

December

December Ninth

Group III

Mrs. Kowalski, Chairman

"Demonstration of Pruning and Planting" - Wash. Storm Jr.
Premont-Alice, Texas

Holiday Table

Mrs. A. L. Kleberg
Mrs. Allen Smith

Sale of Roses and Trees - Civic Committee

43
If found
please return
to - Mrs Frank C.
Johnson. Thanks.

TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
MAINTENANCE PROJECT

PLANS FOR PROPOSED ROADSIDE PLANTING
KLEBERG COUNTY - U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 77
NORTH & SOUTH APPROACH OF KINGSVILLE

NET LENGTH OF PROJECT = 23,200 FT. = 4.393 MI.
LAYOUT SCALE: 1 IN. = 200 FT.

DATE: DECEMBER 1949.

SHEET NO. 1

Let's Plant More Trees

By MRS. MAY H. DICKENS

(Continued from Last Week)

The Anachuita or Nockahuita Named by Indians of Mexico

This tree bears constantly lovely crepey white blossoms with yellow centers. The leaves are larger with a softer green than those of the Anacua. The fruit is olive-shaped and a greenish white. The Indians used the fruit to make a syrup which has medicinal properties for pulmonary troubles. This tree alternated with the Retama in plantings on either side of an arid stretch of highway makes a unique and pleasing stretch of beautification.

Tepe-wan-hee

The Tepeguaje or Tepehuaje—A Rare Species Indigenous to the Lower Rio Grande

This tree, one of the many varieties of the acacias, bears its original Indian name. It has fern-like leaves and delicate creamy puff-ball flowers. It is a tree of very rapid growth and quickly attains great height as well as spread. It should be frequently pruned if used in a small space or near the house. Its wood is both very brittle and very soft, therefore its limbs are easily broken by strong winds, and worse than that, it is an easy mark for that great semi-tropical tree pest commonly known as the "girdler."

Ray-Tah-mah

The Retama Makes a Shower of Gold

It was probably introduced into Mexico from the Orient as one name given it is Jerusalem-thorn, but has spread through a large part of Texas from the Mexican border. A Spanish name is palo verde (green timber) because of its green trunk and branches.

It forms a spiny shrub above the subtropical belt but reaches a height and size that requires frequent pruning and even topping after it becomes rangy and ragged in appearance.

The leaves are most unusual being long graceful green spines edged

on either side with pencil-like leaflets small and delicate enough to look like faggoting. The flowers are five yellow petals almost equal. One bears a honey gland at its base and soon becomes red. The flowers diffuse a delicate perfume. The beans from which the name "horsebean" has been applied to the tree by the unimaginative, cause much litter around the tree. And so do the green leaves which turn a dull tan color as they shed from the limbs.

o-Fo-rah

The Sophora, Texas Mountain Laurel, Mescal Bean or "Big Drunk"

The flowers look somewhat like wisteria shading from lavender to violet and deep purple. In the lower Rio Grande where the shrub becomes a full sized tree there is a folk tale which says that he who sits under the tree long enough falls asleep and never wakes up.

The scent of the flowers in a room is almost overpowering, but out in the open the tree in full flower is a thing of rare beauty. The leaves are a rich glossy green and the tree or shrub is symmetrical in its form. The beans are a rich red and very hard.

The shrub though lovely is fast being exterminated because it is poisonous to stock. One half of a bean crushed and mixed with mescal will put one on "the big drunk" and a whole bean so used is enough to kill a man. If the bean is swallowed whole, however, there is little ill effect because of its hard coating.

The tree is difficult to transplant but may be grown rather easily from seeds.

The above mentioned native trees are by no means an exhaustive enumeration. Further acquaintances may be made through individual pursuit and discovery. A helpful manuscript, entitled "Transplanting Native Shrubs" M. S.—273 is issued by the A&M College of Texas in their Extension Service and Home Demonstration Work.

Trees That Grow Like Natives

In the earlier days when contact from the outside world reached this area only by boat up the Rio Grande and distribution therefrom proceeded by stage coach or wagon train, some interesting small trees were introduced from Mexico and

New Orleans, and even the Orient. These were chiefly of the citrus variety, not for a commercial purpose, but for decorative or ornamental purposes such as the colomondine whose fruit was brought in the pockets of sailors from the Philippines. They landed at the thriving port of Bagdad, destroyed by hurricane and tidal wave in 1874. The sailors on a visit to their senioritas in Matamoros gave them the fruit which was eaten. Then the seeds were planted there which rapidly grew into trees. From this place they were spread into the Brownsville area, and from there into Florida and California, the three points in the United States where the tree has found a suitable place to grow. It is a true citrus which readily grows from seed. In Chinese confections you will often find them crystallized. Delicious marmalades and pies are also made from the fruit.

Other citrus varieties introduced were the ponderoso lemon, one lemon sufficient to make several lemon pies or quarts of punch, the Citron with the rind one half or more inches thick; and the so-called sour orange which hangs covered with "golden apples" for almost the entire year. All these were used in the old world gardens created before the arrival of the Iron Horse.

Before the coming of the railroad a sand barrier separated and isolated the greatest part of the subtropical area from other parts of Texas and so prevented the spread of native plants from either area across the barrier. With the build-

ing of the railroad from Houston to Brownsville experimental trees were introduced with great success. To note a few of passing interest would include the Chinese Tallow, bau Hee miah, Bauhenia or tree orchid from India, many varieties of Palms to supplement the native ones, the Russian Olive, the Australian Eucalyptus and Silk Oak, Loquat, Camphor, California Pepper and lately the Tung Tree, Australian Bottle Brush and Mimosa or Silk Flower Tree.

