



# The Garden Spray

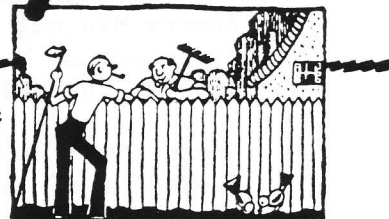
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

July 1991

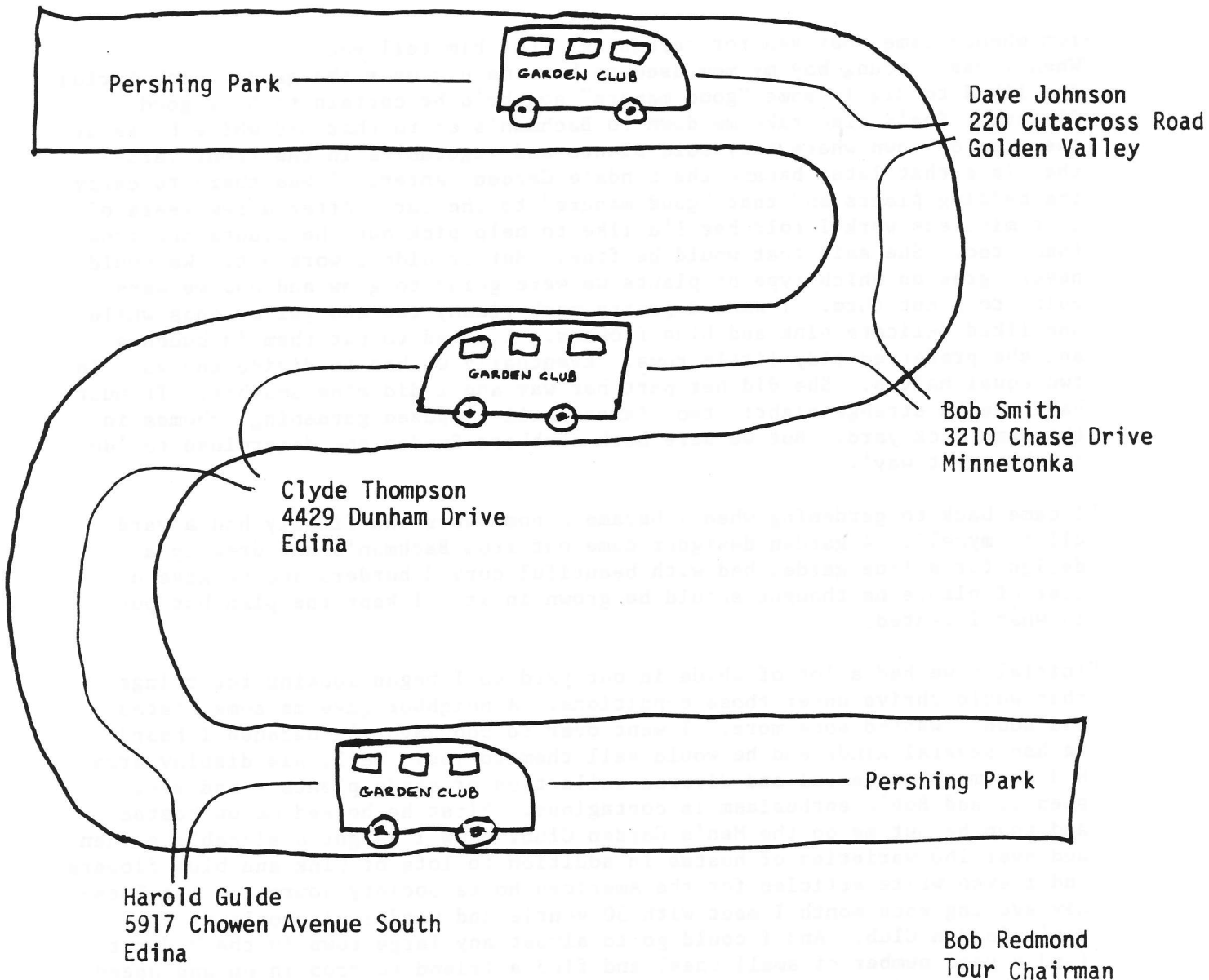
Volume 49

Number 7



GARDEN TOUR      TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1991

Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. at the Pershing Park Building, 4329 West 48th Street. (Chowen Avenue and 48th Street.) Cost will be \$8.50, including dinner and bus. Pay at the door. We must have reservations for all persons to order dinner and transportation. No permanent reservations apply. Return the postcard to Eldon Hugelen prior to July 6.

