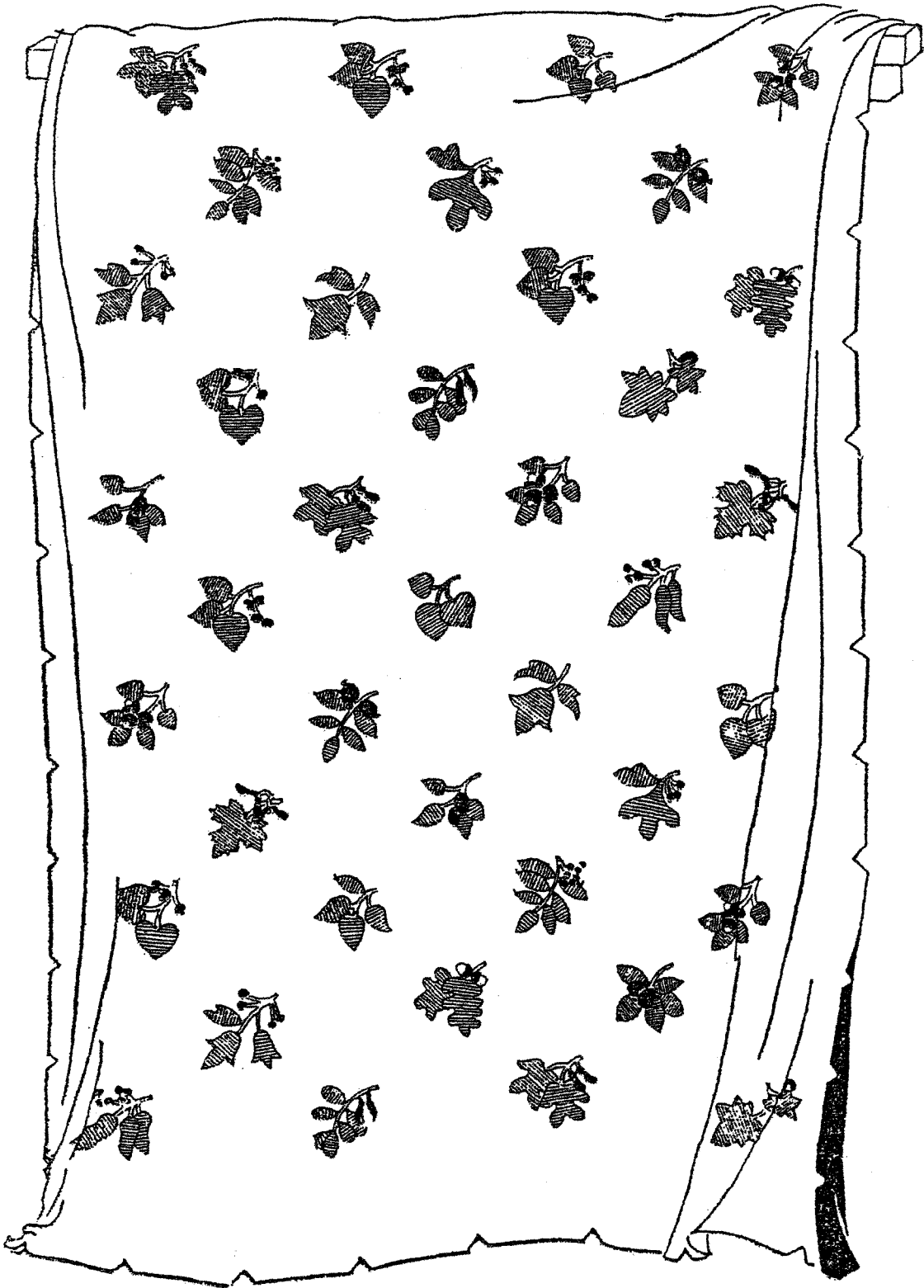


Falling Leaves Quilt

Nancy Page Quilt Club



Here we are with our new quilt. I'll tell you what we call it before I show the picture. I named it "Falling Leaves." Across the entire top are drifting leaves or sprays of leaves sometimes with their fruit, which may be seedpod or nuts. Think how nice this quilt would look in that bedroom that has an old orchard in the distance or the one with the big maple tree just outside on the front lawn.

"Yes, and think how nice such a quilt would be for a person who was brought up on a farm and had moved to the city where there were no trees, on the city streets. Wouldn't it be a comfort to look at this quilt and to see leaves of the yellow locust or the hickory or the sweet gum? It would compensate almost for the barren city streets. Let's see the quilt."

Nancy unfolded her new quilt and draped it high so that the members could see it in all its green leafiness.

She told them there were 18 different trees represented in this quilt. These leafy clusters are appliquéd, each on its own 8-inch block and pieced together to make the center of the quilt. This gives a panel 40 inches by 56 inches. Then the leaves repeated themselves over the rest of the quilt. There is no special border with appliquéd vines or leafy clusters. Instead there is an eight-inch strip of plain material at the bottom, top and sides. This strip is left straight except for the small pointed indentions cut into it at eight-inch intervals.

Nancy said they might use plain green for the back of the quilt, although she seldom advised it. The reasons therefore were two, first the green material was apt to fade and grow soiled where the body of the sleeper came into contact with it. Second, the slightest irregular quilting stitches show up more on colored backgrounds than they do on white.

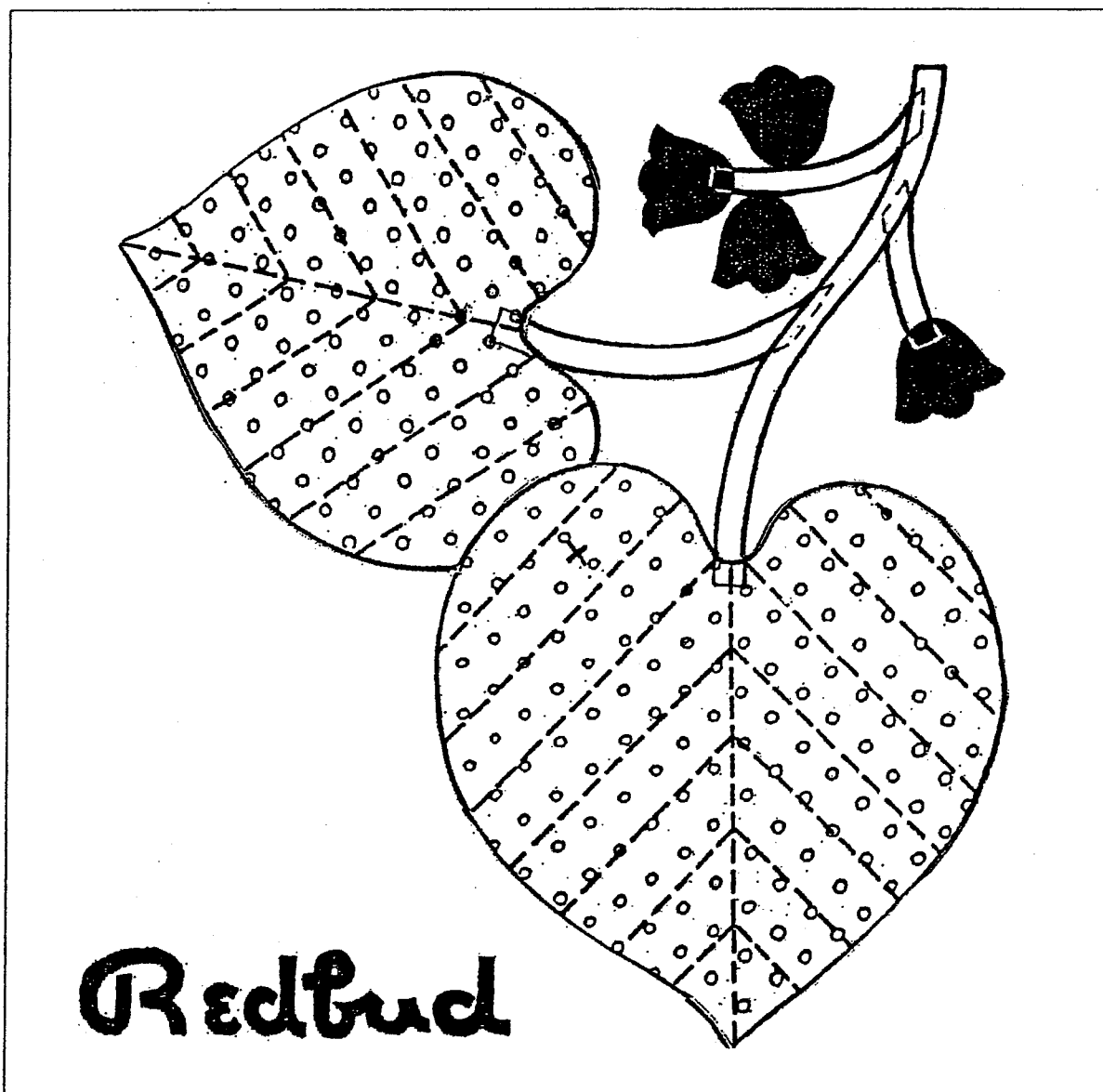
"What colors do you suggest Nancy?"

I have three-color schemes. First, a background of white or ivory. Use the patterned old-fashioned print calico in green for all the leaves. Have the fruits or nuts either in reds or in yellows or in both these colors. Be sure though, that the calico is fast color. You could use modern prints of different kinds, all greens. Have the cluster of leaves from one tree made of one print and those of another tree of another print and so on. You might have one diagonal row of leaves in yellow green prints and the next row in the blue green pieces. But be careful that the two greens harmonize. You might have the stems of the yellow green leaves made of the plain darker blue green material and the stems of the blue green leaves of a plain yellow.

Certain shades of rich brown will make nice seed pods, but I have an idea you will get more sparkle if you keep to reds and yellows, not strident ones, that yell at you but with rich soft colors. For the third scheme, use a pale green background on which you put the leaves.

"Let's go to work, what do we do first?"

"Select your background, white ivory, gold or pale green. For an all over quilt cut 39 blocks 8 ½ inches square. You will appliquéd a leaf cluster on each one of these. Then you will need 38 plain ones of the same sizes. For a panel quilt you will need 18 squares for appliquéd and 17 squares left plain. I suggest that you draw threads to cut the squares exact and true.



