Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Volume XXIII  Spring Yearbook 1965  Number 2
Notes from Rhone Street

The American Primrose Society is now 25 years old. The editor has at hand a series of articles written by Florence Bellis of Barnhaven a little more than twenty-five years ago, published at the time in the "Oregon Journal." Those notes and challenges drew primula fanciers together and formed the nucleus for the formation of the American Primrose Society. The objective of the new Society was (1) to "increase the general interest and to cooperate with all interested organizations and growers in the cultivation of the primula in all its forms, hybrids and species, and to improve its standard of excellence and to study the best methods of its culture; (2) to encourage the use of, and to cooperate with other organizations, in seeking to establish standardized nomenclature of existent species, hybrids, and varieties; (3) to set up, as the parent organization, a standard of rules and regulations for judging of the genus." Through the twenty-five year period, the Society has drawn a wide and diverse international membership, who have sought to expand their knowledge and ability to grow, name and judge favorites and new acquaintances within the genus Primula.

Our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Baylor, asks May I suggest you put in a line or two about addresses - so often letters come with no return on the envelope and the written address abbreviated to the extent I cannot make out the state. I have an envelope on my desk postmarked from "Redver, Sask. Canada" with no enclosure and no return address!

The editor has address problems, too. The Quarterlys are sent second class, and each issue a considerable number are returned to me to be mailed again because the member moved and did not notify us. A forwarding address at the post office does not forward second class mail, notice must be sent to the publisher.

The northwestern flood damage of December and January must have had international news coverage, and we all appreciate the many kind inquiries. To our knowledge, members were not among those who lost homes, but many gardens suffered damage. Much of the editor's garden went somewhere downstream, or was buried under rock when the river changed course. Her energetic husband is clearing cascara brush and rotted old cedar logs out of an area above the creek, where spring seepage is less likely to suddenly tower up to a fifteen foot depth of rolling silt and bouncing logs, pulling out plant roots and slashing soil to depths of six feet. Other growers lost plants from the biting, bitter winds, and frost, a subject that will be discussed in more depth in an article.

Mr. Robert Luscher, the Society Regional Editor in Thedford, Ontario, has sent a monograph on P. Spec-tabalis which will intrigue the armchair traveler and inspire the members with the opportunity to seek P. Spec-tabalis in its native haunts. This article has created some discussion concerning the definition of Alpine. Does the Society membership use "Alpine" to mean any plant growing in high altitudes, or in the specific sense, meaning of or from the Alps? We would appreciate some comment on that from the membership.

The editor and some of the board members have felt grateful to the specialty auricula growers who have offered quality seed from show stock. It is, to quote Mr. Worthington, "a public service." We hope that the member who plants such seed studies the auricula to know how to handle the seed and what to expect. Mr. Cy Happy has contributed a fine article on growing auriculas, which will be in the Summer issue.

FROM THE TREASURERS DESK

Primrose season is here, with all its wonderful blooms. Every morning I dash out to see what is new, while all is quiet and the sun is just peeking out. All this new spring glory makes one glad to be alive.

Thank you, members, for sending in your dues promptly, thereby making my job easier; also thanks for all the nice letters enclosed. We have some generous members who pay for other memberships each year, and eight other members every year. There are a great number of others who pay for two or three extra memberships each year.

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From the membership meeting at the National Show in Portland.

So many letters have come in from eastern members regarding flood damages, hoping members here have primroses left. Some members were hard hit, others had little damage. It is nice to have people think of us.

Remember the Society rules - delinquent members will not receive quarterlies after May, 1965.

Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait

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Show News 1965

Clark County Primrose Society
April 24 - 1:30 to 8:00
April 25 - 10:00 to 6:00
Entries will be received 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Saturday, April 24th, at the Experiment Station, 1918 N. E. 78th Street. A plant sale will be held at the show. Mrs. Nettie Roe, 6106 N.E. 139th St., Vancouver, Washington, is show chairman.

Tacoma Primrose Society
April 10 - 1:00 to 9:00
April 11 - 11:00 to 6:00
At the National Bank of Washington in Villa Plaza, Lakewood, Washington. Mr. J. W. Griffin of 11211 Gravelly Lake Drive, Tacoma, Wn., will be the show chairman. Mr. Edwin E. Winterling, 10510 Bookland S.W., Tacoma, Wn., is the club president. Admission free. Entries will be received only on Saturday, April 10, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Washington State Primrose Society
Auricula Show
May 8 - 1:00 to 9:00
May 9 - 10:00 to 6:00
At the Puget Sound Power & Light Co. building auditorium, 10608 N. E. 4th, Bellevue, Washington. The show chairman is Mrs. Robert Ford and the co-chairmen are Mrs. Ruth E. Smith and Mrs. Mary Baxter. The club president is Mr. George E. Long. Horticulture entries will be received on May 7 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. Decorative entries from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. May 8th. Admission is free. Out of town entries may come Saturday morning before 9:30, if the club is notified. Show theme: Antiquate to Modern. Auriculas will be featured but all late blooming primula are welcome entries. New perpetual trophies will be offered. Sunday morning there will be a no-host breakfast.

