

VOLUME 30

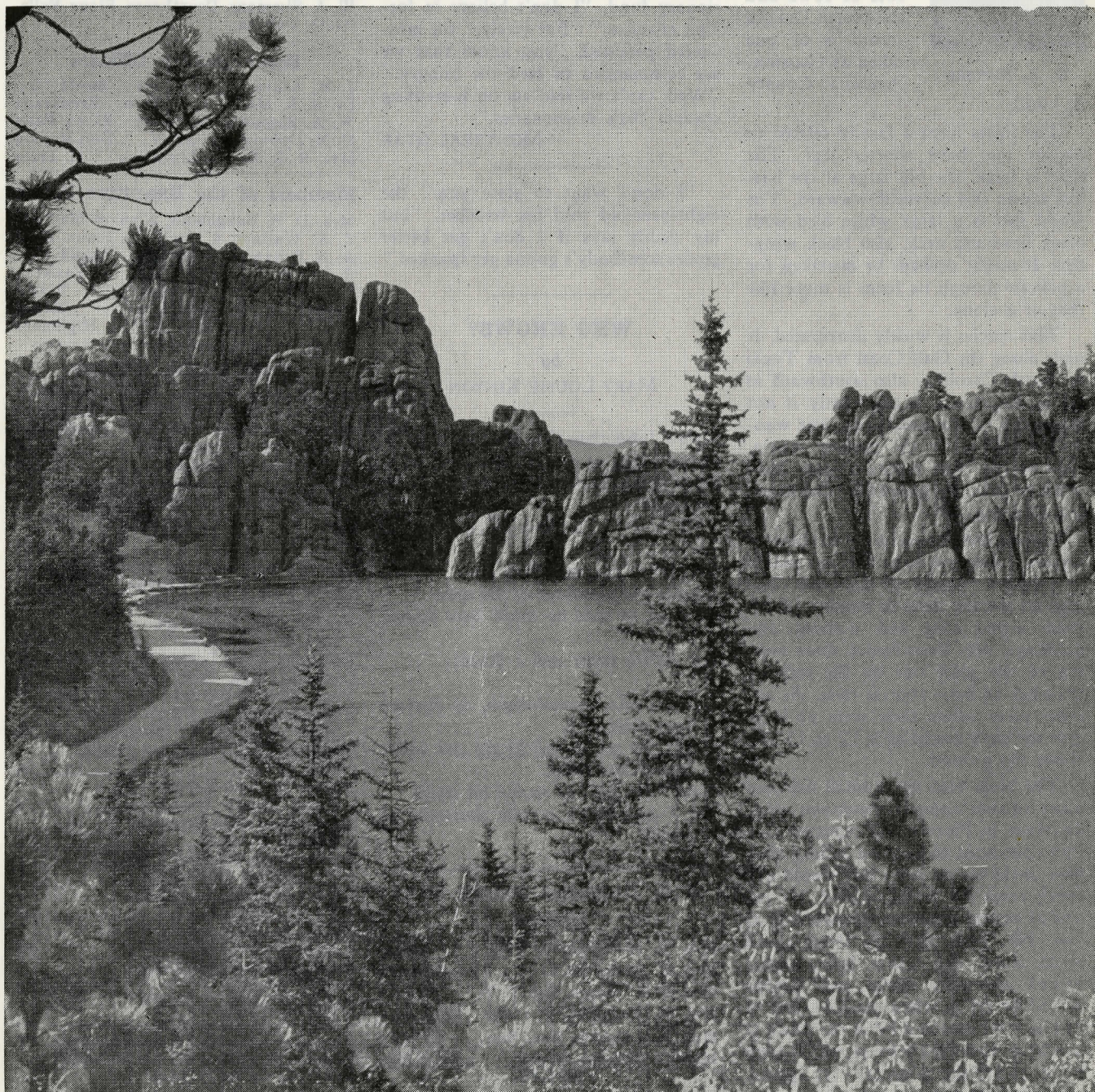
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# DAKOTA LIBRARY HORTICULTURE

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1957



SYLVAN LAKE IN THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

*Photo courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce, Rapid City, S. D.*

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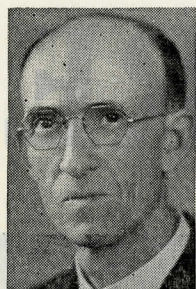
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V. 30 # 2-3



## THE WOOD IBIS

by  
O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

in 1900.

The ibises form a family related to herons but have shorter legs. The head is large, the bill large at the base but tapers and curves downward. The wood ibis is a large white bird with black head and neck, also black wing-tips. It might perhaps be mistaken for a pelican though its form is more like that of a crane.

This species is widely distributed. It nests along the Gulf Coast from Texas to South Carolina, also southward as far as Argentina. It apparently is not migratory in the usual sense but wanders widely after the nesting season, thus having been reported from New York to Illinois, Wyoming, California and Arizona.

Nesting habits are similar to those of herons. Nests are large and are placed in colonies, usually in tall trees. The eggs are usually three in number, about three inches long and without any markings. Mr. Bent found them nesting at one place out on the ends of branches of huge cypress trees. At another place where there were no large trees the birds nested only 12 to 15 feet above the ground.

The birds feed upon small fish and other aquatic animals. Audubon studied them in Florida and reported that they continued to keep on killing after they could eat no more but would not touch food not freshly killed. He included young alligators in their bill of fare. He wrote that the ibises could wade about the 'gator holes undisturbed although ducks and herons would be taken when possible. But if an ibis were shot and fell in the water it would immediately be seized. A later writer found the alligators very aggres-

sive and said he was obliged to use one barrel of his gun for a bird and the other for the nearest 'gator in order to get a specimen.

Recent reports from the Gulf Coast mention the wood ibis quite regularly, usually small numbers though, in southern Texas. October 16, 1954, a flock of 800 to 1000 was noted.

"I'm sorry," said a wealthy man who had been approached by a minister for a donation to the foreign missionary fund, "I don't believe in foreign missions." "But surely," the minister persisted, "you know that we are commanded to feed the hungry." "Well, can't we feed em on something cheaper than missionaries."

—MONTREAL STAR

"I don't want to scare you," the eight-year-old told his teacher, "but my daddy says if I don't get better grades somebody's gonna get spanked."

## WHO KNOWS?

by  
MARY LOUISE KINYON

*Jethro Johnathan Carrington Chew  
Passed away at one hundred and two.  
Some folks think he could have lived longer  
That is, if he had been much stronger.*

*Strange to say, in all his life  
Despite the pleadings of his wife  
He'd get so mad he could have socked her  
But Jethro never saw a doctor.*

*Jethro died a normal death, no doctors  
there attending,  
So no one could rightly say just what  
caused his ending.  
Some folks say age caused his death  
But I just think it was shortness of  
breath.*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
The Wood Ibis. O. A. Stevens.....	18
Poem. Mrs. L. W. Kinyon.....	18
Newsletters. H. A. Graves.....	19
Garden Club Gleanings.	
Mrs. V. Tompkins.....	20
Manitoba News Letter. W. R. Leslie.....	21
Colorado. Mrs. Carl Metzger.....	22
Your Yard & Garden. L. A. Yager.....	23
Welcome from the Pierre Garden Club. Mrs. R. K. Morrell.....	24
Spagnum Moss for House Plants.	
Don Hoag.....	24
Fannie Mahood Heath.	
Pearl Heath Fraser.....	25
43 Years in Seed Business.	
George F. Bird.....	26
Letter from Florida.	
C. Richard Hartmann.....	27
Modern Landscape Service.	
J. M. Atkinson.....	27
President's Message.	
Mrs. E. W. Kindred.....	28
Fruit & Vegetable Notes.	
F. X. Wallner.....	29
Our Scholarship Award.	
Mrs. H. M. Pierce.....	30
Secretary's Corner. W. A. Simmons.....	30
Lincoln Tour. Mrs. G. R. McArthur.....	31
Why Garden? V. Ries.....	31

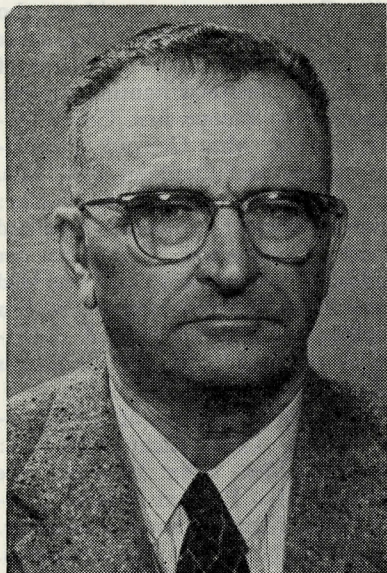
DAKOTA HORTICULTURE



## NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY A. GRAVES



Northeastern North Dakota has lost a well known landmark, and a great many of us from the area have lost a good friend. A tree may not actually be a friend, but it is something alive and majestic. Maybe we just hold certain trees in awe.

Anyhow, the "Big Tree" of McFayden's pasture is down and piled—maybe burned by now. This unbelievably large cottonwood stood on a frequently flooded plain of the Tongue River about four miles upstream from the village of Bathgate. How old it was we may never know. An attempt is underway as I write to get a slab from half the trunk. No one had a cross-cut saw long enough to make a cut at breast high on the trunk. The late Dr. George F. Will could have worked out some very interesting weather date from the annual rings of this monarch.

