

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Twentieth Century Garden Clubs of Indian Hill

The twentieth century was a time of change and growth in Indian Hill. Families moved from the city to the country settlement known as Camargo. New friendships were formed, and new hobbies were pursued in the rural community.

In 1921 Mrs. Robert (Agnes) Sattler invited her neighbors to tea, for the purpose of creating a garden club. Eight guests attended, and all the ladies were delighted with this idea. Thus the Indian Hill Garden Club was established. Its primary objective was to improve the beauty of the Indian Hill area. The next year, the group started a Country Market where they sold vegetables, fruits, jellies, dairy products, and baked goods. It was highly successful, though it was discontinued in the 1930s. It later was reinstituted and currently is one of the hallmark traditions of the Indian Hill Garden Club. The club also participated in shows, exhibits and developing an awareness of local ecological concerns.

In March 1944, sixteen ladies founded the Village Garden Club. The club's first project was beautification of the area at the Administration Building. As Indian Hill grew, road signs denoting the approaches to the community were necessary. The Village Garden Club paid for 7 wooden signs which were installed on the perimeter roads of the Village. As the years went by, all 27 entrances to Indian Hill were marked with signs donated by the club. Members provided funds for or planted many landscapes at Indian Hill landmarks and partook in numerous other beautification projects. They also were active in flower shows and were stewards of the environment.

Next was the Dirt Daubers of Indian Hill, which started in 1954. For more than 65 years, the Dirt Daubers have engaged in learning about gardening and participating in community improvements. Members have heard speakers on many topics – from flower arranging to herbs and vegetables to tips for keeping deer away. They have taken field trips for educational purposes. Every year they hold a plant auction to raise funds for designated civic tasks. Members sell the bounty of their gardens to other members, creating a legacy of shared horticulture.



*IH Garden Club Country Market at
Jefferson School yard.*

Also, in the 1950 three additional garden clubs were established. The Clippinger Woods Garden Club began in 1957, and its membership was limited to ladies living south of Shawnee Run Road in the South Clippinger development. In 1958 neighbors of the north side of Shawnee Run created the Clippelo Garden Club for those living on North Clippinger Drive. And the Indian Acres Garden Club began in 1959. Clippelo Garden Club stopped meeting in 1975; Clippinger Wood Garden Club ceased in 1999; and Indian Acres disbanded in 2001.

During the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, life was different. When garden clubs were started, most women were homemakers while their husbands worked. Wives were eager to beautify their landscapes and make friends in newly established neighborhoods. Women enjoyed domesticity, decorating their homes, and cooking meals for family and friends. Garden clubs provided an opportunity to support the cause of home gardening during a period of massive suburban expansion. It was the golden age of garden clubs.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, lifestyles have changed. Many women have full time careers. Their children participate in numerous organized sports and need to be transported. Meals are sandwiched between scheduled events. People who might have been interested in joining a garden club decades ago now often use a landscaping company. Life moves at a faster pace. Of the six twentieth century garden clubs within Indian Hill, only three remain. There are many reasons for the demise of some of these local garden clubs, and they involve generational societal dynamics. The three existing clubs have adapted to changing lifestyles. They continue to make a difference in Indian Hill and the larger community.

