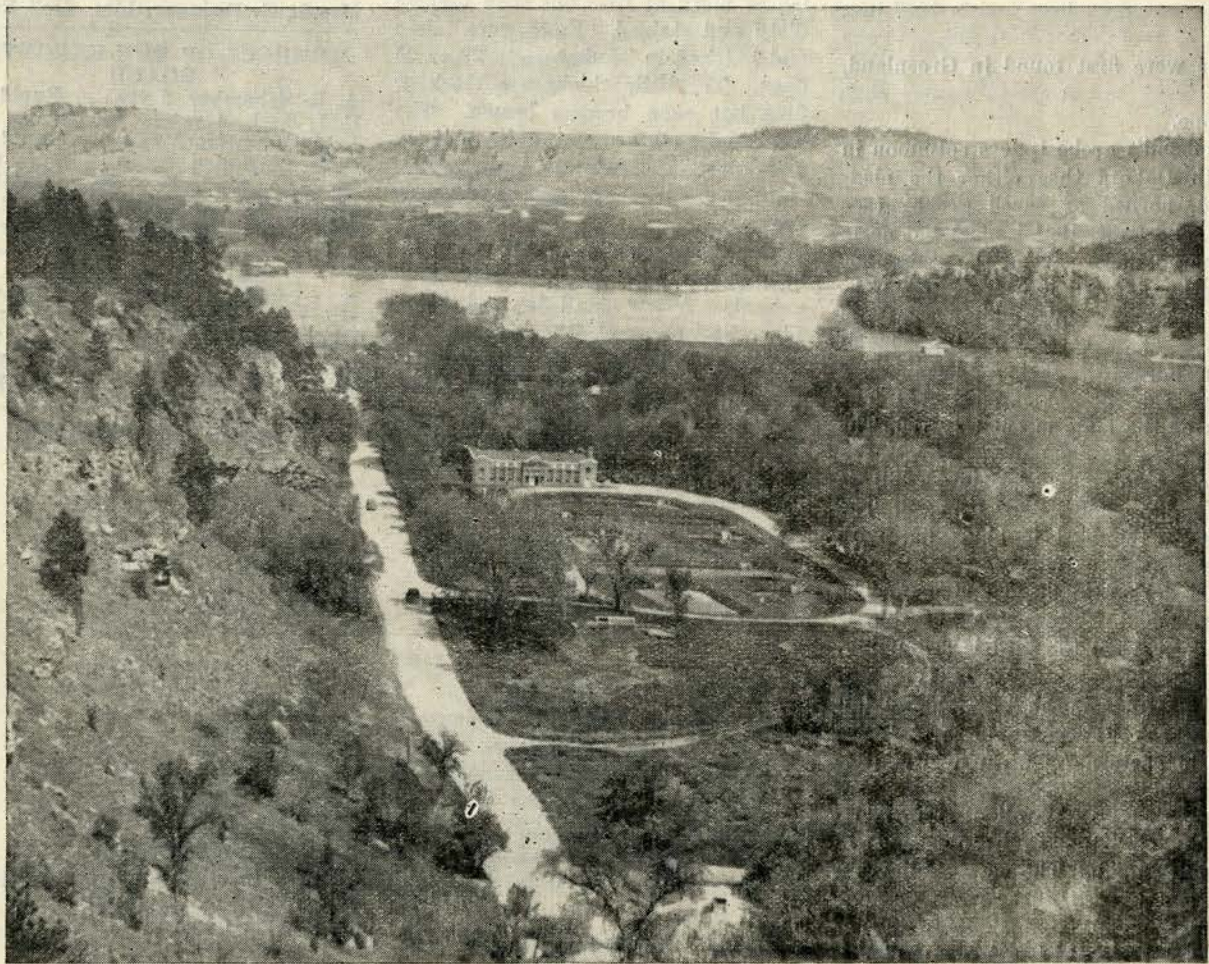


# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MARCH, 1951



The State operated Fish Hatchery, located in Rapid City and a Federally operated Hatchery at Spearfish, provide this region with a store of material for the student of fish culture.

—Courtesy Rapid City Chamber of Commerce.



## HOLBOELL'S GREBE

By  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

Starting to write about this bird I began to wonder, "Who was Holboell?" My library facilities do not cover him. There is also a Holboell's redpoll which Elliott Coues says was named for C. Holboell, a Danish naturalist. This

seems to check with the new Gray's Manual which has under Hoelboell's rock-cress, "for Carl Peter Hoelboell, 1795-1856." This is a plant common on western North Dakota prairies which was first described in 1827 in a flora of Denmark. Both this and the grebe were first found in Greenland, therefore in America rather than Europe.

Holboell's grebe is less common in North Dakota than either the pied-billed, horned or eared grebes (see Aug. and Sept. 1941 issues) but nests in the northern part of the state. Dr. Roberts reported it nesting in northern and west central Minnesota and seen in the rest of the State chiefly as a migrant. It is a larger bird than the horned or eared grebes. The neck of the male is entirely red. The head is black above and gray at the sides. The sharply pointed bill is black above and yellow beneath. The back of the bird is black but with gray feather edgings. The female has a dark gray head and neck. The wing has a white patch but this is not seen when the bird is swimming.

The finding of this bird in Greenland seems somewhat accidental but it occurs all across North America and in eastern Asia. In winter it is found chiefly along the coasts from Maine to North Carolina, from Alaska to southern California and in Asia to Japan. The very similar but smaller bird of northern Europe and western Asia is called red-necked grebe. It migrates to the Mediterranean area.

In recent years moving pictures of these birds at their nests have been taken and this was considered quite an accomplishment for the birds are

very shy. It was the second species to be described in Mr. Bent's "Life Histories" in 1919. His experience with it was along the Waterhen river flowing out of Lake Winnipegosis. There he found many of the nests among the bulrushes and canes. He wrote that the nests were usually placed among broken down bulrushes through which it was difficult to push a canoe. He photographed the nests from the canoe placing the camera tripod in three or four feet of water. Only once did he catch sight of a grebe as it dove from its nest though he occasionally saw them swimming at a distance.

The nests are low masses of bulrush stems or other material floating on the water. There are usually four or five eggs which are a little over two inches long. They are pale bluish or buffy at first but soon become dirty and stained. Eggs were taken and hatched in incubators in 22 or 23 days. The little chicks are black at first but soon become brown. The head and neck are striped with black and white. The downy covering remains until they are two-thirds grown.

The food consists largely of crawfish, aquatic insects and other small animals. A few small fish are taken. Like the loons and other grebes they are expert divers. Mr. Bent states that those he has seen flying along the Atlantic coast always flew singly, only a few feet above the water, neck and legs stretched out straight much like a loon.

### KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESSES

Our house had such little windows  
Something had to be done.  
We yanked out the side of the room  
And put in a bigger one.  
What a splendid picture window—  
Now we must have drapes  
To shut out some of the sunshine  
Much too bright on the face.  
Venetian blinds will help  
To get away from the glare  
And some of those tight draw curtains  
To cut the public stare.  
Our lovely room is darker  
Than it was before  
But it is in style now,  
Gad—What an awful bore—  
—Mary Louise Kinyon.

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## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By  
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

A ramble thru the winter grounds of the Experimental Station on the first of the year gave various pleasures.

The day was dry but Russian olive trees dotted in the plantings gave the impression of being rimed with hoar frost due to the presence of silvery leaves and strings of silvery fruits. Clumps of native paper birch had a buoyant effect from the glistening white boles and the contrasty red dainty branchlets. Even airier was the European white birch as it stood strong but graceful behind Redosier dogwood and in front of a bank of dark green spruce.

The driveways commanded continued interest as each turn and vista is arranged to present individuality, particularly during the dormant season. Shrubs retaining their fruits into winter are used freely and this year they contribute more bountifully than usual. Besides the Russian olive, there are buffaloberries both red and golden, Seabuckhorn with its gay golden fruits in clusters, roses, hawthorns, bittersweet, Amur lilac with tawny seed coats, Amur maple still loaded with their samaras, sumacs in three species all with reddish fruits, Acanthopanax with spherical knobs of purplish fruit and the various crabapples with little fruits ranging in color from yellow, through scarlet and red to deep maroon.

