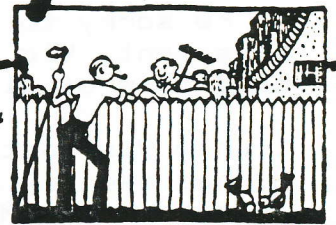




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

February 1990, Volume 48, Number 2



IT'S TIME FOR VALENTINES AND THE

NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 13th, 1990

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH at 49th STREET

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

SEND RESERVATION CARD TO REED SONSTEGARD

HONORARY MEMBER VICTOR LOWRIE DIES (See page 2 for tribute by Bill Hull)



G. Victor Lowrie, 90, a retired advertising executive and publisher, died Friday at Jenkins Methodist Home in Watertown, S.D.

Lowrie, formerly of Minneapolis, was born in Manchester, England. He moved to Galt, Ontario, Canada, and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War I.

He worked for McCann Erickson Inc. advertising agency in Chicago from 1925 to 1941, and was in charge of the Ford Motor Co. and Standard Oil of Indiana accounts. A year later, he was hired as vice president of Leo Burnett Advertising in Minneapolis.

"He was self-motivated and self-educated," said his son, John, publisher of the Watertown Public Opinion newspaper in Watertown, S.D. "I would marvel at him, thinking this might be a field I wanted to get into."

In 1949, Lowrie became publisher of an international medical journal,

"Post Graduate Medicine." He later started his own advertising agency, Lowrie and Associates, before retiring in 1969.

Lowrie's favorite hobby was gardening, and he spent many hours at home on his show gardens. He was president of the Minnesota Horticulture Society, a charter member of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club and a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, which he helped establish.

Lowrie's first wife, Dorothy, died in 1971. His second wife, Muriel, died in 1985. Besides his son, he is survived by a grandson, Steven Lowrie, of Watertown, S.D.; a brother, Lester, of Woodland Hills, Calif., and a sister, Madelyn Kelley, of Falmouth, Mass.

At Lowrie's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Memorials may be directed to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Sunday/December 24/1989/Star Tribune

G. VICTOR LOWRIE - "VIC" TO HIS FRIENDS

We're sorry to hear that our friend, long time member and past president, Vic Lowrie, died Friday night, December 22, after a good life of ninety years. It was a gentle passing.

I knew Vic particularly well. He sponsored me as a member in MGCM. He had been my boss at Postgraduate Medicine for perhaps twenty years, before McGraw-Hill bought us, but he was never a "boss". Vic was a leader. He persuaded and sometimes cajoled, and he was good to work with - and for.

You MGCM members who knew Vic are better people because of it. He was a great gardener; I knew him from the time he lived at 49th and Aldrich S where he had an outstanding rock garden - and roses, to his large house on Glenhurst road, where he gloried in his greenhouse and lovely expanse of flowers. It was here that he and Dode, his lovely wife, gave many a Christmas party featuring Christmas tree decorations unsurpassed. They collected lovely items by category for years until they had enough to decorate an entire tree. Carol and I will never forget their bird tree. Then on to his last house on Ridge road, Edina, famous for his increasing collection of hostas. It was here he lived with his second wife, Muriel, whom he lost a few years ago.

A successful publisher, following years heading a big advertising agency, Vic parlayed a struggling medical journal into a multi-million dollar property. Eventually he took retirement when new owners came along.

Remember Vic for his contributions to our club, where he served in many capacities: as long-time editor of The Garden Spray until he talked me into being the second long-time editor. As an outstanding president and leader of our club, as one of the few men who could make prize-winning arrangements for our shows. Remember him as the man who put the Arboretum into existence by his fund-raising activities. He was the first, the very first, money raiser for that wonderful idea. He presented the case many times and soon persuaded the wealthy of the western suburbs to make generous contributions. I strongly doubt if there would have been an Arboretum today without Vic Lowrie - and other men, like Archie Flack, another of our past presidents.

Aren't we glad that we knew Vic had a ninetieth birthday recently and we could send a many-signature card from our club? Aren't we glad, not smug, that a few of us had a chance to take a bottle of his one-time favorite Scotch to his house on Ridge road, before he left to join son John and family in Watertown, S.D.? Aren't we glad we knew Vic Lowrie? You're darned right we are.

Memorials to the Arboretum in Vic's name. Cards or notes to son John Lowrie and family at 1221 Mayfair Drive, Watertown, SD, 57201.

Bill Hull, Historian

VIEWS FROM THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

MGCM PRESIDENT KENT PETTERSON



VEGETABLES FOREVER

Dates To Remember

Feb. 6 MGCM Board Meeting 7:30 @ K. Petterson

Feb. 7-11 Home & Garden Show @ Metrodome

Feb. 9 MGCM work day at Home & Garden Show
Contact Bob Churilla for details

Feb. 10 Specialty Gardens Lecture Series
MSHS 624-7752, Eden Prairie

Feb. 13 MGCM Meeting @ LHUMC

Feb. 24 Specialty Gardens Lecture Series
MSHS 624-7752, St. Paul

June 16-19 MGCA Convention in Des Moines

Those of you who were able to attend the January meeting noticed an added feature to the meeting. The Hospitality Committee has been strengthened by additional people so that we can have two people at each meeting available as "Greeters". We hope to say as a club that, yes, we're happy you came to the meeting. If you are a member or a guest, (i.e. possible member) we want you to feel welcome. Our "Greeters" from the Hospitality Committee are here to help.

As indicated in the January Spray, we will be working hard this year to promote new membership. We have slowly lost membership over the last three years largely through death or illness. MGCM membership is now at 102 paid members in the new roster. A minimum of 100 members are required in order to maintain a seat on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

Our representative to the MSHS Board for the last two years has been Walt Gustafson. Walt has resigned effective in January. We wish to thank Walt for his work with MSHS and recognize him as our Member of the Month for February. Thanks, Walt. At the January meeting of our Board Bob Churilla who has been active for years at MSHS was designated as our new representative. Please contact Bob if you have any issues or projects of common concern to our club and MSHS.

As a part of our membership promotion, we have developed a new information sheet to be given to guests or interested gardeners. This guest sheet will be available at each meeting. If you bring a guest, please be sure the membership chairman is given their name and address so we can maintain contact. We want to be sure that person knows we as a club are interested in them. Also, you might want to keep a couple of these sheets handy for prospective guests. It gives them nearly everything needed to attend a meeting. Bring a friend or neighbor to the next meeting. Your personal recommendation is still our best tool to attract new members.

Our deepest sympathy to all family and friends of Vic Lowrie. Vic was a long time member of MGCM and a past President. A memorial donation on behalf of MGCM will be sent to the Landscape Arboretum.

Good Gardening to You,

Handwritten signature of Kent Petterson.

REMEMBER 25 NEW MEMBERS FOR 1990

INVITE A FRIEND

MGCM BOARD ACTION JANUARY

- Appointed Bob Churilla for a 3 year term as our Minn. Hort. Society representative.
- Accepted Thomas D. Bisch and Michael L. Schwartz as new MGCM members. (They are in our 1990 Directory.)
- Approved a \$40 memorial donation to the arboretum for honorary MGCM member Vic Lowrie.
- Noted that locked and unlocked cabinet space for MGCM use was now available in our meeting room at Lake Harriet church.

PERMANENT RESERVATION LIST FOR 1990: The following members signed up in January. Charles Benson, Howard Berg, Bob Churilla, Ed. Culbert, Burton Deane, Fred Glasoe, Walt Gustafson, Bill Hull, Duane Johnson, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, John Moon, Phil Peterson, Kent Petterson, Charles Proctor, Merle Pulley, Bob Redmond, Greg Smith, Matt Smith, Russ Smith, Reed Sonstegard, Joe Stenger, Dwight Stone, Norm ter Steeg and Frank Vixo. They need not mail in reservation cards but must call in if they can't come.

NOTES: Gerhardt Rothens work phone number is 627-2586. If you catch any other mistakes in the Directory, report them to Ed Culbert for reporting in the SPRAY.

The late arrival of the turkeys for the Christmas party was due to a failure of one of the ovens at Caterers Inc. Eight turkeys were ready on time, eight were not so all were held until 14 could be sent. Caterers Inc. told Dwight Stone there would be no charge for the 14 turkeys we received (and ate); but they hoped we'd give them another chance.

GREEN THUMB AWARDS for perfect attendance were presented by Bill Hull to the following MGCM members:

FOR ONE YEAR

Fred Glasoe Kent Petterson Charlie Proctor

FOR FIVE YEARS

Russ Smith

The all time records for perfect attendance were set by Jack Peterson (11 years) and Evald Johnson (14 years). Both men are deceased.



Proctor

Russ Smith



Glasoe

Petterson

Hancheck Speaks at January MGCM Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

Ann Hancheck, Extension Environmental Horticulturist for the University of Minnesota, introduced MGCM members to the broad range of issues that are being addressed by the Minnesota Extension Service. The Extension Service always was concerned with "subject" programming; how to care for your lawn, or to preserve fruits and vegetables, or to improve the energy efficiency of your house. Of late, they have switched their focus to "issue" programming; looking at such things as yard waste, agricultural chemicals, sustainable agriculture and the like.

