

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING held March 17, 1953 at the home of Mrs. Stephens.

ROLL CALL: 14 members present. Absent: 5 (1 due to illness).

MINUTES: Read and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mrs. Stephens, Treasurer, reported \$32.00 on hand.

BILLS: A bill for 54¢ was presented by the Secretary. Paid.

BUSINESS: Community improvement was briefly discussed.

TALK SUBJECT FOR THE DAY: Mrs. Easton introduced Mrs. Tucker, who held the entire group fascinated by her description of the methods, aims and results of cross-pollinating Hibiscus.

Hibiscus are termed either "Landscapeing" or "Hybred", according to the rareness and quality of the bloom.

True Hybrids, really worth while specimens, are produced in a ratio of about one to one hundred.

Pollinating is done with a camel's hair brush, placing the pollen of one flower upon the pistils of the mother plant's flower.

If successful, the seeds mature in about six weeks. They are almost the size of okra seed, and should be planted one to a pot, as they germinate very well.

Pollen is best between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. It takes one and a half years from seed to bloom. Then, if one has been exceptionally careful in selection of the parent flowers, and mostly lucky, one may have a really fine hibiscus, worthy of naming and placing on the market.

Mrs. Jaffee suggested a contest; each member try hybridizing a hibiscus and ask Mrs. Tucker to judge them in two years to select the one to be named "Key Largo". This met with favor.

Mrs. Tucker told us the Hibiscus Society of the Dade Co. Nurseryman's Association, <sup>is</sup> reached through William Hull of Hull's nursery, N.W. 24 Ave., Miami.

Mrs. Carpenter made a motion Mrs. Tucker be accepted into the Garden Club. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Carpenter offered to have the next meeting at her home where we can study hybridizing and grafting. It was suggested we come at 1:30 and do some cross pollinating before regular meeting time.

GRAFTING is best done in the summer. CUTTINGS should be the size of a pencil, ten inches to 1 foot in length, and placed two-thirds in the rooting medium. Place in the sun in summer to prevent fungus. Mrs. Tucker suggested fertilizing hibiscus every three weeks, one tablespoonfull for each foot of the plant's height. She cautioned against planting too deeply, the top roots should be at ground level.