

# And the Trees Remain

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

An Unofficial History  
Of Gardening Education, Community Beautification  
and Camaraderie  
Since 1948



E. Henry Pittman

Dianne S. Fergusson, Ph.D., Editor

This page and the ones that follow are examples of a few of the 221 pages in the book. Buy the book, and read the entire interesting history of the club!

# NOTES ABOUT THE CLUB FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS

This history captures, with pride and deserved satisfaction, the efforts of a group of caring Spartanburg citizens whose contribution to the aesthetic attractiveness of their community was, and is, quite remarkable. If you want to know how terrific people can make a difference and build a lasting legacy for those who follow, read this compendium of good deeds and consider what you might do to further support their vision.

Bill Barnet  
Former Mayor, City of Spartanburg

For more than 60 years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has partnered with the City and led efforts to make this community more attractive. The club's work on litter control, garden spots and street tree plantings has enhanced the quality of life for all citizens and is a legacy of beautification and conservation that will serve the City and its citizens for future generations. The City is grateful for the work of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and looks forward to continued future collaboration and partnership.

Junie White  
Mayor, City of Spartanburg

I commend the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club for its contribution to the beautification of our community for the last 60 some years. Your organization did much to raise the awareness by the public at large to recognize the positive impact the planting of trees, bushes and flowers has on our environment.

The results can be seen all over our community.

Kurt Zimmerli

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has supported USC Upstate in many ways. It has donated many plants for our new arboretum, it has lent its efforts and expertise to the University's pursuit of the "Tree Campus USA" designation of the National Arbor Day Foundation, it always participates in our Arbor Day festivities in December and it is a strong promoter of our campus green space throughout the community. It is a great partnership.

Congratulations on your 62 years of service and we look forward to many more years of making our community, the University and the Upstate of South Carolina green.

Dr. John Stockwell  
Chancellor, University of South Carolina Upstate

# CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	vii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	ix
Chapter 1 <b>THE EARLY YEARS</b>	1
Chapter 2 <b>LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER</b>	5
Chapter 3 <b>MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS</b>	13
Chapter 4 <b>SPARTANBURG BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS</b>	21
Chapter 5 <b>TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY</b>	37
Chapter 6 <b>HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB</b>	79
Chapter 7 <b>PLANT PROPAGATION AND PLANT SALES</b>	89
Chapter 8 <b>LITTER CONTROL</b>	99
Chapter 9 <b>LANDSCAPE EVALUATION PROGRAM</b>	105
Chapter 10 <b>THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA/MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA</b>	111
Chapter 11 <b>THE KUDZU COALITION</b>	119
Chapter 12 <b>THE ROSE SHOW</b>	125
Chapter 13 <b>THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT</b>	131
Chapter 14 <b>THE NEWSLETTER</b>	139
<b>APPENDIX</b>	143
<b>INDEX</b>	215

# INTRODUCTION

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club was formed in 1948. For the past 62 years, it has been a leading force for the beautification and the greening of Spartanburg. I have had the pleasure of being associated with it for 49 years, although I was away from Spartanburg for four of those years. This Club has been a vital part of my life, but more important, of the life of the Spartanburg Community.

In early 2008, as the Club approached its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was planning a big celebration at the Piedmont Club, someone suggested I try to develop a detailed history of the Club and its activities for distribution at the celebration. Well, that deadline was missed by a couple of years! If I had known the time and anguish (and, yes, mixed with joy and excitement) of the work ahead, I may not have asked five of our oldest members to join me for lunch and plan a "writing group." But they were enthusiastic and probably as naïve as I, so we began thinking back, reviewing old files, talking and listening to others—and writing. But it was the influence, help and guidance of one of our newer very active female members who, with her English teaching background, agreed to join us as our chief editor and advisor of what was proper and what would not pass a ninth grade writing assignment that made the project work. With draft after draft, we now have a real book, a *history* book, of an important Spartanburg organization and its many activities and accomplishments.

This history is an effort to preserve that legacy and pass on to future generations of Spartanburg gardeners the story of how the Club was formed, how it evolved, and how it has influenced the appearance of Spartanburg. Some of the major public landscaping projects in Spartanburg, both in the City and in the County, have been either the result of direct involvement of the Club or have been influenced by the Club's work. Just as with a good garden, SMGC has grown and developed over the years, growing from a small group of probably 13 men in 1948 to today's membership of over 150, comprised almost equally of men and women gardeners and would-be gardeners. The original emphasis on education for the members continues but has been expanded to include service to the community as well.

As the author of this history, I have availed myself of the great knowledge and experience of many other members of the Club. The acknowledgments page contains a list of all those who have helped with the development of this book. As the author, however (and even with the dedicated "editing and advising" service mentioned above), I have reserved to myself some "authorial license," and I take full responsibility for any quirks and deviations of punctuation that the reader may note in these pages (capitalization of all tree names, for example).

I hope this history will be of value in influencing and promoting at least another 62 years of quality gardening education and community beautification. Please read it with care and excitement.

