

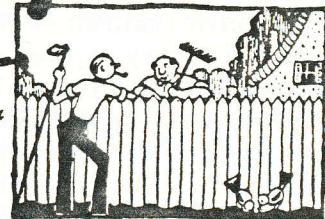


# The Garden Spray

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

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

- ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE -  
July 1980, Volume 38, Number 7



JULY MEETING - GARDEN TOUR  
WIVES, GIRL FRIENDS AND GUESTS INVITED

DATE: July 8, 1980, Regular Meeting Date

TIME: 5:45 P.M.

COST: \$5.00 per person, including bus. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

PLACE: Corporate headquarters of S. J. Groves & Sons Co., 10,000 Highway 55 in Plymouth. A large building located on the north side of Highway 55, 1/4-mile west of Highway 18 in Plymouth.

This is the national headquarters of a large construction company. They have well-landscaped grounds and a nice patio overlooking a rock garden and waterfall. They were awarded our Industrial Landscaping Award a few years ago. There should be ample tables and chairs for dinner. A large parking lot is in rear of the building.

Following dinner, we will tour by bus the gardens of Henry Halverson, Walter Schmidt, Dwight Stone, Dean Schneider, Dave Johnson and Phil Smith.

IF YOU'RE NOT ON THE PERMANENT RESERVATION LIST,  
RETURN YOUR RESERVATION CARD AT ONCE.

\* \* \*

FREE WATER FOR YOUR GARDEN

How would you like to have a garden but not have to pay for water, and have the lawn cut and the snow shovelled from your steps by someone else?

I live in a three-level townhouse in Golden Valley, sort of like a Baltimore "row" house, with six units to a building. All maintenance is handled by an association for the complex for which I pay \$50.00 per month. This covers snow removal, summer lawn and landscaping care, sewer and water, swimming pool and party room costs, exterior maintenance such as painting, and trash removal. I only own the land under my unit, but I have a small garden on back land owned in common, plus a front entry garden and deck garden. The neighbors enjoy the back garden and do not object.

For a bachelor or someone nearing retirement, townhouse living is pretty nice. It may become more popular with housing costs soaring.

The July garden tour will include a brief stop at my townhouse garden. Although the garden is small (my main garden is at a lake place), I thought some members might be interested in seeing this type of home.

--Phil Smith



FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by

Archie Caple

This past month I had the privilege of experiencing another first in my life; it may appear to be a trivial item and even most insignificant. Either way, it still remains another first and well worth the time, effort and monies involved. I am speaking of my attendance as a guest/visitor at the National Convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America in St. Louis, Missouri, during the period May 25 through 28, 1980.

I attended the meeting for two reasons; First, I felt I had a responsibility as President of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to participate at the national level; and, Second, I had a personal desire to attend, to learn more about MGCA. Little or nothing can be learned about such an organization with reference to its structure, organization, responsibilities and goals by reading its monthly publication, "THE GARDENER". True, in the past years this has become an interesting and informative magazine in comparison with the publication I obtained when I first became affiliated with MGCA. It still doesn't compare in value to our "GARDEN SPRAY" or the "HORTICULTURIST" published by the Minnesota Hort. Society; but one must remember the latter are local publications and the subject matter is relevant to our local area almost exclusively.

By attending the MGCA convention, I was privileged to meet all of its officers, but not without an excellent public relations man in the form of one Sherm Pinkham. Through personal contact with each of the national officers I was introduced almost individually to all the attendees at the convention; again through the liaison efforts of our Regional Director, Sherm Pinkham, with further assistance by another MGCM member, MGCA Past President, Bill Hill. Through the efforts of these two fine gentlemen all hospitality barriers were removed and a most enjoyable time was had.

I attended delegation meetings, seminars, ate luncheons and dinners as made available, and enjoyed all the entertainment that was programmed for the convention participants. At the meetings I got to understand more about the programs and activities of MGCA, something I had been unaware of up until this time. MGCA has several wonderful and interesting award programs; programs I feel our garden club should, and will, be participating in.

One program MGCA is promoting in the horticulture field, from which we in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis can take lessons is, "Gardening from the Heart". In this program Men's Garden Clubs are teaching and making their gardening knowledge available to groups of school children, to the underprivileged, and to senior citizens. I know club members promoting this type of outside gardening activity. One has been teaching in the public school system for the past 8 to 10 years. I, myself, have been teaching and instructing gardening activities through the Master Gardener Program. Others are also busily engaged in promoting gardening.

