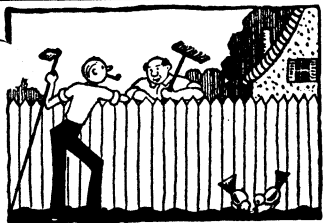


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 7
Number 11
Jack Cohen, Editor

December, 1949
Associate Editors
Vic Lowrie, Ed Montgomery

Plan now to attend our biggest and best

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

for all members and their wives

Tuesday - DECEMBER 13 - 6 P.M.

Officers

William E. Swain,
President
Cortis N. Rice, Jr.
Vice-President
Rene Dufourd
Secretary
Ralph Sherman
Treasurer
Stanley D. Lund
Past-President

Donaldson's Tea Rooms (take 7th St. elevator to 6th floor.) Decorations - Souvenirs Entertainment - and an OUTSTANDING PROGRAM!

Greetings
Honoured Guest
Presentations
Exhibition
Colored Slides
Holiday
Arrangements

Bill Swain, President
Harold C. Pederson, County Agent; President, Minnesota Horticultural Society
M.G.C.A. bronze medal awards
Display of member-made Christmas decorations, articles and novelties
Our 1949 gardens in color
Planning the use of materials for decorations and arrangements by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Menzel

Office of the
Secretary and Exchange Editor

5020 Second Ave. S.
Minneapolis 19

OUR DECEMBER MEETING

One of the highlights of our Club calendar is always the colorful and sociable Holiday Meeting to which our wives add so much in pleasure and enjoyment. This year's committee is planning the best one yet! Please note the unavoidable change in place. (The room we wanted at Dayton's was not available.)

Some highlights! We are honored that one of Harold Pederson's first speaking engagements since his election as President of Minnesota Horticultural Society is with us.

The Menzels - anyone who has seen the startling results of their efforts knows this genial couple are authoritative, skillful, ingenious and articulate. Don't miss Joel

The display table of member-made Christmas ornaments, decorations and novelties will be both interesting and helpful. If you have made, either currently or in the past, something appropriate and novel, bring it to the display committee at the dinner.

Souvenirs for the ladies will be both welcome and practical; Les Johnson has volunteered to take care of the decorations - enuff said!

DECEMBER CHORES

Wait until the ground is frozen hard before covering the perennials, roses and bulbs. Look out for your Tritomas - they should be wintered in a cold frame.

Geraniums can be carried over through the winter by hanging them in a cool place and moistening the roots sufficient to keep them from drying out.

Be careful not to smother hollyhocks and foxgloves. A little brush and a few leaves are sufficient. Iris, pinks and primulas also require only a light covering. Pansies - cover very well.

You may start your amaryllis bulbs and calla lilies any time now. Use a good rich mixture of soil and house plant fertilizer. The small amaryllis bulbs can be forced in water using hyacinth glasses.

Tulips, narcissi and hyacinths in cellar or cold frame can be brought into the heat for forcing as soon as the pots are full of roots.

It's time to have your winter bird-feeding equipment out and filled. Don't forget to replenish, and an extra helping while the ground is deeply covered with snow.

The garden tools can now be put away. A light covering of oil before storing will keep them rust-free.

By making a fresh cut in the base of your Christmas tree and inserting it in a sugar-water solution, you can keep the needles from falling.

ARCHIE PLAYS SANTA

First order of business at our November meeting - and was it good business! - was the refunding of the money members advanced to help finance the convention. Archie Flack passed out the checks which covered payment in full for every personal advance, and did they go well with our dessert and coffee! It was Archie who first introduced the idea of personal pledges, and called on the membership to underwrite the program - little realizing at the time (and so stating) that not much, if any, of the money should be expected back. It was a great occasion and full credit for its return goes to Herb Kahlert and Cortis Rice, his treasurer.

ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE CHANGES

If you have moved or have had your telephone number changed since the first of this year, be sure to notify the Secretary who is about to bring the Club's roster up to date and print a new one for 1950.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

We have no assigned roving reporter for The Spray - we are dependent on the thoughtfulness of our members for news, so won't you please write or telephone your items of interest to the Secretary?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of Club officers for the year 1950 will take place at our January meeting.

OUR ANNUAL BULL SESSION

It was a great session that our toastmaster, Harold Kaufmann, conducted. Many a thrill, much joy and some disappointments were expressed by our members in recounting their experiences for the past growing season.

