

North and South Dakota HORTICULTURE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1951



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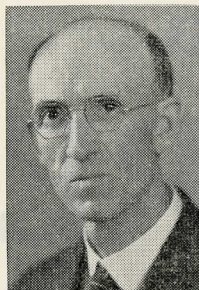
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THE VIRGINIA RAIL

By

O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

The books say the family Rallidae includes rails, gallinules and coots. We are familiar with coots, especially when they are called mudhens, but why rails? The Latin name *Rallus*, seems to have been early applied to them because of their rattling call. The water rail and European coot, both very like our birds, were the first to be described.

It is a sizeable family of some 130 species, widely distributed over the world, but more abundant in tropical regions than with us. Only about ten species are native to America north of Mexico. They are most closely related to cranes but are small birds and as inconspicuous as the cranes are conspicuous. The coots are not shy but most of the species live in the marshes and keep well out of sight. Occasionally a person comes upon one suddenly and it flies up awkwardly as if scarcely able to fly at all.

The Virginia rail is about the size of a meadow lark. It is mostly of a reddish brown color, streaked with black on the back and barred with black and white on the rear half of the under parts. Elliott Coues called it a perfect miniature of a king rail (see March, 1949 issue). It nests all over the United States except the extreme southeast, in southern Canada and in parts of northern Mexico. It spends the winter chiefly in the southern states, through Mexico to Central America.

I seem to have seen this bird but once when I flushed one from a ditch. That is not an evidence of their rarity but only of their secretive habits and my failure to search industriously for them. However, Williams reported it seen only occasionally at Grafton and not more common in early days. Judd reported it seen occasionally in grain fields during fall migration in the Devils Lake region.

Alexander Wilson wrote that the Virginia rails were much less common in

eastern United States than the common rail (*sora*) and that they fed upon snails, worms and insects rather than upon seeds. The nests are bulky but are well concealed in the grasses or reeds of a marsh. Sometimes they are built over water but often on slightly higher ground. From 7-12 eggs are laid. They are about an inch and one-fourth long, yellowish or nearly white with a few brown spots on the larger end. Mr. Bent says they are easily distinguished from those of the *sora* by their lighter color, less spotting and less gloss. Wilson says, "shaped like the egg of a domestic hen." The newly hatched young are black. They leave the nest at once, the first ones often before all the eggs have hatched, and are good divers and swimmers.

The Virginia rails were never such popular game birds as were the *soras*. This seems to have been partly because they did not afford such a good target and partly because they fed more upon animal life.

MODERN HIAWATHA

By

MARY LOUISE KINYON

A Woodcock in the hemlock tree
I cocked my gun to shoot
Shot the woodcock through and through
And got an owl to boot.

Sat by the lake to get a duck
One landed—Ah, my loot.
I cocked my gun and aimed at it
But I only got a coot.

I saw a bear, so I aimed with care
I'd shoot him through the head.
I closed my eyes and to my surprise
I shot a hare instead.

I threw my gun in some disgust
It went off—I had to duck
By a quirk of fate and shot of luck
I found I'd killed a buck.

My hunting trip a great success
I started home in glee
I stopped to rest—you may have guessed
The game warden spotted me.

He took my ear, my gun and game.
Gave me a fine to boot.
The moral, son, of this sad tale
No license—then don't shoot.

Vol. 24

Nos. 11 and 12

November-December, 1951

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

Membership in the South Dakota State Horticultural Society is \$1.50 per year. The subscription rate for affiliated organizations is 75 cents per year.

Published bi-monthly at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, by the North and South Dakota State Horticultural Societies. Address all communications to W. A. Simmons, Courthouse, Sioux Falls, S. D.

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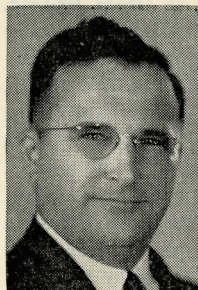
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South Dakota • HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

By
HARRY A. GRAVES



Graves

The attendance we get at our annual meetings is enough to make strong men weep! Our 1951 annual meeting program and banquet held in Grand Forks in June was of the very best. Mr. A. T. Van Dyck, Park Superinten-

dent of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and H. F. Harp, Head Gardener from the Dominion Experiment Farm, Morden, Manitoba, gave talks that were worth going considerable distance to hear—if you have any interest in horticulture, that is.

In addition to the fine presentations made by the two aforementioned gentlemen, were reports and discussion by Dr. J. H. Schultz, Chairman, Department of Horticulture, N. D. A. C.; Franklin Page, Peony Authority from Hamilton, N. D.; and Melvin Bergeson, Nurseryman of Fertile, Minnesota.

A short movie of unusual interest was procured and shown following the banquet. Much horticultural subject matter was exchanged during the informal sessions. But there were too few benefiting from it!

The tour to Morden on Saturday to which Messrs. Harp and Ure devoted a good share of their Saturday afternoon holiday was very poorly attended. It is one thing to visit the Morden Station just to feast one's eyes upon all the good things to see. It is many times more valuable to have a conducted tour such as we had on June 15. I guess about 18 people took advantage of this particular opportunity.

No report of this session—no odds how brief—would be complete without paying tribute to the helpfulness and suggestions of President Russell Wodarz or the dozens of details efficiently attended by Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, Grand Forks Park Superintendent. Without the assistance of those good friends the affair could have turned into a rout.

I get small comfort from reports by secretaries of other organizations, horti-

cultural and otherwise, that the attitude of members of any state-wide organization is apathetic at best. The cumulative effect of all their lack of interest is going to result in my recommendation to your executive board at this fall's session that annual meetings be dispensed with until enough interest is shown to merit the time and considerable expense incurred.

September 14 and 15 were special days around the Department of Horticulture, N. D. A. C. Dr. A. F. Yeager came back to visit some of the old scenes on these two dates. I think it can safely be said that a good time was had by all concerned. A dinner attended by about 25 old friends, former students and colleagues was a most pleasant event. Dr. Yeager showed colored slides depicting horticultural research and items of horticultural interest as seen in New Hampshire. Listening to Drs. Yeager and Schultz as they walked about the plots and discussed the many projects Schultz has underway was an interesting short course in horticulture. Dr. Yeager looks little older than when he left North Dakota in 1938. Life in New England appears to agree with him.

The stage is set for another test winter for trees and shrubs—and perhaps a few herbaceous perennials as well. Discussing this with Dr. Schultz recently, he commented that trees which had grown vigorously and especially those that grew quite late in the fall had small opportunity to get ready for the -7° at Fargo and Dickinson on the morning of November 2, Ashley with -8°, Wilton -6° and Grand Forks with 1° above indicates that the chill was general. The anticipated damage can likewise be widespread.

Secretary Bill Collins writing in the Iowa Fruit Growers' Newsletter for November has picked up the comments of C. A. Nash of Platte, South Dakota, regarding the Red River Crab. Nash mentioned Red River in his article in the July-August issues of North and South Dakota Horticulture. Red River, as you recall, resulted from a cross of Dolgo x Delicious. Dr. Yeager got the Delicious pollen from his father who lived in Kansas. He had to hold the pollen several days before making the cross because the Dolgo parent had not yet come into bloom. Red River when taken from the tree showing considerable red color is an excellent crab for

jelly or pickles. If stored for a month or so, Red River ripens into one of the tastiest morsels out of hand that ever came from a tree. In sweetness it rates with the Canadian apple-crab, Trail, although the flavor is entirely different. One of the very interesting projects Dr. Schultz has underway at N. D. A. C. is a block of over 1200 seedlings of Red River. These are essentially F₂ because observation indicated them to be largely if not entirely the result of self-pollination. Several characteristics of these young trees already indicate a wide variation. A tree with the hardiness and color of Dolgo and quality pointing in the direction of Delicious would demand space in most everyone's yard or fruit planting.

Jake Horner was not a horticulturist to my knowledge. He was, however, a most interesting man. Jake left Fort Lincoln near Bismarek with General Custer in 1876 and only missed the "Last Stand" on the Little Bighorn because there weren't enough horses to go around. I once had the story from him first-hand and he told it well.

Jake Horner died recently at the age of 96 and was VIP enough to rate the Milestones department in Time. While he was not publicity conscious, I think Jake would have liked this inch and a quarter column recognition. His passing sort of closes the door on an era.