Mt. Angel Primrose Show
April 11 - 12:00 to 6:00
Entry times are 5 to 8 p.m. April 10, and 8 to 9:45 a.m. April 11, at St. Mary's grade school in the basement — East College Street across from St. Mary's Catholic church. The show chairman is Mrs. David Shepherd, phone 845-2439. The co-chairman is Mrs. Josephine Bochsler. The club president, Mrs. Margaret Berning, welcomes visitors to the monthly meetings in the City Hall at 8 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month

Canadian Primula and Alpine Society
April 23 - 2:00 to 10:00
April 24 - 12:00 to 9:00
Place: Oakridge Auditorium. Admission is 50c. We welcome visitors from the south. Mr. E. C. Darts is the club president.

Eastside Garden Club - Kirkland
April 23 - 2:00 to 9:00
April 24 - 12:00 to 9:00
April 25 - 12:00 to 6:00
Horticulture entries, noon to 9:30 p.m. April 22. Decorative entries, 4 to 9 p.m. April 22. Admission 50c. Theme is In Your Own Back Yard. Show chairman and club president is Mrs. W. L. Clark, 111 Sixth Street, Kirkland, Washington.

Friday Harbor Primrose Club
No show scheduled this year
The club meets at private homes the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Visitors are welcome. Mrs. Frank L. Woods is club president.

Lewis County Primrose Society
No Report.

Onondago Primrose Society
No Report.

Annual All-Membership Meeting and Banquet—May First

The National Awards Banquet of the American Primrose Society will be held at the Anchorage Restaurant in Southeast Portland, at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May first. Mrs. Florence Bells will talk on "Color."

The dinner fee will be $2.50, and reservations may be made with Mrs. William Tate, 1006 40th Street, Milwaukee, Oregon 97222. Friends and guests of members are always welcome. The Anchorage restaurant is on the east bank of the Willamette River, toward the river from the end of S. E. Marion Street.

The annual business meeting, including the election of officers, will be held. The nominating committee presents the following slate of officers for election:

President - Mrs. Ivanel Agee
Vice Pres. - Mrs. Grace M. Conboy
Rec. Sec'y - Mrs. Anne Siepman
Cor. Sec'y - Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor
Treasurer - Mrs. Beth Tait
Board Members - Mrs. Nancy Ford and Mrs. A. V. Roney

The revising and republishing of the Pictorial Dictionary will be considered at the business meeting.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show, Inc.
April 21 - 25
Memorial Coliseum
Portland, Oregon
The American Primrose Society will man an educational display booth in the main exhibit hall, near the tea garden.

SUNSET GARDENS
9571 Avendale Rd., Redmond, Wn.
Fertilizers and Insecticides
We sell and recommend
BLUE WHALE and LIQUID BLUE WHALE

Primrose Stationery
4½x5½ with envelopes
Kodachrome Studies
(suitable for later framing)
5 for $3.00

CONIFER LODGE — ELMER C. BALDWIN
400 Tecumseh Road, Syracuse, N. Y.
1965 National Primrose Show
Milwaukie—May 1-2

MILWAUKIE COMMUNITY CLUB HOUSE
42nd and Jackson Streets — Milwaukie, Oregon

1. Show will be open to visitors Saturday, May 1, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2. Exhibits will be received Friday, April 30, from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 1, from 8:00 a.m. to the 10:00 a.m. deadline.

3. All Primulas entered in the show must have been grown in the Exhibitor’s garden for at least three (3) months. Glass covering for protection of bloom (not forcing) is permitted.

4. Entries are the property of the show during the show hours, and must not be removed until after 6:00 p.m. May 2. All plants must be removed Sunday night.

5. Only the show chairman, judging committees, and clerks will be permitted on the show floor during judging.

6. Exhibitors shall furnish their own pots, which shall be of clean red clay or plastic; these should bear the exhibitor’s name on the bottom of the pot. No top dressing around plants in pots.

7. All exhibits will be judged by the standards of excellence established by the American Primrose Society.

8. It is understood that the members of the Oregon Primrose Society will not be held responsible for the loss of, or damage to, person or property.

9. The show management may may such rules as it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the show.

10. The judges’ decisions are final.

DIVISION I—POLYANTHUS
(Including acaulis-polyanthus)

Amateur
Section A .......... Hybrids
Section B .......... Jack-in-the-Green
Section C .......... Hose-in-Hose
Section D .......... Gold & Silver Laced
Section E .......... Doubles

Professional
Same sections as Division I.

DIVISION II—POLYANTHUS
(Including acaulis-polyanthus)

Amateur
Section A .......... Hybrids
Section B .......... Jack-in-the-Green
Section C .......... Doubles

Professional
Same sections as Division I.

DIVISION III—ACAU LIS

Amateur
Section A .......... Hybrids

Professional
Same sections as Division V.

DIVISION IV—ACAU LIS

Professional
Same sections as Division III.

DIVISION V—JULIANAS

Amateur
Section A .......... Stemmed form
Section B .......... Cushion form
Section C .......... Any other

DIVISION VI—JULIANAS

Professional
Same sections as Division V.

