

Ramp Queen Must Wield Scepter This Year Over Nonexistent Realm

Queen of a vanished empire is Miss Maggie Lewis, if indications are correct. Ever since the pungent odor of ramps heralded the first Ramp Convention back in April, 1929, Miss Maggie has been the undisputed ruler of the ramp. There have been plenty of queens crowned this year or that, but none who would usurp the title that Miss Maggie won 27 years ago.

This year, though, unless a suitable site can be found for the gathering before the ramps reach eating-size, the word has gone out, "No ramp convention." Former convention sites at Black Camp Gap and Camp Hope are not available. Miss Maggie will be there, if there's a convention to be found. She says she'll make it wherever it is, age or no age, feeling younger than ever. After all, she says, there've been times in those 27 years when she has walked as much as 12 miles to attend the convention.

That's something of a record since Miss Maggie "won't deny" that she is 112 years old. Back at that first ramp feast which she cooked for F. W. Woody, Bill Palmer, Claude Williams and Dewey Sutton, she was said to be 85 years old. Subtract 1929 from 1956; add the difference to 85; and anybody who can figure a little can come out with 112.

There's still hope that Miss Maggie's realm of ramps won't evaporate into thin air. Folks who have tried stewed ramps, or ramps with scrambled eggs, or doused with plenty of red ham gravy—or even raw—hate to think of missing the feasting and fun of the Ramp Convention. Ramps should be big



TWO QUEENS AND A SECRETARY OF STATE are apt to be left with on ramps to hold as the Ramp Eaters search for a site for this year's Ramp Convention. Miss Maggie Lewis (left) has been honored as ramp queen for the last 27 of her reputed 112 years. Thad Eure, (center), North Carolina Secretary of State, is perennial Convention Speaker; and Miss Ernestine Edwards (right) was queen of the 1955 convention.

enough and sweet enough and plentiful enough about the third week of May and by that time some ardent conventioneer could locate a gathering-place for his fellow-members to load their plates with the potent vegetables. If nobody does, we wonder whether Miss

Maggie won't invite her old cronies around (and don't forget North Carolina Secretary of State Thad Eure, who's official "speaker for life" of the Convention, and gets to kiss the queen as well as crown her) and fix up a really regal ramp dinner.

Flowering Trees And Shrubs Reaching Height Of Bloom Along Blue Ridge Parkway

The "flowers that bloom in the spring" are not as late this year as might have been expected, according to a prediction from Blue Ridge Parkway Asheville District Ranger Robert E. Howe, with a number due to reach their peak this weekend.

Blooming along the Parkway from Wagon Road Gap to Beech Gap are the serviceberry or shadbush, pink azalea, magnolia, silverbell and mountain andromeda.

Ranger Howe points out that recent warm weather and considerable rainfall have caused plant life to "catch up" to about its usual status at this time of year. He reports in detail:

Shadbush or Serviceberry — outstanding display in the Graveyard Fields area (Mile Post 418-421). Should be good through 5/13.

Pink Azalea—starting to bloom, should be at its peak about weekend of 5/12. There will be a good display, especially from Bridges Camp Gap (M. P. 417) to Graveyard Fields (M. P. 421).

Flame Azalea—the last week of May and the first week of June should be very good in the Soco Gap to Mile High Overlook area. (Note: This section is scheduled to reopen May 18, upon completion of paving.)

Magnolia — beginning to bloom between Wagon Road Gap (M. P. 412) and Bridges Camp Gap (M. P. 417). Should be in good display by weekend of 5/12.

Silverbell — outstanding display this year, in the area from M. P. 414 to 418. These large attractively blooming trees should reach their peak by the weekend of 5/12.

Mountain andromeda — (Pieris

Ninevah Church WMU Honors Five Mothers

By MRS. AZE GRIFFIN
Community Reporter

The Women's Missionary Union of the Ninevah Baptist Church met with Miss Selma Baldwin last Saturday night. Mrs. Hilda Hollingsworth gave the devotions.

The WMU presented Mother's Day flowers to:

The oldest mother, Mrs. Dock Green; the youngest mother, Mrs. Pat Leming; the youngest grandmother, Mrs. Montgomery Queen, and the mother with the largest family, Mrs. Jason Smiley.

A revival is now being conducted at the Ninevah church by the Rev. Otto Parham, pastor of the Allens Creek Baptist Church. Services start nightly at 7:30.

floribunda) — this attractive and showy member of the heath family is now in full bloom and should remain at its peak through the weekend of 5/12. It is especially noticeable between Mile Posts 418-421. This is the only constructed section of the Parkway in North Carolina where this evergreen shrub with its creamy "lily-of-the-valley-like" flowers is found.

