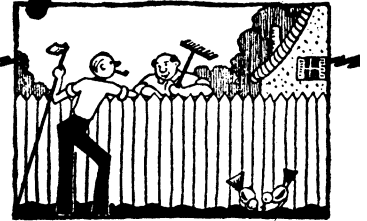




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



January 1959
Volume 17, No. 1
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

January Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 1959
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 PM Sharp
Price: \$1.50

Officers

P. W. Young President
William H. Hull Vice President
Dwight Stone Treasurer
Harold Wright Secretary

Office of the Secretary
416 Title Insurance Building
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

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

Program

6:45 Business Meeting
 Bill Brooks presiding

7:15 Installation of new officers

7:30 "Gardening and Farming in Alaska"
 George Peterson, Editorial Staff
 Minneapolis Star

 "Garden in the Shade" (Slides)
 Joe Witmer

Try not to miss this our first 1959 dinner meeting when the retiring officer account for the stewardship and the newly-elected take over and project their 1959 objectives.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Christmas has come and gone and everybody makes the usual statement, "It was such a wonderful year, BUT...." The latter usually refers to the excessive round of entertaining. Too bad we can't move some of the season's parties forward into February or some other dull period.

* * * * *

But not our Garden Club Ladies' Night. Wasn't it a successful party? Will we ever forget the breath-taking manner in which the Macalaster bagpipe group (officially the Twin City Pipe Band) led our parade of carvers? Who can forge the interesting speeches, the deft awarding of honorary membership to Herb Kah the touching presentation of the Bronze Medal to Tony Koester? It was a good evening, snappy, efficiently supervised and creditable to men like Bill Ost, E Brooks and P. W. Young.

* * * * *

The choice of awards was unanimously approved. If ever anyone deserved the Bronze Medal, it is undoubtedly Tony who has spent so many selfless hours work for our club -- and for many years. And we were all so pleased to honor Herb with the honorary membership. A former recipient of our own Bronze Medal, the 1958 recipient of the National's Silver Medal, a past National President and National Secretary, Herb Kahlert has given of himself for many years. Wherever we still go, people still refer to him as "Mr. National."

* * * * *

Most of you have now paid your 1959 dues. If you haven't (shame on you), send them to your new treasurer, Dwight Stone. I'm happy to turn over my books after three years in the job. Interesting work, Dwight, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I have. As a friend once said of another group, "Good group, never had a bounce!" Neither did I.

* * * * *

Still looking for fellows who would like to join our mid-week garden chit-chat club at Donaldson's. The day is now set as Wednesday and it will probably be every other week. Would you like to meet with us just for talk and chow?

* * * * *

Your new Board of Directors need help. What would you recommend as major club projects during the coming year? How can we serve our community? What are your major suggestions, both positive and negative, for the year? We want the Give me a ring at FE 9-8836 or WA 6-3451, or call any of your other officers: P. W. Young, Harold Wright or Dwight Stone.

* * * * *

Want a good, interesting trip to the South this spring? Go to the National Convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America in Jackson, Mississippi. May 5

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (con't)

ask Leon Snyder, Walter Menzel, P. W. Young, Herb Kahlert -- or anyone who was a host here at the National Convention -- or ask me. This year will be a good one to go. Easily accessible from here, good time of the year, inexpensive place to go, nice people, beautiful flowers.

* * * * *

The trek to vacationlands has started. First one we've heard from is Scotty Cameron in Phoenix.

* * * * *

Well -- back to the seed catalogues.

* * * * *

PLANTS AND HUMAN WELFARE

Down through the centuries, people have made gardens of medicinal herbs which were thought to have the power, among other things, to breed good blood, cure wounds and ulcers, break stones in a bladder, and relieve quinsy in the throat. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden still has an herb garden, planted in traditional style, but members of the Garden's research department have a garden of their own, growing in test tubes within special cabinets under controlled conditions of light, temperature and nutrition. It's from this garden of microorganisms, derived from the soil, and even from the sea, that Botanic Garden researchers hope to discover new antibiotics which will cure human diseases, especially cancer.

