

Volume IV

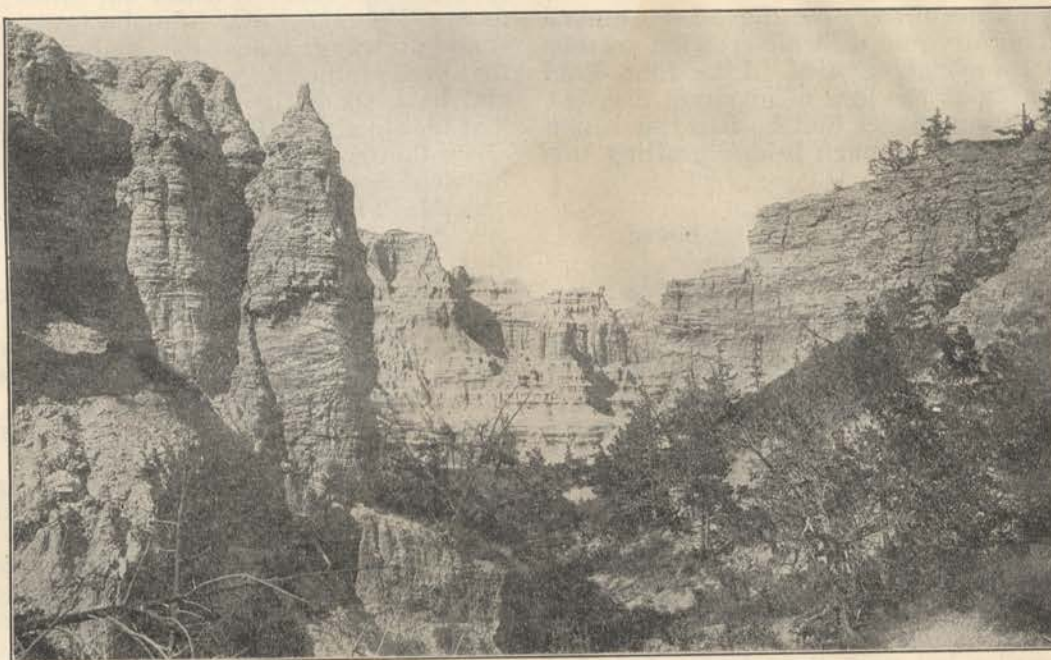
Number IV

*Mr M. E. Hansen
Brookings, S.D.*

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

APRIL, 1932

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RED CEDAR GROWING IN THE BAD LANDS

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EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A TRAVELING MAN

W. A. Simmons

Mr. W. F. Sonderman, a life member living in Kennewick, Washington, in the heart of the apple country, writes as follows: "Speaking of the coddling moth and the long drought to help kill them off, well, our experience out here does not bear out your theory. You will find a generous-sized family in the fullness of life and activity and be sure to keep your sprayer in good condition and be prepared for the battle. Also the theory that coddling moth will not travel more than fifteen or twenty feet from its birth-place is all bunk. This fruit pest is just like the human family; some like to stay around home all their lives, like myself, while others are not content to stay at home and like to travel. Some day in the future some bright youngster will surprise the world with a sure and effective method to destroy the coddling moth for all time. When this genius arrives, he or she should and will have a monument of solid gold and a crown of diamonds erected to his memory."

February 16th, Aberdeen: Mr. S. H. Anderson, Park Superintendent, reports unprecedented damage to trees and shrubs by rabbits this winter. Many beautiful trees that have been nursed through many dry and difficult growing seasons have been completely girdled. Like John Paul Jones, however, in the face of apparent disaster, Mr. Anderson announces that he has just begun to fight and he plans much bridge grafting this spring.

"Do you know

Ten thousand Jews are selling booze
Without the state's permission
To fill the needs of a million Swedes
Who voted for prohibition."

I am unable to announce the name of the poet who penned the above verse, but I think it must have been the well known Anonymous.

February 22nd: Father Stecker of Howard is a most valued friend, whom it is always a great pleasure and privilege to visit. I was glad to find him in fairly good health and still carrying bravely on despite very poor financial conditions in his vicinity which necessitated the closing of the fine parochial school he has built up and in which he took such justifiable pride. The drought of last summer took many of his garden favorites but with the advent of spring he will replant and fill in the vacant places. The large bay window in his study was a lovely sight as usual with the African violets in full bloom and his many interesting cacti very much alive and some in bloom. He is one of the men we should like to see turn the century mark and then start in all over on another one.

February 24th: I am indebted to Mr. C. V. Porter of Menomene, Wisconsin, for a very interesting account of the work of Ivan V. Michurin,

the Soviet Burbank, a grand old plant breeder seventy-nine years of age but still full of enthusiasm and ideas and by no means through with his work. This account was in the **Soviet Union Review** and apparently written by an interviewer whose knowledge of things horticultural was not extensive, so one hesitates to accept all of the statements made in it. For instance, claims are made of having plums without seed, hardy peaches, strawberries growing on bushes, and perennial tomatoes growing on bushes, etc. These may all be facts but one prefers to await further confirmation before accepting them. One pleasing statement we may accept. "Following the recent award to Michurin special instructions were issued by the government providing that all possible facilities be given to extend Michurin's work"; also, "an agricultural university and high school and a state farm are also to be established at Koslov in connection with Michurin's work." It seems that there is some good in the Soviet Republic after all.

