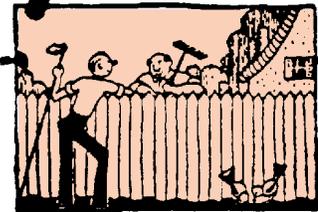




The Garden Spray

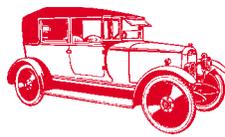


Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
 July 2002, Volume 60, Number 7



July 13 & 14 Biennial Tour

13 Beautiful Gardens on a drive yourself tour, \$10 per ticket. Good for both days.
 Sell those tickets and get into your cars and go.



Bus Tours available both Saturday and Sunday. Five different gardens each day.
 Tickets \$22.00 each day. Buses boarded at noon at Southdale Center

All proceeds of the Tour goes
 to the Scholarship Fund.

Further details on your tickets



Coming Club Opportunities

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| August 11 | Members Garden Tour | October 12 | 60th Anniversary Luncheon at the Arboretum |
| August 17-18 | Food Flower & Foto Show (FFF) At the Arboretum | November 12 | Dinner meeting Susan Davis Price on Minnesota Gardening History |
| September 10 | Dinner meeting Joan Bethiaume on Mr. Wirth and the Park System | November 29 | Wreath & Holiday Decoration making at Klier's Garden Center |
| October 8 | Dinner Meeting Program is Roberta Sladky Director of Como Conservator | December 3 | Holiday Party |
| | | January 2003 | Andy Marlow on Africa |



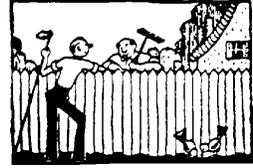
Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson.

The Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis is completing 60 years of existence this year. Over the years we have volunteered as a club and as individuals representing the club for many things and we should be proud of our accomplishments. This year many things are happening: Perennial garden planting and maintenance, arbor day planting, church planting, Valley Fair clean-up and planting, holding the biennial tour for the scholarship fund, the Flower Food and Foto show, the August members tour, The 60th anniversary luncheon, the planting of the Arboretum's cabin grounds. This is putting a premium on our member's time and talents. But, the July biennial tour needs everybody. Putting on a public tour is no small feat particularly when thirteen gardens are involved plus two days of bus tours and hundreds arriving to visit the gardens. I know those showing their gardens will be putting in extra hours to assure their gardens are ready and I know the committee is also piling up volunteer hours but a project like this needs everybody in the club to do a little extra.

There is one task that needs many hands and this is to be a club representative at each of the gardens. These representatives take and sell tickets and provide a possible way to recruit new members. I believe this task alone for the two days and 13 gardens will require 52 volunteers since we cannot expect the host gardeners to do this and show their gardens also. Then we have the bus guides, coordinators, drink purveyors for the bus tours and I am sure I have forgotten other tasks.

So you see we are in need of all our members to accomplish this two day task. If



you haven't volunteered yet, please contact Howard Berg (952-545-7290) or Nancy Bjerke (952-476-8067). They need us all and if they call you, just say yes to their request for help.

Sell those tickets and volunteer to help and we will fill the scholarship coffer for a few more years.

By the way one of our scholarship winners, Laura Nackerud, who attends Hennepin Tech was also awarded a scholarship in 2002 by the Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Club of America.

Probably True Facts

From the "Tiller" the Green Bay newsletter which got it from Sue's Gardening a web site www.gardendoctor.fsnet.co.uk

1. Up to a quarter of a million Crocus sativus flowers are needed for a pound of saffron.
2. The leaves of the sensitive plant Mimosa pudica fold up when touched at a speed of 1.18 inches per second.
3. The largest flower in the world is the Rafflesia. It has a flower 3.28 feet across.
4. Plant species with variegated foliage are less vigorous and the thought is, it is because it has less chlorophyll.
5. In Victorian times estate gardeners never planted grape vines without first burying a dead donkey under the plot.
6. Parsley was thought to be a plant of the devil. Cutting parsley and giving it to a friend was thought to give bad luck to you and your friend.
7. Lavender was used by the Romans to perfume their bath water. The name lavender comes from the Latin word Lavo, meaning I wash.
8. The tomato was called the love apple because of an early Latin name Pomo amoris.