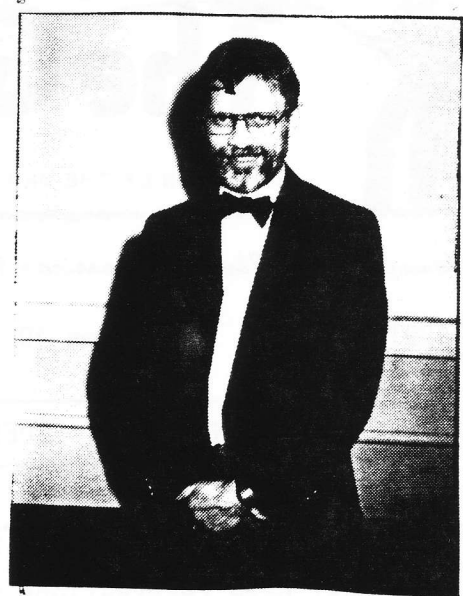


MGCM PRESIDENTS: ROBERT C. OLSON, 1987

He wears a lot of hats: Professionally he is Chief of Gastroenterology and Chairman of Continuing Medical Education at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center as well as Assistant Professor of Medicine on the full time faculty at the University of Minnesota.

Another hat he wears is that of Vice-President of the American Hosta Society which last year gave him the Harshbarger Landscape Design Award for best use of Hostas in a National Convention Tour Garden.

Then there's the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis which he has served as President, as chairman of the Tour Committee and of the Photography Committee and has supplied pictures for the SPRAY. Moreover, he is always eager and anxious to talk to members about gardening--especially about hostas.



Bob Olson

From whence came that yen for gardening? Let him tell you:

"When I was a young boy my mom used to have me dig over the garden each Spring. She liked to dig in some "good manure" so she'd be certain to have good flowers. She's also take me down to Bachman's or to that old while house at the edge of town where they sold plants and vegetables in the front yard--the place that later became the Lyndale Garden Center. I was there to carry the bedding plants and that "good manure" to the car. After a few years of that mindless work I told her I'd like to help pick out the plants and tend them, too. She said that would be fine. But it didn't work out. We could never agree on which type of plants we were going to grow and how we were going to plant them. I wanted pretty much flashy red and yellow ones while she liked delicate pink and blue flowers. I liked to put them in bunches and she preferred tidy little rows. Eventually we had to divide the yard in two equal halves. She did her part her way and I did mine another. It must have been a strange sight: two diametrically opposed gardening schemes in the same back yard. But we were both stubborn Swedes and determined to 'do it the right way'.

"I came back to gardening when I became a homeowner and finally had a yard all to myself. A garden designer came out from Bachman's and drew up a design for a fine garden bed with beautiful curved borders and he gave a list of plants he thought should be grown in it. I kept the plan but put in what I wanted.

"Initially we had a lot of shade in our yard so I began looking for things that would thrive under those conditions. A neighbor gave me some hostas and soon I wanted some more. I went over to Bob Savory's because I heard he had several kinds and he would sell them to you. Well, his display area had the most wonderful and diverse collection of shade plants I had ever seen... and Bob's enthusiasm is contagious. First he hooked me on hostas and then he put me on the Men's Garden Club. Now I've got a sizeable garden and over 160 varieties of hostas in addition to lots of pink and blue flowers and I even write articles for the American Hosta Society Journal. One Tuesday evening each month I meet with 50 gentle and wonderful people at the Men's Garden Club. And I could go to almost any large town in the Midwest (and a good number of small ones) and find a friend to drop in on and spend an afternoon visiting and gossiping about my passion and my hobby--gardening."



## Grow With Us

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has held a Flower and Vegetable Show almost every year since the club began in 1942. Originally just a flower show was held and years later the show was expanded to include vegetables.

This years show, to be held at Riverplace on August 10 and 11, promises to be a very good show for MGCM. It may also be the last. Kent Petterson has come forward to pull this years show together. Along with help from members Duane Reynolds, Terry Robertson, Charlie Proctor, Phil Peterson and Mel Anderson, the show ought to be a success.

