

OAK LEAF HAVEN

Appearing unexpectedly
a kind of gay confetti
littering lawn-chairs,
bits of tan and rose fluff
like pills off wool sweaters,
sprinkled on the grass
beneath the oak trees,
hardened oak leaves bursting
with furry blooms inspired
by dancing gall-flies
whose eggs in rows build
colourful havens for larvae,
an underleaf world
attracting dainty lace-bugs
nymphs in various stages
all astir by birds nibbling
exotic galls by tender grubs,
a colourful August boon.

- By ROBERT W. NERO, Box 14, 1495 St. James
Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. R3H 0W9



The ability to see the cultural value of wilderness boils down, in the last analysis, to a question of intellectual humility. The shallow-minded modern who has lost his rootage in the land assumes that he already discovered what is important; it is such who prate of empires, political or economic, that will last a thousand years. It is only the scholar who appreciates that all history consists of successive excursions from a single starting point, from which man returns again and again to organize yet another search for a durable scale of values. It is only the scholar who understands why the raw wilderness gives definition and meaning to the human enterprise. *Aldo Leopold, 1949. A Sand County Almanac. Oxford.*