

AUTUMN IN THE REDWOODS

By Stuart Nixon

As summer wanes and school beckons vacation throngs home, autumn begins to work its tranquil magic in the redwoods of northwestern California.

Before the first frosts turn dogwood leaves a harlequin pastel, before delicate creepers high on the mighty sequoias tip with gold, sunshine glints through the Redwood Empire.

Beneath the shades of twenty centuries, beside a sparkling stream or on a driftwood beach, discriminating travelers have the mighty forests almost to themselves. From San Francisco north to Oregon, the cool belt of verdure is zestfully savored from September to mid-November.

As recently as the Middle Fifties, these woods and waters were known to the comparative few. Vast distances, skimpy population, a one-industry economy - all conspired to keep visitors at arm's length.

Devoted nature-lovers knew about the redwoods, ambassadors from another age whose crowns tower higher than any other living tree. Beneath their majestic shades, occasional tents were pitched, or chauffeurs parked while ladies in sensible shoes wooed the muse. Redwood groves inspire lofty feelings, and not a few of these appeared as poetry.

Duncan McDuffie, of the Save-the-Redwoods League, declared that "to enter (a) grove. . . is to step within the portals of a cathedral. . . incomparably nobler, more beautiful and more serene than any erected by the hands of man."

"Its nave is loftier than that of Amiens, and longer than that of St. Peter's. Its wine-red shafts, rising clean and straight for more than 200 feet are more numerous than the pillars of Cordova; its

floor is carpeted with green-and-brown mosaic more intricate than St. Mark's; its aisles are lit with translucence more beautiful than that which filters through the stained glass of Chartres; its spires pierce higher than those of Cologne."

McDuffie was speaking of the Bull Creek grove, 40 miles south of Eureka. In simpler terms, John D. Rockefeller Jr. asked when he saw Bull Creek:

"Can anything be more beautiful than these forests?"

And he backed his words with Rockefeller cash, giving \$2 million to help buy Bull Creek Forest, now a 13,000-acre State preserve.

Sequoia Sempervirens, the Coast Redwood which gave its name to an empire, was first reported in 1769 by the Portola Expedition, which camped under these great trees near Monterey. Because their bark was reddish, the explorers called them Palo Colorado, or red trees. In 1847, the Austrian scientist, Stefan Endlicher, classified them as a new genus and named them for a Cherokee chief, Sequoyah, who had devised an alphabet for his tribe.

Their mountain cousins, Sequoia Gigantea, have greater girth (30 feet against 20 feet diameter, in a large tree) but fail to reach the slender height of the Coast Redwood. One of the latter near Orick is 367.8 feet tall, the highest living thing yet discovered.

Sempervirens confers a unique distinction on north coastal California, for it grows nowhere else in nature. In a narrow fog-belt, 30 miles wide and 450 miles long, the magnificent forest spires flourish on 1½ million acres, providing rot-resistant lumber for luxury homes, as well as recreation for thousands every year. The groves are laced with swift rivers, favored by fishermen; and they offer a sort of camping-nature-hiking way-of-life that almost disappeared with the ladies in sensible shoes.

Unlike the jungles of the tropics, the redwood forests generate coolness. Under their 300-foot parasols little vegetation survives. Smaller redwoods continue to exist hopefully until their 2,000-year old ancestors topple. Moisture-loving ferns, and the dainty oxalis, a broad-leafed clover, find conditions to their liking. But heavy underbrush is unknown, and the visitor walks on the brown compost carpet and enjoys an unobstructed view of the great trees.

Redwood historians, notably Prof. Emanuel Fritz, of the University of California, have deduced much from the fallen members of the fraternity. For example, at Richardson Grove, 200 miles north of San Francisco, a 12-foot-thick redwood crashed to the ground in 1933. Sawed across at the base, it was found to be more than 1,200 years old (a redwood adds one growth-ring for each year of its life). Inspecting the 500-ton giant, Dr. Fritz found it was a seedling about the year 700 A.D., and that it had withstood several tremendous fires, which would have killed a lesser species. Redwoods have great recuperative powers, and this one healed its own fire-scars with new wood and went on living. The cross-section may be seen today at Richardson Grove.

