

**A HISTORY OF THE  
DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB**  
The First 50 Years  
(1948 - 1998)



Written By:  
Inez Jeter 1948 - 1979  
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Member of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

## *HISTORY OF THE DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB*

*On May 9, 1947, a group of local women met with Miss Thelma Gilbert and Mrs. John H. Dolcater, Tampa - a past president of the Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs, to discuss the purpose and organization of a Dade City Garden Club. The ladies voted to organize the club. Date of the meeting was set as the second Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 A.M., September through May. The following officers were elected from the floor:*

*President: Miss Thelma Gilbert  
First Vice President: Mrs. Pearl Bessenger  
Second Vice President: Mrs. Mildred Huckabay  
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Vee B. Jones  
Treasurer: Mrs. Christine Slough*

*The president-elect appointed the following committee chairmen following the outline of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs:*

*Awards and Finance: Mrs. Mae Peek  
Birds and Conservation: Miss Dorothy Lock  
Civic: Mrs. Essie Blich  
Distribution: Mrs. Louise Edwards  
Flower Show: Mrs. Martha Covington  
Horticulture: Mrs. Ruth Massey  
Junior Gardens: Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas  
Historian: Mrs. Vivian Dayton  
Membership: Mrs. Grace Larkin  
Visiting Gardens: Mrs. Madelyn Butler  
Roadside Development: Mrs. Bernice Felberg  
Publicity: Mrs. Vee Jones  
Program and Literature: Mrs. Betty Burks*

*The rate for club dues was set at \$1.50 per member until the new club year beginning in September, 1947.*

*There was a called meeting on May 15, 1947, at the Woman's Club building for the purpose of discussing the formation of circles. The group voted to remain as a club until a later date. President Gilbert appointed a special by-laws committee. Mrs. Mary Weyher was chairman.*

*On September 10, 1947, the beginning of the 1947-48 club year, the first meeting was held at the Woman's Club building. It was a banner day. Club yearbooks were distributed and annual dues paid. The by-laws chairman presented the constitution and by-laws which were accepted after some changes presented from the floor. Copies of the by-laws were promised to each member. President Gilbert appointed five members to serve on the Board of Directors along with the club officers.*

*The Dade City Garden Club was accepted for federation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs on April 21, 1948.*

*During the Annual Meeting on May 19, 1948, a decision was made to divide the membership and organize into five circles, the being drawn for each circle, and the chairmen of each designated.*

*Hibiscus: Mrs. Pearl Bessenger; Hollyhock: Mrs. Mildred Price; Magnolia: Mrs. Mae Peek; Mimosa: Mrs. Leta Thornton; Poinsettia: Mrs. Catherine Deal.*

*The first Flower Show was presented to the public on March 31, 1949, at the Woman's Club building. Theme of the show was "The Spirit of Spring". This first show ushered in a succession of eighteen additional ones, several of which were most outstanding. The 1953 even, theme: "Old South" held at the Pasco County Fairgrounds building, won the National Purple Rosette Award. This award is given on the quality of the entire show from the schedule, staging and theme carried throughout the presentation. This award is much coveted by all clubs. Dade City also won the scrap book award the same year.*

*On May 6, 1949, the Club Charter was filed with fifty-seven names on the signature list. The list below is as the ladies signed their names:*

<i>Mrs. Stanley Cochrane</i>	<i>Mrs. Everett Thornton</i>
<i>Eurylee Yost Covington</i>	<i>Mrs. W.H. Walters</i>
<i>Mrs. John B. Burks</i>	<i>Nell M. Cook</i>
<i>Mrs. E.H. Lovelace</i>	<i>Mrs. T.B. Forsburg</i>
<i>Mrs. Wardell E. Stanfield</i>	<i>Mrs. A. F. Spencer, Jr.</i>
<i>Mrs. Ted Borck</i>	<i>Mrs. James W. Ellison</i>
<i>Mrs. John P. Chalker</i>	<i>Mrs. W. C. Webb</i>
<i>Mrs. Ray Cook</i>	<i>Mrs. L.A. Roseman</i>

<i>Mrs. Chas. F. Touchton</i>	<i>Essie E. Daniel</i>
<i>Mrs. J.R.A. Williams</i>	<i>Mrs. R.L. Nall</i>
<i>Mrs. George Nikolai</i>	<i>Mrs. Frank Massey</i>
<i>Mrs. J.T. McKinstry</i>	<i>Mrs. H.T. Caldwell</i>
<i>Myrtice G. Varn</i>	<i>Mrs. W.F. Edwards</i>
<i>Mrs. E.R. Felberg</i>	<i>Myrtle Congleton</i>
<i>Mrs. V.H. Williams</i>	<i>Belle Mead Sonberg</i>
<i>Mrs. W.P. Cain</i>	<i>Mrs. J.M. Williams</i>
<i>Mrs. W. Barfield</i>	<i>Mrs. Robert Butler</i>
<i>Christine G. Slough</i>	<i>Mrs. W. Glenn Lester</i>
<i>Mrs. Wardlaw Jones</i>	<i>Mrs. O.L. Dayton, Jr.</i>
<i>Miss S. E. Coleman</i>	<i>Mrs. Geo. B. Wells</i>
<i>Mrs. John S. Burks</i>	<i>Mrs. H.B. Wilkes</i>
<i>Edna P. Turner</i>	<i>Annie H. Blount</i>
<i>Mrs. Carl P. Deal</i>	<i>Mrs. Charles Touchton, Jr.</i>
<i>Jennie H. MacFarland</i>	<i>Thelma Gilbert</i>
<i>Mrs. W. Porter Sargent</i>	<i>Mrs. Sid Larkin</i>
<i>Mrs. Leslie Bessenger</i>	<i>Mrs. H. S. Massey</i>
<i>Mrs. J. T. Helms, Jr.</i>	<i>Mildred Price</i>
<i>Mrs. V. C. Tillman</i>	<i>Mrs. Emmett Evans</i>

*Records for the years between September, 1949 and September, 1958 are not available, therefore the history of that period will be sketchy.*

*Of historical importance during this time are the general club civic projects. Among these the landscaping of the Dade City Grammar School, Dade City Armory, Pasco High School (now Pasco Junior High), Pasco Elementary School, the Chamber of Commerce, Jackson Memorial Hospital (after both new additions). Dade City Grammar is now Rodney B. Cox Elementary School. On Arbor Day, January 1963, a Magnolia tree was planted by the club, dedicated to the building committee of Jackson Memorial Hospital. Arbor Day, January 1964 the club planted two palms on the hospital grounds, and again trees were planted on a similar date in 1965. The apex on West Meridian and Florida 52 and 41 was also a club project. Live Oaks and Red Bud trees were planted on the American Legion grounds by the general club ladies.*

*Each of the five circles in the beginning, and now the four circles remaining, have individual projects. Among these are: Pasco County Health Center, Lester Park, Apex South 7th and 98, Civic Center,*

*Health Center, Lester Park, Apex South 7th and 98, Civic Center, Edwinola Park (now Four Seasons Park), Meridian Avenue and Ninth Street.*

*Radio Garden Tips were presented monthly, other events included a bookshelf established at Hugh Embry Library honoring past presidents and as a memorial for club members. Contributions were made to State Headquarters in honor of past presidents and a contribution to the State Federation to help buy furnishings for the state building. Several Junior Garden awards were won during this time.*

*In cooperation with the city, we worked at planting and tree trimming around the community. Our involvement became evident in many as, cooperating with other civic clubs, we bought and installed a Club Emblem on the wire Welcome Signboard north of the city.*

*With records starting September 1958, the incoming president was Joyce Covington, who called the Executive Board meeting to order and there were several recommendations presented and approved. These were: (1) that a contribution be sent to District III to help sponsor the Annual Flower Show in Largo; (2) An invitation was sent to District VIII to hold the 1959 Annual Meeting in Dade City, which was Accepted; (3) Garden Center Committee asked the city to give the club lots 1 and 2 Block 1 LEE's Addition, for a Garden Center. The city declined to honor the request.*

*The Garden Center Committee continued to look for available property to establish a center. On February 18, 1959, the club was called together by the president to hear their report, to discuss same and vote on their finding. The committee had found three pieces of property, two of which were in "Golf Course Estates" one for \$5,000 per acre, the other \$6,000 per acre. The most desirable spot was the Henry property on south 5th Street, 2.3 acres for the total of \$9,000. It was available for \$1,000 down, and \$75 plus interest monthly. On the property were several fruit trees. After much discussion, the club voted 19 to 8 to purchase the property.*

*Being a non-profit organization, in order to support the civic projects and pay for the property, it became necessary to promote many luncheons, fashion shows, silver teas, bazaars, smorgasbords, plant sales, bake sales, and a Variety Show held at Pasco High School.*

*We owe a great deal to our long-suffering business people, friends, and the general public, who have been so generous in their contributions. We must not forget the faithful club members who have helped so much.*

