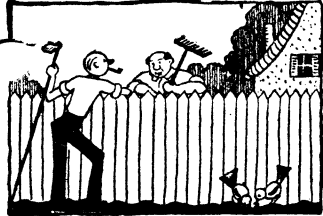


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 6
Number 1
Jack Cohen, Editor

January, 1948
Associate Editors
Ed Montgomery, Victor Lowrie

FIRST MEETING OF 1948

Date: Tuesday, January 13
Place: Fountain Terrace,
Medical Arts Building
Time: 5:45 P.M.

PROGRAM

Business Meeting

Report of Officers
Report of Committees
Election of Officers
Voting on Amendments to Constitution

Principal Address

"What Happens in Your Garden in
Winter." (Speaker to be announced)

Officers

Harold R. Kaufmann,
President
H. W. Bishop,
Vice-President
R. J. Dufourd,
Secretary
A. H. Flack,
Treasurer

Office of the Secretary

5020 Second Avenue So.
Minneapolis 9

DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

There was a fine turnout at the Christmas Party - 116 altogether - with many of the old-timers present. Among these was Mr. Brown, the iris pioneer from Southeast Minneapolis. The St. Paul delegation brought a good number of members to hear Pfister's talk. This first meeting of the Twin City Clubs went so well it should be repeated in the future.

The medal award deservedly goes to Rene Dufourd and Archie Flack for their efficient handling of the crowd and the meeting.

Some called C. Eugene Pfister "The Herb Kahlert of Chicago." It's a real compliment, Gene.

THE SECRETARY SAYS:

Notify the Secretary of any change in home address, as well as any change in home or office telephone number. This is for the 1948 roster and we want the information to be as correct as possible.

PROJECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

This issue carries reports of some of the Project Committees for 1947. Sorry that more reports are not available and we trust next year all chairmen will realize their responsibility and prepare reports for the whole membership to study. As President Kaufmann has said, "These reports represent our postgraduate work in gardening and enable us to make progress in our spare-time

"YOUR GARDEN AND ROSES"

Highlights of a talk given at our December meeting by C. Eugene Pfister of Chicago, Past-President of the Men's Garden Clubs of America; Rosarian for M. G.A.; and Director, United Horticulture.

Girls. "Yes, I'm carrying the torch for the men - the Men's Garden Clubs - but I say 'Good heavens, what can we do without our girls to help us with our gardens?' We garden together of course, but aren't they our inspiration? There are 70 men's garden clubs in 26 states and our women are responsible in the most part for their formation and their success . . . "

Democracy. "We are a part of the most democratic clubs in the country; barbers and presidents; janitors and bankers are pals together. Gardening is a way of life where true democracy reigns and wherein can be found peace of mind . . . "

Freedom Gardens. "War, as tragic as it is, brought many people back into their gardens, not just for the love of gardening but because all we have comes from the soil. This brings me to a very important point. What is going to be expected of us as home gardeners next year? Are we going back to where we were before the war? Decidedly not! We are going to help cultivate the 20,000,000 'Freedom Gardens' requested of us by the Department of Agriculture and which this country needs so badly. Even if you waste up to one half of what you can and do grow, you are still making a contribution because you are releasing the food you do not need to buy for shipment overseas. So let us all do our part and encourage others to make a really worthwhile contribution to this movement."

ASTA Garden Seeds. "Every club is going to be asked to send one or more packages of garden seed assortment to Europe, and we urge all of you to promote the idea among your friends." (Editors Note: The official assortment will be known as American Seed Trade Association European Garden Seed Assortment. Shipping weight slightly less than two pounds. Seeds sufficient to produce five tons of vegetables abroad. Packages are to be delivered to individuals in 23 countries including Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, British Isles, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia. Early shipment soon after the new year is advised. Look for our own president's announcement on this subject elsewhere in The Spray.)

