

## The Jardine Juniper Tree

The Jardine Juniper was discovered on July 23, 1923, by Maurice Blood Linford, a student at Utah State University. It stands on a ridge of rocks roughly 1 mile up the mountainside, directly west of the mouth of Cottonwood Creek, nearly 16 miles up Logan Canyon.

Linford cut a twig from the tree and used his pocket lens to count the annual rings. From the immense size of the trunk he decided that the tree was nearly 3,000 years old. Three days later he took ropes and a measuring tape and made measurements. On August 12, he took two of his brothers with him and made more accurate measurements. The circumference of the trunk was 26 feet, 8 inches, and the tree stood 44 feet, 6 inches tall. That same day he took the first photographs ever taken of the tree.

In June of 1924, Dr. Henry C. Cowles of the University of Chicago, who was teaching at Utah State University at the time, counted the annual rings and concluded that the tree was between 2,700 and 3,000 years old. Additional studies were done in the 1990s and scientists determined the tree to be at least 1,500 years old.

The tree received considerable publicity in the 1920s and 1930s:

- In *America Forest and Forest Life* of August, 1925, Vol. III, #380, one may find a note on Old Juniper written by Maurice B. Linford.
- In 1926, The Bluebird in Logan used an excellent print of Old Juniper on the lid of a box of chocolates.

- On August 17, 1929, the *Herald Journal* published a poem by Mrs. George Z. Rich, wherein she expressed her feelings after visiting the tree.
- In May of 1938, the Old Juniper Stamp Club used a cut of the tree as the center of the cachet that was applied to all airmail letters that left Cache Valley on the first airmail flight from Logan.



- In the summer of 1938, The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Directory featured Old Juniper on the cover page.
- *The Forestry Annual*, Vol. IX, published at USU in 1938, used a cut of Old Juniper on the cover page and gave that volume the name *Utah Juniper*.
- There is an article on Old Juniper in the *Improvement Era* of September, 1939.
- On the cover page of *Utah Educational Review*, September 15, 1939, there is an excellent picture of Old Juniper.

The Forest Service has fenced the tree for its protection. One may stand on the old bridge at the mouth of Cottonwood Creek and see Old Juniper on the skyline. In the early spring

of 1925, faculty from Utah State University made a trail from the mouth of Cottonwood Creek to the tree.

The Juniper Trail is located 10.4 miles east of Logan on U.S. Hwy. 89. Take the Wood Camp turnoff – the trail is 5.8 miles one way.