President's Column

MGCM President Warren Nordley

Warren has been on vacation and newsletter time restraints have caused the column to be missing. The column will be back next month.

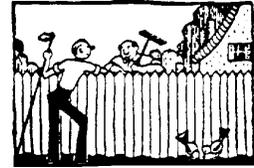
August Members Tour

By Howard Berg

Preliminary plans have been set for the August 12, Sunday tour. The tour will consist of three gardens. The last garden will be at Roger & Kak Koopmans where we will have a catered meal in thier garden. More details will be forthcoming.



*A scene in Koopman's Gardens
Photo by Chuck*



*Lisianthus 'Blue Rim
A flower you may see
at the Flower Show
on August 17th and 18th
Photo By Chuck*

Dedication

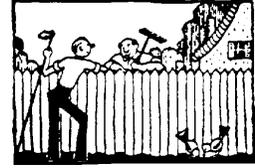
Lynette Uzzell signed up to be on the biennial tour after doing this she had to spend some time in the hospital for an operation. Shortly after this it was announced she would not be on the tour. Even though she will be back in the hospital in July she wanted to remain on the tour. Under her direction, (I heard she sat in the garden directing the moves) her family has planted the garden. Thus, things have changed and her garden WILL BE on the tour. Please inform anyone you have sold tickets to or thinks the garden was dropped, it is back on the tour



It has been requested that some help on maintenance is needed. Howard Berg has set up some dates for any of you who can help weed etc. Don't call Lynette but do call Howard at 952-545-7290 if you could help. The dates are; Wednesday July 10 and Thursday July 11.

Lynette should be commended on her dedication and we wish her the best when she returns to the hospital.





Last Months Program

By Chuck Carlson

The June program was given by research scientist and apple breeder, Dave Bedford. Mr. Bedford is employed by the University of Minnesota and has worked at the fruit breeding facilities in Chaska for 23 years. The breeding center was established in 1908 and was dedicated to develop high quality, cold hearty fruit. There has been 97 varieties of fruit and 24 apple varieties. Some of the early successes are the Wealthy apple and the Latham raspberry. His first slide was an attention getter which related the following. "Minnesota the land of long winters, good apples and interesting politics. Then he proceeded to give his top ten apples that were developed by the center. They are listed earliest to the latest

- State Fair - an early red apple.
- Chestnut - A golf ball sized apple, high in both sugar and acid with an excellent flavor.
- Sweet Sixteen - the flavor of a cherry lifesaver
- Haralson - The best local all purpose apple and an great pie apple.
- Honeygold - A good sweet yellow apple but has a thin skin that bruises easily
- Regent - An early red apple
- Fireside - A large, sweet, crisp, local apple. A favorite in the Minnesota region but not known out of the area.
- Keepsake - A unique flavor like raw sugar cane.
- Honeycrisp - A sweet tart crisp but not hard with lots of juice.
- Zestar - the most recent with a slight brown sugar flavor. It fruits early around the 4th year and blooms early in the year.

The two criteria that is used to develop apples are, first they must be hardy in our zones and secondly it has to have good texture and flavor. To get this it takes 20 to 30 years and only one out of 5000 crosses makes the grade.

This was an excellent presentation and an interesting program.



Our Speaker showing the Zestar apple



Board Meeting Summary



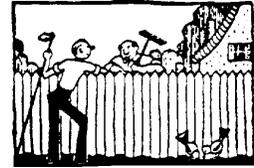
Summarized from
Ellyn Hosch Secretary's report

Meeting Date: 4 June 2002

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

Business Items

- The secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved as submitted
- The Plant Auction figures were provided. The profit was \$3,070.53 against a target profit of \$4,200.
- As of 4 June 2002, we have 115 members.
- A new membership brochure was approved for printing so that it could be distributed at the July garden tour.
- It was decided to have laminated posters for signage at each garden on the July tour.
- The Valley Fair workday in May went well, although there were fewer people in attendance. We believe that Valley Fair will ask us to work again in the fall.
- The Holiday Party committee chair has requested approval to hire a musical group for entertainment. Warren will work with the committee and possibly subsidize the Holiday Party budget out of the President's contingency fund.
- The club's plan by Eldon Hugelen for landscaping the cabin that is being restored at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum was reviewed with Peter Olin and approved by the Arboretum.