Show Material. "You know, gardeners are as bad as fishermen. They always had something larger or better or more beautiful than what they exhibit at shows. But do please remember, only one thing makes a good show and that's material. So don't be worried about your material; sometimes the least interesting to you proves to be a winner . . . "

Johnny Appleseed: "Johnny Appleseed is our patron saint. Johnny was a man of good; the greatest man in the world helping others to help themselves. The award goes to the men who have contributed most to horticulture. The thing that counts is in being one of those who help others to become better gardeners and have more fun with their gardens. Test gardens are being conducted for this very purpose . . . "

Roses. "My garden in Illinois is subject to almost the same cold as you have in Minnesota. Our roses set in the full sun with no protection from the wind are of the hardy variety. Therefore if they are hardy in our garden, they will be hardy in yours. Are we using our gardens right? Shrub roses will do wonders in your hedge. Isn't it fun that we never finish our gardens? No sooner have we finished one plan when we dig it up for another. How about a rose garden? I have had suc-

ness with Persian Yellow, one of the earliest to bloom (and only once), but what a mass of color! Try Hugonis, the golden rose of China, another important shrub rose. Others include Sir Thomas Lipton and Sarah Van Fleet. Then we have Scotch roses, musk roses, moss roses, cabbage roses and damask roses. There are the more popular everblooming hybrid teas, hybrid perpetuals, singles and tree roses. Also climbers. But don't plant too many - just enough so you have time to take care of them.

"Ramblers are hardy but they get heavy and need a lot of clearing out. Use them for along the fence. Old hybrid perpetuals are reliable; my favorites are Mrs. John Laing, Frau Karl Druschki, Henry Nevard and Baroness Rothschild. Don't overlook the floribundas and polyanthas. They give much more bloom than the hybrid teas, sufficient for the house and to keep in the garden too. Don't cut all your blooms for the house and keep the garden bare. Nothing is less interesting than a rose garden without bloom. By all means try some of the new everblooming hybrid teas. They have increased in hardiness and are more disease resistant . . . "

Disease. "Black spot we do not need to worry about too much. Fomate has ended a lot of troublesome work. Fungicides control but do not prevent disease. Use the new chemicals carefully though; they can prove dangerous. Don't be afraid to pick off all the diseased leaves from your plants even if the whole plant has to be defoliated. They'll come back and bloom. But burn all diseased leaves . . . "

Simple Culture. "The rose season is very simple to handle if you follow a set routine. Unhill the old in April and plant the new. Hill up the new keeping the roses under cover until they begin to show shoots above the ground. Hilling protects the canes during exposure to wind- and sun-drying. Don't cut back or prune until leaves begin to appear. Winter has marked where the old canes have died, so cut down to where the green line shows. Cut deep, for large blooms; lightly for heavy blooms.

Then feed well after cutting back. Now start spraying and cultivating. Spray once a week and within 24 hours after a rain. Cultivate as often as necessary but no deeper than one inch. Use peat moss, tobacco stems or buckwheat hulls for a mulch in hot weather. Fertilize once a month but not after August 15. Water regularly about every ten days in dry weather, but avoid wetting the foliage. Try to go into winter with plants in good foliage. Soon after the first killing frost, hill high around the base of each plant. After the ground has frozen, add a covering of leaves, straw, hay or cornstalks to protect the top. Now that's all that's necessary to grow roses; it's that simple!"

SLIDES BY BILL BLOCK

Bill Block, our perennial staff photographer and chairman of the Photography Committee, made his annual report by showing color photos of 1947 gardens. In the production of the slides, he was abetted by George Titus, Dr. J. T. Cohen, Harold Kaufmann and others of his committee. Gardens pictured for us were the following:

Dr. Bill Vehe - trees packed with plums and apples.

George Titus - beautiful hyacinths and lilies.

Andy Nyberg - finest of dahlias.

Harold Nelson - home-grown orchids.

Stan Lund - roses and roses, especially Nigger Boy.

Harold Kaufmann - Chrysanthemums galore.

Herb Kahlert - 10 months of good gardening

Bill Halmberg - fine dahlias.

Dr. J. T. Cohen - floribunda and hybrid tea roses.

Jack Cohen - tree roses - with butterfly.

Bob Bryant - tuberous begonias and dahlia

Bill Block - lilies, tuberous begonia and fancy photography.

