

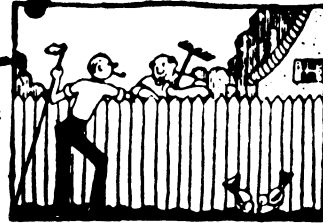


The Garden Spray

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

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

MAY 1976, Volume 34, Number 5



EXTRA!!

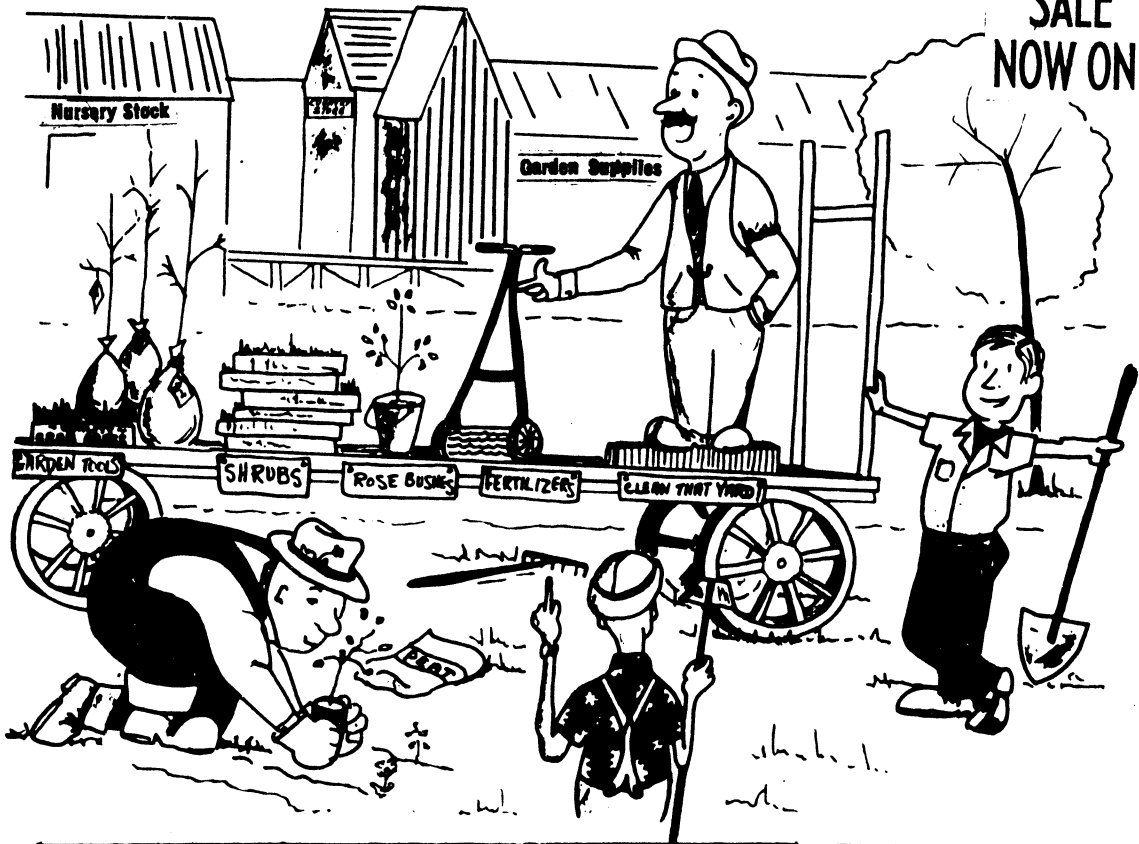
EXTRA!

WE WANT YOU

EXTRA! EXTRA!

YE OLDE COUNTRY STORE & AUCTION

SALE
NOW ON!



ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION & SALE

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1976

PLACE: Linden Hills Recreation Center
Xerxes Avenue South and West 43rd Street

TIME: 5:30 - Country Store
6:00 - Dinner - Price \$3.00 Cash
6:45 - Auction

LUCKY BUCKS!

you'll find everything you need

LUCKY YOU!

