



An eager young lieutenant of his took the law into his own hands and executed a Missouri citizen who was found harboring a Rebel guerrilla. This so "struck terror throughout the State, especially to those of the southern sentiment, and they felt that their lives were not safe, and thousands of them emigrated immediately to Idaho and Montana."

Idaho happens to be my home State, and growing up there I knew some of these old confederates. That they had been done a good turn General Dodge authenticates: "Years afterwards when I went West, to the station opposite Boise, where they were investigating the question of putting in some irrigation works, and while my car was standing on the siding, one day there came up from the Boise Valley a delegation of citizens, who loaded my car with fruit. I was absent and did not see them, but they told the station agent that they were citizens whom I had driven out of Missouri and that at one time they would have hung me if they could have gotten hold of me, but now they were thankful for the movement, and brought me this fruit with their compliments."

But, as I said earlier, it is the General's House which is the focus of our honor today; and it is the program of the Registry of National Historic Landmarks which I would like to mention briefly.

Congress in 1935 established a national policy of protecting for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of all the people. The Registry, an outgrowth of this Act, does not signify national operation of the recognized landmarks. These are maintained by local, by state, or by federal bodies on the public side, and many are in private ownership. The Dodge House is one of these; so is Fontenelle Forest, across the river, which I will visit later today.

Historic preservation has been called "area conservation". It is a good name, for conservation has come into its own. President Johnson recently paid a graceful tribute to my boss, Stewart Udall, for building a consciousness of conservation throughout our land. Speaking of leadership for conservation, he said: "I am very proud of the leadership and the wisdom, the vitality and the vigorous approach that the distinguished and able Secretary of the Interior has made, the leadership that he has provided from coast to coast in this field."

America is responding. The editor of the American Institute of Architecture Journal this month speaks of the need for cities to "retain the great variety of forms which have meaning for people. Some such forms -- buildings, or groups of buildings, squares, streets or other open places -- may be just old or historic, others may be evocative of local personalities or events, some may be of architectural values, others, though unimportant in themselves, may enhance the over-all visual value of the environment."

The President discussed what is happening to our cities in his great speech at the University of Michigan last May. Open land, he said, is vanishing and old landmarks are violated.

Perhaps most importantly for our program today is what he said about solutions:

"The solution to these problems does not rest on a massive program in Washington, nor can it rely solely on the strained resources of local authority. They require us to create new concepts of cooperation, a creative federalism, between the national capital and the leaders of local communities."

I think I can return now to my opening observation, about a member of the Democratic administration honoring Grenville Dodge, distinguished Republican.

I think it well for us to remember that conservation as a concept has little of the partisan about it. Conservationist progress has come, President Johnson has noted, in periods of concerted effort. One period was under the leadership of a great Republican President, Theodore Roosevelt; another under a great Democratic President, Franklin Roosevelt. The great conservation accomplishments of the third great period which we are now in have been furthered by bipartisan action of the Congress, evidenced by the virtual unanimity with which landmark measures like the Wilderness Bill and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill were passed. No single Congress, the President said to its leaders, has done so much to keep America a good and wholesome and beautiful place to live. There is a national consensus to look ahead, to plan ahead, to move ahead.

Such was the spirit of Grenville Dodge, and his spirit is with us today.

In that spirit, I have the honor of dedicating this structure as a Registered National Historic Landmark.