*With the purchase of the land, our thoughts turned toward getting a building for the Garden Center. The Committee looked for buildings which could probably be moved to the property. Consideration of the Osceola Hotel, which was then on Meridian Avenue, was ruled out. Other options were the possibility of construction a building. One church in town wanted to buy part of the property. Club members objected to selling any of the land.*

*Charles Jackson, then City Manager, met with the club on November 24, 1959, and explained the City's program for the removal of diseased trees, and trimming of the others. He stated that new trees would be planted, and asked the president to appoint a committee to act as an advisory board to the city on this project. Johnnie Ramsey, Agnes Jordan, Elizabeth Thomas were appointed. Later, after the commissioners had studied and reviewed the oncoming growth of the city, a joint meeting of the club and the city fathers was held on March 2, 1960, to discuss removal of the trees between 7th and 9th Streets on East Meridian Avenue. John Burks, Mayor, presented facts and the problems as well, to the 15 ladies who represented the club. The club went on record as approving the removal of the diseased trees previously designated, however, they stood firm on having some kind of islands with landscaping in the two block area. Lengthy discussions ensued but we lost the island between 7th and 8th Street, and preserved the one between 9th and 10th, thus saving the landscaping there.*

*Mayor Burks commended the Dade City Garden Club, stating that the City Commission as a whole saluted the ladies for a job well done, and congratulated each of the 5 circles for their work in developing and beautification of various city and county-owned property at their own expense.*

*Later, the city began the work east of Highway 301 on Meridian Avenue. The club was asked to draw up the plans for landscaping those islands.*

*The club took part in the Dade City Jamboree during 1959-1960, with a dessert booth, which was highly successful. Junior Gardening, which is club members working with children in the school, fostered trips to Lowry Park, Busch Gardens, taking part in the club flower shows; winning awards was enjoyed by many of these children.*

*The dedication of and declaring Dade City a Bird Sanctuary took place May 1, 1965. Signs were then erected at all entrances to the city.*

*In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, routes were mapped out, and marked through several street in town, designating the "Trail of Oaks". These streets have many beautiful old oaks which are enjoyed by our residents as well as many visitors.*

*After seven years of hard work, at the annual club meeting May 24, 1966, we celebrated a joyous and happy event. The Land Mortgage was burned, by Miss Thelma Gilbert, Mrs. Vera Turnbull, Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, Mrs. Marge Edenfield, the 1965 club president Mrs. Pat Larkin. With the exception of Mrs. Larkin, all others were cosigners of the note purchasing the property. Now, the property being clear of debt, our striving to get a building started was more exciting than ever. At different times, discussion came up to build a building large enough to hold meetings, and add on as funds permitted. However, nothing was worked out concerning this for a long time.*

*Concerned with good civic effort, the club was documented as opposing the making of the north grounds of the courthouse property into a parking lot. We also went on record opposing removal of the courthouse dome to add rooms to the existing buildings. These objections were forwarded to Tallahassee.*

*A definite stand was taken with the State Federation of Garden Clubs to save Corkscrew Swamp, a bird sanctuary, in the Fort Myers area. Real estate developments had been draining away life-giving waters that maintain the swamp's cypress trees and animal life. The National Audobon Society acquired four square miles of additional land to protect the swamp. The Ford Foundation matches every \$2 with \$1. The clubs were asked by the Federation to assess each member \$.25. Each circle responded 100%.*

*Mrs. Ray Knappee, District VIII Director, was introduced as guest speaker at a general meeting. She presented the aims, and goals of the Florida Federation. She told about the Junior Gardener's Camp near Ocala which is a nature camp. A child would qualify to attend by showing an interest in the camp. A few of our youth have had the opportunity to attend a newer camp, with the individuals in the club or circles providing the funds.*

*The club has decorated for some of the annual Jackson Memorial Hospital Charity Balls, a fund raising event to raise funds annually for this hospital.*

*The club and circles in continuing with our civic efforts, also our fund raising, want to extend gratitude to all the citizens and merchants for their patience and efforts on our behalf, and also for helping us to make a dream come true, the Saint Rita Catholic Church, which is now our club house. This church, built in 1913 on the corner of 14th and Robinson, with several additions throughout the years. A new church building was erected east of this building on the same property. The stained glass windows were designed for use in the new building, and without these windows, the building now became saleable for \$1,000, with the buyer having the task of moving it off the premises. The Garden Club president, Mrs. Inez Jeter, with some other members of the club, began to check with the city, Tampa Electric Company, Florida Telephone Corp, and a moving company, as to the feasibility of moving the building to our property site. About the time the estimated cost was established, the Church people decided to give the club the church building.*

*With this information, the president called a special meeting in the church building in August 1976 to present the information. There was much excitement and enthusiasm, with some members saying they could not visualize a club house being "restored" from this church building. After much discussion, a vote was taken with the majority of 19 ayes to 7 nays to accept the building. Plans began immediately to move the building to our site at 1000 5th Street. First, several trees were removed from the foundation site. The city also removed many tree limbs along the moving route. Mr. Tillman Smith, a building mover from Lakeland began the great responsibility. The club hoped that the steeple could be removed, so it could be used as a gazebo on the club grounds. However it had to be torn off. Finally it was ready to be slowly moved to the street,*





GETTING READY TO MOVE TO NEW LOCATION



MOVING DAY



to start the journey to the club property with Florida Telephone, Tampa Electric Company, the city street workers all taking down poles and electric wires and street signs. Thanks to Mr. Bob Roberts, Standard Oil dealer, for taking down the fencing around his property to make a passage way. On this property the building stood until next day when the journey was completed. At this point most of the savings account was depleted with less than \$1,000 left. Mr. John R. White, an architect from Brooksville had done an architectural design for some residents in Dade City, and gave freely of his time to draw the foundation plans to set the building. The church was still mounted on the moving beams. A proposed inside restoration floor plan sketched by the president and the committee was presented to the club for their approval. The blueprint was then drawn by Mr. Lawrence Puckett, Mr. White putting his architectural seal with no charge to the club, or did Mr. Puckett charge any fee.

At the time the club voted to undertake the challenge of our dreams which now was coming true, we knew we would need an attorney. With Mrs. Patti Brewton in the club (wife of attorney, Bill), we and she began asking for legal advice. Right at this time a decision had to be made as to how much we should go into debt, to provide a place in which to hold our club meetings. Mr. Brewton legally advising us to borrow \$10,000 for this first step, we acquired three estimates with Mike Giella, under Covington, & Giella Contractors Company, submitting the estimate the club chose to use in restoration of the building. The work began in the spring of 1977. Again we soon realized the loan was not going to be sufficient to complete the job. The president, acting on behalf of the club, asked Mr. Giella if he would consider or be interested in completing the job and taking over the mortgage. He said he preferred a co-partner, but he would complete the job. With this decision another called meeting was held. The club voted in favor of this move. The legal matters concerning the borrowing of the first money, and what else was involved were taken care of by Mr. Brewton, acting as our attorney. He is and will remain at the top of our list of people to whom our deepest gratitude is given, for his continuous service to our club.

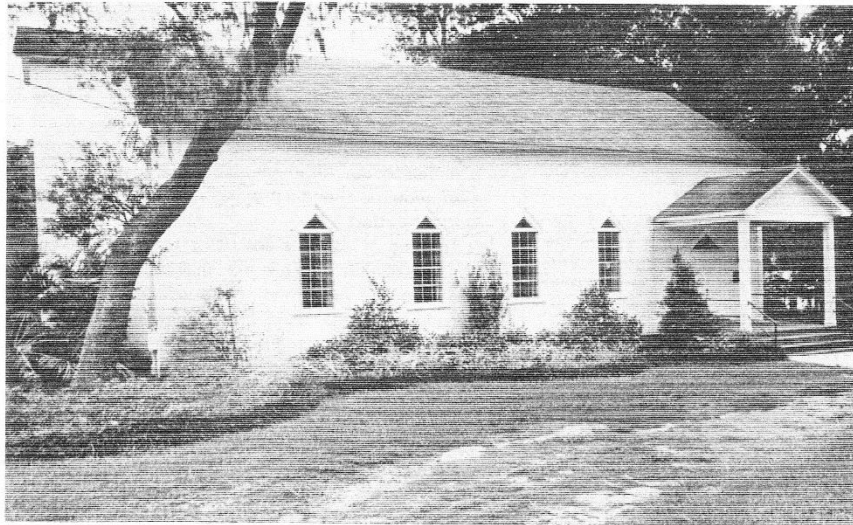
As the building was nearing completion, the Garden Center Fund Raising Committee began to realize that the mortgage would be much less if we shared our needs with the public. A letter was written by this committee concerning these needs and mailed to many people. The responses were