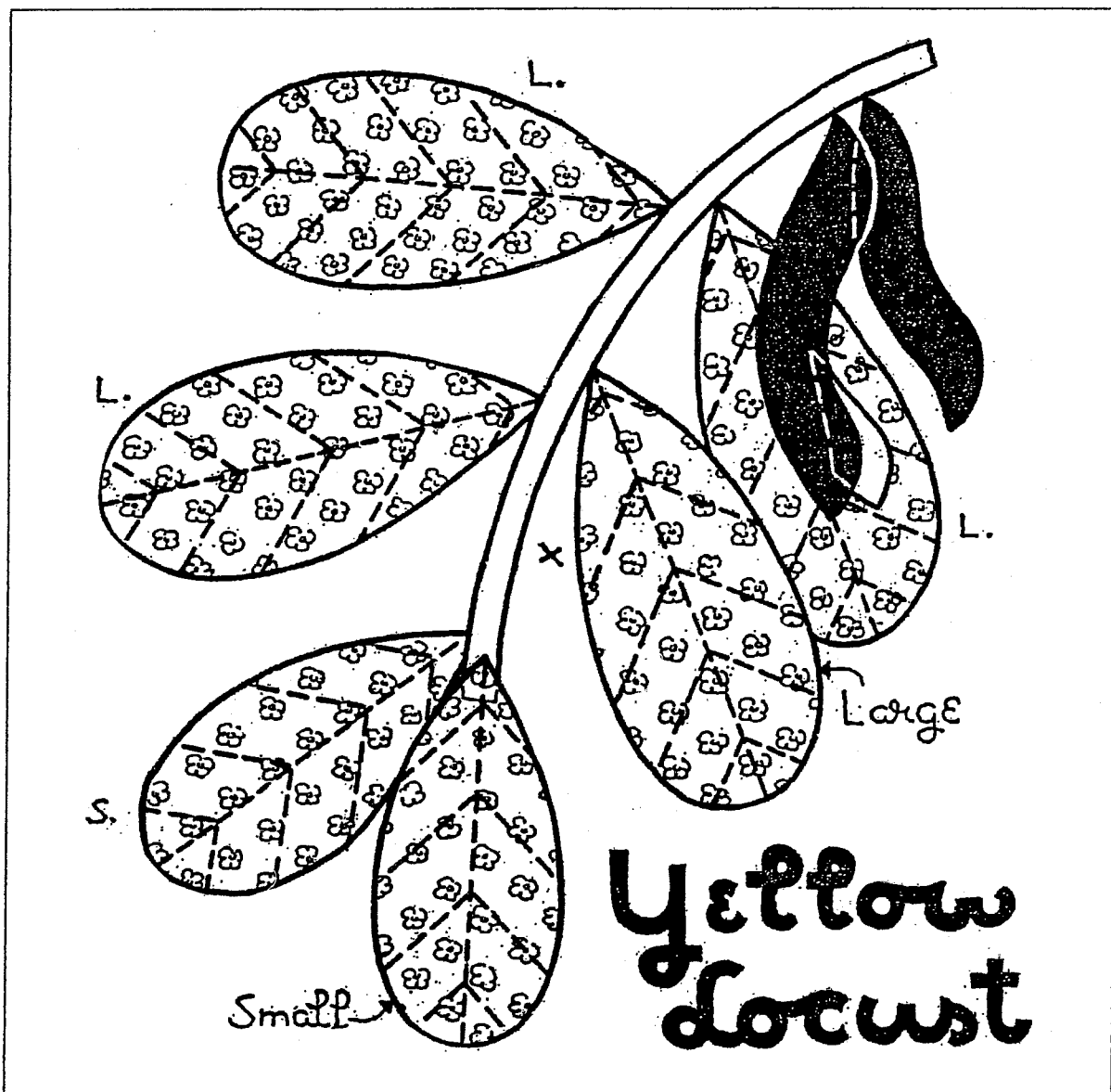
Falling Leaves Quilt— Leaf Pattern No. 1

The branches may be picked in January sprayed two or three times with warm water and then put into a deep vase filled with water. Before long the buds will break into pinky red flowers. It is this characteristic color of the bud that has given the

plant its popular name of Redbud, although the fruit is rose color, too. In the fall the leaves turn a soft yellow.

I suggest a yellowish green, small-figured print for this cluster, and a soft red for the buds. The stems may be brown or a deep green.

Nancy suggested that the stems be appliquéd in, but I think they would look better embroidered with three strands of embroidery floss so the veins really stand out on your quilt. Pick your embroidery floss to coordinate with the leaf fabric.



Falling Leaves Quilt—Leaf Pattern No. 2

Last week we had the Redbud tree, which belongs to the legume or pea family. This week we sow another relation of the group. This is the Yellow Locust. I fancy that those of you who have ever walked under a locust tree in the spring and heard the hum of bees and smelled the fragrance of the blossoms have a real appreciation for the tree, which is equaled by your dislike for its habits and its rather ungainly appearance when the leaves have fallen. The ground is strewn with the

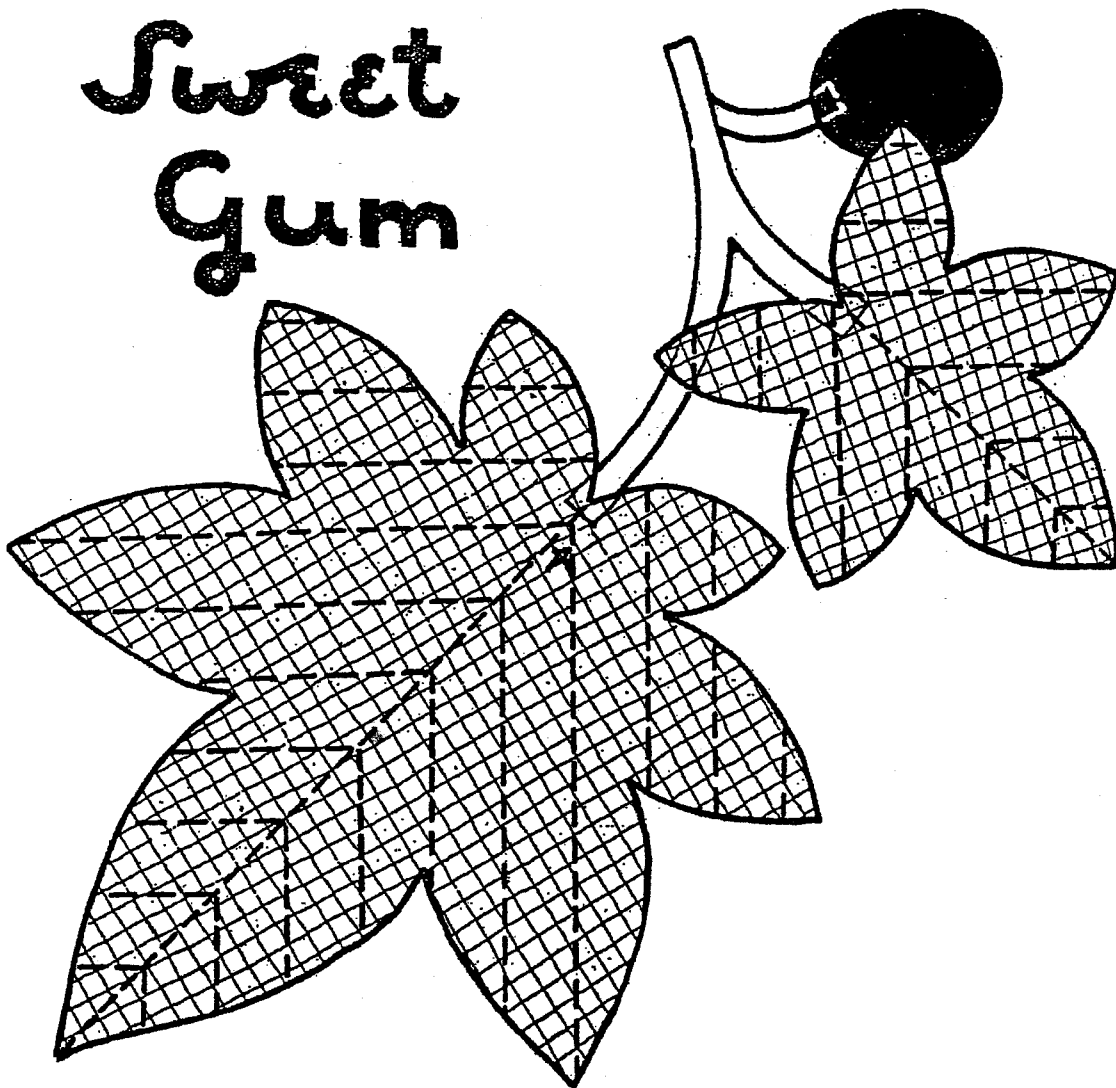
dried bits of the erstwhile fragrant white flowers. And, the branches grow in irregular shapes and fashions so that the trees winter silhouette is anything but pleasing.

Perhaps you know the acacias are found in Europe and on our Western coast. This tree is sometimes called a "Pseudo acacia" but it does not belong to the same family. Then you may remember which are supposed to have been the food of St. John the Baptist as he wondered in the wilderness. Some scholars believed that this tree with its long pendulous brown fruit

Pods was the source of the locust bean, but research shows that this Biblical food was from another tree, nevertheless the name "Locust" has clung to it.

The leaves are done in medium to dark green. There are four large leaves and two small ones. So only two templates are needed. The brown seedpod can be done in appliqué or satin stitch embroidery. Hand-dyed fabrics, with their irregular color, give an attractive variation effect to the patterns.

Sweet Gum



Falling Leaf Quilt—Leaf Pattern No. 3

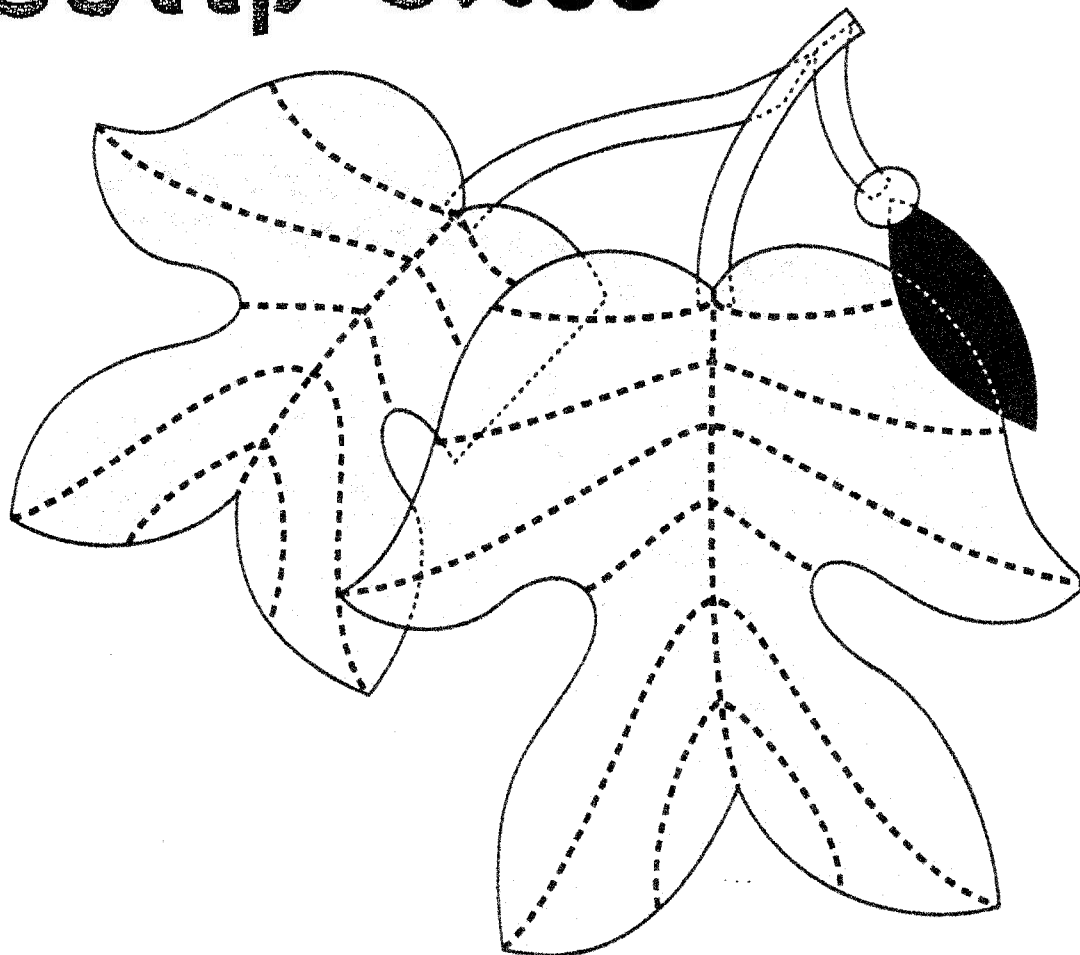
If I told you that this leafy cluster was taken from a tree called by the botanists "Liquid Ambar Stryaciflua" would you know what I was talking about? But if I said, "now we are going to appliqué the sweet gum" most of you

would say "oh yes, I know that tree. It grows on our street and has those beautiful flaming red leaves in the fall. Then there are those interesting pendulous balls that are a soft cinnamon brown." In the far south the tree has difficulty in growing

and is seldom seen. But it's an old familiar friend to many.

