

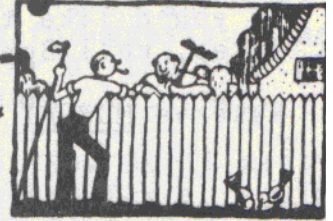


The Garden Spray

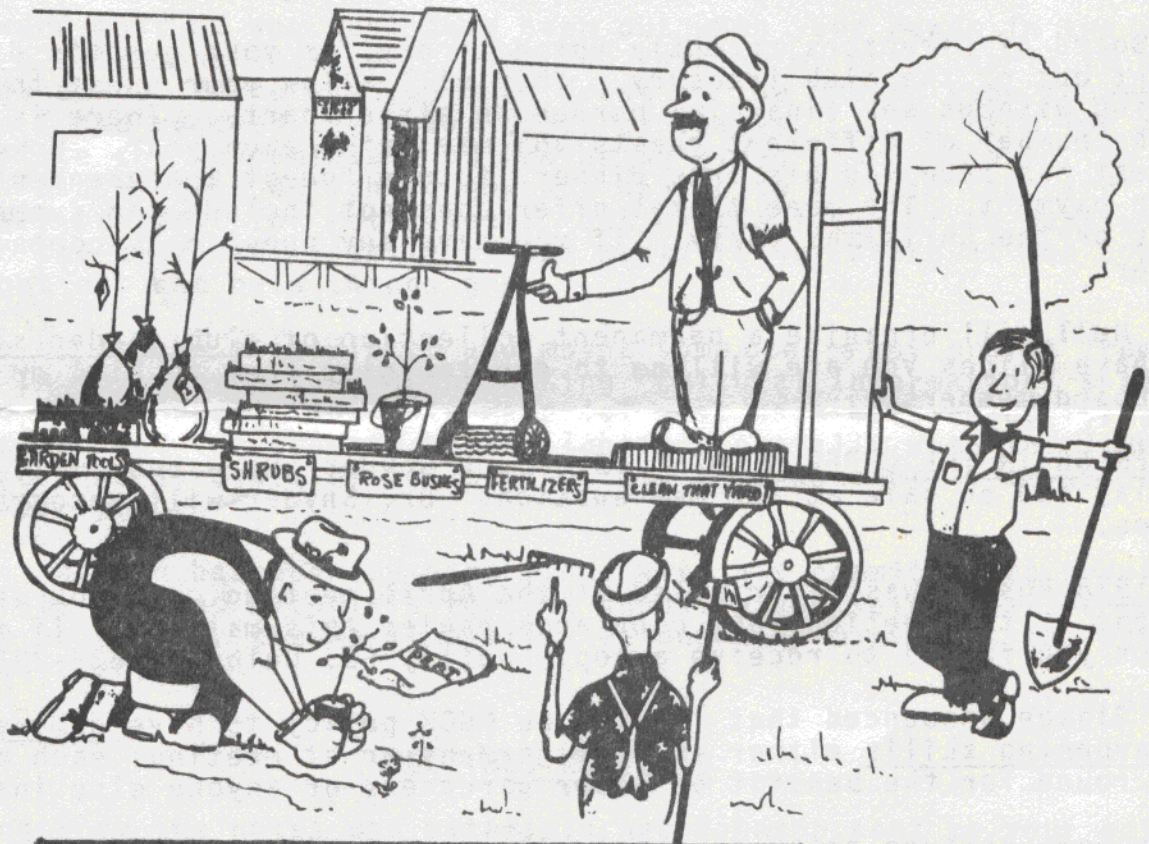
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

MAY 1978, Volume 36, Number 5



YE OLDE COUNTRY STORE & AUCTION



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Annual Plant Sale and Auction

Tuesday, May 9, 1978

PLACE: Linden Hills Park Recreation Building
43rd & Xerxes Avenue South

TIME: 5:15 p.m. Country Store
6:00 p.m. Dinner - Price \$4.00
6:45 p.m. Auction

LUCKY BUCKS!

LUCKY DRAWINGS!

LUCKY YOU!

CHANGES FOR REGULAR MEETING DAYS

Set aside: SUNDAY JULY 9th for GARDEN TOURS
SUNDAY AUGUST 6th

Wives and friends are invited to come on both dates.

If you'd like to have your garden considered for a visit on one of the dates, call Bob Haley, 473-8729. Some gardens are already signed up.

