

May 20, 1958

The regular meeting of the Upper Keys Garden Club was held at East Martello Towers, Key West. Called to order 12:30 by President Gertrude Thompson. Florence Booth moved that the reading of minutes and all business be postponed until the June meeting. Seconded and passed. The only business discussed was the introduction of the Tropical Homemaker and Gardener (Magazine) Special Plan for Garden Clubs. Clubs can withhold \$1.50 from each \$4.00 one-year subscription, or \$2.00 from each \$7.00 two-year subscription. Two members took ~~one~~ year subscriptions, one a two year one.

Both the Key West Historical Society and the Key West Garden Club acted as hostesses to us, with Mrs. O. A. Sandquist, past President of the Garden Club, acting as Master of Ceremonies, if that's the correct title. She introduced us, and showed us out to the garden, where there were chairs for us. We sat under the trees and had our lunches in a lovely setting, old brick walls all around us, walling us inside a lovely garden. After lunch we were guided through the Fort, and given some information on its history. Since this building is also an Art Museum, we saw the current exhibit - childrens paintings from the school.

After registering in the guest register, we left the Tower, and were lead by Mrs. Sandquist to the Mills Gardens, introduced to Mrs. Peggy Mills, and to the officers and members of the Key West Garden Club, who joined us in rambling about the very beautiful gardens, which are walled in from the street and have a quality of being a separate world. The planting started 30 years ago, much of it about 25 years ago. There were so many varieties of plants that to list them would break the mind of your secretary and cause an uproar if something were left out. Besides the many kinds of palms, philodendron, caladiums, orchids in trees, lilies, begonias and anthurium, to list but a few - there were two orchid houses, one with many varieties, the other concentrated to phalaenopsis. The fascination was perhaps most of all in the design of the garden, which led from one enchantment to another, and, despite the great variety of growth, one did not feel closed in. There was always an element of surprise, and always charm and good taste. We had an unusual lucky event - a pigeon orchid, which blooms for one day only, decided to come forth that day, so we saw a lovely sight - many white sprays descending from a plant high on a wall.

The Key West Garden Club boasts some very fine cookie and candy makers. We were served an ice-cream punch, and cookies of many varieties, and some exquisitely made mints with raised, colored floral decorations. These were made by the new President, Mrs. Blow, and how she ever made such tiny, perfect flowers - well, somebody should find out. There were two designs, one a lily-of-the-valley, the other a nosegay of roses. Both were on mints the

size of a quarter, and every mint was perfect.

Mrs. Mills then proceeded to trim her garden, giving us cuttings. A photographer from the Key West citizen took pictures of our officers, with Mrs. Sandquist. There was not room to include all members of the club, so we had to be satisfied with that.

We left at about 3:00, with armfuls of cuttings, and the fine feeling of a day delightfully spent. And I hope the long drive home was as beautiful to you as it was to me.

Respectfully submitted,

Alida Tjader, Sec.