

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

AUGUST, 1944

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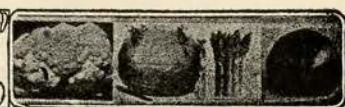
Mrs. Ada La Rosh, Gettysburg, S. D.
admiring her bird and
house plants



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Plan to attend our annual meeting August 23rd and 24th in the High School at Vermillion, S. D.



THE RED-EYED VIREO

by
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

The vireos are likely to remain unknown until one learns their songs. They are far from conspicuous, by either color or movements. They are plainly colored and remain nearly motionless among the leaves much of the time. In feeding, they simply reach out after an insect. They are rather closely related to the warblers, but the upper part of the bill projects over the lower, forming a slight hook.

The red-eyed vireo is usually rated as the commonest of the group. However, it is rarely seen in my corner of town except during migration. In the woods, I find it easily enough. It is a gray bird, not quite as large as a phoebe. The upper parts are gray (the book says "light olive green"), under parts white. The top of the head is more slaty with a black line just below and a white line between the black one and the eye. Don't expect to recognize it by the red eye, for that is not too conspicuous and in young birds it is only a nice brown.

This bird has been called the preacher bird because of the song which is delivered in a steady series of three or four note phrases with a short pause between phrases: "You see it—you know it—do you hear me?—do you believe it?" All of these strains are delivered with a rising inflection at the close, and with a pause, as if waiting for an answer. This may continue for some minutes, the bird hidden among the leaves in a tall tree. Alexander Wilson quotes one of the earliest writers as saying in Jamaica the bird is known as whip-tom-kelly," and indeed * * * it requires but little imagination to fancy that you hear it pronounce these words, 'tom kelly, whip-tom-kelly.'"

This vireo nests over nearly all of the United States except California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. Dr. Roberts states that it is common in the evergreen woods of northern Minnesota as well as in prairie groves. Its winter range is Colombia to southern Brazil. They reach our region after the middle of May. Wetmore records that a form of this vireo is migrant in Porto Rico, arriving in February. He found it nesting in Haiti where some birds remained through the year and others seemed to move southward in winter.

Nests of vireos are well woven of fine materials and are hung under a fork of a branch but

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are only about as high as wide, not like a sack as in the orioles. The eggs of the red-eyed are white with only a few dark spots on the larger end. The female is described as a close sitter, allowing a person to approach close to the nest and perhaps touch the sitting bird.

The vireos, like the warblers, are chiefly insectivorous and are very useful birds. An exten-

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GARDEN NOTES

by

W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.



W. E. H. Porter

Tho at this season, as weeks of pleasant warmth and summer glory pass into months, and memory of winter misery gradually fades, omnipresent flies and shortening days remind us that summer indeed is on the wane. Continuing last month's notes: May 26th. Our dry spell has passed, the break coming two days ago with a wind-driven hail storm from the south that broke and cracked windows, made debris of torn shingles, defoliated windward trees and left ground covered with sprays of crabapple blossoms, with similar destruction everywhere, including small chicks in poultry yard. When nature bestows a rose the thorn goes with it; ground thoroly soaked with as yet, little flooding. New spring flowers brighten the garden—evergreen phlox *divaricata*, in shades of veronica violet and white var. *alba* and Loder Park's lovely Phlox *ovata*, a lovely dark cyclamen purple, altho denizens of shady woodland, mine thrives in open border and is fully hardy. Regretfully it must be admitted that some of Wayside's choice perennials have to be treated as annuals. Garnet and Firebird Pentstemon and mulleins Cotswold Gem and Pink Domino. I have found only 3 Penstemons (besides our native) hardy always in my garden viz *unilateris*, *grandiflorum* and the creeping *crandallii*, but what more can one want? and one permanent mullein *Verbascum phoeniceum* that volunteers profusely. However, their Veronica Blue Peter, the simplex bugbane and clematis *mandchurica* have all come thru flourishing. Skinner's *Prunus mackii* has one flower cyne. This orange bark tree never kills back. May 30th. Wayside's Scarlet thorn has one small pink rose-like fragrant bloom, very double and Will's *Pocahontas* lilac two dark purple florets very good for shrubs planted in April. May 31st. A noon shower relieves intense heat, saw first humming bird. June 1st. June is ushered in by a night of wind and drenching rain scattering last of apple bloom but bush honeysuckles are robed in pink and white and a brilliant dark red parrot tulip is in bloom also rather dull purple grape hyacinth. June 3rd. Our heat wave passes with temp. drop of 40 degrees, from 90 to 50 above, and falling barometer indicating a long storm. Whether in

summer or winter, these arctic storms of at least 3 days' duration have a sobering effect. A dense fog accompanies the pouring rain which is in perfect harmony with the low unbroken grey sky, but there is a tonic in this breath from the north. First June roses to show flower buds are Hansen's Siberian, covered as usual and the new Rosa Hugonis from Waysides, the latter is worthy of comment, a bush of very rapid grow with dense small bluish foliage on arching branches, and single flowers of pale sulphur yellow, one of those things from western China hardy under any and all conditions and another of Wayside's trees worthy of special mention is the flowering crab *Malus floribunda atropurpurea*, the all-red crab of red flowers, leaves and bark. Planted in April flowers of course, cannot be expected this year; a clean trunk, symmetrical branches which leafed out simultaneously to the very top, it attracts notice from all visitors. Noted a large flock of goldfinches in grove apparently sheltering from the cold storm that is sweeping the prairie. June 4th. Jupiter Pluvius continues to give us the works with temp. down to 48 and falling barometer which now stands at 28. I read, with deep regret, of the passing of W. P. Crozier, editor of Manchester Guardian. At funeral service held in St. Ann's church Canon Peter Green gave a short address taking for his text the words of David on the death of Abner, "Know ye not that a great man has fallen this day in Israel." One of the musical selections was the beautiful Handel's Largo. June 5th. Third day of storm, by noon rain changes to snow with temp. dropping to 36, later rising to 42, barometer was slowly and steadily rising. June 6th. Storm passes with westerly breeze, misty blue sky temp. 54 and barometer reading 28 point 6, blue geranium and May Queen poppy out. June 10th. Current issue of Horticulture arrives, am especially interested in Prof. Woodward's resume of South Dakota history, what romance is to be found in geology! Here our top-soil to a depth of 8 ft. or more is glacial till, studded with erratic boulders like raisins in a cake imparting a gentle rolling surface to our terrain eminently fitted for farming. At intervals, as at Devils Lake, 70 miles southeast, the great ice cap paused in its northward retreat creating a terminal moraine in form of low hills. One and a half miles east of my farm is an "esker," a winding, gravelly ridge, indicating a once mighty sub-glacial river; many of our boulders show striae, planing and polishing as a result of pressure from the enormous ice cap which some estimate to have been half a mile thick, at

(Continued on Page 126)

NEWSLANTS
by
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

The North Dakota Horticultural Society held its first wartime meeting June 23 in the beautiful lodge at scenic Turtle River State Park. Turtle River State Park is located on highway No. 2, just north of Arvilla.

