



The records for the early years of the OHGC are scarce. In the archives that we have, most records start in the 1950's. From the 1950s forward we have yearbooks, publicity books, photos, newspaper articles, civic improvement binders and more. For the early years, what we have is an article written by Hazel Koetje in 1962, titled "The 39th Anniversary of the Oak Harbor Garden Club".



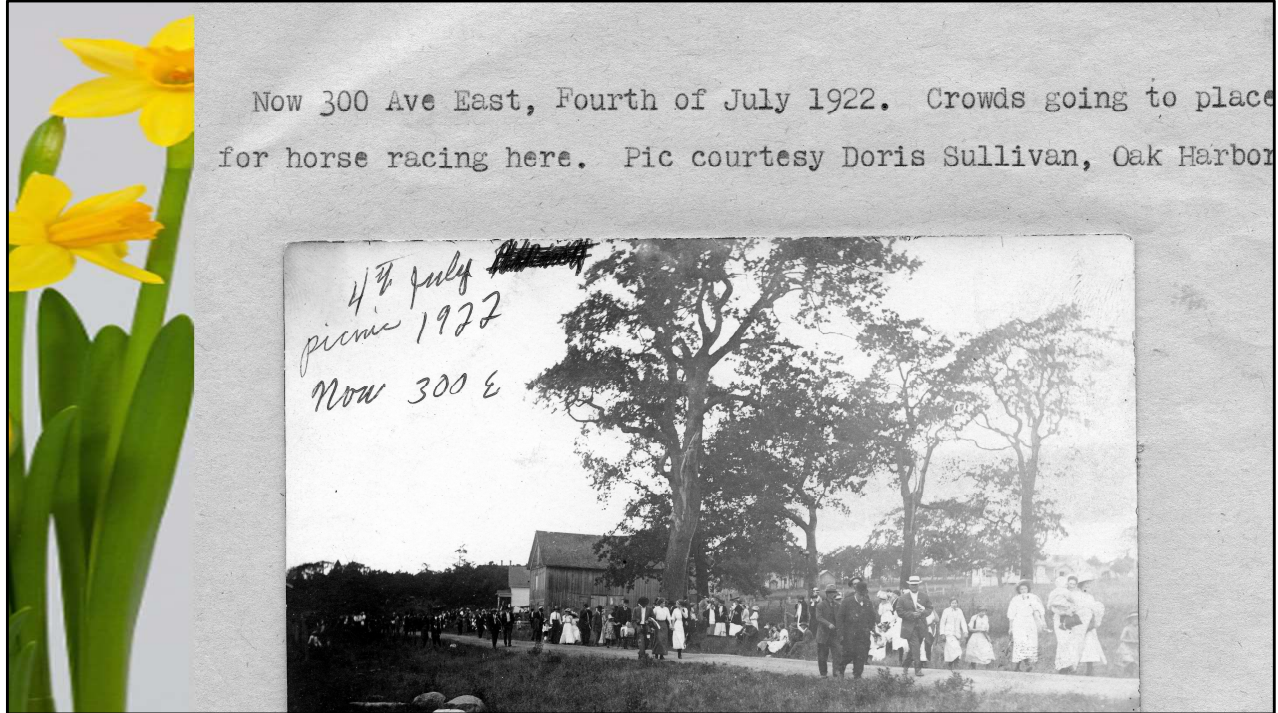
The early photos of Oak Harbor that follow were provided by Peggy Darst Townsdin. This is from 1915.



Mrs. Walter Elliott was downtown the day a sidewalk was being put in front of the bank. She asked Mayor Hill Barrington why they didn't put a sidewalk up the hill to the High School. Mayor Barrington replied " Mrs Elliott, that is something for you women to do. From that idea, The Oak Harbor Women's Improvement Club was born.



The first meeting of the Oak Harbor Women's Improvement Club occurred on October 3rd, 1923.



The club took on numerous projects during the early years. They were instrumental in getting merchants to decorate for Christmas, hosting various fundraisers from bake sales, to flower shows, to bazaars. A baby clinic was held with a doctor and nurse coming from Seattle. The Club donated money to the Fire Department for an apparatus.