A diversity of evergreens impart a feeling of pulsating life and well-being. Gloomy greenery on Mountain, Red and White pines, lighter shades on the Scotch, Stone and Jack pines; spruce with needles from deep green to blue and silver; arborvitae varying from the full dark green of Ware to the golden and silver-tipped of select garden varieties; junipers with different texture and color effects from live green to golden and silvery; and yews with divergent shades

ing of dark greens, dominate the scene. The few broadleaf evergreens help out even though all here are lowly subjects. Among them are Dwarf euonymus and its cousin the Turkestan, Rose daphne and Mahonia. The Mongolian oak retains its complement of leaves but they are now inactive and of rusty hue.

A walk through the extensive clipped hedge area confirmed the great value of Redstem willow on the winter landscape. The bark is so vivid a glowing red that the observer is almost startled. The Yellowstone is a laughing golden. These two sisters brighten up any scene during the dormant season. A covey of 18 Hungarian partridges whirled up from a rose hedge where they had been lunching in mid-afternoon.

A further delight occurred along a shelter row of lordly Western Yellow pines. A group of pine grosbeaks, in rosy red plumage, were demonstrating success in opening the large light brown cones to obtain nutritious seeds. A few chickadees and two bluejays showed by their presence that a diverse plantation will be continuously peopled by interesting birds.

### Monarch Hybrid Bush Tomato

Monarch is the first hybrid bush tomato to be introduced to the gardening public. It is a pleasantly flavored tomato and in initial tests yields of ripe fruit have been heavy.

Earliness is an important feature of the Monarch hybrid. It is earlier than the Bounty variety. Although the Monarch hybrid designed specifically for the prairie garden, market gardeners and processors of the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia report it useful for the early tomato trade and for canning.

The plants of the Monarch hybrid are of a typically bush habit. All branches terminate in a blossom cluster. Some branches have from 2 to 5 such clusters strung along their length. The blossom clusters eventually average 3 to 4 fruits each. In 1950 a year of excellent growth for tomatoes at Morden, the Monarch hybrid produced 11 to 14 pounds of ripe fruit per plant. Under comparative conditions Early Chatham and Bounty yielded 9 to 8 pounds respectively.

The Monarch tomato is a hybrid

in the true sense of the word, just like hybrid corn. Only the first generation plants resulting from the crossing of specialized parent lines, show the full effect of hybrid vigor. This vigor gives the Monarch tomato marked resistance to adverse growing conditions and desirable yield of top quality fruit. Since a first generation hybrid does not breed true in following generations, seed of Monarch should not be saved in the hope that it will produce "as nice tomatoes" next year as were harvested this season.

Much too often new and sometimes ordinary varieties of tomatoes are offered for sale as hybrids by commercial firms. This is unfortunate because varieties are not the same as hybrid tomatoes. Seed of varieties can be saved for increase.

The fruit of the Monarch hybrid is smooth and has a bright red color when ripe. At the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba, where Monarch originated, the fruit measured up to 3 1/4 inches in diameter and weighed up to 5 1/2 lbs. each, in 1950. In dry seasons these measurements are likely to be somewhat less. The tomatoes are meaty with a lively red flesh color and a pleasant tangy flavor.

Tomato breeders at the Putmore Nurseries, Brantford, Man., have been assigned the job of producing and distributing seed of the Monarch hybrid.

New Herbaceous Perennials recommended for local planting:

*Anchusa myosotidifolia*—Siberian Bugloss—broad leaves and masses of forgetmenot-like flowers in May and June.

Purple-leaf Bugle—Has neat rosettes of purple leaves and blue flowers.

*Campanula garganica*—Is showy with masses of starry blue flowers.

*Helenium*—Furnish the late border with rich reds, and golden yellows.

*Pelegrina*, and *Chipperveld Orange* are two choice varieties.

*Bergamot*, *Croftway Pink*—Has coral pink flower and scented leaves.

A new Catmint variety, *Souv. de Andre Chaudron*—has soft blue flowers.

(Continued on Page 45)



## NEWSLANTS

By  
Harry Graves



H. A. Graves

Colored transparencies, or colored 2-2 slides as they are more commonly called, were hailed a decade ago as something that was going to revolutionize teaching methods. However, after a short time, interest lagged and many of

us who pioneered in the use of these visual aids found ourselves using them less and less. Chief reason for this decline in interest was the fact that most projectors used 10 years ago had lamps of only 100, or at most, 150 watts in power. If you got stuck with a day-time meeting place that couldn't be completely darkened both the teacher and pupils went home frustrated.

During the past two years, this situation has completely changed. Projectors of 300 to 1,000 watt power are now available. These machines are air cooled by a fan. Prices range from about \$65.00 for the 300 w. projector up to \$350.00 for the 1,000 watt size. With the 1,000 watt projector slides can be shown in semilight with satisfaction. The speaker can watch the reaction of his audience and the audience many times will get more out of a discussion when the speaker is visible. Look for a big upswing in the use of colored 2x2 slides in teaching in a wide variety of fields. They are especially effective in the field of horticulture, where color is much more than

half the battle.

Considerable interest has been aroused by a recent news story dealing with the Siouxann hybrid tomato. This is an introduction of South Dakota State College, Department of Horticulture. It is a cross between Sioux and Earliana. Results at the South Dakota Station in 1950 indicate it had superior yielding qualities there. It is available only from Gurney's at Yankton this year.

While on the subject of varieties, Cucumber has some—maybe considerable—resistance to whatever causes it appears that the Burpee Hybrid vines of many other cucumber varieties to dry up midway through the bearing season. Anyhow, Burpee Hybrid often yields longer and more cucumbers than many of the standard sorts.

If you have not been happy with your melons—either water or musk—try the two Midgets. The New Hampshire Midget watermelon is small, early, and of excellent quality. The flesh is red, seeds black and skin tough. Vines do not cover a very large area. The Minnesota Midget Muskmelon is also small, early and very good quality. The seed cavity is small and the vines don't run away.

While still on the topic of varieties we might add that the tomato variety, N. D. No. 49, is not available for distribution this season. It was further selected by Dr. Joe Schultz in 1950 and these selections will be increased this summer. 'Tis hoped, that enough seed can be produced to make this variety commercially available soon. Surveys of home gardeners indicate this variety has met with approval.

Special Circular A-1, "Garden Varieties for North Dakota"—1951 mo-

del—is now available from North Dakota county agents or the Information Department, N. D. A. C., Fargo. This leaflet, which has been redone annually since about 1940, is all dressed up in a new suit. Of the nearly a thousand vegetable varieties available for the Upper Midwest, 90 have been selected for inclusion in this leaflet; 28 of the 90 have been underscored as especially desirable. Insect control is treated in one section of the leaflet.

Insect control is one phase of gardening that is either ignored or allowed to degenerate into a messy job in too many gardens. Quart jars with perforated lids or muslin bags shaken over the plants are neither thrifty or very thorough. A good hand duster costs \$1.50 or so, and you are much more likely to use it promptly than you are the type of things I just mentioned. Sprayers are also very good, if the gardener uses them, but they are messier and less likely to be used.

If you like extra early new potatoes, why not greensprout about 20 tubers of some early variety. Greensprouting potatoes is accomplished by placing the tubers in light—not necessarily direct sunlight—for about 2 weeks before planting. Short, stout green sprouts will develop. Care should be used not to break these sprouts off when cutting the seed. Greensprouted seed should produce new potatoes nearly a week earlier than potatoes planted directly out of storage.

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Second Shopper: Yes, I'm trying to get something for my husband.

First Shopper: Have you had any offers yet?

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## TRAGEDIES IN NATURE

By  
H. R. Woodward



H. R. Woodward

Nature's wild school of object teaching has led me to observe many of her tragedies. In most cases of natural tragedies, the instinct of self-preservation or the instinct of food-getting has been the downfall of many a bird or

animal. Who could imagine a more serious tragedy than to find in stalking through the woods, the dead bodies of two handsome whitetails with antlers interlocked? How many grouse or pheasants or rabbits would have saved their lives had they only remained still as the hunter passed by them? A bird thus flushing from cover usually drops dead from a load of lead.

