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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1956



Another View of the Needles of the Black Hills of South Dakota

—Photo furnished by the Chamber of Commerce of Rapid City

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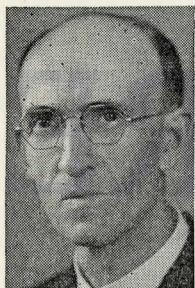
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THE SAGE THRASHER

by

O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

This is a western species on which the Dakotas have only slight claim. It inhabits sagebrush plains, nesting from southern British Columbia east through Montana and Wyoming, reaching northwestern Nebraska and from there southward to northern New Mexico. Its winter range seems to be chiefly in Mexico, in general from the southern edge of its nesting range southward.

The bird is a little smaller than our brown thrasher but the two inches or so difference in length is mostly in the tail. The general color is more gray than brown but the under parts are marked with large dark spots much as in the brown thrasher. The outer tail feathers are tipped with white and the bill is rather short and straight.

Saunders considered the sage thrasher a rare bird in Montana though he had a number of records. Bent quotes reports from Medora and Stutsman County, North Dakota, also Stanley County, South Dakota. Potter reported that some birds appeared in southern Saskatchewan about 1933 and nested through several years.

Nests are made of course twigs and lined with finer material. They usually are placed on the ground or only a foot or two above it in sagebrush or other low shrubs. The four or five eggs are about an inch long, spotted with brown on a dark blue or greenish blue ground.

The birds feed largely upon grasshoppers and other insects. One writer from Nevada, stated that the bird was nearly equal to the meadow lark in destroying both adults and eggs of the mormon cricket. In alfalfa areas they fed extensively upon the alfalfa weevil. On the other hand, the birds have a fondness for fruit and sometimes do considerable damage to grapes, blackberries and raspberries.

Description of bird songs is difficult at best and an attempt to translate that reported by some other writer may not provide much satisfaction. One feature seems to be that of more nearly continuous song as compared to the interrupted phases of the brown thrasher. Dr. Wetmore described it as beginning something like a grosbeak but becoming more intricate, "reminding one of the improvisation of some gifted musician, who, apparently playing at random, brings forth tones that follow one another in perfect harmony."

COMMERCIAL SANTA

by

MARY LOUISE KINYON

A gay old bird—with a big white beard.

*Dearly loved—yet slightly feared
By the very young—as they shyly try,
To get what they want from this queer old guy.*

*Mother standing fondly by—
Urges as she winks her eye.
Tell Santa—Sonny—what you want
About the big red e-l-e-PHANT.*

*The sleigh, skates and skooter too.
Cat got your tongue—what's wrong with you?*

*But Junior stares with big round eyes
His chin then crumples and he cries
So this is how he is led away.*

Poor Santa surely earns his pay.

A radio listening-preference survey required that the answers had to come from male heads of households. The survey got off to a fast start, but then was called off abruptly. Answering the question, "To whom are you listening now?" the first 7 men replied, "My wife."

—THE FARMER

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY GRAVES



There are times, I am sure, when Editor Simmons must be on the brink of a nervous breakdown over my tardy copy for this column. I always have an alibi—some of them are pretty good. startled by my wife tearing the month of October from the calendar. Hope they make it. The notes will be fresher if they do!

From somewhere, there has turned up a copy of the recommended Fruit List for 1926. Just 30 years ago. I was surprised to find Trail on the recommended crabapple list. I didn't think it was that old. Haralson was only recommended for trial. Pixwell gooseberry was conspicuous by its absence—as I recall Pixwell and its two sister seedlings were still being tested under number. The Red River tomato was among the new things offered for trial. Bison had not yet arrived.

Included in the same historical packet was a copy of our Horticultural magazine for July 1931. One article included was, "Home Again," by A. F. Yeager, who had just returned from Iowa State College where he had been doing graduate work. In his notes he observed that he had found one grower in the Fargo area with 60 acres of onions; he reminded folks to quit cutting their asparagus on July 1, he further noted that the 11 year old Anoka apples had all winter-killed during the winter of 1930-31. He felt

that they owed no one, since they had been bearing since they were two years old. On a field trip in the area, he noted that Juneberries were a big crop. George Will was president of the North Dakota Society in 1931. E. L. Shaw was Treasurer. The Vice Presidents were unfamiliar names.

Dr. O. A. Stevens reviews an article on Crested wheatgrass in N.D.A.C. Botany Newsletter for November. He points out the Fairway strain of Crested wheatgrass has been recognized as a new species and given the scientific name of *Agropyron cristatis-forme*. The Fairway strain has been used extensively on the plains for dry-land lawns, either alone or in combinations with other grasses.

Garden Tours to foreign lands seem to be something new under the sun. I have an attractive folder before me promoting a tour to the Orient. This tour is sponsored by the Horticultural Societies of Ontario and Massachusetts. The tour leaves New York September 15 and returns there October 29. Total cost \$3320 plus 51.85 tax—if anyone is interested.

W. E. Brentzel, Plant Pathologist with the N.D.A.C. Experiment Station has found that Merion bluegrass is susceptible to common stem rust. The rust involved is the same rust that attacks wheat and other cereal crops. Other strains of bluegrass can be damaged by this rust, but they seldom are as severely damaged as Merion. To keep this report from becoming longer, Brentzel does not recommend Merion bluegrass for North Dakota lawns.

Entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture have found promise of several systemic organic phosphorus chemicals for the control of spider mites, says a recent issue of the magazine, Park Maintenance. Results are preliminary so far, but as systemics these chemicals are absorbed into the sap stream through the roots, or foliage of the plant. Once the chemical is dispersed throughout the plant they kill any mite that pierces the leaves or stems and tries to feed on plant juices. I hope someone puts something together pretty soon that will put the run on those little red stinkers. While they are especially bad on evergreens, they affect a great many other plants.

Sixty-five farmers in Richland County have planted apple trees this

past year in connection with a fruit planting program directed by Verne Kasson, Richland County Agent. Size of planting varied from 5 trees to 30 trees. Kasson was assisted in the demonstrations that preceded the planting, by R. L. Wodarz of Wyndmere and Norman Devick of the Soil Conservation Service. A total of 415 fruit trees were planted in the county. Richland is one of the most favored counties for fruit growing in North Dakota. The intent is not to promote commercial fruit growing, but the establishment of good home orchards. The team of Kasson, Wodarz and Devick are well qualified to assist folks in this program.

Two of the most striking roses seen this season were a Paul's Scarlet climber in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Burt Idso of Fargo. While no one took the time to count the blooms, there were times when there must have been from 300 to 400 out at one time. These roses are taken from the trellis in the fall, wrapped in burlap and covered with flax straw. The other rose was a tall species growing in a yard that fronts U. S. Highway 52 in Sabin, Minnesota. This rose has greyish-green foliage and hundreds of small pink blooms in June. It has been tentatively identified as a cinnamon rose and has been growing in the M. C. Malchose yard for many years. Very striking when in bloom. Suckers a bit too much to suit some folks.

"Under Glass" is the title of a Bi-Monthly publication dedicated to greenhouse problems. It is listed as The Home Greenhouse gardeners magazine and costs only \$1 for two years. The address is P.O. Box 114, Irvington, N. Y. It has been recommended by one home greenhouse owner.

The Canton Redwood Yard, Inc., Minneapolis, has an excellent circular on ornamental fences. They recommend the use of Redwood—as you might expect, and suggest many styles. They have kindly offered to let us use a few representative designs in a circular we have prepared on ornamental fences. Your local lumber yard may have this circular since the Canton organization has several outlets in this area.

The Augustine Ascending Elm discovered by the late Archie M. Augustine in 1947 continues to be in the

(Continued on page 139)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. E. M. KINDRED



Mrs. Kindred

Dear Garden Club Members:

As I write this late in October, it seems early to wish you a Merry Christmas, but with the combined issue for November and December this is my last opportunity to do so.

