



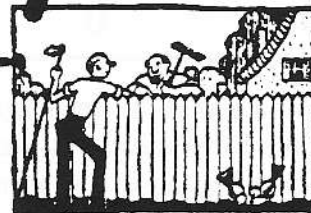
The Garden Spray



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

October 1992, Volume 50, Number 10



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER

WHERE:

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
50th Street and James Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

WHEN:

October 6, 1992

TIME:

6:00 -6:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:30 p.m. Dinner

COST:

\$12.50 per person



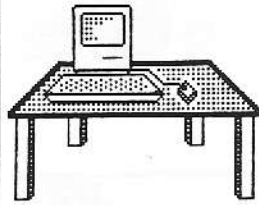
Tear off and send the reservation form below (along with your check for the appropriate amount) to: Mel Anderson, Treasurer, 5701 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Please make your reservation by October 1.

Please reserve _____ dinners @ \$12.50 each for the MGCM 50th Anniversary

Celebration Dinner for: _____
(member name)

Names of Guests:



The Editor's Desk
Andy Marlow

In one of the newspaper articles generated by the 50th Anniversary Garden Tours, Charlie Proctor was quoted as saying, "Gardeners are a hell of a lot nicer than most people." A noble sentiment with which most of us can agree! Now Charlie can share this thought with everyone he meets while wearing the t-shirt emblazoned with his words and presented to him at the September dinner meeting. In fact, I might like one of those t-shirts, too, since I cannot lay claim to any famous words of my own. How about some Charlie Proctor t-shirts as a fundraising effort for next year's scholarship? It's an idea, anyway.

If you haven't reserved a place for you and yours at the 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet, do it now. Jim Tracy, President of The Gardeners of America, Inc./Men's Garden Clubs of America, will be there (and give a very short talk, according to Bill Hull). And, you'll be entertained by the stupendous talents of Kevin's Belles, a sprightly group of senior women who originally put together their group at St. Kevin's Church. They are a riot and you shouldn't miss them and all the big doings to celebrate half a century of MGCM.

Don't forget to order your TGOA/MGCA calendars. Our own Russ Smith has a photo included in the 1993 edition (a rudbeckia from his garden) and it is certain to become a collector's item. Reserve yours now by calling Howard Berg.

Finally, you'll see a new column on page 6.. Chuck Carlson approached me earlier with the idea of a "garden tips" column, but he was the only one who was willing to contribute. He'll feature ztips of his own, as well as ones gleaned from other sources.

Coming Attractions

October 6 – 6:00 p.m.
50th Anniversary Banquet
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

October 10 – 10:00 a.m.
MSHS Fall Gardeners' Fair
Center for Northern Gardening
1755 Prior Avenue North, St. Paul

October 24 – 8:00 a.m.
Fragrance Garden Cleanup

November 3 – 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Greg Smith's House

November 10 – 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet Church

November 24 – 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Lee Gilligan's House

November 27 – Time to be announced
Wreath Making
Klier's Garden Center

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Mary Maynard,
Robert C. Olson, Terry Robertson



The Freedom Garden

Gregory P. Smith
President, MGCM



Fifty years of MGCM history will be celebrated at the October Dinner Meeting at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church on Tuesday, October 6, 1992. The first 50 years have been filled with many accomplishments and successes which will guide us into the next 50 years as a garden club. No one knows exactly what the club will be like in the year 2042, however, I bet we will still be sharing our garden knowledge and participating in the social welfare of our community as we strive to make this world a better place to live.

Calendar sales are going strong this year, according to Calendar Committee Chair Howard Berg. The \$3.00 price is very reasonable for a holiday gift or a premium for a business client. This year Russell Smith, MGCM Past President,

North Star Region Director for TGOA/MGCA, Master Gardener and my dad, is featured for the month of September. So, if you want to help the club financially, or maybe save some money on holiday gifts, order some extra calendars today. Time is running out, so place your order with Howard Berg today!

The summer of 1992 is over and we are on the down side of outdoor gardening. Now, however, is the time to prepare for next year by attending a garden club meeting. We still have three dates left in 1992 for you to attend a meeting and bring a friend. We have a "great club," and the way to make a good thing better is to share it with others. See you at the 50th Anniversary Banquet!

