

THE

# GARDEN SPRAY

DECEMBER 1962 VOL. 21 NO. 12



## ★ ★ Christmas ★ ★ Party ★ ★

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

American Hardware  
Mutual Insurance Co.  
3033 Excelsior Blvd.

**\$350**  
PER  
PERSON

NOVEMBER MEETING

At the regular November meeting the following business was transacted.

The membership committee consisting of Joe Witmer, Chairman; A. H. Flack and Harold Kaufmann presented the following slate of officers for year 1963.

President - E. B. Haedecke  
Vice President - Dwight Stone  
Treasurer - C. R. Proctor  
Secretary - G. R. Christenson

Motion made and seconded to accept the above slate of officers -  
Motion carried.

The secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.

N. W. Christopherson read a motion, signed by the approved number of members, to elect A. H. Flack to "Honorary Membership" in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Motion seconded by Otto Erickson, Roger Koopmans, Joe Witmer, Frank Vixo, E. B. Haedecke and Dwight Stone. Motion carried by a unanimous standing vote of all members present.

L. W. Johnson and Leon Snyder lead a discussion on projects for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis as a club does not contribute to the Arboretum.

A. H. Flack moved the club go on record as favoring sponsoring the Crabapple plantings at the Arboretum in the amount of \$300 per year. Motion seconded by Vic Lowrie and Joe Witmer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

W. D. Stone, Secretary

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

Don't run, don't stumble, don't fumble, but reach for your checkbook and send in your reservations for the 1962 Christmas Party now. The plans are all completed - the punch is brewing - the free table favors are waiting - the program is ready for printing, reservations are coming in fast. Plan to come now. Remember the social hour from 6 to 7, the dinner from 7 to 8 and the program for the remainder of the evening. All this for \$3.50 per person.

Charlie Proctor is "expecting." Don't disappoint him!

## COMMENTS ON "THE SILENT SPRING"

In case you didn't see the editorial written by Hamilton Mason, garden editor of Better Homes and Gardens, in their November issue, we are reproducing it below:

Right now, in some circles, there is quite an uproar over the use of chemical insecticides and weed killers. We refer, of course, to the recent New Yorker magazine series (and book), "The Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson.

The report is well documented and is disturbing in the most profound sense. It points up tragic carelessness in the large-scale uses of today's chemical killers - on our farms, along our roadsides, in parks, streams lakes. Strong control laws are already on the books, and strong steps must be taken to enforce them. No editor here believes otherwise.

But what are the implications for the home gardener? Should you be panicked into throwing out all your dusts and sprays? Well, if you're going to use them carelessly, the answer is yes. Throw them out. There is, however, no real need for such drastic action if you exercise caution and moderation in the use of these chemicals.

It is true that there are many natural insect controls for the enemies in our gardens. And many of them have been introduced for commercial projects with favorable results. This does not include the small gardener like you and me. Where are we going to get these biological controls, and how long do we have to wait to get them?

We are faced with problems of immediacy. We have invested money in our gardens. We put a lot of work into them. We do not set out ornamental plants deliberately to feed insects. To protect our investment and maintain the beauty we have planned, we must spray or dust.

I have not yet come across a report on natural controls that tells an ordinary gardener the amount he needs in an average garden to do the job so well that chemical controls can be eliminated. Lady bugs are supposed to consume aphids by the hundreds. I sometimes wonder if this happens only in laboratories, because lady bugs have never been efficient in my garden. It will be said that I don't have enough? Obviously. And praying mantises have never impressed me as living up to their reputation as decimators of enemy insects - although they certainly are entertaining to observe when in action.

I must admit, though, that I have never had the will power to sit back for two or three years - or however many it may require - and let my garden go to pot until natural predators could move in and get everything under control.

But I have had the will power to use pesticides with discrimination and caution. I realize that any material with a capacity to kill may also be harmful to me, so I have the greatest respect for it when putting it to its proper use - just as I do when handling a knife, glass, medicines, power tools, cleaning fluids, and a host of other everyday necessities.

I read the small print on bottles and boxes, which you should do, too. I use only the amounts of an insecticide or fungicide recommended by the manufacturer. I don't figure that if a little does good, a lot will do better. And I spray or dust on a windless day - selectively, where needed - not with reckless abandon. You do the same, please!

PLEA FOR INTEGRATION

I am the "lowly" dandelion,  
And one can plainly see  
People give the "thumbs down" sign,  
To show that they hate me.

Why cannot everyone be kind,  
Express their admiration,  
And not resent it when they find  
We too, want integration.

Gardeners hurl their insults,  
Say we are not a flower,  
But our campaign would get results  
If "Tiny Tots" had power.

One "sit in" demonstration  
Took place on the White House lawn,  
We asked the administration  
Where everyone had gone.

We did not overdo it,  
And everything went fine,  
Nobody really knew it  
But, we wanted Caroline.

What can we do to gain man's love?  
I must make a report  
Shall we pray to Heaven above,  
And defy the Supreme Court?

