

Illinois State Florists' Association



BULLETIN

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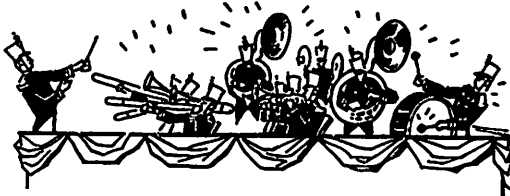
NUMBER 405

G. M. Fosler, Editor

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1983

CIRCUS

IT'S TIME



The Illinois State Florists Association will meet
"Under The Big Top," March 11-13, 1983
at the Spring Conference and Trade Fair,
Holiday Inn, Decatur, Illinois!



EXHIBITORS — Call (217) 235-0339 for information
WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS

All "Under The Big Top" In Decatur

- **SPECIALLY FOR GROWERS** — tentative plans call for a Pesticide Applicator Certification session, plus several noted speakers.
- **GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH — THROUGH A WINDOW** — our Saturday afternoon matinee with a dozen or more top designers creating eye-catching window displays. Circus refreshments for everyone.
- **THREE-RING CIRCUS BANQUET** — there'll actually be a 3-ring performance for your Saturday evening enjoyment — an elegant buffet, surprise entertainment features, & dancing to the music of the "Four Clowns."
- **DESIGN SYMPOSIA SESSIONS** — 5 different presentations on Sunday, each given twice: (1) Bread & Butter Designs; (2) New Products Session; (3) Wedding Flowers; (4) Designing for Funerals; & (5) the AFS "What is Your Talent Worth?" program.
- **TRADE SHOW** — contracts are coming in fast, indicating that our Trade Show will continue as the Best in the Midwest!
- **DESIGN CONTEST** — only 1 big design competition this year, the "Master Designer of the Year Contest" (for all ages).
- **SUNDAY CIRCUS BRUNCH** — another opportunity to mingle & visit, enjoy a fine repast, & listen to an engaging speaker.
- **AWARDS CEREMONY** — our Ringmaster will announce, with a fanfare, the Design Contest winners, & the names of the 6 I.S.F.A. Scholarship recipients.
- **HEADDRESS EXTRAVAGANZA** — in the Sideshow, a fitting grand finale feature for the Circus's 3-day run, set for late Sunday afternoon.
- **DECATUR HOLIDAY INN** — the Convention Resort is all ours for the weekend & has much to offer in fine rooms, restaurants & lounges, pool & sauna, game room, & other recreational facilities.

Illinois State Florists' Association Bulletin (USPS 258-620)

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PLEASE NOTE:

PERMISSION to reprint from the I.S.F.A. Bulletin is gladly granted, provided that due credit is given to the author(s) and to this publication.

It took me years to teach my son the value of a dollar — so now he asks me for 2 dollars.

A man of 65 was sure he looked at least 10 years younger than that, but was quickly brought back to reality when one of his grandchildren asked him:

"Grandpa, were you with Noah on the Ark?"

"Of course not, child."

"Well, then," said the child. "How come you didn't get drowned?"

PRINTING new stationary, envelopes, invoices, labels, or statement forms? Then why not include the Association emblem! This will show that you are proud of being an I.S.F.A. member—and indicates to your clients that you are a professional florist who belongs to THE Association representing the entire industry in Illinois.

(P.S. Your printer can make a cut from the emblem shown here.)



Member
Illinois State Florists' Association

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Illinois State Florists' Association**

September 30, 1982

CURRENT/RESERVE FUND

Interest Bearing Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,301.93	
Certificate of Deposit due 4/1/83 (9.737%)	30,000.00	
Certificate of Deposit due 2/17/83 (10.952%) ...	10,000.00	
Money Market Fund Deposit:		
Deposit	\$10,000.00	
Interest Credited	2,349.69	12,349.69
		<u>\$53,651.62</u>

RESEARCH FUND

Interest Bearing Checking Account Balance	\$ 6,220.16	
Certificate of Deposit due 2/17/83 (10.952%) ...	10,000.00	
		<u>\$16,220.16</u>

TOTAL (9/30/82) \$69,871.78

Submitted September 30, 1982
OLIN A. WETZEL, Treasurer

**James Sykora, Sr. Passes
Away In October**

An elder statesman of the floriculture industry, James Sykora, Sr., Elmhurst, IL, passed away on Oct. 11 at the age of 88. In addition to many other honors and accomplishments, he served as president of the Illinois State Florists' Association from 1947 to 1949.

