

*FOLLOW THE GREEN ARROW*



*Follow the*  
  
*Green Arrow*

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THE HISTORY OF THE GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA, 1920—1970

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*Historian/Editor*



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*Follow the Green Arrow*  
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DESIGN BY RICHARD STINELY

*With affection  
this book  
is dedicated  
to every member  
of  
THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA  
past and present  
but especially to her . . . and especially to you*



## FOREWORD

**T**HE WORDS of our deeds are now committed to paper. The deeds are golden. The words are unworthy.

From the beginning, back in 1964, it seemed an almost impossible task to capture on paper the essence and contributions of these charming, sometimes capricious gentlewomen as they lived and changed the very face of Virginia. Our founders were of an era and were typical of that era. Feminine to a delightful fault, they accomplished, they achieved. They preferred to maneuver in gracious fashion. But they were determined, and when the gentlemen of Virginia treated them and their ideals with indulgent disdain, the ladies were known to take aggressive action. They always tried the artful approach first. They resorted to firmness only when it was the last stratagem. Their heirs and successors have not scorned the same tactics.

Looking back to the attainments of over half a century, it seems the inauguration of this group, with such a potential for good, would have been greeted with open arms by Virginia's officialdom and commercial interests. To the contrary. Just as it has not been all tea and cookies, as our few detractors would believe, it has not always been a smooth road of uninterrupted success. Legislators called us "those nosy, meddling women"; billboard advertisers made derisive reference to "the scenic sisters"; utility companies called us "a threat to progress" at the same time automobile graveyard owners were terming us "a threat to free enterprise." Among the more gentle comments was that of an amused gentleman who referred to us as "The Senior League of Virginia, where old Junior Leaguers go to die — but don't."

The first breakthrough to public esteem came in 1929, the beginning of our restoration program started at Kenmore and continued at Stratford Hall. To finance this ambitious undertaking, Historic Garden Week became an institution and the directional green arrows a familiar sight during that last week of each April. So, grudging inch by grudging inch, the critics gave way. Fruitful year followed fruitful year, and the whole picture has changed. We are praised editorially; officials ask our help, heed our counsel, and the commercial interests regard us warily and respectfully. They now know we serve no selfish interest, and that in all things we have been motivated only by the desire to bring more ordered beauty to this beloved Commonwealth. The green arrow not only points the way during Historic Garden Week; it points the way to a green and fertile future — our future.

The author is aware that some readers will think certain incidents overemphasized

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and others touched lightly or ignored. This is unquestionably true. When so much activity is condensed in so few pages, history becomes a Procrustean bed. For example, an additional volume could easily be written on the specialized subject of the test gardens, the ninety-six flower shows held, and the challenge cup winners. Then there have been thirty-five Massie medalists and four winners of the deLacy Gray Medal Award. Here is ready copy for another book. Except for occasional references, the glory of all these adventures is, regrettably, found only in the Appendixes.

Every attempt has been made to get facts straight within the frail framework of availability. Too often the source material has been found inaccurate since our records were made and kept by amateurs, dependable and undependable. Other accounts were removed from the files and destroyed, or ruthlessly scissored and expurgated by early members who wanted no hint of discord bequeathed to posterity. (A treasure-trove of such disharmony was recently turned over to the writer, retrieved from the bureau drawer of a past president who had removed and secreted the documents over twenty years ago.) Acting in the realm of thoughtful kindness, another lady burned the voluminous correspondence exchanged between two of the more powerful and vocal founding members. These letters had to be frank and tart, and the historian regrets the loss of this insight. On the plus side, many contemporary members have promptly and satisfactorily responded to the detailed letters; later, brief postcards; and still later, frantic long distance calls, asking that facts be verified and more information supplied to feed into the maw. At each of several inquiring visits to member clubs during this last history writing year, mistakes came to light and could be corrected. It is unfortunate that lack of time prevented a history correcting session at a meeting of every club. Even though truth and exactness have been diligently sought, the lines of errata will please form on the right . . . and communicate.

This editor started off shackled to a degree. Some long-time members admonished her to keep the history dignified and panegyric, to confess no stubbed toes. The younger members took the opposing view and said, "Interest us. Amuse us, if possible, but tell it the way it was." Neither faction will be completely happy. All historians are faced with this Scylla and Charybdis, the choice of being factually dull or unsuccessfully sprightly. I have trespassed in both camps.

From the last seven months at hard labor has emerged *The Martin Maxim*: Nothing can numb the edge of creative instinct, slice the syntax, spoil the spelling, and pollute the punctuation like the growl of a printing press that wants copy NOW. Proofreading is agonizing to any writer, and errors seem to compound themselves, by themselves. Information on one page contradicts information on another. Consistency is the jewel desired and not achieved. Occasionally the printer will make a mistake and enliven a tedious day of reading galleys by leaving out one letter and turning a "bushy tree" into a "busy tree," or by adding one letter to the sentence, "The president urged the membership," making it read, "The president purged the membership." Perhaps other unorthodox statements will crop up in the finished print for

## Foreword

your diversion but as we go to press, there is a state of armed accuracy existing between the writer and the printer.

A host of keen minds and helpful hands have contributed, but specific appreciation must be expressed to:

Hunter Perry and Lillian Perry Edwards who started the Historian's Fund, and

Mrs. John Tyssowski who served as Historian at the time of this gift;

Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott who took charge of advance sales, functioned as treasurer, and provided photographs of each restoration and award;

Mrs. Leon Dure for other photographs and for perpetual liaison between the Alderman Library, depository of our records, and the desk at Kittery Point;

Mrs. Roger L. Mann who with patient sleuthing authored the invaluable Appendixes;

Mrs. Webster S. Rhoads, Jr. whose drawings grace the end papers;

Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Mrs. Powell Glass, Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, and Mrs. Stanley N. Brown, who recorded the decades from 1930 to 1960, and whose immaculate copy I have added to, deleted from, mutilated, and fingered into conformity until each will probably disown what remains;

Mrs. N. E. Clement whose published decade of 1920-1930 is re-printed. Since she wrote largely from memory rather than records, her account is accordingly indisputable and emerges fairly unscathed;

Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, President 1968-1970, and to the members of her Board who recognized the vision, faced the financial crisis, and with money and words of kind encouragement saw this history to print;

The historians of the forty-four member clubs, those unsung heroines who made the priceless gift. Through their perceptive eyes and words, we are given an illuminating serial — from the rural quietness of the early part of the century in a Virginia without telephones, electricity, paved roads, and automobiles to the 1970 fight for clear and green spaces in an industrialized State.

Lastly and fervently gratitude is expressed to two people who were motivated solely by personal friendship and affection: Mrs. William Ingles of White Marsh, who volunteered as typist, punctuation expert, and proofreader, and who shared daily the throes of creation and execution of this book; and my paragon of a husband who pouted, permitted with reluctance, and echoed Arthur Collins: "You'll never do this again, will you?"

March, 1970

Kittery Point

Gloucester, Virginia

CHRISTINE HALE MARTIN

The familiar designation GCV has been used instead of The Garden Club of Virginia, and only key words have been given in club titles in order to save space and avoid repetition. Other abbreviations frequently used are:

GCA	The Garden Club of America
RHS	Royal Horticultural Society
NALS	North American Lily Society
ADS	American Daffodil Society
VALC	Virginia Advisory Legislative Council
APVA	Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

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## THE EIGHT FOUNDING CLUBS FROM FOUNDING TO 1920

IN THE SEARCH for the perfect title several husbands made recommendations with tongue in and out of cheek. The husband of a former president suggested, "In the beginning, there was The Garden Club of Virginia," adding, "Well, I'll tell you one thing—of them, there shall be no end!" In appreciation for the certainty of his second statement, we'll use his first and start with:

In the beginning, there were eight garden clubs that came together in 1920 to found the GCV. What they were and what they had done, they brought to this formation council. Their early years are of interest. So in the order of their founding dates let's see how they began and how they continued to 1920.

WARRENTON was the first to come into a Virginia where electric lights were just appearing, the automobile and paved highways unknown, and the telephone primitive. "Polly, why don't you start a garden club in Warrenton?" In 1910 this question was asked Mrs. Samuel A. Appleton by her sister, Miss Ernestine Abercrombie Goodman, and by Mrs. J. Willis Martin, founders of The Garden Club of Philadelphia in April, 1904, destined to be the mother of The Garden Club of America. Inspired, on her return to Warrenton, Mrs. Appleton went to Woodbourne to ask Miss Keith and Mrs. Lucien Keith what they thought. They liked the idea. Early the next year five friends met with Mrs. Appleton at Marshfield, a constitution and by-laws were written, and a list of potential members was made.

On May 4, 1911, the first meeting was held

at Woodbourne, and Mrs. Lucien Keith was elected president. Included among the officers was "Garden Photographer," and she was Mrs. Appleton. (Later, its second and several times president, she wrote the Warrenton story from 1911 to 1921.)

"There were few of the popular garden magazines which we now have in such superabundance. Helen Rutherford Ely's *Women's Hardy Garden*, soon to become a best-seller, is credited with being largely responsible for awakening a nationwide interest in flower gardens. Of course our copy was dog-eared." (Later in 1916, at a GCA meeting, Mrs. Appleton met this author who was honeymooning at the meeting with her bridegroom, Benjamin Fairchild.)

In the spring of 1913 Warrenton was one of the twelve founding members of the GCA, and Mrs. Appleton was there. Her sister, Miss Goodman, "was ordered out of the room by Mrs. J. Willis Martin, the first President, and told not to return without a statement of policy, crystallizing the objects of the club." This still appears on each issue of the *GCA Bulletin*.

"At home we began to have little club competitions, purchased several books for our library-to-be, and mostly read papers, swapped plants, and started a question book, always invaluable. The roads were still under construction, but a Model T Ford or two had appeared on the scene." There are many references to "hub-deep mud," and, "Our esteemed Vice President was prevented from attending by the unfortunate breakage of the carriage pole just as she was starting for town. We, who know the weary

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back that accompanies a female gardener in the exterminating war with weeds, and the ache of tired feet that have spent themselves stamping out the loathsome insect life that destroys the flower of our labor, could not even hint that she should walk to the meeting, but with one voice accepted her excuse as legitimate."

In 1917 the first flower show was held in the clubhouse of the Horse Show grounds. In that same year the club undertook what was probably the first Highway Beautification. "Construction work on the roads was now mostly done, leaving in its wake bare roadsides and ugly fills. This was of such concern to us that Miss Gaskins wrote a little piece for our local paper, which caught the eye of Judge John Barton Payne, who offered us a very sizable sum to undertake this work of civic improvement. On his farm, St. Leonard's, there were no trees left on the road frontage. We found 'Uncle Billy,' who had planted trees around the county for years and was considered expert. In the early fall we walked the roads, Uncle Billy driving stakes where the location of a group of trees seemed best. Permission of property owners was gladly given, with promises of upkeep. Judge Payne wanted large trees, so they averaged 6 to 8 feet, oak, hickory, sweet gum, dogwood, and judas. Uncle Billy dug the holes and planted during the winter when weather permitted. He boxed all the trees and watered them faithfully, hauling the water in large barrels."

With the beginning of World War I, answering the urgent government appeals for economy and food production, the club concentrated on vegetable gardens. In 1917 it held a vegetable show to which the men were invited, and they swept the show. "Mr. Appleton and Mr. Groome took the honors with exhibits of superb vegetables, beautifully displayed." It was noted that "dreary wartime recipes abounded." Dreary or not, these were collected from members, bound and sold for 25¢ for the benefit of the Red Cross.

Then came 1920 and another invitation to become part of a larger organization. (Warrenton is the only club to be a founding member of both the GCA and the GCV.) Mrs. Appleton was in Richmond, and her eyewitness account: "Mrs. Patterson entertained us at dinner. Of

that historic party, I remember a precious little old colored mammy who greeted us at the door with 'Ladies, won't you-all come in and rest yo' wraps?' Then and there, an invitation was extended for the GCV to hold its next annual meeting in Warrenton.

ALBEMARLE's history begins: "On October 16, 1913, nine ladies met at Morven, the home of Mrs. Samuel H. Marshall, to form a garden club." Mrs. Marshall became its first president. In 1915 is recorded the first garden restoration, the Schele de Vere Garden, one of the old walled gardens on the East Lawn of the University of Virginia. (It was named for the Modern Languages professor who lived in this Pavilion 4.) For many years Albemarle maintained this garden, presenting it as "a glimpse of a garden of Thomas Jefferson's day."

"The study and culture of flowers and the study of landscape gardening for which the club was formed were put aside in 1918, and all energies were devoted to the production and conservation of food because our country was at war." A stall was rented in the Charlottesville Curb Market, and, bi-weekly, members sold their vegetables, fruits, flowers, butter, cottage cheese, and eggs, the proceeds used "to pay an extra district nurse through the influenza epidemic, to maintain a French orphan for several years, and to send money for the devastated gardens of France."

NORFOLK is next chronologically. So to Tidewater and the birth of this club on February 24, 1915, at the home of Mrs. Frederick Killam. She became its first president, serving four years. (All through the histories of the member clubs the one who calls the group together invariably becomes the first president.)

In 1917 the club held its first flower show and continued to have one each year, the earlier ones being flower, fruit, and vegetable shows. This same year civic planting began at the Norfolk General Hospital and Mount Sinai, no longer in existence. Shortly after, the club planted at the Cavalier Sunken Gardens at Virginia Beach and at the old Country Club.

Norfolk early displayed a talent for what is now called "Image Making." When the members decided that the dogwood should be "The Floral Emblem of the Old Dominion," they took the

## The Founding Clubs

necessary steps to see that the Virginia Assembly made it official. Of course, this was done on March 6, 1918.

JAMES RIVER comes next on the Virginia scene. Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, its founder and first president, wrote: "When the idea of organizing a garden club was suggested to me in March, 1914, by Mrs. Francis King, I did not think it could be accomplished. I felt there were few people interested in gardening, but I did speak to a number about it. On March 1, 1915, about twenty met at Hillcrest [her home] and discussed the advisability of having a garden club. From that time on, there has been much enthusiasm." Her friend, Mrs. King, was the author of *The Well Considered Garden* and president of both the Women's National Horticultural and the Horticultural Association of America.

Mrs. Patterson had two main purposes for her garden club. First, she believed that an intelligent interest in gardening and an actual personal knowledge of flowers was basic. "We should do the work ourselves, even though we may have workmen under us. It is the only way to hold our interest." Second, she believed in service to the community. Admitting that this was not as controllable as one's own garden, she ended her first report with, "Let us settle these matters soon so that our time will not be consumed in discussion but better taken up in the study of plants and flowers." (This sentiment, more bluntly phrased, is still being expressed 55 years later.)

In World War I James River published a booklet on food conservation with many recipes from grandmothers who had developed them during a previous conflict, the Civil War. This sold for 10¢ a copy, and the profit of \$20.00 went to the Red Cross. A program of back yard vegetable gardens was initiated, together with the first community war garden for boys and girls. By 1919 they had contributed \$200.00 to a garden in Servia, the garden being named for them, and also given financial aid for rebuilding the ruined gardens of France. To earn this money they too sold their produce at a curb market, which cost them 10¢ a day.

Early in 1920 they beautified the Lee Monument with plants and a grass plot. "Upkeep soon became such a problem that Miss Mary Lee took

exception to the way the area looked." After much correspondence and discussion, the planting was finally removed. (From a letter, dated 1937, comes an interesting reference to this: "When Miss Mary Lee died, she left a sum of money to 'The Lee Monument' instead of 'for the maintenance of The Lee Monument.' So no one could accept the money and the legacy was returned to her estate.")

In May, 1920, Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River President, invited seven other garden clubs to come to Richmond. Thus began the history of the GCV.

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN was organized November 23, 1915 at the Confederate Hall, Middleburg. Mrs. Fairfax Harrison was elected the first president and served as such for the next 15 years. (Warrenton history: "1915, Mrs. Fairfax Harrison resigned to start the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club.") The first committee appointed was Roadside Planting, anticipating the powerful role the club would play in this field.

On May 25, 1916, the first annual flower show was held at Oatlands Hall. (This is the earliest recorded flower show.) Their neighboring club, Leesburg, came to compete and won \$5.00 for the best collection of flowers, with its member, Mrs. Walker, winning \$2.50 for her "Table Decoration" of yellow columbines. At its next meeting Fauquier and Loudoun voted that "no competitive exhibition would be accepted from any garden club."

By 1917 "hostilities spoiled many plans of our youthful garden club," and activities turned to food production and conservation, the club paying \$45.00 toward each of the salaries of the Home Demonstration Agents in the two counties. It printed a cookbook too, for the benefit of the Red Cross, entitled "*Well Tried Recipes Highly Recommended by the F.F.V.*" The book carried an introduction by Thomas Nelson Page, Ambassador to Italy, and chapter headings were by other distinguished gentlemen.

The Land Army began in 1928. A Loudoun paper said editorially, "The women of old Loudoun are today coming to the front in their nation's crisis, just as their mothers did in days gone by. They are going to form a Land Army for the protection of food crops in Lou-

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doun, just as their brothers are protecting today the land where the crops grow." It began in the early summer under the command of Colonel Charlotte Noland, assisted by two Majors. Later there were more recruits, with applications coming from nearly every state in the East. The "troops" were quartered in tents and in barns, converted to barracks. At Loudoun Orchards, headquarters, drills were held each day.

The chief work was fruit picking, but there were other hard tasks. A picture was run on the front page showing a group of fifteen, clad in smocks, bloomers, and large straw hats, armed with picks and shovels. The caption was, "Virginia's Women's Land Army works on the public roads of Loudoun." The U.S. government made films to show the country what was being accomplished here.

DANVILLE was born on June 20, 1918, not only the first in the city but the first in this section of the state. As happened so many times, a lady went travelling and heard about garden clubs and came home and organized one. This lady was Mrs. S. Rutherford Dula. She invited nine close friends who lived, as she did, on Main Street in large Victorian homes with beautifully kept grounds. She was, of course, the first president. (She remained so until her death in 1928, when in a gesture unmatched, the club voted to leave her vacancy unfilled for one year as a mark of respect. A Dula Memorial Shelf was given the Library, and additions are still being made to this fine collection.)

The minutes of the first meeting: "The organization of this club was the outcome of Mrs. Dula's unflagging interest. We hope it will mean much to the garden lovers of Danville and be the means of arousing more widespread interest in gardens beautiful as well as gardens useful."

At the second meeting, it was voted to have an active membership of twenty-five, and fifteen recruits were added to the roll. Mrs. Patterson, then James River President, visited Danville twice. "She strengthened our faith, gave us courage to begin our work and has enlarged our vision to carry it on." So when James River

called the founding meeting of the GCV, Danville was present.

DOLLY MADISON was a bridge club of three tables, and one November day in 1919 it met at Cameron Lodge and heard Miss Mary Cameron suggest it become a garden club. Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, a former member of Philadelphia's The Weeders, heartily agreed. That was the end of the formal nicety, "Partner, may I lead?" with its reply by ritual, "Pray do." They were a garden club.

Admiring the gardening aptitudes of the wife of the fourth U.S. President, they selected the name of Dolly Madison, whose home, Montpelier, still bore eloquent testimony of her interest and skill in gardening.

Four other friends were asked, and the charter membership was sixteen. Mrs. Samuel H. Marshall of Albemarle helped in the organizing and prepared a loose constitution as the criteria for a friendly club of flower lovers. Mrs. Walker became the first president, and the gavel used at the first meeting was from an apple tree at Montpelier. The historian says that the first years of this club are woven around the personality of Mrs. Walker.

AUGUSTA first saw the light of day in 1919 also. Through the initiative of Mrs. Lawrence W. H. Peyton, 12 women of Staunton and Augusta County met at Eastwood, the home of Mrs. A. Caperton Braxton, to organize a garden club. Mrs. Harry T. Marshall of Albemarle was there to assist and advise. Mrs. Peyton became the first president, the constitutional membership was 22, initiation fee 50¢, and the dues \$1.50. (The historian notes that there has been an upward trend in this section of the by-laws.) They were with purpose and constitution but still wrapped in swaddling clothes when they went to Richmond the following May.

So these eight clubs came to Richmond, the eldest only 9 years old, and the youngest infants of only months. What these eight, plus the clubs they elected, accomplished in the ten years from May 1920 to May 1930, is told by the GCV's first historian, member of the Chatham Garden Club, Mrs. N. E. (Maude Carter) Clement (1879-1969):

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

MAY 1920—MAY 1930

**A** VIRGINIA GARDEN — there is romance in the very words. One pictures towering boxwood hedges, and the air heavy with its spicy scent; prim beds, box bordered, and filled with the bloom of long ago; shadowed lawns over which wandered the gentle folk of England's Old Dominion! It is the past that one envisions in the words, a Virginia garden — the days of Washington at Mt. Vernon, Jefferson at Monticello, and the Lees at Stratford. Happily many of these old gardens did not vanish with the yester years, though of a necessity they were sadly neglected. They have lingered through the changing eras, mellowed by time, pouring out their blessings of peace and content upon all who walked within their confines. For he who builds a garden

Has done a thing  
Beyond his reckoning.

Happy indeed were those whose love of gardening led them to seek the sympathy and fellowship of other garden lovers, and band together in the first garden clubs. It proved to be an inspiration which fired our whole land, and today America is "garden minded."

At Warrenton in 1911 was organized the first garden club in Virginia, taking as a model The Garden Club of Philadelphia. The Warrenton club was represented at the meeting in Germantown in 1913, when The Garden Club of America was organized, being one of the twelve "grandmothers" present. In the same year, 1913, the Albemarle Garden Club was formed. Two years later three more clubs came into existence — the Norfolk, James River, and Fauquier

and Loudoun clubs. The Danville club was organized in 1918, and the Augusta and Dolly Madison clubs followed in 1919, bringing the number up to eight.

It was due to the vision and forethought of the James River club that these eight garden clubs of the state were so pleasantly brought to-



*Mrs. N. E. (Maude Carter) Clement, Chatham. Appointed Custodian of Records in 1928, she wrote the first ten year history, 1920-1930, of The Garden Club of Virginia.*

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gether in Richmond, and formed into a federation. An invitation was issued by Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, President of the James River club, to the other clubs of the state to send their presidents and one delegate to a conference in Richmond, on May the 13th, 1920. The guests included:

- The Albemarle Garden Club,  
Mrs. Samuel Marshall, President.  
Mrs. Harry Marshall, Delegate.
- The Danville Garden Club,  
Mrs. W. D. Overbey, President.  
Mrs. E. V. Boothe, Delegate.
- The Dolly Madison Garden Club,  
Mrs. Joseph Walker, President.  
Miss Mary Cameron, Delegate.
- The Norfolk Garden Club,  
Mrs. L. N. Spratley, President.  
Mrs. J. Tayloe Gwathmey, Delegate.
- The Warrenton Garden Club,  
Mrs. Samuel A. Appleton, President.  
Mrs. E. Nelson Fell, Delegate.
- The Augusta Garden Club,  
Miss Jane C. Howard, Alternate.

The absence of Mrs. Fairfax Harrison and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis, of the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club was regretted.

The following program was planned:

- 9:30 A.M. (prompt) Start from Jefferson Hotel in autos, visiting gardens at Meadowbrook, Minnaborya, Norcroft.
- 1:30 P.M. Luncheon at Country Club (subscription).
- 4:00 P.M. Drive and visit to Tuckahoe.
- 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Buffet Supper at Hillcrest.

Following the luncheon at the Country Club, while having coffee, reports were heard from the clubs.

Mrs. Wheelwright, President of the James River club, outlined the purpose of a federation as follows:

"The main purpose of the federation is to gain through contact with the leaders of the various garden clubs knowledge of practical value about all plants, and all that pertains to their history, growth, and increase; and the various

kinds of gardens, large landscape effects, city gardens and civic planting. This increased knowledge may be gained by visits to the various well-planned gardens of the different types, and through discussion and interchange of information.

"Then we would like to promote an interest in and co-operate with the organizations in the state which have for their object the furtherance of this knowledge, and the beautifying of cities, towns, and highways, as well as the conservation in Virginia of the rich endowment of nature in forests, plants, and birds."

Then followed a motion that there be a state federation of garden clubs, known as the Garden Clubs of Virginia, of which Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson was elected the first President. At the suggestion of Mrs. Samuel Marshall, of the Albemarle club, it was enacted that the president of the Federation, together with the eight presidents, be the Executive Council, with the authority to meet and determine the best form of government for the new Federation.

In December of that year Mrs. Patterson called in Richmond the first meeting of the Board of Governors. The minutes of that meeting reveal the broad vision and high aims of the Federation. Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, of the James River club, advocated the creation of a sentiment for good roads, to speed their construction; Mrs. Joseph Walker, of the Dolly Madison club, urged warfare against plant pests, stressing the Japanese beetle; Mrs. Harry Marshall, of the Albemarle club, drew attention to the beauty of our native flowers, shrubs, trees, and evergreens, urging their use in the adornment of our grounds and the prevention of their destruction by vandals. Mrs. Patterson spoke on the billboard nuisance, the obnoxious signs so disfiguring to our landscapes. Thus from its very inception the Federation has stood for good roads, conservation of native trees and flowers, intelligent warfare against plant pests, and the abolition of the disfiguring billboard. This body of intelligent women has been a potent influence in the life of the state for the conservation of native beauty and the preservation of its historic homes and gardens.

At a good roads convention which met in Roanoke in January, 1921, Mrs. John Skelton Wil-

*The Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1930*



*Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, First President, 1920-1922.*

liams appeared before the body as a representative of the Garden Clubs of Virginia in a strong plea not only for good roads, but also for the protection of the trees that line the highways. She closed her appeal by pointing out the practice of a European country, ripe in the wisdom of years and experience:

"In Portugal this inscription is placed on trees along the public roads:

"To the wayfarer: Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me, harken ere ye harm me. I am heat of your hearths on ye cold winter's night, the friendly shade screening you from the summer's sun, and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as ye journey on. I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle. I am the bread

of kindness, and flower of beauty. Ye who pass by listen to my prayer, 'Harm me not.'"

The two notable achievements in the garden world that first year of the Federation were the individual work of the James River Garden Club, Mrs. Thomas Wheelwright, President. One was the inception of that beautiful volume, *Historic Gardens of Virginia*, which was compiled by the James River Club and edited by Edith Tunis Sale. No expense was spared to make the book a beautiful and valuable asset to any library. In the detailed drawings of the old gardens have been preserved, for all time, priceless garden lore, so dear to the hearts of garden lovers. The greater number of these drawings were from the pen of Mrs. John Skelton Williams.

The other outstanding event of that first year was the holding of a Flower Festival in Richmond on May the 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1921. Many experts and professionals from the North were present. The bronze medal of the American Iris Society was won by Mrs. Lelia Blair Northrup. This was the first flower show held south of Washington, and it is amazing to think of its far-reaching influence.

The Warrenton Garden Club was hostess to the Federation at the second Annual Meeting, held June the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1921. Besides the business session, the program included visits to the beautiful homes and gardens of both Fauquier and Loudoun Counties. The itinerary included on the first day Oakwood, Canterbury Farms, North Wales, Marshfield, Airlie, Humblestone, View Tree, and Creedmore. On June 4th, the Federation was the guest of the Fauquier and Loudoun club, and visited the gardens of Belvoir, Gordondale, Oak Hill, Foxcroft, Oak Hill (Loudoun), Littleton, Oatlands, Morven Park, and Stoke, home of Mrs. Floyd Harris.

At this meeting it was moved and carried that the president of the Federation be elected for one year, subject for re-election another year, and that a vice president be elected on the same terms.

It was fully recognized by the Federation that its first work was to be one of education, arousing the public to an appreciation of the floral world. Mrs. Patterson, the President, closed the

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report of the first year's activities with the following significant words:

"If by our efforts we could add to a state, which is full of historic interest, the charm of lovely gardens, and insure for tourists good roads, and roadside planting which pleases the eye, by preserving our native shrubs, the dogwood, our native flower, and holly, and other evergreens, no other state would have greater attractions."

This matter of education has continued one of the chief activities of the Federation. In June, 1922, Mrs. Patterson appeared before the Good Roads Convention in behalf of beautifying the roadsides. Her speech was published by the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, and distributed among its three thousand members.

Requests came from New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania for information concerning Virginia's Federation, these states wishing to federate their garden clubs after our pattern.

The third Annual Meeting was held at Norfolk, May the 11th, and 12th, 1922, at which time the Chatham Garden Club and the Warrenton Flower Club were welcomed as new members, bringing the number of clubs up to ten.

The rose gardens of Norfolk being second only to those of Portland, Oregon, were a delight to the visitors. The historic town of Yorktown was visited, the beautifully restored garden of the Nelson House being opened to the guests.

To Norfolk is due the credit of having the dogwood adopted as our state flower. The club also used its influence in having the streets of the city, and highways leading into it, planted in crepe myrtle, which grows so luxuriously in Tidewater.

With the growth of the Federation came a corresponding need for the smoother dispatch of business. It was determined at this time that all new clubs be elected at the annual meetings; that the officers of the Federation should be a president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer; that these officers, together with the club presidents, compose the Board of Governors. Mrs. Fairfax Harrison offered a resolution that a united effort be made to save the trees along the highways. Following this resolution Mrs. Wheel-

wright moved that there be appointed a permanent committee on conservation, with the chairman resident in Richmond. Mrs. Harry Marshall urged the members to grow boxwood, "that we may not only restore the old-time glory of boxwood in Virginia but may increase it."

The Federation decided at this time to take up the study of roses, to determine those best suited to this climate, and a committee was appointed for a rose test garden. A committee was also formed to make a collection of slides from photographs of the gardens of the members.

An appeal coming from Dr. Chandler of William and Mary College, the Federation agreed to co-operate with the College authorities in making suitable plantings around the buildings of this old and historic institution.

The President's term of office having expired, Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright was elected to succeed Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, who had so ably led the Federation through the first two years of its existence. Mrs. Joseph G. Walker was elected Vice President, and Mrs. Egbert Leigh, Secretary-Treasurer. At an executive meeting called at once by Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. Patterson was elected Honorary President of the Federation, in appreciation of her fine leadership.

On the invitation of Dr. Chandler of William and Mary College and the Woman's Club of Williamsburg, the mid-season meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the College on February 15th, 1923. Two new and important committees were named at this time, one on Plant Exchange and the other on Programs. The President, Mrs. Wheelwright, was asked to formulate a set of by-laws for the use of the Federation. Plans for the planting of the College were discussed with the architect, and he was urged to use native shrubs. It was agreed that Dr. Chandler would have plans made for the landscape planting of the grounds which would be carried out by the Garden Clubs of Virginia. Then Mrs. George Blow, of Nelson House, Yorktown, but a member of the James River Garden Club, asked for the privilege of making the planting, having just given a memorial building to the College. This marks the first effort of the Federation to co-operate with others in the work of restoration. (The architect's plan of

*The Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1930*



*Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, Second (1922-1924) and Tenth (1938-1940) President.*

the planting is stored among the other records of the Federation.)

The Albemarle Garden Club was hostess to the Federation for its fourth Annual Meeting in May, 1923. Visits to many of Albemarle's famous estates had been arranged, and appended to the program was a chronological history, giving interesting facts of the places. The drive through Albemarle's beautiful uplands included visits to Tallwood, Estouteville, Round Top, Redlands, Morven, Castle Hill, Forest Lodge, Farmington, and stately Monticello. The Schele de Vere garden of the University of Virginia, which had been restored by the Albemarle club, was of much interest to the visitors, for there one could see a garden of Thomas Jefferson's day.

The President having been requested to

formulate some by-laws for the regulation of the Federation, Mrs. Wheelwright distributed at this meeting the first year book of the Federation. The covers were suitably decorated with dogwood blossom, the state flower, and within were the new constitution, lists of officers and committees, flower show judges, and the names of the member clubs and their officers. The Lynchburg Garden Club was received into the Federation at this time.

At the meeting of the Board of Governors held at Richmond, October 19, 1923, it was determined that the Garden Clubs of Virginia would co-operate with the Jefferson Memorial Foundation in the embellishment of the grounds at Monticello as soon as the purchase was completed.

Another notable piece of individual work was accomplished by the James River Garden Club when an invitation was extended to The Garden Club of America to hold their annual meeting in Virginia in 1924. This visit had been contemplated for several years, but not until some highways had been completed could the invitation be extended. Many of the garden clubs of the state federation were members of The Garden Club of America, Warrenton, as we have seen, being one of the twelve organizing clubs. The Albemarle, Norfolk, James River, and Staunton clubs were also members of the greater federation. The visitors came eight hundred strong, making Richmond their headquarters. Arrangements had been made whereby Virginia's beautiful and famous old estates were opened to the guests. It was springtime in Virginia, and flowering dogwood and redbud made all the country-side a veritable garden. Mrs. Louise King, in appreciation of her visit wrote,

"There are few gardens that actually enthrall by their romantic or poetic beauty; but yours are among them; and it is not an attempt of good manners on my part that causes me to speak of them and of your marvellous welcome for every one of your guests in that month of May, but a memory of loveliness and of an old time charm in those gardens which no one of us will ever lose, and for which we count ourselves blessed among the gardeners of America."

Danville, in southern Piedmont Virginia, was hostess to the Federation for the Annual Meeting

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in 1924, assisted by Chatham and Martinsville. The ante-bellum homes of this part of the state are widely separated, having been the center of the tobacco industry, where the plant was not only grown but manufactured on the plantation. After visiting many beautiful modern gardens of Danville the guests were motored to Berry Hill, the Bruce estate of Halifax County; to Prestwood, the Skipwith home of Mecklenburg County; to Mountain View, Dan's Hill, Oak Ridge, Briarfield, and Oak Hill of Pittsylvania County; and to Chatmose, Beaver Creek, and



*Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Third President, 1924-1926.*

Fielddale Lodge of Henry County. The two new clubs of Martinsville and Rivanna were admitted to the Federation at this meeting. The Lynchburg club presented a resolution asking that the clubs endeavor to secure legislation for the protection of the wild flowers of the state.

The officers elected for the year 1924-25 were:  
Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, President,  
Mrs. Finley Ferguson, Vice President,  
Miss Mary Moon, Secretary-Treasurer.

Reports read at the meeting of the Board of Governors held at Rose Hill, Albemarle County, the home of Mrs. William R. Massie, on October 14, 1924, revealed the work of the Federation being developed along lines already established. Committees appointed for Conservation, Rose Tests, Plant Exchange, Garden Slides, and Programs were working out their individual problems. A new committee was formed to study plant pests, and their destruction. Mrs. Wheelwright, Chairman of the Restoration Committee, reported the work at William and Mary College finished. The restoration of the grounds at Kenmore had been considered. This beautiful old estate, now in the heart of Fredericksburg, was the home of Colonel Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington Lewis, only sister of George Washington. Here the General was often a welcomed guest. The mansion house is being lovingly restored by the Kenmore Association, and the Garden Clubs of Virginia felt it to be a privilege to share in restoring the grounds. A committee consisting of Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, Mrs. Frank Duke, and Mrs. Fairfax Harrison had been appointed, and they were instructed to consult an architect regarding plans for the planting of the grounds.

The Dolly Madison club was hostess to the Garden Clubs of Virginia for the Annual Meet-



*The Violet Niles Walker Memorial Cup, in memory of Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, awarded annually, if merited, at the Lily Show.*



*First Restoration, Kenmore in Fredericksburg, home of Colonial Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington Lewis. On October 14, 1924, a Kenmore Committee, headed by Mrs. Wheelwright, was appointed and instructed to consult a landscape architect. When the restoration of the house was completed, the plans were approved at the Annual Meeting, May 18, 1928, and the GCV "asked for the privilege of doing the planting at Kenmore." At luncheon the same day from the group at the head table consisting of Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Christian, the retiring and incoming presidents, Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith came the idea for Historic Garden Week to finance this restoration.*

ing of 1925. A tour was made of the historic old homes and lovely gardens of Orange County, including Inverness, crowning a mountain top, Frascati, Woodberry Forest, Horseshoe Farm, Piedmont, Happy Creek, Lochiel, Red Rock, Hawfield, and Montpelier, home of the lovely Dolly Madison. Under the able direction of Mrs. William duPont the garden at Montpelier has been restored and beautifully preserved. The wild flower preserve made by the Dolly Madison club along the brook at Woodberry Forest was the subject of keen interest.

A signal event marking the meeting was the first appearance of *Garden Gossip*, a magazine devoted to gardening, founded and edited by Mrs. Samuel Marshall of the Albemarle Garden Club. It was individual work of great merit. The quality of the articles has ever been of the highest order. In the issue of December, 1925, appeared an article on box by Mrs. John Skelton Williams, a subject of deep interest to Virginia gardeners. She traced in a charming manner the story of box from the year 4,000 B. C., when there was inscribed on the tomb of an Egyptian

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nobleman a plan of his box-bordered garden. In the issue of March, 1926, there was "a schedule for judging flower shows," very ably prepared by Mrs. Joseph Walker. So pleasing was the magazine that a year later at Lynchburg the publication was taken over by the Garden Clubs of Virginia as their official organ, to be issued as a quarterly.

The Committee on Programs also offered for sale at Orange an attractive bulletin entitled, "Gardening in Virginia," composed of ten articles written by club members. With the development of the Federation a more comprehensive constitution was deemed necessary, and Mrs. Charles Evans of Danville was appointed to draft one. The garden clubs of Scottsville, Warm Springs Valley, and West Park View were received into the Federation at this time.

Having grown sensible of their power, and feeling confidence in united strength, the Garden Clubs of Virginia began to enlarge the scope of their activities. A beautiful memorial window was placed in the old Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England, in memory of John Tradescant, that prince of gardeners, who so delighted in Virginia's flora. In his two voyages to America, in 1642 and 1654, he made a comprehensive collection of hundreds of varieties of flowers, plants, and shells. Upon his death this collection fell to his friend, Elias Ashmole, who founded the Ashmolean Museum to house his treasures. Tradescant started at Lambeth one of the first botanical gardens in England, and stocked it largely with specimens from Virginia. The sycamore and yellow locust are found today along nearly every English lane because John Tradescant brought a few of their seed over from America. The memorial window was unveiled in the autumn of 1926 by Lord Fairfax of Cameron, a relative of Mr. and Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, who were present at the ceremony.

A gift of \$500.00 was made to William and Mary College to save from destruction some fine old trees there. Plans for planting the grounds at Kenmore were presented to the Kenmore Association. These plans were drawn by Mr. Gillette, the landscape architect, in consultation with Mr. Greenleaf, architect for the Association. A copy of the plans and an interesting ar-

ticle on Kenmore appeared in *Garden Gossip*, February, 1927.

The struggle for the preservation of our native flowers and trees was taken to the legislative halls of the General Assembly of Virginia. The passage of the Ball Measure was secured, making it a misdemeanor to cut or mutilate a flower or tree on another's property. The Garden Clubs of Virginia rendered valiant aid in securing the National Blue Ridge Park for Virginia. Letters were received by the President, Mrs. Walker, and by Mrs. M. C. Patterson, Chairman of Conservation, from the Governor of the State and from the officers of the Park Commission, saying that the educational work of the Garden Clubs of Virginia had been of very great assistance in the campaign. A request came from the Jefferson Memorial Foundation, asking that the Federation save some fine old trees on the lawn at Monticello; they had been planted by Thomas Jefferson. In order to secure the funds necessary for the work, a monumental flower show was staged on the rear lawn at Monticello, May, 1926, of which Mrs. William R. Massie was chairman. The great stretch of oval lawn at the rear of the mansion is framed by a background of evergreens, against which the gaily colored awnings of flower booths made a charming picture. Neither effort nor means were spared in making the undertaking a success. In her annual report Mrs. Walker, the President, described the flower show as "a remarkable accomplishment due to the energy, vision, and foresight of one woman, the chairman, Mrs. Massie." More than \$7,000.00 was raised, a sum ample to restore the trees. The doors of Monticello house were thrown open to the public on the day of the show, and in graceful acknowledgment of the occasion, Mrs. Coolidge, wife of the President, sent a sheaf of roses which were placed on the dining table.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors held at Fredericksburg on October 27, 1925, the name of the Federation was changed from "Clubs" to the Garden Club of Virginia, signifying the unity and harmony existing among the member clubs.

The Lynchburg Garden Club was hostess for the Annual Meeting in May, 1926. An elaborate

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1930

and beautiful flower show was staged by the hostess for the visitors. Lynchburg is called "The Hill City," being built on precipitous hills that overlook the James River, and some of the hill gardens are unique. The garden of Battery Place is described as "the Hanging Garden of Virginia." "A path winds along, up, down, and across the face of the perpendicular cliff overlooking James River. It is bordered with ferns, native wild flowers, and a rare collection of al-pines, and leads in every case to a 'Lookout,' which with its stone seat dominates the hillside and presents an enchanting view of the river below and mountains beyond. Sudden turns in the paths bring unexpected glimpses above and below of the masses of color of the rock-loving plants covering the sides of the mountain." (*Garden Gossip*.) Besides the modern gardens of the city the guests were driven to Poplar Forest, the home to which Thomas Jefferson would retire from the besieging public at Monticello, and to Sweet Briar, famed for its mammoth box. A revision of the constitution and by-laws, as drawn up by Mrs. Charles Evans, Chairman, was read and adopted. Mrs. Walker, as retiring President, made a very able address on "the Aims and Policies of the Garden Club of Virginia." The garden clubs of Brunswick and Leesburg were received into the Federation. The following officers were elected for 1926-27:

Mrs. William R. Massie, President,  
Mrs. Floyd Harris, 1st Vice President,  
Mrs. Lawrence Peyton, 2nd Vice President,  
Mrs. John Bratton, Secretary-Treasurer.

Two members-at-large, Mrs. William H. Cocke of the Virginia Military Institute and Mrs. Daniel Devore of Chatham, Fredericksburg, were welcomed into the Federation at the meeting of the Board of Governors held October, 1926, at Buckhead Springs, the home of Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright.

The eighth Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of Virginia was held in the famed Valley of Virginia, at Staunton, in May, 1927, the Augusta club being hostess. According to custom an itinerary was arranged of the beautiful and historic homes and gardens of the vicinity, which included Folly, Benbrough, Stonewold, Waverley, Jefferson Hall, Eastwood, Herringstone, Steep Hill, and Capote.



Mrs. William R. Massie, Fourth President, 1926-1928. She established the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement and, with Mrs. Christian, the Massie-Christian Fund.

The resignation of the Warrenton Flower Club was received with regret, and the new club of Winchester and Clarke County was admitted.

The President, Mrs. Massie, in her address, urged the need not only for conservation of our flowers and trees, but the need, equally important, of keeping our streams unpolluted and our roadsides unmarred by billboards and dump heaps. She said: "My great wish would be that the Garden Club of Virginia could be the means of planting and preserving the state to the extent that visitors entering the state over the main highways would exclaim over the beauty and know that they were in Virginia's boundaries. Picture to yourselves miles of roadsides planted with dogwood, hawthorn, and redbud, with now and then a group of trees, and further on dogwood and holly, great masses of it. Could anything be more entrancing? All these materials are at our doors, and are ours for the planting."

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The flower shows of the individual clubs had been so fully developed that regional shows were tried out in 1927, each sponsored by several clubs. The spring show was held at Norfolk, the summer show at Charlottesville, the dahlia show at Danville, and the chrysanthemum show by the James River club in Washington, D. C. Each was deemed a great success, and was visited by thousands.

A gift of \$100.00 was made to the Landscape Architect Fellowship of the American Academy at Rome, Italy.

It was deemed best to close the doors of membership to the Garden Club of Virginia for two years, giving the Admissions Committee an opportunity to investigate the qualifications of clubs applying for admission.

The Board of Governors held their mid-season meeting in Danville on October the 7th, 1927, at the time of the Regional Flower Show. This was the dahlia display—a magnificent showing of color and bloom.

In the death of Mrs. Samuel Marshall, which occurred during the preceding summer, the Garden Club of Virginia lost one of its ablest leaders. She first caught the vision of our need of a garden magazine to keep the clubs in touch with one another, sharing their common experiences of success and failure. She was the founder of *Garden Gossip* and its first editor. Mrs. Joseph G. Walker had now succeeded to the editorship, and at the Danville meeting plans were made for the new management.

For the second time the Garden Club of Virginia gathered in historic Albemarle County, when the Rivanna Garden Club was hostess for the Annual Meeting of 1928. There is a wealth of beautiful estates in Albemarle, and the tour planned for the guests included none of the homes visited five years before, when the Albemarle club was hostess. The itinerary arranged included visits to Ash Lawn, the home of President Monroe, lately restored, Upway, Boxwood, Hill Crest, Birdwood, Maxfield, Ridgeway, Windie Knowe, and beautiful Rose Hill, home of the President. At the latter there are a series of gardens built along a hillside of the Albemarle foothills, but it is in the rock garden that one lingers longest. Built upon what was once a broad sweep of sloping lawn, it is now a

shadowy, still, secluded spot, where one treads tiny paths that wind between outcropping boulders, overgrown with masses of alpines. Here are grown rare plants from all parts of the world, giving a constant wealth of bloom.

The Chairman on Restriction of Billboards reported that many difficulties were encountered. It had been hoped that legislation restricting billboards in Virginia could be secured at the meeting of the General Assembly, but the powers of the advertising business so far had proved too formidable.

The education of the public for the preservation of our native flowers and trees goes on apace through the never failing work of the Chairman of Conservation. Mrs. Patterson has issued bulletins giving the names of the native flowers which can be plucked and those which should be spared. She has offered prizes to the school children of the state for the best essay on saving the wild flowers. A campaign has been waged against the destruction of the holly and laurel for Christmas greens. Posters marked "Save the Holly" and "Save the Dogwood" were distributed by the thousands throughout the state in December and March.

Excellent work in conservation has been accomplished individually by the member clubs, each working in its own locality. The Norfolk club has done two notable pieces of work. There was a magnificent oak tree in the residential section of Norfolk. It stood upon one city lot and the wide spread of its branches reached to the adjoining lots. The women of the club realized that in time it would fall before the advancing tread of progress. The club raised the necessary money to purchase the three lots, converting them into a park as a memorial to the World War Dead. A granite column at the base of the giant oak bears a bronze plate with the inscription—"This Tree Is Dedicated as a Memorial to the Sons of Norfolk Who Died for Their Country in the World War." A picture of this magnificent tree appeared in *Garden Gossip* of December, 1926.

Again the women of Norfolk revealed their vision in the establishment of a wild flower preserve there in Tidewater Virginia where, with ideal conditions of warmth, moisture, and rich loam, flowers spring so abundantly from the

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earth. The preserve is located in Princess Anne County, on a part of the old Lawson Hall estate, bordering on a lake. A plat has been made of the preserve, marking each flower's place and name. Dr. Wherry, President of the Wild Flower Association, has highly commended the work, and placed the preserve on his U.S. Map of Wild Flower Preserves. The Norfolk club is fortunate in having for its President, Mrs. Fernstrom, who is so well versed in wild flower lore, knowing them intimately in European countries as well as in America. Norfolk's preserve was established under her leadership in 1928.

Lynchburg has planted in vines, flowers, and shrubs the Hollins Mill Road, a very scenic old roadway leading through the city, now a part of the state's highway.

Danville has converted the city's earliest cemetery, now closed, into a bird sanctuary. The Augusta Club has planted the city street of Staunton leading from Woodrow Wilson's birthplace to the Military Academy in 225 dogwood trees. The Rivanna Garden Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Sharshall Grasty, has located and then marked at Hillsboro, Loudoun County, the birthplace of Susan Koernes Wright, the mother of the two distinguished aviators, Orville and Wilbur Wright, "who gave to mankind access to the Unlimited Aerial Highways."

A collection of beautiful slides made from the gardens of the members has been gathered, and is in great demand outside of the state. It numbers more than a hundred.

The Rose Test Gardens under the manage-



1929: The first Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

ment of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gay Butler have been successfully developed, an outstanding accomplishment of the Federation.

Three members-at-large were welcomed into the Federation: Mrs. W. J. Chewning of Fredericksburg, Mrs. W. H. Wellford of Sabine Hall, and Mrs. Gardner Boothe of Alexandria.

A medal known as the Distinguished Achievement Medal was offered by Mrs. William R. Massie, retiring President, to be given each year for five years to the member of the Garden Club of Virginia who accomplished the most outstanding work in gardening.

The following officers were elected for 1928-29:

Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, President,  
Mrs. Norman Jones, 1st Vice President,  
Mrs. Kenneth Gilpin, 2nd Vice President,  
Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Secretary-Treasurer,  
Mrs. J. Sharshall Grasty, Corresponding Secretary.

Lovely Kenmore, in Fredericksburg, was the scene of the mid-season meeting of the Board of Governors in October, 1928, when a gracious welcome was accorded by Mrs. Fleming, President of the Kenmore Association. The members were luncheon guests of Mrs. Devore in the beautiful gardens of Chatham. These gardens, a reproduction of the famed gardens of Chatham, England, are impressive in their stately beauty of flowers, evergreens, and statuary.

The matter of greatest interest at this time was the planting of the grounds at Kenmore. Feeling confidence in their proven strength, the Garden Club of Virginia was going from one gardening adventure to another. Under the leadership of the Kenmore Committee the Federation had asked for the privilege of planting the Kenmore grounds according to the plans which they had formerly presented to the Association. Their offer had been graciously accepted. Mrs. Wheelwright, Chairman of Kenmore Restoration, outlined the committee's plans for raising the necessary funds for the planting. It was proposed to have a visiting garden week throughout Virginia the following spring, charging a certain admission fee at each garden. This was a most ambitious enterprise!

The Kenmore Committee was composed of Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, Chairman, Mrs.

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Fairfax Harrison, Mrs. Andrew Christian, Mrs. Frank Duke, Mrs. F. B. Scott, Mrs. T. A. Smith, and Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, President. This committee at once fell to work to perfect their plans. The owners of Virginia's famed old estates graciously consented to open them for this worthy cause. From April 29th to May 10th was announced as Historic Garden Week in Virginia. A handsome guide book was compiled, giving interesting bits of history and many illustrations of the historic homes. These were sold for \$2.00. Maps and folders were provided, and every detail attended to for the comfort and guidance of the visitors. Hostesses were arranged for each day at the many and widely separated estates. The public responded eagerly, for it was a rare opportunity to visit these old Virginia homes, many closely interwoven with the history of the nation. More than \$14,000.00 was realized by the undertaking. The following appreciative telegram from Governor Byrd was received by the President:

"On behalf of Virginia I wish to extend to you great appreciation for the success of Historic Garden Week. I know of no movement in Virginia that has done more to advance the interests of the state, and to attract the most desirable class of visitors.

Harry Flood Byrd."

The President of the Kenmore Association, in expressing her gratitude to the Garden Club of Virginia, said: "When I think of the minutiae of the undertaking, the painstaking work involved, all brought to such success, I cannot find words to express my admiration. The people who opened their gardens to the public so graciously, their beautiful sacred home precincts! And the hostesses, whose grace and charm and good business contributed so much. If I could say more I would. May the Garden Club of Virginia long live to beautify, and glorify the blessed Old Dominion!"

Goshen Pass is one of the "beauty spots" of Virginia. "The pass was formed at some remote geological period by the bursting of North River through a small chain of mountains. The beauty of the gorge is unique. Cliffs rise almost straight from the stony bed of the river, while a road winds its way on one side. The rugged magnificence of the cliffs and their sheer beauty when

clothed in rhododendron bloom is a joy to all beholders, and thousands of tourists from this and other states enjoy its beauty." (*Garden Gossip*.)

On January 29, 1929, the Virginia Public Service Company filed an application with the State Corporation Commission to make an electric power development in the Pass, with specification to build a concrete dam 53 feet high at one end of the Pass. The Garden Club of Virginia, in its interest for conservation, and believing that the electric development would mar, if not destroy the beauty of the Pass, petitioned the Corporation Commission to preserve the Pass in its natural beauty.

Legal assistance was secured to present the position of the Federation before the Commission. The decision gave the Garden Club no right to intervene. But we do not believe the battle for scenic beauty was lost, for the proceedings could not fail to arouse in all Virginians a greater appreciation for this heritage of beauty.



Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, James River Garden Club. She was a part of the beginning of Restoration and Garden Week, and was a co-founder of the Massie-Christian Fund.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1930

It was through lovely Goshen Pass that Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury requested that his body be carried after death, so that even then he could be near such loveliness.

The Garden Club of Winchester and Clarke County was hostess for the Annual Meeting in June, 1929. There are three notable rock gardens in Virginia, Battery Place at Lynchburg, Rose Hill in Albemarle, and Scaleby in Clarke County. It was now the pleasure of the Virginia Club to visit the latter, this gem of rock gardening, built by an Englishman many years ago, when rock gardens were new in America. The gardens at Scaleby are extensive, and the rock garden, built upon a smoothly sloping hillside, comprises two acres. "So cleverly has it been constructed, with water falling over layers of rocks into quiet pools overshadowed by gnarled tree trunks and bordered with shrubs and spreading dwarf evergreens, that it is difficult to realize that it is the work of man. Pathways, now of grass, now of rocks, wind in and out among the boulders, crossing and recrossing the little stream, touching its edges at points where the water trickles musically over the mossy rocks or rests quietly in an iris bordered pool, and at every turn facing a nook of beauty, while off to the east lies the Upper Valley, and the Mountains." (*Garden Gossip*.)

Other lovely gardens visited at the time included Audley, home of Nellie Custis, Kentmere with its secret garden, Carter Hill, Tuleyries, Fairfield, Milton Valley, and Play House. At the latter were seen the Rose Test Gardens in all their exquisite bloom, so ably managed by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gay Butler, both eminent rosarians.

An outstanding feature of the program was an address on colonial gardens by Mr. Shurcliff. He gave a detailed account of his work in the restoration of the old Williamsburg gardens, being the landscape architect in charge of the restoration.

An Open Forum for the evening program has become the custom of the annual meeting. On this occasion the subject was trees, and the speaker, Mr. Walter Showalter, assistant editor of the National Geographic Magazine, delighted his hearers.

The expanding work of the Federation is

shown in the increase in committees, which now included Conservation, Year Book, Finance, Garden Gossip, Judges for Flower Shows, Kenmore, New Plant Material, Plant Exchange, Plans and Programs, Regional Flower Shows, Remedies for Pests, Restriction of Outdoor Advertising, Rose Test Gardens, Slides, Tree Planting, and Wild Flower Garden.

The first award of the Distinguished Achievement Medal was made to Mrs. William H. Cocke for the construction and planting of the Memorial Garden, presented to the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, by Mrs. Cocke, to the memory of the noble sons of the Institute. "Not alone the Garden Club, but the State of Virginia is indebted to her for the creation of a work of lasting beauty."

The Regional Flower Shows as outlined for the year were the Southeastern in Norfolk, the Southwestern in Lynchburg, the Blue Ridge in Lexington, and the Northern in Warrenton.

A committee having been appointed in the spring by Mrs. Smith, the President, to confer with the Lee Memorial Foundation in regard to the restoration of the Stratford gardens, Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, the Chairman, recommended at this time that "a letter be sent to the Stratford Committee expressing our deep sense of the privilege we feel it, to be allowed to restore the garden, and to make our formal offer to undertake what will truly be a labor of love."

Two new clubs were admitted into the Federation, the Roanoke Valley Garden Club and the Spotswood Club.

At the Institute of Public Affairs held at the University of Virginia in August, 1929, there was a Round Table and Open Forum Discussion of the Restriction by Law of Outdoor Advertising. The discussion was open for three-minute talks by persons in the audience. "Many members of The Garden Club of Virginia were present and made excellent points in the short time allowed them." (*Garden Gossip*.)

In December, 1929, Governor Byrd called a conference of the Garden Club members to talk over the matter of roadside planting. From the meeting came the suggestion of a landscape architect as a member of the Highway Commission, which was brought to pass in the ensuing Legislature. Governor Byrd appointed

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six members of the Garden Club to serve with representatives of the Highway Commission in the interest of beautifying the highways of the state.

A true appreciation of gardening as a fine art has been the keynote in individual club meetings. This is evidenced in the prize-winning program for the year of 1930, won by Mrs. Edward Gay Butler of the Winchester and Clarke County Garden Club, which reads as follows:

January 15th—Introductory Meeting. Key-note talk by President. Notebooks and pencils distributed for year's work. Lecture, "Have I a Garden or Merely a Ground?" by Helen Van Pelt, Landscape Architect, San Francisco. Exhibit, House Plants and Forced Bulbs. Instructional Comment by Committee.

February 19—Catalogue Meeting, conducted by Mrs. Floyd Harris, members to bring own



*Mrs. Floyd Harris of the Leesburg and Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Clubs. She established enduring horticultural standards and flower show practices.*



*The Eleanor Truax Harris Challenge Cup, in memory of Mrs. Floyd Harris. Shown is one of the three cups awarded annually, if merited, at the Daffodil, Lily and Rose Shows.*

catalogues, noting special discovery of plants or nurseries. Exhibit, House Plants and Forced Bulbs. Comment.

March 19—Stratford Meeting. Exhibit, Earliest Blossoms. Comment.

April 2—Practical Plants for Spring Planting and Demonstration of Sowing Seeds in Flats, by Mrs. Edward Gay Butler. Exhibit, Seasonable Flowers. Comment.

April 16—Joint Meeting with Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club. Lecture, "Narcissi," by Mr. B. Y. Morrison, U.S. Department Agriculture. Exhibit, Narcissi, to be used as illustration.

April 23, 24, 25—Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia, at Richmond, Virginia.

April 28 through May 3—Historic Garden Pilgrimage for Stratford Grounds.

May 7—Visit to Mrs. Boughton's Quarry Garden, Baltimore.

May 21—Day in the woods, studying Wild Flowers and Conservation under Mr. Herbert Durand, Specialist. Box Lunch.

May (no date was set)—Regional Flower Show at Leesburg.

June 4—Meeting for final arrangements of our Flower Show.

June 7—Flower Show.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1930

June 18—Visit to Rose Test Garden of The Garden Club of Virginia. Other clubs to be invited to participate. Speaker, Dr. Horace McFarland, President American Rose Society. Hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Butler.

July 2—Meeting to catch up on business and at which members may bring forward personal ideas or requests for the benefit of Garden Clubs and their aims and activities. Exhibit, specializing in roses. Comment by the Club on points gathered from Dr. McFarland's Lecture.

July 16—First Meeting in the Scalesby Garden, studying plant varieties and names, followed by practical oral questionnaire. Demonstration of Soil Test by E. G. Butler.

August 6—Visit to Mrs. Oxnard's Garden Edgewood, Upperville, Virginia.

August 20—Lecture, "Holly and Other Shrubs," by Mrs. Wheelwright of Richmond. Exhibit, Summer Flowers. Comment.

September 3—Planning for Winter Bloom in the House, conducted by club member. Exhibit, Seasonable Garden Flowers.

September 17—Second Meeting in the Scalesby Garden, studying shrubs, under Dr. White, of the University of Virginia, Blandy Experimental Farm.

October 1—Business Meeting, Election of Officers.

October 15—Lecture, "Suggestions for Christmas Decorations and Winter Bouquets" by Mrs. William Massie of Rose Hill. Exhibit of Flowers. Comment.

November 19—Résumé of Garden Club Activities, Local, State, and Nation, for the Year, Conducted. Exhibit of blooming or fruiting arrangements. Comment.

December 17—Exhibit of slides of The Garden Club of America's Pilgrimage to English Gardens. (*Garden Gossip*.)

The Garden Club of Virginia journeyed up to lovely Loudoun County in October, 1929, for the meeting of the Board of Governors, the Leesburg Club being hostess for the meeting. Ex-Governor and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis were hosts to the Federation for luncheon at beautiful Morven Park. Visits were also made to Oatlands, Selma, and Stoke. The offer of the Garden Club of Virginia to undertake the restoration of the grounds at Stratford having been accepted, at

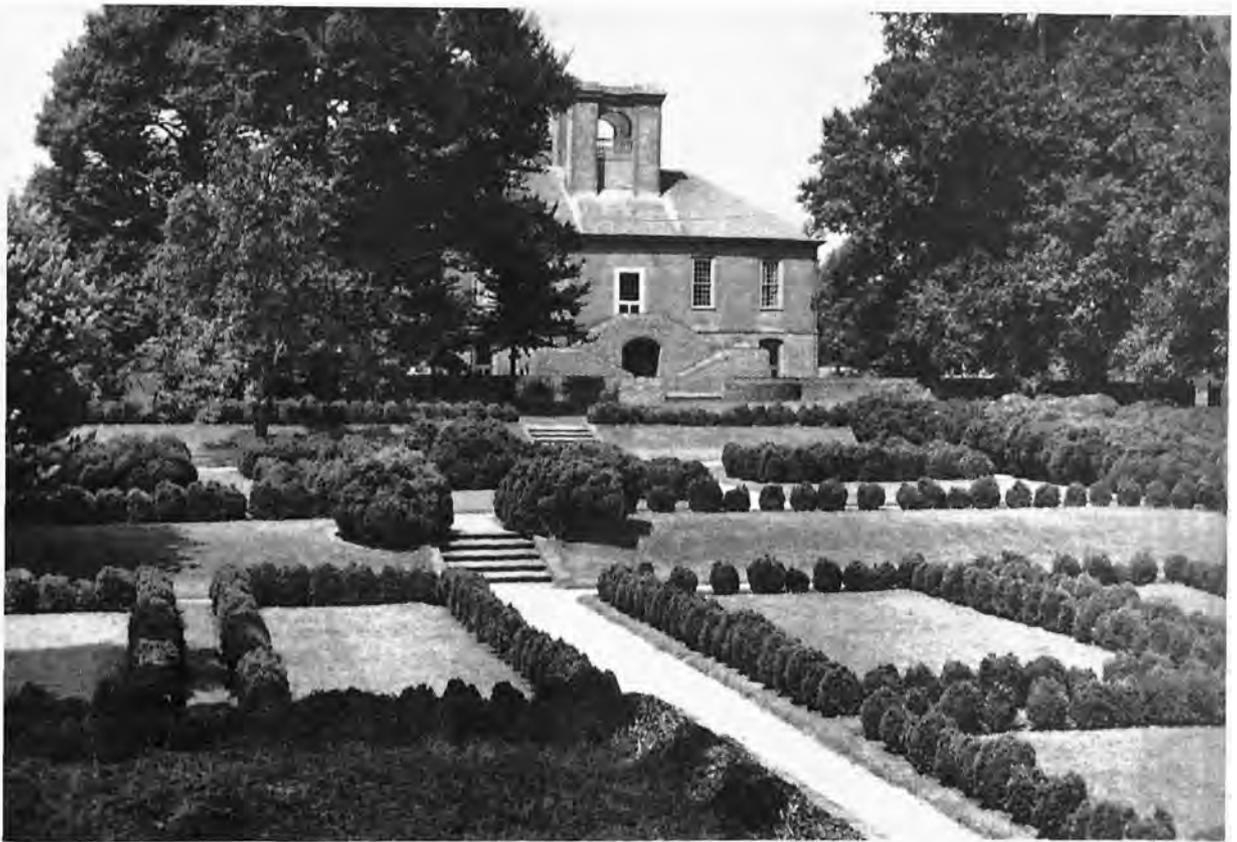
this time Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Chairman of the Stratford Committee, unfolded her plans. Mr. Shurcliff, who had talked so interestingly of colonial gardens at the annual meeting, was to be put in charge of the restoration, making scientific investigation throughout the grounds. This entails an excavation of the earth to the depth of three feet, at short distances apart, and an analysis of the soil, in order to determine whether tree, flower bed, walk, wall, or grass had formerly occupied the space. In order to raise the necessary funds to carry out the work, a great Hunt Meet was planned for the Autumn at Middleburg, and another Historic Garden Week for the ensuing Spring.

"It seems quite a long road from the first real effort of the Garden Club of Virginia at conservation and restoration, i. e., the purchase of the noble trees on the road from Williamsburg to Jamestown Island, conserved for the College of William and Mary; to the restoration and saving from death of the trees at Monticello, planted by Thomas Jefferson himself, through the means of our ambitious state-wide Monticello Flower Show; to the even more ambitious undertaking of the restoration, or rehabilitation, of the grounds at Kenmore, the historic home of Betty Washington Lewis, and her distinguished husband, Colonel Fielding Lewis; on to a real project of exact reproduction of the garden at Stratford, the home of the Lees, and the birthplace of General Robert E. Lee.

"The restoration of the garden and grounds of Stratford involves much more study, time, and outlay of money than any previous undertaking. Like everything else, with achievement grows potentiality, and with power the assurance and daring to do more." (*Garden Gossip*.)

With Mrs. Fairfax Harrison at the helm, and Mrs. William R. Massie and Mrs. Andrew Christian in command of the Pilgrimage, plans for Garden Week were made and perfected during the winter. Another beautiful guide book was published, with maps and folders. Again the owners of stately old mansions and gardens throughout Virginia opened their doors and gates to the public in loving memory of the great Lees.

From April the 28th to May the 3rd, Virginia sat in her garden and welcomed the nation. The



*Second Restoration, Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County. It was built in 1730 by Thomas Lee, and, in 1807, was the birthplace of General Robert E. Lee. Approved in October, 1929, archaeological research began in 1930.*

following appreciation of Garden Week appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*:

"Terraced walks and boxwood hedge rows and glowing parterres of color and fragrance are open to the public. Some of them date back to the reign of James the Second. In some of them the founders and early presidents of the republic walked, and in some the seventeenth century magnificoes of Tidewater Virginia sleep now their long sleep beneath marble shafts.

"A typical Virginia garden means a formal design in the all-the-year-round greenery touched with floral color. The greenery is the dominating note rather than the flowers. The design is usually surrounded by ivy-clad terraces and steps of dull red brick which blend beautifully with the color scheme of the growing things.

"Urbanity and graciousness distinguished the fete and great skill in management makes it easy to enjoy. Ladies of the gentry of the countryside receive you in these gardens. They are ladies of leisurely and melodious diction, and high grace

of manner, but they are not on the scene solely for ornamental purposes. They work. Some are sitting under canopies at the garden gates to receive the admission fees which go to the fund for the restoration of Stratford Hall, General Robert E. Lee's birthplace."

The Garden Club of Maryland generously cooperated with the Virginia Federation in the restoration of Stratford, by opening their famous old estates and gardens on May the 4th and 5th. Their beautiful homes had never been open to the public before and constituted a notable finale to the Garden Pilgrimage.

When the final accounting had been made, it was found that the receipts amounted to nearly \$45,000.00.

On the tenth anniversary of its organization The Garden Club of Virginia was again the guest of the James River club as it had been on the 13th day of May, 1920, when the eight clubs of Virginia met together so pleasantly and informally and formed the Federation. The member

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1930*

clubs now number twenty-two, being from all sections of the Old Dominion — from Alexandria on the Potomac, to Danville, the city of the Dan; from Warm Springs Valley high in the mountains, to Norfolk lying like a gem upon the Bay.

The Federation sprang from a true love of gardens, a love inherited from the grandmothers who built so lovingly and so well the gardens of yore. This garden love, welling up first for one's own plot, soon o'erflowed such narrow confines, and embraced the gardens of friends. From the first annual meeting in Richmond, one of the chief delights of the Federation has been to visit one another's gardens, lingering there in sweet converse over bed and bloom. A friendly cup of tea or punch sipped in the garden's shade, while all the talk is flowers, is a happy experience! The tour of Richmond's beautiful gardens included Agecroft, that bit of England set down on Virginia soil, Hillcrest, Buckhead Springs, Norcroft, Meadowbrook, the gardens of Mrs. Skipwith and Mrs. Tower, Redesdale, Chatham Hills, Windemere, and Western View.

"The 1930 meeting stands out as being particularly interesting, marking as it does the growth of a decade, with its development of old gardens, as well as the building of the new ones, emphasizing the tremendous forward movement in garden design, and the use of new material." (*Garden Gossip*.)

A potent factor in the growth and development of the Federation has been the club magazine, *Garden Gossip*, so often quoted in these pages. Under an able staff of editors the *Gossip* has shown phenomenal growth, and is a magazine of which the members are justly proud. In two years the circulation has increased from 800 to 2,400, evidencing the general appreciation of its worth. It goes into twenty-eight states outside of Virginia. From a quarterly it has now become a monthly publication. The articles have always contained garden lore of great value and deep interest. The issue of February, 1928, called the Spring Planting number, was a compendium of plant and bulb knowledge. The issue of June, 1929, was the Rock Garden number, filling the readers with the desire to build this most alluring of gardens. Reports from Mrs. Butler keep us informed of the new varieties of roses best

sued to Virginia's climate. The very able articles contributed by Miss Rawlinson, Chairman of New Plant Material, have led the members to try out in their gardens the lovely new things offered by the seed and nurserymen. Mrs. M. C. Patterson's timely articles on the preservation of wild flowers, trees, and evergreens have been a constant urge to renewed activities in conservation. The April number, 1929, contained a splendidly arranged schedule for flower show judging, prepared by Mrs. Floyd Harris, Chairman of the Flower Show Judges. "Early Virginia Botanists," an article from the pen of Miss Rose McDonald, reveals wide historic research of deep interest to Virginia gardeners.

The Garden Club of Virginia owes a debt of lasting gratitude to the two editors of *Garden Gossip*, the late Mrs. Samuel Marshall and the present editor-in-chief, Mrs. Joseph Walker.

The campaign against billboards continues. The Federation joined forces with Judge Carson, President of the Society for Restriction of Outdoor Advertising in Virginia, in another effort to secure favorable legislation on the subject. A meeting was held in Richmond with the State Conservation and Development Commission. The Garden Club of Virginia was represented by Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Fernstrom, and others. A bill was drafted and presented to the General Assembly, then in session, by the Conservation Commission. But again the advertising forces were too strong for even such united strength, and the bill failed of passage.

As individual club work in conservation the Winchester and Clarke County Club is beautifying the Washington Headquarters in Winchester, planting trees and flowers on the grounds. The Alexandria Club is making a wild flower preserve and beautifying historic old Gadsby's Tavern. The Albemarle Club has placed a memorial fountain in honor of Mrs. Samuel Marshall at a peaceful wayside spring on the road leading up to Monticello. It bears the inscription: "This Fountain was Erected in 1929 by the Albemarle Garden Club in memory of its founder and first president, Josephine Page Marshall of Morven. Died July 21, 1927." A suitable planting has been made around the fountain.

As a part of the restoration of the grounds at

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*Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, Sixth President, 1930-1932. A 1908 camera in Berlin gives us Isabella deLacy Cave Thompson twenty-two years before her presidency.*

Kenmore, a beautiful brick wall is being built to enclose the grounds. The old brick wall surrounding the Ware Church in Gloucester County was taken as a model. The planting of the grounds has not yet been done, due to the restoration of the kitchen and other outbuildings not being completed. More of the original grounds having been acquired by the Association, the plans for planting were remodeled to include the Mary Washington Home, two blocks away.\* The Kenmore Chairman, Mrs. Wheelwright, announced, "that it was hoped the planting of the grounds could be begun in the early fall, so that they may have somewhat of an established appearance for the Washington Celebration in Virginia in 1932."

The garden clubs of Blue Ridge (Lexington), and Alexandria were received into the Federation. The Distinguished Achievement Medal was won by the Roanoke Valley Garden Club for the planting of Elmwood Park. The medal was awarded at the Annual Dinner by Mrs. Fairfax Harrison and received by Mrs. Lawrence Davis, Chairman of the Park Committee. The Park was originally one of the plantations around Big Lick, as Roanoke was then called, and comprised a brick mansion house and eight acres of land crowning a hill in the heart of Roanoke City. The planting included 1800 rose bushes, 600 shrubs, 100 peonies, 75 trees, 22 old box trees, as well as truckloads of native rhododendron, dogwood, redbud, crabs, and hawthorns. A really stupendous achievement!

The following officers were elected for 1930-31:

- Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, President.
- Mrs. Thomas M. Fendall, First Vice President.
- Mrs. Francis C. Scruggs, Second Vice President.
- Mrs. Hugh Skipwith, Recording Secretary-Treasurer.
- Mrs. Horatio L. Small, Corresponding Secretary.

[\*Ed: Every effort was made to trace this reference to the Mary Washington Home. Mrs. Houston, Directress of the Mary Washington Branch, searched her records back to the beginning. The minutes of the Restoration Committee were examined. No evidence could be developed that the GCV followed through on this statement. We do know that in 1929-30 two Fredericksburg ladies, Mrs. Devore, a GCV member-at-large, and Mrs. Thomas R. Boggs, soon to be one, did plant a garden here. It was their garden that the GCV disturbed to recreate the present garden, completed in 1969.]

*Now there are nineteen clubs. Alphabetically we shall meet the eleven clubs elected during those ten years and follow the continuing adventures of the eight founding clubs, avoiding duplication of the outstanding achievements already noted by Mrs. Clement.*

## MEMBER CLUBS 1920-1930

**A**LBEMARLE continued to hold, annually, in the spring, summer, autumn, and at Christmas flower and plant sales on street corners in the business section. The profits were used to plant the grounds of the woman's club, the Blue Ridge Club, to plant 100 dogwood and redbud trees at the Blue Ridge Children's Pavilion, and for the work of Sir Wilfred Grenfell in establishing greenhouses in Labrador.

The names of Mrs. Samuel H. Marshall and Mrs. Massie, those pace-setting ladies of the GCV, appear on every page of Albemarle's history. (One sad note of history made current is that the fountain, designed by Mrs. Perkins in memory of Mrs. Marshall, has been destroyed.) And Albemarle had to spare Mrs. Massie when in 1926 she became GCV President. Automatically, the ways of the GCV became the ways of Albemarle. Or was it the reverse?

ALEXANDRIA: "It was due to the vision and forethought of Miss Mary Lindsey that this garden club was so pleasantly organized on October 1, 1925. She invited a very few to meet with her and share the privilege of creating the first garden club in the city of Alexandria. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, and on October 15 they were adopted, and Mrs. Louis Scott was installed as the first president. Thus, "The organization was agreeably and harmoniously ushered into being."

The GCV President, Mrs. Walker, came on February 16, 1926, to ask that the new club assist in the Shenandoah National Park project. They sold 90 acres, and later members

bought 10 more to bring the total to an even 100 acres donated.

Less than a year old, on June 6, 1926, they staged the first flower show ever held in Alexandria in the old City Market. The prizes were \$2.50 gold pieces. And they started planting trees and shrubs at the new Belle Haven Country Club, around the base of the new wing of the Alexandria Hospital, and porch boxes for the Ann Lee Memorial Home.

In 1927 their member, Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, became a GCV member-at-large, and another GCV President, Mrs. Massie, asked them to plant dogwood, hawthorn, and redbud. They planted hundreds.

In May, 1928, the restoration of the Courtyard at Gadsby's Tavern began, as noted by Mrs. Clement. All material used was old and touched with history. The bricks in the rear wall came from the chimneys at Abingdon, the childhood home of Nellie Custis, burned some years before. The cobblestones were those laid by Hessian soldiers after the Revolutionary War. The curbing and bluestone flagging had been previously used in the old city crosswalks.

In February, 1929, they went to Fort Humphrey (later Fort Belvoir) and formed the Fort Humphrey Garden Club. They assisted their member, Mrs. Louis Hertle, by being hostesses at Gunston Hall that first Garden Week. The net receipts were \$1,577.50. So this club was eminently qualified, had in fact been following the bidding of the GCV for some time, when they joined its ranks April 23, 1930. The next

## Follow the Green Arrow

week they opened their own homes for Garden Week, establishing an unbroken pattern.

AUGUSTA staged its first flower show in August, 1921, at Stuart Hall, noting "We were very proud." Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta President in 1926, could say, "As a club we have developed a self-reliance, which has given us encouragement and confidence." When the GCV met in Staunton in 1927, Mrs. Smith held a reception and buffet supper at Waverley Hill. The history says: "Fortunately, the long May days with their prolonged twilight enabled the guests to enjoy and marvel over the gardens, which had been entirely uprooted and replanted only three weeks before. The turf was all taken from a meadow, transplanted in rolls and put down. It looked as if it might have been there for years. The great feat of all was the transplanting of a large apple tree, which continued to thrive and was in full bloom. Iris, tulips, peonies, pansies, and columbines all looked happy and settled." The guests must have regarded with awe this accomplishment of "instant garden." Mrs. Smith became GCV President in 1928. (Now Honorary President, she has been more than active all these good years and is still capable of an "instant garden.")

During this decade began the program of demonstrating "civic worth": planting around the Jefferson Grammar School and at Woodrow Park. They brought dogwood from the forest where a clearing was being made for the city water supply. These trees became a part of the Staunton landscape.

BLUE RIDGE: On October 1, 1925, this club was organized at the instigation of Mrs. William H. Cocke, who became its first president. Mrs. Massie came to that meeting to tell the members what a garden club should be. She said: "Small!" They believed her. It still is. A resolution was passed, setting forth the qualifications for membership as "interest, knowledge, personality, suitability, and club spirit." (As they ended their first year and looked over the members, they were well-satisfied that these qualifications had been met, "with the possible exception of knowledge"!)

They began their career of planting at the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital and, at the request of the U.D.C., the plot on which the

Stonewall Jackson statue stands in the Lexington cemetery.

In May, 1926, they held the first flower show to be held in Lexington. *The Rockbridge County News* wrote: "The Blue Ridge Garden Club may well find itself unable to be the modest violet, which perhaps would become a club of its extreme youth and inexperience, and instead vaunt itself at the thought of that flower-filled room at the hotel on Tuesday afternoon."

In May, 1927, they were hostesses at a luncheon, given in Mrs. Cocke's garden, to the Augusta club and "Delegates of The Garden Club of Virginia." Each of the 25 members was assessed \$1.00 to meet all expenses. They fed 175 ladies. The minutes state: "Our obvious reason was to show ourselves to the GCV, hoping they would think well of us." Later they went, by invitation, to Mrs. Massie at Rose Hill, "The memory of this fair spot will be everlasting. A sumptuous tea was served by the gracious lady of the manor."

In fact, let's face it, tea meant a great deal to this club, and their minutes are full of delightful references. In 1927: "Refreshments were limited to tea and one other thing, a fine of \$1.00 to be imposed if this rule is broken." Shortly after this entry, there is a detailed description of a meeting with Miss Sally Preston, whose lavish hospitality was famous. "The members adjourned to the dining room. They were seated at beautifully appointed tables, and a most delicious high tea was served. In spite of the very evident fact that the rules had been broken, each and all gloried in Miss Preston's shame." (She was not fined.) Later they met with Mrs. Easter, who kept to the letter of the law by having tea and five different kinds of cake. "When she was told she had broken a rule, she insisted, and rightly so, that she had only tea and one other thing—cake." (Shortly, this rule died a natural death, and nothing more is heard of it. In 1933 a motion was made that "for the duration of the Depression, no refreshments be served at the meetings." There wasn't even a second to that motion.) This historian admits, guilelessly, that the main interest of the club was what they had to eat and who got elected.

In 1928 they accepted the restoration of the McDowell Burying Ground, where Rockbridge's

## Member Clubs, 1920-1930

earliest settlers lie, and agreed to spend \$500.00 on it. They staged a carnival on the V.M.I. Parade Ground. Then the rains came and stayed, and the Carnival was in ruins. Someone, or someone's husband, was foresighted enough to insure the event for \$500.00. After paying the bills, they had \$110.00 to add to their wall-building fund.

Goshen Pass early entered the minutes of this club and remained there. On February 15, 1929, they organized to oppose the dam that would make it a large lake. A Washington lawyer represented them, free of charge, and with the help of the GCV and other organizations, the dam was eliminated and Goshen Pass saved. For the time being.

In January, 1930, young Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam was elected to the club. (In October of the same year she was elected Vice President to fill an unexpired term. Shortly, she moved to center stage in Blue Ridge and in the GCV, and is still there.)

The Burying Ground had their attention with "several all-day picnics, everybody armed with trowels and hoes and lunch." We guess they looked up long enough on April 23, 1930, to know they had become members of the GCV.

BRUNSWICK: "On March 12, 1924, Mrs. Walter Turnbull realized the culmination of her efforts in the organization of the Brunswick Garden Club." She was the first president. She did have officers but not a single committee or chairman. Mrs. Wheelwright came to visit and shared her wisdom. By 1925 the club had a year book. By 1926 they held their first plant sale and first flower show.

They had an unusual first civic program. They started beautifying the rural mail boxes. This project had been inspired by an article in the *Times-Dispatch* entitled "Lame Soldiers of the Cross Roads," saying: "The rural mail box condition is terrible. In only a few places have the citizens exerted civic pride and neatly arranged the receptacles, thus aiding the carrier, who delivers the mail, and calling forth a word of praise from the observer. Brunswick offered the school children prizes for the best paper on "How I Beautified My Mail Box" and gave other prizes for the "Best Single Mail Box" and the "Best Group of Mail Boxes."

They wanted to learn about gardens. They decided the most pleasant way to learn about gardens was to go to see gardens. So they did.

"For the first ten years of our existence, the pilgrims of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* had to pick up their ears and look to their laurels, for we too were bent on a pilgrimage. Most of these preceded Historic Garden Week, and we had to ask permission of the owners and carry our picnic lunches.

"When May was wearing her mantle of loveliness and charm, and history bristled at every hamlet and crossroads, was when we were most rampant, rampantly all up and down that beautiful James River. Our first attack was on Claremont Manor, the 1649 replica of the favorite royal residence of the Duke of Kent; then to lovely Brandon, set in its grove of oaks and lindens. Still partial to rivers, we sallied forth to Prestwould, where Sir Peyton and Lady Skipwith lived and died among priceless furnishings. Then back to our first love, the noble James, to Westover, that queen of gardens.

"Another spring, to Violet Bank in Petersburg, the possessor of the largest specimen of *Magnolia acuminata*. (By this time we were cutting our teeth on botanical names and sniffed audibly when a benighted member called it a cucumber tree.) Then onward we marched to Center Hill in Petersburg, the home of the distinguished Bolling family. And still sticking to rivers, down to City Point, where Appomattox Manor caught our eye and down we pounced on the gracious Eppes family, descendants of the original 1635 owners.

"Another time we felt the wanderlust urge and invoked the stony stare of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas on Jamestown Island, and last and best of all, in 1934, to Williamsburg, and our own Mrs. McCrea gave a beautiful tea for us at Carter's Grove, the most perfect example of Georgian architecture in this country, where Molly lends grace to every occasion and beauty to the setting."

On May 18, 1926, this well-travelled club entered the GCV and kept on travelling.

CHATHAM: From what came the Chatham Garden Club? From a meeting of the William Pitt Chapter of the D.A.R., that's what. It was held in July, 1921, at Briarwood, the home of

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The Honorable and Mrs. Joseph Whitehead. There were four members of the Danville Garden Club present: Mesdames Booth, Dula, Evans, and Hughes. They talked garden club to those D.A.R. members, who viewed with favor the organization of one. Mrs. Whitehead became the president and wrote the first constitution and by-laws. Outside members were taken in, but by June, 1922, it was decided to limit the active membership to 35. (That 1922 decision still holds in 1970.)

That same year Chatham became the first club to be admitted by the eight founding clubs, a real place of honor. Since taking in another club was a "first" for the GCV, it had to devise a technique. Handwritten, on legal paper, Chatham addressed Mrs. Patterson, GCV President, in formal fashion: "We, the members of The Chatham Garden Club, do hereby make application to become members of The Garden Club of Virginia." In stylistic phrases, they made a modest presentation of virtues. It was signed by the Danville and Norfolk clubs in flowing script. On the reverse side it was endorsed by Mrs. Wheelwright for James River, Mrs. Walker for Dolly Madison, Mrs. Marshall for Albemarle, Mrs. Greene for Augusta, Mrs. Groome for Warrenton, Mrs. Turner for Warrenton Flower Club, and Mrs. Harrison for Fauquier and Loudoun. (Getting in the United Nations is easier!)

DANVILLE's Mrs. Dula presented formal regrets that this club could not take part in the May Flower Festival of 1921, "being pledged at that time to carry out the plans, begun a year ago, to plant the grounds and base of the City Hospital with shrubs and plants from our private gardens." They also planted around the Hilltop Sanitarium and the YMCA. The club became interested in birds, and many programs were devoted to this topic, with poems on birds, talks on bird homes, and listening to "Songs of our Native Birds" on the Victrola.

They also organized garden clubs: Chatham, in 1921; Martinsville, 1922; The Garden Club of Reidsville, the first in North Carolina, 1922; Virginia Avenue Garden Club of Danville and The Bedford County Garden Club, both in 1924.

In 1922, noted as "the most important event,"

was the Rose Festival held on the lawn of the Memorial Mansion. (The 4,000 children who attended were given 2,000 rose plants.) This was in honor of Lady Astor on a return to her native city. "Lady Astor called for quiet, and then she told the children what a lovely thing it was to have a garden and to keep it nice." She told them of English gardens in general, her own garden in particular. "But there is also another kind of garden, the garden of the mind. It must be cultivated with pure thoughts, as we are what we think."

(In a personal letter, dated February 21, 1928, Danville's Mrs. Evans wrote approvingly of the possible selection of Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith: "I think Mrs. Smith will make a fine little president.")

During the first Garden Week of 1929, Berry Hill, Oak Hill, Oak Ridge, and Prestwold were open and "a handsome donation sent to the State Committee for Kenmore."

DOLLY MADISON's Mrs. Walker became the third President of the GCV, and the club moved, or was moved, into the mainstream of the state organization. At home, they adopted the zinnia as their club flower and actually changed their constitution to force themselves to hold two annual flower shows, in addition to their favored zinnia show. Conservation loomed high, and they initiated the "Love the Dogwood" campaign and concentrated on saving the native Virginia Christmas greens, such as holly and running cedar.

In that first Garden Week, this richly endowed community opened: Inverness, Frascati, The Residence at Woodberry Forest (the home of Mrs. Walker), Horseshoe, Piedmont, Happy Creek, Lochiel, Red Rock, Hawfield, and Montpelier.

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN by 1920 was holding 20 meetings a year. "As the meetings are only held in the summer, this means a meeting on the average of every ten days." Bitterness to road signs was first expressed, and it was suggested that members take matters into their own hands. (Never was advice taken more literally or with more alacrity.) The minutes noted their event of this year, "The Sylvan Masque, Royalty and Romany," written by Mrs. Sands, costumed by Miss Noland, and staged by the club at Fox-

## Member Clubs, 1920-1930

croft. By 1924 dogwood was endangered through cutting for decorative purposes. So a campaign was instituted to save these trees.

In 1926 Mrs. Harrison reported that five members had attended the GCV meeting in Lynchburg, "with the result that about 100% of the membership clamors now for appointment as delegates. A solution of this serious problem of success is now in order." In addition to its regular subscription to the GCA Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, "a long distance extension of our horizon," the club contributed to an endowment fund for Lowthorpe School of Horticulture for Women, "the best training school for women gardeners and garden designers in America, another wise provision for the future."

JAMES RIVER member, Edith Tunis Sale, wrote in 1921 *Historic Gardens of Virginia*. This fine publication has been a continuing source of revenue. Of it, the librarian at Harvard said that it was the best contribution to garden literature which had come his way. (There were four printings of this book, all coveted by collectors.)

A little extra to the GCA meeting mentioned by Mrs. Clement: When the GCA was invited in 1923, the history states: "This fine exuberance and fearless enthusiasm was met with a chilly refusal. Said the GCA Secretary: 'Bad roads in Virginia have influenced the decision to accept another invitation.' But as our president said, 'Good roads will someday find us in the class of desirable folks to visit.'" Of the 1924 visit, Mrs. Hugh Skipwith put it this way: "Who will ever forget the poetry of the Sabbath Glee Club's singing of spirituals at dusk on the lawn at Westover? Who will forget the clouds of dust on the unpaved road, churned up by the cavalcade of motor cars?"

This club was asked by the City Fathers to select a city flower. These were the several stipulations laid down: "It must be a flower suitable to wear in the Mayor's buttonhole on state occasions, but it must also look well in a pot and when massed in a park planting. It must bloom all the year round, be hardy outside, but force well in the greenhouse for the florists. It must like it hot, but be able to stand a freeze. It must not mind the wet, but it must prefer it

dry. Last of all, it must be a flower of every color and one that no other city in the whole United States has ever thought of for a City Flower." (Now an association of botanists would have a little difficulty with those requirements but not James River.) "We set to work with a vim and induced the City Fathers to get acquainted with and adopt the iris, the flower of chivalry, with a sword for a leaf and a lily for a bloom." (But how did it look in the Mayor's buttonhole?) Having named the flower, the club started putting it in the ground on Monument Avenue, in Monroe Park (2,000), at St. John's Church, and, leaving the city limits, at Woodberry Forest (3,000) and the College of William and Mary.

The trees at Maymont were identified and labelled, and in 1927 the members began making five-minute radio talks, concentrating early on conservation. This work was under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Benjamin Gray.

LEESBURG: In the Leesburg where this club was founded on December 9, 1915, "The only direction one could get very far without paying a toll was due west, the idea being that if you could get up that mountain, you deserved to go for nothing. The toll gates charged 5¢ for a horse, 10¢ with buggy, 15¢ for an automobile, and 25¢ for big trucks." It was noted that the streets of Leesburg "were a rich source of improvement, with the term garden usually referring to the vegetable plot."

This group came together to read Dickens out loud. Mrs. Page Laughlin returned from a visit, telling of a new sort of club she had visited called a garden club. The reading group liked the general idea, but not being sure this new fad would amount to much, they held on to Mr. Dickens, changing the name to Dickens and Garden Club. David Copperfield was heard no more, and The Leesburg Garden Club began its important role in this vast nationwide movement.

For this role, they made the firmest of foundations. Mrs. Hough, a professional landscape architect, was commissioned to come to Leesburg. During her stay of several days, she helped ten members design and lay out their gardens. She also left the whole club "seething with ideas on garden design and each member diligently dig-

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ging out borders to a depth of 3 feet, mixing the soil with N.C. rock, bone meal, and well-rotted manure." By May of 1916 they were even ready for competition, and "with a basket full of flowers that got pretty well shaken up on the way," they not only entered Fauquier and Loudoun's first flower show, they recorded, gleefully, "We won two important prizes." (Remember how Fauquier and Loudoun dealt with this indiscretion?)

By 1917 and World War I, attention was turned from prize-winning flowers to food. The club held an open community meeting to stress the necessity for food production. At the same time they embarked on their never-ending but constantly changing project at the Loudoun County Hospital. Even before the building was completed the club had a vegetable garden established and in production. A member did the "laying-out"; another provided annually all plants from her own greenhouse; and another supervised the club-employed gardener. (For 23 continuous years this garden supplied hospital patients and staff with fresh vegetables in summer, potatoes and home-canned foods in winter, with the club doing the substantial part of the canning and preserving.)

By 1918 even while the meetings continued to stress chicken raising and food canning, the club looked ahead and engaged a landscape architect to plan simple landscaping for the hospital, with special emphasis on the definition of "simple" and a firm resistance to anything that might look "suburban." Various enterprises raised the necessary money, the most popular being motion picture benefits. By the early twenties flower shows became the money raisers and were held annually, soon outgrowing the Thomas Balch Library in which they were originally staged. (In the first show "a large and handsome house fern" was the hit of the show and won the blue ribbon.)

After becoming the 14th member club of the GCV on May 18, 1926, Leesburg shared its concern about increasing road signs, the disappearing dogwood, damage to roadside trees from improper pruning, and "warning signals about that most undesirable alien, the Japanese Beetle." Leesburg opened Springwood and Morven Park in 1929 and noted their proceeds as "about \$16.00."

LYNCHBURG: This club was the outgrowth of a regular meeting of the Woman's Club when on March 10, 1922, Mrs. Samuel Marshall of Albemarle gave a talk on "Forming a Garden Club." (Have you noticed how busy Mrs. Marshall was?) Its formal organization followed on March 29, and the first activity, an Iris Show, was held May 11. Miss Josephine Kinnier, who headed the list of the four ladies who invited Mrs. Marshall, was made the first president.

No historian set the stage for her garden club as this one did. She tells of Mrs. Anne Royall, traveller and reporter, who wrote glowingly of Lynchburg in her *Southern Tour* of 1830-31. Mrs. Royall visited Winchester and Staunton, "neither of which pleased her." She journeyed on to Charlottesville and spoke of her reception there as "outrageous," especially from the students at the University. Then she came to Lynchburg. "In point of scenery, it is far beyond Richmond, and very little behind in business. It certainly is the most finished picture of spontaneous or studied beauty to be met with, perhaps in the world. It appeals most powerfully to the feelings." (Could the most chauvinistic Chamber of Commerce have said it better?)

This must have been required reading at every garden club meeting, for in 1925, to keep Lynchburg beautiful, each member was asked to plant a tree where one had been cut down. In 1927 a large number of sugar maples was planted in the Peakland area, and running roses soon covered "the red dirt banks at Clay and 12th Streets." (The 1929 planting of Hollins Mill Road, to which Mrs. Clement referred, was completed in two years and handed over to the city. The city didn't take care of it. The club marks this as one of its few failures.) They had been members of the GCV since May 23, 1923.

MARTINSVILLE: "In 1923 Martinsville was a thriving community of 5,000 souls. There were two 20-bed hospitals, six churches, four hotels, a few paved streets, and a bi-weekly newspaper. We even had A telephone. Industry was booming, and there were active groups at work on a public library and a public school system. It was a prosperous time.

"But the aesthetic side of our development was being rather neglected. Amid all this progress, little had been done to enhance or preserve the

## Member Clubs, 1920-1930

natural beauty of our locality. So, enter the women, stage right! That April, 1923, a few of them got together and organized the Martinsville Garden Club, the first in Henry County. Its purpose was to promote interest in and knowledge of gardening, to stimulate interest in civic planting, and to aid in the protection of our native trees, shrubs, wild flowers, and birds."

The organizer and first president was Mrs. J. D. Glenn, and the next year of 1924 saw the Martinsville club a member of the GCV. In 1927 roadside planting of dogwood and redbud began on the highway between Martinsville and Danville.

NORFOLK had named the state flower. Now they decided to name the city flower. It should be the crepe myrtle. To spread the word about this selection, they sent 3,000 circulars to all local and county schools. In 1922 the City Council agreed with the club, of course, and named the crepe myrtle the City Flower of Norfolk. The club planted it and continued to plant it. It urged other people to plant it, and they did. Norfolk celebrates each summer with the blaze of its color.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of this club has been its founding of other clubs. The histories that refer to Norfolk as their guiding spirit are: Winchester-Clarke 1924, Nansemond River 1928, Williamsburg 1931, Hampton Roads and Princess Anne 1932, and Eastern Shore 1939. (That's a lot of fine children, Norfolk, and this historian has probably not gathered them all in.)

RIVANNA: When this second garden club in Charlottesville was formed November 16, 1922, "the guiding angels" were from Albemarle, Mrs. C. E. Blue and Mrs. J. S. Davis. Called Rivanna River Garden Club, it elected Mrs. Thomas Fawcus president. This history says: "Just when we dropped the River, I no longer remember." She continues, "There were no winter meetings that first year, which speaks volumes about the roads our county members would have to negotiate." They set aside \$5.00 for printing the constitution and by-laws. It wasn't enough. So they decided to wait until they were more affluent. The next August they had a zinnia show. It cost them \$5.30 to stage.

They made enough money to have the year book printed.

To celebrate their first birthday, they had a lecture with slides, "The lantern was loaned." (It was this dear history-writing member who always spoke of the "Confederated Garden Club of Virginia." A typographical error? No, for again and again it was firmly used. Then she wrote sadly, "The Confederation has been dropped.")

Early they planted boxwood at the McIntyre Library, but, "Thoughtless boys destroyed our plantings." So they planted again. Evergreens were put at the Meriwether Lewis statue. These grew and became a traffic hazard at that busy corner. So a grass plot, with crocuses, was substituted. History: "I have not seen a crocus there in ages, if they ever did come up." After being admitted to the GCV in 1924, they went to Lexington for a meeting. They took with them a wreath to place at the tomb of General Lee.

ROANOKE VALLEY: Sponsored by Miss Kinnier of the Lynchburg club, Roanoke Valley Garden Club was organized in April, 1925, at the home of Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis. Mrs. Edward L. Stone was elected the first president and presided over 30 charter members. This was the first garden club in Roanoke, and by 1927 it had organized four more: Magic City, Mill Mountain, Salem, and the first Negro club, Big Lick. All plants left over from sales were given to the Big Lick club for its planting.

The first flower show in Roanoke was staged in May, 1928. About this time one of the programs was mentioned: "Dr. W. W. S. Butler, Jr. read a most instructive paper on the chemistry of flowers and their use in medicine." The club undertook the planting of trees, a mile a year, along 5 miles of the Lee Highway and submitted to just getting one year older so they could come into the GCV. This happened June 12, 1929.

SPOTSWOOD: In the early summer of 1924 discussion about organizing a garden club began. It was led by Mrs. Frank L. Sublett and Mrs. Walter N. Sprinkel, both successful and experienced gardeners. On July 8, Mrs. Sublett invited 25 interested friends to her home to hear Mrs. Harry S. Greene of Augusta tell how a

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garden club should be inaugurated. Mrs. James G. Johnson was the first president.

Horticulture became their first love, followed closely by learning the art of presenting their flowers. Monthly, specimens and arrangements were featured. Mrs. Charles E. Conrad, to encourage this, presented a silver loving cup to be awarded yearly for the most blue ribbons, the winner's name to be inscribed. (By 1948 this cup was filled with names and was awarded permanently to Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, a five-times winner.) Mrs. Charles E. Conrad also gave the club its gavel, made from wood grown on historic Jamestown Island.

The first of the annual flower shows was held June 18, 1926, in a private home. In that same year their first year book was printed, on its cover the Golden Horseshoe of Spotswood's Knights. They planted at Woodbine Cemetery and on June 12, 1929, became a member club of the GCV.

WARRENTON in 1921, at the request of Mrs. Patterson, joined the Virginia Good Roads Association. Also at her suggestion they sent three boxes of plants to the Public Health Hospital at Greenville, S. C. (Many interesting facts, such as this hospital philanthropy, unmentioned in the early GCV minutes, have been found in the individual club histories. Since no details are given, this historian wonders why Mrs. Patterson was so concerned with Greenville, S. C.)

They began their campaign to beautify Warrenton. In 1922 the history says: "We planted a few trees in the town square and had a plan for many more there and on Main Street. However, the mistaken opposition of the shopkeepers, whose property fronted there, made this impossible. We now intend to conduct a campaign of education to convince the present objectors that the trees will really be an advantage to them, not a hindrance."

In 1928, replying to the GCV President, "I am sorry I cannot send you a year book as we no longer have them. We are outrageously casual, and no one wanted to be tied down to any meeting too far in advance."

WINCHESTER-CLARKE: This history begins: "It is always informative, sometimes entertaining, and invariably nostalgic to look back over the years. Such has been the case with me

as I delved into old minutes, written in fine Spencerian script, often faded and illegible but descriptive, complete, and definitely indicative of the person by whom they were written.

