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# Mrs. Squires of Rockville Achieves Much Success as Flower Arranger

By EDWINA. DOWNS

Flower arrangement is a fascinating art pursued by many enthusiasts with imagination, ingenuity and infinite patience. Few however, reach the heights of success achieved by Mrs. John H. Squires, Jr., of Rockville Centre.

Starting not too many years ago in the beginners classes at the Rockville Garden Club, Mrs. Squires is today one of the outstanding lecturers on the subject in the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, and a popular exhibitor in large eastern shows.

Her latest exhibit will be among the invitation arrangements tomorrow at the seventh annual show of the National Chrysanthemum Society, at the New York Botanical Garden.

Winner of innumerable blue ribbons at the International Flower Shows, Mrs. Squires has had the distinction of receiving two tricolor awards in one show. She also has numerous other "firsts" won at the New York Horticulture shows and flower shows for the New York State Judging Schools as well as at many local club shows and district shows.

A FLAIR for design and a knowledge of interior decoration, Mrs. Squires relates, first led her to the arrangement classes when she joined the Rockville Centre Garden Club more than ten years ago.

Two years later when she was asked to give her first lecture-demonstration at her own club, she knew little about public speaking and accepted the invitation with misgivings.

She learned in that first lecture that putting an arrangement together while explaining the principles involved, was not only instructive for the audience but gave her the confidence she needed.

Lecturing and teaching now for more than eight years on various types of arrangement, Mrs. Squires still follows the same method of working while she talks. She is perhaps most noted for her demonstrations on using dry materials.

SPEAKING MOSTLY before women's clubs, garden clubs and church groups, her schedule this year included a lecture for a garden series given by a Philadelphia department store. Another was for "Garden Days 1950" given by Pennsylvania State College.

She was one of the demonstrators of arrangements on the stage of Times Hall for the New York Times Rose Day.

Perhaps her greatest thrill came when she was one of the consultants chosen by the New York State Federation to help stage a flower show of authentic period arrangements, throughout the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, last May.

In spite of the fame she has achieved, Mrs. Squires still continues her studies with various teachers and constantly participates in flower show competition and judges courses to keep herself up-



MRS. JOHN H. SQUIRES, JR.

to-date with the changing trends in color and design in the field of arrangement.

SHE RETIRES this month after two years as chairman of the Second District, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. The largest district in the state, it comprises Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

It has been Mrs. Squires' duty to co-ordinate the work of the 70 clubs in the district, visit the various groups and keep them informed on Federation activities.

She has also started a Garden Club quarterly known as the "District News" and was instrumental in arranging classes in horticulture judging at Farmingdale.

She readily admits she knows

little of horticulture and has only recently begun to take courses in the subject feeling it should be a requirement of any judge at the shows.

Mrs. Squires' Fall schedule finds her instructing classes in arrangement at Staten Island and giving seven lectures on holiday arrangements, one of which will be at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie.

She will also exhibit in several shows as the season progresses. Although she finds excitement and incentive in competition in the large shows she derives her greatest enjoyment from the arrangements she makes for her own home at Capitolian Boulevard, Rockville Centre.