

McLean County Museum of History

Bloomington-Normal Garden Club Collection

Processed by
Mary Alice Wills
Spring 2014

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1931 - 1981
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

The Bloomington-Normal Garden Club was formed in 1931, originally part of the Art Association. Its purpose was to enable members to share their interests in gardening and nature preservation with others. The club met on the first Tuesday of every month except August; held special dinner meetings in December and June; plus held a summer picnic every July. The Garden Club's membership doubled from 100 to about 200 members during the war years of 1943 to 1945. As of 1981, the club's original annual dues of \$2 had remained the same.

At meetings a speaker gave a presentation, with the topics ranging from "Flower Arrangements" to "Insect and Fungus Control" to "Scenic Arizona." Yearly elections were held for the offices of president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer. Committees were in charge of membership, programs, hospitality, and all functions/projects. The club also administered a Junior Garden Club and Junior Garden Show for elementary and junior high school students.

Scope

Materials include the club's history and by-laws; minutes from April 4, 1944 to May 3, 1960; newspaper clippings and obituaries of past presidents. Postcard correspondence of monthly meetings as well as letters from various people and organizations are also included in the collection.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: History, By-laws, Committees, Programs

- 1.1 "Bloomington and Normal Garden Club," Constitution and By-Laws Booklet Revised 1953, Organized 1931, (2 copies).
- 1.2 Bloomington Normal Garden Club, Statement of Receipts & Disbursements, March 1944.
- 1.3 Bloomington-Normal Garden Club receipts, expenses, August, 1956.
- 1.4 Treasurer's report, February 1, 1958.
- 1.5 "A Brief History of the Bloomington-Normal Art Association," January, 1966.
- 1.6 "Constitution and By-Laws, Bloomington-Normal Garden Club,"
- 1.7 Nominating committee presents slate officers for 1960-1961.
- 1.8 Nominating committee presents slate officers for 1962-1963.
- 1.9 Nominating committee presents slate officers for 1963-1964.
- 1.10 List of 5 committees with 5 or 6 names under each heading.

- 1.11 Sample various messages/info on postcards sent to members, (38).
- 1.12 Garden Club program suggestion form.
- 1.13 Bloomington-Normal Garden Club Programs 1962-1963 & 1963-1964 (2).
- 1.14 Earlier collection finding aid, May 2002, processed by David G. Grove.

Folder 2: Organization Correspondence

- 2.1 To Mrs. Leasch from Mrs. L. Thorpe Warren, Flower Show Chairman The Garden Club of Illinois, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, April 25, 1948, appreciation of support
- 2.2 The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, May, 1948.
- 2.3 The Morton Arboretum, Spring Program for 1948, 3 pages.
- 2.4 The Morton Arboretum, Spring Program for 1949, 3 pages, with envelope.
- 2.5 To Garden Club President and Members from The Garden Club of Illinois, Inc., cover letter, February 21, 1950, signed by Mrs. A.O. Figge, President and General Chairman, regarding Program of Houses, Gardens, and Farms in May, 1950, and 3 page program, with envelope.
- 2.6 To Mr. Thos. J. Lancaster, President, from The Garden Club of Illinois, Inc., January 18, 1954, from Mrs. John Jones Sharon, President, regarding annual dues to National Council.
- 2.7 To Mr. Thos. J. Lancaster, President, from The Garden Club of Illinois, Inc., February 18, 1954, from Mrs. John Jones Sharon, President, acknowledging receipt of \$50.00 per capita dues.
- 2.8 The Garden Club of Illinois proposed Amendments to By-Laws, April 12, 1954, 2 sets of stapled sheets (6 pages).
- 2.9 The Garden Club of Illinois, Inc., "...BULLETIN TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS," 2 pages.
- 2.10 "The National Council of State Garden Clubs ... Its Function and Funds," newsletter (2 copies).

Folder 3: Newspaper Articles, 1888 – 1953

Pantagraph, unless noted.

