Member--Mens Garden Clubs of America . Minnesota State Horticultural Society



October 1971, Volume 29, Number 10.

HOO-RAY!! WE MADE IT!

There were 68 men at our opening fall meeting. Earlier this year we pled, begged, cajoled to get a crowd of 60. This time we made it without half trying. So -- now that you know how a real crowd feels, folks, keep it up. Take the national slogan, Let's Go! Let's Grow!

NOW HEAR THIS,

WE MEET AGAIN, TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 12

It won't be Columbus Day because the boys in Washington decided Chris has been dead so long that even if he's all burned up about it he's no longer entitled to a birthday unless it comes on a Monday. The poor guy had to settle for October 11 this year. Cheated him of a full day this year, they did. Anyway, bring your two dollars and,

COME TO MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH (50th Street at Knox Ave. South)

The meal will be ready at 5:45 as usual. The program will follow at 7:00. Roger Anderson has obtained a speaker we haven't heard before to discuss two topics, one of which we haven't heard treated before and the other one of Archie Flack's favorites (by the way the auction of Archie's material at the September meeting brought in \$40 to be used as a memorial to him).

THE SPEAKER: DR. HAROLD PELLET, Superintendent of the Horticultural Research Center at the University of Minnesota, will discuss:

"SOIL TEMPERATURE AS IT AFFECTS PLANTS" and, "ROOT HARDINESS"

Following this Roger assures us there will be the Garden Question and Answer Period.

* * * * *

At this meeting we should decide who is to clean up the Community Fragrance Garden and in what shape it is to be left over winter. But what about next spring? There ought to be something to show before we plant annuals. How about planting some bulbs this fall? Crocus, scilla, muscaria would come early and fade early. Species and single and double early tulip foliage would wither quickly so we could interplant annuals or geraniums without digging up the bulbs. Even if we didn't use all the planters this year a patch of color would liven up

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Only eight men brought flowers but what a show their 79 floral entries made! Dahlias, mums, petunias, zinnia, roses, glads. You name the flower; we had it. Most were standard varieties, superb specimens beautifully grown like that huge white dahlia bloom; but there were stand-out less common ones, too, like that amaranthus (shown by Paul Lindstedt's guest, Kalmen Hegyi) and the passion flower. To cap it all, Bob Smith had a full table devoted to a vegetable display, a whole county fair in itself and the equal of anything at the state fair.

Following dinner we went outdoors to auction some of Archie Flack's garden accessories. The scene with some clustered close to Dwight Stone auctioneering from a car and others standing dispassionately off at a distance resembled nothing so much as a small town street corner medicine show or itinerant revivalist.

When we returned inside Carl Randall, chairman of the Workshop Committee for The Society for The Blind, gave a brief talk in which he said our Community Fragrance Garden: (1) Has inspired neighbors to beautify their homes; (2) Gives the blind the "feel" of a park; (3) Will beautify the site for the planned new Society structure. Frank Johnson, executive director for the Society, seconder Mr. Randall's remarks and asked for a continuing relationship with MGC Mpls.

Phil Smith, our feature speaker, described his recent visit to England where he was one of two speakers at the annual meeting of the Delphinium Society. (The other was Dr. Robert Legro, a professor of horticultural science at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, -- a breeder of red delphiniums). Phil showed sl: of the Delphinium Society show, of delphinium gardens, and of the delphinium trials at the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley. He made special mention of the fact that in England delphiniums are propagated from cuttings of named varieties. (See p. 4 for observations about England).

The "Question and Answer Period" listed on our program turned out to be Dwight Stone again who could scarcely wait for Bob Smith to tell about his produce before he started to auction off Bob's display. Spirited bidding brought sums such as \$1.00 for a squash, 95 cents for a melon, 90 cents for fire onions. The watermelon brought four dollars. It pays to polish up your vegetables!

REPORT ON SUMMER FLOWER SHOWS

There were 246 entries in all. Winners with the number of points scored were: Les Johnson, 105 points; Henry Halvorson, 99 points; and, Verner Carlson, 87 points.