February 29th: There are many things about Ipswich that make it stand out among all other towns. As one comes into the town a beautiful stone archway spans the highway, suggesting that here are people who are proud of their town and have spent their money freely to proclaim that fact to all wayfarers of the trail. Proceeding down the main street, one comes to the Bank of Ipswich, conducted by our friends and life members, M. P. Beebe and H. E. Beebe. It has always seemed to me that ideas come to them before they do to most of us. Often I have had what seemed to me bright new ideas but on stating them to the Beebes I have found that they have acted on them years ago. For instance, I told Mr. H. E. Beebe that my idea of the most suitable cemetery monument was one of our great prairie boulders. Thereupon he took me out to the cemetery to view the beautiful five ton boulder which they had erected at their father's grave. One of the fine things they did this last year was to build a beautiful library building, constructed of prairie stones, and present it to the city of Ipswich as a memorial to their father. No description can do justice to the great beauty and elaborate completeness of this building. It must be seen to be appreciated. The walk leading into it and the steps are made of different colored marble set in cement, and the floors within are of rubber tiling. A most beautiful fireplace is constructed of rare specimens of rock, petrified wood, and fossils from the Black Hills. Among them are imbedded fifteen of the large stone hammers found in neighboring farms, the wife-beaters of the old mound builders. The place is adequately protected by an ancient blunderbuss and a heavy German machine gun. The

former was the favorite fowling piece of an ancestor, probably one of Miles Standish's followers, and was made to hold about a half bushel of what have you in the way of old slugs and doubtless created quite a lot of excitement over an extended territory when discharged. The machine gun is also almost an antique now and was made when murder was a wholesale affair instead of retail as at present. When this gun was designed, such arms were used by strong-armed and weak-minded soldiers who could lug around such heavy pieces. But now machine guns are used almost exclusively by gangsters and bandits, so the manufacturers have revised their models so as to fit the needs of the more delicate class of assassins.

We found our friend, John Taylor, busy getting out a very fine spring catalog, and cordial as usual. He refused to consider no for an answer and telephoned the Vice-president in charge of the subsistence department, of the impending additional large appetite that was to be added to the family circle, and took me down to supper. On the way we stopped in to see one of the state's most unselfish boosters, Mr. J. W. Parmley. Mr. Parmley had recently had several unpleasant rounds with the flu, but we were glad to see that he was rapidly recovering and was making extensive plans for the dedication of the Peace Garden, in which he has taken such great interest. While we were there, a man from Mobridge called, and Mr. Parmley sold him a car of coal from the state mine. After a fine supper with the Taylors we enjoyed a long visit until late.

Mr. Taylor thinks very highly of Professor Yeager's creations and is pushing them as being most suitable for his section. He says that the rabbits seem especially fond of the Chinese elms and but few escaped their depredations this winter.

BEEKEEPING NOTES

J. A. Munro, Fargo, Secretary North Dakota Beekeepers Association

A select untested Italian queen will again be sent as a premium offer to each member of the North Dakota Beekeepers' Association this year. These queens will be sent during midsummer. In addition to this, members may avail themselves of the reduced rates on bee journals. Either the American Bee Journal or Gleanings in Bee Culture may be secured at the rate of 50 cents per year when subscriptions are sent in through this office. Tell your neighbor beekeepers of the benefits to be derived from membership. Most probably they will be glad to join. Send your dues to J. A. Munro, secretary, Fargo, and you will receive proper credit.

Don't allow empty hives to stand idle. They deteriorate rapidly while not in use. Package bees are so low in price that no beekeeper can afford to be without them for restocking pur-

poses. Probably some of your colonies have died during the past winter or you wish to increase the size of your yard. Some package bee shipper, whose name and address you will find in the advertising section of any bee journal, will be glad to fill your order. Better order the two-pound size with queen. The two-pound package usually answers the requirements for honey production most satisfactorily.

Miss Constance Leebby of the Agricultural College, with the aid of senior students in Home Economics, has developed a number of new honey recipes during the past year. Here is one of the latest recipes—rhubarb and orange marmalade with honey. You will want to try it.

Rhubarb and Orange Marmalade with Honey

- 4 cups rhubarb
 - 1½ cups orange
 - 3 tablespoons orange peel
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 3 cups honey
1. Cut rhubarb into ½ inch lengths.
 2. Remove peel from oranges, cut fruit into small pieces and remove any seeds.
 3. Cut orange peel into ⅛ inch strips.
 4. Stir rhubarb, orange pulp and peel and lemon juice for ten minutes over a slow flame, or until all the fruit is soft.
 5. Add honey slowly, stirring constantly.
 6. Boil mixture for 18 minutes, stirring slowly but continually.
 7. Pour into sterilized glasses.

This quantity makes six seven-ounce glasses.

The following students have just completed the regular three months' course in beekeeping at the North Dakota Agricultural College: Earl W. Benton, Arnold Kaufman, Marvin Moll, Clarence Pace, Glenn Reichert, John E. Southam, D. E. Lawrence, Edgar Johnson, William Sturch, Albert Herner, and W. R. Bartholomew. A number of these men will be taking the advanced course offered in beekeeping during the spring term.

