

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

JULY, 1947



Sioux Falls, the pretty waterfall that furnished the name for our city.

—Photo by W. R. Simmons

Plan to attend the annual meeting at Rapid City on August 19, 20 and 21.

See again the beautiful Black Hills.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE

By
O. A. Stevens

**O. A. Stevens**

A number of years ago, while watching birds at a shallow, prairie pond, we were puzzled about some small ones which were continually whirling about on the surface. We were unable to identify them at the time but finally a friend suggested they must be phalaropes. A rapid whirling about in shallow water, accompanied by kicking with the feet, is believed to stir up food which can be picked up from the surface. The birds are good swimmers but do not dive.

Wilson's phalarope is a rather common summer bird of our prairie ponds. The male is an inconspicuous, sandpiper like bird about 9 inches long. The female is more brightly marked with a rosy color on the sides of the neck. The under parts are white, the back dark brown. The top of the head is gray and there is a prominent white line over the eye.

This is one of the few species where colors and behavior are reversed from the usual rule. The male is the duller colored and takes charge of incubating the eggs, but the female stands guard. Nesting is not a heavy duty since the eggs are laid in a hollow in the grass, but they usually are well concealed. Four eggs is the rule. They are about an inch and a quarter long, buffy and vari-ously marked with small or large brown spots.

Mr. Bent relates that once he flushed a sitting bird and dropped his hat to mark the general location while he hunted the nest. Finally giving up the hunt, he picked up his hat and found the nest under it.

This bird is a considerable traveler. It nests from northern Illinois to central California, north to southern British Columbia and Manitoba. In winter it occurs from central Argentina and Chile to the Falkland Islands. When Elliott Coues was collecting in North Dakota in 1873, he was much interested in the young phalaropes, which he had not seen before. He wrote: "I had no heart to destroy any of the beautiful creatures, much as I desired some for my cabinet, after a scene I had witnessed when I had secured some avocets. Three phalaropes came in great concern and alighted on the water where a dead avocet was

Vol. XX

July, 1947

No. 7

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, under the act of August 24, 1912. Original office of entry, Pierre, South Dakota.

Membership in the South Dakota State Horticultural Society is one dollar per year; fifty cents of this amount is for the subscription to "North and South Dakota Horticulture." The subscription rate for affiliated organizations is twenty-five cents per member, per year.

Published monthly at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, by the North and South Dakota State Horticultural Societies. Address all communications to W. A. Simmons, Secretary, Horticultural Office, Court House, Sioux Falls, So. Dak.

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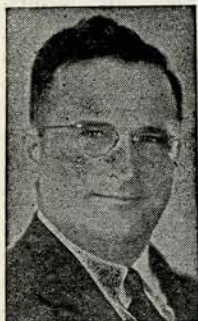
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floating, swimming back and forth and almost caressing it with their bills."

Phalaropes form a family of only three species. They differ from sandpipers in having the toes webbed, so they are good swimmers. The other two species are widely distributed and feed chiefly on the water. Wilson's phalarope is found only in central and western America and feeds along the mud flats or on shallow ponds, chiefly upon various aquatic insects.

NEWSLANTS

By
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

While the season for lilacs is, of course, past and also the fact that lilacs were not at their best this year, may make Newslants for this month seem somewhat out of date, I feel that we must say something about lilacs again.

The Fargo Garden Society arranged an open house in the yards of Dr. C. I. Nelson and Harry Weaver on the night of June 6th. Blooms in 1947, although badly chilled, were better than they were in 1946 here in Fargo. I would estimate though that the lilacs were not more than 75% of what they should be, or what they normally are, on a good year. Lilacs like warm weather early and not only that, they like continued warm weather. While temperatures running down to 20°—if they do not stay there too long—will not freeze lilacs down so that they do not bloom at all, low temperatures of this kind do chill them and, as someone has aptly said, "Lilac blooms behave very much like a runty pig—once stunted they are never the same again."

The more I listen to people exclaim over a certain variety of lilac, the more I am convinced that the average person is more impressed by the color and size of individual bloom than they are by some of the other factors which go to make up a good lilac. The number and size of the trusses must be considered, of course, but also very important is the ability of the lilac to bloom year in and year out and not be a temperamental prima donna on years when the going is a little tough.

Someone has well said that it often takes eight or ten years before one can pass final judgment on whether or not a lilac should be introduced. Certainly the springs of 1946 and 1947 have been no years to judge the merits of a lilac here on the Northern Great Plains.

In the next few paragraphs we shall give the ratings as listed in "Lilacs for America." It seems to me there has been a slight tendency in this book to rate a lilac down because it is an old variety.) In Dr. Nelson's yard William Robinson (5.7) was in the best form I have ever seen it, although a little past its prime. Paul Thirion (8.0) was good for this year but not up to its usual high standard. I have come to the opinion

that Paul Thirion is the finest of all lilacs I have seen. Ludwig Spaeth (7.8) carried a large number of trusses but they were on the small side and not opening the way they should. Perhaps the most interesting lilac in Dr. Nelson's yard was his seedling of his own raising which he has named for Mrs. Fanny Heath. In fact, this variety was officially named in 1940 but it is in its best bloom this year. This lilac, Fanny Heath, came out of the same package of seed as the lilac Dianne, which Dr. Nelson also named about 1940 for his oldest grandchild. Dianne had not quite opened on June 6th but we have seen it in fine bloom before and it is a lilac to be considered along with some of the best. Both Dianne and Mrs. Fanny Heath are too new to be rated.

Lilacs, more or less in full bloom, in the Harry Weaver yard were Marc Micheli (6.5), Ludwig Spaeth (7.8), which was in as good bloom as any lilac I have seen this year; Alfonso Lavelle (5.0), Marshal Foch (8.3), Paul Thirion (8.0), Victor LeMoine (7.4), Madam Cashmir Perrier (6.3) in the best form I have ever seen it; Violetta (7.2), just coming on with a few extra large trusses, Leon Gambetta (7.3), in very good form for this year, Congo (7.4), very good, Diderot (7.1), a small bush with only a few blooms but very large individual florets. Continuing down the lilac row, we saw Hippolyte Maringer (6.4), Edith Cavelli (9.2), which was a young bush but coming along very nicely; Marshal Lannes (7.8), and last but certainly by no means least, Lucie Baltet, but misnamed or not it was a very fine bush and in excellent form for this year.

In another planting we saw Charles Sargent (6.5) for the first time. To me this is a finer lilac than the rating would indicate.

C. L. Benzi, commercial market gardener and strawberry grower of Washburn, N. D., reports that the frost did little damage to his sizeable field of strawberries. Reports coming in indicate that frost damage is very spotty this year. It does appear, however, that by and large we will have more fruit than we had last year.

North Dakota horticulture lost two good friends this spring in the person of E. G. (Cap) Wanner, superintendent of the State Capitol grounds at Bismarck, in recent years; and J. R. Prante, one of the vice presidents of the North Dakota society.