In 1936 it had a diameter, breast high, of over six feet! It was much larger at the stump level. It has grown considerable in the last twenty years. If any of you have a file of our magazine, a picture of this tree appeared on the cover of the September 1936 issue. A story on page 106 of the same issue tells a bit of this tree's history. Since most of you would have difficulty finding the issue of September 1956—to say nothing of 1936—I shall tell you a bit about it.

The tree stood tall above its neighbors and was referred to as "The Big Tree" in 1881 when my Mother came to live on a farm in the same section of land where the tree stood. An early trader—an old man in the 1880's—said he had travelled through the area as a young man. The tree was well known, even then, as a landmark by the Indians and others as a meeting place. Over the years, people have beaten a path to its base to stand in respect and unbelief at its huge trunk and limbs. In recent years its greatest limb-spread was something over 100 feet. Many folks have long felt it was North Dakota's largest tree. I still think it was, but it is no more.

Time and progress march on, however; McFayden's pasture has changed hands. The considerable acreage of native timber that surrounded the Big Tree was bulldozed out. No bulldozer was available to cope with the big cottonwood and I understand it withstood some considerable dynamiting to lay the old tree low. McFayden's pasture without the Big Tree has lost all its nostalgic allure. I am glad I was not there at the kill.

In a more lighter vein, I am sure the committee on nomenclature hit the jackpot with the name selected for the new ruffled morning glory, "Tinkerbelle's Petticoat." Many folks will take a second look at this descriptive item, "Lady Godiva Rose, a pale pink sport." There is plenty in a name it seems.

The February issue of the new garden magazine FLOWER AND GARDEN carries a paragraph on the new Seeba hybrid pentstemons developed by our friend, Glenn Viehmeyer of the North Platte, Nebraska Experiment Station. These are reported to be hybrids between two native species pentstemons. I saw something last summer that I suspect were these hybrids at Sheyenne Gardens, West Fargo. They were beautiful grandifloras in appearance in a variety of colors. I expect the Johnsons, Martin and Ruth, will have these for sale next year in limited quantities. Interstate Nursery has plants in their 1957 catalog. Something new and something very good.

In case you haven't heard, FLOWER AND GARDEN is a new garden publication published at 559 Westport Road, Kansas City 11, Missouri. The February issue, which is No. 2,

by the way, has 64 interesting pages. Subscriptions are not accepted outside the continental United States for the present. Subscription price is \$3.00 per year.

Dr. E. P. Lana and Neal Holland have released the results of the 1956 tomato variety trials carried on by the NDAC Horticultural Department. Twenty-four varieties, or selections, were in the 1956 test. Two NDAC numbered selections, and the varieties Early Chatham, Oahu, and Fireball stood out in early yield, based on three pickings taken on, or before, August 23. The same two NDAC selections, Early Chatham, Oahu, and Cavalier excelled in total fruit. The two numbered selections had the highest percentage of usable fruit.

Under the heading, "Windbreaks Take Tough Trees," E. J. George, Silviculturist at the Northern Great Plains Station at Mandan reports that only three species met the test for hardiness in 38 years of testing on the Northern Great Planis. These species were boxelder, green ash, and silver buffaloberry. The article appeared in AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH for July 1956. After 36 years, the boxelder reached an attained height of 14 to 26 feet and the green ash 17 to 26 feet. The silver buffaloberry ranged from 5.4 to 9.6 feet at that age, depending on the closeness of spacing. Proper spacing, clean cultivation and little or no pruning were other conditions that proved successful. There is much more of interest in the story but space prohibits trying to cover it here. Maybe we can talk Brother George into preparing a popular summary of this study for us for a later issue of DAKOTA HORTICULTURE.

Three of the four members of our family are looking forward to May 15. That is when the Minnesota fishing season opens and our 36 plants of asparagus all come into bearing for the first time. Helen, our 12 year old, takes a dim view of both fishing and asparagus! We anticipate that the 36 plants of asparagus will yield a bit more than the three of us can consume fresh, but we have plenty of asparagus hungry friends. Asparagus is an excellent crop for Dakota gardens, either large or small. A tasty green vegetable from mid-May to July 4th should be a

(Continued on page 32)



## GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. VERN TOMPKINS



Mrs. Tompkins

The Colome Garden Club met at the Hazel Smith home in Winner. Officers were elected, Mrs. Jerry Spinar, being elected president; Mrs. Ed Smith, 1st vice president; Mrs. Ed Kenaston, 2nd vice president,

Mrs. Oscar Pravecek, Sec.; Mrs. Mark Larson, treasurer. Officers were installed at the December meeting, with Dorothy Shetler, Home Extension agent, conducting a very impressive candle-lighting ceremony. We presented a home made Juniper tree with foil wrapped coins attached, to the small son of one of our club members. Larry has been ill the past eight months. A Christmas party under the direction of Hazel Smith was enjoyed. Our new year books were made by our president, with the help of her son and daughter. Death claimed two of our members last fall, Nina Knapp and Bessie Gagan. Thank you, Mrs. Pravecek, for this report.

Mrs. Floyd Kjeldseth, publicity of the Irene Garden Club, in sending highlights of their year's work, says "Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month in the homes. Mrs. Harold Jorgensen, of Volin, is our president; Mrs. Emil Larsen, vice president; Mrs. Earl Dickersen, secretary-treasurer. All were re-elected for 1957. We are continuing under Garden Therapy, to give Birthday flowers and May baskets to our older people. We find this a most enjoyable work. An arrangement is brought to each meeting and discussed. In February we were co-hostess with the Irene Lutheran Ladies Aid and Freyo Extension club at an Autograph Party for Mrs. Earl Dickerson, a member of our club, who had completed her book 'Trina.' In March a group attended a Bird Study and film at the Hurley school gym and were luncheon guests of the Hurley club. We gave seeds to the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades in our school. Mrs. Menholdt Christensen, of Hurley, was a guest

speaker at one of our meetings. We were represented at the Sportman Exhibition, at Sioux City, and at the Orange City, Ia. Tulip Festival. We were represented at the Federation meeting in Brookings, and enjoyed reports following. We had many fine displays at our annual Flower Show in August. Mrs. Francis Nelson, Hurley, judged the show. Two hundred and seventy-two guests were registered. Twelve members attended the district meeting in Centerville in October. Mrs. Harold Jorgensen, of our club, was elected district chairman. Mr. Sletvold, of the Sletvold Nursery, in Vermillion, was the speaker at our guest day in October. He displayed many named varieties of mums. The Christmas Lighting contest, sponsored by the club, met with great success, drawing many out of town visitors. Prizes of \$5.00, \$3.00 and \$2.00 were given. A Christmas party for members and their families, concluded a very successful year."

Mrs. John Holcomb sends an interesting list of the accomplishments of the Hoe and Hope Garden Club, of Webster. 1—Assisted the Lawn and Garden club in decorating a window with antique glass and vases for the Diamond Jubilee. 2—Sponsored a float in the Jubilee parade. 3—Members attended and exhibited at out of town flower shows. 4—Provided bird sanctuaries. 5—Sent flowers to shut-ins. 6—Furnished flowers for church, and for hospital patients. 7—Helped promote Litter Bug campaign. 8—Improved and cared for flower bed at City Park. 9—Garden pilgrimage to Aberdeen. 10—Held a flower show and Silver Tea. 11—Had two guest speakers. 12—Supplied corsages for the firemen's wives at their district meeting.

The Sunshine Garden Club, Highmore, met in the Memorial Auditorium Nov. 13th for their annual potluck dinner, with their families as guests. The committee in charge, Josephine Sporrer, Kate Christensen, Gertie Salmon, and Maude Koch, served a delicious meal from beautifully decorated tables. The group enjoyed a film on chrysanthemums, secured by Mrs. Zilverberg, from the Jackson-Perkins Co. in Newark, N. Y. Retiring president, Bertha Christensen called the meeting to order and expressed gratitude for the cooperation given her the

past year. She installed the present staff of officers in a candlelight service. A book entitled Taylors Encyclopedia for Gardening is being placed in the Hyde County Library in memory of Nellie Coates, our vice president who passed away last fall. Ruth Melbourne and Ethel Morford were in charge of the annual Christmas lighting contest. Winner were: Indoor, first, Gerald McGirr; second, Mrs. Gertrude Henderson; Indoor and Outdoor, first, Mrs. Mary Goehring; second, Don Manley; Business District, Straight Standard Service. Commercial Tompkins for Flowers. The Christmas party was held at the home of Anna Hanson, with a program and gift exchange. A contribution was made to the Children's Home in Sioux Falls.

Newly elected officers of the Country Garden Club, Centerville, are: President, Mrs. John Hanson; vice president, Mrs. Edward Nelson; secretary, Mrs. Melvin Snoozy; treasurer, Mrs. Richard Lindvall. Thanks to Mrs. Ed Vik for this information. Mrs. Cliff Rist sends news of this club. November meeting with Stella Andersen, 100% attendance. Roll call topic, "Ideas for Christmas Party," to be held Dec. 15th at the Legion Hall. A \$20.00 contribution to Faith School for Exceptional Children, was decided on. This school is most unusual, in that it has an enrollment of four retarded children, all of whom live about seven miles from the school. Classes are held from 9:30 to 1:15 each day. The school is located five and one-half miles north of Centerville. The club planned to give a free will offering for this school instead of having a gift exchange at Christmas time. This sounds to me like a very worthwhile project and one worthy of observation and support.