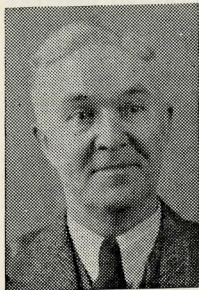
The Pink Queen variety of Cloeme is a most worth while annual. Growing to an average height of 30 inches or so, it makes a background for less tall things. Pink Queen blooms from early July until frost. We found that cutting the first central bloom resulted in blooms developing promptly on several side branches. When taken as a cut flower the florets that are open at time of cutting fall off quickly but florets standing lower in the head quickly open and bloom is maintained for a good, long time. Pink Queen with its bold—maybe slightly coarse stand—should stimulate the interest of flower arrangers. Another highly touted annual was given space in our garden—and it surely took it—space, that is. I refer to the "Torch" Tithonia. The color of the flower itself is different and arresting. However, with us the flowers were too few on the high bushes. The plant may have a place as a silage crop if it flops as an ornamental.

(Continued on page 126)

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By

W. R. LESLIE



W. R. Leslie

The **Royal Show** of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, now 112 years old, was held this year at Cambridge, July 3, 4, 5, and 6th. The last time this unusual show was held at Cambridge, the home of the renowned Univer-

sity, fifty-three miles northward from London, was in 1922. War conditions prevented shows in 1917, 1918 and 1940 to 1946 inclusive. The site in 1950 was at Oxford.

A Canadian, privileged to attend the first three days of the show, experienced many surprises. An area of 150 acres was packed with Agricultural interest. There was nothing akin to the midway customarily met at fairs in North America. As the show moves about from year to year, there is absence of large substantial buildings. Most of the exhibits are staged under canvas tents, many of them huge in extent. This applies to the very extensive flower show, the live stock entries, the educational exhibits placed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and many industrial displays. Breed societies and some horticultural firms have frame structures of modest size but pleasing in designs.

The Royal Show was held at Cambridge for the first time in 1840. It occupied about 5 acres. The livestock entries totalled 337 and the implements 115. This year was the fourth holding at Cambridge. Nearly 5000 head of livestock competed for prizes, totalling 20,000 pounds. There were 20 breeds of cattle, 32 of sheep and 10 of pig breeds. A large number of overseas visitors come each year to study and buy foundation stock.

The high-light of the show for breeders is the parade of prize-winning pedigree live stock. At one time the Grand Ring has 500 cattle filling the enclosure. Breeds include the long-horned Highland, Dairy Shorthorns, Ayrshires, British Friesians, Red Polls, the Channel Island breeds, South Devons, Ker-

ries, the tiny Dexter, Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus, Lincoln Reds, Shorthorns, Devons, Sussex and Galloways.

The Grand Ring was first filled with Heavy Horses. These marched out and the ring was re-filled with Light Horses. Patrons of the grandstand were entertained by two splendid bands—that of His Majesty's Grenadier Guards and the Metropolitan Mounted Police Central Band. Attractions included awards of special cups, judging of harness horses, Musical Ride by the Metropolitan Mounted Police, Sheep Dog display of tending sheep, the Puckeridge Foxhounds, Parade of Tractors and Agricultural Implements, Jumping Competition of horses from home and abroad, Parade of Pet Ponies, and Activity Ride by Metropolitan Mounted Police.

Home Gardening appears to be general throughout the British Isles. Large estates are usually enriched with a diverse assortment of trees and shrubs, mostly arranged as masses, and stretches of colorful flower borders. Stone fences and stone or brick walls are used freely. They may be draped with cordon fruit trees, English Ivy or other vines. The most common clothing for arches are climbing and pillar roses. Shrubs are evident in wide array of species, textures and colorings. The mild winter climate permits employment of many choice trees and shrubs which are unequal to the Canadian prairie because of cold winters or the high-lime soils of the Great Plains.

Expansive estates customarily are tended in large measure by trained gardeners. However, the owners may be expected to be familiar with all affairs of their plantations. The cottager with a modest holding does his own gardening. His wife and members of the family are likely to be seen playing their part in tending the lawns, hedges, borders and garden patches. A visitor is impressed with the atmosphere of enthusiasm and industry noticed in home gardening throughout the whole country. Care of the garden is a general concern of the whole household.

Conservation of fertility is practiced. Grass clippings and refuse are carted to the compost heap so that the maximum plant food may be obtained. This is incorporated into the garden soil to increase its fatness. Shrubberies and borders are top-dressed and lawns are fed. Although the climate is considered moist a great deal of watering is done.

Two or three days after a rain, the sprinklers are seen playing streams of water onto the plantations.

Compared with the gardener of the Canadian prairies he, in Great Britain, usually has poorer soil but much keener appreciation of the glories of his garden. He eagerly goes to garden shows, paying to get in, and at the exhibitions makes purchases of seed and plants from the representatives of tradesmen. He pays for the latest bulletins on plant protection. One of his adversities in growing crops is the presence of large numbers of birds which enjoy taking a considerable share of vegetable produce as well as berries and cherries. Of course, many of the feathered residents do show gratitude by putting on pleasing musical concerts. Their presence is entertaining but costly in work and materials needed to limit their instinctive harvesting activities.

The **EAST MALLING RESEARCH STATION** in Kent, the fruit and hop county, south and eastward from London, is a very specialized horticultural experimental farm. It is connected with the University of London and attracts students for advanced study from around the globe.

The farm consists of 360 acres. Of these 50 acres are absorbed by buildings, roads, gardens and recreation grounds, arboretum and ornamental water. About 90 acres are used for nurseries, small laboratory trials, and arable crops. About 105 acres are planted with fruit trees. Fruit tree nurseries and stoolbeds occupy 25 acres. An area of about 50 acres are under preparation for future plantings.

About 3,000 visitors come each year. Tours are arranged by appointment on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Wednesday and Fridays are reserved for visiting research workers.

The members of the Staff of the Station are selected for their ability to perform investigations with fruits. The divisions are Pomology, Statistics, Plant Physiology, Biochemistry, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Plant Protective Chemistry, and Scientific Liaison. A review of the personnel reveals that many universities have contributed to the scientific training of the officials. Among these universities are London, Oxford, Cornell, Reading, Cambridge, British Columbia, Wye, Birmingham,

(Continued on page 121)

EARLY TRADITIONS

By

MARGARET H. DAVIDSON

DYBVIG NURSERY

Nels H. Dybvig homesteaded near Colton, South Dakota, in 1880. He was interested in trees and would journey to the Norby Nursery near Madison, South Dakota, a distance of 21 miles, with horses, to buy trees.

Anton Norby had established a nursery near Madison in the early 1880's, and in 1887 he joined the South Dakota Horticultural Society and took an active part in the programs and discussions of the Society until he moved to California in 1909. Although he grew a general line of nursery stock, including fruit trees, ornamentals, shrubs and flowers, he was best known for having a successful evergreen nursery, the most successful in South Dakota at that time. He knew how to grow Ponderosa pine so that they would survive, even after his customers replanted them.

With trees from the Norby Nursery, Nels Dybvig planted an orchard of 200 plum and apple trees with a red cedar and Ponderosa windbreak in the year 1904. He joined the South Dakota Horticultural Society and learned that the red cedar spreads rust on apples. He decided to sell the cedars, and this proved to be the beginning of a nursery business.

He did not send out a price list until 1909, however, and that same year he bought the Norby nursery and took his son Henry in as partner. This partnership lasted four years, after which the son became sole owner of the nursery. The following year a small, local nursery, known as the Eitriem Nursery, was purchased. In 1920 the Whiting Nursery at Yankton was added to his holdings after the Whitings moved to Wisconsin.

Dybvig Nursery has continued a general line of nursery stock through the years and has grown from catalogue business and agents to selling wholesale to dealers. During the depression years, around 1935, there was a federal shelterbelt nursery established on their place, and since that time their main line of stock has been forest tree seedlings.

AN ISLAND GARDEN

One of the first, if not the first commercial garden in what is now central

South Dakota was undertaken by Hormidas Marion in 1881. When he came to Dakota Territory by boat from St. Louis in the spring of 1877, he was 23 years old.

During the next few years he never traveled far from Ft. Pierre, for his time was occupied with running a restaurant and bakery, hunting buffalo and working with the ox-drawn wagon trains which hauled freight from Fort Pierre to the Black Hills.

But his true life work asserted itself when, in 1881, he saw some beautiful turnips grown on an island in the Missouri River between Pierre and Ft. Pierre by an Indian. He went to see the ground which produced such turnips, a small patch cleared among the native cottonwood, willow and scrubby underbrush. In his enthusiasm for the quality of the turnips, he bought the entire island from the Indian and launched a career as a truck gardener and orchardist.