There are redwood groves near San Francisco, notably Muir Woods National Monument, which has been visited by virtually every VIP from DeGaulle downward. Muir Woods lies a bare half-hour drive north of the Golden Gate, in a steep valley at the base of Mt. Tamalpais. Bus tours take thousands there each year, and the rangers are well-schooled in the ways of tourists who want to sneak a bit of bark for a souvenir.

But the "great" groves, those which awe the first-time visitor, lie 200 miles northward, in southern Humboldt County; with

neighbors in northern Mendocino and Del Norte counties. The roadside redwoods commence near Leggett, in the valley of the north-flowing Eel River. North of Leggett is a curiosity commercialized -- a giant redwood you can drive through for 50 cents; it's called the Chandelier Tree. Fire burned a hole partly through its base centuries ago, and this has been widened so cars can squeeze through for photograph-minded owners.

First of the redwood State Parks is at Leggett -- Standish Hickey, astride the Eel. It has more than 150 excellent campsites (\$2 per night per car) with tables, benches, fireplaces and raccoon-proof cupboards. Also clean showers and rest-rooms. The State Parks are true camping bargains.

There are State campsites (184 of them) at Richardson Grove. In 1962 the conqueror of Mt. Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, stayed here with his family and pronounced redwood camping smashing fun. Again, the nearby Eel provides swimming and trout fishing, and there are nature walks through the grove.

Sprinkled throughout the groves are private resorts too, especially around Garberville. They cater to families, and many of them have excellent cuisine.

Six miles north of Garberville, there's the Avenue of the Giants, a 28-mile scenic bypass that was left when California built a freeway on U.S. Highway 101. The old road has been preserved so sight-seers can drive at leisure through the most magnificent groves, undisturbed by fast traffic.

At Dyerville, partway up the Avenue, one turns west five miles to see Rockefeller Redwood State Park, of which McDuffie wrote. Here are picnic grounds in what has been justly called the world's finest forest.

North, on "101" again, lies Eureka, with an interesting Indian museum and the beetling Victorian Carson Mansion; more red-woods at Prairie Creek, Del Norte Coast and Jedediah Smith State Parks.

En route, there'll be some harty fun-festivals this fall. At Santa Rosa, for instance, California's Scottish societies hold their centennial Highland Games over Labor Day weekend. Fort Bragg, on the Mendocino Coast, salutes Paul Bunyan and the might loggers of yesteryear on that date too. Winetasting and folkdancing hold sway September 18-20 at historic Sonoma, during the annual Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival. One of the West's more picturesque county fairs is at Boonville, west of "101" in Mendocino County, September 24-26.

For more details and for free illustrated literature, write Dept. A, Redwood Empire Association, 476 Post Street, San Francisco, California 94102.

* * * * *



AUTUMN IN THE REDWOODS

Roosevelt Elk at Prairie Creek
State Park in the heart of the Redwood
country of northern Humboldt county in
California. The herd can usually be seen
from Highway 101. Photo by Ansel Adams.

"In-Action" Crafts to Attract 200,000

by Harris Edward Dark

Something's going on down in the Missouri Ozarks this fall that for the third year in a row promises to gladden the hearts of a great number of people from all over the continent. Officially labeled "Missouri Festival of Ozark Craftsmen," this completely unique and original method of presenting-by-demonstrating the culture and skills of yesterday's hill-country America has grown into a tremendous drawing card.

First put together in 1963 as a showcase for Ozarks artists and artisans, the Festival, scheduled this year for Friday, October 8 through Sunday, October 17, is timed to coincide with the area's Flaming Fall Revue, a natural spectacular of greens, golds, oranges and reds that each year can redecorate hills and valleys with stunning magnificence.

