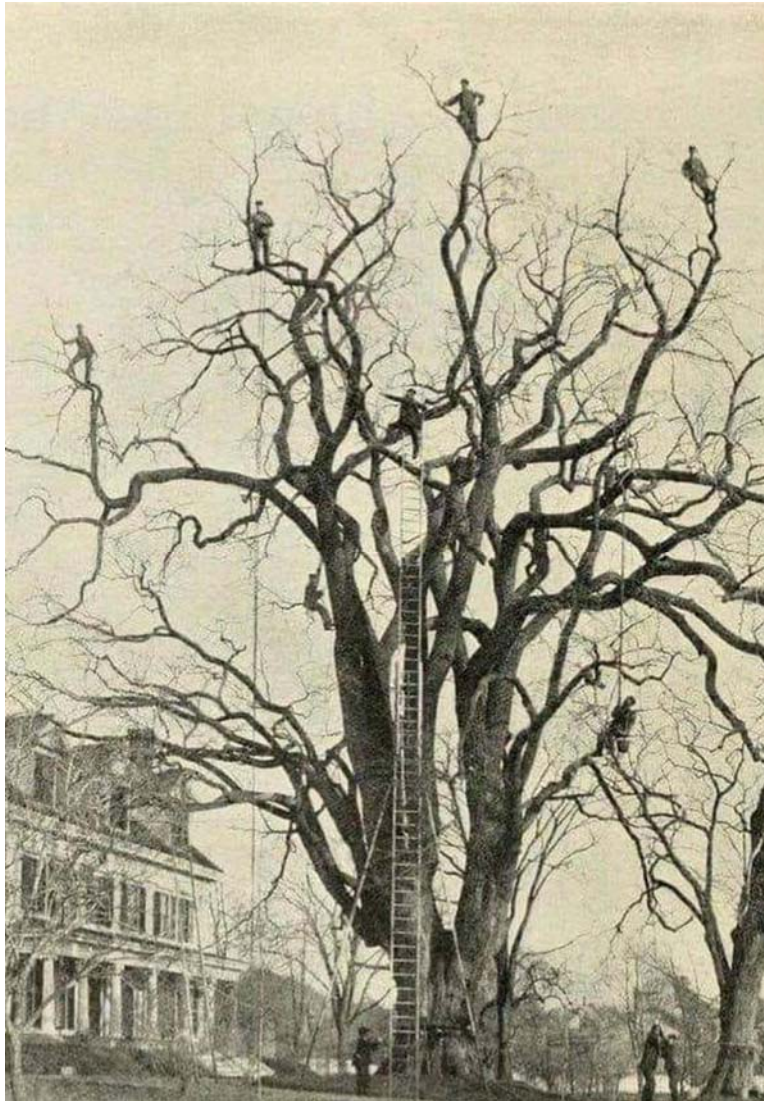


# The Leaf Brothers



Beulah and Buford Pringler's eight sons – Elmer, Bink, Plango, Chard, Stove, Lionel, Newton, and Oramel – were known professionally as the Leaf Brothers, due to their uncanny resemblance to the lateral appendages of vascular plants and because they spent the bulk of their lives among the tree tops. They would have remained largely forgotten had Stove not discovered and then taught his siblings the art of photosynthesis. Suddenly, dendrologists the world over clamored to observe them. For five wonderful months, the eight young men enjoyed being the center of attention, flitting effortlessly amongst the branches as a PBS film crew recorded their gravity-defying prowess. However, their demeanor changed dramatically as summer turned to autumn. Then, as leaves the world over have done since time immemorial, the brothers broke free of their stem moorings and plunged to the ground below, where a groundskeeper indifferently raked the lot of them into that afternoon's burn pile, true story.