

North and South Dakota HORTICULTURE

MARCH-APRIL 1952

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Our beautiful Prairie Crocus . . which should be making its appearance where there is limestone on our prairies, by the time this magazine is out.

THE HAWK OWL

By

O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

This is one of the rare winter visitors. Only a few specimens have been found in North Dakota though Williams reported them frequent at Grafton in 1908. South Dakota also has few records. In Montana it is reported

more frequent in the northwestern part of the state. Minnesota records it as occasional, sometimes fairly common in the northern counties. Many were seen in New England in the winter of 1884.

Illustrations of this bird are a little suggestive of a goshawk. It is decidedly spotted in general appearance. The top of the head is blackish with fine white spotting. The wings are dark brown, the rest of the upper parts and prominent crossbars on the underparts, are dark brown. There are no ear tufts. It is a medium sized owl about 15 inches long.

The scientific name of this bird is *Surnia ulala caparoch*. The origin of the first word is unknown. The second was applied to some sort of an owl as far back as the Romans and the last is a native name for the bird in the region of Hudson's Bay. The European hawk owl is only slightly different from the American so the birds are really found all the way around the world in the Arctic region.

Dr. E. W. Nelson, chief of the U. S. Biological Survey for many years, made an extensive exploration in Alaska in the eighties. He reported the hawk owl as perhaps the most abundant resident bird of prey throughout the wooded northern part of Alaska. It frequents openings where it can watch for game while perched upon a limb or dead tree stub.

Unlike most owls, the hawk owls fly freely and hunt their prey during the daytime. Dr. Roberts describes one chasing a domestic pigeon at noon on a bright day. One writer describes their flight as similar to that of a sharp-shinned hawk. E. T. Seton wrote that in flying from one tree to another in more or less open country the birds

drop suddenly to near the ground, skim along near the ground then rise quickly to the new perch.

The nests are commonly placed on top of dead tree stubs or in thick branches of evergreens. They also use natural cavities in dead trees and old woodpecker holes. The eggs are three to seven, pure white, about one and three-quarters inches long. Nests on the branches of trees are built of sticks and lined with grass or moss. Those in cavities may have a little grass, moss or feather lining.

The hawk owl seems to feed mainly upon mice and other small animals though birds are often taken. One writer from Alberta said that mice and weasels were all that he had seen them catch; that one owl followed them to catch the mice under hay cocks which they were hauling. In the Arctic they are said to prey heavily upon ptarmigan in winter and in northern United States have been reported attacking game birds.

GONE FOREVER THE GOOD OLD DAYS

By

MARY LOUISE KINYON

The good old fashioned medic
Had courage and skill—or didn't you
know it?

A specialist now for every toe,
For each separate organ, an endless row.

You call for one and he says "Hum,
That's not for me, it's in your thumb."
You go to Dr. Rumblerose;
"Oh no," says he, "it's from your nose."

A nose specialist is then called in
He finds the trouble is in your chin.
Well, what will I do—you consult with
two
You find you really have the "flu."

The specialist tale never ends
You are tossed like a ball—till your
bank roll bends.
Then you find—you are just a guy
Without any money, so you might as
well die.

If you can afford a funeral, that is.

Who should plant strawberries in 1952? Only those who are quite sure they will need a few hundred dollars extra in 1953.—W. W. Magill.

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South Dakota • HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

By

HARRY A. GRAVES



Graves

We have just received an invitation to attend the Thirteenth International Horticultural Congress to be held in London, September 8-15, 1952. Listed is an impressive array of lecturers from the United States, Canada, the

United Kingdom and several European countries. Several tours are listed, one of them a three-day tour to Scotland. A very learned gathering, to be sure. However, we are not planning to attend.

The catalog from Sheyenne Gardens at West Fargo calls attention to their three new Iris introduced in 1951. They are Solveig, Susie-Q and Rubaiyat. We are especially impressed with Solveig, a lemon yellow variety. We do not want to pose as an authority on Iris but the Sheyenne Iris are a sight to behold along about June 1.

While we are bragging about our local nurseries, we might as well add that the 1952 catalog from the Willow Gardens at Harwood is very attractive, too. A large selection of ornamentals is listed.

Circular 192 "Vegetables, Fruits; Select Them, Show Them" is the number and title of a new bulletin from the University of Arizona at Tucson. Valuable hints and suggestions as to how to select, prepare and show vegetables are listed. Numbers suggested as desirable in making up an exhibit differ from recommendations from this station but the difference is not critical. In general, I would say the bulletin is a most helpful publication.

Melvin Bergeson of Bergeson's Nursery at Fertile, Minnesota, has introduced a new flowering crabapple. Bergeson has given this new tree the catchy and appropriate name of Red Splendor. This variety is described as having flowers about the same shade of pink as Hopa. However, the tree is more upright in habit (Hopa is very wide headed at maturity) and the flowers are so spaced along the slender branches to

give the impression of a large pink delphinium. Foliage is purplish-green. Bright red berries hang on the trees all fall. The flowering crabs are one of the most worthwhile ornamentals we can grow here in the Upper Midwest. Hopa pretty well occupied the field alone for nearly 30 years. Now we have some fine additions from the Morden Station. We shall look forward to Red Splendor and its bloom with anticipation. We have a small tree of it in our back yard.

The apathy of all of us toward the mess we are in is reflected in the attitude of most folks toward the National Home Garden program. The cost of living alone should prompt most of us to cast about for a garden plot. Some of us have! A great majority, however, are making little attempt to rustle up a plot somewhere. Savings to the family food budget isn't the whole story. When you have an abundance of fresh vegetables from your own garden, you are going to eat more vegetables than if you have to buy them. How many folks without a garden buy fresh green beans or peas? Not many! Should an all out shooting emergency occur after the garden planting season, a lot of folks would be in a bad way. Moral: Better make a sincere effort to have some kind of a garden in 1952. Valuable help can be obtained from your County Extension Agent or State Agricultural College.

From Mrs. Florence Worrack of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, we have learned more about the green petaled rose she knew as a girl in South Africa. A letter from Gene Boerner in charge of research for Jackson & Perkins informs us that this green petaled rose is *Rosa viridiflora*, a species that came to them from China. Bailey lists it as a variety of *Rosa chinensis* but gives it little mention. Thanks to Wendy Warren of CKY, Winnipeg, Mrs. Worrack of Quill Lake and Gene Boerner of Jackson & Perkins for calling this to our attention and putting us straight.

Olaf Henrikson taught violin at the Concordia Conservatory of Music for many years. Some 15 or more years ago he retired to a beautiful site on the west side of the Sheyenne Valley near Fort Ransom—there to grow flowers, garden and milk a few cows. Some months before Olaf's death in 1951, his wife Lillian felt inspired to write the poem "Retired Musician." We have her permission to include it here:

These hands once smooth and supple,
Plyed the strings
And brot forth music
Touching the heart of man in accents
sweet.
If troubled, brot him sweet repose.
In Love it soared to heights unseen
But to return again—
In love absorbed,
In Sorrow, soothing strains lay tenderly
On spirit sore—
A promise of hope to them who grief
In trusting bore.

Where once these hands caressed the
strings,
Gnarled tho they be,
They now carress the soil and plant,
Which spring as surely into Song and
Chant
In form of blushing Rose, or dainty
Squill
As ever did the Violin's trill!
With loving hands he needs must touch
The bush and vine,
To make it sing;
Doubly sweet; since Robin, Thrush, and
Wren,
Adding melody,
Link together Eternity and Men.
—Lillian Nowatzki-Henrikson
June — 1950.

HAPPINESS, WEALTH AND HEALTH

By

MARY LOUISE KINYON

When we are young we work so hard
To find a little pleasure
A dance, romance or picnic
These little things we treasure.

Then we grow a trifle wise
We want the things money buys,
So for years it's the elusive dollar,
In luxury we want to wallow.

But when we've reached a certain age
We forget about the big fat wage.
We are off upon another search,
This time the stakes are high.

We'll search for this until we die;
It's something money cannot buy—
You say "What better is there than
wealth?"
My son, we all end up seeking health.

From 100 to 400 pounds of dates
come from a single palm annually.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By

W.: R. LESLIE



W. R. Leslie

The Ohio Short Course, January 21, 22, 23, was the twenty-third annual holding of this event devoted to ornamental horticulture. The program is under the auspices of the Department of Horticulture and Forestry of the Ohio

State University. The first day is for Arborists, the second for Landscape Gardeners and the third for Nurserymen. Two days following are occupied by the Ohio Nurserymen's Association. The attendance approaches three hundred.