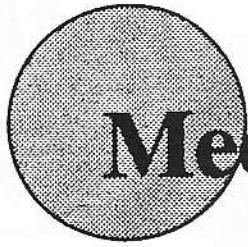
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	JOE WITMER



In Memorium

MGCM member Bill Kanduth of Crystal passed away rather unexpectedly this summer. Bill had been a member since 1989. He will be missed by us all.



MGCM Meeting Report

by Mary Maynard

September 1992

Master Gardeners Everywhere!!!

Once again, we were reminded of the wealth of knowledge and expertise that we have in MGCM. September's program consisted of a panel of Master Gardeners who are also MGCM members. Master Gardeners have volunteered to help the Agricultural Extension Service by answering questions, teaching in schools and helping with horticultural problems.

The Master Gardeners on the panel were Archie Caple, Stan Crist, Lee Gilligan, Duane Johnson, Kent Petterson, Duane Reynolds and Russ Smith. Here's a brief selection of the questions they fielded:

What can be done about maple decline? Unfortunately, we don't know the cause of maple decline, and there isn't much to be done about it. We are also seeing a lot of aphids on maples this year, causing early leaf drop — but it's hard to say whether the aphids are taking advantage of a tree already weakened by decline or not.

I have some Heavenly Blue morning glories that are blooming well, but the leaves are small, and they're turning yellow below. The yellowness appears to be working its way up the plant. I fertilize with Miracle Gro, and the plants are in sandy soil. Any ideas? This year's cool weather might be a problem. Or maybe a fungus disease starting from the soil. Or maybe there's a shortage of manganese or iron in the soil. Or maybe the roots aren't getting enough nutrients from the sandy soil. Or

maybe there's been too much water, and the roots aren't getting enough air. Or maybe . . .

What's causing my dahlias to turn yellow on the bottom? Probably a fungus that thrives in the cool weather we've been having.

I just bought some dwarf evergreens that have a first year graft. How soon should I take the tape off the graft? It isn't necessary to ever take the tape off. It can be left on forever.

What about ash yellows? It's a disease affecting green ash trees, moving here from the east. Primary symptoms are early defoliation, multiple sprouts on the trunk, witch's brooms on the top of the tree, all of which are signs that the tree is struggling to survive. The cause or treatment is not known.

I've noticed that some locust trees had lost their leaves earlier, and now have new light green leaves at the tips now. What's causing this? Well, it doesn't sound like nectary(?) canker, which often affects locust trees at 15-20 years of age. (Three out of four locust trees in Stan's yard died in one year.) Main symptom of nectary canker is a mushy, decayed, indented area right where a branch meets the trunk. Recommended treatment is to cut away the diseased part, and treat with chlorine bleach, which *might* save the tree. Speculation is that the disease enters through a crack or other injury to the tree.

Why haven't my calla lilies done very well this year? While some people have had pretty good luck with calla's this year, it's not surprising to hear that some are struggling. Calla's are a more tropical plant, and tend to thrive in warmer weather than we've had this

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September Meeting Report

(continued from page 4)

year. Coleus, tomatoes, too, are struggling this year because they're not getting the heat they like. It's been a goofy year.

Part of my clump of asiatic lilies is browning out. It could be simply that the plant is mature, and the whole clump will come back fine next year. Lilies should be transplanted about every three years or so. Otherwise a gradual decline in height and bloom size will ensue.

I have a small yard shaded by three large elm trees. The lawn is very bumpy. What can I do? The problem is probably earthworms and night crawlers, and a power rake will remove thatch and level out mounds. (\$12.50 hour rental, according to Lee.) It's a temporary solution, but it works. Some people have noticed more bumps since they've been leaving their clippings on the lawn: more material for the worms to work with.

What can I do about deer in my garden? They've been eating my Honeycrisp apples, tomatoes, hostas, even hot peppers! A 12' high chain-link fence with an electric fence on the top works pretty well, although it may not fit into every landscape plan. Spraying the area with a mixture of two raw eggs (beaten) and a tablespoon of Safer Soap (or Murphy's Oil Soap) in a gallon of water seems to do the trick, too. There are also some plants that deer don't like: potentilla, viburnum, for example.

We have a full sun patio that we'd like to put a hedge around, keeping it trimmed at about 18-24". We've heard that boxwood isn't hardy here. Any suggestions? Take a look at "Hedge World" (hedge display at the Arboretum). Korean boxwood is hardy, and can be kept well-managed, manicured. Alpine

currant defoliates often, and should not be planted near white pines. Dwarf Korean lilac is another option. And a yew hedge works for Lloyd Bachman. The hedge gets morning sun and afternoon shade.