My question is, where do we stand? Are we doing our part in sharing our gardening know-how with someone or some group? I believe as a garden club this should be our direction; to help others less fortunate than ourselves in their gardening efforts. The rewards, most assuredly, will be returned threefold. One has only to get involved to understand.

(continued bottom page 4)

TIRED BUT EXHILIRATED AFTER THE MGCA CONVENTION  
by Bill Hull, Past MGCA President

The MGCA St. Louis convention was sort of a homecoming for Carol and me because it was exactly 24 years ago, at the 1956 St. Louis convention when I first became a director of MGCA. It was as our own Herb Kahlert was presiding and going out of office as MGCA president that I was sworn in. And it was our first convention.

We saw some of the same sights as in 1956, but mainly the Missouri Botanical Gardens (Shaw's Gardens) and, of course, we were at the same hotel.

Many things have changed in those 24 years and conventions are not the same. We can praise St. Louis for many things and fault them for only two--not having a roster of advance registrations to distribute--and not showing us members' gardens. I can remember the time that the Executive Board kicked and screamed if delegates didn't see how local people gardened. As beautiful as an estate garden (like Shaw's) can be, it's still second to how a local MGC member faces his small plot problems.

We had the pleasure of reuniting with many other old timers (in the sense of having been to many conventions) but we also missed some familiar faces for which we looked in vain...the Fetzers, Hal Nelsons, Howlands, Engelbrechts, etc. But they were made up by new friends. That is what one really likes about an MGCA convention.

Surely someone else will talk of the tour to the arch and the fabulous movie we saw which had been taken during the construction of the arch...and someone will tell about our river boat rides.

Finances were well discussed at the board meeting and I believe at one of the director's meetings. The main financial problem is that some clubs are so slow submitting their dues that the finance committee doesn't ever know what will be its true and total income until year end. The 1980 budget of \$94,500 shows expenditures for the first four months of \$32,154--about one third of the year and one-third of the expected revenue; that's pretty exact expenditures. However, the \$94,500 annual revenue expected, has reached only \$68,088 so far. If the remainder comes in, the budget will be on solid ground; if not, expenditures will have to be reduced. The biggest expenses are for salaries (executive director and two assistants) of \$29,800 and The Gardener of \$24,000. The Executive Director's salary was revealed and is definitely not exciting.

The life memberships original goal of \$100,000 will soon be reached. At \$10 a year for members dues, this is an excellent buy for anyone and we should encourage it. Also, it gives us a large sum from which the income is used as part of the annual revenue. It's exciting to see what that kind of invested fund can mean to operating income.

As Awards chairman, I made the presentations of the annual MGCA awards and, also, was asked to give a short talk, at the annual banquet the final night. These will all be discussed in THE GARDENER I'm sure but I'll just mention that the Silver Medal went to Delbert Dunbar, a past president who did some heroic acts in moving the organization ahead. The Gold Medal, for horticulture, went to Joe Woodard of Dallas, Texas, an MGCA member. This is the award we were able to present to Dr. Leon Snyder about 15 years ago.

Vice President John Leonard is spearheading the MGCA green jacket sale, which nets \$5 from each sale as MGCA operating revenue. We should let

Sherm Pinkham show his jacket and consider buying them in bulk. They are good looking and could carry the individual's name as well as our club name.

Many other activities are in the works. The MGCA Club Officer Training Committee has produced five booklets which are being sent at no charge to each club. So far, these multi-page booklets deal with the duties and aids for the club president, the club secretary, the treasurer, the reporter and the regional planning group. They should be very helpful to our officers. To many of us, this is typical of much of the material that comes from MGCA to officers about which the average one of us never hears.

In summary, a lot was accomplished, a lot discussed, the attendees saw some fascinating sights, had at least four big meals as part of the \$100 registration fee, and met a lot of people with the same interests. We liked it and were very happy to see Archie Caple, Sherm Pinkham, Carl Holst, and Ed Culbert also there.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT from SHERM PINKHAM

MGCA has had a running fight against inflation the past few years the same as other organizations, as well as all of us as individuals. It looks like the national organization had made a sincere effort to keep expenses in line with income. At present there is a cash balance of \$22,000.00 to pay bills for the balance of the current year. To this should be added other miscellaneous income, including dues that come in from month to month.