There are hints that future experimentation might lend success to the growth of the Cedar of Lebanon, Copper Beech and the Chinese Ginkgo. Each or all would give additional satisfaction to a real tree lover.

And may their tribe increase!

THE KINGSVILLE RECORD

Wednesday, December 7, 1949

Garden Gossip

THE CENIZO GARDEN CLUB will meet on Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Harold Baney for the annual Christmas party.

THE KINGSVILLE GARDEN CLUB will meet on Dec. 9 at 2:30 p.m. at the Casa Ricardo Hotel with Group III, Mrs. Gus Kowalski, chairman, in charge of the program. Mr. Wash W. Storm, Jr., of Alice, will give a demonstration of pruning and planting. Arrangements for the holiday seasons are to be done by Mrs. Allen Smith and Mrs. Al Kleberg.

STUDY GROUP V OF THE KINGSVILLE GARDEN CLUB met in the home of Mrs. R. W. Clark on Friday to make plans for the forthcoming radio program. They decided to select as their subject the selection, growing, and general care of roses. Mrs. Ben Oris Sims will begin the program on Monday, followed by Mrs. D. W. Peace, Mrs. Ted Remling, Mrs. Ernest Poteet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bailey will discuss home landscaping and color. Mrs. Joe Keepers, chairman of the group, reminds that they are members of the American Rose Society.

GROUP IV, under the direction of MRS. EUGENE MAY met in her home on Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Mrs. J. C. Arvin gave a talk on fall planting. It was suggested that if the leaves were stripped now from the poinsettias you plan to use in holiday decorating, the stalks would have time to heal.

This group was in charge of the program for the radio this week. Mrs. May opened the discussion on Monday with suggestions on landscaping and planting. On Tuesday Mrs. W. E. Sells and Mrs. Henry Johnson gave a paper compiled by Mrs. E. H. Haun on the care of roses. On Wednesday, Mrs. May discussed the care and planting of fall bulbs. On Thursday, Mrs. J. V. Chandler, Jr., will tell about sweet peas and Mrs. J. C. Arvin will point out some new aspects on fall planting.

MRS. DALE WOODS, MRS. DICK KLEBERG, JR., and MRS. J. C. ARVIN were in Premont buying shrubs for the landscaping of the Parish House.

According to MRS. MAY DICKENS the lotus lily which grows in the Rio Grande Valley and the Valley of the Nile wild can be found in a certain spot growing near Sarita.

If you're driving around and want to see beauty, drive by MRS. E. O. HUGHINS' home and take a good look at her mums. MRS. DREW MAYFIELD has some lovely poinsettias. MRS. JOHN HENDERSON has 400 blooming poinsettias. Mrs. Henderson has also found a unique way to use turk's cap for table decorating. Open them out and wire them in clusters of six.

MRS. J. C. ARVIN has learned

Wednesday, December 21, 1949

Garden Gossip

MRS. V. B. JARRETT entertained the Garden Gate Club on Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. with a morning coffee.

The Christmas theme was used in all of the decorations. On the radio were Etoile de Holland roses. On the sideboard was a blue and silver arrangement festooned with colored balls. The table was lace laid and centered with an arrangement of poinsettias and red candles. The picture window in the dining room was circled with bubbling lights.

Mrs. Claud Dewese presided at the coffee service.

Gifts were exchanged. About 20 attended.

MRS. HAROLD BANEY was hostess to the Cenizo Garden Club for the annual Christmas party. Each guest was presented a corsage of holly.

The coffee table was centered with large poinsettias. The lamp on the occasional table was given a holiday spirit with pyracantha and the same berry was used in an arrangement on the radio.

The table was white laid and centered with a styrofoam sleigh filled with holly and drawn by styrofoam deers. The focal center was formed with Christmas balls of red and silver against a red bow background. On the buffet was a madonna arrangement done in a crystal basket covered with white mums. Prune cake, candy, stuffed dates, coffee and chocolate were served by Mrs. Sadie Alberts and the hostess.

Mrs. Alberts presided at the meeting in which roll call was answered by what the members had made for Christmas. Mrs. Alberts presented Mrs. Harold Brown who told the legend behind the Christmas flowers.

Mrs. Baney presented each of her officers with a sterling silver spoon and a gold bowl. Each spoon had a different flower designed on the handle. Mrs. Brown was presented a piece of Irish bleek china. The members exchanged gifts while Christmas carols were played on the record player. Mrs. Ed Phillips played Santa.

Guests were Mrs. Bessie Milligan, Mrs. Harold Brown, and Mrs. W. F. Bogges, Jr. About 20 attended.

AND BECAUSE CHRISTMAS is just around the corner, here's a little summary of Mrs. Brown's talk. Mrs. Brown pointed out that there are numerous legends concerning these flowers but she has tried to select not only the most truthful but the most interesting.

The poinsettias, an emblem of courage, was first brought to the United States by Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, minister from the U. S. to Mexico. He planted it in his garden in South Carolina. To the people of Mexico the poinsettia is the "flower of the holy night." There is a touching story told of the small child who on Christmas Eve walked laggingly toward the church. She had no gift for the Christ Child. Before entering the church, she knelt and prayed. When she rose from her knees, she saw springing up at her feet a plant with gorgeous crimson blossoms. It was the poinsettia—an answer to prayer. She plucked the blooms and laid them on the altar.

The cherry tree, fulfillment, was observed by Mary who begged Joseph to gather her some cherries. Joseph was worried about the lateness of the hour and the approaching ordeal and he refused. The tree, hearing Mary's request, bent down so that Mary could pick the fruit herself.