I had some iris die back this spring, with no sign of borers. What could this be? It could be "iris scorch", cause or cure unknown. The only thing to do is to dig out the affected plant and throw it away, and don't replant iris in the same area.

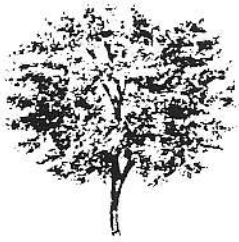
What should be done if I suspect I have iris borers? Use Cygon (systemic insecticide) in May, either a foliar spray or soil drench. When transplanting, dip rhizomes in fungicide. Plant in an area with good drainage.

My asparagus patch died out after many years. I moved it to another area and replanted, and it died again shortly thereafter. The area is sunny, the soil is quite sandy, and I incorporate a lot of leaves into the soil. Any ideas? It may be that you need more fertilizer, since the uncomposted leaves are using nitrogen out of the soil to decompose. Or it's possible that the patch could be "picked to death". Try cutting back on the asparagus season, letting more stalks go to seed earlier. It's probably best to get the soil tested. There might be some particular pest, or some particular nutrient deficiency that can be identified by a soil test.

When is the best time to transplant rhubarb? Rhubarb is pretty hard to kill. It can be transplanted in either the spring or the fall.

We're thinking of transplanting a clump birch tree ("White Spire"). When is the best time to do this? Either after the leaves are off this fall, or next spring. Paper birches are

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Chucks' Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

When Andy Marlow gave the o.k. for this column, the first thing I thought was that a regular item needs a title. After a few false starts, I settled on "Chuck's Chestnuts..." The dictionary says a chestnut is a familiar story that is often repeated. I thought this would fit what I have in mind. I will share things I have read or heard, and would be happy to accept ideas, stories, and so on, from you readers.

Did you know that Minnesota has another plant on the endangered species list? It is the "Sedum integrifolium leedyi," commonly known as Leedy's roseroot. It's a cliff dweller found in four known locations in southeastern Minnesota (and two locations in New York). It is estimated that there are 4,000 to 12,000 plants in Olmsted and Fillmore counties. Its habitat is very limited, since it clings to limestone cliffs where cold ground water seeps through cracks. The other Minnesota plants previously on the endangered list are the dwarf trout lily, the prairie bush clover and the western fringed prairie orchid. (Thanks to an article in the Star Tribune.)

It is tulip planting time and I saw a suggestion in an article you might try. The article said tulips look prettier when they are planted in a circular clump with the leaves on the outside of the circle and the blossoms in the middle. This sounded a bit far fetched, but the trick is to plant the bulbs in a small circle with the flat side of the bulb toward the outside of the circle. Someone please try this and let me know next spring if it works. A reminder; tulips can be planted right up until the ground freezes and should be 8" deep. Be careful when you fill in the dirt so as not to move the bulbs you have positioned with the flat side of the bulb to the outside.

Fragrance Garden Report

by Chuck Carlson, Chair, Fragrance
Garden Committee

The garden grows on. September brought mum blossoms and, with other things still blooming, the garden continues to look good. The cool weather has allowed many flowers to bloom longer than normal. On the other hand, tropical plants such as impatiens and coleus are smaller than normal.

I have been waiting for the "Toad Lily" to bloom and I was rewarded for my wait the first week in September. It was not overly impressive, but very interesting. In some respects, it gives the impression of the blossom of a small orchid.

We still have our nighttime resident and some, including one of the neighbors, have wondered if something could be done about the situation. To date no ill effects to the garden have resulted. In fact, one morning we had a garden club tour coming to the garden. The resident was sleeping on one of the benches when Chet Groger and I arrived to ready the garden for the tour. Chet thought the ladies would be more at ease if he wasn't there, so Chet got his attention and told him some ladies would be coming and asked him to leave. His first comment was "I like dollies," but he gathered his belongings and left. It is a sad when someone has to live like this, but I guess the garden does provide a place for a summer stay.

We may be getting some press in a book being written about community gardens. I sent some information on our garden to Sharon Lappin Lumsden in Illinois. Keep the name in mind and let us know if you see the book in print.

REMINDER: Fall clean up is October 24 at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Good gardening to you and yours!

