

1-19-73



Mrs. Bertha Bowers Puts Final Touches on One of Her Button Sets
... inaccuracy in labeling disqualifies an exhibit at button shows

Buttons 'Like Children' To Their Collectors

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18th century buttons of

By B. J. SWAN
Herald Correspondent

TAVERNIER — When button collectors get together, nobody bothers to put their names on the displays. It's not necessary.

"Of course we know our own. They're like our children."

Such a statement sounds a little incredulous for a pastime which can only appear terribly dull to the uninitiated.

AFTER ALL, a button is just something to hold the two sides of a shirt together, isn't it?

"Not so," claims the Keys' foremost expert on the subject. "Maybe nowadays that applies, but buttons used to have character."

Mrs. Russell Bowers' home contains all the evidence she needs to back up this statement, and her greatest joy is sharing her finds with others.

"Once you start collecting, it's like a pebble in a pool. You have to become a student of history, mythology, minerology.

"YOU'VE GOT to know your animals, flowers, and trees. You'll be able to distinguish between a genuine antique and a current imitation.

"Before long you'll know an abalone from a fresh water pearl. And you're a military expert through uniform buttons down through history."

In her Florida Bay home, which houses a number of interesting hobbies, this white-haired grandmother finds no day quite long enough, as she constantly categorizes her collection for displays at various state and national shows.

A tray of hallmarked silver buttons sits beside a card of assorted materials depicting various types of birds, no two alike.

YEARS AGO, craftsmen were proud of their work, and the output of the button maker was no exception. Of necessity individually produced, the tender, loving care exercised in their manufacture is easily seen on close inspection.

Buttons were made of porcelain, ceramics, wood, and rubber. Some were even carved from peach pits.

"Ancient Egyptian tombs reveal buttons of amethyst worn by the Pharaohs. Greeks and Romans wore them to fasten their flow-

ing robes. By the 14th century, gold, silver, brass and pewter were used by noblemen."

A fount of information on the historical evolution of the button, Bertha Bowers tells how covered buttons of embroidered silk were ordered for the 26 gowns in the trousseau of the then Princess Elizabeth in 1963.

BUT EVEN this was no match for Louis XIV who almost ran his country into bankruptcy ordering so many buttons for elaborate court uniforms. "Made out of precious stones set in gold," Bertha adds.

Someone named Francis I solved the unemployment problem for a while in France by having a favorite suit trimmed with 13,000 small buttons.

How does one become a collector? "In my case, my mother had been a professional dressmaker and never threw a button away. On a visit to the Indiana State Fair, I saw a button on display just like mother had in her 'accumulation.'"

Later, when living in South Bend and the wife of a Notre Dame professor, Bertha's curiosity about the origin of her mother's interesting button led her to attend a meeting of the local Button Society, which is nationwide.

SOON SHE found herself inspecting the 'accumulation' back home more carefully. "Help yourself," I was told, and I was hooked," she says laughingly.

Her largest button is in the shape and size of a silver teacup. These 'money buttons' were worn hanging off the belt of Dutch sailors a century or so ago, and indicated the financial solvency of the wearer.

An ample library of books on the subject assures Mrs. Bowers of complete accuracy in classifying illustrations depicted. "A cupid must have wings, or he's a cherub. Minerva wears a distinctive type of headgear, or she's some other goddess."

Any inaccuracy disqualifies an entry at shows held by the various button societies. To win is hardly lucrative — a few dollars mean a lot less than the ribbon. Bertha has dozens of these.

Now widowed, she travels whenever she can and finds collectors everywhere. "Next year I hope to go to Japan, where there's a lady I'm anxious to meet."

CLARICE PARKER & JOHN CALE

MARRIED

1-23-73



Photo by George Wielander

CLARICE PARKER & JOHN CALE MARRIED

A lovely but refreshingly simple wedding on February 17th at 11 AM was performed at the Matecumbe United Methodist Church by Rev. William Heslop, he joined together in Holy Wedlock Miss Clarice Parker of Seven Acres and Mr. John Cale of Venetian Shores.