Use a yellow-green print for the leaves, and the stem use a deep green or brown. The Seed Pod is "soft cinnamon brown." Be sure to clip into the deep valleys between leaf sections to get a crisp shape.

Tulip Tree



Falling Leaves Quilt— Leaf Pattern, No. 4

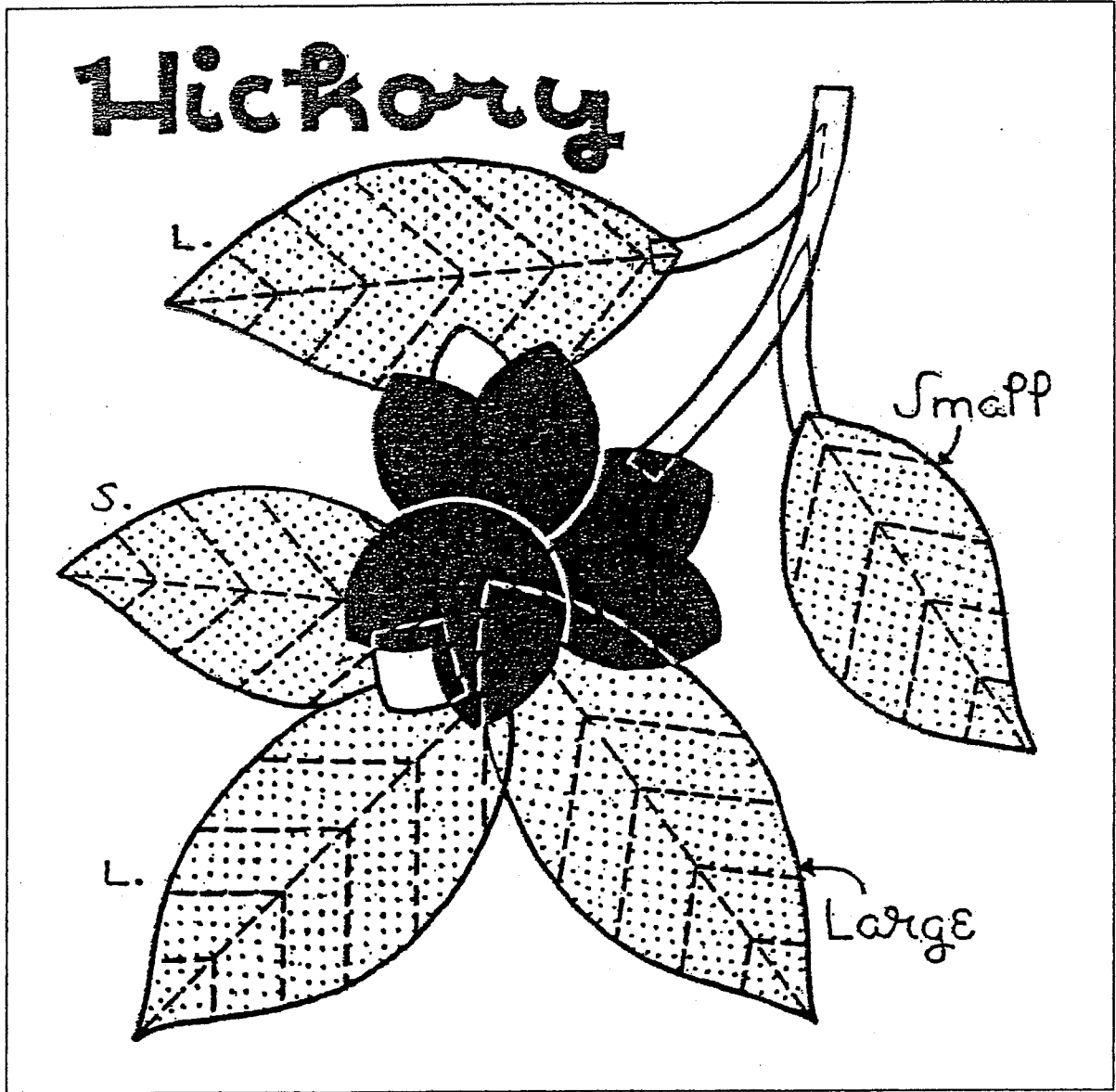
I rather expect some of you to call this leaf by another name, than that I have given it. I say it comes from the Tulip Tree. It has that name because the flowers that appear in the spring are quite reminiscent of the shape of a tulip blossom. Some people call this tree a yellow poplar because its leaves have something of the same

fluttering quality as poplar leaves.

This name is really foreign to its species however. It belongs in the mulberry group. Some people call the tree white wood because of the characteristic whiteness of the wood. Indians used to make canoes from the tree trunks and in some localities where Indians used to be

numerous and legends persist the tree is called the canoe tree. So you can see you can call it by almost any name. City people like the tree because it grows tall, symmetrical and becomes an admirable shade tree.

The leaves are dark green in summer and turn a yellow shade by fall. The small cone like fruit is brown.

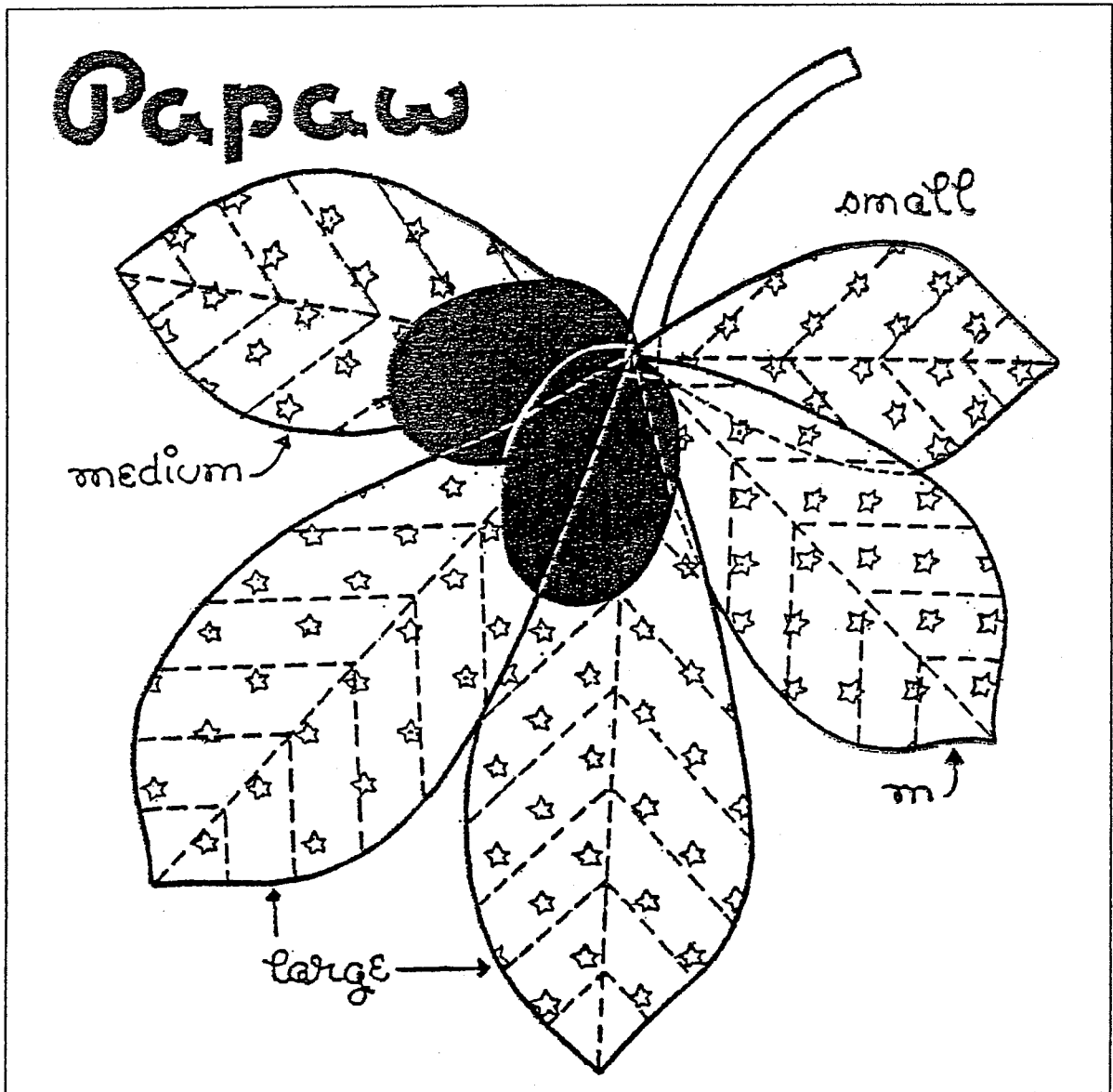


Falling Leaves Quilt—Leaf Pattern No. 5

The Hickory Nut Tree is essentially a North American tree. It is reported to get its name from decoction that Indians used to make from its nuts, with their kernels shell and outer bark.

The outer part of the nut divides itself as it dries into four distinct parts that may easily be peeled off. This leaves the smooth rather grayish-white shelled hickory nut with which we are familiar.

The leaves are a rich green. Use brown or yellow-green for stems. The outer coating of the nut is reddish-brown, with a yellow nut.



