



The antics of Jaycee Bill Shepherd are getting to be a special feature of the annual Miss Watauga Pageant. Saturday night, Shepherd capered across stage, amazing the audience with his "baton" twirling ability. Shepherd is manager of Seven Devils Development on Highway 105. (Staff photo)

Oak Trees Comparison March of Dimes Physician Opposes Institutions for Birth Defect Victims

BY M. E. GARDNER
N. C. State University

A man called me several days ago and wanted to know the differences between: a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), a laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), a Darlington oak (*Quercus laurifolia* Darlington), and a willow oak (*Quercus phellos*).

This was a rather large order for a quickie answer so I suggested that I do a little reviewing and call him back. Thinking that you might also be interested I am passing the information along to my readers; primarily in the lower Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

The live oak—This species is considered to be one of the aristocrats of the oak family.

It attains tremendous size, is long-lived and rather slow in growth habit. It branches low into massive and widespread limbs and forms a broad, dense, rather round-topped crown of dark, glossy, evergreen leaves. It resists storm damage and is comparatively free of insect and disease troubles. Needs plenty of room.

The laurel oak—Fairly large in size, good form and semi-evergreen foliage. In many respects it is similar to the willow oak but is not as long-lived and is more subject to storm damage than either the live oak or the willow.

The Darlington oak — The Darlington is a variety of the laurel oak but is smaller and shorter lived than the laurel.

Nursery stock of this variety is grown by some of our eastern Carolina nurserymen and its use in landscape planning seems to be on the increase in our Coastal Plain and also in South Carolina. Give it room.

The willow oak—This is a favorite. It is large, long lived, and a fast-growing deciduous tree. Slender branches with light green willow-like leaves give the tree a graceful appearance.

It is, perhaps, one of the most popular oaks for landscape use in the lower Piedmont and Coastal Plain. It needs plenty of room, 60 feet or more. For this reason it is not suitable for park strips or for planting between the sidewalk and the street curb.

The human stampede is under way the moment the tall doctor strides into the waiting room.

With a flying tackle, a five-year-old, born with nine birth defects, catches him around one thigh, and refuses to let go. A little girl, who's only four and has been blind since birth, knows instinctively he's arrived and gleefully latches on to his belt.

"A typical day," Dr. Paul H. LaMarche says cheerfully to a visitor as he peels off the children and sidesteps a phalanx of advancing mothers.

The embattled doctor is director of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Center at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence. He is a pediatrician who feels strongly that the last place for a defective child, with few exceptions, is an institution for the handicapped.



NURSE COMFORTS young patient during check-up visit to March of Dimes Birth Defects Center at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence.

Recent Births

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Carroll Main, Route 2, Boone, girl, Dec. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Glenn, Route 1, Sugar Grove, boy, Dec. 5.

A Week Of Peanuts
Oxford, England — Oxford student Richard Lee recently won a pound bet that he could live off peanuts alone for a week. During the week he consumed four pounds of peanuts and washed it down with twenty-four bottles of beer, losing eight pounds in the process.

Smoke that rises steadily, not necessarily vertically, indicates good weather ahead. Vertical smoke columns reveal a lack of wind, or frontal movement; this sign could mean that no weather change is imminent for a day or so in winter, through summer, the value of a vertical smoke column as a weather indicator is highly questionable.

Know The Weather

BY E. H. SIMS

What does smoke tell us about the coming weather? Does soot sometimes play the role of weather forecaster?

Both smoke and soot sometimes indicate the nature of approaching weather. Most often they tell of approaching rain or bad weather. Smoke that curls downward from a smokestack indicates unstable weather, probably rain or even a storm.

Soot which falls down a chimney into a fireplace below indicates a falling barometer, and the approach of rain.

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"We regard it here as part of the Bill of Rights that all of these children with birth defects are entitled to the best diagnosis and treatment, regardless of race, finances or superstitions of the past," Dr. LaMarche says.

"A decade ago, even five years ago, almost every one of these children would have been sent to some institution. There they would have been forgotten as they wasted away and sometimes died. These tragedies still happen. But more and more of these afflicted children are with their parents in their own homes, where they belong, learning to become useful citizens."

A tousled five-year-old yells "Hi, Doc!" and buries a small fist in the pediatrician's midriff.

"Craig here thinks he's another Jack Dempsey. Maybe some day he will be. He was born with a good part of his spinal cord, membranes and

nerves sticking out of his back. We repaired the opening and today he swings by his knees from the monkey bars at school and climbs his neighbor's trees to swipe apples. But most medical thinking at the time of Craig's birth was that a meningomyelocele always meant you had a paraplegic on your hands—total paralysis below the waist."

Another five-year-old named Tommy is a classic case in the annals of children who have survived despite multiple congenital malformations.

"Tommy" has known just about every severe birth defect in the book," the pediatrician says, "from dislocated hips and elbows to cleft palate and curvature of the spine."

"Despite all this, Tommy's life now is pretty much that of normal kids. He plays ball and gets into the usual small-boy mischief. He's in the stream of life where he belongs."

Gilda, born without eyes, has a radiant smile although in her sightless world there would seem little to smile about. "The basic aim," Dr. LaMarche says, "is to get Gilda into nursery school as soon as possible. Artificial eyes will improve her appearance, minimize comment from the unthinking, and help eliminate the stigma that cruelly but inevitably attaches to the blind."

Thus the mending of these small defective bodies progresses each week at the Birth Defects Center in Providence, just as it does in San Francisco and Denver and Chicago and at more than 70 other March of Dimes Centers across the nation.

We've Wrapped Up A Very

Merry Christmas

Varsity Men's Wear

E. King St. Boone, N. C.



For Dads

- Asher and Hubbard Slacks
- Cricketeer Suits and Sport Coats
- Topcoats — Ski Sweaters
- Parkas — Gloves
- Turtle-Neck Shirts
- Bass-Johnston and Murphy Shoes



For Brothers

- Gant Sport and Dress Shirts
- Cox Moore Sweaters (V-neck and Cardigans)
- London Fog Maincoats

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For Husbands

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- Belts



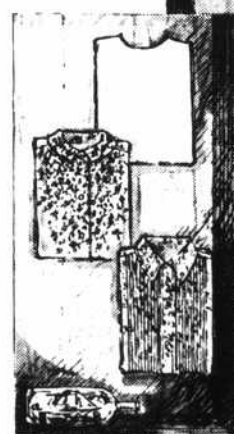
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- John Meyer
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