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BLUEGRASS**

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Down from the town of Palm Beach "with money in my pocket," was Robert Jones, Supt. of Parks. He and his host, Tommie Hofmann examine a "Big Stuff" Ficus nitida, grown in a special two-section container. It has never touched the ground.

**Merchandising Pays
For Hofmann Nurseries**

Tommie Hofmann's recent unique merchandising idea of inviting the nursery industry to participate in his all day "Big Stuff" Plant Carnival, paid off "famously in fellowship and sales." About 400 friends (and buyers) representing every facet of the industry responded, with visitors waiting when the gate was opened at the Bill Hofmann Wholesale Nurseries in Hollywood, Fla.

If possible, those attending the Plant Carnival were as excited as Tommie and his "Uncle Bob" were happy with the gala; even the sun smiled its approval on the rain-predicted day.

There was a run on the electric carts for zipping through the symmetrically laid out nursery, where plants are always kept groomed in high fashion by Uncle Bob. And,

fragrance wafting from two large barbeque ovens attracted traffic-stopping interest; for bubbling in one were 225 pounds of juicy pork tenderloin, and in the other, 4-20 pounds of piece de resistance . . . standing prime rib roasts.

The event was climaxed with the Florida Nursery Growers Assn. Broward Chapter's regular monthly meeting, with many of the FNGA state officers on hand. Included were, President Joe Welker, Duval Landscape Co., Jacksonville, Joe Shaw, Shaw Landscape and Nursery Co., South Miami, who steps into the presidency in May, and Second Vice President Dick Gladwin, Gladwin Nurseries, Jupiter. Also, Janette Robb, executive secretary. Others were Dave Stabler, Sr., Winter Haven Nurseries, Winter Haven, charter president, and Beverly Turbeville, the only woman to hold the presidency since the association's inception in 1952.