

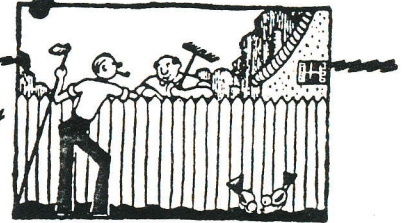


The Garden Spray

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

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

October 1987, Volume 45, Number 10



NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 13, 1987

PERSHING PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH AND 48TH STREET

DINNER 6:00 P.M. PRICE \$6.00

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS TO RICK BONLENDER AT ONCE

PROGRAM:

MR. LLOYD J. KRAFT will speak on the MGCA sponsored
"GARDENING FROM THE HEART PROGRAM"

Mr. Kraft, chairman of the MGCA Gardening from the Heart program, is in Minnesota for an organizational meeting for a new MGCA club in Winona his old home town. He is a retired Boy Scouts of America executive with 39 years of career service plus 14 additional years as a scout or as a volunteer scouter. Currently in addition to his Gardening from the Heart activities he edits the Greater Kansas City MGC bulletin, works with senior citizen groups and, of course, gardens.

* * * * *

LOOKING AHEAD

The Minneapolis Men's Garden Club's annual Christmas Party will be held at Augsburg College, 731 - 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis, on Tuesday, December 8, 1987 with a Social Hour from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. There will be entertainment by a Cabaret Group from Augsburg. More information about the party will be in the November SPRAY.

Minneapolis hosts the MGCA national convention
July 3, 4, 5, 6 1988

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

John C. Gross
5240 - 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. 55419

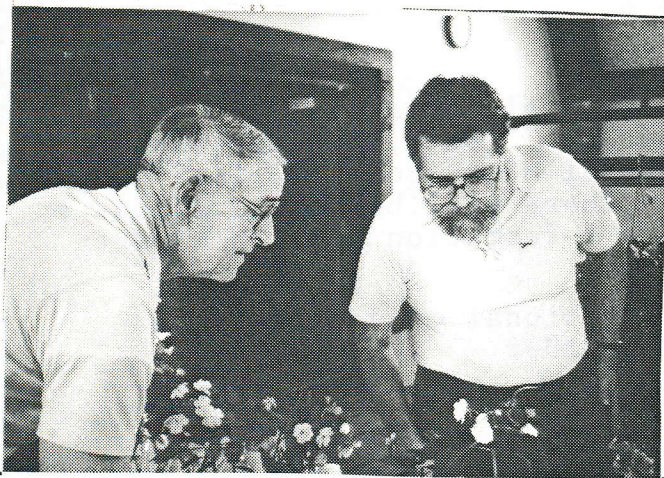
Results of 1987 MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show

reported by Andy Marlow, Show Chairman



The 1987 MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show was an unexpected success. Many of our regular exhibitors who in the past have contributed extensively to the success of the Show were in Duluth attending the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's annual meeting. 16 members entered over 300 exhibits, and as Bob Smith pointed out, the quality was just as high as it has always been. Special recognition should go to three members, Rick Bonlender, John Kauls and Merle Pulley, who had never entered a

garden show before, but who each took home a handful of ribbons. Rick, in fact, will be awarded the Robert L. Smith Memorial Trophy for the best effort by a first-time exhibitor. He took five seconds and two firsts, but also placed two of his vegetable entries on the Court of Honor and took home the National Award ribbon for the best sweet bell peppers. Bob Smith dominated the vegetable section, winning both Best-of-Show with some outstanding thornless blackberries (which he said he entered in honor of the late Dr. Leon Snyder) and easily winning the Tom Foley Memorial Trophy for the sweepstakes award. Bob Heiberg was a double winner in the flower section, easily winning the sweepstakes award to take home the Blackburn Trophy and collecting the National Award ribbon for best miniature rose. President Bob Olson enjoyed the thrill of his presidency by winning the Best-of-Show in the flower section not with a flower, but with hosta leaves. His blue cadet topped all the other (blooming) entries for this honor.