DIVISION VII—SEEDLINGS

Amateur
Section A .......... Polyanthus
Section B .......... Acaulis
Section C .......... Garden Auricula
Section D .......... Double Auricula
Section E .......... Alpine Auricula
Section F .......... Show Auricula
Section G .......... Species
Section H .......... Any other

Professional
Same sections as Division VII.

DIVISION VIII—SEEDLINGS

Professional
Same sections as Division VII.

DIVISION IX—NOVICE

Open to anyone who has never exhibited previously or has never won a blue ribbon on a primula shown.

Section A .......... Acaulis
Section B .......... Polyanthus
Section C .......... Auricula
Section D .......... Any other

DIVISION X—AURICULA

Amateur
Section A .......... Garden
Section B .......... Double
Section C .......... Alpine
Section D .......... Show Auricula

Professional
Same sections as Division X.

DIVISION XI—AURICULA

Professional
Same sections as Division X.

DIVISION XII—SPECIES & HYBRIDS

Amateur
Section A .......... Auricula
Section B .......... Candelabra
Section C .......... Cortusoides
Section D .......... Farinosae
Section E .......... Nivalis
Section F .......... Petiolaris
Section G .......... Sikkimensis
Section H .......... Muscarioides
Section I .......... Soldenelloideae
Section J .......... Vernales
Section K .......... Denticulata
Section L .......... Any other

Professional
Same sections as Division XII.

DIVISION XIV—JUNIORS

Ages 7 through 12 years

Section A .......... Garden Clubs
Section B .......... Open to All

DIVISION XV—JUNIORS

Ages 13 through 18 years

Same sections as Division XIV.

DIVISION XVI—RARITIES and ODDITIES

Unusual forms of Primulas, new novelties or any other Primula for which no class is provided.

DIVISION XVII—DECORATIVE

Primulas must predominate, but need not have been grown by the exhibitor. Other foliage permitted.

Section A .......... Garden Clubs
We Bid You Welcome primulas with driftwood and/or slag and/or rocks. (Card tables will be provided.)

Section B .......... Open to All
Class 1 .......... Tea Time — in a cup and saucer.
Class 2 .......... Summer Sunset — in a metal container, using tints and shades of red and/or orange and/or yellow.
Class 3 .......... One for Fun — a line arrangement in a bottle.
Class 4 .......... Out of This World — using any type container.
Class 5 .......... Split Level — using two containers.
Class 6 .......... Garden Reflections — design showing water reflection. Figurines permitted.
Symposium Report

by MRS. DOROTHY DICKSON
Dickson Perennial Gardens, 13347 56th Ave. S., Seattle, Wn.

Last spring a Judges' Symposium was held in Portland, Oregon on Feb. 24; in Vancouver, B. C., Canada on March 10; in Tacoma, Washington March 12; and in Seattle, Washington March 13. The symposium had a double purpose: First, to serve as a review and refresher for judges; second, to get, through open discussion, a consensus of opinion of the strong and weak points of the APS rules and standards, along with some recommendations for possible improvements.

The wheels of a democratic organization such as the APS sometimes grind slowly and almost always end up with compromises on the original personal ideas put forth by its members. This, I think, is good because it usually steers us along a middle course, preventing sudden or radical changes. This report of opinion and ideas brought out at the symposiums is made with the hope of getting ideas and opinions from a wider group of members before any attempt is made to revise or add to any of our rules or standards.

The most important point brought out was that most of the judges needed to change their attitude and thinking toward plants in the show, and really consider them as garden plants and their garden value to be judged even though they are in pots on the show bench. No amount of reading, attending judges' schools, judging and working at shows, can develop this garden attitude toward the plants. It must be developed by growing and working with primulas in your own garden and observing and appreciating them in other people's gardens.

With the exception of the tender florists' primulas, the exhibition auriculas and the gold laced polyanthus, most all other primulas are grown for garden decoration, to be viewed at ground level from a standing position or at a further distance in beds and borders for a mass color effect. Few are grown as individual specimen plants except in rockeries, and more times than not they are grouped even there.

There was a lack of common meaning and understanding of the terms used in primula jargon and the terms used in our point score tables for the various types of primulas. For instance, when the point score says, Thrum — 2½ points, most judges automatically take off 2½ points if it is a pin, allowing no leeway for degree between the best thrum and the worst pin. Actually a thrum eyed plant could be downgraded one point and a barely noticeable pin could be only downgraded one point and both judged correctly. Also when the point score for the flower says, Size — 10 points, it does not mean the largest flower wins. It means size in proportion to the entire plant and in conformity with the type.

We have a need for a list of APS approved definitions of the common terms and phrases used in describing and judging primulas in America. A sample of what I mean appears at the end of this article.

Even in point scoring of garden plants the entire plant or total effect is the important thing and each part cannot be considered separately without the rest of the plant. It is how they blend together in harmony to make a total effect of beauty that counts. The point scores are a guide as to what characteristics go together.
Judged on the same standard as their
to make the most beautiful plant and
to the flower and none to the
of the entire plant and not only the
have healthier, rugged, and easy to
grow show plants.

