

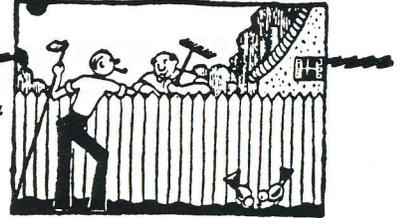


The Garden Spray

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

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

January 1988, Volume 46, Number 1



GET THAT RESERVATION CARD BACK AT ONCE. You wouldn't want to miss out when we celebrate our return to LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 49th and Chowen South, for our MGCM meetings would you? With the kitchen back in shape Agnes will be waiting to serve us at the 1987 price, \$6.00. So, see you 6 PM TUESDAY JANUARY 12th. Why wait? SEND YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TODAY.

Speaker RICK BONLENDER, Food Program Manager of the Self Reliance Center, will discuss
THE HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

Rick will trace the history of community gardening from its European roots to seven periods in our nations growth when community gardening helped to stem social and economic stress. He will conclude with a look at how community gardening is currently used as a strategy to improve urban life.

Some of us can remember the community gardens of World War I. (And the rice bread we ate because the wheat was shipped to Europe.) More of us will remember the community gardens and rationing of World War II. (And how we traded food stamps we didn't want for those we did want.) What a topic for table conversation that night! Do you suppose Rick will touch on it? Come and see.



Carlson 1971 Photo Nelson

VETERAN GARDENING FRIENDS DIE SAME DAY

Verner Carlson and Otto Nelson were both members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for many, many years (since 1964 and 1961 respectively). Both were veterans of U.S. Wars. Otto of World War I, and Verner of World War II. Both served in combat areas of those wars, Otto in France and Verner in the Philippines.

Both of them were gardeners who made flowers bloom and bloom. Both had restrictions in their gardening. Verner was limited to a small lot for his growing area. Otto was limited to a steep hillside for his. How-

ever, these restrictions did not stop either of them, for over the years they raised beautiful, beautiful flowers.

Verner and Otto were the best of friends. In 1984 on Otto's ninetieth birthday men of our garden club gave him an honorary birthday party which Verner attended. Both Otto and Verner died on the same day (Saturday November 14). Both had Memorial Services in a Lutheran church, and at those services both clergymen officiating were named Nelson.

--Joseph L. Stenger

IN DECEMBER THE MGCM BOARD:

- Approved the 1988 budget proposal.
- Voted that widows of deceased members be invited to attend that years Christmas party as club guests.
- Voted to cancel the July meeting because of the MGCA convention here.
- Accepted Otto Nelson memorial money for purchase of "shrubs and bushes" for planting near the Lake Harriet Rose Garden.

The 1988 MGCM Board will be inducted January 12. A picture and "Profiles" will appear in the February GARDEN SPRAY.

Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis
1987---Budget---1988

A/c No.	Income Account Name	1987	Proposed 1988	Increase + or Decrease -
		Budget	Budget	
601	Dues	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ + 600.00
604	Monthly Meetings	3,700.00	4,400.00	+ 700.00
606	Plant Auction	3,900.00	3,600.00	- 300.00
607	Tours	725.00	500.00	- 225.00
610	Christmas Party	2,000.00	2,000.00	----
630	Calendar Receipts	1,650.00	1,600.00	- 50.00
650	Interest Income	550.00	250.00	- 300.00
690	Gardening Books	25.00	30.00	+ 5.00
691	Gardeners	25.00	----	- 25.00
696	Miscellaneous Income	25.00	50.00	+ 25.00
Totals		\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,930.00	\$ + 430.00

