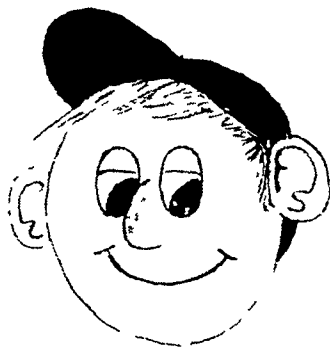


Nixnutz's Corral

By BARNEY NIXNUTZ

"All the news that's unimportant, but still interesting."



Quick switch

A farmer from Georgia moved up North last January with all kinds of management ideas for his new environment. He even made promises of how he was going to cut costs here and there. One of them was to cut his staff at his home by one third. At last count, however, he has 608 people working for him, instead of the targeted 357. His predecessor at the sprawling estate had 510 on the payroll.

Wrong number

You would think that with a last name like Krieg, the editor of this newspaper would have a slot all for himself. But that's not so. Yes, there are other Kriegs around -- immediate relatives in Florida, and North Dakota, but lo and behold, there are more still. This week it came to the editor's attention that a family in Lancaster has the same last name and they aren't even related to Dieter Krieg. Now, the point of this message is, if you're trying to call the editor at home, forget about Lancaster phone

numbers. That's the wrong person and the wrong number. You'll have better luck checking the Lititz listings.

Money for us

Most folks may have never realized it, but this past Wednesday marked an important day in the lives of every tax-paying American. The Tax Foundation, a private organization, dubbed May 4 as "Tax Freedom Day."

The national organization of taxpayers figures that as of that day the average American taxpayer will be earning money for himself. Up until then, every working day of 1977 was for the glory of the powers that be in Washington, Harrisburg, and city hall.

Figured another way, the Foundation reports that the average worker spends 2 hours and 42 minutes of an 8-hour working day earning money to pay his federal, state and local taxes. Of that time, an hour and 44 minutes worth of wages go to the federal boys in Washington, while 58 minutes worth of earning

power goes to the state and local level.

Hardly anyone forgets what April 15 is significant for. Might it be high time to remember May 4?

Poor soil

Lancaster County farmers are envied most every place you go. One gentleman who farms a good distance to the north of the Garden Spot, for example, described his soil as consisting of "two stones for one dirt."

Broken rules

While you folks out there have been spending money and losing sleep over how you're going to comply with OSHA regulations, the boys down in Washington have found themselves amidst 4000 violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. But they aren't doing anything about it. You see, they're exempt. Congress, in passing the Act, had exempted all federal workplaces, and the \$16,000 worth of fines are going to be overlooked.

Crabgrass can be controlled

FLEMINGTON, N.J.—Crabgrass probably causes homeowners more grief than any other lawn weed.

New seedlings, germinated from last year's seeds, begin to infest lawns early in May. High temperatures, abundant moisture and a liberal application of nitrogen fertilizer contribute to its rapid growth, says Henry W. Indyk, extension specialist in turf management at Cook College, Rutgers University.

But it is possible to have a crabgrass-free lawn with not too much effort on your part.

The condition of the lawn itself is the first line of defense against crabgrass. If you have a dense and vigorously growing lawn, crabgrass hasn't a chance of getting a foothold.

Lawn care practices that contribute to an attractive lawn are the same ones that can control crabgrass. Attention must be given to liming, fertilizing (adequate but not excessive), mowing at a height of 1½ inches, watering only once a week and only if necessary, and pest control. Neglect these practices and you've issued an open invitation for a crabgrass invasion, Dr. Indyk cautions.

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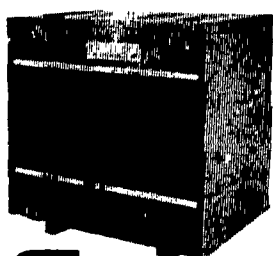
trolled by chemicals. The trick is to apply the chemical early in the Spring before the crabgrass seeds germinate. This is called preemergence control. A good rule of thumb to go by is to apply the chemicals before the first week in May.

You can get satisfactory results from DCPA (Dacthal), siduron (Tupersan), benefin (Balan), and bensulide (Betasan). Dacthal has the longest record of satisfactory control. Siduron is the only safe material to use on newly-seeded lawns. If you plan to see later in the season you'll have to forego the use of these chemicals. Their long residual effect may be harmful to the new seedlings.

Once crabgrass plants start to grow, preemergence control does no good. Your only alternative is to kill the plant. The methyl arsenates, sold under a variety of product names, are the most commonly used chemicals for this purpose. One treatment may be effective when the plants are young. If more are needed, applications should be made at 7 to 10 day intervals.

This is why it's best to use preemergence control - less work for you.

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