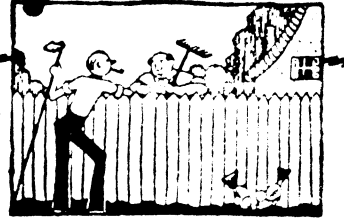




The Garden Spray

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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GALA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

NEXT MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2nd, 1974

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th ST. & KNOX AV. S.

SOCIAL HOUR 6:15 PM PUNCH BOWL

PARADE of TURKEYS and DINNER 7:00 PM, PLUS

The BROOKLYN CENTER HARMONETTES

ANNUAL AWARDS FAVORS FOR the LADIES, and a

FILM SHOWING The GARDENS of ENGLAND

All This for \$6.00 Per Person but BY RESERVATION ONLY
If you have not yet made reservations, or if you wish additional ones,
call Chet Groger immediately at 825-6416.

Our neighboring MGCs have been invited to join us at this event.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES IN THE PAST

"I remember the one in Donaldson's Dining Room. The program featured George Luxton who wrote a garden column in the Minneapolis Tribune. He always mentioned his grandmother who was pictured as an elderly lady carrying an umbrella. At the height of his speech one of our members (Frank Janes who lived next door to Walter Menzel) dressed with spectacl and shawl like the pictured grandma and waving a huge umbrella rushed in scolding, "George, you know the only green thumb you ever had you got painting the back stoop!" George was so surprised he sat down and nearl cried."

"I remember moving our Christmas party to Mount Olivet Church. The church ladies could and would cook the turkeys but could not carve and serve th meat to a crowd. So we established the system of having the club member in charge of each table going to the kitchen and, in parade formation with music, bringing in the turkeys and carving." --Rene' Dufourd

Season's Greetings

MANY PATTERNS FOR OUR CLUB SET THIRTY YEARS AGO

by Bill Hull - Historian

It's interesting that some events initiated thirty years ago in our club still warrant being routine. Some will be mentioned in this article.

It was inexpensive, by today's standards, to belong to our club back in 1944-1946. Dues were \$3 a year and meals cost from 60¢ to \$1.50. Dinner meetings were held usually at the Medical Arts Building Fountain Terrace, costing \$1.25, while summertime barbecues cost 60¢. On rare occasions members brought picnic lunches and paid 25¢ for coffee and dessert.

Our 1944 president was E.R.White. During that year we increased our quota-controlled membership from 60 to 70, with new members going through a selection process that caused some to criticize us for wanting only polished gardeners and not neophytes. Members were still interested in vegetables with "SPRAY" carrying nine articles in one issue on that subject. Victory Gardening continued during these years, from its beginning just previously.

The first garden club tour was held July 18, 1944, including gardens of Walter Menzel and the late Archie Flack. Walter's rock garden was superb. The first flower show was also held that year, in October, at the Park Board Greenhouse, where we subsequently have held many shows.

In 1945 Herb Kahlert was president. Activities included supervision of flower beds at the Veterans' Hospital. Club members furnished labor, perennials and the Red Cross furnished annual seed. During that summer Charlie Doell, a member, was appointed Park Board Superintendent.

The first annual Christmas party was held in 1945, with 80 people present and with a banquet costing \$1.50.

Our club operated economically in those days. With a revenue base of \$210 in 1945, the club spent \$198.84 with accumulated revenue being \$138. at year end

Two of our members, with a third chap, were returning from pheasant hunting in South Dakota that year when their trailer caught fire. They couldn't disconnect the trailer and it burned up, perhaps the car too. The third fellow was injured by exploding shotgun shells. Those were the days.

The first invitational tour of members gardens occurred in 1946 when Glen Cerney was president. Members opened their gardens to other members who were to come by and chat. Attendance wasn't too good - it seems it never was at those events - but it was considered successful.