HEY HEY HEY

LUCKY BUCKS!

LUCKY DRAWINGS!

LUCKY YOU!

The Spring Auction is upon us again, and we hope that the Club Members participation will make this year's auction a bigger success than in years past. This year, we will have all the items to be auctioned off available for inspection, so pick your items and be ready to bid. Lucky bucks will also be for sale prior to the Auction.

The meal will be from DeLaria's, as usual, and we all look forward to a good time. Lucky Bucks not good on the meal.

One thing to remember is that we really count on the individual Club Members to supply the plant materials for the country store, so bring all you can spare. Please contact me or any of the Committee Members you have anything you would like to donate or have picked up for the store.

The Members should know that this is our major fund raising event of the year, so bring yourself, a guest, some boxes to carry your items home with and don't forget the plant materials for the country store.

Remember - MAY 11TH!!!!

Dick Victor, Chairman
890-9753

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The attendance at our monthly meetings continues to break all records. Over 90 of our members turned out for our April meeting and were rewarded by fine discussions by seven of our members on their gardening experiences. The May plant sales promises to be the best ever. Plan to come and bring a friend with lots of room in his garden. This is our one money raising event, so let's support it. Plans for the Community Garden are progressing nicely under Carl Holst's direction. Improvements in the irrigation system and the purchase of a new mower are planned. Look forward to some exciting garden tours this summer. The tour committee will have an announcement soon.

This early spring has put a rush on all gardening activities. As of the writing of this report, the spring is fully two weeks ahead of schedule. Snowdrops were in full bloom on March 17. Forsythias and Magnolias were in bloom before April 15 and I saw the first apple trees in bloom today, an event that normally happens about May 15. Let us hope that this early start will not be followed by a freeze.

--Leon Snyder

FROM THE ARCHIVES

"June 1946. No meeting of the club was held in June due largely to the fact that nearly the entire membership was busy with the Victory Garden program under Larry Corbett and Glen Cerney. At the Board of Directors meeting five new members were elected to fill vacancies.... Vic Lowrie, Joe Witmer, Herb Spencer, Bill Bauman and Len Bies."

"May 10, 1949....ANNUAL AUCTION....The Park Board greenhouse was the scene....Harold Kaufmann, general chairman....An innovation was introduced with the country store where the sale was opened one hour early so buyers could purchase material early at a fixed price before the auction began."

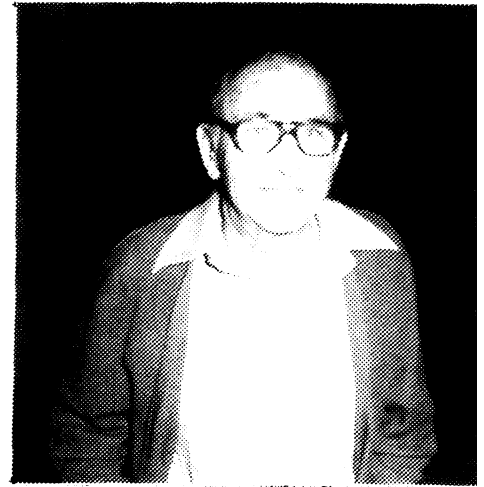
THE GARDEN SPRAY - Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, In

May 1976, Volume 34, Number 5.

Deadline: the 15th of EACH MONTH

MGCM PRESIDENTS: G. VICTOR LOWRIE, 1952

Vic Lowrie has always been interested in flowers--roses especially. He had them in his garden at 4900 Aldrich South when he first joined MGCM in 1946. He had them on Glenhurst when the club went to see the "hardy" English azalea hybrid he was babying through the winters by giving it a sheltered spot on the north side of his house together with additional winter protective cover. (Winter won anyway after several years.) Now he lives in a wooded area which demands shade-loving plants and wild flowers; but he still loves roses. Why not after all the awards and ribbons they have brought him year after year?



