

VOLUME 29

SOUTH DAKOTA
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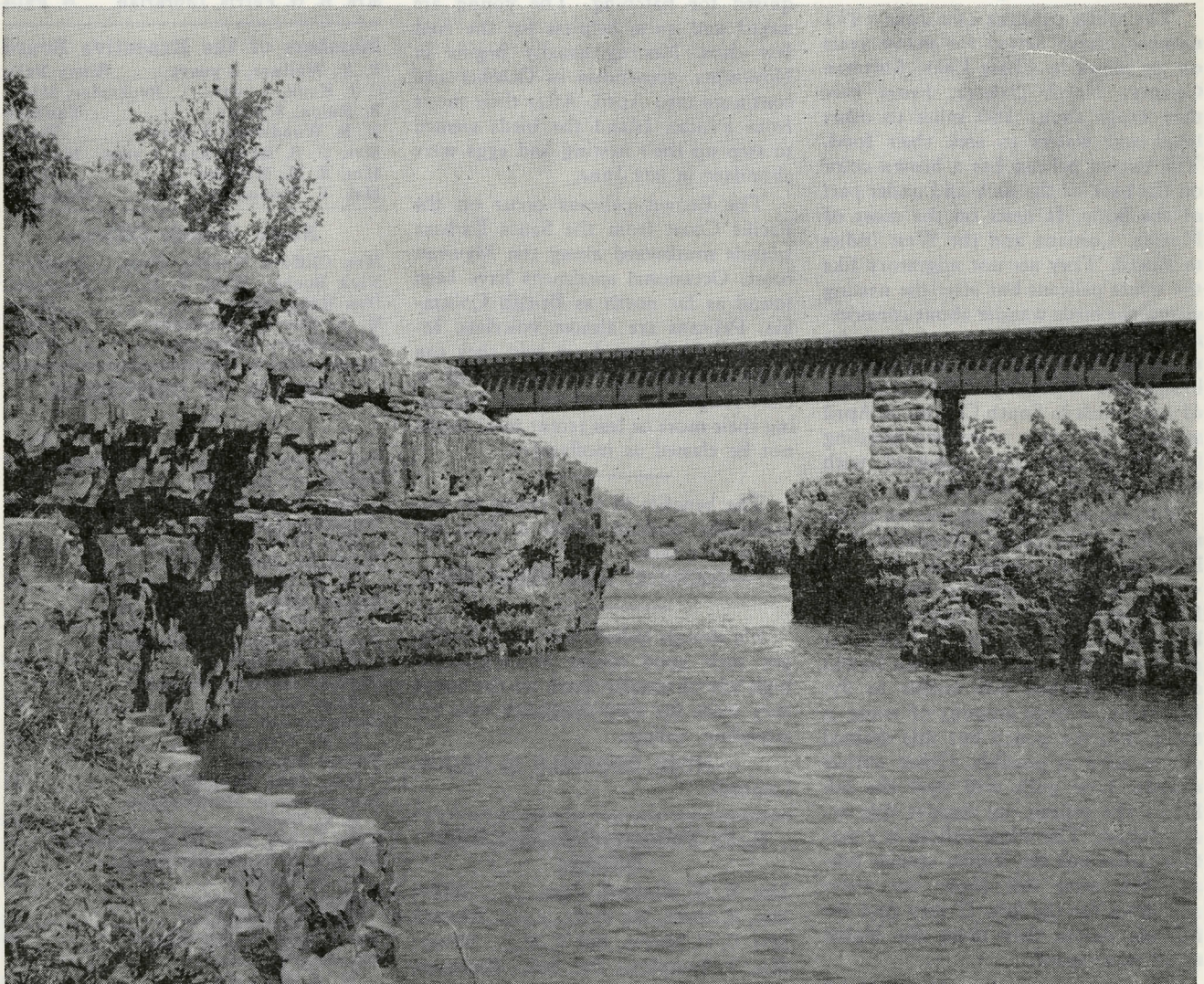
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HORTICULTURE

FEBRUARY & MARCH, 1956



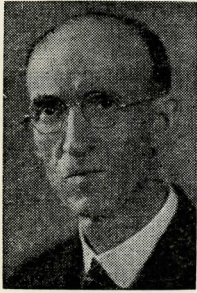
Railroad bridge over river at beautiful Dell Rapids. The center pier is built on a natural island of pink rock in river. Water coming over the dam can be seen in distance.

—Photo courtesy of Mrs. Joe Flamo.

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THE BROWN PELICAN

by
O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

This is another bird which has no business to be in our area but one was reported at the LaCreek Refuge, in Bennett County, South Dakota, by Kenneth Krumm on April 28, 1941, and again April 16, 1955. One

was reported there April 28, 1931, and five in a flock of white pelicans at Lake Oakwood, August 26, 1931.

The white pelicans (see June 1933 number) have nested for many years on an island in Chase Lake, Stutman County, North Dakota. From here they range about 100 miles to other lakes and waters to seek their food. The brown pelican has a brown color on the back of the neck and under part of the body. It nests on the coast of Florida, Louisiana and the West Indies to Brazil. They are not migratory like the white pelicans but after the nesting season the birds wander about considerably and have been recorded as far north as Nova Scotia, Michigan, Nebraska and Wyoming. The occurrence of stray birds in South Dakota in April suggests that these were non-breeding individuals that had migrated with white pelicans or other species.

Pelicans are large birds but on water they float "like corks". Probably their lightness must compensate for the weight of food carried in the pouch. I have not found any figures on this but one writer tells how a bird after picking up the carcasses of two hawks they had skinned was unable to fly. In fishing, a large amount of water is taken into the pouch but this drained out as soon as possible. Other writers describe how gulls will steal the fish before the pelican can remove this excess ballast. The white pelican is a surface feeder but the brown species usually flies some feet above the water and dives for the fish. If they find the fish are deeper they must rise higher to get more speed.

For many years the pelicans nested on Pelican Island, a small area of three acres on the east coast of Florida, north

of Daytona. In 1903 this was made a National Wildlife Refuge. The Audubon Society erected a large sign which seemed to disturb the birds and they moved out. The sign was removed and they returned but later left again and settled on another island about 60 miles farther to the north which was later established as a refuge (without the sign?). This was the only nesting place along the east shore but there were several along the west shore.

The brown pelican often has nested in low trees along the beach. It also nests on the ground, making a low structure of coarse sticks. The eggs are dull white, about three inches long. Three is the usual number, though often only two and occasionally four are found. About four weeks are required for hatching. The young are naked and quite helpless for the first few days. Nesting usually begins in November, sometimes in October and continues into April. After their move from Pelican Island the birds seemed to step up their nesting and eggs were abundant in late June.

The Brown pelicans occur on the Pacific Coast from the Santa Barbara Islands southward along the Mexican coast. Occasional specimens have been found as far north as British Columbia. Pelicans are almost voiceless, inoffensive birds but I am told they can make a vicious jab with the bill at close range and their habit of disgorging their more or less recent meal might not be classed as inoffensive.

The benefits of early rising are immediately noticed when a man sits down on a tack.

—JOURNAL, Eden Valley, Minn.

It's strange indeed that the gals who got such good marks in English in high school usually flunk on the essays they write for their husbands who are attending college.

—HERB BECHTOLD in ARGUS-LEADER.

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FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1956
VOL. 29 NOS. 2 AND 3

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
MRS. E. M. KINDRED



Mrs. Kindred

Mrs. Henry Ford who was an ardent gardener and who left the mark of her hand indelibly upon the grounds of their estate, Fair Lane, has been quoted as having jokingly remarked that at this time of the year

she used a seed catalogue for a pillow.

With as much snow and cold weather as we have had this winter, a comfortable chair in a warm corner with the seed and nursery catalogues, which are arriving daily, to browse through provide unmatched entertainment which our non gardening friends know nothing of.

In our last issue I welcomed two new clubs to our Federation. The Hoe and Hope Garden Club of Webster with Mrs. A. M. Bierschbach, president and the Arrangers Club of Huron over which Mrs. Elmer Olson presides. I want also to extend a hearty welcome to the Agassiz Garden Club of Park River, N. D., with Mrs. H. Long president, the Arnegardners Garden club of Arnegard, N. D., Mrs. O. K. Sovig, president, and the Canton Garden Club with Mrs. Clarence A. Johnson president. By the time our next issue reaches you I hope that I shall be able to report others joining with us.

Many of you know that the Brookings Garden Club and the Petal Pals Garden Club of Brookings extended us an invitation to meet with them in 1956. The dates of our state convention have now been set June 27-28-29. Plans are going forward for a fine meeting with the Horticulture Society, details of which will reach you as soon as they are completed.

