

The Garden Spray

COME TO THE PARTY

THE MGCM CHRISTMAS PARTY
at
MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH
50th Street at Knox Avenue South

MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER FIFTH
Social Hour 6:15 Dinner 7:00

--BY RESERVATION ONLY--
Deadline this Monday November 29th

so
CONTACT BOB GAGE IMMEDIATELY
You have only minutes to spare
if you haven't reserved already

\$6.75 Per Person -- in Advance

FAMILY, WIVES, GUESTS INVITED

PUNCHBOWL, FAVORS, DOOR PRIZES
PARADE OF TURKEYS

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT

WE'LL SEE YOU THERE

LETTERS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

GREETINGS, FELLOW MEMBERS: The holiday season is upon us and it seems that I just got myself out of the garden. The perennials are bedded down for the winter. The beautiful long fall truly gave us an extra season of gardening and lengthened the time in which we could enjoy our yards.

If you aren't too bogged down with Thanksgiving turkey, be sure to be at Klier's Nursery Friday night. Howard has lovely materials for making beautiful table and wreath decorations and he has a helping hand for everyone. You'll get better decorations for less than half the price.

On Monday, December 5, we will again parade the turkey down the aisle for a short display before our hungry gardeners dive into their festive meal. It is very important that your reservations get to Bob Gage immediately. Come one. Come all. But, be sure to make your reservations ahead of time.

This year, like all years, has gone too fast. The last days of each year seem to be especially designed for friends and friendship. Being your president this year has been a very worthwhile challenge. It has given me a much closer look at everyone and a wonderful chance to know most of you. It has given me many new and dear friends. Friendships in the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club seem to have a very special something that we all value. As Lloyd Bachman put it at our November meeting, the friendships and the strong togetherness of our members are the things that make our club so worthwhile.

--Fred Glasoe

GREETINGS, FELLOW MEMBERS: ~~What happened at the November meeting was very embarrassing to me. I have long felt that MGCA had no value to us as a Club. Any worthwhile endeavor to promote gardening in which this Club has engaged was originated by us with no help from outsiders. Examples! The Landscape Arboretum--The plantings at the Lyndale gardens area--The Fulton School children's gardens--The Fragrance Garden. Many members, especially the older members, will recall the effort put into these and other projects, in none of which MGCA had any part.~~

Now I know that some members get enjoyment out of attending annual conventions at which they meet and make friends of other vacationing gardeners from around the country. Some who have become involved as officers no doubt get some satisfaction out of it. But it seems to me that most of the emphasis at meetings is given to finding ways and means of increasing memberships and raising money to meet the expenses of the Society. What other similar organization of amateurs has a paid executive secretary? It seemed to me to be a case of the "tail wagging the dog" and I thought that many of our members felt the same way. I found after making such a strong effort for voluntary membership that I was wrong much to my chagrin. I really got carried away and made a fool of myself for which I apologize.

I value highly the many friendships made and the pleasure and profit I have enjoyed during the past 24 years and which I want to continue to enjoy.

And now you have capped all the honors you have previously given me by voting me an Honorary Membership. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

--Les Johnson

OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Bill Hull, historian

Our first Christmas party was held that first year of 1942. Members and guests in the main dining room of the Minneapolis Athletic club. This was on December 7, the date which had gone down in history one year previously.

By 1945 the affair was held at the Fountain Terrace of the Medical Arts building with over 80 present. The new Snoflake mockorange was part of the speaker's discussion, this new variety being from the University. Next year, 1946, we met at the Hasty Tasty cafe near 50th and France. The speaker told the ladies how to make corsages, members gardens were shown in slides for the first time and Mrs. Archie Flack jokingly remarked that "Archie tells me he goes to all these meetings but I never see him in any of the pictures."

In 1947 we had a nationally known speaker, C. Eugene Pfister, Director of United Horticulture and past national president, Men's Garden Clubs of America. 116 people were present to hear this famous rosarian, after whom MGCA named a special national award.

In 1948 we were at Stouffer's restaurant and in 1949 at Donaldson's tea room, both downtown. Bronze medals were awarded those years to Harold Kaufmann for flower show work and Ways and Means chairman of the national convention and to Herb Kahlert for convention chairman.

Stouffers was the place for several years. I well remember the 1952 party which was the largest attended to date. Walter Quist and Frank Janes gave an amusing across the fence portrayal of gardeners at work. We had door prizes in large numbers, which I'd arranged for, on request, but said I'd never do again.