Vic Lowrie

Born in London, England, he emigrated alone at age eleven to Ontario, Canada--His father had died three years previously--Here Vic found a job on a farm. "They treated me like one of the family", he says; but he had other goals so he emigrated again--this time to the United States. Here, since he had "always been interested in English and composition" Vic worked his way into journalism and advertising. This eventually brought him to Minneapolis where by 1948 he had become publisher of the then but newly started magazine GRADUATE MEDICINE.

Since retiring in 1968 Vic says his big interests have been the Arboret and the Schizophrenia Association. He didn't mention gardening nor the numerous other activities with which we see his name associated. "Gardening would be obvious", says the man who is so active in the Minnesota Horticultural Society, who has held so many MGCM offices and committee assignments, who edited the GARDEN SPRAY for over a decade.

THE APRIL MEETING BRIEFED

Members present in April voted to approve holding the August meeting on a Saturday in combination with a flower show.

Nate Siegel reported that the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, as a Bicentennial observance, will during the month of May plant 1776 trees in the Kasota Industrial Park, Highways 94 and 280. Volunteers are needed to supervise the planting so call Nate.

The Gardening panelists, members Todd Bachman, Henry Halvorson, Charles Proctor, Robert E. Smith, Norman Stewart, Dwight Stone and guest Buster Friberg then took over. Time was called at 8:45 despite waiting questi

Sample comments: Our area has largely mineral soil so much organic mat is needed. Add nutrients each year since they leach out. Try to develop 18 inches of good workable soil....A windbreak is essential to good delphiniums....Raise your garden to ease your back....Overwinter tree peonies

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Now I'll tell you why you got that one page advance notice of the meeting. The editor transposed address numerals when mailing rough of the April SPRAY to our typist. The post office returned the mail a week later on the day we expected the finished product. Thanks to typist Nancy Luehrs who cut two days from normal turn around time working her noon hours the SPRAY reached most of you the Saturday before the meeting.

No thanks to the postal service, though, for returning Ed Montgomery's SPRAY stamped, "Undeliverable. Left no forwarding address." Ed had lived at 4320 Wooddale for 40 years and we used our regular mailing

Al Mohr's SPRAY came back, too, marked, "Wrong address". Al, who has moved from Room 615 to Room 915 in the 512 Nicollet Mall Building but has the same mail carrier. Mrs. Mohr thinks he ought to get his bulletin at home (1772 Highland Parkway, St. Paul, 55116) anyway so we know sooner about the events she is invited to attend. We're glad to oblige, but can't guarantee delivery for Larry Corbett's SPRAY is to his home but the April issue never arrived nor has it been returned to us.

Thanks from the entire membership to John and Nancy Lillibridge for the hours spent in getting out the 1976 Roster. It's no easy task at all and becomes doubly arduous when not every one supplies the request sheet.

"Family Gardening in the Third Century" will be the theme of the 1977 convention at Fort Collins, Colorado, July 24 through July 29. Chuck Ken Goldsberry (with his famous cowbell which several of us vividly remember) promises not only the largest-ever convention, but the most fun and excitement as well. To date we know that Dwight Stone (See advertisement in this issue), Ed and Barbara Culbert, Paul and Eleanor Lind Watt and Pearl Myers, Sherm and Harriet Pinkham, Leon and Vera Snyder (Leon is on the program) plan to attend. Who else is going? It may be the event of the century for gardeners and families.

Carl Holst's call to labor in the Community Garden reminds us that years ago Cliff Brisco brought Dorothy along. She wielded a means that outperformed most of the male diggers.

Kudos to Walt Flumerfelt for sponsoring new members Paul Denn and Tyler; to Archie Caple for sponsoring Donald Hardesty; to Nate Siegel for sponsoring Don Willeke.

Paul Lindstedt and Dwight Stone have taken out life memberships in the Garden since we last reported.

NEW MEMBERS

(Clip and paste in your roster.)

