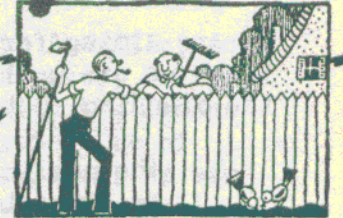




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



August 1965  
Volume 23, No. 8  
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:  
Wm. H. Hull, Neil Barry

### August Meeting

### Officers

August 10, 1965

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
50th Street and Knox Ave. So.

5:45 p.m.

\$1.75

Charles Proctor	Pres.
R. E. Smith (Bob)	V.P.
G.R.Christenson (Bud)	Sec.
S.F.Pinkham (Sherm)	Treas.

### TWO MEETINGS THIS MONTH

August Meeting - Ladies Night  
August 10, 1965

Annual Garden Show  
August 21-22, 1965

Northrup King Experimental Gardens  
Highway 169, 5 miles west of 100  
6:15 p.m.  
\$1.75

American Hardware Mutual Building  
West Lake St. & Lake Calhoun Blvd.

For our ladies-night monthly meeting, our food committee will serve a delightful dinner catered by DeLaria. We will eat in the shade of the old - maple trees. After dinner we will have an opportunity to look around and see many of the newer varieties which will be in our gardens next year. Northrup King's annual open house for commercial growers will be held a short time before our meeting, and these plots of newer varieties and specialty items should still be in good shape. Northrup King experts will be on hand to answer all questions. Other specialties available for inspection are the grass experimental plot, plastic greenhouses and slat houses for shade-tolerant material.

The garden show is the only big event of the year when we go on public display. We are looking forward to a bigger and better-than-ever show. Full details inside.

## GARDEN SHOW - AUGUST 21-22

We are aiming for the best flower show ever put on in the Twin Cities, and think we are well on the way to accomplishing this. Much work has gone into the planning, but the ultimate success now depends on three factors:

1. The publicity committee has left no stone unturned in trying to attract as large an attendance as possible. Notices have or will appear in the major national and state gardening magazines. All sources of local publicity are being explored. We, individually, must assist them. (a) We are enclosing ten personal invitation cards. We have lots more, so please hand or mail these to your friends who enjoy flowers and gardening. (b) We have had a supply of store plastic cards printed and they will be available at the August meeting. Please pick up as many as you can get placed in stores, shops, or on your office bulletin boards.
2. Our emphasis this year is for not only a competitive show, but also to provide exhibits of educational value. Half a dozen booths on various subjects are being prepared, and will be manned at all times when the show is open to the public for answering questions.
3. Many hands make light work - and we need them. Specifically, fifteen to twenty men to help set up the show area on Friday evening, and eight to ten men to assist through the day on Saturday. If you are not already signed up, please contact Bob Kelly (or Charlie Proctor) and advise when you can help.
4. Maximum participation by all of us is the final ingredient necessary to insure the finest show ever put on in the Twin Cities. Quality, of course, is paramount, but quantity is also important. I am sure that anyone who has entered exhibits in the past can tell of occasions when items brought mainly to increase the overall mass display have taken ribbons. Probably an impossible dream would be to have each and every member enter at least one exhibit - but we can still dream.

For those who like to get a head start, bottles, entry tags, registration sheets and schedules will be available at P. W. Young's garage the Thursday evening before the show. That address is 4544 Beard Avenue South.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

It has already been several weeks since our wonderful trip to Amarillo, and I must share with you some of our experiences. Carol and daughter, Polly, and I drove down through Missouri and Kansas on fine roads with the Kansas turnpike having eighty m.p.h. limits, into Oklahoma on the same type of road and east from Oklahoma City to Amarillo on divided four-lanes. We saw some interesting gardens, not as many small gardens as I would personally like to see, but among them was a very fine garden containing 1,000 blue-spruce trees on seven acres, some masses of gorgeous larkspur, tomatoes with wire frames around them as hail protection, and chrysanthemums with shingles around them for wind protection. The wind does blow constantly and strong, which affects gardens.