*overwhelming, those wanting to contribute in specific ways, namely: memorials, kitchen equipment, (stove, refrigerator), carpeting, draperies, wallpaper, lighting fixtures, furniture. Many landscaping plants were contributed, the larger ones coming from the yards of Mrs. R.K. (Madelyn) Butler, Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Deal, and Mrs. J.F. (Inez) Jeter. Two podocarpus, 2 bottle brush, a palm and a loquat tree, these being so large, the Oakley Tree moving service contributed the labor and equipment to move them. Smaller plants were all azaleas on the south of the building given by Mrs. Cassie Dowling, the crepe myrtle on the north by Mrs. C.F. (Thelma) Touchton, Jr. All the grass sod was contributed, delivered and placed by Mr. and Mrs. Freeman K. Polk, with Pasco Junior High School students actually laying the sod. Many other contributions, large and small were given, some contributing time and labor, others of the membership pledging later contributions. The white azaleas around the tree on the northwest corner of the building were given by Madelyn Butler in memory of all the deceased club members. The red azaleas on the northwest corner in honor of past presidents by Mrs. J.T. Jeter. An Appreciation Wall Plaque, also a wall plaque for memorials was especially prepared for Open House December 4, 1977, which drew an overwhelming attendance record, helping to celebrate the long dream come true.*

*A brief on accomplishment on the grounds: on Arbor Day, January 1977, a Magnolia tree from Madelyn Butler's yard was planted in honor of Miss Thelma Gilbert, who was the organizer and first president of the Dade City Garden Club, having served started May 19, 1947. Rays' Ruby Azaleas and bottle brush on the northwest corner of the property around the tree, were donated by Inez Jeter. On Arbor Day, January 1978 a Memorial Camellia Garden was dedicated and eight camellias planted, in memory of loved ones by the Memorial Garden Chairman, Madelyn Butler and other members. January 1979 Arbor Day a large Alba Plena (white) camellia, contributed by Madelyn Butler was planted on the northwest side of the grounds honoring and in dedication to Mrs. J.F. (Inez) Jeter who was club president from 1976 to 1979. It also honored her husband, J.F. Jeter, who each gave many hours of work to the Garden Club.*

*Another Memorial camellia garden has been started on the north side for the enjoyment of the handicapped, where their entrance and parking spaces are located. Other events since the Garden Center Open House*

# Dade City Garden Club — Dedicated to Preservation



*By Carol Jeffares  
Dade City Garden Club*

Dade City, nestled in the rolling hills of plush citrus groves, is a town dedicated to preservation — preservation not only of nature and the natural environment surrounding the small Central Florida community, but preservation of its history.

The Dade City Garden Club, through the extensive efforts of its members, has managed to do both.

As with most garden clubs, the Dade City organization, comprised of 150 members in seven circles, sets as its objectives civic and roadside beautification, as well as planting and protecting trees, birds, wildflowers and shrubs.

But the club has also preserved a part of Florida's history by restoring an old church as its garden center.

The Dade City Garden Center, located at 1000 Fifth St., near the downtown area, was built in 1913 by the Nikolai, Hormuth and Collura families of Dade City to serve as St. Rita's Catholic Church.

The style is an example of Gothic church architecture that existed in many parts of Florida and the United States around the turn of the century. Other churches in Central Florida were built in the same style, but St. Rita's remains as the sole survivor in Pasco County of churches of that time.

The church, with a bell tower constructed in 1920, continued to serve the Catholic congregation until 1976 when a new building was erected. The old structure was then donated to the Dade City Garden Club, which assumed the responsibility of moving the building to a 2½ acre tract purchased by the club in 1957. Final payment on the property was made in 1966.

Money was needed, however, for restoring the old frame structure and the club borrowed approximately \$40,000 at a low interest rate from a private investor. The club still owes \$17,000 on the mortgage.

Before being moved to its new location on the club grounds, the top part of the church's steeple, surmounted by a hand-forged iron cross, was removed. The church was then moved to the present site in February, 1977 and placed on a substantial cement base to comply with city ordinances. Active restoration started a short time later, with very few changes made to the old building.

At the north end of the garden center, where the bell tower still stands, and opening onto a parking area, a ramp was installed for the handicapped. The cathedral ceiling remains unchanged, but chandeliers were added and in addition,

windows were placed in the original contoured openings.

Other needed restoration included a new roof, a central air conditioning and heating system, carpeting, an equipped kitchen, two rest rooms, a foyer and second balcony, custom draperies, painting, wallpapering and decorating.

In January, 1977, the building was dedicated and at the same time the first club president, Thelma Gilbert, was honored by the planting of a magnolia tree on the grounds.

Gilbert organized the club May 9, 1947, when she called a few friends together for a meeting in the backyard garden of her home. Later that year, with approximately 60 charter members, the club was affiliated with the state organization.

The club has received several plaques and certificates of appreciation from such groups as the Dade City Chamber of Commerce and the City of Dade City for having the foresight to restore the building — "Taking a leadership role in historic preservation for present and future generations to enjoy", according to one commendation.

The building was also recognized in 1979 as an historic site by the Pasco County Commission Board and the Historical Preservation Committee and a plaque stating this fact was placed at the entrance to the building.

The garden center not only serves as a place where the club can conduct meetings, floral design workshops, flower shows, bazaars, luncheons, and other fund-raising activities, but it is also a vital part of the community life, being used by many for weddings, receptions, anniversary parties and other social-type functions. Small rental fees pay for some of the maintenance costs as well as a portion of the remaining mortgage debt.

The now-bricked building is surrounded by huge oaks, interspersed with various gardens, such as the memorial garden, where white azaleas have been planted in memory of past club presidents. Other plants, too, have been planted by private individuals as memorials.

The thrust of this year's club project is to continue the landscaping with a circular drive and additional parking. Each of the garden circles will design a separate garden, and with a professional landscape architect coordinating the designs to compliment each other, the club hopes to achieve a compatible overall landscape with the restored historic structure.

Dear Friends,

The Dade City Garden Club, federated in 1948 and composed of 4 circles, Magnolia, Poinsettia, Hollyhock, and Hibiscus, is presently involved in the restoration of the lovely, historic St. Rita's Catholic Church. The church, built in 1913, was donated by the church last year to the Garden Club for the purpose of establishing a Garden Center, and was moved to land owned by the Garden Club. In with keeping with the Bicentennial Spirit of 1976, club members voted to restore the building and to apply to the State of Florida for an historical marker relevant to the significance of the church's history. For many in our community, the establishment of a Garden Center is a dream come true. In the future, it is hoped that many Flower Shows, Civic Club Meeting, and Gardening Workshops will be held there for community benefit. A gardening library will also, be housed there.

Restoration has begun. Acting on faith, club members boldly borrowed \$40,000 in order to complete the project now as they were acutely aware of spiraling building costs. The end of September should see the project completed with the exception of landscaping which will be done with the expertise of club members.

Why are we sharing this information with you? Because, frankly we need your help. As you are aware, the Garden Club is a service organization which has no steady income. In times past (and present) we have donated plants, time, money, and landscaping expertise for the beautification of our community. Evidence of our work may be seen on the median strips on Meridian Avenue, plantings at such public buildings as the Civic Center, Public Health Building, our schools, and in the maintenance of Lester and Apex parks - the latter of which is a favorite picnicking spot for tourists and local citizens. We have also enlisted underprivileged and exceptional children in our community gardening projects. Each project is and has been a labor of love, freely given.

Because of your graciousness in the past and because people in our community are so generous in sharing and helping one another, we are asking for any monetary gift that you are willing to share. Such gifts are tax deductible, but more importantly will be an investment in our community. No gift will be considered "too small." Donors name will be displayed in the Garden Center (or may be omitted, if you so desire - just tell us.) Donations may be designated for specific items, such as air-conditioning, kitchen equipment, etc. Pledges will also be accepted. We are establishing a memorial plaque for the deceased members of the family or friends you wish to remember.

We hope that before long we can invite you to an Open House to see our facilities. Meanwhile you are welcome to stop by and watch our progress.

We extend to you a very personal thank-you from the Garden Center Fund-raising Committee.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Mrs. Sallie Edwards  
Mrs. Elbert (Helen) Tyner  
Mrs. Robert (Betty Denlinger  
Mrs. Pete (Mary Louise) Brock  
Mrs. Morris (Jerry) Nichols  
Mrs. Ronald (Brenda) Oakley  
Mrs. William (Dempsey) Webb  
Mrs. Ronald (Margaret) Jones  
Mrs. Charles (Rita) Carey

Mrs. Cecil (Mary) Jordan  
Mrs. Harry (Evelyn) Reppard  
Mrs. Cassie Dowling  
Mrs. Bessie M. Swift  
Mrs. Thomas (Carolyn) Hines  
Mrs. Leon (Mabel) Jordan  
Mrs. Wayne (Loretta) Clark

president, installed the 1978-79 general officers. The Chamber of Commerce, David Griffith, chairman of the awards committee for the Chamber, presented a beautiful plaque in recognition of the restoration and beautification efforts of the club. We will cherish and honor this lovely plaque which is on display in our building. The Junior Woman's Club also presented us congratulations for our efforts and gave us a check as well.

