

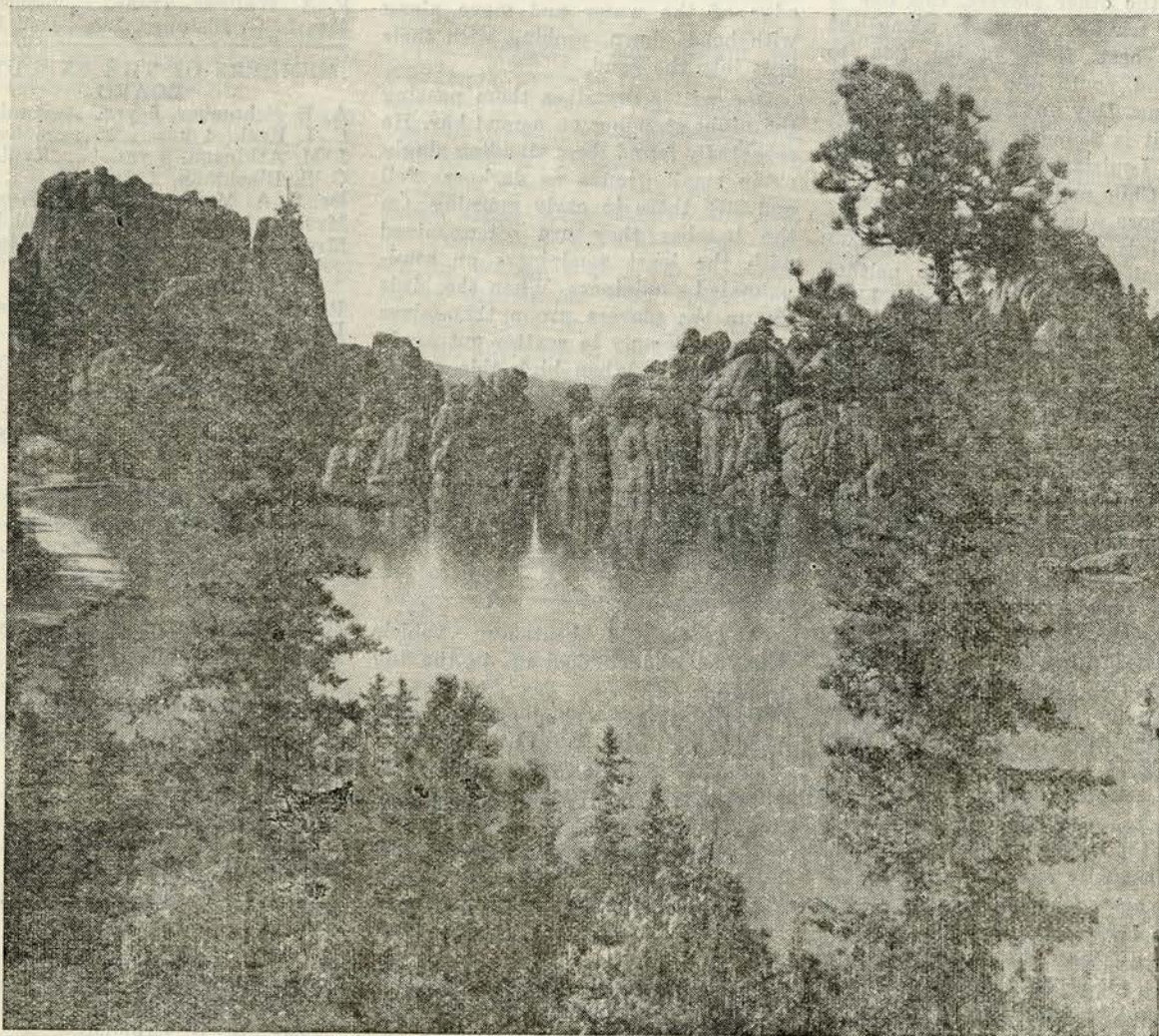
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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

DECEMBER, 1950

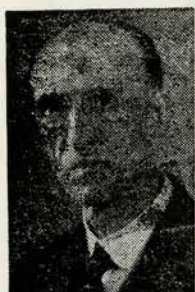


—Courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce, Rapid City, S. D.

Beautiful Sylvan Lake, in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

THE SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER

By
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

This has much the appearance of a killdeer but it is only half as large and has only one black band across the chest where the killdeer has two bands. The smaller bird also lacks the reddish tail which is prominent in the Killdeer. It is also called ring plover from the single black band.

Like the other plovers, this one is a wide traveler. It nests along the Arctic coast from Bering Sea to Greenland, south into British Columbia, James Bay and Nova Scotia. In winter it is found from central California, Louisiana, and South Carolina to Chile and Patagonia.

All those who give attention to the shore birds report that it is frequent during migrations in our area, neither common nor rare. Not many birds are seen, usually a few feeding on mud flats or sandbars. Dr. Roberts mentioned that if a small flock alighted on a flat where other shore birds were feeding, the plovers soon scattered among the other species.

Like so many other shore birds its stay in the north is brief. Gale Monson recorded it at Argusville, Cass County, North Dakota, on May 11 and 18, 1930. Williams reported the earliest seen at Grafton on May 11. Dr. Roberts reported a few remaining into June and perhaps returning in July but mostly in August and early September. Norman A. Wood found birds at Devils Lake July 14 and 19. Alfred Peterson of Pipestone, Minnesota, counted 146 individuals during the spring of 1924 when they were unusually numerous. On the Atlantic coast, Charles Wendell Townsend in 1928 stated that the bird had increased since the migratory bird law passed in 1913 to where "flocks of several hundred are now common where flocks of 30 or 40 were becoming rare".

This species does not resort to high ground like the golden and black-

bellied plovers. It nests along the beaches near the water. The nest is only a hollow place in the sand, usually lined with a few scraps of plant material. Sometimes it is located in moss or similar short plant growth. The eggs vary from clay color to brown or greenish and have large, irregular spots of dark brown. Like those of other shore birds, they are pointed at one end and are about an inch and a quarter long.

Both male and female take part in incubation. Some observers found chiefly one or the other, apparently an individual difference. They feed largely upon small mollusks and crustaceans, also upon insects.

In feeding they run rapidly and frequently strike quickly at the ground. Sandpipers stay closer to the edge of the water and move along with heads down, probing with their bills into the sand.

One writer describes them passing the night standing on a mud bar. He repeatedly found them standing singly or in small groups as darkness fell and still there in early morning. On the beaches they are often mixed with the least sandpipers or semi-palmated sandpipers. When the birds fly up the plovers group themselves into a flock only to scatter out again on alighting. When high tide covers their feeding grounds they take a nap on the higher part of the beach. Some stand upright, some squat on the sand, some turn their heads and thrust their bills into the feathers of their backs, others merely drop their heads on the shoulders.

A poor old beaten-up vehicle wheezed and clunked up to the toll bridge.

"Fifty cents," called out the gatekeeper.

"Sold!" was the quick reply.

Private: An MP just hanged himself, Sarge.

Sarge: Holy smoke! Have you cut him down?

Private: No. He ain't dead yet!

A cute female shopper asked the floorwalker, "Do you have any notions on this floor?"

He sighed and replied, "Yes, but we suppress them during working hours."

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NEWSLANTS

By

Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

Andrew Fritch of Valley City, also reports a fall crop on Sunrise raspberries. You will recall from a recent Newsfant that the A. M. Challoys of Fargo had a similar experience. If we can ever get this everbearing habit to be dependable

on a worthwhile variety, it will be a boon to home gardeners here in the North. The only thing that I can think of that would be more delicious (during the fall months) than strawberries and cream would be strawberries and raspberries with cream.

Fresh interest in anything that will put the run on tree stumps has prompted me to list again the address of the company who claims they have a powder that will do just that. The product is Magic Stump Remover. When this chemical is inserted through a hole in the center of the stump, the chemical is reputed to cause the decomposition of the roots so that stumps can be easily removed. Write to the H. D. Campbell Company, Rochelle, 115, Ill. Let us know if it works!

Household magazine for November has a worthwhile article on "How To Grow Lilies From Seed" by Gretchen Harshbarger, a niece of the late Henry Field.

M. W. Miller & Company who pack a variety of fruits at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, canned 2,000 bushels of Hyslop crabapples last fall. According to WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE they could have easily marketed 5,000 bushels or more but Hyslops were a short crop last year. According to W. R. Leslie's, "Tree Fruits Grown In Prairie Orchards", Hyslop is an old variety having been grown for at least 100 years.