"Those of us who are third generation members remember with fondness and great admiration those women, whose vision, energy, and love of beauty laid the foundation for so many years of achievement. As leaders in our community, they have been a source of inspiration to continue with equal vigor the work they started so many years ago.

"It was on May 7, 1924, that Miss Bessie Conrad, first president and founder of our club, held the first meeting. It took place after many months of active campaigning on the part of Miss Bessie to form a garden club. Her interest stemmed from having attended meetings of The Garden Club of Norfolk with her sister, Mrs. Henry H. Little. Through sheer dauntlessness, she managed to enroll 67 of the most outstanding women of the community into the ranks of the new garden club."

The minutes of that first meeting give a lovely word-picture: "The old blue china, with its story to tell, the pieces of lace from faraway lands, a gorgeous centrepiece of white lilac and Clara Butt tulips. Lily-of-the-valley everywhere. Wonderful bunches of drooping wisteria, against a colonial buff background."

The first flower show was held August 2, 1924, at Thornhill Manor. The first prize went to a non-member for "a basket of pink gladiolus." By the next year, "The increasingly ugly head of the billboard was rearing itself" and lines of battle were set up to combat this foe in their two counties.

The members were told that one of the requirements for admission to the GCV was "holding a flower show one year in advance." They weren't sure this didn't mean "within one year." So to play safe, they hurried up and held a show on November 5, 1926. Since it was late, all exhibits were chrysanthemums or Christmas berries, but it worked. In 1927 they became members of the GCV.

Fired with enthusiasm, in addition to planting at George Washington's Office, they designed, built, and entered a float in the Apple Blossom

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Festival Parade and made plans to hold the first GCV Regional Flower Show on September 29, 1927. Their member, Mrs. Henry Gilpin, made a gift of distinction, a collection of 100 books on gardening, collected from all over the world, some first editions signed by the author. These were placed in the Handley Library.

In June, 1928, Miss Bessie died, "like a candlelight, snuffed out at the heyday of its glow," but she left her imprint, never to be forgotten. Knowing that she would want them to, the club made plans to be a part of that first Garden Week and immediately after, in June, 1929, entertained the GCV.

The next ten years are told by Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam.

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

MAY 1930—MAY 1940

THE SECOND TEN YEARS of the GCV was a time of great earnestness of endeavor and of accomplishment. One has only to read copies of *Garden Gossip* published during the thirties to be made clearly aware of the seriousness of effort of the Garden Club members. While gardens and gardening have been enjoyed since the beginning of time, the novelty of "organized" gardening, the opportunity to share with others the disappointments and pleasures of garden work, the chance to talk with fellow-gardeners at meetings and in print, these were a new and delightful innovation.

During this decade there was a tremendous advance along horticultural lines within the member clubs. The columns of *Garden Gossip* were filled with articles on "new plant material." Accounts of new flowers, new varieties of old favorites, wild flowers, and more crowded the pages of *Garden Gossip*.

*Garden Gossip* had its golden years during the early thirties. Fulfilling one of its purposes, to keep the member clubs in close association, it had a policy of including in each issue an Interclub News section. Each month four clubs contributed their own items of interest, such as happenings of some outstanding activity, loss of prominent members, and elections of new officers.

One most attractive feature of the magazine was a series of cover pictures. These issues began with that of April, 1933, with the Live Oak in Norfolk. (The preservation of this great oak won for Mrs. Fergus Reid, of Norfolk, the Massie medal for that year.) There followed cover pictures of: *Magnolia acuminata*, Violet Banks,

Petersburg; Greyledge Monarch, near Buchanan; Cedar of Lebanon and Weeping Willow, Montpelier; Mulberries, Williamsburg; Tarleton Oak, Charlottesville; Fringe Tree, Belvoir; Washington Horse Chestnut, Fredericksburg; Pecan Tree, Lynchburg; White Oak, Folly; Giant Oak, Hampstead.

The records of the later thirties are filled with the vicissitudes of the publishing of *Garden Gossip*. At each meeting appeals were made to the club presidents to help, to send more articles, to increase subscriptions, to secure more advertisements, to urge their members to patronize the firms that did advertise. Despite the difficulties the magazine managed to maintain a high degree of excellence throughout the thirties. The ones who bore the major part of the work and who maintained so well the standards of publication were Mrs. Joseph G. Walker as Editor with Mrs. A. B. Schwarzkopf as Business Manager, and Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson as Editor and Mrs. Stanhope Johnson as Business Manager. There was a period in 1936 when for some months *Garden Gossip* listed no editor, Mrs. Walker having retired. *Garden Gossip* was then placed in the hands of Garrett & Massie, a publishing firm of Richmond, which, for period of a year, supplied its own editor, Mrs. Ella Funk Myer. Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson, of the Augusta club, became the editor for Garrett & Massie in 1937.

A second great achievement of the GCV was in the fight for roadside beautification and control of billboards along Virginia's highways. The most militant waging of this campaign in the

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940

thirties lends credence to the perhaps apocryphal stories of Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, with chauffeur and axe, stopping her car along the way and chopping down offending signs; and of Mrs. William R. Massie, armed with a can of paint, "painting out" many an advertising slogan that disfigured the natural rocks of Albemarle County. In *Garden Gossip* of September, 1931, there is an article from Mrs. J. Allison Hodges, Chairman Southern Zone GCA and a member of James River Garden Club, on "Practical Suggestions for Billboard Campaigns."

1. That the clubs subscribe to the Roadside Bulletin, which gives helpful and inspiring information with regard to billboard restrictions, and keeps one in touch with the other states.
2. Roadside improvement means covering scars with grass and vines, and replacing the trees that have been sacrificed, removing the unsightly billboard.
3. Most of our states have beautiful scenery, good roads, highways, forestry and conservation departments that are progressive and ready to act if the people do their part. We must consult these departments before planting anything.
4. Ask the authorities to enforce the law with regard to 'snipe signs,' also to protect trees and shrubs within 300 feet of the highway.
5. Ask the Legislature to authorize the Highway Department to spend 1% of its funds for roadside improvement.
6. Ask that the State tree farms be established. This will give healthful employment to prisoners and furnish trees for roadside planting without cost to the State.
7. Make the rural billboard so unpopular that the advertisers will refuse to use it, but secure legislation to finish the job.

"The citizens of America have awakened to the fact that the scenic beauty of our country is a valuable asset, both spiritual and material; that it belongs to all of the people, and must not be sacrificed for the benefit of a few.

"Let us do our part to preserve it, and emulate Mr. Bok's noble example to make the world a bit more beautiful and better because we have lived in it."

The restoration work done by the GCV during this period was courageous in its scope, vision, and enterprise. Here the names of Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Mrs. Thomas R. Boggs, Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Mrs. Thomas S.

Wheelwright and Mrs. Ashton Dovell appear in every record.

Historic Garden Week became an "institution." We see its earliest beginnings, and trace its development, until, by the end of the thirties, we find Garden Week and its Tour Committee a well-moulded and workable organization. We read of Mrs. Massie, Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. Boothe, Mrs. Robert G. Cabell III, Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Mrs. John G. Hayes, who built so well in laying the foundations for Historic Garden Week as we know it today.

One fact is outstanding in any history of the GCV. So many of the same delights and problems appear in every period — perhaps in slightly different guise — but fundamentally they remain the same topics of interest. We read of the horrors of the Japanese beetle in 1930 and efforts made by the Garden Club members to have legislative action to control and quarantine the plant material that was being shipped into Virginia. Once in each decade the alarm is sounded against the dreaded destruction of the natural beauties of Goshen Pass. In the late twenties, a possible dam was the threat; in the thirties, the building of a straight "modern" highway was cause for concern; in the forties, another dam; in the fifties, the cutting of timber and the exercising of mineral rights were protested. And so in the sixties, it is a plan for a newer more modern road through the Pass that deeply concerns the GCV.

The problems inherent in Historic Garden Week that we hear discussed today are all in the records of the thirties: the difficulties of securing new "estates" to show, the lack of training displayed sometimes by novice guides, the feeling of worry that "perhaps the public is tired of Garden Week." A quick look at a called meeting of the GCV, held at Woodberry Forest, July 27, 1932, at the residence of Mrs. Joseph G. Walker:

"The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lawrence Davis, Chairman (and President). The following ladies were present:

Mrs. Lawrence Davis, *Roanoke Valley*  
Mrs. Frederick Lewis, *Norfolk*  
Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, *Fauquier and Loudoun*  
Mrs. Andrew Christian, *James River*

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Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, *Fauquier and Loudoun*

Mrs. Floyd Harris, *Fauquier and Loudoun*

Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, *Dolly Madison*

Mrs. Gardner Boothe, *Alexandria*

Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, *Dolly Madison*

"The Chairman remarked that the committee had been called to look into some of the misunderstandings concerning the Tour apparent to her when travelling around the State. 'I thought if we could get all sections of the State represented on an Advisory Committee and we all expressed opinions, we could then decide what would be the best thing to do. So, as our names are called, please let us say exactly how we feel.'

"Mrs. Davis then called on Mrs. Christian. Mrs. Christian said: 'After all, publicity is tremendously important. Shall we advertise as in previous years? I personally am opposed to the Chamber of Commerce taking a hand in it. I think we have lost the personal charm of these tours. They have become too commercialized.'

"Mrs. Harris: 'Is the help of the Chamber of Commerce necessary? Cannot they be restrained in that?'

"Mrs. Walker: 'If the Tour takes a definite place as the property of the GCV, they have simply got to fall in line!'

"Mrs. Christian: 'A good many chairmen have felt it was a good advertisement. I think it is not necessary to try to make so much money. My idea about the chairman is that any locality could put it over well in that part of the State as there are competent women everywhere, but all of the machinery is in one part of the State. We want every garden club to have fair play. In Richmond, we do not consider prestige. And we have a dreadful time getting people to police the gardens. The question of policing the gardens has got to be considered.'

"Mrs. Harris: 'I don't think the James River club is a bit enthusiastic about the Tour. If there was anybody in the James River club who could act as chairman, do you think it ought to be in Richmond and that she could do her office work from Richmond?'

"Mrs. Christian said: 'Most of the people put up in Richmond and go from there like spokes of a wheel. I think everybody is very tired of having the Tours in Richmond.'

"Mrs. Harris said: 'I think it is a very curious thing that outside Virginia people regard Richmond and Virginia as synonymous. I think you would lose sixty percent of your advantages if you disassociated it from Richmond.'

"Mrs. Davis: 'My section is a pioneer section, but if one person could be chairman in each of our cities such as Roanoke, Danville, Norfolk, etc., with one chairman to take care of publicity, it would help. I have known clubs which would take anyone and put them in the hotel, and let them say anything in the world. People so often get false information in this way. Last year three or four places were advertised as open, and when people went there, they found them closed.'"

There follow pages of discussion as to whether each president of a member club should be entirely responsible in her own locality; whether there should be one chairman for a larger group (District Chairmen); whether there should be an office with a secretary in one place: Richmond, Charlottesville, Alexandria? Then the question arises whether owners should have a percentage? Should member clubs have a percentage? Should the amateurish atmosphere be adhered to? Mrs. Christian: "If we get a cut and dried organization, we shall run it just like a machine! Should all of the money each year go for restoration or should other projects be considered?"

"Mrs. Christian: 'A small tour committee that will take up each of these matters and leave it in their hands. The committee should deal with the percentage, the date of the tour, the use of the words "Tour for Restoration," or whatever it is, and the Chamber of Commerce.'

"Mrs. Harrison: 'I second the motion.' [The motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.]"

There came a time in 1933 when the questions concerning the Tours were again exacerbating the ladies. Had it reached the "saturation point"? Where would we find additional places to be opened? How to secure adequate hostesses? Can the public keep on being interested? Would it be feasible to have the Tour on alternate years? There was a rumor that there was a commercial enterprise just ready and waiting

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940

to take over Garden Week. There was even a suggestion that a deal might be made!

Then the ranks closed. Garden Week was ours, but if we were to keep it, we should have to have it annually or we should lose our right to hold it! This was the cry of the Powers that Be.

There is very little new, but to each generation of garden club members, all of the problems in their current forms seem new and the attempting of their solution, a never-ending source of satisfaction.

The history of the GCV during the thirties will be presented, on the pages that follow, largely through the chronological events that marked the administration of each GCV President.

### 1930-1932 — Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, President

At the Annual Meeting in Richmond the spring of 1930, Mrs. Gray appointed the following chairmen: (Although included in the Appendix, the list is given in full, as so many of these ladies played an active role in all of the years of the thirties. Reading their names will serve the purpose of bringing to life the GCV for these years.)

#### Admissions:

Mrs. John G. Hayes, *James River*

#### Year Book:

Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, *Albemarle*

#### Custodian of Records:

Mrs. N. E. Clement, *Chatham*

#### Finance:

Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, *James River and Warm Springs*

#### Nominations:

Mrs. William R. Massie, *Albemarle*

#### Kenmore:

Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, *James River*

#### Medal Award (Massie):

Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, *Fauquier and Loudoun*

#### Plans and Programs:

Mrs. Richard Wainwright, Jr., *Leesburg*

#### Plant Material:

Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson, *Augusta*

#### Pests and their Remedies:

Mrs. William J. Phillips, *Rivanna*

#### Rose Test Garden:

Mrs. Edward G. Butler, *Winchester-Clarke*

#### Slides:

Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, *Alexandria*

#### Tree Planting:

Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, *Augusta*

#### Stratford Restoration:

Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, *Fauquier and Loudoun*

#### Conservation:

Mrs. Robert McElroy, *Albemarle*

#### Judges:

Miss Nancy Cowardin, *Warm Springs Valley*

#### Regional Flower Shows:

Mrs. Samuel H. Budd, *James River*

#### Restriction of Outdoor Advertising:

Mrs. Charles G. Evans, *Danville*

#### Wild Flower Garden:

Mrs. Robert M. Reese, *Alexandria*

Two reports given at the Annual Meeting are of interest. One, from the report of the outgoing president, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith: "Governor Byrd, being importuned by one of our garden club members, called a conference of garden club representatives to talk over the question of preserving and planting trees along the highway. At that meeting, the suggestion was made that the state employ a landscape architect as an adjunct of the Highway Commission. Later, the Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, not knowing that we had suggested this plan, made a similar proposal, which was introduced in what is known as the Holliday Bill. The state is greatly indebted to the Tuckahoe club for their vision and for their initiative. They were ably assisted by our own splendid chairmen, Miss Moon and Mrs. McIntire.

"As a result of Governor Byrd's conference, six members of the GCV were appointed to serve with representatives of the Highway Commission and of the Committee on Conservation and Development, the idea being that plans should be discussed for beautifying the highways throughout the state."

The second, the report of the Custodian of Records, Mrs. N. E. Clement: "Having served as Custodian of Records for two years, I wish to heartily commend the wisdom of our President in creating this committee, and to emphasize to

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you the urgent need of the work. This Annual Meeting marks the first decade in the life of the Federation, and the record of your accomplishments is one of which you may be justly proud. Your deeds are full worthy of preservation. You are a potent force in the life of the commonwealth. This has been recognized by the Governor of the State and the Chamber of Commerce, in their messages of congratulations upon the success of Garden Week of 1929. In your work of education you have created a deep regard for the beauties of nature and awakened the public to a sense of appreciation of Virginia's heritage in native loveliness and her historic homes and shrines. In restoration you have gone from the planting of the grounds of William and Mary College, to the trees of Monticello, the grounds of Kenmore, and now the gardens of Stratford. Your work has not been confined to Virginia, but in recognition of the past you have placed a memorial window in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, England, and made a worthy gift to the American Academy of Art at Rome, Italy.

"I will ask the Norfolk club to prepare an account of their Wild Flower Preserve, with a list of the plants they have gathered, to be placed in the files of their club. This is a piece of individual work of great merit.

"I had planned to have completed a brief history of The Garden Club of Virginia, but recreating the past is a work of infinite pains, and after gathering the material, I find it necessary to submit the draft to our early presidents for suggestions. The records of our early years are not complete.

"I have just received for filing the architect's plans for the planting of William and Mary College. Think of the interest they will be to garden lovers of the distant future."

\* \* \*

The Dolly Madison Garden Club was hostess in Orange for the fall meeting of the Board of Governors, October 21-22, 1930. Mrs. Gray served in the dual capacity of president of the hostess club and as the newly elected president of the GCV. Luncheon on the first day was served at Montebello, home of Mrs. Gray.

At the afternoon business session it was agreed to present for action at the Annual Meeting a proposal that everyone attending the annual meetings pay a registration fee of \$5.00. Previously all of the cost of entertaining the presidents and delegates had been the responsibility of the hostess club.

Mrs. Hayes, who served as Admissions Chairman for the period of the thirties, placed in nomination the Williamsburg Garden Club, to be elected as a member club at the next Annual Meeting. It was felt that "Williamsburg was most worthy of being invited to join our organization. Williamsburg has become a national shrine, and for us its strongest appeal will always be its historic association with all of Virginia. There are some lovely old gardens, some new ones, and a charming personnel."

The proposed budget for 1931 totaled \$701.00. The only items were: Forum at Annual Meeting, Conservation, Rose Test, New Plant Material, Presidential Expenses and Secretarial Expenses, Year Book (\$176.00), National Council Protection of Roadside Beauty, and Narcissus Fund.

It was proposed that the dues of each member to be paid to the club be raised to \$2.00.

That night there was a dinner at Piedmont, the home of Mrs. Egbert G. Leigh. Afterwards there was an informal forum presided over by Mrs. William A. Lockwood, President of The Garden Club of America.

The following morning there was a talk by Mr. Harold J. Neale, landscape supervisor for the Virginia Department of Highways.

All the guests were then invited to visit and tour the gardens at Montpelier. Luncheon was at Woodberry Forest with some of the members of the Dolly Madison club being hostesses.

1931

The Twelfth Annual Meeting was held at The Homestead, Hot Springs, June 11-12, 1931, with Warm Springs Valley as hostess. Mrs. Lanier Pole was the president of her club.

Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta, reported a George Washington Memorial Tree planted in each community of a member club, and each

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940

club in the state was undertaking to plant from one to five miles of highway with trees.

Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Christian presented the plan for using the proceeds of the Guide Book that they had compiled, to be sold for the Tour, as a nucleus of an endowment fund for the GCV.

Mrs. Walker, Editor, stated that "*Garden Gossip* is on a substantial basis, no outstanding bills, and is not going to run into debt."

Mrs. Harris, Narcissus Test Chairman, requested that 25¢ per capita be donated by each GCV member for the new Test Garden. (From two club histories, Leesburg and Rivanna, we find that each member club paid \$80.00 for its first Narcissus Test Collection! "The first collection contained 43 varieties. Most of them are no longer available, but a few of the kinds we now find useful and inexpensive enough to plant in quantity were then new and rather expensive, such as Mrs. Krelage at \$6.00 a bulb." The next year: "The Narcissus Test Collection was again a whopper, 24 bulbs that cost a total of \$62.25.")

Mrs. Wheelwright, in reporting on regional flower shows, recommended that emphasis be placed on state shows, such as narcissus in the spring and roses in the fall.

Mrs. Harrison made a comprehensive report on the restoration of the mansion at Stratford, the report also looking towards the restoration of the gardens being undertaken by the GCV.

Mrs. C. O'Connor Goolrick and Mrs. Gari Melchers of Fredericksburg were elected as members-at-large.

The opening meeting followed luncheon at the Cascades Inn. There was then a tour of the Cascades gorge and an afternoon of garden visiting. The gardens seen were: The Yard, Mr. and Mrs. Fay Ingalls; Reveille, Mr. William Clarke; Glenburnie, Mrs. Andrew H. Christian; Gramercy Farm, Mr. and Mrs. William McKee Dunn; Stepping Stones, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ellis; Boxwood Farm, Mrs. Park; Roseloe, Baroness Rosenkrantz; and Three Hills, the Misses Johnston.

Dinner in the evening was at The Homestead. There followed an outstanding lecture on trees by Dr. Henry Turner Bailey, Cleveland Museum of Art, who illustrated his talk by making

sketches of the shapes and outlines of the various trees of which he spoke. That the lecture started at 11:00 P.M. and was thoroughly enjoyed bespeaks the enthrallment of his audience!

After the business session next morning, there was a lovely picnic luncheon at Trappers' Lodge, 3300 feet up in the air, on top of the Warm Springs Mountain, where an airstrip for plane service to the Hot Springs was being carved out of the mountain top. This occasion will long be remembered by all there for the excitement of the perilous-seeming trip up the rough road to the mountain top and the recollection of a delicious luncheon, served from yellow pottery bowls by yellow-aproned hostesses. Yellow pansies in little china swans as souvenirs completed the picture.

Tea that afternoon was on the lawn at The Homestead, and that evening the presidents and delegates were all entertained at private dinners in the lovely Warm Springs Valley. The hostesses for these dinners were: Mrs. Ingalls, Mrs. William McKee Dunn, and the Baroness Rosenkrantz. After dinner, the guests gathered back at The Homestead for a showing of slides of the Warm Springs Valley gardens. A pleasant evening, with each guest feeling assured that she had attended the most delightful and most attractive of the parties. In these years the visiting presidents and delegates were always the guests of the members of the hostess club. They were either entertained in private homes or, as at this annual meeting, there were no hotel bills!

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From *Garden Gossip*, July, 1931, the report of the Narcissus Test Chairman:

"It is difficult to realize that the Narcissus Test Committee has just celebrated its first birthday. So cordially has it been welcomed within the august circle of Committees on Restoration of Historic Gardens, on Conservation, on Insect Pests and Remedies, and all the rest of the imposing coterie, that it may have at times forgotten its youth and inexperience and may have been entirely too forward and presuming. It is hard, however, not to feel important when the year's achievement is reviewed. The careful planning of the trial collections, the anxious watchfulness during our trying spring, the two

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beautiful shows, our enlarged knowledge and appreciation of not only the best varieties in commerce today, but of the rarest novelties, which were entirely unknown before to most of us, our substantial balance in the bank, proceeds of our two narcissus shows—all are matters of pride and congratulation.

"These results were possible because of the generous cooperation and downright hard work of the participating clubs. The first Narcissus Show at Charlottesville, sponsored by the Albemarle club, with Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Perkins as co-chairmen, set at the very beginning the highest standard. Mrs. Rinehart's woodland pool was perfect in conception and beautifully carried out in every detail.

"Of the same fine quality was the supplementary show for the season. This was held at Middleburg, under the auspices of the Warrenton Garden Club, the Leesburg Garden Club, the Fauquier and Loudoun Club, and the Winchester and Clarke Garden Club with Mrs. Sands and Mrs. Thomas Atkinson as co-chairmen. Mrs. Atkinson's little formal garden was as perfect of its kind as was Mrs. Rinehart's. Both were gems, and The Garden Club of Virginia can congratulate itself on having two such gifted designers.

"At Charlottesville, the exhibits of Van Waveren & Sons and of Chester J. Hunt were very fine and of great educational value. Mr. George Lawler of Tacoma, Washington, sent a most interesting exhibit by air mail. Miss Mary Beirne's exhibit of her own seedlings attracted great attention.

"At Middleburg, Mr. John Wister, Mrs. Leslie Gray, Miss Beirne, and Mrs. Harris showed between them nearly 150 fine novelties.

"And now for next year! The Alexandria Garden Club has extended a gracious invitation for the Narcissus Show of 1932. Since this is a year of special commemoration, we must have something worthwhile to offer. We can be quite sure that if the Father of our Country could appear on the scene, no one would enjoy more the evolution wrought in the modest little yellow daffodils of his day. He might even prefer it to the new Masonic Temple. Therefore, we must all show not only the 1930 collection, but the collection for 1931—twenty-three varieties. In

addition to these, the committee will import a few novelties not to be had in this country, which will be shown at Alexandria. The new list has been carefully selected and will surely give as rich returns in pleasure and interest as did the one of 1930."

From the same issue, a report of the Stratford Restoration Committee, given by its Chairman, Mrs. Harrison: "Having made a formal report at the meeting in Orange last Autumn, together with Mr. Shurcliff's report on his researches at Stratford, I shall only review very briefly a few interesting points, among many that were discovered.

"Let us begin at the south front of the mansion. Here are foundations for the ha-ha wall on the line of the present wire fence, and outside it runs a brick pavement, 20 feet wide, extending across the front and into the stable yard, where also fragments of paving are found. (A small section laid in herringbone pattern assures its accurate restoration.)

"Foundations for steps at two points in the ha-ha wall, brick paving leading to and around the mansion and connecting it with the four main outbuildings, an important semicircle on the east or garden side of mansion, either a terrace or foundation for a portico, and on the river or north side of mansion are foundations of a monumental double stairway leading to the upper central hall.

"Cross section trenches were made through the lawns, north and south of the mansion, but no traces of gardens were found there.

"In the present garden enclosure every effort was made to establish boundary walls. On the south is an ancient retaining wall. To the west (towards the mansion) portions of the original brick wall laid in 1776 and '77. While looking for a north boundary it was revealed that this western wall ran on a straight line another 200 feet toward the river, ending in an octagon building, similar in dimensions to those at the corners of the Mount Vernon garden.

"With the south and west boundaries established, we dug and dug for an east wall, finding at last, several feet underground, foundations of brick buildings, which we are led to believe were the orangeries mentioned by Thomas Lee Shippen when he visited Stratford in 1790. This

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940

leaves only the north boundary unsettled; it may have been terraced or confined by hedges; we shall not rest until we know!

### METHODS:

"The first step in making the field study was to take for comparison a brick and mortar sample from each important wall and pavement. These samples were examined under the microscope, measured, weighed by hand, tested with hydrochloric acid, examined for differences in color and degree of hardness, for defects and unusual characteristics.

"The four main outbuildings, symmetrically placed, seem to be the same age as the main building, as they are laid up in the same way, with the same kind of bricks and mortar.

"The bricks used above the first floor of the main house are narrower and longer than those below. The former are about 9 inches long and only 2 high and are of a different color and finer grain than the others. Bricks of this same size appear in both walls joining the ha-ha wall to the east and west of the south lawn and in no other walls on the place.

"Brick from the ha-ha wall is good grade, very fine grain, and the wall shows evidence of being built with care. Mortar is good; it remains to be established when this wall was built.

"Elevation of garden wall along east side of grounds from kitchen group in direction of schoolhouse: English bond has been used and two methods of laying coping. (English bond did not begin to give way to Flemish bond in England until the end of the 17th Century.)

"Some bricks in wall running south from kitchen to join ha-ha wall are similar to those used in upper story of mansion. There are a few also in corresponding wall on the opposite side east of the stable yard. It is the obvious conclusion that these two walls were built shortly after the main house with bricks left over from the upper story of mansion. Such bricks could not be used in the four main outbuildings, but were all right for walls. A brick embedded in the stone foundation of the Octagon is similar to sample brick taken from ha-ha wall, and the mortar used is similar. It would seem reasonable to suppose that the Octagon was as old as the ha-ha wall, except that we know that these walls were built in

1776 and '77 and that many walls and buildings show old brick has been used for the second time.

"Many more instances could be given, but these suffice to show the thoroughness of the investigations and the infinite possibilities for conjectures about the ancient brickwork at Stratford."

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The fall meeting of the Board of Governors was held at Portsmouth, October 27-28, 1931. The West Park View Garden Club, with Mrs. Roderick Triplett as president, was hostess. At the business sessions, there was a first discussion of the possibility of sending one or more teachers from Virginia schools to a Nature Camp held during July each year in Pennsylvania.

An appropriation of \$100.00 was given to The Garden Club of Norfolk for its Wild Flower Preserve.

Mrs. Harris reported that the GCV Narcissus Test Garden had been established, its nucleus being a collection of bulbs presented by E. D. Williams, the English hybridizer.

The meeting assembled at the Monroe Hotel. After luncheon at Monumental, in the afternoon Mrs. Triplett was hostess for tea. That evening a seafood dinner was given at the Country Club. After the forum, the guests were entertained by a quartet composed of Mrs. Russell Ellington, Mrs. Philip Nelson, George Nelson and Leonard Steveye.

The next morning, through the courtesy of Captain Harold Cooke, the USS Idaho was visited at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. There was a dinner of Ocean View Spot at the Nansemond Hotel, after which the delegates drove through the Naval Base and Air Station, where they were given a special flying exhibition.

1932

In the January, 1932, issue of *Garden Gossip*: "The Virginia Council for the Protection of Roadside Beauty was organized November 14th at a meeting at the John Marshall Hotel with Mrs. Janet Stuart Durham as President. Mrs. J. Allison Hodges of Richmond, Mrs. L. R. Curry, Richmond, Mrs. Ashton Dovell, Williamsburg, Mrs. Franklin Johnson, Richmond,

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and Mrs. Ed Mack, Orange, were made Vice Chairmen. Miss Mary Roper of Petersburg was elected Treasurer.

"The organization, which will back a bill to restrict outdoor advertising, is open to all adults who are interested in preserving the beauty of Virginia roads. Later the Council will interest itself in planting park areas along highways, in protecting trees, and in keeping the roadsides beautiful by fostering the planting of Virginia flora and the abolishing of automobile dumping grounds."

The second of the long succession of GCV Narcissus Shows was held in Alexandria in the spring of 1932. From the section of the schedule dealing with classes for arrangements:

"Daffodils in Uniform Containers:

Arrangements with daffodils predominant:

- (a) Large Arrangements
- (b) Small Arrangements"

(A far cry!)

In the April issue of *Garden Gossip*: "The billboard bill failed in the Legislature 42-34, not voting 24. Every member who did not vote helped to defeat the bill by making it impossible to get the required 51 affirmative votes. . . .

"I know the vote as recorded will come as a complete surprise to every club woman. Before the Legislature convened, I received a lot of happy letters from garden club members telling me their representative was in favor of the bill. There was a mistake somewhere. . . . The garden clubs and women's clubs did good work. One of the legislators told me that he had received more letters about this bill than he had had about any other measure.

"Our greatest enemy is, of course, Mr. . . . , representing the . . . area, who is in THE BILLBOARD BUSINESS. It's discouraging to find that a man fighting for his own financial gain and interest has more influence over legislation than the women who are working for the welfare of the state." (This was written by Mrs. Durham.)

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The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia held at Roanoke May 19-20, 1932, made some important and lasting de-

isions. Roanoke Valley was hostess, with Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, President.

In her report as president, Mrs. Gray stated: "When I was asked to raise \$1000.00 for the planting around markers at the two entrances to Virginia from Washington, I could not bear to assess the member clubs \$40.00 each in such time of depression. So I wrote letters to individuals, asking for checks, and in this way raised \$575.00 of which \$365.00 came from club members. Friends in the North gave \$210.00 because of their admiration for Virginia and realization of the much needed exchange of lovely trees, shrubs and grass for a tin can dumping ground.

"The Garden Club of Virginia treasury gave \$200.00, and the Automobile Society of America \$100.00.

"Mrs. Harrison's good management accomplished beauty out of chaos for \$900.00, and the



Mrs. Thomas R. (Kate Doggett) Boggs, in her Fredericksburg garden. In 1932 she became the first Restoration Chairman.

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*Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, Seventh President, 1932-1934, in the Hotel Roanoke garden which she designed.*

markers, as you know, were generously given us by The Garden Club of America."

At this meeting, initial steps were taken to form a Restoration Committee. The motion was made by Mrs. Wheelwright. Until this time each garden undertaken for restoration by the GCV had its own chairman: Mrs. Wheelwright for Kenmore and Mrs. Harrison for Stratford. At this meeting it was agreed to form a Restoration Committee as a Standing Committee with a chairman who would have a committee of women to work with her on such future projects as were selected.

Mrs. Harrison announced that the services of Mr. Arthur Shurcliff, landscape architect for Colonial Williamsburg, could not be continued at Stratford because of the heavy cost of archaeological work involved. The subject produced great discussions of "ha-ha walls" and "orangeries" that had been located on the grounds of Stratford. Mr. Morley Williams was being retained to work out subsequent plans for the garden.

Resolutions were passed with regard to the contribution of Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Chris-

tian, thanking them for "establishing the financial stability of the GCV, through the Massie-Christian Endowment Fund, set up as a result of the profits on *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia*, compiled, published, and distributed by them."

The Petersburg Garden Club was elected to membership, and Mrs. Thomas R. Boggs of Fredericksburg was elected as member-at-large. Mrs. Boggs was appointed the chairman for the newly-formed Restoration Committee. She gathered about her a group of members most of whom served on the Restoration Committee over a period of fifteen years: Mrs. Massie, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Fairfax, Mrs. Boothe, Mrs. Christian, Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Dovell, Mrs. Vickers.

In addition to a flower show staged by Mill Mountain, there were social occasions arranged for the guests. While the presidents of the member clubs were in business session the first afternoon, the regular delegates visited gardens: Elmwood Park; Buena Vista, Miss Mary Rogers; Elmwood, Mrs. T. W. Goodwin; Ridgewood Farms, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. McVitty. The following day additional gardens were visited by all of the guests: Fairacres, Mrs. W. C. Stephenson; Claizemont, Mrs. E. T. Morris; the iris gardens of Mr. Junius P. Fishburn; the Rose Test Gardens at the home of Dr. T. W. Kirk; and the garden of Mrs. E. M. Hammond.

Private dinners for the guests were given by Mrs. McVitty, Mrs. L. J. Boxley, Mrs. Junius P. Fishburn, Mrs. Edgar Funkhouser, Mrs. Stephenson, and Mrs. Edgar Nininger.

On the last morning of the meeting Mrs. Sidney B. Jamison, Blue Ridge, entertained with coffee and sandwiches at her home Greyledge, Buchanan.

1932-1934 — *Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis,*  
*President*

On June 10, 1932, the Rose Test Committee held its first Rose Show in Winchester. Winchester-Clarke staged the show, which included a practical demonstration of the growing of roses at the GCV Rose Test Gardens located at Play Gardens, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Butler. (Over 600 roses grew there.)

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## Follow the Green Arrow

The Board of Governors held its fall meeting at Warrenton, October 5-6, 1932. Mrs. W. Wilson Drake was president of the hostess club. Plans were made for a School of Judging to be held in Charlottesville in March, 1933.

It was decided to invite all the owners who had opened gardens for the Tour benefiting Stratford to attend a gathering at Stratford in October to see the progress of the gardens and the restoration of the mansion.



The Blanche Rohrer Davis Cup, in memory of Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, presented annually, if merited, at the Lily Show.

After the business session, Mr. Bradford Williams gave a conducted tour of the Warrenton County School. Gardens were visited, and all went to tea at View Tree Hall with Mrs. Oscar Terry Crosby and at Airlie with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Groome. The next day, they were guests at Kenmore for luncheon.

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Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, founder, first President and Honorary President of the GCV, died October 12, 1932. A portion of the editorial which appeared in the *Richmond News Leader*: "To the grace of her person, Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson added a devotion in public service that had its finest, though not its only fruition, in the James River Garden Club. She was one of the first women in Virginia to develop a modern garden, and she had so much success with it that her enthusiasm enlisted other women and led to the establishment of The Garden Club of Virginia.

"Many men seek many roads to fame, and great women are remembered for many services, but could any Virginia woman of her day have asked for greater distinction than to be mourned as the mother of the glorious gardens that now brighten the Virginia landscape?"

1933

At a special called meeting of the presidents of the member clubs of the GCV held in Richmond on January 12, 1933, the decision was made to establish the time for the Annual Historic Tour as the last week in April. Mrs. Robert G. Cabell III, James River, was chairman of the Tour Committee at this time. At this meeting a suggestion was made that "a charge of 50¢ be made for a home and 50¢ for a garden."

In an article in the March issue of *Garden Gossip*, the member clubs are reminded by the Tree Planting Chairman, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, that the last two weeks in March is the proper planting time "to cover the state with dogwood." In the April issue of the magazine it was announced that Nemours, home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred I. duPont of Wilmington, Delaware, would open to benefit the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation in June.

In March, 1933, under the leadership of Mrs. George Austen, the first School for Judging was held in Charlottesville, and lectures were given on flower show organizing, exhibiting, and judging. Two hundred enthusiastic gardeners not only from Virginia, but from neighboring states, attended. Prior to the school, a handbook was published by members of the committee which became the standard for the next few years.

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The Fourteenth Annual Meeting was held May 3-5, 1933 in Virginia Beach, Mrs. Monroe Kelly serving as president of Norfolk, the hostess club. All attending were the guests of this club at The Cavalier. This was one of the most ambitious of all the annual meetings. There were sightseeing and parties all day, and the business sessions were held at night. Buses of visitors would leave the hotel at 8:30 A.M., and after a full day, at 9:00 the same evening, the business sessions of the Annual Meeting would assemble!



*Third Restoration, Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, Staunton, on which work began in 1933. Born in the manse on December 28, 1856, the Twenty-eighth President of the United States visited here on December 28, 1912, his fifty-sixth birthday. On May 4, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt dedicated the Birthplace as a national shrine.*

Despite the lateness of the hour, much business was accomplished. The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, Fredericksburg, was elected to membership. Miss Elizabeth Bland Knight of Poplar Hill, Farmville, was elected a member-at-large.

An appropriation, not to exceed \$2,500.00, was made to restore a garden at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace in Staunton. "Woodrow Wilson, the War President, was the greatest President of modern times. He was a Virginian and a great Virginian."

The organization joined the American Rose Society. The medals of the American Rose So-

ciety had been awarded at the GCV Rose Show.

It was voted that the terms of the president of the GCV should be set at a two year period, rather than at one as heretofore.

The schedule of entertaining:  
Luncheon at Norfolk Country Club.

Visits to gardens of Mrs. Allen Bond, Mrs. William Sloane, Mrs. Herman Aspegren, Mrs. James Mann, Miss Gulreline Serpell, and Mrs. Louis Dobie.

Tea at home of Mrs. F. R. Barrett.

Annual Dinner at The Cavalier, Virginia Beach.  
Next morning: Visits to Poplar Hall, Beechwood Place, Holly Lodge, Lawson Hall, Wild

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Flower Preserve, Adam Thoroughgood House.  
Luncheon at Princess Anne Club.

Afternoon visits to Virginia Beach gardens: The Cavalier, Mrs. Wimholz, Mrs. Stover, Mrs. James Barron, and the Seashore Park area.

Tea at Sea Breeze Farm on the Lynnhaven River, home of the Misses Hill, with the Princess Anne Garden Club as hostess.

(Miss Elizabeth Gregory Hill, Miss Evelyn Collins Hill, and Miss Blanche Davis Hill all appeared in pretty summer dresses with large pastel horse-hair hats decorated with fresh azaleas from their garden. Fourteen years later, when the Princess Anne Garden Club was again entertaining The Garden Club of Virginia at Sea Breeze Farm (1947), the Misses Hill repaired to the attic and produced the same hats and decorated them with fresh azaleas from their garden!)

The following day everyone went to Williamsburg to spend the day. There was a talk on the Restoration by Mr. Vernon M. Geddy, member of the Board of Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg. Luncheon was at the Williamsburg Inn, followed by visits to the homes and gardens in the restored area. Tea was at the Vest-Christian House, with the Williamsburg club as hostess.

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From *Garden Gossip* September, 1933: "A picnic lunch for members of The Garden Club of Virginia will be held at Stratford, September 27, the Stratford Garden Committee being hostess. Visitors are asked to bring their own sandwiches, but tea and coffee will be furnished by the committee. Entrance fee, fifty cents, to be paid by all visitors." There were 500 guests.

By the fall of 1933, 35,000 dogwood trees had been planted in Virginia. A silver cup was to be awarded to the club that had done the most planting. The slogan was "One Million Dogwood by 1935."

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At the fall meeting of the Board of Governors in Harrisonburg, October 11-12, 1933, headquarters were the Kavanaugh Hotel with the Spotswood club as hostess, Mrs. John W. Wilson, President.

One of the first motions made, but defeated, was that the handbook, *Bulletin for Amateur Flower Shows* be sold for a smaller fee than the 25¢ price that had been set. (The date might be noted as occurring in the depths of the depression!)

At this meeting, on recommendation of Mrs. Boggs, Chairman of Restoration, an additional \$2,500.00 was appropriated for development of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Garden, in accordance with the plans drawn by Mr. Charles Gillette, landscape architect of Richmond. Mr. Gillette had most generously prepared the plans without charge. Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith was to serve as local chairman.

Mrs. Boggs further reported the progress of a planting at the Lee Chapel, Lexington, where Robert E. Lee is buried, on the campus of Washington and Lee University. The Blue Ridge club had made the request of the Restoration Committee to so honor General Lee. Mr. Gillette had made plans for this planting, which was completed in 1934.

The effects of the depression were evident in the report of proceeds from the Annual Tour, being \$8,623.00 against an earlier high-water mark of \$45,000.00 during the Stratford year.

Mrs. Walker, Editor of *Garden Gossip*, spoke of the difficulties that the paper was facing. She presented the first contract with Garrett & Massie for the publication of *Garden Gossip*. A representative from the firm emphasized the precarious financial situation of *Garden Gossip* and the keen responsibility of the members of the GCV to aid in securing the all-important advertising and increasing the subscriptions. On motion of Mrs. Christian, seconded by Mrs. Wheelwright, the contract was approved. *Garden Gossip* was put on a definite budget of \$600.00 a year as an item of expense rather than allotting it 50¢ for each member.

The budget advanced for the next year was approximately four times what it had been in 1931.

The social activities of this meeting began with a luncheon at the Kavanaugh Hotel. That evening an informal reception was held at the home of Mrs. Wilson before dinner at the Harrisonburg State Teachers' College. During dinner, the guests were entertained by music and

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*Fourth Restoration, 1933, Lee Memorial Chapel on the campus of Washington and Lee University, Lexington. Here is Valentine's recumbent statue of General Lee.*

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dancing prepared by the college students. After dinner, slides of English gardens were shown. Gathering at the Craft House, where refreshments were served, the guests lingered to a late hour, charmed with the open fires and cosy, inviting nooks for conversation. There was great interest in the furnishings and decorations of the lovely old house.

Wednesday, after the meeting, there was a drive to New Market, a trip through the Endless Caverns, with luncheon at the tearoom.

1934

From *Garden Gossip's* spring issues we learn: The Billboard Bill was defeated in the Legislature, the vote 47-44. Nine not voting.

The Narcissus Show cancelled because of unprecedented weather conditions.

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The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the GCV was held in Charlottesville, May 9-11, 1934. The Albemarle club was hostess for the first two days, and the Scottsville Garden Club was host-



*Fifth Restoration, 1934, in Surry County, the Rolfe House (now known as Rolfe-Warren House), a gift of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to the APVA in 1928. Smith Fort Plantation, on which this house is located, was given by King Powhatan to his daughter, Pocahontas, and her husband, John Rolfe, in 1614.*

ess for May 11. For this meeting all of the guests stayed in the homes of the members of the Albemarle club, of which Mrs. William H. Goodwin was president.

A great many important decisions were made. Approval was given to the planting for a 17th century yard and enclosed garden at the Rolfe House, the Smith Fort Plantation. The APVA sponsored this request, and the plan was executed by Mr. Shurcliff. This work was completed in the fall of 1934.

On motion of Mrs. Wheelwright, seconded by Mrs. Walker, it was passed after much discussion that the GCV "because of its great magnitude, hold its annual meetings at a place of mutual interest, independent of the location of any local club, and that a committee be appointed to make appropriate arrangements." It was agreed that the meetings would be open to all members. Only duly elected or appointed delegates would have the right to vote, but everyone was to be invited to come and share the interest and pleasure of the meetings. This plan was adopted and arrangements made under the guidance of Mrs. Wheelwright as chairman to hold the next annual meeting at Orkney Springs, near Mount Jackson, in the Shenandoah Valley.

The idea was initiated at this time to include six Executive Members, to be elected at large, to serve with the officers of The Garden Club of Virginia and thereby form an Executive Committee. This was deemed to be a more manageable group, available to assist the President in the interim between the two large yearly meetings.

It had been suggested that it would be a fitting gesture if the GCV would make a gift of dogwood trees to Japan in token recognition of their gracious gift of the cherry trees planted in Washington. The matter had been discussed with Governor Byrd, and he had approved. It was then announced that Japan had already received "a planting" of dogwood and would be greatly pleased to have instead a gift of *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel). This suggestion was accepted, and in the fall, 25 plants 15", heavily cut back, were purchased from the Wood-Howell Nursery in Bristol. The plants were transported to Tokyo by a Japanese ship, at no cost to the club.

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A letter of thanks was received, the last paragraph reading: "The gift will be planted in the parks and gardens of Tokyo to serve forever as the excellent memory of the National Friendship between your country and mine. Hoping the best prosperity of your club, I remain, Yours very truly, T. Ushizuto, Mayor."

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was elected an Honorary Member, The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton was elected to membership, and Mrs. A. C. Ford, Clifton Forge, and Miss Eleanor Perrin, Gloucester, as members-at-large.

There followed a prolonged and rather heated discussion concerning the large cost of the Rose Test Garden. Some member clubs felt that too much emphasis and too great a proportion of garden club funds was being given to roses, "plants that did not lend themselves to culture in all parts of the state." A committee was appointed to develop a more acceptable plan.

It was agreed to assess each member club \$12.00 as an emergency relief fund for *Garden Gossip*. On motion of Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Christian, it was agreed to give Mrs. Walker, Editor, the 40% profit on *Garden Gossip* that Garrett & Massie had promised the club. This was done in recognition of Mrs. Walker's six years of untiring labor as editor.

Mrs. Fairfax, Chairman for Protection of Roadside Beauty, displayed available tags that could be placed on the windshields of automobiles, reading: "Billboards offend tourists who spend."

A state peony show was announced for May, 1934, to be held in Roanoke with Mr. George W. Peyton, Secretary of the American Peony Society, to make the opening address.

The report of Mrs. Harrison, Chairman of the Stratford Committee, stated that the work of planting the garden was completed and, in consequence, the committee was dissolved. The sum of \$66,000.00 had been expended on the garden work at Stratford.

Mrs. Massie, who had given the Massie Medal for a period of five years, graciously offered to continue making this award available. She expressed the hope that it would be given in connection with garden work that would be for the benefit of the public rather than as a private achievement.

The social events of the meeting were published in *Garden Gossip*. On the afternoon of May 9th, tea was served at the President's Mansion, Mrs. J. L. Newcomb, hostess.

Gardens were visited in the vicinity of Rose Hill, preceding dinner given at Mrs. Massie's. Hostesses for luncheons on the 10th are listed as: Mrs. Murray Boocock, Mrs. Garrard Glenn, Mrs. William Goodwin, Miss Martha McClerry, Mrs. W. Alonzo Rinehart, Mrs. Hollis Rinehart, and Mrs. Stephen H. Watts. Gardens visited: The Lawn, Enniscorthy, Redlands, Mirador, Morven, Round Top. Tea was with Mrs. Frederick Twyman. Aperitifs before dinner with Mrs. George Austen, Miss Betty Page Cocke, Mrs. William H. Echols, Mrs. J. Carroll Flippin, Mrs. William M. Lile, Mrs. Harry T. Marshall, Mrs. William P. Morton, and Mrs. W. Allan Perkins. The Annual Dinner was at the Farmington Country Club.

On Friday, the 11th, the delegates, as guests of the Scottsville Garden Club, visited Green Mountain, Esmont, and Keene. Breakfast at noon was at Tallwood with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Chauvenet.

### 1934-1936 — Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, President

The Board of Governors met in Chatham October 11-12, 1934, with the Chatham club as hostess, Mrs. C. Lanier Carter, President.

The status of the category of Honorary Member was clarified to indicate that an Honorary Member may attend all annual meetings, but will not be eligible to vote or to hold office.

There was read a resolution passed by the Virginia House of Delegates commending the GCV for its service to the Commonwealth through its establishing of Garden Week in Virginia, and expressing the hope that it would continue as an annual event in the Old Dominion. The resolution likewise expressed appreciation to the owners who opened their gardens.

There was an announcement by Mrs. Hayes, Chairman of Admissions, of an act of unusual courtesy and consideration on the part of one garden club with respect to another. Both Mill Mountain, of Roanoke, and Fairfax were sub-

## Follow the Green Arrow



Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Eighth President, 1934-1936, who also master-minded the restoration of Monticello.

mitted for membership. The three-year period for Mill Mountain would not be up for another year, while the three-year period for Fairfax would expire in October of the current year. Mill Mountain, learning of this situation, withdrew its application for the time so that Fairfax could be given full consideration. (The rules then precluded the admission of more than one club at one time, with a three year limit for action on a nominated club.)

Mrs. Massie was unanimously elected Honorary President, the presentation of her name recognizing her as "one whose knowledge and skill in the field of horticulture is unusual; one whose untiring energy, sound judgment, and progressive personality make her an outstanding member of this organization."

From *Garden Gossip* we have the record of the social activities of the Chatham meeting. "There were 42 visitors who were welcomed to Chatham Hall by Dr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Lee and faculty members, who were hosts for luncheon the first day. Visitors were all staying in the homes of the members of the Chatham club. Tea was at the home of Mrs. Haile V. Fitzgerald. Dinner was at The Danville Golf Club, in Danville, as guests of the Garden Club of Danville. Mr. William Lanier Hunt, of the University of North Carolina, spoke on

"Rock Gardening." The following morning there was garden visiting in Chatham, and then luncheons with Mrs. James S. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Clement, Mrs. R. J. Reid, and Dr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Lee."

1935

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting was held June 2-3, 1935, at Orkney Springs. This was the first open meeting. The Spotswood club set up a rose show for the enjoyment of the visitors, and Winchester-Clarke made all the dinner table arrangements.

The Fairfax Garden Club was elected to membership.

The first major change in the Constitution and By-Laws was effected at this meeting. On motion of Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge, Parliamentarian, it was established that there be added to the Executive Committee six members-at-large. (The addition of these members to the Executive Committee actually constituted what later, in 1938, was termed the Board of Directors.) The enlarged committee was to meet twice between the Annual Meeting and the meeting of the Board of Governors, and twice between the meeting of the Board of Governors and the Annual Meeting.

This was the first meeting at which there was agitation for a formal approach from the GCV to the Virginia Legislature in connection with the restriction of billboards; and this was the beginning of the development that led to the formation of the Associated Clubs. There was much discussion on the floor under the leadership of Mrs. George Sloane, Warrenton, and Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg.

On motion by Mrs. Harris, it was agreed that a Flower Show Chairman would be appointed by the President. Upon a directive from Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Gilliam presented some of the aspects of the GCV becoming incorporated.

Slides of wild flowers were shown that night, following the Annual Dinner.

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The Board of Governors met October 2-3, 1935, with Fauquier and Loudoun as hostess. The guests registered at the home of Mrs. Henry

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940*

Fairfax. Luncheon was at the home of Colonel and Mrs. William Mitchell, in Middleburg, and the first business session was held at Stoke, home of Colonel and Mrs. Floyd Harris, followed by tea and garden visiting. Mrs. E. B. White was president of the hostess club.

It was noted that the membership of the GCV had grown in its fifteen years to 24 clubs with 1185 members.

There was a feeling of disappointment as to the experiment of the open meeting at Orkney Springs. The attendance had been just about the same as at other annual meetings. The members of the clubs other than the delegates had not availed themselves of the privilege of coming to the sessions. After discussion, a plan was devised for future meetings, whereby there would be a hostess club, but delegates would pay their own hotel bills and also a modest registration fee.

In connection with Wild Flowers, there was a discussion as to whether picking mountain laurel would be encouraged or discouraged. It was mentioned that the three horticultural "Vanishing Americans" were laurel, holly, and ground pine. The consensus was against picking laurel.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Harris, a plan was carried through for two silver cups to be awarded at each of the Narcissus and Rose Shows. Each member club was asked to contribute \$1.00 every year for a cup to be known as the Member Clubs Cup, and each president of a club was asked to contribute \$1.00 every year for a cup to be known as the Presidents' Cup. (This plan is still followed by all three flower shows, Daffodil, Rose, and Lily.)

There was a seated dinner that evening at Selma, home of Mrs. White. For luncheon on the last day, the guests were entertained at Belvoir, home of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison.

1936

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting was held in Richmond, May 26-27, 1936. Tuckahoe was hostess, Mrs. John H. Guy, its president.

The Mill Mountain Garden Club of Roanoke and the Nansemond River Garden Club of Suffolk were elected to membership.

Mrs. Boggs reported that the planting had been completed at Wilton, the headquarters

for the Virginia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, who had requested that this restoration be done. Mr. Shurecliff had been retained as landscape architect.

It was announced by Mrs. S. Norman Jones, James River, Chairman, that the Historic Tour had raised \$10,666.00.

The headquarters and luncheon were at the Jefferson Hotel. The gardens visited were: Nordley, Virginia House, Agecroft, Windemere, Trusley, Beaumont, Western View, Redesdale, and Wilton. At Wilton tea was served. At the dinner, held at the Country Club of Virginia, The Rev. Beverley Tucker, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, spoke on Wilton.

Luncheon the following day was at Reveille, as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Crutchfield. That afternoon Shirley, Westover, Brandon, Claremont, Hampstead, Meadowbrook, Norcroft, Tuckahoe Point, were opened for the visitors.



*Sixth Restoration, 1936. Wilton, home of the Randolphs, built in 1753, was removed to Richmond from its James River site six miles from Richmond. Owned by The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Virginia.*

*Follow the Green Arrow*

1936-1938 — Mrs. Daniel C. Sands,  
President

The meeting of the Board of Governors was held in Alexandria, October 7-8, 1936, with Mrs. Charles F. Holden, President of the hostess club, Alexandria.

After luncheon at Wellington, home of Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, the meeting convened in her ballroom.



Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Ninth President, 1936-1938. Her bane was billboards.

Two Standing Committees, Horticulture and Tour Policy, were established. The Restoration Chairman was instructed to require annual reports on all restored gardens. The Parliamentarian was named to the Executive Committee. On the recommendation of Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, Augusta, it was decided to form a Lily Test Committee.

At this meeting, as at many others, much discussion took place in connection with the organization's long campaign for legislative action limiting billboards on highways.

Mrs. George Sloan's comprehensive and vigorous campaign versus billboards was officially endorsed, on motion of Mrs. Wheelwright, sec-

onded by Mrs. Massie. A letter was sent to the Federal authorities protesting the name "Ikes Driveway." It became "Sky Line Drive." Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was elected an Honorary Member.

Gardens were visited in the late afternoon, and a tea was given at the home of Mrs. Charles Henry Smith. The banquet was held that evening at the Lord Fairfax Country Club. Mrs. Harris presided at the dinner at which Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was guest of honor. Mrs. Rathbone Smith, of Alexandria, made a delightful talk, presenting interesting facts concerning some of the old homes and landmarks of the area. The guests were charmed to know that they were at that time having dinner at Mount Eagle, the home of Lord Fairfax, and that it was a haunt of George Washington.

The next day, the morning meeting was at the home of Mrs. Robert Reese, and luncheon was with Mrs. Philip Campbell.



Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, Augusta, was one of the early horticulturists who established the patterns and practices that still endure in The Garden Club of Virginia.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940

1937

From *Garden Gossip* April, 1937: "At a meeting of the GCV Committee for the Restriction of Billboard Advertising, held at the home of Mrs. Walter S. Robertson, James River, on March 4, the name of the Associated Clubs for Roadside Development was selected. The associated clubs, to date, behind the movement are The Garden Club of Virginia, the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, and Virginia Council of Roadside Beauty. Mrs. George Sloane, Warrenton, was elected Chairman, Mrs. J. Scott Parrish, James River, Treasurer, and Mrs. Gray Dunnington, Dolly Madison, Secretary." (All members of the GCV.)

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The Eighteenth Annual Meeting was held in Lynchburg May 11-12, 1937, with the Lynchburg club as hostess, Mrs. A. B. Carrington, President.

After luncheon at the Virginian Hotel, the meeting assembled at the Woman's Club for an afternoon session. Later, visits were paid to the gardens of Mrs. M. D. Morton, Mrs. Charles Owen, Miss Hennie Cheatwood, Mrs. James Owen Watts, Mrs. Stanhope Johnson, and Mrs. Denny M. Thomasson. The guests were entertained before dinner in the gardens of Mrs. Floyd Knight and Mrs. Robert J. Keller, Jr. Dinner was at the Oakwood Country Club. Mrs. R. A. Carrington, Jr., Vice President of the Lynchburg club, presided. There was an interesting address by Mrs. E. H. McKeon, President of the Maryland Garden Club, on Billboard Law, with emphasis on how it had been achieved in Maryland by her club.

At the meeting that followed next day at Presser Hall, Randolph-Macon Womans College, Mrs. Powell Glass spoke briefly, giving a little of the history of the college and of Mr. Presser for whom the building was named.

On motion of Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. William C. Seipp, Fauquier and Loudoun, there was established a "Contributor's Fund," separate from other funds, to be used for various projects, exclusive of the Historic Tour, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. To start the Contributor's Fund, the Fauquier and Loudoun Gar-

den Club announced plans to give a pageant at Foxcroft School in Middleburg, May 20.

Quotations from the meeting: Mrs. Harris: "Make the GCV the foremost horticulture club in America for high achievement in horticulture." Over and over the phrase "for reasons of economy." (At one time this was stretched to not sending minutes to clubs, and as an experiment it was decided to issue the GCV Register as a *bi-annual*, to be printed at the beginning of each president's term of office. For the intervening year a supplement carrying the names and the addresses of the new officers of the member clubs would be issued. This was confusion confounded: all the members lost their supplements and then their minds.)



*Seventh Restoration, 1937, Bruton Parish Churchyard, Williamsburg. Parish Church of Williamsburg, it became the Court Church in 1699 when Williamsburg became the seat of government.*

## Follow the Green Arrow

An invitation had been received from the Pilgrimage Garden Club of Natchez, Mississippi, inviting the club to be their guests for a tour of Natchez in the spring of 1938. This was enthusiastically accepted. Mrs. Sands appointed Mrs. Frank M. Dillard, Alexandria, to be chairman.

The Hampton Roads Garden Club, Newport News, was elected to membership. Mrs. Walker was appointed to be the first chairman of the Lily Committee.

Plans were approved to restore the churchyard of Old Bruton Parish Church and to plant the grounds of the Mary Washington Memorial in Fredericksburg.

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In the July *Garden Gossip* of 1937 we have the announcement that the first Lily Show was held in Fredericksburg on June 3-4, sponsored by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. Mr. B. Y. Morrison was judge, and Mrs. William R. Massie won the sweepstakes. In the magazine's September issue was reported the death on August 4, of Mrs. Floyd Harris. A tribute written by Mrs. Walker is quoted in part:

"Eleanor Truax Harris

"Apart from the rich influence which the personality of Mrs. Harris exerted on all who came in contact with her, the contributions which she has made to horticultural progress throughout our gardening world can scarcely be estimated. The wide experience gained through her cosmopolitan life gave her a familiarity with gardening customs and materials of all kinds, which was of untold value in developing that quality of leadership for which she was outstanding, and her rare taste gave to her decisions added importance."

In 1937 the term Year Book was changed to Register.

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The Board of Governors met in Winchester October 5-6, 1937, as guests of the Winchester-Clarke club. Mrs. Philip W. Boyd was its president.

After paying tribute to Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Sands announced that a committee would be appointed to suggest a suitable memorial to be made to Mrs. Harris.

It was announced that a sum from the Contributor's Fund had been used to establish a Lily Test Garden.

There was discussion at this meeting concerning the proposed incorporation and the needed changes in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Luncheon was at Thornhill Manor, the home of Mrs. William Alexander Baker. After the afternoon meeting there was a tea at Annefield, home of Mrs. William Bell Watkins. At the dinner that evening at the George Washington Hotel, Mrs. Baker gave a most interesting talk on Greenway Court. Luncheon the next day was with Mrs. Richard Evelyn Byrd.

1938

Both the Scottsville Garden Club and the West Park View Garden Club resigned in this year.

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The Nineteenth Annual Meeting in Williamsburg was held on May 10-11, as guests of the Williamsburg club, Mrs. Ashton Dovell, President.

The first meeting was in the Apollo Hall, Phi Beta Kappa Building, College of William and



*Eighth Restoration, 1938, the landscaping of the Mary Ball Washington Monument in Fredericksburg.*

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940

Mary. On motion of Mrs. Gilliam, Parliamentarian, it was voted that the GCV be incorporated under the laws of the State of Virginia. The delegates were told that the purposes that led to this step were to facilitate the receiving legally of gifts and bequests to the club; to secure to us the right of owning of our own name, The Garden Club of Virginia; and to aid in maintaining our tax-free status. The Charter was read to the club. At this time recognition was given to the unflagging and helpful service of Mr. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria, with regard to the legal complexities of our becoming incorporated.

One most significant change in our mode of operating was that of making the Executive Committee the Board of Directors, the term Executive Committee being dropped entirely, and the elected members, apart from the officers, being designated as Directors-at-Large. Mrs. Sands, on action of the GCV in becoming incorporated: "It is the proudest moment since I have been President.

Another significant change: Until this time the GCV had been controlled by two bodies: the Annual Meeting each spring, composed of its officers, the chairmen of all committees, the presidents of its member clubs, and an elected voting delegate from each member club; and a Board of Governors, composed of all listed above with the exception of the one voting delegate from each member club, which group met each fall and again at a session immediately preceding the annual meeting. As a consequence the same women, assembled for the annual meeting, heard twice all of the reports and the business to be transacted. The change—in having a Board of Directors to handle the interim business—relieved the Board of Governors of the spring meeting. Since this time, the Board of Governors has held its one meeting each year in the fall.

At this meeting, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, through the Executive Committee, the administering of the Massie-Christian Trust Fund was placed in the hands of a committee of four, consisting of Mrs. Massie, Mrs. Christian, the President of the GCV, and a man who would be selected as an advisor member.

At this time there was announced the estab-

lishing of three lovely silver cups in memory of Eleanor Truax Harris, "to perpetuate her ideals for the advancement of horticulture," to be awarded annually at, respectively, the Narcissus Show, the Rose Show, and the Lily Show. The cups selected were copies of an early Georgian design. Each cup was to be held for a year by the recipient. (The members of the GCV contributed \$720.00, which covered the cost of the three cups. The first cup was awarded at the Narcissus Show at Alexandria on April 8, 1938, "for the most blue ribbons.")

The Gabriella Garden Club, Danville, and the Princess Anne Garden Club, Virginia Beach, were elected to membership.

Mrs. Dillard reported on the Natchez Tour, giving some interesting statistics. There had been 470 applicants for 105 places; the trip lasted eight days and 3,000 miles; one day in Mobile, one in New Orleans, two in Natchez, and one in Chattanooga; receipts were \$10,708.80, with the cost of the trip \$10,705.09. "High Lights of the trip: no discussions, no fights, and we returned with \$3.71!" Mrs. Dillard reported that her first reservations were made by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Mrs. Andrew Christian, Miss Charlotte Noland, Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Mrs. W. W. Gibbs, Miss Mary Lindsey, and Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson.

The *Garden Gossip* story of the Natchez trip follows: "As the special train passed through Atlanta, the ladies of the Atlanta Garden Clubs brought daffodils to deck the breakfast tables on the 'special.' Members of the garden clubs of Mobile drove our members about the city over the famed Azalea Trail. Private gardens were visited. Luncheon was at the Womans Club in Mobile. In the afternoon by bus to the Bellingrath Gardens.

"In New Orleans we toured the city by bus, visited private gardens, the tour ending in the garden of Mrs. Edgar Stern who then entertained the ladies for luncheon at the Country Club. After luncheon a tour to Oak Alley, some 50 miles from New Orleans, one of the most unforgettable experiences of the trip—the magnificent avenue of live oaks.

"In Natchez a band was at the station, and hostesses were there to greet the visitors and to

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take them to tour the famous Natchez plantations and gardens. The president of the Pilgrimage Club, Mrs. Hubert Barnum, entertained at dinner at her home Arlington. Attended the Confederate Ball.

"At Chattanooga, met by ladies of the Council of Garden Clubs who brought bouquets of azaleas and cherry laurel to each visitor. Toured the city and gardens, had tea with Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Carter on Lookout Mountain."

Mr. B. Y. Morrison of the U.S. Department of Agricultural Experimental Station, was elected as Honorary Member.

The guests were entertained for luncheon the first day at Williamsburg Inn, and this was followed by visits to the gardens in the restored area. Mrs. George P. Coleman was hostess for tea at the St. George Tucker House. For cocktails: The President's House, Mr. John Stewart Bryan; Mercer House, Mrs. Archie Ryland; Morton House, Mrs. T. F. Rogers; and Carter-Saunders House, Mrs. Vernon M. Geddy.

The Annual Dinner was at the Williamsburg Inn, and the record shows that it ran until twelve-midnight. Mrs. Ashton Dovell was Toast Mistress. Speakers for the evening were Mayor Channing Hall, Mr. Arthur Shurcliff, Mr. William Perry of the firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn, architects for Colonial Williamsburg, and Mr. Kenneth Chorley, President of Colonial Williamsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. opened Bassett Hall and its garden from three until five in the afternoon for all the guests at the meeting. The beautiful old house, filled with fine furniture and with the most charming flower arrangements, in the feeling of the period, delighted the visitors as did the garden.

Tickets of entrance to the Palace, the Capitol, the Public Gaol, Raleigh Tavern, and The Paradise House were given each guest to use at her convenience during the stay. A buffet luncheon at the Coke-Garrett House, with Mrs. Charles G. Milham, was the final entertainment.

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In the fall the Board of Governors met in Martinsville on October 19-20, 1938. The Martinsville club was hostess, its president, Mrs. S. S. Stevens. Mrs. W. L. Pannill entertained

the guests at luncheon at her home Scuffle Hill. The first business session was at the Henry Hotel.

The club voted to send 25 dogwood trees to Ambassador and Mrs. Alexander Weddell in the Argentine for planting in a Peace Park there in which the Weddells were greatly interested.

Miss Jennie Hopkins, President of the Blue Ridge club, brought up the impending action by the Highway Department of the State of Virginia to run a new highway through Goshen Pass with consequent destructive damage to scenic beauty and attraction. Miss Hopkins asked for the support of the GCV in writing letters of protest against such action. Mrs. Wheelwright: "I do think the more letters you write probably the more unpopular you are, and the more apt you are to get the thing done. Men hate to be nagged." Quite evidently effective letters did pour in, and as a result the road that was run through Goshen Pass was carefully and well done, a really scenic attraction.

The Board of Governors approved the recommendation of the Restoration Committee, Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Chairman, to restore the garden at Monticello. Mrs. Boggs had resigned as chairman of the Restoration Committee, and had been succeeded by Mrs. Fairfax Harrison. Mrs. William Allan Perkins acted as local chairman for the garden at Monticello, which was restored and planted after Mr. Jefferson's original design.

Further notes on the meeting came from *Garden Gossip*: The horticultural exhibit was displayed at the home of Mrs. J. A. Shackelford. Tea was with Mrs. James Harrison Spencer. At the dinner at Forest Park Country Club, Mayor J. W. Booker, Jr. welcomed the members of the Board of Governors to Martinsville. Mr. Junius P. Fishburn, Roanoke, was the speaker for the occasion, giving an account of the pleasures and tribulations of an iris gardener. Luncheon on the following day was at Beaver Creek, the old Hairston place.

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Mrs. Christian died October 24, 1938. From the December issue of *Garden Gossip*: "The death of Mrs. Andrew H. Christian is an irreparable loss to the club. From an editorial by



*Ninth Restoration, 1939, Monticello, Charlottesville, built by Thomas Jefferson in 1770.*

Dr. Douglas Freeman, 'As one of a small company of sympathetic spirits, she developed Garden Week, which, all in all, is the most successful of Virginia's many annual celebrations. Every phase of it was watched by Mrs. Christian with the eye of an artist and with a judgment that a master of business might have coveted. Never would she permit Garden Week to be commercialized, not to say vulgarized, and in all her preparations she remembered the comfort of those who, at no small discomfort to themselves, opened their gardens annually.'

1939

The Twentieth Annual Meeting was held in Danville, May 10-11, 1939. The Garden Club of Danville was hostess, Mrs. H. Lee Boatwright

its president. Luncheon and the first business session were held at the Hotel Danville.

At this meeting there was the initial discussion of making the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia the repository for the files and records of the club. The hope was expressed that this might be arranged.

Late in the afternoon, Mrs. John G. Boatwright and Mrs. H. Lee Boatwright were hostesses at tea at Dan's Hill. Mrs. James G. Penn, Jr. and Mrs. Rucker Penn entertained at cocktails before dinner, which was at the Country Club. Mr. Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum spoke on "Color Through the Year."

The next morning, at the home of Mrs. John H. Schoolfield, Jr., there was breakfast and a President's Forum conducted by Mrs. Wheel-

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wright. At the meeting it was announced that Miss Evelyn Collins Hill of Sea Breeze Farm, on the Lynnhaven River, Princess Anne, had won three special awards for her exhibit of "Flowers Blooming Outdoors, in Tidewater, Virginia," at the New York Flower Show in March. The Misses Hill were at the meeting and were roundly applauded. (The story has it that the Misses Hill travelled to New York by train. They occupied a full section in the Pullman. They slept together in the upper berth. Their horticultural exhibit filled the lower!)

At noon, the guests were taken to see the restoration and beautification of the Old Grove Street Cemetery, and this jaunt ended at Oak Haven Farm, just over the state line in North Carolina, the summer home of Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell.

During the two days in Danville, gardens of the following were open for the pleasure of the guests: Mrs. H. Lee Boatwright, Mrs. W. D. Overbey, Mrs. George Temple, Mrs. Edmund Meade, Stratford College, Mrs. Roscoe Anderson, Mrs. John H. Schoolfield, Jr., Mrs. James Ray, and Mrs. E. Walton Brown. Members were also invited to motor to Berry Hill near South Boston, home of Mrs. Malcolm Bruce, and Oak Hill, Wenonda, home of Mrs. Samuel H. Hairston.

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The Board of Governors Meeting was held in Roanoke, October 11-12, 1939. Mill Mountain was hostess, Mrs. Harry B. Stone its president.

Luncheon and the first business session were held at the Hotel Roanoke. Plans were being made for a trip to Mexico. Mrs. Dillard was, for a second time, in charge and told of arrangements and of the special train that would leave Richmond on Tuesday, February 27, 1940.

Report was made that the Alderman Library is now equipped for the proper preservation of Virginia records. A full record of the work of the GCV and a complete file of *Garden Gossip* would add a chapter of Virginia's history which is well worth preserving.

Mrs. Hayes stated that she had no report from the Committee on Admissions and no recommendations for membership, but that she thought we needed a new club and a young club.

Guests were entertained at cocktails by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Cocke. Before the dinner at the hotel, Mr. Perkins Hazlegrove, of Roanoke, spoke on "The History of Gardening."

The following day, the visitors were entertained before luncheon by Mrs. Charles I. Lunsford. Luncheon was at the home of Mrs. Junius P. Fishburn. On their way home, all of the guests were invited for tea at Greylegge, Buchanan, by Mrs. Sidney B. Jamison. Mrs. Jamison, being president of the Blue Ridge club, had asked her members to assist her.

1940

During the spring of 1940, the club made its second out-of-state tour, a two weeks' trip to Mexico. The special train arrived in Mexico City on Saturday, March 2. An entire week was spent in sight-seeing there and in motoring to the neighboring points of interest: to Guadalupe, to the famous Basilica, to the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and the Temple of Quetzalcoath, and to the monastery of Acolman. The train departed for home on March 6.

From *Garden Gossip*: "Trip to Mexico. Special train by the Southern Railway. A few hours for a stopover in New Orleans. In Mexico, greeted at the Embassy with true American hospitality. Dined at many fine cafes, and the final night were guests of the Aguirre Guests Tours at the Reforma Hotel. Stopovers at attractive towns and cities in Mexico on the way home and at San Antonio, Texas; taken by buses to the Sam Houston Army Post, Alamo, and San Jose Cathedral. At Memphis, welcomed by garden clubs and toured the city, ending with a delightful reception in a magnificent home."

Mrs. Dillard gave an interesting account of the Mexico trip. She stated that 14 clubs were represented: disbursements \$20,153.49, receipts \$20,153.48, leaving a deficit of one cent. Mrs. Wheelwright said that the members of the club wanted to thank and to honor Mrs. Dillard for her splendid management of the trip. She was given a rising vote of thanks.

From Mrs. Wheelwright's report: "Our organization is growing year by year, not only in size, but in importance. There are times when your President wonders if all paths of every

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1930-1940*

activity in the country do not finally end in The Garden Club. But I do think, as a group of gardeners, we should, as much as possible, limit our efforts to that which concerns the conservation and development of the beauties of our state, and have some time left for the leisure and enjoyment of our own gardens."

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The Twenty-first Annual Meeting was held in Petersburg, May 14-15, 1940. The Petersburg club was hostess, Mrs. Lewis D. Pilcher, President.

The registration fee for members attending the meetings of the Board of Governors was raised from \$2.00 to \$3.00.

The passage of the new Billboard Bill was announced, giving Virginia at that time probably the most effective billboard bill in the United States. The Garden Club of Virginia, by resolution, acknowledged the outstanding and inspirational leadership of Mrs. Sloane, Billboard Chairman for the GCV and Legislative Chairman of the Associated Clubs of Virginia, in the winning of this victory.

The first afternoon there was a foray to the Wild Flower Preserve and Bird Sanctuary, followed by a drive to points of interest in the city, pleasantly interrupted by tea with Mrs. John H. Dunlop at Ellerslie Farm. That evening, cocktails with Mrs. George Cameron and Mrs. William Judson Miller preceded dinner at the Country Club of Petersburg. The following day, luncheon was at Brandon.

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While the nineteen twenties were the founding years of the GCV, the thirties were the formative years, with the initiation and successful development of many of the significant fields of action of the club. During this period we see the continuing growth of the work of restoration and the Restoration Committee itself beginning to assume the important position that it has ever since held in the GCV.

In these years the three Test Gardens, Daffo-

dil, Rose, and Lily, were established, and, from the beginning, the complementary flower shows of each have consistently maintained the high standard of horticulture, display, and judging.

In these ten years, interest was aroused through the whole state in legislative control of outdoor advertising and the enactment of the first successful billboard bill.

Within this period the Constitution and By-Laws were clarified and improved, and the modus operandi of carrying out the various divisions of the work of the club was set up through the Board of Directors, the Board of Governors, and the Annual Meeting in the pattern that has been followed ever since.

Historic Garden Week became an established reality during the thirties. Almost all of the problems and questions that were shown by the record as facing the members at the called meeting in 1932 were gradually smoothed out.

Garden Week was carried largely by the members of James River. Year after year the Richmond ladies organized and carried out the Tour Week, with no executive secretary in those days. Plans initiated by this club were set up and governed the operation of the tours, with strong and active support in the opening of gardens in other sections: the great river plantations, the northern section of the state, the Albemarle and Orange areas, the Valley, Williamsburg, Norfolk, Lynchburg, and Roanoke. The clubs in these sections all cooperated fully and effectively, but the chairman and the executive leadership rested with those in Richmond. Mrs. Massie, Mrs. Christian, Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. Cabell, Mrs. Lewis G. Larus, Mrs. S. Norman Jones, and Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr. all served as chairmen at different times during these years.

In the minutes of the first meeting of the GCV, May, 1920, the stated purposes and business of the new organization were to be: for good roads, against the billboard "nuisance," for preservation of plants, roadsides, historic homes and gardens, conservation of native beauty, warfare against pests. Throughout the second decade, these purposes had definitely been pursued and achieved.

*We shall welcome the ten clubs that joined the ranks during this decade and continue the saga of the remarkable parts that make up the remarkable whole of the GCV.*

## MEMBER CLUBS 1930-1940

**A**LXBEMARLE'S affairs are so inextricably combined with GCV affairs during this period that they are hard to untangle. The history gives us fresh views of flower shows and judging schools and Garden Weeks. In the middle of this decade a scrap book of "homes and gardens and peoples" was placed in the Rucker Memorial Collection at the Fine Arts Library of the University of Virginia. Each year rare and practical garden books are added. The club notes that in response to a request by the GCV President they had as a program an explanation of the Constitution and By-laws of the GCV. (How patient—and docile—club members must have been at this time.)

On October 16, 1938, the 25th birthday of the club was celebrated where the club was founded, Morven, with Mrs. Charles Stone as hostess. Eight of the charter members were present "giving us lively and enjoyable reminiscences!"

From the 1938 GCV Lily Show, another facet of that many-faceted lady, Mrs. Massie: She won the Sweepstakes Cup and the American Horticulture Society Medal. (And in 1940 and 1941 she brought home the Harris Challenge Cup from the Lily Show.)

ALEXANDRIA kept busy with Gadsby's Tavern, and on June 16, 1931, Mrs. Gray, GCV President, unveiled the tablet on the wall. Up to that time the restoration had cost \$3,200.00. It was here in 1932, as Mrs. Harris has told us, that the club staged the second GCV Narcissus Show. (And they sponsored it twelve more times!) They planted shrubbery at the Ann Lee

Memorial Home and at the new Boy's Club, and in 1938 completed the landscaping of the grounds around the new Alexandria Public Library.

In 1937, Dr. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish, gave a lecture with slides on the restoration of Williamsburg. The Alexandria club arranged that this be given to the public free of charge in the auditorium of the George Washington High School.

Names in this brilliant club cry to be mentioned. Giving not only of herself on every front locally and state-wide, Eleanor Boothe also gave a husband to the cause. As the GCV lawyer, he is quoted copiously throughout our annals, but never once did we find that a fee was paid him. In the early days the ladies would take a step, endorse an action, and then run to Mr. Boothe to make it all legal. And he usually did. And Myrtle and Charlie Holden with their camellias and their unrivalled hospitality; Charlie drove Myrtle to many committee meetings and, as a matter of course, voted right along with the committees!

A great leader in the field of conservation, Mrs. Robert Reese became nationally known. Her special interest was in educating the young, and she was untiring in this cause. The leadership she established continued after her death when the club took positive action on Potomac pollution, the billboard blight, C. & O. Canal, Dike Marsh lands, anti-litter campaigns, Keep Virginia Green, cleanliness and order at gas stations, and control of the automobile graveyards. (In recognition of Mrs. Reese's many accom-

## Member Clubs, 1930-1940

plishments, the club had her portrait painted, and it hangs in the Ramsay House, an ancestral home.)

AUGUSTA had by now acquired real expertise in staging flower shows and staged them with a flair. Of one held in the Stonewall Jackson Hotel ballroom: "Quite an attraction were two beautiful parrots, loaned by the Staunton Fire Department, which drew attention with their gorgeous coloring and their efforts to talk to or greet the guests." (What was a Fire Department doing with parrots anyway?)

In 1932 the club sponsored "Ye George Washington Faire," honoring the bicentennial of his birth. A whole block was roped off, and there on the city street were the old tavern, the antique exhibit, and the replica of Mount Vernon. The historical pageant with dancing was held on the lawn of Mary Baldwin, the Augusta and Staunton Military Academy bands providing the music. The "Faire" ended with an elaborate Colonial Ball, and the profits were used to plant five miles of Staunton and Waynesboro highways.

Since 1933, when the GCV restored the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Garden, the Augusta club notes each year the "unremitting care" of this garden. For many years this "unremitting care" was given by Miss Bessie Landes. (The results are still apparent in 1970.)

BLUE RIDGE must have become heavily involved in the activities of the GCV right away, for in 1931 the history notes: "During this year there was still much discussion as to the advisability of resigning from the GCV, but no vote was taken." About this time the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs invited the club to join. The answer was negative. One was enough. In 1933, "Mrs. Gilliam asked the members to be her guests at a picnic in Highland County to see the laurel in bloom. Those who went will never forget the gorgeous laurel or the delicious fried chicken." (There they go again!)

In 1936 the GCV asked the club to contribute to the plants being sent to Japan. They refused. "The club was unanimous in declining to contribute anything to a gift to the Japanese Government." (This is over five years before Pearl Harbor. What did Blue Ridge know that the State Department didn't?)

Dogwood (500) and redbud (5) were planted on Route 11, and the minutes said: "These trees will plant a mile of highway and be a thing of beauty and a joy forever." (In 1955 six had survived!)

1937: "As usual, our finances are in a desperate condition. The treasury has 17 cents." Nevertheless, they were planting a garden behind the hospital.

BRUNSWICK began its sponsorship of a Wild Flower Preserve, on Little Mountain, at the American Legion Clubhouse. At regular meetings Brunswick would exhibit wild flower collections and then transplant them at the Preserve.

In 1933 Mrs. Turnbull organized two Negro Garden Clubs, and in 1936 Brunswick was hostess to the Negro Garden Clubs of Virginia.

In 1935 the club took on a project that is still being mentioned in its history, Fort Christina. In 1923 the Colonial Dames had purchased this site of the old Indian School, established by Governor Spotswood in 1712. Brunswick cleared and cleaned the area, conserving the more desirable shrubs and adding more.

The three approaches to Lawrenceville were planted, the material listed as: "206 dogwoods, 98 redbuds, 30 maples, 11 willows, 5 laurels, 1 wagonload of rose bushes, 3 wagonloads of iris, and 38 wagonloads of honeysuckle."

CHATHAM looked with garden-club eyes at their community and decided to do something about it. They started with the landscaping of school grounds, including the colored school in nearby Clarkstown. They planted poplars, iris, and tulips at the entrance to Chatham Cemetery and beautified the colored cemetery as well.

The Community Christmas Tree became a continuing project. Originally, "A committee would go out in the county and cut a lovely evergreen tree and plant it temporarily on the Courthouse Green." (Since even a husband and wife can never agree on the best Christmas tree, how did a committee?) Since this was time-consuming in a busy season, it was decided to make a permanent planting so the tree would be there and ready to decorate. A fir tree was planted as a George Washington Memorial, and each year its lights shine out over the Green with its Christmas message.

In January, 1936, another perennial project

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appears in the annals of this club. A parcel of land in the town was deeded to the Chatham Garden Club "to be kept and maintained as a park." (This is one of two recorded instances of member clubs owning property; the other, Martinsville.) It was made exempt from taxation, and to this time Gilmer Court has had the club's loving attention.

DANVILLE had as yet made no addition to its membership and contemplated none. The original small group was content with things as they were. Each member gave a \$100.00 bond annually. These were placed in a lockbox with the understanding that when the group had dwindled to two members, the bonds would be used for a suitable memorial. Then an opportunity of real significance arose. The Sutherlin Mansion, historically the "Last Capitol of the Confederacy," needed help badly. The grounds were in grave disorder, its ancient trees diseased. Here was a challenge to match the original vision of the club's founders, but how to raise money in the depths of a depression? It was decided to open the lockbox and convert the \$7,000.00 of bonds into cash. Mrs. B. V. Booth took them to her husband, president of the bank. He pointed out that the bonds had not yet matured and were not worth the full value. Mrs. Booth brushed aside this masculine logic with a firm, "Benjamin, let us have the money." Of course, Benjamin let them have the money. The \$7,000.00 was dedicated to this project, and each member was dedicated to supervising this project. The foreman in charge of the work commented: "This must be the biggest garden club in America. I couldn't count the number of ladies who have come in to offer a little advice."

In 1939 the restoration of Danville's first cemetery began. "There, where no interments have been made for decades, many of the first settlers sleep, and the spot has been long neglected. Beneath its great oaks nature has run riot. A tangle of vines and weeds cover the fallen and defaced gravestones and memorials to a generation of men and women who were the pioneers of ancient days in the community. The natural beauty of the spot is marred, this neglect standing as a reproach to the civic pride and public spirit of the city, careless of traditions of

the past. We resolved to reclaim this wilderness, to restore its beauty and appeal, and to create in it a sanctuary for bird life."

What they resolved, they did, under the direction of Mrs. A. Rucker Penn. A Sunrise Easter dedication service was held in the restored grounds with a choral group of the choirs of the churches.

Both these projects won the Massie Medal.

DOLLY MADISON again in 1930 gave the GCV a president, its sixth, Mrs. Leslie H. Gray of Montebello, who was, as recorded by Mrs. Gilliam, also the president of her own club. Of this feat, the history says: "This was indeed a double handful of responsibility for one person, and had she not been so capable and charming, it would have been an almost impossible aggregation of obligations."

Roadside beautification occupied these members early. The five mile section they selected was south of Orange on Route 15, from which they removed the billboards and on which they planted dogwood.

The historian records the death of their valued member, Miss Parke Taylor, a graduate of Ambler College and Virginia's first practicing woman horticulturist. Perhaps it was her influence that led these members to test a number of plants for dependability and adaptability to different climatic conditions. Mrs. Barton Cameron, another member, had grown ginger lilies for twelve years, a surprising testimonial to their hardiness in the Piedmont, according to *Garden Gossip*.

FAIRFAX: In 1926 three ladies talked of starting a garden club. They were Mrs. Frederick D. Richardson, Mrs. William E. Earl, and Mrs. Thomas R. Keith. In June of that year the talk culminated in a meeting to organize one. It was held at Mrs. Richardson's home, and she was the first president of The Garden Club of Fairfax. Two members of the Alexandria club, Mrs. Louis Scott and Mrs. William Booth, were there to advise and counsel the twenty charter members. The four officers drew up the constitution and by-laws, and with the enthusiasm of novices, the members started out with meetings twice a month. (Four years later the 24 annual meetings became 12 annual meetings.)

## Member Clubs, 1930-1940

The first club activity, as in so many of our clubs, was a flower show, held in Willard Hall in May, 1927. Even a husband was so impressed by the success of this initial venture that he gave a beautiful antique cake basket as a sweepstakes prize for succeeding shows.

In 1928 the members looked up from their flowers and decided to add civic planting to their lives. The grounds at the elementary school were planted with a barberry hedge and shrubs. The next year they improved the Courthouse grounds. The next year they graded and seeded the grounds at Willard Hall, the town hall, and broadened their scope to include a new roof for the building and brick entrance steps, and it was here that they, like their sister clubs, planted a George Washington Memorial tree. It was a weeping Japanese cherry, but it died and was replaced with a pink dogwood. (Wonder how many of those trees planted in 1932 still exist.) They participated in the landscaping at the District Home at Manassas and in 1933 planted the triangle at the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Lee Highway, with the advice of Mr. Neale.

Named as the leader in all these demanding civic activities was their member, Mrs. Harley P. Wilson. Through the kindness of Mr. Louis Hertle, walnut from a Gunston Hall tree was used to make a gavel, and this was presented to Mrs. Wilson by her club in appreciation. It was also Mrs. Wilson who chartered a Pullman car and took the club to see the azalea gardens of Charleston, S.C. (This 1933 memory is cherished to this day by the early members.)

On June 13, 1935, Fairfax "at the awkward age of nine" became a part of the GCV, "a mere teenager of fifteen."

Even though new responsibilities were added, the civic programs continued. Magnolias and dogwood were planted at public buildings, and highways at Annandale and Chain Bridge Road were beautified. To raise some of the money for these projects, the club gave a barn dance.

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN in 1931 began the first (recorded) militant action concerning billboards when Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Fairfax, Miss Noland, and Mrs. Moncure Lyon "physically removed 4,000 signs from our county roadsides." (Can't you see the sheriff's office wring-

ing collective hands? Arresting *those* four ladies would not have been a popular move, to say the least.) Their activity brought forth headlines in a Richmond paper: "Women War on Roadside Signs." It was a well-earned rest when, "On July 28, Mrs. Sands entertained with a delicious supper, after which all the guests played Miniature Golf."

In 1932 dogwood planting began in earnest. "Members took 500 seedlings to be nursed and later planted on roadsides. It would seem they were fairly demanding babies. When an appeal came from the Dogwood Chairman of the GCV to plant more, the minutes state tersely, 'The sentiment of this club appears to be they have planted all they can afford to.'" The next year the GCV grew even more ambitious with its goal of "One Million Dogwoods by 1935" and again asked this club to plant. "Our baby dogwoods continued to cause their foster mothers considerable trouble. When they grew to the size of three feet, what to do with them? It was finally agreed that they be planted on roadsides of the grower's choice, and 265 were eventually set out." Later, "\$5.40 was given the treasurer as 'conscience money' from members who had planted a few in their own woods and gardens. They needn't have worried because many of those so carefully placed were subsequently cut down by the Demon Highway Department."

In 1936 appeared a horticultural endeavor that is this club's alone. They conducted an experiment in growing truffles! And what's more, wrote about it in both the *GCA Bulletin* and *Garden Gossip*, under the title "A Trifle on Truffles."

By 1937 the club was ready to celebrate its 21st birthday and did so by honoring its distinguished member, Mrs. Sands, then GCV President. Another pageant was given at Foxcroft, this one called "Flora's Feast," adapted by Mrs. Warner Snider, who also composed the music. Supper was followed by folksongs and dances by the Foxcroft girls, and Mrs. Sands was presented with an antique silver tea caddy by her club. And they made money on the celebration too. The proceeds of \$519.86 was sent to the GCV Contributors Fund, originally suggested by Fauquier and Loudoun.

In August of this year the club (and the

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GCV) lost its valued member, Mrs. Floyd Harris. A part of the tribute to her in this history says: "Stoke had been denuded of its gardens and boxwood walks, and it was to replace them that Mrs. Harris began her active horticultural work. From the one remaining box tree in the garden, with her own hands, she made 250,000 cuttings, which were grown under her direction and widely distributed."

Mrs. Snider showed the breadth of her accomplishments by bringing to a July meeting in 1938, "Twenty-two varieties of flowers: fine specimens, despite the drought. Most astounding is the fact that she uses no insect spray and has not watered her flowers." (She was one of the earliest foes of indiscriminate spraying. This incident occurred 25 years before she brought Rachel Carson to speak in Richmond.)

In 1939 the club presented Chinese Chippendale garden gates to the restoration at Monticello, and Mrs. Sands was made President of the Associated Clubs.

GABRIELLA: On the scene comes the garden club with the delightful name . . . Gabriella! And this is how. On the morning of April 15, 1933, a group of friends met in a garden that had been created by a previous owner, Mrs. S. Rutherford Dula, the founder of the Danville club. The former Gabriella Hart, Mrs. Dula was Danville's first horticulturist and the first to transform her back yard into a lovely garden. These 25 friends had met with the idea of organizing a garden club. The idea turned into enthusiastic endorsement. Mrs. H. F. Vass, a member of the Danville club, was with them, and it was she who suggested that Mrs. Dula's first name be used. So, with 25 charter members, the Gabriella Garden Club became a reality. Mrs. J. Roscoe Anderson was the first president.

The club began with a good idea that didn't work out, the establishing of junior garden clubs in the public schools. Seeds were distributed, members acted as advisors, and that fall an informal show of the results was given. Only twelve children exhibited. So this project was abandoned.

But there was something handy to take its place, the old Ficklen place, termed "an eyesore and a menace." So clearing started. "Mrs. J. Pemberton Penn guided the workmen, most

of whom were chauffeurs loaned by many members." Were those symbols of another era also used on the next cleaning up? This was a hill on North Main Street, and after clearing, the planting there was donated by the members.

Gabriella staged its first Narcissus Show in 1936. So it felt well prepared when the invitation to join the GCV arrived on May 11, 1938.

HAMPTON ROADS: This is a "believe it or not!" It is written that this club was organized because Garden Week wouldn't accept money from its founder, a nonmember. Miss Elizabeth Ivy, affectionately called "Miss Lizzie," and her brother, Clay, were not only gardeners but scholars of discernment. They lived in an old cottage, built of logs from an old Federal Fort and covered with clapboards, which stood on two acres of land, originally a part of an early plantation.

Miss Lizzie delighted in collecting unusual flowers and shrubs, which she planted in groups along walks, "wherever they were happy." Once she came home from California, carrying two pails of water with choice tree seedlings and plants. One spring during Garden Week she unofficially opened her lovely rambling garden to the public for a small fee, planning to contribute the proceeds to the restoration program of the GCV. "She was sorely disappointed to find that it could not be accepted as the money must come only from the member clubs." (This seems completely unexplainable, but it must have happened.) Her feelings evidently weren't hurt. She still wanted to be a part of the restoration program. She set about organizing a garden club with the hope that it would someday be a part of the GCV so that her money could be accepted. Several of her garden-minded friends were asked to meet with her to lay plans, and it was decided to ask someone experienced in organizing garden clubs to speak to them. Mrs. Martin of the Norfolk club did so, and in April, 1932, at the home of Mrs. Saxon Holt The Garden Club of Hampton Roads came into being. Mrs. Andrew W. Hull was the first president of this first garden club on the Virginia Peninsula.

(Miss Lizzie's home was remodeled in 1947 by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair Phillips. Still retaining the charm of old box

## Member Clubs, 1930-1940

and old trees, it has been open during many Garden Weeks. . . . and the money accepted!)

With Miss Lizzie to guide them, restoration began at home. The newly formed club took over the grounds of old Pembroke Church and Cemetery, the historic site of St. John's Episcopal Church (1609), the oldest continuous English-speaking church in America. (The members have not yet become disenchanted with this care.)

Flower shows started early and still continue. At the first one the blue ribbon was won by Mrs. E. F. Heard, using tulips which had been kept in cold storage for several weeks. The club's rapidly growing knowledge was shared when, as early as 1937, they sponsored competitions in the Negro neighborhood, giving prizes for the neatest garden and for the one with the most bloom throughout the year. From this project grew the first Negro garden club in the area, and it started holding flower shows immediately.

On May 12, 1937, this club ceased being a nonmember of the GCV.

JAMES RIVER was aware of its maternal obligations, and when the GCV was ten years old, in 1930, the club invited it to come home to celebrate. Of this occasion, the expressive Mrs. Skipwith wrote: "One lady came to my house for tea and said her feet were 'killing her'; that when she had been to Agecroft, she just took off her shoes and went all over the place in her stocking feet. I have not heard of any such calamity at later meetings."

The decade saw the beginning of restoration projects for the club. In 1930 a garden was planted at the Home for Incurables at a cost of \$1,000, plans being drawn by a member, Mrs. H. Coleman Baskerville. By 1937 the memorial to Mrs. Patterson was completed and turned over to the city. Supervised by Mrs. Douglas VanderHoof, this was the planting of a double row of native holly and dogwood on the approach to the Carillon. Included were two marble benches, inscribed with the dedication to Juanita Massie Patterson.

To help alleviate effects of the nation-wide economic depression, James River sponsored Gardens for the Unemployed. The city provided the names of men with families. The club obtained the use of vacant lots, had the land

plowed, and furnished fertilizer, seed, and the necessary tools. The produce belonged entirely to the family cultivating each garden. Under the direction of Mrs. Samuel W. Budd, 250 people were fed in one year from these gardens.

LEESBURG, with many of the same members as Fauquier and Loudoun, fell in step with the concerted action against the billboard boom. It was recorded that "Glidden Paint Company was finally persuaded to remove a large sign, only to have it replaced by one describing the charms of the Fairfax Hotel." Both clubs became members of the Loudoun County Conservation Committee when it was formed in 1931 and continued the recommended direct and successful action on billboards, using the slogan, "If the sign offends thee, whack it down."

Several hundred dogwood seedlings were raised for roadside planting. "After several seasons of tender loving care, the trees were carefully planted and supported with heavy five foot stakes, only to have the WPA crews come along and carefully cut them down, tree, stakes, and all." (A few escaped and are now of great size and beauty.)

Only a few members, who might be termed the radical minority, attended the first GCV Judging School to learn about this new art of flower arranging. Its charms must have eluded the majority because the club arrangements continued to be in the "dainty bouquet" class.

There was a Bird Walk and Basket Picnic in Mrs. Trundle's wood, resulting in a pencilled note on a member's year book: "Poison Ivy!" And they held a Weed Show. (This is a "first" and an "only.") A "Bulb Hunt" was held one fall, but "records did not indicate whether the bulbs had been planted or not."

In 1937 a flower garden with paths, pergola, and garden furniture was added at the Hospital, a pleasant spot for nurses and convalescing patients. Members continued to cut and arrange flowers for the Hospital and keep the garden tidy. (Their member, Mrs. Laughlin, financed this project until her death in 1943.)

An important first step was taken and continued. The deplorable condition of public school grounds led the club to develop a program for improvement. The chairman and chief spokes-

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woman was Mrs. Robert S. Pickens. (Eventually the effective zoning and planning of Loudoun County resulted, spearheaded by Mrs. Pickens.)

LYNCHBURG adopted the Miller-Claytor House, once known as the Tomato House. Built in 1791, the oldest Lynchburg house extant, it was marked for destruction but saved by the Lynchburg Historical Society. Removed to Riverside Park, it was carefully re-assembled to its original state. The Lynchburg Garden Club then created a late 18th century town garden with a picket fence, heart-shaped borders, and pebbled paths. To explain the "Tomato House" name, it seems Mr. Jefferson stopped here en route from Monticello to Poplar Forest and not only picked but ate this "poisonous love-apple." That death did not automatically follow was quite a surprise, but from that time on tomatoes began appearing on the tables of Lynchburg, and the house was dubbed the "Tomato House."

Another continuing project began in the last part of this period, the planning and planting of Monument Terrace. Variouslly called "Ninth Street Hill," "Ninth Street Steps," or "Court-house Steps," legend has it that it was up this hill that the Yankee General Hunter marched his troops, hoping to take the city. General Jubal Early, in a hurried march, rode to the rescue, and back down those steps went "Devil" Hunter in retreat to the Valley. (That's how this history puts it.) At the summit stands Lynchburg's Greek revival courthouse, built in 1853.

There was still some spare time to plant roadsides. In 1932 the club began a three year planting plan of Amherst Road leading to Sweet Briar; later 1400 dogwood were planted on six miles of Route 501, between Peakland and Locke's Mountain, which continues to be one of the most beautiful stretches of road in Virginia.

MARTINSVILLE began its planting at the Henry County Courthouse in 1933, and maintenance has continued to be supervised by the club. The entrance to Oakwood Cemetery was planted and handsome gates installed.

It was in 1934 that the club's perennial project came into being, Trillium Cove. The land was deeded to the club, on request, by its owner, Mr. John R. Smith, an Honorary Member. An acre in area, this Wild Flower Preserve is on a

wooded hillside, entirely covered by trillium and a large variety of other wild flowers, including jack-in-the-pulpit, dogtooth violets, lady's slippers. Signs were placed at each of the two entrances; trails were made up the hillside so plants could be examined more closely without injuring them. Wild flowers not growing here but native to the locality were transplanted and left to colonize. The earliest bloom observed was on March 7, and from that time until fall a succession of bloom follows with autumn foliage, colored seed pods and berries ending the season. The club made a comprehensive catalog of these plants and the trees. At the suggestion of the Boy Scouts, the preserve is also a Bird Sanctuary, and "In April, when the trillium and little white starflower are in bloom, it offers a sight not to be forgotten."

MILL MOUNTAIN: Under the protective wing of the Roanoke Valley club, the Mill Mountain Garden Club was organized on June 29, 1927, at the home of Mrs. Peyton T. Jamison. Breaking the pattern, Mrs. W. L. Powell was the first president, Mrs. Jamison her assisting vice president. Larkspur became their flower and "Where you tend a flower, my lass, a thistle cannot grow," their motto. Deciding to limit their membership to 25, the membership began with 21. (Imagine the scrutiny given the candidates for those four vacancies by the 21 charter members.) The club was considered sufficiently established in 1929 to be asked by Roanoke Valley to help with that first Garden Week.