Among the Czechs and Slovaks it is customary to take the branch of a cherry tree and place it in

water in a warm place late in the fall so that the buds will blossom. If the sprig blossoms at Christmas Eve, the girl who tended it will marry during the new year.

The Hawthorne, mindful of our Lord, had its beginning with Joseph of Arimathea who brought the gospel to Britain about 70 A.D. He stuck his staff in the ground on top of Wyeralhill and it grew into a beautiful tree with white blossoms for Christmas time.

The Rosemary is the plant of eternal youth. When the flight was made into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod, Mary placed the tiny garments of the Christ Child on its branches. The plant changed its blossom color from white to lavender, the hue of Mary's cloak. In England, after Christmas, the wreath of rosemary is burned and those who smell the sweet ashes will grow young again.

The Bay tree, offered its protection to the holy family during a thunderstorm. The common belief is that lightning never strikes a bay tree and sprigs are kept in the house at Christmas for protection.

Christ was called the Rose of Sharon. The legend goes that the little girl followed the shepherds who received the angel's message to the manger but she had no gift. So perfect was her faith, an angel appeared in a glow of light and scattered white roses in her path. Her gift outshone that of the magi.

The rose of Jericho on the flight from Egypt was supposed to have sprung up in the desert wherever the feet of the Virgin Mother stepped.

The ancient Romans thought Saturn caused the holly to deck itself in red berries to express his good will toward men. They sent sprigs of holly to their friends as tokens of good will. To the early Christians, the holly was a symbol of the burning bush, and the flaring love of God that filled the heart of Mary. It has also been looked upon as the thorns that adorned Christ's brow and the red berries, drops of his blood.

The ancient Greeks as well as the Druids looked upon the mistletoe as a healing plant. After the birth of Christ, wreaths of mistletoe were hung upon the altars at Christmas time as emblems of His healing powers. They stood under the wreaths to give each other the sacred kiss of peace and good will before receiving the sacrament. The pearl like berries were the symbol of Christ's purity.

The story is told that a young child was about to be burned at the altar of a great thunder oak as a sacrifice to Thor, the Hammerer. The blow of the hammer was turned aside by the cross in the personification of Boniface. "And here," said the apostle, as his eyes fell on the young fir tree standing straight and green with its top pointing toward the stars amid the divided ruins of the fallen oak, "here is the living tree, with no stain of blood upon it. See how it points to the sky. Let us call it the tree of the Christ Child."

Social Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 8

20-30 Club, Cowboy's, 7:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Club, Casa Ricardo, noon.
Delta Kappa Gamma
MoPac Woman's Club, Booster Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 9

Kingsville Garden Club, Casa Ricardo, 2:30 p.m.
Faculty Wives Party, 8:30 p.m., Loftin Hall
Kingsville Rebekah Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Promenades, "O" Club, 8 p.m.
Border Poets

Monday, Dec. 12

Woman's Club, Methodist Church, 3 p.m.
A&M Mothers Club, Casa Ricardo, noon
Beta Sigma Phi
Community Council

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Rotary Club, noon, Casa Ricardo
Kingsville Music Club, Douglass School

Wednesday, December 7, 1949

Let's Plant More Trees

By MRS. MAY H. DICKENS

"Plant a tree and watch it grow
Then reap the joy your soul will know"

Perhaps next to the sun primitive man has worshipped trees most. The Druids created a highly organized religious cult based upon tree worship which influenced the mind of men over a large part of the earth for several centuries.

In this South Texas area we have the opportunity of combining sun worship and tree worship. The trees that thrive most in our habitat love the sun. And as a basis for successful tree planting we should learn their names, characteristics, functions, legends and possibilities.

We have indigenous trees of beauty and variety that thrive in this sun and soil; and endure much aridity. In looking for a common denominator of these trees their florescence might come first. Their feathery fern-like foliage undoubtedly second, and third might well be the stiffness and roughness of the leaves of the non-feathery type.

Besides the indigenous trees there are many varieties that have been introduced from other parts of the United States and far-away countries particularly oriental that have adapted themselves and are so like the indigenous ones that we have come to look upon them as natives. Let us first note the natives, then the near-natives and finally consider the possibilities of continued experimentation with others not yet introduced.

Plant a Mesquite for Permanence

In looking for the quality of permanence in a native tree the mesquite might easily be considered first. It belongs to the semi-arid locale. It is quite easy to transplant—in fact even green mesquite posts planted in the ground in very moist places have been known to sprout. The transplanted tree or even the tiny volunteer switch which you may discover in your yard will grow rapidly under frequent waterings and judicious pruning. Its foliage is of the feathery type and of a tender love-bird green in the early spring which deepens into a darker green as warmer weather advances. According to folk lore it is the "wisest" of trees and when its leaves appear there is definite assurance that winter has departed.

Its wood is very hard and takes a very high polish. It makes beautiful furniture and inlays for table tops and other ornamental pieces. The creamy catkin blossoms have a faintly sweet perfume from which the bees make an indigenous honey. Its beans have long since furnished food for both man and beast for the folk of the brush country. It is truly a gift of the desert to serve animal life, but under proper care and cultivation it may serve to nourish the aesthetic soul of sophisticated man.

Plant an Ebony for Mocking Birds' Delight

The Texas Ebony which makes a real tree only in the subtropical area of Texas has beauty, durability, immunity to insect pests, rapid growth and offers great protection to the birds. The leaves are a richer and darger green than most of the native trees. They are evergreen except when hurt by a freeze. The wood is very hard, takes a very high polish and is used in the making of many wooden ornaments such as buckles, buttons, purse handles and walking canes. The tree trunk is usually not large enough to make larger articles of furniture. However, the ties for the narrow-gauge railroad from Brownsville to Point Isabel built in 1874 were made of Texas Ebony. They were found to be in perfect preservation when taken up in 1919 or thereabouts. This also indicates a great immunity to insect attack.

