

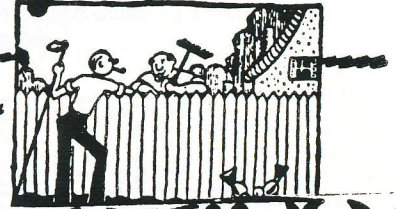


The Garden Spray

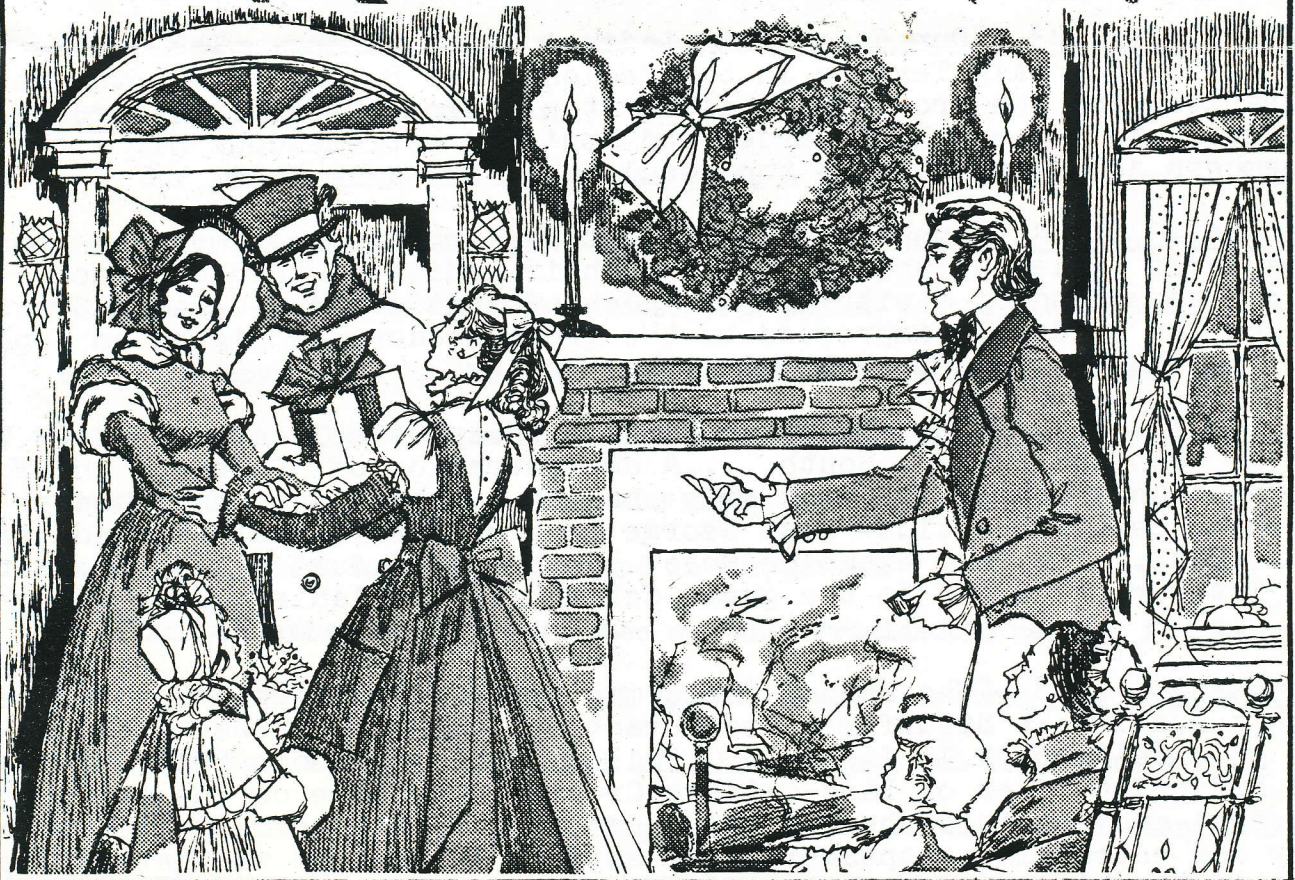
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

December 1982, Volume 40, Number 12



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
- Continuing our fine traditions but at our new location -

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1982 -- LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(49th Street and Chowen Avenue South)

Social Half-Hour 6:15 Dinner 6:45

By reservation only at \$9.00 each. Wives, guests invited.

HURRY, THE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 --
so get your reservation, together with your check, in the mail immediately
to Vic Lowrie, 5025 Ridge Road, Edina, MN 55436. Use the coupon found in
the November SPRAY.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

(Though we move around the Christmas Party is always a highlight.)

December 7, 1942 "This was our first annual social dinner meeting and
was well attended when 40 members and 36 guests (mostly wives) gathered
in the main dining room of the Athletic Club."