The club's first major civic project, which endured for many years, was beautifying the grounds of the Roanoke Memorial Hospital. It began mildly in 1930 with the building of a wall. This developed into extensive landscaping and included the city-owned park in front of the hospital. In this park, the history says, "The first drinking fountain in any city park was placed by Mill Mountain."

Chronologically 1932, this pleasant "fable" was given in 1969: Once upon a time, long, long ago when Mill Mountain was yet in its infancy (i.e. didn't belong to the GCV!), the Roanoke Valley club was hostess to the Board of Governors. It asked if perhaps Mill Mountain would care to aid in the entertainment of

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this august Board by having a garden tea. Aspiring Mill Mountain said, "Indeed, yes, we would be delighted."

Mary Terry Kuyk, daughter of the club's founder, offered to have the tea at her house, and things moved smoothly and busily along until the day before, when Mother Nature intervened with a horrible storm. The rain fell, and the wind blew until on the day of the tea party, there were fourteen huge trees down in Mary Terry's yard. She was quite understandably beside herself and dashed about from tree to tree, punch bowl to compote, "like a chicken," she says. Her yardman (I said it was long, long ago) stoically watched her ineffectual flutterings and ditherings and finally calmed her down with the moral to my fable: "Miss Mary, don't you know when you tries to do too much, you don't get nuthin' done?" (This was given by Mill Mountain's President, Mrs. N. William Bullington, Jr., another third generation garden-clubber, Boxley to Parrott to Bullington. And there are Miss Mary and Miss Elizabeth Bullington coming along for the fourth generation.)

On May 27, 1936, the Mill Mountain club became a member of the GCV. (We have already read of their good manners in 1935!)

A landscape architect was hired to plot the progress at the Memorial Hospital, and in this history is found the second reference to giving the nurses a practical demonstration of arranging flowers, "to alleviate the distressing hideousness usually found in hospital flowers."

The report for 1937 began: "Mill Mountain has been running true to form, working and playing," and one of their playing times sounds like fun. It was an evening party, and the husbands brought their own arrangements. Written on one card was, "Every little arrangement has a meaning all its own," and by it was a bowl with sturdy sprays of mint and four red roses. Not only did they supply the entertainment, the husbands were the waiters. (Would the husband crop of 1970 do as much?)

**NANSEMOND RIVER:** It was organized on October 26, 1928. This is how it came about. "The birth of a garden club is fraught with much planning from many angles. To pick thirty women in a town of flower lovers, interested and willing to share in all phases of the work

of such an organization, was no easy task. Like all natural births, it was not a painless process and not without its disappointments."

Four friends, Pat Holladay, Sue Riddick, Crissie Brockenbrough, and Mary Kendrick attended a Woman's Club meeting in Williamsburg. "In the afternoon, we played hooky and strolled around the town. Sue bought an antique frame, and we talked about a garden club. Then and there we decided to get to work." Joined by Mrs. Pretlow and Mrs. Corbitt, they had a preliminary meeting and agreed that each of the six could invite five friends. "Some we invited wouldn't join, and some were hurt because they weren't asked." Mrs. John C. (Pat) Holladay became president and four more of the original six, her officers.

So they had a garden club, but it had no name. Mr. Kendrick named it with, "Richmond has her James River club; why don't you call yours the Nansemond River?" And so they did. The Norfolk club is called "foster mother," and from this foster mother came good advice and talented speakers all through the formative years.

And the GCV came to call early. On March 12, 1929, Mrs. Wheelwright and Mrs. Thomas A. Smyth spoke to the club and in gratitude were presented with kneeling cushions. The first flower show came shortly after, in May, and the expenses are noted as \$21.95.

They planted; and they planted some more: around the Nansemond County Courthouse, the American Legion Monument, beds of flowers for Yorktown's Sesquicentennial, at four schools, a tree for George Washington, and thousands of narcissus bulbs (the gift of Mr. Henry Pinner) around the APVA Shrine and on the Courthouse grounds.

Alexandria's Mrs. Reese came to speak on birds. So the club made a Bird Habitat in a store window, the first in Virginia, they say. They also say that over 500 people came to see it.

May 27, 1936, they were admitted to the GCV, and that fall Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Fairfax, and Mrs. Christian came to welcome them and outline what the GCV expected of its member clubs. With Mrs. Sands there you know that getting rid of billboards was one expectation, and she was no sooner out of town than Nanse-

## *Follow the Green Arrow*

mond River removed 100 signs between Suffolk and Franklin. They began the nice custom of planting a tree as a memorial to a deceased member. The father of one member donated 2700 water lilies, which were planted in the ditches of the Suffolk-Norfolk highway. Picking them was such a temptation to passing motorists the police had to be asked to stand guard.

NORFOLK had gained experience officiating at the single births of individual garden clubs. So it changed focus and concentrated on amalgamation. In 1932, following the vision of its member, Mrs. Charles Grandy, the club organized the Federation of Garden Clubs of Norfolk and Vicinity, Inc. with five member clubs. (In 1970 it has 102 clubs.) In 1933 its president, Mrs. Henning Fernstrom, formed with 31 charter clubs the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. (In 1970 it numbers 596 clubs.) (How any one club fulfills its obligations to four organizations is inconceivable, but Norfolk does.)

In 1931 the club held a Dahlia Show and an Iris Show, but in 1933 it made its greatest contribution to the culture of one flower when it staged its first Camellia Show. This became an annual event and educated many Norfolks and their neighbors to become camellia experts.

Tree planting was almost an obsession with the Norfolk club, it seems. "Through our Chairman, Mrs. E. Griffith Dodson, 250 dogwood trees were planted in the Capitol Square in Richmond, Governor Perry planting the first one at the entrance of the Executive Mansion." Then a rather off-handed, "Several hundred additional trees have been planted around our public buildings." There was a planting of live oak trees on the Hague in memory of the club's founder, with the comment that, "These trees are most happy on the banks of our waterways." They early inaugurated a "Dig Day," which later was pivoted around Arbor Day and is observed an entire week.

PETERSBURG: 1925 was a great year for organizing a garden club, and on May 5 of that year The Petersburg Garden Club was founded. Mrs. Robert T. Meade, who at that time was serving as president of the Woman's Club, was influential in establishing the garden club and served as its first president. From the Woman's Club, plus a few interested gardeners, came

the charter members of this group. Its motto is, "Earth Laughs in Flowers." (This has challenged the passage of time and sounds very right in 1970.)

The club went to Charlottesville in May, 1926, to that first Flower Fete of the GCV and Mrs. Massie. It also conquered. The sweepstakes prize came home to Petersburg. The GCV must have remembered this accomplishment of a nonmember club and recognized it on May 19, 1932. From that time on the state organization could feel some maternal pride in the accomplishments of this club.

Noting "a pile of ashes and weeds" at the Petersburg Hospital, the members transformed it with iris, shrubs, dogwood, and redbud. Another transformation by planting was made at Bishop Payne's Colored Divinity School. A small garden was created at the Trapezium House. Dogwood and pin oaks graced first a "fill" on the highway and then the highways themselves for many miles.

The city of Petersburg set aside a wooded ravine in the Walnut Hill section, and here the club established a Wild Flower Preserve, planting it with dogwood and redbud. An authority came to help identify the flowers, and they were labelled by the club. The Boxwood Memorial at Battlefield Park was planted, resulting in a feeling of great achievement. Mr. Branch Spalding of the National Park Service was the coordinator.

The club took to the airways to spread the gospel of conservation. Articles and pictures appeared in the local newspaper, showing the right and the wrong way to cut evergreens, and the members travelled to the rural areas to bring this information to those who cut and sell evergreens.

Proving that sweepstakes win of 1926 was no fluke, annual flower shows became a way of life with this club.

PRINCESS ANNE: The early history of this club revolves around and encircles three famed horticulturists, the Hill sisters: Elizabeth Gregory Hill, Evelyn Collins Hill, and Blanche Baker Hill of Sea Breeze Farm, Princess Anne County. (Sharing their enthusiasm had been two other sisters, Fanny Calvert Hill and Mary Chandler Hill, and one brother, William Collins Hill.)

In 1926 at Sea Breeze Farm a Garden Group had been formed within the Woman's Club of

## Member Clubs, 1930-1940

Princess Anne County. On February 6, 1932, with the help of the Norfolk club, this became The Princess Anne Garden Club. Miss Elizabeth Gregory Hill was its first president and filled this role for 23 years, until 1955.

When they accepted as their motto, "A more beautiful Princess Anne County," these charter members blithely accepted an immense area, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the city of Norfolk, from Chesapeake Bay to North Carolina, and from the Seashore State Park to the Dismal Swamp!

Conservation was and is the chief objective of this club. As the Garden Group, it had joined with the Norfolk club in sponsoring the Wild Flower Preserve at Lake Lawson. (This association continued until 1947, at which time the project became solely that of the Princess Anne club.) The area was fenced and planted with dogwood, live oaks, cedars, and holly. A list of the wild flowers growing in the preserve was compiled by Evelyn Collins Hill and published in *Garden Gossip*. In 1932 the Seashore Park at Cape Henry became the continuing conservation project. A local organization, the Seashore Park Association, started this protection, but it was later taken over by the State Commission and thereafter called the Seashore State Park.

When the club was six years old, on May 11, 1938, it was admitted to the GCV.

**RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY:** This group put on a flower show first and then became a garden club! In a desire to aid with the rehabilitation of five underprivileged children, a small group of flower lovers, men and women, showed their flowers in October, 1924. The show was a great success, and twelve of these horticulturists, including two men, met on October 28 and organized the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club.

Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Wheelwright came to Fredericksburg to aid in the launching, and Mrs. Daniel B. Devore of Chatham became the club's first president, serving for eight years. The charter members invited others to join, including five more men and "the hostesses of all the famous colonial estates in the Rappahannock Valley." And then they were fifty in number. And there were comments. A member of the club would be stopped on the street with, "Why wasn't I asked to join?" or "Why is Mrs. Blank

in when I'm not?" And to the evasive reply that Mrs. Blank knew so much about flowers, there were sniffs and shrugs and a, "Well, it won't amount to much anyway." (But it did.)

One of those charter gentlemen, Mr. W. W. Braxton, was treasurer from the club's beginning until 1937, one year before his death. Even with this masculine supervision, the early records indicate there was little money for him to watch over. For the first year Mrs. Devore not only provided the speakers and entertained them, she entertained the whole club at every monthly meeting as well. She brought in landscape gardeners and authorities on arrangements, growing flowers, wild flowers, small gardens, herb gardens, conservation, trees, and civic planting. (A degree should have followed those courses.)

In 1927 this talented Mrs. Devore made a singular contribution, unparalleled so far as can be determined. She commissioned a professional photographer to make studies of Fredericksburg places, not only the historic and beautiful but the humble cabins and cottages, with an immensity of detail. These 200 pictures, the scope of Fredericksburg, were presented to the city. They are now in the Photographic Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., a treasure trove for historians and researching architects. Mark Sullivan, the Editor of *Colliers*, wrote of Mrs. Devore's contribution and urged other communities to make a similar record. (Mrs. Devore was an Honorary President of this club until her death in 1960.)

In 1926 the club was asked to join the GCV, but several members thought it wasn't ready. Later it wrote the GCV that it was ready. (History comment: "Of all things! There must have been great scurrying around in the GCV, for on May 3, 1933, we joined.") The GCV had been nibbling at the membership, one at a time, for several years prior, and there were six members-at-large. They had to resign this privileged classification. (Mrs. Thomas R. Boggs was elected a member-at-large in 1932 and immediately was appointed the first chairman of the Restoration Committee.)

By 1936 the members of this club were hot on the heels of billboard advertisers and persuaded some business firms to remove their signs. The Princess Anne Hotel asked for a grace pe-

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riod until January 1, 1938, which the club graciously allowed.

Garden Week having been started for their own Kenmore, they always took an active interest. In 1936 they reported it hadn't been its usual success. They had a flood, you see, and the visitors couldn't get in.

They planted the city entrance with crepe myrtles and dogwood "which were lost to us and the city when the State Highway Department widened the highway and did not furnish the means or the men to help take care of the planting. Everything died."

In 1937 they started their career of staging the GCV Lily Show.

RIVANNA could be described in capsule as: "With Horticulture . . . Have Test Gardens." In fact its history could be sub-titled, "Our Love Affair with the GCV Test Gardens, with Financial Undertones." So flower by flower, here we go:

ROSES: The plan to furnish authoritative information on roses in Virginia began in 1927 in the GCV and member clubs. In 1928 the Rose Test Chairman wrote: "Until a fund can be established for this purpose, each rose lover must buy his own plants. The chairman, by ordering them all together, will be able to secure the finest stock at the minimum cost." Rivanna appointed a Rosarian, and the club was asked to send in \$12.00 as its share in the GCV program. It did. In February, 1929, it sent in \$5.00 more "to cover a small deficit"; in October, 1929, it sent \$15.00 "to help with the expense of testing roses"; in May, 1930, it sent "25¢ per capita for the Rose Test Garden." In addition the members were buying their own rose test collections. In 1934 the GCV President wrote all clubs, "Is the Rose Test Garden giving its money's worth?" Rivanna, all but financially exhausted, voted, "We favor the Rose Test Garden but agree that the budget should be kept." And keeping that budget soon became the responsibility of their member, Mrs. William Long, who became GCV Rose Test Chairman with a main garden in Charlottesville and four different regional gardens in different parts of the state. (Rivanna, toughened in this stern school, has grown blue ribbon winners ever since — Best in Show, Best Test Collection, and

the Harris Cup came three times to Captain and Mrs. Edgar M. Williams.)

DAFFODILS: In 1930 the GCV President wrote asking that each member club purchase and care for a collection to cost \$80.00. Rivanna had \$105.57 in its treasury, but it parted with the \$80.00, "being most anxious to support the policy of the GCV." (As early as 1946 there were 360 varieties in Rivanna's Daffodil Test Garden and more blue ribbons — for daffodils.)

LILIES: In September, 1936, Mrs. Walker, former GCV President, urged the study of lili-ums. The next month Rivanna had 25 "second size" lily bulbs in the ground, and by 1938 was raising lilies from seed. Both the Walker and Harris Challenge Cups lived here. (At the 1961 Lily Show Mrs. Joseph F. Musselman, club member, exhibited a remarkable collection of plants of the lily family, not members of the Genus *Lilium*. From a list of 85 known species, she showed 30 plants!)

But Rivanna couldn't let well enough alone, and to fill up the time on their hands, in 1934 they started a Lilac Test Garden, the only one in the GCV. Before 1938 the testing of herbs began, with the same talented Mrs. Musselman in charge for twenty years. She would occasionally report, "The herbs have survived in spite of stiff competition with chickweed." (In May, 1951 the New York Branch of the Herb Society asked if it could press a call on Rivanna's Herb Garden. The club gave Mrs. Musselman \$10.00 to "spruce it up." She had just made a prize addition of Dittany of Crete, many years lost, and she and Dittany and the spruced-up garden waited, but illness kept the visitors from coming. And that is not all. In 1957 the club started an Iris Test Garden, again the only one in the GCV. And if there are any more test gardens, don't tell this historian. She has run out of space.)

ROANOKE VALLEY began in 1931 to contribute several hundred tree seedlings for the city tree nursery. When they grew to maturity, they were planted around the city. (This work continued through 1941 when the city dropped the project.)

In 1932 their Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis became the GCV President, and this club entertained the GCV, saying, "The fun and frolic

## Member Clubs, 1930-1940

carried us through the drought and depression of 1933." Of Mrs. Davis they said, "Sitting under the guns of the President of the GCV, we have need for no other incentive than her smile."

On Roadside Planting: "Our chairman recently reported that she found a waif on her doorstep, a triangle formed by the changing of the highway. She adopted and planted this waif."

Admitting to reporting twice on some trees that were planted, "We are not unlike the parishioner who annually confessed a kiss of her youth. When the kindly Father reminded her of these frequent confessions, she replied, 'But I like to talk about it!'"

The Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs was organized in 1934 for coordinating city beautification, and Roanoke Valley was in a leadership capacity in this group.

SPOTSWOOD'S member, Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, gives us some interesting information in her reports. In 1930 it didn't rain in Harrisonburg; it did rain in Richmond. Mrs. Conrad attended a GCV meeting in the capitol city and visited gardens: "The thought of those masses of riotous bloom against the wonderful green of early spring is a blessed memory, particularly at this time when our own gardens are only pathetic stretches of arid waste." And she tells us about a club we lost: "Our entire club was invited to a tea, given in our honor by the Scottsville Garden Club. It was held at beautiful and historic Tallwood, the home of Mrs. Louis Chauvenet, Jr. Of unusual interest there are three magnificent yew trees, at least 200 years old." And Mrs. Conrad fills a gap in the records concerning the Regional Flower Shows. "They were abandoned in 1930 as they have not proved practical."

Spotswood planted two American birches as George Washington Memorial trees on the Courthouse Green and a white spruce to be used as a living Christmas tree. It began extensive planting at the Rockingham Memorial Hospital, the High School, and the Waterman School. After seeing that 129 signs were removed, the club started planting along the highways.

TUCKAHOE: On June 28, 1928, Martha White Michaux organized the Tuckahoe Garden

Club of Westhampton. There were forty charter members, and Mrs. John A. Coke, Jr. became the first president. Right away their friends in the James River club asked them to help with the first Garden Week. When it arrived in 1929, Tuckahoe was manning headquarters, a working part of the first Garden Week as it has been a working part of every Garden Week since.

In 1930 the club took a deep breath and plunged into politics. The highways didn't look good; the trees along them were dying; there was no landscaping because there was no landscape architect. Tuckahoe decided that a landscape architect was sorely needed. But let them tell the story: "Political activity was new to the ladies of the Tuckahoe club, but, undaunted, they went about it in a very feminine way. Members were sent out in units of two to interview the legislators. They were chosen with the greatest care, one for her good looks, the other for her ability to speak well. The system seemed to work quite successfully. The gentlemen were so entranced with the beauties, they readily agreed to vote for whatever the speakers proposed."

Thus came into being Section 33-8 of the Virginia Code, reading: "Such landscape architect, under the direction of the Commissioner, shall study the preservation of the natural beauty of the state highways and devise methods by which the rights of way of the highways may be beautified and improved." (Those words may not send thrills up your back, but they are still thrilling to Tuckahoe.) "Such landscape architect" soon had a name. Mr. Harold J. Neale, the first appointee, served for many years and appears frequently in the annals of the GCV and its member clubs. Of course Tuckahoe had a quite special proprietary feeling about him and elected him their sole Honorary Gentleman. He still fills this masculine place in this feminine organization even though he is now retired. When he came to speak to this club in 1936, Mrs. Michaux made the occasion very special by presenting the club with the pen used by the Governor to sign the bill adding Mr. Neale to the staff.

In 1932 during the Washington Bicentennial the club planted thirteen beautiful elm trees,

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for the thirteen original states. (When Grove Avenue was widened in 1954, these were lost in the process.)

In 1933 it undertook the landscaping of River Road from the Country Club to the Richmond University gates. Hundreds of iris, daffodils, and flowering trees and shrubs were planted. Some of them still remain. Too many were dug up or destroyed by vandals.

On May 10, 1934, Tuckahoe became a member of the GCV. (How did it resist this siren song for such a long time?)

The planting wasn't interrupted, though. In 1935 flowering shrubs were placed at the intersection of Grove Avenue and Three Chopt Road, and in 1936 the grounds of the Henrico County Courthouse on East Main Street were landscaped. When the founder and honorary president, Mrs. Michaux, died in 1938, as a memorial to her a silver cup was presented for prowess in flower arranging.

WARRENTON in 1930 recorded with pride that its member, Mrs. Fletcher, had hybridized a peony which was accepted and registered as Wonder Lea.

The club continued with its civic program: planting at the Poor Farm, at the colored Rosenwald High School, and on the Lee Highway. Again, "Tremendous effort is being made to clean up the town. A prize has been offered for the most attractive small garden seen from any one of the streets of Warrenton. A committee was formed to interview the dwellers we hoped would compete. A New York member was assigned to Green Street. The first person she tried to interest in the project told her that no damyankee could teach her how to plant a garden. However we are not discouraged."

One handwritten report from this period begins: "It has been said that it is hard to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. It is equally hard to make a good report from a club that took a deep rest during July and August."

WILLIAMSBURG: This time a garden club grew from a Garden Department of the Civic League, a woman's club no longer in existence. As that Garden Department, it held its first flower show on May 13, 1924. Feeling that more efficient work could be done as a separate organization, thirteen members met on March

21, 1929, and founded The Williamsburg Garden Club. The privilege of charter membership was extended to any Garden Department members who wished to join. The thirteen so wishing made a total of 26 charter members. (For 27 years this was the only garden club in Williamsburg.)

With the "backing, good will, and cooperation" of the parent Civic League, \$17.50 in the treasury, and a lot of ambition and enthusiasm, the club started its new life. Mrs. L. W. Lane, Jr., who had headed the Garden Department, was the first president. The members revised their charter as need arose — and it arose often. They staged their first flower show as a club, took in two male members, and adopted *Sternbergia lutea* as the club flower. (From the Year Book: "This flower was brought to Williamsburg in the early colonial days to ornament the Governor's Palace gardens. When the last royal governor fled to England, the Palace fell into ruin, and the bulbs were carried to the gardens of the state, thus forming the interwoven links of friendship and kinship, the fabric of all Virginia society.")

On June 11, 1931, Williamsburg became a part of the GCV, and we've already read how the GCV felt about this club.

The separate entity of the Garden Study Group began early within this club and continues to this day. These are the hard-core horticulturists and learners. They meet in the morning with separate programs and activities, uninterrupted by any club business routine. The first leader was their Mrs. John L. Fisher, authority on 18th century flower arrangements, and one of their first projects was the testing of new plant material suggested by the GCV.

Under the inspired guidance of Mrs. Coleman, *A Williamsburg Scrap Book* was published. (This became a classic and is still being sold.)

Before the founding of this club, a house and garden tour had been held by the women of Bruton Parish Church. This became Historic Garden Week, jointly Garden Club and Bruton Parish.

Of note is the fact that this club was relieved of responsibilities it had assumed. The College of William and Mary incorporated a Nature

### *Member Clubs, 1930-1940*

Trail established by the club into the larger college project of Matoaka Park. Civic work soon came under the efficient operation of the Williamsburg Restoration. Evidently cemeteries were outside the Restoration's scope at that time because the club, with the help of a landscape architect, planted a large plot with boxwood, flowering shrubs, trees, and evergreens.

And where other clubs were house and garden visiting, this club went club visiting — to Norfolk, Gloucester, Ashland, and Yorktown. They repaid hospitality by inviting these clubs as guests when Mr. Max Schling of New York came to speak.

WINCHESTER-CLARKE staged the first

GCV Rose Show on June 10, 1932, recording: "At the close of the show the floral exhibits were sold at public auction, a novel way to clear the floor quickly and profitably." (Why didn't this catch on? Ponder, clean-up committees!)

In 1933 beautification efforts increased. Along the Berryville and Millwood pikes 1600 dogwood and 2000 evergreens were planted. Around public buildings and in park areas the club planted 2000 hyacinth bulbs and 5000 tulip bulbs. A dogwood nursery was started to insure replacements.

And only this club noted that in 1935 it attended a Garden School in Richmond, sponsored by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

*The next decade is written by Mrs. Powell Glass. (The Editor has found it necessary to insert some dull historical facts, with these insertions not always indicated. You can easily tell the difference between the flair of Anne Glass and the get-it-down-on-paper factuality of the Editor.)*

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

MAY 1940—MAY 1950

Friends, wherefore am I here?

In answer, a reminder:  
"The man who ventures to write contemporary history must expect to be criticized both for everything he has said and everything he has not said." Voltaire 1732.

The forties? War Years—Tragic, Gallant, Nostalgic memories many of us have—Yours and mine may be of different patterns but they are of the same insubstantial threads—laughter and love and sorrow.

There must be omissions—a genuine regret. Material concerning people of importance, people of imaginative suggestions, people of powers of decision have had to be deleted. So many members have made its history line by line, chapter by chapter, with no thought of personal recognition.

Perhaps my courage will mount with occasion. Surely each member of the GCV will sympathize with my timidity in attempting to give, even in small portion, a story of the forties—the war years.

Even a briefed story of a notable past provokes an interest that is never exhausted and that never grows stale, for it makes a direct appeal to our pride. In the memory of many of the members of the GCV is a contenting pride in the vivid personalities who dynamically and luminously set a pattern for growth for the whole group. Four of these were Mrs. Massie,

Mrs. Christian, Mrs. Harrison, and Mrs. Wheelwright, all ladies of charm and strong character. To appraise their values would be like splashing perfume on a violet. However, with approval a certainty, we cannot resist expressing admiration, that enthusiastic passion of the mind. Perhaps a strength of the GCV lies essentially in the appreciation each one gratefully attaches to the contributions of others. We offer recognition and obligation to all those whom we cannot name here for their generosity and unselfish work in various aspects of service to the GCV. We remember with special blessing the test garden chairmen, the editors of *Garden Gossip*, the presidents of the member clubs (unsung heroines of cooperation)—all lovely ladies who left in the life of memory, images and precious thoughts that cannot be destroyed.

As so often happens among Virginians the words of Mr. Jefferson appear: "A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to be valuable." We dare to offer a morsel.

How to begin? Not a chronicle—actually some accounts of activities of an organization, even in war years, striving for excellence in all that is admirable; of efforts toward vivid representation of particular individuals and incidents.

1940-1942 — Mrs. John G. Hayes, President

In accepting the gavel, Mrs. Hayes spoke

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950

prophetically toward an issue much in discussion these thirty years later: "We have talked much of the beauties of Virginia but if we do not clean up Virginia, we must cease talking of her beauties."

An editorial in *Garden Gossip* so clearly states the attitude of the organization and its member clubs that it is included here:

"This October the radio and the newspapers tell us of burning cities across the sea. We turn away to see the conflagration on the Virginia hills where Nature pours color out in flames of scarlet and molten gold. In the still, clear beauty of an autumn day the only movement is the slow drifting of a few golden leaves earthwards, and the only sound the mocking bird's pouring song from the dogwood tree, where he offers thanks for the feast of ruby berries. The heart aches with this final pageantry of beauty and color and with the knowledge that to many in the world the last months of 1940 are days written in blood and pain.

"We cannot turn aside from the destruction of ancient and beautiful cities and of landmarks rich in history and association for us all. A way of life that was pleasant and gracious, of a people who loved their gardens and green growing things, has been abandoned to a grim struggle for existence with death and destruction raining from the skies.

"We want to help them in every way that we can, materially and financially, and we want to do all in our power to keep alive democracy and freedom, and for solace in a world where the things we have been taught to value and consider right are held of no account, we need now, more than ever, to turn to gardening. Not only as a means of escape but as a reaffirmation of faith. In autumn Nature is preparing for a period of cold and darkness, but those of us who have a garden, and who set out bulbs in the earth this fall know that out of the gloom of winter will come the fresh beauty of spring, and find here faith that from the present dark plight of mankind must come a new day filled with hope and promise for the future."

\* \* \*

The Hampton Roads club entertained the Board of Governors Meeting on October 22-23,

1940, with the Chamberlin Hotel as headquarters. (A rare but perhaps not too startling sight was a short line-up of a number of the club notables enjoying [legal then] a row of one-armed bandits—all winnings donated for defense?).

The members were taken to the James River Country Club for an outdoor oyster roast. This was different from anything most of us had experienced, and everyone was delighted. There were oysters on the half shell, oysters roasted, oysters steamed and dropped into individual bowls of melted butter, oysters stewed with plenty of little crabs included, and oysters fried and placed on flat buttered rolls. All the suitable accompaniments of an oyster roast were arranged on long tables stretched along the white sand by the river. (I testify this unusual and truly Virginia lunch rightly belongs in the club's memorabilia.) Everyone was loathe to leave this lovely spot. The sun was warm; the sky was blue.

However, a business meeting was held. All



Mrs. John G. Hayes, Eleventh President, 1940-1942, in her Red Cross uniform.

## Follow the Green Arrow

standing and special committees reported. Mrs. Hayes expressed personal appreciation for the enthusiastic cooperation she had received.

Mrs. Harrison, Chairman of Restoration Committee, presented a recommendation that the sum of \$1,000.00 be appropriated from the treasury of this committee to be used for civilian relief in England, saying:

"During the 1940 Restoration tours, some of you may remember that the question was asked whether or not some portion of the tour money could not be set aside for the Red Cross. We felt that we had better wait and see where we could be of the greatest help, and during the summer the question has been raised in the meetings of the Restoration Committee that a certain sum from our reserve fund should be appropriated to go to England immediately for the use of civilian relief, and from all the inquiries we have had we can come to the conclusion that the purpose and the most need is for Mobile Canteen Units for the civilian population. This has been very carefully considered by the Restoration Committee and was submitted in the form of a resolution to the Board of Directors and was approved by them. We find that we can afford to send a thousand dollars and that is what we bring before you today. We would like to send it direct to Mrs. Ronald Tree. We feel that this is one way in which we can return what Mrs. Tree and Lady Astor have done for us in opening Mirador during our Garden Week."

A motion was made that the recommendation be accepted. Discussion followed and questions were asked as to the legality of using funds reserved for restoration projects for other than restoration work. Mrs. Harrison read a letter from our attorney, Mr. Boothe, in which he made the fact clear that the Restoration Committee was within its rights in appropriating the \$1,000.00. (Reference Article 8 of GCV Charter). Mrs. Hayes stated that she felt this was the purest piece of restoration work and that we as an organization would be very smug should we only build walls and plant flowers and fail to help in this English Civilian Relief. The motion was voted upon and carried.

Mrs. Harrison gave some Restoration Notes:

"Spring bloom in the Monticello garden was

very encouraging for such new beds, especially the old-fashioned dwarf hyacinths, the unusual Botanical tulips, *Scilla nutans* (the bluebells of English gardens), and many other spring bulbs. Even in mid-June the borders were lovely, and our Committee was pleased to have the following words of approval from Mr. Fiske Kimball, 'I was at Monticello with Stuart Gibboney on June 15. He said the place never looked so well, and of course this is chiefly the result of your garden work.'

"Wilton: The beauty of the design and the material used in reproducing a proper setting for this wonderful house are fulfilling their purpose, tying it to the natural surroundings of the woodland in which it stands. Anyone with a like problem will find it worthwhile studying Mr. Shurcliff's fine work here. The grounds are admirably kept by the Virginia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, to whom the house belongs.

"Bruton Parish Churchyard now looks as such sacred ground should look, with orderly arrangement of brick walks around the church, and the yard showing care and a reverent feeling in keeping with its historic traditions.

"Stratford is beautiful both in spring and autumn, but especially at the time when the pomegranates on the long wall to the Octagon House are full of shining fruit. The Octagon House is the gift of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, whose efforts to save the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis have given us an opportunity to help them in our turn."

In closing her report, Mrs. Harrison stated, "The subject of the colonial churchyards is so large and important that we can hardly do justice to it in this brief report, but the committee is unanimously in favor of making their rehabilitation the object of future Tours, and a survey is being made to prepare data and authoritative information before we can make a detailed report. In accordance with our established policy, no restoration can be undertaken except at the request of an organization and upon their guaranteed assurance of upkeep.

"The object of the 1941 Tour will be 'The rehabilitation of Colonial Churchyards in Virginia and other restoration work.'"

Mrs. Massie was introduced at this time by

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950*

Mrs. Hayes, as "our beloved Honorary President." Mrs. Massie presented a plan to use the interest on the Massie-Christian Fund for Civilian Relief in England and said: "We wish to present to you a plan for a Mobile Canteen Unit to be presented to Mrs. Tree, through the GCV, and the money is available and will be sent at once. I have a letter from Mrs. Tree which expresses the extreme need for these mobile canteens and by sending them direct to her, she is able to place them where they are most needed, and to be used for Civilian Relief. This will be sent immediately through the Allied Relief to Mrs. Tree and will be marked 'Garden Club of Virginia.' It is with the greatest pleasure that I, representing the Massie-Christian Fund, donate this canteen for the English Relief through the GCV."

\* \* \*

Meeting September 18, at Rose Hill, the Board of Directors decided that a room at the Jefferson Hotel, Richmond, be secured to be used as headquarters for the GCV for the period of one year at \$15.00 per month; the Restoration Committee to pay for six months, or \$90.00, and the GCV to pay for six months, \$90.00. This was approved. Beginning November 1, headquarters were so established in Room 1, and a place for meetings became available. Mrs. Page G. Richardson was placed in charge, and stationery was provided for members' use.

1941

There was a called meeting of the presidents of the member clubs in session with the Chairman of the Restoration Committee, the President of the GCV, and a representative of the Board of Directors at the Jefferson Hotel on January 15, 1941.

Mrs. Hayes read a portion of the minutes of the meeting of the Restoration Committee held in December and also a portion of the minutes of the Board of Directors held January 8, in Alexandria, in regard to the recommendation from the Restoration Committee to the Board that the entire proceeds from Garden Week go to the relief of Britain.

This recommendation was enthusiastically received and endorsed by this meeting of presidents.

Mrs. Hayes asked Mrs. Harrison to speak to the group. She said that she was sorry not to have announced this recommendation earlier but that plans and work had seemed like a ball rolling. She added that "when the world seemed on fire the committee felt that we could not open the gardens as usual; that we should have no Tour, or have it for the most important cause in our country today — Relief for Britain. You will recall the resolution of this committee to send \$1,000.00 from their reserve fund to England for civilian relief. And you will recall also that the committee stated the object of the 1941 Garden Week would be rehabilitation of Colonial Churchyards in Virginia and other restoration work. Now we feel this change in devoting the money from the 1941 Garden Week to British War Relief is urgent and necessary. The churchyards can be in abeyance."

In connection with the colonial churchyards, Mrs. Harrison read the following letter which she had received from Mr. Irving Brock:

"Dear Mrs. Harrison:

"When I was in Virginia at Christmastime, Sylvia Cornwell told me that the Garden Club ladies had given to Britain a large part of the money that was to have been devoted to our neglected old churchyards. I am sure that the dead who sleep in those churchyards will rest more peacefully because of the gift to the living in the Old Country, where so many of Sir Christopher's lovely churches have been laid in ruins and the good people of Coventry have buried their dead in a trench dug with a steam shovel.

"I have great affection for those old churchyards and the churches of good Virginia brick that carried on the English tradition, and I remember how Rudyard Kipling went to the rescue of those London churches when a too 'progressive' Bishop of London was for tearing them down, because they had no worshippers to use them — for I saw him in the midst of his crusade.

"You ladies are our best crusaders for good causes, and most potent preservers of the things we are all proud of — and I'm always glad to be of any help."

Mrs. Hayes called attention to the splendid support from Richmond newspapers, especially

## Follow the Green Arrow

to a fine editorial by Dr. Douglas Freeman in the *Richmond News Leader*:

"From Britain came the gardens that have glorified Virginia; back to England now will go the money visitors pay to see these gardens in the vernal glory of 1941.

"This is the decision reached today by the executive committee of The Garden Club of Virginia. A more appealing, a more appropriate decision scarcely could have been reached.

"The landscape architects to whom was entrusted the research for the gardens of restored Williamsburg found evidence of a hundred sorts that the origin of these gardens was English. There would, of course, have been no reason for doubting this or for assuming a contrary inspiration; but the positive evidence was abundant and full of interest. Among the invoices of goods shipped to the colony of Virginia from England often were items of seed and sometimes even of shrubs. Letters sent from Virginia to 'factors' in Britain frequently included requests for the purchase of plants and flowers Virginians traditionally associated with the 'old country.'

"The research carried some of the landscape architects to England, where they examined virtually all the private gardens that had a continuous history from the eighteenth century or earlier. Some of the lovely and moss-grown gardens of the 1700's scarcely were distinguishable in design from what is known of Virginia gardens of the same century.

"Because this is true, the debt we Virginians owe those of our ancestors who endowed us with gardens is in reality a debt to England. It is maturing in tragic times. To aid a nation whose food supply is threatened by a submarine blockade, the British Government has ordered some of the oldest gardens in the islands plowed under. A tragic case, familiar to many readers, was brought to light last year when an old gardener, faced with the destruction of a far-sweeping lawn, was asked how he ever kept the grass in such perfect condition. His answer was, 'All that's required is constant work and three centuries.' Much that actually has been in developing beauty since 1640 now is giving place to vegetables. The most glorious English gardens are vanishing. What could be more appropriate now than that, from Virginia gardens which

keep their splendor, funds should go back to Britain to be used in the same good cause for which the British have given their gardens—the feeding and relief of victims of this monstrous war?

"Often we proclaim, as we read Colonial history, 'En dat Virginia quartam'—or as some would insist—'quintam'. Behind that was the proud knowledge that Virginia in the nascent years gave a fourth or a fifth "part" to the restored domain of the Stuarts. Now Virginia will give not a realm but an example. We hope that every garden club in the States of the Atlantic Seaboard will follow that example and, spiritually, make in the track of German bombers new gardens for old Britain, 'For the Lord shall comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord.'"

Garden Week in Virginia, April 28-May 3, 1941

"To our visitors: The Garden Club of Virginia bids you welcome, and is proud to share with you during this April Garden Week the many fine old homes and extensive gardens which were planned and executed with loving care by our Colonial forebears.

"It has been said that there is no better way to know our past than to visit the scene of our beginnings. In early days the home was a complete unit, economically and socially. To sit now in these gardens, in the shade of widespreading trees; to visit the manor house and workshops, the outbuildings and the graveyards; and to view the broad cultivated acres of the estates of our ancestors, is to realize better from what manner of men our nation has sprung.

"Restoration is the outstanding undertaking of The Garden Club of Virginia, and the purpose of these annual tours has been the restoration of grounds and gardens of publicly-owned historic shrines in Virginia. This year, however, in view of present world conditions, and in view of our wish to lend all possible aid to the stricken people of England, The Garden Club of Virginia has voted to send the proceeds of the 1941 Spring Garden Tour to the relief of Britain."

(Signed) Mrs. John C. Hayes, President, GCV.

\* \* \*

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950*

Blue Ridge was hostess in Lexington to the Annual Meeting, May 19, 20, 21, 1941.

The first evening, a dinner meeting of the Board of Directors was held at Greyledge, home of Mrs. Sydney Jamison.

The weather was perfect and the setting ideal. The registration of delegates was followed by a luncheon held in the lovely garden started by Mrs. William H. Cocke when General Cocke was Superintendent of V. M. I. Under the shade of oaks, the guests sat at small tables and looked out toward a beautiful view of House Mountain across green fields and fresh new growth of woodlands. The flowers were in beds on steep terraces on the sides of this lovely dell.

The business meeting was held in Lee Chapel on Washington and Lee campus with Valentine's majestic recumbent statue of Lee a serene background.

Mrs. Hayes read her message to the member clubs:

"And now I want to bring to you a message — A Defense Program for the GCV, and a challenge to its members.

"I am afraid some of you may resent my introducing into our Annual Meeting a Defense Program. Conditions are tragic in most parts of the world. So far, we have been spared, but the time has come for us to take stock of ourselves as an organization, and in these precarious times ascertain how we can best carry on our garden work and yet at the same time give of our very best for the furtherance of 'Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men.'

"The place we hold as an organization in the public mind is established and tremendously popular. Let us hold together and work harmoniously. No organization is stronger than its weakest member.

"We must have definite programs, and maintain them. It is necessary to be aware of our weak spots in order to strengthen them. That which is not altered for the better, time alters for the worse. We must look for leaders and uphold them. Cooperation is essential. Eliminate duplication of thought and work. Try to cut down on expenses incidental to the physical working of our member clubs; entertain on a much simpler scale. Each job should be made as interesting as possible, and every effort made

to eliminate criticism. There is so much we can learn from each other, and so many ways in which we can lend a helping hand. If we do not reach out to our members and have them share in the work, the whole set-up loses strength. We seldom tire when we march to music.

"Let us reach out to our gardens for solace and peace — and let us invite the stranger in, to share with us, their beauties."

The Chairman of Admissions presented Warren County Garden Club for regular membership, and Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis for honorary membership. Both were accepted.

It was announced between \$11,000.00 and \$12,000.00 would be realized from Garden Week. The Board of Directors recommended that the fund be used at Plymouth, Lady Astor's home city.

Mrs. Harrison's report on Restoration told of an additional \$1,000.00 given from funds for Woodrow Wilson's Birthplace, \$600.00 for a walk across the front and \$400.00 for the garden.

The east lawn at Monticello is finished and has been approved by the Monticello Foundation; the west lawn was done last year. From the Founder's Fund of The Garden Club of America, post and chain fence used by Jefferson as a boundary for the east lawn has been placed. Fauquier and Loudoun gave a new Chippendale gate for the entrance to the walk to the mansion.

At Kenmore the large garden has been restored, as a row of houses has been pulled down, and a superb walk bordered by tree box has been made toward the Mary Washington house. Presentation was made in May by Mrs. Wheelwright and the garden accepted by the Kenmore Foundation.

Following the meeting, the guests walked across the lovely Washington and Lee campus to tea with Mrs. Francis P. Gaines. The house was beautifully decorated with arrangements of roses, peonies, and iris.

After tea, the horticultural exhibit of rhododendron hybrids, Louisiana iris and Pixie roses brought by the Chairman of Horticulture, and the Memorial Garden, designed by Mrs. Cocke, which won the first Massie award, were visited. The restful Memorial Garden was enjoyed by all, and the two handsome trees with pendant clus-

## Follow the Green Arrow

ters of creamy bloom of the yellowwood, *Cladrastis lutea*, attracted much attention.

Dress parade by the V. M. I. cadets was very gala with the sun low in the sky over House Mountain as the flag was lowered.

The Annual Dinner was held at Col Alto, the home of Mrs. Rosa Tucker Mason. After cocktails on the lawn, the guests went inside for dinner at tables most charmingly and lavishly decorated with gardenias and stephanotis. Handsome epergnes showed these beautiful flowers to excellent advantage.

After dinner, the guests adjourned to Lee Chapel where Dr. Francis P. Gaines delivered an inspiring address, entitled "The Subjective Garden."

At the meeting next morning at Lee Chapel, a motion was made to thank Bundles For Britain for their aid during Garden Week.

A beautiful climax to a delightful two days was the luncheon at Belfield, the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam. Buffet luncheon was served in the unusually beautiful garden that was gay with roses, peonies, iris, and Oriental poppies.

The Blue Ridge club added another link in the chain of delightful annual meetings of the GCV.

Of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Garden, on which Mrs. Harrison reported at this meeting, Mrs. Thomas H. Russell of the Augusta club, wrote:

"A visitor to the garden at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace steps back at once to the charm of her grandmother's day. . . .

"Distinctly Victorian in type, one has the feeling that the garden belongs to the old house, and it is not too formal for such 'simple living and high thinking' as must have obtained here when Woodrow Wilson was born. . . .

". . . As one sits on the first terrace and admires the garden in its entirety with its gay bloom of tulips and pansies, the masses of fruit tree blossoms, the blue stars of the myrtle, mingled with the gold of daffodils, she seems to catch with the pungent odor of box and the fragrance of the nearby magnolia something of that peace for which Woodrow Wilson dedicated his life."

\* \* \*

The Board of Governors held its 1941 fall meeting in Warrenton as guests of the Warrenton club. The famed hospitality of Warrenton was delightfully exemplified, for nearly all of the 60 visitors were guests in the many charming homes of the members.

Preceding the meeting, Mrs. Reginald Vickers was hostess to the Board at a beautifully appointed dinner at her home, Gordonsdale, near The Plains.

Registration and all business meetings were held in the Parish House of St. James Church. Here the delegates heard Mrs. Wheelwright recall that the first GCV Annual Meeting after its organization had been held in Warrenton 20 years before.

Mrs. Gilliam, chairman of a special committee on *Garden Gossip*, reported that the illness of its Editor, Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson, had prevented her performing her duties. Individual members had filled the breach. Assuming the responsibility for two months each, were Mrs. W. W. Gibbs, Mrs. Powell Glass, Mrs. Laird Conrad, Mrs. James Mann, Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., and Mrs. Gilliam. Mrs. Hayes praised this contribution: "It is a tedious job, and they have never done this type of work before.



August, 1941, cover of *GARDEN GOSSIP*. The photograph and caption by Mrs. Sands showing her idea of an acceptable sign.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950

They are the real heroines of this heroic garden club."

The final returns for Garden Week having been over \$19,000.00, a check for this amount had been mailed to Lady Astor. Not having been acknowledged, a polite inquiry was made which resulted in the following cablegram sent to Mrs. Hayes from Plymouth, England: "Horrorified to hear you never received our grateful thanks for your magnificent gift of nearly \$20,000.00. My letter must have gone down. You can never know what your help means both to our spirit and our bodies. Virginia will never fail a good cause. Love to all. Nancy Astor." A later cablegram from Lady Astor stated that she would broadcast from England to the generous members of the GCV on the night of October 30, at seven o'clock our time. [Ed: Unfortunately no record of this broadcast has survived.]

Recommended by Mrs. Hayes, the Inter-Club Arrangement Class had become a successful part of the three flower shows.

The Rose Test Chairman reported that the new Test Collection would have 16 roses in 14 varieties, "the newest and best obtainable and at the low price of \$20.25." She said that the rose testing methods of the GCV interested a great many, and she had been asked to write an article on this subject for the 1942 Rose Annual issued to the American Rose Society's 3,000 members.

The Annual Dinner was held at View Tree, the home of Mr. Oscar T. Crosby, who was Assistant Secretary of Treasury under President Wilson. Mr. Crosby's two daughters, Countess Miriam Caracciolo Di Melito, who is in this country for the duration, and Mrs. Celeste Miller, were charming hostesses. After dinner, the guests assembled in the large drawing room. Mrs. George Sloane presented Mrs. Frederick Stout of Philadelphia, who gave an interesting and colorful talk on Flower Arrangements.

The reports of the presidents of the 31 member clubs were given at the final business session. Worthy of note was that, in addition to its regular activities, practically every club presented a definite program of defense work. Mrs. George Sloane entertained at luncheon at her home, White Hall Farm, bringing the meeting to a happy close.

\* \* \*

[Ed: Only a few weeks later, on December 7, 1941, the disaster of Pearl Harbor took place and the United States entered the world-wide conflict. Life as known before changed completely for the GCV and its membership.]

The three state flower shows were abandoned for the duration. (It was heartening to read in the April 18, 1943, *Washington Post* that not holding the annual Narcissus Show was deplored, and its value was emphasized as being second only to that of the Royal Horticultural Society.)

By valiant efforts the three test gardens were maintained by the chairmen. (One lamented that the all-important peat moss was unobtainable, and she was following an uncharted attempt to provide good food by the use of river loam, top soil, and bone meal when she could get it.)

Individual members endured all the anxious pride in sons and husbands in the services, military and civilian, in Europe, in the Pacific.

These members were never more active, and never contributed more. Again and again the name of the seemingly tireless Susa Snider appears. Recognizing the GCV need to create a fund for war efforts, she designed and had printed Christmas cards for the members' use. The card sold for 10¢, and eventually earned \$4,000.00, which was used for several patriotic purposes.

Another Susa-suggestion was for a manuscript cookbook to contain favorite recipes of GCV members. This little book is now a collector's item. (It earned \$812.88 on the first printing, and a second edition of 1,000 was ordered. Later, all profits were turned over to Famine Relief.)

It is deplored that here it is possible to picture only one of these recipes as hand-written. One reason is that the writing (as well as the recipe selected) is indicative of each individual. There's Mrs. Massie's Hot Water Pie Crust, casual penmanship, legible and well-spaced, practical . . . and ending "(Never Failing)." No one allowed an alibi here. And Lemon Velvet by Laura Wheelwright . . . black ink, clear directions with not an extra word, firmly written.



The Christmas Card designed by Mrs. Warner Snider in 1941. It sold for 10¢ and earned \$4,000.00 for the war effort.

So characteristic of the creator. And Foxcroft Thanksgiving Gumbo, a somewhat complicated recipe in fine writing, small letters, and lines close together, all suggesting a hurried executive. The signature of very small letters, "Charlotte H. Noland." And the excellent housekeeper whose meals were planned with care and discrimination; the simplest lunch was savored for its perfection of preparation. In penmanship of style, directions and method carefully detailed, was Trincomee Curry by Violet Niles Walker.

1942

Meeting early in 1942, the Board of Directors decided that "due to the National Emergency, Historic Garden Week will be omitted for the year 1942, with the intention of resuming the Tour when conditions permit."

The Board met again in May. Only ten were present, and they debated five hours as to the course the organization would take.

All plans having been made, in May, 1942, the Annual Meeting was held in Charlottesville, the hostess club, Rivanna, its president, Mrs. William Smithy.

The death of Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson was announced. High praise was spoken for the standards of excellence she had given *Garden Gossip* throughout her six years' editorship. Mrs. W. R. Winfree of the Lynchburg club was appointed her successor.

A telegram, signed by Governor Darden,

*Old Fashioned Sticky Sponge Cake.*

*Take 8 eggs, their weight in sugar, half their weight in sifted flour & the grated rind & juice of 2 lemons.*

*Separate eggs & beat yolks together with sugar, then add the sifted flour, beating well.*

*Add grated rind & juice of 2 lemons & last of all, fold in the whites of eggs which have been beaten stiff.*

*Pour on to square panned & left powdered sugar to make a good crust. Bake in a moderate oven.*

*This cake should be broken, never cut with a knife & is served with ice-cream or any cold drinks.*

*Wm Fairfax Harrison*

*Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club.*

A page of the cookbook published by The Garden Club of Virginia in 1941. The dedication of this cookbook reads: "To the Long-suffering Husbands of all Garden Club Members this book is remorsefully dedicated."

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950*

John Stewart Bryan, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., asked the GCV to become a sponsoring member of the USO campaign. Glad to be of active use, the members agreed and sent \$100.00 at once.

Mrs. Sands said sadly that "curtailment of roadside activities was inevitable in the face of the existing emergency," but urged the assembly to exercise vigilant adherence to the slogan, "Keep the roadsides of Virginia the most beautiful in America."

The Massie Medal that was awarded to Mrs. Harrison was inscribed: "To Hetty Cary Harrison, whose inheritance and ideals inspired fruitful research into the history of Virginia gardens and shrines."

Tea was served in the home of Mrs. Ivey Foreman Lewis on the East Lawn, and the members visited the other homes and gardens on the Lawns. "The pavilion gardens were perfectly charming restful spots of beauty, enclosed by the famous serpentine walls, in which one found it hard to realize the suffering and sorrow of the outside world."

The Annual Dinner was held at Farmington Country Club, and the guests were entertained by the Virginia Players with "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight."

Mrs. Hayes was warmly thanked for her two years of vibrant leadership, with special appreciation for her skill in directing the GCV in its first hesitant steps into war activities.

Luncheon at Gallison Hall, the home of Mrs. Julio S. Galban, brought the meeting to a close, with members returning to ever-increasing responsibilities in their homes and communities.

### *1942-1944 - Mrs. Powell Glass, President*

"I can but regret that it is impossible for us to anticipate untroubled days together and plan the coming years upon generous scale.

"The existing world cataclysm must of necessity bring change and restrictions not only in the lives of individuals but into the activities of organizations. Already there is an awareness of the inevitability of greater localization of our efforts." (So spoke the newly elected President in the springtime of 1942.)

For the young among us who say, blandly not

accusingly — "There was not much you could do" — one is puzzled. How to tell of tired bodies, unusual chores, endless work. The misery of concealed anxiety. The frustrations of fatigue. The ready acceptance of the inconveniences of rationing. Voluntary services of all kinds.

Gardens are Victory Gardens; all emphasis is upon vegetables. Food, it is said, will win the war. Canning is the vogue. Even *Garden Gossip* carries recipes from efficient members. The fashion in war effort was skill.

Local flower shows were held with the competition centered on specimens; some artistic arrangements were included for rest and enjoyment.

\* \* \*

In the fall of this year, the hospitable members of the Nansemond River club opened wide their Suffolk doors. Mrs. Frank A. Holliday was president of the club.

The Directors met in the morning and were entertained at luncheon by Mrs. John F. Pinner. The delegates registered in the later afternoon, dined in group dinners at four lovely homes, and started their meeting at 8:30 that night. Reports were kept to a minimum, and brevity was stressed. (For once they must have been brief because they "repaired to the beautiful home of Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Godwin for a reception and musicale.")

Commendation was expressed to Governor Darden for refusing to scrap the historical iron fence around the Capitol Building, bonds were purchased, contributions made to the Virginia War Fund and USO, and it was voted to omit the 1943 Annual Meeting.

A buffet luncheon with Mrs. C. B. Godwin ended the meeting.

Since Mrs. Harrison died the following year, her last report as Chairman of Restoration is given in full:

"It gives me great pleasure to report satisfactory progress on our three unfinished projects now near completion, viz:

1. The churchyard at Christ Church, Middlesex County.
  2. The completion of the Stratford Gardens.
  3. Fincastle churchyard in Botetourt County.
- "The churchyard at Christ Church, Middle-



*Tenth Restoration, 1940, Christ Church, Middlesex County, built 1712-13 on site of 1665 building. In this churchyard are tombs of many distinguished statesmen, including Governors of the Colony. Grymes tombs are shown in the foreground.*

sex, has been enclosed on the front and north sides, facing the two roadways, with a solid brick wall, a reproduction of the original wall, of which there were bricks found on the ground, including whole samples of coping brick.

"On the two other sides of the property, the forest comes to the edge of the churchyard and presents a beautiful wall of green in spring, full of dogwood and other native flowering trees, which are equally lovely in the autumn. Could there be a more perfect colonial setting for this ancient church? With the addition of a brick walk from the gate to the front door of the church, our part in the restoration has been completed.

"Within the churchyard, the monuments and other stones have been carefully restored by descendants and members of the families buried therein, and the Church Cemetery Guild is

responsible for their care. A letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Guild expresses their deep appreciation of the gift of the GCV and assures us of the permanent care of this restoration.

"At Stratford, work has been under way for the past year in the area west of the mansion, now called the service yard. You will remember that, more than a year ago, the Restoration Committee by agreement with the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation turned over to them the \$18,000 in bonds, proceeds of the 1932 Garden Tour for Stratford. The interest from these bonds had been used for the upkeep of the gardens until their transfer.

"The new service yard includes the cold frames, pottery sheds, and Orangery (mentioned by Thomas Lee Shippen in his letter), which are being built against a north boundary wall of brick. Here also are the herb gardens, small fruits and vegetables in beds laid out according to plans made by the landscape architect, Innocenti, of New York.

"General Cheatham's reports on progress during the year have made dramatic reading, but the miracle has happened and the work is nearing completion. Fortunately the R. E. Lee Foundation acted promptly last autumn and bought all necessary brick for walls, buildings, and walks from the makers of the brick used in other Stratford restorations; using local labor, the General has graded and laid out the whole area, and now Mrs. Ambrose Ford, Chairman of Gardens at Stratford, reports that the walls have been built, the walks laid, and the box planted as called for, taking it from surplus plantings in the other gardens.

"Our third restoration takes us into new territory and one full of historic interest, the Fincastle churchyard in Botetourt County. Bishop Meade mentions this old brick church which was built by members of the Established Church, of cruciform design, but later taken over and changed to its present rectangular form by the Presbyterians on their occupation of the Valley. The churchyard is filled with 18th century flat gravestones, the family lots enclosed in quaint iron fences, with names familiar to all of us, filling the lists of burials preserved in the church records from earliest times. An effort is being

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950

made by the local committees to reach the descendants of these old families in order to make an orderly restoration of their graves.

"The Fincastle Church authorities have guaranteed the upkeep of all plantings and work done by our committee. With the completion of these restorations, our committee will have no further funds for new work until the war is over and conditions make it possible to have more Garden Tours or until other means are found to carry on our work. Virginia is full of churchyards calling for help, and our established purpose still is: to restore enclosures, to provide protection, and inspire greater reverence for our sacred ground."

\* \* \*

An editorial in the *Richmond News-Leader*:  
"When Mrs. Fairfax Harrison died, Virginia lost

one of her most brilliant daughters. All that her husband was among men, she was among women. They had the same background and the same inheritance of great names and high traditions. Had Hetty Cary Harrison lived in Richmond during the period of the Confederacy, she would have been as renowned as either the famous Hetty or Constance Cary of that era. One could imagine her, in fact, as being the heroine of many of the stories told in her mother-in-law's memoirs, *Recollections Grave and Gay*. All that was Virginian appealed to Mrs. Harrison. Wherever she went, she gave grace to the occasion and beauty to the setting."

Recognizing the desire of the GCV to pay a proper tribute to Mrs. Harrison, the president appointed Mrs. Sands to serve as chairman of a committee for this purpose. Profound thought and thorough discussion were devoted to the many restorations with which she was associated, especially at Monticello since she was a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson's sister. But a letter came from Dr. E. G. Swem, Historian and Librarian of the College of William and Mary, in which he asked that a portrait of Mrs. Harrison be placed there, together with a collection of garden books. He cited that her forbear, Miles Cary, was on the first Board of Trustees, mentioned in the charter of 1693, and that six generations of students bearing the name of Cary have since entered the College.

This memorial was adopted, and the portrait painter, Ivan Olinsky, was selected. Her own Belvoir House bookplate was used, and her good collection of gardening books formed the nucleus for the one that resulted.

(At a simple ceremony, held May 4, 1944, the portrait was unveiled by Mrs. Charles Baird, her daughter, and presented by Mrs. Massie. In his acceptance, Dr. Pomfret, the College President, referred to the long and close ties binding her to the institution and concluded: "Mrs. Harrison comes home again." A short title list now runs to 8 pages, and this collection of books on gardening and gardens is regarded as one of the most outstanding in the country.)

1943

No meeting was held in May, 1943, but realizing that there was great need for com-



Eleventh Restoration, 1942, Fincastle Churchyard is Botetourt County.



This portrait of Mrs. Fairfax (Hetty Cary) Harrison presented to the College of William and Mary by Mrs. Massie, Honorary President, the portrait being unveiled by Mrs. Harrison's daughter, Mrs. Charles Baird.

munication, the President called an open meeting in November, 1943, at the Hotel Roanoke.

The first evening a "brilliant reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. Powell Glass, which also included a number of men, friends of Mr. Glass, an unusual event at a gathering of women gardeners."

At 8:15 the next morning, a breakfast meeting was held. Mrs. Glass urged each member to continue devotion to conservation and horticulture while not neglecting the all-important activity of war work.

The Presbyterian Church at Fincastle was visited. Mrs. Hopkins, the local chairman, served as guide, and later the members enjoyed a buffet lunch at her charming country home.

1944

In the April issue of *Garden Gossip*, the newly appointed Chairman of Restoration, Mrs. W. Allan Perkins wrote of "Monticello Today."

"Thomas Jefferson, if alive April 13, 1944, could celebrate his two hundred and first birthday. Monticello can claim one hundred and seventy-four years of age. It was his home for fifty-three years and still stands as he left it, impressive and serene. The building dates from a snowy night in January, 1770, when the young Jefferson brought his bride to make the small west pavilion their home. We may be sure that before her arrival the bridegroom had moved some of the old favorite shrubs—lilacs and calicanthus—from his father's farm, to be transplanted on the newly leveled mountain top.

"March 30, 1766—Purple hyacinths in bloom' is the first entry in Mr. Jefferson's Garden Book. A month later there is another note, 'Purple flag in bloom. Hyacinths and narcissus gone.' Although he was writing at that time from Shadwell, a visitor to Monticello this spring, or any other spring, may look for purple showing in the beds and realize that our seasons vary as much sometimes as two weeks, or the dates may be the same this year as then. The descendants of these same purple flags, hyacinths, and narcissus were found escaping down the mountainside, were captured, and are now happily growing and blooming in the beds. The little white Jeffersonia and feathered hyacinths were also discovered in masses on the slopes, and now, planted in the garden, attract possibly more interest than any other flowers there.

"In a letter which Mr. Jefferson wrote to a friend in 1810 we read, 'My greenhouse is only a piazza adjoining my study, because I mean it for nothing more than oranges.' The Restoration Committee, in trying to reproduce all as it was, bought some small orange trees in tubs for the greenhouse. During the winter, three years ago, two of them were killed by freezing, and two barely survived. Going back to the Jefferson correspondence, we find that in the winter of 1810 'Every plant that I had in it [the greenhouse] perished.' History repeats itself. The present gardener now admits that he takes no more chances, and for two winters he has had the orange trees removed to a hothouse, and they have been returned, in a flourishing condition, ready to spend only the warm months on the terraces at their home.

"Jefferson's long-delayed landscaping plans

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950

were not completed until 1808. This would make the flower beds and borders at Monticello one hundred and thirty-six years old if the garden had not been obliterated. Five years ago in March, the GCV undertook the restoration. As in all Virginia gardening, the first step was grubbing honeysuckle. This had encroached upon the west lawn and had taken possession of an entire side of the east lawn. Not long before the GCV began its work on the grounds, a landscape architect visited Monticello for research purposes. He found that 'a pattern of planting was certainly not obvious. The grass is not cut closely with a lawn mower but is gone over occasionally with a field machine.'

"In five years then, it is amazing to note the changes. A fulltime gardener is employed, a water system has been installed which gives an unlimited supply for sprinkling, and a power mower goes over the lawn almost continuously. Before the GCV became interested, the grounds were tidily kept by one colored man who was

a wonder. He clipped the hedges, raked the lawn, drove the horse-mower, chopped wood, and attended to all the endless chores out-of-doors, but there was no cultivation or weeding of beds for him to do because there was not a flower or vegetable growing at Monticello. Lilacs grew in thickets too closely to bloom; Dorothy Perkins roses sprawled in and over the hedges. Iris, hyacinths, and narcissus came up every spring in the lawn but produced only foliage. Ivy, giving an atmosphere of charm and age, clung to the walls of the house but threatened, by its weight and dampness, to destroy both the brickwork and the cornices. Although meeting with some opposition, the Restoration Committee of the Foundation had the ivy torn off, the mortar joints repaired, the woodwork renewed and painted so that the original mansion was actually saved from becoming a picturesque ruin in the not-too-distant future.

"What is to be seen today? Gravel roundabout walks which are constantly raked, hedges trimmed, flower beds full of bloom from April to frost, a fishpond which reflects colors and fascinates photographers, white gates, posts and chains, and brick steps easy to ascend. There are no picnic papers strewn about and no cigarette stumps to be seen. Never a flower has been picked without permission, and there have been hundreds of tourists a day wandering unattended everywhere. It is remarkable, but isn't the answer that neatness is respected? Disappointments there are, of course: horticultural casualties, ants in the tulip bed, wallflowers that just won't live, ice plants that expire after looking 'perfectly healthy,' yuccas that refuse to be transplanted. But why tell more of these stories familiar to every gardener?

"Aside from usual tragedies, care and hard work are evident, and for this maintenance the GCV is deeply grateful to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, whose appreciation can be shown in no better way than in carrying on 'so that,' to quote Mr. Fiske Kimball, 'if Mr. Jefferson himself were to return, he would find every plant exactly where his plan had planted it, and would rejoice in the perfection with which all had survived untarnished by time.'

"On a 'setting stone' at the side of the round-



The First Lady of Virginia Poses as the Symbol of the Red Cross.

March, 1944, cover of *GARDEN GOSSIP*. Mrs. Colgate W. Darden posed for this war poster.

## Follow the Green Arrow

about walk is a bronze plaque on which is inscribed, 'The Gardens of Thomas Jefferson were restored and presented to Monticello by The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940.' The work is done; may it mellow through the years and be enjoyed by posterity."

\* \* \*

The Twenty-third Annual Meeting was open and was held at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, May 2-3, 1944. Social activities were cut to a minimum, and no formal parties were given. A welcome break from reports was having tea at the Executive Mansion with Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr.

At dinner, Mrs. Massie gave a clear and concise story of the Massie-Christian Fund. [Ed: Since its establishment, this fund has been a part of the GCV history, and many references and versions exist. A many-paged explanation was given by Mrs. Massie on May 10, 1938, and is preserved in our archives. The most comprehensive account seems to be its final reckoning, given by Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne in 1951. It will be found under that date.] In closing, Mrs. Massie said: "My appearance before you tonight is to tell you of a decision for the use of the Massie-Christian Fund. I hope, in this decision of the trustees to use the Massie-Christian Fund for a restoration of the churchyard of St. John's Church to simple dignity, that the GCV will be unanimously in sympathy. What more hallowed or historic shrine exists in the whole United States than St. John's Church? To use this fund for this purpose is an honor we are proud to sponsor."

Mrs. Massie then presented Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne, daughter of the late Mrs. Andrew H. Christian and Treasurer of the fund. Mrs. Claiborne told the members assembled that the trustees proposed to expend the entire trust fund on this recommended restoration under plans acceptable to the Director of Public Works of Richmond. She read an ordinance concerning the restoration, which had been approved by the City Council and the Board of Aldermen with the proviso that the city thereafter maintain the grounds in a fitting manner and appropriate annually a sufficient fund for maintenance. The ordinance authorized the city

to accept and to express gratitude and appreciation for the proposed restoration.

Following Mrs. Claiborne, The Honorable Alexander W. Weddell, whose father was at one time rector of St. John's Church, gave a brief sketch of the history 'Of Old St. John's.'

In a booklet published by the congregation of the church are these words: "Upon the church rolls appear the names of some of the most illustrious men our country has ever produced. St. John's may well be called the birthplace of Liberty for those brave men of the Virginia Convention, numbering among its numbers, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and hosts of other famous patriots, fired and enthused by the burning words of Patrick Henry, nerved themselves for the long struggle for independence which ended in the freedom of the Colonies.

"It was on March 23, 1775, that this noble patriot, Patrick Henry, addressed the Virginia Convention in St. John's Church, ending with the words that are as challenging to our time and as thrilling to us today, as they were in the days preceding the American Revolution:

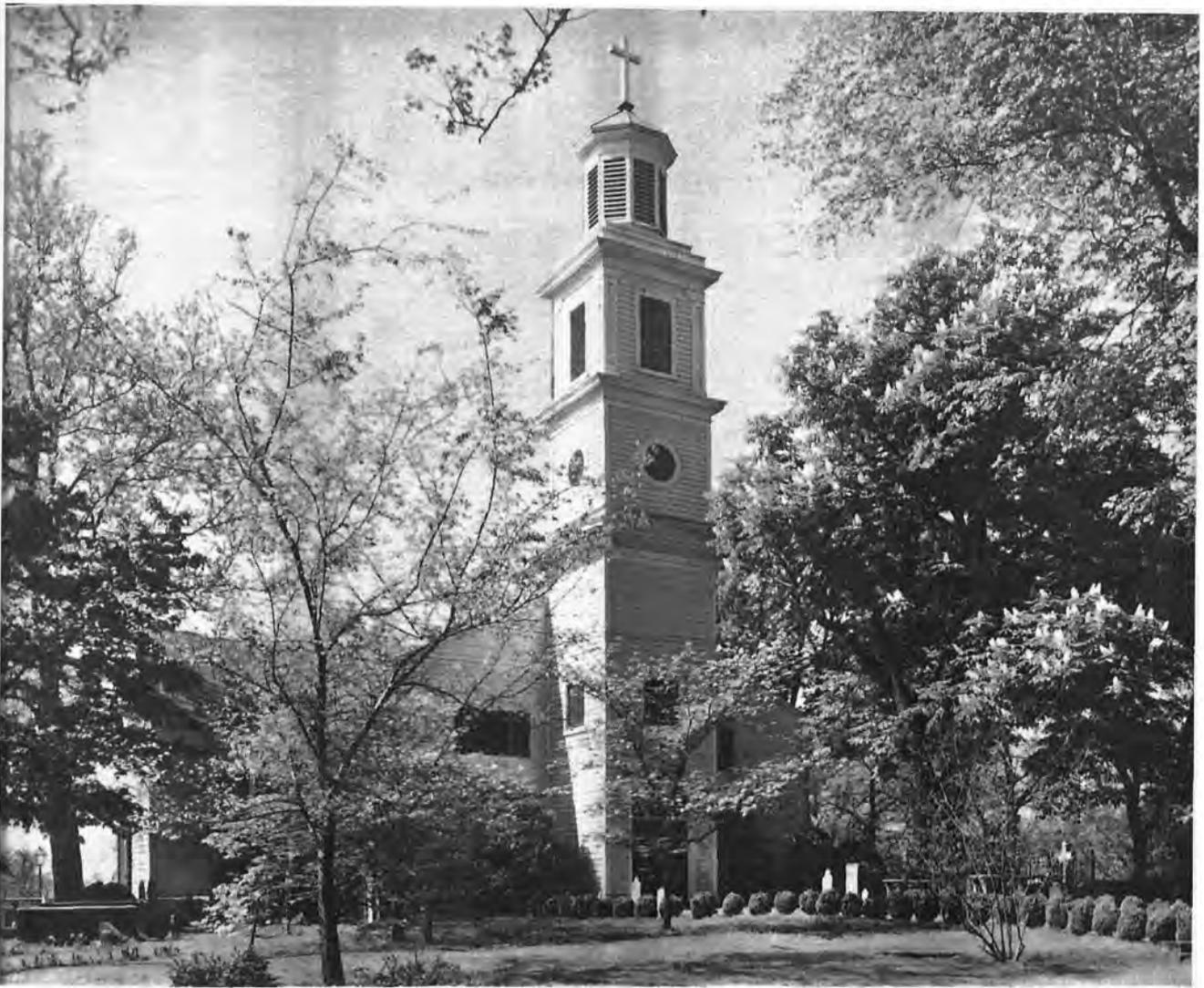
"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God; I know not what course others may take; but as for me, Give me Liberty, or give me Death!"

[The Editor must include here some comments on this presidency as it comes to an end. With her Lynchburg neighbors, Mrs. Powell Glass had faithfully performed all the diverse and routine war chores. She also served as Woman Chairman of the Virginia USO, a Trustee of the Virginia War Fund, and Virginia Chairman of "Young America Wants to Help," a branch of British War Relief.]

She ended her term with these words: "The inescapable seriousness of wartime, the demanding chores, so daily-needed the tonic of something silly in comic relief - Along came Mairzy Doats.

"You remember? Of course, you do.

Mairzy doats,  
Dozy doats,  
Lil lambsy divey,  
Kidly divey too  
Wouldn't you?"



*Special Restoration, 1950. St. John's Churchyard, Richmond, restored with the Massie-Christian Fund derived from sales of HOMES AND GARDENS IN OLD VIRGINIA. First proposed May 2, 1944, the completed restoration was presented May 23, 1950. The Massie-Christian Fund also donated a second British Mobile Kitchen in 1941.*

And the Editor writes the closing paragraph:

So Anne Glass concludes her dedicated but difficult two year term as a War President of the GCV. Her bubbling humor, her use of the exact word and phrase for the situation, and her untiring devotion had earned her the loving respect of the GCV.

1944-1946 — Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell,  
President

"Lady of grace, . . . fair of face."

Louise Dibrell was President during some of the difficult years—the continued war years.

Truly they were difficult years for heart, mind, and body. Especially was it difficult to keep in touch with members of a state-wide organization in the hope of stimulating a some-day enthusiasm for pleasure gardening again.

However, urged by the quiet-spoken persistent words and generous deeds of the tall, blonde President, the affairs of the club (its members, the committee chairmen, all the personnel), fatiguing and limited, continued and are recalled in tranquility.

The new President used the pages of *Garden Gossip* to keep in touch with the membership.

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The fall meeting of the Board of Governors was cancelled.

1945

The Annual Meeting of 1945 was also cancelled, still in compliance with the request of the Office of Defense Transportation limiting travel to meetings and conventions.

On May 9, the officers, directors and five committee chairmen, a total of twelve, met in Charlottesville. Mrs. Dibrell spoke of the continuing war work conducted with enthusiasm by the member clubs, and regretted especially that the May meeting could not be held since it marked the 25th anniversary of the organization of the GCV. She told of the suggestion by the Blue Ridge club that in recognition of this anniversary, each member be given the opportunity of voluntarily donating a war bond. (This produced \$2,950.00 for the barren GCV treasury.)

The Garden Club of Gloucester was elected to membership.

Mrs. Winfree reported that *Garden Gossip* was now also the official publication of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs.

The historian reported that she was writing the GCV history and "the work is already under way." [Ed: This firm statement was made almost every year from 1930 on but having so stated, the historians rested!]

The Massie Medal was awarded but not physically presented. Mrs. Dibrell explained, "Mrs. Massie begs me to say that all the available medals made of bronze are now worn on the uniforms of our valiant soldiers and sailors, but as soon as we civilians can have such an award, this one is on the list for delivery."

The Restoration Chairman told of the rebuilding of the steps at Monticello leading from the driveway to the cemetery in which Thomas Jefferson is buried. This was approved by mail ballot and limited to \$1,000.00. The garden at Red Hill, home of Patrick Henry, was discussed and agreement made to hold this request in abeyance until proper maintenance could be assured.

It was decided that "the typewriter belonging to the Tour Committee of the GCV be loaned to the Crippled Children's Hospital in Richmond,



Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Twelfth President, 1944-1946.

to be returned in good condition when asked for." [Ed: We shall hear of this typewriter later!]

By October 16, 1945, restrictions were lifted and an open meeting was held at the Hotel Roanoke. At this meeting the organization prepared for peace as it had prepared for war. Flower shows were to be resumed, but Garden Week was to remain dormant for the time being.

Mrs. Dibrell, greeting the membership, said: "Each one of you, I am sure, can imagine my joy and satisfaction in being able to greet you at this meeting today because since May, 1944, I have wished many times for just these contacts and for the pleasure of knowing you personally.

"In my heart I believe we come to this meeting in a spirit of thanksgiving to God for the Victory that is ours, for the opportunity that is ours, today, for service. We are conscious of the tragic cost of the Victory, and I believe that I am safe in saying that there has been, and is, a common bond of sympathetic understanding among the members of this organization in the

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sorrow and anxiety that many of our members have endured during these years of war. Surely this will bind us together in a common purpose to take our places in building the new world. We must take up the task to work for a lasting Peace, the task that our sons and daughters began and that many could not finish. We must have faith in the members of this organization to make our homes and communities better places in which to live, and, when the purposes of The Garden Club of Virginia are carried out, we will have accomplished that beginning. Where there is beauty, hate cannot exist."

Mrs. Winfree announced that she had been asked to write an editorial for each issue of *Garden Gossip*. "Whether or not it was because my father was a minister or because I had taught the Bible for many years, I then and there decided on an editorial policy. The hyacinth for our souls would be verses from the Holy Scriptures, with a few words relating to their subject matter. Man first met God in a garden; therefore it seemed fitting that God's word should have a place in a garden magazine." [Ed: These were titled "A Thought for the Times" and gave spiritual strength to her readers throughout her editorship.]

The Test Chairmen, hoping for supplies and adequate labor, gave enthusiastic plans. The Rose Test report was interesting: "I received a rose listed as No. 43R12. When it first came into bloom in my garden, it was startlingly beautiful. It has now been named Peace."

1946

The hard years were gone, and spring was at hand. At last, Augusta's longstanding invitation could be accepted, and on May 21, 1946, the members, in gay anticipation of the first real post-war meeting, assembled in Staunton.

It was 25 years from the first meeting, if not the meeting of inauguration. So Augusta used the silver motif and carried it out in every detail. Emily Smith was chairman of the meeting and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Honorary Member of the GCV, was the honored guest. Her presence added grace and charm to every assembly in the city of Staunton, the birthplace of her distinguished husband. Each guest was given a booklet, its cover an engraving by Horace Day,

containing a history of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace and garden.

For this brief span of time, the foreboding war years were put aside and, without guilty conscience, social entertainment was enjoyed. The opening event was the dinner given for the Board by Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs at her home, Gibbs Hill.

The membership assembled the next morning at Stuart Hall. They were greeted by its principal, Mrs. William T. Hodges, and told that the school was founded 102 years ago, at one time being The Virginia Female Institute, with Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart as its principal. Mrs. Hodges was later hostess at luncheon at Stuart Hall.

The members were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Joseph G. Walker. A former President, she had served in countless capacities, as Editor of *Garden Gossip* and as Lily Test Chairman. "Lily expert, her own lily beds form a growing textbook."

The GCV and its members had been buying War Bonds through the war years, and the total was announced as \$1,008,343.70.

Before going to the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace for tea, where Mrs. Wilson received the guests, Mrs. Smith introduced Mrs. Henry M. Kistner, author of a book to be published in October, entitled *Flower Arrangements*. Mrs. Kistner had filled the Woodrow Wilson house with suitable flower arrangements from the top floor to the basement. During and after tea, these were extravagantly admired.

At the dinner, Lady Astor and Mr. Richardson Wright, Editor of *House and Garden* were the speakers. (Those speeches were termed "witty and delightful." If only copies remained!)

Preceded by a lecture by Mrs. Kistner, the final luncheon was enjoyed by 200 guests on the spacious lawn of Waverley, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

1946-1948 — Mrs. C. James Andrews,  
President

The beginning of a return to a common glory in the past and a common will in the present was made through the leadership and tact of Jean Andrews. She cared deeply. The war had been cruel for her. Even so, she picked up the

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loose ends of the multicolored threads and wove them into a pattern once more.

In the summer of 1946, the Directors met at Rose Hill with Mrs. Massie. An important decision was reached: HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK WAS TO BE RESUMED IN 1947! The Co-Chairmen appointed were Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe, and Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River. The AP carried this news to all its outlets!

\* \* \*

And back on regular schedule, in October, 1946, the Board of Governors met in Fredericksburg as guests of the Rappahannock Valley club. The Directors were the dinner guests of Mrs. Gari Melchers in Falmouth, and the comment "just like before the war" was heard.

Before the first business session, the Kenmore Association entertained at this lovely old home, the garden of which was the first GCV restoration. At this time, the President was presented with the gavel that is still being used. In her welcoming speech, Mrs. Andrews said: "As we meet together this fall, we have come out of the darkness of war into the light of peace, and ours is the privilege of reconverting from a wartime to a peacetime program.

"You will remember that during the war there were many anxious questions in the minds of many as to the wisdom of carrying on our garden clubs. That we were justified in continuing them was proven by the magnificent war work done by our fine clubs. It was a difficult task for our Presidents—Mrs. Hayes, as the war began, and during the conflict Mrs. Glass and Mrs. Dibrell—to hold our organization together. But they did it nobly. Ours is the happier task as we resume our peacetime avocations, and strive to keep up the high and charming standard set by the GCV."

The Parliamentarian was Mrs. Gilliam, her committee, Mrs. W. W. S. Butler and Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith. Never before nor since has a parliamentary committee worked so hard. They were instructed to study and change committees and procedures and recommend by-laws to cover these changes. This revision took two years, was discussed at every meeting, and the majority of the changes are still in existence.

The first evidence of new winds blowing was a new title for the Tour Committee. It became the Historic Garden Week Committee, a Special Committee, and as such its Chairman was entitled to attend the meetings. Since 1929, the Tour Committee had functioned under the direction of, but never as a part of, the Restoration Committee.

The GCV adopted an entire village at this meeting. It was called *Ver Sur Mer*, and Mrs. Snider was appointed head of this undertaking, incorporated into her Famine Relief Committee. She reported that in July this committee had sent to the widows of Greek soldiers, 3 Brown Swiss heifers, in calf, with sufficient feed for 3 months.

She then told of the historic interest of *Ver Sur Mer*. It was the point from which William the Conqueror embarked when he set sail to invade England. "In its area is Omaha Beach, where the 29th Division debarked, and 40,000 of our men are buried in the cemetery here. It was here that Admiral Richard Byrd was rescued when he landed in the sea on his transatlantic flight. The name of the man who rescued Admiral Byrd, and cared for him in his own house, is Joseph Coiffier. Monsieur Coiffier is now mayor and working with us. This fishing village was bombed 7 times by Allied planes because of the strong German defenses here. Of its 421 houses, 156 are entirely gone, 148 bombed beyond repair, 42 partially bombed. There are remaining only 500 inhabitants, 156 of them children." Arrangements had been made to send everything free through the American Aid to France, and already blankets, food, clothing, and requested hot-water bottles had arrived and been distributed there.

Mrs. Snider concluded with the story of a small boy who was carrying an even smaller child up a hill. Asked whether the heavy burden wasn't too much for him, the boy answered: "It's not a burden. It's my brother."

Restoration was resumed. The Chairman read a letter from her committee member, Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, recommending Gunston Hall as the next project, stating that the owner, Mr. Louis Hertle, now 87, had given the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia, retaining a life tenancy. "Gunston Hall was built between



*Fourteenth Restoration, Gunston Hall in Fairfax County, built in 1755 by George Mason, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights. Now owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is administered by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. First proposed in October, 1946, adopted as a restoration project in 1948, it was presented on May 24, 1952. It is termed "the most beautiful parterre garden in America."*

1755-1758 by George Mason, author of the famed Virginia Bill of Rights, the provisions of which are embraced in practically every State Constitution in the Union. The rare boxwood, eleven feet in height and planted at the same time the house was built, is the admiration of all visitors and was pronounced by Lord Balfour to be one of the finest specimens he had ever seen." The Chairman stated that her Committee and the Board received this recommendation "with an enthusiasm not untouched with reverence," and the assembly voted for this project with the same emotions.

The Lily Test Chairman announced the gift, from the Dolly Madison club, of a silver cup in

memory of its member, Violet Niles Walker, to be first awarded at the 1947 Lily Show.

Mrs. Collins, speaking also for her Co-Chairman, Mrs. Strudwick, outlined plans for Garden Week 1947. She was greeted with applause to which she made a typical response: "You'd better hold your fire. You may not clap so loudly in May." Referring to the "loss of momentum during the four war years, the fact that places have changed hands and the list of owners now incorrect," she said that they must "start from scratch." With Mrs. John G. Hayes as advisor and Mrs. Douglas Southall Freeman directing publicity, the need for a secretary was the greatest problem. "Fortunately we have just



Mrs. Irving L. (Adelia) Matthews. In 1946 she began her efficient supervision of Historic Garden Week and, in 1970, is still its Executive Director.

secured Mrs. Irving L. Matthews, who served with Mrs. Hayes as secretary of the Red Cross Special Services through the war. She is a woman we believe you will be glad to have represent the GCV." (So Adelia Matthews enters our life and has enhanced it to the present time.)

Mrs. John Lee Pratt of Chatham Manor entertained at tea the first afternoon. The guest speaker at the dinner was The Honorable Alexander W. Weddell, former Ambassador to Spain and Argentina. Mrs. George Benoit, President of the Rappahannock Valley club, was hostess for the final luncheon at her home, Snowden Farm.

1947

In May to the extreme eastern edge of Virginia and the ocean, where the Princess Anne club was hostess at Virginia Beach. In her welcoming speech, the President told that she, with Mrs. Strudwick as Tree Planting Chairman, had officiated at the planting of a cork oak tree at

Monticello. This carried out a cherished but unfulfilled wish of Mr. Jefferson. [Ed: It died. So did its several replacements. In 1969, Monticello was going to try again.]

In her report, the Restoration Chairman read a letter, published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, written by a soldier who had visited the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace: "Standing in that garden, with its high red-brick wall, I could not help but feel it was an odd place for a soldier to be. It seemed almost wrong that I should be there as a uniformed symbol of the failure of mankind to comprehend the principles of peace and world unity which Wilson propounded. The very fact that a soldier who finds himself in a repeated war against the same enemy as that one which faced Wilson, can be part of that war-making force, and still stand thoughtfully in a simple, beautiful, clean-cut garden, and think thoughts of peace and a future, as well as the fighting of the war at hand, is an indication that Wilson lived not in vain."

Then the long-anticipated report of the Garden Week Co-Chairmen, and it was not disappointing:

"The postman brought a special delivery letter early one lovely Sunday morning in September. I sat up in bed to read it, and burst into tears. The letter said that The Garden Club of Virginia would like Caroline Strudwick and me to be Co-Chairmen of Garden Week 1947 for the restoration of Gunston Hall. 'Oh, no!' I said, wiping my eyes. 'Oh, no, I never could do that.' 'Now, now,' said my husband, 'after all, you might enjoy it.' Needless to say, he lived to regret those words.

"In we plunged, Caroline and I, shoved gently but oh so firmly by the committee. Inez Freeman joined us as Chairman of Publicity. All together we sank to the bottom into the murky records of thirteen Garden Weeks through 1941, five years gone and a hundred years forgotten. The files were brought out of Mrs. Fairfax's hall closet; the typewriter, itself a patient in serious condition, was found at the Crippled Children's Hospital. From old lists Mrs. Joseph Lucas, who in the chronological order of our secretaries was Secretary #1, wrote to various owners inviting them to open their estates from April 28th through May 3rd. Mrs.

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Fairfax had great success persuading the James River owners to show their ever-popular places. In the districts at a distance from Richmond, we should have depended on local chairmen for a fresh listing of places instead of using old lists. This was our first and possibly greatest mistake, but we made so many others we have written them into a separate set of suggestions for 1948.

"With the first letters in the mail we went off to the Garden Club meeting in October. Not only did we have a wonderful time at Fredericksburg, we also were heartened by everyone's enthusiasm and the thousand dollars for expenses given us by the Restoration Committee. We returned home to begin in earnest shaping up the list of estates to be opened. At this time Secretary #1, who had taken the job on a temporary basis, resigned in favor of Secretary #2, our invaluable Mrs. Irving Matthews, held by many of you in great affection. Shortly thereafter Mrs. Matthews' son, co-pilot of an Army plane, was reported missing in the Alps. That story has a happy ending, but for many weeks we depended upon Secretary #3, Mrs. Leonard Blackburn, Jr., who cheerfully and efficiently filled the breach. Inez Freeman meanwhile signed up Miss Vera Palmer, a professional newspaper woman, and they began the brilliant publicity campaign which has been praised on every side.

"By this time Christmas was almost on us, my children were coming home from college, and we had to clear out their rooms which we had used all fall as a sort of office. We put files and typewriter into the attic and abandoned ourselves to the gaiety of the season. But not for long. Helen McKenney, anxious to begin the guide book, prodded us into opening the office at the Jefferson Hotel immediately after the New Year. Here at a desk borrowed from the Red Cross, ensconced in a draughty bay window at the top of a treacherous marble step, we began the big push. Ida Valentine joined us to work hard over the guide books; Marion Dudley and her committee did the posters. Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Boothe, Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Dovell, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Mrs. Fairfax, Mrs. Hayes, and always Jean Andrews gave invaluable assistance. The local chairmen and presidents of member clubs responded to every suggestion or call for

help. This was where we built the success of Garden Week 1947.

"In February I went to New York with my husband, who by this time was saying, 'You won't ever do this again, will you?' Caroline Strudwick went to Alexandria where she made so great a hit with the Restoration Committee that she came home with six hundred additional dollars for expenses in her pocket.

"Garrett & Massie did a nice job with the guide books which came off the press early in March. Inquiries poured in. Caroline stuck a tree branch in her eye; I had pink eye; we appeared simultaneously in dark glasses, and everyone said, 'The blind leading the blind.'

"Before we knew it, spring was here. We read advertisements, 'Come to Virginia,' put in national magazines by The Conservation Commission. The Highway Department brought out a superb map and printed the green arrows; the State Chamber of Commerce plotted the radio opening—here a bow to Mrs. Perkins. Garden Week was rushing at us like a streamlined locomotive. There would not be enough guide books—then Mrs. Winfree saved the day with her beautiful issue of *Garden Gossip*.

"Now whatever we had done or left undone had to stand; information booths opened; green arrows appeared; store windows blossomed with beautiful displays; our visitors poured in. Caroline not only manned the information booth, but opened her charming place, Millwood.

"As it was in Richmond, I hope it was throughout the State—the weather a gift of Providence, the countryside exquisite in the late spring, and thousands of people enjoying those things which only the State of Virginia can give."

(The financial report came later. The gross receipts were \$31,559.77, second only to 1931 for the Stratford Garden, in which Maryland joined us.)

Mrs. Snider told of the 14,000 pounds of clothing, shoes, blankets, food, rubber coats and boots, Pablum, flour, and peanut oil sent to *Ver Sur Mer* since her last report. She read a letter from Mayor Coiffier saying that his people were learning to smile again, thanks to the ladies of the Garden Club.

Mr. Frederick Heutte, Superintendent of Nor-

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folk City Parks and Forestry, spoke of the Azalea Gardens where 75,000 azaleas grow. These were started with 4,000 plants from which the remaining 71,000 were obtained by propagation.

The Misses Hill received the guests in their magnificent gardens at Sea Breeze Farm on the Lynnhaven River, and the delegates visited the interesting home of Mrs. John B. Dey, at Broad Bay Manor. The chief feature of this garden was its boxwood hedge, 175 years old.

\* \* \*

October found the Board of Governors in happy assembly in Alexandria, as the guests of the Alexandria club, Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr. its president.

In her message, Mrs. Andrews said: "One of our past presidents asked that there be no static to mar the music of our work. Now I have heard very little static, and a great deal of music—stately minuets when we work with restoration, stirring marches when we are busy with projects, waltzes and sonatas as we work in our gardens, and a symphony when we work as a club together. My message today is an appeal to you to keep those qualities which produce much of the harmony."

A change in policy was voted. Garden Week proceeds had always been directed to a particular restoration objective such as Kenmore, Stratford, etc. This had proved unworkable since one garden might cost \$30,000.00 and the next \$5,000.00. It was agreed that in the future the money would be designated for "Historic Garden Restoration in Virginia."

Susa Snider on *Ver Sur Mer*: A monument had been put on the beach, inscribed: "In gratitude to the troops, who in the course of liberating the world, freed our commune at dawn on 6th June, 1944." A street has been named "Rue de Garden Club of Virginia," as Mayor Coffier put it "in a mind of thankfulness for your help." An additional effort was being made to raise enough money to replace 10 windows in the little church built at the time of William the Conqueror.

Attention had now been turned to Aid to Britain. In July the names of 231 needy people had been divided, 7 to each club, the lists describing each person's circumstances. Packages

had been mailed, and would be repeated in October and January.

There was an Agriculture Bill mentioned which prohibited importing of foreign plant material, including bulbs. Cries of indignation were heard from the floor. Letters were written to Senators Byrd and Robertson, stating that growers in Europe should be allowed to carry on their bulb business in an effort to help themselves. (The Senators agreed and the words "including bulbs" were struck from the Bill.)

As something was stopped, something began. The Conservation Chairman had suggested that an open conservation meeting be held in Richmond once a year and that each GCV club be represented by its Conservation Chairman. Elizabeth Perry, Augusta, made this in the form of a motion. It was passed, and so began our annual Conservation Forum.

Instead of regular reports, the member club presidents asked and answered each other's questions, which ranged from local restorations, saving one pin oak in the middle of a highway being attacked by "the head butcher of the tree cutting men" (and he was named and his full address given!), to the sending out of bills and changing the member clubs' fiscal year to coincide with that of the GCV. But one item was mentioned over and over with suspicion and doubt: constitutional membership. The President finally interrupted to say, "I don't believe constitutional membership will ever be understood. I have given up. The simplest way to express it is that any paying member is a constitutional member, and if your quota is not full, you still pay for the members." [Ed: This has been explained by every president and treasurer since then, and in 1970 the question is still being asked.]

1948

In May the Leesburg club was hostess to the Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting. After the opening prayer, the death of Mrs. Wheelwright, one of the founders and twice GCV President, was announced. Mrs. Massie had written a stirring tribute in *Garden Gossip*, and Mrs. Sands had asked for the privilege of speaking at this meeting. She said, in small part, that "by her death every GCV member has lost a sincere and sympathetic friend and irreplaceable counselor and

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950

administrator. In grateful memory, we acknowledge her many accomplishments, her pioneering spirit, her keen foresight, and that splendid ardor which stamped all that she touched with a very special excellence."

In her message, Mrs. Andrews said: "Ours was the privilege of renewing activities that had necessarily stopped during the war years. Two successful Garden Weeks are proud memories. Three Flower Shows have been staged. A fine School of Judging with capacity attendance, and a Conservation meeting with outstanding speakers." The GCV during these two years was really back in business!

While waiting for the Regents of Gunston Hall and the restoration of the building by the Colonial Dames, who will administer this property, the Restoration Committee submitted two recommendations which were accepted:

1. Planting at the building owned by the Barter Theatre, Abingdon, and used by it as living quarters and a rehearsal building. The GCV wanted to express in this way its appreciation of the successful efforts of Mr. Robert Porterfield in bringing entertainment and cultural education to the people of Virginia.

2. To recreate the gardens lying between the West Lawn and the West Range at the University of Virginia, as requested by President Darden. (Such a simple sentence, isn't it?)

After two years in the wings, but appearing on stage at every meeting to explain yet another by-law change, the Parliamentarian came front and center. Each item had been examined and polished and sent to each member club for study and comment. The duties of each committee were re-defined and the mechanics of each activity stated. (The report took up 19 pages in the minutes!)

The dues were raised to \$2.50 a year to take care of the high printing cost of *Garden Gossip*, but these were the changes that rocked the boat:

1. Committee Chairmen, with the exception of the Chairmen of the Test Gardens, shall serve for a period of two consecutive years. (We take this for granted now, but before this by-law was passed, some chairmen served through an entire decade, one through two decades!)

2. The members of a committee shall serve only so long as the chairmen by whom they were

selected serves in office, with the exception of the Restoration Committee, the members of which may serve a maximum of five consecutive years. (This ended what had been regarded as a lifetime tenure on this important committee.)

Brave Parliamentarian! Brave President!

The Editor of *Garden Gossip*: "I would deeply appreciate your efforts to persuade members to switch from poems to articles." (This muted plea has frequently been heard from the editors of the *Journal* too.)

The Ashland Garden Club was admitted to membership.



*Twelfth Restoration, 1948. Landscaping for the Barter Theatre, Virginia's State Theatre in Abingdon, was completed June 20, 1950.*

The final report of the Famine Relief Committee was given by Mrs. Snider. In the final two years, the GCV and its clubs had contributed \$10,760.94 to the work of this committee.

Mrs. Valentine gave the still incomplete Garden Week gross receipts as \$32,067.97. Of this, \$5,092.00 was earmarked for taxes.

Mrs. Dibrell expressed the appreciation of the GCV to its retiring President: "Everyone realizes the difficult task that faced Mrs. Andrews when she accepted this office. By her intelligent leadership and her patience, she has brought out the best in her chairmen, club presidents and in-

## Follow the Green Arrow

dividual members. We think that hers has been a term that will make history, and so we thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

In accepting the gavel, the incoming President said: "Mrs. Andrews has just led us up to heights. So please help me to go to heights with you."

1948-1950 — Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam,  
President

Louise Gilliam moved into alert and competent awareness of the needs of the club.

In October the 29th Board of Governors Meeting was held in the Jefferson Hotel, Richmond, as the guest of the Brunswick Garden Club.

Mrs. Daniel C. Sands had met a tragic and untimely death in an automobile accident in July, and in tribute it was said: "Her work was always earnest, sincere, and effectual. She gave

her all to the problem at hand, from its inception to its completion."

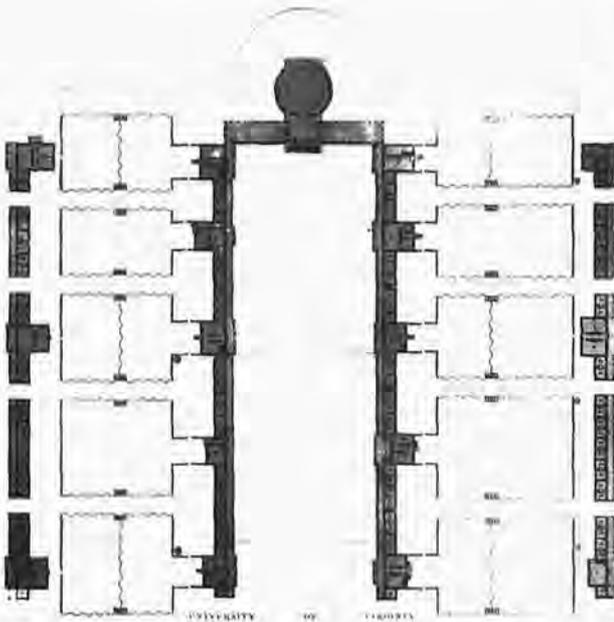
Mrs. Gilliam: "I do not believe that any president has ever started out with 16 new officers and chairmen. I find it wonderfully stimulating."

There had been a mist of excitement in the air of the meeting. The President sensed eager interest and quickly revealed a royal secret. (Such royal secrets of the Restoration Committee have, through the years, been frowned on by those not in the know. They gave zest to whispered comments on the "politics of The Establishment.")

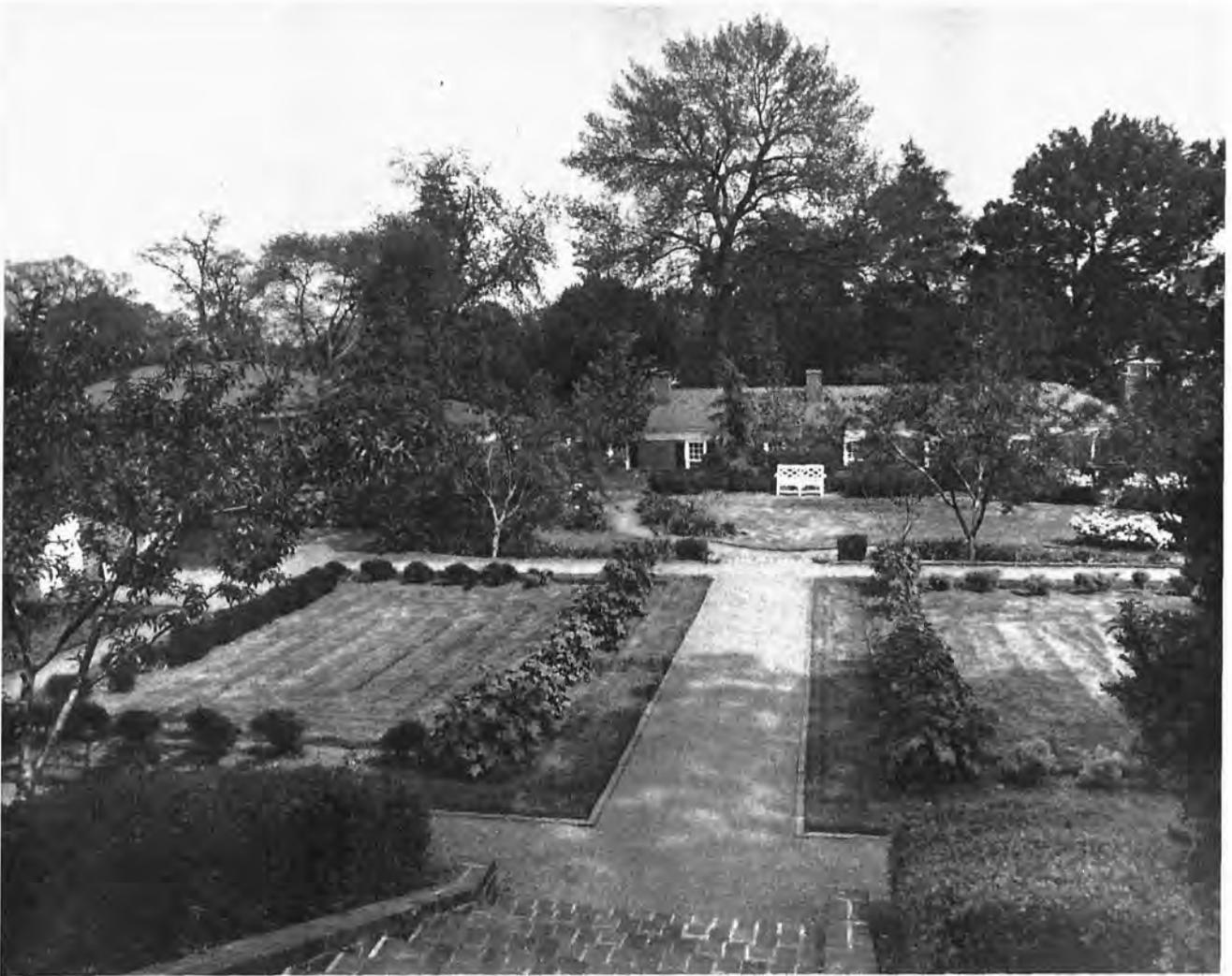
Restoration Chairman: "On July 5th, the hottest day of this hot summer, Mrs. Gilliam and I met Dr. Betts at the University of Virginia. With the Peter Maverick drawing of 1825, we were shown the old gardens. We saw the crumpling walls around these once charming little gardens, through which a concrete road now runs. Dr. Betts was anxious that we use our money, not to plant just a few 'selected gardens,' but to restore the wall first, and then plant the gardens. This has been approved by the Board who found it historic, interesting and feasible." With the feeling that this tremendous and thrilling task would involve all the qualities of the members toward the Greek idea of excellence, it was approved. The work would begin with the gardens between the Pavilions and the West Range.

