

**KATE GILDERDALE**  
Correspondent

With the Stouffville Horticultural Society (SHS) celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, members are extending an invitation to younger people in the community to become part of the organization.

"When it started in 1924 the membership was \$1 and it's never gone up," notes SHS treasurer Alice Vague. "Now a lot of the members are in their 60s and although we hold our own, we'd like to see the younger ones get involved."

The modest dues go towards printing a year book and monthly prize lists, secretary Jean Barkey explains. "We've always done plants around the town. We had a garden where the old rink use to be and one by the swimming pool," she says. "We also did one in the park just south of where the new planning department building is now."

After that, she says, "we did Parkview Home when that was built, and the present library. Now we just give the money to the BIA (Business Improvement

Area) for their flower boxes.

The problem, she says, is that they haven't anyone who can do the heavy work of digging.

The present membership stands at just over 200. "But in 1955 we had 501 members," she says. "From time to time it's been one of the largest societies in Ontario." She estimates that they get "maybe two or three younger people a year. We understand it's difficult because most of them are working."

"By the time they get home, get the meal and take the kids to their baseball, they just haven't got the time."

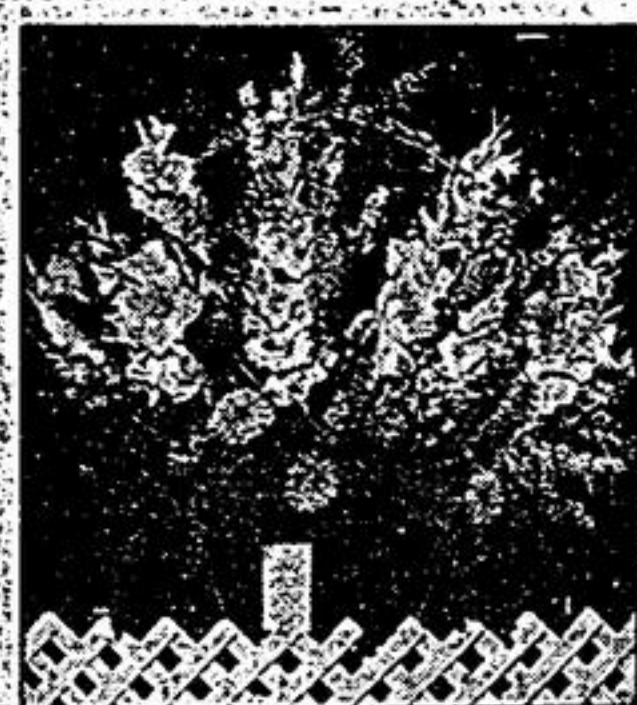
In the past, the executive organized trips to various locations where shows were being held. "We would go to the (Canadian) National Exhibition when they had flower shows and we've gone to Hamilton rock garden and civic garden centre," she says.



The Stouffville Horticultural Society, which celebrates its 65th anniversary this year, has put on annual plant shows like the one pictured from the 1950s. "When it started in 1924 the membership was \$1 and it's never gone up," says SHS treasurer Alice Vague.

participation in the junior section, for those 16 and under, for whom there is no membership fee. Prize categories at the annual flower show for this group include a dish garden and a miniature arrangement.

"We have bake and plant sales for fundraising," advises Mrs. Barkey. "We had one in April and a plant sale in May and we'll be having more in October."



Some members have also taken flower-arranging courses, she adds. At their meetings, which are held in the United Church auditorium at 8 p.m. on the third Monday of every month except in December and January, they welcome guest speakers. This month, Alma and Russell Goome will visit SHS members.

A total of six shows will be held in 1989; the next will be on June 19 at the United Church. The Annual Flower Show, which is on Aug. 23 and 24 will feature special prizes in various categories, including best basket, best decorative and Byer memorial class.

