
EVOLUTION OF GARDEN, HILLTOP

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NOW FOR THE DETAILS

HILLTOP'S NAME:- Named by the community because of its location. In time it became known as GARDEN, HILLTOP. The name has been carried around the world by students, scientists and educators. In time the curriculum focused on the whole environment and emphasis was on environmental horticulture. Presently, it is designated BLOOMINGTON YOUTH GARDEN-NATURE CENTER.

In United States, gardening for boys and girls has been promoted by garden clubs--these groups identified their sponsorships with "junior gardening". Their programs related to the leaders' interests and skills in developing the childrens' commitment to membership.

School gardens are very limited in this country because of civic funds and lack of thorough understanding

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by parents of what the school garden program does for the growth and development of their children.

Private institutions have kept the concept alive and have contributed significantly to the well-being of the participating urban children.

GARDEN, HILLTOP is an enclosure with a complete instructional curriculum that relates youth to the garden and the total relationship to the whole world. Here leaders are trained, the student interns, and our boys and girls.

Thus it is a leadership training center providing communities with competent and responsible leadership.

HILLTOP'S HONOR PLAN:- Founded in 1949 it fits every job one does in the big Garden. The plan provides one a chance to learn gardencraft as well as science knowledge. Good work is always rewarded in some way and time.

Certificates:- Specially designed and they are awarded to all gardeners who participated in the full gardening season or in part.

Special Awards:- Voted upon by summer staff and student interns. The purpose for them is as follows:

1) To stimulate and encourage youth to become aware that people grow, become respected and liked in a garden--a good citizen.-Gardener of the Year Award.

2) To encourage a healthy respect for good gardening, being a hard worker, and on the job.-Garden Craftsman Award.

3) To cultivate believing in an idea, in the idea of *Garden, Hilltop* which gives youth a chance to learn how to work with nature in a garden setting.-Director's Award.

4) To encourage scientific interest in and love for one's environment.-Naturalist Award.

5) To encourage the acquisition of the science side of horticulture.-Excellency in Horticulture Award.

6) To encourage the development of skills and appreciation for growing of gardens outdoors and under glass and through this process developing an awareness of Man's relationship to his natural environment.-Hilltop's Gardener Award.

MIDSUMMER OPEN HOUSE:- First held in 1951-- 102 gardeners welcomed their parents, relatives, and friends. It is the staff's and Hilltoppers' visual and oral Progress Report. Midsummer is a beautiful and appropriate time: the garden plots are visibly productive, special projects well underway, decorative gardens ready for inspection.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT WORKERS:- Face of *Garden, Hilltop* drastically changed with landscape design possibilities. \$200, a sum allocated by the Botany Department for Indiana University student worker, hourly payment, 10 hours weekly. This was in 1955. Currently, workstudy monies assigned by the now Biology Department has been in 1983, \$903.68 (80% paid by federal funds, 20% paid by the department). Type of work: part time in the greenhouses...propagation of plant materials, part time in the Big Garden, groundskeeping...some clerical work.

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THE JUNIOR BOARD:- Established in 1959. 195 Hilltoppers were enrolled. Those who completed the 3 Achievement Levels and were outstanding during their 3 years were eligible for membership--a 2-year appointment. They gain a better understanding of how *Garden, Hilltop* operates as an educational institution and that horticulture is an intellectual discipline. The sponsors are proud of these young leaders-in-training.

HILLTOP'S SLOGAN:- Hilltoppers soon discover that working together makes a garden beautiful. In 1960, the concept of service was expressed by a volunteer with a slogan: "*I PLEDGE TO DO A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN MY SHARE*", eagerly upheld to this day.

THE FLAG POLE:- Donated in 1961 by the local chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, the pole and the American flag. The flag has been replaced several times.

GARDEN, HILLTOP'S HONORARY AWARD:- In 1962, Chancellor Herman B Wells was honored with the first membership. The award represents the recognition of the ideals and philosophy supporting youth gardening. Parents, civic leaders, educators, and scientists have been so honored.