December 16, 1943 "Our second big Ladies' Night dinner. The dinner was
held at the Fountain Terrace in the Medical Arts Building with the table
decorations and the program all aimed at pleasing the ladies. Dr. William
O'Brien....talked on 'Your Garden and You' and a tremendous hit with the
28 members and 31 guests was the result...."

December 15, 1944 "Annual Ladies' Night dinner and program. The Fountain
Terrace was filled by the members and their ladies on this occasion. The
program consisted of a witty talk by John Brandt of Land-O-Lakes Creamery
.....He was evidently impressed by the group because he signed an applica-
tion for membership before leaving the meeting."

December 17, 1946 "Annual Ladies Night. This was held at the Hasty Tasty
Cafe at 50th and France, South.....A demonstration of 'Corsages and Their
Construction and Use' was most ably handled by the first lady speaker ever
to appear before the club--Mrs. George Lang of the firm of Lund and Lang
of St. Paul. The many examples which she prepared during the demonstration
were later raffled off to the great delight of the ladies lucky enough to
win....."

December 14, 1948 "The annual Christmas party and Ladies Night was held
on this evening at Stauffer's Restaurant on South 7th Street starting off
with an excellent \$2.15 dinner.....Following dinner, John Brandt, presi-
dent and prime mover of Land-O-Lakes Creameries, spoke on the topic, 'Why
I Garden' and proved to be not only a great butter salesman but also a
witty and entertaining speaker....He said he thought it was natural for
us to invite him to speak to us since the product he tries hardest to
eliminate is the same product most desired by gardeners!"



Thoughts From the Gazebo

.What a difference a month makes. It is November 9 as I write this article for the December issue of "the Garden Spray" and what a difference thirty days makes. The garden for all intensive purposes has finished blooming and has been put to bed for the winter. A series of hard freezes has finished off all but the hardiest flowers. The roses have been tipped, the tender grape vines are off the trellises, and the dead foliage has been cut off and carted away. We have put up our additional bird feeders which will help our winter bird population survive the harsh Minnesota weather. The chickadees already are busy salting away safflower seeds in the spruce trees and other crevices and niches which will hold a seed or two.

Our latest shrub addition to the yard, a Minnesota native began to bloom this week, even after the leaves had fallen off. *Hamamelis virginiana* or witch hazel has small yellow blossoms which appear as touseled clusters unique in appearance by the four long narrow petals which are curled and twisted. This plant is the last outdoor plant to bloom in Minnesota and usually blooms in November. With the early blooming snowdrops in March, we have had an eight month bloom period in our garden.

This December article completes my final President's message for "the Garden Spray". I wish to thank all my fellow officers and Board members for all their hard work and also thank all the chairmen and their hard working committees for coordinating and staging the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis' many events.

Jerry Shannon

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

Winter came Thursday, May 11th, regardless of what the calendar may say. I know because I walked 5 long blocks that evening in a driving, drenching, sleety rain. The next morning cars that didn't crawl crunched. I'm glad I had the foresight to pile, and spread 8 inches deep over the vegetable garden, the many baskets of leaves I raked from my lawn on the 10th. Even if the weather doesn't moderate I'll still be able to dig them under.

Now I can devote myself to indoor chores, like house-plants. Which reminds me that F. A. C. McCulla the ever quotable editor of the Houston MGC's YARDENER gave these "Tips on Growing Healthy Ferns" some months ago:

"If the tips on your ferns are turning brown, it might indicate your room is too hot or dry, or the plant isn't getting enough moisture. Here are some tips for growing ferns indoors: Pluck out or snip off any fronds that have brown tips. Cut out surplus or extra long runners (snake-like growths) as they add nothing to the beauty of the plant. Ferns like plenty of light but not direct sun. Too much sun gives them a sickly, light green color. When pot-bound, divide the plant. If ball is left intact, remove some of the old soil and roots. Move to a pot next size larger, but do not overpot. Ferns like moist soils but not soggy ones. Take great care in watering, especially if you have them in plastic pots. Let soil almost reach the dry stage in between watering. Don't let ferns get chilled. If it sets next to a window, move it back on cold nights. They prefer a temperature around 65 to 70 degs. F. Keep them away from drafts and hot radiators. Feed moderately. A liquid plant food every 4 or 5 weeks is ample. Choose ferns which are hardiest, and the right size for your space. Some ferns get scale, mealybugs and sometimes aphids. Wash the ferns in a soapy solution of Nicotine Sulfate. Scrub scales and mealybugs with a toothbrush using the same solution. For apartments, try holly fern, Rabbit's Foot fern or Bird's Nest fern. For homes with large rooms, grow Boston ferns, or their sports, also try the A. sprengeri."

We can now start looking for other signs of trouble in the indoor plant array such as yellowing or dropping of leaves. No matter how much I cut back or how many leaves I cut off the geraniums I pot up and bring in from the window box this always happens. In my case I know it's from low light intensity and change of climate. In other plants I have to decide whether the cause is chilling, over watering, poor soil drainage and aeration, root decay, maybe even air pollution, or insect pests.

