

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 5, 2017

RE: **Creation of a Heritage Tree Program**

FROM: Karen DeMaria, City of Key West Urban Forestry Manager

A request has been made by the public to create a Heritage Tree program in the City of Key West with the consideration of the mahogany trees on Simonton Street labeled as Heritage trees.

A definition of a heritage tree are those trees that are typically a large individual tree with unique value, which is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for heritage tree designation are age, rarity, and size as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological and historical value.

The following is some information that was found in [Heritage Tree Programs](#) in Portland and Minneapolis:

Categories Portland:

Specimen: A tree of exceptional size, form, or rarity.

Historic: A tree recognized by virtue of its age, its association with or contribution to a historic structure or district, or its association with a noted person or historic event.

Landmark: Trees that are landmarks of a community.

Collection: Trees in a notable grove, avenue, or other planting.

Categories Minneapolis:

Champion Size: Trees that are the largest of their species

Significant Size: Trees that are very large, but not the largest of their species

Historically or Culturally Significant: Trees that are connected to historical dates, events, people or city landmarks

The goal of the Minneapolis Heritage Tree program is to find and give official recognition to trees that are very large, very old, and/or are an important part of our history or culture. Heritage trees may live on either City or private property.

The State of Florida has a Champion Tree Program that identifies the largest of trees in a certain species. There are many Florida Champion trees within the City of Key West:

Florida Champion Tree Program-Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Champion Tree Program was created by the American Forests organization in 1940, to recognize the largest known tree of each species in the United States. American Forests publishes their [National Register of Big Trees](#) every two years. The 2012 edition of the Register includes 111 Florida species, many of which are only found in the tropical region of the state. Florida now has the most national champions of any state. Florida began keeping a state register, the Florida Champion Tree Register, in 1975 to recognize the largest tree of each species within this state. It now contains hundreds of trees, including the national champions. All native and non-invasive naturalized tree species are eligible for nomination.

The individual tree of each particular species with the highest point total is considered the Champion for that species. If two or more trees have point totals within two percent (2%) of each other, they are considered to be co-champions. The Florida Forest Service has created [Florida Champion Tree Measuring Procedures](#) to provide specific help with measuring. Measurements need to be verified by a Florida Forest Service County Forester before a tree is certified as a champion.

Nomination of a Florida Champion Tree is open to all species of trees that grow in Florida, whether native or naturalized. Palm trees are included. Species listed as invasive exotics by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council are not eligible for nomination. Certain species growing in this state may not be eligible for national champion status, but can be recognized as Florida Champions.

Anyone can nominate a tree, whether it is located on public or private land. However, before nominations of trees on privately owned land can be approved, the owner must complete and sign the property owner agreement, which grants the Florida Forest Service written permission to accept the nomination of the tree and display specific information.

Recommendation: The City of Key West is a very historic city and trees are a part of that history. The creation of a City of Key West Heritage Tree Program is a valid idea. There does need to be a set of guidelines created as to what trees are appropriate to be included in this program and a process of nomination and approval.

The information submitted in this staff report represents information that would help create a set of guidelines and procedures. Once the Tree Commission has determined a set of guidelines, procedures, and policy, the program should be established.

In the past the Tree Commission has recognized Champion tree status for trees as part of the Florida Champion Tree Program. Therefore, trees to be placed into the proposed Heritage Tree program should be approved by the Tree Commission. Applications for submittal to the program should be processed through the Urban Forester. Any member of the public should be able to submit an application with documented information regarding submittal of a specific tree to the Heritage Tree Program but care must be taken to ensure property owners are included in the reviews and approvals.

- 1. Vote as to whether to create a Heritage Tree Program.**
- 2. Discuss procedures and make recommendations as to the process.**

The actual identification of specific trees to be reviewed for heritage tree status should be done once a program has been established.



Department of Planning and Building Services

380 A Avenue

Post Office Box 369

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

503-635-0290

www.ci.oswego.or.us

HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

Trees provide aesthetic, economic, and environmental benefits to the City of Lake Oswego. Trees are also an important part of the city's living heritage; they help create the distinctive community character that we pass along to future generations.