It will soon be time to decide upon the form of meeting to be held this coming summer. At the annual meeting held in January some suggestion was made that the summer meeting be in the form of a beekeepers' tour. Send in your suggestions on the matter. It makes little difference to those in charge of arrangements whether it is a meeting or tour. The important thing is to have the type of meeting that the majority of beekeepers want.

Members are reminded of the fine article on package bees in the March issue of Gleanings in Bee Culture. The article is by Gordon Bell of Grand Forks.

Recently this office has received a fine newsy letter from Jack King of Natchez, Mississippi. He will be returning to his apiaries at Buffalo, North Dakota, during May. He sent best wishes to all his friends here in the North.



HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION



Purley L. Keene

One of the outstanding worthy projects which a Yard and Garden Contest can carry out is a program of beautifying the individual home grounds in its city. There are a number of things which a Garden Club can do in fostering such a program. It can help by securing appropriate articles in the local papers pertaining to the principles of beautifying the home grounds. It can have talks along this line as a part of its regular programs. Probably the most successful and influential way in which it can go about this task is to hold contests. A general interest in home grounds improvement is best stimulated by means of carefully devised competition. Such competitions are of great educational value and require a comparatively small amount of time and energy on the part of the contest committee.

In communities where there is a need for beautifying the grounds about our homes these contests have proven most popular. These contests may include the improvement of the entire piece of property or they may be limited to certain portions of the property such as improved lawns, flower gardens, vegetable gardens, boundary planting, back yards, play grounds, cut flower gardens, window and porch boxes, children's flower and vegetable gardens, etc. The fact that the plantings which are made about the home grounds adds to the value of the property may be used as a sales point in promoting the contest. These contests may be based either on the attractiveness of the home and its grounds at any given time or upon the amount of improvement made during any stated period. The first basis is often satisfactory at the beginning of a yard and garden contest. The latter basis is more stimulating after the contest has been carried on for two or three years. The scope of the contest needs to be clearly stated in the beginning so that there will be no misunderstanding.

There are a number of sources where Garden Clubs can secure information and material to aid them in staging these contests. The Emergency Committee for Employment, The National Federation of Garden Clubs, the National Yard and Garden Contests Association, and The Better Homes in America Organization are among the outstanding. If you are interested in securing information from these sources, their addresses are as follows:

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President of The Emergency Committee for
Employment
Department of Commerce Building
Washington, D. C.

The National Federation of Garden Clubs
598 Madison Avenue, New York

George M. Sheets, Managing Director
The National Yard and Garden Contests
Association
111 East 3rd St.
Davenport, Iowa

Ray Lyman Wilbur, President
Better Homes in America
1653 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

The National Yard and Garden Contest Association maintain a special service on this contest at the cost of \$5 per year for each Club. They will furnish entry blanks for the contest, valuable suggestions in organizing and staging the contest, news items, mats and newspaper cuts in advertising the contest, award of merit certificates, score cards, a complete judge's instruction



bulletin, and a number of other valuable items which will be of help to your local committee. The winners of your local contest are automatically entered in the National Yard and Garden Contest. The March issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* carried a very interesting account of the 1931 National Yard and Garden Contest and the winners of the same. This organization groups the contestants into three classes as follows: Class 1, Amateur planting and beautification done by the family; Class 2; Manual labor hired; Class 3, Expert skill employed. Your Club will probably find that practically all of the entrants in a small city will fall within Class 1. In larger cities Garden Clubs may find it advantageous to also hold a Yard and Garden Contest for those who fall in Class 2. The slogan of this organization is "You Win if You Lose," for by entering the contest the family gains by the added appearance of their home grounds, by the added pleasure they secure from it through the provision of outdoor living rooms, and last but not least, by the added value which their property will have after the improvement.

The score card for judging home grounds as published by the Yard and Garden Contest Association is as follows:

I. FRONT YARD	25
1. Attractiveness	15
a. General impression (5)	
Hospitality, homelikeness,	
appearance from street, etc.	
b. Details (10)	
Plantings to boundaries, en-	
framing house, foundation	
plantings, shade, all season	
bloom, maintenance, lawn,	
permanency, features, etc.	
2. Improvements made this year	10
II. REAR GROUNDS	60
1. Livability	20
a. General impression (5)	
b. Details (15)	
Privacy, shade, comfort	
facilities, etc.	
2. Attractiveness	30
a. General impression (5)	
b. Flower Garden (10)	
Pattern, composition, color	
bloom, etc.	
c. Border plantings (10)	
General outline, artistic	
composition, bloom, shade,	
etc.	
d. Garden features (5)	
3. Improvements made this year	10
III. ALLEY—Service area, garage, etc.	10
IV. PARKING (Attractiveness, care, good	
lawn, etc.)	5
Total	100

The National Yard and Garden Contest Association encourages home owners to take pictures of their gardens. The preferable size of print is eight by ten although smaller sizes are very acceptable. While the front yard should of course be shown in the photographs, it is the back yard or outdoor living room which is considered of particular importance by the national judges. Views of comfortable and restful private areas adjacent to the residence, walled in by trees and graceful shrubs, carpeted with an uncluttered lawn area, made attractive by flower borders and livable through benches, chairs, playground apparatus or other garden furniture, are the type of home garden pictures which have been selected by the national board of judges in the last few years as deserving the major awards. This growing tendency toward livability has been particularly marked in the past two summer seasons with their high temperatures.

