

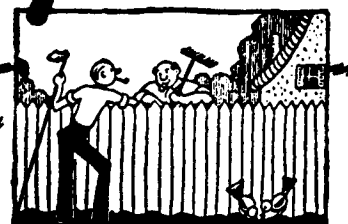
Sept. 1967



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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Phillip H. Smith & Archie Flack

Thank you, Dwight Stone.

At this September meeting the Convention committee will be refunding monies advanced by members of our club and this seems like a good time to say "Thanks" to Dwight. Those of us who worked with Dwight are proud to have done so and to acknowledge his excellent leadership in bringing about a highly successful event.

Well done, Dwight.



September Meeting

September 12 ... 5:45 P.M.

Judson Memorial Church
4101 Harriet Avenue

Dinner cost: Usual \$2.00

Program

Thor Solem will give us his convention talk on Dahlias which was so very successful. A fine speech.

Leon Snyder will also give us the first of a series of talks on "The Parts of a Plant." Sounds like one of the most interesting ideas we've had and will be great.

Come to this September meeting at Judson Memorial Church and collect your refund check.

You may want to know

1. THE GARDEN SPRAY again received an MGCA Certificate of Honor at the Minneapolis convention "for excellence of its publication... one of the top club bulletins" etc. We accept humbly.
2. If you did not receive a copy of GARDENING LESSONS WE'VE LEARNED, the book written by MGC Minneapolis members, there are a few copies available. Being sold at \$2.00 everywhere else, they are available to any member, the first one at \$1.00, additional ones at \$2. See Bill Hull.



"I'm letting it lie fallow this year."

Reproduced by special permission from "UP THE GARDEN PATH",
Norman Thelwell, E.P.Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 1967.

Order State Tree Seedlings Now -- if you are Qualified

Starting September 1, the State Conservation Department's division of lands and forestry will begin taking orders for some 25 million tree seedlings. The trees will be shipped next spring for planting in reforestation projects, wind breaks, to control erosion, as wildlife habitat and for other conservation purposes.

Several species of pines and spruces are available while broadleaf types include silver maple, green ash, caragana and black walnut. Prices: \$12 per thousand plus tax.

Application forms may be obtained at state forestry field offices, county agents, ASCS offices or from the division of lands and forestry, Conservation Department, Centennial Building, St. Paul.

These seedlings must be used only for purposes outlined above and detailed on the application form. If you want to enhance your lot with trees, forget this source. These are not intended for home beautification.

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YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Frank P. Vixo

Remember the September meeting is at the Judson Memorial Church. Bring your entries for the flower show.

Your advances for the convention will be returned to you at the September meeting. Come and get 'em!

Al did it again! The Queen of the Show trophy will stay in his possession another year. The entry - Foxglove. Mrs. Vixo was thrilled to get it. Thank you, Al Nelson.

We were all saddened by the news of Mrs. Holzman's passing. Let's each help Fred through this with our fellowship and understanding.

Nate Siegel asks that each of us who have money to turn in from the sale of tickets to the North Star Regions tours send it in at once to Otto Nelson or bring it to the September meeting.

If any of you have any unpaid bills for the convention they must be in soon. We are planning on closing the books by the end of October. Please don't delay any longer.

Plans are on foot to have an "Arboretum Day" for members on October 14. More about this later.

CONVENTION PHOTOS TO BE DISPLAYED AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Here is another big reason to come to this September meeting - at Judson Memorial Church. Ron Mielke, our convention photographer, will have the photos on display. You can see them, enjoy them, and order any you wish to have for souvenirs.

Club Officers:	President: Frank P. Vixo	Vice President: G. R. Christensen
	Secretary: Phillip H. Smith	Treasurer: Nathan S. Siegel
	Director: J. Dale Durst	Director: Albert I. Nelson

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UNSUNG HEROES

Someone said the other day "aren't you going to try to recognize each individual who contributed so much to the convention?" How does one do this? If we start listing people and giving credits we'd miss some. Even if we put all our heads together, all we'd get would be dandruff! And we'd still miss some of you. If we raved about the laudatory job Charlie Wasley did with Properties (and he deserves raves) we might miss the great work Harold Kaufmann, Archie Flack and Phil Smith did in encouraging you to write the Spray articles which became our book.

Besides - we know that none of us need anything more than the following comments which, along with those run in the August issue, say it best anyhow:

"Thank you for the wonderful time in your beautiful city. The convention was the best yet." Frances and Ray Tillman, Jackson, Miss.

"We want you to know that the excellent way you (Carol Hull) quietly managed the women's activities was outstanding. The number beyond what had been expected presented problems but you graciously managed all of them. So a private thanks to you from the Prings, the Gewinners, and us, the Berkemeyers." ...Verna & Walter Berkemeyer, Webster Groves, Mo.

