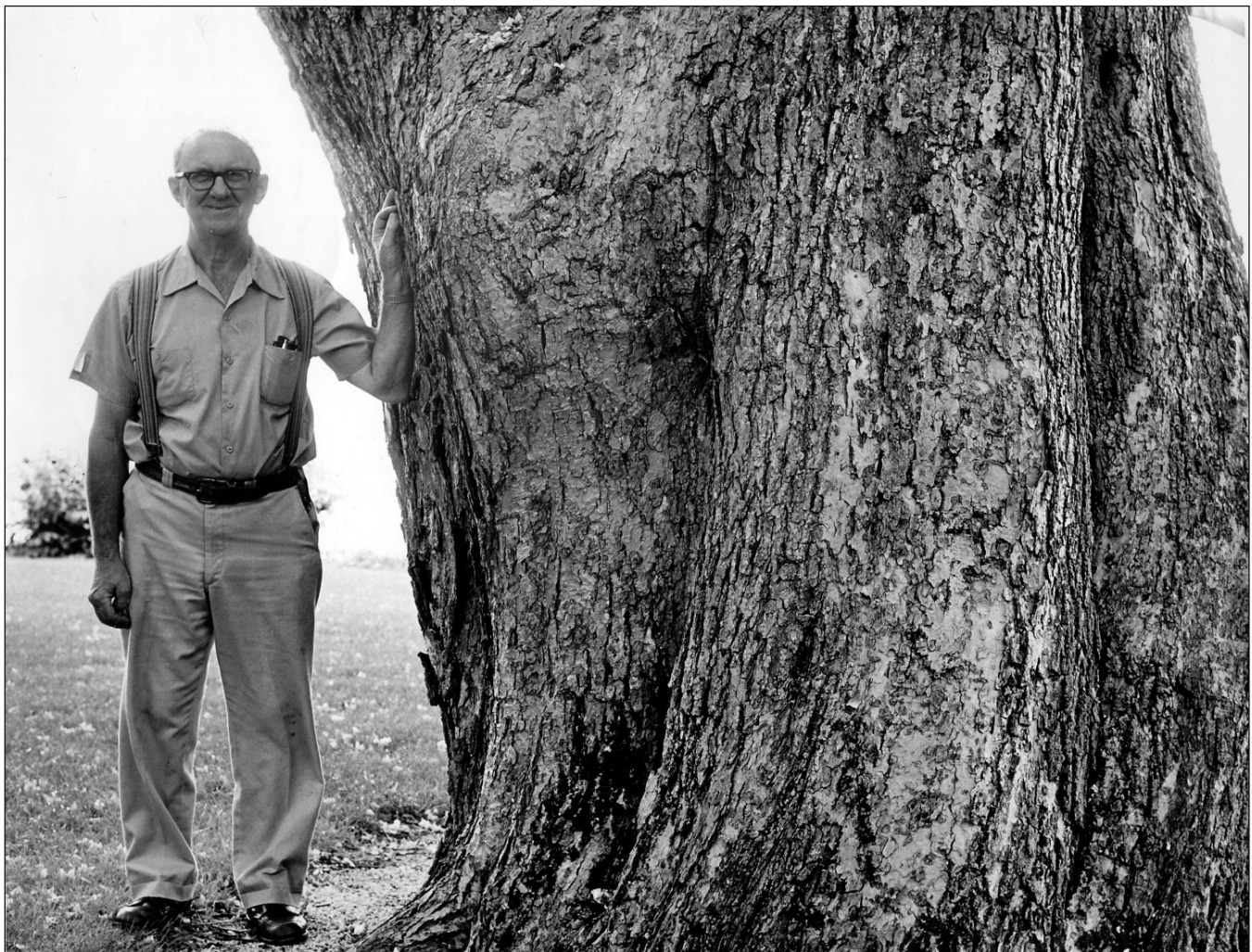


Green Gables Estate

Lake Geneva

The crystal-clear waters and wooded shores of Lake Geneva provided the ideal Wisconsin retreat for many of the wealthy nineteenth century Chicago families. William Wrigley chose a lush shore-front site along Snake Road to build his summer mansion in 1863. It took two years to complete, using an elaborate architectural design and stone construction. The gatehouse was most remarkable for its steep roof gables made of green slate. The estate was quickly dubbed Green Gables. At one time Green Gables was home to three Wisconsin Champion trees—a catalpa, Douglasfir and boxelder.

Longtime groundskeeper, the German-born Wally Koehn, now deceased, reported that the boxelder, which had been held together with tons of concrete and many feet of cable, finally succumbed and was removed by the Rudy Lange Tree Service in 1980. The majestic Douglasfir and catalpa, growing in the front lawn and once visible from the lake, are now gone.



Wally Koehn beside catalpa at Green Gables Estate

B-Wolfgang Hoffmann (1979)

Excerpted from ***Every Root an Anchor: Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees***
by R. Bruce Allison
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