This writer has enjoyed greatly the meetings this year as well as those four years ago. Authorities came from Illinois, Indiana, Connecticut, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey and West Virginia even though there is found a galaxy of renowned scientists within the State. Nineteen horticulturists of Ohio contributed. Excellent details of the Ohio Short Course are reported each year in the widely valuable publication, The American Nurseryman. Notes here are to impart some individual impressions.

In planting shade trees, the trend is to favor setting smaller stock than formerly. A specimen 1¼ to 1½ inches in trunk diameter, compared to a 4 inch tree, is less costly, suffers reduced transplanting shock and makes for less need of replacements. Moreover, the smaller stock does not require trunk wrapping. The favored location for street trees is just inside of the sidewalk. Placed there they do not interfere with street widening and snow plowing. Spacing of 35 to 55 feet was suggested, with one tree being allowed for each city lot. This assists public relations with the property owner. The desired position is about 6 feet to one side of the centre of the lot. The use of acid peat as part of the filling in of the roomy hole is commended. Although the peat is not a fertilizer the roots develop rapidly in it. A dome of soil is

worked up in the bottom of the hole as a cushion for the roots. A handful of superphosphate is spread over the top soil to be used in filling about the roots. Wax coatings, as moisture conservers, tend to scale off in cold dry windy climates. Burlap wraps are more adapted. If a mulch is to be used, crushed rock is a good choice, being cool and moist. Coarse wood chips are also good. It is important that any material for mulching be free from caking tendency so that water will be absorbed and not run off over the surface. Corn cobs make excellent mulches. The use of green vegetation in the hole may emit gases which harm the roots and even kill the young tree. Fresh manure is likely to prove deadly to tree roots.

January 22, the second day of the course, was Landscape Gardeners' Day, and was presided by one of America's best known horticulturists, Professor Victor H. Ries, Floriculturist. He is author of books, bulletins, and of the well-known feature of The Country Gentleman "Over the Garden Fence."

Professor Ries spoke of plant subjects which will grow in the shade. Among the **Annuals for partial shade** are, petunia, cornflower, nicotiana, aster, sweet alyssum, larkspur, snapdragon, calendula, pansy and begonias.

Vines for shade: bittersweet, woodbine, matrimonyvine, and clematis.

Perennials for shade: bishopsweed, bugle or ajuga, Japanese anemone, columbine, Celandine poppy, pink turtlehead, snakeroot, lily-of-the-valley, dwarf bleeding-heart, foxglove, plantain lily, trillium, mertensia, bergamot, forget-me-not, lungwort, sedum ternatum, meadowrue, globe flower, Solomon's seal, ferns, Turkscap lily, shooting star, false Solomon's seal.

Shrubs for shade beneath trees where soil is dry: Amur maple, 5-leaf aralia, chokeberry (aronia), cotoneaster, coralberry, Japanese quince, yellow kerria, privet, Morrow honeysuckle, buckthorn, fragrant sumac, clove currant, alpine currant.

Shrubs for shade of buildings and beneath trees where soil is not too dry: viburnums in variety, wahoo, dwarf euonymus, dwarf sumac, mockorange, pussy willow, grey and other dogwoods, witch-hazel, saskatoon or Amelanchier, Froebel spirea.

Evergreens: hemlock, inkberry, mountain laurel, pachysandra (Japanese spurge), Oregon grape.

Grass substitutes for shade; Evergreen: pachistima, periwinkle, pachysandra, junipers where healthy, wintercreeper, lily-of-the-valley. **Not Evergreen:** bugle or Ajuga, sweet woodruff or asperula, speedwell or Veronica, stonecrop or native sedum, violets, mazus, wild ginger, dwarf phlox, maiden pink, buttercup, yellowroot or zanthorhiza.

The speaker advocated planting spring-flowering buds under all ground covers. Prominent for such use are Siberian squills and tulips. Another suggestion was that a magnifying glass be used to study the blooms of bitter-sweet in choosing plants. The sexes of this species are very variable. It is important that the plants be selected for their possession of female flowers so that there be crops of the showy fruits. Many specimen are purely staminate.

J. A. Aitken, Rosehall Nurseries, Ltd., Brantford, Ontario, who is president of the Canadian Nurserymen's Association, described Mechanized Landscape Equipment. He advocated oversized tires on the rear tractor wheels filled with calcium. A step-down transmission is used. A Dearborn Utility Blade is placed on the back of the tractor. A home-made small centre blade, set between the front and rear wheels, is very useful. A series of sections of steel door mats are pulled for particularly fine jobs such as working down dressings on lawns. A brush harrow is satisfactory for covering grass seed.

Krilium, the new synthetic chemical which acts in spectacular manner as a soil conditioner, was discussed by Dr. W. P. Martin. This whitish powder does not put food into the soil but it stabilizes the aggregates, making for a granular condition of clays. The negative electric charges of the powder react with the positive charges of the soil minerals, reconstituting the physical structure of the soil, by cementing the various particles. When the powder is mixed in the advocated amount, the particles join together by bridges to form granules of sizes from pinhead to peas. If applications are too heavy, the soil may become lumpy due to the aggregates becoming overly large. The chemical is a plastic substance. Manufactured by the Monsanto Chemical Company, Krilium will not be available for growers until 1953. Evidence indi-

(Continued on page 24)

EARLY TRADITIONS

West River Plains

By

MARGARET H. DAVIDSON

The prairies of Dakota were covered in the early day with buffalo grass which lay like a thick mattress on the uplands, waist high in the draws and hollows.

Beset by drouth, crowded by land seekers, their remaining acres overgrazed, the cattlemen of the Southwest turned to these western grasslands as the answer to a prayer. To the famished, trail-driven cattle the rich grass was like a Garden of the Lord.

Quickly these men, born and bred in the tradition of the cattle country, recognized an amazing change in their herds. The calves dropped and reared on the trans-Missouri ranges achieved not only a heavy bone structure but also a healthy, firm, deep-fleshed muscle unknown to their sires and dams. The rangy Texas longhorns were essentially wild, wicked of horn, and prone to stampee. Their progeny, raised on the Dakota ranges, were a milder breed. The cattlemen accepted these changes casually as a result of full-fed stock. Many years were to pass before scientists realized the protein building elements and minerals of that western soil and the growth value of the constant sunshine.

The era of the cattle barons passed. They held their tenure only by government or Indian land lease and open range right. Some of the men who came with them to tend their cattle stayed, filed on the land as it was opened for settlement and established ranches. Many of the large ranches of today are still operated by their descendants.

Of all that western grassland, no more apparently arid or desolate spot can be found than that around the present settlements of Meadow and Bison. To that territory in the '90s came three families, who were joined in the early 1900's by a fourth. Veritably they made the desert bloom.

Fred Jennewien came first with the DZ cattle company. Soon afterwards the Albert McKinstry's and the Joe Daily's arrived, followed not much later by Collis Penor and his family. The McKinstry's, Uncle Albert and Aunt Tress to the whole country, built a comfortable sod house, planted a shelterbelt, and built an earthen dam across

a draw to retain the water so sorely needed in that western country for stock, family and plant life. A huge vegetable garden along the dam in the lee of the hill that sheltered the shelterbelt of native trees, satisfied the needs of their own growing family and supplied many friends and neighbors with fresh vegetables. A log store house, built into the hillside, furnished the family with food in the winter season. Around three sides of the "soddy" annual flowers bloomed in profusion.

Aunt Tress, a magnificent woman, possessing the grandeur of figure of a Valkyre, was the guiding spirit in gardening and preservation of food. Sleek cattle, fat hogs, healthy sheep were Uncle Albert's contribution to the family welfare. A rosy-cheeked brood of boys and girls attested that this effort was rewarded. The McKinstry's met Nature's challenge in South Dakota at her most rigorous and won!

The Joe Daily's, not too far away, performed the same herculean feat. They also built a dam and planted native trees, an even more ambitious program in that respect, for Daily's Grove became known throughout all of that part of the state. In addition to the huge vegetable garden (Joe Daily's pumpkins were his pride and the despair of any other gardener) the Dailys established and maintained a large plantation of strawberries. Yearly they held a strawberry festival. The invitation was general, and from far and near people gathered in late June or early July to celebrate this event. To anyone privileged to have been a part of this joyous occasion, it was an experience never to be forgotten. Here were all the strawberries one could eat with the addition of homemade ice cream, berries that held the sun-warmed flavor of the wild, with the added flipp of bounteous hospitality generously and graciously dispensed.

The Collis Penors to the east also built their earthen dam across a draw, planted native trees, raised a vegetable garden and built a sod house, a house with walls three feet thick and correspondingly deep window wells. In these Mrs. Penor (Aunt Min) raised the house plants that were to furnish slips for the settlers of years to come.