A library has been established in the north balcony. This is a Magnolia Circle project with Mrs. George (Pat) Carver and Mrs. Hjalma (Laura) Johnson as co-chairmen. This library contains many good gardening and flower arrangement books contributed by members of the club.

Dedication of the Club House to the past presidents, members and the public will be held in May 1979. The library dedication will be held also in May and will be dedicated to our first Charter Members. A new charter was adopted in May 1977 with the following general officers and circle chairmen signing the charter:

Mrs. Inez Jeter, president  
 Mrs. Patti Brewton, vice president  
 Mrs. Geri Nichols, second vice president  
 Mrs. Loretta Clark, secretary  
 Mrs. Tiny Bozeman, treasurer  
 Mrs. Annie Mae Goldsby, corresponding secretary

Circle chairmen were: Mrs. Rita Carey, Hibiscus; Mrs. Marjorie Turner, Hollyhock; Mrs. Margaret Jones, Magnolia and Mrs. Mary Jordan, Poinsettia.

The Garden Center building since Open House has been used for club meetings, workshops, rented to the Rotary Club for its annual banquet, the A.J. Nikolai fiftieth wedding anniversary reception; they had been married in the old St. Rita's Church in 1928. This was a good opportunity for the many Catholics to appreciate the restoration of this building. Many came to the reception.

The club's first annual bazaar was held in the building last fall, which resulted in the first \$1,000 being paid on the mortgage January 1979.

*The Dade City Garden Club aims and vision for the future are to begin even more than ever trying to reach beyond and be an even greater asset and influence to those around us. We want to do this because we are indebted to many, many people, including those who gave financial help, understanding, patience and endurance.*

*Compiled and written by:*

- Mrs. J.F. (Inez) Jeter*
- Mrs. Jewel Atkinson*
- Mrs. Bob (Betty) Denlinger*
- Mrs. Ron (Margaret) Jones*



*THE DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB HISTORY CONTINUED  
1980 - 1998*

*Many fund raisers were held to help pay off the mortgage and continue our civic efforts to beautify Dade City and participate in community affairs.*

*The club planted wildflower seeds at entrances to Dade City, held tree plantings on Arbor Day, donated Christmas lights for downtown and painted a plywood Christmas card for Church Street Christmas.*

*The fund raisers included a bazaar, a gourmet cooking demonstration, catering, fashion shows and luncheons.*

*We had annual flower shows to help educate the public in the art of flower design and horticulture.*

*We continued to pay off the mortgage as funds became available.*

*Extensive landscaping was done on the center's garden preceded by landscaping schools and lots of discussion. The garden was divided with each circle being responsible for the care, maintenance and planting for their section.*

*By 1982 we had grown to 90 members and had 4 existing circles.*

*In 1983 we had a phone installed and had increased our membership to 134 with three new circles.*

*We landscaped the jail and installed an irrigation meter for the gardens.*

*There was a grand celebration on March 13, 1986. We burned the mortgage. The Bank of Pasco offered \$1,000 in matching funds for the purpose of paying off the mortgage. This proposal was enthusiastically accepted. The mortgage was paid off in full by January 6, 1986.*

*In May of 1987 we hosted District VIII Spring Meeting at St. Leo College and received high praise from all who attended. In 1995 we repeated this effort and had a big reputation to live up to. Needless to say, Dade City Garden Club came through with flying colors.*

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*We had annual flower shows to help educate the public in the art of flower design and horticulture.*

*We continued to pay off the mortgage as funds became available.*

*Extensive landscaping was done on the center's garden preceded by landscaping schools and lots of discussion. The garden was divided with each circle being responsible for the care, maintenance and planting for their section.*

*By 1982 we had grown to 90 members and had 4 existing circles.*

*In 1983 we had a phone installed and had increased our membership to 134 with three new circles.*

*We landscaped the jail and installed an irrigation meter for the gardens.*

*There was a grand celebration on March 13, 1986. We burned the mortgage. The Bank of Pasco offered \$1,000 in matching funds for the purpose of paying off the mortgage. This proposal was enthusiastically accepted. The mortgage was paid off in full by January 6, 1986.*

*In May of 1987 we hosted District VIII Spring Meeting at St. Leo College and received high praise from all who attended. In 1995 we repeated this effort and had a big reputation to live up to. Needless to say, Dade City Garden Club came through with flying colors.*

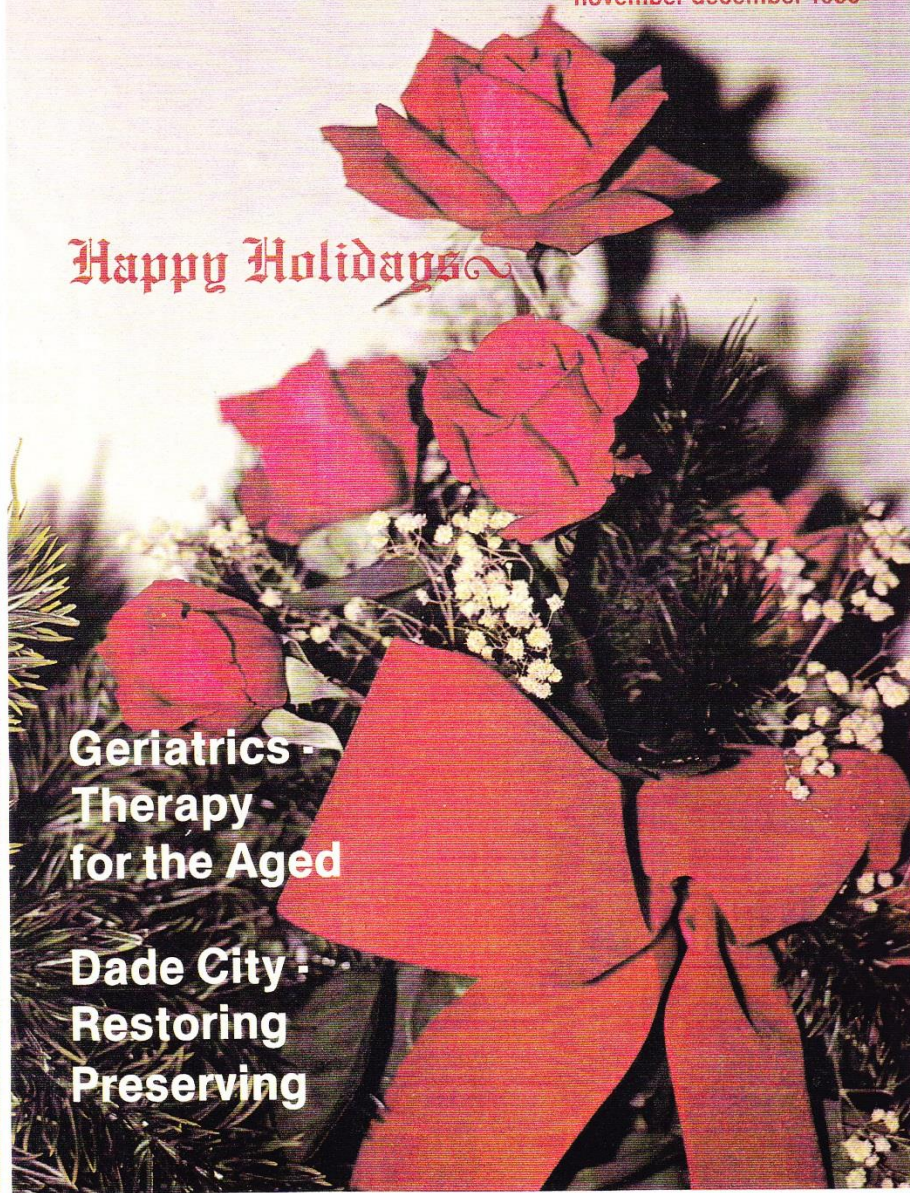
the florida **gardener**

november-december 1983

**Happy Holidays**

**Geriatrics -  
Therapy  
for the Aged**

**Dade City :  
Restoring  
Preserving**



*In the late 80's we were ready to afford new draperies and generally spruce up the interior of the center, especially since we rent the center for private and civic affairs. This is an on going project which we will use to keep up the center as funds become available.*

*The club was invited to participate in the State Flower Show held in Tampa at the fair grounds. We designed and produced the focal point for the show and chaired the hostess committee.*

*Our members planted a butterfly garden at the Pioneer Florida Museum, Dade City. State and District officers attended the dedication. This was followed immediately by a request from St. Leo College that we do the same for them. We gladly accomplished this with enthusiasm and many thanks from the College.*

*Various youth were sent to Wekiva, sponsored by different circles. There were three new youth garden clubs formed who then participate in the Flower Shows.*

*Six Dade City Garden Club members started attending Flower Show Judges School and four of them became NCSGC Judges. We participated with designs and hostessing in the District VIII Flower Show and District Meeting held in Plant City.*

*Continuing our efforts to not only beautify our town with tree and flower plantings, we cleaned out the grove in back of the Garden Center turning it into extra parking space and landscaped with day lilies and flowering trees. Bird houses were added to attract birds.*

*We donated \$1,000 toward a new "Welcome to Dade City" sign erected on the Polly Touchton Park on 301 and landscaped it.*

*Our garden tour and Flower Show drew 400 visitors and won a blue ribbon State Award for a Home Tour.*

*Hollyhock Circle deeded Lester Park to the General club and plans were made to continue its upkeep and beautification.*

# Garden Club to burn mortgage

Dade City Garden Club is celebrating with a mortgage burning party, Thursday, March 13, 1986 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the clubhouse, 1000 South 5th St.