At the close of this second year of the new research program, the quest for unusual sources of antibiotics has continued, with collections coming from diverse places -- high mountains, deserts and the ocean. Over 1200 samples of alkaline desert soil were gathered under Botanic Garden staff supervision in Puerto Rico alone last winter. During the 1957-58 screening program, no less than twenty different soil microorganisms, called actinomycetes, were found to have antibiotic activity that may prove to be helpful in cancer therapy. These particular organisms will be submitted to more intensive study. The immediate goal is to prepare pure chemical compounds from these selected cultures, which in turn may be tested in cancer patients.

Among the organisms being tested are lichens which have been collected from many locations, including the tops of Mt. Katahdin in Maine and Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. Antibiotic properties of about two hundred different kinds of lichens have been studied this past year. Some of these were found to be effective in preventing the growth of harmless as well as pathogenic (disease-producing) bacteria and yeasts. Compounds extracted from lichens are now being prepared and tested in the cancer program.

(con't next page)

PLANTS AND HUMAN WELFARE (Con't)

Another current innovation in the Garden's strategy for the conquest of disease is the use of antibiotics derived from thermophilic (heat-loving) organisms which are unusual because they grow at high temperatures (about 140°).

One of the staff's most recent discoveries in the antibiotic field is the occurrence of active substances in certain kinds of corals which grow in tropical waters. This original research was first reported in Science magazine for May, 1958.

To successfully carry on this program, we need -- and do indeed enjoy -- the fine cooperation of several institutions in and near New York with whom we work to screen and develop effective drugs to be used against human diseases. Without the special interest and skills of scientific workers in the Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, for example, we could not meet our goal. In effect, this program centered around the general theme of "plants and human welfare," is based upon teamwork. Staff members first discover new antibiotic substances produced by microorganisms in our test tube gardens. Then, the most promising of these are tested against human cancer growth in tissue culture, in mice and in eggs, at Sloan Kettering Institute.

Over the past two years, the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center also has been testing antibiotic materials, produced by the Botanic Garden staff, against rodent tumors. Facilities of Parke, Davis & Co., for development of promising antibiotics, have been available by special arrangement.

As a result of diligent research on the part of our S.K.I. colleagues in recent months, improved methods of screening potentially valuable materials against human cancer in mice and in eggs now offer great promise for discovering clinically useful drugs. Although we are far from our goal, recent successes in the cooperative program are encouraging.

Funds for carrying research work in the laboratories of the Garden are being contributed by several institutional donors, including the Sloan Kettering Institute and Parke, Davis & Co., as well as by interested individuals and members of the Botanic Garden. Continuing financial support has been pledged for the coming fiscal year, and additional money for screening crude microbial products against human cancer will be provided through the U.S. Government's Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center.

The overall program for next year will include expanded efforts toward procurement of cultures, production of microbial beers (antibiotic solutions produced from microorganisms), and tests against indicator microbes and human tumor cells in tissue culture.

Our small research staff is doing its best in temporary quarters, looking forward to the time when the new research laboratories at Kitchawan will provide ample facilities for programs of fundamental biological research which may lead to ways and means for improving the wellbeing of mankind.

By Paul R. Burkholder, Director of Research
Brooklyn Botanic Garden

CHRISTMAS 1958

from Jo and George Titus

We have now lived in Santa Rosa about sixteen months and in that time we have experienced the hottest Summer on record, the wettest Winter on record (except for three in the last seventy-five years), and to date almost the driest Autumn on record. Those hot days of Summer were not unpleasant for the humidity was low and almost invariably at sun-down a refreshing breeze wafted to us from the ocean twenty miles away. An evening wrap was always a "must" and one or two blankets on the bed every night. The wet Winter gave us over forty-five inches of rain, which almost ceased by April 15th, and now this year from July 1st to date we have had only .49 of an inch, far below normal, so maybe this year will be as dry as last year was.

We have much that we would like to tell you, and perhaps the best way is to have you enjoy some of our "wanderings" vicariously.

