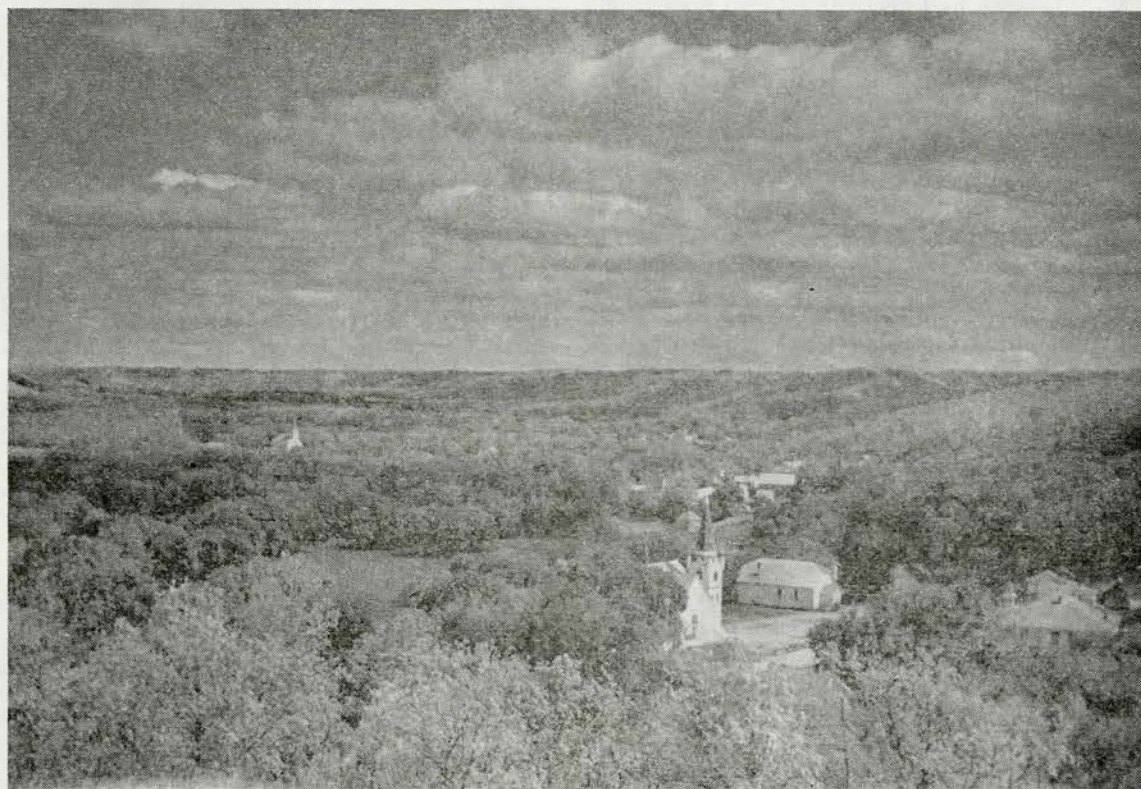


# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

APRIL, 1949



Looking eastward in the bend of the Sheyenne river at Fort Ransom, N. D. The houses and churches of the town can be seen amid the trees. Photo by Ted Skonnard, Fargo, and furnished by Olaf Hendrickson, of Fort Ransom.





## THE BARRED OWL

By  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

This large owl is rare in our region. It inhabits the eastern part of the country but has been recorded along the Missouri River and in Montana and eastern Wyoming. It extends northward to southern Quebec and northern Manitoba; southward to South Carolina and Arkansas. Like most owls, it is not migratory.

The fact that the birds inhabit woods is sufficient reason for their scarcity in our area. Mr. H. V. Williams had records of two specimens found in northeastern North Dakota. They are reported uncommon in eastern Nebraska and less common farther west. Dr. Roberts considered them common through the wooded parts of Minnesota. A recent list of Michigan birds states that they are less common there than formerly.

In size, this bird is nearly as large as the great horned owl, but is lighter brown in color and lacks the ear tufts ("horns"). The bars appear as dark, broken lines in circles about the face, giving the effect of a large, rounded head. The eyes are nearly black in contrast to the light yellow eyes of the great horned owl. The under parts show prominent, longitudinal brown streaks.

Mr. Bent stated that in his area this owl and the red-shouldered hawk occupied the same sort of places and often used the same nests alternately. He thought the owls preferred hollow trees but where these were scarce they used old nests of other birds. Of 38 nests which he found, 18 were old ones of Cooper's or red-shouldered hawks; 15 were in hollow trees and 5 in old squirrel nests. Many reports show a strong attachment to nesting places, the birds continuing to use the same place year after year.

Two or three eggs are laid as a rule. They are about two inches long, oval or rounded, white and slightly rough. Incubation is thought to be three or four weeks. Only one set is laid unless the birds are disturbed. The young are at first covered with pure white down. When about four or five weeks old they are able to climb out of the nest and move around a bit.

Poultry and game birds enter into the birds' food, but mice and other small animals make up the great part. Smaller owls are often chased and sometimes eaten by the barred owl. They often

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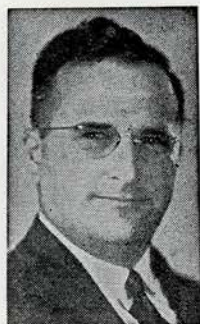
hunt during the daytime and their eyesight is considered very keen.

Mr. Bent said he regarded the barred owl as quite gentle among the hawk and owl group, though individual birds have been reported less so. They are usually rated as noisy. Their calls are variously described. Mr. Bent says the voice of the great horned owl is lower, softer, more like a distant fog horn or large barking dog.



## NEWSLANTS

By  
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

Although we discussed pelleted seeds last month, we are going to mention them again in the light of some new information.

The Burgess Seed and Plant Company of Galesburg, Michigan, is listing pelleted seeds in several varieties this year. It would seem they would have several things in their favor such as saving seed, uniform spacing and consequently little need for thinning afterward, etc. Only comment I have heard so far by anyone who had tried pelleted seed was that they require considerable moisture in order to germinate. For most of our area here they would almost have to have irrigation of some sort.

Are you interested in the culture of Aconite, Belladonna, Caraway, Digitalis, Ginger, Henbane, Licorice, Sesame or Wintergreen? If you are, the bulletin, "Production of Drug and Condiment Plants" is available from The Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. It is Farmers Bulletin No. 1999. The cost is 30 cents. This bulletin has 99 pages and appears to be full of interesting information. Another new bulletin is, "Legume Inoculation, What It Is, What It Does." This is Farmers Bulletin No. 2003.

We are listing for general information the varieties included in our 1949 Demonstration Garden Collection.