A recent communication from the Hansen family of Brookings included the following poem—the last to be written by their father Niels Ebbesen Hansen. It was written February 21, 1949:

The Shadows Lengthen

The shadows lengthen toward the evening sun,
I will be contented when my life's work is done,
He gave me talents to use along the way,
I have tried to use them in His service every day.
Without Thy inspiration all would have been lost,
Without Thy sunshine all would be frost.
In Thy garden flowers bloom through eternity,
Grant, O God, a place with Thee.

According to the Iowa Horticultural Newsletter for September 12, 1950, H. L. Lantz of the Iowa Station has a tough lawn grass mixture composed of a combination of Alta Fescue and a new strain of Blue Grass known as Merion.

The American Fruit Grower for September wants to know why someone doesn't prepare an up-to-date book on leading apple varieties, with colored photos, recipes, etc. No doubt, someone would if some off season Santa Claus would finance the cost of publication—especially the cost of the colored plates. W. R. Leslie in his bulletin No. 780, "Tree Fruits Grown in Prairie Orchards" has the nearest approach to the type of thing for the Upper Midwest. While it is not illustrated; it is very helpful in identifying fruit varieties.

The use of 2, 4-D for weed control in or near vineyards is hazardous and frowned upon generally. Serious damage to grape plantings has been reported from the State of Washington where mist from 2, 4-D has drifted in from adjoining fields.

We are somewhat amazed at the number of members who have become delinquent since 1945. We are especially disturbed since we thought we were doing a better than usual job of late in keeping track of you all. However, membership numbers have kept up pretty well and as a result we are not too alarmed. In some cases, on doubt, members have sent their dues direct to Mr. Simons.

As we have stated, many times, we are sure there are 5,000 folks in North Dakota who would gladly part with \$1.00 in exchange for the benefits of membership in the North Dak-

ota Horticultural Society. We need the help of present members to stage an "Every Member—Membership Drive".

New bulletins that some of you will want in your files: "Strawberry Growing in Washington", Extension Bulletin No. 246, Revised 1950. This 50 page bulletin is well illustrated and should be especially valuable to strawberry fans. Get it from the Washington State College, Pullman, Washington.

"Keeping Roses in Good Health", Arkansas Extension Circular No. 412 is available from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This bulletin has 38 pages and is more than a bulletin on diseases. If you are assembling a library of Horticultural bulletins, you will want this one.

If Elk or Beaver are bothering your trees, the Harry N. Leckenby Company, Seattle, has a repellent that tends to discourage these four legged predators.

Mrs. Thomas Stack of Moorhead sez Amelia Gravereaux is the rose for North Dakota, if you only have ONE.

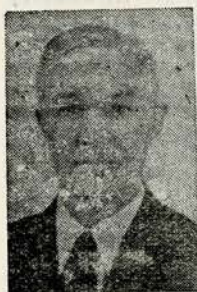
Because I am sure this information will be of general interest, I am quoting verbatim a letter prepared by Dr. Gordon Johnsgaard of the Soils Department, N.D.A.C. This letter was in reply to a query as to the fertilizer values of ashes left when tree leaves are burned: . . . "Your letter regarding the fertilizer value of ashes from the burning of leaves was referred to the Soils Department of N.D.A.C. for reply. We do not have published information upon actual experiences in the use of these materials in this area.

"Ashes from the burning of wood and leaves have been used with success as a fertilizer material for many years in certain parts of the world, particularly on soils low in potassium and acid in reaction. The ash from burned leaves usually contains 15 to 25% K₂O (potassium oxide); 7 to 22% P₂O₅ (phosphorus pentoxide); 35 to 50% CaO (calcium oxide); and smaller amounts of a great variety of other chemical substances. The nitrogen in the leaves is largely lost in the burning process. The potassium is largely readily available to plants and the phosphorus is usually in a form of rather low availability. The CaO has considerable value as a lim-

(Continued on Page 191)

MANITOBA NEWS LETTERS

By
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

Autumn Woods offer the wayfarer great pleasure. Nature reaches a climax in colors and glory when trees, shrubs, vines and herbs become aflame with autumn in October. Everyone owes herself, or himself, the joys of an unhurried

walk through the woods when foliage colors are at the zenith of their maturity. Then the earth in the forest floor tends to be soft, the air is exhilarating with numerous scents of mellowing leaves, fruits and buds. The interplay of light, shadow and reflected sunshine from all the hues of the rainbow make the harvest season walk an experience which will glow in memory throughout the year.

Native woods near Morden are rich in variety. The Pembina Hills, flanking the district on the westward side, offer many ravines and coulees furnished generously. Hawthorne, roses, peminas, or Highbush cranberries, arrowwood, nannyberries, sumac, saskatoons, cherries, dogwoods, hazels, bittersweet, riverbank creeper, native grape, wild hops, climbing honeysuckle, or woodbine, occupy thickets and the ground floor of the area. Topping these are elms, ash, birch, aspen, cottonwood, oak, ironwood, basswood, boxelder, and various willows. While the lower plants present many reds, bronzes and some purples, native trees, with the exception of the oak, exhibit mostly greens, yellows, and orange shades. Among the yellows it adds greatly to have an occasional clump of canoe or paper birch. Even among the bright yellows of ash, aspen, and poplars the presence of a birch, arrayed in its clothing of vivid golden leaves, radiates a radiant laughing brilliance as if its candle-power is of such greater wattage as to draw the sightseer's gaze to it as the heroine of the troupe. Again one is reminded of the happy choice for the white birch of the title "Lady of the Woods".

As the birch rules among the gold and yellows, prominent among the reds are sumac, riverbank creeper, nannyberry, saskatoon, rose, pin cherry, and some dogwoods. The troublesome poison-ivy has foliage that is among the most vivid reds. Were it not such a trouble-maker for humans, that somewhat vine-like little shrub would have a place in plantations. However, poison-ivy is bad company and to be removed without reserve in spite of its beauty.

A worthy project for every prairie town not endowed by Nature with an acreage of woodland is to plant a spacious park with trees, shrubs, and vines. Everyone benefits from seasonal association with woodlands and the bird and animal life habitually frequenting them.

AUTUMN COLOR in native trees, shrubs and vines was discussed last week. Consideration is here given to some of the esteemed exotic subjects which have added greatly to the local scenery in autumn.

Many of the most beautiful autumn foliages are borne by plants imported from the far East. Brilliant reds are produced by Amur maple, Mongolian oak, Peking cotoneaster, Hedge cotoneaster, Japanese barberry, some apricots, viburnum, hawthorns euonymus, and barberries. Golden leaves adorn securinea, prinsepia, Totarian maple birches, crabapples, willows, lindens, ash, euonymus, and Siberian larch. Purple colors distinguish Early lilac (syringa oblata), Turkistan euonymus, some pears, barberries and dogwoods.

The chokecherries from the Eastern United States have been doing well and winning favor by their persistent vivid red leaves in October.

The European mountainash adds rich red and bronze hues to the October picture. The European cranberrybush develops red leaves which are similar in color intensity to its clusters of lustrous fruits.

In addition to bright foliage color, many of the tree and shrub immigrants from Europe and Asia bring autumn glory in abundance through their fruits. Many retain their showy fruits into winter and even until a crop of new green leaves are put forth next spring. In this class are cherry prinsepia, seabuckthorn, Siberian crabapple, Manchurian crabapple,

Amur honeysuckle, some barberries, viburnums, roses and hawthorns. It is of interest to recall that the Amur lilac is attractive in winter by virtue of the large panicles of seed pods which retain bright tawny hues while the pods of common lilac are of dull, dingy appearance.

The Amur maple is probably the most widely used for autumn red foliage among imported plants. However, the Mongolian oak wins first place for length of effect. Its leaves become a full red in early October and, although paling to brown shades as heavy frosts invade them, the leaves remain moored to their branchlets until next spring. This clean oak with neat leaves, forming rosettes at the twig end, is very hardy and promises general usefulness on the Great Plains.

These comments, outlining a partial inventory of our present possession of plants developing showy autumn foliage, emphasize the wide scope available for achieving glorious foliage displays in autumn.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY meeting October 6th and 7th staged interesting exhibits. Dr. J. H. Schultz had a display of Dr. A. F. Yeager's showy popcorn "Carnival". his good popcorn regains the high coloring of the old-time flint Squaw Corn, —white, yellow, red, brown, bronze and purple. It has the virtue of being ornamental and of value for festive table and vegetable displays. A collection of Minnesota grape varieties were exhibited.