WHY A HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM?

The City of Lake Oswego's Heritage Tree Program was established in 1997 to help foster appreciation and increase awareness about the contribution of trees to the city's history and heritage. The purpose of the program is to educate citizens about the importance of trees through protection and recognition.

WHAT IS A HERITAGE TREE?

Heritage Trees are trees of landmark importance. A Heritage Tree is designated as a landmark based on its age, size, species, horticultural quality, and its importance in the historical, cultural, environmental, and physical landscape.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Anyone can nominate a tree or grove of trees on either public or private property for Heritage Tree designation. (If the tree is located on private property, the permission of the property owner is required.) To nominate a tree, complete the Heritage Tree Nomination Form. Feel free to attach extra sheets if necessary to answer the questions completely.

Once the application form is submitted, a certified arborist examines the health and condition of the nominated tree(s). Applications are then reviewed by the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) for approval. NRAB typically reviews applications annually; all applications received within a calendar year are reviewed the following February.

ONCE IT'S OFFICIAL

Once a tree is designated, a plaque is installed near the tree. The property owner is also asked to record the tree's designation on the land title, which bestows protection upon the tree. (A Heritage Tree may be removed, if necessary, under a Type II Tree Removal Permit.) New Heritage Trees are celebrated during Arbor Week, which is the first full week in April.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Lake Oswego's Heritage Tree Program, contact the Department of Planning and Building Services at (503) 635-0290, or visit our website at

<http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/planning/heritage-tree-program>.

Minneapolis Heritage Tree Program

The Minneapolis Heritage Tree Program seeks to locate and give official recognition to the most significant trees within the City of Minneapolis or MPRB property. Nominations are received and verified each year by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Forestry Division. There may be a Heritage Tree in your backyard, park or boulevard.

Trees can qualify for recognition in any of the following categories:

- ***Champion Size:** trees that are the largest of their species
- ***Significant Size:** trees worthy of recognition for size, but not the largest of their species
- ***Historically/Culturally Significant:** trees specifically associated with historical dates, events, people, and city landmarks

The Judging Process

Nominated trees are examined and approved by staff from the Minneapolis Park Board Forestry Division. Nominations will be certified for addition to the official heritage tree list according to methods established by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and American Forests. Heritage trees will be measured by height, circumference and crown spread. Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission members will review and approve nominated trees for the Historical/Cultural Significance designation.

At times champion heritage trees are removed or damaged (e.g. the tornado of 1981 which destroyed the city's champion ginkgo and green ash). When larger trees are discovered they may take the place of currently listed champion trees. A list is kept of all nominated trees for future consideration.

Thank you for your participation in the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Heritage Tree Program!

Please Submit Nominations to:

Forestry@MinneapolisParks.org

Or mail to: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board / Forestry Division
Heritage Tree Program
3800 Bryant Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409



"We Help Trees!"

Heritage Tree Nomination Form



"We Help Trees!"

Common Tree Name_____

Cultural/Historical Significance_____

(If appropriate) Please describe

Address and Location _____

(tree must be located within Minneapolis city limits or MPRB property)

Measurement:

Circumference is measured at 4½ feet above ground level in inches. For additional measurement information, see American Forests website

(<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/measure.php>).

Circumference (inches)_____

Date Measured _____

Height (feet)_____

Average Canopy Spread (feet)_____

Nominator:

Name:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

City_____

State:_____ Zip Code_____

Phone:_____

Tree Owner:

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip Code_____

Phone:_____

Nomination of a Tree to the Florida Champion Tree Record

General Information: The Florida Champion Tree program is patterned after the American Forests *National Register of Big Trees* (National Champion Trees) program. Certain species growing in this state may not be eligible for national champion status, but can be recognized as Florida Champions. All reigning National Champion Trees in Florida also hold the title of Florida Champion Tree until displaced by larger trees. Additional details about the national program can be obtained from the following website address: <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/>.

Eligibility: Nomination of a Florida Champion Tree is open to all species of trees that grow in Florida, whether native or naturalized. Palm trees are included. Species listed as invasive exotics by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council are not eligible for nomination.