The session was streamlined down to an afternoon and evening meeting to permit most people who attended to return home the same night. The program departed from the usual thing in that speakers were notified only a short time before taking the floor that they would be called on for a talk on a topic of their own choosing. This type of program has merits. The afternoon and evening was replete with interesting discussions. Appearing on the program were F. L. Skinner, W. R. Leslie, C. Ray Ure, T. M. McCall, Melvin Bergeson, Bill Page, Dr. C. I. Nelson, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, George Will, E. C. Hilborn and Harold Mattson.

Instead of the customary banquet, an "everybody bring your own" picnic lunch was eaten at 6:00 p. m., which everyone seemed to enjoy. Invitations to meet next year at the Chateau de Mores at Medora and also at Valley City were received.

A few years ago, I collected seed from some fine Darwin tulips. This seed was stored dry over winter and planted in the seed bed the following spring. The seed germinated as gaily as purslane in the family garden, and after being transplanted once, produced creditable blooms in about 4 years. No particular care was given the plants at any time. This may be of interest to some folks who are interested in growing plants from seed.

With the return of abundant rainfall, we have another weed, not new, to compete with dandelions in our lawns. Dr. C. B. Waldron called our attention to its spread recently. The plant is **Plantago Major** or common Plantain. It begins usually in a bare spot in the lawn and then appears to spread readily to adjacent sodded areas.

Dr. Waldron also called our attention to a shrub growing on the Agricultural College campus that he believes to be very worthwhile. The common name of this shrub, Salt Trec, is quite misleading, he believes, since it is not a tree and will thrive on any kind of soil. Flowers are lilac

in color, similar to Caragana flowers in shape, but more numerous. This plant comes readily from seed and Dr. Waldron promises seed to anyone sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

My white flowered loco, reported last month, was not so rare as I thought, according to Prof. Stevens. Well, it was pretty anyhow. Our Scarlet Runner bean planting this year contains a white flowered plant. Now I suppose someone will write in and tell me this is a common occurrence too!

When it comes to texture of the petals and a rich colored rose, the Jackson and Perkins red floribunda, "World's Fair," is good enough.

Brother Wallner's July article on too wet gardens could have been written about the Fargo Victory Gardens as well. Potatoes have been rotting for several days here, beans are yellowing, and many tomato plants have just collapsed. Not necessarily standing in water, these plants have been standing in a saturated soil so long they just gave up. Some of this injury is on gardens we once thought were high and well drained. We have had 5.87 inches of rain in the first 12 days of July!

Wish a few of us could attend the meetings of the South Dakota Society at Vermillion August 23 and 24. If it were not for the fact these days run smack dab into our harvest season here, I would like to think, at least, of attending, but I cannot even do that with a labor shortage so short that even I can be of help!

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IMPORTANT BOOK

PLANT GROWTH SUBSTANCES

Hugo Nical

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Presents a brief review of plant growth substances for laymen, students, and chemists who have not specialized in this particular field. Discusses the development of growth-controlling substances from the time they were found in plants and urine, to the discovery that synthetic substances, with similar characteristic, can be manufactured and used.

Partial List of Contents: A Chapter for the Layman; How to Use the Commercial Growth Substances; Synthesis of the Growth-Substances; Indole, Naphthalene, Higher Aryl Compounds, Auxins; Introductory Scientific Work on effects of the Synthetic Growth-Substances; Descriptions of Methods of Application; Growth-Substances from Natural Sources; Some Constituents of Urine; Chemistry in Relation to Growth; Classifications and Nomenclature of Growth-Substances; Identification of Growth-Substances and Related Substances.

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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

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Wayside Gardens

100 Mentor Avenue MENTOR, OHIO

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by
Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen

President's Message

Dear Club Members:

Not so long ago it was brought to my attention that conventions had no place in the National program of wartime economy, and that efforts should be directed more to activities connected directly with winning the war.

But as the date of the 61st Annual Convention of the State Horticultural Society and the Second Annual Meeting of the



Mrs. Jorgensen

State Federation approaches, it seems that conventions such as ours have a more important part to play now than ever before, toward National economy and educations. Conventions such as ours are stimulating and of great importance. When we realize that prominent speakers from great distances will lecture to us, I know that each member club will do their best to send delegates to our meeting.

In the event that our application for affiliation for membership in the National Council is accepted, it will be necessary for your president to appoint twelve state committees, which will correlate the work of related committees of the National organization.

This is our most important year. The success of the Federation will really rest upon the chairmen of these twelve committees, for through their constant consultation with their corresponding National chairmen, we will achieve the greatest value from our affiliation. It will be their duty to pass on to local clubs monthly printed material, pamphlets and various publications issued by the National Council.

The National Committees are as follows: Conservation, Birds, Garden Centers, Horticulture, Judging Schools, Junior Gardens, Legislation, Membership, Program and Lectures, Publicity, Roadside Development and Visiting Gardens. About Mrs. E. Wesley Frost, the National President, and Mrs. Walter Stadel, the National Vice President, you will learn more about them, at the Convention.

Do try to send as many delegates from each club as possible. We shall need your help to make our Federation a success. Address all communications to me at Vermillion.

Sincerely,

Mrs. E. T. Michels, President.

Back Talk

As convention time approaches it is fitting that we stop and take inventory of the past, for the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs has completed its first year of existence.

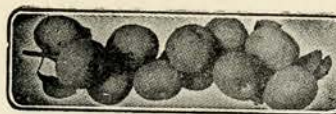
This Federation is the culmination of an ideal; a vision of spreading the message of horticulture to every individual in every city and hamlet in the state. Its founders were so inspired with these altruistic motives that they dared to organize a little group of garden clubs, draw up a constitution, and compose articles of affiliation which would align themselves with the State Horticultural Society. Recently a set of by-laws were drawn up to add to the existing constitution and the clubs were asked to ratify them. This was all done without benefit of legal advice or much knowledge of parliamentary procedure. We knew where we wanted to go, but we didn't know exactly how to get there, for the road was poorly marked and detours were many. Now some confusion may exist because you are being asked to consider still another constitution; and a new alliance is being discussed.