Tea was served at the Valentine Museum, and at the dinner that night, Mr. Robert Porterfield gave a charming account of the beginning of the Barter Players and expressed his appreciation of the club's contribution of beauty to the Barter Theatre.

The next day was devoted to an Open Forum on Garden Week. Some member clubs reported that they retained a third of the proceeds for local projects. Eyebrows raised. Frowns. And the frowns were put into words. Restoration spoke: "The GCV receives absolutely not one cent from Garden Week. Every penny goes to restoration. Take the gross figure and subtract from it taxes, rebates to owners and now to clubs; there is very little left!" The consensus reached: that no club should keep a percentage and that only on request from a homeowner, who needs it



The 1822-25 engraving of Peter Maverick established the Jeffersonian design and was faithfully followed in the Thirteenth and Seventeenth Restorations of the West and East Lawns at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.



*Thirteenth Restoration, 1948. One of the five gardens of the West Lawn of the University of Virginia. Presentation was made on April 24, 1952.*

for maintenance, would a third be returned. The Garden Week office now had its guidelines.

Later in October, a luncheon honoring Garden Week homeowners was held at the Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville. Soft explanations of the guidelines were given, and it was all termed "wonderfully successful."

1949

Weary of staying at home during the war years, the members planned a trip. Sarah Butler began her account with, "On Sunday afternoon, March 6, 1949, a number of excited women stood shivering on the station platform when there came in sepulchral tones 'The Garden Club of Virginia Special for the South.'" This adven-

ture was shared by 111 members. At Mobile, they saw the lovely ironwork left from Spanish days, drove the Azalea Trail, visited the famous Bellingrath Gardens. In New Orleans, they lunched at Antoine's and enjoyed the attention of Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keyes, who invited them to tea at her Beauregard House. In Natchez, they were greeted by "Dixie" and "Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny," played by Negro musicians. They were given a special showing of the "Natchez Pilgrimage Pageant," with a lovely queen, her ball, and her ballet.

\* \* \*

In May the Annual Meeting was held in Danville as guests of The Garden Club of Dan-

## Follow the Green Arrow

vile. The Directors were entertained at dinner by Mrs. Dibrell, and at the next day's meeting the Admissions Chairman recommended that the membership of the GCV be closed for a period of three years. Mrs. Massie had so recommended, feeling that the GCV was "meant to be a fairly small organization." The assembly agreed.

The Highway Chairman asked concentration on local zoning and planning laws "as this seems to be a way to hand our old enemy, The Billboard, his exit cue."

Again, the Horticulture Chairman asked if the exhibits should be competitive. Feeling that our three state flower shows satisfy the competitive urge, it was agreed that the exhibits would continue to be non-competitive. [Ed: This comes up every decade.]

Mrs. Valentine reported \$35,000 gross from Garden Week, with a net of about \$12,500 to go to restoration, saying: "We profited a great deal by the decision of many of our owners not to take any percentage."

Mrs. Andrews gave her report on Restoration, with the comment that a Richmond newspaper had printed it as the "Recreation Committee." President Darden had appointed a University Committee, headed by Mr. Allan Gwathmey, to work with the GCV. Through the courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg, its landscape architect, Mr. Alden Hopkins, would be in charge.

Tea in the boxwood garden at Dan's Hill, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Boatwright, and the formal dinner was held at the Danville Country Club. The speaker was Mr. Hopkins, and he spoke on Early Garden Designs in Virginia.

The President then presented an illuminated scroll to Mrs. Snider for her outstanding work as chairman and moving spirit of the Famine Relief Committee. The scroll read:

"To Susa Stanton Snider, The Garden Club of Virginia renders this testimonial of gratitude and pride, May 18, 1949: An organization can claim no right to existence for itself alone; only in that it seeks to serve great causes can abiding and worthwhile life continue. In a world where bonds transcend states and countries, renewed inspiration has come to The Garden Club of Virginia in the contribution that it

has made overseas—gifts to some of England's needy aged, and a share in the restoration of village life on the coast of France.

"To one member belongs the great apportionment of credit for the gifts that have been given. Through the alchemy of her love and loyalty the efforts of many have been transmuted into the glory of service—service that has brought sustaining of life to members of two great peoples, and an uplift of spirit to those who have shared in the enterprise."

As Mrs. Gilliam finished reading this, the members rose in spontaneous appreciation of Mrs. Snider's splendid achievement. (In *Garden Gossip* there was an account of two Fauquier and Loudoun ladies who visited *Ver Sur Mer*, had tea with the Coffiers, and prayed before the marble plaque in the old church on which is inscribed the names of the sons and husbands of GCV members who were killed during this war.)

The meeting next morning heard an editorial from the Danville paper read: "This GCV meeting in Danville should do a lot towards removing some popular misapprehensions about garden clubs in general. They are not merely social groups engaged in grave discourse as to whether the *Sabbatia stellaris* did better this year or last, or if the *Salpiglossis* flourishes more freely in grey soil than in red.

"This club concentrates on restorational work. Its present project is the re-defining of the historic gardens on the lawn of the University of Virginia, where it is hoped to recreate the pattern of the beds laid out by Peter Maverick, who was Thomas Jefferson's boon companion in the arts of gardening.

"But they will not stop there. There are other historic shrines, the fabric of which has been preserved, without due attention to the formalized or the old riotous gardens. To the preservation of these, the organization is commendably committing itself, seeking to restore their fragrance and beauty, and recreating the atmosphere which Tennyson has put in memorable words—'haunts of ancient peace.'"

With these sweet words ringing, the guests ended their Danville sojourn with luncheon at Oak Haven Farm, Mrs. Dibrell's country home.

\* \* \*

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1940-1950

In November the 30th Board of Governors Meeting found the members in Williamsburg, guests of the Williamsburg club. The Directors dined with Mrs. John E. Pomfret at the President's House, the College of William and Mary.

Mr. Robert H. Land, Librarian for the College, spoke next morning of the fine Harrison collection given by the GCV and also of the recent gift from the Fauquier and Loudoun club of six rare volumes in memory of Mrs. Sands.

The Restoration Chairman stated that with the death of its owner, Mr. Hertle, the first planning of the garden restoration at Gunston Hall was underway. Mr. Hopkins then presented the Master Plan for the University Gardens. This plan was detailed as to the West Gardens, now being undertaken, and more general as to the East Gardens which he "hoped to see done at some future time."

The Garden Week Chairman said that district meetings had been held in all parts of the state, each club being represented, to learn firsthand of problems and to exchange ideas and good will.

For a year, complaints had been heard about the State Highway Department's extensive planting of Chinese elms. The words "hideous," "diseased 13 months of the year," and "not a pretty color in the fall or spring" were used verbally, and in written protests. Capitulation. Mr. Neale reported that the Department regretted planting these elms, that they were not only banned for the future, but those already planted would be removed.

The Horticulture Chairman, speaking of the exhibit, referred to Mrs. Iturralde's picture of a pink daffodil, taken from a tapestry woven about 1500, owned by the Metropolitan. Since the wild flowers used were always portrayed in their natural colors, in 1500 there was a pink daffodil growing wild!

There were two walking tours of Williamsburg gardens, and Mrs. John E. Fisher spoke and showed slides of her flower arrangements which grace the historic places in Colonial Williamsburg.

1950

The James River and Tuckahoe clubs were hostesses to the May, 1950, meeting in Richmond, where it all began 30 years ago.

A memorial tribute was paid to Mrs. Thomas R. Boggs, first Restoration Chairman. It was felt that the six restorations which she brought to completion were a worthy monument to this talented member.

Mrs. Andrews summed up restoration involvements:

1. Barter Theatre: "Planting trees and shrubs around a brick terrace, making an outdoor living-room where the players can exchange scenery and footlights for trees and sunshine."

2. Gunston Hall: "Mr. Hopkins has just submitted his plans for approval."

3. University Gardens: "Trenching in November yielded good results. The curve of the walls in the old foundations is found to correspond to the Maverick drawing. The rough estimate was \$40,000.00, but bids for the brick work would indicate that the estimate will be exceeded."

From now on the word Narcissus will be dropped and the word Daffodil used.

Mrs. Barton gave the Garden Week gross as \$33,542.30, and handed a check to the Restoration Chairman for \$16,556.20. Since the subject continues to come up, we include her comment on opening modern homes. Admitting that some members disapprove, "In defense, nay even in advocacy of it, let me say that the first Garden Week in 1929 opened 40 modern places. A great many visitors ask for more modern homes and gardens, even small city gardens, something that they may copy. I personally feel that we are showing the continuity of gracious living that is peculiar to Virginia."

The last edition of *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* was in 1931. The supply was exhausted, the demand great. A new edition, to sell for \$7.50, was authorized, its editors to be Mrs. James Gordon Smith (Mrs. Massie's daughter), Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne (Mrs. Christian's daughter), and Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr. The GCV had agreed to advance \$7,500.00 and the book and all royalties to be the property of the GCV.

The name of Reveille was heard on the floor for the first but not the last time. This old house had been left by Mrs. Adolphus Blair to the APVA, who felt unable to maintain it. That



*May, 1950, luncheon at Shooters Hill, Richmond. Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Fifteenth President, 1948-1950, Mrs. C. James Andrews, Fourteenth President, 1946-1948, with Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Honorary Member.*

group had suggested to the GCV that "acceptable terms" might be reached between the two organizations, perhaps a long-term lease. After luncheon at nearby Shooters Hill, the home of Mrs. H. C. L. Miller, each club president would be taken to Reveille.

That afternoon a ceremony was held in St. John's Churchyard. This restoration, deferred because of the war, was now completed, using the proceeds of the Massie-Christian Fund. A plaque was unveiled by two great-granddaughters of Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Christian. Mrs. Massie was present and gave a moving tribute to her friend. Dr. Freeman spoke.

Dinner that evening was in the medieval hall of Mrs. David C. Morton's home, Agecroft.

At Brandon the next morning, Reveille was thoroughly discussed, and finally it was moved "that we endeavor to secure Reveille as a home and garden center for the GCV; that a committee be appointed to investigate all aspects of acquiring this property, to report their findings to the presidents' meeting to be held in six weeks." This was agreed, and Mrs. C. Braxton Valentine was asked to chair this committee.

A motion was made that the registration fee be raised to \$10.00 for the Annual Meeting and \$7.50 for the Board of Governors Meeting. Presented two years ago and defeated, this time it passed.

Mrs. Andrews: "Mrs. Gilliam, two years ago I had the pleasure of handing you the gavel. I knew then you would make a wonderful president, but now, when I have the honor of thanking you in the name of the GCV, I can say with the Queen of Sheba after her visit to King Solomon, 'The half has not been told.' You have done a magnificent work. You have been ready for new projects and gave your time with radiant good humor. A great deal has been accomplished, and you have made a lasting contribution to our beloved organization."

The members were Mrs. Daniels' guests for luncheon.

As imagination and evaluation of essentials marked the presidential term of Louise Gilliam, it is evident that these qualities, displayed in the last part of the forties, launched the GCV into a future of confidence.

Trimmed down, adjusted to contemporary times, new routines established, conscious of their worth, the membership moved into the next decade . . . with confidence.

*During these war years, the individual members of the clubs, being the kind of people they are, not only participated, they took charge of the necessary activities in their communities and in the state. They did everything — Red Cross — Woman's War Savings Staff — U.S.O. Volunteer Special Services — Motor Corps — the list is unending. Most clubs took active roles as a unit and were occupied and preoccupied with war work. Other clubs chose to keep the short leisure of their gardening hours separated and worked only as individuals. The GCV, its member clubs and individual members performed more than creditably. Their work was just short of being dramatic. Only special achievements or those with local or unusual interest are given specifically.*

*The pace of admitting new clubs slowed down during this ten year period. Only four clubs were admitted. These four take their alphabetical places in the following member club accounts.*

## MEMBER CLUBS 1940-1950

**A**LBERMARLE celebrated its 27th birthday with the entire club being invited by Mrs. Robert Carter of Redlands to lunch with the members of the James River club. In this same year of 1940, came the publication of *Thomas Jefferson's Flower Garden at Monticello* by Hazlehurst B. Perkins and Dr. Edwin Betts. (These two assumed the responsibility for the GCV restoration at Monticello.)

The club had continued to hold flower show after flower show. In 1941 someone thought of a flower show with a difference, one to prod the members who were either lazy or unskilled. Only those who had not received a blue or red ribbon for two years were allowed to compete, the judges being selected from the members who had won ribbons. The judging was audible and termed "educational and amusing."

The grim business of war again involved the club and its individual members. They equipped a Red Cross Canteen, but their principal responsibility was Civilian Defense in Victory

Gardens: to raise and can vegetables; to increase acreage; to supply seed and fertilizer and supervision to indigent families, to mountain missions, and to school children; to give radio talks and hold demonstrating exhibits. They also planted around the Woodrow Wilson Veterans Hospital, for which they provided flowers. In a report on these years, Miss Anne Barringer said, "The chaos of today has brought new trials and new opportunities. The culture of the earth is a necessity, conservation an obligation, and the maintenance of beauty, a trust and a privilege."

ALEXANDRIA with the goal "to bring peace and strength to a world, riddled with upheaval and discord," entered a new and positive phase, that of patriotic support in every field. In 1942 they formed a Junior Club to help them. Daughters of active members, this group took the name of The Hunting Creek Garden Club in 1943. (We shall meet them later.)

Just to keep their hand in, a walking tour was held in 1944. Each of the eight homes featured flower arrangements, which were voted on by

the guests. The Red Cross and war services benefited by \$458.65.

Attention to Gadsby's Tavern was climaxed in 1949. Its original doorway, in which Washington stood to receive his last official tribute in Alexandria, was brought back from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It had been there four decades and, after long negotiations, was returned to its rightful place as Alexandria celebrated its 200th anniversary. This was made possible by Colonel and Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore. (Gay Montague Moore is the author of the definitive *Seaport in Virginia — George Washington's Alexandria*. She has been called "The Godmother of Restoration in Alexandria," which she began in 1931. Despite another residence in Gloucester's Toddsbury, in 1970 she still serves as Trustee of the Historic Foundation and one of the five members of the Historic Commission.)

ASHLAND: Let's quote Mrs. Edward R. Berry, Ashland's 1970 president: "You are there. October 12, 1922. The first president of the new Ashland Garden Club will now speak. Miss Mary McDermott Beirne: "Thank you. We intend to learn, to teach, and to work for our community; for conservation and the beautification of Hanover County. We shall welcome anyone who believes in our goals. By the way, my name is spelled B-e-i-r-n-e." (This sounds like an exact quote!) Mrs. Patterson, a friend in the James River club, of which Miss Beirne was a long-time member, wrote of her: "To look at Mary with her peaches and cream complexion and her eyes as blue as the sky, you would never think of her as a pioneer, but she was indeed the first in this part of the country to grow and hybridize narcissi. No matter what the cost or how hard the work, Mary would sacrifice anything to secure rare bulbs and then labor untiringly to grow them to perfection." (In 1937 a Holland grower named a daffodil "Mary Beirne" [RHS 2b], and in 1966 the Ashland club presented a hard-to-win Challenge Bowl bearing her name.)

As early as 1924, a plan of Ashland was drawn up in an ambitious effort to plant dogwood throughout the community. In the same year they staged their first flower show, concentrating on iris. "As the iris diminished in popu-

larity, we followed the fashion by staging daffodil shows."

Miss Mary writes: "In 1927 Mr. Eppa Hunton, President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, wired the Ashland club, asking that they meet his private car when it halted at the local station. Officials of the railroad brought their wives and friends along for the purpose of discussing with members of our group the preference for trees and shrubs to be planted by the RF&P on its property adjacent to the station. This spacious landscape in the center of town is now a beauty spot, planted with stalwart white pines, vigorous hemlocks and other evergreens, together with deciduous shrubs."

Seeing these good results, large-scale planting was done at the High School, on the Town Lot, and at the Administration Building, Randolph-Macon College.

AUGUSTA wrote, at the beginning of this decade, "The interest of the club in private gardening was supplemented with broader interests. It was as though the world had become our garden. Due to the leadership of Mrs. Hayes, GCV President, we deviated from the practice of gardening as a pastime and looked out upon a world in need, due to the exigencies of war." They planted a garden around the Red Cross building of the Woodrow Wilson Hospital and provided flowers for the wards. The first Christmas, 1600 beautifully wrapped gifts were sent here. (This custom continues, and each Christmas artistic packages go to those who might not otherwise be remembered.)

This club has always had more than its share of stalwart conservationists. One, Miss Glenn Atkinson, dreamed of a nature trail. This was realized in Ramsey Draft at the foot of the Shenandoah Mountain. The CCC cut the trail through the forest, built foot bridges and laid stones across the streams, and Augusta labelled the trees and flora along the way. This trail is in virgin forest. "Wild animals love this remote section and we learned that they, too, were interested in the labels we had placed there. Many times we found labels by a Pipsisewa or an Hepatica crumpled or mashed by a curious bear."

When the King's Daughters Hospital build-

## Member Clubs, 1940-1950

ing program was launched in 1947, this club was part of the launching. With a flower room as its first project, the members raised money by house and garden tours, antique exhibits, with the climax being "A Day In The Garden" at Gibbs Hill, the home of Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs. Mrs. Gibbs had edited a cookbook, and copies were sold by "Aunt Jemima" herself from a little cabin. There was a flower show, a wishing well, may pole, supply center for garden tools, fortune-telling, plants for sale, and every other attraction the fertile brains of the club members could devise.

BLUE RIDGE was still planting, now the Chamber of Commerce yard. To provide funds, a Bazaar was staged in the Washington and Lee Gymnasium. Mrs. Gaines was chairman and somehow worked out in this space: a dance floor, a floor show, refreshments, side shows, a florist shop, pony rides, and a trained animal act; and it's just an ordinary sized gymnasium. They raised \$1,453.00 and with more benefits another \$650.00 for Bundles for America. They opened rooms, acquired a knitting machine and sewing machines and enlisted the women of the community in this practical service. Over 3000 garments were made by 200 women working every day for 15 months.

Adopting "peas rather than petunias" as their text, Blue Ridge staged a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, "Trial by Jury," in its correct setting—the Courthouse. They raised \$486.00 more for war work. (During this time, there were only 17 active members living in Lexington.) Some beautiful old trees were being cut down on public property. The club rose up and called on the Mayor. "He was duly impressed by this august body and promised that hereafter the club would be consulted before any more trees were cut down."

"Our exchequer was badly in need of funds, and Dean Gilliam gave us bulbs to sell to replenish it."

When Mrs. Gilliam became GCV President in May, 1948, they "expressed their pleasure and presented her with a corsage."

BRUNSWICK sounded the dogwood alarm as early as 1940: "Agents are attempting to purchase the dogwood in Brunswick. They are offering the farmers \$3.00 to \$5.00 per cord.

The wood is to be used for making buttons, spools, and spindles by various factories and mills."

In 1940 the club began its planting of boxwood and magnolias around the Bruce Library on the Courthouse Square, and this became their principal interest. They adopted Camp Pickett and termed themselves "The Mother of the U.S.O."

CHATHAM in 1941 sponsored another garden club. It took the name of "The Maude Clement Garden Club," and to it she was "guide, philosopher, and friend." (As she was to the GCV, whose first and only writing historian she became.) One of Mrs. Clement's enthusiasms, as well as the club's, was the Pittsylvania County Library, and in 1941 landscaping was done here. The usual war work went on, and in 1943 the club sponsored a movement to aid the elementary school lunchroom, each member being asked to contribute one-tenth of all fruits and vegetables canned at home. "Canned foods, dried peas, Irish and sweet potatoes, cured side meat, and turnip salad" are recorded with this independent comment: "This program has made governmental aid unnecessary."

DANVILLE with nine member clubs formed the Danville Council of Garden Clubs, Mrs. Dibrell, the founder and first president. Knowing how this club felt about its tightly held original group, we assume it was with great reluctance that a Junior Auxiliary was formed. (It has been said by these Junior members that they earned their way into the mother club.) By 1941, they were absorbed, and each one, without exception, took an office or chairmanship.

The club had been saving money for a Horticultural Garden for a number of years, but "After our country was forced into war, we put the money in a \$1,000.00 Defense Bond." Then their Mrs. A. Rucker Penn gave the club a plot of land, 100' x 140', to be used as a Horticultural Garden. Mrs. Penn reported, "I am proud to tell you that the 15 Juniors have taken complete charge and are developing it into an educational project for Danville, everything labelled." (We agree, Juniors. You did earn your way.) In 1943 another auxiliary was organized and

## Follow the Green Arrow

again, commenting that these were "15 splendid young women who have gratified us by their initiative and cooperation," the auxiliary was absorbed.

When she was local club president, Mrs. Schoolfield filled page after page with activities of the club and its members in war work, a monumental total.

When Mrs. Dibrell became GCV President in 1944, her chauffeur, James, insisted the Packard be replaced by a Cadillac, saying he "wasn't going to drive her to another GCV meeting in a Packard, when all the other chauffeurs were driving Cadillacs."

DOLLY MADISON did its share of war work, but horticulture continued to furnish the soul's delight to the club members. Much attention was given to lily culture, and experiments were made in broadcasting lily seeds. Green Thumb Indicators: Forty-five little Chinese blight-resistant chestnut trees were planted; forty-five healthy bushy trees survive. Mrs. Austin Jones separated rose plants over a hundred years old; not a plant was lost. Flowers were sent regularly to the Woodrow Wilson Hospital, and over a period of fifty weeks only five weeks were missed.

EASTERN SHORE: Mrs. Littleton H. (Nannie Ames) Mears had a dream that began as early as 1925. She dreamed of not only starting a garden club, which would be the first on the Eastern Shore, but a garden club that would be a member of the GCV. One day in May, 1939, she had five guests at luncheon, one of whom, Eastern Shore born as Jessie Quinby, was Mrs. Charles G. Evans of The Garden Club of Danville. Minds met then and there on the question of starting a garden club. Mrs. Evans said if they would hurry up and put their plans into action, she would help organize the club before returning to Danville the end of the week. Mrs. Mears felt this could be done because she had held her dream a long time.

Invitations were written, and on May 12, 1939, 35 ladies met with Mrs. Mears. Mrs. Evans, well-schooled in the GCV, charted their course. She appointed Mrs. Mears president pro-tem and said a constitution and by-laws should be drawn immediately; that meetings be in homes; that flower shows be held; that the

name be The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore of Virginia; that the test flowers of the GCV be grown; and that the members concentrate on the propagation of old roses, such as the ones at Eyre Hall.

Using the constitution and by-laws of the Norfolk club, they drafted a good set. The two counties of Accomack and Northampton would be equally represented, officers and meetings alternating. Dues would be \$1.50, which included 50¢ for *Garden Gossip*. The pro-tem ended, and Mrs. Mears became the first president. If they hoped to become GCV members, they knew there was much work to be done, and enthusiastically they set out to do it.

First, they had to learn. They went to the GCV shows, observed, and reported. The Norfolk club came to speak authoritatively, again and again. The Hill sisters came. But the club still had to stage a flower show, as well as attend and exhibit in other shows. So in April, 1940, they held their first daffodil show in Onancock. Year books were another requirement which they fulfilled, the first being dedicated to Mrs. Evans.

Then came the last requirement from the stern taskmistresses running the GCV: "So far so good, but you must open for Garden Week." This wasn't easy. For several years, the Hospital Auxiliary of the Eastern Shore had been conducting a garden tour, and it didn't want to share or dilute. There followed the customary "after much detailed discussion," which always covers a multitude of frank words. The Auxiliary agreed to let the garden club sponsor the tour, giving one-half of the proceeds to the hospital. (Later this was reduced to one-third and still later, nothing. The hospital was aided by other means.)

The following spring of 1941, they opened for Garden Week and showed Ingleside, Kendall Grove, The Folly, Kerr Place, and Warwick, resulting in \$187.00 to the hospital and \$187.00 to the GCV. Three years after they were organized—exactly—on May 12, 1942, they were admitted to the GCV.

Both of Miss Nannie's dreams had now come true. So she gave a present to the GCV, rare old roses for the Test Garden. Their names are so beautiful that they ask to be included: Old Blush, Louis Philippe, Pink Crepe, Aunt Bet's

## Member Clubs, 1940-1950

Noisette, Aimee Vibert, Shailer's Provence, Pale Pink Damask, Madam Hardy, Gloire de Mousseux, Red Gallica, Cardinal de Richelieu, Eglantine, General Jacqueminot, Cecile Brunner, Reine Marie Henriette. (Anne Glass wrote of these in *Garden Gossip*, under the title "A Valued Gift.")

FAIRFAX began this decade with a good move: "We are proud to have in our club, Katherine Barrett Pozer, Garden Editor of *The Washington Post*." Mrs. Sloane had come to speak. So their restraint of a motor company from maintaining an automobile dump was strong and successful. They planted an Herb Garden at the County Library, which they continued to sponsor. Fort Belvoir and Fort Myer occupied them during the war years, but in 1946 they started caring for the old trees at the rectory of Truro Church. (It was in this rectory that Colonel Mosby captured General Stoughton.)

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN started 1940 off with a *Garden Gossip* cover made by Mrs. Sands, a photograph of a country roadside, with one small, neat, blank, hanging sign, the caption reading, "If signs must be." War work began to occupy the members of this club. As head of the Loudoun County Rationing Board, it was recorded that Mrs. Sands "gave six days a week to the work, during the four years of war, driving 40 miles daily, summer and winter, in good weather and bad, without complaint."

In 1943, the GCV again shared the grief of this club in the death of Mrs. Fairfax Harrison. Her whole club took an active part in the GCV Memorial to her, which was chaired by Mrs. Sands.

Instructions for killing moles and field mice were noted: "Chop 3 cups of sunflower seed, mix with 3 tablespoons of melted lard and enough Paris Green to color light green. With small round scoop spoon, drop mixture into holes in runs, being careful not to disturb earth around the holes."

In 1948 is recorded the loss of another valued member and a former GCV President, Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, with "her talent for organization surpassed only by her talent for friendship." Books in her memory were given to the Library at the College of William and Mary.

This club is full of rhymes, each hard to resist. This one was written by their member, Mrs. Albert S. White, with a title of "Rosaceae":

The apple, the peach, the pear, the cherry,  
The plum, the quince, the red strawberry,  
The haw, the drupe, the pome, the prune,  
Pyrus, berries choke and June,  
Sorbus, bushes shad and "Poil",  
Spirea, sloe and cinquefoil,  
Cotoneaster, polyantha,  
Crimson Glory, Katherine Marshall,  
Any rose to which you're partial,  
Goatswort, geum, berry sweet,  
Thorn and hip and Doc. Van Fleet,  
Shrub, tree, hedge, where'er it grows,  
It is a cousin of the Rose.  
Each one of these can proudly say,  
"I am a member of Rosaceae."

GABRIELLA's president, Mrs. Bryant Heard, reported in 1940: "We opened Dan's Hill for Garden Week. Since planting was being done in the garden, no admission was charged, but a check was sent to the Restoration Fund, covering the admission price of each visitor." (That's a "first" in Garden Week.)

In 1941 they planted at the Forest Hills Public School and at the intersection of Routes 58 and 29. They began the long range landscaping at Memorial Hospital.

Margaret Talbott was president in 1944 and reported: "I am just a little ashamed to admit that our club voted to resume refreshments at meetings. We had discontinued the practice, supposedly for the duration, but our attendance has picked up remarkably with refreshments."

GLOUCESTER: "In the late 1920's, the garden club movement was sweeping across the country. The contagion soon reached Gloucester." Mrs. George Mackubin invited her friends, Mrs. William Fleet Taliaferro and Mrs. Henry Osborn Sanders, to visit her at Goshen and plan a garden club. So they made a little list, which included two men who didn't survive the second meeting. The first president was Mrs. Taliaferro, the date June, 1928.

Mrs. Wheelwright came to the second meeting and gave them step by step instructions on how to progress in this new garden club world. One "step" was to plant locally. So Ware Episcopal

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Church being nearest to their hearts, they planted trees and shrubs at the rectory.

They must have still been patting those first bushes in the ground when they received a letter from the GCV. Mrs. Taliaferro writes: "The GCV requested that historic places in Gloucester be opened in the spring of 1929 for Garden Week—the whole week! Innocently, the club consented and opened Ware and Abingdon Churches, Long Bridge Ordinary, Walter Reed's Birthplace, Elmington, Goshen, Toddsbury, and White Marsh. When it was all over, Gloucester was full of exhausted women and irate husbands. The club voted never again to open for more than two days."

They held a flower show for members only on the back porch at Goshen, and three years later worked up to a big show at the Country Club. They went to Norfolk for a GCV Regional Flower Show to which they were asked to bring plants and bulbs to be used as prizes. They took them and brought home nine blue ribbons.

In that first year, "Mrs. Mackubin offered a prize to the child from each of the county schools who should prove to have killed the greatest number of Tent Caterpillars." (What "proof" was accepted is not recorded. Neither are the results, but there aren't too many Tent Caterpillars in Gloucester now.)

The Court Green was being given a disapproving eye and deserved it. "It was in a deplorable condition. There was no wall nor fence. Cars and wagons drove right in and pulled up against the old buildings." So the club had a Country Fete. Booths were built "for the sale of fancy articles, cakes, rummage, and other things." They hired a band, and the merchants hung out flags and bunting. "Chances were sold on donations of animal feed and a ton of coal. A live lamb was offered but politely declined." They cleared \$453.83, enough to buy the materials needed. Work on The Courthouse Green began, the labor provided by the WPA, and the wall was built. Miss Eleanor Perrin watched over this project. (In 1933 she became a GCV member-at-large, at the urging of her friend, Miss Charlotte Noland of Foxcroft.) And with the material left over, brick walks were built, connecting the four entrances. Mrs. John Marshall Lewis went to Williamsburg to get

expert bricklaying instructions. She estimates she spent a year on her knees, next to the WPA laborers. And the club planted. At one time the plantings began to die. Why? There was no water. Why no water? "That's easy—no spigot." So the club bought the county a spigot.

In 1938 Miss Eleanor was in charge of a Narcissus Festival and Tour of the Gloucester narcissus fields, and the club was firmly behind her, noting only that Garden Week came a little early that year.

County clean-ups began with the members working in various areas. And they protested by voice and in print. Fire prevention became of interest. There was a Fire Warden, but he wasn't much help. He had no telephone. The club installed one and paid for it the first year. There were no trash containers in the village and the Supervisors decided they weren't necessary. The club thought otherwise, spent \$25.00 buying twenty gallon trash cans, and personally put them in place.

Not in the minutes but by word of mouth is this club's disinclination to form any alliance with a larger organization. Discreet feelers of interest were put out by the GCV and the GCA. Of the latter it is said that one dowager spoke: "The Garden Club of America? Does that mean you'd have to know people from Iowa?" That "feeler" was withdrawn. The one from the GCV stayed out, and well it should when you think of all those Garden Weeks and supplying GCV prizes. Mrs. W. Wallace Gill of the Tuckahoe club was the Godmother (and still an Honorary Member), and on May 9, 1945, the long evaded affiliation began.

In January, 1947, the grounds of Long Bridge Ordinary, owned by the Gloucester Woman's Club, became a project, the planting to be in honor of the Garden Club's three founders. This building, erected prior to 1727, had been invaded by termites, and the owners owed \$10,000.00. Mr. Hopkins came from Williamsburg to speak on "Ordinaries, Taverns, Inns and their Gardens." The answers to the eager questions from the floor elicited enough free information to get started, but he was hired to supervise the work.

HAMPTON ROADS read in the January,

## Member Clubs, 1940-1950

1940, issue of *Garden Gossip* that Mrs. Linwood Holmes requested information about the botanical name of the Yorktown onion and whether it was found in any other locality. It was generally supposed that the seed might have been brought over in the hay for the horses of the foreign soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

This interest sent the club to Yorktown on a pilgrimage, which produced a number of fine specimens. These were sent to the University of Pennsylvania, whose botanists wanted specimens. Its Dr. Fogg sent one to Dr. Baily of Cornell and one to Dr. Fernald of Harvard, who, with Dr. Long of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, classified it as *allium ampeloprasum* L. *atroviolaceum* regal (Boiss). All the institutions involved include this in their collections, and learned papers have been written on it. Thus this club made a worthy contribution to the science of botany.

Carefree pilgrimages ended with the war. Newport News being a large port of embarkation, thousands of soldiers and sailors, American, British, and French, swarmed the area. So Hospitality House was established at St. Paul's Parish House, and every night in the week 300 to 1,000 enlisted men were welcomed. (From this small project, a community-supported, non-sectarian center grew. Later, the Community Chest took it over and allocated \$12,000.00 to its activities.)

They sent flowers from their gardens, and they planted around the military establishments in this area, principally Camp Patrick Henry, Fort Eustis, and Kecoughtan Veteran's Hospital.

JAMES RIVER decided that while each member devoted herself individually to war work, the club itself would be "an oasis of horticultural peace" for its busy members. With other clubs, it planted at Fort Eustis and McGuire Hospital and supplied flowers and wreaths for both places. The war over, the club continued its interrupted restoration program and in 1949 completed the lovely garden at The Valentine Museum, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne.

LEESBURG's scope widened when its Mrs. Pickens brought the club into the activities of the Associated Clubs and herself became Chairman of the County Planning Commission. (She held

this office until 1953 and still remains on the Commission.)

Again war was a part of the life of these members, and again food preservation and the Hospital Vegetable Garden were paramount. A Flowers for Camp and Hospital Committee was formed. "The members brought fresh flowers to Mrs. Fendall's basement, where they were conditioned overnight. At 4:00 each morning, Mrs. Fendall started bunching, tying, and packing the blooms, which were loaded on milk trucks for delivery in the Washington area." She later reported that 3,882 bouquets had been sent.

At one of the post-war meetings, a lively political discussion got under way but was "firmly suppressed by the President as beyond the legitimate scope of matters before a garden club meeting." About this time, the Hospital Grounds account was down to a \$3.00 balance. A silver tea was held at Oakhurst and the coffers fattened by \$792.29.

LYNCHBURG held Flower Marts in 1940 and 1941 on "The Steps" to provide funds for Monument Terrace. A landscape architect, Mrs. Hough, was hired, her plans presented in 1944, and on Armistice Day, 1946, the project was presented to the city. (The following happened later but for continuity is given here: "Due to a misunderstanding between the City Council and the garden club as to who was financially responsible for the maintenance, many years passed before this question was settled." Club members searched old minutes and correspondence and finally convinced the Council that an earlier Council had, in writing, accepted the maintenance. Peace now reigns, and this beautiful area is now adequately maintained.)

In 1941 the club spent most of a year at the dull but familiar task of revising by-laws. The president reported that this was "achieved with pain," and the members were persuaded to follow them for only one year by quoting Mrs. Wheelwright, who had said: "Ladies, if the garment doesn't fit, it can be returned." (Did it fit, Lynchburg, or did you return it?)

The fact that this club did more than its share of war work is established when you remember that Anne Glass was in residence. She was away a lot working on GCV and war activities,

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and there is a record of Mr. Powell Glass speaking on rhododendrons.

MARTINSVILLE saw its Trillium Cove increased by a half acre in 1941, due to Mr. Smith's generosity. Since some level space was included, a picnic area was established here. The entrances were planted in pines, wild crab, wild roses, and Kalmia. The continuing beautification of Oakwood Cemetery was turned over to the club auxiliary.

In the midst of war work, the grounds of schools were landscaped, with two matching magnolia trees placed at the entrance walk of the Martinsville High School, "in memory of the students who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II."

In 1947 work began on the grounds of the new Martinsville Hospital and the nurses quarters. Evidently the auxiliary had done well because in 1949 it was taken in by the mother club. The Interclub Council of Garden Clubs was formed to serve as a clearinghouse of all garden club work, avoiding duplication of effort.

MILL MOUNTAIN seemed to have only one worry on its mind as this decade began. Work as hard as they may, their Garden Week returns were lower than they wished. So they thought of an extra flourish. In February, 1940, they held a "Gone With The Wind Ball" at which everyone was carefree and gay. The proceeds were sent for restoration.

Suddenly all frivolity stopped, and war work began. Their Surgical Dressings Chairman must have been a wizard because records are kept of thousands upon thousands of sponges, fluffs, and pads, plus hemming 22,116 diapers. And they made war stamp corsages for college dances and football games and let the word get around that these were the only respectable gifts for Christmas, Valentine Day, and Easter. One of these, that must have been made for a bride, was pictured in *Garden Gossip*. The club used up 10,500 war stamps in a two year period and made a profit of \$225.00.

They even held one meeting at the Frigid Freeze Lockers and were instructed in "the modern miracle of frozen food." As this time came to an end, they "did not regret the great physical strain suffered to help make victory possible."

NANSEMOND RIVER was the named donor

but the Henry Pinners the ones who again broadcast beauty by giving 3500 dogwoods to the city in the club's name. When the Regional Flower Show was staged here in 1940: "Through some freak of nature, we had a perfect day for the show, instead of the snows or blighting cold to which we were becoming resigned."

(Sometimes these club histories are a little baffling. In 1943 this club writes: "We sold war bonds at the time of the visit of the Japanese submarine to our city." It must have been a friendly visit, and it's good one could be spared from the war in the Pacific.)

In March, 1945, Nansemond held its first Camellia Show. (With Norfolk, this Suffolk club has well-proved its horticultural art in this field.)

NORFOLK, club and port city, were war-conscious in advance of Pearl Harbor. An October, 1941, report: "We have a greater opportunity for service because of the shipyards with English boats being repaired, three service hospitals, and two forts, also with hospitals. Supplies are sent to British Merchant Marines who arrive here in dire need. We send them back with clothing for their families living in badly bombed sections of England. Donations of food are sent directly to the Victoria A. Drummond Kitchen in England, named for the captain of a vessel that carries these supplies for us." (Was his name *really* Victoria?)

One report listed the war jobs headed or held by Norfolk members, and it ran through two typed, awe-inspiring pages. They took flowers and plants regularly to the hospitals. Their visits to one at Fort Story, which sat in bare sand, made the club decide to improve that situation. They planted grass seed that grew into a green carpet, "with flower beds in military formation ready for the command: March!" These beds, so described, were tended by the soldiers, who took lessons from "the ladies with the hoes." The club sent thousands of roses to the Naval Base and Navy Y.M.C.A. for Mother's Day. War work did not end with the armistices, but slowly the club re-tooled for peacetime gardening. Its Jean Andrews was GCV President during two years of this decade and her friend, Katherine Lindsay, went along as Recording Secretary. They were missed.

## Member Clubs, 1940-1950

PETERSBURG, with Camp Lee in close proximity, started its war activities early. A garden was built here, a part of which became known as the "Rose Honor Roll." For \$1.00 each, rosebushes were given by relatives and friends of the soldiers. The rose garden was soon filled. Inviting the city's seven other garden clubs to join them, the members wrapped beautiful packages for the service men. Over 2,000 were delivered one year. The club held Winter Carnivals, Valentine Day parties, and other imaginative celebrations for the men in the hospital.

During this period, their president, Mrs. Fogler, said, "We must garden, every one of us who has land and any skill—first, to grow food that will directly help us win in this great struggle, but we also must grow some flowers to keep us sane while we wait, and worthy of victory when we have won."

Other activities went on too. Petersburg won the Massie Medal for the creation and preservation of an Educational Herbarium, with 337 flower paintings of many fast-disappearing specimens. Housed at the Library, this has been a continuing attraction.

As early as 1945, the club began the monumental task of planting at historic Petersburg Courthouse.

PRINCESS ANNE's history resounds to the protection of the Seashore State Park. In 1940 a road running through the park, destroying everything as it ran, was proposed. This club not only took on the local and state authorities but the U. S. Army in Washington. A road was built but not through the park, around the park.

Rationing of gasoline, which curtailed most garden club meetings in Virginia, gave this club a little pause but only a little one. It advised the County Board that it was doing essential war work. "So this matter was straightened out satisfactorily, and our club functions as usual." One of its functions was the care of the old churchyard at Old Donation Church, Lynnhaven and later the grounds of the Eastern Shore Chapel. Plant sales were held three times a year, and the annual rose show, begun in 1934, was always a tour de force. The Hill Sisters went forth to conquer, and they conquered. They

brought home ribbons of every color, mostly blue, as well as awards of glass and silver and bronze and gold.

RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY began its restoration of the herb garden of the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop in 1941. Mrs. Boggs gave a talk on "An Apothecary Garden," and Alden Hopkins came up from Williamsburg to design it.

Nearby Camp A. P. Hill and its soldiers became a full time occupation. To raise money the club held horse shows at Snowden Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Benoit. At one in 1941, on the occasion of the Hunter Trials of the Oak Hill Hunt Club, it sold over \$25,000.00 of war bonds. All this labor resulted in a Navy Plane SNJ-3 Navy Scout Trainer named "The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, Fredericksburg, Virginia." *Garden Gossip* proudly carried a picture of it. From a Victory Exchange, over \$28,000.00 was realized and invested in bonds. For this the club received a government citation.

In 1948 they began the restoring of the 1784 Masonic Cemetery: "This hallowed half acre, a place of interment for Masons of Lodge No. 4. Into this Lodge, the youthful George Washington was initiated and through life held fast those ties. Great soldiers and statesmen lie buried here." Alden Hopkins donated his plans for this restoration.

RIVANNA, with all those test gardens going, must have found it easy to branch out into another kind of garden called Victory Garden. There was one in particular, a community vegetable garden for children. Rivanna supervised, but the 23 children staked their plots, fertilized, sowed, and cultivated. With Albemarle, this club set up annual Victory Garden Fairs in the Old Armory. To the hilt, the members cooperated with the GCV in its wartime programs.

ROANOKE VALLEY started keeping an eagle eye on the young members working for the Junior League and began filling club vacancies with these capable workers.

For the club year ending in 1940, they chose the theme: "England, Its Flowers and Gardens." They became so interested and knowledgeable that they staged an "Old English May Day" at Lindisforne, the home of Mrs. E. R. Johnson.

## *Follow the Green Arrow*

There was a processional, folk songs, and Morris dances. Robin Hood came with Maid Marian and Friar Tuck. Acrobatic Jesters made an appearance. There was a flower mart, a pottery booth, May baskets, and hawthorn bouquets. Tea was served to 500 guests, the treasury was filled, and everyone had a good time.

President in 1941, Mrs. Garland J. Hopkins reported that a history of Fincastle Presbyterian Church had been compiled and presented as a restoration project to Mrs. Harrison, if and when war work stops. She didn't have to wait that long, for this restoration began in 1942 with Mrs. Hopkins as local chairman.

The club helped Mrs. Hopkins at Fincastle, and rejoiced that the original brick walk had been discovered under generations of overgrown sod. They found in the basement of the church 200 cookbooks, published in 1896 by Fincastle culinary experts. Sold as "relics," the books paid for a new church rug.

By 1942 war activities were the major objective. The club set about equipping all the first aid stations in the county with sulfanilamide powder. To raise the money the year book was "hectographed," saving \$50.00. And only this club recorded that one of its members became a WAVE.

Mrs. Davis, with the club's eager backing, was in charge of landscaping the Camp Pickett Hospital grounds. In 1945 she designed the Lucy McVitty Garden at Hollins College, Mrs. McVitty having been a charter member and past president of Roanoke Valley, whose home, Ridgewood Farm, was frequently open for Garden Week.

SPOTSWOOD, after much searching, found the right spot for its Nature Trail and Wild Flower Preserve near Rawley Springs. The trail follows a mountain stream and ends at Ball Room Rock. From conservation to dancing, dancing at a George Washington Ball, which raised \$857.00 for Bundles for Britain.

In 1942 the club welcomed Mrs. Amos Showalter to membership. (Mrs. Showalter in turn welcomed the Harris Cup four times, the Sponsor's Cup three times, and the Davis Cup three times, all at GCV Lily Shows.) Mrs. Laird Conrad concentrated on roses, and three

times she brought the Harris Cup home from GCV Rose Shows.

March, 1942, saw the completion of the planting at the High School grounds, the plans having been drawn by Mr. Charles Gillette. "There is an avenue of 20 sugar maples encircling the wide drive. Shapely pin oaks, junipers, pink and white dogwood were planted, and a hundred ivy plants soften the bleak wall of the building. The boys in the school installed a unique watering system and water the trees regularly. Another class protects the trees with stakes and wires. So we are teaching youth to appreciate what they have, and to conserve for the future."

And, with their sister clubs, they did war work.

TUCKAHOE gave a marble bench, with appropriate planting, to the churchyard of St. Stephen's Church in memory of their charter member, Nancy Darling Robb. When the Reception Center at Camp Lee was planted, over 200 flowering shrubs were given by members from their own gardens.

For the two years, 1947-1949, the planting of the grounds of the John Marshall House occupied this club. (They were rewarded with 1950's Massie Medal, but in 1970 they are still being occupied by the grounds of the John Marshall House!)

WARREN COUNTY: On June 19, 1929, ten ladies met to organize a garden club. A constitution was drawn up, Mrs. Beverly F. Browne was elected president, and The Garden Club of Warren County was on its way.

Its second meeting listed the complaint of refuse on the highway, and with that, the whole community came under the scrutiny of new eyes — garden-club eyes.

The members planted at the southern entrance of the town, began an improvement of the Courthouse grounds, and planted 24 shade trees along Royal Avenue. To celebrate George Washington's 200th birthday in 1932, they planted a white pine on the lawn of the Post Office.

In 1933 the club started the ambitious program of reclaiming Happy Creek. This may sound like a gay spot, but the creek bed and banks were laden with garbage and rubbish, which had to be removed before the trees, shrubs and bulbs could be planted. (Happy Creek was

## Member Clubs, 1940-1950

in an area called "Black Bottom." The ladies of the club appealed to the Town Council, and "Black Bottom" became "Brookside.")

For many years the club held contests and gave prizes for the improvement and beautification of the premises of colored citizens. The results were visible and encouraging. Beginning the second year, annual flower shows were held. Gaining confidence at home, the club started out looking for competition. From the first foray, it brought blue ribbons home. Then May 20, 1941, GCV membership.

The year, 1943, brought a heavy flood to Brookside, and for a long time the reclamation of this entire area took the efforts of the membership. The club aided in the enormous cleaning up, after which poplar and maple trees were planted. Flower and vegetable seeds were distributed to the inhabitants. A Boy Scout Troop was organized. Work went forward for a park and supervised playground for the underprivileged children of this section. The members didn't let individual war work interfere with this undertaking.

WARRENTON entered the decade with high hopes, but their efforts were soon turned to activities connected with war. When they entertained the GCV Board of Governors in 1941, it was the last meeting in a country technically at peace.

They plunged into the gigantic job of designing and executing the garden and the plantings at the new Signal Corps Post at Vint Hill. On Christmas they went inside and trimmed 12 Christmas trees and hung 60 wreaths. Another war year saw them making 84 Christmas decora-

tions for Fort Belvoir, for which they also furnished planting material around the hospital.

By 1946 they were able to think of more peaceful pursuits. So they decorated, for two years, the huge tent of the Warrenton Horse Show for luncheons given for the T. B. Association.

WILLIAMSBURG's 1942 report: "There are over 140 army or navy families living in Williamsburg. We entertained these people at a reception and tea." Then "We were fortunate in securing Mr. James L. Cogar, Curator of Colonial Williamsburg to show some very interesting slides at a meeting." (Your Historian was a guest there, her first garden club meeting.)

Flowers and attention went to the various military installations in this area. The club landscaped and planted flower borders at the Red Cross Building at Camp Patrick Henry. It saw to the ploughing of Victory Gardens, took up canning, and marked time until it could return to the undivided pleasure of being a garden club.

WINCHESTER-CLARKE in its history says: "Pressures were building up in 1940 as the war in Europe mounted. Mrs. Stacy Lloyd (now Mrs. Paul Mellon) was chairman of Grow and Can for Home Defense. An exhibition of 1000 canned fruits, vegetables, and jellies was displayed in a vacant store on Loudoun Street. The exhibits were later distributed for underprivileged children. Since the necessary metals for a large-scale canning process were soon unavailable, the club concentrated on Victory Gardens for Defense. Foundation planting was done at Newton Baker Hospital, Vint Hill, and Fort Belvoir.

*The next decade is written by Mrs. Stanley N. Brown and Mrs. Burdette S. Wright.*

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

MAY 1950—MAY 1960

AS ONE THUMBS over the old records of the GCV, it is interesting to find that fashions in garden design, flower arranging and even spray programs changed—more gradually, perhaps, than ladies' fashions and certainly for different reasons. The fifties might be called the real beginning of the "Do-It-Yourself" age.

Club programs and articles in *Garden Gossip* and the *Journal* stress simplification in design and plant material for easier upkeep. Although probably most of us did not invite or welcome quite as much do-it-yourself as has come about, the result has been great growth in horticultural knowledge and skill among our members. But one thing that has not changed is the trumpet call to battle (by pen, not sword) to preserve and enhance the natural beauties of Virginia. This struggle seems to go on forever.

1950-1952 — Mrs. W. W. S. Butler,  
President

As Sarah Butler took the gavel, it would appear that the organization over which she presided had only one interest, and that interest was Reveille! Special member club meetings were held, and the decision was agonizing. At a called meeting of the Presidents and the Board of Directors, the final vote for taking on the responsibility of maintaining Reveille was 17 clubs for and 17 against. The Board of Directors broke the tie by moving against the plan.

\* \* \*

The Board of Governors met at Front Royal in October as guest of the Warren County club, Mrs. Claude A. Stokes, President. Mrs. Beverly Browne's inspiring garden was visited, and luncheon at Dickey Ridge Lodge in Shenandoah National Park gave the members the opportunity of enjoying the autumn coloring at its height.

It was decided that the restoration at the University of Virginia should be completed before undertaking a new one. A prize of \$100.00 was offered the member club that plants the greatest number of dogwood trees before the Annual Meeting in 1951.

The possible danger of the uncontrolled use of DDT continued to be emphasized. At this meeting a firm position against it was voiced by the ornithologist son of a member. (In 1963 the same ornithologist found out how to stop woodpeckers from damaging telephone poles without damage to the woodpecker!)

Since the Flower Shows and their awards are a part of the Appendix, they have been rarely mentioned in the body of this history. But the 16th Annual Daffodil Show, sponsored by The Garden Club of Alexandria for the eleventh time, must be. This marks the appearance of "Daffodil" for "Narcissus." It was also the first time that The Royal Horticultural Society's revised classification was used. No more *Incomparabilis*, *Barii*, or *Leedsii*.

Tea was served at Druid Hill, with Mrs.

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960*

Browne and Mrs. Aubrey G. Weaver as hostesses, and Mrs. Stokes was hostess for cocktails before dinner at the Hotel Royal. The speaker was Mr. Thomas R. Owens, a retired U.S. Consul who spoke on Mesopotamia, the traditional site of the Garden of Eden.

1951.

The Warm Springs Valley Garden Club was hostess for the Annual Meeting. The Homestead at Hot Springs made a very hospitable atmosphere for activities both business and social. The horticultural exhibits were beautifully staged in the Fountain Room and greatly admired by other guests in the hotel. Mr. Ingalls, President of the Hot Springs Corporation, spoke on Trees and impressed even the GCV by his statement that he had planted a million and a quarter trees on the grounds of the Homestead, mostly pines and tulip trees. The Nansemond River club won the \$100.00 award, for planting 2,245 white dogwoods. At the recommendation of the Restoration Committee, it was voted that receipts from 1952 Garden Week be used for refurbishing some of our restoration projects in Virginia, rather than for any specific project. The work at the University Gardens was progressing satis-

factorily, with some minor problems, such as weeds and topsoil, still presented at Gunston Hall.

The full background story of *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* was given by Mrs. Claiborne, as follows:

"The first Guide Book for the first Historic Garden Week was compiled by Mrs. William R. Massie and Mrs. Andrew H. Christian. It was a little black book of 88 pages of descriptions of the 71 places opened in 1929. It sold for \$2.00 and was called *Descriptive Guide Book of Virginia's Old Gardens*. The Garden Club of Virginia was not involved in any way, either financially or by effort. The expenses that were not covered by proceeds from advertisements were met by Mrs. Massie. The book made a profit of about \$700.00, which was given to the Kenmore Fund. In 1930 the Pink Book was published with some changes. There was no advertising, and it contained more pictures and longer articles describing the places opened. The name was changed to *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* and the price was raised to \$3.50. The expenses were still met by the editors. This edition was so popular that it went into three printings.



*1951 Annual Meeting, and the VIP ladies pose!*

## Follow the Green Arrow

"The following year saw important changes, as the bookkeeping and distribution had become quite a burden. The two editors approached Garrett & Massie, the publishers, with a proposal that they take over the book and pay the editors a royalty on each sale. At this time the GCV came into the picture as Mr. Massie felt that he needed the assurance of the club that no other book of its kind would be published by them. A contract, approved by the Board of Directors in 1931, was drawn up and signed by the GCV and Mr. Massie. The book was improved, and the price went up to \$5.00. The original editors were still responsible for the text and format and received a royalty of 10% on each volume, with no expenses involved. The Massie-Christian Fund was then established from the proceeds of the several editions. The Trustees determined that the entire proceeds of the Fund should be spent for some project of interest to the GCV. The Purple Book had two editions, followed by the Orange Book. In 1947, when this latest edition ran out, the Fund amounted to \$18,000.00.

"About 1949, the GCV decided to get out a new book on Virginia places. There had been the normal rotation of officers over the years and the signing of the agreement with Garrett & Massie not to publish such a work had been forgotten. The result of this misunderstanding was that Mr. Massie, with great courtesy and generosity, offered to cancel his contract with the GCV and withdraw future claims on the book.

"A new edition, revised and enlarged, priced at \$7.50, came out in time for Christmas 1950. Garrett & Massie continued to be the publisher, but from that time on, the book has been financed and edited under the GCV's auspices." Mrs. James Gordon Smith, daughter of Mrs. Massie, Mrs. Claiborne, daughter of Mrs. Christian, and Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr. have done the work, and their devotion and efforts are deeply appreciated by all.

There were the usual delightful social affairs. Before luncheon at the Casino, Mrs. Arthur Kelly Evans entertained the guests for cocktails at Malvern Hall. Mrs. Allan M. Hirsh gave the cocktail party in the Tower Lobby before the

Annual Dinner in the Old Dominion Room, at which Dr. Francis Pendleton Gaines of Washington and Lee was the speaker.

\* \* \*

The Board of Governors Meeting was held in Martinsville in October with Mrs. E. A. Sale, president of the hostess club. An unusually large horticultural exhibit was staged, of some 1200 specimens, with 24 of the 33 member clubs participating. Another high spot was a talk on Virginia Gardens by Mr. Charles F. Gillette, the landscape architect for the restoration at Kenmore.

An important change was announced, made by the Board of Directors to expedite the machinery of Garden Week. The clubs were officially divided into five geographical districts, with a chairman for each, appointed by the President. Mrs. Herbert W. Jackson, Jr., Garden Week Chairman, reported that the plan was working well. She said that a letter had been received from the Virginia Travel Council, repeating its pledge of support and complimenting the GCV for the important role Garden Week plays in the successful travel season ushered into the state the last week of April.

About 100 people, men predominating, had attended a luncheon at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park. This had been given by the Garden Week Committee earlier in the fall to honor owners of estates, who so generously cooperated with the GCV in making Garden Week the success it has been. The beautiful weather and setting made the party a gala affair, and Governor Battle, who was present, paid many tributes to the GCV.

Mrs. Godwin announced that her Horticulture Committee would edit horticultural hints for the 1953 GCV Engagement Calendar.

At this meeting, the responsibility of clubs sponsoring Flower Shows was clarified. Clubs are not responsible for a deficit incurred in staging a state show. The loss is paid by the GCV, just as any profit is turned over to it. The policy is to underwrite the shows. Because they are horticulturally educational, the GCV wishes to maintain their high quality.

The Associated Clubs for Roadside Develop-

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

ment will be reactivated. This was the result of a meeting called by Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, President, at the office of Mr. Neale, Landscape Engineer of the Virginia Department of Highways. The Highway Department promised its sincere cooperation. Since legislation necessary for highway beautification can be promoted through this group, all club presidents were urged to ask their members to back it wholeheartedly. A Committee of Thirty from the Associated Clubs paid a visit to Governor Battle. He advised that their petition be put in the form of a resolution to the V.A.L.C. for study and recommendation to the Legislature. So there was no chance of a restricting bill for 1952. Thus another battle was started in the long war on billboards, as well as on dumping and other eyesores.

Miss Hill said that the Princess Anne club had already started a beautification program by asking property owners to plant holly, dogwood, crepe myrtle, and pines along the highway from Norfolk to Virginia Beach.

The Conservation Committee was also active in this general part of the state. With our friend, Mr. Huette, Superintendent of Parks in Norfolk, the attention of General Anderson, Commissioner of Highways, and Mr. Neale had been called to the deplorable condition of a strip of land between Rt. 17 and the Dismal Swamp Canal on the Virginia side of the Virginia-North Carolina State line. As a result, this beautiful area of pines, cypress, and native undergrowth, surveyed long ago by George Washington, where over the years erosion and gullies had taken their toll, was to be cleaned up. (A complication later developed. It was found that the work would have to be done under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers, which presented the problem of making new contacts.)

The social events were: Luncheon with Mrs. John A. Shackelford at Grassdale Farms, tea with Mrs. James C. Smith on Sam Lions Trail, and dinner, with champagne before and during, at the Club Martinique. Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr. and Dr. Edwin Betts gave an enchanting program on "Jefferson: Gardening and Music." According to Dr. Betts, "Music was

Jefferson's first and last love. He was a proficient violinist and played the harpsichord as did his wife and daughter." Jefferson also tried to combine music and gardening and was interested in obtaining gardeners from Italy, who could also play different instruments so he could have his own orchestra at Monticello. With Dr. Betts playing the piano and Mrs. Darden the violin, they gave a concert of the 17th and 18th centuries from Jefferson's own music library.

The final business meeting ended with a luncheon given by Mrs. Frank M. Lacy.

1952.

The Gardens on the West Lawn of the University of Virginia were presented to the University on the 24th of April. The impressive ceremony was marred only by the sad news that Mrs. William R. Massie, our Honorary President, had died the day before. Her association with the GCV had been a long and distinguished one, and many of the contributions she made to the organization have lived to glorify her memory.

\* \* \*

An interesting coincidence occurred at the Annual Meeting in Norfolk. Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, who had recently died, had been President of the GCV at the meeting in Norfolk in 1933. Now in 1952, her cousin, Mrs. Butler, presided.

The membership of the club was increased to 36, with the admission of the Boxwood and Three Chopt Garden Clubs of Richmond.

Through the untiring efforts of our President, Mrs. Butler, and with the cooperation of Senator Byrd, the onerous tax on admissions to houses and gardens open Garden Week was removed.

The horticultural exhibit at this meeting was distinctive and beautiful. Of roses and other plant material from the City Park of Norfolk, it had been staged for our pleasure and edification by Mr. Huette. It was much appreciated by the visitors.

There were several announcements of horticultural interest. The Garden Club of Danville won the \$100.00 prize, for planting 1135 dogwoods. A gift of six white and six pink dogwoods was sent to the King of Afghanistan by Mrs. Morris

## Follow the Green Arrow

Parris of the Fauquier and Loudoun club. They were planted in the Royal Gardens and are said to be flourishing.

Miss Vena Walker reported on a sensational rose bush, Soeur Therese, which bore 505 blooms at one time. The bush is 10 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter. Drastic pruners, take notice.

A motion was passed to send a letter to the Engineer Commissioner of Washington, D.C., protesting the building of a bridge over the Potomac River and crossing Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Island. (It is interesting to observe that in 1964 the bridge was completed.)

The Board of Directors recommended that the GCV continue to cooperate with the Associated Clubs for Roadside Development to work for legislation in 1954 for roadside beautification. Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, President, said that the groundwork was being laid and that Governor Battle was very helpful.

Historic Garden Week results were given as \$24,000.00, and the restoration at Gunston Hall will be continued.

Only 169 copies of the revised edition of *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* remain, and a new edition will be ordered. All cost for publishing has been returned to the GCV.

At the close of the meeting, the outgoing President, Mrs. Butler, presented the gavel to the incoming one, Mrs. Arthur B. Collins of The Tuckahoe Garden Club. A rising vote of thanks was given Mrs. Butler for all she had done for the GCV and its members.

Each guest was presented with a silver pin, replica in miniature of the Royal Mace of Authority presented to the Corporation of the Borough of Norfolk in 1753 by the Viceroy, The Honorable Robert Dinwiddie.

Lavish entertainment was provided, luncheons, teas, and a trip to the Azalea Gardens. At the banquet that night, Norfolk's president announced that the champagne was her asked-for Mother's Day present, and now a gift from her to the guests! Admiral R. O. Davis, Commandant of the 5th Naval District, was the speaker. The final event was a cruise aboard an Army Engineer's dredging boat, a two hour trip through Hampton Roads. Luncheon was served on board.

\* \* \*

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore of Virginia was the hospitable hostess to the Board of Governors. The legendary "land beyond the waters," new to many of us, proved to be a fascinating spot in every way. The length of the counties of Accomack and Northampton was travelled many times, taking delighted members to beautiful and historic places such as Vaucluse, built before 1700; Eyre Hall, which has remained in the same family since 1754, and Mount Pleasant. Miss Vena Walker's Rose Test Garden at Bayside was inspected and admired, and those who were privileged to take a look at her attic were enchanted at the colorful bunches of flowers and foliage drying there, waiting to be transformed into winter bouquets.

As usual, Mrs. Gilliam's Restoration Committee report brought enthusiastic applause. A diligent search had been made for boxwood for the garden at Gunston Hall, to balance the remaining part of the original planting. When George Mason set out the bushes, they were less than 12 inches wide. Now, many of them are over 15 feet! After suitable material was discovered in Rockbridge County, came the problem of transporting it to Gunston. This was finally solved, although it was said to be the largest box plantation ever to be moved in the country. The smallest ball weighed over 5 tons.

Certain legal technicalities in connection with the garden at Gunston were read in the form of a resolution to complete the restoration there. The Attorney General had requested this in order to make the agreement legal. The complication arose from the fact that the Board of Regents for Gunston could not accept the usual provision requiring sponsors of gardens restored by the GCV to return 50% of the proceeds received during Historic Garden Week to the GCV. A compromise had been reached whereby the Board of Regents would return 50% of Garden Week proceeds until the amount returned equalled that expended on the restoration.

Another Garden Week matter was the presentation of Standard Rules to Govern Garden Week Policies. These had been drawn up by the Garden Week Committee to clarify common problems, such as rulings on passes and local permits, admission charges for various categories, sale of articles in places opened, modern houses,

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

and finally, the responsibility of all member clubs to support Garden Week in some way.

Garden Week business ended with the exciting announcement that Mrs. Matthews, Executive Secretary for Historic Garden Week, had been approached by *The National Geographic Magazine* with a plan to publish a 16 page color spread, in the April issue, of the James River estates that are open Garden Week.

An alarming note was introduced when Tree Planting Chairman, Mrs. Harrison, reported that the following advertisement was appearing daily in the Winchester newspaper: "Wanted - Dogwood. For specifications, call or write Draper Corp., Box 806 or call 6566." Upon investigation, Mrs. Harrison learned that the dogwood wanted was to be used as material for making spindles - not for beautification of the countryside. This announcement sparked a vigorous campaign to save our dogwood.

The Board of Directors recommended that the Massie Medal be continued as a memorial to Mrs. Massie. This award for Distinguished Achievement had been given by Mrs. Massie since 1929. It has been a great incentive to the clubs in advancing their work to beautify and protect Virginia's natural and historic heritage.

\* \* \*

There were three "first times" at Flower Shows in 1952. The Daffodil Committee arranged to have an exhibit of cut daffodils sent from Waterford, Ireland, by Mr. Lionel Richardson, the well-known hybridizer and grower. Some 300 blooms of 62 varieties arrived safely in Staunton. The perfection and size of the flowers amazed all who saw them. At the Lily Show, Mrs. Horatio F. Minter of the Garden Club of Warren County won both the Harris and Walker Cups. The Rose Show was held in the fall. This proved to be a more advantageous time to transport and display roses than in the warmer weather of early summer.

A final note for 1952 concerns Nature Camp. Although it was started by and is under the direction of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, the GCV has taken great interest in it, encouraged by Mrs. Warner Snider's enthusiasm. Many of our clubs send children to it as part of their Conservation activities. Therefore, it seems

worth mentioning that this year Nature Camp moved to its present home at Vesuvius, Virginia.

Luncheon on the first day was at Vaucuse with Mrs. Verne Minich. Cocktails that evening were at Coventon, Mrs. Ralph C. Gifford, hostess. The Annual Dinner was at Eastville Inn and the speaker, Mr. Dunton J. Fatherly. The final luncheon was with Mr. and Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam at Mount Pleasant.

1953

The Mill Mountain and Roanoke Valley clubs were joint hostesses for the 33rd Annual Meeting. The Hotel Roanoke was ideal headquarters for business. Our pleasure was enhanced by one luncheon given by Mr. and Mrs. Junius P. Fishburn and another on top of unforgettable Mill Mountain. A special feature of the meeting was an outstanding horticultural exhibit, arranged by Mr. A. G. Smith, Jr. of V.P.I., who was on hand to answer questions of gardeners with problems.

Again, two new clubs were admitted to membership, the Virginia Beach Garden Club and The Hillside Garden Club of Lynchburg.

Our President, Mrs. Collins, told of speaking at the Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of America in New Orleans. Her subject was Historic Garden Week. The audience of some 300 was duly impressed at the extent of our restorations and astonished at the scale on which we do our business.

Mrs. Gilliam, Chairman of Restoration, brought the good news that, for a modest annual fee, Mr. Alden Hopkins had agreed to keep his eye on the completed gardens at the University. The gardens had been a costly undertaking in both labor and money, and this arrangement was a happy solution to insure their continuing supervision.

As the garden at Gunston was nearly completed, the thought of what to do next was foremost. A letter had been received from Mr. Henry H. Surface, Administrator of Woodlawn, asking the GCV to consider the garden and grounds there. Several other worthwhile projects were suggested, but the majority of the clubs was in favor of Woodlawn. And so this handsome mansion, designed by Thornton, built about 1800, and given to Nellie Custis and



*Fifteenth Restoration, 1953. Gazebo at walk's end in the garden of Woodlawn Plantation built by Nellie Custis Lewis and Lawrence Lewis on that part of the Mount Vernon estate given them as a wedding gift in 1799 by George Washington. The mansion, completed in 1805, remained in the Lewis family for half a century. On May 27, 1960, the completed restoration was presented to the owners, The National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

her husband, Lawrence Lewis, by her step-grandfather, George Washington, was selected for our next restoration.

Mrs. Walter S. Robertson reported on Historic Garden Week. The gross was \$37,744.19, but, thanks to Senator Byrd, there was no admissions tax. So the check for \$30,096.89 which she turned over to the Restoration Committee was the largest ever received by this Committee. A tidy sum to start the work at Woodlawn.

A good deal of time and energy were spent this year on matters pertaining to highways. In

January the Board of Directors had approved writing a letter to the Governor and to Mrs. Boccock, favoring a State-owned Toll Parkway from the northern outskirts of Richmond to south of Petersburg. The Associated Clubs were back in the State Capitol, urging the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to recommend to the Legislature an act to regulate outdoor advertising. In this connection, Mrs. Sale, Chairman of Highway Planning and Zoning, had held meetings with the Highway Department, the representatives of the Outdoor Advertisers, and

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

others. She pointed out that although the GCV as an organization does not sponsor candidates for political office, individual members should work in their local communities for good government.

A protest was made to the Highway Department against cutting trees along roadsides. A letter from General Anderson, stating that only trees that are diseased or a traffic hazard are removed, was reassuring. "The objective of the Highway Department is to promote the comfort and safety of those travelling the highways of Virginia in every possible way."

Mrs. William F. Zarbock, of the Winchester-Clarke club and champion of the Battle of the Dogwood, made a stirring report on her activities to stop the rape of Virginia's official State Tree. As a result of her appeal, it was decided to send a committee, headed by our Conservation Chairman, to the Conservation Commission of the State of Virginia, asking them to sponsor a bill to protect the dogwood. Funds were also made available to publicize the facts over television and radio.

The job of the Conservation Committee usually seems to be one continuous PROTEST, and this year was no exception. The subjects varied from killing too many doe west of the Blue Ridge to killing brush by spraying along power line rights of way. Miss Elizabeth Perry, Conservation Chairman, suggested conservation education in the schools as a special project. A healthy number of trees was planted during the year by members, some 18,000, with the Leesburg Garden Club accounting for 15,000 red and white pine seedlings.

One of the most important pieces of business announced at this meeting was that, at long last, a suitable home had been found for our archives. At the request of Mrs. R. A. Carrington, Historian and Custodian of Records, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith approached the proper authorities at the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, with the result that "the Library will be very happy to serve as an official depository for the records of the GCV." They are to be placed in the Rare Books Division under the supervision of Mr. John Cook Wylie, who will administer them in accordance with the provision outlined by the GCV. At Mr. Wylie's suggestion, the records less than 5 years old will be

available only to the current officers of The Garden Club of Virginia, at the written request of the President or Secretary. After 5 years, they will be available to the public. A member will be appointed to serve in cooperation with the staff of the Library. Mrs. Harry Clemons, wife of the University Librarian, succeeded Mrs. Carrington as Historian and Custodian of Records.

\* \* \*

The meeting with the Conservation Commission of Virginia was held in September. The eventual outcome was a bill to protect dogwood within 300 feet of the highway and to restrict cutting trees less than 5 inches in diameter. (The bill was passed by the Legislature early in 1954.)

\* \* \*

Once again, the Historic Garden Week Committee entertained owners who open their homes. This time, a luncheon was given in September at the Williamsburg Lodge with Mr. Carlisle Humelsine as the speaker.

\* \* \*

One of the charter member clubs, the Dolly Madison, entertained the Board of Governors in Orange. There is a wealth of lovely and interesting places in the area. Among those visited were Frascati, Montebello, Somerset, and Woodberry Forest, with a luncheon at Mrs. Scott's historic Montpelier and another at Mrs. Eriksen's Tetley Manor. Mrs. George Zinn gave a dinner for the Directors at Lochiel. The Annual Dinner was held at the Keswick Country Club, and the speaker was Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield.

Weather plays an important part in garden club affairs. A severe drought cut down the number of chrysanthemums for the horticultural exhibit, but Miss Walker reported that her roses had been under water twice from Hurricanes Barbara and Hazel.

A letter of resignation from Mrs. W. R. Winfree, devoted Editor of *Garden Gossip* for twelve years, was read with regret. The GCV felt very fortunate that the able Mrs. Roger L. Mann, a member of the Three Chopt Garden Club, was willing to take Mrs. Winfree's place.

## Follow the Green Arrow

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The news that Mrs. Russell T. Bradford, (Jennie Willis, to her many friends) the First Vice President of the GCV, had died suddenly on December 31, 1953, brought year-end sadness to all who knew her.

1954

Goshen Pass was again threatened. We are grateful to Mr. Boyce Loving for this 1969 account. In 1954 a member of the news and editorial staff of *The Daily Progress*, Charlottesville, he wrote: "A news release from The Garden Club of Virginia came to my desk. It was a frantic plea for somebody to do something to save Goshen Pass, stating that the landowner of a tract of timber flanking the Pass had sold the timber rights. The purchaser had bulldozed access roads into the area and had announced that he would begin felling trees within 30 days. The tract in question contained some of the small amount of virgin timber in Virginia. As I am by nature a conservationist and a lover of natural beauty, I wrote an editorial which appeared on Tuesday, February 26, 1954, citing details of the GCV appeal and urging that somebody do something to save the Pass from spoilation and mutilation."

Hunter Perry read this editorial, and that evening told Mr. Lindsay, the publisher, "Clark, I have just read an editorial in your paper that moved me so deeply that I am going to buy Goshen Pass and give it to the State of Virginia." A bill was drafted and passed by the Legislature permitting the State of Virginia to accept this \$17,500.00 gift. Of his part in this Mr. Loving wrote, "I'd like to have the epitaph on my headstone read, 'He helped save Goshen Pass.'"

(On October 7, 1954, a bronze plaque was unveiled at Goshen Pass with the inscription: "In grateful appreciation to Hunter Perry, Lillian Perry Edwards, and The Perry Foundation of Charlottesville, through whose generosity the natural beauty of the northeast slope of Goshen Pass is preserved for posterity. Erected in 1954 by the Department of Conservation and Development." In 1955 the Massie Medal was awarded to Mr. Perry and Mrs. Edwards, mem-

bers of the Albemarle club, "whose timely action, prompted by loftiness of purpose, preserved for Virginia historic Goshen Pass in all its pristine beauty.")

\* \* \*

In February a well attended Flower Show Judging School, the fourth, was held in Charlottesville, the Rivanna club, sponsor.

\* \* \*

The garden at Gunston Hall was presented to the Commonwealth of Virginia and its custodians, The National Society of Colonial Dames, on April 21st. The garden was at its best on a beautiful spring day. Eight years of planning and work, and the proceeds of Garden Week for 1947, 1952, and 1953 had brought it to completion. The final touches included the summerhouses, two pieces of boxwood topiary (one, a remarkable frog), and a planting of dwarf apple trees. We were fortunate again in having Mr. Hopkins agree to supervise it, thereby assuring all concerned of its proper maintenance.

The garden at Kenmore was in need of attention, and \$3000.00 from the reserve of the Restoration Fund was set aside to refurbish it. Meantime, much research was going on, trying to gather information for plans at Woodlawn. Nellie Custis did not help out by leaving very many exact descriptions of her designs for her garden there.

\* \* \*

Pleasure, as well as business, is part of annual meetings. The 34th at Danville, as guests of the Gabriella club, was no exception. There were luncheons at the Danville Country Club and at Mrs. John G. Boatwright's Dan's Hill on the Dan River, and The Danville Garden Club gave a cocktail party at Mrs. John H. Schoolfield, Jr.'s before the Annual Dinner at the Golf Club. Miss Harriet Fitzgerald, Danville-born artist, spoke on "America Toward Art."

The minutes of business conducted at Annual and Board of Governors Meetings had become so voluminous that it was decided that, hereafter, only reports, pertinent questions, motions passed, etc., would be included in copies sent to

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960*

officers, chairmen, and club presidents. Two copies of the complete transcript are to be filed, one with the President, the other at the Alderman Library.

Two new garden clubs joined our ranks, The Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Little Garden Club of Winchester. Both are well located in respect to the needs of the GCV, for Flower Shows and Garden Week particularly. It was decided at this meeting that hereafter only one club a year be admitted, from an area that needs representation, and only if the club would be a great advantage to the GCV. It was felt that much of the charm and atmosphere of the meetings would be lost if the membership became too large.

Several Conservation and Highway triumphs were reported at this meeting. Mrs. Warner Snider was having great success in persuading clubs to send children to Nature Camp. Seashore State Park, a naturalist's paradise, was saved from improper development by the timely action of the Princess Anne club. This club also received a prize offered by the Conservation Committee for conservation education in the schools. Under the able and persevering leadership of Mrs. Zarbock and her committee, the Dogwood Bill had passed the Legislature and been signed by Governor Stanley. (For her valiant campaign, Mrs. Zarbock was awarded the Massie Medal.)

The final triumph was the news that the inadequate Outdoor Advertising Act of 1938 had been amended by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Briefly, the bill increased taxes on signs; reduced the distance from, and limited the number of, signs permitted around places of business; prohibited moving signs with noises, flashing signals, or lights that resemble traffic lights; required circuses and fairs to post cash bonds to insure removal of posters after 30 days, and made dumping along highways a felony with fines up to \$500.00.

Mrs. Sale and her committee contributed enormously in this step towards making "Virginia's Highways the Most Beautiful in America." The Associated Clubs for Roadside Development, reactivated in 1951 under the persistent and efficient leadership of Mrs. Lindsay, had brought together a formidable group of

80,000 women, who worked for passage of the bill. While the final legislation was not ideal, it was progress in the right direction and demonstrated how powerful women can be in getting things done, once they are aroused.

It was announced that the work of the Tree Planting Committee would be included in that of the Conservation Committee.

The Garden Week Chairman reported a gross to date of \$33,256.22, with more to come.

"And the largest amount of money from a one day tour, \$2,456.55, was turned in by the 'baby,' the Virginia Beach club," said Mrs. Matthews.

The President's report was an innovation. Mrs. Collins gave hers in verse, as she gracefully turned the gavel over to Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne.

1954-1956 — *Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne,*  
*President*

Following closely on this meeting, 140 GCV members toured to Wilmington, Delaware, under the management of "the inimitable, never-flurried, ever amiable Sarah Butler." In New Castle, quaint houses and elegant mansions were opened for the visiting Virginians. The second day wasn't long enough for all the glories of Wintertur. The third day to Longwood Gardens and several private gardens, ending with the garden of Mrs. Francis S. Crowninshield, where tea was served. A man at the Hotel Du Pont asked a waiter who the ladies were. He answered, "Well, sir, I understand they are the excess of The Garden Club of Virginia."

\* \* \*

In October to Natural Bridge where the ladies of the Chatham Garden Club were ever-present hostesses.

The Historian, Mrs. Clemons, had started the accumulation of each member club history for the files at Alderman. "In Virginia, beginnings and records have a long and praiseworthy tale to tell."

Mrs. Pusey, speaking of Conservation, said: "Past experience has shown that a genuine conservation consciousness comes to the front in emergencies only, and after the emergency has

## Follow the Green Arrow



A rose is a rose! Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Eighteenth President, 1954-1956, shows appreciation at the Eighteenth Annual Rose Show. With her are Mrs. Fontaine H. Scott, Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Miss Vena Walker (Rose Test Chairman), and Mrs. W. W. Lynn, Jr.

passed, the interest again becomes passive."

Amendments to the Outdoor Advertising Act are being prepared and will be presented to the 1956 General Assembly, advised Mrs. Snider, now President of Associated Clubs.

1955

The January Board of Directors Meeting was with Mrs. Legh R. Powell of Norfolk. The President announced that there was very little business to discuss. These became famous words. A telephone call from Richmond advised that *Garden Gossip* had been sold. Our *Garden Gossip*? Our own magazine? Sold? There was disbelief, and only a heavy snowstorm ended the discussion and sent the Board on its way. Mrs. Thorne appointed a committee to investigate this unexpected disposition of *Garden Gossip* by Garrett & Massie to a Mr. S. T. Goodman of Camden, South Carolina, Publisher of *Southern Homes and Gardens* and President of the Virginia Publishers Wing.

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A special Directors Meeting was held at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond on February 9, to consider the pending sale of *Garden Gossip*. Mr. G. Edmond Massie III and Mr. Goodman were present. Mr. Massie stated that the contract with the GCV had not been referred to since 1936, and that since World War II his firm had continued to publish the magazine at a substantial loss. Mr. Goodman had been contacted 18 months earlier and had agreed to buy it, although to date no papers had been signed. Mr. Massie said that he had received many complaints from garden club members about the impending sale. He concluded by saying that perhaps his firm's action had been hasty and that he would be willing to sell the magazine to the GCV for \$500.00 less than the amount of the deal with Mr. Goodman. He considered \$6,000.00 a fair price, \$2,500.00 in cash and \$3,500.00 for assuming outstanding obligations.

Mr. Goodman then outlined his plans if he should purchase *Garden Gossip*. It would have a special section in *Southern Homes and Gardens*, controlled and edited by an editor chosen by the GCV. The GCV would have no control over the publisher's articles on homes, gardens,



1954, Woodlawn. Three Alexandria Garden Club members, Mrs. John M. Maury, Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, and Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., join Mrs. Thorne, President, on an inspection trip.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

and interior decorating, and he would have no control over GCV articles.

The President, Mrs. Thorne, then went into session with the Committee on Investigation, Mrs. Godwin in the Chair. The Parliamentarian, Mrs. Perry, explained that the Board of Directors was vested with the authority to act in an emergency without consulting the club and to expend the Contributors Fund and draw on the Miscellaneous Fund with the approval of the Finance Committee.

With Mrs. Thorne back in the Chair, a letter was read from Mr. Lewis F. Powell, Jr., attorney, stating his tentative conclusions and the possible courses of action. After hearing the report of the Investigating Committee and letters from several member clubs pro and against the retention of *Garden Gossip*, the following resolution was presented by Mrs. Kendrew, seconded by Mrs. Walker, and unanimously passed.

"Resolved that the GCV should not consent to the proposition made to Mrs. Thorne by Mr. Massie and Mr. Goodman and that it withdraw its support from the magazine as involved in this proposition and no longer use it as its official publication."



1954, Woodlawn. Mrs. Walter S. Robertson, James River, Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Alexandria, Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg, and Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester.



1954, Woodlawn. The neighboring clubs come to inspect the restoration. Left to right: Mrs. Robert E. Latham, Alexandria and Hunting Creek, Mrs. Beaudric L. Howell, Alexandria, Mrs. Berryman Greene III, Alexandria, Mrs. Eugene L. Lindsey, Alexandria, Mrs. Charles H. Pozer, Fairfax, Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr., Alexandria, Mrs. Donald S. King, Hunting Creek, Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Jr., Hunting Creek and Leesburg.

After considerable further discussion and parliamentary goings on, Mrs. Kendrew's resolution stood as presented. The Board then made the following statement to be recorded in the minutes: "The Board of Directors and the Committee on Investigation wish to go on record as deeply appreciating the work of Mrs. Roger L. Mann as Editor of *Garden Gossip*. Her ability and loyalty have been outstanding, and we hope that at some future date our delightful association may be resumed."

The day after this meeting, with the headline "Magazine is dropped by GCV," the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* wrote: "The Garden Club of Virginia will discontinue after the April issue sponsorship of *Garden Gossip*, its official publication since 1926. Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne of Williamsburg, GCV President, said in making the announcement she had no comment to make on plans for another publication."

(The first reaction to the crisis had been one

of consternation and dismay. But the result might be likened to the phoenix, that fabulous bird of ancient myth, that "arose from its pyre of aromatic gums and spice, revived in the freshness of youth." To be sure, we lost the rather catchy name, "Garden Gossip," but the new one, "The Garden Club of Virginia Journal," more accurately describes our publication. It is all our own, the pages no longer shared with other organizations and ubiquitous advertising.)

\* \* \*

The Lynchburg Garden Club was hostess for the Annual Meeting. The Directors were entertained at dinner at the home of Mrs. W. R. Winfree with Mrs. W. S. Mundy, Jr. joint hostess. Beautiful luncheons were given by Mrs. W. R. Perkins and Mrs. Harold Leggett, and a garden party by Mrs. S. S. Johnson. The business meetings were held at Randolph-Macon College, with Mrs. Thorne presiding.

A memorial was read by Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs in tribute to Mrs. Ambrose Ford, a member-at-large who had died in December, 1954.

The Franklin Garden Club was admitted to membership, bringing the number of clubs to 41.

The Slides Committee's pictures of Historic Homes and Gardens had been shown at the National Capitol Flower Show in the prize-winning booth of The Garden Club of Alexandria in March. They had also been sent to groups as far afield as Florida and Oklahoma. Perhaps this publicity of the beauty of Virginia in April had some bearing on Garden Week receipts—a gratifying gross of \$35,599.39, in spite of bad weather and competing house tours.

Most of the activity of the Restoration Committee has been in connection with Woodlawn, but Mrs. Kendrew, Chairman, reported that thought has been given to some improvements at Kenmore and Stratford.

The Investigation Committee of the GCV Publication, Mrs. Robert Jeffress, Chairman, recommended "that the GCV issue its own publication, that the Dietz Press have first consideration as printer, that a standing committee be appointed to serve as advisory committee for the publication, and that Mrs. Roger L. Mann serve

as Editor." This proposal was agreed to, unanimously.

Mrs. Clemons, Historian and Custodian of Records, suggested that if, or when, a history of the GCV is written, it be done by a graduate student, preferably a woman, and that a University of Virginia scholarship be requested for such an addition to *Virginiana*.

A statement was read by the Parliamentarian, Mrs. Perry, to clarify Section III of the By-Laws, to wit: All members of member clubs who pay dues are part of the Constitutional Membership and are listed in the Register. Honorary Members may also be listed in the Register but do not receive the publication. All other classes of members who pay no dues, may be listed in



Misses Evelyn Collins Hill and Elizabeth Gregory Hill at Sea Breeze Farm on Lynnhaven Bay, during Historic Garden Week 1955. They display a volume entitled *THE TRUE TRAVELS, ADVENTURES AND OBSERVATIONS OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH. . . . BEGINNING ABOUT THE YEARE 1593 AND CONTINUED TO THIS PRESENT 1629, a prized family possession.* (Photograph by Howell Walker (c) 1956 National Geographic Society.)

*The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960*



1955, Conservation Forum. Seated: Mrs. George W. Taliaferro, Spotswood, Mrs. W. W. Pusey III, Conservation Chairman, Mrs. Thomas R. Nelson, Augusta. Standing: Messrs. Rogers, Davey, Warner, Cole, and Elliott, Forum speakers.

their clubs' year books but not in the Register and are not a part of the Constitutional Membership.

In Conservation matters, awards were presented to Augusta, Princess Anne, and Hunting Creek for outstanding service in their schools and communities. Four successful Forums had been held, and club members had planted over 58,000 trees in various parts of the State.

At the request of the Flower Show Chairman, a policy was established that, except in obvious cases of classes for men or children, GCV Flower Show programs should have no classes that exclude members of the GCV.

The always inspiring reports of the activities of member clubs brought the 35th Annual Meeting to a close.

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Bright October weather accompanied the Board of Governors to Harrisonburg in the beautiful Valley of Virginia for their meeting. The Spotswood club provided the usual delightful social affairs, with luncheon at Mrs. R. Loring

Cover's attractive home and tea at Mrs. Noland Canter's. Gorgeous roses, perhaps a specialty of this club, were everywhere. The business meetings were held at Madison College. The Directors dined with Mrs. Laird L. Conrad.

The first issue of the *GCV Journal* had appeared in September and been enthusiastically received—12 pages of purely GCV news and pictures. "Beauty Is Good Business" was introduced by Mrs. Jeffress as a slogan for pictures of buildings that beautify, instead of deface, our cities, our towns, and our highways, these to appear on the back cover of the magazine. All credit for the success of the new venture was given to Mrs. Jeffress and Mrs. Mann and the Standing Committee: Mrs. Collins, Mrs. John G. Hayes, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Mrs. C. James Andrews, Mrs. Gardner Boothe, Mrs. Gilliam, Mrs. Thorne, and Mrs. Martin, the Treasurer.

In observance of the Centennial of the birth of Woodrow Wilson, the cover on this year's Register is of the Birthplace. The attractive pen and ink drawing was made by Mr. Thomas E.

## Follow the Green Arrow

Thorne, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at the College of William and Mary, and husband of our President.

Mrs. Martin, Publicity Chairman, has at last found the key to open the doors of weekly newspapers, which heretofore have been tightly locked—Local Names. City papers are interested in names and news of our meetings and pick up the items through their Associated Press coverage.

A plea was made for renewed efforts to keep litter off roadsides and for a stronger bill to enforce regulations to preserve the dogwood.

Mrs. Trundle, through her remarkable work as Lily Chairman, succeeded in persuading 34 of the 40 clubs to take Lily Collections.

Finally, Mrs. George D. Conrad, Horticulture Chairman, had a variation on the usual floral theme. Her topic was fauna, in this case Pine Mice. Her description of their appearance made them sound like dear little pets, with smooth,

sleek coats, short tails, and pink noses and feet. But her account of their actions made us aware that they are not PETS but PESTS, and another foe for gardeners to vanquish.

Dr. Marshall W. Fishwick of Washington and Lee was the speaker at the dinner held at the Spotswood Country Club. The final luncheon was served at The Gables in Elkton.

1956

Another delightful garden tour was held in 1956. In early spring, when the azaleas and camellias are at the height of their spectacular burst of glory, thirty-eight ladies set out from Richmond to visit gardens in Wilmington, North Carolina, and then on to Charleston.

\* \* \*

For the third time since 1922, The Albemarle Garden Club opened its hospitable doors to the Annual Meeting. Luncheons were held the first day in the Pavilions on the Lawn and the farewell one was given by Mrs. James Gordon Smith at lovely Rose Hill. The historic Rotunda was the setting for the business meeting. President of the University and Mrs. Darden graciously entertained the Board of Directors at dinner.

Mr. Harold J. Neale, Landscape Engineer for the Virginia Department of Highways, was elected to Honorary Membership in the GCV, in appreciation of his tireless efforts in conservation and beautification over a period of twenty-five years. The Huntington Garden Club was admitted to membership, bringing the total to forty-two clubs.

The Admissions Committee then presented a recommendation that the list be closed for a period of not less than three years, the recommendation to be voted on at the next Annual Meeting and, if approved, to take effect in 1958. With additional clubs being admitted almost annually, the size of the club was becoming such that only member clubs in the vicinity of large hotels have facilities to entertain an Annual Meeting. This defeats the purpose of the meetings, which were designed to be held in all parts of the Commonwealth, enabling the membership to visit gardens and become acquainted with each section.



September, 1955. Mrs. William H. King gives secretarial service to Mrs. Roger L. Mann, Editor, on Volume 1, Number 1, of the JOURNAL. They work on the porch of Mrs. Mann's Windsor Farms home in Richmond.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960



June 14, 1956, in Fredericksburg. Mrs. Warner Snider, President of the Associated Clubs of Virginia for Roadside Development, presents a silver cup to Mr. Harold J. Neale, Landscape Engineer of the Virginia Department of Highways.

It was agreed, as proposed by the Parliamentarian, that henceforth, all officers, directors and committee chairmen of the GCV must be Active Members of their own clubs.

The cost of everything seems to be rising and so with garden club activities. The dues were raised from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

The gross receipts of Garden Week were a healthy \$43,833.94 — the second largest to date. This was welcome news to the Restoration Committee as the first half of the work at Woodlawn has been completed, with \$25,850.87 already spent and outstanding bills of approximately \$12,000.00. The next question was how much more should be done at Woodlawn at this time. Several former Restorations had been inspected carefully, with the result that \$3,103.58 was spent at Stratford and \$2,396.48 given to Kenmore for necessary sprucing up. The Rolfe Garden at Surry got only advice.

Mrs. Warner Snider, outgoing President of the Associated Clubs for Roadside Development announced that the Virginia Citizens Planning Association had given its 1956 award for "Distinguished and Substantial Public Service" to the

Associated Clubs "in recognition of their unflagging determination to 'Make Virginia Road-sides the Most Beautiful in America.'"

A new arrangement was worked out for the *Journal*, which Mrs. Mann felt greatly facilitated matters. There is an Advisory Committee of eight, the Editor and her Secretary, Mrs. William King. Mrs. King consented to serve the first year without salary as her gift of appreciation and affection for the GCV. In addition, there are six District Chairmen who meet with the *Journal* Chairmen of the clubs and present the needs and help iron out problems.

This year the GCV gave \$100.00 for a scholarship to send a Virginia schoolteacher to a summer Conservation Workshop at a State University or College. Individual clubs also contributed to this worthy cause. The Princess Anne club urged all clubs to do what they could to preserve Seashore State Park as a conservation area. The Park is in imminent danger of disposal to private interests. This would mean the destruction of a unique area, where southern coastal waters meet northern coastal waters and create an unusual condition for its particular plant and animal life.

At the close of the meeting, the outgoing President, Mrs. Thorne, wished the incoming President, Mrs. Godwin, great success and happiness.

### 1956-1958 — Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, President

The 37th annual Board of Governors Meeting was held at the Chamberlin Hotel, Old Point Comfort, the Hampton Roads club, hostess. A tour of the Mariners Museum, the Casemate Museum, cocktails with Mrs. Charles A. Ferguson before the Annual Dinner at the James River Country Club, at which Dr. Edward L. Alexander was the speaker, and a shore luncheon with Mrs. Russell Buxton gave the members an opportunity to see this section of Tidewater. The Directors dined with Mrs. Fuller Brown.

Mrs. Godwin announced with regret that the Warm Springs Valley club had resigned from GCV. Its member, Miss Nancy Cowardin, was elected a member-at-large. A letter was read from Mr. Parke Rouse, Chairman of the James-

## Follow the Green Arrow

town Festival, thanking us for having a drawing by Mr. Thomas E. Thorne of a painting of Jamestown by Robert Matthew Sully, on the cover of the Register. A gift of \$100.00 was sent to the Festival for roadside beautification. This came from a fund of \$500.00 originally given by Mrs. Daniel C. Sands for this purpose.

Mrs. J. Pemberton Penn provided some useful horticultural information about fighting Japanese beetles. Instead of using DDT, she plants odorless marigolds and castor beans, the latter poison to beetles.

Mrs. Kendrew reported that the garden at Woodlawn has taken form in the past year, and is beautiful with the plantings Nellie Custis loved — white and damask roses, woodbine, and native trees. There was still much to be done although \$43,477.25 had already been spent by the Restoration Committee. Fortunately, interest in Garden Week was increasing, with inquiries from many states as well as foreign countries.

Mrs. Mann outlined her ambitious plans for the fledgling *Journal*, admitting that they were "will-o-the-wisps grasped by the tail," ending her plea with, "A large order — yes — but remember that bottle full of fireflies you caught as a child!"

The Historian urged completion of member club histories saying that only through them can a composite GCV history be written. Dr. Younger is looking for the suitable graduate student to undertake this work.

The Associated Clubs President, Mrs. Lindsay, said that surveillance was being maintained on the landscaping of the new Richmond-Petersburg toll road.

As a tribute to Senator Byrd, we were offered an island! Though it sounded like a proper isolation spot for some outdoor advertisers and all litterbugs, we were forced to decline it.

And a benevolent lady in Richmond wanted to will us her lovely home. (There were many conferences pertaining to this gracious gift, but eventually the GCV found itself unable to accept. Aside from the required maintenance, legal opinion was obtained that we would not be exempt from heavy gift or inheritance taxes.)

1957

In March a Judging School was held in

Williamsburg. The attendance was good, 173, but not all took the examination. (It later was recommended that before future Judging Schools, instructors be asked to prepare mimeographed copy of the material they plan to use in their lectures; this to be mailed to students registering in advance so that they would have more time to study for the examination.) Mrs. Anne Werstner Wood opened the session with a lecture on rules and principles. Next day there were lectures on roses by Mrs. C. S. Lewis of Salem, Virginia; lilies by Dr. L. H. MacDaniels of Ithaca, New York; and daffodils by Judge C. E. Quinn of Maryland.

Here, for the first time, the new, official seal of the GCV appeared on the certificates awarded. Again, we were indebted to Mr. Thorne, who had designed a most significant symbol. It was also used as the cover picture of the 1957-58 Register, with this accompanying note: "The Seal of The Garden Club of Virginia is devised in three parts. The center is taken from the Seal of the Province of Virginia in America showing a Queen receiving the gift of the tobacco plant from an Indian Princess. The four petals of the state flower, dogwood, form the second part, and the last part is made up of lettering.

"The motto '*En Dat Virginia Quartum*' signifies that Virginia formed the fourth part of the Crown Dominions which also included Britain, France and Ireland. (Journals of the House of Burgesses 1702-03-1712)."

\* \* \*

The 37th Annual Meeting brought us back to Tidewater. This time the Virginia Beach club was hostess. The Directors dinner was at Pine Hill, guests of Mrs. James H. Watters and Mrs. Preston Hix. Mrs. F. S. Royston entertained at luncheon, and Mrs. Ralph C. Gifford at cocktails before the Annual Dinner at the Princess Anne Country Club. Swimming in the ocean proved to be very tempting to several members.

At this meeting a good deal of time was devoted to Highways, Zoning and kindred subjects. Mrs. Lindsay said that Senator Byrd had advised us to support the Neuberger Bill to control billboards. If this Bill is killed, the

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

Billboard Battle will shift to state legislatures. She urged all interested members to join the Virginia Citizens Planning Association; headed by Mrs. Robert Pickens, a member of the Leesburg club. Mrs. Lindsay had sent a forceful and lengthy telegram, composed by Mr. Frank Mason of Leesburg, to the president of Safeway Stores in Oakland, California. The regional manager had applied to the Loudoun County Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance to erect an enormous neon sign at the new Leesburg Safeway. The telegram said, in part: "If exception is made for you, it would open floodgates for other offensive signs in a rural county which through vigilance of our garden clubs has hitherto successfully prevented signs marring natural beauty of our countryside," and went on to urge that Safeway "erect a colonial type store conforming to Virginia's colonial atmosphere which brings thousands of Garden Week tourists yearly." It worked. Leesburg has a "colonial type" Safeway. And it is without "an enormous neon sign."

Mr. Neale, Landscape Engineer for the Highway Department and an Honorary Member of the GCV, spoke about highways and some of the problems of his office, namely: plans for the new 41,000 miles of interstate limited access roads across the country; how to reduce maintenance by proper planting; litter; and Dutch elm disease. Mrs. Gilmore L. Tilbrook, of the Virginia Beach club, told how the twelve garden clubs in the Virginia Beach area had combined forces and, with the cooperation of Mr. Neale and the Highway Department, had planted crepe myrtles and other material along a strip of highway between Virginia Beach and Fort Story—10,000 plants, costing \$14,000.00. This was surely a noble act of civic beautification, and one that might be emulated in other places.

