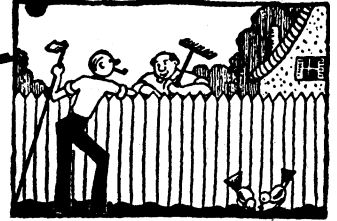




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



July 1959
Volume 17, No. 7
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer
Bob Adams

J U L Y G A R D E N T O U R

Place: General Mills Building
9200 Wayzata Boulevard
On Highway 12 at Highway 18

Time: 5:30 PM Sharp

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 1959

Officers

P. W. Young	President
Wm. H. Hull	Vice Presiden
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

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

This is going to be a real treat. Gorden Ballhorn, a director of General Mills, has invited the Club to be their guests at dinner.

Dinner will be served in the company cafeteria, and later we will have an opportunity to tour this, the last word in modern building efficiency.

From there, we will proceed to Hopkins in our own cars to visit the following members' gardens:

Leo Stillman
Bill Brooks

Joe Witmer
Cortis Rice

Bill Kelly

Don't miss this meeting if you can possibly help it -- we should have a jolly good time and see some interesting gardens.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Shrub and tree casualties, resulting from our severe dry, cold winter, are still being reported. The latest concern is fruit trees, which having blossomed, normally dried up before the fruit formed and eventually died. In some cases only individual branches were effected, but usually the whole tree was lost. This has happened to all kinds of fruits, including apple, pear, cherry and plum. So far, no satisfactory answer has been forthcoming from horticultural authorities for this most disturbing phenomena.

* * * *

The winter 1958 and 1959 will surely go down in history as the most damaging to plant life ever previously recorded in this part of the country. Few perennials escaped the onslaught, even such hardies as peonies, funkia, iris and phlox succumbed. Among the conifers the Arborvitae suffered most heavily with the Taxus running a close second. On the other hand, our lawns except for the creeping bents, came through in pretty good shape. One thing we surely learned about winter protection -- without the proper amount of moisture nothing will adequately protect.

* * * *

On the way home from attending a medical convention in Atlantic City, your editor stopped off in Philadelphia for just long enough to give the National Rose Show of the American Rose Society the once over. They had an impressive display of beautiful specimens and arrangements, although Mr. Guerny, the Executive Secretary, remarked that they had considerably fewer exhibitors and exhibits than at most of their annual rose shows, due principally, he explained, to the winter damage to roses which prevailed over most of the country. So don't feel too badly about our tough Minnesota winter, boys.

Peace took the big honor as Best of Show, and it was truly a magnificent bloom with a stem fully two feet long. Second Best was Symphonie, and Third Best was Show Girl. Here follow the remaining Bests in each class:

Best Floribunda	Fusilier
Best White	Rex Anderson
Best Pink	Show Girl
Best Red	Crimson Glory
Best Blend	Confidence
Best Arrangement	Queen Elizabeth in a silver vase-type container, with a combination of red foliage including Ti, Barberry and Galax leaves.

Incidentally, their specimens were in attractive cut-glass containers with narrow necks. They come in different sizes and can be purchased through the American Rose Society, 4048 Roselen Place, Columbus, Ohio.

* * * *

Am sorry I missed Carl Holst, a director of the American Rose Society, at the Show, but he was out on a tour of the rose gardens when Mrs. Lowrie and I put in our appearance.

Incidentally, it was not until the return by the Post Office of Carl's copy of the June issue of the GARDEN SPRAY that we discovered he had moved to 4225

NEWS AND VIEWS (con't)

address on your copy of the club roster and if any of you change your domicile, won't you please let us know your new address immediately, also including your new phone number. One never can tell when we may want to get in touch with you in a hurry for various and sundry reasons, but mostly on account of rain, upsetting our Summer meeting place.

* * * *

In the current Newsletter of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association is published an inspiring talk given by our own Lawrence Bachman before the National Landscape Nurserymen's Association Mid-Winter Conference in Chicago. Lawrence quoted the following rather revealing statistics: 100 million Americans take one or more vacations a year. Last year vacation time exceeded 70 million weeks and over 85% were with pay.

By 1960, it is expected that 23 million families will have incomes after taxes of over \$5,000. This compares with but 12 million in 1950.

