



The Garden Spr

NOTES FROM NATE

Nate Siegel, President

Our last meeting of the year prompts me to extend a number of well-deserved "thank yous" - to Charlie Proctor for an excellent slate of officers and board members - to Merv Eisel for his talk on the Hasta collection - to Vic Lowrie for his information on his experience with his home greenhouse.

This is my final note as president of the club. It has been a rewarding experience to have been associated with the group of fellows in our club during my term in office. A fellowship through gardening is so much a part of our club that we feel enriched through it. This is well expressed in the thank you notes from the spouse of Glen Cerney and Harold Kaufmann. The note from Mildren Kaufmann reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Siegel: Harold has asked me to tell you how much he appreciates the beautiful plant he received from the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. The club has meant a lot to him for some twenty years and I know of nothing that he has enjoyed more than the many friendships it has brought him with fellow-gardeners. He has asked that you tell them how grateful he is for their thinking of him."

The note from Garnet Cerney does express much of what Mildren has written. It is nice to know that both Harold and Glen are doing nicely.

Hope to see all of you at the Christmas party. You will enjoy a good program that Rog Anderson and his committee has planned.

CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATIONS

If you have not made your reservations, please mail them to Dave Johnson, 1633 Xerxes Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55411. It might also be a good idea to call him to tell him they are in the mail. Tickets are \$6.50 per person.

The Christmas party is the regular Tuesday - DECEMBER 9, at the Sheraton Motor Inn on Highway 494, near the Thunderbird. A prime rib dinner, singing entertainment and fun and frolic for all. How about a turnout to set a record--but reservations must be made. December 2 is the rough deadline for those reservations. Beyond that, consult with Dave to see if it's possible.

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OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

APOLOGIES to Rog Anderson and Otto Nelson - whom I said are our Directors and asked for a report on the North Star Region. Of course they are our directors, but are not North Star Region Delegates. Those people are Verner Carlson and Dale Durst. I transposed two sets of names from the front of the October Spray in asking for this report. No harm intended, fellows, but what is happening to the North Star?

AL NELSON, Ed Culbert says the chemicals you want are probably available from a chemical supply house, such as those that supply schools and other institutions. Perhaps you can get together to find those items you need.

Slugit, we understand can be obtained from Gurney Seed Co., Yankton, S. D., according to our friend and fellow editor, F. A. C. McCulla, of Houston, Texas. Thanks, Mac. Many of you fellows have met Mac, an outstanding bulletin editor and MGCA leader for years.

MGCA national headquarters is being beautifully headed up by Harold J. Parnham who insists he is "only acting executive secretary." Seems to be doing a good job. One local bulletin editor has spoken up publicly about this executive secretary situation, speaking without knowing what he's talking about, which is too bad. Even I, as a past national president of MGCA, don't know all the problems involved and sometimes things just can't and shouldn't be discussed in print. As Vice President Spiro Agnew said.....

The Green Thumb certificates to be awarded at the Christmas Party were prepared so beautifully for us last year by Vern Carlson and Vern has offered to letter in the names this year. Again, thanks, Vern.

Bruce Warner tells us that he was looking for some filler to place at the bottom of a seed bed and used sea shells. The results were so astounding that he started grinding up sea shells and finds them superb as a base for seedlings. Anyone have an idea of why this is such a good combination? Aeration, avoiding drying off, iodine content, chemical constituents?

A SPECIAL COMMENDATION.....

to the Colorado 1969 convention committee. We've just received a final report of this convention and, financially, it was most successful. MGCA will receive a total of \$3,428.91 from this group. A trip by bus to Estes Park had to be changed due to the inability of the bus company to furnish proper busses and the resulting saving was passed on directly to the MGCA office and Equipment Fund - in the amount of \$2,199.24. Then the excess of income over expenditures for the convention was \$2,459.34, half of which goes to MGCA, giving MGCA an additional \$1,299.24, which is in the same ballpark as what we sent a year before that. This deserves a whole series of hallelujahs--particularly since all the attendants raved about the excellent convention anyway. I'm sure all of us here in Minnesota are glad to have our new record of 1968 broken by such a large attendance and we congratulate our Colorado friends.

MAY THE BIRD OF PARADISE LET ENOUGH RAIN FALL ON YOU IN 1970

"A one inch rainfall is nearly six gallons of water a square yard, about 25,000 gallons of water." ¹

This means for every 1,000 square feet of land you have, a one inch rainfall provides you with 212 gallons of water.

