Ontario Department of Lands and Forests report that "it is a folly to plant anything but the very best stock. He was, of course, referring to tree seedlings used to re-stock forest land. But he could also have been referring to agriculture which a long time ago heeded such advice, and, as a result today has grains that can produce carbohydrates yields many times better than the yields of the grains of 70 years ago. Because forestry and forest genetics are such long term propositions in this country, the results of seed source improvement programs will not be nearly as spectacular. But it does not mean that such programs are unnecessary and unimportant for it is only through forest genetics that we can grow and maintain forest stands of inherently good growth and health.

There are many aspects of seed source improvement but one major field is that of tree breeding. Often we think of tree breeding as the crossing of several species to obtain hybrids with the desirable characteristics of each species. But a much more important activity is the production of superior strains of one particular species. It is this latter activity with which all of the Management Foresters in our District are familiar.

NEW MANAGEMENT

MR. & MRS. T. BORUTSKI AND STAFF (formerly of the Superior Dining Room) are now Proprietors of the Schreiber Hotel Restaurant.



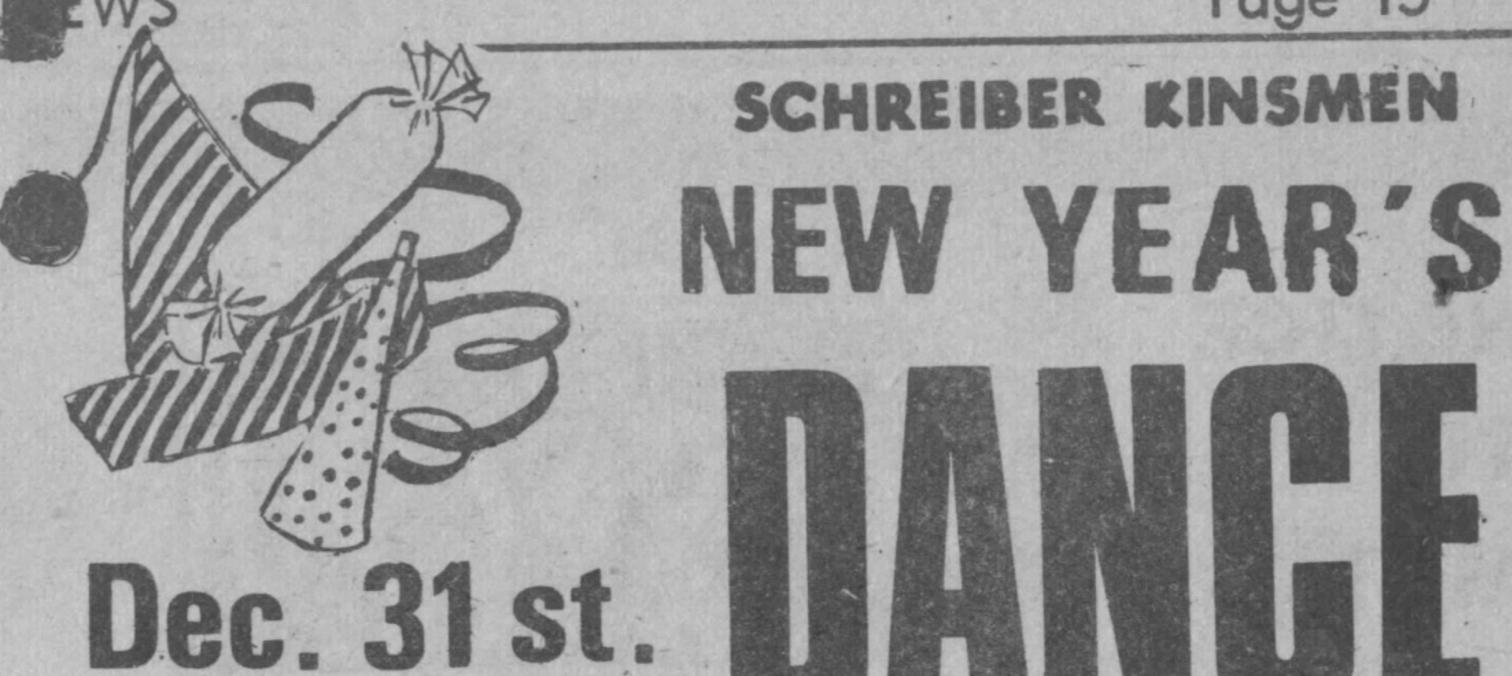
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Throughout the year, foresters, timber technicians and even some company personnel are on the look out for black and white spurce that display better than average height, diameter and form characteristics. The location of these trees are noted and annually each of the trees noted during the year will be compared with certain set and rigid standards. These standards include a high height/age relationship, large diameter, straight stem, absence of decay or disease and good self-pruning of branches. Each tree that meets these rigid standards is given a number and is designated as a "select tree".

In February twigs will be shot from the flower - bearing tops of the trees and these twigs, known as scions, will then be grafted in a greenhouse onto small seedlings known as root stock. If the graft succeeds, the young tree will be producing flowers within ten years. At that time, controlled pollination can be carried out crossing two or more extremely good select trees. The seed produced will be germinated, seedlings grown, then out planted and their performance observed over a long period of time. If they display the same or even better characteristics than their parents, they are called "elite trees" or colloquially "super trees".