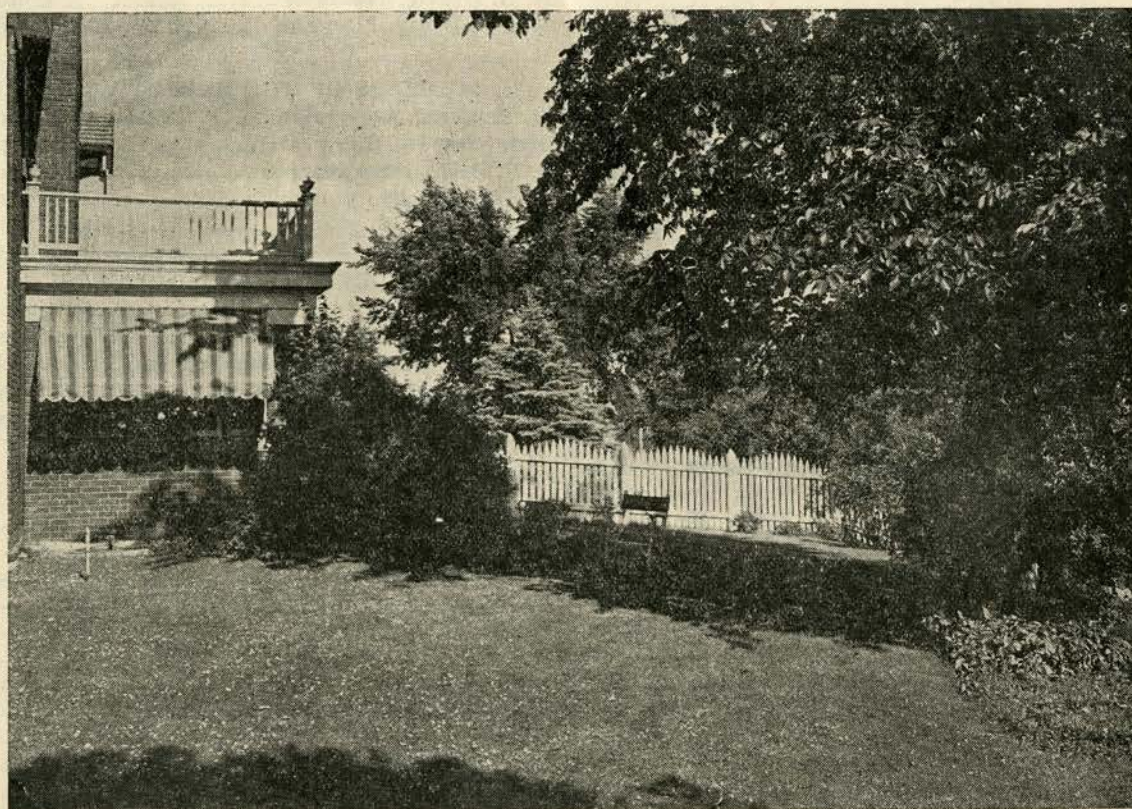


By Back

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

JUNE, 1938

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THE BLACK TERN

by
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

Gulls and terns are not distinguished by the average person but are lumped under the general term of seagulls. Except for the flocks which appear during migration, the black tern is the commonest species in our region. They are noisy birds, almost continually voicing a harsh scolding note as they hover about and of course especially so if a person wanders into their domain.

The black tern is about the size of a sparrow hawk. In early summer the head and under parts are black and the upper parts slaty gray. Later in the summer we get quite a different impression, for they then appear largely white. The upper parts are still gray, but the entire under parts are white as is also the collar and forehead. The tail is quite short but forked.

Our bird is not a bird of the sea coast during the summer. They nest in the interior of the continent from central United States northward to central Alaska, westward into California, but not east of Manitoba. They are late migrants, arriving the latter part of May. In the fall they visit the Atlantic coast and move southward to spend the winter on the northern coast of South America. The American bird is only slightly different from the black tern which inhabits Europe and western Asia, migrating to northern Africa.

These terns nest around the shallow prairie lakes and any slough which contains some water is likely to hold their attention, for a time after their arrival in late spring. In 1901, Mr. A. C. Bent visited North Dakota to study water birds and he writes that he never enjoyed anything more keenly than the drives across the prairies. He found the black terns nesting on little heaps of dead reeds which would keep the eggs a few inches above the water, where the water was one or two feet deep. He believed that the birds did not build any nest but used old coot or grebe nests or any little pile of such material.

Three eggs are usually laid. They are about an inch and three-eighths long, sometimes quite pointed. The ground color is olive or buffy and is spotted with dark brown, sometimes thickly covered with fine spots; sometimes rather sparsely covered with large spots. The young birds leave the nest soon after hatching. At first they are covered with a long reddish-brown down. Some of this remains on the head and neck until the birds begin to fly.

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The black terns spend a large part of their time in the air, cruising over the ponds and sloughs. They feed largely upon insects which they capture as they fly over the tall grasses and reeds. They have been described as catching dragon flies in flight, sometimes playing with them by letting them go or dropping them and

(Continued on page 67)

NEWSLANTS

by
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

Our office acknowledges a pleasant call from Christian Olson of Colfax. Mr. Olson pays us such a visit once each year and we are always glad to get his suggestions. He, too, favors the use of an exchange list, but I wonder if space would be available in the magazine for a very extensive list. Mr. Olson is also interested in starting a Horticultural Society library. Anyone having any ideas as to how such a library should be handled should send in their suggestions.