Best Regards—and go plant a tree,  
Henry Pittman April, 2010

# CHAPTER 1

## Dirt Daubing: THE EARLY YEARS

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens  
can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

- Margaret Meade

The original "Dirt Daubers Club" organized in 1948<sup>1</sup> was renamed "Spartanburg Men's Garden Club" in 1950. The past 62 years have been significant and beneficial for the Club and for Spartanburg.

An early handwritten document of unknown authorship lists the charter members as W. P. Rich<sup>2</sup> as president through 1951; A. T. Grant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, Treasurer; and Clyde Burwell, Historian. Others at the first meeting were L. B. Boswell, G. G. "Pat" Dobson, Guy Gowan, George Ladd, Paul Tysinger, Major M. L. Craine, Lamar Knox, Ernest Burwell, and probably Charles Lea. W. O. Ezell is often thought to have been a charter member, but he joined later, probably in 1951 when his friend, Charles Lea, was president.

In January, 1953, probably because of encouragement from Lea and Ezell, the Club affiliated with the national organization, The Men's Garden Clubs of America. There were 26 members' names on that charter list.<sup>3</sup>

Membership was limited to 25 men at the Club's inception, but there is no indication of this numerical limit in later documents. The Club changed its bylaws many times but probably the most significant was in 1989 to eliminate its gender requirement or reference.

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<sup>1</sup> Some documents indicate The Dirt Daubers Club was organized in 1949, but prevailing evidence indicates 1948 is the organizing year. This history is based on that year.

<sup>2</sup> Early records show his name spelled both Rich and Ritch, the later being on the MGCA Carter Membership Roll of January 1953, but the former is most prevalent.

<sup>3</sup> This MGCA Charter Membership Roll is in Appendix 16.

## 1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

In 2009, the Club had almost 150 enthusiastic men and women members as well as many corporate members.

Early emphasis of the club was gardening education for members, apparently the basic reason for its formation. While education continues as a primary objective, community beautification, which began in the '50s, rivals it in importance. Beautification efforts were initiated by early MGC leaders W. P Rich, Charles Lea, and Karl Selden, but particularly by early member W. O. Ezell, "Mr. W. O." He was indeed a giant and inspirational leader in this movement here in Spartanburg. In recognition of the importance of Mr. W. O.'s leadership in enhancements, West Main Street was renamed "W. O. Ezell Boulevard" in 1970, and the MGC and City designed and financed the second Spot of Pride (the first was at the fork of N. Church and Ashville Highway) in 2001 on "his highway"—and in his honor.

The club has continued garden spot creation and maintenance, albeit at a hugely reduced effort from Mr. W. O's. At one time in the 1990s, more than 20 small beautification spots, including the entrance to Duncan Park and the Club's 1997 Montgomery Flag Garden at the headquarters of the public library, were maintained by the Club. With the current great emphasis on Spots of Pride, the Club now has fewer community garden spots than in early years. The two most prominent that are currently actively maintained are the Ezell Spot of Pride and the Claude Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.

Garden seminars and training courses were provided to the community in the 1970s, and during that time an annual Rose Show was initiated that continued under Dr. Bob Reynolds' chairmanship for 27 years—until 1999.

Mr. W. O. knew that no public garden spot could be beautiful if it were surrounded by refuse and debris, so he began a massive litter control program in local schools in 1972. This program was later expanded to public streets and has helped to greatly reduce public litter and increase awareness of the problem. Litter pickup by Club volunteers on North Pine Street began in 1974 and continues multiple times per year.

In the 1970s the Club shifted its emphasis from community garden spots toward trees, propagation, growing, and planting. This shift was prompted in part by the influence of