Members who participated were: Verner Carlson, Ed Culbert, Mervin Eisel, Henry Halvorson, Dave Johnson, Evald Johnson, Les Johnson, Paul Lindstedt, Walter Mei Albert Nelson, Jack Peterson, Dwight Stone, Frank Vixo, and Bruce Warner. A guest, Kalmen Hegyi, also exhibited as did Bob Smith who provided a special exhibit of garden produce for our final show.

I wish to thank all who participated. A very special thanks to Albert Nelson assisted in setting up the shows. I had expected more participants from a group of our size (I believe four members displayed most of the specimens). Still, was fun and the shows were educational in that each show brought different exh

THOUGHTS FROM THE TERRACES by Dave Johnson

Our club meeting at Judson Memorial Baptist Church had the best attendance of the year. Phil Smith's talk on his trip to England was most informative and enjoyed by everyone. It won't be long before our borders will include red and yellow delphiniums. Roger Anderson has another good program for our next meeting so bring a guest and help break our attendance record.

Dwight Stone is an auctioneer exceptional. Be sure you don't leave any of your belongings laying around, like your wife, or they will be auctioned off. Sorry no refunds on Bob Smith's vegetables. The Federal Price Stablization Board has informed us that vegetables are a seasonal product and are not under the jurisdiction of the price freeze. If you have anything to sell, be sure to bring it along and help swell our Club treasury.

Thanks to all of you who have helped maintain the Fragrance Garden during the summer. I'm sure this project has made our Club a stronger organization through the fellowship gained by everyone. Saturday, October 16, at 9 AM will be cleanup time of the Fragrance Garden. Roger Anderson will have his truck there and we should be able to complete the job in two hours. Shovels, rakes, baskets and bags are needed equipment. Several varieties of bulbs will also be planted the same day.

The Schwabenland Fibrous Begonia that I purchased last March from Bachman's is a real winner. Lloyd Bachman saw this variety on his European tour last year when we were at the International Y's Men Convention. It was highlighted in their display in the horticulture building at the Minnesota State Fair. I managed to propagate 27 additional plants by spring planting time. The leaves are dark green, the size of a tuberous begonia leaf, and are covered with bright red flowers about two inches in diameter. Maybe I'll have a few to auction off at our October meeting. It is also supposed to make a good house plant.

The latest count on woodchucks is five down and evidence of more to go. I'm deep freezing them for a woodchuck parade at our Christmas party. All kidding aside, please reserve Tuesday, December 7, for our Christmas Party at Mount Olivet Church. Bud Christenson, our chairman, has promised the traditional turkey parade with all the trimmings plus the best of entertainment. The North Suburban Men's Garden Club had such a good time last year that they requested to come back again this year.

It is hard to realize the summer has gone. Fall in my most favorite time of the year for enjoying nature's wonders of our great outdoors. The leaves in the valley are turning into beautiful colors and the yard is covered with oak leaves. The fibrous begonias and lantana trees are potted and ready to bring inside under the fluorescent lights. It won't be long before it is time to drag out the seed catalogues and "pipe dream" about next year's garden.

The Club was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Walter Quist, affectionately known as Peggy. I was told that their farm home at Mound with the flowers and Walter's greenhouse brought the two of them much enjoyment. I do have a requesto make that if you hear that a member or someone in his immediate family is in the hospital or have died to please call one of the club officers so that the telephone committee can call members of the club. Most club members were not informed of Mrs. Walter Quist's death until the night of our September meeting.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kenneth A. Burger 104 Althea Drive Prospect Heights, Ill., 60070

(As compiled from his notes for his talk at MGC on September 14)

Though this was a family trip we managed to participate in Delphinium Society tours and outings and to see some 20 large public gardens and estates and numerous small private gardens. We drove almost 3000 miles in three weeks (rented car). England with an area of 51,000 square miles and a population of 50 million is 5/8 the size of Minnesota and has 12 times the population—so land is precious.

