

The Tree's Time Table Today

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By a recent presidential proclamation, the TREE in our country today has been given a special "place in the sun." Indeed the tree's time table here is now unique. For, no longer shall we honor "Mr. Tree" for just one day in September, but rather for one week in July — ending on the last Saturday of such month.

Thus, this year we welcome "Arbor Week." And — with a 'sorry na lang' sigh, at the same time thanking President Mag-saysay — we bid goodbye to "Arbor Day" with which we have been acquainted for a long, long time.

Why such a change? — you may probably want to ask. Well, it's because in the past we seem to have turned "vandals of the forest" — making wanton destruction of trees for *kaiñgin*. And even in many a town and city, trees are either neglected or destroyed by cutting their branches and doing all sorts of manipulations on them which would make them cry for mercy had they been given the power of speech. Reason behind this is perhaps the ignorance of many of our countrymen about the importance of trees.

Our people surely need a real tree education. Quite a lot, for instance, never know that trees not only beautify places, purify the air and give shade from the sun's rays, but also — and this is most important — prevent peak floods and their effect on soil. Outside the circle of foresters, very few understand that a porous, permeable soil (as made possible by trees) absorbs rainfall faster than a cultivated soil. A runoff of much surface water that may not be

absorbed quickly is retarded by a soil covered with litter, brush, and tree stems. And trees have many other uses for us.

Joyce Kilmer once ended a poem of his on "Trees" thus:

*"Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree."*

So that taking this as a hint, we are duty-bound to protect trees — they being creatures of God, too. By illegally killing trees, we only become somewhat like murderers — criminals, and such bad actions will only lead to our detriment in the long run.

If only at least one-half of our people studied forestry, maybe we wouldn't have many tree problems as we do have now. But since we can't all be foresters, we must nonetheless have a working knowledge of tree importance to make us more tree-conscious and tree lovers. Once we begin to love trees — governed by the principle that "we don't hurt the ones we love" — we will not harm trees anymore — at least we'll not do anything illegal against them.

It is a truism that if a tree is treated as a living organism, with an understanding of its vital functions, it will be a constant source of profit and pleasure to man. Poor cutting of trees increases the waste of our forests. And in regard to planting of trees, it is done so not for the very planters but for posterity.

Coming to the life span of trees, there are differences, but tree age is specific. In the United States, it is known that gray birch is old at 40. The sugar maple lives

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I WENT WITH . . .

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sification along the Calauag-Lobo national highway. I told him that we already had a party doing the work in that region.

Upon our landing, the President asked if we had any transportation. Upon being informed that we had none as we did not know the time of our return, he asked Col. Molina of the air force to provide us with a car which conducted Undersecretary Ferrer and Director Castrillo to their offices and Congressman Pajarillo and myself to our respective homes. Thus ended a very memorable day for me — a day with the President.

THE TREES . . .

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up to 500 years. And while some oaks live up to 1,500 years, junifers are able to reach 2,000 years. Some of the giant sequoias are even believed to be about 4,000 years. I think we should take care of young trees as we would our babies and treat old trees as we would respect our grandparents.

Because some trees live very much longer than the longest life span of a man (Adam lived up to 900 years old only perhaps), trees have become landmarks and memorials and have carried their associations with great persons from one generation to another. According to statistics, there are trees still living that were planted by the first President of the United States States (George Washington).

And so as we initiate our "Arbor Week" observance this July 24-30, 1955, we hope that we may become as tree-conscious as the Americans are. We hope too that the Magsaysay tree, which the President will personally plant, will live for many generations to come just like the Washington trees.

Any one can become angry—that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not within everybody's power, and is not easy.

—Aristotle

FEASIBILITY OF . . .

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should be freed to the greatest possible extent from sub-professional work, and devote the maximum amount of time to the determination of the optimum cutting system for all areas. Sub-professional personnel should be trained and used to handle the sub-professional work.

4. In areas where selective logging is required, concessionaires must use diesel yarders with not more than 150 h.p. each.

COMPOSITE STAND TABLE
Area Logged in 1951
(Dipterocarps per Hectare)

Diameter Class	April 1952	April 1953
(Inches)		
2	0	1.5 (1.5)
3	7.7 (1.5)	6.2
4	12.3	9.2
5	4.6	6.2 (3.0)
6	7.7	7.7 (1.5)
7	4.6	4.6 (1.5)
8	16.9	13.8 (1.5)
9	9.2 (1.5)	9.2 (1.5)
10	9.2 (1.5)	7.7 (3.0)
11	3.0	3.0 (3.0)
12	9.2	9.2 (3.0)
13	9.2	9.2 (3.0)
14	3.0	4.6 (3.0)
15	6.2 (1.5)	4.6 (1.5)
16	9.2	7.7 (1.5)
17	4.6	6.2 (3.0)
18	6.2	7.7 (1.5)
19	4.6	3.0
20	9.2	7.7 (1.5)
21	0	1.5 (1.5)
22	7.7	6.2 (1.5)*
23	1.5	3.0 (3.0)
24	3.0	4.6 (1.5)
25	1.5	1.5
26	3.0	1.5
27	3.0	4.6 (1.5)
28	3.0	3.0
30	1.5	1.5
41	1.5	0
42	0	1.5 (1.5)

* Increased two classes.

LEARN TO LAUGH

A good laugh is better than medicine. Attend to your own business; few people can do that well. Say kind things; nobody ever resents them. Avoid hasty remarks; they cause much of the world's trouble. Stop grumbling; see some good in the world and keep the bad to yourself. Hide aches with a smile; nobody is much interested anyway. Learn to laugh; it pays.

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