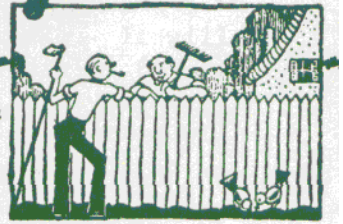




# The Garden Spray

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

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



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Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.

Editorial Staff: Bill Hull, Art Johnson, Bob Smith, Phil Smith.

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North Star Region Delegate - Dale Durst

NEXT MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS MEETING  
Tuesday Evening, August 10, 1971

LADIES' NIGHT, FLOWER SHOW #3 and GARDEN TOUR

MEET AT LLOYD BACHMAN'S, 5905 COLFAX AVENUE SOUTH for a

DELARIA PREPARED DINNER to be SERVED AT 5:45 PM.

COST FOR DINNER AND BUS \$2.25

Tables and chairs will be furnished. You bring your guests.

Our July flower show brought forth seven exhibitors with a total of 38 entries. "The quality of the material was the best ever," says show chairman, Carl Holst. Roses predominated. There were also many petunias--especially doubles.

Since the August show is on Ladies' Night, it just has to be a bang up one, so do your bit! Come early with your material so there'll be plenty of time for you to set it up and for others to see it. Carl will have tables set up early and bottles, tags and ribbons for your convenience.

Following the flower show, dinner and inspection of Lloyd and Larry's gardens, we will view other gardens on the South side. Included will be a visit to our Community or Fragrance Garden.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bill Brooks, our member from Apache Junction, Arizona, was with us in July. He's "brown as a berry" but though he has to haul in all the water he uses, doesn't look a bit dried up. He says he doesn't get to see the Sun City members much oftener than we do. Why not plan a reunion at the convention in Tucson next April, Bill?

THE GARDEN SPRAY of M.G.C. Mpls., Inc. Vol. 29, No. 8. August 1971.  
Deadline for material the 22nd of Each Month.

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NEW MEMBERS

Edwin Johnson  
3701 W. 61 St.  
Minneapolis 55410  
Phone: 926-7171

Norman E. Stewart  
88 Woodland Circle  
Minneapolis 55424  
Phone: Bus. 335-8737; Home: 920-6271

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

P. W. Young  
c/o James E. Young  
12126 Emelita Street  
North Hollywood, Calif. 91607

HONORARY MEMBER TO RESIDE IN CALIFORNIA

Mpls., July 23. - "Well, I intended to quit this September anyway so I'm only a month short," grinned P. W. Young as he tucked a big, brown, fresh, unchewed cigar in his mouth. We were sitting in his room at "The Willows" where he is spending the week while his daughter-in-law "Bede" clears out his place preparatory to moving him to his son Jim's in North Hollywood -- the spot where P. W. has wintered in recent years.

"Jim has an old adobe house with walls three feet thick. It's an old ranch house - got it around forty years ago. There's a yard 85 x 160 with a garden on all but one side. He's got compost bins like mine and a grinder like mine. He's the president of the California-Nevada region of MGCA."

"I'll have my own living room-bedroom. I'm taking my glass collection and most of my furniture." (Les Johnson, Vern Roufs and their wives were to be at the house on Beard Sunday, July 25, to help sell "the surplus items.")

"No, I won't plan to garden much. I get a bit dizzy and right now I don't trust myself without that walker," he replied pointing across the room. "I had to quit rotating my garden beds three or four years ago. The work got too heavy. The composting over the years had raised the beds twelve inches over the lawn."

"Tell the boys to be sure to look for me if they are in California. I'll be glad to see the new ones as well as the older fellows. I've belonged to many clubs but never known a group of men like these. There never was such a group."

Wednesday, July 28, ninety-two year old P. W. will be flying to California to live with his son Jim, 60, and "Bede." The house on Beard will be vacant and up for sale. But P. W. who at 77 quit selling advertising because "it wasn't fun anymore" isn't exactly quitting gardening. He's going to a year-round gardening climate.

\* \* \*

The center of Pollution is u. You are a part of the problem; why aren't you a part of the solution?

