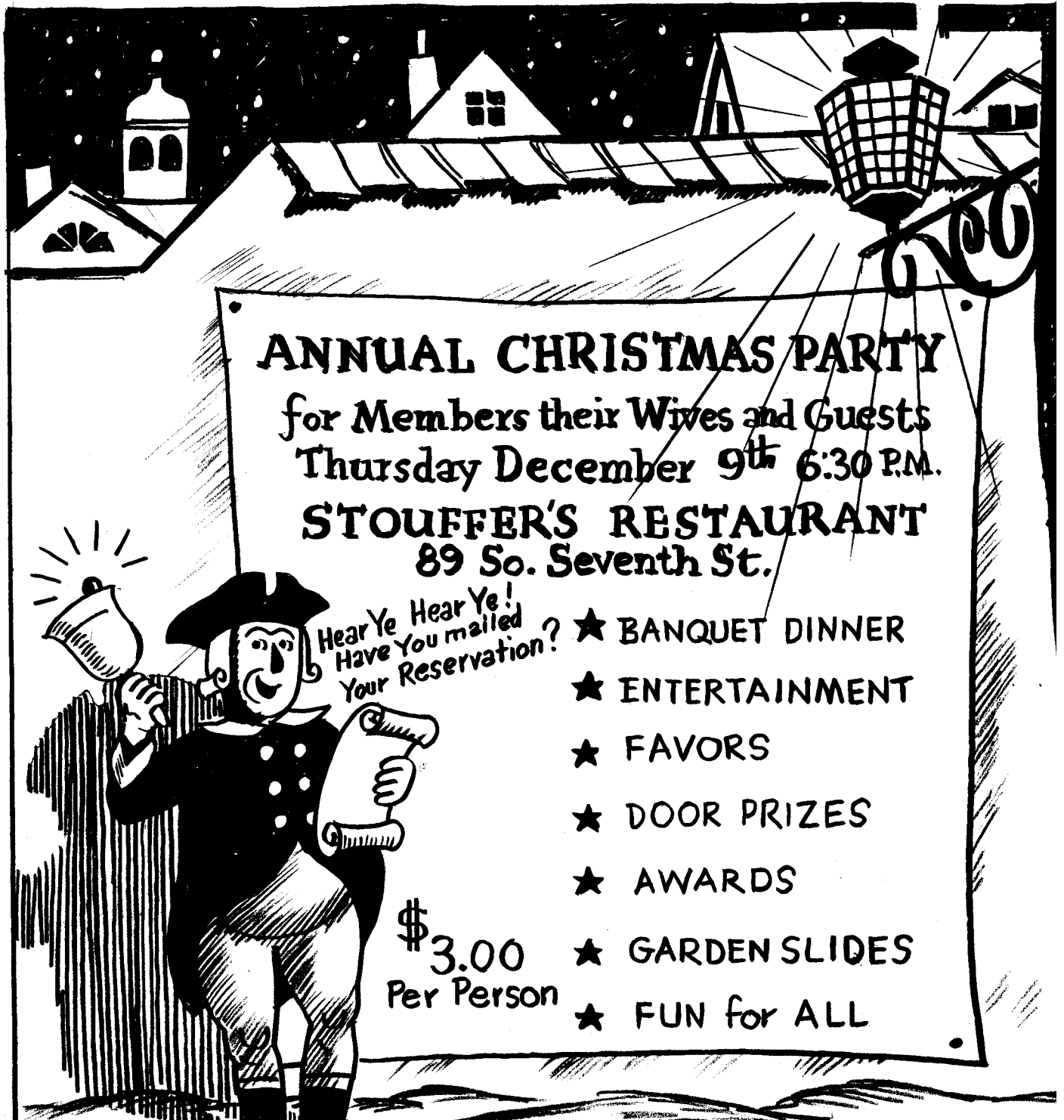


Christmas Greeting

To the Member Families of the MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

• • • THE GARDEN SPRAY - Vol. 11 - DECEMBER 1954 No. 12 • • •



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
for Members their Wives and Guests
Thursday December 9th 6:30 P.M.
STOUFFER'S RESTAURANT
89 So. Seventh St.

Hear Ye Hear Ye!
Have You mailed
Your Reservation?