On the anniversary of His birth may you have the gladness of Christmas which is Hope, the spirit of Christmas which is Peace and the heart of Christmas which is Love.

At this time of year many clubs are electing new officers. Some have already notified me of changes. It is absolutely necessary for me to have the names of new officers as soon as elected and when they will take office so that I can send an accurate list to the National Gardner. Only in this way will your president get her copy on time. Please do not delay.

There is another reason why I would like to have the names of new club presidents. There have been so many requests for a complete directory of names of board members and clubs and club presidents. In this issue you will find the first half and in the January issue will appear the names of all clubs and their presidents. All names must reach me by Dec. 28, if you have elected new officers recently. I am sure that you will want to see your club listed correctly.

Our state treasurer urges that clubs try to send in dues at once and for all members at one time if at all possible. A list of members, names must accompany the check, also the names of the officers.

Those who took part in the Plant testing program will soon receive a request with a final questionnaire to fill out and return. Let's make this final summary 100% and consider whether you would like to have another such project next spring. A report will be published as soon as all answers are tabulated.

I would like to call your attention to the rules for National Awards on

page 22 of the September-October issue of the National Gardner. Perhaps there is something there that you might qualify for.

There is always a first time for everything! District 3, of which Mrs. Andy Photokas is director realized that achievement when they met on October 20 in Huron. On October 2 a fine meeting of District 5 was held in Centerville, planned by the retiring director, Mrs. Francis Nelson. This is the fourth meeting for this district. A successful course 4 of our Flower Show Schools with Mrs. John Bushfield state chairman and Mrs. Eugene Whitmore local chairman in charge, was held in Brookings in September. The Petal Pals Club of Brookings sponsored a two-day workshop October 16-17. Look for more complete reports of these achievements elsewhere in this issue. Congratulations to all who are so ably helping to carry on the work of our federation.

We hope to be able to announce our state scholarship winner in the next issue of the Dakota Horticulture.

Have just had word that the Mitchell Garden Club will hold their Holiday Show on December 10-11 in the National Bank of that city.

How is your supply of inspiration? Do you have lots of it? Are you filled with joy and eagerness and dynamism? Or are you lethargic, apathetic when it comes to participation in your garden club work? Has your inspiration, your enthusiasm run down?

Here is a thought that has proved a help to me and I would like to share it with you. "I will not let the shadow of yesterday mar the beauty of today, nor will I let the contemplation of tomorrow mar the beauty of today. This is my day."—Anonymous

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Garden Centers and Visiting Gardens—Mrs. Andrew Melham, Watertown

Flower Show Schools—Mrs. John Bushfield, Miller, S. Dak.

Parliamentarian—Mrs. W. E. Drummond, Sr., Dell Rapids, S. Dak.

Birds—Miss Ruth Habeger, Madison, S. Dak.

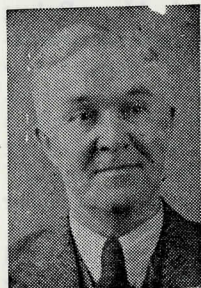
(Continued on page 137)

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by

W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

Golden Jubilee of the Manitoba Agricultural College was celebrated at the University of Manitoba June 21 and 22. When the college first opened its doors to students, on November 6, 1906, it was estimated that three-

fourths of Manitoba's population were occupied in tilling the soil. Great change has come during the intervening 50 years but high public esteem of that institution of learning has continued to grow. With a growing concentration of acres devoted to crops and live stock husbandry new and varied problems arise. To keep herds and crops healthy and productive, fundamental research has been expanding widely at the University. Graduates of early years were very happy to witness vital projects under way all over the farm acres. The laboratories are skillfully manned and in full activity.

The two-day commemoration teemed with interest. Many early graduates met some of their fellows for the first time in forty years. Happy memories were recalled. Class parties proved particularly intimate and enriching. However, most of the returning sons of the college derived top gratification at the evidence that the Manitoba Agricultural College is very much on the forward march. Standards are high in the classroom and in fields. The zenith of enthusiasm came when Dr. T. J. Harrison, of Carman and Winnipeg, first student to enroll in the autumn of 1906, turned the first sod for the ultra-modern new Agricultural Research and Administration Building, being supplied by the Manitoba Government. Fittingly, he passed his spade over to the last man to graduate in May, 1956, Mr. R. J. Tjaden of Sperling. Youth has the task of carrying on the good work to still more impressive achievement.

The staff of the Morden Experimental Farm enjoys paying homage,

thanks and congratulations to the Manitoba Agricultural College of the University of Manitoba. Although some of the technical officers graduated in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Great Britain and British Columbia, most of the local scientists won one or more degrees at what they fondly call the "M.A.C." Through the years the College has supplied many helpful students to aid summer field work at Morden. The wholesome partnership is fruitful for all concerned.

The YEAR 1955 in Southern Manitoba has been one mostly of plentiful harvest. Precipitation was three inches above the long-term average. The notable wet months were June and November. August was dry with only one-third the usual rainfall. At that time lawns burned and crops ripened rapidly. Springtime came early. A frost of 14 degrees on the morning of May 8 did severe harm to some fruits and many ornamental trees, shrubs and plants. Strong winds May 5 and 29 and June 13 caused drifting of top soil and injury to some plants.

Cereal crops yielded well but somewhat less than the average for the last 5 years. Hot, dry weather in August proved adverse, lowering the yield and lessening the plumpness of berry. Late seeded barley was damaged by aphids. Late flax was disappointing. Oats gave satisfactory yield. Grass hay was rather light, but the second cut of alfalfa was heavy.

Sunflowers and corn both yielded well above average. The new Beacon variety of sunflower occupied 62 percent of the acreage. Rust was not a problem. The Morden corn hybrids, No. 74 and No. 77, were seeded on 50 percent of the corn acreage and performed well.

Fruits all suffered from the May 8 freeze. Bloom was early in response to a warm April. Little crop came from apricot, Nanking cherry, pear and tender grapes. Some varieties of apples and plums bore a full crop. Mongolian cherry, or *Prunus fruticosa*, produced abundantly. Raspberry bushes suffered slight to severe killing fruiting canes. Their light crop was lessened further by hot drying weather during harvest period. Two diseases, fire blight and scab, were unusually troublesome.

Vegetable crops thrived. Early cool weather crops were plentiful and of

rich quality. The hot, dry summer depressed late cabbage and celery. Warm weather crops, including tomatoes, melons and sweet corn, had a banner season.

Tomatoes were commercially canned for the first time on the Canadian prairies by Canadian Canerns, Factory 43, Morden. The average field yield is reported as 15 tons per acre. Canned beans and corn were of choice quality. Potatoes were rated as fair to good.

Ornamentals suffered considerably from the one spring frost, May 8. Among the notable sufferers were French lilacs, Hybrid lilies, and some peonies. Most shrubberies bloomed well and in late season were generously arrayed with fruits and seeds.

The late July and August weathers retarded herbaceous perennials. September rains stimulated late varieties. Autumn asters and chrysanthemums flowered fairly freely until October 24.

Merion No. 217 Kentucky Blue grass was the superior lawn, maintaining a dark green healthy sward from spring until freeze-up.

Herbaceous Perennials: The following are some of the perennials considered as valuable accessions for prairie gardens during recent years:

Asters or Michaelmes Daisies: Janet McMullen, Plenty, Peace, Eventide, and Winston Churchill from Great Britain and Prairie Eventide, a rich pink on short plants from F. L. Skinner, Dropmore.

Delphinium: Pink Sensation, a D. Nudicaule hybrid received by way of Holland. Flowers are a distinctive soft pink, produced from July into October. The plants, about 2½ feet tall, are fully hardy.

Carnation: the hybrid variety, Shadow Valley, with bright crimson, perfumed flowers, is showy from late June until heavy frost.

Monarda or Beebalm: Croftway Pink and Sunset are improved varieties.

Helianthus or Sunflower: Loddon Gold, received from Holland, is esteemed for its large very double, zinnia-like, blooms in late summer.

