

Outdoor Drama: A Breath Of Fresh Air In The Theatre

By KERMIT HUNTER
 Daniel Boone met the tumultuous challenge of the revolutionary period in the Western country of North Carolina, on the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in a mountain setting of unbelievable grandeur. "Unto These Hills" tells the story of the Cherokee Indians.

Charlotte Can Cure Parking Headache

AS THE volume of traffic movement swells by the hour, Charlotte is still prolonging the agony of its parking headache. Where foresight and action are needed we find only grumbling and indecision. Unfortunately, the cost of inadequate parking facilities is measured in millions of dollars in retail trade lost forever. But can this "economic paralysis" be cured?

In four localities in the Southeast are four outdoor dramas which open each summer in late June and play six nights a week until Labor Day. These particular plays deal with American history, each tailored to tell the story of a certain period of movement; and all four are strictly plays rather than pageants.

These little towns are helping to perpetuate history and traditions, using their own local backgrounds to typify all of America. The plays speak for the people themselves, their ancestors and the ideals of American freedom which inspired the pioneers. The plays thus emerge with a firm religious tone, a sense of moral and intellectual integrity, a richness and a verve which, though hardly typical of the Broadway mode, are solidly characteristic of the hinterlands.

Scarcely one-twentieth of our people live in or around New York theater, so often strangled by soaring production costs, petulant stars and the pseudo-philosophical playwrights and general cannibalism, the outdoor drama is the locale, a breath of fresh air. This epic theater is still in its embryonic stage, still exemplifying the best of American theater. Each year some new twist in writing or production is added. Those of us inclined to be a little more anxious to keep it that way because it contains a native business and freshness, a sense of change and growth so typical of American idealism. We try to honor the anxious struggles of the local impresario; we try to unify and direct the boundless energies of young actors; and we try to give wise counsel to the many new localities which each year come into being with plans for outdoor drama. Why? Because we feel that a great national drama can rise only out of the people themselves and because we feel that here in the summer outdoors is being born the greatest and newest and most important movement yet seen in the American theater.

It can. Other cities have devised remedies. So can Charlotte. Proof that the Queen City's parking problem is not insoluble has been offered by Coleman W. Roberts, president of the Carolina Motor Club. He points to a survey—recently published by the American Automobile Association—which details the constructive efforts of 19 American cities toward cleaning up mid-town parking congestion. None of these cities had a parking emergency any greater than our own.

The City of Jacksonville is backing up by pledging revenue from the lot itself and from on-street parking meters. In addition, the bonds, the project is being financed with \$120,000 from a surplus in the city's general fund and \$50,000 in certificates of indebtedness (borrowing against future revenue).

Actual work will begin on the lot within a matter of weeks and construction will take from 18 to 24 months. It will cover about 1 1/2 acres and accommodate 1,880 cars. City fathers hope it will "beautify" the waterfront as well as provide badly needed parking space.

The 'Wish-You-Were-Here' Set Never Had It So Bad

By ROBERT C. RUARK



WE ARE in receipt of a new YORK magazine from a young friend, written to his mother, which, it seems to me, might serve as a magnificent model for these over-windily times. The young man's name is Tony. He has been shipped off to the country, while his mother toils away in New York. He writes:

"Dear Mother—
 Thank you for the present you sent us. We are having a lot of fun with it. The water is so cold now we can't go swimming. We tried fishing but didn't catch anything."
 "Love, Tony"

"Now, there is a capped report on the average vacation, with no hanging phrases, no unnecessary descriptions of the scenery, no unneeded effort to jazz up the dullness of a summer season that refuses to start. The note embodies politeness—he thanked her for the present and mentioned his enjoyment of it."
 He has discarded the climate with one line about the coldness of the water, and dispelled any worries about drowning by mentioning that the swimming opportunity was nil. He has conveyed the message that he has attempted to enjoy the sports facilities, but refuses to lie about his wretched time. He "wished" fishing and didn't catch any fish. He assures her of his love, and knocks off."

The situation varies, of course, in each community. But there are basic considerations to keep in mind. For instance, there is the need to determine the local motorist's own peculiar parking requirements—where he wants to go—when—how long he wants to stay. These are jobs for city officials to handle but they must have public support.

These underlying principles must also be kept in mind:
 1.—The parking space must be conveniently located to meet the shopper's need.
 2.—It must be low-cost, even though on high-cost land, because the average motorist is in a fairly low income bracket.
 3.—It must be of easy access and exit.