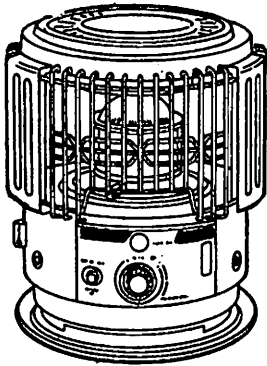
A member of a pioneer greenhouse family in Batavia, IL, Sykora attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he ultimately received his MS degree in floriculture. He achieved the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army during WW I. Following military duty, he went to work for the Joseph Foerster Co., a Chicago wholesale florist firm. In 1929 he joined the Amling Co. as general manager. He was one of the founders of Floralife, Inc., Hinsdale, a firm which manufactures and distributes a wide range of flower and plant care products. At the time of his death, he served as chairman of the board of directors. Floralife is now headed by his son, James Jr.

of pests; use the smallest droplet size possible; treat plants with the proper materials to avoid damage; and apply the materials in the recommended environmental conditions.

This presentation by Dr. Freeman is from the "Long Island Horticulture News," March 1982.

Unvented Kerosene Heaters— OK For Greenhouses??

James K. Rathmell



A new breed of kerosene heaters — from Japan — came on the market about a year ago. They have become a "hot" sales item. Many homeowners use this type of heater to supplement their regular heating equipment.

The fuel used in these heaters is referred to as "clean" or "white" or "pure" kerosene. As the use of these heaters has increased, so has the cost of the kerosene. In many cases, it is more expensive than regular fuel oil used in the home.

However, they are convenient, portable and economical to use. Directions included with these units point out certain safety requirements. In addition to using only clean kerosene, the manufacturers stress "use only in well-ventilated rooms." Provide ventilation of at least 40 sq. in. for each 10,000 BTU of rating.

Several growers have called about using a heater of this type in a greenhouse. They are certainly NOT something to be considered for a greenhouse of any size. Number one — it would take too many as they don't provide many BTU's. A small hobby greenhouse owner might consider using a heater of this type — BUT we'd like to share some observations, pros and cons concerning this type of heater in a greenhouse.

PRO — By-products of the burning of the kerosene will be water vapor and carbon dioxide. At one time a number of rose, carnation and other growers used an open flame kerosene CO₂ generator heater to supply CO₂ in the greenhouse. Some heat was given off, but the prime use was for carbon dioxide — increased plant growth and yield was their aim.

CON — Unless an outside source of oxygen is maintained, you can exhaust the O₂ in the greenhouse. If all the O₂ is removed, the flame will be extinguished, there would be no heat and the greenhouse crop would be lost. We still remember one grower who put in propane heaters and decided not to vent them outside — he wanted all the CO₂ for his plants. The heaters clicked on and off over a period of time, then eventually went out — no oxygen.

Ethylene gas injury is seen frequently in houses that are not vented properly. This type of plant injury is seen frequently in plastic houses during the heating season — the reason — no outside air exchange.

Carbon monoxide can be another problem, especially if someone enters or works in a small or hobby greenhouse heated with this type of unvented kerosene heater. Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless.

A sooty or oily deposit has been noticed on the inside of windows of homes where these heaters are used. During the winter — low light intensity months — all available light is needed for plants to grow normally. Plants grown in low light conditions tend to stretch.

Plant injury (ethylene and sulfur dioxide) has been seen in greenhouses heated by "jet-type" kerosene heaters — not vented. A good general rule — vent all heaters.

Commercially, growers frequently have "salamander" heaters (used by construction workers to heat unfinished buildings or by orchard owners to prevent fruit from freezing). Greenhouse owners use this type of heat for emergency heat — but they keep the top ventilator cracked several inches. The reason — supply oxygen and to minimize any possible damage to plants from fumes.

We talked with the customer relations department of one of the firms selling these heaters. They pointed out that their heaters burned with 99% efficiency. However, they were quick to point out that sulphur in the kerosene might present problems. A white deposit would be seen on the surface of walls, etc. (Note: Sulphur is an old-time remedy to control mildew on plants. There are more efficient ways of using sulphur than relying on what comes from the kerosene heaters.)

Kerosene heaters of this type do not have any thermostat to regulate the amount of heat that is being released. Because of this fact, the representative of the firm that we spoke to suggested that kerosene heaters sold by them should NOT be used in greenhouses.