Captain Wanner was for many years secretary for the State Board of Administration. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and for several years just past was in charge of the plantings and grounds of the State Capitol build-

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GARDEN NOTES

By
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

With the advent of this month our short summer reaches its zenith, with Dame Nature smiling and decked out in gaudiest raiment, tho 6 months later the same deity can be an avenging Nemesis, inflicting cruel and merciless blows on those victims whose power of resistance is weakened. So we make the most of present genial conditions while we may. To continue last month's notes: May 2nd.

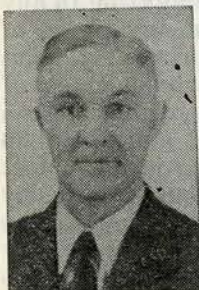
Following a few days of unseasonable enervating heat in 70's and 80's, permitting an outdoor bath and much delightful splashing, cooler weather prevails, with an overnight white frost. My tree encircled flower garden is an oasis of shelter and delight, where neither wind or dust penetrates, a refuge from the open prairie with its clouds of wind swept sand. It is like entering the quiet precincts of a cathedral away from life's turmoil, where light is filtered thru stained glass windows, while from the organ come soothing strains of harmony, giving a peace that passeth all understanding. Here we have a dense yew-green mat of Phlox hoodii, now over-spread with hundreds of honey-scented flowers, blue scillas at their best, English fragrant violets, odorata, the pink Viola jooii also scented Johnny Jump ups everywhere. Large walnut stained buds of Adonis vernalis expand to large golden chalices what Farrer describes as bright yellow rayed suns of blossoms and the queen of all these early spring flowers is the gorgeous Anemone pulsatilla in white and purple, which Farrer describes as a native of the Alps of central Europe, coming as far south as Rome, and that the Romans probably brot it to England. I quote, "And now on Roman works such as the Devil's Dyke near Newmarket, its lovely great violet starry cups with golden tassel at their heart, lie thick upon the sere ground under the wild skies of March before the little silky ferny foliage, on which they sit so close at flower time, has fully developed its leaflets." This glory of early spring is fully as hardy as our native Anemone patens prairie crocus) which is a mere understudy and obtainable from most nurserymen, including Saxton & Wilson, Maplewood, Ore., who have both the violet and white. From the same source can be obtained the arctic willow Salixuva

ursi and arctic birth Betula nana, both now, on May 13th, in full leaf, tho our native willows and birch are still bare. The former is found in northern Greenland and of the birch Bailey cites it as growing as far north as any tree in North America. They are quite at home and thrive in my rock garden, and of course will always retain their proportion in a setting of dwarfs. Another charming thing in miniature is a low crucifer which is either Draba sibirica or alpina, from a basal creeping mat arise 2 inch scapes carrying clusters of flowers with calyx and corolla and butter yellow. The genus Draba also known as whitlow grass is essentially of high latitudes, alpina growing on north coast of Greenland, with its summer of only a few weeks, as far north as vegetation can grow. Farrer says Draba is a family of the first rank for decorating even the most prominent places in the choicest rock garden ledge or moraine. My few plants are perennial seedlings from Pearce's rock garden mixture. Ranking high in list of spring flowers and one of the earliest, is that member of the poppy family Sanguinaria canadensis, bloodroot, and a large clump with its many petalled, up facing snow white chalices arising from clustered oval leaves, bears a striking resemblance to a dwarf water-lily. It is quite at home in my prairie garden, with some shelter and a little shade. My Royal fern Osmundia regalis has responded wholeheartedly to a kind start indoors, a circular uncurling of 4 fronds rising from a rusty, hairy stump which itself grows in proportion, leaflets at first, amber later change to bright green, its carriage is upright like that of the north woods fern, very graceful and of regal dignity, hence the name. Today, May 16th, it was promoted to the great outdoors for a summer sojourn in what it is to be hoped will be the shade of a red horse chestnut, burying the gallon container in spongy well rotted sods. May 18th. A few hours light and very welcome rain, followed by cold south wind and heavy night frost, the swallows arrive. It is pleasant on these cold, freezing mornings to hear the soft cooing of a mourning dove at 5 a. m. No rude awakening from a restful slumber as is the staccato rapping of a woodpecker which, fortunately for my peace of mind, I have managed to drive away by means of a crudely erected scarecrow. May 20th. Dandelions come into flower and from the grove is heard the mating and evening song of robins. May 22nd. A white fritelary in flower, also the 15th hackberry tree, and am pleased to see Arum maculatum, also known as Jack in pulpit, Cuckoo pint, Lords and ladies.

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MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

Horticulturists of the Northern Great Plains area derive much satisfaction in the award of an honorary LL.D degree at the annual convocation of the University of Manitoba, May 16, to Frank L. Skinner, M.B.E., Dropmore, Manitoba. Dr. Skinner, a modest man with astonishingly wide and intimate knowledge of plants and the science of their culture and propagation, will wear his latest honor with distinctive credit to his Alma Mater. He has long since brought many honors to his adopted Manitoba through his breeding of superior new hybrid plants, and their displays at international horticultural shows.

He was a boy of 12 and already a keen gardener when he left Scotland for Canada. Plant growing and their improvement by skilled plant breeding has remained his first interest. The Saturday, May 17, edition of the Winnipeg Tribune carried an essay by Bruce Larsen on Frank Leith Skinner. The following paragraphs are taken therefrom:

"When he was 28, Mr. Skinner toured parts of the United States and Canada. He studied plant breeding methods wherever he went. When he got back to Dropmore his suitcase and pockets bulged with native American plants.

"After the depression of 1922, I found that I was going to have to either forget studying plants or else turn the hobby into a business that could pay its way," he said.

"After a visit to Dropmore, M. B. Davis, now Dominion Horticulturist, and Prof. William Alderman, head of the Horticultural Department at the University of Minnesota, persuaded Mr. Skinner to start a nursery. The men were anxious to keep the Dropmore man in horticulture as his hybrids had already started to bring him world-wide attention.

"Now the Dropmore Nursery is 25 years old. In that space of time plants have been shipped out to practically every part of the world . . . and plants from those far off places have come to his nursery. Although he is in the commercial field, Frank Skinner would still rather exchange a plant than sell one.

"Travel has also become a regular thing for Mr. Skinner. He has traveled extensively through

North America and Europe visiting horticulturists and collecting plants on his own. This summer he is going to Sweden and France."

After mentioning his roses, lilies, chrysanthemums and lilacs, the editor concludes: "Latest project of his nursery was a search for a poplar tree that was easy to grow, disease-resistant and rich in cellulose. He started three years ago and hopes to have what he's after 10 years from now."

Seldom has the prairies witnessed an honorary degree so well and deservedly placed as this latest recognition of Frank L. Skinner.