- ★ BANQUET DINNER
- ★ ENTERTAINMENT
- ★ FAVORS
- ★ DOOR PRIZES
- ★ AWARDS
- ★ GARDEN SLIDES
- ★ FUN for ALL

\$3.00
Per Person



"VIC" LOWRIE AWARDED BRONZE MEDAL FOR 1954

The Awards Committee, after careful consideration of all candidates, Recommend that the Bronze Medal for 1954 be given to Mr. G. Victor Lowrie.

Mr. Lowrie has fully met all the requirements for this honor. For many years he has been the Editor of the Garden Spray, furnishing the Club Members each month, with valuable, interesting articles on the doings of the Club and on gardening in general.

He is a Past President of the Club and has served on its Executive Board for many years.

He has been very interested in the Flower Shows, not only as a competitor, but often on the Committee.

His garden has been a show place for years.

He has given freely of his time to help other gardeners, having served as Judge in many garden and flower contests.

He has always been a willing and active member of our Speakers Bureau.

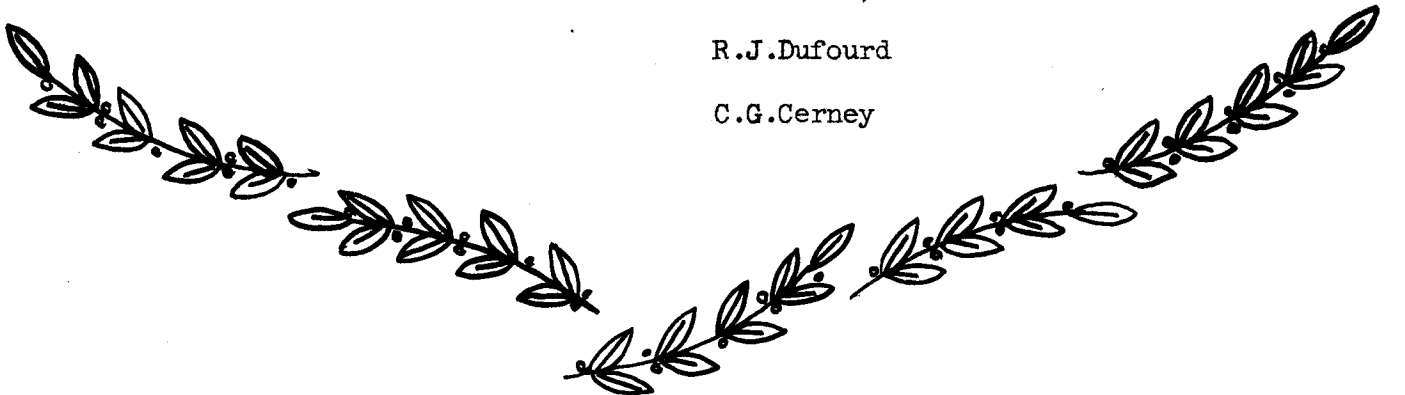
It is with pleasure, therefore, that the Committee makes this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A.H.Flack, Chairman.

R.J.Dufourd

C.G.Cerney



NOVEMBER MEETING WELL ATTENDED AND WELL APPLAUDED

One of the better attendance totals was recorded at the November meeting held at the Curtis Hotel on November 9 when 53 members and 5 guests turned out to hear three discussions on three important topics of the moment: Propagating House Plants, by Walter Menzel; Bulbs for Forcing, by Lloyd Bachman; and Winter Care of Trees, by Greg Lucking. The animated discussions which followed these were witness to the excellent presentations in keeping with the quality of program the club has enjoyed all year under the leadership of Bob Adams, assisted by Harold Kaufmann, Leon Snyder and Bill Hull.

In making his presentation on house plants and the caprices of lighting, Walter Menzel gave a good account of himself, considering he had been given practically no time to prepare his talk. He discussed the various methods of slipping and seeding and told which plants lent themselves best to each method. His use of foil crimped around wet sphagnum moss for air-layering of hardwood plants appeared to many members to be the logical conclusion to a problem which amateurs have struggled with for years. Highlight was his description of a book published by Fawcett on "How to Grow Beautiful House Plants." About 30 members expressed a desire to obtain a copy and Walter offered to try to obtain them. The price is 75¢.

