MAJESTY

A large elm tree stands in the edge of the wood. A perfect specimen of a tree. At the base it is between three and four feet thick and grows straight upwards for fifteen or twenty feet. Then the limbs branch out in every direction, making the top of the tree look like a great ball on a large pole. The tree dwarfs other trees in the vicinity. It is rugged and has withstood the storms of nature for more than two generations. The leafy foliage is a harbor for nature's pleasing songsters during the spring and summer.

On a hot summer afternoon a farmer's herd of cows take refuge in the shade of this masterpiece of nature. Or a jolly group stops by to eat a picnic lunch and loll around on the lush green grass that carpets the ground beneath this friend of men.

Moss and lichens grow on the bark. A woodpecker's staccato beating can be heard coming from the nearby woods. The chirping of crickets on the air and the booming of a bullfrog burst from the edge of the river. The faint cawing of crows comes floating on the breeze from distant hills as the sun slips from sight amid a golden glory and the dark shadows come rushing from the east heralding the first call of the night.

- Marshall Nohring - '37