

GCFM IN THE 1940's

Mrs. Robert M. Bowen, 8th GCFM President *(also served a term as NEGC President)*

1940-1942: 134 clubs – 9,554 members

The ambulance funds were completed and GCFM sent a motorized canteen to Great Britain. They also sent seeds. Flowers were sent to hospitals, camps and forts throughout Massachusetts. Christmas cheer in the form of trees, wreaths, and garlands were sent to all Veterans Hospitals.

Mrs. Teele, Chairperson, gave arrangement classes free to member clubs at Horticultural Hall. Mrs. Teele received a Certificate of Merit for her book "*Flower Arrangement Primer*". Stockbridge received a National Council Award for their Garden Center.

Mrs. Sherman L. Whipple was appointed Defense Chairperson and cooperated with the County Extension Services in setting up a program of food production and preservation. Hospital camp work increased with the increase of armed forces. For the first time, GCFM as an organized group was in charge of handling the flower arrangement classes in the Spring Flower Show at the Massachusetts Horticultural Hall with Mrs. Plimpton, chairperson. A National Council purple ribbon was received.

National Council urged GCFM and clubs to clean up filling stations throughout the country, to set up canning kitchens, and to become life members of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mrs. Harold Plimpton, 9th GCFM President

1942-1944: 122 clubs – 7,934 members

War effort was the chief activity, starting with Garden Club Service under the joint aegis of the Garden Club of America, raising money and spreading from one to some twenty hospitals. The other big efforts were in food conservation, canning kitchens, war gardens, etc. In these GCFM worked along with state agencies. In fact, in those days GCFM had few irons in the fire, and during the war years members concentrated for the most part on that great emergency.

Mrs. Leon Weyburn, 10th GCFM President

1944-1946: 125 clubs – 8,263 members

During this administration, the effort toward the successful termination of World War II was succeeded by an equal determination to contribute toward peace and in the reconversion to peacetime living. Outstanding wartime projects continued to be Garden Club Services including flowers in the wards the year round, special decorations at Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter, planting in Red Cross hospital areas for patients' enjoyments, gardens for patient participation; winter indoor gardening in two donated sun heated pits and greenhouse, seed growing and special emphasis on Horticultural Therapy in military hospitals.

Mrs. Sherman L. Whipple, Jr., 11th GCFM President

1946-1947: 126 clubs – 8,530 members

Mrs. Whipple continued as chairperson of Garden Club Services convinced of the urgent need of this important work, and the garden clubs continued to support the work. Horticultural conferences and school gardens continued with Ms. Arthur L. Swazey, Chairperson. GCFM took part in the 75th annual Exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. On October 2-4, the first of a five-year course for Flower Show Exhibitors and Judges under National Council regulations was held with Mrs. Chester Cook, Chairperson.

Cooperating with National Council, the Blue Star Memorial Highway project was formed, with Mrs. Winthrop S. Daki as Chairperson. The bill to accomplish the memorializing of Route 1 as the Blue Star Memorial Highway was passed by the State Legislature.

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Mrs. Leon W. Rand (Josephine), 12th GCFM President **1947-1949: 130 clubs – 9,724 members**

In this administration GCFM “comes of age”, is twenty-first birthday being October 1948. The President stated: “GCFM is a healthy, growing and a useful organization.”

There was a trip to Amherst and Northampton with a “Come See” tour and Conservation Day at the University of Massachusetts, Mrs. E.C. Baker, Chairperson. Speakers: Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, Chief of the Federal Department of Agriculture, and Tom Wallace, outstanding conservationist from Kentucky.

The Spring Meeting was held at Memorial Hall, Harvard College, observing the 60th birthday of the Cambridge Plant Club. * On June 8th dedication ceremonies were held for the Blue Star Memorial Highway, including the unveiling of the marker on Route 1, Lynnfield. Mr. Harold T. Bent, Chairperson, held monthly horticulture meetings at Horticultural Hall. The Junior Gardening Committee was revived by Mrs. Frank T. White, Chairperson.

Final amount for Seeds for Peace was \$1,660. The first *NEWSLETTER* was published in March 1949, Volume No.1, with Mrs. Mark R. Werman, Editor. Mrs. Lucien B. Taylor compiled *Roadside Guide Book* and Mrs. Joseph S. Leach compiled *History of National Council – The First Twenty Years*. National Council changed the name of their newsletter, *The Bulletin* to *National Gardener*, to be published six times a year.

The Conservation Conference, first held in 1932, continued as an annual feature. GCFM was an active member of the State Conservation Council, supporting conservation legislation. Mrs. Lucien B. Taylor the first Horticultural Chairperson (later National Chairperson), stimulated horticultural activity through personal inspiration, monthly conferences, and a Bulletin, *Seedling*.

Among numerous outstanding activities and achievements have been: division of the state into nine regions, each with guidance of a director; maintenance of headquarters with a secretary at Massachusetts Horticultural Hall; participation in Annual Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society; Judging Schools, now authorized by National Council; an annual Pilgrimage; an annual \$100 Scholarship, honoring Mrs. Motley; an Annual Certificate of Merit for distinguished service; substantial contributions for Seeds of Peace and Seeds for England.

Outstanding in importance were full participation in war service, including leadership in food raising; Garden Club Service, Inc., with an expanding Horticulture Therapy program, serving over 7,000 patients in 10 military hospitals.

* *Cambridge Plant Club, organized in 1889 and Lexington Field & Garden Club, organized in 1876 are the oldest garden clubs in Massachusetts.*

Mrs. E. Carlisle Baker (Edna), 13th GCFM President *(also served a term as NEGC President)* **1949-1951: 134 clubs – 10,065 members**

During this administration GCFM became formally incorporated and the constitution was amended.

The GCFM Flower Show Committee was in charge of the Flower Arrangement Section of the New England Spring Flower Show. In 1951 the John Talor Arms Awards were established. Garden Club Service continued to give its invaluable aid. A special project of the Roadside Improvement Committee in '51 was the distribution of signs, stating “There is a fine of \$50 for the disposal of rubbish on roadsides.” The Blue Star Highway Committee completed the first three miles of planting.

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An Outdoor Good Manners Poster Contest by Roadside Improvement Committee was held with Miss Miriam Townsend, Chairperson, for pupils from the fourth through the eighth grade. For the first time, the annual meeting was held at the New Ocean House in Swampscott.

The first School of Applied Gardening was held in the home of Mrs. Phippe, Buttonball Farm. Beginners and advanced classes were organized and taught for a period of five years and by Mrs. Lucien B. Taylor who gave all of the profit to GCFM. A Night at the Pops with flower show by club members was held. Arthur Fiedler conducted. Mrs. Chester Cook and Mrs. Lucien B. Taylor served as co-chairpersons. The treasury benefitted with \$500 from this affair. A Rainbow of Flower Arrangements at Stearns Department Store benefitted the scholarship fund \$200, and the Blue Star Memorial fund, \$500. In October '51, annual reports were typed and distributed at the annual meeting to replace individual oral presentations.

Mrs. Baker wrote our state *Collect*.