

## Garden club hears report about cactus

The Along the Garden Club met recently at the home of Mrs. Robert Shoaf at 624 W. 24 1/2 St.

Mrs. Ellsworth Banner, the president, called the meeting to order by the reading in unison of the Collect and the singing of the club song.

The assistant secretary, Mrs. Savilla Wilson, read the minutes of the previous meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- the president made a report on the Garden Club Council meeting;
- a report was read on the Christmas Open House and tickets were distributed to each member;
- the Garden Club Christmas party was discussed.

Mrs. Julia Johnson presented an interesting program on succulent plants, with special emphasis on the varieties of the cactus plant.

Mrs. Shoaf served a delicious full-course dinner afterward.

Members attending the meeting were Mrs. Ellsworth Banner, Mrs. Bronnie Daniels, Mrs. Sinclair Crowder, Mrs. Louise Hamilton, Mrs. Verna Grier, Mrs. Julia Johnson, Mrs. Ruth Shoaf, Mrs. Eunice Long, Mrs. Savilla Wilson and Mrs. Eliza Williams.

## Gentry

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practice as long as she wants whenever she wants at the School of the Arts.

"Because the people are so nice here at the school, I'm glad I came," says Gentry. "To me, it is just like a large family. Everyone is so friendly and willing to give a helping hand.

"This school brings out the talent in every student, and each one has an opportunity to show his or her talent. Sometimes, during summer vacation, you can even go on tour."

She doesn't own a harp -- a fact that almost changed her mind about playing the instrument.

"When I started playing, I was discouraged, because I knew I needed to purchase one," she says. "My mother was the one who said to go ahead anyhow."

Gentry has sought bank loans to buy a harp, but used harps cost \$8,000 and a new one costs \$15,000. She has been turned down each time. But she is determined and dreams of the days when she will own one. For right now, though, she uses the one at the school.

"If I can see myself doing or obtaining something, I can achieve it," says Gentry. "It may take a lot of hard work, but I know it can be done."

This is all the more obvious when one realizes she plays an instrument that is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 70 pounds and takes two people to carry. Gentry is 5 feet tall and weighs 100 pounds. But, she says, "I can carry the harp by myself."

When she completes her college education in four years, Gentry plans to play for a symphony orchestra "somewhere in the world." Right now, she plays for concerts, parties, clubs and church functions.

Gentry says she realizes there aren't many blacks in the classical music field, yet she hopes that one day her efforts and those of others will change that.



Elvis Presley was another top performer who never took a lesson in his life. He, too, could not read music and learned most of his songs by listening to demo records.

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