

Jan 7 1968

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUBS
MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 30th, 1968 AT HOME OF MRS. ROBERT GALVIN

MEMBER CLUBS: COUNTRY HOME AND GARDEN CLUB
COUNTRYSIDE GARDEN CLASS
FIELD AND FLOWER GARDEN CLUB
GARDEN CLUB OF BARRINGTON
LITTLE GARDEN CLUB
VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

Since we are about to embark on a fund-raising venture for our joint project THE RUTH AND ROBERT WORK PARK, we thought it an appropriate time to review the background of what has taken place since the inception of the project in 1959 - almost 9 year ago! Many of the present active membership may not be aware of the gigantic task undertaken by the original workers - in particular, Mrs. J. Wilson Mc Allister of Signal Hill Road in Barrington who acted as chairman.

THE RUTH AND ROBERT WORK PARK comprises 33 acres of what was an eyesore at the Barrington Road Entrance and Exit to the Northwest Tollway. The necessary construction work on the Tollway itself caused most unattractive areas and the Illinois State Toll Highway Commission allotted 22 such areas to the general care of the Garden Club of Illinois, Inc. Highway Beautification Committee, in 1958. The various participating clubs raised funds for material and the Toll Commission paid for the landscape architect who drew the plans and agreed to maintain the plantings for "a period of 3 years or more". The original funds were raised by the sale of tickets to a program at the Catlow Theatre given by Mrs. George Hirsch of New Rochelle, New York on "Inspiration and Technique of Flower Arrangement". Tickets sold at \$2.00 each and \$600.00 of the \$622.00 raised was used for the materials on the plan furnished by Atkinson-Fitzgerald, Landscape Architects of Glenview, Illinois purchased from Charles Fiore Nurseries and planted in October 1959, with the 7 Garden Clubs then active in the area participating. Since that date, one of the clubs - Brookside Garden Club - has disbanded and the Council is now at a membership of the 6 clubs listed here.

One of the mixed blessings of democracy is the "deliberate speed" necessary to accomplish a specific. Due to a combination of circumstances - poor soil, drought conditions, lack of sufficient personnel to maintain the many hundreds of miles of Tollway - the original plantings did not fare as well as the enthusiastic committee had hoped. Mrs. Mc Allister's Annual Report to the Council of January 18th, 1966, item #4, took note of the poor soil conditions which contributed to the rather sorry look of the area at present (1966) and the situation has hardly improved since then! Telephone and letter contact with the various members of the Tollway Commission by Mrs. Galvin of the Little Garden Club over the past 16 months has been - shall we say interesting? - but not as fruitful as hoped through circumstances where really no one individual can be blamed. Mr. Casimir Benovitz and Mr. Beman, the present men in charge of maintenance for this area have

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the same problem we do - a limited budget and limited time. Their watering truck gets around to the landscaped areas as often as it can but the most hoped-for blessing is God's own rainfall - in abundance - at the proper time of the year!

The \$25.00 assessment annually from each of the participating Council Garden Clubs (now numbering 6) totals \$150.00 a year. We all realize this amount would not be sufficient to supply the necessary fertilizers and soil beneficiaries much less replace any dead or dying items each year. The thousands of spring bulbs planted - by plain back-breaking work - by Mrs. Mc Allister and Mrs. Edmund Mc Gibbon (current present of Little Garden Club) never had a chance to come up even one year in the soil which is almost all clay! It is obvious some serious long-range planning must be done - and NOW - if the more than \$1,000.00 already invested is not to be in vain.

Each president (each having 1 vote according to Council by-laws) was contacted on a method of raising funds by Mrs. Galvin within the last month. Of the 6 member clubs, there is a "yes" from 4 making the necessary $2/3$ majority vote to proceed with a raffle as follows:

Each Garden Club member will be given 1 raffle book containing 40 tickets of 25¢ each, total value \$10.00. The prizes are a Motorola Portable Television (donated by Mr. Galvin) a Sunbeam Electric Rotisserie, a General Electric Coffee Maker and a boxed set of 80 color prints in book form (Currier & Ives America) donated by Mrs. Mc Gibbon. The member has her choice of taking all chances herself or selling them - to be completed by March 10th and money turned in by that date - raffle to conclude at the drawing on April 1st at the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs. The two non-participating clubs - Field and Flower and Village - may raise their share of the funds in their own fashion. This method would seem to be the most accomplished in the shortest time with the hope that each member's obligation may be reduced from \$10.00 to \$5.00 or even \$3.00 annually, rather than changing by-laws to make the \$10.00 annual amount in perpetuity. A bank account has been opened in the name of "Ruth and Robert Work Park" account and all checks should be made payable to this name. Each member president or representative here today will be given the total number of books for the members of her particular club so that chance books may be given out at the February meetings and a project chairman appointed from each club to see to it that collections are made and turned in by March 10th, 1968.

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It is our hope to show the Tollway Commission our approach and willingness to raise and spend our funds and get them to put a like extra effort into the maintenance which is their part of our joint venture! Telephone committments have been made to replace the washed-away grass areas and fertilization of the ground itself during the proper season.

