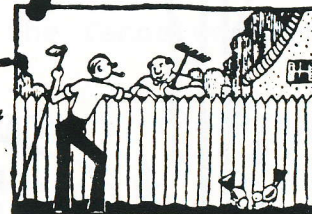




The Garden Spray

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

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



TWO GARDEN TOURS THIS MONTH

FIRST TOUR

July 13, 1982, Regular MGCM Meeting Nite
Pearl Lake Park - 414 East Diamond Lake Road
54th Street - Diamond Lake Road Exit--4 blocks from I-35W
Dinner 6:00 p.m. Price \$7.50 Tour 6:45 p.m.

PROGRAM

Catered Dinner by DeLarias
Bus Tour of Members Gardens
Back to Park about 9:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy an evening of good food, (outdoors in a park - weather permitting), followed by a tour of exotic and manicured gardens of fellow gardeners. See how it is done. Bring a fellow gardener and/or future member. Hope it doesn't rain!

SECOND TOUR

Sunday July 25, 1982

THE EVENT WIVES AND SWEETHEARTS LOOK FORWARD TO
THE MGCM SUNDAY AFTERNOON GARDEN TOUR!

At 1:00 p.m. our bus departs from the Westview Business Center parking lot (620 Mendelssohn Avenue North - East County Road #18 service road - see Map page #2) for a tour of gardens northwest of the city. En route, we will stop at one of the member's gardens for light refreshments. We plan to be back at the parking lot about 5:00 p.m.

Wives, sweethearts, other guests--all are welcome but ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST; so mail the tear-off strip at the bottom of the page together with your check in time to reach Greg Smith by Wednesday, July 21 (or give it to him at the first tour). The total cost of the second tour will be \$5.00 per person.

Mail check and reservation to:

MGMC

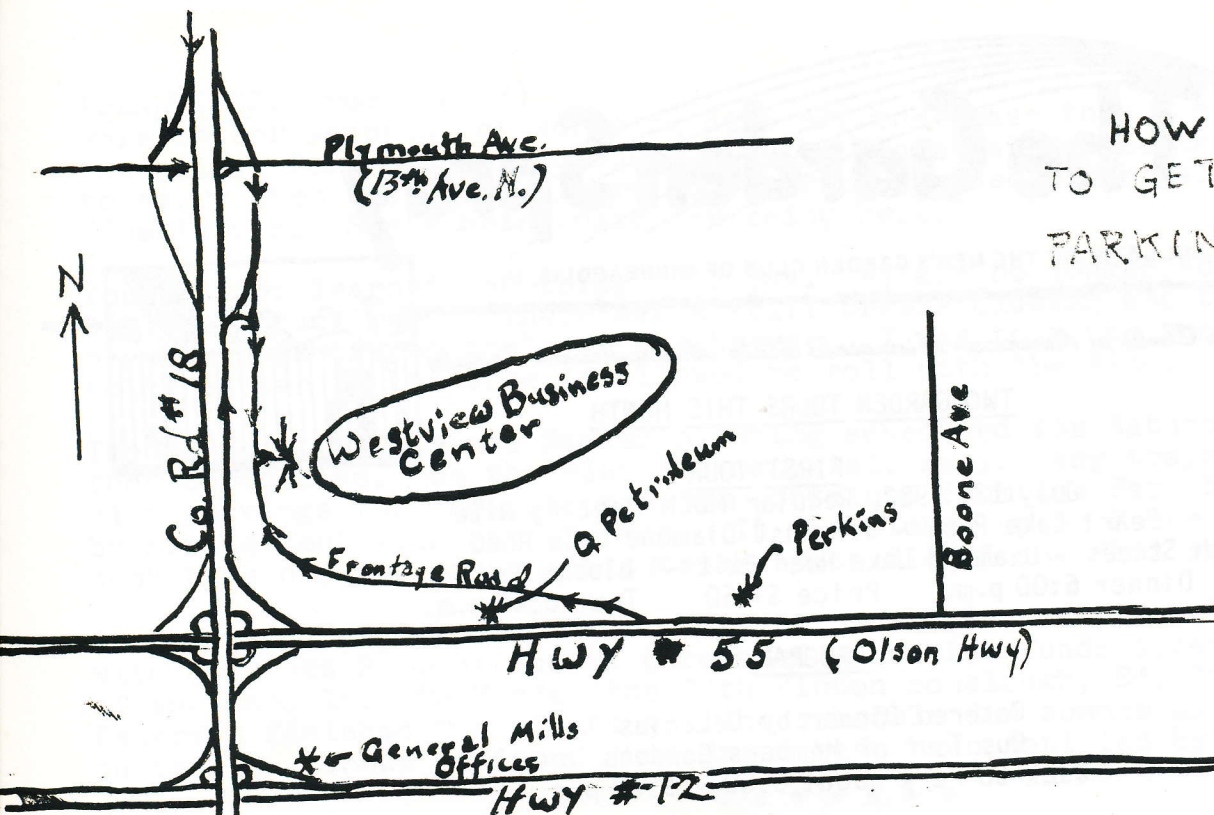
% GREG SMITH
4941 56th Place North
Crystal, Minnesota 55429

