

GARDEN SPRAY

DECEMBER, 1965
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**Men's Garden Club
of Minneapolis**

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1965

Place — Ambassador Motor Hotel
5225 Wayzata Blvd. (Hwy. 1)

Dinner — 6:45 P.M. Sharp
Cocktail hour in Albert Room
anytime after 6 p.m.

Price — \$4.00 per person
Wives and guests welcome

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

So the gardens are now all put to bed and, if you're like me, there's still lots you would liked to have accomplished before snow flies -- and this is written on Thanksgiving weekend when we are threatened with our first big snowstorm.

A new house is a thing of beauty, It ought to be, You pay heavily for making a move. Our roses are in the ground on a temporary basis and our choice expalliered trees have been moved. Whether or not they can support the top growth with reduced root system will be a big question. We did find an ideal spot to locate them at the new address.

There's such a challenge in this new spot I feel like having a contest for ideas. There is now a great deal of lawn, more than I care to cut for the rest of my life, so we are thinking of ground covers, trees, etc., to cut down the lawn area. Suggestions are welcomed. Come by and see us sometime, although we'll feel like we're camping out for another month or so: 7017 Dublin Road, Edina.

Of course we miss the old home and neighborhood. I've joked for years about the time Dale Durst borrowed my pick-axe to plant his tulips, and how well they did. This year we don't know what happened, but will bet that Dale has some more gorgeous tulips next spring. He always has had.

I'll bet you have never seen a pumpkin weighing 166 pounds! Well, that is the winner of the MGCA Big Pumpkin Contest, grown by a lad, Myron Dudkiewicz, in Hadley, Mass. The location alone will surprise a few of us. This is being released through the AP and UP to papers all over the nation. Hope our local paper carries it. There were twenty-five pumpkins weighing over 100 pounds! We all thought my eighty-pound pumpkin last year was a huge one, but just imagine one weighing more than double that. Of the top 25 winners, who came from many different locales (Wisconsin predominating), 18 or 19 of them were boys. One name doesn't reveal the sex. Why can't we get some fellow locally to push this contest in our state? Anyone want to have some real fun with little effort and take on this challenge?

I'd like to call particular attention to the 1965 Powerama at the Amarillo convention which was not considered financially successful. Of course, MGCA is a non-profit, educational organization and doesn't attempt to make money but Powerama is a portion of the annual convention and it is hoped the income therefrom can help defray other convention expenses. This year the distance from home offices of many of the major manufacturers, was a factor. The man who has coordinated Powerama for several years has asked to be relieved because of other committments, so Powerama is being dropped from the 1966 convention in Portland, partly because it was thought to conflict with the Rose Festival being held there at the same time. With the continuity broken, it is quite possible that Powerama may thus have been removed from the picture as far as we here in Minneapolis are concerned. I've discussed this with Dwight Stone and what it means to us financially but we should all be aware of it.

This is the time of the year to lock up all the garden chemicals, along with the household poisons we take for granted. Most of us no longer have small children around the house and possibly get a little careless. We really should build a locked closet, perhaps two, one in the garage for powders, and one inside for those items which will freeze. It's also a good time to clean the spraying equipment. Some sprays will cause corrosion when left in contact with the metal over the long winter.

A MINNESOTA GARDENER LEARNS ANEW IN SUN CITY

by N. W. Christopherson

On my arrival in Sun City on the 15th of December, I was all primed to get started immediately on my gardening projects. I had plans for the flower beds laid out before we arrived here and thought that with a little extra effort on my part I could have a nice display of flowers by the end of February or the first part of March. But much to my surprise, it did not work out that way. My flower border here is similar to the one I had in Minneapolis and in addition I have borders three feet wide extending the length of the house on both sides and across the back.

First I had to get the beds spaded and that was a back-breaking job. I figured it would take me a week to do this but it actually took me nearly three weeks because the ground was so hard. The soil here is mostly composed of clay and mixed in with the clay in spots is hardpan or caliche. My next step was to work compost into the beds in order to loosen up the soil. For compost I used manure, peat moss and redwood compost. This compost treatment made the soil loose, friable and very easy to work.

My next step was to purchase the seedlings for planting. There are a lot of so called nurseries here that are only roadside stands. The plants they sell are all shipped in from California in the big trailer trucks and the selection of plants is fairly good. I planted mostly stocks, petunias, snaps, etc., and when they came into bloom I had a nice looking yard. After this I decided to grow my own seedlings but was advised by many of the so-called experts out here this was impossible due to the low humidity. However, I sent an order for seeds for my next planting which would be in the fall, and in September I started them in small flats in my carport which would protect them from the sun.

After planting the seed flats, I covered each one with a shingle in order to retain the moisture in the soil. The seed germination was exceptional, much better than I had ever achieved in Minneapolis. I also noticed that the seeds germinated two to three days sooner than back there. Altogether I started about twenty to thirty varieties of seeds and when they were developed enough for transplanting I had about thirty flats of very nice looking seedlings. So many in fact that I was giving all my neighbors plants for their gardens. The seedlings were set out in my borders in November and December and when they came into bloom in very early spring I was very pleased with the results. I sent some slides of my garden to Les Johnson and I believe some were shown at the Christmas Party. We have three seasons here for flowers, early spring, summer and late fall. At the present time I have roses, petunias, daisies and zinnias in bloom and this is the middle of November. By the middle of February I will have stocks and snaps in full bloom.