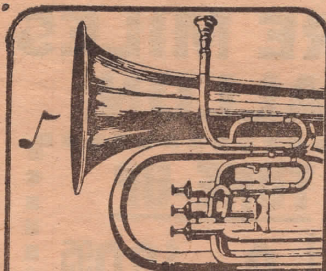
The church was a flower garden of colors, chrysanthmums, gladioli, and carnations with green foliage and the bride looked beautiful as she stood at the altar in her orchid pink imported French Lace, lined in silk princess style wedding dress with a lovely corsage of orchids. Miss Parker was escorted down the isle by her brother-in-law, Dr. J. L. Anderson, her sister Mrs. James L. Anderson played the organ and the Wedding March for her sister. Dr. Sam Mooror of Tallahassee played the trumpet solo. The best man for Mr. Cale was his brother-in-law Dr. Donald Gerdes of Ashville, N.C.

There was a wedding candlelight reception-luncheon in the upper dining room of the Coral Grill in Islamorada. Host and hostess were Dr. & Mrs. James L. Anderson of Sevenacres.

The out of town guests were: Dr. and Mrs. Donald Gerdes of Ashville, N.C., Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Parker, Sr. of Pensacola, Fla. Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Parker of Tallahassee, Fla. Dr. and Mrs. Sam Mooror, Tallahassee, Fla., Judge and Mrs. J. Gwynn Parker and daughter Margaret Parker of Coral Gables, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beville of Coral Gables, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Park, Coconut Grove, Gen. and Mrs. Robert Aye Ballard of Goulds and Mr. and Mrs. David Sidella of Coconut Grove.

The bride and groom are honeymooning in Guatemala.

3-14-74



UPPER KEYS KEYNOTES

By JAN HELMLE

Officers of Upper Keys Garden Club will be installed when the club meets at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Francis Tracy Carden Center, Tavernier. The ceremony will be conducted by Mrs. Ivan Taylor assisted by Mrs. Arthur Gasser.

The program will be a demonstration of flower arranging by Mrs. John Petrosi. She has won many awards and ribbons at standard flower shows including the Tri-Color award at this club's show.

Dessert will be served by hostesses Miss Mae Becker and Mrs. Gladys Cordes co-chairmen, also Mrs. Mary Lou Griffin, Mrs. Joy Fegrues and Mrs. Alice Eckhardt.

Reports on d

By JAN HELMLE

UPPER KEYS — "One third of the patients treated in Keys Community Hospital Emergency Room during the month of December have not yet paid the bill," said James

Seppala, hospital administrator, in a monthly report on emergency room status to the Keys Community Hospital Foundation Inc. meeting recently.

Of 284 patients seen in

Graphology expert will speak to UK garden club

By JAN HELMLE

UPPER KEYS — What those loops, squiggles, crossed "T's" and dotted "I's" tell about your personality will be revealed when Mrs. Frederic F. Shoup, handwriting analyst, speaks to the Upper Keys Garden Club Tuesday. The 1:30 p.m. meeting will be in Frances Tracy Garden Center.

nominating committee will report. Mrs. Richard Snyder is chairman, and Mrs. S.B. Griscom and Mrs. Adelaide Hodges served with her. Nominations from the floor will be called for, and election will follow.

Installation is scheduled for the Mar. 20 meeting.

A winter resident of Islamorada, the New Jersey expert became interested in graphology after World War II to try to discover the reason for many college drop-outs. She studied with the international authority, Dr. Irene Marcuse, in the 1940s.

The speaker will answer questions from the audience

After the program the



Society Page

Connie Gibbs



DR. FRED BOND, IN CENTER CHATS WITH MR. MILLARD WELLS ON THE LEFT AND MR. JOHN CALE TO THE RIGHT AT THE GARDEN CLUB FASHION SHOW

GARDEN CLUB

HAS FASHION SHOW

Mrs. Robert (Stella) Wittmann of Venetian Shores was the General Chairman for the beautiful Luncheon & Fashion Show put on at the Cheeca Lodge last Friday, February 9th. The committee and hostesses were: Mrs. Arthur (Arlene) Rieser, Mrs. Ernest (Eleanor) Fredericks, Mrs. Fred (Martha) Flan-Caswell. The decorations and door-prize committee was: Mrs. Clarice Parker, President of the Garden Club; Mrs. Dee Castor, Mrs. Sam (Margaret) Griscom and Mrs. John (Shirley) Petrossi. As we walked into the big blue dining room at the Cheeca's Top of the Keys it was beautiful to lookout over the ocean and see the sun dancing on the sparkling water and hear the lovely music from the piano played by Mrs. James (Eunice) Anderson who is also President of Coconut Grove Women's Club and the sister of Mrs. Clarice Parker Dr. and Mrs. James Anderson also have a home at Seven Acres, Key Largo.

