

## **ADDIE SMITH ROBERTS (1903-1995)**

### **Founder, Chesapeake Bay Garden Club**

Addie was born in 1903 in Lincolnton, North Carolina, and graduated from Lincoln County High School. She married and had two daughters. When her husband was killed in an automobile accident, she left her two small girls with her mother and came to Norfolk, Virginia, to attend nursing school. It was in Norfolk that she met C.A. Roberts, who had two sons. She married C.A. in 1932 and they had two girls, Clara and Catherine. While on a hunting trip to this area, C.A. found and fell in love with "The Gables", a beautiful historic brick home in Reedville, Virginia. Addie and her family moved to "The Gables" in 1943. After her husband's death in 1968, Addie remained at "The Gables" until 1985. Addie then moved to a smaller home on Crowder's Point. In 1989, she moved to Farnham Manor, residing there until 1994. Addie died at the age of 92 in the Warsaw Health Care Center on January 20, 1995.



Addie had many hobbies, including lovely needlework. Addie was a member, for 15 years, of the Virginia Guild of Needle Women in Richmond and the Tidewater Chapter of Embroidery Guild of America, Virginia Beach. She was known for her ability to tackle anything in the house or outside in the yard that she set her mind to - whether it was standing on the top of a ladder to paint the 12-foot ceilings in "The Gables" or decorating the house at Christmas time. Often the employees at the local post office across the street would be amused and sometimes astounded as they watched Addie wrap the arches of the front porch with chicken wire and then stuff them full of greenery, usually enlisting her children in the project as well.

Addie's love for flowers and gardening led her to organize the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club in 1953 and was the club's first president. Addie served as president again in 1959-61, 1967-

69 and 1973-75. Addie was a nationally accredited flower show judge, a State Life Member, Landscape Design Critic for State and National, and was given a Life Membership in the National Council of State Garden Clubs. In 1963-65, Addie served as President of the Piedmont District. Addie led a very active, vibrant life. She was especially active in her church, Bethany United Methodist Church, Reedville, and in her community. Addie left a wonderful legacy of beauty and service to this Club, the Piedmont District, her church and community and the many people who crossed her path throughout her lifetime.

**Thank you, Addie, for your VISION, COURAGE and GENEROSITY!**