

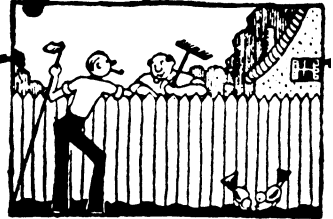


# The Garden Spray

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

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

November 1974, Volume 32, Number 11



NEXT MEETING, 6 PM, Tuesday November 12, 1974

FEATURING "AN HORTICULTURAL POTPOURRI", an illustrated talk by Dr. Harold F. Wilkins, associate professor of horticultural science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus.

Also, Election of officers for 1975 & Special interest group meetings.

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th St. at Knox Ave. S. Dinner \$2.50

## COMING EVENTS

Friday, November 29th. Spend the evening at Klier's Nursery 5901 Nicol Avenue making your Christmas wreaths, etc. Materials at cost.

Monday, December 2nd. Annual Holiday Party. See page 5.

## JAMES E. LOWRIE (1943-1974)

It is always a sad occasion when we lose one of our members. The sudden death of Jim on September 17th was a great shock to his family and friends for he was only thirty-one, having been born March 1, 1943. He is survived by his wife, Carol, his small daughter, Janell and his father, Eugene Lowrie, a well known musician in the Minneapolis area. Jim lost his mother at an early age and was raised by his father.

Jim was a Minneapolis boy who attended our grade schools, graduated from North High and attended one year of classes at the University of Minnesota. He started work in 1962 for the Farmer Seed and Nursery Co. and eventually became manager of their outlet on Excelsior Boulevard. On November 1, 1968 he joined Northrup-King & Co.

He liked horticulture and realized the need for further education so in 1968 enrolled in the American Landscape School, a correspondence school out of Des Moines, Iowa. An excellent student he also attained an Associate in Arts degree from the University of Minnesota and continued to take additional work on the farm campus.

This past January Jim was promoted to Flower Seed Horticulturist with the responsibility for obtaining flower seed supplies and lithographe packets. He had shown real ability in horticulture, was well liked by his associates and had a very bright future. His loss will be felt not only by our club but also by the horticultural community.

--Larry Corbe

NEW MEMBERS (Clip and paste in your roster)

D. Cameron Smith            881-2824  
10120 Pleasant Av. S.   55420

John Stevens                            938-311  
3759 Quebec Av. S.   55426

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MORE TO THE COMMUNITY GARDEN STORY

In the September-October issue of the GARDENER, editor Hal Nelson in an article (pp 140-142) on "Community Gardens" extolling those in Minneapolis noted that "none...were sponsored by MGC of Minneapolis". Further on he stated, "Local clubs can take a leadership role in persuading industries to offer their vacant land areas for community gardens for employees ( ...can stir up public demand...for public community gardens."

This article prompted Dwight Stone to write to Mr. Nelson to the effect that though MGCM officially sponsored no gardens, leaders in the club do in fact, have much to do with the Northern States Power Co. garden project described in the GARDENER article. Mr. Stone wrote (in part):

"To say that none of the Minneapolis area community gardens were sponsored by MGC of Minneapolis isn't really fair." (Nelson contends participation by individual members is not enough, that the club must be officially involved.) "No less than five members of the MGC of Minneapolis were instrumental in getting the gardens started. One of the members called an officer in April during a "Buzz the Brass" session and inquired into the feasibility of the company providing garden space. This call started the project and the official of the garden project called upon MGC members to give input for a successful project. It was the recommendation of this group of members of the MGC of Minneapolis that really started the project.

"The MGC members emphasized the most important ingredients for a successful project and in the order as listed, viz: 1) Company must prepare soil for planting; 2) Water should be provided; 3) Minimum security should be provided. Numbers 1 and 3 were provided, but water was lacking by both nature and man. Therefore, production was not as great as anticipated. During the growing season there were no signs of theft or vandalism, but after frost hit some pumpkins were slashed and sunflowers chopped to the ground.

"The NSP project was successful enough that the Company has endorsed the continuing of the project in the two present locations and will expand the gardens to other sections of the Metro Area. We have been assured water will be provided.