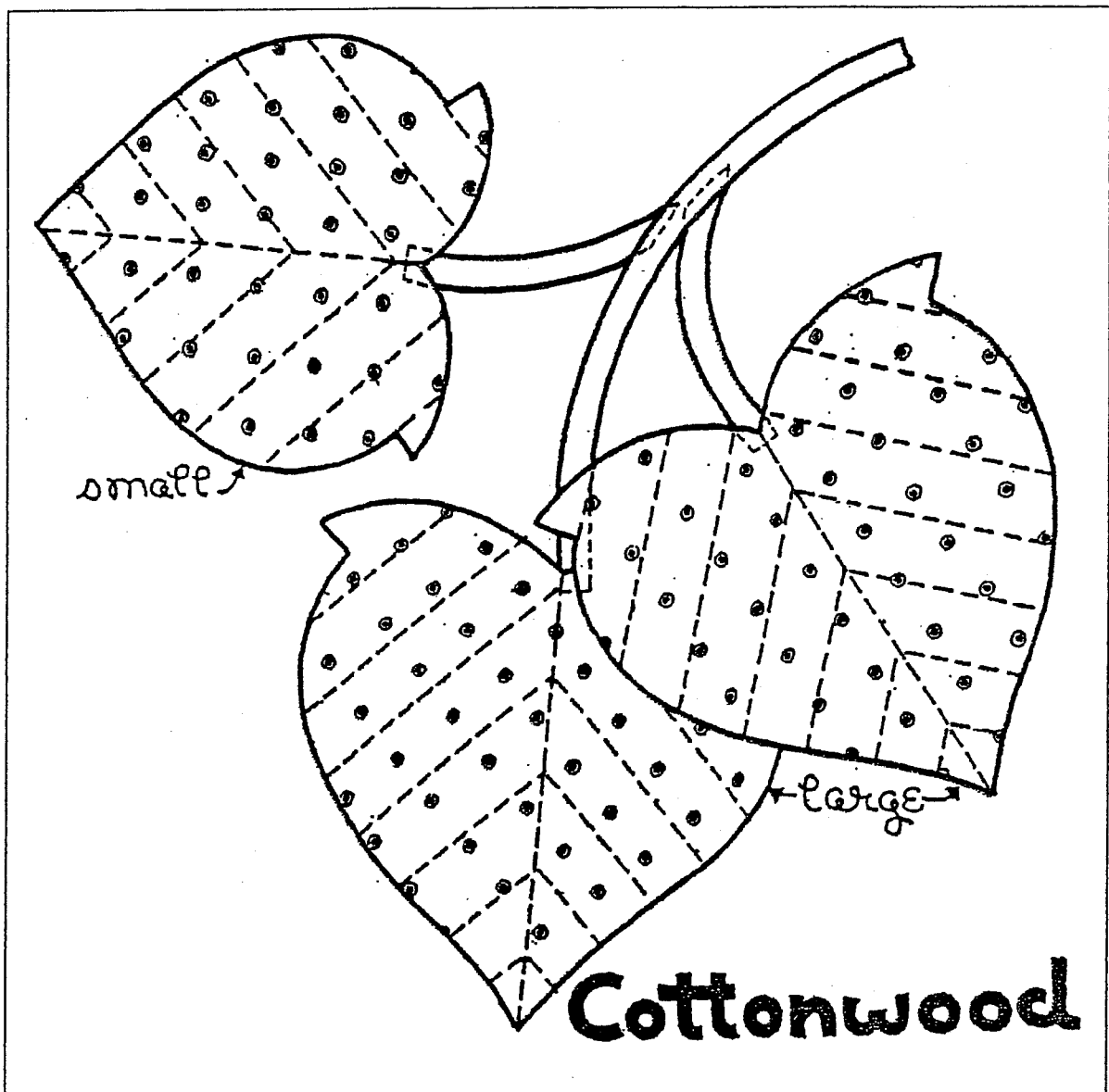
Falling Leaves quilt—leaf pattern No. 6

The Papaw Tree has made a decided place for itself in shady spots all through the section of North America where it flourishes. It is not at its best in the forest because the tree seldom grows tall enough to find its place in the sun. But near riverbanks and in places where the soil is rich you will find clumps of these trees growing so close

together that the leaves of one tree are almost resting on the leaves of another. The tree belongs to the custard-apple family. Its name "Papaw" was given to it because the fruit bore a resemblance to the real papaw. The fruit is somewhat cylindrical and resembles to a certain degree a small

banana. But the flavor is not too appealing unless one is starving or very young. At that age almost anything tastes good.

Use a light green print for the leaves. The fruit is brown, as is the stem. The fruit sits on top of the leaves; the dotted lines indicate placement of leaves under the fruit.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 7

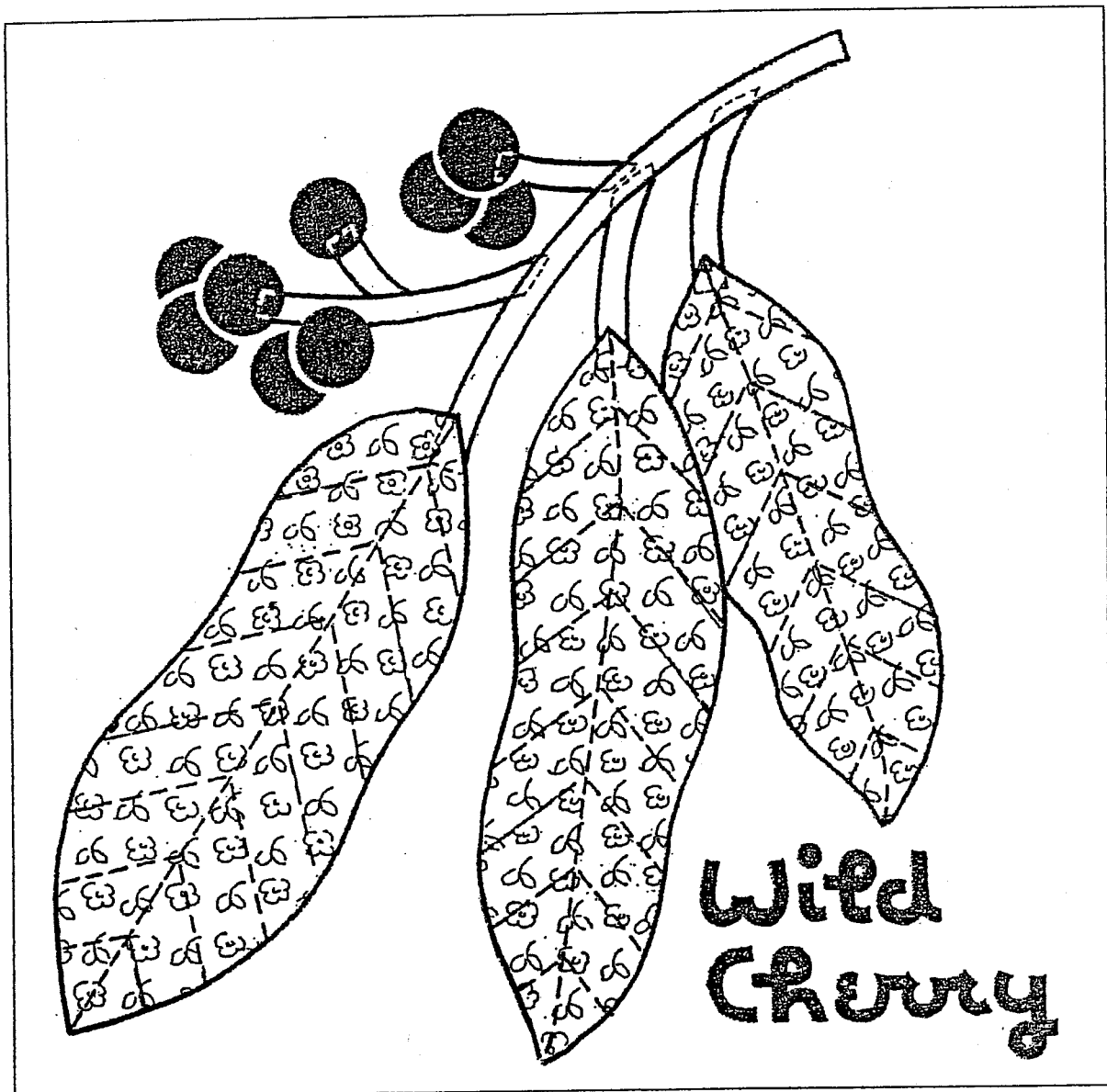
Members of the Nancy Page Quilt Club were enjoying how the Falling Leaves quilt was being developed. Nancy introduced the seventh pattern to them and she discussed the over all quilt design.

I suppose that you have been wondering what the seventh leaf would be. It's the Cottonwood.

A person who has never had a seeing eye as far as trees are concerned might think that the falling leaves quilt would be monotonous in pattern but not so. The varying shapes of the leaves the variety in order, the different kinds of fruit make each block a different one from its neighbor.

Nancy suggested that old-

fashion prints in modern reproductions be used. This is interesting considering the pattern appeared in a 1930's newspaper. The cottonwood leaf can be done in varying shades of blue-green to yellow green, or in their fall colors of rusty orange, clear yellow, flaming red or warm brown. The stems are somber brown.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 8

The previous pattern, the Cottonwood, is not as familiar to people from beyond the Rockies, but not so with the Wild Cherry. This tree is about as widely distributed as any tree in the whole continent. Prairie folk will have a special appreciation of this pattern.

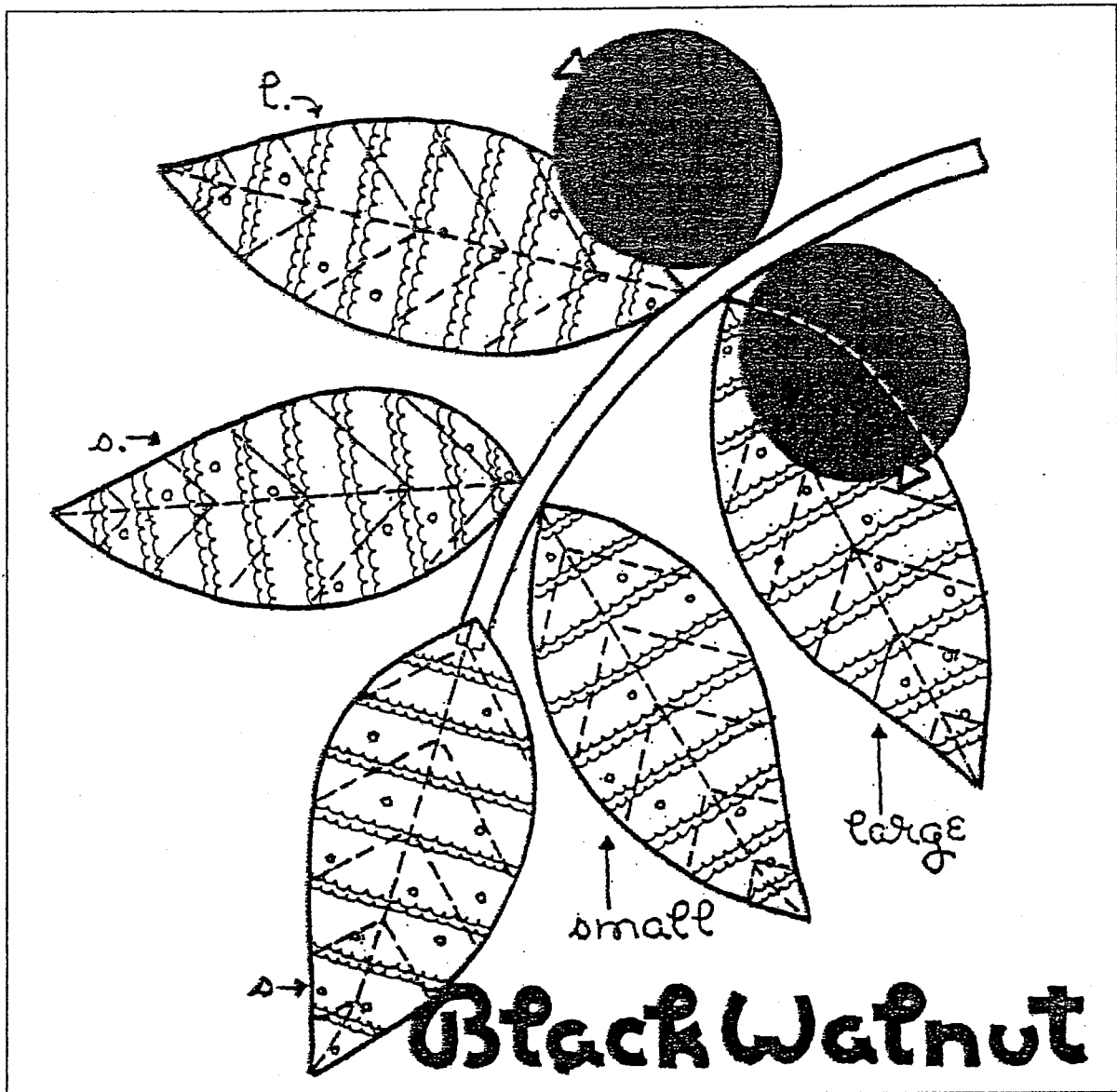
I wonder how many of you know the Choke Cherry? I

thought some of you would recognize the tree or large shrub under that name, when you might not know it as "Wild Cherry". I can remember eating a few of the cherries when I was a girl spending my summers in the country. The berries had an astringent taste and puckered my mouth into all kinds of wry shapes.