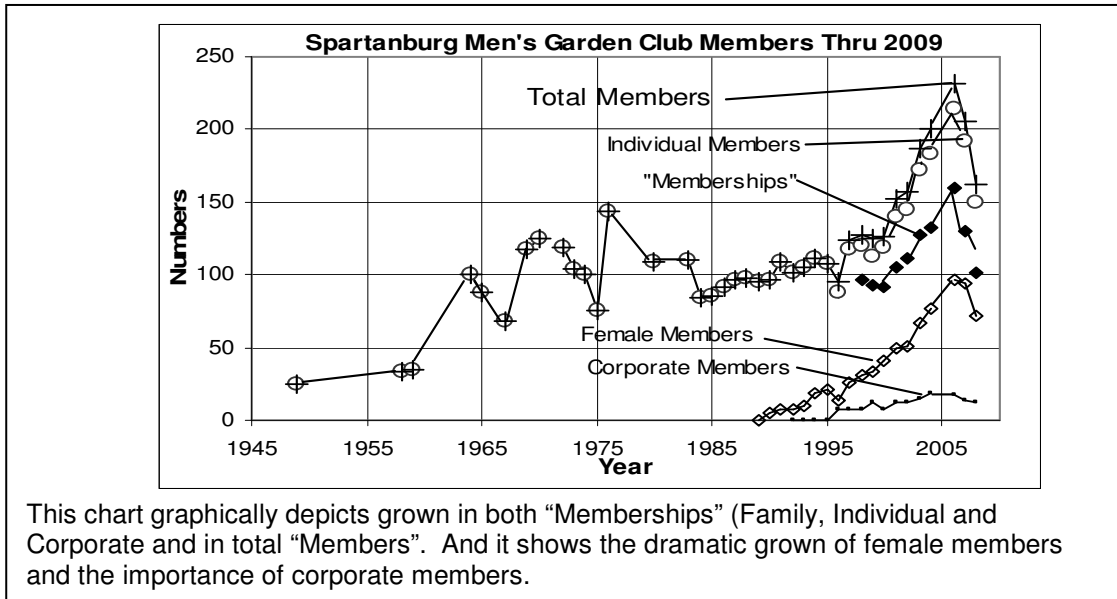
### **Gardening Course Planned**

The Men's Garden Club is sponsoring a Gardening Short Course which begins March 29 at Spartanburg High School. Roy King, left, chairman, Frank Cunningham, center, and George Drummond, right, open mail and handle pre-resistance forms for the course. Sessions covering a wide variety of 'how to do it' subjects such as lawns, landscaping, flowers, vegetables, botany, soils, fruit, shade and wild flowers will be presented by a group of lecturers from Clemson and Spartanburg. (Photo By B&B Studio)

**Spartanburg Herald Journal, March 1973**

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

The Club broke another boundary in 2007 when it elected its first woman President, early member Linda McHam. Women have disproved Pittman’s concern about the “physical hard work” required of Club members by participating fully in the work of the



Club. From 2006 – 2008, the most labor-intensive project of the Club, its Container Garden and Plant Sales, was capably directed by two women members, Dr. Dianne Fergusson and Valerie Hare.

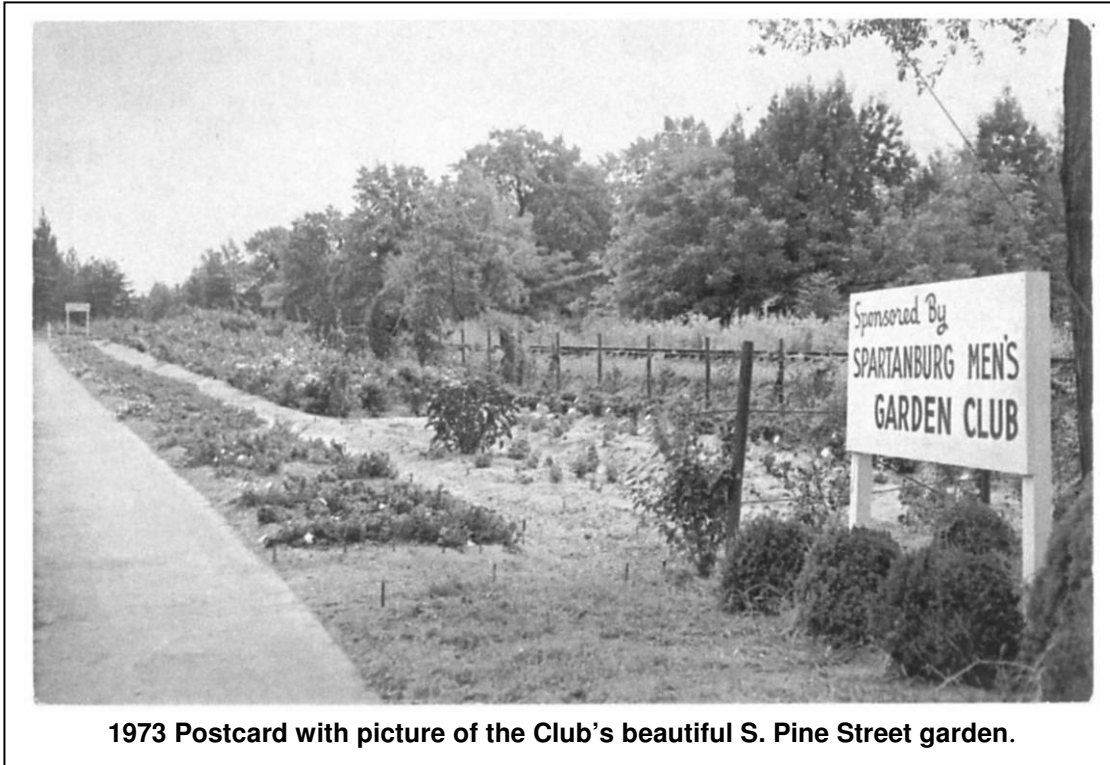
Another category of club membership that has evolved is the Corporate Membership. In the 1980s, the Club had no formal corporate members but was fortunate to have ongoing support and encouragement from organizations including Kurt Zimmerli’s Zima Corporation, Mr. Roger Milliken and TV Station WSPA. The Corporate Member category was officially initiated in 1996 with solicitation of businesses and other organizations to join and strengthen the Club. Dues were established at \$100 per year and appointment of an organization employee to directly participate in Club activities was encouraged. Corporate Members that first year were First Federal S&L; Henson Law Firm; Drs. Hull, Green, Woods, McLeod & Cothran; Kohler Company; Milliken & Company; Piedmont Natural Gas and Zima Corporation.

It was in 1996 that “Family Memberships” were begun to encourage husband and wife *teams* and to provide a slight reduction in dues. While this has resulted in some problem of identifying the size of the Club, two counts are usually specified: Memberships (singles plus couples plus corporate) and Members (singles plus the number of couples multiplied times two plus corporate).