Expenses

701	Dues to MGCA	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ + 600.00
702	Dues to Mn. Horts.	950.00	950.00	----
703	Spray Expense	1,000.00	1,100.00	+ 100.00
704	Monthly Meetings	3,600.00	3,700.00	+ 100.00
706	Plant Auction	2,200.00	2,200.00	----
707	Tours	650.00	375.00	- 275.00
708	Flower & Veg. Show	250.00	200.00	- 50.00
710	Christmas Party	2,200.00	2,300.00	+ 100.00
715	Directory Expense	100.00	110.00	+ 10.00
717	Memorials	25.00	125.00	+ 25.00
718	Remembrances	75.00		
719	Honorariums	50.00	25.00	- 25.00
720	Arbor Day	250.00	250.00	----
721	Awards & Trophies	150.00	125.00	- 25.00
722	Life Membership	100.00	100.00	----
723	1988 Nat'l. Convention	600.00	----	- 600.00
724	Arboretum Project	350.00	350.00	----
725	Minn. Horts. Bldg. Fd.	150.00	150.00	----
726	Mgca. Bldg. Maintenance	100.00	100.00	-----
730	Calendar Costs	1,200.00	1,250.00	+ 50.00
750	Bank Charges	100.00	110.00	+ 10.00
796	Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00	100.00	----
797	Board Desig.Conv. Exp.	200.00	110.00	- 90.00
798	Fragrance Gd. Expense	-----	500.00	+ 500.00
Totals		\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,930.00	\$ + 430.00

This year's party really was different--delightfully so--from the time we arrived at the Augsburg College campus to find Rick Bonlender to confuse us had thrown in several buildings and a hidden central plaza not shown on his map to the time of our departure in a steady rain.

The AUGSBURG STUDENT CENTER proved to be an attractive, homey place--the most attractive spot in which we have ever held our holiday dinner. Who would expect to be served punch--thick punch, mind you--in an art gallery or a group dinner in a softly lighted seemingly secluded corner.

Everyone came dressed in best bib and tucker prepared to have a good time. The spirit of the evening was evident once we stepped within the door. I spotted Vera Snyder giving Ted Olson an effusive hug. When I remonstrated about such unseemly behavior I was treated likewise. Roger Koopmans appeared wearing a dazzling black and white striped necktie. Nimble fingers--mine aren't--pulled the backing off my name tag for me. A student helped hang coats then stood guard over the coatroom all evening.

And the program! We haven't had speakers--talks--since we met years ago in downtown Donaldsons Tea Rooms.--The time when Frank Janes dressed in black cape and wielding an umbrella like "Grandma" disrupted George Luxton's talk. No talks were programmed this year but Dave Moehnke, Bill Hull, Bob Olson and Duane Reynolds when they got to the podium really took off. They regaled us with their tales as they introduced award winners. It was worth the price of admission just to listen to their mellifluous voices as they made their points.

DAVE MOEHNKE, the evenings's M.C. led off with a stern admonition, "Ornaments on the tree are staying there tonight? You will find yours beside your plate at the table." Despite this I caught sight of several of our members standing back of the tree eyeing it up and down when they should have been picking a present from under the tree.

Then he hid behind a Santa Claus mask. He is such a big guy he doesn't need the customary pillow as stuffing. Ere long Santa's face fell, literally not figuratively. Though the mask fell to the floor as the crowd tittered Dave, aplomb unshaken, continued to call off numbers or to introduce speakers.

BILL HULL was ready with an exhortation for the MGCA convention we are hosting July 3-6, 1988. He said no convention succeeds sans help from the wives and appealed for support. His salesmanship skills brought results that very night. As we were leaving I overheard one woman volunteering her services.

When talking up the convention Bill got so carried away that he forgot he was at home not outstate somewhere talking to a bunch of conventioners. In extolling the merits of the convention hotel, the big double beds, the price per room not per person he urged, "Find a partner. Pair up as you wish at the same price." Maybe that explains why the student waitress dropped a dish near our table.



LINCOLN PROPERTY COMPANY was given the Industrial Landscaping Award for the outstanding job it is doing in front of the Lincoln Centre building. There on expensive land many concerns would have used for parking they have chosen to have a miniature arboretum--pin oaks, Norway maples, arborvitae, spirea, yews, tulips. DAVID JENSON accepted the award for the company. As we left Chet Groger distributed sheets with a picture of the building in its setting and with a sketch of the landscaping.

Looking out the window at this cold and barren landscape, on the eve of what may be the season's first snowstorm, it's hard to remember the beauty and color of last summer. Of course, there was the rainstorm which dropped about nine inches of water on the metropolitan area and resulted in the two-foot deep lake in my back yard. And there were the carpenter ants, which made my Dahlia stalks look like swiss cheese. The ants seemed to thrive on all that moisture and they burrowed holes inside the stalks. The first big wind to blow knocked over a half-dozen of the most prized and competitive blooms. Also, there was the virus which infected the Gladiolas. All in all, it was a good year and my hope is that 1988 will be even better.