I have on my desk, now, two books that are the property of the State Horticultural Society. They are: "Gardening with Herbs," by Helen Morgenthau Fox, and "Delphiniums, Their History and Cultivation," by George A. Phillips. I also have a few good text books of my own on various phases of Horticulture that I would be glad to loan to Horticultural Society members willing to pay postage charges for a two weeks' period.

Two boys at Dickinson who are interested in propagation of plants have been using my book, "The Modern Nursery," by Laurie and Chadwick, as a reference book this spring.

We are indebted to G. N. Geiszler, Extension Soil Conservationist, for the following observation of evergreen culture. Mr. Geiszler recently visited the home of Albert Dietz, New Leipzig, in Grant county. Mr. Dietz has approximately 300 Black Hills spruce from seedlings set out in 1931. He kept these seedlings mulched with manure containing a large amount of straw until 1935. He then removed the mulch and has clean cultivated them since. Mr. Geiszler reports them as very healthy and vigorous young trees.

One cannot help but marvel at the ability of some plants to withstand punishment. Three years ago, I saw a hedge of one year old Caragana plants moved, none too gently, to a location where the soil was made up largely of basement excavations mixed with a small amount of rotted mulch. The plants lost what few leaves they had and were, to all appearances, dead for a three weeks' period. Since they were in a very hot location, and the transplanting took place in June, they were given up for lost. We underestimated their reserve stamina, however, because all but two plants of that hedge are alive today and in a very thrifty condition.

Having disappeared from many of its former haunts during the past 15 years, the Mocassin, or Lady-slipper of the genus *Cypripedium*, bids fair to come back with more rainfall.

I can well recall the small yellow variety growing in road ditches and shallow coulees far removed from any area that could be called low. They have disappeared from these places, however, and are now only found in moist swamps or muskegs. I have also talked with people in Griggs county who reported extra large specimens but always in moist surroundings.

Frank Fraser, of Walhalla, recently led me to an isolated muskeg where, in wet seasons, this flower grows in profusion. This plant has a very fibrous root growth and, although the plants had already begun to grow, the roots were found to be growing on the frost which had only receded about four inches below the surface. Water ran into the hole made when we lifted one of the plants so it is quite apparent they prefer wet feet.

The work comes high but what of it? In a few short years all any of us will have will be what we have given away.—J. W. Parmley.

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REPORT ON SMALL FRUITS

by

F. M. Schwab, Mankato, Minn.



F. M. Schwab

Everbearing Strawberries —

In the last three years we have tested out the following six numbered varieties from the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm: Minn. No. 1190, Minn. No. 1166, Minn. No. 1167, Minn. No. 1168, Minn. No. 1178 and Minn. No. 1191. We did not get a good test on these on account of the drought and hot summers the last 3 years and also on account of the grasshoppers last summer. These varieties will have to be tested a few years more. Up till now we found the Minn. No. 1166 a little the best of all the foregoing six sorts. The first two years the Minn. No. 1190 did not turn out to be a true everbearer, it only produced a few blossoms on a very few plants in the fall, but last year, (1937) it was well loaded with blossoms in the fall. This variety was, however, very outstanding last year as a June bearer, and we will also test this out still further as a June bearer. We have tried out the Excelsior, but it is doing nothing for us. The Wayzata is doing nothing for us either because it makes no plants here. We have an everbearing seedling strawberry that we originated ourselves and named "Schwab", this we have grown now for 7 or 8 years and we like this very well, because it is a very satisfactory variety, a good plant maker, a good producer of large good quality fruit, and the berries are firm and attractive. The Gem we find not very satisfactory, the first year it produces hardly a berry on the newly formed plants even though these plants grew and had taken root as early as May or June. These new plants do not produce until the second year, when they produce a good crop of large attractive, good quality berries. Gem is a very strong plant maker.

Currants—We grow Red Lake, Minn. No. 70, Minn. No. 71, and Minn. No. 77, all from the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm. The fruit of all of these is very large, attractive red and of high quality. The Red Lake is very productive and a vigorous grower, and undoubtedly, the other 3 numbered varieties will be just as productive when our bushes get larger. We also grow Wilder, which is a very upright vigorous and productive bush of large, good quality berries. We are also growing Perfection, and while the fruit of this is large and good, the bush is only a moderate grower and short lived. We are also growing Diploma, Long Bunch Holland, Cherry and a number of our own seedlings, but cannot say much about these yet, as the bushes are not old enough.

Grapes—Minn. No. 69, continues to be the outstanding variety with us, and if this grape performs at other places the way it does for us it should be named and introduced; and should replace Beta everywhere because Beta is very sour and the berries are small. The Minn. No. 69 is a very vigorous and hardy vine, very productive and extra early in ripening. The bunches are medium in size and compact, the berries are large and of high quality. The quality is very nearly equal to the well-known Concord, and it almost takes an expert to tell the difference between the two. Minn. No. 11 takes more of a back seat each year, the fruit of this is also of high quality and the vine is hardy, but this variety is only a moderate grower, subject to disease, the bunches are loose, and the vine is only moderately productive, altho the berries are medium to large. Minn. No. 45 does not appear to be hardy here, it freezes back to some extent each year and does not bear much; this is a red grape of medium sized berries and of high quality.

Minn. No. 78 also seems outstanding, the vine is vigorous and hardy, the bunches and berries are just the same size as those of the Beta, and cannot be told apart by looking at them, but this grape is sweet and of high quality and also is extra early.