At the state meeting in 1955 a department of personnel was established to furnish much needed information to the nominating committee and incoming president in election year. Wont each club president take the responsibility of sending in names of members her club wishes to endorse who are especially interested in our departmental work or who would make good officers. Mrs. John Hagin, Miller

is chairman of personnel and the one to send the names to. This is requested in a sincere effort to more equally space officers and chairmen throughout the districts of the state. The April issue 1955 gave the list of present chairmen

When Miss Laura Sexauer, Brookings, assumed the duties of Treasurer Mrs. Leo Montieth, 320 S. Main, Brookings, consented to act as chairman of the committee in charge of judging the year books. Early indications are that there will be a record number submitted. Is yours among them? Applications for all other awards go to Mrs. L. B. Severance, general awards chairman, 1308 Utah Ave. S. E., Huron, S. D. If you wish information as to how to make application for any of the awards write either Mrs. Severance or myself. Check with the list mailed to you last year which your president will have on file and use until further word comes from our state chairman.

You will find important notice of Course 2 Flower Show School elsewhere in this issue.

If your members have not received their membership cards, which are new this year, will the treasurer check to see if all members have paid their dues and if they have been sent in with a complete list of names, then check with the state corresponding secretary, Mrs. Verne Tompkins, Highmore, who sends the cards out.

The Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency is again planning a most interesting tour at a very reasonable price for Garden Club members of the Rocky Mountain Region. The tour will leave Omaha May 29 with time allowed in Salt Lake City for the National Convention which runs June 4-9. Highlights of the tour will be Colorado Springs, Mesa Verde National Park, the Grand Tetons, the Black Hills and the Badlands with other stops made at spots of interest enroute. For further information, reservations, or folders contact Mr. W. E. Carley Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency, 204 S. 13th St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

By now all clubs have received the annual questionnaire on the activities of your club. Please fill it out and mail it to me at once if you have not done so. That is what I must have from which to make my report to our Regional Director and the National President. Last year all but seven of the clubs returned the blanks well filled

out. Let us make it 100% this year.

If any are traveling either East or South this spring the following may be of interest to you. On May 15-16-17 from 1 p.m.-10 p.m. in their headquarters at 369 Park Ave., Orange, N. J., the Eighth Garden State Flower Show will be held, sponsored by the Garden Club of New Jersey. "Open House" is the theme with a different schedule for every day and a different nearby garden open for tour.

Garden Club of Kentucky will sponsor "Open House in Kentucky," Tour of Homes and Gardens, May 17-18-19-20, 1956. For information write Mrs. H. Alvin Stilz, Chairman R.F.D. 6 Lexington, Kentucky.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 4-9, National Convention, Salt Lake City

April 18-19-20, Course 2 Flower Show School, Brookings

June 27-28-29, State Convention, in Brookings

THE WONDERS OF ST. PETE

by

MRS. C. W. MCNEIL, BRITTON

*To you our dear Mount Rushmore
And our beloved Black Hills of yore
To our lakes of home South Dakota
And our own loved hills of Lac A Teau*

Oh, take us back once more.

We love you St. Pete, and your million dollar pier

And these "Far away places" that beckoned us here

*Oh let us wake up some morning,
Just to see our own Great Plains,
To see the white snow on the prairies,
Our loved ones, and friends so dear.*

To you beautiful By pines, and dear old Tampa Bay

*For you we leave each one a prayer
For our memories will ever be
Of the friends we made while here.*

*Yes Florida you beckoned us
We love your beautiful sunshine state
At these "Far Away Places" we met
We left home sweet home for your St. Pete*

*At your fountain of youth we drunk,
To "Pelican Pete" and memories of you—*

We'll see you again St. Pete.

Written, she explains, while her husband was in beautiful Bay Pine Veterans Hospital, and we were a little lonesome for South Dakota.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by

W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

Horticulture, January 1937 and December 1946:

Like all men who live close to nature, the Indians knew their natural surroundings in most intimate detail. Their education consisted largely in acquiring knowledge of the plants and animals, the geography and geology of their surroundings. Their life was unhurried and an hour observing the actions of a spider or a beetle was considered well spent. It is only natural then that their knowledge of our Dakota plants should be most complete, and that their knowledge, too, of the many uses to which these plants may be put was great. Our own knowledge of these plants, in comparison, merely skims the surface, names and describes and puts them down, and forget them. An apt instance of the accidental discovery, of valuable uses hitherto unsuspected, is the very recent find of a little native legume, *Astragalus rubeyi*, which is creating quite a sensation as a forage plant, although it has been known botanically for fifty years or more as a native of Montana. Who knows but what many more of our humble natives may some time come to have valuable commercial uses? The perennial flax, hardy and drought resistant, is closely akin to the cultivated strains but has a smaller seed.

The Indian uses of plants may be classified into several groups; first, those having value as food; second, those having value in the arts and crafts; third, those having value as medicines.

We shall discuss first the rather wide array of plants, trees and shrubs useful for food and which were to some extent processed or cooked for use. We can, of course, touch on only a few

of the more unusual uses and there are dozens of other plants which the Indians used as food, though such use is entirely unknown to us as yet.

Of the lower forms of plants the lichens from trees, known to the Indians as tree shelves, were gathered when small and soft and eaten boiled. Only those from the ash are avoided as bitter.

The puff ball of the prairie, useful for treating wounds and stopping the flow of blood, in its dry and powdery condition, was also collected early while the flesh is still firm and white, and boiled or roasted just as were the morel and ordinary mushroom.

Another fungus widely used and much relished is corn smut which is picked before the black spores begin to develop, and boiled. It is said to be very good.

Fruits: Besides eaten raw nearly all of the native fruits, including some of which most of us know nothing, the principal method of saving and storing was through drying. Just as the meat and cultivated vegetables were dried and cured in the sun, so too were the wild fruits which they wished to preserve. These fruits were handled in different ways and esteemed for different purposes.

Of course, the native fruits which we ourselves use freely now were all esteemed by the Indians. The buffalo-berry, the June berry, choke cherry and sand-cherry, wild plums and grapes were used in quantities. June berries (Saskatoons) were particularly preferred in their dried state to mix with the preparation of dried meat and buffalo fat, known as pemmican. The wild plums were split, seeded and dried as were the sand cherries; grapes, roseberries and buffaloberries were dried whole and stored. Choke cherries were pounded up in a sort of mortar, stones and all. The resulting paste was moulded into small cakes and dried in the sun. All of these dried fruits were used in stews of various kinds, sometimes in the form of vegetable, broths, sometimes thick with meat, dried fruits used varied with these recipes.

More unusual uses of native fruits refer to the hackberry, the wild ground cherry and the prickly pear. The hackberry-fruit was pounded up and used with meat in stews as a condiment. The first peppers seen by the Indians

were known as "white man's hackberries."

Prickly pear fruits, besides being eaten when gathered, after being divested of their prickles, were also dried and eaten stewed, either dried or fresh.

The wild ground cherry fruits were gathered and dried also, the first figs observed by the Indians were given the same name which applied to these dried ground cherries.

Although the fruits to us seem to be the most important and almost the only native wild food plant, yet to the Indians the other food plants were considerably more important. Many of them were roots, rich in starch and protein, among which the tipsima, pomme blanche or Indian turnip ranked first. This plant, *Psoralea esculenta*, was the main breadplant of the nomadic tribes and was highly esteemed even by the agricultural peoples. Perhaps many of you have dug and eaten this plant in childhood, but I am sure some of you have not. The root is at a depth of 4 or 5 inches, and requires several years to attain good size though it is usable from the end of the first year on. It has very little flavor though palatable when eaten fresh. It is usually dried and braided by its long roots. When required for use it is beaten into a fine white flour which is excellent in soups and stews, and even in place of wheat flour. Some years ago I had some reasonably satisfactory biscuits made from it. It occupied a very high place among food plants of use to the Indians and was gathered and consumed in very large quantities.

Atomic Irradiation of plants to produce heretible changes was pioneered by research workers in Sweden. As a result, four stiff-strawed barley varieties have been developed. Improved varieties of wheat, oats, peas, tomatoes and other crops are also anticipated as the work continues.

The use of atomic materials has been extended to other plant studies such as plant nutrition. Radioactive isotopes, such as P32, have shown the method whereby plant food is absorbed from the soil. Special instruments are used to trace the nutrients in plants and as a result more is known about the effectiveness of fertilizers in crops.

Atomic irradiation is an additional tool for the plant breeder in developing new plant types. It does not replace

(Continued on page 24)

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by
MRS. VERN TOMPKINS



Mrs. Tompkins

First off I'm gloating over the Canton Garden Club, very recently federated, with a membership of twenty-five. Mrs. Homer Bainbridge, Secretary-Treasurer, enclosed one of their program booklets, which sounds like

an interesting year ahead. Their theme is "Landscaping Your Own Home." Club flower is the Petunia, Shrub, Lilac. Special features are 'A Tulip Tea,' A 'Petunia Contest,' which should bring out the best in petunias, and a Chrysanthemum Show. They plan to have an exhibit each month. Mrs. Clarence T. Johnson is Pres., and Mrs. T. A. Pederson is Vice Pres. Happy Garden Clubbing to you, Canton. Keep us informed on your progress.

