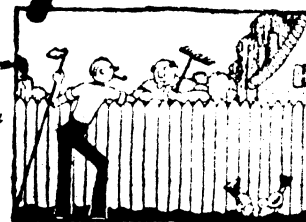




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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



April 1974, Volume 32, Number 4

NEXT MEETING (NOTE THIS DATE CAREFULLY)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1974 -- A BUS TRIP to LAKEVILLE for a conducted tour of Bachman's Lakeville greenhouses--6 acres under glass--to see smell and enjoy the pre-Easter picture.

MEET at 5:30 P.M. at the MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT
Fiftieth Street at Knox Avenue South

BUS LEAVES PROMPTLY AT 5:45

DINNER (catered by DeLaria's) AND BUS - \$3.50

THE MARCH MEETING REVIEWED

Walter Menzel brought his Sacred Lily-of-the-Nile. Its 52 inch wrist thick stem cap by a huge unopened spathe drew much attention. (By March 15 it had grown 8 more inc
Walter displayed some offset bulbs which he will grow along and described the open-
umbrella shaped leaves which, like those of lycoris, disappear before the naked flower
stem shoots up. Fortunately for us the flower ("the big stinker") wasn't due to open
for several more days.

Jim Gilbert, Carver Park Naturalist, gave an interesting and informative slide presentation covering his activities and interests at Carver Park Nature Center and at the Arboretum. He had fine slides of grade and highschool students actively engaged in projects and studies at the center. Their obvious rapt attention and interest in what used to call outdoor education activities warmed this old schoolmaster's heart. No less effective were his slides of flowers, plants, trees, and wildlife to be seen in the area..."I go down to the iris garden to look at the toads"... "Those luscious emerging leaves of basswood make marvelous salad"...

The program concluded with a tape recording of sounds (bird calls, frogs, toads) to heard at the arboretum in March and April.

Dr. Orrin Turnquist brought copies of the Extension Service bulletins Suggested Vegetable Varieties for Minnesota - 1974 and Useful Hints for Vegetable Gardeners. If you weren't there to get one, yours is enclosed with this issue of the **SPRAY**.

REGIONAL, NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR MGCM MEMBERS

Saturday, February 23, Lyman E. Duncan, Executive Secretary MGCA, conducted a workshop for all North Star Region officers and directors in the library of St. Mark's Cathedral. The Minneapolis, Minnetonka and North Suburban clubs were represented. Carl Holst of MGCM accepted the regional chairmanship and Sherman Pinkham of MGCM was named national

In Memoriam

NORMAN E. JOHNSON....1912-1974

Norman Johnson a member of MGCM since 1969 who was currently serving as a club director died Wednesday March 6 following a heart attack. Norm was traffic manager for Electric Machinery Manufacturing Company where he had been employed 43 years. He was active in his church, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran. He loved his garden where his special interests were irises and peonies. We shall miss him.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

We've been saddened again to lose another faithful member, Norman Johnson, who was elected last November to serve on the board as Director and died suddenly of a heart attack on March 6th. We enjoyed working with Norm and were looking forward to his serving the club in other capacities.

We congratulate Carl Holst and Sherm Pinkham upon their election to posts of leadership in the regional and the national MGCA organization. There couldn't be better choices. The plan for a September joint meeting of the Minneapolis, North Suburban, Minnetonka and Sioux Valley MGCs at the Arboretum sounds great. Did you know that the Arboretum now has facilities for serving groups as large as 150?

Perhaps the SHOW BIZ INTRO given to the program last month helped to bring out the membership. We gathered 81 members and guests to see and hear Jim Gilbert's fascinating pictures and sounds of spring. The "Euell Gibbons" of Minnesota, as a bonus, threw in some tips on edible wild plants. I had never heard of using young Basswood leaves in lieu of lettuce but could envision those tender looking greens with tomatoes, onions and artichoke hearts creating a magnificent salad. Walter Menzel's strange looking plant added an unusual air and Orrin Turnquist's contribution of lists from the University of recommended varieties of vegetables will be most helpful.