It also opens the door to other possibilities. Supposing you wanted to catch and save some of that rain. A 1,000 square foot roof surface would, again, provide you with 212 gallons of water every time an inch of rain fell. This could very easily be caught in a container at the end of a downspout and pumped to a tank on a high spot of your land. This writer could save 500 gallons of soft water, supposedly nitrogen rich, and obviously without the chemicals of hard water from our wells or public systems. I could pump it into a ground level tank atop my hill and use it on roses and vegetables.

Is there any place in today's world for a cistern? Should we be thinking of saving this water? One of the problems we hear so much about today is the waste of run-off water which leaves our state and goes literally down the river.

¹Source of quotation: Science and Saving Water and Soil, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Bulletin, #324.

ADDENDA

Conservation bit: A deer shiner fled the state a year ago to avoid penalties, recently re-entered the state, was fined \$600, plus having a \$220 rifle confiscated and a \$1,000 automobile confiscated.

Outdoors news: The Minnesota Conservation Department will maintain and staff 32 parks this winter for snowmobile recreation, 14 of which have been closed heretofore in the winter. Within these parks will be 700 (seven hundred) miles of established snowmobile trails.

Oriental garden: Anheuser-Busch officials have announced that they will build an \$11 million Oriental Garden in Houston, including a zoological garden featuring Asian animals and birds. The complex will be two gardens. A large garden and zoo area will cover about 30 acres. A smaller garden with animals and other displays. Completion by 1971. We should be green with envy or radiant with joy. We should also get some Minnesota industry off the stick to consider some such activities for us.

Cover of this issue: Designed and created by Bill Hull. Expensive paper stock donated by a friendly letter house. Reproduced at special rates by another friendly letter house.

Dues: Please get your 1970 dues in as soon as possible.

PHIL SMITH HEADS NEW OFFICERS FOR 1970

We have a new set of officers, fellows, in case you missed the November meeting....as fine a group of leaders as we've ever had. Our new president is Phillip H. (Phil) Smith, who has been moved up from VP 1969. Our new VP is David W. Johnson (Dave) who moves up from Treasurer. Roger Anderson (Rog) becomes our new Secretary, Vernon Roufs (Vern) our new Treasurer, and Manly Jackson and Clifton Brisco (Clif) our new Directors.

We congratulate ourselves for having such a fine group of leaders and thank them for accepting these big jobs. Somebody once said "Forget the status quo. That's past history. It's been done. Let's try a fistful of new ideas." Always good advice to consider when you're stepping into a new job.

AND THANK YOU NATE SIEGEL AND OTHER 1969 OFFICERS

They have been a fine bunch of men and have worked hard for us--and we thank them. Along with Nate and Phil and Dave and Rog, whom we've mentioned, there are fellows like that great secretary Ed Culbert, that fine Director Otto Nelson and now Bud Christenson fades off the board as a second year-back past president. Fellows, it's not your editor's role necessarily to thank you but maybe the rest of the gang will let me say it for them: "Thank you very much. All you've done is appreciated. Now, what job do you want for 1970?"

MUCH TALK ABOUT THE RUPTURED TULIP LETTERHEAD

A few years ago under President Joe Howland, MGCA had free counsel and art design from a famous letterhead designer and came up with a new letterhead which the board thought more in keeping with today's trends, than the old letterhead. This is nothing new. Firms all over the country have been updating such things as the stationery. So MGCA wanted to do it too and had the authority. Some way or another this came up on the floor at the Colorado convention and the delegates voted to let it out after a couple of years use and go back to the old tried and true. I for think this is a shame. It seems to me this is the sort of responsibility we all to the board and let them decide it for us. Surely the delegates should have had more important things to work on--such as our role in beautification, our role in pollution, what is the future of MGCA as a group, why in the devil it is so hard for a group to grow. I've never believed in giving a person a job and then over seeing them on little details--and that's a minor detail to my way of thinking.
(Bill Hull)

FRITZ HOLZMAN'S 1969 ROSE PRODUCTION

Fritz keeps records of the number of blooms on his roses. This year he had 456, 789, 345, 547, 789, 222, 456, 788½ rose blooms. Or something like that. Little Darling was first with 612 blooms, followed by Duet (tree) with 504 and Carrouse with 415. The year's production was 8784 blooms with July being the peak month with 3853. The average rose this year produced 124 blooms. The bushes planted in 1967, 68 and 69 ran from 39 to 51 blooms per bush this year, while the peak production this year was from 7 roses planted in 1963, which averaged 229 blooms per bush. If you wish, we can reproduce this portion of his tabulation. Very interesting.