There was not much pulp

on the fruit, but what was there did plenty of puckering I can assure you.

Use a deep green print for the leaves, deep burgundy for the fruit and a woody brown for the stems. The fall color of the leaf is rusty brown. If doing fabric for appliqué for fruit, make a circle template and repeat it, overlapping cherries as shown.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 9

There are many tales about this tree, and Nancy told some of her group, as she introduced this pattern.

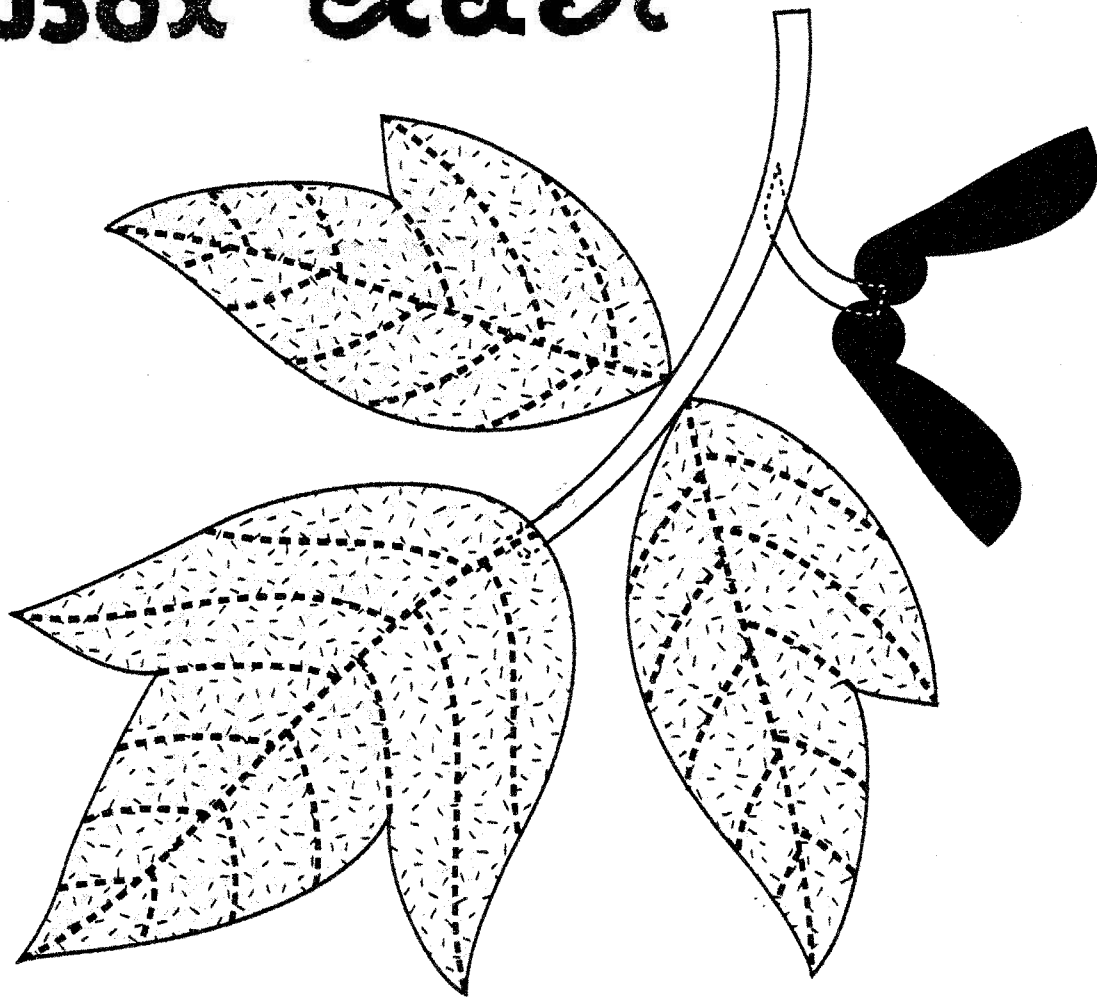
I wish that I had time to tell you some of the interesting stories and myths which center around the "Black Walnut." In the first place it was the towering tree of love, with acorns that Ovid refers to. The early Romans sued the word "acorn" not for the fruit of the oak tree but of the

walnut tree. There has been superstition that the shade of the black walnut tree is unhealthy and pioneers kept away from its environs. Because the leaves are extremely tannic and astringent it is quite possible that the fallen leaves kill the grass, which grows under the tree. Hence this idea that the shade is unhealthy. This is one of the best examples of Nature's adapting its growth to circumstances and

surroundings. On the farm and in among human habitations the tree has sweeping branches which touch the ground. It is a thing of beauty with its yell green foliage which casts almost a golden glow about its neighborhood.

There are two leaf patterns. The leaves are yellow-green in summer and a bright yellow in autumn. Stems are grayish-brown and the walnuts are almost black.

Box Elder

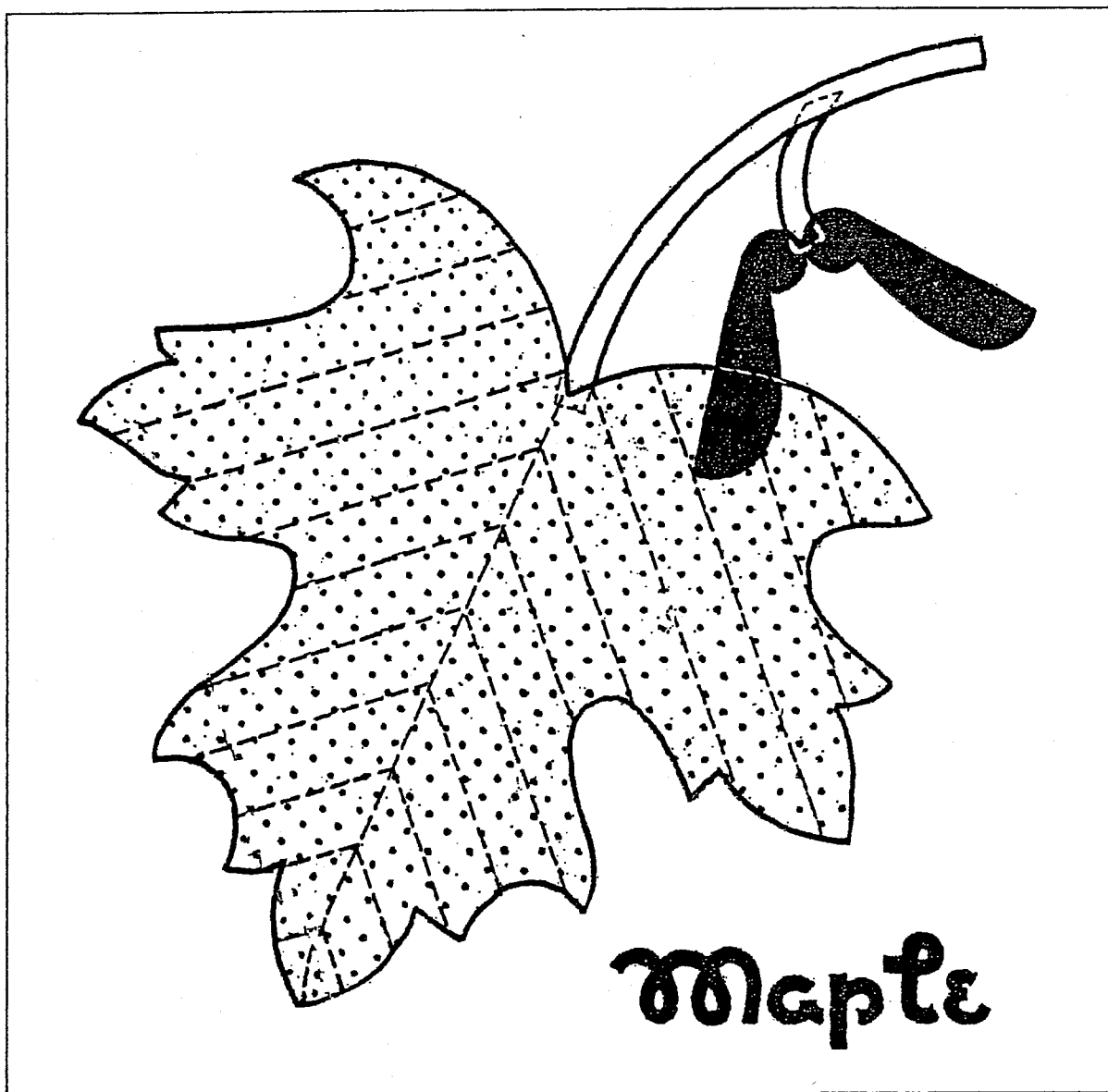


Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 10

The compound leaf of this tree makes it more difficult to think of it as a maple, but Nancy explained the names she called it as she introduced the pattern to her group. To save argument, I have called this tree "Box Elder". That is one of its names, true, but it belongs to the Maple family and is frequently called Ash Maple. But since we seldom think of the leaf

of any maple tree as being compound we question the name 'maple', question, that is, until we see the seed or raceme which is a key exactly like the other maples. Then we know that this is a relative, although one which bears little outward likeness to its other cousins. The key appears in midsummer and is a rich green in appearance.

This tree is like the silver maple in showing no trace of red in the autumn coloring of the leaves. They turn a pale yellow as the winter season approaches. It's a graceful, rather airy tree which is found in great abundance in the middle west. It is found west of the Rockies, but as a different variety.

