

# 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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Volume 10, Number 7  
Vic Lowrie, Editor

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## JULY GARDEN TOUR

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 1952  
Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp  
Place: P. W. Young  
4544 Beard Ave South  
Dinner: By one of our caterers;  
a deluxe special at  
\$1.50

## OFFICERS

Vic Lowrie President  
Bill Brooks  
Vice-President  
Rene Dufourd Secretary  
Chet Harkins Treasurer  
Fred Paul  
Past-President

## DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL

Be sure to mail your reservation card the very evening it reaches you. Should something turn up late to keep you from joining the gang for dinner, please phone Ed Culbert, RE 7853 no later than 8 o'clock Tuesday morning, July 8. We are forced to insist on dinner reservations. The club cannot afford to pay for more meals than will be bought by members, and our caterers cannot afford to prepare more meals than we order. THEREFORE, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A RESERVATION IN, YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN FOR DINNER UNTIL THOSE WITH RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN SERVED AND TAKE A CHANCE ON WHAT IS LEFT.

Your program committee has arranged an entirely different kind of tour this year - we will visit gardens of some of our newer members and in each garden a series of questions pertaining to a problem existent in that garden will be raised and discussed by members best qualified to help solve the problem. This will make the tour both interesting as well as educational in that we will be attending realistic demonstrations of common garden difficulties.

"P.W." Young has kindly invited us to dine in his garden and the commissary department has retained one of our generous caterers to dish up the food. Don't miss this meeting; it promises much, and be sure and get there early; dinner will be served promptly at 5:30 - and say, MAIL THAT RESERVATION CARD RIGHT NOW!

## OUR SPRING FLOWER SHOW

"P.W." Young and his committee, aided by the Park Board and our professional member supporters, put on an unusually attractive show which, with all the special exhibits, proved to be the most colorful and dressed-show we have ever put on - a fitting performance in celebration of our Tenth Anniversary.

Your Executive Board purposely set an early date for this show in order to give those members who specialize in Peony and Iris culture and early spring flowers an opportunity to strut their stuff, which they are unable to do in our customary late June show.

As expected, the show was pretty well dominated with Iris, there being 103 Iris entries; followed by the Peony with 34 entries; and the Rose in third place with 29 entries. However, the entries in these three classes represented less than half of the 286 entries made by all members. Incidentally, the number of entries in our Spring Show this year exceeded a previous Spring Shows. Last spring we had a total of 275 entries, and the previous spring, 271. The same holds true of the total number of exhibitors: this spring, 39 (men 31, ladies 8); last spring, 27; and in the Spring Show of 1950, 32 members exhibited.

In commemoration of our Tenth Anniversary, we invited our ladies to enter arrangements in competition among themselves. Eight ladies entered arrangements in a separate class for the men, and the additional display added much of interest and color to the show.

Top honors as Grand Champion Winners went to George Germain in the Class "A" specimen group, with a perfectly gorgeous Peony; Morris Lifson won the purple ribbon with a foliage arrangement in Class "B" (arrangements for men); and Mrs. Lowrie won the coveted award for an all-red foliage arrangement in Class "C" (Ladies arrangements).

To the two sets of judges, Bob Bryant and Horace Barnes, who judged the specimens, and to Helen Fischer and Olga Bryant who took on the arrangements, we extend our warmest thanks and appreciation. May we also express our gratitude to Greg Lucking and his Park Board people, not only for the accommodation of the Park Board facilities, but also for the time and effort in dressing up the exhibit hall, which was most attractive and for the waterfall display which contributed so much to the overall display. We are deeply indebted to Herb Kahlert, Bob Bryant and Bachm Associates for enriching the show with their decorative exhibits.

And last, for special emphasis and citation, we proudly congratulate D Methven and Bill Brooks for bringing to life the club's emblem in a three dimensional shadow box which they so ingeniously contributed and so realistically reproduced.

### TOP WINNERS

Grand Champions	Sweepstake Ribbon Winners	Runners Up
George Germain - Group A (Specimens)	Glen Cerney - Group A (Specimens)	Glen Cerney 48 points
M. Lifson - Group B (Men's Arrangements)	M. Lifson - Group B (Men's Arrangements)	M. Lifson 31 points
		O. H. Erickson 17 points
		A. I. Nelson 16 points

### OUR THIRD ANNUAL ROSE SHOW

When you think of banking hours, from 10 to 2 usually comes into your mind but had you been at the Farmers & Mechanics Bank at 6 o'clock Monday morning, June 23, you would have seen Stan Lund and his crew of rose enthusiasts working like beavers, not breaking into vaults or attempting to borrow money from the bank's janitors, but setting up a display of the queen of our gardens, grown by the members of our club, augmented by a generous contribution from the Lyndale Rose Gardens. By the time the bank opened for business at 9 o'clock, here was completed an enchanting display of blooms as you could wish to see - awaiting the public to feast on their beauty.

