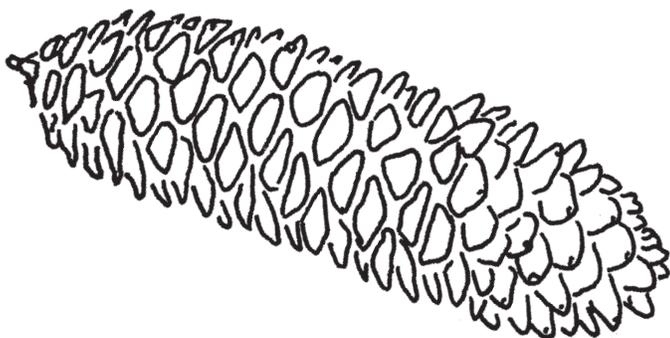


Mystery Photo 6

You can see this tree from so many places on the property that it makes a good landmark to keep in mind as you hike. If you haven't met the tree, walk to the southern edge of the parking lot and look south-southwest. It is the 36-foot tall Norway spruce standing alone in Havenwoods' central grassland. If it could talk, it could tell some amazing stories!

It's hard to pinpoint the exact age of this big spruce tree. On an aerial photo from 1935, it's easy to see that the central area of Havenwoods was farmland. There is no sign of a single tree! The only wooded areas were along the intermittent creek in the southeast corner of the property and around the prison buildings in the northeast corner.

The next aerial photo that we have is from 1950. By this time, the Army had moved in and constructed roads, a post exchange, a mess hall, barracks, and parking lots in the central part of the property. There used to be a roadway that encircled the administration and supply building. From later aerials, we know the spruce tree grew just inside the northeast corner of this curved roadway. I can't tell if it's my wishful imagination, a defect in the photo, or a tree shadow on the 1950 aerial! It actually looks like there were two trees on the photo—one in each corner of the curved road. I think it makes sense for the Army to have planted some trees around their new buildings between 1945 and 1950. Maybe this is the only tree to have survived all these years. If so, it has overheard the conversations of officers, enlisted men, court-martialed soldiers, prisoners of war, Nike missile engineers, reservists, great-horned owls, and countless children during its 60 to 65 years.

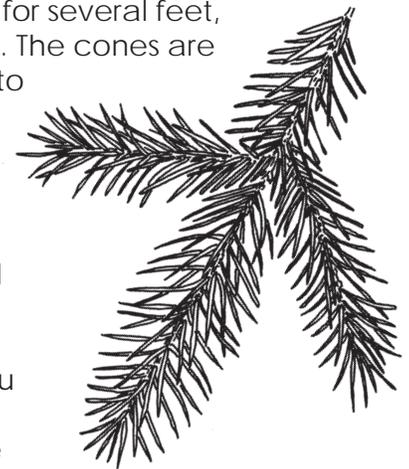


Do you see the spruce in this photo from 1974? Look on the left side in about the middle of the photo.



As their name indicates, Norway spruce trees are native to northern Europe. Since we see them in cities, around farms, and in conifer plantations, it is easy to forget that they are not native to North America. You can tell Norway spruce trees from other evergreens by their dark green needles that point forward along the twigs. The needles of a similar tree, Colorado spruce, point outward from the twigs. The needles are quadrangular and green on all four sides. With age, the pendulous, dense branches hang straight down for several feet, and are called skirts. The cones are light brown and up to seven inches long.

Take a walk around your neighborhood and look for big, old trees. Look for old photographs that show the trees. If you can, try to estimate how long they have been growing and



watching over your neighborhood. Imagine the stories they could tell! If you would like to visit Havenwoods' Sentinel Spruce, stop by anytime. If you would like to see the old aerial photos of Havenwoods, make an appointment with me. I'd love to share the photos and hear your stories and memories of Havenwoods.