Chrysanthemum Maximum: Three superior introductions, Cobham Gold, Wirral Supreme, and Mount Shasta are choice double forms of Shasta Daisy. These usually need mulching for winter protection.

(Continued on page 139)

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. VERNE TOMPKINS



Mrs. Tompkins

Thanks to the Centerville Country Garden Club for the lovely program book. I really enjoy these different books. Just received their list of new officers. Mrs. John O. Hanson is the newly elected president; Mrs. Edward Nelson, vice president; Mrs. Richard Lindvall, treasurer, and Mrs. Melvin Snoozy, secretary. I have just sent them sixteen membership cards. Thanks to Mrs. McMurchie and Mrs. Snoozy.

Mrs. Burrell Collins, reporting for the Community Garden Club, Miller, says that the September meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Ralph Porter with Mrs. E. C. Danburg co-hostess. The club voted to give \$15.00 toward the main entrance gate, and \$15.00 for grass seed for Crystal Park. Mrs. Myrtle Warren reported on "Foods which attract winter birds." Mrs. Wm. Herried reported on "How to treat and plant fall bulbs," and Mrs. A. B. Crossman gave a book report on "Wings at my Window." The October meeting was held at the Fred Warren home, with Mrs. Louis Hemmingson assisting. Results of election are: president, Mrs. Maude Jamieson, vice president, Mrs. Robert Dixon; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Louis Hemmingson; historian, Mrs. Robert Dixon. For the program Mrs. Helen Swaney talked on "Chrysanthemums" and Mrs. Kindred showed varieties of chrysanthemums from her yard. Mrs. Robert Boldt talked on "Roadside Parks in South Dakota."

News from the Dell Rapids club, from Nita Jorgensen, in which she says, "In spite of drought and discouragement we had three successful flower shows, and more special programs and events than ever before. The first flower show of the season was the most exciting and far-reaching, with 150 guests coming from three states to hear Miss Fumiko Okamura, at the annual Tulip Tea. Miss Okamura's beauty and charm, as she dem-

onstrated Japanese line arrangements, endeared her to everyone. June brought our standard show, Royal Salute to the Peony, with its special classes for student judges from nearby cities. The annual Peony Trophy was won by Mrs. Alvin Anderson, with a blossom which had been kept under refrigeration for over a week. August 11th, another judged show "Country Life," amazed visitors because of the fine display after weeks of drouth. Named hemerocallis, arrangements of wild flowers, and the spectacular lily, Jillian Wallace, were stars of the show. Extra meetings and workshops began in April with the annual Arbor Day Hopa Crab tree sales to the public; a bird hike along the Dells, with Miss Ruth Habeger as leader, was an event which will be repeated. "Let's See How Our Neighbors Do It" was the educational tour when club members were guests of the Sioux Falls Garden Club; a Ceramics workshop brought out fourteen members in August. A workshop was planned for October, when Miss Bessie Pettigew of Flaudreau, was to teach Winter Corsage and wreath making. Garden Club members from Dell Rapids have participated, either as listeners, or actively, in National, State, and nearby events, as follows: Sioux City Garden Show; Kansas City Flower Show; Judging School 2, at Brookings April 18-20; School 2, in September; National African Violet Show, at Minneapolis; State Convention; State Flower Show; Nat'l Hemerocallis meeting, Omaha; District Convention at Centerville; lecture on Contemporary Settings, Sioux Falls; and at flower shows all over the state. A Garden Symposium and two panel programs have been very successful; "Background for Beauty" with sub-topics, "Perennial Treasures from Seed," "Team-mates for Flower Borders," "Picture Planting for Windows," and "Lawns Form the Frame." Mrs. Oscar Berg, Mrs. Lester Thoreson, Mrs. Lyman Merry, Mrs. U. S. Earls and Miss Mary Lyng prepared the topics. A panel on "Keeping Up with Science" had speakers, Mrs. H. N. Dybvig, Mrs. James Nesby, and Mrs. Henry Speh, on the topics of "Drugs for the Garden," "Nature Gets a Speed-up" and "Foliar Feeding." Another panel program was on 'House Plants to Live With,' with Mrs. Marion Moseman, Mrs. Edna

Krause, and Mrs. L. J. Anderson participating in "Fashionable Foliage" "Care of Gift Plants," and "Fluorescent Lighting." "Preserve Summer's Bounty for Winter Beauty," by Mrs. Ernest Greening and Mrs. Robert Merkley, was an enlightening demonstration on the use of Nature's material for winter beauty in the home. An open meeting in July brought a number of guests to hear Mr. J. Scott Findley's talk on "Winged Friends" and to see his lifelike slides of water birds and their homes. End of quote. If we all had as much pep as the Dell Rapids girls we'd really "be on the gardening map."

At the October meeting of the Lyons Garden club a talk on "Artificial Flower Corsages" was given. Several corsages were on display using feathers dried material and ideas for Christmas corsages, using small cones and evergreens. An interesting paper was read on "How to grow evergreens." The following officers were installed: Mrs. N. C. Beadle, president; Mrs. LeRoy Benson, vice president; Mrs. Alfred Thompson, secretary-treasurer. Plans were made for a party to be held in Sioux Falls November 14, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the club. Thanks, Mrs. Brakke, for this report.

The Rapid City Garden Club met at the Canyon Lake Club House in September with 31 present. Mrs. Frank Ferguson and Mrs. Carl Reinhold made coffee. The business meeting was held following the dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson, who live east of the city, are new members. Mrs. Johnson is an iris enthusiast. Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Snapp, Whittier, Calif., were guests. A Halloween Costume Party was planned for the October meeting. John Atkinson acted as auctioneer, for the fall plant sale, which was held after the business session. Many plants, vegetables, jams and jellies were offered for sale and the proceeds amounted to about \$23.00. Thanks to Flora K. Jeffries for this report.

Thanks to Mrs. Olaf Olson for the following news of the Crooks Rural Garden Circle. A flower show was held September 6th with a nice display of flowers. Nita Jorgensen judged the show. Family Night was held September 28th at Fenn's Fountain Room. The postponed September

(Continued on page 143)

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

EXPERIENCES IN HORTICULTURE

by

R. L. WODARZ



Wodarz

It seemed, because our horticultural meeting was held in June, that we would not have our fruit show this year. But, thanks to Eric Sochting, from the Northwest Nursery, who was at the Maddock meeting, advised the folks there, not to lapse this fruit exhibit, so it was voted to have our non-competitive show the last week of September at Valley City, it being the most opportune time to exhibit fall and winter apples. The growing season of 1956 will be remembered by its spotty moisture condition, and this showed its reflection on the fruit exhibited, where copious rains fell the fruit, especially the apples, showed good color and size. A goodly number of plates were labelled as "unknown," with the understanding, of course, to identify the variety. Any of the standard varieties of apples that the nurserymen were selling the past years, and if the trees were favored with good growing conditions, it is not difficult to place the right label on them. On the other hand, under

drought conditions, the fruit may be small, poorly colored, insipid to taste. So, under these circumstances, to place them is rather difficult. The best clue, I find, is the shape of the individual subject. This has been our fourth annual exhibit, the first one we had at Mandan, the second at Wahpeton, then at Dickinson and now at Valley City. This show was held in a large room upstairs in the City Hall. Some 300 plates of fruit were shown, apples played the prominent place, but there were also plums, pears, grapes, strawberries and even peaches that grew and ripened in the state of North Dakota. We must remember that none of the fruit exhibited was grown outside of this state. It was a great treat to all of those who came to see this exhibit. We were pleased at the remarks overheard: one lady climaxed it all leaving the room, "I have not seen anything better out west." Here is hoping that at future exhibits we will be able to draw on many more influential personages like our legislators and other high state officials, to see is to believe. The reader, by now, must be wondering about those two plates of peaches exhibited by Ernest Kapaun. Besides the two plates he brought a good sized paper bag full of them and some dozen of us sampled them and pronounced them excellent of flavor. At Maple Valley Gardens, near Alice, N. D., Ernest has a fair-sized peach tree, which, in late fall, he boxes up and puts straw bales around this to protect it from the below zero weather. There were a number of seedling ap-

ples exhibited. Arnold Nagel brought some; so did Franklin Page. This is something that I think we should encourage. We remember how the Delicious apple was discovered, and how slowly the nursery men were sold on it. By far the most of the newest varieties as well and seedling sorts with known parentage were shown by the Northern Great Plains Station. Ernest George, Wm. Baird and his assistant did not spare time and effort to get this done. Some early maturing fruits had to be kept under refrigeration.