Leaving the house plants, we were taken to another part of the Menzel home where, according to his narrative, lightning had struck for the third time during the weekend following two strikes in a cornfield while he was pheasant hunting. This third strike took place in the basement of his home. By piecing together the fragments of what seemed to be a puzzle and filling in some missing parts, your reporter has been able to project the whole picture of this threefold strike, which ties together very neatly. The story has to do with relationship of flushing pheasants and flushing bowels and the fact that the result of both turned out to be fowl or foul - the latter not being clarified.

Summarizing: Out in the cornfield, Walter had fallen behind the group, oddly enough, to (quote) "blow his nose." Then, as he stooped to (quote) "lay his gun on the ground, a pheasant took wing from underneath." This was when lightning struck the first time. An analogy of this situation gives rise to questioning why the pheasant took off when the danger of the gun had been eliminated, or had the pheasant been struck by what he supposed was lightning, or had he concluded that what he saw was not a nose? Strike two: Later when Walter caught up with his party, he gave a demonstration of the incident and as he stooped to lay his gun on the ground the pheasant took wing a second time right from underneath, only this time much faster. This was the only fowl seen all afternoon! Returning home, it was discovered that the last time anyone had done any flushing, the flow continued, resulting in the cesspool backing up into the basement. This, of course, was the distressing reminder of the adjective he had left behind in the cornfield. And those of us who have experienced living over cesspools are acutely reminded of that famous quotation from Shakespeare pertaining to lightning: (quote) "With vast irony didst the Heaven's discharge find its target on the nether closet."

Bachman on bulbs: Unless you have experienced tulips, daffodils or hyacinths coming into bloom indoors during the bleak days of later winter, you have yet to enjoy one of the real thrills of gardening, says Lloyd, who gave us the professional lowdown on how to turn the trick. His potting recommendations: For tulips: 4" bulb pan, 3 bulbs; 5-inch pan, 5 bulbs; 6-inch pan, 7 bulbs (bulbs like crowding). For hyacinths: 4-inch standard pot, 1 bulb; 6-inch, 3 or 4 bulbs.

For daffodils: 4-inch standard pot, 1 bulb; 6-inch, 3 or 4 bulbs, For amaryllis: 6-inch standard pot for large bulb. Plant so tips are just covered or showing; tulips 1 inch deeper in a mixture of half soil and half peat moss. Place a pit 12 to 15 inches deep cover with sand as a break layer, then 4 to 6 inches of soil, and 6 to 8 inches of cover material. Soak thoroughly before placing in pit and tilt pots for drainage. After 8 or 9 weeks or when root mass has formed, bring indoors but keep in dark room for 10 days in temperature of 60 to 65°.

His recommendations for varieties: Daffodils, King Alfred; Tulips, Dwarf Darwins, principally Rembrandt and Red Pitt, Cottage and Triumph. Also the double early tulips. Hyacinths: Bismark, sky blue; Lady Derby, light pink; L'Innocence, white. Several of the minor bulbs are likewise easily grown, such as crocus and grape hyacinth.

Lucking on trees: To protect against sun scale and rabbits, use regular tree-wrap to a height that will be well above the highest snowdrift. To protect against mice, this same tree-wrap can be wrapped tightly at base of tree, or put a cylinder of screen cloth around base, or use poison bait underneath a board close to the tree. Board should be elevated about a half-inch off the ground so mice can get under - but not birds or squirrels.

MERRY CHRISTMAS HOUSES

On December 8 and 9 the Garden Club of St. Paul is presenting a tour of five St. Paul homes to be known as "The Merry Christmas Houses." Each house will be decorated by members of the Garden Club following a different holiday theme. The five houses are as follows:

1. Christmas Kitchen - Mrs. B. B. Harris, 633 Fairmount Avenue
2. Victorian Christmas - Mrs. Frank Murphy, 41 Kenwood Parkway
3. Family Christmas Dinner - Mrs. T. L. Daniels, 7 Heather Place
4. Children's Christmas - Mrs. J. G. Ordway, 485 Summit
5. Holiday House - Mrs. F. K. Weyerhauser, 294 Summit

The money raised from this project is to be spent for furthering the following projects: planting bird-attracting shrubs at the Katherine Abbott Girl Scout Camp near Mahtomedi; sending more elementary school teachers to the Audubon Camps in the east; contributing to the establishment of a new Audubon Camp near Spooner, Wis.; planting of tulips in the yard of the St. Paul Public Library.