Why is the future of the Flower and Vegetable Show in jeopardy? There are two main reasons: lack of a leader to chair the committee and declining membership participation. Despite several requests from the podium and in this column, no member has willingly come forth to volunteer to chair the Flower and Vegetable Show. In order for any event or project to succeed in a volunteer organization there has to be a "mission minded megalomaniac" to spearhead and guide the efforts. Secondly, there has been a serious decline in the number of members who enter their flowers and vegetables for showing. When only a dozen or so members (sometmes fewer) participate in the show for several years, it is time to reassess the worthiness of the event. Would we continue the plant auction, tours, or the Christmas Party if only nine to fifteen members showed up year after year?

Kent Petterson has initiated some excellent ideas for this years show that could turn things around. A beautiful location, tied in with a tour, cash prizes, free parking for exhibitors, a payment from a "sponsor" (could this be a money maker?) and gift MGCM memberships should help put some sizzle into this show. A successful show can benefit recruitment and build pride, plus be an educational and fun experience.

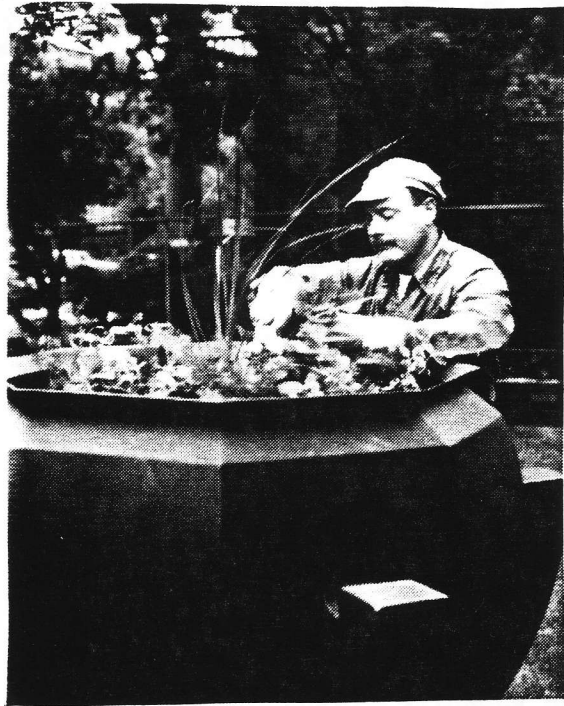
Now its up to you to participate. Caress those tomatoes and pamper those zinnias. Enter the Flower and Vegetable Show.

Cordially,

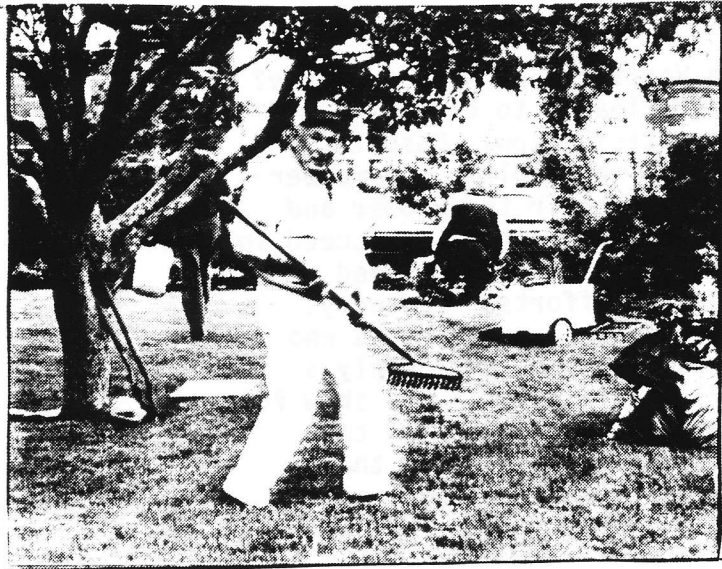
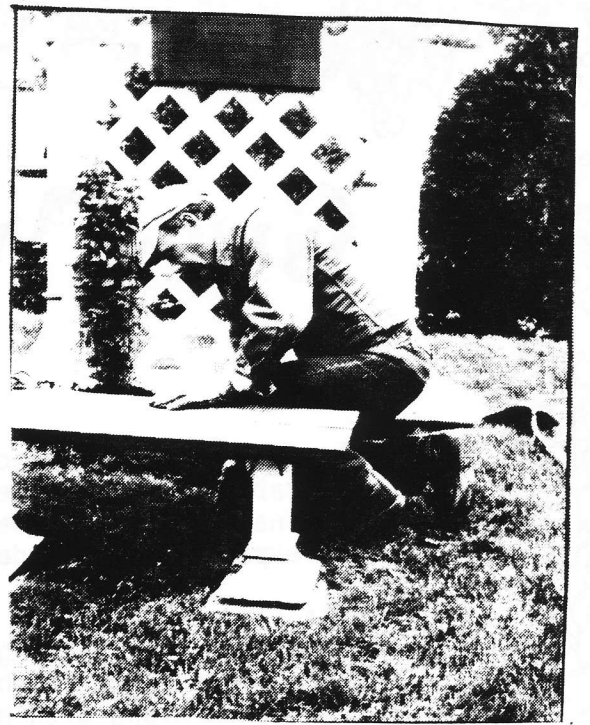