In order that your local Yard and Garden Contest may be made to influence all the members of your club and the community as a whole considerable publicity through newspaper items and stories should be given the contest at various times during the summer. The club may well afford to spend one of two evenings in visiting the yards of the various entries in the contest. Those who are particularly interested in the contest will want to have a talk with the judge when he comes to look over the various yards for he will be able to give you some valuable suggestions for the improvement of home grounds. Most clubs will take advantage of his visit and have a meeting at this time at which he will be called upon to give a brief talk upon the beautification of home grounds.

Watermelons, muskmelons and other vine crops may be started inside and transplanted but it does not pay to sow the seed too soon, and you must use pots or some other container which will permit moving the plants to the field and removing from the pot for setting without disturbing the roots. I would not sow vine crop seed indoors earlier than three weeks before the plants are to be set.

If you want to start shrubs and trees such as honeysuckle or willow from cuttings, make and plant the cuttings before the buds begin to grow. As an added precaution to prevent drying out of the tops, I would suggest that the part which is left out of the ground be dipped in melted paraffin. The swelling buds have no difficulty in breaking through such a cover.

Considerable publicity is now being given electric heated hotbeds. Where fresh horse manure is not available to produce the heat and where electricity is cheap it is quite probable that they would be practical.



NORTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER for APRIL, 1932



A. F. Yeager
Secretary

We have had a goodly number of letters from people expressing their opinion about our meeting this summer and thus far the votes has been unanimously in favor of attending the International Geace Garden dedication. This probably means that we will meet with the South Dakota Horticultural Society for a program and good time on July 13 at Bottineau and then proceed to the dedication ceremonies on July 14.

Since the meeting comes so early in the year it looks like we might dispense with our usual show, and the Peace Garden trip will replace our usual tour. From the way people talk now it is quite certain there will be a big turn-out for this event. Personally, I would be much surprised if this International Peace Garden does not become one of the big show places of America within the next 25 years, and the occasion of its dedication will be something to look back on with a great deal of satisfaction in future years.

We are informed that the Daniels Nursery, Long Lake, Minnesota, now has McDonald rhubarb plants for sale. This variety of rhubarb has proven superior to all others, in trials at the North Dakota Experiment Station, not only as a producer but also in quality of product for cooking. This same nursery specializes in a red sport of the Duchess apple which should be worth planting in this state.

A correspondent asks us to recommend a lawn grass which will make a tight sod, stand drouth, grow only four inches high, and will not spread. I surely wish someone would develop such a grass but just now all we can say is that there is no such thing. Grasses which do not spread will not produce and maintain a tight sod. I have wondered if any of our people have ever tried the crested wheat grass for large yard purposes. This grass appears to grow well in western North Dakota but because it is a bunch-grass does not make a tight sod. It also has to be mowed.

When raising cabbage for winter use, do not start the plants too soon. Early cabbage for use in the summer should be sown now, but winter cabbage should not be seeded before the middle of May. If it is, the heads are likely to become mature before fall and their continued growth will result in bursting. If you have trouble with winter cabbage bursting in the field it simply means that the seed was started too soon. Incidentally, if you are growing beets or carrots for winter storage we suggest that you seed in June.

"Would Starking apple be hardy if given extra good care?" asks one of our members. No, I certainly would not plant it in North Dakota. It is difficult to grow the hardiest kinds we have, and one should not court trouble by trying too tender things.

We are asked about the use of cel-o-glass as a substitute for glass in the greenhouse. Unless this and other glass substitutes have greatly improved in wearing ability we would not recommend them because they would have to be renewed after not to exceed two years of use.

Spring is the best time to transplant asparagus. Good strong one-year-old plants have been found best. Seedlings which have been grown here will very much in size and it has been shown that the larger seedlings will give heavier crops in later years than the smaller ones. Since our asparagus bed may remain productive for 25 years it is evident that it pays to be particular about the plants. Seed them in the bottom of a trench eight to twelve inches deep, a foot-and-a-half apart in the row, and the rows four feet or more apart. Cover with an inch or so of soil. As the plants come through this, work more soil in around them so that by mid-summer the ground is level. Deep planting prevents winter-killing and makes cultivation easier.

Be sure to plant lilacs in the sun. They must have sunlight in order to bloom properly. If you want something to grow in the shade of a tree and still prosper fairly well, use Tartarian honeysuckle.

Have any of you folks had really paying crops of the new varieties of Jerusalem artichokes such as Mammoth White French? If you have will you please drop us a line. This is one of the crops which has received considerable advertising but somehow fails to maintain its place. We once grew some but have dropped it now.

Be very careful about shipped-in, frost-proof plants from the South. They are no more frost-proof than home grown and with them serious diseases and insects are often introduced.

"How about Spanish Gold sweet corn?" asks a member. Spanish Gold, in our plots last year, was later than Golden Gem, earlier than Sunshine, and between the two in size. It may perhaps have been due to the season, but in our cooking tests Spanish Gold did not prove to be as good in table quality as either of the others.

The Shotwell Floral Company of Fargo has just turned over to me half a dozen specimens of Philodendron. This is an unusual, heavily-foliaged, climbing house plant. One of these plants will be sent to each of the first six persons sending in a new membership for the Horticultural Society and asking for this plant.