- 3.1 "Art Associations," March 14, 1888, p. 3.
- 3.2 "Mrs. Bach Is Director," with photo, April 25, 1934, p. 7.
- 3.3 "Board Plans Made Known," with 3 photos, October 7, 1934, p. 7.
- 3.4 "Officers Elected for Bloomington and Normal Garden Club," with 5 photos, February 5, 1936.
- 3.5 "Garden Club Elects Mrs. E. O. Brown," with 5 photos, February 2, 1938, p. 9.
- 3.6 "Mrs. Morath Garden Club President," with photo, February 8, 1939, p. 14.
- 3.7 "Art Association Charter Discovered: Granted by State on March 12, 1888," with photo, March 25, 1939, p. 7.
- 3.8 "Mrs. Roland Read Is President For New Garden Club Season," with photo, March 5, 1941, p. 6.
- 3.9 "Club to Mark 14th Birthday," with photo, December 31, 1944, p. 11.
- 3.10 'Hudelson Is Named Garden Club Head,' with photo, March 7, 1945, p. 7.
- 3.11 "Miss Marquis Dies After Long Illness," with photo, May 4, 1948, p. 3.

- 3.12 "Art Association Growing," September 25, 1949, p. 2.
- 3.13 Photo of Miss Biddle, Lewis Sohn, Ivan Thompson, floral arrangement, May 9, 1950, p. 7.
- 3.14 "'The Fall landscape' Garden Club Theme," October, 1953.
- 3.15 "Program on Hardy Mums for Garden Club Outing," November 1, 1953.
- 3.16 "Art of Flower Arrangements Garden Club Feature," 4 photos, "Biddle-isms Of Flower Arrangement, May 9, 1950, p. 7.
- 3.17 "Bird Study Youth's Hobby," with photo, February 6, 1952.
- 3.18 "Discussion of Rose Culture for Garden Club Members," with 4 photos, March 7, 1956.
- 3.19 "A Chicago Christmas Show," with 6 photos, "Table, Door, Arrangement Ideas Displayed," December 2, 1953, p. 10. (2nd page included with item below).
- 3.20 "Yule Tables To Sparkle At Garden Club Party," November 29, 1953.

Folder 4: Newspaper Articles, 1954 – 1981

Pantagraph, unless noted

- 4.1 Photos of the Bloomington-Normal Garden Club Christmas party, December 9, 1953, 3 photos with members and various table settings.
- 4.2 "Sea, Shore in Color Garden Club Offering," January 3, 1954.
- 4.3 "Garden Club Schedules African Violet Authority," April 4, 1954.
- 4.4 "Mrs. Bach 81, Garden Group Member Dies," April 2, 1954, p. 3.
- 4.5 "Garden Club Ways of Co??" incomplete title, January 31, 1954,
- 4.6 "Garden Club To See 'Living Earth' Films," January 2, 1955.
- 4.7 "Garden Club Panel Shares Discoveries," September 17, 1953.
- 4.8 "Tree Expert To Open Garden Club Programs," October 3, 1954.
- 4.9 "Garden Club Reveals Decorators of Tables," December 5, 1954, p.26.
- 4.10 "Garden Club To Dress 14 tables for Party," June 5, 1955.
- 4.11 "These Are Included in Gardens on View Today," 5 photos, with article, "Annual 'Walk' Includes Yards At 29 Homes," May 23, 1954, 2 pages.
- 4.12 "Garden Clubbers To See Films Of Caribbean Cruise," 1954.
- 4.13 "Landscape Architect Speaks Here Tuesday," 1956.
- 4.14 "Garden Club To Take Look at Conservation," February 3, 1957.
- 4.15 "Club Recalls First 25 Years," May 23, 1956, p. 11.
- 4.16 "Mrs. George Parker", obit, May 4, 1957, p. 2.
- 4.17 "Fresh Strawberries Make a Party Table," June 11, 1961.
- 4.18 "Garden Club To See Fall Arrangements," November 5, 1961.
- 4.19 "Garden Club To See films Of Britain, September 3, 1961.
- 4.20 "Unusual Arrangements For Garden Club Party," December, 1961.
- 4.21 "Members To Decorate Garden Club Tables," December 2, 1962.
- 4.22 "Gardeners Get Tips On Repotting Plants," October 2, 1962.
- 4.23 "Garden Club Opener by Funk, Wilcox," 1962-1963.
- 4.24 "Garden Club to Hear Of Mums, Peonies," and "Chicago Flower Show Theme the 7 Arts," February 3, 1963.
- 4.25 "Bird Land," includes 10 photos, February, 1963.
- 4.26 "Mrs. Medbery To Start Garden Club Year," August 25, 1963, p. 25.