Mrs. Floyd Kjeldseth, publicity Chairman of the Irene Garden club, sends a summary of their year, which they feel, has been very successful, under the leadership of Mrs. Knud Knudsen. Arrangements are brought to each meeting, suitable to the month, and any explanation necessary given. Under Garden Therapy, Birthday flowers are given to people over seventy years of age, and May baskets are also taken to these people. The giver enjoys this as much as the one who receives them. A plant exchange was held at the May meeting. The Pasque Garden Club, of Wakonda, were guests at the July meeting, and Mrs. Menhold Christensen, of Hurley, was a guest speaker. In August the annual flower show was the main activity. The hi-light of the year, the Hobo Hike, is held in September. Members dress for the occasion, take a basket lunch, and gather material for winter boquets. Sounds like fun! In October a film on Conservation and Animal life was enjoyed. In November election of officers, with Mrs. Harold Jorgenson of Volin elected president; Mrs. Emil Larsen, vice president; and Mrs. Earl Dickerson, sec. and treas. A Christmas party for members and their families was held Dec. 13, with a short program and games, treats and lunch.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 o'clock. Their flower, the rose. Their motto, "To strive to Encourage Civic Beauty."

The Lyons club held their Christmas party at the Oliver Swanson home. Secret Pals were revealed in the gift exchange. Ladies brought gifts for the men also. The evening was spent doing quiz games and singing carols. A pot luck lunch was served. Mrs. Alfred Otterby was hostess to the January meeting, and the new year books were given out. Program topic was "Preparing and Arranging Dried Material," presented by Mrs. Clifford Scott, of Sioux Falls, using dried grasses, seed pods, flowers, cones, leaves and cat-tails, some in natural color, others gilt-ed or painted. Some of her arrangements had been shown at the UN flower show last October. A dessert lunch was served. Mrs. L. N. Brakke sends this report.

Mrs. Robert Morrell sends a report of Pierre Garden Club. At the January meeting, held at the Widdoss home, plans were made for spring and summer activities. In May, a Flower Exhibit, when the public will be guests; in August the public flower show, which is competitive. E. C. Thomsen talked on spring bulbs, and the gardeners planned what to do when the snow is gone. Mrs. Jim Hughes made the "quickie" display, using pine branches and cones, pointed okra, and yucca pods. Sister M. Berthold, recently returned from a European trip, told of many interesting gardens seen there. Club members are proud of the picture and write-up in the National Gardener, of Glenn Martens' cactus garden. Mr. Martens, finding a cactus in a tin can had weathered winter and summer temperatures, planted many cacti on his garage roof, and their blooming has attracted national notice. Congrats to Mr. Marsens! The hostess, assisted by Mrs. Hughes, served refreshments.

Mrs. June Evenson, reporting for the Watertown Garden club, says, "We had our first meeting of the new year and new officers are as follows: president, Mrs. Ross Oviatt; 1st vice president, Mrs. A. Willard Nelson; 2nd vice president, Mrs. Don Little, Castlewood, S. D.; 3rd vice president, Mrs. R. E. Hubbard; secretary, Mrs. R. H. Barnes; treasurer, Mrs. Paul Goodell; librarian, Mrs. Andrew Melham; publicity, Mrs. Howard Evenson; Ways and Means, Mrs. Frank

Biedinger. Among our projects for this year we have our Garden Center which is located in a downtown book store and is open to the public. Our Hospital Flower committee is busy providing special favors for hospital patients. Mrs. Clifford Raymond will be in charge of our Spring Flower Show, and our Summer Flower Show will be in charge of Mrs. Donald Little. These events are bigger and better each year. Our Mum exhibit is only two years old, but already has proven to be a highlight in our year's work. Programs for this year will all be in the form of a workshop. Program topics all deal with some phase of arrangements will be brought to each meeting, and judged!

A member of the Rainbow Garden Club, of Parker, gives names of new officers. They are: Ann Morris, president; Mrs. Curwen, vice president; Leona Jones, sec.-treas. All through the summer these girls save flower seeds, which they package for the school children of the first eight grades. They have about 100 packages. In April a plant and shrub sale, with a tea, is held. This project nets a neat sum. In July a picnic in a public park; in August, a 9:30 breakfast at the McKillop home; in September a booth at the County Fair, which won 1st prize; in November three carloads went to Brookings and went through the Agriculture buildings; in December, a 1:00 o'clock pot luck, afterward making Christmas wreathes for each of the seven churches, the Court House, and the Old People's Home. Arranging demonstrations are held at each meeting. Come again "Just a Member."

Mrs. John Febuary tells of the windup of the year in the Fair City Club, of Huron. They feel that 1955 was a very good year, under the leadership of Mrs. G. R. McArthur. Perfect attendance reports are interesting—Mrs. Eric Dietrich, 3 years; Mrs. John Febuary, 3 years; Mrs. Andy Photokas, and Mrs. Leland Skow, each 1 year. New officers installed were: Mrs. John Febuary, president; Mrs. Henry DeVries, vice president; Mrs. D. V. McDonnell, secretary; Mrs. Erich Dietrich, treasurer. H. C. Elliott of Mitchell, gave an interesting program of slides, and sidelights on his travels. Gifts brought for shut-ins were a part of the Therapy program. At the

(Continued on page 29)

POPLAR BREEDING AT DROPMORE

by

F. L. SKINNER, M.B.E., LL.D.

In northern Manitoba we have two native Poplars, *P. balsamifera* and *P. tremuloides*, the former is known locally as the black poplar and the latter as the white poplar. The Balsam Poplar is a fast growing, upright tree that is easy to propagate and a well grown mature specimen is quite a handsome tree with its deeply furrowed bark and glossy leaves, but its wood checks rather badly and the leaves become so badly infested with rust in some years that the tree becomes defoliated quite early in autumn. *P. tremuloides*, with its white bole is also a handsome tree and the soft white wood takes on quite a satiny finish, but unfortunately it cannot be propagated from hard wood cuttings.

In the hope of securing Poplars that would have as many as possible of the good qualities of our two native species and eliminate their worst faults, I have imported quite a number of Poplar species and have also done quite a bit of breeding work in which our native species were used as one of the parents.

The Dakota Cottonwood was one of the first Poplars I imported and with us it is a fast growing tree but like our balsam Poplar it is very subject to leaf rust, and aphids frequently cause unsightly galls on its leaves. Crossed with our balsam Poplar I have secured hybrids that have so far proved immune to the gall forming aphids and less susceptible to leaf rust than either of the parents and one female hybrid is a very fast grower with nice soft white wood.

P. tristis of Kew is one of the balsam Poplars that is very fast growing, easily

raised from hard wood cuttings and has so far been quite immune to leaf rust even though balsam Poplars growing within fifty feet of it have been badly infested; this is a male tree and I have raised quite a few hybrids between it and our native balsam Poplar. Some of these are very promising trees that show a considerable degree of resistance to leaf rust.

Hybrids have also been raised between this male *tristis* and the female Cottonwood hybrid and an extremely variable bunch of trees have been secured. These are just three years old but have so far been quite immune to leaf rust though a planting of Cottonwood within seventy-five yards has been badly infested.

Imported from Kew at the same time as *Populus tristis* was a male tree of *P. laurifolia* and it too has shown resistance to leaf rust. Hybrids have been raised between this *P. laurifolia* and both *P. balsamifera* and the Cottonwood hybrid mentioned earlier. The latter lot were raised in 1954 and though planted quite close to the rusted Cottonwoods have shown no sign of rust. Unlike the hybrids having *P. tristis* as male parent these were a very even lot definitely showing the influence of *P. laurifolia* in their foliage and twig structure, a few however, have been more vigorous in growth than their fellows. However, two or three years are not sufficient to evaluate hybrids of this kind and it will probably be at least twenty years before we can definitely say that we have secured hybrids that are superior to those now in common use, however the results to date are very promising and I feel that work of this kind should yield useful results.

While at Kew in 1947 I spent some time going over the Poplar collection very carefully. *P. tristis* that does so

well at Dropmore is rather a poor thing at Kew, the winters are too mild for it and it starts into growth so early that it frequently is cut back by late spring frosts. Many other trees from cold continental climates also behave in this fashion at Kew so I concentrated on those varieties that were doing badly at Kew. The ordinary form of *P. simoni* kills back badly at Dropmore and has been discarded and while this form was doing fairly well at Kew there was one form that was no more thrifty looking than *P. tristis*, so cuttings of it were eventually secured and now I have a form of *P. simoni* that is quite hardy here.

Populus Maximowiczii is one of the very large trees of eastern Asia where it ranges as far north as Kamchatka, there I have read, it grows so large that sea going dug-out canoes have been made from it; it has rugose glossy leaves and the gum on the winter buds is very fragrant. Unfortunately the forms of it that I have been able to secure cuttings of have not been hardy at Dropmore but a very similar though smaller tree *P. koreana* is quite hardy here. Possibility *P. koreana* may be useful in breeding work though it has not yet flowered with me.