Reserve MONDAY DECEMBER 4th for the Christmas Party.

NOTICES

You MGCM members who are in gardening or garden related professions are offered "free commercial time" at meetings to acquaint the membership with your company and it's products. If you are interested contact Bob Gage, 941-1038, to schedule time at a forthcoming meeting.

The Board of Directors recently voted to pay for your guest's dinner ticket out of the club treasury. This will allow your guest to attend meeting without any financial burden on either party. There is no limit to the number of different guests you may bring each year. However, if a guest has received his free dinner, future "guest appearances" will require payment. The free ticket offer does not include the summer garden tours or the Christmas party. If you have any questions, contact a Board member.

Bill Hull will organize a permanent collection of club garden slides. If you have slides you are willing to donate, give them to Bill or to one of the Board members.

GARDENING IN THE UPPER MIDWEST, Dr. Leon Snyder's new book will be on display and on sale at the May auction. Dr. Snyder will autograph the copies.

The 1978 Roster was distributed at the April meeting. If you were not present at the meeting your copy accompanies this mailing. If for some reason you failed to receive a copy, notify Ed. Culbert, 823-7853.

Fred Glasoe announced that it will be MGCM policy to have demonstration of gardening skills either in home gardens or at meetings each month throughout the year round for the benefit of newer gardeners or anyone else interested.

As members arrived prior to the April meeting, Chet Groger demonstrate transplanting from starting medium. The transplants were auctioned off at the meeting. The same week Ted LeBoutilier was to demonstrate in his garden how to uncover and set up roses buried for winter Minnesota Tip fashion.

* * * * *

To control growth of evergreens cut back the candles slightly but remember Albert Wilson's comment, "If you prune the pine where the needles have all gone then you have the sweetest place to hang your hat."

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION. SEND YOUR RESERVATION.

Let's send a delegation to the MGCA convention this year.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

At the March Board meeting it was observed that new members came almost exclusively from those who had been dinner guests. I know I did. The only shortcoming in this is that it is left up to those who can afford it to do the recruiting. There must be several who have good gardener prospects in mind who cannot make a practice of paying for guests. An so it was ordered that guests' dinners would be paid for by the club with the limitation that the tab would be picked up for a guest but once.

Wasn't it great to see all those enthusiastic people at the April meet. The 97 who attended must have broken our attendance record for a regular meeting. Archie Caple was busy with his camera, enough so that soon we should have the GARDEN PEOPLE BOOK out. To me this will supply a big need. A garden club should do everything possible to "cultivate" better acquaintanceships.

I am sure most of you must have been out with your hands in the soil. It is a delicious feeling. I started raising my roses April 15 but had to slow down. There was too much frost in the ground even though we before I had removed the heavy cover of leaves. It is hard for me to appreciate the condominiums and now being aired over radio to the effect that, "Dad will be delighted now not having to work in the yard".--What a dreary prospect for retirement! But by the looks of so many yards around the city the majority of men would rather stare at the boob tub than get out and help things grow.

I made a mistake this winter and maybe some others may profit from my error. In the winter the Northrup King "Cultural Information" sheets were handed out. Great! But this material must have been meant for greenhouses and not for growing under lights, especially when the lights are stacked. As a result of not taking this into account, I am about six weeks early.

Bob Livingston has been pushing along with his committee to provide us with lots of good materials for the annual plant sale. Now if we turn out as we did for the April meeting we ought to make this the best ever. See you there.

--Dick Hulbert

MEETINGS REVIEWED

Judging from the notes and materials Art Johnson sent to your editor Betty-Ann Mech, proprietor of Rice Creek Gardens, gave a very interesting and informative talk on rock gardens at our March meeting. "A rock garden is the place to grow the charming wild plants of the world. Many originated in the Alps, Japan or even the Steppes but they feel at home here too. These are for the most part easy to grow, willing plants for sun or part sun and can survive some benign neglect."

She came supplied with samples:

- .A piece of limestone rock with Hen and Chicks growing on it. "A rock garden may consist of one rock and a plant."
- .A small juniper which grew only 1/4" in a year. "Every large conifer has intriguing new forms that can show up. Not only miniatures, but golden or weeping plants can occur. These are preserved by cuttings or grafts. Such dignified little evergreens bring a feeling of permanence to rock gardens, container gardens or make fine bonsai."

