

Pleasant Hill SDA Church's  
Heritage Oak Tree  
Circa 1902 - Dec 26, 2022

*Neil Peterson's memories of the "old oak tree":*

In the early '50s when Neil and his parents moved to Pleasant Hill, the oak tree was about one third the size it was when it went down this week. Neil remembers it as a gathering place for the horses, cows, and neighborhood kids. He and the other kids would play tag in the tree, which worked well because the limbs were so evenly spaced. At other times the tree was their safety zone.

Church members would often have picnics under the tree before the all-purpose room (current Fellowship Hall) was built.

The tree experienced several life threatening accidents. Neil remembers one time in particular ... Wally Dunks arrived in the middle of the night with a load of heavy equipment which he had to unload by himself. Wally decided to use that wonderful tree as a hoist to unload the equipment. That worked, but to Wally's dismay the tree split in half.

Neil well remembers his mom's VERY upset reaction when she looked out the window the next morning and saw the tree split in half! His dad assured her he could fix it, and proceeded to bolt the tree back together! That bolt held the tree together for over 60 years. However, there is no question it was weakened by that first accident.

The tree split again in the 2019 snow storm. It was beyond fixable, but it still provided joy and beauty until it met its demise during this week's massive wind storm."



*"We plant a tree not for ourselves but for  
the many generations to come."*

**Author Unknown**