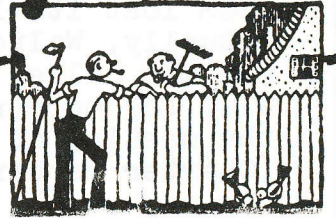




The Garden Spray

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

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



June 1984, Volume 42, Number 6

FIRST GARDEN TOUR THIS YEAR

Wives, Sweethearts & Other Guests Invited

PROGRAM

Catered Dinner at Webber Park

Bus Tour to Carmine Sacco's
and other gardens in the Roseville area
(Iris and Spring Flowers)

SPECIFICS

- DATE: Tuesday June 12, 1984
- LOCATION: Meet at Webber Park
Webber Parkway at Colfax Ave. No.
Minneapolis
- TIME: Dinner 5:30 p.m. - return to
parking lot 9:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- PRICE: \$7.50 per person

-BY RESERVATION ONLY-

Reservations Must be Received by June 8, 1984.
Automatic reservation list is NOT in effect !!!

For reservation(s) for MGCM meeting Tuesday evening June 12, 1982 return this form to George McCollough 8812 Trentbaugh Dr., Bloomington, Mn. 55431.

I plan to attend. Please reserve _____ place(s) for me and my guests (\$7.50 each including bus and dinner)

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Your Signature _____

My Guest(s) will be _____

1892 - WALTER P. QUIST - 1984

MGCM lost its last charter member, Walter P. Quist, on May 14. Actually, Walter was a founder of the club for he was one of four men who called a February 3, 1942 "Stag Dinner" at the Athletic Club for members interested in gardening. The same four called the meeting of May 18, 1942 at which MGCM was organized. (Charter membership was closed August 27, 1942.)

Walter was a charter member of Kiwanis and one of the organizers of the Odin Male Chorus. He started the first American Legion post in Minneapolis. He was a Minneapolis Park Commissioner for 24 years; was a past potentate of Zuhrah Shrine. He had served on the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Minneapolis Charters Commission.

In addition to his civic and fraternal activities he was a singer, a world traveler, and, naturally, a gardener for, a contemporary of Albert and Henry Bachman with whom he attended a one room rural school, he was a graduate of the U. of M. School of Agriculture. Professionally he was a partner in the Welander-Quist mortuary firm.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

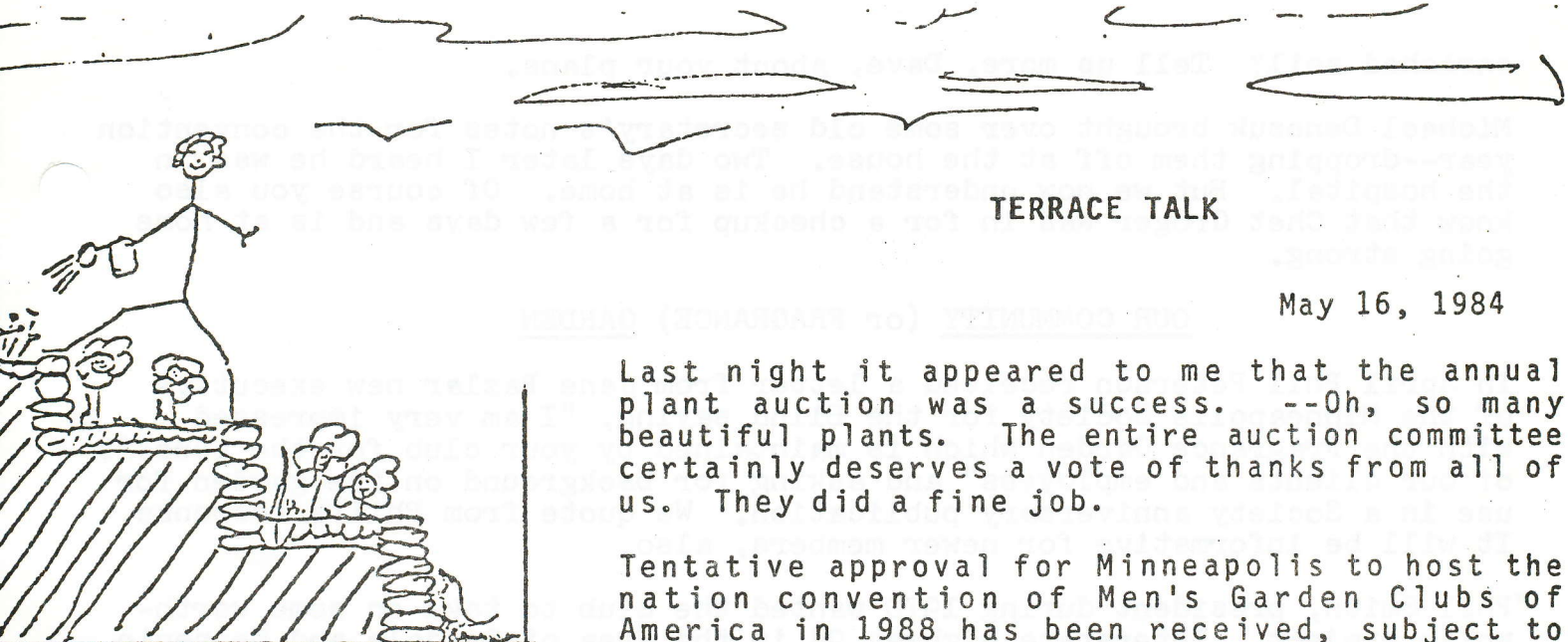
I'm going to share with you some activities of our 1988 MGCA Minneapolis Convention, and a few other personal thoughts. Yes, it appears that we will have the 1988 convention here. You authorized that the invitation be made, as was done by president Russ Smith with me as co-signer. It was well received but can't be voted on until the MGCA Board of Directors meeting next fall in Des Moines. We are assuming that no problem will exist. In the meantime, we will have had a meeting of all past-presidents plus editor Ed Culbert on May 29 to form an initial steering committee. Also, in case you have not heard, Russ Smith and our Board of Directors have appointed me general chairman. We will have lots of opportunities for fun and lots of chances for input of ideas.