Trees nominated for champion status must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an erect, woody main trunk that measures more than 9.5 inches in circumference at 4 ½ feet above the average ground level (see Measurements section below for exceptions.).
2. Be more than 13 feet high, as measured vertically for a point level with the base of the trunk to the highest twig.
3. Have a definite crown of branches or fronds.

Procedure: Anyone may nominate a tree for champion status, with permission from the property owner. Species identification and measurements must be verified by Florida Forest Service personnel. To submit new trees for consideration to the Florida Champion Tree Record, complete all information on the Florida Champion Tree nomination form or nomination web page. Once the property owner and an FFS representative have approved the nomination, it can be submitted to the Urban Forestry Coordinator of the Florida Forest Service, along with a digital photograph.

Measurements: Measurements are to be recorded to the nearest whole unit, rounding upwards from 0.5. The following measurements are required:

1. Circumference of the trunk in inches, 4 ½ feet above the average ground level. This also applies to trees with exceptional swelling at the base, such as baldcypress. If the tree forks below 4.5 feet, the circumference should be taken at the narrowest point below 4 ½ feet where knots, burls, or limbs do not interfere.
2. Height in feet. This is the vertical distance from the highest point of the tree to a point at the same elevation as the stump.
3. Crown Spread diameter in feet. Measure the diameter at the maximum length, and at a 90 degree angle to the maximum. The average of these two measurements determines the Average Crown Spread.

Consult the *American Forests* website above for additional guidance on how to take measurements in exceptional situations.

Calculating Points: The tree with the largest point total will be recorded as the Florida or National Champion of its species. Required measurements are scored as follows:

1. Circumference – 1 point per inch.
2. Height – 1 point per foot.
3. Average Crown Spread – 1 point per 4 feet.

Each measure is recorded to the nearest whole point, rounding up from 0.5 before calculating the total.

When the total points of two trees are within **two percent** of one another, each tree will be declared a co-champion.

Photograph: A digital photograph should be submitted with each nomination. Because these photographs may be used for publication, please try to achieve the following:

1. Good scenic contrast. The tree and any persons need to be very clearly depicted for printing processes.
2. Capture as much of the tree as possible, emphasizing notable or unusual features. Also, show some sense of scale and proportion.
3. List the names of any persons included in each photograph from left to right.
4. Avoid scenic distractions such as power/telephone wires, trash on ground, vehicles, etc.