PLANT & BAKE SALE-SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL:- Its beginning related to the Bloomington Garden Club membership sponsoring small sales of plants from their own gardens...then followed student-planned Festivals until today it is a basic necessity, funds to keep *Garden, Hilltop* program alive. It was an awareness by the parents in 1963 that their own involvement could add substance to the students' efforts--thus, the

beginning of the *HOME BAKERY*. Today, the Festival is an event long awaited by gardeners. It is reunion time for friends...a walk through a charming garden groomed for guests ...and, time to purchase excellent plants since all plants are grown in natural soil giving every plant the best beginning.

ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS:- In 1963, enrollment was 164, enrollment was steadily climbing. A science education curriculum was hammered out providing youth diversity of activities besides the garden plot: 1st year gardeners identified as EXPLORERS, RED LEVELS; 2nd year gardeners, the OBSERVERS, the BLUE LEVELS; the 3rd year gardeners, the INVESTIGATORS, the GOLD LEVELS.

It was important for the youth to understand that learning to grow a fine garden took time, and skills require practice. *Garden, Hilltop's* basic assignment is to help youth learn how to grow plants, to work with them in the total environment. The intellectual levels were progressively more advanced including garden service tasks, nature study, and special science projects.

HILLTOP'S SONG:- Presented to Hilltoppers by Carol Cline, an Indiana University student intern in 1965. The words are arranged to the tune of the *Illionis Fight Song*.

CLINICS WITH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE:- In 1966, Cory Alcorn, a dynamic county agent invited the Director to join hands in sponsoring Yard & Garden Clinics in cooperation with the Purdue University Extension Service. First held in the Old Armory with large crowds attending ...then on to the Fairgrounds and finally at the College Mall under

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John Trott's leadership. The community was well served.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT WITH THE HERALD-TELEPHONE NEWSPAPER:- A JUNIOR BOARD late spring-summer task of which the youth is most proud. In 1967, with an all-time high enrollment of 207 boys and girls an idea for an outreach of *Garden, Hilltop* was accepted by Lew Winkler, then business manager of the *Newspaper*: Honor Day for the beginning gardeners was a trip around the schools planting 1000 daffodil bulbs; it was a four-year project. Now, on the front lawn of the *Newspaper*, an oval *Island Garden* supports hundreds of spring flowering bulbs followed by solid plantings of Red Begonia--a stunning display for the public. Plants and horticultural supplies are paid by the *Newspaper*. Annual scholarships are presented for this labor of love.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT INTERN AWARD:- Established in 1969. Awarded to student interns demonstrating excellent qualities of leadership. The recipient's name is inscribed on a permanent plaque; a small replica is presented on Honor Day to the one recognized.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT ASSISTS WITH HILLTOP'S WORKSHOPS:- It was friendship, a personal gesture from my peers to help out and every specialist enjoyed *Garden, Hilltop's* hospitality. Horticulture students and the public learned much: demonstration-discussions on these topics: pruning woody plants, soils, their management, greenhouse engineering, home gardening with small fruits, and landscape design. Presently, distant travel has been reduced or eliminated due to reduced federal funding for Extension Service.

Thus, the 1970s were enriching years.

OVERNIGHTS AT "GARDEN HILLTOP":- An extraordinary staff assembled for the summer program in 1970. Overnights were introduced by these interns and the popular event remains a tradition. The youth and staff plan the menus, recreation, and finding out how nature conducts the business of night life. Overnights, rain or shine.

NEWSLETTER, GARDEN TALK:- It is a progress report to parents and friends of *Garden, Hilltop*...started in 1972, communication is the life-line for *Garden, Hilltop's* program.

HONOR DAY-KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:- Honor Day event and its program was formerly held at schools, children and teachers liked this arrangement. In time, it was transferred to *Garden, Hilltop*. The Awards Assembly is held in the Council Ring. The Director's overview of the annual gardening season today is in a pictorial form. In 1980, the keynote speaker was added to reinforce the meaning of science in *Garden, Hilltop's* program. Outstanding speakers have contributed significantly explaining simply and briefly the role of science in the personal development of Hilltoppers and in the life of the community. Hilltoppers in particular enjoy them for their wit, anecdotes, and pleasing personalities.