September Meeting Report

(continued from page 5)

subject to leaf miners and the bronze birch borer, the latter of which has caused a lot of problems with paper birches. If the birch tree is in full sun, it's really important to keep the root zone cool, probably with a mulch. The borer doesn't seem to attack the tree unless the tree is stressed.

The Arboretum recommends river birches instead (more resistant to borers). The Arboretum's display is showing signs of chlorosis from the slate rocks around the planting. For the same reason, birches should not be planted too close to the concrete blocks of a house foundation.

I have a red maple (rubrum) that was planted two years ago. Even though I kept it wrapped over the winter, the outer bark is peeling away, showing damage on the west side. It's showing signs of healing around the injury. What could this be? Sounds like sunscald, which can sometimes happen even when the trunk is wrapped with brown wrap. The tree should be ok, since it's healing around the injury. Maples are subject to sunscald for a long time — until the bark starts getting shaggy. An alternative to brown tree wrap might be to nail two boards at an angle lengthwise and tape on to the sunny side of the tree. The Arboretum is using white spiral wrap these days.

I have some white mums that come back every year, but colored ones seem less hardy. What should I do to make sure mums come back? Mums are generally only marginally hardy in Minnesota, and need to be mulched over the winter. The best mulch is either straw, hay or loosely-bagged leaves. Mums developed by the University of Minnesota (the Minn series [MinnGopher, MinnWhite, MinnAutumn, etc.],

Grapeglow, Lemonsota, Burnt Copper and many, many more) will bloom earlier than some others we might get through catalogs, etc. Mums developed for warmer climates might not be ready to bloom until into November, which is suboptimal for us. Mums that winter over will bloom earlier than those planted out in the spring. There is a white mum called "Baby Tears" that is very hardy and winters over easily.

How do you get rid of quack grass in junipers or perennial beds? A comparatively new product called "Over the Top," "Grass-B-Gone" or "Vantage" works extremely well. Selectively kills any grasses. Vantage has very few restrictions or cautions.

Iowa State is coming out with something that will selectively take quack grass out of lawns. Should make a lot of money for Iowa State!

Well, that's the tip of the iceberg of the Master Gardeners' immense knowledge. (I personally am glad we didn't learn any more, because I was getting writers cramp trying to keep notes!)

If you're interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please contact your Extension Agency. To become a Master Gardener, individuals must go through some pretty thorough training and provide fifty hours of volunteer service during the first year, and 35 hours in subsequent years. There is a rigorous application process and a significant time commitment, but the opportunity to serve the horticultural community is no doubt its own reward.

Fifty Years of Community Service

by Bill Hull, MGCM Historian and
Chair, 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee

While we are observing MGCM's Golden Anniversary at our Banquet this October 6, let us also remember our roots.

Our club exists because it was legally chartered to be known as "The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis" on October 1, 1942, by the Men's Garden Clubs of America. The charter was signed by MGCA President Fred F. Rockwell, a prominent horticulturist and garden writer. October 1 was a Thursday in 1942 - probably just a routine date that Rockwell signed our charter.

The application for charter and club formation was the result of two meetings of Minneapolis men; the first on May 18, 1942 at the Oak Room of the Minneapolis Athletic Club and the second on July 13 at the Lake Harriet rose garden near Dupont Avenue South. Among the 20 initial members were many men whom Ed Culbert and I can remember (I fewer than Ed). Of particular note are Herb Kahlert, who later became president of MGCA, and George Luxton, noted local garden writer.

The Club prospered, became active in civic services and contributed much to the community. Each of us can be proud of what has been accomplished - everything from planting a large number of crabapple trees near the rose garden, to replacing them year later after a destructive tornado, to building and maintaining a garden for the benefit of blind people. MGCM supplied the initial idea and impetus to start the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, spearheaded the initial financing of it and saw it safely turned over to the University of Minnesota. We have provided two national presidents for MGCA, a recipient of the coveted Gold Award in Horticulture from MGCA (Dr. Leon Snyder) and a



50th Anniversary Feature

recipient of MGCA's Silver Medal for Outstanding Continuing Service (Bill Hull). MGCA also honored Bill Hull by establishing a Bill Hull Award, given to a different recipient annually. We have also been the host for three conventions of MGCA, the most recent in 1988, which set many new standards to which other clubs can aspire.