April 15 is income tax deadline and for those of you who are looking for additional deductions I have a suggestion. Mr. Duncan told us that \$4.10 of your dues is deductible as a charitable contribution to MGCA. That will save from 1 to 2 dollars from Uncle Sam's grip which will give you 10 to 20 extra LUCKY BUCKS to spend at the May Auction which is to be held at the Pearl Park facility on May 14.

Ms. Susan Kraus is looking for someone to teach an adult beginning gardening class at South High School. This is a paid position. Call her if you are interested at 729-9 or 822-7625.

Our meeting is early this month in order to see the Bachman growing area before the Easter rush. We will meet at Mt. Olivet and take the bus from there. Please park at the west end of the parking lot so the church activities will not be inconvenienced. Please call one of the co-chairmen of the telephone committee if you plan to attend but have not been contacted by Saturday March 30th. We need an accurate count of expected attendance. Hope to see you there.

--Jim Perri

Why not have a father-son/daughter garden this summer? The flowers should be easy to raise, rapid in blooming, easy to harvest and attractive inside and outdoors. Recommended for such a garden is zinnia, which has a wide range of color and size, variety and height. Marigolds fall into the same category, but the color has less range, few

THE CREATION OF A VEGETABLE VARIETY

by L. W. Corbett

It was not always as it is today. The modern use of genetics is not much over fifty years of age. Long distance shipping of vegetables is about the same. The first car-loads of lettuce from California came to New York about 1924. Vegetables for the local markets used to come primarily from growers who fringed the cities. They were known as "market gardeners". They knew what their customers wanted and they tried to get it.

Old Mother Nature is always creating variations, sometimes by mutations, sometimes through chance crossing. The man with the keen eye can pick them out of the crop. It is a constant selection process and is never ending in an open pollinated variety. A grower might select for ten or fifteen years before he could "fix" a type. His selection might be for color, size, shape, or keeping quality.

Years ago the standard yellow storage onion was Southport Yellow Globe. A gentleman in Michigan by the name of Brigham selected for darker color and globe shape combined with keeping quality so we merchandised Brigham Yellow Globe. Then came Downing Yellow Globe selected for darker brown yellow color, a rounder shape and better keeping quality. For several years we at Northrup-King worked with a grower in Hollandale selecting bulbs as they went over the sorting belt. We selected for size and color and eventually introduced Hollandale Yellow Globe. It did not go far as it proved to be too late in maturity and to have too many thick necks. Indian Queen is a much better onion. There are actually dozens of these selections or varieties of open pollinated vegetables that have been in the market.

The standard pumpkins were Connecticut Field and Early Sweet Sugar or Pie. Do you know that over 95 percent of the pumpkins grown end up as jack-o-lanterns? Connecticut Field is too large for most children to handle and Small Sugar or Pie has poor shape and is too small. We wanted a pumpkin about the size of a man's head so we obtained it by selection. We developed and introduced Jack-O-Lantern and Spookie. A grower on Long Island selected the same way and developed Young Beauty.

As a kid I spent many an hour "stringing" beans for my mother. The first stringless bean was found as a mutation. Today we would not think of introducing a true old time string bean. Some people think that flavor went out with the "string". You can cover the list of vegetables from A to Z and you will find many varieties from all species just selected by a good plantsman to fit a special need.

Today the development of a new variety of vegetables is a controlled combination of sciences. Most effort has been on the control of diseases. A trained plant pathologist is needed to handle the disease work. Disease cultures are grown and maintained. They are available for plant inoculation. Just to work on the common bean you might maintain plants with several kinds of mosaic, others with Common or Southern blight and others with Halo blight. The rust disease can be serious in certain areas and at certain times of the year. The various blights are injected into the plant or pod. The mosaics are put into a water suspension with an abrasive material such as carborundum and blown on the plants. The purpose, of course, is to find plants which are immune to the disease.

Plant explorers are important in our present scheme of plant breeding. Native plants in one part of the world may be resistant to diseases destroying crops in another. Fusarium Wilt resistance in tomatoes came out of Central America. Cucumber mosaic resistance came from China.

