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DAKOTA LIBRARY HORTICULTURE

JANUARY, 1956



Scene in Spearfish Canyon, Black Hills of South Dakota

—Photo Courtesy of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre.

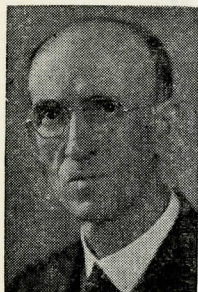
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THE FLAMINGO

by
O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

I had no idea of writing of this as a North Dakota bird but some rare circumstance has given us a most unusual record. It is of little use to speculate how except the old story of birds blown off their course by high winds. Northward wandering of herons in particular, after the nesting season, has received considerable attention in recent years. A chance combination of these, or (and) an abnormal bird may be the explanation. Marvin and Laurence Kirk observed and photographed the bird at Devils Lake, August 7 and 22. It was seen in the area by others and was seen mostly about an island in the east end of the lake.

The flamingos form a family of six species related to cranes, herons and storks. One occurs east of the Caspian Sea, one in African and the other four are found in Central or South America. The one under discussion occurs on the Atlantic coast from Guiana to Cuba. Writing of it in 1925, Mr. Bent said it was no longer to be found on the North American Continent except as a rare straggler. In Audubon's time they were frequent about Key West. Another writer in 1861 described the capture of 100 birds out of a flock of 500 on Indian Key. Later records are of occasional small flocks. They are believed to have visited the Louisiana and Texas coasts at times. A check of Florida reports for the last five years shows only an occasional bird.

The name flamingo means "flame bird" from the bright red color and is from the old Greek word. The bird seems not mentioned by Aristotle but the Caspian Sean species was known to very early writers. Curiously enough, a distinctive name was not given to it until 1820 because it had been lumped with the North American form to which the first name became attached.

Dr. F. M. Chapman wrote, "There are larger birds than the flamingo, and birds with more beautiful plumage

but no other brightly colored bird is so large." Their total length is 42 to 48 inches. The legs and neck are long, the bill is over five inches, stout and bent. The general vermilion-scarlet color is striking.

Nests are made by piling up mud on a tidal flat to form a mound five to twelve inches high. The old idea was that the birds straddled the mound but later observations showed that the legs were folded under them. Usually only one egg is laid. It is chalky white nearly four inches long. If the young are not disturbed they remain in the nest three or four days. Flamingos feed on small mollusks that are scooped up from the mud in shallow water. The young birds are fed by regurgitation of partly digested food after the manner of pelicans.

Mr. Bent thought many Texas records were confused with the roseate spoonbill, a bird of similar size and form which has only the wings red, the bill six or seven inches long, straight but flattened and enlarged at the tip. Dr. Chapman said flamingos in flight should not be confused with any other bird, that the short wings were midway between long neck and long legs making them look like they might go in either direction.

COMPENSATION

*A lovely rose hung on a wall
So beautiful—admired by all
A vandrel hand reached out to pluck
But couldn't reach it—that was luck.
It lived its short and perfect life
Sharing its beauty—a lovely sight.*

*A garbled twisted little bud
Grew low—they thought it spoiled
the view
The gardner came and snipped it off
It lay forlorn on the brown earth
soft
Baby fingers picked it up
Tiny hands the bud did cup
Pressed it to its cheek so warm
For this, the garbled bud was born.*
MRS. MARY LOUISE KINYON

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JANUARY, 1956

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

by
HARRY A. GRAVES



Graves

Needless to say much of my copy for this month's Newsblants was set aside because of the unexpected passing of our good friend of long standing and co-worker, Doctor Joe Schultz. Although Dr. Schultz had not

enjoyed the best health for several years it was only in the past 18 months that his fellow workers were aware all was not well with him, physically.

Dr. Schultz was hospitalized just over two weeks with pneumonia complicated by a heart condition. One Friday, the day before he died, his condition showed marked improvement. However, that night it worsened again and he passed away Saturday noon, December 17.

Dr. Schultz was born on a farm near Mantador, in Richland County, North Dakota, Nov. 3, 1915. He was just past 40 years old when he passed away. He spent 3 years of his undergraduate work at NDAC. He followed Dr. Yeager to Michigan State College where he took his Bachelors Degree in Horticulture in 1939 and a Masters Degree in 1941. While working at the Upper Peninsula Station in Michigan, he did much of the observation and selecting under Dr. Yeager that resulted in the Early Chatham tomato variety. Early Chatham is now a widely grown variety on the Northern Great Plains.

In the early 1940's, Dr. Schultz was given the opportunity to work for his Doctor of Philosophy Degree at Washington State College. Here he met his future wife, Imogene Rice. They were married in August 1943. He received his Doctor's Degree in 1944 and continued to do research work at the Prosser Irrigated Research Station in Washington until 1948 when he came to NDAC to become Chairman of the Department of Horticulture and Forestry. Mrs. Schultz has always been an interested and understanding partner in Joe's research. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland and a Masters Degree from Washington State in bacteriology.

Besides Mrs. Schultz, he leaves five lovely children, three boys and two girls. They range in age from 2 to 8 years. He also leaves 3 brothers and 3 sisters. His parents passed away when he was a boy.

Six close friends, all connected with horticulture in some way, carried Joe to his final resting place. Henry Peterson, Moorhead truck farmer; Ole Grottodden, Moorhead Nursery and Greenhouse operator; Don Hoag, Robert Johansen and Nick Sandar of his department staff and myself. He lies buried in the cemetery at Mantador, a short distance from the grave of their oldest daughter, Cathy, who passed away as a small child.

Some folks might say Dr. Joe had too ambitious a research program for one man to head up—especially in view of the fact that the responsibility for much of it rested on his own shoulders. Most of the folks who chided him for overworking lived in their own house of glass. Certainly he shared with his former tutor, Dr. Yeager, an intense interest in the many possibilities of improving horticultural plants. A man who travels throughout the United States contacting horticulturists, told me a few years ago, that in his opinion, Dr. Schultz was one of the best trained young research horticulturists of his acquaintance. He held membership in many organizations. In college he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho, National Social Agricultural Fraternity. He was a member of Pi Gamma Mu and Sigma Xi fraternities; American Society for Horticulture Science; Botanical Society of America; California Botanical Society; North Dakota Academy of Science and Washington Horticulture Assn. He had published numerous scientific papers.

In addition to his well known work with crops like potatoes and tomatoes, Dr. Schultz had underway several lesser known but very interesting projects. Along with Dr. George Will and others, he felt the Juneberry was a crop that was worthwhile but one that showed possibility of marked improvement. He was growing the named variety, Success; an outstanding seedling from Joseph Candrian of Regent, North Dakota, and a selection or selections from a station in Alberta. The latter selection was located through correspondence with the Hon. Henry A. Wallace who observed it on one of

his round-the-world tours.

Dr. Schultz believed that the Red River Crab had genes in its makeup for something better than Red River itself. Red River, as most folks perhaps know, is a first generation seedling of Dolgo X Delicious. A few years ago the original Red River tree, which stood alone, bloomed off schedule at a time when Dr. Schultz felt it must be self pollinated. He collected the seed from the resulting crop of apples and raised a large population of seedlings. Over 100 of these seedlings survived a strict culling. Only trees with large petioles were kept since there is evidence that large petioles and large fruit size are linked. We all look forward with keen anticipation to the day when these seedlings begin to bear.

Bush type winter squash, equal to Buttercup in quality, engaged his attention in recent years. Several interesting lines were in his squash plots in 1955. Strawberry breeding was another project dear to his heart. Native blood lines crossed with Red Rich show promise.

While he was not directly active with the potato projects, he was very much interested, especially in the development of new varieties. As of Jan. 1, 1956, he and his fellow potato workers have 3 varieties to the stage where consideration has been given to naming all three of them.

Of special help to me in my Extension work has been his careful variety trials where new and old vegetable varieties have been tested each year and their adaptability to North Dakota conditions determined.

It was a natural turn of events that Joe Schultz should have returned to the Northern Great Plains. His heart was always back here on the prairies. Horticulture was in his blood from boyhood. He made frequent reference to his observations, as a boy, of wild and cultivated fruits on the old home farm in Richland County.

He was Treasurer and Librarian of the Great Plains Region, American Society for Horticultural Science. He was intensely interested in the welfare of the North Dakota Horticultural Society. We shall all miss him very much.

It must be a rare occasion when one has to report the passing of two such outstanding horticulturists in successive months as has been my painful duty in Newsblants for Drs. Will and Schultz.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. E. M. KINDRED



Mrs. Kindred

A new year, another chance, what a challenge and what an opportunity.