We joined the American Horticultural Council, whose objective is to draw together and better coordinate groups interested in horticultural matters, both in this country and abroad.

Miss Vena Walker described the effect of a record low temperature of 5° on the Rose Test Garden at Bayford. The roses growing on high ground were not harmed; those in low spots suffered. Hybrid teas were damaged the most; floribundas escaped.

The GCV has a representative on the Advisory Council of the Orland E. White Arboretum, at the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia, at Boyce. Mrs. James Gordon Smith, serving in that capacity, described the work that is being done there. In addition to propagating and maintaining a large collection of mostly woody plants, there is a research program for advanced students in genetics.

The Charlottesville Garden Club was admitted to membership, and again it was agreed that the membership of the GCV be closed May, 1958, for a period of not less than three years.

Mrs. Burke gave the Garden Week gross figure as \$33,195.59: "Not fat, not lean, but pleasingly plump."

Restoration said that within a year, as if by magic, the garden at Woodlawn was created. Months of excavations and research had established driveways and walkways that became the main features. Except for the building of a garden house and the planting of a few crab-apples, it is complete. The cost to date is \$51,919.50. Mrs. Smith also reported that \$77,419.44 had been spent on the University Gardens. She gave the total investment of restoration in Virginia as \$408,000 from Kenmore to Woodlawn. (This was Emily Smith's second stint in this demanding chairmanship.)

At the request of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a valuable pilot survey was being made by the member clubs, under the direction of the Restoration Committee. A detailed report was requested on each structure developed before 1860, identified with historic personages or events, or embodying distinguished architecture. (One club gave 193 such structures existing in a small community.) These were to be filed with the National Park Service and in the Library of Congress and the Virginia State Library.

The *Amateur Flower Shows Handbook*, published in 1934, had been revised and was made available at this meeting.

Mrs. William King was made Associate Editor of the *Journal* and its Treasurer reported: "For amateurs in a hard-bitten professional field, we're doing right well."

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## Follow the Green Arrow

In October, as usual, the Board of Governors met, this year in historic Fredericksburg with the Rappahannock Valley club. Mrs. George Benoit entertained the Directors at Snowden Farm.

Restoration reported that the Woodlawn investment had grown to \$64,356.10; that surveys on 1,000 Virginia structures were now filed with the National Trust; and that her committee had protested vigorously "the defacing of the front of the National Capitol in order to provide 40 rooms for Senators at a cost of over One Million Dollars per room." [Ed: If anyone up there heard, no one heeded.]

The balance of \$446.23 of the Sands' gift was given to Mrs. Lindsay for the objectives of the Associated Clubs.

Mrs. James Bland Martin, serving as chairman of a special committee, reported that on October 11 the GCV would join the College of William and Mary in sponsoring an event honoring John Clayton, America's first botanist. She said, "Clayton has long been revered by his fellow botanists. The capitols of Europe contain memorials to him, and their museums feature his works. He is acknowledged to have made the largest single American contribution to botanical knowledge. But here in Virginia where he lived and labored, little attention has been paid to him. He has for years lain in academic obscurity, a printed word in a dusty textbook."

After sherry at the Rising Sun Tavern, where attractive husbands manned the 18th century "bar," again to Kenmore for luncheon as the guests of the Association. The speaker at the dinner was Dr. Grellet C. Simpson, President of Mary Washington College. [Ed: He spoke for 15 brilliant minutes. It was not his brevity, but his witty acceptance of a basic premise—that our mentality *had* passed the 12-year-old mark.]

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John Clayton Day, presided over by Mrs. Godwin, was successful. Mr. Webster S. Rhoads, Jr., at whose home, Elmington, Clayton had wooed and won his wife, Elizabeth Whiting, spoke of Clayton's long years in Gloucester. Dr. Conway Zirkle, professor of Biology at the University of Pennsylvania, was the featured speaker. Of great interest: twelve canvases painted for this event by the well-known

artist, Lee Adams. They included not only the species named for Clayton, such as *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty) and *Camunda claytonia* (the interrupted fern), but other early colonial plant life that Clayton would have known and investigated. Over 800 attended, including Clayton descendants and leading botanists/horticulturists. Tea was poured at tables uniquely flower laden. Even Dr. James Baldwin was pleased! For over a year, this distinguished head of William and Mary's Botany Department, had worked diligently, but gingerly, with the ladies of the GCV.

1958

The Blue Ridge club was hostess for the 38th Annual Meeting, and the setting for meetings was appropriately divided between the two famous institutions of learning in Lexington, V.M.I. and Washington and Lee. Luncheon the first day was at the beautiful home of V.M.I.'s Commandant, and that afternoon its cadets marched in dress parade. (The wives of V.M.I. alumni stood right there and cried!)

After her self-limited three years as Editor of the *Journal*, Mrs. Mann resigned, and Mrs. Thorne was appointed in her place. Many encomiums were paid Sudie Mann for seeing the *Journal* through the difficulties of its initial years.

Mrs. Lindsay began her report with, "A certain gentleman spent his first session in Congress trying to get a bill passed, without success. When he arrived home after his ordeal, there were placards reading, 'WELCOME HOME ANYWAY.' So here I am ANYWAY." The bill to control advertising on the Interstate Highway System did not pass the 1958 General Assembly. Extensive groundwork had been laid, an amendment was being prepared, and the Assembly would be given another chance in 1960.

The Garden Study Club of Martinsville was admitted to membership (and was the last to be admitted until 1969).

Probably, the business that members are most eager to hear about are the results of Garden Week and the progress of Restoration. Mrs. Raymond C. Power, Chairman, reported the receipts from Garden Week the next biggest



*Sixteenth Restoration, 1958. Beastie in foreground of the garden of the Adam Thoroughgood House built between 1635 and 1660 in Princess Anne County near the Lynnhaven River. This 17th century "gentleman's garden" was presented April 9, 1960.*

ever—\$39,713.03. The effective work of Mrs. Charles F. Holden in procuring advertisements for the Guide Book had resulted in NO deficit in that area. Other items having to do with the mechanics of planning and running this undertaking were pointed out by Mrs. Matthews. Every year the State Highway Department furnishes all the green arrows and markers and places most of them. The State Chamber of Commerce supplies, cost-free, approximately 95% of the photographs used for publicity. The Virginia Travel Council contacts interested travel agencies, hotels, motels, etc., in most of the states and Canada, informing them about Garden Week.

It was decided at this meeting that the next restoration be the garden of the Adam Thorough-

good House in Princess Anne County. This quaint brick residence was built between 1635 and 1660. With Tudor characteristics, its great chimneys, casement windows, and interesting interior make it unique among old Virginia houses. (At the next Daffodil Show held in Charlottesville, there was a class entitled, "A Composition for the Adam Thoroughgood House in the 17th century manner," which was filled to overflowing.)

Our flower shows were being recognized in many quarters for their excellence. A judge, presenting the American Horticultural Society's Silver Medal at the Daffodil Show, praised our policy of stressing quality rather than quantity and pronounced ours the best daffodil show in the country. After another show, a chance visitor

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wrote Mrs. Wyatt A. Williams, Flower Show Chairman, as follows: "When I stood there the other day and looked at all those perfectly unbelievable flowers being enjoyed by all those people, the thought struck me that here — right in this spot — was the reassurance that we aren't a nation falling apart. As long as that many people can lose themselves in the enjoyment of something beautiful, we are all right, particularly when the creation of that something required the joint efforts of God and Man."

Washington and Lee's Sazeracs sang at the dinner, and the speaker was Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee, who was in residence at the University. The next morning the ladies were handed into their cars at the hotel by W&L's Dean and its Treasurer and assisted from their cars on the campus by heads of departments. (They had to match those cadets, didn't they?) The final luncheon was in the beautiful garden of Belfield, the home of Dean and Mrs. Gilliam.

The outgoing President was given her thanks in doggerel, which began:

It all began in Charlottesville, that Jeffersonian town,

When you picked up the gavel as Lelia laid it down.  
and ended,

The time's gone so fast that it seems a short visit

And if this isn't love, dear Judith, what is it? ? ?

1958-1960 — Mrs. James Gordon Smith,  
President

October in Fairfax for the Board of Governors, and Mrs. Charles Pickett, president of the hostess club, entertained the Directors at Paradise Hill. The next morning after registering, there was a *champagne dejeuner* with Mrs. Edward Howrey. Despite floods of rain and narrow roads, the intrepid bus drivers deposited the visitors safely at Oak Hill, where they were greeted by the festive sound of popping champagne corks. After a beautiful party in this charming 18th century home, the delegates were returned to the historic old Fairfax County Courthouse where the business meetings were held. A guided tour gave the visitors the op-

portunity of seeing the wills of George and Martha Washington, together with other treasured documents.

Mrs. Andrews showed the tentative plans drawn by Mr. Hopkins for the Adam Thoroughgood House. This being our first venture into the 17th century, it is of more than routine interest. Especially so was the mention of carved wooden heraldic figures of "beasties" to be featured.

At the dinner held at the Country Club, Virgil Carrington Jones, author and Civil War historian, spoke on "Colonial Days in Fairfax County." In particular he dwelt on the interest of the 18th century land barons in horticulture as evidenced by their famous estates Mt. Vernon, Woodlawn, and Gunston Hall.

Mrs. Smith announced that "by popular demand," and this time the wording was correct, a handbook for the methods, ways and means of entertaining the GCV at its two meetings was being prepared. Mrs. Godwin was in charge and had assembled a VIP committee, most of whom had already suffered through the planning and execution of this responsibility.

The final luncheon was given at the Belle Haven Country Club, where The Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club were hostesses.

1959

In January, a letter was received from Mr. Lewis F. Powell, attorney for the GCV, stating that any legislative program undertaken by us in behalf of the control of billboards would in no way impair our tax-exempt status. This news resulted in the following motion by the Board of Directors: "that the GCV, recognizing the paramount importance to Virginia of the passage of suitable billboard legislation, goes on record as determined to use the accumulated funds of the club to the limit for the fight for such legislation, in conjunction with the three other member clubs of The Associated Clubs for Roadside Development." (The "Fight Billboard Blight" sticker, furthered by Mrs. Warner Snider, was to be distributed nationally.) This was followed by action taken at the Annual Meeting, where it was resolved "that the GCV continue to support The Associated Clubs for Roadside Development in promoting legislation

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

for control of Outdoor Advertising." Another bill was due to come before the legislature in 1960, and the GCV planned to open an office in Richmond in September to fight the billboards. A Legislative Steering Committee was formed with Mrs. Raymond C. Power appointed Chairman by the President of the Associated Clubs.

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The Annual Meeting was held in May, the Winchester-Clarke and Little Garden Clubs, joint hostesses. The headquarters were at the George Washington Hotel. Mrs. Alvin Penny-packer and Mrs. Earle K. Williams gave a dinner for the Board of Directors. Cocktails before the Annual Dinner were in Mrs. McCormac's lovely



Summer, 1959: Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, Sixth President, 1930-1932, is honored by her successors at a luncheon, Little Yatton, Orange. Seated: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. James Gordon Smith, Twentieth President, 1958-1960, Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Seventeenth President, 1952-1954, Standing: Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nineteenth President, 1956-1958, Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Eighteenth President, 1954-1956.

garden, and Mrs. Kenneth Gilpin welcomed us at Scaleby for a noontime mint julep break. A number of members of the local clubs gave luncheons, the smaller groups affording a pleasant opportunity to become better acquainted.

Restoration had found it desirable to refresh and refurbish certain restored gardens:

Kenmore: Additional planting, under the direction of Mr. Gillette, has greatly improved this garden. Cost: \$3,000.00,

Wilton: With Mr. Hopkins' supervision, \$2,000.00 was spent to make this garden more beautiful.

Stratford: Flowering shrubs, trees, and bulbs have been added here on the advice of Mr. Hopkins. Cost: \$3,500.00.

Fincastle: \$300.00 was spent on this churchyard under the direction of Mr. Stanley W. Abbott.

At the Adam Thoroughgood House the garden has cost \$33,000.00 so far, including post and rail fences around the 4 acres of land; picket fences, painted red, around the house and garden; pleached arbors, benches, and a low rail fence on which is *espaliere* cordon pears.

Several new policies were explained by the Flower Show Chairman. (1) A judge of a GCV Flower Show may not be a competitive exhibitor at that show. (2) Members who are professional flower arrangers may not exhibit in arrangement classes, but are eligible to compete in horticultural classes, and may be Test Chairmen. (3) For reasons of economy hereafter containers will be sent back to owners C.O.D.

The Daffodil Show was a milestone in our history, as it was the 25th—A Silver Anniversary Show. It was an outstanding one, and great credit was given Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Test Chairman, and her Committee. The sponsoring club, the Charlottesville Garden Club, received well-deserved congratulations for taking on such a responsibility, especially since they had been a member of the GCV for only two short years.

Garden Week publicity had been released to 388 leading newspapers and 151 magazines as well as to radio and television stations. In spite of doubtful weather, the result was a pleasing sum—gross receipts of \$43,972.89—a fitting climax to the 39th Annual Meeting.

## Follow the Green Arrow

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The Ashland Garden Club welcomed the Board of Governors at the Hotel Jefferson in Richmond. The Directors were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Roberts at Brock Spring. Ashland's President, Betty Dugdale, who has served in many GCV capacities, welcomed the meeting.

Garden Week announced that both the flyers and the Guide Book would carry a picture of beautiful Rose Hill, the home of our President.

The Highway Chairman reported that the fight was about to begin! And the General Assembly of 1960 would find the GCV ready. The services of Mr. Alex Parker of Richmond as Legislative Advisor, and Mr. Richard Broaddus of Martinsville as Field Representative had been secured. Senator Mills Godwin and Mr. Harrison Mann, Jr. would steer our proposals through the Senate and House.

Omitting almost all particulars of the annual flower shows is regrettable. They would make a voluminous book of their own. But Leesburg and its Rose Show must be mentioned here. They had planned their show at the Goose Creek Country Club, and all measurements were meticulously made and charted. It burned. And on short notice, the members re-measured, re-staged and re-worried, and it was triumphantly held at the Hagins House, complete with boxwood pony pulling a cart of flowers! Joan Holden also announced that a Judging School, the first since 1957, would be held in Roanoke, Mrs. Butler, Chairman, Mrs. Godwin, Co-Chairman.

Tea was served at the Virginia House, and the Annual Dinner was held at the Commonwealth Club. Luncheon the final day was at the Ashland home of Mrs. J. D. Ludwig, after which the members were taken on a tour of Scotchtown, the home of Patrick Henry.

1960

In April the garden of the Adam Thoroughgood House was presented to Mr. Henry Clay Hofheimer, President of the Adam Thoroughgood House Foundation. Dr. Richard Howland, President of the National Trust, spoke, after which the 250 guests were entertained at tea

by the Princess Anne, Virginia Beach, and Norfolk clubs.

\* \* \*

Back to Richmond for the Annual Meeting, where the Three Chopt club was hostess. Mrs. J. Clifford Miller, Jr. had a lovely dinner for the Directors. Luncheon one day was at the Valentine Museum, and the other at the Country Club of Virginia, where the Boxwood Garden Club was hostess. A cocktail party by Mrs. John G. Hayes, Jr. preceded a glamorous Annual Dinner at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. This was followed by a play, "Ondine," in the Museum Theatre.

The first order of the business meeting was the reading of a tribute to Virginia Christian Claiborne. On February 1, her death brought to an untimely end her long membership in the GCV and saddened her host of friends and admirers. She was serving as Finance Chairman at the time of her death.

It was directed that a letter be written to Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller expressing "our real sense of loss at the death of his father, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., whom we were proud to have as an Honorary Member."

The Parliamentarian recommended two changes which were approved:

1. That the entertainment of both meetings be in the name of one club only.
2. That the registration fees be increased to \$10.00 for the Board of Governors and \$15.00 for the Annual Meeting.

It was reported that \$1,000.00 had been contributed by member clubs to Teachers' Scholarships for Conservation Workshops. The GCV has also financially supported this annually.

This year, for the first time, Horticultural Certificates of Recognition were awarded for outstanding achievement. Nineteen members received these awards.

The bill to control billboards along the Interstate Highway System was passed by the 1960 General Assembly. It excludes controls in cities and lands zoned for commercial and industrial purposes, which gives the Outdoor Advertising industry an opportunity to obtain favorable zoning regulations wherever possible. The net cost to the GCV in working for the bill was

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1950-1960

\$4,568.17, mostly for attorneys' fees. Mr. Harrison Mann, Delegate, asked Mrs. Smith to convey his thanks to the GCV for its tremendous assistance in the billboard fight. He complimented Mrs. Power, especially, for her proficient work in this connection.

Garden Week again made a fine showing, with the magic figure \$43,000.00. This was fortunate, as the outlay for the Thoroughgood House Garden was \$37,374.78, and for Woodlawn, \$67,446.35.

The Chairman of the Restoration Committee, Mrs. Andrews, read excerpts from a letter from President Shannon of the University of Virginia saying that, "It would be a great source of gratification to me to see completed the companion restoration to the one so generously and beautifully accomplished by the GCV on the West Side of the grounds." It was decided that the next Restoration project be the gardens between the East Lawn and the East Range of the University, according to the plans of Mr. Jefferson, as shown in the Peter Maverick engraving, to be executed by Mr. Hopkins, landscape architect.

Mrs. Smith was enthusiastically applauded as she passed over the gavel to Mrs. Wright.

\* \* \*

### A Summing Up

In an undertaking of this kind, it is impossible to give a detailed account of the accomplishments of each member club. All have shared in the objectives of the GCV, but geography and environment influence participation in some activities. For example, clubs in small towns, where public accommodation facilities are limited, find it next to impossible to be hostess to an Annual Meeting. They make up for it by entertaining the Board of Governors. These gatherings are often especially enjoyable, with an intimacy and informality hard to duplicate in a big city.

During Historic Garden Week, some districts cannot compete with the romance and glamour of the great James River Plantations or the historic interest of Williamsburg and Yorktown in attracting visitors from far away. Others are off the beaten track, and few tourists find time to include these in their itinerary, no matter how



*Seventeenth Restoration, 1960. The five gardens of the East Lawn of the University of Virginia were presented May 4, 1965. Over a quarter of a million dollars was spent in the restoration of the ten gardens on the East and West Lawns.*

charming. Occasionally, areas "run out" of suitable houses and performers seek to take a sabbatical. Crowds and cash boxes of other gardens are swelled by vacationing garden-clubbers. But it is obvious that all clubs are well aware of their responsibilities to Garden Week. Those who cannot open share in the work by providing hostesses and flower arrangements for neighbors, often necessitating journeys of 50 miles or more. They also have projects to raise money for Restoration. These include flower arranging demonstrations and symposiums, exhibition and sale

## *Follow the Green Arrow*

of daffodil bulbs, flower shows and teas, local house and garden tours, and lectures by experts on subjects of gardening interest.

GCV Flower Shows draw more exhibitors and greater attendance when they are in central locations. But winners of the great silver trophies often seem to come from areas where there is ample growing space or where summer weather is more clement. These expert growers are vital in maintaining the high quality of all three shows.

Programs play a major role in all the clubs. If they are good, they stimulate interest. If they are dull, the club wonders why it feels so tired. A universally popular program is a Christmas greens workshop, with variations. Picnic excursions to Restoration sites, State Parks, Arboreta, the C. and O. Canal, and to see special seasons of bloom, such as rhododendron time on the Blue Ridge Parkway, are relaxing and fun. An occasional evening meeting with husbands is a leavening. (One such invitation included "lovers.") Club or community flower shows and plant sales are favorite money raisers. Panel discussions, pruning and propagating demonstrations, practical workshops, all increase horticultural know-how. Clinics and critiques bring to light latent talent and lead to improvement in arrangements at shows, as well as in such things as altar flowers and decorations for various occasions. Once in a while a club has a unique opportunity to do something special, such as the 200th birthday anniversary house tour of area places owned by, or associated with, Chief Justice John Marshall. The willingness of garden

club members to share their knowledge, skill, and bounty has brightened many a neighbor's house and garden, and encouraged and introduced many a beginner to the pleasures of gardening.

Conservation goes hand in hand with her sister committee, Highway Planning and Zoning. All clubs worked hard in getting legislation enacted to preserve the dogwood and to restrict billboard advertising. Children have been sent to Nature Camp; it is a most rewarding experience to sponsor a child. One club cooperated with the town in establishing a nursery for civic beautification; another sold dogwood trees for the same purpose. Nature trails and wild flower preserves have been set aside and maintained.

Locally each club has played a part in civic improvement. Advice, planting, and maintenance have been given freely to churches and courthouses, hospitals and cemeteries, old peoples' homes and children's centers, sections of highway, approaches to towns, public parks, museums and libraries, war memorials and statues. In addition to this impressive list, some clubs have their own restoration projects, perhaps not important enough for state-wide support, but very worthwhile locally. Many historic shrines and beauty spots have been preserved through the efforts of individual member clubs.

Taken singly, the annual accomplishments of any one club are not necessarily spectacular. But when all the pieces of ten years' work of the forty-three clubs are fitted together, the result is a magnificent and inspiring picture. As one husband put it, "Garden Clubs are great. They raise the standards."

*In this decade ten clubs are welcomed to membership, and the total becomes forty-three member clubs in 1958. We shall meet our new friends and visit again with our old friends.*

## MEMBER CLUBS 1950-1960

**A**LBEMARLE continued to plant its way through the community: at Lee Park, on Jefferson Park Avenue, at the new Children's Rehabilitation Center, and the Martha Jefferson Home for Elderly People. The latter was the philanthropy of two members, Hunter Perry and his sister, Lillian Perry Edwards. They also saved Goshen Pass, gave a redwood grove in California, and started the Historian's Fund which made this history possible. Mr. Perry also gave the Albemarle club \$5,000.00 in memory of his wife, Leone Ladson Perry, the income from which is used for attendance at GCA meetings and for a silver cup, which is presented annually.

In 1958 Albemarle loaned Mrs. James Gordon Smith to the GCV, their third member to grace the presidency, Ella being preceded by her mother, Mrs. Massie, and by Mrs. Perkins.

In 1959 the club inaugurated a Point System whereby all active members must earn 25 points each year. The member who contributes most to the club, i.e. earns the most points, is awarded the Leone Ladson Perry Award.

Board Member . . . . .	10
Hostess or co-hostess . . . . .	10
Chairman of Committee . . . . .	10
Member of Committee . . . . .	3
Garden Week:	
Chairman . . . . .	25
Owner . . . . .	2 days 4 days all wk.
Garden only . . . . .	10 20 30
House & Garden . . . . .	20 30 50
Chairman of Hostesses, per day . . . . .	2
Hostess, per day . . . . .	2
Flower Arranging, per day . . . . .	2

Attendance at:	
GCA Annual Meeting . . . . .	10
GCV Annual Meeting . . . . .	8
GCA Zone Meeting . . . . .	8
GCV Flower Show Schools/Workshops . . . . .	15
1 day only . . . . .	7
GCA/GCV Committees or Forums . . . . .	5
Club Meetings . . . . .	2
Outside Flower Shows . . . . .	2
Judging at:	
GCV Flower Shows . . . . .	10
Other Outside Flower Shows . . . . .	5
Speaking at:	
Outside Meetings . . . . .	15
Club Meetings . . . . .	5
Published Articles . . . . .	15
Entertaining Judges or Speakers . . . . .	5
Contributing flowers for club projects, per day . . . . .	2
Hospital Flowers:	
Chairman for month . . . . .	5
Contributed, per day . . . . .	2
Exhibiting at:	
GCV:	
Club arrangement . . . . .	10
Club Coll. or Harris Cup . . . . .	10
Other Arrangement . . . . .	8
Collection . . . . .	5
Specimen (1 or more) . . . . .	3
For Ribbons:	
First . . . . .	10
Second . . . . .	5
Third . . . . .	3
Honorable Mention . . . . .	1
Best in Show or Sweepstakes . . . . .	15
Local Flower Shows:	
Arrangement . . . . .	5
Collection . . . . .	3
Specimen (1 or more) . . . . .	1
For Ribbons:	
First . . . . .	4
Second . . . . .	3
Third . . . . .	2
Honorable Mention . . . . .	1

## Follow the Green Arrow

Club Meetings:	
Arrangement . . . . .	2
Collection . . . . .	2
Specimen . . . . .	1
For Ribbons:	
First . . . . .	3
Second . . . . .	2
Third . . . . .	1

Additional points to be adjudged by the Board before Annual Meeting.

ALEXANDRIA from the beginning not only participated in Garden Week but did so with joy and distinction. For seventeen years, ending in this decade, the amount of money sent in for restoration was meticulously noted—a total of \$19,754.86. (One year the club treasury added \$148.44 so they could send in an even \$1,000.00.) In 1954 the club operated an information booth in the National Flower and Garden Show in Washington. Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr. was Chairman, and the booth was constantly manned. Continuing slides of the Daffodil, Rose, and Lily Shows as well as of Homes and Gardens in Virginia, attracted much attention.

All through this club's existence horticulturists have gone forth to conquer at all flower shows. Perhaps the outstanding achiever in this club of achievers is Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., who has made a clean sweep through the world of daffodil competition: Harris Cup three times, first winner of the Beirne Cup, merit awards from the GCV, the GCA, and the American Daffodil Society. Then Kitty crossed the ocean and entered fifteen flowers in London's R.H.S. Show and won twelve ribbons. Last report, she was judging a daffodil show in New Zealand!

ASHLAND would agree that this could be affectionately termed "The Dugdale Decade" even though it is continuing in 1970. The combined horticultural knowledge of these two dedicated gardeners is widely recognized and widely shared. Evergreens, daffodils, lilies. . . . name it, they grow it bigger and better, and what's more, write about it. Then Mrs. Dugdale turned to conservation, and during her GCV chairmanship the Forum was revived. For three years she was in charge of it but never missed a planting season. Her husband complained in a poem, one part of which goes like this:

I come in from work and I want a cold beer,  
 A bit of refreshment, a bracer for cheer.  
 I open the ice box, alas! Woe is me.  
 Daffodils and camellias are all I can see.  
 Then Betty runs in, arms waving in air,  
 "Don't go in that ice box. You stay out of there!  
 You'll ruin my Tunis, Lady Clare, or Puck,  
 Our show is this Friday. Do you hear me,  
 Buck?"

(This is included for all husbands who find ice boxes full of flowers, no food, before flower shows.)

AUGUSTA, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gibbs, started the landscaping of the King's Daughters Hospital in 1950. A gardening calendar was compiled and sold to finance the project, and a fall home tour brought in \$1,500.00. The original plans were completed in 1954, but as the hospital expands, additional planting has been done. Although the hospital is responsible, maintenance is conducted under the constant supervision of a club member.

In 1959, with Mr. Stanley W. Abbott as landscape advisor, planting began at the Staunton Public Library. A Christmas Workshop was held at the Rehabilitation Center to help the handicapped make their own tree ornaments. A bridge was built in the Ramsey Draft Nature Trail to make it accessible the year around.

BLUE RIDGE entered 1950 with only \$6.66 in the bank, but "Dean Gilliam had a sale of his fine iris and gave us the proceeds." (A similar reference appears over and over, and we doubt the I.R.S. let him deduct Blue Ridge as a dependent!) In 1951, "The bank informed us of an old account in which we had \$190.82. It was a war fund established in 1942 and overlooked all these years."

The club had pledged \$500.00 to the Hospital Fund. So Mrs. William Pusey III planned a fund raising luncheon and bridge on January 31. Mrs. H. K. ("Cy") Young was in charge of selling the tickets at \$2.00 each and insisted they be bought and paid for in advance. "To some of us this seemed rather arbitrary, but proved to be our salvation. A more miserable sleety, icy day could not have been made to order, but with the tickets sold in advance, even the timid braved the elements." Louise Gilliam had done the

## Member Clubs, 1950-1960

desserts for the luncheon. Since the road to the hill on which she lives was impassable, the trays were carried to the top of the hill and slid down the slick icy road. Members from more level areas "played catch" at the foot of the hill, and the desserts were duly served. The net profit was \$368.59, and the pledge was paid off.

In 1952 there was planting at the Courthouse, eight boxwood, many forsythias, and two red maples. When Mary Hope Pusey became Blue Ridge President in 1953, she "put before us forcefully all year our obligation to preserve dogwood in Virginia." The next year, still President, she became GCV Conservation Chairman, and her credo was "forcefully" given to the entire state. This was the year that Goshen Pass was really saved by the Perry Foundation. Mr. Perry and his sister, Mrs. Edwards, were guests for luncheon at Penrobin, the Gaines' home, and later "were driven through Goshen Pass to see what they had so gallantly helped to preserve for the State of Virginia. In October, 1954, Mrs. Pusey presided over a ceremony when a stone marker honoring these benefactors was unveiled, and Mrs. Gilliam gave a luncheon for them."

In 1955 Miss Elizabeth Barclay won a first prize for a Christmas doorway, "whereupon each one of us had a delightfully smug feeling of personal achievement. We may not always agree about everything, which would be very dull, but we do enjoy ourselves and each other—when we aren't disagreeing—and sometimes even then!"

In 1956, "We had the pleasure of electing three delightful new members, Miss Frances Denny, Mrs. McCluer Gilliam and Mrs. James Farrar. What a joy, not to say towers of strength, they have proven to be. Just as we thought." Winners in the club horticultural exhibits were noted, but "no prize was given due to our dire financial straits." In commenting on the club's entries that won no ribbons in state shows: "Too bad they don't realize how good we are!"

The annual Christmas party that ended this decade was at Castle Hill: "We were honored by having our three Honorary Gentlemen with us, Dr. Brush, Dean Gilliam, and Colonel Edwards, gallantly upholding each other in our midst."

**BOXWOOD:** In January, 1937, this club came into existence. There were 30 charter members, and the first President was Mrs. C. W. Moss. From that first meeting on, competitive exhibits in both horticultural specimens and in arrangements have been emphasized. These are a part of every meeting except the annual business meeting. The members secured the best available speakers on these subjects and established a fine lending library, which is kept current. They early mastered the art of flower arranging, and their creations were requested by the Valentine Museum, the Woman's Club, and the Tuckahoe Woman's Club.

Early in their club life the members started the heart-warming custom of holding one meeting each year at one of three Protestant Homes for Old Ladies. They provide suitable entertainment such as colored movies of Virginia gardens, and they take arrangements of flowers, fruit and candy. The ladies join with the club members in voting where the awards should go, and all arrangements are left for the enjoyment of the ladies in the Home.

The landscaping at McGuire Hospital was undertaken, and this hospital became the beneficiary of the club's attentions. At each November meeting competition centers on "the most attractively packaged Christmas present," and the exhibits go to the hospital patients.

In 1947 the club began the planting and maintenance of the garden at the Craig House, "even though it was in the Richmond slums and 80 blocks from most of us." This is the second oldest house in Richmond, the birthplace of Jane Craig Stanard, the "Helen" of Edgar Allan Poe. Owned by the APVA, it is always opened for Garden Week. (In 1953 the Massie Medal was their reward.)

Boxwood was welcomed into the GCV on May 15, 1952, together with her sister Richmond club, Three Chopt. So the responsibilities of Garden Week, borne so long by the James River and Tuckahoe clubs, were halved and shared by these two new member clubs. As every Garden Week Chairman has said, for the few who stand in the front and accept the plaudits, there are the hundreds who work behind the scene in Richmond. There are guide books and posters to pack and mail. There are hostesses to

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be secured; Boxwood noted 132 in one year. There are information booths to be manned. Money must be collected and counted and banked. Flower arrangements must be made. One quarter of all this work became the responsibility of the Boxwood club on May 15, 1952.

Can you blame the members for deciding, in 1955, to take in a group of younger members? Known as the Provisional Active members, they were painstakingly instructed by the senior members, "whose backs are not what they once were."

In 1959 when another "turn" at Garden Week chairmanship came to Boxwood, Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr. entered the life of the GCV. (It wouldn't give her up either, and in 1970 she is still counted as one of its blessings.)

BRUNSWICK, by the beginning of this decade, decided that, "The work at the Courthouse Square has become too overwhelming for the club to manage alone." The members, being smart ladies, interested the men in this project. In 1951 the Board of Supervisors approved plans for restoration and voted \$11,000.00. The foundation work involved the removal of concrete walks with replacement of colonial brick, the building of a brick retaining wall, brick terraces, and steps. When all was completed, the actual planting was turned over to the Brunswick club, Mrs. W. S. Peebles, Jr. serving as chairman. The club continues to care for the lovely finished product that resulted.

That big enterprise completed, the club began formulating plans for landscaping at the consolidated Brunswick County High School and was a part of the planting of the grounds at the South Hill Community Hospital.

CHARLOTTESVILLE: It all began when Mrs. Woodruff J. Rankin and Mrs. D. C. Smith had an idea. The idea became action, and on March 17, 1949, twelve ladies met with Mrs. Rankin at Biscuit Run. They met with the purpose of organizing an informal garden club "devoted primarily to gardening with business kept to a minimum." (A destiny frequently desired by all clubs!) Only the Albemarle and Rivanna clubs were on the Charlottesville scene when this new club came into being. Mrs. Rankin became the first President of the Charlottesville Garden Club and its 33 charter

members. It was decided that meetings would be held at one o'clock with a light luncheon served.

The first year was occupied with organizing and study. Ruth Kistner came to lecture on flower arranging. By the beginning of the second year the club had a constitution and by-laws. There was no further mention of "business kept to a minimum," the members having learned that a certain amount seems to be necessary for survival.

The first club project came when an affirmative answer was given to the invitation of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation to take charge of the flower arrangements at Monticello. When winter arrived that first year, the members included some dried flower arrangements, which created so much interest among the Monticello visitors that Mrs. Rankin prepared a pamphlet on the drying of flowers. Published by the club, it was sold for 15¢ at Monticello and elsewhere, providing a steady income. (In 1965 Mrs. Rankin revised and enlarged her pamphlet, and the price was raised to \$1.00. By 1969 it was recorded that 27,000 copies of these two editions had been sold.)

The first flower show was held on May 23, 1952, with a display of orchids and X-ray photographs of flowers! The landscaping of the new Children's Home was begun, and new vigor went into the continuing fight on billboards. When the ladies of the GCV Admissions Committee came to call, it was evident that the learning days had been successful. On May 15, 1957, Charlottesville became a member of the state organization.

Although formerly a part of the Friendly Gardens of several Historic Garden Weeks, in 1958 with the help and encouragement of its sponsors, Albemarle and Rivanna, the Charlottesville Garden Club organized the Country Garden Tour. This continued as an annual event.

Responsibility was accepted for both the 1959 and 1960 GCV Daffodil Shows. The first one was an overwhelming success, and this decade ends with the members anticipating the next year's show, feeling at ease with all the experience gained.

CHATHAM was still the town's "best friend." In 1952 the club presented attractive street

## Member Clubs, 1950-1960

markers. In 1954 it organized the Council of Chatham Garden Clubs. In 1956 the members began the landscaping at the new Armory Building.

DANVILLE, as we have read, had completed two large beautification programs, the Memorial Mansion and the Grove Street Cemetery. The beginning of a project is exciting. The maintenance — the continuance — is often drudgery, but this club continued to nurse and doctor the grounds it had returned to beautiful life. With the Council, a Rose Garden was created in Ballou Park, which had become an eyesore, blighted by erosion and dead trees.

For Garden Week the members hired themselves out to make flower arrangements in the city stores. With Gabriella and neighboring clubs they sponsored "A Day in the Country." Later, again with Gabriella, there was a successful Friendly Garden Tour, which ended on the campus at Stratford College, where refreshments were served.

DOLLY MADISON completed its planting of the grounds at the Orange High School early in this decade. In 1955, under the presidency of Mrs. Wyatt A. Williams, the club sponsored a flower show in which all the county's garden clubs participated. With 425 entries it was not only a good community project, it was a highly successful flower show. (Remembered: Dottie Williams told about this project at a GCV meeting. The GCV promptly gave her the whole State of Virginia in which to stage her flower shows!) The community was further enriched when this club planted the new extension of Route 20.

EASTERN SHORE, not long after its founding, accepted the Accomac-Northampton Memorial Hospital as its pet and perennial project. Driveways and walkways were built here and an underground sprinkling system installed. Ferneries were planted at the entrance, and the landscaping plans were increased to include the nurses' home when it was built. Mr. Huette donated his services as landscape advisor. The club maintains a hospital room which was air-conditioned and is continually remodelled and redecorated.

The club still had enough energy to help with the landscaping at the Old Debtors Prison

and Fort John Custis, where they planted 640 crepe myrtles and 350 other trees. And the members took a long hard look at familiar Route 13 and decided it must be improved. All the while the usual horticultural feats were not neglected. One year every member was required to plant either two grandiflora roses, Queen Elizabeth and Carousel, or six lily bulbs, Olympic hybrids and late Formosanum. Special exhibits were held to determine the excelling grower.

FAIRFAX'S member, Mrs. John S. Barbour, and her husband gave land to the town of Fairfax in 1951. On this land a Red Cross building of colonial architecture was erected. A committee composed of representatives from all garden clubs in the county, with Kitty Pözer as chairman, did the landscaping. Experts handled the large plantings, but "garden-clubbers armed with trowels and spades and bushel baskets full of vinca were the overseers."

In 1952 the club returned to Truro to plant the grounds of the rectory and the new parish hall, and in 1954 we find this item: "Large flower show overtaken by Hurricane Hazel."

During this period another member, Mrs. Channing Bolton, gained national renown. She wrote a small book on dried arrangements, entitled *Till Summer Comes*, which was expanded into a larger volume, *Dried Flowers with a Fresh Look*. Anyone who saw her work can attest that her arrangements did have a fresh look.

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN and its member, Miss Clarissa Fleming, started in 1951 the long, hard task of getting a Zoning Ordinance for Fauquier County. They were successful in 1955. Mrs. Snider became President of the Associated Clubs, an organization the members continued to support to the hilt.

In 1955 the club began celebrating its fortieth birthday year. First came a party at Oak Hall, where the members heard tales of early garden club life: "Miss Janney stole the show by appearing in a lovely white embroidered dress and most becoming flower-decked hat in the mode of 1915." September 24th was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Chief Justice John Marshall. Inspired by Mrs. John Tyssowski, the club arranged a one day tour of Marshall houses and churches in the county. They were Oak

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Hill, Woodside, Ashleigh, Morven, Mont Blanc (now Cobbler Mountain Farm), Carrington, and Leeds and Emmanuel Churches. At each, direct descendants of the great Chief Justice helped as hosts, hostesses, and guides. A loan collection of Marshall memorabilia was displayed at Woodside. Over \$1,000.00 was raised on this unique tour, a sum shared with the churches. There was a final birthday year party at Mrs. Metcalf's with the decorations carrying out the ruby theme. "Nearly 50 members found their places by means of their telephone numbers, painted in red on a pink chiffon handkerchief."

In 1956, with money in their pockets, the members sponsored and conducted a series of lectures on horticultural subjects and shared them with neighboring clubs, a project repeated in 1957.

About this time was noted a skit by Mrs. White, entitled "A Garden Club Meeting as Imagined by a Husband." There was a later meeting to which the husbands were invited, and the exhibit, For Men Only, was "Saturday Night in a Bottle." Mrs. White's skit was re-enacted. [Ed: If this script still exists, how about sharing it with your sister clubs?]

Still stressing its favorite subject, the club held a Horticultural Field Day at Welbourne in 1959. Ninety gardeners came to listen and to observe the pruning skill of Mr. Gordon Tyrell of Winterthur. The proceeds were \$450.00.

The decade ends with Historian Lib Brown's paragraph: "One of the problems of a recording secretary is finding new adjectives to describe the refreshments provided by hostesses. Mrs. DeLashmutt has overcome it in her sprightly minutes with such mouth-watering phrases as 'a fine hearty tea' and 'a sinfully fattening dessert.'"

FRANKLIN: The history of this club begins; "The women of Franklin, a little town over 100 years old, have always been lovers of beauty in every form. They surrounded themselves with eye-appealing objects in their homes and out of doors. Many of them cultivated beautiful gardens. Clubs for the study of music, literature, art, and travel are more than 50 years old. However, because the women were such horticulturists and accepted their gardens as a part of their daily existence, it did not occur to them to

organize a garden club. One day when two friends were discussing the hows, whens, and whys of plants, one remarked that possibly a garden club would be a good way in which they could exchange more ideas among a greater number of friends at one time. So The Franklin Garden Club was born in September, 1945."

World War II had just ended, and the community received from a private donor the land for a Memorial Park. The new garden club undertook its beautification. Walks fan out from the apex of a triangle. There stands a lovely fountain with an encircling reflecting pool. The magnolia, dogwood, and holly trees, with many shrubs, are connected with a carpet of grass. This park is not an unused decorative spot. Annually an Easter Sunrise Service is held here, and Christmas carols are sung under the club's gift of a great cedar. Throughout the year children play while their elders stroll and rest. In this Memorial Park, Franklin lives its community life.

The club held its first daffodil show in March, 1952, at the home of a member, and daffodil growing became an accomplishment. Several members built camellia greenhouses, and with these came increasing interest in this culture. The members experimented with air-layering, and they planted pine seedlings.

Far-sighted for such a young club, it organized the Council of Garden Clubs in Franklin. In an effort to make their neighbors more observant, a "Beauty Spot of The Week" was sponsored. The member clubs of the Council took turns choosing the spot and writing about it.

So the club felt qualified for widening its horizons when the GCV extended an invitation to membership on May 17, 1955. Then came Garden Week to both plague and delight the members. The first year they recorded 460 guests, the second 1162 and a profit of \$1,433.85.

Two important committees were appointed, Civic and Special Projects. The latter undertook Industrial Landscaping and to start it off planted the town entrance on Route 58. Businesses were approached and advised. As early as 1959 the club could report that "an Inn, several service stations, a bank, and many offices already show interesting results." And they planted around

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the Girl Scout shack and the electric plant.

GABRIELLA went right on staging narcissus shows, planting, re-planting, and keeping an eagle eye on the grounds of the Memorial Hospital, and facing each year the rigors and responsibilities of Garden Week.

In 1957, asked to report on how the club promoted horticulture, the answer was: "by the plant and prattle" method. With the Danville club they also conducted a series of horticultural workshops.

In 1958 Gabriella celebrated its 25th birthday. The years had gone fast since that April day of 1933 when a group of friends had gathered in a lovely garden. The club had a party and noted that "there were nine charter members present — and surprised."

**GARDEN STUDY CLUB:** The Martinsville club coaxed this group into being in the spring of 1946, Mrs. Sale and her sister, Mrs. J. Coates Carter, serving as chief "coaxers." Since forty girls were interested and thought they could work and study more effectively in smaller groups, two clubs were formed. Names for each club were drawn out of a hat. One group became The Garden Study Club with Mrs. C. C. Broun as President. The other group became the Colonial Garden Club with Mrs. H. K. Whitener as President. Throughout the first year Mrs. Sale and Mrs. Carter held workshops and provided programs for both clubs.

After a few years of working and studying, the members felt they were ready to begin on larger projects. The two groups came together again, and the first joint meeting was held January 19, 1954. The Garden Study Club was the name adopted.

One of the early projects was planting and maintaining flower boxes in the waiting rooms of the Martinsville General Hospital. Next came planting trees at Oakwood Cemetery and more trees, with shrubbery, on the Library grounds. There an outdoor reading room was hedged with hemlock trees. The City Park became and remains the principal undertaking. Dogwood, flowering cherry trees, and barberry Julienne bushes were planted along the sidewalk. When the Martinsville Council of Garden Clubs was formed, Garden Study was influential and still is influential.

Asked to give one interesting episode of its history at the 1969 Board of Governors meeting, this club provided an amusing insight into GCV admission to membership:

"The highlight of our history was our election to the GCV, OUR golden thread in your tapestry of the first fifty years.

"Excitement ran high on September 20, 1957. It was a memorable day, for we were to be visited by Mrs. William W. Pusey III, Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, and Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Admissions Committee of the GCV.

"How we had worked! We had planned, planted, pruned, even prayed. But Mother Nature was not with us. We had had a long summer drought. The City Fathers had restricted the water. Our feeble watering efforts produced little green grass or flowers. Our prize rose garden, which we had expected to open, was a total wreck; one helpful, zealous husband had overfertilized; not a leaf was left.

"Finally, the fateful day arrived. Everything was in order, we hoped. Our nerves tingled with suspense. Our guests were so charming, gracious and complimentary that our fears were allayed. We had a delightful day. Seven whole months later, May 15, 1958, we received THE TELEGRAM from Mrs. Pusey from the Lexington Annual Meeting. We were members of the GCV!" (And the last club to be admitted for eleven years.)

GLOUCESTER, zealous for Garden Week, in 1950 asked the local *Gazette-Journal* to publish a Garden Week Supplement. The entire front page was a large map showing the places open and how to reach them. For the first time visitors were able to travel the intricate by-ways of this county without getting lost. (Copy is going in now for the 1970 Supplement.)

It was a big day for the club when in 1950 its Mrs. Theodore Pratt was made GCV Daffodil Test Chairman, for she was its first representative in the State organization. Her friend, Mrs. J. B. Spotswood, was the club's Daffodil Test Chairman, and between them they pulled the members into the annual passage at arms, known as Daffodil Shows. In 1948 these two carried the club's flowers to the GCV show at Danville and brought back two ribbons. This whiff of

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achievement set the members off, and in 1954 they won 89 awards out of a possible 202. The club had good teachers, and it learned fast.

In 1952 Mrs. Catesby G. Jones went on the GCV Board and later became its Treasurer. The Gloucester club was in the Big Time now.

After years of hearing the civic chairman's, "I'm discouraged," something was done about the situation. A movement, spearheaded by the club, brought in other county organizations as allies. A survey was made of the village with each residence and business asked: "Do you dump on the highway? If so, why?" The answer was the same: "Yes. Because we have no place else to dump." So a dump was arranged, a garbage service inaugurated, and mass meetings were held. On a March day in 1954, 160 citizens, black and white, appeared with bulldozers, trucks, and shovels on a mile-long garbage dump with a name, Short Lane. By afternoon there wasn't a scrap of paper left to mar this lovely wooded road. (The Clean-Up Scrapbook, with its thousands of printed words and many pictures, was sent to several rural counties which adopted the over-all plan.)

A Memorial Garden was planted at the Gloucester Library, and finally the planting at the Long Bridge Ordinary was finished and turned over to the Woman's Club. This cost \$4,009.10, and an annual contribution is still made to its maintenance. (Gloucester won the Massie Medal in 1956 for the Ordinary planting among other things, but the club has always felt it was Mrs. Hugh K. Dabney's meticulous presentation, with drawings keyed in color and clear legends, that really persuaded the committee.)

After the GCV's honoring of John Clayton, the club planted a live oak tree on the Courthouse Green as a memorial to him, and a bronze plaque was placed on the old Clerk's Office in which John Clayton served for 50 years as County Clerk.

HAMPTON ROADS: And the voice of Mrs. Edward L. Alexander was heard throughout the land! Beginning with a fine natural talent and a deep appreciation of the beautiful, shared by Dr. Alexander, she studied and worked and reached national prominence in the field of arranging, lecturing, and judging. From the Penin-

sula, outward to Virginia, upward to New York, and finally she crossed the Atlantic to represent this country at Floriade, the World's Fair of Gardening, held in Rotterdam for six months. Later this same Margaret Alexander put down her pinholders and containers long enough to organize the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs with nine member clubs. (Not satisfied with union alone, she dreamed of a Garden Center, which came into existence in 1963. She couldn't avoid receiving the Massie Medal, and she didn't.)

Under the supervision of Mrs. A. A. Applewhite, a charter member, planting was done at the Shelton Home for the Aged. Mrs. Applewhite, horticulturist *sans peer*, organized a garden club of teachers. In gratitude the group took her name, and the Alice Applewhite Garden Club flourishes.

HILLSIDE: Two neighbors with beginning gardens, Mrs. Norman File and Mrs. Guy Dirom, thought it would be fun to extend their *tete-a-tete* to other kindred souls. In July, 1935, sixteen friends met at the Dirom home, and Mrs. Dirom became President of the newly organized club. (No one can name with any certainty those sixteen early enthusiasts.) The name of Junior Garden Club was chosen, but at the second meeting when Mrs. Floyd Knight came to speak, the name was changed to Hillside Garden Club. The change was made because of what was tactfully called "future complications." By the second year the dues were raised to the "usurious sum of \$1.50."

In May of 1937 the club held its first flower show, inviting the four other Lynchburg garden clubs then in existence to join them. The next year these same five clubs, plus one from Rustberg and two from Amherst, formed the Council of Garden Clubs. The Council held a Spring Flower Show, and the Hillside entry won first prize. It was a floral "hooked rug," made of white candytuft and purple pansies with a center of single pink peonies. Every member worked on it, and *Garden Gossip* took its picture.

One of Hillside's war projects was the sponsoring of gardens at Point of Honor Playground. Prizes were offered the children for the best gardens. Asked what they would like to have as prizes, they chose umbrellas. They received

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umbrellas. Trying to achieve perfect attendance one year, the club president offered a load of manure to each qualifying member. Six loads were delivered. (Why doesn't every club try this?)

With the Lynchburg club, with the Council, and on its own the club beautified their city: at the Quaker Memorial Cemetery, Monument Terrace, the Lynchburg Guidance Center, the courtyards of the E. C. Glass High School and the Lynchburg General Hospital.

On May 29, 1953, the scope was enlarged when the club became a member of the GCV. Garden Week and all those extra GCV activities dominated the members' thinking and doing. In 1956 there is a notation that the club "cleaned off the country cemetery where the mother of Patrick Henry is buried so Garden Week visitors could visit her grave."

**HUNTING CREEK:** We have read how the Alexandria club, needing a young offspring, organized the Junior Garden Club of Alexandria. Mrs. Charles F. Holden came early to these daughters and daughters-in-law "to prepare, endorse and elect charter members." The fourteen so selected met on March 5, 1942, at the home of Mrs. Frank M. Dillard (Mrs. Charles Rollins). Mrs. Meredith Wickes was elected the first President, and the members started out following Mrs. Wall's sage advice to work out ideas in their own gardens. They started simply by planting and exchanging results on delphiniums, petunias, asters, columbines, lilies-of-the-valley, carnations, and snapdragons.

In April, 1943, they dissolved their pleasant union with the senior club and became The Hunting Creek Garden Club but continued to be dutiful and useful daughters. The first civic enterprise was at the Alexandria Hospital where they planted "three VERY expensive trees and ivy, finishing with a bird bath and feeding station." (The trees were unidentified!) Later foundation planting was completed at the Alexandria Red Cross Chapter House.

The members had become accomplished artists in flower arranging and in the early years showed their creations in the Italian Embassy, St. Agnes School, Gadsby's Tavern, a D.A.R. Antique Show, and in the old homes shown by the Hospital Auxiliary.

They learned about wild flowers and birds from Mrs. C. Harrison Mann, Jr. on many delightful excursions to her home, Liberty Hall. In April, 1951, the first Daffodil Show was staged, and it was noted: "We have three copies of the Daffodil Book." On May 12, 1954, the GCV enticed them into membership, and instead of assisting the Alexandria club each year, Hunting Creek assumed chairmanship and responsibility for Garden Week in alternate years.

The hospital grounds now complete, eyes were cast on the Ramsay House, 1724, Alexandria's oldest, and just restored by the city. The club created there a small perfect gem of a garden, one of the last designed by Alden Hopkins. It is planted and fenced in the 18th century manner with a Flemish bond walk leading to the featured large cut-leaf mulberry tree, which might have been planted by William Ramsay when the colony tried to raise silk worms. The garden is maintained by the members. One report tells of struggling against "drought and dogs, bottles and beer cans" on this busy city corner.

The club earned the money for this and other ventures in various ways but principally through the Christmas Workshops which started in 1954 and still continue. As soon as one workshop is over, plans begin for the next one, and the profits keep the club in near-affluence.

**HUNTINGTON:** In April, 1935, nine young garden devotees met at the home of Mrs. James T. DeAlba to receive the counsel and encouragement so freely given by Mrs. A. A. Applewhite, charter member of the Hampton Roads club. The name adopted, The Huntington Garden Club, honors Mr. Collis P. Huntington who, as owner of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, had so generously contributed to the betterment of the community. (So far as we know, this is the only club named for a man.) It goes without saying that Mrs. DeAlba was the first President.

To keep themselves up to scratch it was decided to inspect each member's garden annually. (Did a shudder go through the entire GCV membership?) They planted privet hedges along the drive to Boat Harbor to conceal the city dump. They landscaped the strip on the dual highway between Newport News and

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Hilton. To finance this work the members became dairy-maids-in-attendance and escorted guests through a local dairy. They beautified the War Memorial Museum in Huntington Park. To get this money 1000 trees were sold with a profit of \$699.05.

They staged flower shows, the first as a part of a Winter Flower Show, then their own Bulb Show, and finally camellia shows became an annual event, except when they were frozen out. The members exhibited in other flower shows and came home with more than their share of silver and blue-colored ribbons. They organized the Warwick, the Merrywood, and the Indian River Garden Clubs, and they formed their own auxiliary which continues active to this time. Annually they had assisted the Hampton Roads club during Garden Week.

In 1952 they began the project at Patrick Henry Hospital. (This promises to go through the lifetimes of the grandchildren of their youngest auxiliary member!) On May 17, 1956, they added to their already heavy burden by assuming the responsibility of membership in the GCV.

JAMES RIVER continued restoration in Richmond; in 1950 at Monroe Park, dedicated as a memorial to Mrs. Wheelwright; 1954 the Memorial Fountains at the Virginia Museum were enhanced with 2,400 tulips and 720 ivy plants for ground cover; 1956 the completion of the garden at the Confederate Museum, plans drawn by Alden Hopkins; the decade ending with gardens at the Cerebral Palsy Center and the Virginia Historical Society. Mid-planting, the members established a Provisional Membership, primarily their daughters and granddaughters. Reporting to the senior club in one calendar year, this group stated with understandable pride that it had also produced six new babies!

LEESBURG'S Mrs. Burdette S. Wright had no sooner become its President than the Hospital Grounds Account was again depleted. So another tea, with flower show, with auction, was held at Rockland, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley N. Brown. A comfortable backlog of \$1,063.29 went into this account. A sprig of laurel was handed the club when it was officially stated: "Loudoun is the only county in Virginia that has accomplished its goal, i.e. NO SIGN-BOARDS." Mrs. Pickens probably didn't even

hear. She was off to hearings on control of subdivisions in the county.

Horticultural note: "Someone with touching faith reported that the honeysuckle on the hospital boundary is responding well to the spray, and will soon be a thing of the past." After 36 consecutive years the hospital vegetable garden was discontinued. It was too much trouble for the staff to prepare the fresh vegetables. So frozen and canned vegetables were substituted.

For eight years, "trailing clouds of glory in every direction," Leesburg's Mrs. H. Hartley Trundle was GCV Lily Test Chairman. (Recently a garden authority wrote, "The fact that lilies are now widely grown in the south is largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Trundle and the GCV.")

LITTLE: In July, 1934, The Little Garden Club was born, the brain child of Miss Nancy Gray Larrick (Mrs. Alexander Crosby). (The history didn't say she was the first President, but we assume that she was!) The name was chosen as symbolic of the small number of members, sixteen, and the size of the members' gardens. The historian admits ruefully that all the minutes from 1934 to 1942 have been lost. The first mimeographed program in the files for 1938-1939 shows the members staged their first flower show June 7, 1938. (They didn't graduate to a commercially printed year book until 1945.) In June, 1939, at a flower show, co-sponsored with Winchester-Clarke and Old Fredericktown, the club won a red ribbon with its "The Corner of a Garden."

All through the records of the senior club, Winchester-Clarke, is written: "The Little Garden Club helped us" in this or that. The members were a part of the Fort Belvoir landscaping, the restoration at Abram's Delight, Garden Weeks, all community flower shows and plant sales under the guidance of the older club.

In 1954 having grown larger along with their gardens, they decided to change their name. Seventeen suggestions were made, and in February they chose Glen Burnie Garden Club. (The house, Glen Burnie, was built by Robert Wood, son of the founder of the city of Winchester.) Historical or not, this name didn't seem to sit well. There was a called meeting in March that voted unanimously to return

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to The Little Garden Club. And under that name, GCV election came on May 12, 1954.

No longer "assisting" the senior club, Garden Week was now jointly sponsored by the two clubs. A long-term civic enterprise was adopted, the landscaping of the Henry and William Evans Orphans' Home. And Little graduated to having its own section of the garden at Abram's Delight and, becoming ardent and active supporters of billboard legislation, joined the Associated Clubs.

LYNCHBURG had founded the Woodland Garden Club in 1948, and in 1952 the entire club was merged with the mother club. Mrs. Robert Bristow was chairman for the landscaping of the new Lynchburg General Hospital, termed "a most praiseworthy accomplishment." The club was one of those instrumental in forming the Lynchburg Garden Club Council. Battling not only the City Fathers but Hurricane Hazel, the members re-planted at Monument Terrace.

MARTINSVILLE began this decade with the sponsorship of a county-wide endeavor to "Make Martinsville Beautiful." Rural community dumps were established, and an educational program on litterbugging began.

In 1957 the club took over the landscaping around the Memorial Plaque on Memorial Boulevard. After filling and grading, twenty hollies of four varieties were planted. The members maintain this area, even arranging for the flag to be flown during appropriate holidays.

Another auxiliary group continued to furnish members, being taken in one by one as vacancies occurred in the club.

MILL MOUNTAIN had by this time put thousands of hours and dollars into its perennial enterprise at the Memorial Hospital. In June, 1953, construction of a new hospital building began, directly in front of the old one, completely obliterating all the work of former years. Completed in the fall of 1955, it was a conversion from a 130-bed to a 325-bed hospital. Undaunted, Mill Mountain made new plans, saying, "The original planting was perhaps like our own child. We tended it with great care, love, and a few headaches. This second chance at the same project is more like a favored grandchild. We will tend it with the same love and

care, but with the added joy of doing a well-loved task again." But: "This well-loved task was abandoned at the suggestion of the Hospital Board. The new hospital has increased in size far beyond its original plan, and like most grandchildren, no longer needs our help."

It is recorded: "Our club lost a valuable Honorary Member, and the GCV a rare friend in the death of Junius P. Fishburn. An authority on iris, Mr. Fishburn and his wife have opened their home and gardens many times for Garden Week and to entertain the GCV." (So many member clubs wrote of Mr. Fishburn speaking to them on his iris or of visiting Mr. Fishburn's iris garden, and he was always in demand by the GCV as a speaker at its meetings. He and so many other husbands nurtured and advanced the causes of the GCV.)

In the fall of 1957 the club began a Garden Clinic, which developed into an annual Beginners' Course for eager and interested young gardeners. (Continued over the years, it is still enthusiastically received and provides a nice income.)

NANSEMOND continued to maintain what it had planted, to give bigger and better flower shows, and to win prizes at outside shows. In October, 1956, its President, Mrs. Flintoff, said to the GCV, "When we present a rare and perfect specimen at a show and take a blue ribbon, we feel that we have accomplished what our club stands for. We have now gone further. We have presented to you our most perfect specimen, your beloved President, Judith Godwin." (Remembered: No one's costumes were more coordinated than Judith's. When she and her Directors withdrew for the high and secret councils of the GCV, the lesser lights would usually end up in the room of Nansemond's Eliza Flintoff and Gee Birdsong with a, "Give us a style show? What's Judith going to wear this time?" Mrs. Godwin has had to wait until 1970 to learn that her wardrobe was usually previewed!)

Camellia shows continued under the auspices of the American Camellia Society, and in 1958, while meeting in Norfolk, the Society came to tour the Pinner garden. Nansemond River was in the forefront when the Council of Garden Clubs was formed in Suffolk. This group planted the by-pass into Suffolk and staged an exhibit of

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flower arrangements covering a period of 350 years.

NORFOLK, always interested in horticulture, began this decade as hostess to the Pilgrimage of the New York Horticultural Society, whose members came to admire the camellias and visit the famed Azalea Gardens. The club ended the decade by actively participating in the 13th Congress of the American Horticulture Society, meeting in Williamsburg.

Its history expressed early concern with the condition of Virginia's highways. A 1936 report said: "The results of our labors on the billboard situation and roadside beautification fail to record our efforts, but our spirits aren't subdued." It was in this decade, however, that every member became a loyal trooper in The Billboard Army headed by that capable general, Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay. With her leadership and with her influence, there was ultimate victory in the Virginia Assembly. General Lindsay had earlier been a private in the armies headed by Mrs. Sands and Mrs. Sloane. She not only knew every tactical and political maneuver, she employed them with grace. (The Massie Medal presented to her in 1961 mentions her 25 years of continuous service.)

In 1955 a junior group of daughters and daughters-in-law was organized. (In 1970 it continues to thrive, accomplish, and assist the senior club.)

In 1957 ninety wild flower prints were painted, mounted with authentic descriptions, and presented to the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences. These are displayed, according to their blooming season, in the Natural History Room.

PETERSBURG concentrated on the restoration at the Courthouse, its principal project. This fine pillared building was built 1838-39 under the influence of Sir Christopher Wren, its spire a replica of the one on the chapel of St. Mary LeBow. When the block was cleared and this area enlarged, the club accepted the expansion of labor. The planting is graciously designated as a memorial to the members of the Petersburg Bar Association. Lighted at night, the ancient building not only reflects its own good self, but the dedication of the members of this club. To finance the work, many activities

were undertaken. One of the most successful was a dried arrangements show and sale, repeated annually during the time of financial need. (The club continues to watch over and re-plant these grounds.)

PRINCESS ANNE: In August, 1950, Princess Anne was born to the British Royal Family, and this club presented her with a child's silver tea service.

When Miss Hill resigned as President and was immediately elected Honorary President, the club presented her a gold, pearl, and aquamarine circlet pin. The citation read: "Within this package you will find a small circle. We like to think of it as the Princess Anne Garden Club's Distinguished Service Circle. It is presented to you by the members of this club for your twenty-three years of Distinguished Service as President. It carries within its circumference their admiration and respect for you, Miss Elizabeth Gregory Hill, as a Great Horticulturist and a Great President and their deep affection for you as a Great Lady."

(About this time the Hill sisters approached the GCV with the hope that it would accept title to their 60 acre farm, and maintain it as a Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary and Horticulture Exhibit. Again, after legal advice on heavy taxes and the problem of maintenance, the offer was regretfully declined.)

On July 6, 1957, Miss Elizabeth Gregory Hill died, one of her last acts being the compilation of the club's history now in our files.

During this period the saving of Seashore State Park became a full-time job. The park had been closed many years, and the club was worried that this wonderland might be lost to conservationists. Mrs. Crawford Syer, club member, wrote an appeal to the GCV Conservation Chairman. Mrs. Dugdale mimeographed it and sent it to every member club. Princess Anne developed a Slides Program which was shown at the drop of a hat to any group, including the Virginia Conservation Commission. An article by Mrs. Syer appeared in the *Journal* with a cover picture. Soon the preservation of this area was not only a Princess Anne project, it was adopted and ardently supported by all member clubs.

RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY recorded with pride its sponsoring of three garden clubs: the

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*"A Gift to Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne." This is the inscription on the tray of the tea set sent to the little Princess in April, 1951, by The Princess Anne Garden Club.*

Anne Page Garden Club, Fredericksburg; the Officers' Wives Garden Club, Quantico; and the Green Briar Garden Club, Fredericksburg.

In 1950, with four other garden clubs, the Fredericksburg Council of Garden Clubs was formed. Rappahannock Valley held a financially successful Flower-Fashion Show at the General Washington Inn. In 1959 a Provisional group, composed of eleven daughters and daughters-in-law, was formed.

RIVANNA had been a part of Garden Week from the beginning, "running the gamut from manning the information center to supplying gardens, large and small." In 1950 the suggestion that a group of small gardens be opened caught the fancy of Rivanna. Its chairman, Mrs. Charles I. Marvin, spoke of the "many beautiful estates around us with their impressive gardens which are beyond the dreams of most of us, except to admire. It is to the small garden, tucked away where no passing tourist can see its treasures, that we must turn." It was Mrs. Marvin who thought of the "Friendly Gardens," a name used to this day. Usually open the entire week, these small gardens give joy annually to thousands of travelling Garden Week visitors.

In this decade the club planted dogwood on Jefferson Park Avenue islands and won a prize

for the best design for planting a small triangle at a branch bank. This \$100.00 was sent to Nature Camp for a slide projector. The club saved trees on High Street as it had saved the Tartleton Oak years ago, and it vigorously opposed the building of a motel in the restricted area around Court Square.

ROANOKE VALLEY began this decade with a sense of loss when Sarah Butler became GCV President, following in the footsteps of her cousin, Mrs. Davis. Another loss came in 1951 when the City Council built the Public Library in Elmwood Park and had plans to usurp other areas. The old gray rock walls that had surrounded the park were taken down to widen the street. The planting was lost. The club recorded: "Thus ended our biggest and happiest project." To add to this litany, the members planted the garden and grounds of the Roanoke Child Guidance Center. A brick terrace and steps were laid, softened by shrubs, evergreens, and bulbs. The completed garden not only provided beauty but therapeutic value as well. Then the Center left for larger quarters!

With the Council, a Harvest Festival was held in 1958, and \$6,800.00 was raised for a clubhouse. Roanoke Valley presented the Council with a silver service in honor of Mrs. Davis and her sister, Miss Rohrer. Mrs. Davis had helped organize many of the garden clubs that compose the Council, which regards her as its Patron Saint.

SPOTSWOOD: Another Mrs. Conrad enters the scene, this time Mrs. George D. Conrad. She conceived the idea of swapping Rockingham turkeys for Holland, Michigan tulip bulbs: "Result, 1599 tulips put on an act this spring on the Courthouse lawn, playing to standing room only." The club did other planting here and continued to care for that at the Public Library. A small garden for the Cerebral Palsy Center was also created.

THREE CHOPT: No one could improve on Sudie Mann's account of the first years: "When on February 7, 1939, Mrs. Roger L. Mann and Mrs. Robert R. Parrish asked a few friends in to discuss the idea of forming a garden club, they had no yardstick by which to measure the success of the venture. Those gathered were not interested in the part they might someday take

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in the community; primarily they were interested in the pleasure that would be afforded them. They never expected to take part in Historic Garden Week, nor that they would labor hard to raise a thousand dollars a year. They thought in terms of small herbacious borders and how little they could cost.

"The charter had no world-shaking phrases to stir the imagination, nor did it set forth zealous purposes to move the elbow. The only requirement of a friend, asked to join, was that she be a gardener, like flowers, and be willing to give and receive gardening information. The unwritten requirement was that she have personality, not ability, for we planned no great things.

"As may be expected there was no momentous business at those early meetings. It was September, 1939, before any minutes were recorded. A motion was made, followed by a short sentence, 'This was not passed.' (The dues were 50¢ a head, hard for the treasurer to count. So to make things easier for her, they were raised to \$1.00 in 1940.)

"The President [Mrs. Mann] had difficulties. She could get no order in her meetings. It was suggested that the club purchase a gavel. This was vetoed with 'It might scar the furniture.' The President continued to speak without being heard. Since the chief discussion the first year was whether the name, "The Diggers," had enough dignity for the group, the President needed no rapt attention. Discussion went on and on, without any recognition from the chair. In November, 1939, romance won over practicality, and the historic 'Three Chopt' was chosen. Our thoughts were set free to tackle more important things."

Probably by accident, not design, the members entered exhibits in the James River club flower show in May, 1940. The Richmond newspapers took note, "Although a new club, Three Chopt has matured quickly, having copped twelve ribbons at the show." And Page Woods won Best Arrangement in Show. *Garden Gossip* also carried an account, and the club comments almost sadly, "We were in the big league." (Being in "the big league" meant mainly they had to buy stationery and post cards.)

Then an assignment to clean up Three Chopt

Road came from the Road Beautifying Group of Virginia. The members undertook to make their road-namesake a fit place for the traveller who followed the trail cut by the Indians. "It was suggested that we mark an occasional tree with three notches to show our clean-up sponsorship."

In September, 1947, they were asked to restore the garden of Miss Ellen Glasgow at 1 West Main Street, then occupied by the University Center. They found it a wilderness and converted it into a "place of heart's ease." Using Miss Glasgow's books for her tastes and probabilities, they found in *The Deliverance* that one of her favorite blooms was the prince's feather. Mrs. Mann adds: "Its fascinating Latin name, *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, means not to wither and a hypochondriac, respectively. By what quaint reasoning did Linneaus give it this second name?" The completed garden was splendid, and the club maintained it for eight years.

On May 15, 1952, the club became a member of the GCV, and with fitness Mrs. Mann, the initiating spirit, was asked to resume the presidency. (This isn't in the club history, but it is so revealing of this "Do we have to mature?" club that it is being recorded. Mrs. Horace Gray, Jr. was the first Daffodil Test Chairman, and since every member wanted to cooperate with the GCV, she sent in a big order. The members dug their beds and waited for the bulbs to arrive. And waited. And decided the GCV wasn't much — they didn't even send their bulbs out in time. Finally, about Christmas, someone discussed the matter with Kitty. Yes, the bulbs had arrived in proper time, but thinking this was part of her new duty, she had planted every one of every member's bulbs in her own garden.)

In 1953 Mrs. Mann became the last Editor of *Garden Gossip*, and in 1955 the first Editor of the *Journal*. Mrs. William H. King served as her secretary without salary for the first year and went on to become an integral part of the *Journal* for many years.

The club needed a new project. The Memorial Hospital was under construction, and the idea of creating a patients' garden there was appealing. Except that they had no money. Before each Christmas for three years, the members made

## Member Clubs, 1950-1960

wreaths and decorations, yielding \$2,230.00. They had a house tour and a swimming pool tour, and soon there was \$3,000.00 to spend on the garden, plans for which had been drawn by Mr. Hopkins. When they went proudly to select the site for their garden, the red-faced hospital authorities told them the place where their garden was supposed to grow was now to be used for operating rooms. So they donated some cement benches and called the whole thing off.

The \$3,000.00 was burning a hole in their agenda though. Historic Richmond Foundation was trying to enlist support for restoration of the old homes on Church Hill. So in 1958 the club took over the landscaping and fencing of the Elmira Shelton House, where Poe had frequently visited, now headquarters for the newly formed Foundation, and saw this through to a beautiful conclusion. All during this time the club was holding up its prescribed quarter-portion of Garden Week chores as well.

TUCKAHOE gave in 1952 until it hurt. Its Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, complete with dimples and charm, moved into the orchid-wearing presidency of the GCV. (Was it coincidence that the club that same year staged Virginia's first Orchid Show, repeating it the following year?) In 1954 at the request of the William Byrd Branch of the APVA, the club landscaped the badly neglected grounds of the Ann Carrington House in South Richmond, using only plant material in keeping with the period. Maybe it, too, needed younger and stronger backs for this hard work because in that same year it formed an auxiliary group of daughters and daughters-in-laws, enrolling fourteen at once.

In 1955 a botanical evergreen planting was established in The Robert E. Lee Memorial Park, adjacent to the Virginia Museum. Every detail had to be cleared with the State Park Commission: approval of plans, assurance of permanent maintenance, and proper preparation of planting areas. The club reported: "This has been a time-consuming undertaking, demanding patience and perseverance." The report was given by Mrs. H. C. L. Miller, then President, in her inimitable hand-writing, ending, "I apologize for this not being typed. I can cook, sew, dig, paint a picture, arrange a flower, play a game of golf, but I cannot type!" Alice Miller was chair-

man when the GCV toured to Wilmington and Charleston. Mrs. Richard Carrington's vivid account of this trip was published in the *Journal* and re-printed, tongue in cheek, by *The New Yorker!*

In 1957 Mrs. Archibald Robertson said she was glad that Easter falls within Garden Week only once every 200 years. She was having a hard time getting hostesses. The club reported the usual number of blisters resulting from wrapping and tying guide books and posters.

VIRGINIA BEACH: The date was March 10, 1937, and this is the tale that is told: "Once upon a time, before television, Thunderbirds or tranquilizers, four young women, moved by the spring promise of a blustery March wind, decided to form a garden club, the Virginia Beach Garden Club. These four, Virginia Dodson, Mary Forsberg, Cutie Gustafson (Mrs. F. Fletcher Garlock) and Katherine Hardy, were efficient and energetic. Soon they, with twelve others as charter members, drew up a constitution, complete with by-laws, all less than 200 words. Katherine Hardy, Mrs. Edward M. Hardy, became the first President.

"At 3:30 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month, these gardeners — and they really were gardeners more than flower arrangers — met at the home of a member. There, draped on chair, sofa, or floor, they exchanged practical, helpful gardening knowledge after the day's speaker had been applauded and before the tea and cookies were served."

Among the earliest programs was one on birds. They liked that one. "It was wonderful. Everybody who could whistle — and some who couldn't — practiced bird calls."

The club grew and prospered. The constitution and by-laws kept pace. "Finally the club became too big to meet in most of the homes if everybody wanted to stay on one floor. Actually, an extremely good vantage point was about the third step up on some stairways, but not everybody enjoyed stair-sitting, and sometimes none of the meeting is audible from there. So we moved our meetings to the Princess Anne Country Club."

When war came, the club entered into every possible avenue open for service. One in particular is recalled. Regularly, the members chap-

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eroned army truckloads of girls to dances, saying that "checking them back into the hotels and cottages after the dances took fortitude and patience. Many local girls married these servicemen, and we still get thanks from them and from their children for bringing their parents together."

There was a Christmas Tour in 1948, which financed planting for the Virginia Beach Community House. In May, 1949, they sponsored a beautification project for Atlantic Avenue, asking property owners and hotels to plant petunias. They did. But "How were we to know that summer's weather was to rival the Sahara's?"

That same year this club invited the representatives of 14 garden clubs in Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach to a meeting. Here the Council of Garden Clubs was formed. The Council began converting what was locally called "Garbage Gulch" into the four mile "Atlantic Parkway." This was the Norfolk and Southern Railroad's old right of way, then the heart of

Virginia Beach. (Today there are 52 clubs in this Council. It is a strong and active association that has accomplished great things for the area, and carries much weight with the City Council.)

On May 29, 1953, this club began its association with the GCV. The history comments: "Oh, frabjous day!" Braced by the heady wine of success, the members formed the Junior Virginia Beach Garden Club and then plunged into Garden Week. "Not having the historically interesting houses which our sister club, Princess Anne, has, we show the outstanding Beach houses and their clever use of water front, both ocean and bay." And it seemed that the world and his brother wanted to see these houses. The novices turned in over \$1,000.00 the first year they opened. The second year receipts of \$2,456.55 set a record for a one day opening, and this record was not equalled for several years. The club's batting average continued high each year through 1959.

WARREN COUNTY resumed its annual planting on the John Marshall Highway and be-



*They were more interested  
in gardening—*

*Than in arranging.*

*Virginia Beach Garden Club describes itself in this drawing of 1937.*

## Member Clubs, 1950-1960

gan its continuing project of the landscaping at the Warren Memorial Hospital. When the construction of a new wing threatened 80 boxwood the club had planted, there was a real crisis. A hurried sale was arranged and the money reserved for re-planting when the construction was completed. Working with the Hospital Auxiliary, the club provides flowers regularly for the wards and reception rooms.

A garden was created at the Samuels Public Library. Terrariums were made for the two nursing homes, and a Garden Therapy program was started for the patients. At every meeting of the Town Council the club was represented. Its script was simple: "Clean up! Fix up!"

When the lily was adopted as the club flower, the eight consecutive years of bringing the Harris Cup to Front Royal could not have been anticipated. This, Mrs. Beverly F. Browne did for two years, and Mrs. Horatio F. Minter for the next six years. Mrs. Minter also brought Walker Cup glory to her club for two straight years.

WARRENTON continued to plant—and plant! At the Community Playground, additional at Rosenwald High School, oaks and dogwood at historic Oak Shade Church in Culpeper, and at the hospital, where the members also arranged flowers regularly. In 1956 a critical situation arose at the hospital: "For the past eight years, one of our major projects has been the landscaping of the Warren Memorial Hospital. With plans approved for the construction of a new wing, a crisis came in the form of the removal of some 90 boxwood. This emergency was met by the sale of all involved shrubbery, and the money reserved for re-landscaping the grounds around the new wing when construction was completed." [Ed: When this was being typed for the printers, these words sounded over-familiar. A horrid feeling that Warren County history and Warrenton history, cheek to cheek in the alphabetical file, had been confused. No. Both clubs had faced the same situation and handled it in the same way, differing only by ten boxwood!]

Over and over the name of the talented Mrs. Alan Day appears. There are few awards she didn't win for her club, culminating with her biggest "arrangement," the staging of the 1957

GCV Rose Show. No one who attended this show will ever forget the Rose Garden that she made of the Fauquier Springs Club.

The town of Warrenton still presented an unresolved challenge to the club. So it tried a new tack. Let Sally Mitchell tell it: "We began by helping a store transform a dump heap into a garden, with espaliered trees against a wall painted a soft Williamsburg color; then came borders of fat begonias, a dogwood tree gracefully shading the creeping ground covers, with the result that the cooperating store came in for a great deal of free publicity of the most favorable kind. Next accomplishment was the rear entrance to a handsome bank of Georgian architecture where, along the side of the entrance, a border was planted, containing delphiniums, coral-bells, and marigolds, bordered with box bushes. Euonymus climbs happily up the wall, and it is a pleasure to cross the parking lot provided by the bank and go inside with the picture of a Peace rose in one's mind's eye, instead of yards of bare cement." Later the club reported spectacular success with the use of window boxes in the town area.

WILLIAMSBURG planted at the Courthouse and maintained this planting. The altar of the chapel at the Eastern State Hospital, where members placed flowers each Sunday and on holidays, became a special project.

In 1954 the club began doing without its active member, Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, when her soft-voiced efficiency was loaned to the GCV for presidential purposes. In 1956 because they lived there, each member was active in the GCV's honoring of John Clayton, and when it was over, a rare oak tree was planted in Clayton's memory at the College of William and Mary.

"In 1956 when preparations were being made for the 350th anniversary of the landing of the first permanent English colonists at Jamestown (and the coming of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip!), everything in Williamsburg took on renewed life. So our garden club inaugurated an auxiliary to enlist the enthusiasm of thirteen new members." (By 1964 the entire group had been absorbed into the parent club.)

In the middle of this decade the new GCV publication, the *Journal*, began its Williamsburg

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residency, first under Lelia Thorne's presidency, at which time it first saw the light of day, and later under her editorship.

WINCHESTER-CLARKE became a part of an all-out war in 1952, when its member, Mrs. William Zarbock, started her battle against the indiscriminate cutting of dogwood in Virginia. No stone was left unturned, and the fact that a law was passed in 1954 which restricted the cutting of dogwood, is due largely to Mrs. Zarbock, who had the GCV and its Conservation Committee firmly behind her.

The Garden Council of Winchester had been formed, and for two years this club assumed responsibility for a Council enterprise and made radio broadcasts called "Over the Garden Wall," the script being written and delivered by the members.

In 1957, in an alliance with the Winchester Historical Society, the restoration of Abram's Delight, one of Winchester's oldest houses, was started . . . and continues. Brick parterres were built, boxwood and yew planted, interspersed with appropriate flowers.

*The final decade of this history relates the life and times of five presidents, whose joys and responsibilities were shared with their Boards, their committee chairmen, and each cooperative member.*

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

MAY 1960—MAY 1970

1960-1962 — Mrs. Burdette S. Wright,  
President

Elizabeth Wright's presidency was only eight days old on May 27, 1960, when she presented the restored garden of Woodlawn Plantation to Mr. Richard H. Howland, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The invocation was given by the Reverend Albert N. Jones, rector of Pohick Church, and the report on the garden was made by Mr. Hopkins, the landscape architect. Of this occasion Mrs. Wright said, "It was a beautiful day; the gardens were in full bloom with period roses and peonies. The spirit of hospitality reminiscent of the days of Nellie Custis Lewis was there, and luncheon and tea were served in the old tradition."

\* \* \*

At the summer Board meeting at Locust Hill, Mrs. Wright's Leesburg home, the Garden Week Chairman, Mrs. Thomas B. Scott, suggested that a luncheon be given to honor the owners who had opened their homes since 1953, the last time this courtesy was extended. (The idea met with enthusiasm, but it was short-lived. Research indicated this would mean over 1,400 guests, impractical as to space requirements and damaging financially. An alternate plan was suggested, and passes to the last two restorations, Woodlawn Plantation and Adam Thoroughgood

House, were mailed, with a letter of appreciation, to the 1,455 homeowners.)

\* \* \*

The Board of Governors met in October as guests of The Petersburg Garden Club, Mrs. Clyde W. Vick, Jr., President. The Board of Directors was entertained by Mrs. Charles Lee Morriss at dinner October 11th, meeting on the wide verandah overlooking a lighted garden.

After registration and placement of horticultural exhibits the next morning, the guests gathered for luncheon in the gardens at Ellerslie, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Dunlop, where yellow-coated waiters hovered over long tables decorated with flowers that were a yellow match of the waiters' coats. (Remembered: It was October, but instead of an expected cool autumn day, the temperature felt like mid-July. It was the beginning of the fur hat vogue, and many feminine heads were smothered in hot mink skins. The ladies tried to look as though a perspiring head was exactly what they had in mind but failed. One club president, at her first meeting, was more sensibly dressed in a navy cotton with a navy straw hat, cool and comfortable. Many envious glances were cast at Mrs. Richard E. Byrd.) Then to the first business meeting, held at historic Petersburg Courthouse.

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Tributes were read to Mrs. Catesby Graham Jones of Gloucester, who died September 3, 1960, having served on the Board six years as Finance Chairman and Treasurer; and to Mr. Alden Hopkins, who had been the GCV landscape architect for many years. He had created four of our major restorations, the West Lawn of the University of Virginia, Gunston Hall, the Adam Thoroughgood House, and Woodlawn Plantation. He had also improved most of the earlier restorations and left with us the first tentative plan for the East Lawn at the University, the current restoration. Mrs. Andrews ended her meed of praise with, "He will always be a part of Virginia, for we can say of Alden Hopkins what was said of Sir Christopher Wren: 'If you seek his monument, look about you.'"

Mrs. Leon Dure, Conservation Chairman, gave the meeting a line to be remembered: "Progress does not have to be ugly," and from the surprised looks, this seemed an entirely new concept. She spoke of the great success of the Princess Anne club in the re-opening of the Seashore State Park, closed since 1955, and advised that on the national scene the GCV had sent vigorous recommendations supporting the wilderness island idea as a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt.

The Garden Week Chairman told of interesting additions to regular tours: Blue Ridge will have an art exhibit of flower prints and paintings, with arrangements, using the same flowers, standing on pedestals before each painting; Warrenton will show their famous hounds and give an exhibition of four-in-hand driving; Lynchburg will emphasize "beauty on a city lot," and Albemarle will feature old stables and fine horses. She reported that the beautiful film "Historic Garden Week in Virginia," made for us by Esso, had in six months 79 showings in 20 states with an estimated audience of 9,911 people. To whet the appetite, she mentioned 3 of the 94 homes that will be open for the first time: Stono in Lexington, built 1818, the home of The Honorable and Mrs. Baldwin G. Locher; Beechwood, 1720, near Franklin, owned by The Honorable and Mrs. Colgate W. Darden; and Brandy Rock Farm, near Culpeper, the home of Admiral and Mrs. Lewis L. Straus.

At this meeting, as an experiment, the exhibits

of horticulture from the member clubs were merit-judged and ribbons awarded. This was not popular, and the Chairman, Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr., stated that the clubs were almost unanimous in disapproving.

The Daffodil Test Chairman, Mrs. J. Robert Walker, reported that the American Daffodil Society would visit the Test Garden in Martinsville and the following day attend the State Show in Chatham. To growers in the northern part of the state, who cannot get their blooms open in time for an early show in the southern part of the state, Mrs. Walker had two practical suggestions: (1) Plant bulbs near a wall, preferably the brick wall of a building. This should bring growth two weeks earlier. (2) Plant in a loose, open, friable soil which warms up more quickly than a solid clay soil. (The ladies scribbled this wisdom, hoping their blooms could be seen by the ADS.)

Mrs. Benjamin S. Killmaster, Lily Test Chairman, said that our Lily Show had so impressed a member of the Netherlands Embassy that the GCV will receive from him 1,000 Regale and 1,000 Regale Album bulbs. A special class for these will be included in the 1961 show. (This was won by the Warrenton club, the award presented by the gentleman from the Embassy.)

The Rose Test Chairman, Miss Vena Walker, spoke lovingly of her roses, saying that not even Hurricane Donna, which had visited Bayford with appalling strength, flattening each bush to the ground, could do permanent damage. She just straightened up the bushes, packed earth around the canes and roots, and, except for a delayed peak of fall blooming, no harm was done. She gave a reproof to floribundas, saying they were more subject to mildew than hybrid teas, Fashion being a prime offender.

The Historian, Mrs. Warner Snider, could not be present. Her report was read by Mrs. Sale, who followed it with a "Love Song to Susa," saying that "her accomplishments through tireless endeavor run like shining threads throughout the tapestry of the GCV," continuing: "After the terrible war years, when we needed someone to rally again the forces of the women of Virginia to fight for legislation for more beautiful highways through the loose-knit organization of the Associated Clubs, Susa Snider was the one to

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970

accomplish this. We saw her begin to work, gently but firmly, with the various personalities. Enlisting, persuading, convincing, she brought men and women into the fold. From that lovely stone farmhouse near Leesburg, thousands of letters, all handwritten, began to flow to every part of Virginia. There were many problems and some stumbling blocks, but eventually there began to form a *new* Associated Clubs of Virginia for Roadside Development, reaching into every county. It was this group which helped Ann Power and her committee in the successful fight this year."

This was a nice note on which to end the first business session and board buses to tour a part of the 23 miles of paved roads in the Petersburg Battlefields. A visit was paid to Old Blandford Church, erected about 1735 and rich in the military history of four wars. Each Confederate State honored its soldiers here with memorial windows of various saints, designed and executed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. There are 15 of these windows, considered one of the finest groups in the country.

From dusty shoes to evening slippers, and to Mary and Alexander Hamilton's for cocktails before dinner at the Country Club of Petersburg. The speaker was Joseph Bryan III, whose latest book *The Sword Over The Mantle* had given chuckles to all unreconstructed Confederates. His listeners kept him talking so long that only a horn sounded by an impatient bus driver brought this nice evening to an end.

Returning to the Courthouse the next morning, the presidents heard Mrs. Francis T. Greene, Highway Chairman, tell of the successful conclusion of The Great Billboard Fight, and accepted her admonishment that there was to be no laurel-resting. Her eyes and our energies were now turned to a concomitant effort—zoning—selected by the President for discussion at this meeting. Mrs. Power, former Highway Chairman, introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Garland Wood, Director of the Southeastern Region of the Planning Commission. (He was also identified as having played a big rôle in our restoration of the Monticello garden and, more intimately, as the brother of Sudie Mann and Jean Brydon.) After hearing his wise and practical suggestions, each president spoke on

zoning ordinances as needed or as presently functioning in her area, sounding as knowledgeable on master plans and zoning codes as on the focal point of a flower arrangement.

The final luncheon was with Mrs. George C. Kirkmyer at her home, Willow Hill Plantation, with its fine ironwork and original panelling. Luncheon was served by the ladies of Brandon Church in colonial costumes.

1961

The new year began for the Directors on January 11th, when their hostess, Mrs. Vernon M. Geddy, greeted them with "elevenses" of coffee and sausage pinwheels at her Williamsburg home.



January, 1961, Directors Meeting, Williamsburg. Mrs. J. Clifford Miller, Jr., Three Chopt, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River, and Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Mill Mountain.

Immediately they were plunged into a maze of technicalities on the 1960 Billboard Law. The Virginia State Highway Commission had decided *not* to purchase easements along 181 miles of the new Interstate Highway. Since this was the only way billboards could be regulated along this 181 mile section, acquired between 1956 and the effective date of the new law, June 27, 1960, the decision might jeopardize

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1961, Waverley Hill, Staunton. Mrs. Gray recalls the years of her presidency at her ninetieth birthday party. Admiring the hat and appreciating the wit is the Twenty-first President, 1960-1962, Mrs. Burdette S. Wright.

the success of this hard-won legislation. Although this did not affect the remaining 873 miles of the new Interstate Highway, along which billboards would be subject to the 660' restriction, plans were made for another approach to the Virginia Assembly in 1962. These 181 miles, unrestricted, were vulnerable to local ordinances. This information, with instructions, went out at once to the member clubs.

\* \* \*

The Annual Meeting was held in Alexandria, the guest of The Garden Club of Alexandria. The Directors were entertained at dinner at Ferry Point, the lovely home of Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr., President, her co-hostess being Mrs. Robert E. Latham, incoming President. (Remembered: This was still in the era of short dinner dresses, but our President, ahead of her time, wore a beautiful long dress. It was blue!)

The next morning delegates were every-

where, registering, looking at the flowers, laughing at the hats and skirt lengths in the displayed scrapbooks, the while shuttle buses carried load after load to an Open House in the courtyard of Gadsby's Tavern. The guests found this perfectly maintained 29 years after it won the Masie Medal for the hostess club. From here to luncheon at the Belle Haven Country Club and the first business session.

After roll call Mrs. Wright said, "Since a cable has been received from the two absent members of the Board, Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott and Mrs. John M. Maury, who are in Tokyo on an extension of the Annual Meeting of the GCA, and since they sound well and happy, we will dispense with the customary letters regretting their absence."

Mrs. Flowers, representing the GCV on the Advisory Committee of the White Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm, announced that the American Boxwood Society had been officially organized on May 2nd, with many GCV mem-



1961, Waverley Hill, Staunton. The guests at the birthday party included, left to right: Mrs. Dibrell, Mrs. James Gordon Smith, Mrs. Godwin, Mrs. Gray Dunnington, daughter of Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Gilliam. Lower right: Mrs. Andrews. Under the large hat is the honoree, Mrs. Gray.

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970*

bers on the charter list. Control of registration of boxwood cultivars will be at this center, information gathered and disseminated to all members.

With brevity Mrs. Stanley N. Brown, Recording Secretary, said, "The reason for requesting brevity in reports is that each page adds at least \$3.15 to the cost of printing. (This should slow down some of the longer-winded members.)"

Mrs. James Gordon Smith reported that the supply of *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia* was exhausted and the printers had requested a new edition. This had been approved by the Board, and the Treasurer instructed to sell such bonds as would be necessary to finance this re-printing. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Strudwick will continue as editors, joined by the late Mrs. Claiborne's daughter, Mrs. John H. Guy, Jr., and assisted by Mrs. Matthews.

In her report Mrs. Wright complimented the membership on its achievements. "Several years ago a great tribute was paid the GCV when it was said at a GCA meeting 'that the most outstanding work done by a garden club organization in the U.S.A. is Historic Garden Week, with the resulting restorations of historic gardens done by the GCV.' We are undoubtedly made up of an extraordinary group of amateurs doing a professional job in many fields. Our ability to put across our convictions in the ever-recurring problem of outdoor advertising is respected, even by our opponents."

Of the annual Conservation Forum Mrs. Dure reported: "On March 22nd, 92 women poured into the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, having come through sleet and rain to attend the Forum, most skillfully planned and managed by Captain and Mrs. Edgar M. Williams of the Rivanna club. In proof of its success one member present, Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr. of Sabot, went right home, and with her son and a nephew, planted 135,000 little pine trees. Another member, Mrs. Pierson Scott, planted 65,000 seedlings. To date this year 1,816 lawn trees and 265,045 seedlings have been planted." Her report ended, "Probably the greatest step forward in conservation in the state has been the founding of a Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a national organization whose principal

purpose is to find, and arrange for the preservation in perpetuity, wilderness areas."

One question had been heard repeatedly since the meeting began, "How much did we make?" So each delegate sat forward to hear the Garden Week Chairman say, "Tighten your seat belts, for we are going to soar high. The largest year of all—\$52,770.35, which is \$12,324.44 over last year. See what you have done." Mrs. Matthews felt that, "The magic combination of these two words—courtesy and hospitality—is the vital ingredient, the secret of this success."

Mrs. Gilliam thanked the money-makers for the money her Restoration Committee will spend and reported on previous restorations. In April the GCV, with the Adam Thoroughgood Foundation, presented that house with its 17th century garden to the City of Norfolk to be administered and maintained by its Museum of Arts and Sciences. Additional work had been done at Wilton, with a short addition to the brick wall and a pair of handsome iron gates at the driving entrance, completing the project begun in 1936.

On the current restoration on the East Lawn of the University, one short word covered the year-long activity here, "digging," and digging both in the earth and in the Alderman Library. Mr. James M. Knight, archaeologist of Colonial Williamsburg, had been cross-trenching and excavating and would shortly present the interpretation of his findings. Mr. Francis L. Berkeley had been carrying out an intensive study of Mr. Jefferson's papers to relate the findings there to the restoration plans. Mrs. Gilliam went on to say, "The gardens on the East Lawn present far more of a problem than those of the West Lawn. The terrain is difficult. It is quite evident that even Mr. Jefferson encountered difficulty in planning entrances to the grounds in connection with the houses, and our problem has not been in any way simplified by the necessity of including motor access. It had appeared to be almost impossible to tell whether all of the gardens and their walls had ever been actually built and, if so, whether completed within Mr. Jefferson's lifetime. Now through digging in paper, we are assured by Mr. Berkeley that Mr. Jefferson did see the finished walls and reported

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that fact. We read that on October 6, 1823, in his annual report to the Legislature, Mr. Jefferson writes, 'The report of the 7th of October of last year stated that the buildings for the accommodation of the professors and students were in readiness for occupation except as to some small articles of plaistering [sic] then on hand, the garden wall and grounds, and some columns which awaited their capitals from abroad. These finishings were done, the capitals are received and put up; and the whole of these buildings are in perfect readiness for putting the institution in operation.'

Referring to the hard task of finding a replacement for the late Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Gilliam reported that again Colonial Williamsburg had generously come to our aid in lending us Mr. Donald H. Parker, successor to Mr. Hopkins as landscape architect and that associated with him, as consultant, would be Mr. Ralph E. Griswold, distinguished landscape architect of Pittsburgh. (Enter Mr. Griswold—Stage Right!)

The Highway Chairman sounded a "call to arms" for the 1962 Assembly but added the reassuring news that the Highway Department itself will now sponsor our legislation for repeal of the offending amendment, bringing the billboard prohibition the entire length of the Interstate Highway.

The business session was recessed, and the delegates made ready for the evening. This was one of the most enchanting entertainments in memory. Wellington, the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Sr., was the setting. Guests walked through the moonlit gardens and greeted friends in the spacious rooms; after dinner, to gilded chairs in Wellington's ballroom, and a concert of 18th century music by The National Gallery Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Richard Bales.

At the next morning's meeting it was announced that the new *Journal* Editor would be Mrs. John M. Stetson, the former Literary Editor. Mrs. Thorne, retiring Editor, said she felt the magazine, now in its seventh year, had fulfilled its intent to be "comprised of original, useful, and intimate articles, written by our members, with emphasis on horticulture, gardening and garden design."

In adjourning a progressive meeting, Mrs.



1961 Annual Meeting. Drawing room, Wellington, Alexandria. Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr., Mr. Richard Bales, Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, and Mrs. Wright, President.

Wright announced that although the group was lunching at two separate places, Woodlawn and the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wall at Mount Vernon, all guests were invited to Woodlawn to see our restored gardens there.

\* \* \*

The fall found the Directors re-assembled with Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin at her home, Whitehall, in Suffolk. The Nansemond River club was hostess to the Governors meeting.

On the morning of October 18th the delegates visited the recently restored historic St. Luke's Church in Isle of Wight County, lunched at the Planters Club, and reluctantly settled down to business.

After being welcomed to the "Land of the Peanuts" by Mrs. Henry M. Pinner, Hostess-President, the well-fed guests napped briefly through the Treasurer's report. (This is a primary

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970*

purpose of these long reports, the Treasurer decided. It gives everyone a short cat-nap.) But they were alert to hear the President say, "The past summer has been proof positive that the membership of the GCV is autonomous by nature, with your titular head, instead of logging mileage over the highways of Virginia, flying over the fascinating countryside of the Argentine and Brazil."

Mrs. Greene opened her report with, "Here is your Highway Chairman blowing a trumpet again." After urging the membership to contact their own representatives asking them to vote for the control of billboards the entire length of the Interstate Highway, she mentioned another usable arrow in our quivers, personal letters to the presidents of those companies using outdoor advertising since these companies are surprisingly sensitive to consumers' and stockholders' wishes. In January, 1960, Virginia was the fifth state to adopt this legislation, and there are now sixteen states. Referring to the activities of our Fairfax club, she stated that Fairfax County has banned all signs within 660' of the Interstate Highway and the Dulles Airport road, a shining

example of what local zoning can do. She concluded by saying that the Associated Clubs is now working on a bill to enforce the Automobile Graveyard bill.

The delegates were proud when Mrs. Matthews said that in a survey conducted by the Department of Conservation and Economic Development and mailed to 872 travel bureaus in the country, Historic Garden Week in Virginia stood ninth in the state, being preceded only by eight attractions open the year-round.

The Restoration Chairman gave what she called an "interim installment" in the ever-unfolding serial of the University gardens, and called the archaeologist's findings a "fascinating chapter in our story." The original grade-level of 1825 within the gardens had been determined, the original walls and outbuildings discovered and verified, and finally a plan for the new service road had been approved by everybody who must approve, including the Art Commission of the State of Virginia. The work of building this road had begun.

Mrs. Herbert I. Lewis, Slides Chairman, acknowledged with gratitude the 90 slides of GCV restorations given by Mrs. Godwin and said these were greatly in demand.

Miss Vena reported that she was ready for Hurricane Esther this fall, and the tall canes had been pruned before she arrived. The names of the new test roses are always intriguing, but this time there was a most unlikely one, "Pink-a-Boo!"

After the first session the delegates were entertained for cocktails in Mrs. Godwin's lovely garden, all paths covered with plastic to keep the stiletto heels from sinking in the damp earth. At the dinner held at the Hotel Suffolk, the speaker was Mr. Frederick Huette, Norfolk Parks' Director.

At the next morning's meeting the club presidents reported on one of three given topics: outstanding programs, the club's role in the community, and membership policy. (The last being a source of certain fireworks in most clubs, few presidents chose to talk on it.) Sally Stetson was on her feet, asking that these activities be put on paper and sent to the *Journal* for publication.

Then the delegates had a nice surprise. Mr.



1961, Danville. Mrs. Wright comes to speak. She is greeted by Mrs. William H. Parker, Jr., Gabriella and Mrs. J. Pemberton Penn, Jr., Danville.

