

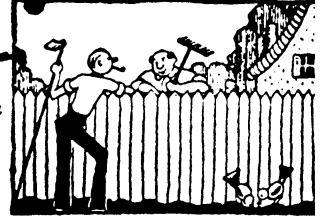


The Garden Spray

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

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

- ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE -
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LAST CALL for our 1974 FLOWER SHOW, September 7th and 8th at Linden Hills Fieldhouse, 43rd Street and Xerxes Avenue South. You still have time, but hurry. All entries must be registered and in place by 11 AM Saturday, September 7th.

OPENING FALL MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH
at the

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING, MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM
Highway 5, just beyond the Excelsior-Chaska Road

DINNER at 6 PM, \$3.50 (Served by the new Arboretum Food Service)

ALSO of Special Interest to Gardeners, THE PERENNIAL BORDER
OTHER ITEMS? Of Course! COME and SEE

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Our double thanks to Roger Anderson for arranging a mighty interesting tour for us as well as hosting the dinner in his beautifully designed and manicured garden. It was a fine time to visit Northrup-King tripartite gardens. The plants were mature, a perfect chance to make selections for next year. I took some notes as did many others. Clyde Thompson's back yard was a perfect setting for a garden party and that magnolia looked as though just transplanted from Georgia. Otto Nelson's terraces were as breathtaking as ever. I don't know how you manage all that with Otto. Roger, Clyde and Otto, we enjoyed your hospitality and thanks for sharing the results of your hard work with us. Thanks also to Northrup-King for their hospitality and ideas for next year.

The attendance at the weekend mini tours as of the date of writing this has been a bit disappointing, possibly due to poor weather. This weekend is the flower show and open house at the gardens of Carl Holst, Charlie Proctor and Nate Siegel. Please stop in on your way to or from the show at Linden Hills Park. As an added incentive to visit the show there will be a special display provided by the Audubon Society and information available on birds and the garden.

Welcome aboard to new member Leonard Lampert whose application was recently approved. Leonard is sponsored by Bill Gage and his garden is at 5616 Brook Drive, Edina. The board also voted to make a contribution of \$100.00 to the Normandale Japanese Garden. We wish them well in their ambitious project.

Charlie Proctor asked me to mention the 14th sale at the arboretum on

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1974
by Paul Lindstedt

Ed Culbert almost didn't make it trying to get by the all-seeing turnstyle at the airport. But Hugo S. Carlson and his wife of Maple Plain saw that he was extradited. Hugo did a fine job arranging for our passage on the plane. Soon we were looking down on the majestic Niagara Falls and later were boarding a bus in Syracuse provided by our hosts.

Cortland, N. Y. is a small town on a high plateau of 1100 feet with seven valleys. It is located in the center of the state near the five Finger Lakes. Its "Sod Busters" MGC unit was founded 18 years ago and now has a very active membership of 45.

We signed in at the State University College at Cortland where we were assigned rooms in the girls' dormitories. The over 200 delegates were issued tickets for all the meals and banquets during the stay. Enjoyed well-prepared food, all we could eat and were expeditiously served.

Attended the central New York Gladioli Society show and the New York Regional Flower and Vegetable show in the afternoon. Dwight and Lorraine Stone were already there. They had left August the 2nd and had come from Canada.

The delegates from Hawaii, Mr. and Mrs. Fortunato (Lucky) Teho were loaded with orchids, leis and pineapples. They will host the forty fifth annual convention in Hawaii in 1977.

At seven p.m. the traditional memorial service was held in the college chapel for those who died in the past year. The departed from Mpls. MGC were Paul R. Burt, Norman E. Johnson, Harold R. Kaufmann, Sam Reieson; from the Lake Minnetonka MGC, F. M. Rosenkrans, Jr., and from the North Suburban MGC (Mpls.) Irving R. Rose. Incidentally, a big cemetery shares the hill with the campus.

At 8 p.m. we went to Corey College Union to see: First, a movie, "New York--It's Sun-Sational". It lived up to its' rating during our stay; Next, a movie of the 50 acre Sonnenberg Gardens (See Henry's article); Third, a presentation of color slides from the individual members. Slides from our club were conspicuous by their absence, although there were some from the other Minn. clubs. Shutter bugs are urged to send in more slides for next year. Contributors are cautioned not to mount the slides as they are hard to project.

At 9:15 p.m. there was a demonstration and participation in square dancing. Heard favorable comments about it afterward. We danced to bed so that we could get up at 5:30 a.m. the next day to be with the Early-Bird at Sapsucker Woods.

