

Protecting Charlotte's Tree Life

The trees in the streets are old trees used to living with people. Family trees that remember your grandfather's name.

STEPHEN VINCENT BENET penned these lines about an older, more romantic South. It was a land of hoop skirts, wide verandas, gracious living and "magnolias-ies" dripping with molasses.

But trees have always been a part of Dixie's charm. They line the streets of our smaller towns and villages, drooping their branches over winding streets, straining the hot breezes of summertime and the frosty winds of winter. Take away the trees—the oaks, magnolias, pines and willows—and many a Carolina community would look as naked as Tuccumbria, N. M.

Charlotte is no exception. The Queen City's trees are important. They are a part of its civic personality. They add beauty and a certain gentleness to the community's urban landscape.

The City Council's approval yesterday of the creation of a commission to protect and maintain the city's tree life was a proper move. The next logical step will be preparation of a tree ordinance.

Appropriately, the motion establishing the commission came from Claude Albee, a councilman who has concerned himself for many years with the city's tree problems. We hope Mr. Albee will continue to exert his influence in this field—along with the Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee and Charlotte Garden Club.

There is much to be done on the matter. Any new ordinance should have a three-cornered purpose:

- 1.—To regulate the planting of trees and shrubbery for public safety and convenience (limits on plantings which would obstruct the vision of motorists at hazardous intersections, for instance).
- 2.—To protect the city's present tree life.
- 3.—To encourage future plantings of hardy varieties of trees.

Pressing for enactment of a new ordinance, the chairman of the urban committee has announced that 85 per cent of Charlotte's trees are willow oaks. These trees, the committee warns, are highly susceptible to oak wilt, which has reached western North Carolina after razing through the central states.

With so many of Charlotte's trees in jeopardy, arrangements should be made—and made quickly—to replace them. This will be one of the major tasks of the commission. A tree nursery would be needed as a source of young magnolias, evergreens, laurel oaks, live oaks, dogwoods, sugar maples and other suggested varieties.

In the meantime, every effort should be made to keep the public conscious of the beauty and value of trees—inside and outside the city. Unless something is done, Charlotteans may find themselves in the position of urbane Ogdon Nash, who once wrote:

*I think that I shall never see
 A billboard lovely as a tree,
 Perhaps unless the billboards fall,
 I'll never see a tree at all.*

Democrats Asked For Drought Relief

THERE is a faint aroma of politics in the northwest wind blowing across the parched plain of Mecklenburg. But it's not what you'd call a smelly situation.

We whiffed the air suspiciously when the Agriculture Department reversed itself last week and designated 12 North Carolina counties as drought disaster areas, thus enabling farmers in those counties to get cheap livestock feed through federal subsidy.

Six of the 12 counties are in the Ninth and Tenth Congressional Districts, which happen to be the two districts in the state with strong Republican congressional candidates.

It is possible that politics figured in the reversal. Federal purse strings, no matter which party is in power, seem to work loose during campaigns.

But the Republican administration did not pick out these 12 counties.

Some time ago North Carolina's State Drought Committee requested federal aid for 13 counties. The administration granted the request for 12 of the 13, leaving out Caswell in the Fifth Congressional District. The request was granted after Gov. William B. Umstead, Sen. Sam J. Ervin and several North Carolina congressmen had made strong appeals to President Eisenhower. An Umstead request for aid to six additional counties, including one in the Ninth Congressional District, has not been granted.

Actually, the congressional district which got the most help was the Eleventh, four of whose counties were among the 12.

And all 46 South Carolina counties in which Republicans are even scarcer than they are in the Eleventh, were approved for disaster relief.

So there's nothing in the air to excite the infatuated organs unduly.

We'll keep sniffing, though, hoping to smell rain.

Unity Must Not Stop At The Channel

THE London Conference appears to be on the verge of reaching agreement on Germany's rearmament and integration into the free world alliance. The agreement was hastened yesterday by American and Canadian restatement of policy and by a British concession to France.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles gave the continental countries his usual "either-or" talk. Either Europe must exhibit a "climate . . . of unity and cohesion," and continue to receive U. S. aid, or "disension, disunity (and) revival of threats of war" continue, the U. S. "tendency is to withdraw."

The Canadians pledged continued support for NATO.

But it was the British who took the stand which will likely be the most effective in persuading France to agree to full German participation in the North Atlantic Treaty organization.

Britain, which historically has shunned irrevocable commitments on the continent, promised to keep British forces there as long as a majority of its western European partners want them to stay. The British "escape clause" is this:

If an "acute overseas emergency" arises they want the right to withdraw their men.

Thus German rearmament will, as expected, probably be accomplished shortly.

But the London conferees continue to disregard what the U. S. and Britain can disagree only at their own great peril—the political unification of Atlantic countries.