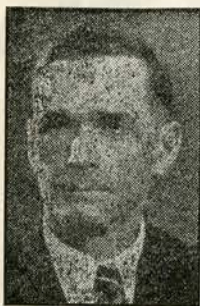
Gooseberries—About 60 years ago my grandfather and my uncle experimented with gooseberries when they homesteaded in southwestern Minnesota. They brought over from Germany the best varieties and also procured the then existing sorts in America and raised seedlings, this gave us our first start in gooseberries. We still have one of their best seedlings, which we named "Schwab," this is by far the largest gooseberry we ever saw and is also of the best quality. When I was a small boy about 10 years of age, my brothers, sisters and I all had his or her own garden in which we all worked hard and raised everything that was good to eat off the vine or out of the ground—such as melons, peas, poppy seed, carrots, wild strawberries, etc. In my garden I also had a large number of grandfather's gooseberries, wild currants, etc., and a valuable seedling currant which we since lost, and for which I would pay a big price now. Whenever a new fruit bush or berry plant was found anywhere, it was brought home and planted in our garden. In those pioneer days there was nothing around us, but the bare prairie without any timber whatsoever, and the only fruits were wild strawberries and a few wild currants and plums.

Now, back to the gooseberries again, the Perkins gooseberry is very similar to "Schwab." The Pixwell and Abundance gooseberries, both productions of Prof. Yeager of the North Dakota Agricultural college are very productive, of large

(Continued on page 68)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner
Sioux Falls, S. D.

New potatoes to the amount of over 100 car loads, have returned to the states from Hawaii. These new potatoes are coming east as far as Chicago and the Twin Cities. The seed, all of the Bliss Triumph variety, was sent from the Red River Valley; our potato grower, Mr. Chas. Blackman, of Clark, S. D., also sent one car of his famous Plantain Brand certified Bliss seed to Hawaii in October, the crop of which is now returning close to home. Who has heard

of the Diabete Potato? A potato free from starch and supposed to be especially for sufferers of diabetes. Yesterday a lady phoned, asking what to do with a row of potatoes that were coming up in her garden that were planted last May and were not dug. I thot possibly that the row of potatoes were in a sheltered spot or a snow drift had covered it so the ground did not freeze so that they would be coming up this spring. I recall that in 1910 there was a winter where the potatoes came up the following spring. After considerable talk over the phone, I found out that it must be artichokes, as it is the only hardy tuber of its kind that would come up so early and thrifty.

Carloads of apple wood are piled up in the apple valley districts of Idaho and Oregon, where 20 year old thrifty apple tres are pulled up by the hundreds of acres; in many places 50 percent or more of the trees have been removed. Many 300 or 400 acre tracts have been all cleared and the apple storage buildings filled with onions, lots of help thrown out of work, gardeners gone broke, besides owing thousands of dollars while coming on and over \$300 per acre freight loss to the railroads. Over production in fruit is as bad as over production in vegetables or farm crops. Another story in the same paper goes on to say that one half of the grape fruit trees in California, Florida, Arizona and Texas must be pulled up in order to save the growers from ruin.

May 8th. Thousands of tomato plants have been set out, up to now and for the past three nights we have barely escaped freezing weather, and tonight, heavy frost is again predicted. Time of setting tender plants such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, also vines and beans, should not be out before June 1st. This is according to old time gardeners, and one is apt to have all tender plants frosted up to the latter part of May.

While it is true that one can cover a few dozen tender plants and thus have earlier vegetables, on a large scale this is not commercially

advisable. A new venture in Minnehaha county, S. D., is the planting of several acres of onion sets by machine, for mature early onions that will be harvested in August, about 30 days before onions from seed are ready to market. Most all seed firms still sell seed of Kochia, summer cypress or burning bush. It is the worst annual weed in the country today. A few years ago a Minnesota nursery was selling creeping Jenny as a rock plant. The Chinese lantern is another hardy plant that is a bad weed when it gets beyond bounds. One of our garden club members had the surprise of her life when she discovered those funny little seeds in her garden turned out to be lively little grasshoppers.

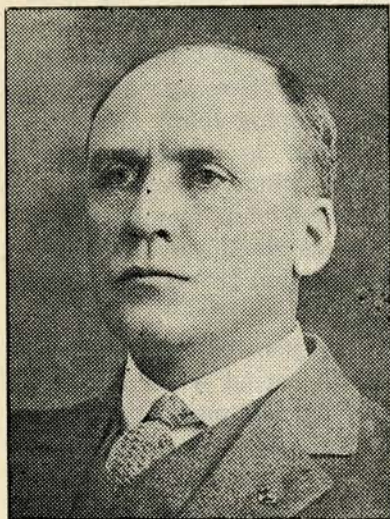
May 16th. Sweet corn planted on the 6th of May seems to be most all rotted while 5 acres, planted the latter part of April is most all coming up. There may be considerable replanting and no doubt poor stands of field corn, because of the cold, wet weather in May. The summer meeting and tour planned for the members and their friends, will be a big success if all come that have said they would attend. The Sioux Falls, Colton, and Dell Rapids delegates will meet at 10 sharp, at 34th St. and Minnesota Ave., to leave for Vermillion. We expect a delegation from Clark county, also from Aberdeen, especially the Committee in charge of the regular November meeting. The Directors from Ipswich will lead the caravan from that part of the state to reach Vermillion not later than noon, Saturday, the 11th, for the Directors meeting. Freeman, Watertown, Bayfield, Wisc., and many other places will be represented; some that cannot get to the afternoon program can get to the flower show and the banquet in the evening. Some may be able to join the caravan early Sunday morning, to Elk Point, where we will cross the Missouri river on the ferry to the Nebraska side. One lady cannot make this trip because she knows she will get seasick. Professor Over said this drive along the Nebraska bluffs from Ponca to the Yankton bridge is a beautiful scenic drive. Mr. Geo. Gurney, the Vice President, is well able to lead the caravan thru the Indian and Devils Nest country, but it will be hard to keep up with him. After an inspection of the nursery on the Nebraska side, we will cross the bridge for a tour of the most interesting places in Yankton. Surely you will want to make this trip with us. The potato tour of the north, some time in July or August, with the Great Plains Scientists will take most of a week, but it is a worthwhile trip for any one that can get away to visit those interesting points and on up into Canada.