The Endowment and Investment Fund is really a part of the whole financial picture. All income from that Fund is turned over to MGCA for operating expenses. The Endowment Fund as of May 19 had assets of \$82,949.00. Its income is derived mainly from Life Memberships, plus memorials, bequests and outright gifts. As of May 19, there were 545 life members and several more were announced at the delegates' meeting, including Phil Smith of our Club.

Salaries at the Des Moines office were frozen, except a nominal hourly increase for one employee. On the whole, corners are being cut in the way of expenses. There is no real financial bind as of now.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

August 23rd and 24th are the days for the FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW at the Arboretum.

The National Awards this year will be for Snapbeans and for Marigolds. In addition there will be a special award for one lucky entrant.

We expect every member to enter this show.

--The Show Committee

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CAPLE from page 2

In conclusion, MGCA with its present officers has very definite goals and objectives, has available for garden club members areas of participation that will better the participating club. Again, as previously quoted, "One gets out of the club what one puts into the club. No more, no less. Let's all get involved." To use one of my favorite quotes: "Courtesy is contagious, let's get contaminated". The same goes for gardening and club participation; let's all get contaminated for a healthier attitude.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE: A CRITIQUE

by Ed Culbert

The service Sunday evening May 25 was, in my judgment, basically the finest memorial service ever held at MGCA meetings. It was solemn, befitting the occasion. A major portion was a dialog, titled "Meditations", between the Reverend Robert W. Tabscott of Des Peres Presbyterian Church and Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman of Congregation Shaare Emeth followed by a responsive reading developing the theme that "a bereavement that brings us into the lives of our fellowmen writes a filling epilogue" to our loss to death. It ended with this so appropriate responsive reading as benediction:

Reponsive Worship II

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,  
we remember them.

*At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
we remember them.*

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
we remember them.

*At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,  
we remember them.*

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
we remember them.

*At the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
we remember them.*

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
we remember them.

*When we are lost and sick at heart,  
we remember them.*

When we have joy we crave to share,  
we remember them.

*When we have decisions that are difficult to make,  
we remember them.*

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,  
we remember them.

*As long as we live, they too will live;  
For they are now a part of us,  
As we remember them.*

(continued over)

(MEMORIAL SERVICE CONTINUED)

If what is described on the preceding page had been all, the service would have been truly appropriate. It wasn't all. A half hour commercial was squeezed in before the benediction. The fact that the commercial was titled "We Find God in Our Garden" and purported to be exemplary advertising for Men's Garden Clubs can be no excuse for its intrusion. The timing was inappropriate. It marred the service. And it wasn't that good!

The commercial was a mish-mash of slides--garden scenes, birds, animals, U. S. capitol, Lincoln memorial, statuary (90% taken on the grounds of some religious site, church or school)--in no special order. There was a background of hymns, taped and tinny, bearing no relationship so far as I could see with the pictures. Every so often a patriotic air was thrown in as a national edifice appeared on screen. Sort of a "Bow down your heads in prayer, boys!" followed by "Jump up with a patriotic Hurrah!"

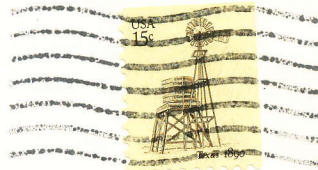
Too bad. The garden slides were good. So were the bird slides and the animal slides if taken in a garden. As for the national scenes and the statuary, their relation to gardening, if any, is minimal. Maybe God is supposed to hover over statues in a garden?

And, A COMMERCIAL HAS NO PLACE IN A MEMORIAL PROGRAM no matter what cause it promotes or whom it espouses.

Bull Hull did a magnificent job when presenting awards at the convention. He is a stand-out speaker when he gets going. We can well be proud of him.

Think of chemicals as plant medication. Would you overdose on your doctor's prescription? Using excess chemical is overdose--a form of chemical abuse, said a convention speaker.

The bugs, worms and plant diseases come first. We humans sit at the second table, said another.



Return to  
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.  
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