Mrs. H. L. Walster, of Fargo, has furnished a small quantity of seed of a hybrid *Amaryllis* (*Hippeastrum*). This seed is from a very fine specimen of the plant and should produce some fine seedlings. As long as the seed lasts we will send out packets to those who request it and send postage.

Mr. J. H. Gerbracht, who raised several thousand pounds of Golden Gem sweet corn seed, states that it produced within a couple of bushels of as good a yield as his field corn.

Mr. George Flynn, of Enderlin, states that the large ruffled petunia variety known as "Theodosia" beats anything he has ever seen.

Mr. Wieland, of Dazey, says he considers Florence the best crabapple. Of the apples, Anoka is the best bearer, followed by Wealthy, Haralson, etc. An examination of his trial list shows four varieties being tested at the present time. Patten has been growing for five years with no death from winter killing.

Do any of you know a house plant bearing the name "Flowering Fool?" We have been asked to identify it but cannot do so from that name.

It is quite possible to plant annual flowers in a bed which is occupied by tulips in the spring and thus keep it filled with blossoms all summer. Geraniums, nasturtiums, corn flowers, and many others might be used for the purpose. However, the tulip tops must not be cut off until they are fully matured, otherwise the plants will not bloom another year.

Noting our recommendation of Penn State Ballhead cabbage, a member asks where to get seed. One source is the Stokes Seed Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

In order to get ground-cherries to ripen a good crop, they should be started inside. The middle of April is plenty early enough to sow the seed.

Twelve bushels per acre is considered to be a good yield of field beans.

"Bellmar," a new variety of strawberry introduced by the U. S. D. A., proved to be one of the two hardiest strawberries at the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm last year. It far outclassed such varieties as Dunlap and Premier.

Professor Alderman, of the University of Minnesota, says that in buying nursery stock the purchaser should assure himself that the nurseryman from whom he buys has used hardy root stocks or has followed a type of base root grafting which will be suitable for northern conditions.

The Wisconsin Horticultural Society recommends the following ornamentals for trial: Chinese Elm, Japanese Yew, Appalachian Tea (*Viburnum cassinoides*), Chinese Dogwood, Red Dogwood, Philadelphia Bouquet Blanc, Siberian Flowering Almond, China Fleece Vine (*Polygonum auberti*), Caragana Pygmaea, Korean Viber-

num, and *Cotoneaster Huphensis-Soongorica*.

The State School of Forestry, Bottineau, N. Dak., is distributing shrub and tree seeds this year. Collections of seeds are priced at from 10c to 25c. If interested you should write the Extension Forester, at Bottineau.

Have any of you been successful in raising the Beauty Bush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*)?

Mr. R. W. Simmons, of Crosby, says he has grown Jumbo tomatoes for three years and nothing comes close to equaling them for size. He has had tomatoes weighing 2½ pounds each, which sold for 85c apiece. Up to the present time this is the largest "early" we have sent out from the North Dakota Experiment Station. It is my opinion that this variety comes nearer to providing an early Ponderosa than anything grown here.

A schoolboy asks whether plums and apples can be grafted on the same tree. One may have several varieties of plums on one tree or several varieties of apples on one tree. Apples may be grafted on the wild thorn apple, pears on Juneberries, and plums on sandcherries or peaches, but apples and plums are not near enough related so that grafts will take.

The Missouri College of Agriculture nominates black walnut as the most valuable tree. For North Dakota, if I could have but one kind of tree it would be the American White Elm.

Farmers Bulletin No. 1646 is entitled "Asparagus Culture."

The Entomology Department of the North Dakota Agricultural College recommends spraying house-plants with nicotine oleate for controlling white fly and other house-plant insects.

The University of Idaho is developing a disease-resistant strain of Great Northern beans. Some of their selections grown side by side with ordinary Great Northerns carried less than 2½% mosaic compared to 49% on ordinary unselected stock.

Black walnuts purchased in the store probably would not grow if planted because they would have dried out too much, and if they did grow would probably not be hardy because it is quite certain that such walnuts are shipped in from the South.

The old familiar question has popped up once more: "Will it pay to raise rutabagas on a large scale?" We must reply that the cost of shipping to consuming markets will likely make it unprofitable. However, there is no reason why North Dakota should ship rutabagas in from several hundred miles to the east. We should raise our own.

LAST CALL! Are your dues paid? If not, Uncle Same says we must stop sending you the magazine.

"It's Not a Home Until It's Planted"

DENIZENS OF SLIM BUTTE

Claude A. Barr, Smithwick, S. D.

Different enough to be alluring, remote enough to be mysterious, the isolated eminence, Slim Butte, gives us from home our principal view of rugged scenery. Shut off from the Black Hills all but a tip-toe glimps of Harney Peak and the highest needles just on the White River side from the Cheyenne Divide, we turn to the southeast and Slim Butte when lines of the prairie and objects of closer environment become commonplace and suggest the need of broader outlook.

Standing out strikingly, its dull buffy sandstone cliffs and grassy slopes rising to an irregular crest against the sky, its ends, right and left, sharp against the vague purple of Pine Ridge, this remnant of the later ages when the Badlands were in the making stretches broadside to our view and presents in endless, varied and colorful succession the aspects of the days and seasons.

