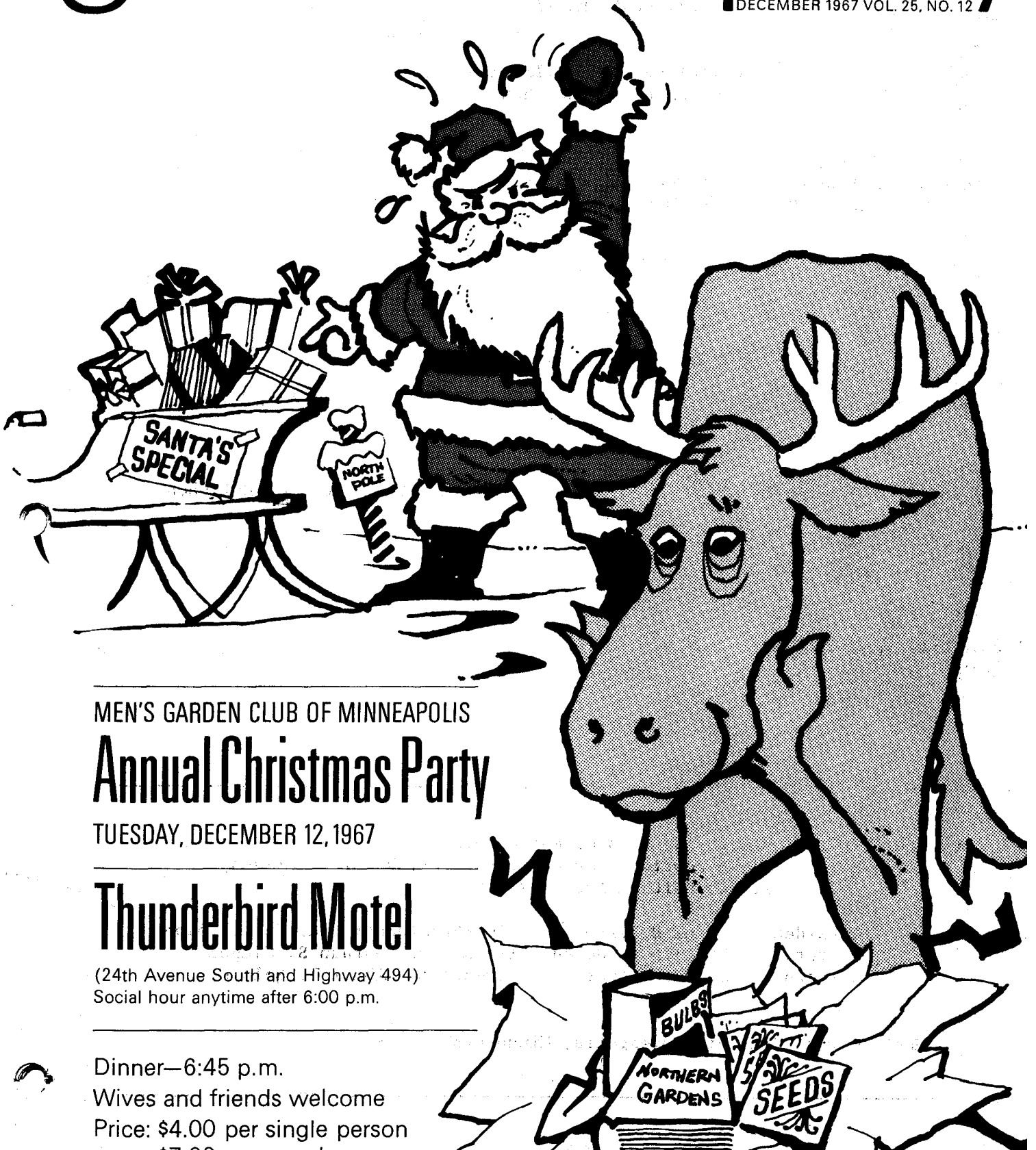


THE garden spray

DECEMBER 1967 VOL. 25, NO. 12



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Annual Christmas Party

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1967

Thunderbird Motel

(24th Avenue South and Highway 494)
Social hour anytime after 6:00 p.m.

Dinner—6:45 p.m.

Wives and friends welcome

Price: \$4.00 per single person

M G C M

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Musical Ensemble Will Play
During the Dinner Hour

6:45 P M Dinner - Navajo Room (2nd floor)
6:00 P M Happy Hour - (By Navajo Room)

MENU

Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup

Tossed Green Salad

Baked Potato

Prime Ribs of Beef

Asparagus, Lemon Butter

Rolls, Beverage, Relishes

Christmas Parfait

Poinsettia plants for the ladies

William H. Hull, Editor, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435
Associate Editors: G. Victor Lowrie, Charles R. Proctor, Harold Kaufmann,
Phillip H. Smith & Archie Flack

Club Officers: President: Frank P. Vixo Vice President: G.R. Christenson
Secretary: Phillip H. Smith Treasurer: Nathan S. Siegel
Director: J. Dale Durst Director: Albert I. Nelson

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YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Frank P. Vixo

Just a reminder that your reservations for the Christmas Party must be in to Nate Siegel before Monday, December 11 so that Dwight Stone can call them in to the Thunderbird. Be sure to include the address section so our roster can include the correct information concerning you.

