

Along Azalea Row

By Mrs. E. F. Rapraeger

ABOUT 1760, a talented half-breed Cherokee Indian named Sequoiah was born in Tennessee. The son of a white trader and a Cherokee woman. This man was the originator of the Cherokee alphabet and in his honor the Sequoia trees were named.

The Sequoias are of very ancient lineage. They flourished during the mild humid climate of the Miocene epoch about 30 million years ago and even earlier during the Cretaceous period when huge reptiles ruled the earth. In Miocene days the Sequoias were very abundant and formed extensive forests throughout the world, particularly in the northern hemisphere. About 40 fossil forms have been described but the modern Sequoias consist of but two species, (*Sequoia gigantea* and *Sequoia sempervirens*) the redwood of the coastal fog belt (*sempervirens*) and the big trees of the Sierras (*gigantica*). Specimens of redwood are taller than the big tree but certain of the bigtree are twice as old and much larger. Several bigtrees now in existence probably were 2,000 to 2,500 years old when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. They probably are the largest and oldest thing living upon this earth. It has been estimated that the weight of the General Sherman tree in Sequoia National park is

approximately 6,000 tons. A pony could lie down on the largest branch (7 feet in diameter) and not be seen from the ground 130 feet below.

It has been mentioned that the Sequoias were once widely distributed and it is of more than passing interest that the bigtree and even the redwood, are now so restricted in range. In terms of geological time, the bigtree is making its last stand in scattered groves along the western middle slopes of the Sierras. The range of the redwood is more extensive but is limited to a narrow coastal strip extending from the Chetco river in Oregon to the Santa Lucia mountains south of San Francisco bay. Inland, where the summer fogs from the ocean are cut off by the high coastal peaks, redwood disappears. Even the modern redwood loves the mild humid climate that its ancestors loved so well during the Miocene epoch.

Nature is red of claw and ruthless. She rules a world in which plants and animals must fit, if they are to survive. It is a very good world but it is up to those present to jolly well make the most of it. There is no room for a race of shirkers or misfits. Many interesting forms of life have passed from the face of the earth when they failed to adopt themselves to the conditions. The huge reptiles which once ruled the earth are no longer here.

Nature calmly watched them decline and then she watched another more efficient form of life gain ascendancy. The process is slow inexorable and unyielding.

The Sequoias are the last of a mighty race of trees. The man in whose honor they are named, Sequoiah, the redman, was also among the last of a mighty tribe of Cherokees.

CARPENTERVILLE

By MICKEY CARPENTER

Carpenterville school has lost five pupils in the last week or two, which brings the total down to 16 now.

Little Tommy Lenderman suf-

fered from burns on his face and neck, caused from hot syrup his mother was carrying to the table. Tommy came dashing by and didn't see her in the dim lights we've had here for two days, "lamps," that is.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Midwood have broken the record for short moves around here, which is from No. 1 cabin into No. 2, the total of five feet.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Scheler and daughter, Gale, have moved to Brookings.

Asa Carpenter spent the day here Friday visiting relatives and friends.

We have had sleet, snow, hail,

rain and a good gale here in the last 24 hours.

"Norm" says his house is listing about 10 inches and the linoleum is floating, but "Cannonball" has him beat, says he has to wear spurs to get in and out of bed in a god stiff breeze.

We wonder when we'll be able to switch on a light to see by, or better still, wash clothes.

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LEE RICE
BROOKINGS

"BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN OF CONSERVATISM"

By L. C. O'BRIEN

"THE VOICE OF ONE AMERICAN"

(This is the Third Article of a Series)
(Continued From Last Week)

Let us look ahead to the year 2500. The people of that era will, without doubt, look back through the ages to our era, and see us as we are, the ALLIANCE of 1952, living and practicing the (previously stated) basic machinations of savages. Uncouth, illiterate barbarians, smothered in conservatism, exploitation, militarism, and political corruption, uncivilized, warlike and crude. Are we so far removed from the people of the dark ages, basically?

I will now state the fundamental facts pertaining to the intelligence of the human race as a whole. Even though this treatise is biasly contrary to the theories and retarded reasoning of the present day man, it will bring enlightenment to any thinking, intelligent individual. (Now please do not confuse my meaning as to intelligence.) Intelligence does not mean an individual highly learned in book knowledge. Ironically, that individual is the most conceited, stupid and biased of the so-called intellectuals. Book knowledge is not the essence of intelligence as it is only the stepping stones to wisdom. Neither is the finished scholar a finished intellectual. The finished intellectual is the individual who has reached the supreme peak of book knowledge and can question his own egotism and self esteemed unilateral viewpoint of his imagined superior intellect and say, possibly I do not know it all. Possibly there are others whose theories, even though they seem fantastic and absurd to my way of thinking, could be more advanced in wisdom than I.

ALL NOTIONS, ATTENTION: Our established chimera that another nation is our potential enemy is only the ancient and ignorant reasoning of our extinct forefathers, the cave men. A figment of caution born from our material, predatory instincts, while in reality our potential enemy is our own inconceivable reality of our abysmal ignorance, stupidity and egotism.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)