The British and Americans continue to say to Europe: Unity is a great thing—for you. But we don't want to be irrevocably bound.

Germany naturally likes this attitude. For it is Germany which will dominate a union comprised of only European powers.

Only if Britain and the United States—Canada is already willing—decide to ally themselves inseparably with the continental countries will the Atlantic alliance be meaningful and strong. The "unity and cohesion" which Mr. Dulles demands cannot stop at the English Channel.

That is the problem which the diplomats still choose to ignore.

Pat McCarran Was A Fighter

PAT MCCARRAN of Nevada was not out idea of a good senator. But he was a fighter, a doer, a warrior who at 78 was waging a vigorous battle in his home state even though he wasn't up for re-election this year.

This grip on the state political machinery had been weakened by liberal youngsters, and it was to regain its power that he undertook the extensive speaking campaign that cost him his life. He decided to make the tour despite his knowledge of the possible consequences, as he had had a heart condition for years and had two heart attacks previously.

He is best known for his advocacy of immigration restrictions and high tariffs, championship of the mining industry, and his former investigative work as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and its subcommittee on internal security. But was also Pat McCarran who authored the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 and the first Urban Redevelopment Act passed by Congress, and co-authored the Civilian Pilot Training Act of 1939. The Senate will be duller without Mr. McCarran's aid.

**From The Greenview (S. C.) Piedmont
 WHO'S CRAZY?**

AT AN Ogdensburg, N. Y., mental hospital, a 72-year-old patient was found to have \$160 on his person and more than \$4,500 hidden away in old worm cans.

Investigation showed he hadn't been wasting his time indulging in his "peculiar" trait—digging for worms. He'd been selling them and hiding the money.

The old man had saved more than \$4,000 in nine years selling worms.

No overhead, no squabbling partners, no business license—and no taxes! What a way to do business, or who's crazy now?

A woman needs some time to herself. She has to call up her friends—ELLAVILLE (GA.) SUN.

'Hold Everything, Fellows'



**Humpty-Dumpty's Tumble
 McCarthy Loses His 'Zing'**

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

AS FAR as the present election is concerned, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy had pretty well lost his "zing" some time before the Watkins Committee took its historic action against him.

His adherents are making some trouble for Clifford Case, the Republican senatorial candidate for New Jersey. But this is about the only state where McCarthy is a serious campaign issue; and Case is convinced that he will gain more than he loses from the vicious attacks of the surprisingly small group of organized pro-McCarthy extremists.

Elsewhere the picture seems just about as it has reportedly been described by Vice President Richard Nixon. Nixon set out his indefatigable campaigning round with the expectation of finding trouble everywhere like the trouble in New Jersey. Instead he found, to his surprise, that the subject of McCarthy is rarely mentioned, either in public meetings and press conferences, or even in the more significant White House strategists' meetings with local organization leaders.

NO ONE COMPLAINED

A few big contributors of the sort who provided funds for the McCarthy build-up, no one complained about the decision of the White House strategists not to use the Wisconsin senator as a leading campaign orator. Most of the organization chieftains admitted, maybe a bit regretfully, that McCarthy had now become more of a vote-loser than a vote-getter.

Similar observations have been made by other wide-ranging Republican campaigners. On the other side of the fence, a high official of the Democratic Committee remarked, "There are elections going on for 455 House seats and in the Senate, and I don't know of one where McCarthy is a major issue, except perhaps because the Republicans themselves are in New Jersey."

This general loss of interest in McCarthy, this wide spread abandonment of the Republican organization to McCarthy's political drawbacks, had already happened when the Watkins Committee began its investigation.

Against this background, the finding of Sens. Watkins, Case, Carlson, Johnson of Colorado, Ervin and Stennis has an air of finality. These six quiet, intensely senatorial Senators to hear the case against McCarthy with the official care that their concern for the country demands. They stood for no nonsense, but they were quietly fair. It is an open secret that their verdict might have been different if McCarthy had not been so arrogant, defiant, and utterly unwilling to admit he could ever have made a mistake.

But of course a real admission of error is impossible for the man of McCarthy's character. So the

Watkins Committee recommended Senate censure, on the double ground of McCarthy's flagrant contempt of the committee that investigated him, and his outrageous treatment of Gen. Zwicker.

One of the more entertaining plays that then occurred was the way that Senate Minority Leader Lyndon Johnson handled the problem of the Senate debate on the Watkins Committee report. The Democrats were not much more anxious than the Republicans to reconvene the Senate in mid-campaign for a debate on McCarthy and McCarthyism. But Johnson contented himself with telling Senate Republican Leader William Knowland that he was ready to hold the debate at any time. And this put the onus of deferring the debate until after the election squarely on Knowland, who did not like it at all.

