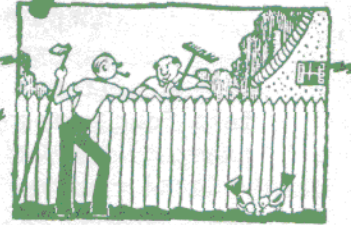




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Club Officers: President - Phil Smith                      Vice Pres. Dave Johnson  
 Secretary - Roger Anderson                      Treasurer - Vern Roufs  
 Directors - Clif Brisco and Carl Holst  
 North Star Region Delegates - Verner Carlson, Dale Durst

## SEPTEMBER 8 - BACK TO MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH

We will again be meeting at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church this time. Summer is over. Dave Johnson has planned a good meeting for us, featuring:

Lloyd Bachman: "Flower Markets in Europe" and Archie Flack: "Fall Cleanup for Next Year." We will also have short topics by some of our members. At this time we know that Dick Hulbert will be one of this speakers.

See you there: September 8. Six o'clock. Dinner at \$2.00.

### THANKS, DALE DURST...

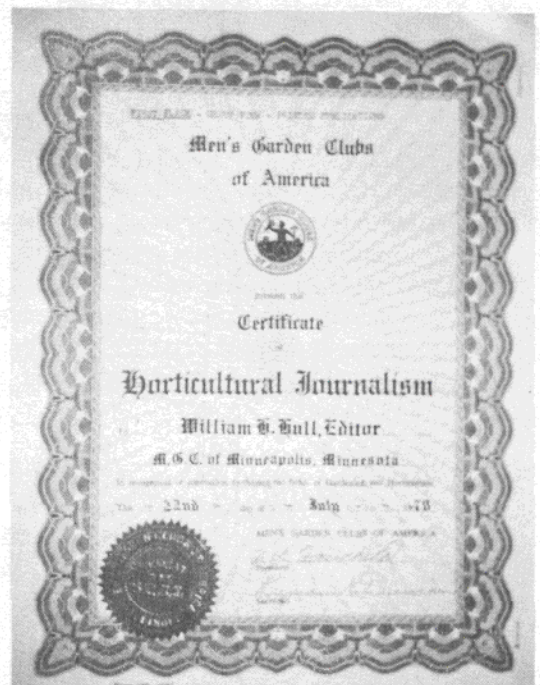
for all the work you did in bringing the North Star Region Flower Show to a success, Your fine work is truly appreciated.

### FIRST PLACE AGAIN FOR "SPRAY"

Once again your bulletin was honored with a special award at the national convention, winning first place in its category. See page two for the details.

### WHAT'S BEST IN YOUR GARDEN?

The next issue of "Spray" will carry a story asking you to tell us what was most successful - or pleasing - or attractive - or unusual - in your garden this year, and which you would recommend to others for 1971. Think about what you would tell us - the specific varieties, etc.





## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Yes, THE GARDEN SPRAY has again been honored, or actually it is in the name of the editor. This year the national contest by MGCA broke the contestants into four categories, determined by the process of reproduction used. Our category was Category 4, which the chairman described as "Photo-Offset, printed -- the 'fancy' publications." Anyway, we received first place and are proud to bring our club this honor again. THE GARDEN SPRAY has been similarly honored for many years and in 1968 received a special award for "Best Club Bulletin in 1968." The certificate is reproduced on the front cover of this issue.

Scientists at the University of California at Davis have developed a tomato shaped like a hot-dog. It is two inches in diameter and nearly five inches long. It is expected to be marketed soon in cans. But won't it slip off the spit when roasted?

As you know MGCA delegates voted to increase the annual dues to \$5, subject to club ratification. This must be done by September 1, 1970, or any club is automatically considered as ratifying it. Although our meeting isn't until after that date, why don't we ratify it formally, anyhow, as we indicated we would do at a meeting a few months ago.

Apparently the kick-off speech I was asked to make at the Des Moines convention was well received, judging by the many flattering comments in club bulletins over the country. The proposal was that we will attempt to get involved in community garden and ecological activities and also attempt to get together a million signatures to a pledge to do so. Material is coming from the national office to activate this. I hope we as a club will do our part in this project. The actual pledge and speech are attached to this issue, as they were released by our national headquarters.