Far up in the limestone country in the Black Hills were found the cold frozen bodies of two bucks that had engaged in a combat which ended the career of each of them. They had been partly devoured by wolves. Sometime later in the same region a troop of Boy Scouts, in going out upon one of their Saturday hikes, came across a tired, struggling buck dragging the spoils of victory up a hillside. He had been unable to release the interlocked antlers of his conquered foe from his own. The boys went back home, notified the game warden who brought out a saw and relieved the weary deer of his burden. After his release, he staggered and swayed up the hillside and disappeared. His life had been saved.

Food-getting is an instinct which causes the lives of nearly all little creatures of the wilds to be in constant jeopardy. Far out on the limb of a cottonwood tree, forty or more feet from the ground, an oriole had built her swaying little, basketlike nest. She had inherited from her race the instinct to built a certain type of nest. It represented nearly, if not actually, the ultimate perfection in house-building among the birds. It was built to rock in the wind, so that the hard winds which

swayed the trees could not endanger the lives of the little ones in the nest. It was built far out on the end of the branch, which would not support the weight of a house cat.

One day it happened that some school children noticed a large bull snake coiled about the branch and was forcing his head into the nest. When he came down the tree, his elongated anatomy was marked by four uniform swellings. His appearance gave every evidence of the silent slaughter in which he had been engaged. The mother bird was helpless in such a circumstance as this, yet she had done her best to guarantee the security of her little ones.

One summer when I was a ranger-naturalist in Yellowstone National Park, the visitors along the trail were treated to a rare sight. A mother pine squirrel had decided that the nest which contained her young was no longer secure. She had made a more suitable nest in a nearby tree. She was observed coming down the tree from the old nest with a tiny young squirrel in her mouth. The young squirrel was tightly held by the nape of the neck and it in turn had a firm grasp on the throat of its mother. As soon as she had taken it to its new home, she paused a moment and returned for another. She soon had the fourth one secure in the new nest and that ended her moving operations. In her case she was not helpless in the defense of her young for some time before she had perhaps been visited by her arch enemy, the pine martin. She averted a tragedy.

It seems hard to believe, but evidence of cunning on the part of the wary coyote may sometimes lead to its destruction. It is a well known fact among stockmen and government trappers that a coyote will avoid a trap sedulously. Recently it was brought to my attention that a coyote's instinct for self-preservation had led to its own destruction. A coyote was started from a clump of sagebrush and a chase started. The pursuit was of rather short duration, however, for the coyote made straightway for his den in a limestone ledge. Two holes were found, one of which was plugged with a large stone and six wolf traps were placed in the other. Days passed and each morning found the traps unsprung. One morning a porcupine

was found in the outside trap. The inner ones were unmolested.

Finally, after twenty-two days, the coyote was found, but not in a trap. His twenty-two days as a prisoner, without food or drink had caused him to die of starvation. He had come up to the opening and the traps for the last time. Still determined not to cross the path strewn with traps and yet too weak to retrace his steps, he dropped dead. How many other times he had come up and gone back will never be known, yet his last trip told the story of his wariness and cunning. His instinct for self-preservation led to one of nature's sorrowful tragedies.

The story is told how the bison, which roamed the western plains during the frontier days, would be led by blind instinct into streams where many would be drowned. In the spring they would begin their migration northward and at that time many of the rivers would be high. The Platte river of Nebraska was particularly a treacherous river for them. As a general rule they were good swimmers, yet with thousands of them plunging into the mud stream with its whirlpools and quicksands many of them never reached the opposite bank.

A tragic circumstance was reported in the Rockies a short time ago when the skeleton of a bull-elk was found hanging in a forked tree. After being in the "velvet" the antlers of the male in the deer family dries and is rubbed off on shrubbery and trees. It is natural for them to do so since in their growth the blood vessels and nerves are all on the outside of the antler. When it dries it itches and irritates the animal.

In this instance the animal pushed his head through two branches of a tree that forked near the ground and was unable to pull his large antlered head back through. As a result he starved to death and his skeleton was found the following summer.

One day at Agate, Nebraska, on the Niobrara river, my attention was called by Harold Cook to some balls of sandstone in which he said there had been some live toads. It seemed that in his connection with the geological work in the Great Plains area he had been called upon to explain their being. Toads in the autumn

(Continued on Page 48)



## GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By

Mrs. L. N. Brakke, Hartford



Mrs. L. N. Brakke

By the time you get this issue of Horticulture, you probably are deep in seed catalog reading. Best to "plan and plant" on paper anyway, it is so much easier to move them on paper than in earth if you are not pleased with the planting. The Good Earth Garden club, Brookings, is making plans for their "Tea." Have had interesting programs with "Brilliance With Gloxinias" and "Does Your Place Need Face Lifting?" The new club at Colome has started their year book. Each member giving a report on their birth month flower. The Green Fingers Garden club, Flandreau, has an author in their club. Mrs. Dell Smith, who has written a story relating the history of her parents as pioneers in Moody county. She reviewed her story at their meeting. Have received year books from Mo-bridge and Pierre Garden clubs. A donation of \$5.70, a dime for each club member, was made to the March of Dimes by the Sioux Falls Garden club. Their programs have been "A Roundtable Discussion" and a "Study of Evergreens," boughs of which were brot to the meeting by Mrs. Bertha F. Cox. Some were sent her by Mr. F. X. Wallner, from his western hideout, but most were collected locally by Mrs. Cox. Each member found a question about trees on their chair which they were expected to answer, as part of the program. One of their club ladies, Mrs. O'Connel, wrote a very interesting and informative article on Tuberous Begonias, which appeared in the Sunday Argus-Leader, this being her favorite flower. The Brookings Garden club was entertained with an evening of colored slides. Some were taken at the convention at Huron by Mrs. Jorgensen while others were taken by club members while on vacations last summer at the Hershey Gardens, in old Mexico, Mississippi and in Canada. Visitors from Dell Rapids were

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Greening and Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Elsinger. Mrs. Jorgensen spoke briefly on matters of interest to the club. Their new officers are Mrs. Gilbert Gilbertson, president; Mrs. H. C. Severin, vice president; Jens Otterness, secretary and Mrs. Van Dusen Fishback, treasurer. Received an interesting report from the Pierre Garden club. Their officers are Mrs. R. K. Morrell, president; Mrs. H. H. Fifield, vice president; Mrs. Paul West, secretary and Mrs. G. Bohnsack, treasurer. Their project is making Pierre "The City Beautiful." The topic of their last program was "Pioneer Pierre Gardens," by Mrs. C. M. Cudmore. She read a paper on her father's (Mr. Marian's) pioneer gardens on an island in the Missouri river. He trucked fresh fruit and vegetables to the early residents of Pierre and Fort Pierre. Mrs. Ida McNeil read a paper on pioneering of "Parks in Pierre," the Riverside Park and Hipple Park. A colored movie on growing and blossoming flowers was shown and a plant was given as a door prize. Mrs. H. N. Dybvig has been elected president of the Dell Rapids Garden club, Mrs. Jonas Duea vice president, Mrs. Oscar Berg secretary, Mrs. John Hoier treasurer and Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen will be corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ernest Greening custodian. The Rural Garden club, Crooks, is making plans for a spring flower show. Their club topic was "Desert Flowers" which was very interesting. The Community Garden club, Miller, was entertained with colored movies of iris, daylilies and peonies. "Flowers of the Bible" was read by one of the members. Landscaping was the topic for the program presented to the members of the Aberdeen Garden club. Thru the courtesy of Mr. Wm. H. Snyder, State Extension Horticulturist, a script was read and slides shown; special interest was given to trees and shrubs suitable to South Dakota. The Lyons Garden club put on a bake sale and cleared \$40. For their club topic Mr. H. N. Dybvig gave an interesting talk on "Plant Your Town." He advised planting the Hopa crab tree for beauty all summer, also flowering plum. He spoke briefly on the Blue Star Memorial Highway markers. The Mo-

bridge Garden club had a successful meeting when Judge H. Mundt gave a very interesting and practical talk on pruning. He gathered his material from the book Garden Magic, by Biles and from some of the leading garden magazines. They are planning to erect a marker for the iris planting on the library grounds. The iris was a gift from the late Rev. Ellis Jackson who donated them in honor of the veterans of World War II, especially to those who died in service. The Sunshine Garden club, Highmore, had an interesting talk by their County Agent on "Soils and Fertilizers," also some colored slides on flowering shrubs. I hope more of the clubs will report their new officers and membership, as National Council is asking for report on all new presidents and this information will soon be needed for the convention report. Any of the clubs wanting information from the following committee chairmen should feel free to write them at any time:

Awards—Mrs. D. L. Beals, 1302 6th St. Brookings, S. D.