It may be of interest to some readers to know the names of many of the exhibited, each one of those as mentioned before were grown in the state of North Dakota. Most were grown from the ground up, others as top grafts. McIntosh, Milton Wealthy, Webster, Victory from top grafts. The following from the ground up: Kendall, Fireside, Prairie Spy, Haralson, Minjohn, Wedge, Red Sauce, Adno, Oxbo, Currie, Atlas, Manitoba Spy, Jetro, Longfield, Patten, Antannovka, Watts, Hibernial, Flame, Stephens, Malinda, Sweet Mac, Osman, Chestnut, Rescue, Lyman's prolific, Custer, Dolgo, Yeager Sweet, Red River, Mercer, Whitney, Northwestern Greening, Rosilda, Oriole, Mortof, Ivan, Russian White, Carmel, Bismarck, Melba. And there may be a few more that my memory does not recollect. I happen to think of another, Minnetonka Beauty, only patented fruit shown, patent No. 474 in 1941.



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BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

WRITE FOR OUR 1956 FALL LIST

SOME EDIBLE DAKOTA WILDINGS

by

MRS. FANNIE M. HEATH

(From a manuscript by the late Fannie Mahood Heath, formerly vice-president of the National Horticultural Society. Sent in by her daughter, Pearl Heath Frazer.)

Perhaps you would like to know what plants you could safely use as food if you were lost on our great prairies for a few days. Your menu would certainly not be extensive or exceedingly delectable. There is little to be found that is edible in early spring either on the prairie or in the woods.

I have never tried the prairie menu, but I know from actual experience that the woods have little to offer at that time. Several of my brothers and sisters and I walked all day once in the woods in southern Minnesota. We had breakfast but took along no lunch. When we became hungry we ate Wild Leeks, Basswood buds, the little fresh shoots of Raspberries and Gooseberries, the fresh, new leaves of Dandelions, some wild grapes that were still hanging on the vines, new sprouts of Wild Mint (*Mentha arvensis* or *canadensis*), and Puttyroots (*Aplectrum*). We reached home very tired and hungry and vowing never again to try living in the woods so early in the season. No one was ill except one brother who had given his Puttyroots to a small brother who would not eat the wild Leeks, and the older brother had eaten a double share of the wild Leeks. The Basswood (*Tilia americana*) buds and the peeled shoots of the Raspberry canes were the plants eaten in greatest quantities. The Basswood had not come into leaf at that time and the buds were plump and good. If we had been fortunate enough to find them we could have eaten the tubers of the Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*.) The *Apios americana* (Ground Nut) roots that are relished by most boys and girls did not grow there and we had never tried to eat the bulbs of *Erythronium albidum* (White Fawnlily) at that time, although I have since learned that they are often eaten by children.

On the prairie one may eat all kinds of Wild Onions or Alliums. In some places the wild Strawberries (*Fragaria*

virginiana) are very plentiful. They vary considerably in size and sweetness. A variety which grows in the woods has pointed berries, much smaller than those of the prairie plants. Man with his plows has reduced the number of wild strawberries greatly.

One may eat the honey bearing spurs of the *Aquilegia* or *Columbine*. The fat pods of the *Astragalus crassicaucus* or *caryocarpus*, (Ground Plum) are also relished by many even when eaten uncooked, and have a taste much like a pea pod. These plants have been called Squaw Plum, Squaw Apple, Snake Eggs, and Buffalo Grape. They are not easily mistaken for any other plant and are among the plants that nearly everyone notices.

In strawberry time one may also find Juneberries (*Amelanchier alnifolia*.) In the United States it has been called Serviceberry, Shadberry, Prairie Blueberry, and Wild Pear. On the Canadian side it is known as Saskatoon. This is the name that was used in the Chippewa language, it is very distinctive, and seems to be the most popular for a common name.

Psoralea esculenta. Breadroot. Called Tipsin by the Indians. This is not a very pretty plant but always attracts attention when its story is told. It was the most highly prized vegetable of several of the Indians of the Great Plains. The tuberous, thickened roots. The tuberous, thickened roots were the parts used. These roots are rarely more than three inches in thickness and four or five in length and are covered with a thick, woody covering that, when slit down the side, peels off like a banana peeling. The Indians peeled, dried, and stored them for winter use. With their crude implements the harvesting of these roots must have required much patient toil as it is difficult even with good tools to dig them from the ground.

These roots were eaten both cooked and uncooked by both the Indians and some children of the early settlers. The plants grow from 10 to 18 inches high, and the entire plant is covered with silvery, silky hairs. The pale blue and white blossoms are in dense, furry clusters. When the seeds are ripe the stems break away just below the surface, leaving no trace of their location, so the roots should be harvested before this happens.

The stems usually have from one

to several branches and Indian tradition said these arms pointed towards other plants. The little Indian children were told to search for them in the directions indicated. These plants never seem to be plentiful so it is fortunate their footwear was more comfortable than ours. These plants are not difficult to grow in the home garden. They require a well drained, sunny location, soil not too heavy and made porous by the addition of a small amount of very fine sand. Care should be taken to mark the spot so the roots will not be disturbed after the tops blow away. *Taraxacum officinale*. Dandelion. Introduced from Europe. I remember that my mother told of walking three miles in southern Minnesota in 1859 to pick Dandelion greens and that when she reached her destination so many others were there to gather the greens that it looked like a picnic. Many people, including my parents, carefully lifted the plants, took them home, and transplanted them. The botanical name is from the Greek and refers to the medicinal qualities of the roots. Many people have used dandelion greens in early spring or have made a tea from the roots for medicinal purposes. Some gather the leaves when only a few inches high and eat them raw with salt, pepper, and a little vinegar. Others prefer a cream salad dressing. I eat them just as they grow. If eaten when the leaves are small the taste is not so bitter.

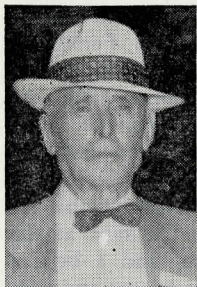
Amphicarpa bracteata (*Falcata comosa*). Hog Peanut. This plant is not beautiful but I have it in my garden for the sake of the pretty Indian tradition about it. It is native to many parts of the United States. The vines are slender, the scattered leaves thin and bean-like. Short racemes of pale purple, inconspicuous blossoms are followed by short pods containing a few, small, mottled beans. Near the ground are many nearly colorless, very slender, leafless vines growing out from the base of these upright vines, bearing tiny, self-pollinated blossoms. These push into the ground and are followed by a single bean about the size of a lima bean, just the color of the soil. The beans resemble little chunks of dirt so much it is hard to find them. When soaked in water for a short while the outer covering peels off leaving a nice white bean of a

(Continued on page 143)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

Oct. 9th. First killing frost this morning, so last basket of nice Hybrid tomatoes brought in yesterday, will be the last for this season and the stores have been asking 19 cents per pound for imported tomatoes.

Oct. 17th. The September moisture map for the state shows Minnehaha county the driest spot east of the Missouri river. The five counties bordering on Minnehaha all had more moisture and the 13 counties west of the river all had more moisture for September than Minnehaha county. Only the three southwest counties had less moisture for the month. Some experts seem to think I should have added sulfur to the soil where I set my evergreen seedlings, as the non-acid soil is not for seedling transplants from the far west. They say that Sioux Falls granite will become so hard in 3 or 4 thousand years that even a diamond drill will not faze it, also it may bulge out so much in that time as to make the earth lop-sided so as to change the movements of the earth and also alter the seasons as we have known them, a very safe prediction to make, as they will not be around to have their predictions proven wrong.