The SHS also encourages par-

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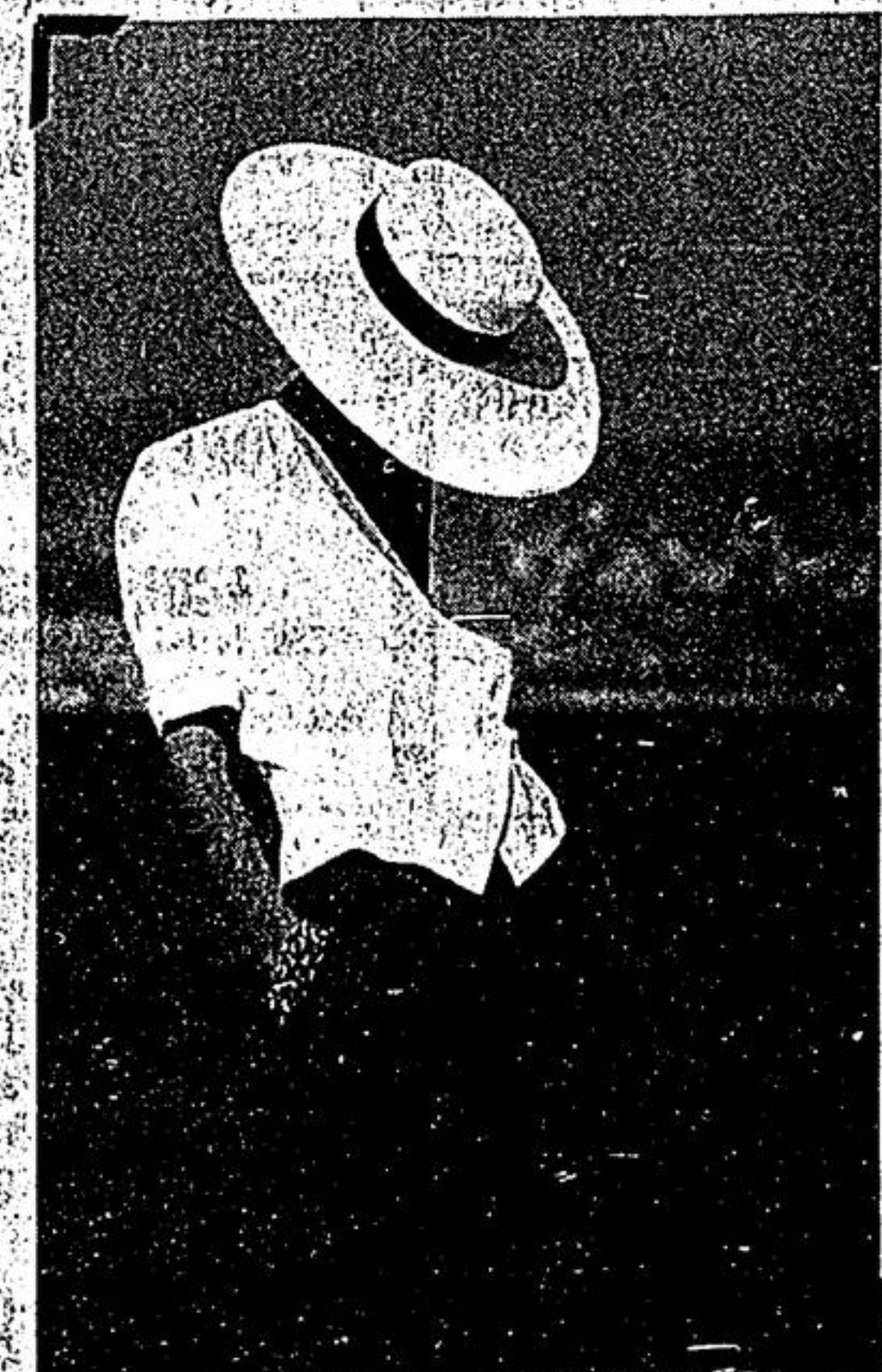
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