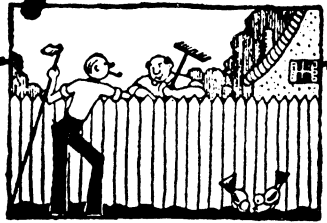




# The Garden Spray

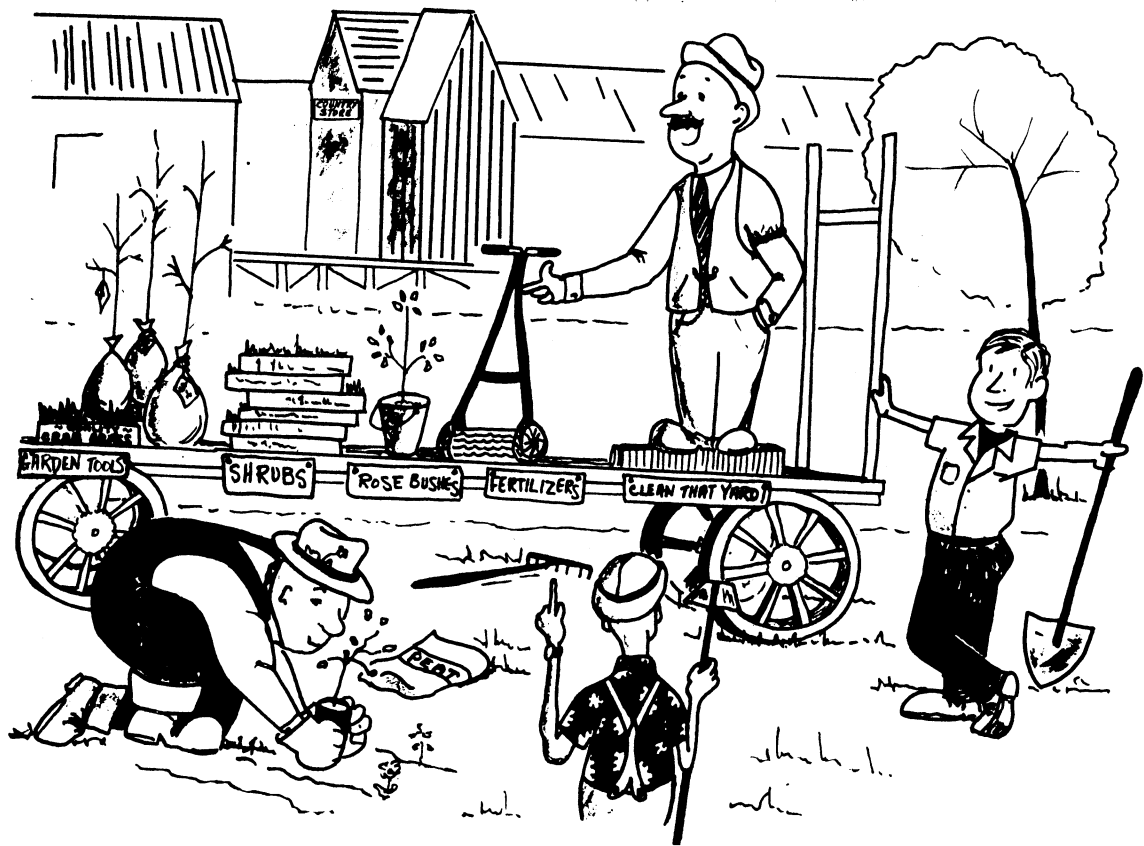
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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



May 1972, Volume 30, Number 5

## YE OLDE COUNTRY STORE & AUCTION



Tuesday - May 9, 1972

Pearl Field - Diamond Lake Rd. & Portland  
Enter at 414 Diamond Lake Rd.

Bring Your Guests & Come Early !!

5:30 PM - Country Store

6:00 PM - Country Fried Chicken - Price \$2.00

7:00 PM - Grand Olde Auction

Come & See Dwight & Ev In Action  
and Other Special Features

**LUCKY BUCKS !**

**LUCKY DRAWINGS !**

**LUCKY YOU !**

THE GARDEN SPRAY, May 1972, Volume 30, Number 5

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota

Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Editorial Staff: Robert E. Smith, Phillip H. Smith and Donald Wilson.

