

THE GARDEN SPRAY

December, 1955
Volume 13, Number 12
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Don Methven, Wm. Hull,
N. W. Christopherson

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 1955

Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. S. & West 50th St.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Dinner: \$3.00 per person

OFFICERS

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

Office of the Secretary
N. W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Ave. So.

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Building

For the merriest of Christmas parties, mail the reservation card enclosed with this issue of THE SPRAY and please do so TODAY. This year we will gather at Mount Olivet Church which will give us ample room with an opportunity to go all out with decorations and table arrangements. Tables will be set up to seat ten with a plump roast turkey at every table — you select your own carver. There will be prizes for the ladies, a splendid program and fun galore. Bring your entire adult family and as many friends as you wish, but be sure to make that reservation and do it NOW.

The following members nominated to take office on January 1st, 1956 were unanimously elected by the membership in attendance at our November meeting:

President	George S. Titus
Vice-president	A. R. (Al) Blackburn
Treasurer	William H. Hull
Secretary	N. W. (Chris) Christopherson

We were greatly grieved to learn of the passing of Charlie LaCrosse. He was a hard worker, generous with his time, entering into every activity of the Club. We have lost a staunch supporter, a good gardener, a real friend. To his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Eng Hoyme, Vern Roufs, P. W. Young, and probably others of the photography committee have been most persistent in photographing past officers. The timeliness of this worthwhile project is pointed when we hear that they photographed our late member Charlie LaCrosse just a month before he died.

Blue ribbons to: Our retiring officers who have done so well under Joe Witmer's able presidency; to the past presidents who formed last month's round table discussion group; to National President Herb Kahlert for, among many achievements, the publication of his "Program Aids;" and to our incoming president George Titus, for even taking that post in the face of 1956's awe-inspiring work schedule.

"Delaware" was the name of the beautiful chrysanthemum Lloyd Bachman brought to the November meeting. The rest of you should bring interesting plants too, but they need not be donated as was Lloyd's.

The proposal that we visit more member's gardens meets with wide approval apparently. More of this should be done between members spontaneously on such occasions as when the hausfrau suggests we clean out the garage.

The Men's Garden Club of Detroit has an annual garden contest (not a flower show). Awards are made at a Ladies Night Banquet. Should we adopt the Michiganders' system?

Vic Lowrie has discovered that he can purchase blooming mum plants in the fall for about the same price as rooted cuttings in the spring, thus avoiding crowding beds with non-blooming plants throughout the summer and the problems of carrying them through the winter.

Advice wanted: What would you plant in a large church bed facing south? Bloom is desired but maintenance must be held to a minimum. Suggestions would be appreciated.

Many suburbanites have adopted the survival of the fittest theory in relation to their garden plants. No covering. No pampering. There are advantages, of course, but the drawbacks are: (1) Limitation on varieties that can take such exposure here, (2) The annual cost of replacing lost plants or filling the area left vacant.

The average age of our Club members is about fifty-five.

Your amateur photogs who want to revert to black and white for variety, should try Tri-X. It's new, fast and effective. A series of fifteen exposures taken inside under the usual office lighting, gave splendid results. No flash required, so there's no hard shadows.

Hortus Second (Macmillan, 1955) is a welcomed addition to the library. A revision of an old reliable.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE (Cont.)

Charlie Doell, Greg Lucking, Felix Dhainen and the other Park Board Men deserve congratulations for their thirtieth annual mum show. Featuring 3500 plants producing over 200,000 blooms built around the theme "The Land of Make Believe", this show will long be remembered. Although most of the varieties were for greenhouse culture, there were many lessons to learn, plus the sheer joy of seeing the mums.

Is it true that we don't have the pests that bother our southern neighbors, because the cold weather kills the larvae?

GIVE A HOUSE PLANT

Can you spare a house plant? Have you one that needs dividing. Then you have an opportunity to bring cheer to the enlisted men of the 475th Fighter Group (Air Defense) Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Service Men's Lounge.

George Luxton is spearheading this Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis project and urges every member to respond.

Here's the charge: Bring a Christmas gift in the form of a house plant to our Christmas Dinner Party (be sure they are well wrapped against frost). A committee has been appointed to take them to the airport.

Let's get behind George with this in a big way and help brighten the service men's lounge for the holidays. If you want to make delivery of your house plant gift before the party, telephone Major Roy Ingalls, Parkway 1-2915, for delivery directions. If you haven't a house plant of your own, your favorite florist will be only too glad to have one delivered for you.

