

## Maple Avenue Trees

MR: The first shot out of the barrel was—we had a local newspaper then. I did publicity for Louis and I was down there with a copy one day. The guy who ran it said ‘what do you think of what they are going to do to Maple Avenue?’ ‘Well,’ I said, ‘I can tell you. If they get ready to cut down *all* the trees...’ Maple Avenue used to be famous for the canopy of maple trees. People would drive out from Washington in the autumn to see it. He said ‘what are you going to do?’ I said, ‘I’m going to get the Women’s Club together and we’re going to strap ourselves to each tree naked.’ And I walked out. So I came back from an area one morning, and stopped by the newspaper office, which was down on Dominion Road. He said, ‘Maud, do you have the women out there?’ I said, ‘What are you talking about?’ He said, ‘They’re starting at the far end of town with chainsaws.’ ‘Well,’ I said, ‘I didn’t quite mean that literally.’ The street and the trees came; you know what a battle it was to get some trees back up. So there’s going to be this big dedication night, and everything, the Mayor and everything. They had to have publicity. So I’m a springer for the Northern Virginia Sun and I arrange to have a cameraman out. The Mayor is out, he’s expecting this big, front-page thing about Vienna’s new widened main street. We start—finally, when they start this parade down—the guy with the camera and I are walking along and we get about three blocks down. He says, ‘You know, I don’t think I have any film in this camera.’ ‘Really!’ Well, I avoided the Mayor for the next two weeks. And then a group of us, we formed a More Beautiful Vienna group and we lobbied and lobbied and we got trees back.