There are exceptions to all rules and while at Kew I noticed two Poplars that were doing well that I thought worthy of trial in Manitoba; they were tall trees with widely spreading branches and the fact that one of them came from central Asia and the other from northern Manchuria suggested that there was a good chance that they would prove hardy. The one from central Asia, *P. octorabdus* resembles the Cottonwood in the young state and it seems to be immune to leaf rust. The other is *P. songarica* and it also seems to be healthy and quite hardy.

HOME OF *Seeds and Trees That Grow
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YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

FEEDING BIRDS IN WINTER

by
MISS RUTH HABEGER



Miss R. Habeger

With winter upon us we wonder about the plight of our friends the birds. Can we do anything about it? We can, perhaps only in a small and limited way, but for our efforts we will be repaid by many hours of

enjoyment.

Some of us feed the birds in our own yards all year but, if you have not been one of the group, perhaps you have the inspiration to start now. If you do start, don't stop feeding until Spring! Once birds have learned of a source of food supply they may suffer hardships or death if the supply is suddenly cut off before spring arrives.

There are many types of feeders which can be made or purchased. Fortunately birds do not choose between the fanciest purchased type and that made by a Cub Scout. Food will be accepted if placed on a snow-cleared patch of ground, under a brush pile, sheltered area or in feeding trays. Natural shelter from enemies is most important—open areas should be avoided in establishing a feeding area.

If you are just beginning to feed birds, place the feeders away from the house in the natural feeding lanes of the birds. In a matter of a few weeks, by gradually moving the feeder closer to the house, you can have the birds coming unafraid to a feeder outside your living room window. Don't forget the sparrows and other birds who prefer to feed on the ground.

In addition to seed trays, suet holders and "sticks" to hold suet and peanut butter are accepted with relish by many birds. Suet holders can be made of a knotty limb. Cloth mesh bags, such as citrus fruit bags, and rubber or plastic coated wire soap dishes also make excellent containers for suet. If cloth bags filled with suet are suspended from a line or tree limb by a wire, loss of suet to starlings and squirrels can be prevented and the danger of

birds injuring their bills or having their tongues freeze to wire containers is eliminated.

Suet is the most universally accepted of all foods offered wild birds at feeding stations. It is especially preferred by the insect-eating birds which remain here during the winter. Placed in mesh bags or melted and poured in holes in "suet sticks" it will be eaten by blue jays, brown creepers, chickadees, downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers and white-bellied nuthatches.

Among the seeds to supply birds, the sunflower is the most popular and will attract blackbirds, cardinals, chickadees, jays, nuthatches, towhees. In addition cardinals like pumpkin, squash, melon seeds, and proso seed.

Many of the sparrows including fox, song, tree, white-crowned sparrows, white-throated, swamp, juncos, will come to your window shelf if you supply small grains such as buck wheat, canary seed, chick feed, cracked corn, hemp, hulled oats, milo maize, sudan grass, rape, red and large white millet and wheat.

Peanut butter plain or mixed with yellow cornmeal, rolled oats, crushed shredded wheat, corn flakes or other dried cereals will be quickly accepted by blackbirds, blue jays, brown creeper, chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, song sparrows, tree sparrows, waxwings and woodpeckers.

Ground peanuts, peanut hearts, popped corn, black walnuts, hickory and other nutmeats will be eagerly taken by cardinals, chickadees, jays, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.

Bread crumbs, cheese, crumbled dog biscuits, doughnuts, and pie crust will attract blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, and nuthatches.

If temperatures are above freezing try placing lettuce and cabbage leaves, boiled rice, oatmeal or other cereals, hard boiled eggs and milk curd in the feeders.

Sand and fine gravel mixed with food on the bird feeder, particularly when snow covers the ground, are important to supply the grit requirements of birds.

Water, even in winter, should be supplied. While this may appear difficult during cold weather, the heat from a light bulb in a large flower pot with a saucer of water resting on top will prevent the water from freezing.

It is always fun to attract new birds to your feeding stations so why not experiment with additional food items of your own choosing.

Regardless of what types of food you offer birds, do not become discouraged if they do not come to your feeder immediately. Birds are not accustomed to finding food concentrated in one spot and thus require time to become adjusted to finding it all in one place.

Next year, arrange to plant more fruit bearing shrubs which will provide both food and shelter. In your garden leave the old flowers such as asters, bachelor buttons, coreopsis, cosmos, manardas, marigolds, and zinnias standing so they will provide seed for food above the snow. Better still another year, why not make a wildlife planting of sunflower, kafir corn and German millet in a corner of the garden.

Remember if you don't keep food at your feeding stations all year start early in the fall and supply a variety and plenty of food, grit and water in several locations every day with extra amounts in bad weather. Once you have established feeding areas and have the birds as regular visitors, don't stop during the winter months. But then you will receive so much pleasure from your efforts, you won't want to stop.

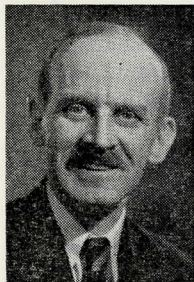


The late Dr. J. H. Schultz (1915-1955).

CARAGANA NOT FOR HEDGES —BUT FOR BEAUTY

by

PERCY H. WRIGHT



Wright

Caragana has no disadvantage as used for hedges, except for the amount of work it entails in keeping the hedge trimmed, and the distance that the roots reach and exhaust the soil. The latter disadvantage can be

minimized by keeping the hedge low, for the roots may at all times be supposed to draw from the soil only the amount that the tops need. There is, perhaps, a third disadvantage, namely, that caragana has been so much used in the west that it has become "common." However, this does not apply to the east, and in any event, it is the fate of all good shrubs. In Ontario, Forsythia, and Bridalwreath Spirea have similarly been overused.

When caraganas are used for beauty, as specimen bushes, the first and most important of the foregoing disadvantages is a disadvantage no longer. A specimen bush, of course, will not be trimmed, but all its flowering wood will be allowed to remain. So treated, a caragana is covered with a mass of yellow bloom in June that rivals the yellow display of the Forsythia in milder climates, or the "Golden Show-er" of the Prinsepia in the prairie country. Even the common caragana is a thing of beauty when it is in full bloom, but the flowers are smaller, and less yellow, than those of some other species. Also, the other species are dwarfer, and so carry their load of bloom lower, where it is more easily gazed upon.

However, to repeat, we must not forget the one point of difference which makes all other differences small, the fact that the dwarfer caraganas do not require to be pruned in order to keep them down to a reasonable height. They can take pruning, of course, and can be kept at a low height more easily than can the more vigorous *Arborescens*—which means, by the way, tree-

like. But if they are not pruned, they do not run away with themselves, and they take on a different shape than any pruned shrub can take. That is, they spread widely at the top, and the flowering wood bears abundant masses of bloom every spring.

The most beautiful of all caraganas, among those which are hardy enough for the north country, is undoubtedly *Frutex Grandiflora*. It has a leaf unlike that of the common caragana, and, like a lilac and like many other valuable shrubs, produces suckers. These suckers are a nuisance, but not an intolerable nuisance. There is a good deal of variation among seedling plants, with some taller than others, more spreading, and with more of the arching habit of growth which is a feature of attraction. The name of the species tells us of its flowers, for they are truly "Grand," larger than others, more than twice as large as the flowers of common caragana, and a deep, rich yellow. *Frutex Grandiflora* might not be a good choice for a hedge, but it is an excellent choice for a specimen bush or small group of bushes.

Another species that deserves much more attention than it has got is *Microphylla*, the Little-Leaf caragana, which grows to only six or seven feet, does not sucker, and has flowers that are superior to those of the common caragana also. Still another species, of the same general type, is *Brevispina*, the Short-Spine caragana, which pleases me even more than does the Little-Leaf species.

However, we do not have to leave the *Arborescens* species in order to find interesting variations in type. There is *Pendula*, a "weeping" form which is usually grafted at five or six feet on a stem of common caragana. There is also *Lorberg's*, which is a Fern-Leaf type, graceful, and non-seedbearing. The *Sutherland* caragana is a very erect growing selection made at the Forestry Nursery Station, Sutherland, Sask., which has been propagated to some extent by hardwood cuttings. Any common caragana plant can be made into a dwarf tree by early and judicious pruning, but this selection, naturally, is the best adapted to such use. To make a dwarf tree out of *Arborescens*, one need only keep all branches off to the height that one wishes to head the tree, say four or five feet, and then let branching occur. The resultant

trees, of which I have seen only two, are remarkably attractive. Such "trees" should be used, I think, as avenue trees throughout the prairie country, and especially where drouth is a major problem.