Extensive collections of apples were staged by Henry Biel of Lefor and R. L. Wordarz of Wyndmere.

Mr. Biel spoke of his findings. In standard apples, Haralson was first choice because of hardiness and annual cropping. Mortof was rated high for flavor and cooking. Breakey was good. Anoka tended to kill back upon reaching bearing stage. Trail was a favorite apple crab. Sugar, Yeager Sweet, and Red River were useful. Printosh was liked for eating. Dolgo was outstanding for jelly. Wealthy performed fairly well.

Mr. Wordarz recommended placing dry scions in the soil for a time to plump them up. It is a good scheme to plant a fruit tree northeast of a

(Continued on Page 191)

BIRD MIGRATION

By

H. R. Woodward



H. R. Woodward

every sportsman.

Habits of birds have long been studied and of course migration habits are well known. Banding birds and careful investigation have revealed a great deal along this line, but how they find their way and why still presents a mystery that is not easy to explain.

Birds seem to have a highly responsive and well developed instinct for directions. This is seen in animals also. The homing and passenger pigeons had this instinct well established in their make-up. Cats, dogs, and horses find their way much easier than many other higher animals and human beings do.

I have for a long time watched the lines of cranes, Canada geese, pelicans and many others in their angular formations proceed to the south in the fall and reverse their directions the following spring. Many have asked how they keep their directions straight on a dark cloudy day and during a stormy night.

The flight of Canada geese is extremely fascinating. As one views it from a distance it looks like a giant V in the sky. One bird leads the formation. He breaks the air and leads the way for the others. When he tires, another takes his place as he falls back while the procession, moves on. When they land, they land upwind as do airplanes. When they land to feed, one bird always remains as a sentinel while the others are feeding. During this time he never eats a bite.

The real causes of bird migration are unknown. The migration habits of some birds may be broken if conditions are favorable. Mallard ducks for example are known to remain on warm streams all winter long if food

is available and even in places where these ducks have become permanent residents their members are often augmented each year by newcomers who drop in and decide to stay.

The warm waters of the Yellowstone Park has been the salvation of the trumpeter swan. This swan is the most magnificent game bird in all the world and the largest. This great bird almost became extinct due to the fact that it migrated and was killed in too great numbers. There are only a few of these birds left, probably less than a hundred, and their last nesting areas are in Yellowstone Park and Red Rock Lakes in Montana. Great care should be exercised in shooting at any extra large white water bird. They are protected wherever they fly and the National Park Service has as one of its projects the saving of the trumpeter swan. The whistling swan while almost as large is protected also. However there seems to be a few more whistlers than trumpeters at the present time.

Some birds do not migrate at all, some only in daylight and others only at night. The migration habits also have effects both good and bad. The migration of gulls for example have been known to produce a positive good in their destruction of insects. This is well known in Utah where they came in and saved the pioneers their crop of wheat from ravaging grasshoppers. Hence the gull is protected in Utah and the Golden Gull Monument was erected in Temple Square in Salt Lake City. Quite the opposite is true of the bobo-link when it moves into the rice fields of the South and destroys crops. The migrating pelicans are known to spread a form of fish tapeworm from lake to lake; especially the type which infests the freshwater pike, bass and trout. In fact the pelican has been accused of being one of the alternate hosts of this worm and if it weren't for the pelicans the fish would not contract the disease.

Those who have read the stories of Ernest Thompson Seton will recall that his studies reveal the fact that even birds classed as permanent residents experience a period of frustration at certain times when other migrants take off. They become uneasy and fly about a lot even though they do not go away from their home

environment. Domestic geese show some evidence of taking to the air and sudden autumn snowstorms cause them to become very much nervously upset.

Robins are short migrants and many of them remain in sheltered areas throughout the winter. For this reason many people wonder when they see a group of robins in January after a prolonged spell of mild weather. They believe them to be harbingers of the early spring.

Some exotic birds seem to be entirely unable to adjust themselves to winter storms and for that reason whole flocks of birds have perished. I know of one valley in the Black Hills where quail had been planted in early days, and all failed to survive one severe winter. I recall myself seeing a frozen covey of these quail, all bunched together with their heads pointed to the center fourteen of them, in all, dead from their covering of ice, sleet and snow. They failed to migrate even for a short distance where they could have found cover. This is not true of our native grouse or prairie chicken, but might be a decisive factor in cutting the pheasant population.

I have noted that on a certain date one will wake up to the fact that certain birds that have been with us all summer are gone. I have seen this occur in the mountain valleys at a time in August when I thought there was more abundant food and better climate conditions than any other time in the summer. Bluebirds disappear from the wooded areas of the plains in a similar manner. There is very little evidence to support the theory that birds migrate because of food, although food attracts them.

About the 20th of March I have seen the bluebirds return even though the late storms of the spring kept the ground covered with snow and native types of food were decidedly lacking. Climate and weather have had some effect on the flight of northern ducks and a premature attack of winter even in early October would bring down the birds in great numbers. This would occur even though the storm period was of short duration.

Last spring on the last week in April while traveling along the highway from Arlington to Madison, a

(Continued on Page 183.)

ROSES IN THE BLIZZARD BELT

By

Linden J. Wallner, B. S., M. D.

This society has a number of rose experts among its membership. There have been excellent articles recently by Mr. Percy H. Wright, Mr. A. L. Truax and Mr. J. M. Atkinson that demonstrate this. It would be most presumptuous of me to pose before this group as an authority. Rather, I wish to enter a progress report of my experience in growing roses in the Chicago area.

It is assumed that everyone is in agreement that the rose is the most beautiful of all flowers. It follows that everyone would like to grow them. It behooves us then to give help and encouragement to beginners, and to share our experiences, our successes as well as our failures.

What are some of the factors that prevent true satisfaction with roses in our latitude? Probably our biggest handicap is a harsh climate. It is a revelation to see roses growing on the west coast, either California or Oregon. Apparently with little or no care, bushes reach such height and vigor, the blooms are so large, profuse and constant, that the variety is hardly recognizable as the one we have nursed in our own garden. Rosarians tell us it is the mild winters, and the cool nights during the growing season that are responsible rather than any miracles of soil. A second factor, a corollary of the first, is the selection of improper types and varieties. A third handicap is a poor situation, such as bad drainage, too much shade, or a sterile soil. A fourth, the natural rose enemies, such as pests and fungus diseases.

What suggestions and remedies can be offered? I won't quote Mark Twain, but we can do little about our climate, short of moving to the West Coast. Increasing numbers are solving the problem in this way, but these remarks are for those that remain. And since we have to take our climate as is, the second factor, choice of type and variety becomes all the more important. The most popular type of rose grown is the hybrid tea. The quality of flower, the longer stems for cutting and the repeat bloom are the qualities that make them the most widely planted. They are also the most tempermen-

tal. They suffer from sub-zero weather, as well as being more susceptible to pest and leaf diseases. Hybridizers concentrate on the teas, bringing out many more new varieties of them than any other type. Each year the catalogs and garden magazines feature new names. The descriptions are always so intriguing and the color illustrations so beautiful that one is tempted to buy nothing but the new patented roses. Certainly the hybridizers merit our support.

Such a rose as Peace deserves all of the publicity it has received. But working in our climate, in a situation less than ideal, the beginner would do well to concentrate on the tried and proven hardiest types. The Radiance group is still the standard of comparison in this matter. Certainly my garden will not be without them, as well as other old standbys, including Gruss An Teplitz. I always have some of the new patented teas to add zest to rose growing, but not many of the new ones have enough to displace the ones I mentioned. Possibly I am not discriminating enough to appreciate slight improvements in color or form or bloom. But I know that I want the plant to be alive next spring, and to produce roses all summer,

For some years I have been trying to find plants that will have the height and vigor that teas do on the West Coast, that are everblooming with a good quality flower, yet are disease resistant. Certainly a large order, and I have not found this ideal. But I have been encouraged with my plantings of "Shrub roses" especially the Rugosa hybrid. The species rose "Rosa Rugosa" has proven absolutely hardy, is a profuse constant bloomer and requires no attention such as spraying or covering in winter. The flower is single and short stemmed. Hansa has similar habits, the flower is larger, double, dark red and quite fragrant. Another hybrid of Rugosa is Conrad Meyer. It throws heavy canes eight to ten feet, with a heavy crop of large fine quality blooms in June, but repeats only scantily. The most satisfactory hybrid rugosas for me are Schneezweig, Sarah Van Fleet, Delicata, Senguinaire and Ruskin. The Grootendorst types have clusters of small flowers, are in constant bloom from June until freezing, and are

absolutely hardy. I have the above named shrub roses planted in a hedge. I am quite enthusiastic over their use in this manner and the advantages over other material such as honeysuckle, mock orange or lilacs. Certainly the flower of any of the above is prettier than any other shrub material, the bloom repeats and last longer, the foliage is attractive and easily kept in bounds, many have large fruits or hips that last into the winter.