"During the course of the winter and spring we the MGC of Mpls. members who work for NSP will conduct seminars on various phases of gardening. Active MGCM members employed by NSP are: David Johnson; Robert Smith; Frank Vixo; Mark Willey; Dean Schneider; James Mielke; France Anderson; Dwight Stone; and Evald Johnson."

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We are holding Bill Hull's latest fine page of club history until our next issue because of space limitations this month. Last month Bill's surplus copy (most welcome) arrived just at press time perfectly typed and was so interesting we felt impelled to share it with you then and there by adding an extra page.

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## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Our club has been saddened a third time this year. We lost Jim Lowrie on Sept. 17th at only 31 years of age. He was a guy with such a winning smile and pleasant way that he just had to succeed. We watched him progress through the DANISH SEED CO., then to FARMER SEED & NURSERY CO. and then to find his home with NORTHRUP - KING CO. A memorial from the club has been sent to the Arboretum where many of us first met his lovely wife, Carol, on a club tour. We will miss him.

Jane McKinnon was a SMASH at the October meeting as predicted in the SPRING. To many of us she gave an insight into the development of the Minneapolis and St. Paul park systems. Carl Holst's presence seemed to give her some apprehension though we noticed he found it unnecessary to correct her. About 65 members and guests enjoyed Jane's slide presentation, and a film brought by Jack Kolb describing the Hennepin County Leaf Recycling Facility. Also, we had present two of the three nominated for First Vice President of the Minnesota Horticultural Society. They were asked if they wished equal time to debate the issues. Both declined, with Nate Siegal adding in jest that they would prefer a larger group to address, possibly with radio and TV coverage. As a reminder, your ballot is on page 124 of the October-November issue of the HORTICULTURIST and must be received by November 12th at the Hort. Soc. office to be counted.

The MGCM board has accepted new members; D. Cameron Smith, sponsored by Phil Smith, and John Stevens, sponsored by Carl Holst. A hearty welcome to you both. The board has also voted an encouragement contribution of \$100.00 from our reserve funds to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society as a symbol of our support.

Two items from MGCA: 1, MGCMpls. is the recipient of an HONOR CLUB AWARD for exceeding our 1973 final membership total; 2, MGCA is in a crash program to acquire enough material to publish a specialized COOK BOOK - Jam, Jellies, and Desserts from vegetables only. Please have your better half peruse her recipes making a copy of those appropriate for you to give to any board member or to send directly to MGCA.

An item received second hand from Huntington Park, California. "To discourage gophers in the garden use small windmills similar to but more durable than the toys that children wave in the wind and place the stick in the ground." They claim the vibrations keep the gophers away.

November 12th is our annual meeting for election of officers. Harold Wilkins from the university staff will talk on indoor gardening. It will be a good time to make your Christmas Party reservations and pay your 1974 dues. Friday, November 29th, those interested will meet at Klier's Nursery to make holiday decorations. Please be with us if you can.

--Jim Perrin

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"Those of you who missed the Minneapolis Garden Club's Flower Show in early September, missed a terrific show...Some of the entries were amazing...One thing I did gain by going was a little more self confidence in my own gardening ability. I think it would help everybody to be able to see how they compare with other local gardeners. More importantly, I think it's our duty to support other garden clubs in their effort to spread the joy of gardening to others. Next year when we have our flower show we will need the support of the Minneapolis Garden Club, so it is only right that

THE FORTY-NINERS: RENE' DUFOURD

by Don Wilson

On September 30 I received a letter from an 83 year-old man in Middlebu New York, signed "The Hardshell Crab", from Rene' Dufourd, who joined ou Club back about 1944. In answer to my questions he responded:

"My reply was a little delayed because we were upstate in the Adirondac to see the fall foliage coloring. For your information, the National Geographic some years ago wrote that there is no other place on earth where conditions are exactly the same as in New England for foliage col ing in Autumn. 'North American hardwood forests have all the essential to produce nature's brightest pageant.' It is here now. The fall colo ing on the North Shore is pretty, but nowhere near what it is around he

"Furthermore, I have been interested in geography. Have you ever been Lake Itasca and stepped across the Mississippi River--2000 miles from t sea? I have. I have seen the source of the Delaware River--a few mile from here. Two branches--the east and west branch. So, recently, I wa ed to see the source of the Hudson River. It is officially Henderson L. at the base of Mount March, the highest mountain in N.Y. state. We cou not go to it because of a rainy day and the road was closed. (At our ag we can't do much hiking.) But we came within a mile or so and had a go idea of the country it comes from."