MANITOBA NEWSLETTER—

(Continued from page 20)

or serve as a substitute for normal breeding methods. Plant changes due to irradiation are usually fixed and will be passed readily from one generation to another. Such changes may be brought about in 2 or 3 generations following treatment in comparison with 8 generations, or more, often required to obtain fixed plant changes by the usual breeding procedures.

Several kinds of materials are used to produce plant variation artificially. X-rays were used extensively at first in Sweden and now the cobalt 60 'bomb' is most popular. The bomb is composed of a cobalt rod that has been exposed in an atomic 'pile' for a specific time to develop desired radioactive strength. In England the isotope P32 is preferred for plant irradiation because of reduced danger to humans in comparison with the cobalt 60 bomb.

Swedish preference for the cobalt 60 bomb is due to its usefulness in irradiating growing plants. As a rule the seed of a plant is treated, but in Sweden research workers think it is better to irradiate at a more highly sensitive stage of growth which may occur when the plant is growing actively. Accordingly, they expose growing plants to a cobalt 60 bomb all summer and in a small circular field that is enclosed by a fence and a mound of earth to keep humans and animals out of the danger zone. In this way the most sensitive stage in the life of the irradiated plant will receive sufficient exposure to produce favorable results. The seed from these plants is saved and planted under ordinary field conditions in the following seasons. The heritable changes are usually expected in the second and third generation after irradiation.

The Swedish research men are confident that atomic irradiation will continue to yield valuable economic plant types. To this end they are aggressive in this distinctive plant development program.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

EXPERIENCE IN HORTICULTURE

by
R. L. WODARZ



Wodarz

Unlike with crabapples, which are rather hard to dispose of even for a reasonable price, there is always a good demand for larger apples. Raising a crop of apples for sale one would want to plant trees with the assurance that they be good yielders first, healthy, hardy, so as to have a life span of at least 20 years, and for best results the trees would want to be set out not too thickly. Let us in our mind plant an acre of the larger apple trees. We will say our acre is a rectangle 10 rods by 16 rods. With the growth of the tree in height, the roots will spread at the same rate. By the time the tree reaches the height of 18 or 20 feet, which is plenty high, the roots have taken up a radius of at least one rod. So with trees of that height there would be only one tree for four square rods. Here in North Dakota, we may not have very much experience of how to run an orchard of the larger and better quality of apples. From the standpoint of a home orchard we have done very well. With the experience I have with the several fruits, if time could be pushed back, I would not hesitate to have a commercial orchard of say some 5 acres. Now as you folks know, I have an experimental orchard of many kinds of fruit which is really a hobby with me. For late, good keeping winter apples, I would set out half the acreage to Haralson. These good sized red apples will keep through March, even longer, but then the fruit begins to break down around the core. In this region I have not seen a tree yielding a heavier crop. My second choice would be the Wedge, and this is a large apple which will keep into winter. The tree gets to be quite large before it begins to bear a full crop, however, it will make up for it later on. There is another variety I would include, one that is not very well known, it's Hansen's Wakpala. This is not a winter apple but it will

keep for some time. It has not an attractive color like the two mentioned above, but it is of exceptionally good quality for cooking and fine out of hand, an early and heavy bearer. The strongest demand comes at the beginning of the apple season.

To supply the trade my first choice would be our old-time, the Dutchess. This fruit is wanted for sauce and pies. A fine early dessert apple would be the Melba; I would plant a dozen of those trees. Melba starts fruiting early and there is a good yield every other year. Charlamoff has been on the neglected list in this region. Mine is 19 or 20 years old, is healthy and produces well of nice red, good sized apples. These would be my standbys, they are all heavy croppers, also they have some eye appeal. Nursery catalogs are coming in with pictures so intriguing that one is apt to get something that may not do well. I have in mind Dwarf apple trees. Authorities agree, our North Dakota climate calls for hardy roots, and these are not propagated on roots that will put up with very cold frozen ground. You may get by with dwarfs providing there is a heavy snow-fall early in the season, or mulch the ground around the tree. Mulching would have to be done every winter. I have the Meteor and Northstar cherry, and this is their second winter. They are very hardy, above the ground but their root system is tender. I mulched them thickly with straw, late last fall. They seem to come along fine, and I may get a few of those pie cherries this summer.

THE ORIGIN AND VALUE OF FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

by

MRS. JOHN BUSHFIELD
*State Chairman of Flower Show
Schools*

Early in the history of Norwich, England the Huguenot weavers there staged a show which they called "Flora's Feast" occurring several centuries ago. Since that time exhibitors have wanted to be told which specimens were most perfect, which decorative displays best filled their purpose—so we have had judges. A few real judges are born but just as all good lawyers do not have "judicial temperament" so do few garden clubbers, un-

trained have the objective approach, the freedom from bias or prejudice and actually the needed knowledge to render fair decisions.

After an epidemic of silly judging, or as a lady from Oregon expressed it, "Oh, my dear, doesn't that simply do something to you", type, the more progressive federations and city councils began to offer courses for judges. They were not standardized, but did discuss principles on which decisions could logically be based. Some of these were fine schools but they varied too much, with the thoroughness and integrity of the persons in charge.

In 1943 National Council began, experimentally, the setting up of uniform matter for interested groups, which would lead to national certificates. Instructional material was difficult to obtain so a committee began putting together a Handbook For Judges which since has become known as "Hand Book for Flower Shows." Constant revision and supplementing keep it up to date.

Each school consists of five courses, emphasizing four fields in all: First, Horticulture, or good growing practices, the requirements of our plants, and the points of excellence which the best growers are striving for; second: Flower Show Practise, which includes the smooth operation of necessary committees, the planning of classes for exhibitors which can be fairly judged, the correct use of terms and the best ways of displaying what we have grown; third: Flower Arrangement, the beautifying of the flower show and more importantly of the home by pleasing design and color combinations; and fourth, Landscaping, enabling us to improve our home pictures and to judge garden competitions.

A school may hold only two courses in a calendar year and those at least four months apart, because students are expected to read and study and to garden between courses, putting into practise what they have learned. The reading list necessary for each course is published in National Gardner and in the South Dakota Horticulture so that the list is available to all whether enrolled in the schools or not and it is valuable reference for any club member.

A testament to the worth of the Schools Program is the number of

(Continued on page 26)

OPEN LETTER TO GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS AND STATE AND NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

by

MRS. G. R. McARTHUR

National Gardener Subscription
Chairman



ARE YOU GETTING THE NATIONAL GARDENER MAGAZINE?

If not—you are missing the added pictures, articles and news of our state, changes in gardening and projects, facts and information or current news of the National Convention in Salt Lake City in June, and many other news items of interest to each of you. Mrs. Arthur F. Langley, the new Editor and staff have made changes in the magazine this past year, for only one dollar you may have it on your book shelf, you cannot afford to be without it.

Do you take your National Gardener to your club meetings and read or have read certain interesting articles and discussions from it? The November-December issue was dedicated to our Rocky Mountain Region—South Dakota is in that region and was featured in that issue. We have several other articles and features of our state coming in the near future, so subscribe at once so you will not miss the next March-April issue. One dollar for one year or two dollars for three years—cheaper than any other garden maga-

zine you can get—yet filled with things you should know about your National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Remember too—that whenever your club has an interesting project—flower show, Junior exhibit or civic activity write it up and send it to me and I will get it in the National Gardener—we all want to hear about your activities.

Have you sent your new Club President Business Manager, Mrs. J. Gori-dent's name in to the National Garden Floyd, Huckleberry Hill Rt. 2, Spartanburg, S. C.? Do so at once, please she will then receive the National Gardener free for one year. The retiring club president should then subscribe for her own magazine, keeping her file concurrent. The magazine makes a nice gift to the officers by the club or president in recognition of their efforts for the club. South Dakota is very near the bottom of the National Subscription list, so please send in your subscriptions at once, so that we may have a better report at the National Convention.

Subscriptionally yours,
Mrs. G. R. McArthur,
Huron, S. D.
State Subscription
Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS—

(Continued from page 25)

graduates who contribute time and effort, as instructors in many cases with only reimbursement for major expenses so that schools may continue.

While stressing the educational benefits readers should also be told that the schools are fun, that every student has enjoyed new friendships and the opening horizons of beauty. State conventions are regular reunions of those who have formed friendships in schools. Judging takes one to many beautiful exhibits we would otherwise miss, gives us new ideas for our own gardening and for our clubs and is richly rewarding in lasting satisfactions.

It is always permitted to audit the courses without taking the examinations, but we are more attentive listeners, more careful readers if we expect to be tested and a student has her corrected papers for reference afterwards. All this is slanted particularly towards the education of competent judges and

towards the improvement of shows but many graduates will list incidental values which have been of great worth to them, such as the putting to work the knowledge of design and color theory to improve home and clothes as well as their gardens. In summing up the values we might express it thusly: the schools give us the urge to create more beauty, and the ability to receive more pleasure from it. What could be a better incentive?