A small grove of Ebony can well be literally the home of a thousand birds. The mocking birds throughout their range of growth and the green jays of the lower Rio Grande rear their young in undisturbed serenity equally safe from predatory humans and animals.

It too has a cream catkin, slightly deeper in color than that of the mesquite. It is a sort of barometer tree which surprises you after almost any short moist spell with its almost complete coverage of flowers and its pungent perfume. These flowers make a most delicious honey which is cream colored instead of golden.

In the brush country of South Texas in past years a small young tree was a prime favorite for a Christmas tree. It functioned particularly well when the lighting was by small candles in tin holders.

The flowers change into long brown beans filled with large hard beans with a trim of white. These seed are often carried by some involuntary means such as wind or birds, take root in an isolated spot, and make a sizeable tree. The small ebony is quite easy to transplant and with sufficient moisture will make quite a showing in the course of a very few years.

The Anacua—A Substitute For Hawthorne Blossoms

The Anacua has a wide distribution as a native South Texas tree. It has very stiff leaves, oval

in shape and of a dark green color. Its blossoms are of a fine crepey whiteness which literally cover the tree. From a short distance away they bear a strong resemblance to the hawthorne blossoms of the rainy areas of the state. These blossoms are followed by as many red berries which the birds find most palatable, hence the many volunteers that spring up almost everywhere in gardens and uncultivated areas. The tree grows rapidly under cultivation. Its trunk may reach a foot and one half in diameter and with its height it becomes one of the large tall trees. Its irregular limb growth requires pruning to conform to a desired shape. It is attractive as a small flowering tree-like shrub which often give a Japanese effect to the garden. Kingsville yards have a number of very noble Anacuas. This tree with such a beautiful name no doubt resents being called Knock-a-way.

THE KINGSVILLE RECORD

Wednesday, December 14, 1949

Garden Gossip

THE GARDEN GATE CLUB met at the Humble Recreation Hall on Tuesday for a covered dish luncheon. Ten arrangements were made for various members.

Mrs. J. C. Arvin spoke to the group on the fundamentals of flower arranging. Mrs. Herbert Andrews then judged the ten arrangements from the standpoint of the fundamentals. Mrs. J. L. Cochran read a paper on what to plant in December.

Mrs. Claud Deweese presided at the business meeting in which plans were made for a Christmas coffee and exchange of gifts to be held in the home of Mrs. Fain Jarrett.

On Wednesday morning members of the club met in the home of Mrs. Charles Flato III to see some of the Christmas arrangements she has been doing in preparation of a lecture she is to give to the Falfurrias Study Club on Christmas Decorating.

Those attending included Mesdames Doc Anderson, Douglas Stewart, N. M. Martin, J. H. Breining, Jorene Gibson, J. C. Arvin, and John Hasness.

AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE KINGSVILLE GARDEN CLUB was held in the home of Mrs. A. C. Lederer on Thursday evening. Those attending were: Mesdames Charles Flato III, Herbert Andrews, Ben Oris Sims, S. H. Rabon, May H. Dickens, Allen Smith, Jo Ferguson, J. A. DeMauri, Daisy Keepers, L. J. Smith, Al Kleberg, Homer Wilson, and Henry W. Johnson.

THE KINGSVILLE GARDEN CLUB met at the Casa Ricardo Hotel at 2:30 p.m. on Friday with Group III in charge of the program.

Mrs. Frank C. Johnson presented Mr. Wash Storm of the Storm Nursery at Premont and Alice. Mr. Storm has done a great deal toward the development of native shrubs and the introduction of foreign ones which will grow in this area. He gave a demonstration of how to prune and plant.

Mr. Storm explained that pruning gave shrubs a better appearance. The plant should be shaped as it grows but the correct implement should be used. In pruning, the bush should be pushed away from the clippers with the free hand and the wide blade of the clipper should be away from the wood.

He pointed out that the proper type of pruning saw only cost about \$2.00. It is curved with a narrow rounded blade. Large cuts should be sealed to keep out the water. Roofing asphalt is good. Cuts should be made parallel to the main limb. It is best to go out a foot and saw from the bottom up until the saw pinches. Then go out 18 inches and saw at an angle to prevent the limb from splitting into the trunk of the tree.

Shade trees should be pruned but not dehorned. There should be a balance between the root and the top. Hedges should be broad at the bottom. When they are pruned, cut back to three feet if a five foot hedge is desired.

Roses must be pruned two or three points up when the bloom is cut. Dead pruning would come in July or August when the rose is dormant.

Cut palm stubs clean to prevent roaches and rats from forming nests. Poinsettias should be cut back about a foot from the ground. Pinching back the buds will cause a larger bloom. Super phosphate, about 1 pint to five feet plant, will stimulate berry plants.

Mrs. Herbert Andrews presided at the business session. Mrs. D. W. Peace announced the sale of trees and roses on Jan. 7 at Yoakum and 7th Street.

Mrs. Ralph Conselyea of KPRC Garden Club of the Air in Houston will be the next speaker.

Mrs. Al Kleberg and Mrs. Allen Smith did a holiday table. Off-white mats decorated in shades of green were used with pale green wedgewood. An artificial Christmas tree about two feet in height was decorated with turk's caps. Two tapers in pale yellow and olive green flanked the tree.

Thursday, December 1, 1949

Your Flower Garden

BY ZOLA MOORE

On Wednesday, Nov. 23, the Cenisa Garden club met in the home of Mrs. W. M. Anderson. Roll call was answered by the members naming a plant to be planted in December.