We welcome two new members whom we hope will be able to attend our Christmas party with us:

Vinton R. Bouslough, 5920 Grass Lake Terrace,
Home phone #823-3409. A meteorologist,
employed by the U. S. Weather Bureau. He
was sponsored by Otto Nelson.

Donald S. Jepsen, 3616 Welcome Ave. N.
Home phone #537-6103. A sheetmetal worker,
employed by the University of Minnesota.
He was sponsored by Nate Siegel.

The regular board meeting will be held at the Vixo residence on Tuesday evening, December 19. All incoming and present members should be present.

On Monday evening, November 20, a number of gardeners met at the home of LeRoy Peterson in Bloomington to discuss the formation of a new garden club. It will be named Sioux Valley Men's Garden Club. The charter membership is still open to those who wish to join. The next meeting will be December 11. This club is being formed under the sponsorship of the North Star Region of whom our own Nate Siegel is President, as you know. The club plans to affiliate with the MGCA.

I have just received from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens their revised "Handbook on Garden Pests." This appears to be a handy reference on the treatment and control of insects as well as some of the cautions during treatment. The price is \$1.25 and can be ordered from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT!

Dec. '67

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Congratulations to President-Elect Bud Christenson and his fine group of officers. We thank them for accepting this 1968 responsibility and can assure them, if they have ever had any doubts, that they will get the wholehearted cooperation of this entire club.

Other incoming officers, who constitute a very fine slate, are: Vice President, Nate Siegel; Secretary, Ed Culbert; Treasurer, Evald Johnson; and two Directors, Dale Durst and Al Nelson.

Dale Durst ran off again with the Grand Trophy at the Flower Show. This must be the third time out of six years that Dale has won this cup. The Grand Champion award was for a foxglove grown by Al Nelson which is the second time Al has won this cup. Good going, gentlemen, and congratulations.

H. H. Groth of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, writes that "1967 was the best MGCA convention that I have attended." Someone in Waterloo in the Cedar Valley MGC bulletin, "Cedar Seeder" also writes: "Never have we seen any more beautiful gardens, experienced any finer hospitality, or tasted finer food." Thank you, friends.

Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey thanks us for a copy of our book "Gardening Lessons We've learned" by saying: "Mrs. Humphrey joins me in thanking you for sending us GARDENING LESSONS WE'VE LEARNED written by members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Mrs. Humphrey will, no doubt, get some good information from this book, and we are pleased to have it. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated."

Science in all fields, including gardening, is moving rapidly. Scientists have found that chicken eggs that have been exposed to continuous beeps of a particular sound wave will hatch out chicks that respond to that sound. The medical field calls this "teratogenics" and a couple of the profession were discussing it at a recent convention. One said, "When my mother was carrying me she used to listen to a cracked Gramophone record, but it didn't affect me, didn't affect me, didn't affect me..."

WANT PART OWNERSHIP OF A TRAILER?

It seems like a good idea. About four to six fellows to own a trailer jointly. Each man to have his own trailer hitch on his own car. An appropriate size for hauling rubbish, manure, etc. Conditions of use set by the owners. We could buy a new one for about \$150 or a new frame for about \$90 and build the box ourselves. Or perhaps a good used one could be located. License, upkeep, if any, and insurance would have to be split equally annually. For a new rig, initial investment for six participants would run \$20 to \$30 each. One of the owners would have to have a place to store it. If interested let me know. Bill Hull

While I was in the hospital for a brief check-up recently, I complained to my doctor that I needed a good simple summer diet to give me more time to work in the garden, requiring less eating time. He threw the question into the computer which so many hospitals have today, asking for an ideal diet which would be low in calories yet provide an ample supply of all the necessary vitamins and minerals. In a few seconds it told him "Take Forty-nine gallons of vinegar." Urp.

WORLD'S RECORD NORWAY PINE FOUND HERE IN MINNESOTA

Two University of Minnesota foresters have found a new world's record Norway pine growing in Itasca state park, it was disclosed recently by the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

The giant specimen was revealed to be 120 feet in height and has a diameter of 37 inches. It has a circumference of 155 inches and a crown spread of 36 feet.

The tree was found by Sidney Frissell and Stephen McCool growing near the point where the Nicollet creek leaves Lake Itasca.

It is 300 years old.

The second tallest Norway found to date is growing in Wisconsin.

