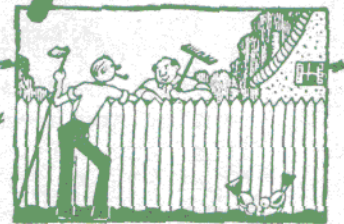




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

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Ed Culbert, ass't. editor. Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith, assoc. editors.

Club Officers: President - Nate Siegel Vice President - Phil Smith
Secretary - Ed Culbert Treasurer - Dave Johnson
Immediate Past President - Grant Christenson
North Star Region Delegates - Verner Carlson & Dale Durst
Directors: Roger Anderson & Otto Nelson

September 9 meeting at Judson

Judson Memorial church, that is, at 4101 Harriet Ave. S., 6 p.m., \$2.00
Program consists of speakers: Dr. Mullin, U. of Minn., who will talk on
the University's Mum Breeding Program, Louie Fischer on Apple Varieties
for Minnesota, Dwight Stone on A Report of the Colorado Convention, and
Ed Montgomery, on Report on the Club's Corporate Status. See you there.

HONORS GO TO "THE GARDEN SPRAY"

"Spray" has again been honored as one of the top twelve publications of the
hundreds of affiliated Men's Garden Clubs. Be sure to read Bill Hull's column.

A Special Toast to
G. Victor Lowrie..
"Vic" has been an
outstanding member
of our club since
1946 when he was
sponsored by Harold
Kaufmann. President
in 1952, recipient
of the Bronze Medal
and other honors,
Vic has made major
contributions to
our club progress.



Former editor of the
Garden Spray for many
years, he was also
president of the Minn.
State Hort. Society,
playing a major part
in fund raising for
the Arboretum. For 22
years to our personal
knowledge, he has had
one of our club's best
gardens. A Tip of the
Hat to Vic, friend to
all, and a Thank You.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

We are proud to announce that THE GARDEN SPRAY has won another award. One of the top twelve publications by garden clubs affiliated with the Men's Garden Clubs of America. This announcement and award was made at the Colorado convention and apparently no one picked up the certificate or remembered to mention it at our July meeting. So we'll mention it. We can't expect to repeat as "Best Club Bulletin" each year, which we won last year, and are indeed proud and appreciative to be one of the best - the top twelve, picked without designation as to numerical order, except for number one. That first place goes to The Yardener of Houston, Texas, edited by our good friend, F. A. C. McCulla, long time former national officer of MGCA. Many of you have met "Mac" at various MGCA conventions. Others also in the top group include The Green Thumb (Dallas), The Cold Frame (Staten Island), Secateur (Libertyville-Mundelein, Ill), Weed 'Em & Reap, (Denton, Texas), El Jardinero (Tucson), Gulf Coast Gardener (Beaumont, Texas), Night Crawler (Spokane) and others whose names I don't have. Most of these editors are long time contributors and have done much for their clubs and I know you will join with me in congratulating them.

The Garden Spray for newcomers to our club, has won many awards over the years, although last year was the first time we were selected "Best." That award has not been offered many years, just the top ten or twelve.

Apparently there was a lot of excitement at the convention this year. A good one, I'm sure, and the first we've missed in many years. We hear nothing but praise and are happy for those good Colorado gardeners. Some surprising developments from the national office, not my privilege to announce at this time. The budget has been shot rather badly and I don't know why, but expenditures were a great deal in excess of budgeted amounts. I am sure better controls will be instituted. When I had the privilege of being national president of MGCA, we instituted a series of continuing financial reports and I have been eternally grateful to the men who then let us spend money but helped us keep up to date with what was happening.

Many of you will remember past national officer, Hrand Hampikian of Detroit. Hrand is the fine man of small stature who has been to Minneapolis many times and made many friends. A nationally known landscape gardener, he lost his wife some time ago and we are happy to hear he has remarried to Miss Melina Dadourian. We offer them our best wishes.

Poet Frank Leech of Syracuse, New York, (he won the Silver Medal at the Minneapolis convention), was able to attend the convention and from several sources I've heard that he asked to be remembered to many of you whom he knows.

Doc Stillman wants to swap some single peonies for some doubles. He has three singles that are fine specimens with about ten buds and would like to trade for some good ones in the red or white or pink colors--but doubles.

PRESIDENT NATE SAYS

(Nate Siegel)

The month of August has gone by. Our gardens that have been so pleasant to look at are now beginning to show signs of fall being not so far away. But still lots of color to see for some time to come.

Our tour this past month brought us to gardens of our old timers, P. W. Young and our charter member, Harold Kaufmann. It was P. W.'s 90th birthday month and the plaque presented to him at his garden was to honor a man who has richly deserved this token of appreciation for so many years of unstinted service to our club.

Harold's garden and patio still has that charm that is all its own. At this tour we said goodbye to Otto Erickson who is leaving for Sun City. Otto, we expect to see you next summer. Our thanks to Cliff Brisco and his charming wife for hosting our tour and a look at his interesting garden. Also a thank you to committee members, Les Johnson and Otto Nelson, for their part in another good tour.

Dwight Stone will give us a report on the national convention of MGCA at Fort Collins. It was most pleasing to have members there come to tell us how much they enjoyed our Minneapolis convention.

The North Star Region was well represented at the convention with thirteen members from Minnetonka, six from Minneapolis and one from Richfield being present.

Our new constitution and by-laws under our corporate status will be presented for approval at our September meeting. We are certainly very much indebted to Ed Montgomery for all his work on this project. Many thanks, Ed. Incidentally, if you wish a treat, stop and see Ed's garden. It is a beauty even at this time of the year.

We still have need for five more members to bring our roster up to its full membership capacity. Let us try to accomplish this in the next few months.

Will see you all at the September meeting. Be sure to remember that it is at the Judson church. (See cover of this issue of THE GARDEN SPRAY.)

GREAT AUGUST TOUR

Your editor couldn't complete the tour and his substitute writer hasn't gotten a story to him, so he has to be vague. But we know how beautiful Cliff Brisco's garden always is, and P. W. Young's fine delphiniums, and Carl Holst's great roses although someone kidded him about his lawn grass kill. Harold Kaufmann's mum bed is in gorgeous petunias this year; Les Johnson's garden reported accurately as "always beautiful - everyone quite delighted - much bloom," and Otto Nelson's "like always, constant bloom with that terrific slope." So it was a fine tour.

OPINIONS WANTED -- From MEN GARDENERS

Here are a few questions. Can you answer them? Will you sit down right now and write a brief paragraph to editor, Bill Hull, answering any or all of these? Even one? Paragraphs on these topics would be interesting reading-- and we'll give you a by-line too.

1. A lady acquaintance tells us she and her husband find pigweed very delicious when it is young and tender. Is she pulling our leg? Who would like to research this one? In the meantime, eat it at your own risk.
2. Is yellow trefoil more prevalent than usual in lawns this year? What is your experience and what do you use to control it?
3. Why are so many petunias looking so ordinary this year? Notice them in beds all over town. They are either superb or scanty. Anyone care to voice an opinion?
4. What naturally available substance(s) found around the average home should we be using as fertilizer(s) but are throwing away? Any ideas here that could be beneficial to all--excepting the usual compost ideas, of course?
5. Who would like to defend burying roses in leaves as against using the Minnesota tip or completely burying them? Tell us why and the exact procedure you use.
6. What is the most indispensable garden tool you have, which you use frequently and would recommend every gardener own?
7. Who can give us a very recent report on the Arboretum - items in flower, those to flower the rest of the season, and estimated blooming dates?
8. What is the most unusual, most dependable and hardy perennial you feel every gardener in Minnesota should have in his beds?
9. What ground cover, grass, plant or edging should be used before fall to protect your yard where it joins the street? What have you found resistant to the accumulated junk thrown up all winter by snowplows?
10. What plants do you suggest a novice at fluorescent gardening should have grown from seed this year? List a few that are simple to grow, give a lot of color, and by growing from seed the beginner can save himself a sizeable purchase next spring.
11. What garden item, plant or product do you wish you could find in a local nursery or garden store, that you have difficulty locating?
12. Who has had experience with the much advertised gardener's flame-thrower used for killing weeds at edging and for melting snow on sidewalks? Tell us of your experience.

