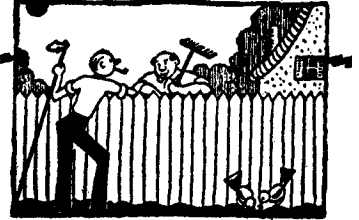




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven; Wm. Hull;
Joe Witmer; Chet Harkins

A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R T O A L L !

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 12
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,
50th & France South
Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$1.75

P R O G R A M

6:30 P.M. Business session.
Brief annual reports.
7:00 Fluorescent Gardening.
7:30 Greenhouse Culture.
8:00 Special Interest Reports.

Officers

A. H. Flack	President
A. W. Koester	Vice-President
P. W. Young	Secretary
O. H. Erickson	Treasurer
R. J. Dufourd	Past-President

Office of the Secretary
and Speakers' Bureau
P. W. Young
4544 Beard Ave. South

Office of Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Building

Our January meeting is always a full one - and the one coming up looks like one you will certainly not want to miss!

Bob Adams, with his committee, has lined up an array of talent which includes men who will speak on subjects both timely and of special interest, particularly if you grow your annuals from seed (which is so much more fun besides being easy on your pocketbook).

So let's make our first meeting of the new year a 100% attendance meeting. We are going to reinstate the "Question and Answer" period, which has proved so helpful in the past. Therefore bring those puzzling problems along and be prepared to help the other fellow in solving his.

Come, let's give our retiring officers a rousing vote of thanks for a

NEWS AND VIEWS

A new weed killer called URAB (short for phenyldimethylurea) will be available to home gardeners in 1954. This chemical promises to be excellent for clearing driveways and walks of weeds; it can also be used for pre-emergence control of weeds in a large number of crops.

CAPTAN, originally labeled 406, has been given top rating by the University of Illinois as a fungicide in combatting gray rot in strawberries. Gray rot is the principal cause of rotting fruit in strawberries. The fungus lives over winter on decaying vegetation or organic fertilizers. For best control, plants should be sprayed when flowers are nearly all open, then again 10 days later.

Those house plants you purchased or were given for Christmas would be helped by a good feeding of a soluble commercial fertilizer such as Instant Vigoro. Be sure to adhere to the instructions on the label.

A Cornell University professor put a humorous piece parodying the claims of some of the new soil conditioners in his extension news sheet. It was reprinted widely; lots of folks got lots of laughs from it. But scores of serious-minded citizens wrote in asking where they could obtain the wondrous stuff, which was named ERUNAM. Gimmick: ERUNAM spelled backwards is . . . !

Have you washed out and oiled your plant food spreader so it will be in good working order early next spring when lawn-feeding time arrives? Plant food left

in the spreader will encourage rust, with rapid deterioration.

Did you notice the front cover of the Christmas Spray? Well, it was designed and printed by Don Methven. He also designed our new masthead. Isn't it a beaut? Thank you, Don. While on the subject of the Spray, you should know that we have been indebted to Chet Harkins for printing each issue throughout 1953. Prior to that time Rene Dufourd printed it for us for many years. All we pay for is the paper, the layout and the postage. Had we to foot the printing bill, our yearly budget would have to be considerably increased, which could not be done without raising our dues. Some day we may have to face that issue!

And this brings to mind another thought. You could help make the Garden Spray much more interesting and helpful if you would only think to send to the editors every month happenings among our membership, together with unusual horticultural experiences, either in your own garden or among gardening friends. We are continually on the hunt for news and articles.

January is an excellent time to plan your 1954 garden providing you didn't do so last fall. Hunt up all those notes you made during the year, then, with the new catalogs in hand, prepare your order for seeds, plants and garden supplies, getting the orders off pronto.

Greetings, New Members

We are happy to welcome into membership of our Club Mr. Fremont E. Benson, 5140 Ewing Ave. So., and Mr. Oyvind L. Lee, 4532 Adair Ave. No. Both these men are avid gardeners, so make yourselves known to them at the first op-

Dues - Dues - Dues

This is the last call for DUES. If you want your name included in the 1954 Membership Roster, be sure your dues are paid not later than at our January meeting. Will all members also please advise the Secretary of any changes

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Traditionally the highlight in our busy calendar of events, the 1953 annual Christmas Party will go down in history as another brilliant social function, thanks to Bob Adams and the members of his imaginative and industrious program committee. Always a colorful occasion and a jolly party, this year proved no exception and will long be remembered for its sparkling wit and lovely ladies.

Lawyer, gardener, auctioneer, toastmaster Frank Janes, this time in the role of master of ceremonies, set a lively tempo that kept the activities moving along at a high pitch throughout the evening.