From year to year he enlarged his fields by cutting down trees which he used for fuel, by grubbing out the underbrush, and by working long, hard hours. At harvest time he would load his produce into a row boat and take it across either the east or west channel of the river from his island to the mainland. There he transferred it to wagons drawn by teams of horses he maintained on either side of the muddy stream. Through door to door contacts he sold his goods.

In 1886 he met a young Connecticut girl whom he married in 1888. Together they lived on the island where he continued his work.

His success on the island had been viewed with considerable interest by a white man who was married to an Indian. Because the land west of the Missouri River was Indian reservation, Marion had no legal status, even though he had actually purchased the island from the Indian, because the native had no authority to sell his birthright. Using his wife's Indian rights, the other white man was able to establish his claim to the well-improved island and its financially lucrative fields.

Very doubtful that the squaw man would work as hard to supply them with the vegetables that had become so important to the nutrition of the small frontier settlement, the citizens of Pierre and Ft. Pierre circulated a petition, which was sent to Congress, re-

questing that Marion be allowed to remain on the property he had been developing. The Congressman made the petition into a bill which became a law. Later, when South Dakota became a state, the Canadian-born Marion automatically became a citizen, and when the west river country was opened to homesteaders, he filed on the portion of the island not granted to the City of Ft. Pierre and in 1902 received the patent to the land.

By then Marion had developed five acres of producing apple orchards, established with the assistance of an irrigation system which utilized water from the Missouri River during periods of inadequate rainfall. Because he never properly understood the gasoline engine which powered his project, he foresook irrigation when his trees were well established.

Later on his island, between the bridge and the ferry boat landing a stockyards was constructed where ranchers from west of the river penned their stock while it awaited ferry transportation to the end of the railroad line on the east side of the river. A practical man, he wasted none of the natural fertilizer which appeared.

Not sufficiently profitable for the labor involved, his experiments with peanuts, sweet potatoes, strawberries and raspberries were abandoned. He likewise dropped flowers from his commercial list.

The peedling season opened in late May or early June, and Marion was a welcome sight in his specially built green wagon, with its white canvas schooner-style top. Each day he painstakingly loaded not only for the maximum dollar value but also the ultimate eye appeal. First he appeared carrying a small load of asparagus, rhubarb, onions, radishes, lettuce, carrots and beets, but by late June peas were added to his wares.

The hot-beds were emptied of their stock of cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cauliflower and celery; the apple trees had their final spraying for the season; and the blossoms on the potato vines and the cabbage heads were watched carefully so that the vegetable could be added to the load, generally the week of July 4.

Tomatoes usually made their initial appearance the first week in August in company with his sweet corn. Among

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MORE ABOUT SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANTING

By
PERCY H. WRIGHT



Wright

The problems of the better regulation of practices in the nursery trade, and of the attendant methods of transplanting, still interest me. The reader may recall that I broached this topic, which is one that I have never seen discussed elsewhere in any horticultural journal, in an issue last mid-winter, and that another correspondent took it up with further remarks in a subsequent issue.

The simple truth is that the two short weeks of spring transplanting weather make a sort of bottleneck in nursery work. We cannot begin to ship earlier on account of winter conditions, and if we drag it out till the trees are almost in leaf, we put a handicap upon them that is responsible for a large proportion of the failures. If a survey could be made, I do not doubt that a large proportion of failures would be traced to undue optimism in estimating the amount of leaf-growth that the plant to be moved will stand. Unfortunately the public rather likes to see its plants "full of growth" on arrival, for the signs of leafing out tell them that the plants are alive and vigorous, and so they do not protest as much as they should. To take into account the damage that a plant suffers to its vigor by the process of having its root-system severely pruned and the root hairs completely put out of commission, is harder to do, and apparently the public never does it. However, to get recognition of the damage that occurs by reason of late transplanting is the smallest part of our problem. The problem is to find time to take any other policy—to find means of avoiding such "sailing close to the wind."

The more complete use of the fall months that are suitable for transplanting is desirable. Here, though, is where the problems of storage begin. If the soil is too dry for the actual planting of the tree, planting had bet-

ter be delayed, for, short of the facilities of irrigation or abundant hose water on tap, it is impossible to make the soil moist enough over any extensive area. Heeling in is more practicable in one aspect, for the concentration of the roots in one small area greatly reduces the amount of artificial watering required at the time. However, I am against heeling in, except for very short periods. I have found that plants deteriorate rapidly for every day that they are heeled in, especially those with large tops which must not be pruned because pruning would spoil the shape of the tree, such as boulevard trees. Even small, seedling trees, for instance one-year seedling crabs to be lined out next spring to serve as understocks, frequently suffer extensive losses. If the tops were pruned at the time of heeling in, and if one were especially careful to keep earth from coming into contact with the aerial bark, the percentage of success would be higher.

Completely burying the tree may do all right in a light, well aerated, comparatively dry soil, but if the soil is heavy and wet, a different story will be told when spring comes around. One of my early memories is of helping a neighbor to dig up and plant out some crabapple trees that he had received from a distant nursery the previous fall, with orders to bury them. I warned him that rotting of bark was likely to occur, and said that I would come over and help him at the earliest possible date. I was afraid that he would think of the trees as fully protected and delay the date of digging them up. Sure enough, the trees came up with about half of their bark injured by rotting. By severe pruning back, I believe that we got a good number of them to survive—if memory serves me at the moment. But imagine what would have been the state of the plants if anything but the earliest possible moment had been chosen for the digging up!

Completely burying trees doubtless has its place in the hands of a skilled man, but as a blanket recommendation for a nursery to make at the time it fills its fall orders, it is hard to see. Suppose that the order included apricots, or that the customer chose a low, wet spot for his burying place.

My opinion, reasoned and seasoned, is that fall planting had best be done if conditions are favorable or can be made favorable. If they are not favor-

able, the next best thing is to leave the parcel in the cellar all winter, if the cellar is a cool one (that will not sprout potatoes till late spring), if the packing on the roots is adequate, if the air is moist but not stagnant enough to encourage mould, if a little water is added periodically throughout the winter, and most important of all, if clear, clean, new spagnum moss has been used for packing, not shingle tow, or other wood waste and not peat moss. New spagnum moss apparently has some chemical in it that makes it resistant to decay, and its presence protects from decay and mould the roots packed in it. I always put my seeds to be "stratified" over winter, in moss in air-tight vessels. No mould will appear on those which are actually covered by the moss.

I realize that I have made use of a real string of "ifs," and that if an equal number were permitted for some other method of wintering plants, an equally good case could be made out. The real problem seems to be to find some recommendation to give that can be applied generally, a sort of blanket recommendation, that one does not need to be an expert to follow. I do not believe that there is any such blanket recommendation. There is no substitute for detailed, expert knowledge.

The problem of obtaining success in burying and planting out trees involves not only having the tree alive and looking well by mid-summer, the latest date at which the customer can possibly be given any privileges in the way of replacements, but also the problem of having the tree alive when spring comes around again. Once I made a present of half a dozen crabapple trees to a near neighbor, shortly after they had come into leaf. Since they were gifts, I was more than usually willing to take a risk. We took an ample earth-ball with each tree, and moisture conditions were excellent at the time and throughout the rest of the summer. Those trees seemed never to know that they had been moved, except that their later growth was not as great as it would have been. However, next spring they were all dead, every last one. Any sort of strain on a plant, any trial or undue expenditure of its energies, can result in winter killing, even of the hardiest material. These trees were *Malus Baccata*, the wild Siberian crab, and were intended for ornament and pollen only.

(Continued on page 121)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By

MRS. G. M. JORGENSEN



Mrs. Jorgensen

It is Christmas; and with this season is that delightful thrill which comes from doing something nice for someone else. That feeling can carry through all the year for the alert garden club.

Garden Club work is more than learning how to grow the perfect rose, more than personal pleasure in flower arrangement; it is the soul-satisfying reaction which accompanies the feeling that you are helping other human beings to a greater enjoyment of life. We are not concerned alone with the beauty for today, but our eyes turn to far horizons to find new dreams to dream and make come true by the skill of our hands and the faith in our hearts.

We congratulate the garden clubs whose generous response to the Blue Star Memorial Marker Fund makes it possible for us to purchase the first of the handsome markers to be dedicated next summer. As soon as it is erected we will have identified ourselves with the national movement to pay tribute to our war heroes by memorializing one of South Dakota's most scenic highways to them. We hope every individual in our Federation will help with at least one thin dime.