We also made a trip into the 1,200 feet deep Palo Duro canyon, an oddity here on absolutely flat land, where the world famous Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang served us barbecued buffalo. Superb, as good as any beef, but it was, of course, pen raised. One morning we had breakfast at the well-known Fain ranch of 100,000 acres. Breakfast was served under some of the largest cottonwood trees imaginable and consisted of steak, biscuits, fried potatoes and beans. Delicious. We also visited the famous Cal Farley's Boy's Ranch where 300 boys work to learn trades and to support themselves. A beautiful spot. They had planted 20,000 rose bushes at one time but the dry and rocky soil wasn't too friendly to them.

The business of the organization was transacted ably under the guidance of President Phil Conrath. The officers all moved up a notch (effective January 1) with Ed Moyer of North Hollywood, California, becoming the president-elect. The new third vice president-elect is Hrand Hampikian of Detroit, an able and active gardener and landscape architect.

We returned from that visit, without making the planned sidetrip into Colorado -- cancelled because of the rampaging Arkansas river which drowned people and destroyed bridges right and left. Then to Canada for fishing. We were in a tent (three fellows) on a small island in the middle of nowhere. It rained for four days, the temperature dropped to 47 degrees at night, and the wind howled constantly and was clocked at a nearby settlement at 65 miles an hour. We delayed our trip to the mainland one day because the water was too rough to cross. But for awhile we had superb fishing.

Home to take in the wonderful tour this last week, originating at Otto Nelson's beautiful garden. His is certainly a distinctive one and am sure that there is none other with such large and beautiful terraces anywhere. Good food although it totalled 1,300 calories for those who ate what was available, and on by auto caravan to three other gardens. We first visited Jim Bezat's amazing display of dahlias adjoining his beautiful mixed borders; then to Harold Witter's gorgeous garden adjoining a small lake, and on to Bill Swanson's lovely setting so meticulously groomed. We reminisced how I had first visited Bill's garden when he first joined the club about five years ago, and how the plantings had grown and filled in nicely. All in all, it was a splendid tour and we certainly congratulate Paul Burt and Gar Anderson for planning it.

### THREE HONORS FOR OUR OWN CLUB

It was my pleasure and honor to be able to accept at our national convention in Amarillo the three awards which were presented to the club upon return home. In case you missed the July meeting, here is a brief summary of our national awards.

HONOR CLUB AWARD for runner up to Reidsville, N.C., for the Woodson Jones Award. This award was provided by the Jackson, Miss., MGC several years ago in memory of the man from their club who was secretary of MGCA for many years. It is awarded upon an earned-point basis for new members, paid dues early in the year, credit for starting new clubs (we got credit for bringing in Bemidji, Minn.) etc. This is a distinctive honor and we can be proud of it.

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS award. This fine journal offered an award last year to that club which completed the best program to encourage gardening in its community. Again, we were a runner up and to the same club of Reidsville, N.C. We were singly honored as they say for the Robert Fulton School garden project which was conceived and carried out under the direction of Les Johnson. We all know it is Les who deserves the credit for this project and we were sorry he was unable to be present at the meeting to accept the award in person.

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION award. Each year MGCA has a special committee which judges the club bulletins and awards certificates to those considered especially deserving. This year there were eighteen such certificates presented, all of equal value. One of these was THE GARDEN SPRAY and we congratulate Vic Lowrie for again bringing this award to our club.

We also rejoice with our Richfield friends because their bulletin also, again, won one of these awards, as it has done several times recently, and editor Marlin Gilhausen gets our congratulations.

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#### IN THE GARDEN

I sometimes get weary of people, and weary of being polite;  
I sometimes grow tired of the dull man, and sometimes am bored by  
the bright.

And then when my nerves are a-tingle I walk in the yard that is ours,  
And I thank the good Lord for the comfort of songbirds and blue skies  
and flowers.

I never grow tired of the martens which circle about overhead;  
I never grow weary of robins - there is nothing about them I dread.  
I smile when I see them returning, I sigh when at last they depart,  
And perhaps it's because they are never vindictive, or petty, or smart.

And the trees don't expect to be talked to. I can lie there and dream  
in the shade.  
And not have to think up an answer to some dreary question that's made.  
So I often slip into my garden when I'm weary of hearing things said,  
And thank the good Lord for my roses and trees and the birds overhead.