Years ago when it took most of a day to get there and back we learned something of the

herbs testified, but in the grass the cast-off needles and cones of pines, while above us were towering trees!

How wide is this place? An acre, or is it five? And further along it narrows to just space for a path.

"Come on, let's go to the Lion Couchant!"

A quarter or half a mile, descending or climbing, over sandstones and conglomerates, across stretches of sward where a house might stand, the ground dipping abruptly at the north, or precipitately at the sun-baked south where only yuccas and a few coarst grasses clung, to some queer humps of rock that couldn't be surmounted and along whose sides ran a precarious narrow trail. Little piles of gnawed cockle-burs left as rubbish in the mouths of tiny caves gave one the eerie feeling of the presence of unseen animals. But no animals or birds were in evidence at that time. Then another grassy place among scattered pines. If we could go a quarter of a mile further there was promise of a considerable plateau, thickly bordered with trees, with cliffs west, south and north.

Came the far "Woo-hoo!" the call to go home, and there followed an indiscriminate scramble down the slope. After we were started someone remembered:

"Well, where was that Lion Couchant?"

"Why, that was it just west from where you came down," answered Mother, who had made the climb to the top more leisurely and had used her eyes both there and below.

"Those big hunks of rock?"

"All that length?" asks another.

"Yes, just watch it till we're a few miles away."

How different my trip last mid-June over a graded road to the very foot of the butte at the west end. Through a new wire gate and along a well worn trail around to a cove near the Lion Couchant, then off the road through dense grass, dodging a boulder here and there, and as far up the swingnig slope as the car would pull well in low.

Purposely alone, ostensibly on a "scientific" investigation, I spent three hours in continuous walking and climbing, eastward along the summit and back along the foot and on the slopes of the more hospitable north side. I wanted to know more about the mariposa tulips there. And what unbotanical surprises I found!

Only now and then on the climb was there a bulb in flower. Some were far up. On the top there were none at all. As I neared the top two great winged forms drifted over from the south. Though fairly close they showed no surprise but gave me casual inspection as I rested for a moment munching a sandwich. I should have paid



The Awe Inspiring Slim Butte

characteristics of the vicinity. In September there were, in a small gulch running north from the west end, great fat chokecherries of the sweet western kind, and juicy wild plums. The earlier plums which we suspected had been smaller and more sour had been gathered, the grass about the tree thoroughly trampled; but there were two trees loaded with large ones that were just reaching full ripeness. In the sandy loam above the gulch upland asters were plentiful and delightful with their concentration of hazy blue, reminiscent of dog-days just past. At the foot of the butte and far up the slope the dry, rattling seed pods of mariposa tulips were noted in passing.

At the top after an eighteen minute climb by the watch, and no unnecessary loitering, what new and exciting sensations! Prairie, prairie everywhere and on all sides. Prairie literally under our feet so the kinds of grass and certain



no attention if at first they had not seemed to be entirely black. The books say the black buzzard is native to South Dakota. It might be a chance to prove the black buzzards I thought I had seen the previous summer. In a short time they were back again and a third one too.

The number was unusual. Why all the honor? A trifle dizzy with the effort of the climb, I rested, looking out over the prairie and to the Black Hills and to the little dark spot on the prairie against the Hills which I knew to be alfalfa fields and a grove to see if things continued in their usual appearance. All seemed well. So far as I could tell the buzzards need not have come.

Again their fleet shadows betrayed their silent presence. But as I glanced up two other smaller forms drew my attention. Something new, on the instant. Larger than any swallow, vaguely familiar; long sickle-like wings. They were gone; to return shortly, closer and in better light. No colors were distinguishable in their dark feathers. Much too large for the violet-green swallow of the high peaks of the Black Hills. A graceful turn far more unhurried than if a barn swallow had made it brought out patches of clear white on sides and elsewhere that would surely serve as identification marks. I'd look them up when I got back.

Birds! Thoroughly alert to them now, I noted a horned lark that left its wallow to shake off the dust but a few feet from my way; from lower ground came the quick *trochee'-trochee'-trochee'* of the inevitable meadowlark and a dash from an important place to a more important one; on a conspicuous branch a little way on a Say's phoebe piped his *fur-reep', phree-be'-er* complaint; and out of the unseen came the soft, lovely wooing of a turtle dove.

(Pardon me, sticklers-for-adopted-names, but I do not call this gentle, happy bird by any unthinking and superficial name suggesting tears.)

The buzzards had been gone for a little while. Perhaps they were sure there was no danger of my finding their nest. Gradually I became conscious of the scream of a hawk at a distance. One or two were making rapid sallies at the level of the height out to the north, their purpose not apparent. There was something in their flight distinctive from the hawks of the remote prairie, the very common marsh hawk and Swainson's, both of them usually silent as well. At last a turn with tail spread in brilliant sunlight told me the name, the red-tail. Here among the crags just as I had seen him at Guney Table thirty miles to the northeast a year earlier. At home I had never seen him, and home was no more than sixteen air miles away.