A chance meeting with Dr. N. E. Hansen at a stock show in Sioux City started the years of experimentation with Dr. Hansen's fruit and plant organi-

nations that were to bear outstanding results in apples, plums, cherries and the beta grape.

Fred Jennewien is purposely left to end this chapter about an oasis created by the determined effort of man on a western plain. Fred Jennewien was a cattle and horse man, not agriculturally minded. However, he gave without stint to those who were, both in encouragement and material aid. On his ranch he has built a museum of rammed earth which houses, without a doubt, the most complete collection of western Americana extant. In addition his help is of inestimable value to the State Historical Society of South Dakota in preserving the memories of the Old West.



John S. Robertson

By

H. R. WOODWARD

John S. Robertson was born in Northville, Ohio, June 13, 1866. His father James Robertson and mother Janet Kirkwood Robertson had migrated from Scotland at a not too remote earlier date. They were tillers of the soil and later moved to southeastern Nebraska.

John spent his early boyhood in Nebraska. His formal education was limited. He began his career by seeking employment with the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad which was building a branch line into the Black Hills of South Dakota and it was this move which was destined to cause him to become South Dakota's outstanding fruit grower of the first half of the twentieth century.

While hiking over the foothills on his time-off, John located a spot with a fine spring in a valley with good soil and quite well protected. Here he staked out a claim, and established a homestead which he proved up on in 1892.

John liked fruit and he wanted some of it growing on his farm. In the spring of 1896 he planted his first apple trees which had been shipped in from an Iowa nursery. Some of these original trees bore a fairly good crop during the growing season of 1950. Experimentation in conjunction with the state agricultural college and inspiration through association with Dr. N. E. Hansen, head of the Department of Horticulture, led to a profound knowledge of the subject and a far reaching insight into the subject of conservation.

(Continued on page 22)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By

MRS. G. M. JORGENSEN



Mrs. Jorgensen

Dear Gardeners:

After six weeks in Florida, two weeks at home, and then back to Kansas City in the role of baby tender to two grandbabies, you will understand why my message this month may be a bit garbled.

However, grandchildren, gardens and garden clubs are all very close to my heart, so I shall have to combine them this month.

For many months we have planned to entertain Regional and National Council officers as well as garden club members from other states, in South Dakota, and plans are now almost complete for the big event in June. We are more than happy to be hosts to garden friends from other states, and to show them the progress we have made as a State Federation of Garden Clubs. Mrs. Earl Kindred, whose official title is "corresponding secretary," but who has shouldered most of the burdens of the president this winter, has helped to evolve a program to intrigue everyone, and we hope you do not make vacation arrangements without taking the Black Hills convention into consideration. Your attendance will stimulate interest and make for more enthusiastic acceptance of garden club ideals and aims.

DO YOU KNOW—

That we are extremely proud of the record made by some of our newest member clubs in the Federation? Kidder and Langford have been exceptionally cooperative in Federation activities, even though they are scarcely a year old.

That the Tie Social sponsored by the Lyons Gardens Club netted more money than any other single event of which I have heard? It was all turned over to the Crippled Children's Home.

That Hurley realized \$60 from the lunches sold at their flower show?

That your Ways and Means chairman (Mrs. Harry Kennard, Brookings) has many money-making schemes for you? More clubs have ordered Green Thumb

Garden Gloves to sell than any other single item?

That 26 garden clubs planted 250 Hopa Crab trees last year?

That 26 garden clubs sponsored 34 flower shows, teas or floral displays of some kind last year? Were you among them? (This is not an over-all picture because we just saw reports from that number of clubs.)

That clubs like the Start-A-Plant club, Lake City, Viborg, Town and Country, and Groton—all very new groups—were among our most responsive groups?

That, after ten years of wishing we had a Junior club, Dell Rapids has one of the liveliest and most enthusiastic Junior garden clubs in the state? They had their photograph in the Argus-Leader; and they have entered a complete yearbook in the state contest that is a worthy competitor of those of adult clubs.

That, we understand there is a new garden club in the making at Brookings with a name that intrigues the imagination—the Ella Chaye, the Place of Green and Growing Things!

That Floral Art, 405 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, New Jersey, is conducting a flower arrangement contest with photographs? You are invited to compete by sending to them a picture—black and white, glossy print, 8 x 10 or 7 x 9—of your best arrangement stressing simplicity and design. There is no entry fee of any kind but only one entry may be made by a competitor. Wouldn't South Dakota be proud to have the winning entry? The contest closes July 1, 1952.

That some of you community-minded clubs might like to sponsor one of the Audubon Screen Tours? They are now offering a series of three magnificent color motion-picture lecture-programs by the nation's most famous wildlife lecturers for \$250. Write the National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y. *

That those of you who are still planning trips are invited to visit Georgia's Open House which continues to April 30th? Mrs. Owen Cheatham, Augusta, Ga., is the state chairman who extends the invitation. Also, do not forget to visit the New York Botanical Gardens when you are in the east, to see the set of state flowers from all the states in the Union, as well as our territorial states. Our lovely pasque was sent by

Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, and is displayed under glass as a permanent exhibit from your home state.

JOHN S. ROBERTSON—

(Continued from page 21)

This was brought on by necessity since all his fruits had to be adapted to a dry, foothills area.

Mr. Robertson's most significant crops were apples and red raspberries, yet he also produced plums, cherries, pears, gooseberries and currants. Public demands for fruit trees caused him to develop a nursery on a small scale. His most significant contribution to society was his proving to the people of the northwest that fruit could be grown if adapted and the low rainfall was sufficient if properly conserved in the soil.

Robertson died on July 28, 1937, after a lingering illness brought on by a stroke suffered two years previously. He had served as a president of the South Dakota Horticultural Society; served his local school district for thirty-five years; was named in 1928, "Eminent Farmer" by the South Dakota State College; was presented a gold medal in 1935 by the State Society for his outstanding service to horticulture in the state; lectured at Farmers Institutes; contributed much to papers and magazines on horticulture and to his church, the Presbyterian and the Kiwanis Club of which he was a member.

A four and half acre tract of ground has been set aside west of Hot Springs on U. S. Highway 18 as a memorial park and dedicated to his memory. A large monument has been placed there by the State Horticulture Society. Robertson's mortal remains lie buried in the park. He was a truly great man, beloved by all that knew him and his name and biography was in the 1936 Who's Who in America, thus giving him national recognition.

A genealogist was employed by Mrs. Jones to work up an impressive family tree for her. The only ancestor on record turned out to be noteworthy by virtue of having been electrocuted. After some thought, the genealogist finally reported to his employer that he ancestor had "occupied the chair of applied electricity at one of our better-known public institutions." —THE KABLEGRAM.

South Dakota • HORTICULTURE

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM

By

ELDRED BUER

Canby, Minnesota

There is hardly any plant that will take a whole season of neglect and still come through with at least some flowers, as well as will the chrysanthemum.

Neither is there a plant that will reward you more generously with flowers for your table and still be enough of it left to assure its full share of coloring the autumn flower bed, as a well-grown mum. Mums to do their best should be planted in an open, sunny situation where they will not be robbed of food or moisture from surrounding trees or shrubs. Plant them in any fertile soil that will grow good flowers or vegetables, where they will receive at least three-fourths of the day's sunshine, not letting them suffer for want of water during the hot summer weather and you will surely have one of the most gratifying gardens one can grow. If your soil should be low in fertility, well rotted manure or a balanced commercial fertilizer might prove beneficial, but do not over do it. Mums, to do their best, should be well rooted plants started in two to two and one-half inch pots that can be tipped out of the pot at planting time and set, without disturbing the roots. A good time to plant is around corn planting time. Where only a few are being planted they can be put out earlier but should be protected in case of a heavy frost or freeze while the young plants are still tender. Some years, due to soil or weather conditions, we have been unable to get some of our plants in until the middle, and even the last of June and still had ample growth for a fine

display of bloom by fall, but ordinarily it is much better to get them all in by the last of May. Plants should be set about 18 inches apart and when they are set in rows we like rows three feet apart and plants 18 inches apart in the rows. This will give you a solid row of flowers and space between the rows in which to walk. Weeds, of course, should be kept down and a good loose mulch maintained to conserve moisture and if the plants should have to be watered they should be soaked from beneath, without wetting the foliage if possible. This can be accomplished by making a disk-like depression around each plant and from plant to plant if a hose is used and let it run until the ground is thoroughly soaked, then after it becomes dry enough to work nicely, again secure your mulch by lightly stirring with a hoe and this should hold your plants without more water for at least ten days, even in very hot weather. After the plants have reached a height of six inches the center should be pinched out at the tip to make them branch. This will encourage the bud at each leaf to start growing and cause your plant to bush out, making it much better shaped and also give you many more blooms.