Past-president Herb Kahlert, gardener par excellence, chairman of the Awards Committee (made up of previous award winners, Harold Kaufmann, Rene Dufourd and Archie Flack), with his customary eloquence, presented the Annual Bronze Medal Award for extraordinary and meritorious service in horticulture to past president Glen Cerney. Glen was the unanimous choice of the committee, as well as that of the membership of the club as a whole, as the member-of-the-year to be honored for his outstanding contributions to the Club over many, many years.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the ex-president's gold pin by past-president Harold Kaufmann to retiring president Rene Dufourd. Packed with humorous barbs and innuendos, it brought forth much mirth and a great many chuckles. By popular request, Harold's witty presentation is reproduced elsewhere in this Spray.

By the time the Christmas Party comes around, we begin to think of the new year hovering but a week away, the new seed catalogs with their temptingly attractive supercolossal new creations, and, of course, the Club's new officers who were elected at the last business meeting. So the latter were introduced, mostly for the benefit of the ladies since they are well known to the members who voted them into office for their respective abilities. Introduced by Frank Janes, here they are: President, Archie Flack; Vice-President, Tony Koester; Secretary, "P.W." Young; Treasurer, Otto Erickson.

We were most fortunate and highly honored in having Professor Macy, Dean of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, as our principal speaker. He spoke briefly on the continuing research being conducted by his horticultural staff in the development of hardy ornamentals for use in our difficult Minnesota climate. Dean Macy further expressed the wish that club members would feel free to bring their gardening problems to his department, assuring us of his staff's desire to lend a hand whenever possible. This, as we all know, was no idle invitation for we have already been given an abundance of help and advice from our own good member, Dr. Leon Snyder, head of the department of horticulture, as well as from every member of his co-operative staff.

A Christmas Party would hardly be complete without a color slide showing of members' gardens, but this year we were also treated to movies and they were real fun! It is no secret that Archie Flack has almost reached the professional class in the taking of moving pictures, and all through the year he recorded on film the many activities entered into by the Club - the May plant auction, the June and September flower shows, the July and August garden tours, as well as a few of our indoor monthly meetings. Rene Dufourd, on the other hand,

had planned early in the season to make candid camera movies of members working in their gardens. Unexpectedly, he would appear in a member's garden at a time when he felt pretty sure of finding his gardener diligently at work on hands and knees, usually in a garb hardly fit for public exposure. Unfortunately, much of Rene's efforts were lost due to a faulty borrowed camera (two hundred feet of film were a total loss!). Thus, through the combined efforts of Archie and Rene and the camera committee headed by P. W. Young, the movies and slide presentation reached hilarious proportions to the delight of everyone present.

Although we are primarily indebted to Bob Adams and his program committee for such a lovely party, our sincere thanks are also extended to those who generously contributed favors and door prizes including Bob Bryant, Henry Bachman, Les Johnson, Bill Addy, Larry Corbett, Mrs. Bob Adams, Ed Peterson, Ken Larwick, Juster Bros., Harold Kaufmann, and last but not least to the Stouffer management for a delicious meal so well and courteously served.

THE RETIRING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a pleasure to serve you during 1953 as your president. However, the successes of the past year are not due to me but to the men who took care of the details.

Let us pause for a moment to congratulate the staff, editorial and otherwise, for the grand job that has been and is being done on our Garden Spray. Congratulations, Victor and your men! Let us salute the chairman of the Program Committee, Bob Adams, and his staff for the splendid winter programs and summer tours and picnics. We enjoyed every one of them.

While our hats are off, let's give three cheers to our fund-raising Auction Chairman "Pink". Without his help and that of his committee, we could not have come out financially as well as we did. You know the Club gets only \$2 out of your dues for running expenses; that is not enough and we must depend on other sources for revenue.

Another series of loud and long cheers can be given to our Show Chairman, "P.W." Young. He and his gang did a remarkable job. There is not much glamor in mopping floors after the flowers are set up and cleaning up after the show. Yet not one of the boys objected! That's the spirit of our Club!

Don't get the idea I am listing these in the order of their importance because I am not. Also I am not forgetting the Special Interest group with Tony Koester; the Membership with Glen Cerney; the telephone boys with Art Fackler at the helm; the Social Committee and Otto Erickson; the Nominating, Auditing, Awards, Photography and Civic Interest Committees. All did their jobs well.

I did leave the Historian for the last because I wanted to pay special tribute to Fred Paul. For two years he has been working on the past history of our Club and now I am told it is finished. Congratulations, Fred! We can begin publishing it in The Spray pronto!