Non-Rugosa shrub roses that have been most satisfactory are: R. von Hindenberg, Eva, Honorable Lady Lindsey and Dr. Eckner. The flowers of the latter are almost equal in quality to a tea, yet bloom on a shrub plant. The bloom of Hindenberg is even larger, double and comes in successive crops. I have a number of shrub roses that have a wonderful display in June but do not repeat. Included are Harrisons yellow, Hugonis, Pike's Peak and Oratan. But it is too long to wait for another crop a year hence, and I strive for plants that have at least some repeat bloom, to prolong the period of enjoyment.

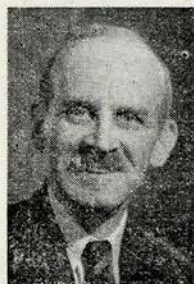
The floribundas rave much to offer the rose grower. While the flowers come in clusters and are not fragrant they are the most constant bloomers we have. They should be used for massed effects in beds, planted in groups of three or more of the same variety. They are very hardy, and need less coddling than the teas. Maybelle Stearns has been a fine new bedding rose for me. It is low and spreading, in constant bloom from spring until freezing weather, has a beautiful well formed flower of moderate size. I have it on a terrace around the porch.

Just a word about the situation of the rose garden. Obviously it should not have too much shade, roses should have half a day or more of full sun. Drainage should be adequate but this does not require the involved preparation of the sub-soil sometimes advocated. It is probably superfluous to mention to this group the necessity of obtaining the plants from a reliable nursery that stands back of their product. Plants purchased from department stores or dime stores may be disappointing, as are "bargains" which often turn out to be the dis-

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HOW CAN WE MAKE THE NURSERY TRADE MORE SATISFACTORY?

Percy H. Wright



P. H. Wright

In a recent article of statistics, I read the alarming statement that three-quarters of all the nursery stock planted in Canada came to nothing. In the prairie provinces, where the drouth problem, the most serious problem of all, in the establishment of new transplants, interferes with "good luck," the proportion of failures must be considerably higher. What can we do to improve the situation? Obviously, such a disheartening record as the one quoted above cannot be good for the cause of horticulture, nor for the nursery trade either. In the States, the proportion of failures can be supposed to be about the same as that in Canada, human nature being the same in the two countries.

A long experience in the nursery business has revealed to me certain practices which are extremely conducive to failure. Some of these are the fault of the customer, the planter of the nursery stock, and some of these are the fault of the nurserymen. Let us consider each in its turn.

The buyer of nursery stock is shortsighted and wrong in his resistance to the proper pruning of the trees he buys. Nine out of ten want immediate results; they want to set a tree in a given spot and have it immediately, toute suite, all at once, as large and as well established as if they had thought of the idea two years previously. The unthinking person sees only the part of the tree which is above ground, and chooses to ignore, or at least ignores, all the parts he does not see. Everyone knows that the root of any tree or other plant that is moved is severely root-pruned, and that it will take a considerable time to restore the lost roots. And yet he tries to forget that there must be a balance between top and root, and that this balance

is necessary if the tree is to survive the critical period of transplanting with any margin of safety.

The average customer for nursery stock is so insistent upon "no-pruning" that he leaves the impression that he will not buy unless a BIG TREE is sold him intact. Many nurserymen give in to the customer in this matter, banking on him being discouraged enough, when the tree fails, not to ask for replacement. A few do demand replacements, but most don't, and so a cash sale which the nurserymen (we, at least) realizes is likely to result in disappointment in the end, becomes as satisfactory to him, for the moment, as one which stands a reasonable chance of success. My own trade is largely by rail shipment, and I do not give the customer a chance to plant without at least partial pruning—I prune for him. I do this in spite of the fact that I know that many are willing to swear at me when their plants arrive. I can tell this by the number who send letters of protest. However, what else can one do, who wishes to gain a reputation for reliability? And yet, I have the feeling that I am continually penalized, that first impressions are strongest.

What can those who look to "the better day" do, except give as much publicity as possible to the right principles of transplanting—as I am doing in writing this article. To date, however, I have never succeeded in getting an editor of an ordinary commercial periodical to allow me to tell the full truth. Perhaps they are afraid of the advertiser, but I doubt if this is the first cause. I think they just naturally do not like to strike a note that may seem discouraging; they would rather gloss over the difficulties and make everything seem to be right when it isn't.

The nurserymen are at fault, it seems to me, in too often practicing "heeling in" of trees awaiting shipment. When trees are heeled in, pruning is generally delayed until planting time, and yet evaporation is going on continuously from the exposed stems, just as though the tree were planted for permanence. The remedy which small nurseries can use, to dig directly from the ground, is impossible for large-scale businesses. I believe that trees for later

shipment should be placed in cool storage cellars, where dormancy can be better maintained, and where humidity can be controlled. Also, the difference between species should be more closely studied, and the whims of the plant catered to. For instance, rose stems dry out extremely readily, and if rose plants in a reasonable state of maturity are to be stored, they will benefit by being completely covered with earth. They will not rot away by contact with earth or moist moss. Apricots are at the other extreme, and will die to the root tissue if heeled in even a few inches too deeply. Apples are the hardest problem. I once lost nine-tenths of the young seedlings that I heeled in in the fall, for spring planting, and placed too deep. On the other hand, apple stems will dry out readily too, and rabbits and mice will damage the exposed parts. Plums are somewhat easier to handle. They will stand more contact with moisture than apples.

The nurseries are also at fault, it seems to me, in encouraging their customers to accept fall shipment and heel in the plants for spring planting. It stands to reason that if heeling in is an operation requiring so much skill that nurserymen can scarcely do it, the ordinary man is going to fail too, and oftener. Fall planting, with adequate watering and pruning, is to be preferred to hazardous heeling in.

BIRD MIGRATION

(Continued from Page 181)

rather pathetic sight presented itself when I saw the road literally covered with coots (mud hens) which had been hit by passing cars. The lakes along the side of the road were frozen and the ground covered with snow. The highway had been cleared and the black surface had attracted the birds. It was warmer, too, and they gathered there for protection from the cold. Blind instinct had led to their destruction.

On the Lakes in Yellowstone large flocks of Barrow's Golden Eyes gather themselves together in the middle of August, seemingly in preparation for the big drive to the south. They might remain in this manner for a long time if an "Indian Summer" prevailed. One of the greatest demonstra-

(Continued on Page 184)

HISTORY DATA WANTED

By

H. E. Beebe

Tangy Tasty Tales Tapestry



H. E. Beebe

A letter received today from Elvenia Slosson, president of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, a Hollywood neighbor, and a wish to remind Dakotans that I think of them breaks in on a rainy day—believe it or not—I mean the rain.

A month ago Juanita Jorgensen wrote that she had sent her clippings of early horticulture in the Dakotas to Mrs. A. W. Davidson of Mobridge to help in the story that Mrs. Slosson desired for the National Gardener which contains the membership of over 200,000. W. A. Simmons wrote October 17th that at Huron he contacted "a lovely woman"—the same Mrs. D. This is undoubtedly due to her association with Flossie Briley, the Mobridge librarian. Flossie got that way—living in a town of which some of you may have heard—Ipswich. She is writing a history of the Garden Clubs of South Dakota. All of the above adds up to my text—at last the history of the early trials, failures and successes of those who tried new plants and shrubs upon their arrival in South Dakota, will be recorded, and it will be a tapestry of dark drouths and sunshiny yields. If the reader can secure any facts about early importations and how flowers, fruits, trees and ornamentals received their start, this should be sent to Mrs. Davidson or to me.