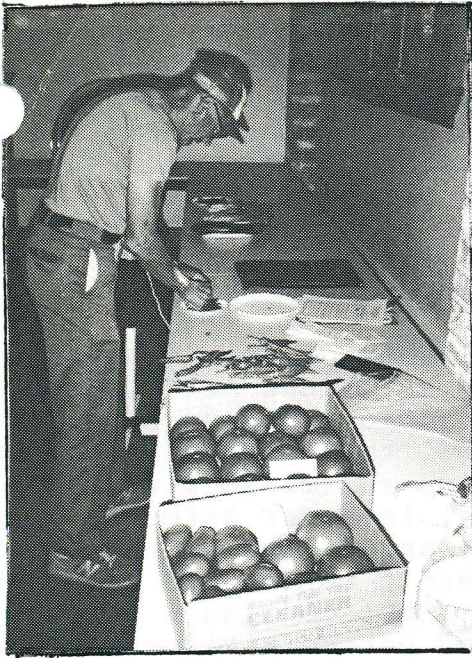


Charles Proctor and Andy Marlow

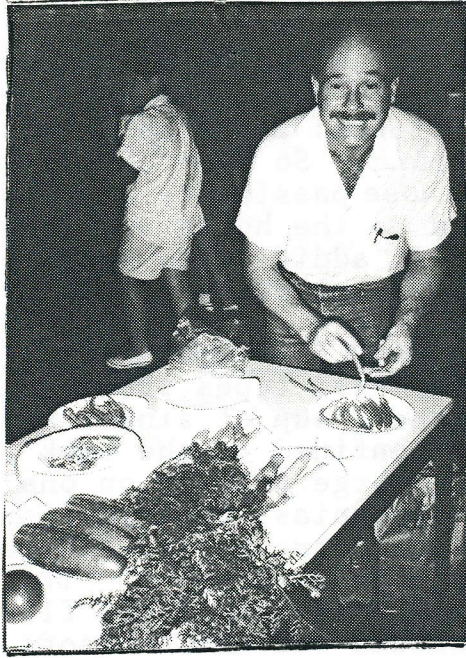


Phillis and Harold Gulde

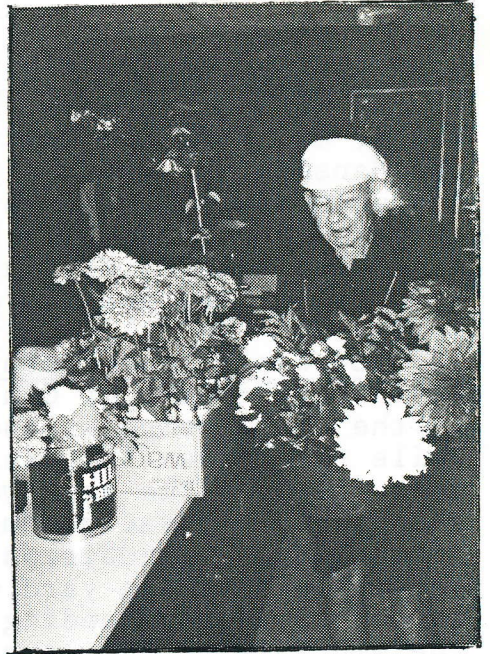
SEEN AT THE SHOW



Bob Smith



Merle Pulley



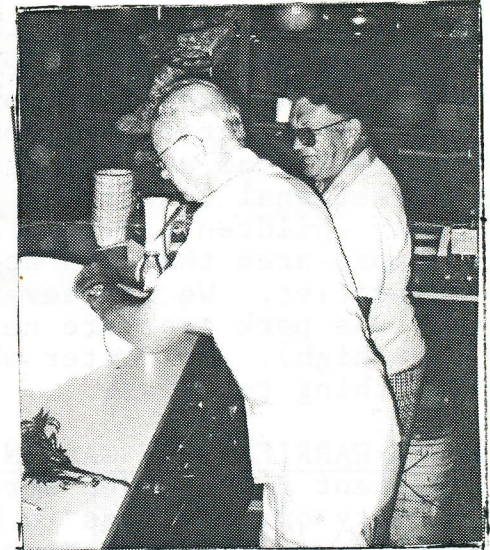
Vern Carlson



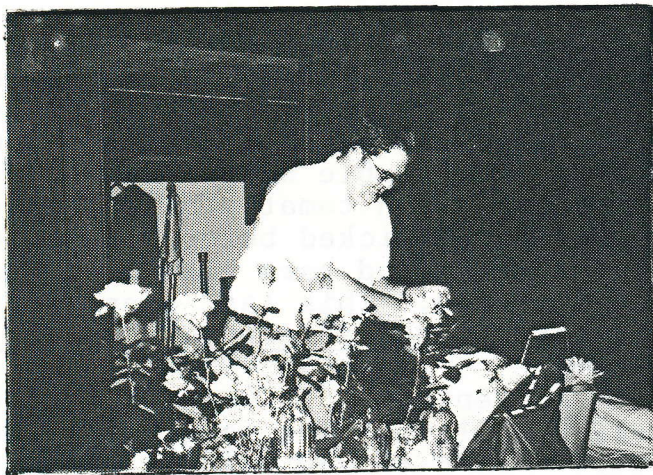
Larry Cattron



Kent Petterson
daughter Hilary



Phil Peterson
Herbert Neby



Bob Heiberg



Dale Durst

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB TOUR, AUGUST 16, 1987
Reported by Charles Proctor

5500 Fremont Avenue South - BILL HANSON: The north side of the Hanson's corner lot is banked with landscape timbers and planted with impatiens, hosta, and pink and white fibrous begonias. This is a garden not only for the Hansons but for the public. So much of the yard is visible from the sidewalk and streets that those passing by can stop, see, and enjoy. The large curved patio attached to the house on the west looks out over beds of roses, cosmos, zinnias, in addition to pots of marigolds spaced around the edge of the patio. A most pleasing garden to be enjoyed by all.

5917 Chowen Avenue South - HAROLD GULDE: The highlights of this lovely yard are the beds of dahlias--all types from the large dinner plate size, to the small pompoms, and the group of single and double hibiscus in pots. While the garden is mainly confined to the back yard, there are flowers on both sides of the driveway--large dahlias on one side and mixed flowers on the other; chrysanthemums, petunias, pink lavateras, lavender aster Fricarti, and others. In addition, there are roses, dahlias, and lilies in the rear yard. This is the yard of a true gardener. It doesn't begin with planting in the spring and ending with the last faded flower, but continues through the winter with the care needed for dahlia roots and potted hibiscus. This labor brings forth a spectacular display of many flowers.