Members are, of course, the backbone of the organization, and the Club needs as many as it can get. Some join for various reasons. More often than not, *gardening together* stimulates their interest which grows as they see how personal plant growing can improve living, and how community plant growing can enhance an even larger quality of life. Like many organizations, a large number of members has always been important to this Club and it has often promoted the concept of three member types: those who join primarily to show support of the Club’s objectives, those who occasionally attend meetings, and those who

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The next year, the paper promoted a story “Garden Lovers Meet in City” which



announced that William Hull, president of the national organization, was in Spartanburg for the meeting of the Blue Ridge Region's two-day annual convention. “Included in Saturday's activities was a tour of the flowers along Pine Street, Duncan Park and the grounds of Deering Milliken Research Corp.” Also, J. G. Norton, chairman of the board of Milliken's Pacolet Industries was awarded a certificate of commendation for the beautification of the grounds of Deering Milliken Research Corporation. W. W. “Buster” Walker was president of the Club at that time.

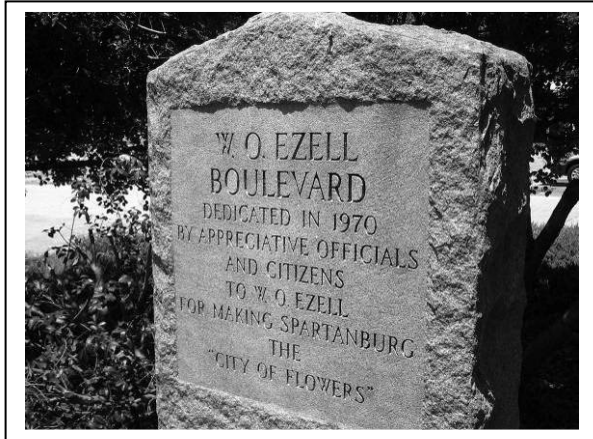
“Mr. W. O.”, after suffering from health problems for some 18 months, recovered enough in 1974 to re-activate his personal beautification activity and, with some help, he put out over a hundred plants and did some weeding along the thoroughfares during the year. Earlier, in 1974 he had been honored by the Club for his beautification leadership at a dinner at Dorman High School attended by many community leaders and dignitaries. Vice President Snow Marshall made a highly complimentary presentation on Ezell and his importance to both the community and the Club.<sup>1</sup> The next year, Ezell was awarded the national Men's Garden Club's of America Medallion Award by Mayor Bob Stoddard for his tremendous accomplishment in City beautification.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of Show Marshall's presentation is contained in Appendix 3.

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

the remarkably well-organized and successful leadership of Hans Balmer, the Spot of Pride project was initiated in 2000 as an outgrowth of the PRIDE Task Force. The SOP project



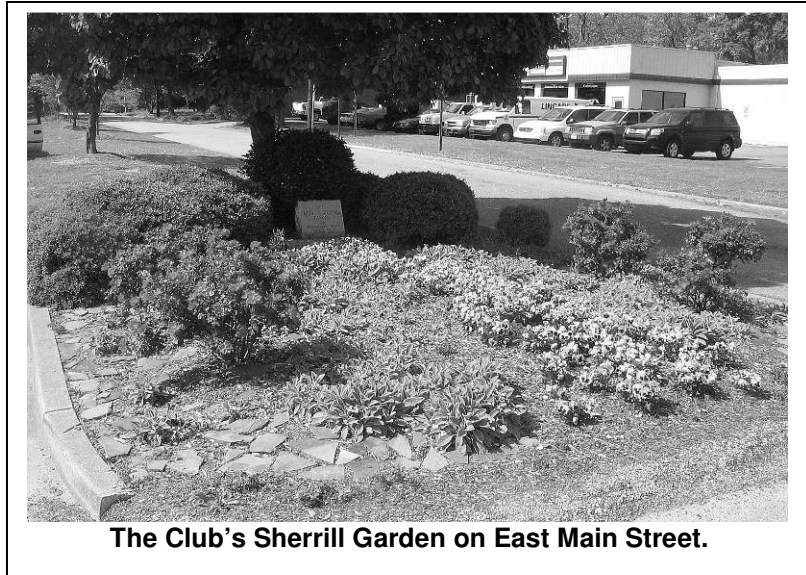
now consists of over 80 sponsored garden spots in the greater Spartanburg community. The first two SOPs were created as demonstration gardens. One is at the intersection of North Church Street and Asheville Highway. This garden was sponsored and financed by the County and PRIDE Task Force.