"Greatest deal in our history!" says President Joe Howland on a carbon of a letter to someone else wherein the writer said he thought we gave the delegates a lot for their money.

"The men in charge of the convention were wearing sailor straw hats with fancy bands saying 'Welcome MGCA' ...They seemed to be happy to help others enjoy the convention and explain things in detail. The organization and planning of the convention was superb. The weatherman cooperated with some brisk early morning temperatures in the low 50s." ...Bob Sturdivant and Jim Moss, Dallas, in club bulletin.

"Thursday morning Specialty forums were scheduled. (Then tells of how they were organized) .. I wanted to attend all of the meetings. Since this was impossible, I selected the meeting on roses, as I raise a few roses. This meeting was so interesting that I stayed for the next meeting, which was on dahlias. This was just as interesting. I came home deciding to raise some more roses and dahlias." also Jim Moss in THE GREEN THUMB, Dallas, Texas

"The convention is now a wonderful memory. Your club members did a grand job of entertaining us. We enjoyed every minute of our stay at the hotel. The garden tours were a great thrill. Each garden was different and the colors were gorgeous. The picnic at Northrup King was great fun and that delicious turkey dinner at the church! The programs were so well planned. It was a thrill to be a part of that large and friendly group. That dinner followed by a twilight walk in the Rose Garden was the highlight of all the events for me. All of the events were wonderful. We are still talking about the good times we had in beautiful Minneapolis and what congenial hosts your clubs provided for us. This was our first time at a MGCA convention and we shall remember it always."

....Dolores and Lloyd Oftedahl, Elgin, Ill.
in letter to Thurber Day

Sept 1'

Unsung Heroes
(continued)

"Airborne now. Any maybe that helps me find the one right word to express my reactions to the great job you (Dwight Stone) and Minneapolis did. I am overjoyed. It didn't seem likely that the Portland spirit could be reached in this decade. Certainly no one there, except possibly Bill Hull, who knew you all from experience, could have believed (it possible)."Dr. Joseph Howland, President MGCA

"George and I want to say 'many thanks' for the lovely bouquet of red roses in our room during our stay. Your convention was a huge success and to us there wasn't one flaw or mistake. A marvelous job -- well done -- by so many able members. To the club and convention committee, again, many thanks for the room, flowers and courtesies extended to us."George and Ethel Spade, Exec. Sec., MGCA

"How thoughtful to plan the convention's close for Saturday morning. Among all our souvenir treasures and treasured memories, the visit to the arboretum was a special highlight for me. Dr. Snyder and Mervin Eisel are doing an outstanding work. I appreciate Mr. Eisel's courtesy in correspondence in advance. Please extend our congratulations and appreciation to all who worked with you to help make the convention a splendid success. ...Jane (and Claud) Farrow, Portland, Oregon
to Dwight

"This is to again express, Dwight, sincere thanks and appreciation for the outstanding job you did in helping to plan and direct one of the most outstanding Men's Garden Clubs of America national conventions that I have been privileged to attend. Please remember me to friends in your club.Bryant Horne, Past Nat'l President, MGCA, Jackson, Miss.

"I just wanted to tell you again how very much we enjoyed the MGCA convention in your lovely city -- It was a real howling success from every angle."Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Holton, Jackson, Mississippi

Computers and other electronic devices are doing more chores daily. They print fill-in invoices automatically from tapes which attach to your adding machine, cash register, or calculator. They can solve intricate problems faster than the information can be fed into them. (One of the biggest problems we are told is to keep them busy.) They can be used for diagnostic tools by physicians. Why can't we get them to cut the grass? How about a \$50 attachment on a \$100 mower that is activated when the mower reaches a predetermined height, and goes out and mows the lawn all by itself?

Note: September meeting at unusual place. See front cover.

GARDENING ON A TERRACED HILLSIDE

by O. S. Nelson

When you find yourself with a near 45-degree angle hill for a backyard, you have to do something about it, especially when you find mowing a lawn at that angle is difficult. The best answer in my book is to terrace the hill.

My choice of terracing was a double drywall planter type. There are many forms of terracing, such as logs, concrete blocks, brick, etc., but none with the looks, ease of building, and durability of limestone. The near fifty by sixty feet of hillside was divided into three sections with four double drywall planters spaced about eight feet apart. The reason I built the double drywall type was for the purpose of having a gardening space between the bottom of the back wall and the top of the front wall. This space can vary from 1½ ft. to 3 ft. in depth, depending somewhat on the angle of the hill. Between the planters a strip of lawn is grown. The steepness of this lawn has been reduced so it is easy to mow it crosswise in about ten minutes. These strips of lawn allow a walk in front of each planter and also add to the appearance of the hill. Planters also help greatly in preventing erosion by checking the flow of water.