### 1949 DEMONSTRATION GARDEN COLLECTION

Beans—Pencil Pod Black Wax	
Beans—Tendergreen	
Beets—Detroit Dark Red	
Cabbage—Copenhagen Market	
Carrots—Chantenay	Carrots—Coreless
Sweet Corn—Golden Cross Bantam	
Sweet Corn—Earligold Hybrid	
Cucumber—Straight Eight	
Cucumber—Burpee Hybrid (only a few seeds, new, observe carefully)	
Lettuce—Slobolt	
Onion—Southport Yellow Globe	
Parsnip—Hollow Crown	
Peas—Lincoln	Radish—Saxa
Peas—Little Marvel	Squash—Buttercup
Pumpkin—Cheyenne	Tomato—Chatham
Swiss Chard—Lucullus	Tomato—No. 49

Muskmelon—Granite State  
Watermelon—Midget

We think it is the best collection we have ever had. In the muskmelons we could have used Waziu or Minnesota Midget but one variety was all we could make room for. We are glad, too, that we can give widespread trial to the new North Dakota No. 49 tomato. This new numbered selection is a cross between Bounty and Valiant. If it behaves as well in 1949 as it has in previous years you, no doubt, will hear more of it in the future.

Whenever we send out a questionnaire it is quite evident from many of the replies that folks think we want a favorable opinion. We get a wonderful collection of complimentary adjectives from too many of the folks. What we really are trying to find out in most cases are the undesirable characters of the variety. Excellent examples to the contrary are Charles Mandigo of Bismarck and Leonard Graetz of Hansboro. Their reports are plain talk with no punches pulled.

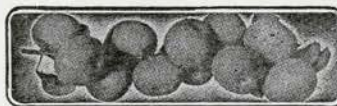
By the way, we have enough cards back from Sweet Corn No. 12 to let us know that it cannot compete with hybrids already named. We got so many complete reports plus many of the little cards that went with the corn that we have the information we want. No further questionnaires will be necessary.

We have a new mimeographed leaflet, Hort. No. 8, that has been prepared on the kinds and rate of application of fertilizers for gardens. Much valuable help was had from Dr. Norum. Dr. Johnsgard and Ralph Young of the N.D.A.C. Soils Dept. This is something that has been needed for some time and should have been prepared before but like "The Two Black Crows" of a decade or so ago—"we just didn't do it!" Anyhow, the information is all set up in a form that can be easily read and a postcard will bring you a copy.

To summarize briefly the findings of the Sweet Corn trials at N.D.A.C., we might list the superior varieties in the trial as listed by Dr. Schultz recently. Extra Early (72 days); Spancross, Early (76 days); Washington, Seneca Dawn, Marcross; Early Mid-season (83 days); Earligold, Seneca Golden, Carmelcross, Midseason (87 days); Improved B2, Grant, Sunshine, Late (93 days); Lincoln, Golden Cross Bantam, Golden Beauty. Days given are days from planting date until roasting ear stage at Fargo. It will be noted that Sunshine is the only open pol-

(Continued on Page 57)



**GARDEN NOTES**

By  
W. E. H. Porter



**W. E. H. Porter** has bestowed light with little else. My notes read: Feb. 17th. So far this month the weather has been a repetition of the preceding nightmarish weeks, tho apparently the average temp. is rising, as indicated by the frost line on the kitchen door, which is shrinking and less dense. Also there are more frequent lulls in those screaming winds. The house is also more comfortably warm and hopefully one bears in mind a statement of the late authority on weather, the Canadian Foster, whose forecasts were generally correct, that after Feb. 16th there is no real winter. Today a slight thaw, the first since our 2 day Chinook in early January, which, however changed at dark to a whooping norwester, lasting all night and making big drifts bigger. My three stalwarts, Jubilee and Skies of Italy geraniums and the holly keep me cheerful company by day, on the kitchen window sill. A bad infestation of aphids on the Coliseum ivy, at foot of holly, was effectively liquidated by an application of Sears Roebuck's potato dust, one of our best and easiest to apply insecticides. Country Life says "bananas are back again on the English market, after a long lapse, due to the Panama disease, which cut the yield from 200,000 tons a year to less than 6,000. A variety known as the Lacatan is immune; it is smaller and more fully flavored than the Jamaican. The genus *Musa* contains more than 40 species, one of which that grows in East Africa is 2 feet long and as thick as a man's arm." An interesting item appears in the **MANCHESTER GUARDIAN** under heading, "A Challenge to Dog Lovers." A Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald remarked to a London audience on the disabilities from which that animal suffers. Said he, "We know very little even about our own dog. The dog doesn't know our words, is very short sighted, color blind, and cannot pick up scent very far.

only by scent. Stand still with the wind not blowing from you to him, and he will not recognize you. The same is true of your cat." The **GUARDIAN** comments thus: "The cat, it may be generally agreed, pleases itself about whom it recognizes and when; the choice depends on its mood which is usually more dignified than effusive. But the dog, even tho it does not know our words, often makes a fairly convincing parade of recognizing the name that has been conferred on it. Yet it appears from Mr. Fitzgerald's description, to be something approaching a seriously handicapped half-wit in its contacts with human kind; short sighted, hard of hearing, color blind and not even very good at smelling things out." Feb. 23rd. For the first time in weeks the frost line on the kitchen door has vanished; in fact some snow for washing purposes in a basin, melted overnight; one has the blessed conviction that whatever else is to come the period of intense cold is over. As the battle with the elements abates, one has more time to devote to unread mail, most of which has accumulated since early January, and my first choice is garden literature. Our former member Saxton & Wilson offer two introductions which are indispensable, as they promise to be hardy in North Dakota and, in fact

(Continued on Page 64)

## Sunshine Gardens

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IN WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA . . .

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## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By  
W. R. Leslie

### GROOMING THE GROUNDS



W. R. Leslie

—The April issue of the American Home carries an article under the title, "Your Grounds Are Everybody's Business." The author states that the title is warranted as one's grounds are the concern of other people because those people have to look at them; because they can make or mar a street, a neighborhood, or a community. A house set among weeds, straggly vines, and pock-marked lawns is a

poor advertisement for both its owners and their environment. It's an offense against the public interest. In this gad-about nation of ours, half the population is constantly on the move, peering out of trains, buses, and automobiles at the places where other folks live. Our houses and gardens are what they see and judge us by.

The author recalls an otherwise neat hamlet that is virtually ruined by just one home. The present owners had let a pleasing property run down, until one wing was falling in and the garden allowed to become a jungle of weeds and branches. All the neighbors can do is to put up high split timber fences to shut out the ugly sight.

Further, it is observed that, whatever the reason, when a garden becomes an eyesore it detracts from all its surroundings. Next to unsightliness comes unsuitability and poor taste in planning and planting. Labored design for effect, fancy furniture and statuary, ornate pergolas, and colored walks are poor substitutes for proper planning, gracious lawns, and well-placed shrubs, trees and flowers.