Mrs. Donnberger gave a talk on Thanksgiving, describing the early days of Thanksgiving, showing pictures and giving each member a sample of fruit cake from her favorite recipe. She also made a centerpiece with a pumpkin and chrysanthemums.

Plans were made for the Christmas party, Dec. 14, at 3 p. m. in the home of Harold Baney. Hand-made gifts will be exchanged.

Coffee and individual pumpkin pies were served to 17 members.

On Nov. 25, 1946, the Cenisa Garden club met in the home of Mrs. Vernon at 3 p. m. Each member answering the roll call with a favorite Thanksgiving salad.

Since November, 1940, the club has been meeting in the homes of its members, opening the meetings with the prayer, "Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Grant that we may realize it is the little things in life that create differences. And, O Lord, let us not forget to be kind."

The club was organized with a small number of members and began as a rural club. Each president served two years and the program books were written for only three months. The presidents now serve one year and the programs are written for a full year.

Mrs. N. B. Tanner and Mrs. Ed Phillips are the only charter members in the club now. Mrs.

Tanner was the first president and Mrs. Phillips the second, each serving two years.

The first officers were: Mrs. N. B. Tanner, president; Mrs. Ed Phillips, vice president; Mrs. B. W. Weir, secretary-treasurer, and publicity chairman; and Mrs. W. K. Sadler, historian.

One of the first projects was planting cenisa and esperanza in the west corner of the hospital grounds. Some of the plants are still growing there. They also planted bluebonnets and shrubs on the Y south of town. During the war, as long as the USO was here, the club placed flowers in the lounge. In the beginning the members were new to garden club work and their talks made in the club meetings, were on their own experiences in gardening. A feature of a meeting of the group at the home of Mrs. J. B. Olson was "Hats fashioned of flowers in all the gay colors of the spring season and modeled by members of the club."

"The gay topper of curly lettuce adorned with golden calendula, worn by Mrs. B. W. Weir and the picture hat of calendula and larkspur modeled by Mrs. W. K. Sadler, were first place winners in the parade."

In a report to the County Federation clubs, held in Kingsville, Tuesday of this week, the club cited the work the members had done the last six months of this year. The project for the year was placing concrete tables and benches at convenient places on the highway. The table in Miller park has a checker board inlay for anyone wishing to enjoy a game of checkers. A table and benches has been placed on the Riviera highway, near the bridge and one on Highway 141. The club had a float representing a garden scene in the Fair parade and two exhibits in the Flower Show. A basket arrangement in the Horticulture division took third place.

A three dollar donation was given to the Audubon Nature Camp at Kerrville, a Texas day tea was held for seventy guests and members assisted with the decorations for the Junior and Senior banquet. Two baskets of flowers were taken to the college Music Department Recital. Six members of the club went to the South Texas Garden Club Inc. meeting in San Antonio. Two dollars was donated to the Red Feather agencies.

The club colors are orchid and green and the snapdragon is the club flower. Meeting days are the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Officers for 1950 are: President, Mrs. H. B. Baney; vice president, Mrs. W. T. Albert; second vice president, Mrs. F. R. Austin; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. C. A. Fabian; reporter, Mrs. T. T. McCollum; historian, Ms. C. C. Vernon; year book committee, Mrs. E. B. Brown, Mrs. G. P. Hulbert, Mrs. Frank Austin and Mrs. H. B. Baney.

Through the years the motto has been:
To make thy garden as fair as thou canst,
Thou workest never alone;

Perchance he whose plot is next to thine
Will see it and mend his own.

DECEMBER 1949

The Lone Star Gardener

Featuring East Texas

Published by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

DISTRICT VII—Mrs. Moyse Ratcliffe, Councilor

District Seven met in San Antonio on October 12, 1949. One hundred and sixty women were present. A luncheon preceded the business meeting.

Mrs. W. C. Windsor, our lovely and capable State President, complimented us by attending. Her motto is "Friendliness"—Let's all contribute to the success of her regime by making this the friendliest year ever in each of our respective clubs.

Mrs. Armstrong Price of Corpus Christi spoke on what a "Standard Club" should be. You who were not there are going to regret not having heard her for she was wonderful!

Cities represented were Alice, Bishop, Devine, Karnes City, Kingsville, Laredo, Pearsall, Uvalde, New Braunfels, Corpus Christi and San Antonio, our host city, turned out in force.

Our visitors were Mrs. W. C. Windsor, Tyler, Mrs. Armstrong Price, Corpus Christi, Mrs. Jack Hager, Rockport, and Mrs. Frank Sorrell, Mrs. Allen Snyder and Roy Quillen of San Antonio.

Club Officers, please send in clippings and Year Books to Mrs. K. S. Johnson. All other reports and data go to Mrs. Ratcliffe, Councilor.

Don't forget the voluntary donation voted at the meeting. This is to be used to help defray miscellaneous expenses.

THIS IS My Job

By Mrs. W. F. Boggess, Jr.

Holiday Decorator

Decorating must be fun to plan, fun to make—or remake—and fun to use. And it need not be expensive, according to Mrs. Charles Flato III, whose self-created job is holiday decorating. She believes that the home of today responds best to the creative use of ordinary materials combined with imagination and good taste to secure a dramatic effect.

Mrs. Flato has learned to utilize old candles, tin cans, chicken wire, fruit coloring and bluing, Lepage's glue, soap suds and the newer metallic foils, plastics, and ribbons. Almost any liability can become an asset at Christmas with plenty of scotch tape, clays, some wire, a little paint and glitter. Experience soon trains the eye from the commonplace into the realm of fantasy.

