

M G



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**OLDTIMER'S  
MASTER GARDENER  
GARDEN TOUR**

MEN ONLY

GUESTS WELCOME

JULY 10, 1979

DINNER 5:45 - \$5.25 includes bus

TOUR 6:45



Dinner served at Les Johnson Yard  
3919 Pleasant Avenue S

Please bring your own table  
and folding chairs



**OTHER GARDENS TO BE VISITED**

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Clarence Knoblauch       | 2802 - 32nd Ave. S.   |
| 2. Verner Carlson           | 5613 - 26th Ave. S.   |
| 3. Otto Nelson              | 5409 - Girard Ave. S. |
| 4. Lake Harriet Rose Garden |                       |
| 5. SURPRISE                 |                       |



# The Garden Spray

## Thou Shalt Not Steal!

If you do may your buds blast,  
your seedlings damp off and  
your propagation box go sour.  
May "creeping charley" get your  
Dollbaby in trouble; may a host  
of white fly destroy your epi-  
phytes and may mildew, botrytis,  
leaf spot and all other fungus  
diseases run rampant among  
your exotica.

--Placard above a display in the  
North Carolina State University  
Campus Greenhouse-Conservatory.



THE M.G.C.A. MIAMI CONVENTION - May 4-7, 1979

The Miami MGC rolled out the red carpet in a huge ocean front hotel with good convention facilities. I was able to join Sherm Pinkham at the executive board meeting Friday afternoon and meet the officers and director and see them at work. They are a concerned and hard-working group dedicated to closer participation in club activities.

The first delegate session opened Saturday morning with 104 delegates representing a total of 312 votes. National President Earl Starr of Miami presided and was supported at the head table by his three vice presidents, Leonard Guerrero, Austin, Texas, Jeff Collier, Jacksonville, North Carolina, and John Leonard, Van Wert, Ohio, also Harry Bevington, MGCA Treasurer, Des Moines, Iowa, and Glenn Vincent, Executive Director, and his staff of two, all from Des Moines, and Delbert Dunbar, Past President, Delta, Ohio.

The nominating committee, headed by Past President Sam Fairchild, North Carolina, presented their slate, moving each vice president up and adding Director Tom Frei, Santa Rosa, California, as 3rd Vice President. A motion from the floor also nominated Director Dean McCoy, Webster Groves, Missouri, for 3rd Vice President. Each club in attendance was instructed to cast one vote for each 15 members as of Dec. 31, 1978. In addition, each director could cast one vote. With 135 members on record, our MGCM could cast 9 votes plus Sherm Pinkham's vote as Director. Delegates were urged to caucus and name one club delegate to vote for the delegation the following morning.

All officers and committee chairmen gave reports of their year's activities, including our Sherm Pinkham and his committee on the present and long range picture regarding Life Memberships, Endowments and Investments. At present, over \$72,000.00 is held, mostly in U. S. Treasury Notes at 9%, in an investment program administered by the 5 member committee entirely apart from MGCA. Only the interest from these funds is available to MGCA as a financial base. George Mines, Akron, Ohio, of the committee described the Life Membership program and reported that Stow, Ohio, led with 36, Akron with 34, Austin, Texas, with 19, Fairfield County, Connecticut, with 18, Des Moines, Iowa, with 17 and Minneapolis, Kent, Ohio, and Tyler, Texas, are tied for 6th place with 12. Their goal is 10% of the MGCA membership.

Lorenz "Pete" Peterson, Overland, Missouri, led the luncheon presentation by the Gardening From The Heart committee. A slide program was presented by the Tucson, Arizona, club, showing their work with handicapped children. Awards were given to MGC Mansfield, Ohio, and MGC Watchung Hills, New Jersey. A special award was given to the Park Seed Company for their donation of all seeds used in the program which totaled over \$400.00 last year.

Saturday afternoon included committee workshops and I learned the details of the national slide competition in the Photography Workshop. This is an active program and I will write more about this later. There was time for only one seminar per customer, following the workshops, and I sat in on the orchid seminar hosted by a MGC Miami orchid grower. They grow their orchids out of doors in Miami and use the frequent blooming varieties such as Vandas. They grow very few of the florists varieties we grow here. After the seminars, we viewed a showing of the winning slides in the national competition.

(continued on page 5)



SEED PRODUCTION PART II: VEGETABLE SEEDS, COARSE  
by Laurence W. Corbett

INTRODUCTION Many people have no idea where seed comes from much less where it is grown or how prepared. I was once asked, "What kind of a machine makes this stuff?" Each kind of seed has a different handling but we can make some group separations and then some sub separations. We can start with four main categories: (1) Vegetable seeds; (2) Flower seeds; (3) Grass seed; and, (4) Farm or Agricultural seeds. We will leave out tree and shrub seed.