After these side branches have grown 7 or 8 inches they too may have the tips pinched off, in order to make them branch. Your plant will then be able to support itself without any staking. However, do not do this after the middle to the last of July for by this time your earlier varieties will be starting to set buds. If at blooming time you find some of your plants are too late to escape the hard freezes that would damage the flowers, these can be taken up with as much dirt as will ad-

here to the roots as possible, and placed in a large pot, or an old pail and if well watered, and set in a cool place, out of direct sun for a couple of days, they will quickly recuperate and give you a gorgeous display, in a window in the house or on the porch till Thanksgiving. If, after moving in the house, your plants should become infested with "green bugs" or aphids, these can be easily destroyed by spraying with a solution of Evergreen or Black Leaf 40. Another way the mum lends itself beautifully is to dig up with a ball of earth attached and transplant to window boxes or group around the house or steps, at blooming time. This way you fill up a space that was used earlier by some other plant. Your plants can be grouped together at this time and you can also blend your colors as desired, producing a breath-taking setting and your friends will be wondering how it happened, "all overnight."

Sometimes a group of this kind can be protected through some pretty severe weather, giving you bloom long after everything else is gone. In order to avoid the expense of purchasing new plants each year, or maybe to secure a large number of some variety of which you are particularly fond, you are naturally going to be interested in wintering as many of your plants as possible. After the ground has become slightly frozen, you should cover with some coarse material that is free of weed seeds; coarse alfalfa hay, marsh hay or cornstalks. We find drainage is about as essential as covering, in order to winter them well. If your plants are where ice will form heavily over them, your losses are likely to be much heavier than where it does not. Another

(Continued on page 27)

**For a brilliant display
this fall . . .**

plant Mums

We have more than 100 varieties of hardy chrysanthemums suitable for our northwest conditions. We will furnish you with labeled plants that are well rooted and have been individually potted at 35 cents per plant, 3 plants for a dollar or 10 plants for \$3.00, plus 10% to cover packing and postage. Or if you do not care for the names, we will send you 12 plants of the above, each plant guaranteed different but not individually labeled, for \$3.25 postpaid to your door.

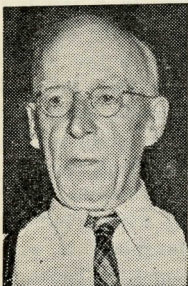
FRED BUER

CANBY, MINNESOTA

SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. SIMMONS



W. A. Simmons

In sending in his dues Mr. Frank I. Rockwell of Brookings writes: "The College is at last trying to get Dr. Hansen's Lillian Gibson rose propagated and in the gardens. If we can get a few, I want to put some in the new City park we are planting at Miller. That city is starting a nine-acre development that should be quite a credit to the town." That lovely rose should certainly not be forgotten. Perfectly hardy at Brookings by Dr. Hansen's exacting standards, it should do well anywhere in the state. Writing from the capital city of our banana belt, Rapid City, under date of February 10th, Mr. Kirk T. Mears says: "When we hear the weather reports we think of you people real often. I don't suppose we are near as thankful as we should be for the fine weather we have had almost all winter. In the northern hills it is quite a different picture but right here, I think I have swept the sidewalk a time or two but so far I have not used the snow shovel at home. Our group are starting their plans for the state meeting and I am sure the program will shape up for a most enjoyable time." From this I would imagine one could pick up some real bargains in low mileage second-hand snow shovels around his town. Mr. C. Richard Hartmann, now of Dade

City, Florida, writes as follows: "I am enclosing the article I had long promised you. I became a life member of the S. D. State Horticulture Society in 1919. Prof. Hansen's work, enthusiasm and love for plants impressed me much. At one time, when living in a high altitude in Colorado, I had nearly all his importations and creations, both trees and seeds, in my garden. I think Prof. Hansen has done vastly more for the cold northwest than Burbank did for the Pacific states, but Prof. Hansen was too modest to make much fuss over his accomplishments. I have his biography on my book shelves. I am proud to be a member of the Horticulture Society and wish all the officers and members much success." Don't fail to read his splendid article on another page. It gives much more information than the ordinary traveller would bring back with him and is much easier than making the trip one's self. The Monsanto Chemical Co. has certainly been getting a lot of free advertising for their new product Krilium that is supposed to do so much in changing the physical condition of our soil, and that they are willing to sell to Experiment stations and a few others at \$2.00 per pound. Every magazine I have looked at recently except my Sunday School magazine, has had full descriptions of its effect on heavy clay soils, and I will examine carefully the latter magazine that comes to me in the future in the full expectation that they too will publicize it. For our own magazine, I will confine it to the notice given it by Mr. Leslie, in his article in this issue.

Actually, the so-called weaker sex is the stronger sex because of the weakness of the stronger sex for the weaker sex.—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER—

(Continued from page 20)

cates its great usefulness for crop production by preventing erosion and by facilitating absorption of water and air in the root zone of soils. It is not poisonous to animals or plants.

Professor Alex Laurie spoke on house plants under the title "Landscaping the Interior." The adapted plants are mostly tropical. They stand high temperatures, considerable shade and copious waterings. None of them will stand low temperatures. Among the many plants on display were Fiddleleaf rubber, rubberplant, aspidistra, bow-string hemp, Kentia palm, and dracena. The plants will withstand much grief but not temperatures below 60 degrees at night and 70 in daytime. If placed in a dark corner, artificial lights at night help. Free drainage is very important. The potting soil should be very high in organic matter and may be composed of as much as one-half acid peat. Liquid fertilizer is applied not more frequently than once in two or three months. Cleanse the foliage occasionally by washing and spraying. Wax or polish is injurious.

Pale new shades of breaking green bring a quick pulsing of the heart. We sense in spring's unfailing plan a world new grown, left free from vice and fear, God's promise of his kingdom here.—Vera Werble in PRAIRIE FARMER.

I find many old families here in San Diego county and have talked with folks that could trace their ancestry back to 1769. Talked to a sweet young gal who told me of her grandfather, a city bank director that was traced to the Mexican border, there all traces were lost.—HARRY OLIVER.

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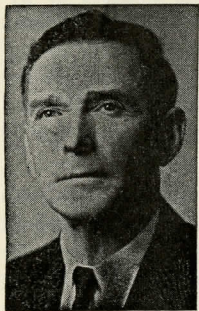
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YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By

F. X. WALLNER



F. X. Wallner

Conservation in Oregon and Washington. I had to pay \$1.50 for 10 tiny gold fish for five pools; at Moberly, Mo., I got 15 larger ones for a dollar. I would like to get a few pailsfull of some sort of fish to put into the many pools that are now

full of water and in best condition possible after considerable work of rebuilding. Also used about two loads of slab wood from the mills, for walks in te steep hillside trails, built a summer garden house, breezeway, pagoda and three lawn chairs, all out of free slab wood from the mills. This particular mill owner has been in Oregon a few years, has a 100 acre farm, stock, handles big logs alone, cuts them into lumber, also has a planer and finishes lumber, and is less than 40 years old. I also used two loads of his longer strips for railings and fencing at Kay-Low. Caught 3 more Mountain Beavers, also called Boomers. One went to the zoo at Washington park; public feeds animals, that kills them.

Planted over 100 evergreens, mostly in Grotto park, along the trails. The old Oregon trail is just a short distance from Kay-Low areas and most of the big trees laying around, were cut over 50 years ago. These are covered with moss, ferns, huckleberry and young evergreens. Today we hear about the exciting river boat race; as expected, the small side-wheeler, with all the actors of the cast "Bend of the River," won the race, but the Portland was in the lead for some time. The picture has now been running several weeks and it is real good. Built trellis and large flower beds of this slab wood today. Pine beetle infested forests are being sold and cleaned up in many places, and trees must be removed before late spring and insect infested trees are second grade lumber, so some trees are of little value as first class lumber. But these trees must be removed, it seems