GARDEN, HILLTOP'S ANNIVERSARIES:- The Tenth, 1957, at Honor Day: "This Is Your Life, Garden, Hilltop". The Twenty-fifth, 1975: Honor Day was held at the University Club, Indiana Memorial Union. A pitch-in luncheon was followed by an impressive program.

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FRIENDSHIP BASKETS:- Hilltoppers are made aware that it is good to share the fruits of their labors with friends of Hilltop--sometimes it is the Mayor, the President of the University, etc. Bouquets are included in the harvest basket. A parent and the child deliver the gift--the mission is described at the next Council Ring assembly. The tradition has been observed since 1960.

REGISTRATION FEES:- An important principle of Life is explained to the Hilltopper as the registration fee is paid: "pay as you go". The fee in 1949 was 25¢, then 50¢ and gradually raised to the current \$15. Hilltoppers contribute toward the expense of instructional materials for projects, nature and floral craft, and field trips.

HILLTOP GARDEN COUNCIL:- It is a special project of the Junior Garden Committee of the Bloomington Garden Club. It was founded in 1973. "The objective of the Council shall be to promote youth and adult environmental awareness, to help educate all people in the community concerning beautification, conservation, gardening, horticulture, and garden therapy". To achieve this ambitious objective it was necessary for the Council to protect GARDEN, HILLTOP'S program which required trained full-time assistance and a new building to relieve the limited space in the Gardenhouse opened in 1960.

PHILIP THOMPSON'S SKETCHES:- Nine views of the Garden were sketched by a popular local artist in 1978. The investment was made to preserve the charm of the Garden for posterity and to serve as a fund-raising project.

RAW VEGETABLES FOR GOOD HEALTH:- The Saturday morning lesson in the Council Ring includes the nutritional value of the week's vegetable being studied, its importance as a source of vitamins, minerals or both. The vegetable is prepared and served attractively. "It tastes good!" The recipe is taken home. The young gardeners have been encouraged to learn to eat some of the garden's produce raw. Broccoli, in particular--when tried with a dip, they like it! And, in due time a good habit is theirs.

ENDOWMENTS & INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL "GIVING":- The Herb Garden was endowed in 1981 by the Ferguson family honoring their mother, Arline Ferguson, a pioneer patron of Garden, Hilltop.

Individual contributions from several retired educators are presented during the summer months when they are able to enjoy a conducted tour through the Garden.

Philanthropic organizations also contribute, e.g., the Tri Kappa and the Psi Ote groups.

HILLTOP GARDEN COUNCIL WORKSHOPS:- Workshops have been made available to the public without any fees--some exceptions. It is a service of the Council for people's continuing education in gardening and horticulture. The Holiday Decorations Workshops are popular and well attended. A local or out-of-town designer would be employed for these Workshops. Following an absorbing lecture-demonstration of the floral craft the participants would retire to the laboratories where a wide variety of decorative materials would be on sale. Most of the participants purchased their materials and remained for instruction.

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The following Workshops were popular and well attended: landscape design, herbs, how to grow and use them, starting a vegetable garden, lawn care, identification of ornamental trees and shrubs, success with house plants, bonsai, and pest control in the garden.

REGISTRATION-OF-HILLTOP MEMBERSHIP:- Registration was carried out traditionally in schools during the lunch hour. Members of the Bloomington Garden Club were familiar with the procedure...cards filled out and the fees collected, then returned to the Director's Office. Sometimes registration would be held at the Juke Box. Currently, registration is at *Garden, Hilltop*, continuing for several weeks.

GREEN LEVELS:- Established in 1984 to provide the potential member of the Junior Board with pre-service training. The young gardeners appreciated this pre-service experience. The in-service training tasks were rehearsed during the spring season; they began their appointment with the summer program.

SUMMER PROGRAM TIME TABLE:- Wherever youth gardening is established gardeners participate either in a structured program as in the case of *Garden, Hilltop* or unstructured enabling the gardener to harvest according to the family's wishes. The *Garden, Hilltop* time-table has been from its inception **TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS**.

The staff has an opportunity to prepare for the week on **MONDAYS**. Furthermore, families enjoy hard play during weekends and so the young people appreciate a restful Monday. **TUESDAYS** at *Garden, Hilltop* is time spent in the plots: plant and soil management tasks with very

little harvesting. Under enthusiastic and competent leadership youth find much to do and much to observe. If this is lacking then there is only one exciting thing to do and that is harvest, something to take home. **THURSDAYS** are assigned for the Honor Work Plan including occasional field trips. On **SATURDAYS**, there is a visit to the plots, heavy harvesting for the long weekend followed with project activities in various parts of the garden. Some parents wished to have the whole weekend free. Thus, in 1985, *Garden, Hilltop* launched the **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY** week--it is too early to know which is better.

Formal closing of the summer program at the end of the first week in August has always seemed right. Families quite often were already packed ready to start the vacation with the harvest basket filled with fresh vegetables for the long journey.

ANNUAL TRIPS FOR STAFF & JUNIOR BOARD:- These trips were planned to broaden the gardeners understanding of the horticultural industry. The Director contacted key leaders in each of the industries. These are samples of the long distant "safaris": Cincinnati and St. Louis were overnight trips. Parents assisted with transportation.

The short trips to Indianapolis were more rewarding and less tiring. These are worthwhile educational experiences and they also help forge enduring friendships.

SCHOOL VISITATIONS:- A trip to *Garden, Hilltop* is popular with teachers and pupils. The Director offers a planned program for the hour and a half the school allows the group. A meeting in the Council

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Ring starts off with *Garden, Hilltop's* songs then the order of the day is explained. Some activities include planting in the vegetable garden...everyone takes home a plant and a potful of cuttings to be observed in class. There is a gift for the principal, too. Nearly all schools in the county have had a visit with a picnic.

SHARING HILLTOP WITH OTHERS:- The concept of an outdoor laboratory to teach science to boys and girls was novel and intriguing to many, especially its being University-based. The momentum for the crystallization of my own vision of a curriculum and methods of implementation was galvanized by the startling event of the Soviet Sputnik and the nation precipitating into a vigorous examination of the existing quality of science teaching in the classrooms. *Science Workshops* swept across the land. Ours at Indiana University opened in June, 1952.

Dr. E. Ned Bingham, Chairman of the Science Education Department, University of Florida, Gainesville consented to assist with the physical science area--and so he did for the next ten years. A succession of distinguished leaders in the field of science education came to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. Much was discussed late into the nights in the laboratories where the teachers worked on their projects.

In fifteen years 1944 teachers upgraded their knowledge and skills and held fast to the enthusiasm caught in Bloomington for teaching science to boys and girls. Twenty-four years later, in 1976, the Indiana University Science Workshop completed its services to the nation.

THE WHOLE WORLD GARDEN HILLTOP, an environmental horticultural education curriculum and its simple implementation was hammered out by 1969. By 1971 *Garden, Hilltop* had become nationally recognized by science educators and biologists. It remains indestructibly built on bedrock.

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Through the years papers have been presented on designated topics related to *Garden Hilltop's* program, some invitational, others contributive. These studies have been introduced to the following organizations:

SCIENTISTS--BIOLOGISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS:-

NOTE: ° Invitational Paper
+ Contributive Paper

- 1958 °American Institute for Biological Sciences in Bloomington
Teaching section, Horticulture
- 1965 °American Institute Biological Sciences. Horticultural Education Symposium sponsored by the Nat'l Academy of Sciences and American Society of Horticultural Science, University of Illinois, Urbana.
- 1970 +American Institute for Biological Sciences. Open house at *Garden, Hilltop*
- 1970 °18th International Horticultural Congress International Society for Horticultural Science, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 1971 °Cornell University...Addressed faculty of the Department of Horticulture at a seminar.
- 1974 °Purdue University...Addressed faculty and students of the Department of Horticulture