The planting of a tree . . . shows faith in the future.

Next year will be very special for me, because it will be my first National Convention. As I hope you all know by now, the National Convention will come to Minneapolis the first week of July. We will have national speakers here and at least twenty of our members' gardens will be on tour next year. The highlight of the entire convention should be the Minnesota dinner, complete with the parade of turkeys.

Four years ago I became the Secretary of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club. It was during the Christmas party in 1984 that the previous year's Secretary handed over the notes and booklets and about four or five large cardboard boxes filled with Secretaries' notes going back to the very inception of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club - some forty-six years ago. During that winter I had time to read the Secretaries' minutes and to learn some things about the history of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club. It was interesting to see the names of the members, prominent individuals of the Minneapolis area, gardeners of note. There also were many men like myself, I'm sure, who will never become prominent in our metropolitan area, nor will they become gardeners of note, but they enjoyed gardening and were active members of our Club. From reading the history of our Club, I developed a sense of gratitude for those men who, through their effort and energy, dedication and interest, persisted year in and year out in putting together programs, tours, garden shows, auctions and did those things necessary to keep the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club in good health. They're the ones that maintained the strength of the Club so that in 1983, when I came along, the organization was alive and well.

The coming year gives us the excitement of a National Convention and the excitement of a new growing season, but, more importantly, gives us the challenge of a new year. Knowing that the National Convention would consume a good share of our time and energy, and not wanting to compete with the Convention, the Board has limited the summer activities. There will be no July meeting and only one tour this year, and yet the other activities which maintain the health of our Club still need to go on - the auction, the flower show, monthly meetings, Arbor Day planning, fragrance garden, and the recruitment of new members. During 1988 each of you will be asked to participate. The new members (those who have joined in the last year) will be needed more than ever to assist in the planning and organizing of Club activities. In January each of us will be asked to designate which committees we wish to serve on. Remember that in 1988 your involvement is needed. Happy gardening

Duane Reynolds
President

88 CONV. COM. NEWSFLASHES

12-06-87

SMITH & HULL RETURN FROM ATLANTA BOARD MEETING

Several things done including big push for our convention. Assume Russ covered this in his report to Mpls Nov. meeting.

ROCKFORD CONVENTION FINANCIAL REPORT

I've just received a copy of Rockford's results. Bottom line was an excess of \$591.36 which they split evenly with MGCA.

LEONARD NEEDS HELP DISPLAYING/SELLING MGCA MERCHANDISE

Could be a man and wife job. Seems to be limited to about two hours per day. John wants names soon. How can we find people to help man his booth? Easy work.

YELLOW GARDENER INSERTS WERE DISTRIBUTED AT ATLANTA

Each registrant's folder contained one of these folders which will be in the January GARDENER. Produced by Jerry Shannon, they look great.

PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We noticed that there were a lot of people barely able to walk at the Atlanta meeting, including some coming here in July. Who/what/when shall we provide ways of moving them around?

FREE-NIGHT IDEAS

Walt Gustafson is working on the sheet of free-night ideas. (What people can do on the night of no scheduled activities). When it is ready I'll print up along with other sheets going into the registration acknowledgement envelope.

ACKLAND SETS UP COMPLETE COMPUTER PROGRAM

Yes, Gene showed us recently a whole series of reports he is ready to generate and produce instantly as registration progresses. Several of us acclaimed with joy what he has already prepared. Charlie Proctor, in charge of registrations, and Dave Johnson, convention treasurer, have worked out a fine, detailed system of working with Gene to facilitate rapid, exacting records. Good going.

CANCELLATION DATE SET AT JUNE 20

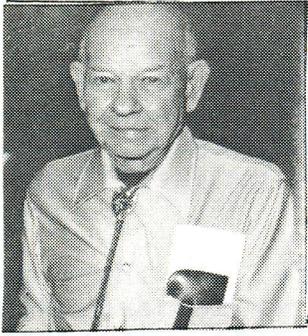
At a recent meeting of the registration committee we felt it necessary to set a cancellation deadline beyond which we could not refund registration money. This date was set at June 20.

KICKOFF AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

Our first convention luncheon is on July 4 and has been identified as the above. I have just written five people who annually present awards at the convention, representing at least five different committees. The purpose was to alert them that we are condensing highly the time allocated for award presentations. This procedure was approved by the Executive Committee of MGCA at the Rockford 1987 convention.