The plant breeder takes over and tries to combine the desirable factors into a plant variety. Various crosses are made and the resultant seeds are planted and grown to maturity. Selections for the desired type are made and allowed to make seed. The progeny of these lines are tested, inoculated, screened and further selected for desired

type. The type is pretty well established after the sixth to eighth generation. It is not unusual to carry a line for fifteen generations. Using this method you are back to a so called open pollinated variety and after all this work it may or may not be better than some other variety already on the market.

Today the emphasis is on the development of F_1 hybrids. This more modern method has several distinct advantages. It is a subject unto itself and we will not treat it in this discussion. (Watch for next month's article--Editor)

THE FORTY-NINERS: VIC LOWRIE

By Don Wilson

Vic Lowrie is a canny Scot. His father was a Scot and Vic was born in London. He came to Canada first and then to Chicago. Somewhere he lost his accent, if he ever had one. In fact, as most of us know, Vic is an excellent speaker.

It was no surprise for me to learn that he was a journalist. He started with an advertising agency in Chicago and was transferred to Minneapolis. In 1948 his agency closed and he went into publishing the magazine *Post Graduate Medicine*. (The one that Bill Hull works for.) Vic retired in 1968.

Harold Kaufman was president of our club years ago and he got Vic to join. Vic has been into just about everything. Among other jobs and positions in the club Vic has been President, V.P. and the Editor of *THE SPRAY* before Bill Hull. He has been President of the Minnesota Hort. Society, on the Editorial Board for many years and has been a Trustee of the Arboretum and on their Advisory Committee.

But do you know how the Arboretum got started? When it was just a "gleam in the eye" of some M.G.C. men were already in the delivery room. They were Archie Flack, Cortis P. W. Young, Vic Lowrie and others. At the birth Vic was on the Finance Committee. "It was really the M.G.C. that got the ball rolling," says Vic, "but the Minnesota Hort. Society has had a very strong influence in the development of the Arboretum." How? "It was the Minnetonka Garden Club under their President Mrs. John Pillsbury which effected the purchase of the original 160 acres." (Today the Arboretum covers over 525

acres.) Vic has always been interested in gardening and when he had a large lot he had a big house and a formal garden of 300 rose bushes arranged in beds of separate colors. *MPLS. STAR* had a color picture and story on them. Vic also goes for dahlias, hostas and orchids.

When asked what he liked best about the M.G.C. he really took off in "machine gun" mode. A few things were the camaraderie, hospitality, succession of active and far-seeing presidents and officers, the contribution to the club by the large number of professional members and the recent influx of new and young active members.

APOLOGY

The editor just can't win. I got the address labels and my roster corrected but not all the things in the March *SPRAY*. Our member is DONALD JEPSEN.

And while we're correcting things, Henry Halvorson was a MGCM convention delegate in 1971 not 1972 as was reported in the February *SPRAY*.

In Japan garden centers are virtually non-existent, the nearest to them being large stalls selling mainly Bonsai. Seed production however is big business with firms like Sakata and Tacchi leading the way.

MY MOST UNFORGETTABLE DAY
by Art Johnson

The day dawned bright and clear with a mellow southwesterly blow from the Pacific. I was standing on the dock with my friends overlooking the sparkling waters of San Francisco bay waiting for the boat to pick us up for a deep sea fishing trip to the Farallon Islands. I have never witnessed such a beautiful setting--the blue sky the placid waters of the bay dancing in the bright sunlight, the hills of San Francisco in the background.

We were presently advised that the boat chartered for the trip through error had been leased to another party. We were, however, provided with a substitute which seemed to me quite small for a trip 25 miles out into the Pacific. But the day was so beautiful and the waters appeared so calm that we decided not to forgo the trip. So we boarded the boat and proceeded out into San Francisco bay. What a picture, the bright mellow sun's rays dancing on the calm blue waters. Could we ever wish for a more perfect day?

