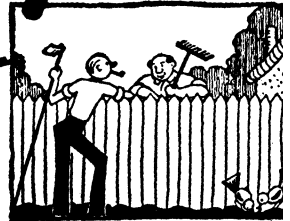




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



June 1959
Volume 17, No. 6
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

JUNE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 1959
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. S. & W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.75

OFFICERS

P. W. Young	President
Wm. H. Hull	Vice Presiden
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
401 Essex Bldg.

PROGRAM

Brief Business Meeting

Lloyd Bachman: "Plant Pests, Diseases and Their Control."

Dick Lehman: "Care of Clematis and Daylilies."

Eng Hoyme: "Planting and Care of Dahlia Tubers."

Felix Dhainen: "The Work of the County Park System."

This will be the last indoor meeting for the summer, before we start our tours, so be sure to attend.

Who has some prize blooms to bring as table decorations?

CONGRATULATIONS GOLDEN VALLEY MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Word comes to us from Bob Mueller of the Golden Valley Men's Garden Club of that Club's project to design and effect a landscape for the Golden Valley Village Hall. Growing from 6,000 people in 1951 to an estimated 12,000 today, that suburb received industrial gifts amounting to \$150,000 to be used towards the construction of a new village hall. The balance of the money was raised by a bond issue and the new hall is about completed. The Men's Garden Club realized the importance of landscaping it correctly, proceeded on its own, and have now had its landscape plan accepted by the village council. Next step: execution. A good job of community service.

"P.W." in Hospital

As SPRAY went to press, we learned that our hard-working president, "P.W." Young, had entered St. Mary's Hospital for surgery. Full of optimism, "P.W." prophesized he'd be up and around within a few days. We're betting odds he does just that.

Our New Superintendent of Parks

Howard I. Moore, Secretary and Assistant Attorney, became the fifth superintendent of parks in the 76 year history of the Minneapolis Park Board on May 9. He was unanimously elected to succeed Charles E. Doell as superintendent by action of the Park Board on February 18. Charlie reached the mandatory retirement age of 65 years on May 8, 1959.

Howard's park service began in 1924. In 1926 he was appointed Secretary of the Park Police department. In 1929 he was appointed chief clerk and office manager of the Auditing Division of the Park department. He then became assistant attorney and administrative assistant, and in 1933 was appointed attorney for the Park Board, and administrative assistant. In 1945, upon his return from military service, he was elected Secretary and Assistant Attorney of the Board of Park Commissioners, and has served in that capacity to date.

First full-time professional superintendent of parks was Captain William Morse Berry whose tenure extended from April 1885 to December 1905. Theodore Wirth took office on January 1, 1906, holding the office until his retirement on November 30, 1935.

Mr. Bossen was superintendent during the days of government-made work projects in the late 1930's and during the difficult period of World War II.

Charlie Doell succeeded Mr. Bossen on August 29, 1945 after a career of park service extending back to 1911.

Auction Nets \$375

The May plant auction only netted about \$375 this year, approximately \$125 below the budgeted income. Unfortunately, purchased material did not net nearly as much as was anticipated, in fact some items actually went at less than cost. Surprisingly, very little material was contributed by members, as had been the original purpose of our annual plant auction.

Chris Christopherson, Auction Chairman, is extending the Club's sincere thanks to Dick Lehman, Roger Koopmans and Lloyd Bachmann for their invaluable assistance.

A VACATION PLANT-SITTER

All of us know how hard it is to take a vacation, leaving behind beloved plants with no assurance that they will be properly tended during our absence. Now science has given us a plant-sitter of apparent reliability whose "wages" are, astonishingly enough, nominal.

I can best describe our new plant-sitter by telling the experience of a couple who went unexpectedly on business to Europe for five weeks. The lady of the house had read of polyethylene. She knew that this plastic material checks loss of water, yet permits a change of air. So, desperate but hopeful, she hied herself to the nearest store and bought a quantity of it.

The day before taking off for foreign climes she watered each plant heavily from the bottom and then wrapped polyethylene completely around each (pot and all) making a tent over the plant and securing it tightly at the base with a rubber band. She put the plants on window sills where they would get some sun. (Too much sun can be harmful-Ed.)