Before any change in standards is
actually made by the board, I would
like to have the considered opinion
of every member of the APS and not
just the few judges or specialty aur-
cula growers. Many times the people
closely associated with the problem
fall to see and realize the obvious.

DEFINITIONS

Pistil or Stigma — the female part of
the flower, where pollen germinates
Anthers or Stamens — the male parts
of the flower, pollen producers
Pedicle or Rootstalk — the stem that
supports each individual flower
Stalk or Peduncle — stem holding a
group of flowers
Eye — the center of the flower which
includes the tube and the central
color zone
Tube — the hole in the center of the
flower in which the pistil and an-	hers are located
Rootstalk or Carrot — the thick cen-
tral tuberous-like root from which
the leaves and flower stalks origi-
nate
Substance — the thickness, toughness,
durability of the petal

Inflorescence — the complete flower
display of a plant
Juliana — a hybrid of the species Ju-
liae and any other type of versiclas
primula with predominant Juliane
characteristics such as early low
bloom before the leaves are fully
developed, creeping rootstalk, ex-
treme hardiness, may be cushion
form, increases rapidly,
size of flower in proportion.

Pubescens — a hybrid of auricula
species whose exact origin is un-
known, but has come to represent
a type of hybrid that is small and
neat with leaves two to threeinches
long, and flower stalks two to four
inches high, bearing a many-flow-
ered full truss of small flowers with
little or no eye.

A REPLY TO MR. LANG-
FELDER’S QUERY

PAGE 4, WINTER QUARTERLY

(How many Primula enthusiasts raise
and enjoy the lovely contributions
from the Alps?)

From the beginning of my interest
in Rock-gardening, the Alpine prim-
las have been of importance. Start-
ing with the first seed order to Switz-
erland nearly forty years ago, and
continuing to the present, request for
seed of various species goes forward
without fail.

Inspired in those early years by the
glowing descriptions of these mini-
ature primulas in The English Rock
Garden, by Reginald Farrer, and
Primulas of Europe by John Mac-
Watt, the appeal was immediate and
interest has never lessened.

Two species, P. marginata and
P. rubra, have been outstandingly
successful. Groups and plantings
are featured throughout the rock gar-
den. The lovely effect of margined
leaves and cool blue flowers in the
former, and the glowing warm rose
of P. rubra’s flowers are rewarding
each springtime. Seeds from the wild
often produce variation, this is ap-
parent, and some superior plants have
resulted, with flowers of finer color,
and compact, fuller trusses.

Small plants of many, many other
kinds are tucked everywhere in the
choice spots. To name a few: P. clus-
ians, P. pedemontana, P. spec-
tabilis, P. viscosa, a tiny group of
P. minima (reluctant to blossom),
one plant of P. glutinosa with several
stalks of glorious blue-violet flowers
(hard to believe with all the dire,
discouraging predictions.

Added to these are many fine little
plants not identified. I am waiting
for someone to come who knows
much more than I do to name them
for me. The development of all these
is slow in the first years, but with
care most will grow and increase with
vigor. Primulas of all kinds are
among the most precious of plants.

These little kinds from the Alps are
particularly worthy.

Betty J. Hayward

When buying anything advertised
in these pages, please say you saw it
in the Primrose Quarterly.

HEATING
VENTILATING
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GREENHOUSES
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1539 N.E. 103rd St. LA 3-1189
Seattle, Washington 98125
Spring Arrangements

by CARL STARKER

Carl Starker Shop, Jennings Lodge, Oregon

Primroses in their many colors, varied stem lengths and cluster forms, lend themselves admirably to flower arrangements. They are perhaps more usually adapted to the casual, homely sort of grouping rather than a formal arrangement, but their delicate colors and pleasing forms can be delightfully effective in bringing a bit of spring indoors. Ceramic containers will be easier to use than glass, since the mechanical holders are more readily hidden. Glass vases give us an underwater stem pattern that is not always pleasing.

Primroses need not be difficult. They can be used alone or in conjunction with other flowers or foliage. Suitable figurines in proper scale and color can help tell a story, but should be used with restraint. For show purposes one should read the schedule most carefully. The arrangement may be disqualified by a wrong interpretation if all conditions are not met.

For home use we have selected a low bowl of lavender pink tones. In our illustration we have used a grouping of lovely deep blue acaulis primroses with their own foliage placed as though growing among the rocks and moss. Placement of delicate pink hardy cyclamen with their marbled heart-shaped leaves gives us a contrast in color and form. At the back of this grouping we have used a few leaves of Geranium Japonicum with their lovely purplish bronze, fragrant leaves. This makes a pleasant all around arrangement suitable for a coffee table or perhaps as an in-between meals decoration for the dining table.

Jonquilla simplex, in its golden yellow simplicity, is delightful with a massed grouping of yellow to bronze-toned Polyanthus Primroses. Dramatic cream-veined Arum Italicum leaves lend distinction and weight and help to balance our rather heavy bowl with its central rock placement. Our container is a soft brown to tan colored dull finish pottery bowl. The rock echoes the color of the bowl.

