

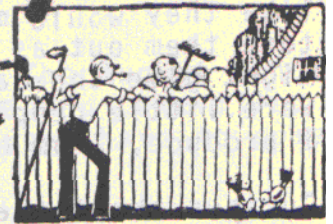


# The Garden Spray

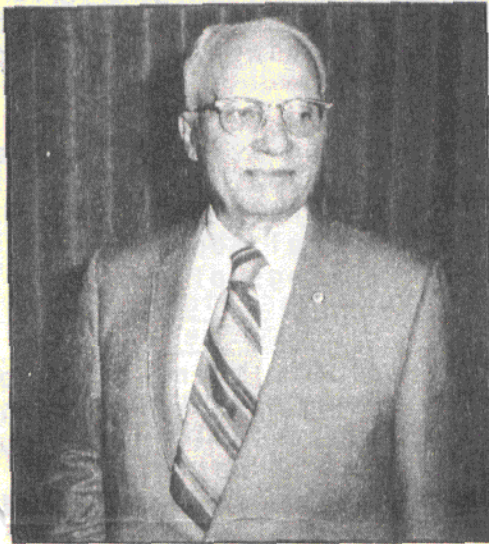
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

June 1978, Volume 36, Number 6



## LAST CHARTER MEMBER OF MGCA DIES



HAROLD J. PARNHAM  
1975, at Mt. Olivet

Harold J. Parnham, Mr. MGCA, died in Des Moines Iowa on Friday, May 12, 1978, after a long battle with cancer.

In the late thirties Parnham, a moving spirit in a Des Moines men's garden club, represented his club at a meeting convened in Chicago of representatives of several men's garden clubs. The meeting ended in a decision to form a national organization and Des Moines became one of the founding clubs. Parnham was the last survivor of the group of men who met in Chicago. At the time of his death he was still active in his own club and was serving as an associate editor of the national magazine, *The GARDENER*.

Over the years Parnham was a spokesman for MGCA. The rougher the going the more his presence was evidenced. For example: Fortunato Teho of Hawaii though not a member and really representing no existing club succeeded in 1973 and again in 1974 in getting a commitment from the MGCA national meeting delegates to hold the 1977 convention in Hawaii. Teho failed to make an appearance at the 1975 Kansas City business meeting where Parnham, 1975 president had every reason to expect to see him. The story was that Teho was sick. Parnham, doubting, located him at a San Francisco hotel and forced an admission that Teho was in no position to guarantee anything. Parnham reported the situation to the delegate body saying he had given an ultimatum which Teho tried to weasel out of. So the Hawaii date was cancelled and another convention site had to be found.

When the need for a permanent national office was recognized, Parnham and the Des Moines club obtained a gift of land and underwrote a building. Since then the Des Moines club has subsidized, in part, the building's operation and maintenance through contributions of labor, material and cash. Had the headquarters been located anywhere else we doubt that we would have found another Parnham to hover over the fledgling and nurture it as he did. There were times when the going was so rough that the headquarters and organization could have folded had it not been for the behind the scenes activity inspired by his example and exhortation.

Minneapolis' Men's Garden Club members had a chance to meet Harold Parnham when as national president he visited with us at our October 1975 meeting. At that time he discussed trees, their importance to our cities, the pro-

## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

I never realized I was a strong "pro-lifer" until the other day when I was transplanting some seedlings. I had transferred the strong ones to their appropriate bedding grounds and had about a dozen plants which didn't look like they would make it, and besides I had the tray nicely filled. Did I toss them out as was most reasonable? No! I found myself debating how I might give them at least a fighting chance for survival as though they were little people appealing to my mercy. At least as far as the plants I produce, I am a 100% "pro-lifer".

Curious about these undeniably strong feelings in myself, I started asking other plant lovers and discovered that I am no exception. Once you have loved and cared for plant life, your very being is unpleasantly disturbed at the very thought of "planticide". Herbicides are associated with weeds and haven't the same connotation.

The logical side of my nature has been on the side of legalized abortion. I have said to myself births that endanger the mother or that bring unwanted children into the world should be terminated at conception. That is very easy to rationalize. But thinking about how I feel about those runt seedlings, I cannot deny the legitimacy of the feelings of pro-life people.