For the few readers who have not lived in South Dakota I'll explain that the prairie is grass and that about the only Dakota trees that grew in the aforesaid Ipswich were cottonwoods and wild plums—both of which were brought from the Missouri river bottom, 95 miles to the west—a good three-day trip, if you hurried. Now, I suppose, WiWi of Bismarck will come to the rescue by mentioning all the native plants that

the Indian used, but I am talking about the plain ordinary Dakota citizen who before parity had quite a time being bucked off by the vagaries of yields and prices.

This means that some one was a pioneer in bringing in varieties some of which, like maples and birches, would thrive if planted at the beginning of a series of favorable rainfalls and would then terminate, a very bright fall spot of foliage. The lilacs stayed and flourished. Who brought the first lilacs? My brother, M. Plin Beebe, started Homewood Nursery about 1907 and planted cottonwoods around the half section just east of Ipswich. A very few of these were living in 1943. The elms which he planted in the business district were magnificent, this summer and the thicket of choke cherries, buffalo berries and Russian olives north of our former home were furnishing shelter and food for many birds, which was the idea of Mrs. Beebe and myself.

In former articles I have talked about what would "work" in Dakota but what I am after now is, who brought in the things that worked and those that didn't? What were the struggles in establishing what is growing now—whether perennial or annual? Let's take the period before 1910 as after that many of the varieties were due to the work of State College, especially Dr. Hansen.

That great man passed on a few short months ago and our friend Porter of North Dakota left his chilly farm for a brighter spot, the early part of 1950, so their part of the tapestry must be filled in by others.

Geo. Gurney writes from Battle Lake, Minn., that he attended his first horticultural meeting in South Dakota in the nineties. How many can tell of what happened in those years? Our main perennial flowers were the single yellow rose bushes—and the lilacs. Hansen's Rosa Rugosa came I think around 1907.

To come back to the present—Mrs. Bee and I reside at the same spot—1847 N. Wilcox Ave., about five blocks from the celebrated "Hollywood and Vine." Do we see many movie stars on the boulevard two blocks south of our apartment? Well, we see many that look that way—but others may think that we do—so it is a fair exchange. My sisters,

Mrs. Perisho from Ipswich and Mrs. Mears and her husband from St. Paul arrive this week for Thanksgiving—a great reunion. This summer we welcomed two new granddaughters—Debby Beebe at 505 S. Maple St., in Marshfield, Wis., and Ann Beebe Meierstein at 132 S. 41st St. in Omaha. With five grandchildren we feel younger and hope to have the entire tribe out here for Christmas, 1951. Christmas is not the same with no snow, and no children.

Here's wishing all a very happy holiday season, especially our good secretary and Wallner, whom, Mrs. Slosson wrote, received the Robertson award. Send on your items on horticulture in Dakota before 1910 and we may weave a design for many to admire.

May I close with a poem by Prof. Huntington, for years at Carleton College:

So be my world as winter cold
And be my garden piled with snow.
I know that brighter skies will shine
And softer winds will blow.
For Dakot horticulturists in 1951.

BIRD MIGRATION

tions in bird migration was seen this year in the light of sandhill cranes. Their numbers had never been equalled in recent years in western South Dakota. They came over in waves and were flying in waves and were flying high. Mid-October seemed to be rather early and many of the old weather philosophers predicted storms and a hard winter. These birds are instinctive migrants and no intelligence bears out their behavior. It is well known though that water birds will follow water courses and are attracted by the presence of water in any form.

There is some evidence to show that birds have been migrating since the glacial period. If this is true, the instinct for migration has prevailed for a long period of time and has been prompted considerably by climatic conditions. The birds developed the habit through an instinct for self-preservation. Other conditions of course have augmented the migratory process conditions. The fact that they do not nest after their flight south and the fact that they leave some areas of abundant food lead observers to believe that these conditions are secondary factors.

By
Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen



credit for fusing garden-interested persons into a second club in Madison, the Town and Country Garden Club. This makes Madison the smallest town in the state to support two garden clubs, and there is enough garden fervor embodied in these two clubs to set the whole town to gardening. Congratulations to Mrs. Baughman and to Mrs. Howard Wold, president of the new group, and a very warm welcome to the latter.

At least four other chairmen have plunged deeply into the tasks involved in their assignments, and three of these, Mrs. Baughman, programs and lectures; Mrs. A. R. Schamber, slides; and Mrs. L. G. Elsinger, conservation chairman, will each have a message for you in the January number of Dakota Horticulture.

Data on local gardening history has been slow about coming in, but she will have plenty of information concerning the more prominent horticulturists of the state to send in for our chapter in their book on American Garden Traditions. When this is accomplished, perhaps Mrs. Davidson can draw a deep breath before we begin the detailed story of our state's gardening traditions. For this we must hear from every section of the state. Everyone who knows a pioneer man or woman should interview them as to the planting of trees and orchards of the early days. The Dell Rapids Garden Club has appointed a local chairman, Mrs. Jonas Duea, who is avidly collecting historical data from all the old timers for miles around here. Volunteer helpers are investigating past gardening stories in their own families, among friends and acquaintances, and setting it all down in black and white. This would be a fine plan for other clubs to follow. We know of thriving orchards which grew in South Dakota as early as 1890, and of others which were planted in 1882. We are particularly anxious to learn where, what, when and by whom the first tree plantings in the state were made; the first orchards, the first nursery; how many nurseries have been established; the oldest tree, grove or orchard in continuous growth, and the largest tree of various kinds. We would like human interest stories of the men and women who had faith in this new territory to begin such work. Send it all to Mrs. A. W. Davidson, Mobridge, who will assemble, condense, and verify some statements. We should be able to amass enough facts to publish a book eventually. National Council suggests you have a program on Garden Traditions in your club.

A letter from the National Council awards chairman makes the announcement of a new award to be given a Junior Garden Club for horticultural achievement which is the gift of Mrs. Slosson, president of National Council. This award is for the sum of \$50.00 to be given for 7 years. Perhaps one of our own active Juniors will work for this handsome prize during the coming year. Please investigate the many fine awards which it is possible for your club to obtain.

The following list should complete the committee appointments for this year. You will note that some of these, notably Mr. Dybvig, have been changed, others have been substituted and new chairmanships added to the appointments named last week. Please add these to your file of addresses.

Budget—Mr. F. X. Wallner, Sioux Falls. He replaces Mr. Dybvig in this position.

Horticulture — Mrs. Earl Windred, Miller, will tell you about new and newsworthy plants of all kinds for your gardens.

Nominating Committee—Mrs. Albert Duncan, Flandreau; Mrs. Margaret Bjornsen, Yankton; Mrs. Lewis Severance, Huron.

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GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By
Mrs. L. N. Brakke



Merry Christmas

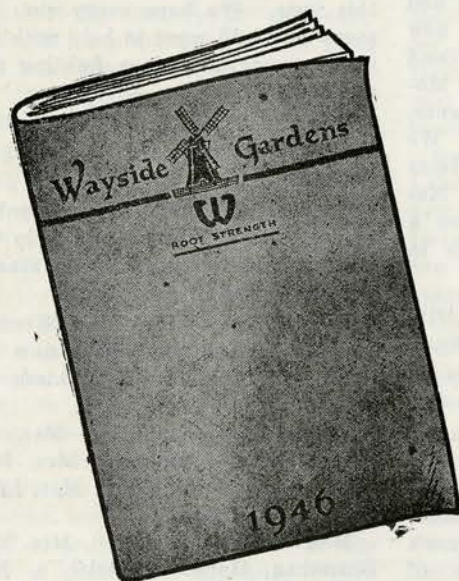
The custom of bringing evergreen trees into the home at Christmas time dates back only a little over 100 years. The use of holly wreathes, in this country, is said to date back to the early 1890's, along with the Christmas tree and the mistletoe and has many legends to its credit. Lucky is the homemaker who has her own spruce, pine, cedar or evergreen to use at Christmas time to make her home say "Merry Christmas." Because a report from the Dept. of Agriculture says that we pay over 15 million dollars each year for Christmas greens. The South Dakota Association of soil conservation districts held a meeting at the Marvin Hughitt hotel at Huron November 21 and our Garden club conservation

