

for Christmas

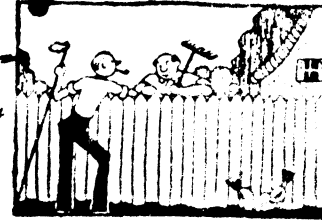


# The Garden Spray

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

Member Mount Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

December 1975, Volume 33, Number 12



a Merry Christmas  
and Good Gardening!  
**ALL YEAR!**

## GALA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

NEXT MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 15th, 1975

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(50th St. & Knox Av. S.)

SOCIAL HOUR            6:00 PM            PUNCH BOWL

PARADE of TURKEYS and DINNER 6:45 PM

STROLLING CAROLLERS

THE MOUNT OLIVET CHORALAIRES

ANNUAL AWARDS                            DOOR PRIZES, and

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 Dean Schneid immediately at 588-1959 or 330-6556.

We have extended an invitation to the other North Star Region Men's Garden Clubs. Come and get acquainted with them. They are a fine group of men.

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our nominating committee selected an outstanding slate of officers for 1976. Best wishes to our new president, Leon Snyder, and his board of directors.

If the indoor plants you grow sometimes wither and die during the winter months you now know why. It's the "Sahara" climate in a modern Minnesota home according to our November speaker, Glenn Ray. Glenn's talk was full of helpful and interesting information. We definitely will have him back so that we may see the balance of his slides.

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## THE NOVEMBER MEETING IN BRIEF

Our speaker, Glenn Ray, emphasized the fact that the indoor climate isn't the same all over the United States so articles about house plants can't always be depended upon. He said, "We live in such a demonic climate" that the house plants for some areas become greenhouse plants for us. Our biggest problems occur January 1 to March 15 when we have a Sahara desert climate (15% humidity) in our homes; when the temperature in south facing windows gets up to 95 degrees and the humidity goes down to the level at which we dry seeds.

House plants for Minnesota must be long lived, relatively free from excess care, and keep their attractiveness. Recommended "for the person who never had an indoor plant" was the variegated philodendron. Other tough ones were Swedish ivy, grape ivy, hoya, amaryllis and various cacti.

At the business meeting preceding the talk (1) The proposed increase in national dues was approved. (Prior to November 1st, 34 clubs had approved the increase and 2 had rejected it.) (2) Local dues for 1976 were set at \$20.00, and (3) Officers as follows were elected to serve for 1976. President, Dr. Leon Snyder; Vice-President, Fred Glasoe; Secretary, Jim Mielke; Treasurer, Dean Schneider; Directors, Bob Gage and Dick Hulbert; Bob Livingston will remain on the Board as Past-President.

### WEATHER SUMMARIES, SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 1975

(For those who file weather records with their garden notes)

SEPTEMBER was cooler and drier than normal. The average temperature of 57.7 degrees was 2.3 degrees below normal. The warmest day was 85 on the 10th; the lowest recorded at the airport was 35 on the 24th. Lower temperatures were experienced in some areas of the Twin Cities with light frost damaging some gardens.

Precipitation of 1.31 inches was 1.42 inches below normal. The most reported in a 24-hour period was 0.36 inch on the 10th and 11th. Measurable rain fell on 12 of the first 21 days with none on the last 9 days, except for a few light sprinkles.

There were 8 clear, 12 partly cloudy and 10 cloudy days.

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OCTOBER was warmer and drier than normal. The average temperature of 52.8 degrees was 2.8 degrees above normal. The warmest day was 87 on the 12th. A general freeze occurred with a 25 degree reading on the 29th.

