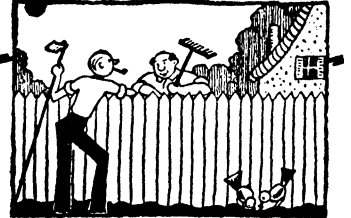




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society



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G "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer
Don Methven, Bob Adams

A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R T O Y O U A L L

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 1958
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.50

PROGRAM

6:45 Business Meeting
Tony Koester presiding
Brief Annual Reports
7:15 Installation of new officers
President Bill Brooks takes over.
7:45 Dr. L. K. Cutcomp, Department of
Entomology, U. of Minn., subject:
Insects & Insecticides.

OFFICERS

W. W. Brooks President
P. W. Young Vice President
W. H. Hull Treasurer
N. W. Christopherson Secretary

Office of the Secretary
N.W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Avenue South

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

This being the first meeting of the New Year, let's all try to be there to thank our retiring officers for a job well done and to wish the new Brass a successful year. And besides "PW" has an interesting as well as constructive program lined up for us with speakers who are really in-the-know. It would be wonderful to start 1958 off with a hundred per cent attendance. Do try to make it!

NEWS AND VIEWS

Having to miss our Christmas party was a great disappointment to your editor, particularly after having agreed to take-a-part in the program. My apologies for being absent, it was wholly my loss. From all reports it was a lovely evening, even though a bit long.

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You'll be glad to know that the Minnesota Horticultural Society has gone over the top in raising an initial fund of \$75,000 for the construction of a landscape arboretum. The 160 acre site has been purchased for \$35,000 and paid for in full. At the next regular meeting of the University Regents, the property together with a check for \$25,000 will be turned over to them so that development work, such as building necessary roads and constructing fences, can immediately get under way. The Society will continue to raise money each year in support of the Arboretum to augment the limited funds available to the University for this purpose. The project will be under the immediate direction of Dr. Leon Snyder, head of the Horticulture Department of the Agricultural School.

* * * * *

Our president, Tony Koester, has asked us to extend his personal thanks to those thirty-five or more members who with their wives acted as host at the Christmas presentation of the Art Institute. You no doubt read in the local paper that the Institute enjoyed so large an attendance at this function that it eclipsed all previous attendance records.

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This month the SPRAY is being printed for the very first time by a commercial printer. Next month, it will be run off on the equipment of Page and Hill under the eagle eye of Bob Adams. For a number of years, Northern States Power have contributed the printing with Cortis Rice, Chris Christopherson and Chet Harkins being responsible for getting the copies into the mail. We are indeed grateful to the boys at NSP for their very substantial contribution and thank them most sincerely. Before Reddy Kilowatt came to our rescue, Rene Dufourd bossed the job for a great number of years at the Prudential Life Insurance Company. Starting with the February 1958 issue, all but the actual printing will be done at the Offices of POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE, 417 Essex Building.

BOWLE'S CORNER

"A Home For Demented Plants"

A rather intriguing headline caught my eye in the current issue of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, "A Home for Demented Plants." It appears that in the beautiful garden of the late E. A. Bowles of Bulls Cross, Enfield, England, a piece of garden was set aside for plants "showing some departure from the normal habits or appearance of their genus or species." It was often referred to as the Lunatic Asylum because most of its occupants were considered by its owner as "cranks or eccentrics."

Mr. Bowles used to write most colorfully of the occupants of his so-called "Lunatic Asylum" as for example, "The twisted Hazel was the first crazy occupant and is perhaps the maddest of all even now, for its growths are all like corkscrews and it never produces a bit of straight wood." Its companions included the corkscrew willow and a twisted hawthorn. Of a Plymouth strawberry Bowles wrote, "...it is certainly wrong in the head if ever a plant was, for it is just an ordinary wild strawberry in every way until it blossoms; then every portion of the flower is seen to have been changed into leafy structures."

In memory of Mr. Bowles, the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society have decided to set aside a plot of ground in which will be maintained a collection of "demented plants." It is to be known as "Bowle's Corner."

INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPING AWARDS

The committee in charge of this civic project, chairmanshiped by Joe Witmer, made a careful study of the landscaping of the grounds surrounding industrial plant and commercial buildings in Minneapolis and selected four as outstanding and deserving of recognition.