We go to San Francisco: This city still enchants us and always will. In early May we spent a day in Golden Gate Park. The Park begins at the Pacific Ocean, and rises steadily to a berry-shaped hill that commands it. That is Strawberry Hill. "Strawberry Hill invites cub scouts, the hardier students of the City, and couples in search of lofty solitude." We climbed it! We spent a couple of hours in the Arboretum where the rhododendrons were out in full bloom - thousands of bushes in glorious display. We were fortunate, too, that the Dove tree, an import, was in bloom that day. In early October we experienced another wonderful day in Golden Gate Park. We carried a lunch with us, and ate on the shore of Stow Lake and watched the ducks and birds. Then over to the de Young Museum of Art, also in the Park. On display was a wonderful collection of Van Gogh's paintings and sketches, 84 oils and 71 drawings sent over from Holland and owned by the painter's nephew. The collection is valued at over a million dollars yet the painter who died at age 37 in 1891 never sold but two paintings in his lifetime. The exhibit closed November 30, and over 200,000 adults went through the rooms. Don't miss it if it comes your way.

We go to Oakland: Every community out here, large and small, has one or two flower shows a year. The largest is the famous one at Oakland which takes over the Civic Auditorium and several surrounding acres for outdoor displays of competitive landscaping. Very rigid, very formal, very beautiful. Inside among other lavish displays was one showing several thousand orchids of many varieties from a famous orchid grower. Practically every community is show conscious, and the ladies, the chief contestants, go all out for arrangements. There are schools for judges, and schools for arrangers, and an expert judge can tell usually the arranger's school.

We drive over to Sonoma: California loves fiestas. One that we especially enjoyed was held in early November at Sonoma about 20 miles East of us. It is called "The Blessing of the Grapes," and the blessing itself is held in front of the old mission. Sonoma at one time, for a few days only, was the capital of the Republic of California, with its own flag. The "Bear Flag" all over the State is flown in conjunction with Old Glory. The fiesta itself is called the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival.

We go to Lake County: On April 21st we drove over the mountains and over the flank of Mount St. Helena, by the spot where Robert Louis Stevenson lived for a few months, and on up to Clear Lake, one of the largest lakes in the State. The scene is lovely, with hundreds of red bud in full bloom. Our friends, the Rennies, accompanied us and we ate a picnic lunch on the lake shore of Lucerne.

INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION, ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND

April - September 1960

Horticulture in its broadest sense including ornamental and food plants will be the subject of one of the greatest international exhibitions ever to be held when the Rotterdam International Horticultural Exhibition opens April 1, 1960.

The Netherlands Horticultural Council, with the cooperation of all Dutch horticultural organizations, began preparing for the event in 1956. The city of Rotterdam immediately agreed to act as host for the Show and set aside 100 acres of park for that purpose. Included in the area are two exhibition halls with over 161,000 sq. feet of indoor space. The year 1960 was selected since it marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal General Dutch Bulbgrowers Society and the 400th Anniversary of the introduction of the tulip into Europe. That the exhibition will be a truly international one is insured by the fact that twelve nations have already indicated they will participate.

Every aspect of horticulture will be included. General and specific exhibits on horticultural education and scientific research will be featured.

The tentative schedule for the indoor exhibition is most impressive:

March - April	Flowering bulbs
April	Flowering trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants
May	Iris, orchids, potted plants
May-June	Gloxinias, bougainvilleas, etc.
June	Roses, lathyrus, perennials
July	International competition in the art of floral arrangement
August	Botanical gardens, cannas, delphiniums, gladiolus, etc.
September	Dahlias, orchids, etc.
September-October	Chrysanthemums

Between the above listed sections, there will be displays of fruit, vegetable seeds and other horticultural subjects.

In June 1958, the American Horticultural Council was invited by the Rotterdam Show to undertake to coordinate all horticultural organizations into a truly representative American exhibit.

The A.H.C. Committee on International Horticultural Relations reported to the Thirteenth American Horticultural Congress held at Williamsburg, Virginia October 22-24, 1958:

"The object of the American participation would be to demonstrate to the peoples of the world, and particularly to the peoples of Europe, the maturity and advanced development of American horticulture, in theory and in application, in industry and in the home, in the ornamental field as well as in the edible sectors."