When I see this stack of correspondence I have a feeling that the printer is either going to "take a tuck" in this article or just cut it off. Anyway, never let it be said that all reports were not used. They were condensed as much as possible, too.

The Centerville Garden Club and the Centerville Country Garden Club were hosts to the S. E. District (no date given), with Mrs. Donald McMurchie and Mrs. Richard Lindvall as local convention chairmen. Members of fourteen clubs attended, with

(Continued on page 30)

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE



## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by  
W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

King George VI made the garden at Royal Lodge, which, hidden in a corner of Windsor Park, is 'home' to the Royal Family.

King Edward VIII planned and laid out gardens at Fort Belvedere.

He created herb gardens, heath gardens, paved gardens, sunken gardens, and a rose garden which he pruned himself. Heliotrope was his favorite shrub.

"Grass" said King George V "is the finest thing in the garden." He meant that shaven lawns, far vistas of green, and alleyways of grass between shrubberies and woodlands was the true frame to set off and beautify the garden. He loved rhododendrons in huge, many colored banks.

The Queen started gardening as a child with a tiny garden of her own at Glamis Castle—her mother's Scottish home.

Extent of the Royal Gardens: Buckingham Palace gardens cover 45 acres of London, including an excavated 5-acre lake; Balmoral 10 acres; Windsor castle 24 acres to vegetables, 8 acres to fruit, 1¼ acres under glass, 2 acres to cut flowers; The Royal Lodge 90 acres; Sandringham gardens cover a large acreage including a wonderful 3-acre walled garden of the old English type, full of wall fruit, flowers, vegetables, scent, sunlight and color. About 60,000 visitors go to the Sandringham gardens during the year.

### *Uses of Plants by our Indians*

The root of the red mallow has properties of rendering the person immune to fire and boiling water, who rubs himself thoroughly with the juice of the plant. It was the preferred plant for this purpose by some of the Arrikara medicine men. It was also an excellent remedy for burns.

The yucca root, besides being used for soap, was steeped and the decoction prescribed for kidney and bladder trouble.

The prickly pear was used as a highly valuable poultice for wounds.

The prickles were removed, the leaf split and the sticky, gummy cut surface applied to the wound both soothed and healed it.

The early Missouri River Indians depended to a considerable extent for food upon agriculture and the crops which it produced. Each family cultivated from one to three acres on the rich bottom lands. They grew corn of a dozen varieties, some six kinds of beans, several sorts of squash and pumpkins, sunflowers and a small species of tobacco.

The highbush cranberry was much used and when food was not too plentiful roseberries and the thorn-apple fruits were eaten either rare or stewed. Buffaloberries were also collected and dried for later use.

The sweeter acorns and hazelnuts were used, usually being parched and pounded into a flour. Pine gum was used for chewing.

Some dyes came from the fragrant sumac and the blossoms of the bull-pine.

This issue concludes the notes on plant uses by the Indians as contributed to the publication of the two horticulture societies in the Dakotas, "North and South Dakota Horticulture," in 1937 and 1946, by Dr. George F. Will of Bismarck. Readers of Morden Experimental Farm Weekly Notes will join in being grateful to that renowned Naturalist and Historian for the information and his generous permission to reproduce it.

Dr. Will concluded, "The catalog of Indian plant uses might be continued at length and very many of the uses are not even recorded."

Manitoba Indians used brews of Fringed Wormwood, *Artemisia frigida*, as a relief and cure for stomach ulcers and other gastric distresses. A cupful of the strong tea was drunk after meals and on going to bed. For sores they packed several layers of the leaves of common Plantain over the afflicted part, pressing them on tightly.

CARAGANA is a mongolian word which is now widely used in prairie Canada. It refers to a group of shrubs with yellow or pale pea-like flowers, pinnate leaves which are mostly pale green, and usually some spiny growths on leaf stems or branches. Although sometimes accorded the common English names of Peashrub and Peatree,

the Asiatic name, Caragana, has been adopted locally.

As growing in the Arboretum, Experimental Farm, Morden, four species and three varieties are considered most useful. *Caragana arborescens*, Siberian Caragana, is for shelter; variety Sutherland for a tall columnar accent, variety Felts for a densest semi-circular bush; *C. spinosa*, Spiny Caragana, as a well-armed barrier to 6 feet, with bright golden flowers; *C. microphylla*, Littleleaf Caragana, a graceful shrub to 8 feet, smaller in all parts than the Siberian; *C. frutex* var. *globosa*, Globe Caragana, a very compact domed shrub to about 5 feet with an abundance of bright rich green leaves composed of 4 wide leaflets; and *C. brevifolia*, Shortleaf Caragana, which is closely related to Pygmy Caragana, but is neater in habit, healthier in foliage and has arching side branches.

*C. brevispina*, Shortspine Caragana, with 10 to 14 leaflets and spiny stipules, along with the species following, appears to possess less value than those mentioned in the previous paragraph. It may suffer winter injury.

*C. chamlagu*, Chinese Caragana. A low shrub with 2 pairs of large glossy, leathery leaflets and large golden and red flowers. Propagation is by graftage on *C. arborescens*. Semi-tender.

*C. decorticans*, Afghanistan Caragana. Leaves smaller than the Siberian and less dependable.

*C. frutex*, Russian Caragana. An upright shrub with suckering tendency; 4 dull green leaflets.

*C. jubata*, Shagspine Caragana. An unusual 3-foot shrub, with stiff upright coarse branches heavily clothed with gray wooly hairs and long spines. Hardy on dry lean soil. A novelty with white flowers.

*C. maximowiczii*, Maximowicz Caragana. Much like *C. pygmaea* but more vigorous and spreading. Sometimes kills back.

*C. pygmaea*, Pygmy Caragana. A well-known 3-foot shrub much used for hedges. Often loses many of its small leaves in August.

*C. aurantiaca*, Dwarf Caragana. Much like Pygmy but with golden yellow flowers, and less fully hardy.

*C. tragacanthoides*, without a recognized common name, resembles Maximowicz but tends towards prostrate branching.

Other sub-species on test have failed to impress distinctively.



## COLORADO

by

MRS. CARL METZGER  
Fair City Garden Club



Mrs. Metzger

Just received a letter from the Garden Club chairman reminding me that my December article or rather garden travelog for December is still expected of me although at the present time I am in Denver, Colorado. As I sit here looking through the picture window at Pikes Peak, Devils Head, and Mount Evans, I say to myself "Why not tell about my happy times here in the Queen City of the Rocky Mountain Empire and my beloved Rockies?" The Mile High city is located at the base of the mountains. Its climate is ideal. Yesterday, November 28th, I sat on the patio. Today it is warmer still.

After ten yearly visits I find many things to see and do. Let's start with the Denver parks. Located at the City Park the Natural Historical Museum is filled with the wonders of nature. I go back to it again and again to study the little theaters (I call them that) which show the varied plant life existing at different altitude levels. The one of its varicolored flora and fauna desert life is delightful. The one on the sea birds in their natural habitat is both thrilling and instructive to any gardener. A lover of a garden is also a watcher of birds. When mentioning birds, must tell you that the Van Epps live just across from this park where you can wander for hours admiring the lily pond, the band stand, the well kept gardens, the lakes with their ducks, geese and greedy black and white swans. You will enjoy the many animals in the zoo especially the deer. You can watch the peacocks strutting about and might even see a tiny cub bear up a tree and wish you could wait to see him (or her) climb down at nightfall.

But we can't wait, so come with me to Elitch's Gardens, which I like to call a glamorous Coney Island, for in addition to the latter's attractions

there are so many lovely flowers, especially the tuberous begonias, literally hundreds and hundreds of them. A picnic lunch in such a setting and a visit to the plays given there are not soon forgotten.

Cheesman Memorial Park with its trees, flowers and greensward flanking the Denver Post Summer Opera Theater, has an inspiring view of 150 miles of the Colorado Rockies. A park-finder identifies the mountain peaks. If you wish to see formal gardens go to Washington Park where you will see a replica of the gardens of Mt. Vernon.

Now we must leave Denver, so let's stop at a Travel bureau and hie to the Everlasting Hills. First, a spring or summer trip up some canyon, its huge rock walls reaching skyward. Out of rock crevices grow tiny evergreens, ferns, cacti, flowers of many hues. And you think "If all this beauty can grow in soil like this I'll try harder than ever in Huron, which, as all Huronians feel, has the best soil in the U.S.A." But just look down to your left and there's a mountain stream rushing along, mile after mile. Where's that fly rod? One of my favorite roads to Evergreen. The view of these evergreens is breathtaking. They reach upward on and on to the timber line and then the eye sees only desolation.

Of course, if you wish to see the mightiest mountains of them all, go down the Royal Gorge (we went by train) and on past Mount Massive, Yale and Harvard, great masses of

rocks so huge, barren and forbidding that I, for one, prefer to go back to those near Denver. Their friendly appealing beauty is right up my alley.

