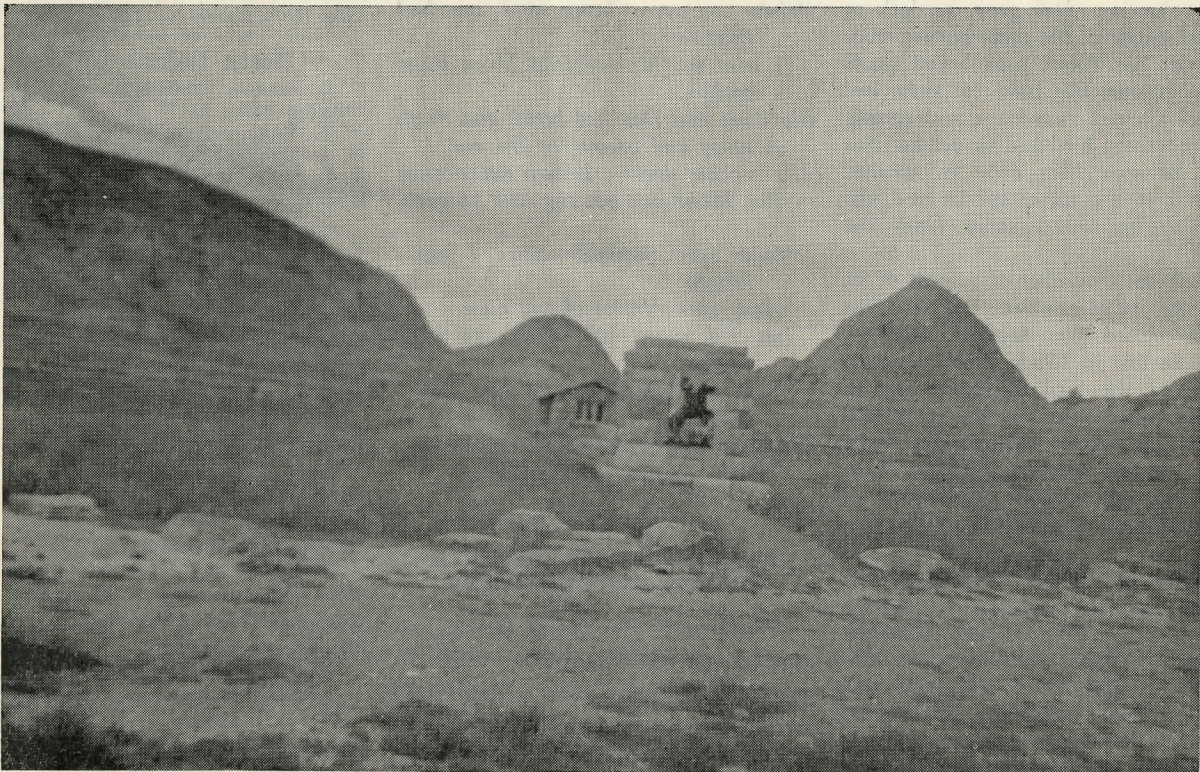


DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1954

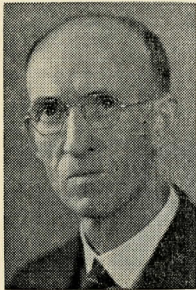


South entrance to the Theo. Roosevelt Memorial Park, Badlands of No. Dak.

Photo furnished by Ralph W. Smith.

THE GREAT GRAY OWL

by
O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

Owls, as well as hawks, show considerable variation in color that may be confusing in identification. Thus the snowy owl may be quite brownish. These are the young birds that wear this plumage until the second summer. The great horned owl is recognized by his "horns" (ear tufts) and particularly fierce appearance. The great gray owl is another large species. Mr. Bent says its total size is greater than that of any other American owl but the feathers are so fluffy that the body is smaller than that of the snowy and great horned owl.

Its color is a dark gray, as dark as the dark phase of the great horned owl. Its breast has about four broad black stripes. It does not have ear tufts but the face appears very large and round. It is a northern bird and would be likely to be seen here only in winter. However it is a forest species and unlikely to be found away from the woods.

There are a number of records of its occurring in Minnesota, but the first nesting record was secured near the Canadian line in 1935. There are two records of the bird in Iowa, one in Nebraska and four or five in North Dakota. Its nesting range seems to be mostly central Canada west of Hudson's Bay but extends southward in the mountains as far south as Yosemite.

Winter movements of the great gray owl are similar to those of the snowy owl. Records from Ontario, Canada, showed a heavy movement in the winter of 1889-90. A few were seen in a few years following. Occasional birds have been seen in New England.

The nests are built high in trees and are composed of sticks and lined with feathers. One nest was reported lined with fresh pine needles and twigs. The nest found by Dr. Roberts was in a tamarack swamp, 13 feet from the ground. The eggs are white, rounded, a little over two inches in diameter.

The most common number is three. Fifteen nests with eggs in Alberta were found from March 23 to May 15.

The great gray owl feeds mainly upon rabbits, mice and squirrels, to some extent upon birds. No game birds seem to have been recorded. Several people who have had an opportunity to watch these owls report that they are quite fearless or perhaps stupid. One man chased a bird from tree to tree by throwing snowballs at it. Another man walked under two owls perched in a low tree and they only turned their heads and watched him. At another time he rapped on the nest tree but the sitting bird would not leave the nest until he touched her.

THE GOOD OLD FAMILY EIGHT BALL

by
MARY LOUISE KINYON

*When we were home and we had
chicken
I used to think—How Mom loves
pickin!
She'd see that Dad had breast and thigh
A wing and breast for Sis and I
My brother drew a brown drum stick
But Mom just got the stuff to pick.*

*Who'd ever thought—since I am
grown
And have a home of my own
That I'd wind up when we have
chicken
And find myself with just the
pickin.
Since everybody has their 'druthers'
Pickin pieces go to mothers.*

COW IS NERVOUS OLD GIRL, BRITISH SCIENTIST SAYS

Placid as a cow is all wrong, according to one English scientist. In fact, she may be just a bundle of nerves. Writing in the British Medical Journal, the scientist declared: "Anxiety neurosis in cows is often seen. The cow refusing to part with her milk in the presence of a stranger, for instance."

What next? Psychiatrist treatment for nervous cows?—Prairie Farmer.

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MANITOBA NEWSLETTER

by

W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

The year 1953 is spent. It is timely to glance back over the period. Last week comment related to Norman M. Ross, architect for tree planting on the Canadian prairies. Fortunately, Mr. Ross remains active and an in-

spiration to his friends. Unfortunately, three other prominent, esteemed, constructive citizens were taken from the scene. Professor V. W. Jackson, Naturalist, died the morning of November 24th and William Godfrey, for many years very talented Head Gardener at the Morden Experimental Station, suddenly the same evening. Hon. David A. Ure, Minister of Agriculture in Alberta, an enthusiastic advocate of generous planting of trees and shrubs on prairie farms, was killed in a highway tragedy on December 23rd. All three were big contributors to the improvement of the prairie landscape. Many happy memories of each are cherished fondly.

It was gratifying to welcome over 50 organizations. Included were the Great Plains Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science, the Agricultural Section of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Representatives of Manitoba, the County Agents of Minnesota, the Natural History Society of Manitoba, the Geological Society of Manitoba, the Prairie Cooperative Fruit Breeding Committee, the Directors of the International Peace Garden, and various Women's Institutes, Horticultural Societies, Garden Clubs, Community Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Veterans Agricultural Classes from the United States, Rural Schools, Homemakers Clubs, and Church Choir, Fraternal and Family Groups. Four Station Field days were well populated. These visitations permit the institution to be of direct benefit to growers of crops and makers of homes and builders of parks.

In southern Manitoba scores of acres

of woodlands were unclothed by bulldozers and other heavy machines. In pleasing contrast, many farmers planted thousands of shelterbelts and other tree seedlings. Some land-owners set out field shelters across their crop lands. A single row of trees or shrubs, even as far distant as 40 rods apart, will trap considerable snow and lessen loss of soil moisture. Under aid of the P. F. R. A. a large number of new dugouts and some dams were made on private farms to impound snow and run-off waters. At Morden, Lake Minnewashta had its holding capacity tripled by the same Federal agency. Improved highways facilitate traveling with comfort.

The year has been one of favorable, pleasant weather, bountiful crops and much progress.

Natural Apple Juice

Thousands in Western Canada now consume their apple-a-day without seeing a single fruit. This fete is accomplished by a vital new product, natural apple juice, produced and manufactured in British Columbia and marketed in the four western provinces. The canned preparations has gradually gained market momentum since 1950 and the demand is now far in excess of that produced by the one concern manufacturing it. The fact that it is fortified with ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) places it in direct competition with citrus juices.

The success of this product is not pure accident. Many years of research have been necessary, particularly in the development of suitable equipment and processes, to assure high general acceptance. The chief objective throughout the development has been a product having bright colour and the natural flavour of the raw apple. It was first thought that the colour and flavour of clarified applied juice could be improved upon by marketing a 'crushed apple' juice. The undissolved portion of this product however, refused to remain in suspension and the resulting sediment was too objectionable for market acceptance.