No matter how small the home it has a door, a tree, and a table. The front door can best express the true holiday spirit of warmth and hospitality. To give a good clear view from the street remove the screen. Select your color scheme and theme and be sure it is in harmony with the type of home you have.

You might even cover the door with a piece of cheap red, black, or green cloth. Be sure that the cloth is the exact size of the door. Thumb tack it neatly around. A small screw at the focal point will hold a Christmas symbol, swag, wreath, Santa mask or basket. A cheap wicker basket, gilded and decorated with leaves filled with Christmas balls, stick candy, canes, vegetables, fruits spiked in styrofoam or wired may be hung on the screw. The gilt leaves may be native shrubs which were treated with the cheapest kind of paint. Tie a bow at the top.

* Large baskets, foil covered, can

be used for two small century plants painted in cold water paint with the points tipped with ornaments for stylized trees. They may be sprayed and washed off later without any damage to the plant.

Another door decoration may be made with a long shallow cake tin backed with green to set off choir boys or angles placed in the simulated niche. A nativity scene can be glued in the pan or use a madonna. Two shocks of wheat turned end to end and centered with orchid tubes to hold red or yellow roses and finished with a bow is another effective door swag.

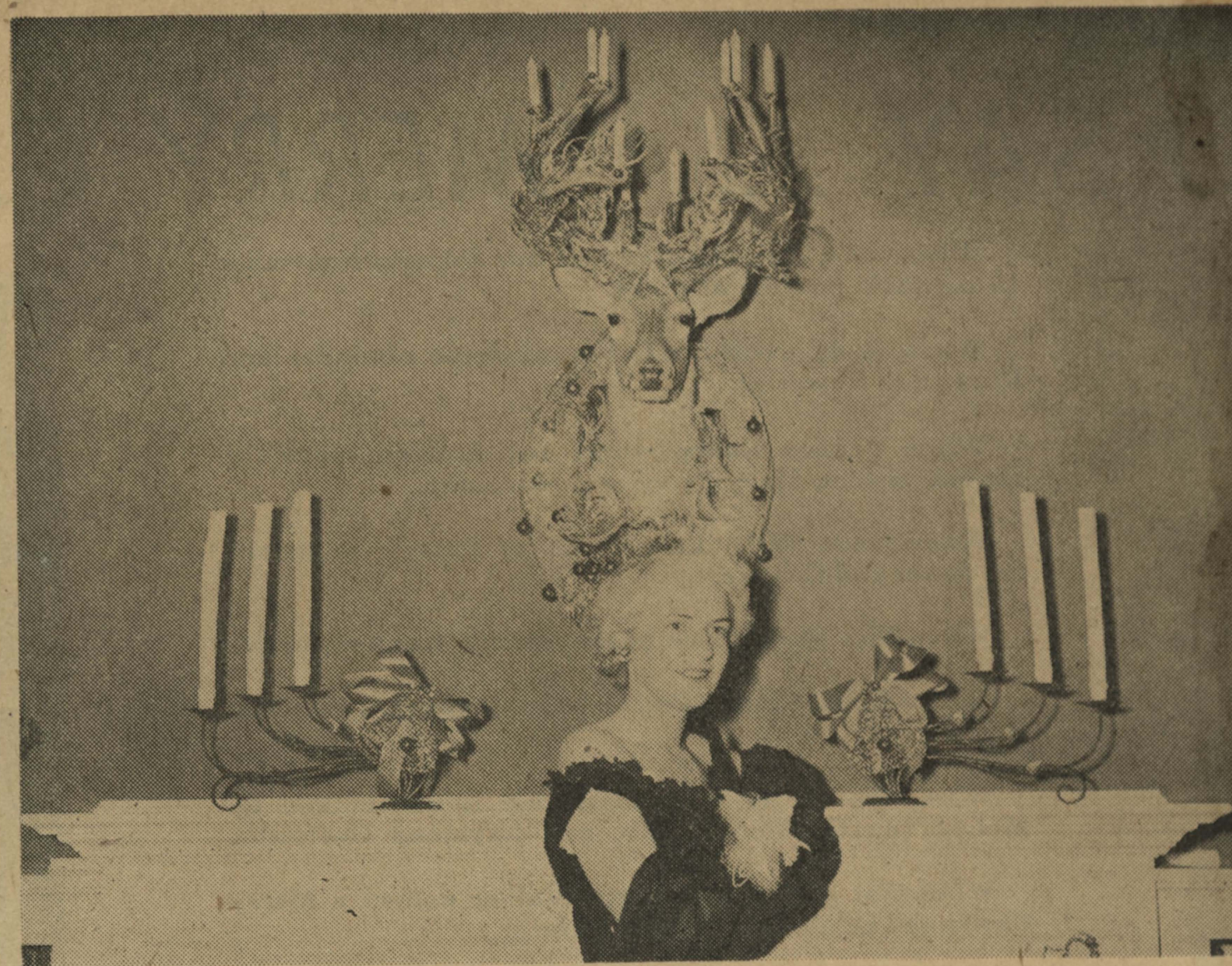
A more provincial and whimsical motif is the Christmas sock made of plaster of paris. Sew a large cheese cloth sock, stuff with newspapers, and shape for a bulky look. Take masking tape, starting at the toe, and wind it around until the sock has stiffness. Mix plaster of paris with water into a thick cream. Dip newspaper strips and soak in solution until they are sopping wet. Wrap around sock. If it does not stick, add more powder. Flatten on one side and make a small hole at top for hanging. Let dry a day or two depending upon your climate. When dry, remove the top layer of the newspaper stuffing and fill with small toys, stick candy or Christmas greens and hang on the door. The sock can be painted red or green or stenciled with a design.