Armory Gardens - 10,000 bulbs blooming

VEGETABLE PROJECT REPORT
William E. Swain, Chairman

Planting and Yields. Spring was late this year, and little or no planting was done in open ground until after May 15. Peas, onions, leek, garlic, lettuce, spinach, endive, radishes and potatoes seeded at this time germinated with some difficulty, but yielded better than average quality with production slightly below the past average. Plants of cabbage and other crucifers set out at this time produced only fair quality and not too abundant. Onion plants and sets did not do as well as in previous years, but were not a complete failure.

Carrots, beets, parsnips, turnips and other roots planted late in May germinated poorly and had to be replanted in those sections where they were sparse. A good crop was realized.

Nursery plantings of cabbage and other crucifers, lettuce and other salad greens planted from late May and early June produced good plants; but when transplanted, failed to develop. Beans, corn and cucumbers planted during June germinated and developed well and produced average yield and quality. Tomato plants set from late May through early June developed slowly and suffered from the hot summer, but those of early and midseason variety came through with fair quality and yield. Pepper plants set in open ground early in June yielded superior quality in unusual quantity. This also applied to pimentos.

Squash, pumpkin and similar vine crops were poor in development and quality. Wanda Peas proved to be an excellent garden variety. Blue Lake Stringless green beans failed to germinate or develop, and proved to be a poor garden variety. Strawberries suffered as a result of the hot summer after yielding average; next season will tell just how much they suffered. Herbs in general germinated poorly, but came through with fair yields and top quality.

Weather. Late Spring, with dry planting season, followed by below average rainfall. Record dry and hot summer with the hottest day over 100°. Last frost, May 16th; first frost, September 25; hard freeze, November 6th. Many members report making harvests of tomatoes, strawberries, carrots, cauliflower and other crucifers as late as November 10th.

Culture. Companion planting continued to prove satisfactory, but succession planting is not dependable in our climate even though late plantings did produce fine crops this year because of the unusually long Fall.

Use early and midseason varieties, as late varieties will generally result in disappointment. Tomatoes planted so as to have shade from the West; i.e., shaded from 3 P.M. on, ripened slightly later than usual and did not suffer from wilt as did those planted for full sun. Little or no difficulty was experienced with disease or insects.

Magnesium sulfate (epsom salts) fed to plants showing mosaic responded to treatment and yielded plants and fruits without blemish. Half of one of the gardens was plowed and the other half not; the whole garden was then disced. No noticeable difference was noted in growth or production.

Conclusions: Dig deep, or throw the seeds on the ground. Plant early or plant late. Spray or dust or do neither. Be interested and you can expect results; but the more interest, manure and effort expended, the more certain you are to have a garden of which you can be proud. Do not fail to take enough time to look at your garden

CHRYSANTHEMUM PROJECT REPORT

Robert A. Phillips, Chairman

The members of this committee all agree that the growing of garden chrysanthemums in Minnesota is profitable to them and believe it should be of real interest to all flower growers. The garden chrysanthemum comes into bloom at the very end of the gardening year at a time when there are not very many garden flowers in bloom, and the rather lavish display of chrysanthemum flowers takes a little of the sting out of the thought of the cold, long winter to come. In addition to this, the chrysanthemum provides blooms for cutting purposes and indoor bouquets, as well as a colorful garden for a full month or more.

For a while in September it looked as though the chrysanthemums would be pretty much of a failure this year due to the lateness of the Spring and the extreme heat and drouth of Summer, which continued on into Fall. However, the chrysanthemums did recover and every member of the committee, with the possible exception of Rene Dufourd, reported a good show. The following are some of the notes and recommendations which the committee would like to make to the members:

1. Garden chrysanthemums should be grown in fertile, well-drained soil and in full sun.
2. They should not be in competition for root room and sun from nearby trees, hedges and shrubs.
3. There are few insects and diseases that are serious menaces to this garden plant; at least none was reported this season.
4. There was no real crop failure to report this year.
5. Rene Dufourd got small plants and small flowers.
6. The following varieties are recommended by the committee:

The Minnesota garden chrysanthemums - Chippewa, Maroon 'n Gold, Aurora, Violet, Butterball, Glacier; and, Eugene Wander, Zantha, Olive Longland, Lavender Lady, Lavender Lassie, Heather Bloom, Pygmy Gold, September Bronze and Burgundy.

