his devastation, he can't afford the spotlight of enraged public opinion.

Nevertheless, he outdoes the movie monster in damage. Unchecked, he can, and will, waste entire population—the young, who make up his growing, captive audience.

From the hooked portion of this audience, he gets nothing but raves. Loud and pitiful.

It's a horrible act.

But it knocks them dead.

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Community Organizations For Drug Abuse Prevention

