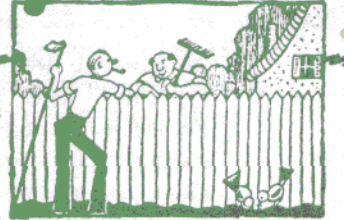




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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Phillip H. Smith & Archie Flack

Ladies Too on Aug. 13

Fred Holzman and Les Johnson have a fine tour ready, with our wives as guests. August 13, 6 p.m., \$2.00 each, DeLaria's dinner, starting at Thor Solem's, 7100 Oakland Ave. Will visit Art Johnson's next door, then bus to Bill Bogart's, Bud Christenson's and possibly one other member's garden.

Aug. 17-18 Show Needs YOU

A combined show with Richfield. Charlie Proctor has already sent you complete details. Additional facts are included in this issue. See page 4.

Do help boost participation. A flower show is the most fun of any club activity.



HAROLD KAUFMANN....we salute you!

...thank you for your friendship and for the 25 years of service you have given our club. An honorary member, Harold is a past president (1947), a Bronze Medal winner, and has always been noted as a man who will get things done. He chaired our membership committee for about ten years, ditto the Special Interest groups for about five years, produced the first booklet of our members' writings, and is a good gardener. Active in many civic groups, wherein he has had many leadership spots, Harold is a retired Chartered Like Underwriter. With wife, Mildred, Harold resides at 4127 Washburn Ave. S.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Of course we're pleased to have won the award for Spray as "Best Club Bulletin in 1967" and we know you, too, are pleased. This came as a complete surprise to me - at the national convention at Pittsburgh - because they've always ranked the journals before as "Among the Top Ten" or twenty. We repeat here that we accepted this award gratefully and in behalf of people like Dottie Anderson who types and lays it out for the printer, the people at the printers who are so kind to us, and each of you who has assisted us in 1967.

Other awards, won by better editors really, were received by our good friends (in this order) F.A.C. McCulla (Houston), Earl Caldwell (Webster Groves, Mo.), Ben Hoyle (Santa Clara, Calif.), Al Hardeman (Akron), Rolph Dollmer (Staten Island), Joe Woodard (Dallas), and others.

The Silver Medal went to Hal Nelson, former editor of The Gardener, for years a real workhorse in MGCA, and a deserving winner.

The Johnny Appleseed Award went to Perry Davis, "The Gourd Man" from Des Moines.

Almost all of these men were here in Minneapolis a year ago. You will remember many of them.

And we congratulate the 1969 new MGCA officers - J. Earl Cook, Oregon, President. Sam Fairchild, North Carolina; Fred Craig, Ohio, and; Dr. John Baumgardt, Missouri, Vice Presidents. All are good leaders and capable men.

There were 368 registered at the convention, including local people.

North Star Garden Tour

This was held on August 4 under the direction of the North Star; our own Nate Siegel, President. We received a good story about this on July 1 for the July "Spray" which was already at the printers. We then asked Bud Christenson to mention it at the July meeting. Since we have been away we don't know what occurred, but hope those good gardens were visited.

Thank you, Frank Leech

Most of you will remember Frank Leech of Syracuse, N.Y., the MGCA poet laureate, who received the Silver Medal at the Minneapolis convention. At the Pittsburgh convention Frank called me to the front, at the banquet, and read a poem which he had composed and dedicated to me. It was a most gracious consideration and I thank him again.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Grant R. Christenson

What a swell tour Les and Fritz arranged for our last meeting. After visiting the rose gardens of Al Nelson, Jerry Olson and Fritz Holzman, it makes me wonder if I shouldn't give them up. I think all of us on the tour learned something new about the technique of rose culture. Verner Carlson certainly packs a lot in a small space. I'll bet his asters take a few blue ribbons at the flower show.

Our meeting this month will be a tour of gardens beginning at 6:00 p.m., the usual good food, and the wives invited. Please bring your own table and chairs again. At this writing, the tour plans have not been finalized. Be certain to check the cover page for the beginning point. Jack Peterson's telephone committee will be calling to get a count for the tour. An accurate count is vital for the food and transportation committees.