The chrysanthemum committee of the Men's Garden Club believes that if you do not raise garden chrysanthemums you are missing one of the finest, most satisfactory of all the garden flowers.

ROSE PROJECT REPORT

Stanley D. Lund, Chairman

The greatest step forward in successful rose culture has been made in the field of foliage disease control. The introduction of Fermate as a part of practically all commercial fungicides, or used in conjunction with dusting sulphur or talc, seems to be the solution to the black spot problem.

All members who used a dust or spray containing Fermate reported that the occurrence of black spot was at an all-time low. This may have had considerable to do with the excellent roses that were displayed in our Fall show. Aphids were not in evidence, weather probably being the controlling factor.

It is impossible to name all the outstanding roses grown by this group, but Peace certainly was tops in the hybrid teas, with Euting giving the most colorful display in the floribunda class. New Dawn was probably the most satisfactory climber.

Spring will bring an answer as to the benefits of fall planting or burying versus spring planting, but even that answer will not be conclusive because of that var-

SWEET PEA PROJECT
Russell E. Bechtel, Chairman

We are pleased to report that every one of the members ran an experiment using the trial seeds that were given to the membership by our Laurence Corbett of Northrup King.

George Luxton was unable to plant the seeds in his own garden, but visited his sister at Banff and took the test samples with him. Evidently there is something about the Banff climate (or the fine quality of Northrup King seeds) because George advises us his sister was very pleased with her experiment. It was extremely interesting to note that in that climate her test garden was entirely free from aphids. We certainly thank George for this international experiment. Truly we can say now that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis does things in an international way.

1947 was a good year for sweet peas because of the cool, temperate Spring, and everyone had very good luck, and because of the peculiar Spring, it seemed to make very little difference in the methods used in planting. In the writer's own garden we planted the four species four different times, treated the seed in four different ways, and the first bouquet was picked and covered the entire four species. We would respectfully recommend that the Secretary file these reports with the reports of the 1946 project and continue to do so in order that in a few years the Garden Club will have a portfolio of the experiences over various years and then we can arrive at an over-all procedure for Minnesota planting of sweet peas.

Another general result was that the old-fashioned grandiflora mixed, while it does not have the beautiful pastel colors and large blooms of Cuthbertson and other large varieties, makes up for these deficiencies by the large number of blooms. In the writer's opinion, prettier flowers with a very pleasant fragrance.

(Editors Note: Three detailed reports by Russ Bechtel, Harold Kaufmann and Cortis Rice accompanied this report. These will be published in an early issue.)

DAHLIA PROJECT REPORT
Bill Holmberg, Chairman

The majority of members of this project are also members of the Minnesota Dahlia Society; therefore a notice of the meetings was sent to the members. Meetings were held in April, May and September. A Twin City tour was conducted in August. Notice of this tour was published in the daily newspapers so that anyone wishing to visit some of the outstanding gardens was invited to do so.

The Minnesota Dahlia Society held its show in the lobby of the Northwestern National Bank September 8 and 9. Many of the members of this project exhibited blooms and won a great many ribbons and medals.

Dahlias were exhibited at the Men's Garden Club show at the Park Board Greenhouses at their Fall show, by Bob Bryant, C. Nelson, Bill Block, Andy Nyberg, Harold Nelson, Bill Holmberg and Howard Stephens. Carl Nelson won the Grand Championship of the show.

The past year was a very unfavorable one for the growing of dahlias with the lack of rainfall plus a great many insects to control and an early frost visiting the majority of gardens. This resulted in a very poor tuber crop in general, and all in all was not conducive to better dahlias.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1947 has been a memorable year for me because of gardening experiences, Garden Club activities and especially the opportunity, you, my associates, gave me to serve as Club President this past year.

Others of you in other years will have the stimulating privilege of sharing this Club's administration with such fine, cooperative and conscientious officers as you have blessed me with these last twelve months.

In my opinion, HOWARD BISHOP, RENE DUFOURD, ARCHIE FLACK & GLENN CERNEY are tops!

If the Men's Garden Club has made some progress and growth during my administration, the entire credit must go to these men and to others whose ability and unselfish efforts in your behalf I have come to know well and here gratefully acknowledge. Such men as these chairmen of our standing committees:

HERB KAHLETT and his fine Program Committee.