The natural apple juice is opalescent, similar in appearance and colour to grapefruit juice, and has a fresh apple flavour. The production process is of necessity conducted at high speed to prevent browning and also breakdown of the colloidal suspension. The apples are crushed and pressed, and

the juice deaerated, pasteurized, canned and cooled within 25 minutes. The raw product must be of high quality and free from rots and spotting. To date, only the varieties McIntosh and Jonathan have proven acceptable for the product. Apples which are advanced in storage life have more tendency to brown and require the addition of ascorbic acid solution during the crushing process. The ascorbic acid application while crushing is solely to prevent discoloration. A quantity sufficient to fortify the product to a level of 35 mg/100g. is added later.

A small glass of the juice consumed daily supplies approximately one-half of the daily Vitamin C requirement. Being highly palatable and nutritious, it is small wonder that a pathway is beaten to the door of this new Canadian agricultural product.

Five *New Herbaceous Perennials* have proved their worth among autumn flowers at the Experimental Station. Two are garden chrysanthemums and three autumn asters. These are 1953 Morden introductions.

Morden Gold Chrysanthemum: (Morden seedling C5014-4) was selected in 1950 from a mixed population of more than 10,000 seedlings. The vigorous plant is compact with dark green, glossy foliage and reaches one and one-half feet. The rich golden yellow, fully double, flowers measure 2 inches across and are freely borne from early September until severe frost. The plants are hardy, requiring no winter protection at Morden.

Morden Skyline Chrysanthemum: (Morden seedling C5057-1) arose in 1950 from a cross between Deanna Durbin and an unnamed seedling. It grows into a bushy plant 2 feet high. Flowers are fully double, about 2 inches across, coming in mid-September. Early blooms are pale lavender-mauve but become somewhat intensified as weather cools. The flowers make good material for cutting. Plants survive Morden winters without protection.

Morden Purple Aster: (Morden seedling N. A. No. A5022). A seedling of Ryecroft Purple of vigorous growth reaching 5 feet, is well clothed with healthy foliage, and bears flowers one and one-half inches across, rich purple with bright orange central disc. An important merit is its habit of

(Continued on page 20)

MY EXPERIENCE IN HORTICULTURE

by

R. L. WODARZ



Wodarz

One of the unpleasant things in orcharding in North Dakota is to try to ward off rodents from damaging trees. To those that have only a few fruit trees, growing them the usual way it is a simple affair.

Trunkless trees will pose a problem and much more so if we have a long winter with plenty of deep snow, which is more often than not. Rabbits may not always completely destroy a bush type tree but mice, a much greater pest are rather hard to control. To protect young apple trees from rabbits I used repellants with varied success.

Being that most of my fruit trees are bush type, I had to resort to poultry netting, one inch mesh or so. I'd clip off 3 or 4 feet and fasten this around the little tree. Barring the dry years of the thirties this has worked fairly well. Rabbits would take a nibble, here and there, with but a little harm to the tree. To feed those hungry fellows in or near the orchard may lessen the depredations but hardly more. At my place rabbits had access to ear corn, corn fodder, straw and some years, hay, but still caused plenty of harm to trees that were within their reach. As far as mice are concerned, I never used poison. Coneing was the only way I protected bush-type trees. If the work is done painstakingly and the cone made rather steep, mice moving toward the tree are more apt to find their way around. Clean cultivation has been a great help. Tramping the snow under the tree seems to help. However, if the mouse population is greatly built up, and especially when mulching is resorted to, I find that most anything may happen, and in such a case poisoning would be likely the only recourse.

Damage by mice should be carefully examined. At times the mice will not clean up on the inner bark and the tree will recover. But if mice gnaw

clear through to the wood, then if the tree is left alone, it will nicely leaf out and grow as if nothing had happened, however, by late summer or early fall, it will be dead, root and branch. Such mice girdled trees, if small, I usually cut off. Shoots coming from the stump are allowed to grow. If they are true to type they are left to form a tree; if not, they are worked over to the desired variety.

By the way, I had some experience with mouse damaged fruit trees. One of my apple trees, much over due in producing fruit, was two years ago partially injured by mice. This last spring that part of the tree above the gnawed patch came along with lots of bloom and of course, a good crop. The rest three-fourths of the tree did not even have one blossom. Here is another; in the spring of 1953 I took one year old scions for grafting. This came from a tree that was, some years ago, very nigh ruined by mice. Some of these grafts produced not only leaves but also blossoms. I knew the blossoms would stunt the grafts, so most of them I picked off. Those that I left grow produced apples of fairly normal size. Another deterrent factor growing fruit trees is snow. Not so much, that on the level, but those big snow drifts bearing down and crushing even larger trees. I believe very few farmsteads have been carefully placed for an orchard, and even at best, a snow drift may show up. I have one row of apple trees that some winters is completely drifted over with snow to a depth of 12 or even more feet. This row should not have been planted to fruit trees, but when the trees in the shelter belt were small the distance looked ample.

In 1952 this snow drift covered a number of bearing apple trees. If you remember, we had a very warm, early spring. Around the middle of April the snow began to melt and slowly exposed parts of those trees. Then very early in May that part above the snow would put out blossoms while that below, in the snow was perfectly dormant. As time went on and snow melted away the rest of the tree budded out.

Between the first blossoms at the top and last at the bottom it took 3 weeks. This mass of snow produces a lot of water, so much so that a goodly portion of the orchard is inundated for a stretch of time. Seems that cold water

in the spring has no ill effect on the trees. Nevertheless if any fireblight shows up, there is where it starts first. We have the rabbits, the mice, the snow drifts, and we also have the birds. There is not much to say about them. Woodpeckers will pick at the bark on some fruit trees. That part of the tree that they have gone over may look bad with the round holes in the bark, but the harm is almost nil. Of late, I have not observed any of this kind of work.

Where the real trouble with birds is, when they go after the ripe fruit. Maybe we should not begrudge them this too much, as they at least partially pay for what they take.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER—

(Continued from page 19)

commencing to bloom two weeks ahead of its mother.

Morden Crimson Aster: (Morden seedling N. A. No. A5121) is a cross between Lil. Fardell and Pink Beauty. It attains a height of four and one-half to five feet. Foliage is broad, dark green and disease-resistant. The flowers produced in dense heads, are a non-fading deep crimson, and come a week earlier than the popular Lil Fardell.

Morden Lavender Aster: (Morden seedling N. B. No. 5113) is an open-pollinated seedling selection of Pink Pearl. The plant is dwarf, reaching only one and one-half feet in height, compact in habit and covered with masses of lavender colored flowers. Foliage is dark green, glossy and free of mildew. Blooming season is mid-September until severe frost. In 1953, these three asters were showy on October 20th in spite of experiencing 16 degrees of frost on the morning of October 6th.

The five new, hardy perennial plants are introduced in consideration of their apparent adaptation to prairie garden conditions.

This Blaze zinnia is the only flower to receive an award on the All-America selections for 1954. The Burpee Co., which developed the Blaze zinnia, explains that it "bursts into bloom with a profusion of mandarin red flowers, and as the flowers attain size they change to an exciting fiery orange-scarlet." It grows two and one-half to three feet.—Prairie Farmer.

PIONEER AMERICAN HERBS

by

MRS. G. R. MCARTHUR



As the good pioneer wife made ready to go west with her young husband, she crowded into the covered wagon a cherry-table, a favorite chair, a treasured what-not. Into a corner of the round-topped trunk also went packets of flower seeds and vegetable seeds, while wrapped in oil-skin were roots of bush and herb for her far-western garden-to-be.

Many are the fascinating tales handed down from pioneer-mother to pioneer-daughter to granddaughter of the fine Phinneys' early watermelons grown on the roof of the sod-house that first year, as well as squash and pumpkin. Often the roots came through into the kitchen ceiling. She told of the bountiful harvest of the vegetables, corn and tubers hacked into a hole in the virgin sod. She told of the Willow tree slips planted by the creek, the ash and soft mapleroots father set out by the house for which she carried water from the creek those first few years until their roots were firmly planted in the new soil.

The rich earth gave generous returns to reward the hard working pioneer wife. Mixed in with the vegetables beside the sod-house were flowers of many kinds. Sunflowers nodded on their tall necks in the prairie wind, the sod window sills or look-outs in the summer were gay with bloom, nature's own window-box. While father was breaking sod for crops

building a cattle lean-to or planting saplings brought from the east, mother and the children carried stones from the creek to outline her new herb garden. This garden was the most important of all, few pioneer homes were without the life-giving herbs for medicinal purposes.

Early in the spring of 1880 Joseph Delevaux came with his wife, three sons and two daughters from Brown county, Wisconsin. They settled on a claim four miles south of Cavour, South Dakota. They came by train to Volga, South Dakota, the end of the railroad at that time. By oxen they drove to Cavour, a hamlet of less than twenty families. The freight car filled with the necessities of western life which included a few household goods, seed wheat, 600 pounds of flour, some livestock, chickens and farm tools. When Mr. Delevaux unloaded the freight car he had no space for all the flour, so he stacked it under the station platform, covering it carefully, until he could return a couple of months later for it. He did return a few weeks later to find all but one sack of flour gone; this loss nearly cost the family its life that long hard winter.

