

# HOW TO BUILD A TREE-HOUSE WITH AN ELEVATOR

BY HAROLD S. LYNN

Many articles of different nature on tree houses, etc., have appeared from time to time. The author has constructed several of them in his time, and while he claims no particular originality in this article, the plans here given are the result of actual experiences in the art of tree house building.

Any boy can build his own home in the tree if he will take the time and trouble. All that is needed is some scrap lumber, some nails, a saw, hammer and other ordinary tools. The main trouble lies in the fact that every tree is not suitable for a house. Some are not shaped right, others too small and various other reasons. Exact dimensions can not be given, as there are no two trees alike. I will lay down the main points in the construction of same and my readers will have to figure the rest out for themselves.

The house shown in the photograph was built in a large mulberry tree with four large limbs branching off from the main trunk. Four pieces of two by fours were spiked to these limbs high enough up so that they formed a square about six feet in length. Next boards were nailed over these to form the floor of the house.

When this is finished you will have a platform on which to work. In the case of the tree not having so many limbs to build to you will have to go about your work in a different way. When you can not fasten both ends of your beams to large limbs, spike the center to the tree and brace it, as shown in figure 1. Figure 2 shows how the beams, or foundation, are placed when there are three or more limbs in the tree, and figure 1 shows

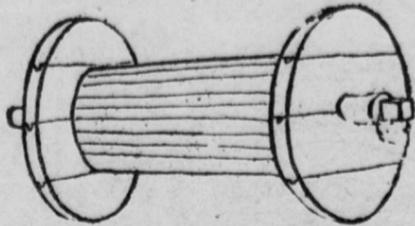


Fig. 4  
The Spool with Rug Pole in Place



Fig. 5  
Crank for Turning Windlass

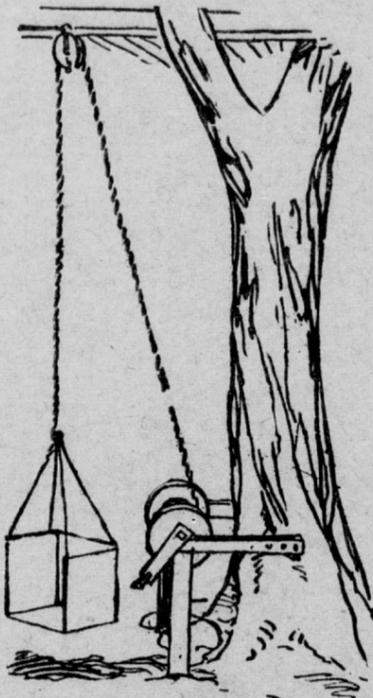


Fig. 6  
The Elevator



Tree House Built in Mulberry Tree

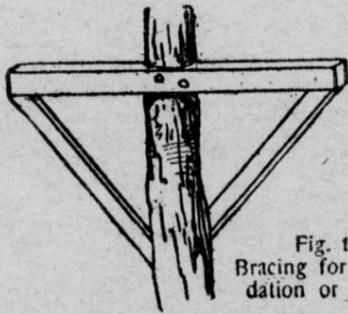


Fig. 1  
Bracing for Foundation or Floor

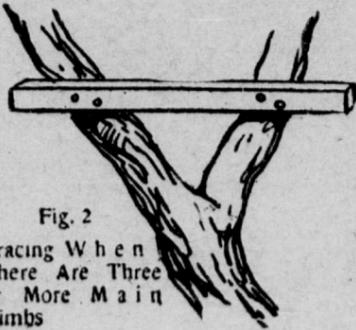


Fig. 2  
Bracing When There Are Three or More Main Limbs

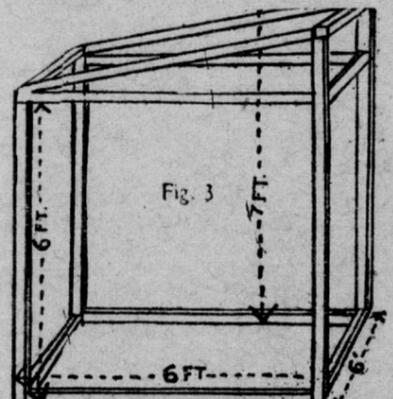


Fig. 3  
Plan of Framework of Six Foot Tree House

for a bed. It should have a couple of posts hinged to its outer corners to hold it up when in use. A mattress for this bunk can be made of a large bag stuffed with leaves, grass or straw.

We will next deal with the elevator, which is a very simple affair and inexpensive to build.

First go to an electrical store or supply house and procure a large spool as shown in figure 4. They are used to wind insulated wire on. The spool should be a foot long and 8 or 10 inches in diameter. Cut off a piece of an old rug pole and fit it in the spool tight enough and then nail it so that it will not slip or turn. This forms the axle. Now make a handle like in figure 5 and cut one end of the axle square and a hole in the handle to fit and nail tightly. This is now fitted into a bracket or brace as shown in figure 6.

