

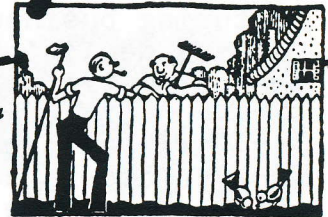


# The Garden Spray

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

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

November 1985, Volume 43, Number 11



THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of MGCM, plus election of officers and directors for 1986 will be held on TUESDAY EVENING NOVEMBER 12th.

Bob Churilla says in regard to the program: "Welcome to the land of the north where the cool breezes bring out the most brilliant color in the flowers grown in Canada. Yes, our program will be on The GARDENS OF CANADA and will be presented by CHARLEY and DOROTHY CAMPBELL. The Campbells have been touring Canada and have visited the Butchart Gardens, the Peace Gardens and many more. Their slide presentation will take you from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. If you have not visited Canada what other way is there to see those beautiful gardens?"

See you at the meeting. SAME PLACE: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th Street and Chowen Avenue South. SAME TIME: 6 P.M. SAME PRICE dinner: \$5.00.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO DUANE REYNOLDS PROMPTLY.

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Ev. Hædecke was delighted to receive all the phone calls which came following the October issue of the SPRAY. He is still housebound so keep calling. It helps.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

X Benson, Charles S. 944-1083  
5808 W. 78 St.  
Edina, MN 55435

Druke, Robert L. 866-3246  
7021 James Ave. S.  
Richfield, MN 55423

Gustafson, Walter C. 926-3124  
3812 W. 57 St.  
Edina, MN 55410

X Kelley, David F. 379-0959  
216 S.E. 4 St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Lee, Oyvind L. 537-7320  
4532 Adair Ave. N.  
Crystal, MN 55422

Pulley, Thomas M. 822-0172  
3852 Pleasant Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Roberg, Robert H. 888-1024  
10115 Pleasant Ave. S.  
Bloomington, MN 55420

Hal McInTire  
Doug Jacobson  
Tom Olson



DON ENGBRETSON DESCRIBES THE PRODUCTION OF THE HOME AND GARDEN SHOW  
(The October meeting as reported by Chet Groger)

Don Engbretson of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and owner of Trade Shows, Inc., gave our members an inside look at the ownership and operation of the annual Home and Garden Show. Having been in the manufacturing business with soap products, he surprised himself by buying the old and declining Builders Show. He realized that he would have to make some dramatic changes to upgrade the show.

His first step was to attend the national convention of similar trade show producers to learn what it took to upgrade this type of show. Out of this grew the Home and Garden Show as we know it today. When large garden and landscape companies were unable to join in producing the new garden aspect of the show, he turned to the smaller companies. They have become the backbone of the garden exhibits. But one of his greatest satisfactions is in having the Minnesota State Horticultural Society become a major part of the show. As an example, they oversee the production of the large garden each year and have a Country Store and other activities.

About \$30,000 is spent each year in buying plant material. Much is flown in from California at the last minute but rhododendrons must be brought in early and held in greenhouses, first at 50 degrees for a month and then forced in January. Sod has been a major problem but it now is harvested just before the first hard freeze and then allowed to freeze on the pallets. At show time, it is thawed out and becomes the green grass we see at the show.

Starting with about 50 exhibitors from the Builders Show, the Home and Garden Show has grown to include 150 exhibitors, selling an estimated \$30,000,000 in merchandise. Attendance has grown to an estimated 80,000 people. The Show has become a showplace for many new ideas and products, which makes it more interesting each year. The addition of the Gallery of Garden Art on the second floor includes competition in flower arranging, Bonsai, and other displays. Our Club was challenged to consider a competition in 1987, when each of several garden clubs will be furnished the same materials, plants and shrubs to produce their version of a garden.

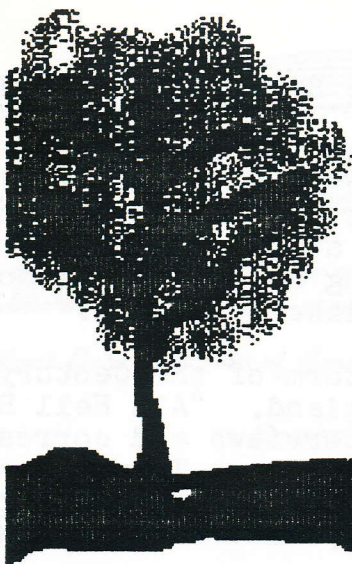
Our Club has furnished many members who devote time to helping at the Home and Garden Show. Bob Churilla, Jerry Shannon and Stan Van Vorst have been key men in helping Glenn Ray of the Horticultural Society during the show. The description of the operation of the show helps us understand the situation better, when we volunteer to help in February.

DUES FOR 1986

December 1st is time for collecting dues for 1986, so let's get them paid on time this year. We need to have all dues for 1986 paid before the end of the year so we can report our membership to Des Moines on December 31st and have the information to publish the club directory. Dues for 1986 are a dollar higher than last year because of a dollar per person increase in the Hort. Society group rate. The increase came last year after most of our dues were collected so the club paid the extra dollar out of the treasury rather than bill members again.