By this time, members of the club included Henry Bachman, Bill Brooks, Bob Bryant, Larry Corbett, Thurber Day, Rene DuFourd, Walter Menzel and Ed Montgomery, listing those still on our roster, plus Walter Quist whom we mentioned last month as our only living Charter Member.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Congratulations and best wishes to our new president, Bob Livingston, his board of directors. I know you will give them the same wonderful port you have given the officers in the past. In that regard I wish thank all of you for your willing help during the past year. It has ped away far too quickly. A special thank you to those who served on board and on the many committees of the club. Without their many devoted service, the projects and programs of the club could not survive. My special thanks to those who served in jobs that receive little recognition, for example: the telephone committee, Len Brenny and Paul Listedt Co-chairmen; roster and attendance work, John Lillibridge; Comm Garden, Carl Holst and John Lillibridge.

The Minnesota Horticultural Society has a new revision of The Flower Book available at \$2.50 per copy. Many ordered copies at the November meeting. If you didn't, but wish to have one, see Chet Groger at the Christmas party.

A reminder to take advantage of the Holiday Decorations Workshop on November 29th at Klier's Nursery. Come any time from 6 P.M. on. Bring your wife or girl friend for an evening of creative fun and good fellowship.

The Christmas Party this year features Dave Johnson as Master of Ceremony and the inimitable Brooklyn Center Harmonettes and an all star cast of Academy Award winners. Won't you join us.

--Jim Per

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Elected unanimously by acclamation to serve MGCM in 1975 were:

President: Robert Livingston	Vice President: Donald Wi
Secretary: Fred Glasoe	Treasurer: Dean Schneider
Directors: Darwin Price and Norman Stewart	
James Perrin holds over as Past President.	

Our speaker, Professor Harold Wilkins, started his talk with, "I open the slide cabinets and pulled out this and pulled out that and put them all together" hoping to "stimulate us to beautify and to get others to beautify" our environment. With the aid of two slide projectors dual slides frequently presenting contrasting scenes were shown on the screen.

He showed that we could use flowers (New Year's Day in Pasadena) but we didn't. (Barren central cityscapes in U.S.A. vs. flower studded central cities in Europe). He showed magnificent gardens in Victoria, B.C.; Versailles; Rome; England and how they frequently complemented the architecture. He showed the ubiquitousness and decorative qualities of flower stalls in Europe (Barbara Flanagan would have approved) and decried the freeway replacing the Armory Gardens near our Guthrie Theatre. He showed posters in Zurich using Boston downtown freeway scenes to urge voting against proposed Swiss freeway plans. He urged us to seek greater variety in flowering houseplants and predicted that even in the U.S.A. "Horticulture will overcome".

Following the talk special interest groups convened to discuss: Fall Denning with Carl Holst; Plant Photography with Dale Durst and Bob Livingston; and, Vegetables with Bob Smith. Bob's group was still at it after all others had left.

NOTES ON VEGETABLES PLANTED, 1974
by Bob Smith

I can't remember a year when I have received greater enjoyment in spite of the unusual effects that the weather had on so many crops. Tomato production was only 50% of the usual 25 pounds of fruit per plant but quality was excellent. When the tomato season came to an abrupt end with the coming frost of September 21 the vines were still loaded from top to bottom with green tomatoes. The first Big Boy tomatoes ripened August 8 which was about the same as in many past years but the fruit was very slow to mature from then on because of the cool August weather. This was the main reason for reduced yields.

Each year I conduct a cultural experiment in my garden. This year the experiment was with potatoes measuring yield, size and quality of Kennebec and Anoka potatoes in relation to type of eyes and spacing of plants. The results will be published in a later issue of the SPRAY. Something that I hadn't planned to test, the effect of shade and tree root competition on yields, showed up quite dramatically in the results. Several Blue Spruce trees about 40 feet tall on the west side of the potato patch had the lowering effect on yields in relation to distance from the six 45 foot

Variety	Distance of Row from <u>Blue Spruce Trees</u>	Yield Per <u>45 Foot Row</u>
Kennebec	30 ft.	94 lbs.
Kennebec	27 ft.	85 lbs.
Kennebec	24 ft.	61 lbs.
Anoka	21 ft.	26 lbs.
Anoka	18 ft.	31 lbs.
Anoka	15 ft.	31 lbs.