A tree may be constructed in the same manner over a chicken wire base. Old dried wreaths from past years respond to a gilding spray—gold is lovely—and from day to day add hibiscus blossoms instead of the usual berries or bells.

Paper mache can be used with a Santa Claus mask to form the head of the old gent or to make bells. The top of any bell shape bottle will serve as a mold.

Do not overlook the effectiveness of lighting. A spot or flood light globe used in an ordinary socket can do the trick. Reflectors can be fashioned from tin cans or metal paper. To achieve a soft glow, sink coffee cans into the front flower beds and place black-out candles on a bed of sand.

In lighting the door, a sharper accent to the sparkle and glitter



MRS. CHARLES FLATO III and the mantle arrangement described in the story. Photo by Elmore.

can be secured by using one color for all lights. Brilliant outdoor lights may be replaced with a flick of the switch to one tiny Christmas symbol which may be left burning all night to wish a Merry Christmas from the home to the night travelers, the doctor, or the milk man.

With the door setting the stage for the rest of the house, turn your attention to the Christmas tree. If possible, share your tree by placing it near a front window or a small stylized tree may be used on the mantle, coffee table, or radio. Boxes covered with metal foil paper may be pyramided to a small tree which has been sprayed and glittered. Do not overlook the advantage of the pine cone cigarette server formed by sticking cigarettes in a pine cone and topping with a Christmas ball.

The Santa Claus head can be made with clay for the face, tissue paper glittered for the beard, metal foil paper for the cap and the hair. Place in a compote. This will fit in a small apartment on the radio, desk, or table.

In decorating the tree, choose a bright contrasting color which will compliment your interior or build around gold, silver, or white. If the color chosen is shocking pink, blue, or gold, spray your tree accordingly. In spraying, weaken your color with white paint as you

move upward for a blended effect.

Unusual tree decorations are many. Sprayed wheat, or any other type of native grain, pettisporum cluster, with gold glitter and a few chicken feathers dipped in rit—dried and fluffed—and center with a tiny Christmas ball makes a perfect ornament. Bunches of grapes can be made from wads of cotton or newspaper wrapped in metal paper and tied with cord, can form the only decorations on the tree. A Christmas clown head fashioned from a round fisherman's floater cork and topped with a funny red clown hat will delight the children. The same type of corks, spiked with toothpicks, may be dipped in white paint, glittered and used to dangle from the tree. Pipe cleaners, brushed with glue and water and rolled in glitter, may be coiled around a pencil and tipped with a Christmas ball.

Take an old ping pong ball and glue to a paper collar. Paint the face for an angel using angel hair or folded strips of metal paper curled around a knitting needle for hair and glittered pipe cleaner for halo. Net or satin from an old evening dress or scraps of foil will make the robe. Choir boys can be made in the same way with black crepe paper for robes and bright red ribbon for ties. Their faces

may be formed of modeling clay and painted.

Many people prefer one theme throughout the house. All types of inexpensive baskets may be painted the same color and tied with the same type of bow and filled with leaves and Christmas balls. Place them on the table, the mantle, the coffee table, the door, and even the miniature Mexican ones on the tree.

A tree decorated with two-inch star spangles—these can be purchased from a costume store for about two dollars a hundred—can be lighted effectively with a spotlight instead of tree lights right at the side of the tree or under it.

A pastel tree done with artificial flowers collected over the years or made from paper and placed in the common paper doily to form a nosegay may be hung all over the tree. Imagine a blue tree with purple violets or pink roses, swagged with purple ribbon and ornaments of purple and lavender.

The table can then carry out the same theme with a large nosegay of real flowers placed in orchid tubes. If tubes are not available, penny balloons can be filled with water and scotch taped to the flower. Pine cones sawed in two and painted make a very attractive flower. Concentration on bells (See MY JOB, Page 3-C)

in various sizes make an effective tree.

Be sure that your tree does not appear suspended in space. Use felt, shiny paper or angel hair or Christmas packages to build out the base of the tree in proportion to the lower branches to give it stability. Why not put a Christmas scene around the foot of the tree? This may be done by making the contoured landscape with paper base, for economy, and spreading with soap sud snow. Be sure to select the deers, Santa, and the sleigh in proportion to each other and to space at the bottom of the tree.

To compliment the tree make an informal cornucopia from copper wrapping paper backed with masking tape. Fill with magnolia foliage, ligustrum or pettisporum treated for several weeks in a solution of two parts water and one part glycerine. These may be used for the table decoration or for a wreath on a chicken wire base and sprinkled with gold Christmas balls. An antique or cheap tin plate may be fitted into the center of the wreath. Chicken wire is good to form the base of a thick dimensional wreath for a picture window.

A Christmas scene may be used on the table as a centerpiece but a far more unusual one is to get an irregular gnarled log and spray with white or silver and glitter. Before spraying, form plaster of paris candle holders to follow the contours of the log. Different height candles may be used. Old candles may be freshened by brushing with glue and water and sprinkling with glitter. Garlands of roses, carnations, or bright berries may be substituted.

A bare tree branch painted white and secured on a reflector with model clay can be dotted with red carnations and small birds. Chicken wire makes a wonderful foundation for a miniature or large snow man for a centerpiece or the light fixtures using angel hair. An electric light or flash light can be used without a fire hazard.

Arrange fruit dipped in a paraffin and white lead solution on spikes cut from a coat hanger and surround with appropriate leaves. Oranges, apples, kumquats, spiked in della robbia fashion or placed in a pyramid and circled with leaves make a dramatic centerpiece or serving table decoration.