The Festival came into being during an informal business conference between a bearded young Ozarks native and the administrator of one of Missouri's largest recreation enterprises, herself an Ozarker by adoption. Peter Engler, a gifted woodcarver from Northern Arkansas, had approached Mary R. Herschend of Marvel Cave Park at Silver Dollar City to establish a market for the unusual and handsome products of his Woodcarvers' Guild. Engler had organized the Ozark Mountain Woodcarvers' Guild a couple of years before. Its object was to exercise quality control over the work done in this rare folk-art field and at the same time to maintain price standards that would provide a fair return to the artists. It had worked out. The woodcarvers had happily discovered a great public interest and

demand for the art objects that came from their talented though unschooled hands.

Mary Herschend agreed to allow Engler and his guild to sell their works at Silver Dollar City, and they moved well there. But Mrs. Herschend realized that something should be done to give the public an opportunity to witness the actual creative techniques that make the chips fly in a woodworker's shop.

From this original idea for an "in-action" craft display grew today's Missouri Festival of Ozark Craftsmen. Woodcarving is only one of many primitive manufacturing methods that have been preserved to now in the Ozarks Mountains. And it was a good guess on Mary Herschend's part that candle making, basket weaving, shingle splitting, doll making, chair caning, sorghum making and dozens of other early day skills still hold considerable fascination for today's modern families.

Accordingly, the visitor to this fall's Festival can see Potter Tom Haxby and his pretty wife, Brooksie, from West Fork, Arkansas, actually "throwing" clay as they work at potter's wheels in pursuit of one of mankind's oldest manufacturing arts. The pottery works is in production nearly 10 hours each day.

Meat smoking is done in the Pioneer Kitchen which, incidentally, serves homemade bread, smoked-ham sandwiches, pickles, jams and jellies like you-know-who used to you-know-what.

Wool spinning, exactly the way it was done a century or more ago and is still being done in the hills near Silver Dollar City, is another of the leading Festival attractions. "New" last

year, this in-action "industry" is expected to draw even greater crowds of watchers this fall. Likewise rope making, the production of a vital necessity of the age-old Ozarks; even the casual observer can learn-by-looking how various available fibers were fashioned by our forebears into the hawser, lasso or simple cord they used in their daily chores.

Another 1965 addition to the Festival will be the Slow Tom Mill, originated in a bygone day to perform work beyond the human-muscle potential (and the mountaineer-ambition) of a hill character dubbed Slow Tom by his neighbors. No space-age automated wonder this, but a mechanical marvel nonetheless.

Floral arranging may be the latest rage in our urban areas, but it's an art that has been practiced uninterruptedly for many generations in the Ozarks, as visitors will see at a recently added in-action display featuring quaint "woods pretties." These free-for-the-gathering offerings of nature are brought in to Silver Dollar City and, before the delighted eyes of hundreds of onlookers, are expertly arranged into colorful and artistic displays. Yes, you can buy them to take home, along with many other native products you'll see being created at the Festival.

A perennial favorite with grownups and youngsters alike is Judge Shad, Silver Dollar City's blacksmith-in-residence. It's the Judge's duty to provide and install the shoes and nails required by numerous "motive power units" that earn their oats pulling stagecoaches and such like about the place. The Judge makes the steel tires for the coaches' big spoked wheels, too, and on occasion he's called upon to perform corrective surgery on the iron horse of

the Frisco-Silver Dollar Line that operates a rapid schedule around Marvel Cave Park. Judge Shad delights in whamming out bunches of red-hot horseshoe nails before a group of wide-eyed junior tourists, then fizz-cooling them in his water tub and handing out his products to his eager audience.

As if a lady shingle-splitter wasn't enough to attract attention, this fall's Festival will recognize the industrial revolution with the addition of a steam-operated cedar-shake-maker. Will the machine take the woman's job? Not likely. There'll always be a place, at the Missouri Festival of Ozark Craftsmen at least, for a lady shake-splitter.

