

Union Church, North Harpswell

Harpswell's Club for All Seasons

By Charles A. Waugaman

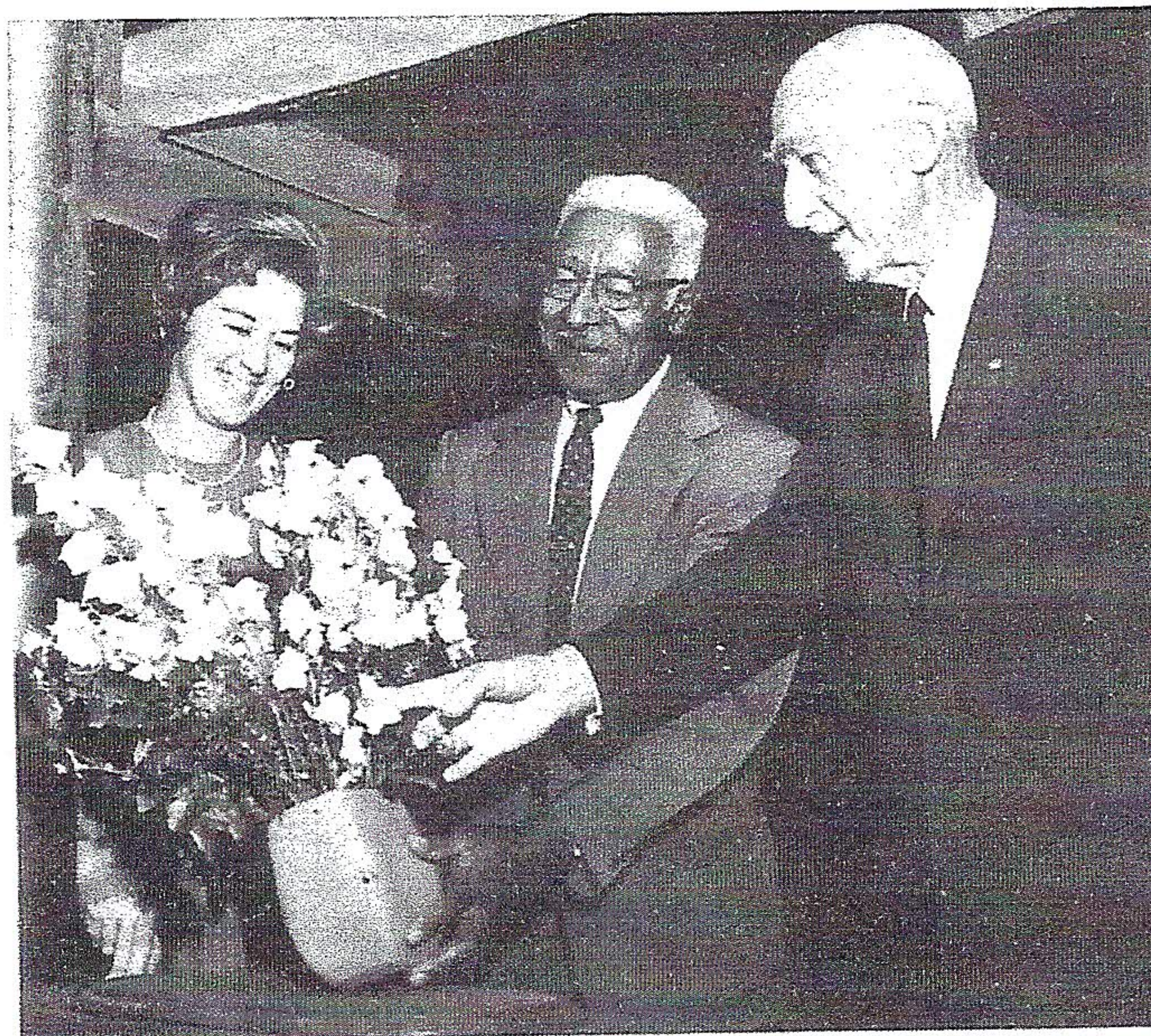
HARPSWELL — made up of two well-wooded, rock-ribbed peninsulas jutting into eastern Casco Bay — historically has been a leading shipbuilding center and home for numerous sea captains. In the late 1800s, Elijah Kellogg, pastor of the Congregational Church at Harpswell Center, made the area famous through his books for boys. In this century, South Harpswell has been a port on the Casco Bay steamship route and a flourishing summer spot. Since the 1930s, Harpswell has also been known for its garden club.

Forty years ago the Harpswell Garden Club began by sponsoring a flower show. The first president was James H. H. Bodge, a horticulturist of wide repute. Serving with him as executive secretary was Miss

Anne Frances Hodgkins — affectionately known as “Miss Anne” — a nationally accredited master flower show judge, whose wise help through the years has been crucial in building the membership to nearly 340, making the group the third largest garden club in Maine.

Other Garden Club leaders have included Mrs. Samuel Brown, who contributed to the national movement by founding the Flower Show Judging School of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and Howard Brooks, who is currently Horticultural Therapist for New York University’s Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine.

The Annual Flower Show, held early in August — this summer August 11 and 12 — features competi-



Left — Jeanne Gilliam, club president; Arthur Clayton, for whom a scholarship is named, and Rear Admiral W. T. Alexander. Below — Wig and hat of Parson Elisha Eaton, who helped build the Harpswell Meeting House.