chairman, Mrs. Lawrence G. Elsinger was invited to attend. The Federation of Garden Clubs is anxious to cooperate in conservation education for the future welfare of the state. A new garden club at Madison, the Town and Country club, has just been organized with a starting membership of 19. This club was started by a former member of the Madison Garden club, Mrs. Howard Wold, with the help of Mrs. D. S. Baughman and Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen. The officers are: President, Mrs. Howard Wold; vice president, Mrs. Harold Piper; secretary, Mrs. John Finn; recording secretary, Mrs. J. Turley; treasurer, Mrs. Wesley Greene; program chairman, Mrs. Art Poole, and Mrs. Robert Hall, publicity chairman. Membership is limited to 24 members, meetings to be held the 2nd Monday of each month. The Watertown Garden club reports that their club has taken on new life since the convention at Huron and are making plans for the coming year, a planting project, lilac tea and a tulip show in view. Members are planting tulip bulbs "like mad" and they are taking in plants which they plan to take to the hospitals this winter. Plans for a men's

club are in the making. Mrs. Andrew Melham, reporting. "Tree Personalities" was one of the topics given at the Good Earth Garden club, Brookings. After the meeting they visited a country school and sang their "Petunia song" and had their pictures taken. Mrs. Leo Monteith, reporter. The Madison Garden club members helped with the registration at the Jahrs Greenhouse opening and helped present roses to the ladies; over 350 visitors registered. Their club has started a Garden Center project. Mrs. D. S. Baughman, reporter. Fair City Garden club, Huron, had some lovely autumn arrangements at their October meeting which were photographed. They hope to add some slides to the state collection. The Tri-State Garden club, Valley Springs, met at the Federated church with 35 ladies present. Mr. Loring Simpson, florist of Luverne, Minn., used kitchen scoops and ladles for planters in his interesting demonstration. Mrs. A. M. Christensen, reporter. The Green Fingers Garden club, Flandreau, held a special meeting and invited guests from town to view the colored sound movies on tulips,

(Continued on Page 191)

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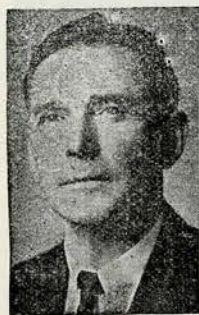


Wayside Gardens

Mentor, Ohio

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

A pumpkin weighing 168 lbs., grown in Pennsylvania, is the largest I can recall ever having been claimed grown, but as I remember this type of pumpkin, called the Patison, is really a squash, rather than a pumpkin.

The acorn, butternut, summer squash and gourds belong to the pumpkin family. Lilacs of all kinds are still holding all their green foliage while the caragana and other shrubs have been bare for some time. It seems to me that the lilac should be used more than the caragana and other shrubbery in farm yards and shelter belts in this state. Growers and dealers, wholesalers and retailers, chain stores and independents are blaming each other for the deplorable condition of this season's onion deal. We find to bag up onions in 5, 10 or 50 lb. new bags is an expensive job and we will only lose more mosey, at present prices, but it is also found that too many stores charge too much but they also claim they must have a big price or they cannot handle the produce. Thirty-four million 50 lb. bags is just too big a crop for consumers of this nation to use and one-third or more may again have to be dumped. The potato deal looks almost as bad. The few bags we have sold to schools for meals have also stopped because our Uncle Sam is still giving them away, so potatoes from other states are brot in and given to customers of local producers. The late J. B. Townley, whose column "Passing Parade" was always a bright spot in our Sunday Argus, had a discussion in a recent number about antiques and mentioned his mother's coffee grinder. This reminded me of my mother's coffee grinder that I took out to Oregon City last year for my daughter's camp. In the eighties, I did some of this coffee grinding also, and I can also recall the big black sticks of coffee essence that came extra, to help give the coffee

more color and kick, or fragrance, and many times I let the green coffee brown to a crisp, before removing it from the oven. Eighty thousand lugs of tomatoes will be unloaded in Florida, coming from the Bahama islands for the early Christmas trade. This is the first time in history that shipments have come by boat in large amounts. Growers of hot house tomatoes and cucumbers just cannot compete with all this southern grown produce and fast refrigerated transportation. Twelve million dollars more fresh fruit and vegetables will enter Canada from this nation than in 1949, also for November and the balance of the season pears will enter, duty free. Sam Kennedy of Clear Lake, Iowa, now must have the largest and best farm storage houses in the nation. The seed storage celars hold over 20 carloads. The table stock is mostly stored in two of the older storages, 100 or more carloads of onions and carrots, so right on these farms they put away about 425 carloads of produce. The growers from far away will meet in Mason City, Iowa, Dec. 11 and 12 to see all the up-to-date equipment that is needed to grow successfully this large amount of produce. The Iowa landscape, all the way to the Mississippi, is dotted with plowed fields and green fields of wheat or rye, and cattle in fields or feed lots, surely one of the best agricultural states in the nation. The experiment in near socialism in Japan seems to be paying off, according to the Dept. of Agriculture.

"Before and after" studies of conditions in Japanese villages indicate that the agrarian reforms sponsored by the Occupation are getting desirable results, according to Arthur Raper, rural sociologist of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. New leadership is emerging in the villages. Results are in line with the Occupation's policy 'to break the old feudal pattern' as a prelude to democratic development. Rapid growth of new cooperative organizations is second only to the land reform in developing a substantial number of new leaders drawn from groups never before influential in Japanese affairs.

Raper directed a study of 13 representative villages in the spring of 1947. This was before the land reform had gone into effect. The study

was in response to an invitation from the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces. A restudy of the same villages in late 1948 and early in 1949 followed a period of intense activity in the land reform program.

In the years from 1946 to 1949, Raper reports, Government agencies bought about one-third of all the cultivated land in Japan—about 4½ million acres—and resold it to cultivators. Most of these were formerly tenants on the land. More than 3 million farmers, says Raper, bought some land. This is about half of the total of Japanese farmers. Tenants dropped from 40 per cent to about 12 per cent. The agencies handling these transfers of land were elected village commissions of 10 members, and half the members of each commission were farm tenants. In the villages, the study group found that the shift in ownership had changed the operating units but very little. In general, the new owners are farming the land they had been farming as tenants, says Raper. The farms are small and average only about 2 acres in area.

At the time of the first study Raper said that many tenants seemed doubtful as to whether they wanted to be owners. The 'after' study, however, revealed none who wanted to go back to tenancy. The 'pride and satisfaction' in ownership, says Raper, is 'having important effects upon the participation of these families in public affairs.' The initial election of the commissions in the villages was a valuable experience for those participating. Within a few months it had become clear to the villagers that the commissions had real authority. Results of the land reform are widely popular. Raper summarizes the reform program as 'an important adult educational program, perhaps one of the most significant ever launched.'

"What party do you affiliate with?" the election clerk asked the mountain gal.

"Have I gotta answer that?" she frowned.

"If you want a ballot, you do."

"Wa-al, then, I don' want no ballot, 'cause the party I affiliate with ain't divorced yet."

WE LEAVE IOWA

By

Arthur E. Rapp, Denver

No, it was not exactly easy to leave The Willows, with much of the horticultural loot that has been acquired in over 50 years of gardening, but leaving out other considerations, my inability to longer take care of a large garden, threatened a loss of interest. I have just been reading an English garden magazine to which I subscribe and I am of the opinion that the English are good gardeners because their tight little island has such a wide range of conditions both of soil and climate that made gardening really interesting. Of course at the time when English gardening made its greatest strides colonial development and shipping made a vast amount of horticultural loot available, all of which must have been very interesting. I am quite certain that as a gardener, I will like Colorado because the conditions which prevail here are so distinctly different from those that prevail farther east. Those early colonists who came to America were at a disadvantage in that so much of the plant material that they brought over from Europe would grow, after a fashion and the early pioneers who came out to the

middle west brought this same material and the cultural practices that were traditional with them. They were lucky in the fertile soil and adequate rainfall that prevailed but out here, in a land of intense sunshine, and dry air, things are quite different. You either change your practices or else the desert threatens you. I find a very definite interest here in developing in what the Coloradoans call shade loving plants, by which they mean the woodland wild flowers, such as trilliums, hepaticas, bloodroots and jack-in-the-pulpits, as well as many of the ferns. I wonder if their concept of shade is not comparable to a New Englander's idea of bright sunshine and a dry day. I have an idea while the interest of folks hereabouts, in shade loving plants is traditional their cultural practices are going to be very practical. Even though I have used up the three score and ten that are supposed to be allotted to all of us, I am still too young to lay down the spade and the hoe, so here I have a garden problem which is much to my liking. We have a very comfortable and convenient place to live temporarily, but progress on the house we are building is quite slow. Meanwhile I have been very busy as the man in charge of the perennials at the nursery walked

off the job, after neglecting it for a couple of months. With rows after rows of seedlings to be transplanted, providence is to be thanked for the fine weather that we have been having. Having always lived where the rains sometimes came just before they were too late, I am irked by the chore of irrigating.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 185)

trict 11, A. R. Schamber, Rapid City.