Those first years in the sod-house were hard bitter ones. Hail damaged the few crops of corn, wheat and potatoes, in the fall came the famous big snow of 1880 which lasted until late spring. Snow was seven feet deep on the level, they had to cut steps in the snow down to the door of the house and the cattle lean-to. Ice had to be broken each day in the slough to dip water for use in the house and for the livestock, covering the hole carefully so that it would not freeze solid before the next day. Food became very scarce. Father fastened the coffee grinder securely to the table and ground corn and wheat for their bread. He built a spinning wheel and carded wool from the sheep which kept mother busy knitting mittens, socks, scarfs and sweaters and patching their old clothes. One of the older boys had to do the cooking while mother kept steadily at her knitting to keep them from the freezing cold.

Mr. Delevaux cut slough grass for the stock, built a one-room house, planted a tree claim, turned the sod for more crops, planted more vegetables and flowers those first three years. Neighbors came and they ex-

changed seeds, roots, saplings, rhubarb, currants, and gooseberries, from the creek they dug prairie shrubs and planted them close by the house for wind break, they brought mud and stones and made dugout root cellars, picked wild berries from the thickets, dried corn and fruits and vegetables and stored all their surplus foods against another winter of seven foot drifts. Herb seeds and roots were also exchanged among the pioneer women when ever they met for a church service or to welcome a newcomer. No family was ever in need of this aid of Nature.

Webster's definition of an herb reads, "A seed plant which does not develop woody persistent tissue, but is more or less soft and succulent." The word may be pronounced "Herb" or "Urb." The word herb has commonly been used to refer to any botanical specimen which has been used for food, flavor, perfume, cosmetics or medicine. Many herbs are ever green by nature, some actually being trees or shrubs such as the *Laurus Nobilis*, which provides the "bay" leaves. There are more than one hundred kinds of herbs which may be grown in the temperate zone as garden subjects. Of these, fifty or more which contain flavor-bearing essential oils in their roots, leaves, flowers or seeds, may be divided into four groups, food, flavor, aromatics and medicine. All are plants with a purpose which more than justify their decorative presence in the home garden. They also have a most interesting folk lore and mythological aspect.

No pioneer woman in South Dakota has given more to the making of history in the state than Mrs. Louise M. Riggs of Pierre. Her husband Dr. Thomas L. Riggs began the first Protestant Mission in the state in 1872. His father Rev. Stephen Riggs conducted the first Protestant service in the territory at Ft. Pierre in 1840. Mrs. Louise M. Riggs, who died at the age of 93 at Pierre in 1951, helped organize the first Indian boarding school and taught English there. She tried to raise the standard of living of the Indians and drove over the expansive prairies with her husband to visit the white settlers and lend a hand in caring for the sick. Many many times her cure was simple remedies of herbs from her garden. Pioneer missionary,

(Continued on page 27)

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. R. G. FERRIS
Route 3, Sioux Falls

The Green Thumb Garden Club of Hurley had fun in December. The members divided in small groups and made Holiday decorations which were displayed to the public in an automobile show room. There were suggestions for dinner table arrangements, church displays, mantle pieces, and coffee table ideas for the home. Corsages were made and sold, netting \$12.00, which was sent to the Crippled Children's Home. Each member made a bedside table decoration for the Veteran's Hospital. These were very clever in that some used miniature gifts of candy, cigarettes as part of the Christmas idea. After the exhibit these decorations were taken to the Veteran's Hospital. Those who made the trip had the privilege of seeing a bald eagle by the side of the road and enjoyed a tour of the building. The club also made its usual treats to the shut-ins of Hurley.—Sent in by Carol Breen.

At the February meeting, the Pierre Garden Club will start the first of its projects, collecting Seeds for Democracy, vegetable seeds to be sent to the Philippines for planting there by people who are desperately in need of food. As a community service, each club member will grow a newly developed seed or plant this summer, keeping an accurate log. Because Pierre soil offers peculiar growing conditions, these logs will be of value to the whole community and will be made accessible to all gardeners. Garden therapy is a new project. Members will offer seeds, and seedlings to the aged and shut-ins for window sill gardening and will assist such ventures.—Report sent in by Nelle M. Morrell of Pierre.

A feature of the annual party of the Langford Garden Club was an auction sale of exchange gifts. The proceeds were sent to "CARE," for some needy Korean child. Landscaping will be the program theme for the coming year. Everyone is interested in a program where the sick and shut-ins of the community will be remembered in some way this coming year.—Report of Mrs. Stanley Carson.

The Community Garden Club of Miller had the topic, "lilies every one

can grow in every garden," at their last meeting. They are getting a number of Hopa Crabs for the new city park to plant this spring.—Reporter, Mary Campbell.

The Lyons Garden Club met for their annual party, bringing greens and other material to make into centerpieces, wreaths and corsages. Designs taken from the "Christmas Idea Book," by Biddle & Bloom.—Sent in by Mrs. L. Brakke.

The Fair City Garden Club of Huron is still busy. The theme of their January meeting was "My Garden Dreams for 1954." Each member answered roll call with their own garden dreams, and others knowing what the dreams are can often make them come true. One member said, "I just love phlox. My dream is to have many varieties." And several others said "Why, I didn't know that. I'd like to give you one of my phlox, if you haven't that variety." So they are off to a happy start for the new year. For demonstration they had a large collection of house plants, with a lesson on the growth and care of many of them. Mrs. Glen McArthur gave a program of slides of the San Francisco convention and tour of the Rocky Mt. Region with her impressions and a few interesting details. They also saw the state's collection of slides.

Mrs. Ross Oviatt, 719 1st Street N.W., Watertown, is chairman of the state collection. This club has instituted a garden column in the local paper prepared each week by a member. This column appears each Sunday morning in the Daily Plainsman. A member may write on any topic of gardening that she wishes. The plan and schedule is made up in advance and has had very favorable comment so far. If space permits a reprint of this column from *The Daily Plainsman* will be found elsewhere in this magazine.—Report by Mrs. Gladys Severance.

The Sunshine Garden Club of Highmore reported nineteen entries in the Christmas lighting contest, which they sponsored with prizes.—Grace Campbell, reporting.

Sioux Falls Garden Club held its first meeting this year with the installation of the new officers. W. A. Simmons was presented a box of cigars as a token of esteem for his 19 years of service. His sense of humor which can

be matched by few will be missed by those who have had many years of his association. Colored slides from the Lehman "Mum" Gardens at Faribault, Minnesota, were shown by the program committee.—Sent in by Mrs. Olaf Gulbrandson.

South Sioux Falls Club heard an outside speaker on African Violets. The program committee also put on a quiz about our feathered friends, the birds, with colored pictures. A new type window feeder was demonstrated. Plans are underway for a garden therapy project to be carried out at one of the rest homes.

The dates of our state convention have been changed to June 15, 16 and 17. As much publicity has gone out about the earlier date, please note the change—Dell Rapids, June 15, 16 and 17.

THE RUBY APPLE—A NEW LATE-RIPENING VARIETY

C. W. Ellenwood, Secretary of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, in a recent News Letter, gives the following report on this variety: "Ruby is the name given the Ohio Experiment Station's No. 3669. It was a Starking-Gallia Beauty cross. For several years, this number has been under the scrutinizing eyes of Dr. Howlett and Tom Fowler. Over and over again it turned up at "annual inspection" as one of the outstanding "lookers." A few years ago the Station propagated and planted some of the young trees of 3669 in variety orchards. A few scions have been sent out to interested growers. Finally the "Council of Deliberation" of the Department of Horticulture decided to give a name to 3669 and so to speak "bring it out." Mrs. Howlett supplied the name and we believe it is a good and also appropriate name—Ruby—the fruit is more like the Rome type than Delicious. It is a brilliantly colored cherry red apple. The finish has a glow. In fact, it is a slick looking apple. Dr. Howlett, of course, urges caution in planting the variety until its bearing habits are more clearly established. It comes into bearing early. Blooms midway between its two parents. It is a late ripening variety and also keeps well in storage. In fact, here in early August we have them in storage looking fine."—From Indiana Fruit Growers News Letter.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

BOOK REVIEWS

by

MRS. L. N. BRAKKE



Plants for Man, by Robert W. Schery. Published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., 70 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y. 564 large pages. priced at \$10.

Man has depended on plants and plant products for food, heat and shelter since the beginning of man's occupancy of this world and the birth of agriculture occurred many centuries before the dawn of recorded history. Most domesticated plants were with men thousands of years before the birth of Christ. No one volume—no one lifetime is sufficient in the discussion of plant products. We, in the United States should be most interested in the forests of our country and of Canada. No group of food plants has been so important to mankind as our cereal grains and their by-products, especially wheat and corn. This is a very interesting and instructive book and should be in the library of every Garden club.

Christmas Idea Book, written by Dorothy Biddle and Dorothea Blom. Published by M. Barrows & Co., Inc., 425 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Price \$3.50.