Hancheck divides her time between the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Department of Horticultural Science on the University's St. Paul campus. Her particular interest is herbaceous perennials, but in her job she deals with the whole range of horticulture, except commercial vegetable and flower cultivation. She is, in essence, the successor to the recently retired Jane McKinnon. Ann is an avid gardener with a B. A. in botany from Northern Michigan, an M. A. in plant ecology from the University of North Carolina and her Ph. D. in horticulture from Michigan State. Part of her job also involves the Master Gardener Program. She will take on many of the duties carried out until recently by Mike Zins, who will spend more time on another key Extension Service issue, the urban forest.

YARD WASTE

The first issued Hancheck spoke about was particularly timely. Beginning January 1, 1990, Twin Cities municipalities are no longer allowed to dump yard wastes in landfills. Leaves, grass clipping, dead plant material, etc, make up about 20% of all solid waste, much of which has ended up in landfills. She pointed out that, although yard waste readily decomposes, modern landfills are actually built to keep out air and water that encourage decomposition of the waste. Municipal governments and individuals will be encouraged to compost yard waste, saving precious landfill space for other materials and creating a valuable product we can all use. Hancheck predicted that, as a market develops, commercial haulers will begin composting for profit!

Composting is very easy to do on a small, or even fairly large scale, in your yard. It requires few materials and only a little work. And it yields organic material that will enrich the soil and improve drainage (if Your soil holds too much water) or improve water retention (if your soil doesn't hold water well enough). The Extension Service has a one-page bulletin that tells you everything you need to know about composting and mulching with yard waste. It is AGFO 3396 and is available from your county agent for free.

Reducing yard waste is another way to help deal with this problem. Lower fertilization rates on lawns not only means buying less fertilizer, it means fewer mowings, less need for water, and fewer grass clippings. She was adamant that

grass clippings should not be bagged, but left on the lawn to decompose. They'll add nitrogen back to that lawn and latest research shows that clippings do not contribute to thatch.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Hanchek says she sees a high level of "chemical phobia" in our society at the moment. The big alar controversy of last summer is a case in point. Alar, according to Hanchek, is far less toxic than many other naturally occurring chemicals we ingest every day. She said we'll all be hearing a lot more about LD-50. That's scientific jargon for the amount of any substance that you have to feed to a population in order to kill half of them. Alar's LD-50 is very high, but the media blitz convinced many it is unsafe. Alar not only improves the color of apples, but also allows them ripen at the same time and helps them store for longer periods. These are all pluses to the consumer, according to Hanchek.

At the same time, the Extension Service realizes that consumers are now looking for "natural" products, and that chemicals and fertilizers do contribute to both surface and ground water pollution. They are promoting something they call Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which Hanchek calls just common sense. Mulching, growing disease resistant varieties, open pruning for better air circulation, etc., are part of this approach.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This is an approach that combines IPM with cultivation methods that conserve soil and water. No till or low till farming is one approach. Hanchek would like to develop a low input, sustainable garden to demonstrate these techniques on a household scale.

PLANT TALK

During the question and answer session following her talk, Ann was asked about her favorite herbaceous perennials. Below is the list she gave:

Sunny locations

1. Hemerocallis (daylily)
2. Iris Siberica
3. Rudbekia, Coneflower and Heliopsis
4. Achillea - yellow yarrow
5. Sedum (particularly Autumn Joy)

Shady locations

1. Hosta (She likes the older, large ones)
2. Old Fashioned Bleeding Heart
3. Hardy Forget-Me-Not
4. Astilbe
5. Ferns - a large variety

Hanchek also talked about a new blueberry from the Arboretum's fruit breeding program. The variety "St. Cloud" should be available from local nurseries this spring. It bears small, sweet fruits in large clusters. It is hardy from the Twin Cities southward (ironically, that means it's not hardy in St. Cloud) and stands 3-4' tall at maturity.

ED CULBERT: A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS

Did you mail in the questionnaire received with your January MGCA Newsletter? If you didn't DO IT NOW. This is your chance to express yourself. Let's not repeat what happened when Fred Glasoe was president and disaffiliation from the national was contemplated. No one was willing to vote.

A change in name is in the offing. This was a foregone conclusion when national directors in 1988 faced with the threat of a sex discrimination lawsuit voted to ignore the purpose for which MGCA was founded by Leo Nack and go coed. (No membership vote is called for by the rules.)