Greater opportunities for service to our fellow man are offered daily, and the recent action by Governor Sigurd Anderson in appointing a Roadside Beautification committee is good news for the garden clubs. It is the signal we have been waiting for to crystalize local highway planting plans into action, and it comes at a time when we can make the necessary arrangements previous to the spring planting season. Those clubs whose first attempts at highway beautification were rebuffed, need now only contact the secretary of the Highway Commission, Frank Mitchell, Pierre, for complete cooperation before proceeding with the plantings, according to the announcement by Governor Anderson. The Roadside committee

is dedicated to clearing ownership of the site chosen, building access roads to it, maintaining the grounds, and selecting equipment suitable to go into the projects. Garden clubs and other organizations are being asked to cooperate in the planting of trees and furnishing water facilities at picnic spots.

We are grateful to Governor Anderson for his interest and cooperation which puts South Dakota in harmony with other forward looking states in the establishment of roadside parks which are often an oasis in the desert for the mile-weary traveler. We hope a great number of our garden clubs will make this a major project of the coming year. It may well be coordinated with the Hopa Crab planting campaign in helping to Plant South Dakota—Keep South Dakota Green. Be sure to contact the Highway Department in time to clear legal details before the planting season begins.

The Garden Therapy program is another self-less and satisfying means of spreading permanent cheer because of our interest in the good earth. If your local hospital and shut-in service is well taken care of, you may wish to cooperate in some way with your State Garden Therapy chairman, who is working with rehabilitation problems among the veterans of the various state institutions.

SOUTH DAKOTA ON THE MARCH

Congratulations also on the national publicity achieved by the gardeners and garden clubs who "made" the pages of the National Gardener for November-December. You have put South Dakota on the garden map of the nation. That picture of ten-foot high delphinium in Mrs. Kennard's garden will act as an ambassador of gardening in South Dakota better than all the words one could pen. Extra copies of the magazine may be obtained for 20c from National Council, Essex House, 160 Central Park South, New York, 19, N. Y., or better still, send in \$1.00 for a year's subscription. There will be more news of interest to South Dakota in the next issue in January.

Here is some good program material to be had from the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., Detroit 31, Michigan. Two beautiful motion picture films in full color available to your club. Background for beauty, gorgeous views of flower seed breeding, 16 mm sound film, full color, time 18 minutes. And Better Gardens for Better Living. A beginning garden-

er discovers the secret of excellence in a home food garden. Remember they are movies and require a 16 mm sound projector. Groups showing films must furnish projector, screen, and experienced operator, and pay return insured postage. No other charge. Since both films are in great demand, please ask for bookings as far in advance as possible, naming two or more alternative dates.

We are particularly anxious to see each state chairman as a subscriber to the national magazine, and to as many other state magazines as possible, because the exchange of ideas is invaluable. Another idea offered by Mrs. Edgar Irving, President of the Nebraska Federation of Garden Clubs, is for each chairman to keep a scrapbook of information, correspondence, clippings and a record of work accomplished, as well as other helps pertaining to the office. This would be passed on as a most helpful adjunct to the successor in office.

I hope all club presidents and program chairmen clipped the new year book score sheet from the September-October issue of Dakota Horticulture. It is the result of intensive study of dozens of score cards from other states and organizations and has borrowed the best from many. It was highly commended by the National Awards chairman, and we hope you like it. Please note that the scrap book score which appeared at the same time was printed by mistake and the correct judging schedule for scrap books appears in another column this month. There are many other awards—all geared to honor the clubs which achieve the most outstanding successes in the projects undertaken.

Are you going south this winter? As a member of the Federation you have the privilege of visiting hundreds of gardens not open to everyone. Write to your state Visiting Gardens chairman for a visitor's card.

Have you bought YOUR copy of Pioneer Gardening yet? It would make a fine gift to a friend or to your library—also the state library at Pierre.

Merry Christmas to one and all! and a garden-Happy New Year!

Will be out of the state during January and February. All correspondence addressed to me after January 10th must go unanswered.

DRYING PLANTS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

By

FRANCES R. WILLIAMS

Whether used for study, exhibition, or for decorative purposes, flowers and branches that are dried in three dimensions have an appeal that is lacking in the flat-pressed, drab-colored specimens that are attached to herbarium sheets. A flower thus treated can be presented in its natural form, and often with much of its natural coloring.

As a summer project for club or camp, the preparation of three-dimensional plant specimens becomes an absorbing pastime with educational possibilities, for the finished products can be used as a basis for the study of wild flowers, ferns, weeds, mushrooms, harmful or poisonous plants, such as ragweed, and poison ivy, garden flowers, herbs, or any other selected category; they may be arranged for an exhibit, or they may be kept for future reference or study. Some have decorative value; in fact, the drying of small, colorful flowers to ornament the tops of boxes has been successfully tried as a form of occupational therapy. The boxes may be filled with lavender or with a pot-pourri of petals.

To dry a flower in three dimensions, a box is selected a little longer than the flower and an inch or more higher.

About half an inch of the drying powder is placed over the bottom of the box, then a mound of powder is built up for the flower to lie on. The flower must not be flattened by resting against the bottom of the box, but must be up in the air to keep its natural shape.

With fingers or a spoon, the powder is poured very carefully all around under the flower. When halfway up, a little powder is sprinkled into the blossom itself. Since very little powder will spread the flower open more than is natural, it should be well banked beneath with powder before it is finally covered. It is well to turn the box around and fill from every side. When the flower is completely covered, a half inch more of the powder is added over the top. Thus the flower cannot move or change its shape or position; it will dry the way it is arranged.

A large amount of powder is required. Three pieces of snapdragon, 15 inches long, will need 20 pounds of borax to

cover them. The powder can be used again and again, but that used on mushrooms acquires a strong odor. Powder used on belladonna and poison ivy might well be kept separate.

Several plants can sometimes be dried in one box, with one-half inch of powder between them, one plant laid above the other.

It takes time and patience to put the powder on the flower and to remove it from the specimen. It is easy to get lazy and throw the powder on hastily, without taking pains to keep the shape of the flower. Then the petals will be flattened out and the flower will not retain its natural shape.

The box with the flower in it, completely covered with powder all the time, should be left in a room at ordinary temperature for three weeks*.

Though for general purposes borax is best, various powders have been tried for drying. The list includes alum, three parts alum and one part plaster-of-paris, borax, boric acid, bread flour, chalk, cornstarch, dusting sulphur, elastic starch, French chalk, fuller's earth, naphtha flakes, orris-root powder, plaster-of-paris alone, potato flour, rice flour, salicylic acid, sand, opacified santocel, baking soda, monohydrated granular sodium carbonate, anhydrous sodium sulphite, powdered sugar, talcum powder, and whiting.

Borax is good for an alkaline powder, talcum for a neutral powder, and boric acid for an acid powder. If talcum powder sticks, it can be removed with a fine brush.

The box with the specimen in it should not be jarred or shaken after being filled. Motion tends to flatten the leaves and flowers. Even an auto ride also jiggles down the powder and the plant. When plants are collected far away, it is better to bring them home in water and then dry them, though of course the fresher the specimen the better the result.

Care in removing the powder is as important as care in preparation. From a box that lets down at the sides the powder can fall away gently. Perhaps a box or tray formed of chicken wire, set into a solid box, would let the borax fall out as the wire tray is lifted. But wire of 1/2-inch square mesh is not coarse enough for this.

*Mushrooms and skunk-cabbage need six weeks or more. Flowers dried quickly over heat seem to get too brittle.

Fingers are best to remove powder from specimens at first. A bent index card is good to use along the edges of the box. After a specimen is partly uncovered, it can generally be pulled out of the powder without damage. But it is a little rough on a group of specimens in 40 pounds of borax to pour the specimens and borax out together.

The powders generally shake off easily; if not at the first moment out of powder, they will be loosened by the next day. Tapping the stem with a pencil shakes off much of the powder.

Finished specimens may be kept in covered cardboard boxes or in transparent boxes, but these latter are easily scratched by borax. It is better not to brush loose borax off their surfaces, but to wipe it off with a wet tissue.

The dried specimens are sturdy enough to endure traveling. Snapdragon and gladioli were sent loose in a box, 1200 miles by parcel post, not marked fragile, and were not at all broken in transit. Where practical, they should be sewed to the back of the box, and it is best to use no covering, as even the weight of tissue on dried flowers is too heavy.

ON THE USE OF HERBS

During the convention at Yankton last summer Mr. Grossheusch told me of a lady who asked, "Now what do you DO with onions after you grow them?" We hope there are no garden club members who would ask such a question, but we do know there are many, myself included, who do not make use of the many herbs which are so easy to grow and which add the professional touch to our daily foods.

