

MEETING OF THE UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB

MARCH 20, 1956

The March meeting of the Garden Club took the form of a trip to the Fairchilds Gardens in Miami, on March 20th. A group of twenty-two members and six guests made the trip, arriving about ten-thirty. After most of us enjoyed some hot coffee, about fifteen took the Motor Tour, the others going through the Orchid House as the Tour could only accomodate about fifteen. We had a most competent and witty young man as guide which made the tour very interesting, he took us through the hundreds of exotic palms which included, to mention a few, Latania palm, blue fan palm, Christmas palm, the latter ^{with} a very colorful red seed in huge clusters, Pandanus with fruit and blossom, Ginger bread palms, date palms and many others too numerous to mention.

Among the unusual trees, of which I will mention only a few, included the shaving brush tree, ~~an~~ full bloom with its striking red shaving brush blossom and no leaves. Our guide explained to us that many of the tropical trees shed their leaves before blooming. The cottonwood tree, a native of Porta Rica, with huge yellow blooms and again no foliage, a very striking tree. Many others were equally beautiful and to go into detail would take too much time.

Unusual hibiscus and many vines from tropical countries were in profuse bloom.

From there this group went into the Orchid House, the other group just leaving and taking the Motor Tour. The unusual plants and the African violet plants made a beautiful display but when we came into the Orchid display, the Oh's and Ah's showed the appreciation of all. It is impossible to do them justice with mere words. From the Catalena's down to the smallest one which was almost impossible to see with the naked eye, all were on display. Everyone enjoyed this tour as much as the one before.

When the Orchid Tour was finished, the others were back from the Motor Tour and a delicious lunch was served on the lawn. After lunch everyone wandered around as they wished and then left for home. All agreed it was a most interesting day and a wonderful idea to visit Fairchild Gardens.