HOW ABOUT YOUR DUES

Dues are in arrears after December 1, so you had better mail in your check to Bob Adams, 5012 Wentworth Avenue South, Minneapolis 19, before he comes knocking at your door. Four bucks is all it takes — where can you get so much for so little these days.

* * * * *

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,
Whether the summer clothe the general earth
With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch
Of mossy apple-tree, while the night hatch
Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eave-drops fall
Hear only in the trances of the blast,
Or if the secret ministry of frost
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,
Quietly shining to the quiet moon.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM

One of our most popular flowers is the chrysanthemum even though in this part of the country many of the later more spectacular varieties cannot be brought to bloom because of our early freezes.

The original chrysanthemum was a yellow flower and was known as the "Golden Flower". Its name is derived from two Greek words, "Chrysos" meaning gold, and "Anthos" meaning flower. And old it is, for its history goes back 2500 years in ancient China. The "Mum" as we so often refer to it had its origin in Northern China, Mongolia and Korea.

Confucius in his writings referred to it as the yellow chrysanthemum flower. At one time in ancient days, this "Queen" of our autumn flowers was valued as an herb, giving long life to man. An old Oriental legend tells of the chrysanthemum as being "the old man's flower, because those who grow and cherish it live to a very old age".

Today the formal ball-type of flower is most popular in China usually grown from the terminal bud.

But it is in Japan, where once it was introduced, the chrysanthemum enjoyed its greatest development. The flower became the national flower and the floral emblem of the Imperial family. Its motif appears on sword belts, crests and official seals. As decorations on ancient and modern paintings, pottery, china and tapestries. But unlike China, in Japan they favor the delicate, graceful and ethereal-looking chrysanthemum.

Its introduction in Europe was not until 1688 where it was found growing in Holland. However, its life was short lived and it was ~~not~~ until some time later when a French merchant traveling and trading in China collected several varieties but only one survived the journey home and was planted in the south of France. From this second introduction the flower became quite popular in continental Europe.

According to history the chrysanthemum was first brought to England from the Orient in 1764 but like in Holland, it created little interest and soon disappeared. About thirty years later in 1795, new plants were introduced from France which were met with considerable enthusiasm and from then on the interest and popularity of the Chrysanthemum in England became increasingly strong. Later several other varieties were brought into the country from China and extensively grown all over England.

Just when the plant was introduced in this country is not a matter of record, although it is assured that it was brought over here from England about the time it reached its popularity over there. At first the chrysanthemum was grown as a hot house plant in this country but later developments enabled it to be grown as a garden flower.

The first recorded exhibition of the chrysanthemum in this country was in 1844 at the autumn show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The chrysanthemum can also be found growing today in Denmark, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Australia and even in South Africa.

"AMERICA LET'S HAVE A FLOWER STAMP"

Excerpts from a Bulletin Issued by Halle Cohen,
National Flower Stamp Chairman, Jacksonville, Florida

If you want a United States Flower Postage Stamp, will you please write these men: Arthur Summerfield, Postmaster General; Albert J. Robertson, Assistant Postmaster General; Robert E. Fellers, Director, Division of Philately. All of Washington D. C.

They can help us to get a Flower Stamp. Then get everybody else that you know that wants a Flower Stamp to write to them because:

Americans Like Flowers.

The Columbine is a Native Flower.

It Grows in so Many States.

Flowers can Grow Anywhere.

Flowers Mean Something.

Millions upon Millions of People

Work for or with Flowers.

God Loves Flowers for he made so Many.

You Like Flowers

1956 ST. LOUIS CONVENTION

The 1956 Convention of the MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA will be held in St. Louis on May 15th to 18th inclusive. Convention headquarters will be at the CHASE HOTEL, one of St. Louis' finest, overlooking beautiful Forest Park of over 1000 acres of trees, shrubs and gardens. Forest Park is the locale of the famous Municipal Opera, the Art Museum, the Jewel Box, the Jefferson Memorial which houses the Lindberg trophies and the St. Louis Zoo of animal fame.

The Chase Hotel is famous for its cuisine which served in the Starlight Roof will give you an opportunity to gaze over the city as you dine. The Zodiac Room adjoining will be the scene of the President's Reception. The Regency Room will hold our various business sessions.

If at all possible, plan to attend this convention and bring the ladies. A lounge has been provided in the Lido Room and included in the activities for the ladies is a trip to the Art Museum, with a luncheon as a possibility.

Don't put down the shovel and hoe,
Don't pick up the fiddle and the bow,
There's lots more work for Ex-Prexy Joe,
He's moved into the Past Presidents Row.