From Frances R. Williams, corresponding secretary of the Herb Society of America, comes a gay booklet of Flavors and Savors with recipes for using herbs in many ways. We hope to include one or two for you to try during the coming months, so here is one for Christmas which uses flavors easily purchased at the corner store:



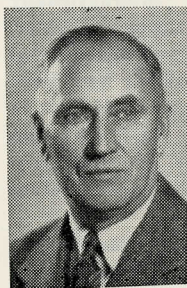
Mulled Cider

Boil together for 10 minutes: 1/2 cup sugar, 1 1/2 cups water, 3 strips lemon peel, 3-inch stick cinnamon, 10 whole cloves. Strain, and add 3 pints cider. Heat but do not boil. Serve hot with a bit of grated nutmeg and a few halved cherries for garnish.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

By

H. N. DYBVIG, Chairman



Dybvig

We have now ordered our first Blue Star marker and I believe that we have located the most wonderful site that it is possible to erect this on. The foundation has been built by the U. S. Forest Service and we have their OK for the site. It is in the Custer State Park and the S. D. Department of Game, Fish and Parks are cooperating; in fact they will erect it, as it is going to be set in stone. The land is school land so the Department of School and Public Lands are also cooperating, as well as the South Dakota State Highway Commission. However, we have not enough money for one marker yet, as we only have \$81.30, so far and we need \$50 more, at least. I have received money from the following Garden clubs: Vermillion, Centerville, Tri-State at Valley Springs, Flandreau, Lake City, Fair City, Huron, Kidder, Town and Country Madison, Dell Rapids, Home Britton, Colome, Watertown, Lyons, Rapid City, South Sioux Falls, Madison, Iroquois, Good Earth, Brookings and Wednesday club of Sioux Falls.

This leaves a lot of clubs still to be heard from and I hope you will take action and send me a check, so that we will have enough money to pay for the marker when it arrives.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANTING

(Continued from page 118)

Hesitancy in adequate pruning can have the same result. It is my custom to prune fruit trees back to within a foot of the ground at planting time. In the spring of 1950 I received a shipment of a hundred plum trees, pruned to about two feet. If they had not been pruned at all, I would have pruned them to six inches or so, but, seeing the work all done for me, and hoping for the best in a way that the amateur is far more likely to do than the professional, I planted them as they were. Practically all lived, and I budded them later in the summer. Nevertheless, this spring sees over two-thirds of them dead.

I know I am repeating myself, but right here, for the nurseryman, is the hardest case of all. If he prunes the trees to the right height, the customer is so disappointed that he places no further orders with that nursery. If the plants are sent out with no pruning at all, in nine cases out of ten, the customer will plant them that way—and if they fail, will blame the nursery. If the plants are pruned half way, even the intelligent and usually skillful customers will say "My trees have been pruned to the right height, and I'm sure that the nurseryman knows best," and so will plant them as they are, even though he may be the sort of man who would prune to the lower height if the pruning had not been done at all. As the reader will note, I myself came within this category last year, which at least reveals the temptation.

In any event, this topic of successful transplanting deserves far more daylight than it has received, and the more persons can contribute their experience to the discussion the better.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

(Continued from page 116)

Edinburgh, Bristol, Dublin, Liverpool, Wales, Glasgow and Manchester. Many of the staff have spent years studying abroad and most of the investigators travel widely to become intimate with work at foreign institutions. The result is that projects receive broad and intensely thorough attack.

On Saturday morning the Pomological Section holds a Seminar at which they are joined by allied workers such as physiologists, pathologists, entomologists and chemists. Current work is discussed from almost every angle. Dr. W. S. Rogers, Chief of the Division of Pomology, acts as chairman. He spent a year at the Summerland Experimental Station, British Columbia. Everyone is free to offer comment and to insert a question. Visitors are considered as belonging to the party and invited to contribute observations. As in Canada, the problem of pests looms large. Plant pathologists, entomologists, physicists and chemists have a goodly proportion of the questions accorded to them.

The factor of bird damage is much more common in Southern England than in Prairie Canada. Mechanical bombs which discharge at minute intervals are widely employed.

South Dakota Experiment station has strains of cottonwoods that are highly resistant to leaf rust. The disease hitting hard in recent years, has caused farmers to hesitate in using cottonwoods as commonly as they did during the 30's. Susceptible trees are defoliated in summer and, lacking food reserves, are weakened or killed in cold weather. New strains propagated by Dr. C. M. Nagel are slated for early release.

—CAPPER'S FARMER.

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BOBER SEED HOUSE

Rapid City and Newell, South Dakota

BOOK REVIEWS

By
MRS. L. N. BRAKKE



Mrs. Brakke

American Wildlife and Plants, by Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim and Arnold L. Nelson. Published by McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 330 W. 42nd St., New York. 500 pages, price \$7.50.

This book is prepared under the direction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, at the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

A guide to Wildlife Food Habits: the use of trees, shrubs, weeds, and herbs by birds and mammals of the United States.

The volume is divided into three main units.

The introductory chapters of Part I gives the plant roots of Wildlife, farm crops and wildlife, and food-habit studies.

Part II: Animals and their food.
Part III: Plants useful to wildlife.

All animals owe their existence to trees, grasses, weeds, farm crops, aquatic, or other forms of vegetation. For more than two centuries, we Americans have been making over the face of the country with ax, plow, bulldozer, and tractor. Wildlife has had to adjust themselves to altered conditions.

The last war brought us stories of individuals who, when forced down over jungle and desert, survived for long periods on wild foodstuffs of the region. Both the Army and Navy instructed men on how to live off the country as wildlife has always done.

To a large group of American sportsmen, upland gamebirds are important above all others. Such as the pheasant, quail, grouse and woodcock.

Our cultivated grains, gardens, orchards and vineyards are extremely important to our wildlife. Corn is one of the leading wildlife foods of this country.

Food habits data on more than 300 species of birds and mammals have made it possible to determine approximately the extent to which about 250

different genera of plants have been used by wildlife.

Food and shelter are primary necessities of both humans and wildlife. For wildlife the two are more intimately connected. Frequently, the same plants that serve as food also provide cover.

A list of 1,000 or more species of birds and mammals, their food and feeding habits is given.

An interesting book for any one interested in our wildlife.



Exhibit Techniques—Edited by Helen Miles Davis. Publication date: September 26th, 1951, by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. 112 pages, price \$2.00.

This book gives invaluable information and suggestions for science fairs and other displays.

Over 20 descriptions of exhibits and projects are published to give suggestions to those who plan similar exhibits in the future. It is intended to aid teachers and club sponsors who are asked questions by their students.

Nearly every spectator visiting a science fair likes to push a button or turn a crank just to see what will happen. If something moves, a better story of the exhibit is told.

Science fairs are now just as fundamentally a part of American life as the county fairs that did so much to build our agriculture and industry.

A little too deep for the average person, but would be a great help to the Science teacher, and student.



The First Book of Trees, by M. B. Cormack, illustrated by Helene Carter. Published by Franklin Watts, Inc., 285 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. 93 pages, price \$1.75.

A book on trees with over 50 full pages of beautiful drawings, showing the leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds for easy identification. A book for the young reader, also adults and has been acclaimed by book reviewers, parents, teachers and librarians. Printed in large type and simple, colorful illustrations. Did you ever wonder why some trees are tall and thin and others low and broad? Can you tell a spruce from a fir or a hemlock? I can't. If you have ever wondered how trees grow and what they do, "The First Book of Trees" is the book for you. We still have many beautiful trees. They belong to us all, let us learn more about them, help pro-

(Continued on page 123)

A GREAT MAN PASSES

GENEVA, N. Y.—Dr. Ulysses P. Hedrick, 81, one of Michigan State College's most renowned horticultural graduates, died early Thursday morning in Geneva, N. Y.

Dr. Hedrick was internationally known as a horticulturist, educator, plant scientist, author and agricultural historian. He served with the New York Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva from 1905 to 1937, the last nine years as director. He has been director-emeritus of the station since his retirement in 1937.

His series of books on varieties of fruits, published from 1908 to 1925, is considered one of the substantial contributions to American horticulture. The volumes are used as standard references in horticulture throughout the world.

He was the recipient of several medals from national and world horticultural organizations for his scientific achievements while in service with the N. Y. Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. Hedrick was born January 15, 1870, in Independence, Iowa. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State College in 1893 and 1895. He received a doctor of science degree from Hobart College, N. Y., in 1913, and an honorary doctor of laws degree from Utah Agricultural College in 1938. He taught at M. S. C., 1893-95 and 1899-1905; Oregon State College, 1895-1897; and Utah Agricultural College, 1897-99. He was head of the M. S. C. department of horticulture from 1902 to 1905.

