

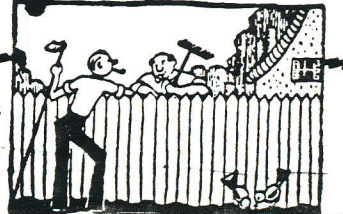


The Garden Spray

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

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

December 1987. Volume 45, Number 12

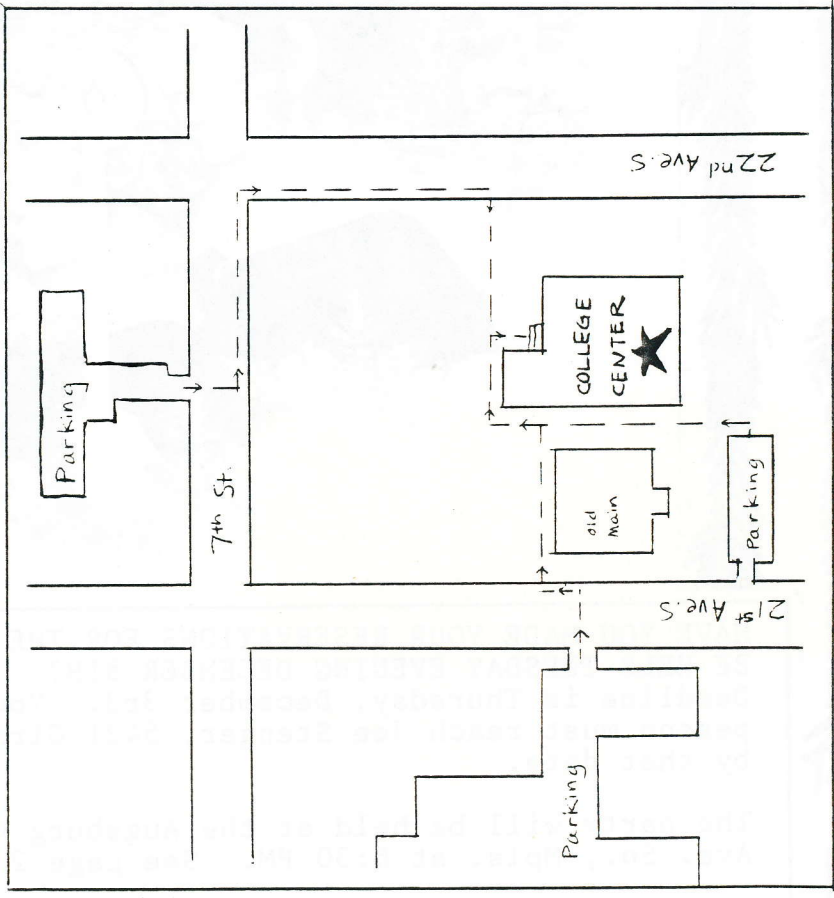
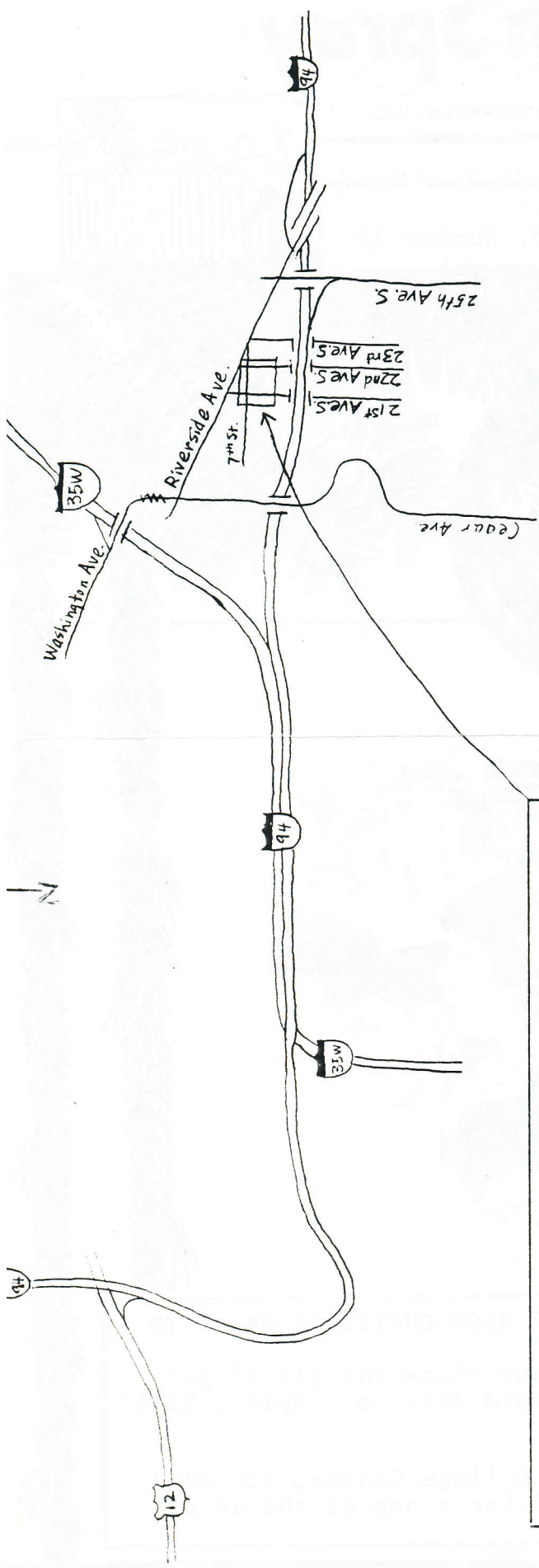


