

TREES

By J. FRED BRYSON

A tree deserves the distinction of being not only the largest, but probably the oldest living thing upon the earth. This particular species—Sequoia gigantic of the state of California—is now protected from extinction by the United States government.

Although one cannot but be impressed by its stupendous size, it is the age of the tree which staggers the imagination. In stately grandeur, one of the greatest rises to a height of 279 feet; its basal circumference reaching the measurement of 102 feet, and its greatest diameter 36 feet, 5 inches. These dimensions have been the basis of experts in estimating the age of this particular tree, known as the General Sherman tree, to be 3500 years old. Measured by this standard, all other life spans of the earth's growing, living flora fade into insignificance.

When Moses was a baby in his cradle-boat among the bulrushes of the Nile, this tree was over a hundred years old; when Rome was founded it was 800 years old. When Alexander the Great died the tree had passed its 1200th birthday, and when Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea it was 1500 years of age. Such a recent happening as the discovery of America has occurred since its 3000th birthday. Still this giant monarch lives, and will live on, probably, until long after the "march through Georgia" of the destructive general whose name it inappropriately bears, has faded into oblivion.

The "sequoias," or famous "big tree," of which this remarkable specimen is a representative, grow in altitudes of from 5000 to 8000 feet on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevadas in California. Together with their huge cousins, the coast redwoods, representative groves have been forever set apart by the government as units in our national park system, never to suffer the woodman's axe.

Named For Cherokee Chieftan
Strangely enough, these far western trees are named for an eastern Indian—Chief Sequoia—that brilliant leader and chief of the Cherokees, whose claim to fame lies in his invention of the alphabet that converted the spoken words of his once mighty nation into a written language. Distinguished as one of the simplest of all alphabets, his invention is in reality a syllabary, that enabled the entire tribe of men, women and children to teach each other to read in a short time after its publication about the year 1820. He wandered to the west with a small party, in vain search for a lost branch of his tribe, spending the latter part of his life far from the home of his forefathers.

Museum Exhibits
The measurements of these ancient growths have been made vivid in such exhibits as that found in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, that shows a cross section of a sequoia, its various stages of growth marked from the heart outward to the bark, with the intervals illustrated by contemporaneous occurrences in the world's history. This tree was known when living in Fresno county, California, as the "Mark Twain Tree," and when felled in 1891, had reached the age of 1341 years.

As a seedling this mighty tree pushed above the earth in the year 550 A. D., a period being marked by the decline of the Roman Empire. In its third century of life Alfred the Great ascended the throne of ancient Britain. At that time it was about six or seven feet in diameter but only a child in years. During the struggle of the thirteen colonies and the forming of the new government of the United States of America, it attained a respectable maturity, until the close of the nineteenth century when man's axe brought it crashing downward.

This section now preserved in the Museum now excites the wonder and stimulates the interest of millions of people annually, and, as small as this cross section is in comparison to the entire trunk, its 12 pieces put together in their present form tip the scale at nine tons.

Conservation vs. Destruction
It gives one pause to consider the power of man over the works of nature as illustrated in the cut-

ting down of this monarch of the forest that had been growing for 1300 years. This towering monument of nature's handiwork was brought low in a few moments by the puny hands of man—self-styled lord of creation—who can thus become a destroyer. On the other hand, intelligent care can make of man nature's most potent protector. Having all but wiped out the world's oldest and largest of living things, the leadership of a few far-seeing and thoughtful individuals arose to save the remnant from complete extermination.

How much easier it is to save than to replace! It is no difficult matter to kill an animal or bird, to cut a tree or to burn the woods, but beyond man's power to restore life destroyed. One thoughtless act of a moment can undo the creative work of nature that took years to accomplish.

We should take time to ponder and to enjoy the wonders all about us, some of which have come down to us through the ages and may well outlive this machine age of ours. It is for us to help nature protect its own, and use every means in our power to stop acts of carelessness or vandalism that are responsible for the destruction of the forests and other natural beauties around us today.

The forests not only need our protection but we need the protection of the forests for various reasons. Let us resolve to have a share in helping nature keep our hills and mountains beautiful. There

is nothing so enticing to visitors whom we welcome each season, coming for a brief respite from the heat and hurry of the city. Let us realize that we are privileged mortals to live in so beautiful a land, blessed beyond many with a perfect climate, fertile fields and glorious scenery. Let us unite to cherish and protect the gifts of nature to man.

Bermuda Grass Should Be Moved To Pastures

Bermuda grass may be a pest in cultivated fields, but in pastures it makes excellent grazing, points out W. D. Lee, soil conservationist of the State college extension service.

E. B. Garrett, state coordinator for the soil conservation service with headquarters at State college, also approved the idea and said many farmers in soil conservation districts are transferring Bermuda grass from cultivated land to pasture areas this summer.

"During the plowing of row crops, farmers generally find this type of grass and usually destroy it," Lee said. "If they will pile the Bermuda grass roots in a shady place, cover them with a small amount of soil, and otherwise keep them from drying out, the roots will live for a considerable length of time. They can be sprigged in on galled and severely eroded pasture areas when convenient."

The extension specialist recommends that a few furrows be plowed across the galled area and the Bermuda grass roots dropped in, and covered with another furrow. They also can be set by scattering the roots over the galled area and disking them in. Best growth will

be obtained if a little manure or fertilizer is applied to the area.

"In this way a type of vegetation which is a pest in cultivated fields can be put to a productive use in pastures by protecting galled areas against further erosion and providing a basis for a good pasture sod. The Bermuda grass will spread from the galled spots to adjoining pasture areas," Lee declared.