"In less than 10 years, by 1967, the productive capacity of our country will have grown to over \$600 billion worth of goods compared with \$412 billion in 1956. We have reduced our work week by 47% and in spite of this, our standard of living is 4 times greater."

And to this I heartily agree with Lawrence Bachman: "You know leisure is sometimes defined as a time not to be used at the discretion of others. It can be just that, but often it brings us face to face with some of the most frantic and thoroughly unrelaxing days in our lives. There are now four million golfers who play 65,700,000 rounds each year on 5,260 golf courses. They buy 35 million golf balls each year. There are close to 22 million bowlers. The American Rose Society has 16,500 members. Six and a half million Americans own pleasure boats. There are 25 million hunters and fishermen who shell out 88 million dollars for licenses alone. As a nation are we having any fun? Yes I'd say we are, but with all this recreational activity last year about 20 million Americans reached for tranquilizer pills that cost them some 175 million dollars, making the tranquilizer business one of the fastest growing industries in the country. If I were a betting man, I'd wager that in spite of all the money those pills cost they didn't help their users relax half as much as one hour spent at work in the garden in their own back yard."

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POISONS NO. 1 CHILD KILLER

More children die annually of poisons than of all the traditional childhood diseases, states a Rutgers University Professor in "Drug Topics" magazine.

Professor M. J. Rodman suggested: keep drugs, chemicals, poisons out of reach of children; keep such substances away from foods; keep in original containers; destroy such substances -- don't place in garbage; don't give or take medicine in the dark.

Special application of these rules should apply for gardeners. Don't kill a child!

FALL FLOWER SHOW

Mark these dates on your calendar, September 12 and 13, and start NOW to plan the flowers, fruits and vegetables you would like to exhibit both as specimens and arrangements. Feed 'em, water 'em, dust 'em and be gentle with 'em. Remember the success we had with our show last year, let's make it even better this year -- all it takes is more members participating with more exhibits, not just for ribbons but also because it is an important annual club project and every member should take part.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Sure it's a long way away, but it will get here and we will have a Christmas Party, and we need some ideas for entertainment, etc. If you have any, get in touch with Les Johnson, our program chairman.

INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

Well, we are going to have a Photographic Clinic under the direction of photographers Young, Rouss and Hoyme. Now these 3 gentlemen haven't quite made up their minds when to hold this thing, but the dates given are either July 18 or 25. Maybe they'll announce the exact date at our July meeting; otherwise give any one or all three a telephone buzz.

FRUIT SPRAY GUIDE

The new 1959 Minnesota Commercial Fruit Spray Guide as well as a supplement to extension pamphlet #184, "Home Fruit Spray Guide," has been completed by University of Minnesota staff members from the Departments of Entomology, Plant Pathology, Horticulture and Agricultural Extension Division. Extensive revisions have been made in these publications. Copies of the spray guides can be obtained from the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, Institute of Agriculture, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

During the first 2 weeks of July, watch for announcements on radio, farm program and in local newspapers stating when apple maggots start to emerge. Surveys by the Division of Plant Industry, Minnesota State Department of Agriculture will indicate when these insects are emerging.

Reprinted from Nurserymen's Newsletter

WELCOME "HOWARD MOORE"

We are all happy to welcome our new Superintendent of Parks into the member-

THE ROSE

In an early issue of the SPRAY mention was made of Buckner Hollingsworth's book, "Flower Chronicles," in which she explains the role that flowers have played in the history of mankind. Her stories about the rose are particularly colorful as I'm sure you'll agree as I quote from them in part . . .

"...Like the Greeks before them, the Romans dedicated the rose to the goddess of love and the god of wine. Wine, women and roses went naturally together in Roman minds and the early Church did not approve of the combination. There was good reason for loathing it. That drunken Roman aristocrat, weaving his way to his place at a banquet, his chaplet of roses askew, cut merely a foolish figure in some eyes. . .

. . . Nero is said to have spent four million sesterces for roses at a single banquet. (A sesterce was a brass coin equal in value to four donkeys.) The couches on which Roman banqueters reclined were often strewn with rose petals and occasionally supplied with pillows stuffed with them. A literal bed of roses was by no means unknown. Tables and even floors, even streets and lakes, had rose petals scattered over them. Rose petals floated on the surface of wine. Garlands of roses decorated halls and dining rooms. But, above all, roses adorned the person. Garlands were worn around the neck and chaplets on the head. Violets and narcissus also were used for chaplets but the rose was the most popular.