NATURE DEPARTMENT

by
H. L. Hopkins

Eskers



H. L. Hopkins

An esker is nearly half round in shape. It is a ridge or "hog back", composed of gravel, sand, silt, rock and dirt. They run from about ten to thirty feet in height and hold fairly uniformly to shape and size. They twist and turn, more or less, like the meanderings of a little stream in a huge vally, or like a crawling serpent. By some writers and in some localities they are called kames. It is believed that they

were formed, somewhat like a river bar, from drift and sediment accumulating in the beds of under ice streams, while the last, or great Kewatin glacier, laid over the land and during its final disappearance. Their structures remained when the ice was gone.

Nicely stratified deposits of sand and gravel, laid down by these waters, are often found in these formations and used for building purposes.

Eskers presumably constituted the chief drainage system for both the upper and lower surfaces of glaciers. During melting periods, while the prodigious ice plow was slowly pushing down from the north and particularly, because of climatic change, when it finally melted away, accumulating waters would drain through fissures to lower cavities. My observations and reasoning have always closely connected eskers and springs. Constantly flowing water from large springs in many localities must have formed many cavities in the under surface of the ice. Through constant enlargement and natural processes these cavities would become connected. With the movement of the ice cavities would become elongated and ever followed by the high pressure and eager water until permanent outlets were established.

More or less melting was doubtless going on from the lower surface of the ice at practically all times regardless of temperature conditions at the upper surface. This is true of now living mountain glaciers.

The siphon principle as well as high level

seeking and eating pressure doubtless allowed these under ice streams, in their finicky meanderings, to overcome topographical variations, as they frequently did.

Besides their own bulky monuments which they have left, the many comparatively large rocks found in these esker formations, are evidence of the tremendous volume and terrific energy of these under ice waters.

Stanley Esker

To the writer, one of the most perfect and beautiful esker formations that I have seen, is located about ten miles west of Stanley, North Dakota. It is intersected by the Minot-Williston highway. It is several miles in length. Its graceful and sinuous form extends down a long gentle slope towards the Missouri river.

Meridian Highway (81) Esker

One of the longest and finest formations in South Dakota is located about fifteen miles south of Sisseton, in Roberts county. About one mile of its surface is traversed by the Meridian highway. Where the highway mounts it going north, the formation makes almost a right angle turn to the west.

A formidable branch joined the main stream from the north, about a half mile west of the turn, and both outletted through the same icy aperture, into Pickerel Lake basin.

Bush-Wist Esker

This is a large and typical structure carrying many sizable rocks. It is located about two miles west of Wist, on the Wist-Peever highway line, and is partially in both Marshall and Day counties. It probably drained water from the springy natural basins in southeastern Marshall county and outletted into the northern end of the Pickerel Lake basin.

I have named it Bush, after Guy L. Bush, formerly of Watertown, because, while out together some years ago, doing some topographical scouting, he "saw it first."

Red Iron Esker

At the northeastern extremity of Red Iron Lake basin, near the eastern edge of Marshall

(Continued on page 70)

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

We hope many of you are planning on being with us at Vermillion on the 11th and 12th. An interesting program is being prepared and the flower show staged by the Vermillion Garden club is worth going a long way to see. The tour is always a very pleasant feature of these summer meetings and this one, as outlined in last month's magazine, will be especially so. A letter recently received from Mr. Seth M. Hulburt of Caputa, tells of the dead branches from his apple trees keeping him in kindling this winter, something that is true of most of us, but that after 8 dry years, the trees were still alive and promise a fair crop of fruit this year. He adds: "No winter injury from rabbits or grouse, this time. Expect the critters went to the Pacific coast, hunting for something to live on." Wish the rabbits that infest my place would go equally far, in some direction.

That the Kochia or Summer Cypress can become a most troublesome annual weed, was pointed out by Mrs. Jorgensen in the paper on "Weeds, the Pretty Kinds", presented at our last annual meeting. Most of us that have had experience with this annual, did not need this reminder. To my knowledge, none of these has been allowed to form seed for several years on our grounds, yet they are coming up all over the place this spring. To say they are thicker than the hair on a dog is a gross understatement. Any dog that had hair that thick, would be immediately hunted down by the manufacturers of some hair tonic and every effort made to secure a testimonial for their product. The Kochia makes a beautiful, quick growing low hedge, where one is needed around a new home, but in introducing it into his grounds, the owner should understand that he will be doomed for the rest of his life, to the labor of trying to eradicate it.

Under date of May 11th, Dr. Over of Vermillion writes: "Yesterday I drove to Elk Point and crossed the Missouri river on the ferry, then drove thru Ponca State Park. It was a beautiful drive and will be still more beautiful by June 12th. There are several hundred acres of wooded hills with two or three miles of drives winding thru a wooded vista that will be difficult to match. I anticipate that if we can carry out this part of the program on June 12th, it will prove a treat and be appreciated by all. We should drive into Yankton by noon and I presume that Mr. Geo. Gurney will arrange for any program there, for

the afternoon. The season here is earlier than usual and it looks as if we will have to put many species of peonies in cold storage to hold them till the 11th of June. However, another compensation may be more roses, etc., for our flower show."