Blue Star Memorial Highway—Mr. H. N. Dybvig, Dell Rapids.

Birds—Miss Ruth Habager, 502 N. Egan, Madison.

Budget—Mr. F. X. Wallner, 2600 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls.

Conservation—Mrs. L. G. Elsinger, Dell Rapids.

Garden Centers — Mrs. Menholt Christensen, Hurley.

Historian—Mrs. F. Briley, Mo-bridge.

Horticulture—Mrs. E. M. Kindred, Miller.

Judging School—Mrs. L. S. Bush, 613 Maple, Yankton.

Juniors—Mrs. H. B. Crandall, 1616 S. 4th Ave., Sioux Falls.

Membership—Mrs. Leo Monteith, 320 S. Main, Brookings.

National Parks and Monuments—Mrs. G. R. McArthur, 777 Nebraska, S. W., Huron.

Parliamentarian—Mrs. C. J. Gunderson, 321 E. Main, Vermillion.

Programs and Lectures—Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Box 665, Madison.

Publicity — Mrs. Lee Thompson, Hurley.

Radio—Mrs. J. D. Coon, 1401 S. Duluth, Sioux Falls.

Roadside Planting—Mr. J. M. Atkinson, 304 Chicago St., Rapid City.

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## JUNIOR GARDEN PROGRAM IN SIOUX FALLS SCHOOLS

By

Lona Crandall

The Federated Garden Clubs of the Sioux Falls area are launched on a project in the elementary schools of Sioux Falls and South Sioux Falls. After several months of plans and preparations the programs were started in February when nearly three thousand children and their teachers saw the conservation film, "The Living Earth Series." The film was enthusiastically received, and the garden clubs representatives were assured that the information in the film would be studied in the science classes, several of the teachers stating that they planned to use the shorter new edition of the film which is called "Yours Is the Land."

The garden clubs are to be responsible for one program a month, but all of the programs will be coordinated with the regular curriculum so that the children will get much more experience with the subject matter than the lesson given by the garden clubs.

The March program is to be Shrub and Tree Identification. Slides will be used, and water color reproductions of flowering trees and shrubs will be left in each school with

the art teacher. Elizabeth Keller, who is the president of the first federated junior club, is in charge of having fifteen sets of the water color pictures made by members of the high school art classes. Photographs of shade trees and evergreens, including detail of foliage, will be left with the science teacher in each school. There will be two events in April. The first will be a lesson on starting seeds indoors, and tomato seeds for the lesson, will be given to each child who has a place to plant them.

An Arbor Day project has been planned for the eighth grade. The South Dakota Children's Home will be the site of the planting, and representatives from the eighth grades will plant the shrubs and trees. All of the eighth grade students will be excused from school for the occasion, and an appropriate dedication program has been arranged.

In May, Mr. Snyder, extension horticulturist at State College, will train volunteer teachers to present a lesson on making a junior garden. The children will be divided into classes of twenty-five to thirty students and will be shown how to spade and hoe the ground, how and where to plant the seeds, and how to plan for succession plantings. The

Junior Chamber of Commerce has been asked to and will sponsor the junior garden awards during the summer. There is an opportunity for the children to exhibit their crops at the Sioux Empire Fair during 4-H days, and the Junior Chamber, which has for several years sponsored the calf scramble, would have an opportunity in this project to do something for the city children. Gardner's has offered to provide seeds for the gardens at wholesale prices.

The garden clubs have undertaken this rather large project because they have realized that the city children in South Dakota are growing up in an agricultural state without the opportunities for understanding the processes of growing things; without a knowledge and appreciation of the balance of nature. And, as is always true, when there is little knowledge or understanding there is also little appreciation. It is the hope of the garden clubs that every city child can come to recognize its complete dependence on the soil, whether that child's father provides the family living from his salary as a teacher, or from the profits of his hardware store. It is the hope of the garden clubs that every child will come to feel responsible for taking up his share of responsibility for-wise conservation.

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## MORE ON ROSES

By  
Percy H. Wright



P. H. Wright

I found the January issue of North and South Dakota Horticulture more than usually readable. The article by Dr. F. L. Skinner on some of his very latest results in the breeding of roses was naturally of interest to another who has found in hardy roses a special field of effort. This species, which he has found so well adapted to cross breeding with garden roses of the latest vintage is presumably the one he sent to me some years ago under the name of *Rosa laxa alba* and which I, too, after the date of his gift, have used for crossing. I used the pollen rather than the pistil of the rose, and all I can say to date is that the pollen is very active and gives good sets of seed.

Actually, a fall-blooming variety of the species was what I used, and it was also the gift of Dr. Skinner. It would be interesting to know exactly what the parentage of this rose is, whether it is merely a true, full-blooded sport of the species which has somehow acquired the fall blooming habit, or is the result of a cross with some other fall-blooming rose. If the latter, what is the other rose which combines so well with *Laxa alba*, and to which *Laxa alba* is so willing to abandon its restriction to the earlier blooming period. In any case, at the moment, the fall-blooming form of *Laxa alba* seems to offer more promise for the breeding of future roses with hardiness, quality, and everblooming than any other hardy rose I know—with the possible exception of *Rosa Beggeriana*. *Rosa Beggeriana*, hailing from the Himalayan region, is one example of a natural, unimproved species rose that combines very free everblooming with perfect hardiness. It does not turn a hair after experiencing 55 below zero.

The relationship of *Rosa laxa Retzius* to *Rosa laxa alba Retzius* is one that has not been clarified as yet.

When the adjective "alba" is added to a species name, the one difference between it and the ordinary form should be that the flowers are white. This simple situation is not the one which exists in the case of the *laxa Retzius* roses, for there are other differences too. The most noticeable difference is that the ordinary form has smallish round hips that are dependent. Off hand, one would say that a difference so pronounced would be sufficient to necessitate classification in a separate species. Here is a matter that some qualified botanist should investigate and make a pronouncement on.

Another article in the January issue that attracted my attention is the one on the Ruddy raspberry by A. L. Truax. I had heard before that Ruddy was especially adapted to conditions of heat, the very conditions which the spider mite loves and under which it does its worst work. Whether the adaptation of Ruddy to hot weather is something fundamental, or whether it is merely a less congenial host to the spider mite does not matter greatly to the ordinary gardener, for if he knows that the variety does better for him than do other varieties, that should be enough for all practical purposes. However, the matter is of greater concern to the plant breeder, for obviously if a lead is found that may give promise of still greater tolerance to heat and drouth and spider mite, it should be followed up. Nothing is more needed, one would say, than raspberry varieties more at home in the conditions characteristic of the prairies. Is there anyone in the Dakotas who would volunteer an opinion whether the other purple raspberries, and especially the black raspberries (which must be the source of whatever differences there are between the reds and the purples), are better adapted to the summer conditions prevailing in the region. Any such volunteer would have to be someone sufficiently enthusiastic about blacks or purples to give them winter cover, for no one seems to dispute that the red raspberry is better adapted to the winter conditions of the region than either the black raspberry or the hybrid.

In any case, it would seem that further breeding in the class of raspberries represented by Ruddy, the

class varying from purple to red, should be undertaken. Ruddy itself might be the basis for such breeding. I raised a small number of seedlings of Ruddy a few years ago, and was surprised by their general high level of value. However, as none actually exceeded Ruddy in value, I discarded them all. In their place I tested out some hybrids between the wild red raspberry of northern Alberta and the black raspberry, raised by R. Simonet of Edmonton, Alta. (the petunia specialist), but now I have gone back to the opinion that Ruddy might be the better source of the recombinations we need.