- 1974 +19th International Horticultural Congress International Society for Horticultural Science, Warsaw, Poland
- 1975 °Washington, D.C. Washington University...Child, Nature, and Environment Conference, Sponsored by the United States Department of Forestry & D.C. Department of Parks & Recreation
- 1978 °20th International Horticultural Congress International Society for Horticultural Science, University of Sydney, Australia
- 1980 Purdue University, Department of Horticulture undergraduates and faculty visit *Garden, Hilltop*.
- 1982 +21st International Horticultural Congress International Society for Horticultural Science, Federal Republic of Germany, Hamburg
- 1985 °China Association for Science and Technology Botany Delegation for Botanic Gardens and Arboreta. Addresses at: Beijing, Nanjing, Wuxi, Suzhou, Hangzhou
- 1986 22nd International Horticultural Congress International Society for Horticultural Science, University of California, Davis, California
- 1986 22nd International Horticultural Congress International Society for Horticultural Science, University of California, Davis, California

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EDUCATORS--SCIENCE AND HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION:-

1960 °Miami Beach, Florida...Florida State Science Teachers Association

1963 °National Education Association...Annual Meeting at Cobo Hall, Detroit, Mich.

1973 °American Horticultural Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, Fairmont Roosevelt Hotel

1973 °American Horticultural Society Conference, Chicago, Ill. Environmental Horticultural Education.

1974 °American Horticultural Society Environmental Horticultural Education Symposium, River Farm, Mt. Vernon, VA.

1960 +National Science Teachers Association. Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri

1962 +National Science Teachers Association, San Francisco, California--Annual Meeting.

1963 °National Science Teachers Association, Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Penn.
National Science Teachers Association, Annual Meeting.

1964 +Chicago, Ill.

1965 +Denver, Colorado

1966 +New York, New York

1967 +Washington, D.C.

1969 +Dallas, Texas

National Civic Garden Centers, Inc. Annual Meeting.

1973 St. Louis, Mo.

1974 +Columbus, Ohio

1975 °Dallas, Texas

1976 °Bloomington, Ind.

1977 °Wheeling, West Virginia

1978 °Lubbock, Texas

1979 °Pittsburgh, Pa.

1980 Amarillo, Texas

1981 +Cincinnati, Ohio

1982 +Youngstown, Ohio

1983 +Bloomington, Ind.

1984 Memphis, Tenn.

1986 Dallas, Texas

GARDEN CLUBS:

1953 °Evansville Garden Club, Evansville, Ind.

1956 °Indianapolis Garden Club, Indianapolis, Inc.

1959 °Garden Club of Vermont, Inc., Annual Meeting--dinner speaker, Grafton Inn, Grafton, Vermont

1961 °Madison Garden Club, Madison, Ind. Luncheon Speaker

1962 °National Council State Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting. Luncheon Speaker, Los Angeles, Calif.

1974 °Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. Annual Meeting, Indiana Memorial Union, Indiana University. Luncheon Speaker

1975 °Fayetteville Garden Club. Keynote Speaker, dedication of Sears Civic Garden Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina

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SPECIAL PUBLIC SERVICE:-

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| 1955 | °American Association of University Women, Indianapolis Broadway Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Ind. | weeks. Spent 2 days consulting with these trainees on their site. |
| 1955 | °Women's Faculty Club, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. | Consulted with Illinois State Department of Conservation in Springfield, Ill. concerning the establishing of a <i>Garden, Hilltop</i> in E. St. Louis. |
| 1957 | Article, May Issue, <u>Better Homes & Gardens Magazine</u> | 1974 ° <i>Garden, Hilltop's</i> Open House for a Teachers Group from the Elementary Schools, Columbus, Ohio. |
| 1957 | °Service Clubs: Kiwanis, Rotary, Serotoma, etc. School groups: PTA Am Childhood Assoc. Delta Kappa Gamma. | 1974 °Luncheon Speaker for the Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. Annual Meeting, Indiana Memorial Union, Indiana University |
| 1962 | °Jones School, Utica, N.Y. | 1974 +Chicago Flower & Garden Show, March 23-31. Exhibit of <i>Garden, Garden, Hilltop</i> assisted by the A-V Department, Indiana University. Director interpreted the program 10 hours daily. Student Interns within Chicago Area helped. <i>Garden, Hilltop</i> Garden Council helped, traveling to Chicago, interpreting through the day, and returning to Bloomington that night. |
| 1961 | Article about <i>Garden, Hilltop</i> written by John Schrodt for the Indiana University Alumni Magazine | 1974 Assisted a former Summer Sessions Science Workshop participant, teacher, Jerry Swisher, and principal, John Gwinnup, lay out a <i>Garden, Hilltop</i> for the Grassyfork Elementary School in Indianapolis. |
| 1961 | °Film prepared at <i>Garden, Hilltop</i> by WFBM Television for the program "SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY", Indianapolis | 1977 °Depauw University, Greencastle, Ind., keynote speaker during Women's Week on campus, topic, "Women in Science", convocation. |
| 1965 | °Washington Youth Gardens. U.S. National Arboretum, Appointed Advisor to Gardens. | |
| 1969 | °Co-founder of the Douglas Rae Youth Garden Center, Christian Center, Bloomington, Ind. | |
| 1970 | °E. St. Louis, Missouri, Illinois Department of Conservation sent to Indiana University. 11 young men and women for pre-service training at <i>Garden, Hilltop</i> to prepare to establish a Garden Center for youth in E. St. Louis. Housed in Indiana University dorms, spent 2 | |

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1985 Consultant to leaders of the Indianapolis Community Gardens.

PRE-SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL, HILLTOP-PERS & PARENTS PITCH-IN SUPPERS

1982 Currently the Festival is a large undertaking requiring many volunteers. Informed people know what is expected of them. Thus a pleasant evening is shared, good food, fellowship, and positive information. Parents sign up for the available tasks.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:-

1954 *Garden*, Hilltop's outreach abroad began with the Director's studies at the University of London. Horticulture for women in England had long been a respected calling drawing dynamic communicators of women's role in the time-honored occupation. Not so in United States of America, not until the latter part of this century.

The training of women horticulturists and the teaching of science to youth became all-absorbing sandwiched with the demanding scientific research program that had been undertaken. Numerous opportunities were made available to meet men and women of varying walks of life, each contributed to stimulating and unequalled discussions and critical examination of curriculums for the teaching of horticulture, science, and environmental education in

the public (private) and secondary modern schools. World War II produced definitive changes in the school curriculums, some disturbing and thus the open discussions. School gardening had been incorporated into Rural Studies within the secondary modern school systems. Teacher training was assigned to the technical institutes.

The driving interest in the methods of teaching science in outdoor settings observed in England was to broaden with observations on the European continent. School gardens were found to have been rebuilt after World War II, given first priority so important were these tools of learning to the nation's survival. Impressive instruction was the keynote in all the garden centers. One found enthusiastic and disciplined youth enjoying their work and fruits of their efforts--beautiful gardens with visions of their own gardens when homemakers.

Journeys into Holland, Belgium, W. Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, Denmark and Sweden crystallized an image of a complete children's garden for the American child, not a school garden but an avant garde, a garden-nature center. It was activated repeatedly in the years ahead.

1960s Indiana University had been cooperating with a number of foreign countries assisting them in strengthening their education programs. The

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magnitude of the service rendered is beyond measurement. Students came to the campus from Thailand, Phillipine Islands, Burma, Korea, and Taiwan. Those enrolled in the School of Education were encouraged to participate in the Science Workshop. Their enthusiastic support of *Garden, Hilltop's* concept was impressive because they were captivated by the potential, an outdoor science laboratory. It is certain that their knowledge and skills acquired have been incorporated into their professional and personal lives.

1970- Students from Iran and Saudi Arabia came to earn their doctorates in 1982 Science Education. Many enrolled in Environmental Horticulture, and they were captivated by *Garden, Hilltop* sensing its potential for science and moral education. They had come to find useful and powerful ideas to improve their countries' education systems. Some continued to acquire more horticultural knowledge and skills certain to implement them and the *Garden, Hilltop* program within their teacher training centers.

Once their studies were completed, most of these students would be appointed to administrative positions in the Ministry of Education.

The seed has been planted far and wide, now to help it grow is our task on the hill.