\* \* \*

## Thoughts from The Terraces

- by Dave Johnson

The Community Fragrance Garden has been a mass of bloom for weeks. It will be on the August tour and it should add much to the tour, especially for those who haven't seen it. The Peter Pan zinnas are in excellent variety, uniform in size at fifteen inches in height and very colorful. Benches will be installed in the near future as some funds are still available in the project treasury. Thank you to the members who have volunteered for the weekly maintenance of the garden and to Thor Solem for the excellent pictures taken of the garden during construction, at his own expense.

I have hopes that the saga of the woodchuck has finally come to an end. Two of the varmints and a possible third have gone below their happy eating ground. One was expecting and weighed approximately 15 pounds. It's a good thing it was close to the Fourth of July as I used my 16 gauge double-barreled shotgun on one. My beagle cornered the other under my concrete steps on the terraces. It's nice to see the vines of squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe and pumpkins growing again. My garage is full of fireplace wood so I really don't need any wood chucked.

Our July tour was a big success and it looks like a real bell ringer for our August tour. If our July tour had been a day later it would have been a damp one as an inch of rain and golfball size hail fell in the north suburbs within a half hour. Dwight Stone lost all but six of his beautiful begonias. Some damage was done to my redwood siding and my begonia bed looked like a pine forest after a fire. However, all is not lost as new leaves are sprouting and it could recover if adverse elements hold off.

A garden full of flowers and a camera will enable any of our members to enter the annual slide contest conducted by the photography committee of MGCA. Only 2 x 2 slides taken by entrant of his own flowers are eligible. He may submit a maximum of five slides, but each slide must be a different variety and no slide older than 1969. The contest is divided into sections for roses, iris, columbine, delphinium, hemerocallis, lupine, peony, poppy, marigold, petunia, snapdragon, sweetpeas, clematis, mums, lily, tulips, gladiolus, dahlias and tuberous begonias. Contact me if you are interested in entering the contest.

A young tree has a branch which is growing from the trunk at the three-foot level. How high will the point of attachment to the trunk be in 50 years?  
ANS....three feet. Tree trunks increase in diameter, but not in length except as additions are made to the top.

More gardeners would enjoy summer squashes if they learned to harvest and use them at the proper stage. What is the proper stage? ANS....very small and immature. Straightnecks, crooknecks, zucchini and similar types should be used when six to eight inches long.

The MGCA had its beginning in Chicago on September 26, 1932. Men's Garden Club Week is September 20-26.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME.....

Editor's Note: Old superstitions die hard! Completely false is the one that "plants in a sick room use up all the oxygen." A medical columnist, Dr. Wayne Brandstadt, advises that "plants absorb more carbon dioxide than oxygen and give off more oxygen than carbon dioxide." Our great-grandparents thought otherwise as this clipping bears witness. Will our present pollution beliefs and worries be looked upon similarly a hundred years hence?

"The Management of Flowers in Dwellings.

At this season of the year, when flowers are plentiful, a note of warning respecting their sanitary effect in dwellings may be useful; for, notwithstanding all their beauty, flowers, if not properly managed, are a source of sickness and danger. In closed and darkened apartments, and in the night, flowers which are so delightful to the eye throw off quantities of carbonic acid gas, which mixes with and poisons the atmosphere; and, to add to the evil, in the night, while the leaves are distributing the unwholesome carbonic acid, they absorb largely the oxygen of the atmosphere; and, in this way, in a close apartment, flowers have precisely the same effect as human beings sleeping. Fatal results are said to have arisen from this cause. In the daylight, the effect of flowers upon health is different; for, if the sun's rays are admitted freely into an apartment, the effect of plants is beneficial, as is shown by the result of an experiment made by Dr. Gilly. It is clearly advisable that plants and flowers should at night be kept as carefully as possible from bedrooms; and, while the sun is set, even from other apartments in which persons live. Such, however, is the charm of flowers, it is not probable that, from any sanitary considerations, they will ever be driven from dining-rooms, ball-rooms, and elsewhere; but the peculiar effects to which we have referred show how necessary it is in such places to have thorough ventilation. During the daytime, if the light be freely admitted, plants, if healthy, and flowers, if they be fresh, are beneficial to the atmosphere of a bedroom; but if the bedroom be kept darkened during the day, the flowers will vitiate the air; for then the carbonic acid will fail to be decomposed, and the oxygen to be distributed; the plants, therefore, will act in the most injurious manner as in the night-time. The danger of retaining stale bouquets is evident; for while withering they throw off volumes of carbonic acid."

--GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE. June 1864

WHY NATIONAL?

On the following pages is a reprint of a talk made by Ben Hoyle to the members of the Southern California Region of M.G.C.A. and published in the Nov.-Dec. issue of THE GARDENER. You may have read it casually or you may have passed it up at the time. I consider it the best thing I have ever read on the subject "Why National?", and for that reason I planned to have it copied and sent to you with the suggestion that you read and study it carefully. Ed agreed it would make for better informed members of M.G.C.A. and of our own M.G.C. Mpls. so is including it in THE SPRAY.

P. W. Young

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*Ben Hoyle was asked to address his regional MGCA council recently in southern California. He couldn't make the meeting, and sent his talk. Space does not permit reproduction of all of Ben's words, but the message comes through in this abridgment. Modern promoters say never look back, just go forward. Ben's words refute this; with the solid base of experience, enthusiasm and knowledge, footing is sure and the next step comes easily. Read Ben Hoyle's message and step out with MGCA.*

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Mr. President, distinguished guests, and friends: I am highly honored to have been invited to address you on this occasion, and I am doubly sorry that illness prevents my being here in person. In the first place, I like people who like gardening, and I looked forward with a great deal of anticipation to this Regional conference where we could all meet each other and get acquainted.

The second reason I'm sorry I can't be here is that I was born in Santa Rosa, and of course I have many happy memories of my childhood here.

We lived on 4th Street, in a house with a big back yard, where I had my first little vegetable garden of red lettuce, carrots, and radishes. In those days fathers taught, their children how to raise food, even when they lived in town as we did. Perhaps that's one reason why I'm so interested in the MGCA program of encouraging youngsters to learn about gardening through our Giant Pumpkin and Mammoth Sunflower contests. It still seems important to me.

When I was a child, one of my favorite walks was to visit my Grandmother who lived over on Carrington

Street, which was then on the outskirts of town. Small boys are noted for taking round-about routes, and I was no exception. I would go down 4th Street across the old Southern Pacific tracks to F Street, and turn left in order to go through the Tannery on the bank of Santa Rosa Creek. I'd play along the creek until I came to the Santa Rosa Avenue bridge (in those days it was a nice noisy old steel one). Here I would climb up from the creek bed to walk over—always on the left-hand side, because just across the bridge was a place where there used to grow some of the tallest grain, with the biggest heads, that I ever saw. There was a fence around this field, but some of the plants pushed through the fence, and in early summer I would often swipe one of these large heads and eat the soft grains.

As you may have guessed, this was one of Luther Burbank's experimental plots. His home was beyond it, almost hidden by trees. If you wanted to see the house, you had to turn left on Tupper Street, but I usually went on down Santa Rosa Avenue, because across Tupper on the south was a block-square experimental garden with all kinds of plants, trees, shrubs, rose bushes and flowers, and I enjoyed peering through the cracks in the fence to see the attractive garden. Mr. Burbank kept a pretty close watch over his experimental gardens, and chased out any invading youngsters who might damage his precious plants, but occasionally when he saw me looking wistfully through the fence he would pick a beautiful blossom and give it to me to take to my Grandmother.

My lifelong interest in gardening was, I am sure, what prompted me to join the Men's Garden Club when a local unit was formed in Santa Clara County several years ago. Our club was affiliated with National from the start, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the many pleasant and satisfying experiences that I have had

with the National organization.

"National" is of course no more than the banding together of hundreds of small local clubs like our own. We combined so that our individual efforts could be funneled together and exerted on a much larger scale than any of us as individual groups could possibly manage. When you are interested in some very worthwhile project, it is good to know you need not work alone; other interested people are available to help.

