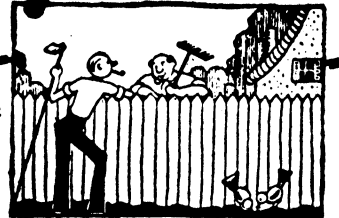




The Garden Spray

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

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



November 1976, Volume 34, Number 11

NEXT MEETING, Tuesday November 9, ELECTION of OFFICERS for 1977.

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

Dinner at 6:00

Price \$3.00

MGCM SPEAKER

DR. PAUL READ with a slide talk, "ENGLISH GARDENERS and GARDENING". Dr. Read, Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, whose specialty is plant propagation and plant breeding is a leading dahlia hybridizer. He was a guest professor in England a year ago.

At our preliminary mini-session this month Glenn Ray will discuss indoor plants.

SEND YOUR RESERVATION CARD IN IMMEDIATELY

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ALSO COMING UP

Saturday November 6th All day meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Registration (\$1.50 for members) begins at 8 a.m., with workshops scheduled at 9. These workshops will be repeated later in the morning, and again in the afternoon. Facilities of the college cafeteria will be available for noon lunch. In the afternoon, in addition to the workshops, the Hort Society will hold its annual meeting. A meeting of the newly organized Fifth District will also be held.

Friday evening November 26th our garden club members and wives are invited to Klier's Nursery, 5901 Nicollet, to actually make holiday decorations. Come early. We will have help in making wreaths, centerpieces wall hangings and various other items. 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. There is a lot of good fellowship as well as a chance to be creative. The Kliers are great hosts. Let's have a big turn out.

Monday evening December 6th Christmas party (See page 5): If you have door prizes to donate for the party bring them to the November meeting or call Bob Gage.

1977 dues are payable--(See page 6)

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am indeed sorry for having to miss the October and November meetings. I am teaching an introductory class in Horticulture at the arboretum on Tuesday evenings. All reports on the October meeting have been enthusiastic. With the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, being sponsored by the new 5th District and being planned for November 6 at Normandale College, there will be a lot of horticultural information available for our members. I am sure that you all know that Nate Siegal, Vice President of the State Society, has chaired the organization of the 5th District and that Dwight Stone is the new President of the 5th District. It is nice to see members of our club continuing to assume leadership positions in our State Society.

You will be happy to know that Dr. Francis DeVos will join our Arboretum staff on January 1 as our new Director. Francis is presently Director of the Chicago Botanical Garden and formerly Assistant Director of the National Arboretum.

--Leon Snyder

ABOUT THOSE POSTCARDS

At the October meeting 87 showed up. Only 70 had reserved. Sometimes it is the other way around. Either way we're caught in a bind. One way we end up paying for wasted unclaimed dinners. The other way the Mount Olivet ladies try to stretch the food by going dinnerless themselves.

So, the Board has decided upon a new reservation procedure--a return postcard on which you check your intention to come, attach your signature and a 9 cent stamp and mail to reach us by the Friday prior to the meeting. (In this instance November 5.)

Send in the card attached to this issue of the SPRAY or you won't eat. On the other hand, if you make a reservation and don't appear, you'll be expected to pay.

REPORT ON EXPERIENCE IN THE GARDEN

(Stan Crist of the Minnetonka Club shares. Shouldn't we?)

"This is the second year we planted BURPEE'S AMBROSIA MUSKMELONS. Everything the seed catalog says about them is true. The flesh is firm and thick, delicious in flavor. The seed cavity is very small. The vines produce abundantly. By far the best melon I have ever grown or eaten.

"STONEHEAD CABBAGE was on the recommended list from the University. The heads were large, extremely solid, they resisted bursting, flavor was fine. Medium early maturity I will continue to plant this variety, and will discontinue planting "Earliana" which is an extremely early, small headed variety. Stonehead is ready a couple of weeks later than Earliana, and is far superior.

"RUBY BALL RED CABBAGE was an All-America winner. This, too, I found to be just like the seed catalog said--firm round heads of dark red color, withstanding bursting for at least a month, and delicious, both cooked and raw.

"TABLE KING SQUASH was a new variety recommended for this year. Its principal merit seemed to be that it was a bush-type. I found the flavor to be so inferior to Buttercup, that we will not plant Table King again."

NEW MEMBERS

(Clip and paste in your roster.)

Friberg, E. W. (Buster)

869-5484

O'Donnel, Donal

926-7159

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Deadline: the 15th OF EACH MONTH.

