

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MARCH - APRIL, 1953

SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE COLLEGE

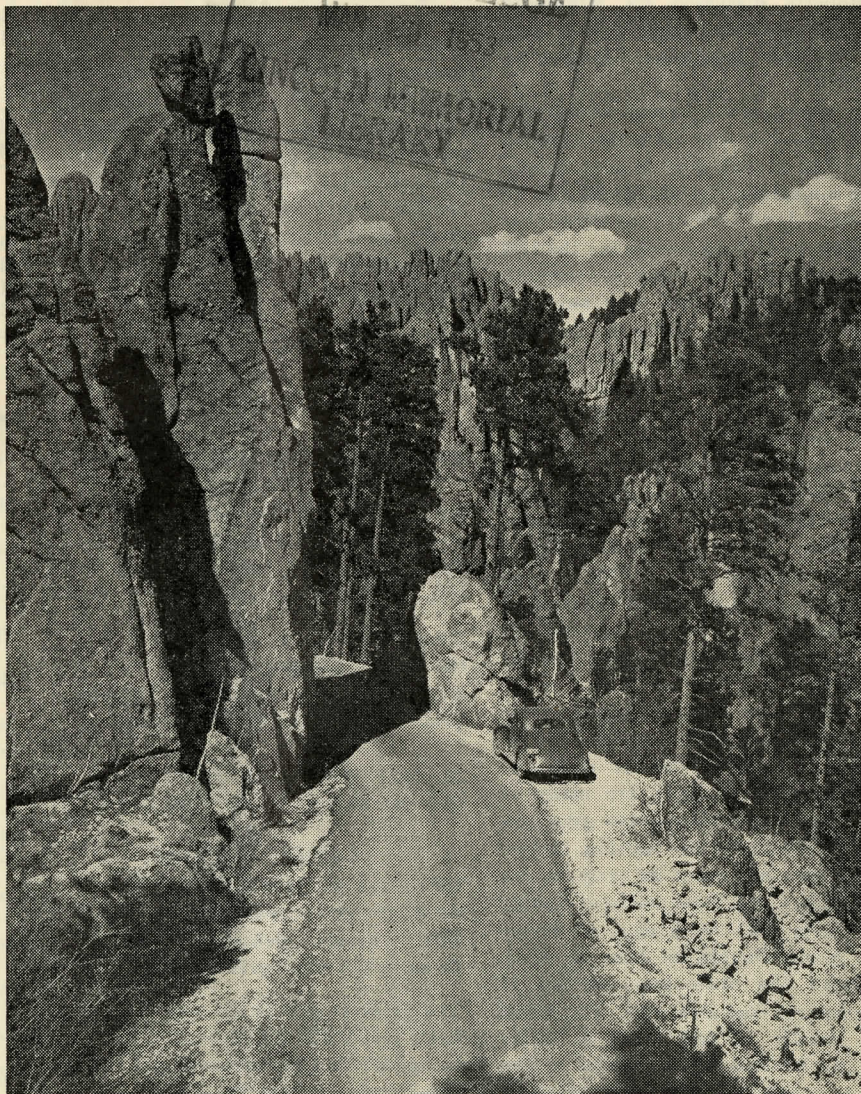
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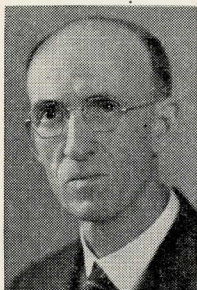
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Vol. 26
Nos 3-4

THE LESSER SCAUP DUCK

By
O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

The scaups are usually known as bluebills. The greater and lesser are so much alike that they are not readily distinguished but they have a different distribution. The greater scaup is found in winter along the Atlantic coasts of both Europe and America. From the latter they migrate northward to nest on the arctic coast and to some extent on inland waters. Dr. Roberts discussed its Minnesota status at length and decided that only three of their specimens belonged to that form.

The lesser scaup nests about the prairie lakes. It was formerly common in this region but now is seen chiefly during migration. Brandt Hjelle (N. D. Outdoors, April, 1952) reported that according to nesting counts for the last four years, the lesser scaup was seventh in abundance but this was only 2.2 percent of the total, being the same as canvasback, a little less than redhead and less than half as much as gadwall. On November 7, 1949, about 15,000 scaups were reported on DesLaes Lake in Ward County, North Dakota.

The male is mostly black, the rear half of the wings and the underparts being white. The back is also largely white but marked with fine black cross lines, which gives a grayish appearance at a distance. The female is brownish with an irregular line of white at the base of the blue bill.

The scaups are early spring migrants and are already mated when they arrive. However they do not mate the first year so that there are many of these young birds which may give misleading evidence about nesting. Actual nesting does not occur as early as one might expect. Mr. Bent wrote of finding many nests with fresh eggs at Stump Lake, North Dakota on June 15, 1901. He found the birds less common in southeastern Saskatchewan. He found nests usually in tall grass or under small bushes but in Manitoba a few were among bulrushes in the water.

The eggs are usually 9 to 12 in number and about two and one-fourth inches long. Mr. Bent said the coffee (with milk) color of fresh eggs was unmistakable in the field. The scaup is one of the diving ducks and feeds upon various plants and small animals. Technical Bulletin 634, U. S. D. A., on food of game ducks, lists material for a combined number of species of ducks from the main areas. For eastern United States the lesser scaup made up nearly half of all of the birds of 15 species examined. Vegetable matter was nearly 75 percent of the total food, of which pondweed, smartweed, wild rice and bulrush comprised about 31 percent. Of the 25 percent animal matter, insects made up more than half.

The diving habit is also useful in aiding wounded birds to escape by swimming under water. Hunters often believed that a bird would grasp some object with its bill and remain under water until it died. Such a case had been reported but Mr. Bent believed that more often they swam away to come up out of sight. He described how Indians helped catch young birds in shallow water by driving them into close quarters. The ducklings then dived and often were able to swim past their pursuers.

POEMS

By
MARY LOUISE KINYON

EVERYTHING COMES TO HE WHO WAITS

As I thread a worm upon my hook
I console the little snook
Saying "Today I feed you to the fish"
But I'll wind up as your dish.

Then I sit down to eat my fish
Oh, it is a tempting dish,
But my appetite falters and I squirm
When I remember the little worm.

He must be hidden in the dish—
Give me an egg, I'll pass the fish.

★ I SHOULD KNOW

Life gives precious gifts to all—
Some are great—some are small
Gift of beauty—genius—health
To some the much prized gift of wealth.

The greatest gift in all your life
Let's just state the truth,
In age we find the greatest gift
Came early—it was youth!

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

By
H. A. GRAVES



Graves

Through the courtesy of the Editor of the *Ortonville* (Minnesota) Independent, I have before me a short obituary of Francis L. Block who passed away in January, 1953, at the age of 85. No doubt other comments regarding the work of Mr. Block will appear in early issues of *Dakota Horticulture*. However, much can be said about the work of Francis Block with apples without repetition. A native of Illinois, Mr. Block came to Ortonville in 1919. He early began work with fruit trees and since 1922 has been a close cooperator with the Minnesota Horticultural Society and the Department of Horticulture, University Farm, St. Paul. The Block orchard is located on the eastern shore of Big Stone Lake. For the most part the slope up from the lake is gradual but quite constant. However, there is finally an abrupt rise of perhaps 75 feet or so. Ravines and draws come down through this break from the surrounding plains and here the Blocks had small groups of apple trees tucked away. These were quite separate from the main orchard below. It was in one of these small upper-hillside plantings that Mr. Wodarz and I found Francis Block when we stopped to visit the orchard last fall. He had on his apple picking harness and several bushel baskets sitting on the ground around the tree he was picking, attesting to early autumn morning activity. His planting was well kept and a beautiful sight—especially when the fruit began to color. I have had the privilege of two visits to the Block orchard in the past year and a half but I got there at least fifteen years too late. I am sure the son who has been associated with his father will carry on. This all calls to mind a remark once made by a Minnesota horticulturist that the Blocks at Ortonville were producing results with apples that were hard to duplicate anywhere else in Minnesota.

A new book has just been published,

in a new edition at least. It is "Vegetable Growing" by Dr. J. S. Shoemaker, head of the Department of Horticulture Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. The book is available from John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York. The book was designed primarily as a text book, but would be an excellent reference book for the layman. Dr. Shoemaker at one time headed the Department of Horticulture at the University of Alberta.

What to do about those left over seeds may be answered for you in this U. S. D. A. story:

"When we have completed the garden planting for the season, we usually have a quantity of seed left over. Will they be any good next spring or should they be discarded now?"

"The longevity or length of life of seeds depends on two main factors—the kind of seed and the conditions under which the seed is stored. Under the hot, humid conditions in summertime seeds do not retain their vitality as long as they do in cooler and dryer times of the year.