SHERM, NATE, DWIGHT, ED, Kick Up Their Heels

At the convention - (Colorado, MGCA, that is) - Sherm Pinkham was one of the first to wear the "Boo Boo" hat for appearing at breakfast wearing his wife's badge--all the time chiding her for forgetting hers.

Nate Siegel, our prexy, was called upon to show his delegate's certificate or go back to the dorm to get it. Just as he started out the door, the certificate appeared in the hands of the sergeant at arms. Apparently Dwight Stone was involved in this skullduggery.

There were some amusing incidents about registration. One man exchanged letters several times about CATS, which he didn't want, because no one realized he had written COTS.

Ed Culbert's letter complaining that the registration receipt assigned him to a room with his wife, despite the fact that he'd paid an extra \$18 to evade this state of affairs, was read at the banquet. But Ed's a real sport--he admitted it to your editor when he returned home.

ARE WE IN A DROUGHT?

I don't know what constitutes a drought, legally, but I can assure you things are dry. Drier than usual that is. On August 24, we here in Minneapolis had only received 13.42 inches of rainfall all year to date. That's right--less than $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches for nearly eight months. Now, that's not so surprising if you realize our average is $17\text{-}\frac{3}{4}$ inches, so we're down about three inches of rain. In this hot month of August, so far, we have received only $\frac{75}{100}$ ths of one inch, so that explains why lawns are drying up so fast. These are official Weather Bureau statistics, obtained by telephone.

What should we do? Certainly we should water beds, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, watering as deeply as possible and protecting the surface with a mulch, to hold the water. And it looks like we ought to be praying for a week of slow drizzle.

The Northern part of our state is in fear of forest fires. Warnings are posted everywhere. The forests are very dry, drier than I have seen them for many years, and I just returned from the north woods this weekend of August 24. We were in the Buhl area where a tornado hit about two weeks ago and in certain areas trees that have stood for countless years are leveled by the acres. The devastation is severe. We took photos which are available if any of you care to see them.

When the downed trees dry, as they are doing rapidly with the hot days, the forest fire danger will be even greater----and it extends for many, many miles.

"THOUGH AN OLD MAN, I AM BUT A YOUNG GARDENER."*

So wrote Thomas Jefferson in 1811, when he had retired to Monticello after completing his second term as President of the United States. "No occupation," he said, "is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden."

Jefferson was then 68, and he would never again hold public office. He had developed several abiding interests---in books, in education, in national policy. But it was the occupation to which he had looked with yearning from the halls of power, that of farmer and agricultural experimenter, that would fill his days with fruitful activity for the remainder of his long life.

"Those who labour in the earth," he had stated, "are the chosen people of God, (in whose breasts) He keeps alive that sacred fire, which otherwise might escape from the face of the earth."

The Squire of Monticello had been a nature lover from his earliest days. He and his favorite sister, Jane, had wandered the woods and fields together, searching for the first spring blooms; and in 1766, in the March and April after her death, he had made the earliest entries in his Garden Book, noting the opening and the falling of hyacinth, narcissus, puckoon (bloodroot), mertensia, and purple flag. Although penned more than 200 years ago, these notations, with their hint of ever-recurring life, might have been made by any wistful observer of wildflowers today.

But politics did intrude upon the peaceful activities at Monticello. Like George Washington, Jefferson was called back to public service from his first retirement. He was elected Vice President in November, 1796, and President four years later. As resident of the White House, he kept alive his horticultural interests: the wide windows were cluttered with botanical experiments and rare specimens, and his tame mockingbird, which ate from his lips.

Twentieth-century historians, industry-oriented, sometimes refer slightly to Jefferson and Washington and their confreres as country squires, characteristic, in their philosophy and their mode of life, of a nation's outmoded rural past. But those who have awaited the rebirth of narcissus and peach bloom and lilac, who have relished the greenness of peas from their own patch, who have sensed security in the rhythm of the seasons, understand the wisdom of the busy Thomas Jefferson in preserving always, for his golden years, his toehold in the soil.

*Excerpted from the National Retired Teachers Assoc. Journal, September, 1968, and brought to our attention by member Bill Brooks.