The above comment reminds all who have stewardship of property that spring and a new season are at hand. Trees, vines and flowers all freshen up each April and May. They secure new clothing and freshness. The homemaker has opportunity to do his, or her, part by repainting woodwork; shaping up fences, drives, walks, arbors and other accessories; pruning trees, shrubs and vines; raking and fertilizing the lawns and trimming their verges. Community effort may be directed towards improving town parks, bathing beaches, boulevard planting and care, and also the public school grounds. Boys and Girls Garden Clubs deserve enthusiastic support and continu-

ing interest. Every bright, well-kept home brings an added smile to the landscape.

Fortunately, there is a wide range of ornamental plants adapted for planting in the prairie realm. This year nurserymen advertise that they have extensive stocks of hardy, thrifty nursery stock for the planting public.

The third area of the home grounds is the **PRIVATE or Garden and Recreational area**. This is the outdoor living-room. Here is the place for your favorite trees, shrubs, vines and flowers. There need be no particular restraint in choice. Such lively subjects as white birch and blue or silvery spruce may be accommodated. It is desired that woody ornamentals be selected that will maintain interest, not only in spring and summer, but also during autumn and winter. This can be secured from evergreens, trees and shrubs with highly colored bark, and from shrubs and vines that retain their fruits or distinctive seeds deep into winter, and even until spring brings forth a fresh issue of leaves and flowers.

A livingroom entrance into the Recreational Area is desirable. Lacking a door, at least a large window of the livingroom should overlook the garden. This unit of the home grounds is usually treated in the informal fashion. In other words, treatment is intermediate between the formal and the naturalistic types. The lawn boundary has long flowing lines. Trees and shrubs are grouped on the sides and end. Flowers are placed as masses in borders set in bays of shrubbery. Vines are chosen to provide the archway and pergola with draperies.

Landscaping is planned to provide a balance of interest on either side of the main vista. Although general balance is sought, regular symmetry is not usually desirable. Outlines and plant masses are made more or less irregular. Variation of depth of curves, and in skyline formed by the tops of trees and shrubs, adds to the character of the garden. One objective is to make the utmost employment of space while avoiding all impression of crowding.

Homemakers may wish garden adjuncts, such as a pool, summer-house, pergola, bird bath, bird-feeding station, seats, swing or rock garden. The outdoor livingroom is the logical setting for such.

Flower borders deserve deliberate thought. They should command interest from April, when the bold little blue Siberian squill ushers in the blooms of the new year and satisfies the increasing hunger people develop for live spring color, until late October when Michaelmas daisies finally fade. The squills are followed by tulips, iris,

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## GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By

Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen



Mrs. Jorgensen

"And suddenly it's Spring!" and a singing heart greets you with news of three new garden clubs in the state, a new junior garden club; and the loyal participation of our Federated clubs in national and state moves for horticultural advancement. Each new club, and every individual who is influenced to turn to gardening and a study of Nature makes' us one step closer to a better garden and a more beautiful

South Dakota.

Almost half a column of the Madison Daily Leader of February 28 was devoted to the new garden club organized in the lovely, flower-bedecked home of Dr. and Mrs. D. S. Baughman, with Mrs. Baughman as its first president. Bird lovers are prominent on the membership list with Miss Ruth Habeger a member of the Executive Board of the State Ornithological Society.

Mrs. Andrew Melham, Watertown, says, "We are just now organizing our local garden club. Our initial meeting was the last of February with a small attendance but great prospects and enthusiasm. A true gardener is Mrs. Melham, for she has surrounded herself with floral loveliness all winter while the blizzards piled drifts about her door. She had pot after pot of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, crocus, narcissi, and calla lilies forced into bloom in her home.

We do not have many details of the Indoor and Outdoor Gardening Round Table of the AAUW in Sioux Falls yet, but we do know they have plunged head first into sponsoring the first junior garden club in the state, as well as the first tulip show in Sioux Falls. Mrs. H. B. Crandall is president of the club which has received much publicity concerning its projects.

The first junior garden club, sponsored by the AAUW, was organized at the home of Elizabeth Crandall, with six charter members. Joan Geiver is chairman of the group and Jacqueline Brower is secretary; while Mrs. J. M. Stevens is program leader for the girls. We hope to welcome all of the above folks into the Federation very soon.

Great oaks from little acorns grow, and now a great grove in the Empire of the Redwoods will be preserved and allowed to grow because of the little gifts from garden clubs all over the nation.

Fair City Garden Club of Huron, and the Rapid City Garden Club were first to vote contributions to the cause of preserving the irreplaceable beauty of the Redwoods for America. Dell Rapids Garden Club and the Sunshine Garden Club of Highmore have followed suit with a similar donation. A state chairman will no doubt be appointed so that all contributions from our state may be sent in simultaneously. Let us back this project by which we ally ourselves with National Council for the welfare and beauty of our nation.

At Rapid City the grapevine tells us that Mr. Atkinson, president of the Federation, and Mr. A. G. Sniesrud have been working on another national project, the Blue Star Memorial Highway; and that Highway 85 has been designated as one of the highways to be beautified this spring. This of course is another movement, national in scope, which will link our state with the chain of beautiful memorial highways over the nation.

In another department of the Federation, Leonard Yager, second vice president, has been taking the lead in making plans for the state's first Judging School to be held this summer. He has done much work in drafting tentative plans and procedure for the school, and in listing the many rules governing each of the five courses of instruction. He is asking each club to pass on the merits or demerits of his suggestions and express their ideas as to the feasibility of holding the school. Please contact Mr. Yager at once if you have not already done so, for speakers and instructors must be spoken for some time in advance, and the school must be registered at National headquarters. We hope every club in the state can be represented. Mr. Yager has also sent out samples of tomato seed for testing and comparison with other varieties in your garden. Keep a record of your plantings and products and send your findings to him next fall so the work of our experimenters will benefit the state as a whole.

The yearbooks are coming—four of them this month—each more beautiful or inspiring, or unique than the one before. Three of them, the breath of spring from South Sioux Falls, the Four Seasons from Lyons, and the bright fall bouquet from Iroquois, will be entered in the yearbook contest so we must leave them to your imagination until then. The fourth booklet is my annual rave from the Garden Study Club of Beach, North Dakota, which each year sends me into new rhapsodies of marveling and delight at its contents and makeup. This year a fine Kodachrome picture of its nine gay gals of the garden adorns the cover, and makes us wonder anew at



the accomplishments to be credited to such a small club. Something new in projects, too, is the Corsages for Graduates which the group will make this spring. If you want to see this booklet drop me a line, for it is full of ideas to make you smile and sigh, longing to go and do likewise! Mrs. Edkins, the secretary, says, "We think longingly of the day when the clubs in North Dakota are organized and we can join the National Federation." Why doesn't our sister state join with South Dakota?