Saving sad looking little seedlings is not the only idiotic thing my wife and I do with unpromising plants. When a rose bush doesn't look as though it will make it another year, we will not always dig up the old plant but out of misplaced compassion plant the new alongside it. It has happened that the old plant has regained its strength and the new faded away. And it has also happened to our dismay that both have prospered and we have had to make a choice. In either case, roots have had to be disturbed. And then there are those sweet little violets! When they have crept out of their bed and sneaked into the adjoining lawn we have sometimes left them grow ignoring the truth that a plant out of place is a weed.

Such pro-life feelings lead us into all sorts of gardening foolishness. But then, I guess, if we didn't feel this protectiveness for plants and sometimes make errors in judgment, we wouldn't be gardeners in the first place.

--Dick Hulbert

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COMING UP TUESDAY, JUNE 13.

LAST MGCM MEETING AT MOUNT OLIVET UNTIL FALL.

DINNER AT 6, AS USUAL.

PRICE \$3.50, AS USUAL.

SPEAKER: MIKE ZINS, Ramsey County Extension Service Agent,  
will present a

Slide and Talk Show on PRUNING.

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Tear off and return immediately to

Richard Hulbert 3422 Xerxes Ave., No. Mpls., MN 5541

Count me in on the June 13th meeting of MGCM.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me (and my guest).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## NEWS ABOUT CLUB EVENTS

COMING: Bob Haley says, "Remind the fellows that we have two wonderful garden tours coming up this summer on Sunday, July 9th and on Sunday, August 6th." He says it's high time for you to date up your wife, or your best girl or whoever for both of these events.

The July 9th tour ends with dinner at the Arboretum. The August 6th tour ends with dinner at the Mount Olivet retreat center beyond Lakeville. Of course we plan to bring you back afterwards for the buses have to come back regardless.

Dick Hulbert adds, "The Board has decreed a price of \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple for each event. The price includes the bus and the meal at the end of the tour. Cars will be left at the Mount Olivet parking lot."

The Flower and Vegetable Show dates have been set for Saturday and Sunday, September 9th and 10th at the Arboretum. Because of the press of other business Don O'Donnell had to give up the chairmanship of the show. A replacement had not yet been found when this notice was prepared.

Our September meeting will be held at the Arboretum about 2 PM on Saturday, September 9th in conjunction with the Flower and Vegetable Show.

The St. Paul Men's Garden Club (not an MGCA affiliate) has been invited to join with us for our June meeting.

Hopefully members of the Minnetonka and North Suburban clubs will attend one or both of the summer tours.

AND PAST: The May auction brought out a crowd (89) of members and guests. By official opening time the Country Store was about sold out and Dr. Leon Snyder was beginning to feel writer's cramp from autographing his new book, GARDENING IN THE UPPER MIDWEST.

DeLaria's surprised us with "Poppin Fresh" apple pie at dinner--a vast improvement. Then auctioneers Dwight Stone, Julius Wadekamper and Ev. Haedecke took over. There was a rush to get the small coleus plants. A lot of fellows must plan to use them for borders this year--or do the wives plan to carry them over as winter boarders? Roses sold for \$5 and up. Grab bags brought \$1.50. Potted arbor vitae brought only \$7--a good buy.

One member egged on by Dwight Stone bid against himself. (Dwight), "What am I offered?" (Bidder), "50 cents." (Dwight, turning away), "I'm offered 50 do I hear 60?" (Bidder), "60." (Dwight), "Who'll give 70?" (Bidder), "70." And so on to over a dollar with no one else bidding.

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Carl Holst reports Al Nelson is in better shape.