NEW JULIAE HYBRIDS AVAILABLE BY MAIL

Royal Velvet (New for 1965) A glowing dark velvety red stalk form, large bloom, prolific grower

*2.50

Jay-Jay (1964) A Juliae X Jack-in-the-green bright ruby red cushion form producing a mass of color with the added quality of each bloom being a corsage in itself

*2.50

Buttercup (1960) A medium yellow stalk form producing a solid carpet of yellow over a long season

$1.00

Combination Offer — All three for $5.00

Prices post paid anywhere in the U. S. Shipped only in March or May

DICKSON'S PERENNIAL GARDENS

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ADDENDUM # 2
Seed sent from Switzerland, by Mr. Robert Luscher (TT) — All collected wild:

664 Achillea kelleri
665 Anemone narcissiflora
666 Anthemis rudolfiana
667 Buphthalmum speciosissimum
668 Campanula glomerata — lt. blue
669 " raineri
670 Fumaria ericoides
671 Gentiana acaulepiades
672 Gentiana campestris
673 Glauclum maritimum
674 Globularia nudicaulis
675 Linaria alpina
676 Melandrium Elisabethae
677 Papaver alpinum
678 Rhsododendron mucronulatum
679 Saxifraga alpina
680 Semprevivum zarubianum
681 Silene zamaizki
682 Trollius europaeus

ADDENDUM # 3
683 Primula farinosa AAA*
684 Platycodon grandiflora rosea AAA*
685 Asparagus sprengeri BBB
686 Schizanthus - lt. blue BBB
687 " " mauve BBB
688 " " pink BBB
689 " " red BBB
690 Styxus americana BBB
691 Zinnia linearis BBB

WILL AIRMAIL bare-root plants of new color, full double auricula, $3.50 and up. Show and exhib. alpines, Pr. spec. Sieboldii: 50c and up. Southern Cross $1.00, Snowflake $2.00, Marginata $1.00, various colors of denticulata 50c, Florinda 50c. Offsets of 2 Bamford Trophy winners. Large collection of edged show auricula named varieties or from Nancy Ford's (my sister) hybridizing. See us both at Kirkland Show. We'll be there selling. SEEDS of 2 Bamford Trophy winners. Green crosses, hand pollinated 10c each. Yellow Self (hand pol.) 5c ea. Double Auricula (hand pol.) 5c ea. Garden Auricula 25c. Send for list of plants and seed — JANET ROUND, Box 4011, So. Colby, Washington, 98834

NEW DOUBLE PRIMROSES — Hardy, Robust, large flowered, in maiden bloom. See Display ad this issue. BARNHAVEN, Gresham, Oregon, 97030.

CY HAPPY offers seed from prize-winning show stock: Edge show auricula and selfs, 10c each or the equivalent in foreign paper currency. Alpine auricula and gold-laced polyanthus, 5c each. CY HAPPY — 4 Country Club Drive, Tacoma, Wn.

VERMONT HARDY Sky Hook Giant Polyanthus, Acaulis, Auriculas, Heathers, Heath, Dwarf Evergreens, Dwarf Cotoneaster, Vaccinium caespitosum. Seeds of double auricula, 50/3.00; all other seeds $1.00 per packet. Double auriculas $3.50 each. SKY HOOK FARM, Johnson, Vt.

Classified Ads

ROSEA GRANDIFLORA — 75c. Species Juliae — $1, Juliana hybrid "Buttercup" — $1. Frondosa 75c and several rare species in limited supply. See these plus a wide selection of auriculas, candelabras and polyanthus at DICKSON'S PERENNIAL GARDENS — 13347 56th Ave. S., Seattle 73, Wn.

"Hang Up the Shovel and the Hoe..."

by FLORENCE BELLIS
Barnhaven, Gresham, Oregon

This morning I think it would be much more fun to write about April in Paris or Kew in lilac time. I have always wanted to but have never been there except in books. But even in books — good books — you can smell the lilacs and the horse chestnuts and feel the soft rain. For that matter, you can smell soft smells and feel the not-so-soft rain in Oregon in primrose time and that's what I'm going to write about — primrose time in Oregon.

Last April the American Primrose Society manned a display at the Coliseum Show in Portland, where some ninety thousand people passed through, looked and oh'd at and fingered a relatively few modern Polyanthus, Acaulis and Doubles, and whatever else happened to be blooming at the time that could be quickly shoved into containers. They couldn't believe that these colors were real, especially such colors in primroses. Strangely enough, in this enlightened day, all they had ever known were the dime-sized dull reds and yellows. And more strangely, it was the coffee and cocoa browns that got the pinching and not the luscious pinks or the blues you could drown in. The browns were constantly being pinched, especially by little old ladies who should be allowed to do so. And when a plant is under fire of rain or hail or handling is when good substance is not so-soft rain in Oregon in primrose time and that's what I'm going to write about — primrose time in Oregon.