Rapid City Garden Club will continue and expand the rose planting program in their town with the slogan, Every Home Plant a Rose. Federation President Atkinson is now carrying the load of two presidential offices, as he was chosen head of the home town club in January. His co-workers in office are Neil Brennan, Mrs. Fred Lee, and Mrs. Alner Sniesrud who is librarian-historian. Can you imagine an attendance of 90 members and guests at a garden club meeting? That is what the daily newspaper reports for this club at a meeting at which Harry Woodward, State Forester, was the guest speaker. South Dakota plans for conservation and reforestation growing out of the Missouri River project were presented by Mr. Woodward. State's Attorney John Potter also spoke on city ordinances relative to plantings and beautification of city streets, parks and parkings.

Fair City Garden Club's far horizons, in addition to the Redwood Grove project, plans to sponsor a judging school in Huron if possible. They are the first club to announce a desire for active participation in the school. The State Fair horticultural classifications made by Mrs. Oscar McFarling and her committee last year, were so successful that they have again been asked to revise and add to the list. The club has chosen the Hopa Crab as the official club tree and the tulip as their flower. Mrs. E. L. Shanahan is now president of the club, being elected to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Dewey Gascoigne when she moved to another city. Recent programs of this club include two phases of bird study by Mrs. C. A. Lafferty and Mrs. O. E. Wright; the magic growing medium known as Terra-lite, by Mrs. McFarling; and the care and pruning of shrubs and trees by Jack Kunhart, park superintendent. Another speaker was Mrs. George Contain whose travelog of South and Central America was enriched with her observances of the flora and fauna of this tropical paradise. To a gardener, a trip to the warm and temperate zones yields a wealth of beauty and pleasure which is not experienced by a traveler uninterested in Nature, and this talk was

highly appreciated by the club.

Here is another "first," this time by the Huron Garden Club, for they have made two Kodachrome slides to add to the National Council collection of slides from all over the nation. One slide is a picture of their Guest Day tea table last spring, and the other shows their collection of ribbons won at the State Fair last fall. National Council will welcome any good slide you send, and we should like to see South Dakota well represented. Huron Garden Club is following the example of several clubs who have held contests in cover making for their year books.

A quiz show is fun whether you are a listener or a participant, but it must have been doubly entertaining as staged at the Sioux Falls Garden Club by a force from KIHQ. Judge Medin won a "trip around the world" by walking around a large school globe; Mr. Keck won a new car, which his grandchild enjoyed playing with; while a "chicken dinner" and a "year's supply of tomaatoes" in a ten cent package were the prizes won by Mrs. Keck and Mrs. Swarthout.

From Mrs. Bertha Krumvieda of De Smet comes a welcome note to say the Friendly Garden Club will celebrate its 16th anniversary in March. She still has the first minutes of the club written in lead pencil when she organized it in 1933. "Though 3-score years and ten plus" she is still an active club worker and is scheduled for a program this year.

Chancellor, long unheard from, sent an interesting history of their club organized in 1932 with Mrs. F. A. Reck the only remaining charter member. Their club of 17 members has undertaken and accomplished many large planting projects and is notable for never having missed a meeting in 17 years.

Rural Circle Garden Club also employed radio station KISD for a real broadcast on February 28, with Veryl Thompson in charge. A talk on birds by Mrs. Olaf Ulvilden and one on House Plants by Mrs. Tom Barber were also given. Lyons Garden Club had a talk on Bulbs for All Summer Blooming by Mrs. Alfred Thompson and a paper and pencil quiz. At Mobridge Wm. Catey's talk on mums was valuable because of his long and successful experience in growing them. A review of Malabar Farm by Louis Bromfield was given by Mrs. A. W. Davidson. The Yankton Garden Club enjoyed hearing L. A. Boyles, Yankton glad hobbyist and color photographer. He has grown glads for 27 years and demonstrates his talk with bulbs from his own garden. His movies show many gladioli in the fullness of bloom and

(Continued on Page 61)



## SOME FACTS ABOUT OLD FAITHFUL

By  
H. R. Woodward



H. R. Woodward

There are many people who believe that Old Faithful geyser plays every hour. I have even heard it said that you could set your clock by it and many visitors expect the geyser to play when the hour hand on their watch is straight up. I have also heard it said that Old Faithful is playing out and is not faithful any longer. These things are not facts. The truth of the matter is, that Old Faithful hasn't varied much since the last glacial period, twenty-five thousand years ago. When General Washbourn's party explored the Park in 1870, he named Old Faithful and said it had an interval of 63 minutes.

During the summer of 1938, I was in charge of the Naturalist work at Old Faithful Station and we decided to check the intervals throughout the summer. About 900 intervals were checked and it was found that the shortest interval was 38½ minutes and the longest was 87. The data for the summer gave an average interval of 66 minutes and 32 seconds. There have been similar records kept since that time. During the summer of 1948, Ranger Naturalist, George Marler, and his associates report 1,486 eruptions of the best known geyser in the world. All were checked. The average interval for the season was 64.1 minutes. The shortest interval was on August 21 when it was 33 minutes, so far the shortest interval on record. The longest was on August 16 when an interval of 85 minutes was noted.

At one time there was an interval of 115 minutes reported. It happened about 10 o'clock in the evening and since it was so near the time which usually elapses for two eruption intervals, it has been doubted by many. It has been suggested that the dance was underway at Old Faithful Lodge and the youthful observer might have been distracted for a moment. This is the only time on record that any suggestion has ever been made that the heart of the famous geyser "skipped a beat."

The amount of water thrown out at an eruption was estimated by Drs. Allen and Day of the Carnegie Institution in 1930. It varies from 10,000 to 12,000 gallons and is based on the run-off and does not take into account the amount falling back into the crater or going into the air as spray

and vapor. Sometimes the wind will carry it far.

Perhaps some will wonder why the length of interval varies. It is not known but there are many deductions. On a still day the intervals have been noted to be fairly constant. More water will run back into the cavity faster and check the escape of steam. On windy days there will be less and the less water the less pressure. There is very apt to be much splashing and abortive eruptions. Where there are many preliminary splashes, it has been noted that a longer interval follows.

It was found that a short duration of play would be followed by a short interval. A two minute eruption would be followed by 45 to 50 minute interval and a 5 minute duration would invariably be followed by a long interval.

The length of duration of the main eruption runs from 2 to 5 minutes. A short interval usually means a short duration of play and not nearly as high. The height to which the water is thrown also varies from 116 to 171 feet, with an average of about 150 feet. It has been measured with a transit on a number of occasions.

Dr. Day and his associates sank bore holes near the geyser, yet far enough away that it would not interfere with the great geyser. At 100 feet below the surface a temperature of nearly 260 degrees Fahrenheit was observed and it increased about 33 degrees for each 100 feet of depth reaching 360 degrees at 400 feet. This is far above the boiling point. One of the interesting things brought out by the bore holes was the alternating deposits of glaciers and geyser deposit. This showed geyser activity during inter-glacial periods and that there were geysers in the area before the glaciers. Old Faithful is classed as a young geyser geologically and there are others in nearby areas much older. The Giant Geyser for example is much older and its nearly forty little openings where steam can escape likens it to an old worn out steam engine. Old Faithful only has one such opening for steam to escape around its cone and hence is classed as a youthful performer, even though its name might lead us to think otherwise.