Bill H.

December 6, 1987



1986 Photo

Verner Carlson, an Eveleth Minnesota native, after high school first worked around the mines as did most iron range boys. He left the range to go to Chicago where he held various jobs--chauffeur, hotel elevator operator, etc. After service in World War II he came to Minneapolis where he joined the U. S. Corps of Engineers as a draftsman. His work received many commendations including a request to do a special assignment after retirement. This he declined preferring to devote his time to gardening now his major interest though he did enjoy fishing.

It was during this period that Vern built a greenhouse where he started cucumbers, tomatoes and chrysanthemums his favorites though he grew many other flowers and vegetables. His garden was always innovative. On one club visit I noted moist green sphagnum moss edging the beds. Having seen very little sphagnum in this area I asked where he found it. "Went up to the range and collected it", was his reply. His garden produce brought him prize ribbons year after year.

Verner had open heart surgery some sixteen years ago and again was experiencing difficulties yet in August he literally arose from his sickbed to exhibit at our MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show.

He had a knack for friendliness. He seemed to have no special friends yet he was everybody's friend. He demonstrated it in various ways. For example, when he learned that I, too, was from Eveleth he made it a point after every visit to his sister Alvina Holm in Soudan to seek me out to give me the latest news from the range.

As MGCM Cheer chairman he had a knack for getting around hospital restrictions and arriving with his plant and a cheery greeting. "Yes", laughed his wife, "He always was a brother or an in-law."

--Ed. Culbert

As a recent member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis I cannot address the broad impact that Vern Carlson had on the club but I can personally speak about the quality relationship I had with him over the past three years. Vern was a community gardener in my program when I first met him. He grew blue ribbon potatoes on a patch of land that many others had given up on long ago. He introduced me to MGCM where I soon followed in his example of getting involved in order to meet the members and learn from their experiences.

Vern did more in his small backyard and greenhouse during the short time I knew him than I will ever hope to do in a lifetime of gardening. He was a jovial host to the 3rd graders I brought over while serving as a Master Gardener at Winona School. Vern contributed plants for the Sabathani Center food shelf community garden as well as many of the MGCM plant auctions. He made many significant contributions to me and my garden also. Vern Carlson's friendliness encouraged me to join MGCM even though I was many times his (and most members) junior and light years away from his gardening skills. Each of us can gain from following in the example of Vern Carlson - MGCM club member and friend.

--Rick Bonlender

Most cacti must be allowed to dry completely between waterings.

1894 - OTTO S. NELSON - 1987

My wife, Velma, and I met Otto and Minnie Nelson in 1961, when we moved into our home at 5421 Girard Avenue, South in Minneapolis. At that time Minnie and Otto lived at 5409 Girard. Otto and Minnie immediately welcomed us into their neighborhood. I was impressed at that time by their terraced flower garden; it was so beautiful.

Otto and Minnie moved to 5409 Girard Avenue, South in 1956. At the time it had one dry-wall planter in the back of the house. They decided then and there, that more planters should be built on the hillside. This they did in 1957. When they completed building the planters, they had developed a terraced hillside garden second to none. Over the years, Otto and Minnie raised a countless number of flowers in those planters. When summer was over Otto built an inside greenhouse under the house in their garage. He used it very effectively, and raised all of his bedding plants from seed, which usually amounted to three or four thousand plants a season.

Over the years I took a lot of photographic slides of their beautiful flowers. In September 1976, when our son Donald and Karen were married they held one of their receptions in Otto's hillside flower garden, and it was beautiful. In the sixties, the Minneapolis Tribune did a full page article, with pictures, about the Nelson's garden. After that the visitors came in flocks to see such beauty, and Otto always welcomed them.

Over the years, Otto always did all of his own garden work, until his eyesight started to fail him, and even then he still tried to do it. In May 1987 the Nelsons sold 5409 and moved into an apartment because of health problems.

Otto was a friend, a gentleman, and a master gardener, which very few are.
"We - will - miss - Otto"

--Joseph L. Stenger

1947 - EDDIE McCOY - 1987

Eddie McCoy was born in California where his parents still reside. He died of pneumonia in Mt. Sinai hospital a few days following the deaths of Verner Carlson and Otto Nelson. Services were held in the chapel at Lakewood Cemetery.