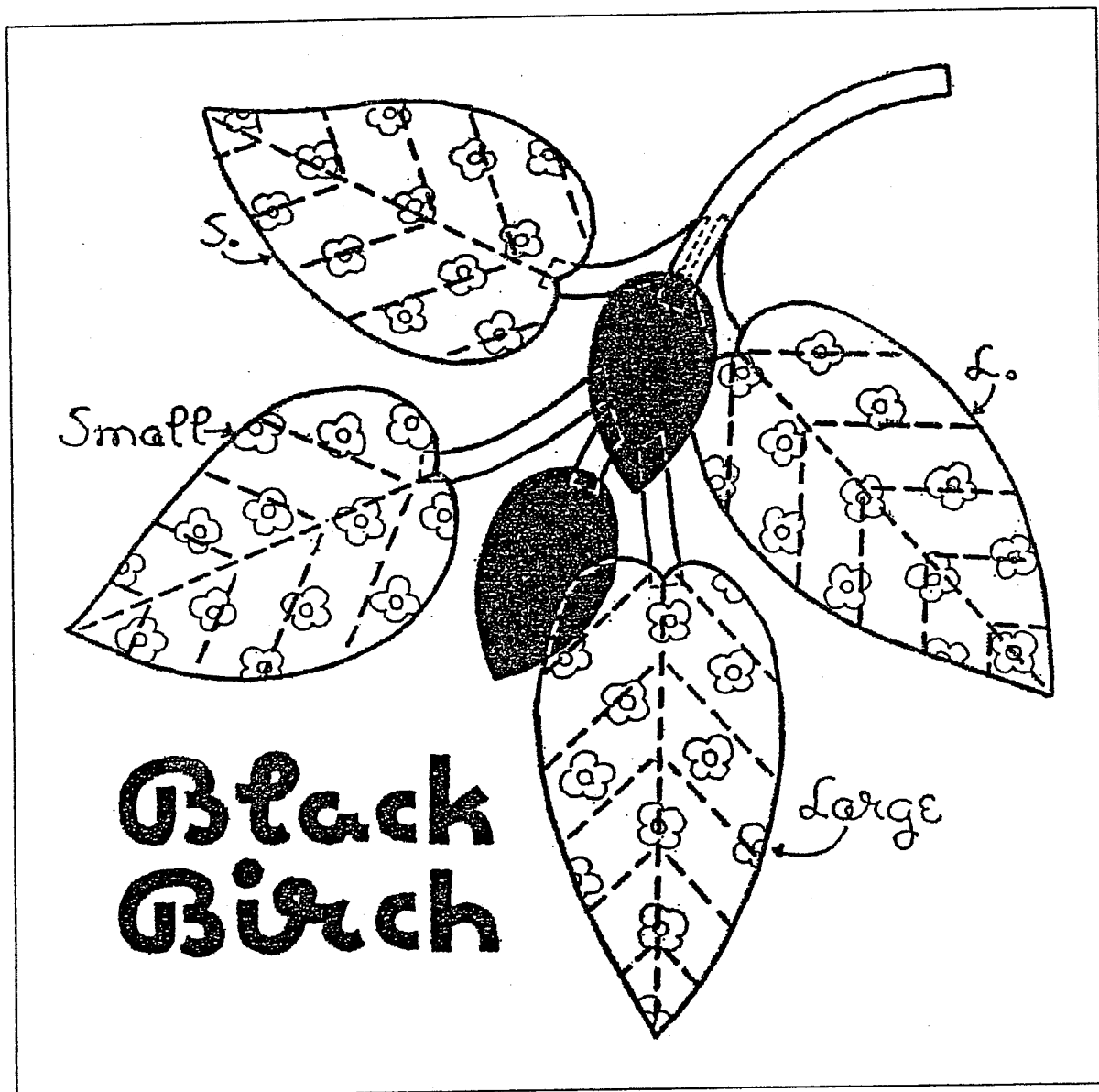


Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 11.

I said last week that the distinguishing mark of the Maple was the kind of seed pod or key that it had. These seedpods are called samaras. Here is the key in its characteristic shape. Note how graceful it is.

The Silver Maple with its lacy, delicate-shaped leaf, green on top and silvery underneath is one of the most attractive. The Silver Maple leaf turns yellow in the fall, the Sugar Maple turns brilliant red.

Use rich green for the summer leaf, or a brilliant crimson or rusty orange for autumn coloring. The seed pods are pale green; however, Nancy suggested that scarlet or yellow could be used if contrast were desired, even though those colors are not authentic.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 12

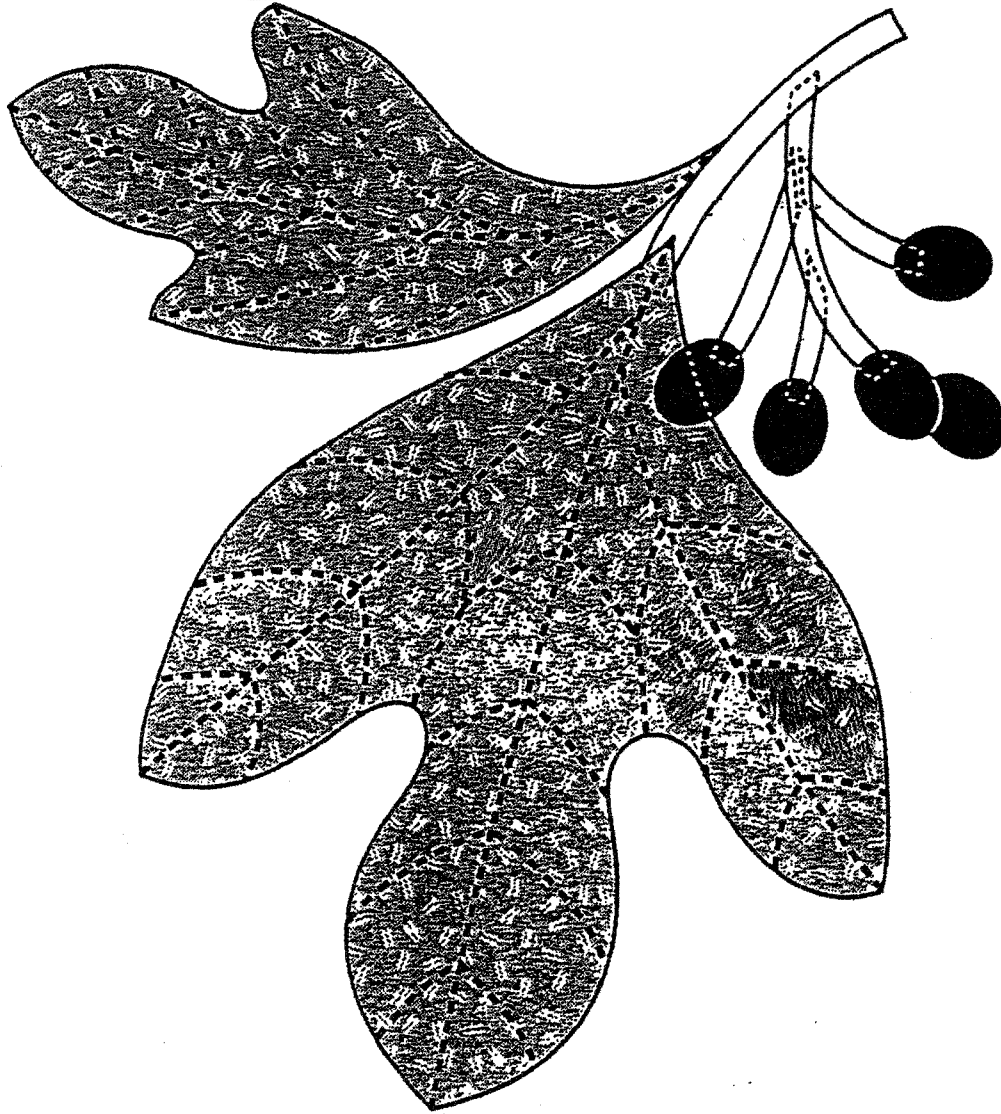
The "Black Birch" has a number of other names. Sometimes it is called a "Sweet Birch" because the inner bark has a pleasant, almost spicy taste. And the third name given to the tree is "Mahogany" because the wood so closely resembles mahogany in grain and color.

I suppose most of you know that birch is frequently substituted for mahogany in furniture and in many cases no one is the wiser. With the more careful labeling and marking which is required by law or demanded by public opinion this substitution is made less frequently. It is too

bad that birch is not allowed to stand or fall on its own merits because it is really a beautiful wood.

The birch leaf is a dark to medium green and turns yellow in the fall. The stems are brown. The fruits, which are applied on last, are yellow or brilliant red.

Sassafras



The thirteenth pattern Nancy discussed was a tree common in eastern United States, with only two other species of it in China and Taiwan.

Sassafras Tea is familiar to everyone who spent a childhood in the country. I am not sure that the tea had any special value beyond that which comes, in any case, from drinking hot water, but I used to ask for it when a little girl because I liked the flavor. There is a peculiar mucilaginous quality to the bark and many people chew it to ease a rasping throat. The tree is peculiar in many ways. In the first place the tree has a way of spreading itself and

clumping in a sort of family patch. It sends up suckers, which grow into small trees surrounding the parent tree with its thick fleshy roots.

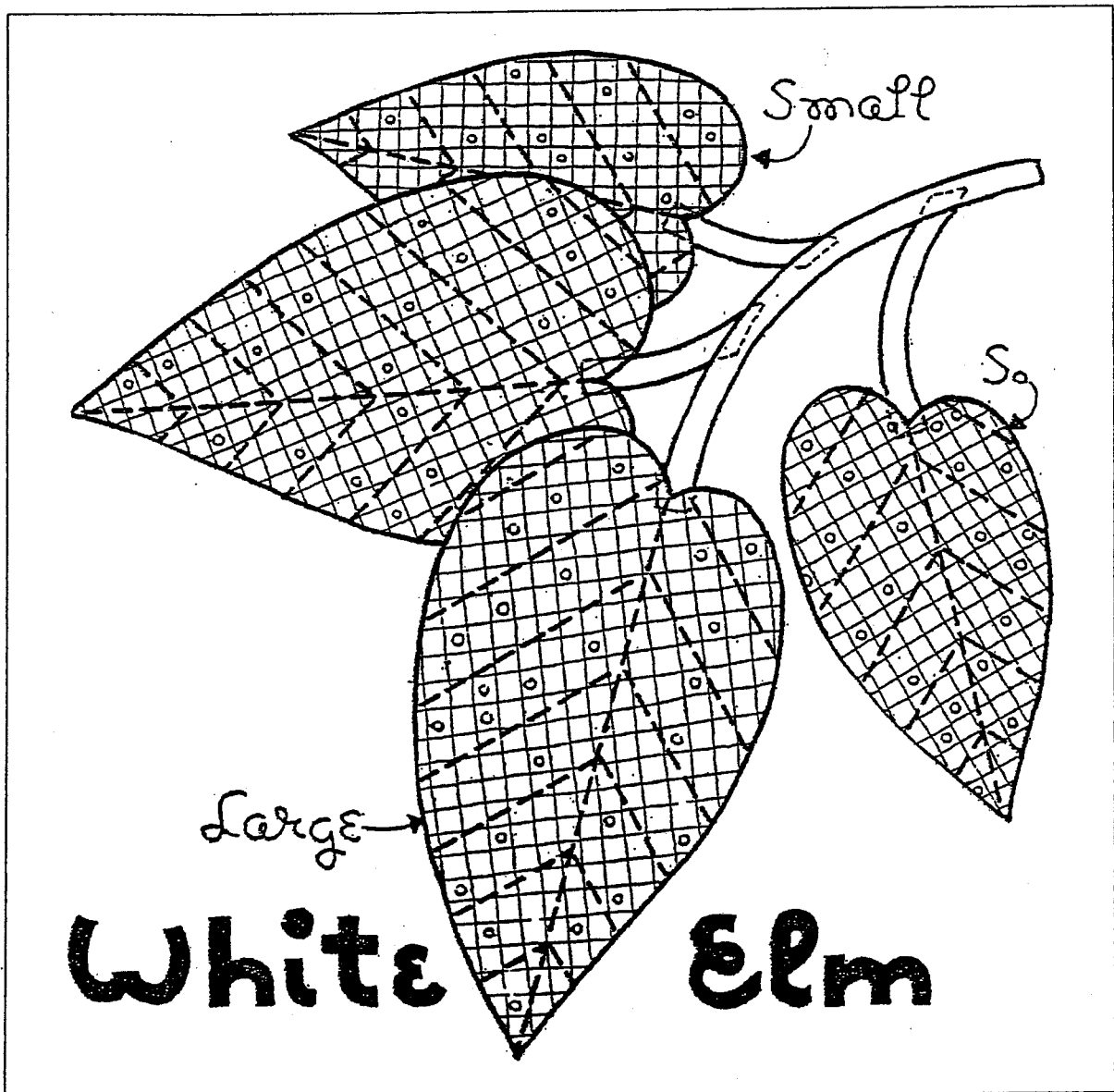
The second peculiarity lies in the fact that the leaves may be of three different shapes on the same tree. One shape of leaf is shown in the design. Another type is the one known as "mitten". There is one small lobe that resembles the thumb of a mitten and a larger lobe resembles the part that covers the palm of the hand. The third type of leaf is rather the regular ovate one.

