



The Garden Spray

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

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

January 1985, Volume 43, Number 1

HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR

Smile! Hold it! Say cheese! Move closer together!

Wait a minute! The sun is coming out.

Don't get in the shadow in the picture!

These are a few of the words that you hear a camera bug say when he is trying to take a winning picture. So! Hurry to the January meeting and hear Larry Cattron explain the art of taking pictures of your flowers and your garden. Larry is the Chairman of the Photography committee and is also in charge of selecting photos and slides for the M.G.C.A. photo contest.

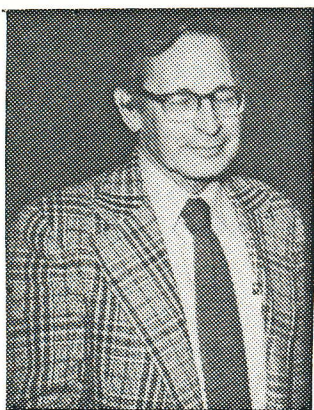
Did we forget something? Oh, yes, our first MGCM MEETING for 1985 will be held at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th St. at Chowen Ave. S. at 6 P.M. on TUESDAY evening JANUARY 8th. Dinner \$5.00 as usual.

The TOPIC: "PHOTOGRAPHY", of course.

Bring your pictures and the slides you have taken to the meeting and let Larry and his Committee take a look at them. Who knows, you may have a winner.

SEND YOUR RESERVATION CARD TO BOB CHURILLA TODAY!!

MGCM MEMBER FRANCIS de VOS LEAVES

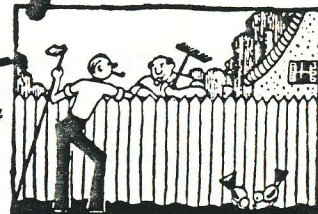


Francis de Vos

On December 31, 1984, Francis de Vos retired as director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. His tenure here is the culmination of a distinguished career in horticulture; moreover Dr. de Vos's eight years of University service have broadened and strengthened the purpose of the arboretum's founders and contributed to the growth of a major cultural institution.

De Vos came to the arboretum in 1977 after serving as the first director of the Chicago Botanic Garden and, before that, as assistant director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D. C. In addition to his administrative activities at the National Arboretum, de Vos worked in breeding magnolias and azaleas. His efforts resulted in the introduction of several important magnolia cultivars.

Francis and Martha de Vos tentatively plan to retire to the Piedmont area of North Carolina. Dr. de Vos plans to return to his breeding work to develop heat-tolerant deciduous azaleas.



FROM THE WEED PATCH....

BY

ANDY MARLOW

The new year is the traditional time for making resolutions and, as the incoming **MGCM** president, I'm going to be bold enough to propose some resolutions for the Club to act on in 1985. Every organization, even one as great as this one, needs some goals for itself if it's to continue to be great. Here are three I think we should consider:

When seed catalogs start showing up in the mailbox later this month, every member should look at them with a eye to growing at least one flower or vegetable for entering in the 1985 **MGCM** Flower and Vegetable Show. Last year the Board seriously discussed discontinuing the Show because of the limited number of entries. I'm not a great gardener by any stretch of the imagination, but I entered a few things last year just to help fill the benches and was surprised to win a couple of ribbons. If I can do it, anyone can. Plan ahead and this year make me work for any ribbons I can win.

We should set a goal of recruiting at least a new member a month in 1985. In 1983, it seemed the Board was voting on one or more membership applications every month. Last year, it was a rare month in which we had an application to consider. We're all aware that only a limited number of members have the time and energy to devote to the Club's projects. The more total members we have, the larger will be the number that take on those necessary tasks. And with a national convention on the horizon, there'll be plenty of those tasks to go around. That's not to say we should recruit just anyone, but there are lots of men who would like to share their skills, experience and fellowship with us. Let's find a few more of them.

Then let's all resolve to get active with the Club. A committee sign-up sheet will be passed around at the January meeting. Sign up for a committee that interests you and take part in its activities. Every gardener should be able to pull weeds -- sign up for the fragrance garden committee. If you like to take pictures of flowers, the photography committee is for you. Taking an active role on a committee will double the fun of being a member of this club.