- 4.27 Photo of Mrs. Harold Medbery, Dr. Marjory Carlson, and Dr. Donald Ries, of ISNU, June, 1963.
- 4.28 "Aspirin Does Little For Flower Life," May, 1964.
- 4.29 "Garden Club Elects Mrs. Lauher President," June 4, 1964.
- 4.30 "Harry G. Johnson dies at age of 86," June 22, 1977, p. AB.
- 4.31 "Garden Club plans 50th anniversary," May 24, 1981, p. D4.
- 4.32 "Illinois Garden Clubbe To See Arrangements," no date.
- 4.33 "Christmas Dinner Party Dec. 8 for Garden Club," no date.
- 4.34 "Williamsburg Evening Awaits Garden Club," with Mrs. Louise Fisher photo, no date.
- 4.35 "Garden Club Features Members in Panel," no date.
- 4.36 "Bach Gardens Garden Club's Picnic Site," no date.
- 4.37 "Wild Flowers Birds Theme Of Garden Club," no date.
- 4.38 "Gardening Authority Will Speak Here," with Victor Ries photo, no date.
- 4.39 "Program on Birds for Garden Club," no date.
- 4.40 "Garden Club Program On Saving the Soil," no date.
- 4.41 "Roses, Pretty Tables Garden Party Theme," no date.

Folder 5: Rose Show Programs

- 5.1 "Second Annual ROSE SHOW," June 7, 1959, 32 pages.
- 5.2 "THIRD ANNUAL ROSE SHOW," September 18, 1960, 14 pages.

Folder 6: Correspondence

- 6.1 To Mrs. Harry G. Johnson from Kathleen G. White, Chairman, The Garden Club of Barrington, with envelope postmarked March 3, 1948.
- 6.2 To Mrs. F. M. Raisbech, Sec. from Mrs. Earl C. Phillips, Pres., with envelope, November 10, 1949.
- 6.3 To Mr. Harry G. Johnson from Mary D. Hardin, March 27, 1950, with envelope, note, and "The Lake Forest Garden Club" spring program.
- 6.4 To Mr. and Mrs. Lauher from Isabel Basting, thank you note, July 27, 1959.
- 6.5 To The Bloomington-Normal Garden Club (Mrs. Ruth Tideman) from The American National Red Cross USAF Hospital -Chanute AFB, Illinois, signed by Miss Judith W. Milan, Recreation Worker, thank you note, January 24, 1963.
- 6.6 To Mrs. Herman Tiedeman, Garden Club, From Town of Normal, Parks and Recreation, signed by Gladys T. Lantz, Chairman and Gordon B. Jaeger, Superintendent, appeal for park development, August 16, 1963.
- 6.7 Undated thank you note, with envelope, to the Bloomington-Normal Garden Club from Harry and Frances Johnson.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous

- 7.1 Card certifying 1958-59 membership of Bloomington-Normal Garden Club in the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden, Inc. Foundation.
- 7.2 Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation brochure and membership application.

- 7.3 Brochure and Order Blank for calendars and Christmas cards with floral and nature illustrations, 2 items.
- 7.4 The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden, Springfield, Illinois, 2 page brochure.
- 7.5 "Garden Glories,' Garden Club of Illinois, July-August 1959, Annual Report and coming events 20 pages.
- 7.6 To Mrs. Harry G Johnson, brochure and order blank for Handmade Copper and Flower Accessories by Roberta Henderson.
- 7.7 "Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Lauher Welcome You To 'Thorny Acres' Which Features -," sheet describing extensive clearing, damming of a stream, landscaping and plantings, as well as the eventual house.
- 7.8 Acme Roofing & Sheetmetal Co., 3 x 5 scratch paper describing an individual table setting and name of person on each sheet, Tables 1954, 22 pages.
- 7.9 ½ 8 x 11 handwritten sheet, unrelated items regarding a Chicago bus trip, spring and fall planting, fertilizing.
- 7.10 8 x 11 handwritten both sides regarding unrelated items about flowers, soil and birds.
- 7.11 Empty envelope, Barton – Cotton, Inc. 1102-28 North Chester Street, Baltimore 13, Maryland.
- 7.12 May 31, 2002, Bloomington and Normal Garden Club Records, 1931-1981, finders aid, 3 pages.

Folder 8: Bloomington-Normal Garden Club Minutes

- 8.1 Bloomington-Normal Garden Club minutes 1944 – 1949, includes newspaper articles, 150 pages.
- 8.2 Bloomington-Normal Garden Club minutes November, 1949 – December 2, 1959, includes newspaper articles, 148 pages.
- 8.3 Bloomington-Normal Garden Club minutes, July 3, 1960, 1 page.