Deadline for material the 22nd of each month

Club Officers:

President: Roger J. Anderson

Vice President: Carl J. Holst

Secretary: John E. Lillibridge

Treasurer: Clifton Brisco

Immediate Past President: David W. Johnson

Directors: Henry Halvorson and James E. Perrin

Minutes of the April Meeting

Attendance: Not enough.

Place: Same

Program: Terrific (you should have been there).

Carl Holtz brought in Dr. Pete Ascher of the Horticulture Department of the University of Minnesota and Harold Nelson of the Richfield M.G.C.

Dr. Ascher is a young man who believes the belief that nothing good comes from anyone under 30. He gave a complete authoritative history of lilies and a practical analysis of what to do with leftover Easter lilies, scotching the fallacy that you can't keep them going for several years. "They are among the oldest of flowers, according to the Egyptian tombs, and we can trace the Madonna lily to Biblical times", he said. He went into the new hybrids and believes they are easily grown with proper care.

"This year was not a good year for Easter lilies", he said. "Growers have to depend on a holiday that can vary as much as two weeks. There should be a market for this beautiful flower every day of the year instead of only two times....the Resurrection and for everybody's death."

Harold Nelson hit home with us dahlia lovers. He reminisced way back to the beginnings of our Club. He also traced the beginnings of the dahlia from Mexico to Spain to Scandinavia to the Netherlands and back to the New World.

"I don't know any flower that can return as much as you give any more than the dahlia....and that covers a lot of territory", he said.

He supported his theory by saying that a dahlia can fit any place and any occasion. He said there are 14 basic colors, and they are easy to grow...they only need good culture and love. He gave his experiences and helpful hints. If you are a dahlia grower, you should have been there.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you wish to be known as a "Green Thumber" - bring your "Greenery" to the plant auction to share with others...and in return for some of that "Green Folding Stuff" we will share with you!

## ROG'S REFLECTIONS

I think it might be appropriate to mention how good it is to finally have some nice spring weather after our cold March and April. But, as I write this article on April 21st, it seems like January 21st as I look at four to six inches of newly fallen snow. Well, I guess that's spring in Minnesota and I don't suppose it's a record, but it sure slows up plant life and garden progress as well as one's eagerness to get going. Suppose it's best to be an optimist and check this spring off as a poor one and hope to make it up with a good summer.

Charlie and Bob, co-chairman of the auction committee, have been out-doing the Washington "Whiz Kids" in organizing the spring auction and will have, without a question, the finest offerings of annuals and perennials in town, and at the best prices, too. So make plans to get your garden plants at Pearl Park, Diamond Lake Road near Portland on May 9th. Be sure to bring a friend to help promote our ongoing fundraising project and maybe get a new member in the process. We are counting on you all to be there.

It was great to see Vern Carlson able to get to the April meeting. We hope Cliff Brisco, who is now home from the hospital after cataract surgery, is now getting along better. Cliff had some complications with hemorrhaging after the surgery, his recuperation has been a little slower than he would like. I'm sure, however, will see both Vern and Cliff tending to their gardens by the time things get growing and need their expert care.

I neglected to introduce two new members from a couple of months ago and many of you probably already know them pretty well; but, if you don't, go out of your way to meet Robert Campbell and Julius Wadekamper. Bob is in charge of building and grounds at Mount Olivet Church. His ability to garden leaves no doubt. Just look at the neat lawns and borders. It also is pretty nice to have someone around who knows for sure where the proper light switches are during our meetings. Julius also is no stranger to us. He spoke to us a year ago on iris and did a whale of a job as auctioneer at our last meeting, substituting for the Convention going Dwight Stone. Julius has been president of the Twin City Iris Society and is a professional in his own right.

This month we are pleased to introduce Todd Bachman. He spoke at our January meeting and is the son of Lloyd and grandson of Henry, making him the first 3rd generation in the Club. We are especially pleased to welcome these outstanding individuals to our Club.

According to reports from people who have been checking the progress of our bulb plantings at the Community Fragrance Garden, we are pleased to report that good growth is showing and we can expect a good display of tulips, hyacinth and narcissus this spring. Please remember to sign up for some maintenance work at the garden during the season. We need your help to keep the garden in top shape.

See you on May 9th for some fellowship and good plant buys at the auction.

Roger Anderson

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Tough Luck Award of the Month: To those four poor souls who left beautiful Minnesota for the wilds of Arizona...Dwight Stone, (Editor) Ed Culbert, Henry Halvorson and Sherm Pinkham. Our hats off to these dauntless adventurers! Bring us back a report on the convention, but please spare us a detailed weather report.