Oct. 25th. That "something" the doctors and others tell around has finally put me out so I have not been at the stand for the first day since opening. I am wondering how the young girl from Sioux Falls College made out at last night's Pageant. She was a long time picking out two gourds for the Indian princess, but when she made her selection, they did not rattle, so she could not use them. I offered to let her use a painted one brought back from Hawaii years ago, but she said "I need two," so I suggested a baby rattle or a Butternut squash with a handle like a gourd,

even though it did not rattle as the other gourd could make noise enough for the two. It was a big problem for the student and I did my best to help, so I am anxious to get the report, when she returns the rattling gourd. In looking up papers for my daughters scrap book of my writings, I find one very interesting in the bound volume of the 1935 through 1938. It was when we met the Great Plains Official Horticulturists at Watertown, and escorted them down to Brookings, all over Sioux Falls and our gardens and back to the Cataract Hotel, where I had planned my sixth banquet of produce from my garden. This was the menu: iced honey rock cantelope, new 14 rowed Soo Hybrid sweet corn, creamed small Sweet Spanish onions, new whipped Ohio potatoes, all red Ruby and Golden Bison tomatoes, Savoy cabbage slaw with red and green, and Anoka apple pie. I received much praise for the small cost of the dinner, and it kept us going till we got to Ames, Iowa, for another big dinner and another day's inspection of fruits and vegetables, and other horticultural plants. In Garden notes of November 1929, I write "Now we enjoy the vegetable oyster most, prepared four ways, creamed, breaded, escaloped or in soup. For the best root plant, what changes have come over us. In April 1930, I tell of setting posts for the two rows of Beta grapes, Max Pfeander wanted me to plant my 40 acres to grapes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

(Continued from page 132)

Slides—Mrs. R. G. Ferris, Rt. 3, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

Horticulture—Russell Rulon, Yankton, S. Dak., Rt. 2 Box 271

Blue Star Highway—H. N. Dybvig, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.

REPORT OF FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course III of Flower Show Schools was held in Brookings on September 27, 28 and 29. Classes were held in the Horticulture building of South Dakota State College. We are very grateful to the college for the use of the room, also the flowers and plants they let us use for the judging classes.

Dr. Jesse Rawson of State College taught the Horticulture classes and Mrs. Fern Irving of Omaha had the Flower Arrangement and Flower Show Practice.

Thirty-two garden club members sat in on the classes, with sixteen of them taking the exams. We also had six of our accredited judges taking the course for their refresher work.

We hope to have Course IV set up for the later part of this spring, also to be held in Brookings, and hope that all the students keep up the good attendance. We are happy to report that so far the fees paid by the students have been sufficient to pay our expenses.

—MRS. JOHN BUSHFIELD, Chr.

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ABOUT PROGRAMS

by

ALICE PLATT



Alice Platt

It has been some time since I talked with you in this column, but I saw many of you at the State Convention, and have had correspondence with several of you since. I truly intended to have something in the last issue, but the flu virus prevented it and caused me to miss Course III of our Flower Show School at Brookings. I am happy to hear that so many attended. I understand that the course was very interesting and informative, but the exams were not easy. I was very sorry to miss it, as I am especially interested in color. I did most of the required reading, and right here let me recommend "Color in Flower Arrangement" by Adelaide B. Wilson as a source of program material. It is nice for all of us, even though we do not take the Flower Show Courses, to know something of what our judges are learning, so as to be able to understand their language and to raise the standard of our shows. This particular book is available from our State Horticultural Society Library, or may be ordered from National Council Books Inc., Box 4298, Philadelphia 44, Pa., as may all the books on the required reading list for the Flower Show Courses. I feel that all clubs will benefit by having some of these books in their libraries, and by incorporating them into their programs. Another

book that should be of interest is "Japanese Flower Arrangement" by Allen, a required book for Course I. I believe a list of required Flower Show reading is in the hands of every club, but it can be obtained from Flower Show School Chm., Mrs. John Bushfield, Miller, S. D., or from me.

Since the convention I have mailed to every club president who did not pick hers up at the convention, a copy of "Progress Through Perfectly Planned Programs for Garden Clubs," compiled by our National Chm. of Club Programs, Coreen B. Bryant. It contains a wealth of suggestions, and in most cases gives reference for material. Beginning on page 50 are suggestions for programs on Horticulture, Conservation, and Courses of Study in Landscape Design. On p. 56 is a list of booklets and papers loaned free to affiliate clubs; also a list of slides and sources of films available.

We have much material closer home. I have talked with Dean Martin, Extension Horticulturist at State College, who since has sent me a copy of S. D. S. C. Film Catalog. I will mention a few which I think good material for our programs: Birth of the Soil, of the Living Earth Series, 10 min. \$2.00 rental; Conservation of Natural Resources 10 mn., \$1.25; Everyman's Empire, about National Forest conservation, 18 min. \$.65; Flowers at Work, animated drawings revealing the nature and function of the various organs of flowers, 10 min. \$.65; Grow Your Own, a story of a man planning his garden. Closes with a series of humorous "Don'ts," 16 min. \$.65. These films may be rented from the Dept. of Visual Education and Photography, S. D. S. C. If any of you are interested you may borrow my

catalog, or write direct to them about films or subjects in which you are interested. Your County Agent is a part of the Extension Service of State College, and will gladly help you in obtaining films and/or speakers for your open meetings. Our club enjoyed the film, "The World at Your Feet," shown by our Co. Agent and Extension Forester E. K. (Jim) Ferrell, at our open meeting in May. Mr. Ferrell gave a talk with a flannel-gram, on landscaping our homes, and Mr. Hubert showed a book of house plans and landscape designs which has been compiled by the State Colleges of this region, and which may be seen at the County Agent's office, and I believe may be borrowed. It is a large and very expensive and valuable book. Mr. Ferrell's talk was well received, and the question and answer period following it was very informative.

Last spring I had requests for a speaker on Iris, and learned that Mr. Clifford Smith of Vermillion, a grower and hybridizer, is available for an iris program, with slides, at any time except during the growing season, to clubs within short driving distance of Vermillion. Iris Slides are available from the American Iris Society, Mrs. Verne Larson, Film Chm., 3331 Nebraska St., Sioux City, Iowa, and I am told that there are some good speakers available from there. Our own Nita Jorgensen filled the bill at Madison last spring as their speaker on iris. She is a veritable storehouse of information on any Garden Club subject, I have found, and is always so willing and happy to help by sharing her knowledge with others.

You all know of nurserymen or outstanding flower growers or arrang-

(Continued on page 140)

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YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

BOOK REVIEW

by
JESSIE SIMMONS



TRINA. By Inga Hansen Dickerson, Commet Press Books, 11 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y. Price \$3.

TRINA is the story of the life of a pioneer South Dakota woman, told lovingly by one of her younger daughters. It is a running account, without many usual fictional touches, and obviously written from memories of family stories. It dwells briefly on the early childhood of Trina and her brother, Anders, in Denmark, taking them through a German invasion, where Trina meets young Peder Bursen, a Danish soldier, who is later to become her husband. Peder and Trina make the long, difficult trip to America, the promised land, bringing with them Trina's parents and her brother. In New York and Chicago they meet heart-breaking disappointments. The men are unable to obtain work, largely because of unfamiliarity with the language. Trina's mustard, peddled by Peder, barely keeps the family. In Chicago their second daughter is born and dies. Through all this Trina is upheld by her dream of a white farmhouse on their own land, and it is her enthusiasm which draws them farther westward.