The price of tickets, \$2.20 (tax included) obtainable at Gokey's, Frank Murphy's, Field Schlick Ticket Office, Endicott Arcade Ticket Office in St. Paul, and Central Ticket Office, Northwestern Bank Building, Minneapolis.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 1955

The nominating committee composed of T. Z. Krumm, Rene Dufourd and Vic Lowrie presented its slate of nominees for next year at the November meeting. Having been duly elected, the following officers will take up their duties on January 1st:

President:	J. M. Witmer
Vice-president:	F. F. Heschmeyer
Secretary:	N. W. Christopherson
Treasurer:	R. C. Adams

Elsewhere in the Spray, president-elect Witmer outlines an ambitious program for the Men's Garden Club next

November 11, 1954

Dear Mrs. Rowell:

In the absence of Archie Flack, I wish to thank you in behalf of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for your inspiration, efforts and generosity in the planning and planting of the lily beds at the Lyndale Gardens.

Through your counseling and labors and the helpful co-operation of the Park Board, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has accomplished a twofold purpose of establishing another beauty spot in our wonderful city and has memorialized a fellow member many of us held in affectionate esteem.

I know that in the years to come many of our neighbors are going to enjoy the lilies and to the members of our club this garden will be a constant reminder of ever helpful, congenial Wally. I know, too, that you will derive pleasure and pride in the annual display of the beautiful flowers you and Wally so dearly loved.

Cordially yours,

ANTHONY W. KOESTER, Vice-President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Mrs. Wallace Rowell
5537 15th Ave. So., Minneapolis

November 16, 1954

Dear Mr. Doell:

Although you have undoubtedly been advised of it before this, we should like to confirm that on October 30, 1954, our club planted at the Lyndale Gardens approximately 600 lily bulbs in accordance with the suggestions which we made April 23 last and which you and the Board of Park Commissioners approved shortly thereafter. We are particularly well pleased with the location which was suggested by Messrs. Dhainin and Lucking in the general area of the Crab Apple trees which we planted some time ago.

In this group there are 26 varieties of lilies, some of which are new and others new to this area. I understand that varieties have been labeled and that a chart is being prepared to show the location of each. A copy of the chart will be furnished you in due time.

We hope that the planting will be of interest to the people of Minneapolis and in particular we hope that it may develop a greater interest in lilies. We will attempt to replenish, as needed, and to add to the collection as time goes on because we undertook the project as a living memorial to a departed member of the Club, Wallace A. Rowell. We are carrying out a project which he had hoped for for several years, was working on with a group of our members, and which became possible of accomplishment just prior to his passing.

Yours very truly,

CORTIS N. RICE, Jr., Chairman
Civic Activities Committee

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Warm yourself before the burning Yule log which you've just hauled in, in true and ancient custom, from the garage, and reminisce with us for a few moments. You newer members won't roll in the catnip of nostalgia like the old timers, but you may enjoy these reflections on past events anyhow.

It was exactly nine years ago that Glen Cerney discovered that some perennials grow best in clumps, notably coreopsis; that Bill Block switched from his beloved dahlias to tuberous begonias; that Bill Addy leaped with joy after a season with crabgrass; that Harold Kaufmann lauded the mum for its hardiness, fragrance and color; that Stan Lund cut down his bridal wreath and freed his roses of black spot; and that Herb Kahlert developed a system of growing annuals atop the compost pile. (From The Spray).

George Luxton recommended that each fall we "trim the walk, prune hedges, snip off all broken flower stalks, pull up all dead animals..." in a 1946 edition of the Minneapolis Journal. Wonder how the SPCA reacted?

A few of our members are in arrears for this year's dues. The bylaws are strict in this regard although they have not always been followed literally. This annually apropos statement appeared as early as 1946 in The Spray.

Past-presidents Kahlert, Cerney, Kaufmann, Lund, Rice, Paul, Lowrie, Dufourd, Flack and perhaps others I don't know of, certainly keep the past aglow by working

so hard for our club. Perhaps we should relieve these workhorses of part of their responsibilities and let them pasture awhile in the delphiniums.