I would like to quote from a letter from Harry Woodward, state forester and R. J. Elliott, assistant state forester in charge of parks,

in which they are asking for our cooperation on a matter of importance. "We need a few more sites for roadside parks around the state and if your groups could be on the lookout for us, I would surely appreciate any help they might volunteer.

Let me add however, a roadside park, in order to meet all standards set up by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission and the State Highway Commission must be at least three miles from a city or town. Another standard to be aware of when locating a site is the approach to the area. Approaches to an area must be safe; at least one half mile from a busy junction; no obstructing hills or ground cover; away from bridges or other similar traffic hazards that may cause an accident from traffic leaving or entering the area.

A roadside park should have natural cover but this is not absolutely necessary. However, an area with natural cover will be given preference. Water is another important factor. We cannot expend a great deal of funds in wells so potable water must be readily available through a shallow well or a natural springs.

As in all of our other roadside parks, the Game, Fish and Parks Department through its Park Division provides the facilities and develops the park area and the State Highway Commission through its Maintenance Department operates and maintains the area from then on. We are particularly interested in sites in the eastern half of the state and particularly on east west highways although there are several sites on north-south highways that will be located this year." end quote.

If any garden club member has a suggestion for a site, keeping the above requirements in mind, contact Mr. Elliott at Pierre, S. Dak.

At the National Council fall board meeting in Tulsa, Mrs. Stier, president of Utah told of plans they are making for our next National Convention, which will be held in Salt Lake City June 4-9 with the theme, "Our Pioneer Heritage." She stated that in planning the convention they were keeping three things in mind: Education, Entertainment, and Fellowship. A treat in store for those attending will be a concert by the famous Tabernacle Choir which was on tour in Europe last fall. Tours of their beautiful city and a post convention tour to Bryce and possibility Zion Canyons will be taken, where some of the most beautiful scenery is to be found. She also stated that we, the garden club members, will furnish the fellowship by attending and renewing old friendships and making new ones. If at all possible, let us begin making plans to go. Watch for more about the convention later. Mr. Carley of the Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency has assured me that there will again be a tour for the Rocky Mountain Region gardeners that will include the National Convention.

My thanks to the clubs that have elected officers since June, that have sent me the names of their new officers. If any have not, please send them to me at once.

While chatting with Dorothy Biddle when in Tulsa she told me that South Dakota will again be in the news in the April issue of Popular Gardening. She has written up the United Nations Flower Show held in Sioux Falls last fall with Mrs. Geo. Jorgensen as general chairman with a number of our other members assisting, and sponsored by the clubs of the south eastern part of the state. Watch for it in April.

John M. Reed, director for the Seeds for Democracy again asks for our support and in asking for it says, "Contributions by American Garden clubs travel a long distance to provide a positive message of hope and encouragement which we all realize is of vital importance in today's troubled world."

In planning your club budgets for the coming year won't you please keep

in mind our Permanent Home and if you are not already a 100% club won't you be as generous as possible. We have hopes of being a 100% state eventually. Some clubs are giving for half their membership this year and will complete their gift next year. Others are using the birthday plan and when a member has a birthday she gives her contribution at that time. Send all gifts to Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Madison, state chairman.

A successful Flower Show School was held in Viborg Dec. 6, 7, and 8, with Mrs. Dewey Benson and Mrs. Bert Pinney, co-chairmen. Course 1 was offered.

A detailed report will appear in our next issue.

If like myself, freezing winter weather caught you with tulip bulbs not planted, there is still hope George Luxton, garden authority says. He suggests that they be stored in your refrigerator in air tight cellophane bags in just above freezing temperatures. Plant them out if there happens to be a winter thaw or if there isn't plant them out next spring. Most of them will bloom and only a little later.

We are most happy to report that two new clubs have federated with us. The Hoe and Hope Garden Club of Webster in District 1 and the Arangers Club of Huron in District 3. We extend to them a most hearty welcome.

May I wish a happy and prosperous new year to all of the gardeners in the South Dakota Federation and may your gardens bear fruit in 1956.

O.K. HAVE THE DOG BRING YOU

A man who wrote and asked if a hotel permitted dogs received this answer:

"I've been in the hotel business over 30 years. Never yet have I called the police to eject a disorderly dog during the small hours of the night. Never yet has a dog set the bed clothes afire from smoking a cigaret.

"I've never found a hotel towel or blanket in a dog's suitcase, nor whisky rings on the bureau top from a dog's bottle. Sure, the dog's welcome.

"P.S.—If he'll vouch for you, come along, too."

—OLLIE M. JAMES in CINCINNATI INQUIRER.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

Upland Winter
Birds are of very direct concern to people who dwell in the country and rural parts of the prairies. These loyal feathered winter friends are finding the going increasingly difficult from January through March.

The threshed straw stocks of a few years ago have almost disappeared. They offered the native grouse a dry landing place on which to alight comfortably in early morning. The stocks also yielded feed and shelter in the time of storm. Other adverse conditions are the withering woodlands being cleared bare by bulldozer and plow and the disappearance of all weeds through the wide employment of chemical treatments.

Upland game birds must have feed, nesting cover, rearing commons and winter harbor. Happily, Departments of Agriculture are promoting hundreds of miles of new field shelterbelts. In Manitoba a bold program to plant the farmlands for the purpose of protecting our greatest material possession,—the fertile soil, is mindful of winter birds and, as far as the supply is available, includes trees and shrubs that tend to be decked with palatable nutritious fruits into late winter. Thus, three purposes are served at one time—protection of the soil, cover and feed for birds, and additional interesting diverse beauty on the landscape.

Among the woody plants of much use to winter birds are hawthorns, roses, Manchurian crabapple, Cherry prinsepia, silverberry, Russian olive, buffaloberry, snowberry pimbina or Highbush cranberry, nannyberry, seabuckthorn, sumac, juniper, hazel, oak, barberries, cotoneaster, Russian sloe, buckthorn, arrowwood, basswood, hackberry, Amur lilac, mountainash, Amur maple, basswood and wild grape.

Herbaceous plants of use include sweet clover, corn, sunflowers, sorghum and alfalfa. Government game farms and Game and Fish Associations are performing timely duties in extend-

ing plantings to provide combined year-around homes and restaurants for grouse, partridge, and pheasants. The Morden Experimental Farm contributes seed and some plants as cooperation in this public, and obviously much needed service.

Two actions, which may save many pheasants this winter, especially in times of gale and blizzard, and particularly if snowfall is substantial, are the erection of storm shelters and the coning up of piles of gritty gravel. Birds may be short of grit necessary for their digestive function. Shelters are easily made from straw bales held in place by large stakes; or, preferably, from pole tepees, covered with wire, shingled with millet sheaves placed head downwards, and with the opening to the southeast. A small escape gap is provided on the northeast part as precaution against predators spurred by destructive intentions.

Horticultural research workers from fifty-five countries met in Holland this year under the auspices of the 14th International Horticultural Congress. Meetings of this kind are held every three years and their location depends on an invitation from some foreign government. Five Canadians, including Dr. Charles Walkof of the Morden Experimental Farm staff, took part in the proceedings this year. The following notes and several subsequent issues will describe items of interest to horticulturists noted in Holland and other countries visited after the congress.

The horticultural congress provides an opportunity for experimental workers from all parts of the world to personally exchange ideas and results of work they are doing. Usually there is also the chance to see the horticultural work in progress in the country in which the congress is held. The Dutch made extensive preparations during the past three years for this event. Actually this was not necessary because Holland in its usual natural attractiveness provides an ideal environment for a horticultural gathering. It is a land of flowers, trim gardens and general orderliness. Holland is aptly named, "the garden of Western Europe."

Horticultural products are important to the Dutch national economy. Approximately 160 million dollars in revenue is obtained yearly from this source. Exports to European countries of items such as vegetables including potatoes, bush and tree fruits, bulbs

for spring flowering plants, cut flowers, ornamental shrubs and vegetable seed, are extensive. Most of this material is grown in the open ground although up to 9000 acres of greenhouse culture are also involved.

The Dutch are industrious and very apparently masters of the art of gardening. Every square foot of soil must produce to capacity. Skilled hands aided by science have converted originally poor soil and of which there is much even in a small country like Holland, into high productiveness. Over 10,000 acres of dune sands on the North Sea near Haarem produce the world famous quality Dutch flowering bulbs. At Boskoop 7,000 acres of peat soil made up of nurseries mostly 2½ acres in size, grow excellent rose bushes, rhododendrons and other bushes for ornamental planting. The people of Holland are proud of their accomplishments and are eager to correct the outmoded picture of their land as, "a marshy little country with windmills, where people go around in baggy trousers and wooden shoes, grow tulips and distill old gin."

Horticultural Research in the Netherlands has been entirely re-organized since World War II. The old experimental station buildings and equipment largely destroyed during the war have been replaced by outstanding new facilities financed by Marshall Aid funds. A formidable number of well-trained workers staff these excellent facilities. All research in the Netherlands is conducted co-operatively by the government, semi-official institutions, societies and foundations.