Our first party at Mount Olivet was 1955. 22 years ago. It cost the enormous sum of \$3 per person and set the theme for future meetings. This was the first time we had the Parade of Turkeys (should it be called the Parade of Turkey Carvers?). As one of those first carvers, I remember how Frank Heschmeyer organized it. More than that, I remember the beautiful Christmas tree provided by P.W.Young. It was decorated with individual flowers in water holders. I believe they were red and white carnations and the ladies were permitted to take them home afterwards. Striking and beautiful, this tree should be repeated at some future party.

We've had many great parties. We met at the American Hardware Mutual Insurance company (1960 through 1962), the Boulevard Twins (1963), the Thunderbird motel (1964), Ambassador motor hotel (1965), Thunderbird motel again (1966 through 1968), Sheraton motor inn (1969) and back to Mount Olivet (1970 to date). In 1959 I introduced the Green Thumb Pledge for perfect attendance, an idea developed by some club in the Pacific Northwest; I believe Portland. For several years wife Carol made green felt thumbs for award winners. For a while we provided white gloves with thumbs and fingers dipped in green paint to designate the years of perfect attendance. In recent years we've used the certificates with the hand-lettered names added thereto.

Be sure to join the fun this year and attend our 35th annual party.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECRET BALLOT, An Editorial

Stenvig lost the mayoral election November 8. It was expected. He was opposed by the power structure, the major political parties, the public press and a highly financed campaign. But he got 44,999 votes vs. the winner's 54,735. He wouldn't have received nearly as many votes had there been a voice vote or a stand up vote. Too many people prefer anonymity.

On November 8 a recommendation from our MGCM directors was voted down. It would have made payment of dues to MGCA optional.

The preliminary discussion completely omitted any reference to the crux of the matter (Is membership in the national worth \$10?); but was long on appeals to sympathy--"the national needs us" (Kennedy's supposed, "Not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country") and to tradition--"We've always belonged". Even the opposition sidestepped by dwelling mostly on the fact that the rose society and similar groups do not make national membership obligatory. (But these local groups may not be chartered as we, it is believed, are.)

The directors were offered/given a \$200 check to cover the \$2.50 raise for everyone. Fortunately we turned that down but did it influence the vote? The person who made the offer was honest and sincere but there still is that nasty implication.

An attempt to raid the treasury for the \$2.50 for a moment seemed like to be successful and had treasurer Bob Gage sweating. (It would have cost us as much extra in penalties for early withdrawal of funds from savings as we paid for the extra dues.)

For several reasons I voted against the raise in dues when it was brought up in Raleigh. It was a voice vote--then stand up. Some folks, I note, voted neither way. There was no segregation of delegates to assure validity of right to vote. There was the usual tugging to stand up in favor or sit down against.

At our meeting I moved support for the directors' recommendation. I felt they deserved support and response was slow in coming. I voted for the motion though I had no intention to cease paying dues for the foreseeable future. I attend national conventions. I enjoy them. They make the dues worthwhile to me. (Though I must say the recent Minnesota Horticultural Society convention in Duluth packed more valuable material into one day than MGCA does into three.) Only one, or was it two, others joined me despite the big undercurrent of rumbling which had impelled the directors to take the action they did.

On surface the issue is settled. Had we had a secret ballot it would have been, for those who had reservations would have voted their true convictions. The ultimate result would have been the same just as in mayoral vote, but we would have known better where, as a group, we stood. We would have been in defensible position for telling national; "These things we question. These things need improvement. These things we don't like."

As it is now, it can be said: "We are happy with national. We have endorsed it with a 99% vote." As it is now an unknown number of us, by

(continued on page 6)

THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

IN OCTOBER when Larry Bachman reached the point in his dissertation on "Trends in Landscaping" where he was to show selected slides, they weren't there. They weren't in his car. He'd left them at home. It may have been tough for Larry but the rest of us benefitted for we were able to jot down his comments on shade trees and we had time to ask more questions than would otherwise have been available.

Current trends in landscaping, he said, are:

- . The use of mulches--rocks, bark, wood chips, etc. over a polyethylene weed barrier. (White rocks are bad. They reflect light and don't stay white.)
- . The use of construction materials--Railroad ties are replacing dry-wa stone.
- . Sculpturing the yard--flat level contours are no longer considered desirable.
- . Emphasis not so much on foundation plantings as on plantings to be seen from the home.
- . Wooden decks in lieu of or in addition to patios of flagstone, brick, aggregate or concrete.
- . A softer look of plants and better maintenance.