CUT FOREST TREE FOR CHRISTMAS? FORGET IT

Anyone thinking of cutting their own Christmas tree in the woods this year might just as well forget it.

The state conservation department today said that in addition to obtaining the written permission of the owner, a half-dozen or so other state laws must be complied with. In fact, the laws on the subject are said to be so numerous and complex that it is said to be far simpler to purchase a tree. The regulations apply whether the tree is growing on private or public lands, according to the Department's division of lands and forestry.

This situation might be affected by the fact that we have a \$6,000,000 Christmas tree harvest here in Minnesota and someone might lose a dollar or two if a fellow took his kids into the woods and cut down a tree.

WANT TO POT AN AMARYLLIS BULB?

According to Mervin Eisel, assistant extension horticulturist of the U. of M., select a pot that is not more than three inches larger in diameter than the bulb itself. Fill the pot with loose, rich, loamy soil. It is desirable to mix the soil with a third portion of well rotted manure. Handle the bulb carefully to avoid damage to the fleshy roots. Place it in the pot so it remains two thirds above the soil. Water the soil immediately after potting.

It is best to store a potted amaryllis bulb in a well ventilated room that does not get colder than sixty degrees Fahrenheit, Eisel says. The soil should be checked frequently, keeping it slightly moist. When the plant is between three to five inches tall, move it into a warm sunny location.

* * * * *

THE MYSTERIOUS, YET DRAMATIC, AT HOME EVERYWHERE, POINSETTIA PLANT

Cozy warmth for a crippled Tiny Tim, hallowed beauty for the church altar, colorful festivity for the family circle -- all this comes holiday wrapped in the mysterious, yet dramatic, poinsettia plant.

Forty years ago, this plant was a bit unpredictable about when it would flower. But, thanks to the tedious study and work of floriculturists, much of the mystery has been taken from the poinsettia. Now, plant specialists can determine to the very day when these plants will bloom.

How? Mostly by regulating the duration of heat and light they get each day. Poinsettias are extremely sensitive plants and require most exacting care. If a poinsettia is sitting on your window sill -- whether it be red, pink, white, variegated or the very rare yellow variety -- you can bet it has experience not only explicitly measured light and temperature but also precise amounts of water, fertilizer, disease preventative, and probably even a growth regulator.

Mexico is the native poinsettia country. It probably contains more legends about the plant than any other spot in the world. One tells of a young poverty-stricken boy who wished very badly to follow the ancient Mexican custom of laying a gift at the side of the statue of the Christ Child on Christmas Eve. But since the boy had nothing to give, he decided, "At least I can pray." So, outside the church window, he knelt and prayed. When he arose, he noticed a beautiful red bloom at his side. Joyously he picked the exquisite flower and placed it at the feet of the Christ Child. Since that time, Mexicans have called the poinsettia "Flor de la Noche Buena," or Flower of the Blessed Night. This living symbol later was brought to the USA (in 1825) by the first U. S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett of Greenville, S.C., and thus from his name, our country named its new plant.

How will plant breeders change or extend the use of the poinsettia plant? They say there are all kinds of colors to develop and all sorts of sizes and shapes. Already there are small ones only a foot high.

To care for your Christmas Poinsettia: As soon as you get a plant, punch a hole in the foil decorating the pot so water can drain out easily. Place in a sunny window in a room from 65 to 70 degrees. At night, move the plant to a cooler area, about 60 degrees. Never let any part of the plant touch a cold window pane or be exposed to cold or hot drafts. Water the plant whenever the soil is dry and always water it enough to soak the soil to the bottom. Never let the plant stand in water. On March 1, gradually reduce watering and keep at sixty degrees. April 15, cut the stems back to six inches above the soil and repot in a bigger container. Water when the soil feels dry and fertilize every two weeks with a complete analysis soluble fertilizer. June 1, take the plant outdoors to a lightly shaded area and continue watering, and fertilizing. Remove top inch of stems every three to four weeks depending upon growth until late August, maintaining 65-70 degrees temperature, and continuing watering, etc. They flower about ten weeks after the daylight shortens to 11 hours a day, so to have the plant in bloom by Christmas, it must be in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. starting October 1 and continuing until Thanksgiving. Flowering will be delayed if the plant is exposed to any light during the 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. period. You can put the plant in a closet or cover it with an opaque box. In the daytime, put the plant near a sunny window.

Brought to our attention by Don Berne and gleaned from the December 1966 issue of OHIO, magazine.
Original article by Jacqueline Ullery.

THE PARABLE OF THE ROSES

The parts of the rosebush were deep in debate
Over who was important and who really great.

Said the bloom to the rest, "I'm better than you.
I'm prettily scented and lovely to view."

"Humph," said the leaves, "you exist on our skill;
You couldn't live long without our chlorophyl."

"You dolts!" cried the stems, "you'd not be around.
We pipe feed and water to you from the ground."