Rene' tells his story in the Club better than I can, so here are some e cerpts from his letter:

"...I was secretary for 6 years, and, while I did not write the SPRAY, I would get the mimeograph stencils and run them off on our office machin and mail them. As you know, the Presidents, etc. of a Club come and go but a Secretary stays. So he actually becomes the 'Club'. I was chair- man of the 'speakers' committee'. In those days after the war many new homes were being built in Edina, Bloomington, North Minneapolis, etc. The newcomers wanted information on gardening, flowers, landscaping, etc. They turned to the Mpls. Men's Garden Club for advice and help. The Sec retary had to provide the speakers and often do it himself. After a few years their gardens began to show. Women's clubs were formed, and, of course, there were contests. So we were called upon to judge gardens, yards, flower shows, children's gardens, etc.... Harold Pederson was County Agriculture Commissioner, and he was always on one of those comm: tees.

"Then as time went on, our members became interested in the Minnesota Horticultural Society, and for a time we ran it. In the late 40s and early 50s hardly a meeting of the Horticulture Society was held that the was not a speaker from our Club. Several members were presidents.

"I retired from my company in 1952 and began to do some traveling. I ha to give up the Secretaryship, but was V.P. and President and Archie Fla was V.P. My last official act for the Garden Club was a talk at a meeti of the Horticultural Society in Thief River Falls in August, 1957--'What a Member Should Do for His Club'. The Highway Department was taking ou property on 2nd Avenue, so we decided to move to Florida, mainly for my wife's health.

"My wife was killed in an accident in October, 1968. The woman the fell met at Cortland is my second wife. She was born in South Africa of Dutc

parents, moved to Holland where she was educated, and then came to Spoka Washington, where her father was in the lumber business. Then in the course of years she came to New York State. Her grandson married my gra daughter. After that accident in 1968, she came to Florida to nurse me. We were married the following year. Many clubbers have met her."

He continues: "I am 83 years old--P. W. Young is over 90. We can't liv very much longer. Archie, Harold, and others are already gone. Walter Quist, Menzel, etc. can furnish some 'I remembers'. Henry Bachman, Les Johnson, too....I thank you for writing, Don, do it again."

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Rene' Dufourd came up with a fine suggestion when we visited at Cortland "History is not only a compilation of records, but a summary of things r membered so why not add to MGCM history by compiling reminiscences of th old timers?" (Bill Hull must have been thinking similarly about the sam time.) Rene' contributes:

I remember when we met in a small dining room on the second floor of the Medical Arts building. This, the "Fountain Terrace", had one large oval table with a built-in high-backed cushioned bench around most of it. We had about 20-25 members meeting there.

I remember that one spring the Y.W.C.A. needed a teacher for a series of lectures on gardening, flowers, and vegetables for afternoon and evening classes. One was provided--me. (Bill Cowcill had a similar job at Nort Hennepin Community College not long-ago.)

I remember the flower shows and the instructions Cortis Rice and others gave us on preparing our flowers for the shows. I still have them.

I remember the time when interest in garden club waned and the Board of Directors decided on some action. The result: I became "the Critic". But Harold Kaufman had a better name for me--"The Hardshell Crab".

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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 2nd, 1974

Our Christmas party will once again be held at Mount Olivet Church. Joi us with your wives and friends for an evening of companionship, featurin

SOCIAL HOUR (6:15) GALA DINNER (What else?) 7:00

ENTERTAINMENT (Dave says, "You'll like these girls.")

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM PICTURES

We want to see you at the party, so please make your reservations soon. Your friends, both male and female, are welcome--the more the merrier. We should have all reservations in by November 26. Make checks (\$6.00 per person) payable to Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and mail to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer: CHET H. GROGER

5457 Girard Ave. S., Mpls., 55419

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me for the MGCM Christmas Party, 12/2  
Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

P.S. I will carve a turkey. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_