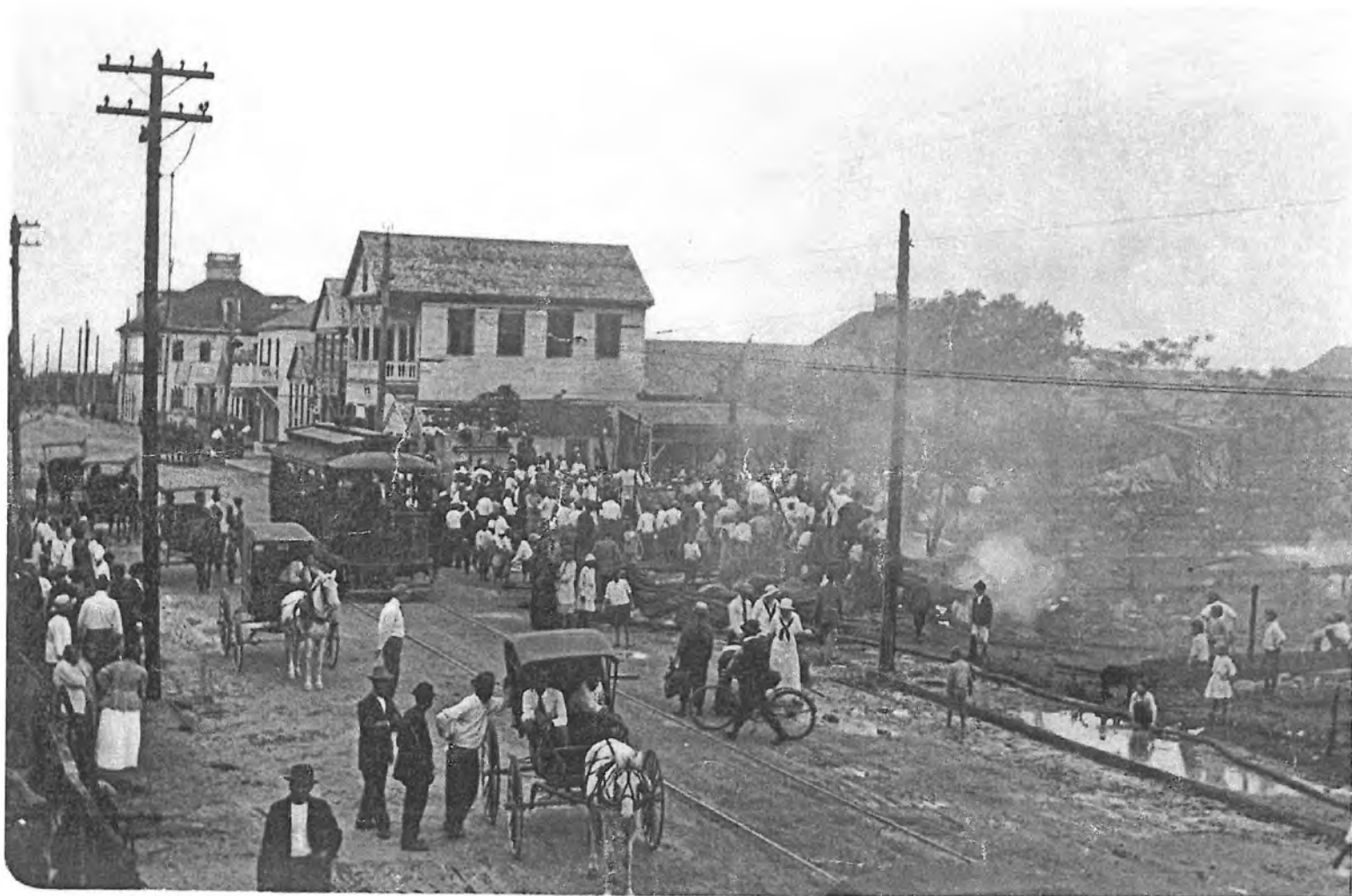
Recording GPS Coordinates: This is done to record each tree's location in the most precise manner so that it can be located again at a future date. Specific locations of privately owned trees will remain confidential, unless the property owner allows (in writing) the information to be made public. Record coordinates on paper only in **decimal degrees format (to six decimal digits)**. A positive number indicates North latitude and a negative number indicates West longitude. Also, please submit a copy of the GPS shape file for the tree that is downloaded from the GPS receiver. These files will be used to make maps of publicly owned trees in the future.

Additional Information

HERITAGE TREES

Historic significance - A tree may be associated with a notable local or regional historical event, person, structure, or landscape. Almost every tree that has been around for a while has some historical significance, whether it is recognized or not. Determining whether the historical significance of a given tree is sufficiently notable is therefore a subjective matter. Historic tree status is typically granted by a governing (e.g., city council) or advisory body (e.g., tree commission). Some ordinances automatically confer historic status on trees designated as historical landmarks by certain other organizations (e.g., historical societies). In addition, ordinances may assign special status to trees dedicated or planted as public memorials.

MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY



MM 000 21075
Fire at Gato Cigar Factory on Simonton Street
on December 17, 1915
From the Dale McDonald Collection
Monroe County Library

Key West Citizen
August 11, 1934.

Congressman Wilcox Hopes To Have Navy Department Place Sub Base Here In Operation

Key West Citizen
August 11, 1934.

Endeavoring To Prevent Destroying Valuable Trees During Beautification

The Department of Parks and Recreation of the FERA is issuing a request to the people of Key West to be careful in cutting away trees or other growths while doing beautification work.

Attention of the department was called to the fact that both shade and fruit trees had been destroyed, also some valuable shrub-

bery, while the process of beautifying yards and gardens is carried on.

It is requested by the department that where there are trees and shrubbery to be removed or cut down, the owner call on the parks and recreation office first in order that an inspection can be made and advice given.

