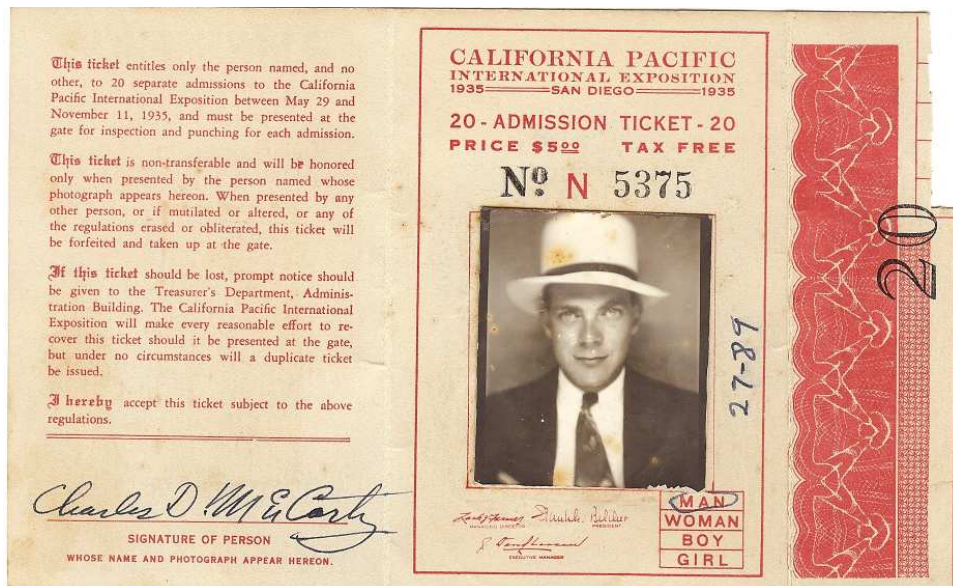


**ONCE UPON A TIME IN NORTH PARK**  
**CHARLIE AND CHERIE – A NORTH PARK LOVE STORY**  
 By Katherine Hon  
 Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Charlie McCarty came to San Diego from Wheeling, West Virginia in 1924 with his grandmother, great-aunt, and mother. He was 8 years old, and still remembers that they drove out west in a Ford Model T coupe, searching for a warmer climate. They made it to Colorado, where the bearings burned out, and took the train to Los Angeles, then San Diego. They lived on Mountain View Drive for a few years, but ever since 1927 Charlie has lived in the Pauly's Addition tract of North Park, in houses on Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi streets. He graduated from San Diego High School in 1933, where a well-known classmate, Eldrid (Gregory) Peck, who later graduated from La Jolla High School, also attended.

Charlie became an aeronautical engineer, working at Convair and General Dynamics. His projects included the B-24 and missile silos. He liked to play sand lot baseball, ride the trolley, and watch movies at the Ramona and North Park theaters. He rode an ostrich at the Mission Cliffs Gardens. He shopped at the Piggly Wiggly, the first grocery store without clerks, recalling it as being very popular. To anyone wondering the truth of an urban legend about Morley Field being used as an airplane landing field, Charlie says no, that never happened. But he does remember thousands of soldiers camping by the baseball diamonds, with their tents set up among the eucalyptus trees, during World War II. The flat, empty mesa that now extends beyond the ball fields at Morley Field was a landfill after World War II, before Florida Canyon Drive was constructed.

Charlie loved the 1935-1936 Exposition in Balboa Park. He bought an annual pass and was there for opening day, walking across Florida Canyon from his house on Texas and Upas streets. His favorite exhibit was the Ford Building, where he watched a car being taken apart and reassembled with great fascination. His mother drove the latest model on the demonstration road surfaces of wooden planks, ground-up shells, and rocks, and was so impressed that she went right out and bought a new Ford. Charlie was a student at San Diego State at the time, and spent many weekends at the Exposition.



Charlie loved to roller skate, and still has the key to his old clamp-on skates. He remembers the Trocadero Skating Rink as a good date place, where you could impress your honey with some smooth dance moves.