The country is hilly and much like southern Minnesota. No point is more than 75 miles from the ocean. Southern England is like the Mediterranean seacoast. It has an ideal growing climate with ample moisture. There may not be so much rain but there is a lot of mist and fog and no real hot weather. (70°) is a hot day.)

Almost everyone has some flowers. The usual plan is a small dooryard garden in front—houses are close to the street—and then a larger private walled garden in the rear. Privacy is cherished—it is considered rude to even step inside the front garden without invitation.

Everything in England - houses, lots, farms, fields, streets, cars - seems to be on a smaller scale than in the U. S. Even so, there are many more large estates than in our country. These may be thousands of acres in size. Scarcity of help and its increasing cost are complained about. (A trained gardener and wife earn \$30 to \$40 per week.) Taxes have forced some, like Dartmoor, to open with an admission charge to the public to defray expenses.

Product usefulness is thought of in terms of many years. Homes 300 to 500 years old are not uncommon. New buildings are severely controlled. One can't get permission to build unless needed for the public good so buildings are kept in repair.

Asides: England's standard of living is well below ours.

The English have a sense of history and tradition which is much more intense than ours.

English garden tools are of very high quality and gadgets are numerous.

OCTOBER GARDENING by Otto Nelson

Autumn gardening can be very interesting, and that certainly includes October. There are many flowers and foliage plants that can be kept looking beautiful until killing frost comes along, but I find you have to keep them trimmed, well fed and watered....that means deep watering in a dry year. I remember a few years ago when almost all my annuals were still blooming the first of November and with the good help of late mums, the garden was very colorful. In fact, one year many annuals were blooming right up until the day before Thanksgiving. Hope we have a break like that this year.

Of course, I did not wait until that date to pot up plants for my winter garden. This very enjoyable job was started a month to six weeks before. It is well to pot early so as to give them a chance to re-root well in the sunshine. It's a good idea to set the potted plants in a group for late color effect. It also makes it easy to cover them for light frost protection.

It is always a good idea to acclimate the plants to indoor growing by placing them in the garage or enclosed porch before taking them indoors. This could easily be late October. Spray for bugs of all kinds before taking the plants indoors. The big problem is white flies - use your regular insecticide, following manufacturers' instructions. These are a few of the plants that can be moved indoors - fibrous Begonias, single and double Impatiens, Lantanas, Geraniums, Shrimp Plants, Chinese Hibiscus, Coleus, Holly, Lemon, Orange, Crotons, and many, many other plants, especially house plants that have spent the summer outdoors.

If you have not planted your spring-blooming bulbs, October will do nicely in most cases. And of course, October is the big month for getting ready for the garden's winter protection. After the first killing frost it is time to dig tender bulbs, tubers, and roots and get them ready for winter storage. (Be sure you store the Ismeme in a warm room until it is time to plant next spring.) Pull or cut back all dead plants. Dry and use for mulch. Some find it is well to spade even the hillside planters and leave the ground in the rough through the winter. I prefer to do this early in the spring so as not to disturb the perennial and biennial roots.

I used to have difficulty in keeping plants from freezing out in my hillside planters even though I used lots of marsh hay and leaves. Now I use a limited amount of hay and leaves with a burlap sheet that covers the planters completely. I fasten the upper part of the sheet about a foot above the top wall with wooden pegs, allowing the burlap to extend over the planters down over the front of the bottom wall. A full sheet of burlap can be used. However, a blanket can be made out of remnants or used opened sacks. It is an easy matter to sew these smaller pieces together. Before the ground freezes I drive stakes above and below the line of coverage. When the ground has frozen I bring out the burlap covering and hook the top and bottom edges over the stakes. The advantage of this burlap cover is that it keeps the lighter mulch (leaves and hay) from blowing away, it keeps the cold out to some degree, and most of all, it keeps the warm winter sun from thawing the soil and refreezing. It also prevents the evergreen plants, such as Arabis, Sweet William and others, from getting winter sunburn. That is very important. Burlap can be used in various ways to protect small evergreen bushes and trees, and also along borders.

