

The 300-year-old white oak tree that witnessed the birth of Abraham Lincoln is alive and well.

Well enough, in fact, to receive more than 400,000 visitors a year from all over the world. Last summer arborists of The Davey Tree Expert Company did tree surgery on this sole survivor of all that was alive on Thomas Lincoln's Sinking Spring Farm on Feb. 12, 1809, the day Abe Lincoln was born.

R. W. Niedert, Jr., Davey representative, explained that the tree was pruned and fed several hundred pounds of high-nitrogen fertilizer to maintain the vigor. The Boundary Oak is 90 feet high, has a trunk diameter of six feet, and a branch spread of 115 feet.

The giant white oak served as a boundary marker for the first survey of this land in Kentucky made in 1805. As many as 6,000 visitors a day come to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site on U. S. Route 31-E, a few miles south of Hodgenville, Ky., to see the memorial which houses the birthplace cabin, the sinking spring, audio-visual programs at the visitors' center, and the famous tree. The birthplace site is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.

Davey Tree Cares for Lincoln Oak



Accelerated Research Asked To Control Gypsy Moth

The National Gypsy Moth Advisory Council, meeting with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has recommended research to provide a more reliable and sound method of gypsy moth control—the insect some members term the Number 1 hardwood pest in the United States.

Action is urgently needed because

DDT and other persistent pesticides, though effective, can no longer be legally used, says Ray Brush, secretary of the American Association of Nurserymen and Council member.

The gypsy moth is a defoliator of hardwood and softwood forests and is capable of killing hardwood trees in two to three defoliations, and softwoods in a single defoliation.

Council members noted the growing difficulty of preventing the spread of the gypsy moth because

of the mobility of Americans. The egg masses are found attached to the underparts of camper trailers, and mobile homes. Boxes, crates, forest products, and equipment left in the woods for some time frequently harbor these egg masses and are transported to other areas.

U. S. Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania has noted that 10 of 15 million acres of forest land in his state are already susceptible to attack by gypsy moths. He warned, "As the gypsy moth moves southward and westward from Pennsylvania, it eventually will eat its way through the hardwood forests of the Appalachians and into the Ozarks, an area encompassing more than 100 million acres of timberland."

Currently, the gypsy moth inhabits most of New England, Eastern New York, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and parts of southeast Canada. It is spreading into Delaware, Maryland, and is threatening other southern and midwestern states.

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