Correct your roster Archie Caple's address is 7221 - 15 Ave. S. NOT 771

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Air conditioners emit strong drafts that can rob cells of their turgid thus drying off the plant. And kitchen fans propel cooking fats and o

## TREE WOUNDS

Most needle-bearing evergreen trees have a good natural defense against contamination of trunk wounds. During the winter season the air contains practically no spores (germs) of pathogenic fungi to cause infection of open wounds, but with the arrival of warm weather the period of possible contamination begins. At the same time resin starts to exude from the live cells in and surrounding a tree wound. Very soon the exposed surface of the wound is covered almost completely with a layer of resin which protects the moist wood beneath from infection by a variety of potential pathogens. Healing immediately begins at the margin of the wound. Thus, ordinary wounds of needle-bearing evergreens have a built-in protection that serves them well without the immediate attention of man.

Broadleaf deciduous trees are quite subject to infection through trunk wounds and branch wounds. When bark is crushed or torn away during warm weather, the exposed wood usually becomes moist immediately. This moist surface quickly becomes invaded by non-pathogenic bacteria and a variety of mold fungi which form a temporary clot. The moisture is rich with natural sugars that serve as nutrition for the bacteria and molds. As the mold and bacterial mass enlarges, these fungi produce secretions that are very toxic to many pathogenic spores that might cause disease of the live tree tissues or cause decay of the exposed wood cells. Thus, this fungus-bacterial clot does not harm, in fact, temporarily serves as a protective shield against harmful fungi. At the margin of the wound, healing tissue (callus) begins to form. In large wounds the healing process may take months or years to completely cover the wound with bark. Since the protective clot over the new wound dries relatively soon, the exposed wood needs protection from infection as soon as the moisture dries. At that time the exposed wood should be thoroughly covered with a proper tree paint, preceded by a coat of shellac over the marginal callus. An oil base paint should never be used since the oil is harmful to most bark and wood tissue.

A suitable amount of medication in the form of a high nitrogen fertilizer applied beneath a wounded tree will stimulate more rapid formation of callus about the wound. When a valuable ornamental tree sustains a serious trunk wound, the owner should seek the service of a thoroughly informed arborist.

From Syracuse NY MGC "The Spread

### THE URBAN FOREST IN '78 (From the Park Superintendent's report)

The Park and Recreation Board has allocated over ten million dollars to control the spread of shade tree disease in 1978. In the shade tree disease program the Board will plant 10,000 boulevard trees; replace 2,000 trees; and plant 600 to 700 balled and burlapped trees in parks of significance through the State of Minnesota's reimbursement plan.

A subsidy will be offered to private homeowners who have diseased trees on their property whereby the homeowner pays the first \$150 per tree and the State and Board pay removal costs above that amount. The shade tree allocation also covers the cost of removing an estimated 35,000 elms-- 22,300 in parks and on city boulevards and 12,700 on private property.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS IN NEWS

The 5-year-old black boy came up to Mr. Kindergarten. The boy was crying and said: "A white boy called me blackie."

Mr. Kindergarten, alias Fred Lang, didn't hesitate a moment.

"Did you tell him, 'Thank you'?" asked Lang.

There was a strange look on the boy's face. He thought for a while, then stopped crying and began to smile.

We're going to lose Fred Lang, 64, as a Minneapolis teacher, to retirement. And that's too bad.

Fred, of 4736 Coffey Lane, is a maverick, an innovator, a man who has caused more than one school administrator to break out in a sweat. But no one ever can claim that Fred wasn't primarily concerned with giving children the beautiful experience of loving to learn.

Sometimes it cost him a great deal, but that never stopped him. He is only sorry, he says, that he didn't learn how to teach sooner.

Born in St. Cloud, Minn., Fred spent two years in what is now St. Cloud State University, and then began teaching in west-central Minnesota country schools. World War II arrived and he did five years in the army, most of it in the South Pacific.

After the war he went to the University of Minnesota, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He was then 36.

He began teaching at John Burroughs Elementary School in Minneapolis and then went to Pratt Elementary School. It was at Pratt that what he calls his "real teaching" began.

It was in September and things were blah. "I felt a lot of potential in the kids, but we weren't getting anywhere," said Fred. "I wanted to make wonderful things happen for them."

One morning he came into class and asked: "Who is the No. 1 person in this room?"

Dutifully, the children answered that, obviously, he was.

"Wrong, wrong, wrong!" he said.

After that statement, Fred wondered what to do next. "I had made a commitment, but I had no idea what would happen."