Editorial

An interesting thing happened to me on the way to the printer. Right at the time I was putting this Spray together, a lady's voice on the phone said she was from Molgren, Inc., Market Researchers and wanted to "survey me". I have always wondered why pollsters never call me, but was about to hang up when she mentioned she was in a men's garden club and could she come out. I laughed and said ok.

A couple of hours later, a new Gran Torino sport model pulled up and a crash blonde bounced out. It seems they are researching for some fertilizer or something that might come on the market. (I didn't find out the name) I wasn't even promised a free gratis payola sample.

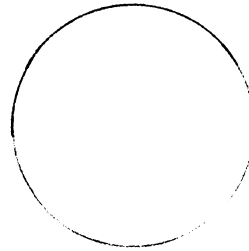
I don't remember much of the questioning. I do remember doing quite well when asked to draw a map of all my garden plots and designate the vegetables, annuals and perennials. I didn't do so well when asked if I knew the three basic elements in fertilizer, and I blithely answered "of course". My smile faded when she asked me what they were, and I could only think of two. I also remember answering a question of my opinion of myself as a gardener. I quickly chose the highest A. "I consider myself the neighborhood expert". The next question threw me into a panic. "What best describes your opinion of your garden?" "It is a model garden worthy of a prize". Flashes of places I visited last month on the Gulk like Bellingrath Gardens and pilgrimages down there and M.G.C. tours went through my mind. "Do you have any category below "D"?", I asked her.

Oh yes, another question that got me into trouble was "What is your biggest garden problem?" After my five minute recital, she smiled sweetly and said, "Now, which of those is your biggest garden problem?" At this point my wife burst in with the groceries. "Garden Club business, dear," I muttered.

My advice to all you guys is that if you get a call to get interviewed from a research outfit, say yes. You sit there next to each other flipping through questionnaires and samples for over a half-hour. Another tip - tell your wife all about it at the appointment.

Editor's Note: This issue is dedicated to Bob Smith, Dave Johnson and NSP. Bob Smith, Charley Procter and the auction group are to be commended for the effort and a great job in promoting the auction. Dave should be commended for his role as the substitute editor in getting this issue out. Both of these men work for the Garden Club and, therefore NSP should be commended in having such public spirited employees.

\* \* \* \* \*



Hold this circle close to your face and blow on it. If it turns blue, call a physician. If it turns brown, see your dentist. If it turns purple, see your psychiatrist. If it turns red, see your banker. If it turns yellow, call your lawyer and make a will. If it remains the same color, you are in good health. There is no reason on earth why you should not attend the Garden Club Plant

Notes from the Tomato Patch  
by Bob Smith  
(The first of two articles)

A garden without tomatoes is like a man without a woman. Come to think of it, we used to refer to girls as "ain't she a cute tomato?" Actually, it's hard to get along without either kind.

The primary question most gardeners ask themselves is which tomato is best for me? Some like variety and others would settle for one that is pleasant, productive, and dependable. To keep my wife happy, I'll have to say my selection is Margaret and Big Boy.

For the home gardener, flavor is by far the most important quality. In 1969, I brought samples of six varieties to a Garden Club meeting. Twenty-seven members tasted and rated. Five were Burpeeana, Big Early and VF, Harris Supersonic and Red Champion. Big Boy was used as a standard and numbered ratings were given. Only Burpeeana, an early variety, was inferior. I drew two conclusions from this trial. Big Boy was best in flavor and Burpeeana was a good early one. So, a second factor is, do you want early tomatoes regardless of top flavor? Home gardeners should grow a few plants of an early variety to provide fruit until the main variety starts bearing, but should concentrate on main crop varieties.

It is interesting to note that production per plant is approximately the same for most dependable varieties. The difference is mainly in the timing, with early varieties concentrating their production earlier in the season, and main crop varieties later in the season. My records show that during the past six years the average annual production for 90 plants of early varieties was exactly 25 pounds per plant as compared with 23.6 pounds per plant for 80 Big Boy plants. The top average per plant production for Big Boy was 34.4 pounds, and for an early variety, Hybrid "E" 31.5 pounds. This occurred last year. The average production per year for late varieties is more dependent on weather conditions than for the early varieties and has been as low as usually 15.5 pounds per plant for Big Boy. Production of fruit is not as important a factor for the home gardener as flavor.