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A. G. Smith, Jr. of V.P.I., long-time friend of the GCV, appeared with 4 pots in which chrysanthemums were growing, to demonstrate the results of using differing media: (1) Peanut screenings and soil, half and half; (2) Perlite; (3) Peat and soil, half and half; (4) Sawdust and soil, half and half. The first media produced the best plant, and each delegate was given a bag of a special peanut hull product to take home. The meeting closed with a luncheon at Flowerwood, the home of the Pinners, whose extensive gardens were viewed with admiration.

1962

The Directors started off the Annual Meeting in May at the river-side home of Judge and Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr., having drinks around the swimming pool and in the rose garden before dinner and the night business meeting.

The next morning in walking shoes to Seashore State Park, that beautiful natural spot of cypress trees, grey-topped with Spanish moss, cinnamon ferns, bracken, and squaw root. The Princess Anne, our hostess club, had for many years spread its protecting and conserving wings over this park. After luncheon at the Princess Anne Country Club, the business began. The guests were welcomed by Mrs. G. Bentley Byrd, club President, who explained that the gifts were homegrown: strawberry jelly from Princess Anne strawberries, bags decorated with shells from the beach, and a seedling azalea from Norfolk's Botanical Garden.

The assembly stood while tributes were read by Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith to Mrs. Leslie Hamilton Gray, 6th GCV President, who died May 2nd in her 91st year, and to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, long an Honorary Member, who died December 28, 1961, at 89.

In her last report as President, Elizabeth Wright spoke of her two years being a wonderful and educational experience and, "In addition to orchids and red carpet treatment, I have been showered with gifts indigenous to the areas, apples, peanuts, tobacco, and others too numerous to mention, mostly perishable, but the memories of my association with you are not perishable; they are everlasting."

Mrs. Holden, in charge of Admissions, stated that although her committee had researched and



1962 Annual Meeting. A bus ride at Virginia Beach. The talking hands of Mrs. Stanley N. Brown, Recording Secretary, and the listening hands of Mrs. Wright, President.

surveyed six different areas of Virginia, no club would be recommended for admission this year.

"Thanks to Captain and Mrs. Williams, there was again a highly successful Conservation Forum," reported Mrs. Dure. She gave commendation to the clubs who have not only continued our established practice of sending children to Nature Camp and financial assistance to the Teachers' Workshops, but have shouldered many original undertakings to further conservation in the localities. Three national worries in the Potomac River area are still pending: the high dam at River Bend, the construction of a sewage disposal plant near Mount Vernon, and the proposal to build three high-rise apartments on the Potomac Palisades in Fairfax County. On the latter a telegram was sent from the session to the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County asking it rescind the change in zoning ordinance, which would permit the erection of high-rise multiple dwellings along the Potomac.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970

(Mrs. Dure passed these problems on to her successor, as a heritage.)

Byrd Greene's report follows: "It seems almost incredible that 1962 should be the year to bring you the report of the triumphant passage of a strong anti-billboard bill in the Virginia Legislature. This is a success that began a long time ago and involves many GCV members. At its first meeting in 1926, the GCV accepted its billboard and conservation responsibilities. Through the years it has worked for legislation to restrict billboards, and its gentle ladies have become expert at organized persuasion. In 1937 it became parent to the Associated Clubs, and has given that organization such outstanding presidents as Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Lindsay, and Mrs. Snider. Mrs. Lindsay and Mrs. George Sloane won Massie Medals for their dedicated work toward highway beautification. Victories there were, but defeats came too, but still the struggle continued. In 1960 Mrs. Power was our leader in a well-organized and spirited campaign to get a proper bill for control of billboards on the Interstate Highways in Virginia. Our bill was emasculated by a crippling amendment, and we had to begin again. So in 1962 with the help of the Highway Department, our old friends, Tom Frost and Hank Mann, the new Governor, and all those wonderful member club Highway Chairmen whom I know only by their handwriting, we found ourselves in the glorious position of seeing our bill pass without a contest. For the GCV this is a moment of triumph."

Mrs. Reed, completing her term as Chairman of Horticulture, suggested that the membership interest itself in garden therapy programs in our prisons, hospitals, and mental institutions; that we as gardeners know "what therapeutic value there is in gardening; and to give seeds, plants, books, tools, advice, etc. is an invaluable service which garden clubs should be offering."

Mrs. Gilliam told of the actual work now being done at the East Lawn gardens: old walls on wrong foundations have come down; new serpentine walls on the original locations are beginning to rise; the long stone retaining wall at the rear of all the gardens is being laid; and the structural plans for all five gardens have been approved. These plans show the walls on the lines of the Maverick print 1822-1825. Mr.

Griswold has not only served as consultant on these gardens but on previous restorations as well.

The Slides Chairman reported a good year and accumulation of riches in her bank account. The GCV Treasurer heard, coveted, and Mrs. Lewis withdrew \$500.00 and presented it to the GCV treasury.

Edith Walker then gave her 11th and final report as Chairman of the Daffodil Committee: "According to the by-laws of the GCV, 'it shall be the duty of the committees for the test gardens to choose and to purchase new material for the test gardens, to disseminate horticultural information through the *Journal* and through correspondence with the test chairmen in the member clubs.' This, I assure you, is something of an understatement. In addition to the duties mentioned, the Daffodil Committee has complete responsibility for the care of the test garden and for keeping records on the varieties of daffodils tested; for the selection, purchase, and distribution of the annual daffodil collections; for the distribution of the bulb dividend from the test garden. The Chairman is called on to give programs for clubs, to judge shows, and to act in an advisory capacity to the Daffodil Show, regarding the schedule, judges, staging, classification, and properties. The Chairman usually stages an exhibit of about 300 blooms from the Test Garden at the Show, and in addition the committee has sponsored the Irish exhibit most of the time since it has been shown. The committee has been instrumental in obtaining new equipment for the Daffodil Show, which is now very well-dressed, thanks to the generosity of the GCV." Having counselled the importance of rotation of crops for the health of the daffodils, Mrs. Walker felt she should "rotate" the Test Garden to another chairman. This was heard with regret and with appreciation for the giant step forward taken by daffodils under her chairmanship. She was given a rising vote of thanks.

Quoting Mrs. Avery: "Garden Week is just like Christmas. You think it's never coming, but it does and it has, bringing with it 26,000 visitors and \$52,430.00. Aside from the necessary business part, some fun has been discovered. Judith Godwin happened on a Canadian couple in St. Luke's Church, invited them to see her garden,

## Follow the Green Arrow

and conducted them about Suffolk. The gentleman took pictures and will show them at his local historical society. Suffolk wasn't even open. Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith gave an impromptu 25th wedding anniversary party at her home in Staunton. A couple from St. Louis had been bringing their children to Garden Week for many years, but this year, by way of celebrating their anniversary, had left them home. Mrs. Smith invited them for lunch."

That evening after cocktails at the Pool Loggia and dinner in the Cavalier Room, Mrs. Powell Glass, in the absence of the chairman, presented the Massie Medal to the Huntington Garden Club. The medal itself had not arrived, but with her sense of fitness, SOMETHING had to be handed to Mrs. Wythe W. Holt, President of the honored club. Anne Glass graciously handed her the nearest object, which happened to be Elizabeth Wright's eyeglasses in their case! When Mary Wat made her way back

to the table, she was a little surprised at the actual appearance of this hard-earned medal.

The final business meeting was prefaced with a tribute to our Director, Susan Little (Mrs. Nathan) Bundy, given by Mrs. Parrott. After club reports, Mr. Huette talked on the Seashore State Park and on Dismal Swamp.

The last order of business was the report of Mrs. Sale on nominations, after which Mrs. Collins thanked the retiring President: "I would like to talk about our President, who has been with us for two years and who has given us all her thought, her time, and her devotion. The GCV has never been in such a flourishing condition. We were successful at the Legislature; we had two consecutive Garden Weeks in which we made over \$50,000.00 each time. Our meetings have been full of purpose and good will just as this one is. These things do not happen by accident. They come from great leadership, and this Elizabeth Wright has given us, at her desk, at her telephone, driving over the icy and snow-covered roads, and standing before us looking beautiful in a blue dress. And this summer, when she is taking a station wagon full of grandchildren all over Europe, our thoughts and best wishes will be with her, and our love, then and always."

Mrs. Wright replied that doubtless when she was travelling those roads with all those grandchildren, she would think of her two years with the GCV as being very peaceful. She then asked the new President, Mrs. James Bland Martin, to come forward and said, "This gavel is turned over to you with great love and affection from all of us. Your knowledge and the record of your accomplishments in the GCV make us all know we are going to have two wonderful years with you." The meeting ended, and after a lovely buffet luncheon, the gavel went home with Mrs. Martin for a two years' visit.



July, 1962, Directors Meeting, Kittery Point, Gloucester. Seated: Mrs. Charles E. Russell (Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr.), Mrs. W. Ashby Jones III, Mrs. James Bland Martin, Twenty-second President, 1962-1964, Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Mrs. Leon S. Dure. Standing: Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam and Mrs. Edgar M. Williams.

### 1962-1964 — Mrs. James Bland Martin, President

The new administration started off with a July Board Meeting at Mrs. Martin's Gloucester home, Kittery Point. At this meeting it was decided that henceforth the Corresponding Secre-

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tary should be in sole charge of all GCV dates, and that only she would release this calendar information.

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The Directors met again on October 23rd, when Mrs. Martin's own club, The Garden Club of Gloucester, entertained the Governors. Headquarters were at The Tides Inn, Irvington. There was a very cold war going on at this time between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev on the subject of Cuba, and there was the threat of a hurricane, but even these tensions couldn't spoil the anticipation of the guests.

Handsome Garden Club husbands in dinner coats, driving well-polished automobiles, circled the driveway at the Inn, picking up the Directors, past Presidents, and guests and driving them to the home of Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore, Toddsbury, one of the oldest and continuously occupied houses in America. Here the Directors dined on gourmet food. It was evident the new President needed reassurance, for the whole covey of past Presidents was asked to attend the Directors Meeting. Mrs. Dunnington, Chairman of Admissions, reported that the Martinsville and Garden Study clubs had proposed and endorsed their former member, Mrs. Sale, to be a member-at-large of the GCV, Mrs. Sale having moved to Irvington. Her committee approving, Mrs. Dunnington asked the Board to accept this recommendation. This was done with pleasure since Lucy Lee Sale's contribution to the GCV had been notable and enduring over many years.

The next morning, with coiffures held down by scarves, the delegates boarded the large yacht, Miss Ann, for a cruise in the Chesapeake Bay, luncheon served on board. Directly to the first business session, Mrs. William R. Bates, Gloucester President, welcomed the guests.

Mrs. Martin told ruefully of her life and times with botanists, with whom it was well-known she shared little rapport. A letter had been received from Mea Allan, an English writer who had been commissioned to write a biography of two 17th century botanists, the Tradescants, father and son, and she "well knew of the GCV interest in them because of the beautiful stained glass memorial window in the Old Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, England."



*October, 1962, Toddsbury, Gloucester. Mrs. Gilliam, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Sixteenth President, 1950-1952, and Mrs. Webster S. Rhoads, Jr.*

She asked how the money for the window was raised, the list of subscribers, the maker of the window, do our members specialize in Tradescant gardens; if so, send pictures, and do we compete annually for a Tradescant cup? More questions had to do with Tradescant headrights, on which plots of land, and "please send me your Virginia list of the Tradescant specimens brought back in 1637 and 1654." Even the oldest members didn't remember any memorial window, but finally Susa Snider provided one of the few existing copies of the first ten year history of the GCV, written by Mrs. Clement. Yes, the GCV had given the window in 1925, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Fairfax Harrison. The President said she was thoroughly enjoying the research and correspondence with Miss Allan, but felt she and the GCV had been rescued like brands from the burning. She urged that the history of the GCV, so long contemplated, be at last written, if for no other reason than to save the organization from being embarrassed by uninformed presidents.

Mrs. John Tyssowski, Historian, followed with, "As you can tell, the history of the GCV is now an absolute necessity. Laying the groundwork for it will occupy my committee for the



1962. The Billboard Control Bill becomes law as Governor Harrison signs it in the presence of Associated Clubs representatives. Left to right: Mrs. G. Edmund Massie, Jr., Mrs. F. F. Carr, Mrs. Raymond C. Power, Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, and Mrs. Francis T. Greene. The pleased gentlemen on the right are Delegates Tom Frost and C. Harrison Mann, Jr.

next two years." She pled for cooperation in accumulating correspondence and personal records of the early members and asked each current member to be her research assistant.

The Conservation Chairman, Mrs. E. A. Harper, began her report with, "Conservation is an awesome word" and continued with a brief history of conservation in this country: "It began effectively in 1871 with the creation of the U. S. Commission of Game and Fisheries, continued with the beginning of a National Forest in 1891, with a geological survey which catalogued and classified our resources, with the appointment in 1907 of the Inland Waterways Com-

mission which emphasized the connection between forests, water supply, and stream flow, until finally in 1909 Theodore Roosevelt appointed a National Conservation Commission. The government participation in reclaiming eroded lands which has been going on since 1880, the vastness of the National Park Service, the huge C.C.C. program of the 1930's, the Tennessee Valley project are all so big that they make one individual gardener feel inadequate. But one individual gardener *can* do something," and Mrs. Harper urged each member to take "an excursion in grass-roots conservation, to build a really good compost heap in every garden, to

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use chemicals with judgment and care, and to plant at least one tree." Somehow this made the word "conservation" a little less awesome.

Mrs. Stetson delighted her listeners with, "The *Journal* is really its own report. It is, we know, far from perfect. Our spelling often leaves a shudder in our readers, our grammar is sometimes reprehensible, our proof-reading faulty. We apologize for our errors and ask your indulgence for our shortcomings, while pointing with considerable pride to the splendid articles our members send in." She gave a new policy as to articles on places open for Garden Week. One article from each of the six districts will be published on a house never opened before — one very rich in history or with an unusual garden, a famous personality, or perhaps a ghost. Referring to the guide book as the "complete meal," she said the *Journal* would provide the "small appetizer."

Mrs. Thorne, Chairman of Restoration, (having told the Board the night before: "In the bosom of the family, we have had some setbacks and are spending money like mad.") gave the Governors a detailed report on the East Lawn gardens: "The grading and the brick walls, serpentine and straight, and the brick walks are completed in the gardens of Pavilions 2 and 4, and planting has begun in these two gardens; the walls are rising in Pavilion 6, and the grading has begun there; and so far \$45,325.85 has been spent. All this despite the occasional adverse weather, a change in personnel of the Department of Buildings and Grounds at the University, and the absence of our landscape architect who is in England." As an example of the diligence with which this committee nurtures previous restorations, Mrs. Thorne said of the Adam Thoroughgood House garden, "The pleached arbors have now covered their objective. A good permanent turf has been established. The boxwoods are in good condition. Fall crocus was added in the parterres this year. The *espaliered cordon* pears have been kept in good control."

The Daffodil Test Chairman, Mrs. Paul Michael Curran, told of the establishing of a new test garden: "With the competent assistance of several members of my Fairfax club, a site was selected, and seven terraced beds, 4' wide by 18'

long, were designed. In July I secured the services of a man who dug the beds to a depth of 2' with a roto-tiller. A carpenter built and creosoted frames of fir 2" by 8", which border the beds.

"The bulbs were received in June and July. Several varieties showed signs of rot during the summer. In order to insure that only healthy specimens be planted, I contacted Mr. Joseph Beard, County Agent in Fairfax, who sent several bulbs to V.P.I. The diagnosis was *Sclerotinia* Bulb Rot and Mites, and the hot water treatment was recommended. I contacted Mr. Willis Wheeler of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, who came to my home September 9, 1962, and, with the help of four members of my club, the nose of each bulb was cut with a sharp knife to ascertain its health. All bulbs which passed his inspection were dipped in Mersolite before planting in the present garden. The discarded ones were burned. The job of planting is practically completed; 195 varieties, comprising 500 bulbs, are now in the test garden." (There is definitely more to this chairmanship than wearing a yellow hat at the annual shows!)

The Lily Test Chairman, Mrs. Cutts, launched the membership on a cultural experiment this fall. Each club test chairman was sent a packet of lily seed with explicit instructions down to the last, "If delayed in planting, store the seed in the lower part of an ice box." Since some members find lilies hard to grow with prime bulbs, they were properly impressed with this lilies-from-seed project.

For some years now Miss Vena had been reporting with admiration on a numbered rose, "luminous orange in color with perfect buds." This had now been named "Tropicana" and is, in her opinion, "the most outstanding and sensational rose since 'Peace.'"

After two hours, the meeting was recessed. The guests, arrayed in evening finery, were taken by buses across the Rappahannock River to Hopemont, the 18th century home of Mrs. E. Hope Norton, for cocktails. The gentlemen chauffeurs of the night before, augmented by other husbands, danced attendance, and reluctantly the ladies, man-less, returned to the Inn for a candlelight dinner, followed by a short

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film, "The Sounds of Williamsburg," and so to bed.

Reassembled at Ware Episcopal Church Parish House in Gloucester the next morning, each guest was presented with a "pot" of daffodil bulbs. (*The Richmond News-Leader* carried an article about these pots, saying that Gloucester's member, Mrs. Carlos Bell, had seen one containing cottage cheese, when she visited her parents in Chicago that summer, and knew it would be perfect for the bulb gift. So her mother and father patiently ate cottage cheese every day from that time on so there would be enough gift pots for each guest.)

Mr. John Warren Cooke, Floor Leader of the Virginia Assembly and advocate in that group of our efforts to control billboards, came by to welcome the GCV to his area and to compliment the organization on its legislative efforts, with special commendation for the forum that morning on the subject of automobile graveyards.

Long in the planning, the forum had as its



October, 1962, at the Board of Governors Meeting. Mrs. Parrott, Mrs. King, Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Godwin admire the garden at Elmington.



October, 1962, drawing room of Elmington, Gloucester. The *JOURNAL OF A GARDEN POTPOURRI* must have been the subject when Mrs. George W. Taliaferro, Chairman, and Mrs. John M. Stetson, Editor, talked together.

theme, "Automobile Graveyards Need Our Perpetual Care." Mrs. Parrott, Highway Chairman, had written each member club, asking for a detailed report on automobile graveyards in its section, saying that a panel of experts would answer questions at this meeting. Headed by Mrs. Parrott, the panel included Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Power, and Mrs. Greene. The club presidents were well prepared with maps and photographs and were conversant with state and local regulations. The panel members fielded the most complicated questions. What sounded like a dull subject was presented with such exactness and enthusiasm that nevermore would an automobile graveyard be unseen by anyone participating in this forum.

At its close the delegates were the luncheon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Webster S. Rhoads, Jr. at their lovely North River home, Elmington. (And Mr. Khrushchev backed down, and the hurricane simmered down.)

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In November there was an interesting Associated Clubs meeting in Richmond. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* came out in two summer installments of *The New Yorker*. Mrs. Snider bought up all available copies and circulated them to members. In addition she spent the ensuing months using all her considerable wiles to get Miss Carson to speak to the Associated Clubs. Over 250 people came, and it was a sell-out. The most confirmed, and perhaps most indiscriminate, spray users who came to carp, moved over to the narrow edge of conversion. (Remembered: A long stern row of men representing the chemical companies of Virginia. They remained as silent as the spring might become, but missed not a nuance of the audience response.)

1963

It was at the January Board Meeting, held at the Goochland County home of Mrs. Power with Mrs. Avery as co-hostess, that *A Garden Potpourri* first saw the light of day. It was the brain child of Mrs. Taliaferro and her Journal Committee, specifically Mrs. Wythe H. Holt, and they had planned well before presentation. From the best of the *Journal* through the years, the Editor and her staff had compiled a selection of material and submitted it to the Dietz Press. Mrs. Gray, Finance, then spoke on financing and royalties, all material to be copyrighted and the ownership to remain vested with the GCV.

Two financial proposals were made: (1) to produce the book at no cost to the GCV and pay a royalty of 10%, which, based on the sale of the first edition of 3,000 @ \$3.95 a copy, would produce \$1,185.00; (2) \$1,500.00 to be advanced by the GCV, increasing the royalty to 28%, which, selling the entire edition, would produce \$3,318.00. At the time of the magazine's founding, the GCV had established a contingent fund for it. Decision was reached to accept the second proposal, advancing \$1,500.00 from this fund, the advance and all royalties to be returned to the *Journal*.

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In May the Directors dined with Mrs. E. T.

Gatewood, President of the hostess club, Boxwood Garden Club. At this meeting Mrs. Thorne gave the list of formal requests for future restorations, among these "the creation of a park in the old mews area of St. John's Church, Richmond," and "the planting of an English garden at Scotchtown, the Hanover County home of Patrick Henry." (This is the first of many times these names would be chronicled.)

After a delightful luncheon the next day at the Rotunda Club, where the artistry of the hostesses was seen in the flower arrangements, the members were collected for a meeting. Two memorial tributes were given, the first to Mrs. Louis Nelson Dibrell, GCV President 1944-1946, read by Mrs. Francis H. McGovern on behalf of the members of The Garden Club of Danville, and the second to Mrs. Warner Snider, composed with tenderness by Mrs. Sale.

To lift the sadness, the President asked Mrs. Gilliam to "tell a little tale," which she did with humor, taking the listeners with her words to the 50th Annual Meeting of the GCA, where Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith was given "a medal as big as a dinner plate." The citation listed her many contributions: the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, Mary Baldwin College, the King's Daughters Hospital, service on the Board of Visitors at the University of Virginia, her being named in 1960 "Outstanding citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia," ending with her many years of leadership in the GCV. The final words read: "For her selfless dedication, her forceful and successful approach to worthwhile projects, and for her inspiration to others, the GCA takes great pleasure in awarding the Amy Argell Montague Medal for outstanding civic achievement to Emily Smith, May 9, 1963."

Mrs. Harper referred to her October request for individual contributions to conservation as being based on the old Scotch theory that "many a little makes a much." She reported that 700 compost piles had been established and that, excluding the reports of "hundreds of thousands of pine seedlings," about 374,000 trees had been planted on private and public property. The Conservation Forum, under the direction of another fine husband-and-wife team, Virginia and Fontaine Scott of Lynchburg, had furthered the educational process in this field.

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After a full year's study by her committee, the findings twice submitted to the Board for review, Mrs. Harris, Flower Shows Chairman, advised there would be in 1964, on a trial basis, three two-day workshops. These will be held during the blooming season and preceding the flower shows and will feature the three test flowers, daffodil, rose, and lily.

Again Garden Week beat its own record, and jubilation greeted Mrs. Avery's report of \$59,337.15. And the membership accepted the by-law change making Historic Garden Week a Standing rather than a Special Committee, which it had been since its establishment in 1947.

Mrs. Thorne's report on progress on the East Lawn gardens included interesting figures: that the estimated cost of each of these five gardens is \$31,000.00; that the final cost for the five West Lawn gardens, completed in 1952, was \$15,000.00 each. This is due in part to rising costs over the years, but also to the size and terrain of the East Lawn gardens, some having as many as four levels.

Feeling that was quite enough business, the delegates got ready for pleasure. The evening began with cocktails at the attractive Windsor Farms home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Massey and continued with dinner at the Country Club of Virginia. Charles McDowell, Jr. was the speaker, and not a listener dozed through his amusing words. He said that when he first began speaking to ladies' organizations, he noticed that as he neared the end of his talk each lady started bowing her head. He thought this was a lovely tribute indeed until he learned that the ladies were just leaning forward to replace their slippers!

The Tuckahoe Woman's Club was the scene of final business. After a year of active concern with automobile graveyards, the members listened with disbelief when Mrs. Power announced that the next Associated Clubs meeting would hear the other side from Mr. Thomas A. Williams of the Legal Council for the automobile graveyards. (There is an "other side"?)

Then Mrs. Power spoke of another threatening blot on our copybook. The Virginia Electric and Power Company plans to run the second largest transmission line in the world through Virginia, affecting 19 counties. "This

will be a 500,000-volt line with towers 130' tall with a spread of about 80', and Virginia is the first area where a line of this size has been attempted." The President urged each member to write letters on this important issue, saying, "We do not have to be militant, but we do have a certain quiet force that is familiar in this state. We are not against progress. We only ask that it come a little easier."

After concentrating on this issue, it was pleasant to relax and listen to Miss Sylvia Saunders of Clinton, N. Y. give an informative talk, with slides, on tree peonies.

The President acknowledged the appropriate gift of a flourishing boxwood plant to each member. These were grown by the late Mrs. George Temple Durham and presented as a memorial by her daughter, Mrs. Albert Goodhue. Mrs. Martin also thanked Mrs. Gatewood for devotion beyond duty. Having heard of the President's love of Parma violets, Mrs. Gatewood had built up an enormous telephone bill, unsuccessfully calling all over the country hoping to find some to replace the traditional orchids.

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With their husbands, the Directors in July went to visit Dot and Luke Kellam at Mount Pleasant on the Eastern Shore. Most came by water, being led into the creek by the smiling host and hostess in a small power boat. All sorts of nice social events were given, and while the actual meeting was going on, the husbands were lazy around the swimming pool. (Dot didn't exactly supply hours for their poolside entertainment, but she did have the youngest, loveliest girls on the Shore dancing attendance on the men. This led one Director to remark that it was just as well this was a short meeting.) Everyone thought this husband-entertaining was certainly a GCV first, but it seems Mrs. Sands had done it in 1941, and it was then termed "a delightful innovation which might be tried again."

At this meeting, Ann Power reported with deep regret that our best efforts to eliminate the "monster towers" and have the power lines run underground, as had been done in a few other states, had been to little avail. The lines of towers had been removed from the site originally planned to a less conspicuous location, but they

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were to be erected. She commented, "Once up they are hard to get down." A battle lost.

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Without husbands, the Board next met October 1st, following a pleasant dinner with Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Peebles in Lawrenceville. In the middle of an intricate and demanding business session, it was a relief to hear the requested report of Mrs. Edgar M. Williams on "*Jeffersonia diphylla* (L) Pers.:"

"This wild flower, also known as Twin Leaf, was named *Jeffersonia* in 1792 by the botanist, Benjamin Smith Barton. Research by Dr. Edwin Betts during the GCV's restoration at Monticello revealed that Thomas Jefferson had grown it there in the oval bed on the east side of the north terrace, but it had disappeared. Dr. Betts located plants at Snowden on the James River, a plantation once owned by Jefferson. Some were moved, and carefully planted in the bed where Jefferson had grown them. Later the plants were moved to the western side of the garden and exposed to the direct rays of the sun, unhealthy for this species which prefers shade, they died." The Restoration Committee had received questions as to why *Jeffersonia* was not in the Monticello garden. So Mrs. Thorne asked Mrs. Williams to take charge of re-planting it in the proper location. (In its pursuit of continued excellence, the fall of even one small sparrow, named *Jeffersonia*, is important to the Restoration group.)

The next morning after being Mrs. Stuart Lewis' guests for a Coffee in her garden at Woodlands, the members separated for four luncheons: at the homes of Mmes. Thomas, Allen, Rawlings, and C. W. Peebles. Reunited at the Courthouse, the meeting was presented to Mrs. C. W. Peebles, Jr., President of Brunswick Garden Club, our hostesses.

After delivering her detailed Treasurer's report, Mrs. Flowers spoke on a tax status study conducted for several months by her and Mrs. Richmond Gray, Finance. The desire had been frequently expressed by dedicated members that the GCV should be able to deal directly with the Virginia Assembly on matters of special importance to the membership, using, if necessary, funds realized from Historic Garden Week.

Referring to the amendment to the Revenue Act of 1951 exempting the GCV from admission tax on Historic Garden Week, and citing legal opinions, the conclusion was made that "incidental political activity" is permissible, while "extensive political activity" is not. The Board had passed the following motion: "That the GCV continue its legislative activity as a member organization of the Associated Clubs for Roadside Development; that if an occasion arises when such affiliated activity is not possible, the GCV as an organization may engage in legislative activity, providing such activity is not extensive and is within the objectives of the GCV as set forth in Section 3 of the Charter." It had also passed a second motion: "That using Historic Garden Week funds for lobbying is undesirable and could well imperil our tax status, being an extensive activity, and that this not be done." Mrs. Flowers advised that three copies of this investigative study, which also dealt with admission taxes applying to flower shows, will be in the permanent files of the President, the Treasurer and the Chairman of Finance. Mrs. Flowers and Mrs. Gray were thanked for this masterful survey.

Mrs. Frank E. Laughon, incoming Chairman, and Mrs. Matthews spoke of the excitement sweeping through Garden Week ranks this year, the cooperation with the architects of Virginia who are celebrating their Golden Anniversary. There will be a Gold Ticket Tour. The actual ticket will carry the official seals of both the A.I.A. and the GCV, and will include "groups of houses and buildings of distinction, erected or restored within the past 50 years, jointly selected by the Garden Week District Chairmen and the District Architect." Special directional signs of gold-colored paper with gold arrows will be put up by the Highway Department directing Garden Week visitors to the Gold Ticket places.

Sally Stetson reported with wry humor: "Your Editor is bleary-eyed and weary, having spent the past week-end on a prolonged bout of reading page proof for the soon forthcoming *A Garden Potpourri*. She is at present an authority on the correct spelling of plants she never before knew existed, can put commas in sentences even in her sleep, and has written the mystifying words 'dele' and 'lo caps' so many times they appear con-

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standly before her eyes. We had hoped to have the book for this meeting, and if we had indulged ourselves in the creation of a long, depressing modern novel, this might have been accomplished. But a compendium, especially one which can contain no errors of fact or spelling, is much harder work for both editors and printer. We hope it will be ready in time for Christmas trade."

Mrs. Thorne gave a garden-to-garden, wall-to-wall, plant-to-plant account of the East Lawn, stating that over \$90,000.00 had now been spent. She then reported comprehensively on previous restorations, most getting good Brownie points for carrying out recommendations, a few coming up for demerits.

Business finished for the day, on to cocktails, the guests of Mrs. A. R. Meredith and Mrs. W. H. Perkinson. After dinner, as representative of the new men in our lives, Mr. Milton L. Grigg of Charlottesville gave a scholarly talk on architecture in Virginia.

As usual a 9:30 morning meeting seemed far too early, but by 9:40 the delegates, all packed and motel bills paid, gathered at the Alberta Community Center. Those who had skipped their morning coffee were given bracing cups by Brunswick members.

Mrs. Parrott presided over the presidents' reports which gave progress, or lack of progress, in their club's area in the continuing battle against unsightly automobile graveyards and billboard encroachment. As each attractive woman approached the podium, it seemed incomprehensible that she should not only be good to look upon but that she could speak so intelligently and authoritatively of petitions, public meetings, ordinances, enforcement cooperation or non-cooperation by legal authorities, and local plans to screen out with plantings. Some expressed discouragement, with determination to surmount the problem, but each knew the situation in her particular section, and her club was working for improvement. Mrs. Parrott complimented the presidents and said it was evident there are no teeth in Virginia's automobile graveyard law; that success seems to be possible only where the local commissions, the county supervisors, or the city planning and zoning commissions have passed local ordinances; that here we

should work assiduously and personally while we try to get a stronger state law.

Then Mrs. Dure read the following: "The Board of Directors of The Garden Club of Virginia in session on October 1, 1963, in Lawrenceville elected as Honorary President, in grateful recognition of her unselfish motivating spirit and distinguished contributions to the growth and development of The Garden Club of Virginia over a period of four decades, with special commendation for her invaluable work in the field of restoration, Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith." Amid cheering, Mrs. William C. Scipp, Fauquier and Loudoun, moved that the Board's action be affirmed, with affection, by the delegates at this meeting. It was done.

The President advised that Mrs. Smith is our third Honorary President, the first being Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, first GCV President, the second being the fourth GCV President, Mrs. William R. Massie.

A happy ending to a happy meeting, expressed by Mrs. Kellam as "Happiness is not just a warm puppy. Happiness is attending the Board of Governors in Lawrenceville. Happiness is



October, 1963, Lawrenceville. A President and an Honorary President. Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith, Fifth President, 1928-1930, who was elected Honorary President at this Board of Governors Meeting.

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1965: *The first deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation.*

having lunch at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond." And that is where the happy caravan headed. The Governor's wife, the charming Mrs. Albertis S. Harrison, Jr., a member of the Brunswick club, exemplified Virginia hospitality at its best; the gardens were at their peak, and each guest felt a Very Important Personage.

1964

The Board met in Richmond in January at the home of Mrs. Richmond Gray with Mrs. W. Ashby Jones III as co-hostess. Mrs. Kellam told with pride that she had that day crossed the new Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, the first woman to do so, and that its grand opening would be before Garden Week.

These minutes contain the first reference to the actual writing of the history now being read. "Our President said the principal objective of her term was to forward the writing of the GCV history. She refreshed the Board's memory, telling that the GCV had, in 1954, approved the recommendation of Mrs. Harry Clemons, Historian, that this history be written by a graduate student as a thesis and that Mrs. Clemons had searched for the perfect student until her death. When Mrs. Martin recognized that a history was imperative, this idea was reactivated, and heads of history departments were consulted. It developed that if an applicant for a degree was asked to research and write on a specific subject,

a financial subsidy was expected, and it was unlikely a scholarship could be secured for this work. While considering other less expensive avenues of approach, Mrs. Martin met a gentleman who believes so much in the work of the GCV he offered to underwrite this history. He insists upon anonymity, and his identity is known only to the President and one other officer. The Board was then asked to 'approve in substance' the President's further negotiations in this rather nebulous proposition. Pleasure expressed by the Board, deep appreciation to this unknown, benevolent gentleman, a motion was passed approving the negotiations."

Mrs. Power distributed copies of two bills relating to control of billboard advertising to be presented by our new patron, John Warren Cooke. She also spoke of Bill #77 introduced by Dr. Virgil Cox of Galax, which proposed to deal more strictly with automobile graveyards but was at present without much backing.

Mrs. Harper then presented exciting news. She asked the Board's approval of a new memorial medal offered by the Dolly Madison club to be known as the deLacy Gray Memorial Medal, honoring its member and the GCV President, 1930-1932, Mrs. Leslie H. Gray. This is to be awarded to "such individual or individual club of the GCV as may be considered by the Conservation Committee of the GCV to have rendered outstanding service in the dissemination

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of knowledge of the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the conservation and wise development of such resources." The generous offer of the Dolly Madison club to strike such a medal was immediately accepted by the Board.

The minutes of this meeting ended with a comment by the inimitable Secretary, Katherine Dure, "The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 o'clock much to the delight of the cook in the kitchen. Having been told on two occasions to delay things, she remarked, 'Them ladies still doing all that talking?' A truly luscious lunch of halibut in cream and butter with almonds having been relished, 'the girls' said goodbye until May." (Women do not live by by-laws alone.)

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And on the 19th of May the Board said "Hello" at Elk Hill, the country home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnett Hodges, near Lynchburg, where the Annual Meeting was hostessed by the Hillside Garden Club, its President, Mrs. Robert D. Meade.

The Directors dealt briskly with the vast accumulation of business and the recommendations to be presented the next day. Mrs. Martin ended the meeting with a thoroughly sentimental farewell to her Board, saying she had "further business—the business of turning the last page in a delightful book, a book written by you. I think it has a few good deeds written on its pages. I know it is a record of friendship and laughter. The psalmist said, 'As for man, his days are as grass . . . The wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more.' So no 'place thereof,' the four walls of any one room, will ever again hold just us, the members of this Board. I will remember you always, just the way you are tonight." (Each President feels the same about the Board with whom she has worked, and this emotion and appreciation is a part of the history of this organization.)

The next morning, buses left the hotel for the lovely gardens of Mr. Harry P. Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Leggett and proceeded to small luncheon parties at the homes of Mr. and

Mrs. Edward L. Carrington, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. William W. Lynn, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sackett. From this pleasure, reluctantly to convene the business meeting. . . .

After the verbal mechanics of getting the meeting underway, Mrs. Power told of the spontaneous establishment of the Susa Snider Memorial Fund, already over \$800.00, by her friends in the GCV and in the Associated Clubs; that it was agreed the children of the Nature Camp should benefit; that the money would be invested in Savings Certificates, and the interest would be used to make awards to the children for outstanding work in conservation. The awards will be made in each of the four sessions of the camp and are to be books to further interest, each book carrying a special bookplate "In Memory of Susa Stanton Snider." The names of all donors to this fund will be listed in a commemorative book at Nature Camp.

Mrs. Harper told of a second successful Conservation Forum directed by the Scotts, this time on the subject of "Water." The clubs in the past year had planted 200,000—more or less—trees and supported enthusiastically all conservation efforts, one club buying and distributing ladybugs as pesticides.

For the first time (we think), Lee Harris recognized the individual members who had won the valued Eleanor Truax Harris Challenge Cups the last two years by asking the presidents of their clubs to rise to applause. She reported a most successful Daffodil Workshop in April with 80 people, representing 23 clubs; handed out schedules for the Lily Workshop June 18th, 19th; and announced the Rose Workshop would be held in the fall in Richmond, one week before the Rose Show.

Mrs. Parrott and Mrs. Power reported jointly on our legislative activity at the Virginia Assembly. The bill raising license fees on billboards was passed. The bill permitting beer advertising on billboards was killed. Two joint resolutions were passed, directing that VALC studies be conducted on the existing legislation relating to billboard control and to automobile graveyards with the hope these studies would advance our cause. Delegates were asked to provide material

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for these VALC studies, and it was stated the full, un-cut records of the 1962 and 1963 GCV forums dealing with these subjects would be made available to this commission.

Mrs. Tyssowski: "To print: those are the key words, and right here this report heads for outer space. Two angels have contributed a sum adequate to produce our history. All credit for interesting these fine people goes to our President and one of her officers. Such generosity is overwhelming, especially as this is not the first time these benefactors have helped the Commonwealth and the GCV. Now released from their request to be anonymous, this committee can express its gratitude, boundless gratitude, to Mr. Hunter Perry and his sister, Mrs. Lillian Perry Edwards, of the Albemarle club."

Mrs. Dure, identified as "the officer who knew," read the recommendation of Mrs. Tyssowski's committee, accepted by the Board the night before: "That The Garden Club of Virginia accept, with deep appreciation, the check of the Perry Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$3,000.00, given for the purpose of writing the history of the GCV; that this money be designated as the Historian's Fund, and the account so kept by the Treasurer; that until needed, a savings certificate be purchased in said amount, with all interest accruing to this account; that the publication of this history be made by the Fiftieth Anniversary of the GCV, May 13, 1970; that the editorial services of Mrs. James Bland Martin should be accepted, if feasible at time of publishing."

The Garden Week Chairman summed up "That Was The Week That Was," with "and what it was, was WET, WET, WET. And the World's Fair not only took some of the usual customers, it stole some of our buses. With all that, there is \$50,507.71 to report." Mrs. Matthews followed with a special tribute, "In my association with Historic Garden Week over the years, I have experienced many exciting and gratifying events occasioned by the understanding and splendid cooperation of the member clubs, but the ultimate was achieved this year when one club turned in the largest amount of money ever provided for restoration by a single club in one Garden Week period. In spite of the

weather, in spite of the World's Fair, in spite of the excitement of the Bridge-Tunnel opening, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore collected in two days a grand total of \$6,107.50."

(Historic Garden Week Guide Books give a side light on ladies' shoe fashions. In 1962 a mild request that "whenever possible walking shoes should be worn both for comfort and protection to floors in private homes." In 1963 the notice was stronger, "Spike heels cost the Louvre \$60,000.00. They are now ruining Virginia's old floors also. Please do not wear spike heels in the private homes opening for Historic Garden Week." By 1964 each section was headed by a terse "NO SPIKE HEELS, PLEASE.")

Very much in evidence at the meeting was *A Garden Potpourri*. Of it, Mary Lou Taliaferro said, "Since *A Garden Potpourri* represents the writings of the entire GCV and the literary *savoir faire* of our Editors, I can praise it for the masterpiece it is. Approximately 1,000 copies have been sold, and the first royalty check has been received. We are fortunate indeed in our Editors, Mmes. Stetson, King, and Williams."

Mrs. Martin said the Board had waited for a statement of expenses incurred and receiving none, finally wrote Mmes. Stetson, King, and Williams that the GCV would, with deep pleasure, reimburse these expenses. "Three letters came back similar to the one from which I will read a portion. This is what Sally Stetson said: 'As to expenses, there simply weren't any. We cut up old magazines, pasted them on cheap copy paper and worked from that. As for postage, I took it from the office stamp box. And for the life of me, I can't think of another single thing unless it was the scotch tape. How about a bill for 15¢ worth of scotch tape? I honestly think even a New England conscience would allow that contribution.'" With that, the President handed Sally a roll of scotch tape from the GCV, and a "Thank you, Sally, Sue, and Eda, for two wonderful years and for the launching of *The Book*." She noted that the copyright on *A Garden Potpourri* expires in 28 years and should be renewed in 1991.

(Later, Mrs. Martin received from Sally

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Stetson and her stern and rock-bound New England conscience, the following:

Scotch tape, for patching Potpourri	\$ .15
Unusual mental exertion on same	.34
	<hr/>
	.49
Received: 1 roll scotch tape	.49
Paid in full May 20, 1964	<hr/>
	\$ .00)

Mrs. Curran spoke to the question of proper classification of miniature daffodils. This had been plaguing the shows for some time, with the same varieties being shown in the "under 6 inch" and "6 to 12 inch" classes, as well as in both the miniature and regular classes. The ADS had, after considerable research, established an approved list of miniatures and made recommendations for the treatment of these in our shows. Mrs. Curran suggested the ADS approach be followed by the GCV. A great sigh of relief went up from the state's daffodil exhibitors.

Mrs. Cutts had a similar suggestion, announcing that her committee had revised the Lily Show schedule with needed changes, and to conform more closely with the NALS and the RHS revision of classes.

Miss Vena Walker, the GCV authority on roses for 16 years, gave her final report with her usual practical attention to sprays and specifics, stating that 350 plants now grow in the GCV Rose Test Garden; and that the American Rose Society had appointed her Consultant Rosarian for the Colonial District of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Miss Vena received a rising vote of thanks from the organization she served so long and so faithfully.

Thus did the three GCV Test Chairmen ally us more tightly to the national societies of the daffodil, lily, and rose.

Entering the home of Mrs. George Lupton that evening for cocktails and hearing the excited clamour of voices, it was evident that the members never run out of conversation with each other, sharing as they do such a wide community of interest.

Buses transported the guests to a dinner at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center where everything was pink and in the pink. Only curtain time ended this festive occasion, and the icing on a very nice cake was an excellent performance of "Come Blow Your Horn," after which there



*St. John's Mews features panels of Richmond's old cast iron, and the restored area is regarded as an outdoor museum of this famed ironwork. (Photograph by S. King.)*

was a reception in the Theatre Lounge to meet the members of the Lynchburg Garden Club and their husbands.

The first item of business in the Babcock Auditorium of Sweet Briar College the next morning was Mrs. Thorne's summing up of her two years. Defining the Restoration Committee as "a committee inspired by the past to work in the present for the future," she spoke in detail of the careful tending of each prior restoration.

The assembly was then informed that there are now five exquisite gardens on the East Lawn at the University of Virginia and that Mr. Jefferson's plan for his academical village as designed by him and engraved for him by his friend, Peter Maverick of New York, is now completed. Expended on these gardens to date, \$140,000.00, and the presentation is set for May 4, 1965. She thanked "the miracle com-

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mittee of Historic Garden Week," saying, "They are the ones who make such vast projects possible and encourage us annually with the wonderful results of their magnificent efforts. It has been a pleasure to have had the opportunity of bringing this committee closer to us these two years, in order that the right hand might know what the left hand is doing. Recently both committees gathered for a tour of the new gardens, a brief meeting, and delicious luncheon as guests of our ever-hospitable Mrs. James Gordon Smith at her beautiful Casa Maria."

So many years had been spent completing the ten University gardens that there was more than routine interest in Mrs. Thorne's recommendation: "On March 30, 1963, the Restoration Com-

mittee received a formal request from the Historic Richmond Foundation, applying for help in creating a landscaped mews to be called St. John's Mews in the center of Carrington Square next to St. John's Church in the historic zone of Church Hill. The touch of the GCV has already been felt in the churchyard restoration by Mrs. Massie and Mrs. Christian with the aid of funds from *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia*. Below the churchyard running toward the west, is an ancient cobbled alley which divides Carrington Square and its ante bellum Greek revival houses. Here it is proposed to create a garden walk with low brick walls supporting old cast-iron railings, reviving the atmosphere of the 19th century. Planting and



*Eighteenth Restoration, 1964. St. John's Mews, Carrington Square, Richmond, was turned over to Historic Richmond Foundation on May 9, 1967.*

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general design will give the effect of an outdoor museum garden surrounded by these fine old restored 19th century houses of this romantic era. Plans for the landscaped mews have been drawn by Mr. Griswold . . . Madame President, I propose that this meeting accept the recommendation of the Restoration Committee and your Board of Directors to landscape the cobbled mews in historic Carrington Square on Church Hill in Richmond." Mrs. Thorne's proposal was accepted by the assembly, and she accepted the plaudits of the membership for the superb accomplishments of two years.

Mrs. Martin announced that in 1965 the deLacy Gray Memorial Medal will be awarded to advance the cause of conservation, a gift of the Dolly Madison club honoring Mrs. Leslie H. Gray. A drawing was displayed showing the seal of the GCV on one side, on the reverse a rim of dogwood, Mrs. Gray's name, and a place for the winner of this distinguished medal. The President thanked the Dolly Madison club for making this medal possible and enabling the GCV to perpetuate the memory of Mrs. Gray, adding that Mrs. John S. Rixey had spent two years in this Dolly Madison chairmanship as a measure of devotion to Mrs. Gray.

There followed a welcome interlude, a scholarly-with-wit talk by Mr. Griswold. Then it was time for the biennial game of musical chairs, out with the old and on with the new administration. After being nicely thanked by Mrs. Jones in her prettiest words, the retiring President presented the gavel to Mrs. Williams, saying: "This is only a piece of wood, but a very distinguished piece of wood. It carries with it our pride that you are going to be our leader, with our knowledge of your good hands, your good head and your educated heart, all in such an attractive package. So I pledge to you, with this gavel, the support of 2,444 women. If you want anything, just whistle."

In accepting, the new President said, "It is with great humility that I accept this gavel of the GCV, this gavel from the wood of a tree planted at Kenmore by George Washington. Holding it in my hands, I hold the symbol of all the shining past of the GCV. It shall be my daily prayer that I shall be worthy of this trust."

After lunching at Poplar Grove with Mr. and

Mrs. John S. Zinsser, the delegates left for home, clutching a boxwood plant, full of good food and a kind of "sunshine of the mind" that seems to be a part of these meetings, especially when they are run by Mary Spencer Craddock and Mary Carter Gary!

### *1964-1966 — Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, President*

A beautiful summer day blessed the new administration when the Board met in Orange to hear the new President's plans. Continuing the GCV's vital interest in what has been termed "public housekeeping," the clubs would be asked to report on their civic planning and beautification at the fall meeting. To a suggestion that the name of the Highway Planning and Zoning Committee be changed to "Highway Beautification Committee," three voices were heard in protest, saying that the words "planning" and "zoning" were too important to be dropped. (And when the three voices come from three vocal past presidents, they are a little hard to shout down.)

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In October the Governors travelled over and under Chesapeake Bay by the new Bridge-Tunnel. This was an exciting start for three nice days as the guests of The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, efficiently operating under the presidency of Miss Vena Walker, who also served as hostess with Judge and Mrs. Charles Lankford, Jr. when the Board was entertained at dinner in Crystal Palace, the Lankford home.

At the business session the next day the roll of past presidents was called, and Mrs. Williams welcomed them with, "We are always so happy to have our past presidents with us. The continuity which their presence represents is certainly the strengthening force of this organization."

Mrs. Greene spoke of the recently opened George Mason College of the University of Virginia in Fairfax, "It has fine buildings, equipment, and faculty but not a tree or a bush or a shrub planted to soften the wasteland on which the buildings stand." With the approval of the Board, she had interested the presidents of the

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nine member clubs of the area in helping the college with its landscaping. It was hoped that a master plan could be made and some planting done before a celebration of Arbor Day there in the spring; "that we will thus provide the beginnings of the blessings of shade and softening green so vital as a setting for this new college, for which we have great hopes and ambitions."

Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith spoke of the ten years actively spent by the GCV in the two restorations of the West and East Lawn gardens at the University, "This undertaking has taken twice as long as it took Thomas Jefferson to build the University; while this has been a monumental and expensive task, it will become one of the most rewarding undertakings of the GCV, not only because of its beauty and historic significance, but because it will be a part of a living and continuing memorial to Thomas Jefferson, Founder of the University."

Mrs. Wright, Restoration Chairman, announced that the presentation of the East Lawn gardens would be at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of next May 4th, en route to the Annual Meeting in Staunton; that each member of the GCV would be invited; a brochure would be printed similar to the one for the presentation of the West Lawn gardens in April, 1952; that a reception would be held after the ceremonies.

On the current project of the Mews, she told of progress in the planning phase, stating it would be under the direction of Mrs. Walter S. Robertson for the GCV and Mrs. Fielding L. Williams for the Historic Richmond Foundation. Then proving that not even history stands still, she announced that, due to recent historic research, the Rolfe House, Surry County, would henceforth be designated the Rolfe-Warren House.

Mrs. Laughon reported that the Garden Week group had spent months in the usual activity of fitting together the pieces of the puzzle. A total of 184 places are opening, 95 for the first time. In asking that each hostess be well-informed, she said, "The vast reputation of Garden Week has been too dearly earned for us not to continue to keep it at top level. The graciousness of our ladies is frequently mentioned in letters to the office. So we know the importance of a well-informed, interested hostess."

Mrs. Embrey said the Lily Workshop was extremely educational, but only 31 people attended; that this increased to 52 at the Rose Workshop; and that workshops and judging schools will continue to be held every two years.

Mrs. Cutts told that she and 3 members attended the NALS show in Canada. After a very sultry two-day motor trip, the test garden lilies proudly stood up to win eleven ribbons in international competition. The best stalk in our GCV show was a seedling entered by Mrs. Thomas Atkinson, Fauquier and Loudoun, and Mr. Royal Bemiss, the lily expert, asked for scales from this bulb for future development.

The meeting was recessed for the journey to Vaucluse, where Mrs. Verne Minich was luncheon hostess. (She also entertained the GCV at luncheon 12 years ago.) A sterling silver pin in the form of a sea gull, the theme of the Bridge-Tunnel, was presented by Mrs. Minich to each guest. Afterward the guests visited Eyre Hall, the 18th century home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry duPont Baldwin. This estate has never been out of the possession of the Eyre family, and the furnishings are the heirlooms belonging in the house. The 150 year old formal boxwood garden with its old orangery is considered one of the finest in Virginia.

Cocktails were served at West View, the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. Drummond Ayres, before dinner at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club. The dinner speaker was Mr. Frederick D. Nichols of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia.

Re-grouping at the Accomack Woman's Club in Onley the next morning, early arrivals found the Beautification Panel already assembled, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Bruce C. Gunnell, Mrs. Frederick C. James, Mrs. J. Gordon Lindsay, Mrs. Laurence F. Tucker, and Mrs. J. Sloan Kuykendall. Mrs. Greene began the discussion with, "This Beautification Program seemed to be the next step for the GCV to undertake. Four years ago we started on a program for zoning and planning and trying to eliminate billboards. Two years ago we had a memorable panel for controlling or screening our automobile graveyards. We will have to continue on these projects for the rest of our lives. We thought it might improve our communities and our Carrie Nation

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May, 1965. The presentation of the East Lawn Gardens at the University of Virginia. Presiding: Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Twenty-third President, 1964-1966. Seated, Mrs. Wright, Restoration Chairman, The Right Reverend Beverley Dandridge Tucker, Governor Albertis S. Harrison, Jr., and Mr. Edgar Finley Shannon, Jr., President of the University.

tempers if we now turn to planning where and what to plant." The reports were interesting, the questions pertinent, and the answers knowledgeable. Mrs. Kuykendall asked that slides be taken before and after beautification ventures, making a specific request to "the Massie Medal Award group that did the Patrick Henry Hospital," and that scripts be provided with the slides.

Mrs. Wright expressed the appreciation of every guest when she said, "Miss Vena and ladies of The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, they say that lightning can't strike twice in the same place. That has been refuted. We have repeated the experience we had in 1952 when we came to the Shore and had such a wonderful time. You can imagine our joy when we came this time and found there was so little change, except in ourselves. In travelling up and down historic Highway 13, we have come to the

same beautiful places where we found the same great spirit of hospitality."

Then to the final luncheon at Mount Pleasant on Occahannock Creek, the home of the Lucius J. Kellams. (There is a Shore legend, expressed as "We hope you get sand in your shoes, for then you will return." If the guests didn't accidentally get sand in their shoes, they did so deliberately, for everyone wants to return to this fabled land.)

1965

When the Board met in January with Mrs. Richard E. Byrd, discussion centered on plans for the presentation of the University gardens, and Mrs. Wright reported that all was going well. In answer to a question often asked she said, "Frequently it becomes necessary to re-state that no maintenance of any restored garden is ever assumed by the GCV. In the very early days there was no official agreement between the GCV and the owners of the restored gardens. This made it a little difficult to insist upon our mandatory requirement of proper maintenance. Only in the current year did we get a signed agreement with Kenmore, our first restoration, and this was due to the offices of Mrs. Arthur B. Collins. Now, of course, no restoration is begun unless we have this signed agreement which accepts our regular inspection and agrees to carry out all recommendations for maintenance."

Mrs. Williams announced that Mrs. Lindsay and Mrs. Power, well-schooled in the legislative process, would represent the GCV point of view at the meetings of the VALC. From this Directors Meeting came a letter written by our President to Mr. Johnson, President of the United States, thanking him for his interest in the beautification of our highways. It read:

"The Board of Directors of The Garden Club of Virginia in meeting assembled today at Rosemont, home of Senator Harry F. Byrd, enthusiastically acclaimed the interest expressed by you in the beautification of our highways in this land.

"Your recognition of the importance of landscaping highways and eliminating unsightly auto graveyards will emphasize the need for immediate positive action. As the network of impressive highways links the entire country so must we

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970

link our efforts in their beautification. We commend you for the high priority you have given this matter. If there is any way we of The Garden Club of Virginia can be of practical assistance, please let us know."

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The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* wrote on May 2nd: "Mr. Jefferson had a plan. Mr. Darden had a challenge. The GCV had the enthusiasm and the resolve to accept that challenge and see that plan through to fruition." The day of fruition had arrived. The sky was heaven-blue and the sun was shining, only a trifle too brightly. It seemed every invitation had been answered affirmatively, and there was always a deep crowd in front of the plaque on the garden wall of Pavilion 2, which reads:

### THE GARDEN WALLS

originally designed and built by

Thomas Jefferson, 1821-1824, as a part of his architectural plan for the University of Virginia, were restored and the enclosed gardens

planted as a gift of

The Garden Club of Virginia, 1965

The gardens are the creation of three  
Landscape Architects

The basic plan by Alden Hopkins  
and design and execution by

Donald Howard Parker  
and Ralph Esty Griswold, Consultant

After the invocation given by The Right Reverend Beverley Dandridge Tucker, The Honorable Albertis S. Harrison, Jr., Governor of Virginia, spoke on Restoration in Virginia. Mrs. Wright, Restoration Chairman, and Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, local Chairman, gave reports on the gardens, after which the formal presentation was made by Mrs. Williams and the gardens accepted by Mr. Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., President of the University. That, plus pages of information, is what the brochure said. But even the most articulate member was without the right words to express the feeling of satisfaction and joy shared by everyone there. An inadequate account, written by Mrs. Martin, appeared in the *Journal*:

"Throughout our 45 years of existence, we have been discussed. The brickbats and unprint-

able comments that have come our way from the billboard advertisers and the automobile graveyard owners were endured because we knew that someday there would be a May 4, 1965, and there was. We basked in editorials that referred to 'the immense debt that the people of the Commonwealth owe to The Garden Club of Virginia'; a handsome Governor and a handsome University President gave us nice laudations; and a letter from the students who comprise the



May, 1965, at the University of Virginia. Members and husbands admire this restoration.

secret Seven Society of the University deserves to be quoted in full:

"Ladies of the Garden Club: We express our sincere appreciation for the most generous gift which The Garden Club of Virginia presents this day, May 4, 1965. The gardens behind the East and West Ranges are an inspiration to all who frequent them, and the University is humbled by your generosity.

"We offer this paperweight, inlaid with the symbol, to the Garden Club as a token of our appreciation and especially thank Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith, who has devoted herself to the completion of the gardens.

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"We are joyed whenever interest is expressed in the University. Indeed it is the good will of individuals and groups like yours which makes Mr. Jefferson's academical village not merely a university, but a living spirit. May this spirit live forever."

"As this letter, signed with the seven symbols of The Seven Society, embodies appreciation, Louise Gilliam's masterful presentation program told the full story of our seventeen years' residence on the Lawns. During most of these years, we were actively digging and planting, but there was an interim while we saw to maintenance and gathered strength and funds to complete this project. It took a lot of Garden Weeks to raise the more than a quarter of a million dollars that was spent here.

"Presiding over the distinguished assemblage was our radiant President, Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, who represented in her charming, self-possessed person every single one of us, her predecessors, the hard-working Restoration Chairmen and Committees, the members who labored long and persistently through many Garden Weeks, and every wonderful homeowner who made all of it possible. After the garden party, everyone visited the gardens, leaving with the certain knowledge that the passing years will only make them more beautiful. In brief, on May 4th, we enjoyed Our Finest Hour!"

(In February, 1966, *House Beautiful* published a magnificent colored feature on these gardens, its reporter and photographer being given all courtesy by our able Director of Publicity, Mrs. Wallinger.)

And there was still the meeting to come, the superb hospitality of the Augusta club to be savored. While the Directors were entertained at Edgehill by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Nelson, Fran Nelson being Augusta's President, the other delegates were having cocktails at Oakdene with Dr. and Mrs. Franklin M. Hanger, followed by three pleasantly small dinner parties with the Goodloes, Nutts, and Sprouls.

The next morning to registration and the pleasure of the exhibit of horticulture. (Perhaps this story is apocryphal, but it was told that while certain ladies were sweltering in the sun at the presentation, their flowers for the exhibit were being chauffeur-driven all over



1965 Breakfast at Stuart Hall. Seated: Mrs. Gilliam and Miss Frances Denny. Standing: Mrs. Welly K. Hopkins.

Charlottesville in an air-conditioned car. The ladies were wilted, the flowers pristine fresh.)

It was agreed that only Emily Smith, co-chairman of the meeting with Lee Cochran, would have managed to have everyone present at an 8:30 A.M. breakfast at Mary Baldwin College, with President and Mrs. Samuel R. Spencer, Jr. bidding us welcome. Then to board buses with Augusta member-guides waving colored chiffon scarves, solving the puzzle as to the different colors on identification tags — "Why am I blue when you are yellow?" This monochromatic arrangement eliminated even the small mental effort involved in remembering your bus number. It worked. No one got lost as we toured the gardens of Mr. Moore, the Clemmers, and the Hunters. There was not a weed in sight nor a pebble misplaced in these gardens. Intimate luncheons were given at five homes by the Effingers, Gillespies, Grants, Perrys, and Smiths.

Before going to the Parish House where the meeting would be held, the delegates entered Trinity Episcopal Church for a brief meditation,

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970*

conducted by The Reverend Guthrie Brown. (This is remembered on paper by an Episcopalian. Fears had been expressed that rain might spoil the presentation and the meeting, but someone always said, "The rain wouldn't dare — not with Emily Smith running things." Emily is a devoted Presbyterian, and we're not dabbling in theology when we mention that the only time it rained during those four days was when we were in Trinity Episcopal Church. Scout's honor.)

Preceding the business, a moving tribute, written by Mrs. Collins, was given to Mrs. John G. Hayes, GCV President 1940-1942, which included, "Her real love was horticulture. The members of her Board remember her saying at each meeting, 'Let us stress horticulture.' Certainly the beautiful grounds at Western View, and later on Cary Street Road, attest her ability to create a place of loveliness where she lived and graciously received her many friends."

Mrs. Williams' report answered the question, "Why do we bother with the Garden Club?" She said: "The evolution of the GCV is an evolution which closely parallels that of the Commonwealth in which you live. When this organization was founded 45 years ago, the economy of the state was based primarily on rural living. Your founders who lived in the cities had summer places which really held their affection. The rest actually lived in the country or in small towns. This affinity for rural living was given strength and inspiration by old world traditions rooted deep in English heritage, a heritage of beauty in architecture and in gardening. Forty-five years of swift economic and social change have passed, and you and your families have been intimately involved in this change.

"Today the economy of this state is no longer based on rural living. Rather it is based on urban living, involving a rapidly expanding population. The swift change is breathtaking. But as you travel across the varied areas of this state, it is evident that the heritage from which your founding members derived their strength has, in turn, been passed to you. Your constant preoccupation with what is best for your state has produced practical as well as beautiful results. . . . We have been given the fruits of a vital,

dynamic tradition, and we must pass it on intact. What more valid concern could be ours?"

Mrs. Richmond Gray, familiar with the long uphill chore of the Highway Committee that she headed, said, "Isn't it wonderful to have President Johnson as well as Lady Bird on our team? We have certainly come far from the days when our ladies took things into their own hands and chopped down the ugly billboards along highways." (Mrs. Johnson demonstrated her interest a week later by coming to Virginia. She spent two days on a "landscape and landmark tour" of the state. With Governor Harrison, she unveiled a marker commemorating the dedication of the first completed Wayside Area on Route 95 near Dumfries.)

Mrs. Wright, referring to the gala events of the previous day, said, "Most organizations would feel they could have a respite after completing a restoration such as the one at the University, but not the GCV. We overlap in our ambitious undertakings. For almost a year we have been planning and meeting over the Mews on Church Hill in Richmond. Some clearing has been done, and the city of Richmond is putting all the pipes and wiring underground."

Mrs. John D. Varner told of the splendid Conservation Forum arranged by Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr., the speakers being Dr. Bruce V. English on "Air Pollution" (Remembered: His reference to this as the "Silent Fall," a term Rachel Carson would have liked.), Mr. Richard H. Pough, "Biology of Conservation," and Mr. Huette, "Destiny of the Dismal Swamp."

The Certificates of Merit in horticulture were awarded to 17 people, with the comment that they all shared one intangible trait: "They have used their talents and energy to generate enthusiasm for gardening among women who otherwise might have remained casual gardeners; they have encouraged the faltering, educated the ill-informed, and untiringly spread the gospel."

Leaving the meeting, the delegates visited our lovely restored garden at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace. This left about 15 minutes in which to dress leisurely and meet on the terrace at Merriemfield, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Monroe Bonfoey, for drinks before dinner at the Ingleside Club. There Dr. Bernard Mayo, Professor of History at the University of Virginia,

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spoke to his intriguing topic of "A Geranium to Mr. Jefferson." It was a scholarly treatise, delivered with such Attic salt and ease, that only in retrospect did his listeners realize the hours of research and the lifetime accumulation of knowledge that went into it. It was fortui-

guest left with the appropriate gift of a pink geranium, a symbol of Mr. Jefferson's geranium, and a fitting memoria of four quite memorable days.

\* \* \*

The Board of Governors met in October with The Garden Club of Danville, Mrs. Ballou Bagby, its President. The Directors dined sumptuously with Dr. and Mrs. Francis H. McGovern and met later with Mrs. Stuart Christian, Jr.

Tours were made the next morning to the Memorial Mansion, "Last Capitol of the Confederacy," the grounds of which were restored by the hostess club, and to Oak Ridge, the home of Mrs. Hal C. Rich, whose gardens were seen with great approbation. Separating for small luncheons at the homes of Mmes. Jordan, Perkinson, Rich, Jr., Turner, and Wilson, the delegates re-assembled for the first business session.

Mrs. Williams spoke on the subject of civic beautification, again the theme of the Governors meeting, saying: "What do we really know about it? What of its details? Beautification is now big business. It is estimated that there are



*1965 Annual Meeting. Club presidents and delegates enjoy the garden at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, Staunton.*

tous there was an earlier Mrs. Smith and her geranium in the Jeffersonian annals. It was discerning of Dr. Mayo to present this lovely bouquet to Mr. Jefferson's latest Mrs. Smith, our Emily.

The next business session elected a new Honorary Member, Mrs. Irving L. Matthews, Executive Director of Historic Garden Week for so many good years. Slides of the proposed Historical Highway in Virginia were shown and explained by Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service.

After adjournment, to Emily Smith's lovely Waverley Hill for luncheon. Here everything was perfection-in-the-pink from the punch to the tablecloths, from the flowers to the shrimp. Each



*The Lily Show, 1965. Mrs. Williams enjoys a quiet moment with Mrs. Albertis S. Harrison, Jr., Virginia's First Lady and Honorary Chairman of the Show.*

*The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970*



October, 1965, Danville. "The Old Guard" poses in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Francis H. McGovern. Seated: Mrs. Powell Glass, Twelfth President, 1942-1944, Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Eighth President, 1934-1936, and Mrs. Martin. Standing: Mrs. Godwin, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Wright, and Mrs. James Gordon Smith.

42,000,000 gardeners in the U. S., 2,000,000 belonging to a garden club or a society interested in beautification. What do we of the GCV know that equips us to lead our state in this endeavor?

"In speaking before the American Horticultural Society recently, Dr. Scheibe of the Park Service pointed out the necessity for careful informed guidance in beautification projects. As a case in point, take public directional signs. They are necessary, but they create ugliness. The shape, size, and the weedy landscape at their

base are unhappy eye-catchers. A study in one city of public signs on median strips revealed that if the signs were re-grouped to fit good mowing practice, the cost per mile of maintenance could be reduced from \$20.70 to \$7.50. Quite an inducement for cooperation from the city fathers. What is the cost of such maintenance in your town or county? Then there is the case of hasty planting, which is certainly wasteful. Chrysanthemums create a dramatic mass effect. However, they must be used with the thought well in mind that chrysanthemums

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and car lights do not mix; lights keep the plants awake, and they will not bloom. Many of us have discovered that it is fatal to plant flowers at bus stops. Flowers must be well out of reach of exhausts. These are obvious illustrations. There are dozens of others.

"When you tried to get a beautification project off the ground in your community, was it successful? Was it worth the effort? Had you learned enough in advance to guarantee the results before you sold the idea to your community? Is the project still attractive? California found that 90% of its plant life was unsuitable for civic planting. Could we encourage our state to make a list of fool-proof plants for civic planting in Virginia? [Ed: This appeared in the *Journal* September, 1967.]

"These are hard questions—hard facts—practical considerations. There is so much knowledge we need to gain, and no one club could acquire it all. Together we can pool our knowledge, and together we can present an informed pressure for lasting community beautification."

Mrs. Matthews reviewed for new members the great contribution made to Garden Week by the Virginia Department of Highways. Each fall a list of homeowners' names and places, with routing and/or addresses, is sent to the Department in order that identification markers, the familiar green letters and arrows, can be printed and engineers can verify their placement. The same list is used to prepare the overlay for the handsome State Highway maps used during Garden Week. A list of all Garden Week chairmen with their addresses is sent to the Department so the engineer in each district may contact the chairmen if necessary. (The gross receipts for Garden Week 1965, not available at last year's early meeting, were given as \$55,101.32.)

St. John's Mews was vividly described by Mrs. Wright; the brick walls, the garden house and the paths are constructed and the ground being prepared for this fall's planting of holly, magnolia, azaleas, and boxwood; to keep maintenance at a minimum, ground cover is being used in the open spaces; the old mulberry trees on the site have been treated and give the good look of age to this area; the collection of iron

grillwork continues; and gas lamps will be placed in strategic spots.

Mrs. Curran, announcing that every club had purchased the daffodil collection, told of one package which had been hurriedly placed in its paper bag on a garage shelf last fall and forgotten. In the spring, against all odds, the bulbs had thrust their way through the brown paper and bloomed, distorted, it is true, but demonstrating nature at its most determined.

Recess to cocktails at the home of Mrs. Fred B. Leggett, and on to dinner at the Danville Golf Club. The speaker was Senator Fitzgerald Bemiss, charmingly introduced by his cousin, Mrs. McCluer Gilliam. Senator Bemiss, Chairman of the Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission, on which several GCV members serve, spoke of the long-range program for the protection of the proper quantity and quality of Virginia's open spaces and the access of our citizens to them.

The next morning was devoted entirely to seeing and hearing about each member club's beautification projects. Having heard Mrs. Wallinger's advice, "Look at your town through the eyes of a stranger," it seemed everyone followed it. Slides of the "before" and "after" variety were shown, accompanied by explanation from the club presidents. Many projects started out with barren land or land disfigured by unsightly dumps, and gradually, through the dedicated toil of the members, these spots were transformed. Seeing each section of Virginia as a part of a whole made the two hours pass quickly. It was decided that copies of the slides would be sent to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, to Virginia's Chamber of Commerce, to "Keep Virginia Beautiful," and one set would remain in the GCV Slides Collection for member clubs' use.

Mrs. Collins, with a, "This could just as well go unsaid, but I want to say it anyway," read her latest poem:

The Old Guard never dies, not even fades  
away,

We hang around to give advice that's hope-  
lessly *passé*.

We talk about the days that were, and how  
things used to be,

## *The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970*

We sleep through all the speeches, then have  
a cup of tea,  
We'd like a touch of youth again, to be a  
sprightly fifty.  
But, girls, in spite of envy's blight, we think  
you're cute and nifty.  
And so we say good luck, God bless, and have  
things your own way.  
We've never seen the club we love go better  
than today.

After luncheon given by the Gabriella Garden Club at the home of its President, Mrs. James W. Ray, Jr., the reluctant leave-taking for scattered homeplaces.

1966

With May came enjoyable days in Charlottesville as guests of the Rivanna Garden Club. While the Directors dined with Miss Jean Printz and Mrs. Earnest J. Oglesby, Rivanna's President, at Wilton, the home of Mr. Walter Schuyler, the delegates were enjoying a candle-light tour of the home and garden of Professor and Mrs. Gordon Whyburn and other gardens on the Lawn. Student members of the University Guide Service escorted the ladies, telling them of the University and its early history and of the gardens which the GCV guests had restored so painstakingly and for which each guide expressed appreciation.

A garden tour the next morning took the guests to the Austin D. Kilham garden and to Morven, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Stone. Then down the mountain to luncheons at nine attractive homes, the hostesses being Mmes. Woltz, Williams, Morris, Spies, Graves, Keister, Strider, Smith, McMurry, Trevillian, and Hereford.

As usual it was difficult to leave this warm hospitality and get down to the actual business of business. A tribute was read to Mrs. P. F. Halsey, Chairman of Horticulture, who had died on February 5th, which closed with, "In garden club vernacular, and according to horticultural standards of perfection, Mary Halsey might well be likened to a prize-winning specimen in The Garden of Life."

The Garden Week Chairman gave the receipts as \$55,612.24 from 213 homes and gardens, despite the inclement weather. She spoke spe-



*1966 Annual Meeting. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Williams, President, in the garden at Morven, Charlottesville.*

cifically of the success of the venture in the Northern Neck area where there is no member club. Although it has occasionally been open, supervised by the Garden Week office, this year it was under the personal responsibility of Mrs. Sale of Irvington and Mrs. Martin of nearby Gloucester. They were aided by a competent committee of both women and men from the entire area, and this cooperation was evidenced by the good financial results. The hope was expressed that the interest so established would endure, and that this valuable Northern Neck area would be an annual part of our state-wide tour. It was also announced that Mrs. J. Robert Massie, Jr. is now Assistant Director of Historic Garden Week.

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The Chairman reported that the Conservation Forum, arranged by Mrs. Bruce V. English, featured a panel moderated by Mrs. James Gordon Smith which discussed recent measures passed by the General Assembly, followed by the color film, "Time to Begin." The guest speaker, Mr. Ian McHarg, Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania, educated his 230 listeners with wit and good words. Since 1956 we have supported the Virginia Resource-Use Education Council Conservation Short Courses for Teachers, the individual clubs having contributed over \$6,000.00 during this time. Through this course, specialized conservation training has been extended to 830 Virginia teachers, reaching 500,000 young people.

The Judging School for Arranging had been held in January with Anne Wertsner Wood the principal speaker. This was not only rewarding in the adeptness acquired by the 136 who enrolled, it paid off financially, \$714.54 being cleared.

Mrs. Gray spoke of the 1966 Highway Beautification Act passed by the U. S. Congress, and, using this as a background, told of the two bills passed by the Virginia Assembly: "First, the bill concerned with automobile graveyards; this has been expanded to include all junkyards of any description and size, applying on all highways and roads. In short, no new junkyards may be established within 1,000 feet on interstate or primary highways, or within 500 feet of all other roads, unless well-screened or unless in zoned industrial areas. Those now in existence on interstate or Federal Aid highways must be screened or moved by July 1, 1970.

"Second, the bill concerned with outdoor advertising; restrictions previously applicable to interstate highways are now also applicable to Federal Aid primary highways; and after July 1, 1970, those not permissible under this law will be torn down. This 1966 legislation also restricts the spacing of billboards and signs at highway exits, and restricts the size of these billboards and signs."

The Lily Test Chairman spoke with pride of another recognition from the RHS. That turkscap lily for which Mrs. Atkinson won the Walker Challenge Cup in 1964 had been registered by

the RHS and named "Dixie" in its Year Book.

This seemed enough concentration to the delegates who were anxious to visit the treasure-filled home of Mrs. Julio S. Galban, where champagne flowed. And on to the Farmington Country Club where the Charlottesville Garden Club had made a gay maypole of each table. Professor Nichols was again the featured speaker and gave an informative account of Jefferson as a landscape architect, touching a responsive chord in his listeners, who had worked so long in the Lawn gardens accepting the mental supervision of Mr. Jefferson as landscape architect.

The next morning Mrs. Wright spoke first of the Mews, presentation of which will be made in the spring of 1967, calling it a "fantasy." Although all planting is done, there is still need for ironwork and iron furnishings. A house having been removed, our landscaping had been enlarged to include this area which leads into the Mews from Broad Street.

She reported that, for the benefit of posterity, a complete set of permanent reproducible drawings of all GCV restorations is now on file at the Alderman Library. The drawings are on .002 Polyester "Myler" Film as manufactured by the Ozalid Corporation and can be reproduced by normal blueprinting methods, although reproduction is prohibited except by permission from the Restoration Committee. The good services of Mr. Parker, Landscape Architect for Colonial Williamsburg, made this possible.

Mrs. Wright then revealed the secret of the next recommended restoration, zealously researched for a year, as Historic Christ Church, a National Historic Landmark, in Lancaster County. On the site of an earlier church, perhaps 1690, the present building was completed in 1732 by Robert "King" Carter to protect the graves of his father, John Carter, and four of his five wives buried under the chancel of the earlier church. The property of one man, passing to his heirs, this church could not be sequestered at the time of the Revolution and until 1961 was under lease to the Episcopal diocese. Ownership now vested in the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, formed for this purpose, there is no active congregation.

The delegates were shown a colored drawing on which the tentative plans were indicated:



*Nineteenth Restoration, 1966. Historic Christ Church, Lancaster County, built in 1732, on the site of a 1690 building, by Robert ("King") Carter, who in documents referred to this "row of goodly cedars" leading from his home, Corotoman, to the canonical entrance of his church. It is now owned by the Foundation for Historic Christ Church to whom this "setting of serenity" was presented on May 21, 1968.*

within the walled churchyard three brick paths to be laid from the wall to the doors of the church, brick splash courses at the base, a willow oak to balance an existing one, and the entire area seeded; English ivy and native clematis to be planted on the wall and an avenue of vanished cedars to be re-planted, extending westward; and specified was a parking area, restricted to the extreme northwest section, screened by trees and shrubs, a drive to be built encircling the burying grounds and open meadow.

The proposal was approved, and the assembly gave Mrs. Wright a well-deserved standing ovation for her skill in juggling three restorations at one time: the gardens at the University with

their presentation, the Mews, and the plans for Historic Christ Church.

The group was charmingly welcomed by the well-remembered Professor Mayo. This time he did not speak of geraniums and Mr. Jefferson but brought the good wishes of President Shannon to "that dear Garden Club of Virginia." He referred to Mr. Jefferson's urging his Paris secretary, William Shaw, to come to Albemarle County, "to the rational society we have here," which Professor Mayo felt would be enhanced if every GCV member accepted the same invitation.

Mrs. George R. Paschal spoke on "A Conservationist's View of Bird Watching," and she knew her topic thoroughly. (She and her hus-

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band have deeded to Albemarle County sixty acres of their land as a wildlife sanctuary.)

Mrs. Greene, in thanking the retiring president, spoke of her qualities for organization, her creative leadership, and in addition her "promoting our health and sweetening our spirits." Leadership then passed to Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott. The Albemarle Garden Club entertained the departing guests with a basket lunch at Alumni Hall.

*1966-1968 — Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott,  
President*

Once again Dot and Luke Kellam invited the husbands to join the Directors at their July meeting, and again it was a memorable occasion for everyone. It was hard to make motions and consider alternatives while the male of the species was enjoying the lovely leisure of Mount

Pleasant's swimming pool, but business was done.

The question of Garden Week expenses and percentages was on the floor for an hour, and Mrs. Parrott appointed a committee to make an investigation in depth.

Both the Board and the Garden Week Committee had requested that the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club sponsor an auxiliary group in the Northern Neck area. At this meeting it was learned, and appreciated, that our member club had accepted this pleasure and responsibility. This was the first time the state organization had sought the establishment of an auxiliary or garden club in a certain section, and thus began the Northern Neck auxiliary of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club.

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In October the Governors met in Orange, the guests of the Dolly Madison Garden Club.



*October, 1966. Drawing room of Yatton, home of Mrs. William Clayton Williams, Jr. Relaxed and ready, the hostesses of Dolly Madison Garden Club pose with Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Twenty-fourth President, 1966-1968. Left to right, Mrs. Woodbury S. Ober, co-chairman for the meeting, Mrs. Joseph M. Mercer, Dolly Madison president, Mrs. Parrott, Mrs. George Bennett Tyler, chairman of meeting, and Mrs. Williams, the hostess.*

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The Directors dined and met at Yatton with Mrs. William Clayton Williams, Jr. as hostess and her daughter-in-law, the relaxing past president, Dottie Williams, as co-hostess. The delegates meanwhile were entertained by Mrs. Langbourne M. Williams and Mrs. George D. Williams at cocktails and dinner in the Montpelier Club. All four Mmes. Williams were superb hostesses.

Late to bed or not, each delegate was present at the 10 A.M. meeting in the Parish House of historic St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and stood in silence to honor three members who had died since the last meeting; Mr. B. Y. Morrison, Honorary Member from Pass Christian, Mississippi; Mrs. Henry Fairfax of our founding group and member of Fauquier and Loudoun, Leesburg, and James River Garden Clubs; and Mrs. Cary D. Langhorne, Fauquier and Loudoun. The meeting was presented to Mrs. Joseph M. Mercer, President of the hostess club, who delighted with her honest, "In the excitement of having you here, I think my phenobarbital must have worn off."

Mrs. J. Gordon Lindsay, having been asked by Mrs. Parrott to establish a much needed Interclub Speakers Bureau and having spent the entire summer putting this idea into tangible form, reported with appreciation that 26 clubs had sent 55 names of speakers and the member clubs would shortly receive this valuable list.

The President in her first report remembered how she always hated summer school, and spoke wryly of spending the past summer in her own "summer school," working instead of playing golf or bridge. She continued: "America is on the high road to beauty. Lady Bird has sparked the President, he in turn has prodded the Congress. Magazine advertising has boarded the bandwagon. Did you see the Bethlehem Steel Company advertisement in *Time* on 'America the Beautiful and America the Ugly'? Even the cartoonists have joined in. Ladies, your Founding Mothers conceived and bore well. Let our challenge be to keep the family tree healthy and growing."

Mrs. E. E. Lawler, Flower Shows Chairman, announced that the Ashland club had presented the Mary McDermott Beirne Challenge Bowl as a permanent trophy to the GCV Daffodil Show,

honoring Miss Beirne's accomplishments in daffodil hybridization. It is to be awarded for the first time in 1967 for "a collection of 12 all-white varieties, 3 stems each, with foliage, from at least 4 divisions of the first 7 divisions, excluding division 4." (Overheard: "That's a real challenge!")



*The Mary McDermott Beirne Challenge Bowl. The gift of the Ashland Garden Club in 1966, it has been awarded only one time, in 1968.*

The Highway Chairman, Mrs. George M. Cochran, had written Mr. Turner, Landscape Engineer for the Highway Department, urging him to help the GCV achieve state-wide publicity for the punishment and/or fines imposed for littering the highways, sending him the flyer used locally on the Eastern Shore. He will see that a similar enclosure will be the divider for all 1967 Virginia license tags.

Mrs. Martin spoke of inspection trips to past restorations, beginning with the recently completed gardens at the University: "They are so lush that already pruning and transplanting must begin. Of these gardens Mr. Griswold commented, 'It must be expected that changes will always have to be made. These changes will become increasingly great as the gardens grow older. After 50 years the original planting will hardly be recognizable—a prophecy that applies no less to the Restoration Committee.'" A three-car Restoration caravan had travelled three days to the gardens of Stratford, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn, and Kenmore, meeting at each one the owner-committees responsible for maintenance. Bedrock decisions were made on the

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spot by the two groups as to what would be perfect and what would be possible.

At Christ Church the committee has been immersed in the tedious details of contracts, working plans, specifications, letting of bids, in brief—the laying of firm contractual foundations. "A far cry from dogwood in bloom, but mandatory, and we'll get to those dogwoods."

The Mews, minus only one old cast-iron panel, will be ready for presentation to Historic Richmond Foundation on May 9, 1967, at 2:30 P.M. en route to the Annual Meeting in Williamsburg.

Recess declared, buses left for luncheons; at Lochiel with Mrs. Zinn; Cairngorm with Mrs. Cameron; Rocklands with Mrs. Neale; and Montpelier with Mrs. Scott. All luncheon guests met at Montpelier for a tour of this estate, the former home of the Presidential Madisons. And then it rained. And rained. All members smiled, thinking of how good the rain was for their dry gardens back home but wishing for Mrs. Dunnington and Mrs. Robertson, our cocktail hostesses at Montebello, that it could have held off another day. Undaunted, the hostesses sent constant streams of enchanting small boys, all sizes, shapes, and colors, manned with umbrellas held high to shelter the ladies as they arrived and returned to the cars.

Then to dinner. Now some very good adjectives must be used to indicate the ingenuity of the hostess club which transformed the bare, rather grim premises of a fraternal meeting hall into a fairyland setting for dining. Two talented members, Jill Rich and Mickey Williams, had painted eight large murals to cover the scruffy walls. The subjects were Orange County historic places, including the homes of three former GCV Presidents; The Residence at Woodberry Forest, Mrs. Walker; Montebello, Mrs. Gray; and Little Yatton, Mrs. Williams. Over the windows magnolia, holly, and a variety of evergreens were laced into and through chicken wire, hiding every lonely inch, even the window frames. Each table held mounds of flowers, mainly zinnias in varying shades from the palest pink to deep rose plus the new and admirable green zinnia, well named "Envy." And this emotion was felt by each guest who, in her past, had faced the improbability of making beautiful

a dingy hall or a sweat-permeated gymnasium.

Their neighbor, Ambassador Murat Williams, spoke on "The Unseeing Eye" as being the great difficulty encountered in campaigns for beauty because of the affluence which underlies the ugliness, saying, "The wilderness of bad taste is deeply set in our country—in concrete, metal, and shining neon. But soon roses will bloom where oil cans bled and beer cans glittered." He paid homage to the work of the GCV in making the Commonwealth of Virginia a more beautiful place in which to live.

The next day's panel on Pollution was headed by the Conservation Chairman, Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr., whose articulate enthusiasm could animate a stone. The delegates heard Dr. Gordon Madge, Pathology Department of the Medical College of Virginia, and Mrs. Gunnell speak on air and water pollution; Mr. George Freeman give details of the Outdoor Recreation bill; and Mrs. William H. King, introduced as "raising her own redwood in her kitchen," give practical advice on how individuals could alleviate the pollution problem. She introduced the delegates to the fact that detergents are different and that they should use one that is bio-degradable, capable of being dispersed. (This probably resulted in 2,500 women reading the small print on 2,500 detergent packages.)

To a steady conversation of, "Did you know that about detergents?", "Never thought it was that bad," and "Didn't Virginia Gunnell's blacked-up map make you feel sick?", proving the panel had struck hard, the guests moved to their cars to drive to Grelen, where Mrs. Will R. Gregg and Mrs. Mercer were hostesses for the final luncheon.

1967

When Mary Lou Taliaferro had invited the Directors to Harrisonburg the past summer, no definite date was given because she wanted to check the new almanac for 1967 and find the best day. The Directors laughed indulgently, but when January 25th proved to be a prime day, without the usual snow and slush that plague January meetings, each decided to subscribe to Mrs. Taliaferro's almanac.

Expressing appreciation for the fine Speakers Bureau launched by Elsie Lindsay, it was suggested that the responsibility for keeping this

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*January, 1967, Board Meeting, at Harrisonburg, with Mrs. George W. Taliaferro, who, with Mrs. Richard E. Byrd, Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., and Mrs. E. W. Hening, Jr., greets Mrs. Parrott, President.*

current be the permanent job of the second vice president.

The woes of a recording secretary were heard with sympathy. After a lapse of 2½ months the court reporter, who took the minutes of the Orange Meeting, had written that she was ill and could not do the transcription. On January 6th the belts from the dictaphone, not a word typed, were received by Mrs. Varner. No one but Betsy could possibly have unscrambled this situation and delivered correctly annotated minutes.

Mrs. Parrott reported on the findings of the special committee appointed by her to investigate member clubs' expenses during Garden Week. These expenses, which seem to decrease each year, were \$1,800.00 in 1966, or 3% of the gross receipts. In the future all clubs that do not absorb expenses, or do not have them reimbursed by donations, are asked to itemize so a close watch may be kept on this item of expense.

It was May again, bringing with it the presentation of the Mews on the afternoon of May 9th. This is how Mrs. Davis H. Elliot, Director of Publicity, told it in the *Journal*:

"St. John's Mews in Richmond, formerly an alley edged with refuse and bordered with ailanthus trees and weeds, is now a place of beauty, landscaped and lighted. Instead of ailanthus trees and weeds, there are now boxwood-bordered flower beds, planted with bulbs, pansies, peonies, lilacs and crepe myrtle with other old-fashioned flowers, shrubs and ground covers. Holly trees and magnolias give shade, and an ancient elm, saved when the work began, guards the west end of the Mews near the ancient church.

"Adding interest to the beauty of the Mews today are panels of delicately exquisite ornamental ironwork, cast in early foundries in and near Richmond in the 19th century. The panels, set on top of walls of old brick, make the Mews an outdoor museum of this early cast iron. A brickwalk for pedestrians is a welcome addition, much easier to walk on than the old cobbles of the alley itself. A summerhouse with iron columns and rails gives the visitor a shady place to rest, and is furnished with old iron benches and chairs. Here on the wall is embedded the white marble plaque telling of the gift made by the GCV.

"Most of the old cast-iron panels were purchased from wrecking concerns in Richmond; others were obtained directly from occupants of old houses in the Church Hill area. Twenty blocks of Church Hill, the finest residential section of Richmond in the early days, now largely a slum area, have been set aside by the city fathers as an historical monument. As such it became a selective urban renewal project. This same thing is happening in many historic cities such as Boston and Philadelphia. Church Hill is so named because it is adjacent to historic St. John's Church where Patrick Henry made his stirring 'Give me liberty or give me death' speech in 1775. The restoration of the neighborhood, which has been neglected for so many years, will again place the church, which draws visitors from all over the country, in a dignified and beautiful setting."

Among the 300 invited guests were many

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state and city officials. The principal speaker was The Honorable Morrill M. Crowe, Richmond's Mayor, and Mrs. Parrott presented the completed charm of the Mews to Dr. Bruce V. English, President of the Historic Richmond Foundation. Everyone was then invited to tea at the flower-bedecked 2300 Club across Broad Street. (Indicative of the interest in this project, and the expertise of Mrs. Elliot, is the fact that not only did Virginia's newspapers cover it, so did the *New York Times*, the *Washington Sunday Star*, the *A.I.A. Journal*, and the magazine *Ironworker*, which also carried a picture of the Mews on its cover.)

\* \* \*

On to Williamsburg. The delegates were entertained at Charlton House, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Drewry, and at the lovely 19th century home of Judge and Mrs. Robert T. Armistead, going later to a candlelight concert at Bruton Parish Church. The Directors, after cocktails with Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Talley at Waters-Coleman House, went across Duke of Gloucester Street to dine with Mr. and Mrs. A. Edwin Kendrew. Aside from the shared satisfaction of the beauty of the Mews, the Directors dealt primarily with a bad financial situation to be presented the next day.

At 10 A.M. the President presented the meeting to Mrs. Thorne, President of the entertaining Williamsburg Garden Club.

On Conservation, the delegates heard of the fine Forum with Mr. Pough of the National Area Council (repeating by request), Lt. Gov. Fred Pollard, and Mr. Richard Chumney, also of the National Area Council, as the eloquent speakers. They liked Mrs. Reed's defining conservation as, "The act of preserving to keep from perishing," and marked her request that all be "stewards of God's great gifts."

On *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia*, for so many years the GCV's pride and financial joy, Mrs. Strudwick spoke sadly, saying that the present edition is "a dreary book compared to the books being published today. The pictures are from ten to fifteen years old, not in color, and new ones would have to be made." She read a letter from the University Press of Virginia (Garrett & Massie having gone out of

business), in which a minimum outlay of \$18,000.00 was quoted for a new edition. This was followed with the reading of the recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Board of Directors that "after due consideration and with regret, the recommendation is that a new edition not be published at this time, due to excessive costs." The Board had reluctantly concurred.

On finances, after routine approval of the annual budget, Mrs. Kellam began: "A happy Finance Committee has a balanced budget and plenty of money. Recent Finance Committees have kept happy by being smart, holding their breath, and crossing their fingers. They did not have to reckon with increased printing and mailing charges, which directly concern the Secretary, the Register, and the *Journal*." Saying that this shortage could be temporarily solved by using the resources of our savings; that the dues were last raised in 1954-1956; that the Board would at its July meeting vote on raising the dues from \$3.50 to \$5.00, she gave warning of this probable increase, with her sympathy.

On Highways, Mrs. Cochran told of writing one of her nicest letters to the Highway Department, thanking it for following our suggestion that anti-litter flyers be enclosed with license plates but said that her letter was somewhat eclipsed by a similar note from Lady Bird Johnson to the Department, praising "an effective way of bringing an important problem to the attention of the people of your state." The Chairman also advised that for the third time in five years a section of the Virginia Interstate was selected as one of the nation's six most scenic highways, this year the 19 mile stretch of Interstate 81 near Christiansburg.

On the Outdoor Recreation Commission, Mrs. Cochran quoted from a letter written by its Chairman, Senator Bemiss, "This couldn't have happened without the active support of the GCV. And the future acceptance of this broad new concept of conservation depends to a great extent on the continual support of your distinguished organization." Mrs. McCluer Gilliam has written an analysis of this important Commission and its aims for the *GCA Bulletin*.

"On automobile graveyards that can't be fenced or screened satisfactorily, suggest and supply the planting of Kudzu vine to grow over

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the cars; on dogwood, plant it, everybody, everywhere on next Arbor Day; on the Associated Clubs, join it and pay your dues." Thus concluded the wise counsel of Lee Cochran.

On Garden Week Mrs. Hening reported over 200 homes were open, 95 for the first time, with an unofficial gross of \$55,412.06.

Then the waiting buses carried the guests to visit Holly Hill, Bel-mede, and Belle Farm, and on to luncheon to be the first guests in the new Commons of the College of William and Mary. From there a tour of the Swem Library and a special display of the Hetty Cary Harrison Memorial Collection of Garden Books, given by the GCV and its members. The tour continued to the new Robert Andrews Hall of Fine Arts.

At 6 P.M. to "a famous place called Carter's Grove, one of the most elegant habitations in Virginia," so described by an 18th century visitor. Here, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carlisle H. Humelsine and of the honorary and associate members of the Williamsburg club wandered over this magnificent Georgian mansion, cocktails in hand. Mr. Henry J. Taylor, the columnist, was the guest speaker after dinner in the Virginia Room. (Mr. Taylor later extolled the virtues and accomplishments of the GCV in a column which will be cherished for all time. One Washington newspaper headlined this column, "The Quiet Beautifiers.")

The last business session was brought briskly under way by Mrs. Parrott, and reports on restoration were requested. (At some point, and it might as well be told here, Mary Wise Parrott received the well-merited cognomen of The Unflappable One. Her Restoration Chairman had retired to the hospital without writing a report and without fulfilling her required role at the presentation of the Mews. Without a pause in her day's occupation, the President turned adversity into asset.) Mrs. Gilliam, Restoration Treasurer, gave her report in understandable figures: the total expenditure at the Mews, \$40,323.40; the new paths in the orchard to complete the work at Woodlawn, \$1,017.50; two holly trees at Rolfe-Warren House, \$222.00; and tulips, camellias, and espaliered pear trees at Stratford, \$268.47. "We have \$23,000.00 in bonds and \$27,000.00 in the account, but Christ Church is eating it up."

As to how "Christ Church is eating it up," Mrs. Sale, serving on the local committee, spoke as this old church would speak if old churches could speak: "The Garden Club ladies are putting back the long lane of cedars toward the sunset, and people come to me by way of a curving drive, walking by brick walks, as is proper. Those vines and shrubs and trees which were here in the early days will be replaced. Since my yard is full of graves already, a new burial ground will be placed over where the forest begins. The brick splash-apron around my base now keeps my foundation dry. Water lines and drainage came first, then the curving roadway, and then the kind soil was put in order for planting. My loam was analyzed, the necessary fertilizer added, and already the good earth is ready and eager to receive the beauty of plant material. Next week the planting will begin. First the fast growing willow oaks; my lovely cedars leading westward toward Corotoman; magnolias and dogwood. Then the mixture of grasses which thrive best hereabouts. Some of my dearest decorations must wait for fall planting, the smaller things, too delicate to stand the summer sun. But I am used to waiting, and am content."

On Horticulture, Mrs. Harper added her plea to Mrs. Cochran's to plant dogwood wherever possible on public or private property during the coming year. Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith added her endorsement to this adornment-with-dogwood, "as these can be depended on to enhance Garden Week in Virginia." "Our beloved Senator Byrd," it was said, "took 2,000 dogwood trees out of the woods between the 1st and 12th of March and, wrapping the trunks in burlap, re-planted them with only negligible loss." From the floor came the suggestion that a piece of string be tied on a branch on the north side of the tree, and it be re-planted to grow by the compass. Whereupon the motion of making the planting of dogwood a united project of the GCV member clubs was made and passed.

In thanking the hostess club, Mrs. Powell Glass said: "You have given us a rare experience, a recognition of history supported by evidence, and we have increasing appreciation of the many things that remain today from a most gracious period. This period of grace is reflected in your

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own abundant grace."

And with the President's, "This is the most harmonious group I have ever seen. We've tried almost everything and haven't had a single argument for two days," the meeting was adjourned to a farewell luncheon in the Scroll Room of the Lodge.

\* \* \*

Meeting that July with Mrs. Byrd at Rosemont, the Board, acting within its power but without its pleasure, duly legalized the recommendation of the Finance Committee and increased the annual dues to \$5.00 per member.

The Restoration report: "Several months ahead of schedule, your current restoration at Christ Church is 99% completed. During the long winter, one of the worst we have ever experienced, we referred to it, in our despair, as 'Mudville' and as you know there never was any joy in Mudville. But suddenly with the advent of good weather, the long pent-up planning paid off, the activity assumed fever pitch, and you could hardly see the ground for the coveys of workmen. The transformation had begun. The soggy, weed-covered land was converted into a place of simple beauty and calm serenity.

"The state highway that had nudged the building sharply with a dangerous angled turn has been moved by the Department fifty feet away in a gentle curve. This obliging Department not only built the handsome new road, but it carefully removed the chunks of the old one and went beyond duty by excavating three feet of bad soil, replacing the entire area with fresh new top soil. This newly acquired land, with its lovely old trees, is already a grass area about ready for its first cutting.

"The local chairman, Mrs. Webster S. Rhoads, Jr. and I spend every possible moment over there, and we have agreed that one of the nicest moments of our joint lives was seeing, for the first time, the planted row of 'King' Carter's 'goodly cedars' on either side of the broad west walk, with twelve workmen on their knees setting out hundreds of perky vinca minor plants.

"At long last all those squiggles of Mr. Griswold's drawings, all the neatly typed pages of specifications are coming to real and beautiful life. The trees are all in, the willow oaks, the

sweet gum, the dogwood, the American holly, and the loblolly pines. The yaupon clumps look as though they had been there for years. The ground covers of vinca and ivy, the day lilies are planted in generous profusion. The handsome churchyard walls have occasional—seemingly accidental—plantings of Cherokee roses, bitter-sweet, clematis. And all around in between is green, green grass. Of statistical interest is the fact that the churchyard and the meadow which ends in the curved burying ground total 178,000 square feet, which did involve more than one package of grass seed.

"With the exception of the nursery planting, all the work has been done by local people, and the community's pride and interest, long dormant, is now overwhelming. For the better part of two centuries this was just a neglected old church in a bedraggled setting that no one really saw, even though they passed it daily. Now they really see it and are proud of it. This interest has resulted in more donations to the Foundation. One lady is giving us \$1,000.00 to spend on a sundial, Bishop Meade having written of one being here. Research and acquisition of this is the summer project of the local committee. I could fill a book with quotations from my letter file—letters from bishops and bricklayers—all commenting on the beauty we have wrought and thanking us for placing this gem in a worthy setting.

"The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace garden, a creation of 1933, is being extended, and we have allocated \$10,000.00 to this purpose, Mrs. Gilliam serving as local chairman. It should be completed this fall.

"The Restoration Committee in June, with our invaluable President, had another happy two-day travelling safari visiting the Rolfe-Warren House and the Adam Thoroughgood House. Within this past year the entire committee has inspected nine restorations, continuing the policy of conferring with the maintenance groups on the site."

\* \* \*

October held many pleasures. We were to be the guests of the Leesburg Garden Club for the Board of Governors Meeting and, en route, a part of the dedication ceremonies at Morven Park, the home of the late Governor and Mrs. West-

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moreland Davis. With great pride we heard Mrs. Parrott speak; with pleasure we watched horses and hounds against the bright fall foliage; with good appetite we enjoyed an extraordinary hunt breakfast. It all seemed a part of an earlier, more warmly hospitable world, especially since we were progressing not to the impersonality of a motel, but to be house guests in the lovely homes of the Leesburg members. Everyone was certain she stayed in the best of all possible guest rooms in the nicest of all possible houses and toted a lined basket painted with a picture of her hostess's home to prove it.

While the delegates were being entertained by Miss Mary Metzger, the Directors dined with Elizabeth Wright at Locust Hill, enjoying again the relaxed pleasure of her hospitality.