Member of numerous professional and honorary organizations, Dr. Hedrick was a past president of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He has published 16 books, among the most recent being, "A History of Horticulture in America to 1860," and "Land of the Crooked Tree," an autobiography of his youth in the Petoskey, Mich., area, published in 1948. He was working on a sequel to this book at the time of his death.

Immediate survivors include his wife, Mrs. Amy Plummer Hedrick, Geneva, N. Y.; two children, Mrs. Guy Greene, Geneva, N. Y., and Ulysses P., Jr., Penn Yan, N. Y.; a sister, Mrs. George Simons, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; a brother, Dr. W. O. Hedrick, professor-emeritus of economics, Michigan State College, East Lansing; and four grandchildren.

South Dakota • HORTICULTURE

AROUND SOUTH DAKOTA WITH THE GARDEN CLUBS

By

MRS. E. M. KINDRED, Secretary

One of the fine characteristics of individual gardeners is their willingness to share their accrued knowledge and the fruits of their labors with their fellow workers. Won't you as clubs, do the same, and write me of your activities so that other clubs may enjoy and benefit from your collective efforts? To date, only a small fraction of the clubs in the state have sent in information for this column. Perhaps we will all have more time now that our gardens have been put to bed for the winter. The Crooks Rural Circle has elected the following officers for the coming year: President, Mrs. Olga Jensen; Vice President, Mrs. Ruby Orstad; Secretary, Mrs. Ida Johnson, and Treasurer, Miss Inga Tidemann. The club has purchased several pieces of linen as a gift to the Crippled Children's New Hospital and School at Sioux Falls. Tri-State Garden Club, Valley Springs, enjoyed an interesting talk on garden flowers and house plants. Colored slides of flowers were shown by Mrs. Harry Crisp, the speaker of the day. She presented each member with an African Violet leaf and a named gladiolus bulb. This club has started the plans for planting around the new Tri-State Memorial Hospital, at Valley Springs. The Centerville Garden Club of 18 members opened their fall meetings with a luncheon. Corsages were presented to 8 members for perfect attendance the past year. Mrs. Donald McMurchie discussed "Official State Flowers, Trees and Birds." Wava Burch showed colored slides. The Sioux Falls Garden Club has been most faithful in sending in its reports. On August 5th the members toured Dell Rapids, where they visited many well kept gardens. Beginning with Mrs. Jorgensen's place, where the many hemerocallis were of especial interest. Among others visited was the John Hoier farm with its rock work, splendid windbreak protection and beautiful flowers. They ended the tour at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Elsinger and Mr. Ginsbach, where the best in conservation practices have been used. The Elsinger's have a fine apple orchard containing many of the fine Canadian varieties. On August 30th, Mrs. Robert Berry, Mrs. R. G. Ferris

and Mr. C. M. Heinson brought and demonstrated to the club, material for the arrangement of winter dried bouquets.

Mr. Heinson, at a later date, also presented an exhibit of 63 specimens of cacti. Discussions have been had on planting fall bulbs, storing vegetables, mulches, winter protection and favorite shrubs. Chapters from Pioneer American Gardens have also been used for program material. The Groton Garden Club officers for the coming year are: President, Mrs. Emilie Nehls; Vice President, Mrs. Paul Krueger; Secretary, Mrs. Leonard Broman; and Treasurer, Mrs. Art Totzke. At the last meeting, pictures were taken of the charter members, for the club history. This is a club of both men and women and they now have 37 members. They have held a flower show and will present a book on gardening to their city library. Two other new clubs have recently been organized and federated. One at Irene with 16 members with the following officers: President, Mrs. Earl Dickerson, Vice President, Mrs. K. N. Knudsen, and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Pete Andersen. The other club, "The Garden Gate Club," of Miller, has 15 members with Mrs. Mark Jones President, Mrs. Charles Wilbur, Vice President, and Mrs. Bob Knapp, Secretary-Treasurer. Our best wishes to these new clubs. The Vermillion Garden Club members opened their year's activities with a 6:30 banquet on September 26th. Their first program was on "Bulbs and Their Storage," and they are planning a demonstration of table arrangements. Approximately 80 members and friends of the Yankton Garden Club gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Grosshuesch in the early fall to enjoy a 5 o'clock jumble picnic in the garden. Colorful Japanese lanterns and autumn flowers made a pleasant setting for the event. Many unusual flowers were viewed and films showing the Grosshuesch garden from spring until fall proved most interesting. The fall festival, garden and flower exhibit sponsored by the Miller Community Garden Club drew a crowd of over 100. There were 109 entries in the exhibit. Mrs. Verle Borah had charge of the program. Mrs. E. H. Wilson, a pioneer gardener of Miller, was presented with a corsage. I'll be expecting to hear from many more of you for our next issue. Best Christmas wishes for all of you.

BOOK REVIEW

By

MISS HARRIETTA BACH

Nature's Ways, How Nature Takes Care of Its Own. By Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews. Illustrated by Andre Durenceau and others. Published by Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Price \$3.75.

Such a wonderful Christmas or birthday gift for a child or an adult! The introduction is chuck full of valuable information regarding nature's protection of her children. Nature's creatures are endowed with natural means of protection to save them from their enemies. Perhaps the most outstanding one is concealing and protective coloration. Mr. Andrews has brought into this book such clear cut descriptions of many usual and unusual creatures. The illustrations by Andre Durenceau are simply out of this world. Together the author and artist have developed a book for your library and mine. Due to the wealth of material and lack of space, this review will point out only a few of the interesting articles. Do you know that the bat is nature's radar expert, for it relies on the echoes of its squeaks? What about the tree that wears petticoats and because of this can withstand hurricanes? The robin really is listening for the stirring of the earthworm for nature has equipped him with supersensitive hearing. With the price of food so exorbitant should we envy the American Tree Frog with his built in food supply for he feeds on his own tail. Why worry about an extension ladder to put on your second story storm windows when the giraffe carries his with him all the time. The Octopus has used jet propulsion long before man knew the term. You turn up the thermostat for warmth. So does the rattlesnake when he buries his fangs someplace in your body. The turkey is a popular bird right now but the wild turkey is difficult to shoot because nature has given him marvelous hearing and eyesight. Doesn't it seem odd that baby seals have to be taught how to swim? The Kangaroo has no worry in regard to baby sitters; you know why. And of all things the desert rat has snowshoes! The parents of today could well emulate the paternalism of the yellow warbler with mothers and fathers taking equal responsibility for their children. What a relief to know

(Continued on page 126)

SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. SIMMONS



W. A. Simmons

Some of the ladies of the garden clubs have said they were tired of looking at the pictures of the handsome men and women that write for it, in our magazine and say they are willing to pay for cuts of some of their members, and the activities of their clubs. Poverty precludes the Horticultural Society from paying for these cuts, but if any club desires to do so, we will be glad to run these cuts, and also the article of explanation that accompanies it. In estimating the cost, of course, it depends on the size of the cut. Those that we have been running on our cover page cost just a little less than \$5. We can get the cuts made here and will be glad to do so provided a blank check is sent us with the photo, and of course, we will return the receipt, given by the engraving company, and also will return the cut after the printing is done, so it can be used in your local papers.

In sending in his dues for the year, plus 10 cents, to cover exchange on the check, Mr. Francis L. Block of Ortonville, Minnesota, writes: "We still have about 700 bushel baskets of good winter-keeping apples in storage, if it should be that you are apple hungry, or anyone else, sight them this way." Anyone that has ever sampled Mr. Block's apples, know they are tops and well worth driving a long way to acquire. About their "Be Kind to Roses" week Mr. H. A. Graves writes as follows: "Reta (evidently his boss), and I mounded 29 roses on Saturday, using a stove pipe around the rose plant and then filling that with vermiculite to a height of about 10 inches. We then filled up around the pipe with soil and pulled out the pipe, leaving a nice mound with a vermiculite core. I do not prune my roses back in the fall but wait till spring." In a later letter he wrote: "My roses look quite contented, tucked away in their mound of vermiculite." they should. Our friend Mr.