Three years ago when we attended the Roanoke convention we heard the praises of Mpls. when they were here. The delegates still claim that our conclave was tops.

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Watt Myers also made a convention report which is not printed separate but has been used to augment other reports.

CORNELL COLLEGE DAY
by Dwight Stone

On the Sapsucker (Sapsucker Woods Ornithological Laboratory) tour the saps turned out to be the conventioners who rose to have breakfast at 5:30 and board the bus in time to reach Ithaca at sunrise. (One guy at Clark Hall was showering at 4 A.M. By 5:30 chatter from the sidewalk below heard through Ed. Culbert's 6th floor window sounded like a Boy Scout camp at day break.) At the end of the ride the only birds in sight were paintings in the headquarters building, the trails throughout the area being completely void of any bird life.

After a half hour of utter confusion we were again on our merry way. This time you made a choice of the Plantation (arboretum) tour or seminars. I chose to start out with a tour as I had a feeling I would be tired by afternoon.

The Plantation was interesting and the tour guide well informed. As Cornell is an old school and the arboretum has been in existence for many years many of the hedges have become overgrown and are no longer a thing of beauty. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum being fairly new has not yet experienced "overgrowth".

No one from a host club was around to advise the next order of action when we returned from the Plantation. After a half hour of indecision we were told the balance of the morning was to be given to walking to Minns Gardens, the Herb Gardens, the Bailey Hortorium and the Research Greenhouses. (We could have ridden the campus bus which circles the campus at 5 minute intervals.)

Minns Garden, started in 1915 by a horticulture instructor, serves as an outdoor laboratory for the teaching of herbaceous plant materials. The gardens about the size of half a city lot were well cared for. (A faculty member in attendance said one person works full time in them. When we were there a young chap was picking off all dead flowers and doing little trimming.) In addition to bulbs and perennials there were about 225 kinds of annuals (all labelled). From viewing the garden one would believe the sun does not get as hot in the Finger Lakes region as it does in Minneapolis as plants we must plant in shade were growing in full sun.

After a bag lunch of dry sandwiches, potato chips, a peach and a plum (plus lemonade) it was seminar time. My choice for the afternoon was "Current Activity in Plant Breeding and Its Significance for the Home Gardener". The panel leader couldn't be there so the seminar was cancelled. The other seminars were not of sufficient interest to me to warrant sitting in a non-air-conditioned building for hours; so I wandered over to the Poultry Building, found a Coke machine and had the best time of the day to this point.

I heard that the soils talk was OK. Ed Culbert tells me the one on "Insect and Disease Control" dealt primarily with "symptom terminology" that he picked up a new word, "gummosis". He says the talk on "Weed Control in the Home Garden" was helpful in that some 30 common weeds healthily growing in pots were on display and labelled. The speaker though attesting to the value of mulch and of black plastic contended

Buses were scheduled to return to Cortland at 5 P.M. but by noon many people had had enough (temperature reached 90) and requested early return. Buses were provided them at 3 P.M. After arriving back at our quarters around 4 P.M. I had the second best experience of the day--I took an hour and a half nap. Lorraine woke me in time to get ready for the 6 P.M. (postponed to 6:30) dinner of barbequed chicken and sweet corn. The dinner was good and the entertainment light and enjoyable.

HIGHLIGHTS of the BUSINESS SESSIONS AT CORTLAND
by Sherm Pinkham

President's Address: President Royer said that apathy is our inside enemy. Members should be involved. A do-nothing attitude spells ruin. Each club should have at least one project with everyone participating

National Dues: Will remain fixed at \$5.00, but may have to be increased later. Cost of supplies are skyrocketing. Part of the answer is more clubs and more members in each club. National offers 28 services, book pamphlets, suggestions--you name them. It is the glue that holds the individual clubs together. Total membership is 8649 in over 200 clubs Minneapolis ranks 8th in size.

Youth Gardening: Several clubs work extensively with youth, principal vegetable gardening and with success. One delegate, 16 years old, came from Illinois. He was given a standing ovation. Every club should have a few teen-age members. If necessary, they can be sponsored by others Remember tax-deductible.

For Men Only: Suggestions to have women members or affiliates were beaten soundly.

AARP: Proposed that we work with the American Association of Retired Persons by giving gardening articles to "Modern Maturity" making MGCA household word among this 6 million group.

Eligibility for Nat'l Office: By-laws were amended to make Regional Presidents eligible for national office. Heretofore only national directors were eligible.