...and
Christmas
will be
merry!



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE MGCM CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE HELD TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 8TH? Deadline is Thursday, December 3rd. Your check for \$11.95 per person must reach Joe Stenger, 5421 Girard Ave. So., Mpls., 55419 by that date.

The party will be held at the Augsburg College Center, 720 22nd Ave. So., Mpls. at 6:30 PM. See page 2 for a map of the area.



From the West

- Hwy 12 East to 94 East
- 94 East to 25th Ave. Exit
- Left on 25th Ave. S.
- Left on Riverside Ave.
- Left on 21st Ave. S.

From the South

- 35W North to 94 East
- 94 East to 25th Ave. Exit
- Left on 25th Ave. S.
- Left on Riverside Ave.
- Left on 21st Ave. S.

From the East

- 94 West to Riverside Ave. Exit
- Right on Riverside Ave.
- Left on 21st Ave. S.

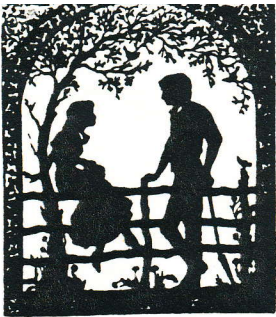
From the North

- 94 East to 25th Ave. Exit
- Left on 25th Ave. S.
- Left on Riverside Ave.
- Left on 21st Ave. S.

From the North East

- 35W South to Washington Ave. Exit
- Left on Washington
- Cross over bridge
- Left on Riverside Ave.
- Riverside Ave. to 21st Ave. S.
- Right on 21st Ave. S.

AUCSBURG COLLEGE



"TELL THEM TO WAIT - I'M BUSY GARDENING"

Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

At some future date if you ask the members what they remember most about the year Bob Olson was president of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis they would undoubtedly reply, "Agnes Ostlund came back as our cateress and we finally got some decent meals." Or they may recall that it was the year the dues were raised and they increase the price of the meals. (Actually the price of the meals was raised the year before - during the halcyon days of the Churilla administration.) Some of the more discerning gardeners will, of course, remember 1987 as the year a Hosta leaf was awarded the prize as Best-In-Show - long overdue recognition, I may add.

When asked to accept the position as president, I felt a little trepidation because of previous commitments on my time. I knew from serving the other presidents (Chet Groger, Andy Marlow, Bob Churilla....) how much they put into the effort. Russ Smith convinced me to do it with these words, "We'll help you." He was right.

The strength and character of this club is in the industry and selfless effort of its members, a core of 20-30 exceptional men. These individuals are "can-do" people - they "can" and they "do".

I began thinking about this when it became time to choose someone to receive the President's Cup. Traditionally that's gone to a person who has been of exceptional help to the president during the year. My goodness. There are too many people in this category. There's Phil Peterson and Duane Johnson who turned the Fragrance Garden around by sheer force of their personalities. It's no longer a Spring project with a skeleton crew for maintenance, but a revitalized source of pleasurable group activity, recognized community service, and substantial pride to all of us.

There is Nate Siegel and Ed Culbert who asked if they could write a history of the evolution of the Fragrance Garden.

