

Trees

Knobcone Pine Is Forest's 'Ugly Duckling'



The Knobcone pine is found scattered throughout the Santa Cruz mountains and is perhaps the easiest pine to identify. Its cones are generally found in a tight knot and well in on the

trunks of the branches. The foliage is thin and rather faded and the tree is greatly feared by forest rangers as a fire hazard. "It burns like gasoline," says Lester Gum, Santa Cruz county forest ranger.

Knobcone Pine Is Valueless As Lumber But Help In Re-Seeding

Editor's note—This is the first in a series of stories on native and transported trees found in the forest land of Santa Cruz county.

By Wally Trabing

It is almost impossible to enter or leave the county by road without being conscious of the pressing nearness of forests and great banks of giant trees, some of which are more than 2000 years old.

Redwoods and several species of pines dominate the forest land that covers more than 65 per cent of the county's acreage.

Of the pines, perhaps the easiest to spot from the road is the Knobcone pine (*pinus attenuata*).

According to Herbert Jensen, Silviculturist with the California forest and range experiment station, the Knobcone pine covers about 4730 acres of the Santa Cruz mountains.

It is a sort of ugly duckling among the pine family. Found along the coast range and lower Sierra Nevadas, the tree hits a height of from 20 to 30 feet and sometimes 70 feet and is not considered of any value as commercial lumber. It is among the trees native to this county.

The cones grow in groups, tightly knitted around the branch. These cones are "hoarded" by the tree sometimes for 25 years. Sometimes the knobs are engulfed by the trunk.

Although it is sparsely covered

by needles and is of no value as a lumber tree, it is of great help to nature, as a means of reforestation.

Its cones remain locked tight, imprisoning the seeds within until the heat of a forest fire bursts them open. The seeds are hardy and germinate where they fall, even in the most barren of soils.

Because of its high resin content it ironically is considered a dangerous fire hazard. Lester Gum, Santa Cruz county division of forestry ranger, says the trees burn as though they were soaked in gasoline.

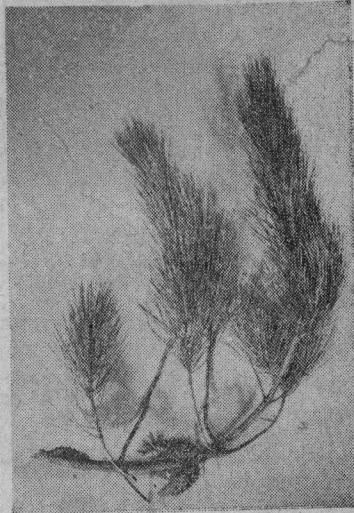
Its leaves are three-in-a-bunch and three sided. The Knobcone grows either in dense stands or as scattered individuals. It is found in the most barren mountainous lands where other trees cannot grow or amidst other trees in rich soil.

UN Officials See SF Facilities

San Francisco (AP).—Two U. N. officials flew in yesterday to have a look at facilities and determine if the U. N. general assembly will meet here next year on the tenth anniversary of its San Francisco birth.

Such a meeting would... egates from

Scraggly



This closeup of a Knobcone pine branch shows the easily identified, tightly closed cone, and the needles which are well out on the end of the branches giving the tree a scraggly look. It usually takes a hot fire to break open the cones.

Blair Holdings Corporation To Acquire Petri

New York (AP). — Directors of Blair Holdings corporation yesterday voted to acquire Petri of California, subject to stockholder approval.

H. C. Maginn, Blair president, said all assets of Petri... acquired by the