Fasten a strong pulley to a limb extending over the doorway of your house and run a long rope through it, fastening one end to the windlass and the other to a seat. This completes your homemade elevator. One boy sits in the swing seat and another boy, by turning the handle, winds him up to the door of the house, where he swings himself in and lets the seat down to

the next fellow. Many pleasant hours may be spent in such a place. You can form a club and use it as a clubhouse, or if you are interested in wireless telegraphy you can have a wireless station in the treetops. Many other improvements will suggest themselves to you from time to time.

be folded up out of the way when not in use. If you want to sleep in your tree house you can make a small frame of two by fours, tack some canvas loosely over it and hinge it to the wall

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION FROM THE JUNIORS

402 Tilton Avenue,  
San Mateo, Cal., Aug. 16, 1910.  
Editor of the Junior Call:  
Dear sir: I received my paint box yesterday. I wish to thank you many times for it. Yours sincerely,  
HAZEL HANSEN.

City, Aug. 16, 1910.  
Editor Junior Call:  
Dear sir: Thank you very much for the pen you sent me for solving the puzzles. I am writing with it now, and will use it often. Yours truly,  
GEORGE S. MARTIN.

417 Vista Avenue,  
Vista Grande, San Mateo.  
To the Junior Call:  
Dear Editor: I am writing you a line to thank you for the box of paints I received for painting the picture. You don't know how surprised I was to be one of the lucky ones. I love to read the stories in the Junior Call, and I hope to be able to write one some day when I am a little older. I am only 8 years old and am in the second grade.  
Again thanking you for the lovely box of paints, I am, sincerely,  
ALFRED WORTHINGTON.

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 15, 1910.  
Dear Editor The Open Letter Section: In writing this letter my purpose is to express to you my sentiments as concerns the Junior Call. But first of all I must say I am a new recruit to the vast army of Juniors, and this is my first letter in favor of the paper.  
It is but recently that we commenced taking The Call, and when I discovered that part of the paper of which I was just speaking, it was a pleasant and agreeable surprise to me. This breezy, witty little section is what I

eagerly watch for every Sunday morning, and scan its pages again and again.

The first Sunday we received the paper I answered the puzzles, but I prefer the stories and instructive little letters, or rather discourses by Juniors.

I shall say that I am a Junior at St. Bridgid's high school, first year.

Having been initiated into the Junior Call, I shall take a lively interest in it, and will do my best at writing little stories, and so forth.

Hoping I shall see my letter published in the Junior Call, I am,  
CARMELITA G. McCARTY,  
3211 Fillmore Street, San Francisco.

Oakland, Aug. 17, 1910.  
Editor The Junior Call—Dear Sir:  
I received my fountain pen and was very much pleased with it.  
It arrived just in time for school, which commenced yesterday.  
Wishing Alonzo and the Junior all success, I remain,  
PRISCILLA CAVAGNARA.

2521 Twenty-fourth street,  
San Francisco, Aug. 14, 1910.  
Editor Junior Call: I did not have time to thank you before, so I will dearly thank you now for those beautiful "Masterpieces" that I won. I also hope that I will win a fountain pen, for which I am longing. Yours sincerely,  
AURELIA GALEAZZI.

Dear Editor: Thank you very much for the beautiful set of master paintings that I won for my story entitled "Real Help."  
RUBY MULANOX,  
Tulare, Cal.

Editor Junior Call, San Francisco, Cal.:  
Dear sir: I wish to thank you very much for the lovely fountain pen I

received this morning. I am writing this letter with it and it surely is a useful prize to win.

I wish you would let me know if I can still write for your paper, although living in Los Angeles, Cal. I have just moved here, but do not like to give up the Junior.

Again thanking you for the pen and hoping I may have the good fortune to receive other prizes from you, I remain very sincerely yours,  
RUTH L. SMITH.

Los Angeles, Cal.  
Your letters will always be most welcome to Alonzo and the Junior editor.

### Small Business for Bantams

A fussy little bantam rooster has kidnaped the brood of a Plymouth rock hen on George Hills' farm at Ledgerwood, N. J. The bantam, believing he could take care of a brood of chicks, as well as any hen in the yard, led or drove the Plymouth rocks into another place and took charge of them.

The mother clucked excitedly for a while and ran around after her stolen brood, but the pugnacious attitude of the foster father and the reluctance of the little ones to abandon him blocked her efforts. She took to disconsolate clucking and scratching in a corner of the yard, while the victorious thief of a family got busy taking care of the chicks.

He found it hard to encompass the whole troupe at night when it came time to shelter them, but by stretching his legs and wings he just managed it. Then the bantam was utterly disdained by the other roosters.

how when there are two or three.

Next you must set up the framework to your house, as shown in figure 3. This is of light strips of lumber about one by two inches. The front of your house should be about five feet high and the back about six feet. When the frame work is up board in the sides and cover the roof in the same way. The roof must next be covered with tar paper, to keep it from leaking.

The cracks about the sides may be covered with lath or tar paper may be used here also. If you can not afford to do this you can cover up the larger cracks and holes with cigar box strips.

Windows may be used wherever you wish them. A door must be fixed on the side where the elevator runs. It is best to have a trapdoor in the floor of your house, so in case of the elevator breaking, or some other cause, you can reach your lofty home by means of a ladder or stairs.

You can suit yourselves as to the best way to fit your house up. A chafing dish or small oil stove can be used to cook on. A small table made of several boards nailed together should be hinged against the wall, so that it can