No other geyser in the world is as noted as Old Faithful. It is the largest in the world having as regular periodicity and playing on such short intervals. No visitor to America's great wonderland should have any reason for not seeing it in action.

One of our most cynical friends has detected some cooperation between wild creatures. The stork and wolf, he says, usually work the same neighborhood.—Mason City Globe-Gazette.



## BOOK REVIEW

By  
Mrs. L. N. Brakke



The Story of Plants by John Asch. Illustrated by Tabea Hofmann. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. 2 West 45th St., New York, N. Y. Price \$5. From the very beginning of human life, man has known hunger and the need for food. Without plant growth there would be no humans, birds, fish or insects. Try to imagine our cities without parks, our lands without fields and trees; our homes without lawns, flowers and gardens, just a dismal sameness everywhere. Thus plants have a fundamental importance to us. Of the approximately 335,000 species of plants known, about 2,300 are exploited by man and used for food, clothing, shelter, implements and adornment. Here is a unique and fascinating story of plant life which has been written after 20 years

of research and study. The author has visited scientific and commercial agricultural establishments in nearly every state in the United States, and many countries in Europe. He has a background of wide experience, has been active in establishing colonies in Palestine, and during the war his knowledge of plant life was utilized in his work with the United States armed force Institute Agricultural Training Program. The book covers the many needs of plant life, plant propagation and grafting, soil fertility and improvement, pollination and production of seeds. Simply written and each chapter illustrated with drawings by Tabea Hofmann, covering all plant life on land and in the water. A very valuable book and well worth the price.

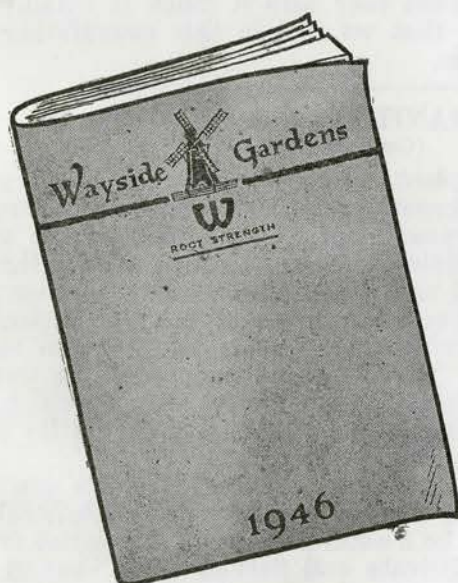
## NEWSLANTS

(Continued from Page 51)

linated variety that merited a Superior rating in the 1948 trials here.

Should you have room for a couple more perennials—consider the Modern Pink Lythrum. It grows about three feet tall and blooms most of the time from July until frost. It is bright pink in color and excellent for mixed bouquets.

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All these items, including new roses, peonies, flowering shrubs and many others (most of them illustrated in color) are presented in the most beautiful autumn catalog ever published in America. To be sure of your copy, it is necessary that you include 50c with your request, coins or stamps, to cover postage and handling costs.



**Wayside Gardens**

Mentor, Ohio



**THE BURR OAK**

By  
Dr. G. F. Will



Dr. G. F. Will

Patriarch of all our native trees of the Northern Great Plains is the ancient and sturdy Burr Oak, *Quercus Macrocarpa*. It adapts itself to a variety of soils and areas and is found along the streams of western Dakota, on the bluffs of the Missouri and at times on the Missouri bottoms, and in the wooded areas along the Canadian boundary whence it grows well up into Manitoba. Some tremendous specimens are found

along the Sheyenne River, especially in the region of the Sand Hills Park, and some equally great examples occur on Masonic Island in Lake Metigoshe. Most of the large and old Oaks have been cut out of the Turtle Mountains long ago, furnishing fuel, building materials and fence posts for all the early Homesteaders along the northeast edge of the state during many years. Along the Missouri Bluffs, the Burr Oak assumes a somewhat different and distinctive character. It thrives on the slopes of the Missouri River brakes and almost to the sandstone summits of some of the buttes, as well as along some of the more inland coulees.

This hardy tree seems almost indestructible. Specimens several hundred years old are not too infrequent and they nearly all bear the marks of lightning, windstorms, prairie fires and the rubbing of countless buffalo and cattle. They adapt themselves to varying degrees of drouth, and trees of almost exactly the same size may vary in age tremendously. In one case two trees showed respective ages of sixty and one hundred and twenty years, although of almost the same diameter. These old Oaks are sturdy, heavy set specimens with rather stiff and uncompromising branches and twigs set against the main trunk at the strongest possible angles. The spread is frequently as great as the height with extremely massive limbs. They may attain a height of fifty or sixty feet with a diameter of two, three or even more feet. The trees growing in less favorable locations are usually the most tenacious of life, the wood is heavier and harder, the growth slower but the vitality tremendous.

I have found that the native Burr Oak makes one of our most permanent and handsomest shade trees and that with plenty of water it grows fairly fast, the younger trees often making a yearly

growth of twelve to twenty-four inches a year. The Oak takes no chances with Great Plains climate and is usually the last tree to put out its leaves and graceful tassels of bloom in the spring. It ripens up its acorns in August often and the texture of its leaves as autumn approaches becomes more leathery as the color turns to bronze.

The wood is perhaps the most durable of all our deciduous trees. I know of a charred stump in a prairie coulee which, the tree rings tell us, ceased to grow eighty years ago, yet the wood is entirely firm and unaffected by decay.

Oak was the favorite building material of the old Mandan Indians since the First Man had instructed them to give it always first preference when building their earth lodges. It is found in numbers and in varying sizes among the broken and charred remnants of timbers in the old village sites which were abandoned two hundred years ago or longer.

The Burr Oak can be distinguished by its very heavy, ridged bark which has helped it to withstand the ravages of prairie fire, by its handsome leaves which are typical of nearly all species, and by its acorn which is half set into a sort of cup which in its earlier stages resembles somewhat the Chestnut Burr. The Indians as well as many small mammals and birds used the acorns for food on occasion. Some of the nuts are bitter, while others have a sweet and pleasant nut-like flavor.

It is as well defended against insect pests as against climate, and is not seriously attacked by any pest. That may help it much to attain the great ages that we find in this grandfather of Plains Trees.

**MANITOBA NEWS LETTER**

(Continued from Page 53)

pinks, gasplant, peonies, lupins, daylilies, gailardia, larkspurs, lilies, babysbreath, lythrum, garden chrysanthemums, or others of the gardener's individual choice. Morden Pink lythrum is esteemed as a distinctly useful herbaceous perennial. Abundantly hardy, it may be depended upon to furnish bloom from late June to early September. The numerous thin ascending wands continue bright with spikes of showy pink flowers. Reluctance to form seed favors its persistent flowering.