Good trees for yard use locally are:

- . Ash--Marshall's Improved, Summit (Not a strong tree).
- . Corktree--Amur, Sakhalin.
- . Ginkgo--Slow growing but the one most tolerant of city conditions.
- . Hackberry--Not easy to transplant.
- . Honey-locust--Sunburst is of borderline hardiness here.
- . Kentucky coffee tree--Has beautiful seed pods.
- . Maples--Norway (very dense foliage), sugar, silver (for the first 20 years only, later it gets too large and is susceptible to breakage.)
- . River birch--If you must have a birch.
- . Others--Catalpa, linden, mountain ash, pin oak, willow.

Comments and response to questions:

Two Bachman objectives are to purchase 15 to 20 plants "new to us" each year and to sell plants only at the time they are most likely to grow.. a 1-3/4" tree is the largest size apt to be successfully planted bare-root...85% of our elms will be gone in 10 years anyway so treatment might better be confined to trees of historic or sentimental value...Fertilizer will probably forestall Dutch elm disease as well as does lignasan.

THE NOVEMBER PROGRAM was, primarily, a symposium on greenhouses led off by Chuck King who described his detached greenhouse (cost about \$1500) which he runs February 15 to December 1 mainly for raising annuals for his garden. By contrast Vern Carlson started growing under lights on a 4' x 8' plywood sheet. When he became involved with potted chrysanthemum he had to expand to an 8' x 12' glass greenhouse to bring them to final bloom.

Fred Glasoe got 50% off on Rusco mismeasured windows so built a workshop greenhouse to fit them. He intended to use it as a greenhouse only a few weeks per year. Unable to find a cut-off point for his gardening activities, he finally gave in and provided for heating. He also brought in small electric fan just big enough to produce the slight air movement needed to forestall fungus.

PROGRAMS (from page 5)

Jerry Shannon bought a house because a detached glass greenhouse came with it. Then he found the north lighted greenhouse no good for starting seedlings. Now he grows them under lights in the basement solacing himself with, "Houseplants are house plants. They belong in the house." He overwinters his orchids in the greenhouse saving heat by covering the glass night with styrofoam. "Only a five minute job", says he.

James Dock started out by buying a 10' x 18' Lloyd and Burnham aluminum and glass greenhouse heated by two gas furnaces. (One is primarily a spare.) It turned out to be too small, so after only four years he has moved his African violets into the basement. The bubble plexiglass he installed for greenhouse insulation also serves to cut down summer glare. An evaporative cooler for summer use works best when the humidity outside isn't high. He uses no fumigant but does spray.

Dick Lehman occupied his spare time after reaching age 70 building a 15' x 30' aluminum, glass, concrete and cypress greenhouse in which he installed two 50,000 BTU gas heaters. He finds a 50° temperature works best for what he grows. Not yet satisfied, he spent \$62 for materials and in October-November 1977 built a 12' x 18' pipe framed plastic covered house (sans benches). A portable electric heater will add 60 days of usefulness. P.S. If you can't see a greenhouse in your future, try Dick's other scheme for extending the growing season 30 days each way. Build a frame sew some old drapes together; and, cover your garden beds.

EDITORIAL (from page 4)

avoiding a stand, have escaped facing the "Ed, I didn't know you were against national", I did after the meeting. Human nature being what it is, because we didn't get it off our chests onto a ballot, we'll still feel free to rumble. AND THAT ISN'T GOOD.

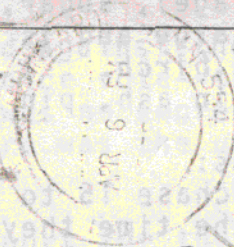
--Edwin C. Culbert

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: FRED GLASOE
618 E. 58 St., Mpls., 55417
- Vice President: RICHARD HULBERT
3422 Xerxes Avenue N., Mpls. 55412
- Secretary: JAMES E. MIELKE
Rt. 5, Box 228, Excelsior, 55331
- Treasurer: ROBERT GAGE
16145 Hillcrest La., Eden Prairie, 55343
- Past President: DR. LEON C. SNYDER
Rt. 1, Box 573E, Excelsior, 55331
- Director: CHARLES H. ROBBINS
7112 Park Ave., Mpls., 55423
- Director: RICHARD G. VICTOR
4358 Metcalf Dr., Eagan, 55122



FIRST CLASS

To

Mr. Wm H. Hull
6833 Creston Rd.
Edina, MN 55435