### A DEATHBED WARNING

(This letter from Boyd S. Willetts, dated February 8, appeared in the April issue of the Garden Plot, bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Detroit. Mr. Willetts died on February 19. He was Past-President of MGCD, had served until his illness as Recording Secretary, and had been active in the production of the Plot. His death was occasion for the deepest sorrow among all his many garden club friends. As a friend of Boyd's, I (Bill Hull) believe he would have wished a wide dissemination of his very thoughtful statement.)

"AVOID BREATHING THE DUST - if any of the spray material gets on the skin, wash with soap and water. The (manufacturer) assumes no responsibility for personal injury....etc."

These somewhat innocuous words, printed on a can of rose dust carry a dire warning: Gardeners, not fully cognizant of the implications are daily exposing themselves to calamitous consequences. I am pencilling these words in my hospital room and in the first person because I want to issue a warning as positive as is humanly possible to everybody within reach.

Five months ago at my regular yearly check-up, my doctor suspected anemia and ordered a blood count which revealed a dangerously low condition. A series of treatments seemed initially to bring about a promising improvement but shortly this was reversed with all counts showing alarmingly rapid deterioration. This told my doctor he was on the wrong track and he called in a hematologist (a specialist in blood diseases). Further tests showed a continuation of the rapid deterioration not only of the red cells and hemoglobin, but also of the white cells, and attempts to get bone marrow thru the thorax for testing were failures.

Bone marrow is the manufacturing agent for the production of blood and it became obvious that my bone marrow had been destroyed or largely so and that I was not producing sufficient blood for my needs. This landed me in the hospital for many searching tests to determine the cause. Eventually the culprit was pinpointed as the rose dust. This is the reason I think I should tell you gardeners all about "my operation."

The slow and perhaps unsuccessful endeavors to reverse the blood trend are in process. Blood transfusions are temporarily bringing up the number of red cells but there is no way to replace the white cells nor bone marrow except by medication to stimulate the manufacturing process.

That is the progress but I am far from "out of the woods." Today, because my white cell count is down to 750 from a normal of some 6,000, I have been placed in "protective isolation" to try to prevent any infection. Since the function of the white cells is to fight infection, I would have no defense against any infection which struck.

If my writing this personal account can contribute to the saving of one life, it will have been justified.

- Boyd Willetts  
February 8, 1965  
"Garden Pointers," MGC,  
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

## CLIPPINGS

by Charlie Proctor

Those were four mighty fine gardens we toured in July. It made me tired just thinking of the hours Otto Nelson must spend in his garden. There has to be a mountain goat somewhere in his ancestry.

Bud Christenson has a supply of Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and Men's Garden Club of America signs. The price \$1.00 for either.

You will notice by the Schedule of Entries that we have substituted a vegetable section in lieu of arrangements. We know that many of you grow at least a few varieties, and hope to see a large number of entries.

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### POTATO CONFERENCE HELD JULY 21

University of Minnesota research said an extensive breeding program is being carried out to develop potato varieties better suited to processing conditions. One objective is to develop a potato that can be converted into chips immediately from cold storage. Today's potato varieties must be conditioned in a warmer atmosphere for about two weeks before being made into chips, to avoid the excessive browning that occurs as a result of an accumulation of reducing sugars during storage at lower temperatures.

Other research on potatoes included the following:

1. Potato growing conditions. Soil scientists have discovered that planting of potatoes in wheat stubble without any prior tillage of the ground gives yields as good as does planting after fall or spring plowing with various degrees of disking or harrowing.
2. Relationship of chemical and physical characteristics of the soils in which potatoes are grown to processing characteristics of tubers. Preliminary indications are that high contents of phosphates, sulfates, and chlorides in the soil tend to produce potatoes that make chips of a lighter color.
3. Resistance to diseases. Report was made on studies designed to increase resistance of potato plants to seed-piece decay and to such diseases as Russet Scab, Verticillium Wilt, and Late Blight.
4. Weed control. Work is underway on control of weeds by pre- and post-emergence sprays and on the control of potato plant insects such as wireworms and leafhoppers.
5. Studies on development of hollow heart in potatoes. These studies, in progress for several years, are seeking to establish the effects of soil temperatures and moisture and of dwarfing chemicals on development of this condition in potato plants.
6. Other studies. Research is establishing the effects of 2,4-D sprays and dust on yield, color, and uniformity of Red Pontiac potatoes. Vine killers are being screened for their effectiveness and the influence of environment on their toxicity.