Every day in the garden, every new bloom is a thrill to Herb Kahlert, but his greatest enjoyment comes from February 1 on watching his seedlings germinate and pop their heads above the ground. Herb, as most of you know, grows practically everything in his garden from seed.

Cortis Rice had a new thrill this Fall studying vegetation on the slopes of our Western mountains. Remarked Cort: "It's marvelous the quantity of seeds necessary to reproduce the vegetation each year," and concluded with the sage comment, "Flowers will grow themselves if you give them the right conditions."

Picking a bouquet of violets on November 5 was a real thrill for Rene Dufourd from among 18 to 20 varieties which bloomed all summer.

With no irrigation and a very dry summer, Walter Quist got a lot of fun out of the color in his garden and particularly from some very large hibiscus and some double hollyhock of tremendous size.

William Robinson made quite a find. He discovered that one of the finest compost that can be had is made from layers of oak leaves alternated with grass clippings.

Glads tickled Archie Flack's fancy this year, especially one named Silver Cord with five spikes having blooms of the most magnificent dazzling snow-white.

After many poor starts, Milan Evans finally produced this year Canterbury Bells, which he was proud to call his own. What a thrill!

Mums the word with Bill Shaw. He finally discovered how to winter them over successfully - straw and pots.

Two-garden Thurber Day had his troubles with his vegetable garden too large and his flower borders too small. Next year will take care of that.

Charles LaCrosse thought he had as many problems as he could handle but was most fortunate with his mums in a year when most of us were having trouble.

Full-time gentleman gardener Jim Cristman had quite a year for himself what with a cloth house and greenhouse - and everything that goes with that kind of layout. Sweet peas that were the envy of every caller, with blooms from early June until late October in such profusion they had to be cut every other day - grown in the cloth house. Dahlias up to nine feet high, tuberous begonias as only Jim can grow them, and an extra thrill from primulas grown from seed which wintered without coverage.

From catalog time to the end of the growing season, Glen Cerney really has fun! His greatest thrill came from the wealth of gardening information gained from attending the National Men's Garden Clubs' lectures and visiting with so many fine out-of-town gardeners.

Bittersweet was almost the undoing of Bill Block. After waiting several years for his vines to flower, he finally managed to get bloom this year which he thinks was a result of grafting suggested by Archie Flack.

Roy Edlund almost got himself into serious trouble switching cans of talc and sulphur when the temperature was up over 100°. His greatest joy were his irises planted two years ago, which finally came into their own last Spring.

Another two-garden operator is Dr. Leo Stillman, but his are twelve miles apart. His biggest thrill came from growing twelve plants of blackberries in acid peat - three different varieties and all were rich with fruit.

Beware of those "Before and After" ads, says G. B. Germain. He tried some fish meal on his tuberous begonias that were doing well and had all but reached the blue ribbon stage - dug them up and placed the fish meal down under - the next day every cat and dog in the neighborhood dug the begonias and wrecked everything.

Ernie Thompson, a comparatively new member, with his light under a bushel, copped a blue ribbon at the Flower Show this Fall and will be in their pitching again next year.

Raising plants in the shade is one of George Titus' specialties. He can tell you which will and which will not do so well there, too. This year he raised in the shade a beautiful bed of asters.

Forcing tulips, narcissus and hyacinth is quite a thrill for Art Fackler and he does it very well, including gladiolus bulbs.

Tom Hughes is another who enjoys his daffodils and tulips in the house as well as in the garden - Red Emperor tulip and King Alfred daffodil being his favorites. He also starts his gladiolus bulbs in pots in the basement for June blooming.

Our dapper auctioneer, lawyer, fisherman and, last but not quite least, gardener, Frank Janes, is going to town with mums. At the rate he buys them at the auctions, how could there be room for anything else?

Orchid specialist, tuberous begonia fancier, delphinium and dahlia expert, Bob Bryant got his greatest thrill this year from a large bed of violas which have been blooming en masse from early Spring until this very day, November 19th!

Harold Stevens thrills at most everything that blooms - a great lover of plants, especially dahlias, mums and begonias.

In addition to his wild flower rockery, Ed Montgomery has taken a leaf from California and has gone all out for color. Blending pink geraniums with purple petunias, and yellow marguerites; pink ice plant with ageratum; pansies with fuchsia; Lantana pink and yellow with heliotrope.

A lily grower with a reputation, Charlie Reif was crossed up this year by a flock of madonnas which refused to mature - dry weather, no doubt.

Transplanting a dolga crab tree in the latter part of June, while in full bloom, was Henry Baker's thrill of the year, as he watched it develop and bear fruit.

One hundred and fifty asters flanked with fibrous begonias turned out to be a real thrill for Russell Bechtel and his family.

Fred Paul is another seedling grower. This spring he thrilled to 1,200 as they germinated and took their places in his garden. For flavor, color, size and shape, try Burpee's Hybrid Tomatoes, says Fred.

When it comes to producing really fine blooms. just stroll through Al Nelson's

thought was possible - and roses are his specialty. Still Al is having trouble carrying them over the Winter. Every year he experiments and still is.

Neighbor Tom Foley with adjoining garden complements Al's and together they thrill with every new flower.

Bill Brooks has been doing some experimenting with vermiculite for coverage and reports considerable satisfaction.

Moving into a new home in the Winter and having to wait until Spring to find out what's in the garden was Bill Addy's experience this year. But he had many a thrill and a fine garden. (Archie Flack just moved into a new home last week. Will he be a busy gardener next Spring! Bet he has it all planned by now!)

We have an invitation from Gregg Lucking to put on a flower display of our own at the Park Board's Chrysanthemum Show next year.

Charlie Doell's greatest thrill came from attending the national convention and visiting with the delegates.

Water lilies in bloom from the middle of June until the latter part of October was quite a thrill for the Walter Menzel family. But a self-seeding cornflower or sunflower maturing to 10½ feet high with a 3 3/4" stem developing a bloom 13¼" in diameter was really something. Lots of winter feed for the birds from that bloom!

There is no greater thrill during the growing season, says George Luxton, than getting out into the garden at daybreak. Everything looks fresh and clean and it's a pleasure to work while the birds overhead chirp their good mornings. George enjoys his roses - only lost two out of 52 last Winter. He hills them high, covers with marsh hay, then uses sheets of steel to carry off the rains. Another specialty is wild flowers which, if placed in the position under the right conditions, do wonderfully. Of course George had to throw in a tall one - something about three of his tomato plants getting up to 15 feet in height and requiring a stepladder to harvest!

Stan Lund, not to be outdone by George, related his experience with a tree rose which broke in two while being dug up in the Spring. Undaunted, Stan planted it in its proper place, taped it and staked it, only to have it outdo in profusion of bloom every tree rose in his garden. One of the most interesting new roses, reports Stan, is the Floribunda Fashion.

Growing dahlias for the first time turned out to be Vic Lowrie's biggest thrill of the year. Outside of staking and watering, they got little attention and bloomed profusely until frost. Heavy mulching of roses in July produced strong plants and heavy blooms - the Peace roses were particularly beautiful.

Like father, like son, Bill Swain's youngster took the all-city junior garden prize this year, and was that a thrill for the old man! Bill has been doing some experimenting with dormant seeding of early vegetables in open ground and reports very satisfactory results. What with gardening, spreading the gospel of Herb's in and out of Minneapolis, writing, and generally promoting gardening, together with his school activities, amateur chef gyrations and keeping the family larder filled by attending to business, Bill, you can see, is an awfully busy man!

Harold Kaufmann, who always seems to get more out of each square foot of ground than most of us dare try, still keeps his mums closest to his heart. As usual, his mum display this year was marvelous even after the big wind. Give them room. room to

MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

On the evenings of December 5 through December 9, the Cortis Rices are opening their home to Club members and their wives who may wish to make their own Christmas wreaths and other holiday decorations. In order to have the proper materials available and to schedule the attendance to the convenience of the members and space available, it will be necessary that you notify the Rices at once which day you would like to come.

They will have available fir and balsam boughs and hoops for large wreaths, but if any member desires to use pine, holly, berries, ribbons, or other less common materials, bring them along. The cost of making a wreath such as we sold last year for \$2.50 will probably be in the neighborhood of 50 cents.

Bring your pruning shears, a roll of small wire, and wear old clothing.

HOW MANY OF THESE HOUSE PLANTS ARE YOU GROWING, AND WHAT OTHERS?

One of the features at the March International Flower Show will be a showing of house plants by the Men's Garden Club of New York. Here is a partial list prepared by Victor Greiff, Neponsit, Long Island . . .