## WASHBURN LIBRARY PROJECT

The beautiful new Washburn branch of the Minneapolis Public Library plans to open on September 9, and our club has agreed to plant their 60-foot indoor planter. Cliff Brisco, who has organized the project, probably has it completed. The new library building is striking in design and we may receive some publicity in connection with the opening ceremonies and promotions. Also, the library has ordered a nice sign to be located on the planter crediting our club. We are not committed to any long term maintenance of the project.

If you happen to be in the area of this new library building at 53rd and Lyndale A So., you may wish to stop in. We should be pleased to undertake this type of project as a community service, and any resulting publicity may be considered a bonus and not our objective in agreeing to do the job. If possible, you may also wish to attend the opening ceremonies, and Cliff Brisco will be pleased to provide you with the details.

P.H.S.



## BUGS FOR THE 'SPRAY'

by Phil Smith

As our summer garden club season has come to an end, we now look forward to our return to regular program meetings. Program Chairman Dave Johnson has some programs planned which look highly interesting. When it is realized that we have only three program meetings remaining this year, we must use every effort to make the most of our opportunities to share our experiences and newly gained summer knowledge with our fellow members. If you have learned something new about your gardening experiences this summer, or have perhaps tried something new or different with satisfying results, why don't you contact Dave Johnson and volunteer to take three to five minutes at one of our meetings to share your ideas or experiences with your fellow members.

A thanks to Tour Chairman Bert Zats for his efforts in arranging such a fine August tour and delicious picnic dinner. How can you beat strawberry pie? And better yet, fresh strawberries. Bob Smith's back knoll provided a perfect place for our dinner gathering, and a chance to inspect Bob's perfectly grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Bob seems to grow vegetables in terms of crops, and I wonder what he does with all of that produce. Roger Anderson's back garden gave a delightful view overlooking his several well planted flower borders. When it is realized that much of his back garden was dug out of the adjacent marsh by hand (Roger's), you cannot but admire such effort and resulting beauty. We next went to Floyd Ashley's mini-estate in the country, and it was interesting to note the manner in which Floyd has replanted his front borders with miniature evergreen and bonzai. Our last stop found us down the highway to Bob Bryant's large garden and glasshouses filled with orchids and more orchids.

Our flower show at the 'Hardware' building on Lake Calhoun, produced through the efforts of Dale Durst and his committee, was a well staged and successful event. This combination show of our North Star Region of four clubs, in addition to our own, was about equal to the big shows our club produced several years ago on its own. However, with the apparent general decline of interest in horticultural specimen type of flower shows, I think our show this year was certainly everything that could be expected. I understand that our club provided sixteen entrants out of a total of 31 from all five clubs. Good job, fellows.

PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY ARE PROGRESSING. Dwight Stone, chairman for our annual holiday party, reports of plans for a festive event. A highlight of the party has always been the showing of slides of our gardens from the past season. If you haven't already taken a few slides of your garden this summer just for this purpose BE SURE to do so right now. Dwight also plans to show a couple of slides of the gardens of each of our out-of-town members. So, you members in Florida, California, Arizona, or anywhere else outside of the Twin Cities also now have notice that we are counting on showing at least a couple slides from your gardens. Better not tell Dwight that you don't have any, since he probably won't take "no" for an answer.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT MAKING GOOD HEADWAY

Our Fragrant or Blind Garden Project was much talked about last spring. Nate Siegel has worked with and urged action from many people and organizations in order to get this project under way. We apparently are now ready to go to work raising funds for the project. The proposed garden has now been renamed the Community Garden Project. The personnel of the Blind Society informed us that the blind make every effort to mold into society and do not particularly like being singled out for special help or attention. They are pleased and anxious that the garden include primarily fragrant and textured materials, but they prefer the project not be promoted as one merely for the blind. Hence, a Community Garden Project with fragrant plants, rather than just a Garden for the Blind.

After receiving approval last spring from the Minneapolis Park Board for its support, we found that the Minnesota highway department, which owns the land, has strict rules concerning leasing parcels to other entities. If the property is leased for a purpose to attract people, the department requires liability insurance be maintained in sizable limits. In addition, the lease must be negotiated with the department, and lawyers need time to negotiate and draft the necessary legal documents.

The Blind Society was persuaded to take the primary lease from the department so their regular liability insurance could be extended to cover the garden property; they will then sub-lease the property to our club and assign their insurance coverage to cover us as well. This has now all been done and the sub-lease was approved at the August board meeting of our club, subject to a couple of specific revisions or clarifications. It will probably be signed by the time you read this.