A most interesting book on Christmas decorations for the home, indoors or out. There are more than 20 Christmas table ideas, besides many ideas for decorating the tree, mantle or most any place you could name around the home. Whether it is large or small, or your purse very thin or quite fat. Wonderful ideas for a Garden Club Christmas roll call, programs, gift-exchanges, money making sales and community or town decorating contests. The book contains 120 black and white photographs and 4 in color, giving step-by-step directions for the lovely decorations. There are many ideas that the children can make, to trim their tree, using material found in the average home. Don't fail to see

this book before next Christmas rolls around.

Picture Primer of Dooryard Gardening, From the City Plot to Country Acre. Text by Margaret O. Goldsmith, illustrated by Else Bostelmann and John Brimer. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park St., Boston 7, Mass. Price \$2.

Seldom is so much of value and beauty found in one book. First zones are drawn on a large map and numbered, then in the script, as certain flowers are advised for different locations in the landscaping, the numbers of the zones in which they can be depended on to be hardy are given. The whole problem of landscaping is given from the location of the house on lots of different sizes and the whole of the planting is given from the planting of the lawn, to the foundation planting and location of flower beds, ending up with the vegetable garden in the rear and near the kitchen door. And with each careful plan a beautiful colored picture shows how the spot will look. People starting in in a new place and those wishing to amend their present plans, will find this a valuable book of reference and are well advised to have this book at hand where it can be consulted frequently.

It's been so cold lately even the Republicans are having fireside chats. I'm used to it. In Wisconsin we have some pretty short summers. Last year it was on a Tuesday. We used to have some awful winds around Pittsville. One year a cyclone came to town and the local wind blew it all to pieces. Some fellows tried to rob the bank but they didn't get anything. Every time they blew open the safe the wind blew it shut again. We couldn't listen to weather reports in those days so we drilled a hole in the side of the house. In the morning we'd stick a crowbar through that hole. If it bent we knew the weather was normal. If it broke in two we knew it was too windy to go to town.—Red Blanchard in Prairie Farmer.

EUROPEAN TOUR

by

A. FRYLINK ASSOCIATES
Babylon, N. Y.

A 1954 SPRING GARDEN TOUR to Europe and England, has been arranged especially for members of Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies and their friends interested in flowers and plants.

The leader is Mr. Adrian Frylink, well-known horticulturist of Babylon, Long Island, lecturer and exhibitor at flower shows, and a director in both The Horticultural Society of New York, Inc., and The International Flower Show, Inc.

Born in Holland, Mr. Frylink has many valuable connections in the countries to be visited, thus giving the members of the tour a unique opportunity to visit many magnificent estates and interesting nurseries not ordinarily open to the average tourist.

The departure has been timed so that the members may spend EASTER at home, sailing from New York in the Cunard Liner SS "Queen Mary" on April 28 and returning to New York on June 1. Later return can be arranged for those desiring to stay in Europe for the summer. Full information and detailed itinerary may be had from your Secretary's Office or by addressing Mr. Adrian Frylink at Babylon, N. Y.

Highlights of the stay of nearly one week in Holland are the superb floral displays at the "Keukenhof" Exhibition and the thousands of acres of bulbfields in full bloom. The "Keukenhof" Exhibition is considered the most important show in Continental Europe.

Great estates and renowned nurseries will be seen in Belgium, while in France the group will visit the formal gardens of celebrated chateaux, as well as estates in the near Paris. In England, the famed Chelsea Show, the Wisley and Kew Gardens and many private estates are part of the program.

This five weeks, all-expense conducted trip, especially planned for garden lovers, is priced under one thousand dollars, including tourist class round trip steamship passage.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. LEO MONTEITH



ATTENTION, ALL CLUBS!

The records of the past year are now complete for all to judge. Our State Clubs are to be commended for their splendid work. Each of you helped to create the good standing which your state organization carries in the National Garden Club Council. Thank you, for your fine cooperation.

Many of you will be having new officers now. They will build upon the foundation laid by those who have preceded them. They will strive to so guide your club that when they leave office those foundations will be stronger and higher. Your state officers will help in any way they can.

If your club has some special project for the year, keep records of it. You may be able to apply for a state or national award on that project.

When your club purse needs additional funds ask your state Ways and Means chairman, Mrs. Frances Bingen, Andover, for advice. She can recommend several methods to make money.

Those reduced subscription rates for national magazines can still be obtained by sending them to Mr. Simmons, Courthouse, Sioux Falls.

CONVENTION DATES have been changed to JUNE 15, 16 and 17. DELL RAPIDS, SO. DAK.

A resume of the 1953 accomplishments reported by club officers in reply my questionnaire begins in this column

and will continue next month. From this listing of programs which especially appealed this year, I hope you will find something valuable for your club.

Lyons Garden Club report a tulip display and plant sales. They plan to improve the school yard in 1954. Best topic was demonstration of African Violets from seed. They are looking forward to a talk on Garden Design and Flower Arrangement this year.

Green Fingers Garden Club, Flaudreau, gave Christmas gifts valued at \$20 to their local hospital. Their civic project is a park. They have 3 private bird feeding stations.

Hoe and Hope Garden Club, Volga, ever mindful of garden therapy, have helped a crippled girl make corsages. Held special flower shows and a tea, have planted two Hopa crabs and beautified three cemeteries.

Tri-State Garden Club, Valley Springs, planted 4 Hope trees; have 3 bird sanctuaries; 6 feeding stations. They sponsored a Conservation poster contest; gave flowers, fruits and vegetables to the hospital; and landscaped and planted Tri-State Hospital grounds in their town. Their best program was a talk and film on Conservation by two U. S. Soil Conservation Service men. This club was so fortunate as to receive as a gift 60 books on all phases of gardening and horticulture, given them by a friend of the club.

Lawn and Garden Club, Webster. A new club that is busy these days getting lined up for their first flower show comes June. For a horticulture project they are starting two rose clippings. They plan future plant and bake sales. They are certainly working.

Green Thumb Garden, Hurley, have 15 private or public bird sanctuaries; 3 feeding stations; erected 25 bird houses. They planted two Hopa crabs; held two special shows; gave to Veterans Hospitals, shut-ins, and crippled children. Best topic was Peonies.

Pasque Garden Club, Wakonda. Civic project—planting and upkeep of the city park. They planted 5 Hopa crabs; sent bulbs, seeds and plants to Fort Meade Hospital; gave 30 bouquets of flowers and 16 baskets of fruit to shut-ins. Best topic was Winter Landscaping.

Sunshine Garden Club, Highmore, held three or four flower shows, tulips, peonies, etc. Civic project—school-

yard. Horticulture project, auditorium and city park. Donated money for water connection, tables for the auditorium.

Madison Garden Club, Madison, have 20 feeding stations (private); erected 24 bird houses; a fall Horticulture show. They sent one set of slides of Starkers show to the State Chairman. Had Carl Starker demonstration lecture. Held two flower shows. They supplied Garden Grams for schools.

Iroquois Garden Club, Iroquois. Their club takes care of the park at the cemetery; are making plans to plant Hopa crabs this year. They have visited the members gardens.

Huron Garden Club, Huron, held two flower shows. Have one garden open to visitors.

Rural Garden Club, Crooks, held 2 flower shows; erected 4 bird houses; each member has a feeding station for the birds; each meeting they have a topic on garden therapy. Best topic was a demonstration of dry arrangements and the art of drying flowers.

Triangle Garden Club, Claremont, held 1 flower show; plant sale and a bake sale. They planted and took care of flowers around a church; 88 pounds of clothing sent to Jerusalem family.

Petal Pals Garden Club, Brookings. One flower show, won state and national ribbons for Delphinium Show. Had plant exchanges, donated canned foods to Crippled Children's Hospital; sent two papers to the program chairman; 5 bird feeding stations. Best topic was "The Best Loved Trees of America."

Groton Garden Club, Groton, held one flower show, planted 14 Hopa crabs. Have a flower show each meeting. For winter months, members bring African Violets, foliage plants, etc. In summer, they have tables of flowers, arrangements and specimens. Their visitors think this is so nice. This year they had over 600 entries in the flower division and 75 in the vegetables.

Blossom and Bulb Garden Club, Miller, held 3 flower shows; showed slides on corsage making; a workshop meeting, each took part. They received a green ribbon award for garden therapy work. They plan to continue working in the new Civic park.

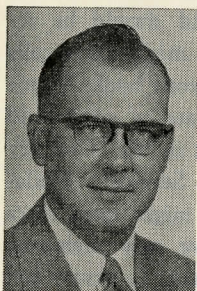
(Continued on page 25)

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

VARIETIES SUGGESTED FOR THE HOME GARDEN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

by

LLOYD C. AYRES
Extension Horticulturist



Ayres

The number of days it takes for each variety to be ready for harvest is given after the variety name.

*Varieties for freezing.

ASPARAGUS—

Mary Washington*, Martha Washington.

BEANS, Green

—Topcrop* (49 days); Rival* (54 days); Wade* (58 days); Ranger (61 days). *Pole*—Kentucky Wonder* (65 days). *Wax*—Cherokee Wax (50 days); Round Pod Kidney Wax* (56 days); Pencil Pod Black Wax* (58 days). *Lima*—Henderson Bush* (65 days); Triumph, USDA 343* (68 days); Fordhook 242* (73 days).