Meanwhile, the fee schedules have already been established: 25 cents for the first hour or fraction thereof and five cents for each additional hour, with a maximum of 75 cents a day. Space will also be rented at \$10 a month, payable in advance.

Worst feature of the Jacksonville plan is the exceedingly high initial cost. Divide one million dollars by 1,880 cars and you get a cost per parking space of more than \$210. That seems to be an unreasonably steep. Charlotte should be able to do better.

Some 'Most Unscientific' Remedies Work

ONE OF THE medical specialists sounded apologetic. The use of the moccasin snake venom to stop the bleeding of little Eddy Phillips, the Ohio boy who was operated on more than two weeks ago, would be "most unscientific" and "a shot in the dark," he said. As it turned out, Eddy had improved yesterday so they decided against use of the venom. But the good doctors certainly didn't need to feel embarrassed about considering an old Indian remedy.

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People's Platform

Abbott Had Role In Basketball's History
 Editors: The News—Charlotte

KWANS Classic All Star Basketball game, first annual event March 12, 1954, proceeds going to the Spastic Hospital of N. C. & S. C.

He came to Charlotte, and entered the real estate business, while Charlotte's population was only 17,000. In 1901 the late Mr. George Stephens, who was just out of the University of N. C., and was then in charge of the banking department. The following year, in 1902, Mr. Abbott resigned as president. The name was changed to American Trust Co. and Mr. Stevens had been president. After about 10 years he sold his interest and moved to Asheville and Mr. Wood was made president.

The Need For A Technical Institute

VISUALIZE a map of the Piedmont area of the Carolinas, with Charlotte as the hub of a wheel 100 miles wide. The 50-mile spoke would reach out beyond Shelby, Hickory, Statesville, Salisbury, Albemarle and Wadesboro in North Carolina, and beyond Kershaw, Chester and Gaffney in the slightly more than 25 per cent of the area that would lie in South Carolina. Within this area live approximately one million people, the great majority of them in the rapidly-growing urban areas of this state. Almost daily one reads of some new industry, or expansion of an established industry, in this area.

And certainly a technical school would draw students from outside the county. Thanks to the recently-approved two-cent tax levy for Charlotte and Carver Colleges, Charlotte College plans to start a technical institute next fall. The two-cent levy, however, will not begin to provide enough revenue for the kind of technical training facilities this region sorely needs.

Two Views

SEN. JOE McARTHUR reports Dewey Pearson has suddenly become camerashy. He goes out back doors to avoid TV cameramen.

WASHINGTON
 MORE facts about Governor Dewey's important conference with Sen. James Eastland have now leaked out. Dewey told Eastland he can be taken seriously, the turbulent, much spotlighted, efficient governor of New York really wants to retire to private life. And it looks as if Dewey is serious.

Dewey Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

He pointed out that he hadn't wanted to run for the Senate last time, and that he had every expectation of withdrawing from public life entirely at the end of his present term.

A Thank You From Charlotte B&PW

Editors: The News—Charlotte
 On behalf of the Charlotte Business and Professional Women's Club, I wish to thank you most sincerely for the part The Charlotte News played in making our recent state convention and our past club year such a success.

Democrats, Once Confident, Now Face Uncertain Future

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
 DEMOCRATS who a few months ago were supremely confident that they would romp home in the House and win narrow control of the Senate are today full of misgivings. They are banking on the economic recession to grip the farm price level, but the administration's attitude of confidence in both areas has infected them.

Eisenhower spokesmen are not merely talking confidence. They are betting on it by refusing to take the job-creating steps urged on them and by sticking to the Benson farm policy. They could still be mistaken, but their determination to make an impression on the opposition.

Dewey Seems Serious About Retiring

It has been suggested therefore that his hours should be underwritten by a group of his friends who intend to support him for re-election in 1956. His greatest problem, of course, is that he has no public position to give him a broad-based and a national following.

Delaware is a state where the Du Pont family, which controls General Motors, Du Pont Chemicals, United States Rubber, operates an H-bomb plant, and owns half a dozen other industries, exercises a paternalistic dual control. And today it's alleged that the Du Ponts are well satisfied with the likable Little Democratic Senator, Allen Frear, who seeks re-election, though less satisfied with the rambunctious, uncontrollable Republican Sen. John Williams.