Control of Weeds in Growing Vegetables

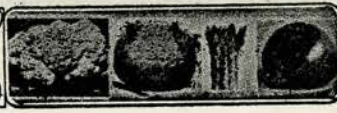
Spraying certain growing vegetable crops for weed control has been a successful practice during recent years. Possibly the most striking example of this has been the use of oil sprays on carrots and parsnips.

There are several advantages of spraying growing vegetables for weed control. The most important is the thoroughness with which the spray method kills weeds. Secondly, soil moisture conservation by eliminating cultivation has been noted. Thirdly, the growing vegetable plants are not disturbed by cultivator shares. Fourthly, the cost of hand labor, such as hoeing, is eliminated. Under most conditions two applications of spray material are ample during the growing season.

Ordinary tractor distillate has been found to be the cheapest and an effective spray material for the control of weeds in carrots in experiments conducted by the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba. Clear kerosene and solvent are excellent but expensive. Diesel fuel damages the growing crop. A pressure sprayer which will cover the weeds thoroughly is desirable equipment. Under field conditions where carrots or parsnips are grown for commercial canning or for market purposes, it takes from 25 to 30 gallons per acre of spray material. It is important that the carrot plants are small, 1 to 1½ inches high, when the spray is applied. Considerably larger quantities of distillate are required for tall weeds. Moreover, an effective weed kill is more certain early in the season. Cloudy weather or late evening of a bright day are most desirable conditions for spraying. It takes from 4 to 5 weeks of growth before this flavor is eliminated.

The use of the spray method in weed control is generally not recommended for the home garden. The drift of distillate and other such spray materials across the garden will injure most growing vegetables not related to the carrot.

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GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By
Juanita Jorgensen



Mrs. Jorgensen

It is not too late to make plans for attending the convention at Rapid City, though you may have to take a tent or a trailer along if you expect to have a place to sleep. This is an especially good idea for a family to plan a brief trip and allow the interested members to attend convention sessions. "Papa" can fish the first day, while the whole family can join in the tours of Wednesday and Thursday. With formal session limited

ed to but one day Mr. Schamber's plan for separate meetings of the two groups the first afternoon should appeal greatly to those with specialized interests. In this way those who want to learn about fruits and vegetables may not have to "waste" their time listening to discussions of purely ornamental plantings, and vice versa.

In this year of inflated tourist travel it would be impossible to find accommodations for a convention crowd except for the efforts of the local committee, and our Rapid City hosts have been working, writing, and contacting dozens of people to make this convention a success. At last reports a whole cabin camp had been commandeered for convention visitors—and what could be nicer than to have the whole crowd stay together? Let's make this a Convention Year.

We are never satisfied, and probably never will be until every organized garden club in South Dakota is a member of our Federation. As soon as our membership is augmented by one new club we immediately set out on the trail of new clues which may lead to additional members, and nothing arouses a greater spurt of enthusiasm than a letter from a possible candidate to our ranks. The above burst is occasioned by the return of the Yankton Garden Club to the Federation; and by a card from Mrs. S. N. Noyes of Canton, hinting at a possible alliance with us. While not all leads bear positive results at once we have found that most clubs, once interested, eventually realize that they receive far greater returns from their Federation membership dues than from any other disposition of the 30c per capita. We welcome Yankton, and hope Canton Garden Club will join us in the near future. The Canton group held a flower show on June 21st, the most popular date for shows over the state.

The corresponding secretary's office is on the exchange list for another high class magazine, the American Forestry Magazine, subscription price, \$4.00 per year. This courtesy is extended to us because we offer to loan the magazine to any horticulturist who is interested in any phase of forestration. A penny post card brings the magazine to you for perusal, and we hope many of you will take this opportunity to read it. Also, remember, we have the Begonian, and about 30 other publications of interest to gardeners. Most of these are personal property, but are freely loaned before they are clipped for filing in the garden library. Some day we will devote our page to a list and brief description of these magazines.

When magazines like American Forestry and House Beautiful recognize us, we must be coming up in the world even though our membership is comparatively small. South Dakota's garden events will now be broadcast over the nation through the pages of House Beautiful providing we learn the dates three months in advance of publication. Alice L. Dustan, garden editor of House Beautiful, writes that they plan to publish a regular calendar of meetings and events, and asks that she be placed on our mailing list. We have sent her the dates of our State Convention, the State Fair, the Vermillion County Achievement Days, and the approximate dates of some of our flower shows, though we may be too late for publication this year. If secretaries will let us know dates of shows and other events in their communities far enough ahead of time we can send them to her for publication. Keep this in mind for next winter and early spring.

Written for the June Issue

Members of two of our South Dakota garden clubs were able to visit the 24th National Flower and Garden Show held in the International Amphitheater in Chicago this year; and Mrs. Sherman L. Johnson of the new Huron Club was also a visitor at the Fashions in Flowers show at the Marshall Field Co. The other flower show guest was Mrs. A. C. Bonham of Britton. These ladies were able to bring back glowing reports of the show, and many helpful ideas which we may expect them to incorporate in their own shows in the future. The last meeting of the Britton club was especially interesting also because winners of the yearbook cover contest were announced as follows: Mrs. A. C. Bonham, Mrs. H. Nelson and Mrs. A. Damgaard. Be sure to send us a copy of one of your books. It can be returned after the contest if necessary.

Dues from our new Huron Garden Club indi-

cated a membership of 13, but the very next meeting brought in eight more members, an increase of over 60%. Mrs. Johnson reported the outstanding features of the National Flower show to be the formal terraced garden where combined cascades and colored lights produced the spectacular Rainbow Falls. The exhibit covered an area of 24 acres. We are glad to see the good publicity in the Huron paper from this club.

No club can be busier than Highmore's Sunshine club which held a glad sale in April, and a plant and seed sale and a Tulip Tea in May besides their regular meetings. A program on annual flowers divided as to borders, cut flowers, and table decorations prohibits any monotony in the evening's study. Mrs. Herman Kiel, Mrs. Gordon Gadd, Mrs. Gertrude Henderson, and Mrs. Max Wenigar were the speakers. A program on birds was likewise treated as: Birds in the Garden, Summer Residents of South Dakota, and Migration, by Mrs. Tagg, Mrs. McGinnis, Mrs. Drew; and the flower of the month by Mrs. Sarvis.

Our Annual Meeting

By Dr. Carl Christol

This is the time of the year when members of garden clubs get the benefit of their year's planning and activities. What diversion, recreation and fun they have! This also is the season of flower shows, achievement displays and picnics. Despite the rather unfavorable weather conditions during past weeks the Vermillion flower show was a great success. The exhibits were very good and were greatly appreciated by a host of visitors.

The big enterprise and venture now before us are the annual conventions of the Horticultural Society and Federation of Garden Clubs. The meetings will be held at Rapid City on August 19, 20 and 21. Preparations for them are well under way. Tentative speakers already have accepted our invitations. Among them is no less a garden club official, dignitary and authority than Mrs. Lewis M. Hull of Boonton, New Jersey, the President of our National Council of State Garden Clubs.