In my own northerly country, Ruddy is not especially well adapted, partly because the weather conditions are commonly cool enough that the spider mite is less of a menace than farther south, and partly because Ruddy is not completely hardy when left above the snow line. In the northeastern corner of Saskatchewan, raspberries that kill to the snowline may do fairly well in spite of their relative tenderness, on account of the abundance of snow, and the excellent habit that a raspberry patch has of catching the snowdrifts as soon as any snow is on the move at all. Thus Ruddy bears some crop even when left alone, and even in a colder than average winter. However, if I have to bend down and cover any raspberry, I would insist that it be a large-size one that rewards me better than Ruddy does. It is true that the color of the cooked product gives Ruddy an advantage in the matter of quality, but size is, I take it, all-important in the raspberry, after thriftiness is seen to, for the size of the berry determines the speed of picking, and since picking the crop is the most expensive of all items in the growing of raspberries, size of berry is a factor that needs first consideration.

Now for a remark that is on a very different topic. The little poem quoted by F. X. Wallner at the end of his article amused me, or rather it was amusing to note the comment of the author: "The ending of the first line don't make much sense, but probably the poet had to use the word pardon so as to get something to rhyme with garden."

Anyway, here is another version for your consideration:

South Dakota • HORTICULTURE



"Rain falling from Heaven for pardon,  
Sun shining from Heaven for mirth:  
We're nearer to God in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth."

This version does not solve the difficulty, and rather tends to create another, but it will illustrate something I found attractive in the poem. In fact, if I had a garden purely for beauty, instead of a nursery in which the beauty occurs in long straight rows (much to my wife's disgust), I think I should have a little plaque engraved with the verse, so that everyone who enters might read.

It is true that we do not sufficiently stress the pleasures of gardens and orchards, or the medicinal effect on the soul of working, like the pristine Adam and Eve, in a garden. True, landscape gardening can be an art like the "fine arts" themselves, and even has something that they lack, since it concerns itself with life and since life makes a contribution as well as the artist. However (we do not need to limit our pleasures in gardening to ornamental plantings only, or to the delight of working with colors and forms as an artist does; we do not need to, for, great

as these gains are, the humblest gardener, who merely sows and hoes and harvests, enjoys something that is denied those "in city pent."

Such ideas are the favorites of The Prairie Gardener, who broadcasts from Watrous every Sunday morning on gardening topics. I know that I have got a great deal of my inspiration for gardening from him—and some more from Dr. Skinner. If one went through the complete list of the names of those from whom he had gained such inspiration, it would be a long one indeed. We gardeners are a fraternity. We recognize each other even through the written word.

By the way, how many Dakota and Montana gardeners listen to the broadcasts referred to? Do you hear him at all, or is there too much interference at your distances from Watrous.

#### DO YOU BELONG?

By

Mrs. Margaret Bjornsen,  
President Yankton Garden Club

In times past the criticism was often made that Garden clubs, particularly clubs composed mostly of

women, were social institutions with membership lists swelled by those who joined because it was the thing to do, rather than because they had any genuine interest in gardening. Fortunately that picture has changed. Gradually, in most clubs, the real gardeners have taken over, and meetings and programs are on the whole devoted to the presentation of practical garden information, or to such actually allied subjects as the holding of flower shows, the encouragement of community planting and landscaping and conservation. You may be missing something. Unless your Garden club is an exception to the general rule, there is much you can gain by belonging to it and much that you can give. As a class I know of no group of persons who are more ready to help others less experienced than our gardeners. If you have been at the game sufficiently long to consider yourself an expert, your Garden club presents the best opportunity to be of assistance to others. Few of us, however, have reached the point where we cannot learn more in this fascinating but infinitely diversified field. At the  
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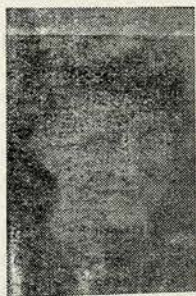
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## BOOK REPORT

By

Lona Crandall



**NORTH DAKOTA PLANTS**, by Dr. O. A. Stevens, publication sponsored by the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies. Printed by Knight Printing Co., Fargo, N. D. Copyright 1950. Price \$4.50.

Lona Crandall

Dr. Stevens, in his new book, **NORTH DAKOTA PLANTS**, compiled the information accumulated by plant collectors since the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804-1806. Not many plants were discovered in North Dakota by these famous explorers, however, and the largest early collection, according to Dr. Stevens, came from John Bradbury and Thomas Nuttall who came up the Missouri River in 1811. It was not until 1890, when the North Dakota Agricultural College was established, that a definite study was made of plants peculiar to the state.

Mr. C. B. Waldron, the first member on the staff, began the collection of specimens for the present herbarium.

The text of the opening chapter explains the system of scientific names, and discusses the advantage of using the botanical name in most instances rather than the common name which may be confusing. Instances of the great variety of plants which may be known by a certain common name, as foxtail, in various parts of the world, are listed. The section dealing with botanic names takes up other phases of the subject which will prove interesting and informative to those readers whose curiosity about plants goes a bit beyond the pleasurable looking.

All gardeners know that plants have definite preferences as regards the location in which they will grow satisfactorily. One spot in a small garden may even be more favorable to a certain plant than another spot in the same garden. Dr. Stevens devotes several pages to the consideration of this subject, although "North Dakota has a less diversified topography than that of many other states." Nevertheless, the approximately one thousand species found in the State distribute themselves in

definite patterns according to such minor variations as there are in the topography.

Plant characters is the title Dr. Stevens gives his discussion of the parts of a plant. This subject he covers concisely but completely and and clearly. The parts of the flower are explained in as many paragraphs as would be required in chapters in the average botany textbook.

"How to Use the Keys" is the subtitle of the last of the explanatory chapters of the book. "A key," Dr. Stevens writes, "contrasts characters of plants and divides them into smaller and smaller groups until a particular one is singled out." Dr. Stevens offers for the use of the reader, what he calls the short key, "in the hope that it will help the beginner to learn the use of a key."

The greater part of the book is given to an encyclopedic catalogue of the various plants found as natives or cultivated in North Dakota, listed under the respective families to which each belongs. The text is generously illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings, the drawings being particularly valuable as an aid to understanding the text.

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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By

F. R. Wallner



**F. X. Wallner**

The first month's work at Kay Lou Acres consists of six new pools and lakes. Three new water wheels, planting about a hundred evergreens, all sizes, even tiny one inch size; some of them set in old stumps. Reset many mums, ivy and other perennials. No frost since October 14th, the night we had our first, in S. D. Nut trees are in full bloom and fruit trees are budding, so fruit men are worried about their orchards. My trapping here has surprised even the pioneers and natives, as none of them had ever seen a flying squirrel. We have it here as a pet now and I feed it black walnuts, cracked, and apples every day, one nut. Beaver was taken to Washington park. I wish my plantings on the terraces were as successful as all the conservation plantings I have done here. Oregon has passed all other states in planting pine tree farms and 21 farms have over a million acres of new pine trees this year. Idaho has 80 pine tree farms of about three-fourths of a million acres, Washington about 60 new pine tree farms and one-half million acres. Three brothers that came out to Portland 14 years ago from Oklahoma bought 50,000 acres of Ponderosa pine for \$5,350,000 and they are now the largest operators in pine lumber in the northwest. Millions of dollars changes hands every day for timber acreages that is fit to cut now or later. Thousands of acres of burned over timber lands are being replanted every year. The nut crop last year was cut in half because of winter injury and constant wet weather. Reports are coming in from the folks back east that we sent holly, Oregon grape and other greenery that they enjoyed them very much at holiday time. One thing I must see before long is the new skiway at Mt. Hood. Pioneering near the old Barlow trail, over the rugged slopes of majestic Mount Hood, is not

dead by any means. Consider the new aerial bus, "the Skiway" from Government camp to timberline, which will open to the public in a few days. It is the only passenger carrying "sky look" in existence. It required adventure and risk in financing and it required pioneering in engineering. There have been delays and disappointments in getting under way, but finally the day is near for the public. Officials, friends and engineers made a few trips this week. The most sophisticated traveler will find that here is something different. The operation is an interesting engineering feat, but the view is for the poets. Riding on cables, supported by steel towers, the aerial bus travels over three miles, going skyward over a third of a mile. Since this is a new and spectacular adventure in mountain transportation, there will be changes and adjustments as experience dictates, but there has been real pioneering spirit behind it. This is a real major addition to Oregon's tourist and recreational facilities. With January half gone and no serious cold weather, it looks as tho my spring flowers will be out this month instead of February. Violets and Queen of Spring has been out for some time. Many of the hardy annuals in favorable spots have never stopped blooming. Skunk cabbage has been sticking its head above the water in the pools for some time and will be in full bloom anytime; surely there must be a better name for this wild flower. The spring buttercups and hellebore will also be out soon with Lenten and Christmas roses close behind. Oregon grape, Daphne and many other shrubs are almost in full bloom. Every warm day now, means that it has growers worried that February may mean a freeze up, but the Indians now have signs that tell them there will be no cold weather. The trip to Richland was still on the old tracks. will be on higher ground above McNary dam, soon. Richland is only 100 miles southwest of Spokane where there is snow and cold, but here it is warm and rainy, oyster plant and swiss chard are still out in John's garden. Expansion is still going on here, but it may be in experimental stages, in useful things rather than all bombs. Another grandson here, makes thirteen, so that the

name will live on for some time. The usual trips from here out are to the Grand Coulee dam and McNary dam, and now one or two more between. With all this expansion of power and irrigation, there is still shortage of power and homes. Here is something I got in Chicago and which I thot wuold interest you:

"The Queen of Autumn Flowers, the Chrysanthemum, has been selected by William C. Blaessing, chief horticulturist, to reign as the Chicago Park District's flower of the month during November at Garfield and Lincoln Park conservatories.