The Arboretum has agreed that there will be no obligation on the part of the club for on-going maintenance of the landscaping. The plan will be brought to the June meeting and we will request membership approval to continue with the project. The exact budget and time frame for completion are not yet finalized.

- Dave McKeen, Carole Ann Brekke, and Eldon Hugelen completed the church plantings.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on July 2 at 7 PM at the home of Dave McKeen.

June Business Meeting Notes

By Chuck Carlson

The business meeting is summarized below:

The Disaffiliation Vote

The vote on the disaffiliation was passed by the required two thirds. So we are no longer affiliated with the national umbrella, TGOA/MGCA.

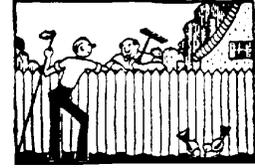
It was pointed out that if you so desire you can be a member at large of TGOA / MGCA and of course those that are life members are still life members.

The July Tour

A short time ago an email was issued that stated that Lynette Uzzell would not be on the tour. Things have changed and her garden WILL BE on the tour. Please inform those to whom you have sold tickets and were informed otherwise.

Arboretum Project

Go ahead was given to the cabin project at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (see board meeting notes for details).



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Even though my gardens don't necessarily show it, I have acquired an increased appreciation for perennials and annuals with colored foliage. I can't honestly say that I get the best out of all the foliage color I try, but it is great fun to try to find interesting combinations. Red and purple foliage looks especially cool in contrast to silvery foliage, and the contrast with gold leaves can be interesting as well

With the exception of some of the heucheras, most red and purple-leaved plants seem to like full sun best, and that's good for us, since that's where they show up the best in our gardens anyway. Here are some of my favorites.

Hibiscus 'Red Shield'. This is a tender perennial, grown as an annual around here. I first saw this at Norenberg Gardens, and I have tried to use it as effectively in my cluttered garden with minimal success. (But it's not the fault of the plant, I'm afraid!) Its deep dark leaves and stems are the primary features of this plant (although it will bloom under lights in the basement in about January). Grows about three feet tall, and can be propagated by cuttings.

Cannas. There are several cannas that have reddish or purple leaves, and they can provide a bold accent in the border. I think I finally killed off my Canna 'Black Knight', which wasn't all that vigorous for me, but I have ordered Canna 'Intrigue' at great per-

sonal sacrifice from Plant Delights, and I'm looking forward to trying this one out. Looks spiffy in their catalog!

Dahlias. Several dahlias feature red and purple foliage. 'Bishop of Llandaff' is always mentioned, but my favorite is 'Fascination', which has striking dark red foliage and abundant magenta flowers. 'Fascination' also doesn't get very tall (max.. 24-30"), so it doesn't require staking, and can be used at the front of the border for accent. I wouldn't do without it (unless, of course, my tubers didn't survive over this winter).



Bishop of Llandaff
above

Fascination below



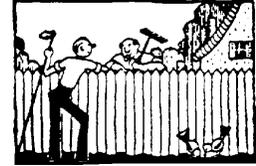
Lysimachia ciliata 'Atropurpureum'. This has great purple foliage, and it grows to a respectable size — about 3 ft. And it has nice little yellow flowers that aren't completely insignificant, but nobody would plant this for the flowers. It is, however, a thug in the garden, and I wouldn't recommend planting it anywhere that you couldn't go in with a shovel

and dig out bunches of it every few years. I have a stand of this planted in with some variegated mint, and I just let the two of them duke it out within a confined space. In hot dry weather it will start to dry out and look ratty, but will recover nicely from shearing.

Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron' (Japanese Blood Grass). This isn't supposed to be hardy here in Zone 4, so if we ever have a Zone 4 winter again, I might lose it. But I've had it for several years and it has valiantly returned after having only a light covering of leaves over the winter. This gets about 12-18 inches high and provides a nice accent. I have it growing in at least half shade, and it does very well. Forms a nice colony after a few years.