DUE WEDNESDAY JULY 21

WITHOUT FAIL

Please reserve me _____ places for the July 25, 1982 garden tour.
Enclosed \$ _____.

Signed



HOW
TO GET TO
PARKING LOT

SPRING PLANT AUCTION by Andy Marlow

Even though it took place during our unusual spring monsoon, the annual MGOM plant sale and auction was well attended. Members were allowed to bring guests, and/or their spouse. Nearly 1/3 of those in the bidding audience were women, so a good many spouses obviously wanted to see what goes on at such an event, as well as pick up a bargain or two.

There were bargains galore, both at the expanded country store and during the auction that followed. Every sort of plant imaginable was available, thanks to the committee members and their co-chairmen, Bob Livingston and Carlton Nelson. A whole flat of Nelson's famous marigolds went on the block and fetched a very nice price. Phil Smith's noteworthy delphiniums also were hotly sought after. A pair of Northern Lights azaleas were a bargain for two lucky bidders and an incredible number of Bob Savory's fine hostas found new homes at the end of the evening. Perhaps the best buys were the dozen or so hanging geraniums at just \$12.00 each in a variety of colors including an almost flame red and that gorgeous tree lantana which went for \$25.00.

The main hall at Linden Hills Park Recreation Building was literally filled to overflowing for the event. Auctioneers Ray Marshall and Fred Glasoe managed to coax good prices out of many a reluctant wallet--after all, everyone is looking for a bargain. The ladies present added some spice to the bidding, although yours truly did not detect any wife bidding against her husband for the same item.

The food supply held up (all who came must have sent in their reservations) and everyone I spoke with enjoyed themselves immensely. Now all that remains is for the committee to count the receipts and the lucky bidders to find a place to squeeze in that one pack or unusual specimen they just couldn't pass up.

FRAGRANCE GARDEN MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

To keep the garden in a reputable condition we will need to check on it weekly.

1. Water if necessary--bring a spray nozzle--hose is on hand.
2. Cultivate.
3. Remove all weeds and debris--(a power weeder along the fence would be excellent if you have one.)
4. Remove all spent blossoms.
5. Check for overall grooming. The lawn mowing is handled by the Society for the Blind.

The following is the individual schedule for maintenance.

June 5th -- Darwin Price	Aug. 7th -- Michael Denesuk
June 12th -- Ted Johnson	Aug. 14th -- Larry Corbett
June 19th -- Vinton Bouslough	Aug. 21st -- Steve Kirchner
June 26th -- Phil. Peterson	Aug. 28th -- Archie Caple
July 3rd -- Ed. Culbert	Sept. 4th -- Phil. Peterson
July 10th -- Nate Siegel	Sept. 11th -- Kent Canine
July 17th -- Carl Johnson	Sept. 18th -- Darwin Price
July 24th -- Henry Halverson	Sept. 25th -- Ted Johnson
July 31st -- Reuben Magrum	

Oct. -- Complete clean-up after heavy frost. Date will be set for all or as many as can take part.

NOTE -- We have designated each week for Saturday--however, if Friday or Thursday is more convenient--OK!

If you are not able to work on your specified week, it will be your responsibility to exchange with another member or find a substitute.

We want to do our best to make our club proud of the FRAGRANCE GARDEN. The folks in the neighborhood really appreciate and enjoy using it.

LET'S DO AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD JOB THIS YEAR!!

Phil. Peterson - Archie Caple, Co-Chairmen

P.S. Bring a trash bag.

SPRING PLANTINGS COMPLETED

The one week delayed planting in Lyndale Park of seven MGCM contributed trees took place on Thursday morning May 20. In contrast to the goodly number attending the 1981 planting at Fort Snelling National Cemetery only four members, Jerry Shannon, Phil Peterson, Ray Marshall and Ed. Culbert showed up to join Mary Lerman of the Park Board. Already planted in place in designated spots by park staff were six trees: a saucer magnolia, an ironwood, a balsam fir, a Swiss stone pine, a clump red maple and a butter-nut.

A gingko left for the ceremonial planting stood balled and burlapped in it's planting hole adjacent to King's Highway between 41st and 42nd Streets, three long handled shovels beside it. President Jerry threw in the first shovelful of dirt after which we all participated. The shovels being dull
(concluded on page 10)



Thoughts From the Gazebo

Our June meeting is history and one club activity for 1983 has been decided. In the June issue of "The Garden Spray", I indicated that I was going to recommend to the membership that individuals contribute their dollars to replace the tornado damaged and destroyed crabapple collection at the Lyndale Gardens. After much discussion, it was decided that many more members would participate in purchasing crabapple material if we would purchase bare-rooted stock which would greatly reduce the cost per tree. Due to the fact that it is too late to plant bare-rooted material this year, the project will be culminated in early April of 1983. Yours truly will chair the committee to organize the project.

The plant sale and auction in May, added approximately \$720.00 to the treasury. I want to thank Bob Livingston and Carlton Nelson along with their committee for all their efforts in making this club activity such a smashing success.

As I am sitting in the gazebo putting these thoughts on paper, the early morning sun is streaming in and the house wren is heralding another day with his song. The garden has changed immensely in the last thirty days. The spring blooming plants have finished their flowering and now such perennial and biannual plants as the hybrid columbine, peony, late iris, showy ladyslipper, gas plant, shasty daisy, painted daisy, foxglove, hybrid roses, sweet rocket, sweet William, hybrid lilies, day lilies, and many others are showing their colorful beauty.

This month is MGCM tour month. Plan on viewing the beauty of members' gardens by going on both the Tuesday evening and Sunday afternoon tours. Don't forget to bring your wives, and other garden friends on the Sunday tour.

(continued page 5)

Another horticultural activity that you might like to participate in and or attend, is the Minneapolis Aquatennial Great American Flower and Garden Show in the First Bank atrium in the Pillsbury Center in downtown Minneapolis. The show will run from July 18 through the 22. The show schedule and other details is printed in the June-July issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist.

Jerry Shannon

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB MOVEMENT STARTED 50 YEARS AGO THIS SEPTEMBER
by William H. Hull, MGCA Historian

A Chicagoan who dared reveal himself as a flower gardener fifty years ago when gardening was regarded as woman's work, is the father of men's gardening in this country.

He was Leo W. Nack, a staff engineer for the Commonwealth Edison Company. His boldness in entering a gardening contest sowed the seed that grew into the Men's Garden Clubs of America and he was always proud that he had been sufficiently bold to take the chance. "It wasn't that men didn't always enjoy tilling the soil or nurturing a favorite flower", Nack said, "but in those early years they simply did not want to come out openly and admit it. They didn't want to be tagged as part of a sissy venture."

That's all changed now. Bankers, lawyers, doctors, businessmen, truck drivers--men from all walks of life--have turned to gardening for health and relaxation--and to enjoy what Lord Bacon called "the purest of human pleasures".

Nack entered a home flower garden contest sponsored by a Chicago newspaper and won two big prizes. First he won \$100 for the best fall garden; then he was told he also had won \$1,000, the grand prize, for the best of the 2,500 gardens entered in the contest.

As hordes of people toured his award-winning garden, Nack observed that many were men, with whom he discussed his hobby. Their interest prompted him to invite other men to a meeting on March 15, 1928, at which time they formed the Men's Garden Club of the Chicago Region, the first such group.

Others heard of the Chicago club and started forming clubs too. The second club was in Des Moines, Iowa; the third in Fort Wayne, Indiana; the fourth in Aurora, Illinois. Bill Lathrop of the Aurora club, and Harold Parnham of Des Moines, conceived the idea of a national organization and called a meeting in Chicago, which resulted in the founding of the Men's Garden Clubs of America on September 26, 1932. It was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. All of the ten delegates at that first "convention" are now deceased although there are several of us alive who can remember some of them.

The movement grew rapidly for the first few years. I don't have exact annual membership statistics so one of my goals as MGCA Historian is to obtain such statistics.

Our Minneapolis club came along a decade after Chicago. We were chartered on October 1, 1942. Our charter was signed by president Fred Rockwell, a noted author and horticulturist. We were chartered with eighteen members. Hence, this fall we will observe our fortieth anniversary.

GROWING NOW FOR SHOW IN AUGUST -- THE JUNE MGCM MEETING
by Andy Marlow

Blue ribbons and trophies awarded in August are actually earned in April, May and June. That's when members of MGCM put in the plants that reap rewards later, and the June 8 meeting was devoted to gearing up for the annual flower and vegetable show.

Before that got underway, members shared their favorite gardening tools. Bill Hull organized the effort to have each member bring in his most useful implement. Judging from the huge number of cultivators, that obviously is the job that calls for an innovative labor-saving device. A few spades and other tools showed up, but cultivators came from as far away as Japan and some had been passed on from generation to generation of gardeners. If a man finds a good tool for this loathsome chore, he tends to hang on to it.

Bob Smith, who has picked up a few ribbons at the garden show, kicked off the main part of the program by interviewing two other successful show entrants. Carlton Nelson has been a member only a year and won with some of his notable marigolds at last year's show. Dave Johnson has been a member since 1965 and has won ribbons at many a show. Both grew up on the farm and have been gardening all their lives. Both also mentioned that they grow many plants--as many as 5000 in a season. It's easier to find winners when you have so many flowers and vegetables to choose from.

Rosella Fefercorn will be one of the flower judges at this year's show (August 28th for those of you who have not yet been saturated with reminders). She talked about the most common mistakes she sees in the many shows she judges each year. Number one is not reading the schedule to find out exactly what is required for each entry; not having the right number of spikes, blooms, etc. Second most common is lack of grooming; making sure each item to be shown has spent blooms, blighted foliage, seed pods and other things that detract from the specimen removed before the show. Ms. Fefercorn concluded with a demonstration and a fact hitherto unknown to your author. The demonstration was of flower arranging, a new category in the MGCM show this year. The fact: white peonies (with which she had planned to demonstrate) and white roses will be slightly pink after a cool spring and early summer.

Although Clint Turnquist, who followed Ms. Fefercorn to the podium, talked about vegetables, his message was much the same. Read the show schedule and come with the correct number of each item to conform with the schedule. Then groom your entry in accordance with the show rules. Beans for instance, must be shown with part of the stem and you must show exactly 12 beans that are as uniform as possible. Follow those rules, said Turnquist, and it'll be your gardening ability on which your entry is judged. Turnquist encouraged his fellow MGCM members to enter one or more of the new vegetable categories; container-grown and garden experiments. He suggested a number of experiments, including a varieties trial, a depth of seeding trial, mulch versus cultivation, staking versus no stakes for tomatoes and chemical versus natural weed control.

It was a long and informative evening. The fifty or so members who attended should have at least a slight advantage come August 28th, provided they take some of the judge's advice to heart.

The passerby who stops to admire your garden might be interested in MGCM. Talk to him about it.

ANNUAL MGCM FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW
MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM
AUGUST 28th and 29th, 1982

PREPARING VEGETABLES FOR EXHIBIT
by Orrin C. Turnquist

Much has been written on how to do a better job of raising top quality garden produce but little on the selecting and exhibiting part of gardening. Exhibits must be educational to be worthwhile. They must show that better produce is the result of the use of good seed of adapted varieties. They must show what can be produced when improved cultural methods are used and when insects and diseases are controlled.

During the late summer and fall, gardeners have opportunities to show the produce they have grown in their gardens. County and state fairs, and horticultural and garden club shows usually have places for the amateur to exhibit vegetables. To assist the gardener in selecting and preparing the vegetables for exhibit, the following suggestions may be helpful.

ASPARAGUS -- Select straight, dark green spears with tight scales at tip. Should be free of rust, insect injury or other defects. Trim to a uniform length of 6 to 8 inches and tie 12 spears in a bunch with rubber bands or ribbon.

SNAP BEANS -- Wax and green beans should be harvested before the constrictions appear between the seeds, when the seeds are about half grown. The ends of the pods should not be broken off in picking. The pods should be uniform in size, color and quality. The pods may be wiped clean but should not be washed. Avoid showing blemished or wilted specimens.

LIMA BEANS -- Harvest when the seeds are full grown but still tender and before they have changed in color from green to white. Prepare like snap beans.

BEETS, CARROTS, PARSNIPS, TURNIPS, RUTABAGAS -- Root crops should be mature but not over-grown, pithy or coarse in texture. Tops should be trimmed off 1 - 1 1/2 inches above the crown. Side roots should be carefully trimmed off but not the tap root. Roots may be carefully washed but not scrubbed so that the outer skin is injured.

BROCCOLI -- Although the heads quickly wilt, it is sometimes brought in to exhibits. Heads should be dark or purplish green and compact. Avoid any yellow flowers in the head. Stems should be cut about 5 inches from the top of the head. Specimens should be free from insects or defects.

CABBAGE -- Select firm compact heads that are not soft or withered. Stems should be cut about 1/4 inches below the head. Remove all blemished or broken leaves but care should be taken not to peel the heads too much. A few outside wrapper leaves are desirable. Specimens may be washed.

CAULIFLOWER -- Heads should be white, compact and free of small leaves and ricey texture. Stems should be cut so as to leave 4 to 6 leaves. These outer leaves should be trimmed to 1-2 inches above the white head. Use a soft bristled brush to remove dirt from the heads. The curds of the head turn brown quickly if damaged.

CELERY -- Remove roots of the stalk and trim the butt to form a triangle or pyramid. Trim off diseased and broken leaves on the outside until the color is uniform. Avoid pithy or woody and stringy stalks.

(continued over)

SWEET CORN -- Select ears that are well filled out to the tip. Kernels should be milky and juicy. Remove outer husks but allow a short shank and the inner husks to remain. Ears should be uniform in size and color. They should be fresh and green and free from insects and disease.

CUCUMBERS -- For pickling select fruits 3-5 inches long. All specimens should be at the same stage of maturity and uniform in size, shape and color. For slicers select fruits that are straight, dark green, and 6 to 10 inches long. They should be uniform in size, shape and color. Do not show over-ripe fruits that are usually dull in color.

EGGPLANT -- Fruits should be of uniform purple color and free from bronzing and greening. Stems should be left on the fruits. Specimens should be wiped clean but not washed. Avoid large or wilted fruits. Dark spots indicate bruises or decay.

KOHLRABI -- The ball should be 2 to 3 inches in diameter with the roots removed just below the ball. Remove all the leaves except the 4 to 6 top leaves and trim them to 2 to 3 inches long. Be sure there are no worms present on the petioles of the remaining leaves. Exhibit three specimens. Often the kohlrabi will be too large, tough, with a poor whitish color. There is also often damage caused by insects. They should be clean but not washed.

LETTUCE -- Some people prefer to exhibit lettuce in a container of water to prevent it from wilting. This usually distracts from the exhibit more than it helps. If the lettuce is picked the night before and kept in a cool area it should be in good condition for showing. The outer older leaves should be removed and only fresh crisp well colored leaves exhibited. It should be exhibited as an entire plant rather than individual leaves. Only one plant is required.

MUSKMELONS -- Harvest fruits when they separate easily from the vines. Specimens should be free of soft spots, mechanical injuries and discoloration. They should be wiped clean but not washed.

ONIONS -- Have specimens mature and thoroughly cured. The neck should be small. Do not peel to give a slick appearance. Only such outer scales that are broken or discolored should be removed. Small basal roots should be left intact but trimmed to a uniform length of 1/2 inch. Wipe or brush but do not wash.

TABLE ONIONS -- These are exhibited as green onions. Trim the tops to 3 inches long so the overall length should be 6 to 8 inches. Have 12 onions tied in the middle. The roots are trimmed to 1/2 inch length. In some cases the wrapper skin is removed to expose the long white shank. This is generally done just before showing as it often discolors if it stands too long. The general diameter of the onions should be 1/2 inch in diameter. They should be straight with a white stem and dark green leaves. The bulbs should not be enlarged. Some of the usual faults include crooked poor colored stems, dry or discolored leaves, and bulbs enlarged or too small.

PEAS -- Select bright green, well filled pods with seeds at the best eating stage. Do not wash as "bloom" should be preserved. Exhibit 12 pods with stems attached.