A. E. Rapp, of Denver, who has met me and decided I was not smart enough to steal, sent me a blank check for his dues and a couple of magazines, and a very interesting letter. Before, he had sent me a couple of ornate English Garden magazines and I had commented on the many advertisements of wonderful, palatial houses and estates for sale. This is what he had to say about them: "The big houses that they can't give away without providing funds for their perpetual care, always interested me, when as a child I read Sir Walter Scott's chivalrous novels so as soon as I was on my own I went over to see them. There is nothing that enhances a man's prestige more than a big house and so for the past four centuries the rich folks provided employment for the building mechanics, who had been building church cathedrals and monasteries until Parliament dissolved the religious orders. These big houses were really quite unsatisfactory as habitations and I quite quickly decided that a sod house, in the Dakotas, was preferable, for comfort, though it did not have beauty, a high ceiling and a stone floor covered with bullrushes. We are both quite well as we leave the various ailments that affect folks, to the younger fry. We have had several snow storms none of which lasted until the question as to who was to do the shovelling was settled." For a long time we have occupied the office jointly with a bunch of mice, who rather relieved the solitude for me, as the office is far above the common herd of the county employe

slaves, on the fourth floor. But the mice were splendid breeders, with no race suicide intentions and their population increased rapidly. When they got too gay I would set traps and reduce them back to normal, but that was slow work, and they started to trim up my house plants, which was the last forkful of straw. Recently I got a mice remedy containing warfarin, which the mice dearly loved, forsaking all other forms of nutriment as long as they could get that. Then after a while I noticed their health was failing and I would find a cold body on the floor. Soon they were all gone, except for a very dark brown odor, as I was unable to find them all and to throw them out the window. Now, at long last, even the odor has subsided and I think, as far as the office is concerned, mice are "exstink." I hope club secretaries will send me any good article that their members may produce, so it can be published in the magazine, thus sharing it with members of other clubs.

When Jim Blake's hound dog disappeared, he put the following ad in the local paper: "Lost or ran away, liver-colored bird dog named Bill. Will show signs of hydrophobia in about 3 days." The dog came home the following morning.—CAPPER'S FARMER.

"Well, Willie, your sister and I are going to be married. How's that for news?"

"Shucks, you just now finding that out?"—CAPPER'S FARMER.

The PIONEER SEED HOUSE

Nursery-Greenhouses of the Northwest

FOUNDED at BISMARCK
in DAKOTA TERRITORY
in 1882

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

OSCAR H. WILL & CO.

BISMARCK, N. D.

REPORTS OF CHAIRMEN Year Books and Scrap Books

By

MRS. L. N. BRAKKE

Here is the result of the 1951 year-book contest. There were 23 yearbooks entered and they were judged by H. J. Donaldson, Fremont, Nebraska. First prize went to Green Thumb Garden Club, Hurley, score 94. Fair City Garden Club, Huron, second, score 89, and third to Dell Rapids Garden Club, score 87. The next three high were Lyons Club 83, Rural Circle Club of Crooks 80, and Home Garden Club of Britton 79. Only 5 books were brought to the convention at Yankton for the scrap book contest. A book, as first prize was given to Good Earth Garden Club, Brookings. Ratings in order were given to Fair City Club, Huron, Dell Rapids Club, Miller Club and South Sioux Club, Sioux Falls. Judges were Mrs. Agnes Chase, Sioux City, Mrs. A. R. Schamber, Rapid City, and Mrs. L. N. Brakke, Hartford. You can discard the scrap book score sheet from your last HORTICULTURE, as we have worked out a new one. Here it is:

Size, not less than 10 x 12, durable cover (not judged).

Appearance, Method of display and neatness	5%
Brief history of Garden Club, limit 1 page typed.....	5%
Scope of material, local and state news, clippings, pictures, awards, ribbons and programs presented to club	30%
News interest, interest to reader..	30%
Horticultural value. Value of programs and projects to gardening and to the community.....	30%

Total points100

At a special meeting of officers and directors, held at Dell Rapids, the following awards were voted in for 1952: First, second and third on both yearbooks and scrap books. A green ribbon for civic achievement and conservation. Blue ribbon for special achievement. Standard flower shows over 90% rating, purple ribbon, Junior and nature study, green ribbon.

The 1952 convention will be held from June 15th to 18th at Rapid City, so all yearbooks and scrapbooks will have to be sent to me before June 1st, 1952, to be judged before convention time.

Program

By

MRS. D. S. BAUGHMAN

The office of the program chairman was established at the 1950 state garden club convention and chairmen appointed. The first letter from the program chairman to the South Dakota garden clubs was sent out to each garden club president and also appeared in the State Horticulture Magazine in January, 1951. Also program material from the National program chairman was sent to clubs newly organized.

A beginning has been made. Yearbooks from state garden clubs have been collected, listed, and notes taken from them with the idea of compiling this program making material, facts and fancies for use of the clubs.

Over a hundred yearbooks from clubs outside of our state have been secured, including the national prize winners (on display at the state convention).

Topics for programs, constitutions, creeds, poems, references, are on file. Over 200 pamphlets on National parks and monuments are available for clubs.

Lists of books at the office of the secretary of State Horticulture Society which have been reviewed in the magazine and some not reviewed, were sent to each garden club.

Requests were made for each garden club to send in material used in their programs, to be loaned to other clubs—a few have responded.

Many nice, interesting and informative letters have been received from garden clubs. New clubs asked for aid in program making. Packets of yearbooks and other helps were sent to 20 clubs. Lists were kept of things checked out so that duplications would not be sent. The most disturbing request came for help on program and entertainment for a Christmas party for a mixed group of 60 to 70 people, including children of all ages. Booklets and references were sent promptly—hoping they might help.

The 1950 National Yearbook Contest sponsored by National Horticulture Magazine (Boston) brought more than 300 entries from all over the country.

The work has been interesting, the contacts delightful, and though there has not been much to offer in this first year there is possibility of building up a lending library that will be really worth while. If everyone helps it will be easier. Please write up interesting

or unusual meetings and send in, together with good papers.

★

Ways and Means

By

MARJORIE KENNARD

We Have Many Ways To Spend It; Finding A Few Means to Make It.

Your Ways and Means chairman would like to advise Garden Club members that we have some very practical items available to you at moderate prices. Such as, "Green Thumb Gloves," size small, medium and large, at \$1.00 per pair—would be very appropriate for gardening, dusting, painting, etc. You may be interested to know you can also acquire your talabels (tie on type), 100 for 50 cents through your Ways and Means. They are ideal for labeling your plants and their varieties. For something different in napkins we have Botany Flower Napkins. They are packaged thirty in a box, each napkin designed with a different flower, at \$1.00 per box.

We still have a supply of "American Pioneer Gardening" compiled by Elvenia Slosson, at \$3.75 each.

The opportunity is knocking at your garden gate for you to get a handy flower caddy, available through your Ways and Means chairman for \$1.00. This caddy will do away with your troubles of finding something to carry your cut flowers in. The caddy will not tip over and spill as most containers do. They are constructed of four cans fastened together with a wire handle protruding about 1 foot high through the center. Two of the cans are quart size and the other two are pint size, for the shorter stemmed flowers.

The real classic of theatre criticisms saw the light of day in a little newspaper at Pierre, S. D., where a performance of Uncle Tom's Cabin drew this two line review: "The bloodhounds were good but they didn't have any support." —W. Earl Hall in MASON CITY GLOBE-GAZETTE.

"I'm going to give you the maximum punishment" the judge announced to the crestfallen defendant. "I'm not going to put you in our nice jail. I'm going to let you go free and worry about taxes, shortages, rationing, unemployment, politics war, the high cost of living—just like the rest of us."—Horticultural News, New Jersey.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

By

F. X. WALLNER



F. X. Wallner

It must be pocket gopher bounty has been removed, or the boys are tired of trapping them, because I see the alfalfa fields covered with mounds all along the highway to Sioux City. Trapping is rather a slow way to rid a big field of the

pests, but it was a nice little income, in my younger days and I have tried to keep them out of the gardens through the years, but there are other ways, one of which is small pieces of carrots or parsnips dropped in their runs with just a speck of strychnine in the center. The damage done in meadows and pastures can be seen in the fall and it's a good time to spread the bait. Also it can be plainly seen from the train windows that hilly western Iowa farm lands are far behind eastern South Dakota in soil conservation and reforestation. There are many deep gullies on most farms that cannot be crossed by machinery, so that corn fields and grass fields are cut up into small tracts. A few fields are worked on the contour; very few dams in pastures or meadows.

