

## The Christmas Tree



This is almost the perfect Christmas tree. It is the white fir (*Abies concolor*), not native to this county, but often intro-

duced here as an ornamental plant. This tree is in front of the Congregational church in Soquel.

## The White Fir Is Ornamental Tree

The White Fir (*Abies concolor*) is not a native tree to Santa Cruz county, but it has been introduced here for ornamental purposes.

This beautiful silver-blue fir of exceptional symmetry is a native of the Oregon mountains, high coast ranges of Northern California, throughout Sierra Nevada, Baja California and western Rockies.

It is often mistaken for the Santa

Lucia fir from the neighboring mountains in Monterey county.

The tree photographed is planted in front of the Soquel Congregational church.

Its needles are blue-silver, standing or curling erect on the branches. The cones are rounded, three to five inches long and purplish or olive in color.

Of all the western firs the white fir is the most widespread, according to Donald Peattie, western tree expert. It is a healthy looking tree and it is valued more for ornamental purposes than for quality lumber. It grows to a height of from 100 to 200 feet.

It's close cousin, the Santa Lucia fir, is a rare tree in its own right. It also is said to have superb symmetry.

It is often identifiable by the tall narrow crown which grows to a point. The cones are also unusual. They have long slender brackets extruding like bristles from the cone scales.

## As Killers Of Phoenix City

outside his law office here. He had won the Democratic nomination for attorney general in a bitterly contested runoff primary June 1. Gamblers had spent untold thousands trying to defeat him.

In Birmingham, a grand jury found evidence of vote manipulation in an effort to count Patter-

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