The change in eligibility for membership did raise another question not raised in the questionnaire. Should MGCA just become a part of some other group with (somewhat) similar purposes? What about "services and benefits"? Far too few of these aside from mailings, record keeping, etc. filter down to the rank and file member.

I much question the value of the various officers handbooks. MGCM former officers I questioned had made little use of them or hadn't even seen them. The secretary's handbook did me no good. As for the editor's manual--worthless! Any half-wit (count me in) should know his job is to try to satisfy his group within the money available be it by postcard or larger bulletin. Promoting the national organization may not be important.

National "programs", however good they may be, have started as promotions or practices of one or more clubs. Sometimes we should seriously question them. For instance: the MGCA scholarship program. A number of local units adopt high schools or give scholarships or scholarship money to area residents to attend area colleges. This MGCA should encourage. But, MGCA scholarships at large? Are we seeking prestige for the pittance the national can afford?

One bone of contention over the years because of its cost has been the national magazine. Richard Poffenbaugh a regular contributor to the Gardener, and editor of the Mansfield Ohio MGC bulletin says, "A magazine of this type requires some professional expertise and without it, the publication goes downhill. It's the only regular benefit a member gets from the national organization and therefore it makes only sense that the powers to be put some effort into upgrading this publication and enabling it to function as was originally intended!"

The problem is that an 8000 member organization can't afford a slick paper magazine and doesn't want to pay for it. Every time dues are raised we lose members and clubs. It takes until the next raise in dues to get back to the 8000 then the cycle starts over again. A monthly issue of the MGCA Newsletter would serve the membership better in keeping in touch. (less lead time) To adequately cover the nation north to south, coast to coast is an impossible task. Let's let the individual clubs seek garden publications geared to their areas. Locally we can turn to the Minnesota Horticulturist, a superior publication.

I put a lot of thoughts/opinions on the questionnaire I returned. Did you? It takes more than a simple "Yes" or "No" to stir the powers that be from complacency or into action.

The watermelon was cultivated thousands of years ago along the Nile River. Sweet potatoes were first found in the West Indies and later in western South America.

AT THE JANUARY MGCM MEETING

Russ Smith inducted the new board.



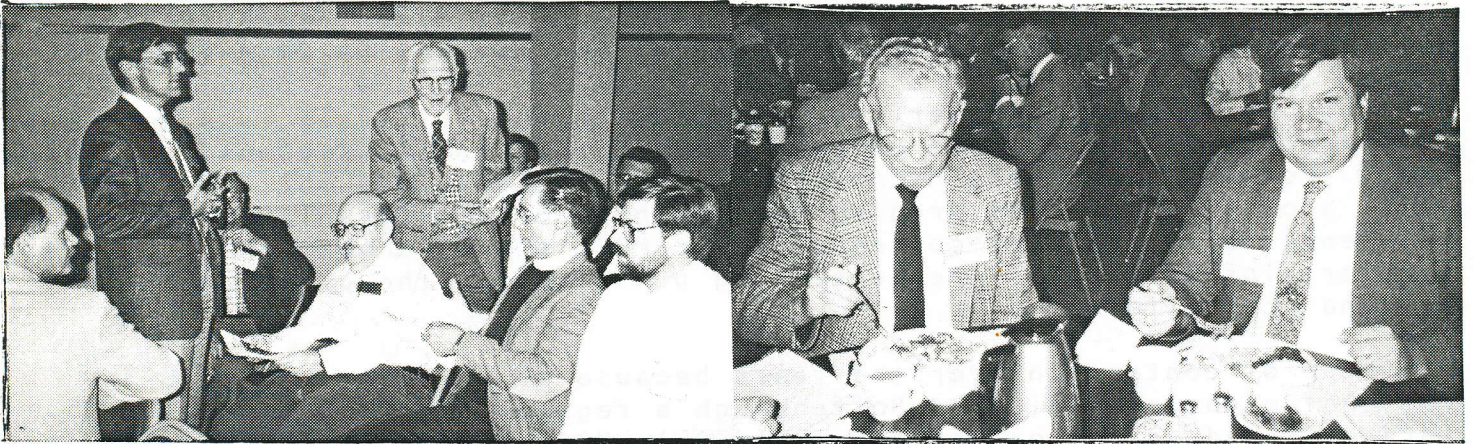
Ann Hanchek spoke.



Facing: From left to right--Petterson, Pulley, Sonstegard, Stenger, Anderson, Benson, Greg Smith

Topic: New Issues in Horticulture

Duane Reynolds introduced 3 guests. Walt Gustafson and Greg Smith ate.



Andy Marlow came.

Mary Maynard came.

Merle Pulley came.

