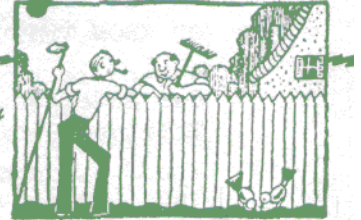




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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William H. Hull, Editor, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435

Associaite Editors: G. Victor Lowre, Charles R. Proctor, Harold Kaufmann,
Phillip H. Smith & Archie Flack

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

JUNE PROGRAM

Dr. Snyder - "The Blossom"

Jim Graham - "Inorganics in Gardening"

Bob Smith - "Gardening with Nature"

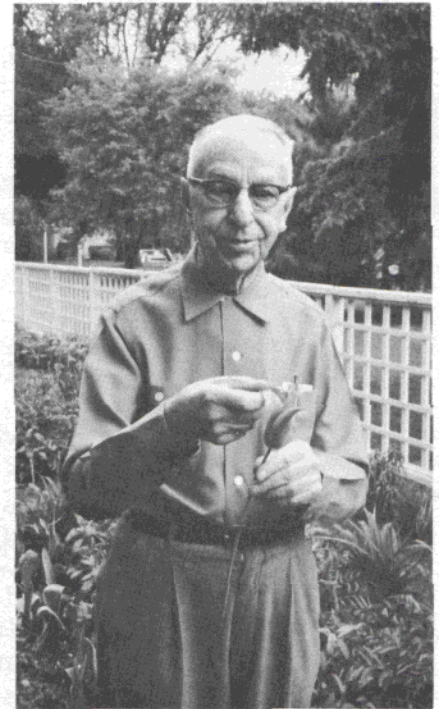
PLACE: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
50th & Knox Ave. So.

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 11

AMOUNT: \$2.00

HAT'S OFF TO A GREAT GUY!

Yes, that's our esteemed member and friend, P. W. Young. A member since 1950, P. W. has served us in so many ways it's almost unbelievable. A few: secretary, club president, speakers' bureau head for many years, flower-show chairman, repeatedly, Christmas party chairman, club property caretaker, program chairman. He has also been North Star Region president, is an honorary member of our club, received our Bronze Medal from the region in 1966. He is a retired manufacturer's agent in advertising sales lines. A superb photographer, a great gardener -- delphinium, begonias, etc. - a collector and authority on antique glass. A friend to all and a man who has given of himself to an unbelievable extent. We salute you, P. W. Young, and thank you for your friendship.



Handwritten red marks, including a vertical line and a small circle, on the right margin.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Gar Anderson is an Honorary Fire Chief and belongs to the Amateur Teletype Society, whatever that is?

That Lloyd Bachman for many years has been active in the Y's Men's groups, giving of his time, among other things, to sell Christmas trees? Talk about coals to Newcastle!

Larry Bachman recently was on seven committees of the American Association of Nurserymen and is a past president of the state group?

Neil Barry for a long time has been a director of the Star and Tribune Employees Credit Union and past president of the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers?

St. Clair Beeman is a member of CLIC? (Minneapolis City Council's Long-Range Improvement Committee)

Larry Corbett is a past president of All American Selections and a judge for the same group, plus being a director of the Commercial Plant Breeders Association? He has a birthday coming up on June 22.

Archie Flack's birthday is three days later, on June 25. And did you know that in 1952 scions of 22 varieties of Malus were donated to the Royal Hort. Society, through Archie's influence, where they are now growing in Wisley Gardens under the name of the MGC of Minneapolis?

Bruce Johnstone is currently president of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and president of All America Selections?

Harold Kaufmann was a very successful-like insurance underwriter before retirement. Set lots of records and widely recognized as a CLU.

Roger Koopmans, among all his other activities, is Scoutmaster?

Vic Lowrie, who retired as publisher of Postgraduate Medicine on May 31, has given of himself as a leader and president of the Council House for Senior Citizens for many years?

Otto Nelson is in the direct-mail name-list advertising service?

Charlie Proctor was, and maybe still is, treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church and a good man to see if you need a Prudential mortgage loan.

Walter Quist is a past potentate of Zuhrah Temple, one of the largest Shrine temples in the country.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Grant R. Christenson

August 17 and 18 are the dates for the flower show to be held at the Richfield Library, 70th and Nicollet. We will be joined by the Richfield club who obtained the use of this facility. Each club will be responsible for its own trophies, etc. More details next month. Should be a lot of fun - circle the date now!

