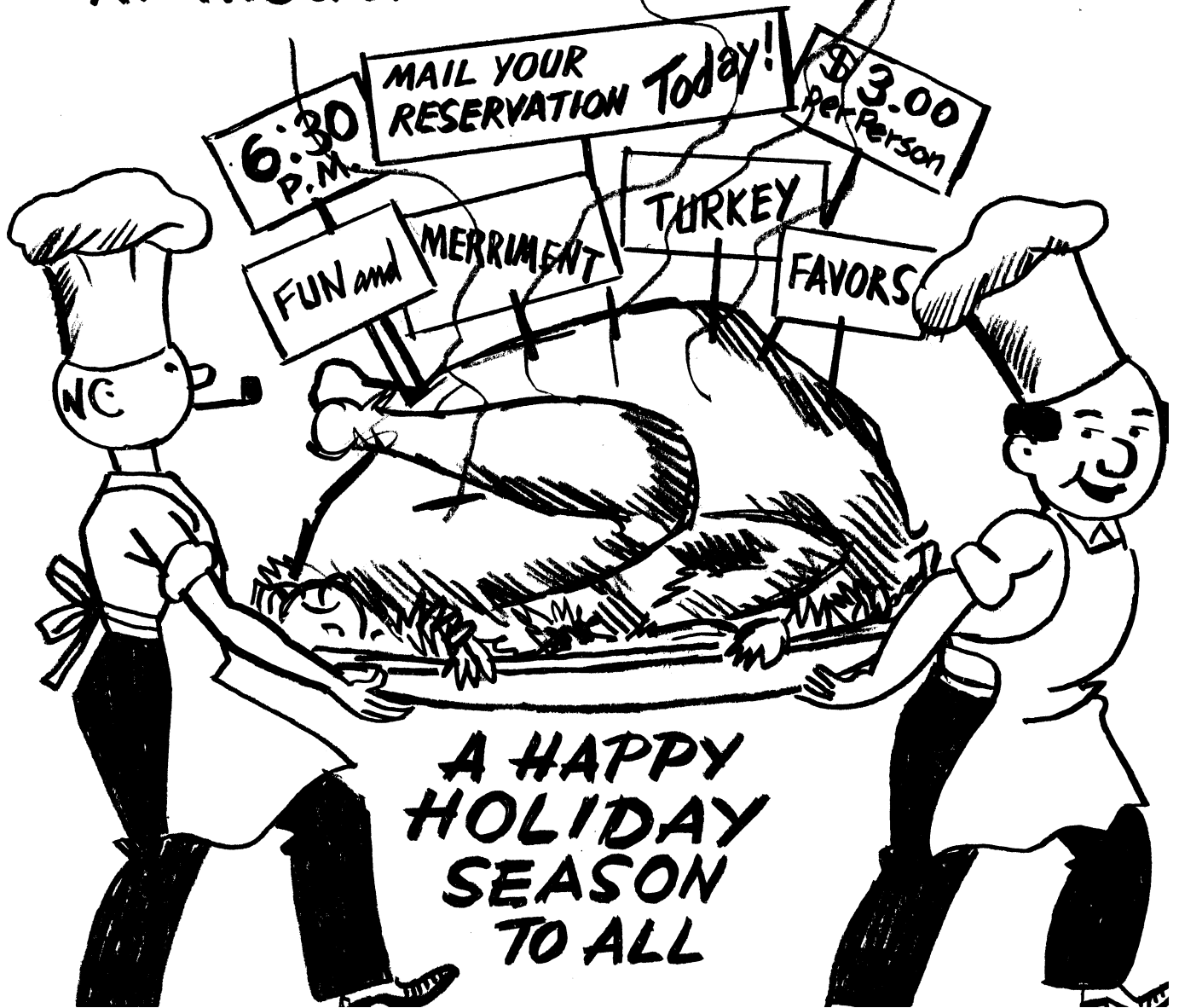


IT'S Christmas Party TIME

for You, your adult family and friends!

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 11th

At Mount Olivet Church



T H E G A R D E N S P R A Y

December, 1956
Volume 14, Number 12
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. Hull, Don Methven
N. W. Christopherson

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 1956
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & West 50th St.
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Dinner: \$3.00 per person

OFFICERS

George Titus	President
A. R. Blackburn	Vice-president
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
Wm. H. Hull	Treasurer
J. M. Witmer	Past-president

Office of the Secretary
N. W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Ave. South

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Building

T'is Christmastide, party time and the Club's annual Christmas gathering bids well to be the merriest of them all. Your Program Committee has worked hard and long in providing fun and laughter for us all. A turkey on every table with all the delicacy to make it a Yuletide feast; music, songs, jokes -- a-rollicking entertainment. Favors for the ladies -- decorations that will gladden every heart.