"Different kinds of seeds vary greatly in their longevity. For example, onion, sweet corn parsley and parsnip seeds retain their vitality for only one to two years; beans and peas, okra and salsify for two to three years; cabbage, collards, kale, turnips, and mustard, four to five years; cucumbers, melons, squash, and tomatoes about five years—all of these under favorable storage conditions, which means a cool temperature and relatively low humidity.

"Ordinarily, it is best to buy your seeds fresh each year, but if you do keep seed over until the next year, you should by all means make a germination test before you plant them."

From the Montana Extension service we have this release on chlorosis. We get a large number of inquiries about this yellowing condition each year. This Montana story seems to cover it pretty well:

"In many areas, certain species of plants suffer from a condition known as lime-induced chlorosis. This can be recognized by a yellowing of the leaves; a part or the entire plant may be affected.

"Some species of plants are much more susceptible than others. Mem-

bers of the rose family show this condition much more than other families of plants. But azaleas, roses, apples, plums, pears, mountain ash, strawberries and raspberries often show these chlorotic symptoms on high-lime soils. Perennial phlox and other herbaceous perennials may be troubled by this condition. Under very severe circumstances, even cottonwoods and poplars and other shade trees may present chlorotic conditions.

"If the chlorosis is mild, the leaves may show a yellowing principally between the veins, while the veins themselves still have green coloring. In more severe cases, the leaves may be entirely light yellow in color. The chlorosis sometimes appears more severe on new growth with the lower leaves a green color.

"The condition is usually due to the inability of the plant to utilize either iron and manganese or both, but other minor elements may also enter into the picture. The disease is most pronounced in alkaline soils with a pH running above 8.0. Lime tends to tie up iron and manganese salts in insoluble forms so that they cannot be utilized by the plants, hence the condition may be called 'lime-induced chlorosis.'

"To overcome chlorosis, reduce the soil alkalinity (pH). But first, make certain it is chlorosis. Spray the foliage of an affected plant with a 1 percent solution of iron citrate. If this is the trouble, the foliage will start to green up within a few hours. This is only a very temporary expedient and it may cause burning of some types of foliage.

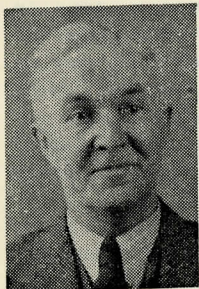
"For permanent relief, treat the soil with chemicals or forms of organic matter that will tend to lower the alkalinity (or pH) of the soil. Ferrous sulphate (copperas), aluminum sulphate; or sulphur are some of the chemicals which may be applied to the soil around the affected plants. The amount used is dependent on how high the pH of the soil is. Also, use chemical fertilizers such as ammonium sulphate, which have an acid reaction.

"Well rotted manure and composts are sometimes beneficial in reducing chlorosis. Horticultural peat mosses with pH values around 3.5 are even

(Continued on page 28)

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
W. R. LESLIE



W. R. Leslie

POTATOES continue to be a very important crop. Much effort is being made towards improving varieties through plant breeding programs. Two of the objectives are to develop varieties which are not susceptible to late

blight and scab diseases. Gratifying progress is being attained in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Manitoba where continuous potato breeding is underway.

MANOTA is a variety which has been introduced by the University after pleasing performance in Manitoba since 1945, when it was received as North Dakota seedling 134-19. It resulted from a cross made in 1938 in North Dakota.

The following description of Manota and other varieties is from the "Summary Report 1951, National Potato Seedling and Variety Tests," by N. M. Parks, Division of Horticulture, Ottawa:

"This variety has proved to be well adapted to soil types and climatic conditions in Manitoba. It is a fast growing variety of mid-season maturity comparable to Irish Cobbler, and has good yielding ability, producing an average of six to eight tubers per hill a high percentage of which are marketable. Tubers are formed close to the stem and are detached very easily at harvest. Its tubers are smooth, shallow eyed with creamy-white skin and very white flesh. Cooking tests indicate its quality as good. Manota is susceptible to the different virus diseases which commonly affect potatoes. It shows symptoms of leaf roll and mild mosaic very distinctly when infected. No evidence of net necrosis has been found in tubers to date. Also, the variety is susceptible to late blight, common scab and bacterial ring rot. Hollow heart has rarely been found in Manota while Irish Cobbler grown under the same condition has a high percentage. The Manota va-

riety of potato was licensed for sale in Canada in 1952 and is now eligible for certification. Because of its early maturity, good market and cooking qualities it is felt that the Manota will fill a very definite need in the potato industry in Manitoba."

The Manitoba Horticultural Association has sponsored the Manitoba Potato Competition. A Potato Exhibition was staged in the T. Eaton Company Annex, Winnipeg, October 23, 24 and 25th. There the public saw worthy displays of Manota and also of many other new varieties which give promise of displacing Irish Cobbler and other old varieties which have been leaders for many years.

CANSO is a hybrid originated at the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, to carry resistance to late blight. It is late maturing. Cooking quality is comparable to Green Mountain. Canso possesses a high degree of resistance to late blight infection under field conditions. Chief weakness is susceptibility to stem-end rot and hollow heart condition.

KESWICK is also a late-blight-resistant variety originated at Fredericton. It is intermediate in season. Cooking quality has equalled Green Mountain. Keswick has shown reasonably wide adaptation across Canada.

KENNEBEC originated by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is a vigorous, fast growing, high yielding, late maturing variety. It is highly resistant to late blight on both foliage and tubers. Cooking quality is excellent.

ONTARIO, TETON, CHEROKEE, WASECA, and PUNGO are other varieties from the United States.

Ontario possesses high resistance to common scab. Teton has not proved to have wide adaptation in the Canadian trials. Its season is similar to Green Mountain. Cherokee was the first named variety to carry resistance to both late blight and common scab. It appears to have a fairly wide adaptation. It matures about ten days later than Irish Cobbler. It is productive of tubers equal or superior to Irish Cobbler in cooking quality. Waseca is similar to Irish Cobbler in season and cooking quality. Tubers with red skin are deep-eyed. Promise is little due to being susceptible to virus diseases.

Other varieties of which performance in the trials is reported in Mr.

Park's report include: Early Ida, Skipworth, Manifold, Mainstay, Marvel, Model, Warba Seedling, Essex, Fillmore, Empire, Ashworth, Calrose, Yampa Russet Sebago and Seedling F-1446-26.

It is apparent that there are many new varieties being tested in the interest of securing varieties which shall be superior to present potatoes for both growers and consumers.

The **INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN** is unfolding into a distinctive and attractive institution. Situated in the Turtle Mountains, which are impartially shared by the State of North Dakota and the Province of Manitoba, the Garden is in the vicinity of the geographic center of the North American continent.

The Experimental Station at Morden has been playing a part in the establishment of plantings in the young institution. As the Garden is international in nature, many hardy plants assembled at Morden from Mongolia, Manchuria, Tibet, Turkestan, Korea, Siberia, Russia, Finland and the Balkans, promise to be useful and to bring added floral variety to the shrubberies and borders of the International Peace Garden.

The annual meeting of the Corporation takes place in early September. It was on Saturday the 6th this year. The capacity crowd in attendance indicated the growing interest in the enterprise. Another evidence of the importance of

(Continued on page 24)

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GUIDE TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By

ALLAN L. TRUAX

(A Review by Mrs. O. A. Stevens)

A North Dakotan who is a long-time member of the North and South Dakota Horticultural Society has made a unique contribution to the literature of the United States of America. Allan L. Truax of Crosby, North Dakota, is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and has long had an interest in the history of the struggle of the American Colonies for their independence from Great Britain. In the course of the pursuit of that interest he became familiar with the "Pictorial Field Book of the American Revolution," published in 1848 by Benson J. Lassing. This work, while long outmoded and out of print, is well-conceived and thoroughly documented by field exploration. In its compilation Lassing had traveled 18,000 miles by train, canal boat, and by horse and wagon, as well as on foot. With a copy of this work as a basis, Mr. Truax began, fifteen years ago, to visit the battlefields of the War for Independence, ended a hundred years previous to that time.

Mr. Truax's researches lasted seven years. In the course of this phase of his task, he traveled 40 000 miles by car. The miles on foot, searching out detail, copying inscriptions, collecting pictures and maps, making drawings and measurements, are uncounted. The six succeeding years were spent in the compilation of the monumental manuscript. Previous to the description of each battlefield, he has written an historical account of the action that took place there with the names of commanding officers, the numbers of troops engaged, the geographic source of the troops and an evaluation of the action in relation to the course of the struggle. Then follows an account of the present condition of the terrain, of any remaining marks of conflict, of monuments and markers that have been erected. These are accompanied by careful measurements of distances in relation to present highways and subsequent buildings or developments as well as by maps pictures and drawings.

