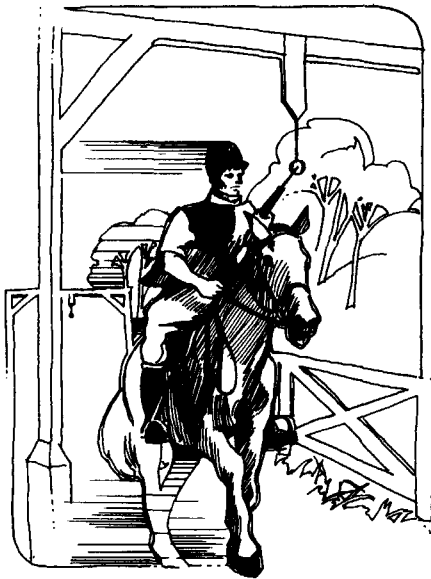


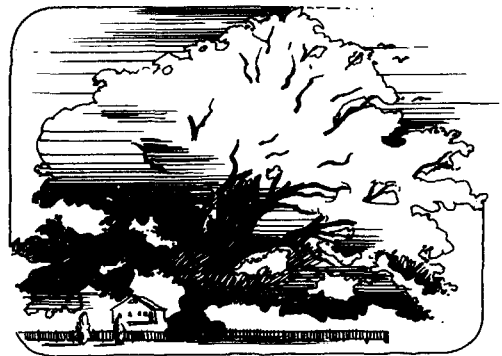
**STATE SONG.** The nine-stanza poem, "Maryland, My Maryland," was written by James Ryder Randall in 1861. A native of Maryland, Randall was teaching in Louisiana in the early days of the Civil War, and he was outraged at the news of Union troops being marched through Baltimore. The poem articulated Randall's Confederate sympathies. Set to the traditional tune of "Lauriger Horatius" ("O, Tannenbaum"), the song achieved wide popularity in Maryland and throughout the South. "Maryland, My Maryland" was adopted as the State song in 1939 (Chapter 451, Acts of 1939; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-307).



**STATE TREE.** In 1941, Maryland designated the White Oak (*Quercus alba*) as the State Tree (Chapter 731, Acts of 1941; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-310). Handsome and sturdy, the white oak is named for its whitish bark and grey twigs. The species is found commonly throughout the state. Decidedly uncommon is the magnificent specimen represented here, known as the Wye Oak, located at Wye Mills on the Eastern Shore. Estimated to be nearly 500 years old, the Wye Oak is the largest white oak tree on record, both in Maryland and the nation. It is one of only two trees surviving as a National Champion since inception of the National Big Tree Register 50 years ago. Among its impressive characteristics are massive buttresses or "knees" at the base which help support this huge tree. The Wye Oak measures 31 feet, 2 inches, in circumference, stands 79 feet tall, and has a crown spread of 102 feet.

MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND

**STATE SPORT.** The equestrian sport of jousting is the official sport of Maryland (Chapter 134, Acts of 1962; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-308). Marked by chivalry and fanfare, jousting remains popular in parts of Maryland today.



**STATE THEATERS.** In 1978, Center Stage in Baltimore was named the State Theater of Maryland (Chapter 1003, Acts of 1978). By the same act Olney Theatre in Montgomery County became the State Summer Theater of Maryland (Code State Government Article, sec. 13-309).