Now, mail the enclosed reservation card at once -- TODAY sure, without fail. Come, treat your entire adult family and invite as many friends as you wish but do please make the necessary reservations -- do it NOW while it's fresh on your mind. Don't miss this one if you can possibly help it.

P.S. Will the master turkey carvers please bring the tools of their trade -- carving knives and forks.

A SALUTE TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

The following members nominated to take office on January 1st, 1956, were unanimously elected by the membership at our November Meeting.

President	A. W. (Tony) Koester
Vice-president	R. C. (Bob) Adams
Treasurer	W. H. (Bill) Hull
Secretary	N. W. (Chris) Christopherson

Congratulations fellows, we are proud to have you lead us and will be with you the way.

WHERE DOES OUR WEATHER START?

Does our weather start at the top of the atmosphere, triggered by the sun's radiation, and work down or does it begin near the earth's surface and produce effect observed later at higher altitudes? According to Dr. Harry Wexler, Director of Meteorologic Research, U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C., present evidence is stronger for the earth-upward theory. He further reports that attempts to show statistical relations between weather patterns and such solar effects on sun spots have not been convincing.

JUST A SLIP MAYBE TWO!

Unfortunately, your editor's name was inadvertently dropped by the typist as author to the article in the November issue of the Spray entitled, "It Wasn't a Club Project." The purpose behind the writing was to make a plea for full membership participation in all Club activities and the funnelling of Club projects through its Officers and Board of Directors. Unexplainably, this did not take place in the case of the Day Lily Project.

Another subject covered was "Advance Program Planning". This was not an original idea. The thought has been expressed by quite a few members and if adopted should be most helpful not only to the Program Committee but also the membership as a whole.

While on the subject of planning for our monthly programs, undoubtedly the Program Committee would be most appreciative of any program ideas, subject matter or speakers you would like to have them consider. If you will write them to the Editors of the Spray, they will be promptly passed on to the Program Committee.

At the same time, how about helping your editors out with some fresh news, gardening ideas, interesting experiences or the successful cultivation of unusual plants, shrubs, fruits and vegetables. We're hungry for Spray material.

G.V.L.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Congratulations to Greg Lucking and his boys for the splendid Mum Show. At least 10,000 chrysanthemums beautifully displayed, arranged and labelled. This show annually draws attention to the mum as an ideal Minnesota plant and is certainly an excellent public relations gesture for the Park Board. Featured at this year's show was George Luxton's Grandma and George's new book. Also the tasteful use of sculpture added to the displays. My oldest daughter, who knows Degas' paintings of ballerinas, was quite surprised to discover "a real Degas sculpture."

* * * * *

As a pet project for our Club, I'd like to be responsible for a monthly display for each meeting. Would anyone else care to work on this? Who will volunteer for a display of some facet of gardening interest or activity? As the Chicago Tribune says "Help, Help

* * * * *

I see Carl Holst has his roses all put to bed and covered by his chicken houses again. Or are they farrowing houses, Carl? Anyway, they certainly get results for the rose gardens.

* * * * *

Pretty soon we'll start losing our travelers in the annual treks to the South and the West coast. Please keep us posted on your activities and itineraries. How about reporting on gardening activities where you go and we'll spread the news through the Spray?

* * * * *

The other day I saw a Christmas door decoration made of evergreens and a sock stretcher. Plus a few ornaments. The man of that house will need new wool socks after Christmas.

* * * * *

And a Merry Christmas to you too.

A MOST DESERVING HONOR

In behalf of the entire Club, the Board of Directors wish to thank Harold Kaufmann and Joe Witmer for their leadership in chairmening the recent annual convention of the Minnesota Horticultural Society for which our Club was host. We particularly recognize these members for the fine work they did in directing the efforts of the club members in general and in bringing honor and recognition to the Club. We also wish to thank member Cortis Rice who is also President of The Minnesota Horticultural Society for the cooperation of his organization and the opportunity to serve his group.

DUES ARE DUE

It's time to mail your check for \$4.50, dues for 1957, to W. H. Hull, Room 403, Essex Bldg., Minneapolis 3. Hurry please our Treasurer is awaiting to get your name on the 1957 roster.

A GARDENER'S GIFT

No need to look further for that Christmas gift for your gardening friend, give George Luxton's new book, "Flower Gardening in the North". It's a honey, in fact every Club member should have one. Available at every book store. Price is \$3.95 and well worth it.