One of the more important Dutch research organizations is the Institute for Horticultural Plant Breeding at Wageningen. Its large size implies that considerable significance is attached to crop improvement by breeding. Other contributing sciences such as genetics, cytology, physiology, mathematics and chemistry are also important and supply indispensable assistance in solving plant breeding and related problems. The Dutch are concerned that modern science and practical horticulture should remain inseparable. Research must be aimed in a practical direction and "imbued with a strongly penetrative power."

The development of improved horticultural varieties is largely in the

(Continued on page 14)

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. VERN TOMPKINS



Mrs. Tompkins

Mrs. Emory Hinkle sends names of new officers of the Better Row Garden club, of Highmore. They are: Mrs. Harlan Stoley, Pres.; Mrs. John Shepherd, Vice Pres.; Mrs. Alvin Larson, Treas. Mrs.

Meade Barber, Sec. This is a small club, having only nine members, but they get a lot done.

New officers of the Brookings Garden club are: Pres., Mrs. U. J. Norgaard, 605 9th St.; Vice Pres., Mr. W. G. Binnewies, 817 6th St.; Treas., Mrs. E. M. Barnett, 1329 3rd st.; Sec., Mrs. J. B. Taylor, 621 11th Ave.; Convention Chm., Mrs. A. M. Eberle, Medary Ave., North.

Mrs. Donald McMurchie, reporting for the Centerville garden club, says "We started our new year in September with a dessert luncheon. For the High School Homecoming we entered a float, carrying out the theme, 'Don't Be a Litterbug'. On United Nation Day thirteen members went to Sioux Falls for luncheon and attended their Flower Show and parade. We have been working on the Centerville Beach, repairing the fire place and laying a cement platform in front of it." Thanks for the program booklet, Mrs. McMurchie

Thanks to Mrs. Flora K. Jeffries for a report from the Rapid City Garden Club. The writer has wondered how come no word from R.C. I give it to you in her own words. "The Rapid City Garden Club held their October meeting at the Club House at Canyon Lake Park, with more than thirty members present for a real Hallowe'en party. The Club House was decorated with jack-o-lanterns, owls, witches, etc. and orange and yellow flowers were used on the tables. Members and friends came in costume, first prize for ladies being awarded to Mrs. Raymond Brehm, for her Goldilocks costume. Mr. Roscoe Brooks won first prize for men, with his Indian costume. A pot luck dinner was enjoyed.

It being the birthday of the secretary, she was crowned Queen and allowed the privilege of cutting the birthday cake. Mr. John Atkinson acted as toastmaster and a number of impromptu Hallowe'en speeches were given by members. At the business meeting we decided to make our annual trip to the woods for Christmas greens on Dec. 11th, the December meeting to be held on Dec. 15th. This meeting to be open to the public, and to be held in the Court House. The club will have greens and other materials needed for making Christmas decorations, and anyone who wishes may come and make their own decorations for a small fee. There will be instructors on hand to help anyone who needs help! This seems to me to be a very fine service to the city, and surely many people would avail themselves of this opportunity. Sorry this report is late but it did not reach me in time for the last edition.

Mrs. Clara Orstad sends names of 1955-56 officers of the Rural Garden Circle, of Crooks: Pres., Mrs. Frank Steer, Renner, S. D.; Vice Pres. Mrs. Carl Nytroe, Crooks; Treas., Mrs. Curtis Otterby, Renner; Sec., Mrs. J. M. Otterby, Sioux Falls, R-4.

The November meeting was held with Mrs. Flora Steer. Roll call was answered by naming a winter feed for birds. A paper on mulching was presented by Mrs. Clara Orstad. Mrs. Eleanor Romereim read an article on "Thanksgiving." Three members with November birthdays were given gifts by the hostess. A Thanksgiving dessert was served. The Christmas party was held at the home of Mrs. Laura Nytroe, which was nicely decorated for the occasion. A 7 o'clock supper was served. Roll call was answered with original Christmas verses. Miss Olga Jensen read the Christmas Gospel. Readings were given by Mrs. Eleanor Rommereim. Mrs. Anna Ulvilden, and Mrs. Ruby Orstad. Carols were sung and Secret Pals were revealed in the exchange of gifts found under a beautifully decorated tree. Ice cream and cookies finished the evening. Mrs. Neva Olson is publicity chairman.

Mrs. Olaf Gulbrandson sends High Lights of the Sioux Falls club for the past year. New officers are: E. H. Shenkle, president; Mrs. Olaf Gulbrandson, vice president; Mrs. Everett Raab, secretary-treasurer. Included in the year's program were: Study from

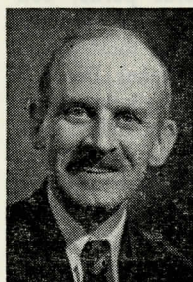
the Green Thumb Garden Book, helpful and interesting; guest speakers were Lloyd Ayers, State College, Brookings, Song So Lee, Korea, a student at Augustana, whose interesting topic was his country; Mrs. Harry Crisp, Dell Rapids talked and showed slides on Lilies; Leroy Stearns, Marion, S. D., showed interesting slides on his travels in Europe, including Holland, the land of Tulips. The annual project of plantings at the YMCA and the YWCA was carried out. A tour of the Jorgensen and Harry Crisp homes was enjoyed in June. The Everett Raabs and Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Elmen were hosts to potluck picnics in their beautiful gardens during the summer months. The annual Hallowe'n party was held at the YMCA, at which time a musical program was enjoyed.

Mrs. R. K. Morrell sends a clipping on activities of the Pierre Garden club. A film, "Vacation Magic", shown by Jack Vickmark, through the courtesy of the state highway department, opened a meeting held recently. Plans were made for the spring flower show. Miss Nellie Biver, Mrs. Dean Carmine, and Mrs. Everett Olson were the committee named on arrangements for the tea, which will be open to the public. Flower arrangements will be by Garden Club Members only. Mrs. C. A. Carr, Mrs. Harry Morse and Mrs. J. R. McKnight were appointed to choose books on gardening, to be presented to the Carnegie Library. The Christmas party was planned, to be held at the Nurse's Lounge, with Sisters M. Berthold and M. Freda as hostesses. Members voted to exchange seeds, bulbs and plants at that time. Mrs. Harold Widdoss was re-elected president; Mrs. J. Walter Hughes, vice president; C. A. Carr, secretary; Mrs. Dean Carmine was re-elected treasurer. Mrs. Morse made the "Quickie" of straw flowers and dried leaves, discussing the merits of height, and use of light and dark shades as she worked. It was given to Mrs. Carmine. Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Morse served refreshments. On arrival at the Christmas party guests were met at the door by St. Nicholas himself, and each was presented a gift. Mrs. Geoff Garrett won the door prize, and Mrs. Robert Morrell, Mrs. Ed Warne and Mrs. C. A. Carr were the winners in the contest skit prepared by the Sisters. Garden gifts were exchanged.

(Continued on page 12)

UNEXPLOITED SUBSTITUTE FOR IRRIGATION

by
PERCY H. WRIGHT



Wright

The portion of the earth's surface that is cultivated, but on which there is a definite drought hazard, is very large. In the prairie province, it is especially large, for grasslands form the largest part of our farm area, and grasslands are grasslands for a good reason, low and erratic supplies of moisture. The importance of the drought hazard has turned many minds to irrigation, but water can never be brought to all the thirsty areas. Thus anything by which we can make non-irrigable land more productive, by which we can bring it part way to the status of irrigated land, or fertile land in a humid zone, must be of extreme interest. The one possibility seems to be in the use of a mulch. Mulching is attracting more attention every year, and with every test made, the interest increases. Dr. C. F. Patterson, in an address given at the University of Saskatchewan during farm week last winter, gave considerable space to mulching and quoted the opinions that are developing in other parts of the world. As chance would have it, I pioneered in the trials with mulching in a dry area of western Saskatchewan. I mulched a patch of rhubarb with straw, and a patch of asparagus with rotted manure and then with straw. The results with rhubarb were most gratifying, for yields were increased by about 100%, that is, were nearly doubled, and the size of the individual stalks was so increased that the proportion saleable was considerably greater still. This was in the days before it was understood that the rotting down of the mulch material absorbed nitrates, and required the application of greater amounts of nitrogenous fertilizer than commonly used. Today, with this understood, the mulching of rhubarb would probably be more profitable still. The asparagus patch appeared to be greatly improved too, but the harvesting of shoots is so scattered