All three units of the homegrounds are arranged and planted to show inter-relationship. There is to be a natural course of circulation from Public to Private and Service areas. Rating of considerations in planning the home grounds is from convenience and utility to beauty in its varying seasonal forms.



## KEEPING UP WITH NATIONAL

By

Mrs. G. R. McArthur, Publicity Chairman



Mrs. McArthur

From the President's Message in the National Gardener we learn that her mail is bulging these past months with letters of thanks from overseas for the SEEDS OF PEACE. Grateful gardeners from Greece, Italy, Germany, France and Holland are reporting the yield of food and bloom from the small packages sent by all Garden Club members in the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Not one family has

failed to grasp our purpose and meaning of friendship and not one has failed to share our desire for peace as expressed in these letters. Pictures of the family and their garden tell of life in these far-off villages. All say, "We would like to know these garden club members with the kind and understanding hearts, and would like to write to you again if you care to write to us." Therefore, the Garden Club of Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, Mrs. E. E. Mueser, Chairman, has been named custodian of these letters, translating and typing them, ANY GARDEN CLUB WHO WISHES TO ADOPT A FAMILY IN EUROPE WHO HAS GROWN SEEDS OF PEACE AND CONTINUE TO SEND THEM SEEDS MAY DO SO. The only requirement is to have your application signed by your president and state that your club is affiliated with your state Garden Club Federation, send stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mrs. E. E. Mueser, Seeds of Peace Committee, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, and you will be assigned a family.

It is with great pleasure to the State Officers that we see the Redwood Grove Anniversary project taking hold in South Dakota. A few clubs have made contributions, Rapid City Garden Club, Fair City Garden Club, Huron, and the Highmore Garden Club have thus far sent donations to National Headquarters. As of January 19, 1949 nineteen states have sent in contributions. New Jersey is out in front with the greatest number of Clubs contributing. Mrs. Don McMurchie, Centerville, is the state Redwood Grove chairman. The REDWOOD GROVE 20th ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO THE NATION is a magnificent stand of 40 acres of giant REDWOODS in the heart of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

in northern Humboldt County, Calif. The Grove consists of mighty trees, some more than 300 feet tall and 2,000 years old. Not only the trees are being saved but lesser companions of the forest as well, native flowering shrubs, wild flowers, giant ferns and the choicest of all, the California Rose Bay shrub. The total amount to be contributed is \$5,000 which will be matched by the California State Park Commission. The funds will be used for the saving and care of this giant's Garden to be added to the Park system and preserved for this and future generations.

To all club members who are interested in conservation and preservation let this writer recommend ROAD TO SURVIVAL by William Vogt. For the survival of mankind this book may be one of the most crucial ever written. It is the revelation of the fact that the earth, abused by man, is unable to support the human race in terms of its most basic need—food. The book is outstanding enough to have an introduction written by Bernard M. Baruch. He says, "It is no dry-as-dust study; it deals with the raw stuff of living, how more than two billion men, women and children—including you and me—are to be fed, sheltered and clothed and whether we live in peace tomorrow, next year and in 1975." Because of the great abundance of the earth's resources we have taken them for granted, now over most of the globe, we are face to face with serious depletion of the quantities of minerals, wood, food, water and wildlife. If Mr. Vogt's book is read by enough people willing to realize humanity is caught in a desperate suicidal situation and that the world is rapidly being uninhabited, there may be hope for a Road to Survival.

### ANNUAL OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING—

The joint board meeting of the state Horticulture Society and the State Federation of Garden Clubs was held in Huron, March 18th. The officers and chairman of both organizations attended almost 100 per cent. It was a very fine meeting. Highmore was chosen as the host city for the 1949 annual Convention, July 27-28th. The theme, "Home Beautification," was chosen and will be carried out in all phases of the program. Named as the program committee were, H. N. Dybvig, Colton, president of the Horticulture Society; S. A. McCorry, Brookings; Elmer Lundberg, Yankton; Mrs. Vern Tompkins and Mrs. R. J. Drew, Highmore, general chairmen of the Convention, and Mrs. G. M. Jorgenson, Dell Rapids, corresponding secretary. There was an interesting discussion

(Continued on Page 60)



**FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES**

By

F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

Winter tomato growers in Mexico have also had considerable trouble and grief this year, as roads and bridges were out because of floods. The fruits were taken from boats to train to pontoon to train or plane to El Paso, Texas. The rough handling of even the green fruit by this method caused considerable loss, but later, through train service, shipments are coming through in fair condition. Tomato trains of 50 carloads daily have reached Nogales alone. At another point in Texas, 50 to 75 car trains are expected during March and April. Hothouse tomato growers in central eastern states must about be put out of business by the Mexican growers. The apple growers are also asking relief from the indiscriminate export of Canadian apples to the markets of this nation. In Wenatchee, Wash., 28 per cent of last year's crop is still in storage. Perhaps they blame us for not buying their Delicious apples at the 20 cents per pound which the retailers charge us. Production and marketing problems are a worry to growers of fruit and vegetables in all parts of this nation. Five hundred delegates to the 102nd annual convention of the Ohio Horticultural Society on Feb. 11th agreed that this was the best meeting ever; perhaps they improve with age. You will hear plenty about "Home Beautification" at our annual meeting at Highmore, July 27th and 28th. The directors will also give all possible aid to the 3 day judging school at Brookings. The officers and directors of the Horticultural Society and the Federated Garden clubs, to the number of 20, held a most harmonious meeting at Huron on Mar. 18th, there being present the following: Mr. Atkinson, Mrs. Jorgensen, Mr. and Mrs. Schamber and two stalwart sons, Mr. Lundberg, Dr. McCrory, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. McMurchie, Mrs. Gunderson, Mrs. Briley, Mrs. Brakke, Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Sarvis, and the secretary and treasurer. Dinner was served to us in the large room in the Marvin Hughitt hotel in which we met. The car from Rapid City made good time, starting at 5 a. m. they arrived only slightly late for dinner. Mrs. Berry made the trip by plane, but returned with us in a car. Sunday, Mar. 20th, I spent most of the afternoon in

the apple orchard of Mr. L. G. Elsinger, near Dell Rapids, there are 23 varieties and over 75 trees. Mr. Elsinger brought the scions from Morden, Can., in 1935 while we were on a vacation trip to the International Peace Garden and the Morden Dominion Experiment Station. Five varieties still have not fruited. The stakes got lost in the moving of the trees from one farm to another, so Mr. Elsinger is trying to get some one to identify the different varieties. Some nice apples were brought from the cellar, but the varieties are unknown. There is a block of 5 large trees that has been bearing fruit that he was told was the Godfrey. The trees were sprayed three times last season and Mr. Elsinger is very much pleased with the high class fruit and he looks for a good crop this year. There was plenty of moisture near each tree as there is conservation practiced here as in the 600 acres of field crops. If Mr. Leslie should come to the state, or any other of the Morden personnel, in the growing season, I would surely like to have them see this fine orchard that came from the handful of scions they gave him in 1935, when we were up there. The first lot of early cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Red cabbage, petunias and snaps have been transplanted. So far I have done very little with the plants as I have been too busy cleaning house and helping the workmen keep moving and get the work done. Last week was a really busy time, three Garden club meetings, then the Huron joint meeting of the two state associations.

