

October 21, 1958

Blueberry Hill Key was the setting for this all-day Flower Arrangement Class. Hazel Culley was co-hostessed by Helen Brunton, and made a beautiful job of the covered dish luncheon. There were 24 members present, and two guests - Mrs. Carl Sheffel, one of the originators of the Garden Club, and a friend of hers. Mrs. Charles Dean came as a new member. Towards the end of the class, Mrs. Sheffel said that she had attended many, many classes of this type, and never ~~had she even~~ a better one. Mrs. Sheffel is President of the South Florida Garden Clubs.

Mr. ^{John} McLean, of Homestead Floral and Gift Shop, gave the lecture-demonstration. He avoided Hogarth Curves, Linear Design, and all such terms, and simply showed us the newer professional methods of arranging flowers for all sorts of occasions. He produced many types of arrangements from his own materials, and then made arrangements with materials brought by the members. He worked very quickly, but every step was clearly explained.

First he introduced us to the newer "holding materials", for both wet and dry arrangements. He used a styro-foam type of material, and for the dry arrangements, simply cut it to the size necessary for the container, and stuck in his material. The finished arrangements held in place when tipped or shaken. He introduced an artificial accessory, "berry branches", which are plastic and very effective with autumn arrangements, and have the advantage of being permanent. He also used treated leaves.

He also made some loose arrangements, using fall fruits, pumpkin, and dried grasses. And arrangements around candles, using a few pandanus leaves.

For the wet arrangements, he used mostly ^{oasis} ~~soaked styro foam type material~~ for a base. Also used was something similar, crumbled, and vermiculite. And needle-point, and a sort of clay. Hairpins were used to hold leaves to a desired curl in some instances.

Appropriate accessories were worked into the design, such as beer cans for a holiday party. One arrangement of lavender ^{mums} ~~asters~~ with philodendron and other foliage, was accented by a "tree-stick"

pinned with cocktail onions. Jumbo ripe and green olives were on another tree stick at the base. This was a rather solemn arrangement, and strangely enough, these additions were beautiful as well as "conversation pieces".

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~~Lest this~~ ^{become} too lengthy, I shall not ^{attempt to} describe all the arrangements. ^{Mr. Melcan} He made a great many, both from his own materials, and from those we had brought with us. Suffice it to say that with a good and appropriate holding material, and the use of any of the purchasable accessories, we should be able to make professional-looking flower arrangements for all types of occasions, using what we have on our own or our neighbor's grounds.

Due to this fascinating class, and the delicious covered dish luncheon, we did not have a business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Alida Tjader

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