Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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Grown by Cyrus Happy III — Photographed by Orval Agee
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The editor is Mrs. Lucien B. Alexander. 11848 S. E. Rhone St., Portland, Oregon 97266

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Presidential Message

Dear Members of A. P. S.:

It is a pleasure to send a warm international feeling from Canada to the many members throughout the world. A. P. S. has long been an international group, but now it is more truly so with it's first president out of the United States. I indeed feel most humble.

Following Mrs. Agee's 25th Anniversary Resume of past presidents — at our Annual Meeting in Kirkland, I do indeed feel that I have accepted a large responsibility. I am a very enthusiastic personage who has done great things in the primrose field or the horticultural world. I am just a very keen gardener who has a warm feeling for the Primula family in particular. I am a very enthusiastic horticulturist, interested in plants generally, and do grow a large range of various genera. I have been a member of some 12 different horticultural groups for quite a few years. This brings to my door invaluable up-to-date horticultural information which is sometimes difficult to keep abreast of.

Time is a precious factor in my life, as I work full time as office manager, Secty. Treas. for my husband's business. Usually under pressure during the day, I could not be without the wonderful solitude and relaxation which I gain from the work in my garden. I find true delight in seeing new forms flourish, when their actual needs have not been tested before.

I must admit that the only possible way I could accept presidency was if a strong American Vice-Pres. were available. Mr. Herb Dickson, himself a past president, fills the position well and can keep close contact with many members with whom he is associated in other ways. I feel confident that we can work as a smooth running team with regards to the affairs of our society. At present we plan our first directors meeting for Sept. 24th in Victoria. We felt that this would be more central than Vancouver for most of our directors. Of course, this will be past when the Quarterly comes out and we hope it will have been a successful meet.

I certainly wish I were free to get around to visit more of the associated groups, especially at show time. This is not too easy, as it is a busy time of year generally. A holiday trip over Easter caught me more behind than ever. Perhaps we can do better next spring. I would appreciate hearing from the various groups personally when their show dates are set. Often when they get into the quarterly, the shows are past. I would like any member who feels that I may be able to assist him feel free to write. If I cannot be of help personally, we have a most knowledgable group of experienced Directors who will certainly be available for information. With reference to business pertaining to the smooth running of our society, please feel free to direct your inquiries to myself or others of the Executive — and feel free to direct your queries to my library or provide a gardeners Christmas gift.

I hope many of you will study the "General Outline for Primula Symposium Reports" and write one out for us concerning your garden. We hope to get enough of them to work out reports by areas — which is the reason some very fine reports are not in this issue.

Mrs. Grace M. Conboy of Vancouver

Notes from Rhone Street

Signs of fall are in the air. The mountains have their first fresh coat of snow. Vine maples are casting yellow streamers up the valleys. The hobbyist beekeeper in our family is fretting about getting the "fireweed yards" in the high country moved back to the "70" before the deer hunters move in. The deer are disappearing just as they always do just before the hunting season. I cannot find enough time to weed and transplant candelabras in my garden at the "70" where the creek twinkles in the sun and hides small fish in the shadows, the hummingbirds still seek nectar from the candelabras, the song sparrows provide musical background, and the grosbeaks soon will be journeying through . . . flashes of gold in the dogwoods. Fall is also time to send seeds to Mr. Baldwin and due to Mrs. Tait. Your early attention to each opportunity will lighten their load a good deal.

There is a supply of previous issues of the Quarterly for sale, 10 for $3.50 or 50 cents apiece. The treasurer can supply them to build up your library or provide a gardeners Christmas gift.

I hope many of you will study the "General Outline for Primula Symposium Reports" and write one out for us concerning your garden. We hope to get enough of them to work out reports by areas — which is the reason some very fine reports are not in this issue.

Societe des amateurs de jardins alpins (SAJA)

Our number 1, winter 1966, contained a paper by Dr. Kriechbaum, reprinted from "Plantes de Montagne", bulletin of the French society of amateur alpine gardeners.