The Dade City Garden Club was chartered in May of 1948 with five circles who elected Thelma Gilbert to serve as the first president. The 2.3 acres of land, now owned by the club, was purchased in February of 1959, under the leadership of Mrs. D.D. Covington as president. The original mortgage on the land purchase was burned in 1965 when Mrs. Pat Larkin was president.

The old Saint Rita's Catholic Church building was donated to the club and moved to the present location in August 1976. A mortgage made to the late Mike

Giella to pay for the renovation of the church building, thus making it one of Dade City's most beautiful landmarks, and marked as one of the historical preservation sites in Pasco County. This was done under the leadership of Mrs. J.F. Jeter as president.

The Garden Club now has

seven circles with 140 active and enthusiastic members. Mrs. Carl Deal is serving as current president. Mrs. William F. Brewton is in charge of the mortgage burning festivities.

An invitation is extended to the general public to attend this momentous occa-

sion and help celebrate and enjoy the feeling of pride each member of the club has in paying off the mortgage in the few short years. The club wishes to extend a very special thanks to each and every person and organization who has so generously donated in any way to make this possible.

PASCO NEWS...Friday, March 21, 1986—1C



The Dade City Garden Club burned its mortgage last Thursday after it was paid off. Watching the flames are club members Sue Porter, Mary Jordan, and Tiny Bozeman.

News Photo by DARRELL E. WILLIAMS

*A Floral Design course was offered not only to our own members, but to other garden clubs as well. We had a full enlistment and it was a huge success.*

*Twenty-four more trees were planted throughout the community. In 1991 we placed memorial plaques to identify the plantings and planted more wildflowers along the roadsides.*

*In our ongoing responsibilities to the Garden Center, the kitchen and restrooms were refurbished.*

*In 1993 a dedication tea was held where a memorial plaque in honor of Thelma Gilbert, our founding president was placed on the front lawn of the Garden Center. All past presidents were our honored guests.*

*A second series of Floral Design classes were held at the center.*

*We were presented with a bronze podium used when it was in St. Rita's Catholic Church.*

*Sue Pryor had a floral design displayed in the Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar. Betty DeWitt received a certificate of appreciation for serving as a leader at Wekiva and Wal-Mart donated \$500 for our efforts in conservation and environmental concerns.*

*We were honored again when slides of historic preservation in Dade City were included for use by the Deep South Convention. The buildings were the Garden Center, the Overstreet House and the butterfly garden at the Pioneer Florida Museum.*

*The circular drive was paved with a generous donation from the Webbs. Joan Pryor was elected District VIII Director in 1994. Joan has been and continues to be a faithful member of Dade City Garden Club.*

*In 1994 two more of our members had designs placed in the Florida Flower Arrangement Calendar.*

*Our club donated money to the Homestead Garden Club to replace the losses from Hurricane Andrew.*

November 20, 1997 • Dade City, Florida 33526-0187

## Dade City Garden Club Acknowledges Historical Efforts



Photo by CARLENE ELLBERG

**Pictured L-R: Jeff Collins, Lori Collins, County Commissioner Sylvia Young, City Commissioner Scott Black, and Brightman Logan**

DADE CITY—On Nov. 17, members of the Dade City Garden Club acknowledged efforts of several individuals for their efforts in saving the large oak trees around the Pasco County Courthouse. Those acknowledged were: County Commissioner Sylvia Young, Dade City Commissioner Scott Black, Brightman Logan of Central Florida Flora, Lori and Jeff Collins of WDCF/WZHR and Carlene Ellberg and Bill "Homer" Dennis of the *Pasco News*.

These individuals represented the efforts of a large portion of the community who challenged initial decisions to remove several large oak trees surrounding the court house. Examples of their efforts were, speaking before the City

Commission, initiating a petition drive and remote radio broadcasts, editorial and news coverage including reprinting architectural and landscape drawings, and spearheading a decision by the Board of County Commissioners to both save the trees and involve Central Florida Native Flora in the redesign of the landscaping plan with a broader mix of native species.

In her closing remarks, Pat Carver acknowledged that, "We have made new friends and perhaps ruffled the feathers of some old friends. But I am thankful we live in a society where we can be heard. I'm thankful as was stated in the headline of an editorial... "Average folks can make a difference."



Times photo — SUZANNE HAYES

From left are Joan Pryor, president of the Dade City Garden Club; Evelyn Somerville, butterfly chairwoman of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; Mrs. W. Reese Harris, president of the FFGC; and Mrs. O. Edgar Williams, third vice president of the FFGC.

## Club creates butterfly sanctuary

A butterfly sanctuary should feature butterflies' favorite things — protection from strong winds; six hours of sunshine each day; a water-filled pan set down into the soil; and stones where the butterflies can warm themselves.

The Dade City Garden Club, member of District 8 of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC), recently created a butterfly sanctuary next to the historic Overstreet House at Dade City's Pioneer Museum.

**Carolyn Falls**, Dade City Garden Club member, is chairwoman of the local butterfly project. **Catherine LaBrie**, FFGC District 8 Butterfly chairwoman, led the site dedication.

In a "Save the Butterfly Day" proclamation, the club stated that because of the availability of larval plants during the winter, Dade City has a large number of migratory butterflies. However, three species of Florida butterflies have been placed on the endangered list and other populations are declining because of the extended use of pesticides.

The club encourages the cultivation of plants for larval and nectar food so future generations can enjoy the full range of butterfly species in existence today.

A complete butterfly garden contains food plants for the young — the caterpillars. That food includes milkweed, nasturtiums, Queen Ann's lace and thistle. Flowers for the adult butterfly include annuals such as asters, marigolds, phlox and zinnias; perennials such as day lilies, geraniums, verbena and sunflowers; or shrubs



EAST & CENTRAL PASCO

**SUZANNE HAYES**

such as honeysuckles, lantana, azalea, hibiscus and plumbago.

The club also advises gardeners who would like to establish a butterfly sanctuary to cut back on the use of pesticides and let nature's predators do their job — the birds, ladybugs and the butterflies themselves.

The dedication ceremonies opened with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4283 leading the large crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and ended with **Michaela Butler** and **Kate Patterson**, both pupils from Centennial Elementary School, reading poems they wrote about butterflies.

### The Monarch

The monarch is a swift fellow  
Dyed reddish brown not black  
and yellow,  
When he or she is in my hand  
Makes me think of peaceful  
lands.

I am a big fan of it, pollen is  
its food you see,  
It helps to make pretty flowers  
Which helps me think of me,  
It flies up high, way up in the  
sky

This is a Butterfly!

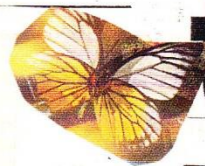
— Michaela Butler

### Butterfly

Emerge today, now  
Eat nectar from the flower  
Go, Go, drift — Goodbye.  
— Kate Patterson

St. Petersburg Times

pasco  
times



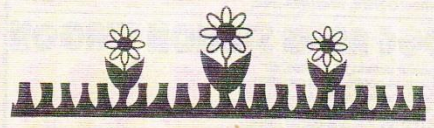
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1992



# Plant A Butterfly Garden



Dade City Garden Club president, Joan Pryor (right), recommends planting a flowering butterfly garden (even a small pot will do) in a sunny area, protected from the wind. President of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Mrs. W. Reese Harris (left), was one of several state officers on hand Monday at the Pioneer Florida Museum, for the dedication of the Dade City Garden Club's Butterfly Garden. March 16 has been designated as the annual "Save the Butterfly Day" in Dade City. PASC0 TODAY photos by Colleen Leonard



## DADE CITY & GARDEN CLUB PLAN A MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

A Memorial Tree Program is planned for Dade City. The Dade City Garden Club and the City of Dade City are co-sponsoring a tree planting program in honor or in memory of persons. They have co-ordinated plans to install the trees at selected intervals on both sides of Church Ave. This will create an attractive and co-ordinated "memorial avenue." Small plaques will be displayed at the base of the tree naming the person in whose honor the tree was donated and by whom.