The Club had many projects to benefit City Park (now called Smith Park). They improved the Community Kitchen in the park, they sponsored a minstrel show and used the money raised to put playground equipment in the park.



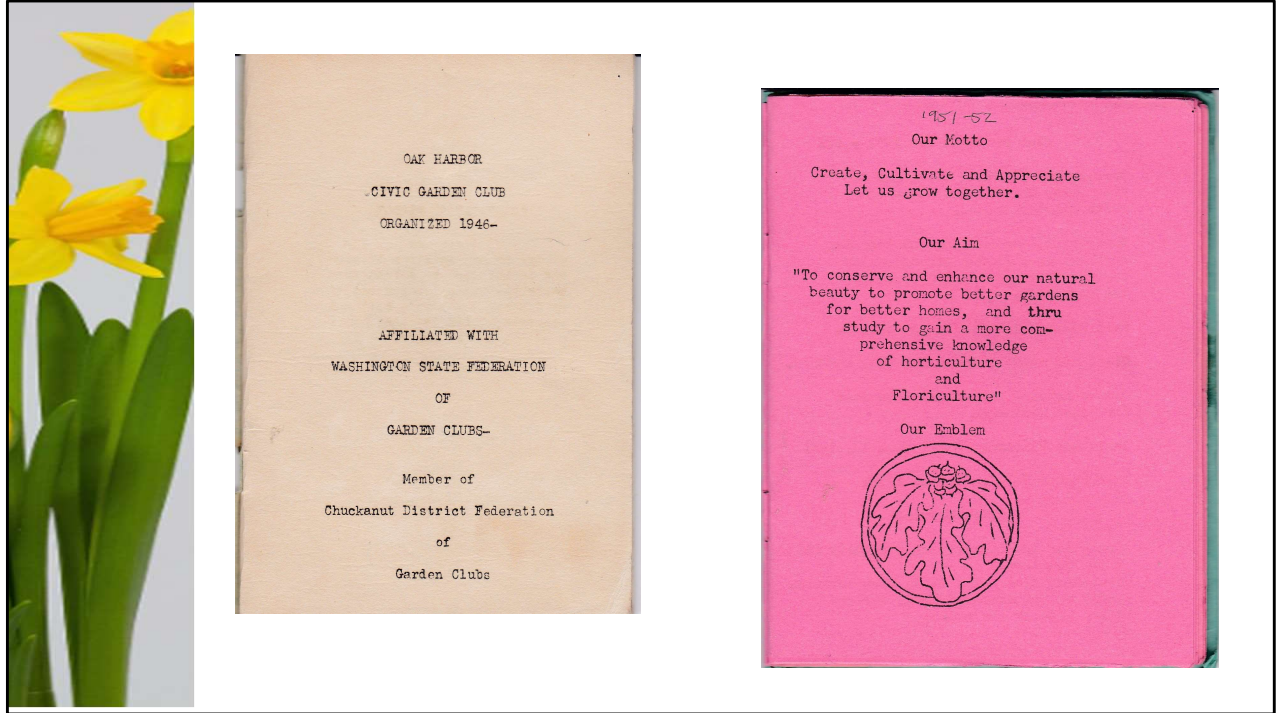
The City Park was improved by clean up days, and the placing of stoves for use by the public.