Mrs. Lee (Jackie) Stahl, Mrs. Kenneth (Dorothy) Runde and Mrs. Marie Kohler were with us and as we took our seats we noticed in the crowded dining room several friends and neighbors at the other tables. Some of them were: Mrs. Jo Small, Mrs. Beth Van Allen, Mrs. Doris Crider all of Key Largo and their guest Mrs. Alice Earle of Wilton, Conn. At another table sat Mrs. Martie McKenney of the Theatre of the Sea with her guest Mrs. Jay Rigdon, Sr. of Lake Wawasee, Indiana, Mrs. Merope Sphaellos and Mrs. Lee Lumos of Lower Matecumbe. Seated nearby was Mr. and Mrs. Edwin (Flo) Livingston, Mrs. Betty Allen and Mrs. Mary Patrick and Mr. Joe Moffett friends of Mrs. Marge Toner of Toll-Gate in Matecumbe. Mrs. Toner also provided musical portions of the program with the help of Mr. Danny Steele. She did a beautiful Ceremonial Hula in a long Muu-Muu dress in shades of blue, mauve, pink and navy on a white background, a pink lei and hawaiian beads with a hibiscus flower over her left ear. Lovely Hula Hands faded away and Mrs. Wittman took the mike to introduce the beautiful spring Fashion Show.

The models were delightfully good and showed off the spring line of the Sand Dollar to perfection. Then three male models first - Dr. Fred Bond, looking very young and straight in a yellow coat and grey and white striped mod slacks. He was



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Mrs. Mary Skedman and Mrs. Ruth Hoff, with Mrs. Helen Barker all very capable ladies were behind the scenes helping the models get in and out of their clothes. Models were: Mrs. Candy Cosuth, Doris Clark, Ruth Hoff, Janice St. Croix, Shirley Strumer, Shirley Ulrich, Barbara Barnes, Gloria Sandrey, Mary Ann Brandie and Linda Keever. Teenage models were: Miss Nancy Barnes and Miss Mitzie Sandrey and 3 and 6 year old Andrea and Leslie Brandie.

Many wonderful door prizes were given out and the head table was decorated with little baskets of marigolds and other flowers donated by Plantation Key Flower Shop. It was a beautifully organized and well thought out affair that took loads of work and the results must have been rewarding to all the gals who helped make the fashion show and luncheon a success.



MS. MARGE TONER DANCING "LOVELY HULA HANDS" AT FRANCES TRACY GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON

MS. LINDA KEEVER MODELING SWIM SUIT AT FEB. 9TH GARDEN CLUB & FASHION SHOW AT CHEECA LODGE

Chronicle is speaker's subject

By JAN HELMLE

Of special interest to the many new members of Upper Keys Garden Club, most of whom are newcomers to the Keys, will be Mrs. Arthur Gasser's chronicle of the club's history. She is guest speaker at the meeting set for 1:30 p.m. April 16, in Francis Tracy Garden Center, U.S. Highway 1 at Mile Marker 94.

Originally from Long Island, N.Y., Millie Gasser has lived in a bay-front home on Lower Matecumbe for many years. It was largely through her efforts when she was club president that the Garden Center was built.

Hostesses who will serve dessert and coffee before the meeting are Mrs. H.R. Wedemeyer, chairman, assisted by Mrs. G.A. Ellis, Mrs. William R. Crise, and Mrs. Leo Lipps.

Standing committee members announced by Mrs. Francis Stedman, president, include Mrs. Robert Roselle, membership; Mrs. Howard Gibbs and Mrs. Jan Helmle, publicity; Mrs. Dick McRae, program; Mrs. Frances Mulenhoff, hospitality; Mrs. Robert Barker, ways and means and special projects; Mrs. Vivian Gross, Mrs. Ken Runde and Mrs. Barker, parliamentarians; Mrs. Gene Simmons and Mrs. Adelaide Simmons, library; Mrs. Virginia Burgess, chaplain; Mrs. John Calé, civic, environmental and beautification; Bob Barker, Joe Visser, Bud Stedman, Frank Hodges, Robert Roselle, Dick McRae, gardens and grounds; Mrs. Beth VanAllen, house and card games; Mrs. Warren Small, Louise Weber and Mrs. Alice Anderson, store room; Mrs. Sam Oliver, telephone; Mrs. Frank Birch and Mrs. Burgess, junior garden club; Mrs. Alexander Sprunt IV, conserva-

tion and wildlife; Mrs. Arthur Gasser, awards; Mrs. Fred Flancher, workshop; Mrs. Louise Luppold, scrapbook.