The Bursens and their party find on their arrival in Sioux City, then a frontier town, that the land which they have homesteaded is unfit for farming and among hostile Indians. They spend two years living in the

stockade at old Fort Jules, where Trina becomes an angel of mercy, not only to her own people but to the Indians. When Fort Jules is abandoned Peder rides out toward Yankton, where he finds the spot for their home, a hill, good black earth, and a spring.

What follows is undoubtedly typical of most of the early settlers in our Dakota Territory: the long wagon trek to the spot, the hurried digging of a dugout, shelter for the cow and horses, the planting of trees, fencing, plowing, later sod house, and finally the white frame house of Trina's dreams. A community grows up around them, with a school and a church.

With all the satisfactions of the new life, there is constant heart-break and sorrow for the settlers. Trina loses three of her children in a diphtheria epidemic and another with appendicitis, but her remaining children live a busy and happy life, as evidenced by Mrs. Dickerson's account. She is Bonna, one of the youngest daughters.

Inga Hansen Dickerson seems to have inherited her mother's tireless energy. She has been 34 years superintendent of her Sunday School, organized the first home extension course in her district, is a 4-H leader and founder of the large community club and president of the big Garden club at Irene, South Dakota, and has been honored as an eminent homemaker by South Dakota State College.

She shares her mother's love for South Dakota and her pride in it. One of her remarks in the book is typical of all of us who are loyal South Dakotans: "No true Dakotan ever complains about the weather. He is a stout fellow and always likes a variety. He merely seems annoyed when it rains too much or a blizzard roars down from the north, but of one thing he is always certain. It is no cheap imitation. When it rains in Dakota, it pours, and when a Blizzard does come, it is a rip-snorting blizzard."

NEWSLANTS . . .

(Continued from page 131)
news. It is being handled, since Mr. Augustine's death, by the Augustine Ascending Elm Research Ass'n. of Chicago. Francis Kannowski planted a few of these elms in Grand Forks before her retirement as Superintendent of Grand Forks Parks. I saw one of these trees the past summer. It appears to be hardy and have merit where an

upright, narrow tree is desired. I would gladly exchange our spreading boulevard tree for some sort of a tree of the Augustine type.

"The Northwest," the publication of the Northern Pacific Railway, has a good story recently on the potato flour manufactured by the Rogers Bros. at Grand Forks since 1947. The plant has storage for 70,000 bushels of potatoes. In East Grand Forks, the Potato Products Co. is also making potato flour. Potato flour is shipped to many buyers in both the United States and Canada. Potato flour is used by bakers in specialty foods, and as a blender with other flours. Last winter, growers got 25 cents per hundredweight for culls that were usable for flour production.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER . . .

(Continued from page 133)

Artemisia Stellariana: the Beach Wormwood, is a silvery-gray foliage plant, to about 1 foot in height, which brings a bright silvery touch to the border throughout summer. Being a wormwood, it is adapted to dry soil.

Pentstemon: the variety Rose Elf, a glaber x barbatus hybrid bears bright pink flowers during July and August.

Hemerocallis or Daylily: esteemed varieties are Minnie,—dark crimson; Sachel,—carmine with pale throat; and Stygian,—Mahogany.

Phlox: Three introductions of the very hardy pyramidal of Summer Phlox type which arose on the prairies are: Ada Blackjack, a pinky mauve by Alex Ashby, Neepawa; Boughen, a pale mauvy pink, on shorter plant by W. J. Boughen, Valley River; and Moose Jaw, a taller plant with lilac-mauve flowers.

Among the higher quality but more exacting phloxes are: Elizabeth Campbell, salmon-pink; Eva Forester, salmon with white eye; B. Symonds-Jeune, clear pink with red eye in large trusses; Prunella, rich purple; and Charles H. Curtis, scarlet.

Macleaya Microcarpa: a plume-poppy, introduced by seed sent from China by Dr. J. F. Rock in 1927. This imposing tall plant is more showy than the well-known Pink Plume-poppy, *Bocconia cordata*.

Meconopsis baileyi: the Tibetan Bluepoppy, was received in the same form in 1927. The woolly blue flowers are unusual among plants of the dry prairies.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS



Simmons

In sending in his yearly dues, Mr. J. W. Valentine, of Willow Lake, says: "We had more than normal rain, the past season, and had many new fruit trees bear for the first time, even red and Golden Delicious, a rarity for this part of South Dakota. Had over 40 tender roses bear heavily all summer, and still blooming. Also many of Percy Wright's annuals, of Moose Range, Sask., Canada. They do wonderfully well here. We are at present extracting the honey from 75 swarms of bees; they also produced big." Am glad there were spots in our state that got enough rain, this season. Mr. Cliff Shaw, of Yorkton, Sask., Canada writes: "Although we have little subsoil moisture the weatherman has been offset to some extent by the extremely high yields. The fruit crop was late in maturing but very bountiful. Today (Oct. 19th) it is 65 above, rather unusual for this time in October. Best wishes for the continued success of your fine publication." Mrs. Mary Photakos of Huron has favored me with a copy of the fine program she had for her meeting of the 3rd district. It consisted of a cornet duet by Billy Kilpatrick and Arthur Noxon, interesting reports by Mrs. G. R. McArthur, Mrs. Louis Severance, Mrs. Milo Shultz and Mrs. H. M. Pierce, and she had representatives present from all 5 of the clubs of her district except Artesian. As guests she also had representatives from the Garden Clubs, not yet federated, of Woonsocket and Wessington Springs, and I feel sure she made them feel like federating. Altogether the program would have been welcome at any of our annual conventions. What seems to be the matter with you secretaries, or treasurers who send in the list of your members? We have just received two more lists of members, without any list of your officers. Don't you read your

magazines or know that we need them? I hope it is not because you are ashamed of them. Have just been apprised that on January 1st a new magazine, FLOWER & GARDEN, published at Kansas City will appear. The editor seems to have good ideas, as he has enlisted the help of Mrs. C. S. Hausen of Clarinda, Iowa, who many of our members know, as she has appeared on some of our convention programs.

Sometimes I wonder at the foresight some people showed in naming the towns they are starting. Take Rapid City, for instance. When I first saw it, in 1890, it was neither Rapid nor citified—just a sleepy village of 1200 alleged souls. But just look at it now. It requires a minimum of strong "joy producer" to make one of the residents freely predict that it is destined to become the state's largest city. Sioux Falls? Yes they have heard of the place, but they seldom go there unless pointedly requested to do so by the sheriff, and their stay is limited to the time required to obtain a parole. As this will be my last opportunity to talk to you for this year, at least, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year and a sane Fourth of July. Probably the most merry Christmas is when the value of the presents we receive is exceeded by the value of those we give. But, if not, don't get sore about it but in giving thanks to our givers, tell the givers that their present was just the thing most wanted and was the best thing we received. In making the coming year happy, take the word of a real oldster that the way is to be good; don't nag your wife or poor husband and resolve to make those around you happy and follow the scouts plan to do a good deed every day.

Remember, there is no such thing as Federal Aid, actually call it Federal supervision of funds. It is collected first from you and me, then redistributed by supervisors in proportion to the pressure applied.

—WASHINGTON EVENING JOURNAL

Hollywood gag. Camera man turns to director and says "Today's my birthday. Whatch gonna do about it?" Director turns to assistant and says, "Take two starlets out of petty cash for this man."

ABOUT PROGRAMS . . .

(Continued from page 138)

ers in your vicinity who may be available for programs. POPULAR GARDENING, FLOWER GROWER, and many other magazines with gardening departments are storehouses of program material. When a member learns from the yearbook what her topic is, well in advance, she can be collecting material about her subject easily and painlessly, so that she will have much to choose from.

Let me say as I have before, when you make up your program be sure it is what your club wants. Programs must be interesting, challenging and enjoyable to keep up attendance and make a live club. I heard Fern Irving say in one of her lectures, "A garden club is a service club, and it involves work." We all know that, but that we also must enjoy it if we keep it alive and growing. Mrs. Francis Nelson in a lecture on Flower Arrangement said that we arrange flowers for fun, primarily, and that we must not let learning the rules and technique obliterate our pleasure in the art. Know-how in any field makes for deeper enjoyment, I feel.