In looking through the seed catalogs to select a variety, keep in mind that most plant breeding is for the benefit of the commercial growers, where such qualities as productiveness, high early yield, uniform size, good appearance, shipping quality, adaptability to mechanical harvesting, disease resistance, etc. are of prime importance. For the home gardener, however, flavor, earliness, and disease resistance may be more important considerations. Others may be appearance and uniformity, if you plan to enter show competition, low acidity or nutrient content if there are health problems, or maybe you like meaty tomatoes with few seeds for canning. The qualities that you desire should be kept in mind in making your selection.

There are so many good main crop varieties that I wouldn't attempt to make recommendations other than to say that you can't go wrong with Big Boy. For early varieties, I have had good experience with Hybrid E, Fordhook Hybrid, Moreton and Big Early. I would highly recommend trying Pixie for very early tomatoes. It can be grown as a patio plant. My experience last year was very good. The size is bigger than Cherry Tomatoes and its flavor much better.

The next article will be on the culture of tomatoes.

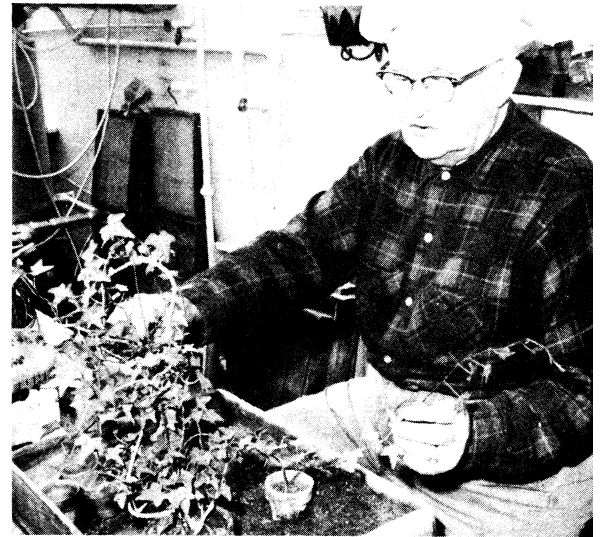
Walter Quist

(Another in a series about our Honorable Members)

What's Walter Quist been doing lately? As you can see, he looks healthy...especially for a man 80 years young. Even while this picture was being snapped, he kept right on making slips of ivy.

Since the death of his wife last September, he has tried to keep himself even busier than usual. (Unfortunately, his dog was run over two weeks ago.)

Of course, running five mortuaries, with over 50 employees, maintaining a house in Minneapolis, a cabin up north and a 31-acre farm at Lake Minnetonka helps take up the void. He's had several rooms added with picture windows overlooking the lake and is itching to get the painters out of his way.



While Walter was working, I took the liberty of reading some biographical material about him. He has so many accomplishments that engraving the Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin would be easier than getting them all in this article. But, here goes....He was there when the Men's Garden Club was just a gleam in its collective fathers' eyes; he started the first American Legion Post in Minneapolis; he was one of the organizers of the Odin Male Chorus; and has belonged to just about every chorus you can think of; he once ran for U.S. Congressman; he is a past Potentate of the Zurah Shrine; he made many trips to Washington to fight the N.R.A. on repressive legislation under the Roosevelt Administration; he was Park Commissioner for 24 years and president in 1954.

Walter is also a charter member of Kiwanis; a member of the Metropolitan Airports Commission; Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Big Island Veterans Rest Camp; and a director of Big Brothers. He was a member of the Minneapolis Charter Commission; Minneapolis Sports and Attractions Committee; and the Minneapolis Aquatennial. He is a grad of the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture. Before that, he remembers going to school with Henry and Albert Bachman. "There were 26 students and eight grades in one classroom", he said.

Walter has done a lot of world traveling. A short time ago, he toured the eastern Mediterranean. He has lectured on many subjects and was one of the first to take movies of his travels.

"I guess I've been to just about every country in the world except South Africa". On one travelogue lecture trip, he started out from North Africa, went through western Europe and England and wound up in Finland, but he walked all the way, and it took him 110 days!

Walter grows all kinds of plants, but the plant I was most interested in was a fresh looking Christmas Cactus. "I've given hundreds of cutting. It was my grandmother's and it's older than I am".

Well, the Christmas Cactus and Walter are getting along pretty well.

