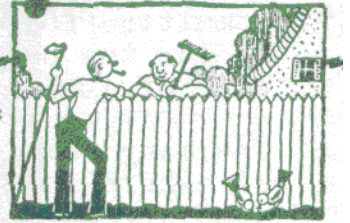




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

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© 1969, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota
William H. Hull, Editor, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435
Edwin C. Culbert, Assistant Editor. Associate Editors: Archie
Flack, Harold Kaufmann, Vic Lowrie, Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith.

Club Officers: President - Nate Siegel Vice President - Phil Smith
Secretary - Ed Culbert Treasurer - Dave Johnson
Director - Roger Anderson Director - Otto Nelson

JANUARY 14 MEETING

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church - 6 P.M. - Dinner for \$2.00

"Evergreens for Minnesota" a talk by Robert Melstrom of Bachman's.
Come prepared with any questions you may care to ask this speaker.

Year end reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. These
have always been most interesting and succinctly presented. You
will want to hear these.

Installation of new officers headed by President-Elect Nate Siegel.
The entire 1969 board is identified above.

A Challenge to Each of Us

We have openings for new members. We need them and welcome interested
men. Probably they should be younger men to balance the scales against
some of us who aren't so young. Not only can we perpetuate our club
but share our gardening interest and also learn from others. This
writer would say that gardening enthusiasm is the prime requisite
for membership. Ability will come if he has the enthusiasm. Let's
fill up our club and get in those men. Let's return to the days of
a wait list - when interested and qualified men came to the meetings
for months in a row as their own guests before the actual opening
was available. Our club has lots to offer.

See Last Page for President Bud's Remarks

We've moved retiring Bud Christenson to the last page this month
to give him the "last word" after a year of hard work and superb
leadership. We all thank you and your board, Bud, for your hours
of work for our club.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

By Bill Hull

A wonderful Christmas party and we thank Sherm Pinkham and his committee for such a good job. For this fellow's money, that was by far the best meal we have had at the Thunderbird, surpassing mine of 1967 by a mile at the same place.

The many award recipients were truly deserving - we acknowledge them elsewhere in this issue so won't repeat some now. Frank Vixo presented retiring president Grant Christenson with a pin signifying membership in the Past President's Club. Dick Lehman and Leon Snyder were recognized as tie winners of Mr. Congeniality awards, Bill Hull presented Green Thumb awards - and six others are shown elsewhere.

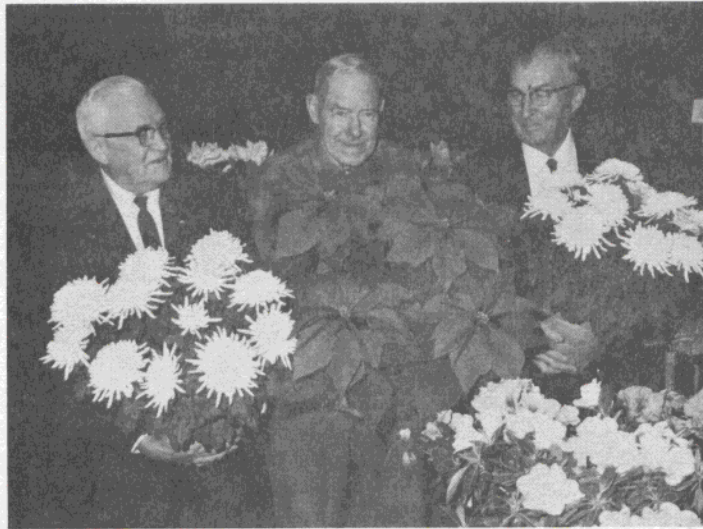
Green Thumb awards are presented for perfect attendance during the year, including the Christmas party. We have had this activity for ten years, during which time 43 different members have been recognized. In those ten years, there are eight men who have a total of 55 years attendance, but not necessarily all consecutive years, and when a meeting is missed (and not made up by attendance at another Men's Garden Club) one starts over. Bob Smith, for example, has had perfect attendance for seven of the ten years, yet this year, because the string was broken, he started over with a first year thumb. Just for the record, in the past ten years, Bud Christenson, Les Johnson and Dwight Stone have eight years of perfect attendance; Bob Smith, Bill Swanson and P. W. Young have seven; Archie Flack and Charlie Proctor have five. These are the recordholders.