At this writing, arrangements for our flower show with Richfield, August 17 and 18, at the Richfield Library, 70th & Nicollet, are just about finalized. Chairman Charlie Proctor and his able crew are working hard with Richfield to make this the best flower show ever. The only ingredient needed to make the best show ever, is you to exhibit. Mark these dates on your calendar again, and don't forget to pick your blooms, Friday night, August 16, for the show. New members need not be afraid to enter as there will be help for them at the show to get the blooms properly identified and displayed. Just be certain to have the correct number indicated by the schedule. Unfortunately, last winter when the Christenson's made plans for their vacation, we unknowingly chose the time of the Flower Show. Therefore, I will not be at the Show. However, I will enter my blooms after we set up Friday night and hope they won't look too bad at judging time.

Congratulations are in order to our editor, Bill Hull. "The Garden Spray" was awarded 1st place for best Men's Garden Club bulletin for 1967 at the national convention. Thanks Bill for the fine joy you are doing on The Garden Spray and for giving us the best monthly publication of all the men's garden clubs.

Our representatives to the convention will report to us at the September meeting, which will be at Judson Memorial Church, 4101 Harriet Avenue. I understand the 1967 convention is still very much in the minds of those attending the convention this year. Just another testimonial to good job we did last year, and the caliber of the club I have the privilege of being president of this year.

Our letter to the Park Board requesting the fence at the rose gardens not be taken down, resulted in my having lunch with Lewis Crutcher, director of planning and research. Mr. Crutcher presented the reasons for his giving consideration to the fence removal and what might be used if the fence were removed. Apparently no decision has been made on the fence, for or against, removal. We hope that this fall or winter, Mr. Crutcher will be a part of one of the programs to present his and the Park Board's views on the fence, and other plans for parks, playgrounds, gardens, lakes, etc.

S H O W T I M E I S H E R E

(We need your help badly!)

To say that time is running out, is putting it mildly - considering that the flower show is just about a week away. Our club has always had the reputation of putting on an outstanding show. One factor has been added, which should make this show better than ever - it is being staged jointly by our club and the Men's Garden Club of Richfield. The ultimate success depends on three factors and they all relate back to you, individually:

- 1) 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 throughout the day on Saturday. Roger Anderson is staging-committee chairman, and has been recruiting assistance. If you have not already been contacted, and can help either or both of these times, contact Roger (938-7233) or myself (926-9408).

Sherm Pinkham is in charge of registration on Saturday morning, and undoubtedly can use some help.

Jack Peterson is handling the clerking, which involves assisting the judges and recording the results. This involves about three-hours work on Saturday afternoon.

- 2) Maximum participation by all of us is another ingredient necessary to insure the finest show ever put on in the Twin Cities. Quality is paramount, of course, but quantity is also important. Many times an exhibit brought chiefly to increase the overall mass display has taken a ribbon. A word to you newer members - **DON'T BE BASHFUL**. Your specimens have as good a chance as anyone's. The goal of at least one entry by each and every member is an almost impossible dream, but we can still dream!
- 3) Finally, having staged a top-grade show, we hope that a large number of people enjoy it. We urge you to extend personal invitations to your gardening friends and neighbors. The location is very convenient and should make an artistic show.

So, let's go all-out to make this the outstanding show by:

1. Assisting as much as you possibly can in staging the show.
2. Making as many entries as you can.
3. Inviting garden-minded friends.

.....Charles Proctor,
Show Chairman

P.S. For those who wish to get a jump in preparing their exhibits, bottles, registration forms and entry tags will be available at P. W. Young's on Thursday evening, August 15. Enter his drive off 46th Street, between Beard and Chowen.

TOWARD THE COMPUTERIZED FARM*

In an air-conditioned cab, atop a 130 h.p. tractor, run by a set of sophisticated hydraulic controls, today's farmer can plow a corn field in record time. By the year 2000, the farmer may well sit in an air-conditioned office with the plowing, planting and harvesting remote controlled by computers, programmed to complete the work with utmost efficiency.