And don't forget to come back in the autumn to see the red and gold of the quaking aspens against the green of the pines. The grandeur of the Garden of the Gods (well named) and of the Red Rocks, a natural amphitheater with near perfect acoustics warrants repeat visits. The picturesque old mining town, Central City, is a must on your agenda. In the quaint old opera house we saw Frank Faye in "Harvey" and the Opera of Baby Doe which I understand will be on Broadway in the not-too-distant future.

As I review this Rocky Mountain Empire I feel that I would like to live in a cabin snuggled against a mountain side and facing a snow capped peak. It would have the Colorado Blue Spruce and the giant red spruce here and there throughout the yard and in that yard would be a profusion of native flowers and trailing and climbing vines. Why! I could have fire weed, the blue gentian, purple lupines, asters in many hues, lilies, primroses, the brilliant paint brush: even the vine called kinikinin!

But I'm getting too old to climb "them thar hills" so back to Huron, which I still love very much. If I use plenty of elbow grease, I can raise iris, roses and delphiniums that will do my heart good. I nearly forgot dahlias. But I can dream, can't I?

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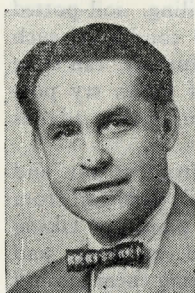
## YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

by

LEONARD A. YAGER

Horticulturist

Montana Extension Service



Yager

*Spring Lawn Care.* Some of the chores needed for lawns during the spring months include raking out dead grass, reseeding worn areas, fertilizing, mowing and renovating weed-ridden areas.

Raking out the dead grass is a helpful practice. The dead grass can be placed on a compost pile, where it is rotted down and becomes valuable organic material which can later be used as a top-dressing material.

Some folks roll the lawn with a moderately heavy roller. The purpose of rolling is to smooth down areas that may have become uneven due to frost heaving during winter months. It is important not to roll the lawn until the soil has partially dried out. Rolling lawns while the soil is quite wet is harmful because it may unduly compact the soil and reduce aeration and water penetration.

Another practice that has come to the fore in recent years is aerating. The turf is opened up by holes bored into the soil from 2 to 3 inches deep at intervals of about 4 inches or 5 inches apart. This job can be accomplished with hand operated aerators, or with motor driven equipment for larger lawns. The function of aeration is to improve soil aeration, but another very important function is to improve water penetration. This job can be done in spring, and can be repeated during the season if soil compaction is a real problem especially where soils are of a heavy nature, where they are rather low in organic matter and where they are frequently used.

A spring fertilizing of the lawn is an important practice. Lawn grasses are heavy feeders of nitrogen. It is also possible that some lawns may need phosphorus too. A top-dressing with some form of organic matter such as well-rotted, weed-free manure, horti-

cultural peat moss, or compost will help maintain a good **humus content** in the soil.

If both nitrogen and phosphorus are needed, fertilizing with an ammoniated phosphate fertilizer will be helpful. Use 10-20-0 or its equivalent in other combinations at 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. If a feeding of nitrogen alone is needed, use ammonium sulphate or its equivalent at the rate of 2 to 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Apply these fertilizers while the grass is dry and water them in thoroughly afterwards to avoid trouble from burning. Some new forms of nitrogen are available on the market that release nitrogen slowly to the plants, and these may prove to be desirable lawn fertilizers. Many of these are much less apt to cause burning than forms mentioned above. Additional top-dressings of nitrogen may be necessary during the growing season. Do not over-fertilize with nitrogen.

Mow often enough so the grass clippings can remain where they are cut to form a mulch, and provide additional organic matter for the soil. Set mowers so they cut at a height of 1½ to 2 inches for Bluegrass lawns. One of the surest ways of inviting trouble from weeds is to cut the grass too short.

When watering, do it thoroughly, giving the soil the equivalent of an inch of water at each irrigation. Watering thoroughly and at 5 to 10 day intervals, depending on soil conditions and weather, will ensure the development of a lawn that will be enduring and healthy and will be able to choke out weeds.

It is best to investigate the causes why a lawn becomes infested with weeds before applying a weed spray. Often a lawn is started on a poor soil, and under such conditions, weeds come in quickly. If such is the case, it is better to start over again. Build up a good seed bed with at least 4 or more inches of good topsoil, provide good drainage, and sow with a recommended grass variety such as Kentucky Bluegrass or Merion Bluegrass.

### *Tomatoes for the Home Garden.*

Tomatoes are one of the most popular vegetables for the home garden. Since they are a warm season crop, they need plenty of warm weather to grow best. However, the gardener, who must try growing them in cooler cli-

mates can do certain things to improve his fruit set and to increase yields of ripe fruits.

Selection of variety is important. Two types exist on the market: the determinate or bush type which does not require pruning or support, and the indeterminate variety which needs pruning and staking. The indeterminate varieties fit in well in higher altitude sections of the state. The bush types are more suited to lower altitude sections of the state where summer temperatures are warmer.

Selection of an early maturing variety is important. One of the earliest semi-determinate kinds is the variety Chatham. Often it will ripen fruit where other varieties are a failure and is recommended especially for altitudes of 5000 feet or more. The fruit is comparatively small, and in areas where the season is longer other varieties are recommended in its place because of their larger size.

Some of the varieties that have succeeded well in Western Montana are: Early Hybrid, Burpeeana Hybrid, Best of All, Early Wonder, Bonny Best, Vancross, Valiant, Siouann, Faribo Hybrid E and Sioux. Bush and semi-determinate type tomatoes for the eastern two-thirds of the state are: Sioux, Siouann, Bounty, Victor, Cavalier, Mustang, Meteor, Monarch and others. No attempt is made to give a complete list for there are many varieties on the market and many gardeners have favorite varieties that adapt themselves well locally. This list includes some of the newer varieties, including hybrids.

Just because a variety is a hybrid does not mean it is superior: its adaptability must be proven just as with open pollinated varieties.

Fruit setting of tomatoes has always presented a problem where cool nights are prevalent. Poor fruit set occurs most frequently early in the season. Excellent success has been reported by gardeners who have sprayed the blossoms with some of the fruit setting hormones available on the market. These sell under various trade names. Blossom clusters must be sprayed as they come into bloom, and it is important to spray the first two or three clusters. Later sprays may not be necessary unless cool nights prevail throughout the season.

(Continued on page 31)



**WELCOME**  
from  
**THE PIERRE GARDEN CLUB**

The Pierre Garden Club is most happy to invite the State Federation of Garden Clubs and the Horticultural Society to Pierre on June 20, 21 and 22 for the annual convention.

We have never had the honor of entertaining the convention and are looking forward to a large delegation. Please urge all of your members as well the delegates to come.

The meetings will be held in the City Auditorium and the Flower Show will be in the basement of the same building. Your clubs will receive a schedule of the Flower Show later.

Our General Chairman for the convention is Mrs. Harold Widdoss, Box 22, Pierre, S. D.

We are hoping that in addition to attending the programs which are being prepared by the state officers, you will be interested in a tour of the world famous Oahe Dam, a visit through the State House, a call at the Governor's Mansion, and a trip through the lovely park system in and around Pierre, including the restful Farm Island where you may catch a glimpse of deer or spot a flock of wild turkey.

Do plan to come. We hope that your visit here will be as interesting and as much fun as we are having in the planning for your stay with us.

Most sincerely,  
THE PIERRE GARDEN CLUB

Pierre, S. D.  
January 22, 1957

Mr. W. A. Simmons,  
Sioux Falls, S. D.

Dear Mr. Simmons,

Seems that convention thoughts are all a twitter thinking about having it here. It is the first time that the Pierre Club has done anything state-wide and we are finding it lots of fun. We have such a grand, co-operative group in the club that it is fun to work together. Our General Chairman has asked me to send this invitation to you to be put into the next Hort. Magazine.

Hope it will be so that you can come to our convention, we will be looking for you,

Sincerely,

(Mrs. R. K.) Nelle M. Morrell  
Publicity Chairman

**POT HOUSE PLANTS  
IN SPHAGNUM MOSS**

by  
DON HOAG

The rich, heavy North Dakota soil that raises bumper field crops isn't necessarily the best potting material for your house plants.

Experimental potted plants that were just managing to struggle along in heavy Fargo clay soil at the NDAC greenhouses took a new lease on life when potted in sphagnum moss, reports Don Hoag, NDAC horticulturist.

Sphagnum moss is that dry, springy

material you often find packed around the roots of nursery stock prepared for transplanting. Properly fertilized the moss has proved to be an excellent growing medium for nearly all popular house plants.

If you have an ailing, soil-potted plant, and household conditions such as a gas stove or furnace can't be blamed for its lack of vigor, try potting it in sphagnum moss, advises Hoag.

Remove the plant from its pot, and wash all clinging soil particles from its roots. Repot the plant by taking bits of moss, soaked in water and squeezed dry, and packing them around the plant. Pack the moss until it is firm, but not hard, cautions Hoag.

Since moss alone has little or no fertilizer value, the horticulturist says that monthly applications of a fertilizer solutions one-half the strength normally used in soil-potted plants is advisable. Any good quality complete fertilizer will be satisfactory.

