

# The Rare California Nutmeg...

By MARGARET KOCH  
Sentinel Staff Writer

There is a rare tree growing wild in Santa Cruz County.

The California Nutmeg Tree, *Torreya Californica*, a member of the Yew Family.

According to the late Willis Linn Jepson, father of California Tree research and author of THE definitive volumes on trees, the California Nutmeg is widespread in the Santa Cruz Mountains but is common nowhere... it's a rare tree. And no one knows who first discovered it.

California Nutmeg grows along Steven's Creek in Santa Clara County, just over the line; it grows in Big Basin, Little Basin, Swanton and on Mount Umunhum... it is scattered over Santa Cruz County, usually along creek

bottoms or on moist mountainsides.

Jepson says of it: "... a handsome dark green tree 15 to 90 feet high with a trunk up to three feet in diameter..."

The nutmegs are elliptical fruits resembling olives or plums, either green colored or green with purple as they ripen.

Catkins form in June and July. The nutmegs appear in September or October. They were gathered and

roasted and eaten as a great delicacy, by the California Indians.

The early-day woodsmen called the tree the "Stinking Yew." Not a very pretty name for such a beautiful tree. But they named it for the wood, which is very odorous when cut.

The California Nutmeg also grows in a few areas of the Sierra Nevada Range, but away from the fog-bound coast it is a much smaller tree, and not nearly so impressive in size and shape.

There are two kinds of nutmeg trees, the female and

male. Sentinel Photographer Pete Amos visited the Frank McCrary Ranch near Swanton to get photos of two especially magnificent specimens. He also got a shot of the nutmeg fruits — Mrs. Agnes McCrary had saved a few from the tree in her garden.

But don't try to use the nutmegs as you would the commercial variety — they are not related. The California Nutmeg tree is not a commercial nutmeg at all. It is a curiosity — a rarity, and a delight to the eye. It grows only in California.

Calling All Home Makers  
By KENNETH RECKER

DO YOU DARE  
TO BE DIFFERENT?

Design experts are often saddened with the great amount of uniformity they see in home furnishings of too many of our homes.



When they visit homes, they find the same uniformity in the furniture and furnishings. Generally there will be a sofa in the living room, with a matching pair of end tables and a matching pair of lamps on each end of the sofa, and a mirror or picture over the sofa. Of course, this is a generalization, and only partially true, but nevertheless true in too many cases — because most people just don't know how to get the most out of their decorating.

With the almost limitless variety of furniture and decorative accessories available today, your home decor should be an original creation.

If you feel that you need guidance in obtaining this objective, we can give you the benefit of many years of experience in helping you dare to be different in furnishing your home.

And, here's the most important thing to remember — an attractively furnished home does not cost more than the other kind. It is simply a matter of proper planning and selection. Stop in. There's no obligation, but we think you'll enjoy browsing at Haber's and see how you can make your home more distinctive.

**Haber's**

HOME FURNISHINGS

812 Pacific Ave. 426-1640  
Hours 9-5:30 Friday 9-9



Above, the sprays of the male nutmeg tree hang gracefully from every branch... below, the nutmeg fruits, which are not true nutmegs but which are edible.



The male California Nutmeg above is characterized by its drooping branches and long fronds... both it and the magnificent female nutmeg tree below, are on the Frank McCrary Ranch near Swanton.



The **PINK THIMBLE**

SPECIAL MON. THRU WED. ONLY

● 14-inch Pleated Polyester—  
Washable, Hemmed—Instant  
Skirts—Reg. \$8.00 NOW **\$4.00**

● 60-inch Washable Acrylic, Plaids  
Stripes; reg. \$4.98 NOW **\$3.98**

NEWEST ARRIVALS

★ COTTON QUILTING - 44" WIDE \$2.98 Yd.

★ CALICO AND PAISLY PRINTED  
COTTON ----- \$1.98 Yd.

★ WOOL FLANNELS - ----- \$3.98 Yd.

4159-41st Ave. — Behind Foster's Freeze