Correspondence should be addressed
"OFFICER IN CHARGE."
(Not to any Officer by name.)

In Your Reply Please Quote—
237/8

MUS:MKS

Department of Forestry
Forest Research Station,

BEERWAH. 11th November/9 66.

Mr. G. Reber,
C.S.I.R.O.,
Tasmanian Regional Laboratory,
"Stowell",
Stowell Avenue,
HOBART. Tasmania.

Dear Sir,

I have been requested to reply to your query concerning the use of the Swiss Tree-Climbing Bicycle.

We are very happy with this machine and now have three used extensively for our tree breeding work.

There are two types, both operating on the same principle. The hoops are fitted to the climbers' boots and as weight is placed on one foot the hoops on that tighten and grip the tree or pole. Taking the weight off releases the hoops and allows them to be moved up or down.

The hoop length is adjustable allowing the bicycle to be used on different sized trees and to accommodate the decrease in stem size with height.

The bicycle cannot be used past branches and is therefore only valuable over a pruned portion of stem, as are ladders of course too. In the main crown the bicycle is parked below the limbs and usual climbing is necessary. Getting on and off the bicycle is the most difficult part, and it is essential that it be held tightly close to the bottom branch otherwise the climber is up the tree and the bike is not.

It works best of all on smooth poles as bark tends to hinder the hoop movement. It works best therefore on trees that are climbed frequently and the bark smoothed. It can be difficult on rough barked unclimbed trees.

This however is the only criticism. It is excellent

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otherwise. It is readily portable and light, extremely safe, faster than ladders over 30', and equal in price to about four aluminium ladders.

The two types are used for different sizes of trees, that for smaller trees under 12" diameter, breadth height has webbing hoops whilst that for larger trees has metal ones. We have used the second type on trees of 72" girth ~~breadth~~ breast height.

The cost is approximately the same for both I think. In 1965 the price of a webbing hoop one was A£47.14.11 plus £11.2.0 for the safety belt. However full details can be obtained from

Messrs. Schneebeli and Co.,
Schaffhausenstrasse ~~301~~, 307
Zurich 50,
Switzerland.

I hope this information proves to be of use. Please let me know if anything is not clear or if you wish to know any further details.

Yours faithfully,

MU.SLEE
Tree Breeding Officer.