

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Katherine B. Murphy's Garden Clubs Collection**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2014.9.10

Title: Katherine B. Murphy's Garden Clubs Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 record storage box.

Donated by: Unknown

Arrangement: Documents are arranged chronologically

Creator: Katherine Brooks (Mrs. John M.) Murphy and others

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, October 2024

Historical Note:

This collection of material was amassed by Katherine Brooks Murphy (Mrs. John M. Murphy) during the 1960s and early 1970s in her work as an officer in three organizations: the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, the Blue Ridge District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, and the South Roanoke Garden Club. She served on the board of directors and as treasurer and finance committee chair for the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 1964-67, and then remained on the board of directors through 1971. Katherine Murphy was Director and Treasurer for the Blue Ridge District from 1967-69. She was the South Roanoke Garden Club representative to the Roanoke Council 1975-76. Documents cover the period of time when the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs purchased and made upgrades to their Garden Center at "Fairview," 2713 Avenham Ave. SW, Roanoke.

The Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs was founded to unite the garden clubs of Roanoke; foster garden clubs, events, and programs; and to operate a Garden Center. In the mid-1960s there were over 55 member garden clubs in the Roanoke Council. The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs is a nonprofit organization founded in 1933. Its purpose is to coordinate the garden clubs of the state and aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources, encourage beautification, and further the study of gardening, conservation, and horticulture. In the mid-1960s, its Blue Ridge District, one of six state districts, had over 100 member garden clubs with over 2,000 members. The South Roanoke Garden Club had about 30 members in the late 1960s.

Scope and Content:

The collection includes the documents that Katherine Murphy amassed in her role as treasurer and board member of the Roanoke Council and Blue Ridge District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, and through her membership in the South Roanoke Garden Club. Items date from the early 1960s through the mid-1970s. The collection includes constitution and by-laws for the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, lists of

officers and member clubs, presidents' reports, financial reports, and minutes of meetings of the board of directors (1964-70), executive board (1965-71), and regular meetings (1965-71). It also includes documents related to the purchase and improvement of the Garden Center at "Fairview," 2713 Avenham Ave. SW, Roanoke. Other items provide details on the financial aspects of the 1969 Color & Fashion for Living show. Various documents related to other activities of the garden clubs are also included.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs: Mrs. Angell's files

- Documents were in a folder labeled "Mrs. Angell's files." Mrs. Angell was chairman of Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs from 1963-65.
- Correspondence received and copies of correspondence sent, related to purchase of a house by the garden club (1963-65)
- Reports and minutes related to purchase and improvement of Garden Center property (1964)
- Constitution of Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (Sept. 1960)
- Budget and financial reports (1964-65)

Folder 2: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs: Mrs. Repass's files

- Most documents in the file were labeled "Mrs. Repass." She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs.
- Deed of sale (copy) of Stephenson property on Avenham Ave. to the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (1964)
- By-Laws, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (Jan. 1966)
- List of council officers and directors, 1965-66
- Minutes of Board of Directors (1964-66)
- Minutes of Executive Board (1965-66)
- Minutes of Regular Meetings (1965-66)
- Financial reports (1965-66)
- Correspondence related to improvements at the Garden Center (1965-66)

Folder 3: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, part 1

- Information on Standard Flower Show (Dec. 1963)
- Proposed budget for 1963-64
- President's Annual Report (1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66)
- Report of Hands Committee (1964-65)
- List of club officers, committee chairs, board of directors, member club leadership, (1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67)
- List of club officers and directors, 1965-66
- Harvest Festival Pamphlets (1963, 1964, 1965)
- By-Laws, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (Jan. 1966), with notations

Folder 4: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, part 2

- Proposed budget (1962-63, 1963-64)
- Financial reports and financial related correspondence (1964-67)

Folder 5: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 1

- Minutes of Executive Board Meetings (1966-69)
- Newspaper clippings regarding garden shop; minutes of a special meeting about the garden shop June 5, 1968
- Nominating Committee reports for 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, and 1969-70

Folder 6: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 2

- Unsigned copy of contract with Robert and Jean Grisso to serve as custodian and hostess of the Garden Center (1966)
- Budget (1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69)
- Financial statements (1966, 1967, 1968)
- Inventory (1967)
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs By-Laws (Feb 1967)
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Standing Rules (Mar 1968)
- Blueprints for improvements to Garden Center (1968); proposals for improvements (1968)
- List of gifts/items on loan from Mrs. Walter S. Stephenson (1964)
- President's Annual Report (1968, 1969)
- Proposed changes to by-laws (Feb 1969)
- List of club officers, committee chairs, board of directors, member club leadership, 1968-69
- Roster of Board of Directors (ca. 1967)
- Board of Directors Annual Report (1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69)
- Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (1966-68)
- Cleaning Supply Closet Inventory (1968-69)
- Garden Center Inventory (1968-69)
- Newspaper clipping about Davis & Stephenson, Inc. insurance firm. Its founder, William C. Stephenson, built the Avenham Ave. house, purchased to be the Garden Center.

Folder 7: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 3

- Minutes of regular meetings of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (1966-1969)

Folder 8: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 4

- Financial reports (1966-1969)

Folder 9: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 5

- Financial reports (1969-1970), related correspondence

Folder 10: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 6

- Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors (1969-70)
- Meeting Minutes, Executive Board (1969-71)

Folder 11: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 7

- Meeting Minutes, Regular Meetings (1969-71)

Folder 12: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Board of Directors, part 8

- Rules on Garden Center Use
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs By-Laws (Jan. 1970)
- Board of Directors lists, (1969-70)
- List of officers and committee chairmen, 1970-71
- President's annual reports, 1969-70 and 1970-71

Folder 13: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Miscellaneous, part 1

- President's annual report, 1967-68
- Flyer for sale of garden markers
- Work orders for repairs at Garden Center (1967)
- Mrs. Murphy, correspondence received (1967)
- Color and Fashion brochure (1966)
- Harvest festival Brochure (1967)
- Lists of Past Presidents (1966, 1968)
- Garden Center Rules (1970)
- List of officers and committee chairmen, 1970-71 & 1971-72
- Estimates related to enclosing porch at Garden Center (1969)
- Estimates related to kitchen renovation at Garden Center (1970)
- Financial reports (1970)
- Proposed changes to by-laws
- Copy of article about Garden Center from *The Garden Club of Virginia Journal*, Sept.-Oct. 1969
- Other correspondence (1969, 1970)
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs By-Laws (Jan. 1970)
- Programs: First Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, The Science Museum Assoc. of Roanoke Valley, Inc. (1970); Color & Fashion, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs (1970)

Folder 14: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Miscellaneous, part 2

- Correspondence
- Program, Rose Show, Roanoke Rose Society, 1968
- Information Sheets on Roses, Place Settings, Holiday House Sale (1968), Green Thumb Shop,
- Budget information (1967-69)

- Text of programs given on Panorama (Channel 7, WDBJ) (1967):
Geranium Trees, Bonsai, Propagation of Ornamental Shrubs, Terrariums
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs newsletter, May 1, 1967

Folder 15: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Miscellaneous, part 3

- Program, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Annual Flower Show, 1965
- Program, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Annual Flower Show, 1967
- Info sheet: contemporary arrangements
- Green Thumb Shop, Profit & Loss Statement, 1966-67
- Brochure, 1966 Color & Fashion for Living
- Financial documents (1966)
- Newspaper Clipping (includes photo of Mrs. J. Murphy)
- Correspondence, 1966 (purchasing lot by garden center property)
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Officers & Committee Chairs, 1966-67

Folder 16: 1969 Color & Fashion for Living, part 1

- Event program
- Budget, list of participants, schedule of events, financial reports

Folder 17: 1969 Color & Fashion for Living, part 2

- Booth rental statements and receipts

Folder 18: Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, Representative from South Roanoke

- Yearbook for 1975-76 including list of officers, committee chairmen, clubs roster, budget, by-laws, rules for Garden Center use
- Blue Ridge Council Flower Show Judges, Roanoke area, (n.d.)
- Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs president's reports 1974-75 & 1975-76
- Nominating Committee Report, 1975-76
- Treasurer's Report, 1974-75
- Program List, 1974-75
- Roster Corrections, 1975-76
- Club bulletins, 1974-76
- Historic Garden Week pamphlet (1977)
- Daffodil Show pamphlet (1977)

Folder 19: Blue Ridge District, Treasurer (1967-69)

- Solicitations for outgoing president gift (1969)
- Blue Ridge District club list (n.d.)
- Blue Ridge District Flower Show program (1969)
- Correspondence received (1967-69)
- Spring Meeting Agenda (1969)
- Blank Flower Show Committee Report (1969)
- Yearbook, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs (VFGC) (1968-69)

- *Old Dominion Gardener* Spring 1969 / Program, VFGC Convention, 1969
- Invitation to Magic City Garden Club luncheon, Oct. 5, 1967
- Programs, Fall Meeting, Blue Ridge District (1967, 1968)
- Programs, Spring Meeting, Blue Ridge District (1967, 1968)
- Course Three, The Flower Show School, program (1968)
- Blue Ridge District financial reports, budgets (manuscript), (1968, 1967)
- Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, VFGC, Sept. 1968
- List of club contributions to VFGC President's Horticulture Scholarship Fund, V.P.I. (1968)
- Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting Agendas (1967, 1968)
- Membership rosters: Lakeland Garden Club, Otterburn Garden Club, Westhampton Garden Club, Oakland Garden Club, Collinsville Garden Club, Castle Garden Club, Longwood Garden Club, Lakehurst Garden Club, Garden Gate Garden Club,

Folder 20: South Roanoke Garden Club

- Membership Card, Mrs. J. M. Murphy, South Roanoke Garden Club (1967, 1968, 1969)
- South Roanoke Garden Club Yearbooks (1966-67, 1967-68)

Folder 21: Miscellaneous Items

- Dues Notice form (blank)
- Program, 1967 VFGC Annual Meeting, held in Roanoke
- Program, The Flower Show School, Course 5 (1969)
- Pamphlet, National Council of State Garden Clubs
- *Old Dominion Gardener* (Winter 1966-67, Spring 1967, Fall 1967, Winter 1967-68, Winter 1968-69)
- Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Yearbook, 1966-67
- *National Gardener: Bulletin of the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc.* Jan-Feb 1969
- Program, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs "Footlights and Flowers" flower show, 1968
- Program, Pleasant View Garden Club, "September Glory" flower show, 1967

Folder 22: Photographs

- Katherine Murphy
- Unidentified wedding