On future U.S. farms, computers are apt to become as much of a fixture as silos. President Ellwood Curtis of farm equipment manufacturer, Deere & Company, remarks: "During the past 20 years, the U.S. has grown from a multitude of small farms to a highly mechanized agriculture, dominated by a relatively small number of highly productive farms." Today, almost all commercial wheat and corn farms are entirely mechanized. The Government values machinery in U.S. farms today at around \$29 billion.

Agricultural economist, Dr. LaVon S. Fife of International Harvester, says by 1980, farmers will have to increase production by 35% to accommodate a projected population of 245,000,000. This will be accomplished on "40% fewer farms and 6-10% fewer acres and with about a third less hours of labor."

At Deere headquarters in Moline, Illinois, across the Mississippi from Davenport, Iowa, advanced research chief, Dr. Gordon Millar, states: "Machines will not necessarily be larger, but will be more specialized and under the control of one man. They will be self-propelled and have higher power levels, with many more automatic controls." He foresees the possibility of a self-propelled tilling machine and one which will combine planting and fertilizing in one operation.

Deere's Millar, does not expect atomic energy will ever be used to operate mobile farm equipment. Harvester's Fife thinks "turbines seem the most likely to turn the trick. There may be a real possibility of a turbine-powered, four-wheel drive tractor with electronic controls and a furrow-sensing guide." However, economist Fife also thinks it quite possible to get a "nuclear engine of a size and cost compatible with farm equipment. Such an engine could be fueled at the factory and run the lifetime of the machine with only annual re-charging or perhaps without any re-charging. We may also see thermo-electric and thermionic energy converters in farm power applications."

More sophisticated machines will change the old farmstead. Dr. Millar foresees the possibility of using direct energy for some farm operations. For instance, instead of the conventional plows, farmers might resort to "explosion of hydrocarbon fuels in a combustion chamber which will then explode through vents, thus tilling the soil." Others suggest plowing with electronic sound waves. LaVon Fife contemplates "controlled vibrations to energize cutting edges of plows. Compressed air may help assure a clean scour and reduced drag on tillage implements."

More effective planting is another goal. Wisconsin's JI Case has a "chisel planter" which, instead of furrowing, bores individual holes, drops in the seed and recovers the hole. Union Carbide works on a precision planting technique with seeds imbedded at regular intervals in a plastic tape which is then "laid down behind a tractor at exactly the right depth and the furrows are automatically backfilled."

Harvesting equipment is also due for big improvement. Just within the past decade machines have been developed to gather in such previously machine-resistant crops as apples, blueberries and apricots. Mechanical harvesters in California's San Joaquin Valley, move along rows of asparagus and use radio impulses to sense the matured spear ready for picking. Almost 60% of the nation's tomato crop is picked by mechanical harvesters vs. less than 5% five years ago and much work is being done in such delicate produce as lettuce, berries and grapes. By 1980

Toward the Computerized Farm - continues

The big field crops like wheat and corn have long been harvested mechanically, but further improvements are likely. To maximize yields, crops are being planted more closely and the space between rows becomes narrower and narrower.

The farmer expects to use his expensive equipment on superior seeds. He wants to boost yield per acre and also enhance the quality of his crop - for instance, corn with high-protein content and greater nutrient value. Researchers at Purdue have developed a new lysine corn which contains a greater amount of amino acid, thus making corn a better-balanced protein seed than it is today." George Allen, head of economic planning for WR Grace's agricultural chemicals group, thinks "complete commercialization of lysine corn is 4-5 years away and when developed, it will replace part, perhaps 50%, of the hog farmer's need for soybean meal as a supplement feed."

As for productivity, Deere's Dr. Millar says, "We are looking to increase yield between 400-500 bushels per acre. We have achieved 250 now." This, of course, is for prize crops on premium land. On an average basis, economist Rex F. Daly, of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, predicts corn yields of over 100 bushels an acre by 1975 which would be a 28% jump over last season's 78 bushels.