Then the fruit of the sassafras is unusual. It is a deep rich dark blue with a small calyx of brilliant red.

You seldom see these fruits on the tree because the birds like the flavor and are attracted apparently by the color. They swoop down on the tree and eat all the available fruit even before it is ripe.

The tree itself looks older than it really is because its outer bark cracks, grows ivy and ridged as if it bore life's vicissitudes with ill grace.

The sassafras leaf is a dark green, which turns brilliant shades of red and orange in the fall. The stems are brown and twigs are green. The fruits, which are applied on last, are rich dark blue in a red cup, suspended from red stalks.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 14

The endangered elm tree was the subject of Nancy's fourteenth pattern in the Falling Leaves quilt.

I never look at an elm tree but I think of the sorry sight I saw in New England a few years ago as I motored through the eastern states. Here were the old stately, graceful elms with their branches sweeping out and up into shape almost like that of an Etruscan vase. But the leaves were almost stripped from the trees. Desolation hand in hand with the elm trees. I learned that a

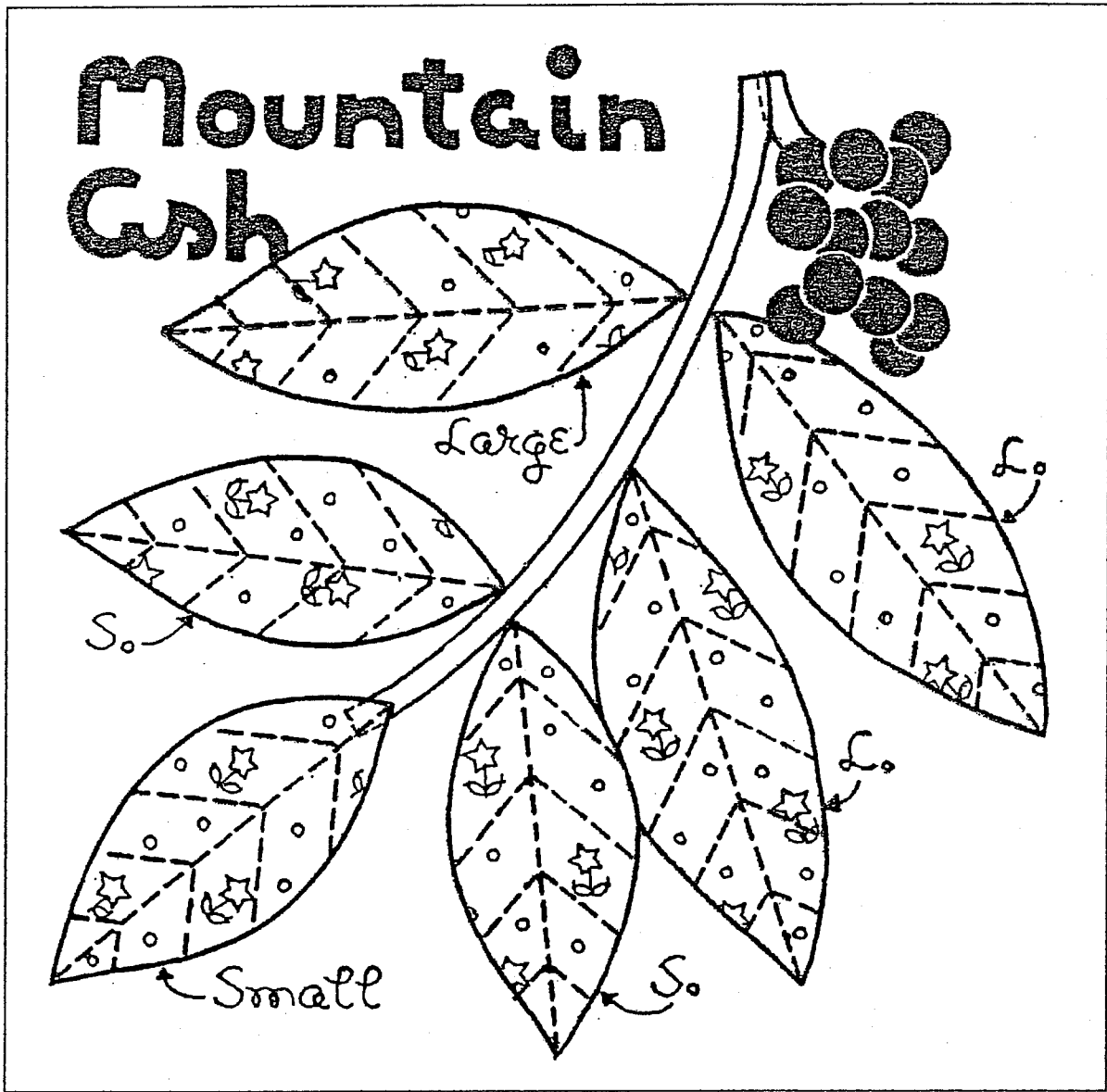
European pest had come to this country and was despoiling most of the elms. The loss seemed almost irreplaceable.

I never have been able to decide whether I liked the tree's appearance better in summer or in winter. I believe that its bare branches as they are outlined against the sky are as graceful as the tall, leaf-covered tree. Since the leaves cling close to the branches there is less fluttering and damage and dancing about than you find in some of the trees with leaves

having long slender stems.

The tree flowers early in the spring but its flowers are so small and inconspicuous and its flowering branches are up so high that the flowers go practically unnoticed. The same thing is true of the seed or fruit, which is profuse in quantity and small in size, not more than one-half inch in length.

The elm tree is dark green, which turn yellow in the fall, and the stems are a lighter, with the spray of leaves does not show the seed.



Falling Leaves Quilt — Leaf Pattern No. 1A

Nancy introduced the mountain ash by relating to her group the belief in its protective power.

Do you remember seeing that rather small, densely foliated tree, dark green with orange clusters of bright orange berries? It is a decorative specimen or lawn tree, cultivated for its picturesque qualities. Not always was it considered, though. The Ancient and, in fact, superstitious European people of today think of the mountain ash a protection against witches.

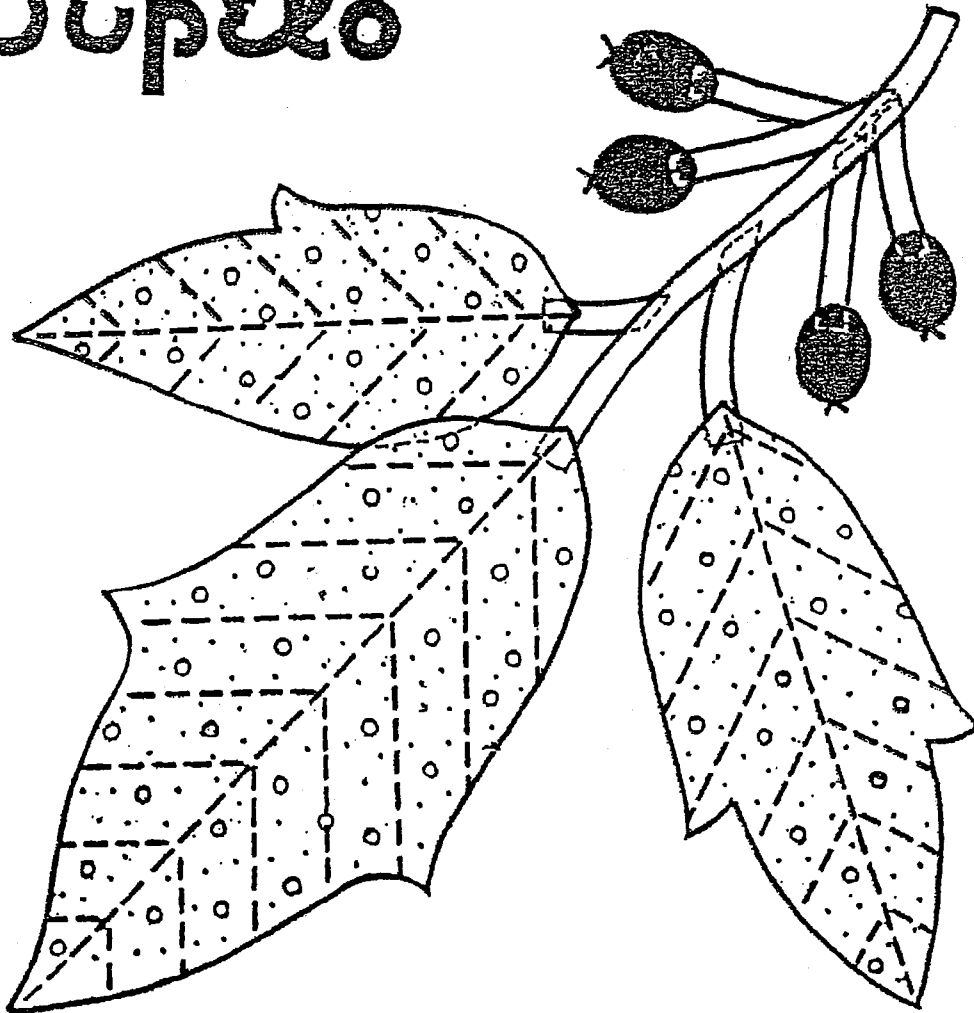
The rowan tree is their name for it. They used to make walking sticks out of wood. Twigs and small branches were hung in the cottage or stable. Witches would never dare to come near to the house that had enough bits of rowan tree protecting it. You may remember that Barrie used the rowan tree in his famous play "The little Minister." If you live west of the Rockies, you have not seen the tree growing in your local haunts. But east of the Rockies it grows well although it

frequently attains no more than the size of a large bush.