Sphagnum moss retains moisture for over a month under average spring, summer and fall conditions. This means you can enjoy vacations without making special arrangements with the neighbors to water the plants.

In the winter, plants should be watered about once a week, depending on the amount of humidity in your house.

Most of the moss used in North Dakota come from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, says Hoag. It is available at most florist shops and nurseries.



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## FANNIE MAHOOD HEATH

by

PEARL HEATH FRAZER

When my mother, Fannie Heath, passed away she was called the "Flower Woman of North Dakota" in obituaries in papers all over North Dakota. At the Chicago Exposition in 1933 her picture on a panel in the North Dakota Room was entitled "Fannie Mahood Heath Who Made North Dakota Flowers Famous the World Over." She had the largest collection of shrubs, trees, and flowers in the state, some of them from Siberia, North Africa, China and Alps and other parts of the world, and she knew the botanical name of every plant in her collection as well as thousands of others.

How did Mrs. Heath, who lived on a farm near Grand Forks for fifty years, acquire this collection? How much money was involved? How did she learn to identify plants? Why did she become especially interested in North Dakota wild flowers? How did she obtain her specimens? How much money was spent for outside labor? How frequently did she water her plants? How did she get started writing for horticultural magazines? What fertilizers did she use and what insecticides? I believe that the answer to these questions should be of interest to many gardening in the Dakotas.

Until she was seventeen years old, Fannie Heath lived in southern Minnesota, near Spring Valley. Her ancestors had gone to Virginia as early as 1610 and later generations had been pioneers in Virginia, Maryland, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Her grandfathers had pioneered in Wisconsin and it was from one of them that her father had learned the common names and the medicinal uses. Around the Minnesota home many beautiful wild flowers and shrubs grew on the cliffs, in the woods, and along the creek. Mrs. Heath knew and loved them all.

Therefore, it was a great change to go as a young bride to a treeless, prairie home where there was little to see except tall prairie grass, and where even the neighbors had only a few annuals in their gardens. Not discouraged, Mr. and Mrs. Heath determined that their prairie home should also have beautiful surroundings even though the soil was so full of alkali a

nurseryman had told Mrs. Heath that she would never be able to grow flowers or shrubs there and that his advice was to give the farm away. Mr. and Mrs. Heath began by planting many trees around the five acre plot that was to comprise the barnyard and garden area.

Until about 1912 the garden consisted largely of annuals and fruit trees. About that time Mrs. Heath, who had been writing for a small magazine called "Park's Floral Magazine" began to exchange flowers with others who wrote for the magazine. Experimenting with plants from other localities proved so interesting that she decided to see what plants could be raised in North Dakota. She joined several "Floral Circle" groups whose members exchanged information and plants, subscribed for several floral magazines which had exchange columns and she was on her way. During the years Mrs. Heath tried growing thousands of plants from many parts of the world which did not prove hardy or were not beautiful enough to be worth the space and effort. It is important to note that at the beginning Mrs. Heath had used barnyard fertilizer but in later years she used only leaf mould. Each spring the leaves were raked into piles, allowed to decay and later used in her garden. I do not believe that she ever used any form of commercial fertilizer. Plants in earlier years were covered with straw in winter, and later with leaves. Her beautiful rock garden was made with a foundation of small brush, leaves, pieces of plaster, and garbage, covered with good soil mixed with a little sand and wood ashes.

The wells on the farm dried up and an artesian well was never dug because the water from it would harm the plants so Mrs. Heath had to depend upon the often scanty rainfall for moisture. In a dry year or after a severe winter she lost many plants.

When Mrs. Heath began exchanging plants in considerable amounts she found that common names were very unsatisfactory. A Mayflower, for instance, might be any one of a half dozen plants. It had been possible often to learn the botanical names from the sender if the plants were cultivated varieties but when she became interested in native plants she encountered great difficulties. She obtained the "Flora

of North Dakota," and Grey's "Manual of Botany" and every other possible source. For some time she was unable to obtain a dictionary which would give the correct pronunciation of these names and it was a happy day when she found one and knew when her words were correct. How did this busy woman find time to learn the botanical names of thousands of plants? Each day a new name was placed over her work table and she learned one or more names daily when doing dishes or preparing meals.

Having planted some of the most beautiful wild flowers of that vicinity in her garden she found that often they attracted more attention than many of her rarest cultivated varieties and she determined to see what the wild flowers would do in cultivation. However, she had to have some way of identifying them. She began collecting several plants of each variety when possible. One would be planted in shade, one in partial shade, and one in full sun. The fourth would be sent to a botanist to identify. Among others, Prof. Edgar Baird of the North Dakota University, and Prof. A. F. Yeager and Prof. O. A. Stevens of the Agricultural College were especially helpful. The fine book by Professor Stevens "North Dakota Plants" had not been published at that time. It would have been of inestimable value to her.

I do not believe that Mrs. Heath ever used a spray or insecticide of any kind. She used vigilant care, learned the varieties which were subject to mildew, kept her garden clean, and the thousands of birds which came to enjoy the seeds, small fruits, and the bird baths kept her plants free from insects. The beautiful lawn was the envy of many city people who could water frequently. It was never watered but the grass cuttings were allowed to stay on the grass, thus conserving moisture and helping in other ways.

Since it was found that persons unfamiliar with the rare plants would often destroy them, Mrs. Heath preferred to take almost the entire care of her flower garden. She employed no outside help and her family would only help in the gardens which had the more common flowers.

What were some of her favorite cultivated plants and what native plants

(Continued on page 32)



## 43 YEARS IN SEED BUSINESS

by

GEORGE F. BIRD



Bird

All hasn't been grief and there follow a few examples that have brightened our outlook. These are not intended as any reflection upon the many thousands of customers who didn't include anywhere near the ordinary proportion of screwballs. Of course there were always those who failed to sign their names to their orders, and sometimes, when their remittances were in stamps or coin, they remained anonymous until they protested at the non-arrival of their purchases. Even when checks were included, addresses were frequently a matter of detective work, or, as a last resort, of writing to the banks upon which the checks were drawn for the addresses. Once in a while the wrong letter arrived in the right envelope and we were startled to read, "Dear Grandma, enclosed find a lock of Baby's hair." This happens to be a true one.

Way back when, we recall a few who cut out pictures of items from the catalog and sent in the pictures with the amounts they wished to spend for each written thereon. In some of our very old catalogs there were two pages of Carrots and at the top of the second page the heading "Carrots continued." Some people strained themselves and ordered "Carrots continued." We sent them Oxheart seed as this was the variety listed directly below the confusing heading.

On the order blanks there has always been a space for the name of the transportation company most readily available or desired. Frequently this was filled in "Zoo Line," either a simple error or an intended slap at the Soo Line. We weren't too bad at deciphering orders in other languages, but when a customer employed German script and mixed English words with the German, it was almost sufficient excuse to quit and go home. During World War One, when we were two weeks behind in filling orders and criticism,

although not invited, was certainly justified, we became involved with one impatient gentleman whose correspondence became so vehement that it was turned over to the postal authorities, who discovered that the impatient one was a patient in our state mental hospital.

Customers who came to the store could make things different, if not al- said, "My Tomato seed didn't grow. ways enjoyable. One, when approached My Onion seed didn't grow. My Carrot seed didn't grow. My Bean seed didn't grow." Virtually conquered, we murmured, "Did you get them here?" And the customer said, "No." Then there was the man who asked for the Tomator with the girl's name. We gave him Earliana seed; and the man, about the time of the introduction of Sudan Grass who asked for, "Sudden Grass, it comes up quick!

We had visitors from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Australia and the Low Countries, to mention some we recall, and a few people from Alaska stopped off to see their seed source.

Prior to World War One, each year saw the sale of several bushels of corn to Russia, with each ear wrapped, and shipped through the Russian Consul—we believe at Minenapolis. Between the two great Wars we sold seed corn to the Soviet Government, including two carloads, but on the basis of payment before the merchandise left the United States. We had had a fairly reasonable credit education from Amtorg—a Soviet agency—to the tune of two or three hundred dollars.

Another seed corn experience was with Spain. We had a request from the Spanish Minister to this country through the Bureau of Plant Industry for samples and prices of Seed Corn. We visualized the sale of a few bags and wound up with an order for a large car. The next year we were informed that the results had been satisfactory and were asked for samples and prices of other sorts. We had our mouths all set for another car and this time the order was for two bags.

Among a fair number of foreign customers was a Pole. As affairs worsened and he could not send money from Poland, he had established credits with other concerns in this country and had them lumped with us. He would then order from or through us against his credit. Of course his account

was frozen during World War II. Another annual customer was an Englishman who wrote that he supplied the London market with sweet corn grown from North Dakota seed. (Incidentally he had ordered several times for his son-in-law in South Africa.) At war's end we thought the Pole undoubtedly eradicated, but he turned up with an order almost at once, and we never heard from the Britisher.

Oyer the years some letters revealed a confidence in our concern, whether or not deserved, that really meant something. Somewhere during the prohibition years we received a rather pathetic request from one lady in the northwestern part of North Dakota hoping we could do something to help prevent the manufacture of some of the more potent home brew that was infecting the populace of her area. Another from Wyoming in the early days of the Non-Partisan League asked us what we thought of the organization and whether or not we felt that he should join.

