

This Month at MGCM

Sunday August 11 Members Garden Tour

This is a bus tour to three gardens and a light afternoon lunch / garden party. You don't want to miss this one. Two gardens you have not seen before are on this tour. These are relatively new gardens that have received the guiding hands of two of our members, Eldon Hugelen and Henry Orfield. The third garden is that of our member Roger Koopmans who many of you know has one of the best private collections of Hostas in the state and displayed to perfection. A gastronomical pleasure will also be provided at the Koopmans's garden. See page 4 for more details. Reservations are required, see page



God Bless America



- Sat. & Sun., August 17th & 18th Food Flower & Foto Show

The show will be held in the auditorium at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. There is no charge for the show and entries come from both members and outsiders. The judges have said in the past that this is one of the best shows in the area. If you have never attended you won't be disappointed. As an added plus, the garden displays at the arboretum will make your visit memorable. See page 10 for more details.

*********THIS IS ANOTHER MUST SEE EVENT*****

Coming Club Opportunities

September 10 Dinner meeting November 12 Dinner meeting

Joan Bethiaume on Mr.Wirth and

Susan Davis Price on

the Park System

Minnesota Gardening History

October 8 **Dinner Meeting** November 29

December 3

Wreath & Holiday Decoration making at Klier's Garden Center

Program is Roberta Sladky Director of Como Conservator

October 12 60th Anniversary Luncheon

at the Arboretum

Holiday Party

Andy Marlow on Africa January 2003



60th Anniversary Updates

By Lynda Carlson

Luncheon Speaker

Susan Allen Toth has agreed to speak at the gala 60th Anniversary luncheon at the Arboretum on Saturday, October 12. Susan is a writer of national renown whose work has been published in the *New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times* and numerous other publications. Perhaps some of you have already enjoyed her books: *Blooming, Ivy Days, My Love Affair with England, England As You Like It, England for All Seasons,* and others.

Susan's passions are traveling, especially in Great Britain, (she travels almost as much as Warren!) and gardening. Susan's gardens at her lake home in Wisconsin were featured in *Midwest Home and Gardens* magazine a few years ago.

Susan is a delightful speaker and we are in for a very special treat as she shares tidbits from her next book, *Leaning into the Wind*, due out in the fall of 2003. Her appearance will surely be the capstone of all the 60th Anniversary events. Do not miss this!

Berens Cabin

Many of you know the Berens Cabin at the Arboretum as the mysterious little cottage at the foot of Three-Mile Drive. In fact, it is the oldest building on the grounds and is where Dr. Leon Snyder headquartered in the early years of the Arboretum.

The Arboretum Auxiliary recently completed the restoration of this landmark with funding from memorials, honorariums, and direct gifts to the Auxiliary. The next phase of the project involves landscaping. That's where the MGCM comes in.

One of the initiatives of the 60th Anni-

versary year is to make a lasting contribution to the horticultural community commemorating this milestone of our club. Thanks to the slick efforts of Warren working along with Peter Olin, the club was awarded the opportunity to plan and install the gardens at Berens Cabin. Eldon Hugelen generously created the design which was subsequently approved by Peter and the Arboretum designer.

A bronze plaque set on a boulder in the garden will declare to all who visit this historic site that the gardens were a gift to the Arboretum from the MGCM on the 60th Anniversary of the club. The formal dedication of the gardens will occur preceding the luncheon on October 12th.



August is the time for gathering your bounty. Below are a few thoughts on enjoying the bounty. They are all taken from the book, *The Gardener's Guide To Life*.

The first gathering of salads, radishes and herbs made me feel like a mother about her baby--how could anything so beautiful be mine. Alice Toklas

I grow my own vegetables for two reasons: the quality of the crops I can produce myself, and the quality of the time I spend doing it. Barbara Damrosh

It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a homegrown tomato. Lewis Grizzard

Flowers are the beautiful hieroglyphics of nature. Goeth

"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly.
"One must have freedom, sunshine and a little flower."-Hans Christian Anderson
By their fruits, ye shall know them.
Matthew 7:20



President's Column

MGCM President Warren Nordley

For those of you in attendance at the June meeting in which we voted to disaffiliate from National, thanks for your patience and perseverance in seeing the issue through to its conclusion. I feel we have escaped from any lingering divisiveness - at least I hope we have, and can all look forward to a healthier and more attractive club in the future. For that portion of your 2002 dues that would have been allocated to National, your board has decided, for simplicity sake, to issue refund checks to each of you. These checks, in the amount of \$22, will be sent to you in the month of August.