The Garden Club is proposing to co-ordinate the program by receiving the request for memorial trees, purchasing the trees and providing the memorial plaques for a set fee.

The E. Palatka holly is the proposed tree for the Memorial Tree Planting Program because it will provide a pretty green shape through the year and will bear beautiful red berries coinciding with Church Street Christmas.

The trees, which will be planted and maintained for 90 days by the City of Dade City, will be placed 30-40 feet apart and will be planted on the public right of way between the roadway and the sidewalk. The first phase is proposed at the east end of Church Ave. in the vicinity of 8th St.

Interest has been expressed in planting more live oak trees in Dade City, but unfortunately, there is not enough space on the right of way to support a mature oak. In order to be able to plant live oaks, the trees would have to be placed on private property adjacent to the right-of-way. The City would be willing to plant an oak tree if any

property owners would provide the space and maintain the tree. Any resident of Church Ave., that would be willing to have an oak tree planted on their property adjacent to the sidewalk and right of way, please contact the Dade City Public Works Department at 523-5051.

The initial memorial tree planting will be Monday, May 6, at which time about 15 holly trees and 3 live oak trees will be planted in memory or in honor of persons. This is a unique and special way to honor a person or family. A tree could be given for one's birthday, on the occasion of a significant event, or just because you think they are special.

If you would like to honor a person with a memorial holly or live tree to be planted along Church Ave., please call Garden Club representatives, Pat Carver at 567-3844, or Patsy Scott at 588-2040. The fee for installing an 8 ft. holly tree with the memorial plaque will be \$50, and the live oak tree fee will be \$90.

A ceremony to dedicate the trees to be planted and the dedication of the replanting of Lester Park will be held Monday, May 6, at 10 a.m. at Lester Park on 7th St. at Coleman. There will be a brief program at Lester Park, and then the memorial trees will be planted. The Garden Club will provide refreshments at the dedication ceremony, and

the public is invited and encouraged to participate in the dedication of these beautification efforts by the City of Dade City and The Garden Club.



# **Dade City Garden Club Receives PETALS Grant**

The Dade City Garden Club, a member of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, has been awarded a grant of \$500 to be used for local projects dealing with community improvement, according to an announcement made recently by Pat Carver, President of the Dade City Garden Club.

This grant is part of the PETALS Program, (Protect the Environment Through Action, Learning, and Service), a two-year program of environmental concern co-sponsored by National Council of State Garden Clubs and Shell Company. In this program, garden clubs nationwide, working with incentive grants from Shell Oil Company, will strive to make an environmental difference in their respective communities. The goal of this program is to encourage local clubs to initiate environmental projects which might not be possible without the grant.

This year over \$121,000 has been awarded to 310 clubs nationwide for proposed programs dealing with either conservation, environmental issues, or community improvement. An additional \$16,500 has been given to state federation and regions for programs and projects being initiated in the environmental field.

The project being planned by the Dade City Garden Club encompasses the total redesign of the plantings in Lester Park. Barbara Mercer, chairman of the Roadside Development Committee, has spearheaded this project. Working with her on the plantings and care of the garden have been members of the City Parks Department, under the direction of Ron Ferguson and Don Hall. Kenny Polk, Connie Wilkerson and their co-workers have assisted the garden club in this project. In addition to Mercer, Catherine Henrich, Inez Jeter and Marjorie Stevenson have been working on the new look for Lester Park.

Members of different garden club circles will be planting annuals each of the four seasons to give a special touch of color and beauty to be enjoyed by those who drive along S. Seventh St.

The club has planted a number of new trees in the park, and has transplanted a mature Granddaddy Greybeard. More

plans will be carried out throughout the next year. It is the desire of the club to bring beauty in every way possible to Dade City.

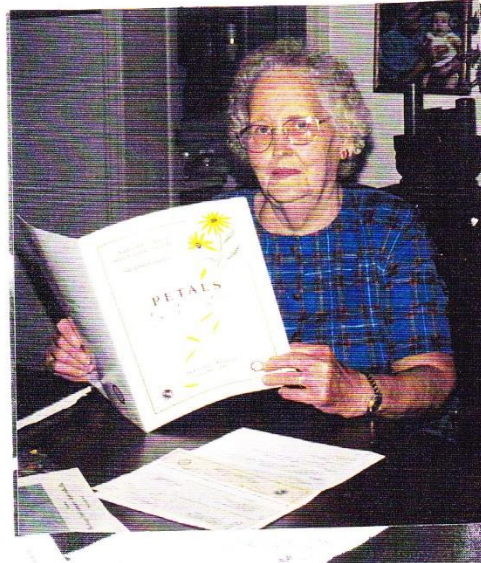


Photo furnished

**Inez Jeter reads the "Petals" announcement that Dade City Garden Club had received a national award co-sponsored by Shell Oil Company and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Jeter, an active member of the Dade City Garden Club for almost 50 years, has been involved in planning and supporting many projects.**

3-14-9

# Old oaks are saved from ax

■ The unanimous decision reverses plans from late 1995 for landscaping the courthouse square, but it elates tree supporters.

By JEFFREY BRAINARD  
Times Staff Writer

DADE CITY — Supporters of the controversial oaks at the old county courthouse came prepared Tuesday with passionate pleas to save them.

But they didn't have to convince the Pasco County Commission, which with little discussion voted unanimously not to cut down the stately trees.

The outcome elated the tree supporters, who last week rallied on the courthouse lawn. They tied signs and yellow ribbons around the trees and collected 1,400 signatures on petitions.

Hours after the County Commission's vote, the trees bore new signs: "Thank You, County Commissioners."

The county had final say over the trees' fate because the county is sponsoring a \$2.2-million project to restore the 1909 courthouse, a project that will include new landscaping.

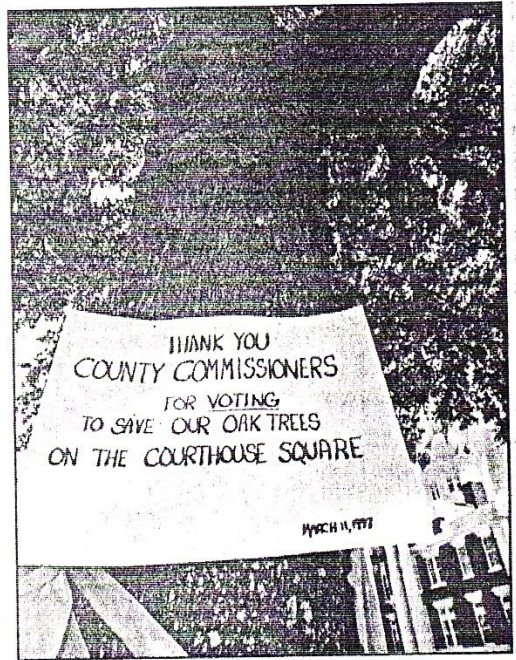
County officials had proposed cutting five large oaks ringing the courthouse square and transplanting five smaller ones elsewhere.

In their place the county would plant 12 to 18 live oaks. Over time, the trees would grow in more symmetrically than if the existing trees were not removed, the staff argued.

However, County Commissioner Sylvia Young, whose district includes Dade City, made the motion Tuesday morning to save four of the largest oaks.

She called for the state to independently assess the health of a fifth large tree, a live oak that spreads over the square's bandshell. County officials and some Dade City residents fear the aging tree could fall and damage the bandshell.

Please see **OAKS** Page 11



Times photo — JACK ROWLAND

Hours after Tuesday's vote, the trees in Dade City with yellow ribbons bore new signs: "Thank You, County Commissioners."

TIMES ■ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1997

## TREES/Dade City board in agreement

◀ From Page 1

Johnson, who is coordinating the renovation project, said Tuesday afternoon the county would have to make some adjustments to its plans for the courthouse.

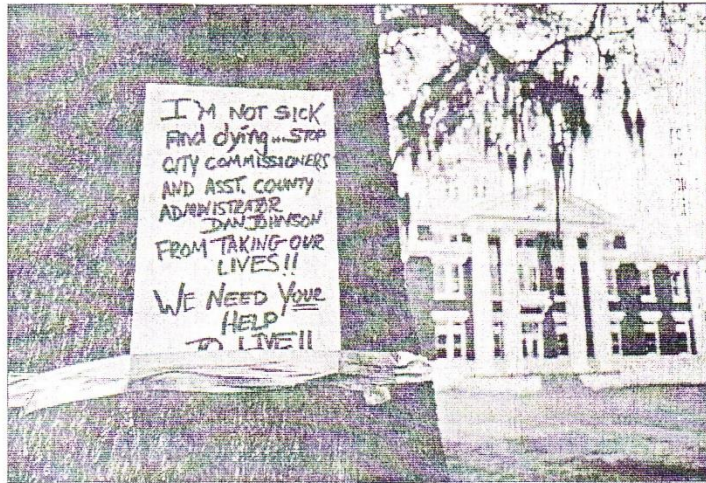
The initial idea was to rim the courthouse square with younger live oaks and make the sidewalks around the building uniform, he said. Officials will have to re-examine how they will landscape the courthouse square.