(Didn't they do another bang up job this year?)

JACK COHEN and his associates, ED MONTGOMERY & VIC LOWRIE.

(We think The Spray is the top publication in the Men's Garden Clubs of America)

FRED PAUL, Chairman of our Membership and Constitution Committee.

(Fred keeps our Actives, active and our Club vigorous and alive)

BILL BLOCK, Chairman of the Photography Committee.

(What a colorful job this colorful fellow has done for us!)

And these who willingly answered emergency calls to service:

FRANK JANES and BILL SWAIN - our lusty auctioneers.

BILL HOLMBERG to manage our June Show.

STAN LUND and CORTIS RICE who put on our fine September Show.

VIC LOWRIE, our capable pinch hitter for both Jack Cohen and Rene Dufourd.

RALPH SHERMAN and his Telephone Committee.

And, of course, all of our active and patient project chairmen.

Nor let us forget the constant generous cooperation of the Park Board and Henry Bachman Sons.

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis owes its present stature to these of our associates who served you well, and to their predecessors. The future of this Club depends on you and how well you measure up to your obligations and assignments.

The year had its gains and losses.

On the profit side are:

Greater member participation (but not yet what it must be) in meetings, shows and tours.

Our own attractive and distinctive show ribbons.

Our own unique and durable garden signs.

The setting up of an effective, continuous bookkeeping system.

Good publicity and community acceptance of this Club and its members as distinct civic and community assets.

More and better pictures in color of more members' gardens as an annual feature of our December meeting.

A consolidation of project reports for this, our January Spray.

Passing an amendment that makes it possible to retain the services of a well-qualified Secretary (the most important Club office.

at the end of one year, just when he had achieved an effective routine and maximum efficiency.

Determination of the Directors to hold the active membership to 70 as the desirable group size for maximum benefit for Club activities, -- but to advance amendments to encourage greater member attendance and participation and, by ability to transfer inactives to the Associate members list, to make room in the Active category for those on the qualified "waiting list" who are anxious to give, as well as to receive, benefit from their Club affiliation.

Our losses for the year are, of course, headed by the irreparable loss by death of our former President, - colorful, helpful, inspirational Upsher Smith. The Committee is still working on a suitable living testimonial to his memory.

Death, too, took from our ranks one of our newer but most promising members - Ralph Cornelison.

Illness kept Tom Hughes, our first President, from us the entire year and Jim Cristman, our cheerful capable former Secretary, has missed more meetings than his many friends like.

I have heard that there are a few who criticize the nature and type of our Club program, claiming that emphasis is on technical selective gardening at the expense of good fellowship. I do not think this criticism is justified; while the purpose of the Club is to help us all to be better informed, more skilled gardeners, I can imagine no stronger fellowship than that developed by a selected group of men working together to improve themselves to do more expertly something that they regard not as a casual hobby but as a stimulating "way of life".

Can those who heard or met Gene Pfister doubt his serious interest in gardening and Men's Garden Club activities? And yet isn't he the epitome of comradship and fellowship shared by all who seek to become better gardeners?

And let us not forget Gene's three challenges:

1. As individuals, to actively participate in the essential "Freedom Garden" program this spring.
2. Act now to send vital seed packets to Europe. Let's make this a real Club cooperative effort. Send your contributions (whatever you wish) to Archie Flack who will make all arrangements.
3. Be ready and willing to invite the Men's Garden Clubs of America to the Twin Cities in 1949 for the best annual meeting yet held!

Gene Pfister was so impressed with the caliber and quality of this Club and its members that he is confident that all of these challenges will be met successfully - and so am I.

My hopes for this Club are high. It will, I'm sure, be an increasing potent force in making Minneapolis a more beautiful, healthier and more neighborly city, - for good gardeners share their knowledge, experience and skills on neighborhood, community and civic levels. We should be proud, indeed, that so many of our members have been honored for such leadership.

And now I step down from the high office and fine privilege you have accorded me. I here pledge myself to the new administration to continue to work in behalf of the purposes and objectives of this Club which has meant so much to me in enjoyment, stimulation, instruction, inspiration and friendship.

May 1948 bring to you and yours a bountiful harvest of all the good things in