

## Student Pumps 'Life' Into Diseased Trees

By Bill Fredell

While most junior high school students earn money by delivering papers, mowing lawns, or baby-sitting, fourteen year-old Jim Simpson has gone into business for himself treating trees against Dutch Elm Disease.

"It started when my neighbor, after renting the equipment, decided that it took too long to do; then I took over," said Jim Simpson, 4839 Fremont Avenue South, Minneapolis. Last year Jim used his neighbor's equipment to treat several trees in his neighborhood.

This year, however, Jim has purchased his own equipment and engaged the help of a partner, Mike Gergen. They have a pressure tank and hand compressor which are transported with the other necessary materials in a small trailer behind Jim's ten-speed bicycle.

Due to transportation problems, Jim says that he wants to "stay small" and inject trees mostly in his southwest Minneapolis neighborhood.

The process which Jim uses is the same one being used by the University of Minnesota Campus, and it is the only method known which will retard, if not stop, the Dutch Elm Beetles' infestation. Small holes are bored six inches apart into the base of the tree, and Lignasan is pumped into the tree via hoses and large "needles". Each tree requires approximately 2 1/2 quarts of Lignasan, a chemical produced by the Dupont Chemical Company, and the injection period is roughly 2 1/2 hours. "We can't guarantee safety for your tree, but we've had good results," insures Jim.

"The business is still paying the debts," said Jim, "because we had to buy the equipment and supplies first." Along with the equipment, Jim said that he had to secure insurance, bonding, and a license. As soon as these expenses are met, the business should turn a profit.

Jim charges about six dollars to treat a tree, but don't call him. He's as busy as he wants to be.



Dutch Elm Disease Strikes Campus.