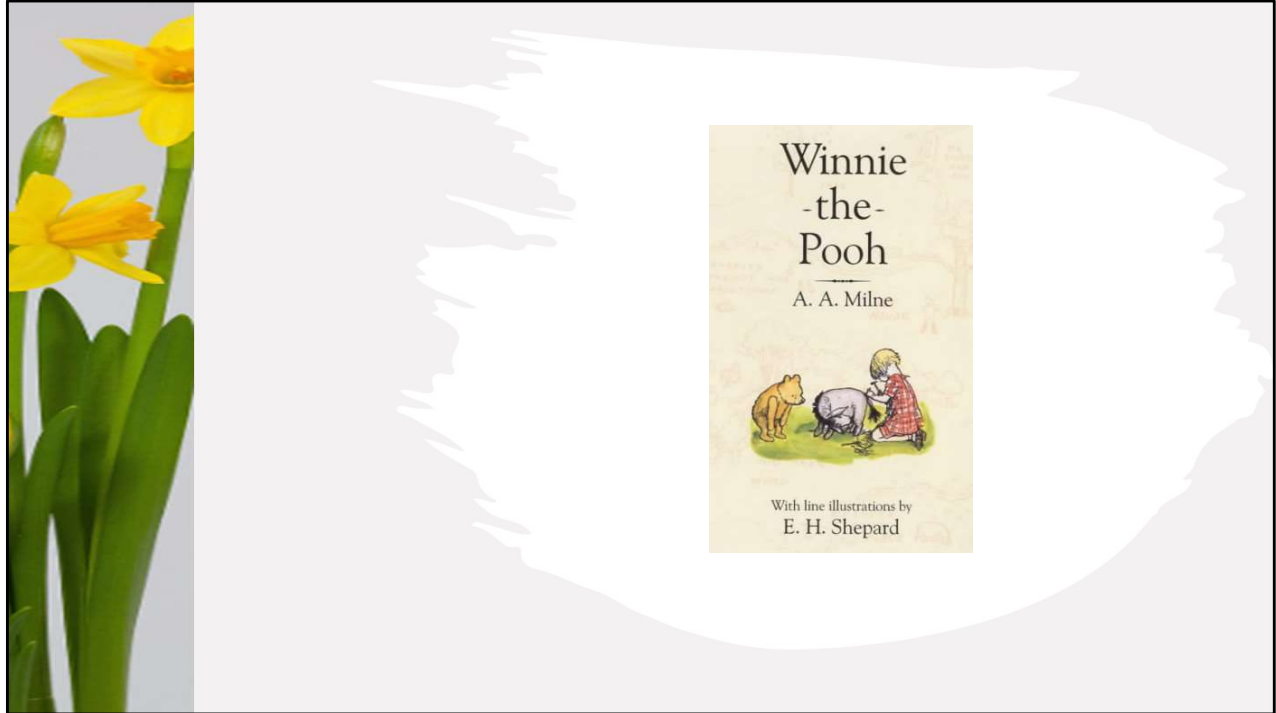
In 1936 the ladies of the Club decorated the “Wooden Shoe Float” for Oak Harbor’s first Holland Days Festival Parade.



The first library was started by the Women's Improvement Club and kept in various buildings before moving to City Hall in 1935. From the library's inception, the Women's Improvement Club paid the librarian 50 cents an afternoon and donated \$5 a month for new books.