In several instances, it has been stated, some very valuable plants and shrubbery have been destroyed.

Large Crowd At Station To Greet Governor Sholtz And Party Today

Miami Herald
August 11, 1934.

PORTER TO LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON

Overseas Bridge Corporation
Manager Will Attend Hearing

KEY WEST, Fla., Aug. 10.—William R. Porter, general manager of the Overseas Highway Bridge Corporation, will leave soon for Washington to be present when the board of review of the public works administration has its hearing on the corporation's request for a loan to

Fully 500 people were at the Florida East Coast terminals this morning to greet Governor Dave Sholtz and his party arriving on the Havana Special.

City and county officials, officers and men from the Florida National Guard encampment, merchants and others from every walk of life, including many members of the gentler sex.

The first contingent of the visitors to come arrived in a coast guard plane and were at the station to greet the others when the train came in. In this advance party were Chief Justice Fred Davis, of the Florida Supreme Court; Adjutant General Vivian Collins, of Florida; Colonel J. E. Vane and Captain

Representative For This District Much Pleased Over Future Outlook For Key West

Congressman J. Mark Wilcox expresses himself as being exceedingly happy over the marvelous changes noticeable on every hand in Key West and is particularly elated over the optimistic temper of the people.

Mr. Wilcox came in on the morning train and is spending the day meeting friends and different groups to discuss in detail proposed measures in the interests of Key West which he intends to introduce at the next session of congress.

Asked what was his opinion as to the ultimate success of the application for the construction of the Overseas Bridges, the congressman said they were still working hard on this proposition and hoped for the ultimate success of the Overseas Road and Toll Bridge Commission.

There are two other measures he is planning on at this time, and has been working for several months. One of these is the insertion of a clause in the tariff act permitting ripe pineapples to be brought from Cuba for purposes of canning in the Key West cannery.

Another is to have an order issued by the navy department designating the submarine base at Key West to be used for the purpose for which it was intended.

Regional Director Of Parks And Recreation Finds Many Beautiful Specimens Of Trees In Key West

J. Gerry Curtis, Regional Director of Parks and Recreation and Reginald Hart, who is temporarily associated with Mr. Curtis, today spent several hours looking over trees and shrubbery on the island. They found many beautiful specimens growing in Key West, which on account of improper location or surroundings, cannot be appreciated. Some are hidden by buildings, others are almost lost amid dense growth of shrubbery.

Many of these beautiful specimens should be brought out into view, they stated. A few should be transplanted. Others may be benefitted by the removal of old buildings and by the opening of vistas. New plantings will be made of species typical of this climate, it is planned.

"There is a vast amount of work to be done before any actual planting can be started," stated Mr. Curtis. "Many of the trees, like Topsy, 'just grew up'. Only in a few instances were the plantings made according to a definite plan. Some received the proper treatment in the form of water, fertilizer and pest control, but many of them survived through sheer luck.

"Before we plant a single tree or shrub, we must have a definite planting plan. This cannot be worked out in a day. Consideration must be given to types of soil, rainfall, utility; either ornamental or fruit bearing; and many other factors."

Makes Comments

Several interesting comments were made by Mr. Hart. He has been in Key West many times, his first visit being in 1919. His training as an entomologist and horticulturist has caused him to take particular interest in the trees and shrubbery growing in Key West. Mr. Hart is especially interested in a plant pest survey of the island.

"No one can dispute the fact that there is every opportunity for Key West to become world famous for both variety and beauty of trees and shrubbery."

Relative To Winter

"During the winter months, when Key West must look at its best for the benefit of tourists, our plantings look their worst. This is due to several things. Many trees are in a more or less dormant condition, with the old leaves forming during the summer still hanging on. A few shed their leaves completely. Insect pests and plant diseases disfigure a large number. This is where artificial aid must be given. Severe storms during the late summer and early fall twist the trees, break limbs, and worse yet, break thousands of the tiny feeding roots upon which the trees depends for nourishment. These storms are sometimes followed by a period of extreme drought. As a result the trees receive a setback, just when they should look their best, which takes months, or even years to overcome.