that it was difficult to get a clear idea of the improvement. One of the features of the use of the mulch is a lowering of the soil temperature, which might be supposed to result in a greater gain for rhubarb, a Siberian plant, than for asparagus, a dry land plant from the plains around the Caspian sea. Dr. Patterson quoted from experiments in the U. S. A. "The use of a straw mulch on potatoes in Ohio, in a dry year, resulted in the yield of tubers double that obtained without a mulch. As to the time of applying the mulch, the best results were obtained when it was applied soon after the plants appeared above ground. Some work done at the University of Alberta indicates distinct virtue in the use of a mulch." At Ottawa, a recent experiment was made on the use of a sawdust mulch for raspberries, and the gain was astonishing, much greater than the gain of straw mulch for the same plant. Why sawdust should be superior to straw we can only speculate, but whatever is the reason, the practical result is sufficient to tell us that every test made should, if possible, include both materials, and probably other materials too. It will also tell us that no sawdust should be wasted, but all should be saved for mulching purposes. Years ago, black mulch paper was tested on many Experimental Stations and much data was accumulated. In general, it was discovered that substantial increases of yield could be obtained, especially with warm weather crops like tomatoes. However, the expense of the mulch paper was too great to justify its use, except on crops of extreme value, and so, as no recommendations were made, there was no public stir of interest, and soon we heard no more about it. The data, however, is still on file, and can be looked up by anybody who wishes to. Today we are thinking about organic mulches, to be made of waste materials that will eventually rot down and increase the humus content and so the tilth and permeability of the soil. Some mulches may give very different yield increases from those of the mulch paper. For instance, we think of several differences that might affect different plants in different ways. One is that the black color of mulch paper would increase soil temperatures about the roots, whereas the thickness of the organic mulches, and their light color, undoubtedly reduces soil temperatures.

Mulch paper is always applied so that rain water has a chance to soak into the soil between the cracks of the paper, all of it, so that nothing is lost. Organic mulches, on the other hand, require to be soaked before they will allow rain to penetrate to the soil below, and, when the sun comes out again, will dry quickly, thus dissipating the proportion of the rain that was required to make the soaking. This proportion of loss would be greater when showers fell than when good rains fell, and would be greater throughout a season when most of the precipitation was in the form of showers. Years ago I suggested without experimental evidence on which to base the idea, that the mulch material between the rows be gathered up from every other row, each fall, and piled in the space of the adjacent row. This practice would mean the trapping of much drifting snow which would increase moisture supplies. It would also mean that the soil in the uncovered space would melt rapidly enough to absorb the snow water. I had the feeling, as I watched the rhubarb patch, back in the late twenties, that the soil was frozen under the straw and hence unable to absorb moisture at the time when the snow was melting, when it had to be absorbed at once if it were ever going to be. I certainly noticed that I had stalks to sell from the mulched patch later in the season than from the unmulched. I still believe that the idea of uncovering a part of the mulched area for the season of the year when rapid absorption of water is more important than reduction of evaporation, that is, the cooler part of the year, is a very good idea. An alternative, of course, would be to leave every other row permanently unmulched. Soon after my experiments with mulching of rhubarb and asparagus, in the early thirties, I visited a farm near Krydor, Sask., on which an extensive plantation of red raspberries was mulched deeply with straw. The mulch was deep enough to control all weed-seed germination, so that all that had to be done to keep the plantation clean was to pull out by hand the raspberry suckers that came up in the row spaces. It was impossible for me to tell exactly what the gain of the mulch was, for the farmer had left no portion of the plantation unmulched to serve as a "control", but the plantation was

(Continued on page 11)

MORE ABOUT PROGRAMS

by

ALICE PLATT



Alice Platt

I have just received some suggestions for Program Building 1955-1957 from Mrs. Jack Bryant, Program Chm., our new National of Orangeburg, S. C., which I hasten to pass on to you in hope that it will be

time to help some of you in making up 1956 programs.

She says "Before choosing a theme for the new year, determine the needs and wishes of your club members. The program is for your garden club and should answer needs of your members.

If a new club, start with simple programs and graduate to more difficult ones. Keep your programs short, limiting to thirty minutes. At each meeting take a few minutes to call attention to garden articles in State and National Bulletins.

If you are a well established club, the following may be helpful in formulating your program for the year: 1. Choose a theme for the year, i.e., Conservation; Landscape Design; Color in the Home and Garden; Artistry in the Arrangement of Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers, etc. 2. Plan at least nine meetings per year. 3. Be sure to have a balanced program—50% horticulture and 50% related subjects. 4. Program content should be up to date, useful and practical, show evidence of continuity, and be of general interest to your particular club. Correlate your program with the State Federation's projects, such as Permanent Home Project. 5. Include specimens, arrangements and other exhibits relative to the topic of the day. 6. Use slides or films in an illustrated program. Correlate with workshops. 7. Do some type of youth work, i.e., sponsoring a Junior Garden Club. 8. Plan a Garden Pilgrimage and a Landscape Design Tour. Might combine the two. 9. Plan a program on Permanent Home. 10. At least one meeting open to the public with appropriate program. 11. One or more community projects, i.e., shade tree planting on streets or in parks; landscaping

of public buildings or churches; conservation plantings; roadside parks, Litterbug Campaign, etc. Choose a project to suit the size of your club. Include two guest speakers of authority in your annual program.

Club projects often determine the success or failure of your club. A club project is vital to the general well being of a club. Before choosing a project familiarize yourselves with the projects of National Council, of the region to which you belong, your state and district. Be sure to have a civic project to help your city and community.

Suggested projects which may stimulate thought and guide you to other projects: A. Civic Projects: 1. Hold a seasonal flower show; 2. Establish a testing garden in your community for roses, delphinium, chrysanthemums, tuberous begonias etc; 3. Organize a new adult club and counsel them for one year; 4. Organize a Junior Garden Club; 5. Establish a Garden Center; 6. Plant a wildflower garden for birds in one of your city parks or in a protected area on one of your school-grounds, make bird houses and feeding trays for parks; 7. Interest camera fans in making 2x2 Kodachrome slides for the National Council program files of slides for Club Programs: Gardens, Wild Flowers, Birds, and Flower Arrangements; 8. Establish a bird sanctuary; 9. Make favors for veterans hospitals; 10. How to Do It Classes for convalescent homes and veterans hospitals; with your city officials in keeping clean and beautifying the entrances to your city; decorate small table trees for "forgotten patients in hospitals and homes for the aged and provide a small gift for each; have a driftwood show; provide Christmas goodies for Children's Homes." 16. Prepare Christmas boxes for shut-ins. Place a Christmas corsage of native greens and cones on top of each; plant shade trees on your streets or in your city parks; do conservation plantings; do educational plantings in your city parks of mums, roses, tulips, peonies, hemerocallis, etc.; assist in the landscaping of your public buildings; if you are located near a home for "Handicapped Children," plant them a fragrance garden; consult your conservation chairman and Garden Therapy chairman for specialized projects in their fields. Projects for Rural Clubs: Make your mailboxes attractive. Consult the postmaster as to the plantings;

landscape your Community Church; or Community Center building; display outdoor Christmas decorations; establish a roadside park; place an educational exhibit of conservation material in your roadside parks; contribute to your county travelling library; help landscape your local school-grounds. Ways and Means Projects: 1. Desirable shrubs and plants always sell. Be sure to have them balled or in containers so they may be easily transported. All material should be properly labeled; 2. Note paper, garden gloves, plant markers etc. provide good percentage of profit; 3. Seasonal corsages sell well; 4. Fall bulb sales are good; 5. Plan a permanent Home Party; 6. A Harvest Festival in the fall—provides fun and funds."

Now for some suggested programs for recently federated clubs.

1. The Garden Club Starts the Year with New Challenges"

Landscape design to fit the community

The adoption of some beautification program as a project

2. "Our Gardeners of Tomorrow"
Program by Junior Garden Club members

A Demonstration of Simple Flower Arrangements. (Reference "Flower Arrangements for Juniors" by Virginia Stone Marshall.)

3. "Your State Federation is a Vital Part of Rocky Mountain Region of National Council"

Know your Regional and National Officers

Study All National Council Projects

Question and Answer Period.
(Ref. The National Gardener National Council Books Inc.)

4. "Annals—the Mainstay of the Garden"

Zinnias in Brilliant Array
Petunias in Wide Variety

Annals to Plant for Cutting
(Ref. "Flower Garden for the Amateur" by Alfred Carl Hottes. Assign one topic to each of three person, allowing each 10 or 15 minutes.