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MGCM PRESIDENTS: NATHAN S. SIEGEL, 1969

Nate Siegel has been a prime mover in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for many years. When there was work to be done or a new program to get off the ground, Nate was there. Back in the days when P. W. Young and others were shaping the Club, he helped. He has been chairman of the Fragrance Garden Committee and of the special interest group on indoor gardening, a member of the National Convention committee, and a Director, Treasurer and then President of the Club.



Nate Siegel

The City of Superior, Wisconsin, welcomed a new member of the Siegel family in 1901. Nate's father and uncle owned Siegel Brothers Clothing Store in downtown Superior. The store started in 1889 is still active today. During his school years, Nate worked in the family store. However, when he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1924, Bloom Brothers Pioneer Shoe Division in Minneapolis needed someone to take over the production department and he took the job. He must have produced, since he has been General Manager for many years.

Nate and his wife, Elsie, have lived in their present home since 1939 and have raised a son and daughter there. After several years of spending summer weekends at their cabin on Farm Island Lake, Nate and Elsie felt it was time to spend more time at home developing their yard and garden. Conifer trees that came with the house had grown up to almost completely shade the yard and they had to be removed gradually. The yard is now open except for one corner. Lilacs were removed from the south fence row in favor of trellises for clematis. The rose bed was enlarged and a general expansion of the garden followed. We all know excellent results from our many tours of the Siegel garden.

As a member of the Lily Society, the Dahlia Society, and as a past president of the Rose Society, Nate has been active in horticulture groups. As a member of the Committee for Urban Environment, he is chairman of Arbor Day celebrations. When he was elected 1st Vice President of the Minnesota Horticultural Society last year, Nate was asked to help organize the 4500 members in the 5th District. Only a small percentage belonged to any organized group and our district was the only one not organized. Nate brought the suggestion before MGCM this spring and the Club voted to back such an organization. From this start came the present group of officers and plans for the first meeting in November.

Horticulture in the State of Minnesota owes a lot to our own Nate Siegel. And, in return, Nate feels his associations with the Men's Garden Club and all of the other groups have been some of the most rewarding experiences of his life.

--Chet Groger

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Nelson, Albert I.

CLUB HISTORIAN'S REPORT

by Bill Hull

An historian is one of those fellows who sits around in dusty archives and looks at yellowed pages. I qualify in part but if I'm going to keep my wife happy I'd better drop that statement about dusty archives because we don't have any at home. I'm your historian.

For two years I've been accumulating all the old records I could find of the club. I started with my own complete set of THE GARDEN SPRAY for about twenty-five years; I've maintained it in bound form all these years to leave to the club some day. From that I went through huge quantities of old records from the secretary which Dwight Stone passed on to me. The late Harold Kauffman also supplied a lot of material. It's disappointing in some ways but the club bulletin is the best historical reference there is. Someone wrote a club history a few years ago and it, too, has some errors, just as would occur to any of us when we trust to memory, our bulletin is our most reliable source of data.

I wrote a few articles for Spray last year but don't see any real purpose in attempting a history. Upon request, I can always put together anything the club president or bulletin editor requests.

I would urge anyone writing for the Spray to be careful when they refer to the past. Errors creep in, unintentionally, of course. If you wish, I go back and double check any historical facts before they are mentioned. Recently, for example, something was said in Spray about our MGCA 1967 convention here being "possibly MGCA's first financially successful one. This is incorrect because there were many successful ones, financially, prior to that; one being the first one we put on here many years before. To be incorrect in this report somewhat denigrates the excellent work done by those members living and dead who put on another superb convention years ago.

The one goal I'd like to achieve is to find the first photo album of each club officer. I've begged and wheedled people to look in their storage areas to see who has it--all to no avail. Any suggestions? Could we go to the widows of all past officers and ask their help? Could we get a list of them? Someone has this book and it should be located and kept in the archives.

Why an historian at all? Because our present depends upon our past and our future is the result of our past. If our club's future is as excellent as its past, things will continue to be rosy.

OCTOBER MEETING BRIEFED

Dick Edblom: Give big peony bushes a cup of high phosphorus fertilizer...Try hybrid tree peonies. A bloom lasts 5 days; the blooming period 3 weeks. A chicken wire cylinder stuffed with leaves will provide winter protection.

Julius Wadepammer: The lily is the perennial of the future...Plant September 15 to October 15. Break subsoil so water goes through. Fertilize with high potash fertilizer (12-12-18). Cover with reed canary grass until May 1. Mulch 6 to 8 inches deep all summer...The green stem helps the bulb develop so don't cut off anything but the seed pod.

Paul Backman: Trench planting is preferable...Water tulips right after planting and thereafter if the weather is dry...A heavy mulch is the remedy for Minnesota's alternating freezing and thawing especially near the house where plants start coming up too soon. Use a high phosphorus fertilizer.