7700 York Avenue South - EDINBOROUGH PARK: This park is the City of Edina's newest addition to its Park and Recreation Department, and has been in operation almost four months. This one-acre-under-glass park is one segment of a larger development which includes homes for first-time buyers, luxury rental apartments for the elderly, and commercial office space. The recreational facilities include a swimming pool, running track, ice skating rink, children's play area, fully equipped amphitheater, and a huge multi-purpose area that can accommodate hundreds of people. and a variety of activities. We saw several family groups picnicking. Interspersed throughout the park area are nearly ten thousand plants, shrubs, trees (some 40 feet high). No matter what one's age or interest, this unique park has something to please.

LAKE HARRIET ROSE GARDEN: Lake Harriet Rose Garden and the newly completed adjacent rock garden were very attractive and well maintained. A large variety of roses was in bloom; but a half hour spent cutting off gone-by blooms would have been beneficial. As one entered the garden, one's eyes were taken by two large beds of red cannas. The long side beds were replete with an endless variety of bloom.

220 Cutacross Road, Golden Valley - DAVE JOHNSON: Andy Marlow's report of Dave's garden in the August SPRAY describes this beautiful garden in much more descriptive language than this substitute report is capable of doing. I can only agree wholeheartedly with all that was said. I noticed some of the more plebian aspects of the garden--a large table with onions neatly laid out to dry, tomato stakes 9-10 feet tall with tomato foliage almost reaching the tops, buttercup squash ready to be picked before long. On the large circular patio were tables of cookies and bars that disappeared quickly along with the lemonade that was served. This last stop was the end of a most successful tour on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

We are not entirely set up for the 1988 convention. If your garden, or one you know of, is worth visiting tell Dr. Olson. The same holds true for other tours. Above all, schedule your time so you will be able to help July 3, 4, 5, 6 1988. Tell Bill Hull now so he can refer your name to the proper committee.