Finally, a note for the next new year. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society has voted to raise the dues for members of associated clubs, which includes **MGCM**, from \$7 to \$8. Therefore, 1986 **MGCM** dues to be paid in December of 1985 will go up a dollar to \$25. Thanks to our continuing success with calendar sales, that's a dollar less than when I joined the Club in 1980. Still quite a bargain!

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

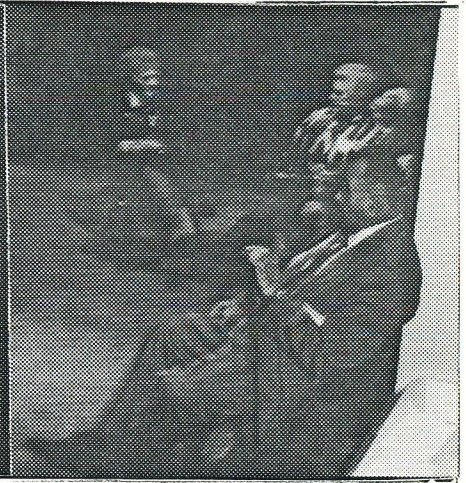
SEEN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



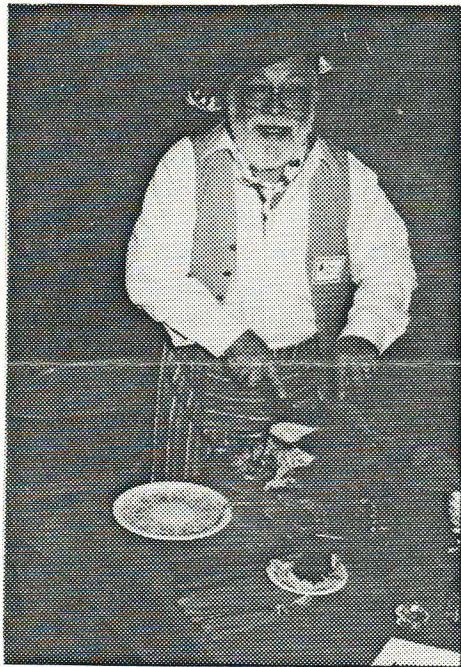
The Saccos & Em Groger



Turkey Line-up Starts



Milt Thomas



Fred Lang Carves

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, A REPORT BY ED CULBERT

Barbara and I were among the first to arrive. We found Russ Backes making a last minute check on preparations and Bill Hull rechecking his list of arrivals. Most lounged around in the fireplace room until Chet Groger came to remind them that the punch was being served in the next room. Some then lingered around the seemingly bottomless punch bowl. More, the hungry ones, hurried down to the dining room and seated themselves.

Shortly before 6:15 Henry Halvorson started to play familiar Christmas music on the piano. Then the crowd around the punchbowl started to file down the stairs--We'd have said crowded had they been less dressed up and sedate.

Promptly at 6:15 Russ Smith stepped to the mike to welcome all and to call upon Reverend Kenneth Beck, pastor of Lake Harriet church, to give the invocation. Meanwhile carvers Lloyd Bachman,

Russ Backes, Bob Churilla, Bob Gage, Walt Gustafson, Bill Hull, Fred Lang, Paul Lindstedt, Andy Marlow, Eddie McCoy, Ted Olson, Phil Peterson, Jerry Shannon, Juel Shefland, Robert E. Smith, Russ Smith, Thor Solem, and Dick Tepley waited at their tables.

When turkeys were ready the carvers quickly assembled, each to receive his turkey on a big platter and to await the signal to parade. Russ Backes taking no chances on their breaking ranks as sometimes happens held them until he could give specific directions as to line of march, when to return to tables, etc. Meanwhile the kitchen staff augmented by servers recruited elsewhere held off bringing the hot vegetables until carvers had plates of turkey ready. We grew ravenous!

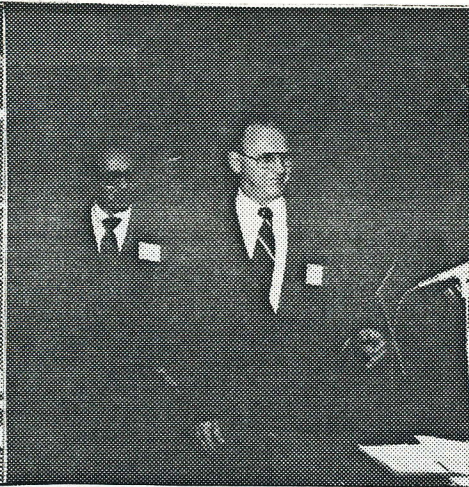
Jerry Shannon had so many prizes to give away from under the tree that he didn't wait for us to clean our plates. Instead, over the clatter and chatter he started to call off winners in groups of ten (Drawn by Apple Computer, so he said) until thirty had been drawn.