However, this was to change quickly as we moved into the great Pacific. The wind which had seemed so quiet and friendly suddenly became vigorous and pulsing churning the ocean into angry billows of surging waters. It was suggested that we return to shore but the captain and his crew believed the sea would quiet so we continued. The boat would crest the waves and then would sink deep into a valley of water which appeared to be a canyon. The cresting and diving of the boat soon sickened some of my friends to such an extent that they had to be tied to the deck to keep them from jumping overboard.

It seemed that the Gods were not satisfied with increasing the velocity of the winds. They darkened the skies with threatening foreboding clouds. As the winds increased in ferocity the heavens deluged us with a terrific downpour. The boat being a fishing craft had no shelter and only a low rail around the deck. In order to keep from being washed overboard we lay on the deck and braced ourselves against the small railing.

By now we had reached the Farallons but with more than 75 percent of our company seasick we implored the captain to head back to San Francisco bay. In attempting to turn the vessel about we became engulfed in an undertow of the islands. The captain and his crew fought frantically and finally succeeded in bringing the boat around. Finally wet, sick and frightened we reached the bay. With a silent prayer of thanks we stepped on solid ground.

As I proceeded up the dock I turned and looked out over San Francisco bay and to the blue Pacific. I tried to visualize the beauty of this setting as we had experienced a few hours ago before it became the day which would forever be embedded in my memory.

EDITORS NOTE: MGCM member Arthur Johnson describes above what happened one time when he was auditing the Pillsbury San Francisco office and was invited to enjoy with the office and sales force a fishing trip on the Pacific. Have You Had an Unforgettable Experience? It could be gardening, fishing, hunting, vacationing or some family incident. Will you share it with your MGCM friends? Send it to the editor. It doesn't have to be typed. It need not be a polished piece of writing, just a story you would share with the others around the table at a meeting.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Julius Wadekamper, Rt. 1 Box 116, Buffalo, Minn. 55358 Phone: 682-3465

There were no details yet when this issue went to the typist, but start saving. Our annual plant auction is coming up May 14.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Joseph Priley, Duluth, St. Louis County commissioner and for many years a member of MGC Mpls., was presented with a life membership in the Minnesota State Horticultural Society during a meeting of the Eighth District Horticultural Society board held in Virginia, Minnesota, recently. The awards had previously been ordered by the executive board of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society at its annual meeting.

In 1963 Mr. Priley had received the Distinguished Service Medal and in 1967 was awarded the Bronze Medal for the Duluth Civic Center beautification project.

The latest award to Mr. Priley is one presented to only a few members of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and is in recognition of long and valued service over an extended period of time. In making the presentation, it was noted that Mr. Priley has given of his time freely, his knowledge, and has furthered the advancement of horticulture, promoting both the work and the welfare of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Previously dubbed "Petunia Joe", the society added a new title, "The Flower Man of Minnesota."

Kentucky birds must be funny. My daughter writes, "a woodpecker finally decided to eat the peanut butter-suet-cornmeal balls I placed in the tree. Otherwise we've had only sparrows who seem uninclined to eat peanut butter or the bird seed in the feeder but who gobbled up the sunflower seeds put out to attract cardinals." The sparrows in my Mpls. back yard disdain sunflower seeds and push them out of the feeder. The ground at the base of the feeder is now black with sunflower seeds despite the efforts of a pair of blue-jays to clean (eat) up the mess.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

* * * *

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: JAMES E. PERRIN
10701 W. River Rd. N., Osseo, 55443
Vice President: ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON
6001 Tracy Ave., Mpls., 55436
Secretary: DONALD WILSON
5552 Emerson Ave. S., Mpls., 55419
Treasurer: CHET H. GROGER
5457 Girard Ave. S., Mpls., 55419
Past President: CARL J. HOLST
3750 Abbott Ave. S., Mpls., 55410
Director: NORMAN C. JOHNSON
2731 Benjamin St. N. E., Mpls. 55418
Director: DARWIN PRICE
6738 15th Ave. S., Mpls., 55423



FIRST CLASS

TO:

**William H. Hull
6833 Creston Rd.
Edina, Minn. 55435**