5. "Our Permanent Home"

A tribute to our founders and a gift to future members. Study the architectural design of the building, and its location in the Missouri Botanical Gar-

(Continued on page 10)

MY EXPERIENCES IN HORTICULTURE

by

RUSSELL L. WODARZ



Wodarz

Some of our North Dakota residents will remember Miss Elizabeth Lorenz. Some six years ago she came from Germany to this region on an observation tour. I was greatly pleased to have her come to my

orchard. Our home demonstration agent, Jane Rutherford, came along with her, and walking along by the trees we passed by a few hills of rhubarb. I picked a stalk of McDonald and another of Ruby rhubarb, and after explaining the difference between those two strains, I threw them away. But Miss Lorenz picked them up and gave me a gentle reprimand. As we were looking around we talked about bush-form trees and trees and trees with high trunks as they are in most European countries. There, very often, apple and even plum trees are planted with long stems, and along the side of each newly planted tree a post is set. The tree is tied to this post with a braid of rye straw, or some other material, to keep it from swaying or bending over until it is strong enough to stand by itself. Miss Lorenz asked a number of questions, but nothing along the line of hardiness, early bearing quality of the fruit, season of maturity. The all important question was how many bushels does this tree pro-

duce, or that one, sizing up the age of the trees. Being an experimental orchard with many varieties, I made it clear to her that we were still pioneering. I have been asked about raising apples commercially in our part of the country. Here is my experience and my reaction. Crab apples are the surest and most dependable to raise, so we take those up now. The following apple trees are as hardy as any of our native trees. First we take up the Dolgo, and by the way, we should know more about the health giving quality of this fruit. We may count on this tree to live 20 years and more. The fruit, after it colors well, should be picked as it will not keep. I would estimate mature trees to produce 15 bushels per year. With well formed large trees maybe more. Suppose we plant 60 trees to the acre; at 5 cents a pound they would bring us a neat sum. But now the question is this: Is there a market for them? I find there is not, at present. There is always a demand for a few bushels, but that is as far as one would get. The Cranberry crab has as its pollen parent the Dolgo, and the fruit is about the same size. The tree proved as healthy and hardy as the Dolgo and the bearing habit is about the same. It differs in respect to blossoms which are red, and the flesh is dark red. It picks easy however, if not picked will remain on the tree about 3 weeks without spoiling. Then we have the Red River. The tree I have is only 12 years old but it will live a long time as is attested by the original tree at Fargo. It had to be removed to make room for a building. Trees have been producing abundant crops, and the fruit is fair size, red and will keep for some time. To grow it commercially we would want to know what the demand would be. Now we come to the hardy Whitney.

Most everybody likes this apple, but commercially it would not be profitable in our region, for its bearing habit is poor. It will make a nice shapely lawn tree, and it may do well some other parts of the country, but I find it unprofitable even for home use. The Sweet Russet has been grown through here, and it has done well. The green fruit is of good size and is very sweet when dead ripe. It is much used for pickles, but the fruit spoils quickly. It would not do to raise many of this variety. Hansen's Linda Sweet would lend itself better for commercial purposes. It is surely a hardy, long lived tree and it serves the same purpose as the Sweet Russet. The apple is a little larger, not quite as sweet and more juicy. The tree will bear very young and the fruit will keep for a while. There are many other varieties of crabapples that I have grown and likely more useful, only these described here I have lived with for a generation and I know if you can grow a boxelder you can grow these. The demand I know is for a fair size, pleasing yellow or red apple. They are harder to grow, so I will try next time to relate how far we might go with those.

A Farmer, disposing of his produce and finishing his purchases in town, piled into his wagon and set out for home. Once or twice the feeling came over him that he had overlooked something but, upon checking up, he dismissed the idea and went on his way, rejoicing in the thought that the day's errands had all been attended to. As he turned in at the farmyard gate, however, the children came trooping out of the house, crying: "Why, Father, where's Mother?"

—ORLANDO SENTINAL

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YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

BOOK REVIEWS

by

LAURA SEXAUER

LANDSCAPING YOUR OWN HOME by Alice L. Dunstan. The Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y. \$3.95.

Miss Dunstan has a wonderful background for her book. She is now doing free-lance writing besides designing gardens and conducting classes in same. In planning a landscape, first visualize it in three dimensions. Consider how the house looks in the landscape and how the landscape looks from the house. Plan all on paper first. Drive stakes where you intend planting your trees, then check at different times of the day to see whether you get the shade where needed. We learn what and how much we should use for foundation plantings. In all our plantings we must use the five principles of art, that is, balance, repetition, scale, movement and emphasis.

Plantings depend on the type of house, is it a tall house or a low rambler. All these questions along with many more are answered in this book and it is done so simply and in such detail that anyone can work out their own plans as to what to plant where and how.

The successful landscaper is one who is himself, he makes the most of his natural gifts without aping those of other people.

☆

ORCHIDS, AS HOUSE PLANTS, by Rebecca T. Northern, D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 250 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N. Y. \$3.50

If you are interested in growing orchids, by all means get this book. It tells most everything there is to know about them.

We learn there are 20,000 species of orchids and these fall into three groups as to temperature, cool, intermediate and warm, which means they grow in all types of temperature from frost to hot sun. Orchids are not parasites as generally believed, but make their own sugar and get their minerals from decaying humus. The best medium to grow them in is osmunda fiber, the root of the osmunda fern. Orchids are sensitive as to the amount of sunlight they get, also temperature, especially the night temperature which should not vary over 5 degrees.

Plans grown on the windowsill seem to do as well as those in cases, for in the case the air is apt to grow stuffy.

In buying plants it is wise to get them from dependable dealers, and do not get "bargain" plants. It is well to join the Orchid Society, and there are several publications which keep you in touch with dealers and the latest developments.

Our book, "Orchids as House Plants" tells you of the diseases and pests that affect orchids, and gives remedies for same. In fact it deals with everything pertaining to the growth of orchids and it is written in a language anyone can read and follow.

MORE ABOUT PROGRAMS—

(Continued from page 8)

dens in St. Louis. (Slides of the Garden are available.)

6. "Formula for Flower Shows" (Purposes, Value, Standards and Types) Study "The Handbook for Flower Shows." (National Council Books Inc.)

7. "The Fine Art of Flower Arrangement." An all day workshop suggested. Ref: "Flower Arrangement Workbook" Rockwell and Grayson.

8. "Conservation" — Movies: "A Heritage We Guard"; "For Years To Come"; "Food and Soil"; "Know Your Land". Ref. Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C., or your local or State conservation agencies.

9. "Book Review, Ref. "Gardening with Nature", Wickenden or any book you choose. Something on the life and work of our Dr. N. E. Hansen is especially interesting here, and a review of "The Holy Earth" by Liberty Hyde Bailey, or something about Dr. Bailey, as well as a review of David Fairchild's "The World Was My Garden" or "The World Grows Round My Door" would prove interesting to plant lovers. "Indoor plants, vines and evergreens" with exhibit of Seed Catalogues and current Garden Magazines as well as house plants. "Demonstration Christmas Wreaths, Doorways, Windows", Ref: "Christmas Idea Book" by Dorothy Biddle and Dorothy Blum. "Recognition of Birds and Their Songs." Ref. Audubon So-

ciety literature or "Our State Birds" Ref: Professor Over's books.

Now for some suggestions for clubs federated 5-10 years.

1. Get Acquainted With National Council" — "The First Twenty Years", edited by Lottie Leach, a fascinating story of Garden Club History in the United States. (National Council Books Inc.)

"Trees of Our Region." Write State College for information and recommended varieties.

"Soils"—Acid and Alkaline Soils—Soil Tester Demonstration.

"Roses for Every Garden"—Hunger Signs in Roses, Key to Rose Troubles, Overcoats for Shivering Roses, Pleasures and Pitfalls of Exhibiting. Ref. "Roses for Every Garden" by R. C. Allen. A free film, "The Story of Modern Roses", (3½ reels, 33 min.) may be ordered from Audio-Visual Center Inc., 1205 N. 45th St. Seattle 1, Wash., or "All American Roses" (1½ reels, 13 min.) Order from Jackson Perkins Co., Newark, N. Y.

Bring the fine art of gardening to hospitalized veterans, the blind, the mentally ill and the physically handicapped in your own community.

"Leaves from a Flower Notebook." Compiled by club's Flower Show Chm., a resume of past flower shows, and suggestions for future shows.

"Conservation" — The Study of Ecology. "The Web of Life" by John H. Storer.

Planning and Building an Outdoor Living Room. Ref. "Complete Home Landscaping and Gardening Guide" by Raymond P. Karbobo.

I do not expect nor advise any club to use these suggestions entirely as listed. Take what you like or modify or alter to suit your club. I do think they are good ideas which will inspire equally good ones in us.

Yours for better programs in '56. Remember "Nature never did betray the heart that loved her, 'tis her privilege through the years to lead from joy to joy." Wadsworth.

Everyone of us is put on this earth for a definite purpose; to learn something; to gain experience, and to pass on to those who will come after us our individual contribution to the world's accumulation of knowledge.