The Chrysanthemum dates back to 500 B. C. It is recorded in China as a tiny wild flower resembling a daisy and many mums, in cultivation today differ little from that type. Among the many varieties, however, the most popular is the large mum.

Visitors to the conservatories have often requested information for growing these large-flowered varieties. They can be started in the spring from rooted cuttings, which can be purchased from a grower. They are best cultivated outdoors or in a cold-frame. Use 2½ inch pots containing a mixture of equal parts of loam, leafmold and sand. A month later shift them to larger pots, using 4 parts loam, 2 parts sand, 1½ parts dried cow manure and 2 parts leafmold. The plants must be moved to larger pots whenever the roots become crowded until the final transplanting is made about the beginning of June.

Outdoors the pots should be imbedded in sand, peatmoss or coal ashes to reduce watering. A liquid fertilizer should be applied weekly but discontinued when the flower buds show color. The plants must be moved indoors to a cool, light room before danger of frost.

To grow large flowers the plants must be restricted to one or two shoots and only one flower bud should be allowed to develop in each shoot. If only one stem is permitted to develop the largest bloom will be produced. Tall plants may be restricted in height by pinching out the tip of the main shoot or shoots each time the plant is potted up to the first of June.

Buds will appear in June or July. These must be removed by pinching

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## INDOOR GARDENING

(Part 2)

By

Mrs. G. A. Schnaidt

A plant is a living, breathing thing, the leaves are its lungs and thru their pores they absorb oxygen and carbon dioxide, so they will need fresh air, but avoid drafts or your leaves will fall. I usually open my kitchen door once or twice a day to let in fresh air. Spray the leaves of your plants, to get the dust off so they can breathe, but never do this late in the day and never leave them in the sun while wet. The smooth-leaved plants as a rule are quite hardy and endure the hot air of the home. They enjoy the frequent shower baths which reduces the dust. Plants with velvety leaves are more tender, the dust clings and they don't like to be wet, so they are not as practical. However, I shower mine occasionally and find it does them no harm. Of course, they must not be left in the sun to dry. Give your plants as much light as possible. Coolness is more likely to bring success with your house plants than heat, especially during the dull winter days. Put a small cutting in a pot. You'll meet your Waterloo by using too large a pot. The soil holds more moisture than the tiny plant can absorb so it becomes sour and the plant dies. A 2½ inch pot is big enough for the average cutting; a few pebbles in the bottom, or broken flower pot pieces for drainage. Be sure and leave the sand on that clings to the roots and firm potting is essential, tho it should be done gently. Geraniums bloom better if pot bound and don't use bigger than 4 inch pots and you will get b'oom, and that is what you want in the winter time. Pinch back the top of your young geranium plants and they will bush out. Knock them out of the pot and if you find them pot bound put them in a 4 inch pot and when this is well filled with roots the geranium should bloom freely. If you want to fertilize, do it at this stage; don't fertilize young cuttings. The best way to do it is to add a little bone meal to your potting soil and mix it all thru. The roots will reach and get it as needed and then they won't need any fer-

tilizer in the winter. Start your cuttings in the spring and they will flower from about Christmas time on. They are your cheapest and easiest flower to grow. Just keep them on the dry side, but of course don't let them become dry, and you can keep your home looking gay during the holidays. For your Martha Washington geranium, cut off the old flower stalk and put the plant outside in full sun and let it ripen its wood; gradually withhold water, giving it a good rest. In September, cut it to shape, but remove all soft and weak shoots, then shake all the old soil off and repot it in a smaller sized pot, one you can just get the roots in comfortably. Water thoroly and leave it outside till frost. Then bring it in and in January it will need a larger pot in which to bloom. During midwinter give it only a small amount of water and as it grows you can pinch it back to get a well shaped plant. Pinch out the weak ones till February when the buds form. As soon as the plant is well established in the pot, fertilize it with manure and water it till flowering time. Your blooming season will be prolonged by giving it slight shade. The Jerusalem cherry is another plant that will bloom for you at Christmas time and if you take good care of them their fruits will last till February. Now your Jerusalem cherry when fruiting is 80 per cent water so water the plant often. They don't like gas or hot dry air, both will make them drop their leaves. And for these and the small pepper plants sow the seed in February. When plants are root bound, shift to a larger pot. During the summer put in a shady place outside and give plenty of water. Pinch back and turn, so they will be symmetrical; they like plenty of air and water at their roots and to have their foliage washed. Be careful of watering while the fruit is setting and ripening. To carry over, cut back in the spring and do as before. Cinerarias and cyclamen will droop quickly if dry. The fuschia will shed its leaves. Ferns are also hard drinkers and coleus calls for careful decision about watering. Too much and the leaves drop; too little and the whole plant droops. Two of the commonest house plants are the strawberry begonia and the sword

fern. The runner from the fern must first be rooted by covering with soil. But the strawberry begonia has small wiry stems that hang down and which will form new plants; these can be taken off and potted for individual plants. The ivy vine is nice and easily grown. Nothing is more restful yet cheerful the year around than green foliage. My choice as the best foliage plant is the ivy. While they are not grown for flowers, by the same token they need neither forcing into bloom or hiding their shabby looks afterward. There are dozens of varieties and shapes and each one most interesting in their sharp clear lines. Next to the geranium, the begonia flowers for long periods, producing new clusters as the old ones fade. They are easy to grow and they like a sunny window during the darker months of mid-winter. In the spring and fall they can do with much less sun. In fact, the full sun of a south window in late spring coupled with occasional severe drying will cause a reddening of the foliage, and in extreme cases a scorching of the leaves. They should be moved farther back from the window at this season. The Rex begonia likes a lot of moisture in the air to do well. There are hundreds of varieties of begonias so I won't try to give you names. My favorite is the double semperflorens; it is green-leaved, semi dwarf, with double rose-like flowers. Mine is red, Geneva Scarlet. I might say that the begonia likes a loose friable soil that is well aerated. The addition of sand and leafmold will improve drainage and lessen the danger of over watering. Begonias are tolerant to a wide range of temperature provided the light is good. The African violet and the gloxinia are two lovely plants for homes. They require much the same care; both are velvety leaved and don't like to be wet. Plant your violet up at the top of the dirt and your gloxinia bulb only one inch under ground. Both like water but of course, be careful not to waterlog your soil. The gloxinia will take more sun than the violet; gloxinias like a south window. The violet does better in an east window where the sun isn't strong. Violets like to be root bound to bloom well. The gloxinia you can plant in a 5 inch pot

(Continued on Page 48)