The board of our club has decided that we should have about \$2,000 in the bank toward this project before we start on construction. It was originally felt we could raise this money without too much difficulty, and this may still be true, but with the economy continuing to slump, the board felt it wise to raise this amount first. Many people have lost considerable money in the stock market; others may be facing a cut in pay or perhaps even a layoff. The tight money pinch might particularly hurt those who would normally be sizable contributors to this project. We do not want to be pessimistic but we feel we should have a portion of the funds committed before we begin the job. We want to do the job and do it right, but we also want to be sure of our financing.

Remember, contributions to this project are tax deductible. You will, therefore, be hearing more about the fund raising projects on this project.

P.H.S.

*Sept. 1970*  
*Le Marchen Spray*



EVALD JOHNSON and VERNER CARLSON Top Show Winners!

In the Men's Garden Club North Star Region Flower Show the Minneapolis club was represented by sixteen members. Evald Johnson was grand champion with a California hybrid petunia.

Verner Carlson repeated this year and took sweepstakes with 41 points.

Bob Smith also repeated this year winning both sweepstakes and grand champion in the vegetable class with his egg plant entry.

I wish to thank everyone from our club who entered and who worked on this show.

Dale Durst

ECOLOGICAL-MESS NOTES

One firm has developed a home appliance to reduce garbage and all refuse to one-fourth its original size. For home use, of course. It packages it, apparently in neat little boxes.

A Nobel Prize winning scientist, Willard Libby, predicts a major ecological disaster for Los Angeles, this fall. Says it "may cause several hundred deaths." He says mankind will solve and recover from the pollution mess in two generations. (Albuquerque Tribune, August 19)

In order to help halt mercury pollution of rivers, the USDA has recently cancelled the use of 48 mercury compounds for industrial use. A much broader move is said to be coming soon. (UPI)

The Naval Research Laboratory has just released a story of the discovery that the ocean is the largest known natural source of carbon monoxide, "probably contributing as much as 5 percent of the carbon monoxide generated by man in the burning of fuel." Studies were made in the eastern Atlantic ocean. (Dr. Leonard Reiffel, Dallas Morning News, August 19)

Senator Muskie (D-Maine) has introduced a bill calling for the production of nonpolluting automobiles by 1975, five years earlier than the administration had proposed.

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PLANTING PETUNIAS AROUND THE COURT HOUSE SQUARE  
(Highlights from an address by William H. Hull\*)

The future of the Men's Garden Clubs of America is difficult to assess because it is limited by the lack of leadership continuity and by existing social upheaval. Any assessment of the future can only be the thoughts of one or a dozen men.

We as an organization are at best at a standstill in membership. I believe the "Establishment" organizations (service clubs, fraternal groups, churches) are not attractive to men today as they once were. I believe the same applies to ladies' groups. Huge segments of our population simply do not feel that these groups have sufficient appeal to warrant the expenditure of time, effort, and money (mainly time and effort) to warrant joining them.

Why? Because most organizations are simply not achieving what an aroused public wants.

The time has come when the Men's Garden Clubs of America can no longer continue as a social/fraternal organization--that is, if we are going to face any important and meaningful future. We truly do accomplish enough of an educational nature to warrant our IRS status, but we aren't doing what we should in the face of today's very serious challenges.

In 1964, when I had the honor of being your national president, I remember at the Atlanta convention a man saying, "I'LL BE SO GLAD WHEN THINGS GET BACK TO NORMAL." Of course, he is still waiting because "normal," as he used the word, is a thing of the forever-past. I remember a man speaking to a group of affiliated garden clubs and saying: "LADIES, THE WORLD IS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS AND ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS PLANT PETUNIAS AROUND THE COURT HOUSE SQUARE."

Of course we do want to plant petunias, and maybe around the court house square, but it simply isn't enough for us to do.

The status quo is gone. It's dead. We have new standards, new problems. Our choice: We can retire behind locked doors; we can use gardening as an escape from problems we don't want to see; we can retire into villages where no problems that didn't exist prior to 1940 are permitted to intrude.

On the other hand, we can look at reality and find a Cause for Existence worthy of us. I prefer the latter, as I believe most of our members do. As an accrued benefit, such a program as I'm brainstorming with you would attract men and we would attain the membership we want--and need.

So--we need a cause.