- | | |
|--|--|
| ABUTILON - Flowering maple | NASTURTIUMS |
| ASPARAGUS APP. - Emerald feather asparagus Fern | MARICA NCR THIANA - Apostle Plant |
| ASPIDISTRA ELATIOR - Cast-iron plant | NEPHTHYTIS - African Evergreen |
| BEGONIAS - Any kind | MONSTERA DELICIOSA - Swiss cheese plant |
| BELOPERONE GUTTATA - Shrimp plant | Ceriman |
| CACTI - (Succulents, etc.) | OXALIS SPP. |
| CISSUS - Grape ivy, Cape Grape, Kangaroo Vine, Marine Vine | PALMS - all types |
| COLEUS SPP. - and varieties - Painted Leaf | PANDANUS SPP. - Screw Pines |
| CROTONS - Codiaeum | PELARGONIUM - Geraniums of varied type |
| CYRTOMIUM FLACATUM - Holly Fern | PEPEROMIA SPP. - Watermelon "Begonia" and others |
| DIEFFENBACHIA SPP. - Dumb Cane, Mother-in-Law Plant | PETUNIAS |
| DRACAENA SPP. - Corn plant, etc. | PHILODENDRON SPP. |
| EUPHORBIA SPP. - Crown of thorns | RHOEO DISCOLOR - Three-men-in-a-boat, Moses-on-a-raft |
| FICUS SPECIES - Fig family (rubber plant) | SAINTPAULIA IONANTHA - African violet |
| FERNS - any kind | SANSEVIERIA - Snake plant |
| GASTERIA SPP. (succulents) Warty Aloe, Ox tongue | SAXIFRAGIA SARMENTOSA - Mother of thousands, Strawberry Geranium |
| HAWORTHIA SPP. (succulents) Cushion Aloe, Windowed Plant | SCINDAPSUS SPP. - Pothos |
| HEDERA SPP. - English Ivy, Canary Ivy and other ivy | SEDUM SPP. - Stonecrop, Live-forever |
| HIPPEASTRUM HYBRIDUM - Amaryllis | SEMPERVIVUM SPP. - Houseleek, hen and chickens |
| HOYA CARNOSA - wax plant | TOLMIEA MENZIESI - Pick-a-back plant |
| IMPATIENS SPP. - Patience Plant, Zanzibar Balsam | TRADESCANTIA FLUMINENSIS - Wandering Jew |
| LANTANA | ZANTEDESCHIA SPP. - Calla Lily, Golden Calla, Pink Calla |
| | ZYGOCACTUS TRUNCATUS - Christmas Cactus |

SPECIAL INTEREST REPORTS

This is the last call for reports on your experiences with your specialties. Give your story to your special interest chairman who in turn will turn them

GARDENING AS WE LIKE IT

The general consensus of the membership to the challenge thrown out by Jim Cristman was, let's have freedom of thought, freedom of ideas, gardening as we like it; at the same time try ever to build better gardens, improve them where we can, and whenever we can, and spread the gospel of gardening among our neighbors and friends.

HERBERT SPENCER LEAVES

For reasons of health, Herb Spencer is giving up his home and garden in Minneapolis and moving into an apartment in St. Paul. We are saddened by his departure and extend our best wishes for the improvement of his health and a cordial invitation to join with us at any of our monthly meetings.

CONGRATULATIONS, HAROLD PEDERSON!

Mr. Harold C. Pederson, President,
Minnesota State Horticultural Society
3531 Twenty-Second Ave. So.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Harold:

The delegates to the Eighty-third Convention of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society should be complimented on their choice of our thirty-second president.

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis joins me in extending to you our sincere congratulations on your election to the presidency, and pledge our continued support. If as a club or as individuals we can be of assistance in continuing the work of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, please feel free to make your request.

Plans are now under way for our Annual Christmas Party at which we entertain our wives. We extend to you and Mrs. Pederson a cordial invitation to join us on December 13th.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially,

(signed) WILLIAM E. SWAIN, President

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

LATH HOUSE FOR SALE

Anyone interested in a lath house for tub-erous begonias or other plants can purchase the one formerly used by the late Mr. Libby. It is in excellent condition and can be bought quite reasonably. Contact Mr. Pinkham at 5410 Abbott Place.

CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

The report of the committee on revisions of our Constitution and By-Laws is enclosed with this issue of The Spray. Study their recommendations carefully and be prepared to ballot for or against the changes at our January meeting.

GREETINGS

Your Officers and Directors and the editorial staff of The Spray wish each and every one of you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and