The committee is extremely grateful for the support and helpful suggestions from all those who have been contacted in the various member clubs of the Council and let us hope that 1968 finds our project back to its original purpose - that for which the Council itself was formed - HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION.

A publicity campaign in the Barrington Courier with front page picture will be started in early February and run for 3 consecutive weeks. This should make it easier for those who prefer to sell their chance books as we hope the entire community will not only be aware of our work but have a genuine interest in sharing in it to the benefit of the eye of all beholders.

After 16 months of constant communication, we have reached the vantage point of hindsight....the best way to get the Ruth and Robert Work Park to be a "thing of beauty" is to engage a reputable landscaper NOW so that we are assured the necessary work can be done this Spring and not run the risk of losing any more of the material that has been planted in the past with funds previously raised. With the best intentions in the world, the Tollway personnel finds it almost impossible to co-ordinate dates when their crew can actually be on the spot. Their new man in charge is Mr. Grossman - having taken over from Mr. Roman - and he must now try to find the time to go back over all that has transpired in the previous 16 months before issuing instructions to his men. That means Spring will have come and gone and the RIGHT time is gone again! We can get his permission to do this job ourselves at our chosen date and if everyone of assumes the obligation of raising the necessary money by the sale of the Raffle books (at least, we have a chance to get something in return besides the satisfaction of a job well done in "our Park) there should be sufficient funds available to at least embark on the necessary program of feeding and fertilizing to improve the material now there, plus the planting of new mat as far as we can go. Time is, naturally, of the utmost importance since a contract must be made NOW so that work can be done at the right time.

Let us hope that by our next meeting, we have THIS project on its way to the point where keeping RUTH AND ROBERT WORK PARK at its most attractive, will become almost a routine matter each year and only maintenance by the Tollway Commission will be necessary and then we can tackle some other area that needs the "woman's touch"!

HISTORY OF RUTH & ROBERT WORK PARK FUND

1. At no time has the fund ever appeared in the Treasurer's report to the Council; it has always appeared as a separate entity.
2. From 1959 - 1969 all money collected under the auspices of the Council (approximately \$2,500) was used to develop, replant and maintain the Park.
3. 1963 Garden Club of Barrington donated \$400 for plantings around the plaque erected in the Park.
4. By 1970 the fund was basically out of money and the Park in a state of deterioration. A special committee of The Little Garden Club was set up to study the problem and it recommended continuing the project stating that "there is an obligation to the community to do so".
5. Mary Galvin received a proposal for replanting from Kottke Landscaping at a cost of \$8,000.
6. In 1971, Mary Galvin asked the Council for further funding to meet the costs of the Kottke Proposal. According to the Council minutes Field and Flower gave \$250 and stated it was reluctant to consider giving anything in the future; Country Home & Garden committed to \$250 and stated it would be their last donation. There is nothing in the minutes to indicate this donation was ever received. The Village Garden Club (disbanded in 1974) gave \$250. Countryside Garden Class refused to donate. Garden Club of Barrington gave \$3,000; Little Garden Club \$2,000. Mary Galvin committed to raise the remainder needed from "other" donations. A bank statement from later in the year shows a total of \$10,700 in the Fund account. Since a maximum of \$5,750 was raised through the Clubs, this left \$4,950 raised or donated personally by Mary. At this time it was mentioned that the Fund be turned over to the Garden Club of Barrington for administration since this Club had a Tax I.D. number and this would allow donations to be deductible to the donors.
7. From 1971-1973 approximately \$3,600 was spent on replanting and maintenance. There is no record of the Kottke proposal being implemented.
8. The minutes of 1/16/73 state that \$6,950.51 was invested with the interest to be used for maintenance.
9. May 1974 the fund was moved to GCB for administration. It is at this time that the Council ceases to have any real participation, either in funding or maintenance. There is one bank account statement from September 1977 showing \$8,366.70 in the Work Fund. No further mention of the fund or the project is made in the Council records after this date.

10. Regarding the overall responsibility of the Park the records show that Mary Galvin has been an active participant in the project from its inception in 1959 and since 1974 has been its sole participant. She has been the liaison with the Illinois Tollway Authority and has persevered in her contacts. Mary has been unceasing in her administration of this project, overseeing all aspects. She introduced and organized raffles, initiated various fund raisers and has donated generously herself. She has continued to pursue the project and has reported on the state and condition of the Park to the Garden Club of Barrington well after the Council has, in effect, absolved itself of any responsibility for this project.

11. Mary has now reported that the ITA has taken over full responsibility for maintenance and the money in the fund is no longer needed. The funds are available for another purpose. Mary strongly recommends that these funds be donated to the Barrington Area Historical Society for the purpose of moving the Dickenson School house. The Schoolhouse would stand as an additional tribute to the Works.

NOTE:

When the R&RWPark was begun there were two clubs, The Village Garden Club and the Brookside Home & Garden Club that are no longer in existence. In addition there are now two new clubs on the Council, The Village Planters and Green Thumbs, that came into existence after the Council's active support of the project.