Vegetable seeds are usually divided into Coarse seed (peas, beans and sweet corn) and Fine seed which includes all others. Fine seeds are sub divided into several groups such as annuals and biennials. Vine seeds are considered a separate group.

Peas, beans and corn are the major items of sale in most retail seed stores. Originally most seeds came with the immigrants and for years the large majority of seeds were imported into this country from Europe. That is not true today.

There are many factors that influence where seed is grown. I would rate "know how" first, then climate, disease and soil. Plant diseases pushed the production of peas and beans westward from New York state to Michigan and Wisconsin, to Wyoming to Idaho and, now, California. Anthracnose on beans was virulent in New York. Halo blight and bacterial blight is serious in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Idaho and California are virtually free.

Insect sprays and fungicides play a very important part. Years ago we (Northrup-King) grew peas at St. Anthony, Idaho, because it was over the 5000 foot elevation and no pea weevil existed. Today we control pea weevil with chemical dusts and sprays and produce seed at lower elevations.

Bean seed production is primarily located in Idaho and California where surface irrigation is used. Overhead irrigation wets the foliage and helps spread diseases just as rains do in our Minnesota area. Beans are planted in rows usually twenty two inches apart but row width depends on soil, farm machinery and cultural methods. The guide to time to harvest is the pods losing their flesh and turning yellowish. We call it "Buckskin". The beans are mature but not hard and brittle. The plants are cut off below the surface of the ground then raked or rolled in windrows and left to cure for about a week to ten days depending on weather and temperature.

Special threshing machines have been developed to "rub" out the seed from the pods. Beans are easily damaged. Look at a bean. The two cotyledons are very large and have a very small joining area. If this is cracked or broken the germination is ruined. Even slight cracks result in "bald heads" or deformed plants that have a reduced yield of pods. Bean seed is handled with as much moisture as possible so that the seeds have some "give". Moisture is sometimes added by mixing in moist inert material.

Pea seed is much easier to thresh and clean than beans. Peas are grown in rows or, so-called "broadcast", drilled in close together. Short season or early varieties such as Alaska, First and Best and Early Sweets are grown without irrigation in the Palouse area, Spokane, Washington south to Moscow, Idaho. This is one of the three areas in the world where the soil was formed and deposited by the wind. You farm the hills  
(over)



in this area not the valleys as most are canyons. The soil is very deep and holds moisture. In this area the peas are drilled in and usually combined direct--no cutting or windrowing.

The later varieties of sweets are usually grown with irrigation and in rows. They are grown in many areas with the concentration, however, in California, Montana, Wyoming and the "Magic Valley" of Idaho. These peas are cut when the pods start to lose color and are "rubbery".

Peas belong to the same family as vetch and are easy to thresh. The big danger is wind and or rain after they are cut. If the wind rolls the vines it will thresh them. Rain wets the pods and when they dry the pods pop open. The old saying that "you do not own them until they are in the bag" is very true for peas. Cleaning is similar to that for beans but it is faster, easier and with less damage therefore cheaper.

Sweet corn seed today is nearly all F<sub>1</sub> hybrid so we will not discuss open pollinated production. The real work<sup>1</sup> on hybrid sweet corn is done by the research staff. The first task is to develop good inbreds that breed true. Next comes the long testing program to find which inbreds will combine with another inbred to give a superior hybrid. This takes years of work and thousands of combinations. You may never get that superior one.

After a hybrid is established remember that one inbred becomes the male parent, another inbred the female. The tassel is the male or pollen shedding part. The silk is the female and each silk is attached to a single kernel. Most sweet corn seed is grown with irrigation, primarily to increase yield and get a larger kernel or seed. A standard planting is two rows of male to four or six rows of female. If the male plants are shorter than the female or are shy pollen producers you may have problems for corn is a grass and is wind pollinated. (Peas and beans are self pollinated therefore it is very difficult to produce hybrids.)

It is best to have two rows of male corn plants on each side of the field. All tassels are removed from the female rows. The secret to obtaining a good clean hybrid is to have all tassels removed before they can shed pollen and develop an inbred. The male rows are not harvested for seed. Sometimes they are cut for feed though usually they are just discarded.

The ears on the female rows formerly were picked by hand but now a mechanical picker is used. The small butt on an inbred ear makes the ear hard to pick mechanically. Damage is often done to some seed as a result. Corn seeds though they are monocotyledons injure easily with rough handling or long drops.

The ears of sweet corn are dried to a point where the kernels have less than 10% moisture, usually 6% to 7%. This artificial drying has increased the longevity of seed and maintained vigor. Corn seed is sized by length of kernel and thickness for mechanical planters. And, obviously, it pays to use chemical seed treatments to protect against soil fungi and insects.