All received the same fertilization and treatment. Anoka potatoes are not as heavy yielders as Kennebec but the drop in yield was very significant. Evidently the Anoka rows were all close enough to be affected equally. It certainly shows that full sun and freedom from root competition are extremely important for good yields with sun loving vegetables.

Some of the unusual and new varieties of fruit and vegetables that I tried and the results are as follows:

Montezuma Red Bean - Dry type for baking - Matured.

Pinkito Bean - Dry type for baking - Did not mature.

Giant Green Soybean - Didn't mature this year but had good yield from Kanrich last year.

Self Blanching Celery - No better than Summer Pascal.

Hybrid Charentais Sweetheart Muskmelon - Early but poor quality.

Hybrid Golden Crispy Muskmelon - Early but poor quality.

Clemson Spineless Okra - I wouldn't be without okra in my garden. When properly prepared it is a table delicacy, different.

Jalapeno Peppers - Peppers matured, but very hot.

Cinderella Bush Pumpkin - Good quality and production from limited space.

All Gold and Centennial Sweet Potatoes - The cool August reduced yields substantially but quality was very good. Production is always marginal this far north.

Sunset Tomato - An early tomato from New Hampshire. Good quality but not suitable for staking because of its determinate growth pattern.

Fall vegetables, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Boston lettuce and leaf lettuce were just excellent. They all withstood the

MORE ON CARROTS

"Once again, the excellent bulletin published by the Minneapolis MGC, The Garden Spray,...contains a report which will be of interest to you. BOB SMITH, who deserves some special title other than ordinary gardener, has written a report on carrot trials which he conducted. Bob's reports show the same care and detail as you find in his garden....I'm going to be bold enough to add my own observations about one phase of carrot culture which Bob doesn't cover. This has to do with keeping carrots over winter.

"I used to dig carrots late in the fall, wash them, and put them in plastic bags in the refrigerator. This method worked fairly well, but it seemed the quality deteriorated towards spring, or before.

"Last year, at the suggestion of my friend, Max Bruch, I left our carrots in the garden over winter. I covered them with 6 inches of straw, and put stakes in the garden to mark the row. Just before Christmas, I shoveled aside the snow and dug part of the row. I was amazed. Although we had had below zero weather, the ground was not frozen, and the quality of the carrots was even better than in the fall. I dug more in February with equally fine results. A few were left till spring, but these were not so good. Some showed spoilage and the flavor was not good. I'm certainly going to try the same system again this year."

--Stanley Crist in Minnetonka MGC bulletin

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

I'd like to add a Christmas party "I REMEMBER"--the time MGCM held the party at Stouffers across 7th Street from Donaldson's. They crowded us in to the basement dining area with a lot of other people. We never went there again.

In mid-October "THE PHYSICIAN AND SPORTSMEDICINE received an award as a Direct Mail Leader from the Direct Mail/Marketing Association in its 197 Annual Best in Direct Mail Competition. The award was presented at the Association's 57th Annual Conference held in New Orleans to William H. H. circulation manager, who also received one a year ago for circulation efforts in POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE, another Minneapolis-based McGraw-Hill publication."

Bill not only receives presentations. He does a superb job when making them, too. So much so that after Bill presented the Johnny Appleseed, the Gold Medal and the Silver Medal awards at Cortland the toastmaster clearly forgot to call on Lyman Duncan to make the Woodson K. Jones award and had to be reminded from the floor by Duncan himself.

CUT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE STRAIGHT ACROSS -- Although a slanting cut is often recommended, a straight cut is just as good and much easier to handle, according to the Univ. of Illinois Forestry Department. The main thing, to say, is to choose a fresh tree, then keep it fresh with plenty of water. To do this you need a tree stand with a reservoir holding about 3 quarts for a 6-foot tree.

If you develop a successful technique or grow a superior plant, or test a new variety, share it, send it along to the MGC Plant Study Report--Bill Snyder, chairman, 714 N. Portage Path, Akron, Ohio 44313, or to the National Headquarters--5560 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa 50323. You don't need to be a professional horticulturist or have a Ph. D. to engage in it.