The next morning, assembled at The Goose Creek Country Club, the delegates heard a

memorial to Mrs. Richard Henry Catlett, Jr., President of The Tuckahoe Garden Club: "She was confident that the club she led with such devotion could accomplish all things."

Mrs. Parrott presented the meeting to the President of the hostess club, Mrs. Harrison Williams, who replied, "Right at the beginning Mrs. Burdette S. Wright offered to be overall chairman. She didn't even wait for us to ask." To which Elizabeth promptly retorted: "I protest. I didn't. I made no such offer." Ignoring the interruption, and continuing discussion of Mrs. Wright's competency, Mrs. Williams said, "She just romped us through our committee meetings. We did have one when she wasn't there, and somebody asked, 'Did Elizabeth think everything was going so well because she knew what she was doing, or because she didn't?' I think you will find she did." (From the floor: "She did!")

Mrs. Cochran said her reports could be entitled "Famous Pen Pals" or "Important Men With Whom I Correspond." She praised Senator Spong, a powerful ally since he is on the Senate Committee of Public Works which controls legislation affecting all highway programs, and, on the state level, Mr. Turner, the Landscape Engineer for the Department of Highways, who assured her that highway planting is keeping pace with highway construction, adding, "Because of the interest and support of groups like the GCV, planting is now taken as a normal phase of developing a complete highway." Work had begun in November, 1966, to save Route 5 from Richmond to Williamsburg from further tree-cutting and commercialization: "Last month it was announced that Route 5 was to be designated a scenic by-way, a perfect solution."

Restoration reported that Christ Church would be ready for presentation on May 21, 1968; that "by the addition of more and more drainage lines, we could term, beyond doubt, Christ Church as our best-drained restoration; that on the important and expensive construction foundation, there had gloriously begun what Jefferson called 'embellishment by fancy,' the exercise of the gardener's art; that the entire Historic Gardent Week Committee had met with the Restoration Committee on October 4th for a happy day in Lancaster County at Christ Church; that



October, 1967. At the dedication of Morven Park, home of the late Governor and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis. Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Parrott, Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr., and Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Jr.

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work was going forward at the same time on the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace garden extension and terrace; and that the solvency of the Restoration treasury included this work also."

Very practical plans for the dogwood planting project were outlined by the Highway and Horticulture Committees, aided by Mrs. Peebles, director-at-large.

A request was made by the Conservation Chairman that individual members protest the spending of \$80,000,000.00 for proposed Salem Church Dam, which would be 240' high, flooding 40,000 acres of good farm land for 29 miles on the Rappahannock River, 5 miles above Fredericksburg. Mrs. Reed explained that this would be the highest dam on the east coast and "would destroy wildlife and the lovely white waters for canoeing and fishing, hiking and picnicking, this being really the only unpolluted river in Virginia."

After lunching at the club, there were visits to "the old and the new," Sully Plantation, a 1794 Lee property saved from demolition, and Dulles International Airport. Once again the transition from "meeting clothes" to long dresses, and to historic Oatlands, the Federal mansion given to the National Trust by the Finley family. Here a cocktail party was given by the Fauquier and Loudoun club. On to Oak Hill, the great house designed by Thomas Jefferson for President Monroe. It is now owned by Mrs. Thomas N. DeLashmutt, who greeted us in a spectacularly attractive golden gown. Guests dined at small tables throughout the first floor, with roaring fires on the several hearths, and everywhere, candles flickering.

The session reconvened the next morning. Mrs. Parrott reviewed the themes of the last several Governors Meetings: zoning ordinances, billboards, auto graveyards, civic beautification, and conservation. "What next? I remembered hearing rumblings from new garden club members, some young, some not so young, that they had expected to learn about gardening when they joined a garden club. Silly thought! Didn't they know the demands of Historic Garden Week, Restoration, Flower Shows, and working quietly through the Associated Clubs for legislation to beautify and conserve Virginia's natural re-

sources? But this voice of disappointment gave me the inspiration for this year's theme — horticulture."

A thorough education came from the reports given by the presidents as to the horticultural activities of their own clubs, and that was only the first course. (The pads and pencils, always supplied by the hostesses, were never so diligently used.)

With Mrs. Harper as moderator, the erudite panelists were presented. Mrs. Gilliam was the first speaker, and in telling of "Our 40 years of gardening," referred to "what the old woman said when she was asked to give her recipe for fried chicken: 'Get up early in the morning and catch your chicken.' So I got up early in the morning and caught a husband who was a gardener." With wit and informality she spoke on shrubs, selecting three groups: quince, magnolias, and viburnums. (She digressed frequently and delightfully — to tell of a northern author who had his heroine wear magnolia blooms in her hair; to describe a Manchurian lilac; and to tell of a viburnum she calls "Schizophrenia" because it goes off in all directions, but its real name is Schizophragma.) Questions pelted from the floor on spellings, growing habits, bad-tempered nurserymen until Mrs. Gilliam had to say, "If you ask me any more questions, I'll have to go home and ask Frank!"

The second speaker, Mrs. D. H. Patteson-Knight, managed the same combination of wit and information on dogwood, hollies, and how to frustrate a husband who thinks you have enough dogwood and hollies. She brought specimens, and they were passed around the room to admire while she spoke, without notes, on the value and growing habits of *Cornus Florida*, *Capitala*, *Nutley*, *Macrophila*, *Gigantea*, *Cherokee Chief*, *Trefolia*, *Cornus Kousa*, and more, all of which was mind-rattling to the non-horticultural members who thought a dogwood was just a dogwood. Without pause, into hollies, waving branches of *Serrate*, *Decidua*, *Ivory Queen*, *Pedunculosa*, adding the practical advice: "You all know that lady hollies have to have gentlemen friends. They don't do anything alone. The most entertaining thing of all is that English hollies and American hollies don't mix. I'm an American. I married an English-

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man. The hollies don't do that." She finished by announcing her firm intent to be buried under a holly, the *Hellerii*!

The last speaker came from the RHS, Wisley, now Director of Gardening at Winterthur (and brother to Misty Seipp), Mr. Gordon Tirrell. He began by saying he would have to "pull up his socks and be on his best behavior," after following two such "amateurs," and illustrated with slides his talk on flowering trees and shrubs from "A" to "X", which would have been a "Z" if his slide of *Zelcovia* had been good enough. Starting with *Acer palmatum* dissectum and ending with *Xanthoceras corbifolia*, he was stopped frequently for additional information, and always by the non-Latinists with, "How do you spell that?" (This list was published in the *Journal*.)

Discussion of the interesting forum continued

in each car as the guests ended their visit with luncheon at Janilia Farms, the home of Colonel and Mrs. Robert S. Pickens, he a war correspondent and writer, turned horticulturist, and she the intrepid planning and zoning lady who won 1964's Massie Medal, with time to also be an artist and writer. The guests had a fascinating time and didn't want to go home.

1968

In January of the new year the Directors met at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond as the guests of Mrs. Gunnell and Mrs. Wallinger. Bound as usual to secrecy, the members heard the Restoration Committee's recommendation for the next project, to be submitted to the Annual Meeting in May. They approved.

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May, 1968. The Restoration Committee meets with Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Belfield, Lexington. Left to right: Mrs. Dure, Mrs. Rhoads, Mrs. Thomas N. De Lashmutt, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Parrott, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Gilliam and Mrs. Russell.

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On their way to this May meeting, the delegates stopped at Historic Christ Church in Lancaster County for the presentation of this "setting of serenity" to the Foundation. They entered the ancient church to 18th century music from the organ, knelt quietly for Morning Prayer and a Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by The Reverend Robert Sheeran. Mrs. Parrott, high in the tiered pulpit, welcomed the guests and introduced Mrs. Martin, Restoration Chairman, and Mr. Griswold, landscape architect. Both spoke on the rehabilitation just completed. After the presentation of the gift and its acceptance by Mr. Richard T. Herndon, the participants left the church to the triumphant sound of "For the Beauty of the Earth," and enjoyed an *al fresco* luncheon on the lawn. Before leaving, they took another look at the words embedded in the wide brick walk leading to the canonical entrance to the church: "This historic 'row of goodly cedars' and the landscape setting were recreated by The Garden Club of Virginia, 1968, Ralph E. Griswold, Landscape Architect." Many commented on a feeling of spiritual resurgence because of this lasting gift made by the GCV.

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A short drive to the Chamberlin Hotel at Fort Monroe to be welcomed by the members of The Huntington Garden Club. The delegates went on to the world-renowned Mariners Museum for a gay cocktail party-picnic supper as the guests of Mrs. George Dufek and Mrs. Hugh Harwood, the general chairman of the meeting. The Directors dined at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wythe H. Holt, with Mrs. Henry S. Read and Mrs. Harry H. Holt, Jr. as co-hostesses, and with a nice sampling of gentlemen.

The next morning's business session, called to order by the President, began as always with an invocation. Mrs. James Gordon Smith prayed, "Father, we thank Thee for the good will, beauty and love that we cherish in The Garden Club of Virginia. Before our deliberations today we pray as did the psalmists. 'Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory unto their children and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and establish Thou the work of our hands.'"

The meeting was presented to Mrs. James M. Benson, President of the hostess club, who welcomed the members with the observation, "We are the flower girls at a love-in," and went on to speak of the historicity of the area. "It was just off this Point that Captain John Smith and his three little boats passed 321 years ago this May, went to the west of here and anchored and visited with the friendly Tippitan Indians before going up the James to establish Jamestown. It was here too that the famous Battle of the Ironclads occurred between the Merrimack and the Monitor." She ended with, "In our beloved country where there is so much evil abroad, let us be a force for goodness and beauty."

The report of the State-wide Dogwood Planting Committee was greeted with applause, the members being listed as:

Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith	Inspiration
Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott	Expediter
Mrs. Edwin A. Harper	Arboriculturist
Mrs. George M. Cochran	Prelector
Mrs. C. Wesley Peebles, Jr.	Volunteer

Giving special plaudits to the extraordinary achievements of the clubs and the individual members, Mrs. Cochran ended with the gratifying statement that 6,300 dogwood trees had been planted throughout the Commonwealth.

The President began her final report: "I realized that the GCV had raised me to lofty heights when they asked me to be the president, but really I didn't expect to attain the pulpit at Christ Church, Lancaster." She urged the membership to value above all things the privilege of participating in Historic Garden Week, the means of contributing our restoration efforts to the Commonwealth of Virginia, concluding, "You, my dear friends, are a well-rounded, gifted group of ladies, adhering closely to the concepts of our charter. Despite the fact you are approaching fifty years, I can detect no signs of old age. In all fields you progress. The caliber of the Conservation Forum improves, as does the attendance, annually. Specimen and artistic entries in our recognized professionally-produced flower shows attest to your horticultural prowess; the use of member speakers who are of the highest quality for club programs exhibits another facet of your intellect. You have made me a very proud and humble woman by allowing

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me to serve as president these past two years." The rising ovation was spontaneous.

Continuing with the meeting, the members heard:

•• The election of The Honorable Fitzgerald Bemiss as an Honorary Member, and later his telegram of acceptance: "I am overwhelmed at such a nice compliment. Actually what we have been able to accomplish in giving the outdoors the attention it deserves is largely due to the understanding and energetic support of The Garden Club of Virginia. I say this with real respect and appreciation."

•• the report of the Conservation Forum in March, at which Mrs. Daniel McKeon, GCA Conservation Chairman, was the speaker.

•• that 146 members from 26 clubs registered at the January Judging School, resulting in 95 accredited GCV judges.

•• that Mrs. Strudwick had been elected an Honorary Member of the Historic Garden Week Committee, on which she had long served with dedication and distinction, and of which she was twice chairman.

•• that Mrs. Matthews had been one of fifty women invited to a White House luncheon by Mrs. Johnson to discuss methods of promoting travel in the United States.

•• that the gross receipts of Garden Week had hit an all-time high, \$66,922.74.

•• Mrs. Cochran say that, "Nothing was done in the 1968 Legislature to weaken state restriction on automobile graveyards or outdoor advertising," but that the shift was from the state to the federal level with powerful lobby groups attacking the Federal Beautification Act, and she urged that we become more organized so that our voice may be heard in Washington. She read a clipping which told of a GCV committee meeting in Richmond inaugurating a movement to "cover the state with dogwood." The date line was January, 1932! "So we are following in illustrious footsteps. If we ever get to the point we can't see the forest for the trees, let them be dogwood trees."

Pangs of hunger followed all this enthusiasm, and again to the enjoyment of small luncheons given by Mes. Benson, Holt, Goodale, Hankins, Watkins, DeAlba, Phillips, Abernathy, and McMahan. Later everyone assembled in

historic St. John's Church in Hampton to hear its engrossing history.

The guests were divided into two groups for cocktails, one group to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd U. Noland, Jr., with Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Peirce, Jr. as co-host and hostess, and the second to Tazewell Hall to be greeted by the Lewis A. McMurrans and the Wendell H. Husseys. The dinner at the James River Country Club was followed by a concert given by the Crusaders Male Chorus, who were brought back repeatedly for encores and left the room to tumultuous clapping.

At the next day's meeting, the Restoration Chairman talked a long time:

•• of Christ Church: "Once again the intangibles of dedication and devotion so exemplified by you, the members of the GCV, have become the tangibles of brick and mortar, of magnolias and Cherokee roses. The name of Historic Christ Church, Lancaster County, has now been added to the long and justly honored list of your restorations; \$52,440.20 was spent here."

•• of Woodrow Wilson Birthplace garden: "For 18 months we have been engaged in building and planting garden terraces that connect our original garden, one of the most enchanting in all of Virginia, with the parking area just constructed by the Foundation. On June 5th this will be turned over. About \$9,000.00 was spent here."

•• of previous restorations: "A five day safari in May by the full Restoration Committee, accompanied by Mr. Griswold just returned from ten months in Greece, to seven restorations was tiring but soul-satisfying. When you see it that way in hourly, in daily succession, what you have given to Virginia is prodigious." (Mrs. Parrott commented that she clocked her car on that trip at 799 miles, and knew she walked just as far too!)

•• of the recommended deployment of future funds, in two parts:

(1) With a colored drawing and specifics, the garden at the Mary Ball Washington House in Fredericksburg was proposed. An estimate of \$27,672.00 was given with the plea that the succeeding chairman not be held to this estimate. Mrs. Levin J. Houston III, Directress of the



*Twentieth Restoration, 1968. The garden of the Mary Washington House, Fredericksburg, the last home of Mrs. Washington, 1772-1789. Presentation was made on September 25, 1969 to the APVA, owners of this property.*

Mary Washington Branch of the APVA, was quoted: "It seems a logical connection, Mary Ball Washington, a devoted first gardener of Virginia, to have her garden renovated by the present gardeners of Virginia." The proposal, after interested questions, was accepted.

(2) Termed "the following of an old procedure under a new timetable required by circumstances," the recommendation was made that approval be given to concurrently conducting documentary and archaeological research at Scotchtown, the home of Patrick Henry. Mrs. Martin said, "The house itself, called by Waterman 'probably one of the oldest of Virginia plantation houses,' was built about 1719 by Colonel Charles Chiswell; it was purchased by Patrick Henry in 1771 and remained his home until late in the year 1778, the time of his deepest involvement with the affairs of our commonwealth and our nation; it was visited by Baron Ludwig Von Closen, 1780-1783, who wrote in his pub-

lished Journal of the existence of a garden here: 1782: 'An English garden below adds a great deal to the charm of this estate.' And, 'The grounds at Scotchtown are very pretty and there are little woods in the shade of which we took some country walks. The garden is an attractive sight. There are several rather pretty flowerbeds although these are still rather neglected in this country.' The APVA Branch administering this property is, at present, financially unable to maintain any garden that might be restored here; and the 'timetable' reference is to the 1976 commemoration of the American Revolution when this house will be of national interest." The Chairman emphasized that conducting this research would be the GCV's total and limited commitment at this time, and if any restoration was done here in the future, it would be submitted to the membership as a separate and distinct recommendation. Many questions were asked from the floor, including the all-important

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"How much will it cost?" to which the answer was, "This is in the realm of the unknown." Finally the questions came to an end, the motion was passed affirmatively, and the President said, "You may start digging."

Then came the election of the new slate and the emotional moment of The Passing of The Chestnut Tree Gavel. As she handed it to Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, Mary Wise Parrott said, "Dot, this is a rich heritage I am turning over to you. Living, learning, and working with these ladies will be an unforgettable and gloriously satisfying experience. They are wonderful in boosting one's ego, untiring in their cooperation, intelligent beyond belief, and limitless in their charm . . ." to which Mrs. Kellam responded,

"I pray I may be worthy of your trust. Twenty-four very wonderful women have cared for this gavel; ten are here with us today. My sincere wish is that they and you will share with me your strength, your wisdom, and your visions and that these years be happy ones." (Not a dry eye!)

Mrs. Flowers spoke on behalf of the entire membership when she thanked the retiring president, "It was said Tuesday at Christ Church that the people who worked on the project were so enthusiastic that they outdid their usual performance in trying to bring about the beautiful results. Because of the marvelous leadership and gracious example of Mary Wise Parrott; because of her quiet, but wise ways we have outdone



*Scotchtown, Hanover County. The archaeological and documentary research here has been a restoration project from 1968 to 1970.*

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ourselves in trying to attend to our appointed tasks . . . She has plied the airways and highways constantly, always arriving fresh and full of words of wisdom, and uncomplaining. We love you and thank you for giving so freely and generously of your wonderful self to the GCV. We are all the richer for it."

In thanking the Huntington club for its hospitality, Virginia Collins recalled Rose Benson's "flower children assembled for another annual love-in," and said, "That was a delightful little joke. And yet those words were not spoken entirely in jest. Because we do know that the GCV is a sunny spot in a startling world. We know that here we come for long friendships, the creation of beauty, and for the study of the order of nature. On Tuesday morning when we stood at Christ Church, Lancaster County, and sang, 'Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,' and looked about us, we knew the GCV had worked hard and long and to good advantage. Then we came here, and it has been up, up and away in our beautiful balloon, the beautiful balloon of pleasure the Huntington club has provided us. Without the first drop of LSD or the first puff of pot, they have shown us a psychedelic world of sparkling water and limitless horizons, the beauties of Tidewater Virginia."

There was more of this special hospitality to come. On to Yorktown to see the Sheild House, built in 1692, the oldest house in Yorktown, as the guests of Judge and Mrs. Conway H. Sheild. Then next door to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willets Bowditch to find "Luncheon in a Hat," enchanting beach hats decorated by the members of The Hampton Roads Garden Club, our luncheon hostesses.

1968-1970 — Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam,  
President

On June 5th there was another "love-in," this time the love of many individuals directed toward one, Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith. Using as an excuse the presentation of the completed terrace gardens at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, Emily's friends, everybody-in-Staunton, headed by Mrs. George M. Cochran, had turned the occasion into an "Emily Smith Day."



June, 1968. Presentation of the garden terrace extension to the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation, Staunton. Seated: Mr. Ralph E. Griswold, Landscape Architect, Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, Twenty-fifth President, 1968-1970, Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith, Mr. Thomas G. McCaskey, The Reverend Mr. McElroy, Mrs. Gilliam, local Restoration Chairman, and Mayor Richard A. Farrier. Mrs. Martin, outgoing Restoration Chairman, at the podium.

With the audience seated in the parking area below, the presentation ceremonies were conducted from the terrace and presided over by Mr. Thomas G. McCaskey of Colonial Williamsburg. Mrs. Martin, whose Restoration Committee had been charged with this garden extension, referred to the happy and harmonious association between the GCV and this garden since 1933, concluding, "This is a considerable span of time, and during these 35 years many Restoration Committees have come and gone. There has been only one constant — Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith. We're proud of this garden and its terraces, but most of all we're proud of Mrs. Smith. Today you see the substance of a beautiful garden, but we of the GCV see more than this. We see the spirit of a great lady, and her 'open covenants' of beauty, 'openly arrived at.' And for this we thank you, Emily. We thank you not only for this garden, but for all the restored gardens now growing in Virginia, because you — above all other people — knew we could do it, because you held firmly this faith in us."

The formal presentation was made by Mrs.

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Kellam, the GCV's new First Lady, and then it was revealed that the handsome furnishings of the terrace were a gift to Mrs. Smith from her national collection of friends. A plaque from the Foundation honoring her devotion to the Birthplace was unveiled.

After the affectionate formalities, across the street to Mary Baldwin College for dinner. As Mrs. Smith's health was drunk in champagne, further testimonials were given by ambassadors, governors, college presidents and other friends. The Honorable Colgate W. Darden spoke eloquently, with particular reference to Mrs. Smith's contribution to the University of Virginia and the gardens. When Emily responded with, "Good friends are more than coronets," the words sounded fresh-minted. (Even from the vantage point of elapsed time, we still wonder how these elaborate plans were made and carried out right under the nose of Emily Smith without her knowledge. It was suggested that Lee Cochran go to Hanoi and negotiate a peace settlement after staging this surprise.)

\* \* \*

In October, from all over the state, members converged on the Hunt Country as the guests of The Warrenton Garden Club. The members are skilled in herb-growing, and these were selected as the theme of their hospitality, with small bouquets of fresh herbs waiting in each guest's room. All delegates enjoyed the cocktail party with Colonel and Mrs. William E. Doeller at Prospect Hill, the Directors going on to Blythwood to dine on Beef Wellington and other assorted epicurean items with Mrs. Juan Ceballos, President of the Warrenton club.

The business sessions were held in St. James Parish Hall amidst the exquisite exhibits brought by each club. In her first report as president Mrs. Kellam said, "In May the chestnut gavel left the mountains and moved to the Shore and brought with it many privileges. At the beginning of this journey, I want to thank you for the greatest privilege of all, the privilege of knowing you."

The delegates then listened to:

•• a tribute to Mrs. Brewster Freeman, President of the Roanoke Valley club, who met with a tragic death in the summer.

•• the pleasant news that Mrs. Harry Carter Stuart of Elk Garden, Lebanon, had been elected a member-at-large.

•• the Admissions Chairman, Mrs. Robert Lee Hopkins, Jr., state that the auxiliary of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club was now a separate unit known as The Garden Club of the Northern Neck and had been strongly proposed and endorsed by three clubs as well as by the Historic Garden Week Committee; that it had been visited by her committee, which then took favorable action; that it had been presented to the Board of Directors and approved; and now was being presented to this assembly, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting 1969.

•• Mrs. Edward M. Hudgins, Highway Chairman, propose a new survey of the automobile graveyards in each area, the last poll having been taken in 1963; and give the appalling fact that some of the existing graveyards have 1,000 cars in them, spread over 50 acres.

•• the Historian, Mrs. Martin, say, "For some years now you have been hearing an item in the Treasurer's report called 'Historian's Fund.' This is about to be spent in the writing and publishing of the history of the first fifty years of the GCV. There is an overabundance of material. It could go into 20 volumes to rival the Encyclopedia Britannica. The problem is condensing this into the one volume we can afford." She reviewed the many attempts, from 1930 to the present time, to get this history down on paper and ended, "Please come up with a good title. The GCA took the faultless one for its history, *Fifty Blooming Years*. Envy of those perfect three words blinds me to any others."

•• Frances Patteson-Knight tell of an innovation, A Horticulture Workshop on Propagation of Soft Wood Cuttings, to be held at the U.S. Arboretum on November 15th, those attending to see a demonstration in the morning and participate themselves in the afternoon.

•• the *Journal* Chairman, Mrs. E. Polk Kellam, tell that the remaining 1,500 copies of *A Garden Potpourri* would receive a new jacket, white background with a male cardinal in full color on a dogwood branch.

•• Mrs. Williams tell of the travails of her Restoration Committee in securing signed contracts before any work could be done; at Mary

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Washington House garden, where the contracts had been signed by the local APVA Branch (which does not hold title to the property) and by the state APVA (which does own the property); at Scotchtown, by the Scotchtown Committee of the Hanover Branch of the APVA, by the Hanover Branch itself, by the parent APVA, plus the approval of the Virginia Landmarks Commission since Scotchtown is an historic landmark; and commenting, "Needless to say much of my summer was spent in a lawyer's office getting ready to begin." She continued, "Planting and construction contracts have now been let at Mary Washington, and the work started. At Scotchtown, the big word is 'search.' Just be thankful when you design your own garden you don't have to employ an archaeologist. Good ones are in demand. Much of the work done by Mr. Griswold in this country, in Greece, in Turkey, has been founded on archaeological research. So he is well-equipped to direct our search for a well-qualified person. A topographical study is being made in preparation, and an historical brief is at the point of completion by the APVA, which brief will become a part of our over-all study."

• • Mrs. Edwin B. Vaden ask for "bus loads to come in droves to the Conservation Forum in March, 1969, to hear Mr. Royster Lyle and Mrs. Chloethiel Woodward Smith, regarded as the foremost lady architect in the country."

A recess was declared for fun and frolic, and the guests drove to the very top of a mountain to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Arundel, Wildcat Mountain Farm, with its endless horizons and its acres of herbs, to a delightful luncheon, herb-seasoned of course. Afterward visits were paid to the Carriage Museum at Whiffletree Manor, home of Mrs. Robert C. Winmill, and to Airlie Foundation.

There was a brief interlude for change of costume, and then off to Canterbury, the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Offutt III, for cocktails, and to Fauquier Springs Country Club for dinner. To the embarrassment of the hostesses the contracted-for Trinidad Steel Band was a "non-show," but their guests didn't mind at all. They never seem to be satiated with the fun of just visiting with each other.

The member club discussion the next morning

was one of the most interesting ever suggested by a president: "Tell us what your club does during Historic Garden Week." A small sample of these fine reports is given:

Martinsville began: "There is a world of difference between a perfunctory greeting and a genuinely warm and gracious welcome," which is putting the hostess function in a nutshell. Williamsburg, well-versed in this art, recommended its procedure. The senior hostess invites the other hostesses to come for coffee in the home to be opened, a week before Garden Week; and on the premises they are instructed on procedure, and the information to be given on furniture and furnishings.

In the selection of homes to be shown, the James River President said, "In Richmond the unusual tours are popular. Several years ago a string of bachelors' quarters attracted such crowds that one hostess counted up to 2,200 and then lost count." On the same subject Fairfax sounded a sad note with, "It takes a pioneer, crusading spirit in the annual search for houses to be opened. We have already lost many of our loveliest historic homes to the bulldozer, and even to the torch when Ossian Hall was burned in a practice fire drill." Alexandria said, "Our unique concentration of houses in Old Town gives our club the advantage of having a Walking Tour."

On publicity, Eastern Shore reported that previous Garden Week visitors had asked, "Why didn't someone tell us this was here?" So someone is now telling in as many ways as the Publicity Chairman can devise, "the 1968 tour resulting in the second highest financial return in Virginia. The 10,000 flyers and the 18,000 newspaper supplements did the major work of telling the story and went out all over the country. All inquiries were answered with personal letters."

Chatham said, "To compensate for a slight lack of local magnificence, we must use a number of methods to attract people. Last year's tour was a party-theme tour with a different type party staged at each house, a bridal luncheon, a teen-age party, a christening." Augusta also reported on extra attractions: "In the past these have been a fashion show, a series of table settings, an art exhibit from the Virginia Museum,

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a display of old glass, antique quilts, and dolls, a concert of 'Folk Songs of The Shenandoah Valley,' and a dramatic presentation of 'The Story of Woodrow Wilson,' written and composed by the Dramatic Department of Mary Baldwin College." Blue Ridge "places emphasis on different styles of architecture. One year it was houses in Greek revival designed by John Jordan, another year houses designed by Alexander Davis in Gothic revival."

Warrenton told of an evening opening, and Eve Ceballos made everyone wish she had been present: "The extensive gardens were illuminated, as well as the pool area which contains a lily pond under a Japanese cherry tree. The house, which was inspired by Bacon's Castle, looked straight out of fairyland, beautifully lighted by hundreds of candles in sparkling crystal chandeliers and wall sconces. The dining room table was set for a formal dinner; the china was rare Lowestoft terrapin plates. Irish potato rings, wooden bowls set in filigreed silver bands, contained arrangements of white lilac, wild azaleas, tulips, and baby gladiolus. The hostesses wore long evening gowns, and the husbands or escorts were in dinner jackets, one being kept busy showing the greenhouses. There was even a moon to add to the romantic setting for garden-wandering." [Ed: I checked. She did say and meant "Irish potato rings."]

Ashland's Mrs. Fleet used her voice to capitalize: "Don't forget MEN as hosts. Garden Week may be woman's sphere, but it's still a man's world." Winchester-Clarke, with the Little Garden Club, reported on what was probably the most successful one day of any Garden Week when "an estimated 5,000 visitors came to Rosemont, the home of the late Senator Byrd, open for the first time, many through respect to see and enjoy the home and grounds which he loved."

"And when it's all over, some appreciation should be expressed to the generous homeowners," said Gloucester. Celebrating its 40th birthday, the club invited all the owners who had opened over the 40 year period to be guests at "The Occasion," a party at historic Warner Hall. "Since our President, Mrs. Kellam, and her husband graced The Occasion, it was indeed a gala one."

In thanking the club presidents, Mrs. Kellam said, "These reports have been a gift to me. The first job I had in my garden club was Historic Garden Week Chairman, and it has always been my first love." Mrs. Halsey, Chairman of Historic Garden Week, commented, "If I may be allowed one brief word of summary, we all seem to agree that our hostess training and hostess spirit is a first point. We also must pay a little more attention to doing something for our owners who so graciously open for Garden Week."

Mrs. Halsey then introduced as "one of our own," the speaker, Mrs. Patteson-Knight, whose topic was "Every Garden is a Room." This she proved with a series of slides accompanied by her merry and wise interpretations.

Following a necessary pilot car, to luncheon at Ridgelea, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas R. Smith. Here the guests watched the Warrenton Hunt and Hounds in the meadow below, their red and brown coats intermingling with the vivid and fallow brown autumn leaves.

1969

The winter meeting of the Directors was held at the Rotunda Club in Richmond, the guests of Mrs. Peebles and Mrs. Penn. A tribute was paid to Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe of Alexandria, whose recent death deprived the GCV of one of its legendary ladies. A letter of resignation on behalf of Miss Nancy Cowardin, member-at-large, was read, and the Board elected to make her a lifetime member-at-large, without dues.

The Restoration Chairman reported that the Mary Washington garden had been "put to bed for the winter," was almost completed, and would be presented on September 25, 1969; that Scotchtown was "challenging, frustrating, fascinating"; that the services of Miss Barbara Liggett, archaeologist, had been secured, and she had completed a feasibility study to determine the likelihood of finding keys to the ancient garden and to give an indication of the extent of proper archaeological work; and that copies of Miss Liggett's study were sent to the APVA, to Mr. John Jennings of the Virginia Historical Society, to the Virginia State Library, and to Governor Godwin.

The Board heard that Highway 288, a circumferential road, presented a threat to Tucka-

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hoe Plantation on the James River, west of Richmond, and voted to write the State Highway Commissioner expressing the hope that this road would in no way harm Tuckahoe, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson and a probable National Historic Landmark.

The decision was reached to be represented in the Virginia History Federation, an organization of groups interested in historic buildings.

\* \* \*

In May all roads led to Norfolk and the 50th Annual Meeting with The Garden Club of Norfolk. The Board was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Mayor F. Fogler at The Harbor Club atop the tallest building. (Memories being long and warm, it was delightful to have as fellow guests the sons of our beloved Mrs. C. James Andrews, Drs. Mason and William Andrews, with their charming wives.) The delegates were entertained at cocktails at historic Myers House, after which they were the dinner guests in a number of members' homes.

The horticulture exhibition was in the ballroom of the Monticello Hotel, and even the men of Norfolk visited it several times in admiration.

The first business session was held in the Administration Building of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and the delegates greeted by its curator, Mr. George W. Baker.

Mrs. Martin read a memorial tribute to Mr. Hunter Perry, who established the history fund and made many other garden club contributions, to the Albemarle club, to the GCA, and to the GCV. This concluded, "In life he paid his heart's tribute to the living. In death we join those who mourn in paying this tribute from our hearts."

After recounting her first year in the presidency, Mrs. Kellam ended with the engaging, "You did the work. I had the fun. When the Board meets in Abingdon in July, I will have travelled over most of beautiful Virginia. I have visited your homes and your clubs, and I have learned much about you. I knew you were dedicated women and good citizens. I knew you were generous with your gardens and your knowledge, but I found that one of you teaches young neighbors the art of flower arranging; one of you records textbooks for the blind; one of you

roller skates with retarded children; one will enjoy September daffodils in New Zealand; one of you transports roses in a specially designed station wagon. You are enchanting, often you are predictable. Bad weather and my mail swells; good weather and I rarely have a card. Summers are relaxed, and Thanksgiving to January is the dormant season for the GCV. You are cooperative, intelligent, and you are the finest people in the world."

The meeting heard:

•• and approved the recommendation of Mrs. Hopkins that The Garden Club of The Northern Neck be invited to become the 44th GCV member club, the first to be admitted for eleven years.

•• Mrs. Halsey quote Winston Churchill on his 80th birthday: "It was the nations and the races dwelling all around the globe that had the lion heart. I had the luck to be called on to give the roar," and her listeners joined in her roar when they heard the Garden Week returns, still incomplete, of \$83,053.21! She also advised of a gift by Mrs. N. Addison Baker of 10 shares of duPont stock to Historic Garden Week.

•• the Executive Director, Mrs. Matthews, speak of her 23 years with Historic Garden Week, watching the event grow in interest to visitors and in cooperation by the member clubs, "However, if anyone had told me we would attain the total that has just been reported to you, I would not have believed it could be possible during my lifetime. In fact there are some members at this meeting who heard me say several years ago that if we ever reached \$50,000.00, I would retire because to me at that time it was an unattainable figure."

•• Restoration give the details of Miss Liggett's archaeological research now being conducted at Scotchtown and her comment, "I congratulate you on your willingness to take this scholarly tedious course. The importance of this house and its surrounding landscape in reflecting the historic events and changes which shaped our present cannot be over-emphasized."

•• Mrs. Williams continue to speak on Mary Washington garden, showing slides of the progress in planting there. She pointed out Mrs. Washington's sundial as a prominent part of the garden design: "This sundial has created

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much excitement. It was known that the location in which we found it was not of historic significance, for histories tell us that the dial was purchased by someone in Fredericksburg to be returned to this garden after APVA ownership. Being afraid that the dial would be damaged during our work on the garden, we casually said to just take it up and store it in the basement of the cottage until we were ready to set it in its new position. The workmen went to move it and they dug and they dug and they dug. When they finally freed the base, it was revealed to be a monolith 5' long, extending as far underground as above, one solid shaft of aquia stone, requiring three men to carry it to the basement. Mr. Griswold was so fascinated by the beautiful and quite sophisticated design of this shaft that he is writing an article for the September issue of the *Journal*."



*Sundial in the Mary Washington House Garden. Drawing by Ralph E. Griswold, Landscape Architect.*

•• the Conservation Chairman speak of her committee's concern with the conservation of our natural resources: (1) the pollution problem,

specifically as reflected in the language of recent proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution; (2) VEPCO's relocation of power lines at Goshen; (3) The transfer of 15,000 acres of California redwood land by the U. S. Forest Service to the Disneyland interests for commercial development; and ending with the excellent suggestion that there be established some sort of control unit as a clearinghouse to pass on public and private use of natural resources.

•• the continuing menace of automobile graveyards as indicated by Mrs. Hudgin's current survey. There was one bright note from Alexandria, where the Alexandria Scrap Corporation converts by machine 15 cars per hour into prime raw material for use in the nation's iron foundries and steel mills, this "smasher set-up" having the capacity to handle all scrap cars which become available in the Washington metropolitan area. The Chairman advised that the federal government is putting up 75% of the funds for removal and screening of automobile graveyards, 25% to come from the states; that Virginia has appropriated \$40,000.00, and it would take \$1 to \$2 million to do the state.

After this food for thought, the meeting was recessed. Outside small trackless trains were boarded for a conducted tour through a part of these gardens-by-the-sea, and then to a barbecue lunch. Later the 1960 restoration at Adam Thoroughgood House was visited, and tea was served there.

Dinner was in the Colonial Room of the hotel. This became available to the decorating members only a few hours before, but in that short period of time it was adorned with the richness of flowers—a profusion of superb peonies—and the softness of candlelight. Entertainment was provided by a quartet, The Portsman. (Dinner conversation: The President of the Norfolk club is Hunter Savage. Her husband, Toy Savage, Jr., is President of the Virginia State Bar Association. Each morning begins with, "Who gets the gavel today?")

The final business session was held in the auditorium of the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences, and attention was given to:

•• the Parliamentarian who, beginning with, "Nothing is duller than the tedious amendments to equally dull by-laws," went on to amend

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quite a few, including one that increased by \$5.00 the registration fees to both meetings.

•• Mrs. Reginald Vance, the new Daffodil Test Chairman (replacing in mid-term Mrs. Hunter Faulconer, who resigned because of illness), announcing that she had "as fine and expert a committee as could be obtained nationally, or even internationally." (She's right. Mmes. Bloomer, Constantine and Curran, three Harris Cup winners, *do* know their daffodils.)

•• Mrs. Dugdale, who spoke of the recognition of the GCV in the NALS Year Books:

1955 gave an account of our first Lily Test program in 1936, inaugurated by Violet Niles Walker; 1968 carried an article on Elizabeth Bryan Trundle, long-time GCV Lily Test Chairman; and 1969 with the account of our fine show in Alexandria.

•• Mrs. Nelson's report that all 43 member clubs had ordered the Rose Test collection; that she had been advised by Conard-Pyle that due to labor problems there will be one or two years when no numbered roses will be available; and that her committee had made a new



*At the presentation of the Mary Ball Washington House Garden. Left to right: Mrs. Wyatt A. Williams, Restoration Chairman, Mrs. John W. Riely, APVA President, Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, GCV President, Mrs. James Bland Martin, Restoration Committee, Mrs. Levin J. Houston III, Directress, Mary Ball Washington Branch, APVA. Mary Washington's sundial in foreground.*

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horticultural section in the schedule and some changes in staging miniature roses.

• • the Historian who said that, in addition to the history being written, "Considerable time and effort has been spent making a collection of special material while it is still available before further time erodes both members and memories. This includes monographs or personality and achievement sketches on what I term 'The Great Ladies of the GCV.' (For obvious reasons, an arbitrary termination was made on past presidents *circa* 1960. Sorry about that, Elizabeth, Dottie, Mary Wise, and Dot. Maybe 2020's historian will pick you up.) These special articles are so well-written by so many dedicated members across the state, several by daughters of famous mothers, one by a granddaughter, that the familiar printed names of the Register become flesh and blood people through these talented pens. Some were difficult to obtain since even near contemporaries are no longer with us. The one I had come to despair of getting was the one which would be the most obvious in its omission, our first President, Mrs. Patterson. Because it's hard to keep Virginia kinship straight, I went several times around the barn before landing where I should have been in my first letter. Cousin Ida Valentine has written a heartwarming story of Cousin Nina Patterson. Not only that, but we have a picture of Mrs. Patterson taken in her garden, given us by her niece, Mrs. John Moyler, Jr."

After drinks in The Cloister, luncheon was served in the gallery of the new Houston Wing of the Museum as the guests of the Virginia National Bank. And that good meeting came to an end.

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July found the Directors and their husbands (They are beginning to complain when they're not invited now.) in Abingdon as the guests of Mrs. Harry Carter Stuart, our newest member-at-large, her daughter, Lee Cochran, and son-in-law, Judge George M. Cochran. Arrival night a festive dinner was given by Mrs. Stuart at Elk Garden, and the guests dined on gubernatorial china. (Historical note: When Governor Stuart was in the Mansion, governors supplied their own china.)

The next morning the Directors met at the Martha Washington Inn. Mrs. Spotswood B. Hall, Jr., incoming Garden Week Chairman, reported the gross receipts for 1969 had now reached \$86,345.00. The Historian spoke of the problem created by increases in printing costs and asked instruction from the Board. It was agreed to publish a good hard-back book in a limited, hand-numbered edition with the full financial backing of the GCV.

It wasn't easy to concentrate on business with all the social activities scheduled. We drove to Twin Oaks, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Porterfield, for luncheon. The bartenders and waiters were the handsome actors of the Barter Theatre, the state theatre of Virginia, founded by Mr. Porterfield and now in its 37th year. That evening Lee and George Cochran gave a merry dinner at the Inn before attending Barter Theatre. At intermission, our President and the GCV received flattering plaudits from Mr. Porterfield. (In 1948 the GCV planted the grounds at the dwelling/rehearsal hall of the Barter Theatre. Since the records of that time are incomplete, this writer asked Mr. Porterfield to tell her the circumstances. His answer was captivating. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, long a patron of the theatre, visited there with Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, then Restoration Chairman. A tornado had just devastated the area, and the two ladies clucked with sympathy. Mrs. Wilson turned to her friend and asked, "Edith, why don't you plant some bushes for Robert?" And Edith—and the GCV—did.)

\* \* \*

September 25th arrived, the day of the presentation of the last restoration of these fifty years, the Mary Washington House garden. In the brilliant sunshine the colors of this garden were psychedelic, eye-holding against the healthy deep green of the boxwood. Strolling members commented, "We forgot how bright and raw these early unhybridized flowers are." They stood in pride over the simple slab from a nearby quarry, the GCV seal outlined in boxwood, and they read out loud: "Mary Washington's Beloved Garden, recreated by The Garden Club of Virginia 1968-1969, Ralph E. Griswold, Landscape Architect."

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September 25, 1969. Mrs. Wyatt A. Williams is congratulated at the presentation of the Mary Washington House garden by Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Parrott, the Restoration Chairman and President who recommended this project, and Mrs. Kellam and Mrs. Williams, the President and Restoration Chairman who carried out the restoration.

The block in front of the house had been roped off, providing a miniature amphitheatre for the guests. Waiting, they admired the handsome brochure with Mrs. Washington's sundial on the cover and traced with interest the "before" and "after" drawings of the garden. (Mr. Griswold presented the originals of these in a water-proof case, which stands on the porch overlooking the rehabilitated garden.)

The entrance steps of the house provided a platform for the speakers. After Mrs. Kellam graciously welcomed the guests, the invocation was given by The Reverend Thomas G. Faulkner, rector of St. George's Church. Mrs. Williams reported with perceptive words (neglecting to mention the long hot summer she spent here on her knees planting, transplanting, and weeding the parterres), followed by Mrs. James G. Willis, who spoke as APVA Chairman of the garden. Fredericksburg was represented by its Mayor, who thanked the GCV for this garden and for its previous gifts of the Kenmore garden and the planting at Mrs. Washington's Monument. The restoration was accepted by Mrs. John W. Riely, President of the state APVA, and by Mrs. Houston, Directress of its Mary Washington Branch.

A short walk to the garden of the Rising Sun Tavern for luncheon given by the members of the Branch. It was a good day for the GCV when the Mary Washington House garden joined the long and illustrious list of its restorations.

\* \* \*

To Roanoke on October 14th, where the Governors were splendidly entertained by The Roanoke Valley Garden Club. Crab apples were the timely theme, and each guest took home a gay red or green crab apple basket. These hostesses managed another "first." Instead of the usual pinned-on badges, identification was by large medallions, decorated with crab apples, which hung around the neck by a gold thread. Removal of the backing paper revealed the guest's given name, and presto, it became a personalized key chain.

The Directors met in an afternoon meeting, successfully substituted for the traditional late night meeting. The President advised her Board



September 25, 1969. The "Prince Consorts" attend the presentation, left to right, James Bland Martin, Gloucester, Benjamin F. Parrott, Roanoke, Lucius J. Kellam, Belle Haven, and Wyatt Aiken Williams, Orange.

## The Garden Club of Virginia, 1960-1970

that for some time it had been felt the GCV needed headquarters of its own, a place for trophies, books about us, books by us, books by our members, pictures of our restorations, and a more accessible extension of the files at the Alderman Library. She announced the appointment of a committee, headed by Mrs. Thomas W. Murrell, Jr., to consider the feasibility of enlarging the present Garden Week office, or re-locating a GCV office which would include space for Garden Week activities.

The first evening Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Fishburn (Mrs. Fishburn was the general chairman of the meeting.) welcomed all members for cocktails in their fascinating house. For once the guests didn't knot up like sardines in the middle of a room. They were too busy touring and admiring the modern classicism of their surroundings. The Directors dined with Mr. and Mrs. Edmund T. Morris, Jr. in an equally attractive contemporary home high on a hilltop.

At the meeting in the morning, Mrs. Kellam said: "This summer was punctuated with happenings. In June the Chairman of the 27th Annual Lily Show, held in Front Royal, won Best Bloom in Show plus a blue ribbon on her arrangement. How's that for 'The Many Faces of The Lily'? The 33rd Annual Rose Show presented an 'Autumn Serenade' in the charming town of Chatham, and the Chatham club was both hostess and winner of the Interclub Arrangement." Of attending committee meetings: "Most committees meet twice a year, except for the Restoration Committee which knows no end." Her listeners glowed with satisfaction when she said, "Next week I will represent the GCV at the Sesquicentennial Convocation of the University of Virginia. I owe this honor to all of you who worked so hard for Historic Garden Week and to you who worked for so many years to make Mr. Jefferson's gardens a reality. I will represent you with pride and a small regret that I wear the colors of the University of North Carolina in the Academic Parade instead of a garland of dogwood for you."

(For continuity, the occasion to which the President referred is included here. Gathered in Charlottesville on October 17th were representatives of more than 150 colleges and uni-

versities, ranging from such venerable institutions as the University of Padua, Italy, founded in 1222, and Oxford University, founded in 1249, to such academic newcomers as Flinders University of South Australia, founded in 1966. The University of Virginia, in gratitude, had invited the GCV, a non-academic organization, to walk with the world delegates and scholars. Head high, in conscious pride, Mrs. J. Gordon Lindsay substituted for Mrs. Kellam. It was almost as great a day as the one in May, 1965, when the Jeffersonian gardens were presented.)

Business proceeded, and the delegates heard:

- the Flower Shows Chairman announce the new official GCV *Handbook for Flower Shows*, revised by Mrs. Lawler. The speakers for the January, 1970, Judging School were given as Mrs. James F. Birchfield on lilies, Mrs. Bloomer on daffodils, Mr. Arthur Barrett for roses, and Mrs. Elizabeth Reynolds, former GCA Chairman of Judging, for flower arrangements.

- The Historian's report that the History will include the Appendixes, which will include the names, with club affiliations, of all officers, directors, and chairmen from 1920 to 1970, plus the historic information now listed on 15 pages of the Register and annually, expensively re-printed. The Directors had voted to delete these pages from future Registers and make a fresh start in 1970.

- Mrs. Williams read short excerpts from the several letters of appreciation received on the Mary Washington House garden: "Indeed it is the strong continuity from past to present, which this renewal communicates."—"Mrs. Washington would be delighted. In fact the garden speaks so forthrightly of her simple country preferences, I am certain she walks among these flowers."—"This charming garden has brought a sense of renewed life and satisfying completeness to the spot." Other letters spoke of the "intimacy of the garden," of "its sense of personal communication," of "the positive spirit conveyed by the bright flowers." Mrs. Williams ended her report with, "Your evaluation and the assessment of this committee and its architect are in basic agreement. We have all felt that initially this garden was created by Mary Washington from the experience of maturity. It seemed fitting to make the presentation in Sep-

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tember, the maturity of the year. Perhaps in this bright display of color, in the maturity of the year, we had a glimpse of the golden thread which links together all the years of our own maturity."

•• with interest that Mrs. Dugdale and Mrs. Cutts, present and former Lily Test Chairmen, attended the 4th International Lily Conference held in London and Edinburgh, with 12 countries represented, some from behind the Iron Curtain. Saying it was a thrilling experience, Betty Dugdale warned, "It will now be even more difficult to convince your chairman that lilies will not grow in every part of Virginia."

Recess to luncheon at Cherry Hill, home of the Roanoke Fine Arts Center, with time to enjoy and appreciate the lovely Memorial Garden created here by the hostess club. Then to the warm hospitality of the historic Valley of Fincastle. The first stop of the pilgrimage was at Fincastle Church, the yard of which was restored by the GCV. The writer found these

words in an old Restoration file: "Professor Henry Gardner Leach of Harvard was a visitor to Fincastle Church, having lectured on 'Peace' at Hollins College. He stood in this old churchyard and said, 'Here is Peace.'" Each delegate was in reverent agreement. Mrs. Hopkins, a member of the hostess club, had been in charge of the restoring work here. That afternoon, when she entertained at her pleasant home with a delicious hot cider punch, she was complimented on the current appearance of this 1942 restoration. Her reply must be quoted: "Yes, Mr. Jefferson's 'melancholy greens' have done well."

A visit to historic Fincastle Courthouse was made a history seminar by Mr. R. D. Stoner, author of *Fincastle - Seedbed of the Republic*, who showed the members priceless documents; a stop at its small Museum; and calls at two of the valley's most attractive homes, all of which only whetted appetites for a return to Fincastle.

Being a dilatory group by nature, wanting to stay just a little longer at each stop, plus a



October, 1969. Former Presidents at the Board of Governors Meeting, Roanoke, seated: Mrs. Parrott, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Thorne and Mrs. Glass. Standing: Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Godwin.

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mild bus mishap, there was an interim of less than 30 minutes between the return from Fincastle and the departure time for the Roanoke Country Club. But only minutes late in arriving, the guests were greeted with wide smiles by the past presidents of the Roanoke Valley club, our hostesses for cocktails before dinner.

After dinner the Glee Club of the Virginia Military Institute marched in, and the good voices of this group held the listeners in appreciative silence — until with broad smiles, the young men broke into "Dixie." Spontaneously everyone stood and sang with them. They made their exit to deafening applause.

The next business session wasn't business at all, just more entertainment. Mrs. Kellam, to celebrate our Golden Anniversary Year and the writing of this history, had asked the presidents to give the highlights of the histories of their clubs. They ran the gamut from the founding to the latest project, exploring every avenue in between, and each was heard with appreciative laughter.

More entertainment came when Miss Liggett, accompanied by The Dog Sam, gave her fascinating report with slides on the Scotchtown archaeological research. She presented a technical subject in lay terms, and Scotchtown seemed closer and more understandable to everyone who heard her.

It all had to end, but even the ending was perfect. Luncheon was given by the Mill Mountain club in the well-furnished garden of the Parrotts. Mrs. Parrott and her daughter, Mrs. N. William Bullington, Jr., President of Mill Mountain, welcomed the guests. The hand-painted baskets that held the lunch included pots of Cresta ivy, specially rooted and potted for the guests by Mr. Parrott. It was hard to leave hospitable Roanoke even if you were clutching one of Ben's beautiful ivies!

\* \* \*

As we go to press there is a heart-warming sequel to the story, recorded in 1962, of the English writer, the Tradescants, and the GCV President, whose ignorance of its past sparked the writing of this history. It shows how the GCV's honoring the Tradescants in 1925 continued to bear fruit in 1970.



*October, 1969: Mrs. Kellam prematurely joins the former presidents to admire the needlepoint of Mrs. Williams. Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith and Mrs. James Gordon Smith look on.*

Through the weekly letters on Tradescant research, a fast friendship was formed between that author and that president, continuing after the publication of the Tradescant biography.

In 1966 with Mr. and Mrs. Webster S. Rhoads, the Martins visited this lovely lady in her Suffolk home.

The primary purpose of the trip to England was to see its gardens, but working out the logistics of selective touring was surprisingly difficult. The Americans were still complaining when they arrived in Mea Allan's Suffolk village. They acknowledged the multiplicity of fine books on English gardens. They regretted the lack of any single book giving an all-inclusive, comprehensive listing of these gardens. They stressed the need for one book that could travel with them, giving information on all gardens that could be seen, not only those world-renowned, but the small ones of specializations with guidance on how to reach these by car or public transport; what to see on the way; and where to establish headquarters so several gardens could be conveniently visited.

Mea Allan listened, decided the complaint

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was legitimate. A publishing firm agreed. After travelling 13,000 investigative miles, Miss Allan has written this invaluable book, *Fisons Guide to Gardens, in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales*. These gardens are listed by zones, and all the information needed by the four Americans in 1966 is included. This book's dedication, after a personal reference, is: "In memory of John Tradescant II, and for all 'the Virginians whose delight is in planting'." You are those Virginians. This is your book.

\* \* \*

This decade and the first five decades of the GCV will end with the Golden Anniversary Meeting in May, 1970, when the members return to Richmond, the place of origin, to be again the guests of The James River Garden Club, as they were at the inaugurating meeting.

Of James River's organizing, it is recorded: "When on March 1, 1915, Mrs. Patterson called a meeting of a group of forward looking women to form a garden club, neither she nor they could have foreseen not only the success of the venture, but its vital influence in the life of the community and the state." That "vital influence" has a name — The Garden Club of Virginia. Someone else *might* have thought of starting this organization, but James River did it on May 13, 1920.

Representing the other seven founding clubs on that day were eleven ladies. Three of these are still on the rolls of our clubs:

Albemarle	Mrs. Harry T. Marshall
Danville	Mrs. William D. Overbey
Warrenton	Mrs. Samuel A. Appleton

and we wish they could be with us fifty-one years later to see how their dreams have been realized.

When James River entertains in May, 1970, the eleven guests of 1920 will have increased more than tenfold. What they say and what they do will be the beginning of the sixth decade of the history of The Garden Club of Virginia.

\* \* \*

A few particulars of the fifty years:

Gardens and flowers inspired our beginnings and remain our delight. From the Flower Festival of May, 1921, "the first flower show held

south of Washington," came our three annual flower shows (ninety-six are listed in the Appendix). These are considered among the finest in the country and win accolades from national and international societies.

Daffodils, roses, and lilies have been improved by the three test gardens, cultivated by amateurs of professional standing. The three annual collections distributed to the membership produce valuable data as to how culture and bloom vary throughout Virginia with its divergence of soils, elevations, and climatic conditions. This information is invaluable to commercial growers.

One of the early club historians wrote: "Who could foresee that a love of flowers and a desire to share this interest would result in a gigantic housekeeping job across the nation?" In 1920 the GCV accepted the role of focusing public attention on intolerable conditions, disseminating information, and working for improvements.

The first committee appointed was Conservation, a large umbrella-name under which the members not only conserved natural resources but planted trees and dealt with pests and pesticides. In 1922 this was a very small voice. There are now innumerable national conservation groups, and good results are apparent.

When an appellate court in 1965 ordered a federal agency to reconsider an action "for environmental reasons," stressing that even federal agencies have a duty to seek out public interest, the courts were opened to conservationists. It seems possible that new laws may be passed to more effectively control air and water pollution and that those already passed may be enforced.

A housewife has filed suit "on behalf of all the people of the U. S." against manufacturers of DDT, charging it has gravely damaged the nation's natural resources. The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has now banned the use of DDT except for a few specified cases.

In 1928 GCV members using axes, assisted by chauffeurs, physically removed 4,000 signs from the roadsides, prompting the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* headline: "Women Declare War on Billboards." After four years of this surprising feminine insurrection all over the state, the Virginia Assembly reluctantly passed in 1932 the first billboard control law. Feeble as it was,

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in five months it brought down 100,000 signs in violation. The Associated Clubs for Roadside Development was founded by the GCV in 1937 to enlist the support of like-minded women in the continuing pressure on the state legislature.

In 1930 Bill #273 was passed, sponsored by the Tuckahoe club and supported by the GCV. This bill created, in the Virginia Highway Department, the position of a landscape architect/engineer to "study the preservation of the natural beauty of the state highways and devise methods by which the right of ways of the highways may be beautified and improved." Today Virginia's highways are, for the greater part, well-landscaped, and there is some control over billboards. (In 1970 we read of an outdoor advertising man who is trying to ban billboards from any rural road built with federal financial help, and there is a bill to come before Congress for a pilot sign-removal project.)

Automobile graveyards continue to receive our "perpetual care," but there is only small success to show for the years of effort to remove or isolate or screen-out these obtrusive eyesores.

These objectives have been supported by other organizations and legislators, both state and federal, by highway departments, by business men, and the GCV will always be an important part of these endeavors.

We *are* unique in two allied activities. We conduct Historic Garden Week in Virginia, and we use the proceeds to restore the gardens and grounds of historic shrines. No other organization does this.

Neglected over many years, by the early part of this century deterioration had set in, and

these shrines were falling to pieces. There was a lack of recognition that these hallowed spots, where history began, were interesting to the whole world, that the world wanted to see them, and that coming to see them would be the basis for Virginia's tourist business, which, with its far-reaching influences, became its largest industry.

It was the women of Virginia who saved and assumed responsibility for specific historic properties. One such group, the Kenmore Association, asked the GCV in 1924 to restore Kenmore's garden and grounds. The GCV had no treasury; its members had no business experience, no professional training that would enable them to earn such a large amount of money. They did have their own homes and gardens. The question was asked, "Do you think people would pay money to see our homes and gardens?" The answer to that has been written over the face of Virginia. Historic Garden Week was born. First came the need, second the method.

That first Garden Week of 1929 brought in \$14,000.00. Garden Week of 1969 grossed \$86,345.00. Over a million dollars has been earned and twenty restorations completed. No one garden club could do this. The unity of 44 clubs has done it. A gracious gesture, born of necessity, turned into big business, but with the magic touch of Virginia hospitality, the unremitting labor of the unpaid volunteers of the GCV, it remains a gracious gesture.

Looking back to 1920 we are grateful to our founding ladies who spun that first slim thread and handed it to their successors, who have woven a sturdy, enduring fabric. Dedication is the motivating power of the GCV, and this quality will enrich all the tomorrows to come.

*Now the final decade of the 43 member clubs who accomplished, in the name of the GCV, all that has been written, and at the same time continued to increase their honor in their own country. Under "N" you will meet a new friend, the 44th GCV club.*

## MEMBER CLUBS 1960-1970

ALBEMARLE's whole history is studded with the horticultural awards won by its talented members, and during this final decade accomplishments increase to a crescendo. Noted with specific admiration are the names of Mrs. Fletcher Woodward, Mrs. Llewellyn Miller, Mrs. W. Alonzo Rinehart, Mrs. Courtlandt Van Clief, Mrs. Henderson Heyward, Mrs. Daniel G. Van Clief, Miss Elizabeth Shields, and Mrs. Linton R. Massey.

In 1962 the Albemarle Botanical Collection came into being as a club project at Morea, the home of its late member, Mrs. William Echols. Now owned by the University, the house is a residence for visiting scholars of distinction. Creating here a unique collection of plant material indigenous to the area is the principal responsibility of Mrs. Heyward and Mrs. Massey.

In 1963 Mrs. Whitney Stone invited the club to Morven to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. In 1965 Mrs. Leon Dure had a great idea for money-raising, and named it "Time and Talents." Soon this project of offering assorted talents in different categories for a price was off and running under the chairmanship of Mrs. Dure. Her enthusiasm and energy being legendary, Mrs. Dure also started the Council of Garden Clubs in Albemarle County.

In 1968 Mrs. Heyward inaugurated a Beginners Course in Gardening as a memorial to Albemarle's late member, Mrs. Theodore (Nellie) Hough. Young women met weekly and studied garden design with special emphasis on the planting and care of perennials, roses, trees,

shrubs, and the study of root systems. In 1969 this same group was instructed by Miss Shields, who gave a series of lectures on flower arranging.

Mrs. L. H. Rhinelander, who supplied this last segment of her club's history, wrote: "Everything seems important, and one remembers the hours of hard work and energetic inspiration that went to make up what is now only one little paragraph." Each historian agrees!

Mrs. Harry T. Marshall who attended the 1920 GCV inaugural meeting is still an Honorary Member of this club.

ALEXANDRIA: Forgive our pardonable pride when we say that in this decade the City of Alexandria finally caught up with The Garden Club of Alexandria! The Gadsby Urban Renewal was adopted. Appreciating the priceless heritage of the beautiful privately restored colonial residences in its downtown Potomac riverside section, the city determined to stop the decay of the adjoining commercial center, to tear down its ugly latter-day business places and rebuild the commercial part to match the beauty of Old Town so that the two together would make a colonial restoration unique in America.

The restoration of eight commercial blocks began, and 35% of the plan is a "streetscape," defined as pedestrian pavements and streets plus trees, landscaping, and open spaces. During its progress, Garden Week visitors delighted in the piles of rubble and blocks of torn-down structures, knowing it would all end in the beauty of order.

This active club couldn't wait. So it selected a

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spot and began its own renewal program. A garden replaced the scrubby yard adjoining the YWCA building. There is a brick terrace for entertaining, with a tall picket fence and gates. Vinca was planted, and resting benches were placed under a large sycamore tree. Camellias, burfordi, Japanese hollies, and pioris pattern this small area. Then to the hillside by the Alexandria Hospital where over 4,000 daffodil bulbs were planted, making a golden splash, with a wide ribbon of blue grape hyacinth, over 3,000 of them, running around the base.

The 1963 death of its founder, Miss Mary Lindsey, brought into existence the Memorial Book Collection, to which are added volumes in memory of other members. The bookplate used was designed by a member, and around its border the three GCV test flowers are intertwined.

At the club's fortieth birthday party, members brought their silver trophies awarded for garden club prowess. Comment: "The display was a glittering delight." (We believe it!)

Various activities raise money for all these projects, but in order to meet expenses in the club, the GCA, and the GCV, dues are the highest in the state, \$30.00.

ASHLAND staged the 1963 GCV Lily Show, and the entire state was told about it by the printed word. The newspapers of the state seemed to carry no information except what Ellen Wallinger wanted them to carry—that The Lilies Were Coming to Town! The members entertained elaborately, and the First Lady of Virginia, Mrs. Harrison, opened the show. Lily experts came from all over the world, but England's beautiful Mrs. Martyn Simmons was the center of attention. (Due to her enthusiasm the RHS published a glowing account of this show.)

Memorial plantings honoring deceased members continued to be made. Garden Week was an annual part of the club's life, hostessing at home or in adjoining counties.

Always close to the heart of the members was Scotchtown, the Hanover County home of Patrick Henry. First they whispered about it to the GCV Restoration Committee; the whispers grew louder until, for ladies, they rose to a shout. The GCV heard, and in the summer of 1968

documentary and archaeological research began here, as we have read.

The last two years of this decade found the club featuring Arbor Day as the leading national holiday. The entire community became involved in the "Color It Dogwood White" campaign, begun in 1924. Of its success, Helen Fleet said: "How sweet it is!"

AUGUSTA: In 1962 after 22 years of creating, maintaining and educating, the Nature Trail at Ramsey's Draft was placed under the supervision of the George Washington National Forest Service. The change was made because of the multiple-use program of forest resources promoted now by the Forest Service. This trail will differ from other self-guiding trails since it will emphasize the botanical names of all plant material as established by the Augusta club.

The perennial projects of Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, King's Daughters Hospital, the Staunton Library, and the Rawlinson Memorial Book Collection continue year after year, only the chairmen changing.

Trees in untold numbers have been planted here, the birthplace of the "One Million Dogwoods" slogan, and in 1964 Augusta became the instigator in forming the Staunton Beautification Commission and in establishing a master plan.

In this, as in all previous periods, the horticulturists of Augusta brought acclaim to this club. Headed by Leta Gibbs, the list is long and incomplete but includes the names of Hunter, Loth, Grant, Bell, Hanger, Jacob, Willson, Perry, Goodloe, Roller, Nelson, and Clemmer. As this decade comes to a close, new names are mentioned in this record of horticultural fame. The club's near-professional instructors have taught well.

Historic Garden Week has an unbroken record here, with all sorts of extras such as table settings, heirloom dolls, bridal fashions, Copenhagen figurines, exhibits from the Virginia Museum, folk singers, and in 1969 a play held on the new terrace of the Birthplace.

An early historian of the club wrote: "The gardeners in The Augusta Garden Club are not only successful when at work with the soil, but the record shows they are versatile and capable of undertaking any activity relative to the in-

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terest of gentlewomen in the land in which they live."

BLUE RIDGE planted weeping cherry trees at the Stonewall Jackson Hospital as a symbol of sadness at the death of Mrs. Sydney Jamison. It rejoiced when Dean and Mrs. Gilliam were elected GCA members-at-large.

It staged the 1962 GCV Lily Show and recorded an exhibitor's overheard comment: "What breed of cat are these women in Lexington? I haven't heard a cross word spoken since I arrived." Beautiful Evans dining hall was the setting, and Washington and Lee Treasurer, Earl Mattingly, was always present to see that no one spilled water on his floor! Colored slides of this show were sent to the GCV as a permanent collection.

Mrs. Cole Davis ("who knows everyone, everywhere") invited a group from Vancouver, British Columbia to come to Garden Week. Inspired by what they saw, they went home and started their own tour.

The club's valued member, Mrs. John E. Townes, died suddenly. "She was a dedicated and informed gardener, and by her high standards had kept our horticultural interest at a high level over many years." What would be more appropriate than a garden in her memory? So the Bertha Townes Garden at the new nursing home of the Stonewall Jackson Hospital was created. Mary Hope Pusey and Louise Gilliam were in charge of the financing. The first \$600.00 came from a sale of Christmas greens and ornaments made by members. Three months later came The Attic Sale to end all Attic Sales. Mrs. Pusey warned: "If you have the slightest doubt about giving an item for the sale, don't give it. For surely in the years to come you will forget the worthwhile cause for which you gave it, but you will remember forever in infamy the name of the chairman." The members paid no attention to this warning and, making trip after trip, emptied their attics of everything from 18th century mantles to modern air conditioners. The auction ran from 10 A.M. to 11 P.M., and over \$2,500.00 was raised. Mr. Abbott drew the plans for the garden, which is enclosed on three sides by the walls of the building. There is a greenstone terrace and walkways for wheel chairs and stroll-

ing. Boxwood, fruit trees, shrubs, bulbs, and annuals were planted, all known to be particular favorites of Mrs. Townes. When the fountain and pool were installed, the garden was presented on May 22, 1966.

In 1967 the GCV said to the member clubs, "Plant dogwood." Mary Monroe Penick went home and told her Blue Ridge members: "Plant dogwood." They planted dogwood—and how. They clothed Rockbridge County with it; 1,200 were planted over a single weekend. Newspaper editorials seem to be reserved primarily for the achievements of the male of the species, but this time they lauded Miss Penick. A musician, she has always contributed to the cultural life of Lexington, but the community didn't know she was such a great dogwood planter until the newspaper spread the editorial word.

Again the members felt they owed themselves a party. So they had a party, this time a Plant Carnival to which each member brought a plant, tagged and ingeniously packaged. As the cocktail hour progressed, the plants were sold to the persons holding the lucky numbers they had purchased earlier. Gloating or disappointed, the members and their husbands stayed for a buffet supper. This club has certainly come up with unusual ways to make money as well as unusual ways to attract Garden Week visitors over the years.

BOXWOOD, still pursuing knowledge, took up the study of Japanese arrangements and became schooled in Seika, Nagiere, and Moribana, while continuing to accumulate excellence in horticulture.

Early in this decade the club started the development of a small lot on the corner of 23rd and Broad Streets and turned it into a well-planned, well-planted parking area. This, a part of Historic Richmond, is adjacent to the Mews, created by the GCV. To finance it, the club held a very successful Christmas House Tour and, discreetly, solicited memorial gifts for the venture. In September, 1966, the area was presented to the Historic Richmond Foundation and won yet another Massie Medal.

In 1967 Boxwood undertook a civic dialogue, acquainting the citizens of Metropolitan Richmond with plans for developing the Richmond-

## Member Clubs, 1960-1970

James River area as a public park. Mrs. Flowers and Mrs. William A. Johns headed the proposal. Colored slides and a professional taped commentary were organized. Members were trained to show the program, and a schedule was set up. It was presented 55 times to 4,000 people in civic, garden, men's and women's clubs, P.T.A.'s, museums and was the main feature of the GCV Conservation Forum on March 13, 1968. The interest so stimulated resulted in the first steps being made toward implementing this plan.

BRUNSWICK renewed its interest in Fort Christanna, replanting, refurbishing, and getting it ready to open for Garden Week. For this event the members opened Mecklenburg County homes, never before shown, and later presented five Kenbridge homes.

In 1965 the unifying organization, The Beautification Association of Brunswick County, was formed. Its goals were outlined by the Brunswick President with a comment born of experience, "We hope the interest can be sustained until our goal is reached."

In 1966 its member, Mrs. Harrison, returned home from her First Ladyship in the Governor's Mansion. She was given a special "Welcome Home, Lacey Virginia," with copious praise for the grace she had given the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We will end as we began with the words of this club's first historian, Mrs. Penick. They were written in 1955, but apply today to this and all other member clubs: "What is it that binds us, friends of the long ago? We planned and worked and played together, but it is something deeper. Together we have grown to appreciate the joy, the beauty, the blessing that the care of growing things has brought to our hearts. Together, we have come to realize that the poetry of earth never dies."

CHARLOTTESVILLE, regardless of a very cold winter, looked forward with optimism to spring and the 1960 GCV Daffodil Show. As the show date approached, it became sadly evident that with Virginia in a state of deep freeze and snow still on the ground, there would be very few daffodils to exhibit. A regular show would be impossible, but something could be done — and something was done. Mrs. Lionel

Richardson, the wife of the prominent Irish grower, was in Charlottesville, and her husband's glorious blooms had arrived. The club members and friends made non-competitive arrangements, and the Irish flowers were not only seen in reality but by slides shown with Mrs. Richardson's knowledgeable commentary. Accepting the tried truth "The show must go on," these inventive members saw that the show did go on, limited but lively.

In March, 1961, the club became a member of the Council of Garden Clubs, formed primarily for Civic Beautification and the planning of Roadside Development. When in 1963 the Charlottesville and Albemarle Beautification Commission was formed to carry out these purposes, Mrs. J. Gordon Lindsay became a chief spokeswoman for it, vigorously supported by her club.

In 1963, with the *Journal* under her arm, Elizabeth Dunham went to England to the old Ashmolean Museum and saw through brilliant sunshine the long ago tribute the GCV paid to that 17th century botanist. She wrote in the *Journal*: "It is one thing to read about a window your club has presented, but it is so much more of a thrill to actually see it and to know that, there for all to see, is a permanent expression of thanks from the GCV to John Tradescant."

A time-consuming and permanent project involved the club when it began landscaping the grounds at Bloomfield, a home for handicapped children. Slowly Bloomfield emerged from its tangled and overgrown mass of trees and honeysuckle, shrubs and poison ivy to become a place of form and beauty. To finance this a monthly garden calendar was published, which made \$400.00 the first year. Later a booklet on General Garden Information was published, and more good planting money came in.

CHATHAM planted the new Pittsylvania County Health Center, and the restoration of Pittsylvania County's first clerk's office, built in 1767, was completed and landscaped. The original investment here was \$8,000.00, all of which was raised by the club.

Garden Week has always been a challenge to these members, and they have employed such attention-getters as Victorian exhibits, antique shows, candlelight tours with demonstrations of

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18th century crafts, and refreshments from recipes 200 years old. In 1965 they began sponsoring out-of-town tours by opening Charlotte County. In 1966 they were hostesses in Chase City, and one owner there was so enthusiastic he called three times from Mexico City to discuss plans. In 1969 it was a "Sunday in Halifax County," and the net gain was \$1,677.37.

The decade ends with sadness for the Chatham club and for the GCV, the death in 1969 of Maude Carter Clement, an illustrious lady. The imprint she left will remain indelible in the hearts of those who knew her and in the minds of those who read her several histories, including the one of the first ten years of the GCV which is re-printed here.

DANVILLE could report at the beginning of this decade that the war against ugliness, so relentlessly fought, at least showed signs of a partial victory. The emphatic statement was made: "Danville IS more beautiful." The grounds of the Memorial Mansion were enhanced by an antique fountain memorializing three beloved members, Mrs. Dibrell, Mrs. A. D. Keen, and Mrs. B. V. Booth, Jr. The Gabriella club and many close friends participated.

Times have changed, and all over Virginia garden clubs are now working within the framework of councils of garden clubs. This is good for a community. It is hard on historians, especially when there are two or more member clubs in the same city working on the same projects. Both the Gabriella and Danville clubs ardently support the Danville Council of Garden Clubs, one of the most successful in the state. With a bow to seniority, these joint efforts are included in this history, but apply equally to The Gabriella Garden Club. Two more rose gardens were planted, one at the prison farm and one at the Danville Nursing Home. A honeysuckle thicket on a busy drive was cleared, and azaleas now bloom here. Hundreds of pine trees were planted on raw or eroding embankments where new streets were cut. Other projects include the grounds surrounding the new Municipal Airport Terminal, the new High School, the Roman Eagle Memorial Home, local shopping centers, and city approaches.

Mrs. William D. Overbey, who attended that first GCV meeting in Richmond on May 13, 1920, is still an active member of the Danville club. A charter member 51 years ago, she was, until the last several years, the real "dirt gardener" of this club and a genuine plant authority. She personally organized the Lady Astor and the Harry Wooding Garden Clubs in Danville. Her club is very proud of her, and the GCV wishes she could attend the 1970 Golden Anniversary Meeting in Richmond.

DOLLY MADISON continued civic beautification with a contest to improve farm gates and entrances, an endowment of beauty to the County Courthouse, the planting of trees and shrubs in the town playground, the stimulation, with encouragement, to merchants to maintain window boxes in the business sections of Orange and Gordonsville, and the entrance to Graham Cemetery.

The club wasn't too pleased when it had to give up two of its most active members to the GCV in 1964. Dottie Williams became the third Dolly Madison member to grace the GCV presidency, and Allen Dunnington went along as her Recording Secretary.

All through its 51 years members have won horticultural prizes not only in Virginia but afield. Admitting natural talent, this club does work to implement and create latent talents. In 1968 a program was adopted that might benefit each member club: "For the purpose of stimulating greater interest in exhibiting at flower shows, the membership was divided into three equal groups, one each for daffodils, lilies, and roses. Membership in these groups may rotate every two years upon request."

EASTERN SHORE held its fall meeting of 1961 on the Chesapeake Bay Ferry, Pocahontas, then went in a chartered bus to the Adam Thoroughgood House, the Myers House, and luncheon with Miss Evelyn Collins Hill at Sea Breeze Farm. This was a sentimental journey. Now, only nostalgic memories of the Ferry Pocahontas remain. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel became a reality under the guiding hand of Mr. Lucius J. Kellam. The 17 mile span cost \$200,000,000.00.

While the reconstruction of Route 13 went on, the club made plans to clean up the area.

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Mrs. E. Polk Kellam earned the affectionate title of "The Trash Lady." Town dumps were established; eight automobile graveyards were boarded up; the owner of one agreed to burn all immobile cars, and another went out of business. Trash ordinances were passed, and here, praise be, the sheriff and his department give one day a week to tagging illegal dumping piles. The school children found this cleaning-up an interesting part of their curriculum and became active workers. When the area was tidier, the club adorned with planting Route 13 and its entrances.

Under the same Amine Kellam, conservation became a way of life. Every year hundreds of trees were planted and tons of food fed to the birds. Miss Vena Walker, the club's first Rosarian and for 16 years GCV Rose Test Chairman, continued her horticultural flourish and sage advice.

Always a beloved part of this club's activities, Garden Week became more and more successful, and its receipts soared higher and higher. Since that first 1941 opening, Eastern Shore has always been present and accounted for in this annual GCV "must." In 1964 its receipts were \$6,107.50, the highest ever in the state. Part of this continuing success is due to easier access to this area by the Bridge-Tunnel, but another part is due to the professional Garden Week Supplement now being published. It was the brain child of Anne Nock, with imaginative drawings by Kay Pennebaker, and it is widely circulated. Not only that, each inquiry that results is answered personally and promptly.

The half-century of the GCV ends with its gavel living on the Eastern Shore in the capable hands of Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam. Wouldn't Miss Nannie be pleased and proud?

FAIRFAX gave a conservation report: "We had an encounter with the Highway Department. It was brought to our attention that a proposed service highway would erase four very old and valuable trees so we went into action. Result: One 200 year old white oak, circumference 13 feet, limb spread 75 feet, saved."

By continuing to press hard, the club had a city ordinance passed, similar to the one in Charleston, that the old part of Fairfax, around the Courthouse, be subject to an architectural

Board of Review whenever any new building or the razing of old buildings is undertaken.

Early in this decade Sully Plantation, near Dulles Airport, became the members' principal project. Faithfully they researched, diligently they built and planted, until the brick walks and the formal 18th century gardens welded into the fulfillment of their dream. In May, 1969, the garden was presented to the Fairfax County Park Authority for maintenance, and the Masie Medal came to the Fairfax club.

FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN sponsored the 18th GCV Lily Show in 1960, and Lib Brown writes: "It was a most successful affair, horticulturally, artistically, and financially. A spectacular exhibit was a collection of Aurealian Hybrids, grown at Beltsville for the club, and transported in their pots by 'horse pullman.' (Sold to members, these continue to thrive and bloom in their gardens.) The specimen lilies were shown in Gilbey's Gin bottles. I do not think this ingenious idea originated with the chairman, Mrs. Cutts, but in any case, we were urged to serve only Gilbey's for months before the show." The following year Mrs. Cutts became the Lily Test Chairman for the GCV.

(These histories would run to volumes were we to record member clubs' concurrent activities in the GCA, but one must be mentioned. In 1962 this club President, Mrs. Seipp, ending her tenure as GCA Chairman of Visiting Gardens, escorted some 120 ladies on a fabulous tour of the gardens of Great Britain and Ireland. Many of these 120 were also GCV members, and we are still being enlightened with tidbits from their trip.)

In 1963 the GCV mourned with this club the death of Susa Stanton Snider. A memorial was established at the Nature Camp, probably the project closest to her heart.

Mrs. Atkinson won the Walker cup for an unnamed seedling at the 1964 Lily Show, pronounced by a judge "the finest Martigon type I have ever seen." The name on the seed packet was "Painted Lady," the parents unknown. Mrs. Atkinson said, "At any rate, my lily shall have a name. I have decided on 'Cinderella,' for my 'Painted Lady' went to the ball as unexpectedly and as little prepared for her triumph

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as the heroine of that fairy tale." (And then RHS came along and named it "Dixie"!)

The 50th anniversary of this club and of the Leesburg club was in 1965. Both clubs put on a Golden Daffodil Show, "and a very creditable one it was." Then there was a Golden Garden Party and Dinner at Catesby to end this birthday year. It honored the charter members. "The ladies wore vintage hats of 1915, and some had costumes of the same era. Miss Noland had on a stylish suit and stove pipe hat which she had worn when she marched in the Suffragist Parade in 1915. Mrs. Holmes Morison was swathed in veils and scarves and carried a parasol. There was a hat from a 1915 trousseau, a hat copied from a 1915 bridesmaid's headdress, a hat trimmed in live roses, and there was one baby cap pointedly indicating what the lady would have been wearing in 1915."

This club has always had an annual excursion. In 1966 it repeated a visit with their friends, the Wilmington Garden Club, and enjoyed New Castle, Delaware. In 1967 to Philadelphia where, by invitation, the members saw the Barnes Collection of paintings. (This was regarded as an impossible feat even by art connoisseurs and critics. Trust Fauquier and Loudoun!) In 1968 to New York and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, the opera, and the collection of paintings still in the home of Mrs. Kress. In 1969 to Pittsburgh and the Hunt Botanical Library, which houses one of the finest collections of botanical books and prints in the world.

There had been another party with husbands, this a supper party at Roland, a lovely secluded farm at the foot of the Bull Run Mountains. The hostess, Mrs. James P. Mills, subsequently gave this house and 1,000 acres to the Natural Area Council.

Through the offices of Misty Seipp, Mrs. Sheila Macqueen, England's top flower arranger (The Coronation, Princess Margaret's wedding, etc.), spoke to the local garden clubs, who were the guests of Fauquier and Loudoun. (Several other member clubs anticipated 1969-1970 visits from Mrs. Macqueen also.)

FRANKLIN, in one fell swoop, filled its sustaining list with MEN — and what men! No doubt these masculine dues were an aid to the

treasury, but there were other imperatives. When Franklin staged the 1962 GCV Rose Show, it had to have a motel for the exhibitors. So its men built one. This is part of the welcome that greeted each guest arriving for the show: "We are certain this is the first motel ever built for a Rose Show, and as you can see, we just did make it! The majority of our Motor Lodge Board of Directors are sustaining members of the Franklin Garden Club. If we had not been ready for you, we would have been turned out of the club — and in all probability our homes too! Come back soon. We won't promise a Rose Show — Heaven forbid — but we would like to see you."

The Franklin members just seem to attract important men. A report: "We are blessed with a City Manager who believes in the slogan 'Beauty is Good Business.'" A shade tree nursery is maintained, and from it each year the club plants trees on the streets of Franklin with blooms in the spring and summer, berries in the fall and winter. Landscaping of the grounds at the City Library began.

The spotlight really shined on this club in 1968 when its talent for planting dogwood assumed almost mythical proportions. The report of Mrs. S. W. Rawls, Jr. was given in detail at the 1968 GCV Annual Meeting: "My belief in the Bible story of the loaves and the fishes was strengthened greatly this year. The more trees I gave away, the more trees appeared. Having got rid of all the trees of any size, saving only what I thought might be needed to replace any which might die, I looked around last week, only to find more new trees than I ever had before." There now bloom in Franklin 671 more dogwood trees, 173 from Mrs. William M. Camp's yard, and the balance dug by Mrs. Rawls from the woods around her home. Most of the trees were planted personally by Mrs. Rawls. Soliciting the aid of small boys in watering some trees, she told them that if a tree was named for someone, it had a better chance to live. Each fought over the tree to be named for him and watered by him. Route 58 is now a double row of beauty. Mrs. Rawls continued this project by donating a large number of dogwoods to the colored garden clubs of Franklin so they could be sold to raise money for these

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clubs' own beautification projects. She indeed lighted a candle.

GABRIELLA was off to a fine start with "The Garden Fair" held in November, 1960, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Stuart Christian, Jr. This was held to benefit GCV restoration and involved the participation of every member. For nine weeks workshops were held and articles made for sale. "A new feeling of purpose was evident as the members enjoyed working together." And they made money too.

In the spring of 1961 Gabriella's first President, Mrs. Roscoe Anderson, died. All through the club's 28 years "Miss Bess" had played an active role.

The club watched over the grounds at the Memorial Hospital, as it has for so long. A tree was planted where a tree was needed—in the front yard near the south wing. The club held a Greens Sale at Christmas to raise money for this demanding hospital enterprise. In 1962 the sponsorship of the Annual Greenacres Junior Horse Show began. Its continuance insures a steady income for the club's endeavors.

Both Gabriella and Danville have played leading roles in the Danville Council since its inception. All the energetic work of this city's beauty-minded ladies culminated in 1964 when the Mayor, yielding, it is said, to the gentle but firm pressure of Mrs. Francis H. McGovern, appointed a City Beautiful Committee. Mrs. McGovern and other members of the Danville club have their counterparts in members of the Gabriella club, and this is a busy, accomplishing committee. We leave the City of Danville in the good hands of our two member clubs.

GARDEN STUDY, always drafted into Garden Week service by the Martinsville club, became now an equal partner. The first joint Garden Week had a title, and a good one, "Yesterday Through Tomorrow."

In 1961 these young brought in a group of youngers and formed an auxiliary. They repeated the mothering education given them 15 years ago, held the same workshops, gave the same help with programs, and bragged about the auxiliary members as Martinsville had bragged about the Garden Study club.

When the new Library was built on the same site as the old, the club joined with the Council

in the re-landscaping, and a member serves on the permanent maintenance committee. "For conservation, and for our own pleasure, 50 Blue Bird Houses were constructed and distributed."

In 1965, "after a strenuous year," a bus was chartered, and 38 members visited the gardens of northern Virginia during Garden Week. Then back to the annual grind of staying home and working during this event. That's where the end of this decade finds them, at home, planning Garden Week of 1970!

GLOUCESTER established the first controlled city dump. It was joined by another in the southern end of the county, and both are now tax-supported. As a further public service, descriptive folders of Gloucester were written and printed, financed largely through the Gloucester club and its members.

Garden Week goes on, each and every year. (In the 1950's there was one year when there just plain wasn't a house available due to illness, death, and changes in ownership. That year the members were hostesses at Chelsea.) In 1969 the net amount sent to Richmond was \$4,599.80.

The first flower show on the back porch at Goshen has grown into an annual Daffodil Show that has been recently the second or third largest in the country with 2,000 people coming to see it in 1969.

Club members and husbands go to each Daffodil Show. They sweep it, bring home the Harris Cup, and take blue ribbons for granted. Daffodils are the primary interest of this club. Proud of Mrs. Pratt's garden at Little England, the members were delighted when Guy Wilson called it "the outstanding daffodil exhibit garden in the world." And Gloucester's Susan Vance is now the GCV Daffodil Test Chairman.

The club participated in planting at the Sanders Nursing Home and the Gloucester High School. A Christmas Caravan was held. Its profit of \$1,500.00 is in the bank, drawing interest until the exactly right project comes along.

When Mrs. James Bland Martin came home from two years as GCV President, the club presented her with a gold charm, on one side the seal of the GCV and on the other side "Mrs. It."

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The decade ends as the first one began, with Garden Week. The club in appreciation to the homeowners of Gloucester and Mathews counties, who had made this annual venture an annual success for forty years, invited every one of them to "The Occasion," held at Warner Hall, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bolling R. Powell, Jr. The lady guests were identified by flowers on shoulders, the gentlemen by flowers in buttonholes, and every member and husband who had not opened for Garden Week danced attendance on those who had. Dot and Luke Kellam came and made it a very special occasion.

**HAMPTON ROADS:** The Council, founded with 9 member clubs, has grown to 55 clubs with 1,300 members. A permanent Committee for Parks and Planning and a Peninsula Beautification Commission were established. Most importantly, this group now has a home, a Garden Center, with a fine library. Through the Council each member is made aware of community needs and the role that each should play in implementing improvements.

Hampton Roads participated in the landscaping at the Hampton-Newport News Post Office and the Dixie Hospital. As a club it planted dogwoods on the grounds of the Garden Center, contributed to making Hampton "The City of Dogwood," and landscaped at the Town Commons in Yorktown.

**HILLSIDE** felt that not one of those 103 letters nor all the conferences and telegrams had been in vain when the Billboard Control Bill was passed in 1962. Not relaxing, the club made its presence felt in the Anti-Litter Campaign.

In 1964 the members could no longer look with indifference at a long trash-littered business block in the middle of a nice residential center next to Randolph-Macon's campus. They hired a landscape architect, and after cleaning up and repairing the sidewalks, grass was sown, benches installed, and the final touch was the placing of planters filled with barberry, boxwood, and ivy. The business men in the area agreed to hire a man to clean the sidewalks each morning and keep the plantings watered. Hillside hoped the changed appearance of this block might stay the hand of the litterbug.

A member was chairman of the group that developed the Lamar Garden at Virginia Episcopal School, and when the Lynchburg Nursing Home Guild asked the club to beautify and maintain the outdoor recreation area there, it was ready with plans for both spring and summer bloom.

Two memorial gardens came into being. The first, in memory of their charter member, Rosalie Loving, is a terraced retreat at Virginia Baptist Hospital. Many shrubs rooted by her were planted in this garden. The second honors the co-founder and first president of Hillside, Frances White Dirom. It is at Nature Camp on a wooded plot near the brook and is furnished with tables and a greenstone birdbath. As this decade ends, the club is re-establishing the conservatory in the Scott-Adams House, a recent gift to the Historic Lynchburg Foundation by a member.

The GCV seat of Conservation has been in this club four years, and each member has vigorously supported the state chairmen in this effort, both in Lynchburg and throughout Virginia.

**HUNTING CREEK** accepted, in matter of fact fashion, that its members would bring home trophies from flower shows. Three of the finest Flower Shows Chairmen the GCV has ever had came from this club. When each arrived at a show, she headed a long procession of her club members, who never returned to Alexandria empty-handed.

Hunting Creek had grown up — to the point of thinking about their own female progeny. In 1964 talk began as to the "fair, logical and orderly admission of daughters by birth and by marriage." They voted to "explore further the possibility of a junior membership." By 1965 "A study of the James River Garden Club by-laws on this subject had been made." A special committee worked on by-laws for this new group, and the whole idea of a provisional membership was finally accepted. Not until 1967 did this become reality with sixteen "attractive and energetic" provisional members. (Dear Hunting Creek: In comparison, Alexandria launched you over night!)

A grove of pine trees was planted at George Mason College, and, as a part of Alexandria's

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city-wide beautification program, the island at Rosemont and Commonwealth Avenues was planted. The end of this decade found Hunting Creek, with full confidence, starting the creation of a small walled garden for the Athenaeum, branch of the Virginia Fine Arts Association.

And Garden Week goes on and on with the words "vigorously" and "diligently" used to describe the way this annual project is pursued.

HUNTINGTON: This club accomplished many worthwhile things in this final decade, but only one is being included here. The people and the projects that have won the cherished Massie Medal would fill a volume of their own. It has been hard to limit these achievements to a few words and an honored inclusion in the Appendix. Standing in for the many and as an example, Mrs. Arthur H. Holt of this club was asked to write the following account, which she titled "Sunshine and Shadows":

\* \* \*

When the Huntington Garden Club was awarded the GCV's Massie Medal in 1962, its landscaping project at Patrick Henry Hospital for the Chronically Ill was a mere 10 years old. Now, in 1969, it has reached the "debutante" age of 17, but has yet to attain its maturity and "graduate" as a finished product. But what an eventful life this project has had to date.

At the time the one remaining war-torn and dilapidated building of Camp Patrick Henry was purchased by Warwick County for use as a hospital for the aged and chronically ill, its 5 acres literally screamed for attention. The grounds had been stripped by the Army during its World War II occupation, neglected after abandonment, and further desecrated by the installation of a Nike site and Hurricane Hazel — only barren land pitted with mud holes was left. What a bleak and gloomy outlook this must have been for the hospital's first 76 patients in 1949!

In 1952 the Huntington club volunteered to accept the challenge of landscaping the hospital grounds as a long-term project, feeling that its previous gifts to this unique community institution of flower and fruit arrangements at holidays and blooms from its Camellia Shows were grossly inadequate support. Already there were 3 buildings in use.

The initial planting of a courtyard garden in full view of bedridden cancer patients was begun in the spring of 1953 with the proceeds from 2 dogwood tree sales, a Christmas Home Tour and 2 Camellia Shows (\$1,300.00).

Our vision was then, and still is, to have the gardens provide a pleasant and interesting view for each hospital patient the year round. Consequently, the plantings are not only extensive, but varied and colorful. They feature long range bloom, distinctive foliage, fruits and berries in natural surroundings.

Faced by an obvious need to "make big money fast," the club's first annual Christmas Wreath Sale was held in 1953. This fledgling fund-raising activity actually netted \$700.00 in one day. Each member decorated 13 wreaths and helped sell them at 3 outdoor locations in weather 17° above zero! A more realistic approach was adopted thereafter for this week-before-Christmas endeavor: each member decorates 5 wreaths and donates the materials for same. Profits have averaged \$1,000.00 annually ever since — just about enough to meet the project's seemingly insatiable appetite for funds.

Our consulting landscape architect, Mr. Wendell Winn, has masterfully designed each successive planting to blend with its predecessors so that the combination of all is harmonious and effective. Over 76 kinds of plant material include live oaks, pin oaks, willow oaks, magnolias, cedar deodora, flowering crab, plum, cherry, dogwood, crepe myrtle, all kinds of hollies, over 50 varieties of camellias, hundreds of azaleas, many varieties of spirea, viburnum, osmanthus and cotoneaster, abelia, barberry, podocarpus, tamarix, guava, mock orange, forsythia, photinia, juniper, loquat, hydrangeas, gardenias, nandina, weigelia, jasmine, pyracantha, liriopie, santolina, hybrid tea and floribunda roses, plus many others.

Professional landscapers take charge of each new planting. Tons of peat moss were required to make the soil even workable and more has to be added regularly. Typical of these plantings was Plan #5 in 1958 which included over 400 shrubs and trees of 38 varieties, 100 pots of liriopie for borders, plus 20 bales of peat moss in addition to fertilizer and sawdust mulch at

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a cost of \$2,500.00. The watering of the gardens and the grass cutting is done by the hospital staff, but the actual maintenance of the plantings is the responsibility of the garden club.

Under the direction of the original and continuing co-chairmen of the project, Mrs. George T. Abernathy and Mrs. Paul Hogg, a group appropriately named "The Weeders" has planted thousands upon thousands of spring bulbs (donated by the Gloucester growers) and summer annuals, pruned shrubs and roses, trimmed borders and literally weeded. Once a year they are joined by "The Flower Arrangers" of the club for an all-out Clean-Up effort. These work sessions are invariably brightened by amusing incidents. During one classic bulb-planting episode, a venerable gentleman observer remarked to the chairman: "Lady, don't you think you ought to lengthen your skirt?"

As with all undertakings of this type, there have been discouragements: late killing frosts, prolonged droughts and poor drainage in the wake of "Northeaster" storms have taken their toll. We survey the damage—and try again!

"The Weeders" discovered at an early date that the patients were adding personal touches to the formal plantings—stray pansies, daffodils, marigolds, petunias and even canna lilies had a habit of appearing in unexpected places. The need for Garden Therapy was obvious. The appointment of an occupational therapist to the hospital staff, and the establishment of a large rooting garden made this program a reality in 1959. Administrator Henry Y. Hawthorne maintains, however, that our club women have been doing garden therapy from the very beginning: "Men who never left their rooms before now muster up the energy to get outside 'when the pruning ladies come.' In addition to enjoying the company of the energetic women, many of the men cared for their own gardens in their younger and healthier years and delight in watching the progress develop."

In the November 1954 issue of *Popular Gardening*, Editor Paul Frese, writing about "How Garden Clubs Beautify America," had this to say about our work: "How can you estimate the value of a project like this? It has cheered the hopeless, made gardeners out of non-gardeners,

and aroused wide interest in the work of the hospital. Many have been converted into staunch supporters offering services and gifts."

Hours and hours went into the building of a model of Patrick Henry and its landscaped grounds (carefully re-decorated with fresh plant material), which was used as an educational exhibit at our Camellia Shows and for display in various public buildings. This demonstration of our efforts and ambitions generated a great deal of enthusiasm and brought forth some material assistance.

In 1961 Mr. Hawthorne wrote this prophetic statement: "The Garden Club and I started work at the Hospital about the same time, and have worked diligently together to make the Hospital what it is today. At that time, it was a 'long-term project' scheduled to take several years. Needless to say, it has just begun to grow after 5 acres have been planted, and plans are in progress for many more extensive developments." Undoubtedly, the growth of the hospital has been phenomenal. When the club received the Massie Medal Award over \$7,000.00 had been spent in 5 landscaping plans encompassing 7 buildings and the existing entrance. Since 1962 nearly \$9,000.00 has been invested in 4 additional major plantings. The number of hospital buildings has increased to 13 and the grounds to 10 acres. A new dual entrance has recently been completed. But this is not all. Now in progress are additions to the Physical Therapy Department, Kitchen and Laundry all of which will require landscaping. The original building has been demolished, and we await word whether the location is to become a patio garden or the site of another building. The enlarged entrance needs further planting. As the hospital continues to expand, the work of the club keeps pace.

Why do we remain so thoroughly dedicated to this landscaping at Patrick Henry?

Every December, the membership participates in a Christmas Wreath Workshop held in the conference room at the hospital. We make "permanent" wreaths, tie bows for undecorated wreaths, assemble and wire materials to be used, and have a chance to see—usually on a very dismal day weather-wise—the fruits of our labors from a patient's point of view within a

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building. The day never fails to encourage us to keep going. The answer to this question can also be found in the following quote from an article in the *Daily Press* of May 19, 1968, written by Mary F. Zellner:

"A silver-haired woman sits silently by the window in her room. Looking out, she sees a profusion of color in beds of velvety roses.

"A patient unable to leave the confinement of his bed watches the changing seasons from his window. The trees, shrubs and flowers afford him the communion with nature so vital to his existence.

"A stooped man sits on a white bench in a courtyard garden. Every day he watches the progress of a newly planted apple tree. One morning he excitedly discovers a single, tiny apple—the first fruit of the tree. For him the wonders of nature manifest in a garden are eventful.

"Drab walls in inner courtyards never seen by the public have come alive with shrubbery, rose gardens and bird feeders. The patients enjoy watching the birds and many request feeders outside their windows. One patient takes every opportunity to thank the garden ladies for the pyracantha they planted in front of a kitchen wall—the only scenery from her bed."

The members of the Huntington club sincerely hope that this labor of love, expressed in terms of leaves, lawns, flowers and trees, has brightened the lives of many of Patrick Henry Hospital's elderly residents. Our purpose has been to make the light of every morning a beautiful dawn, not every evening a shadowed dusk.

\* \* \*

It is tempting to end on Eleanor Holt's last beautiful words, but we have to include the finale of the 1968 GCV Annual Meeting, at which the club was hostess. The "Messy Medal" was awarded to Mrs. Hugh Harwood, the general chairman, the citation reading: "This is to certify that Evelyn C. Harwood has excelled above and beyond the call in the field of flowering affairs during the visit of the GCV to Tidewater and is thereby most deserving of the special Messy Award." It was accompanied by a collection of left-overs from the meeting,

take-offs on the favors given the delegates, plus an acid-green paper lei decorated with green grapes and plastic roses.

JAMES RIVER in 1961 voted to give the Historic Richmond Foundation an over-all plan by Mr. Ralph E. Griswold, landscape architect, for landscaping the Mews and Pilot Block in St. John's Church Hill area. Later the club submitted these plans to the GCV, and they were accepted for its restoration project in 1964.

Planting began on a children's covered garden play yard at the new Cerebral Palsy Center, a Pilot Center for the U.S. and 1969 saw the completion of the garden restoration at historic Monumental Church in downtown Richmond, "The gentle symmetry and pleasant greenness of this city garden will long add serenity and pleasure to the busy Virginia Commonwealth University complex near by." All of this work is financed by an annual Christmas greens sale which involves every member of the club.

The decade draws to an end with ideas for another ambitious undertaking, "Together with Boxwood, Three Chopt, and Tuckahoe, we are following the suggestion of Mr. Allen Kiepper, Richmond City Manager, that these four local clubs of the GCV explore the possibility of a joint civic endeavor. Mr. Kiepper has invited representatives from this exploratory group to participate in the initial planning of the Model Cities Planning Group in the Church Hill area."

The decade will finally end with the entertaining of the GCV at its 51st meeting in 1970 as at its first inaugurating meeting in 1920. Thank you, James River Garden Club.

LEESBURG applauded with joy when its members, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Brown, became President and Recording Secretary of the GCV but . . . "Our great pride was tinged with despair. What does a small club do when the most efficient and active members go on to higher things?" [Ed: We sympathize, Leesburg, but thanks a lot for what became a permanent loan!]

Garden Week proceeds in 1961 were \$2,605.30, a favorable comparison with that 1929 gross of \$16.00. There was a discussion about this time with the membership becoming vocal on the subject of programs, followed by

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the comment, "It would appear that the only feature of any program giving general satisfaction to all members was the tea."