Probably you were all in favor of the recent Save the Redwoods effort. Many organizations worked together to preserve those beautiful, irreplaceable trees, to keep the freeway from destroying the groves, and to create a protective National Park in the redwood area. MGCA was one of the organizations that helped to win this fight. As a lone individual I could have done very little. As a member of a nationwide and respected organization I helped to create an influence much bigger and stronger than that of any one person.

Another successful effort of MGCA was the preservation of the Indiana Sand Dunes, along the south shore of Lake Michigan. This unusual and interesting area, capable of furnishing open space and recreation for thousands of people, was in danger of total destruction by a steel company. Mostly through the efforts of MGCA, the sand dunes were saved and are now a National Park for everyone to enjoy.

Still another national achievement, of special interest to gardeners, was the creation of the Johnny Appleseed Gravesite Memorial, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This was the neglected, weed-grown little grave of John Chapman, whom we all learned about in school as Johnny Appleseed. I don't know who first had the idea, but I do know that a busy, well-known landscape architect, Hrand Hampikian, a member of MGCA, volunteered to draw up plans for a lovely, spacious Memorial. Many

members of Men's Garden Clubs in that region gave their time to do the necessary work. Nationally, MGCA donated money to purchase the necessary materials for planting, paving, lighting, and the other items that go into setting up a public area. The county cooperated by donating and landscaping additional surrounding land as a park, and agreed to maintain the entire area.

There are other examples of MGCA's efforts for the public good, of course, but these will serve.

Within the national organization, many individual benefits and interesting opportunities are available to its members. You know them, of course—such things as our national Seed Exchange program; the work we do on Plant Study; our national Photography Committee, that makes up slide shows to be used by local clubs for their meeting programs.

But I especially enjoy the fellowship angle of this organization. MGCA is not a high-powered, high-pressure machine. It is more like the gardeners who compose it—relaxed and friendly. In fact, I remember with amusement a very apt remark made by one of the bell-hops at the motor hotel in Amarillo, Texas, where one of our National Conventions was held. He looked around the spacious lobby, filled with lively groups of people all happily greeting each other after a year's absence, discussing events of the past year, getting acquainted with newcomers, anticipating the Convention programs and activities to come—and he said in astonishment, "These garden clubbers have got to be the *visitingest* people on earth!"

Our next adventure with National was to attend the 1965 Convention in Amarillo, Texas. True, we had to use our own money and a few of our own vacation days to do this, but they were well spent; we have never regretted the investment.

My wife and I drove to Amarillo with Jim Wilson, who was then a member of the national Board of Directors. This was while efforts were still being directed toward saving the redwood trees, and we took with us a display of photographs to set up on one wall of a meeting room. It was interesting to watch people

stop in front of the display, become entranced with the pictures of the redwood groves—and then become excited and frustrated when they saw the devastation created by lumber companies. I remember one man who was so agitated that he stood there shaking his fist at one of the pictures of destruction.

In Amarillo I attended business sessions, and saw how the national organization operates. I went to small specialized "study and discussion" groups, where information was given out, helpful suggestions were made, and questions were answered on such things as membership, club bulletins, plant study programs—in fact, just about any subject a gardener would be interested in.

But business sessions at Conventions are interspersed with fun. We have enjoyed some truly outstanding and entertaining experiences, that we will always remember with pleasure.

I remember the Portland Convention for many lovely things—a tour of the famous rose gardens at the height of their blooming season, and, on the last day of Convention, reserved seats for the Rose Parade. A trip through a commercial holly farm in the Willamette Valley. A memorable stop at a big strawberry field, where our six bus-loads of delegates had special permission to pick all the strawberries we wanted in five minutes! There was a busy silence as all hands went swiftly to the delightful task. If they had been picking for money, they would have come away with enough to pay their Convention expenses!

In Minneapolis we were taken on a tour of the Northrup King Seed Farms and Experimental Gardens, and afterward had lunch served out on their spacious lawns. We strolled through a city park in Minneapolis where the words "Welcome MGCA" were spelled out in flowers on a grassy bank. And my wife reminds me to tell you that while we delegates were slaving over a hot by-law at the Convention, all the ladies were taken out to see the seven Betty Crocker test kitchens.