There's Charlie Proctor. Charlie never says "no". (Maybe he should, but he doesn't.) Among other things, he raced around to find us a meeting place when the Great Deluge flooded out the church. He's done an amazing number of other things to help me, too - but you'd never hear about it from him. There's the thriving National Convention Committee which goes by its own momentum - if anything, it needs its zeal and enthusiasm restrained or these fellows would take up all the space in the Newsletter and discussion time at our monthly meetings.

Then there's Vern Carlson, our good friend who passed away so recently. Vern literally got off his sick bed to enter his wonderful flowers and vegetables in our Flower Show because he heard it needed more entries this year. He and a few others "saved the show".

My wife is constantly amazed. She says, "People just don't volunteer to do this sort of thing these days." She's wrong. Of course, they do - at least in the MGCM.

All of you have made my tenure as president enjoyable and active. I thank everyone of you. Now I have to choose an individual to get the President's Cup. It's the hardest job I've had and finally it's a situation where I can't ask anyone to help me.

Eastern Gardens Explored at November MGCM Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

Just as all of the early history of the United States took place along the eastern seaboard, so most of the early, and still spectacular, gardens of the United States also were created there. MGCM members were treated to a slide tour of several of them at the November meeting. The tour guide and speaker was Martha Reborn of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Her slides and information were of recent vintage, since she had spent the second week of October of this year touring the gardens. She was one of 700 participants attending the National Master Gardeners' Convention in Washington, D.C. 40 some Minnesotans took part and popped up from time to time in the slides.

Some good garden viewing, Martha pointed out, is to be had right along the Mall that connects the Lincoln/Washington Monument area with the Capitol building. Museums of the Smithsonian line part of the Mall, and gardens are an attraction at the Hirschhorn Sculpture Museum, the "Castle" which houses the Victorian exhibition collection and the recently opened Asian and African pavilion. The latter is largely underground with gardens planted atop the building. Also along the Mall, near the Capitol, is the National Botanic Garden, a collection of Victorian-style conservatory greenhouses sheltering a large collection of plants from all over the world, including many outstanding orchid specimens.

Also in Washington proper is Dumbarton Oaks, which achieved fame as the site for a World War II era summit conference. It was the estate of the Bliss family and money has been set aside to maintain its tree-lined walks and numerous gardens for the foreseeable future.

Just south of Washington is Mount Vernon, the estate of the nation's first President. George Washington was himself a gardener and when he wasn't fighting a war, helping write the Constitution or running the government he liked to get a little dirt under his fingernails cultivating herbs, vegetables and flowers. The estate has been restored to what is known of its condition in the early 1800s using many of the plant varieties then enjoying popularity. Washington also helped start the National Horticultural Society, which has its headquarters and gardens near-by. It features many walled gardens and raised beds. It being fall, mums, including many varieties originated in Minnesota, were in full bloom.

Martha also visited the National Arboretum located on 1000 acres that originally belonged to William Penn. Many fine collections of plants, including the National Bonzai collection and an extensive collection of conifers, are located there.

The final stop on our slide tour was Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia. The former DuPont estate is very large and features gardens that open on to huge vistas for distant views of the countryside. There are also a wonderful bell tower and some 23 water gardens on the property. It's most important feature, however, is the 3-1/2 acre garden under glass. The pillars that support this structure are as large as tree trunks and are, in fact, camouflaged to look like them. As if the structure were not large enough, the outside walls are made of mirrored glass to make it seem even larger. There are many different, distinctive and unusual displays in the building, including a garden just for children (no adults allowed) with a topiary giraffe with a lap just made for sitting on.

Your reporter could not help but envy Ms. Reborn for a trip that took in gardening business, historical sites and some of the most lovely gardens in the nation. One could only be grateful to her for sharing part of it with the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Officers and directors elected to serve in 1988 were:

President:	Duane Reynolds	Secretary:	Rick Bonlender
Vice-president:	Duane Johnson	Treasurer:	Joseph Stenger
Directors:	Howard Berg	Herbert Neby	
	Sid Nystrom	Kent Petterson	
Past President:	Robert Olson		

Customarily the MGCM president has been a member of the Minnesota Horticultural Society board. After serving his year, almost all of which was spent learning the ropes, Dr. Olson recommended we change the pattern so as to be more helpful and to get more input. He proposed electing a person for a 3 year term as our representative without regard to whether or not he had served MGCM as an officer. The members present accepted the idea and the nominating committee named Walter Gustafson. Walt is an attorney and is interested in serving. At the current moment Walt can be a real asset to the Hort. Society board.

