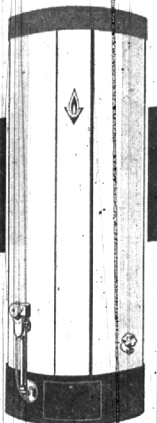


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**NATURE NOW**  
**Trees Helped Nation To A Mature Growth**

By **LYDIA KING FRESHE**  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

When the axe of the pioneer first bit into the untouched American forest, the hardwoods stood like a green belt ringing the continent from the Atlantic seaboard to the Central Plains.

Today if you travel in the Smoky mountain region the forester on duty will hand you a list of some 128 species representing our most varied stand of these great trees. Together with the evergreens they make up our North American sylvia. There is none grander anywhere on the face of the earth.

I have just come in from my daily garden chores which for the last week have been complicated by the falling of a constant shower of dried catkins of the oak.

These are the discarded male flowers. After I have swept up a basket-full of the wet stringy mass, I find underneath a half cupful of yellow pollen. The wind has already scattered this life-giving powder far and wide, thereby fertilizing the female blossoms which hang high up on the end of a branch in the shape of an inconspicuous few-flowered spike. There they develop into a group of seeds called acorns.

Trees are flowering plants and reproduce by seeds which ripen in the spring of the flower. However, these blossoms often go unnoticed especially if, like the oak, they belong to the catkin-bearing group which are wind pollinated and therefore need no conspicuous sepals or petals to attract insect visitors.

**SOME 75 SPECIES** of hardwood trees grow in Michigan. Of these there is space to write only of that great quartet which has named our climate and sub-climate forests. These are the beech and maple; the oak and hickory.

The beech of which we have a single species is a truly noble tree. Its smooth grey bark identifies it in any season. Its springtime foliage is palest green, in summer it is blue-green, in autumn it turns a clear yellow enlivened by veins of richest brown. It was soon favored by the pioneer's axe for its presence was a sure sign of the land—rich and dark—which he was seeking.

A recent tree biographer reports that the earliest Sanskrit characters were carved on strips of beech bark.

Thirteen thousand years was written many another inscription including the famous:

**D. Boone, Killed a Bear, On Tree, In Year 1760.**

**WHEN THIS GREAT** beech fell the Forest Service estimated its size at 365 years. The practical use of beech for fire wood and in the manufacture of charcoal and chemicals are well-known.

There are found in Michigan eight of the 41 species of maple commonly listed. This versatile tree comes in a degree rivalled by none other, rare qualities of beauty and usefulness. Of its kind the sugar maple is most celebrated, both for the hardness of its wood and the sweetness of its sugar product.

The red maple when dressed in its autumn foliage, makes the showiest of all color displays. To see these at their best one must travel on the by-ways and quiet village streets of New England in mid-October. As an all-purpose wood, maple is used in the manufacture of countless articles of commerce as well as for building material.

The original forests of our great agricultural lands were largely made up of oak which, together with hickory, will grow on moist, sandy and gravelly soils than will beech or maple. The 39 species are widely distributed and are roughly divided by the tree student into two great groups, the red and the white.

**THE LATTER** is still the most important hardwood tree in North America.

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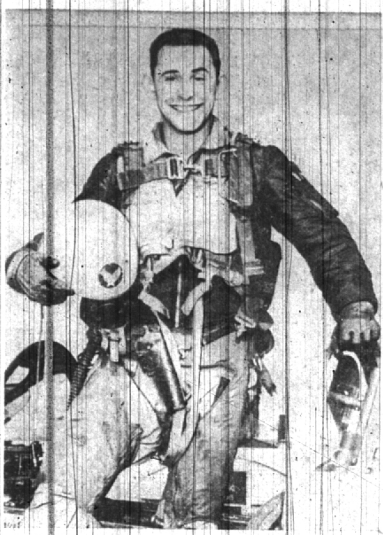
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**FIFTH AIR FORCE, KOREA**—1st Lt. Miles C. McDonnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. McDonnell, 501 Larchlea, climbs from the cockpit of his P-54 Thunderjet after completing his 10th mission over North Korea with the U.S. Air Force 58th Fighter Bomber Wing. Lieutenant McDonnell has flown over 90,000 miles and dropped over 75 tons of high explosives on Communist targets in carrying out the destruction of fuel supplies and supply routes. His home is in Indianapolis, Ind. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

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**Faster Action Possible—Commissioner Tells How**  
To obtain early action on road-building of their streets, all that Coolidge road residents have to do is collect the 12-cent per front foot tax and turn it into the city, commissioners explain.  
Otherwise, the road-building would be taken up at a subsequent hearing in which other city streets would also be considered.

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