M. Thomas Pulley, President





FRAGRANCE GARDEN  
PLANTING 1991  
AS SEEN BY  
LLOYD WITTSTOCK







## MGCM GARDEN TOURS WAY BACK WHEN

August 22, 1942 This tour started Saturday afternoon at 2 P.M. at the Mall and consisted of a caravan tour of the beautiful homes of the Borgens', the Tillotsons', the Dickinsons' and the Winstons' around Lake Minnetonka and culminated at Upsher Smith's farm near Wayzata where a delicious picnic supper was served. On this day our charter was closed with 57 active and 3 commercial members enrolled.

August 14, 1943 Starting with Tom Hughes and his magic barrel we visited the George Filbert's, Walter Menzel's, John Thill's, the Bishop-Flack garden at Mirror Lake, Manley Callender's and John Hansen's and finally arrived at Upsher Smith's Foxglove Farm at 6:30. One amusing sidelight of this trip was the fact that the member selected as the Pilot Guide for the tour succeeded in completely losing the rest of the cavalcade shortly after the take-off. Basket lunches taken by the wives of the members were augmented with coffee and dessert furnished by Herb (Kahlert) and his committee at a net loss of 66¢ as recorded in the minutes.

July 15, 1947 (This tour) began with a picnic supper put on by Jack Cohen and his family in his beautiful yard. Rene Dufourd as "Chef de Chef" was outstanding, in his ability to slice ham so thin it was transparent....(then the group) proceeded to the rose gardens....(Following which) the club for the first time had a chance to view a master vegetable raiser in action when we met with Bill Swain in his garden. Even Bill's small sons had personal gardens to show us which they did with all the vim and vigor of the old man. Bill's trust of his neighbors was well illustrated by his pet strawberry bed right out on the street boulevard. His real pride and joy, however, was his herb plot from whence cometh the delectable salad oils he sponsors.

August 8, 1950 Our second tour of the season began on Howard Bishop's lawn with a smorgasbord special dinner supplied by a caterer. The Bishop yard was as always very beautiful and filled with many interesting specimens. Especially intriguing was the Bishop-Flack experimental nursery we had heard so much about. Leaving Bishop's we visited Ray Bechtel's with his bright display of sunny bloom, and then on to Joe Witmer's where we saw what an expert can do with too much shade. His tuberous begonias and other shade lovers were the envy of everybody who saw them. Our next stop was at Cortis Rice's where we saw the results of a master gardener's use of both annuals and perennials to paint a picture hard to equal...we stopped next to view Heschmeyer's lovely little yard and then concluded the tour with a look at Flack's new garden in the dusk of evening. His yard was ablaze with over 2000 annual blooms made very effective by the use of artificial lights.

July 8, 1952 Following an enjoyable dinner in P. W. Young's yard some 50 members and guests proceeded to inspect his garden. The chairman, Ed. Culbert, came up with a new idea on this tour. Each member as his garden is visited was asked to present his most serious problems and the experts on hand were instructed to produce the proper remedy, if any, for the edification of (those) present. As P. W. had no serious problem to present he described his method of revamping one fourth of his border each season so that every four years his entire garden was entirely revamped.

After leaving the Young garden we visited several of our newer members' gardens... where a number of growing problems were offered and to some extent solved by the experts on the tour. The Garden Clinic idea proved popular on this tour but it was evident that considerable more time in each garden would have to be allowed to properly cover the problems offered.