From this you can imagine some of the interesting things you will see on the tour. Better make your plans to attend the summer meeting at Vermillion, June 11th and 12th.

A few more contributions have come to Mr. Allen of the Dakota Farmer for the Robertson Memorial Fund, so the fund now stands as follows:

Previously acknowledged	\$218.70
Edgar I. Syverud, Dagmar, Mont.	.50
Mountain View Club, Pringle, S. D., Mrs. Walter Havens, Sec.	1.00
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Cheney, Milesville, S. D.	5.00

Total received	\$225.20
Cost of fencing material	\$211.84

Balance now in the fund ----- \$ 13.36

The fencing material is now on the ground, and the fence will be erected as soon as the pressing orchard work, such as spraying, pruning, etc., gives Mr. Miller leisure to oversee the work. Cement, with which to set the gate and corner posts, is still to be purchased and there is the item of labor to be taken care of. Probably little if any planting can be done this year, but plans will be made to do much of this next spring. We will never be satisfied until this is made one of the outstanding beauty spots of the state.

Mr. W. E. H. Porter of Hansboro, N. D., writes under date of May 16th, that he is really going to have a few *Daphne cneorum* flowers after all.

A very important item of news was released lately by Mr. A. L. Ford, State Director of the Prairie States Forestry Project. It was that his organization had just completed the planting of 6,000,000 trees in South Dakota this spring. This is more than were planted in the previous three years of the existence of the project. With the generous moisture, totalling 12.61 inches at this point, received this year, there is no question about a high percentage of survival and we feel that a great addition to the tree wealth of the state has been made.

THE BLACK TERN

(Continued from p. 62)

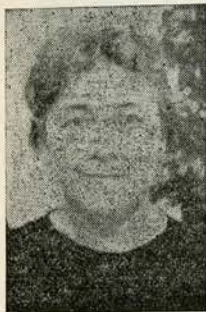
catching them again. They visit the freshly plowed fields to pick up grubs, crickets, etc. They also hunt insects and other small animals about the ponds. Some say they dive for minnows, others say they have not observed any diving. Often they swoop down to the water and one can scarcely tell just what they do.

BOOK REVIEW

by

Mrs. F. Briley

The Bee People, by Margaret Warner Morley, Published by A. C. McClurg, 333 E Ontario St. Fort Dearborn Station, Chicago, Ill., Price \$2.00.



Mrs. F. Briley

After concentration on books on entomology, biology, encyclopedias, etc., and feeling that writing book reviews for horticulturists was equal to taking an extensive course in horticulture, imagine my joy and delight in being presented with the delectable little book called "The Bee People." This book was accompanied by a letter from Mr. Simmons, Sec. of the S. D. State Horticultural Society, saying that he became interested in the book because it was written for

readers of from 8 to 14 years of age, and he thought he might be able to grasp its contents. Although Mr. Simmons cannot underrate himself to us, in regard to his intelligence, he enthusiastically recommends "The Bee People" to us as a book that can be enjoyed by both the child and the adult.

Flowers and bees belong together and we cannot understand the one without the other. As we are attracted to books pertaining to horticulture, so will we be attracted to books pertaining to bees, and thousands of readers both young and old have found entertainment and enlightenment in reading this charming book. My children were especially interested in the chapter about bees' eyes, and were "all eyes" themselves when they told me that the bee has more than 12,600 eyes. They thought they wouldn't like to have their teacher looking at them with that many eyes when they had done something wrong. Every particle of the bee's anatomy is analyzed by the author and is written up just as interestingly as she has done the eyes.

The last part of the book is full of legends and old superstitions about bees; people must not sell bees because it is unlucky; you can charm them to keep them from going away, and Margaret Morley tells us a charm, in German, that always works, but a girl must never tell it to a girl, nor a boy, to a boy or man, for then it will bring bad luck.

The book is loaded with information about our little friends the bees, that you will search in vain for elsewhere and if you want your trees loaded with apples and pears, be sure to read "The Bee People."

REPORT ON SMALL FRUITS

(Continued from page 64)

size, good quality and vigorous growers; the Pixwell especially is a very large bush. Both varieties are very valuable additions to our fruit list. We are also growing the Poorman and Fredonia from the New York Station. The Fredonia is also very large and of good quality, but we have not grown this long enough to tell much about it. The Champion is also of large size, good quality and very productive. Then we have a seedling of the Champion, this seedling is the most productive of any gooseberry we ever found in our 35 years of fruit raising on a large scale. The fruit of this seedling is very large and of high quality. We have now fruited this seedling about 6 or 7 years and like it better each year.

We are also trying out the Glendale, which seems to stand the heat and drought better than any other variety, this sort has made a very vigorous growth the last few dry years; the fruit of this is of medium size and of good quality.

Black Raspberries—We have tried out the Logan, Quillen, and Robertson black raspberries and find them no better than the average black raspberries which all require winter protection. The location and type of soil make a great deal of difference in the performance of many varieties of fruit. Certain varieties may do well on one place or on one type of soil and be worthless in another location.

Now I will get away off my subject and tell you how to get rid of waterbugs and cockroaches that inhabit so badly bakeries, restaurants, hotels, grocery stores and dwelling houses and all places where they find any food, and multiply so rapidly that it gives a person a shudder. Just take ordinary poison fly paper, put it in a shallow dish and keep wet and put where the roaches look for food, but this practice has to be kept up all the time, winter and summer until the roaches are gone; this will also clean your house of ants etc. This is a tried formula and gives perfect results, is very cheap, takes very little labor, and does away with all expensive powders and preparations that usually help but little, require a lot of work and make a great deal of muss. The water bugs and roaches are becoming a real nuisance lately and unless something is done every house will soon be filled with them. When using the poison fly paper you don't have to hide any food from the roaches.