Another thank you goes to the membership for approving expenditures for the Beren's Cabin project at the Arboretum. This vote was particularly gratifying in that it supported the board without the benefit of many of the details and final costing yet available. I truly believe that this project is a perfect fit for us. It enhances our image, provides invaluable exposure, gives us a sense of satisfaction in contributing to a most worthwhile venture and will be a real source of pride for years to come. More information on this will be forthcoming.

In an effort to stimulate interest and more fun at the Holiday Party on December 3rd, the committee has decided to add a silent auction to the event. This strategy has gone over extremely well at other similar outings and should be interesting and entertaining. Guidelines for auction items will be announced by the committee shortly but it has already been determined that non-garden items will be welcomed as well as traditional garden-related goods and services. Get those creative juices flowing. After being voted on by the membership to become an honorary

member, you might think Howard Berg would rest on his laurels for awhile. Not so. He was seen helping out in Lynette's garden, the Perennial Garden, chaired the garden tours, etc., etc. What a guy.

The August Club tour promises to be rewarding and fun for all. Even if you've been to Roger Koopmans' before, it's always stimulating, educational and a real treasure to behold. See you there.

New Members Since Directory Was Issued

Gene Ackland 4330 Pilgram Ln N Plymouth MN 55442 e-mail gmackland@attbi.com

Rose Brant 1002 6th Street Stillwater MN 55082

Jo Coplin 70 Marcin Hill Burnsville MN 55337 e-mail jcoplin@frontier.net

Michael Pies 5129 38th Ave So Minneapolis MN 55417 e-mail grdnooo@aol.com

Tim Rosener 1305 28thAve NE Minneapolis MN 55418 email rosebud.ne@juno.com





MGCM AUGUST MEMBERS TOUR

We are Heading South

By Kay Wolfe
Date: August 11, 2002, Sunday
Time: 1:00 to 5:30 PM
Starting Point:

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church parking lot, 49th and Chowen, Minneapolis Bus will leave at 1 PM, take us to three gardens, and return to the church.

Cost: \$15 per person

Includes Bus and the Garden Party with beverages and food which will served at the third garden.

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, August 7. There will only be one bus so get your reservation in early.

The Agenda:

Our own Eldon Hugelen, Landscape Architect, has invited us to tour two of the gardens he has designed for clients. Our final destination will be the garden of Roger Koopmans in Faribault, where we will have music and a light late afternoon meal.

The Gardens

Garden of Barbara and Carl White, In Bloomington

A lovely wooded setting is the backdrop for this home and garden. The gardens begin at the front of the house and flow downhill filling the property nestled in the woods. Paths lead through woodland gardens, bog garden, cottage garden, and many shade gardens. The gardeners specialize in easy maintenance perennials, and have daylily and hosta collections. The backdrop of the gardens is a magnificent trellis and fence—truly a work of art—designed by Eldon and built by former MGCM member Henry Orfield.

Garden of Joan and Tim Deer In Lakeville

A winding lane leads to this ten acre paradise where the landscape blends with the woodland setting. The house overlooks a

large natural pond. Paths lead down a hill with dry stream bed, to an island and another pond, then connect to a boardwalk and bubbling creek. All these areas are planted with perennials, including many new and unique varieties, selected by Eldon. The extended boardwalk connects to a double tier deck at the far side of the house. The gardens are dotted with resting spots—rustic log benches and wood furnishings.

Garden of Roger and Kak Koopmans, In Faribault

Flowers and color greet us at Roger and Kak's lovely urban home in peaceful Faribault. The garden paths lead around the house, where many a surprise awaits. The exotic back yard has garden beds filled with color—a beautiful mix of annuals and perennials. Roger is a hosta collector—you can find 350 different species here. And everywhere is unique sculpture, fountains, and hanging baskets—all of which are designed and made by Roger. Visiting this garden is like vacationing in an exotic tropical isle!



