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# Fruit Of Madrone Is Edible If Appetite Is Well Developed

Editor's Note—This is another in a series of articles on the trees of Santa Cruz county.

By Wally Trabing

Those big thin red-barked trees you see vying for sunlight in the thick forests of San Lorenzo Valley and throughout the county's heavily treed areas are called Coast Madrone, (*Arbutus Menziesii*). You probably call it Madrone.

It grows along the coast range from British Columbia to the mountains behind San Diego and in the Sierra Nevada up to 3000 feet.

It reminds you somewhat of the manzanitas' big brother. Its trunk is smooth and its bark is tight and thin and scaly and is continually peeling.

The time between the dropping of the old leaves and budding of the new is so short that it has the reputation of being an evergreen.

From March to May it flowers. Its blossoms are large and white and cup shaped. In the late summer yellow and orange berry-like fruit appears. They are edible, depending upon how hungry you are.

The tree was named by the Spanish and translated it means "strawberry tree."

In the forest it is also characterized by its crooked erratic growth. It darts this way and that until it reaches the sun above its neighbors, (the oaks, mostly) and then it shoots up straight, according to Western Tree Expert Donald Culross Peattie, author of "A Natural History of Western Trees."

It grows to a height of from 40 to 80 feet. In the open the Madrone may take on more symmetry and its limbs may be straighter, but in

general, even then, the limbs will tend to twist and turn.

The leaves are from three to five inches long, bright green on the top and whitish on the bottom. The wood is hard and strong and when it is felled it sprouts new trees from the trunk, like the redwood.

## Ernest Otto's Waterfront

The Santa Cruz Fishermen's club enjoyed a real dinner Friday afternoon as its celebration of New Year's Day. Twenty-five attended the affair, held in the clubhouse. The chief item on the table was a huge turkey, baked to a turn by Mrs. Mary Carniglia, who also prepared the dressing and gravy. The meal was served with all of the customary New Year's Day complements. Today, at 11 o'clock, the club will hold its first business meeting of the new year.

Friday night's rain brought streams of muddy water rolling into the bay from the San Lorenzo river, dirtying the waters for some distance beyond San Lorenzo point.

The beach was smooth yesterday and the sands damp. Waves were not high and the swells were barely noticeable. At noon the sand along Cowells beach extended far out, and some of the rocks were bared by the sand being washed out.

Only a few were on the beach yesterday morning. Some were wading while others celebrated New Year's Day by going for a dip.

# This Madrone Was Found All Alone



This lonely Madrone or Madrone stands along the Los Gatos highway in Scotts Valley. It is not usually found alone, but mixed in thick forests, sending its crooked limbs up in competition with the oaks for sunlight. Its leaves on top are deep green and white underneath. The bark is thin, tight, red in color and seemingly constantly peeling. Notice that the branches start almost from the ground.

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