

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL OFFICERS OF GARDEN CLUB VISIT
SCULPTURE GARDEN OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, was host today (Wednesday, June 14) to fifteen officers and directors of the Garden Club of America in New York for the final Board meeting of the season. The guests were conducted through the sculpture garden, the galleries, were given a special showing in the Film Library projection room of Walt Disney's silly symphony, "Flowers and Trees," and concluded their visit with a tea in the penthouse of the Museum. Mrs. Robert C. Hill, of New York, a corporation member of the Museum, acted as hostess. Mrs. Baillie Ripley, a New York member of the Membership Committee of the Museum, assisted in pouring tea. Those in the party included:

Mrs. Samuel Seabury, NEW YORK CITY, President
Miss A. K. Fox, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT, First Vice President
Mrs. Joseph M. Cudahy, LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS, Second Vice President
Mrs. Harry T. Peters, NEW YORK CITY, Treasurer
Mrs. John P. Nields, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, Zone Chairman
Mrs. Edward Garrett, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, Zone Chairman Pacific Coast
Mrs. Alfred B. Thacher, SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, Chairman of Horticulture
Mrs. E. S. Webster, CHESTNUT HILL, MASSACHUSETTS, Chairman Policy Committee
Mrs. Gilbert Kinney, NEW YORK CITY, Chairman Exhibitions Committee
Miss Esther D. Waterman, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT, Chairman Gifts Committee
Mrs. Robert C. Wright, HAVERFORD, PENNSYLVANIA, Chairman National Parks
Mrs. Alfred S. Bourne, WASHINGTON, ~~D.C.~~ ^{Conn.} Director
Mrs. Barent Lefferts, ST. JAMES, LONG ISLAND, Director
Mrs. Thomas M. Debevoise, GREEN VILLAGE, NEW JERSEY, Chairman of Handbook
Mrs. Robert C. Hill, NEW YORK CITY, Assistant Editor of Bulletin
Mrs. Clarence B. Sturges, SASCO POINT, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT, Zone Chairman

The visitors came to the Museum especially to see the sculpture garden and were greatly interested in it as a novel and practical means of beautifying quickly and at little expense unused city lots. The sculpture

garden, designed by John McAndrew, Curator of the Department of Architecture and Industrial Art of the Museum, is the former site of the two Rockefeller mansions. The entire plot has a frontage of 480 feet, 75 feet of which belong permanently to the Museum. The remainder has been lent to the Museum until the end of October.

The entire plot, nothing but an expanse of mud and debris, was transformed within two weeks by a flooring of tan and gray pebbles worked out in abstract designs that serve also as paths to guide visitors to the best positions for viewing the sculpture. Shrubs and a few trees were quickly set out and fencings of wattle and saplings were used not only to define the limits of the garden but to act as screens against which sculpture is effectively displayed. Other sculptures are shown against backgrounds of trees and shrubs.

The Garden Club officers were quick to grasp the possibilities of such a scheme to beautify ugly, unused spots in any city. It was suggested that instead of sculpture, window boxes could be filled with flowers and set on pedestals of various heights and shapes as the sculpture is arranged in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art.