(over)

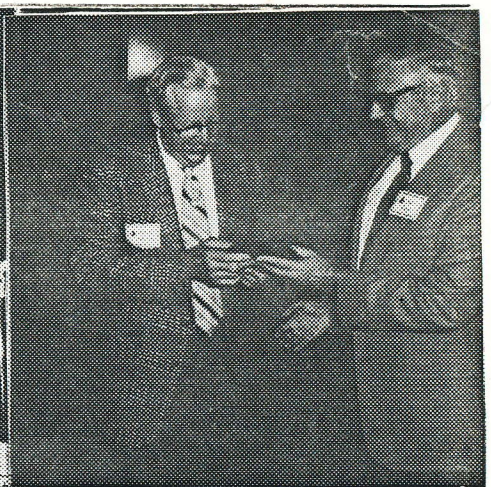
AWARDS IN 1984



President's Cup



City Beautification Award



Bronze Medal



Lehman Trophy

After quiet was restored he introduced the Lake Harriet Suzuki Strings--Ms. Mary Thiess director, announcer and pianist. The audience listened in rapt attention as the twenty boys and girls age 12 and under drew bows across the strings of the violins, violas and cellos as the piano carried the melody. Henry Halvorson and Michael Denesuk could give a professional opinion as to their smoothness and accuracy of tone but as a former elementary and junior highschool principal who has listened to many players of their age I thought them to be exceptional. The boy who played the Mockingbird solo brought down the house.

More computer drawn give-aways, by Shannon and an announcement that Stan and Dorice Van Vorst had made the shell decorations on the tree--one for each person present. The Van Vorsts had collected the sea-shells on a trip to Florida.

Fred Glasoe, awards chairman, then took over for presentations as follows:

- The Lehman Trophy for best garden on summer tours. to Vern Carlson presented by Burton Deane.
- The President's Cup for helpfulness to current president. to Charles Proctor presented by Russ Smith.
- The Bronze Medal for contributions to MGCM over the years. to Henry Halvorson presented by Chet Groger.
- The Civic Beautification Award for the Loring Greenway project. to the City of Minneapolis presented by Fred Glasoe. Fittingly the two men most responsible for it, Robert Magnuson and Rannankutty Kannankutty were present to receive it.

Back to Jerry Shannon who after announcing that Al Rahlenbeck had made the wreath on the podium called off more numbers until all prizes and decorations were given away and each lady present had picked up her little poinsettia from the table.

(Concluded at bottom of page 6)



Back: Olson, Proctor, R. L. Smith
Front: Reynolds, Churilla, Marlow,
R. C. Smith



McCollough



Van Vorst

1985 OFFICER AND DIRECTOR PROFILES by Chet Groger

ANDY MARLOW, PRESIDENT: Andy joined the Club in 1980. He became interested in the Club after conversations with Phil Smith and visiting the 1979 Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum. Andy is an excellent writer and has done some exceptional articles for THE GARDEN SPRAY, especially the reviews of

programs at our meetings. He has served on the Flower and Vegetable Show committee. Perennials, particularly peonies, daylilies, delphiniums and hostas, appear in his garden. With his wife, Phyllis, he also tends a small plot of native wildflowers in a wooded section of his yard. He would like to see the Club continue to grow with the addition of more and also younger gardeners, who could benefit from the experience of the "old hands". Andy is News and Public Affairs Coordinator for the University of Minnesota Radio Station KUOM, 770 AM.

BOB CHURILLA, VICE-PRESIDENT: Bob is a rose grower and is active with the Minnesota Rose Society, the American Rose Society and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. His profession is that of a production engineer. He has served on the MGCM Board for 3 years and has handled dinner reservations for the Club. Bob has been a member since 1977 and has a fine garden with 250 or more roses as well as lilies, peonies and a large variety of annuals and perennials.