a losing fight but efforts must be made to keep the beetles in check and keep them from spreading further. Seventeen dams are planned for the Willamette Valley alone, for the "dry" summers ahead, only about one fourth of the 435,000 acres are irrigated at present. Sprinkler watered gardens are the only fields that yield and feed this immense population around Portland in the hot summer season. It gets as hot and dry as in South Dakota but it does not seem possible after the constant rainy season of winter. Arbor Day was February 8th, west of the range, but is 2 months later east of the Cascade range. Louis is still digging nice Burbank potatoes, just finished March 1st, the tennant did not dig his share last fall. They are crisp and hard, not hurt by the frost. Many of the low land farms are at the mouth of Snake and Wenatchee rivers near the Columbia. The McNary dam will make a deep lake with no treacherous current and rapids as at present where there will be many boats, the rock covered dikes all around are about finished. The dry land wheat farmers and stockmen, farther away on higher ground have invested large sums with the "rain makers" to send a few showers their way during the coming season. A 9 million dollar sugar beet factory is planned in the middle of the irrigated district, in the Grand Coulee project between Moses Lake and Wheeler, on a 1400 acre tract, 500,000 tons of beets would be processed annually. A garden spot the size of New Jersey, will spring up in this part of Washington's desert sage brush and waste land. Water is now flowing into the upper equalizing reservoir, 1570 ft. high, 280 feet above Roosevelt storage lake. Of the 12 pumps, each one lifts 50 tons of water every second, to the upper lake to make this million acres bloom. The trip today, March 17th, through Grand Coulee is again a thrilling trip and it really needs more space than I have left here, so if it is satisfactory with the editor and readers, I will cover these two dams more thoroughly in the next issue. One of the men here told us that one machine of the 18 here produced 120,000 K.W.—21,000 more than is produced in all South Dakota. Most all real estate men in the district say the inquiries for land are so great anyone of them could sell all that is available. Drawings are going on now for the few farms in the district where

water is available, this year. Of the million acres, 87 thousand should get water this year and 70,000 yearly, after that. Dry land wheat farmers were in the fields with "cats" and large rotary hoes covering 70 ft. wide and mile or more long. The soldiers must eat plenty of onions as the government has bought all that are offered on the coast, 80 cars at 500 bags. Paging Mr. W. R. Leslie, Morden, Canada: On the Canadian line between British Columbia and Washington, one mile from the village of Midway, stands a pine tree, one trunk in Canada, one in Washington. The two sapplings were roped together by the Okanagan Indian chiefs in 1846 at the time of the surveying of the 49th parallel, to prove they would continue as one tribe though living in two nations. Kettle river is also on the line here and the tourists must cross the ferry here. I had hoped to get up there from Grand Coulee and get a picture to put with the one from the monument on the line in the International Peace Garden, taken about 14 years ago.

To live without a garden is to live without the most subtle yet refreshing companionship which nature has to offer. "Lament" said a philosopher, "with the man who does so from necessity, pity the man who does so from choice."—Marie Stadel.

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GARDEN CLUBS AROUND SOUTH DAKOTA

By

MRS. E. M. KINDRED
Miller, South Dakota



Mrs. Kindred

In looking over some back numbers of the Horticulture Magazine, I found that in the November issue, 1949, Mrs. Jorgenson, then corresponding secretary, listed 29 clubs. Now we have a total of 51 with at least two more in the process of being organized. Isn't that a wonderful growth in two and one-half years? Something we may all be proud of.

The Watertown Garden Club has embarked upon an extensive project which they believe will take three years to complete. They are establishing a bird sanctuary, the only one in South Dakota, on highway 20 leading to beautiful Lake Kampeska. This location was chosen because of the road's popularity with young people for hiking and bicycling to the lake for swimming. Their first step was to secure the land and there is some filling in to be done as a preliminary to planting. They plan to use Hopa Crab and other trees and shrubs to attract birds, buying as much material as they can this year. Mrs. Melham says that they have a splendid committee working and with the help of the Junior Gardeners and Scouts they hope to make it attractive. This club is also planning a roadside planting with picnic facilities a little farther on the same highway. This site was once used by the highway as a source of gravel but has now filled in and has produced a heavy growth of grass and reeds. They hope to make wild flowers grow in some places in it and have been saving seeds of sweet rocket, columbine and poppies. They expect to start planting early this spring. Our hat's off to this club of some forty members. The Brookings Garden Club has a committee to consider possible locations for roadside picnic spots in their area.

One member of the Tri-State Garden Club of Valley Springs raises orchids in her window and wore a lovely flower to the January meeting of the club. At their February meeting they studied

planning the vegetable and flower garden as well as new varieties of flowers and vegetables and what could be expected in the future from seed producers. These gardeners have also studied the lives of three famous horticulturists—Wilson, Bailey and McFarland.

The Pasque Club of Wakonda, one of the younger clubs in the Federation, will plant two trees in the school yard on Arbor Day with school children participating in the program. On the Saturday before Mother's Day all shut-ins will be remembered. A flower festival is being planned as a means of raising money, when they will have a program, colored slides, a flower display and will serve tea.

The first anniversary of the Langford Garden Club finds the club with twenty three active members and prospects of more. Their civic project is to beautify the city park. Four picnic tables were purchased last fall and they are planning flower beds there for spring. Readers of Horticulture who have the Henry Field Seed and Nursery Catalogue, will find in it a picture of the four-year-old son of Mrs. Erwin Suther who is club secretary.

Mrs. E. M. Drisson of the Home Garden Club of Britton has a hobby of taking movies of the birds she finds in her yard and recently reviewed for her club her study of birds and especially the ones she has identified in her yard. Here are the six objectives of this club for the coming year: 1. Continue work on the Library grounds; 2. Make peony plantings at the cemetery; 3. Each member plant a new variety of plants and shrubs; 4. Sponsor a flower show for the public and demonstrate the fundamentals of flower arranging; 5. Plant more Hopa Crab trees; 6. Visit places of beauty and of historic interest in their section of the state.

The Colome Federated Garden Club studied rock gardens at their February meeting.

The Rural Garden Circle of Crooks had a recent program on preparing a hot bed and on Our Winter Friends and Feeding Trays. This club is also participating in Garden Therapy, one of the National Projects, by each member potting a plant in an attractive container to be taken to the Crippled Children's Hospital at a later date.

The Pierre Garden Club has an honor point system for membership. Those

who pay their dues by March 1 receive ten honor points. Mr. Thompson of the Pierre Flower Shop and Greenhouses spoke on hot beds and cold frames at one of their meetings which led to an interesting discussion afterwards. He had brought with him samples of hybrid sweet peas and white carnations. At their March meeting Harry Woodward, state forester, showed colored slides of some of the state parks and recreation areas and of many wild flowers in the state.

The Sioux Falls Garden Club and the South Sioux Garden Club will hold a joint flower show in June. The South Sioux group were also guests of the Sioux Falls club for their March meeting when Wm. Snyder of Brookings spoke. Mr. D. E. Johnson was a recent speaker there showing proper pruning procedure.

The Sunshine Club, Highmore, have sold 21 pairs of Green Thumb gloves and had to place another order. These gardeners are really getting ready for work. Their March roll call was answered by, Something New in Gardening. The lovely book, "Wings At My Window," was reviewed and members were urged to slip plants now for the plant sale to be held in May.

Greetings to our newest garden club to federate, the Fleuer De Lis Club of Platte.

Is every one getting their bed roll ready to take to the convention in the Hills? We have to furnish our own bedding you know.

Man's ability to travel swiftly by land, air or water would have greater meaning if his creditors didn't have the same means of transportation at their command too.—W. Earl Hall in MASON CITY GLOBE-GAZETTE.

Music causes animals to respond curiously. Dogs commonly enjoy piano music but run from a violin. Mice lose their timidity when a piano is played and come out even in day time to listen raptly to the music. English naturalist Thomas Bell observed that schools of seals were attracted to shore by church bells. Organ music is provided animals of the Los Angeles S. P. C. A. Top C is avoided for it invariably makes dogs howl.—CAPPER'S FARMER.

REPORT OF WAYS AND MEANS CHAIRMAN

By

MRS. MARJORIE KENNARD

311 6th Avenue

Brookings, South Dakota

I wish to thank the clubs that have sent in such nice orders and hope now that spring is here that I will be hearing from more clubs.

Here are some of the things we have on hand and would like to sell:

Green Thumb gloves at \$1.00 per pair. Now that the garden work is before us let's have the gloves on hand.

Botany napkins, \$1.00 per box. 30 napkins and each with a different flower print. Lovely for that spring luncheon.

Labels, 50 cents per 100, for marking those new plants that we each hope to grow this spring.

Sta-So, for those who love to make flower arrangements. Perhaps each club would like a carton of 12 packages at \$6.00, or by the roll at 50 cents.

Tubo Ribbon. 15 foot lengths at 15 cents. The president's of each club will soon be receiving a sample of the ribbon from the company. A good idea for making money for your club and also helping the Federation.

Also those beautiful cards put by the Barton Cotton Co. Let's all work hard on these two items.

Last, but not least, has your club gotten that Pioneer American Garden Book in their library?

Let's all get busy and see what we can do for the Federation before the convention.