The other—and perhaps the finest SOP in the city—is the Ezell Spot of Pride, a cooperative venture of the City and the Club; it is located on W. O. Ezell Boulevard. The professional plan was improved a bit by the

Club's input and was funded by \$2,000 from the Club and an equal amount from the W. O. Ezell Fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation plus City funds. The Ezell granite marker was moved by the SC Department of Transportation from its original location further west on the Boulevard near the original location of Dorman High School, to this garden. This MGC/City Ezell Spot of Pride was officially dedicated on April 26, 2001, with a large crowd in attendance. City Manager Roy Lane along with MGC president Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman gave presentations honoring Ezell who had set such a high standard for city beautification.<sup>4</sup>

The Club added the three magnificent Chinese Fringetrees and roses around the Ezell monument and maintains annuals along its face. The City provides excellent ongoing maintenance to the entire garden which has an

automatic irrigation system. In 2001 a background of Loropetalum was added adjacent to the marker, and five Green Giant Arborvitaes were planted at the west end of the SOP to block the view of the adjacent laundry building; these Arborvitaes are now some 50 feet tall and provide the envisioned background and view break. The added plants were financed by a \$400 Club contribution.



**The Club's Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.**

<sup>4</sup> A copy of this presentation at the Ezell Spot of Pride dedication is located in Appendix 4.

the plan. Milliken's horticulturist, Jack Bracken, was also an important advisor, promoter and encourager.

The Club purchased seven-hundred seedlings—100 each of seven native S.C. trees— from the S. C. Forestry Commission and distributed them to 12 volunteer members in early

## The 'Natural Look' Tribute To Cooperation, Much Work

By DEBBIE DALHOUSE  
Staff Writer

A combination of private and public efforts has resulted in the planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on Spartanburg's North Pine Street.

Over the past three years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has worked with the North Spartanburg Rotary Club, Converse College, Clemson University Horticultural Department and County Extension Office, S.C. Highway Department, S.C. Forestry Commission S.C. Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to beautify the northern entrance to the city.

A preliminary plan was developed in early 1974 by Men's Garden Club member Henry Pittman and approved by the Board of Directors.

During the next year, a plan was created for the clover-leaf areas at Whitney Road, Boiling Springs Road, California Avenue joining the Deering Milliken landscaped area, and on the west side of N. Pine between California Ave. and Boiling Springs Road.

Pittman says, "The concept was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs to provide beauty and a sense of being cared for, but with low maintenance requirements."

The Men's Garden Club provided the planting material, guidance and supervision. The Highway Department supplied the labor and maintenance.

Other agencies were consulted to select the most suitable plants.

In 1975, seven hundred seedlings of native South Carolina trees were purchased and distributed to a dozen volunteer members of the Men's Garden Club to be raised in the edges of vegetable gardens, old cans and arbor houses.

"Many of these trees were of adequate size to be used in the Pine Street project only one year later," Pittman notes. "The redbud and sycamore grew particularly well, the latter adding three feet or more during that year."

Other varieties grown at members' homes were dogwood, sweetgum, yellow poplar, red cedar and pine.

The volunteer gardeners were W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Rodney Moore, Ernest Halstead and Gil Hooper.

Over 100 of the homegrown trees have been transplanted to the Pine Street landscaped areas. Others are growing for future use on Pine Street and other projects.

While the original plan was to implement the project over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger, "we just couldn't let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project," Pittman says.

The home grown plants were supplemented by 100 dogwood, Japanese black pine, loblolly pine, magnolia and maple trees which the Men's Garden Club purchased to meet the Bicentennial celebration deadline.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tree and Ornamental Plan Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six each of three types of newly developed disease resistant elms to be tested in this area.

Club member W. L. Ward donated dogwood trees which he had grown from seed, a local nursery provided 100 sweetgum and bald cypress seedlings, and the garden club transferred 50 crepe myrtle bushes from another site to further enhance the Bicentennial planting project.

A total of 390 plants were used in the project, at a cost of only \$170 which included herbicide, Pittman points out with pride.

Most of the heavy planting work was done by local Highway Department personnel under resident maintenance engineer Miles A. (Red) Fleming. Club members Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorehead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith and Everett Seixas, along with the tree growers, supervised the layout and planting.

"Federal grants, Revenue Sharing and direct government implementation aren't the only way to get things done. Many civic and garden clubs can put together similar programs," Pittman said.

Further cooperation in beautifying North Pine came from the North Spartanburg Rotary Club which financed purchase of pear trees for city planting in the median of North Pine earlier this year and from Converse College's landscaping program.

1975. These men planted the small trees at their homes, in the edge of vegetable gardens, or in containers, and grew them with the care and expertise and love that only an amateur gardener can give. Many of these trees were of adequate size a year later to be used in this Pine Street project. Redbud and Sycamore grew particularly strong, the latter adding three feet or more during that year. Indeed, the availability of these "home grown" plants was the basis for the entire program.

Other varieties grown at home by members were Dogwood, Sweetgum, Yellow Poplar, Red Cedar and Pine. The "home nurserymen" included Mr. W. O., Harold Hatcher, Julian Foster, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Henry Ramella, Rodney Moon, Ernest Hallstead, and Gil Hooper. Others active in the project were Everette Seixas, Frank Cunningham, Julian Foster, Snow Marshall, W. L. Ward, Griff Smith and Pittman. Club members transplanted over 100 of these trees to the North Pine Street landscaped areas in the fall of 1976 and used others for later community projects.