DUANE REYNOLDS, SECRETARY: Duane knew of MGCM for many years as a member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. It wasn't until Robert L. Smith urged him to join our Club, that he did so in 1983. He already has served on the Tour Committee, the Community Fragrance Garden Committee and has assisted with the raffles at our meetings. Duane is Director of Chemical Dependency at Metropolitan Medical Center. He is a member of the North Star Lily Society and of the Minnesota Gladiolus Society. Although he grows vegetables, he specializes in fruits including apples, cherries, plums, grapes and blueberries.

GEORGE MCCOLLOUGH, TREASURER: George is beginning another term as our Club Treasurer, a key job in MGCM. He has proved his accuracy and meticulous care of our Club finances and deserves our appreciation for the work he does so well. He retired 4 years ago as Internal Auditor for North Central Bible College in Minneapolis. He is an all-purpose gardener, growing both flowers and vegetables. His home is in Bloomington, where he has a display garden of roses in his front yard. He also has a fine collection of lilies and peonies.

RUSS SMITH, PAST-PRESIDENT: A member since 1980, Russ has been a co-chairman of the Tour Committee and a member of the Christmas Party Committee. He is a Real Estate Appraiser and Broker and owns his own business. His home and garden near Wayzata feature a terraced yard and an
(over)

attached greenhouse. He grows a large variety of annuals, perennials, and vegetables and also specializes in orchids in his greenhouse. He also has a larger vegetable garden on his "farm" in another suburb.

ROBERT L. SMITH, DIRECTOR: Director Smith died after this issue was set up so a PROFILE is omitted. Instead an article will appear in the February SPRAY. A replacement as director will be named later.

STAN VAN VORST, DIRECTOR: Although Stan has gardened for many years, it wasn't until Jerry Shannon asked him to allow his garden to be included in a 1981 MGCM tour that he became a member of our Club. Stan and Dorice maintain a beautiful show garden that is on many garden tours each year. We will long remember the perfect finish to our August 1984 tour, with a buffet lunch served in their yard. Stan is a "partially" retired Certified Public Accountant.

CHARLIE PROCTOR, DIRECTOR: As one of our long time and very active members, Charlie (or Pete, as he is known) brings years of experience to our Board of Directors. A friend and former member, Sam Abrams, convinced him to join the Club in 1956 and Charlie became one of our outstanding gardeners. He has always been an avid vegetable gardener and, even though he moved from his home to a smaller home and yard, he still has a big vegetable garden in a former neighbor's yard. At his new home, he practices miniature or square foot gardening. He has always started most of his seedlings under lights. He used to grow many varieties of lilies. Charlie has served on most of the Club Committees, heading the Auction, Flower and Vegetable Show and Christmas Party Committees several times. He tells of the time he won Court of Honor at a Show when he dug up a peanut plant with a good crop of peanuts and showed it potted with the peanuts hanging around the pot. He was a co-chairman of the 1967 MGCA Convention in Minneapolis and is on the 1988 MGCA Convention Committee. He has been President and Treasurer of the Club. He has been awarded the Bronze Medal and the President's Cup. Charlie transferred here with Prudential Insurance Company from Boise, Idaho, in the Mortgage Loan Department. He later became part of the Field Office Planning Department and was involved in establishing new offices until his retirement.

ROBERT OLSON, DIRECTOR: In the pursuit of Hostas at the Bob Savory Gardens, Bob learned of our club and attended our plant sale and auction in 1983. Sherm Pinkham asked him to come to a meeting as his guest and he became a member. Bob heads the Gastroenterology Department at Ramsey County Medical Center. As an Assistant Professor in the U of M Department of Medicine, he teaches both at the University and at the Medical Center. He has served on the Tour and Arbor Day Committees and was Rookie of the Year in 1983. He specializes in Hostas but grows many varieties of annuals.

PARTY from page 4

Total attendance at the party was 218--75 members, 70 wives, 73 other guests. A fine turnout for the final event of 1984.