The limestone is easiest to handle and lay, plus the fact that it is easier to grow plants between this type of stone. If possible, unload the stone at the top of the hill even if you have to ask a favor of your hill top neighbor. Then build a chute from the top to the planter location so you can slide the stone down. However, before doing so, cut out the location for the planter completely and then slide the stones somewhat by size into the opening as you need them, using the large and heavy stones for base and tapering somewhat to the top, keeping each layer from bottom up slightly lower on the inside. This gives the wall added strength. Curve the walls slightly at the ends and elsewhere where it will add to the general appearance. If possible arrange a winding flat rock stairway well-secured and edged with a wrought-iron or pipe railing. If possible it is of great advantage to have two stairways - perhaps one on each side of the garden. Ninety ton of limestone (the amount I have used) is a lot of stone, but when laid or built into a drywall terracing filled with plants and flowers it is pleasing.

There are a number of advantages of a hillside drywall planter garden. First, you gain about 1/5 added footage over that of level ground. Then, too, as a rule, a hillside prevents an alley so you just add that footage to your already stretched garden. You also gain a foot or two of space with each planter as you go up the front wall, in over the gardening space, and up the back wall. The average wall should give you five or more feet of gardening and wall planting space. Planting and weeding is much easier as you need not get down on your knees. In fact, you can sit on the edge of the lower planter wall and do your planting. That also goes for your weeding and watering. Should you by chance feel tired at any time and want to rest, head for the patio and a reclining cushioned chair and there you can see almost every plant and flower your daily labor has produced. In other words, enjoy the flowers and plants while you relax and, if sun directions are with you, it can be a shady relaxation. We find that many guests who come to see our garden prefer to enjoy it from the walk of the bottom planter or seated on the patio. Of course, many prefer seeing each planter at close range. For evening viewing the floodlights do a good job. You can enjoy a terrace planter four seasons of the year. During most of the winter (except 1967) we enjoy the evergreen plants and the beauty of the planters themselves, plus the birds that love to sun themselves there.

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Gardening on a Terraced Hillside
(continued)

Come spring, the evergreen plants wake up and soon there is a beautiful green showing. It gives the gardener an added urge to get out there and get going. Then comes summer with all its beauty and there is no better place to display the blooms than from a terraced hillside. Come fall the late flowers continue to show their beauty, especially the mums. They seem to lean forward from the planter and proudly show their beauty. And what a wonderful place to view them.

You can grow almost any plant in a terrace planter that grows in a border garden except tulips, hyacinths and that type of spring bulb plants. There would be some difference in the plant growing depending on the direction the planter faces, especially if it faces the north. Sun-loving plants would do well where they face either east, south, or west. Perhaps the most fascinating thrill of gardening on a hillside is to plant and make grow many plants directly out of the stone walls. There are perhaps thirty or more plants that can be grown out of these rock walls and love it. Many are the evergreen type such as sedums, arabis, etc. Creeping phlox does very well also and helps give color to the walls early. Throughout the year - may it be winter, spring, summer or fall - the beautiful limestone planters are there to be viewed. In fact, even in mid-winter, I find myself turning on the floodlights just to take a look at the hillside with its ever-there rock planters.

AUGUST TOURS WERE TO OUTSTANDING GARDENS

A fine set of gardens we visited last month. President Frank's beautiful beds and the lawn responding well to the application of hydrolized turkey feathers -- without a sneeze therefrom! Dale Durst's beautiful bloom. At this point we should also tell you that wife Lorraine Durst took about fifteen major ribbons at the Edina Affiliated Show; they're both good gardeners. At Bud Christenson's we saw improvement that must be rewarding to these good gardeners. Very lovely with an outstanding smoke bush (see below). And then there was Al Hubbard's estate with the million dollar view and the most interesting display of bird-repelling net over the corn. What a fine way to spend an evening -- visiting friends' gardens and just talking.

Among our guests we particularly welcomed Bill Finley of the Men's Garden Club from New York.

Bud Christenson's lovely Royal Purple smoke bush was so delightful the editor had to have one so bought it the next day. It didn't get planted for a few days. I don't know whether it is appropriate or inappropriate that he and the hausfrau planted it - a smoke bush - on their 24th wedding anniversary!

The greatest story now going around concerns the new rooster at the farmyard. The editor is willing to tell it at the slightest request.

OUR WAY TO BETTER THINGS

I sing a song of the gardener,
A man that's brave and strong,
Who keeps his head when things go right
And smiles when things go wrong.

I'm proud of the genial gardener,
His radiant voice and speech.
He helps to smooth the rugged path
Of all within his reach.

I like the way of the gardener
Who looks for the brightest and best,
He scatters sunshine as he goes
And leaves his fellows blest.

I'm glad to meet the gardener,
I like his constant cheer.
He carries hope and confidence
To those assailed by fear.

So here's a song to the gardener
Who joyously works and sings,
And daily shows this weary world
The way to better things.

Just why do I praise the gardener?
He who labors in the sod?
He is living on a higher plane,
He's living next to God.