#### ADD TO YOUR NEW ROSTER

Prestegord, Craig (Mary Lois)  
120 Canterbury Rd. (715) 834-3771  
Eau Claire, Wi 54701

Rahn, R. A. "Ray" (Rosie) 454-6457  
4290 Blackhawk Rd. 454-9884  
Eagan, Mn. 55122



(CONVENTION, from page 2)

The dinner program included club bulletin awards and our editor of the SPRAY, Ed Culbert, was named one of the winners. The St. Louis delegation gave a well prepared invitation to St. Louis in 1980, showing an excellent film on St. Louis and describing the Chase Hotel and facilities for the May 25-28, 1980, convention. The hotel is across the street from Forest Park and is near the Missouri Botanical Gardens with its one acre geodesic dome and guided tram tours of the gardens. One night will be a "Night On the River", featuring dinner on a river boat and then dividing into 3 groups and joining in a steamboat race down the river.

Sunday breakfast was preceded by a short sermon and prayer service by Director Gary Feathers, MGC Miami. We then returned to the 2nd delegate session while our wives attended a seminar hosted by the Miami Ikebana Society, whose members brought dozens of large beautiful flowers and demonstrated Japanese arranging.

The nomination of Tom Frei, California, prevailed after balloting, perhaps because he offered to travel anywhere at his own expense to help organize new clubs and encourage present clubs. MGCA needs more help in the west. The Austin, Texas, club, headed by 1st V.P. Leonard Guerrero, invited everyone to the 1981 convention in Austin, promising a big Texas welcome. Both Spokane, Washington, and Toledo, Ohio, put in bids for the 1982 convention. The MGCA board makes that decision at their November meeting.

Sunday afternoon we devoted to garden and nursery tours. No choice was available. No one knew where they were going until the buses left. Our bus load enjoyed a MGC Miami member's greenhouses and yard and a bromeliad and an orchid nursery before finishing with another member's collection of unusual tropical trees and shrubs, including a variegated banana tree complete with full grown bananas. (They appeared on the speakers table at the banquet and we were invited to take one home.)

The evening dinner program included a description of the world of bromeliads by the grounds superintendent of Parrot Jungle, where we went the following morning. As the name implies, we saw lots of parrots and a beautiful tropical jungle, including a rain forest where it rains every night. After a good box lunch on the bus, we visited the Fairchild Tropical Gardens, a Florida arboretum, in the afternoon.

This being Monday and the close of the convention, we attended the reception and banquet in the evening. An excellent dinner served by a very professional Cuban staff was followed by award presentations and a Hawaiian Hula show. The top club award went to Libertyville, Ohio, which just nosed out Dallas. The top individual award went to Stan Munro, MGC Marcellus, New York.

Although this was my first convention, I think it must have been one of the better ones. It was very colorful, well organized and held in excellent facilities. (Our rooms were about 57 feet from the back of the kitchen to the front of the sun parlor.) Sherm Pinkham will have to tell you how it compared with previous conventions, but I was told by just about everyone I met how they thought the Minneapolis convention in 1967 was one of the best conventions they ever attended.

Final observation: As I have often said, gardeners are friendly people. Although Sherm's introductions helped, my wife and I felt right at home with the other delegates and their wives and we met and enjoyed a lot of friendly people.

--Chet Groger



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

"April showers bring May flowers" so the saying goes; but this rain in June is ridiculous. This is being written on Saturday June 9. It has been raining all day and I am thinking about building an ark instead of planting flowers.

LOOKING AHEAD: We will have our traditional tour of members' gardens July 10--an evening tour for members and male guests. August 25 and 26 brings the flower show at the arboretum. There will be a class for kids so get them grooming their material. September, still in doubt, a tour of members' gardens with our wives has been suggested. Any comments should be given to Fred Glasoe who heads this event. October and November will find us back at Mount Olivet. Mark Monday, December 4 for our annual Christmas party. Dick Stehley and Chet Groger say it's going to be the best ever.

The Board has been accused of slow action on membership requests. We ask, "Who did you give the application to?", and are told, "To some board member." Membership applications should be given to our secretary, Dick Victor. He logs it in and brings it to the next Board meeting, usually the Monday following the regular meeting. Applications incompletely filled out are returned to the sponsor which delays consideration for a month. You can help by making sure the membership application form (the 8½ x 11 form, not the small blue card) is properly and completely filled out before signing as sponsor. Then be sure you deliver the application promptly to the secretary either in person or by mail. This procedure will result in quick action.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD IN. See you on the tour.

--Bob Gage

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



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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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To

**FIRST CLASS**

William H. Hull  
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