Board Meeting Summary



Summarized from Ellyn Hosch Secretary's report

Meeting Date: 2 July 2002

Board members present: Nancy Bjerke, Carole Ann Brekke, Lynda Carlson, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Don Morgenweck, Warren Nordley and Jackie Overom.

President's Report

The photo album will be ready in time for distribution at the 60th Anniversary Lunch event in October.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

The June meeting minutes were approved as submitted. The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted by Dave Johnson.

Membership Secretary's Report

A new member was accepted into the club, Rose Brandt. With this addition, the total membership stands at 116.

Other Committee Reports

The Tour Committee has been having difficulty finding greeters for all of the gardens for both days. The Board approved the expenditure of \$240 for reusable signs that will be ready for use at the biennial tour. They can be used for any function.

The 60th Anniversary Committee has a speaker for the luncheon event at the Arboretum. Susan Allen Toth, a nationally known writer, will be our speaker. The committee is responsible for promotional materials for this event.

The Holiday Committee is considering a Silent Auction as part of the annual event. The committee will be defining the guidelines for this event.

Old Business

The general membership approved the expenditure of club funds for landscaping the Beren's cabin at the MN Landscape Arboretum. The exact budget and time frame for completion are not yet finalized. The Board approved the expenditure of up to \$300 for a MGCM plaque to be displayed at the Beren's cabin.

The vote for disaffiliation from the national club was conducted at the June meeting. The vote was 54 for disaffiliation, 7 against, and 2 ballots disqualified.

New Business

Ellyn Hosch will investigate the steps necessary to apply for 501(c) 3 nonprofit status and will report her findings at the next board meeting.

The amount of the annual dues collected for the national club will be refunded by check to club members. Checks will be written and signed at the August board meeting.

The Awards and Trophies Committee will be asked to create a new award to replace the Bronze Award.

The Calendar Committee will be asked to consider options other than ordering calendars from the TGOA/MGCA national club.

Howard Berg was unanimously approved by the membership at the June meeting as an Honorary Member. His name will be added to the Directory as an Honorary Member at the next printing.

The August Garden Tour will include a tour of two nonmembers' gardens and a trip to Faribault for a tour of the Koopmans's garden.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on 6 August at 6:30 PM at the home of Ellyn Hosch.





Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Did anyone else notice that the May / June edition of Fine Gardening featured articles by two garden writers from Minnesota? I got a kick out of Bonnie Blodgett's article about garages as garden sheds, but it was Bonnie Blanchette's article on creating garden vignettes that really caught my eye.

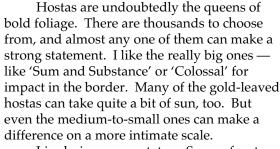
I'd love to go see her garden sometime. If you've read the article, you will know that Bonnie recommends using one plant with bold foliage as a focal point for each of her garden vignettes. This seems like a good idea. (Not that I'm anywhere close to being in a

position to create "vignettes". I'd be more likely to describe my gardening style as "pulling the garden back from the edge of chaos".)

Then, just the other day I was wasting time watching the Home and Garden channel instead of working, and another garden owner was giving a tour of her very artistic garden, and she pointed out her use of plants with bold foliage, especially at the front of the border.

Aha! It must be time for this lazy gardener to write a little something about bold

foliage. Large-leaved plants can indeed anchor parts of the border, providing season-long interest and strong contrast to other plants. While I cannot claim the kind of success that Bonnie Blanchette undoubtedly gets, I do have some favorites.



Ligularias are great, too. Some of us turn our noses up at 'The Rocket' because it's not all that exotic, but it's a great in a mass planting. And I particularly like 'Desdemona', because it not only has large foliage, but it's red-purple to boot. Ligularias need a certain amount of shade to prosper, and 'The Rocket' has a distressing tendency to wilt dramatically in the heat of the day.

Rogersia is another nice big plant. I don't know anyone, though, who has had major success with this in the home landscape. I notice that the Renegade Gardener (Don Engebretson www.renegadegardener.com) is

giving up on them in his garden. But they might be just the ticket for someone. They're great in some areas in Lyndale Park by Lake Harriet.