Members Rice, Kahlert, Kaufmann, Lowrie, Lund, Stephens, H. E. Nelson ran off with the fall flower show - 'way back in 1947. Where have the rest of us been for seven years that these men are still so prominent among our annual winners? Awaken from lethargy, sloths!

The Sunday Tribune gardening section featured our club in 1947 with photos galore. This would be a good 1955 project for our new officers.

Can you recall Glen Cerney's Questions & Answers? In 1948 organic gardening was in full swing and Glen was being asked such questions as "Should sheep manure be left on the surface or be worked in?" Answer supplied on receipt of stamped envelope.

Remember the huge special convention issue of The Spray in 1949. That issue stated that our official state flower is the Wild Lady Slipper. A few of the fellows didn't realize that was Robert W. Service terminology for the Mocassin Flower.

And so we come to the official approved budget for 1949, which contained a single unexplained item, simply reading "Cheer - \$25." Fully realizing that someone will say "That's in Iowa," we must ask "What Cheer?"

So, Cheer to you for Christmas and the New Year!

As I gaze out on my garden through the wintry windowpane
Where the hopes and expectations of old '54 are lain,
Where the aphid and the beetle and the slug their vigil keep,
Where the roses in their igloos and the

There is peace within my garden as I look on it today.
And a hint of buried treasure that may serve to show the way
To forget the trials and errors of the fast expiring year,
In the hope that springs eternal when

FOR THESE I'LL STRIVE IN '55

By President-elect Witmer

I may end up being recorded in Fred Paul's historical document as the #1 Garden Pes of 1955, but that is a risk I gladly assume in setting up the following program and bending every effort to carry it out.

First, I want to say that a fair appraisal of the club's activities is convincing that we have a sound program; that the wisdom of those who have directed the club is most praiseworthy; that our programs have been interesting, searching, informative and altogether enjoyable - without fault I would say. A finer, more interested, more capable group of members one might seek but never find. These men have given unselfishly of their time within the club and elsewhere in connection with the speaker's bureau, building shows, horticulture exhibits, etc. Communitywise, our Lyndale plants are a great beginning.

Still there is need for increased activity within areas as yet untouched, I believe, if we are to attain the ultimate in leadership espousing the cause of gardening in our community. For one thing, I have a strong conviction that a garden club (especially ours which the community looks to for leadership) must have a dual purpose to be worthy of its name. One purpose is to advance the science and promote the pleasure of gardening among its members and in these respects the club does a wonderful job. The other purpose calls for doing those things necessary to bring the gospel of gardening, its benefits and pleasures, to those outside the club, to the community as a whole. This second purpose is simply to interest more people in gardening and in this respect I think our efforts have been notably weak. This second purpose is the crux of my plan.

This plan is not mine alone by any means; it is a composite of the expressed views of the many members. These young 'seedlings' which make up the plan will not be forced but left to mature naturally. First, the officers and an advisory committee will take a long and serious look at each segment of the plan; then on important matters, a presentation or recommendation will be made at a regular meeting for discussion and direction.

Meeting Place. In the past our programs have been handicapped by cramped quarters; our attendance has suffered and our membership has been restricted. So a new and ample meeting place is first on the new plan. Already approved. The club took swift action at the last meeting, accepting the invitation of Mount Olivet Church to hold our meetings in the Pine Room, or to move into Fellowship Hall when size of meeting warranted. Our first meeting there will be in January. A good, "home cooked" dinner will be served for \$1.50. Tips will go to the caretaker as compensation for his work.

A Larger Membership. In our new quarters we can accommodate unlimited attendance; therefore I believe we should take steps to enlarge our membership so as to admit desirable members who might be on the waiting list.

Improved Finances. More members will mean greater income; also it is felt that a reasonable initiation fee would be gladly paid by new members, adding again to the treasury. Additional income can be derived from our annual auction, I believe, by a new plan for the auction as follows.