The ultimate aim of any group is to be associated with the most powerful forces, with like interests, in order to obtain all the benefits of the larger organization. The most powerful group of gardening people is the National Council of State Garden Clubs. A short time ago your president, Mrs. E. T. Michels, whose message you read first on this page every month, began corresponding with the president of the National Council. She has interested two dignitaries, holding the highest offices in the Council, in our floundering efforts. She has interested them to such an extent that both of these prominent national figures are scheduled to appear on our convention program at Vermillion, August 23-24. She has enlisted the aid of Dr. Carl Christol, Professor of Government, Vermillion, to revise and rewrite our Constitution and make it acceptable to the National Council if we should ever join them. This is the constitution which you are now being asked to consider.

Whether we join the National Council or not we will have a professional and workable constitution far removed from our first crude efforts. The step up into the national group costs 5c per capita, a sum so ridiculously small that it is beneath our notice in considering the larger aspects of membership. This would be in addition to our present dues as members of the State Horticultural Society as no change in this affiliation is planned.

It is up to the garden club delegates; it is up

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to you who read this, to come to the convention and help decide the many momentous questions which concern you. Any legislation passed must be with your approval, and we cannot know what you want unless you are present to present your views and vote for the things you desire. I urge you, Attend the Convention.

Last Call for Seals

One change has been made regarding the Federation Seal Contest. Our distinguished guests, Mrs. Frost and Mrs. Stadel, will be asked to be the final judges of the seal designs which are entered in the contest. This will be much more fair as the judges previously named are all members of their own garden clubs, and would be called upon to show great discrimination to avoid any partiality. Do let us have several designs from each club in the Federation. You have less than two weeks left to enter, so get busy. Don't forget there is a five-year membership in the Horticultural Society offered to the winner.

Visiting the Clubs

At Vermillion the Garden Club combined business and pleasure by making the meeting a birthday surprise in honor of their president, Dr. Carl Christol. Guest speaker of the evening was H. J. Donaldson, president of the Horticultural Society; while another distinguished speaker was Mrs. E. T. Michels, president of the Federation. Of her speech, Mr. Donaldson made the recommendation that a copy be sent to every club in the state, so we know it must have been good. In spite of their big project of being hosts to the convention visitors this summer, the club has had time to sponsor a most successful flower show, too. They dispensed with their regular classification list this year in order to encourage people to bring whatever blossoms had escaped damage from the excessive moisture there this summer, and exhibitors brought in entries in about twenty-five different classes. Mrs. Lowell Brookman was the chairman in charge.

We would almost be willing to move to Britton on the strength of a welcome note from Mrs. D. B. Rice who says, "We had a nice outdoor meeting with picnic supper on an ideal evening minus mosquitoes." If that includes the pestiferous gnats, Britton must surely be "God's country." This club has appointed Mrs. Rice as publicity chairman to send in the reports so we expect to be kept in close contact with their work in the future. From the report on hand it would seem that the group is too public-spirited for us to allow them to hide their light beneath a bushel. Mrs. Rice says: "The Garden Club plans to co-

operate with the Cemetery Board to see about planting arrangements of shrubs, trees, etc., with plans for a day—perhaps next Arbor Day—to put the plans into practice. Our club has been keeping the city park in condition and supplying the outdoor fireplace for the comfort of picnickers. In fact, I think we are quite busy with community projects." So do we all. Let's hear more about it.

Mr. F. X. Wallner seems to be the most popular garden club member we know for scarcely a report comes from the South Sioux Falls Club that does not make special mention of him and some of his generousities or accomplishments. Mrs. Beth Dunkleberger's last note describes a lunch in which she says: "We found to our surprise that Mr. Wallner is as handy with a tray as with a hoe." This club studied the bleeding heart (with a nice little item about it that will appear in the Blizzard Belt Gardener shortly), lawns, and had an interesting discussion on bees by a bee owner, Mr. Harold Mose.

"God gave all of us imagination, but only some of us use it." Someone in the Wednesday Club does make use of this gift, for one program was a word picture entitled "A Solo on Wild Flowers That Bloom in the Spring, Tra-la," by Mrs. Foreman. "Her accompanist was Mrs. Engalls who illustrated the description of spring music by showing colored plates," according to a grand report from their new secretary, Mrs. Minaretta Johnson. When the group took a trip through McKennan Park it was scientifically planned to learn as much as possible about flowers, landscaping and foreign trees with Mr. Ellefson as the capable guide. This could resolve itself into a regular Nature Trail and be one of the finest ways of studying our plants and plantings. Another good trip would be along the Sioux river, and out to the Cactus Hills. The possibilities are limitless, though we may have to wait for rationless gas to carry them all out. A weed-pulling picnic at their project at Falls Park is another meeting planned for the club.

About 130 exhibits in 63 classes made the Brookings flower show a success, says Eugene Whitehead in his report. We note their schedule contained seven divisions in the arrangement classes and that increased interest in the latter classes is very evident. Some of the classes I liked best featured miniature bouquets, peony arrangements, and vegetable displays. There were special awards given for the youngest person to exhibit flowers, the youngest vegetable exhibitor, and the exhibitor who came the longest distance. Two of the little folks in Dr. L. C. Snyder's fam-

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MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

The North Dakota Horticultural Society held their annual meeting June 23 at the Turtle River State Park. A group of four Manitobans were guests. Pleasure mingled with profit at the meeting and also en route. The North Dakota Red River Valley landscape was very pleasing. On every hand attractive farmsteads marked the level plain. It was an exception when a farm was passed that did not have a fine set of buildings, brightly painted, and blessed with the shelter and shade of an extensive thrifty tree wind-break. Rains have been frequent and substantial. Leaves on trees were large and dark green, crops were dense and rank. Pastures were well stocked with cattle of good breeding, and the whole countryside breathed well-being.

The Park, 22 miles west of Grand Forks, is heavily wooded and watered by the winding Turtle River. The meeting was in the main lodge building. The Secretary, Harry A. Graves, had many horticulturists on hand. F. L. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba, spoke of new lilies. C. R. Ure, of the Morden Experimental Station, mentioned some promising new hardy fruits. Professor T. M. McCall, of the Crookston Experimental Station, described limiting factors in growing apples in northwestern Minnesota. He pointed out the needs of growth control, as autumn frost damage is common when wood fails to ripen up in September. Dr. Nelson stressed the importance of recognizing different types of garden soils. Dr. Geo. F. Will, of Bismarck, who is chairman of the State Parks Board, dealt with trees. A study of rings on oak trees along the Missouri River give an idea of the weather conditions back as far as about 300 years. E. C. Hilborn, of Valley City, outlined present trends in landscape treatment of Dakota farms. Frances Kannowski, Superintendent of Grand Forks parks, noted the growing variety being attained in perennial flowers. Harry A. Graves had a fine report of progress in prairie gardens. Russell Reid, Superintendent of State Parks, outlined the history and features of the local unit.