Eddie was an active member of the Tropical Plant Society and of the Bromeliad Society. He did volunteer work in the Como Park conservatory because, as he said, "I love flowers". He joined the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis in 1983.

--Donal O'Donnell

SOIL MIX FOR HANGING PLANTS

Home and Garden tells us--Strive to provide an airy, well drained mixture in your hanging pots such as a mix of equal parts dampened garden soil (pasteurized), damp peat, and perlite plus 1 tablespoon of bonemeal per quart of mix. The peat holds moisture. Perlite holds air. For plants that need extra moisture increase the proportion of peat. For those that need to dry out sooner, increase the perlite.

Whatever potting mix you use, keep the medium one inch below the pot rim. This idea pays off in preventing spills from watering.

WHEN DOES THE GARDENING YEAR START?

The gardening season has started--is about to start. Which is it? Does it start when we prune the fruit trees or the grape vines? If it is the former I'm halfway started in February. Then the apple tree and the pear tree are sure to get pruned. That goes back to the days when Lincoln's birthday and Washington's birthday were school holidays and I had an extra day for chores. Mid March finds the Dolgo crabapple still unpruned most years. I'm tempted to leave it that way. If I do, though, the fruit is apt to be pretty small for pickles--any size will do for juice to make jelly.

Maybe the gardening season doesn't start until we start to plant. But where? Indoors or outdoors? If indoors it has been underway a month or even much longer before outdoor planting begins. If outdoors April 1st is a good date depending upon the weather or whether we start with peas or with beans.

When does the garden club season start? To me in September because that's when we hold our first indoor meeting following a summer of tours. But that is the end of the gardening year. We are getting ready to bury our roses, to turn over our garden soil, to wrap up our club's Community Garden for the season.

Perhaps the garden club year starts with the first call for dues on December 1st. But how can that be? Surely the Christmas party marks the end of the year.

Then how about January 1st when membership dues to MGCA are due in Des Moines? O.K. but some of us always lag behind and barely make it with our dues in time to get our names in the February printed roster for the current year.

Oh Heck! I'm getting all mixed up. Why don't we just say our gardening year starts whenever we want it to and our garden club year begins when we first joined the club. That way we'll each have our own permanent date for the latter. Mine's 1945--I don't remember the month. What's yours?
--Ed Culbert

HOW CAN I KEEP SQUIRRELS FROM EATING MY TUTU?

This year I have some very rare seed of purple pod corn, one of the very early pod corns; I first saw it at St. Louis many years ago at an MGCA convention and grew a few ears; I've been down to one ear for a long time and it wouldn't germinate. Now I've obtained some new seeds and want to grow it.

The problem is I have squirrels. Last year I grew some very unusual Mexican blue corn and, while we were gone those two weeks in Alaska, the squirrels stripped every ear, leaving just one small nubbin for seed.

What do you suggest I do to keep the squirrels away? Should I look for a countryside garden plot? I'm sorry to be facetious but this purple pod corn is truly called "Tutu" and I don't want to lose the seed, but do want to grow it myself too.

Bill Hull

Too bad. If your dues aren't paid this is your last SPRAY.

THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE
by Chuck Levine

Plan Ahead January is no time for the gardener to be idle. Although most outdoor gardening activities are at a standstill there is still much to do and plan for. If you haven't already received seed and nursery catalogs now is the time to send for them. Seed catalogs are a valuable tool and a great aid in garden planning and plant selection.

Many catalogs are free or may be obtained for a minimal cost. Order as many catalogs as possible. Some offer company exclusives which may be just what you are looking for. In addition to seed and nursery catalogs, the indoor or specialty gardener will find many catalogs to choose from. Catalogs specializing in orchids, herbs, cacti and nearly any specialty type of gardening are available.

As your seed and nursery catalogs begin to arrive begin selection of next years garden plants. Often, select seeds and plants are available in limited supply. Orders are filled on a first come basis so place your orders early. Try to order something you have never tried or grown before, like some exotic flower, gourmet vegetable or novelty plant such as luffa, ornamental cotton or whatever appeals to you.

Plans for the coming seasons flowers, vegetable gardens and landscapes should be drawn out on paper. Plans should be drawn to scale and include all existing plant materials. Gardeners should consult their records of plants and varieties previously grown. This is one way we can evaluate success or failure with certain plants.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.
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