For 20 years this club had a chronic complaint called "River Bend Dam" which would put a good amount of this county under water. At times the engineers seemed to go underground and then every few years would emerge with slightly different ideas, all of which put Loudoun County under water. Keeping eyes on this as well as on shopping centers and automobile graveyards was a full occupation, and it was said that "the law can be a painfully slow-moving thing."

There was a project of putting hanging baskets and window boxes downtown, but, "In 1969 the only signs of success decorate the windows of members' husbands' offices." The Board of Supervisors asked the club for suggestions on improving the Courthouse lawn. Lib Brown spent considerable time drawing up a planting plan in 1967, which the county then proceeded to ignore entirely. Advice was given to the Safeway Store on planting; in 1968 the store was enlarged, and there went all those plants. Undiscouraged, the members needled a shopping center, and "a fair amount of that planting remains."

Oatlands became a National Trust property, and the club provides flowers weekly for arrangements in the house. "Mrs. Brown instigated this project and did most of the work." Referring to the charming baskets given the guests at the 1967 GCV meeting, "Most of the painting was done by Mrs. Brown, whose idea it was." (Every club needs a Lib Brown.)

LITTLE was gathering knowledge as it grew. The members joined the American Boxwood Society, the American Horticultural Society, and went everywhere to symposia, judging schools, and the Mellon gardens at Upperville. Stating that "in the field of flower arranging, we have little to brag about, and this despite the fact that we hold a workshop each year, had two judging symposia, and sent members to every GCV show," the recital ends with, "The president obviously had left undone something she ought to have done!" Since they couldn't turn their members into flower arrangers, they decided to try to snare some already skilled and

invite these to fill upcoming vacancies.

Explaining the variety of members' interests, it is said that, "Some have conservation complexes, and only blizzards keep them from the GCV Conservation Forum, and they are given to running off to meetings about air and water pollution. Some are bona fide horticulturists, dirt gardeners who give 'how to' programs. But some whose joints creak and find themselves asking not 'Where have all the flowers gone?' but 'Where have all the yardmen gone?' have resorted to flowering shrubs, grass, and trees, counting themselves doing well if they can keep these pruned, mowed, and doctored."

"We can't seem to settle on by-laws about membership which satisfy us, so every other year we have a by-laws-revision convulsion." (Sound familiar?) From its annual auction of Christmas ornaments, the club has financed civic beautification efforts, contributing to Arbor Day and the Bird Sanctuary and planting hundreds of daffodils on the campus of Shenandoah College. They press for underground installation of utility wires where practicable, and raise their voices in protest against demolition of worthy old buildings. It is Winchester's parking lots, however, that have been the club's major continuing concern, pushing for landscaping to minimize the unsightliness of unrelieved asphalt and concrete. Deemed a hit-and-miss success so far, at least the Winchester Parking Authority has now retained a competent parking lot landscape architect as a consultant.

Highway Beautification has been of abiding interest, and when Route 7 was to become a dual highway, this club determined that it would be named "The Harry Flood Byrd Highway." And it was, six years later. "Senator Byrd knew of this movement on the part of The Little Garden Club, and was pleased because of his deep interest in the state highway system, but Route 7 was not officially named for him until after his death."

Since this episode explains the methods and requirements of GCV restoration, the following quotation from this club's history is made in full:

"For several years our club has been nurturing a dream that some day the GCV might undertake a garden restoration in our part of

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the state at Belle Grove, the impressive limestone house built by Major Isaac Hite, Jr. in 1787 near Middletown. This became a property of the National Trust in 1964. Conversations and correspondence with members of the GCV Restoration Committee followed, and several GCV officials visited the property, including Mrs. James Bland Martin, at that time Chairman of the Restoration Committee. After speaking to both clubs, she paid a visit to Belle Grove and conferred with Miss Ellen Beasley, Assistant Curator of the National Trust.

"From all these discussions, two conclusions emerged: (1) The income from the Belle Grove endowment is not sufficient to provide for the maintenance of a restored garden; (2) Research by the curatorial staff of the Trust has not revealed to date sufficient information to determine how formal a garden existed at Belle Grove. There the matter rests, and the club hopes that when the Trust has completed the research for the property as a whole, some sound financial plan for maintenance of the grounds will present itself, and we can then submit this application again for review."

LYNCHBURG gave an installment in the serial story of the Miller-Claytor House: "After we received the Massie Medal in 1947, evidently we rested overlong on our laurels, and the garden deteriorated. We were ashamed to have to engage professional help to re-restore the garden." In September, 1969, they held an auction sale, "and plants we would normally have exchanged gratis, we bought from each other—for \$450.00."

In 1966 this club began its third important project, a Memorial Garden at the Virginia Baptist Hospital. This all-white garden honors one of the club's former presidents, Elizabeth Bond Johnson, Mrs. Stanhope Johnson. (She was for many years the valued Business Manager of *Garden Gossip*.) It was completed and presented in June, 1969, when Mrs. Kellam, GCV President, was with them.

A *Lynchburg News* Editor wrote that the city's natural endowments "were freshened and adorned when a group of women founded The Lynchburg Garden Club. They were motivated both aesthetically and horticulturally, not only for their home gardens but for civic reasons;

they wanted a more beautiful city. The results today are impressive. But the city as a whole has not yet learned the lesson that the fullest life and prosperity requires richness of the spirit, of the aesthetic potential, as well as material things . . . The objective should be the most beautiful city in Virginia. It can be done when officialdom assumes its proper role." Thank you, Mr. Scruggs.

MARTINSVILLE placed an armillary in the garden of the Memorial Library, and the club's rose test garden was moved there to provide another spot of beauty.

Each year, throughout its history, Martinsville has been a part of Historic Garden Week in some way. Occasionally the club would record "a dearth of houses," but some event was scheduled, and the proceeds sent for restoration. There were garden fairs, plant sales, flower shows, and one year a "Christmas Street" to show off the members' talents with greens and candles, stairways and mantles, lights and music.

To quote and to sum up: "From this one club, twenty-two other clubs have sprung, and through these joint efforts, our section of Virginia has been made even more beautiful."

MILL MOUNTAIN members, undaunted by their banishment as grandmothers from the Memorial Hospital, took over the landscaping at the Greenvale Nursery School and planted an entrance area to the Mill Mountain Playhouse. They gave energetic support to a Roanoke development plan that would include landscaping and a new road up the mountain, a restaurant overlooking the whole valley, a visitors center, nature trails, enlargement of the children's zoo, and a new home for the summer theater. The starting date for this development was 1969, and the members began early to raise money so they would be financially ready to assume their part of this new responsibility. They held a bus tour of Smith Mountain Lake homes, with picnic lunch. They and their friends enjoyed a Phantom Ball. These two ventures raised \$836.36. They're ready and willing—have money, will plant.

Their own Mary Wise Parrott became GCV President in 1966 and borrowed for her Board, Mill Mountain's "Pug" Elliot and Roanoke Valley's Betsy Varner. Under Mrs. Parrott's direc-

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tion the GCV membership made Arbor Day a dogwood jubilee. Not only her own club but the entire Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs endorsed this project. Heironimus, through its President, Mr. Robert L. Lynn, Jr. (a GCV husband, of course), presented 400 balled and bagged dogwood trees, which were distributed to add further beauty to the valley of Roanoke.

In studying the member clubs' histories, one notes the almost simultaneous organizing of garden clubs all over Virginia. Later another fact becomes obvious. As if synchronized, groups of garden clubs in the same area come together to form councils. Some of these appear to be loosely knit and function only in community emergencies. Many are strong and determined and form an efficient unit for accomplishment. One such is the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs.

For several years the Council met in the old library, but in 1956 heard this was to be torn down. The 56 member clubs of the Council determined to have their own center with adequate space, but as usual there was little money available. Money-making schemes began, the sponsoring of an annual "Color and Fashion for Living," the sale of Life Memberships, and the sale of a "Square Foot" as memorials.

Mill Mountain member, Mrs. Clair S. Snyder, was chairman of the Planning Committee, which started with the idea of building on land that could be rented from the city for \$1.00 a year. However, a property soon came on the market that was exactly right for the purpose, the Stephenson house. (In 1932 the GCV was the guest of Mrs. W. C. Stephenson in this garden.) The purchase price was \$90,000.00, and changes and improvements had to be made. Today there is less than \$3,000.00 indebtedness on this purchase. Beautiful Fairacres is the pride of every member of the Council of Roanoke Garden Clubs, none more proud than the GCV member clubs, Roanoke Valley and Mill Mountain.

NANSEMOND RIVER began this decade with a Lily Bang. The Pinners donated over 16,000 day lily bulbs, 3,700 divided among the white garden clubs and 4,300 among the Negro garden clubs, the balance to public planting and the Home Demonstration groups. A site on Con-

stance Road was landscaped and will be kept in memory of deceased members. This is called "The Memorial Park of The Nansemond River Garden Club." The planting at the High School became another civic achievement.

Over the years there is a recurring sentence: "We did our level best for Garden Week." When they didn't open in Suffolk, they went afield to other counties, one successful venture being to Surry County. When all else failed, they assessed each member \$5.00 and contributed that to Garden Week.

Concluding the last segment of this history is: "It has been said that when women project their perspiration, perspicacity, and perseverance to an undertaking, no stone is left unturned to achieve their goal. Our members are dedicated to enduring beauty. Here our history is written."

NORFOLK began this decade as part of an exciting project, the establishment of the International Gardens at the Botanical Gardens, each N.A.T.O. country to be represented by a garden typical of the country. In 1962 this club's Colonial Garden, complete with gazebo, was planted in memory of its founders at a cost of \$3,888.00.

Continuing its interest in the Museum, the club designed and installed a large copper planter in the lobby. Each week the members maintain it with seasonal greens and fresh flowers. For all large functions here, the club does the flower arrangements.

Norfolk published and marketed a five year diary "What to Do—When," its cover the club's own "image-making" red camellia. This diary was written by its member, Mrs. Fred E. Martin, who received awards from both the GCA and the GCV. Each guest at the 1969 Annual Meeting was presented with a copy, and the club reports that they are still selling like "hot cakes."

(When the writer visited with the Norfolk club late in 1969, she heard a great deal of this club's early interest in the Seashore State Park. When Norfolk's Miss Mary Belle Glenan was GCV Conservation Chairman in 1946-1948, she and the members of her club invited the state legislators to visit the Seashore State Park area, with the hope they would be influential in preserving it as a conservation

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park. Norfolk even remembers what they fed the law-makers — fried chicken and all the trimmings!)

(Errata raised its ugly head before publication too. Decade 1940-1950: Victoria A. Drummond was *not* the captain but the female engineer of that ship. A lady who had never worked before, the club says her life and career would make another book.)

**NORTHERN NECK:** Several years ago, a Governor of Virginia said to a GCV President: "When you say 'Historic Garden Week in Virginia' you imply the whole state, and yet you leave out one of the most historic sections of Virginia, its Northern Neck." He was assured that the GCV valued this area, always included it in the guide book when individuals or women's clubs would participate, but that we had no member club here. But men, not even governors, understand the semantics of "member clubs," and he said, "Well, something should be done about it."

The President became an "ex" but continued to brood over this. Early in 1965, a gentleman, representing the business men of Northern Neck, telephoned. It seemed they had been brooding too. By error, Stratford Hall was not included in the previous year's guide book, and the men were upset that the area was not even mentioned for this annual event. They went so far as to offer active assistance if the GCV would try to open up some part of Northern Neck for Garden Week. Mrs. Sale, member-at-large of the GCV, lived in Irvington, and her advice and counsel were sought. With the enthusiastic approval of the Garden Week office, an Executive Committee for Northern Neck was organized. These ladies with their personal knowledge and by their ardent efforts opened Northern Neck for Garden Week 1966, ably helped by the men who sold advertisements for the guide book, provided a photographer, and gave managerial aid. It was a shining success. Garden Week clapped hands and asked for more of the same. Wheels were set in motion.

On November 15, 1966, most of the members of that Executive Committee, plus several who had opened their own homes for that 1966 Garden Week, became members of an auxiliary of The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club.

Mrs. Richard T. Pratt, Jr. and Mrs. Walter Chinn were the principal ministering angels, but every Rappahannock Valley member gave of her talents to instruct this group. Mrs. H. Marston Smith (daughter-in-law of one Mrs. James Gordon Smith) became the first President of the auxiliary, and the first civic project was beautifying the approaches to the area as the roads were completed by the Highway Department.

Garden Week 1968 was well-attended, but the 1969 tour "was way beyond our wildest dreams." They opened four homes; two were Mt. Airy and Sabine Hall which had not been presented for years. It seemed as though the whole world lined up and waited to see these historic treasures. The actual head count was more than 1,600.

The auxiliary was detached from Mother Rappahannock Valley and became The Garden Club of the Northern Neck. On May 14, 1969, this club was admitted to the GCV, the first to come in since 1958. (So, Governor, the GCV now has a member club in the Northern Neck and couldn't be happier about it.)

**PETERSBURG,** understandably, was deeply interested in all proposals and counter-proposals affecting the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike. From the beginning, a special committee worked on this, and a valiant battle was fought to have the Turnpike beautified. While they fought, they planted. This club historian noted a comment from an Outdoor Advertising group meeting in Chicago. Some man dubbed the women of Virginia, "The Scenic Sisters." He meant it sarcastically. The women of Virginia accept it as a deserved tribute.

Petersburg has always cooperated in Historic Garden Week. If the club didn't open locally, it provided hostesses for out-of-county places and manned information booths. It was noted that from 1962 to 1968, \$3,960.39 was sent in for restoration.

With the Petersburg Council of Garden Clubs, founded in 1949, this club planted azaleas around Willcox Lake and the lake at Lee Park. The dogwoods planted in the Confederate Soldiers' section at Blandford Cemetery continue to flourish.

At a late 1969 meeting it was announced that the men of the Chamber of Commerce of

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Petersburg were on the street handing out litter bags. (You've come a long way, ladies!)

PRINCESS ANNE celebrated on April 29, 1961, and with reason. The Wilderness Area of Seashore State Park was re-opened, and 1,500 people came. Princess Anne members were asked to be hostesses. The next year the camping area was opened to the public. For all the years of unrelenting watchfulness and care, this club had the great honor of receiving the first deLacy Gray Medal for Conservation.

Historic Garden Week has always been faithfully observed by this club, and, as a member of the Virginia Beach Council of Garden Clubs, it has participated in the planting of Ocean Highway and other beautification efforts. Princess Anne planted at the Old Lighthouse at Cape Henry with the comment, "This has helped not only to make the site more attractive, but will prevent erosion." (Conservationists to the end!)

RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY, after several years' work, completed the 18th century tavern garden at the Rising Sun Tavern, and it was turned over to the APVA for maintenance. There was a threat to the City Park, a proposal to build municipal facilities there. The club protested that this would violate the terms of the gift, which was made for a park. That threat went away, and the lovely park remains.

In 1966 the Provisional Group was discontinued, but the next year, at the request of the GCV, the club organized another group. This was the auxiliary club in the Northern Neck, and the Rappahannock Valley club gave these auxiliary members sage advice and guidance, as well as speakers and demonstrations. The club was proud when this auxiliary planted a highway and staged successful Garden Weeks, and prouder still when, as The Garden Club of the Northern Neck, it became a member club of the GCV on May 14, 1969.

Individual members of this club wear successfully many different hats, including Kenmore hats and Mary Washington hats. With the latter on, they gave all possible aid, physical and mental, to the Restoration Committee during the two years of planning and two years of occupying the garden at the Mary Ball Washington House, the final restoration of the GCV's fifty years.

RIVANNA, as a charter member of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Beautification Commission, worked hard at this assignment and, for the most part, successfully. This history does tell of planting concrete flower boxes in front of Main Street businesses: "Mrs. Charles K. Woltz and Mrs. Edgar M. Williams almost single-handed tried to keep life in these boxes, but the intense heat of Charlottesville summers, the lackadaisical watering by the merchants, plus the aphids, caused the petunias, azaleas, and geraniums to languish and die. The project was abandoned in 1966."

Beginning in 1950 and continuing through this history, one sentence appears repeatedly, "The Friendly Gardens and the Farmington garden of Mr. and Mrs. Austin D. Kilham were open for the whole of Garden Week." Mrs. Kilham died February 15, 1966, and in her memory the club created a garden at St. Anne's School, which her daughter had attended. Designed by Mrs. Harry L. Smith and known as the Susie Badger Kilham Study Garden, it was presented June 28, 1967. The history describes it: "The garden features a stone patio with plantings of boxwood, azaleas, lilacs, hollies, and tree peonies behind a stone retaining wall. An L-shaped bed set in the flagstone area holds pyramidal box, azaleas, and candytuft. Our outstanding gardeners, headed by Mrs. Myron E. Tremain, worked here, and Mr. Kilham lavished plant material from his garden. It is a beautiful spot and seldom unoccupied." (It was open Garden Week 1968. Susie Kilham would have liked that.)

It is sheer madness to single out anyone in this club of achievers, but the valiant team of Captain and Mrs. Edgar M. Williams must be mentioned. They have been a part of every activity of this club and the GCV, co-chaired the GCV Conservation Forum for two years, attended and won awards at every flower show, among other things. It was Captain Williams who assembled and coordinated the excellent history of this club from 1922 to 1962. In its Appendix D, under the caption "Your Plans and Hopes for the Future," he wrote: "Plans: Indefinite. Hopes: That someone will keep this up to date." (Does that phrase indicate a bit of suppressed impatience with the ladies?)

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Someone did keep this history up to date—Jean Printz!

ROANOKE VALLEY, as a tribute to the past presidents of this club, created a formal garden at Cherry Hill, the Roanoke Fine Arts Center. (This is the former home of Mrs. E. M. Funkhouser, a charter member of Roanoke Valley.) The garden was designed by Mrs. Hopkins and involves 675 boxwoods, 26 hemlocks, countless periwinkle plants, as well as the seeding of the area. Two lovely urns were set at the entrance of this garden in special memory of Hester Freeman, who was President at the time of her death in July, 1968. This garden was admired by the GCV guests who had luncheon here in October, 1969.

Time and again this club had planted dogwood and redbud on the main road into the city. Two widenings of this road completely eliminated the plantings. This misfortune plus those of Elmwood Park and the garden at the Guidance Center were mentioned ruefully by Mrs. J. Albert Ellett, club President in 1969-1970. At the same time she spoke with pride of the enduring achievements of this club. She ended: "Progress having been the cause of our failures, we view the future with confidence and hope for greater accomplishments."

SPOTSWOOD: The bulldozing for a new road threatened 125 old English boxwoods. So the club saved and planted them on the hospital grounds. The members could look around their city and view with satisfaction the sturdy growth of their years of planting. The Chamber of Commerce looked around too, liked what it saw, and hired in 1965 a landscape architect to prepare a master plan for Harrisonburg. The club merged the Greenwood club into its membership and put those members to work immediately.

The annual Christmas participation at the hospital continues. A large tree in the lobby is decorated with handmade ornaments; nativity scenes are made, and all the doors are wreathed. The work at the hospital extends to porch boxes and plants on its sundeck.

The members sold dogwood trees Arbor Day 1969, and made \$350.00 for their latest project, landscaping at the Educational Television

Center. (This is something the founding members of 1924 could not have anticipated.)

THREE CHOPT decided Grove Avenue could look better. Due to their gentle nagging, large cherry trees were planted here between Maple and Granite. They added to their concern the West End Grove Avenue Shopping Center.

At the same time they planted the seeds of club renewal and continuance. An auxiliary group of daughters and daughters-in-law was organized. (A few years later these young members were asked if they were willing to accept some of the responsibilities of the senior club: "Some welcomed the idea, others preferred to wait.")

Each Christmas this club has "done something for others," and for several years the children at the William Byrd Community Center have provided this joy-through-giving. One year the gifts were judged flower show style, and the "ribbons" were blue, red, and green Christmas ornaments. Another year the talented fingers of "Jinks" Elam and Sue King made a huge permanent wreath for the Virginia Museum. This graced the cover of the Christmas issue of the *Journal*.

Proving that the good you do is never finished, the Elmira Shelton House reappeared in their club life. The Foundation acquired the adjacent property, cleared it of buildings, and asked Three Chopt to bring this area into their original garden. With this request came another money-making idea with a difference. Richmond is the scene of many conventions, and the attending wives are often unoccupied. The club chartered a bus; the wives were given a history-of-Richmond talk by the members and taken to four of their lovely homes. The first of these tours was in 1965, and they continue, members willingly getting their homes and gardens ready for "the eager or critical eyes of the visiting wives."

Plans for the extended Elmira Shelton garden were drawn by Laurance Brigham, landscape architect, and in 1968 the actual work began. A six foot board fence was erected at the rear, and the iron fence was extended across the additional frontage. Mrs. Robert M. Jeffress, James River, gave in memory of her husband's



"Lace House" is the garden pavilion at the Elmira Shelton House, given in memory of Mrs. Thomas Fox Jeffress who had the foresight to rescue it in 1900.

mother a charming summerhouse, which originally stood in the Samuel Myers' garden at Governor and Broad Streets before it was taken to Meadowbrook 70 years ago. So the original concept was enlarged into a charming mid-19th century garden which was open in time for Garden Week 1969.

One GCV President said in admiration of this club: "You know we could fill every chairmanship from Three Chopt." As the Appendixes (courtesy of Sudie Mann) show, the members have played an active role in the affairs of the state organization. But wouldn't a GCV, wholly officered, directed, and chaired by this club make for a gay and productive administration?

TUCKAHOE in the fall of 1960 was asked by "The Friends of the Library" to plan and plant at the Richmond Public Library. A landscape architect was hired, a committee appointed, and by March of 1961 magnolias, crepe myrtle, and evergreens were in the ground. In 1964 the club added a Reading Garden on adjacent property, enhanced with Marie Pietri's creation and gift of sculpture. An evergreen path was

added to the botanical planting at the Lee Memorial Park.

The club was saddened by the death of its President, Mrs. Richard H. Catlett, Jr., while in office. Through memorials and the diligence of her friends, the Catlett Memorial Garden was created at St. Christopher's, an appreciated place of beauty on this campus.

The end of this decade saw the club returning to the garden at the John Marshall House. To finance this return, in the spring of 1969 invitations were issued to a fall series of six classes on horticulture and flower arranging. Held in members' homes, it was a sell-out and earned \$400.00. A repeat performance was planned. Manna for this garden almost fell from heaven. For "manna," read money. For "heaven," read the GCA. The John Marshall House project was one of the three finalists in the 1969 competition for the GCA grant of \$3,500.00 from the Founder's Fund. Tuckahoe heard they came close to winning, but in this circle it is flattering to have placed.

VIRGINIA BEACH, those over-producers for Garden Week, began this decade with a new project, titled "Easy Does It." Each member earned \$10.00 herself, and the total of \$700.00 was sent to the GCV in lieu of opening for Garden Week. By the next year, they were rested and resumed their successful openings for this annual spring event.

Down to earth as usual, the club supplied necessary fertilizer for the length of Atlantic Parkway and started the project of making Virginia Beach "The Oleander City." In 1969 it sponsored a Pilot Street on city-owned property as a model for other streets to follow.

As the decade was ending, Maggie Taylor, Ways and Means Chairman, came up with a great money-making idea. Faced with an empty treasury and a membership not too anxious to labor hard and long, she asked if they would submit to "a brief moment of humiliation." With their agreement, she brought scales to the next meeting, and each member was weighed, paying 2¢ per pound. The treasury increased \$287.50!

Virginia Beach's delightful historian puts it this way: "Some of the club's informal charm has been sacrificed to its progress, but as Confucius certainly did not say but must have

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thought on occasion, 'What you lose on the swings, you make up on the roundabouts.'"

WARREN COUNTY established Bird Sanctuaries at Samuels Library and Skyline Caverns. With other local clubs, the beautifying of the grounds of Warren County High School started, supervision to continue over a period of five years. The town's flower, the marigold, was planted at filling stations. (Had Senator Dirksen been to Front Royal?)

In 1965 a Memorial Tree Fund was established to honor deceased members. The first memorial tree, a white dogwood, was planted on the Courthouse lawn, honoring the late Julian Updike, Clerk of the Court and long an Honorary Member of the Warren County club.

One of their early plantings at Samuels Library had to be resurrected from weeds and tangle. The old landscape plan was simplified and updated for easy maintenance, and re-planting began. Two memorial dogwoods were placed here, a St. Francis statue added, and maintenance has now been taken over by the club. The Lynn Care Center was landscaped, and planting was done at the town parking lot. Quoting from this history: "So woven into and around our history are all the rich experiences, congenial relationships, and satisfaction of accomplishment that can be gained only by a group working together with mutual aims and interests."

WARRENTON was still at it as this decade begins, "hoping that the merchants will back and not buck us." A "Trees for Warrenton" memorial project continued. Dogwoods were planted at the Taylor High School and plans made for landscaping the Museum of Fauquier County Memorabilia, formerly the old jail. There were more window boxes in town and more planting at the hospital, including 15,000 daffodil bulbs and several hundred iris planted where they are visible from the patients' solarium. Decorating St. James Church at Christmas continues to be the annual custom. (Polly Day's artistry of screening the windows completely one year would have won acclaim from professionals.)

When Lucie Duer served as GCV Conservation Chairman, her club (as well as the state)

followed her vision: programs for 800 elementary school children, all-day field trips for 150 children, and 1,300 acres donated by one member to the Nature Conservancy. Byrd Greene served as GCV Highway Planning and Zoning Chairman, among other things, and the club backed her vigorously, leading crusades that eliminated non-conforming signs and prevented unfavorable re-zoning.

When Warrenton comes to the GCV's 50th birthday, celebrating their 59th en route, we wish they could bring their renowned Mrs. Samuel A. Appleton, now an Honorary Member. Having attended our founding meeting, she could check the progress over the fifty years.

WILLIAMSBURG: The Williamsburg Community Hospital was built, and this flower arranging club had another scene of activity. While the youth of the country sang of the Age of Aquarius, this club entered the Age of Tree Planting. Dogwoods went in the ground at the Hospital, and hundreds were put into circulation with the club's successful Arbor Day sale. A hardwood tree was given to each public school and planted by the students. The club planted trees at the new Williamsburg Courthouse and the new Life Science Building at the College of William and Mary. The largest planting project of this decade was at the Rawls Byrd School. Completed, it was turned over in January, 1969.

The *Journal* continues to call Williamsburg home. Mrs. John M. Stetson followed Mrs. Thorne as Editor. *A Garden Potpourri* was launched by Sally, her committee and staff. As the decade ends, Peg Corey as Treasurer/Circulation Manager and Betty Ann Wallace as Associate Editor are a part of the *Journal* team. (With all this concentration of talent, don't let a high wind blow in Williamsburg!)

All through the years the Williamsburg club has displayed a firm dedication to an annual Garden Week. Thousands of tourists come in, and thousands of dollars go out—to restoration in Virginia.

WINCHESTER-CLARKE, with the Little Garden Club, held a Judging Symposium on March 26, 1960, the proceeds going to GCV restoration. Noting: "With the gardening picture changing, due to the lack of help and

## Follow the Green Arrow

space, simplicity and easy care became the keynote," the club adopted this idea as its program for 1960-1961. Mrs. Richard Hughes and Mrs. H. B. McCormac drew up a garden design and presented it in booklet form, *Blue Print of a Garden*, each chapter dealing with the building of a garden. This plan has been used with great success and delight.

In 1963 was heard the first clarion cry of protest from this club: "Save the Conrad House." This beautiful old home, built in 1790 on land given by Lord Fairfax in 1736, was of special interest to this club because here lived the forefathers of Miss Bessie Conrad, its founder. (In 1970 the members are still fighting to save this example of early American cultural life from becoming yet another parking lot.)

The club refers with pardonable pride to the passage by Congress of the bill by which all interstate highways would adopt Virginia's law with regard to billboards. It was proposed by Senator Harry Flood Byrd, Sr., the only male member of this club. (The historian adds: "Garden-clubbers *do* accomplish things, in spite of the late Senator Kerr's scathing remarks about the 'ass-thetics' of the garden club ladies.") Exhibited at a GCV meeting was a miniature highway strip showing one side littered and unkept, the other planted and clean. It was eye-catching and thought-provoking.

In 1966 their member, Mrs. Paul Mellon, received the Interior Department Conservation Service Award for her design and development of the Rose Garden at the White House, outside President Kennedy's office.

In a club full of good writers it is hard to single out one, but with frequency Mrs. Richard E. Byrd has been published, giving information

with grace. One article got away from the GCV though. This club's historian, Mrs. Robert T. Lozier, being urged to write for the *Journal*, took pen in hand and produced a short piece about the idiosyncrasies of the wisteria seed-pods. By mistake it was sent to the *GCA Bulletin* and published there.

The acme of their years of participation came in 1968 when, with the Little Garden Club, Garden Week receipts were \$5,821.00. Mrs. Byrd opened Rosemont, the former home of Senator Byrd. Lines of his admirers formed early in the morning and waited patiently to enter the home of this beloved Virginian.

\* \* \*  
\* \* \*

We have read the history of each club in its community over the span of years from 1911 to 1970. Each community is more beautiful because a garden club worked there. The State of Virginia is more beautiful because the member clubs worked together to make it so. These histories have not only provided an interesting record of the changing role of garden clubs in general, they also reflect the changing times in each area and in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

It was the historian of the alphabetically last club who provided the good sentence, "We dare not rest on our laurels, nor our rhododendrons." Not Winchester-Clarke nor any of her 43 sister clubs will rest. The Golden Anniversary of The Garden Club of Virginia will be celebrated with sentiment and nostalgia, but already each club is looking forward to its part in the *next* fifty year history of the organization.

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APPENDIX I  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
1920-1970

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

- 1922-32 Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, James River  
1934-52 Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle  
1963- Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta

PRESIDENTS

- 1920-22 Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, James River  
1922-24 Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River  
1924-26 Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly Madison  
1926-28 Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle  
1928-30 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta  
1930-32 Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, Dolly Madison  
1932-34 Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, Roanoke Valley  
1934-36 Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Albemarle  
1936-38 Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Fauquier and Loudoun  
1938-40 Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River  
1940-42 Mrs. John G. Hayes, James River  
1942-44 Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg  
1944-46 Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville  
1946-48 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk  
1948-50 Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge  
1950-52 Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Roanoke Valley  
1952-54 Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe  
1954-56 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
1956-58 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River  
1958-60 Mrs. James Gordon Smith, Albemarle  
1960-62 Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg  
1962-64 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester

- 1964-66 Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Dolly Madison  
1966-68 Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Mill Mountain  
1968-70 Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, Eastern Shore

VICE PRESIDENTS

- 1921-22 Mrs. Egbert G. Leigh, James River — Dolly Madison  
1922-24 Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly Madison  
1924-26 Mrs. Finley Ferguson, Norfolk  
1926-28 Mrs. Floyd Harris, Fauquier and Loudoun

FIRST VICE PRESIDENTS

- 1928-28 Mrs. T. Norman Jones, Norfolk (Resigned)  
1928-30 Mrs. J. Watters Martin, Norfolk  
1930-32 Mrs. Thomas M. Fendall, Leesburg — Fauquier and Loudoun  
1932-34 Mrs. Frederick Lewis, Norfolk  
1934-36 Mrs. James O. Watts, Lynchburg  
1936-38 Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria  
1938-40 Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville  
1940-42 Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge  
1942-44 Mrs. E. Walton Brown, Gabriella  
1944-46 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk  
1946-48 Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Roanoke Valley  
1948-50 Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River  
1950-52 Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe  
1952-53 Mrs. Russell B. Newton, Gabriella  
1953-53 Mrs. Russell T. Bradford, Nansemond River  
1953-56 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River

## Follow the Green Arrow

- 1956-58 Mrs. James Gordon Smith, Albemarle  
1958-60 Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg  
1960-62 Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Boxwood  
1962-64 Mrs. W. Ashby Jones III, James River  
1964-66 Mrs. Francis T. Greene, Warrenton  
1966-68 Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Boxwood  
1968-70 Mrs. J. Gordon Lindsay, Charlottesville

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENTS

- 1926-28 Mrs. Lawrence W. H. Peyton, Augusta  
1928-30 Mrs. Kenneth N. Gilpin, Winchester-Clarke  
1930-32 Mrs. Francis C. Scruggs, Lynchburg  
1932-34 Mrs. George Austen, Albemarle  
1934-36 Mrs. W. Wilson Drake, Warrenton  
1936-38 Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg  
1938-40 Mrs. Ashton Dovell, Williamsburg  
1940-42 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood  
1942-44 Mrs. John F. Pinner, Nansemond River  
1944-46 Mrs. Douglas S. Freeman, James River  
1946-48 Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Alexandria  
1948-50 Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and Loudoun  
1950-52 Mrs. William F. Rust, Leesburg  
1952-54 Mrs. Linton R. Massey, Albemarle  
1954-56 Mrs. Robert M. Jeffress, James River  
1956-58 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester  
1958-60 Mrs. E. Ashton Sale, Martinsville  
1960-62 Mrs. John M. Maury, Jr., Alexandria  
1962-64 Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Dolly Madison  
1964-66 Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, Eastern Shore  
1966-68 Mrs. J. Gordon Lindsay, Charlottesville  
1968-70 Mrs. John D. Varner, Roanoke Valley

### TREASURERS

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER:

- 1922-24 Mrs. Egbert G. Leigh, James River — Dolly Madison  
1924-26 Miss Mary Moon, Albemarle  
1926-28 Mrs. John Bratton, Lynchburg

- 1928-30 Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Danville  
1930-32 Mrs. Hugh Skipwith, James River  
1932-34 Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Fauquier and Loudoun

#### TREASURER:

- 1934-38 Mrs. O'Connor Goolrick, Rappahannock Valley  
1938-42 Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria  
1942-46 Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, Augusta  
1946-50 Mrs. Robert S. Burgess, Rivanna  
1950-54 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
1954-58 Mrs. Catesby G. Jones, Gloucester  
1958-62 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester  
1962-66 Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Boxwood  
1966-70 Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Jr., Leesburg

### RECORDING SECRETARIES

- 1934-36 Miss Nancy Cowardin, Warm Springs Valley  
1936-38 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta  
1938-40 Mrs. John H. Guy, Tuckahoe  
1940-42 Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville  
1942-44 Mrs. Harry Clemons, Rivanna  
1944-46 Mrs. E. Walton Brown, Gabriella  
1946-48 Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, Norfolk  
1948-50 Miss Josephine Thornhill, Lynchburg  
1950-52 Mrs. Russell B. Newton, Gabriella  
1952-54 Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg  
1954-56 Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River  
1956-58 Mrs. William J. Perry, Augusta  
1958-60 Mrs. R. Cecil Garlick, Jr., Albemarle  
1960-62 Mrs. Stanley N. Brown, Fauquier and Loudoun — Leesburg  
1962-64 Mrs. Leon S. Dure, Albemarle  
1964-66 Mrs. Gray Dunnington, Dolly Madison  
1966-68 Mrs. John D. Varner, Roanoke Valley  
1968-70 Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Boxwood

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

- 1928-30 Mrs. J. Sharshall Grasty, Rivanna  
1930-32 Mrs. Horatio L. Small, Albemarle  
1932-34 Mrs. E. T. Morris, Roanoke Valley

## Appendix I

- |         |   |          |   |
|---------|---|----------|---|
| 1934-36 | Mrs. Harold T. Van Nostrand, Jr.,<br>Rivanna  | 1937-40  | Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Albemarle                |
| 1936-38 | Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun   | *1938-39 | Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun     |
| 1938-40 | Mrs. Robert G. Cabell III, James<br>River     | *1938-41 | Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg                    |
| 1940-42 | Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun   | 1938-41  | Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun   |
| 1942-44 | Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun   | 1939-40  | Mrs. O'Conor Goolrick, Rappahan-<br>nock Valley |
| 1944-46 | Mrs. Frank A. Holladay, Nansemond<br>River    | 1939-42  | Mrs. E. Griffith Dodson, Norfolk                |
| 1946-48 | Miss Nancy Cowardin, Warm Springs<br>Valley   | 1939-42  | Mrs. George Zinn, Dolly Madison                 |
| 1948-50 | Mrs. John Scott Walker, Dolly<br>Madison      | *1940-43 | Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta                |
| 1950-52 | Mrs. Charles L. Morriss, Petersburg           | 1940-43  | Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright,<br>James River      |
| 1952-54 | Mrs. E. Sclater Montague, Hampton<br>Roads    | *1941-44 | Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Roanoke<br>Valley         |
| 1954-56 | Mrs. Wade H. Walker, Eastern Shore            | *1941-44 | Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk                  |
| 1956-58 | Mrs. John Tyssowski, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun  | 1942-45  | Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun     |
| 1958-60 | Mrs. George B. Benoit, Rappahannock<br>Valley | 1942-45  | Mrs. John G. Hayes, James River                 |
| 1960-62 | Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Mill<br>Mountain    | 1943-46  | Mrs. C. Francis Cocke, Mill<br>Mountain         |
| 1962-64 | Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr., Princess<br>Anne     | *1943-46 | Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville                 |
| 1964-66 | Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Mill<br>Mountain    | 1944-47  | Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg                    |
| 1966-68 | Mrs. Melvin Wallinger, Ashland                | 1944-47  | Mrs. Harry Clemons, Rivanna                     |
| 1968-70 | Mrs. Bruce C. Gunnell, Alexandria             | 1944-47  | Mrs. Sydney B. Jamison, Blue Ridge              |
|         |   | 1945-48  | Mrs. Beverly F. Browne, Warren<br>County        |
|         |   | 1945-48  | Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta                |
|         |   | 1946-49  | Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville                 |
|         |   | 1946-49  | Mrs. W. W. Wilkinson, Brunswick                 |
|         |   | *1947-50 | Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe                |
|         |   | 1947-50  | Mrs. H. Clay deGrange,<br>Winchester-Clarke     |
|         |   | 1948-49  | Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk                  |
|         |   | 1948-51  | Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, Augusta                     |
|         |   | *1948-51 | Mrs. James Gordon Smith,<br>Albemarle           |
|         |   | 1949-52  | Mrs. George B. Benoit, Rappahan-<br>nock Valley |
|         |   | 1949-52  | Mrs. Charles B. Rollins, Alexandria             |
|         |   | 1950-51  | Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge               |
|         |   | 1950-53  | Mrs. Gray Dunnington, Dolly<br>Madison          |
|         |   | 1950-53  | Mrs. C. Braxton Valentine, James<br>River       |
|         |   | 1951-53  | Mrs. Russell T. Bradford, Nanse-<br>mond River  |
|         |   | 1951-51  | Mrs. John E. Pomfret, Williamsburg              |
|         |   | 1951-54  | Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun     |

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(\* denotes more than one term)

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| *1935-36 | Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria             |
| 1935-36  | Mrs. Frederick Lewis, Norfolk                  |
| 1935-37  | Mrs. Floyd Harris, Fauquier and<br>Loudoun     |
| *1935-37 | Mrs. John G. Hayes, James River                |
| 1935-38  | Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle              |
| *1935-38 | Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright,<br>James River     |
| 1936-39  | Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Fauquier<br>and Loudoun |
| 1936-39  | Mrs. Monroe Kelly, Norfolk                     |
| 1937-40  | Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, James<br>River       |

*Follow the Green Arrow*

- 1952-53 Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Roanoke Valley  
1952-55 Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria  
1952-55 Mrs. Herbert W. Jackson, Jr., Tuckahoe  
1953-56 Mrs. Legh R. Powell, Norfolk  
1953-56 Mrs. Charles Pozer, Fairfax  
1954-55 Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe  
1954-57 Mrs. E. Ashton Sale, Martinsville  
\*1954-57 Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg  
1955-58 Mrs. Junius P. Fishburn, Mill Mountain  
1955-58 Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Alexandria  
1956-57 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
1956-59 Mrs. Hallowell Dickinson, Boxwood  
1956-59 Mrs. Fontaine H. Scott, Lynchburg  
1957-60 Mrs. John G. Boatwright, Gabriella  
1957-60 Mrs. Francis T. Greene, Warrenton  
1958-59 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River  
1958-61 Mrs. Nathan G. Bundy, Virginia Beach  
1958-61 Mrs. Vernon M. Geddy, Williamsburg  
1959-62 Mrs. J. Clifford Miller, Jr., Three Chopt  
\*1959-62 Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Dolly Madison  
1960-61 Mrs. James Gordon Smith, Albemarle  
1960-63 Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, Norfolk  
1960-63 Mrs. William W. Pusey III, Blue Ridge  
1961-64 Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, Eastern Shore  
1961-64 Mrs. Raymond C. Power, Three Chopt  
1962-63 Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg  
1962-65 Mrs. Richard E. Byrd, Winchester-Clarke  
1962-65 Mrs. Edgar M. Williams, Rivanna  
1963-66 Mrs. McCluer Gilliam, Blue Ridge  
1963-66 Mrs. Lewis M. Walker, Jr., Petersburg  
1964-65 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester  
1964-67 Mrs. Stuart G. Christian, Jr., Gabriella  
1964-67 Mrs. R. Ashby Rawls, Franklin  
1965-68 Mrs. Bruce C. Gunnell, Alexandria  
1965-68 Mrs. George W. Taliaferro, Spotswood  
1966-67 Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Dolly Madison  
1966-69 Mrs. A. T. Embrey, Jr., Rappahannock Valley  
1966-69 Mrs. Mayor F. Fogler, Virginia Beach  
1967-70 Mrs. C. Wesley Peebles, Jr., Brunswick  
1967-70 Mrs. J. Pemberton Penn, Jr., Danville  
1968-69 Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Mill Mountain  
1968-71 Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr., James River  
1968-71 Mrs. Melvin Wallinger, Ashland  
1969-72 Mrs. J. H. Cunningham, Fauquier and Loudoun  
1969-72 Mrs. Bate C. Toms, Jr., Martinsville

APPENDIX II  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN  
1920-1970

ADMISSIONS

- 1923-25 Miss Margaret Cabell Gwathmey, Norfolk
- 1925-26 Mrs. Harry T. Marshall, Albemarle
- 1926-28 Mrs. W. Wilson Drake, Warrenton
- 1928-40 Mrs. John G. Hayes, James River
- 1940-42 Mrs. John H. Guy, Tuckahoe
- 1942-44 Mrs. O. Witcher Dudley, Jr., Tuckahoe
- 1944-46 Mrs. Homer L. Ferguson, Hampton Roads
- 1946-48 Mrs. Ashton Dovell, Williamsburg
- 1948-50 Miss Mary Monroe Penick, Blue Ridge
- 1950-52 Mrs. Charles B. Rollins, Alexandria
- 1952-54 Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River
- 1954-56 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk
- 1956-58 Mrs. William W. Pusey III, Blue Ridge
- 1958-60 *Admissions Policy committee:*  
Mrs. Pusey
- 1960-62 Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Alexandria
- 1962-64 Mrs. Gray Dunnington, Dolly Madison
- 1964-66 Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr., Princess Anne
- 1966-68 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg
- 1968-70 Mrs. Robert L. Hopkins, Jr., Ashland

ANNUAL AND BOARD  
OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS  
(Known as *Annual Meeting* 1935-40)

- 1935-36 Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River
- 1936-37 Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, Roanoke Valley
- 1937-39 Mrs. John G. Hayes, James River

- 1939-40 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta
- 1940-42 Mrs. Lewis Pilcher, Petersburg
- 1942-44 Mrs. John M. Dunlop, Petersburg
- 1944-46 Mrs. John H. Schoolfield, Jr., Danville
- 1946-48 Mrs. Charles B. Rollins (Mrs. F. M. Dillard), Alexandria
- 1948-50 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta
- 1950-52 Mrs. E. Griffith Dodson, Tuckahoe
- 1952-54 Mrs. Braden Vandeventer, Norfolk
- 1954-56 Mrs. Vernon M. Geddy, Williamsburg
- 1956-58 Mrs. Charles L. Morriss, Petersburg
- 1958-60 Mrs. Charles Pickett, Fairfax
- 1960-62 Mrs. Fontaine H. Scott, Lynchburg
- 1962-64 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta
- 1964-66 Mrs. C. Wesley Peebles, Jr., Brunswick
- 1966-68 Mrs. Bate C. Toms, Jr., Martinsville
- 1968-70 Mrs. Leon S. Dure, Albemarle

CONSERVATION

(See *Plant Pest Control, Tree Planting, Wild Flower*)

- 1922-30 Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, James River
- 1930-31 Mrs. Robert L. McElroy, Albemarle
- 1931-32 Mrs. Thomas M. Fendall, Leesburg
- 1932-36 Mrs. Henry H. Little, Norfolk
- 1936-40 Mrs. Ambrose C. Ford, member-at-large, Clifton Forge
- 1940-42 Mrs. Benjamin H. Gray, James River
- 1942-44 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood
- 1944-46 Mrs. James Mann, Norfolk
- 1946-48 Miss Mary Belle Glennan, Norfolk
- 1948-50 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg
- 1950-52 Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr., Princess Anne

## Follow the Green Arrow

- 1952-54 Miss Elizabeth Perry, Augusta
- 1954-56 Mrs. William W. Pusey III, Blue Ridge
- 1956-58 Mrs. Arthur A. Dugdale, Ashland
- 1958-60 Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1960-62 Mrs. Leon S. Dure, Albemarle
- 1962-64 Mrs. Edwin A. Harper, Hillside
- 1964-66 Mrs. John D. Varner, Roanoke Valley
- 1966-68 Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr., James River
- 1968-70 Mrs. Edwin B. Vaden, Hillside

### FINANCE

- 1928-30 Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Danville
- 1930-34 Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, James River
- 1934-36 Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1936-42 Mrs. Reginald Vickers, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1942-44 Mrs. Andrew C. Gleason, Lynchburg
- 1944-46 Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1946-48 Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1948-50 Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Roanoke Valley
- 1950-52 Mrs. Hugh H. Trout, Roanoke Valley
- 1952-54 Mrs. Catesby G. Jones, Gloucester
- 1954-56 Mrs. Saunders Wright, Norfolk
- 1956-58 Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe
- 1958-60 Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne, James River
- 1960-62 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansmond River
- 1962-64 Mrs. Richmond Gray, Three Chopt
- 1964-66 Mrs. Thomas W. Murrell, Jr., Tuckahoe
- 1966-68 Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam, Eastern Shore
- 1968-70 Mrs. Fontaine H. Scott, Lynchburg

### FLOWER SHOWS

- (See *Plans and Programs, Judges*)
- 1927 *Regional Flower Shows:*
  - 1927-28 Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly Madison
  - 1928-30 Mrs. T. Norman Jones, Norfolk

- 1930-32 Mrs. Samuel H. Budd, James River
- 1932-33 Mrs. N. Beverly Tucker, Blue Ridge
- 1933 *Programs and Flower Shows:*
- 1933-34 Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg
- 1934-36 Mrs. Leslie H. Gray, Dolly Madison
- 1936 *Flower Show:*
- 1936-38 Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville
- 1938 *Flower Show and Judges:*
- 1938-40 Mrs. John M. Dunlop, Petersburg
- 1940 *Flower Shows:*
- 1940-42 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk
- 1942-46 Not listed in Register
- 1946-48 Mrs. George B. Benoit, Rappahannock Valley
- 1948-49 Mrs. John G. Boatwright, Gabriella
- 1949-50 Mrs. Toy D. Savage, Norfolk
- 1950-52 Mrs. Charles S. Hunter, Augusta
- 1952-54 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood
- 1954-56 Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Alexandria
- 1956-58 Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Dolly Madison
- 1958-60 Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Jr., Hunting Creek
- 1960-62 Miss Elizabeth Perry, Augusta
- 1962-64 Mrs. Harry W. Harris, Hunting Creek
- 1964-66 Mrs. A. T. Embrey, Jr., Rappahannock Valley
- 1966-68 Mrs. E. E. Lawler, Jr., Hunting Creek
- 1968-70 Mrs. James W. Ray, Jr., Gabriella

### HIGHWAY PLANNING AND ZONING

- 1926 *Bill Boards:*
- 1926-27 Mrs. J. Watters Martin, Norfolk
- 1927-28 Mrs. T. P. Thompson, Norfolk
- 1928 *Restriction for Outdoor Advertising:*
- 1928-30 Mrs. H. N. Hills, Augusta
- 1930-32 Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Danville
- 1932 *Protection of Roadside Beauty:*
- 1932-34 Mrs. Henry Fairfax, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1934-36 Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg
- 1936 *Restriction of Billboards:*
- 1936-39 Mrs. George Sloane, Warrenton
- 1939 *Regulations of Billboards & Landscape Development:*
- 1939-40 Mrs. George Sloane, Warrenton

## Appendix II

- 1940 *Billboards and Roadside Beautification:*  
 1940-42 Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1942 *Highway Zoning and Beautification:*  
 1942-46 Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, Norfolk  
 1946-48 Mrs. H. Clay deGrange, Winchester-Clarke  
 1948 *Highway Planning and Zoning:*  
 1948-49 Mrs. Garland Hopkins, Roanoke Valley  
 1949-50 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County  
 1950-52 Mrs. Everett Bond, Lynchburg  
 1952-54 Mrs. E. Ashton Sale, Martinsville  
 1954-56 Mrs. George D. Conrad, Spotswood  
 1956-58 Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, Norfolk  
 1958-60 Mrs. Raymond C. Power, Three Chopt  
 1960-62 Mrs. Francis T. Greene, Warrenton  
 1962-64 Mrs. Benjamin F. Parrott, Mill Mountain  
 1964-66 Mrs. Richmond Gray, Three Chopt  
 1966-68 Mrs. George M. Cochran, Augusta  
 1968-70 Mrs. Edward M. Hudgins, Three Chopt

### HISTORIAN AND CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS

- 1928 *Custodian of Records:*  
 1928-33 Mrs. N. E. Clement, Chatham  
 1933-34 Mrs. John Bratton, Lynchburg  
 1934-37 Mrs. James F. Dorrier, Scottsville  
 1937 *Historian and Custodian of Records:*  
 1937-46 Mrs. Louis Scott, Alexandria  
 1946-48 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood  
 1948-50 Miss Annie Whiteside, Lynchburg  
 1950-51 Miss Josephine Thornhill, Lynchburg  
 1951-53 Mrs. R. A. Carrington, Jr., Lynchburg  
 1953-56 Mrs. Harry Clemons, Rivanna  
 1956-58 Mrs. Harry L. Smith, Jr., Rivanna  
 1958-60 Mrs. William J. Phillips, Rivanna  
 1960-62 Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1962-64 Mrs. John Tyssowski, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1964-66 Mrs. Leon S. Dure, Albemarle

- 1966-68 Miss Elizabeth Shields, Albemarle  
 1968-70 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester

### HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

From inception 1928 to 1947 under *Restoration* Committee:

- 1928-29 First Chairman and Vice Chairman:  
 Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River  
 Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle  
 \* \* \*  
 1936 *Tour Policy* subcommittee, under *Restoration:*  
 1936-38 Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, James River  
 1937-38 Mrs. William H. Hoxton, Jr., James River  
 Other James River Chairmen of *Tour Policy* noted in *Restoration* minutes:  
 Mrs. Robert G. Cabell III, Mrs. Lewis G. Larus, Mrs. S. Norman Jones, Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr.  
 1941-42 Mrs. Daniel D. Talley, Jr., Tuckahoe  
 1942-46 Garden Week suspended  
 \* \* \*  
 1947 *Historic Garden Week*, a Special Committee:  
 CC = Co-Chairman  
 AC = Assistant Chairman  
 VC = Vice Chairman  
 1946-47 Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe  
 Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River  
 1947-49 Mrs. C. Braxton Valentine, James River  
 1949-50 Mrs. Robert T. Barton, Jr., James River  
 AC: Mrs. Herbert W. Jackson, Jr., Tuckahoe  
 1950-51 Mrs. Herbert W. Jackson, Jr., Tuckahoe  
 AC: Mrs. Kent C. Darling, James River  
 1951-52 Mrs. Herbert W. Jackson, Jr., Tuckahoe  
 CC: Mrs. Walter S. Robertson, James River  
 VC: Mrs. Hamilton M. Baskerville, James River

*Follow the Green Arrow*

- 1952-53 Mrs. Walter S. Robertson, James River  
VC: Mrs. James Asa Shield, Three Chopt
- 1953-54 Mrs. James Asa Shield, Three Chopt  
VC: Mrs. Hollowell Dickinson, Boxwood
- 1954-55 Mrs. Hollowell Dickinson, Boxwood  
VC: Mrs. Thomas W. Murrell, Jr., Tuckahoe
- 1955-56 Mrs. Thomas W. Murrell, Jr., Tuckahoe  
VC: Mrs. B. Armistead Burke, James River
- 1956-57 Mrs. B. Armistead Burke, James River  
VC: Mrs. Raymond C. Power, Three Chopt
- 1957-58 Mrs. Raymond C. Power, Three Chopt  
VC: Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Boxwood
- 1958-60 Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Boxwood  
VC: Mrs. Thomas B. Scott, Tuckahoe
- 1960-61 Mrs. Thomas B. Scott, Tuckahoe  
VC: Mrs. Emmett M. Avery, Jr., James River
- 1961-63 Mrs. Emmett M. Avery, Jr., James River
- 1962-63 VC: Mrs. Franklin E. Laughon, Three Chopt
- 1963 *Historic Garden Week*, a Standing Committee:
- 1963-65 Mrs. Franklin E. Laughon, Three Chopt  
VC: Mrs. E. W. Hening, Jr., Boxwood
- 1965-67 Mrs. E. W. Hening, Jr., Boxwood  
VC: Mrs. John S. Halsey, Tuckahoe
- 1967-69 Mrs. John S. Halsey, Tuckahoe  
VC: Mrs. Spotswood B. Hall, Jr., James River
- 1969-70 Mrs. Spotswood B. Hall, Jr., James River  
VC: Mrs. Alexander W. Neal, Jr., Three Chopt
- \* \* \*
- 1946- Mrs. Irving L. Matthews, Executive Director

- 1966- Mrs. J. Robert Massie, Jr., Assistant Director

HORTICULTURE

(See *Plant Exchange, New Plant Material*)

- 1936 *Horticulture and New Plant Material:*
- 1936-38 Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, Augusta
- 1938-40 Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson, Augusta
- 1940-42 Mrs. Louis T. Dobie, Norfolk
- 1942 *Horticulture:*
- 1942-44 Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, Roanoke Valley
- 1944-46 Mrs. H. B. McCormac, Winchester-Clarke
- 1946-48 Mrs. Russell T. Bradford, Nansemond River
- 1948-50 Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Martinsville
- 1950-52 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River
- 1952-54 Mrs. Fred E. Hamlin, Roanoke Valley
- 1954-56 Mrs. Whitehead Motley, Chatham
- 1956-58 Mrs. J. Pemberton Penn, Jr., Danville
- 1958-60 Mrs. Milton A. Joyce, Warren County
- 1960-62 Mrs. J. Davis Reed, Jr., Princess Anne
- 1962-64 Mrs. Hugh Harwood, Huntington
- 1964-66 Mrs. P. F. Halsey, Hampton Roads
- 1966-68 Mrs. Edwin A. Harper, Hillside
- 1968-70 Mrs. D. H. Patteson-Knight, Fairfax

JUDGES

- 1928-30 Mrs. Floyd Harris, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1930-32 Miss Nancy Cowardin, Warm Springs Valley
- 1932-34 Mrs. D. Copeland Randolph, Winchester-Clarke
- 1934-38 Mrs. George Austen, Albemarle
- 1938 *To Flower Shows*

MASSIE MEDAL AWARD

- 1928 *Medal Award:*
- 1928-32 Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1932-37 Mrs. William H. Cocke, Blue Ridge
- 1937-38 Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Albemarle

## Appendix II

- |         |   |         |   |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| 1938    | Mrs. Gari Melchers, Rappahannock Valley           | 1940-42 | Mrs. O'Connor Goolrick, Rappahannock Valley |
| 1938-40 | Mrs. Robert M. Jeffress, James River              | 1942-44 | Mrs. C. Francis Cocke, Mill Mountain        |
| 1940-42 | Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville                   | 1944-46 | Mrs. Thomas M. Fendall, Leesburg            |
| 1942-44 | Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River           | 1946-48 | Mrs. E. Griffith Dodson, Tuckahoe           |
| 1944-46 | Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria                | 1948-50 | Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville             |
| 1946-48 | Mrs. Charles L. Morriss, Petersburg               | 1950-52 | Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk              |
| 1948-50 | Mrs. Francis P. Gaines, Blue Ridge                | 1952-54 | Mrs. Ashton Dovell, Williamsburg            |
| 1950-51 | Mrs. Warner Snider, Fauquier and Loudoun          | 1954-56 | Mrs. C. Braxton Valentine, James River      |
| 1951-54 | Mrs. John G. Boatwright, Gabriella                | 1956-58 | Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River     |
| 1954-56 | Mrs. Wade H. Walker, Eastern Shore                | 1958-60 | Mrs. W. W. S. Butler, Roanoke Valley        |
| 1956-58 | Mrs. Gray Dunnington, Dolly Madison               | 1960-62 | Mrs. E. Ashton Sale, Martinsville           |
| 1958-60 | Mrs. Frank Talbott, Jr., Gabriella                | 1962-64 | Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk              |
| 1960-62 | Mrs. Francis T. Greene, Warrenton                 | 1964-66 | Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James River     |
| 1962-64 | Mrs. B. S. Killmaster, Alexandria — Hunting Creek | 1966-68 | Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg           |
| 1964-66 | Mrs. J. Clifford Miller, Jr., Three Chopt         | 1968-70 | Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg         |
| 1966-68 | Mrs. Edward L. Alexander, Hampton Roads           |         |   |

### NEW PLANT MATERIAL

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1923-26 | Mrs. Floyd Harris, Fauquier and Loudoun       |
| 1926-28 | Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly Madison          |
| 1928-36 | Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson, Augusta             |
| 1936    | To <i>Horticulture and New Plant Material</i> |

### NOMINATIONS

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1923-24 | Miss Cullen, Warrenton Flower Club          |
| 1924-26 | Mrs. Frederick Killam, Norfolk              |
| 1926-28 | Miss Nancy Lee Janney, Fauquier and Loudoun |
| 1928-30 | Mrs. Fay Ingalls, Warm Springs Valley       |
| 1930-34 | Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle           |
| 1934-36 | Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, James River       |
| 1936-38 | Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Fauquier and Loudoun |
| 1938-40 | Mrs. Charles F. Holden, Alexandria          |

### PARLIAMENTARIAN AND EDITOR OF REGISTER

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1923    | First constitution and by-laws: Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River |
| 1925    | Revision constitution and by-laws: Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Danville      |
| 1928    | Constitution and Year Book: Mrs. Thomas H. Russell, Augusta             |
| 1928-30 | Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Albemarle  |
| 1930-32 | Mrs. Richard Wainwright, Jr., Fauquier and Loudoun — Leesburg           |
| 1932-33 | Constitution, Year Book, Parliamentarian:                               |
| 1933    | Mrs. Richard Wainwright, Jr., Fauquier and Loudoun — Leesburg           |
| 1933-34 | Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge                                       |
| 1934-38 | Charter, Register, Parliamentarian: Mrs. Paul E. Miller, Tuckahoe       |
| 1938    | Mrs. Ashton Dovell, Williamsburg  |
| 1938-40 | Parliamentarian and Editor of Register: Mrs. Marion N. King, Norfolk    |
| 1940-42 | Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge                                       |
| 1942    | Mrs. Russell B. Newton, Gabriella                                       |
| 1942-44 |   |
| 1944-48 |   |
| 1948-50 |   |

## Follow the Green Arrow

- 1950-52 Mrs. C. Francis Cocke, Mill Mountain  
1952-54 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River  
1954-56 Mrs. William J. Perry, Augusta  
1956-58 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk  
1958-60 Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge  
1960-62 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
1962-64 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River  
1964-66 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
1966-68 Mrs. Richard E. Byrd, Winchester-Clarke  
1968-70 Mrs. George M. Cochran, Augusta

### (PLANS AND) PROGRAMS

- 1923-28 Mrs. S. Rutherford Dula, Danville  
1928-30 Miss Josephine Kinnier, Lynchburg  
1930-31 Mrs. Richard Wainwright, Jr., Leesburg — Fauquier and Loudoun  
1931-32 Miss Mary Moon, Albemarle  
1932-33 Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Danville  
1933-34 *Programs and Flower Shows:*  
Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg  
1934 *To Flower Shows*  
1940-42 *Programs and Speakers' Bureau:*  
Mrs. John M. Brockenbrough, James River

### PLANT EXCHANGE

- 1923-23 Mrs. Rufus Heath, Norfolk  
1923-24 Mrs. William D. Overbey, Danville  
1924-28 Miss Anne B. Cooper, Dolly Madison  
1928-31 Mrs. Thomas M. Fendall, Fauquier and Loudoun — Leesburg  
1931 *To Horticulture*

### PLANT PEST CONTROL

- 1924 *Plant Pests and Their Destruction:*  
Mrs. William F. Long, Rivanna  
1926 *Pests and Remedies:*  
Mrs. Charles G. Evans, Danville  
1928 *Remedies for Pests:*  
Mrs. W. Alonzo Rinehart, Albemarle  
1930-42 Mrs. William J. Phillips, Rivanna

- 1942 *Pest Control:*  
Mrs. William J. Phillips, Rivanna  
1946 *Plant Pest Control:*  
Mrs. William J. Phillips, Rivanna  
1948-50 Mrs. E. W. Clarke, Leesburg  
1950 *To Conservation*

## PUBLICATIONS

### GARDEN GOSSIP

#### EDITORS

- 1926-28 Mrs. Samuel H. Marshall, Albemarle  
1928-36 Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly Madison  
1936-42 Miss Elizabeth Rawlinson, Augusta  
1942-53 Mrs. W. R. Winfree, Lynchburg  
1953-55 Mrs. Roger Mann, Three Chopt

### THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL

Volume 1, Number 1, September, 1955

### CHAIRMEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 1955-56 Mrs. Robert M. Jeffress, James River  
1956-58 Mrs. J. Clifford Miller, Jr., Three Chopt  
1958-60 Mrs. C. Braxton Valentine, James River  
1960-62 Mrs. Arthur B. Collins, Tuckahoe  
1962-64 Mrs. George W. Taliaferro, Spotswood  
1964-66 Mrs. Wythe W. Holt, Huntington  
1964-68 Miss Frances Denny, Blue Ridge  
1968-70 Mrs. E. Polk Kellam, Eastern Shore

#### EDITORS

- 1955-58 Mrs. Roger Mann, Three Chopt  
1958-61 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
1961- Mrs. John M. Stetson, Williamsburg

### PUBLICITY — DIRECTOR OF

- 1941-42 Mrs. Powell Glass, Lynchburg  
1946-48 Mrs. Douglas S. Freeman, James River  
1948-50 Mrs. Russell T. Bradford, Nansemond River  
1950-52 Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay, Norfolk

## Appendix II

- 1952-54 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk  
 1954-56 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester  
 1956-58 Mrs. John M. Maury, Jr., Alexandria  
 1958-60 Mrs. William Garrard, Spotswood  
 1960-62 Mrs. George B. Benoit, Rappahannock Valley  
 1962-64 Mrs. Francis H. McGovern, Danville  
 1964-66 Mrs. Melvin Wallinger, Ashland  
 1966-68 Mrs. Davis H. Elliot, Mill Mountain  
 1968-70 Mrs. J. Sloan Kuykendall, Little

### RESTORATION

- 1924-32 *Kenmore Special Committee:*  
 Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James River  
 1930-34 *Stratford Special Committee:*  
 Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1932 *Restoration:*  
 1932-38 Mrs. Thomas R. Boggs, 1932, member-at-large; 1933, Rappahannock Valley  
 1938-43 Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1943-46 Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Albemarle  
 1946-48 Mrs. Daniel C. Sands, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1948-50 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk  
 1950-52 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta  
 1952-54 Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge  
 1954-56 Mrs. A. Edwin Kendrew, Williamsburg  
 1956-58 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta  
 1958-60 Mrs. C. James Andrews, Norfolk  
 1960-62 Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam, Blue Ridge  
 1962-64 Mrs. Thomas E. Thorne, Williamsburg  
 1964-66 Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Leesburg  
 1966-68 Mrs. James Bland Martin, Gloucester  
 1968-70 Mrs. Wyatt Aiken Williams, Dolly Madison

### SLIDES

- 1922 *Garden Slides and Photographer:*  
 1922-23 Mrs. Samuel H. Marshall, Albemarle  
 1923-24 Miss Kate Keith, Warrenton  
 1924-25 Miss Mary Moon, Albemarle  
 1925 *Garden Slides:*

- 1925-28 Mrs. Arthur H. Lloyd, Albemarle  
 1928 *Slides:*  
 1928-30 Mrs. Kenneth N. Gilpin, Winchester-Clarke  
 1930-35 Mrs. Gardner L. Boothe, Alexandria  
 1935-40 Mrs. Stanhope S. Johnson, Lynchburg  
 1940-42 Mrs. John S. Walker, Dolly Madison  
 1942-44 Mrs. Blair Motley, Chatham  
 1944-46 Mrs. Charles C. Wall, Alexandria  
 1946-48 Mrs. John M. Dunlop, Petersburg  
 1948-50 Mrs. Grover C. Holcomb, Mill Mountain  
 1950-52 Mrs. Arthur A. Dugdale, Ashland  
 1952-54 Mrs. B. V. Booth, Jr., Danville  
 1954-56 Mrs. Everett Bond, Lynchburg  
 1956-58 Mrs. F. Alfred VanPatten, Virginia Beach  
 1958-60 Mrs. Lewis M. Walker, Jr., Petersburg  
 1960-62 Mrs. Herbert I. Lewis, Gloucester  
 1962-64 Mrs. James C. Smith, Garden Study  
 1964-66 Mrs. J. Sloan Kuykendall, Little  
 1966-68 Mrs. Stanley N. Brown, Leesburg — Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1968 Mrs. Joseph C. Toth, Princess Anne  
 1968-70 Mrs. F. Whitney Godwin, Nansemond River

### TEST COLLECTIONS

#### DAFFODIL

- 1931-50 *Narcissus Test:*  
 1931-37 Mrs. Floyd Harris, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1937-41 Miss Martha Harris, Fauquier and Loudoun  
 1941-46 Miss Jennette H. Rustin, Albemarle  
 1946-48 Mrs. Robert J. Keller, Jr., Lynchburg  
 1948-50 Mrs. Theodore Pratt, Gloucester  
 1950 *Daffodil Test:*  
 1950-51 Mrs. Theodore Pratt, Gloucester  
 1951-62 Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Martinsville  
 1962-66 Mrs. Paul Michael Curran, Fairfax  
 1966-68 Mrs. Hunter Faulconer, Albemarle  
 1968- Mrs. Reginald F. C. Vance, Gloucester

#### LILY

- 1936-42 Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly Madison

*Follow the Green Arrow*

- 1942-44 Mrs. Herman O. Swanson,  
Rappahannock Valley  
1944-48 Mrs. Harrison P. Bresee, Dolly  
Madison  
1948-56 Mrs. H. Hartley Trundle, Leesburg  
1956-61 Mrs. B. S. Killmaster, Alexandria —  
Hunting Creek  
1961-66 Mrs. Richard M. Cutts, Fauquier and  
Loudoun  
1966- Mrs. Arthur A. Dugdale, Ashland

**ROSE**

- 1922-24 Mrs. Joseph G. Walker, Dolly  
Madison  
1924-26 Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, James  
River  
1926-27 Mrs. Louis Chauvenet, Jr., Albemarle  
1927-35 Mrs. Edward Gay Butler,  
Winchester-Clarke  
1935-38 Mrs. William F. Long, Rivanna  
1938-40 Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, Augusta  
1940-44 Mrs. Jon Otto Johnson, Dolly  
Madison  
1944-46 Miss Evelyn Collins Hill, Princess  
Anne  
1946-48 Mrs. Andrew W. Hull, Hampton  
Roads  
1948-64 Miss Vena Walker, Eastern Shore  
1964- Mrs. Thomas R. Nelson, Augusta

**TREE PLANTING**

- 1928-30 Miss Mary Moon, Albemarle  
1930-33 Mrs. Herbert McK. Smith, Augusta  
1933-34 Mrs. W. Allan Perkins, Albemarle

- 1934-36 Mrs. E. Griffith Dodson, Norfolk  
1936 *Tree Planting and Highway Beautifi-  
cation:*  
1936-38 Mrs. John H. Guy, Tuckahoe  
1938-39 Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, Roanoke  
Valley  
1939 Subcommittee, *Regulation of  
Billboards and Landscape Develop-  
ment:*  
1939-40 Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis, Roanoke  
Valley  
1940 *Tree Planting*, a committee:  
1940-42 Mrs. E. Walton Brown, Gabriella  
1942 Subcommittee, *Conservation:*  
1942-44 Mrs. Beverly F. Browne, Warren  
County  
1944 *Tree Planting*, a committee:  
1944-48 Mrs. Edmund Strudwick, Jr., James  
River  
1948-50 Mrs. Paul Peter, Fairfax  
1950-52 Mrs. E. M. Whiting, Winchester-  
Clarke  
1952-54 Mrs. Thomas L. Harrison, Warren  
County  
1954 *To Conservation*

**WILD FLOWER**

- 1928 *Wild Flower Garden:*  
1928-30 Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle  
1930-34 Mrs. Robert M. Reese, Alexandria  
1934 *Wild Flower:*  
1934-36 Mrs. D. M. Thomasson, Lynchburg  
1936-40 Mrs. John M. Stetson, Williamsburg  
1940 *To Conservation*

APPENDIX III  
LIST OF MEMBER CLUBS

Club:	Organized:	Admitted GCV:
ALBEMARLE, Charlottesville	October 16, 1913	1920
AUGUSTA, Staunton	1919	1920
DANVILLE	June 20, 1918	1920
DOLLY MADISON, Orange	November, 1919	1920
FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN, Middleburg area	November 23, 1915	1920
JAMES RIVER, Richmond	March 1, 1915	1920
NORFOLK	February 24, 1915	1920
WARRENTON	May 17, 1911	1920
CHATHAM	July, 1921	May 12, 1922
LYNCHBURG	March 29, 1922	May 23, 1923
RIVANNA, Charlottesville	November 16, 1922	May 30, 1924
MARTINSVILLE	April, 1923	May 30, 1924
BRUNSWICK, Lawrenceville	March 12, 1924	May 18, 1926
LEESBURG	December 9, 1915	May 18, 1926
WINCHESTER-CLARKE	May 7, 1924	May 26, 1927
ROANOKE VALLEY	April, 1925	June 12, 1929
SPOTSWOOD, Harrisonburg	July 18, 1924	June 12, 1929
ALEXANDRIA	October 1, 1925	April 23, 1930
BLUE RIDGE, Lexington	October 1, 1925	April 23, 1930
WILLIAMSBURG	March 21, 1929	June 11, 1931
PETERSBURG	May 5, 1925	May 19, 1932
RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY, Fredericksburg	October 28, 1924	May 3, 1933
TUCKAHOE, Richmond	June 28, 1928	May 10, 1934
FAIRFAX	June, 1926	June 13, 1935
MILL MOUNTAIN, Roanoke	June 29, 1927	May 27, 1936
NANSEMOND RIVER, Suffolk	October 26, 1928	May 27, 1936
HAMPTON ROADS, Hampton and Newport News	April, 1932	May 12, 1937
PRINCESS ANNE, Virginia Beach	February 6, 1932	May 11, 1938
GABRIELLA, Danville	April 15, 1933	May 11, 1938
WARREN COUNTY, Front Royal	June 19, 1929	May 20, 1941
EASTERN SHORE	May 12, 1939	May 12, 1942

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GLOUCESTER	June, 1928	May 9, 1945
ASHLAND	October 12, 1922	May 19, 1948
BOXWOOD, Richmond	January, 1937	May 15, 1952
THREE CHOPT, Richmond	February 7, 1939	May 15, 1952
HILLSIDE, Lynchburg	July, 1935	May 29, 1953
VIRGINIA BEACH	March 10, 1937	May 29, 1953
HUNTING CREEK, Alexandria	March 5, 1942	May 12, 1954
LITTLE, Winchester	July, 1934	May 12, 1954
FRANKLIN	September, 1945	May 17, 1955
HUNTINGTON, Newport News and Hampton	April, 1935	May 17, 1956
CHARLOTTESVILLE	March 17, 1949	May 15, 1957
GARDEN STUDY, Martinsville	September, 1946	May 15, 1958
NORTHERN NECK	November 15, 1966	May 14, 1969

(The following four clubs were members but later resigned:

Name:	Admitted:	Resigned:
Warrenton Flower Club	1922	1927
Scottsville	1925	1938
West Park View, Portsmouth	1925	1938
Warm Springs Valley, Hot Springs	1925	1956

APPENDIX IV  
LIST OF HOSTESS CLUBS

James River Garden Club .....	May 13, 1920
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club } .....	June 3, 1921
Warrenton Garden Club } .....	June 3, 1921
Garden Club of Norfolk .....	May 11, 1922
Albemarle Garden Club .....	May 23, 1923
Garden Club of Danville .....	May 28-30, 1924
Dolly Madison Garden Club .....	May 5-7, 1925
Lynchburg Garden Club .....	May 11-12, 1926
Augusta Garden Club .....	May 25-27, 1927
Rivanna Garden Club .....	May 16-18, 1928
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club .....	June 11-13, 1929
Leesburg Garden Club .....	October 12-13, 1929
James River Garden Club .....	April 23-25, 1930
Dolly Madison Garden Club .....	October 21-22, 1930
Warm Springs Valley Garden Club .....	June 10-11, 1931
West Park View Garden Club .....	October 20-21, 1931
Roanoke Valley Garden Club .....	May 18-20, 1932
Warrenton Garden Club .....	October 5-6, 1932
Garden Club of Norfolk .....	May 3-5, 1933
Spotswood Garden Club .....	October 10-11, 1933
Albemarle Garden Club .....	May 9-11, 1934
Chatham Garden Club .....	October 11-12, 1934
Orkney Springs Hotel — Open Meeting .....	June 12-13, 1935
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club .....	October 2-3, 1935
Tuckahoe Garden Club .....	May 26-27, 1936
Garden Club of Alexandria .....	October 7-8, 1936
Lynchburg Garden Club .....	May 11-12, 1937
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club .....	October 5-6, 1937
Williamsburg Garden Club .....	May 10-11, 1938
Martinsville Garden Club .....	October 19-20, 1938
Garden Club of Danville .....	May 9-10, 1939
Mill Mountain Garden Club .....	October 11-12, 1939
Petersburg Garden Club .....	May 14-15, 1940
Hampton Roads Garden Club .....	October 22-23, 1940
Blue Ridge Garden Club .....	May 20-21, 1941
Warrenton Garden Club .....	October 27-28, 1941
Rivanna Garden Club .....	May 12-13, 1942
Nansemond River Garden Club .....	October 14-15, 1942
Hotel Roanoke — Open Meeting .....	November 28-29, 1943

*Follow the Green Arrow*

Jefferson Hotel, Richmond — Open Meeting .....	May 2-3, 1944
Hotel Roanoke — Open Meeting .....	October 16-17, 1945
Augusta Garden Club .....	May 22-23, 1946
Rappahannock Valley Garden Club .....	October 22-23, 1946
Princess Anne Garden Club .....	May 6-7, 1947
Garden Club of Alexandria .....	October 14-15, 1947
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club } .....	May 19-20, 1948
Leesburg Garden Club	
Brunswick Garden Club .....	October 14-15, 1948
Garden Club of Danville .....	May 18-19, 1949
Williamsburg Garden Club .....	November 2-3, 1949
James River Garden Club } .....	May 23-24, 1950
Tuckahoe Garden Club	
Garden Club of Warren County .....	October 5-6, 1950
Warm Springs Valley Garden Club .....	June 5-6, 1951
Martinsville Garden Club .....	October 24-25, 1951
Garden Club of Norfolk .....	May 14-15, 1952
Garden Club of The Eastern Shore .....	October 22-23, 1952
Mill Mountain Garden Club } .....	May 28-29, 1953
Roanoke Valley Garden Club	
Dolly Madison Garden Club .....	October 21-22, 1953
Gabriella Garden Club .....	May 12-13, 1954
Chatham Garden Club .....	October 20-21, 1954
Lynchburg Garden Club .....	May 17-18, 1955
Spotswood Garden Club .....	October 12-13, 1955
Albemarle Garden Club .....	May 16-17, 1956
Hampton Roads Garden Club .....	October 18-19, 1956
Virginia Beach Garden Club .....	May 15-16, 1957
Rappahannock Valley Garden Club .....	October 9-10, 1957
Blue Ridge Garden Club .....	May 14-15, 1958
Fairfax Garden Club .....	October 22-23, 1958
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club } .....	May 19-20, 1959
Little Garden Club	
Ashland Garden Club .....	October 14-15, 1959
Three Chopt Garden Club .....	May 18-19, 1960
Petersburg Garden Club .....	October 12-13, 1960
Garden Club of Alexandria .....	May 23-24, 1961
Nansemond River Garden Club .....	October 18-19, 1961
Princess Anne Garden Club .....	May 16-17, 1962
Garden Club of Gloucester .....	October 24-25, 1962
Boxwood Garden Club .....	May 15-16, 1963
Brunswick Garden Club .....	October 2-3, 1963
Hillside Garden Club .....	May 20-21, 1964
Garden Club of The Eastern Shore .....	October 22-23, 1964
Augusta Garden Club .....	May 5-6, 1965
Garden Club of Danville .....	October 19, 20, 21, 1965
Rivanna Garden Club .....	May 10, 11, 12, 1966
Dolly Madison Garden Club .....	October 17, 18, 19, 1966
Williamsburg Garden Club .....	May 10, 11, 12, 1967

## Appendix IV

Leesburg Garden Club .....	October 17, 18, 19, 1967
The Huntington Garden Club .....	May 21, 22, 23, 1968
The Warrenton Garden Club .....	October 15, 16, 17, 1968
The Garden Club of Norfolk .....	May 13, 14, 15, 1969
Roanoke Valley Garden Club .....	October 14, 15, 16, 1969
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY:	
James River Garden Club .....	May 19, 20, 21, 1970

## APPENDIX V

### LIST OF GCV RESTORATIONS

<p>Begun:</p> <p>1) 1929 Kenmore, Fredericksburg</p> <p>2) 1930 Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County</p> <p>3) 1933 Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, Staunton</p> <p>4) 1933 Lee Memorial Chapel, Washington &amp; Lee University</p> <p>5) 1934 Rolfe-Warren House, Smith Fort Plantation, Surry County</p> <p>6) 1936 Wilton, Richmond</p> <p>7) 1937 Bruton Parish Churchyard, Williamsburg</p> <p>8) 1938 Mary Washington Monument, Fredericksburg</p> <p>9) 1939 Monticello, Charlottesville</p> <p>10) 1940 Christ Church, Middlesex County</p> <p>11) 1942 Fincastle Churchyard</p> <p>12) 1948 Barter Theatre, Abingdon</p> <p>13) 1948 West Lawn, University of Virginia</p> <p>14) 1948 Gunston Hall, Fairfax County</p> <p>15) 1953 Woodlawn Plantation, Fairfax County</p>	<p>16) 1958 Adam Thoroughgood House, Princess Anne County</p> <p>17) 1960 East Lawn, University of Virginia</p> <p>18) 1964 St. John's Mews, Church Hill, Richmond</p> <p>19) 1966 Historic Christ Church, Lancaster County</p> <p>20) 1968 Mary Washington House, Fredericksburg</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL GIFTS</p> <p>1940 Contribution to Hammond-Harwood House, Annapolis, Maryland</p> <p>1941 British Mobile Kitchen</p> <p>1941 England war rehabilitation, specifically rebuilding of Plymouth</p> <p>1950 St. John's Churchyard, Richmond, through Massie-Christian Fund (From <i>Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia</i>, originally Garden Week Guide Book)</p>
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## APPENDIX VI

### ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS AND WINNERS

#### MASSIE MEDAL:

The Distinguished Achievement Medal was inaugurated 1928 by Mrs. William R. Massie during her presidency and given by her until her death in 1952, from which time it has been given by the GCV as a memorial to its Honorary President. It may be awarded to an individual member or any individual club of the GCV.

The recipient must, in the judgment of the committee, have done the most outstanding work in the field of horticulture or in the protection, restoration or preservation of the natural beauties of our Commonwealth.

The Medal has been awarded to:

1929 — Mrs. W. H. Cocke of Lexington in recognition of her services to the cause of gardening, she having planned, built and donated to the Virginia Military Institute a memorial garden to former students who died in World War I.

1930 — The Roanoke Valley Garden Club of Roanoke in recognition of their service to the cause of gardening in planning and planting Elmwood Park which surrounds the Public Library.

1931 — Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gay Butler of Boyce in recognition of their service in planting and maintaining the Rose Test Garden of The Garden Club of Virginia.

1932 — The Garden Club of Alexandria in recognition of its service to the cause of gardening in planting and restoring the courtyard of Gadsby's Tavern.

1933 — Mrs. Fergus Reid of Norfolk in recognition of her services in preserving the Memorial Oak and in planting and maintaining Beechwood Place.

1935 — Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. "whose love of country inspired the Williamsburg Resto-

ration and whose love for beauty glorified its gardens."

1938 — Mrs. George Sloane of Warrenton for outstanding work resulting in the passage of the bill for restriction of outdoor advertising.

1939 — The Garden Club of Danville in recognition of its service in restoring, beautifying and enclosing the Old Grove Street Cemetery.

1940 — Mill Mountain Garden Club in recognition of its service in transforming the barren slopes surrounding Roanoke Memorial Hospital into "gardens of hope and cheer."

1941 — Miss Evelyn Hill of Sea Breeze Farm, Lynnhaven, Virginia, distinguished horticulturist of The Princess Anne Garden Club.

1942 — Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright of Buckhead Springs, Chesterfield County for outstanding contributions to the growth and development of The Garden Club of Virginia and for her leadership in Historic Garden Week and the restoration of the gardens of Kenmore.

1943 — Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, Belvoir House, Belvoir, for untiring and outstanding work as chairman of the Stratford Restoration Committee and for her loyal support and active work on the Restoration Committee of The Garden Club of Virginia of which she was chairman from 1938 to 1942.

1944 — Mrs. W. Allan Perkins of Charlottesville for her many contributions and the distinction she has brought to The Garden Club of Virginia by her achievements.

1945 — Leesburg Garden Club for the preservation of an historic stone bridge over Broad Run in Loudoun County. The bridge located on Route 7 east of Leesburg is one of special beauty. It was constructed in 1823 by Colonel Claudius Crozet, who before coming to Virginia was Napoleon's Chief of Engineers.

## Appendix VI

1946—The Garden Club of Norfolk for its contribution through its camellia shows held for the past nine years, resulting in significant horticultural advances in this particular field of beauty.

1947—Lynchburg Garden Club for the beautiful creation and permanent maintenance of the garden of the Miller-Claytor House for educational benefit to the community.

1948—The Petersburg Garden Club for the creation and preservation of an Educational Herbarium with flower paintings.

1949—The James River Garden Club for conception and execution of the perfect garden which graces the Valentine Museum.

1950—The Tuckahoe Garden Club in recognition of its success in converting a small city lot into a beautiful and dignified setting for the John Marshall House.

1952—The Garden Club of Danville for the restoration of the grounds of the Memorial Mansion at Danville, last Capitol of the Confederacy. The members of this club through their love of the past and their faith in the future have preserved and made beautiful a memory of the Old South.

1953—Boxwood Garden Club for the restoration and preservation of the garden at Craig House, the second oldest house in Richmond, birthplace of Jane Craig Stanard, Poe's "Helen."

1954—Mrs. William F. Zarbock of Winchester-Clarke Garden Club whose valiant campaign brought about the passage of the bill to prevent the ruthless cutting of Virginia's State flower, the dogwood.

1955—Mr. Hunter Perry and Mrs. Lillian Perry Edwards of The Albemarle Garden Club, whose timely action, prompted by loftiness of purpose, preserved for Virginia historic Goshen Pass in all of its pristine beauty.

1956—The Garden Club of Gloucester for their inspiring example of rural community planning in the planting and maintenance of the Founders' Garden at Long Bridge Ordinary.

1958—Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs of The Augusta Garden Club for her surpassing abilities and contributions in the field of horticulture; and for her outstanding services to her community and to The Garden Club of Virginia over a period of many years.

1960—Dean and Mrs. Frank J. Gilliam of the Blue Ridge Garden Club for their inspirational success as horticulturists and good citizens and for their generosity of spirit as shown in a life-long dedication to the creation of order and beauty.

1961—Mrs. Harvey L. Lindsay of The Garden Club of Norfolk for twenty-five years of continuous service dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural beauties of the roadsides of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1962—The Huntington Garden Club for transforming the barren mud flats surrounding the Patrick Henry Hospital into pleasant and cheerful gardens which receive constant care and improvements.

1963—Mrs. James Gordon Smith, "guardian of Virginia's natural resources and beauty, restorer of the glories of the past, exemplar of a gentle tradition of service."

1964—Mrs. Robert S. Pickens of the Leesburg Garden Club for procuring for Loudoun County early zoning laws, thereby setting a pattern for planned land use and orderly growth throughout Virginia.

1965—Mrs. Edward Lee Alexander of The Hampton Roads Garden Club for instigating and organizing the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs—the parent of the Peninsula Beautification Committee, the Peninsula Committee for Parks and Planning and the Peninsula Garden Center—and for her continuing efforts to bring beauty and knowledge into the lives of those about her.

1966—Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Clemmer, of Waynesboro, for their outstanding contributions in the field of horticulture, and for their generous service to their community.

1967—Boxwood Garden Club for their creation and execution of the parking lot for Historic Richmond Foundation.

1968—Mrs. Robert Gale Turnbull of the Virginia Beach Garden Club for her excellence in horticulture service to her community and for sharing her ability as writer, artist and speaker.

1969—The Garden Club of Fairfax for its outstanding horticultural project, creating a formal garden in the eighteenth century manner to enhance the beauty of Sully Plantation.

## *Follow the Green Arrow*

### DELAZY GRAY MEDAL:

The Conservation Medal, a memorial to Mrs. Leslie Hamilton (deLacy) Gray, given by the Dolly Madison Garden Club of Orange, may be awarded to an individual member or club of the GCV. The recipient must, in the judgment of the committee, have rendered outstanding service in the dissemination of knowledge of the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the conservation and wise development of such resources.

The Medal has been awarded to:

1965—The Princess Anne Garden Club of Virginia Beach for preserving the Seashore State Park.

1966—Mrs. John H. Boccock of The James River Garden Club for her continuing interest

and knowledge in conservation and horticulture, in all forms. She was a pioneer in the development of historic Church Hill in Richmond and led the city fathers to plan, preserve and maintain trees and planting in Richmond.

1968—Evelyn Bleakley Stewart, a lady of vision, wisdom and a great appreciation of all phases of conservation. Demonstrating all of these traits, Mrs. Stewart has given her historic 1400 acre plantation, Chippokes, to the Commonwealth of Virginia to be used as a State Park in memory of her late husband, Victor Woodward Stewart.

1969—Mrs. Garland James Hopkins for her accomplishments from 1938-1948 on Highway Planning and Zoning, and from 1938 to the present for the presentation of the entire frontier village of Fincastle.

## APPENDIX VII

### FLOWER SHOWS: CLUBS SPONSORING

#### LILY SHOWS:

1. 1937 Dolly Madison, Rappahannock Valley
2. 1938 Rappahannock Valley
3. 1939 Dolly Madison, Rappahannock Valley
4. 1940 Rappahannock Valley
5. 1941 Dolly Madison, Rappahannock Valley
- 1942 Cancelled because of weather
- 1943-1947 No shows held
6. 1948 Dolly Madison, Rivanna
7. 1949 Fairfax
8. 1950 Rappahannock Valley
9. 1951 Fauquier and Loudoun, Leesburg, Warrenton
10. 1952 Warren County, Winchester-Clarke
11. 1953 Alexandria
12. 1954 Rivanna
13. 1955 Albemarle
14. 1956 Dolly Madison
15. 1957 Mill Mountain, Roanoke Valley
16. 1958 Augusta
17. 1959 Warren County
18. 1960 Fauquier and Loudoun
19. 1961 Rivanna
20. 1962 Blue Ridge
21. 1963 Ashland
22. 1964 Three Chopt, Tuckahoe
23. 1965 Garden Study
24. 1966 Lynchburg
25. 1967 Hunting Creek
26. 1968 Hunting Creek
27. 1969 Warren County
28. 1970 Warren County

#### DAFFODIL SHOWS:

1. 1931 Albemarle
2. 1932 Alexandria
3. 1933 Lynchburg

- 1933 Alexandria
- 1934 Cancelled because of weather
4. 1935 Alexandria
5. 1936 Alexandria
6. 1937 Alexandria
7. 1938 Alexandria
8. 1939 Alexandria
9. 1940 Alexandria
10. 1941 Alexandria
11. 1942 Alexandria
- 1943-1945 No shows held
12. 1946 Lynchburg
13. 1947 Lynchburg
14. 1948 Gabriella
15. 1949 Alexandria
16. 1950 Alexandria
17. 1951 Augusta, Blue Ridge, Spotswood
18. 1952 Augusta, Spotswood
19. 1953 Gloucester, Williamsburg
20. 1954 Gloucester, Williamsburg
21. 1955 Martinsville
22. 1956 Martinsville
23. 1957 Hunting Creek
24. 1958 Hunting Creek
25. 1959 Charlottesville
26. 1960 Charlottesville
27. 1961 Chatham
28. 1962 Mill Mountain, Roanoke Valley
29. 1963 Fairfax
30. 1964 Fairfax
31. 1965 Norfolk
32. 1966 Nansemond River
33. 1967 Petersburg
34. 1968 Albemarle
35. 1969 Albemarle
36. 1970 Rappahannock Valley

#### ROSE SHOWS:

1. 1932 Winchester-Clarke
2. 1933 Dolly Madison

*Follow the Green Arrow*

- |     |           |  |     |      |                     |
|-----|-----------|--|-----|------|---------------------|
| 3.  | 1934      | Augusta  | 17. | 1953 | Hillside, Lynchburg |
| 4.  | 1935      | Spotswood                                      | 18. | 1954 | Hillside, Lynchburg |
| 5.  | 1936      | Albemarle, Rivanna                             | 19. | 1955 | Danville, Gabriella |
| 6.  | 1937      | Roanoke Valley, Mill Mountain                  | 20. | 1956 | Danville, Gabriella |
| 7.  | 1938      | Norfolk  | 21. | 1957 | Spotswood           |
| 8.  | 1939      | Lynchburg                                      | 22. | 1958 | Warrenton           |
| 9.  | 1940      | Rivanna  | 23. | 1959 | Leesburg            |
| 10. | 1941      | Rose Test Chairman                             | 24. | 1960 | Rappahannock Valley |
|     | 1942-1945 | No shows held                                  | 25. | 1961 | Little              |
| 11. | 1946      | Princess Anne                                  | 26. | 1962 | Franklin            |
| 12. | 1947      | Hampton Roads                                  | 27. | 1963 | Huntington          |
| 13. | 1948      | Roanoke Valley, Mill Mountain                  | 28. | 1964 | Williamsburg        |
| 14. | 1949      | Albemarle, Rivanna, Augusta,<br>Dolly Madison  | 29. | 1965 | Virginia Beach      |
|     | 1950      | Cancelled because of weather                   | 30. | 1966 | Hampton Roads       |
| 15. | 1951      | Nansemond River, Petersburg                    | 31. | 1967 | Princess Anne       |
| 16. | 1952      | Boxwood, James River, Three<br>Chopt, Tuckahoe | 32. | 1968 | Gabriella           |
|     |           |  | 33. | 1969 | Chatham             |

## APPENDIX VIII

### FLOWER SHOWS CHALLENGE CUPS AND WINNERS

#### THE ELEANOR TRUAX HARRIS CHALLENGE CUPS:

The Eleanor Truax Harris Challenge Cups were established in 1937 as a personal memorial to Mrs. Floyd Harris and stand as an expression of the great love of The Garden Club of Virginia for the personality of Mrs. Harris and as a tribute to her leadership in horticultural enterprises.

One of three cups of old Georgian design is awarded annually, if merited, for the best horticultural achievement made by a member of The Garden Club of Virginia at each of three annual shows—the Daffodil Show, the Rose show and the Lily Show. The winner holds the cup for a year.

#### DAFFODIL:

- 1938 Mrs. John Lee Pratt, Rappahannock Valley
- 1939 Mrs. John Lee Pratt, Rappahannock Valley
- 1940 Miss Jennette H. Rustin, Albemarle
- 1941 Mrs. William C. Seipp, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1942 Mrs. William C. Seipp, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1946 Mrs. Robert J. Keller, Jr., Lynchburg
- 1947 Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Martinsville
- 1948 Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Martinsville
- 1949 Mrs. J. Robert Walker, Martinsville
- 1950 Mrs. Henry McR. Pinner, Nansemond River
- 1951 Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Alexandria
- 1952 Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Alexandria
- 1953 Mrs. Fletcher D. Woodward, Albemarle
- 1954 Mrs. Henry D. Ludwig, Fairfax
- 1955 Mrs. Channing Bolton, Fairfax
- 1956 Mrs. Whitehead Motley, Chatham
- 1957 Mrs. Robert W. Wheat, Hunting Creek

- 1958 Mrs. Chesterman Constantine, Gloucester
- 1959 Mrs. Robert W. Wheat, Hunting Creek
- 1961 Mrs. Llewellyn Miller, Albemarle
- 1962 Mrs. Paul Michael Curran, Fairfax
- 1964 Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Alexandria

#### LILY:

- 1938 Mrs. C. O'Connor Goolrick, Rappahannock Valley
- 1939 Garden Club of Alexandria
- 1940 Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle
- 1941 Mrs. William R. Massie, Albemarle
- 1948 Mrs. Beverly F. Browne, Warren County
- 1949 Mrs. Beverly F. Browne, Warren County
- 1950 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1951 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1952 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1953 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1954 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1955 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1956 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1957 Mrs. Joseph Musselman, Rivanna
- 1958 Miss Elizabeth Nolting, Rivanna
- 1959 Mrs. Percy Rogers, Warren County
- 1960 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1961 Mrs. Courtland Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1962 Mrs. Courtland Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1963 Miss Elizabeth Nolting, Rivanna
- 1964 Mrs. Richard M. Cutts, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1966 Mrs. Daniel G. Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1967 Mrs. Daniel G. Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1968 Mrs. James F. Birchfield, Leesburg

#### ROSE:

- 1938 Mrs. Louis N. Dibrell, Danville
- 1939 Mrs. William F. Long, Rivanna
- 1940 Mrs. Arthur Howard Jones, Dolly Madison

## *Follow the Green Arrow*

- 1941 Mrs. L. P. Tayloe, Fairfax
- 1947 Miss Vena Walker, Eastern Shore
- 1948 Mrs. Robert W. Harwell, Petersburg
- 1949 Mrs. Robert W. Harwell, Petersburg
- 1951 Mrs. T. Alex Grant, Augusta
- 1952 Mrs. T. Alex Grant, Augusta
- 1953 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood
- 1954 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood
- 1956 Mrs. Laird L. Conrad, Spotswood
- 1957 Mrs. Frank M. Lusk, Eastern Shore
- 1958 Mrs. Edgar M. Williams, Rivanna
- 1960 Mrs. Edgar M. Williams, Rivanna
- 1962 Mrs. Frank M. Lusk, Eastern Shore
- 1963 Mrs. Peter Rowan, Fairfax
- 1964 Mrs. Frank M. Lusk, Eastern Shore
- 1966 Mrs. Edgar M. Williams, Rivanna
- 1967 Mrs. Frank M. Lusk, Eastern Shore
- 1968 Mrs. Thomas R. Towers, Tuckahoe

### THE MARY McDERMOTT BEIRNE CHALLENGE BOWL:

The Mary McDermott Beirne Challenge Bowl to be given annually at the Daffodil Show of The Garden Club of Virginia and to be held for one year.

This award was given in 1966 by The Ashland Garden Club to honor Miss Beirne, a pioneer in hybridizing and cultivating daffodils in Virginia.

- 1968 Mrs. Howard B. Bloomer, Jr., Alexandria

### THE SPONSOR'S CUP:

On June 18, 1953, this cup, a gift of Miss Jeannette M. Francis, was presented as a perpetual Lily Show trophy to The Garden Club of Virginia by The Garden Club of Alexandria. It is a trophy to be given by the club sponsoring the annual Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show, and is to be offered in a horticultural class designated by the sponsoring club as an award to the blue ribbon winner in the designated class.

- 1954 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1956 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1957 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1958 Mrs. Dirk A. Kuyk, Mill Mountain
- 1959 Mrs. W. Alonzo Rinehart, Albemarle
- 1961 Mrs. Courtland Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1962 Mrs. Courtland Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1963 Mrs. Daniel G. Van Clief, Albemarle

- 1964 Mrs. John T. Ramey, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1965 Mrs. John T. Ramey, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1966 Mrs. Daniel G. Van Clief, Albemarle
- 1967 Col. Robert S. Pickens, Leesburg
- 1969 Mrs. James F. Birchfield, Leesburg

### THE VIOLET NILES WALKER MEMORIAL CUP:

This cup was given by the Dolly Madison Garden Club for horticultural achievement.

The Lily Chairman of the Dolly Madison Garden Club shall be the perpetual custodian of the Violet Niles Walker Memorial Cup. This shall include the administration of funds and purchasing of lily bulbs to be awarded as a prize annually to the winner of this cup at the Lily Show of The Garden Club of Virginia.

- 1948 Mrs. W. Clayton Williams, Jr., Dolly Madison
- 1949 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1950 Mrs. H. Hartley Trundle, Leesburg
- 1951 Mrs. H. Hartley Trundle, Leesburg
- 1952 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1953 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1954 Mrs. Austin D. Kilham, Rivanna
- 1955 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1956 Mrs. D. J. Boulware, Rappahannock Valley
- 1957 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1958 Mrs. Horatio F. Minter, Warren County
- 1959 Mrs. W. Alonzo Rinehart, Albemarle
- 1960 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood
- 1961 Mrs. W. Alonzo Rinehart, Albemarle
- 1962 Mrs. John T. Ramey, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1963 Mrs. Arthur A. Dugdale, Ashland
- 1964 Mrs. Thomas Atkinson, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1965 Mrs. Richard M. Cutts, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1967 Mrs. John T. Ramey, Fauquier and Loudoun
- 1969 Mrs. James F. Birchfield, Leesburg

### THE BLANCHE ROHRER DAVIS CUP:

This cup was given in loving memory of Blanche Rohrer Davis by "friends in the Roa-

### Appendix VIII

noke Area" as a perpetual trophy. The cup was presented to The Garden Club of Virginia in 1957 to be awarded annually at the Lily Show of The Garden Club of Virginia.

1958 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood  
1959 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood

1961 Mrs. Amos M. Showalter, Spotswood  
1964 Mrs. Richard M. Cutts, Fauquier and Loudoun  
1965 Mrs. James F. Birchfield, Leesburg  
1967 Mrs. Richard M. Cutts, Fauquier and Loudoun



*The Sponsor's Cup was first awarded at the Twelfth Lily Show held in Charlottesville.*