In the evening Professor O. A. Stevens opened his vasculum and took out many interesting native plants he had gathered in the park. Two types of parasitic plants were explained. The

plants found native in the park number about 250.

Manitoba visitors were impressed with the benefits that come to North Dakota gardeners by holding their annual meetings in the summertime amid interesting plants and home gardens.

Late lilacs of the new hybrid class, known as the *Prestoniae* lilacs have been luxuriant in mid-June.

The Ottawa selections with highest rating by their originator, Isabella Preston, have been listed as Oudry, Bellicent, Desdemona, Elinor, Isabella, Jessica, Miranda, Regan, and Valeria. All but Regan bloomed well at the Morden Station. Bellicent is a bright pink, with sweetest fragrance. Elinor is a showy reddish variety with large tresses that hold their shape better than most. Isabella is large in truss and in floret with bright violet pink color.

Other Ottawa varieties that impressed include the following: Ursula, a magenta pink, has a very large spike that stands up boldly. Pauline, with numerous spikes of pinky mauve, is bright, early and scented. Phoebe, also pinkish to mauve, is bold, showy, bright, with medium fragrance. Octavia resembled Elinor but was less bright.

F. L. Skinner has four high rating reflexa hybrids. Hiawatha is earliest, deep vivid red changing to rosy violet with age. The florets are densely packed in a rather short cluster. It is much admired. Horace and Handel are later, more pinkish, and longer in the spike. Hedin has pale mauve shapely flowers, produced abundantly.

The Morden Station introductions are distinctive with three exceptions. Nocturne resembles Lutica from Ottawa. However, the effect is more dusky with darker buds. Coral is suggestive of Bellicent. It has less sweet fragrance but flowers here seem more radiant, more durable, and bolder. Bellicent flowers are heavily reflexed and tend to nod over. Freedom, so named because it produced flowers with such extravagant abandon each June, is of similar type to Skinner's Hedin. However, as with Coral, it has distinguishing personality.

Royalty, with rich dark purple buds and purple to violet large florets, is a bold bloomer. Cut in the bud stage it is a pleasing centre-piece. Redwine is a late bold variety with rich reddish color. The flowers last a long time, fading with age but remaining bright and attractive. Swanee is slightly lilac in the bud but is clear white on opening. Dawn is flush pink and attractive before Swanee opens. In color it is between Swanee and Coral.

These late lilacs are winning increasing popularity.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by
F. X. Wallner



Are loss leaders coming back? The warning, the past few weeks, that competition on a price basis will be acute after the war, is disturbing to the fruit and vegetable growers. It bears out the fear that "loss leaders" will again rear their ugly heads at the first opportunity. The policy of the chain stores and super-markets of beating down prices to growers thru loss leader methods was a big factor in pre-war depression, in so far as producers of fresh fruits and vegetables were concerned. These methods forced independent wholesale dealers to lower the prices to independent stores, below cost of production. Many times we have seen the market prices on an important crop broken over night, by reason of loss leader selling. This system is a crime and is indefensible from any standpoint. Since price control has been in effect, under OPA regulation, little or no complaint has been heard from the growers concerning loss leader sales by retailers. It seems the experience of the past two years in the retail field should have taught the chains and super-markets that consumers are willing to pay a fair price for fruit and vegetables, so that the grower can get a little above production cost. Consumers are disposed to be fair to the grower that must gamble with the elements and bear the heats of the day, yet there are retailers who think they must be "cheapest," or below other retailers, before they can sell fruits and vegetables. We do not like the regulation of every activity of the grower but we would shed no tears if congress, in its wisdom, would make it impossible for chain or super-markets to go back to loss leader selling, after the war. July 4th. Pulled weeds all day, but as I look down over 40 acres and see the light green of the onions, still lighter green of the cabbage in contrast to the darker green of the tomatoes, peppers, squash and sweet corn, parsnips and carrots that were cleaned up today, I cannot regret the lost holiday, tho it was a tough job, and I came near giving it up at one time. To the west is rye, turning golden, and will need binding this week. The heads show they are well filled as all are bending over in the breeze; one pilot tells me he likes the changing colors of my garden, from the air. An average

apple crop is in prospect, while the peach crop is 20% above average and the potato experts estimate the crop as 14% less than last year. Sec. Fitch, in his last news letter, tells the sad story of all peat ground being flooded, the largest grower with 150 acres of potatoes and 150 acres of onions will replant to soy beans and other crops, but it is a loss that few growers can take. I am sure we will miss the early types of tomatoes as the fruit set, is very disappointing to date. The Bison usually is loaded with fruit at this time and some picking is done in July. There is one weed that we should not pull this year; says the Dept. of Agri., in a recent release:

"Save the Milkweed and Save a Life"

Farmers who have taken pride in clean fence rows and weed-free fields can take an extra pride in patches of milkweeds this year. The lowly milkweed has gone to war.

Milkweeds may save the lives of the same farm boys who pulled this once pestiferous plant out of their fathers' corn fields a year or two ago. The fiber of floss in the milkweed seed pod—intended by nature to act as sail and parachute to spread the seeds far and wide—is a hollow, air-filled tube with a waxy coating—a midget pontoon. Packed into life jackets and life belts these milkweed pontoons will keep a man afloat exactly as well as kapok—the material formerly imported from Java for filling life jackets.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has been requested by the War Production Board to collect 1,500,000 pounds of milkweed floss this year to meet requirements of the armed forces. Since it takes three years to grow milkweed as a crop, this supply will have to come from wild plants. So the appeal to farmers is: "Save the milkweed and save a life."

Plans have been laid to get a peak harvest of pods from roadsides. At the request of the Public Roads Administration, State and County highway departments in many States are letting patches of milkweed along the roads grow until the pods can be picked. Permitting milkweeds to grow until the seed pods mature will not interfere with efforts to control the plant as a weed. It is expected that pickers will make practically a clean sweep of pods along roadsides. The pods are to be harvested for their floss before they break, thus preventing seeds from scattering. School children are being counted on to do most of the pod harvesting. Collection campaigns are being organized in 29 States.