I often wonder what I can write on this small page, of interest to the readers, as many may not be interested in far-away places; but I am sure everyone would be interested in the mum show that lasts about 4 weeks at two large greenhouses here in Chicago, al-

ways the newest and best things to show the public and the schools. The new cacti house, just started last year must be the largest in the nation; in a few years the house should be a wonderful picture of the best. Each year the two mum houses seem nicer than before; a new design was two large diamond shaped beds of thousands of blooms placed flat with the lawn. I doubt if they were replaced more than two or three times during the show. I should spend more time at the stock show, as there is so much to see, but most interesting is the eagerness and enthusiasm of the exhibitors, especially the children. But it is also a sad time; the day before the show, when about 500 animals are rejected at the stockyards that never even get a chance to get in the show ring. There are many new winners this year although some have won in the past. Michigan had its first wheat king and beat Canada that has won it since 1928. The ear-corn champion was from Ohio, also the first time it has gone to that state. Before, Indiana or Illinois has won, except Iowa has won once. The corn prince was from Indiana; he won second place last year. Michigan wool growers got most all the ribbons in many classes and had by far the best exhibits ever. A young brother of the new wheat king got the blue ribbon for field beans and the red ribbon for oats.

Investigations at the New Jersey station have shown that young, non-bearing apple trees should be pruned as lightly as possible and largely to prevent the formation of weak crotches or too long, pole-like main branches. Much pruning delays the time when the trees will come into profitable bearing.

—HORTICULTURAL NEWS.

NEWSLANTS

(Continued from page 115)

Alva Good of Fredericton, New Brunswick, tells of an apple tree top-worked with 125 successful grafts. Topworking up to a certain point is very practical especially here in the North. However, 125 grafts gets over into the realm of a hobby. Topworking is fun regardless. It is also a method of getting fruit of a new variety in two or three years. A top-graft of Whitney put on a Juneberry bush in 1949 bore a half-dozen apples in 1951. I have a hardy Siberian crab tree top-worked with a dozen grafts of Mr. Wodarz, new McIntosh seedling "Reta." If it bears at the rate of 6 fruits per graft in 1953, we shall all be pleased.

BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from page 123)

that only on a short dash, the cheetah can travel 70 miles per hour. The desert plant meets its water requirement by the thickening of its stems and using these for storage. A porcupine can't shoot his quills but he can make them stick to you if you touch him. Electric current applied for household use is 110 volts but experiments on electric eels have drawn 600 volts. An Australian sea horse is a most unusual marine creature for his shape, color, and appendages so closely resemble his seaweed habitat that it is almost impossible to distinguish the fish from the plant. Now will you agree with me that this is a book you should own? As Mr. Simmons wrote when he sent me the book to review, "It has an appeal for children from 8 to 80." Are you in that age group?

Marriage for a man is like any other job, it helps a lot if you like the boss.

—READER'S DIGEST.

HOME OF *Seeds and Trees That Grow
and Satisfy*

Gurney Seed and Nursery Co.

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

EARLY TRADITIONS

(Continued from page 117)

The August additions to his load were the string beans, cucumbers and anxiously awaited melons.

First to make their appearance in the fruit line were the green wind-fall "jelly" apples, which could usually be found on his wagon in July. But long before the first of August some of the early varieties of apples were on the load in "hand-picked" quality.

About 1905 he decided to add a vineyard to his operations. An expensive and unsuccessful experiment, it did nothing but subtract five intensely cultivated acres from profitable cropping. The quality of the grapes was unsatisfactory, market for them was limited by distances and satisfactory wild grapes grew in the river bottoms free for the picking.

To preserve his vegetables during the cold winter months Marion used an enormous cave dug deep into the sandy loam, roofed with cottonwood logs and covered with earth. Each winter a heavy covering of manure was added to it, and during the most severe weather in January and February gunny-sacks hung over the wooden vent-holes that penetrated the roof. Three heavy doors separated the winter-stored vegetables from the out-of-doors. To this cave came the merchants of Pierre and Ft. Pierre to replenish their stocks of winter vegetables.

Vegetables stored in the cave for winter use included cabbage, carrots, beets, turnips, squash, pumpkins, rutabagas, celery, onions and potatoes.

Although not in any large quantity, he raised plums and hybrids. His plum patch was primarily a proving ground for the products of Professor Hansen's efforts to develop hardy varieties for this climate. Whereas the apples, and during their time the grapes, were carefully pruned, painted and sprayed, the plum and hybrid plums were kept only weed-free and picked.

For over 30 years Marion's apple orchard was a joy to view. The trees were about 25 feet apart in rows with a space of about 40 feet between rows. Between the road to town and the asparagus patch were two rows of wealthy apples, two rows of miscellaneous trees including Duchess, Greenings and Siberian crabs. On the far side of the asparagus patch were two rows of Ben

Davis apple trees and two rows of assorted crabs as well as single trees of lesser known or newly developed varieties. The space between the rows was given over to various truck garden items.

During the time when Marion was struggling with the vineyard, Professor Hansen sent him 100 seeds of Cossack alfalfa to test, a seed which he had brought back with him from a recent trip to Russia. The root system differed considerably from the familiar Turkestan varieties, and because it survived in the unfavorable climate of the steppes, Professor Hansen thought it would be a natural for his state of South Dakota.

After starting the seed in his hotbeds, Marion found the germination very good, and by spring he had nearly a hundred plants to set out in a new field, separated completely from the existing fields of Turkestan alfalfa by the vineyard. Satisfactory growth was recorded, and the survival percentage was high. However, after several years of experimenting, Marion decided that for his own purposes nothing equalled the Turkestan variety.

But the end of the first World War put an end to the once profitable business. His children were grown and had no desire to drudge their lives away working 16 to 18 hours a day as their father before them had. Hired help was expensive. Refrigerator cars and rapid transportation brought table-fresh vegetables and fruits to his once exclusive territory for a lower price than Marion could charge for raising them on his own island.

An era had ended.

LIKES THE SHORT DAY

Owner of drugstore: "Now that I've hired you I must tell you that early hours are the rule in this store."

New Boy: "That's fine. You can't close too early for me."

—CAPPER'S FARMER

Lady: "What's your cat's name, little boy?"

Boy: "Ben Hur."

Lady: "That's a funny name for a cat. How did you happen to pick such a name?"

Boy: "Well, we used to call him Ben, until he had kittens." —THE EARTH-WORM.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 122)

teet them and help other trees to grow. Most of us see them so often we sometimes forget their importance. Right at this minute you may be sitting on a chair made of wood from a tree, you probably live in a wooden house. Wood treated in a special way makes rayon, even the film you take pictures with, was made of wood. The orange you had for breakfast came from a tree, also apples, nuts, maple sugar, and in the game of baseball the bats are made from hickory. You can think of many things we would not have if there were no trees. One of the greatest dangers to our trees is fire, so let us be more careful and not cause forest fires. I think some of us adults might learn lots about trees from this book. The U. S. Forestry Service is always working to make our forests bigger and better. Today we have 152 large national forests besides hundreds of state forests. A good book for the Junior Gardeners.

When chopping onions, take a bite of bread. Keep it firmly tucked in the roof of your mouth to do away with those tears.—PRAIRIE FARMER.

Chilled Grapes

Remove all stem from small seedless grapes; wash thoroughly, heap in glass cups. Sprinkle with sugar and curly mint chopped fine, and allow to become thoroughly chilled for several hours in the refrigerator before serving.

A patient walked up to the new superintendent of the mental hospital. "We like you much better than the last superintendent," he said. "Why is that?" beamed the new official. "Oh, sir, you seem more like one of us."

—CAPPER'S FARMER.

REAL TALENT

Texan: "Telling lies, my friend, is not one of my shortcomings."

Easterner: "No, I would say it is one of your major accomplishments."

—CAPPER'S FARMER

"Mrs. Jones, I have examined you thoroly and I think that all you need is a good rest."

"But, doctor, you haven't looked at my tongue."

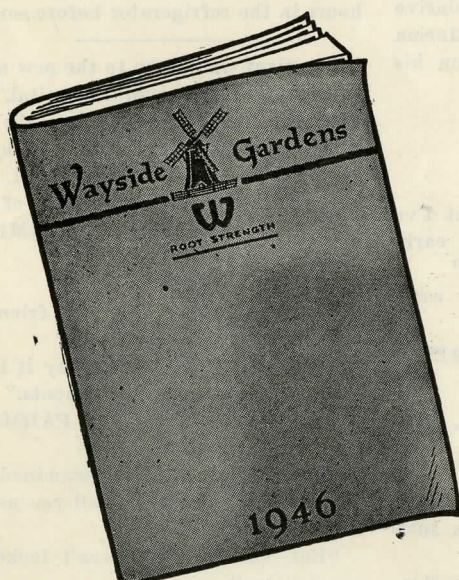
"That needs a rest too."

—CAPPER'S FARMER

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