

Green



When I was a little kid (maybe 5 or 6), my grandparents took my sister and me to the [Marsalis Zoo](#).

I wondered away from the family. I was alone and somebody, very clearly said

“Hello!” There was nobody in sight and this was very strange. I happened several times and I finally spotted the speaker. I was walking by the [Aviary](#) and it was a Crow.

When a Boy Scout at [Walnut Hill Elementary School](#), Bill Clements was my Scout Master and he later became [Governor of Texas](#). At that time, nobody had ever heard of environmentalists or ecology and least of all [Green](#) as a movement. Anything remotely like this was called Conservation and ironically, Bill Clements (a Texas Republican Oil Man) was an avid [Conservationist](#). Bill Clements taught us brats what would lead a few of us (not all by any means) to eventually become [Environmentalists](#).

I grew up playing along [Bachman Creek](#) which runs through the [Bluffview](#) area of Dallas. It was called Bluffview because of the high cliffs above the creek.

Mammoth teeth were so common along the base of the cliffs that we didn't even bother to take any home. We occasionally picked them up, looked at them, threw them down and continued playing. Years later I realized that during the last **Ice Age**, the big animals had either fallen or been driven off the cliffs by human hunters.

The creek was not littered by plastic bags (they had not yet arrived) but it was certainly littered by all the other crap. I was often pissed off when one of us stepped on a broken beer bottle and was seriously injured. Without having heard the word, I had by this time, become an angry Juvenile Environmentalist.

Later, in the Air Force, I was stationed in Spain and Germany (early 60s). One day while wondering in the woods near **Prüm**, I came across a huge Crow nesting area. I had

wanted to own a Crow since my experience at the Zoo and there were young crows hopping around all over. I found a box and I had my crow.

Walking back to town, I met my young German friend [Wolfgang Schidler](#) and showed him my Crow. “You better put that back!” He warned me of a very big, scary sounding fine if I was caught with the bird. I was shocked, disappointed and I returned the Crow to the nesting area.

Like the Japanese [Shinto](#), Native American [Nature worship](#), and primitive religions worldwide, early [Germanic](#) and [Norse](#) religion was all about forest worship and what were the ancient roots of the Green Party ([Die Grünen](#)) which was beginning to evolve by the time I arrived in Germany. Those clever Catholics and the [Christmas Tree](#) ([Tannenbaum](#)).

While maritime European nations e.g. Spain, Holland, England and France, had often devastated their forests (sometimes beyond return) to build great navies, others like Germany, Austria and Switzerland vigorously protected theirs. As I continued to stroll the German forests all around me and watch German TV, I began to understand about the Crow and what was going on ([Die Grünen](#)) in [Europe](#).

My Russian History teacher at [UNT](#) and I became friends and prompted one day by something I said as we strolled a nearby park, he asked “John have you ever heard the word ecology?” I had not so he explained. “Oh yea, that’s what’s going on in Europe and that’s what I’m talking about” I replied.

I had been a musician and played successfully in little bands while in Europe and among the many foolish gambles I took

with my life, I decided to drop out of school and try my hand at being a rock star. I formed a band and, believing that the Green movement would soon catch on, I named the band Green in the hope that we would have a hit record and ride the crest of the Green wave as it washed across the USA. I didn't try to explain it to the band assuming that it would all become apparent in within a year or two.....the idea seemed too complex at the time.

We didn't have a hit and the "Green" thing didn't happen in the States until 40+ years later.....oh well.

After continuing to try to make it with the band for a while, the 70s came along; I gave up and decided to try manufacturing something Green. I invented a thing I called a Lawn Shark. I incorporated a Texas company to manufacture the thing. I called the company Reflex Industries Inc. Reflex

means Refuse Exploitation. Here the idea was that this thing would be my [Hula Hoop](#) and make enough money to go into full scale [Garbage Mining](#).....which nobody in the States was thinking about back then. I knew that Japan had tried to buy, and ultimately been refused, Brazil's landfills.

Anyway, I never was able to raise enough money to get the thing launched and decided to open a restaurant ([Café Sevilla](#)) instead. I had some Green ideas about these too e.g. growing herbs on the roof, donating edible garbage to farmers and surplus inventory to food banks etc. but mostly I was just trying to make some money. The restaurant ([Café Sevilla](#)) is another story.

After that I moved to a rural area ([Lake Whitney, Texas](#)) and started construction on [my first Green building](#).