Excerpts from a Book on Lawns  
by Art Johnson

Has there ever been a person who didn't admire and appreciate a beautiful, green, lush and healthy lawn? I don't think so. From hobo to tycoon - man, woman, and child - for everyone, green grass creates an image of freedom and tranquility. To the homeowner, it means "green thumb success". If he is complimented on his lawn, or consulted about it by his neighbors, he is truly considered a success.

But, to have a perfect lawn is virtually impossible for the average guy; most can't spare the time, effort, or money. To have that kind of lawn means exerting the three "P's" - Pride, Persistence and Patience.

Take Pride in what you are doing; don't be satisfied with a halfway job. Persistence is another absolute must for "growing success". Mother Nature has a way of punishing anyone who quits in the middle of a gardening job - by making it twice as difficult to finish when we return.

Perhaps the most important of the three "P's" is Patience. We can't rush Mother Nature or her helpers, but we can sort of prod her on with a few tricks we have learned over the years.

Think of your lawn as if it were the hair on your head. People judge your hair or lawn by its appearance. Your lawn is the first thing a stranger sees when he approaches your house. He can't know if you have fine furniture, nice clothes, or a fancy car in the garage. What he can see is your lawn, so make it look like it just came back from the barber....clean, combed and well cut. Good grooming is as important to your garden as it is to you.

There are many lawns affected by "dandruff", and three methods to improve this condition are: use of a lawn rake, an attachment that converts your power mower into a power-dethatcher, and use of a power rake. Comparing lawn care to a scalp treatment, the next logical step would be shampooing, Why not do the same to your lawn? Shampoo your lawn with soap and water.

When we spray our lawn area with a mild solution of soap and water, we break through this invisible barrier which causes lawns to burn up in hot weather or makes us disappointed with the brand of fertilizer we are using. The proper shampoo quantities are one ounce of liquid soap per ten gallons of water, using a bio-degradable liquid dish soap (a mild soap containing no oil or harsh detergents). Shampoo the lawn soon after the snow melts, repeating at least once a month throughout the growing season.

The shampoo will remove the airborne soot and dust that attaches itself to the surface of the blades. Because the soap is sort of sticky and constantly moist, the lawn holds water moisture longer, so that lawns need not be watered as often. Believe it or not, your lawn will fairly sparkle like your favorite crystal and china when it has been washed properly. Remember, a clean lawn is a healthy lawn.

To prevent the dandruff from building up and the surface tension from returning, it is necessary to massage the turf area to give it a little exercise. No, we are not suggesting that you get down on your hands and knees and literally massage grass with your hands; instead stand up and use your feet. Many of today's doctors recommend jogging every day. Instead of jogging around the block, put on a pair of track spikes, baseball or golf shoes and run around your lawn...lawn jogging breeds up compaction. If you are reluctant to engage in this strenuous activity, just for your lawn's sake, wear golf spikes when working on the lawn. If you have small

children in the neighborhood, encourage them to stop by to play catch with you, but make sure they wear spikes. And remember, no sliding.

If you will just relay and tune in to Mother Nature's frequency, you will find that your gardening can keep both you and your garden healthy.

20th of May is Planting Day

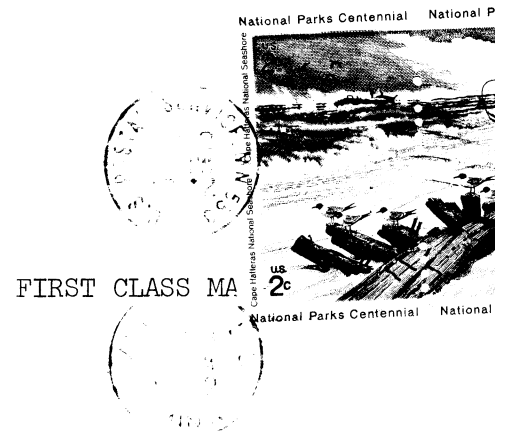
People all over the country are watching our Fragrance Garden for the Blind; other communities are copying. We have in the making a National article. This is our showplace. Dozens of volunteer workers showed up last year.

Call Dave, don't just come out for the planting, but call Dave for some fun on Saturdays to keep this worthwhile project clean and going. In the future, the tenements between the Blind Society and our Garden are to be torn down for their expansion. Last year those people enjoyed our park, kept it clean, and commended us. Whether they leave or stay is not what we are interested in. This is the greatest M.G.C. supported, individual effort, non-tax supported community effort we have ever been in.

Call Dave.

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