

# Along Azalea Row

By Martha Grayshel

In garden club circles, the year ends with the month of June, at which time the annual reports are given, the old officers step out and the new officers are installed.

The June meeting of Azalea Garden Club was held at Chetco Inn last Thursday afternoon, preceded by a luncheon in the dining room. Forty-eight members and guests attended.

As Mrs. Erskine Miller, retiring president, was unable to attend, installation ceremonies were deferred until the July meeting, at which time Mrs. Charles Grayshel will take up the duties of President and Mrs. Warren Starr as secretary-treasurer. The resignation of Mrs. Roy Sunderland as vice-president, was read and was accepted with deep regret.

The Sunderlands are leaving for Forest Grove soon to make their home there indefinitely. As some of the members of the Azalea Singers had to leave early, the usual procedure of the meeting was somewhat reversed.

After a tasty, well-served and pleasant luncheon, the ladies sat back and enjoyed a solo by Mrs. Donnelly, two numbers by the group, and an especially delightful number by Mrs. MacKenzie: "There Are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden."

A short business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Warren Smith, vice-president. Mrs. E. F. Rapraeger, one of our own members, was featured speaker, and her talk "Trees and Flowers of the Bible" was immensely enjoyed. Her English accent is a delight to hear, and as much of her talk will bear repeating, we hope we are not imposing too much on our good friend, Dewey Akers, in asking that he print the whole of her talk in this week's issue: **TREES AND FLOWERS OF THE BIBLE**

By Mrs. E. F. Rapraeger  
If Garden Clubs had been thot

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Appointments by Appointment

of in Biblical times all the people of ancient Palestine would have been members. Theirs was a pastoral life completely centered around their gardens, their vineyards and their agriculture. A man's wealth was judged by the number of livestock he owned, the size of his gardens and vineyards, and the numbers of wives he had. I think Solomon, King of the Jews had the most and he had thousand.

The gardens of the Holy Land were much larger than the average garden of today and were of a formal nature, and these formal garden designs were often used as a basis for the designs on oriental rugs and draperies. The gardens consisted mainly of water in the form of streams and trees. The first garden in existence, to the best of our knowledge, was the Garden of Eden in which Adam and Eve lived. This was composed mainly of streams running in four directions and shade and fruit trees, including the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It has been commonly believed that the tree from which the forbidden fruit was plucked by Eve was an apple tree, but Bible authorities contend that this was not so, it could have been any of the following: a quince, an orange, a citron or an apricot. (This rather upsets a lot of the jokes made about Eve and the apple).

The fig tree bears the honor of being the first tree mentioned in the Bible. The fruit was greatly valued as a food and of course the fig leaf was made popular as a form of attire by Adam and Eve. However, the leaf of the species of fig grown in ancient times was much larger than the leaf of the fig tree we know today and often reached the dimension of three or four feet, so this was not quite such a brief costume as we might suppose.

The date palm was a very important tree in Biblical times and the waving palm tops of a distant oasis spelled welcome and journeys end to a weary traveler where he knew food, rest, shelter and possibly company lay ahead. It is therefore natural that the palm should become a symbol of welcome and journey's end.

The olive tree was grown abundantly and the Mount of Olives lay close to Jerusalem and was much frequented by Jesus himself. Although the fruit was prized as a food most of the olive yards

were devoted to the production of olive oil which was used for lamp burning and for religious ceremonies.

The last of the fruit trees mentioned in the Bible is the pomegranate tree and although the fresh fruit was eaten, spiced pomegranate wine was made and was considered quite a delicacy and a rare treat.

Through the ages forests have undergone terrific destruction at the hands of man. Trees have been ruthlessly hewed down for quick money or industrial development, but fortunately there have been a handful of people with vision, who, through the means of reforestation and land conservation have endeavored to repair the terrific damage that has been done, but of course recovery is very slow. Likewise in the Bible people ruthlessly cut down trees with no thought of tomorrow and suffered nature's consequences, but fortunately like today there were a few people with vision who probably realized that in order to save the trees from this senseless destruction they would have to be raised to a sacred or religious stature. But it was only the trees that produced food, the fruit and nut trees that were so protected, and the trees which were used for building, such as the beautiful lebanon cedars, which must have been a very dramatic picture against the vivid background of the eastern sky, were drastically cut for immense building operations. Solomon took seven years to build a temple of lebanon cedar and thirteen more years to construct a palace for his thousand wives (My husband has taken three years to build a house for one wife. I tell him if Solomon only took thirteen years to construct a palace for a thousand wives it is about time he got ours finished.) According to the Bible Solomon employed a hundred

thousand fallers and buckers to work in the forests of Lebanon for over 25 years. This must have been an immense logging operation.

Less dramatic than the cedar but no less important were the fir trees which graced the slopes of Palestine and the surrounding hillsides, and although Solomon used some fir in the temple, most of it was used for shipbuilding.

To Be Continued

W. D. Sibley, of Typo-Print of Gold Beach, was a brief visitor in this area Sunday evening.

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