When Evelyn Strandinger walked into a restaurant in Dickinson, N. D., ordered a cup of coffee and a bowl of milk, restaurant patrons and waitresses scampered in all directions, finding refuge in corners and behind the counter. The reason: Miss Strandinger wanted the coffee; the milk customer was a baby skunk.—Capper's Farmer.



SPRINGTIME COMPETITION

by

W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

In last month's letter I discussed winter survival; today survival from competition is in order. Tho of late the weather has been unseasonably cold, with north winds, cloudy and for the last two days no real thaw out, except in sun and protected spots in the perennial garden, discipline has been cast aside. With ample moisture to encourage perfect root development, such things as Delphiniums, tall Lychni, chamomiles, violas, veronica spicata, the May Queen poppy with a strong root run, michelmas daisies, all seem determined to hold the center of the stage, at the expense of their nearest neighbor, which is just the condition a thrifty garden should show. In my list I made an omission; Veronica spicata can definitely go on my trade list. Whether by seed or root run, it is spreading vigorously. Being an all season flowerer from June on, in shades of blue, from dark to pale and always a compact clump, it is indispensable for attractiveness, blending with any arrangement, herbaceous or floral. I have an early Veronica gentianoides just ready to flower, but like most of our early spring flowers it goes into dormancy during the summer and does not show up until the following spring. As Veronicas seem to be hardy in North Dakota, I am trying out some new kinds; Blue Spire, also creeping nummularia, said to be an evergreen and pectinea rosea—whitish gray foliage and pink flowers. These two do not resemble the type at all.

Here are a few random notes I jotted down: April 16th, 76 in the shade, sultry and sunny. Scilla Sibirica coming into flower; also a few scattered violas and pansies. Prairie crocus, Anemone patens seem to be at its best. April 17th. 66 in the shade, north wind, sunny; Alyssum montanum shows its first rich, deep yellow blossoms, Thlaspi jankoe showing purple calyx, a promise of white flowers in abundance, which definitely appeared on May 6th. These two evergreens—the first vine-like with gray felt foliage, the second with rosettes of purple green leaves are all to the good for border plants, being perfectly hardy in North Dakota without any protection and possess the added attraction of two of the first things to flower in spring. April 23rd. N.E. wind, 49 in the shade. Yellow spring crocus Cloth of Gold is out. April 28, Male boxelder in bloom. April 29th. Another white crocus with orange style, out, also Scilla siberica at its best.

May 2nd. Larch breaking out with green nodules. May 6th. Cold and cloudy; did not really thaw out at all. Note that Nepeta hederacea, (Gill over ground, ground ivy), shows many blossoms. My Nepeta mussini are well up but not yet in flower and perhaps the best of catnips, Nepeta Souv. Andre Chaudron, shows very strong growth coming; this species grows in bush form, not ground cover, like the other two, has very fragrant foliage and long tubular sky blue flowers. It dies down completely in late fall and is best of all for hardy perennial flowers, freely produced in late summer, from early April sown seeds. My Phlox sublatas in pink, blue and white are all waiting to give us their sheets of color on the advent of May weather as it should be; in North Dakota we are fortunate that this lovely thing never lets us down on its May-June riot of flowers or its rich green mat during the rest of the season. I wish that I could say the same as regards the dwarf evergreen shrub Daphne cneorum. While my one bush is thrifty, it is extremely chary over flowering and at present shows no prospect of even one blossom for this season. However to make up for this deficiency, Hesperis steveniani is right on the job and it looks as tho its blossoms on all my plants will completely hide the foliage. This native of the Crimea, is a great improvement on the old Rocket, being earlier and not developing that weedy appearance in mid-summer. Tho our Sweet Wivelsfield Dianthus made a good display up to late fall in 1937 it will be on the job again shortly and also the ever reliable Asperula azurea, which tho very dwarf is a strong competitor and holder of the lime light in early spring. About the middle of April I received a box of plants in trade from a friend in Indiana, containing among other things, a "Heavenly Blue Muscari," in blossom at the time and it has stayed in flower ever since and shows signs of spreading.

Doubtless grape hyacinths would do well in North Dakota. I also recently received some plants from Oregon, among them a much desired specimen of Geranium sanguineum which was also in flower, interesting because in No. Dak. it flowers about midsummer, a comparison of our seasons. To conclude my notes, yesterday, May 7th, I heard our first mourning dove from a nearby poplar grove and in the evening, saw one. I want to add a word regarding Crataegus in Mr. Graves "News-slants", and what more desirable shrubs could grace your premises? I have Crataegus punctata (New England), a tree form of low Hawtwhorn, very robust, also monoggyna (English pink). Owing to rabbit damage it has not flowered for me, so far, perhaps the best of all, a dwarf form of Paul's double scarlet; also the Washington thorn, cordata, which has not done well at all.

BEEKEEPERS TO MEET AT GRAND FORKS

by
J. A. Munro



J. A. Munro

The following notice prepared by Mr. Bruce L. Moorehouse, secretary of the Minnesota Beekeepers' Association, will be of interest to beekeepers:

Plans are under way for a joint summer meeting with the North Dakota Beekeepers' Association. Several years back a joint meeting was held at Crookston and beekeepers expressed themselves favorable to similar meetings being held in the future. So, this year the Minnesota Beekeepers' Association meets with the North Dakota Association in Grand Forks.