Flower shades. These were break-offs from the Grand Canyon series, which then were mostly bronze and copper. But they were different, and reminded me of wallflowers which I love for their soft helpless look and heavenly fragrance. So a new color series was begun, originally labelled "Wallflower" for working purposes, later graduating to "Spice." With selection, and a number of other things, they became browner and browner with each generation, finally qualifying as true spice shades such as chocolate (for some reason often gold edged or gold potted), coffee, cocoa, allspice (which is a reddish-brown catch-all and quite wallflowery) and the latest, brass. Metallic brass doesn't nominally fit into a spice category, so if someone wants to carry on and develop it, setting it to come true from seed, they can re-name it. Tumeric wouldn't do. That is too pale, besides which it sounds sort of nasty to me. Probably curry would be more accurate, but curry might not be sufficiently appealing to the average taste, either.

Hang Up the Shovel and the Hoe... Photo: Orval Agee
The other Polyanthus most frequently pinched at the Coliseum were the new Venetian Cowichans. These deserve to be fingered because I can't believe they are real myself. They are in shades of strawberry, Venetian and mandarin reds with no eye — or compact eye as the English like to term it — with a coal-black thumbprint, or bee, at the base of each petal. The thickened substance, brought about by generations of cross pollination by hand, produces the classic rose crown. The rose crown — that raised fretting around the throat, or tube, of the blossom — is considered an additional elegance because it is always in association with substance. It can't help but be. It's like the hand that rocks the cradle. The hand that produces the Matisse colors through selection and hand-pollination — on a long-range line breeding program — produces the substance which, in turn and time, puckers up around the throat and makes the rose crown.

However, it is color you see at a distance, whether in the garden or in the Society's display at the Coliseum. So it was toward the color of the Venetian Cowichans that the crowds gravitated. To the originator of popular strains, it is interesting to read in various books and articles the origin of these strains, the goals pursued, and the results. You'd never believe it. So, if you happen to be interested in the true origin of the Cowichan strain, as many people seem to be here and overseas, here is the original plant. At that time Wanda was, as the garden writers say, ubiquitous. In every-day language, they mean it was all over the place. Everywhere. So it could be that Juliana "Wanda" gave her all by imparting that hot-coal sheen which was one of the greatest distinguishments of the original plant, and which now is one of the greatest distinguishments of the Cowichan strain, no matter what the color.

Doubles in bloom at Barnhaven

The color of the original Cowichan clone was a deep garnet. It had no eye. It was weak and it was sterile. All color breaks are weak, and all weak plants are almost always sterile or partially so. For instance, it was just this last spring that the true pink Acaulis — the spellbinding pink -pink Acaulis — have become robust. And with robustness they have set seed like peasants instead of princesses. But to return to the Cowichan strain.

Since the original Cowichan was one plant, it was divided, re-divided and sliced as thin as life would permit, for increase. This slicing did not help its health problems. But a named plant must be reproduced by division of the original plant, or clone, and not by seed. A named strain is always reproduced by seed, but must be hybridized to assure vigor. Enough to come approximately true to the hybridizer's goal or, as in this case, the original Cowichan plant.

So, because it was unable to bear seed, but did produce pollen, choosing a seed parent with as small an eye as possible was the logical beginning. At that time, the Kwan Yin strain — produced from a single plant selected in the '30's from Sutton's "Brilliance" — had the smallest eye available other than the Cowichan clone. Kwan Yin had, and still has as a strain, the precision stamped star on a Chinese-red ground, with thin, wiry, black stems. Therefore, Kwan Yin was used as the seed parent. Over a period of many generations, everything not approximating the glowing garnet, eyeless Cowichan was thrown out of what was slowly becoming the Cowichan strain as we know it today. Anyone wanting to know what the original Cowichan plant looked like should grow the garnet shades of the Cowichan strain. The only difference between this, which comes true from seed, and the original Cowichan plant is its sturdiness, hardness, floriferousness, and its fruitfulness. I am sure no original Cowichan plant is being grown, or is available, today. All Cowichans now grown are members of the Cowichan strain.

Dark garnet is a by-product of this garnet shade. The amethyst and dark amethyst shades are just as beautiful by-products as a result of the quest for blue Cowichans. Blue Cowichans, of course, mean true rich blues with no eye and with the typical deep, glossy sheen. To produce the Blue Cowichan strain was a longer task because of form. The smallest-eyed blue plant at that time happened, unluckily, to be an Acaulis. So the true Polyanthus form was ruined in the first generation. It has been a long flight to breed it out.

Finally, last spring, the rich, true blue, eyeless, Polyanthus form, with the hot-coal sheen, was started. Now I must hang up my professional status on the further development of the pink-red Venetian Cowichan with the black bee.

The black bee is one of nature's rewards. No one could have visualized it. Yet there it was — and there it is — accenting the glowing, hot pinks in a way only nature could have thought up. These will, of course, have to be deliberately maintained by hand, as will all the Cowichan strain — and every other strain or color series, for that matter — unless they are to degenerate or disappear altogether. That is the price to be paid. But in the face of such exquisite beauty, it is a small one. These new glowing pink -reds or red-pinks — depending upon your color viewpoint — on a solid ground, are the result of a program outlined to produce true and raspberry-eyed pinks with the typical Cowichan jewel-like sheen. But someone else is going to have to carry on, as the time is rapidly approaching when I must hang up my professional status on one of the pollinating sheds — pollinating sheds which, next spring, will be empty for the first time in what could be considered a lifetime.