Green Thumb Certificates went this year to: Bud Christenson, 8 yrs; Bill Swanson, 7 yrs; Dwight Stone, 5 yrs; Evald Johnson, 4 yrs; Dale Durst, Les Johnson and Nate Siegel, 3 yrs; Jack Peterson, Sherm Pinkham and P. W. Young, 2 yrs; and Paul Burt, Otto Nelson and Bob Smith, 1 yr. 13 winners this year.

P. W. Young is off to California by now, having left the day after our party. A good winter to you, P. W. We will all miss you.

The new national office of MGCA is open and occupied! Recently I went by there enroute Kansas City to Minneapolis, at 6 P.M. and Guy Chichester, executive secretary, and dear wife, were moving in. It is an attractive building, which you should make an attempt to see. It is simple to locate, being north of Des Moines at the intersection of Freeway #80 and Merle Hay Road. Anyone driving from Minneapolis to Des Moines, or Minneapolis to Kansas City, should go right by it. Just exit at Merle Hay Road, and go north less than one mile. The legal address is 5560 N.W. Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, 50323.

Many of you know W. O. Ezell who has done so much nationally on city beautification. His local work in his home town of Spartanburg, S.C. has brought that city so many national beautification awards, one can't count them. You probably met Walt at the Minneapolis convention. Well - he had a big surprise recently, when the S.C. State Highway Commission renamed Spartanburg's West Main Street to "W. O. Ezell Boulevard". One of the many honors he has received, we congratulate W. O. Ezell of 890 W. O. Ezell Boulevard, Spartanburg,



HONORARY MEMBERS

Elected to honorary membership, by petition of the active members, were these three honored gentlemen: all Charter Members of our club - 26 years ago. Walter Quist, Henry Bachman and Walter Menzel, we honor and thank you.



THREE MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

Sherm Pinkham, Bronze Medal, "for outstanding services to our club."
Thor Solem, Lehman Gardens Trophy, "for most improvement in his garden during the year." Also Queen of the Show cup, for the third time!
Charlie Proctor, President's Cup, "for outstanding presidential assistance."
Three more deserving men couldn't be found. Congratulations from all of us!

Thor Solem - Good Gardener

Although we carried Dale Durst's photo as sweepstakes winner of the show this summer, we never got a chance to get Thor's in THE GARDEN SPRAY for several reasons. Of course you all know that Thor won the "Queen of the Show" cup this summer. This is the cup formerly known as the Tom Foley cup, for best specimen in the show. Thor is shown elsewhere in this issue with his Lehman Gardens Trophy for most improvement in his garden this year. We congratulate you, Thor. It's been a winning year for you! This is the third time he has won the Queen of the Show cup.

Forgive Us....

for adding something to THE GARDEN SPRAY which is not gardening by nature. We rarely do this, but we thought you would appreciate this most unusual statement made by Bob Roberts of Honolulu:

"I've had it up to here with persons who are trying deliberately to tear my country apart and it's way past time to throw at me that tired old wheeze about being a flag-waver. You're damned right I'm a flag-waver and I got the right to be one the hard way. I have had it with pubescent punks, wallowing in self-pity, who make a display of deploring their birth into a world which - to use their sissy expression - they didn't make. Well, I didn't make the world I was born in either and neither did the men who are worthy of respect. They just went about and made something out of it.

"...I've had it with people who are setting about deliberately to rip up mankind's noblest experiment in decency and I'm going to tell you something. If you think you're going to tear down my country's flag and destroy the institutions my friends and members of my family have fought and died for, you're going to have to climb over me first....And, buddy, you'd better get up awfully early in the morning."

THE GARDEN SPRAY staff

As some of you know, the editor offered his resignation from THE GARDEN SPRAY but has been prevailed upon to continue. The purpose was increased work duties along with the thought that any club's bulletin needs fresh ideas from new personnel and that ours would so benefit too. We welcome to our staff Ed Culbert as Assistant Editor whose abilities should be of real help to us. Charlie Proctor, who has been so valuable in many unknown ways, remains, as do Harold Kaufmann, Archie Flack and Phil Smith, the group which so expertly spearheaded a lot of good articles in 1967. We are hoping they can do the same for us in 1969. Vic Lowrie, former editor, also remains. There really is no reason we cannot change personnel at any given time. We welcome your help and suggestions. We particularly want personal membership information and gardening know-how techniques and experiences.