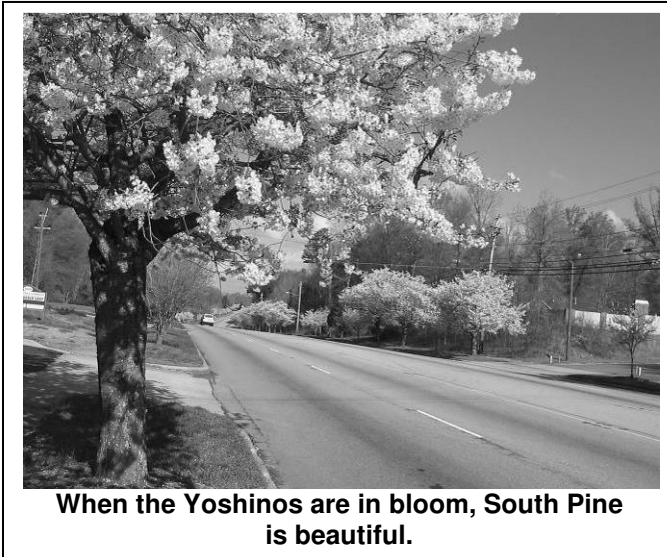
Originally, treescaping of North Pine was intended to occur over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger and men



**LOOKING OVER WORK** at one of the North Pine Street beautification sites are Spartanburg Men's Garden Club members Henry Pittman, left, and Everett Seixas. Judson McCaleb, Lewis Bailey and Roney Moon work in the background. (Photo By LaRue Cook Of B&B Studio)

incorporate them into the university’s landscape plan. He recently reported, “Yes, they all survived and are an important part of our new and growing campus arboretum.”

## 9 South Pine Street, Yoshino Cherries - 1997, 2002, 2003, 2004



While it is not clear who planted the original Yoshino Cherry trees on the shoulders of South Pine Street (from Sunset Drive south to Country Club Road), it was probably a city project, perhaps in the 1970s or ‘80s with the encouragement of W. O. Ezell or Harold Hatcher—and the SMGC. In November, 1997, when George Gunter was club president, he, Co Irwin and Henry Pittman had a beautification review meeting with City Manager Roy Lane. The group discussed many items: community beautification including a 5-year master plan for major entry highways,

City clean-up of the shoulders on North Pine Street, and ways for the MGC to work cooperatively with the city. More specifically, discussions zeroed in on re-furbishing the existing row of Yoshino Cherry trees on South Pine (which also contained a few Dogwoods) as an ideal project on which the Club and the city could cooperate. It was agreed that if the MGC organized and managed the project, the City would pay for it. The MGC members were impressed with Roy Lane’s enthusiasm and were greatly pleased with his understanding of the value of trees as an integral part of community beautification.

Pittman developed an on-site evaluation and tree count, and a preliminary CAD drawing of the street with all the existing plants located. Lyn Savor (Murajda) and Hollis Taylor were consulted as active members of the Club’s tree committee and gave enthusiastic support, as did President Gunter.

The Club sought advice from Dr. Mike Dirr, an active horticultural consultant to Mr. Milliken and nationally known tree expert. He gave great encouragement on the value of the Yoshino Cherry. Replacement and additions of these great spring blooming trees that are so popular in Washington became an obvious objective.

City Engineer Mike Garrett updated the original plan to a more professional format, and he and Pittman drove to Columbia and reviewed it personally with SCDOT’s head landscape architect, Timothy Edwards. Edwards offered valuable suggestions (primarily set-back requirements) and approved the plan. Garrett updated the plan and executed the required SCDOT “Encroachment Permit” for the city in December 1997. The permit was approved in January, and the SMGC Board approved the project.

Leaders at South Pine Street’s Draper-Textmaco complex were very positive on the program. They arranged for clearing of shoulders and banks adjacent to their property, and agreed to finance and plant the trees to be located on their property at their side entrance.

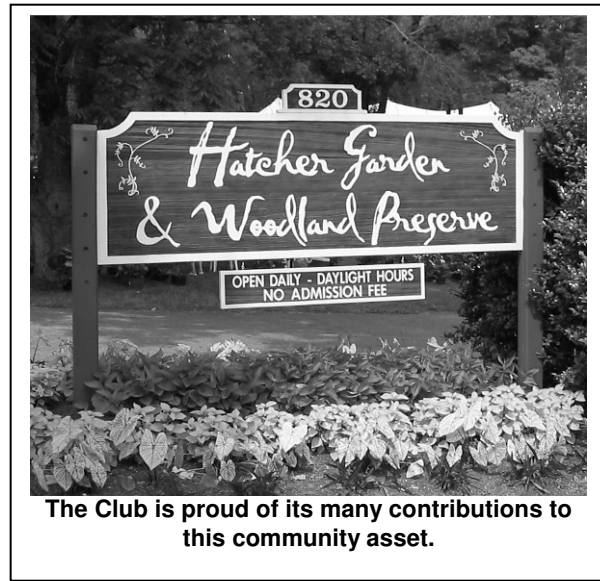
## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

Alice Hatcher Henderson, Hatcher’s daughter, agreed with Mullinax’s sentiments. “Dad considered the help he got from Jess Taylor and other Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club members to be the happiest surprise that resulted from moving to Spartanburg for he had labored on various smaller projects in Indiana by himself.”