This society — which covers not only France, but also Belgium and other French-speaking countries — is an association of people, amateurs for the most part, who are interested in alpines and rock plants, in their study, in their cultivation and in their introduction into gardens.

The quarterly bulletin, profusely illustrated, publishes descriptions of alpine plants, relations of field trips and botanical excursions to various mountains in France or abroad. It gives information too on the building of rock gardens, of ponds, on the propagation and cultivation of alpines . . . The Society organizes lectures, tours for visiting gardens as well as field trips, and proposes a yearly exchange list.

For all particulars, write to Mile. Heklova, Hon. Secretary, SAJA, 43 rue de Buffon, Paris-5 (for foreign countries, the dues are 20 francs or $4.00 (U.S.)
Notes from the Treasurer

The coming year looks good to me because many new members have joined the Society. Enclosed in this issue of the Quarterly will be your 1967 dues bill, please fill it out and return it by January. This was included in the fall mailing to save time and money for your Society. To avoid confusion, new members should check their membership card, because those who joined in the latter part of 1966 were credited with 1967 membership. If there are any questions, do not hesitate to write, if I cannot answer them someone else can.

Any donations toward the dictionary fund are welcome. We now have $131.63 in that special fund, a long way to go, but it is at least a start. Donations have been made by Mrs. Haydon, Mrs. C. C. Chambers, Alice Hills Bayler, Beth Tait, George Sayers, and Anne Siepman. Primrose plants donated by Primrose Acres and sold at Washington State Society meetings have made up the balance of the total fund. All club and individual donations will help to achieve our goal of a pictorial dictionary in one cover.

Speaking of books, have you read Doretta Klaber's new book "Primroses and Spring"? It is nicely done and should be useful to many gardeners and a success to the author. Doretta Klaber has been a Society member since 1947.

I liked this poem by an unknown author which was sent to me:

"My Garden"

"Would you like to know about my garden — Which takes so much of my time and care? Through the center runs a path with flowers on either side; A large bed of patience and a beautiful bed of hope, a fine climbing vine called courage, and a little vine, Cheerfulness, runs in and out all over my garden.

Around the garden is a fence made of determination, with posts of perseverance. This is to keep out the grumble vine that grows all around outside and tries to get in.

The path in my garden is made of grit, and leads down to a fountain which plays tears, with which I water the garden.

Outside the garden a tree like a weeping willow grows, and sometimes casts a shadow over my flowers.

Once in a while at twilight a blackbird comes and sings in the branches. It is called the complaining bird, and does not come often.

In one corner of my garden is a hotbed where I raise smiles, because they have to be forced sometimes. My gardeners' name is B. A. Good one. Lately the grumble vine broke my fence, so I cut it out. I have mended the fence with as much pluck as I could find, and have been gathering my flowers and tying them together with good resolutions.

Beth Tait

1966 SEED EXCHANGE ACTIVITY REPORT

Elmer C. Baldwin
July 23, 1966

Number of packets requested from Quarterly listing (1 to 499) . . . 8062
Number of packets requested from addendum (500 to 1001) . . . 268
Total number of packets mailed to members . . . 9656

Number of packets requested from Czechoslovakian contributions (addendum) . . . 225*
Number of packets requested from Botanical Garden contributions (addendum) . . . 285*
Item requested in greatest number of packets — #327 . . . 125
#328 and #476 (each) . . . 86
#395 and #495 (each) . . . 77
Items in Quarterly listing not requested . . . 1
Items in addendum not requested . . . 71*
Number of orders received . . . 268
Number of members contributing . . . 45
Number of Botanical Gardens participating . . . 10

* These figures are due largely to the limited distribution of the supplemental list.

Requests continue to show the popularity of seeds of Calochortus, Cyclamen, Dodecatheon, Erythronium, Fritillaria, Iris, Lilium, Scilla, and all spring flowering bulbs. These are most welcome additions to the exchange.

