

December 21, 1954.

The regular meeting of the Upper Keys Garden Club was held at the home of the president, Florence Booth. Meeting was preceded by a covered dish luncheon.

Meeting called to order at 1:25 pm with the president reading a poem.

Minutes read and accepted.

Treasurer reported a deposit of \$79.85 with a withdrawal of \$10 for the Youth Council Community Tree. Balance of \$69.85 in bank.

President spoke of orchid show to be held the last week in February in Miami. She will secure tickets for .75 instead of regular \$1 if notified before the last Thursday in January.

Mrs. Tracy reported from Mrs. Sheffel who sent regards and offered to meet the members if they would plan a meeting in the Spice Garden or Experimental Farm in Homestead some time.

Thanks extended to Mrs. Tracy for her excellent work during the Upper Keys Lime Festival.

President read a letter of thanks from the Upper Keys Chamber of Commerce for cooperation of Garden Club during that time.

President urged that members think of some definite action during the coming year such as beautification of the highways. Discussion of what trees to use followed.

The following slate of officers were elected to serve for 1955. President, Florence Booth; Vice-President, Gertrude Holzinger; Treasurer, Mary M. Easton; Secretary, Carolyn V. Cohen; Librarian, Violet Carpenter.

Discussion of books followed,

Members exchanged plants for Christmas.

G. A. Ellis, speaker, demonstrated marcottage or air layering. He stated that this was known by the Chinese for over 2,000 years but had gained in popularity lately. He showed how a branch is girdled and cut back to the hard layer, about 1" wide. Outer layer is peeled off to the woody layer. Damp Spagnum moss is placed around cut and pliofilm held in place with elastics. Make it tight at each end. Will take from 1-2½ months for roots to form. Spring is usually best for doing this. When roots show, put into pot or ground and leave moss on it so that roots are not disturbed. Can be done with many flowers and fruit trees.

General discussion of plants. Specimen of parrot flower shown. It is fast growing and can be grown from seed, First year is critical. The Ficus can be air layered or grown from cuttings.

Mr. Ellis said that everyone, in his opinion, should have the Gliricidia--at lease one in each garden. In February and January they are a mass of lavender flowers. Also called African or Jamaica

Dogwood. In Guatemala called the rat poison tree as a rodent poison is made from it.