NASTY BUSINESS

The debate on censure of McCarthy, which occurred last week, was a nasty business beyond any doubt. The senator and his friends will flounder, at the very least, if the Republicans have not done well, in the just completed voting. The McCarthy factor in the Senate will be unimportant. President Eisenhower lost in the election by refusing to make the Republican party a McCarthyite party.

But this kind of temporary failure will not put McCarthy-Humpty-Dumpty back on the wall, from which he has hitherto evaded a count of citizens, intimidated great numbers of his colleagues, and spoke with very unimpaired confidence to the President himself.

He is not going to attain such an eminence again, unless something very unusual happens. His kind of politician is not going to attain such an eminence again, unless perhaps developments in the world, or the problem of fear in America. The real problem now is not what to do about McCarthy, but what to do about the enduring effects of McCarthyism in the procedures and climate of federal government, and on many other aspects of our national life.

Tyrant Of The Andes Ruled Jungle With All The Frills

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

(Editors' Note: Mr. Othman is substituting for Marquis Childs, who is on vacation.)

MARACAY, Venezuela

THE SIGN at the edge of the Parque Nacional de Rancho Grande said no molestie the fauna. The sign did not leave the tigers, jaguars, alligators, eagles and other large items with long white teeth.

There being no iron bars between these beasts and us, Hilda and I were careful to obey the sign. We didn't molest anything. The fauna, happily, didn't molest us, either. We had a fine time in this world's most beautiful jungle. How it came to be so fancy makes quite a tale.

Maybe you recall reading about the late Vicente Gomez, the tyrant of the Andes. For 25 years he ruled Venezuela from his palace here in Maracay and he became one of the most hated men there ever was. So Vicente figured it might come in handy if he had some way of getting out of town in a hurry.

BUSY RASCAL

So he embarked a two-lane road through 14 miles of virgin jungle between here and the seacoast and named it in his honor. At the end of the line he started digging a harbor, where he intended to keep his yacht with steam up, in the middle of the jungle on the side of a mountain with a misty view of an island-studded bay.

When he died in 1936 only the road was finished. It was in perfect shape, too, because nobody was allowed to ride over it except the automobile in his bullet-proof limousine. Venezuela's present government changed all this. It made Gomez private jungle a national park and opened his road to whoever wants to drive across a tyrant's folly. The only rule is that you musty with the monkeys.

So we toiled through the jungle in a 1954 model V-8 a good deal easier than you could ride across your local park; there was no cross traffic.

It smelled spicy, and almost as good as the forest of a greenhouse. The Jacaranda trees were in red blossom, and the mahogany trees looked capable of producing pedicels for the birds. The U.S.A. Vanilla plants studied the jungle floor, orchids along the streams, just wide in some of the ferns were two stories tall and all over the place were plants with leaves the size of spread-out newspapers.

Waterfalls tumbled down from the peaks on all sides, birds with red tails flew long flutters in the trees, and if you ever have a yen to see a genuine jungle in comfort this is the one.

JUST IN

There's gold in the beds of almost every one of the innumerable streams, just wide in with an old pie plate and pan it. Finders keepers, too. We inspected a couple of likely spots, but Mrs. Othman's sudden wailing, or said some of that fauna might take a notion to go wading, too, so we ambled to Gomez highway, half-finished, mostly unroofed, and with the reinforced concrete floor in the pillars still naked. The floor of one of the bedrooms seemed to have a magnificent green broadloom carpet, turned to be most of the green. Here again orchids were growing from chinks in the masonry and small trees were beginning to grow in the gutters. The waterfall, which ran through the middle of the place, a la Frank Lloyd Wright, was hanked with ferns. Some changes are about to be made.

The government of this down-at-earth tyrant in his bullet-proof limousine, Venezuela's present government changed all this. It made Gomez private jungle a national park and opened his road to whoever wants to drive across a tyrant's folly. The only rule is that you musty with the monkeys.

So we toiled through the jungle in a 1954 model V-8 a good

People's Platform

Neutralize Europe, Pull Out Of Asia

Pittsboro

IT'S ALARMING to me trying to think objectively how our leadership has actually become. What do we gain by forcing delay in admitting Red China to the UN? She has the votes with which to enter. It's no compulsion to us that our friends do not know her or the United States, the other. At the next world war is one of conventional weapons. Europe will be reduced to rubble. All it becomes a war of attrition, one, it is most likely that Europe, Russia and the United States will be virtually wiped out.

And why do we still risk a war in Asia over who is in control of Formosa? If Formosa is a part of our line of defense, tell where is Russia's and Red China's line of defense? Such contention is stupid. By that sort of reasoning, we could win in Korea when we were in complete control of the air and our Navy could dominate the whole of the peninsula. We could waste all of our manpower in a war in China without Russia's sacrifice of a million soldiers thereby leaving us virtually defenseless at home. And remember, we have no allies in this venture.

