

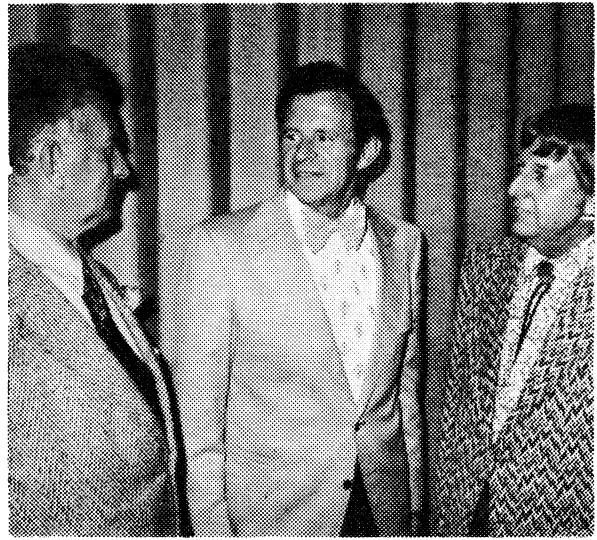
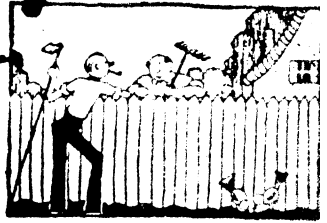


# The Garden Spray

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

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

November 1973, Volume 31, Number 11



NATIONAL SECRETARY AT OCTOBER MEETING

69 persons including member Bill Brooks from Apache Jct., Arizona heard Lyman E. Duncan (center, in picture to left), MGCA Executive Secretary discuss the operations of the MGCA headquarters office.

Mr. Duncan wearing a wide lapelled pink coat, wide pink checked bow tie and nattily dress showed by his enthusiasm just what it is that makes things tick in Des Moines. Seven 2 1/2 by 4 ft. display boards were needed to show the supplies and materials and to list the services now available from the national office.

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NEXT MEETING, Tuesday November 13, ELECTION of OFFICERS for 1974.

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th St. at Knox Ave. S.

Dinner at 6:00

Price \$2.25

TWO FEATURES

MRS. HOWARD KLIER: Demonstration "MAKING OF HOLIDAY WREATHS".

Mrs. Klier, wife of our MGCM member, Howard, is an authority and an artist in this field. There is a constant demand for her services.

Member HENRY HALVORSON: Demonstration "MAKING PICTURE ARRANGEMENTS FROM DRIED FLOWERS"

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CHRISTMAS PARTY in the OFFING

Charley Proctor, chairman for the event, says, "Planning for our annual Christmas Party is progressing. We urgently need everyone's cooperation in several ways.

- "1. Round up those garden slides and bring them to the November meeting or get them to me (Charles Proctor, 4131 Upton Av. S., Mpls. 55410). This is not a one man show and can only be successful if we all bring slides.
- "2. Volunteer your services to carve a turkey.
- "3. Complete the party reservation form on page 5 and mail it in right now with you

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

"An old fashioned Christmas" is a phrase that we hear often as the holiday season draws near. It suggests a nostalgic memory of family gatherings, home baked goodies and a house that smelled of fresh cut evergreens. The entire family made things to trim the tree and decorate the house. These home made decorations are still fun to make and you will enjoy them even more because they can express your individuality. Mrs. Henry Klier is an enthusiastic teacher and at our November 13 meeting she will show us some ideas and demonstrate how easy it is to make decorations. Don't miss this.

On November 23rd members of our garden club are invited to Klier's Nursery, 5901 Nicollet, to actually make decorations. We will have help in making wreaths, centerpieces, wall hangings and various other projects. Materials are available at very nominal prices and we pay nothing for all the help from the Kliers. It is also an opportunity to see their large display of craft items for sale. They are beautiful and people have been known to copy some of these items. There is a lot of good fellowship as well as a chance to be creative. I wouldn't miss it. It is the start of my wreath and centerpiece making. I make many for gifts. The person who seems to have everything often appreciates a gift of this sort. Anyway, the Kliers are great hosts and let's have a big turnout.