In addition, to all its charms of scent and color and texture the rose had a special meaning for Roman revelers. The wearing of a rose chaplet or a garland of roses hung over a dining table meant that every word uttered there was said "sub rosa" -- under the rose. According to the Roman code, no gossip, information or confidence made under the rose could honorably be repeated outside. Out of this long-ago convention came not only our saying "under the rose" but an actual rose. For the central ornament on many a dining-room ceiling is nothing more than a conventionalized rose set there originally to remind the guests not to abuse the hospitality they enjoyed.

The Romans took their association of the rose with a discreet silence from a Greek myth. The rose was dedicated to Aphrodite, goddess of love. So it was with a rose that her son, Eros, bribed Harpocrates, god of silence, not to gossip about his mother's amorous indiscretions -- surely an extraordinarily tolerant attitude for a son to take. Be that as it may, the Romans transposed this myth into their own terminology and thus associated the rose with Venus and Cupid.

The demand for roses grew to such extravagant proportions during the days of Roman decadence that various colonies began growing them on a vast scale for export. Egypt was one of the colonial possessions that took to rose culture and it is known that she shipped great quantities to the capital. How they were kept fresh on the long voyage is still unknown . . .

. . . So far we have followed the rose into classical antiquity but we can trace it much further back than that. The fact that it appears in Greek mythology takes it back to an unknown but very early date in that country. But in Crete we can be more specific. There we can place it at not less than 3,500 years ago. At a time when still primitive tribesmen were roaming the mountains of Greece, men not very far out in the Mediterranean had developed a high degree of culture. They

THE ROSE (con't)

... It does not matter in the least that the artist drew those roses with 6 petals and their leaves in groups of three like those of a strawberry plant. They are unmistakably roses -- the oldest roses in the world . . .

. . . In addition to the roses on the walls of a Minoan house there is the name of a neighboring island to suggest that in prehistoric times the islands in this part of the Mediterranean may have been covered with wild roses. Nowhere in the myths that tell the story of the origin of the island of Rhodes are roses mentioned. But the root for the Greek word for rose and for the name of the island is the same. Back beyond myths, matter-of-fact because so literally true, a Neolithic people may originally have called their home the Island of Roses . . .

. . . Roses took their place in medicine on the very best authority. Not only were they mentioned among the herbs used by Hippocrates and Galen -- the most revered names in classical medicine -- but they also received the blessing of the earliest and most eminent herbalists. Both Pliny and Dioscordies agreed that the rose was a valuable medical herb. Between them they recommended roses for curing irritations of the eyes, ears, mouth, stomach, intestines and rectum; for headache and toothache; for diseases of the lungs, stomach and intestinal tract; for female disorders; for wounds, boils, and tumors; for hemorrhoids ("ye paine of ye seat"?) and hemorrhages; for erysipelas, sleeplessness, clearing of the brain, checking excessive perspiration and curing hydrophobia. . .

. . . By the fourteenth century medical prescriptions had become so complicated that one never feels that the rose or any other single ingredient had any importance. Prescriptions called for so many herbs, often twenty or thirty, that no one of them was more effective than the rest . . .

. . . In the 18th century roses continued to be used copiously and still in vastly complicated prescriptions. One medicine called "Balsame" taken from a still-room book, is described as being good to cure plague, deafness, wounds, scalds and burns, sciatica, any poison, any swelling, the stings of adders, snakes and other venomous creatures, measles, sore breasts, "the wind collicke," piles and reaches a fine anticlimax with a stitch in the side! . . .

. . . Part of the fun of using this arbitrary list of medicines is due to the fact that with the next 200-year jump the mid-twentieth century rounds out the story so neatly. Modern science has discovered that rose hips are one of the richest sources of Vitamin C in the world. During World War II England needed large quantities of this vitamin. Citrus fruits, the main source of supply, would have had to be carried from overseas in the beleaguered convoys. So England raided her own gardens. Tons of rose hips were harvested and processed. Thus a story of futility that stretches over close to 2,000 years ends ironically -- and pleasantly -- on a note of triumph!"

THE "PHOS-FON" PROJECT

36 Club members are now cooperating with Lloyd Bachman in experimenting with this dwarfing chemical. A supply will be available for distribution at our July meeting.