Whoever carries on Barnhaven's color series, and develops new ones based upon the existing foundations, must have certain attributes. Because of the established ideals — which would necessarily have to be followed if the colors are to be maintained — these attributes would have to parallel the originator's to a more or less degree. I doubt, however, anyone could be, or would want to be, so completely obsessed by color as I have been, and still am. In fact, it is no longer necessary now that the color series and the shades which make them up have been stabilized. With me, color has always been an obsession, both mathematically and tonally. Color has been my ideal.
and my vision. Color, that is, in conjunction with form. Size has come as a by-product, and a floret of three inches, with the under-pinnings of a model instead of a discus thrower, is not objectionable. In order to keep this ideal active, sharp observation, a bulldog determination and indestructible patience is needed. And if a catalog is issued offering established color series in seeds, plants and transplants in all seasons over a long period of time, year after weary year, this is the supreme test. Along with the permanent listings, new rabbits anyone can have, by accident or plan, something new one year which is gone the next. The trick is to keep it going. Forever, or until you go out of business. Whence hybrids have been fixed to come true, not only to color series but shades within that series, anything and everything is possible. For example, last year, as a result of two or three days' time four years previously, doubles began to bloom all over the place. Not just any old doubles, meaning magenta, but doubles in pure pinks, French blues, cornflower blues silver-edged, and in every other dear color one could wish for. In clean polyanthus and pure acaulis forms, more often fragrant than not. Some smelled like violets and arranged themselves in old-fashioned nosegays above a frill of leaves. All were fully double in every sense of the word, without stigmas, and of a more classic than ragged form.

There are several ways to produce doubles, and each gives a different percentage in the second generation, the lowest being 25%. It is well to remember, however, that the pollin of doubles ripens much more slowly than that of singles, and sometimes not at all unless forced. Forcing is accomplished by picking the blooms and placing them on the ground in the sun with a glass solidly inverted over them. Conversely, in some single crosses, it is necessary to hold the pollen in suspension, which is done by placing the petals (with pollen-bearing anthers attached) in jars, tightly capped, in the refrigerator. Naturally, all pollination is done by emasculation and never with a brush.

One of the comments heard at the Coliseum last spring was, "Well, there's no use getting doubles. They breed single the year after you plant them." Which is sometimes true, even with the old Double Sulphur, White and Lavender, which have been established double forms for two or three centuries, as well as with the new, robust doubles. But it is only true the first year after transplanting. It seems that cutting the roots sends them into shock from which it takes a year to recover. Also, the maiden bloom of the new dried-in-the-wool doubles is sometimes single, after which it becomes fully double and remains so. Last year a full 33⅓% more doubles were taken from a bed of single-flowered plants that were held over from the year before when 33⅓% doubles had been taken from it. In other words, one-third were double in the first, or maiden year of bloom; another one-third became double in the second year of bloom. But don't ask why. In this, one can only hide behind the cliche, "It is nature's way."

As beautiful as these new doubles are, and as thrilling to the originator, other work is just as much so. By-passing the other color series, both Polyanthus and Acaulis, and the Jacks, Rose and Gold Leaf maintained and developed from gifts made to me by English friends back in the '30's and '40's, I am as proud of the Winter Whites, Harvest Yellows and Harbingers as I am of anything. These are the direct descendants, though vastly improved, of strains dating back to the 1880's. Harbinger, the white sport of P. vulgaris found in the woods of Cornwall about eighty years ago, is still the beautiful white acaulis-form primrose with the heart-shaped petals it was then, except that the blooms are now larger, the stems longer and stronger. But it is still the true, unadulterated Harbinger just as the yellow-orange and white Polyanthus are the true, unadulterated Munstead Strain, originated by Gertrude Jekyll some eighty years ago in her commercial garden, Munstead Heath, in Surrey.

It may be a surprise to some to learn that almost all of today's Polyanthus stem from these first "modern" Polyanthus raised by Miss Jekyll. As much of a surprise as the giant flowered, richly colored Polyanthus were to those seeing them for the first time at the Coliseum last year. One group did not know they existed. Another group may take them pretty much for granted as always having been here. It took Miss Jekyll some ten to fifteen years to produce a fairly large-flowering strain of white, yellow and orange Polyanthus from two small flowered plants she found in cottagers' gardens. One was called Golden Plover, and I have forgotten the name of the other which, at this time, is not important enough to look up. She was interested exclusively in the whites and shades of yellow. I think it was Dean who, at the same time, was working — superficially, I believe — with reds. But when he brought one of his plants over to her she carried it out to the compost heap as soon as tea and his departure had been taken. Like G. F. Wilson, who produced the first blue primrose (Acaulis) during the same period, she used the rogueing method instead of selection and cross pollination by hand. However, Mendel's work had not, at that time, been translated into English, so "improvement by hand" was not generally used in England before the twentieth century, except occasionally for Florists' Flowers such as the Gold Lace Polyanthus and the Show and Alpine Auriculas. But Max Leichtlin, being a German, needed no translation, and he produced blue Polyanthus in a few generations. What became of Leichtlin's blue Polyanthus I do not know. It is the blues originated by Mr. Wilson which form the basis of all the blue Acaulis and Polyanthus of today. He had but one shade of blue, a deep blue tending to purple, and from that has been developed the complete range of blues from sky through delft to cobalt.