SUMMING IT UP — *Our recommendation* — **DO NOT USE the unvented kerosene heater in a greenhouse.** We know that some folks are using this type of heater, even in small plastic structures, but we feel the "cons" are apt to catch up with the plants or even the owner.

More On Kerosene Heaters

Several articles appeared in local newspapers with

these headlines: Kerosene brands not exactly pure . . . Kerosene brands are not all alike. The problem is that kerosene might have a high sulfur content.

The kerosene specified for flueless kerosene heaters is 1-K. This kerosene will be 99.5% clean burning. Grade 1-K kerosene is allowed a maximum sulfur content of 0.04 weight percent.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult to find 1-K kerosene available for sale. 1-K is costly, probably twice as much per gallon to buy as standard kerosene. Kerosene should be hauled in clean or purged tank trucks; otherwise, it will be contaminated with fuel oil or other impurities. Kerosene refiners would have to sell 1-K in 1-gal. containers, not pumped, to make sure it remained pure.

The second grade of kerosene is 2-K. This is what is offered for sale by the majority of dealers. The sulfur content of this plain, standard kerosene is considerably higher than 1-K.

Sulfur dioxide, a by-product of burning 2-K kerosene, is a possibility. This air pollutant causes a bleaching or leaf burning effect on plant foliage. The tissue between the veins is injured and this damage is often more prominent towards the petiole. Fully expanded leaves are the most sensitive to this type of sulfur dioxide injury.

Dr. O. W. Davidson, retired professor of floriculture, Rutgers Univ., shared with us some additional information concerning kerosene heaters. Dr. Davidson said that he thought that an unvented kerosene space heater could be used in a hobby greenhouse — with a small amount of ventilation.

A news release from EXXON was passed on to me by Dr. Davidson. A summary of this news item follows:

The American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) has defined the standards for two grades of kerosene: Grade 1-K — a low-sulfur kerosene, with a maximum sulfur content of 0.04 weight percent, intended for use in flueless burner appliances; & Grade 2-K — a regular-grade kerosene with a maximum sulfur content of 0.3 weight percent, intended for use in flue-connected appliances.

The EXXON Company of the USA pointed out that 2-K kerosene should *not* be used in flueless space heaters. Such use will result in excessive production of noxious and odorous sulfur dioxide emission. Because of the flueless design of the heater, these emissions are retained in the room and could build up to harmful levels.

EXXON kerosene is intended as a 2-K type fuel, and therefore is not suitable for use in flueless space heaters.

Persons using these unvented kerosene heaters should check with their supplier as to the type of kerosene being sold. *Larry Newbold*, Cape May County Agr. Agent, told us that no one in the state of NJ is checking to see if 1-K or 2-K is being sold for use in unvented kerosene space heaters. "Clean as water"

kerosene can still be high in sulfur. So it is another case of let the consumer beware!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above 2 articles, which originally appeared in "Greenhouse Notes," Jan. & Mar. 1982, were written by the late James K. Rathmell, Jr., who died of cancer on June 4, 1982. He was a floriculture and nursery extension agent in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and widely recognized as one of the most capable and knowledgeable persons in his field.)

Why Not Photographic Crop Records?

Terry Humfeld
Agricultural Technical Institute, Wooster, OH



Timing and scheduling play a very key role in the production of all greenhouse crops. The grower may use a variety of techniques to finish a crop by a certain date. These including pinching techniques, temperature control, and watering practices, just to name a few. However, even the best grower is at the mercy of Mother Nature. Low light levels, cold or hot temperatures, or a rainy May weekend can have drastic effects.

Just as Easter lilies are difficult to sell the day after Easter, bedding plants will usually require the presence of a flower to be sold. The young and inexperienced grower will usually feel uncertain about how well the crop has been timed until several have been grown.

Potted plants and bedding plants usually go through a series of distinct changes during the time they are in the greenhouse. Educators and university extension personnel will routinely make use of color slides as part of their presentations on crop timing and culture. Growers may also find photographs of a prior crop at various stages of growth to be very helpful in determining how a current crop is progressing.

Instant print cameras are now available at reasonable prices and will simplify the whole process. However, for the photograph to be meaningful, the grower will have to take a few notes and keep them with the photographs. The following are some items to consider:

- *Height and spread* — you may want to put a well known item in the picture (coins, pencils, etc.) to use as a point of reference in judging size. Ideally, the plant