The tentative date is July 28 and 29. A two-day meeting is being arranged in order to give southern Minnesota beekeepers time to take in side trips to the yards and honey houses of commercial beekeepers. So, be sure to put the trusty bee veil in your hip pocket when you make the trek to Grand Forks. Because it is a long journey for many Minnesota beekeepers, the North Dakota Association is making big plans to arrange a program of special interest, in showing how commercial beekeepers operate.

A side trip for the Ladies Auxiliary is to the Mount St. Benedict Convent and Academy, at Crookston, where so much has been done with honey and beeswax. For the first day a picnic dinner is scheduled in one of the beautiful parks alongside the Red River. A detailed program may be secured later on from Bruce L. Morehouse, secretary of the Minnesota Beekeepers' Association, Montevideo, Minnesota, or from J. A. Munro, secretary of the North Dakota Association, at Fargo. Association members will be circularized. Of course, good speakers are being secured. Plan ahead now to attend this meeting.

Ladies, have you tried your hand at "Apricot-Honey Ice Cream?" With all the good things in it we should have another dish "fit for a king." Here is the recipe:

- 3 egg yolks
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of strained honey
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of pureed apricots
(Apricots drained of juice from one No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ can or—
Equal quantity of stewed, dried apricots, drained)
Juice of one lemon
- 1 cup of cream, whipped

Beat egg yolks until thick and lemon-colored. Add honey gradually, beating the mixture until very thick. Rub drained apricots thru sieve to mea-

sure the above quantity. Fold into mixture thoroughly with lemon juice. Fold in cream, stiffly beaten. Pour into freezing tray of automatic refrigerator. Set refrigerator at coldest position. Freeze without stirring three to four hours, or until firm. If making this ice cream in a hand freezer, do not whip the cream. Put mixture in freezing can and surround with 6 parts of ice to 1 of coarse salt. Crank until handle is hard to turn. Remove dasher and repack in 3 parts of ice to 1 of coarse salt. Let stand one hour, or until firm. Serves six.

—Ladies Home Journal.

ESHERS

(Continued from page 66)

county, is an esker monstrosity. It must be forty to fifty feet in height and is much the largest formation that I have seen. I was over a small section of it but did not have time to examine the locality and try to reason out its significance.

Blue Dog Esker

It is a small but true esker formation probably slightly less than a mile in length. Its water discharged from the south into the eastern extremity of Blue Dog Lake basin, near Waubay, in Day county. The main highway between Waubay and Enemy Swim-Pickerel lakes runs over perhaps a half mile of its surface.

Roagers Esker

A few miles to the southwest of Conde, in Spink county, is a formation between one and two miles long. Several sand and gravel pits have been opened on it for building purposes. I have named it for one of its owners.

A practical dye that keeps grass green even in dry weather has been perfected by a worker in the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The dye, which is expected to be widely used on lawns and golf courses, is also said to control many of the diseases which grass is heir to.—The Country Home Magazine.

N. O. MONSERUD

Landscape Architect Tree Surgeon

Office—First National Bank Building
SIOUX FALLS, S. DAK.
PHONE 555



MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

The second week of April saw low meadows daintily starred with the first local native flower of spring, *Anemone patens*, the Prairie Anemone, Wild Patens, American Pasque Flower, or, as it is incorrectly termed, the Prairie Crocus.

The flower deserves some comment. It was legally adopted as the floral emblem of the Manitoba province many years ago. Today it is a rather inadequate emblem as it extends only across the south-western portion of the now much enlarged province. It is typically a herbaceous perennial of prairie terrain. It likes moist, low grassy locations. The Morden Experimental Station is within its range but without plant representatives.

The dainty blue to pale blue flowers appear before the root leaves are formed. It is a brave plant, raising its cheery bloom boldly to the sun and the early migrating water fowls returning from the far south. Even when it opens its golden centers before the nearby snow-drifts have fully disappeared, it exhibits a cosy appearance with its dense, fine, wooly hair covering on sepals and flower stalk. The latter may be from 3 to 9 inches tall and will elongate several inches after flowering. This flower stalk carries a covering of deeply cleft sessile leaves remote from the flower. Later root leaves appear and they likewise are much divided into long linear acute lobes but they are petioled or stalked. The styles are feathery and as the seed develops the plume may become 2 inches long.

This floral harbinger of prairie spring is best transplanted as root divisions in September, or grown from stored seed sown very shallow in clean soil in April.

As for names, there is much to be said. There is a European *Siberian Anemone patens*. Gray terms the native, *Anemone patens* var. *Nuttalliana*. Britton distinguishes it from non-plumose styled *Anemones* as *Pulsatilla hirsutissima*.

Anemone is usually considered as derived from the Greek word for wind. *Patens* means spreading. Hence, it is the Spreading Wind Flower. Pasque refers to pass over or the Feast of the Passover or Easter.

The *Anemone* belongs to the Buttercup Family and is far removed from the *Crocus* which belongs to the Iris Family, and has grass-like leaves, flower parts in 3-s, and forms distinct bulbs. *Anemones patens* has fibrous roots.

The Prairie Anemone is the State Flower of South Dakota. It is a courageous, comfortable, season-opening member of the flower kingdom and as Manitoba is thought of as the Gateway to the Prairies, there may be considerable warrant for the early pioneers esteeming it sufficiently to have it enthroned as the Manitoba Flower.

Bloom on tree and shrub commenced early in 1938. Shortly after mid-April the Russet Buffaloberry, or Canadian Buffaloberry, unfolded its yellow clusters. At the same period both the native and the dwarf Asiatic Elm produced their flowers. Boxelder was a few days later. None of these are particularly showy—but the Russet Buffaloberry is a bright shade of yellow. Silver Buffaloberry is rather greenish yellow, and three or four days later than the Russet.