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\*Delivered at the convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, meeting at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, Iowa, July 22, 1970. Hull is a past national president of this group and 1966 winner of its Silver Medal award. He resides at 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minn., 55435.



(Page 2 of Highlights of address by W. H. Hull, July 22, 1970)

Just to continue with our goal being Membership Satisfaction is not enough. Our local clubs can't exist without goals and projects. What kind of a club would Rockford have without its Petunia Day? Minneapolis without its Arboretum sponsorship?

We need a national cause that will bind us together into one working, fighting group that properly utilizes our potential of service.

For years we have claimed to be the spokesman for the home gardener. Well, then, let's speak for him. And for ourselves. What does the home gardener think of the problems we have with pollution in all its ugly, dirty, repulsive, obnoxious, unhealthy forms? And why doesn't he speak out? Let's speak out for ourselves and for him and be a Vocal Majority about ecology.

Somewhere in this perplexing situation, we can find a cause, a needed cause, which we as an organization can get behind. I doubt if there is a group with more influence potential than this one. You are community leaders. You are knowledgeable about pollution. You know the problem--and some of the answers. As an organization we are doing some things now but we are spreading ourselves so thin that our accumulated efforts are not one iota of what they could be.

What should we tackle? The needs are almost endless. Ever since I attended the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, I have been struck with one idea--and it is only one possibility. What if we obtained a million signatures (a million, that is) to a statement urging our government to speedy action on pollution, with each signer also promising to do some small bits for anti-pollution. Think of the impact if we could send our national president to Washington with a million signatures of aroused, concerned citizens?

Let's find this cause, whether it's solid activity to save the air, the water, the rivers, the forests, or whether it's to save them all--and our people. Let us find this cause and take it on--it and it alone.

If and when we get behind an ecological program with our 10,000 men and our 10,000 women, another 50,000 would quickly join us, when we have provided the leadership and the organization.

You are civic-minded people. You are people with influence, with positions, with prestige, with retirement years available, with knowledge, with organizational ability. You have the sleeping giant with an organization ready to go. You could lead us on a man-to-man basis into a strong, determined fight to conquer pollution, to clear the air, to clean the streams, to save the forests, to help our youth, to provide the safety of future children. That, my friends, is what I see as MGCA's future.

A RESOLUTION ON LEADERSHIP AGAINST POLLUTION  
(Hull and Nelson)

Y O U   A R E   I N V O L V E D   I N   P O L L U T I O N

RESOLVED that by adoption of this instrument, the Men's Garden Clubs of America adopts as a major objective LEADERSHIP in the campaign against air, water, and earth pollution through encouragement of gardening, not only by its members, but on a massive nation-wide scale- aimed at planting grass, flowers, vegetables, shrubs, and trees and in keeping them alive through a minimum use of possibly harmful materials.

That members of each club promote the objective that gardening is a major tool to protect our environment. That MGCA members encourage their friends and neighbors to participate in this ecological program and to spread the word through the use of radio, television, and newspapers.

That local clubs take an active role in their home communities in gardening education and also encourage neighbors in all age groups to participate in the program for environment betterment.

That local clubs set up speakers' bureaus of qualified members and seek opportunities to address civic groups of all kinds.

That local clubs cooperate in creating community organizations to press toward anti-pollution goals.

That MGCA Regions offer their services to the governors of their states or organize and work with state committees formed to save our natural environment.

That the national directors and officers make a similar offer to President Richard Nixon and members of the President's ecological and environmental committees.

That MGCA members make themselves available to serve on local, state, and national committees formed to fight the pollution battle and to assume active roles whenever possible.

And, finally, that the president of MGCA be authorized to appoint a special committee of five members to implement MGCA's participation in the national environmental protection campaign.

::: WE DELEGATES TO THE 38th MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA CONVENTION, PLEDGE WHO HEARTED SUPPORT OF THE MGCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL PROGRAM. WE WILL ASK OUR LOCAL CLUB MEMBERS TO JOIN IN A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN ONE MILLION SIGNATURES PETITIONS TO BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT COMMITTING US ALL TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE:

I have read the Men's Garden Clubs of America resolution; and I, too, am concerned about air, water, and soil pollution.

Therefore:

I will open my eyes to activities in my own community which tend to pollute and endanger.

I will prevent littering the streets and countryside with cans, bottles, paper and other debris.

I will support beautification projects and participate in home beautification where circumstances allow.