HORT SOCIETY LIBRARY AVAILABLE TO YOU

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, St. Paul Campus, U. of Minn., St. Paul, Minn 55101----

has available a good supply of books which may be borrowed by Society members, under certain conditions. They may be used in the Society office or borrowed by mail at a cost of ten cents per book in coin or stamps for postage. A second choice or substitute book should be provided. The maximum loan period is for two weeks and books should be returned, using the label provided and paying the postage yourself.

The list of books available is a six page single-spaced list type-written. The list could be obtained from the Society or it might be as well to ask for books within a certain area of interest. Some thirty-one categories exist.

"YOU HAVE NOT REACHED MATURITY...."

until you have tackled a hopeless, idealistic cause." I never realized the true meaning of this statement until I tried to buy a certain Christmas present this year. The statement is accredited to Mrs LBJ speaking at the National Youth Conference on Natural Beauty, Washington, June 1968.

"ROOTS: MIRACLES BELOW"

When I first obtained this book, my thoughts were "Here is just another book but why in the world would anyone write just on roots?" My apologies for my thoughts to Charles Morrow Wilson who certainly has the ability to write technically in everyday spoken English. I take off my hats (and I wear several) to this author. Mr. Wilson writes with the ability that almost insists on being quoted. For example, here are a few statements from his book that show single-sentence thoughts worth remembering: "Science is a phenomenon of take and get taken." "Some root hairs live for only a few hours." "For a grapevine (root pressure) is so high that if one pinches off a leaf in early spring the sap may squirt out like water from a cracked pipe." "So far as anyone knows for sure there is no such thing as a completely healthy root structure....this is a prime reason for the broad but expert assertion that nobody has yet seen a completely healthy plant." "Sunlight, whether it reaches the plant roots directly or indirectly, is their prime source of power."

How can one help liking a writer who admits "Here on my workbench is a well-rooted strawberry plant which I dug earlier today from the side-yard garden of one of my more forgiving and later-sleeping neighbors."

You'd like this book: ROOTS: MIRACLES BELOW, Charles Morrow Wilson, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1968, \$5.95.

FOURTEEN THOUSAND KIDS ENTER PUMPKIN CONTEST

Yes, fourteen thousand boys and girls entered the Big Pumpkin Contest this year! Will you share with me a moment of personal satisfaction: This was a project we started five years ago when I was national prexy of MGCA and some said it wouldn't work. National Director, Ed Friedrich of Milwaukee, took it over and with the help of lots of local people has made it a magnificent achievement. I just want to thank Ed, publicly, for taking what he calls "Bill's baby" and making it "our baby".

MGCA SEED EXCHANGE

MGCA has revitalized a once successful seed exchange that fell by the wayside when a sparkplug couldn't continue. Now, Charlie Saunder (of 1252 Horton Drive, Mobile, Ala. 36605) has stepped into the void and is going to do a good job with this. You should remember Big Charlie from the Minneapolis and other conventions. If you wish, send Charlie at least four six cent stamps for postage. A list of available seed is to appear soon in THE GARDENER.

ADVERTISING IN THE GARDEN SPRAY

Why can't we get this done. Charlie Saunders of Mobile, Alabama, is another new editor of a garden club journal. On his back/front page he has sixteen ads from nurseries, seed companies, and "friends". Wonder how he gets it done? We need someone to bring us in a few dollars just to help on increasing production costs. Any ideas?

SMUGGLING IN FOREIGN FRUITS...

is prohibited and the USDA is having a tough time. We have enough of these strange fruit at home. Some travelers deliberately try to smuggle in such items as fruits, plants, meats. One of the most optimistic smugglers of the year was a woman who arrived at San Ysidro, Calif. "She vigorously denied having any fruits or plants while trying to hide eight pounds of foreign strawberry plants under her miniskirt". I'm disappointed that the USDA doesn't tell us more about that story.

Two passengers arriving at Miami carried cans labelled "olive oil" and "sardines" but they actually contained prohibited foreign meat. These people had another 25 pounds of meat and prohibited fruit pinned to the linings of their sleeves and topcoats. A passenger at Kennedy airport had chocolates which appeared wormy. They were figs heavily infested by foreign insect larvae.

These are but a few of the 600,000 lots of prohibited fruits and plants and over 5 million pounds of prohibited garbage from ship and airplane stores which USDA inspectors destroyed during the year ending June 30, 1968. They work for all our good and we congratulate them.