Publications— will bring to your attention timely articles from the books and magazines related to gardening.

Radio—Mrs. J. D. Coon, 1401 S. Duluth, Sioux Falls. This is the radio publicity chairman who will arrange for the broadcast of news, events, and horticultural information at various times.

Ways and Means—Mrs. Clifford Stoneking, Iroquois—This chairman will help you with ideas to raise money in your club.

Youth Education—Mrs. I. R. Trumbower, Vermillion, will work with other groups in the state on a program of conservation education for the young people who are not organized into Junior garden clubs.

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A NEW IRIS BOOK

By

Lona Crandall



Lona Crandall

Iris for Every Garden, by Sydney B. Mitchell. Published by M. Barrows & Co., Inc., 114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Price, \$3.

One should most certainly have had considerable experience in growing iris, and have had at least a speaking acquaintance with a few of the less well known members of the family to read Mr. Mitchell's *Iris for Every Garden* without studying laboriously. One expects Mr. Mitchell to be on intimate terms with onocylus and regelias, and to write easily of the diploids and tetraploids, but unless one is familiar with these terms, considerable concentration is required to follow the thought. Nevertheless, if one is willing to stay with the never dull writing, it is quite possible to emerge with quite an impressive lot of information about the iris family.

Mr. Mitchell evidently intended to write the book for people who knew little if anything about irises, however, because so far as I can remember, the only knowledge that he expected the reader to have before reading the book, was possibly that they are a flower bearing plant. I don't recall that he stated any place that they are plants and not animals, but beyond that, he explains every detail with complete clarity. In the second paragraph, he writes that the book is being written for gardeners by a gardener, so technical terms will be kept to a minimum. Well, the minimum of technical terms in writing about iris is still quite a list, but there is no occasion for being in any doubt of the meaning of any of the terms, and there is certainly much to be said for acquiring a vocabulary in a new field.

New yellow varieties have occupied Mr. Mitchell in recent years, and a glance through an iris catalog will credit him with such beauties as Fair Elaine, California Gold, Golden Bear, Happy Days (which Mr. Mitchell

says "lacked refinement, but its voluptuous quality, its generosity and good nature quickly endeared it to the average visitor to iris nurseries, and its rapid increase soon permitted sale at a popular price." Customers, according to Mr. Mitchell's neighbor, Carl Salbach, says he sells more Happy Days than any other variety. The plicates occupied Mr. Mitchell's interest for some time, and during that season he developed *Contra Costa*, *Love Affair*, *Precious* and others. Mr. Mitchell also has red and pink iris credited to him, among them *Rubeo* and *Santa Rosa*.

The above list is by way of introducing Mr. Mitchell to prospective readers of his book, a sort of "by his fruits ye shall know him" introduction. He has developed his plants in several sections of the United States and Canada and is well aware of the importance of climate and soil type in successful growing of any variety.

I take for granted that at least every important variety of iris is discussed in this comprehensive text, not only discussed, but analyzed with drawings like one finds in a well done botany notebook with all the parts neatly and accurately labeled. There are also beautiful colored pictures cleverly grouped at the front of the book instead of scattered along the way where they would certainly interrupt the concentration.

The opening chapter is called, appropriately enough, *Irises for American Gardens* so that before the second chapter discussion of irises found in other parts of the world the reader will realize which ones of them are able to grow and why.

Crested and beardless irises are each the subject of a chapter, as are bulbous iris. In the latter group are found the favorite wedgewood which is familiar in South Dakota as a greenhouse cut flower in late winter, and Mr. Mitchell pleasantly digresses from the business of educating the reader on the fine points of bulbous varieties to give the recipe for forcing wedgewoods in the greenhouse, or even on a window sill,

The bearded iris are, as one might expect, the backbone of the writing. And it is in connection with the bearded varieties that we are introduced to diploid and tetraploid hybrids. "The older bearded irises," writes Mr. Mitchell, "lacked the op-

ulence of the modern hybrids . . . they represent the culmination of the breeding possible from the combination of iris pallida with *I. variegata*. Like their parents they were what the geneticists call 'diploid': that is, they had only two sets of 12 chromosomes, and were therefore limited in their developments." Well, the solution to this catastrophe was the breeding of tetraploids which was accomplished by crossing iris cypriana, a wild iris from the Near East, with *I. pallida*, an old diploid. From this cross, Sir Michael Foster raised *Caterina*, *Crusader*, *Lady Foster* and other hybrids.

Succeeding chapters cover adequately for even a rank beginner, the subjects of propagation, diseases, breeding and raising from seed, and arranging perennial borders including varieties of iris.

Of special interest to flower show judges and judging school students will be the chapter called, "What Makes a Choice Variety." Mr. Mitchell explains that a variety considered choice by the amateur may not be so considered by judges. Regarding this situation, Mr. Mitchell writes, "Last year I flowered in my garden a seedling sent me by a friend for trial. It was a tangerine-bearded pink and the base of the falls was strongly marked with bright magenta. Maybe it was just my Celtic love of color which made it so exciting to me, but as visitors came to the garden and warmed up to its barbaric color pattern I said to myself, 'Here is a flower the judges will throw into outer darkness while thousands of the un-elect greet it with joy.'" Also a variety choice in one climate may not be choice in another location.

Some people have a belief that every tree, when it burns, gives back the colors that went into its making—they see in the flaming logs the reds of many sunsets, the purple of early dawns, the silver of moonrise and the sparkle of stars.—Forest Leaves.

(Passed by the Non-sensor)

Look for Seldom-Seen Faces.

Church News, Yale Methodist Church: "Worship Service at 11:00 a. m. Theme, 'I believe in immorality.'"

SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

In sending in his dues, Mr. F. Block, of Ortonville, Minnesota, writes: "Yes, here is your dollar, grown a little to cover bank exchange. Crop here was light, but what there was, was moved at fair prices; all sold out now. Cut down some of the older trees to make room for younger plantings. In orcharding one must have younger trees coming into bearing, as the years go by." In sending in his dues for the coming year Mr. M. Hardin, of Geary, Okla., writes as follows: "First frost of the season here Nov. 3rd. Sunny and warm now. Some plants protected from the frost are O. K. while all other tender plants were killed. Farm crops in general are not as good as last year, as it has been unseasonably cool with periods of drought, followed by excessive rainfall. Raised lots of tomatoes but fruit cracked badly. Have grown two generations of tomatoes, melons, etc., this season. That method speeds up variety breeding. Will try to report on 1949-1950 tomato tests of 200 varieties some time this winter. One of our objectives is to develop bush varieties in all of the cucurbits. Bush types can be grown in small gardens." One of the unfortunate things about our annual meetings is that many of our best speakers speak from notes or extemporaneously, so that the thoughts we would preserve drift out in the atmosphere and are lost, leaving us nothing to print. We always like to print those valuable speeches to give something to the members that were unable to attend and also to give those that did attend, something with which to refresh their memories. We were fortunate at the Huron meeting to have with us Mabel Sensor who got a good portion of several talks and published them in the great Dakota Farmer. Some of these follow:

"The Farmer's part in a conservation program was discussed at the

South Dakota Horticultural Society and Federation of Garden Clubs joint convention, by L. G. Elsinger of Dell Rapids. Mr. Elsinger started conservation work on his farm before there was a state conservation program. He said the farmer's part is just as big as South Dakota; that unless individual farmers do conservation work, what organizations do will be almost a total loss.

Many plantings already made are not receiving adequate care, as to weed control by cultivation, insect control, etc. Mr. Elsinger said that the landlord-tenant situation is a deterring factor and this situation must be worked out in some way that will be advantageous to both.

He urges garden club members to save all organic matter in compost heaps, adding phosphate, for use in their gardens and yards; that this is a form of soil conservation too often overlooked, judging by the burning piles of leaves in the fall.

Home Fruit Growing

A. R. Schamber of Rapid City is a most ardent advocate of family fruit growing. Until a disastrous hailstorm nearly ruined his place, he probably was growing more kinds of fruit than any other man in the state. Farmers, of course, can have space for fruit growing, but for the benefit of garden club members in town, with limited space, he suggested that apple trees be used for shade. raspberry bushes make good hedges, gooseberry bushes make very satisfactory foundation planting, fruit shrubs can be used for background planting in flower borders, a spot for a grape arbor can be found, and strawberries could be grown in place of portulaca!

