

Aside from the official shows numerous garden groups staged hibiscus affairs. Here in St. Petersburg the Green Fingers circle of the Garden Club Federation staged the most outstanding propagation display ever put on in Florida. The Lakeland and numerous other communities have saluted the Queen, including Winter Haven and Miami.

In Miami the City Parks Department this year designated 30 acres in its new Morning-side Park to be used as a demonstration hibiscus garden — and to be supervised by a committee of the American Hibiscus Society . . . It seems probable that the potential Chapter in Miami will adopt the project — which could

be easier directed by it rather than by the international group.

From the organizational or charter membership the group has grown to more than 600 members. . . . two-thirds of that number have been accounted for in 1952.

I should like to say that we view this progress with humility — we haven't begun to smooth the corners of a Diamond in the Rough. . . . But we do concede that we have made definite tracks in the sand . . . and I should like to go on record that this is only the beginning. . . . With enthusiasm generating on the home front, with friendly rivalry among local chapter, we can't help but continue to grow — for EVERYBODY LOVES HIBISCUS.

FLORIDA NURSERYMEN AND GROWERS ASSOCIATION

CHARLES R. WEDDING

St. Petersburg

At the Convention of the old Florida State Florists and Nursery Association last May approximately 125 attended. Very few of this 125 were imbued with the idea that under the regime of Florists and Nurserymen little progress had been made toward serving the members of the Nursery group in any way. Several men felt that the nursery business in the State of Florida was old enough and big enough to stand on its own feet and that it was necessary to create an organization designed to attack the particular problems indigenous to nurserymen alone. This in no way was a reflection on our association with the Florists but a feeling that we had come of age and badly needed a rallying point to bring our organization out of the doldrums and into active participation in the building of our industry.

Several men spent many long weary hours in conference and in automobiles. An aggregation of talent that could not have been hired bent their minds toward the single purpose of building our association to 500 members by the October Trade Meet. Of all these men who gave of their time and their money there is one who deserves credit for outstanding service. He gave his time, his money, of his organizational ability and of the people and machines in his organization

and, when it was necessary, he contributed of his vision and, when things were the roughest, with his courage. Without Gerwin Pringle there would be only a half organization today.

The Trade Meet in October was a wonderful success. We not only had 500 members—we had over 700 members. We had over 1000 front feet of display space, sold and filled with the finest Trade Exhibit ever held. This Trade Meet was divided at this time into half-Trade Meet and half-Convention. The reason for this change was the evident fact that we had the members and had created the interest, and it was necessary to crystallize this interest so that the organization could proceed with some of the operations necessary to the continuing interest and performance of the organization.

The speakers who appeared on the program were as follows: Hon. Doyle E. Carlton, ex-Governor of Florida and for the past two years the President of the State Chamber of Commerce. At present in charge of the Highway Beautification. A native Floridian, a man with great vision for Florida and the ability to create practical word pictures of what this vision held for our industry. There was no man or woman who listened to the Hon. Doyle E. Carlton who was not moved to improve his own ability and to improve all things connected with the beautification of Florida.

Professor Alex Laurie, retired professor of Floriculture at Ohio State University. Prof. Laurie's talk was straight from the heart and to the point about what is needed to be done in our nursery business. Dr. Laurie's experience and advice will be invaluable to the success of our new organization.

Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, Provost of the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, gave an interesting and informative talk on the history of Land Grant Colleges in the United States and their relation to teaching, to research and to the extension service as it is related to our industry.

Dr. H. Harold Hume, Dean Emeritus of Agriculture at the University of Florida. He has devoted his entire life to the study and the promotion of Florida horticulture. He is the only man in his field south of the Mason-Dixon line who has been awarded the National Medal of Honor for the outstanding work he has done during his lifetime. A world traveler, a man recently honored by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, which is the outstanding Society of its kind in the world. Dr. Hume has written many books, one in the process of being published now on "Hollies." He has spent the last five years in research and travel all over the world to gather this information for us. This book will be published shortly by MacMillan and Company. Dr. Hume has long been connected with both the education field and the actual growing and merchandising of horticultural subjects and is very active in and a member of the Board of the Glen St. Mary Nursery Company, Glen St. Mary, Florida. Through his lifetime of experience he had earned the knowledge and the ability to set nurserymen on fire with the possibility of what can be done in our industry. He was able to show the light of new achievement to those fence straddlers and dis-believers and "can't-do-it-boys" who were not yet sufficiently in-

doctrinated with the feeling of pride in their profession nor of the great benefits they can be to mankind in the creation of things beautiful.

Mr. Richard White, Secretary of the Association of Nurserymen, told us what an organization could do for its members and why only a strong cooperative organization was able to do anything either in the national or in the State political scene.

Mr. Ollie Fraser of the Fraser Nurseries, Birmingham, Alabama explained the operation of his very successful Self Service Garden Center. He generously brought his plans, specifications, arrangement and method of tagging, advertising copy and all things pertaining to this novel method of doing nursery business. If the nurserymen had gained only one item of knowledge from the whole Convention they would have been repaid ten times for their expense. Mr. Ollie Fraser has been in the nursery business in Birmingham for forty years. He has been an outstanding member of our profession, locally and nationally. It was a great tribute to our budding organization that a man of this caliber would take his time to help us get on our feet.

At the banquet held in the Florida Citrus Bldg., Honorary memberships in the Florida Nursery and Growers Association were presented to Professor Alex Laurie, Dr. Harold Hume, Mr. Richard White and Mr. Ollie Fraser. After a brief talk by Charles Wedding, Mr. Edwin G. Fraser, our genial Senator from north Florida, took over the microphone and proceeded to raise over \$5000 in cash for the furtherance of the Florida Nursery and Growers Association until the May Convention. The Trade Meet is a milestone in the progress of our Association, pointing toward the wholehearted cooperation of everyone connected with the industry to help themselves by helping each other.

FOLIAGE PLANTS

ALEX LAURIE

Whistling Pines Gardens, Inc.

Eustis

One of the really striking trends of the last few years has been the enormous demand for

foliage plants for the home, the restaurant, the office, the hotel lobby, and what have you. It started out as a craze for so-called "Japanese" gardens, which were imitations or small replicas of gardens with Oriental figures, using largely succulents and cacti which responded well to the rather unfavorable condi-