Birds do not like the berries. They find them bitter and extremely acid. Only when threatened with great hunger will they peck at the berries of the mountain ash.

Leaves are a rich, warm green which turn into yellow, orange and crimson in the fall and the stems are brown. The berries are bright orange. If you appliqué the berries they are all the same size. You may wish to embroider them with a satin stitch.

Tupelo



Sunday Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 16

The tupelo is another of those trees known by several names, as explained by Nancy as she introduced this pattern to her quilting group.

I am willing to wager that few of you call this tree by its right name, but perhaps after all "Sour Gum" and "Pepperidge" are just as correct as Tupelo. It is largely a matter of various parts of the country having different names for the same tree. In New England it retains its Indian name tupelo, but in the south the tree is called "Sour Gum," and in the Middle West

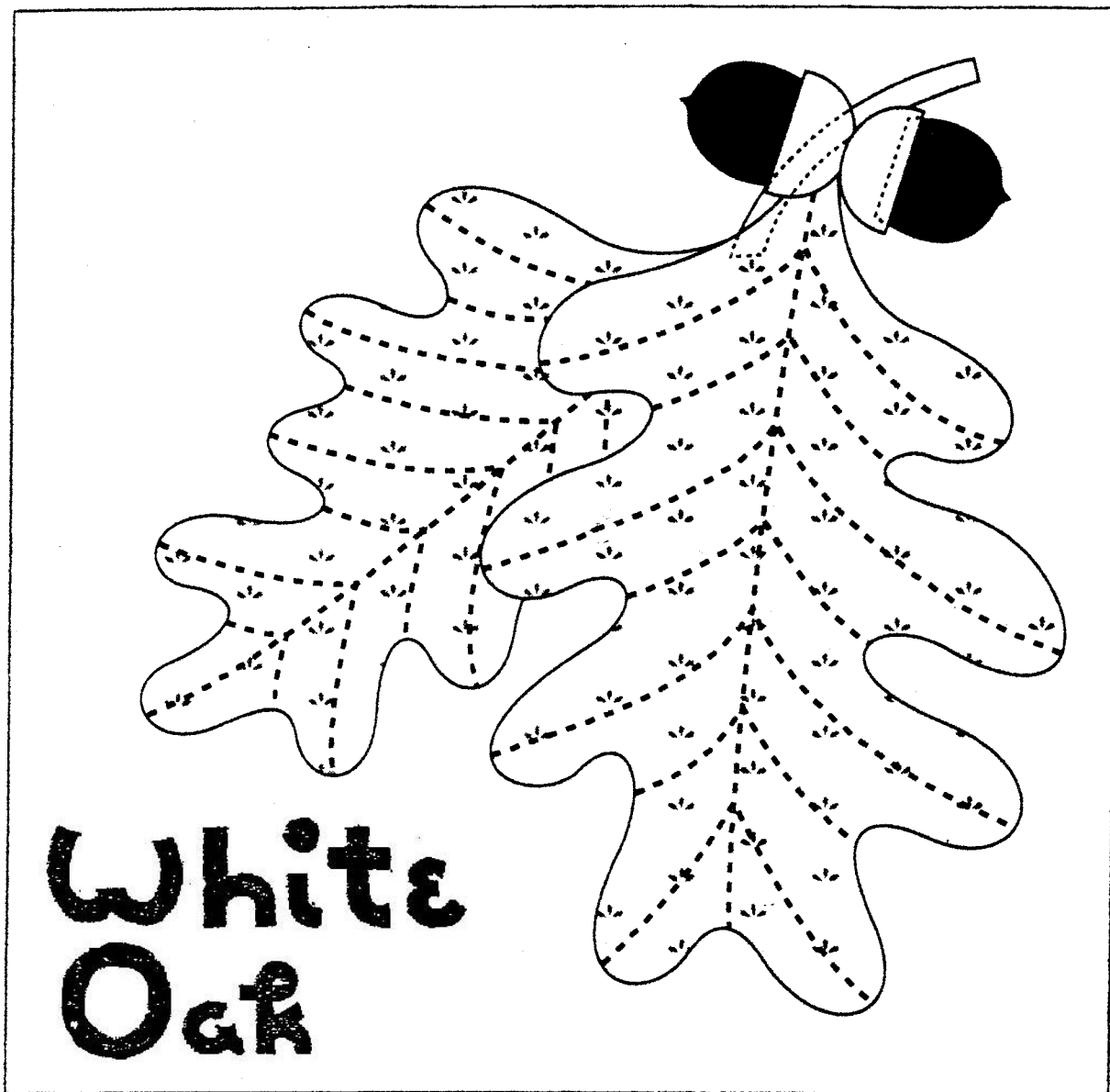
it is known as the "Pepperidge." That set of differences tells you pretty well where the tree grows—east, south and the Middle West. It is not a tree for California.

It is to bad, too, because it would be one of the trees, which, if the climate permitted would give the Pacific coast a marvelous autumn coloring. The leaves are scarlet, sometimes inclining to the orange and sometimes they are just flaming in their brilliance. Only the Sassafras and the Maple can equal the

flooring.

The tree has two different shapes depending on the place in which it grows. If it is crowded in with other trees it develops a rather slender cone, branches sloping down but if the tree grows in the open its head becomes round, branches extending out and up.

Leaves are much like the maple, a rich green that turn to brilliant crimson and rusty orange in the fall. The stems are brown and the fruit is dark blue.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No.17

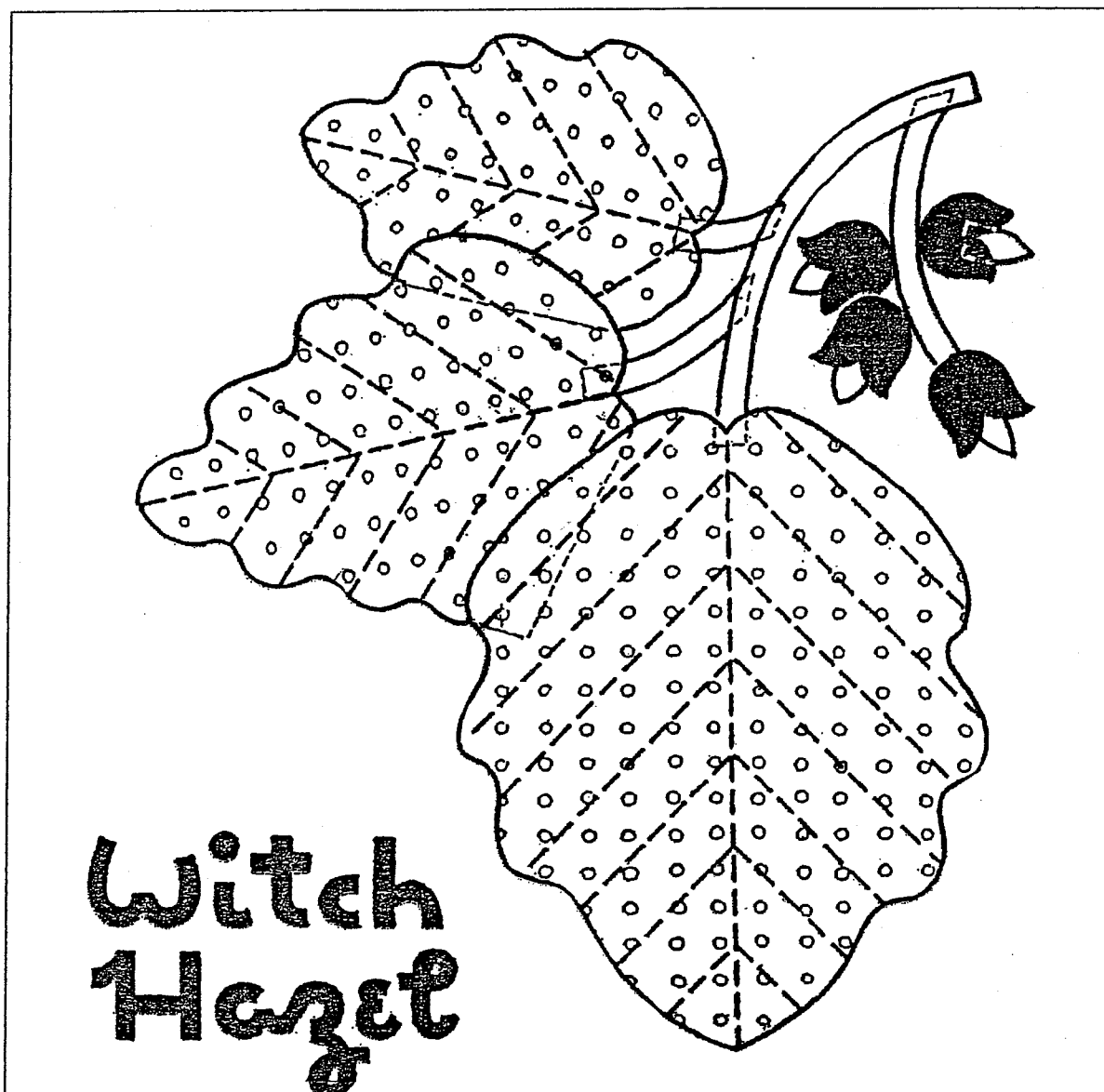
The mighty oak is a source for stories that Nancy related to her quilting group when she introduced the pattern, and after her story, the members grew reminiscent over trees they had known and happenings that centered around trees in their yards or in their grandfather's farm.

There are traditions of all sorts connected with the Oak. It was a white oak, for instance, that was known as the charter oak. This tall and

mighty tree grew in Hartford, Connecticut. When the Indians and the early settlers came to parley the Indians asked that the tree be spared. Our fathers and their fathers have used this tree to tell when to plant the corn. We have used it as a calendar or almanac. Later this tree became the keeper of the last charter and then it received its name "Charter Oak." This mighty tree, which had taken almost a hundred years to

attain its magnificent height and girth, was blown over in a windstorm in 1856. And so deeply did the townsmen feel its loss that they had the bells tolled to mark its falling.

Oak leaves are on the lighter side of green, and in the fall turn various shades of brown. The acorns are in two tones of brown, and the stems are grayish brown.



Falling Leaves Quilt - Leaf Pattern No. 13

The Witch Hazel is the last of the patterns of the Falling Leaf quilt that Nancy introduced to her group.

The last leaf is the witch hazel. It is put in an exceedingly effective group of three leaves with tiny seedpods. In the real tree these seedpods are yellow-brown with a shiny black seed.

The tree is a oddity because the flowers come in the fall

when the branches are still holding the little nuts of the previous autumn. Perhaps the queer appearance of the branches with their yellow blossoms and waving nutlets has given it the name "Witch Hazel." Or perhaps it is the queer way in, which the seeds explode from their fleshy covering. If you bring a twig or branch into a warm house on a cold day in November you will soon be startled to

hear a miniature bombardment as the fleshy coverings are forced open and the black seeds propel themselves into the air. In the out-of-doors the seeds will go as far as fifteen feet from the tree.

The leaves are dark green above, pale green below in the summer time, and a rusty yellow with brown spots in the fall.

The seedpods are yellow-brown.