We will also have some problems. For example, when we last hosted the group our most expensive hotel room was a twin which cost the princely sum of \$13. And our registration fee was the huge one of \$34 or \$27.50 in advance. Yet we still had an excess of about \$2000 after all bills were paid.

Surely, you heard Russ's announcement at the auction that we have lost Honorary Member Walter Quist, a friend to all, a true gentleman.

Louis (Louie) Fischer also died recently. A former member, Louie had been in the club since 1953 but had dropped out recently. A good gardener, his house was beautifully landscaped--a showplace long before he sold his orchards and retired at age 90. Louie also was one of the first in this area, if not the first, commercial orchardmen to build an air-conditioned humidity-controlled storage building for his apples, so he could extend the range. It was an innovation. We will miss Louie, too.

Dave Johnson tells me he is going to be moving about June 2. Shall we all go to his house before he moves and steal all of that beautifully
(concluded page 4)



TERRACE TALK

May 16, 1984

Last night it appeared to me that the annual plant auction was a success. --Oh, so many beautiful plants. The entire auction committee certainly deserves a vote of thanks from all of us. They did a fine job.

Tentative approval for Minneapolis to host the nation convention of Men's Garden Clubs of America in 1988 has been received, subject to formal approval in the November Director's meetings. With this accomplished, Bill Hull has been appointed and he has graciously accepted the position as Convention Chairman. He will be working with a Steering Committee composed of the present and past Club Presidents and the Editor of the Garden Spray. The first Steering Committee meeting will be held the end of May. Current thinking is that the Convention will be in mid July, 1988.

Sponsoring a National Convention will require help from everyone in the Club and Bill and his assistants will be expecting each of you to volunteer your services in whatever capacity you can contribute the most. If we each participate, the work load will be substantially reduced and we can put on the best Convention ever. Minneapolis is noted for the fine Convention held here in 1967. At the national Conventions many comments are still received relative to Minneapolis being "the best". We would like to be able to continue those comments and we do anticipate a large attendance.

Get your gardens in shape and think of 1988 as being the optimum year since we will be touring members' gardens as part of the Convention.

The meeting for the month of June as you will note by the cover page, is a tour of members' gardens and others. The tours are very interesting and an enjoyable form of recreation and we would like to have a full attendance if possible. Bring guests and friends -- the more the merrier!!

Time to get back to the garden and finish plantings in the flower beds, weed and hoe, fertilize and water and then control the animals--rabbits, wood chucks, raccoons and birds. Sounds fun!!

--Russ

**Every Member Sponsors A New Member
Every Member Sponsors A New Member
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Every Member Sponsors A New Member
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enriched soil? Tell us more, Dave, about your plans.

Michael Denesuk brought over some old secretary's notes for the convention year--dropping them off at the house. Two days later I heard he was in the hospital. But we now understand he is at home. Of course you also know that Chet Groger was in for a checkup for a few days and is at home going strong.

OUR COMMUNITY (or FRAGRANCE) GARDEN

In April Phil Peterson received a letter from Jane Pazlar new executive of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind saying, "I am very impressed with the Fragrance Garden which is maintained by your club for the benefit of our clients and employees" and asking for background on the garden for use in a Society anniversary publication. We quote from Phil's response. It will be informative for newer members, also.

"Phil Smith, president during 1970 wanted the club to take on some worthwhile project. Interstate highway 94 in the area of Lyndale and Hennepin avenues had just been completed. This construction had left a triangular piece of ground which is now the garden. The close location of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind made this spot an ideal location for a garden to their benefit as well as to that of the surrounding community if it could be obtained from the Highway Department."