Source: History of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

## HERBS FOR CULINARY USE

When you read about the MGCM garden tour of July 15, 1947, you may have wondered what herbs Bill Swain grew. Here is the list Bill gave Ed Culbert.

Garden-grown herbs are really a lovely addition to your garden - flower or vegetable. Remember some are annuals, some biennials, and some perennials. Here are a few to consider:

Basil - Use leaves in soups, stews, omelets, salads, meats, sauces.

Chives - Use leaves in omelets, salads, soups, sauces, dips.

Coriander - Use seeds in pastries, sauces, pickles, liqueurs.

Dill - Use sprigs of seed head in pickles, sauces, meats, salads, bread, vinegar.

Oregano - Use leaves in soups, roasts, stews, salads, sauces.

Parsley - Use leaves in garnishes, sauces, salads.

Peppermint - Use leaves in soups, sauces, tea, jelly; Use sprigs in tea, sauces, summer drinks.

Rosemary - Use leaves and sprigs in meats, sauces, soups; Use dried leaves in sachets to hang in closets with garments.

Sage - Use leaves in meats, teas, fish, dressing, stews.

Spearmint - Use leaves in summer drinks, tea, mint sauce.

Sweet Marjoram - Use leaves in salads, soups, dressings.

Thyme - Use leaves in soups, salads, dressings, omelets, gravy, bread, vegetables.

## AT THE MAY MGCM BOARD MEETING

- Fred Glasoe pointed out that our club name is not an accurate description of our membership. He pointed out that many potential members are turned-off by being tied to Minneapolis. He mentioned that the national organization may become, Gardeners of America, Inc. He suggested a possibility could be, Metropolitan Garden Club of Minnesota. This name would retain the initials MGCM.
- Ted Olson reported that the Picture Directory is nearly completed. He has 89 member pictures of the present 112 club members. He plans to complete the picture taking at the May and June meetings. During the summer he will assemble them into an alphabetized format, four pictures per page with name, address, and telephone number. The board approved black and white printing of 150 copies.
- Chet Groger brought two issues to the board's attention. The one is how our meal service began. The club met at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. The Circle to which Agnes Oslund belonged took on the project of feeding the Garden Club. When the church needed the space for its own activities the club moved temporarily to the Richfield American Legion Post. When Sherman Pinkham found a regular spot for us at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, Agnes undertook to handle our meal service on her own. In the future, if the club's present arrangement should change, that there is again food service at Mount Olivet.

Chet also informed the board that he has been continuing MGCA slide programs which were started originally by member Sherm Pinkham. There are 5 programs about 30 minutes long, which are well received by nursing homes and other groups. In presenting these programs, mention is made of our club and the fragrance garden. Donations are given to the club treasurer. Most board members except the treasurer were not aware of these programs. It was suggested that the general membership be informed and that other members be integrated into the program to ensure it's continuance.

THE AUGUST ISSUE of the SPRAY will be edited by Andy Marlow. If you have material to be in that issue get it to Andy by the 15th of July. Ed Culbert will be out of town when the SPRAY should go out.

HEMEROCALLIS ANYONE?

Have you daylilies to spare--especially nuisance ones? Larry Corbett needs a lot of daylilies to fight erosion of the banks around his place in the country. Fast growing, spreading types would be doubly acceptable. If you can help, call Larry at 925-5789.

CLUB HISTORY CITED BY BILL HULL

Researching statistics concerning our club's fiftieth anniversary in October 1992 answered someone's question. Our club was chartered on October 1, 1942 by the Men's Garden Clubs of America. The charter was signed by Fred F. Rockwell, MGCA president, a prominent horticulturalist and garden writer. October 1 came on Thursday in 1942--probably just a routine date when Rockwell signed our charter.

Someone also asked how many years we held our meetings at Mt. Olivet Lutheran church. That took a lot more research. It was from January 1955 through December 1980--a total of 26 full years. So, for slightly over half our history, we met at the one location.

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Water cools the plant the way sweating cools you. As water evaporates from the leaf it takes heat energy with it. Leaf temperature drops, maintaining a temperature favorable for food manufacture. Water is the major constituent of plants making up 75-90% of the weight.

Return to

THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.

Edwin C. Culbert, Editor

5315 Portland Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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**FIRST CLASS**