A NEW LETTUCE

A new lettuce produced by crossing Bibb lettuce and Grand Rapids, has been introduced by Michigan State College. Its color is a rich dark green and is a much better producer than the other two.

GARDEN TOOLS NEXT

Out Portland, Oregon way a sympathetic joker has just won himself patent for a heated fishing-rod handle. The gadget is a simple one, lined with metal, it has a heating element within. To operate, a door in the handle is opened and the heating unit, which may be a chemical or charcoal, is ignited. The door is then closed. The temperature of this unique handle can be regulated by controlling the air supply through a series of slots. This new fishing aid is supposed to permit sportsmen to pursue their pastime in comfort, come rain, shine or nippy weather. Why couldn't the "roasting" handles be attached to hoes and rakes?

EXCERPTS FROM THE PILOT

Publication of MGC Rochester, N.Y. - John W. Patek, Editor

A Milestone - A milestone in the campaign for the better break for the 30,000,000 gardeners and the many legitimate and conscientious nurserymen was reached in June with the publication of the Federal Trade Commission "Trade Practice Rules for the Nursery Industry". As our readers know, Dr. "Dick" White of the American Association of Nurserymen, Mr. Wilbur W. Sacra, Jr. of the Federal Trade Commission, your editor, and others interested in higher standards for the nursery industry worked on this standard for several years. As chairman of the Men's Garden Clubs of America National Committee and the Upstate New York Region of MGCA Committee on Quality Standards, your editor fully endorses this new standard and considers it a job well done. Every garden club and every interested gardener should have a copy, study it, and apply it as a basis for directing his future purchases of garden material. Write to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington 25, D.C. for copy or copies of "Trade Practice Rules for the Nursery Industry".

Another Milestone - Also in June was the publication by the State of New York Department of Agriculture and Markets in Albany of Circular 758. This publication covers the new state seed law plus the rules and regulations which apply to it. These regulations expand the law relating particularly to flower, lawn and vegetable seeds and should be studied by all gardeners interested in such seed. These regulations were originally drawn up in the meetings of the Seed Law Revision Committee on which the Upstate New York Region of MGCA was strongly represented, and, of course, these regulations are endorsed by the Upstate New York Region.

A Third Milestone - Again in June was published for committee comment seed germination standards for flower seeds. These standards will become part of the New York State Seed Law in 1960. This editor is a member of the Seed Law Revision Committee and has avail

P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

October 15, 1956

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

There has been a longer lapse of time than I would like to have between my August letter and the present one. However, now that Larry Hubbard is well organized in his office as Secretary, we are well back in business to serve you in every capacity. I also postponed any late September letter because I know you would want to know the results of our mid-term Board of Directors meeting at Mansfield, Ohio, October 5th, 1956.

The midterm Board meeting was quite successful, for it gave us an opportunity to review progress of our committees as well as to discuss matters of special importance that needed Board action well before the National Convention next June. However, every club should know the results of the Board proceedings as it affects club activities. Here they are in brief:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: To make some definite move toward our goal of setting up an Executive Secretary office, the Ways and Means Committee was given the green light to make preliminary selections of at least two of the best candidates for this important office. Further screening will be carried on to arrive at an estimated budget to carry on the work of this office, etc. Everyone is urged to send in names of men who would have the desired qualifications of an Executive Secretary for MGCA. Many names are already on file, but we don't want to neglect the opportunity of screening other candidates for the office.

CLUB DUES: It was voted to drop any further consideration of increasing club dues to bring in additional revenue to help support the office of Executive Secretary. As you remember, the idea was suggested by many member clubs, and our former letter was only a "feeler" to sound out opinions of all clubs on the subject.

MEMBERSHIPS: Much discussion was given to this important subject. It was decided that we could materially raise more money toward the functioning of the Executive Secretary office by increasing and developing NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS. This is one of the new membership classifications where a National Member pays annual dues of \$4.00 in addition to the \$1.00 paid to the MGCA through his local club dues. A National Member will be given recognition in MEGA, and will receive a special membership card indicating his extra participation in MGCA activities. At the Mansfield, Ohio meeting, over twenty NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS were signed up after a single meeting.

John Cochran is setting into motion a publicity plan to bring in ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. These are extended only to commercial people who subscribe \$100.00 per year to MGCA. They will have no voting powers, but will have the opportunity to become more closely associated with MGCA through such a membership.

MEMBERS AT LARGE will be another additional source of income as well as giving everyone an equal opportunity to have a membership in MGCA. The dues are \$5.00 per year. Our By-Laws state that a Member at Large must be only in areas or communities where there are no existing Men's Garden Clubs affiliated with MGCA. At the Portland Convention, action will be

President's Letter -- 2

taken to amend the By-Laws so that a man can become a Member at Large regardless of whether he lives in an area where an affiliated club already exists.