The planned program calls for three indoor meetings on Tuesday and outdoor activities on Wednesday and Thursday. The latter will consist of short excursion trips to special sights of horticultural and garden interests and a picnic meeting on Wednesday evening.

The annual convention obviously is the summit and goal of our garden club activities, ambitions and enthusiasms. It is the focus as well as inspiration of our combined endeavors. A great deal of satisfaction and pride comes to all those in

attendance. To show the expectation, good will and urgent request for large attendance from all of the garden clubs in the state our Federation of Garden Clubs again is offering a prize to the local club which will have the highest number of man-mile travel to the convention city to its credit. The count will include all members of garden clubs and not only elected delegates.

It may be appropriate to state that garden clubs are entitled to one delegate for every ten members and major fractions of ten. When electing delegates it is wise to select a corresponding number of alternates.

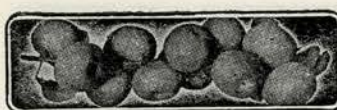
A cordial and urgent invitation is extended to all members. Rapid City in particular and the Black Hills in general have much to offer in our various fields of special interests. The three convention days will be crowded with worthy and valuable tasks and attractions. They also will furnish the best opportunity of getting acquainted. One of the interesting parts of our program will consist of reports of the annual activities of the several members clubs. Please begin with the preparation of these reports immediately and submit copies of them for our permanent files at the time of the convention. May I mention also that a prize again will be presented to the club which presents the nicest, the best planned and most useful year book, or program?

May it be repeated that a full three days' program is in the making? It will consist of definite and carefully prepared plans, and will not include and permit time for any side shows. Those who want to see more of the sights of the Black Hills than those included in the planned trips on the second and third convention days should plan to do so either prior to or succeeding the regular convention proper. Anyway, the sessions will be devoted to what is considered of the greatest interest to our membership. It is hoped that all who attend the convention will be present at all of them.

May it be stated also that we don't want to feel hurried at the several sessions of the convention, but at the same time we don't want to waste any valuable time for anybody either. We don't want to feel travel weary when starting our sessions on Tuesday morning and then, as a result, be too tired to enjoy them to the fullest. It is advised, therefore, that those going will be in Rapid City by Monday so that there may be a full forenoon session on Tuesday forenoon. The forenoon session will be occupied by business and reports from the field.

Suggestions with regard to improvements and

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ATOMS TELL THE STORY OF THE AGES

By

H. R. Woodward



With the recent widespread interest and curiosity regarding the atom I thought it might be well to try to tell in a brief way that the physics and mathematics of the atom has told us a story for some little time concerning the ages of our rocks. Many people have considered it mere guesswork when reference is made to "a few million years" ago.

H. R. Woodward One evening after delivering a lecture at Old Faithful on the geological history of Yellowstone, a group of three came out of the audience and one of them said, "It was a very nice lecture, but I didn't believe a word you said." I was somewhat taken back and tried to find out who they were and what their ideas were. I had just told the group that the Absaroka mountains were volcanic and at a time five million years ago erupted for the last time and threw small fragments of volcanic bombs a distance of forty miles and volcanic ash had covered standing forests. In both instances the explosions were terrific and the force threw small particles of lava high enough to cool off and solidify. They fell like hailstones of rocks. The ash also cooled off and when it settled over the forest like snow this ash was not hot enough to burn the trees and as a result the petrified trees buried in this ash are still standing upright.

The thing which these men disagreed with was the five million years. They were from a certain type of small college in the East where they taught that all history could be traced back no farther than six thousand years. One of the men was a geology professor and the two others were his students. I did not argue with them. I referred them to the Park Naturalist at park headquarters and I presumed he would refer them to the Washington office.

In view of this I sometimes wonder when reference is made to the millions of years it took for certain geological ages to come and go and the vast expanse of time since certain mountains were formed, whether people in general knew about how these figures were arrived at. Some of these things were worked out before the atomic bomb.

Recently physicists have provided us with a

fairly accurate timepiece which may be used for those rocks in which the minerals contain radio-active elements. These elements may be uranium or thorium. Granite contains tiny crystals of uranium and these facts concerning rock ages were not known until uranium was discovered, its properties became known. Radio-activity is the spontaneous decomposition of complex atoms. Radio-active substances like uranium are constantly emitting invisible radiation, known as alpha, beta and gamma rays. Alpha rays are electrically charged atoms of helium, beta rays are electrons and gamma rays are quantities of energy of the same nature as X-rays. When alpha rays annex electrons they become a special kind of lead. It has been found that 1,000,000 grams of helium will yield 1/7400 grams of lead in a year. Hence the formula:

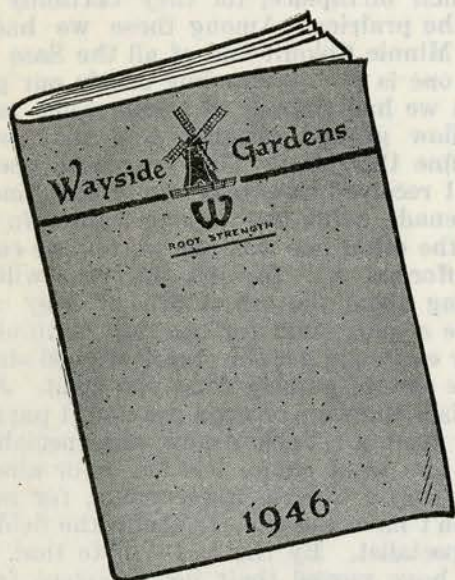
Age of a mineral equals $PB/U \times 7400$ million years. This has references to PB being lead and U being uranium. This is the laboratory time-piece and some may not see it or understand it but it works. We didn't know about the atomic bomb and some of us can't see it yet, but we know it works.

This is the geological timepiece. When we speak of the Rocky Mountains as 5,000,000 years old, especially the newer volcanic ranges; and when we speak of the Black Hills as being 60,000,000 years old, those figures have been fairly reliably worked out.

We used to think an atom was the smallest and simplest form to which any substance could be reduced to its pure form, but when Madame Curie found the element radium she found a queer substance that produced helium and heat until it turned itself into lead. Uranium has been found to do the same thing. Our sun produces helium gases and heat and some of these days scientists are going to be able to tell us how many million year it is going to take for us to enjoy this planet before our sun becomes a cold, dark, lead sphere.

Some fascinating experiments are being conducted with a laboratory chemical known as stilbestrol. Cheaply and easily synthesized, this hormone makes both males and females of the animal kingdom more female. When injected into dry cows, they frequently start giving milk. Give it to a rooster and he becomes feminine too. Not only will he turn broody and clucky but his flesh becomes juicy and tender. It is believed that roosters so treated will some day sell at capon prices. — CAPPER'S FARMER.

