

A Book of Golden Deeds award is to be made tonight; given in honor of SHARING; donors who share their gift with others; members of this Club who share love and affection for those who give; and, the award itself is to be shared, for the first time in our Book of Golden Deeds, by two who shared in making their gift - exhibiting love for their adopted home, and looking into its future. Tonight we honor a couple who together have made probably the finest and largest single gift ever given Florence, Alabama—our own Kirk and Lillian Deibert.

They remember when Kirk got out of the Army and came here to practice pathology. They bought farm land over 35 years ago north of town. Florence was a much smaller place then and that area had a rural atmosphere. It was also hard scrabble chert ground that could only grow visions, and it did. In June 1987 this 100 acres of now beautiful pasture land, white fences, rolling hills and carefully engineered ponds was given to a new foundation, Deibert's Rolling Acres Farm Foundation, to keep this land forever a beautiful green oasis in its natural state. Many estimates well over a million dollars were publicly made then as to the value of the gift considering frontage on Cox Creek Parkway if commercialized and developed with paved parking lots!

The Deibert Foundation is pledged to the people of Florence, and will use its funds first for the beautification and maintenance of the 100 acres, and also for other recreational purposes in the City of Florence. Mayor Frost said on accepting the gift "This is a tremendous statement from the Deiberts on what they feel about their city". Jimmy Ray Stanfield, now Parks and Recreation Director, and raised up by our own Jim Spain, stated publicly "This is the most generous gift ever given to the city. Usually we get some ditch that no one wants". A Foundation Board of Directors will guide the use of this beautiful and green park that some day will be in the center of urban development.

Active in the methodist church and particularly in its Camp Sumatonga activities; and for years training young people to know and appreciate horses, the couple continues to live on the farm, continue to use it and improve all the grounds, and stable their horses. Hopefully some type of riding stables can be combined with the city interest later. With the help of conservation officials, the site has been nurtured and now the Deibert's family—all the people of the City of Florence—will share in its beauty and benefit from their park. This great service and gift to the City is well remembered by entering the names of Kirk R. Deibert and Lillian Deibert into the Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds.