

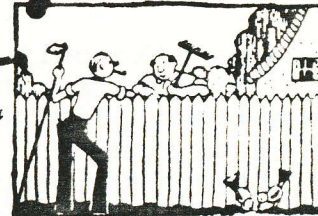


The Garden Spray

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

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

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THE NEXT MEETING of the MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10th, 1980

AT MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th ST. at KNOX AVE. SO.

DINNER AT 6 P.M., AS USUAL,

PRICE \$3.75, AS USUAL.

Following dinner the revision of the MGCM BY-LAWS presented at the April meeting will be up for discussion and/or appeal. The balance of the evening will be given over to a panel of speakers on timely topics for this time of year. Feel free to chime in, disagree or applaud as seems fitting to you.

This will be our last meeting at Mount Olivet until fall. There will be garden tours in July and again in August or September. There will be a flower and vegetable show (Our Annual Show) at the Arboretum on Saturday and Sunday, August 23rd and 24th.

If you're not on the permanent reservation list
RETURN YOUR RESERVATION CARD AT ONCE

* * * * *

THE AUCTION

The auction was a success but once again we ran out of food. Apparently the telephone reminder backfired. A number of members said they assumed after receiving the phone call that it wasn't necessary to send in a reservation card so their names did not appear on the treasurer's check-off list.

This year brought two firsts...1) Sale of newly introduced premium priced hostas raised and contributed by Bob Savory....2) Bidding for and sale of bedding plants by the tray instead of by the packet.

Dwight Stone as one of the two auctioneers--Charles King was the other--was in fine fettle as usual, practising up, no doubt, for the next night at the North Suburban Men's Garden Club. Their bulletin, the COMPOST PIT had him billed in big capitals:

PROGRAM:

PLANT AUCTION.....WITH THE MASTER OF
MULTILOQUENCE, THE PROSER OF PRATTLE,
THE LORD OF VERBOSITY AND VOLUBILITY
-- AS AUCTIONEER, WE OFFER: DWIGHT STONE



FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by

Archie Caple

It seems like only last week that I sat down to write out my first of several articles for the "GARDEN SPRAY", and already article number 6 is being formulated. With the all too familiar quote ringing in my ears, "Where has the time gone?"

Time is one thing that can't be turned back. All one can do is look ahead; prepare; and pray a little that the end result is what you expected and hoped for, and just, perhaps, a teeny-weeny bit better than you had actually expected. A lot has happened within this short period of time; some good; some not so good. Our club thus far and all within a short few weeks has lost via the green reaper, four fine fellow gardeners. All gone, but surely not forgotten. On the brighter side, our committees are busily engaged in carrying out their responsibilities; planning and executing their moves to accomplish these goals. Others are still in the planning and programming stages, preparing to jump into action later on during the summer and early fall months--All with a common goal, to help our club and, I certainly hope, to provide fun and enjoyment for all members.

Gardening by now should be well on its way. The seeds planted indoors while the ground was still covered with snow should have sprouted, matured, been transplanted, and by now have taken final places in the garden. They could have been vegetable crops, or seedlings for cut flowers, borders, or what have you. Now about all one has left to do is sit back, (What a line of hoowie that is) and watch the gardens come into bloom and into the productive stages.

Instead, however, you attempt to stay abreast with the growing season. Now, comes the weeding; periodic watering; thinning; fertilization; bacteria, fungus, and insect controls; and, of course, best of all seeing and enjoying the fruits of your labors. This begins with the bursting forth of the spring bulbs; followed closely by the Iris, Lilacs, and the Peonies; and, from now on in until the first touch of fall frost, constant changes of garden color through the floral arrangements.

These techniques of gardeners I envy. No, I should say the skill of those individuals who plant gardens that give constant color and bloom throughout the entire season is what I envy. I keep trying to obtain this goal in my garden; but thus far have not been too successful in my efforts. Flower gardening on any scale is relatively new to my yard, but that in no way impedes my enthusiasm for or fun in gardening.

Your committees have been equally busy on their assignments. The Plant Auction has been completed with very promising results, and already the flower and vegetable show committee is meeting and in the planning stages. Sandwiched between these two events is the tour committee, already well on its way arranging for your summer enjoyment of selected garden visits.

So in the meantime everyone is busily engaged in the activities of gardening, and/or working with the various committees to keep our club operating and maintaining the basic fundamentals of horticultural endeavors and pursuances. I hope this continues. We are looking forward to more and additional interesting functions from our club and activities.

I'll see you at the next meeting. Meanwhile, I leave with you this thought --"The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example."

WALTER MENZEL 1897-1980

Walter Menzel was a "Gentlemans' Gentleman". He was born in Minneapolis, graduated from North High School and from the University of Minnesota with a BS degree in Agriculture. While at the University he served as a member of the National Cattle Judging team.

After graduation he represented a fertilizer company--calling on potato growers in the Red River Valley. He also grew potatoes for several years on his acreage on the banks of the Mississippi River near Anoka. Later, Walter joined his brother, Ted, in the retail fur business--the company known as Menzel Furs, on Nicollet Avenue. They made many ladies happy with their beautiful coats of mink and seal.

Walter was very proud of the fact that he was a Charter Member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and he often related episodes in the early history of the club. He, with his wife Louise, planted and maintained a lovely, meticulous garden at their home in the Cedar Lake area. Walter specialized in exotic plants in their small greenhouse. He often brought the "unusual" to the club, explaining its origin, etc. He was most generous in sharing these unusual specimens with anyone who was interested in growing them.

Walter had a beautiful "over the garden fence" relationship with his neighbor, Frank Janes, a long since deceased member of our club. Their warm, neighborly friendship exemplified the caricature on the SPRAY cover--two neighbors solving their gardening problems "over the garden fence". Many wonderful, life-long friendships in our club were made during this, the Victory Garden, era.

Walter was a true naturalist. He enjoyed telling how he would put eight or ten mature tropical goldfish in his rockery pool in spring and then in fall would take out over 100 babies, which he carried over the winter in tanks under his greenhouse benches. He was an avid bird-feeder and spent hours trying to tame the Chickadees and other wild birds to perch on his finger or on a pencil held in his mouth. He also spent hours trying to outwit the squirrels and rabbits both of which were abundant in his neighborhood. That proved to be a DRAMA--the survival of the fittest.

Walter and Louise were experts at identifying mushrooms. They spent many hours in the spring tramping through wooded areas between Minneapolis and New Ulm gathering their favorite varieties.

Walter was extremely proud of his German ancestry and visited Europe many times. Since the Menzels had no children of their own, they took pride in sponsoring and bringing to this country many young relatives and friends who, with them, could enjoy the freedom of America.

In 1961 we shared our first trip to Hawaii with Walter and Louise and Cortis and Muriel Rice. Since all were garden clubbers, we shared common interests--a wonderful experience with truly great friends!

Knowing Walter and sharing many happy experiences with him over the past thirty years has enriched my life. All this was made possible only because of our mutual membership in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

--Dick Lehman

GOING ON VACATION? USE THESE TIPS

(Adapted from an article in THE YARDNER, Houston, Texas MGC)

CULTIVATE to get rid of weeds.

MULCH around your plants. Newspapers made an inexpensive mulch, spread in layers six sheets thick. Cover the newspapers with a little dirt to hold them down. They'll keep the weeds from growing while you're away.

WATER. Your garden will need water. After you've mulched it, water it thoroughly just before you leave. The mulch will keep the soil moist, and you can dig the newspapers into the garden when you spade it up at the end of the season.

SPRAY. Get rid of insects and diseases. Beetles, cabbage worms and loopers can do a lot of damage while you're gone.

CLEAN UP. Throw any plants that have quit producing on your compost pile before leaving. Pick any old vegetables. They could draw rats and other pests while you're away.

REPLANT. You can start a second planting of certain vegetables while you're basking at the beach. A good rule of thumb is to allow 60 days between planting and the first killing frost. Some crops, such as radishes, need 25-30 days. You can plant kale, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli to stretch the gardening season.

HARVEST. Arrange for friends or neighbors to harvest your crops while you're gone. Rotting vegetables can draw unwelcome visitors, including insects and diseases.

PROTECT PLANTS. Have cardboard boxes or other covering materials ready so neighbors can cover your tomatoes and other crops on cold nights, if you vacation late in the year. This will protect the plants from early frost that could otherwise damage them.

There! No matter when you vacation, be it June, July, August (or even early September most years) your advance garden care projects are all laid out for you. Why not post this sheet as a check list where you'll be sure to see it?

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

The article on Holland reproduced on pages 5 and 6 of this issue of the SPRAY appeared in the May issue of GARDENING in MINNETONKA, the BULLETIN of the MINNETONKA MEN'S GARDEN CLUB. Stan Crist is editor of and a frequent contributor to the bulletin.

Members who did not receive the 1980 roster at the auction will find a copy in the envelope with this issue of the GARDEN SPRAY.

Have you seen the illustrated article, "Bachmans: The Family That Prunes Together", in the February 1980 issue of CORPORATE REPORT? It has just come to our attention. We recommend it for your reading.

When was the last time you had a tetanus booster shot? Gardeners and farmers, people who work in the soil and are subject to scratches, cuts and other injuries, are prime candidates for this infection unless immunizations are kept up to date.

SOME HORTICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS WHILE IN HOLLAND

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Last month I spent a two week vacation in Holland. The time was planned to coincide with the tulip season.

I arrived on April 14th, and for four days enjoyed beautiful 70 degree weather. The natives said however that this was not typical Dutch weather. Their prediction was only too true, for the weather abruptly turned wintry, rainy, windy and miserable in general. This continued for the rest of the week, and then the remainder of the time it was cold, but not uncomfortable, provided one dressed properly. (This was during the period that Minnesota was experiencing weather in the 90's.)

The flowers (all being the cool weather types, naturally) enjoyed the weather, and were long-lasting and beautiful. Daffodils were in full bloom, and the huge fields made spectacular splashes of yellow. Hyacinths were a bit past their peak, but still the fields looked like they had been painted in a variety of colors with a huge paint brush. Some tulip fields were in bloom (the early varieties), but most were in bud and many fields were not yet in bloom when I left. Pansies were abundant and magnificent.

The Keukenof Gardens are the showplace of the Dutch bulb industry and were a beautiful sight. Everything is kept in the peak of bloom--as soon as any bulbs were through blooming, they were dug up and replaced. A large greenhouse is in the center of the Gardens where everything is kept at the peak of perfection.

A tremendous acreage in Holland is under glass. Just how much, I don't know, but I have never seen a collection of greenhouses anywhere that begins to match the space in Holland. It seems that one drives for miles, with just one greenhouse after another.

Many greenhouses were full of flowers naturally, but many others contain tomatoes and cucumbers. The cool weather in Holland does not permit these crops to be grown outdoors as we do. At the time of my visit, the greenhouses were preparing for the bedding plant trade. I was quite surprised to notice that all the bedding plants were grown on the ground--benches were to be found only in the greenhouses used for retail trade.

One grower I visited was in the midst of lily-of-the-valley production. Some plants were being grown in total darkness--then brought under lights. Others were grown in the field, but plastic covered. It was explained that on May Day in France, there is a tradition of giving lily-of-the-valley, so the grower was trying to arrange his maximum production for that date.

Prices in Holland are sky high (about 2 to 3 times the prices in the U.S.) for everything except flowers. Flower prices are one half or less than prices here. I do not understand this contrast.

For example, I purchased a beautiful potted azalea (recently advertised here at \$13 and up) for \$2.50. African violets which sell around \$3 here were \$1 to \$1.25. Bunches of cut flowers sold from \$2 to \$3. (Keep in mind that these prices include 18% sales tax!) Flower shops were everywhere, completely filled with cut flowers and potted plants. We do not begin to use flowers in the home as the Dutch do.

(The bargain prices for flowers did not extend to the bulb growers in the Keukenof Gardens who were taking orders for shipment overseas. It appeared to me they were asking more than our local stores.)

I planted a large tulip bed last fall, and as I was returning home (not being aware of the hot weather Minnesota had had), I had visions of how beautiful it must be. But my bed bore no resemblance to the beautiful plantings in Holland. Our hot weather definitely had not been to their liking. I could only imagine what they might have looked like had we had a more normal spring.

The temperature in Holland rarely exceeds 70, and some winters it does not get cold enough for ice skating (although this past winter it was cold enough for ice skating on the canals).

Roses seem to be even more abundant than tulips. The roses had all been severely pruned (covering is unnecessary) and were about to start a new season's growth. The cities maintain huge rose plantings in the boulevards, as our cities feebly attempt to grow grass.

The cool-weather loving flowers indeed have a great home in Holland.

Beside the heading "EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER" Lorenz F. Peterson, Sr. editor of SPROUTS n' SHOUTS wrote in the November issue:

"Perhaps you can lay the blame for this editorial on the likes of Sherm Pinkham; he has to be in his 70's somewhere; one of MGCA's National Directors, from Minneapolis, who at their meeting this past weekend... said too many of us belonging to MGCA were hiding under the proverbial bushel; he asked two questions: "Where can you meet finer people anywhere than in a men's garden club?"....

"His second question: "Where in this world can a man get closer to his Creator and nature than in the garden?"....

"Then, Sherm asked still a third question: "Then why aren't we telling others about MGCA, getting more to join?"....

Return to
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