
THE BIGGEST BUR OAK

by Deborah Gangloff

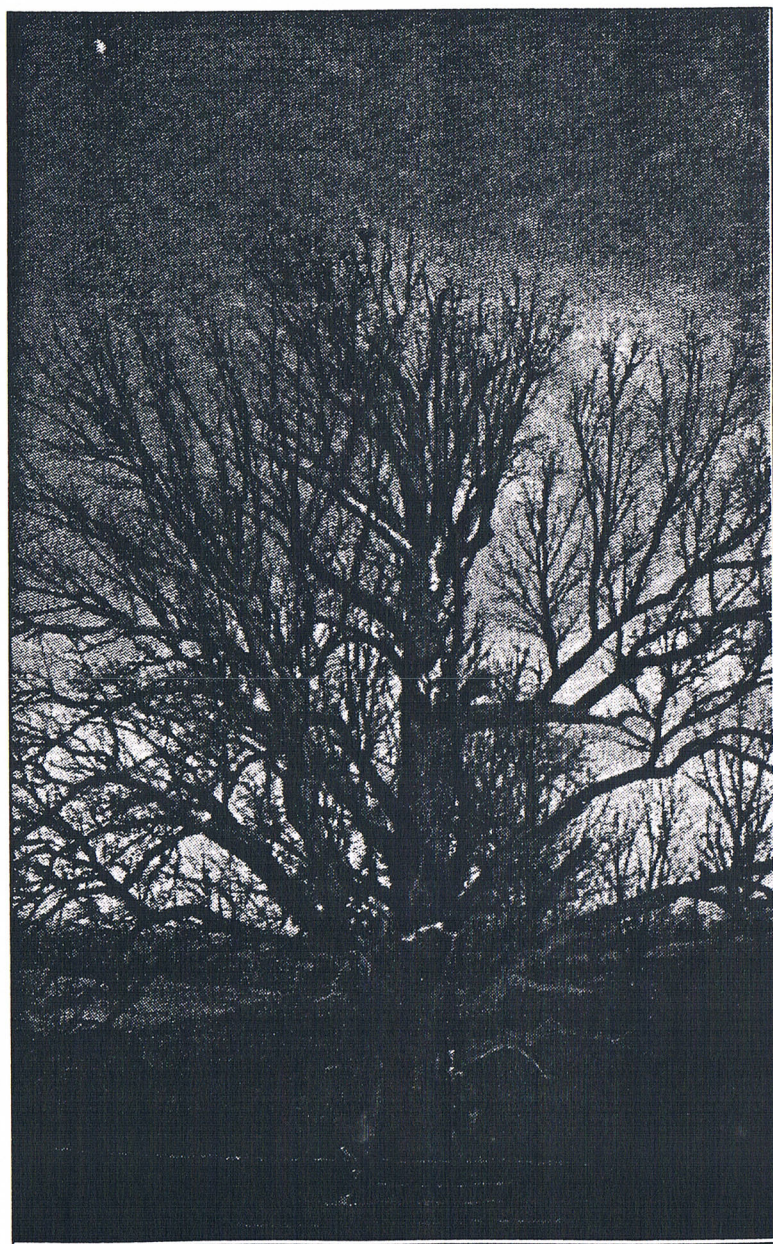
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This bur oak has reigned as champ since 1980, when it was nominated by Owen H. Robinson, now a retired district forester for Kentucky's Division of Forestry. It stands near a pond on the 1,140-acre Indian Creek Farm, a horse, hay, and tobacco operation near Paris, Kentucky.

According to Shackenford "Shack" Parrish, when members of the Parrish and Hancock families and their British partners first viewed the farm for possible purchase, the troupe tried to stretch their arms around the mighty oak. They couldn't.

Although this stately tree has suffered the indignities of lightning strikes a few times in its long life, it has held its own among the bur oaks. The tree is a symbol of the farm and is shown on its stationery and work hats.

Twenty seedlings transplanted from the shade of the champ to one of several wild areas on the farm were killed by frost last year. The owners are determined to try again to preserve the progeny of this nationally renowned oak.



White Bromwich