Behind these soaring yields is a combination of two factors: new hybrid varieties and advanced fertilizers. Corn hybrids have been the American standard for several generations, but there is steady work on still better varieties. Now Grace economist Allan, considers "hybrid wheat to be more than a possibility in the Southwestern wheat belt."

In addition to more powerful fertilizers, manufacturers seek to ease farm tasks with fertilizer-herbicide combinations which can be spread in a single application. Fertilizers in liquid form look like a wave of the future. They account for about 5% of fertilizers used today, but will probably reach 10-15% of a much larger total in ten years hence (U.S. chemical fertilizer usage has doubled since 1958 and is expected to double once more during the next ten).

Allied Chemical first developed liquid fertilizers in the Fifties. James B. Prendergast, who heads Allied's agricultural division, declared liquid fertilizer is not only a labor-saving device, but permits easy incorporation of potash and phosphate, key fertilizer ingredients, with nitrogen-providing ammonia, the other principal component. "In addition, we can incorporate trace elements of boron, zinc and sulfur, which must be added in microportions, as well as pesticides and herbicides." Furthermore, it is easier to apply the liquid and it is readily absorbed by the crops. Yet another advantage cited by Jim Prendergast is the liquid form makes it "economically possible to transport fertilizer through a pipeline." At least three groups are considering plans to pipe ammonia from the big Gulf States-producing areas to the Corn Belt.

To handle all promised innovations, the farm of the future must inevitably turn to the computer. International Harvester's LaVon Fife analyzes: "As computers become smaller and less expensive, they are certain to go down to the farms. Simulation of harvest techniques is only one application. They will be used to compute the optimum combination - for a given number of acres of specified crops." Also on the electronic horizon may be television scanners mounted on towers to tell the farmer whether the automated machinery is working or loafing.

"FLOWER THOUGHTS"

Some time ago, Don Berne provided your editors with a dandy little book published by Peter Pauper Press of Mount Vernon, New York. It is entitled: Flower Thoughts edited by Louise Bachelder, and is a selection of short thoughts, sayings, and poetry relating to flowers and gardening.

Your editors intend to use it as a source for short filler items for Spray. However, the book is available at most bookstores for \$1.25 and you may want to pick up a copy for your own pleasure.

Don originally handed the book to Phil Smith, who has spent many pleasant moments thumbing through the various selections, most of which are by famous authors. Many thanks to Don, thinking of Spray and bringing this material to our attention. Some selections from the book are as follows:

To summer's flower is to the summer sweet,
Though to itself it only live and die.

William Shakespeare

Flowers leave some of their fragrance in
the hand that bestows them.

Chinese Proverb

Flowers have an expression of countenance
as much as men or animals. Some seem to
smile; some have a sad expression; some
are pensive and diffident; others again
are plain, honest and upright, like the
broadfaced sunflower and the hollyhock.

Henry Ward Beecher

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in
my hand,
Little flower - but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I used to love my garden,
But now my love is dead,
For I found a bachelor's button
In black-eyed Susan's bed.

Anonymous

God Almighty first planted a garden
And because the breath of flowers is
far sweeter in the air (where it
comes and goes like the warbling of
music) than in the hand, therefore
nothing is more fit for that delight
than to know what be the flowers and
plants that do best perfume the air

Francis Bacon

A Rose Tree full in bearing
Had sweet flowers fair to see;
One rose, without comparing,
For beauty attracted me.
Though eager once to win it,
Lovely, blooming, fresh and gay,
I find a canker in it
And now throw it far away.

John O'Keefe

Any Extra Perennials?

Phil Smith is planning to add more perennials to his back borders in order to cut down on his annual planting chores. Phil has purchased lake property and plans to use a good share of his spare time in the next couple of years to develop this property. If you are dividing your perennials this summer or fall, Phil would appreciate receiving any extra plants or divisions. Just give him a call and he will pick them up.

Certificate of
Commendation



Men's Garden Clubs
of America

Commends

The M.G.C. of Minneapolis
for
Best Club Bulletin in 1968

This Eighth day of July 1968

MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

Stanley E. Munro
President

Secretary