Attractive wall plaques were presented to the representatives of the four winning companies at our Christmas Party including:

Mrs. Nelson of the G. H. Tennant Company
701 No. Lilac Drive

Mr. Lee Lull of the Lull Engineering Company
3045 Highway 13

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wilson of the General Motors Training Center
800 No. Lilac Drive

Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Peick of the American Hardware Mutual Ins. Co.
3033 Excelsior Boulevard

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

by Bill Hull

Stan Lund is naturally anxious to get into his new house. Notice on your new roster that you can't reach him at the old address.

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We are sorry to learn that Hank Elieff has been ill, and we were unaware of it. This happens all too frequently with some member and always embarrasses us as a club that we were unable to remember a member when he has been ill. Please keep us posted when you are ill or when you know of another member who is ill, notify any one of your board members (Bill Brooks, P. W. Young, Norn Christopherson, Tony Koester or Bill Hull) or notify Vic Lowrie, SPRAY Editor. Please fellows.

* * * * *

You will be interested to know that Al Nelson has joined the ranks of our retired members. There doesn't seem to be any possibility of Al sitting around though. He already has many plans for putting his rose talents to work. How many times have we heard our retired members say that they actually have less time to spare now than when they were not retired. This certainly indicates the values of gardening as a hobby. Consider the many non-gardeners who simply stagnate and die of boredom when they reach retirement age.

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Walter Quist and his wife are off on January 12 for a South Sea Island cruise. They will visit many islands: New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Japan, over to Hong Kong. Walter is taking plenty of film along to photograph the island beauties -- flowers that is. Bon Voyage, friends, and we will miss you until April 20, when you return.

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Did you hear about the very successful money-raising campaign Vic Lowrie supervised for the Arboretum Committee of the Minnesota Horticulture Society? Several people have mentioned the splendid results. Congratulations, Vic!

* * * * *

Congratulations "Al" Blackburn
on Winning the Club's Bronze Medal Award
for Outstanding Service to the Club during 1957

The Awards Committee, upon diligent pursuit and careful consideration of the entire membership of the Club, strongly recommended to the Executive Board that the Annual Bronze Medal Award for 1957 be bestowed upon A. R. (Al) Blackburn. This action was unanimously approved by that body at their December meeting.

Al has not only enthusiastically engaged in and supported wholeheartedly every club endeavor, including our monthly meetings, civic enterprises, flower shows, plant auctions and our Summer Garden Tours, but also has brought much credit to the Club through his tireless effort as host to visiting garden club groups and conducting them on tours to members' gardens.

His own colorful garden is one of the club's outstanding show places, an inspiration to all visitors and reflects his ability as a gardener. This experience he generously shares with others, giving freely of his time to talk on better gardening to surrounding garden clubs.

Need Acidity in Your Soil

Cy Rutherford has a limited quantity of aluminum sulphate on hand which he would like to dispose of. You can use this to keep the soil acid in which you are growing house plants or garden plants requiring acidity, such as azaleas, blueberries, wild garden or bog plants, lupins, columbine and other shade plants, etc. A quarter-pound per square yard applied once a year will keep soil sufficiently acid for most acid tolerant plants. The price is a "steal" -- 6¢ per pound. Cy is located on Excelsior Boulevard, just East of Miracle Mile. And Hurry!

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS
of Jo and George Titus

We have been in Santa Rosa a little over three months and EXCEPT for a few of homesickness for our family and friends in Minnesota we do not regret our move (Please note the emphasis on the "except"). The climate so far has lived up to its reputation. Since July 1st, we have had 9.25 inches of rain, which is abnormal heavy to date. Fortunately most of this has fallen at night, and we have not been conscious of any prolonged rainy spell. Most of the days have been beautiful with azure blue skies, lovely fleecy clouds, and no wind.

On one of our trips to the coast we drove from the mouth of the Russian River at Jenner, on up the coast to Fort Ross, a beautiful trip that far. In the early 1800s Fort Ross was the center of Russian fur activities for thirty years or so, and at that time Russia might justifiably have laid claim to all Northern California -- then a Mexican possession. However in 1846 the Russians sold their property to an American, Captain Sutter, for about \$40,000. The Russian Church still stands and the stockade has been restored somewhat like at Grand Portage on the North Fork of the Russian River. From Fort Ross we made the big mistake. We drove straight East over a mountainous lumber road to Cazadero, and never again will we willingly take the trip. It is scary, possibly dangerous, and had we met a lumber truck in the intervening miles we don't know who would have made way. A week later a driver on the same road was killed in the middle too much, and a truck he met hit a soft shoulder and rolled over and into a deep ravine.