Congratulations!! to Dave Johnson and his committee for an evening of great fun, fellowship, and an unusually good selection of plant material. Our treasury is approximately \$320 heavier as a result of the auction. Our thanks to the Minneapolis Park Board for the use of their facilities. Can't help but wonder how the hedge trimmer is working for Roy Orr, and if he is going into the hedge-trimming business.

Nate Siegel and Sherm Pinkham have advised they are attending the national convention, July 8-11, in Pittsburgh. If anyone else is going, please advise a board member by June 10, 1968. We need to appoint delegates and alternates. Also, distribute the \$200 budgeted for convention expense.

I have the club copy of MGCA "1967 Rose Test Report," which appears to be very comprehensive. I will be happy to share it with anyone desiring to see it. Just give me a call and I'll mail it out.

The Men's Garden Club of Rochester has been invited to attend the June meeting. We certainly hope some of their members will be able to join us.

The Minnesota Rose Society has extended an invitation to our members to attend the rose show, June 29 and 30, at American Hardware Mutual Insurance Company. Many of our members specializing in roses are on the show committee.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has a drive going to recruit new members. I know they will appreciate encouraging your friends to join.

The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club show with the theme "A Flower Show and Tell" is June 26 and 27 at Highcroft Country Day School, Wayzata. Entries in open classes may be made by contacting Mrs. Thomas Crosby, Route 2, Box 248, Wayzata, Minnesota.

If you have a Polaroid camera, and about 8 hours you can give the club this summer for a worthwhile project, please contact me or Bill Hull for details.

THE JUDGING OF ROSES

Under the American Rose Society rules for judging roses, you must judge each variety against perfection in that variety.

To do this you must be familiar with that variety, and to accomplish this, it is best to grow it or to see it grown.

Some varieties have natural faults (a white streak in a red petal, or other fault) which will show even though the specimen might be 100% perfect. In a color class, a rose that does not show a fault will win over one that does. In close decisions, judging must be on a point-score basis, difficult to apply to every rose because of limited time. In all my experience, I have judged only one show where the top six roses in each class were point-scored.

Do not criticize the judges because the bloom was perfect before or after judging. The judges can score only at the time they see the rose.

A good rose is one that has form, size, brightness of color, substance, and good foliage, and at the time of judging is in the most perfect phase of its possible beauty, which is one-half to two-thirds open.

A poor rose is faulty in shape, confused or split in the center, shows faded color, and under or over-sized buds. Tight buds and full-blown flowers are not considered bloom.

Form includes sufficient petals gracefully shaped and symmetrically arranged about a well-formed center.

Substance refers to the quality and quantity of the component material of the petals and must be sufficient to give stability and durability of form, texture, and finish.

Color and brightness shall include freshness, brilliancy and purity.

Size shall imply the bloom is a full-size representative specimen of the variety.

Stem should be adequate to hold the bloom upright above the foliage without undue bending. A stem out of proportion to the flower, whether too heavy or over-long, too short or too weak, is a fault.

Foliage should be adequate in size for the stem and bloom. Its color should be clear and typical of the variety. Insect or disease injury or unsightly spray or dust residue is a fault. There should be two sets of five leaflets above the container.

.....by Francis R. McMath
in The Show-Me Gardener
MSC Webster Groves, Mo.

A W I T C H T R E E !

Do you believe a tree could be bewitched? - possessed of an evil spirit? There was such a tree in what is known today as the Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota.

Grand Portage (the big carry) was a nine-mile stretch of land in the extreme north-east corner of what is now Minnesota. It was the connecting link between Lake Superior and the widening of the Pigeon River below the falls. Many thousands of tons of goods were carried along this trail in opening the Northwest Territory - the vast northern interior of the North American continent.



Supplies for the interior came by canoe and were carried overland to Fort Charlotte (would you believe? - at incentive pay rates) on the backs of men. On the return trip, these rugged voyageurs toted out tons of luxurious furs to adorn women in the world's capitals.

But, long before fur trappers began settling the wilderness around Grand Portage, Indians in the area faced a perplexing problem. Almost every time they tried to paddle their canoes past Hat Point, they would up wrecked on the rocks. The bewildered braves knew there must be a cause for their misfortunes and decided it was the work of an evil spirit . . . but no one knew what it looked like or where it lived.

Then, one day, some scouts discovered a gnarled and twisted cedar tree near the site of the wrecks. They agreed: the cedar was possessed with an evil spirit - it was a "Witch Tree." And for many years the Indians worked hard to keep the tree (and its "resident witch") happy. They visited it often, bringing gifts of vermilion and tobacco.