MEMORIES OF A CHRISTMAS OF LONG AGO

by Art Johnson

Immediately after Thanksgiving Mother started to prepare for that most glorious day of the year--Christmas Eve. The first item of business was the preparation of sausages - potato, barley, beef and pork and several other varieties. The ingredients were cut into small pieces and then put through a grinder. From the grinder the ingredients were stuffed into casings. The sausages were then packed in large jars and stored in the woodshed. There were no refrigerators in those days.

Now it was time to make the many kinds of Christmas cookies - "Krum Kaka" - "Rosettes" - "Ginger Cookies." This was always a great day for us kids when we came home from school for testing and munching the several kinds of cookies. Supper time was just a case of sitting at the table as our tummies were bulging with cookies.

The next item of business was the addressing of Christmas cards. Each of us had our own list--the kids at school--and Mother and Dad their long list of friends at the Lutheran church and the relatives. We kids prepared most of our cards at school and just addressed and signed the cards. For Mother this was a more tedious job since she wrote little notes of Christmas cheer and thoughts on each card. Many of our friends looked forward to receiving Mother's cards to read.

The day Dad would come home with a freshly cut Christmas tree also was a memorable one. Now was the time to decorate the house and the tree. We strung cranberries and popcorn for the tree and for home decorations. Real candles were attached to the tree branches, something unheard of these days. We also made home spun decorations, each depicting a symbol of Christmas.

With all the activities in preparing for Christmas, we kids had to study for the church Christmas Eve program. This entailed many hours of study and practice, as Mother would never tolerate anything but perfection. However, there was a great deal of fun in getting together at church with the other kids for rehearsal followed by refreshments.

The "Day before Christmas and All Thru the House" - with not a creature stirring was not true in our house as Mother was baking bread - Rye - Graham - nut bread and Plum Puddings. I can still smell the exotic aroma of the kitchen and can see the red hot stove in which Mother prepared the goodies.

That wonderful day finally arrived - Christmas Eve! The jingle of sleigh bells in the street and the merry greetings of "Merry Christmas to you" rang all through the little town under a moonlit sky and the crunch of crystal white snow. Christmas Eve--that glorious day of the year--was here.

Christmas Eve was a ritual at our house. Dinner at 4:30 - lutefisk - sausage - white potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberries - baked brown beans - vegetable salad several kinds of bread and plum pudding. At 7:30 we went to church for the program. The big Christmas tree was beautifully decorated and lit with real candles. On each side of the tree stand, a deacon stood with a bucket of water in case of fire. Each child received a package of candy.

After the services we ran home to dig into the packages under the Christmas tree trains - cars - blocks - games - books - and mittens for everyone.

(more)

Mother now brought out the cookies and coffee and orange juice.

Well, Christmas Eve has come and gone and with tummies full we kids trundled into bed to dream of another Christmas. Merry Christmas to all.

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS? It is hoped that the monthly programs serve as a horticulturally enriching experience for us. We find meaning in our gathering to express and share a common interest (tours, flower shows, Christmas party, etc.); but in today's busy world any organization which exists because of man's desire to seek creative enjoyment and expression of his leisure time must serve the needs of its people.

The programs are planned so that we may draw on outside resources to gain new ideas, share the expertise that exists within the group, and hopefully provide an atmosphere where information and enthusiasm for gardening may be shared at many levels - as a total group, in smaller bull sessions, and one to one.

Program topics for this year were set up and arranged by the January meeting with the hope that by focusing on the total year we could strive for meaningful subject and enough diversity to at one time or another meet the varied interests that exist in an organization of this size.

I think that the organization of the year's programs at the beginning of the year tends to promote club stability and confidence of the members in the leadership and well being of the club.

I agree with Bill's comments last month regarding a general decline in clubbing when clubbing is merely social. However, I think there is also a very positive side to this situation, which we need to express. If a club merely drains the time of its members, they may find a better way to use and express their leisure time, particularly unless they have a very strong attraction or love for the organization. Therefore, we must strive to be a giving organization rather than one that only demands from its members and potential members. I believe that with the increased use of leisure time, a club must examine and emphasize the benefits and opportunities for educational growth and enrichment which the club has to offer. If the membership and horticultural community recognize the many things we have to offer to satisfy and develop their interests, I believe this club will continue to be a strong organization. However, we must be a giving group and not merely a taking group demanding time from our people. One way to do this is to have good programs. It will help us to know what you want for program topics.

If we offer programs that are stimulating and exciting, then we have something to offer to our own members as well as the horticultural community. If we have something to give to someone's use of their leisure time and not demand from their time, then we will all grow in several ways.

Please let us have your thoughts or program suggestions for next year within the next few days because the program committee has been busy already in outlining our programs for 1970.

Phil Smith