Castor beans are another large, dramatic plant. A little too large for my little borders, but no one can deny they're bold! Of course, they're poisonous, too, so I'd be concerned that the neighbors might think I'm trying to poison someone.

Speaking of dangerous plants, the hardy yucca's are very striking. Of course, they're also very sharp, and I'm waiting until my nieces and nephews are little

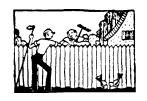
older before in incorporate any yucca's in my garden design. I can't afford the liability insurance right now.

And if you don't mind corralling them every few years, plume poppies are great.



Yucca 'Golden Sword'

(Continued on Page 9)



60th Anniversary Musings

Clips from past newsletters selected by Howard Berg, Historian

60 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1942

August 3rd 1942, the club toured small city gardens. Eight gardens on tour starting at 7:05 P.M. After the tour a discussion of advisability of limiting membership.

August 22, 1942, a tour of Lake Minnetonka Gardens was held. Five gardens were on tour. Picnic supper cost 50 cents.

The charter with 57 active and 3 commercial members was closed. On August 26, 1942, the Board of Directors met and decided that the membership should be limited to 60.

50 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1952

A convention report given by Herb Kahlert. The club was invited to show and attend the Richfield and Glenview Terrace Garden Club's flower show on August 16.

25 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1977

President Fred Glasoe stated it made him very happy to welcome the garden club to his garden. Ted LeBoutillier came up to Fred and said this group impressed me so much that I would like to join the Club. 120 gardeners went on this tour.

A Flower show was held and the objectives of the show was education, promotion of pride in produce grown in neighborhood, and to inspire improvement in growing and showing.

Sherm Pinkham gave a convention report held at Raleigh, N. C. Some of the high lights were. A survey showed; plant sales were held by 83% of the clubs, 33% sponsor youth gardening education, 70% of the clubs participate in some type of community

planting and 65% have flower shows.

Many Raleigh gardens were visited. Daylilies all over, at Pullen Park we saw 10,000 daylilies, the purple smoke tree, the redwood tree, the corkscrew willow and river birch. Mr. J. Kenneth Moore, superintendent of the N. C. Botanical Garden gave a very

interesting talk on Insectivorous Plants.

15 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1987

The Second garden tour of the year was for members, wives, sweethearts, & other guests. The cost was \$5.00 for bus tour.

The Flower and Vegetable show was held on August 22 and 23 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum .

10 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1992

Family and friends attended the MGCM Sunday Garden Tour and Potluck Picnic. It was held on Sunday, August 9, 1992 and started with picnic at Gilligan's "Hidden Orchard", meat, plates and utensils were provided at a cost of \$6.50 tour and picnic. The tour also stopped at the MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show at St. Anthony Main.

The 50th Anniversary Tour was held at the gardens of Harold and Phyllis Gulde, Dave and Delores Johnson, Roger and Kak Koopmans, Carleton and Beth Nelson, Jerry and Lee Shannon and Bob and Nancy Stepan. This great effort was wildly received by the 75 people on the bus tour and 860 on the drive-yourself tour. We budgeted for one \$1,000 horticulture scholarship, but with the tour's success we authorized the committee to make three \$1000 scholarships each.

5 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1997

The first planting at the new perennial garden, trial garden at Lake Harriet was set for August 2, 1997 at 9 A.M.

Margaret Hibberd has been recommend by the Nominating Committee to replace Walt Muehlegger who resigned because of his wife's health condition. Ritchie Miller was selected to complete the one year

(Continued on page 10)



GARDEN IDEAS FROM GRANDMA ©

By Phil Smith



When I was a lad, I enjoyed visits to the farm of my Grandmother Smith, particularly in the summer to see her large vegetable and flower gardens. Sometimes I even got to help her weed or hoe. She was quite a gardener and I expect that may be where my interest in plants was initially encouraged. In remembering her, I find that I still occasionally use some of her ideas and techniques. Some might think they are old-fashioned ideas. Well, they are. My grandmother gardened into her eighties and I am now in my sixties, so that would qualify as "old."

ROSE JARS FOR CUTTINGS.