Life Members: There are now 67 life members at \$100.00.

Sustaining Members: This class is \$10.00 annually. How about a good response in our club. Remember tax deductible.

Getting Iowa Out of the Mud: During the Spring, cars at headquarters have to park on the highway. You guessed why. A hat (buckets) passed up and down the aisle raised \$1,067.00 in ten minutes. Fund later went over \$1,300.00. Ray Blue (our Ed. Wynn) auctioned 5 pineapples from Hawaii for \$10.00 each.

Program for National Awards: This is a comprehensive program for giving national awards for Civic Beautification, Industrial Landscaping and Interior Landscaping. Corporations will be enlisted for sponsorship.

New Officers: Pres. Harold Parnham, Des Moines, Iowa, First V.P. Jim Cooper, Raleigh N.C., 2nd V.P. Art Trimble, Rochester, N.Y., 3rd V.P. Delbert Ducker, Delta, Ohio, Treasurer I. H. Hulse, Des Moines, V.P. and

Convention Cities: 1975 Kansas City, 1976 Ft. Collins, Colo., 1977 Hawaii.

Director's Meeting: November, 1974, at Miami. Directors pay own expenses.

THURSDAY TOURS
by Henry Halvorson

One interesting tour was to the Sonneberg Gardens at Canandaigua, N. Y. We left Cortland at 7:30 A.M. and traveled through some of New York's very scenic Finger Lakes area. Our route took us between two of the lakes, Cayuga and Seneca. We stopped at Toughannock Falls State Park viewed the falls (small volume of water but 14 feet higher than Niagara a beautiful sight. We reached Sonneberg Gardens about 10:15.

The gardens covering about 50 acres originally belonged to Mary Clark Thompson (1835-1923) who owned a 1500 acre estate. In 1902 and already widowed, she commissioned Ernest Bowditch, a leading landscape architect to design and construct the first nine gardens. In 1931 the entire estate was sold by her heir to the U. S. government as a site for a veterans' hospital. In the 50 acre garden area pools were filled in, some statuary removed or vandalized and the home converted into offices and a nurses' residence; but fortunately enough was left intact so that in 1966 a group of citizens began seeking ways to acquire the garden. They were successful and the gardens now are being restored to their original beauty and design.

I was impressed by the reflecting ponds, the beautiful trees (including weeping beeches) and the great expanses of lawn. One area had been a deer park and there, since deer could be kept captive only for "educational purposes", a short stretch of the encircling stone wall was built low enough for people to look over it at the small European deer. (No deer now.)

The Italian garden with its 30,000 annuals planted in fleur-de-lis design was breathtaking. Two volunteer workers were tending it as we passed long to the Japanese garden, the creation of K. Wademori a renowned Japanese artist. It consists of a lily pool, a brook, rocks that look naturally placed--also a bronze Buddha--and a tea house. Time has not injured this garden.

The Rose garden featuring only red, pink and white roses because these were the only colors available in the early 1900's was past peak bloom but must have been gorgeous earlier in the year when seen from the wrought iron gazebo on the outside wall. The adjacent Sub Rosa garden sans the original high hedge was no longer "secret"; but most of the original marble statuary was intact.

Beside the mansion three small gardens have been restored: The Blue and White garden consisting only of white and blue flowers--white alyssum and blue petunias, white snapdragons and blue campanulas was striking. The Pansy garden with a fountain pool resembling a pansy had fewer pansies than in earlier days but did go well with the restored Moonlight garden with its all white plantings.

At some distance was the Rock garden with interesting rock work and many typical rock garden plants still thriving despite years of neglect. Restoration plans call for reactivating the fountains, streamlets and

sealing and filling the pools. The Colonial garden adjacent, a prototype of the Williamsburg Virginia gardens, is still wildly overgrown. Some of the original hedging was still to be seen and a pattern of walls could be discerned where clearing had been started during that very war.

We left at 12:30 to spend the afternoon at Harris Seed Company's More Farms where upon arrival at 1:30 we were served a very fine smorgasbord lunch in a large shipping room. Harris has sales and show rooms on the same site as its trial grounds. The trial grounds are similar to those of Northrup-King on 169 but have a large shade house and are divided into numbered beds. Each row of annuals was labelled and also numbered to facilitate reference to a 30+ page mimeographed bulletin in case you needed to make notes or check to see whether the item was available. The flowers were a blaze of glory and at the peak of perfection. (Garden flowers in Cortland weren't because of the drought.) Corn research and tomato research fields were on either side of the flower gardens. Two girls were hand pollinating tomatoes in a field as big as two city blocks. One demonstrated and explained the process to Ed Culbert. I don't know what he was doing away out there.

