

July 15, 1958

The July regular meeting of the Upper Keys Garden Club was held at Mary Easton's home, Tavernier. There were 26 present - that includes members and guests, and two children. The children were Peggy Ely's granddaughter, and Miss Binky Tjader. The other guests - Mrs. Edmonds, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Futch, and Mrs. Jessie Boatwright. Mrs. Futch joined (after her second visit) and Jessie we welcome back again.

Minutes of the June meeting and the July 10 Directors' meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Vera Kirtley reported a balance of \$398.09. Alida Tjader, in Vera's absence, did not place the subscription money and dues money in separate funds, so we have just the total bank balance.

Committee Reports - School - Mrs. Tracy said that the main work was finished for the summer, and that she had not been able to get all yellow hibiscus, so had bought a mixture of double yellow and red. She suggested that the new trees contributed be about two feet tall, and that the donor bring wire to tie them up until they are further along in their growth. Mary Perez said she would contribute a sugar apple and a sour sop. Jessie might have a strawberry tree.

Thelma Miller volunteered to bring the plant for the plant raffle next month. Mary Perez (?) brought a Rock Melon to this one. November Entertainment - Vivian is away, so no report on progress of arrangements for the film. Gertrude again emphasized bringing unusual plants, attaching a bloom if possible when the plant is not blooming. She suggested tomato and pepper plants. Lotte suggested that if we wished to get plants from Dr. Ledin at the Homestead Experiment Station, we should explain to him that the money raised from their sale would go into the School upkeep and planting. Motion made, seconded, and passed to this effect.

Scrap Book - Gertrude Thompson suggested that when it is filled and has been seen by everyone, it should go to a hospital or mental institution. Garden Therapy has been found excellent for disturbed people, as Mrs. Shreffel, President of Southern Garden Clubs, explained to us at a former meeting. Of course we would be happy to contribute what we can to help these people to health.

Library - Flame Bird still missing. Moved, seconded and passed that we buy a new copy.

New Business - Thelma Miller said that the Public Beach, in Islamorada, back of the Coast Guard Building, was a most uninviting sight. She said she had become very wayside-park conscious since her trip to Yellowstone, and that our beaches were not up to par. In Islamorada, the grass was overgrown, litter was scattered around, and there was only one shade tree over the benches. She suggested that the Garden Club get in touch with the County and volunteer to help with the landscaping, and point out that the grass should be cut and the place generally "kept up". Gertrude suggested that we invite the Key Largo Garden Club to co-operate with us. Lotte suggested that we write a letter to the County, then send a copy of same to the Key Largo Garden Club. Peggy Ely suggested that first a group of us go to County Commissioner Harry Harris, Tavernier, and talk this over with him. Motion made, seconded and passed to do this as our first step. Group to consist of Mary Easton, Anne Baldwin, Gertrude Thompson, Francis Tracy, Peggy Ely and Alida Tjader. This group to contact Harry Harris when he returns from his vacation.

Florence Booth brought up the subject of the membership booklet, with members names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and list of officers for the year. Discussion as to have booklet printed, as was a beautiful sample shown by Addye Turner, from her garden club, or mimeographed, as Alida suggested in the interests of economy. A mimeographed sheet was considered as both unwieldy, undurable, and likely to get lost. Nicki Beare said that her Garden Club up North used a small loose-leaf notebook. The

booklets were purchased by the Club, a group of women divided the typing job, and then the booklet was sold to the members. Moved, seconded and passed to adopt this method, with Dottie B Brink, Nicki Beare, Jessie Boatwright, Nora Dickerson, Anne Baldwin and Francis Tracy to do the typing. Booklet to start next year.

Discussion was then held on the subject of hiring halls for our meetings, such as the American Legion Building or the Farmers' Market Building.. Some women cannot hold the meetings at their houses any more, because of our increased size. Alida said that hall meetings might tend to take the charm out of Garden Club meetings, plus necessitate a clean-up squad. Vera Kirtley said that, for example, her home was too small. Dottie Brink suggested that women who couldn't accomodate the garden club in their homes could act as co-hostesses with the women who could. Francis Tracy said that some of the most enjoyable former meetings had been held outdoors, when the mosquitoes were gone. Bonnie Shreffler brought up the fact that one meeting, at Mary Krome Jones's, had fifty attending, and that in the ell-shaped room and porch extension, the president could not be heard, so had to go from one side of the "ell" to the other, and repeat herself, a most confusing experience for everybody.

The tentative program for the year was read off, and since all the homes on record for the programs were of adequate size, it was decided that nothing need be done this year, anyway, and, in the height of the season next year, if necessary, we could hire or use a hall if necessary.

We had a double program. Margie Bond's scheduled talk on Childhood Experiences with plants turned out to be an excellent paper on African Violets. She said her childhood experiences with plants never got anywhere, because the animals and pets either stepped on them or dug them up the minute she tried to do anything, so she soon gave up. Marrying Dr. Bond saved her, and she went in for African Violets. Anyone who would like to raise African Violets as well as Margie does should read

her talk - it's being mimeographed.

Nicki Beare then talked about hibiscus. This subject took quite a lot of research for a good Northern gardener - as it would surely take, also, for most of the rest of us. She presented a most interesting talk, which is also being mimeographed. Through these mimeographed~~d~~ talks, we can retain much that might easily be forgotten.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and delicious iced tea and a beautiful angel cake with sherbet between layers was served. We then looked around Mary's inviting new home.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Tjader, Sec.