Armstrong Woods, 20 miles to the northwest of the city, is a tract of redwood owned by the State. It has picnic tables, fireplaces, a stage for Sunday concerts etc. It is of course not as extensive as the redwood area further north but it is easily accessible and does convey the feeling of awe one gets in a redwood grove. We have driven over to Calistoga, 18 miles north by east, at the head of the Napa Valley and at the foot of Mount St. Helena, the highest point in the country. For a time was the home of Robert Louis Stevenson where he lived when he wrote "Silverado Squatters". About ten miles east is the Valley of the Moon country famous by Jack London who lived there in Glen Ellen after retiring from his life in Oakland and elsewhere.

Then, of course, a trip to the "City" (that is what natives say going to San Francisco) is always an exciting adventure. It is only 54 miles away, over a road just completed. San Francisco is a city with a great and delightful personality there is so much to see, do and enjoy that it requires more space than we can find here. The flower stands on the downtown street corners, operating 365 days a year offer great varieties of flowers at prices very low; at the same time there is a shop unbelievably large, and surpassing anything we have seen and prices are unusually high. In this shop some part of the display is changed three times every week. At Christmas it becomes a fairyland. The fabulous Golden Gate Park, covering 1000 acres, for which every yard of dirt had to be brought in from somewhere else. When it was started it was just an unlovely, unwanted sand dune. If, as Emerson says an institution is the lengthened shadow of a man, then Golden Gate Park is the shadow of John McLaren who conceived it, lived in it and for it for over fifty years. There are acres of rhododendron and azaleas; an Aquarium, an Academy of Sciences, a powerful Art Museum, vistas of beauty everywhere. One could spend weeks and exhaust its possibilities. We were fortunate to edge our way into the Planetarium where a display and talk of Sputnik was being given to school children, who come by bus from all over the State. We pulled a "Minnesota" visitor on them and thus when we were told it was absolutely impossible.

We still have color in the garden and still cut the grass weekly. Gardening is, of course, very different here from our standpoint. In November we put in pansy plants and stock, and planted various bulbs, dahlias, crocus, jonquils, muscari, anemones, ranunculus, hardy amaryllis ("naked ladies" they call them out here), also blue and white fragrant English violets. Friends of Portland days, the Levys of Barnhaven Gardens, sent us a wonderful collection of primulas, and we have been given slips of geraniums, starts of marguerites, shasta daisies, saxifrage, etc. In bloom at the moment are several rose bushes, a Mexican mock orange, gazanias, white and red geraniums, a large "tear drop" fuchsia with hundreds of tiny blossoms that the humming birds love, a dwarf lemon with both flowers and fruit simultaneously. Two rather large camellias are loaded with buds which burst open into color so we are told late in February.

We held our own "Arbor Day." An old, unhappy, infirm prune tree has been removed, and in its place we planted a six foot liquidamber tree, or sweet gum. This tree has the merit of showing a wide range of Autumn color, and adds a touch of Minnesota color to the yard. We had a "yard man" remove the prune tree and it took him a little over two hours to dig it out and cut it up into fireplace length. He, by the way, like several others we have met, is a rugged individualist, and refuses to work for anybody he doesn't like. He protested when we paid him the other day, saying that we had paid him too much, since he had shorted us 15 minutes of time.

In front of the house are two sycamores -- the "plane" tree of Europe, and their large maple-shaped leaves are gone. Actually, I sense a lack of plan in the boulevard tree planting here. Some blocks will have White Birch, others sycamores, others acacias, and some streets will have five or six kinds in one block. Across the street from us are several albrizzias, "silk trees." At the corner are some English walnuts, a hangover from the time when this area had walnut ranches mixed in with prune orchards.

Incidentally, you will be interested in the following. The combined garden clubs of Santa Rosa, (the Men's Garden Club and eight or nine women's clubs) have agreed to the purchase of a building to be used as an Art and Garden Center. The building is being constructed on two acres of land at the edge of the city, and will cost around \$25,000. The group has about \$9,000 in the bank and has been working toward the acquisition of a garden center for several years.

To each of you we send our Christmas thoughts, our affection, our deep appreciation for all that you have meant to us in the past. We hope that your Christmas will be a happy one, and that the New Year may have a goodly share of blessings for you. As they so eloquently say in Spanish, "Vaya con Dios."

Jo and George Titus
313 Sherwood Drive
Santa Rosa, California

* Begonia fanciers, who grow tubers from seed, early January is a good time to sow them -- suggests Bill Ost.