

RUTH AND ROBERT WORK

Ruth Work has been a resident of Barrington since 1907 and she is widely known for work in conservation and conservation education. For her outstanding interest and contribution to the field she has received a medal from the Garden Club of America.

She is a founder and honorary member of the Barrington Woman's Club and has long been a leader of its Conservation Department. She is a founder and honorary member of the Garden Club of Barrington and is an honorary member of the Countryside Garden Class as well as being a charter member of the Little Garden Club, all affiliates of the Barrington Council of Garden Clubs.

In 1955 the Barrington Woman's club paid special tribute to Mrs. Work in recognition of her many years of service and inspiration to the club, particularly in the interest of conservation. At a later date Mr. and Mrs. Work were honored by the Barrington Natural History Society and presented with Life Memberships.

An architect of national note, Mr. Work died Oct. 28, 1960, at the age of 86. Local monuments of his talents include the Barrington Methodist Church and Barrington Hills Country Club.

Mr. Work was a member of the American Institute of Architects in Chicago, the Chicago Art Institute, the Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago Academy of Sciences, the Chicago Tavern club, Barrington Hills Country club, the Barrington Hills Countryside association, and the local Methodist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Work have been generous contributors to every cultural development in the community. Mrs. Work was for several years recording secretary for the Chicago Chapter of the Illinois Conservation Council. She has been active in the Chicago chapter of the Wild Flower Preservation Society and was an honorary president of the group.

She was a life member of the Chicago Historical Society and belonged to Chicago Academy of Sciences and the Illinois Audubon Society. Like her husband was, Mrs. Work was affiliated with the Methodist Church.

In crusading for conservation, Mrs. Work has written extensively on the subject in its various phases, directing her efforts to preserving the natural beauty of our country along with protecting plants and wildlife.

It was said of Ruth and Robert Work when they were saluted by their friends: "Few families have contributed so generously of their talents, experiences and energies toward every worthwhile project that has embraced the Barrington community."

RUTH AND ROBERT WORK PARK

In 1958 the Garden Club of Illinois officially adopted the landscaping of the Illinois tollways as a major project.

Barrington requested the privilege of landscaping the thirty-three acres located at the Northwest Tollway and the Barrington Road exit. Each of the seven existing Garden Clubs desired to participate in the plantings. The Council of Barrington Garden Clubs was formed, for it was agreed that everything should be channeled through the Council rather than a lot of clubs trying to deal with the Commission individually.

The Tollway Commission provided the landscape plan drawn up by Wallace Atkinson.

In February of 1962 the Council requested permission to name the park as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Work. The Commission accepted the idea and in June of 1962 the area was designated as the "Ruth and Robert Work Park".

From 1959 to 1962 - \$1,300.00 was raised and spent to do some of the initial plantings, mostly in the east section of the interchange.

In 1963 the Garden Club of Barrington gave the plantings at the base of the marker to further honor Mr. and Mrs. Work. Unfortunately, all of these died and the Club had little to show for their four hundred dollar investment.

To date we have had excellent cooperation with the Illinois State Toll Commission. They have eradicated the immense crop of dandelions in the park, furnished a mulch around trees and bushes, removed litter by regular crews and kept the grass cut.

In 1968 strides were made by the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs toward improvement of the park. The raffle resulted in an expenditure of \$1,250.00 to the Adam Fritz Nursery to plant around the sign.

In 1969 our second raffle allowed us to continue work which included extensive pruning, weeding, organic mulching and application of fertilizer. This was done at a cost of \$1,200.00.

Through the years, with each planting the prices are higher, resulting in receiving much less for your money. It is now thought that perhaps the work should be finished as it was originally planned by the architectural landscaper.

It was the opinion of the Little Garden Club's special committee (appointed at the last meeting to study this project) that we do have an obligation to the Community of Barrington to honor our commitment made in 1959 before taking on any other obligations.

May 1973 Statement
Ruth and Robert Work Park

BALANCE: December 1973 \$6,960.51

No money spent since April 1973

BALANCE: May 1974 \$6,960.51