When I was a kid, many people successfully rooted cuttings of roses and other woody plants by using nothing but an old glass jar, such as a quart canning jar. My grandmother would just cut off a rose stem, or take a stem with flower which had been in a vase in the house, stick it a few inches in good soil in a somewhat shady place, and cover it with a glass jar turned upside down. Placing the cutting between taller plants in the border or the vegetable garden provides some shade, and the jar functions as a little greenhouse. I have tried it with about a 50% success rate. The advantage is that no special equipment is needed and the cutting or cuttings may be taken and stuck whenever the desire arises. Many people no longer have canning jars, but a quart mayonnaise jar works quite well.

WILLOW TEA.

The success rate for most any cuttings is enhanced by a rooting hormone. My grandma

merely used a tea made from willow cuttings. I remember her saying "nothing roots like a willow branch." If you collect pussy willow branches in the spring, and put them in water instead of a dry vase, you will notice good roots on the stems in just a few days (if you want to preserve them, do not use water). My grandma would merely collect a few willow branches, cut them into two inch pieces, split the pieces lengthwise with a knife and put them in a pail of water for a day or so. She would then remove the willow pieces, soak her cuttings in the tea for a day before sticking the cuttings in soil and also use the diluted tea to water the cuttings. In researching the matter a little bit, I learned that any kind of willow will work (any Salix species). Apparently the willow contains an acid which is a natural rooting hormone, similar to the active ingredient in most rooting hormone products available commercially. I frankly have never tried this technique, but plan to do so. I expect it may be why grandmother had such good success rooting her rose cuttings and other woody ornamentals.

TEPEE TRELLISES.

Many vegetable gardeners have used tepee trellises for their pole beans. They can also work nicely for some annual flowering vines, but the poles generally do not last long enough for perennial vines, such as clematis. The idea is to use generally straight wood poles, usually collected from the woods, about an inch in diameter, tied at the top in the form of a tepee. Some gardeners use just four in a square at the ground, or perhaps four along each side by the rows of crops and tied at the top. My grandma's technique which I do not recall ever seeing elsewhere was to use poles about 7 or 8 feet long and tie them in the middle (about waist high) rather than at the top. The extended parts of the poles above the tie provided an outwardly flaring support for the upper portion of the plants. She thought this was easier for picking, provided better sun light and air ventilation.

(Continued on page 10)



CONFESSIONS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)
Not only do they have large, interesting leaves, they get tall as well. I'm planning to use them to replace my buckthorn hedge in a few places. But they do like to spread enthusiastically.

Then, of course, tropicals like cannas and elephant ears work very well. A little more work to dig and store tubers over the winter, but not a big deal. In the Plant Delights catalog, Tony Avent describes Canna 'Phaison' (Tropicanna) as "the Howard Stern of the plant world". While the mental image of Howard Stern in one's perennial border is perhaps unnerving, it would definitely generate some interest.

Elephant ears can be quite versatile, since the most common ones, Colocasia escuelenta and Colocasia antiquorum 'Illustris'

will do quite well in either sun or light shade.

Salvia argentea is another interesting front-of-the border accent. Theoretically, it's not hardy here, so it should be treated as an annual. It forms a large rosette of big, fuzzy, silvery leaves in the first year. Always a conversation piece. Can be very ugly if it survives in subsequent years.

Brunnera macrophylla (Siberian forgetme-not) is another possibility. I have always liked this for its clear blue flowers in the spring. But it also has large, green leathery leaves that generally look good all year, and would contrast well with more delicate foliage. I might try it with geraniums or thalictrum's or little grasses and see what works.

Daturas, too can provide a large, bold accent. They tend to come up where they

want to, and they're late to show, so it's a challenge to save space for them. But their large, grayish leaves and nice structure can make a statement in the garden if you have room for it.

Bergenias, nobody can say that these don't have bold foliage. A little ugly in the spring, since they're evergreen, and last year's leaves can look pretty ratty. But they've been a favorite of mine for years. Very nice contrast to grasses and ferny foliage, and they do quite well in either sun or shade. And the spring flowers are a bonus!

Well, this should give us enough information so that we can all go out with our shovels and rearrange all of our perennial borders. Well, maybe not us Lazy Gardeners. We will visit everyone else's gardens and admire!