The manuscript, as finished, contains 1,880,000 words. It opens with the War as carried on in Canada and New Eng-

land. It is noted that the environs of Boston are so greatly altered in the passage of time, by leveling operations, by changes in the shore lines by "built-up" land, and by destruction of landmarks, that it is impossible to follow most of the action of which history gives us accounts. In contrast to Boston, in New York there are many recognizable landmarks and battle sites. To one interested in the historical aspects of the city, Mr. Truax's work would be invaluable on sightseeing expeditions. The work continues through the North Atlantic States and into the South. The sites of naval battles are recorded in the concluding chapters.

When the manuscript was completed and typed, Mr. Truax began submitting portions of it to publishing houses. It attracted favorable attention and comment, but on account of the soaring prices of paper and the costs of publication, no publisher was willing to bring it out. They all feared that the work, while excellent and of great interest and an important contribution to Americana, would not command a wide enough sales field to make it a paying project. In the meantime, Mr. Truax fell ill and the fate of his manuscript preyed on his mind. When the president general of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution came into the state in March of 1951 for the Annual State Conference, he wrote to the state regent, telling her of the work he had done and asked her to confer with Mrs. Patton as to the manuscript being given into the custody of the Genealogical Library of the National Society. Mrs. Patton showed great interest and, with the state regent, proposed that the D. A. R. would accept the custody of the manuscript, would permit its use for research as far as is compatible with its safety, would from time to time print excerpts from it in the D. A. R. Magazine and would, if means should be found from any source for its publication at any time, permit its use for that purpose.

Mr. Truax, on his part, very generously assigned the copyright to the D. A. R., specifying that the portion of the work concerned with sites of Revolutionary occurrences be published, if at all, without change, but permitting editing of the historical material.

The manuscript was accumulated at the Library of the Agricultural College as Mr. Truax finished checking it,

and in January of 1952 it was forwarded to Washington. Mrs. James B. Patton, president general, wrote Mr. Truax, upon its receipt: "Your gift of manuscript, 'Guide to the American Revolution,' is a noteworthy contribution, and I offer you sincere congratulations upon the compilation of this historic data. . . . The National Society thanks you for this gift. . . . We are deeply grateful to you for your outstanding contribution to our Library. . . . With real appreciation of your fine American spirit."

The North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, interested in this contribution from North Dakota, wrote Mr. Truax requesting that the Institute be made the repository of any notes he might wish to have preserved and Mr. Truax, upon learning that the Genealogical Library of D. A. R. did not need to retain the carbon copy of the work, has placed this with the Institute.

Indiana Nursery News suggests the use of undiluted concentrated liquid lime sulfur as a trunk spray on young crab and apple trees to repel rabbits. The material stayed on trees all winter, and rabbits took only occasional sampling nips. Apply material with a swab, brush or sprayer, but clean sprayer thoroughly and immediately after use, as the material is caustic. There is also the older material, copper carbonate powder mixed with linseed oil to consistency of thin paint and brushed on to the apple trunks with a primer coat of paint. This material leaves a green residue on the trunks for a few years. Another control method is the use of the Michigan formula at rate of 7 lbs. of powdered resin per gallon of denatured alcohol. Mix these, and set container aside in a warm place for 1 or 2 days to dissolve. Spray or brush on dry tree trunks. The material may become whitish upon weathering.

—MARYLAND FRUIT GROWER.

Never tell people your troubles. Half of them don't care and the other half will be glad it happened to you.—Rita P. in CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

Test all seed to see if it will grow and treat all seed to prevent disease.—PRAIRIE FARMER.

CAVALIER TOMATO

By
J. H. SCHULTZ

Department of Horticulture
North Dakota Agricultural College
Fargo, North Dakota

Seed of "Cavalier" tomato will be available for general planting in 1953. Cavalier is a new variety developed by the Department of Horticulture, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station as a selection from the cross, Bounty x Valiant. The variety was named in the fall of 1951 in preparation for commercial increase in 1952.

Cavalier is classed as an early home and market garden tomato variety. The fruit is round to globe-shaped, large (average about six ounces per fruit), has uniform green immature fruit color, is smooth, and normally quite free of cracks. The ripe fruit color is a darker red than Bounty and Victor but lighter than Rutgers. The flesh is firm and meaty. Its ascorbic acid content is within the range of standard tomato varieties (16 to 20 mgm. per 100 gm.).

Cavalier plants are of a vigorous determinate or bush type and have adequate foliage coverage for areas in which determinate varieties are adapted. Because of its strong plants under conditions favorable to vigorous growth, Cavalier escapes some foliage diseases to a greater extent than might be expected on the basis of its season of maturity and plant type.

This new variety is later than Early Chatham and comparable to Bounty and Victor in maturity and yield. Its superiority over the latter two varieties lies largely in fruit size, shape, and quality. Early Chatham, which is much earlier and one-half as large, is in a different class and cannot well be compared with Cavalier.

Cavalier is recommended as a possible replacement for Bounty, Victor and similar varieties for home and market garden production. Commercial trials in the Red River Valley in 1952 indicated that it may be very well suited to the needs of commercial growers in North Dakota.

The Department of Horticulture does not have seed of this variety available for general distribution. A limited quantity of foundation seed is available from this department for commercial increase. Foundation seed was supplied to seed companies requesting it for

increase in 1952, including two North Dakota companies¹ which have increased it. Growers and gardeners are referred to commercial sources for seed.

¹ Oscar H. Will and Company, Bismarck, North Dakota, and Taintor-Twomey Seeds, Incorporated, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

THOSE AWFUL BILLBOARDS

By
JOHN TURNIPSEED

I reckon if I try I can call to mind quite a few cases where billboards has been an affliction to mankind. I remember when Deacon Brown sued the tobacco company when they put up a Bull Durham sign across the road from his pasture. He claimed in court his milk cows couldn't keep their minds on their work. He claimed a financial loss because his cream check was way off. The judge finally tossed the case out of court and told the Deacon to sell his scrub bull and buy a purebred bull more glamorous than the picture on the billboard.

People that sell space on their barns and silos is taking an awful chance. Lafe Applejohn sold space for a chawing tobacco ad on his barn an' used the money to buy a couple of coon dogs. Every time his wife looked out the kitchen window there was that cut plug starin' her in the face. Pretty soon she started chawin' herself an' it took most of her egg money. Lafe claims he hardly broke even. Also, I doubt if a dairy

farmer makes any money on the deal when he sells space on his silo for a beer sign. He works seven days a week trying to make a living pullin' teats while the ad works seven days a week tryin' to wean people off 3.5 milk onto 3.2 beer. So you see I am agin billboards but I am one to tell both sides of the argument. Puts me in mind of the laundry that set up billboards to convince stingy husbands they should send out the washin' and not to put too much work on the wife. Now there was a billboard no woman could object to: "Don't kill your wife—let us do your dirty work." Then too, I don't think the sunshine society should be too hard on the man that sold tombstones. He put up signs along all the highways in the county with a beautiful tombstone on them. Under the picture was this: "Drive carefully, we can wait."—THE PRAIRIE FARMER.

Mary had a little lamb that she wanted much to keep;
It followed her all around till it died from loss of sleep.

Mrs. Juschus: "I hear a mouse squeaking."

John: "What do you want me to do, get up and oil it?"—THE EARTH-WORM.

What a man needs in gardening is a cast iron back, with a hinge in it. — Charles Dudley Warner.

The PIONEER SEED HOUSE

Nursery-Greenhouses of the Northwest

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in DAKOTA TERRITORY
in 1882

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NEW CATALOG READY JANUARY 1st
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GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By
MRS. R. G. FERRIS

TRUMPET CUPS

Pioneers the pasque flowers come
Through banks of snow;
High on hilltops, bleak and glum,
Their purples blow.

With downy capes against the cold,
The clustered buds
Open to show their hearts of gold
While storm cloud scuds.

Lithe and tender, strong as steel,
Great joy they bring;
Royal heralds they reveal
The birth of spring.

MAE URBANEK,
Lusk, Wyoming.

At Britton the Convention Committee is hard at work on all the details that go into the making of a fine State Convention, June 21-23. The flower show on Sunday afternoon and evening, should be a lovely prelude to the convention. This will be their first judged show, and they hope it will bring helpful suggestions criticisms and favorable comments from our State Federation visitors. As to program, here are a few we can name at this time: Judge Harold King will give the history and items of interest on old Fort Sisseton. Mrs. Edgar Irving on Iris. Of course Mrs. Juanita Jorgensen will have a place. The city of Britton is being very co-operative. We have the use of the fine new auditorium, and the greenhouse has started plants (especially petunias, the city flower) so that all who wish may have them in bloom by convention time. Britton hopes you are planning to attend this convention and see the northeastern part of South Dakota this summer.