Title for the land could be given only to a public agency. "It took the balance of the year to obtain the necessary approvals from the Minneapolis Park Board, Hennepin County, and the Highway Department before a legal transfer of title was completed." Actual development of the garden began in 1971 in Dave Johnson's presidency.

"Yards and yards of soil had to be hauled in due to the steep slope of the land to the south. Raised beds were planned so as to make it easier for the blind to smell and touch the flowers. This required a good quantity of timbers to hold in the soil.

"All of the fill, timbers and fencing involved considerable expense. A committee was appointed to raise the needed funds. We had members who were employed at Northern States Power, Pillsbury, Daytons, etc. From the combined contributions of the above plus a few individuals \$5500.00 was donated. This covered the 1971 cost of making the grounds presentable for planting before sod was laid and trees were planted. The large iron flower urn and the light pole were a recent donation given and installed by a non-member who is an iron-worker and wanted a place to display his wares.

"The Park Board was very cooperative in helping with the original layout. They continue to furnish all the annual plants at no cost to MGCM. We, the club, do all the planting and maintain the garden during the summer growing season--water, cultivate, prune and try to keep the place in respectable and attractive condition. The Society for the Blind keeps the grass mowed as needed.

"The club has a committee of about 20 members who all take part in the initial planting. Two members from the committee are responsible each week to check on the needs during the summer growing season. In the fall after a heavy frost the committee does a complete clean-up."

JACK KOLB SPEAKS ON MANAGING YOUR LAWN AT THE APRIL MGCM MEETING

reported by Andy Marlow

MGCM member Jack Kolb shared his extensive knowledge of turf management with fellow members at the April 10 meeting of the Club. Jack graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in agronomy. He spent a few years with the Toro Company, then became a professional greenskeeper. When he discovered that the people who sold him turf supplies couldn't answer his questions about their use, he shifted to the turf supply business. In addition to selling supplies, he gives seminars on turf management to other professionals.

Jack told his audience that there are three main aspects of turf management: mowing, watering and fertilizing. He offered some pointers on each....

MOWING

- Mow when the lawn is dry.
- Mow in the cool of the day.
- Mow regularly so that you are removing only about 1/3 of the grass blade each time.
- Keep your mower blade(s) sharp.
- Use a light weight mower to avoid fatigue and to avoid packing the soil too tightly.
- Use a reel mower for a formal cut, but it should be used on level terrain.
- Use a rotary mower if you don't need as sharp a cut or if the ground is uneven.
- Grass does grow better with a sharper cut, as it leaves less area for disease attack and the tips don't brown.
- Cut Blue Grass to about 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches. Shorter mowing results in shorter roots, meaning you will have to water and fertilize more often.
- Heat also promotes short roots, again calling for increased management.

WATERING

- Check soil conditions before you water, since you can both over and under water.
- Make sure your sprinkler covers evenly when you do water.
- Grass needs about 1 inch of water per week, either rainfall or sprinkling.

FERTILIZING

- This is the most misunderstood subject in lawn care.
- You should take a soil sample every five or six years and have it analyzed to determine what nutrients your lawn needs. The University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension service does this for a nominal fee.
- Fertilizer practice depend on the type of grass in your lawn and the weather. Do not fertilize in hot weather. Use lots of nitrogen in cool weather while the grass is actively growing. Use more potash in warmer weather since potash increases disease resistance. Potash also improves winter survival.
- Fill your spreader in the driveway -- you will spill some!

(continued over)

- Jack recommends the cyclone type sprayer over the drop type.
- Use a post emergent control for broadleaf weeds, including dandelion, plantain, thistle, etc., in early spring.
- Use a pre-emergent control for crab grass in late spring.
- Insects pose very little problem to Minnesota lawns, so no chemical control is recommended.
- Fungal diseases such as snow mold and fairy ring can be gotten rid of by breaking them up with a rake.
- Look for high-quality fertilizer with slow release nitrogen. 82-90% of water soluble nitrogen leaches out without ever being taken up by the grass. Even with slow release nitrogen, expect only about 50% or so to be taken up.
- Jack says lawn service companies use mostly water soluble nitrogen in light applications. He recommends against using them, except for lawns with severe weed problems.

In some final comments, Jack said most people start cleaning up their lawns too early in the spring. Raking pulls out live plants that haven't had a chance to develop new root systems yet. The plants are usually still dormant and can't use fertilizer. He did say that watering with fine drops on a sunny day will help warm up the soil.

Sodding, seeding and power raking are all best done in early fall, according to Kolb. The last part of August and the early part of September are ideal. He recommends blended grass seed formulated for your soil and sun conditions. He suggested trying perennial rye grass, used on golf tee areas and athletic fields, for heavy traffic areas.

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Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
 Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
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