

Trabing



Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing

Kings Canyon National Park—I have just visited a couple of Santa Cruz cousins up here, and both of them waved "hello."

Both are redwood trees, only up here they are called Giant Sequoias.

The General Sherman, which takes up considerable space in neighboring Sequoia National park, is the flora emeritus of this earth.

It is the largest and oldest verified living thing on this planet, according to Lawrence Cook, chief of forestry of the national park service.

The Sherman is estimated to have surpassed 3500 birthdays.

Its massive bulk rises 272 feet—more than three times the height of the Palomar hotel.

You stand before it, craning up, and borrow a few lines from Joyce Kilmer, but they don't seem to fit. A few hackneyed adjectives run through your mind, but you finally end up muttering: "Sure is big."

Sort of a dumb thing to say, but adjectives and poetry bounce right off this tree and also the General Grant in this park. It's only a mite smaller, but larger around the base of the trunk—107 feet.

Although the wood is really too brittle for good lumber, they say the 49,600 cubic feet in the Sherman's trunk could build around 50 six room houses.

If you wanted to drill a hole through the trunk of the Sherman, you'd have to rig up a drill 30 feet long. At 120 feet the trunk is still 17 feet thick.

The first limb of the Sherman makes its appearance 130 feet from the ground—and what a branch.

It's 6.8 feet thick and 150 feet in length, larger than the largest specimens of many common trees. But on the Sherman it looks like a skinny underfed little thing.

Robert Grom, Kings Canyon park naturalist, told me another crazy thing. These Sierras are solid granite with very little top soil.

So the giants can't put down tap roots; that is, deep roots that extend downward from the trunk. Instead, they have to claw at the shallow earth with octopus-like fingers that sometimes reach out 300 feet.

This is the only place in the world where Giant Sequoias grow. They are found only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada from 4000 to 8000 feet elevation in a spotty 250 miles belt from Tulare to Placer county.

A rough count of these redwoods has been made, says Grom, and there are fewer than 20,000 over 10 feet in diameter growing on about 15,000 acres.

Fossils of the redwood have been found in England and France, but apparently one ice age or another wiped them out. As seeds, the Sequoias are the kind of weaklings Vic Tanny likes to renovate.

Grom said the giants drop millions of pin-head size seeds annually from their tiny cones, but

the chance of germination, survival, and growth to maturity is less than one in a billion.

Cousin redwood along the Pacific coast (called sempervirens) is not as big, but grows taller. Until lightning nipped its crest not so long ago, the Founders tree in Humboldt Redwood State park was rated the tallest tree in the world at 364 feet.

The coastal redwood has a different appearing foliage, is better lumber, and grows from Monterey to just inside Oregon.

Anton Trigeiro, Big Basin park superintendent, said the largest tree in Santa Cruz county is the Santa Clara tree, which is 17 feet thick at the base. The tallest is the "Mother of the Forest", at 329 feet. Both are in Big Basin.

The redwood family, once established, is a tough one to kill. With bark of the Sequoias up to two feet thick, the tree is amazingly resistant to fire, fungus disease, or insects.

One Sequoia giant was sawed more than halfway through and healed itself. One can see sky by looking up their centers. Yet the trees live.

Several redwoods in Santa Cruz county were vigorous young saplings before the birth of Christ.

The Giant Sherman, however, was sucking her nourishment from the earth nearly 100 years before Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Even before adjectives were made.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS No. 17,936

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz

In the Matter of the Estate of ROSARIA GIACOBUCIO CASALVIERI, Deceased.

Notice is Hereby Given by the Undersigned, NICK J. DROBAC, Public Administrator of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, and Administrator of the estate of ROSARIA GIACOBUCIO CASALVIERI, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, or said estate, to file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the above named Court (which said office is situate in the Court House in the City of Santa Cruz in said County and State), within six months after the first publication of this notice made on the 24th day of June 1962, or present and exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within said period, to the said Administrator at the office of MESSRS. J. FRANK MURPHY and EUGENE J. ADAMS, Attorneys at Law, 120 Mission Street, in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, which said last named office, the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

NICK J. DROBAC,
Administrator of the Estate
of said deceased.
Dated June 22, 1962

J. FRANK MURPHY and
EUGENE J. ADAMS
Attorneys for said Administrator.
June 24; July 1, 8, 15 (7087)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS No. 17,948

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz

In the Matter of the Estate of GIOVANNI RIGHETTI, Deceased.

Notice is Hereby Given by the Undersigned, HENRY RIGHETTI, Executor of the Last Will and Testament of GIOVANNI RIGHETTI, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having