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

Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

There's a lot of activity in the Garden Club these days:

The Convention Committee is busy reviewing plans and getting out the most recent "final schedules". There is enough "seed money" for advertising and marketing the convention and the Registration Fund coffers have enough to pay for 50% of each member's convention registration. Lloyd Bachman's group has a slate of top notch speakers for the seminars. A list of over 20 members' gardens which "must" be on the tour has been generated. (Most of these individuals have already been contacted and have agreed to be "toured" - if you haven't been contacted and would like to have your garden visited, please call me and I'll arrange it. The confirming letters will be out shortly.)

The Fragrance Garden Improvement Group (FIGS) is continuing its work. The rotted timbers have been replaced and huge amounts of brush and volunteer trees have been cleared away. The tree stumps haven't been removed yet, but they've been marked with red paint by the Park Board, i.e. tagged for removal. Bob Churilla suggested we paint large numbers of roots and scrub brush with red paint and see what happened. The Lily of the Valley has been transplanted, those dreadful Tiger Lilies removed, and the lilacs neatly trimmed. The next project will be digging in the compost for the new planting areas, installing the Techny Arborvitae by the fence, transplanting and dividing the Hostas, and putting in the Fragrant Lilies Julius Wadekamper is donating.

One of the spin-offs from the work on the Fragrance Garden was locating a good source of Stella d'Oro dwarf day lilies. (These are the ones that bloom from June to September.) The group arranging for them got some for themselves at the same time. Several old-timers told me that members used to pool resources to get access to good plant material cheaply - maybe it's an idea worth reviving.

Charlie Proctor and Joe Stenger have been hard at work finding a place for us to hold our meetings. We will be meeting at the Pershing Field Community Center (across the street from our usual meeting place at Lake Harriet Methodist Church) in October and November. At our last meeting there was an overwhelming consensus to return to the church when the flood damage is repaired - about Christmas time. Our caterer, Agnes Ostland, was very pleased with the reception she was given on her return after a lengthy illness. She says she will work out some decent meals at the community center for at least two more meetings.

Dale Durst and Russ Smith are going to be representing the MGCM at the Arboretum Fall Festival. They hope to advertise our upcoming convention, give out gardening advice par excellence and even sign up a member or two.

As you can see, the Garden Club is really "going to town" this month - and we will next month, too. If you want to take part in the action, just give me a call and I'll put you onto something you'll like.

**Every Member Sponsors A New Member
Every Member Sponsors A New Member**

Julius Wadekamper Talks about Lilies at September MGCM Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

Julius Wadekamper is one of the premiere hybridizers and growers of lilies in the United States. He's been a member of MGCM for a number of years and shared his knowledge of hardy perennials with members at the September meeting. He's been running Borbeleta Gardens now for 16 years and relatively recently moved the whole operation from the Elk River area to Faribault.

His talk and slide presentation focused on four different perennials: Asiatic lilies, day lilies, Siberian iris and narcissus. He shared with us assessments and descriptions of many varieties of each of these as he went through the slides. There was just too much information to re-cap in the single page I have available for this report. Those members who were not there for his presentation would do well to order the Borbeleta Gardens catalog and see for yourself what some of the varieties look like. Write to Julius at his address in your MGCM directory for a catalog.

Lilies are obviously his first love. He told us they are very easy to grow if you remember two important things 1) provide good drainage, and 2) move them to a new place every few years as they are heavy feeders and use up most of the trace elements in the soil. Fall is the time to buy and plant Asiatic lilies. Many varieties are available from specialized growers such as Julius and from your local garden center. Garden centers often sell lilies in the spring, too, but they have been held in cold storage all winter and will never do as well. They are also very hardy, growing as far as 90 miles north of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Plant them 5-6" deep and about 8" apart.

The problems of lilies are few. Sometimes they do get leaf spot, but fungicides control it quite well. Just about any critter that dines in your garden will enjoy a lily bulb or two. Julius says blood meal will keep the rabbits away, at least. Finally, some are susceptible to virus infection. The tell-tale symptom is a series of irregular yellow lines in the leaves when you hold them up to the light. There is no cure; throw the bulbs away and don't plant lilies in the same spot for several years.

Lilies are heavily in demand as cut flowers. They bring about \$1 per stem wholesale and the demand is growing. Julius suggested that a gardener with some extra space and time to make sales at the Farmer's Market could count on some nice extra income. Especially needed for the Twin Cities market are late blooming varieties.