(continued on last page)

BONUS FOR NEWER MEMBERS

Have you joined MGC Mpls. since the national convention was last held in Minneapolis? (July 1967). If so you have a copy of "Gardening Lessons We've Learned" coming to you. Prepared for distribution to each person who attended the convention this publication edited by Bill Hull contains 66 articles and 15 "Quickies" written by MGC Mpls. members. The information is given in brief practical outline form and the intent is to cover each subject in not more than a dozen points.

The 29 contributors were: Garfield Anderson, Glen Cerney, Felix Dhainen, Dale Durst, Otto Erickson, Archie Flack, Carl Holst, Fred Holzman, A. W. Hubbard, W. H. Hull, John Kolb, Roger Koopmans, E. C. Lehman, Victor Lowrie, Albert Nelson, Otto Nelson, Arthur J. Olson, Kermit Olson, Robert Savory, Nate Siegel, Phi lip Smith, Robert Smith, Leon Snyder, Thor Solem, Dwight Stone, Ronald Twite, Frank Fixo, Joseph Witmer, and P. W. Young. Since the book was published five have died (Cerny, Flack, Holzman, Kermit Olson, and Witmer); two have moved away (Erickson and Young) and two have dropped out (Dhainen and Hubbard).

The Board has authorized issuing a copy to each member new since 1967. Hereafter, all new men will receive copies. Extra copies are available at \$2.00 from the editor of the Garden Spray.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Before the ink was dry on our September issue, Dave Johnson was claiming his fifth woodchuck. At this point we aren't quite sure whether Dave is bragging about his hunting prowess, is advertising that he breeds the pesky critters, or is covering up because he hasn't the usual results to show for his garden labor.

Strange we haven't heard any of the anti-pollution or ecology people sounding off about the wave of Sunday store openings or all-night store hours. This is definitely an unnecessary use of electricity and heat to say nothing of the invitation to increased traffic noise at night. Here was a chance to stave off added consumption, added pollution, added waste, added cost, even unnatural hours for some unfortunate workers. Why the quiet? Where's MECCA? Where the Naderites? Is there something in the woodpile? Isn't the target big enough? Is it too big? Is it just not the right one?

CULTURE & CARE OF ROSES

Al. Nelson, "Mr. Rose Grower of Minnesota" was blazoned in big black letters across the entire top of the September issue of THE COMPOST PIT, the bulletin of the North Suburban Men's Garden Club. Al. was the feature speaker at their September 28 meeting.

Evald Johnson has been so busy erecting that metal tool shed Dave mentioned in the last SPRAY that he says he hasn't even had time to think about the trip to Hawaii he won given at the same retirement party. Could it be a case of being surer Old Man Winter will freeze construction than that Nixon will freeze travel?

It was good to see "Duke" Johnson at our September meeting. Hopefully we'll be seeing him regularly now that the school board won't be demanding his time.

YOUR PERENNIAL PROBLEMS WILL BE EASED IF YOU MAKE LISTS

Now that fall is here look around your garden. What will you move? Divide? Replace? Where must you fill in? Where change the color scheme? Why didn't what fit where? Records like those suggested below, adapted to your own problems, and adjusted to your needs could help you next winter when you study your catalogs and next spring when you start work in your garden. (Examples, only, listed. Add names of those you grow.)

RESENT DIVIDING...Buy or seed extra plants.
Example: baptisia, dictamnus, gypsophila, platycodon

NEED PAMPERING...Probably short lived anyway. Example: delphinium, aster Frikarti.

FLOURISH YEAR AFTER YEAR IN SAME SPOT. Example: peony.

DIVIDE ABOUT EVERY THIRD YEAR...Discard old center; transplant healthy outer sections.

Example: hardy aster, iris, perennial phlox.

BORDERLINE HARDINESS PLANTS...Transplant in spring but not too early.

LATE SUMMER AND FALL BLOOMING...Divide and transplant in spring. Examples: chrysanthemum, hardy aster, phlox.

SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER BLOOMING...Transplant or divide in August or September.
Example: oriental poppy, peony.

DIVIDE AND TRANSPLANT ANY TIME...You sacrifice flowers if you dig during blooming season unless you can take a side shoot without disturbing the main plant. Examples: day lily, iris.