Better Auction. Too often in the past the volunteer auctioneer has been at a disadvantage in doing justice to an offering because of insufficient

Here is the plan: The auction chairman will see that each contributor is given tags in three different colors. A white tag, for instance, to be used for those items such as coffee or cleaners bearing a price predetermined by the committee for members to buy; a bargain price, of course. These items would be merely announced by the auctioneer rather than auctioned off, thus saving considerable time. A green ticket, for instance, would denote standard or run-of-the-mill stock, while a purple ticket would denote the 'royalty' of the auction. Each ticket would bear a history of the offering helpful to both auctioneer and purchaser. Even if this plan did not result in additional income, it would at least give balance to the auction. I believe that balance alone would create greater interest in the auction. It has also been suggested that an effort be made to obtain more of the 'royalty' even if purchasing is necessary - we don't want to work a hardship on our professional contributors.

Garden Center and Memorial. The Park Board has already reserved a section of the Lyndale Gardens for the exclusive use of the Men's Garden Club. We have developed it to the extent of planting large numbers of flowering crabs and lilies. We should develop it further without delay and perhaps designate it as The Men's Garden Club Memorial Gardens. We have a start in this direction with the present plantings. A permanent bronze tablet should identify the lilies as the Rowell Memorial. We could take steps immediately to use the money dedicated to the memory of Jim Christman for a memorial planting of tuberous begonias and a like plaque to identify it. We should encourage members to set up a fund and encourage those who otherwise might send flowers to contribute instead to a fund for a living memorial to the deceased. Each would have its place in our Memorial Gardens, each dedicated to the flower for which the member was best known. Meanwhile the club should co-operate with the Park Board to make our gardens a summer-long showplace.

Beautifying Commercial and Industrial Property. Important progress has been made by architects in this direction and a number of the newer plants along Excelsior Boulevard are examples of beautiful plantings following this trend to make factories beautiful rather than ugly. Downtown, the oil station at Lyndale and 19th and Rothschild's are leading the way. Again, as the chief exponent of gardening, the Men's Garden Club should spearhead this activity. We have a very able and interested person in Cortis Rice heading the Civic Activities Committee and I hope Cortis will continue in this capacity.

New Homes. Thousands of new homes are being built each year, a majority of which will be occupied by the owner who surely is interested in landscaping and beautifying. These new home owners or owners of new homes are potential gardeners and certainly potential members of the club. Many of them might become interested if the Men's Garden Club would adopt a program as stated earlier of bringing the gospel of gardening to the community as a whole.

Gardening Among Schoolchildren. This is another field which could stand some cultivation by our club and should be on our long-range program. Schools themselves are becoming conscious of the need for the teaching of horticulture beyond the haphazard methods of today. The new high school at Hopkins is planning a horticulture department. Only after kids learned the thrills of golf did the game cease to be an "old man's game." Isn't gardening among men suffering the same epithet that once plagued golf? We need only look at the age level of our membership to become aware of the necessity of making gardening a young man's game.

Flower Shows. Here I am prepared to admit that this old turtle has his neck out as far as it will stretch! It's been out for a long time on the

82,000 people visited it in two days, I may be forgiven for thinking that I know what will attract the public and make our community garden conscious - and using the Show as an example, I took the garden clubs to task in an article in the Horticulturist for failing to realize that the second purpose of a garden club is to interest more people in gardening. So to some of you my proposal will not come as a surprise.

Previously I stated that our club is doing a wonderful job of advancing the cause of gardening within its own membership, and I mean it. But I wasn't referring to our flower shows. What is wrong with our flower shows and similar shows? In my opinion it is (a) too much emphasis of specimens; (b) too much emphasis on certain flowers; (c) overemphasis on judging in the absence of real judging standards; (d) timing which favors the specialist. Let's take these one at a time.

(a) Too much emphasis on specimens. The specimen type of show belongs with the peony or iris or glad or dahlia societies in whose shows the specimen counts for something. But not many people are interested in looking at 6 yellow roses on one table and 6 pink petunias on another, so not many people attend such shows either.

(b) Too much emphasis on certain flowers. In nearly every garden club show there will be 7 to 9 entries for roses for instance, one or two for lowly marigolds or petunias which are in as great variety as roses. At our last show I pointed out that not a single entry for geraniums was listed, whereupon I was asked "How many people raise geranium from seed?" Or roses, I wonder.