Forcing of bulbs seems to be a good way of keeping the thumb green over the winter. Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocus and narcissus are all good for forcing. Choose only top size bulbs. Place them in a pot with enough soil on top to just cover the bulbs. Water well. They should be started in a dark place with a temperature between 33 and 40 degrees. A cool basement area, a window well, or a cold frame are good places to start bulbs. Do not let the bulbs dry out at any time. About the middle of February green shoots will appear. At that time the pots are ready for normal room temperature. They should be placed in a sunny window. At this point they make a very nice gift for a shut in or anyone else who enjoys watching something grow. If you choose amaryllis bulbs they can be started in the house. Started now they could be a Christmas gift. See you November 13 and at Klier's Nursery on November 23rd. — Carl J. Holst

### BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME....

Something as homely as cabbage may seem out of place along with wreaths and potted bulbs but the crop is in, "winter's a'comin'", and old time foods beguile us as we approach the holidays. Why not try:

"BUTTERED CABBAGE.---Boil the cabbage with a quantity of onions, then chop them together season with pepper and salt, and fry them in butter. It is a rather homely, but savory dish, and frequently used either with fried sausages laid over it or as an accompaniment to roast beef, and forms part of bubble and squeak."

---GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE. March 1864

(continued from page 1)

In the course of his talk Mr. Duncan asked for two workshops on gardening each year for the general public. (Spring and Fall) He also challenged MGCM to organize four new clubs in the area within the ensuing twelve months.

Carl Holst's descriptions of flower markets with unusual flowers; of huge plantings at the flower show in Hamburg, West Germany (one bed had 500,000 mixed fibrous begonias); of Danish buildings designed to show off their window boxes; and, of thatched roofs returned to vogue in northern Europe together with his pictures snapped over fences as he walked down streets while visiting in Europe during August added variety to the evening program.

Finally, we couldn't possibly fail to mention the apples Bob Smith displayed. You should have seen them--and the fibrous begonias someone else potted up for Julius Wadekamper auction off.

SEEDS, GERM PLASM -- IMPORTANCE and ROLE  
by L. W. Corbett

Germ plasm is the source of all characters found in plants. You could call it the "base" of genes that control all inheritance. It is the foundation of all plant breeding. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has recognized the importance of a wide base of germ plasm and has established a storage point at Ft. Collins, Colorado. This has been in existence for about 25 years. All seedsmen, researchers in federal and state locations as well as individuals were asked to send material to Dr. James at that time head of the National Seed Storage Laboratory.

There have been hundreds of varieties of vegetables developed and introduced. Some become nationally adapted while others are locally adapted. All have characters that may be important. The research people wanted to maintain these characters. Old and new varieties were collected, the seed dried and stored. The people at Ft. Collins reproduce small quantities of seed or collect new seed from the originator so as to maintain germination. A researcher can draw on these stocks when he wants a certain type or disease resistance.

The development of  $F_1$  hybrid flowers and vegetables necessitates the development of a germ plasm bank by each seed company. Most commercial companies are unwilling to give out inbreds. If an inbred is sent to Ft. Collins it becomes public property in a certain number of years. It may take 10 to 20 years to develop and test an inbred line. Once in a while you discover what we call a "workhorse" line. This is an inbred that combines readily with a number of other inbreds and transmits desirable characters. A good example is Golden Cross Bantam sweet corn a combination of P 51 x P 39. The inbred P 39 has been very widely used in many combinations.

To protect present variety stock seed, inbreds and germ plasm fireproof vaults have been built. Many of these are air conditioned and have temperature and humidity controlled units. The question of seed longevity is another subject but suffice it to say we work on a count of 100. If the temperature is 60 the humidity should be 40 or less. It is desirable to hold germinations and vigor as long as possible.

It will usually take 5 to 10 years to introduce a variety and to have it find its place in the trade. The vast majority of introductions never find a permanent or accepted place. Old, tested varieties are around because they have one or more characters that have allowed them to compete. Maybe it is spring vigor, strong germination, disease resistance or the ability to withstand drought to make a crop under adverse conditions. These factors show out after a period of years. These are the factors you want in your "gene bank". They make for improved varieties or hybrids.

BRITAIN'S OLDEST BOTANICAL GARDEN

The oldest botanical garden in Great Britain is University Botanical Gardens at University of Oxford. Founded in 1621 and maintained since then to display a vast range of plants from throughout the world, the gardens are open to the public, although they are primarily used for instruction and research.

A number of plots--in what is called the genetic garden--are organized to show the evolutionary aspects of various plant species. The experimental genetic garden also has one of the world's largest collections of variegated plants, arranged according to the causes of variegation.

Another area of the botanic garden is devoted to the origin of garden roses from their wild ancestors to their latest developments today. Other areas display herbaceous, rock, and water plants; wall plants; trees and shrubs; and glasshouse plants.

## THE FORTY-NINERS -- ALBERT NELSON

by Don Wilson

"The first year I grew roses they all died that winter. The next year they died again. Third year, same thing."

What gardener wouldn't quit after an experience like that?

Al Nelson didn't. His first year was 1927. "We had to depend on the English Rosarians for what knowledge and hybridization we had. Somehow, the mild English climate was really the same as Minnesota."