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BOOK REVIEW

By
Mrs. Morris Harter

The Gardener's Bug Book, by Cynthia Westcott. Edited by F. F. Rockwell, with 100 full-color illustrations by Eva Melady, and 100 line drawings by Eva Malady and J. E. Edmonson. 590 pages. Published by The American Guild, Inc., and Doubleday & Company, Inc. 444 Madison Ave., New York, 22. Price \$4.95.

This large and attractive volume will be a superb guide in helping you to control garden pests. Get it for your own use or to make a practical addition to the library of your garden club. It is well illustrated with 38 full page color plates of the common pests in various stages and more than 100 illustrations in black and white. Cynthia Westcott is known as the "Plant Doctor," from her authorship of a book of that title, and from her years of experience, she saw the obvious need of a good bug book, so proceeded to write it. Included are all the up-to-date methods of spraying, dusting and fumigation, besides descriptions of bugs, host plants and their pests. A bibliography, list of experiment stations, glossary and

index help to make it a book you will use for many years.

BOOK REVIEW

By
W. A. Simmons

Letters from the Corsican, The Vanguard Press, Inc., 424 Madison Ave., New York. Price \$2.

Purporting to be communications from Napoleon Bonaparte to Adolph Hitler, the author otherwise is not disclosed. The series ended in 1940, before our entry into World War II, perhaps the blockade of Germany became so effective that not even spiritualistic messages could get thru. Doubtless communication between these two has been greatly simplified since then. He warns Mr. Schicklegruber, as he frequently calls him, that the England he, Napoleon fought, is quite different from the England Hitler will have to fight, as this England is far beyond the seas, in America. He seems to know that America will be drawn into the war, and while he has a chapter on "How to conquer America," he seems to have ended up that it could not be done. He seems to have a

(Continued on Page 107)



IRIS GLEANINGS

By

Rev. E. L. Jackson, Akron, Ia.



E. L. Jackson

May is fast drawing to a close and so its time to be thinking of iris and these past days have truly been full of joy for the iris grower. In fact the month of May was ushered in by the blooming of Bloudwii, which is closely related to Arenaria and blooms at much the same season. I am sure however, that Bloudwii is much more at home here than is arenaria. Both were in full bloom, according to my notes, May 4th in spite of a cold, backward spring. They were followed the same week by Ylo, which has been such a joy, and which has some bloom on it May 10th, White Autumn King, with its lovely white blooms. followed and the intermediate season began about the 15th with Crysora which has been such a glorious yellow. This year more people have remarked about that and Red Orchid than any of the intermediate class. I think one of the later intermediate yellows, Golden Bow was such a grand flower and is such a good landscape variety. I had them on the far south line just next to the green of a honeysuckle hedge and how they did show up; they are taller too and better for use in baskets and vases. This year again a real favorite in the garden border was Cream Tart with its tiny dab of red jelly in the middle of the tart. Susa as usual was a dependable bloomer in the blues class and another of the very small ones was Rose Mist. I haven't much of this and must start some more, for its such a grand thing. We had it and all of our dwarfs in a long border under the shade of a big soft maple, perhaps they would be earlier in the direct sun. This year again Mrs. Jackson and I both liked a little white table iris from Miss Williamson; we have it in two places now, one clump in the border and one clump that is right next to Wabash in the main patch. This was a little late for it too was shaded by a lilac hedge. In fact Wabash bloomed while it was in full bloom. This year I was able to study a yellow intermediate seedling of my own that certainly is as fine as any yellow in the patch for color, and is a profuse bloomer also. Even while the patch was in good bloom it still stood out as a bright spot. One of the pleasant things about having some good bloom after last year's freeze was discovering some very fine friends after a lapse of two

years, among these were a number of Sass seedlings that we have always grown under their original numbers, that were as fine as anything we had. In fact the more I see of them the more sure I am that we are foolish not to grow more of them, in their birthplace, for they certainly do belong to the prairies. Among these we had a nice lot of Minnie Colquit and of all the Sass plicates, this one is the outstanding one in our garden. Then we had the joy of seeing some more of the yellow ground plicatas, and they were especially fine this year. This year with one of my orders I received as extras two of Sass finest, Sunset Serenade, being one we long wanted in the patch and the other one was one we felt we could not have afforded yet. My iris this year will be coming along about the 4th or 5th of July and should have a good start for the fall. I think it pays to buy early and get the choice of good stock, and then be sure of getting what you want. Just now there is a shortage of good iris and it pays to order early from a reliable dealer who specializes in iris. If you want choice iris never, or almost never buy from a general nurseryman, for most of them don't have the time to study the field as does the specialist. By the way I note that the Schreinners have moved their headquarters from St. Paul to Salem, Ore., but they will still keep up their display gardens at St. Paul and will still be accurate as to hardiness for our section in that way. Their annual catalog is a must have for every lover of good iris, and speaking of catalogs that of Cooley's for last year and this year has been outstanding for its pictures. For the iris lover these two catalogs are to iris what Wayside Gardens catalog is to the general lover of flowers. While this will not reach you till after the blooming season is past we hope it will help you to live over again a good blooming season. Golden Spike among the yellows bloomed for us this year and did we like it. A first year plant with three enormous buds on it. Icy Blue was good also this year among the light blues. Patricia was a favorite among the frilled whites; we have a 50 ft. row of this and like it very much. William Mohr is doing especially well for us and we have a whole row of this and a few plants extra. It has been full of buds and does well in our location. In fact I have never had any trouble with it. Elmohr and Ormohr both budded well. Kansas Ingleside, Kansas Bouquet and Kansas Sunrise have all been a real joy, not alone for their vigor but also for their real worth and beauty. Melanie is just a little later in blooming and is well budded. Snow Velvet of Sass, is budded and should feel at home

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RELIGION OF THE INDIANS

By
Dr. G. F. Will



DR. G. F. WILL

Very often the matter of the Religion of the Indians is discussed and argued and as a result of such an argument I have been asked to give my version of the subject. As a matter of fact almost anything said about the Indian Religion may be true of one of the several hundred tribes which made up the race.

However, in North America east of the Rocky Mountains, most of the tribal religions were founded on a single supreme being, but with various additions and embroidering. The Plains tribes, particularly the Mandan and Arikara had such a being known as the Great Chief above to the Mandans and as Nesaru to the Arikara.

The Great Chief was considered to be the Creator of the earth, sometimes with the help of a sort of assistant, often one whom he had previously created. According to the Arikara doctrine the most important being after Nesaru was Mother Corn. After he had created the people, the animals and the plants he sent Mother Corn down to the earth to teach the people how to build their houses, how to secure food and particularly how to grow, harvest and prepare the Corn and the other crops. It is always definitely understood however, that Mother Corn is merely a servant of Nesaru, a supernatural being, but by no means a god.