Sedums. I like big sedums, and 'Matrona' is one of my very favorites. It's like

(Continued on Page 9)



Suggestions for Staking and Tying ©

By Phil Smith

Many plants benefit from some type of support, such as stakes, cages, wire hoops, trellises, etc. Staking seems to be such a simple task, but it is seldom entirely satisfactory for all weather conditions. There are two basic purposes, to provide support for weak or flimsy stems, or to protect tall flower spikes from being bent and broken during high winds or storms.

No matter what type of support is employed, it should be done as much as possible in a manner that the natural beauty of the plant is preserved and the support is not very visible. The accompanying sketches illustrate various techniques I have found effective for flower borders (supports for vegetables is another topic).

Mid range perennials, such as pyrethrum, platycodon, veronica, physostegia, etc., and annuals such as the taller snapdragons and petunias, carnations and asters, do well with a three stake arrangement using a couple of ties around the stakes. This is similar to the illustration for delphiniums, but using much shorter stakes. Take care to make a loop around the stakes with the tying material so that it will stay in place. As to the tying material, it should be soft so as to not bruise the plant stems. I prefer to use raffia since it has low visibility. Other good choices are plastic tying tape and heavy twine. Some gardeners use strips of old panty hose, but I

seldom wear them.

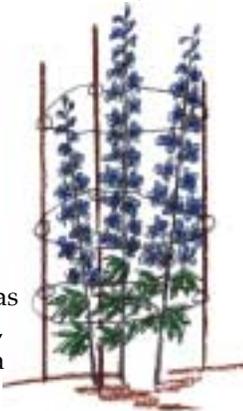
For mid height plants, trimmings from twiggy tree or shrub branches make a good staking material. Trimmings from birch or aspen or similar trees are particularly good for this purpose. While the plants are still small, the twigs are merely stuck in the soil around the plants, and as the plants grow the twigs become invisible. This system is often employed by gardeners in England. The only disadvantage is the rather unsightly appearance until the twigs are covered by the plant growth.

Taller perennials, such as delphiniums, foxglove and dahlias require taller and stronger stakes. Strong bamboo stakes work well, as do the plastic coated steel stakes now available. When in Minnesota, I used to use 3/8" steel rebar to stake delphiniums. Those plants producing primarily one stem, such as dahlias, may be successfully supported with only one sturdy stake, using a tie about every 12 inches. However, those plants producing several stems, such as delphiniums, are better supported using three stakes spaced in a triangle about the plants, again with ties placed about every 12 inches as the plant grows. Take care to make a loop of the twine around each stake so that it will be held in place. Delphiniums have stiff hollow stems, and I find it best to not tie each stem to a stake. Unless ties are made very close together (which I believe is unsightly), the stem is likely to break in the wind or rain since the flower spike is quite heavy. I prefer to makes ties around the stakes about every 12" to form sort of a "basket" in which the spikes may sway and move with the wind.

Another popular type of support is the metal hoops available commercially. These work well for some plants, such as peonies and phlox. Another type some-



Staking for smaller plants

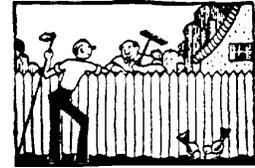


Delphinium Cage



Tree Branch Stakes

(Continued on page 8)



Suggestions on Staking

(Continued from page 7)

times available is with a criss-cross of wires in the middle of the hoop, up through which the plant stems may grow.

There are some annuals which have sort of a sprawling or floppy growth, such as some varieties of petunias. For these a small cage made from chicken wire works well to elevate the plant and add some height near the front of the border. A cage about 12-15 inches high and about 12 inches in diameter works well.



Staking with wire cage

The idea is to plant three plants of the same color in a small triangle, place the cage over the plants, and pin it to the ground with a couple of stakes woven through opposite sides of the cage. The plants will grow up and through the wire which will become invisible.