But above all, Charlie loved Cherie. He met the vivacious Ramonde Bois Carver at a party in 1949. On their first date, they went roller skating. He has fond memories of watching movies together and smooching in the balcony of the Ramona Theater. Cherie was just visiting from New York. She had to go back east in August 1949, on a bus trip she documented for Charlie in a series of postcards that continued after she arrived in New York City to keep her memory uppermost in his mind. Here is what she wrote:

August 6, 1949 2:30 PM – Los Angeles, CA

*So far one pick up – a very cute wolf aged roughly 70. Kinda hot up here.*

From Miss C To L. B. McCarty

August 8, 1949 2:00 PM – Barstow, CA

*60 to Riverside (you owe me 25 cents) 91 to San Berd now on 66 lovely weather wish I had my air conditioned blouse.*

From Cutie To Babee McCarty

August 7, 1949 12:00 Midnight – Albuquerque, NM

*How are all your wives – give them my regards and sympathy.*

From The one who got away

To Solomon McCarty

August 7, 1949 11:00 AM – Gallup, NM

*Been through a rain storm and aged 10 years going over the hump still on bumpy and holy 66.*

From ? To EARS McCarty

August 7, 1949 4:00 PM – Las Vegas, NM

*Up here from Albuquerque over 85. Then to Trinidad and so on and on etc.*

From Sleep Walker

To Goosie McCarty, Sr.



Southwest Post Card Company, C.T. Art Colortone

August 8, 1949 7:30 AM – Trinidad, CO

*How is Juliette and the rest of all your gals. Make hay while the sun shines.*

From Cuddles To Romeo McCarty

August 8, 1949 1:00 PM – Topeka, KS

*The nicest man just offered me \$45 a week – clear, my fans and feed me. Before I accept his offer do you give me same terms as above.*

From Sally R To Tommy M. McCarty

August 8, 1949 4:00 PM – Kansas City, MO

*Remind me to get real mad when I return. That moron of a ticket agent crossed me up. In order to catch my bus in St. Louis have to fly or else wait over 12 hours – flying seems the lesser of 2 evils. He should live long.*

From C. To: Charles Devil McCarty

August 8, 1949 9:30 PM – Saint Louis, MO

*One hour on plane then another hour to get into town – anyway I made it. If you find my heart a suitable reward is offered. I believe I left it in K.C.*

From X To Earl F. McCarty

August 9, 1949 5:00 PM – Pittsburgh, PA

*Dear Sonny. Hope you're not missing your ma too much.*

From Mama

To Sonny McCarty

August 10, 1949 7:00 AM –  
New York, NY

*Got here despite all you tried to do to collect that insurance. 40 min early & mom is not home.*

From Cuddles

To Artie S. McCarty

August 10, 1949 6:30 PM –  
New York, NY

*Come here to cool off – only 98 in the shade. Humidity at least 1000 – ugh – me for SD.*

From Cutie

To Casanova McCarty



Metrocraft Everett Mass

August 11, 1949 2:00 AM – New York, NY

*People marvel at the fact that I'm not bushed. No rest required in fact cooked dinner tonight.*

No signature. To Romeo McCarty

August 13, 1949 1:00 PM – New York, NY

*Don't bother watering the lawn – just send it here.*

From Miss Career To Goosie McCarty, Sr.

August 14, 1949 7:00 PM – New York, NY

*What am I to do about the fan dancer job – please answer.*

From Bubbles To Reggie McCarty

August 15, 1949 12:30 PM – New York, NY

*Dear Walter. Can't make up my mind as to which bridge would be better to hang your plastic ears on. Please help me decide.*

From The Blouse To Walter McCarty

August 16, 1949 11:00 PM – New York, NY

*Goosie dear you would enjoy yourself here with Baby. She is very nice and sweet just like you.*  
From Cherie To Goosie McCarty Jr.