(c) Overemphasis on judging. The Horticulture Society is endeavoring to establish standards for judging and should be encouraged. Meanwhile judges are inclined to compromise with each other. Usually the biggest, reddest dahlia finds its way to the court of honor along with 11 other completely different types of flowers, and from this court of honor the judges "compare apples with grapes" to select the sweepstakes. The fact that Pete or Jim got the greatest number of points proves only that Pete or Jim went after the greatest number of points and that they knew how to do so.

(d) Timing which favors the specialist. No accusations, I assure you. I would be asinine to suspect that anyone is deliberately favored. My point is that when dealing largely with specimens, as we do in our shows, it is impossible to select a time which does not favor that member who specializes in something which is blooming at that time. The nonspecialist may of course have entries but he finds it hard to compete with the specialist.

Winning ribbons and points under these conditions isn't particularly important. And certainly a show such as ours is no particular credit to a club with our prestige. What, then, is the solution?

If we are going to have a show which is open to the public, then let's put on a show which will interest the public. If we cannot do so ourselves, let us join with other clubs to devise a show which will include specimens of course, but also will include arrangements, tableaux, occasion sets, garden plan exhibits, technical advice, landscape suggestions, beginning flower beds and a host of other ideas. I can think of no better way to spread the gospel of gardening. And if people will pay to see a builders show, they might pay a modest amount to see such a flower festival.

If we decide we're not interested in the public and want a show for

The first is a specimen show as part of our regular meeting. For example, if it is the iris season, let each member who raises iris bring his best specimens to the meeting for others to see and enjoy. No awards! Each meeting during the blooming season would be designated as this-or-that specimen showing. Going on tour would not affect such an exhibit beforehand. In this way each member would profit by the efforts of others.

The second plan would call for an enlargement of our present type of show with these changes. Every member would participate. Those who didn't want to compete with specimens would be assigned a section to do with as he pleased. He might want to display the vegetables he raises, or display his pet flower in variety, or show how many different types of flowers he raises, or how to develop a shade garden, or how he raises seedlings. Such presentations or demonstrations are endless and would be truly advancing the science and promoting the pleasures of gardening.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB PLANTS LILY BEDS

Between 500 and 600 lilies have been planted in the Men's Garden Club center at the Lyndale Gardens as a dedication to Wally Rowell, who died this year. Through the efforts of Mrs. Rowell, Chuck Lampright and others, 26 of the finest varieties were obtained. This is the second planting by the Men's Garden Club in the area reserved for the club by the Minneapolis Park Board. The 200 flowering crabs planted several years ago on the 10th anniversary of the club are flourishing and becoming more breathtaking each spring during the flowering period. Eventually this tract will become one of the show places of the city, together with the Rose Gardens and other contemplated gardens as a part of the greater Lyndale Gardens.

OUR CHRISTMAS SPRAY

The front cover is another original Christmas design by Don Methven - handsomely executed and beautifully reproduced. This Christmas issue of The Spray has a sparkle which could come from the pen of none other than our new prexy, "Joe" Witmer, who as guest editor has added much color and humor to the issue. Who would like to volunteer to be "guest editor" next month? G.V.L.

NEW MEMBERS

K. Meyer
Welcome and happy gardening! Try to make every meeting to really profit by your membership:

- ✓ S. F. Carmean, 1350 Westwood Hills Road
- ✓ J. A. Forrest, Jr., 5536 Kellogg Blvd.
- ✓ Dr. R. O. Carlson, 4842 Garfield South
- ✓ Donald Young, 3974 Dakota Avenue
- ✓ SP. M. Koreger, 4378 Browndale
- ✓ Leslie W. Johnson, 3919 Pleasant
- ✓ Burt J. Clark, 4638 Fremont South

MANY TELEPHONE NUMBERS CHANGES THIS MONTH

In line with the telephone company's program of switching all numbers to seven-unit calls (that is two letters and a numeral designating the exchange, followed by four digits) the following changes were scheduled to be made on December 5:

- Drexel becomes Parkway 4.
- Dupont becomes Parkway 9.
- Hopkins becomes West 8.
- Mohawk becomes West 9.
- Walnut becomes Walnut 2.
- Whittier is divided into three areas and becomes Walnut 6, Walnut 7 or West 5.

If your residence or business phone will thus be changed, please notify your club secretary at once so the change can be made in the new club roster.

DUES ARE DUE NOW FOR 1955!