

If you're thinking of planting... make sure you know what you are getting into.

Treeplanting is not just a walk in the park

by Duncan Gish

Every year at the beginning of May, students from all over Canada migrate to the forests. They go not to holiday but to plant seedling trees. Reforestation in Alberta is a new business on the rise. Every year there has been an increase in the amount of planting being done. This year is no different.

The demand for people to plant trees this year is high. Contracting companies are combing universities and colleges throughout the prairies in order to fill the demand for tree planters.

How does planting occur?

The planting job occurs when contractors make a bid on a cut block that a lumber company has cut. The contractor who makes the lowest offer and who is reputable is granted the job. The contractor then hires people who are willing to work during the summer months to plant trees.

But what is the pay like?

It is possible to make \$100 to \$200 a day. Why the range? Treeplanting is done by piece rate. This means getting paid for how many trees you plant. The amount you get paid per tree ranges from 5¢ to 20¢, it may be lower or higher. What decides the rate for the planter is basically the difficulty of land. No one would expect the same rate to be applied to planting a cultivated

field as to a rocky mountain side.

At first a person won't be making a very high amount since planting involves learning tricks of the trade and the most expedient way to plant. One advantage though is to be in good shape. The first week of planting is excruciatingly hard.

Why such a high wage?

Because the work is very hard. Living in a tent for two months, and working a 10 hour day every day up to two to three weeks is gruelling. If the heat and the bugs aren't ripping away at you, it's the rain and wind whipping around you. If you think you can overcome these obstacles, that's nice, but in treeplanting it's only the beginning. It's a tough job requiring good physical and mental endurance. Going out every day to plant trees is the most monotonous job in the world. Yet even though it is this tough, people still do it.

Why do they do it?

There are a number of reasons; the most common one is "for the money". Another answer is that it is one of the greatest tests of self-motivation and physical capability.

Other advantages of becoming a planter in the summer is the job site, rent, and holidays. Working in the Alberta forests and B.C. mountains is one of the most exhilarating things to do in the world. Also, for two months of the year the person

saves on rent by living in a tent. Finally, most people who plant like making enough money to support themselves through school in the two or three months of planting and leaving a month off for holidays.

When does treeplanting start?

Planting starts in early May and usually ends in late June. Then in August it starts up again for two to three weeks. On the coast of B.C. it can start up in late February and go to early October. Anyone who plants that long though is usually a little crazy.

Who should treeplant?

Treeplanting isn't for the meek. Many a young rookie comes out wasting money on equipment, usually cheap gear, and then finding out the unexpected — *treeplanting is hell*. After two or three days the person quits and heads home. If you're thinking of planting or have been hired by a reputable contractor, make sure you know what you are getting into.

What is treeplanting like?

Treeplanting deals with getting up every morning at 6 a.m. Waking up this early in May in the mountain regions means frost on the tent and frozen ice in the drinking water.

Planting deals with aching muscles and bruises. You won't be

continued on p. 6



GRADS!

THE CLASSIC LOOK!
YOU HAVE EARNED IT!

Transfer your diploma, degree or certificate onto a brass or chrome plaque. Definitely a unique way to display your most treasured document. A proud reminder of all those years of effort and hard work.

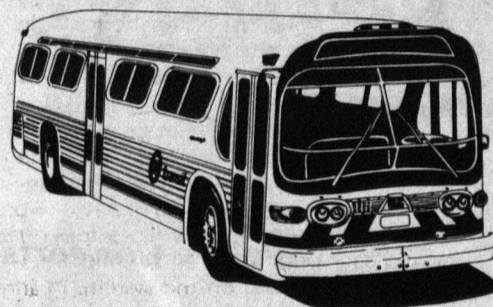
Brass or chrome plaques with brass or chrome frames and choice of colored borders — 55.00

Walnut, brass or chrome plaque with no border — 40.00

The price is right — the shop will match any competitors prices less 5% with estimate verification for custom framing ...

9860 - 90 Avenue EDMONTON ALTA Phone 433-0388

Serendipity Shop



If you take the bus...

You should be aware of service changes that will be in effect from April 26 to September 6, 1987.

Summer Reductions

The service changes listed here are summer reductions and cancellations scheduled each year to reflect lower demand for transit service from May through August. If you require more information, please call Transit Information at 421-4636. Transit Operators will have new route pamphlets available on the bus after the Easter weekend.

8 Downtown - Bonnie Doon - University
Peak hour buses will operate every 15 minutes.

19 Northgate - University
Peak hour buses will operate every 15 minutes.

37 Castle Downs - Calder - Westmount - University
Peak hour service will be reduced with some early trips cancelled.

39 Lessard - West Jasper Place - University
Peak hour service will be reduced from the U of A to West Jasper Place in the morning and from West Jasper Place to the U of A in the afternoon.

68 Lakewood - Kaskitayo - Southgate - University
Peak hour buses will operate every 30 minutes between Kaskitayo, Southgate and the U of A.

139 West Jasper Place - University
Peak hour buses will operate every 30 minutes.

406 Sherwood Park - University
Extra trips to the U of A on this route will be cancelled until September 6. Regular service to downtown will remain.

Summer Cancellations (April 26 - Sept. 6, 1987)

- 136 Kaskitayo - University
- 137 Westmount - University
- 152 Capilano - University - Aspen Gardens
- 169 Lakewood - University
- 404 Sherwood Park - University

Attending Summer Session?

Edmonton Transit **Student Paks** will be on sale for summer session at the Bookstore in SUB; Campus Drugs, 8623 - 112 Street and Varsity Drugs in HUB Mall.

Buy four Adult Monthly Passes for **\$130.00**. Individual monthly passes are \$36.00 each. Save \$14 and ride all summer long with a Student Pak.

S.O.S.

If you pay cash when travelling on buses, we urge you to use **coins only**. Many problems occur when fare boxes become jammed with dollar bills. With everyone's cooperation, we can avoid delays in service and reduce the large expense of handling dollar bills.

So please, use coins only.

GRADS:

CHECK THIS OUT:

DON WHEATON'S & GENERAL MOTORS COLLEGE GRADUATE FINANCE PLAN

- \$500.00 DISCOUNT COUPON
- \$750.00 GM FACTORY REBATE*
- 6 YR./100,000 KM WARRANTY*
- 48 month terms
- Low Monthly Payments



CIERA
stock #210029

SALE PRICE \$14,932.00

Less Discounts 500.00

Less Rebate 750.00

13.5% at 48 mth 370.49/mth

TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE

INC. INT. \$17,783.00

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF: YOU'VE GRADUATED SIX MONTHS PRIOR OR BY FEBRUARY 29/1988

Edmonton's **ONLY** Little Profit Dealer

*SELECTED MODELS ONLY
*LIMITED TIME ONLY



10727 - 82 Ave., Edmonton
439-0071



Edmonton transit

Owned and operated by the City of Edmonton