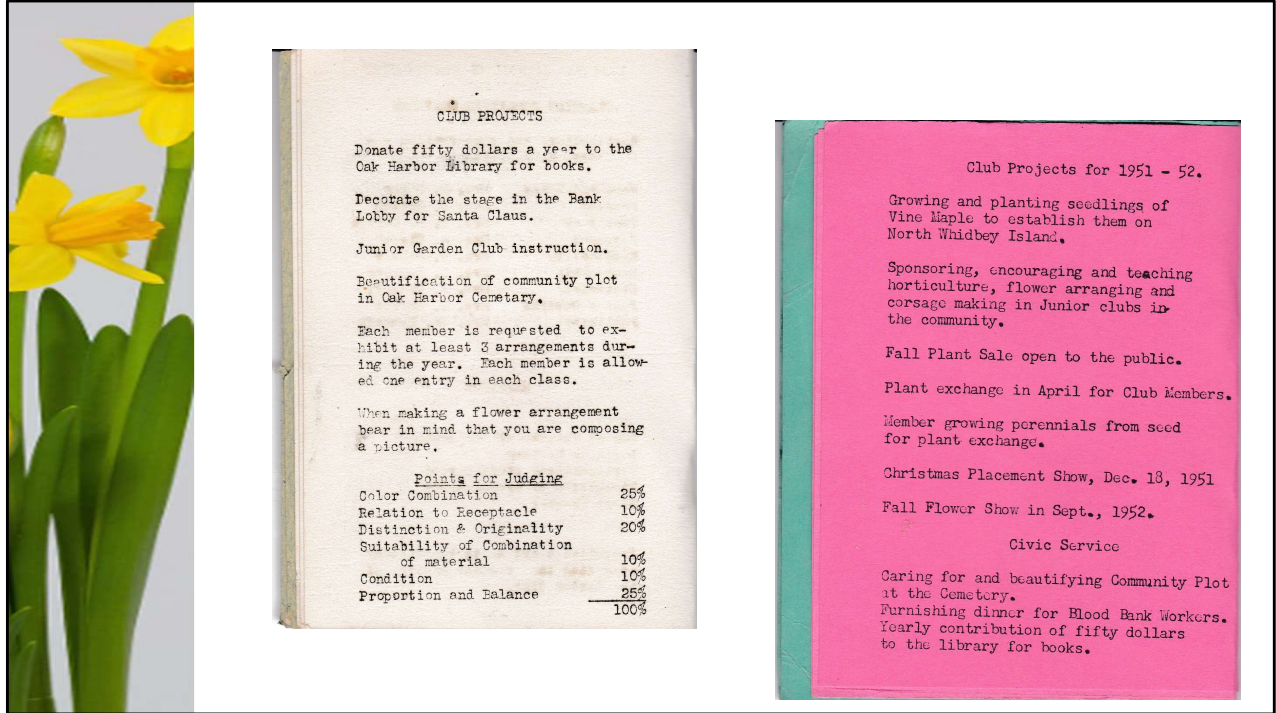
In 1942 the Club name was changed to Women's Civic Improvement Club, in 1946 the name was changed to Oak Harbor Civic Garden Club. These pictures are from the earliest yearbook we have a copy of.



In 1946, when the Club reformed, the \$1446 inherited from the mother club was used to purchase furniture, bookshelves, child's table and chairs and books, and much more for the library. Throughout the early years, the Club paid for the librarian and donated money every year for books.



The Civic Garden Club gave \$50 to help build the school stadium. The money was earned from the booth at the Carnival held in the Roller Barn




The Civic Garden Club began having flower shows, holding flower arranging lessons, and corsage making. Flower shows were held in all seasons. Here are the project pages from the 1950-51 and 1951-1952 yearbooks.