COURSE 2 FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SCHEDULED

Course 1 of our Flower Show School was again offered in Viborg, December 6, 7, and 8 with 11 garden club members taking the examinations and a number of others auditing the classes.

This school has been especially interesting to us as some of our own state judges qualified as instructors. Mrs. George Jorgensen of Dell Rapids taught Flower Show Practice, Mrs. Menholt Christianson of Hurley taught Horticulture and Mrs. Francis Nelson of Hurley instructed in Flower Arrangement. The results of the examinations and the comment sheets prepared for each instructor by the students show that they did an excellent job and were highly recommended by the National Accrediting Chairman.

Course 2 to be taught by the same instructors will be held in Brookings on April 18, 19, and 20. Anyone who has missed Course 1 may start with this course if she so desires and pick up the first course at a later date.

The required reading list is as follows:

Corsage Craft—Noble and Reusch, price \$3.50; Design in Flower Arrangement—John Taylor Arms, price \$3.50; Wild Flowers for Your Garden—Helen Hull, price \$4.95; Review, Care and Feeding of Garden Plants (required now for course 1), price \$3.00; Woman's Home Companion Garden Book—Wister, Chapters 39-40, price \$4.95.

All of these books may be obtained through your book service at National Council Books Inc., Box 4298, Philadelphia 44, Pa.

If there is additional information that I might help you with please feel free to write me at any time.

Mrs. John Bushfield, Flower Show School Chairman, Miller, S. D.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

The first part of my vacation trip was by car to Sioux City, and after a few days there, by train to Chicago and Skokie. There seems to be a gradual increase of contour plowing and terracing. In the dome car, from Manilla to Chicago, is a wonderful chance to study the farming methods of Iowa and Illinois farmers. I stay out of the nerve-racking traffic as much as possible, although the people travel back and forth here daily. But I make the annual visit to the Garfield Park chrysanthemum show, and the stock show. The mum show for the month of November in both Garfield and Lincoln Parks conservatories is the best place for school classes, and the public to study all sorts of tropical and other plants. The stock show is considered the biggest show on earth. The big business firms of Chicago sure go all out for the farm youths of this nation, and give them everything good, including hundreds of scholarships. The corn belt is moving a little east, as an Ohio man has been champion for the past two years. Indiana has won it many times, and Iowa once. Canada is always tops in grass and grain seed, peas and beans. A 4-H girl again won tops in fat champion steer and many other youngsters won many other prizes. But the blow that seems the hardest is the disappointed youngsters whose pet stock does not even get into the ring, for lack of room, over 100 were weeded out the first day of the show. North Dakota Department of Agriculture was absent the first time in years, but there were many fine grain exhibits. One of the best exhibits to attract a lot of attention, was from Lyman County, S. D., put up by the county agent, Mr. T. W. Stachan, at Kennebeck. Listed as "State and Lyman County Extension Service," it consisted of 96 panels 3 feet high and 5 inches wide, of grassland plants with notation "Protect the good, destroy the bad," but does not include grasses

like foxtail or sand bur. It labels the seven poisonous plants with a red tag, Snow on the Mountain, Princess Plume, Cockle bur, Death Camas, Chock Cherry, Loco and Water Hemlock.

He also shows 6 wild sages, some I think are packaged and sold as garden sage. There are 24 wild legumes that should be protected. This was an attractive show covering a wall space 8 feet high and 60 feet long; it is being shown at many big gatherings. Kochia, Mr. Beebe's fire weed, made a very nice green funnel and marked it as coming from Europe, and the late Mr. Parmley, of Ipswich called it Chicago Fire weed. But I am quite sure the history of this weed is first reported as being shown at the Columbian Chicago Exposition in 1893, as specimen plants at the Mexican Exhibit. This date and Columbian Exhibition reminds me of the bronze medal I showed the judges as being the first award for corn grown in Dakota territory. I helped pick out this sample of corn that later in the winter I helped haul to the Pierson feed lot four miles west of Yankton where the Gavins Point dam is now located. Snow and cold all the way from Chicago to Richland, Washington. From Chicago northwest to St. Paul is really a thrilling ride in one of the five dome cars on the Empire Builder. Through northern Illinois, Wisconsin and over 300 miles along the historic, scenic Mississippi, before darkness compels you to

retire. There is a big painting in each of the fine ranch diners that is a real study of cowboy ranch life, also the best painting of the builder Jim Hill that I have ever seen. About 35 bridges span the Mississippi between Illinois and St. Paul. Darkness overtakes us long before we reach St. Paul so we leave the dome car for our sleeper and sleep all through North Dakota, and have breakfast in eastern Montana. All day's travel in this fast train and it is again night before we leave this big state of Montana. On the summit of the divide, which is Glacier Park, all is disserted, quiet, only deep snow and here the train takes a decided dip down the western slopes of the rockies. At Richland, Wash., they have had more snow, and all before the winter started, than is normal for a winter season. All kinds of fruit is badly damaged, in the fruit belt of Oregon and Washington. Christmas is a bright warm day and snow all gone. In Oregon, the first three Sundays, are birthday parties. New Year's eve the music strikes up "Happy birthday to you" and all join in. A week later the eight Wallner homes in five states are booked up at 4 p.m. Pacific time to sing Happy Birthday, then a week later another party is arranged 50 miles west of Portland out in the wilderness, here in Kay-Lou Acres the three water wheels had to be repaired; also the windmill and dams needed much work done. More trails, beauty spots and shrines added to Grotto Park.

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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.

BELLINGRATH GARDENS

by

MRS. CARL METZGER



Mrs. Metzger

*"O! What a beautiful morn-
in!
O! What a beau-
tiful day!
I have a comfort-
able feeling
Everything's com-
in' our way."*

Thas is how we felt one morning in late February when we passed through the gates of the Bellin-grath Gardens. The mocking birds were singing their hearts out and Old Sol was shining with all his might on this enchanting garden. The Bellin-grath Gardens are located near Mobile Bay, about twenty miles south of Mo-bile, Alabama. In the early nineteen hundreds Walter Bellin-grath bought a sixty acre tract of land, an untamed, semi-tropical jungle of live and water oaks, stately pines, tamaracks, hollies, magnolias and cedars, using it for a fishing lodge. A few years later, Mr. and Mrs. Bellin-grath began to realize that this was not enough so they dreamed a dream of a garden with winding trails of colorful flowers and shrubs, a garden to set off this virgin jungle, a garden which would be a joy and inspiration to all flower lovers for all time. Several trips to Europe to study world famous gardens were made and then the dream in time became a reality. Many years of loving care and intelligent planning, and arduous labor brought about an old-world atmos-phere to this "Charmed Spot of the Deep South."

The house itself was built of bricks from an old hotel in Mobile. When the sailing ships of old returned from Europe they came laden with flag-stone blocks as ballast. These were used to pave the streets of Mobile. Mr. Bellin-grath craved them for his paths throughout the gardens so he re-paved the streets and had his flagstone paths. These paths have directional markings

to insure to the many visitors complete coverage of the gardens. They are bordered with seasonal flowers and dwarf shrubs, by rock gardens with their running water and luxurious ferns: these in turn flanked by crepe myrtles, camellias, dogwoods, sweet olives, double white flowering spireas, and oleanders; and back of all the gorgeous mag-nolias, the magnificent moss-draped oaks. Words cannot express the grand beauty of this earthly paradise when the azaleas and camellias are blooming concurrently. We saw one camellia bearing four different colored blossoms. We rounded a corner and saw an aza-lea, 112 years old, fifty feet in diame-ter. We then came upon a beautifully terraced grotto; round another curve we followed a path leading down to Mirror Lake. There we stood on a lit-tle foot bridge and feasted our eyes on the reflected masses of camellias and azaleas. We looked across a greensward that served as a foil to the floral and tropic splendor, enhancing its appeal. We watched the black and white swans greedily feeding on the sub-surface vegetation.

Then we crossed over the little bridge and followed more intriguing trails which finally led us back to the house. There we thrilled over the lily-pool and the Mermaid Fountain and looked and looked again at the plant-ings of dwarf azaleas, Easter lilies and deep red hybrid amaryllis. The lovely home is beautifully furnished in a har-monic color blending of deep Aubus-son rugs drapery and paintings. The family dining room, completely glassed in on two sides, with floral plantings inside and out, gives a heart-warming view of the riot of color in patio and terrace and of the Mirror Lake below. Only stopping at the gates for lunch we wandered again and again through the winding trails, each time seeing some new beauty we missed before or some vista we must enjoy all over again. Finally we paused to rest by the lily-pool and to read and copy a poem engraved on a plaque. It seemed to us to be a perfect description of this magic garden. On second thought, per-haps the garden is the poem exempli-fied. So many garden lovers have asked for this poem so here it is picturing that long ago dream of the Bellin-graths.