Over the years the Garden has been heavily landscaped with thousands of trees, shrubs, perennials and annual flowerbeds, and hardscaped with winding paths, rock-lined streams, numerous ponds and several buildings. Many of these additions have been a result of Club activity.

The development of the garden was begun shortly after 1969 when Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher moved to Spartanburg and started enlarging their “back yard.” This was done slowly as adjacent property became available. As more and more houses and lots were acquired, Henry Pittman once jokingly accused Hatcher of, “You only want to own the *adjacent* property.” The Garden now encompasses 10 acres along one of Spartanburg’s busiest streets. Recent roadside enhancements attract Garden visitors with colorful perennial beds and ornamental trees, eye-catching sculptures and an ever-changing marquee sign announcing the latest events at Hatcher Garden. Visitors from every state in the United States and forty foreign countries have visited Hatcher Garden and have been impressed with its beauty and tranquility.

Hatcher was no neophyte gardener when he lived in Indiana. There, he was not only an active personal gardener, but a volunteer leader in community beautification projects. Relocating to Spartanburg in 1969 as the new director of the federally funded anti-poverty agency, “Piedmont Community Action,” the Hatchers purchased the house and small lot at 124 Briarwood Road on Spartanburg’s westside. The primary appeal of the property was the untamed woods in the back. In his wonderful book about Hatcher’s life in Spartanburg, *The Seasons of Harold Hatcher*, Mike Hembree describes what the land that is now Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve was like when the Hatchers bought it.



Potential—but little else. The land, once home to cotton fields, was badly eroded. Big gullies cut slashes across the property. The ravines had become dumpsites for refrigerators, mattresses, tires and other refuse. It was not a pretty sight, but it sparkled in Hatcher’s mind’s eye. He could see what it might become. . . . It was land that had been robbed of its nutrients by cotton farming and cleared of its topsoil by rushing rain waters. To Hatcher, though, it was magic waiting to happen.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hembree, Mike. *The Seasons of Harold Hatcher*. Spartanburg, SC: HubCity Writing Project, 2000: 3-4.

**Appendix**

**Appendix 2**

**Club Presidents and Leaders**

Updated 3, 2010, ehp

	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>V. PRES.</b>	<b>SEC.</b>	<b>TREAS.</b>	<b>EDITOR</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
1948	W. P Rich		A. T. Grant	Jas. Culcleasure		Organized as "Dirt Daubers"
1949	W. P Rich					
1950	W. P Rich (?)					Name changed to SMGC
1951	Charles Lea					W. O. Ezell joined
1952	Charles Lea		Karl Selden			
1953	Karl Selden		Frank Powell			Affiliate with MGCA.
1954	W. O. Ezell					
1955	Grady Stewart					
1956	Wardlaw Hammond					WOE Chair of City Beautification
1957	John Cantrell		Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea "Gardenettes" ?	
1958	Tom Butler	Jack Lemmon	Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea "Gardenettes"	32 members
1959	Jack Lemmon	Jas. Culcleasure	Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	34 members
1960	Jack Lemmon	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	David Stoltz joined
1961	Jas. Culcleasure	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	S. Pine Beautification, Landscape Judging with Chamber of Commerce
1962	Jas. Culcleasure	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	WOE Kiwanis Citizen of Year.
1963	Clyde Burwell		Charles Lea			
1964	W. W. Walker		Charles Lea	Cecil Haney		Henry Pittman joined
1965	Willard Morgan		Charles Lea	Cecil Haney	Charles Lea	
1966	Sid Moorhead	Bob Hickland	Charles Lea	Cecil Haney	Lea/Dunlap	Bob Reynolds joined
1967	Paul Cook					
1968						WOE Blvd. named
1969	Julian Foster					
1970						Walter Soderberg joined
1971	Claude Sherrill					Harold Hatcher joined
1972	Henry Pittman	John Cantrell	Everett Seixas	Sid Dunlap	Ezell & Sherrill	Begin public garden course
1973	Henry Pittman	Gil Hooper	Gil Hooper	Sid Dunlap	Claude Sherrill	

## Appendix 10

### **Tribute to Hans Balmer's "Spot of Pride Program"**

This article, written by Mayor Bill Barnet, appeared in the Spartanburg Herald Journal on September 13, 2007. It is a fine and fitting tribute to this man who has worked so hard, and been so effective, in beautifying Spartanburg.

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#### **Balmer's handiwork and energy have changed the face of our community**

Published: Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*  
Thursday, September 13, 2007  
Bill Barnet, Mayor of Spartanburg.

This community is a very special place in which to live. While we can both identify our assets and recognize our challenges, we are enriched by a unique blend of thoughtful and caring people, philanthropy, faith-based initiatives and, happily, momentum.

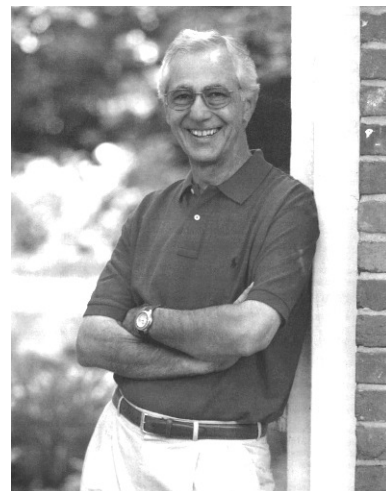
I hope my children return here to live their lives. I would bet that many of the people reading this op-ed piece would want no less. We are especially well-served by the coming together of cultures and people from many places, brought about in large part by worldwide business investment.