"Following the hurricane of 1926 in Miami I was temporarily transferred to the Miami Park Department and was associated with Mr. Curtis in the rehabilita-

tion of storm damaged trees. Some were blown out of the ground, some were connected with only a few roots, and practically all of the remaining were severely damaged by the wind. Supplied with the very best equipment and labor, these trees were reset and straightened. Even with the best of care in the form of spraying, fertilization and watering, we lost quite a few trees. In many cases there was a lapse of several years before the trees fully recovered.

Suggest Program

"Here in Key West severe storms sometimes injure the trees. There should be adopted a definite program looking to the treatment of such storm tossed trees. Broken limbs should be carefully removed; trees blown out of line should be straightened and supported by wires; the soil should be fertilized, and most important, unless frequent rains occur, they should be given plenty of water.

"I also noted a blackened appearance by the presence of sooty mold fungus on various trees and shrubs due to a heavy infestation of different scales and whiteflies

FLORIDA TIMES UNION
AUG 27 1934

No Tipping Ordinance Passed in Key West

KEY WEST, Aug. 26, (P)—City Council last night passed on its third and final reading an ordinance prohibiting tipping here and providing for a fine for persons found guilty of violating the law. The new ordinance becomes effective September 1.

"No tipping" signs are to be displayed in hotels, restaurants, filling stations and other public places.

The no tipping law is in keeping with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration plan to make Key West a unique Winter resort town.

Key West Citizen
August 27, 1934

RECREATIONAL BOARD TO MEET

SESSION WILL BE CONDUCTED TOMORROW NIGHT IN FERA ROOM

The Advisory and Recreational Board of the Department of Parks and Recreation will hold its second meeting at 8 o'clock tomorrow night in the FERA conference room.

The first meeting of the board was held last Friday afternoon when T. H. Pittman was named chairman and Robert Spottswood was selected as vice chairman. Other members of the board are George Brooks, Mrs. M. E. Berkowitz, Mrs. Neil Knowles, Mrs. James Roberts, Miss Elizabeth Sharpley and Sam Goldsmith.

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Key West citizen

August 27, 1934

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"No one can dispute the fact that there is every opportunity for Key West to become world famous for both variety and beauty of trees and shrubbery," said Mr. Hart. "Tropical vegetation will flourish here, as it will nowhere else in the United States; but nature must be assisted by artificial aid in the form of cultivation, fertilization and spraying.

"Unfortunately most of our flowering trees bloom during the season when their beauty and fragrance cannot be appreciated by tourists. The Frangipani, the Geiger tree, the Royal Poinciana, all flower during the summer months. Incidentally, I wonder how many citizens of Key West know how the Frangipani got its

a result the trees receive a setback, just when they should look their best, which takes months, or even years to overcome.

"Following the hurricane of 1926 in Miami I was temporarily transferred to the Miami Park Department and was associated with Mr. Curtis in the rehabilita-

tion of storm damaged trees. Some were blown out of the ground, some were connected with only a few roots, and practically all of the remaining were severely damaged by the wind. Supplied with the very best equipment and labor, these trees were reset and straightened. Even with the best of care in the form of spraying, fertilization and watering, we lost quite a few trees. In many cases there was a lapse of several years before the trees fully recovered.

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"I also noted a blackened appearance by the presence of sooty mold fungus on various trees and shrubs due to a heavy infestation of different scales and whiteflies. These insects exude a honey dew which as it drops down on the clean foliage serves as a medium for the growth of this unsightly fungus. Root knot may be blamed for the yellow sickly appearance of hibiscus and other plants. This is caused by a microscopic worm present in connection with a weakened and exhausted condition of the soil. Plants thus affected should be removed with as much of the original soil about the roots as possible and new soil should be added before replacements are made.

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at Key West
SESSION WILL BE CONDUCTED
TOMORROW NIGHT
IN FERA ROOM

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Key West citizen

August 27, 1934

HAMILTON WRIGHT PAYS VISIT HERE

Hamilton M. Wright, Jr., director of publicity for Miami, was a visitor in the city today conferring with B. M. Duncan, local FERA administrator. He also paid a brief call at The Citizen.

