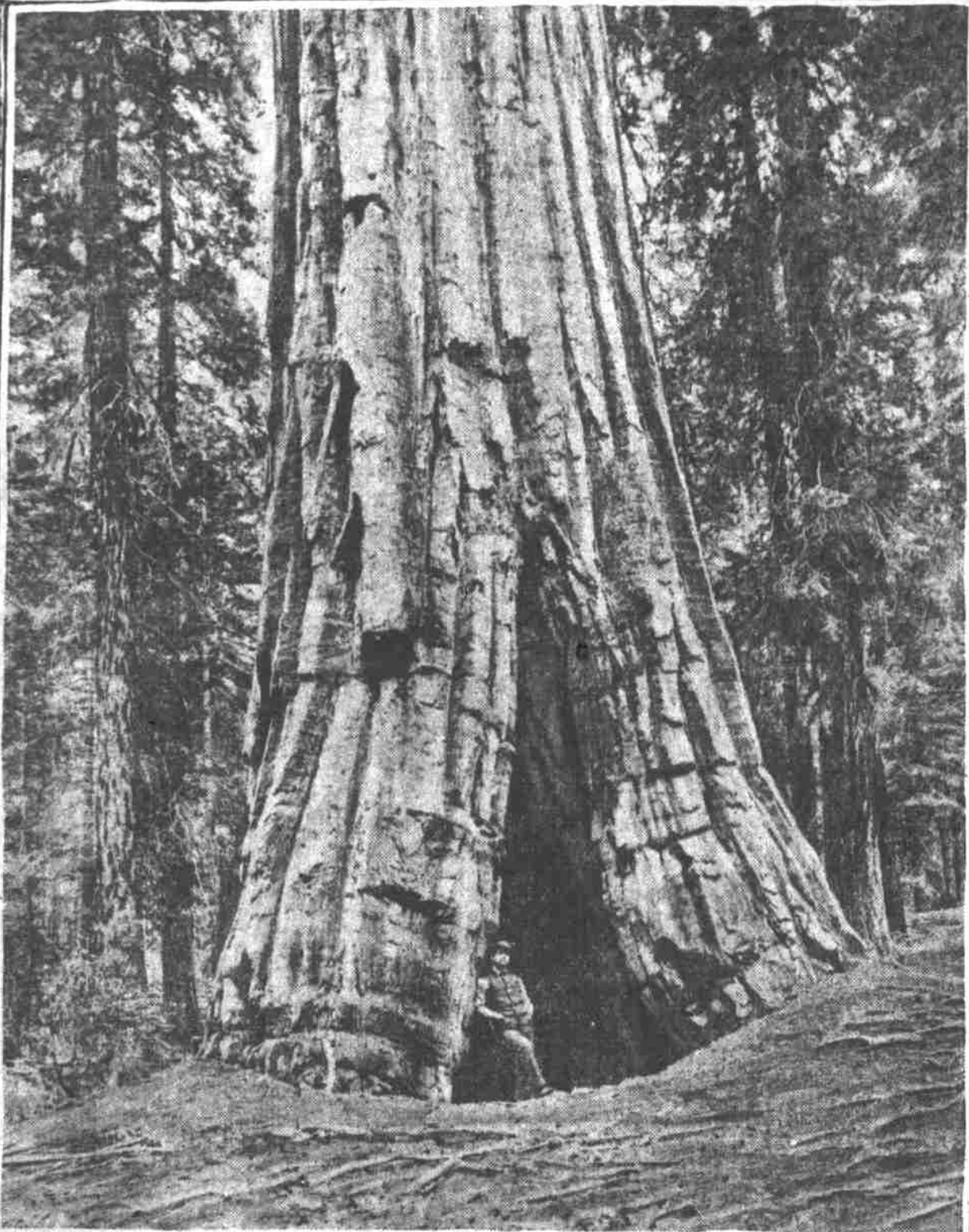


SAVING the WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS TREES



The Habitation of a Lonely Man.

Good Work Done By Organized Women in California

THERE is joy in the heart of the western tourist this summer, as well as in the hearts of Californians, because the famous Big Trees are to be saved from the wanton hand of the destroyer.

For years the destruction of the Big Trees has been going on. In 1906 the lumber cut of the Big Trees amounted to 8,500,000 feet. The oldest living things in the world were destroyed for cheap lumber. And while the trees were being cut—for a period of nine years—a band of California women, headed by Mrs. Lovell White, was making a valiant fight to interest the government in their salvation.

After repeatedly failing to pass the House, a bill was introduced and favorably voted upon at the last session. By the bill, which was signed by President Roosevelt, the Calaveras National Forest is created and the Big Trees saved for all time. The 500 and more California women are justly proud of their victory, and Mrs. White, radiant that the loved trees will be protected, has won their salvation by one of the most unique campaigns of lobbying in the history of the country.

ACCORDING to the bill which was signed by Mr. Roosevelt, about 900 acres of land are acquired in Calaveras county, in which is located what is known as the North Calaveras Grove, and 3640 acres in the South Grove, in Tuolumne county.

In the North Grove there are ninety-three big trees and in the South Grove 1350. In the North Grove there are ten trees, each with a diameter of twenty-five or more feet, and seventy with diameters ranging from fifteen to twenty-five feet.

Besides the giant sequoias, there are thousands of other trees—sugar pines, yellow pines, white firs and incense cedars—many of which attain a height of 275 feet and a diameter of eight to ten feet.

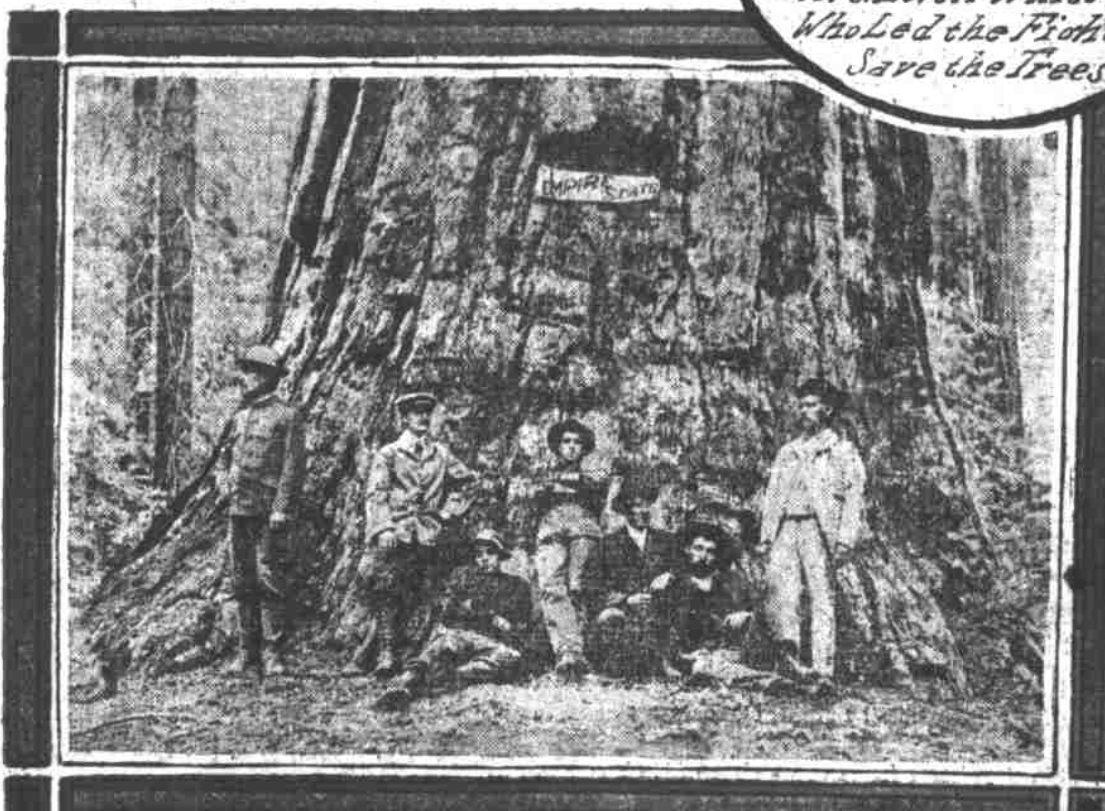
By the action of Congress these remarkable trees—the most famous in the world—will be saved from the lumbermen. For years the sound of axes and the blast of gunpowder have rung through the California forests, and the trees which stood when Babylon was built, when Rome was founded, when Xerxes "lashed the seas with chains," fell one after another, the victims of the commercial greed of men whose span of life, compared to theirs, is but a breath.

From all parts of the world people have come to see the Big Trees of California—and California was justly proud of them. To see the trees falling—to be made into fence posts and grapevine stakes—to be used for the cheapest lumbering purposes—caused many pangs to the band of women who had joined to appeal for a preservation of the giants. Just how much lumber the trees contained was the subject which interested the lumbermen, and in making a dicker government forest engineers were compelled to make a careful calculation of the size of the trees. In the largest fallen tree in the South Grove—"Old Goliath"—there was found to be 127,892 feet of lumber. Enough, it was claimed, to build twenty-five two-story frame houses.

The largest standing tree, called "Louis Agassiz," before it was hollowed out by fire contained 134,163 feet. "The Mother of the Forest," which was killed in the fire which ravaged the forest last summer, contained 105,000 board feet. The tree called "Massachusetts" contained 118,000 board feet of lumber, and "Governor Stoneman" 108,000 feet.



Mrs. Lovell White, Who Led the Fight to Save the Trees.



At the Base of the 'Empire State Tree.'

It is said that there is as much lumber in each one of the giants as the average yield of fifteen to twenty acres of timber land.

Before the days when the ice came moving down from the north and the glacial age chilled the world and devastated vegetation the species of tree known as the sequoia flourished in the temperate zone of America, Asia and Europe.

One can realize, therefore, the value of these trees—the rarest specimens in the world—when he considers that they practically no longer propagate themselves.

The largest trees are in the Calaveras Grove, which was discovered in 1841 by John Bigwell, a candidate for Congress from California. The grove passed into the possession of a lumberman on

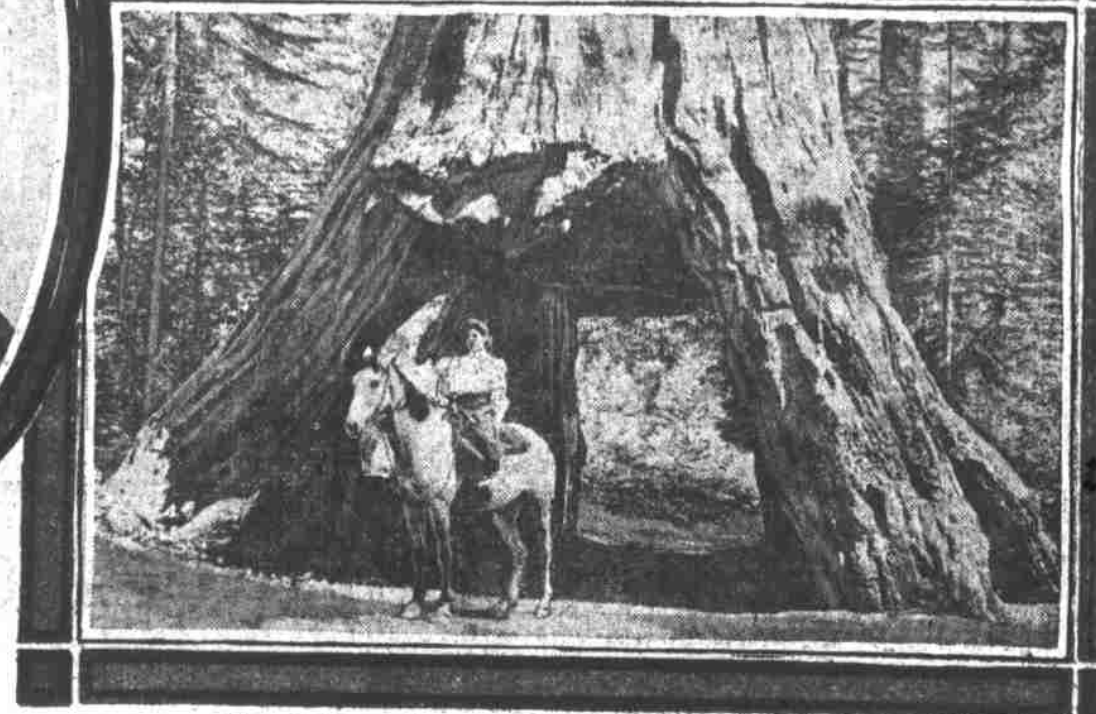
April 1, 1900. When the grove was sold and the news of the proposed destruction was heard, the clubwomen of California, under the leadership of Mrs. White, united in a crusade to save the trees.