The Blossom and Bulb Garden Club of Miller sponsored Patty Faust as their Garden Therapy project. Patty made and sold fifty-five corsages. Material for the corsages was collected by the garden club members. They plan to sponsor the same project next year. Patty was a polio victim in the fall of 1946 when she was ten years old. After many treatments and operations she is able to get around on crutches. This club's Civic project is the new park. They purchased and planted 550 tulip bulbs at the park and spent a day with three clubs cooperating, plan-

ning and planting. They held a workshop making dish gardens, depicting storybook scenes. These were taken to the Childrens' and Polio Wards at St. John's Hospital at Huron, South Dakota.

Mrs. H. N. Dybvig of the Dell Rapids Club writes, "A martin bird house, to be placed in the City Park, is in the process of being built. A new project of our Garden Club. We are sponsoring a Bird House Contest, with prizes, for the Junior Club members at their March meeting. We think the program for our March meeting should prove interesting. It is a Round Table on "Our Town" and the speakers are from the Commercial Club. The topics to be discussed are: City Parks and Their Upkeep; The Problem of the Vacant Lot; Public Buildings; and Highways—Welcome Mat to Your Town."

Colome Garden Club writes. "We began our year with Garden Therapy, sending the aged and shut-ins flowers, and when winter began, we sent fruit. All of them much appreciated. On February 13 we held a Valentine Tea and plant sale which was a very nice affair we were proud of. We met with the Town Board to have the weeds cut in vacant lots and was granted a write up in the paper. At the Tripp County Achievement Days in Winner we displayed flowers and took all the ribbons. We do not know what the year will bring forth, but many things have been planned and we hope to keep going."

From the Green Thumb Club at Hurley, "For our last meeting each one took a wrapped gift for a 'shut-in.' We gave out some twenty packages. We gave these to older persons in the community who do not get out much and to those in the Old Peoples' Home. I was surprised at the pleasure it gave and how happy they were to be remembered. Our 1953 program has plans for one hour of each meeting to be used in study of Course One of the Flower Judging School. There are three from our club that have finished the five courses, so we take turns on the lessons."

The Madison Garden Club expect to have Carl Starker for a demonstration lecture on "Flower Arrangements" the last week in July. Everyone who is interested in arranging flowers should keep this in mind. Come and see a great artist at work.

Vermillion Garden Club: Dr. H. S.

Schell of Vermillion gave an extremely informative talk on his garden specialty, Chrysanthemums. He has grown them for many years and his fall garden attracts a great deal of attention. He said that the first year of planting, "mums" do not bloom on their regular schedule but may be much earlier or later than in later years after they become established. Not all varieties are hardy in this climate and for choice varieties it is best to take them up in the fall. Most, however, will withstand a normal winter if well-mulched with straw. The January meeting consisted of 90 slides on "Iris" from the Maple Valley Gardens of Mapleton, Iowa. These slides can be paid for by obtaining three new members for the American Iris Society instead of the regular rental fee, thanks to the kindness of Mrs. C. G. Whiting at the gardens.

Sioux Falls Garden Club have plans made for their annual Peony Show. Mr. Stringham, landscaper, producing the necessary tools used in the operation, gave a very interesting talk on pruning, giving the very good advice that the tree owner not run the risk of spoiling valuable trees and shrubs but hire an expert who knew his business and would improve, rather than ruin them.

South Sioux Garden Club held an interesting meeting on "Lillies," with colored slides, lecture and discussion.

The Yankton Club met with Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Bush, who had an interesting display of arrangements. Mrs. Bush talked on flowers and plants associated with holiday traditions. Everyone present gained a new appreciation of the general effect which appropriate, well-placed arrangements add to the cheerfulness of home surroundings.

Viborg Garden Club held a bake sale which netted \$108.87, an achievement toward the city park which is their project for this year.

Huron Garden Club recently had a guest speaker lecture on Birds and are preparing a program on Spring Flower Arrangement. They also took baskets of fruit, candy and other "goodies" to patients in the nursing homes in the city.

Mrs. D. J. Decker of Fair City Garden Club in Huron sends in the name of their new president, Mrs. F. R. Hoffman.

The Green Fingers Garden Club of
(Continued on page 30)

BOOK REVIEWS

By
MRS. L. N. BRAKKE



Mrs. Brakke

Picture Primer of Dooryard Gardening from city plot to country acre. Text by Margaret O. Goldsmith, illustrated by Else Bostelmann and John Brimer. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., 2 Park

Street, Boston 7, Massachusetts.
Price \$2.00.

The scientific "Know-How" on how to select our trees, vines, shrubs, perennials, annuals and bulbs to make practical, beautiful dooryards. The choice of fruits, vegetables and berries to suit our soil and space. Building and care of the lawn planting and pruning tips, work saving ideas and tools are pictured. Many color harmonies are illustrated for different types of flower beds, herb beds and the kitchen garden. The "no-end" of garden chores we have, all through the year, is discussed, plant diseases and pest control and the "When and What" to spray on trees, fruits, shrubs, and flowers, not to forget fertilizers, mulches and types of soil. A handy book of information for the average home gardener.

The How and Why of Better Gardening, by Lawrence Manning. Published by D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, New York. Price \$3.00.

The valuable information obtained in "The How and Why of Better Gardening" is the result of many years of study and experience of a nationally known nurseryman. What the author has to say about plant life will be of value to anyone growing any kind of a garden. There are hints on landscaping and planning whether its trees, shrubs, flowers or vegetables; you will find information for the average home gardener. You can skim through the book in about 4 hours reading time, although it covers much the same material as a course at college. A garden is a work of art: planning one is like painting a picture, unfortunately the

colors and shapes change with each season. Under these circumstances there never was or never can be a perfect garden, only that some gardens are better than others. Contents of the book are divided into 3 parts:

Part 1, "The Place," discussing climate and soil needs.

Part 2, "The Plant" the need and uses of leaves, roots and stems.

Part 3, "The Purpose," of flowers and seeds. Nature's gardens, weeds, pests and garden plan. If it helps the reader to garden more intelligently, the author thinks it has served its entire purpose. A book recommended by the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

LETTER FROM NEBRASKA

By

MRS. FLORA KICKEN

Sandoz Fruit Farm, Ellsworth, Nebr.

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Your nice letters received. I am glad to note that you liked the wrapping and etc. on the packages. That is what sells a product nowadays. However, I am struggling to make a better product to put into the jars and that is where I need suggestions. Undoubtedly your "Cooks" could give me some good pointers. I don't have to send the product to many who are as well qualified to pass judgment as your family of horticultural writers and etc.

Anyway I think the project is going to be lots of fun though we certainly are having a time getting started. Just as I was getting the advertising lined out this year, the deer moved into this community and we have a new lesson to learn. I never realized what a lot of damage there was wrapped up with a pair of those antlers. Though I watch constantly for grouse and rabbit damage, the deer did much damage before I knew they were here. Many of the trees in our new experimental apple planting were destroyed or damaged.

Since your space and my information is limited, I'll not try to write a report this year. I'll say that there was a big cherry crop set on though it suffered some from the drought. The Parker pear were loaded and though somewhat smaller than usual, still of good marketable size. There was a good set sand-cherry plums but the harvest was disappointing on the Sapa as they need considerable moisture. Opata were

good. The apples took almost a complete rest, even the new varieties in the trial plots. Very few of the trees of plums, cherries, etc., in the trial plots had any fruit on them. The Omaha plums that Dad planted many years ago, had an enormous crop of fine fruit on them and they matured good. These trees have not had a good crop for a number of years.

Last year was certainly a fine year for me. I lost almost all of my arthritis, except in joints I have had broken. etc. Medicines I took form allergies and the lack of orchard pruning were probably to thank for that.

Best wishes for a happy and satisfying 1953.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER—

(Continued from page 20)

The International Peace Garden is that it has attracted for its chief officers three very prominent citizens. Honorable D. G. McKenzie of Winnipeg is President, John A. Stormon of Rolla is Chairman of the Board of Directors and Russell Reid, who is Superintendent of North Dakota State Parks, is Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Work during the past year has been chiefly along the formal panel area which flanks the international border. Massive rock works form retaining walls, summer houses, and boundaries of such features as fountain pools, reflecting pools, and the sunken garden. A big factor in the development of the panel areas and also of the drive-ways, picnic shelters, and plantations is the presence of M. J. Tinline, the versatile and aggressive superintendent.

Plans for the coming year call for further stone work on the panel and a substantial amount of tree and shrub planting on the flanks of the units already built. Several new areas will be planted in the expansive naturalistic portions.

There is need of considerable money to accomplish the schedule. The International Peace Garden is a material token paying homage to the wisdom of men living at peace throughout the world. The honorary-treasurer Col. A. J. Robbins, Winnipeg, Manitoba, is ready to receive contributions from every citizen of North America. Col. Robbins, like all the other officers, serves enthusiastically in an honorary but busy capacity.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

How many of you have heard the crashing rocks in a swift flowing stream? Today, as the Claman river rose about 6 foot, you could hear the rolling rocks down deep in the rocky bed, below the bridge. Jan. 10th.