Also an excellent cut flower, and the most rapidly expanding perennial in America today is the Siberian iris. It is clump-type iris with foliage that stays nice well into the fall. It looks good in the landscape and as specimen flowers. Iris borers are about the only pest that affects them. They also like good drainage. They are planted so the top of the bulbous part of the root is just at the top of the soil. You'll have to wait until next year to try them out, though, as August 15 to September 15 is the optimum planting time.

Colors are currently limited to the blues, purples, lilacs, pinks and white, but Butter and Sugar is a variety with non-fading yellow falls and represents a breakthrough into another part of the color spectrum. A 1987 introduction, Silver Illusion, is a breathtaking shell pink and one of the most beautiful Siberians yet. Borbeleta Gardens listed it in their catalog for \$100 and sold out. Most Siberians are in the \$2-10 range, with new and rare varieties usually fetching \$25-30.

October is the time for planting narcissus and other spring flowering bulbs. Julius says that if you buy at a garden center, you will get the old standards. They will do well, but new varieties are available directly from American growers and by catalog from Holland. He suggests giving King Alfred a rest and trying something a little different.

AS I REFLECTED

Today as I reflected on the experience at the Fragrance Garden I felt I needed to express my thanks for a super year. THINGS REALLY HAPPENED! I appreciate your time and attention. I also enjoyed getting to know more of you personally and of your desire to make the Fragrance Garden a place to be proud of.

I came to know that Al Miller and Vinton Bouslough are steady workers dedicated to making things happen. Then there's Kent Petterson who drew a map so future gardeners would know the location of perennials and other permanent plants, Herb Neby who worked as well as donated perennials, and Joe Stenger who planted the new daylilies donated by Bob Olson. Hal McIntyre dug out the old bushes and chopped and carried brush. Rick Bonlender's re-setting of the edging added just the right touch.

Of course it all happened because Bob Churilla arrived at 7:30 to head off the rain and to set new timbers on the south side of the garden and because my co-chairman Phil Peterson, at the garden more than anyone else, checks on and coaxes the plants to be gorgeous.

All in all it's been a successful season despite the hot, dry weather in spring and early summer, the flood in July and the loss of a maple tree to wind. However, with the new plantings and timbers and the wood chip trail built by Duane Reynolds, Jerry Shannon and Howard Berg next year will be even more successful.

Thanks to all who helped for all your work in spring planting, on maintenance jobs and at the clean-up in September. The convention visitors next summer will have a place to admire and you can take the credit.

--Duane Johnson, Co-chairman Fragrance Garden Committee

AT THEIR SEPTEMBER MEETING MGCM DIRECTORS

- Authorized the printing of a History of the Fragrance Garden booklet for members of MGCM and to have available for the 1988 MGCA National Convention.
- Authorized the use of funds for the purchase of landscaping ties, buckthorn hedging and daylilies to be installed in the Fragrance Garden: said funds, not to exceed \$600, to come from existing money in the Fragrance Garden account plus supplemental funds coming from an advance by the club, if necessary, from the 1988 National Convention delegate subsidy funds. (Several major tasks scheduled for work groups included hauling and spreading leaf compost, roto-tilling, tree stump removal, planting hedges and replacing the landscape ties. A garden plan will be worked out over the winter. There is a need for donated perennials and help designing flower borders. Kent Petterson is supervising this effort.)
- Discussed lack of participation in Flower and Vegetable Shows and reasons given over the years. Does the participation in the show justify the work of the 15 to 20 people who volunteer to organize it?
- Heard a report that the State Horticulture Society presented awards as follows to MGCM members at the convention in Duluth: Awards of Merit to Chet Groger for his gardening talks at nursing homes and to Phil Peterson for his work at the Fragrance Garden and a Distinguished Service Award to Ted LeBoutier for his excellence in growing roses. The awards issued in 1986 were not presented then because there was no state convention in 1986.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society convention in Duluth was a big success. I am told 500 registered though I doubt that that many attended the dinners. MGCM was well represented. In addition Bob Churilla, Fred Glasoe and Duane Reynolds were on the program.