She went abroad with faith in science, and five weeks later returned to find her "arboretum" flourishing. By observing her wrapped plants, it appeared that the polyethylene enclosure forced the water to act like dew, gathering moisture to its inner surface during the day, and spilled back the mist at night. Unwrapped none of the plants seemed the worse for wear.

Reprinted from The Bulletin of The Garden Club of America,
January 1958.

HERE ARE THE COMMON NAMES --

Do you know the botanical?

Baby's breath	Hen-and-chickens
Basket-of-gold	Houseleek
Beard-tongue	Lily-of-the-valley
Bellflower	Liverleaf
Bleeding-heart	Meadow-rue
Bloodroot	Pink
Candytuft	Poppy
Columbine	Rock-cress
Coral-bells	Shooting-star
English daisy	Speedwell
Flax	Stonecrop
Forget-me-not	Virginia bluebell
Globe-flower	Yarrow
Heath	

Look them up -- you'll remember them better!

JACKSON NATIONAL CONVENTION SETS NEW RECORD

The MGCA Convention just completed at Jackson, Mississippi, set an all-time convention high with about 700 registrants, among which were our own delegates Herb Kahlert (Mrs. Kahlert), Paul Kroeger (Mrs. Kroeger) and Bill Hull. It was a wonderful convention, and your delegates return full of enthusiasm and praise for the hosts in Jackson. Lots of southern hospitality and cordiality. Perhaps one of the best thrills is meeting other men gardeners from all over the nation and exchanging ideas with them.

Some of these gardeners gave inspirational and instructive talks. Among them were A. H. Bowers, Director of Technical Service for Swift and Company; Dr. Joseph E. Howland, Editor of Scott's "Lawn Care"; John R. Patterson, President of the American Rose Society; and John Nash Ott, time-lapse photography authority. Many others.

Among the most interesting displays was one by Milton Rubel, a banker from Corinth, Mississippi, who displayed 2,000 blossoms from 600 varieties of peonies, proving that peonies can be grown in Mississippi. It was said to be the first peony display ever exhibited in the South.

New National Officers

New national officers (who will take office on January 1, 1960) are Leland Fetzer, Rockford, Illinois, President; Evan J. Evans, Cleveland, Ohio, First Vice-President; Bryant Horne, Jackson, Mississippi, Second Vice-President; Robert Waln, Webster Groves, Missouri, Third Vice-President; Ed Englebrecht, Highland Park, Illinois, and George Spader, Morrisville, New York, remain as Treasurer and Executive Secretary.

Among the new directors elected to office was our own Bill Hull whose term was extended to December 31, 1960.

National Committee Reports ...

...were presented to each delegate for him to present to his own local officers and club. These are furthermore available to every club on request from the national office at Morrisville, New York. They summarize the work of such committees as the Rose Testers (of which Stan Lund represents our club), all the specialty groups, etc. A lot of work is being done by the Quality Standards Committee which is working with other national groups to maintain standards and protect against fraudulent advertising by anyone selling horticultural material.

National Judges Schools

The MGCA has worked hard to present a system for accrediting men judges and this program is now available for local use. We can obtain a complete manual on this subject for the asking. Two areas (Ohio and Missouri) have already completed these carefully-planned schools and are about ready to issue accredited judges certificates to a few qualified men. We have plenty of men within our Club who could qualify for leadership and/or instruction in such a course. Anyone interested in taking it?

Awards

Three outstanding men were recognized by special awards. The Gold Medal for outstanding achievement in horticulture was awarded to Professor George Lewis Slate of the New York Agricultural Experimental Station, Geneva, New York. The Silver Medal went to Harold Laing, former editor of MEGA, for outstanding service to the MGCA (this is the highest award MGCA can give for service, going last year to our own Herb Kahlert). Bill Hull was asked to present the award to Mr. Laing. A Certificate of Appreciation went to Larry R. Hubbard, until recently Treasurer, for his services rendered.

These awards (as well as Certificates of Commendation and the Johnny Appleseed Award) are made upon proper nomination by any club or individual. Our Club can make nominations at any time. For example, anyone noted for outstanding achievement in horticulture. How about the Johnny Appleseed Award? Do we have anyone who typifies the namesake (John Chapman)?