A regular feature of each Convention is a tour of the home gardens of local club members. We have seen

many lovely, well-planned, well-kept yards in various parts of the country have enjoyed getting acquainted with each of the host families, and have come away feeling like privileged guests, who would never have had these opportunities, nor made all these friends, if we had not been members of such a friendly and congenial organization.

At each Convention we have seen wonderful garden films, expertly done and very beautiful: "The Garden England", and "My Garden Japan", and a showing of fascinating time-lapse photography that captured on film the actual movement of growing plants.

My assigned topic for this evening (if I remember correctly) was "Why National?" I hope I have already given you examples of the reasons and advantages that I recognize and believe in.

I like to approach the question from this angle—first, why a local? Why do any of us make the effort to belong to *any* voluntary association of our friends and fellow men? I'm sure you have your individual answers to that.

As we get acquainted with each other in our local clubs—as we attend meetings, hold offices, work together on gardening and landscaping projects, help each other with our gardening problems, exchange plans for our gardens, hold plant shows and sales, and take part in all the activities that the group inspires, the world looks a little brighter, and we feel a little better.

Our lives are enriched beyond daily routine. A group spirit develops, and we think a little farther outside of ourselves. What can we do for each other? What good things—even in a small way—can we do for this land we live in? What helpful knowledge can we pass along to the generations that follow us?

Perhaps, being gardeners, you might think of Men's Garden Clubs of America as a living, growing plant. It beautifies the world; it produces blossoms and fruit. It is composed of roots, branches, trunk—and all these parts contribute to the total plant. No one part could exist without the other.

Let's keep it growing . . .

## THE JULY 13 GARDEN TOUR

Lettuce, lettuce everywhere but none was snatched away -- probably too much Kentucky fried chicken.

Can there be such a thing as a hedge of ferns interplanted with lilies? If so Henry Halvorson has it. Henry's picture appeared in the STAR recently because of his peonies. His July rose garden was equally fine.

Dwight Stone's eye catching pink geraniums and the rail fence set in a pea gravel border greeted us as we pulled up. Next, the circle of cabbage around the base of a pine and a border of flowering (fruiting, really) crabs claimed us. Dwight manicures his lawn. too.

We followed the scent of lilies from the street all the way to Evald Johnson's back garden. Woven wire fencing keeps kids and other animals out. Flowers screen the cultivated rows of vegetables. Evald evidently prefers work to mulch but the dirt really looks better the way he grooms it.

Eleanor greeted us at the side gate when we arrived at Paul Lindstedt's. His lawn is well kept and he has a whale of a big vegetable garden. Wonder who eats all those beans and onions. We see he catches rainwater, too.

"The Terraces by Dave Johnson" was our bonus garden. A storm was supposed to have caused much damage but there was little evidence of it save for the angle of a few cornstalks. Of particular interest were three large lantana shrubs (how does he winter them?) and the many fibrous rooted begonias bearing leaves and flowers resembling the tuberous variety.

## MGCA 39TH BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER 26

The Men's Garden Clubs of America is a federation of Men's Garden Clubs and was organized in the very beginning on the concept that it would function through the home-town club. The bylaws were written to incorporate this idea and from time to time have been amended to strengthen the local-club concept.

The MGCA had its beginning in Chicago on September 26, 1932 when the representatives of four men's garden clubs got together and set up the frame work for a national organization. Harold Parnham, Des Moines MGC, is the lone survivor of this history-making convention.

The Akron Men's Garden Club is the largest club at present, replacing Syracuse which had been the leader in size for a number of years. Akron now has 162 members. Closely trailing Akron is Des Moines MGC which has a total of 159 members. Rockf is third with 133. Chapel Hill and North Shore MGC (Illinois) are nip-and-tuck with the North Carolina club with 121 and North Shore 120. Other leaders for size include Roanoke 117, Pittsburgh 115, Grosse Pointe 114, Tucson 108 and Minneapolis 103 for tenth place.

## YOUTH ARE NO MINORITY

If you don't believe it's a "young" world, take a look at Minnesota population figures. Nearly half of the state's population is under 25 and almost one-third fall into the under 15 age group. What plans has MGC Mpls. developed to bring this