



Mrs. Ralph A. Parker (Mildred S.)
19th GCFM President
1960-1962
“Progress Through Unity”
171 clubs – 11,641 members



In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Parker stressed her theme for the next two years – *Progress Through Unity* with the goal of concrete assistance to the individual garden clubs. *Newsletter* subscriptions increased and became a valuable medium for chairpersons to pass on information to assist members with garden club objectives. Flower Show School courses were increased, providing a number of new judges. There was also an increase in the number of club flower shows throughout the state.

On October 1-4, 1960 GCFM served as hostess for the National Council Fall Board Meeting and the New England Regional Meeting at the New Ocean House in Swampscott. Mrs. Jamie Johnson was the National Council President and Mrs. Alfred Cole, the Meetings Chairperson. The theme of the meeting was, *Bay State Federation*.

Landscape Design Study Courses were introduced. Course I being offered in October and Course II scheduled in May.

Conservation continued to be a prime topic of concern. The Horticulture Chairperson's theme was *Planting and Planning to Beautify your Community*. Through the generosity of Sears Roebuck and Co., GCFM again sponsored the Bay State Civic Beautification Contest. Many clubs submitted outstanding and constructive projects to improve their communities. The winners were awarded \$200.

The Legislative Chairperson kept the clubs alerted through a fan-out system to all important bills on the legislative agenda. Governor Volpe declared the week of April 22nd, *Keep Massachusetts Beautiful Week*, and urged emphasis on eliminating the litterbug and the litter carelessly dropped on our streets and highways.

After her term off office as President, she served as National Council Litter Chairperson, publishing the Litter Control Newsletter.