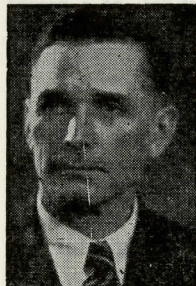
—HENRY FORD

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

The "National Geographic" magazine for November, 1955, has an interesting article on State Trees, which reminds me of the fight we had to save Lone Tree, which finally died, being unable to stand the paving all around

it, cutting off all moisture for the tree. The embattled people of Brier Hill, N. Y., tried to save an old elm tree that was diseased, but the incident dramatized the love between man and trees which George Pape Manis wrote:

Woodsman spare that tree;

Touch not a single bough.

In youth it sheltered me,

And I will protect it now.

State trees a tribute of affection. New York named the first State tree in 1809, naming the sugar maple, the sweetest tree that grows. You that have been fortunate enough to taste real maple syrup, not just the synthetic kind, will heartily agree. Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin also named the sugar maple. Massachusetts, Nebraska and North Dakota named the American elm. Most all the trees are deeply rooted in the history and tradition of their states. State legislatures have officially blessed many of the selections. In 1907 about 44,000 school children cast ballots in Illinois for the stalwart bur oak. Timber trees are named in most northern states. In 1947 fire swept forest trees from an area the size of Indiana. Insects and diseases have taken almost that much. A virgin stand of western white pine was found in the panhandle of Idaho. Red maple is the State tree of Rhode Island. Eastern white pine was named by Maine. White birches are the trees of New England but grow all over North America, Europe, Asia and Siberia and is the State tree of New Hampshire. Northern red oak is the State tree of New Jersey. The American holly is the State evergreen tree of Delaware. Eastern Hemlock is the State tree of Pennsylvania and is not poisonous as is the old world hemlock, the juice of which killed Socrates.

Ohio became a state in 1805—15 years after the first settlement—and has named the buckeye, as their State tree. Minnesota, with 10,000 lakes and 250,000 acres of red pine, picked this tree. The western white pine grows best in the "Pipe Stem" of northern Idaho, the largest tree at Elk River is 219 feet tall and over 21 feet around. There are 17 billion board feet in the U. S. and 12 billion feet are in Idaho. Woodpeckers, Jays, squirrels destroy the cones, looking for the seeds, and the white pine blister rust destroys much of the timber. The seeds remain fertile many years but is not fertile until the tree is about 40 years old. Douglas fir, State tree of Oregon, is the world's leading lumber source. On the 4th of July, the year I was born, in a small Arizona settlement, lumber jacks stripped off the branches of a lofty ponderosa pine to run up the American flag. The tall flag pole became such a well known landmark that it named the place Flagstaff. Ponderosa pine is the State tree of Montana. Balsam poplar, member of the willow family, sometimes compared with the eastern cottonwood, is the State tree of Wyoming. Western Washington Cascades is where the western hemlock grows best and it's the State tree. About as big as Connecticut and Rhode Island combined, is the Black Hills country, the natural range of the Black Hills spruce. Perhaps the last State tree named after a long debate, as the boxelder, cottonwood and other trees, had a lot of staunch friends.

UNEXPLORED SUBSTITUTE—

(Continued from page 7)

thriving and productive, much better, in condition than my own raspberries were at home. The raspberry, of course, is a cool soil plant like rhubarb, and would be expected to show greater thriftiness as a result of lowered soil temperature as well as of increased moisture. Other plants that would undoubtedly show the same response are currants and gooseberries, also strawberries. The strawberry, it is just possible, did not get its name for nothing. Of the annual garden crops, potatoes would appear to be one of the best to try to mulch, partly because it is known to be a cool weather plant, and partly because the plants are tall enough not to be covered by the straw. One would not apply the mulch til about June 20th, at which date the sun would have already warmed the soil sufficiently and the June rains would have penetrated without obstruction. The mulch would then be applied in order to lower temperatures and rate of evaporation from the soil surface. My purpose in writing this article is not to persuade people to consider mulching as adapted to all places and soils, but to persuade them that small-scale experiments in the use of mulch are widely needed. The more quickly the ordinary gardener puts a portion of his garden under mulch the sooner we shall have adequate data on the benefits of mulching.

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DISTRICT FIVE CONFERENCE

by

MRS. FRANCIS NELSON

On October 18, the Green Thumb Garden Club were hosts of the second Annual Meeting of Garden Clubs of Region five. Fourteen of the eighteen clubs in the district were represented and ten members from the Winner club and one from Colome traveled 180 miles to attend this meeting, their nearest district conference. The program began at eleven o'clock with an illustrated lecture on "Flowers for Tables" by Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen. A smorgasbord was served at noon by the Bethany Lutheran Ladies. The work and organization of the State Federation was emphasized throughout the following program:

Welcome by Mrs. Herman Neuhauser, pres. of The Green Thumb Garden Club.

Introduction of State officers and guests

—Mrs. Francis Nelson, Dist. Ch.; Mrs. Earl Kindred, pres. of SDFGC, News and views of State and National; Mrs. C. W. Moyer, 2nd vice pres. SDFGC, Membership in the state Federation; Miss Laura Sexauer, treasurer SDFGC, Your Dues and What They Do; Mrs. Verne Tompkins, Corr.-Sec. of SDFGC, Reports of Club Meetings—How-What and When; Mrs. John Bushfield, chairman of Judging Schools, Flower Show Judging Schools; Mrs. R. G. Ferris, Librarian and slides chairman, Program Material Available to clubs.

After a few minutes relaxation, each club gave a report on some especially interesting program. Ideas and suggestions flew thick and fast but it can be truthfully reported that none talked more than the allotted two minutes. They were all anxious to hear the discussion of the flower arrangements by accredited judges. Certainly no report would be complete that did not give the exhibitors from the various clubs a lot of credit. It is no mean accomplishment to carry a flower arrangement many miles in a crowded car.

The Centerville Garden Club and The Country Garden Club of Centerville will act as hosts of the District Five Conference in 1956.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS—

(Continued from page 6)

Alice H. Platt sends an interesting review dating back to 1954, of the Langford Garden club. In 1954 the club planted a number of deciduous trees a center bed of red cannas, with white petunia, and bordered with alysum; corner beds of various annuals and perennials, and a Peace rose, as well as some small blue spruce trees, in the park, the improvement of which they have chosen as their chief project. In 1955 this center bed was again planted as well as a rose hedge of 50 Red Grootendorst roses, along the north edge of the park between the corner plantings of evergreens. A Ma Perkins rose bush was planted near the Peace rose. The club has a clean up day for the park each spring and tends the plantings throughout the growing season. Each year we have a Christmas party. Last year we sent five dollars to the Home at Redfield. In May we had a Tulip Tea and Plant Sale, and August we staged our fourth annual flower show, "Fiesta des Flores," with the schedule containing many Spanish names for arrangement classes, the hall being decorated with Mexican articles. A silver Tea was served and several towns were represented. It was open afternoon and evening. Monthly meetings were held in the homes, with the exception of the July meeting, which was a picnic in the park. The club sponsored a "Name the Park" contest last fall, and "Park of the Pines" was the name chosen. In June a Peony Display was held in the Bank lobby.

The Community Garden Club, Miller, held their November meeting with Mrs. Louis Hemmingson, Mrs. Archie Joy assisting. Roll call topic was "The program I liked best this year." Mrs. Mildred Breeding installed the newly elected officers. Mrs. Emma Dixon, president elect, outlined the work and appointed committees for 1956. Mrs. Burrell Collins presented the program, "The origin of the Christmas tree, and the Christmas tree industry." Mrs. Burrell Collins sends this report.

Mrs. A. M. Odland sends news of the Home Garden club, Britton, telling of their interest in birds. "Winter feeding of birds" was a recent roll call topic and members discussed ways of attracting them. For a Christmas project a cash contribution was sent

to Abbott House and each member brought a wrapped gift for the Orphan's Home in Sioux Falls. Mrs. Henry Wings gave a descriptive account, with colored slides, of a recent trip she and her husband made to New York, Washington, D. C., England, Germany, and France with the Legionnaires, on their pilgrimage in November. The club planned to take pictures of indoor as well as outdoor Christmas decorations. Plans are being made for their second Iris show, and further plans are being made for improvements in the city park. Their motto for '56 is "We will knowledge and gardening mix, for a pleasant year in '56."

The Prairie Flower Garden club of Artesian held a "white elephant" gift exchange at their December meeting. Members also brought arrangements. Cookies and gifts were taken to shut-ins. Mrs. Alden Scott, president, sends this bit of news.