Yes, you all have done a good job and we can say we had a successful year. It remains now for me to say "Thank you" and I do so from the bottom of my

heart. My special thanks to the officers and Executive Board who have been so helpful and so kind. May the coming year bring you happiness and good health and to those of you who are ill now, may you get well soon.

R. J. DUFOURD

A PRESENTATION?

(Published here by request of some members who heard it at our Christmas Party. Editor)

Friends . . . Like many of you, I received several postcards over the summer and fall months from overseas. These colorful pictorial cards - not all of subjects flora and fauna, I must report - bore such signatures as "The Fancy of Nancy," "Beau of Bordeaux," "Roue of Rouen" and "The Rogue of the Riviera." Although I am no Perry Mason or Mike Hammer, I deduced that this "Pride of Paree" and "Fragrant Flower of France" could be no other than our president in absentia - Rene Dufourd!

Now I must state that last year, when I presented this Club's Bronze Medal to Rene, I carefully catalogued his virtues and casually glossed over a few faults. I foolishly told him that now that he had been kicked upstairs to the office of President, he would find his garden club activities far less onerous and time-consuming. That, since he had retired after many years of service as Loan Agent for the Prudential Life Insurance Company and had been relieved, after many years of outstanding and distinguished service as Secretary of this club, he would have more time to enjoy himself. What happened?

Well, we soon discovered that Rene wasn't retired, but his car was! A week or so after his inaugural address, he was off to the races: the East coast, three months in Florida, back home with us for a short personal appearance, then on to Yellowstone. After "seeing America first," came "The Big Story." His wife, Rosalie, finally persuaded him to leave her in New York while he returned to his native France for several months' visit. There our investigators reported him sunning on the Seine, lolling in the Louvre, toiling in the Tuilleries and several other activities marked "confidential."

Our Frank Janes arranged through the Sorbonne that Rene be subpoenaed to appear here this evening. Now that he is here, I beg your indulgence while I address a few remarks to him.

Rene, it was extremely fortunate for you and for this Club that you had such a capable and willing vice-president as Archie Flack. In presenting to you this Past-President's pin, I present it not as a reward for past services rendered, but rather as a challenge for the future to continue to devote to the welfare of our Club your many talents and abilities. . . After your return from your three-months' vacation in Florida, of course, you gay gypsy!

Harold R. Kaufmann, Past-President

FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - MANGANESE

In its pure state, manganese is an extremely hard, brittle metal, which finds great use in imparting hardness to alloy steels. In soils, however, it exists as dark-colored mineral oxide of the metal. The total supply is quite variable from one soil type to another. In New Jersey alone it has been shown that the total manganese content of soils varies all the way from 180 pounds to 10,400 pounds per acre. Deficiencies of the element occur most frequently on alkaline soils which, although containing plenty of total manganese, are unable to supply it to plant roots because it is in a form that they are unable to use. Sometimes when acid, sandy soils are over-limed, this same condition may prevail.

The most usual deficiency symptom is a yellowing of the tissue between the veins of the leaves. Stunting of the plants also occurs. Little is known definitely concerning the functions performed by manganese in plants, but this element is involved in the metabolism of the plant in utilizing nitrogen, manufacturing carbohydrates and chlorophyll. It is known to be an activator of certain enzymes in plants as well as in animals. It works as a partner of iron in the latter function.

Unless alkaline soil conditions prevail in your yard, extreme manganese deficiencies probably will never show up. Use of complete plant foods maintains a small but adequate supply of this element under all but the most extremely alkaline conditions. The effect of over-liming, however, should serve as a warning to all gardeners to be sure that soils need lime, actually, before applying it.

PERSONALS

Our immediate past-president is off again, already basking in the Florida sun.

Ernie Thompson has also been there for some time. Lucky fellow!

You will be pleased to know that our two good members, Bechtel and Foley, who have been seriously ill, are progressing nicely.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Blackie Blackburn's mother and extend our sincere sympathy to the family.

The Club received a gracious letter of thanks from Mrs. Cortis Rice for the cooperation and assistance rendered by so many of our members in connection with the Christmas Festival held at the Art Institute early in December.

THE CLUB'S FIRST PRESIDENT PASSES ON

Tom Hughes, one of the founders of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, its first president and one of our most active workers up until the time he lost his health, finally passed on following a lingering illness which kept him in bed a great number of years. To Mrs. Hughes and the family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Count your garden by the flowers,
never by the leaves that fall.
Count your days by golden hours,
don't remember clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars, not
shadows;
Count your life by smiles, not tears.
And may you through all your lifetime,
Count your age by friends, not years.