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

The SPRAY continues to get around. Not long ago we received a letter from Bob Smith, president of the MGC of Spokane, referring to the editorial in the December GARDEN SPRAY. He wrote,

"We were going over a large bundle of bulletins sent us by the national office and came upon your excellent editorial THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECRET BALLOT. That echoed the thoughts of those who attended from our area and we have copied the piece for distribution and comment from some key people in our Western Regions.

"In addition to the items you mentioned, we were especially concerned about the lack of an AGENDA for both board meetings and the national conventions. Following up on that, we have been promised to be filled in, in advance-in the future by Glenn Vincent."

In the same letter was a reference to Al Blackbourne one of our MGCA gardeners par excellence whose garden on Minnehaha Creek was the site of an MGCM meeting later featured in color in BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS magazine.

"Going through some old photos here for our scrapbook we have one in front of us picturing your grand gardener Al Blackbourne, posed at the Alcazar Garden in San Diego. He was surveying an improvement for an award to the S.D. Rotary Club in 1963. Did any of you ever visit him at his La Jolla home? It was called "Amalfi-by-the-Sea. From the street, a small front yard with a walk lined with tree roses. A heavy wooden gate-door opened not into the house as one would expect, but to a courtyard. Walls were covered with Cup-of-Gold, Giant Honeysuckle and Bouganvillea vines. The brick yard was always decorated with pots of blooming azaleas and chrysanthemums plus bedding plants in season. From the inside one looked out onto a steep terraced backyard that led down to the ocean beach below. To the left and right the coastline curved into view. It was quite a location and a joy for them to live there."

The Seattle club must really work together. Smith notes, "The biggest thing here is our CLUB GREENHOUSE--actually under construction after 10 or 15 years of trying to get it passed. So far the gas is hooked up and the bottom wooden plate is all in place on the foundation. Next Saturday a large crew will erect most of the house--hopefully in a single day. All cedar, it will be used to grow most of the annuals for the plant sale and will be used at first for about 90 days a year. Later it may develop into a year-round greenhouse."

It's dandelion time and the dandelions have a friend in the editor of the YARDNER of the Houston, Texas, MGC who writes, "Herbs are mystical, magical and completely practical, each a beautiful gift of nature. Try a few parsley, basil, chives, dandelion and others make nice plants in your garden." And why not? The Vitamin A Champ is Dandelion Greens. A cup of dandelion greens is worth more than 20,000 international units of vitamin A equivalent or enough vitamin A to carry you through four days before having to refuel. The Italian women whom I as a kid saw roaming the hillsides, huge aprons spread wide, gathering those delectable greens knew they were easier to down than sulphur and molasses. Besides there was always the possibility of dandelion wine.

The latest trick in the vegetable garden is to get seeds sprouting before sowing. It cuts down germination failure. Seeds are spread on damp paper till they are sprouting.

Edgar 'Dick' Lehman, horticulturist,

By MARIE VAN ELSÉN
Family Page Editor

When one has worked with flowering plants and soil all his life, what can he do at retirement to keep the interest alive but less demanding?

In 1972 — practically the day after Edgar "Dick" Lehman and his wife, Ruth, retired from their greenhouse business (known as The Lehman Gardens) — they started a hobby greenhouse at the back of their home.

Having experimented commercially with nearly every flowering plant that could be grown in soil, Lehman

decided to turn in the direction of the exotics — orchids.

"I had to unlearn everything that I had learned about floraculture," says Lehman, "because orchids are different from other plants. They are air plants — require no soil — only fern root, perlite, and douglas fir bark (a by-product of the lumber industry). In addition, they require watering only once every two or three weeks, in order to prevent root-rot. The plants, however, must be misted every day, even when in the vegetating stage (not blooming)."

Lehman, 75, a native of Faribault, was baptized Edgar Charles, but has always been known as "Dick." He tells of the unusual manner in which he came by his nickname.

At his birth, a midwife attended his mother. She spoke no English, only German. As she cared for him, she would say, "Mein lieb' dick' jung'," meaning "my dear fat boy." Lehman's seven-year-old brother picked up the "dick" part of the phrase and always

called his baby brother "Dick." The family followed suit and the name has been with him ever since.

As long as he can remember, Lehman has been surrounded by avid gardeners. His maternal grandfather was "a great gardener and farmer," he says, with emphasis on the "great." His parents also specialized in gardening and flowers.