A similar idea may be used for a large cage or pillar for the back of the border. Take a piece of wire fencing having spaces of about 2" wide and 4" high, the fencing being about 5 feet or so in height and about 6 to 8 feet long. Bend the fencing to form a column and tie together with the cut wire ends or other pieces of wire. After



"Peoni" Hoop

being placed in the desired location, place a couple of steel fence posts on opposite sides and wire the column to the posts. You can plant about three clematis around the column which will soon cover the fencing. Some care is required to train or guide the young stems so as to fill in

spaces and create a solid cover. Annual vines, such as a morning glory and cobaea, may also be used. One could also try the perennial trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) but I never found it very hardy in Minnesota.

Staking and tying needs to be done almost on a weekly basis during the main growing season. It may seem like an onerous chore, but can add significantly to the appearance of the flower border.



Mosquitoes

From the "Tiller", The Green Bay newsletter.

Pesky Mosquitos Bothering you?

Put some water in a white dinner plate and just add a couple drops of Lemon Fresh Joy dish washing soap. Set the dish on a porch or patio. It is not sure what attracts them, the lemon smell, or the white color, or what, but mosquitoes flock to it, and drop dead, or fall into the water, or the floor within about 10 feet.

From the editor: It sounds weird but I needed a space filler. Chuck



CONFESSIONS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

'Autumn Joy' except more so, and it has the added benefit of burgundy stems and a purplish tinge to its very vigorous leaves. 'Vera Jameson', on the other hand, is much shorter, more prostrate, but has excellent color and gathers a fair amount of attention as kind of a novelty. I'm thinking of trying it next to some lambs ears or a small artemisia to see how it looks. 'Purple Emperor' is a new introduction — taller, like 'Autumn Joy', and very purple, but in its first year in my garden it was kind of spindly and floppy. If it comes back this year, I'm going to employ some of the pinching tactics from The Well-Tended Perennial Garden to see if the growth habit improves.

Penstemon 'Husker Red'. I like this one, too, although it can get kind of lost in a cluttered garden. This basically forms a nice rosette of red-tinted leaves, and stems of white flowers. Most of us would not grow 'Husker Red' for the flowers, but the foliage is very pretty and always garners some attention.

Heuchera (Coral Bells). The many successors to Heuchera 'Palace Purple' have put red-leaved coral bells on the map. 'Palace Purple' remains a favorite for me, at least in part since it seems to be tough as nails, and some of the newer ones have seemed a little less winter-hardy. But I haven't gotten entirely on the heuchera bandwagon, at least in part because there are so many to choose from and they all kind of look alike to me!

Basil. 'Purple Ruffles' and 'Osmin' are a couple of purple-leaved basil that I've tried in recent years. 'Osmin' didn't turn out to be all that vigorous for me, although it has a deep purple color. 'Purple Ruffles' is an old stan-

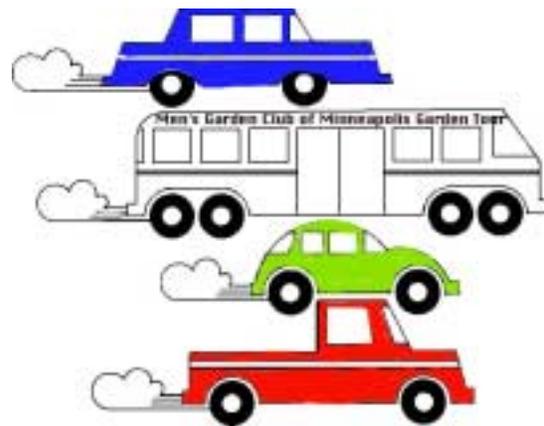


Sedum 'Matronna'

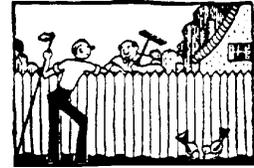
dard, and for good reason. Looks good in front of a border, in a container, or in with other herbs. I'm trying 'Red Rubin' this year, and will report back if I learn anything.

Shrubs. There are some very nice shrubs and small trees with red or purple foliage. I have Ninebark 'Diablo', which I like quite well. It's a little leggy where I have it, in partial shade, but it has been a good sport about its location. And Smokebush 'Purple Robe' is very cool. I wish I could squeeze it in someplace! And there are a bunch of barberries that are very red. Rosa 'glauca' is another cool thing. In the sun, its leaves are quite red, with kind of a blue haze to them. When it is in more shade, though, the predominant color is more blue, with some red tints. It has an added bonus of single rose blossoms in the spring and nice hips in the fall.