Ernest H. Kiekenapp, O.D.  
6800 Chapel Lane  
Minneapolis 24, Minnesota

2 CLUB MEMBERS HONORED

You will be pleased to know that Dick Lehman has been elected Vice-President of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society for 1963 and Carl Holst has been elected to the Executive Board for a term of three years.

Congratulations to two top ranking horticulturists who justly deserve this appropriate recognition.

The new president is Wilbert G. Sindt of St. Paul.

## PROPAGATING DELPHINIUMS FROM CUTTINGS

At our last meeting P. W. Young gave us an extremely interesting and instructive talk on Delphiniums including propagation from seeds.

Here is a method for propagating from cuttings with which some of our members may like to experiment.

Among many delphinium seedlings we occasionally find an exceptional specimen; one with a vigorous root system, a good spike, good color, and good floret formation. In addition, if this plant persists for 3 years or more, we can consider it of a perennial nature. This kind of plant is worth propagating. Propagating it asexually, by cuttings, is the ideal way, and for those gardeners in the central states who wish to make use of the method, I have found the following procedure most effective.

Enclose a flat containing about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " of rooting medium (1/3 sand, 2/3 vermiculite), with four sides, and the top of glass. The sides should extend upward from the top of the soil at least 6 inches. About April 5, here in the middle west, when the new growth starts, we begin to make cuttings. The flat with its rooting medium should be soaked in a tub of water from 4-6 hours, then left to drain.

Remove the soil from the top of the clump and cut off the young shoots that are about 3-4 inches high. Be certain to cut at the base of the crown so that each cutting has a heel. Remove the lower 2 sets of leaves, rinse off the dirt, and insert in the propagating box. Water the soil thoroughly, but not the leaves. They should remain dry. Any watering in the future should be done in a like manner; water the soil but not the leaves. Cover the flat with glass and place in the shade. It should have NO direct sunlight at any time. An ideal temperature is 60-65, but if it is lower this will not harm them.

In about 21 days the roots will be formed. Pot in 4" pots and put in cold frame until new growth starts. Now comes a most important step. After 2 to 4 sets of new leaves have formed, pinch them back almost to the old growth. This forces growth from the new crown and guarantees a successful plant. Now expose the plants to more natural conditions of more sunlight.

When the pots are filled with roots and new growth (now from the crown) has started, plant in a permanent place in the garden, for delphinium do not like to be moved. These plants may bloom the first year and will give strong, healthy growth the following year.

Reprinted from "The Wind", MGC of Chg. Region

## FORCING SPRING BULBS

If you were unlucky enough not to have been able to attend our November meeting you missed one of the most instructive talks and demonstrations on the "when" and "how" of forcing spring bulbs ever presented to our group.

Thank you Stan Bachman for an extremely interesting and helpful presentation and for the bulbs you made available to our members.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

A very fine North Star region meeting with about 100 people there, including quite a few from our own Club. More of you who missed it would have found it an enjoyable experience. We were honored with the presence of Bryant Horne, President of the Men's Garden Club of America, who had been invited by regional president Joe Seaman. Did you see the very fine photo of Mr. Horne, our own president Christopherson and others, in the Sunday Tribune. Among other highlights of the presidential visit was a tour of the Arboretum with Archie Flack and P. W. Young, and a fortunate meeting with Leon Snyder.

Otto Nelson was honored at the regional dinner by being awarded a certificate in behalf of his efforts, as was P. W. Young who received one of two past regional president's pins awarded.

Thank you fellows who wished me well on the recent deer hunt. It was successful with a small doe. I'll provide a big pot of venison stew at some meeting if food chairman Bob Adams can work out dessert, coffee, etc.

Available to us for assistance in running our Club is a new sixteen-page study of nine major points involved in running a club, produced by our North Star Region. Otto Nelson was chairman of the committee. Not only can the smaller clubs benefit from our cooperation in preparing this report, but there are some ideas there we may want to consider, too. A real contribution from the region.

Incidentally, a new Program Suggestion Manual has been prepared by MGCA to supplement the one produced under Herb Kahlert's direction several years ago. Eighteen clubs all over the U.S.A. worked together through the national committee in preparing this information - and we were one of those eighteen. I imagine Secretary Dwight Stone was the one who represented us on the committee. Available at no charge to any club wanting it as a national service. (Usually we as members don't hear of these services available from "national".)

Nice to hear from Lee Straub recently. A good phone conversation with associate member Lee whose gardening activities are pretty limited these days. However, he's gotten into artificial lighting, as have so many of us, and is finding it rewarding.

As "Spray" went to press we heard that past president Joe Witmer is in the hospital for surgery. We hope you're home and feeling much better, Joe, by the time "Spray" is issued.

RESERVE YOUR BEVERAGE GLASSES NOW!

A feature of the Christmas party will be imprinted water glasses like those so well received last year. They are twelve-ounce heavy bottom glasses, a type popular for many home uses, and are imprinted with the club name, insignia and wording "Christmas 1962;" the ink color has been changed to red.

A limited number of extras are available on a first come basis at two dollars a pack for six. Contact Bill Hull right away to reserve your glasses and pick them up at the party.