Save old candles and melt down. Using a paper ice cream carton, hold in wick and pour tallow around it. Let stay in refrigerator for several days. Tear off carton and you have a large pillow Christmas candle which can be painted in candy stripe and glittered. An old victrola record can be soaked in water until soft and placed over any type of bowl for a mold. When dry, paint and use as a candle holder or bowl for candy and nuts. Bowls may be thrown away or repainted for other occasions.

For her own mantle, Mrs. Flato uses a 21-point deer head which she killed herself and gives it glamour with a collar of silver machine sprinkled with Christmas balls and fringed with silver metal paper. The silver shredded paper is placed along the horns and meets at a star on the deer's forehead. Tiny gilt Christmas candles based in a ball is placed on ten of the horns. Three branch candelabra with bells flank the arrangement. The bells are made from a mesh piece material new on the market.

Mrs. Flato even brings visions of sugar plums to the children's bedroom with clouds of angel hair spiked with any of the homemade ornaments. She advises that all decorating schemes should challenge and develop in you an eye for using material about or around the house and so let it be a Merry Christmas with your own home decorations.

THE KINGSVILLE RECORD

Wednesday, December 28, 1949

Garden Gossip

In turning back the leaves of the calendar for 1949 the growth in the membership and work of the garden clubs of the town has been astounding.

THE KINGSVILLE GARDEN CLUB, in its second year of existence, elected Mrs. Charles Flato III as president. She has been ably assisted by her supporting officers: Mrs. Herbert Andrews, Mrs. Ben Oris Sims, Mrs. Allen Smith, Mrs. Sam H. Rabon, Jr., Mrs. Mae H. Dickens and Mrs. Henry W. Johnson.

The club decided to divide into seven study groups headed by Mrs. A. C. Lederer, Jr., Mrs. Earl Gaston, Mrs. Gus Kowalski, Mrs. Eugene May, Mrs. Joe Keepers, Jr., Mrs. John Henderson, and Mrs. L. J. Smith. Each group selected a particular study and meet monthly. In addition to this study, the members, as a group, have participated by doing a table in the flower show, by providing a club program and by being in charge of the radio program over KINE from 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Mondays through Fridays.

The radio program which began in the month of December is one of the achievements of the garden club which clearly shows its wide awake attitude. Another great achievement has been the programs sponsored by the club. Miss Mame Roberts of Howe, Texas, nationally known for her civic beautification was brought to Kingsville to help do a little face lifting. In the same month of September Mrs. Charles F. Steinger of Dallas held a flower clinic to give background and instruction for the Town and Country Flower Show held during the South Texas Fair and Exposition.

In November Miss Dorothy Biddle and Mrs. Maud Jacobs gave the first flower show judging school which was attended by people from the surrounding area. Future programs of the club will present Mrs. Ralph Conselyea, Garden Club of the Air, KPRC in Houston, and Mrs. Esther Wheeler of Long Island, N. Y. on American Flower Design.

To assist in the beautification of Kingsville, the club has held a monthly sale of plants which will be planted that month. On January 7 at the corner of 7th Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the club will sponsor a sale of balled and burlap trees and shrubs which include Chinese tallow, Rio Grande

KINGSVILLE NEWS

Thursday, December 8, 1949

Your Flower Garden

By ZOLA MOORE

MRS. MAY HOSTESS TO GROUP 4

Group 4 of the Kingsville Garden Club met in the home of Mrs. Eugene May at 3 p. m. Thursday, December 1.

Mrs. F. M. Johnson read a paper on Fall Planting compiled by Mrs. Arvin. Eight members were present.

Group 4 has been heard this week on the Garden Club of the Air. Monday, at 9:15 a.m., Mrs. May spoke on Landscaping Home Grounds; Tuesday, Mrs. W. E. Self and Mrs. F. M. Johnson read a paper written by Mrs. C. A. Haun; Wednesday, Mrs. E. S. Roberts gave general information of Bulb Culture; Thursday, Mrs. J. V. Chandler talked on Planting of Sweet Peas; and, on Friday, Mrs. Arvin will speak on Fall Planting.

HOLDS LAST MEETING UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Ceramics Class, that has been held for several weeks at Mrs. A. G. Boiles home, had the last meeting Wednesday. A new class is expected to start after Christmas. The class has been making pictures, plaques, dishes, ashtrays, vases, sugar and creamers and a variety of other things. The figurines and articles are made of pottery clay and baked in a kiln. Some of the work turned out is beautiful.

The class has been conducted by Mrs. Bertha Peterson and Mrs. Greer of Corpus Christi. Mrs.

Peterson studied ceramic art in Fort Worth had has also been conducting a class in Corpus Christi at the YWCA.

Those finishing up the last class are: Hazel and Thelma Burris Mrs. John Henderson, Mrs. Mathis, Mrs. Maud Rawlinson, Mrs. Lois Ramey, Mrs. Louise King, Mrs. Dimmick, Mrs. Bill Childs Mrs. Katherine Love, Mrs. Rutherford and Mrs. A. G. Boiles.

GARDEN CHAT

Mrs. John Henderson at Riviera has the most beautiful poinsettias and chrysanthemums in her garden and is well worth the drive down there to see.

A short visit to Weslaco in the Rio Grande Valley gave us another chance to enjoy the magnificent splendor of the Valley in the fall. Fruit trees are golden with oranges and grapefruit and so many flowers it's like a giant bouquet. Literally thousands of chrysanthemums and poinsettias, and it seemed that every garden had at least one variety of Bougainvillia.

Weslaco was getting ready for its annual birthday celebration. Christmas decorations were up and the holiday spirit was creeping in. Every yard had well trimmed grass and the flowers in full bloom were ready and waiting.

Seeing the beautifully kept yards and the flowered fence lines gave us a wonderful inspiration and a lot of good ideas on how we might improve our own flower garden.