Everyone has different goals and everyone sees color differently. Therefore, color and types will be carried on differently. Also accidental and natural surprises sometimes occur. For instance, in the white Polyanthus a number of years ago appeared several with a red-lead center, which was developed into a red-ray. There also appeared, a few years ago, one or two whites with a citron-colored center, almost green. By lifting these few plants out of the regular series and labelling them separately, the new chartreuse, which is pale green shading to white with no eye, was developed.

Accidental surprises can be both fortunate and unfortunate. Kwan Yin was lost some years ago and is only now being coaxed back into existence. But Little Egypt, much more startling, is here to stay because of it. The exotic Muted Victorians would never have been deliberately made because...
who would have thought to cross the browns with violet Victorians? In the same way the very large and deliciously perfumed lemon-yellow Polyanthus was made by some one—or two, or three—who failed to see the labels separating the gold shades from the ivory, and plowed right on through with the gold pollen. The world is now richer for the lemons, but poorer for the ivories which are slowly being teased into returning.

Such accidents are impossible to avoid in a program of this size. Labelling is constant, not only in color series but in shades, from the time the plants are hybridized, on through maturing and picking of the seed—which is a pod by pod operation—to the shelling, seeding, transplanting, fielding out and back again to the pollinating sheds for another round. From a quarter to a half million blooms are worked, so it is surprising so few mistakes are made. And speaking of mistakes, the most embarrassing ones are those which cause disappointment to others. I refer to some of the Gold Lace plants, coming into bloom here now in beautiful soft shades of blue. If anyone who had this 1963 Gold Lace seed has the same experience, kindly let me know and the proper seed will be sent. Somewhere along the line it was mis-labelled.

The prospect of becoming one's own master after these many years is a pleasant one to anticipate. Certainly the hybridizer is not his own master as long as he hybridizes, produces and distributes on a wide scale year after year for what, sometimes, seems an eternity. This is a job for those younger than I now am. It is like having made a long and tiring climb to the top of a hill where one, then, looks back and looks forward with detachment. If this vignette has seemed flippan at times, I have not felt flippan. It was not planned to contain any personal references. And if, at this point, it seems too personal, it is because I cannot make it less so.

Mr. George Long, Box 115, Medina, Washington, would like to have seed to sell at the Kirkland show for the benefit of the A.P.S. Members who have seed they would like to donate to the Society may send it to him at the above address.

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Book Review

"THE AURICULA. Its History and Character" by Rev. C. Oscar Moreton
The Ariel Press, publishers

This book, not on growing, but of background, is very fascinating reading and one cannot help but realize a great deal of thought and research has gone into the writing of this botanical history of the Auricula. Those growing and studying the auricula will find it excellent reference material. One very interesting feature is the list of named auriculas in the back of the book, from 1734 to the present. The earliest seem to lack description, but from 1776 on, some are listed as to type. Some contemporary varieties are listed as to types, the name of the Auricula, year it was grown and the name of the one who raised the plant, such as Florence Meek, a green edged auricula grown by C. G. Haysom in 1950. The list covers Green, Grey, and White Edges, Selfs, Gold or Light Centered Alpines, and a few modern doubles. There is a short list of varieties still grown that were raised prior to 1914. Argus, a good Alpine, is on this list, introduced in 1895 by J. J. Kean.

As to the paintings, an auricula fan could grow lyrical and sing praises, but to be matter-of-fact, these are well done and accurate. It is not easy to paint the auricula, but the artist, Rory McEwen, has been able to depict the character of an auricula beautifully and true. The painting of Grey Mantle reminded me of some of the seedlings exhibited by Cyrus Happy in a Seattle show I judged.

This book may be obtained through one of our members, Mr. Lynn Ranger, a dealer in new and used garden books. His ad will be found in this Quarterly.

—_Ivanel Agee_
American Primrose Society

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Wayside Gardens, Mentor, Ohio, U. S. A.
Green Cross Products Ltd., Annacis Island, New Westminster, B. C.
P. O. Box 489, Montreal, Quebec
1 Leslie Street, Toronto, Ontario
Golden West Seeds, 608 Centre Street South, Calgary, Alberta
Mac DONALD & WILSON LTD., 562 Beatty Street, Vancouver, B. C., Canada

SPECIAL TO A. P. S. MEMBERS

Members of the American Primrose Society are given a special advantage in the purchase of Fertosan. Packets of the size necessary to reduce one ton of waste material to compost in the six-week period, sold in the State of Washington at $1 a packet, may be obtained for 60c, post prepaid, from the A. P. S. Treasurer, 14015 84th Avenue N. E., Bothell, Washington.