

RECEIVES AWARD

Garden Club Of Sandhills Busy With Plans For Future

"During my twenty years as a resident of the Sandhills, I have often heard people from all locations say that we live in the 'Garden Spot of North Carolina,' and I sincerely feel that we do."

This was the enthusiastic response that Mrs. Elizabeth (Blitz) Younts gave when asked why the Garden Club of the Sandhills was formed. "I was urged by so many people to start a new garden club because of my interest in beautification, and because we had a need for another garden club in this area."

The Garden Club of the Sandhills was formed in September of 1966 with 12 charter members. These 12 have grown to 21, and have accomplished so much in one short year that the Garden Club of North Carolina awarded the club the N. B. (Nota Bene) Certificate of Honor at the state meeting in Asheville this year, for their outstanding service.

One of the first projects undertaken by the club was the acceptance of a room at the Campbell House, offered to them by the town, in which to house their club material such as horticulture books, etc. The club redecorated the room to make it as attractive as possible. This room will be used as a Garden Club Center, to be used by the public. It will contain books, pamphlets and information on all phases of gardening for those who need help with gardening problems.



MRS. J. S. YOUNTS

Mrs. Younts explained, "A Garden Center can really be what you want and can afford for it to be." Last year there were 25 Garden Centers in North Carolina located in libraries, a beauty parlor, one in a hardware store, two in private homes and several in different retail stores. They can be anything from test gardens, to gift shops furnishing slides, lectures and other data for garden club or public use.

Serving her second year as president of the club, "Blitz" Younts (she was given this nickname in camp as a teenager, and 'it just stuck') feels very strongly about their support of the Anti-Litter campaign that has been so well publicized throughout the U. S. "You must 'Clean-up before you can beautify,' and if everyone would help we could all make this an example to all other areas, as to what could be done." The Anti-Litter campaign is sponsored by

the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and each state and their affiliated members take the job on separately. "Mrs. Younts, stated that "when you think of the number of people in the U. S. and each of them littering, even a little bit, it could become almost a national emergency, just to get the debris off of the roads."

In connection with this, the club sponsored an essay and poster contest for the Southern Pines and Pinehurst school, during May. Awards totaling \$50 were given to the winners. "I feel we should start educating the children about littering and they in turn will educate their parents, and hopefully will always be conscious of littering on our streets and highways."

Mrs. Younts is an eager and fervent believer in anything she's connected with. A native of Winston-Salem she attended Greensboro College and received her bachelor of music degree from the University of Rochester. She was music librarian for NBC and staff organist and pianist for ABC in New York during the war years, and later a free lance organist in New York. She and her husband, Jack, moved to Southern Pines, "because we thought it was the nicest place around. The town endorsed our request to start a radio station here, so we formed WEEB and at the beginning I was program director." She is now a corporation executive for WEEB and WUSM in Havelock. She is a member of the National Association and N. C. Association of Broadcasters and American Women of Radio and Television. Locally she is a member of the Moore Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Moore County Historical Association, Sandhills Music Association and is a member of the board of the Beautification Commission.

Mrs. Younts was a member of the 16 man commission appointed by Gov. Terry Sanford for research on the N. C. Conservatory Commission, which established the N. C. School of Arts at Winston-Salem. She is now a member of the publicity committee for the school.

The Younts have three children, Sandra, Milliard and Gerlind and live on Bethesda Rd.

Mrs. Younts and the members of the Garden Club of the Sandhills all share a love of the Sandhills. During December, a club project with the theme, "Decorate Your Homes at Christmas with Natural Greenery from the Sandhills," led to a beautiful natural pine cone tree, measuring six feet in height, which was made during a workshop, and moved to the meeting room in the Campbell House for all visitors to see and enjoy. Other themes for programs have been centered around feeding birds in the winter and using autumn leaves for compost.

As to future plans for the new club, which includes members from Aberdeen, Pinehurst and Southern Pines, the president stated that other projects of a long term nature will be announced after their first meeting in September.

"Everyone here likes for visitors to come here and admire us—so we'd like to help keep the Sandhills beautiful not only by keeping it clean, and encouraging its natural beauty, but by planting more gardens. Our garden club is new but it has an intense interest and energy in its members, who want to do these things for the Sandhills."