REPORT ON THE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL PARK—Part II

By H. R. Woodward



H. R. Woodward

The Robertson Memorial Park is ideally located as a point of interest for those who are interested in plants and growing of fruit, being only four miles from the Robertson orchard. Mr. Robertson took this place as a homestead in 1892 and planted his first apple trees more or less as an experiment in 1896. Today this orchard has some 600 apple trees and other varieties of fruit and is considered one of the outstanding orchards in South Dakota.

There is no bench mark on the Park but so far as can be determined it has an elevation of about 4,000 feet. Rainfall has much to do with the type of native vegetation, the average rainfall being about 18.67 inches. During the ten-year period from 1921 through 1930 the average rainfall at the nearest weather observing station was 20.92 inches. The year of least rainfall was 1931 when it was 13.08 and the year of most rainfall was 1915 when it reached a total figure of 32.01 inches. These things should be taken into consideration when various types of plants were considered for planting in the park. It might be well here to state that the declination of the compass at the park is about 14°50' to the east of true north. This might not be of any value to anyone unless he were there and looking for his bearings or trying to locate various points.

The surface of the Park is made up largely of out-croppings of red Spearfish shale and the ridge along the east side is an outcrop of a buff rock known as Sundance sandstone. Both of these are covered to a certain extent by alluvial deposits that have been washed down from the Cretaceous rim about a half mile to the south. There are no fossils in the red shale and but few marine types of shells in the Sundance. In the deposits that have been transported in, however, may be found considerable quantities of petrified wood.

The native plant life of the Park is the characteristic flora of the foothills of the Black Hills region. The plants are typical of the Upper Sonoran life zone and of the Lower Transition zone. They are chiefly drought-resistant grasses and herbaceous flowering plants that complete their season's growth in the spring before the soil dries out. They represent types that bring their sea-

son's growth to completion during the later summer months and complete their life cycle at the time of the first frost.

Chief among the native grasses and one which it is hoped will eventually cover the Park is the buffalo grass, *bulbilous dactyloides*. Among the grasses also we must also include the western wheat grass, *agropyron occidentale*, which grows rather abundantly all over the area. It has proved to be somewhat troublesome in the flower beds because it is very persistent and reproduces both by seeds and by stolons and underground stems. Other grasses the writer has observed are: blue grama, *bouteloua gracilis*; fescue, *festuca saximontana*; poa, *poa palustris*; beard grass, *andropogon litoralis*; and crested hair grass, *deschampsia elongata*.

In going over the ridge of outcropping sandstone I have noted the following plants, giving their common names only: Wood's rose, yucca, skunk brush, prickly pear cactus, sagebrush, prickly rose, western poison ivy, chokecherry, snowberry, rabbit brush, lid plum, dwarf hackberry, and a vine species of clematis.

The indigenous flowering plants are in part the following: *pulsatilla ludoviciana*, or the so-called crocus (South Dakota's State flower); pussy toes, yarrow, Wyoming daisy, western harebell, shooting star, tomato mallow, gumbo lily, sand lily, western gumweed, puccoon, purple aster, white daisy, blazing star, several species of penstemon, western sunflower, mariposa lily, buffalo bean, yellow violet, blue violet, death camas, wild onion, purple cone flower, Missouri goldenrod, prairie aster, hoary vervain, yellow cone flower, wild celery, several species of phlox, yellow wall flower, *mertensia*, locoweed, *astragalus*, prairie clover, *senecio* and butter and eggs. These plants of course are by no means all that may be found growing in the Robertson Memorial Park, but they constitute the larger portion of them.

It would be pretty hard to enumerate all the various forms of fauna which might be found at various times in and about the area. Most of the smaller animals, birds, reptiles and insects that abound in this section can be expected here. The writer has noticed the thirteen-striped ground squirrel, the Black Hills cottontail, the white-tailed jack rabbit, the Badlands chipmunk, the white-footed mouse and the prairie meadow mouse. Of course the bullsnake, the rattle and plains garter snake may be expected to be found there. Very few birds are to be found on account of the fact that so far there are no trees large enough to attract them. The western meadow lark is found, however, in large numbers.

While the writer has never been officially appointed by the State Horticultural Society to exercise any supervision over the Park, he has assumed some responsibility in that regard because of the fact he has been executor of Mr. Robertson's estate. He has been appointed by the Circuit Court as a trustee of two funds left as a residue in that estate, one of which has been specifically set aside in Mr. Robertson's will as an endowment for the promotion and upkeep of the Park. It amounts to \$324.

Before Mr. Robertson's death he personally arranged two flower beds, one on each side of the monument, in which he planted iris and tulips. These beds have done very well and every spring they present a beautiful array of purple, yellow and red. In these beds and in another more recently arranged by the writer have been planted the bulbs of regal lilies sent to me by Secretary Simmons. All three of these types of plants seem to be well adapted to the soil and to the climate and rainfall. The three beds, however, seem to be about all that can be conveniently cared for under the present conditions.

At the very outset, the South Dakota Horticultural Society was very much interested in making tree and shrub plantings of various sorts. Mr. Dybvig of Colton very generously sent a hundred seedlings each of Black Hills Pine (*pinus ponderosa*) and red juniper. In addition to these the writer got a hundred each of the same varieties from the State Department of Agriculture. On account of the severe drought of 1939, the year they were planted, these plantings were not very successful.

From the Marshall Nurseries at Arlington, Nebr., we have received several honey locust trees and two creeping junipers, all of which are now growing. The honey locusts, however, have a tendency to kill back during the winter and seem to be slow in getting started. From this same nursery we have received one cotoneaster and two honeysuckles, all of which have survived. From the Gates Nursery at Rapid City have come 42 ponderosa pines varying in size from about 1 ft. to 6 ft. At present there is one of the larger ones growing and doing well and 28 of the smaller ones. They were furnished at the expense of the Society. Practically all this work of digging holes and planting was done by fourteen boys, high school students who were working on NYA projects. In addition to this these boys picked several pounds of juniper berries and spent a whole day planting the berries after they were picked. So far there is no evidence of any of them growing. The boys were particular about

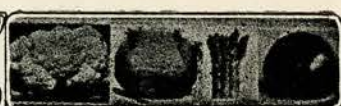
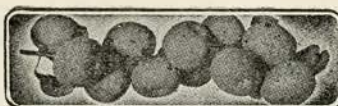
picking two-year-old berries, but evidently the seasons have been too dry.