TRANSPLANT ANYTIME EVEN IN FULL BLOOM...With ball of soil. Example: chrysanthemum.

SIZE OF DIVISION IMMATERIAL... Fibrous rooted plants in general.

OUTSIDE SHOOT BEST FOR STARTING NEW PLANT. Example: chrysanthemum, fall aster.

SOAK ROOTS BEFORE SEPARATING...Reduces brittleness, helps you see where to separate.

Example: day lily, peony.

BEST FOR SHADE...Better note how much shade.

Example: hosta, ferns.

KEEP DRY

Examples: most cacti

NEED LOTS OF SUN

Example: Some lilies, peony.

HOLD THE FERTILIZER

NEED SHALLOW ROOTED GROUND COVER

NEED SPECIAL FERTILIZER
Example: acid lovers

Example: lycoris, lilies.

MGCA BEGAN FORTIETH YEAR SEPTEMBER 26

In 1927 Leo W. Nack won a garden contest sponsored by a Chicago newspaper. This stimulated him to organize on March 15, 1928 the first, as far as is known, men's garden club -- The Men's Garden Club of Chicago.

Male gardeners of Des Moines, Iowa, had for a number of years been a part of the Des Moines Garden Club. On February 10, 1930, they formed their own independent club and elected J. N. "Ding" Darling, the world-famous cartoonist and conservationist, their president and Harold J. Parnham their secretary.

A month later, March 16, 1930, men from suburban Aurora impressed by visits to the Chicago club's meetings formed the Men's Garden Club of Aurora, Illinois. Will B. Lathrop, who later became the first national secretary, was their first president.

Exactly two years to the day from the formation of the Iowa club, male gardeners in Fort Wayne, Indiana set up their organization. The time was now ripe so when Horticulture magazine published an article on men's gardening groups, it sparked correspondence among the groups. The upshot of it was that the four known clubs attended a two-day session in Chicago and there on September 26, 1932 the Men's Garden Clubs of America became a reality. Harold J. Parnham of the Des Moines club, who was a delegate to this historic meeting, is the only surviving member of the Chicago parley.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME....

Frost will soon be upon us. Time was when the dark, cold days betokening the advent of winter meant the hens would quit laying and we'd have to depend upon "storage eggs" for our "fresh" breakfast eggs. About now, foreseeing this, farm wives and frugal housewives would assemble "stone" crocks, water glass (silica gel), and cases of eggs to be "put up for winter." A lot of our members will remember those days on the farm or in the small town even though details of the process may now escape them and the taste of the eggs has been long forgotten; but we'll wager that even P. W. Young won't have heard of the following:

"TO PRESERVE EGGS. - Let them boil for one minute, and they will keep good for a month, or steeped in sweet oil for a short time, and they will keep good for a long while."

- GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE, August 1864.

"TO PRESERVE EGGS FOR WINTER USE. - Quicklime, one bushel; common salt, two and a half pounds; cream of tarter, one pound; mix these ingredients together. Then add as much water as will bring to the consistence of thin batter. Pour a layer of this enough to cover the bottom of the cask in which the eggs are to be kept. Upon that, a layer of eggs placed sideways. Then enough mixture to cover them. So proceed until all are deposited, and covered with the mixture. Care will be requisite in taking them out, and each egg should be washed before boiling. This method effectually preserves the eggs for a very long time; and for puddings, cakes, scs., answers exceedingly well. But for table use, though eggs treated thus are often sold at high price for new laid eggs, they certainly taste of the lime."

- GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE, October 1859.

SUNSET REFLECTIONS by Art Johnson

Sitting on the patio at home watching the golden sun drop behind the western horizon, I recall the gardening experiences of the past few months. Have you ever relaxed at evening time and reflected upon the wonders of nature; the trees - shrubs - flowers - and a beautiful landscape? I have; from my backyard living room and from the pinnacle of Turka Pass in Switzerland to the Berthod Pass in the Rockies and the shores of San Francisco Bay overlooking the blue Pacific. Stretching out, comfortably, on a lawn chair, I recall the budding of spring - the crocuses - daffodils - apple blossoms - lilacs and as spring gave way to summer, the scent of spirea, weigelia and ultimately the blooms of perennials and annuals. Ah! the wonders of nature.