PEPPERS -- Select specimens that are uniform in size, shape and color. They should be free of disease or other defects. Stems should be left 1/2 - 1 inch long. Wipe clean but do not wash the fruits.

POTATOES -- Tubers should be uniform in size, shape and color. Washing is permitted but do not blemish the skin by scrubbing. Avoid specimens with defects or disease.

PUMPKINS -- Specimens should be mature and uniform in size, shape and color. Stems should be attached to the fruits. Wipe clean but do not wash.

RADISH -- The radish should be prepared by removing any discolored or injured leaves. The roots should be washed and tied in bunches of 12. They should be kept refrigerated until ready to exhibit. Only fresh, firm, crisp, good colored, smooth, and roots free of blemishes should be shown. Some of the common faults include spongy, wilted, or poorly colored roots. They should not be exhibited without the leaves.

RHUBARB -- The stalk should be pulled from the plant and the leaves trimmed so only 2 inches of the leaf blade remain attached to the petiole or leaf stalk. Only 3 stalks need to be exhibited in the 4-H Exhibit. The stalks should be straight, free of any blemishes and should have a good color. The faces of the leaf stalk should be clean and free of any soil.

SPINACH -- This vegetable is less succulent than leaf lettuce. However, some people still prefer to show it in a jar of water to prevent it from wilting. The best way is to display the entire plant with the roots removed. Trim the roots 1/4 inch from the bottom leaf. Be sure the leaves are clean, fresh and crisp. They should also be well colored and free from blemishes. Spinach is often wilted and poor colored together with insect damaged leaves.

SUMMER SQUASH -- Select small to medium size fruits when the rind is soft and easily punctured with thumbnail. Select specimens what are uniform in size, shape and color. Leave about 1/2 inch of stem and wipe fruits clean.

WINTER SQUASH -- Select mature specimens where the rind resists the pressure of the thumbnail. Fruits should be uniform in size, shape and color and free of defects. Leave stems attached to the fruits.

SWISS CHARD -- Select plants that are fresh, crisp, and have bright green leaves. Trim off roots and trim butts to a pyramid shape. Exhibit like celery.

TOMATOES -- Select fruits that are uniform in size, shape and color. Remove stems. Fruits should be perfectly shaped and free of cracks or blemishes.

WATERMELON -- Fruits should be mature but not overripe. Leave one inch of stem on each melon. Wipe but do not wash.

GROW for show and have fun SHOWING what you grow. Tips for exhibiting flowers will be provided on the summer tours. Our goal this year-- EVERY MEMBER AN EXHIBITOR. MARK YOUR CALENDAR. Dates for the annual MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum are SATURDAY and SUNDAY AUGUST 28th and 29th.

* * * * *

Practice for the MGCM show by entering the showing of creative and imaginative plants and flower arrangements, a new Aquatennial feature this year. Enter your specimens in the 1982 Minneapolis Aquatennial Great American Flower Show, an exhibit and judging event. The show will be held July 19-22 in the First Bank Atrium in the Pillsbury Center.

(PLANTINGS, from page 3)

were better adapted for scraping dirt off the grass than for digging into the pile. Perhaps that accounts for the fact that Ms. Lerman was allowed to carry them back to the park board truck unaided. Marshall alibied, "That's O.K., She's being paid for being here."

Your editor learned one thing this day. We are no longer advised to stake newly planted trees. There was a stiff breeze blowing and the ginkgo after planting was tipped south in the breeze. I was told the roots adjust (take hold) better if the tree is allowed to roll with the wind.

The Community Fragrance Garden planting scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd took three days. On the 21st the material, many, many trays of annuals plus shavings for the rose bed was obtained from the Park Board greenhouse by arrangement with Mary Lerman. It was picked up by Reuben Magrum who took time off and brought his truck, Nate Siegel and Phil Peterson.

On the 22nd Ted Johnson, Magrum, Siegel, and Peterson planted and mulched with shavings 28 rose bushes purchased with club funds together with some of the annuals. On Monday the 24th Vinton Bouslough, Ed. Culbert and Peterson finished the planting. The schedule for summer maintenance appears on page 3. Those assigned June dates have been notified by telephone.

* * * * *

Be sure you send in the reservation card for the July 13th meeting and the form with your check for the Sunday July 25th tour.

- 10 -

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417



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