In 1941 there were a lot of seeds obtained by the writer from his son in Utah of pinyon pine (*pinus edulus*). Some of these are growing and anyone visiting the Park may note some of them growing in the shadow of the monument. In addition to these the writer has planted eight Chinese elms all of which lived, but were seriously set back by having the bark stripped in winter by rabbits. It is doubtful, however, whether the Chinese elm is a good tree to plant in the Park or not. In addition to this the writer has planted two fine native shrubs known as mountain mahogany which are doing very well and one bush of shrubby cinquefoil. Charles Kiser, a neighbor and friend of Mr. Robertson, has planted the largest tree in the Park, which is female of the Rocky Mountain juniper, (*juniperus scopulorum*) and is doing very well.

The outstanding job of planting in the Park has been done by Thomas D. Miller who has planted about 25 native junipers, and one creeping juniper. He has had singular success with these, not only because he planted them well but because they are the most adaptable trees in the Park. They are not only making vigorous growth but are practically immune to the attacks of insects that harm the other trees. These Rocky Mountain Junipers are often erroneously called locally "red cedars." They are native to the locality and are very hardy. Perhaps future planting in the Park should be this type of tree, along with what other trees and shrubs we will be able to get to grow.

One of the extreme hazards in planting pines aside from the dry summers has been insects. In early June these trees are troubled with aphids carried to the trees by ants. The writer has been able to get rid of them, however, by a couple of applications of Bordeaux mixture. Then there comes the little red spider that bites into the bark of the tender shoots and causes the sap to run out. The worst insect enemy to the pine tree seedling is the so-called tip-moth, (*Rhyacionia frustrana bushnelli*). It has attacked the new shoots of every one of the pine trees planted at the Park. The moth lays eggs in the new shoots as they start to grow in June and along about the middle of July it will be noted that all the new shoots have started to die. In breaking off these brown tips the writer has noticed one, two or three red grubs about a half inch long in each of the dead twigs. They do not kill the tree but destroy its growth and makes a very bushy look-

(Continued on Page 124)



IRIS JOTTINGS

by

Ellis L. Jackson, Mobridge, S. D.



E. L. Jackson Usually I am an optimist but this past winter was one of the hardest we have ever had on tall bearded Iris. I think there are several ways to account for our large loss this year. First, I did not cover any of my Iris and they were all moved here last year when we changed fields. Second, our winter was not hard till almost spring just when Iris are naturally getting ready for another year's bloom. In March we had lots of snow and some cold weather, too. Just above my large planting was an immense snow bank and this lasted after all else was gone and the melting snow from it ran across my Iris bed with alternate freezing and thawing. All told I think I lost about half of my plantings and even the rest showed the results of this harsh treatment. But even out of this I have learned several well needed lessons.

The following varieties came thru without any loss at all: Frank Adams—Sass 40-349 and most of my collection of Sass seedlings. I am sold on them for hardiness. Hills' new varieties including Flora Campbell and Melanie. If you have a few dollars to invest in the best you could not do better than get these two. Flora Campbell, a lovely red and Melanie one of the best of the new pinks. Both have been in Schreiner's first 100 list. Angelus came thru O. K. Marco Polo Snowking, which I think is our finest hardy, while adapted to our western prairie conditions. M. A. Porter—Wabash and Great Lakes all came thru without a loss. They are true aristocrats, too. Royal Salute (Milliken), Royal Coach and Pink Satin (of Sass). So after all I don't suppose it is right to condemn those which did not stand unusual weather conditions and one learns not to judge hardiness by any one season's performance.

Real estate here is at a premium and we have had two houses sold out from under us and have to find a home before October. Just now we are living in the church basement till a house opens up. Mobridge has been very beautiful this year and part of that beauty lies in the beautiful lawn and plantings at the library where Mrs. Briley presides at the desk so capably. Mobridge is very fortunate to have this gracious lady make her home in our midst and garden minded folks find in her a very real friend. This has been one of our real compensations in a hard year's work.

During June we were called East on account of the death of Mrs. Jackson's brother and we reveled for three weeks in the beauty of the Genesee Valley in Western New York. They too have had lots of moisture this year and the country looks very fine. We returned about the first of July to find our garden taken over by weeds, but several days of early rising and long hours has worked another miracle and today we are enjoying green peas and yellow and green wax beans and lots of greens—chard, beets and turnips. And tiny rutabagas we found when we thinned them. So "boiled dinners" and greens have been the order of the day to say nothing of turnip greens. Years like this are grand for the one who loves the touch of the soil and well repays all of the work.

Back to Iris for a moment. I would like to thank all those who have written in with questions and comment. Your letters are all answered as of this date and I am the richer for new friends who give life a meaning. If ever there is any service I can render don't hesitate to write me about your Iris lists or suggested plantings. Oh, by the way, my Arenaria and Bloudwill and also Keepsake and Ylo came thru in good shape and will be in fine shape for crossing another year.

Mr. Hill has been doing some interesting work with Arenaria and I hope to keep on experimenting with it. Have you tried his new Cream Tart, Tiny Tony, Fior Del Mondo or Tiny Treasure? He leaves us all his debtor for fine breeding with these midgets of the Iris world.

(Continued from Page 123)

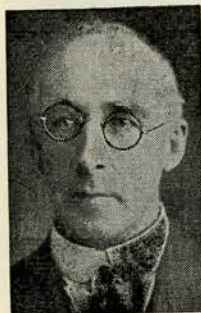
ing tree. Some of the trees received a worse attack than others, and the worst damage was done when the leader at the top was thus killed.