The white man who came along later with his guns is believed to have frightened the evil spirit away. Today the "Witch Tree" has another distinction: It's now more than 300 years old - one of Minnesota's oldest living landmarks.

Special to "The Garden Spray"
by Rolf Dallmer, editor "The Cold Frame"
MGC of Staten Island, New York

CONTROLLING POCKET GOPHERS

Pocket gophers get their name from their fur-lined (pocket-like) cheek pouches in which food is carried. They live in an underground burrow system, often a network of several hundred feet ranging in depth from a few inches to several feet. Several gophers may inhabit a single burrow system. Soil removed from newly-made burrows is pushed into mounds on the surface, usually leaving a small horseshoe-like depression on one side of the mound, indicating the direction of the tunnel.

Some gophers may make 100 or more mounds in a season. Most mounds are made in late summer and fall when digging shallow burrows to get roots for winter. Roots are usually stored in small chambers, often a few inches deep and containing a quart or two of food. Gophers are active in the winter. Breeding begins as frost leaves the ground and is completed in late spring. One or two litters of two to four young are born during this period. The young begin to move throughout the burrow system when about one month old. Due to various causes, juvenile mortality is very high. In late summer and early fall, many young gophers are forced to the surface and wander about searching for a home. They will invade any unused systems.

Poisoned baits and traps are the most practical methods of control. Over large and heavily infested areas poisoning with the burrow builder is best. On small areas where but few animals are involved, trapping or hand poisoning is more practical.

POISONED BAIT METHOD

Two baiting methods are effective. One method involves dropping baits by hand into the underground runways through holes made by a probe. With the other method, a tractor-drawn machine called the "burrow builder" is used to make artificial burrows and automatically drop bait into them.

Controls are most effective during the spring and fall when gophers are most active. This activity can be noted by the presence of fresh mounds of dirt.

Bait Preparation. The baits most commonly used are carrots or sweet potatoes. Grain baits such as corn, oats, barley, wheat, and grain sorghum are also readily taken. Vegetables for baits should be washed and then cut into pieces about 1/2 inch square and 1-1/2 to 3-inches long. Exact size and shape is unimportant although elongated pieces are more easily inserted into burrows.

To treat carrots or sweet potatoes, measure two quarts of the cleaned and cut bait material into a clean receptacle, preferably a 10 or 12 qt. pail. Dust 1/8 oz. of powdered strychnine, preferably the alkaloid form, over them. Tumble the baits until the pieces are evenly coated with strychnine.

To prepare a grain bait, measure 16 qts. of grain selected onto a clean floor. Mix 2 tablespoonsful of alundry starch in 3/4 pint of water. Bring to a boil while stirring to a paste free of lumps. Stir into the past 1/2 cup corn syrup and 1 tablewpoonful of glycerin. In another container, mix 1 ounce of powdered strychnine (alkaloid) and 2 tablespoonsful baking soda. Pour the hot past over the strychnine-soda mixture while stirring thoroughly. Pour the whole mixture over the grain. Shovel or stir until kernels are well coated, then spread to dry.

Controlling Pocket Gophers

Good probes are made of 3/4 inch gas pipe welded to a blunt point and cut to 34 inches in length. A footrest can be made about 16 inches from the end. Locate the main runway by probing into the soil 12-18 inches back from the mound on the side where the horseshoe-like depression is found. Remove the probe and insert the bait material. Use 2-3 pieces of vegetable bait or 1 level tablespoonful of grain bait. Close the openings with grass and cover with dirt to keep out the light and air. Make one bait application for every 4-6 fresh mounds.

TRAPPING

Small spring traps are made especially for trapping pocket gophers. To locate the runway use a stout garden trowel or shovel. Scrape the dirt from a fresh mound until a round circle of fresh dirt is found plugging the lateral runway. Open the lateral and put one trap with the claws away from the opening. However, it is usually better to dig down the lateral into the main runway and then place two traps back to back in the main runway. Secure the traps with a piece of flexible wire attached to a stake. The hole can be left either open or closed.

Prepared by U. S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, Indiana

FOR SPECIAL CONTEST, SEE

OTHER SIDE OF PAGE.

Contest: 1st Prize to the member who first presents the editor with a written list of the identities of these 15 men. If you only know 11 or so, try. You may be the winner. 2nd Prize (Consolation) to the member first contacting the editor by telephone and stating that he honestly can't recognize anybody. (Hope the photo reproduces well).