The average age of those in attendance was some 20 years younger than those at MGCA conventions. They came to participate, to learn. They came armed with paper and pencil and with questions. As invited to do they interrupted speakers with their questions. The speakers utilized the questions to build upon as they continued their discourse.

In addition to the 3 hour bonzai workshop (which cost extra) there were 60 different topics from which to choose. Some were repeated so we had 3 to 12 choices during each of the 10 one hour seminar sessions.

The speakers "knew their stuff", spoke clearly and distinctly, and held our attention. Some had hand-out sheets covering their talks. For the first time in years I heard every talk of each of the nine seminars I attended.

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GARDENING IN MINNETONKA, the Minnetonka MGC's bulletin devoted a full page to the 1988 MGCA convention in Minneapolis. Of special interest were these lines: "There are really two things you should do now: 1. Schedule your time so that you have July 3-6 open for attending the convention. 2. Let Bill Hull, who is overall in charge of the convention, know how you would like to be of help. Phone him at 926-1327."

That's what we call cooperation. Thanks, Stan Crist. We can use the hel

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While we are talking convention this item came from Dwight Stone for the July SPRAY that didn't get out as scheduled.

WHAT KIND ARE YOU?

"There are members and then again there are members. New members have been rather scarce this past six months. With the MGCA convention coming to Minneapolis in 1988 many hands will be needed. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis needs many good gardeners and workers to successfully stage and host a good convention. Have you done your part or are you described in this poem:" The poem which begins, "Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?", was printed in the SPRAY a few months ago.

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Jane P. McKinnon, Extension Horticulturist, gave a marvelously fitting tribute to Dr. Leon Snyder in the September bulletin of the Minnetonka MGC.

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The return of cold weather means increased use of wood-buring stoves. Wood ashes may be used on flower or vegetable gardens. Don't overdo it. There is some nutrition in wood ashes, but it is better to use the ashes to change soil acidity as limestone is used. It takes about twice as much wood ashes as limestone (by weight) to cause the same soil acidity change. Both materials make the soil less acid, but continued use can make the soil too alkaline for good plant growth. If you use wood ashes extensively, it's a good idea to test specifically for soil acidity once a year.

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Aren't we lucky we don't have this problem? "Following the program refreshments are normally served--but no one showed up with them. (How about one of the VP checking on this early in the meeting and if it occurs again--go out and buy a few dozen donuts?)"

--from THE GREENHORN, MGC Mansfield, Ohio

THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE

By Chuck Levine

Frost protection

Although there is nothing you can do to prevent frost, you can protect your tender garden plants. It is good to remember that there is a considerable difference between a light frost, when temperatures go to 28° F, and a heavy frost when they may go much lower.

The night before a light frost is to occur, apply a layer of cloth, polyethylene or newspapers over your plants. This will trap the warm soil air around the plant and prevent the colder air from striking. Plants lightly touched by frost can sometimes be saved by sprinkling them with water before sunlight strikes them.

The gardener would do well to know two dates—the approximate date of the last killing frost in spring and the first killing frost in the fall. Weather bureau records contain and publish this information. It will give you an idea when you can expect killing frosts. It may pay to protect tomatoes, special garden flowers or other tender plants from the first light frost when you know from the records that killing frosts are some weeks away.

- Q. When is the best time to plant bulbs?
 A. Most bulbs are best planted after the first killing frost—about October 4th.
- Q. Are there any special soils for bulbs?
 A. Bulbs prefer a well drained soil containing about 1/3 sand, and 1/3 organic matter such as peat moss.

Storage of Tender Bulbs

The term 'tender bulb' is loosely used to describe plants with fleshy bulb-like root structures which are not winter hardy in our area. In addition to true bulbs this group includes corms (Gladiolus), tubers (Begonias) tuberous roots (Dahlias), and some rhizomes (Achimenes).

When the foliage of most tender plants has been killed by frost, the plants should carefully be lifted from the ground. Tuberous begonias and the Peruvian daffodil (Hymenocallis) are exceptions. These are harvested before being killed by frost. One should dig carefully as any bruises to the "bulb" will result in poor storage and possibly disease. Once the plants have been lifted they should be cleaned of any loose soil and debris. Larger materials can be rinsed gently with a hose and then allowed to dry. Most species should be allowed to cure for about a week. This is easily done by placing the "bulbs" in a well ventilated room away from direct sun.