We can be proud of our service to the community by running children's school gardening classes for many years and by supplying the community with a list of speakers, provided at no cost to hundreds of smaller local garden clubs. We can be proud of our association with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, to which we have given our loyalty and interest in many ways; just one of which is providing many Society presidents from our club (including President-elect Duane Reynolds). This is not surprising since the MSHS reserves a board membership for clubs having 100 or more members. For many years we have had an active representative on that board.

Most of all our club has assisted many people in becoming better gardeners, both teaching them and learning from them as they join us. It has truly been a two-way street.

And now we have adapted to changing times by welcoming women into our club. The wisdom of this action is already evident in the quality of the women who have accepted our invitation to membership.

Some of us older members (in years of membership) remember how difficult it was to join. In the early years, our gardens had to pass muster by a visitation committee. Without a passing garden, one showing genuine interest in horticulture, one simply did not make it into this

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50 Years of Service

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group, limited for years to just 75 members. Professional horticulturists had separate memberships and could not hold office in the club. Yet without these professionals - florists, nurserymen, growers, seedsmen and city employees - we would not be what we are today. Today MGCM is much more inclusive and egalitarian - and we are the better for it.

Happy anniversary everyone!

Duane Reynolds President-elect of MSHS

MGCM member Duane Reynolds is the President-elect of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. He will succeed Janice Fredrickson of Austin as Society President when her term expires.

Duane is the current President of MSHS District 5 and has served on the Executive Committee of the MSHS Board of Directors for two years. Duane is an instructor with the MSHS Judging and Exhibiting Committee. He is also active in the Minnesota Gladiolus Society, North Star Lily Society, and Minnesota Dahlia Society. Duane is employed by Mercy-Unity Hospital, where he is director of the Chemical Dependency and Allied Mental Health Program for Health One.

Duane follows several other recent MSHS Presidents who are members of MGCM, including Fred Glasoe and Jerry Shannon.

MSHS Fall Gardeners' Fair

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society will hold a Fall Gardeners' Fair at its future home, the Center for Northern Gardening, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 10. The Center is located at 1755 Prior Avenue North in St. Paul, just north of Larpentour Avenue.

The Fair will feature demonstrations on such subjects as fall bulb planting, forcing bulbs for indoor bloom, winter care of summer-flowering bulbs, fall rose care, winter protection for the garden and fall houseplant care.

There will also be items for sale, including hardy bulbs, perennials for fall planting, wild-flower and prairie grass seeds, MSHS and Minnesota Green books and merchandise, and nature crafts.

The Fair is free and open to everyone. Call 624-7752 for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

After the 50th Anniversary Dinner, MGCM's next social event is our annual Holiday Party, which will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at the Lake Harriet Methodist Church. Mark your calendars, plan for your guests!

A formal notice and written reservation will appear in the November Spray.

The Holiday Dinner Committee

Where Does That \$15.00 Go?

(Editor's Note: In the next few weeks, MGCM members will be billed for 1993 dues, including \$15 for membership in The Gardeners of America, Inc./Men's Garden Clubs of America. The following was written by Al Banner for the Horti-bull, the newsletter of the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio, Texas)

It must be like the universal plague. Seems everyone is asking, "What do I get for my \$15 a year dues to Men's Garden Clubs of America?" While some things are not so readily apparent, I would like to suggest a few points that I think are relevant—so elementary that they are often overlooked or taken for granted. But first we

must understand that the Gardeners of America, Inc./Men's Garden Clubs of America is a membership participation organization. You can't sit on your hands and wait to be entertained. You have to become involved



to enjoy the benefits and privileges of membership to the fullest. After you are involved, then ask again, "What do I get by belonging to TGOA, Inc./MGCA?" Some positive benefits and membership privileges are:

a. The prestige of belonging to a powerful voice that can be raised for conservation and environmental measures, via a national government forum.

b. Nationwide projects such as Youth Gardening and Gardening from the Heart programs. Horticultural therapy for youth or

adults who are disadvantaged. Help upcoming citizens learn the values of gardening. Excellent dividends for Clubs and Advisors. Sponsor "Youth Gardens," "Big Sunflower Contests," et al.

c. National Awards, Opportunity for nationwide recognition for outstanding service to horticulture at all levels. Who can put a dollar value on how Joe Doaks of Podunk Garden Club in Outback States feels when he is named the Best Volunteer in teaching our kids to garden and love our beautiful environment and how he helps it along?