At 7:15 and 120 miles later we were at Cortland hurrying to make the cafeteria line before closing time.

THE MGCM AUGUST TOUR

What a beautiful tour! Rog Anderson was perfect as host. He arranged for perfect cloudless weather. He even had a car jockey to park members' cars and bring the keys back. His huge amphitheater-like backyard and gardens have never looked better. Even "Lake Hillsboro" looked good. Chet Groger was pleased to see that we had our choice of that "finger lickin'" and barbecue ribs. Chet says that we had a little too much, though, which means that some of us didn't show up.

The tour started late, but it wasn't Rog's fault. He sheep-dogged everyone to the Northrup King Trial Gardens. We estimated there must be between six to ten acres just in flowers--all in top bloom and not a closed or wilted leaf to be seen!

Then we went to see Clyde Thompson's immaculate garden. The spectacular feature is a huge somewhat semi-circular plot that ascends to a pinnacle in the center. (It is interesting to note that there is no fence and that his backyard neighbor continued the treatment on his side.)

When we got to Otto Nelson's, those of us who have been there before warned newcomers they should have alpenstocks and mountain climbing shoes. The laughter died, however, as we rounded into the back yard. Even those of us who have been there many times joined the oo's and ah's. What we still can't understand is how every year Otto's muscle pains get worse and his garden gets better.

By the time we tore ourselves away, the group felt it was too dark to do justice to Nate Siegel's beautiful garden, so we split.

--Don Wilson

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Ask some delegate to tell you the ancient streaker tale; the blind man

HAS MGCA SOLD OUT TO CONVENTION BUREAUS? An Editorial

At the 1974 delegate session two places were bidding for the 1977 MGCA convention--Hawaii and Miami.

Fortunato Teho spoke for Hawaii and showed a tourist film, barely visible because the room couldn't be darkened. (Heretofore such films have been shown only in a meeting room some evening for those who cared to drop in.) He expatiated upon the sights to be seen, made brief mention of gardening and distributed colorful printed folders which gave the program for the "convention in Hawaii in 1977" (sic), air fare rates (go 1974 only) through a travel agency and hotel rates (also 1974 only) at the "convention hotel". He then presented 5 pineapples which were auctioned off. No mention whatever was made of a MGCA unit in Hawaii.

Teho was followed by Earl Starr, a young chap from Miami, who told about the Miami MGC chartered in 1954; current membership 114, many of them young men; some 12, 14 and 16 year olds. The club made \$4000 on their plant auction. They send their delegates all expenses paid to the national convention. Starr then spoke briefly of the things Florida has to offer as a convention site and of his club's potential.

Hal Nelson, MGCA past-president, then reporting for the Convention Committee, moved approval of Hawaii. After much discussion, primarily in protest of the recommendation of Hawaii, Hawaii won 151 to 50; but not before Arthur Trimble, MGCA 3rd V.P. and also a committee member, deplored "violating" an "implied commitment made some years ago" to Hawaii and a "vote last year" to back Hawaii for '77.

Commitment before 1973? The national rules permit scheduling of conventions no more than three years in advance. Commitment to a non-existent club? The only club in Hawaii (Honolulu) was not formed until after the Dallas meeting in 1973 (See the GARDEN SPRAY June 1973, p. 3) and of July 31, 1974, had only 21 members. A year old club of 21 members already bidding for a convention? Whose convention would it be anyway

Fortunato first appeared with literature and bearing gifts several years ago and has reappeared every year since with more of the same. Why he should have been permitted to speak at a delegate session at all before 1974 is beyond me.

Last year at Dallas, Hal Nelson, then MGCA president made a determined effort to commit MGCA to Hawaii in 1977 despite the fact that Teho had to admit there was no MGCA unit in the islands. (He promised one of "50 by convention time".) No anti-Hawaii delegate succeeded in getting to a mike but pro-Hawaii delegates used the P.A. system to talk over the uproar. Nelson stopped discussion by calling for a voice vote which he ruled to be favorable.

This year Nelson as M.C. on Tuesday night, not even mentioning Miami spoke of convening in Hawaii in 1977 and called for a show of hands in favor thereof. This in an audience more than 50% women and non-delegates. This when the delegate session to decide the issue was not scheduled until Wednesday?

Dirty Politics! Railroaded! Sell-Out! Take your choice. It could be that something besides increased dues and folding-up accounts for the