AWARDS

By

MRS. L. N. BRAKKE

Just a short reminder to the garden clubs to be sure and send me your yearbook and scrapbook before June 1st. To date I have received books from Vermillion, Watertown, Mobridge, Valley Springs, Home Garden Club of Britton and two new clubs, Wakonda and the Garden Gate Club of Miller. Each one contains something new and interesting. Would like to have the Junior clubs make up yearbooks. Ribbon awards will be given to the two best Junior club books. So let's all get busy and have yearbooks entered for 1952 and in that way we can let the other clubs know what we are doing to make South Dakota green.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM—

(Continued from page 23)

method that is sometimes followed, is taking them up and packing them closely together with as much dirt as will adhere to them, or planting them in a pot and cover heavily with straw or hay. If you have a cold frame this makes an ideal place to use either of these methods. After you have your plants packed away, you should put in a generous amount of poison grain among them in case mice get into them, then put on your sash, laying boards on this to protect it from breakage and covering with a foot or 18 inches of straw. We have wintered stock plants with this method with hardly any loss. Pots can also be taken in a cold basement and kept just moist enough to maintain life but not enough to stimulate growth. These plants can all be divided severely when spring comes and should give you a large number of the plants you divide. Do not fail, however, to divide the old clumps or you will be due for some disappointment the coming fall for as a rule, the old clumps become so root bound they cannot supply the tops with sufficient nutrients to produce the fine growth the year before saw in your plants, when they had but the single plant to support from the same amount of soil.

So, do not be afraid you are too drastic but wade into them and you will again be rewarded with generous bloom. Usually the shoots around the outside of the clumps will have a little stronger root system and consequently are capable of giving a stronger plant than those taken from the center of the clumps. Do not do this however, until growth is nicely started in the spring and your plant is beginning to show a nice green color. In the past ten or fifteen years so much has been done for advancing the chrysanthemum in beauty and earliness of bloom and hardiness of plant that there is little reason for any of us going without their services in our gardens. Alex Cummings of Connecticut, Dr. Kraus of the University of Chicago, and Dr. Longley of the University of Minnesota, have done so much to bring this change about. Dr. Longley, in his breeding work has consistently emphasized earliness of bloom. Some years giving us as much as six or seven weeks of their beautiful bloom. Chippewa, Glacier, Butterball, Redgold, Dr. Longley

and Violet are a few of Dr. Longley's creations that will not be quickly discarded from anyone's garden. This year, under the direction of Dr. R. A. Phillips, who is carrying on the work of Dr. Longley, who is now retired, the University of Minnesota is releasing two new varieties, one named Harvest Bronze, the other Prairie Sunset. We have had these on trial in our gardens for the past two years and so far have found them very pleasing. For those that like the novel, Mr. Lehman, of Fairbault, has gone far in developing a good color range in the so-called spoon mums. Most of these are on the late side, however, and do not come into bloom until the latter part of September or the fore part of October, which in most years allows rather a short blooming period for our northwest conditions. To give some idea how far north the mum has moved in the very recent past, we found on a trip a short time ago to our good neighbors to the north, a number of Minnesota mums growing in the nursery of Dr. F. L. Skinner, at Dropmore, Manitoba, Can. Dr. Skinner has made some promising crosses of his own, some of which we are now trying in our own gardens. One we were particularly impressed with is a variety he has called September Morn. This is a beautiful, slightly curled 3½ to 4 inch yellow flower with a bronze red tinge in the center, and was already coming into bloom at the time of our visit which was in the fore part of August. The experts are constantly breeding and selecting for larger and earlier flowers and hardier plants and I am sure we can look forward to years of increasing popularity for the already indispensable chrysanthemum.

Any home built at present prices is truly a home of the brave.—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

Youth is preserved and the life span of animals dramatically lengthened through a special diet being tested by Dr. Thomas S. Gardner of Rutherford, N. Y. His best exhibit is a guinea pig named Peter. When Peter was 700 days old and aging fast, yeast nucleic acid was added to his diet. In subsequent months, he grew a new set of teeth, developed a handsome coat and gained weight.—CAPPER'S FARMER.

OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS

By

C. RICHARD HARTMANN

Seeing a short article on orchids from time to time in "Horticulture," I decided I also would write of a few observations on these and other interesting plants, fruits, churches, "man-nanas," etc. (tomorrows) in South and Central America.

Most people think the choicest orchids grow in the dense jungle of the lowlands, but this is not so. The natural habitat of most species is in the forests of mountains, say from 2,000 to 5,000 feet altitude, and some still higher. Most people have read flowery descriptions in books written with the intention of making an interesting story that will be a good seller. It is astonishing what falsehoods are being written about "the beautiful Andes mountains," the indescribably beautiful vistas over valleys and mountain ranges covered with primeval forests in which grow the most unimaginably gorgeous trees, fruits, vines, orchids and other tropical flowers; even about the well-known Everglades of Florida, crossed by modern highways about as good as any in the state (and Florida has a very fine highway system), fantastic stories of impenetrable jungles, wild and dangerous beasts, savage Indians, even mountains, are published and believed. Of course, there are many highly desirable, educational, truthful books, for example, Dr. Fairchild's various books describing plants and his plant-hunting trips through various tropical regions. I have heard Dr. Fairchild personally relating some of his observations and experiences to a few friends, which was like his books, mostly deeper and more purposeful than expressed merely to entertain and fascinate.

In case you decided to make a trip to those tropical mountain regions, favored so lavishly by nature and which, I am convinced, are the true habitat of man, you would in most cases be disillusioned to see the completely denuded but otherwise majestic ranges of the famous Andes and other mountain regions. In Colombia, for example, only small, very steep, remote patches of the original forest remain where still can be found tall palms, tangles of vines, tree ferns 25 feet and even higher—but no orchids left. The climate has changed, precipitation has

become scant and irregular, water is therefore often scarce. During our stay in that country, the Magdalena River, the only artery of cheap transportation, was so low that the boats carrying supplies were grounded on the sand and the gasoline supply in the inland cities was nearly exhausted. Lumber is very expensive, sells almost by the pound, has to be brought from remote places. The eastern slopes, toward the Amazon basin, being difficult of access, are still covered with forests and many orchids can be found there, among them some of the finest Cattleyas. In the cities, orchids are grown in lath houses and there are at their best. I witnessed a funeral of a very prominent man. The highest dignitaries of the church followed the coffin, upon which were piled high the most exquisite Cattleyas, the very rare pure white, tied together in bundles almost like turnips in the market. The city markets are a sight to behold: orchid flowers and plants, and many other flowers and plants including stocks, daisies, larkspur, Easter lilies (huge quantities)—all of the finest quality—are offered. The variety of tropical fruits, vegetables, legumes, grains, herbs, etc., is almost endless.

In Valparaiso, Chili, we stopped several days, which gave us a chance to not only see this famous port but also to make a few trips to places outside. We went to a small town, really an exclusive suburb of the big city, without any business section, several miles to the north, called Vina del Mar, well known for its beautiful residences and well kept grounds, all planted generously with roses, mostly tree roses, that were covered so lavishly with the most perfectly shaped and colored blooms and of such large sizes as we have never seen anywhere else; not even California nor Oregon could compare with such perfection. The same was true of climbing roses. Lawns were all of a rich velvety green; geraniums of brightest colors, 8 feet and higher, whole hedges of them! Heliotrope with their exquisite fragrance were just as vigorous. Snowballs with such large flowers and so completely covered with them as we have never seen in this country! Hydrangeas the same, bushes of 8 feet spread, flower heads huge and of pure coloring; foliage large, rich green, and healthy. There was one very large public building, I think it was octagon in shape, architecturally perfect and

very impressive, very wide steps and entrance. A uniformed guide took us inside and showed us around. Very large halls, beautiful tile floors, walls, paintings, statuary, flower vases filled artistically with many kinds of the same pretty flowers as we had seen all around. The building itself stood in a sort of sunken garden, but level at the entrance. The slopes were planted alternately with beds of poliantha roses and strips of grass between. The whole stood in a large, well kept park planted to many strange tropical trees, shrubs, etc. The road to Vina del Mar winds between the seashore strewn with huge boulders on one side, and high bluffs on the other, over which, in every tiny crevice, depression, between layers of rocks, grew profusely California poppies, larkspur, snap dragons and many others. Nobody could ever have been able to plant seeds up there as the walls were nearly perpendicular and very high. The wind must have scattered them. On more fertile slopes, very thrifty-growing nasturtium vines climbed astoundingly high into the trees.

In Montevideo, Uruguay, there also was a very large rose garden belonging to the city. It was well kept, well arranged, a great many varieties of bush, tree and climbing roses, all labeled, all thrifty and healthy, but nothing like the ones in Chili. The unique arrangement, however, was unlike any we have ever seen: The main section was sort of rectangular in shape, surrounded by tall arbors lavishly covered with many types and varieties of climbing roses, including the rather rare blue rose, which seemed to be a truer blue there than anywhere else where we have seen this same variety—and benches underneath this arbor where one could rest and drink in the beauty of the mass effect, including the many huge exotic trees grouped around the whole—really an impressive sight.