Nita Jorgensen tells of the activities of the Dell Rapids club. Surely there is never a dull moment for that group. Fourteen of their member were at the southeastern district meeting at Hurley in October with seven participating in discussions, program, or flower arrangements. Mrs. Schrepel, Madison, demonstrated more than fifty Christmas items, at the November 9th meeting. It is indeed a privilege to watch one of her artistic ability. The Dell Rapids club feels that they are fortunate in having Mrs. F. Briley, recently of Mobridge, again a member of their group. Mrs. Briley is a past president of the Dell Rapids club, as well as of the Mobridge club.

Thanks, Garden Clubbers, for your cooperation in making our page of interest. We have heard, for the first time, from some of you, and shall hope to hear from the rest. The new Membership cards have gone out to a large percent of the clubs. One more improvement. "HAPPY 1956 TO YOU ALL."

A little flattery now and then makes husbands out of single men.

—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE

The Department of Horticulture has plans for making rabbit traps if you have difficulty hitting them with a gun.

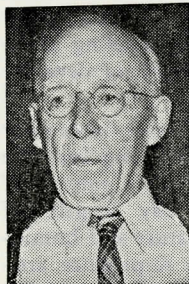
—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS



Simmons

Was very glad, recently, to receive a nice letter from our friend, Mr. L. C. Ayres, now Horticulturist and Forester, at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo. He wrote of meeting our Regional Director, Mrs. J. Collins, who was there for the purpose of organizing the Garden clubs of Wyoming into the National Council. Thus another state comes into the fold. We were terribly sorry to learn of the passing of our good friend, Mr. H. R. Woodward, a most unexpected blow to all of us and to the entire Society. He had done many fine things for us, such as looking after the Robertson Memorial Park, and attending to the bestowal of the Robertson Medal. In thinking of this loss we are reminded of the funeral eulogy of Robert E. Sherwood, by Actor Alfred Lunt, as told in TIME. "We all have to come to terms with death, all of us that live long enough to know that it happens, long enough to welcome it or fear it. In this scientific age most of us accept the biological doctrine that birth and death are the essential machinery of evolution, reciprocal phases that make it possible for a species to change, perhaps to improve over long periods of years. But that takes none of the heart-break out of it, none of the sense of needless loss. And there are some few in every generation whom we would like to see exempt from the general law. If we are to choose out of the men we thought worthy to survive beyond their times, our lists would be brief and they would not be the same." But Harry R. Woodward would stand high in our balloting. In sending in his dues for the coming year, Mr. A. L. Moberg, of Brookings writes: "I am soon 83 years old and am not much good, as I have been on my knees, in the garden business for 40 years. If we live we get old, like everything does, that is the way of life. Hitler said: 'Life is strife to every son of thunder, so be a lion and not a lamb, or you will get

trampled under.'" The Sletwold Flower Shop owner, of Vermillion, S. D., writes as follows: "It might be of interest to Garden clubs in our area, that if they are caught short for a program, that we have developed one that we can give on short notice, gratis, of course. We are growers of hardy Mums, and our program is on this subject. We have given it before the Sioux City Garden club and other interested groups, and it has been very well received." Am wondering how it is that the club secretaries so unanimously contrive to overlook sending in the list of their officers, when sending in their dues and the names of their members. Do they regard the names of their officers as being "classified" information? Please don't overlook this in the future, as we are curious to know who they are. On his Christmas card, Mr. Lloyd C. Ayres wrote: "Understand So. Dakota has a lot of snow and low temperatures. Laramie has the low temperature with the dust blowing." Anyway, they don't have to shovel the dust but can leave disposal of that to the ladies, and plenty of it always comes into the house to be disposed of by them. Mr. Harold A. Brake, writing from his home at Boissevain, Manitoba, Canada, says: "As a member of the Horticultural Society, I received your interesting annual report. I also get much useful information from your magazine, DAKOTA HORTICULTURE. I am a farmer, fruit grower and nurseryman, in a small way, on the northern edge of the Turtle Moun-

tains, a few miles from the International Peace Garden. I have many South Dakota originations growing in my garden and orchard. We in western Canada owe a great debt to your late Dr. Hansen and many other Dakota plant breeders." Am glad that Mr. Brake has begun to borrow some of the books in our library, as we would rather have them in the hands of our members and being read, than stacked up in the office, doing no one any good. The number of reports printed for us was somewhat limited, so we could not send them to each Garden club member, but we did send one or two copies to officers of each club, where we had been let into the secret of their identity, and we hope these will be kept so the members can see the list of our books, and we hope many of the club members will borrow them. No bookkeepers need apply, as we want them back, after being read. We were glad to see by the last number of THE MINNESOTA HORTICULTURIST that the Minnesota Garden clubs are seriously considering affiliating with the National Council, and are now taking a vote on it. We hope the vote will be favorable, for certainly they are missing a lot in remaining outside the fold.

Believe it or not, France in 1953 produced 24 million bushels of pears for juice purposes alone, compared with the entire U. S. crop of 29 million bushels.

—AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER

HARDY CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Plant Colorful, Easy-to-Grow, HARDY MUMS!

Our many varieties have been carefully selected and tested by us and found reliable for the prairie areas.

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VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

(Established 1929)

Plan to visit us next fall when the Mums are blooming. We are located on Highway 50, right in Vermillion.

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

by

LEONARD YAGER
Montana Extension Service



Yager

A look at lawn seed mixtures will reveal a considerable variation in kinds of grass seed and there will be quite a spread in price between the lowest and highest priced mixtures. In purchasing seed for your lawn, you are

likely to get what you pay for. Most of the higher priced mixtures contain the smaller seeded, more desirable grass seeds for establishing a good lawn.

Kentucky Bluegrass is the most important species of grass for use in lawns in Montana. It is extremely hardy, stands wear and tear well, and with occasional, adequate irrigation, produces an excellent color turf. A fertile, well-drained soil is necessary for this species.

One of the important things to remember about this species is that it is slow to become established. Seeds may require anywhere from 10 to 20 days to germinate, and the young seedling grows very slowly at the start. In general, it takes from two to three years before this species develops a close, dense stand. For this reason, it is frequently advisable to use a nurse crop grass along with Kentucky Bluegrass. One of the best nurse grasses to use is Redtop. Three parts Kentucky Bluegrass and one part Redtop makes a desirable combination. Folks who like to have a little clover in the lawn may choose to substitute 5 to 10 percent White Dutch Clover in place of some of the Redtop.

If conditions are ideal, the use of Kentucky Bluegrass alone is highly desirable. Because of its slowness to germinate, it is highly important to watch and see that the seed bed does not dry out any time. Frequent sprinklings with a fine spray are advised.

A new selection of Kentucky Bluegrass that has received considerable publicity is Merion Bluegrass. It is an excellent new variety but the gardener must consider its limitations in order that he might not be disappointed in its performance in some respects.

Kentucky Bluegrass seed is slow to germinate, and Merion Bluegrass seed is even slower. Seeds may not germinate and new seedlings emerge as long as 10 days to three weeks after sowing. Growth after emergence of seedling is very slow. Liberal use of fertilizer in the seedbed enhances growth, and it will come along a little more rapidly. Indications are that Merion Bluegrass is a heavier feeder of nitrogen than Kentucky Blue. Up to double the application rate for Merion Blue seems to be helpful.

Late summer is the best seeding time for Merion Bluegrass. Early spring is also good, though there is likely to be more trouble from weeds. Pure seeding seems to be best. Use in mixture a Red Fescue for the shaded lawn. If used in combination with Kentucky Bluegrass, use at least 40 percent Merion in the mixture. A seeding rate as low as one pound per 1000 square feet seems to be all right for pure seeding of Merion Bluegrass.

Since Merion Bluegrass has a shorter wider leaf blade than Kentucky Bluegrass, it can be mowed shorter without damage. It can be mowed as low as $\frac{3}{4}$ inch without damaging effect. Such short clipping would gradually cause thinning of a stand of Kentucky Bluegrass. Frequent mowing is advised.

Anyone who has looked at a prescription written by his doctor has been baffled by the handwriting. There is a classic story about a social leader in a rather small town who knew that a famous specialist was spending his vacation near by. She wrote him a formal note inviting him to dinner. The following day the lady received a reply which the specialist dashed off with his fountain pen. She studied it for half an hour but could not make out a single word, so she didn't know whether he had accepted her invitation or not. Then the lady had a bright idea. She took the note from the doctor to the village druggist and said smilingly "Perhaps you can make something out of this." He took it to the back room of the drugstore and in 20 minutes, came out. He handed the woman a little bottle of medicine and said "That will cost you \$1.75."

Leaves are a thing of beauty only as long as they keep their place on a tree.—W. EARL HALL, in MASON CITY GLOBE-GAZETTE.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER—

(Continued from page 5)

hands of private plant breeders of which there are many in the Netherlands. The research men at the Plant Breeding Institute devote their attention to the solving of breeding problems rather than the work of developing new strains.

