

March 17, 1959

Regular meeting held at Blanche Sturdevant's home in Tavernier, with Gaines Dean and Bonnie Shreffler as co-hostesses. Blanche's home is one of our loveliest here on the Keys, beautifully planted and with a lovely second story living room looking out on the ocean and Tavernier Island. It is truly fascinating to see what our members do with their homes - each has a beauty and charm of its own.

36 were present. Lotte Uhe, Helen Brunton, Vivian Gross Francis Tracy and Mary Easton introduced guests. Marian Austin joined us as a new member.

Called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Gertrude Thompson. Before opening the business meeting, we heard a "thought for the day" from Florence Booth, followed by the members saying the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. In the absence of Treas. Nora Dickerson, Alida reported that the \$350 had been put in the savings bank and that we had approximately \$99.16 left.

Membership booklets were passed around, also extra profits from the Flower Show - \$1.50 from Margie Bond, 75¢ from Susan Lund.

Committee Reports - School - Susan reported that the Silk Oak was in Mrs. Tracy's care and would be planted in April, when the school grounds, now in good condition, would be fertilized again. Alida said that she had had no answer from Jack Davis with regard to the Brazilian Oak wanted for the Tavernier Christmas Tree. This was assumed to be due to private troubles of the Davis family - namely, a critically ill grandchild. The School committee was authorized to look for a tree.

The May meeting was set to be at Helen Brunton's, with Anne Baldwin, Lotte Uhe and Viola Carter as co-hostesses.

Florence Booth said that the April meeting would consist of a ramble through the gardens of Mrs. <sup>Richard</sup> ~~Robert~~ <sup>Robertson</sup> Richardson, a beautiful estate in Southwest Miami. We were to be there at 10:00 and let Florence know of our transportation arrangements.

Mary Easton said that she would like to borrow the Scrapbook.



Gertrude would purchase a new one, to be filled with pictures and presented to the mental home we discussed last summer. At that time, Mrs. Carl Sheffel spoke to us on Garden Therapy for mental patients, and a scrapbook filled with pictures would help some to "get going" through working with flowers.

Lea Smith spoke to us about the trip through the DuBell Estate. Discussion of how to get seeds from a calabash.

Secretary to write letter of appreciation to Mr. DuBell.

Rae North asked how mahogany seeds were treated to obtain the attractive product used in dried arrangements. Mrs. Tracy and Mary Perez explained that when the seeds were just a crack open, the "petals" were nailed, individually, at the bottom, to the body of the seed pod. Then, when the pods had opened to the desired width, the whole pod was varnished.

Flower Show - Alida read a comparative report of profits - 1958 and 1959. Gertrude suggested that members bring written suggestions for improving the Flower Show to the May meeting. These suggestions, and some from the Key Largo Garden Club, would be turned over to the Flower Show committees of both clubs, and ironed out by the committees. Lea Smith was appointed Chairman for the 1960 Flower Show, with Pat Futch in charge of refreshments.

Florence Booth said that Mrs. Sheffel had suggested that we purchase a book on the subject of Flower Show production. It was moved, seconded and passed that we do this, Florence to ask Mrs. Sheffel for the title of the book.

Suggestions from floor - set a date not conflicting with any other flower shows in this area, and preferably not conflicting with any other organizational activities of importance. Have it early in March. Select another building. Have flower arrangement classes. Both Lotte Uhe and Gaines Dean knew of competent teachers, Gaines referring to May McCool and Mary McCollough, both known to many of us. They volunteered to contact their people, and then we would set dates for classes.

Suggested we invite Key West and Marathon to participate west garden with their own tables. Alida read a letter from the Key West Garden Club, saying they were sorry they could not come.



next year, with their own tables. Alida read a letter from the Key West Garden Club, saying they were sorry they could not come to our show this year, and re-inviting us to participate in theirs in 1960.

Mrs. Tracy then gave a talk on Poinsettias, Papayas and Pineapples. She dismissed Poinsettias briefly, and then went into a most interesting, entertaining and informative talk on papayas and pineapple - how to raise them - how pineapples came and went as a major crop on the Keys. Susan Lund added to the historical information. We learned how papayas were cooked or otherwise prepared, both as a fruit and as a vegetable. Mrs. Tracy's talks have a quality of their own - perhaps the essence of it is that she gives us a ~~picture~~ contact with the past of the Keys, a picture of how people lived and used the materials on hand. Most of us make so little use of the things of native source - really, we should be ashamed of ourselves, eating apple pie, beef and all the other "regular American" things, when we have at our doorsteps papayas, pineapples - and coconuts, sugar apples, etc. In our waters, seafood that is a delicacy elsewhere - in our supermarkets, cod and haddock and Norwegian sardines. The main survivor in popularity of the native foods is Key Lime Pie! - delicious, but what about the rest? There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and we enjoyed delightful refreshments and a get-together.

Respectfully submitted,

Alida T.

Alida Tjader, Sec.