There's the ubiquitous red spider, the scale insects, the mealy bug. That patch of white fuzz, the mealy, is no great shakes. It's easy to see and a touch of rubbing alcohol on a Q-Tip solves it. I've given up trying to carry over fibrous rooted begonias from out-of-doors. If I look away for a minute when I turn back I see a tiny web. "Dunk 'em in a laundry tub of soapy water," they say. I just get the tub dirty. Scale insect on ivy is as easy to get rid of as scale on lilacs. In winter chickadees go for my lilac scale but try to coax a chickadee into the house. It's cheaper and easier to buy new plants.

Otherwise, if leaves are light green/yellow, browned at tips, burned at margins, curled under, small, too far apart I must find the cause be it too much/too little fertilizer, too much/too little light, too much/too little water and treat accordingly.

A TRIP TO EUROPE AT THE NOVEMBER MGCM MEETING

Reported by Andy Marlow

It seems that more and more interesting programs at MGCM meetings these days are being given by MGCM members. Orrin "Clint" Turnquist is just such a member. It helps a bit that he is also a Professor Emeritus of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota and brimming with all sorts of interesting information. The program he presented at the November MGCM meeting also proved he's a pretty good photographer. The slides he showed us and commented on were taken this summer as Clint led a group of 23 people on a visit to the Floriade in Amsterdam and on a horticultural tour of Scandinavia. The cold, rainy November night was washed from our minds by wave after wave of colorful bloom faithfully recorded by his 35mm camera and film.

The Floriade is staged only once every ten years and runs through the entire growing season. The gardens throughout the 136 acre show area are re-planted every few weeks with annuals that bloom at the appropriate time. All are grown in a huge complex of greenhouses on the exhibition site. But annuals are only one feature of the Floriade. Perennial flowers, vegetables, mushrooms, wild flowers, bee keeping and even a weed garden are on display. Clint explained that both lilies and roses, with a number of unique European cultivars among them, were at their peak of bloom when his group visited in early July. Both judges and buyers from all over the world were there and Clint says we may see some of those new varieties here in a short time.

Some of the highlights of his slides from the Floriade were the giant allium, strong-stemmed sweet peas, a new purple podded pea (which opened to reveal the conventional green pea inside), and the interplanting of sweet peas with pole beans for color, scent and nourishment. The indoor displays in the roomy exhibition hall were equally impressive.

We saw Clint's trip in reverse. Actually the group toured through Scandinavia before venturing to Amsterdam. Seeing his slides of the countryside made clear the reasons for so many Scandinavians settling here in Minnesota. Except for the fiord areas of Norway there's little discernable difference between the landscape there and that in Central and Northern Minnesota. Even the flora is nearly the same. Early settlers named our state tree, the Norway or red pine, after one of the more common varieties of their homeland. Unfortunately, that cultivar is now called the Scotch pine. Sometimes our ethnic differences serve only to confuse.

In the Smoland area of Sweden, which supplied many immigrants to the Upper Midwest, Clint found bachelor buttons growing amongst the grain. While this looked beautiful, he reminded us that a weed is merely a plant growing where you don't want it--and bachelor buttons are persona non grata in a wheat field.

We also saw pictures of two commercial crops that lend beauty to the landscape and generate income for the farmer. A field of beautiful golden lupines is actually being grown for its seed, yielding a much sought after oil. Likewise, mustard makes for a lovely field, but rape seed oil, as the Scandinavians call it, is a prime ingredient in making margarine.

Residents of Stockholm, Sweden's capital and largest city, usually live in apartment buildings, but they do manage to get in their gardening. Many of them have a weekend cottage, much like our cabin at the lake, where they can go to enjoy the fresh air, cultivate their flowers and vegetables

(continued over)

and even mow their own tiny patch of lawn. Clint said you can tell if the family is in residence by whether or not the national flag is flying from the nearly-universal flag pole.

Professor Turnquist's trip was sort of a double homecoming. His ancestors came to America from Scandinavia and he spent a period of time at a potato experiment station in Norway, which he again visited. We also saw pictures of some Anoka potatoes grown from the originals developed by Clint at the University of Minnesota and brought over on the earlier trip. He pointed out that potatoes, not grain, are the raw material for Norwegian alcohol.

This report has really only touched on a few of the high points of Clint's talk. As usual, one should have been there to get the whole story. What was clear was his final thought: No matter how beautiful the flowers or how friendly the people in a foreign land -- and even if you can visit a Fourth of July celebration in Denmark -- there's still no place like the good old U.S.A.

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Crystal, MN. 55427

Peter T. Perrine 547-1088
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Plymouth, MN. 55447

NEW ADDRESS Charles Proctor, 5205 Grandview Lane, Edina, MN. 55436

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