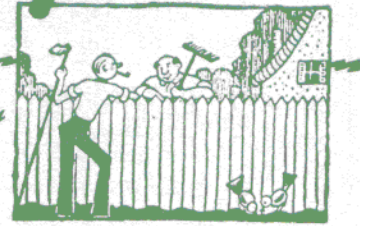




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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Club Officers:	President: Grant Christenson	Vice President: Nate Siegel
	Secretary: Ed Culbert	Treasurer: Evald Johnson
	Director: Dale Durst	Director: Al Nelson

## LUCKY THIRTEENTH BRINGS TOP PROGRAM

Our February 13 meeting will again be at the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 50th and Knox Ave. S., at 6 p.m., dinner at \$2.00. Vice-President Nate Siegel makes his debut as program chairman with a top-notch program, featuring:

### THE 1968 INTRODUCTIONS

ANNUALS  
(Bruce Johnstone)

ROSES  
(Carl Holst)

DAYLILIES & CLEMATIS  
(Dick Lehman)



### A SPECIAL SALUTE TO HENRY BACHMAN

No special occasion. Just an overdue recognition of our good friend and charter member who has contributed much of himself in friendship and garden lore. A man who will be embarrassed by these remarks; a successful father to Lloyd, Stan and Ralph; a successful florist; he has still retained his Man of the Soil philosophy. For his patience and understanding, his practical knowledge, we

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OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

A special thank you to Frank Vixo and his team of 1967 officers. Under Frank's very capable leadership, we have had an outstanding year and I'm sure the sentiment of each of us is one of thanks and appreciation.

Special congratulations to the MGC of Sarasota, Florida, which, in its infinite wisdom, elected Cortis N. Rice, Jr., it's new vice president. Good going, Cortis!

A Few Notes Regarding the National Board Meeting, January 13

Ed Graupmann and Bill Hull, national directors, went to Des Moines to attend the annual January board meeting, at which time the new 1968 officers were installed, headed by Stan Munro of Syracuse, New York. Dwight Stone and all three men's wives had planned to attend, but a severe midwestern storm and Dwight's being bedridden with a cold, changed plans considerably.

Bill Hull presented the MGCA-Minneapolis Convention, Inc. check to president, Joe Howland, as this was discussed at our MGC Mpls January meeting. This was pointedly done in Dwight's behalf explaining why he had been forced to change plans at last minute and explaining it was done in the club's name. The board of directors expressed its amazement and great appreciation to MGCM for its successful venture and in many different individual conversations, laudatory remarks toward the club were made.

The plans for the new headquarters building were approved. It has been decided to build a basement instead of a slab building. Construction will be started as soon as weather permits and the official move will be next fall, although the new executive secretary, Guy Chichester, will be setting up Des Moines temporary headquarters right away. Official dedication of the building will be at the Des Moines convention in 1970, at Des Moines' request. The MGC of Des Moines is actually building this building, raising money locally, and presenting it to MGCA with a free title and deed, free of all encumbrances, leins, mortgages, etc. The architect, Jerry Griffith, has been a member of the MGC Des Moines for twenty years and is contributing his efforts.

The building will be a modest building of slightly over 1,000 square feet, built of brick, designed for expansion, on a two-acre lot at the north edge of town, air-conditioned, on land given by the Pioneer Seed Company. Landscaping will also be provided at no charge by members of the Des Moines club and others of that community. So it is all being done without MGCA funds, except for moving the national office there and, of course, there will be funds needed to furnish the building. Many clubs are already indicating they want to participate in that effort.

It was a most satisfying meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

I plan to use elephant manure fertilizer on my young crabapple trees this spring. I understand it grows large trunks.

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RETIRING PRESIDENT FRANK VIXO SUMMARIZES 1967

Many of us will remember 1967 as the year that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis sponsored the National Convention of MGCA for the second time. We were assisted by the Men's Garden Clubs of Richfield and Minnetonka. Convention highlights included tours of MGCM industrial award winners, tours of members gardens, forums on gardening topics and the impressive "Parade of Turkeys" dinner at which general chairman, Dwight Stone, presided. However, the chief benefit to our club was the manner in which the membership worked together to the success of the cause and the greater understanding of one another which resulted. Incidentally, there remained about \$2,000 which we shared with MGCA as agreed.