d. Scholarships, TGOA, Inc./MGCA offers annual scholarships to advance excellence in horticulture. Each club can sponsor qualified, deserving candidates. Some of your club members' kids are deserving.

e. Regional meetings, discussion of business, workshops, local problem seminars, practices, solution, and development. Get to know your neighbors in gardening and how they do it. Great fellowship and friendships develop.

f. Annual national gardening convention. Discuss business, problems, new developments in plants, gardening and ecology, plus tours of outstanding gardens at different places in our great big beautiful country. Always a well rounded program of workshops, seminars, tours and informative lectures by recognized people in the horticultural field. The most rewarding benefit will be the fraternity which establishes lifelong friendships with gardeners from all over the country—they're just like us—put their pants on one leg at a time.

g. Photo slide contests, both regional and nationwide. Enter your slides and gain regional and national recognition. Winning slides be-

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\$15.00

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come our national calendar art, magazine covers and parts of programs available to all affiliated clubs on request. As near as our TGOA, Inc./MGCA home office in Johnston, IA, a phone call away.

h. The *Gardener* magazine and the *Newsletter*. Much improved of late, these "house organs" bring news about your friends in horticulture. Read them and see what's there for you and about you. And you're encouraged to submit articles from your club.

i. Judging. TGOA, Inc./MGCA offers a judging school manual for schools to train new judges and to standardize the criteria for conduct of all flower and vegetable shows. Certified judges, all graduates of our judging schools, supply the highest standards of judging according to the national judging manual. Everyone competes on the same field using the same standards.

j. Exchange programs. Exchange seeds and plants with fellow gardeners from all over the country.

k. Environmental issues. Research and promote ways for gardeners to contribute to safeguarding and improving our environment through eco-gardening. This may involve water conservation, soil improvement through ecology-safe materials, recycling decomposable gardening and household wastes, preservation of endangered plants, the use of natural control of weeds and pests, and providing wildlife refuges through the use of plants.

l. New home gardener course. Newly developed and in test in one region, this is a program of study to develop the home gardener to become more proficient and knowledgeable.

m. Membership. This is a non-profit

New Members:

- Judy Brink
- 8641 Mattson Brook Lane
- Minneapolis, MN 55444
- home phone - 566-2192
- Warren Nordley (Spouse: Beverly)
- 14001 Frontier Lane
- Burnsville, MN 55337
- home phone - 432-0466
- work phone - 375-3452

New Addresses:

- Phil Peterson
- 7900 Timber Lake Drive
- Eden Prairie, MN 55347
- home phone - 949-3433
- R. Keith Monjak
- 6140 Pleasant Avenue
- Excelsior, MN 55331-8940
- Stan Crist
- 12600 Marion Lane West, Apartment #420E
- Minnetonka, MN 55305

membership organization, enrolling individuals, business firms and organizations as members. It is a member participation organization. You need to become involved to enjoy the benefits and privileges. Every member should be placed on some committee or work project. Your annual dues are used to make these features available. Demand and use all these features to get your money's worth. Participate—it's yours. But you gotta ask! And your regional and national officers are there to see that you get it, in full.

You Would Have Liked...

JOE WITMER



50th Anniversary Feature

by Bill Hull, MGCM Historian

Joe served as president of our club in 1955, which is a long time ago, but his influence remains with many of us today. In those days, it took longer to become president. He had been a member since 1946, having been sponsored by Ed Montgomery. Joe died in 1966.

Joe liked hemerocallis and other shade loving plants, which he grew skillfully at 255 Oakwood Road in Hopkins. He also grew vegetables and annuals in his limited sunny areas. He was one of our first members to also be a member of the Royal Horticulture Society of England and belonged to 28 different civic, community and service groups.

He was a well informed, experienced gardener. Ed Culbert remembers how well he talked at table discussions of our club, and how much he knew about gardening. Ed also points out that when the great garden writer George Luxton died, the Minneapolis paper turned to Joe Witmer to continue George's column.

Joe was also responsible for getting MGCM into Mount Olivet Lutheran Church for meals and meetings, where we stayed for many years. An executive at Dayton's (I believe he was advertising manager), Joe was a capable leader, a good gardener and, as I say so often...you would have liked him.

Return to:

The Garden Spray of MGCM, Inc.

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Hopkins, MN 55343-6744

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