Hundreds of specimen blooms were exhibited, including approximately 9 named varieties, all identified on specially prepared display cards. Members of our club were constantly in attendance while the bank was open for business from 9 A.M. to 7:30 P.M., for the purpose of answering questions and keeping the display in top condition.

Bill Brooks and Don Methven erected in conjunction with the exhibit a three-dimensional emblem, which they contributed for the Spring Flower Show. It proved to be quite a topic of conversation.

To all who helped make the occasion so successful, we extend our most heartfelt thanks, as well as to the officers of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank for their kind invitation for a return showing and for the opportunity of encouraging more citizens to add beauty to their gardens by growing the queen of all flowers - the Rose.

### OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY CIVIC INTEREST PROJECT

Those of you who have not recently visited the Flowering Crab Apple Tree planted by members of the club in the Lyndale Gardens will be happy to know that they are all (except one) leafing out nicely - thanks to our careful planting and the attention being given them by the Park Board gardeners.

As time goes on we are going to be mighty proud of what we hope is only the beginning of a real contribution by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to the beautification of the city. Your officers, executive committee and the past presidents' committee who engineered this Civic Interest Project wish to thank the entire membership for their loyal support in making this project possible by contributing the trees, and a special vote of thanks to those who turned out en masse to assist in planting them.

We will indeed be ever grateful to the Park Board Commissioners, officer and staff for affording us the opportunity to engage in such a project and for their unstinting co-operation and assistance in the consummation of what we feel is but the first objective in the club's long-range "Civic Interest" activity.

### OUR FILM LIBRARY

Your Photographic Committee suggests you take an extra shot of that unusual bloom, plant, vegetable or landscape scene for the club film library as well as keeping in mind our Christmas Party showing of members' gardens. This committee would also like to review any outstanding films which members feel would enhance our library and secure permission to have copies made if the original cannot be made available to the club.

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST HERBARIUM

Eric Clements

Scientists have a particular reason for visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. In the extensive building of the Herbarium and Library are housed the largest, and in many ways the richest, collection of preserved plants and the largest botanical library in the world. The Herbarium buildings consist of three large wings, with 10 floors altogether, apart from various accessory rooms. There are now around 6,000,000 collections preserved at Kew. The majority of the plant specimens are preserved in the dry condition and are mounted on sheets of cartridge paper of standard size and stored in cabinets with 18 pigeon holes holding some 30 to 50 sheets with covers.

It is probable that there are between three-quarters of a million and a million distinct kinds of plant species in the world. Within these there are almost innumerable varieties, even apart from the man-made varieties of cultivated plants. It is obvious that to deal with such enormous numbers of plants a system of classification is essential. Names are, in one sense, merely labels and are only of use if we know what they signify. It is the careful, reasoned grouping of plants into classes, largely on the basis of their reproductive parts - flowers, seeds, spores - that demands the fullest possible knowledge of the structure and behavior of plants, and is the essential work of the systematist, or taxonomist as he is sometimes called.

In the Royal Botanic Gardens about 45,000 species of plants are grown and studied in the living condition. This is less than 1/10 of the known species and of course only a few of these are flowering at any one time. The Herbarium at Kew is admirably arranged for botanists to investigate variation within species, different phases of their life histories, geographical distribution, kind of conditions under which they grow naturally and other important matters concerning them. Specimens are easily found because of the systematic arrangement which is its own index. New material is constantly being added.

In the Kew Herbarium there are over 200,000 "types." A "type," in the technical sense, is the specimen on which a species and its name has been based, since it is the specimen first chosen (often by the origin discoverer) to be the representative standard for future naming and all that this involves.

A great deal can be learned even from dried specimens when these have been properly prepared. Flowers and other organs, after they have been boiled up, can be dissected under microscopes and their structures determined well, or almost as well, as from fresh living plants, even when the specimens are a hundred or more years old.

The Library, which is housed in what was once a Royal Palace, contains over 50,000 bound volumes, including over 600 "runs" of periodicals, about 25,000 pamphlets, and some very valuable manuscripts. There are a great many treasures in the Library, including some of the earliest printed works on botany. The Library is, however, maintained essentially as a necessary tool for the scientific research carried out at Kew. Since Kew is a research institution and is primarily neither a teaching establishment nor a museum, it is essential to keep the Library up to date, more particularly in periodicals, in which most original research is published and in all works dealing with plant classification.