President Joe Howland of MGCA was so pleased with the convention that he returned to our October meeting to show and express his appreciation.

The practice of having a flower show as a part of each meeting during the growing months was observed again this year. At the National Convention there was also a flower show at which many of our members displayed some ribbon winning specimens.

A very successful Big Pumpkin Contest and Sunflower Contest under the leadership of Dale Durst was held again this year. Glen Koopmans, son of member, Roger Koopmans, raised the largest sunflower, 21½", and Brad Smith, son of member, Bob Smith, displayed the second largest pumpkin at 100 pounds, just 4½ pounds less than the winner by Rickie Stark of Princeton, Minnesota.

"The Garden Spray" again won recognition by MGCA as an outstanding publication and our appreciation is due Bill Hull for his continuing efforts to make it so.

During the year and in the past articles on gardening were written by our members. A number of these were collected from "The Garden Spray" and published under the title "Gardening Lessons We've Learned." A copy was placed in each convention packet of MGCA member.

An attempt was made by the club to sponsor the raising of funds to provide lighting for the Lyndale Rose Gardens. Opposition to the project by residents near the project caused it to be reconsidered and abandoned after considerable ground work had been done.

As pointed out in the treasurer's report, our finances are in an improved status even without taking recognition of the gain from the convention. Best of all, we are a better club for having another year together - learning more about one another as well as gardening.

\* \* \*

GOURD GROWERS

Anyone have room to spare to grow some large gourds? Have seed from a dandy one, which is somewhat pumpkin shaped and very nice. Also seed from the large dipper variety. See Bill Hull.

1967 SECRETARY PHIL SMITH'S ANNUAL REPORT

The secretary prepared minutes of all of the regular monthly meetings for the year, as well as the monthly board meetings of the club. The secretary also kept the attendance and membership records, and attended to the correspondence on behalf of the club.

The following men were elected to membership during 1967: Henry Halvorson, Westen H. Anderson, Donald C. Olson, John A. Roberts, Robert W. Ruhe, R. Leslie Manecke, Donald L. Peterson, Donal O'Donnell, Roger J. Anderson, Donald Jepsen, and Vinton Bouslough, for a total of 11 new members. During the year, Andy Nyberg and C. G. Harkings passed away. Their places are not easily filled.

Awards for the year went to the following men:

Bronze Medal	-	Al Nelson
Queen of the Show (Foley Award)	-	Al Nelson
Blackbourn Trophy	-	Vern Carlson
Lehman Trophy	-	Bud Christenson
President's Trophy (Cohen Award)	-	Dwight Stone

Perfect attendance (Green Thumb) was recorded as follows: Bud Christenson (7 years); Bill Swanson (6 years); Dwight Stone (4 years); Archie Flack, Evald Johnson and Charlie Proctor (3 years for each); Les Johnson, Nate Siegel and Dale Durst (2 years each); and the following for one year: Jack Peterson, Al Nelson, Sherm Pinkham, P. W. Young, Bill Cowcill, Vern Carlson, and Frank Vixo.

Newly elected officers for 1968 are as follows:

President	-	Grant R. Christenson
Vice-President	-	Nathan S. Siegel
Secretary	-	Ed Culbert
Treasurer	-	Evald Johnson
Director	-	Dale Durst
Director	-	Al Nelson

As of December 31, 1967, our roster included 3 honorary members, 68 active or regular members, 22 professional members, 15 associate members, and 3 Spray, only, members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your secretary for the past year.

\* \* \* \* \*

HELP! PHIL'S PHEET ARE PHREEZING. HELP!

Who has his overshoes? Probably you. Someone took them mistakenly at the January meeting and left a pair of size 9s, which are too small. Phil's are zippered, size 10, has his name and telephone number inside.

Please check yours at once! This is the third pair Phil has lost this winter.