BEETS—Early Wonder (52 days); Crosby's Egyptian (53 days); Detroit Dark Red (58 days).

BROCCOLI—De Cicco (60 days); Green Sprouting or Calabrese* (70 days).

CABBAGE, Early—Golden Acre (63 days); Jersey Queen (65 days); Copenhagen Market (68 days); Marion Market (75 days). *Late*—Wisconsin All Seasons (95 days); Danish Ballhead (100 days); Mammoth Rock Red (100 days); Penn State Ballhead (105 days).

CARROTS—Scarlet Nantes* (68 days); Red Cored Chantenay* (68 days); Oxheart (75 days); Danvers Half Long (78 days).

CAULIFLOWER—Super Snowball* (52 days); Snowball Imperial* (58 days); Earliest Market (60 days).

CELERY, self-blanching—Golden Self Blanching (82 days); Golden Plume (83 days). *Green*—Utah (124 days); Giant Pascal (140 days).

CHARD, Swiss—Lucullus* (55 days); Rhubarb* (55 days); Fordhook Giant (55 days).

CUCUMBERS, Slicing—Straight Eight (63 days); Marketer (66

days). *Pickling*—Mincu (53 days); National Pickling (54 days); Chicago Pickling (58 days).

EGGPLANT—New Hampshire (53 days); Black Beauty (80 days).

KALE—Dwarf Green Curled (55 days).

KOHLRABI—Early White Vienna (55 days); Early Purple Vienna (60 days).

LETTUCE, Leaf—Simpson (45 days); Grand Rapids (45 days); Salad Bowl (50 days). *Head*—Cornel 456 (80 days); Great Lakes (82 days); Pennlake (83 days); New York 515 (83 days).

MUSKMELON—Delicious No. 51 (83 days); Honey Rock (85 days); Iroquois (87 days); Milwaukee Market (87 days); Golden Delight (90 days).

ONION, Seeds—Early Yellow Globe (98 days). *Sets*—White Ebenezer (100 days). *Plants*—Bermuda (92 days); Sweet Spanish (115 days).

PARSLEY—Dark Moss Curled (70 days).

PARSNIP—Improved Hollow Crown (95 days).

PEAS—Little Marvel* (62 days); Thomas Laxton (62 days); Freezonian* (62 days); Lincoln* (69 days); Wando* (70 days); Alderman* (74 days).

PEPPERS, Green—Vinedale (62 days); King of the North (65 days); Penn Wonder (68 days); Calwonder (70 days). *Hot*—Long Red Cayenne (70 days); Red Chili (82 days).

POTATOES, Early—Red Warba (80 days); Cobbler (90 days). *Mid-Season*—Chippewa (100 days); Bliss Triumph (100 days); Cherokee (100 days); Early Ohio (110 days). *Late*—LaSoda (110 days); Pontiac (120 days); Kennebec (120 days).

PUMPKINS—Cheyenne Bush (60 days); Winter Luxury (100 days); Sugar Pie (110 days); Small Sugar (118 days).

RADISH—Scarlet Globe (23 days); White Icicle (30 days).

RHUBARB—Victoria*; Canada Red*; MacDonald*; Valentine*.

RUTABAGA—American Purple Top (yellow) (90 days); Macomber (white) (92 days).

SALISFY—Sandwich Island.

SPINACH—Bloomsdale Long Standing* (45 days); Viking* (45 days); America* (52 days).

SQUASH, Summer—Straightneck (50 days); Scallop (58 days); Coccinella (60 days); Black Zucchini (62 days). *Winter*—Table Queen (80 days); Buttercup (100 days); Green Hubbard (100 days); Butternut* (100 days); Banquet (95 days).

SWEET CORN—Golden Midget* (68 days); Golden Rocket (68 days); Marcross* (69 days); Carmelcross (74 days); Miniature* (68 days); Golden Cross Bantam (76 days); Iochief (87 days).

TOMATOES—Siouxann (65 days); Bounty (65 days); Firesteel (65 days); Sioux (70 days); Valiant (70 days); Stokesdale (70 days); State Fair (S. D. No. 65) (75 days).

TURNIP—Purple Top Strap-leaved* (48 days); Purple Top White Globe* (57 days).

WATERMELON—New Hampshire Midget (65 days); Northern Sweet (75 days); Early Canada (75 days); Early Kansas (80 days); Kleckley's Sweet (85 days); Seedless Watermelon (90 days).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—

(Continued from page 24)

Colome Garden Club, Colome, held one flower show; erected 3 bird houses; have six private or public bird sanctuaries; planted 22 Hopa crabs; their money-making project is traveling baskets. They are offering prizes for the best original poem, best garden picture, also for the best attendance. They entered a float in the homecoming parade.

Start A Plant Garden Club, Britton. They have six feeding stations; planted 8 Hopa crabs; improved their city library yard. Best topic—Roses.

Perhaps other Garden Clubs would like to use the fine club prayer submitted by Mrs. Don Powell, Start A Plant member.

Father in Heaven, Thanks we give Thee, for the wonders here on earth. For the flowers in their beauty to see, and the birds with their songs of glee. For the trees so stately and tall, and the plains, hills, lakes and all. Let us pause in our busy world and give Thee thanks, God, Creator of it all. Amen.

More reports next issue.

BOOK REVIEW

by

RUTH HABEGER



Miss R. Habeger

Songbirds in Your Garden
by John K. Terres, illustrated by H. B. Kane and introduced by Edwin Way Teale; published by Cornwall Press, Inc. Cornwall, N. Y. Price \$3.95.

This is the kind of book bird-watchers have long wanted. In one volume it concentrates a wealth of information about songbirds which can be attracted to gardens in any part of the United States.

Besides being a fine source book it is delightful to read because it is full of the author's interesting experiences with birds in his own yard and his other experiences over the years as a conservation expert and naturalist.

In his own 60 x 40 ft. yard on Long Island in New York, he has attracted over one hundred species of birds. He tells how, with little trouble and cost, practically anyone can attract birds to their gardens. He invites all to make friends with the birds and reap the joy of their companionship.

Perhaps the most valuable part of the book is that on ornamental plantings. He lists just what shrubs you can plant to give the birds shelter, food and protection.

In the appendix a chart showing plantings for the Northeast, Southeast, the Plains and Prairies regions, the Mountain and Desert regions and the Pacific region are shown. Also in the appendix is much more useable information in readily available forms of lists, charts and drawings. All in all it is a fine book with practical information on how to make friends with the birds.

STATE PROGRESS CHAIRMAN YEAR BOOKS

by

MRS. D. S. BAUGHMAN

Calls for help on yearbooks from garden clubs are still coming in to me. Evidently the change in State Program Chairman as announced by Mrs. Monteith in the November-December Horticulture escaped the notice of some. My two year term was over at the Black Hills meeting in 1952 and I was continuing only until a successor could be appointed—long time coming. Miss Alice Platt of Langford, appointed in October, is the new chairman of Program and Lectures. She will be bringing you new ideas and enthusiasm. I know she will enjoy this work and with Mrs. Craddock, National Program Chairman, now sending bi-monthly letters to her she will have something definite for a guide—see Mrs. Craddock's letter in October Horticulture.

I would like to make some suggestions on what clubs might do to make Alice Platt's work easier:

Do give full identification when you write to her. Give name of your club; your name—preferably your husbands if married; street address or box number; town; *name of your club*; and date. It would help tremendously in filing if you would put this information in the top right hand corner of the first full page. Folded bird and flower notes are lovely—give you a lift—but can be hard to file. I suggest opening them out flat and writing on full clear page. When no club name is given and there are more than one club in town, we can check membership lists in yearbooks if we have them—but sometimes the same surname appears in two yearbooks.

Do make extra copies of your yearbook. 12 extras will not be too many if your book rates in the 90's. You will need extras for the state program chairman and one for the state contest.

If your book is very good or unusual, you should send one to Horticulture, Boston, Mass. You might rate in their "Best 100" list, win a subscription to their magazine or even be in the prize winner group. If you win top in state contest your yearbook will be sent to National Council and should be replaced in state. You might have calls from other states for your book. Victor Ries would appreciate a copy and might use parts of it in his "Country Gardeners Program Service," Philadelphia 5, Pa. You might need extra copies for prospective new members. As program chairman I never had enough yearbooks to supply the calls for them. In answer to an appeal in 1953, I was very grateful to receive extra copies from Blossom and Bulb Garden Club, Miller; Colome Garden Club, Colome; Green Fingers Garden Club, Flandreau; Sunshine Garden Club, Highmore; and Dell Rapids Garden Club, Dell Rapids.

You need not send extra yearbooks to Miss Platt until after the state contest is over—she could not use them until after that.

Send contest books to Mrs. George Jorgensen, Chairman of Awards, Dell Rapids. Just now she is in Florida—will return in March. Some have sent copies to me which I am holding.

It has been very satisfying to note that yearbooks have been growing in number and quality in the last 4 years. One club rated 37 on yearbook in 1951, 67 in 1952, and 95 in 1953! But the covers as a whole were not as interesting and/or beautiful as they have been in other years.

Do send your yearbook to state this year. It helps us grow.