From time to time I had been hearing sweet, contented, and withal rather brilliant singing, singing that came from the earth, the sunshine, from no particular place at all. As I climbed along the Lion Couchant trying to place that

song, a sparrow hawk from a hidden cranny glided out as if on a cable. One more, and quite a company. Scattered still were the mariposas shining like stars among the grass on very steep places as well as on more gentle slopes. Harebells were much more plentiful seeming to be in congenial environment though totally absent on the level prairie. They were bluish here without variation except in tone. A third abundant flower was on the primrose order, of an intense clear yellow, several to the stem, about an inch across. A loosestrife, as near as I could guess. The season, already dry, was not favorable to many flowers.

Back from the east came the buzzards and a fourth with them. I was just finishing my lunch. Two of them examined me with particular care this time, coasting so close almost directly above that I could plainly see their naked heads as they twisted their clumsy necks sidewise to peer, one eye at a time. Turkey buzzards. When I had eaten my last bite they sailed away and were seen no more.

Now, was a white-shirted man so rare in this part of their domain, were they fearful of a remote danger to a nest, or—on sudden inspiration—did their most highly developed sense catch the scent of the perfectly good cured ham in my sandwiches?

(Continued next issue)

GARDEN HINTS

Mrs. M. W. Sheafe, Watertown, S. D.

The need for conservation of wild flowers and shrubs, is so frequently brought to our attention, by articles in magazines and newspapers from many parts of the country, and to which we in South Dakota are in perfect accord.

The thought is suggested to preserve our beautiful wild Roses, by planting them as a hedge, and low border, (using both varieties) in our gardens.

There is no shrub one may use, that will give more glorious, sweet scented flowers, and in autumn, brilliant foliage and hues, than these roses, and at the same time require so little care. They are very easily transplanted and respond so lavishly with their dainty flowers, for a little kindly attention.

As a help to those starting seeds indoors, in order to give a longer blooming season, an idea has been set forth in one of the recent magazines, that four inch flower pots be used. These pots are to be filled within one-half inch of the top, with carefully prepared loam. The mixture is then firmed into the pots and the pots plunged their full depth into soil. They are then thoroughly soaked and allowed to settle for a few hours. Seeds may then be sown, in rows, and the pots are then covered with straw or gunny sacks, and watered through this material. This method is said to be especially good for seeds



that vary greatly, in time of germinating. Pots of germinated seeds are easily removed to greater or less light or temperature. When ready to be reset, the earth can be dumped from the pots and seedlings freed without injury to the roots. This method is suggested for hot house use also.

In the window of a home not far from mine, may be seen the most gorgeous Gloxinias, in numerous shades and colors. Gloxinias are easily started from seeds or by leaf or stem cuttings. Place the leaf, (after cutting through the midrib at the back of each) in a pot of loose soil, press down firmly, but do not cover, keep moist, watering from base of pot. After watching and waiting for what seems an endless time, during which the leaves continue fresh and firm, suddenly the leaves will begin to shrivel and dry, but upon investigation you will find little tubers from each leaf and little new sprouts from the top. From that on development is rapid and you will soon have a few gorgeous blooms. The resting period

follows after flowers fade, during which time only sufficient moisture is required to keep tubers from drying completely. Later reset in fresh earth, moisture, and place in cool, semi-shaded place to start.

Gloxinias are really summer flowering plants and require a cool place, as the hot sun destroys the flowers. They are very worthwhile, and deserving of much greater attention by flower lovers.

The Lilliput Zinnias in my garden last year, received much admiration and commendation as well. They are such dainty little flowers, their only lack being the absence of perfume. If given sufficient room, each individual plant will develop into a most shapely miniature bush covered with blooms that continue until destroyed by frost, if not allowed to mature seeds. There are numerous colors and shades, and used as a low barker in front of less colorful tall flowers, are very effective and attractive.

HOW TO SUCCEED WITH EVERGREENS

L. O. Peterson, Hankinson, N. D.

(Continued from March)

Three low-growing types of Juniper successful in this state are *Juniperus Communis Depressa*, *Juniperus Horizontalis*, and *Juniperus Savin*. *Juniperus Communis Depressa* is a prostrate type, of spreading habit. It is native in stony dry regions, growing in broad patches and attaining a height of three to four feet. The terminal branches are upright and may be trimmed so the specimen attains a saucer-like form. This variety is hardy and a native of the Black Hills of South Dakota and many Canadian provinces. The leaves are from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in length, of green color with a white band above. *Juniperus Horizontalis* is also native in Canada and many of the northern tier of the United States. The leaves are bluish green and on mature plants are scale-like. We have found it to be a lower grower than *Communis Depressa* and more creeping in habit. It is absolutely hardy and drouth-resistant. *Juniperus Savin* is also hardy in this section. The type used in my discussion is the *Procumbens*. It has loose awl-shaped leaves somewhat scale-like. They are dark green in color and this

species is excellent for use as a ground cover and on terraces. There are several other types of prostrate and creeping Junipers planted in this latitude to some extent, and undoubtedly many of them will prove to be desirable within the next few years.