Mr. Schambers listed some of the varieties of fruit that he considered best, such as Pixwell gooseberry; but Poorman variety is good eating when berries are ripe. Other favorites were Red Lake currants, Fredonia grapes, Early Richmond cherries, Parker pears (though his succumbed to fireblight). He urged planting both early and late apples and recommended Haralson, Red Bird Wealthy, Goodhue, McIntosh. both Red and Golden Delicious. He said Red Bird is the earliest, has good red color and good quality. Goodhue is not so good as it looks for eating.

Rural Youth's Part

John Younger, State College leader of Rural Youth Groups, told of his work in organizing these groups of young folks who are beyond the age of 4-H clubs, ranging from 17 to 30 years of age. He said these young people crave friendships, and wish to have a part in community life. They have three basic decisions to make: First, whether to stay on the farm or leave the community; in other words, they must choose their vocations. They must choose their mode of living. They must choose a basic philosophy. The four points of the Youth Groups program are 'Specialize Socialize; Study, and Service.' Their program includes beautification of home, school, or church grounds, and to assist in various community service. Mr. Younger urged: When you 'Plant South Dakota,' let our youth assist.

A. L. Ford of Soil Conservation Service described tree planting as it applies to soil improvement. Tree planting, he said, is but one of 55 practices of SCS. They consider it important, but it must be second to the agricultural program. They must fit trees to the farm plan. The SCS maintains a number of nurseries for production of tree stocks, but they also purchase a lot of stock from commercial nurseries. Many of the trees planted in South Dakota came from their nursery at Manhattan, Kans., where trees for this state are grown from South Dakota seed.

As earliest plantings have the best survival, planting machines that can put a thousand trees in the ground in an hour are used. There are 37 or 38 such planting machines in the state.

During the past seven years, 1944 to date, SCS has planted 15,195 acres of trees—over half planted in the last two years, or a total of 10 million trees and shrubs in seven years.

Mr. Ford said that the 'Plant South Dakota' wheel must have four spokes: first, cash outlay for persons to do the planting; second technical agents working to get the job done right; third, promotional organizations, and fourth, nurseries of the state must provide things to plant.

Game, Fish and Parks

James W. Kimball, project coordin-

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GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 186)

which they received from the National Tulip Society. One new member was added to the club. They are busy working on their year books. Florence Dewar, reporting. The Lyons Garden club was taken on a tour thru Norway at their October meeting. Mrs. Alec Sundal spent several months this summer visitig in different parts of Norway and brot back lots of interesting movies. For Nov. meeting C. W. Heinson showed colored slides of the Palisades and all the wild flowers that grow around his home. They were very interesting and several of the members had never seen that part of our state. The program committee is busy working on the new year books and expect to have in interesting program for the coming year. New officers for the Huron Garden club are: Pres., Mrs. Herbert Hanson; vice president, Mrs. A. A. Wollman; secretary, Mrs. Milton Cochrane; treasurer, Mrs. R. Bagby. Mrs. Paul Thompson, reporting. Vermillion Garden club officers for the new year, reported: President, Mr. I. R. Trumbower; vice president, Mrs. C. Berglund; secretary, Mrs. C. L. Baker; treasurer, Mrs. J. F. March. Rural Garden Circle, Renner, reports the election of new officers: Mrs. Olaf Olson, president; Mrs. J. M. Otterby, vice president; Mrs. Nels Trobak, secretary; Mrs. Olaf Ulvilden, treasurer; Mrs. Curtis Otterby, program chairman and Miss Inga Tideman, publicity. They are working on the program for next year. All members were going on a tour of the Strong greenhouse to see the mums. Mrs. Edwin Johnson, reporting. New officers of the Iroquois Garden club for 1951 will be: President, Mrs. Clifford Stoneking; vice president, Mrs. Robert Habberstad; secretary, Mrs. Ralph Joseph; treasurer, Mrs. Urban Feuerstise. They are planning a new project for next year, besides the cemetery project they now have. Mrs. Clifford Stoneking, reporting. The Sioux Falls Garden club thot their present officers were as good as they could get, so they were all elected to take over again for next year. By the way, they are: President, D. E. Johnson; vice president, Mrs. Walter Mortenson and Roy Sherwood, and secretary-treasurer, W. A. Simmons. At one of their October meetings Mr.

and Mrs. H. Knock gave a very interesting talk on chrysanthemums and a lovely group were on display. The club also had an interesting report on their vacation this summer by Mrs. S. A. Keller, also duets by Miss Elizabeth Keller on the piano and Miss Charlotte Mitchell on the violin. The club is also working on new year books. The Dell Rapids Garden club had a review of the past year's Horticulture, given by Mrs. Torgeson and an interesting book review on Louis Bromfield's "Pleasant Valleys" by Mrs. Oscar Berg.

NEWSLANTS

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ing material for the correction of acid soil conditions.

"The benefits to growing crops from applications of leaf ashes will be determined largely by the nature of the soil and crop to which they are applied. Best results would be expected on acid soils deficient in potassium, and phosphorus; particularly on crops that require large amounts of potassium. On these kinds of soil the phosphorus in leaf ashes is most likely to show its maximum beneficial effect. Beneficial results would not be expected on soils on which plants do not respond to lime and potassium applications. On these soils the P/20/5 would also probably have very limited value.

"The maximum fertilizer value of the material would be in the range of that produced by 0-7-15 to 0-22-25 fertilizers plus a liming value equivalent of perhaps 60 to 100 pounds of ground limestone per 100 pounds of leaf ash.

"We would not expect leaf ash to be of a great deal of value on North Dakota soils because little or no benefit would be derived from the liming value of the CaO, potassium fertilizers have usually not produced results, and the forms of P/20/5 in leaf ash are of low availability on our soils."

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

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post. This offers a mooring to tie to and protects against sunscald. Year 1942 cleared out tender varieties. 1946 was fruitless due to the May freezes. Topworking best dessert

apples on hardiest apple and crab trees is recommended. Among the varieties shown were Milton, Fire-side, Beacon, Prairie Spy, Wedge, Minjon, McIntosh, Haralson and Bismar. His rating for commercial growing in his favorable location were, — Duchess, Haralson, McIntosh, Melba, Bismar. Many numbered seedlings of his own growing were handsome, impressive, large, shapely apples.

On the 7th a tour traveled about 65 miles southwest of Fargo to visit the orchard of Mr. Wodarz near Wyndmere. The plantation was worthy of an orchard expected to be seen in Ontario or British Columbia. Trees are generously spaced, well tended and in good health. A large number of seedling apples promise to be useful on the Great Plains. His Number 11 was particularly pleasing. The fact that Milton, McIntosh, and Minjon were thriving shows that Wyndmere is more favorable for semi-tender apples than is Morden. Evidence was that fire-blight disease is not severe in that orchard. Other prairie orchardists are certain to be heartened and benefited from the privilege of visiting Mr. Wodarz in his profitable orchard.

ROSES IN THE BLIZZARD BELT

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cards from commercial growers. Mr. Atkinson covered the important details of planting, spraying and winter care.

To summarize: We must accept the fact that we live in a climate that is not ideal for roses. An additional handicap is often the situation in the usual city lot, with shade and poor soil. To compensate we must depend on the hardiest types and varieties. A rose that behaves exactly like the catalog description and picture when planted in Portland or Los Angeles may be a disappointment in our garden. But these handicaps present a challenge. When we do succeed in growing roses the rewards and enjoyment are all the greater.

Guest: My dear, where did your wonderful string of pearls come from? You don't mind my asking, do you?

Hostess: Not at all. They came from oysters.

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

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ator for the Game, Fish and Parks department, discussed game manage- ment, and the value of plants in the protection of birds and other wild life. In game management, he said we need to control the harvest; control the competitors, such as moun- tain lions, skunks and badgers. He believes it would be advantageous to have game farms for propagation of more game. There should be environ- ment control. As an illustration, he outlined the history of the prairie chicken in South Dakota. They were not native here, but came into the state, following the plow. But in the end, the plow drove them out by eliminating food and shelter.

A study has been made of cover and the need of its development. Winter storms are disastrous to game. Game cover in the state is becoming very inadequate. Pheasants must have food within a quarter of a mile of their shelter. Their food is mostly waste grain left in the fields, but they cannot move long dis- tances in bad weather. He suggested species of plants to use for shelter, and said there is need for further research on the problem."

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