## SECRETARY'S CORNER

By  
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Mrs. Robert Empey, of Terry, Mont., writes under date of Feb. 6th: "So far we have had a very good winter for stock, no snow to speak of and the cold does not last too long. We have promise of more cold tonite, so if you get some of it, it will be an overflow of some of ours that you can have gratis." From the kind of weather we have been having this winter, a good many cold spots have been equally generous. A letter from her daughter, Miss Ethel Rose Taylor, of Berkeley, Calif., brot the sad news of the passing of Mrs. H. J. Taylor, one of our long-time life member friends, at the age of 88. While living at Sioux City, Mrs. Taylor frequently attended our annual meetings and our old reports contain several of the papers she presented at those meetings. She was the author of three books, "Last Survivor," "Yosemite Indians and Other Sketches" and "The Life of Dr. Neils E. Hansen," which latter is still the best account of the life of our late great plant breeder that we have. The February number of the "American Fruit Grower" has the following under the heading of "Systemic Insecticides": "Certain of the phosphorous materials act to some extent as 'systemic' insecticides. When applied to a plant, moves around in the sap, and in some way makes the plant poisonous to insects. Entomologists have long dreamed of controlling insects in this manner, and recent developments suggest that such dreams may in time be fulfilled. The chief encouraging results obtained thus far have been in the control of mites and aphids on cotton and on some other rapidly growing succulent plants. It will be a long time before the possibilities of such materials on fruit trees will have been fully explored. One big advantage of systemic insecticides would be that it could be used without interfering with the ac-

tivities of the natural enemies of the pests to be controlled. If such materials are found effective on fruit insects, it will be necessary to determine the effect of such treatments on the health qualities of the fruits from orchards thus treated." This reminds me of a druggist in a small S. D. town who many years ago was selling a remedy for chicken lice, which he had evolved. The chickens were to eat the remedy which was to make their blood so poisonous as to put the skids under the lice. The law stepped in and made him "cease and desist." Perhaps that druggist had an idea by the tail that the "poor food" people were not bright enough to appreciate.

### MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

(Continued from Page 35)

Balloon flowers are popular perennials for prairie gardens. A new pink sort adds further interest. The color is soft lilac pink with darker veins.

False Dragonhead variety Rosy Spire grows to three feet and flowers from early September until Severe frost. Spikes are rosy red.

Chamomile variety Moonlight has creamy, sulphur-yellow daisies borne on slender stems, will succeed in poor soil and dry positions.

Mossy-Phlox—Sunningdale Red is a brilliant colored, dwarf variety effective when used with stonework or as an edging plant.

Double Shasta Daisy—Mount Shasta—has survived several Manitoba winters. Is worthy of a little extra care and will reward with large pure white double daisies in July.

Coreopsis Mayfield Giant is a large golden yellow, long-stemmed variety.

Plants are not long lived but may readily be grown from seed.

#### Asters or Michaelmas Daisies

Princess Margaret Rose—Compact early flowering dwarf plant (1½ ft.). Masses of carmine-rose flowers.

Hilda Ballard—Is a large flowered pale pink variety with golden-yellow centres.

Arctic—Has large white shaggy flowers, borne freely, and early. The deep green foliage is mildew resistant.

Peter Harrison—A tall kind with

extra large, deep lavender-blue flowers.

Aster, Alpellus—Triumph—is a hybrid between A. alpinus and amellus, bearing mauve, yellow centered flowers.

Aster Plenty—Is apparently an amellus hybrid with large mauve flowers from July until September.

### FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

(Continued from Page 43)

as they do not always produce good flowers. At the same time all but one of the side branches growing around it should be removed. This shoot will produce another bud. If this appears around the middle of August, or later, it should be allowed to develop and all remaining flowers, buds and side shoots should be removed.

Other varieties of mums, such as single, pompon, anemone-flowered, caprice and curious, or spidery, may also be grown. The Chicago Park District's collection is one of the largest in America, numbering over 800 varieties."

### DO YOU BELONG?

(Continued from Page 41)

end of a year as club member. we may well have received more than we have given. Why not then, ask more of your friends to join your club? You are certain to make new friends whom you will enjoy; you are equally certain to pick up some new information that will be worth while and enable you, even if you are a good gardener now, to become a better one. And to you Garden club members, make your plans now to attend the convention in Yankton on August 6 and 7. The first State Flower Show will be held then also. We are looking forward to the entries from all over the state this year so don't disappoint us.

The pretty young teacher was explaining the difference between concrete and abstract.

"Concrete means something you can see," she said, "abstract something you can't. Who'll give me an illustration?"

A boy in the first row raised his hand. "My pants are concrete," he said. "Yours are abstract."



## WORMS IN THE GARDEN

By

George Lawson,  
Saanichton, V. I., B. C. Canada

When I get our magazine, each month and read all those nice articles prepared by the various members, with nothing to give in return, I feel like a slacker. But I have one subject that has bothered me for a long time. This has been stirred up by the local broadcasting of articles on gardening, taking the usual line of how beneficial worms are to the soil. As our magazine circulates among many soil experts, I would like to hear what some of them really think about it, if they are not afraid of sticking their necks out. We have had the idea instilled into us from Darwin's time and it seems to be accepted without question; I disagree with that.

The nearest to contradicting this was by Victor H. Ries, in "Country Gentleman," when he said he did not like to see the humus eaten up so quickly and this year, in telling how to rid the garden of moles, gave a mixture of D. D. T. to kill worms and insects and the moles would depart for better pasture. Here is how it appears to me. I imagine that North and South Dakota was much like Saskatchewan, where I did most of my gardening and originally we had no worms. We had a nice sandy loam; when well worked it felt like finely ground oatmeal or talcum, but about 30 years ago I started getting plants from Europe, various parts of Canada and the northern states and with this must have come the worms that came into my land. Now, where the worms got to be the thickest, when plowed in good condition, did not fall down in a natural manner but broke into pieces like coke and looked like blue clay. It packed hard and was harder to hoe and was definitely not as good and when broken up smaller it broke up into granules. Now we know the richer the land the more worms; you don't find many on poor land. If you want lots of worms put plenty of manure humus on it, the worms will wax fat and multiply. It is the rich land that produces worms, not that they make the land rich. We put humus into the soil to improve the tilth, it holds water and lets air into it in the right propor-

tion. why put worms in to destroy this? When coming here I found plenty of worms and after all the winter rain, after one week of good weather the soil would be hard, looking like a piece of cement, heavy and full of worm holes. You could take pail after pail of water and pour it on the soil and it would disappear as tho being poured down a drain; this could not happen on the prairie before the coming of the worms.

## GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 38)

Slides—Mrs. A. R. Schamber, 38th and Sunset, Rapid City.

Traditions—Mrs. A. W. Davidson, Mobridge.

Ways and Means—Mrs. Clifford Stoneking, Iroquois.

Year Books — Mrs. Oscar McFarling, Box 739, Huron.

Youth Education—Mrs. I. R. Trumbower, 311 Forest Ave., Vermillion.

The next judging school will be held at Sioux Falls, on June 14, 15 and 16, for the third course and on June 18, 19 and 20 for the fourth course.

Another theory never given the weight it deserves is that the early bird may have stayed up all night.—Mason City Globe-Gazette.

Somebody with an eye or ear for picturesque language has referred to a harp as "a piano in the nude."—Mason City Globe-Gazette.

## CLARIFIED

Someone had wired a government bureau asking whether hydrochloric acid could be used to clean a given type of boiler tube. The answer was: "Uncertainties of reactive processes make use of hydrochloric acid undesirable where alkalinity is involved."

The inquirer wrote back, thanking the bureau for the advice, saying that he would use hydrochloric acid. The bureau wired him: "Regrettable decision involves uncertainties. Hydrochloric will produce submuriate invalidating reactions,"

Again the man wrote thanking them for their advice, saying that he was glad to know that hydrochloric acid was all right. This time the bureau wired in plain English:

"Hydrochloric acid," said the telegram, "will eat hell out of your tube."

It's been said: If you believe in Fate to your harm, believe it at least for your good. It is the best use of Fate to teach a fatal courage. Go face whatever danger lies in the way of duty, knowing you are guarded by the cherubim of Destiny.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It could be, of course, that those Chinese red leaders are merely trying to get our help on their overpopulation problem.

## EXHIBITION - - GLADIOLAS

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To Garden Clubs, write for special wholesale price. Make additional money for your club.

MARGARET BJORNSEN

509 Mulberry,  
Yankton, South Dakota



## YEARBOOKS

By

Mrs. Oscar McFarling,  
State Yearbook Chairman

Have you sent your yearbook for entry in the 1951 contest? Or perhaps your club is hard at work on yearbooks. We have the following to date (Feb. 18): Pierre, Watertown, Canton, Home Garden Club, Britton, Green Thumb Garden Club, Hurley and In and Outdoor, Sioux Falls. I have thoroughly enjoyed every one of these yearbooks. The programs sound so interesting I wish it were possible to drop in on every one. I'm not going to tell you more about them—except there are some mighty nice yearbooks entered. Wonder where all the ideas for covers evolved.