Yes, Phil's pheet are phreezing and phrostbitten phrom too much

1967 EXPENSES AND 1968 BUDGET

Income:

	1967 <u>Actual</u>	1968 <u>Budgeted</u>
Dues	\$1014.00	\$1100.00
Plant Auction	260.55	250.00
Interest	114.97	115.00
Christmas Party	518.00	-
Miscellaneous	<u>658.70</u>	100.00
	\$2566.22	
Transferred from Convention Fund		<u>800.00</u>
		\$2365.00

Expenses:

The Garden Spray	\$269.26	300.00
Christmas Party	881.04*	100.00
Programs & Shows	69.04	75.00
Arboretum	300.00	300.00
Minn. Hort. Society	203.00	200.00
Mens Garden Clubs of America	265.00	265.00
Industrial Awards	22.03	25.00
Cheer	12.15	50.00
Miscellaneous	100.54	250.00
Transferred from Convention Fund:		
Attendance 1968 MGCA Convention		200.00
Uncommitted Convention Fund		<u>600.00</u>
	<u>\$2122.60</u>	\$2365.00
Net to surplus	<u>443.62</u>	
	\$2566.22	

*See file  
sp*

\*Does not reflect additional Christmas Party expense of about \$60.00.

Balance Sheet 12/31/67

Assets:

Cash in bank	\$946.25
Cash on hand	5.55
Savings	2512.06
Inventory (estimated)	100.00
	<u>\$3563.86</u>

*omit from cas  
condi.  
3463.86*

Liabilities:

1968 memberships collected in 1967	\$ 705.00
Surplus	<u>2858.86</u>
	<u>\$3563.86</u>

*2758.86*

Statistics hereon drawn from report of Treasurer, N. S. Siegel, 1968 President Bud Christenson's budget. Audited by committee of Ewald Johnson, Elwood Swanson and Dave Johnson, Chairman.

### TIME OF TRANSPLANTING \*

It is generally recommended that transplanting or pricking off seedlings is done as soon as the first true leaves appear. By this time a good root system has developed. As a seed germinates the cotyledons or seedling leaves first appear. After that the plant sends out its first true leaves which will develop the true or normal shape of the leaf of the plant. If left too long and allowed to develop pairs of true leaves, plants will become tall and will suffer a more serious shock after transplanting. Transplanting too deep invites rot and at least will delay the take-off of the seedling. There is no substitute for experience.

#### Temperatures:

Most plants, and particularly the garden annuals that we might be growing, require a night temperature lower than the prevailing day temperature to produce the most desirable plant. The professional grower has no difficulty in providing such change. Any temperatures mentioned here are night temperatures. Many professional growers must produce a desirable plant in a relative short period, and grow at night temperature as high as 60 degrees. Many varieties will develop at this temperature into plants too tall and soft to be of first-class quality by the middle of May. Professional growers who force their plants under such high night temperatures, move them in April into cooler night temperatures; in many cases into cold frames, harden the plants just enough and somehow tend to make a lot more bushy plant with more side breaks. Other growers will keep the plants at 50-degree night temperature, and produce good plants. The cost, of course, is an important point with commercial growers. Very few professional growers can afford to grow plants at 40-degree night temperature, simply because the plants occupy the bench for so many more weeks.

However, it is quite possible for us amateurs who raise our own plants under lights in the basement where it is impossible to provide lower night temperatures, to raise excellent plants by the simple plan of installing a heated cold frame which is in effect a hotbed with the thermostat set at 40 degrees. The move from the basement to the hotbed can be made after the seedlings are pricked off and established. The writers own hotbed is usually in operation by early March. If properly constructed it will maintain the temperature at which the thermostat is set. Have known the outside temperature to be 5 below zero and inside temperature maintained. Growing at this temperature, plants are kept on the dry side and feeding is light. The plants, of course, grow slowly, are typically hard with good, thick leaves, bushy plants with many side breaks. Such plants will transplant readily into the border in spring; in fact, the hardy annuals can be planted out in early May. This results in earlier flowers.

#### Time of Sowing:

In a general way, one must figure three to four weeks from sowing until ready to transplant into flats or packs. If you propose growing your plants with 40-degree night temperature, your seeding should start in January and be completed by the end of February or early March. This, of course, applies to the regular run of our annuals. There are a few exceptions, some of which were covered in the previous article. Biennials and perennials that can be sown outside in the spring, might be started inside under better controlled conditions; these, of course, can be sown inside under the lights in late March and April.