The last general class we will consider is the *Thuja* or *Arbor Vitae*, and of these we have only two, the American and Pyramidal, which I consider have as yet proven their metal. In fact, I imagine the subject of *Arbor Vitae* in general is a sore spot with many of you at this time. It is true that they have met with misfortune in most parts of North Dakota and Minnesota the past winter. The unseasonable mild spells started many of them to get their spring growth under way, only to be frozen stiff with the return of severe cold weather. From Wisconsin to Montana we hear the same sorrowful reports. Scarcely a week passed last spring but what one or more letters came to my desk with the same sad story of how "my beautiful *Arbor Vitae* seems to be dying." Undoubtedly many of them did pass out completely, while others were trimmed back to the live growth and left to repair

the damage. Planters in general, as well as many nurserymen, seem unalterably set against the species as a result of this condition. However, in some thirty years in this country I do not recall a similar winter, and I doubt if we are justified in forever condemning the *Arbor Vitae* as a result of their failure to combat the rigors of one winter in a generation. These trees are purely ornamental and not suited to planting in dry, exposed locations. They do not root deeply and with drouth and neglect soon become sparse and ugly in appearance. The leaves are leathery in appearance and a bright green in summer, while they fade to a dull brownish-green in winter. The Pyramidal type is of the same nature as the American except that its natural habit of growth is pyramidal and less broad than the American. The Pyramidal is particularly desirable at entrances and in any situation where a compact, narrow growing tree is desired. The American is a general purpose ornamental, frequently used in hedges, and stands shearing well. Another winter it might be good policy to mulch *Arbor*



Vitae well after the ground is thoroughly frozen to protect them against any premature spring weather. I might mention before leaving this species, that we sustained a loss at Hankinson this spring in a block of Arbor Vitae which we found were on alkali land. This condition had not given any trouble in the past, but apparently because of the very dry spring the alkali was carried to the surface in sufficient quantities to turn the entire planting yellow. All types suffered the same effects, including Pyramidal, American, Tom Thums, Globes, Recurva Nana and Woodward's. Arbor Vitae do not, as is generally known, stand much alkali, but we evidently became a little careless in selecting that location for them. Our experience with Junipers has caused us to use them in place of Arbor Vitae in many places. They may top kill to some extent, but rapidly overcome their beheading with the new season's growth.

There are many other evergreens which may be suitable for this country but I am confident that if we keep these observations in mind, we will achieve good results with the varieties we have discussed.

Now, in closing, a short discussion on the transplanting and handling of evergreens may be of some interest. Undoubtedly most of you are familiar with the main points and I shall discuss them as briefly as possible.

The small seedlings or small transplanted ever greens are not intended for planting in the open, but rather in beds where they can be grown on until they become large enough to put out in an open location. It is generally undesirable to attempt planting seedlings of any size in the open as their root systems are ordinarily too small to sustain the tree without the very best of care. As grown in nur-

series, evergreens are, as a rule, transplanted two or three times and root pruned as many times before they reach the marketable age. Each time these operations are performed the root system expands by the addition of more fibrous roots, which are in effect the feeders of the plant. When planting a tree which has been grown in this way, the planter is assured of a large, vigorous root system which under ordinary conditions is adequate to support the tree during this most hazardous period in its life.

The sap of evergreen is resinous and dries and hardens rapidly when exposed to the sun and wind. In shipping evergreens with bare roots, nurseries generally puddle the roots in a grout of clay which provides an efficient air-tight coating on the roots, which are then packed in damp moss. The planter, on receipt of such trees should unpack them at once and heel them in in a sheltered place out of sun and wind if he cannot plant them at once. The trees should be taken out as planted, allowing as little exposure to the air as possible. In planting, the roots should be spread out well, the dirt sifted around them and packed down firmly. The trees can then be watered with as much water as the soil will absorb readily, and a top layer of loose dirt put around the tree to act as a mulch. The watering should be continued possibly twice a week—a good soaking rather than a sprinkling—during the first spring and summer. Allowing the ground to become dry in the fall when the freeze-up comes is very detrimental to the trees.

The other method planting evergreens is with balled and burlapped trees. In this case, the trees are dug in the nursery with a solid ball of earth adhering to the roots. This ball is tightly wrapped with burlap and tied to hold it intact in

shipping. On receipt of such trees it is well to soak the ball of earth with water if it appears to be dry. The holes should be dug a foot deeper and wider than the ball and in each hole, where the soil requires drainage, should be placed three or four inches of coarse gravel or cinders, with a good layer of dirt on top of it. The hole should be filled with good garden soil to a point which will allow the top of the ball to come just below the surface of the ground when the tree is placed in the hole. The tree should then be placed in the hole, burlap and all, and dirt packed around the ball even with the top. The burlap should then be opened and laid back from the stem of the tree, the strings or twine holding it being cut. The tree may then be watered as mentioned before, and a top layer of loose dirt put around it. Balled and burlapped evergreens keep right on growing so it is important that they be supplied with sufficient moisture to sustain them until the roots have again taken hold in the new location. We have found that a protector made by stretching burlap around the trees on a frame of four stakes, or a barrel with the top and three staves knocked out, inverted over the trees, does much to protect them from drying winds and sun, especially during the spring and heat of the summer. Considering the unfortunate experience of many planters the past spring, the mulching of ten or twelve inches deep, well out over the root system, after the ground is frozen, would be good policy.

It is apparent that success with evergreen depends upon due consideration of the peculiarities of the species, but I believe most of us agree that the additional care, cost and common sense is well worth the battle in establishing the beauty of evergreens in our landscape.



Many Garden Clubs are being organized this year. Within a few years there will be a marked contrast in the appearance of the towns that organized the clubs and those that do not have a club.

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