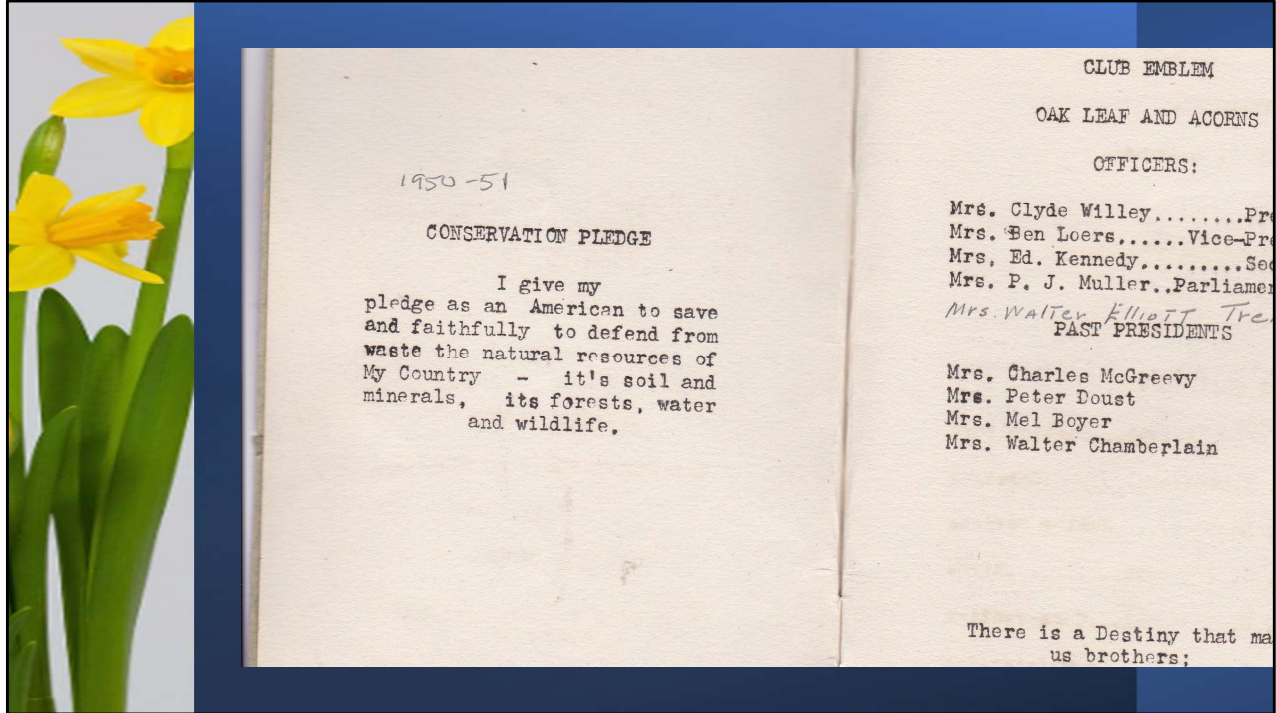
STATE PRESIDENT-	
Mrs. Boyd C. Andrews	
DISTRICT DIRECTOR-	
Mrs. Albert Lamp	
DISTRICT CHAIRMEN-	
Mr. LaVerne Freiman...	Horticulture
Mrs. J. M. Liptrepp.....	Corsages
Mrs. W. Lambe.....	Junior Gardens
Mrs. C. G. Cockburn.....	Birds
Mrs. R. D. Mitchell...	Conservation
Mrs. M. Boyer.....	Organizing-Sec
Mrs. T. Clement.....	Judges
Mrs. Ted Fitcher.....	Flower Shows
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	
Horticulture and conservation - -	
Mrs. R. D. Mitchell	
Ways and Means	Mrs. M. Boyer
Program	Mrs. T. Ostrom
Year Book	Mrs. H. E. Koetje
Corsages	Mrs. A. Olsen
Hospitality	Mrs. G. Palmer
Membership	Mrs. H. Falkema
Historiam	Mrs. J. Troxell
Junior Gardens	Mrs. T. Maylor
Publicity	Mrs. Ed. Kennedy
MEETINGS	
Second Tuesday of the month	
Business Meeting	
Horticultural study period	
Discussion of arrangements	
Guest Speaker	
Executive Board meets the Tuesday	
preceding the regular meeting of	
the Garden Club.	

Here is a page of the 1950 yearbook that lists committee chairs and meeting information. Note, there was a Birds chair, and Conservation chair.