The 1951 yearbook rules are listed below. They are the same as 1950 since there were no suggestions for changes.

Cover—Artistic design and originality, 5; color, 1; durable material, 1; club name, 1; town, 1; year, 1; size, convenience for pocketbook, 1. Total, 11.

General appearance of interior—Good spacing, neatness, 5; illustrations or drawings other than cover, 3; list of items of interest to club (poems, club motto, club flower, club tree, etc.), 3; list of state officers and address, 2; list of local officers and committees, 2; list of members with either address or telephone number, 3. Total, 18.

Program for year—Place of meeting, date, time, 6; meeting topics (10 meetings a year pertaining to garden, flowers, nature and birds), 25; tours or field trips, 10; civic projects, value to club or community, 15. flower shows or exhibits, 15. Total 71. Grand total, 100.

If yearbook contains advertising, deduct 10 points.

We have the following suggestion for a change in rules for 1952: From Madison, last year's first place winner, comes the suggestion that first place winner be ineligible for competition the following year, but that they enter their yearbooks for the good they may do. However, the second year they could compete again. Anyone agree?

Anyone else have any suggestions? I am sure the rules could stand improvement, and now when working with yearbooks is fresh in mind, sit down and write me your suggestions.

Did you know that Madison rated Honorable Mention in the National contest with a \$5.00 award and a year's subscription to their magazine? We are proud of them. Mrs. Mrs. D. S. Baughman of Madison writes that a pack of 100 of Horticulture's best yearbook entries, including all the prize winners (Madison's too), is touring the country and will be on display at Madison September 12 to 26. Mrs. Baughman will try to give as many clubs as are interested a chance to see them. Isn't it thrilling to have a South Dakota entry among the prizewinners? Let's aim at having an entry from South Dakota so good that it merits first place. Now there's a goal for you.

At a D. A. R. convention in Washington, a new member from Elmhurst was seated next to a Daughter from Boston. They exchanged pleasantries and then launched into a discussion of the merits of their respective cities. Mrs. Boston clearly did not approve of Elmhurst society. "In Boston," she emphasized, "we place all our emphasis on breeding." To which Mrs. Elmhurst sweetly replied, "In Elmhurst we devote some of our time to other activities."—The Earthworm.

Conscience doesn't keep you from doing anything wrong; just keeps you from enjoying it.—The Earthworm.

Aunt Hetty: "Sakes alive, I don't believe no woman could ever be so fat." Uncle Hiram: "What y' readin' now?" Aunt Hetty: "Why, this paper tells about an English woman that lost five hundred pounds."—The Earthworm.

No nice girl listens to a racy story, unless of course, she hasn't heard it before.—The Earthworm.

As long as you laugh at your troubles you may be sure that you will never run out of something to laugh at.—H. G. Oliver.

## MYTHS AND SUPERSTITIONS

My Dear Gardeners:

For some years I have been making a collection of garden myths and superstitions.

Some of them make sense but many of them do not. Most of them are as old as the hills.

For instance, the following just do not make sense.

"If you thank a person giving you seeds, slips or plants they won't grow."

"It is unlucky to grow hydrangeas unless one is born in October."

"Onions planted to encircle a rose bush will insure stronger rose perfume."

On the other hand the following make sense for the growth of trees, are a good indication of the advancement of the season:

"Plant barley when elm buds are as big as mouse ears."

"Plant corn when oak leaves are as big as a squirrel's ear."

"Plant beans and corn when apple blossoms begin to fade."

Here are some I have recently found:

"A piece of charcoal added to the soil in which house plants are potted will keep it from becoming sour." This is true only because it wouldn't turn sour anyway unless it was kept so wet the plants would be killed.

"It is better to water house plants in the daytime than at night." Unless in a humid greenhouse and you wet the foliage it doesn't make a bit of difference.

"When you feed your lawn use ground bone." Nowadays we feel a complete commercial fertilizer is cheaper, more efficient, and less smelly.

A five acre frog farm is being operated by Harold Lee near Ventura, Calif. In large concrete shallow tanks containing 15,000 square feet of water area, Lee produces thousands of frogs for market annually. Developed from a strain of giant American bullfrogs, they grow to large size in two years. A good-sized frog yields up to half a pound of meat which sells for \$1.85 a pound.—Capper's Farmer.



## TRAGEDIES IN NATURE

(Continued from Page 37)

have the habit of burying themselves in the mud during their period of hibernation in winter. It so happened that they buried themselves in a type of mud which could easily be made into balls and the cementation which always takes place in sand took place more rapidly in this case than usual. As a result when spring came the toads found themselves sealed in for the rest of their lives. A small opening in the side alliwied them to get air but the openings were not large enough to allow them to escape. How long they had lived in this confinement scientists have not been able to ascertain. However, this constitutes one of nature's tragedies.

Probably one of the most interesting tragedies that has ever been brought to my attention was when some boys in my class in biology came in with a peculiar muskrat. We removed the flesh from the head and found the teeth not all of the same length. One lower incisor was forcing its way into the roof of the mouth, while the other had grown outside the mouth and was almost piercing the orbit of the eye. The upper incisors had grown outwardly and were curling.

We found that there was evidence of a bone in the jaw having been broken. One jaw bone was wider than the other, and was slightly perforated, showing that new bone had been formed. The teeth were not of the same length. The tooth on the side of the fracture was much shorter than the other tooth. This showed that the food material which ordinarily went into the growth of teeth went into the regeneration of new bone. This animal had suffered a serious accident and during its recovery from this accident two forces of nature seemed to act against each other.

What were these forces of nature? The first one is the reparation of broken bone. The other is the continuous growth of the incisors which causes abrasion where they meet and keeps the teeth sharp by the constant wearing against each other. There is a thick layer of enamel on the outside surface of the incisors of these rodents. Sometimes it is entirely lacking from the inside surface. The constant abrasion makes

and preserves a keen, chisel-like edge and constitutes the teeth, an admirable adaptation to the gnawing habits of the animal. This is very essential with such rodents as the beaver. In order to maintain this keen edge, the teeth must be certain, constant length. These teeth grow continuously from the permanent pulp at the base of the teeth during the entire life of the animal. The teeth have no roots. This perpetual growth outward from the base, balances the loss due to wear where the teeth meet. Both upper and lower incisors are regularly curved and grow in a curved manner from the base. This accounts for the circular growth of the abnormal teeth in this particular muskrat. This curvature causes proper attrition of the teeth against each other and is the real reason for their being curved.

And so I was able to explain to these boys the cause of the teeth growing in a manner in which they had never seen before, but I could not tell them the whole story of the muskrat. His story will never be told. His mute body was like the page of an open book, yet another page was missing and lost forever. He tells us his jaw had been broken, his teeth continued to grow and failed to meet each other. His jaw bone had healed, and he died of starvation. Yet he cannot tell us who broke his jaw. It might have been a shot from the gun of a duck hunter or it might have been caused by an attack

from one of his natural enemies. How he continued to live as long as he did is also somewhat of a mystery.

## INDOOR GARDENING

(Continued from Page 44)

if your bulb or tuber is 1½ inch or smaller; there it won't need to be moved so soon, as they grow fast and with a bigger pot, they won't dry out. They require a good light or some specimens will grow leggy. The caladium is a beautiful foliage plant and fast becoming popular in the home. I have one tho I did not grow it myself. The coleus too, makes a nice foliage plant if you don't let it get leggy. Then bulbs, if you get the right kind and know how to force them, are wonderful to have in the house in the early spring. Never repot your house plants in the winter; repot in the spring or summer. Keep in a sunny window and when they are thru blooming, give them a rest by giving them less water, but remember to never let them get dry.

"It must be hard for flowers  
That are a blend of blood and flame,  
To spend the warm seductive hours  
Being respectable and tame.  
Born to dance wildly on a hill  
How dull must seem our window  
sill."

Are you troubled with improper thots? the psychiatrist asked Gil Ford. No, was the reply, to tell the truth, I rather enjoy them.—The Earthworm.

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