Purple rhododendron—very few flower buds this year. Graveyard Fields area should be at its best about June 10.

Smaller woods flowers now in bloom include the following: bluets, merrybells, trout lily, trailing arbutus, spring beauty and hobble bush.

Senator Ervin Pays Tribute To Senator George

WASHINGTON — The foremost statesman of the Congress, Senator Walter F. George of Georgia, announced last week that he would not seek re-election after the completion of his present Senate term.

THE REALIZATION

Reporters rushed to his office across the hall from my office in the Senate Office Building when it was learned that the elder statesman, the dean of the Senate, was to make an announcement. The reporters alerted their downtown offices to be ready to move a bulletin on the wires and requested the use of my office telephones in order to get the news out as quickly as possible. The realization that the distinguished senior Senator will leave the Senate causes one to reflect on his remarkable career and life. He is held in the highest esteem and will undoubtedly go down in the history of the Senate as one of the top Senators of all time. His public career is a model of dedication to the finer aspects of political service.

SENIORITY

Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona will become the senior member of the Senate in terms of service. He has been a member of Congress since Arizona was admitted to the Union. Before becoming a Congressman, he was high sheriff of a county in what was to become Arizona. He was elected to the Senate in 1927 after having served from 1912 until that time in the House. Senator Hayden, alert and possessing a keen mind, is Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. No man in Congress is better informed on appropriation matters than Senator Hayden.

GENERAL LEMAY

General LeMay's testimony be-

fore our Special Air Force Subcommittee and the subsequent divergent views expressed by high Administration sources have touched off a national debate on the

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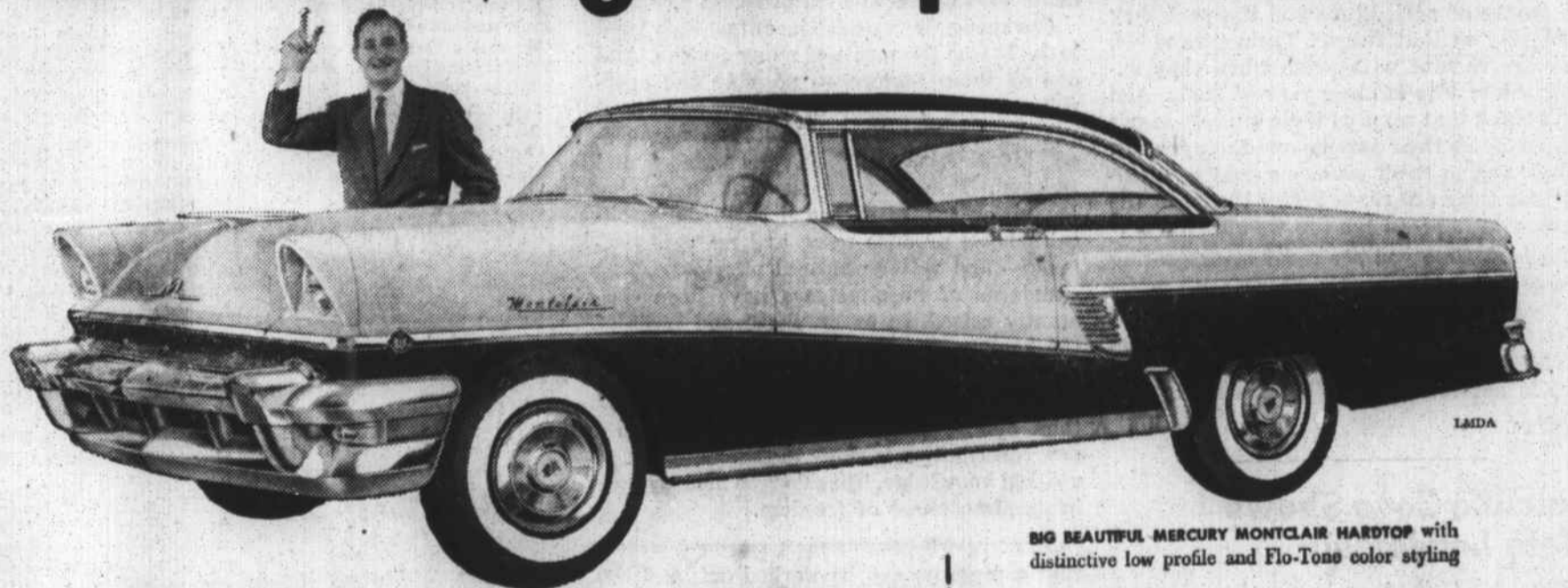
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