Offended at not having fared quite so well,
The rose shook with rage till her petals all fell.

The leaves turned their backs to the sun and refused
To create the green stuff that everyone used.

The stubborn stems sulked and vowed, "We'll sag or bust!"
Then they sent every bud toppling down in the dust.

Whereupon the roots shut their valves off and said, "Rot!
We quit! Work for such ingrates? No! We will not!"

A bug who had listened and thought well upon it
Said stingingly, "You must have bees in your bonnet;

You all are important, you all must rely
On each part to do its job; else you'll all die.

The weeds will take over and, years hence, who knows?
Mayhap none will ever have heard of a rose!"

..... by Alma Aquiline
Source otherwise unknown

RE: NOVEMBER ARTICLE ON PINK ROSES --- AUTHOR REVEALED

Some one asked who wrote this article. It was a newspaper release
prepared by the All-America Rose Selections, George E. Rose,
Director of Public Relations.

FREE - Come and Get

DOG BED. New metal box size 16 x 26 x 8. Needs pad.

SOIL TESTING KIT. Used but has extra chemicals. Contributed by George Patchin.

10 ft. FLUORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURE with 4 tubes and large metal reflecting sheet to cover it. Also from George Patchin.

For all of the above, see Bill Hull.

GEORGE PATCHIN RETIRES

AND in so doing has passed along his indoor gardening-under-lights set. President Frank Vixo is the lucky recipient and those of us who follow this procedure of growing know he will find it most interesting. There is also a light fixture free for the asking. See above.

SEEDS SPROUT AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS

Canadian botanists have grown normal healthy plants from seeds believed to have lain dormant for thousands of years in Canada's frozen Arctic wastes. These seeds are thought to be older than the giant sequoias in California. In 1951 lotus seeds found near Tokyo were 2,000 years old. They sprouted when planted. The Canadian seeds are Arctic lupines. Today the plants are a year old and indistinguishable from ordinary Arctic lupines. Dr. A. E. Porsild, a botanist at the National Museum of Canada, who directed the plant-growing experiment, said: "It would seem reasonable to predict that seed stored dry and at temperatures well below freezing could remain viable indefinitely."

- Watchtower, Dec. 8, 1967

IN SPOKANE'S NITE CRAWLER, Earl Selle has provided the following very helpful seeding schedule.

<u>INSIDE SEEDING SCHEDULE</u>				
<u>VARIETY</u>	<u>Germination Temperature</u>	<u>Time Before Planting</u>	<u>When to Seed</u>	<u>Safe Planting Date</u>
Snapdragon	54 degrees	10 weeks	Feb.15 to Mar. 1	May 1 to May 15
Coleus	68 to 86	12 "	Feb.15 to Mar. 1	May 15 to June 1
Petunias	68	10 "	Mar. 1 to Mar.15	May 15 to June 1
Lobelia	68 to 86	10 "	Mar. 1 to Mar.15	May 15 to June 1
Peppers	68 to 86	10 "	Mar. 1 to Mar.15	May 15 to June 1
Cabbage	54	6 "	Mar. 1 to Apr.15	Apr.15 to June 1
Lettuce	54	6 "	Mar. 1 to Apr.15	Apr.15 to June 1
Asters	68	8 "	Mar.15 to Apr. 1	May 15 to June 1
Marigolds	68 to 86	8 "	Mar.15 to Apr. 1	May 15 to June 1
Seedling Dahlias	68 to 86	8 "	Mar.15 to Apr. 1	May 15 to June 1
Tomatoes	68 to 86	6 "	Apr. 1 to Apr.15	May 15 to June 1
Zinnias	68 to 86	6 "	Apr. 7 to Apr.21	May 21 to June 5

PLEASE

Spend five cents and give us your studied judgment of THE GARDEN SPRAY.
MAIL THIS BACK TO BILL HULL, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minn. 55435

There are some articles and material which obviously must and should be in each issue of THE GARDEN SPRAY because they are club business, because they must be a matter of permanent record, etc. Although we have just completed a year or two of issues containing many horticultural articles, there are always areas of related information which we wonder whether you find interesting. Realizing that our first areas are club news and horticultural material, we would appreciate your personal reaction to the following articles in this November 1967 issue:

	<u>Very interesting to me personally</u>	<u>Not as interesting but worth including</u>	<u>Just as soon this had been omitted</u>
Notes on talk on Elementary Botany	_____	_____	_____
Solitude is Essential	_____	_____	_____
Garden Design	_____	_____	_____
Pesticides in Our Food	_____	_____	_____
Rose Growers Like Pink	_____	_____	_____
That Cause can neither be Lost nor Stayed	_____	_____	_____

Any suggestions for material for the future, by title or source?

Is there any contribution you would consider making to Spray personally?

Your suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Sign if you wish.