My thoughts now turn to the many tasks essential to good gardening. The lawn must be fertilized once more to leave it in good condition for spring. After the frost has nipped the flowers, including the beautiful mums, I will cut all the vegetation, shred it and place it in plastic bags. The substance in the compost pit will be spread over the garden and on top of that will go a yard or so of enriched black dirt. I now see myself spading the garden, mixing the rich dirt and compost with the garden soil; Och! my aching back - but what joy and satisfaction to feel the rich soil "drip" through my fingers. The shredded vegetation in the plastic bags is now dumped into the compost area where it will age for next year's spreading.

Sitting in the mellow glow of an autumn sunset, I find it difficult to visualize the garden under two feet of snow within the next two or three months, and it seems rather cruel of nature to lay a mantle of white over the beautiful flowers and green vegetation. But winter, for the gardener, has its satisfying moments. It must be very gratifying to those who garden indoors during the winter. Fortunately or unfortunately, I have never experimented with indoor gardening.

Immediately after the holiday season, I must get my drawing board, and lay out the design for the border. Knowing the dimensions of the plot I can do this even tho the area is under a blanket of snow. In designing the border I draw areas for the 3 to 4 foot plants, the 2 to 3 foot, the 1 to 2 foot, the 6 inch to 1 foot and the border. Inasmuch as my garden consists primarily of annuals I can change the areas within the border to fit the design I wish to produce.

After the design has been completed, I select the various kinds, sizes and colors of plants for the areas. This requires some time as I peruse many catalogs and gardening pamphlets before selecting the plants I wish to place in the border. I usually take the chart and the list of plants selected to a nursery for some professional advice as to the selections I have made. This type of winter gardening is very interesting and gives me a great deal of pleasure visualizing the border altho now in the depth of winter.

The sun sinks deeper into the horizon but in my mind's eye I see and sense the budding of spring - the tiny shoots of the crocuses, tulips, daffodils and the first leaf buds of the maple trees. This is spring - the time of year when new life seems to pulse thru the veins of the gardener. Words cannot describe nor define the wonders of nature as spring engulfs the landscape. I now take the chart and lay out the design on the border. The planting of the various annuals (hundreds in number) is a very satisfying and interesting task. I can visualize the border as it approaches maturity in all its varied colors. The joy and freshness of spring is again injecting new life into a countryside awakening from a long winter sleep

(JOHNSON...continued from page 9)
Now as darkness enfolds the patio, I truly believe God and I walked hand
in hand through His world of beauty.

(NELSON...continued from page 5)

Come spring I can roll back the blanket and stir the mulch and later remove it. If there is a chance of ground freeze in April the blanket can be rolled back into protective position. Leaving the blanket rolled up in late May, spring seedlings and new plant life can be protected when danger of frost comes along. This makes it possible to give plants and seedlings an earlier start. The blanket can be rolled up and stored during the summer and can be used again and again over a number of years, depending on the strength of the burlap.

After OCTOBER GARDENING comes WINTER GARDENING for many. Try some Petunias, Foxys, Snaps and other annuals under the lights or in your greenhouse. I had Petunias, Foxys, Spider Plants, Snaps and others blooming under the lights most of the winter. Come spring I plant them out in the garden and have early garden blooms. Gardening under the lights, you have a wonderful opportunity to propagate cuttings of your favorite plants and also to start your seeds early so as to begin the Spring and Summer cycle.

This is addressed especially to all of our readers who live in some zip code zone other than the 551's, 553's or 554's.

Does the Spray reach you promptly and in good shape?

Would it be in better shape if stapled shut?

Would two stickers fasten it together better for you?

Should it be folded twice and enclosed in an envelope?

Send the editor a postcard or letter with your comments.

THE GARDEN SPRAY
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THERDASCHASS

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