Precipitation was 0.27 or 1.51 inches below normal. The first 22 days of the month had only 0.02 inch of rain; that was on the 8th. With the deficit of 1.42 inches in September, we are experiencing a very dry fall

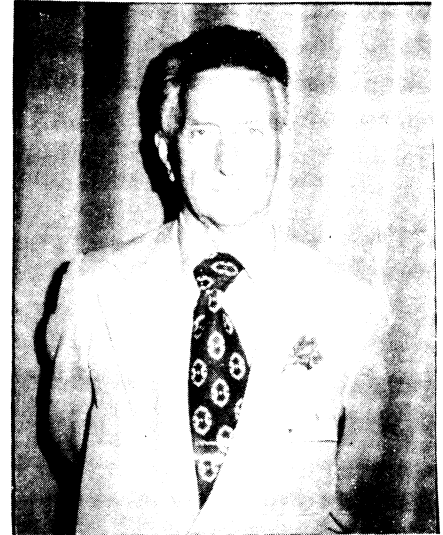
There were 13 clear, 3 partly cloudy and 15 cloudy days. There was abundant sunshine with 67 percent of a possible 100 percent.

(Data for these summaries was taken by MGM member Vinton Bouslough from records compiled by the National Weather Service at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.)

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December 1975, Volume 33, Number 12.  
Deadline: the 15th OF EACH MONTH.

MGCM PRESIDENTS: CARL HOLST, 1973

In answer to what he thinks is the best about the MGC, 1973 President Carl Holst says, "Cooperation. Nate Siegel and I were talking about that recently. We agreed that there never is any infighting, no 'struggle for power'. There are many good things about the Club such as the continual influx of talent, but I would say the best thing is the friendly cooperation."



Carl J. Holst

Carl is soon retiring from a distinguished career as the Supervisor of Horticulture of the Minneapolis Park Board. He was born in Newell, Iowa, and was in Blue Earth, Minnesota at 9 months of age. Following high school he got a degree in Plant Pathology at Iowa State. After a few jobs including a short period in landscape architecture, he started out as a gardener for the Park Board and has worked his way up for nearly 30 years.

I remember Carl telling me that he had an argument with the head professor in his college. The professor argued that the cold climate would hold down the population of the Dutch Elm beetle. Carl wryly remarks "Iowa is devastated", and Carl is one of the few "last ditch" fighters against the disease in Minnesota today.

Rose growers throughout the country know Carl through his being the Regional District Director of the American Rose Society and a member of the National Nominating Committee. He is known by Minnesotans for being a director and president of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and for his work for a dozen years at the Minneapolis Rose Gardens.

We on the Board know Carl as a hard worker. As a director, vice president, and president, Carl has given as he always does give 100 percent cooperation. His national award of the Green Thumb last year is just a belated recognition for "Mr. Cooperation".

A RESOLUTION TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE  
MINUTES OF THE MENS' GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

Whereas: Cortis Rice was one of the founding members of the Mens' Garden Club of Minneapolis, and  
Whereas: Cortis was active in the creation of the Minnesota Arboretum, and  
Whereas: Cortis worked for and supported the Arboretum, and  
Whereas: Cortis had a great interest in all Horticulture

Be It Resolved: that those friends of Cortis Rice, and those interested in Horticulture who wish to join with those friends, commemorate Cortis Rice's activities in Horticulture by creating a fund to purchase a suitable plaque and bench to be given to the Minnesota Arboretum through the Mens' Garden Club of Minneapolis.

## THE KANSAS CITY TOURS

by Ed Culbert

"This is hardly the season for flowers or vegetables in home gardens especially after the six weeks drought K. C. had in August and September," I thought as we started on tour Monday p.m. September 29th. The two gardens we saw confirmed my suspicions. They had beautiful fall asters and some chrysanthemums. That was about it. But Tuesday morning in the rain was something else again!

K. C. MGCA members Harvey McCroskey and Robert Bucher had beautiful, well laid out, weedless and thriving vegetable and flower gardens. In their vegetable gardens were new plantings of beets, carrots, and radishes. McCroskey explained that by using a protective covering against the first heavy frost, they'd gain several weeks of good growing weather--enough to insure a crop. Bucher had an added attraction (home made)--an unusual circular fountain with needle-like jets of water arching over a gas flame.

The FLOWER AND GARDEN (magazine) DEMONSTRATION GARDEN in what appeared to be an old residential section now going commercial covered about three city lots, was in fine shape, and still showed good flower though some of the vegetables were done. Everything was clearly labelled and, if donated, the donor's name was also given. Many of the trees, plants shrubs and seeds had been contributed by seedsmen and growers. Of special interest to me was a bed of pansies near the office entrance. These were volunteers from 1974 and had bloomed since early spring.