There are undoubtedly more interesting red and purple plants, but this is a start. If you don't have all of these, it's time to go shopping! See page 10 for more pictures.



There all going to the Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis Garden Tour. See you there.



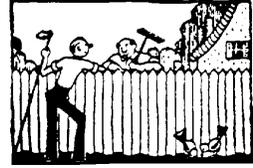


Photo Contest

By Chuck Carlson

The photo contest is coming again, so get out and take a few pictures. You can enter slides, prints or digital pictures. I will be sending the rules out by email to all on the email list and by mail to those in the club who have previously entered. If others want a copy just let me know and I will get you a copy.

Also if you get some good pictures of some of the gardens during the tour, please let me copy it. I am still working on a slide show of member's gardens.

The deadline for the entries is July 31 so get those cameras clicking



Rosa glauca

The following are plants mentioned in the article Confessions of a Lazy Gardener.



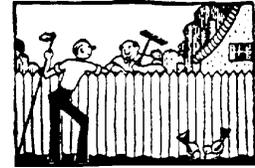
Canna 'Intrigue'



Japanese Blood Grass



Sedum 'Purple Emperor'



60th Anniversary Musings

Clips from past newsletters selected by Howard Berg, Historian



60 YEARS AGO JULY 1942

July 13, 1942 meeting was held at the Park Board Rose Gardens. 28 members and guests came. Speakers were Louis Sando, Secretary of State Horticultural Society, and R. D. Wilcox, the rose expert.

Objectives of club were decided on during this meeting. It was decided that it be not for profit but for our pleasure and information regarding flowers. They are summarized as follows;

1. Educational Programs on all phases of garden culture will be the norm. By attending meetings you get the opportunity to discuss with other members, your joys and sorrows over your work in your garden.
2. Meetings are to be held the year around. Summer meetings will be in gardens and winter meetings with speakers and movies of garden with layout plans and etc.
3. Membership in a National Society, with monthly Periodical.
4. Membership in State Horticultural Society.
- 5 Opportunity to go and see other people's garden.
6. Good Fellowship with other men who all have the same hobby - Flowers.

50 YEARS AGO JULY 1952

July 8, 1952 meeting was held at P. W. Young's yard with over 50 members and guests to inspect his garden. A "Garden Clinic" was started at this meeting and each owner was to present his most serious

problems and the experts on hand tried to give the remedy.

25 YEARS AGO JULY 1977

Garden tour participants met at Lake Nokomis Community Center at 1:30 PM. The tour went to the gardens of Fred Glasoe, Chuck King, Ted LeBoutillier, Jerry Shannon, Fred Lang, and Dr. John Haas.

Stan Crist attended a pesticides meeting given by Mark Ascerno U. of M. Extension entomologist.

15 YEARS AGO JULY 1987

The first summer garden tour was held. The gardens on tour were the Fragrance Garden, Dave Johnson's, Chuck Jonas' and Jim Perin's . Bill Hull's committee sent out 360 individual letters inviting friends to the convention.

10 YEARS AGO JULY 1992

50th Anniversary Garden Tour and the Flower and vegetable Show at St. Anthony Main July 11 and 12, 1992.

5 YEARS AGO JULY 1997

The July garden tour was on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, with a box supper at the Schere Family Garden. The other gardens were Gary Geister, Walt Muehlegger and Carole Ann Brekke.

MGCM has a new video, 1996 Gardeners of America Photo Contest given to us by MGCA-TGOA

Slide shows we now have are;

- We Find God in the Garden—No. 1
- We Find God in the Garden—No. 2
- The Birds Sing—The Flowers Bloom
- America the Beautiful—No. 1
- America the beautiful—No 2

Editor's note: We also have two other photo contest videos. All slide shows and videos are available to our members and we give shows to churches and senior groups.

**Remember to save Saturday
October 12 for the 60th
Anniversary Luncheon Party
at the Arboretum**

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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THE SPRAY

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JULY

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God Bless America