After finishing high school, he studied floraculture and



employed for 15 years with A. M. "Archie" Brand, a local nurseryman who specialized in peonies.

Three years after his marriage, in 1931, he and his wife started to sell wild flower plants gathered from potential building sites and roadside ditches and grown in their backyard at 428 NW Fifth St. in Faribault. The business started as a hobby, working nights and Sundays. They used the backyard barn as a shipping room and a part of the house as an office.

"At that time there were no restrictions on collecting wild flowers such as wild phlox, jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, fern, and bottled gentian," Lehman emphasizes. "Before bulldozers could destroy them, Ruth and I would dig them up."

Mrs. Lehman recalls that their first order, a collection of wild flowers, was shipped to North Carolina.

In 1936 they rented the land that is presently the site of The Lehman Gardens. It was pasture sod and had cows grazing on it, recalls Lehman.

"Our hobby had grown into a full-fledged business. We were growing perennials and supplying out-of-state nurseries with plants," continues Mrs. Lehman.

In 1942, after the war had started, their two employees were drafted into the army. It

their first greenhouse where women and high school youngsters could work in comfort.

Lehman continues, "Charles Nye, who was trained in the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens in London, learned floraculture and served his apprenticeship there. He came to work for The Lehman Gardens at age 72, and taught me everything I know. He worked for us till he was 86 years old." He recalls that the old man was still as agile "as a cat and a born teacher. He had a natural aptitude for color harmony, a rare ability found in men."

About that time, says Lehman, L. E. Longley, professor at the University of Minnesota, hybridized the first mums. He wanted someone to distribute them. (University experiment stations will hybridize and patent new varieties, but don't sell them.)

"We built several greenhouses, selling mums to every state and foreign country," continues Lehman. "At our peak, we sold close to a million plants a year."

He adds that at one-fourth pound of soil per plant, 170,000 pounds of Rice County soil (85 tons) were shipped out of the state. The peat was obtained from the slough on the Henry Thibault farm, west of Faribault. Mixture used for the plants was in a ratio of two parts peat, two parts soil from

1958, he remembers, purchased the last pile manure, costing \$175.

"From then on, we had to commercial fertilizer," smiles, "because the developing neighborhood objected to the odor."

Lehman attributes success of their business to wife. "She made the business possible," he says, "because she was the brain at the time giving his wife of 50 years admiring glance."

Now that the Lehmans have retired, she assists him in his hobby as she did in the business.

During their "mum day" the Lehmans developed varieties and named them a relatives and friends.

In 1957 Lehman was awarded a bronze medal "Outstanding Achievement Horticulture" by the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

Again in 1960 he was awarded a bronze medal "Outstanding Service to Men's Garden Club Minneapolis."

After tucking away his prizes medals in their hold Lehman pulled his greenhouse "reading chair" a little closer to a wood heater that he uses milder days to supplement gas heat.

"We retired six years ago he commented, "and they have been the happiest and years of our lives."

Mrs. Lehman nodded

(MEETINGS, from page 3)

.Wildflowers from the East. "Minnesota's 3 kinds of vegetation--hardwood forest, coniferous forest and prairie--offer many excellent plants for different locations shady or sunny"... "western wildflowers (in Rock Creek gardens) are from the Rockies or Great Plains and can take plenty of sun."

.A perennial phlox for rock gardens--one of the 128 rock garden perennials from Achillea tomentosa 'Nana' to Viola jooii her firm advertisement.
.Irish moss.

Ms. Mech said that in her opinion leaf moss is better than peat moss. She likes "soil that looks like chocolate cake--black, moist and fluffy enough to dig in with your hands....Add lots of peat and leaves to your existing soil and it will taste delicious to ferns and all the woodland wildflowers as well."

The program ended with slides of gardens in New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Scotland and England.

In April 97 members came out to hear Ray Marshall tell about the landscape careers training offered at Anoka-Hennepin Vo-Tech. The program is so effective that there are more job openings than there are graduates to fill them. Slides added effectiveness to the presentation.

Henry Halvorson followed with slides of the Australia-New Zealand trip--the fall of 1977 in which he, Dick Hulbert and Dr. Leon Snyder were participants.

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Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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46th annual convention
Men's Garden Clubs of America



FIRST CLASS

To

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