1953 Yearbook of Agriculture, Plant Disease, reports most of what is known about plant diseases. At the back it contains a number of colored pictures showing the symptoms of various kinds of plant diseases. A must for the more thorough farmer, the crop specialist, farm managers, county agents, and vocational agriculture departments. A copy will be sent free by writing to your congressman, or it is sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. \$2.50.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

The month of December finds the big state of Montana bare of all snow and cattle are grazing the big ranges as if it were early fall. The main trains are late, as usual, so instead of boarding the train at Aberdeen at 3 a.m. it's 5 before it arrives from St. Paul, so the first night's rest is broken up. We make up a little time, but reach Spokane also about 3 a.m. the next morning, too late to get a train for Richland before morning, so the two nights of rest are broken up.

December 26th—The old railroad between Kennewick and McNary dam is now covered with 15 foot of water so the big long reservoir is filling up and surely will be protection against floods, and droughts later in the year of 1954. There are no bars and few big rocks or islands show up in this long, deep lake, being formed. Around Kennewick, Pasco and Richland there is not much change of water level, as it's at the very north end, but the dikes and bridges have all been raised to be ready for the high water in the spring. At McNary dam the mighty Columbia is rushing things and over the gates and the waters are under control at all times. Thousands of ducks and other water fowl can be seen from the train and it is a new attraction, from the train windows.

The next dam, below McNary at the dalles is being rushed to completion. This is the worst place in the river for boats; from the train you can see little water as it rushes down between rocky river bed and as it rushes through what should be the Cascade range. There are new bridges being built across the river for new super highways. Below this dam is still Bonneville dam, and there is talk of still others to be built.

At Kay-lou acres and Grotto Park, I find my plantings have done better the past year. The past year was not too dry and hot, so a larger amount of evergreens have come through in fine shape. Some of the trails were over-grown with raspberries and other growth that is hard to control, here in the woods. All three of the water wheels were in need of repair but all are in running order now. Many of the dams also needed just a little repair, to hold the water line full, as planned. The pennies, nickles and even a 50-cent piece in the Wishing Well, goes to Boys' Town. The fernes and lots of native greenery, in the Rockery, around the fire place surely has done fine and is a big attraction.

Rose arbors, hedges and beds are found all over.

January 8th—This being another milestone, makes it another holiday, so spent the day in the city of Portland and on a visit to the gardens of the Veteran's Hospital, I picked a large, perfect rose. The grounds are on the high hills of the Willamette river, cut with deep valleys on all sides, so that frost here has not hurt the roses and other foliage, here in the wooded district. A letter today from Seth Hurlburt, of Eugene, Oregon, formerly from the Black Hills of South Dakota,

write that they will be celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary on February 25th. He tells of his little greenhouse, orchard and garden. He says it is great to read about the winter but not to have to endure it.

The doctor recommended to me by my Chicago doctor happens to be the same doctor that I spent three weeks with on Hawaiian tour last February. He has given me a thorough going over, the last two days, and surely was kidding when he said my heart was good for another 78 years. But the baby food, powders and milk every half hour is getting very monotonous.

That unsigned postcard from the South Sioux Garden Club, hoping I would soon be well but not to get married, has me real curious.

PIONEER AMERICAN HERBS—

(Continued from page 21)

teacher, nurse, confidant of the white women and friend to the Indian, Mrs. Riggs' favorite remedy was the mustard plaster and onion syrup. Doubtless nurse Riggs, her doctor husband and missionary father-in-law learned the use of many herbs from the Bible.

The plants mentioned in the good book are a living link between us and the people of those distant times. It was said as proof of Solomon's wisdom that he could talk on any subject from the "Cedar Tree of Lebanon even unto the Hyssop that springeth out of the wall." We do not know that all herbs native to the Holy Land were cultivated, but we do know that only cultivated plants were subject to tithe. The phrase, "A Garden of Herbs" is used many times in the Bible. Egypt was described as a place where grew flavoring herbs and pot-herbs

(Continued on page 28)

HOME OF Seeds and Trees That Grow and Satisfy

Gurney Seed and Nursery Co.

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

LETTER FROM NEBRASKA

by

MRS. FLORA KICKEN
Sandoz Fruit Farm
Ellsworth, Nebraska

Again the income tax is figured and we are ready to turn attention to matters for the new year. Renewals are in order and your kind reminder noted. Also your desertation on water tables and irrigation enjoyed. We've been entertaining the idea of an irrigation well ourselves for a field of Ranger alfalfa and therefore was interested in your remarks. However, I can't see yet which of us would have time to move the pipe as it would have to be overhead system. Maybe we will forget about it until labor becomes more available, if it ever does.

As to the fruit crop this year, we almost had a complete failure as it was 12 degrees the 12th of May and most fruit was in blossom or ready to bloom. The pears and apples were very thin in the orchard but the experimental plot on the north side of the valley was loaded with Haralson, Minjon, Wedge, Goldo, Almata and Red River. There were a few Fireside and Prairie Spy, also Nebo, one of Dr. Hansen's apples that had not borne here before. The trial apple orchard planted in 1950 had Haralson, Anoka, Dolgo and Whitney out of the 25 varieties it contains. The Haralson and Anoka bore some fruit last year at 2 years of age. I replaced most of the deer damaged trees and again have an almost perfect stand.

We sold about 4 or 5 tons of cherries. The freeze cut down the crop some but the bacterial wilt has damaged the trees considerably the last two years and along with the grouse damage, this was perhaps about a half crop for the trees in their present condition. I am glad to note that the antibiotics are holding out some hope for the curing of fireblight in pears and apples and perhaps will be of use in combating the wilts in stone fruits eventually. The Morello type cherries seem to be especially susceptible to this malady and this is the best type of cherry for the midwest that I know of. It's blood being used in the development of some of the more hardy new varieties coming from the experiment stations.

For something different, we had 2 new (for us) plum varieties bear this year. This was attended with considerable agony as when I went to check the records to establish the identity, there was a conflict in the records and now I do not know what the two varieties are for sure. Since I'm planning a new plum trial orchard for this spring, I'm trying to have these plums identified. I had to move this plot once because of fluctuation in the water table (in this case it rose), and may have mixed them at that time. It is very disconcerting to have something like this happen and makes me more anxious for the time when this region can have a more efficiently conducted trial grounds.

This has been an exceedingly busy year for us. I envy you the 30 inches of moisture but glad that we were not all as dry as here. Hope the subsoil moisture will be replenished this year.

Happy new year to you.

PIONEER AMERICAN HERBS—

(Continued from page 27)

and vegetables. We know that every man of property at that time had a garden, for figs, olives, cucumbers, mint, anise, coriander, cumin, flax, garlic, leek, onion, hyssop, casper, marjoram, mallow, mandrake, mint, mustard, rue, wild gourd and wormwood are mentioned often. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for putting more stress on the outer duties than upon the duties of their religion, saying "Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin and have omitted the weightier matters of law." Many modern translators quote this passage as "mint and dill and cumin," which proves that anise is like the dill of today. Anise is used today and prized as of old for its warm and stimulating properties. Like Anise, Coriander grows wild in the Holy Land and has great medicinal value.

Flax has long been a favorite herb, for its flower, and seed and fiber. It also has great medicinal value. The flower is very decorative in any garden and the fiber is important in the making of linen cloth. In Biblical times both rich and poor wore linen garments. Finely woven linen was a mark of distinction worn by the wealthy. Fine linens were used for hangings and curtains, house furnishings and

barter in rich colors. Snowy linens and spices were used for burial.

Garlic, leek and onion are herbs greatly prized for food and flavoring. Powers of magic have been attributed to these herbs throughout the centuries by witch-doctors who used them in their rituals. Mammies used them in the south for medicinal purposes. It was believed their powers for healing were unlimited. Present day remedies are returning to use of these herbs in many new forms. Hyssop is mentioned as the herb in the ceremony of cleansing and purification of the leper. Casper, a spiny shrub of straggling habits, grows in profusion on the hills around Jerusalem. The flower buds are used for healing. Mallows are used for food by the poor and outcast, something like spinach but really a salt-wort plant. Most authors agree that the mustard of the Bible was the ordinary black plant which grows wild today in Palestine. It is believed to have magic powers and is used in medicine today. Wild gourd is better known as bitter apple, it is the source of the drug, Colocynt. Elisha and sons of the prophets ate pottage made of herbs and wild gourds and cried out, "O thou man of God there is death in this pot." It is also known as Gall. Wormwood and Gall, a figurative expression used to imply sore punishment or bitter suffering.

In the Bishop's garden of the Washington Cathedral there is a small and quaint herb garden. It is divided into two parts, one having the herbs mentioned in the Bible, the other herbs named in Shakespeare's plays and poems. The garden lies within a low curved wall with a path to the door of the English cottage. In Colonial times people called these plants "Yarbs." When families migrated to America, they brought with them seed of sage, savory, ghyme, rosemary, flax and others. There were no food factories then so each family grew their own herbs beside the kitchen door, while the vegetable garden was down the path. If the cook wanted a pinch of this herb or a leaf of that, she simply stepped outside and there it was. There are many accounts of Bow Knot gardens of the type prevalent in Shakespeare's time and the time of the Elizabethan drama and the great English Herbalists.