After such an inauspicious start, Al Nelson built up his city plot to about 350 plants. He has become an expert rose grower. In fact, he has been awarded the Outstanding Consulting Rosarian award for the North Central District Rose Society. Al is always willing as a Consulting Rosarian to help beginners.

Al is one of the 49ers, but he can't remember the exact date. He worked for the railway mail service from 1919 to 1957. He worked for and developed the Veterans Rose Garden at the State Capitol grounds for five years.

Al doesn't lose many roses these days. He trenches and tips them. "About the middle of October I begin to winterize. I give the canes a last shot of protective spray. Don't be afraid of breaking the plants--all you need is two inches of earth covering. Then I wait for a little frost before covering with leaves or other protective covering."

Al is 77 years old and is quite an active gardener. Those of us who have visited his rose garden know this. He has about 200 rose bushes and soon he'll be out tucking them in for the winter sleep.

### THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The *GARDEN SPRAY* isn't the customary place for testimonials but, fellows, if the bugs bother you just try that remedy cited in the August *SPRAY*. Every so often something bites me and leaves a little mark which itches like crazy for weeks. Finally, one of the itches was getting so bad I decided to try my own prescription. I could hardly wait to get my own copy of the *SPRAY* to read what it was. Immediately I hied me to the supermarket (scratching all the way) to buy meat tenderizer. There were several varieties and sizes. Perusal of the labels showed contents varied with, seemingly, no major similar ingredient so I bought the smallest and cheapest container. It was the right one and fast acting! My itch disappeared before I got home and never returned despite the fact that I never even opened the jar.

Later, when I got a suspicious new bite I tried the remedy as directed. Several applications were needed to allay the itch. Still later, when I awoke one night scratching I sleepily sough out the tenderizer, sprinkled a little on my finger, spat on it to moisten it, and then rubbed the bite. The stuff didn't dissolve very well, (I already knew that) so it felt as though I was rubbing with coarse sand; but the itching ceased. The name of this magic worker? I don't know, I didn't read that part of the label and my wife has the jar stowed away somewhere where I'd have to clean out the cupboard in search of it. Anyway, maybe sand and spittle would work just as well. I'll check.

Upstate New York Region will host the 1974 MGCA convention with Cortland College picnic as the site. The convention will start Aug. 11, 1974. Cortland College has a spacious campus with many new buildings and will be ideal for a gardeners' convention with Cornell Harris Seed Company test gardens near at hand. In addition to tours to Cornell University, Convention Chairman Arthur Trimble, has a committee working on "do it yourself" tours for those who want to come early or stay later for Cortland is in the heart

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

The best thing each of us can do now is to bring our checkbooks to the November meeting. 1974 dues are payable December 1, Christmas Party reservations are due November 15. Why not beat the gun by taking care of the whole business when the treasurer takes the \$2.25 for dinner on the 13th? If we do this, a lot of worrying and telephoning will be eliminated.

Don't forget to use those tear-off sheets on pages 4 and 5 when you make party reservations or pay dues. We must have records, you know.

Si Rutherford had open heart surgery but is up and about again, we hear.

Frederick Brandt's phone numbers were reversed in our October issue. His business phone is 545-3761. His home phone is 477-5480.

When we read about vandalism, we wish Minneapolis was as free from it as Carl Holst reports he found Europe to be. Still, Carl must favor Minneapolis over Houston, Texas, where a complete bed of the new 1974 rose BAHIA was dug up and stolen from the rose garden in Hermann Park.

Some of the "evidence" against pesticides is being questioned by scientists and environmentalists. Citing a recent report that "samples of soil, sealed since 1910, were tested for pesticide residues," a British scientist Dr. D. G. Hessayon noted that "32 of the 34 tested samples showed trace residues, yet these particular pesticides were not in use until well into the 1940's."

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS, INC.  
MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH - 50th ST. & KNOX AVE. S.  
MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 3rd, 1973

Our Christmas party will once again be held at Mount Olivet Church. Join us and bring your friends for an evening of companionship, featuring:

ENTERTAINMENT  
(Music)

CONGENIALITY  
(Social Hour, 6:15)

P A R A D E   O F   T U R K E Y S

GOOD EATING  
(Dinner, 6:45)

RECOGNITION  
(Awards)

Please make your reservations soon. Your friends are welcome--the more the merrier. We should have all reservations in by November 27. Make checks (\$5.25 per person) payable to Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and mail to treasurer Jim Perrin, 10701 West River Road N., Osseo, Minn., 55443.

We look forward to seeing you at the party.

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Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me for the MGCM Christmas Party, December 3rd. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed