



THE PONDEROSA

the PINE RIDGE ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER

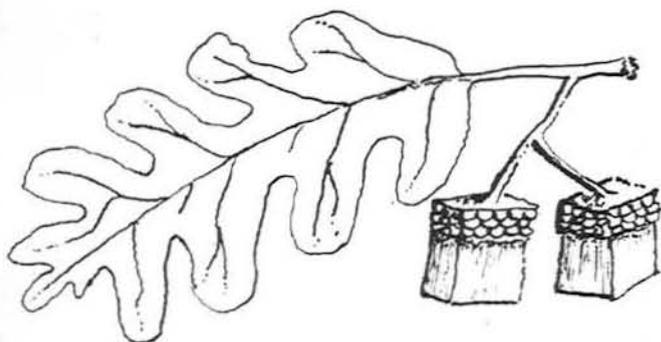
SEPTEMBER 1980



FROM UNDER MY BRIM

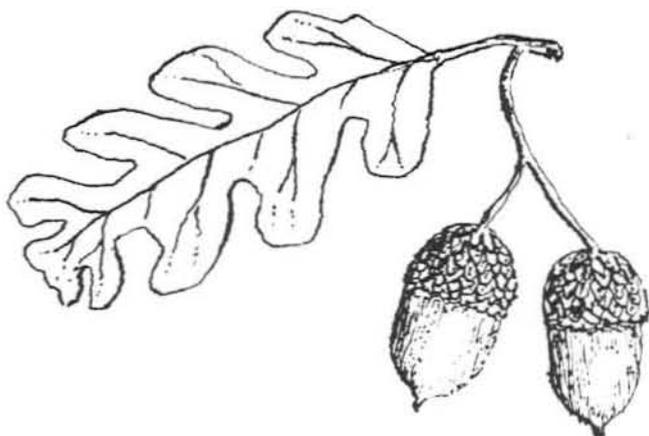
Autumn is quickly coming upon us. The Tarantulas are out searching for mates. Poison Oak leaves are already showing their bright colors, and The Black Oaks and Big Leaf Maples will soon be changing. The acorns cling to the ends of branches, the Black Oaks having the thickest crop I have ever seen. An early hard winter is projected, and it certainly is possible that acorns can "predict" the weather. The Oak trees have survived over the aeons by changing in response to their environment.

#### THE LEGEND OF THE OAK



Once upon a time there lived a group of oak trees high atop a hill. These were the only oak trees in the whole world, and they looked different from the oak trees that we see today in that they had square acorns. These trees had lived on top of this hill for many years. Then one year a new oak tree popped out of the ground. He didn't look much different from any other oak, that is until a few years later when he produced his first crop of acorns. Usually this was a proud moment for an oak tree, but not this time - for his acorns were not square but round. All the other trees just laughed at him. That fall all of the oaks dropped their acorns. The square acorns stayed on top of the hill as they always had, but the acorns of the new oak rolled down the hill.

All the other trees laughed again at the strange tree. The acorns that didn't roll down the hill were picked up by a squirrel who buried those round seeds that would fit in his mouth. Again the others laughed. The squirrel knew that he could come back in the winter and dig up the nuts, but that winter he didn't remember where he had buried them all. A few years passed and most of the young oaks producing their first acorns had round ones. These were the trees that had grown from the buried acorns. Down in the valley below could be seen other young oak trees with round acorns. Soon trees were found throughout the land, and the oak trees with the square acorns no longer laughed.



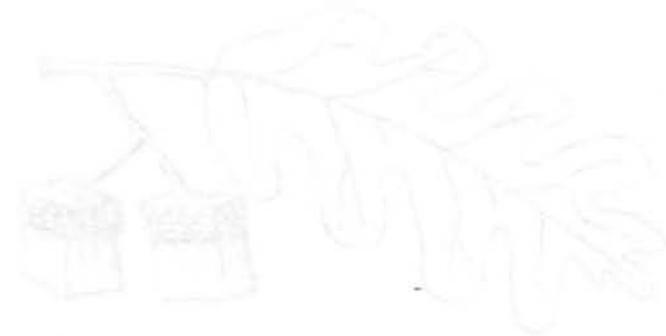
# TRAIL DAY - JULY 13

On July 13 the Association held a Trail Work Day. Five Association Members worked on the trail to the Monument, improving and adding switchbacks to the trail on the steep lower part. We also worked to control erosion along the upper part of the trail just below the Monument. Later we did some more work on the Corral Trail, clearing some brush and digging out the edges of the trail.

## OCTOBER MEETING

The Board of Directors will hold a meeting on Oct. 21, 7:30 PM in Dave Hildebrand's home at 791 Midvale Lane, San Jose. The phone number is 269-5852. The tentative agenda is:

- o Consider Some new books for sale.
- o Purchase of dispensers for brochures.
- o Publication and sale of handout on creek animals.
- o Sponsorship of the Docent program and setting up a Docent Council.
- o Resource investigations on the new acquisitions.
- o Printing of a new PRA information and application brochure.



COMMON TREES OF HENRY W. COE STATE PARK

**PINES** there are two pines in the park. The ponderosa pine or yellow pine has cones about 2-5 inches long. It has a Christmas Tree shape and dark green needles.

The digger pine has larger cones that are about 6-10 inches long. Older trees often fork and the color of the needles is gray-green.

Bay or California laurel is a dense, well branching tree with bright shiny green leaves. It grows in moist canyons and on the protected side of rock out-crops.

Madrone looks like manzanita, both having peeling bark which leaves a smooth red surface. Madrone is not a shrub but a heavy trunked tree, with leaves that are larger and brighter green than those of manzanita.

White alder trees are found in and along creeks, mostly in narrow canyons. It has tiny cones.

Big leaf maple trees are found on shady, wooded slopes and along creek bottoms. The bright green leaves come off the stems in pairs.

Western sycamore trees are found along or in creeks and in moist places. The bark is in thin plates that give the trunk a pale molted look. The leaves come off the stems singly and are soft and hairy, at least when young.

California buckeye trees are like large shrubs, as they usually have several trunks starting from the ground level. The leaves are compound, that is, one leaf is made up of five small leaves called leaflets. It loses its leaves in late summer.

**DECIDUOUS OAKS**

Black oak trees have large, shiny, dark green leaves with spine-tipped lobes. They are found mostly on moist north facing slopes.

Valley oak trees have rounded, deep lobed, green leaves. They are found mostly in grassy open areas.

Blue oaks have shallow lobed blue-green leaves. They are found in dry rocky areas.

**LIVE OAKS**

Coast live oaks have shiny, tough, rounded (concave), leaves with spines along the edge. They grow in moist canyons.

Interior live oaks have shiny, tough, flat leaves that are usually spine edged but some leaves have no spines. They are mostly small trees growing in dry areas.

Canyon live oaks have leaves that are dull bluish-green to powdery golden on the under side. Leaves are spine-edged to smooth. They grow in moist canyons.