Canna phaison 'Tropacanna'

Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.-- William Shakespeare

Adapt the pace of nature; her secret is patience--Ralph Waldow Emerson

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.--Richard Briers

Late Notice

Bob Churrilla has passed away. A memorial will be in next month's newsletter.



Grandma Continued

(Continued from page 8)

INSTALLING GARDEN POLES.

My grandmother was also fond of garden trellises for flowering vines and she normally used naturally rot resistant poles from the farm woods, such as walnut or locust. Over the years I have installed numerous poles in the garden (usually 4x4 or 6x6 redwood, cedar or treated), often for supporting trellis for clematis, garden arches, arbor structures, large bird feeders, lights, etc. Although not grandma's idea, I have found a rather easy and quick way to support the posts in the ground for stability. Of course, poured concrete around the post is probably the best plan, although it can limit the area available for planting near the post. My technique is to use two cross pieces about 12 inches long made from rot resistant 2x4s, 2x6s, 1x6s, etc. They are securely screwed to the post with stainless or brass screws, one at or near the bottom of the post and the other on the opposite side of the post a few inches under the planned ground level. After good back filling, this provides very good stability in two opposite directions, which is usually all that is needed. If stability in all four directions is required, one board may also be screwed between the other boards on one of the other two sides.

A Request

I hope that you had a grandmother who passed along some of the "older" ideas or techniques, some of which are generation proof. If so, I would appreciate hearing about them. My email address is:

[wsmith3190@aol.com.]

Musings Continued

(Continued from page 7)

director's term of Bill Jepson who resigned because of his own health condition.

Chuck Carlson started an E-Mail list. It cwas to serve as an emergency net and as a backup for the calling committee, plus passing on reminders to the members.

Flower, Food and Foto Show

By Maurice Lindblom chairman of FFF

Mark your calendars, tie a string around your finger, ask your friends to remind you, BUT whatever you do don't forget the FFF Show. Its a lot of fun to exhibit your choice blooms and vegetables, and a lot of fun to enter your garden photos!.

The dates of this year's show are Saturday August 17 and Sunday, August 18. You may bring your flower and vegetable specimens to the Minn. Landscape Arboretum starting at 7:30 AM on Saturday the 17th. Come early to have your entries available for the judges who start at 10:30. Don't worry if you have never entered a flower show before. There will be a lot of members there to help you with the niceties of showing your entries.

Remember to get your photos to Lloyd Wittstock by July 31. Try entering you may like it. There are a lot of people who have fun.



FFF at the Arboretum Photos by Chuck





Changes to the directory

- Larry Bagge's email doesn't work
- Marilyn Brummer new email marilynjeann@msn.com
- Anne Buchanan -new email rlockard@aol.com
- Joe Cassell new email joecassell@hotmail.com
- Robert Churilla deceased
- Elizabeth Hamilton email change ekhamil@qwest.com
- Bill Hull deceased
- Duane & Janice Johnson new address & phone 3005 Scott Ave N Golden Valley MN 55422-2743 Ph 763-521-4560

- Maurice Lindblom new house Number 5320 Malibu Drive
- Bob Livinston Email address correction rlivington@email.msn.com
- Warren Nordley new email bwnordley@attbi.com
- Robert Olson new email thehostajournal@hotmail.com
- Theodore Olson deceased
- Duane & Patti Reynolds new email mshs1@attbi.com
- Greg Smith new email gregsmith@attbi.com
- Lee & Bill Strang new email wrslms@earthlink.com
- Lynette Uzzell's email doesn't work
- Lloyd Wittstock new email lwmpls@visi.com

August Members Tour

Please reserve a place for my guests and me for the Bus and Garden Party on August 11, 2002

(See the front page	and the article above for the schedule and details)
Members Name:	
Guest Name(s):	
Enclosed is my check for_	Garden Party and Bus Reservations @ \$15.00 each
·	for a total of \$

Reservation and payment must be received no later than August 7th

Make checks payable to MGCM & mail to:

Howard Berg 10107 Lakeview Drive Minnetonka, MN 55305

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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THE SPRAY

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