I also recognize that singling out an individual is somewhat dangerous, particularly for a politician. There are many great people living in Spartanburg who deserve mayoral attention and the recognition of their fellow citizens. There are men and women - be they African-American, Hispanic or Caucasian - who every day do heroic and important things for their fellow citizens.

My spirit, however, moves me to pen this brief commentary about Hans Balmer. Hans passed away this month. His handiwork and energy have changed the face of our community in a special way that each one of us can see and appreciate every day.

While there are special people who initiated the Spot of PRIDE program, Hans Balmer perfected it. What we see across the face of Spartanburg has changed the way we look at ourselves and the way those who visit us perceive our sense of pride in our shared space, our energy and our appreciation for aesthetic beauty.

Hans was not born here. Like many of us, he came here and chose to live among us for a business purpose. He created a successful business model based on providing service to both world-class suppliers of machinery products and their customers.



# INDEX

501(c)3, 116, 122

## A

A to Z Hints, 114  
Abbot, 137  
Able, 128  
Ackerman, 134  
Adams, x, 103, 141  
Adopt a Highway, 102  
AHS, 116  
Aiken, 49  
Algernon Sidney Sullivan  
Award, 9  
Allen, 137  
Allison, 72, 73  
Almond, ix, 12, 49, 63, 64,  
65, 66, 67, 83, 84, 85, 87,  
94, 108, 114, 115  
American Gardener, 116  
American Horticultural  
Society, 116  
American Rose Society, 127,  
128  
Amphitheater, 82, 85  
Arbor Day, 32, 41, 92  
Arbor Engineering, 50, 51  
Arboretum, 115  
Arborvitae, 34, 69  
Arnold, 23  
Asheville, 2, 8, 31, 32, 33,  
48, 60, 94, 112, 113, 114,  
117  
Asheville Highway, 48  
Atkins, 112  
award, 3, 9, 12, 25, 26, 29,  
30, 32, 41, 86, 106, 107,  
108, 110, 112, 114, 115,  
116, 125, 126, 127, 128

## B

B'Nai Israel Syangogue  
youth, 58

Bagwell, ix, 13, 14, 24, 31,  
49, 56, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65,  
66, 67, 69, 84, 87, 96, 103,  
108, 114, 115, 116, 117,  
137, 141  
Jane, 31, 84  
Bailey, 41  
Bain, 84, 85  
Bald Cypress, 41, 57, 58  
Balmer, 21, 33, 35, 41, 71,  
72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 121  
Banks, 64, 65, 66, 67  
Barnekoff, 115, 116  
Barnet, 35, 75, 87, 121, 122  
Barrett, 84, 85  
Bartram, ix, 10, 16, 17, 30,  
31, 32, 45, 47, 48, 49, 54,  
83, 84, 85, 87, 102, 103,  
108, 114, 115, 122, 127,  
132, 140  
Beacham, 107, 110  
Beacon, 3, 95, 99, 100  
Beaumont Mill, 31, 46  
beautification, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9,  
10, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,  
26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35,  
38, 39, 43, 46, 47, 53, 54,  
55, 57, 61, 63, 64, 68, 71,  
75, 76, 80, 86, 89, 90, 92,  
96, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104,  
105, 119, 120, 121, 125,  
132, 133, 134, 137, 138,  
139, 141  
Beautification Committee,  
22, 25  
Beautiful East Main, 44, 45,  
93  
Beautiful North Pine, 44  
Belk- Hudson, 127  
Belue, 43, 45, 51, 54, 57, 58,  
60, 93  
Betzal, 31

Bicentennial, 38, 39, 40, 41,  
42, 102, 131, 132  
billboard, 42, 51, 72, 75, 76,  
131, 132, 133, 134, 135,  
136, 137, 138  
Black Gums, 49  
Blue Ridge, ix, 6, 16, 17, 26,  
30, 113, 114, 116, 117  
BMW, 103  
Board Meeting, 30  
Bollinger, 66, 67, 69, 71, 72,  
76  
Bomar Printing, 140  
Book Review, 116  
Boswell, 1, 13, 111  
Bowers, 43  
Bracken, 40, 42, 43, 44  
Bradford Pear, 22, 30, 41, 42  
Breed, 59, 64, 65  
Brown, 111, 127  
Browning, 31, 48, 94, 95, 103  
Burdell, 17  
Burrows, 50  
Burwell, 1  
but the trees remained...!, 11,  
38  
Butlerand, 14  
Button, 87

## C

Camaraderie, 7  
Camp, 102, 103, 114, 126  
Cane, 32  
Cantrell, 14, 29, 100, 114,  
124  
Carlton, 14, 23  
Carolina Garden World, 120,  
121  
Carolina Poster, 137  
Carr, 75  
Carter, 90, 91, 113  
Caton, 71  
Cedar, 69