GOD'S GARDEN

Dorothy Frances Gurney

*The Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And set there an angel warden,
In garments of light unfurled,
So near to the peace of Heaven
The hawks might nest with the wren;
For there in the cool of the even,
God walked with the first of men.
And I dream that these garden closes,
With their shade and sun flecked sod,
With their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.
The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a Garden
Than anywhere else on earth.*

PATHE OF GLORY LED ONLY TO THE GRAVE

by

MARY LOUISE KINYON

*'Twas the night before Christmas—
with tinsel and lights
Mother and Dad made the Christmas
tree bright.
Then stacked all the gifts—wrapped
up in red
Tired but happy they tip-toed to bed.*

*The children sneaked down—stary
eyed and spell bound
Left packages there—never making a
sound.
Morning dawned—so bright and clear
All through the house folks were filled
with good cheer.*

*Packages opened—squeals of delight
Happy tears glistened—making eyes
very bright
Later the turkey, with trimmings, and
pie
Everyone ate till they thought they
would die.*

*'Twas a right merry Christmas
All seemed to agree
Merry that is, except for the tree—
It died.*

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS



Simmons

Although the holidays are past, some of our members can still remember the bad dreams they had of a white Christmas, only to wake up to find the dream was a reality, and immediate action with a snow shovel was necessary. In sending in his dues, Mr. Chas. Furois, one of our good friends at St. Onge writes: "Our weather has been good for the past two weeks, but we had an ordinary winter in November and December, but not too much to complain about. Soil conditions are about normal for this time of the year and our crops the past year not too bad. Of course we could have used more moisture." Mr. Seth M. Hulburt, formerly of Rapid City, now of Eugene, Ore., in sending in his dues, writes: "We got 19.50 inches of rain in December, and 5 inches, so far in January. It broke some records; but that is what records are for. There was no inconvenience here. We took a look at Detroit Dam the other day. It backs the Willamette river up 14 miles and holds one-third million acre feet; it wasn't full yet. But some of the other creeks didn't have a reservoir and did have a mess. We don't try to have basements here but there is plenty of water, easily pumped for the garden. This is a flat valley, but at another location Grandson David remarked 'they had mountains all over the place. We didn't have any hot summer but did have a good garden and fruit again.' A letter from Richard P. White, Executive vice president of the American Nursery Ass'n. says in part: "I am calling your attention to the current emergency, brought about by the unusual spread of the Gypsy Moth in the northeastern states over the past 2 or three years. This unusual spread into New York, and now down into New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was brought about by the hurricanes of 1953 and 1954., which blew this infestation over the barrier zone that had been suc-

cessfully maintained in western New England and eastern New York for many year." The remedy to put them out of business entirely in this country is said to be aerial spraying with DDT at a cost of a dollar per acre. They are now trying to get Congress to appropriate the money to have this done, and are soliciting our help among the members of our Congressional delegation. In sending in his dues Mr. M. Hardin, of Geary, Okla., writes: "Was cooler here than normal last season, too much rain in May & June, not enough in July and August. Eleven inches of rainfall last week in September and first week in October. Wheat yield poor, feed and row crops fair to good. Early gardens good, picked up to 60 ripe fruits at one time from tomato plants. No fruit, peaches etc., it was killed. Last September I visited some interesting spots in the south, from the Mountain top city of Ashville, N. C., to historic old Charleston, S. C., where long Spanish moss hangs down from the trees. Visited the church that Geo. Washington attended but didn't see George. Glad you are still going strong. Why doesn't someone inform the Health Authorities that the Dakota Horticultural Society members stay young." A good suggestion; it might up our membership.

The fine program for the 109th Annual Meeting of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, to be held at Cleveland, February 15, 16, and 17th has just come in, and if any of our members are in that vicinity, it will pay them to attend. Among the 24 questions, sent in to be answered at the meeting is: "What is the best material to control grasshoppers in the orchard." Was a little surprised at this question as we have always thought grasshoppers were our own little playmates, and had no idea Ohio was also afflicted with them. One of our big landmarks, the Queen Bee flour mill burned to the ground on the evening of January 30, with the mercury at -5. Started in operation in 1881 and damaged some by the flood of that spring. our section did not produce enough wheat to keep such a giant mill busy, so it only ran a few years. Since then it has been used as a warehouse, and the cause of the fire is a mystery, as there were no wires in the place, nor any heat. It was built of our Jasper rock, four stories high. We will miss this old landmark. We were much re-

lieved at getting Mr. Wallner's article from Portland, Ore. From the accounts of the great amount of rain, in that section, we had feared he would be all wet. Still single, the widow's haven't got him yet, but he will have to be careful during this leap-year.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS—

(Continued from page 21)

January meeting plans for the year were discussed. The theme for this year will be Conservation. Mrs. DeVries, Program chairman, spoke on "What is Conservation," and showed some interesting pictures. Mrs. Andy Photokas presented a "quickie" arrangement of dried materials. A lovely azalea and a poinsettia were on display. Mrs. Peter Pollock is the lady who can keep them from year to year. The club is continuing their column in the Huronite each Sunday.

The Sunshine Garden Club, Highmore, enjoyed their annual family potluck supper in November, with a very good attendance. Officers installed were: President Bertha Christensen; Vice President Nellie Coates; Sec. Mrs. Dan Sunding; Treasurer Mrs. P. G. Matre. Ina Tompkins installed the officers with a candle lighting ceremony, and presented each with a gift. Films of Carl Starker and some of his arrangements were shown. Mrs. Zilverberg, Program Chairman, outlined the program for the year and distributed the program books. The Christmas party was held at the home of Mrs. Frank Cermak, with Mrs. Schuyler Hanson assisting. Mrs. Arthur Reher presented a Christmas program, assisted by Mrs. Gertie Salmon and Mrs. Vern Tompkins. A collection was taken for the Sioux Falls Children's Home, and a gift exchange finished the evening. The annual Christmas Lighting contest was held, with prizes being awarded for Commercial, Indoor, Outdoor, and Churches. Mrs. H. H. Hartshorn, Mrs. Henry Wilson, and Mr. Wade Pringle were the judges. Mrs. John Eckstein was hostess to the January meeting, assisted by Mrs. Geo. Sporer and Nellie Coates. Seed catalogues were on display; roll call topic was "Common and Botanical Plant Names"; Mrs. Frank Melbourne and Mrs. P. G. Matre discussed vegetables for the home and garden.

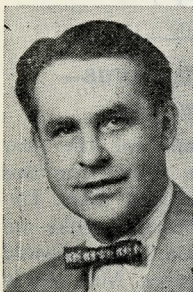
(Continued on page 30)

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

by

LEONARD YAGER

Horticulturist, Montana Extension Service



Yager

The late winter months are a good time of the year to prune apple and crabapple trees. Since the first five years of growth of a small tree is the time when pruning is most important, intelligent pruning during this

time will aid in developing a tree with a strong, sturdy framework. A well developed tree will be able to stand the rigors of weather better, and will be capable of bearing heavy crops of fruit without breakage of limbs and branches.

It is always advisable to purchase strong, one-year-old whip trees to establish the new orchard. If these are not available, then a two-year-old, branched tree would be second choice. But do not buy older trees because they do not transplant as readily and may already have developed bad crotches.

When the young one-year-old whip tree is planted, cut it back to a height of 24 to 30 inches. If an older tree is planted, remove as much as 50 percent of the wood. Do not cut it back indiscriminately, but rather, cut out weak branches right back to the main trunk. Make clean cuts, and do not leave stubs. The branches which are to remain can be cut back to a strong side bud. The wounds of young, pruned trees do not have to be painted over if they are less than an inch in diameter.

In the prairie sections of the state, it is desirable to train the young tree to branch fairly low to the ground to avoid sunscald injury. Sunscald comes as a result of training a tree to a single trunk. The sun beating on this trunk, especially in late winter, causes sap to rise prematurely and a subsequent cold spell will cause freezing and splitting of this bark. A tree that is trained to branch fairly low to the ground suffers less from sunscald injury.

The most desirable method of pruning and training is the development of

from three to five strong scaffold or supporting limbs. Any branches which develop from the main trunk at too acute an angle should be removed. Leave only those which develop strong U shaped crotches with the main trunk. As soon as these main scaffold limbs have been selected, the main leader is removed and cut back to just above the last of the scaffold limbs. This method of training is commonly referred to as the modified leader method of pruning and it has been found most practical for apple and crabapple trees. The trees are lower headed than those in which the main trunk is not cut back. The tree does not grow as tall and thus spraying, pruning, and harvesting are made easier.

Remember that if the trees are given proper pruning during these first five years, little pruning, except some corrective pruning, will be necessary during later years. An excellent USDA publication on the subject is "Pruning Hardy Fruit Plants," Farmer's Bulletin 1870. Your county agent will have a copy of this for your information.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS—

(Continued from page 29)

The Community Garden Club of Miller met with Mrs. Natalie Basinger January 24. Year books were distributed, and the club decided to enter a float in the 75th anniversary parade next June. Dr. Pangburn was present and gave a report on the history and needs of Crystal Park. The club voted to contribute \$75.00 to beautify the park. For the program Mrs. Porter talked on "Corsages" and Mrs. Mildred Breeding presented an article on "Dish Gardens." Mrs. Burrell Collins is the reporter.

