

The Readers' Page

Innovations, Association Notices, and Other Newsworthy Stuff

Have you developed a device that solves some road maintenance or repair problem? Or modified a truck or backhoe or whatever? Or know of someone who has? A locally produced innovation is likely of use to others IF THEY KNOW ABOUT IT. Let us know, and we'll tell others through this page. We'll even take pictures and write the article.

Associations: Let others know about your officers, meetings, seminars, workshops, membership drives, etc.
Towns: Advertise for road agents, crew members, whatever; we'll print them FREE. Individuals looking for a position can let towns know about their availability.

Other notices, ideas, news, or such are acceptable. We'd like to make page 11 YOUR PAGE. We'll put other material here only if we don't receive enough from our readers. Call or write us (address and phone on back page).

Safe and Efficient Tree Trimming



Peterborough Public Works personnel have developed a safe and efficient tree trimming unit. It is one of several innovative solutions produced by crew members themselves, an often used process in Peterborough. In this instance, they knew that trimming trees in the fall increased the amount of sunlight that reached the roads. Together, they sought and found a more efficient method.

Standing safely in a fiberglass bucket fitted to the dump body cab protector, a Peterborough crew member trims trees using an insulated hydraulic chain saw. The fiberglass bucket slides in and out of brackets welded to the cab protector. It is secured by pins before an operator gets into it.

The crew clears the roadside of brush and small trees concurrent with tree trimming. For ground work an operator uses an insulated hydraulic circular saw. Both the chain and circular saws are equipped with twenty-five feet of hydraulic hose, which allows the chain saw operator to trim to a height of twenty feet and the ground saw operator to reach the entire right of way. Also, the saws can be used at the same time with the operators a safe distance from each other.

Public Works personnel replaced the standard hose fittings with quick disconnects compatible with the aggregate spreader fittings. A crew member adjusts the hydraulic flow to the saws with the spreader spinner controls. Four brackets, bent from flat bar stock and slipped over the dump body sideboards, carry the pole saws when not in use.

For disposal and cleanup of trimmings and brush, a chipper crew follows a safe distance back but close enough so two flaggers can control traffic around the entire operation.

In addition to improved production, the operation is noticeably quieter than when using gas powered saws. The total cost to the department was less than \$3000 (purchase of two saws, a used fiberglass bucket, hoses and connectors, and labor for modifications. For additional information call Larry Merrifield,

Peterborough Highway Superintendent, at 924-6251.

Thanks to John Isham for the picture and information for this article. Before he retired this month, John was Peterborough's Public Works Director for twenty-five years, and concurrently its Town Administrator for over ten years. Best wishes for a Happy Retirement, John.

Road Agent Sought

The Town of Hudson is seeking an aggressive, experienced Road Agent to direct all functions of the Highway, Drain/Sewer and Equipment Maintenance Divisions. BS in Civil Engineering plus five years municipal experience or equivalent combination of education and experience required. New Hampshire CDL required.

Resume and cover letter should be sent to Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator, 12 School Street, Hudson NH 03051 by August 18th. Salary DOQE. (EOE)