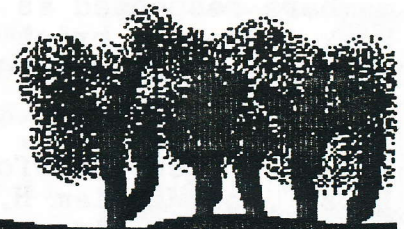
IMPORTANT: Be sure to fill in the form on the back page and turn it in with your dues. We don't have extra forms available.





## FROM THE WEED PATCH...

by Andy Marlow



It was with some wonder and trepidation that I picked up my October 10th copy of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune and began reading about the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. The wonder came from the fact that a big city daily newspaper found our little organization worthy of writing a story about, and that they had put the story on the front page of the variety section with a COLOR picture. (Nate Siegel, I hope, has tucked away several copies of the photo showing him stopping to smell the zinnas at the fragrance garden.)

The trepidation came from worrying about what the article might say. The latter fear was totally unjustified, as staff writer Kim Ode accurately reflected what our club is all about. And, she did it mainly through the words of a variety of our members, not just the "big wigs" and officers. She quoted veteran members and our then newest member, Rick Bonlender. She collected words from experienced gardeners, like Ed Culbert, and guys who think they still have a lot to learn, like Dave Moenke. I don't think we could have written a better story ourselves (with the possible exception of a few sentences where she reached a bit for a colorful garden analogy). Special thanks should go to Kent Canine who suggested the story to Kim.

Something to keep in mind as you finish your fall clean-up: don't throw out any gardening equipment that is still in reasonable shape. I almost put an old, but usable fertilizer spreader on the block at the family garage sale until I remembered that next spring the National Convention Committee will hold a gardener's flea market to raise money to subsidize MGCM members' registration fees for the '88 convention. They'll be looking for donations. Anything that you keep until then could help pay your way to the convention.

Finally, Howard Klier and his crew at **Klier's Nursery** have generously offered to again play host to MGCM members and their guests who want to try their hand at making holiday wreaths, centerpieces and other decorations. Bring pliers, wirecutters and some cash to pay for materials. Klier's will furnish the expertise, snacks and beverages, and lots of good cheer. Mark your calendar for Friday, November 29th, and plan to be at **Klier's, 5901 Nicollet Avenue South**, anytime after 6:30 p.m. We went last year for the first time and will be back again.



## ARMISTICE DAY 1940 "WORST BLIZZARD" STORIES BY 167 MINNESOTANS

Earlier this year you may have received an invitation (or read one in the press) to submit your story of the Armistice Day 1940 blizzard to Bill Hull for possible use in a book he was writing. Several MGCM members responded as did others from around the state. I understand the book is now in print so suggested that Bill bring copies to our November meeting. I hope he does for I, for one, would like to see it.

This terrible storm, often called Minnesota's Storm of the Century, killed 59 people before sweeping east to New England. "All Hell Broke Loose", by William H. Hull, is the result of interviews and correspondence with over 500 Minnesotans who lived through the storm. They live in 170 different Minnesota towns, from Warroad to the Iowa border. Their stories were all edited. The most interesting were placed in the book.

These Minnesotans--all young people at the time--fought this dangerous storm which started on a balmy fall day when roses were still in bloom. The weather developed suddenly and caught thousands of duck hunters, lightly clad because of the warmth, in the sloughs of southeastern Minnesota. Many of them froze to death. In the cities, street-cars jumped the tracks in the 16 inches of sudden snow and with winds up to 65 mph. Thousands of people were marooned in downtown areas of the cities while many thousands of animals and fowl froze to death in rural areas. Many of the young people were living in their first house, some only shacks because of the depression just ending. Hull says, "They coped and most of them made it through the storm on sheer guts alone. When you read their stories you realize they were all heroes in one way or another."

Subjects include such stories as "Readheads Over Lake Titloe", "A Cigarette Almost Broke Up Our Friendship", "Pounding and Screaming At The Door", and "Dad Couldn't See But The Horse Brought Him Home". The book also contains eleven photos of storm events in 1940.

Bill is the author of two previous books, is a retiree from McGraw-Hill publications company, is a charter member of the Minnesota Press club, is a past president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, is an honorary member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and has been biographed for years in "Who's Who in America".

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Holiday Cactus from The Pleasure Planter--MGC Reidsville, NC  
We sometimes hear of a Christmas cactus supposed to be white, that blooms pink; or one supposed to be yellow that comes out creamy-pink. The problem is in conditions, not in the plant itself. If temperature drops below 55 degrees after buds form, pinkish tints may develop in white or yellow varieties. Low light also results in similar coloration. If your Christmas cactus has flowered with a color different from what you thought it should be see that, prior to its next bloom time, it receives bright light and temperatures above 60 degrees.

COMING in the DECEMBER SPRAY: A reprint of the summary of the 1949 Minneapolis MGCA convention. It will show how much we need the cooperation of every member to put the 1988 convention across.

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Garden failures are of interest, too. Share yours  
with your fellow gardeners both verbally  
and through the SPRAY.