Today the woodsman dropped off 20-foot logs, 55 inches through, weighing 8 tons. Each 15 inch cut makes 6 wheelbarrows load, worth little for stove wood. A sound log this size is worth \$200. I have my eye on still a larger one that I hope to ship a slab home in a few days. A few days ago I caught another Mountain Beaver (Boomer) but just one night in captivity and it was dead before we could take it into town. Later, I got another larger one that may be able to live in the zoo longer. One I caught a few years ago was an attraction for over a year, then some careless caretaker let him get away. One country has produced over 200,000 pounds of bent grass seed. Most grasses and clovers are grown out here. The bad news here now is timber killed by bugs. It is claimed it will be more than the Tillamook burn, and may be more than 400 000 acres, scattered over 7 million acres. But logs and lumber is still higher and State College claims 1952 was the largest revenue year in history. In western Oregon, 346 tracts of timber were offered for sale and of the 316 sold, 216 were dead or dying timber. This is mostly the big Douglas fir, blown down and beetle killed trees; trees have been the outstanding project the past year. Entomologists believe the bark beetle epidemic will continue to spread in 1953, adding perhaps 3 to 5 billion board feet to the damage. Plans are made to offer for sale over a billion board feet for this year. Forestry, at its best seems doomed and all new plantings will be infested before the trees are large enough for pine logs. Jan. 20th. Yesterday I planted another 125 evergreens, mostly Douglas fir, in all sizes from 2 foot down to 2

inch seedlings. Today I sat on a tavern stool for over 5 hours, the surprising thing—the few people to see free, this biggest show of a lifetime, the inauguration of a president. When it rains every day and most every night, its no wonder we are having the flooding of all the low lands and every little creek is a rushing river, taking tons of yellow clay down to choke up the channel of the Columbia river way out into the ocean. Most of the day of the 22nd was spent at the 12th annual Northwest Vegetable Insect Conference. While I may have been out of place among all those college men from California, up to and including all districts in Canada, still I was at home in vegetable discussions and the insects that destroy them. I could see the men of the Western Agricultural Chemical Association rather doubted I was a grower of more than 100 acres of vegetables from Dakota. My notes for the next issue may be something different but fearing its just another dream, I will not mention it, only I may be delayed a little to take over in the little greenhouse back home.

Treatment of European Foul Brood. Experiments in France, reported in THE BEE WORLD (England) indicated that results were much the same as in this country: There was no success when EFB was treated with antiseptics, sulpha drugs or penicillin. This past year treatment with streptomycin was 100 per cent successful with no recurrence of the European Foul Brood. —WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

Honey bees are actually busy according to reports. Some ambitious fellow has figured that a bee travels more than twice the distance around the world just to gather a pound of honey—to be specific 40,000 trips of about 1.5 miles each. This was gleaned from COOPERATIVE FARMER, August, 1952, but don't try to remember it.—MARYLAND NEWS LETTER.

Why didn't you yell for help when that soldier kissed you?

Mother, that soldier didn't need any help.—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

An acrobat is a guy that turns a flop into a success.—MARYLAND FRUIT GROWER.

BOOK REVIEW

By
MISS RUTH HABEGER
Bird Chairman



Miss R. Habeger

Our Amazing Birds, by Robt. S. Lemmon. Illustrated by D. E. Eckelberry. Published by American Garden Guild and Doubleday & Company, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York 22, New York.

Price \$3.95.

Reading this book was one of the most refreshing experiences I have had in some time. The book is beautifully illustrated with black and white paintings by D. E. Eckelberry. The 102 character sketches of birds reveals facts of careful observation about each bird's private life. Each sketch is accompanied with an interpretive portrait. This cooperation of author and artist has resulted in developing an interesting and distinct personality for each bird. I was reminded of the remark my small nephew made just after seeing the Walt Disney film, "Water Birds"; "Why those birds are like people." Here is a sample from the text about the Downy Woodpecker: "Friendly, independent, amusing, energetic, playful and at times downright serious, its change of pace is astonishing. At any moment it may become either clown or a philosopher." One cannot help but see these birds as individuals after such odd and interesting traits are pointed out. A bird watcher will learn to look for such traits just as he has learned to look for identifying flash and color marks in his field study. A detailed written description about each bird, characteristic of most birds books, would be superfluous here. The specific facts about nests, eggs and range are given, otherwise there is no planned pattern of sequence for the book. It is delightful information for bird watchers any age anywhere.

MY EXPERIENCE IN HORTICULTURE

By
R. L. WODARZ



Wodarz

In the early twenties, before I was much interested in fruit growing, I received a small order of trees from a Minnesota nursery and along with it came an accompanying letter. In it was included a printed slip inviting me to join the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. This must be a mistake, I thought, being that I was a resident of North Dakota and to my knowledge there was no North Dakota Society. Upon investigation the Minnesota folks assured me that I would qualify. Those days a subscription carried with it a valuable and novel premium. It did not take me very long to make up my mind to join and from then on I had an entirely different outlook on local horticulture; found out more of its problems, its shortcomings and its wonderful possibilities. By and by I also discovered that there was a brand new North Dakota State Horticultural Society and I joined it. I heard and read of the success of Luther Burbank in producing new fruits, beautiful new flowers, taming and disarming the wild cactus, etc., and not knowing of the work of the Land Grant Colleges, doing even more practical work in their respective locations. After a person joins one of those horticultural societies he has access to much that broadens his mind. There are the

plant explorers and plant breeders performing miracles with great patience to make their respective region a better place to live. About 25 years ago I put two grafts of Anoka apple on a Virginia crabapple tree. To my surprise these fruited the following year. I did not expect to see apples on them that quick, I was just curious to find out if the grafts would take. Being encouraged, I planned to raise seedling trees from Siberian crabapple seed, hardiest I could get. In my mind I figured I could not possibly lose out if I topworked these to good quality apples. As some of our good sorts like the Wealthy have a poor framework, crotches and trunk being subject to winter injury, topworking would surely correct this. Besides, there would be the chance to test out in a hurry new varieties that are showing up off and on. These hardy trees were interplanted with known standard apple trees. As the years went by, these baccata seedlings were grafted over. Time on the farm being somewhat short some years, justice has not always been done to this work. Several of the trees got too big to do the kind of grafting I was used to doing, and cleft grafting which is somewhat complicated, I have not undertaken. Much of this work was fairly successful though some of the seedlings succumbed to fireblight. Here and there the graft would not take. A few put out a puny growth, of these, some petered out. I found out later on that I would have had greater success had I selected known hardy trees like Hibernial, Virginia crab, Dolgo, etc. By the way, the little I worked with Dolgo I find it much more particular than the former two. Haralson and Caramel (Hansen) do well on Dolgo while McIntosh, and Duchess will start growth but don't amount to much. Almost

every year there is someone that shows up with a new apple and would like to have it propagated. A person does not have to have great skill in order to do this work if one uses the wedge or whip graft and seals it with an electrician's rubber tape. Of course, the best way to learn how is to see it done but I will try to explain the way I have done it, and am still doing it. All you need is a roll of that rubber tape and a sharp jack knife. The size of the stock as well as the scion I'd prefer to be that of a pencil. A whip graft or the very simple wedge graft is made then I cut a strip of the tape, say 4 or 5 inches, peel this, stretch it some, then wind it round and round so as to cover all the cut surfaces. If the day is cloudy the weather damp or rainy shortly after, then the performance is over. In two or three weeks you will see some life stirring in the scion. Don't be surprised if one here or there does not grow; it may not even be your fault. Here in Dakota we have many drying, windy days. On such days the scion may dry out before knitting takes place. Painting, or better, dipping the scion in melted paraffine or melted grafting wax will help. Years past I noticed that some of the buds on the stock that were covered with this rubber tape worked their way out through this tape. So, during the last few years I have been covering not only the cut surface but the scion as well. I give it a pinch or a twist at the end so as to make it air tight. This work cannot be done very well when it is cold, or when there is dust in the air. The tape should be soft, pliable and sticky. The time to do this work would depend on the weather in the spring. Usually the latter half of April. A heavy frost or even freezing weather will not affect this adversely.

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Gurney Seed and Nursery Co.

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By
MRS. LEO MONTEITH
Brookings



For the average home owner, the reading of anursery catalogue is both an eye-catching and a mouth-watering experience. So many plants are beautiful and so many fruits appetizing that we don't know where to start . . . we want them all. Seed catalogues have arrived and we know that is an indication that spring is not too far away. Of course, by the time spring and the planting season actually gets here some of the gardening enthusiasm will have worn off, for the colored photos do glamorize our dream garden for us.

However, by planting and caring for a flower garden we have made our home a better one for our family, our community, and our country. Yes, the world is just a little better place in which to live. "To light a candle is better than to curse the darkness."