Changes in office methods, advertising, selling, producing and processing have been great. Gone are the catalog pictures of a single head of cabbage filling a wagon—in fact, gone are a good many of the wagons. Postal increases and higher paper and printing costs have restricted promiscuous distribution of catalogs and the Federal Seed Law has been a healthy influence in the trade. It hasn't harmed any reliable concerns; has corrected and eliminated undeniable abuses by shady outfits, and protected the customer. The five-cent package is as dead as the dodo, with fifteen cents the common price on most items. Flower seeds have increased in popularity as the surge of new homes and shorter work weeks have combined to an opportunity for better planted home grounds.

We wind up with the theory that, if any business is to succeed, somebody is going to work at it more than forty hours a week. Over the years we've met many extraordinarily fine people, and we had much more enjoyment than sorrow during our forty-three years in the seed business, possibly because we didn't know any better.

She: "Goodness, George, this isn't our baby! It's the wrong carriage!"

George "Shhh, quiet—this one has tires!"



## LETTER FROM FLORIDA

by

C. RICHARD HARTMANN  
Dade City, Fla.

That article in the October '56 issue, "What Is a Lily?" by Victor H. Ries, was extremely interesting and no doubt very helpful and enlightening to many readers of the much appreciated *Dakota Horticulture*, the contents of which are all so helpful besides being entertaining in so many different ways. It should be dear to any lover of gardens and nature (and even to his own higher Self) that his mind is all confusion and ignorance when it comes to things of nature, of which he himself is a product. People come to our place and stumble over a rosebush, and were it not that their stockings or their pants had been torn by it, they would not have noticed it was a rosebush; or they step right on a valuable flower without even being aware of it.

You must have read about the Mediterranean fruit fly (Med-fly) and the 10 million dollar campaign being waged against it, and which many here consider a hoax. It is quoted that State Senator J. Frank Houghton, when discussing the Florida Med-fly outbreak of 1929, said that when the money to fight the fly was cut off, the fly automatically disappeared. Part of the above information is quoted from a letter in the *Daily Times*, Melbourne, Fla., August 7, 1956. I firmly believe the fruit fly is a symptom just like most or all diseases of man, beast and plant are symptoms—remove the cause and the symptoms disappear. The "cause" or this Med-fly no doubt is profitable propaganda to some.

A prominent citrus grower claims the Mediterranean fruit fly has been present in Florida for 30 years or more, but that Florida has not many host plants to furnish the means whereby the fly can multiply and become a pest; and that he has never seen the Med-fly on sound citrus trees (oranges, grapefruits, tangerines, etc.); and that not even pepper growers concern themselves about the fly though peppers are said to be very vulnerable. My own opinion is that the climate in Florida is against their increase and existence as a pest, because the home of this fruit fly has a very dry climate, the

southern shores of Europe being very dry, and northern Africa fronting the Mediterranean practically a desert. No doubt these areas have many hosts in addition to the favorable climate, while here in Florida even the general humidity is too great for them to spread and become a pest.

The overhead poison spraying used in this Med-fly eradication program has killed many bees and other beneficial insects such as the dragon fly, the natural enemy of the mosquito. This is why we suffer from mosquitoes more than at any time before. We here in this locality are fortunate that, with this year's exception, we have had very few mosquitoes. The spray is also harmful to the paint of automobiles; to grazing animals, birds, fish; and in other respects including the pollution of the air during the immediately following such an aerial spraying, which man himself has to inhale, to his own physical detriment whether he realizes it or not; and many people have been taken to hospitals or clinics for the treatment of skin burns caused by exposure to the spray.

We all hope that the quarantine on fruit from the so-called infested parts of Florida, which is well up from the southern tip beyond the central parts, will soon be lifted so that our delicious citrus fruits—which are especially high in quality from this (Pasco) and adjoining counties—will be available in northern markets without having had to be fumigated, and that this costly nuisance will soon be eradicated.

### MODERN LANDSCAPE SERVICE

by

J. M. (JOHN) ATKINSON, *Owner*  
Dear Horticultural and Garden Club Member:

It is my firm belief that State Parks and especially the roadside plantings have done more to make South Dakota an enjoyable state to travel through than any other one thing the Highway Commission or Park Department has ever done.

Considering the nominal cost of this project compared with the over-all highway program, it seems to me that it would be false economy and a step backward to curtail this project in any respect.

Will you kindly see that this resolution is read at your next club meet-

ing and urge your legislators to vote for continuance and expansion of the present program?

Sincerely,

JOHN ATKINSON, *President* \_\_\_\_\_  
South Dakota Horticultural Society

The following resolution was approved and passed by the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs and the South Dakota Horticulture Society at the State Convention held at Brookings, South Dakota on June 29, 1956:

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Legislature has, in years past, appropriated funds for the support of the Forestry and Parks program in the state; and

WHEREAS this assistance has aided in protection and conservation of natural resources, in roadside park development, and in encouraging civic beauty, thereby furthering the interest of horticulture; and

WHEREAS the present need for an expanded Forestry and Parks program is urgent: Therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, That the members of the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs and the South Dakota Horticultural Society do hereby, in convention assembled, strongly urge the 1957 Legislative Body to financially assist in the support and expansion of a continuous program in the Forestry and Parks Division of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for work in South Dakota.

MRS. EARL KINDRED, *President*  
South Dakota Federation  
of Garden Clubs

MR. JOHN ATKINSON, *President*  
South Dakota Horticultural  
Society

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. E. W. KINDRED



Mrs. Kindred

The South Dakota Horticulture Society and the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs are happy to announce that the dates of our annual convention have been set for June 20 - 21 - 22 in Pierre. You

will hear more of the plans in our next issue.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that there is a quantity of material which may be had from the New York office, through Mrs. Blanche Wilks, 205 Essex House, 160 Central Park South, New York 19, N. Y., for the asking or for a very nominal sum; slides, program papers and other suggestions. The following is the most recent list of program papers to be placed in this lending file:

1. "First Aid Suggestions for the Gardener" by Mrs. J. H. Tucker, New Orleans, La.
2. "Eighteenth Century Gardens of England" by Elizabeth F. Moore, Columbia, S. C.
3. "Flight Conservation" (playlet) by Mrs. George C. Houser, Brookline, Mass.
4. "Galanthus" (Snowdrop) by Mrs. George C. Houser, Brookline, Mass.
5. "Gladiolus" by Mrs. Frederick Moeller, Boston, Mass.
6. "History of the Tulip" by Mrs. George C. Houser, Brookline, Mass.
7. "Have You Considered Viburnums?" by Mrs. A. L. Swasey, Marblehead, Mass.
8. "Helpful Hints in Conserving Wild Flowers and Lists of New England" by Massachusetts Horticultural Society.
9. "Plants Native to Western Hemisphere" by Mrs. Arthur P. Teele, Boston, Mass.
10. "The Dahlia" by Mrs. Frederick Moeller, Boston, Mass.

11. "The Violet" by Mrs. George C. Houser, Brookline, Mass.
12. "The Trailing Arbutus" by Mrs. George C. Houser, Brookline, Mass.
13. "The Lily" by Mrs. Frederick Moeller, Boston, Mass.
14. "Suggestions for Observing National Garden Week" (April 18-25) by Mrs. Warder I. Higgins, Butte, Mont.
15. "What Is a Garden" by Mrs. Arthur Jack, Tekamah, Nebr.
16. "Seeing the Flower Arrangement" by Francis Frenzel, California.
17. "Color Harmony Definitions and Usable Examples in Flower Arrangements" by Mrs. F. A. Huwieler, Texas.
18. "Arrangements of Fruit, Vegetables and Combinations with Flowers, Foliage, and Nuts" by Mrs. F. A. Huwieler, Texas.
19. "Border Plantings" by Marguerite Palmer, Texas.
20. "Broadleaf Evergreen Shrubs for Gulf Coast Gardens" by Mary Dee Flagg, Texas.
21. "Ground Covers for Gulf Coast Gardens" by Allen B. Hannay, Texas.
22. "Manzinas" by Mrs. Harry Klemp, Washington.

I hope that many clubs will plan an observance of Arbor Day by planting at least one Hopa Crab tree. Here is a program outline for such a ceremony which can be adapted to most any type Arbor Day celebration as it appeared in the Florida Gardner and was arranged by the Florida Forest Service.

Song (one): "America," "Trees, God Bless America"

Invocation

Scripture Reading (one) Joel 1:19-20; Isaiah 5:24; Exodus 22:6; Isaiah 44:14 or selected passages from Forests and Flame in the Bible (These were available from the Florida Forest Service) and would provide copies upon request (for S. Dak. try our own forest service)

Poem: "What do We Plant When We Plant the Tree?"

Song: "Smokey the Bear" (May be had from S. Dak. Forestry Service)

Essay: "Why Should We Prevent Woods Fires?" (Best in Contest for members in your group)

Talk: Suggested topic "How to

Plant Trees," or "The importance of Trees to Everyone." By a community leader or member of the Forestry service.

Recitation: "Why We Keep Arbor Day." (For seven children request from Florida Forestry Service).

Reading: An Arbor Day Tree (Four small children, Please request from Florida Forest Service)

Ceremony: Planting the Tree and Dedicating it

Song: "America the Beautiful" Benediction

May I urge any who have not turned back your questionnaires on the plant testing program to do so at once.