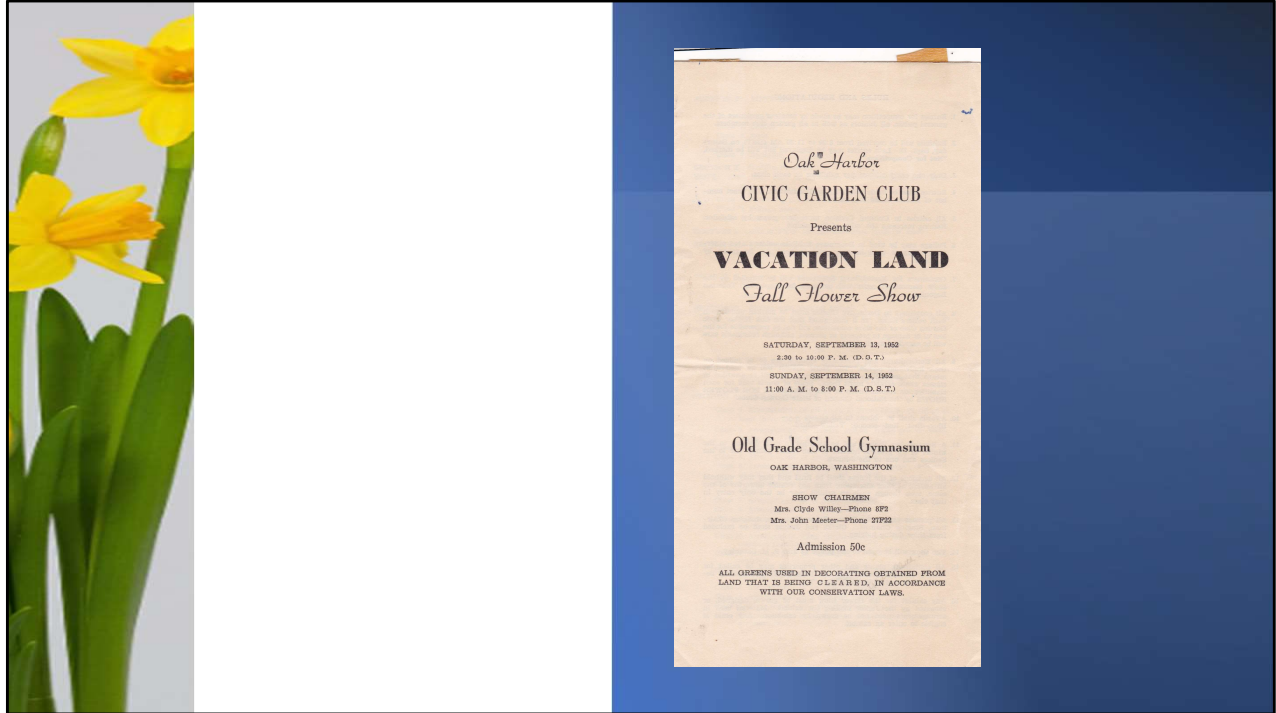


Members (continued)		
Barrington, Mrs. W. Hill	474	
Baker, Mrs. W. R.	71	
Weeks, Mrs. Egbert	693	
Os, Mrs. J. M.	143	th
Boyer, Mrs. Jess	16FO	th
Boyer, Mrs. Mel J.	54	th
Cook, Mrs. C. P.	30F6	an
Elliott, Mrs. Walter	1251	
Elmgren, Mrs. Eric	1612	E
Fakkema, Mrs. Harry	27F23	to
Freund, Mrs. Ralph	19F7	
Woodwin, Mrs. Don J.	463	T
Hanby, Mrs. Ernest	10F4	cl
Hendrys, Mrs. Jerry		st
Hill, Mrs. Harvey	133	c
Hoffman, Mrs. Albert	21F6	f
Johnson, Mrs. George F.		i
Kennedy, Mrs. W. E.	535	of
Koetje, Mrs. Neil H.	1592	P
Loers, Mrs. L. B.	25F7	
Long, Mrs. Irwin W.	1776	
Lusack, Mrs. Leo	1254	
Maylor, Mrs. Randolph	81	
Maylor, Mrs. Ray	43	
Maylor, Mrs. Ted	27F6	
Mitchell, Mrs. Robert D.		6
Nash, Mrs. Thomas A		3
Neil, Mrs. Lester		3
Olson, Mrs. Albert		27
Ostrom, Mrs. Theodore		8F
Palmer, Mrs. George		3
Poole, Mrs. L. R.		15
Troxell, Mrs. John		
Wallgren, Mrs. Edward		
Weaver, Miss Rubye		7
Willey, Mrs. Clyde		8
Willey, Mrs. Herbert		
Wright, Mrs. Clarence		4
Zylstra, Mrs. Rein		4
Notes:		

Here is a list of members from 1951. Note that the first names of the women were not used. We'd love to have help tracking down any descendants that still live in the area and might have early photos or information.



Here is the conservation pledge and a list of the officers in 1951



There is a scrap book that starts in 1949. This is an early flower show pamphlet from 1952.



John and Ann Koetje pause to study the shadow box display at the Flower Show Saturday.

This is a photo from the flower show that also appeared in the newspaper with the following caption.



Mrs. George Mitchell proudly displays her blue-ribbon begonia at the Civic Garden club's flower show held Saturday and Sunday in the old grade school gym.

This is another photo from the flower show that also appeared in the newspaper with the following caption.