How much those changes might cost isn't clear, he said.

In a late afternoon meeting, some Dade City commissioners argued they didn't need to vote again on the tree issue because the county's action that morning rendered it a moot point.

But Black pointed out that the state transportation department needed the city and the county to be in agreement on the trees' fate via a formal vote from each panel.

In other action Tuesday, county commissioners discussed how they will furnish the renovated courthouse. Commissioners, County Administrator John Gallagher and County Attorney Karla Stetter will move their offices to the building



PAM HIGGINS/Tribune file photo

Protesters had taped signs around the large oak trees outside the old Pasco County Courthouse.

when it's complete.

Young suggested the board consider using period furniture even though it won't come cheap: "We're probably going to need \$50,000 to furnish that building."

Commissioner Ed Collins asked why the board couldn't do the same thing it did when it moved from its old offices in New Port Richey to the new West Pasco Government Center: take its furniture to the new digs.

Collins didn't get any support. Commissioner Pat Mulieri said she agreed with the decision about the west-side furniture, but the renovated courthouse is a special case.

"This is going to be a focal point for Pasco County," she said. "This

would enhance the building. Sometimes you can be penny wise and pound foolish."

Commissioner Ann Hildebrand agreed: "I like the concept of furnishing it in period furnishing, because that will be what makes it spectacular."

Young said she found a Lakeland antique dealer who would be able to provide the commission with much of what it needs for the building. Hildebrand suggested setting up separate accounts so commissioners each could choose their own office furniture.

Commissioners asked Gallagher to look into the matter for their next meeting.

## EAST PASCO

### Environmental seminar explores water issues



Carol J. Hedman

An environmental awareness seminar, "Protecting Our Water: Every Citizen's Responsibility," was held earlier this month at the Dade City Garden Club.

The daylong seminar featured speakers from the regulatory agency, Southwest Florida Water Management District; the water supply agency, West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority; environmentally concerned citizens; and two Pasco County commissioners, **Sylvia Young** and **Ed Collins**. Representatives from Dade City, Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Largo, Crystal Springs and Tampa were among those who participated in the seminar. The National Council of State Garden Clubs was represented by the vice chairman of the Environmental Studies School, **Liz Murken** of Wisconsin.

According to the seminar leaders, **Stephanie Stratton** and **Pat Carver**, the seminar provided an overview of the water issues as they affect mainly the tri-county area of Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

Addressing the subject was **Becky Ayech** of Sarasota, who represents the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida. She stressed the importance of civic education and involvement and the importance of being watchful of policy making groups. Ayech suggested that to bring about changes, a person must be outraged enough to continually speak with representatives until a law is passed to correct the problem and make sure the law is enforced.

The water problems were addressed through slide presentations showing the impacted wetlands and lakes by environmental scientists **Lizanne Garcia** and **Ted Rochow** of Swiftmud, and **Jan Dillard**, one of the property owners of the severely impacted Big Fish Lake on the Barthle Ranch. **Judy Williams** of Land O' Lakes spoke for **Gilliam Clarke**, whose property has been impacted as well.

Each of the speakers gave a slide presentation documenting their comments. The manager of the Resource Evaluation Section of Swiftmud, hydrologist **Andy Smith**, spoke of the geology and hydrology of the area, how it differs from the counties south of Tampa Bay, and why the difference affected the level of the wetlands and lakes in this area.

**Doug Manson**, attorney for the city of St. Petersburg, discussed the history of the Florida water law, how it now stands and the fact that the water management district and water supply authority are required by law to provide public supply water without causing significant environmental damage.

**Paula Dye** of West Coast spoke on present and future water needs of the tri-county area. Alternates to over-permitting and over-pumping groundwater withdrawals were also discussed. Alternative solutions being considered include the plan to make the authority a regional water utility.

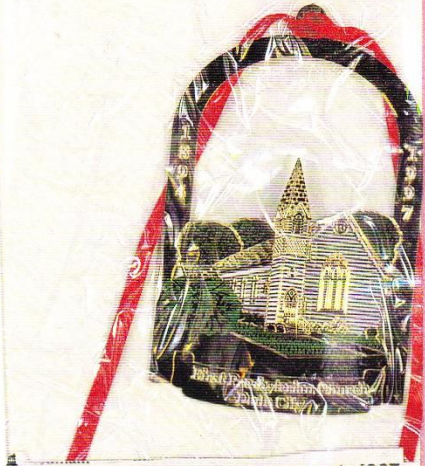
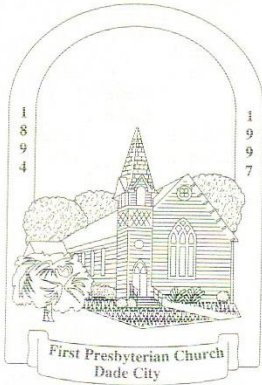
**Don Lindeman** of West Coast talked of desalination; **Lou Kavorous** from Swiftmud spoke of other water alternatives, including reclaimed water, conservation, and capturing and improving excess rainfall. The speakers also pointed out that alternative sources of water are not only necessary for growth and development, but vital for protecting the wetlands and lakes.

**Eileen Hart** of Odessa addressed the real value of the limited supply of groundwater when considering the cost of wellfields and transporting the groundwater, plus paying for litigation and mitigation of the damages.

The goal of the planners of the seminar was to raise the level of awareness among those who live in this area and accept the responsibility for participating in the solutions to the problem.

**Carolyn Griffin** and Dade City Garden Club president **Faye Stevens** provided beverages and snacks. The same program, with several speaker changes, was presented in Tampa at the Garden Center of the Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs.

Funds for this project were provided by the Dade City Garden Club and a PETALS grant, which is part of a nationwide incentive program sponsored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc. and Shell Oil Co.



Pasco News, Thursday, December 4, 1997.

## Annual Garden Club Christmas Ornaments Available



Photo by PAT CARVER

Sue Porter, 2nd vice president of the Dade City Garden Club, presented a Christmas ornament to Reverend Paul Fisher, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Dade City. The church, featured on the ornament, is the fourth local historic landmark featured in a series of annual Christmas ornaments sponsored by the Dade City Garden Club. The brass ornament features a tall narthex with its pointed tower and shake-shingled roof, typical of Presbyterian churches of its time. The church was organized on Jan. 13, 1889. There were 25 charter members. In 1894, the church was built at its current location on Church Street. Additions have been made over the years, however, the original sanctuary remains much the same as it was.

These ornaments are currently being sold by Garden Club members for \$12 each. They are also available from the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and Williams Lunch on Limoges.



*Two more larger Garden Club emblems were purchased for the north and south entrances to Dade City and were installed on sign standards advertising the amenities of Dade City. Banners were purchased to be installed downtown to advertise the Flower Shows. These were done in such a way as to change the date and year as needed.*

*We won both State and National Awards for the Flower Show. The butterfly garden was awarded the Deep South Traveling Award.*

*Honorary memberships were awarded to husbands who have been so helpful to us over the years, we couldn't have done so many things without their help.*

*The front hall was refurbished, painting walls, mural removed, chair reupholstered, new mirror and area rug installed.*

*The exterior walls were steam cleaned with a donation from the Chamber of Commerce. A picture was taken to be used on their publicity.*

*A shed was purchased to be used for storage and placed at the rear of the center.*

*Our facilities were used for a blood bank drive, continuing our efforts to help the community at large.*

*In '94 a Master Gardeners program was started and completed by 12 of our members and with the required 50 hours given to the community, we have all been enriched with their knowledge and assistance. A graduation ceremony was held at the Garden Center on April 5, 1995.*

*During 1994 a garden therapy program was instituted at the Edwinola, a poster contest for grades kindergarten, fourth and fifth were displayed in downtown businesses. They were judged and awarded prizes. We helped the Junior Woman's Club to landscape their grounds; and a new roof was installed in 1995.*

*Because of our need for money, we started a program of selling Christmas ornaments of historical buildings in the area. The first was the old Court House. Each year another is offered. So far we have done the Rodney B.*



*Cox Elementary School, The Garden Center and the Presbyterian Church.*

*An additional butterfly garden was planted at the Edwinola.*

*Our Master Gardeners worked on the planters in downtown Dade City; they presented programs in the library for National Gardening week.*

*Joan Pryor was honored with the Hall of Fame Award and the club won the National and State Award for our patriotic Flower Show.*

*A program was started to plant Memorial trees on Church Street, this has resulted in 84 trees planted not only on Church Street but also in various locations around the city. Dade City Garden Club received the Petals Award and the Deep South Exxon Award of landscaping the Woman's Club, The Mary Compton Award for Publicity, 1st place for Civic Development and Memorial Tree Program and ties for 1st for the Backyard Habitat Award. We made a donation to replant sea oats in the Panhandle.*