If you have any questions as to state awards, direct your correspondence to Mrs. L. B. Severance, 1308 Utah Ave., S.E., Huron, S. Dak. Especially will you review your work along lines of Civic improvement and see if it would not qualify for an award. The applications need not be written up in an extensive manner.

Have you read Dorothy Biddle's "It's How You Say It" in the October Popular Gardening? Good help for your club's Program chairman.

Our federation has been ably represented on Clare Home's T.V. show by our T.V. chairman, Mrs. Walter Mortenson and others recently. We are one of many organizations in the state which have representatives on a state wide T.V. Council which helps to plan these programs.

Many of you secured the small booklet called "Fixing Flowers to Please Your Family," that was put out by the Ferry Morse Seed Co., and proved a very practical guide for the beginner in Flower Arranging. They now have another one equally as good called "Flower Gardens, Old Fashioned and New," which may be obtained from the Ferry Morse Seed Co., Detroit, Mich., for ten cents for one or five cents if you order more than one copy, or it may be gratis if you include six Ferry Seed brands cut from the bottom of Ferry's seed packets.

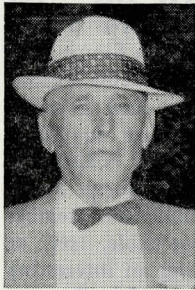
In closing may I ask all who are taking the Flower Show School to note Mrs. Bushfield's announcement regarding Course 4. My next message to you will be from Miami, where I will be attending the National Convention.



## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

New Years Day, I was reading my new book "Columbia River" and one chapter, "Two Men Named Hill" is of especial interest because of the new and conflicting reports. About two years ago I wrote about the station and castle "Maryhill." The talk was that Jim Hill, the empire builder, built it for his wife, who had lived there and that she was mentally unbalanced. This chapter states Jim Hill was a speaker, June 1st, 1905 in Portland at the opening of the Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition. Before this Jim Hill had a road from Spokane to Seattle, so it was the other Empire Builder, E. H. Harriman who built the line from Spokane to Portland, where the Castle Maryhill stands a 1000 ft. above the river, on the volcanic rocks and desert. Another story was that Sam Hill built the Castle in memory of his mother. He was not a son or relative but a smart Attorney in the employ of Jim Hill. He married May Hill, Jim Hill's oldest daughter in 1888. In 1913 he started this castle, still standing and housing a Mexican, and this castle was not finished 13 years later when it was dedicated by Queen Marie of Romania—that makes this all so interesting to see this Queen, President Roosevelt on T.V., 30 years later, as we are reading the book. There

are over 50 books of the important viewers of the nation. A 1938 report shows a wild grape 30 inches in circumference, the oldest in the state, 12 miles north of Milbank on Big Stone lake, ¼ mile west of Casino Lake. It would be interesting to know if it is still alive.

Jan. 8th, 5:30 P.M. The telephone at Richland, Wash., calls the 8 Wallners, from Oregon, Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota to sing Happy Birthday. The only state I see on the return trip was the big state of Montana, as the first night is spent crossing Washington and Idaho and the second night is spent crossing North Dakota and it's still dark on arrival at Minneapolis at 6:10. I had hoped to see Ft. Peck dam but that is farther north in Montana. The Northern Pacific is farther south in the Yellowstone Valley and follows that river over 300 miles. This is the 4th different northern route I have returned on and two Southern routes. At home the boys were busy sorting potatoes; also have started an addition to the plant house. The trip south will begin early Monday morning the 14th. It's -16 this morning, too cold to be starting on a 2000 mile trip by car, but warmer climates and states I have never seen, will be reward enough. We reached Quincy, Ill., for the night. The Tripple A.A.A. Guide, is a sure guide to the best beds and eats. We took No. 15 back into Missouri and there are so many places of interest but I did insist on going around the Shaw Gardens in St. Louis hoping to get a view of the new home of the NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB but doubt if it has been started, but Tower Park and Forest Park surrounding, cover over 1500 acres. This is in south St. Louis, spent about two hours here, finding it and then finding our

way out. Still plenty cold down here, spent two days in Memphis, Tenn., as Frank and Mary had friends there when he was in the Veteran's hospital. Perhaps most interesting of all is the 22 mile tour through the Vicksburg National Military Park of 1323 acres with 110 cannon in many of the old trenches and breastworks and battle-lines of both sides as it was in 1863. There are 230 monuments, over 900 tablets most every city or district is noted for something special, should say something about Natches. It has the most old Plantation homes, but all through the south are the little shacks of the share croppers but I think up to date machinery is taking the place of most these share croppers. The district south of Memphis is called Delta county and most of it is listed and I suppose will be planted to cotton. There are still a few mules to be seen. In New Orleans I saw three one horse vegetable wagons same as I had in 1910 to 1920. The city too has so much of interest it is hard to pick out the best. Most of the city is only 5 or 10 feet above the gulf water. It has the narrowest streets also Canal St., the widest. There are 20 or 30 artists along Jackson St. curb that will paint your picture in a few minutes. The State Museum dates from 1795. The pirate Jean Lafitte, Andrew Jackson and a few others connected with the Louisiana Purchase, were wiser than Napoleon. I must skip Mobile, Tallahassee and other beautiful cities in bloom and full of evergreens. A few groves of pines are being tapped for sap. All through Florida trees are being cut and roads widened for Super Highways, but here I am at Indian Rock Beach, Florida. All others are out in the warm sun on the Beach on the Pier, anywhere to get a good tan.

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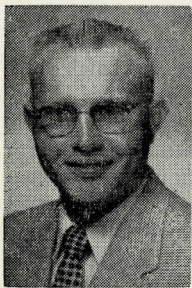
**YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA**



## OUR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

by

MRS. H. M. PIERCE



**HAMMER**

The first scholarship, given by the S. D. Federation of Garden Clubs has been given to Mr. Dwane Hammer, student in the field of Horticulture at South Dakota State College. Dwane, a resident of Ethan, S. D., was recommended by the Dell Rapids Garden Club. The scholarship of \$150 is made payable to State College to be applied on tuition and fees in the field of Horticulture.

When informed of the action of the State Board in granting him this award, Dwane had this to say: "I wish to send my sincere thanks, to the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, and to the committee on awarding the first scholarship. I hope you will convey my thanks to all the clubs in the state for their wonderful gesture."

## RESOLUTION

The Board of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., assembled in New York City on Friday, January 11th presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Billions of dollars of taxpayers money will soon be expended on a vast system of Interstate Highways on which there are no adequate restrictions; and

WHEREAS, Be it resolved that each state here represented urge their representatives in Congress to support Federal legislation requiring protective measures and scenic easement from the edge of the right of way on each side of the highway. These easements to be acquired at the time the right of way is procured.

Be it further resolved that an immediate nation-wide press release be issued on this important resolution urging Congress for power to restrict advertising along the \$27,000,000,000.00 superhighway network in the interest of safety and beauty.

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS

The NATIONAL GARDENER has just come in; it seems like each issue is better than the last, and I hope each of our club presidents is getting it and reading all of it. This last issue tells of the National Council succeeding in organizing Minnesota, not too thoroughly as yet, as the start was made less than a year ago, but the State president, Mrs. Fred Multaler, 6208 Stevens Ave., Minneapolis 23, reports their having 54 clubs and over 1200 members. They are to have their own publication, starting with January, 1957. In sending in his dues for 1957, Mr. Eldred Buer of R. R. 3, Canby, Minn., writes: "So far, we have been having a most remarkable winter. The past season was one of the most rewarding we have experienced. We were blessed with ample rainfall in this locality and flowers, particularly, the lilies were superb. The crop of small and tree fruit too was bountiful and the fruit cellar was filled to overflowing. We have just eaten the last of a large winter pear we had in storage. They were delicious and kept perfectly. As the years roll by, we find more and more varieties adaptable to our great Northwest." Mr. Buer is a great lily lover and he has so many varieties not seen outside large lily shows that it will be well worth while to drive many miles to see them next summer.

## GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS . . .

(Continued from page 20)  
more than one hundred registering. Mrs. Frances Nelson, Hurley, was the presiding officer. At the noon luncheon, served at beautifully decorated tables, favors were mum corsages, the mums being a gift of the Sletvold Florists, Vermillion. Music was furnished by Connie Johnke and Rosemary Erickson. Dean Martin, Extension Horticulturist, S. D. S. C., was the speaker, and guests included Mrs. E. M. Kindred, Miller, and Mrs. Glenn McArthur, Huron. Mrs. Harlan Jorgenson, of the Irene Garden Club, was elected district chairman for two years. Mrs. Joe Flamo, Dell Rapids, demonstrated winter bouquets, showing lovely arrangements of crooked branches, weeds, seed pods, leaves, cornhusks, paint,

shoe polish, and imagination. Mrs. Donald McMurchie's lighted display of African violets was beautiful. Thanks to Mrs. Snoozy for this good report.