Farmers Who Burn Woodland Penalized

No benefit payment will be made by the Triple-A to any farmer who willfully burns over, or permits or does not attempt to prevent the burning over of, woodland on a farm, announces E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer of State college. County and state AAA committees are empowered to withhold payments in full or in part, based on their investigations of the individual case, he explained.

"Conservation of timber resources is an important part of the agricultural conservation program, and a person who willfully destroys woodland defeats the purpose of the program," Floyd declared. "Burned-over woodland not only destroys valuable timber, but it kills vegetation which controls erosion and prevents washing of adjoining cultivated fields."

The AAA officer said the State Triple-A committee will act in cases where a farmer owns land in counties other than the one where the offense occurs.

"The county committee will consider each case of burning woodland in the light of information furnished to it by community committeemen, local and state supervi-

ors, representatives of the state and U. S. forest services, and any other person who is in a position to furnish satisfactory information. The forest services are requesting their representatives to report all such cases coming to their attention directly to the appropriate county AAA office," Floyd said.

The penalty for burning-over woodland is a part of the Federal Farm Act of 1938, and applies to all parts of the nation.

OPPORTUNITY

A recent survey showed that 5,565 children of school age in low-income North Carolina farm families were enabled to attend public schools last year because of the farm security administration program.

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Colonel Bain Takes Command!

Brewers and Distributors Inaugurate North Carolina "Clean-Up or Close-Up" Campaign. State and Local Enforcement Heads Endorse Plan.

IN NORTH CAROLINA, as in many other states, a few retail beer outlets which flout the law, often bring discredit upon the entire business.

Brewers and distributors are convinced that this business can and should always be conducted properly and in full conformity with the law, and they are determined that this shall be the case in North Carolina.

Consequently, we, the undersigned, recently formed the Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee which, acting in close cooperation with state and local enforcement bodies, has launched a vigorous cooperative campaign to rid the state of those few beer outlets which persist in disregarding both the law and the public.

In plain words, we refuse any longer to tolerate outlets which use their beer licenses as a "cover-up" for flagrant bootlegging operations; which sell to minors or otherwise violate the law and their license privileges. With the brewers, our Committee includes wholesalers who distribute approximately ninety per cent of the beer sold in North Carolina. And we also have the wholehearted support of the large majority of our respectable and law-abiding retailers.

Furthermore, duly constituted enforce-

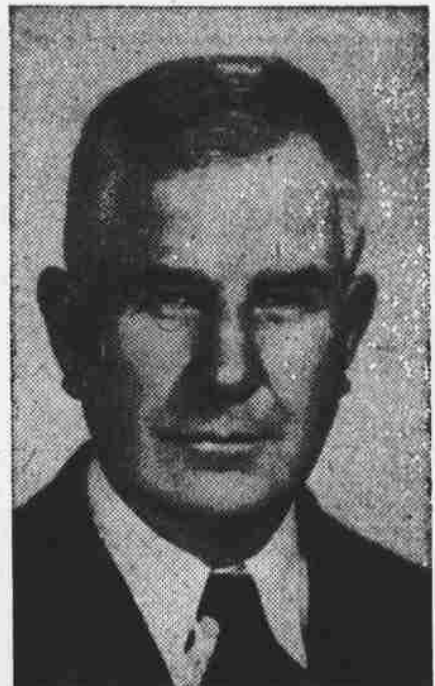
ment officials have approved our objectives and promised their help. And ACTION is certain now that Attorney General McMullan has declared it is the duty of municipal and county boards, on request for revocation of malt beverage licenses, to hold hearings.

Colonel Edgar H. Bain, of Goldsboro, N. C., has been appointed by the Committee to direct its activities.

"Good Conduct" Committees of local beer distributors, each headed by a chairman, have been set up in ten districts of the state for close cooperation with law enforcement officers, and with our own Executive Committee, in eradicating objectionable places of business.

Established on a permanent basis, our Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee seeks to protect the legitimate beer business in North Carolina from the depredations of a small and irresponsible minority, and to perform a worthwhile service to the public. The Committee is sponsored by the United Brewers Industrial Foundation, a national organization of brewers.

The Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee is convinced that its work is in the public interest. Therefore, we respectfully solicit your cooperation with our efforts.



COL. EDGAR H. BAIN
State Director

Colonel Bain recently resigned from the State Senate to take over the directorship of our Committee. He is a World War veteran, decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star. An official of the U. S. Army Reserve Officers Corps, he is well-known throughout the State as a militant crusader for law enforcement.

Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee

SUITE 813-17 COMMERCIAL BUILDING, RALEIGH, N. C.

— NORTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE —

Distributor Members

- J. P. Price, Chairman, Greensboro Distributing Co., Greensboro
- W. E. Griffin, Durham Fruit & Produce Co., Durham
- W. S. Burruss, Capital Ice & Coal Co., Raleigh
- Fred Mills, Dunlap & Mills, Wadesboro
- Edward Hecht, Hardaway Hecht Co., Charlotte
- Frank E. Bernard, Beer With Us, Inc., Asheville

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- L. E. Wheeler (Asheville)—Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co.
- David Gallo (Norfolk, Va.)—Southern Breweries, Inc.
- C. M. Wright (Newark, N. J.)—P. Ballantine & Sons
- S. A. Cash (Louisville, Ky.)—Frank Fehr Brewing Co.
- W. H. Jolly (Norfolk, Va.)—Pabst Brewing Co.
- Walter Bartlett (Norfolk, Va.)—Jacob Ruppert Brewery

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