

# Petitioners Try To Save Famed Tree Circus

More than 2,500 persons, representing 20 states and four countries, have signed petitions in support of declaring the Tree Circus in Scotts Valley a cultural and historic resource.

That is the next step in the cloudy future of this unique forest of twisted and turning trees. Long neglected, the trees were originally the brainchild of the late Axel N. Erlandson who brought the trees to Scotts Valley in the early 1950s in hopes of making them a tourist attraction.

Current lessee of the trees, Joseph Cahill, is attempting to purchase the property from a local developer who plans a development on the Scotts Valley Drive site.

It is hoped government designation of the trees as a cultural and historic resource could save its destruction. While it is not yet known when the petition will be presented to the Scotts Valley City Council, approval would pave the way for further state and federal involvement.

More than 3,700 persons visited the trees over the weekend in a special showing. Over \$4,000 was raised.

According to Mark Primack, one of those attempting to save the trees, interest is extremely high. "We even got an offer of 50 pounds of earth worms to benefit the tree's roots," he said. "The status hasn't changed, but at least we're encouraged at this point."