The first striking blossoms of the Morden Experimental Station shrubberies are borne by members of the plum tribe. This extensive parade is headed by Siberian Apricot. The rose pink buds showed color for several days before the first pink blossoms opened on April 29. Two days later some flowers were open on Manchurian Apricots, and on May 3 the rich reddish pink buds on the Flowering Plum were opening. On the same date the Russian Almond was commencing to show flower centers. A newcomer, the Chinese Wild Peach, *Prunus davidiana*, opened large pink flowers on the fifth of May. The first bright yellow blossoms had burst on low branches of the Cherry *Prinsepia* at the same time. By the seventh, some bloom had opened on the low branches of plums, near the warm earth, but the full flush of plum bloom will be several days later.

There is a wide variation in color of the apricots. Most of the Siberian species have deep to pink flowers. Some of the Manchurian seedlings are white flushed with pale pink but others may be deep pink. The Scout Apricot, named by the Morden Station last year, has rich pink blossoms.

The Flowering Plum, *Prunus triloba*, mentioned above is the single flower type. The popular double-flowering variety is a week or more later in blooming.

A handicap of the early blooming fruits, such as the hardy apricots and the Chinese Wild Peach is the hazard of night frosts.

Every seedling apple or seedling plum may be expected to bear fruit, if given moderate care. Many persons ask if it is necessary to graft seedlings in order to get fruit. The answer is no. However, it is borne in mind that you require at least two plum seedlings growing as neighbours in order to have plums. All our hardy plums seem to be self-unfruitful. They require pollen of a kindred plum to fertilize the blossoms. Some of the apples are also self-unfruitful and all tend to be most fruitful when cross-pollinated.

Developing seedling fruit is a fascinating hobby.



ROSES IN NORTH DAKOTA

by
C. B. Waldron



C. B. Waldron

Because of its uniform distribution over the state, and its distinctive and striking characters, the rose was appropriately named the state flower.

There are but four species of wild roses in the state, three being found mostly along wooded ravines and the outer edges of brush and timber, and the fourth scattered widely and persisting in cultivated fields to the extent that, with normal rainfall, it used to be considered something of a pest. This is the rose that is known to botanists as *Rosa pratincola*. It is to be met with along the roadsides almost anywhere, being more common in the eastern part of the state. Its blossoms, ranging from light to dark pink or rose color, are most abundant in June, but are not entirely wanting thru the summer. It has been used for ornamental planting in some of the Fargo parks where it is an attractive feature, both because of its profuse and showy bloom, and its rich, deep coloring in Autumn. Planted in masses by the side of the house, or as part of a shrubby border, it will give distinction to any home landscape. One of the best gardens in Fargo owes its attractiveness largely to this rose. We will not urge the people of North Dakota to plant it wholly from patriotic motives, and probably the only reason that the state flower is so completely ignored by most of the people of the state is that they do not realize its possibilities.

There may have been door-yards in the farm neighborhood that our early memory recalls that didn't have their lilacs and rose bushes but they must have been the rare exceptions; we can't recall them to mind now.

No one in that part of the country had any doubt but what they could grow roses, and so most everybody did. Here, most everybody thinks it is difficult or impossible to grow roses and few attempt it.

As a matter of fact, there are many roses as hardy and easy to grow as currant bushes and right there is the place for novices to make their start. After they become rose minded and wish to experiment with some of the less hardy classes, they will be able to do so intelligently because they have a good rose background.

At a later time, we may have a few chats with these more daring ones, but just now our thought is to get our people to realize that Portland need not be the only rose city in the country and that we can have them right here in North Dakota. Does that seem fantastic? A college

professor cannot be fantastic. In the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, he always sits with a bomb under his chair and a single wild statement will blow him into smithereens.

It is not difficult to make a selection of a dozen or more of iron clad roses from a catalog of any of the leading nurseries of the northwest. Most of these will be rugosas, or rugosa hybrids which may be obtained in red, pink, or white. The names Agnes, Hansa, Grootendorst, Agnes Emily Carman, Mme. Georges Bruant and Amelie Gravereaux all suggest themselves, and some of the readers of *Horticulture* doubtless are growing many others.

Harrison's Yellow is now just over a century old and we are wondering if some of the earliest plants are not still living. At least we have seen it growing all over the northern states, including North Dakota, and have never known of one to pass out.

Having the rose as the state flower is a fine thing; making North Dakota a rose state would be infinitely more worthwhile.

Sappho, Greek Lyric poetess, about 600 B. C. wrote:

Would Jove appoint some flower to reign
In matchless beauty on the plain,
The rose (mankind will all agree),
The pride of plants, the grace of bowers;
The blush of meads, the eyes of flowers;
Its beauties charm the gods above;
Its fragrance is the breath of love;
Its foliage wantons in the air,
Luxuriant, like the flowing hair;
It shines in blooming splendor gay,
While zephyrs on its bosom play.

Horticulture lost another outstanding figure by the passing in April of Leonard Barron of Rockville Center, Long Island. As Editor of various garden magazines (the *Flower Grower* for one), author of several books, lecturer of wide reputation, president of several flower societies and the last surviving incorporator of the Horticultural Society of New York, he contributed in a vital way for more than 40 years to the cause of home gardening in this country. He was actually born into gardening, as his birthplace was the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Chiswick, London, of which his father was superintendent for many years.—The Minnesota Horticulturist.

An Iowan, who has a big melon patch in the summer, completed a patch-work quilt with 5,000 pieces—relics of boys' pants pried from the jaws of him bull dog.—Gabe Caffrey, in the *Argus-Leader*.