The next day the kids brought in posters, such as Marlon Brando on a motorcycle. They put them up all around the room. Fred was a bit surprised.

"You said this was our room," said a boy.

Then Fred realized they were furnishing their school home. They were getting ready to learn on their own terms.

At the kids' request, Fred made textbooks a secondary source, for which he received complaints from the traditionalists. "I wasn't putting down textbooks, as some charged. I was just against the misuse of textbooks, which is relying on them too much."

Fred discovered that the kids didn't know the difference between a chicken and a duck. He scrounged an incubator and started the kids hatching chicks from eggs. "They all thought eggs were something to dip your toast in," he said. "They had no idea they were a means to create life."

With the incubator alone, he taught them some sex education, and math (it takes 21 days for an egg to hatch: how many days are left?) and something about feelings.

The kids began to bring things to Fred. One day they came with pictures and articles about unidentified flying objects. They asked him if there actually were any such things.

He told them the truth, that he didn't know. So they began discussing it, and found themselves into myths and legends. That led them to reading about early myths of Greece and Rome. "We did a whole series on it," said Fred. "All from an interest in UFOs."

Fred moved to Bethune Elementary School on the North Side. He decided to teach kindergarten, to get the kids while they were fresh in terms of education. At first he had only boys, and most of them were black.

Up went posters of Bill Cosby and the Mod Squad. A blackboard sign read: "Keep Cool," and Fred wore heavy print shirts. Hush, Duany



Fred Lang

with his Monty Woolley loc white hair and beard and the fa of a movie-type professor.

Soon the kids were learning abt the environment by planting flower seeds in the school's yard. Fr got some old work benches th were to be destroyed and broug them to class for the kids to hammer and saw and build things. conned Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. out of an old switchboard, complete with buzzers a ring-and-ding-dings. They loved all.

For years Fred was the only m kindergarten teacher in Minneapolis — thus the Mr. Kindergarten tag. He feels strongly that men should teach that grade, a has induced teachers who learn from him to enlist. Now there a male protege's of Fred teachi kindergarten in Onamia, Elk Riv Osseo and Kimball in Minnesota.

"I tell them I'll shoot them if th become administrators," said Fr only half kidding. "Stay where t action is, I tell them. With t kids."

Although he doesn't have to, Fr is resigning this year. The trei he fears, is to return to the c ways of teaching. He feels th when he retires, the posters v come down.

"I'm having a ball," he said. "A curiously at the end of my care I'm not a crochety old teacher. I

Sun., April 16, 1978

Minneapolis Tribune

2B

Robert T. Smith

EVERYBODY GROWING CHRYSANTHEMUMS is urged to be on the watch for signs of a white rust disease that has appeared in the U. S. for the first time. It apparently traveled here by means unknown from the Orient or western Europe. The disease, which deforms the leaves of chrysanthemums with white pustules on the undersides and eventually defoliates the plant, was first found in a hobby greenhouse in Pennsylvania last September. No recommendations for controlling it have as yet been issued, but officials in the U. S. Department of Agriculture are fearful that because of the fast-spreading nature of the fungus (*Puccinia horiana*), all chrysanthemums in this country are threatened. Anyone seeing suspicious looking symptoms on purchased chrysanthemum plants or in a garden are asked to report them to a state or federal plant disease specialist (to locate, phone your county horticultural extension office).

JUST A THOUGHT. When purchasing seeds for plants which are all female, if the seed packet doesn't specify that there are some males in the packet you'd better buy a packet of a standard variety and plant a few seeds from it along side also.

ALTERNATIVELY, the tomato fruit setting spray might work on cucumbers and squash. "If you live in an urban environment where no self respecting bee would work it would be worth a try," answered Albert Wilson in response to a conventioneer's question.

The weed killer Round Up acts on the green part only; but it gets even crabgrass and quackgrass roots, so they say.

Benlate tolerance problems are now being encountered.

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Return to  
**THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.**  
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**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.**

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**FIRST CLASS**

To

William H. Hull  
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46th annual convention

Men's Garden Clubs of America  
Akron, Ohio July 23-26, 1978