Before placing the dormant "bulbs" into storage they can be dusted or washed with a fungicide or fungicide-pesticide combination. A 4% malathion to one pint either Captan, Benomyl, Maneb or Zineb combination will help protect the bulbs from storage rots and insects. Just a dusting of fungicide may be all that is needed.

To store the "bulbs", place them in shallow containers and cover them with dry sand, perlite, vermiculite or peat moss. The "bulbs" should not be allowed to freeze during storage and prefer temperatures between 35-45° F. It is a good idea to label your plant materials to avoid confusion come spring. The plants can be written on directly with a felt marker or the storage container may be written on. Be sure to include the cultivar name.

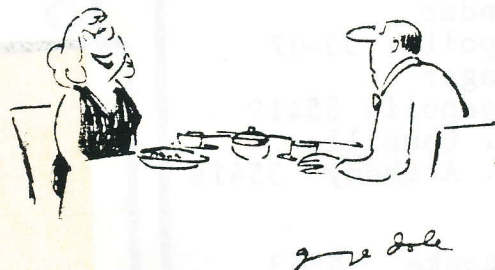
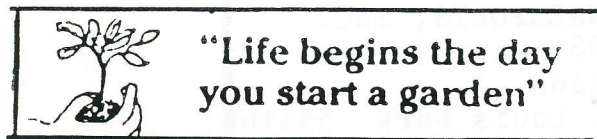
Don't forget about your stored "bulbs" and check them periodically. Any that begin to rot can be discarded and in some cases salvaged. Dahlia tubers can have the rotted part cut out to healthy white tissue and placed back in storage.

Remember that stored bulbs are living things and should not be forgotten.

**MGCA CONVENTIONS AHEAD--PLAN TO WORK ON--ATTEND,
Minneapolis, Minnesota July 3, 4, 5, 6, 1988**



"I grew the vegetables and my wife canned them — 25,000 quarts. All it cost was my marriage."



"That's the total harvest from your garden this year. Congratulations on your first \$100-a-plate dinner."



"Say when!"

The Hardy Little Miniature Roses

Strangely enough, miniature roses planted out of doors will survive the winter in climates that often kill standard hybrid tea roses if they are not very well protected. That is not to say that miniatures do not benefit from winter protection, but, if left to themselves, their chances of survival are still good.

To help them through the winter, a mulch of straw, hay, leaves, evergreen boughs or similar substances will be very satisfactory, but do not mound the plants over with soil as is the common practice with standard roses. A covering of soil seems to smother miniatures and practically assures a loss of the little plants so treated. Also, do not attempt to carry miniatures through the winter out of doors in pots in any but very mild climates unless the pots are submerged in the soil.

Miniatures can be potted and carried through the winter successfully as house plants if a little

care is taken to satisfy their requirements. They should be potted in the fall and allowed to remain outside to go dormant for six to eight weeks before being moved indoors. In the house they require plenty of light, high humidity and care. A sunny window, rather cool room temperature and humidity supplied by placing pots in a low container of pebbles that are partly emersed in water will satisfy their needs. Potted miniatures may also be grown under florescent lights placed six to thirteen inches above the roses.

Sometimes all of the leaves of miniatures potted and brought into the house for winter may turn yellow and drop off. This is due to the radical change of humidity and temperature they encounter in the house. If handled as recommended in the preceding paragraph, they will soon break out with new leaves without serious ill effects.

Prepared by All-America Rose Selections.

The 53 members of the Watchung Hills, N.J. MGC started 10 years ago by George Sweazey from our Minneapolis MGC is a truly active group. In September 1986 it awarded \$200 to Wendy Thomas an honors student at Watchung Hills Regional High School, to help further her education in the natural sciences. It plans to continue this program.

Their bulletin GREEN SPROUTS reports--"The 4th Annual Garden Show is set for April 25. Also in the spring will be the plant sale and the geranium sale. The club will present a four-week course at the Watchung Hills Adult School. In addition, we hope to work on a beautification project at the high school. We need someone to give a lecture on indoor gardening and one on perennial gardening. The lectures are to 8-10 people, and are a real good way for our garden club to reach the public." Since the Watchung Hills men have put on similar programs before there is no doubt about this one being a success.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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