Another new artisan with a glowing future is "Snake" Matzenbacher who, despite his mild manner is known as the Festival's biggest blowhard. Rex, his real name is, has been called "Snake" from his early youth when his profitable occupation was barehandedly catching venomous reptiles and selling them to collectors. Now a permanent fixture at Silver Dollar City, "Snake" operates the glass factory where red-orange ovens are maintained at 3,000 degrees to produce glassware of delicate design and sturdy character, the way it has been manufactured for centuries.

Then, to balance the other delicate arts of oil painting, cloth weaving, doll making, rug braiding, broom making, quilting, chair caning and meat smoking, Festival visitors will be entertained by some of the more robust crafts. To mention a few, there's tie hacking, the specialized axe-handling that converts tree trunks to railroad ties; barrel making; log hewing, soap making, grain milling and ironworking.

From a start two years ago that drew a remarkable crowd of 60,000 in three days, to last year's two-weekend attendance of 112,000, the third annual Missouri Festival of Ozark Craftsmen has been extended to a solid ten-day run this year, and a total count of 200,000 expected visitors is a conservative guess. The Festival is free of charge, parking is free, and there's no commercial pressure of any kind -- take the word of a callous travel writer -- but the occasion makes for a souvenir-hunter's paradise. Most everything's for sale at very attractive prices.

Silver Dollar City, the 1880's mining village reconstructed on the grounds of Marvel Cave Park, is the Festival site. It's a stone's throw from Table Rock Lake, a few miles west of Branson, Missouri.

#

CALLAWAY GARDENS

By Carolyn Carter

Many years ago a man sat on the side of a pine-thatched hill, looked at eroded clay fields and thought:

"If only I could make this a world of beauty! A world for families to enjoy."

That man was Cason Callaway, textile tycoon of Georgia. And today his dream is a very real reality. He never saw the budget-bound families enjoying his Garden of Eden. The cottages he envisioned for them came along shortly after his death. But he did witness golfers soaking up nature and learning about plants as they walked down his fairways. And he saw thousands amble along wooded paths listening to the call of hundreds of birds. And he saw plants - new varieties and old - in profusion in his garden. He also realized that his Garden was not for his day, nor his children's, but for posterity. He planned it that way.

Today Callaway Gardens in Western Georgia is a thriving resort area, popular particularly in summer because of its comprehensive but inexpensive family vacation plan.

Here in the 2,500 acres of wonderland, a family with as many as six children can spend a vacation for \$95 a week.

This \$95 pays rent on a modern cabin - none over four years old. Included are: free swimming, free arts, crafts, athletic and swimming instruction for children, free movies - even a circus several times a week. Vacationers only need to bring their own groceries (or buy them at the country store in the Gardens).

Cason Callaway, late Georgia industrialist, envisioned the Gardens and designed and endowed a development program that stretches over 100 years. He wanted the people who visited the Gardens to see the beauty - native flowers growing on the golf course, beside the fish ponds, along miles of nature walks, and near his man-made beach, the largest inland sand and water span in the world.

The first 50 cottages - modern, efficient, well-designed, were erected in 1961. The first season they were filled to capacity. An additional 25 were built in 1962. They, too, were wait-listed. Now there are 130.

A special feature for family vacationers is the circus group from Florida State University, which will return this summer for the fifth season. These college students, who have mastered the flying trapeze and the unicycle, perform free-of-charge for cottage guests.

But more important - the college circus performers are "built-in baby sitters" for the cottage vacationers. They conduct classes throughout the day on all types of art, crafts, tumbling, athletic prowess - even make potential circus acrobats of some of the small fry. By keeping the youngsters busy, they provide free time for the man and his wife to be together.

One couple at Callaway's last year boarded a bicycle boat for a romantic ride over one of the Garden's seven beautiful lakes. The woman looked at her husband and remarked:

"At last we're on our second honeymoon! Do you realize this is the first time we've done anything like this - just the two of us - since Buddy came along?"