With the Mandans the Great Chief above sent to them a culture hero or supernatural man. This man was accompanied by three brothers and a sister. The four divided the work that was assigned to them. First leading the people from an underground cavern they eventually came to the banks of the Missouri. There the leader, Good Robe, taught them to build houses and group them into a village. He taught them also the rituals of the various societies which he introduced and the manufacture and use of arms, the bow, and spear, the knife and the shield. His sister, Yellow Corn Silk organized the women's societies and taught them how to prepare their fields and sow them with the holy seeds which she had brought with her, how to prepare household utensils, make pottery and harvest and prepare the crops. The other two brothers seem to have been concerned chiefly with hunting and hunting methods.

It is interesting to note the resemblance between the two religious conceptions and also the differences. Among the Arikara the Corn Mother occupied a place considerably more important than did Yellow Corn Silk among the Mandan. In both, the actual religious head was a single supreme being. That is the reason that the Northern Plains tribes accepted and seemed to grasp the idea of the White Man's God so readily and in many cases fused it with their own beliefs. Some tendency to place the Corn Mother and the Virgin Mary in a similar category have also been noted. These facts explain why Arikara Tribes. Priests have in some cases been lay preachers, conducting Christian services on Sundays and perhaps just as earnestly taking part on a week day in a tribal ceremony honoring Nesaru or their great Spirit.

Aside from the Supreme deity, the Indians felt that the whole universe was permeated with spirits which were in the nature of emanations from that deity. They felt that there was something mysterious and vital in forests, mountains, and all the manifestations of nature and they accordingly paid some reverence to all those things. That perhaps explains some of the stories that the Indians worshipped rocks, stones, animals, etc. As a matter of fact that religion might be likened more to that of the Hebrews than to one of the idol worshipping nations. It must be remembered though that this talk has dealt only with our Northern Plains Tribes.

BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from Page 105)

poor opinion of Americans except as to their fighting ability, for he wrote: "Do not think that I made the mistake of underestimating my English, and you must not commit the error of undervaluing yours. Both are nations of shopkeepers; either will commit theft for a penny and murder for a pound. But why should one feel that because a man will slit your throat for a bolt of cloth he is less to be dreaded than one who will do so only if some magic shibboleth like "glory, duty is involved?" No, my dear brother, do not let the Americans deceive you. They would rather trick you than fight you, but if fight they must, then fight you they will, and they will fight like fiends incarnate. They will not enjoy fighting, and will grumble about everything, but end by doing their duty and dying with reasonable cheerfulness in the hope of going to a tradesman's heaven where they can buy cheap and sell dear for all eternity. Altogether this is a very interesting book and one I am sure you will enjoy.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

Fruit trees and Dolgo crab in full bloom on May 18th to 20th; 5 kinds of lilac in bloom May 18th to June 1st. The May 28th frost has not hurt the fruit here, even hardy tomatoes withstood the frost that froze the soil, or it may have been the smudge that helped, as many others lost tomatoes and eggplants. Thru a misunderstanding, the Landlord disked up a patch of acorn squash to plant a few rows of sweet corn; now the squash have come up nice and clean, but still no corn planted. The morning of June 11th must have been the coldest I can remember for June, as it chilled tomatoes just set out into frames from the greenhouse so they have turned white, also the cucumbers and squash, but it has not killed them. The peony show was put off till June 21st and 22nd because of the cool, rainy weather of the past two weeks. A story in the PACKER reminds me that I have not passed on to any of the boys, the secret of the willow. In springtime, when the sap runs in the willow, all boys are lucky. Just to be young right now, is good fortune in full measure; but the cup runs over for the boy whose dad can make a willow whistle. This is an ancient art known only to boys, once learned it is never forgotten, so he who fashions a willow pipe is a boy at heart, tho his beard be long and his hands blue-veined with age. Let the blade be keen and the stalk straight, round, budless and of thumb diameter to produce a goodly blast. Let the bark be smooth but not too thin. One sure diagonal cut produces the blowing tip; now notch it, not too deep but just right. Ring the bark with a clean cut a few inches below the notch, now tap it gently on the anvil of your knee with knife handle or smooth stick for mallet. My teacher tapped it round and round to the tune of a song I have forgotten, then an expert twist will loosen it. Off slips the bark, the blade works swiftly now, the wood beneath the notch is pared away and the tip above the notch is flattened just so. Slip back the bark and blow. If you have whittled well, a sweet clear note comes forth, pure and high as a meadow lark call, it is no earthly instrument that you have made, but the pipe of Pan. The boy handed down the secret of his craft from boy to boy, father to son since time itself was

young. Thus it comes to you, the sap in the willow is running now, if the time has passed to give the boys the secret maybe I will pass it on to the grandson. If this is blight that the little seedling tomatoes, coming along have, we may not have fruit this year as the larger plants, set a month ago, have not done any too well either from the consistent cool, rainy weather, or have the blight in spite of dusting and careful handling. This brings up for further consideration the poor acumen exhibited by the whites when they took this country away from the Indians.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 103)

greater effectiveness of the activities of the Federation are invited. They will be welcomed. It is recommended that matters of this kind be considered at local club meetings prior to the convention that definite action may be taken at the time of the convention.

The afternoon will be devoted to a full program of addresses and the annual banquet will be held on that evening. A more complete program will be sent later.

Attention must be called to the fact that our convention will fall within the heavy tourist season of Rapid City and the Black Hills. It will be imperative, therefore, to reserve living quarters at once for those who have not done so already. Most of the hotel rooms and tourist cabins are reserved many months beforehand. The housing committee for our convention must know well in advance precisely who is going and what rooming accommodations are desired. It wants as large an attendance as possible. It certainly does not want to discourage any of our members from going to their convention. But, on the other hand, it may not be too strongly emphasized that living facilities in Rapid City are strictly limited and that the housing committee cannot be held responsible for the impossible.

Naturally some of our members have intimate friends in Rapid City and with their assistance may be able to secure rooms. The officers of our organization naturally are anxious to have a large attendance at our convention. They feel obligated, however, to advise that everybody make reservation immediately.

I'll Be Seeing You!

Carl Christol

Dictionary says a dumb person is one that can't talk. This would be a wonderful world if the dictionary was right.

BEEKEEPING NOTES

By
B. J. Ginsbach

Birth of the Bee



After God finished all the world,
The land, the sky, the sea.
He then admired his handiwork
With plant and shrub and tree.
And then, so that these things
should bear
Of fruit prolifically,
In all his wisdom He did make
The humble honey bee.