Mr. Wright will leave on the evening train for Miami.

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July 22, 1935

TREE GUILD IS ORGANIZED HERE FOR ACTIVITIES

WALLACE B. KIRKE HEADS
ORGANIZATION AS PRESI-
DENT; PURPOSE IS TO
PLANT MANY TREES

The Key West Tree Guild, or-
ganized last week with Wallace
B. Kirke as president, offers citi-
zens of this city an opportunity to
participate in a constructive com-
munity program which will, when
consummated, have a lasting bene-
ficial effect on the Island City.

While the detailed program of
the guild has not yet been work-
ed out, the purpose of the organi-
zation generally is to provide a
medium through which tree lovers
can work and help in developing
shade trees on the island. This, of-
ficers of the guild pointed out to-
day, is a definite need in Key West
for although shade trees can be
found in abundance in back yards
and other spots where they are
not evident to the stranger, there
are few along the sidewalks to im-
press the visitor and offer him
shade.

In an effort to attract all per-
sons interested in the cultivation
of trees, the guild has worked
out three kinds of memberships,

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In an effort to attract all persons interested in the cultivation of trees, the guild has worked out three kinds of memberships, designed to appeal to everyone in one way or another. The three classifications of membership are working, regular and contributing.

Those joining the guild in the first classification will do a large part of the actual work, such as rooting plants, pruning, and planting trees, or permitting others to plant trees in the yards.

Regular members will comprise the organization and planning membership in the guild.

The third classification was included for visitors and others who want to participate in developing the tree life on the island but are not in a position to do so, either because of physical handicaps, lack of sufficient residence here or for some other reason.

While the purpose of the guild primarily is to plant and cultivate trees on the island, the program also is one of conservation. Seedlings which could be cultivated and developed into fine shade trees are constantly being pulled up and destroyed, it was said, and through the guild it is hoped a greater appreciation of these possibilities will be brought about.

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Club Groups Fight Move To Destroy Simonton St. Trees

In connection with efforts of the Key West Woman's Club and the Key West Garden Club to stop a move for widening Simonton Street, which would result in removal of the mahogany trees along its sidewalks, Mrs. Lee Goddard, Garden Club president, has sent the following letter to Senator Bill Neblett:

The Hon. William Neblett
Senate Chamber
Tallahassee, Fla.

Dear Senator;

Yesterday at a Board meeting of the Woman's Club your letter to Mrs. Byrns relative to the widening of Simonton St., - was read and, I hasten to add, not approved. Speaking for the Garden Club, we are most definitely in favor of repairs being made to the sidewalks - knowing that the roots of offending trees may be scientifically pruned without injuring them - but we are unequivocally opposed to the removal of the trees in order to unnecessarily widen the street. Therefore we urge you to amend your bill so that said sidewalks may be repaired with cigarette tax monies without compulsory widening.

Need we remind you that Key West's prosperity is derived from two main sources: the Navy and the Tourist Trade?

The interest displayed by the Navy in beautification is shown by: a.) the employment of the two best professional gardeners on the island - Mr. Rufus Pittman and Mr. George Solomon; b.) by the propagation of rare trees and palms; c.) by the extensive and costly replanting of the main entrance to the Yard; d.) by the culture and preservation of all the lovely old trees within the gates.

Now as to the tourists. We all know they come to enjoy the climate, the fishing, the swimming

in beauty. But what happened? As soon as the trees grew to ten or more feet short - sighted business people who wanted their neon signs unobstructed by leaves and flowers began killing or cutting them down—even though an ordinance of our city makes this a misdemeanor carrying a heavy fine.

The Garden Club and the Woman's Club has the task of re-educating our population along more constructive lines. We recognize our public obligations but please, please, in the name of all growing things, do not give aid and comfort to the oppositon by permitting our city government to take the lead in further wanton destruction.

We realize that you can appreciate our concern in this matter or you would not be so interested in your own fine orchid collection.

Yours for a lovely, cool and shady Key West,

Sincerely,

President

Key West Garden Club
Box 90
Key West, Fla.

