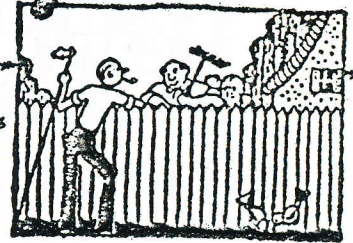




The Garden Spray

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

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



July 1987 Volume 45 Number 7

FIRST SUMMER GARDEN TOUR
(A regular meeting)

time
TUESDAY JULY 14--5:45 P.M.

where
WEBBER PARK
4400 DUPONT AV. N.
North of Webber Parkway (about 44th Av N.)
just west of Lyndale Av. N.

program
EAT AT 5:45 P.M.
BOARD BUS AT 6:30 P.M.
TOUR GARDENS UNTIL ABOUT 9:00 P.M.
RETURN TO STARTING PLACE

cost
\$7.50 PER PERSON
(Bring a new member)

Note: the permanent reservation list will be in effect for this meeting. If you are on this list be sure to notify Rick Bonlender (729-5353) to cancel or you will be billed. If you have a card to mail, get it to Rick before July 10.



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

Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

If you've been to the Fragrance Garden in the past couple of weeks you can see the results of the truly productive committee. Duane Johnson and Phil Peterson really have things humming down there. They have the place spruced up and planted and have a roster of members committed to weeding and watering throughout the entire summer. They even have commitments from guys that aren't on their committee. I know how they nailed me, but I have no idea what Duane and Phil did to get all those other guys.

At the beginning of May, Duane Johnson called and said they were weeding and planting on the 30th and that I should bring shovel and a trowel. I was going to try to give him the, "I'll sure make it if I can ..." line, but it quickly became clear that Phil and Duane weren't buying anything short of a solemn vow of attendance. Hoping to minimize the damage, I said - "Of course, I'm coming. You can count on me ...". It was no good. By the time he hung up, I had signed up for a full week's care for the Fragrance Garden and wondered if I should be checking to see if I still had my wallet. I can only imagine their spiel to actual committee members.

It was only fear of the wrath of Duane and Pete that got me there on the 30th. The Police came to my door at 2:00 a.m. because someone had left the phone off the hook and the hospital couldn't get hold of me. When the cops ring the doorbell in the middle of the night and say, "Dr. Olson, we've come to take you to the hospital; they need you there...", you go. However, I did convince them I should change out of my pajamas and could drive myself. Besides, they would wonder why I needed a shovel and a trowel.

Needless to say, I got to the Fragrance Garden late about 11:00 a.m. All the real gardening work was pretty much done - the beds planted and the critical areas weeded. Larry Catron had taken the group picture and the action pictures for the activities. Aside from Duane's long memory, no one will know I was there - except maybe Stan Crist.

Duane put me to work digging up "small" elm trees that had rooted in the shrubbery. (I think it was some sort of penal measure.) Those trees were no seedlings; some were the size of your thumb. Stan Crist must have been late, too, because he was sent to help me. Our Vice President, Duane Reynolds, was the third member of this executive work party. My Smith and Hawkin heavy duty garden spade was made for just this kind of work. Crist, Reynolds and I weren't. We were soon soaked in sweat and had our tongues hanging out. Eventually Pete and Duane showed mercy and told us to call it a day.

Everyone but Kent Petterson had gone home by then. He was still weeding outside the fence. No wonder he won the National Award for best vegetables last year. He's like some Asian Coolie - impervious to heat and discomfort as he eschews the hoe and meticulously removes each weed by its roots.

The remarkable thing is that we have all forgotten how miserable it was in the heat and humidity. By next winter everyone will remember it was a wonderful outing - and no one will believe I was there because I'm not in the pictures - except Duane Johnson whose last words to me were, "Try to be on time next year, Doc."

Prior to our recent meeting, there were 12 members who called to cancel a meal or add a meal or mailed their reservation card too late to be received on time. We had 6 meals to sell at the end of the meeting. (Thanks to the guys who bought those meals and helped cut our losses.) Please mail your reservation card early enough to reach Rick Bonlender no later than the Saturday before the meeting. Sunday is not a mail day. The caterer has to hear from us by Sunday evening.

If you call Monday or Tuesday or your card is received then, you are out of luck. This is too late. If you are trying to cancel your meal or you forgot to call then you will still have to pay the \$6.00 fee for the meal. If you do not have a reservation and come to the meeting you will be the last to be served. The gentlemen who pay attention to these details and get their reservations in on time will eat first.

Below are the name of the men on the permanent reservation list. If you do not call to cancel your meal on time than you will be expected to pay the \$6.00 fee.

Charles Benson
Howard Berg
Verner Carlson
Bud Christianson
Bob Churilla
Ed Culbert
Burt Deane
Robert Druke
Fred Glasoe
Chet Groger

Walter Gustafson
Dave Johnson
David Kelly
Knobby Knoblauch
Ted LaBoutillier
Herb Neby
Donal O'Donnell
Jerry Olson
Bob Olson
Jeff Pearson

Phil Peterson
Charles Proctor
John Regan
Duane Reynolds
Jerry Shannon
Russ Smith
Joe Stenger
Bob Stepan
Dwight Stone
Frank Vixo

VICTORY GARDENS !!! RELIEF GARDENS !!! COMMUNITY GARDENS !!!

I am doing research on the history of community gardening in the U.S. I would like to do an oral history with any person who is familiar with or has participated in the Victory Gardens of WWII, the Relief Gardens of the Depression, or the Community Gardening era of the last 20 years. Any photos, name, dates, places or personal stories would all be appreciated. Please contact club secretary Rick Bonlender 729-5353 (H) or 870-7623 (W).