In a recent letter from Miss Dorothy Bartol of Boston, she asks that Club members contribute toward sending seeds to England. Some of the British people have never grown anything outside a flower pot or window box. Now, because of new housing conditions they for the first time have a garden or yard but, alas, no money for seeds. In hospitals are ex-servicemen often well enough to derive an enormous satisfaction from light garden work. Normal school children enjoy the competition, and the benefit of instruction in garden-

ing. One dollar will buy a collection of 20 packets of seeds. If your Garden Club would like to participate in this worthwhile project please inform me immediately.

The National Tulip Society this year announces an increase in awards to garden clubbers for prize-winning tulips in spring garden shows. First prize will be \$25 worth of imported Dutch bulbs; second, \$15 worth of bulbs, and third, a package of bulbs valued at \$10. All Garden Clubs planning Spring shows are urged to notify the National Tulip Society as soon as possible about their coming shows. Only clubs which submit a schedule of events will be considered. All correspondence should be forwarded to Mr. Felix Tyroler, Executive Secretary, National Tulip Society, 37 West 43rd Street, New York 36, New York.

It is still winter as I write, the time for planning, and flower shows should be planned, well in advance. It is a good idea to set a tentative date for your flower show, and have a theme ready in mind. These shows are a means of exhibiting the results of our horticultural efforts, our conservation aims and our special arranging talents. Careful judging makes for better shows and improved standards. A flower show presents food for thought as well as beauty. It offers a fine opportunity for garden clubs to slip sugar-coated educational pills to the many visitors.

JUNE

By James Russell Lowell

And what is so rare as a day in June?

Then, if ever, come perfect days;

Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,

And over it softly her warm ear lays;

Whether we look, or whether we listen,

We hear life murmur, or see it
glisten.

Let's mark on our calendars, the dates, June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. and plan now to set aside these days to attend the State Horticulture and Garden Club Convention at Britton. Mrs. Bonham, Mrs. Kindred, Mr. Woodard and Dr. S. A. McCrory are planning a combined Garden Club and Horticultural program. Edythe Mock of Newark, South Dakota, will serve as chairman of reservations for the convention. Come to Britton and meet your fellow gardeners. Did you know that on a nation-wide scale, garden clubs are the fastest growing organizations in history? The women who take an active

part in the garden clubs are the same women who are supporting the church, hospital, scout and charitable work in our communities. Look around you and you will agree.

The National Council Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, April 27th to May 1st, with headquarters at the Fairmont Hotel. A post-convention trip is possible to the Hawaiian Islands, on the luxurious Lurline. Sailing is from Los Angeles, May 4th, with return from Honolulu, May 21st, and arrival in Los Angeles, May 26. If you desire to visit the Islands, this is a splendid opportunity. As a garden club member you will have access to many places that would not be available as an individual tourist. Hotel reservations should be made in San Francisco now.

By the time of our State Convention, I do hope that we will have many more garden clubs in the Federation.

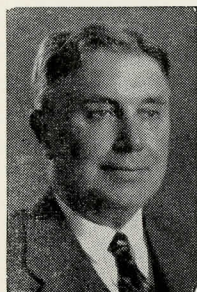
Has your Club thought of organizing a Junior Garden Club? It is a most worthwhile project. Let us give the children of our communities the opportunity to develop into healthy, happy citizens with a knowledge of conservation, and an appreciation of the beauties around them.

Junior Gardening helps to increase a child's observation of nature study, birds and conservation. Members learn to protect our natural resources. A child who is garden-minded is good-minded. All children love to work with natural objects. Nothing escapes their prying fingers and observing eyes. The home garden offers us excellent opportunities to work with our boys and girls. but a senior garden club must sponsor junior work. It is most encouraging to hear of the work done by junior gardeners in Huron, Madison and Sioux Falls, as well as in other towns. Let us hear from more towns carrying out this worthwhile project.

We owe to books those general benefits which come from high intellectual action. Thus, I think, we often owe to them the perception of immortality. They impart sympathetic activity to the moral power. Go with mean people, and you think life is mean. Then read Plutarch, and the world is a proud place, peopled with men of positive quality, with heroes and demigods standing around us who will not let us sleep.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

SASKATCHEWAN NOTES

By
DR. MANLEY L. CHAMPLIN



Champlin

Dakota Horticulture and Saskatchewan Horticulture have much in common. The climate is much the same, except that the winters are longer and the hot periods in summer are shorter. The province of Saskatchewan,

shaped like a keystone, extends from the 49th parallel on the south to the 60th parallel on the north. It adjoins the states of Montana and North Dakota. It is just under Texas in area, and has over thirty million acres under cultivation, devoted mostly to wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax, in that order. In spite of this vast acreage and the super sized farms, there is a great interest in horticulture and there are many excellent gardens and small fruit plantations. Along the rivers and lake shores, the wild Saskatoon berries grow in abundance. These berries remind one of little apples. Wild blueberries grow profusely in the north central region, in the forest belt that bounds the prairies on the north. Saskatchewan owes a debt of gratitude to the memory of South Dakota's great Professor Nils E. Hansen. His hybrid plums have a place in many of the gardens and are able to withstand the winter cold most successfully. A variety of sweet clover called arctic, developed at the provincial University at Saskatoon, from selections made from his White Siberian introduction is doing much to enrich the soils on farms where it is grown and it also makes excellent feed for livestock. His work in horticulture has been so outstanding that many may not know that he also took a great interest in agronomy or field husbandry, as it is known in Saskatchewan. It was Professor Hansen who first introduced crested wheat grass seed from Siberia and called attention to its value as a dry land grass for the Northern Great Plains region. Much selection and plant breeding work has been done on the crested wheat grass at the University and other importations that have been made from Russia and from the United

States Department of Agriculture. Today, there is a considerable acreage of it in the Prairie provinces. These are only a few things that illustrate the manner in which his energy and foresight have helped to develop agriculture as well as horticulture, in the Northern Plains; regardless of political boundaries.

As those who read Superintendent Leslie's instructive articles in this magazine well know, the Dominion or Federal Government of Canada maintains experimental farms and forestry farms which do much to encourage and foster horticultural development, including windbreaks, small fruits and vegetables. Saskatchewan is blessed with forestry farms at Indian Head and Sutherland and experimental farms at Indian Head, Regina, Swift Current, Scott and Melfort. These institutions are kept up to a high standard of excellence, with trained superintendents and assistants in charge of each place. They are beauty spots, well worth visiting when one has an opportunity to do so. Horticulture is not neglected at the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon. When I first was invited to take charge of their Department of Field Husbandry, in 1920, I noticed that two courses in horticulture were offered in their catalog but there was no one to teach them. Although my own load was heavy enough and although I was only an amateur, not a professional horticulturist, I volunteered to try my hand at teaching those courses until a professor of horticulture could be secured. I got along alright that term and the students took a remarkable interest in the subject. One of them, Hon. Harry Bowman has since served as Minister of Agriculture in the government of British Columbia, a province where horticulture is vitally important. However, I was very pleased when the services of Professor Cecil F. Patterson were secured and it was decided by the authorities to found a complete Department of Horticulture. He is doing excellent work and has taken a great interest in developing the home garden, made beautiful with roses, gladiolus and fruitful with berries and plums. I hope that our good Secretary and Editor, W. A. Simmons, can induce him to write some Saskatchewan Notes for a future number. I am sure that we will all be interested in what he would have to tell us about the work of his

Department in promoting good gardening in Saskatchewan. Since some of my old friends in North and South Dakota still survive, I will close with this personal note. I am retired now, and Mabel and I live at Santa Cruz, Calif. Here I am indulging my liking for amateur horticulture to my heart's content. I have a great variety of shrubs and plants, including such things as cotoneasters, japonicas, aucubas, camillias, etc., as well as some that I still have to call by that modest appellation anonymous. With greetings and best wishes to old friends, I will bring these notes to a close.

NEWSLANTS—

(Continued from page 19)

more beneficial. The use of these peats have a much more lasting effect than chemical application."

(Montana Extension Service.)

Bill Collins, formerly Secretary of the Iowa Horticultural Society and now with the Henry Field Co. at Shenandoah, Iowa, sent us a real treat in the form of jelly, new to us.

Elderberry alone, Elderberry and apple, and Black raspberry and currant were represented. The rest of the family preferred the black raspberry and currant. My choice was the straight elderberry—a new jelly flavor to me.

A recent news release tells of the release of a new tomato variety by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, New York. The variety has been named Red Top. It is a paste tomato used in the making of tomato paste. Perhaps not too many of the members of our Society would care for a tomato of this type.

Mrs. Clyde Barks of Egeland, North Dakota, reports that she grew the Ranger green snap bean in comparison with the new variety Wade last season. She rates Ranger as being at least equal to Wade. We still suspect that where diseases are a problem Wade will stand up better than Ranger. Has anyone other than Mrs. Barks compared these two varieties?

Mrs. Hans Larsgaard of Aneta inquires about a bean variety the Horticultural Society distributed a few years back. I suspect this was the variety Logan. Generally, Logan wasn't too popular in North Dakota. However, Mrs. Larsgaard says the variety we distributed was well liked at Aneta

(Continued on page 29)

SECRETARY'S CORNER

By
W. A. SIMMONS



W. A. Simmons

In his January News Letter Herb Drake, Secretary of the Kansas State Horticulture Society has an interesting account of the origin of the Rome Beauty apple, as follows:

"The Rome Beauty, originated in Ohio

by H. N. Gillett, was brought to the attention of fruit growers in 1848. A story of interest connected with the origin of this apple is that Mr. Gillett purchased some apple trees and, in planting them, found a tree off type from the balance of the trees. He threw it out, remarking to his young son, 'Here is a democrat, you can have it.' The lad took the tree and planted it along the bank of the Ohio river. The tree grew up and produced the Rome Beauty apple. A few years later, the original tree was washed out and lost in the river but fortunately many trees had been propagated from it, by that time."

Mr. Drake also gives a rather discouraging account of prospects of an export market for fruit in Europe, made by Dr. H. B. Tukey, head of the Michigan State Horticultural Department, who has just returned from a trip through Europe and found a lot of new fruit trees coming on. He found apple and peach production has doubled in the Po Valley in Italy in the last 5 years. In the next 5 years he expects to see this production tripled. There was a marked increase in areas in southern France, as well as England, Germany and Belgium. Many of these European plantings are composed of the varieties we produce here, Jonathans, Delicious and Rome Beauty apples and Elberta and J. H. Hale peaches. Dr. Tukey says, "After what I saw in the Po Valley and around Toulouse in France, I feel American fruit growers can just forget about European export markets and put all their efforts into building up their markets right here in this country."

Was pained to see in one of Dr. J. D.

Winter's News Letters the following: It is with regret that we record the passing of one of our beloved horticultural pioneers, Francis L. Block of Ortonville, on January 18th at the age of 85, after a short illness. He was an inspiration to all of us, a man who loved his work in the orchard that he developed on the east shore of Big Stone Lake, a site he selected many years ago. The family can be proud to know that the memory of Francis L. Block will long be held in deep respect and affection by fruit growers and others who came to know his strength of character and abiding faith in the future of mankind. His son, Leo Block, has been a partner in the orchard enterprise for a long time and will carry on with it."

According to WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE the nursery inspectors in that state have been busy people this past year. It says: "Many Wisconsin nurserymen do not realize the number of calls and inspections made each year to Wisconsin plant growers by E. L. Chambers, State Entomologist, and his staff. Approximately 800 nurseries were inspected in 1952 and certificates issued. Many of these were inspected twice and some three times."

Someone asked Haskins, "Is darkness necessary for plants to grow?" The reply was: "Light makes plants grow and darkness makes them bloom and produce seeds. Without the proper amount of darkness no plant will bloom. The alternation of light and darkness is essential for the continuance of life on earth."

At this time, February 23rd, our friend Mr. Wallner is somewhere in Hawaii. This is no mere pleasure trip. as he is on a serious mission to inspect the grass (skirted) widows and to report whether or not they are ready for statehood.

Here is a cordial invitation to attend our coming annual meeting from Mrs. A. C. Bonham, Britton:

INVITATION TO BRITTON

By Mrs. A. C. Bonham

To all South Dakota Gardeners: Britton is preparing to welcome you to your seventieth annual convention of the South Dakota State Horticultural Society and the tenth annual convention of the Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota. Most of the local committees have been named, three on each com-

mittee, one member from each club. The meetings will be held in Britton's beautiful new auditorium. A flower show will be held in conjunction with the convention, open to the Britton public on Sunday afternoon. Britton's three Garden Clubs participating. All are rank amateurs, however, they will welcome your criticism or praise. Very soon invitation cards will be sent to each club in South Dakota and we hope you will plan to attend the convention. You will find Britton, hospitably active city of about 1400 people, in the northeastern part of the state. It has a number of beautiful homes with lovely gardens if nature permits, a flourishing business section, six large churches, a hospital, a new grade school building. Also a beautiful auditorium, a lighted athletic field, a public library and a number of other features not commonly found in a city of this size. There are many places of interest within close driving distance, such as Sand Lake Refuge, the Lake resorts with their good fishing, Old Fort Sisseton, Waubay Game Reserve, the Peabody Gardens and others; make plans to visit us. More of our plans will be in the next HORTICULTURE.

NEWSLANTS—

(Continued from page 28)

and she would like to know where to get a fresh start with some new seed.

Speaking of varieties of this and that, why not try the new cucumber variety, Niagara. It is an open pollinated variety but has resistance to mosaic. Also keep in mind the Persian Carpet Zinnia, a tiny variety that comes in the most striking color combinations. In sweet peas it should be either Cuthbertsons or Zvolneks Multifloras. We have had good success with both and we don't pose to know any sweet pea magic. Also don't forget to try at least three varieties of sweet corn this year. Miniature or Golden Rocket for early; Earligold or North Star for second early; and Golden Cross Bantam for late will give you a good combination. You will have roasting ears from the garden for a good long time if you try this system.

He who plants a garden has a future; he who has a future is alive.—Motto of the late E. H. Wilson.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS—

(Continued from page 23)

Flandreau are having their twelfth anniversary luncheon in March.

Mrs. Pearl Nelson, president of the Rural Garden Circle at Crooks, says their project is to bring some cheer to the children at the Crippled Children's Hospital and School, such as May baskets and money for handcraft material. Last October our club members made 15 lap robes for them. When the hospital opened we brought several plants potted in novel containers. Besides this we plant and care for a large flower bed at our church.

The Centerville Country Garden Club will entertain guest day, March 20, with invitations to surrounding clubs and state officers. Theme will be "Roses."

Triangle Garden Club of Claremont writes: "Shut-ins were visited and given house plants, also baskets filled with cookies, jelly and other goodies were delivered to them. Just recently our club sent a cash donation to a needy girl in Jerusalem, Jordan, to finish her education so that she might find work and help support her widowed mother and eight brothers and sisters. Our next project is to send clothing to this family."

Sunshine Garden Club of Highmore had a program on outstanding new annuals for 1953 given by Mr. Thomsen of the Pierre Garden House. Winter Feeding of Birds was also on the program.

Irene Garden Club held guest night with sixty-nine registered. Motion pictures and slides were on the program, after which scrap books and winter flower arrangements were on exhibit.

Winner Garden Club has started a Rose Memorial for the boys who lost their lives in the war, from that vicinity.

Miss Laura Sexauer, president of the Brookings Garden Club, writes about their club having a pot luck lunch and viewing her Hawaiian pictures.

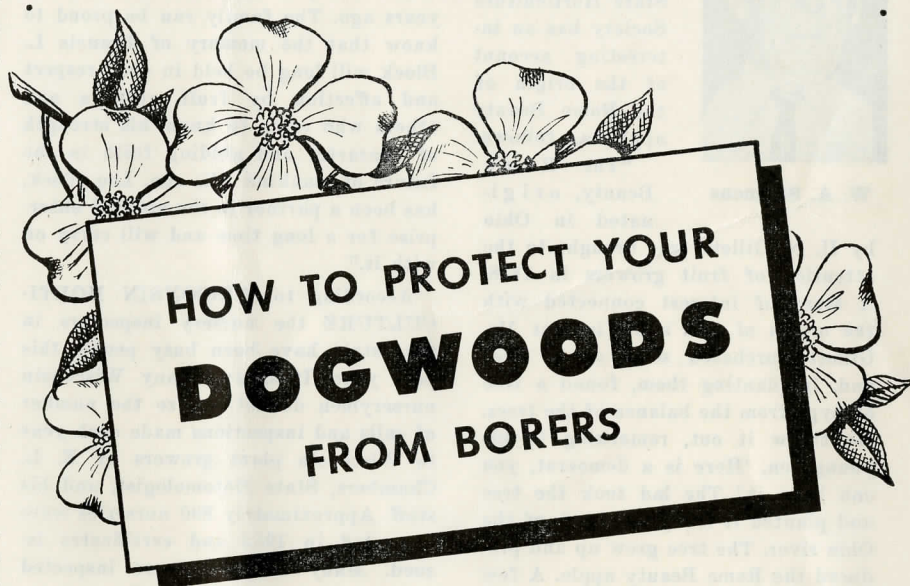
Valley Springs Tri-State Club wants to correct the name of their president through a note in the magazine. Mrs. Paul Crawford is the new president.

Iroquois Garden Club sent in the names of officers for the coming year with Mrs. Ralph Joseph, president.

Mrs. G. R. McArthur of Huron urges all to get reservations in at once for

the bus tour to the National Convention at San Francisco. It will be a lovely sight-seeing trip. Bus leaves Denver April 19; arrives San Francisco April 26 for convention through April 30; leaves May 1 and arrives at Denver May 4. Highlights of the tour will include Salt Lake City, the historic Mormon Trail, Great Salt Lake

Beach Area, Las Vegas at the Flamingo Hotel, Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, two days in Los Angeles, Yosemite Park for a day and night, and other points of interest enroute. Cost: round trip \$164.50 (not including meals). For more information write, Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency, 356 Dakota Avenue South, Huron, South Dakota.



Each spring, before the heat of summer sets in, stick a sizable chunk of golden FELS-NAPTHA SOAP in the crotches where all main branches join the trunk. A piece about the size of a walnut is enough for all but very large branches, which need a bit more.

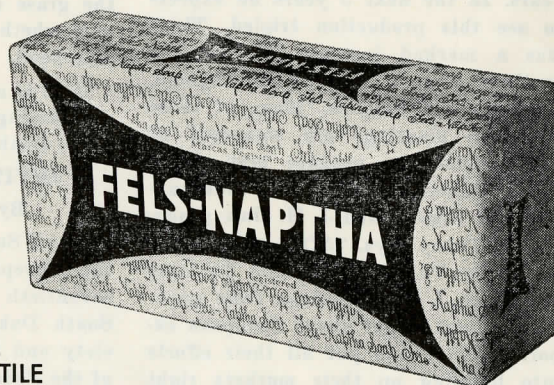
The "gentle rains from heaven" do the rest of the job! The golden

soap dissolves slowly, flows down the bark—and the borers just don't bore! It's that simple. Years of actual experience by leading nurserymen prove that it works!

Get some FELS-NAPTHA SOAP from your grocer today. No fancy packages, no fancy prices, but an easy way to PROTECT YOUR DOGWOODS FROM BORERS.



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EXTRA USES OF VERSATILE

FELS-NAPTHA...the Golden Bar with the Clean Naptha Odor!

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

By

DR. LEONARD YAGER

Extension Horticulturist
Montana Extension Service



Yager

Tomatoes for the Home Garden

Tomatoes rank as the most popular of all vegetables for the home garden. They are popular for fresh use, in salads, in juices, and sauces, and the red and yellow fruits are attrac-

tive garnishes for salads.

Gardeners are interested in comparing the merits of self-pruning bush varieties with staking varieties. There is a distinct difference between these two groups. By and large the self-pruning, bush varieties are most adapted for general planting throughout the state. In regions where the altitude is above 4,000 feet, the staked, pruned varieties seem to be favored.

Tomatoes are a warm season vegetable. If cool nights prevail at the time flower clusters are in full bloom, pollination is often suppressed to such an extent that plants fail to set fruit. Use of varieties that lend themselves to staking and pruning, and carrying out such practices, keep the plants off the ground and away from contact with the cold soil. The use of hormones on blossom clusters has been found useful in inducing fruit setting in areas where cool nights prevail during the time the plants are blossoming.

Pruning, staking varieties require less room than the bush types. They may be spaced as close as 2' x 3' apart, whereas it is desirable to give bush types a spacing of at least 3' x 4' or more.

Early Chatham seems to be the most worthwhile of the early maturing varieties for short season areas. Fruits are not large, but earliness is what counts with this variety. Gardeners who have had trouble in ripening tomatoes in their garden because of too short a season should try this variety. The variety lends itself to staking and pruning, although it is considered semi-determinate in habit. Other staking

varieties that are used successfully, but require a somewhat longer season are Earliana, Bonny Best and Harkness, Burpeeana, Faribo E and Earliana x Valiant are very worthwhile hybrid, staking varieties that are heavy yielders.

Bounty, Victory and Sioux have been popular standard bush varieties. The new Cavalier from North Dakota and Meteor from Manitoba are new bush varieties worthwhile testing particularly in the eastern part of the state. Some new bush type hybrid tomato varieties worthy of consideration are Siouann from South Dakota, and Monarch and Mustang from Manitoba.

One point to remember when using hybrid tomatoes is that seed saved from these varieties will not come true the next year. The next year's generation may be much less desirable in quality.

LOBBYIST'S REPORT

By

JESSIE SIMMONS

The South Dakota State Horticultural Society was successful in getting its appropriation from the state restored at the session of the Legislature just concluded. The Society had received help from the state in varying amounts from 1903 until 1951, when the appropriation was dropped from the budget.

House Bill 869, providing for \$3,000 per year for the Society, was introduced in the House in January by the Horticulture Committee of the House. This committee consists of five representatives, Herman Pietz, Parkston, chairman; L. A. Fosness Onida; V. A. Graham, Salem; Roy J. Glood, Viborg; and Martin Strand, Platte. This committee not only introduced the bill but managed it ably on the floor of the house, where it came up for vote on Saturday, February 28th. Since an appropriation bill requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the body, or 50 votes, the bill was killed on that date, receiving 45 affirmative votes, 19 negative, and there being 11 absent. W. E. Kurle, McLaughlin who had voted against the bill, moved for its reconsideration on Monday. Mr. Pietz had meanwhile negotiated for a reduction of the appropriation from \$3,000 to \$2,000 per year, which induced enough

(Continued on page 32)

LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

By

MRS. G. R. McARTHUR



Dear Garden Club Members:

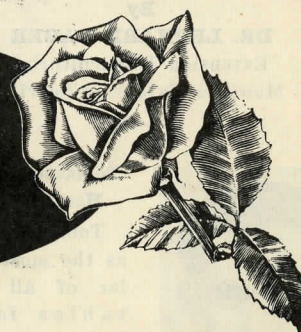
This will be the last message it is my privilege to send you through the column of the state magazine as Regional Director. It has been a pleasure to come to know so many of you these past two years in this state and in the other states of the region. I wish to thank you all for the many courtesies extended to me in so many ways. South Dakota has made good progress these past two years in garden club work and organization through the endless efforts of Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen and her officers. The new year of 1953 looks promising with a fine new corps of interested and efficient officers. May your progress be rapid and permanent, and may this State Federation take its rightful place beside the other State Federations of the region in achievement of the National Council Projects and Awards. For only as each state does her part valiantly and completely can the entire region benefit in unified effort. It has been a happy and busy term of office for me. I have learned much about gardening, organization, and co-operation as well as made many friends. I hope I have given a bit in return; may we all look forward to a better day in gardening and human happiness.

For the new Regional Director who

Wayside.....



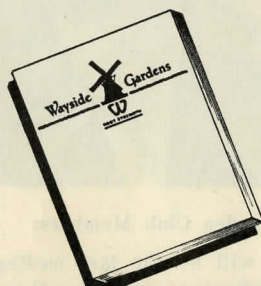
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Wayside



Gardens

will be elected at the San Francisco meeting in April, I ask the same hearty welcome and co-operation as you gave to me, and may she too have a happy and profitable two years of office. The 1953 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will be held in Leavenworth, Kansas, October 14th, to which you are all invited. I hope all the South Dakota officers will plan to attend this meeting. It is your chief contact with National Council, where you learn the projects and workings of the National organization.

In closing let me urge that all the clubs apply for any and all National Awards, for which you can qualify before the deadline date February 1st. There is another Regional chartered bus tour going to the San Francisco convention in April. It will be even better than the trip last year to Biloxi, so I hope many of you will join us for another happy-sight-seeing trip together. For information write to the Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency, Huron, South Dakota.

So now again thank you and farewell as your Regional Director, but in this new year let us all join hands with

but one purpose in mind, "Service to Others," and as we turn the work over to the new director I say to her and to all garden club members, "Thank you," "Bless you," and "Good Gardening."

LOBBYIST'S REPORT—

(Continued from page 31)

of its opponents to go along, so that on Monday, March 2nd, it passed the House with an affirmative vote of 54. On Wednesday it passed the Senate unanimously. Mr. Pietz presented the argument for the bill in the House and on its reconsideration was aided by speeches by Royce L. Overholser, Selby, and Charles Lacey Sioux Falls. In the Senate Senator Alex Olson, Martin, opened the argument, and Senator Albert Risty, Corson, continued it. Senator Olson and David Wipf, Menno, co-chairmen of the joint appropriations committee, extended friendly cooperation throughout.

President Russell Rulon and ex-President H. N. Dybvig presented the bill to the Horticulture Committee originally, and Mr. Dybvig remained for the first appearance before the Ap-

propriations Committee. Harry Woodward and E. H. Noteboom, both of Pierre, contributed with lobbying among their friends in both Houses.

The prompt and effective cooperation of Garden Club Presidents and members in writing to members of the Legislature indicating their interest in the bill was a great help in securing its passage. The Legislature was confronted this session with money bills calling for the expenditure of several million dollars more than contemplated in the budget and the members were alarmed at falling farm prices and the prospect of a dry year. Accordingly any bill such as ours, not in the original budget, was scrutinized very closely before passage and needed all the help it could get.

Now that the session is ended and the legislators are back in their home communities, letters and other marks of appreciation could well be sent to the people mentioned above. Without their help the Society would have received no appropriation and would have had to discontinue publication of the magazine.