



Preserving our heritage

Garden club members have contributed their talents to beautifying the grounds of the historic Colonel Palmer House at Route 176 and Terra Cotta Avenue, the only building in the communi-

ty on the National Register of Historic Places. Most recently, the Crystal Lake Garden Club planted an herb garden.

Countryside Club originated in Crystal Vista Subdivision

The Countryside Garden Club was first organized in 1949 by Mrs. George Rom and Mrs. Harold Dahl and other like-minded gardeners from the Crystal Vista Subdivision at the west end of the lake.

The objectives of the group were and are — to promote horticulture, assist in the promotion of civic beauty and home grounds, stimulate an interest in co-operative gardening, aid in the protection of wildlife and work for the improvement of roadways.

Mrs. Howard Greter joined the club shortly after its formation and served as its president

from 1955 to 1957. She still attends the club's monthly meetings during the summer when she isn't at her Florida home.

Three members of the group have taken the courses given by the National Council of State Garden Clubs to become accredited flower show judges. Mrs. Emil Walker has been a judge since 1959 and now teaches flower arrangement design to students who aspire to become judges. Mrs. George Schindelar and Mrs. James Davis became judges in 1984.

More than 100 members have participated in flower shows, initiated tree plantings at North

and South schools, lobbied and petitioned on environmental issues, planted bulbs at the post office, and sponsored Junior Countrysiders - program to promote gardening among young people.

Additional ongoing projects include placing floral arrangements at the public library, a mitten fund for school children, a conservation scholarship, donation of books to local libraries and plant sales in conjunction with the other garden clubs of Crystal Lake.

Countryside's civic beautification project is the maintenance of the park at Hale's Corners on Walkup Avenue.