Time of Transplanting \*  
(continued)

If you do not have proper facilities for growing of annuals, do not attempt it. There are many good annuals that can be sown directly into the border and these will be dealt with in a later article. Again, there is no substitute for experience. Your own facilities will be a factor in determining your sowing dates but these comments may assist you.

Soil Mixtures and Blends for Growing Good Plants:

Some home gardeners buy their soil ready mixed from local greenhouses. Many different soil mixtures and blends can grow good plants. Some of the reasons for failure are -

- A) Poor aeration. Soil hard and lacking in good open and porous structure. The tipoff here is as plants are watered, the water should quickly soak into the soil and drain out the bottom. If it does not, trouble is coming.
- B) High Salts. Simply a case of the soil solution concentration being so high that the plant is unable to get the water and nutriment it needs. Growth slows, hardens. Typical causes, very hard water supply, too heavy fertilizer, aggravated by a poorly drained soil.
- C) A variety of other impurities can get into soil. If soil was skimmed from a vegetable patch on which weed killer was used, which unfortunately came in with the soil, the soil would be contaminated.

With our garden soil in this area, a good mixture can be made with two parts of good garden soil screened, one part of humus screened (This can be from the compost pit, well rotted manure, or peat.) and one part of washed sand. If the garden soil is on the sandy side, less sand should be used. Perlite or vermiculite could be used in place of sand. The intent is to make the soil porous.

\* Geo. J. Ball, Inc., publishes "The Ball Red Book" for the professional grower, and has given THE GARDEN SPRAY special permission to use that copyrighted material. We are indebted to Archie Flack for reviewing and adapting this material to the home gardener's use and Archie expresses his indebtedness to the "Red Book" for information and ideas used in this series. This material may not be further reproduced without written permission of the editor thereof.

**GARDEN LOAFERS WANTED**

If loafing around this summer appeals to you -- after possibly consuming barbecued meat, fried chicken, corn on the cob, home made soup, maybe a cold beer, let Bill Hull know of your interest right away. The first six are winners.

### PRESIDENT BUD'S GREETINGS

Thank you for your confidence in electing me president of our club for 1968. It is, indeed, a real privilege to head an organization of the caliber of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. During the time I have been calling to fill the committees for 1968 and requesting men to chair them, I am again reminded of the co-operation and spirit among our members that makes our club great. Please remember that your president and members of the board function to serve you, and with your help, our club will continue to grow. Please help us by offering your suggestions.

We welcome our newest member, Harold Dickinson, in to the club. He presently resides at 4652 Vincent Ave S., Minneapolis; however, he is moving shortly to his new residence at 175 Otis, St. Paul. He is employed by the University of Minnesota as gardener at the residence of President Malcom Moos. He was sponsored by Cliff Brisco.

A committee chaired by Les Johnson has been appointed to study and make recommendations to the membership regarding a flower show or shows for 1968. Members of this committee are: Otto Erickson, Henry Halvorson, Bob Smith, Evald Johnson, Verne Carlson, Charlie Proctor, and myself. Your suggestions will be appreciated by this committee.

We need your attendance at our meetings. We must guarantee a minimum of 50 dinners to keep our meeting place. Good attendance at meetings mean an active club. Those that missed in January lost out on the second lecture (The Stem) of a series on "The Plant" by Leon Snyder. Nate Siegel has a good program planned for this meeting. Mark February 13 on your calendar now!

### Dayton Preview Party to Benefit Arboretum

Thursday evening, March 7, the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society are sponsoring the Dayton Preview Party for the benefit of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The affair will last from 6:30 to 8:30 and will take place within the Dayton Flower Show in the Minneapolis 8th floor auditorium. Tickets are priced at \$7.50 individually, \$15.00 per couple. All proceeds will be given to the Arboretum.

Sounds like a swell way to support arboretum and enjoy spring early. I hope our club is well represented. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vixo will officially represent our club as host and hostess.