So the family vacation is gaining momentum. For cottagers, there are guided tours of the Gardens encompassing strolls along the winding paths where thousands of flowers bloom. This is a real nature trek with a guide to explain the flora and fauna and identify the song of numerous birds. (130 species of wild bird have been noted here.) It includes a ride on a barge through lakes which were reclaimed from tired land that once was eroded down to hard Georgia clay.

There's a square dance one night each week and a regular dance on Saturdays. Even the smallest members of the family group participate in the Bunny Hop. There's a free movie once a week in the circus tent - plus all the glamour and excitement of living near the big top and knowing the stars personally.

In a beautiful natural horseshoe, bordered by gleaming sand and tall pines, lies clear, spring-fed Robin Lake. One of the South's outstanding recreational attractions, this lake plays host to almost a half a million persons in a season. The 65-acre lake, fed by mountain springs, has a strip of dazzling white sand extending almost one mile around the shoreline. It is ideally suited for swimming and water skiing and is the site of the nationally-known Masters Water Ski Tournament each year. The American Water Ski Association selected Robin Lake as the site of its National Water Ski Tournament first in 1962. The Masters is televised each year from Callaway's.

The Gardens also feature a miniature train that skirts Chickadee Lake as it travels from East Beach to West Beach. This Lake also features canoeing, a miniature Mississippi River Steamboat,

and foot-powered paddleboats. A large, grassy play area is provided for the children and the Gardens' sightseeing trolley leaves periodically for tours around the entire Callaway Gardens. Shuffleboard and table tennis are included in the activities.

Callaway's has an airport which is the site of several fly-ins during the year, and many private aircraft use it for easy access to the Pine Mountain Resort area.

An interesting feature for the fall and winter visitor is the 1,000-acre quail and duck preserve that is open from October 1 through March 31. Experienced guides, trained dogs, and jeep transportation are provided with each hunt.

The Gardens are open year-round and plantings have been planned to the maximum extent possible to provide a view of the natural beauty of the Southern Appalachians at any season. The golf course, with 45 holes, is open for play 12 months out of the year and sport fishing in Mountain Creek Lake is a feature from September through May.

In addition to the cottages, the Gardens has a modern motel. Dining is featured in a picturesque clubhouse, which looks like an English inn with hand-hewn beams, a broad piazza, and a bountiful buffet of chicken, turkey, ham, fresh garden vegetables, and desserts smothered in whipped cream.

Callaway Gardens is operated by a non-profit foundation and all proceeds are used to maintain the facilities and to preserve the beauty of the grounds. There is a modest admission fee of \$.75 for adults and \$.35 for children. Admission is free to guests of the nearby motel and cottages.

The Gardens are located on U.S. 27, just outside Pine Mountain, Ga. They are 27 miles north of Columbus and 85 miles southwest of Atlanta.

Motel guests may register their children in the circus "camping program" for \$5 a week.

One guest whose children had attended expensive private summer camps remarked:

"None have been as interesting - as instructive - as this!"

Giant trees, sunning on the sand beach, fishing, birds, blue waters - these are the things visitors talk about when they visit Callaway's "Garden of Eden." These are the things of beauty children will carry in their memories forever - the answer to one man's dream.

* * * * *

NIAGARA IN THE FALL

By Ed Burwell

Two great attractions wrapped in an economical, autumn-crisp, foliage-filled package await the traveler in Niagara Falls, New York during late September and October.

The thundering cascades of majestic Niagara Falls, veiled in rainbow mists by day and an illuminated color fairyland by night, offer scenic grandeur to captivate every visitor's imagination.

Complimenting Niagara's world of falling water is the exotic ocean life of the Aquarium of Niagara Falls, the country's only inland marine aquarium, where dolphins frolic and the drama of the sea unfolds inches from the viewer.

Also beckoning the autumn traveler are: two days of peach shortcake pageantry and beauty at the Lewiston Peach Festival, Sept. 11 and 12; historic sites including Old Fort Niagara, which dates back to the 17th century; and the blaze of fall foliage in the Niagara River Gorge.