Let us to France first we realistic approach. Let's propose to Russia that she and her satellites and the Big Three of the world should agree to neutrality of an unarmed, united Germany. This would, I believe, be wholly satisfactory to Germany, as she would not be protected by both sides, and that we at the same time agree to abandon our fight against Germany. We can't continue or check it there by ourselves, and we have no dependable help. A little realistic thinking would lead us to wonder in this confused old world.

—JOHN W. HESTER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round McKay Heil-Bent On Giveaways

WASHINGTON

CHARLEY MCKAY, in whose name a great deal of Republicanism would have been uneasy on several counts these days.

McKay, who was a great senator from Oregon, a great Republican, and a great friend of mine, was the author of the McNary-Haugen Bill, the first start toward national guarantee for farmers. He was also a great conservationist, a great protector of the national forests, and a great advocate of public power. He helped to pioneer Bonneville Dam when those scoffed that his "socialistic blood" would never dry, and it was because of these things that the Republican Party picked him in 1940 to run for vice president of the United States.

So Charley McKay may have been a little restless when President Eisenhower showed on the campaign trail, and expressed his opposition to the McNary dams of the future.

Charley also would be restless if he knew what another Oregonian was doing with the national forests, the national parks, and the oil reserves of the nation.

Generous Doug McKay

That Oregonian is amiable, likable Doug McKay, the auto dealer from Portland who as secretary of the interior has just given up a slice of the beautiful Rogue River National Forest and has appointed a commission to study what national parks should be turned over to private enterprise. Behind the latter move is a plan to turn 50,000 acres of the Olympic National Park over to lumbermen.

Perhaps even more important, Secretary McKay is now maneuvering to turn over the vast oil reserves of Alaska to private exploitation, despite the objection of naval officers and career men in his own Interior Department.

This may be the biggest bonanza the oil industry has been handed for some time, and it may also be a hot political potato once the Democrats get wind of it. So far it's been kept reasonably hush-hush.

Saltonstall Warns

The question is so dynamic-led that Sen. Saltonstall of Massachusetts, Republican, has written a confidential letter to President Eisenhower warning him not to let himself get involved in another Teapot Dome scandal.

The Interior Department has carefully cleaned its files of any critical correspondence, and the Saltonstall letter has been removed. However, this column is able to reveal that Saltonstall's letter, dated March 4, 1954, warned Eisenhower that the great scandal of the Harding administration resulted from exactly the same giveaway that Secretary McKay contemplates in Alaska.

"I suggest," wrote Saltonstall, who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, that you should be the disposer of Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 before the National Security Council for a determination respecting the essentiality of this property to the national security."

Saltonstall's letter caused hesitation in the Interior Dept. and it now looks that the Navy will be able to get Reserve No. 4 would not be released to private exploitation without an OK from Congress. However, McKay has another Alaskan oil area of 25 million acres set aside for the government under Public Land Order 10,000, which also wants to turn over to private oil companies.

An order to this effect has actually been drafted in the Interior Dept.

Harding Scandal

To get the full picture, it's necessary to go back to the days of the Teapot Dome scandal, when the Harding administration when Edward Doheny brought a little black bag containing \$100,000 to Albert Fall, then secretary of the interior, and got the Navy's most valuable oil reserve.

After this scandal broke, the government in 1923 took 25 million acres of Alaskan oil lands for the Navy, now known as NPR 4 or Navy Petroleum Reserve No. 4. Then in 1944, during the

war, the government set aside an additional 25 million acres of Alaskan oil land under the name of Land Order 82.

Meanwhile, the Navy has spent about 50 million dollars prospecting for oil and gas. This general area, and has located the U.S. Geological Survey in Navy territory, partly outside, also the Gubik Gas Field, which extends considerably outside Navy territory.

What Secretary McKay wants to do, together with former Secretary of the Navy Robert Anderson, is to turn over territory of defense—is open both fields to private development. This would give private oil companies the benefit of 50 million dollars worth of government geophysical research. All they would have to do is go down to Room 2643 of the Interior Dept. and get the charts are kept and take a look at them.

In other words, the oil companies can perform oil exploration work near the Arctic Circle without even getting their feet cold and merely for the expense of cartage to the interior Dept. And when they get the oil, they pay the government only 12 1/2 per cent royalty, whereas the Navy gets 89 per cent royalty from Stambania, now leasing the Elk Hills Reserve.

Meanwhile, it looks as if Secretary McKay would have up any disposal of the Navy's first Alaskan reserve, called NPR 4, until Congress acts, but may dispose of an 80 million acre reserve, called PLO 82, most any time. The latter area looks as if it had more oil than the first.