Buenos Aires has extensive parks in spite of the narrow, crowded streets in the business section of the city. School children, both rich and poor alike, are dressed in plain white and look like little doctors and nurses. In the business parts, every man has to wear coat and necktie. Not even in the parks are you allowed to take off your coat. Twice within one hour a cop came to our seat to tell me I had to put on my coat. Being used to comfortable Miami style,

this was hard for me to bear, and only grudgingly did I follow the orders.

Leaving Buenos Aires for inland points, we crossed and recrossed, by train and ferry, the mighty Parana River. It took the train four or five hours to reach the point where it had to be ferried across to the left bank of the river, which operation took about four hours. On another trip farther up the river, to reach the city of Santa Fe from the east, we had to take a large ferry boat carrying passengers and automobiles. This was a very interesting trip which took about two hours, as the ferry had to wind in and out between various sized islands, all of them very green and lush, with cows grazing knee-deep in water, but none of them seemed to be inhabited. The river at this point is still very mighty. This trip to the more western points in the Argentine we took after having spent several months in one of the northernmost sections of Argentina between Brazil and Paraguay, a near-tropical region where there are still large areas of virgin jungle with stands of many kinds of giant evergreen trees and palms, vines and undergrowth so dense that it was about impenetrable. Once I wanted to reach and investigate a few kinds of tall fruit trees and had to use an axe to get to them, when I found to my surprise a relative of the well-known papaya; also a tall tree of the delicious Anona, usually known as cherimoya. That is a very beautiful country. We spent Christmas in this region with a German pioneer family. Being summer when we here have winter, it was quite hot on Christmas but not sultry. For a Christmas tree they had an Araucaria. It must have been *A. angustifolia*, which grows over large areas there, making huge trees and bearing a very fine and rich nut the size of a pecan.

Over west and south Argentine the same sad story: mountains denuded of trees. In southern Chili there is much rain. The Dutch consul in one of the cities told us it rained 33 days a month. Incidentally, it rained intermittently the day we were there. Because of this extreme precipitation, those mountains are covered with a dense mat of trees and undergrowth; apparently that population could not cope with rain and forests, to destroy the latter. On the western slope of northern Chili and Peru we were told it never rained, and

yet the sky was not clear as there was a haze day and night over the whole area, both land and sea. Naturally, this was all desert country with hardly any vegetation except where water was used from the few small streams coming from the interior. Therefore, the cities and towns in these spots were green with much luxuriant vegetation.

Steaming through the islands along the coast of southern Chili, often so narrow that two boats could not pass one another, yet the water 800 meters (about 2400 feet) deep, requiring a special pilot for safety, is a rare experience. As a whole, these islands represent the wildest sort of mountain scenery, with only patches of vegetation in less exposed crevices and canyons. At the time we were passing through, the snow was melting in the higher elevations, creating many rivulets and water falls foaming down into the depths below. Occasionally a gap in these mountainous islands allowed the gales raging on the open Pacific to penetrate, transforming these otherwise quiet waters into a turbulent and seething mass not exactly welcomed by any pilot, until suddenly the wide expanse of the comparatively calm straits was a welcome contrast and a relief.

In all the cities of South America there are magnificent churches. In Lima, Peru, the altars and walls of the churches were exquisitely carved in various kinds of beautiful wood. In one city of northern Brazil were 365 churches (one for every day of the year). Among them was a cathedral whose walls and columns were covered with cedar wood, deeply carved, and artistically covered with solid gold.

In Costa Rica and in Guatemala, Central America, orchids seem to be at their best, at least the ones growing wild. Clusters of them may be seen on trees, in yards, or on roofs. In the woods in the higher mountain regions some of the trees are literally covered with them and other air plants, so many that even the ground under them is littered with the fallen ones. Some huge trees are covered with such a variety of plants of that type that each tree is in itself a botanical garden. In the city of San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, we have seen remarkably few orchids; but callas, at least during our stay there, were seen everywhere, especially noticeable in cemeteries, where seemingly every grave was deco-

rated with callas. One unique arrangement in the main cemetery in San Jose was a monument in honor of Gutenberg, the German inventor of the printing press, erected there by the Printers' Union. This impressive structure was placed immediately inside the entrance. It consisted of a statue on a tile platform, apparently a tile for every member, and some of the tiles were engraved with the names of deceased members, with directions as to the location of their graves in that cemetery.

In the market of Guatemala City, orchids, at least the ground or terrestrial species, are sold in bundles as are larkspur, stocks, etc., in stores in the United States. The ground orchids have very long stems, mostly several flowers on a stem, and all are very beautiful. Guatemala City is the cleanest city we have seen in all Latin-America. The streets are wide, buildings are clean and neat in appearance. The Congressional Building is unusually trim, clean, substantial, architecturally outstanding, even the painting is done in harmonious colors. The natives are mostly the descendants of the old Mayas, a very ancient people closely related to the old Egyptians and of similar civilization and character.

The natives of Costa Rica are 90 per cent Spanish, many are blonde. San Jose, the capital, is a busy place, streets mostly narrow, but clean. Climate is similar to that of most parts of Central America, like eternal spring—never too cold and never oppressively hot—ranging the year round between 65° and 85° F. Houses had no screens yet there were no mosquitoes nor flies, even during the rainy season. The scenery is lovely and grandiose. In the mountains, people make their livelihood by cutting trees and selling the timber, also by growing some hardy vegetables, mainly corn. Some cornfields are so steep, one can hardly climb the rugged slopes. It seemed impossible to carry a basket or a sack to gather the ears; they must have rolled them down the slope. Any preparation of the ground must have been out of the question. They merely bury the seed by hand between stumps and what underbrush is left, and never cultivate. The soil being very fertile and loose, and rain plentiful, they can harvest with the least amount of effort.

Because of very limited time and space, I have merely touched upon some

of the highlights of our long and interesting sojourn in South and Central Americas. Even a trip to Florida might be a revelation to people who know nothing but the short hot summer and long cold winter of the North. In south Florida, we have some of the finest orchids to be found anywhere, including an astounding number of species and hybrids of almost breath-taking beauty. The northern visitor would be amazed at the large variety of unusual and exotic plants, vines, ornamental and fruit trees, many of them brought here from other parts of the tropical world and which find the southern sections of the state quite a congenial home. For instance, the majestic royal palm and the gorgeous, flowering poinsettia, both large trees. Also the rubber trees of many species, most of which attain huge proportions and send down their aerial roots to make it appear as though they had many trunks. The cocoanut palm is one of the most interesting and graceful of the huge variety of palms grown here. Among fruits, there is the luscious mango, the papaya, the avocado, even pineapples and bananas; in addition to many fine tropical fruits unknown in other parts of the United States. Of course, this is the home of oranges, grapefruits, limes and other citrus, which are grown on a considerable scale commercially, and because of their superior quality are rapidly gaining the recognition they deserve. It seems that the Temple orange, accepted as the finest, is grown to perfection here in Florida only. Of course, it must be understood that all Florida is not the same, as far as climate and soil are concerned. Therefore the crops naturally differ in various localities, and it is only in the extreme southern portion of the state where the tender tropicals can be grown, though the finest citrus area is in the more central part of the state.

It is said that "a rolling stone gathers no moss," and there is nothing in the educational line that can equal the investigation and enjoyment of other parts of God's wonderful world.

The ferry cap'n shouted into the crew's quarters: "Is there a mackintosh down there big enough to keep two young ladies warm?" Came a voice from below: "No, but there's a McPherson who's willing to try."—GENERAL FEATURES CORPORATION.

BOOK REVIEW

By

D. E. JOHNSON

The New Book of Lilies, by Jan De Graaff. Published by M. Barrows & Company, Inc., 114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Price, \$3.50.

The world's most famous grower of lilies, Jan de Graaff, has certainly packed a detailed and authentic lot of information into the 175 pages of this, most up-to-date book on lilies. From beginning to end, he has given us the essential information on the processes and progress obtained in the development of new and better varieties of this highly regarded flower. Written for the amateur as well as the professional grower, it has all the essential information on culture, propagation, breeding, insects and disease control necessary for successful production of beautiful flowers. Having worked on lilies in Holland, England, and for over 20 years in our Pacific northwest, his long experience has enabled him to disprove many false ideas and superstitions concerning the growing of lilies. De Graaff states that any soil that will grow good potatoes will grow good lilies. A well drained fertile soil, with plenty of organic matter, is the ideal soil. Good healthy, disease-free bulbs are a must. We should realize that lily bulbs are never dormant as tulips and daffodils are, and therefore should never be left laying around to dry out. Heads in the sun, feet in the shade, is a good guide to follow. Thus mulching or

ground covers to keep the roots cool is advisable. The placing of sand under and around the bulbs is unnecessary; in fact the author never does it. The greater portion of the book is devoted to the origin and development of the better hybrids and strains of today, and this is truly very fascinating. Only since 1900 had much work been done on lily breeding and as late as 1948 one new species was discovered in Asia. De Graaff believes there are still other species to be discovered that can be used in the breeding program to improve the lilies we now have. Better lilies than we now dare to imagine are already in the making. By careful breeding and selection we now have hybrid varieties far superior in color, form, hardiness, disease resistance and adaptability than the species used as parents. Although Mr. de Graaff is doing his work in the Pacific northwest with a climate unlike ours, his hybrids are being grown in almost every state in the union as well as in Canada with remarkable results, and he believes the lily is fast becoming the most popular garden subject. There are 17 natural color plates and many photographs and line drawings and all propagation processes clearly shown. Every lily grower should have this book in his, or her library for frequent reference.

North Carolina claims the largest farm population in the U. S. with its 1,376,164. This, however, is a decline of over 200,000 from 1940.

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.

BOOK REPORT

By

MRS. LONA CRANDALL



Crandall

The Joy of Flower Arranging. Edited by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. Published by M. Barrows and Co., Inc., 114 East 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Price, \$3.95.

Whether flower arranging be considered a joy or something else,

the book called **The Joy of Flower Arranging** definitely is a joy. I must admit that I was a little discomfited by the lack of interest on the part of the editor in what was being done by flower arrangers in the states of the Great Plains. Perhaps she shares the conviction that I have observed in many natives of both or all three coasts, that there's nothing much out here yet.

Nevertheless, the very interesting collection of photographs presents an abundance of ideas which are usable by arrangers in these states of the Great Plains, because the editor has selected arrangements of such materials as we have available at various seasons. So many such books on flower arrangement seem to concentrate on the use of magnolias and rhododendron, or so it seems to us who do not have such material to use.

Each of the contributors to the book emphasizes the philosophy that flower arrangement should be fun, and the arrangements photographed do have generally a somewhat easier style, a "homier" quality, than is commonly seen. There is great variety in kinds of flowers and other material used, and in the kind of arrangements pictured. The material includes everything from weeds to roses and lilies, and the uses include the kitchen table, the dining table, the hall console, and the church altar.

A well written description of each arrangement is consistently found on the page preceding the full page picture. Poems for each month add to the artistic quality of the book, lending the suggestion that flower arrangement is one of the arts, as of course, it is.

The Lily Yearbook of the North American Lily Society. Published by the Society at Geneva, New York. Edited by George L. Slate.

According to the foreword of the book, the 1950 publication of the North American Lily Society is the third year book to come from that organization.

It includes a long list of studies written by various members of the society, who live in all sections of the United States, England, Canada, and in several islands off the several coasts. Many of the writings appear to come from growers of considerable experience and learning, but others are obviously the happy result of the fresh discoveries of beginning amateurs.

As with the writer of an article on growing lilies from seed, I found myself turning with interest to read one of the articles on that subject first. Several other articles on the same subject yielded a variety of information, and I was surprised to find more agreement than is sometimes apparent when a number of gardeners write on any one subject.

The two or three dozen articles include such subjects as hybridizing, developing lilies for various soils and climates, pests, native wild lilies and lily collections, soil requirements of lilies and habits of growth, propagation by scaling, lily shows, reports of the new hybrids, and a report of the business sessions of the Society.

BOOK REVIEW

By

W. A. SIMMONS

The First Book of Snakes by John Hoke, illustrated by Paul Wenck. Published by Franklin Watts, Inc., 119 W. 57th St., New York 19, N. Y. Price \$1.75.

Do you like snakes? Some do, while others, perhaps influenced by Mother Eve's unsatisfactory experience with them, do not. But whether you like them or not, you must admit they are fascinating subjects for study and important ones too, for every one should be prepared to recognize the few poisonous ones and give them a wide berth and plenty of opportunity to escape when one is encountered, as few of them are looking for trouble to the extent of attacking mankind and these are not inhabitants of our section. Fortunately for us, poisonous snakes do

not like our villainous climate any more than we do and unlike us are not compelled to share it with us, and don't. To my knowledge, the only rattlers ever seen here were a few found in the vicinity of the stock yards, evidently having come in with stock cars from the west, and there is no indication that they had any intention of remaining here; probably they were looking for a chance to board the first train going out. We probably have our full share of the kind seen by the persistent tippler, but fortunately these are not poisonous. This is a most interesting book containing as it does, color pictures of all snakes found in continental U. S. and a large share of the kind we see only in zoos or circuses, such as the 12-foot King Cobras, the 28-foot Anacondas of South America, and the 33-foot Pythons of Asia, Africa and the Philippines. It also tells how to dress when in poisonous snake country, and how to treat snake bites, if one is unfortunate enough to suffer one.

CONTROLS AND INFLATION

High prices are not the cause of inflation but the result of inflation. A high thermometer reading does not make a room hot, but merely shows how hot the room is.

You can't cool a room by stoking the furnace and forbidding the thermometer to go up. You can't control inflation by reducing production, imposing price ceilings, and pouring more cheap money into the hopper.

Brevity is the soul of wit. Lincoln's Gettysburg address contains 266 words.

The Ten Commandments contain 297 words.

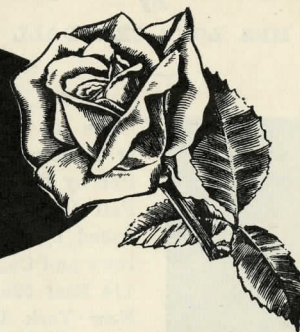
The Declaration of Independence contains 1500 words.

The OPS regulation establishing prices for cabbages contains 26,911 words.

Draw your own conclusions—(The Weekly Wonder, Quincy, Ill.) as quoted in: South Dakota Bureau Farming.

She stepped out of the bathtub onto the bathroom scales. Hubby came in the back door and observed what she was doing and inquired, "How many pounds this morning, honey?" Without bothering to look, she answered, "Fifty, and be sure you don't leave the tongs on the back porch."—THE MESSENGER.

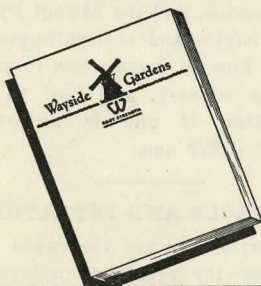
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BOOK REVIEWS

By

MRS. L. N. BRAKKE



Mrs. Brakke

The Propagation of Alpines, by Lawrence D. Hills, published by Pellegrini & Cudahy, 41 East 50th St., New York 22, N. Y. 464 pages; price \$5.00.

A book on the growing of al-pines, a help in the selection of correct plants for the amateur, nurseryman or student. Every method of propagation—division, seed, cuttings, leaf cuttings and layering is described in detail. With 87 line drawings and 32 pages of illustrations from photographs, 2,500 species of al-pines are described. The index not only gives quick reference to every species under its correct name, but every plant can be quickly found with ease under popular names used in both the United States and Britain. All rock gardeners

everywhere will welcome this interesting and useful book.



The Art of Driftwood and Dried Arrangements, by Aatsuo Ishimoto, Illustrated with 150 photographs. Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. 143 pages priced at \$2.95.

The author of "The Art of Flower Arrangement" has wanted to develop a similar book, using driftwood and dried material. Here is fresh enjoyment and endless opportunity for all those who enjoy nature. He has been 3 years in collecting and making up the material for this book, a studio full of driftwood and stones and hundreds of photographs have been collected. The popularity of driftwood arrangements has been growing the past few years and what a challenge this is for the flower arranger! What goes into a dry arrangement? Almost everything you want to put into it, wood, stones, branches, pine cones, dried flowers and seed pods, grasses and weeds, with the addition of a suitable figurines. Driftwood is simply wood that has weathered, its shape and texture the work of the wind, water and

sun. No containers are needed as no water is used. Bases can be of masonite or wood, either varnished or painted, can be square, oblong, oval or rounded. Plates, low bowls or trays make effective containers. The author has given four simple rules which may prove helpful: 1. be sure the size and color of your main object and container will fit harmoniously in the location you have chosen for your arrangement. 2. Keep the arrangement simple, with one object standing out more than others. 3. Use different heights and different amounts of material; avoid placing two objects of same height or size in the same arrangement. 4. If possible, add an accent, a small piece of odd material, a figure or a bit of color. The same piece of wood can be used for different arrangements, depending upon how it is placed, and what secondary material is used, needle holders and modeling clay are often needed to secure material to container. This book would make an interesting workshop study for a garden club, with each member bringing material to be used in the arrangement.