NEW MEMBER

John N. England
7601 W. 101 St. # 318
Bloomington 55438

ADDRESS CHANGE

Gregory Smith 545-6027
9715 - 29 Ave. N.
Plymouth 55441

CHRISTMAS TREES THE SUBJECT AT NOVEMBER MGCM MEETING

Reported by Andy Marlow

Christmas trees are made as much by man as by nature, according to Tom Wolcyn, the speaker at the November MGCM meeting. Wolcyn operates Wolcyn Christmas Tree Farms near Cambridge and is President of the Minnesota Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Minnesota, says Wolcyn, like most Great Lake States, is a net exporter of Christmas trees. They are shipped from here to almost every state in the country. In order for customers to be able to buy a tree about the 12th of December, it must be on the lot about the first of the month. That means trees have to be cut and shipped beginning October 15. Trees headed for the farthest destinations are shipped first, then those closer to home. Trees with longer needles--Scotch pine, Norway pine, etc.--are cut first as they hold their needles best. Then the spruce and balsam are cut. Unless it's already below freezing, the trees are watered to keep them fresh. Then they are bundled and piled on semi-trailers for shipping.

Cutting and shipping is a time of intensive activity on the Christmas tree farm, but Wolcyn said work goes on throughout the growing season. "Trees are a crop, just like corn," he says, and that's the way they're grown. The field is cleared completely (using herbicides like Round-up, in addition to cutting down the big stuff). Then either seedlings or nursery grown stock are planted in rows with adequate separation to allow for pruning. Then each year the trees are fertilized, sprayed with insecticide and pruned. A 6-7' Scotch pine takes about 9-10 years to grow, with a typical spruce requiring 11-13 years to reach the same marketable height.

The secret of producing that perfect, ice-cream-cone-shaped Christmas tree lies with shearing and shaping each one every year. The shearers use two long-handled machetes, one in each hand, and work around the tree. Wolcyn says one does not try to sneak up behind anyone madly swinging their shearing tools. The shearing stops branch growth for the year and forces all the tree's energy into lengthening the needles and making the tree fuller.

Another secret of growing a marketable tree is spraying them green. The natural fall color of a Christmas tree is a yellowish-brown green--not a desirable color for a tree that fetches around \$30 at the sales stand. So the trees are sprayed with a chemical in August that fools the tree into thinking it's still summer. The composition of the product, says Wolcyn, is a well-kept secret.

Finally, Tom Wolcyn offered some hints for selecting a tree at your neighborhood lot. (Save these for next year!) First, realize that the tree is probably frozen. It is not dry, but will begin to dry out when you get it into your home. The usually recommended test of bending a needle to see if it's flexible won't work on a frozen tree. Instead, drop the tree on it's trunk from about a foot high. Three year old needles on a spruce will drop off, but if needles near the tip of branches fall, don't buy it. If other trees lose a substantial number of needles, again, don't buy them. Check the color. Naturally green trees were cut very early. Trees that are sprayed or are a little off color were cut later. Look for a good shape--and, most importantly, buy from a dealer who knows about trees and can answer your questions.

When you get your tree home, let it stand outside in water or the snow for 24 hours so it begins to open up. Then make a fresh 1" cut in the trunk and put it in your stand. Keep it watered (No sugar or aspirin in
(over)

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the water, please) and Wolcyn says you shouldn't need to do anything more to keep it fresh through the holidays.

Christmas trees are a \$1 billion a year business for some 140-150 growers in Minnesota. I'm sure the members who heard Tom Wolcyn talk at the November meeting agree they have a fine spokesman as President of their state organization.

EDITORIAL Bill Hull's letter in the November SPRAY brought results. 77 members attended the Christmas party. 67 of them sent in their reservations prior to receipt of the December SPRAY which they should have received November 28. Ten more reservations got in by December 1 deadline. 9 members sent in the return slip saying they couldn't come. Hence, Bill heard from 86 of our 126 members one way or another by deadline. But 40 are too many to not hear from at all. Let's do better next time a reservation form calls for a "can't come" response.

HONORARY MEMBER OTTO NELSON was 90 years old on October 23rd. Chet Groger armed with a birthday cake and accompanied by a dozen of Otto's long-time MGCM friends, among them 91 year old Les Johnson, went over to help Otto celebrate. Otto and Minnie were still recovering from the previous Sunday when 34 relatives from all over the U.S.A. honored them with a dinner party at the Sheraton Park Place hotel.

IT TOOK Phil Peterson, Vinton Bouslough, Nate Siegel and Ed Culbert only two hours to put the Fragrance Garden to bed for the year on Saturday morning November 3rd. It will take a lot more help to get the ground turned over and planted next spring so volunteer to serve on the committee.

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ARE YOUR 1985 DUES PAID? IF NOT THIS IS THE LAST SPRAY YOU WILL RECEIVE.



Return to
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