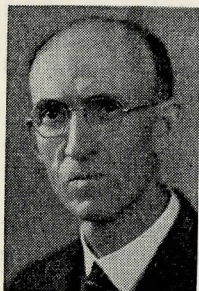
(Continued on page 32)

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

"PLANT MIGRANTS"

by

DR. O. A. STEVENS
N.D.A.C.



O. A. Stevens

Probably not many of our members would read the new "Flora of the British Isles" by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg from cover to cover. Mr. Porter would have enjoyed it and there are many things

of interest in it. Of special note is the comment of Dr. Tansley in the introduction that such a book has been needed for the last 50 years and urgently needed for 30 years.

Botanists, and to a lesser degree many others, are interested in comparing the plants of one area with those of another. Plants, like people, have been moving around more rapidly in recent years. We know that many of our weeds came from Europe but how many American weeds spread to Europe is not so well known. The authors comment that cockleburrs were described in Europe as early as 1542.

We have been told in recent years that the shortest route to Asia is across the polar regions. Perhaps not many plants will use that route but the distance around is shorter as one approaches the pole so it is not surprising that shrubby cinquefoil, bearberry, several ferns, marsh marigold, fireweed, bluebell, prairie chickweed, and others are native to both Britain and northern America.

Many American plants were taken back to Europe by the early explorers. We need only to mention maize, potatoes, tomatoes and tobacco to indicate the importance of this movement. Many others were taken for ornamental use and for forestry. The introduced plants are mentioned rather freely in this book.

The dwarf juniper is apparently the only conifer that was native to both Britain and North Dakota. "Scots" pine is listed as the chief species over considerable areas in the Highlands, but to this they added Norway spruce, Austrian and mugo pine from central Europe; European and Japanese larch;

also Douglas fir, giant fir, noble fir, and Stika spruce from northwestern America. White pine is said to have been planted but not successfully. Oregon grape (Mahonia) and shallon (Gaultheria) were planted for pheasant cover and have become naturalized to some extent. A Juneberry (or serviceberry, they do not even give it a name) from eastern North America was introduced and has become naturalized. Their native sorts of mountain ash are numerous, with 18 species admitted.

How difficult it must be in an old country to know what plants were originally present. They think our common yellow mustard "probably native" but class Frenchweed as "doubtfully native." Black mustard also rates "probably" and shepherd's purse is accepted as native. Bouncing Bet is given as probably escaped from cultivation northward, perhaps native in Devon, Cornwall and North Wales.

Sunflowers were native to America. Four species are listed as cultivated and often escaping. One of these is the Jerusalem artichoke that was introduced in 1616 but "flowers only after a long, hot summer"! One goldenrod and one aster are native to Britain but several American species have been introduced.

Some of the American weeds seem not to thrive. Three kinds of peppergrass, two pigweeds, two lambsquarters, ragweed, gumweed, pigeongrass, and marsh elder are rated uncommon.

Wild oats are regarded as introduced from the mainland, and while common in much of England are absent from Wales and nearly absent from Ireland.

Gladiolus is represented by one native and one introduced species, Iris by two native and three introduced. One of the latter is the common blue flag of northeastern America which has been naturalized in one swamp for more than 40 years. Scilla has two native species, one blooming in spring the other in autumn. Only two lilies are listed, *L. martagon* perhaps introduced, and *L. pyrenaicum*, definitely introduced. Most interesting to me was that our wild touch-me-not is said to be completely naturalized along the Thomas River and its tributaries.

We have heard before about a wild cabbage on the sea cliffs but it seems there is also a native form of asparagus and beet.

"Can I keep a rose as a house plant? How should I get it started?"—Sullivan county, Ind.

Yes, hybrid tea roses, hybrid perpetuals, and even rambler roses are commonly forced to bloom for Easter. But none of them is adapted for permanent culture in the home. You will find that they will soon grow to such size that they become young "white elephants." The best thing is to buy one from your florist and after it is through blooming, plant it outdoors.—Prairie Farmer.

The PIONEER SEED HOUSE

Nursery-Greenhouses of the Northwest

FOUNDED at BISMARCK
in DAKOTA TERRITORY
in 1882

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE
MAILED UPON REQUEST

OSCAR H. WILL & CO.
BISMARCK, N. D.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS



Simmons

A letter from our friend and eminent plant breeder Dr. A. F. Yeager, tells of a projected trip to Honduras during the latter part of February, and promises an article for our magazine describing that part of our continent. Am sure we will all be looking for it and that it will be worth waiting for. The Doctor enclosed 3 packages of seed, Doublerich tomato and of Early Honeydew Melon and of Early Butternut Squash, the latter 2 not being released, as yet.

Mr. Woodward, of Hot Springs, was in town recently to see his 91 year old father, who is in a local hospital. He told of the increase in the fund that pays for the John Robertson Memorial medal, so that every eighth year it is possible to give two medals, instead of only one. This being the eighth year, two medals will be bestowed at Dell Rapids. They will be given to two "Gorgeous Georges," which is as far as I am authorized to go, at present. Readers can make their own guesses and should come to the meeting to find out if their guesses are correct.

In sending in his annual dues, Mr. Lowry Elliott, of Milbank, writes: "Am glad to see that you are still on the job. Hope you keep well and will try and see you at Dell Rapids, in June. Have had a nice winter here, so far. Cut a fine Colorado spruce tree (planted too thick) for our Christmas tree. First seed catalog has arrived so spring is not far off. There are some meadow larks and mourning doves wintering here (unusual). Saw a snowy owl and flock of snow buntings last week. Chickadees and downy woodpeckers at feeders constantly." Mr. Elliott was with us at Britton last summer.

Mr. Eldred Buer, of Canby, Minnesota, who treated us so royally when we came to see his wonderful garden, on our tour, writes as follows: "We

are having a most wonderful winter, with a nice cover of snow and if it continues so I can see no reason for any of the perennials that are supposed to winter with us for not surviving and I have high hopes that a lot that are not supposed to take our winter, will also come through in nice shape. We had a wonderful 5 weeks trip in July and August, taking in the experiment station at Geneva, N. Y., and Ottawa, Canada, and many of the lily growers in the east, where we saw many fine lilies, a number of which we are now trying in our own garden, and we are really grateful for the very co-operative winter, giving our new planted bulbs a chance to become established before old Boreas turns on his blast and shows what he really can do for a Minnesota winter. We have many hybrid seedling lilies coming up now in the greenhouse and hope, with our new equipment, to make additional crosses that will produce at least a few of not only beautiful, but vigorous and hardy lilies for our Northwest conditions as well."

Under the heading "Potatoes Are Big Business in North Dakota," the January issue of *Market Growers Journal* shows a picture of 5 two row potato harvesters operating in a 960-acre field near Edinburg, North Dakota, in what is probably the largest potato field in the world. Unfortunately the name of the owner of the field is not given. These 5 machines harvest 50 to 60 acres per day and it requires 3 trucks to keep each harvester going. A few years ago it would have required 160 people—today it is done with 50. It is claimed that North Dakota never harvested a better crop than that of 1953. About 90,000 acres were in crop and the average yield was 170 bushel per acre. Another article in the same magazine tells of the increasing sale of uncooked peeled potatoes. If the housewife could obtain potatoes requiring merely cooking, it is safe to say many more spuds would be consumed.

Was informed, a few days ago, that the president of one of our clubs was not getting her copy of the *National Gardener*. I felt very guilty, of course, as it was plainly my fault in not sending in her name. The president of every club is entitled to receive this interesting magazine, and if you are not getting yours, please drop me a

card and I will see that you get it.

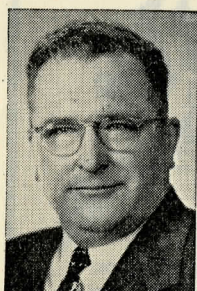
According to the *National Agricultural Chemical Ass'n News*, there appears to be hope that rust, in wheat, may soon be controlled by spraying. Here, in part, is what they say about it: "Calcium sulfate almost completely stopped the development of pustules of wheat leaf rust following aerial application to Cheyenne winter wheat in a field at Lincoln, Nebraska. The same chemical was effective against stem rust on Baart wheat near Toluca, Mexico. The report of the chemical control of these two wheat rusts occurred in the September issues of *Phytopathology*." The same magazine says: "Discovery of systemic insecticides may prove as important to agriculture as the advent of DDT in pest control, or of 2, 4-D for weed control, according to Dr. Harold T. Reynolds, U. of California entomologist who presented a report to the seventh Beltwide Cotton Insect Control Conference in December. Dr. Reynolds reported on chemicals which are used to poison the food supply of insects when these chemicals are absorbed into plant tissue. This new approach to pest control may drastically change existing control methods and the degree of controls obtained as well as widening the range of pests which can be brought under control. Field tests shows that systemics are extremely effective in controlling mites which hide on the underside of cotton leaves and thus escape contact with conventional chemicals. Systemics developed to date appear to be specific in their 'toxicity' to certain groups of insects or mites. Best results so far have been with most species of mites, aphids and mealybugs. Moderate toxicity has been found in tests with certain species of scales, thrips, leafminers, and leaf hoppers." What arrested my attention in the above was the allusion to mealybugs, that bete noir of all house plant growers. Instead of having to sneak up on them with rubber heels with a typewriter eraser brush dipped in indecent alcohol, intent on giving all recipients some uncomfortable moments before they succumbed, how much pleasanter it would be to feed the poison to the plant and allow them to commit suicide at their leisure at their first square meal. Unfortunately the author of the article fails to mention the name of the poison to be used

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY A. GRAVES



Graves

Dr. A. F. Yeager has been awarded the Stevenson Medal by the Manitoba Horticultural Association. This is at least the third time in eight presentations that the Manitoba group has reached across the 49th parallel

to recognize a citizen of the United States with this high award. Dr. W. H. Alderman and Dr. N. E. Hansen have been recognized previously. The recognition to Doctor Yeager is for his contribution to the horticulture of the Northern Great Plains in general. Dr. Leslie has spelled out these contributions in this Morden Newsletter. Few people are better qualified to speak for Yeager's horticultural activity at North Dakota than Russ Leslie. He and Yeager worked together very closely in the 1920's and 1930's.