Russ Smith reported on the recent MGCA directors meeting at which officers elected (for 1988) at the Rockford convention were installed. Annual memberships go up to \$15.00 on January 1, 1988; but life memberships do not go up (to \$150.00) until January 1, 1989.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
by Ed Culbert

Congratulations are due Jerry Shannon who has been promoted to Director of Elementary Education for the St. Paul Public Schools. A reception honoring him was held on Tuesday November 17 at the Longfellow School where Jerry had been principal for over a decade. Jerry, also, was recently elected to membership in Scholia a select Twin Cities schoolmen's group.

Do you read Dave Woods in the Star and Tribune Sunday "Arts" section? On Sunday November 8 he devoted considerable space to Bill Hull whose "All Hell Broke Loose", a collection of stories about the Armistice Day blizzard of 1940, is now in its eighth printing. Bill currently is collecting stories about the drought of 1936 for a similar publication. If you have vivid memories of those days this may be your chance to appear in print.

Have you noticed the 1988 MGCM convention promotion in the "Gardener"? It is the work of Jerry Shannon. Jerry has already prepared and submitted to the MGCA office in Des Moines all copy for the balance of this year and up to convention time.

Vera Snyder (Mrs. Leon C.) has moved to 1269 Cleveland #2B, St. Paul, MN, 55108 to live near her daughter in St. Anthony Park who lives in the house the Snyders bought in 1945 and lived in prior to the Arboretum days.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Len Brenny
5121 Blake Rd.
Edina, MN 55436

Norman B. Ter Steeg 822-0371
4708 Colfax Ave. S.
Mpls., MN 55409

John Christensen 521-0152
4308 Sheridan Ave. N.
Mpls., MN 55412

THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE

By Chuck Levine

Rhapis

Looking for the perfect house plant? Well, perhaps the dwarf Rhapsody palm (*Rhapis excelsa*) is just that plant. An excellent choice for average home conditions and relatively pest free, the Rhapsody palm has proven itself to me. Being a long time fancier of unusual palms, I was intrigued by a recent surge of advertisements in several trade magazines for dwarf Rhapsody palms. Billed as the "Secret of the Orient," I found it interesting that so much attention be given to a single species of palm, let alone two commercial nurseries that sell almost nothing but Rhapsody palms.

I quickly sent away for my "special offer" of one *Rhapis excelsa* 'Koban' and anxiously awaited its arrival. After about two weeks my plant arrived. Although initially a little disappointed — with the container not the plant — I rushed it home and placed it on a tray of pebbles in front of an east facing window. The palm is thoroughly soaked with distilled or mineral water and allowed to become moderately dry, before being

thoroughly soaked again. There, after many months, my Rhapsody palm continues to thrive and impress all who see it.

So you ask, "what makes these plants so unique?" The dwarf Rhapsody palms remain table top size, do well in bright, indirect light to partial shade, require normal house temperatures and seem to last indefinitely. They are unique among palms in that they are perfect for bonsai — being long lived and slow growing. In addition, variegated varieties striped with differing patterns of green, white and cream are available at an affordable price.

An excellent way to learn more about these remarkable plants is by reading: *Secret of the Orient dwarf Rhapis excelsa* by Lynn McKamey;

If you are interested in acquiring a plant you should contact Rhapsody Gardens, P.O. Box 287, Gregory, Texas 78359, or Rhapsody Palm Garden, Box 84, Redlands, California 92373.

Success - adding so much organic matter and nutrients to the garden that one can imagine the soil is so rich you can stick your thumb in it and grow five fingers.

Return to

THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.

Edwin C. Culbert, Editor

5315 Portland Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417



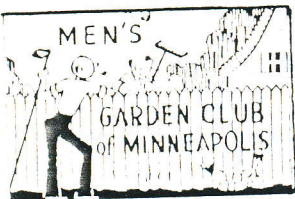
FIRST CLASS

To

Mr. Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343

MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 3-6, 1988
MINNEAPOLIS, MN.



FOR INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE
WILLIAM (BILL) HULL
6833 Creston Road
Edina, Minnesota 55435
612/926-1327

NORTHERN GARDENING AT ITS BEST