MEGA: You have already received the fall issue which is a forerunner of better and better issues to come. Bill Hull is doing a wonderful job as chairman of the Publications Committee, and needs everyone's cooperation in making MEGA a truly great men's gardening publication. Send in club news and special articles on plant culture, etc. to the publication office. This is your magazine and we want your participation.

NATIONAL PROJECTS: Under the leadership of our new chairman, Ray Cheetam, we are getting something concrete under way. We, as a national organization, have not had anything in the form of a national project that every club could work for and participate in. Now, at the Mansfield meeting, plans have been set in motion to set up a NATIONAL ACCREDITED HORTICULTURAL JUDGING PROGRAM. Many of you no doubt have been asked to judge horticultural sections in flower shows, but have also been asked if you were an "accredited judge". Under the rules of the ladies' Garden Club organization one has to spend many days studying to be a judge of flower arrangements before he or she could take in horticultural judging. Men usually do not want to take all the schooling in flower arranging, so MGCA is making plans to conduct and set up an accredited judges organization for horticultural judges. Ray Allen will make preliminary investigations whereby each region can conduct a training course for judges, and the successful candidates to be given an MGCA accredited rating. Here is something all of you can work on to help set up this very important national project.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS: A committee has been appointed to bring our By-Laws up to date with the printing of all the amendments that have been made since the 1953 convention when our last By-Laws were printed. The new ones will be sent to every club.

MGCA MANUALS: "Program Aids" are being printed in an attractive folder. Copies are also being sold through book stores. In the mill is another booklet that yours truly will soon have ready on the subject of "Mechanics of Staging a Gardening TV Show". We hope to have other manuals available soon on "Flower Shows for Men", "Garden Club Projects" and "Bulletin Writing".

Well, that brings us up to date on what's going on in MGCA. Best of luck to all of you!

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Hudson, Jr., President
Men's Garden Clubs of America

From the Office of the Secretary

MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
GARDEN QUIZ FOR DECEMBER 1956

1. A house plant that must be watered more often than every 24 hours needs what?
Ans. . . . A larger pot and more soil.
2. Do house plants need frequent applications of fertilizer?
Ans. . . . They need some fertilizer but it is easy to over-do it. Newly potted plants should not require fertilizer for several months. An application of liquid fertilizer (you can make your own from commercial dry fertilizer) every 5 or 6 weeks is sufficient for most plants.
3. In order to successfully "force" most bulbs to bloom indoors they are potted in the fall and stored for several weeks in a cool place. Why?
Ans. . . . Cool temperature, plus moisture is necessary to grow a good root system. The root system must be well developed before the bulbs are brought into a warm room where leaf and blossom shoots begin to sprout, otherwise growth and blooms will be very poor.
4. Is bonemeal a good fertilizer?
Ans. . . . Yes — for the specific purpose of supplying phosphorous. It contains about 26% phosphorous but only very small quantities of other fertilizing elements. Bonemeal therefore should not be recommended for a general-purpose fertilizer where a "complete" or balanced plant food is needed.
5. Does Holly grow in Minnesota?
Ans. . . . Yes. One form of holly (*Ilex verticillata*) called Winterberry is fairly hardy. It is native in northeastern Minnesota. It has an attractive form, foliage, and red berries. The leaves do not have the sharp points often associated with holly.
6. What is "vegetative propagation" and why is it common in garden practice?
Ans. . . . Vegetative propagation is the obtaining of additional plants by any form of division: suckers, cuttings, and grafting. A new plant obtained by this means is always the same as the original in form, color, fruit, etc. A plant grown from seed may differ from the parent plant in all of these.
7. House plant soil sometimes becomes infested with fungus gnats (small black fly-like insects and tiny white worms in the soil). What will control them?
Ans. . . . Dust the surface of the soil with 5% Chlordane. Watering will carry the insecticide into the soil.
8. Is it too late to apply winter mulch on winter-tender perennial plants?
Ans. . . . Mulch will still be useful — even if applied on frozen soil or over a layer of snow. It will prevent deep penetration of cold and will prevent rapidly fluctuating soil temperatures next spring.
9. How close to the house may shrubs be planted?
Ans. . . . Not closer than 2 1/2 or 3 feet. Too close planting is a common mistake, resulting in poor growth or shrubs that are "leaning" at an unnatural angle.
10. Why do stored apples shrivel?
Ans. . . . The temperature is too high. Wrapping with paper or increasing the humidity of the storage room may help, but even "winter" varieties will shrivel unless the temperature is maintained at only a few degrees above