**KEEPING UP WITH NATIONAL**

(Continued from Page 59)

of the National Anniversary Gift, The Redwood Grove Memorial. Mrs. Don McMurchir, Centerville, state treasurer, was named as chairman. All Redwood Grove donations should be sent to her as soon as possible. A cash donation from the State Federation of Garden Clubs was voted and sent to the Redwood Grove Project. The Horticulture Judging School was discussed and Leonard A. Yager was named state chairman and urged to set up a school according to National Standards. Year books were discussed and prizes were set at \$5, \$3, \$1. A committee of three was chosen to draw up a unit of year book judging rules, Mrs. Oscar McFarling, Huron, chairman, Mrs. L. N. Brakke, Hartford, and Mrs. Alfred Schamber, Rapid City. This year there will be a registration fee of 50 cents per delegate. All clubs are requested to begin making plans to send a full quota of delegates to the convention. Visitors are also welcome.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By

J. M. Atkinson, Rapid City

With the coming of spring (and how glad we will all be to see spring come again) we are checking new varieties of seeds and plants to be tried this coming season. Why not take your catalogue to garden club and discuss your problems with the other members? Chances are you can be of mutual benefit to one another.

What do you know about the National Garden Club Convention to be held in Portland this May? The city of Portland is already devoting one-half page ads pertaining to this convention. Why not try to attend? The South Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs has never had a delegate to any national convention. Why not have several carloads of delegates to this one? The roses will be at their best at the time of this event, and the city of Portland is going to go all out to see that the garden club members are entertained royally.

It has been suggested that several minor changes be made in our state constitution. If you have any change or have any ideas which might be beneficial to our organization, send them to Mrs. C. J. Gunderson, state parliamentarian, Vermillion, South Dakota.

We should be thinking about some way of contributing to the regional scholarship fund. This is a project in which each region establishes a fund to be given to a worthy student majoring in some branch of horticulture.

What can we do to make the State Horticulture magazine be of more interest to our garden club members? If someone in your club has a good paper that is of interest to you, it stands to reason we will all enjoy it. Send it to Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Jorgensen or myself; and we will try to see that it is published. Would you like to see a question and answer column? Should we have a poem or two in each issue pertaining to flowers or gardens?

### HINTS:

Margaret O'Brien is a new giant spencer type sweet pea of a salmon color tone, and the winner of the gold medal given by the world famous Scottish National Sweet Pea Society. You will probably want to try it. The two new award winners in roses are the '49'er, the most brilliantly hue'd bi-color rose ever introduced. A rich yellow outer petal harmonizing with a vivid red inner petal. It is a strong grower and has few thorns and is resistant to disease. The other award winner is "Tally-Ho," also a bi-colored rose of unusual

tints; the outer petal cardinal red while the inside exhibits several shades of pink. The stems are long and straight, and the bloom has a spicy fragrance.

As a garden club let's make use of every opportunity to spread happiness and beauty throughout this war sick world. Garden clubs have an important place in the world of today. Thousands of people over the nation united by a common bond with the love of gardening can tell of happiness derived from nature to those who have not seen the beauty of the great outdoors. Garden club members can emphasize the importance of beauty in a community and use their influence in helping transform the city, state and nation into a better place for the bringing up of future citizens. Let us share our knowledge and flowers generously with whom we come in contact, trying to bring a spark of joy into every life we touch so that we may truthfully say, "This world is a better place for my having lived in it."

## GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 55)

rich color. The relation of birds to conservation by Chas. S. Hills, prominent ornithologist and director of the Sioux Falls Bird Club, was another program enjoyed by the Sioux Falls Club. The sets of slides being assembled by Leonard Yager at State College are becoming increasingly popular, especially the slides of lilies. Hedges and apple orchards are other topics available. Mr. Yager's demonstration on landscaping accompanied by a new technique in presenting it was much enjoyed by South Sioux.

It isn't often we steal precious space from club news to write about our first love—the flowers. "Harbor More Hems in Your Garden" ought to be a good slogan to introduce these hardy perennials to many new gardens where they are now unknown. Hemerocallis are among the latest flowers to come under the hands of the happy hybridizer, and what he hasn't done to them isn't worth mentioning. About the only resemblance to the old daylilies of grandmother's day is their hardiness. It is still a flower with a big future—but don't wait for that—try several hems this spring. And as Claude Barr says, "Thank you, and may the air be soft and the rain fall gently on your garden in 1949."

The Federation of Garden Clubs and the Horticultural Society have received two invitations for the annual convention—Yankton Garden Club and the Sunshine Garden Club of Highmore both extend the hand of welcome. Thank you.



**SECRETARY'S CORNER**

By

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

We are often asked about the value of sawdust, used as a mulch; in Vol. 15, No. 5 of "contributions" from the Boyce Thompson Institute, there is the following. "Turk investigated the effect of mixed sawdust from hard and soft woods on plant growth under greenhouse conditions. His results induced him to conclude that the reduction in plant growth by such materials is due to a deficiency of nitrogen in the soil. 'If sawdust is supplemented with some readily available source of nitrogen, it can be added to soils without harmful effects.' He considers it to have no fertilizer value and its benefits are considered to be physical in nature." The Canadian Grower tells of the boom in tomato growing on the two Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, growers grossing over \$2,500 per acre from that crop last year. This boom is caused by the import restrictions imposed by the British government in their dollar saving campaign. Every available suitable piece of ground is now devoted to this crop. Early potatoes are the first crop planted, and when these are dug very small, the tomato plants are set. No manure is to be had and even straw has to be imported and costs \$40 per ton, some seaweed and also some commercial fertilizer is used, yet this land that has been cropped continuously for 40 years, still produces good crops. Their spacing of tomatoes seems strange to us. The plants are set a foot apart in the rows and the rows are alternately two and three feet apart. Only sound, good sized fruit is marketed and brings the growers an average price of 8 cents per pound. According to a Department of Agriculture release, we Dakota gardeners are not the only high born people that history records, as becoming enthusiastic about cultivating the good earth.

"Vegetable gardeners planning their 1949 season may find a stimulus in the satisfaction of a Roman Emperor who came to be a gardening fan. A friend copied this passage from 'A Nature Lover in British Columbia,' by H. J. Parham, and sent it to Dr. Victor R. Boswell, who is in charge of the technical work on vegetable breeding and culture in the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"The Emperor Diocletian, some years after he

had called Maximian to share the government of the Roman Empire, persuaded his friend to retire with him in favor of two younger men, Diocletian himself going to the Dalmatian coast, where he had a country seat at Salona near the present port of Split. While in retirement here he received a letter from Maximian trying to persuade him to return and resume the government but the reply he received was: 'Were you but to come to Salona and see the vegetables which I raise in my garden with my own hands, you would no longer talk to me of Empire.'"