— Eliana Beam

B. J. Ginsbach

As this is being written on June 20th, the weather is cool and cloudy, has been that way previous to date, and it doesn't look like any immediate relief is in sight as the weather prediction for tomorrow is cloudy with thunder showers. Most all colonies have built up to considerable strength with lots of brood which must be fed and kept warm and with practically no honey in the hives, many a good strong colony will starve on the verge of "perhaps" a good honey flow, unless checked pretty closely and fed when necessary. It seems that no matter how long one has been in the bee business he still makes mistakes. Had colonies in two new locations along the river, was much worried about one of them and while checking and watching one, I thot in danger of the high water the other location got flooded and more than half destroyed, what a mess. Also had a new experience with hogs. Have a yard in a grove where the farmer kept a few brood sows which had litters of small pigs. For some reason they rooted and plowed the spot where I had my hives and pushed them around upsetting more than half of them. The rest of the pasture and grove didn't have the same attraction for them, as there was little rooting elsewhere. There must have been worms or something around and under those hives and it must have been cool or raining else the bees from the first colony tipped over would put the run on the sows, and they wouldn't accomplish such general all-around havoc. The most previous damage along this line has been some partly plugged entrances and a hive shoved out of place now and then. Have had quite a few requests from farm operators who wished that I bring some bees on their farms to pollinate the clover in their pastures, not for the purpose of harvesting same, but to increase the stand from seed prroduced. Am going to try to get a few farmers who have a good

stand of white clover in their pastures, near some of my yards to fence off their stock and see how much seed can be harvested. It is very scarce and high priced, at the present time. One fellow wanted me to bring a few hives on his farm, said he used to live in Iowa where they had bees and they always had good corn crops; figured the bees had something to do with it. Imagine not giving the state of Iowa credit for that! I told him that altho bees do work corn tassels occasionally for pollen, that we have to give credit to the wind and weather to get it on the silks. Mr. Bartels, from Chancellor and myself, are trying to prove a theory we had as regards the effect sulfur has in apparently curing F. B. We figured that it has an effect on the queen and makes her eggs immune to the germ. Mr. Bartels said he was going to introduce a new queen to a colony which had F. B. apparently cured by sulfur, so I decided to put some infested material into a colony after I quit feeding sulfur. In this way we should get a pretty good idea whether there is anything in our thot. We may be way off the beam, but its sort of fun trying to prove ones pet theories. It seems the House Appropriating committee are putting the skids under the AAA and soil conservation. I figured they were one of the best and most worthwhile bureaus our government ever set up. I feel every effort should be made to keep up our soil conservation service; unless something is done by the Senate, they will not have funds to operate in 1948. Millions of acres of land in this country are already hopelessly run down. There will be a world of difference in this country 20 or 50 years from now whether or not soil conservation service stays. We can see the results of long range planning in our shelter belts which are showing up better every year, especially those which contain a hedge of honeysuckle from one end to the other. Let's all work and hope and cooperate with our soil conservation service and it might help to write to your Senator about it.

Siberian Iris Collection

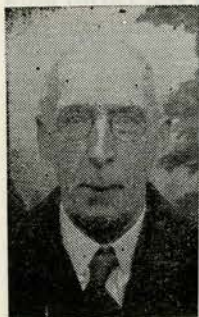
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SECRETARY'S CORNER

By
W. A. Simmons



Mr. N. O. Monserud, Sioux Falls, writes as follows: About 5 years ago we furnished some hybrid elm trees to the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture at Columbus, Ohio; to test their immunity against Dutch Elm Disease, and asked them to inform us as to results. Yesterday we received enclosed reply from R. U. Swingle, pathologist at the above station. "The *Ulmus Pumila* hybrids which we have tested have proven to be highly resistant to elm phloem necrosis. However, none of these has shown a satisfactory degree of resistance to the Dutch elm disease, which has been a serious problem in parts of eastern and central states area and which has started to spread in a part of the phloem necrosis area to an alarming extent. Rapid spread of the Dutch elm disease in the phloem necrosis area is expected to continue, thus reducing the value of any tree resistant to but one of these two diseases. Major emphasis in research by the Division of Forest Pathology on these two diseases is now on obtaining desirable reducing the value of any tree resistant to both of these diseases. Some progress has been made and the prospects of attaining this goal are quite encouraging at this time." June 3rd. We had the pleasure of a visit with Mrs. Flora Sandoz Kicken, daughter of "Old Jules," who stopped in the office on her way to Brookings. Mrs. Kicken operates the orchard planted by Mary and Jules Sandoz in western Neb., her husband specializing on stock, a good combination preventing them from getting in each others hair. She told of a foot of snow during the May freeze, and temperature of 17. In spite of the cold she expects some fruit this year, due to the snow covering many tree branches, protecting them from the cold. The Idaho News Letter recommends Earwigs as a good thing to get rid of, and prescribes 50% wettable DDT, 4 lbs. to 100 gals. of water for that purpose, the same as is used in barns for flies. Evidently this is one sort of "varmint" we are not plagued with. Possibly they do not fancy our winters, as I have never heard of them in our state. Also Idaho is again going ahead with their no fly program. Since the horse has become almost "exstink" in our cities, we in the larger towns are hardly conscious that flies exist, but

doubtless it is far different in rural areas. Also since spraying sheep for ticks has become a universal practice, owners have discovered, somewhat to their surprise that the wool is much finer and of higher quality, and that lambs are fuller of life and easier to raise, since the vitality of the ewes is not reduced by having ticks live on their blood all winter. According to the AIF NEWS "The insect identification Division of the BEPQ in the National Museum in Washington is described in a USDA story as the FBI of the insect world. The story adds that insect identification is quite a job when you consider that there are 600,000 known species, and that these constitute only about a third of the estimated number of species on the planet. Moreover, the total weight of insects on the earth is greater than that of any other class of living organisms." Wonder if this FBI is trying to finger print them. Massachusetts HORTICULTURE, has the following to say about protecting tomatoes: "Specialists of the U. S. Dep't. of Agriculture advise tomato growers to start spraying or dusting with a copper fungicide 4 weeks after the first flower clusters bloom. Use either Bordeaux mixture or one of the so-called "fixed" copper compounds following the manufacturer's directions. Repeat the spraying every 10 days. When using dust repeat every 7 days. Use a good knapsack or barrel sprayer or a good size duster and keep the plants well covered with the fungicide." The Michigan bulletin, "The Why and How in cultivating corn" is very interesting. Over a period of 14 years, experiments were conducted to see whether light cultivation, or shaving with a sharp light hoe were the better. The average over that period were surprisingly close, 42.9 yield for shaving with a hoe and 44.7 for light cultivation. Their conclusions follow: "The question is often asked as to how to get rid of weeds without cultivating. At present there seems to be no other practical way. Until some selective spray material or some other selective device, is developed that will kill all weeds without injuring the corn we shall probably continue to cultivate, but there seems to be no particular advantage in cultivating any deeper or any oftener than is necessary to kill weeds. Deep cultivation prunes the roots and may seriously reduce the yield. Before the corn plant is very large its root system so completely fills the feeding area of the soil that there is very little chance for water moving up from below to reach the surface of the soil where it can be lost. The plowed soil is more valuable as a feeding area than it is as a mulch to prevent evaporation of water. Also when a soil gets dry enough it will normally form a protective

layer at the surface which will serve the same purpose in preventing evaporation, as a mulch made with a cultivator. Under certain conditions there may be some advantage in cultivating besides killing weeds. A loose, rough surface will sometimes assist rain water in entering the soil. Also when soils of the heavier types get dry on the surface they tend to crack. The cracking not only tends to permit water to evaporate from below but also, if severe enough, it will sever plant roots and produce the same effect as root pruning. This situation can be remedied to some extent by shallow cultivation. It seems advisable to cultivate only often enough and deep enough to control weeds." We hope you are all planning to be with us at Rapid City in August.