TWO NEW GARDEN MUMS FOR 1969

The U. of Minnesota has developed two new garden mums which should be available for 1969 spring planting. Yellow Glow, an excellent cut flower, is a 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 inch rich yellow, fully double flower, growing 20 to 24 inches in height and diameter. Royal Pomp has 1 1/2 to 2 inch rich bright purple pompon blooms with rich, dark green glossy foliage. Good for flower arranging. The Department of Horticultural Science, U. of M., can advise as to nurseries and greenhouses carrying the new varieties.

10,000 GUESTS CELEBRATED ARBORETUM ANNIVERSARY

LEON SNYDER HONORED

Paul Burt kindly sent us an item from the Minnetonka paper telling of the huge attendance at the Arboretum's tenth anniversary. Of special note to us was that Minnesota State Horticultural Society president, our own Bruce Johnstone, presented two Bronze Medals, one to our own Dr. Leon Snyder "for distinguished service to horticulture". The other to Mr. John E. P. Morgan, for the same services. We congratulate these gentlemen and know you will want to add your personal note to Leon. There are also other men in our club who deserve a great deal of public recognition for spearheading the work and financing of the Arboretum. I hesitate to mention some in fear of unintentionally missing someone else, but we all know that Vic Lowrie and Archie Flack are among those others who were largely responsible for the existence of the Arboretum.

SCHOOL OF JUDGING

Is there enough interest for qualified men judges? If you would like to see us put on such a school, MGCA has an officially sanctioned Judges Training Manual and school. With all the expert help available, we could easily put on such a school. If interested, give President Nate Siegel a call. I'm one, Nate (Bill H.).

TO CLEAN DRAIN PIPES...

A plumber wrote the U. S. Bureau of Standards about using hydrochloric acid to clean drain pipes....Several days later he received this reply "The efficacy of hydrochloric acid is indisputable but the corrosive residue is incompatible with metallic permanence." Confused, he wrote again and asked if the acid "is okay to use or not".

A second letter advised him "We cannot assume responsibility for the production of toxic and noxious residue and suggest that you use an alternative procedure". Still baffled, he wrote "Do you mean it's okay to use hydrochloric acid?"

A final reply resolved the question: "Don't use hydrochloric acid. It eats the hell out of pipes".

HIS FIRST DOLLAR....

was saved by my Grandad in a ten cent frame. Now the frame is worth a dollar and the dollar's worth ten cents.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Grant R. Christenson

With the year 1968 rapidly approaching its end, I can't help but think back to this time last year, and my getting ready to serve our tremendous club as your President, planning for the coming year, committees to fill, arrangements for another year at Mt. Olivet, thinking about the auction, flower show, tours, etc., and wondering whether we'd do as good a job as my predecessor. I'm not certain of the answer, but one thing I have no question about: the splendid support, encouragement, and cooperation you gave me and the board members. The board and I thank you each and every one. It has been a very special privilege to be President of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Our Christmas Party is now past history and a gala affair, thanks to Sherm Pinkham, chairman; Richard Hulbert, **invocation**; Bob Sicora, programs and projectionist; Les Johnson and P. W. Young, slides; Bill Swanson, decorations, favors, table decorations, arrangements for Mrs. Haglof's wonderful demonstration; Bill Hull, Green Thumb Awards; Frank Vixo, arrangements and door prize drawings; Archie Flack, Lehman Trophy; and others on the committee that made the awards possible. 121 enjoyed this evening of fun, good food and fellowship.

Congratulations to our three Honorary Members, Henry Bachman, Walter Menzel, and Walter Quist, who received this membership from the club at our November general meeting, but did not know about it until Nate Siegel made the presentations at the Christmas Party. My special salute to you three as our remaining charter members. Thanks, fellows, for helping originate this swell club.

My apology to you all for not accomplishing incorporation of the club this year as a non-profit corporation. Time ran out on me; it is my hope that the 1969 officers will continue to pursue this goal.

I understand Cortis Rice has been and is still in Tahiti enjoying its many beauties. Not certain whether the beauties are female or scenic. Hope he can visit us some time soon to clarify this. Maybe some of our snowbirds who go to Florida for the winter will see him in Sarasota and check this out.

Dues have been paid by 85% of our members to date, which is normally the situation by mid-February - thanks for your promptness. If you are one of the 15% unpaid, please help us make it 100% by our January meeting. We regret Charles Nichols, Les Manecke and Westen Anderson will not be with us as 1969 members.

Hope to see you all at our January meeting. A swell program planned by Phil Smith, annual reports, and installation of the 1969 officers. Let's make this a big night to welcome the new officers.

My sincere wishes for a Very Happy New Year. May it bring good things for us all, and Peace in a troubled world.