Paul S. Denn	941-5210	927-7011	C. R. "Bud" Tyler	927-
6604 Galway Dr., Edina	55435		2625 Joppa Ave.	55416
Donald H. Hardesty		881-8031	Donald C. Willeke	922-1693 34'

FERTILIZING UNDER AN ORGANIC CULTURE

by Bob Smith

Until recently people who practiced organic gardening--the complete reliance on natural fertilizers and methods of disease and pest control rather than man made chemicals--did so because they believed it was sound gardening practice. Today, however, many farmers and gardeners even though not motivated by this philosophy are nevertheless investigating natural materials and methods because of the skyrocketing costs of chemicals and because of environmental restraints being imposed by government. I have personally found natural methods to be practical, economical and productive and am interested in sharing any experiences and ideas that may help others to more fully enjoy gardening regardless of their motivation.

The soil is the heart of any garden and particularly an organic garden. Organic matter serves important functions in providing good soil structure that will retain moisture, keep nutrients from leaching into the subsoil, provide good aeration and allow good root penetration. Decomposing organic matter also produces soil acids and an ideal environment for the multiplication of micro-organisms and earthworms which break down the insoluble organic fertilizers and organic matter itself into soluble nutrients which plants can utilize. Another important function of organic matter is its buffering effect against excesses of nutrients whether from natural or chemical sources and improper pH levels.

The fertilizing program which I follow in my garden combines natural rock minerals--such as colloidal phosphate which supplies phosphorus and greensand which supplies potash--with organic matter to effectively break down these insoluble rock minerals into useable forms right in the soil. The organic materials--leaves, manure, compost, hay and many others--also supply nutrients. I use many different materials to provide nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and trace minerals depending on availability and cost. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money for organic fertilizers. Leaves, leaf compost, manures, spoiled hay, grass clippings and many other materials are available free for the taking. Raw organic matter should not be incorporated directly into the soil during the growing season as it ties up the soil nitrogen during the breakdown process. It should be composted or used as a mulch at that time of the year. In the fall it can be tilled directly into the soil.

The materials that I have used and the major nutrients they supply are as follows with approximate present (April 1976) retail costs for some.

<u>Nitrogen</u>		<u>Potash</u>	
Soybean meal...100# @ \$11.50		Greensand...50# @ \$4.75	
Cottonseed meal		Granite dust	
Hydrolyzed turkey feathers		Wood ashes	
Fish emulsion...Qt. \$3.00 Gal. \$6.25		Sulfomag	
<u>Phosphorus</u>		<u>Trace Minerals</u>	
Colloidal phosphate...50# @ \$4.25		Liquid seaweed...Qt. \$4.00 Gal.	
Bone Meal...50# @ \$10.50			

ORGANIC MATTER (Supplies small amounts of various nutrients)

Leaves	Grass clippings	Coffee grounds	Sawdust
Hay	Plant residues	Food scraps	Newspaper

The items listed above with approximate retail prices can be purchased from Robbinsdale Farm and Garden Supply and in quantity at a much lower rate from Super Gro in Winona. Nurseries and garden stores such as Bachman's, Klier's and others handle organic materials such as:

Dried cattle manure	50# @ \$2.50	Fish emulsion
Milorganite	50# @ \$4.50	Liquid seaweed
Balanced organic fertilizer	50# @ \$5.00-\$7.00	Bone meal

I don't look at fertilizing as the application of three major nutrients in exact proportions such as 10-10-10 or some other combination but as incorporating into the soil an abundant supply of organic matter and all possible nutrients--those that we don't know anything about as well as those that we do know about--from various natural sources. The natural processes within the soil will if allowed then break them down and supply them in the proper proportion to the plants. I believe that this is not only the design of the Creator but also an unbeatable method for supply good plant nutrition.

HURRY! DIG UP YOUR MARCH GARDEN SPRAY.

Now - Turn to the 1976 Committee list.

Run down the column to COMMUNITY GARDEN.

Is your name there? If it is you have a date with Carl Holst at the Fr grance Garden on Bryant Avenue South just north of Franklin Avenue on S urday morning May 22nd. There'll be a lot of work to do so bring your garden tools--and a friend to help if he isn't afraid of work.

WANTED Three men to ride and share expenses--to MGCA convention July 28. Leave July 23. Return July 29. Dwight Stone. 330-5903

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
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AF

Spirit