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SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

October 6, 1966

Dr. Rudolf Becking
Department of Forestry
Humboldt State College
Arcata, California

Dear Rudy:

I have enclosed a news release concerning the tall tree measured on Dyerville Flat. Since most newspapers did not carry the full release, I thought it would be of interest to you since it refers to your candidate for a taller tree.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Zinke
Associate Professor
Forestry

PZ:sw
encls.

NEWS

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
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August 17, 1966

NEW GIANT AMONG REDWOOD TREES MEASURED

SCOTIA---A redwood tree 369.2 feet tall stands right beside a much-used nature trail in Founders' Grove south of here, University of California Forester Paul J. Zinke reports.

The tree, measured by surveyors as part of a UC School of Forestry and Wildland Research Center study of redwood ecology, is a foot and a half taller than the one previously hailed as the world's tallest-known tree. That was the Libby tree on Redwood Creek, near Orick, measured at 367.8 feet.

Both trees, Dr. Zinke said, were measured by the same surveyors, Oscar Larson and Allan Nilson of Eureka, who used the device of vertical triangulation from a base line they established nearby.

The University researcher, whose special concern is learning the interrelationships between soil properties and tree height growth, said he was making no claims to have found a new "world's tallest tree." It is only a block from U.S. Highway 101. "We only know this tree is taller than the one previously considered the tallest," he said. "Several redwood trees over 360 feet in height have been located and measured in the Bull Creek Flats-Founders' Grove area of Humboldt Redwoods State Park in the course of our studies.

"Based on preliminary measurements by Prof. Rudolph Beckings of Humboldt State College, a redwood having a height of 385 feet has been reported. This remains to be verified by triangulation methods of measurement similar to those used in this study."

-more-

Zinke said the 369.2 foot tree measured in his wildland's study is readily available to the public on the Founders' Grove nature trail about 300 yards south of the Founders' tree, which is itself 352.6 feet tall.

"People have been walking past this tree for years, enjoying it without a thought that it might be the tallest of the redwoods," he said. "These magnificent redwood trees offer enjoyment to people regardless of knowledge of their exact height. Such data seem trivial in the presence of the tree."

He said the University studies of redwood ecology are yielding knowledge about the superlative redwood forests in the north coastal parks that will aid in management aimed toward preservation of the giant trees for public enjoyment.

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T A L L E S T

A University of California forester has measured a redwood tree 369.3 feet high, a foot and a half taller than the present official record holder.

The newly measured giant is in the Founders Grove of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. It was first measured by Dr. Paul Zinke, associate professor of forestry at UC, Berkeley.

His measurement was later confirmed by Larsen & MacMillan, Eureka surveyors.

The previous "tallest tree" was the 367.8 foot Howard Libbey Tree on Redwood Creek, Humboldt County, on holdings of the Arcata Lumber Company. The Libbey Tree and several other trees more than 350 feet tall were located and measured by the National Geographic Society in 1964.

NO CONFIRMATIONS

Last June Dr. Rudolf Becking, professor of forestry at Humboldt State College, Arcata, told a U.S. Senate interior affairs committee meeting in Crescent City that he measured a redwood tree 385 feet tall on a stream tributary to Redwood Creek.

However, Dr. Becking declined to give the location of this tree; consequently his report has not been confirmed by surveying.

R E D W O O D

DIFFICULTIES

Dr. Zinke himself points out the difficulties of deciding how tall a tree is:

"The tree may be leaning. Do you measure its actual length or how high it stands over the ground? What part of the ground? The average ground level around the base? Or the lowest point under the crown, which may happen to be a pit?

"Suppose later part of the crown is broken by the wind. Or it grows a few inches. Or a flood deposits sediment around the base. How tall is it now?

NOT IMPORTANT

"Actually, it is not important to the appreciation of a beautiful redwood to know how tall it is. With trees, as with women, too much emphasis can be placed on measurements.

"There are more than 2000 trees taller than 300 feet in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. To walk among them is a pleasant and enriching experience.

"Personally, I don't feel any more enriched under a tree 369.3 feet tall than under any of the others."

He did find two other giants in the same Founders Grove: One 363.3 feet tall, the other 362.9.

A California Parks employe, Harold Stobel, spotted the 369.3 foot tree back in 1958 and recognized it as a giant. But it was never actually measured by accurate triangulation until 10 days ago, when Dr. Zinke did it.