I hope that you all have enjoyed the autumn, which is my favorite season, though they all have their beauties. "Everyman who truly appreciates and pursues the study of Nature, has much to contribute to the spiritual growth of man." I do not know who said that, but I feel it is true. I will close with this poem, "Limitations" by Frances Gray, which I clipped years ago, but which my study of the books on color makes me appreciate more keenly.

*Beyond the violet or below the red
What colors glow, all strangers to our
sight?*

*What music quite eludes our mortal
ears*

*With soaring tones too high for our
delight?*

*Grateful are we for senses that can
grasp*

*Some portion of the world of mel-
ody,*

*Fragrance, and variant color, but alas,
For sounds we hear not, hues we can-
not see!*

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

by

LEONARD YAGER, *Horticulturist*
Montana Extension Service



Yager

Landscape Planning. Fall is not a good time to plant trees and shrubs in Montana, but the approach of winter is a good time to start making detailed landscape plans for next spring. Without a good plan,

many mistakes in planting are made that are expensive and hard to change.

Good landscape planning simply is the arrangement and development of the home grounds for good living. Entering into the development of a property are the building of such structural items as walks, drives, fences, and other things considered important items on the property. The building of barbecues and fireplaces, picnic tables and benches are a few of the extra things that help to add to the enjoyment of the yard area.

A second item is the plant materials which help to add beauty and livability to the yard. Plant materials, properly used, provide screens and barriers to give privacy and separate yard areas. Shrub borders provide a background and setting for attractive flower beds. Shade trees provide comfort and help to add height and beauty to the landscape setting.

A third important item is the land itself on which the structural and plant material items are developed. This land may be level, sloping, or of uneven topography. Changes in topography add interest to the setting of the home and to the landscape beauty and are an important consideration in the development of a good landscape plan.

Soil is important in the selection of adaptable plants to grow on it. Loam soils are ideal for the growth of plants, but we often have to take what we can get.

Good surface and subsurface drainage is another consideration and is important for healthy growth of plant materials as well as for the health and well being of the people living on the property. It is important from the

standpoint of structural items placed on the property. Adequate foundations are necessary so that these items are not endangered by frost heaving in the winter and by settling.

A well landscaped property does not usually happen by accident. It comes as the result of much planning. A scaled drawing on paper, carefully thought out, will help avoid many mistakes. After all, it is easier to correct these mistakes on paper, before they are made on the home grounds.

A good, workable landscape plan considers the needs of each member of the family. Many folks develop their own home grounds plans by themselves. Others consult the advice of a landscape architect, or hire him to plan the grounds.

To those in the do-it-yourself class, much literature is available through bulletins, magazines and books. The Extension Service has available a number of publications that will aid in landscape planning. Some of the home and garden magazines carry excellent ideas and articles on landscape planning. In recent years a number of good books have appeared on the market on this subject. Consult your local library for these.

Exhibiting Fruits. Because they have plenty of mouth-watering appeal, fruits attract a great deal of attention at most fairs. But of more importance, they point to the fact that fruits can be grown successfully in many parts of Montana where sites are favorable. A well labelled fruit exhibit gives people an idea of the kinds and varieties that can be grown in the home garden.

Small fruits are very popular although some kinds are difficult to exhibit because they do not hold up well under the difficult conditions found in some exhibit halls. Most small fruits are shown in pint or quart baskets as indicated in the fair schedule.

Strawberries should show a bright clean appearance and stems must be attached to the fruits. Fruits should be uniform in size, type, color and maturity. The fruits must be firm and free from insect damage and decay. Flavor is another important consideration in the judging of this fruit.

Raspberries are exhibited with no stems attached. Berries must be firm and not crumbly. A good deep color enhances the exhibit. Good size in

keeping with a sample of berries showing uniformity of size, type, color and maturity is important. Flavor is another important consideration in the judging of raspberries. Fruits must be free of insect injury and blemishes caused by disease or mechanical injury.

Gooseberries, and currants are some of the other small fruits found in schedules. Good size and uniformity, a bright, clean appearance, and freedom from blemishes are some of the things looked for in these small fruit exhibits. Grapes are shown in bunches, usually 4 to an exhibit. Even, uniform bunches, with well developed fruits are important characteristics. Samples approaching the best stages of maturity will receive the most consideration by the judge.

In calling for tree fruit exhibit, the schedules usually require a plate of 6 standard variety apples, or plate of 12 crabapples or plums. Uniformity of sample is always an important consideration in preparing a plate exhibit. Uniformity should cover such characteristics as uniformity of type, shape, maturity, color, size, etc. Maturity counts a great deal in judging such exhibits, and those fruits most approaching the ideal will usually command the greatest consideration, other things being equal. Good size and color in keeping with the variety are important characteristics. Samples of apples and crabapples are shown with stems attached. Samples of plums are shown with stems removed. Usually apples and crabapples are polished to give a bright, shiny appearance. However, the bloom, or waxy covering on plums should not be removed.

Avoid showing fruits which are overripe or show decay due to disease. The flavor of apples and plums is an important factor in placing exhibits. Just because a variety is good appearing doesn't always mean it will rate a blue ribbon—often a poorer looking sample will rate over it because of better quality, or because the fruit was gathered at a more optimum stage of maturity.

Judge: "Now tel me why you stole that purse."

Defendant: "Your honor, I wasn't feeling well and I thought the change might do me some good."

—THE FARMER

NEW HAMPSHIRE HORTICULTURE

by

DR. A. F. YEAGER



The time of year when our fruit trees have the greatest strain put upon them is during the latter end of the bearing season, just preceding fruit harvest. You perhaps may have a few trees which were unable to stand the strain and split down under a heavy crop, just as we have. If that be the case, now is the time to look after them. A good method of saving split down trees is to pull the limbs back into normal position with a block and tackle and while holding them in place, put in the braces. We prefer soft iron rods which are inserted through the limb, holes being made with an auger. The end of the rod is inserted through the main trunk of the tree or another good supporting limb. Rods about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter are satisfactory. They are better inserted some distance from the crotch if it be possible. They may be several feet in length. Rods put in in this fashion are better than bolts, washers, and nuts, since they injure the tree trunk less and heal over more quickly. Bands should never be put around branches. We have several such repaired trees that were treated several years ago. They are prospering just as though they had never split down.

Based on the results of several years work with mulching bearing Northern Spy apple trees, it is our intention this following spring to apply practically no nitrogen to our orchard, since we were able to secure enough old hay this summer to mulch everything excepting experimental trees requiring its omission. Actually none of this hay cost us anything excepting the hauling. How about your orchard? Have you been getting and using all the mulch you can find? If not, we believe you are missing a good bet.

A great deal is being said these days about the need for more marketing research. Everybody talks about it; the Hope-Flannagan Act provides spe-

cifically for more marketing research; yet when one asks for some particular thing that we should learn in our marketing research, the principal response is silence, at least in official circles, or else pickayune items such as red cheeks up, polishing, etc. There are pretty definite ideas what can be done so far as storage research is concerned, but when it comes down to the question of marketing, no one seems to know exactly what important jobs to do. This is a call for help. Do any of our Horticultural Society members have ideas that they would like to see explored? Any suggestions for research work that should be done? If you do, please send them along. If they are promising and we are unable to do anything about them ourselves, undoubtedly someone else can take hold. Everybody wants marketing research. Again I say, what do you mean—"Marketing Research"?

One of the biggest nuisances in any orchard is the occasional rock which sticks up just high enough so that one cannot run over it with machinery, with trucks or with cars. This necessitates detours with equipment and occasionally may result in difficulty arising from collision with a rock covered by grass. These scattered nuisances are one of the first things that should be looked after when the soil conservation bulldozer is near at hand; or lacking that, the application of a few sticks of dynamite in the proper location might make a favorable permanent change in the orchard operation. That is another job for the period between apple harvest and freeze-up.