NEWSLANTS

(Continued from Page 99)

ing at Bismarck. He was always glad to show interested groups around the grounds of the State Capitol and during the State 4-H Conservation Camp, which was held in Bismarck in 1938, Captain Wanner led groups of 4-H Club members about the grounds and gave some very fine talks on the different plantings to be seen there.

J. R. Prante, 74, and vice president of the North Dakota Horticultural Society, died in San Jose, California, where he had been spending the winter. It had been the custom of the Prantes to spend their winters in California and their summers on their farm near Milnor in Ransom county, North Dakota. The Prante yard, which I have visited several times, will long stand as a monument to his interest in horticultural things. I have mentioned some of the fine things that he has grown there and he was everlastingly trying out new things that came up in the field of agriculture. Comments from the interesting letters that he has written back to us from California have been published in Newslants from time to time each winter. We shall miss both of these men very much.

We see by the papers that a man in Cicero, Illinois, has perfected a lawn mower that can also be used as a scooter for the kids to ride on. Now if he will get busy and invent a seat for wheelbarrows so we can ride while coming back empty, he really will be getting somewhere! Most of us men are not so much interested in a lawn mower that the kids can use for a tricycle as we are interested in a better lawn mower that our wives would like to use with more enthusiasm.

One of our friends from southwestern North Dakota got us interested in the so-called Cuth-

bertson strain of sweet peas, which were developed at Salinas, California, by Fred G. Cuthbertson, Director of the Seed Breeding Farm for Ferry Morse Seed Company there.

These new Cuthbertson sweet peas are unusual because of the very strong growth made by the vines, the long stems of the flowers, and the remarkable vitality possessed by the plants. We secured a collection of six varieties of these Cuthbertson sweet peas and I do believe that this is the first year that we are going to have any degree of success with growing this very fine flower. While the plants are only a few inches high, they are showing a great deal of vigor already and we are looking forward to some fine bouquets of sweet peas later on. We shall report to you through Newslants what we think of them this fall.

MANITOBA NEWS

(Continued from Page 101)

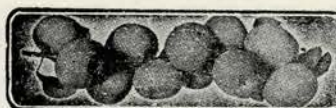
Peas have been sprayed with compounds, such as Sinox and Dow Selective Weed Killer with promising results. Directions for use generally accompany such commercial preparations. Another selective weed killer is a dilute solution of sulphuric acid used on onions. Considerable caution must be used with this material since the acid is dangerous in the hands of a careless operator. It is also corrosive to the sprayers. Normally, one pint of commercial sulphuric acid in one gallon of water provides satisfactory weed control.

Cyanimid, a commercial preparation, has been used successfully in the control of weeds in onions and asparagus. This material is a powder and is dusted over the field at the rate of 50 pounds per acre.

Recent investigations using salt solutions indicate that this method is useful in controlling weeds among canning beets. A 25% salt solution has been found most promising thus far.

The newer developments in selective weed spraying feature chemicals known as carbamates. Some of these compounds have, in initial tests, killed grasses without harming broad leaf plants.

The use of selective weed sprays has given the market gardener and the canning crop producer an effective and economical method of controlling the most persistent farm pest. As research in this field continues we can look forward to new and possibly greater discoveries of importance to the agricultural worker in his food production program.



GARDEN NOTES

(Continued from Page 110)

has proved its hardiness and is up, tho rather emaciated at present. Thomas Hardy, in his novel, "Far From the Madding Crowd," alludes to it as the "Old cuckoo pint, like an apple pie saint in a niche of malachite" and I recollect how we as children, when wandering down rural lanes in England, used to find it in hedgerows during early April, designating those with a red spadix "Lords" and the rarer yellow ones "Ladies." Of Phloxes Farrer says, "Incomparably the most important that America has yet evolved for the benefit of the rock garden and one which it has an almost undisputed monopoly." We may well be proud, I suppose, no family has contributed more lavishly to continuance and riot of all season display, and during my visit to England I noticed that the many colored annual Phlox drummondii was the most popular bedding plant, in fact here in N. D. we have dug up flowering plants in fall which bloomed indoors all winter and were in full flower when set out the following spring. But it is with the hardy moss and broadleaved creeping Phlox that we are especially blessed, undaunted by the worst hardship that the prairie can inflict, they flaunt their sheets of color well on into summer. Hoodii showing with the scillas, followed by the 5 deeply cleft lavender petals of bifida, our native andicola of which Claude Barr has given a lovely pale blue variety, and the broadleaved fragrant blue and white divaricata, followed by purple flowered red stemmed ovata, a New Englander by no means common but thriving mightily in North Dakota. Unfortunately few of the late summer tall herbaceous phlox survive here, altho the purple Ada Black and pink and white Boughen are fully hardy and can be supplied by Oscar H. Will & Co. May 24th. Euphorbia pilosa now appears as balls of molten gold, especially attractive on cloudy days when the effect is almost dazzling, and one's diet, stimulated with an abundance of fresh rhubarb and asparagus, it seems as if Nature wished to make amends for all the unearned punishment of recent months.

IRIS GLEANINGS

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today with 3 or more inches of snow wet and heavy overall, which started early this A. M. and is still keeping it up at 4 P. M. So far the temperature is well above freezing but of course many plants heavy with bloom will break over some. I think it is some warmer now but this may be wistful thinking. I am sure of this however, that

already we have enough of beauty to last any reasonable man a full year and repay any work we have put on the patch this year. I feel like telling Geo. Will that we still run a test garden; noticed the report of 23 last night at Bismarck for which I am sorry, for I know how beautiful the plantings there are. I am wondering if the cold hit Mobridge and hope not; they are so close to N. D. they often get the worst of "two states weather." We are having Daily vacation Bible school and my talk the first day was "Rain," followed it today with a talk on borrowed Sunshine. People who lose their sunshine must borrow from others and I'm hoping that even if old friends did lose their bloom this year that they will still be able to smile and have faith even when things like a late snow or freeze comes. Across from me on the desk is a gigantic bloom of Morocco Rose; wish some of its beauty could come to you. Its a great thing to be working together with God in making the world a better place. Will have to watch out or you will think I am encroaching on Hi Beebe's Philosophy. Good blooming to you and if there is any service I can render, with any of your iris problems, feel free to write me.

You can't fool all the people all the time, but it sure is fun tryin'.

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