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Garden club to hold plant contest

By JAN HELMLE

They're planning a plant contest!

Everybody who attends the March 19th meeting of Upper Keys Garden Club at Francis Tracy Garden Center

is requested to bring her favorite plant . . . flowering or foliage. Prizes will be awarded to persons whose plants are chosen best by popular vote.

Festivities will start with a covered dish luncheon at

noon. Executive Board members will be hostesses and will provide all beverages.

There will be no business meeting.

Standing committee members announced by the president, Mrs. Francis Stedman, include Mrs. G. R. McRae, membership; Mrs. Herman Garden, publicity; Mrs. S. B. Griscom, program; Mrs. H. E. Hoff and Mrs. Sally Williford, hospitality; Mrs. Peggy Myrick, Mrs. Lee Stahl and Mrs. Shirley Uherek, Ways and Means and Special projects; Mrs. A. H. Gross, Mrs. Robert Barker and Mrs. Ken Runde, parliamentarians; Mrs. Gene Simmons and Mrs. Ralph Rozel, librarians; Mrs. May Wallace, chaplain; Mrs. Ross Turner, sunshine; Mrs. John Cale, civic and beautification; Mrs. Dwight Caswell, garden; Mrs. Beth VanAllen, card games; Mrs. Louise Weber, Mrs. Corine Small, Mrs. Robert Barker and Mrs. Everett Anderson, house-keeping and storeroom; Mrs. Margaret Noe and Mrs. Richard Snyder, telephone; Miss Betty Drugich and Mrs. Gerry Ellis, junior gardening, conservation, wildlife and awards.

The Wednesday card games will continue throughout the summer months. They start at noon in the Garden Center.

7-12-73

Upper Keys

Key Notes

By JAN HELMLE

Facts for consumers will be discussed by Mrs. Katie Pratt when members of the Upper Keys Garden Club meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, in Francis Tracy Garden Center, Tavernier.

Mrs. Pratt is a Consumer Education Specialist in the Bureau of Information Services of the Florida Dept. of Agriculture. She was appointed by Doyle Conner, State Commissioner of Agriculture, to concentrate on communicating with women's organizations.

She is a past president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, is listed in Who's Who of American Women and this year was named an Outstanding Floridian. She has served on boards of many charitable organizations. From Tallahassee, she received both her bachelors and masters degrees at Florida State University.

Hostesses will be Mrs. Richard Bray, Mrs. Jessie Boatwright and Mrs. Lillian Headlam.

E. M. Townsend

Eleanor M. Townsend, 68, of Islamorada, passed away in a Miami nursing home on June 25. She had been a Keys resident for 15 years moving from New York.

Mrs. Townsend was a member of the Upper Keys Garden Club, Izaak Walton League, and the Matecumbe Methodist Church.

6-28-73
She is survived by one son, Clinton of Canaan, Me.; one brother, George McNeely of Shreveport, La.; two sisters, Mrs. Emily Vermeule of Cambridge, Mass., and Mrs. Eleanor Chassom of New York City, N.Y.; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at the Matecumbe Methodist Church, Islamorada with the Rev. William Heslop officiating.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Branam Funeral Home, Homestead.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Cancer Society or any other charitable organization.

Upper Keys Garden Club
Report of the Nominating Committee

February 20, 1973

President	Mary Stedman
1st Vice President	Peggy Myrick
2nd " "	Ellie Mc Rae
Rec. Secy	Adelaide Hodges
Corres. Secy	Frances Mullenhoff
Treasurer	Thelma Page

Directors

Edith Garden
Betty Drugich
Beth Van Allen
Margaret Griscom
Martha Flancker

Respectfully Submitted

Hilda Snyder, Chairman
Margaret Griscom
Adelaide Hodges