August 16, 1949 11:30 PM – New York, NY

*Yesterday added a new wolf to my collection. He is out of this world can't find words to describe him. Aged 3 yr 4 mo good competition for you.*  
From Wolfette To W. M. McCarty

August 17, 1949 4:30 PM – New York, NY

*Acquired just the thing you need – will give it to you on my return. Guess what – a very nice touch of prickly heat.*  
From Ma To Sonny McCarty

August 18, 1949 6:00 PM – New York, NY

*Still waiting to hear about that fan dancer job. Please answer – can't put the man off much longer.*  
From Bubbles To Solomon McCarty

August 19, 1949 7:00 PM – New York, NY

*This is where you should be. [The postcard is of Grant's Tomb]*  
From Cuddles To W. H. McCarty

August 20, 1949 3:00 PM – New York, NY

*I sure miss my Babeeeee. So I will hurry back as quick as possible.*  
From Kay To Babe McCarty

August 20, 1949 9:00 PM – New York, NY

*Believe it or not finally got around to washing my hair – hard to believe.*  
From Blouse To Pappe McCarty

August 22, 1949 5:00 PM – New York, NY

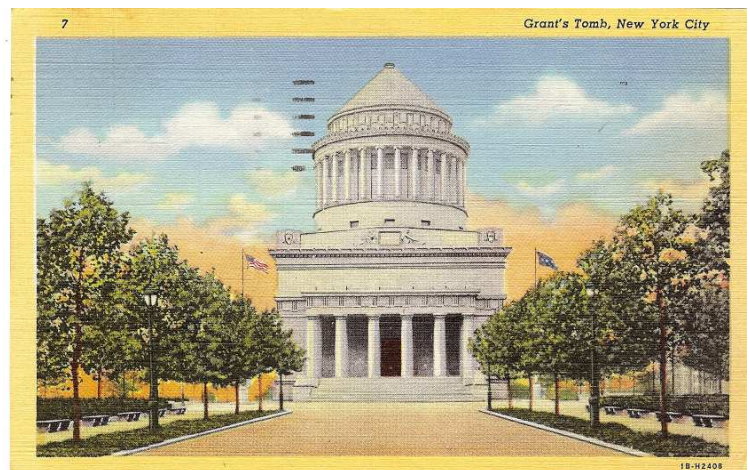
*Do hope the children aren't giving you too much trouble. Kiss them all for me and I'll be back one of these days.*  
From Ma To Sonny McCarty

August 23, 1949 2:00 PM – New York, NY

*Gosh you should see the wolves in this town.*  
From The Blouse To W. H. W. McCarty

Cherie came back to San Diego in the fall of 1949, in time for Charlie's birthday in September. She sent a series of postcards leading up to the day, with these mysterious typed messages:

- September 9, 1949: Its coming – you know; So beware – take care; Knock on wood – be good; Make sure that your there.
- September 10, 1949: Its all right; It could happen day or nite; Don't scratch your head; or look under the bed; above all don't get tite.



*Grant's Tomb, Alfred Meinzer, C.T. Art Colortone*

- September 12, 1949: It happens again and again; Though only now and then; Why all the fuss; There will be no muss; Just get to bed by ten.
- September 13, 1949: The hand is quicker than the eye; Makes no difference how you try; Don't fret – my pet; Get set – you bet; Wow! You'll know by and by.
- September 14, 1949: It could be tough; But please no guff; Your on your toes; You know what goes; Lets hope it won't be rough.
- September 15, 1949: However strange it seems; There are always ways and means; A well aimed whack; Ouch! Oh! My achin back; You better wear your jeans.
- September 16, 1949: It comes but once each year; And now its really here; So take a bow; Real low – right now; For you a cheer – my dear.

They were married on June 3, 1950 at the Presbyterian Church in Laguna Beach. His mother Mrs. C. McCarty and the organist Barbara J. Allen were their witnesses. They flew back to New York City for their honeymoon. They were married 56 years until Cherie's death in 2006, sharing laughter and love while they watched North Park grow.



*Charlie and Cherie McCarty  
Wedding Day, June 3, 1950*