1955
Key West Citizen

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pagation of rare trees and palms;
c.) by the extensive and costly re-
planting of the main entrance to
the Yard; d.) by the culture and
preservation of all the lovely old
trees within the gates.

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Key West has been blighted by
human termites before as one can
easily verify by looking at old
photographs of the island preserv-
ed at the Art and Historical Socie-
ty. By 1910 the magnificent stand
of original mahogany trees had all
been cut down. You see the stark
frame houses huddled together in
ugly nakedness reminiscent of
Western boom towns. Now think
back to the black days of the de-
pression and the herculean task un-
dertaken by the Federal Govern-
ment to put this community back
on its feet.

Surveying the most likely chances
for survival and progress - Tour-
ism was chosen as the cornerstone
on which these planners began to
build. What was one of their very
first moves? Beautification. The
planting of trees. (No-one wishes
to take a leisurely walk or bicycle
ride under the hot sun.) So we saw
them putting in Poinciana trees on
Whitehead St., orchid trees on
Margaret, Coconuts and mahogan-
ies on many streets.

Who guided this planting? None
other than Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Phe-
lan, Miss Parker, Mr. Kirke to
name a few. Backbreaking work,
but worth it to see the city emerge

Smathers Raps

Fate Of Mahogany Trees Is Discussed

Representatives of several Key West civic and cultural organizations descended on the city commission last night to ask that mahogany trees on Simonton St. be preserved if the city ever undertakes a widening or sidewalk repair program there.

They argued for more than an hour that the natural beauty of the trees is one of Key West's most important assets and that a real effort should be made to preserve them.

They were alerted after a bill was passed in the state senate authorizing the city to use cigarette tax money to widen and repair the sidewalks on Simonton and Fleming Sts., and Truman Ave.

Mayor-Elect Stands Pat In Galveston

GALVESTON, Tex. (AP)—Galveston's mayor-elect, who takes office late today, defied the City Commission and Texas Rangers, stood pat against the ministerial association and pledged a fight for his plan to throw the town wide open to gambling and prostitution.

Galveston, an island resort city, always has been known as a place where you could risk some money or visit a house of pleasure in defiance of the state's laws. But discretion has been the motto of

At the conclusion of last night's discussion, they were told by the commission that there is slight chance that a street widening program will be undertaken in the near future because, among other things, the city does not have the money.

The discussion also brought out the possibility that a city park commission may be appointed in the near future to oversee the city's plant life.

That suggestion, which met with favor from a majority of the commission, was advanced by Mrs. Emily Goddard, representing the Key West Garden Club.

Mrs. Gertrude Byrns, of the Key West Woman's Club, was the first to speak before last night's meeting. Pointing out that in the mid-30s Key West had had tree specimens that grew nowhere else in the United States, she said that most of them have since been destroyed.

Natural Beauty

"The garden club is against having any more of the natural beauty of Key West destroyed," said Mrs. Byrns.

Mrs. Goddard then took the floor. She told of how the government sparked a beautification program here in depression days in an effort to promote the city's tourist business. She added that the Navy, even now, has an intensive program of beautification on the Naval Station. That the city's gardening program is lagging, was pointed up by Mrs. Goddard when she said that "25 year old trees are being bull-dozed by bullheads."

Mrs. William R. Warren, a

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Key West Citizen

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Mrs. William R. Warren, a pioneer Key West resident active in gardening circles also decried possible loss of the trees, pointing out that this was the second time she had fought to save them.

Legislators Advised

Mrs. Nora K. Smiley, of the Key West Art and Historical Society, told the commission that organization has had also joined the fight to save the trees and had wired Monroe County's legislative delegation in Tallahassee to protest the bill.

Cmdr. Ray Byrns, of the Key West Players also asked the commission to spare the trees.

Net result of the discussion was a motion by Commissioner Jack Delaney that the city confer with the Garden Club before any widening program on Simonton St. is undertaken. His motion was amended by Commissioner Delio Cobo that the club also be consulted on a projected beautification plan for the city parking lot for which the city is negotiating.

It passed unanimously.