These days when we are being told *not* to eat this and *not* to eat that in order to save food for our European neighbors, we are all for a program that will conserve food, but do not like the negative approach to this matter. Why should not one call attention to the foods which are in abundance and which are cheaper now than they have been for some years. If we eat more squash, we eat less of something else, and squash is a good valuable food. It seems to me at least half the propaganda should be used for the advertising of plentiful and cheap foods rather than the exclusive talk about not eating this and not eating that.

It is probably too early to be arriving at any final evaluation of the newer

pear varieties; nevertheless, we are much impressed with the usefulness of the Gorham variety. This is a pear somewhat resembling Bartlett but ripening later in the season—in fact just about as late as one can mature a pear to good advantage—and one which, picked and handled properly, is of superior quality. The trees come into bearing early and the pears are of good size. While I am mentioning pear varieties, we fruited the Parker pear this year for the first time but were not impressed by it. Even though it is high in quality, it seems to be one of the most susceptible to pear scab—perhaps even more so than Flemish Beauty, and that is saying a lot.

One of the important discoveries of plant scientists has been that of the effect of length of hours of daylight on the behavior of plants. The blooming period of chrysanthemums, for example, was found to be associated with a certain day length condition; namely, long days in summer followed by the shorter days of autumn resulted in the formation of blossom buds and blossoms. They could be prevented from blooming by giving them more hours of light and they could be brought into bloom earlier by shortening the day length by covering the plants. Commercial florists make use of that in producing early chrysanthemums. This year, however, something has gone wrong. Our day lengths are the same as in later years, but the chrysanthemums are blooming much later, often several weeks later than normal. Even where the plants are watered inside the greenhouse, they still bloomed later. Why?

The little boy would not study his geography lesson so teacher reported him to the principal.

"Why won't he study geography?" asked the principal.

"I don't know. He won't even open his geography book, and when I insist, he just says: 'Let's not bother now. Let's just sit tight and see what happens.'"

"How was the applause after your speech?" asked the fond wife when her husband returned from an evening engagement.

"Terrible," he moaned. "It sounded like a caterpillar in sneakers romping across a Persian rug."

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

EDIBLE DAKOTA WILDINGS . . .

(Continued from page 136)

flavor equal to the best of our Navy Beans. These beans were highly prized as food by the Indians of the Great Plains. The harvesting of these beans would have been very tedious for them had it not been for the Voles or Wood Mice. These tiny animals were so fond of the beans they laid up large stores for winter food. Sometimes several quarts would be found in a single cache. The Indians were very grateful when they found these caches and they left some other food in exchange. The Dakota nation spoke of the bean mice as "Hitunka People." An Indian legend tells that once an ungrateful woman robbed the storehouse of the Hintunka people and left no food in return. That night the woman had a dream in which she heard the Hintunka mother crying and wondering what would become of her hungry children. She said, "Take back their food or your own children will cry with hunger." The woman was stubborn and would not return the food or give other food in its place. Shortly after a great prairie fire destroyed her home and her food. She and her children had to wander about the prairie without food or shelter. There is a lesson for all of us in this legend that we, too, should not kill birds or animals wantonly.

Someone lost on our prairies would suffer from thirst. I have found that the chewing of *Artemisia* leaves quenches thirst so effectively that I do not bother to take water along when I go on long hikes on hot days, even when I have hills to climb. I like *Artemisia frigida* (Little Sage or Mountain Sage), *A. longifolia* (Long Leaved Sage) or *A. gnaphalodes* or *A. ludoviciana* var. *gnaphalodes* (White or Pasture Sage) for this purpose. These varieties are scattered over our state and usually readily found so I have not tried the other varieties. *Artemisia frigida* is widely distributed and the newer shoots keep fresh throughout the year so it is usually available. This variety is very beautiful. If the tops are kept cut back it will form a silvery, silky mat that is very captivating and it is worthy of a place in any garden.

It is only the people with push who have a pull.

—NORTH DAKOTAN

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS . . .

(Continued from page 134)

meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Nels Trobak, Oct. 3rd, with Mrs. Lee Rommerein as cohostess.

Newly elected officers are: Mrs. Olaf Ulvilden, treasurer; Miss Alice Tidemann, vice president; Mrs. O. Orstad, secretary; Mrs. Lee Rommerein, treasurer. August and September birthdays were honored, Mrs. Olaf Ulvilden, Mrs. Gordon Nelson, Mrs. Lee Rommerein, and Miss Olga Jensen being the honorees. Mrs. Frank Steer had made a lovely birthday cake and also presented each with a handkerchief from Old Mexico, as she has done for each member's birthday the past year.

The October meeting of the Sunshine Garden Club was held at the H. E. Gloomer home. Roll call topic was "Winter Care of Gardens," which brought forth much interesting discussion. Mrs. Jake Zilverberg gave a talk on "Growing and Care of House Plants." The following officers were elected: Mrs. Ben Bouzek, president; Mrs. R. J. Drew, vice president; Mrs. Dan Sunding, re-elected secretary; Mrs. Vern Tompkins, treasurer. Family Night will be held at the auditorium in November. Newly elected officers will be installed at this time.

The Fair City Garden Club entertained the 3rd District on October 20, it being the first meeting for this district, of which Mrs. Andy Photakos is director. "Autumn Serenade" was the theme of the Floral Tea. Members brought arrangements, and Mrs. Bertha Locker brought some very choice vases and flowers to arrange, as well as some finished arrangements. She showed the new colors in carnations and the new flocked sprays and ribbons. The audience waited patiently through all the reports, to see this demonstration, and felt well repaid. Four of the five federated clubs in the district were represented, and all gave interesting reports of their activities. Mrs. McArthur and Mrs. Kindred gave high lights of their trip to St. Louis. Iroquois Garden Club has invited the group for the next district meeting.

A bewildered man entered a ladies' specialty shop. "I want a corset for my wife," he said.

"What bust?" asked the clerk.

"Nothin'. It just wore out."

OUR TRAVELS

by

DR. CARL CHRYSAL

Gardening is not our main and principal occupation, trade or profession. Most of you are housewives, others have other vocations. Personally I am a historian and a political scientist and only secondarily a farmer, horticulturalist and a gardener. In short, gardening is only an avocation and a hobby with us. We are gardening from different angles and different points of view. We do not see our surroundings through one and the same pair of eyes. We do not use our eyes and our glasses in precisely the same fashion. Our eyes are the servants of our minds, hearts and souls and they see what they are made to see. In fact our surroundings, physical as well as spiritual, are so crowded with interesting details that all of us do not even notice and see the same things. As a matter of fact, all of us would pass by unnoticed some of the best and most wonderful things of life about us if our special attention were not called to their existence. Many natives, let us say primitive Indians, do not understand their surroundings, and do not appreciate and value the things which tourists travel thousands of miles to see. It may be truly said that a person gets out of his surroundings according to the interest, intelligence and understanding he brings to them; we get out of life through according to what we bring to it. Life is action, life is struggle, life is growth and decay. Our immediate environment, however, really is a sample and miniature of our larger surroundings. When we leave home, take a trip, see new things, we see them in the light of what we already know; we carry the knowledge of our local environment with us and interpret the new in the terms of the old, we weave the new experiences into former experiences.

All of us are dependent on our surroundings, it is important that we become well acquainted with them. The better we know them the better we understand our several specialties. Our local environment may be thought of as the point of departure and as the nucleus of our wider horizon. It may be proper to draw illustrations from personal experiences.

(To Be Continued)

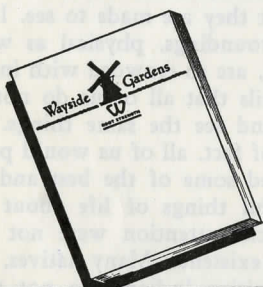
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Wayside Gardens



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Most parents of today knew where their teen age son is at all times. He's in the family car. The trouble is, they don't know where the car is.

—ARGUS-LEADER

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE