

1963-1974

These years were distinguished by creative leadership, innovative thinking, and cooperative action. A new concept in Regional procedure or activity was introduced, explored, or developed to maturity during the administration of each Director. It was a stimulating period of exciting progress and satisfying achievement.

The usual Annual Meetings were held in the various States, plus Regional Breakfasts at the NCSGC Conventions. Each was of much pleasure and benefit to those in attendance.

At Mrs. Cole's 1964 Annual Meeting, a second day, devoted entirely to Civic Beautification, was co-sponsored by Sears, Roebuck & Co. Mrs. Dahlgren conducted two Special Meetings of two days each during her term as NER Director. A Junior-Intermediate-High School Gardeners Seminar was held in 1966, and a Civic Development Conference in 1967. All three of these additions to our regular meetings were inspiring events.

Our NER Awards program was inaugurated in 1966 with the announcement by Mrs. Dahlgren of NER Award #1, donated by Sears, Roebuck & Co. for Civic Beautification. A Special Award of \$25.00 was given by Mrs. Elmer S. Watson in 1968 for "the largest number of The National Gardener subscriptions obtained in that year by a State Garden Club. In 1969, Mrs. Wetmore donated NER Award #2 for excellence in Conservation interest and effort. NER Award #3 was donated in 1971 by the J. G. Ferguson Publishing Co., to recognize success in placing their "Curriculum Guides". In 1972 NER Award #4 was donated by Mrs. Christy Hanas to stimulate subscriptions to The National Gardener. These numbered Awards are competitive between the six New England State Garden Clubs.

Regional Awards #5 and #6 were announced in 1974. Award #5 was donated by the Community League Garden Club of Weston, Massachusetts, for the best Conservation of Natural Resources project by a New England Club or Group of Clubs, beginning with the 1973-74 Awards Year. Award #6, donated by Mrs. Watson for outstanding work in Historic Preservation by a New England Garden Club or Individual became effective with the 1974-75 Awards Year.

In the Fall of 1966, Connecticut proposed the idea of holding an Annual Flower Show Symposium on a Regional basis, replacing those currently staged by individual State Garden Clubs of the Region. After exploration of the advantages and feasibility of this idea by the Executive Committee, and development of plans for its conduct and financing, the First Regional Flower Show Symposium was held two years later in Hartford, hosted by Connecticut.

This Symposium was funded by a contribution of \$100.00 from each State Garden Club, of which \$20.00 was returned from its surplus to each State Garden Club. The same plan was in effect for the 2nd Symposium but changed in the spring of 1969, when it was voted to put this Regional activity on a self-sustaining basis by using its surplus, and of all future Symposia, plus accrued interest, to establish and maintain a permanent Symposium Fund to revolve from Hostess State Garden Club to Hostess

State Garden Club for expenses in advance of revenue.

Another fresh idea was introduced during Mrs. Lawrence N. Andrew's term when her Board of Directors received a request from the NCSGC Convention Chairman, via her Regional Representative, Mrs. Daniel R. Mann, that one of State Garden Clubs consider hosting the 1974 NCSGC Convention. After considerable discussion, it was decided that, while no one State Garden Club could do so, all might cooperate in hosting this NCSGC Convention on a Regional basis.

This concept was explored under Mrs. Bramley and developed with the enthusiastic support of all State Garden Clubs. In 1973-74, while Mrs. Watson was Director and Mrs. Myrick Crane, Assistant Director, the details were perfected with Mrs. C. Norman Collard, 1974 Convention Chairman, Mrs. Ralph H. Davis, Co-Chairman, and a representative of each State Garden Club. Then, on May 12-16, 1974 in Boston, the New England Region had the pleasure of hosting the 45th Annual Convention of National Council.

All members of the Region were saddened by the resignation, on doctor's orders, of Mrs. Watson as our NER Director. We were happy to welcome Mrs. Crane as our 1974-75 NER Director on her ratification at the Boston Convention to fill Mrs. Watson's unexpired term. May 1, 1974.

Mrs. Cristy Hanas, Secretary New England Region, 1973-75

March 1. 1963

Mrs. Robert P. Anderson, Secretary

New England Region, 1961 – 1963