The vacationer in a hurry can drive to Niagara Falls in several hours from the New England states or from Illinois over Interstate Route 90.

In Canada, the Queen Elizabeth Way leads visitors to the Falls from Route 401 along the northern shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario.

The more leisurely traveler may choose to follow legendary Indian trails coming to the Niagara portage through West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Western New York over Route 219.

Route 17 threads its way through New York State's Southern Tier, while Route 104 bends along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, winding through a rich fruit belt.

The peach season reaches its peak during September and the grape harvest generally comes in October. Fresh tangy apples right from the tree are also plentiful in the Niagara fruit region.

Hotel and motel accommodations to suit every taste and pocketbook are included in the city's 3,300 lodging units, many of which are available at off-season rates after mid-September. The fall visitor will find area attractions less crowded and more easily accessible during late September and October.

Canopied under clear, azure-blue autumn skies, Niagara Falls offers the peak of climatic comfort during the fall with warm, sunshine-filled days and cool, sleep-inducing nights.

The Falls of Niagara have many moods and vantage points for the visitor. Water from four Great Lakes -- Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie -- courses down the Niagara River to Lake Ontario, dropping over 300 feet during the 34 mile trip.

The Upper Niagara River foams into boiling rapids as it is split by Goat Island, famed in Indian legend as home of the Great Spirit.

Prospect Point in ten-acre Prospect Park, operated by the Niagara Frontier State Parks Commission, offers several views of the American Falls, one of the three world-famous cataracts.

From Goat Island, visitors may walk to Luna Island for a breathtaking closeup of the dainty Bridal Veil Falls, or to Terrapin Point, with a brink-side view of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls.

A roadway circles Goat Island from the Upper Rapids Bridge. Two Goat Island parking lots and one in Prospect Park near the international Rainbow Bridge are provided for the convenience of motorists.

Several blocks from the Rainbow Bridge, the circular aquarium can be seen overlooking the Lower Niagara River Gorge at Whirlpool Street and Pine Avenue.

Playful dolphins frolic in the central 100,000 gallon pool, the largest exhibit in the two-story aquarium which also houses 40 marine displays from the seven seas of the world. Every hour on the hour, from 9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., the dolphins entertain visitors by showing off their speed and intelligence.

These graceful, muscular sea creatures dance backwards across the water on the tails in one demonstration and leap high out of the water in another.

Guests may watch the dolphins clown from the second floor deck which circles above the pool or from the first floor where they can see both above and below the pool surface.

In comparison to the friendly dolphins, an electric eel demonstrates his lethal voltage every hour on the half hour, and ferocious sharks circle slowly in a separate tank. Man-eating piranhas, brightly colored, exotic species from tropical seas and Giant Alaskan King Crabs are included in the exhibits which take visitors on an aquatic around-the-world tour.

Rod and reel enthusiasts will get a good chance to see their wiley adversaries in a display of fresh water game fish of North America.

Special lighting devices are included in many of the pools for camera fans who wish to take photographs of the beautiful marine vistas which provide a natural setting for the fish.

A 250-car parking lot, roof garden restaurant and gift shop are included in the Aquarium complex for the convenience of guests.

The Aquarium encourages family visits by offering reduced rates for children from 5 to 15 years of age. Children under five accompanied by an adult are admitted free. Group plans are available for 20 or more persons.

The Robert Moses Parkway, near the Aquarium, will lead motorists to the Whirlpool Rapids, several miles below the Falls, where the narrowest point in the Niagara River Gorge causes treacherous currents and foaming rapids.

Just past the Whirlpool Rapids is the Power Vista on Lewiston Road, where scale models demonstrate how the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant, one the world's largest hydro-electric plants, generates electric power.

Niagara in the fall provides low cost-family fun for the motorist visiting the majestic cataracts and the first inland oceanarium of its kind, the Aquarium of Niagara Falls.

* * * * *