Mrs. L. N. Brakke says, "The Lyons Garden Club enjoyed a tour of Strong's Greenhouses, in Sioux Falls in Nov. and afterward a 1:00 o'clock luncheon at the Town and Country Cafe; then a demonstration on textile painting. In December a Christmas party at the Louis Howe home. Secret pals exchanged gifts and each member brought some idea for table, tree, or door decoration, making an interesting display. I'm glad to hear that the men exchanged gifts, too. Sometimes it almost seems like Christmas is for women and children, with dad doing the paying. Keep the change, boys, I'm just expressing innermost thoughts.

Mrs. Harry Overgaard, in a brief report from the Centerville Club, tells of their activities. A successful Strolling Flower Show, panel programs on "A Day in the Woods," "Garden Therapy," "Longer Life for Cut Flowers," "Flower Arrangements," "Famous Christmas Trees," as well as Christmas flower arrangements. Mrs. Bertha Hornbeck, who attended the Rocky Mt. Regional Meeting, held in Missoula, Mont., gave an interesting report. Mrs. Donald McMurchie has been a member of this club for thirty years.

Newly installed officers of the Fair City Club, Huron, are: President, Mrs. Henry DeVries; vice president, Mrs. Carl Metzger; secretary, Mrs. D. V. McDonnell; treasurer, Mrs. P. Pollock. Program topics were "Conservation of Christmas Trees," by Mrs. Henry Gehm; "Legend of the Christmas Tree," by Mrs. Leland Skow; a reading, by Mrs. W. E. Nielsen. The horticulture lesson and display was on Christmas plants, by Mrs. Henry DeVries. Mrs. John Febuary sends this report.

Thanks for the lovely year books so many clubs have sent to me. I wish that I could write to all of you personally, but I seem to run out of time. I hope to have many more requests for membership cards, and am always glad to send them.

Conscience gets a lot of credit that belongs to cold feet.

—NORTH DAKOTAN

**DAKOTA HORTICULTURE**



## LINCOLN TOUR'S 6th ANNUAL NAT'L GARDEN CLUB TOUR

by

MRS. G. R. MCARTHUR  
Publicity Chairman



The Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency is again offering an interesting Trailways Motor Coach Tour to the convention of the National Council of State Garden clubs at Miami, Florida, leaving Omaha March 24th, 1957. This tour is especially for the benefit of the Garden club members of the Rocky Mountain Region, including South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, Kansas, Wyoming and Utah, who may join the tour at Omaha or Kansas City.

This special Motor Coach Tour offers a splendid opportunity to see and visit historical and scenic highlights of the south and southeastern sections of the United States, as well as meet intimately members of other garden clubs and participate in the functions of the National Convention at Miami. The chartered bus is most comfortable with reclining seats, air-conditioning and hotel overnight stops with twin-beds and bath. Baggage and all reservations are taken care of by the travel guide. The bus is piloted by an experienced, licensed driver who is making his sixth annual tour with this group.

The itinerary this year into the southland is most exciting, stops and side-trips will be made in the Ozarks,

(Shepherd of the Hills Country), Vicksburg; Bellingrath Gardens at Mobile; Pensacola, Fla.; Tour in a Glass-bottom boat and Jungle Cruise at Silver Springs, Fla.; Orlando, Winter Haven and Cypress Gardens; St. Petersburg, Ringling Museum at Sarasota, Ft. Meyers and through the Everglades to Miami. The five days of April 1 to April 5 in Miami attending the National Convention are not included in the price of the tour, personal reservations must be made through National Convention Headquarters.

On Saturday April 6th a special optional two day tour to Havana is offered for Lincoln Tour members from Miami, which will include reservations at the Sevilla Biltmore Hotel in Havana, a motor tour of the Cuban Countryside, visit to the night spots, visit to a flower farm and other interesting points.

On the return trip stops will be made at east coast cities, Daytona Beach, St. Augustine, Atlanta, Look-out Mountain, Chattanooga, Memphis and return to Kansas City April 14th. For price of tour and further details, contact Lincoln Tour and Travel Agency, 204 South 13th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, immediately—first come first served.

### YOUR YARD AND GARDEN . . .

(Continued from page 23)

One of the mistakes made by many gardeners is that they start their tomato seeds too early in the greenhouse or hotbed. Experiments conducted in various parts of the country show that a well grown transplant six to eight weeks old will come along better than an older or younger transplant. If you normally set your tomato plants out the first week of June, plan on starting the seed indoors between April 1 to 15.

Experiments have also shown that it pays to grow tomato seedlings in good soil enriched with a little commercial fertilizer. Transplants grown in about 4 inch pots or cans are ideal. Second best are those transplants grown in  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inch or 4 by 4 inch plant bands or separators. The poorest are transplants grown in flats without separators. The shorter the growing season for tomatoes, the more important these factors are.

## WHY GARDEN?

by

VICTOR RIES

If you are the sort of person who asks others why they garden, you should probably not try yourself. On the other hand, someday the garden fever may catch you, if so look out! I remember one prominent business man who used to rather laugh at and look down upon other men who were gardening enthusiasts. Then when he tried to plant a little rocky bin along one side his rhododendrons he stopped laughing. All the rhododendrons died, largely because he was planting them in an alkaline soil. Anyway it got him started and he became one of the most gardeners in this community. He learned to grow the rhododendrons and azaleas in his limestone glen. He became interested through that in rock plants, especially alpine plants. The last time I saw him, shortly before his death he was in a wheel chair, but he had himself pushed out to the far side of his yard where with a long pole he could point out to me a very rare alpine plant, a saxifrage which he claimed and justly so, was the only one growing successfully in western Ohio. In the years following his retirement from active business, his garden was his major interest. He wasn't satisfied with just growing plants, he would find out all about them, where they came from, what sort of a place they were found in the wilds, what their other plant relatives were.

Yes, gardening is one of the most fascinating and complete hobbies a man or a woman can have. Whether you stay at home or travel extensively it is a hobby that is always around you, always to be seen and studied and enjoyed.

Although gardening is a hobby you can't say "I don't have a green thumb" or "I can't grow plants successfully." There is no such thing as a green thumb. Those who claim they don't have it are merely admitting that they are very careless, sloppy, would be gardeners. The only difference between being interested in your plants and taking care of them in watering them regularly and giving them the proper soil to grow on and fertilizing them regularly and giving them intelligent protection from insects and dis-



Wayside.....



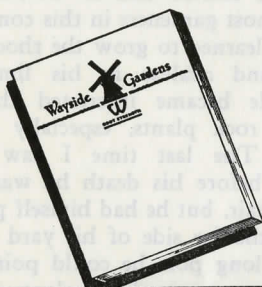
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Gardens

eases. And winter is a wonderful time to start on the gardening hobby for you can do enormous amounts of ground work by reading magazines, by getting the various university and government bulletins, by reading books, by sending for catalogues.

Starting to garden is very much like moving to a new community, new faces, new names to learn, new customs to learn. Just so we are gardening it is important to start at the beginning to learn about soils and fertilizers, watering, pest control, propagation of plants, and above all the plants themselves. Just as you learn the names of your friends, neighbors, and acquaintance just so every good gardener should learn the names of the plants in his garden, not just that it's a flower or a shrub or a tree, but rather that it is a daylily, or lily, or geranium, or cotoneaster, or viburnum, or hyacinth. And every year half the fun is to meet new ones. And the wonderful part of it is that if you learn one hundred new plants a year. You could keep this up until you are a hundred and there would still be thousands of plants that you would never become acquainted with, never have the fun of trying to grow, that's the hobby of gardening.

### NEWSLANTS . . .

(Continued from page 19)

must. I think our family taste is about typical. I expect about 3 out of 4 folks relish asparagus. When you have too much for fresh consumption, it freezes very well.

An article in a recent issue of MARKET GROWER'S JOURNAL on controlling blossom-end rot of tomatoes indicates the causes may be much more complex than many of us once thought. The article is by C. M. Geraldson, Assistant Soils Scientist of the Gulf Coast Experiment Station, Bradenton, Florida. Early observations seemed to indicate that periods of drouth lasting a week or ten days, following a period of abundant moisture usually resulted in more or less blossom-end rot. Now it seems that there are several other niggers in this particular woodpile. The article does point out that low, high or fluctuating moisture conditions have been associated. In Florida at least, it seems that excess amounts of certain soluble salts are a part of the picture. Low calcium appears to be a cause. Calcium foliage sprays are part of the control. One thing to keep in mind is that blossom-end rot is not contagious—something that has worried a lot of gardeners.

### FANNIE MAHOOD HEATH . . .

(Continued from page 25)

did she consider the most beautiful or improved the most in cultivation? These and other questions will be answered in future articles.

As Mrs. Heath's garden attracted more attention thousands of people came to see it. Visitors from many states and even foreign lands, when in the city, went out to the farm. Some found her experiments so interesting that they wanted to send her plants. In most cases Mrs. Heath sent them plants in exchange. A few nurserymen sent her plants to see if they would be hardy. Among others with whom she exchanged, or to whom she sold plants or seeds were Mr. T. Hay, superintendent of the Royal Gardens of England, Prof. N. E. Hansen of Brookings, S. D., Stephen Hamblin of Harvard University, Clarence Lown, an expert on alpine plants, and Mrs. Louise Beebe Wilder, author of several floral books. Although it seems almost unbelievable all this vast number of plants and seeds usually cost her nothing except postage. Our wild flowers were so beautiful she found that people were eager to exchange plants for them.

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