To refresh the memory of the old timers and for the information of newcomers, Albert Yeager was a native of Kansas. His Bachelors Degree is from Kansas State College. He journeyed to Oregon State College for his Master's Degree. After several years at North Dakota Agricultural College he took leave to earn a Ph.D. degree at Iowa State College.

Yeager became restless over an unpleasant situation at North Dakota Agriculture College late in 1937, and resigned. He had spent a year and a half at Michigan State College, when the opportunity to become head of horticulture at the University of New Hampshire presented itself!

Many of his horticultural contributions since going to New Hampshire have had very wide adaptation. The New Hampshire Midget Watermelon is widely accepted in the north. The Doublerich tomato, introduced jointly by Dr. Yeager and Dr. Schultz, has done equally well in New Hampshire and North Dakota.

Yeager's work with tomatoes is perhaps his greatest single plant contribution. I believe I am correct when I say he was responsible for three im-

pressive firsts in tomato improvement. First worthwhile variety with bush type determinate vine, *Bison*. First worthwhile variety with uniform ripening, *Allred*. First worthwhile variety with 2X Vitamin C, *Doublerich*.

We are sure Dr. Yeager is happy in his work in the east. We are equally sure, however, that he is a true son of the Great Plains. It is well that this great Province of the Great Plains has seen fit to confer on him this high horticultural award.

I have been thinking that I should give more space to vegetable varieties at this time of the year . . . varieties at this time are relatively as important in the home garden as they are in field crops. Few farmers would think of seeding Marquis wheat in 1954. By the same token, no gardener should give good garden space to bean varieties like *Plentiful* AND *Bountiful*. *Wade* and *Topcrop* have much better quality and carry considerable resistance to certain vine blights that have plagued snap beans over much of North Dakota.

Nantes and *Coreless* carrots are superior for canning, freezing carrot-sticks, and just plain old "gnawing" carrots right out of the garden.

Two cucumber varieties deserve special mention. They are *Yorkstate Pickling*, in the pickling class; and *Niagara*, in the slicing group. Neither of these are outstandingly better as to table quality but they do have resistance to Cucumber Mosaic. This disease strikes susceptible cucumber varieties just about the time they come into bearing. The hybrid cukes like *Burpee's Hybrid* and *Surecrop Hybrid* have resistance to Mosaic also, but because hybrid cucumber seed is necessarily produced by hand pollination, hybrid cucumber seed is expensive.

Fanciers of good lettuce will do well to plant *Slobolt*, leaf: and *Pennlake*, head. Head lettuce heads more surely if grown from plants started indoors and set to the garden about May 10. Lettuce heads best before the hot weather arrives.

There are several good varieties of peas, but experimental trials on the Horticultural plots at North Dakota Agricultural College and repeated testing in state-wide demonstration gardens have indicated that *Little Marvel* and *Lincoln* have few, if any, equals as two companion pea varieties in

Dakota gardens. *Little Marvel* has excellent quality and earliness. *Lincoln* has quality and yield. Both freeze well. *Lincoln* grows increasingly popular each year.

Early Gem, a new early potato variety, shows promise in the *Irish Cobbler* season. *Early Gem* has a russeted skin and offers encouragement to folks who have scab difficulty when attempting to grow older varieties. *Warba*, *Triumph*, and *Pontiac* are still good. Sweet corn—especially "on-the-cob"—is one of our most popular garden crops. The practice of growing three or more sweet corn varieties is increasing in popularity. One extra early variety, *Miniature* or *Golden Rocket*; midseason, *Earligold* or *Golden Bantam*; late, *Golden Cross*, *Bantam* make a very good combination. Several other good varieties could be substituted in the early to mid-season class. Two of these are *North Star* and *Washington*.

Tomatoes—*Early Chatham* for early, small fruit of good quality and dependability; *Cavalier*, for large high quality fruits; and *Doublerich* for its high Vitamin C content and general all around good behavior. *Doublerich* with twice the amount of Vitamin C as standard varieties may indicate a new trend in vegetable breeding. Rather than reach out for higher yields, the plant breeders may seek vegetables with higher vitamin content.

The 1954 edition of Garden Varieties for North Dakota is available now from county agents in North Dakota or the Information Department, North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, North Dakota. In this circular, 96 recommended varieties have been selected from the hundreds available. Varieties recommended for freezing are also indicated.

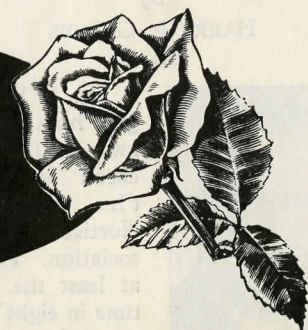
I was encouraged to see Lloyd Ayres draw his sword and join several of us in giving battle to ridiculous horticultural advertising. Here is a fine example. Simultaneously with a TV show we helped with last fall where folks were warned *not* to fall plant roses, the air was filled with a radio orator repetitiously advising people, "Now is the time to plant roses!" If you haven't read Lloyd's article yet turn to it on page 16 of the January issue.

Oh, yes, better try Persian Carpet and Blaze Zinnia's this year.

Wayside.....



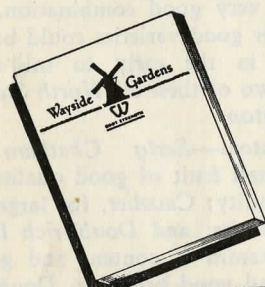
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Wayside



Gardens

PIONEER AMERICAN HERBS—

(Continued from page 28)

A bit of history about the Shaker Herb Department from a journal kept by one, Elisha Myrich, states "We get a shadowy picture of the regulated and dedicated lives of a small band of believers of the Herb Department of the Harvard Church Shaker Colony at New Lebanon. Their choice of this industry was guided by the idea of self-sufficiency and to produce medicines for their own numbers and at the same time give the outside world something that was really needed. They used their heads as well as their hands and in 1849 delivered outside their colony four thousand dollars worth of herbs. That one year they raised, gathered and prepared fifty-seven hundred pounds of herbs, bark, roots and medical subjects." Thus we realize that centuries ago cures and treatments as well as food, and flavor and scent came from herbs that were grown all over the world, bartered and stolen, imported and exported from the far-east to the far-west, rich and poor alike knew and needed these precious products. Their use has been handed down from generation to generation until today

we give them new names, new uses and added strength but they still remain HERBS.

"FRANKLIN"—ANOTHER PROMISING OHIO APPLE

An "Ohio Farm and Home Research" article by F. S. Howlett and T. E. Fowler describes their Franklin as an apple of extraordinary promise. A McIntosh-Delicious cross, it was introduced in 1938 and has gained steadily in favor ever since. "It is hard to imagine a more attractive apple, particularly with respect to color pattern," they say. It is a brilliant red, with an indistinct carmine streak on the darker side and a more distinct carmine streak over golden yellow under-color on the lighter side. It is a medium sized oblong apple but without the Delicious "points."

The flesh is faintly yellow, fine-grained like McIntosh and, though not as sweet as Delicious, has more "character" than Mac, with a delicate pleasing aroma "possibly more apparent than any other apple variety." It ripens 17 days later than Mac and a week ahead of Delicious and is at its best

from October through December, but tends to scald readily in January. While it is most notable for its dessert quality, only one other in a list of 39 varieties, including many of highest quality, equaled it in sauce production. Although satisfactory for pies, it does not excel in this field.

The tree blooms about with Delicious and Jonathan, is fertilized satisfactorily by either and may be a pollinizer for Delicious. Trees planted in 1940 bore an average of 1.4 bushels in 1947 and progressed normally to 6.7 bushels in 1951. At the Ohio Station, at least, it has been an annual bearer. One of its faults is that it has inherited its parents' susceptibility to scab, but the usual spray program will control it as well as for Macs. Like Mac, too, it tends to bear on the inside of the tree and the trees must be kept well thinned out to let this fruit color normally. The authors conclude, "Franklin is a handsome apple and in most respects, it does handsomely as well. Time will tell its future place among American apple varieties, but certainly it deserves a trial."—Tennessee Horticulture.