In spite of all handicaps encountered the Park looks better in this 1944 season than it has ever appeared thus far. The trees and shrubs have been planted in more or less orderly manner and has gone steadily forward. As we approach the end of the first decade since the establishment of the Park we can truly see that something has been accomplished. Rainfall may be more favorable for planting in the years to come, and much more may be accomplished in the future. The major portion of the Park has been left in its natural state and a few trees have been planted on the ridge. Only the area around the monument and up to the gate has been mowed and the regular application of the lawn mower has caused the buffalo grass to become a veritable carpet.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Due to the generosity of Mr. Dybvig, the state's premier lily propagator, July has been a wonderful lily month in the Secretary's garden. The first to bloom was the fine lily from Korea, the amabile. Coming from such a northern clime, this lily is perfectly hardy, and sets seed freely and grows from seed as quickly as the tenuifolium. It grows about 18 inches in height and has numerous grenadine red reflexed blooms. All that see this lily fall in love with it and it bids fair to become one of our most popular lilies. Mr. Dybvig regards this lily very highly, and so also, do all that see it. Next to bloom was the Scottiae which grows 24 to 30 inches high and has large reflexed blooms, facing outward, of an orange color with a darker center. This is one of Mr. Skinner's masterpieces, originated at Dropmore, Manitoba, about 500 miles northwest of Winnipeg. Needless to say it is hardy, as are all of Mr. Skinner's originations. By the way, you will find an interesting lily article by Mr. Skinner in our 1944 annual report, if the printer ever gets it out. The next lily to bloom was the cernuum, another treasure from Korea. It is one of the few pink lilies, growing about 15 inches high, and the flowers also have reflexed petals. This is very hardy and is a dainty little gem. Next to bloom was the Maxwell, another of Mr. Skinner's contributions to our list of hardy lilies. This grows to a height of 5 or 6 feet, the number of flowers increasing with the size of the bulb to 50 in large bulbs. The color is a bright waxy red and is something to be prized in any lily collection. Last to bloom was willmottiae, from western China, perfectly hardy and bearing its bowers in chandelier shape, so many of them that it has to be staked to prevent the great flower-head from being borne to the ground by its great weight. Mr. Dybvig calls this a glorified Coral lily, as the shape of the flowers and the color are very similar tho much larger. A distinct variety of willmottiae is Unicolor, flowers are lighter in color and with few, if any, spots. Both this and the type are lilies that all lily lovers should resolve to plant this fall. Many have confined their lilies to the Tigers and umbellatum or elegans, which are very common and foolproof. It is time that

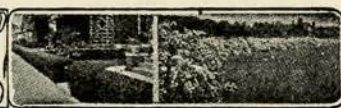
these gardeners should realize that it is unnecessary to confine their plantings to just these few kinds. Those mentioned above, and the Coral (tenuifolium) and the concolor are fully as hardy and easy to grow and will add new lily interest to their gardens. Some gardeners seem to be giving up on the Regal, tho it has never failed with me, and is far too beautiful to get along without. However, I think it should always be mulched rather heavily and the mulching left on the ground as long as possible, to avoid its too early appearance in the spring, when it is easily injured by a late frost, which does not kill it, but does kill the blossom for that year. The New Hampshire Hort. Soc. has just started a News Letter, prepared by the Hort. Dept. of the U. of N. H. Suspicion attaches to our friend Dr. Yeager for starting this. From this we have culled the following, as being equally interesting in the Dakotas: "The entomology Dept. at U. of N. H. is the distribution center for D. D. T. in the U. S. for experimental use. One small orchard at the Hort. Farm is being sprayed with it this year and the effects noted by Dr. Conklin and others. A difficulty is that it is almost too effective which means that special care is necessary to prevent bees and other pollenating insects from being destroyed.—A. F. Yeager.

It is almost a religious belief among many people that the first fall freeze and the last severe frost of spring occur at the time of the full moon. A few years ago I made a study of frost data and also of the dates of the full moon in each year for the past 40 years. The finding was that the last killing frost of spring and the first killing frost of autumn has occurred just as often at the time of the new moon as it has at the time of the full moon.

During the latter part of the week of May 14 this year considerable damage occurred to various kinds of plant life. It was, in some sections, one of the most severe frosts on record at this season of the year, damaging even such hardy plants as cabbage and peas. Please note that this frost occurred between the last quarter and the new moon.

When a frost does occur at the time of the full moon the correlation makes a deep impression on the individual. Although striking, little thought is ever given to the reason for the correlation. It is this: The full moon shines brilliantly on a frosty night only because the atmosphere is exceptionally clear at such a time. If we think back we should remember how many frosty starlit nights there have been when there was no moon in the sky.—L. P. Latimer.

(Continued on Page 127)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
H. J. Donaldson



H. J. Donaldson

Well, folks, this marks the end of the membership race. Unless someone brings in a flock of new members after Aug. 1st, Mr. Simmons is the uncontested winner. When you start for the convention to be held in the High School in Vermillion Aug. 23-24, be sure you bring some fruit, vegetables or flowers that grew in your garden, so we can see the products of different parts of the state. Dr. Lantz and Dr. Nichols from Ames and Mr. Herrick, Sec. of the Iowa Society, are bringing an outside influence that is always welcome. We are now sure of a few people from the Black Hills area. Dr. Buchholtz from the Brookings Station has completed 3 years of research work on the control of pockets in sandcherries. This should be an interesting discussion. The program will be printed before you read this, so if any of you folks want one before the convention, just drop me a card. It will seem good to renew acquaintances and meet new people interested in horticulture. One of the biggest benefits to come from these conventions, besides the exchange of ideas, is the realization that other people have the same problems that you have. This is one place where you can bring your horticultural problems and be sure of sympathetic attention. We have come a long way in horticulture since the Society was formed in 1884. The reason we have progressed is because people have been willing to bring their knowledge and experience to the convention for the benefit of those who cared to learn. As the years roll on we will continue this process of teaching and learning, because we have found no better way, than thru these personal contacts at the annual meetings. Even tho travel is difficult this year, I'll see you in Vermillion.

(Continued from Page 115)

least. A pretty shrublet now in bloom is Skinner's hardy *Potentilla dahurica*, light green somewhat downy foliage with many small white single roses. A bed of *Aster alpinus*, amethyst violet in two shades is eye arresting; singly or in rows its beauty would be quite missed. June 14th. Found clumps of Fairy ring fungus *Marasmius oreades*, a spicy morsel for next meal, its flavor

even superior to common field mushroom. It is easily identified by large white far apart gills and center of pale tan cap, raised shield-like above margin. More of Loder Park's wildings awake from a long winter slumber. Bugbane or Black snakeroot with its clustered plume like foliage, Vervain and the tall white meadow rue *Thalictrum polygamum*, my English pink *Thalictrum adiantifolium* of many years standing, 4 ft. high is in full bloom, also common wood fern and best of all lovely Sensitive fern. I fear many other things sleep the eternal sleep tho indeed, all hardy ferns from Wake Robin Farm have at last awakened from winter dormancy and impart a touch of woodland scenery that a few years ago would have seemed impossible in North Dakota; it seems where there's a will there's a way. June 20th. Weather continues cool and rainy, beautiful are arching sprays of *Spirea trichocarpa*, snow white against vivid green leafage, thriftiest and hardiest of all meadow sweets. First two lilies to expand are dark blue *Ixiolirion* and Pearce's apricot var. of *tenuifolium* (Coral lily) and leaves of Will's sport chokecherry change from green to bronze. Found a *Zapus* (prairie jumping mouse) in sparrow trap, which I released to eat more seeds of quack grass. Like the English dormouse, this rodent hibernates.

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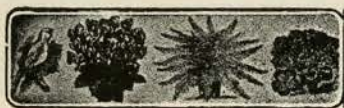
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SWEET CORN GROWING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

by
S. A. McCrory



S. A. McCrory

Now that we are in the "Sweet Corn Season" it seems timely to consider that crop. Perhaps most gardeners had sweet corn for a time but because of maturity of the ears found the season far too short. How long can the sweet corn season be in South Dakota?

In 1943 at Brookings we produced sweet corn over a fifty-eight day period. This was not just an occasional ear but was supplied in quantities great enough to feed 1,000 to 1,200 soldiers. By making two plantings and by using three different hybrids this long season was possible. There was very little corn lost due to over maturity.

If a home gardener or a market gardener desires to have sweet corn over a long season he should use varieties with different maturity dates or make a succession of plantings. It seems desirable to use both practices. The following list of hybrids have given good yields when planted here:

Season—Early, 70 days. Hybrid, North Star. Source, Joseph E. Harris Seed Co., Rochester, N. Y. Hybrid, Spencross. Source, Associated Seed Growers, Inc., New Haven, Conn.

Season—Mid-season, 75 days. Hybrid, Carmelcross, Golden Cross Bantam, Lincoln. Source, Comstock, Ferre & Co., Weathersfield, Conn.

Season—Late, 80-85 days. Hybrid, Ioana. Source, Northrup, King Co., Minneapolis, Minn. Hybrid, Narrow Grained Evergreen (white). Source, Corneli Seed Cor., St. Louis, Mo.

No doubt some of these may be obtained from sources other than those named. If the first planting is made about May 15th and all three are planted, with a second planting about a month later, a very long season may be had. The early season hybrids may be omitted from the second planting. It is intended to suggest here that one hybrid for each of the different maturity periods be used. The first named in each group is to be recommended when available.

There are many who still prefer the open-pollinated varieties to hybrids. Many reasons are given for such opinions. Extensive testing has proven that hybrids yield better and that the quality is as good as for standard varieties. During a recent favorable growing year forty-four

samples of Golden Bantam and thirty samples of hybrid Golden Cross Bantam were collected from as many different sources. These were planted for comparison. The following is a summary of their performance:

Golden Bantam—Days to 1st picking, 82.7; No. of ears per 100 plants, 104.2; % of ears marketable, 81.2; length of ears in inches, 6.39; Wt. of ears in oz., 4.54.

Golden Cross Bantam—Days to 1st picking, 87.2; No. of ears per 100 plants, 100; % of ears marketable, 92.3; length of ears in inches, 7.20; Wt. of ears in oz., 6.30.

There was a marked variation between different samples in either case. The source from which seed is obtained is of importance.

(Continued from Page 125)

I have a query from Bennington, N. H., asking if the new White Mountain watermelon can be planted near cucumbers or other melons. I have an idea that my correspondent refers to the matter of crossing. This is an old, old subject coming up every year. I might say that watermelons will cross with each other and citrons, but not with any other type of vine crop. Cucumbers will cross with cucumbers, muskmelons will cross with muskmelons, but not with each other or with watermelons. When it comes to pumpkins and squash it is necessary to distinguish between three distinct types, the pumpkins and summer squash which belong to one group and cross very readily with each other, the winter squash with round leaves and soft stems which cross with each other, but not with the other two groups, and the Cushaws of which the Butternut is the newest example. In other words, a Golden Summer Crookneck summer squash and a pie pumpkin will cross with each other, but not with the Blue Hubbard or the Buttercup squash or with the Butternut or other Cushaws.—J. R. Hepler.

Young suckers sprouting up from the roots of red raspberry plants in early spring provide a very desirable means of increasing the size of a plantation. Plants from 4" to 6" tall are preferable. They should be removed with a portion of the T-root attached and be transferred immediately to the new location which is previously prepared for planting. If they are selected from sections of an old patch which were marked the preceding year on the basis of freedom from diseases, high yield, and vigor, the results obtained should be gratifying. This method of reproduction helps to keep mosaic and root-gall diseases in check.



BOOK REVIEW

by
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

Food, by Frank A. Pearson and Don Paarlberg. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 501 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. Price, \$2.75. "In the horse and buggy days," as the author says, "the story of food could be told under four simple headings, Production, Consumption, Distribution and Prices." But with the Government concerned with so many war and civic activities, the food question does not fit into the old-time simple plan. The authors view the present food situation from many angles, and do not hesitate to express their opinions, showing that they are skeptical of many of the new economic doctrines. They discuss food under such headings as: The Food Shortage, Farm Labor and Machinery, Crop Production, Ceiling Prices, Rationing, Black Markets, Administration of Food. Food is a weapon of war, and even Hitler has not been able to devise a plan whereby men can both work and fight. The authors believe that there is not much in the handling of the food problem at present to inspire the American people to have entire faith in our "Washington chefs." You will find the book worth reading, altho you may not agree always with the authors.

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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

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(Continued from Page 114)

sive study of the red-eyed vireo showed about 15 per cent vegetable material consisting of fruits of grape, dogwood and other plants. Caterpillars were the largest item, making up nearly one-third of the total. Beetles composed over 10 per cent and sucking bugs 7 per cent of the total. Flies, grasshoppers and spiders amounted to only 5 per cent each. As previously mentioned, the vireo usually sits on a branch and picks off insects within reach. It does not go to the ground to feed nor capture flying insects. Hence, the leaf eating caterpillars are the main sorts taken.

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ily, Lee and Ann Snyder, won the first two of these special awards.

Most encouraging is the news from Rapid City that the Better Homes and Gardens Club, our most distant member, hopes to send delegates to the convention at Vermillion. If they can arrange it, we should have a representation from every other club in the Federation, and I shall make a special effort to meet and talk to each delegate personally. I'll be seeing you.

OLD PRAYER FOR NEW DAY

Give me a good digestion Lord, also something to digest.

Give me a healthy body, Lord, with sense to keep it at its best.

Give me a healthy mind, Good Lord, to keep the good and pure in sight,

Which, seeing sin, is not appalled, but finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bound, that does not whimper, whine or sigh,

Don't let me worry overmuch about the fussy thing called I.

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, give me the grace to see a joke,

To get some happiness out of life and pass it on to other folk.

It is a thrilling pleasure to hear the bird chorus in the early morning hours and again just at dusk. With the passing of the years we have the compensation of greater appreciation of these joys. It is as if we had passed the rapids and cataracts along the river of life and had reached the broad lowland levels where the current is still fairly swift but deep and full.—Patience Strong in The Minnesota Horticulturist.