This is the tenth year of the garden at this location. Original gradin had left the garden with clay soil. Sand, compost, peat moss, Aqua Humus and leaves have been worked into the annual beds. Gypsum was added for three years. All beds received another application in spring 1975.

The purpose of the garden is to grow, observe, photograph and gather information on new or different plants. It is not intended to be a show garden per se yet it is an official All American Selections display garden where one may see selections of the most recent years A.A.S. awards.

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The Asjes Nurseries (They claim, "We like to grow the unusual.") visit was a repeat in some respects, and on a somewhat larger scale, of our MGCM September visit to Bachmans'. There were plastic covered propagating and holding houses. (Black plastic mesh netting for summer; solid translucent plastic for winter.) Like Bachmans: The third generation of the family is active in the business; They "like to feel, 'If they want it we've got it'"; Field potting of trees for sale next summer was in process; Evergreens were being balled and burlapped for immediate planting.

Unlike Bachmans: Keeping humidity up and air circulating was much more important than heating because Asjes have a working gas well on the property; Asjes start 90% of their woody plants, many from cuttings which are set out in the fields after the first or second year. 90% of the material Asjes Nurseries grow is retailed in their own garden centers. They neither buy nor sell much at wholesale.

## FLOWER GROWERS GOT THEIR MONEY'S WORTH

by Ed Culbert

Last month Bill Hull told about the Crown Center Hotel but didn't tell you that in lobby and conference areas there were all told: a dahlia show; a rose show; a bonsai exhibit; an orchid display; and, a miniature landscape display. And, of course, there were lectures and discussion

Dr. Norlan Henderson, professor of botany at the University of Missouri taxonomist and iris specialist who boasts that his garden contains all the Dykes medal winners, all the Symposium choices, and 20 to 30 thousand seedlings (No wonder his garden keeps him busy 16 hours per day during the three week blooming season.) gave an illustrated lecture covering the history of iris and his own research on the inheritance of color patterns in iris. He has evidence that 23 (not two as previously thought) pigments and combinations are genetically controlled. He finished by demonstrating separation of clumps and planting techniques. (A tidy housewife from Illinois sitting in the audience came up after he left, cleaned up his mess, shook the tablecloth, and replaced it dirty side down.)

Bits of Advice: Don't cut off iris leaves in the fall, they keep on growing on warm days. Instead pull and burn them in the spring.... Work the soil 8 to 10 inches deep before planting.... Dig and transplant the same day even though the rhizomes could survive if unplanted until spring.... Fertilize sparingly with 3-10-10 or very old manure. (His soil is soggy with a pH of 6.3)

The Panel on Flowers turned out to be primarily a discussion on soils and insecticides with many offerings from the floor based more upon tradition than proof. Items: Leafhopper control solves marigold problems.... Marigolds in rose beds eliminate nematodes.... Marigolds are less effective against nematodes since hybridizers have reduced the marigold odor.... Garlic in rose beds helps keep down aphids.

A sprayed on Fels-Naptha soap solution was touted as an effective control for almost everything. (So was joining the appropriate garden flower society.).... Pine needles and manure run through a shredder together make very good compost.... The dealer is supposed to have more information about the chemicals he sells than appears on the label-- so check with him.... If you don't follow label instructions you are violating federal law.... The Bayer aspirin people are the leaders in the study of systemics.

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(PRESIDENT continued)

December 15th is fast approaching so make sure to make your reservation if you plan to attend our Christmas party. Bill Hull's article in the December 1974 GARDEN SPRAY stated that the club's first Christmas party was held in 1945. If this is our thirty-first annual party this is quite an occasion.

Howard Klier's invitation for a Christmas decoration workshop and party November 28th sounded too good to miss. Meatballs and wreaths--a wonderful combination.

I wish to thank each of you for the support you gave me in 1975. Working with the Board was a pleasure. The Board and the various committees were of great assistance to me. My special thanks to the calling committee and to those members who...