

August 17, 1954

The regular meeting of the Key Largo Garden Club was held on Mary Clarke's Beach with 10 members and 1 guest present.

Mrs. Booth read a poem "How to Be Happy".
Secretary's report was read and accepted.
Treasurer's report was read and Eunice reported that we have \$76.70 plus \$12 in a special fund for a gift for Mrs. Sheffel. She is holding this before securing a merchandise certificate until she has a proper card to send with it.

Cards were prepared for Bess Sabin and Henry Grant who are ill. A card will be prepared for Marie Shope.

Mrs. Booth announced that the December meeting at her home will be a covered dish luncheon and Christmas party.

Lotte Uhe brought seeds of Dutchmans Pipe and Fire Cracker bush.

One new member, Mrs. Mary Crawford, was welcomed.

Questions from members were written and Mrs. Tracy answered them as follows:

- Q- How soon will cocoanut palms bear after planting from the nut?
A- This depends on care, water and fertilization. It is better not to dynamite for them if it can be avoided. They will sprout in from 4 months to 1 year. To sprout keep them damp, use seaweed. When not more than 1 foot high plant them, not too deep. Roots like to go into the rock and they seem to derive nourishment from the rock. They bear in about 6 years.
- Q- How do you start a Geiger tree?
A.- From seeds or shoots
- Q- How do you grow a Dutchmans plant?
A- Very easy-plenty of sun-give it a place to grow on as it is a vine
- Q- When should you plant peanuts down here?
A- Plant any time; hill them; you should get 2-3 crops per year.
- Q- How do you grow pineapples
A- Discussion of pineapple industry here some years ago. Fertilize in the center with 1 teaspoon twice a year.
- Q- Is seaweed good for hibiscus?
A- Yes, wash it and it should be not too dry. A little salt is all right for it. This led to discussion of seaweed for other plants including tomatoes for which it is excellent.
- Q- What plants should not have seaweed put on them?
A- Any plants except the delicate ones.
- Q- Can poincianas be cut back underneath?
A- Yes, anytime is all right for this
- Q- When should you cut poinsettias back the last time.
A- First of September. Shorty offered cuts of the "fire ball"
- Carolyn said that Mrs. Ely has some fine young Key Lime trees if anyone wants them.
- Discussion of sea grapes and how to pick them.
- Q- What to use on bougainvillea for the bugs?
A- DDT and arsenate of lead and lime solution sprayed on them.
- Q- Do you trim the orchid tree(buhinia)?
A- Not yet-nip the tops and if light stake it.
- Q- What can I do for a spider web on begonia?
A- This might be the red spider which is serious. Use DDT and also cut off affected parts.