Another thing I learned by trial and error was how to water the plants. Most people new to this climate believe that a large amount of water is necessary to keep plants alive. Over watering here is just as bad as it is in Minnesota. I have a schedule set up for watering and that is to give my borders a good irrigation once a week and this seems to be sufficient. Another thing I learned is that our soil is very rich and will grow some of the nicest flowers I have ever grown. As far as insect trouble is concerned, such as aphids, etc., we are not bothered to any great extent which I believe is due to the low humidity here. As I mentioned before, my garden here is patterned after my garden in

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GRANNY'S HERBS AND THE WITCH DOCTOR

As a general summary, I would suggest that we travel down the human body and ascertain what granny's herbs had to offer for each station. As we move along, kindly note that what was good for one part of the world did not necessarily apply to distant climes.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: For convulsions, extracts of certain wild orchids were considered useful, plus dried wild verbena and yew berries. In treating chorea, again wild orchids entered the picture. Also employed were cinquefoil and cimicifuga, the beautiful white-flowered spike, also called Indian cohosh or bugbane or black snakeroot. Homeopathy did not pass cimicifuga by lightly.

THE SKIN: For cleansing, when the soap supply ran low, the pioneer woman in the covered wagon used saponaria or soapwort on her rub-a-dub wash board. I have been able to lather up bouncing bet, but the green slime is difficult to wash out of a T-shirt.

LICE: Granny discovered that cockle burrs were not specific for insect bites. When the invader was a louse, she cracked the larkspur seeds and marinated them in vinegar; then she prepared a soaked turban of toweling to the entire scalp of the child. This was left on overnight. The next morning a fine-toothed comb was applied to the hair, removing paralyzed lice and softened nits. Everything was fine until the log schoolhouse was built down the corduroy road, and the children at recess played the new game, "Bonnet, bonnet, who's got the bonnet?" Then the procedure started all over again.

HEMORRHAGE: The petals of the trillium and the pulp of the nettle were stuffed into the open wound and pressure was applied. Even we in this age still apply pressure.

WOUND CLEANSING: Careful rinsing was accomplished with a vulnerary, such as washing with the juice from harvested elderberries. I suppose it was almost as good as physiological saline. Goldenrod and resin from tacamahac served as aromatic vulneraries.

CARBUNCLES: A warm fomentation was prepared from the pulp of spatterdock or cow-lily bulbs. It was effective, as much so as bread and milk poultice.

REFRIGERANTS: To a "red hot arm infection" cold compresses were applied, containing any one of the carminatives, mentioned previously, plus sumac juice.

DEMULCENTS: Healing wounds were soothed with warm compresses, containing slippery elm, sassafras, licorice, chick weed, flaxseed or starch paste.

EMOLLIENTS: To soften the skin crusts, following trauma, lamb's fat, containing any of the demulcents or carminatives, was smoothed on as a cream. Also marsh-mallow, linseed and gelatin were acceptable.

THE MOUTH: Granny invaded the buccal pouch on many occasions. Witness below.

SIALOGOGUE: Lobelia and tulip could make the saliva flow. Granny aided the orator or actor who suffered from stage fright. The witches in South America employed the jaborandi.

THE SLOBBERER: Here one obtained relief from a weak tea brewed from the night-shade.

C. Howard Ross, M.D.

CLIPPINGS

by Charlie Proctor

And so another year completes its journey into history, and it has been a most rewarding one to me, even if somewhat hectic at times. Our big social event, the Christmas Party is coming up and I am looking forward to greeting you all there for a good dinner and a pleasant evening.

Speaking of Christmas, do you have a friend who likes to garden, yet doesn't care to belong to a garden club? How about a membership in the Minnesota Hort. Society for a fitting gift. The eight issues of the Horticulturist, with the timely current tips and the longer articles on special subjects certainly would be an enjoyable gift for anyone interested in gardening.

At the recent Horticultural Society meeting the ballots were tallied and confirmed the election of Carl Holst and Bruce Johnstone as President and Vice President for another year. Eldred Hunt, Secretary, reported a decrease in membership this year. This fact, coupled with a reduction in support by state funds, is contributing to a tight financial picture for the society.

So you think you have bug troubles in your garden? Actually you are plagued with only a very minuscule percent of the over 800,000 species of insects which infest the earth. It is estimated that they destroy one-third of everything man grows or stores.

The Horticultural Society will again sponsor a flower-show tour this year to Milwaukee on March 4 to 6. Watch the Horticulturist for full details. A centennial celebration for the society is also on tap for later on this year. Ed Haedecke is general chairman for this event, and will be giving further details, and undoubtedly also calling on some of us for assistance. Preliminary thoughts are for a convention in the Twin Cities area in early September.

A gardener friend who has retired and moved into an apartment has a 2 x 4 ft. plant table to sell. Very sturdy, complete with heat cable and two-tube adjustable Gro-lux fixture. Anyone interested can see it at my house.

Please get your dues in promptly so we can get the roster printed. We would like to be able to publish our roster with the January Spray, but must have the dues all in before it can be put together.

CLIPPED FROM THE NITE CRAWLER

People are usually willing to meet each other halfway; the trouble is, most folks are poor judges of distance.

What most people are looking for these days is less to do, more time to do it in, and more pay for not getting it done.