360 INDIVIDUAL LETTERS INVITE FRIENDS TO MINNEAPOLIS

by Bill Hull

July 4, 1987

In your behalf, we are doing a lot to make our July 1988 convention here in Minneapolis a success. We have not only just made presentations and announcements at the Rockford convention, we also have just mailed 360 individual letters to MGCA leaders: Executive Committee members, board of directors members, all club presidents and bulletin editors. Each letter produced on my home computer with name fill-in three times per letter. These recipients are people who can influence others and that is what we have asked they do.

For example, here are portions of the two-page letter, asking for their help:

cc We want them here in 1988! We want to show them one hell of a good time and, believe me, we're planning to do just that. But we can't do it, if they don't come. We're trying to reverse this down trend of recent years and are convinced we can do it with the help of key people like you. Obviously that's the favor I want. Help us get them here.

Help us spread the word. Help us emphasize what a great bargain an MGCA convention can be. For example:

1) We're shooting for a registration fee of under \$100 per person. For three days! That's unbelievable.

2) An internationally known top quality hotel (the Hyatt-Regency) where every room has two double beds available to our people at a frozen 1984 price of \$62 per room - THE WIFE CAN STAY AT NO EXTRA ROOM CHARGE over the man's price.

3) In fact, the ladies are not just an afterthought. We'll offer them some specific alternate programs just for them, such as: a) a bus tour of the cities; b) individual drivers to take them to places they wish to return for longer visits; c) a special speaker one morning at the hotel, for comfortable sitting; and d) an optional walking tour two blocks away to the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Lots of things to do if they so wish.

4) We're going to show members' gardens - something for which we were so well remembered in 1967. Again, we're speaking of opening 20 or so individuals' gardens.

5) On the evening of July 4 we'll bus you to a beautiful park near Minnehaha Falls, where you'll see a lavish display of fireworks over the Mississippi River.

6) The Memorial Service for deceased members will be held in one of the oldest churches in this area. Its on the National Registry - just a short block away from the hotel.

7) We'll take you to two lovely public gardens, one overlooking huge Lake Minnetonka, and the other at the internationally famous Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, which our members started years ago.

8) We'll entertain you at the final banquet night with an all-Minnesota meal featuring our traditional "Parade of Turkey Carvers" at which we carve the turkeys at your table. And we invite some of you to bring your own carving tools and be carvers along with some of our members. Just tell us of your availability.

9) We'll share garden knowledge with you by having six to ten rotating seminars by people with real expertise. Ladies can join in if they wish.

10) A chance for every member to sit in on the business meetings of MGCA, to be a delegate, to vote on election of officers, to express their own opinions, to sound off if they wish.

11) A time to meet a huge number of other gardeners. We want a thousand. We have rooms for a thousand. We have turkeys for a thousand. We have buses for a thousand. Just help us get them here.

12) We are leaving one night free for your choice of plans. Perhaps you will want to dine in the Willows, the hotel's top dining spot recently rated Number One in the Cities, or perhaps go to our widely recognized Guthrie Theatre, or maybe just to sit around and rehash memories with old friends.

13) We're also working out a reduced flight cost with Northwest Airlines and American Airlines, our official carriers.

But please help us spread the word. You'll see lots of publicity, but none of it is as good as a word from you to the people in your region and your club. We need the help of leaders like you and, most of all, we need you here too.

Oh, how we'd like to have a thousand people here to share with us the fun of a beautiful Minnesota summer. 2)

So, okay, Minneapolis MGC members, this is where we stand. We wanted you to know of some of these advantages and plans because, most of all, we need you to plan to participate then - July 3 - 6, 1988. Plan your vacation, please, for those dates.

Bill - for the committee.

A REPORT FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

From June 13 thru June 16 Janet and I attended the Convention of Men's Garden Clubs Of America at the Clock Towers Motel in Rockford Illinois.

The convention was relatively well attended by 349 registrants. Those attending from the North Star Region were Mr/Mrs Floyd Ashley, Mr/Mrs Wm. Hull, Mr/Mrs Gerald Shannon and Ed Culbert, all of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

My part of the business part convention consisted of a Board of Directors meeting at 8:30 am until noon Saturday, and Delegates meetings on Monday and Tuesday mornings. The rest of the time was spent in attending seminars, touring members and public gardens and vacationing.

The business part of the convention got a little hot and heavy on the subject of dues increases. By majority vote, the decision was made to increase the annual dues to \$15.00, effective with payment of 1988 dues. The direct billing issue was dropped and each club will be responsible for collecting and mailing national dues to MGCA.

One way of keeping your dues to the old rate is to become a Life Member. The cost is a \$100 one time payment (\$90 if your 1987 dues are paid) if done in 1987. To life members, there will never be any national dues to MGCA since the interest on the earnings from life memberships is paid to MGCA (in lieu of dues) to help with operating costs. One caution though, the cost of Life Memberships will very likely be increasing shortly!

The convention was well run and only a few snags during the whole time it took place. I hope the convention in Minneapolis in 1988 will be as successful.

Russ Smith
Regional Director

From time to time, discussion takes place concerning what might be a suitable memorial for one of our members.

I would like to offer a suggestion as to what I would consider an excellent memorial gift. Perhaps it might well be a memorial for more than one of our members. This is an underground watering system for the fragrance garden.

Such a system would make caring for the garden so much easier and undoubtedly would result in the garden growing much better and being more attractive. I have had such a system installed at the church garden I take care of, and I think it is the best contribution I have made.

These systems are not inexpensive. The cost of course would depend somewhat on how sophisticated a system would be installed, but perhaps just for a figure to talk about, \$1,000 might be mentioned.

A plaque could be installed in the garden stating who the memorial is for. In my opinion, there could be no finer memorial.

Stanley Crist