New Ideas

The Hon. Phillip Alampi, New Jersey State Secretary of Agriculture, gave an inspiring banquet speech at the Jackson Convention. Among his many suggestions were that MGCA members take a more active part in beautifying civic buildings and their own office buildings. He emphasized cooperation with park boards for civic service, which is exactly what the MGC Minneapolis has done for many years. He further proposed a "Flowers for Business" campaign in which we provide flowers for our offices and stores, not only for ourselves but for others.

Mr. Alampi further stated that every day of the year across the nation, 13,000 acres of land are scoured by bulldozers, over 1,000,000 acres a year are denuded of trees and topsoil. What can we do to preserve the trees and topsoil, or to replace destroyed trees.

In closing Mr. Alampi stated "...that we must recognize that our mission is to promote the welfare of our people -- all of our people -- as well as to develop better plants. The opportunities are unlimited. Garden therapy, while conceived primarily for the afflicted, serves likewise the normal citizen seeking relief from the everyday pressures and the pace of modern life. An evening in the garden can mean as much to the factory employee as it does to the busy executive who operates the factory. Who can measure what that may mean in better industrial relations?"

HELP WANTED!

The colorful front covers of the May (Auction) and December (Christmas Party) issues of the SPRAY were the artistry of the late Don Methven. Have we any artists among our membership who would volunteer to do a Christmas cover for us?

And this is a good place to make a plea for editorial material for the SPRAY -- gardening experiences you would like to pass on to fellow club members, or news concerning your own activities and especially unusual interesting landscaping and plant material found in visits to member's gardens as well as other gardens in Minnesota.

STORY OF "SPANIARD'S BEARD"

The rather odd-looking growth a visitor observes hanging from trees in the Gulf Coast area is neither Spanish nor a true moss.

Spanish moss is believed to have derived its name from the early French settlers in Louisiana who called it "Spaniard's Beard." Botanically, Spanish moss is a member of the Pineapple family (Bromeliaceae). Its botanical name is "Tillandsia usneoides." It is an epiphyte, meaning that it lives on the surface of other objects. It is not a parasitic plant.

Interestingly enough, it requires only a small limb, wire, fence rail or similar object to hang from in order to thrive, provided, of course, that the humidity of the air is sufficiently high to meet its requirements for water.

Nutrients for growth, which are the same as those required by other plants, are obtained from dust. The tiny hairs on each strand of moss sift dust particles from the air. In addition, small particles of bark, twigs and leaves from the trees in which the moss hangs are caught in the strands and gradually decompose, furnishing more nutrients.

Humidity and the frequency of rainfall appear to be the most critical factors limiting the natural occurrence of Spanish moss. It will thrive in areas which occasionally have temperatures of near zero degrees Fahrenheit, but only in swampy areas where high humidity prevails.

The size of the individual plant varies with its exposure to prevailing winds and the strength of the object supporting its weight. During periods of heavy rainfall, accompanied by high winds, the water accumulated in a plant will weigh enough to tear it loose or break its support. Without wind, Spanish moss is strong enough to support itself while completely saturated with water.

The flowers of Spanish moss appear in spring and are rather inconspicuous and grey-tan in color. Seeds are primarily windborne. Upon landing in a crack in the bark of a tree, germination occurs as soon as sufficient moisture is present. Growth is slow during the first year, but is rather rapid in succeeding years. A single plant (several years old) may grow as much as 18 inches in one year.

Spanish moss has no particular preference as to species of tree on which it will grow, except that bark crevices of some trees afford a better place for germination, and the amount of light filtering through certain species of trees promotes faster growth. In checking the areas where Spanish moss thrives, one can find it growing on any and all species of trees and shrubs, having spread by seed and wind-blown pieces.

At one time, Spanish moss was harvested in large quantities and used to upholster furniture. Currently, it is also being used in foam rubber cushions to add resiliency. Locally, it was extensively used to make mattresses. To be prepared for these uses, the live Spanish moss must be piled in large mounds and watered frequently to stimulate decomposition of all tissues except those of the plant's vascular system (about the same diameter as horsehair). The "cured" moss is then cleaned and dried prior to movement to the gin for further cleaning and baling for shipment. In the live state, Spanish moss is used by commercial nurserymen to provide partial shade for lath houses and by fishermen to keep their catch of crabs and fish alive.

Reprinted from Parks & Recreation, October 1958.