

See and Tell!

Volume One, Number Two

Summer, 1983

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING GREAT SUCCESS.

The first annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, was a tremendous success. Georgia hospitality was at its best, and the weather was perfect, just cool enough for comfort, but warm enough for spring flowers and delightful garden tours. No rain. Florence Griffin and her local committee really went all out for the SGHS. Headquarters for the meeting was the delightful Tower Place Hotel at Buckhead where local members greeted the out of town guests on Friday afternoon and distributed packets of helpful materials about both the meeting and the area. Many took time on Friday to shop in nearby Lenox Square, and Phipps Square, two of the most elegant shopping districts in the United States.

Friday evening found everyone at the Atlanta Historical Society's McElreath Hall where we were entertained at cocktails and a buffet supper in the Member's Room, and then treated to a personal presentation by our own Catherine Howett, guest curator of "Land of Our Own: Landscape and Gardening Tradition in Georgia, 1733-1983." Following Catherine's talk about the exhibit, we had a private view of it. It is a wonderful experience, and please allow plenty of time to see it properly, as it is most comprehensive and highly sophisticated. The idea was brought back to Georgia by Louise Richardson Allen, who while in London saw the exhibit "A Thousand Years of Gardening in England." Louise supplied the idea and much support, Catherine Howett provided the scholarly research and wrote the catalogue, and Pat Crawford Hartrampf was exhibition chairman---an unbeatable combination---adding up to success!

On Saturday our bus left the hotel at 9:00 for McElreath Hall where we toured the historical society complex including The Quarry Garden, Tullie Smith House and gardens, Swan House and garden, revisited "Land of Our Own," and saw the famed Cherokee Garden Library, which is one of the largest and most comprehensive printed collections of garden books in the country, and one of the glories of the Atlanta Historical Society. For those who have not visited the Atlanta Historical Society complex, please do it. Much that is essentially southern is here, and the feeling of each unit in the large complex is different and delightfully presented.

Lunch on Saturday was at the handsome Cherokee Town Club in one of the second-floor private dining rooms. After lunch our bus left for a tour of several Atlanta gardens and neighborhoods, and we ended with tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Shakespeare Carr. The Carr garden, like the Carr house, was at a peak of perfection, and our hosts were charming at each stop along the way. Anne Carr, by the way, is the chairman of the Cherokee Garden Library committee.

On Saturday night the Society dinner was held at the distinguished Piedmont Driving Club on the edge of Piedmont Park. The hall was beautifully decorated with arrangements of fresh spring flowers, and wine was served prior to the seated dinner. Following dinner President Duncan Callicott turned the evening's remarks over to John B. Flowers III, vice president, who expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the entire group to the Atlanta membership for the wonderful meeting. His remarks were ended with a toast to the Atlanta members, and cheers followed. The first annual meeting was a huge success!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS.

The Board of the SGHS met with Florence Griffin and her genial husband, Bill, at their Gorman Road home in Atlanta, following the annual meeting. It was a very productive meeting, and the next newsletter will give you more details about what was decided. We were served a delicious lunch in fine Georgia style. Florence and Bill Griffin are collectors of Georgia furniture and are co-chairmen of the forthcoming exhibition of Georgia furniture at the historical society. An exhibition of Georgia furniture could be had by touring their house! They also collect antique books and prints, and a visit to their home is like a visit to a small museum. It rounded off the weekend beautifully!

1984 ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 1-3
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108

LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AGAIN AT OLD SALEM.

"Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" will be held again at Old Salem October 27-29, 1983. Make your plans to attend. This promises to be one of the most interesting and informative programs to date. In addition to the many fine sessions on garden restoration, there will be social events at Tanglewood, the William Reynolds estate, and a dinner in the greenhouses at Reynolds Gardens, which promises to be both a unique and elegant occasion! Sponsors for the conference are Old Salem Inc., Reynolda Gardens of Wake Forest University, and the Stagville Preservation Center at Durham, a division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. For more information write to "Restoring Southern Gardens," Old Salem Inc., Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

DUNAWAY GARDENS ARE BRINGING BACK THE BLOOM.

Dunaway Gardens near Newnan, Georgia are one of Georgia's most beautiful spots, and is now awaiting restoration. The 22-acre floral rock garden with seven natural springs and multiple terraces was chiseled out of a Georgia hillside in the late 1920s to become not only a popular tourist retreat but a nation-wide training ground for artistic producers and directors. Cascading waterfalls, miles of meticulously laid rockwork and a spectacular panorama of age-old trees were its hallmarks, and today a group is seeking to raise \$300,000 in order to begin the restoration. The Dunaway Gardens Restoration Inc. is seeking donations from anyone, so please respond if you feel you can. It is a worthy project, and vital to Georgia garden restoration, as well as to southern garden history. You can write to the group at Newnan, Georgia, and any gift will be appreciated.

NATCHEZ WILL HOST 1984 ANNUAL MEETING.

Glenn Halton (Mrs. Robert B.) of Natchez has invited the SGHS to her lovely Mississippi river city for its second annual meeting, early next April. The ladies of the local garden clubs are working with Glenn in her effort to show us one of the nicest times we could possibly have in Natchez. As those of us on the Board know, Glenn is one lady that produces, and we all are anxiously awaiting our visit to Natchez. Natchez, for those of you who might not know it, is the way we all wish the Old South could have looked! Well, Natchez did! It is one of the most beautiful old cities in the country, and its houses and gardens are famed far and wide. Make your plans now to come to Natchez! More details will follow.

NEWSLETTER NEEDS INFORMATION.

This newsletter is our principal organ for communication for the Society, and as such we must have current, timely information about events and programs in the South relative to garden history. Send in your information to the editor, John Flowers, 926 Dacian Ave., Durham, N.C. 27701. We hope to get a newsletter our four times this year, so let us hear from you with items of interest. Of course we are sometimes short of space, but if we can we will publish all that we receive.

MEMBERSHIP

Remember to tell your interested friends about membership in the Society. If you can, write to our office: Southern Garden History Society, Old Salem Inc, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108 for brochures. Give some thought to how many you need and let us know. We do not have an unlimited supply, but we do want you to have what you need.

The Southern Garden History Society is off to a great beginning, thanks to you all. Now, there is lots to do to keep this great idea going, so pitch in and lets work together for something that can mean a lot to the future of gardening in the South. We have a splendid tradition of gardening in the South, and we need to get busy in recording our garden history. By the way, we can thank Board member, Hugh Dargan for our newsletter title!!!!!!!!!!!!