A phytotron or climate laboratory located at the Plant Breeding Institute provides facilities for close control of light intensity and day length, of night and day temperature and humidity. It is possible to re-produce artificially most any climate. One of the many uses for the phytotron is to grow runners of strawberries for testing virus diseases. Normally runners cannot be produced satisfactorily in the greenhouse in winter when strawberry virus testing is most conveniently done. Under controlled conditions at a temperature of 28°C. and by varying the hours of daylight above 16 hours per day, runners can be developed in any quantity.

The preciseness of the Dutch national character is reflected in the high quality of all Netherlands production. This is particularly noticeable in the products of its large vegetable seed industry. Highly trained plant breeders carefully check all seed stocks intended for trade. On special occasions juries of professional men such as seedsmen, vegetable growers, processors, etc., are invited to help check seed quality in the field tests. The names of the highly rated varieties and strains and their owners are published. Owners of poor stocks are advised to improve or destroy their production and must keep the committee in charge of tests advised.

A vigorous approach in solving horticultural problems is important in a small country such as the Netherlands. It is obvious that the course being followed by the Dutch will not only insure their subsistence, but also will win for them the world recognition they need.

A russet apple from a friend is the old POMME GRISE, probably introduced from Europe two or more centuries ago, brought over by the French—wonderfully high in quality but, like many other interesting varieties, almost extinct.

—AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

GARDEN THERAPY

by
MILDRED IBACH

It is a pleasure for me to bring you this report of Garden Therapy activities in our State of South Dakota during the past year.

From the fifty-four clubs in our state federation I received reports from nineteen that had positive consciousness of a Garden Therapy program in their club.

Ten of these groups devoted a good portion of their efforts to providing cheer and inspiration to shut-ins with gifts of May Baskets or Valentine gifts often accompanied by potted plants or garden bouquets. Hospital patients of long standing, of confinement and residents of old people's homes were regularly furnished with flowers as well as gifts of sweets, etc.

Madison Garden Club gave seeds, seedlings & shrubs to Lake View Rest Home, where patients have their own garden plots and here patients participated in landscaping the grounds. The club made a follow-up which showed much interest and hobbies of gardening being developed. This club also made three dozen button gardens for hospital patients' trays at Thanksgiving and four dozen table Christmas trees using original ideas of construction. These were placed in the patients' rooms and some patients used the ideas for making them too. This idea could be carried out by the club which could furnish materials for making bedside gardens and teaching patients how to make them. Now is the time to be on the alert and to start to collect materials which can be put to use in Therapy Work, such as for plaques etc.

Hoe & Hope Garden Club of Volga has worked for some time and continues to assist a crippled girl in corsage making.

I would commend Tri-State Garden Club for conducting two lessons in Garden Therapy. This is the way to teach your members the meaning of Garden Therapy and how to practice it, because we must develop an awareness of an avenue of service before we can undertake to walk in it.

Pasque Petals Garden Club of Wankonda furnished bulbs, plants & seeds to the Fort Meade Veterans Hospital where a very valuable horticultural and

Garden Therapy project has been carried out for some time. Please remember the more recent undertaking in the Veterans Center at Hot Springs and try to not neglect to label your offerings. I believe that well arranged scrap books made of some of the good articles on plant culture that are found in garden magazines would be a very worthwhile and welcome undertaking. For instance, one book devoted exclusively to rose culture, another on mums, and even the magazines themselves would be welcome reading & stimulating the gardening urge if placed in hospital libraries, and of course good garden books are always a welcome offering.

The Crippled Children's School & Hospital at Sioux Falls has received gifts of money from Hoe & Hope Club of Volga and Colome Garden Club, also the Cancer, polio, Heart, Help Jerry Walk Fund and the Crippled Children's School was presented with a beautiful large wreath at Christmas time, intertwined with peppermint stick candies for the children to cut off. I was told by an instructor at this school that they also welcome seeds and bulbs. These are planted in containers with the children's help and create much interest when the first sprouts appear.

So you see there are willing hearts and hands throughout the State who are willing to share the glories of their garden with those less fortunate ones and I feel this new year will be a real challenge to us all, to put our minds and hands to work.

Thank you all for your earnest and sincere co-operation during the past year. Each letter or word that reaches me from you is a real inspiration. I am anxious to give you all the help I can so feel free to write me in your needs and I will do the best I can to answer. A Happy Gardening Year to you all.

He that never changes his opinions, never corrects his mistakes, will never be wiser on the morrow than he is today.

—MASON CITY GLOBE-GAZETTE

The answer to the complaint that your dreams don't come true, is that neither do your nightmares.

—MASON CITY GLOBE-GAZETTE

Sorbic acid has been found practical for preventing mold growth on foods. The white crystal substance, not to be confused with ascorbic acid or vitamin C, is being sold by Carbide & Carbon Chemical Co. at \$2.45 per lb. Only small amounts are needed for mold control in cheese, for which purpose U. S. Food & Drug has granted temporary permits. Experimental work in progress indicates sorbic acid may produce better quality pickles and prevent spoilage of fresh fruits and vegetables.

—MARKET GROWERS JOURNAL

*'Twas the night before Christmas and
all through the house*

*Mamma was muttering, "Pa is a
louse."*

*"The night before Christmas he leaves
it to me*

*To wrap up the presents and dress up
the tree.*

*He's out on a bender while home here
I sit;*

And Pa, not the tree, is beautifully lit."

—ED SMITH

A cuniform list of more than 60 different kinds of vegetables grown in the Royal Babylonian Gardens of Merodach Baladan, has survived. The palace gardener grew very much the same kind of plants as the modern inhabitants of Basrah. Garlic, onions, mint, beans, cardamons, leeks, pennyroyal, lettuce, dill, saffron are among the plants which can be easily identified.

—GARDEN DIGEST

Prof.: "Now Bjones, can you give the class an example of wasted energy?"
Frosh: "Yes, sir—telling a hair-raising story to a bald-headed man."

—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE

Small town: A place where everybody knows what everyone else is doing, but still reads the local paper to see if he's been caught at it.

—ARGUS-LEADER

Lawyer for defense: "What time was it when you were robbed?"

Complainant (angrily): "I don't know; ask your client—he took my watch!"

—WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE

A woman will try on any number of shoes before she's finally dissatisfied.

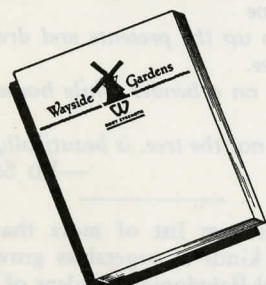
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MENTOR, OHIO

Wayside Gardens

THE DROPMORE ELM

by

DR. F. L. SKINNER

Dear Mr. Simmons,

I was quite interested in the article on the hardy form of Chinese Elm in the September number of *Dakota Horticulture*, and as the party who first grew this Elm from seed imported from Harbin thought that some of the readers of *Dakota Horticulture* might be interested in some further facts concerning this tree.

Prior to its introduction the hardiest strain available in Canada came from Morden, where a small clump growing at the Dominion Experimental Station had survived and reached the seed bearing stage. Seedlings from this source did well at Dropmore for a few years and a nursery row was planted, half of which was from Morden seed and the other half the Harbin strain. On October of 1941 a picture of this row was taken showing the Harbin strain completely leafless while those grown from Morden seed were still in full leaf. Another picture was taken the following

June showing the Harbin strain in full leaf while the other was bare and lifeless.

Since that time a considerable quantity of seed and many thousands of seedlings have been distributed from Dropmore, throughout western Canada and as far south as Nebraska. At the present time all seed of this hardy strain has to be picked by hand, this makes it much more expensive than the ordinary form which can be swept up from the pavement in some localities at little cost. This added cost of seed of the true hardy strain has induced some unscrupulous parties to sell the ordinary form as the true Harbin strain.

To counteract this the Great Plains Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Horticultural Science while in session at Morden in 1953 passed a resolution declaring that the true Harbin strain of the Chinese Elm should be known henceforth as the Dropmore Elm; therefore unless the name Chinkota Elm was published before that date according to the rules of nomenclature the proper name of this hardy form should be the Drop-

more Elm. Since we were informed of this resolution we have been cataloguing this hardy strain as the Dropmore Elm and if we are in error in doing so would some one who has all the facts kindly correct us.

Yours sincerely,
F. L. Skinner

While casting about for sparkling examples of salesmanship don't ignore the bald-headed barber selling hair tonic. —W. Earl Hall, in *MASON CITY GLOBE-GAZETTE*.

The International Peace Garden, on the U. S. Canadian border, will probably become one of this country's outstanding tourist spots, according to Tom Richter's tour story of North Dakota in the *Auto club News*, St. Louis.

Every little American boy has a chance to be president when he grows up—it's just one of the chances he has to take.

—ARGUS-LEADER