*New carpeting and fresh paint was installed in the exterior and the chair closet was enlarged to accommodate the stored tables.*

*In 1997 a massive campaign was started to save the Oak trees on the Old Pasco Courthouse square. Through hard work, great publicity and help from sympathetic citizens we succeeded in saving the trees.*

*Joan Pryor was elected 3rd Vice President of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.*

*We held our kick off celebration for our 50th anniversary in Thelma Gilbert's garden. A tea was held at the Garden Center to celebrate our 50th anniversary, all past members, town dignitaries, Federation members and the public were invited to celebrate with us. We had much to celebrate, from a small cadre of enthusiastic women the club has continued to grow. Our programs for the betterment and beautification of our community started with small steps. They are now giant strides. The Dade City Garden Club had won many, many awards; our interests have broadened from provincial concerns to include the whole State of Florida plus national environmental considerations.*

*We look forward to the coming years as a challenge to fulfill our obligations to club, city, state and country.*

*Compiled and written by: BettyAnn Sayre*



You are invited to a  
TEA AT THE GARDEN CENTER  
on  
April 23, 1998 at 2 P.M.  
to help us celebrate  
our  
50th ANNIVERSARY.

RSVP - B. Sayre 788-0320  
or C. Griffin 567-6204

Dade City Garden Club  
13630 Fifth Street  
Dade City, FL

THE DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENTS

<i>Miss Thelma Gilbert</i>	1947-48
<i>Miss Thelma Gilbert</i>	1948-49
<i>Mrs. Charles F. Touchton, Jr.</i>	1949-50
<i>Mrs. Ray (Gale) Therres</i>	1950-51
<i>Mrs. W.W. (Vee) Jones</i>	1951-52
<i>Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Deal</i>	1952-53
<i>Mrs. W.F. (Louise) Edwards</i>	1953-54
<i>Mrs. W.F. (Louise) Edwards</i>	1954-55
<i>Mrs. Arthur (Laura) Benson</i>	1955-56
<i>Mrs. Sallie Edwards</i>	1956-57
<i>Mrs. Cleon (Marge) Edenfield</i>	1957-58
<i>Mrs. D.D. (Joyce) Covington</i>	1958-59
<i>Mrs. W. B. (Betty) Petway</i>	1959-60
<i>Mrs. James (Lela) Futch</i>	1960-61
<i>Mrs. E.M. (Eurllee) Covington</i>	1961-62
<i>Mrs. W.M. (Elizabeth) Gaddis</i>	1962-63
<i>Mrs. W.M. (Elizabeth) Gaddis</i>	1963-64
<i>Mrs. Mel (Frances) Hansen</i>	1964-65
<i>Mrs. E.B. (Pat) Larkin</i>	1965-66
<i>Mrs. Cleon (Marge) Edenfield</i>	1966-67
<i>Mrs. Clyde (Joy) Hobby</i>	1967-68
<i>Mrs. Clyde (Joy) Hobby</i>	1968-69
<i>Mrs. Frank (Kay) Wallace</i>	1969-70
<i>Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Deal</i>	1970-71
<i>Miss Clara Ann Smith</i>	1971-72
<i>Mrs. Ken (Anita) Walrond</i>	1972-73
<i>Mrs. Ken (Anita) Walrond</i>	1973-74
<i>Mrs. Herrick (Ruth) Thomas</i>	1974-75
<i>Mrs. Ed (Maggie) Crone</i>	1975-76
<i>Mrs. J.F. (Inez) Jeter</i>	1976-77
<i>Mrs. J.F. (Inez) Jeter</i>	1977-78
<i>Mrs. J.F. (Inez) Jeter</i>	1978-79
<i>Mrs. Hugh (Marjorie) Turner</i>	1979-80
<i>Mrs. Hugh (Marjorie) Turner</i>	1980-81
<i>Mrs. Hugh (Marjorie) Turner</i>	1981-82
<i>Mrs. Bob (Joan) Pryor</i>	1982-83
<i>Mrs. Bob (Joan) Pryor</i>	1983-84
<i>Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Deal</i>	1984-85
<i>Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Deal</i>	1985-86
<i>Mrs. William (Beth) Hammond</i>	1986-87
<i>Mrs. William (Beth) Hammond</i>	1987-88
<i>Mrs. William (Beth) Hammond</i>	1988-89

<i>Mrs. William (Sue) Porter</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
<i>Mrs. William (Sue) Porter</i>	<i>1990-91</i>
<i>Mrs. Bob (Joan) Pryor</i>	<i>1991-92</i>
<i>Mrs. Bob (Joan) Pryor</i>	<i>1992-93</i>
<i>Mrs. Vic (Mary) Smith</i>	<i>1993-94</i>
<i>Mrs. George (Pat) Carver</i>	<i>1994-95</i>
<i>Mrs. George (Pat) Carver</i>	<i>1995-96</i>
<i>Mrs. Arvie (Faye) Stevens</i>	<i>1996-97</i>
<i>Mrs. Arvie (Faye) Stevens</i>	<i>1997-98</i>

## TRANSFORMATION

From bursting bud to flowering tree,  
The rhythm of life moves constantly.  
All things die and merge with earth,  
To return again in fresh new birth.

The trees and roses do not cry;  
When, with time, they fade and die.  
They know the wisdom of creation,  
There is no death - just transformation.

**Elwood Cecil Nance 1960**

The  
**National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.**



**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

*Honoring*

**DADE CITY GARDEN CLUB**  
*Florida*

*In Recognition of*  
**50 Years of Continuous Membership**



**April 1998**

*Barbara Barnette*

**Barbara Barnette, President**

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea

April 23, 1998

Jaye D. Stevens, Pres.  
Ellen Sunka, Chaplain  
Bedford F. Sage, Chairman  
Caroline Byrnes  
Naomi Kornfeld  
Bonnie Welborn  
Shela M. Seme  
Maryon Dinkler  
Jeannine Stephens  
Patti Brewster  
Dot Tucker  
Sue Porter  
Carroll Lucia  
Nancy M. Antonio  
Liz Rossmann  
Billie Daboll  
Laura DeLong  
Jane Newton  
Judy Edwards  
Ginger Paulk  
J. J. Fouts  
Jean Breutel  
Pat Carver  
Phyllis Smith  
Mary Roper  
Kay Tanno

Elbert and Helen Dyer  
Irene Steward  
Virginia Williams  
Vickie West  
John Stuck  
Frank Johnson  
Gail Surratt  
Benee Stout  
Dempsey Wick  
Bill Porter  
Shirley Frost  
Lana Johnson  
Ruth Thomas  
Michele Suttler  
Commissioner Pat Mulder  
Mary Copeland  
Bill Hammond  
Beth Hammond  
Jina Calvin  
Wendy Kivia  
Yvonne Siebler  
Janet Wing  
Betsy DeWitt  
Kendy Johnson  
Betty Bondelean

Jean Pope

Helene Whaley

Margie Turner

Mabel Davenport

Louise Arnold

Co. Com. Sylvia Young Dist. I

Mary Louise Beach

Kathy Reynolds

Cathy Langley

Jackie Freedom

Jing Brozman

Dorothea Cottard

Glenn Gilson

Dorothy L. EKARCZYK



BECAUSE IT'S OUR HOME TOWN

Exactly forty years ago, in May of 1947, an enthusiastic group of ladies met in the lovely yard of Miss Thelma Gilbert, here in Dade City. They were in perfect unison and harmony both in interests and in goals. They loved their town and they wanted to contribute toward making it an even more beautiful community, and shared a desire to study and to learn all they could about gardening. It was Miss Gilbert's dream, vision, inspiration, dedication and leadership that brought the group together. It was the response and determination of each one present that afternoon which resulted in the organization of the Dade City Garden Club.

This is certainly neither the time nor the place to list our many accomplishments. However, we just can not resist telling about a few of the highlights. Such as, in 1953, when our annual flower show earned the coveted National Purple Rosette Award, an award which was based on the quality of the entire show. And, in 1959, the year we purchased a beautiful, natural two plus acres of land, which is now the site of our Garden Center. Seven years later we burned that land mortgage.

In 1976 we realized a long time dream ..... the Saint Rita Catholic Church offered their church building, as a gift, to our Dade City Garden Club, to be moved to our own land and to become our Garden Center. The moving, renovation and decorating was a consuming project, culminating in an Open House Reception on December 4th, 1977, and another mortgage burning celebration on March 13th, 1986.

In the intervening years there has been a coordinated effort by the city, by many businesses and other organizations, and friends and Garden Club members to make things happen. That sameness of purpose, that true closeness between members, and that pride in and our love for our home town still exists.

How proud we are to add THIS DAY to our list of highlights.