"It pays to get back of your members and push, if you want to get action on a project" said Mrs. Joe Flamo, president of the Dell Rapids Club, after a count of attendance showed fourteen members of the club present at the annual Regional meeting at Hurley, seven of those being active participants in discussions, point judging, as speakers, or with entries for the exhibit. The club was also active in the UN Flower Show held in Sioux Falls, which was viewed by 1,000 visitors, including John Cabot Lodge Jr., U. S. representative to the UN. Senator Francis Case devoted several second of

TV time to praise of the show and the part the Dell Rapids Club played in it. Mrs. Milton Shrepel, Madison, says, "Christmas deserves preparation weeks ahead of time, and to be remembered a long time afterward," as she presented her "Christmas Ideas" to the Dell Rapids club in November. Fifty pieces of holiday decorations were made by Mrs. Shrepel, ranging from simple package wrappings to magnificent wall crescents and wreathes; ideas for every room, as well as door swags, and something for the mail box. It was most interesting because members could adapt many of the ideas for their own use. For the annual Christmas pot luck family supper, entertainment consisted of colored slides showing the spectacular lighting effects in the world famous Plaza, in Kansas City, Mo. The slides were taken by Deane L. Jorgensen, after a home in that city won the prize for the most beautifully decorated home in America, and the photography shows a professional finish and breath taking beauty. Past presidents are not "forgotten people" in this club, for they were especially honored at this time when each was presented a "Club President's" pin, in recognition of their service to the club. Ten past presidents still reside in Dell Rapids, four elsewhere. One of these, Miss Edna Shreve, Seattle, Wash., is still a member of the club. Only one is deceased since the club was organized more than 23 years ago. The Christmas lighting contest attracted 25 entries this year, the most ever recorded, and was won by the Methodist Church, the rural home of Fred Anderson, and the home of Leslie Nelson. \$15.00 in cash was distributed among the winners, judging being on the basis of artistic effect, originality and suitability. This report comes from Nita Jorgensen, one of the powers behind every undertaking.

We are happy to hear from some clubs from whom we had not heard before, and are hoping to hear from some more new ones next time. Be seeing you.

A garden is a magical thing—a paradise, a sanctuary; to the weary a place of rest where cares flee away and life's sorrows are soothed and the rainbow of hope announces the dawning of a new day.

—Mrs. R. S. Sears, in THE KANSAS GARDENER

NEWSLANTS

by
HARRY GRAVES



Graves

Lawrence Welk, and friends, continues to dominate the TV scene. High praise has come from national magazines and millions of fans across the land. Especially loyal are fans in the Upper Midwest. Our personal

interest was warmed when we learned, Myron Floren, the accordionist, is a cousin of one of my best friends. They were schoolmates at Roslyn, S. D. No one in the Welk band is busier, or seems to have a better time than Johnny Klien who plays the drums. Johnny also hails from Strasburg, Welk's home town. Buddy Merrill, the teen age banjo and guitar player, is sensational. His audience appeal is increased by his youth and unassuming manners. As we forecast a few months back, dishwashing and other routine household chores grind to a halt at 8 p.m. on Saturday nights. Social-event weary husbands have a fine argument for staying home.

The International Foreign Youth Exchange Program has brought many interesting young people to our shores. Nicolas Hadjimarkos of Thessalonica,

Greece, came by my office to exchange Horticultural information. Nicolas is the son of a Market Gardener in Thessalonica. They operate a 15 acre garden. Twenty acres is considered a large operation. Tomatoes, eggplant, strawberries, onions, garlic, green, shell and dry beans, peppers, pie pumpkins and cucumbers are some of the crops grown. Their growing season is a bit longer than ours. It normally runs from about March 15 to October 1. coldest temperatures get down to 5 to 10 degrees below zero. Recent winters have been milder, with little snow. Land areas are measured in "stremas." Four stremas equal approximately one of our acres. Irrigation is pumped from shallow 30 foot wells by gasoline engines. Electric power is on the way. Prior to 1950 this water was lifted by horsepower. Apricots, pears, cherries and mulberries are some of the fruits grown. Any errors that turn up in these comments can be traced to the fact that Nicolas spoke English with difficulty; Greek language is hardly my native tongue!

Jack O'Lantern is the name of a new pumpkin designed for the Halloween trade. Ninety-nine percent of all pumpkins sold at retail are for this spooky event, according to Northrup King who has introduced this variety. This pumpkin usually stands nine inches high and is about eight inches in diameter. This supports my contention that the best pumpkin pie in the world is made from Buttercup squash, anyhow!

Mrs. William Buesch likes Window Box tomatoes for eating fresh.

Martin Johnsons of Sheyenne Gardens, West Fargo, likes Pathfinder, a yellow chrysanthemum, from the North Platte, Nebraska, Experiment Station.

N. D. No. 523 mum, given as a premium in 1954 by Dr. Schultz, of N.D.A.C. Horticulture Department, bloomed beautifully for Mrs. Gib Lindvig of Williston. It grew well but didn't open a flower for us in our back yard garden.

Mrs. Joe Candrian of Regent has a red Dianthus growing in the foundation about their home that looks very much like the Shadow Valley variety to my erratic eye. She purchased it originally as a houseplant, but it has thrived for several seasons outdoors.

"Topics for Garden Club Programs" is the title of a booklet for sale by Mrs. J. A. Harley of 502 West Oak Street, Enid, Oklahoma. Cost, \$1.00 postpaid. Write her for more information.

Spencer B. Apple is an appropriate name for the new head of the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State College. Apple succeed Henry Hartman who has reached retirement age. The new department head is a graduate of Texas A & M and Washington State College.

According to a recent issue of the NDAC Botany Newsletter, a new edition of "Minnesota Trees and Shrubs" has been published under the name,



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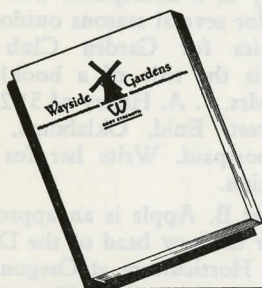
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"Trees and Shrubs For the Upper Midwest." The title indicates that this reference is also useful for Wisconsin and the eastern Dakotas. University of Minnesota Press has it. Cost is about six dollars.

While on the subject of books, I note where "Crabapples for America" by Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum is for sale at two dollars. It can be obtained from the American Assn. of Botanical Gardens, 1632 Chestnut St. Philadelphia 3, Pa. Ornamental flowers, edible fruits, and ornamental fruits are some of the headings under which the several varieties are grouped. They are also listed as to origin, description and source of supply.

An ornamental vine that caught the eye of a great many folks at the Great Plains meetings at Brookings last August was the red Trumpet Vine, *Bignonia radicans*. I find it listed by the Earl Ferris Nursery of Hampton, Iowa this spring. This is a very striking vine. I can't vouch for its hardiness, but it was thriving as far north as Milbank, S. D. It is at least something for venturesome folks to try.

Preliminary plans are afoot for our June meeting at Maddock, N. D. The

meeting will be held on the campus of the Benson County Agricultural School. An attempt will be made to target the date so the Annual Flower Show held in Maddock each June can be held in conjunction. This calls for some canny long range guessing. Folks who bring their own bedding have been offered the facilities of the dormitories at the Benson County School for little, or nothing. Maddock also has a very nice, though small, hotel.

My health continues to improve—if anyone is curious. According to my doctor, my weight has not reached its least common denominator—yet. But, he works away at it! At least, I have never enjoyed food so much. Everything, most, tastes good when one is always hungry. Good health is a possession to be appreciated. I am thankful mine is as good as it is. Hope you are the same.

He started out as an unwanted child, but he overcame the handicap. By the time he was 19 he was wanted in 24 states.

—ARGUS-LEADER

BOOK REVIEWS

by

MRS. R. G. FERRIS

Better Homes and Gardens Garden Book, Second Edition, Meredith Publishing Company, Des Moines, Iowa, Price \$3.95.

Basic information on gardening that will be a help to you in any region in the United States. By planning in advance, you will have a better garden. This book will inform you in plenty of time what to do each month, each week, through the changing seasons year after year. This *new* edition gives information on the new plant foods, pesticides, power mowers and the like. The ring-binder format permits adding pages. The book is in twenty tabbed divisions, beginning with lot planning—how to use your space, lawns, continuous bloom comes with planning, roses, shrubs, evergreens, vines, pools, shade, how to plant walls and banks, tools, soils, vegetables, fruits, window gardening and many more. Hundreds of pictures show you how to do it. The colored pictures are beautiful. A wonderful gift to your garden, or to a friend's.