When I incorporated the witty letter of Mr. J. B. Taylor on my page in the March magazine I little thought that this was to be the last letter I would ever receive from this old friend. The sad news of his passing reached me before those magazines were mailed out. Mr. Taylor had been a member of our Society for 39 years, and a Director, since the inception of that system of government in 1930. He was a frequent contributor to our programs at annual meetings, adding a cheery note to the meetings, and a tireless worker in increasing our membership roll. We shall all miss him sadly."

State law says that kids must go to school. But 'tain't law that says 86 have gotta crowd into a room built for 25. That's custom.

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## NEW INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLACK HILLS

By Dr. Niels E. Hansen  
State College, Brookings



In many tours to the wonderful mountains known as the Black Hills, I have come to realize the possibilities of this favored region.

1. The scenery attracts millions of visitors. This is an important harvest which increases annually.
2. To safeguard this scenic wealth, the wild flowers should be protected. In at least two places there should be a botanic garden established and maintained. This should be a complete set of all the wild flowers, and of the main garden species from the various regions of the world. Thousands of people would extend their stay with such an opportunity for study.
3. The Mount Rushmore carvings will attract millions of visitors through the centuries. It should be kept up as a Shrine of Democracy.
4. All the other places of historic interest should be marked and maintained. In European countries this need is keenly recognized.
5. The fruit-growing possibilities of the thousands of small areas should be recognized. Even ten-acre places in small fruit, red raspberries for example, would be a good source of income. On larger areas could be grown Dolgo crab and Redflesh crab, and Opata, Sapa, Oka, Waneta, Kota, Kaga, and other of my plums, much of this would be sold locally. Much more could be processed or put in deep-freezing. Large orchards of my Sapa cherry-plum in the Twin City region of Minnesota show this can be done. Sapa plum jam is a real luxury.
6. Great quantities of sweet corn could be carried by deep-freezing to supply winter markets. This is a luxury. The cost of canning is saved.
7. The Federal Government could extend into all such isolated regions by buying and processing such small lots. This furnishes a steady market. Something like this was done successfully in the war years with wild blackberries and blueberries in mountain regions of the deep South. It is desirable

from the standpoint of public welfare; to avoid forcing too many people into the overcrowded cities.

8. To bring into public notice quickly, a series of substations for orchard and small fruits and grapes should be established. This would hasten by many years the distribution and planting of the new improved varieties originated by the fruit-breeders.
9. Horticulture makes it possible to make a living on a small area of land. Modern machinery is forcing more and more people into the cities.
10. The native fruits of the Black Hills should be tamed and improved. This can be done by field selection and by hybridization with the largest-fruited tame varieties. All this costs money, but it would pay abundant returns. Large numbers are necessary. In 1894 I spent one day in a seed farm in Quedlingburg, Germany, at that time the largest in the world. In one field of 80 acres of China asters, 14 men were selecting the best plants for seed. I learned German at 11 years of age, so could profit by my day's experience. I decided never to work with China asters—the competition would be too great; but in later years I selected from over 2,000,000 plants of the South Dakota Sandcherry, now the Hansen Bushcherry. The pit is now often one-fourth of the original size, and the fruit nearly one inch in diameter, and of good quality.
11. The principle, as one baseball pitcher said, is "to hit them where they ain't." I would like to see a similar area in the Black Hills planted to the local native red raspberry, individual seedling plants. Success in selection depends on large numbers. It is upon the appearance of such select plants that the future success depends.
12. Let us all join in the great work of promoting Horticulture to its highest possible development.

It's awful hard for newcomers to get to know the insects of Squawberry Flat. They keep mistakin' our musketeers for junebugs and our junebugs for hawks.

This is sure a dry and dirty season, with the wind blowin' dust over everything. Summer's barely started, but here I've had my second straw hat and my third neck wash.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.





## BOOK REVIEW

By

Mrs. Morris Harter



Mrs. M. Harter

The Hybrid Corn Makers, by Richard Crabb, published by Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N. J. 331 pages, price \$3. The story of hybrid corn covers a good many years and makes an interesting study. The first research started about 1896 when Cyril G. Hopkins, a South Dakotan directing the study of soils and crops for the Illinois Experiment Station, embarked on the project of improving the protein contents of

corn. Those first steps were important for they attracted the energies of several men whose names are well known now, for the part they played in perfecting hybrid corn. No one man discovered how to successfully breed a hybrid variety for it was the combined efforts of such men as Edward Murray East, Dr. G. H. Shull, Donald Jones, H. K. Hayes, Henry A. Wallace, Gene Funk and Jim Holbert. Connecticut farmers were planting hybrids twenty years before the corn belt started using them on a large scale, and Mr. Crabb states, "Without the unrelenting efforts of Wallace, the wide use of hybrid corn would unquestionably have been greatly retarded." Copper Cross was his first outstanding hybrid and the original seed for it was sold in 1924 at one dollar a pound. Richard Crabb did tremendous research for the material in this book, to show us the true, exciting story of the crop that means so much to us and all the world. His efforts and results are truly commendable and we are sure everyone who reads the book will have more appreciation for hybrid corn.

## GARDEN NOTES

(Continued from Page 52)

anywhere. One is a tall babybreathe known as Flamingo like the pink Rosy Veil, which is more of a ground cover. Flamingo is 2½ to 3 feet high and about as broad. The other, a False Dragon Head, with spikes of large white cups and of course the usual attractive foliage. I have found all Gypsophilas thrifty and hardy here, as also Physostegia, one perennial at least able to hold its own against any invading crop of weeds.

Current issue of MY GARDEN has an item on Periwinkles and special mention of Vinca minor with its blue, white wine and red varieties all of which do well in North Dakota. It states that trimming the far too many runners induces better blooming. There is also mention of a choice alpine Vinca herbacea which unlike minor dies down in fall and sends out runners in spring making a carpet of deep clear blue. The same issue has this to say: "It has been estimated that a single dandelion plant, should all its seeds mature, would in the fourth generation produce enough plants to cover a land area 245 times greater than that of the United States. Feb. 28th. A noticeable rise in temperature is apparent, with little more than half the fuel consumed, which not only keeps the frost out but provides a comfortable warmth to sit and read in, a blessing that seems almost too good to be true and the dog no longer shivers in a corner of the barn, but sits on a snow bank and barks a sort of Te Deum that goes on for most of the 24 hours.

Clem Lazenby knows it ain't so that two can live as cheap as one. Him and his missus couldn't do it when they was two, and now they're nine and all of 'em can't do it.

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