Year after year a big tree bill was introduced in the Senate, and passed, but in the House of Representatives it was sidetracked and waylaid until any favorable action seemed hopeless.

As chairman of the Calaveras big tree committee and head of the Outdoor Art League of California Mrs. White led the movement for the salvation of the giants. Four years ago Senator Perkins, of California, introduced a bill in the Senate, but it was squashed. Last winter Mrs. White went to Washington from her home in San Francisco as a delegate to the Woman's National Rivers and



In a Forest of Big Trees.



A Roadway through a Tree.

Harbors Congress. While in the capital city Mrs. White went to see nearly every senator and member of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. White is a gracious woman of charming and winning manners. Her voice is well modulated and quiet. But it did not lack a note of determination when, after each interview with legislators, she said: "Yes, sir; I am going to stay right here in Washington until I induce you gentlemen to pass that bill."

Some laughed. They thought Mrs. White would have a long wait. But she stayed. Valiantly and sincerely did she plead for the preservation of the trees. With the history of these monarchs of the forests of her native state she was familiar, and of that history she told the body of lawmakers.

She declared they were as worthy of preservation, just as sacred, as the Parthenon, the Coliseum and the remains of the Acropolis. She told the gentlemen how lumbermen were invading the solemn gloom of those immemorial forests and laying the axe to the serene, stately, glorious sentinels of the ages.

SEEM TO BE IMMORTAL

Just how old the trees are cannot, of course, be accurately determined. Professor David Starr Jordan, president of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University, declares that the largest trees may be 2000 years old.

John Muir, the naturalist, said that he did not know of a single Big Tree dying a natural death, "barring accidents," adding that "they seem to be immortal, being exempt from the diseases that afflict and kill other trees. Unless destroyed by man, they live on indefinitely until burned, smothered by lightning or cast down by storms or by the giving way of the ground on which they stand."

Mr. Muir estimated that the age of one tree felled in the Calaveras Grove was 1300 years. It was felled so that the stump might be used for a

dancing pavilion. The diameter of the stump measured twenty-four feet.

Another tree, felled in the King's river forest, he claims was 2300 years old. With the aid of a pocket lens Mr. Muir examined the trunk and counted the rings, of which there were more than 4000, "which," declared the naturalist, "showed that this tree was in its prime, swaying in the Sierra winds, when Christ walked the earth."

HAVE INTERESTING HISTORIES

The great trees which have stood so silently throughout the ages have interesting histories. They bear the records of the scars and ravages of time. They unfold the stories of other ages. On the trunk of one of the trees Professor W. R. Dudley, a botanist of Stanford University, California, found an interesting record of forest fires.

Estimating the age of the tree, he found that it must have been four feet in diameter at the birth of Christ, its age being computed at 2471 years. During the 1900 years, which had followed the diameter increased eleven feet.

A scar on the trunk showed that a forest fire must have occurred about 245 B. C. The tree at this time, according to the professor's calculations, must have been 516 years old. The wound, which was three feet wide, was 105 years in healing. The second fire from which the tree suffered occurred in 1441, and 120 years passed before the scorching was covered by new bark. In 1580 another fire left its mark; the worst hurt to the tree was in 1797. The charred wound was thirty feet wide.

Value of the land acquired by the government, including that of trees other than the sequoias, is said to be \$200,000. In the tract acquired are some of the most famous of the old veterans; "Massachusetts," "Governor Stoneman," "Waterloo," "Pennsylvania," "James King," "Old Bachelor," "Pride of the Forest," "Daniel Webster," "U. S. Grant," "Abraham Lincoln" and many others.