Seeds should be cleaned as soon as possible after gathering, and stored in a cool, dry place, or in a sealed Mason jar in the refrigerator — 40 degrees, never in the freezer section. Seeds should be sent to the Seed Chairman during October if possible and not later than November 1st, as the listing must be compiled and sent to the printer by December 1st. Seeds not received by that date are not included in the Quarterly list but must be held for the supplemental list which does not reach all of our members.

Your thoughtful consideration is requested.

A supplemental list expected to be issued about April 1st will contain late arrivals including member- and non-member contributions (Botanical Gardens, etc.) which may not be received until May or later. It would be redundant to note that many will be rare and desirable and for the greatest part, appear in no other seed list. The one handicap — if it may be so termed — is that these seeds are late in arriving, necessitating planting in May, June, or even July. If one's interest is sufficient to survive this delay, a space will be provided on our order form to note if the supplemental list is desired. This will insure a wider — and it is hoped, an earlier — distribution of the addendum than our previous systems have provided.

* * * *
The Suggested Outline for Primula Symposium Reports

What do Primroses do for your garden, and why do you grow them?

What species and/or varieties have you tried?

How successful was each kind... including: How long did it live?
Did it bloom, if so, beginning and ending when...
Did it set seed and/or increase by division...

With what plants are the primulas growing in companionship?

If you have a variety of species do you group them by sites, such as rock garden, moist border or woodland, and streams or bog?

Garden Situation:

How would you classify the site in your garden... dry... wet... average...?

In what type of soil do you grow them... loam, sandy, clay, boggy... and what type of fertilizer and when is it applied?

What is the exposure to the sun... N, S, W, E... SHADE... dense, filtered, none?

What is the average rainfall...
The number of months of snow cover?

Is the garden area dependent upon sub-soil water or surface irrigation?

What is the average humidity, minimum and maximum?

What is the average temperature, winter and summer?

Were special plantings or structures necessary for wind protection?

What winter and summer conditions presented the greatest problems, and how have you solved them?

Conversely, what winter and summer conditions are the most beneficial in promoting successful primula growth in your garden?

Answers to Questions

1. Barnhaven advertisements were intriguing so I started growing them and found them so lovely, have continued.

2. Polyanthus, candelabras and auricula (but these last have not bloomed yet).

3. (A) Polyanthus are growing from 2-4 years now. Blooming well now. Don’t let it go to seed, and haven’t divided any yet but expect to next year.

(B) Candelabras only 2 years old; bloom on most of flowers but not enough to go to seed; not enough yet to divide.

(C) Auriculas—1 year old small transplants—haven’t bloomed yet. As yet have not grouped them by sites, except that most are in a shady elevation under pines and hemlocks and a few in more sunny locations in a rock garden.

Garden Situation

Average; S. E. exposure to primula. Filtered shade for polyanthus; quite dense shade for candelabras.

Rainfall varies greatly, but during summer I keep them fairly moist with a hose and sprinkler, using water from an artesian well.

Snow covers them from about Thanksgiving to about April 20th, more or less.

Average minimum winter temperature is 25° to 30° below zero. Average maximum 90° to 95°.

Used to put up burlap screen for wind protection. Left them off the last winter, and made no difference.

When there is a lower than average snow covering in winter—some losses are inevitable. But covering beds

The Tacoma Primrose Society meets the second Tuesday of every month, 8:00 p.m., in the National Bank of Washington, Villa Plaza, Lakewood Center, 10225 Gravelly Lake Drive, S.W. Tacoma. Visitors are welcome.
Primula Symposium Report

By BURR B. BRONSON, Watertown, Massachusetts

My first interest in primroses was after seeing a display of polyanthus at the Spring Show of the Mass. Hort. Society at Boston about twelve years ago. The second step was to send for Barnhaven catalogue. Since then I have tried many varieties both from seed and purchase of plants. I have and do grow the following kinds without trouble:

P. polyanthus  P. auricula
P. denticulata  P. Sieboldii
P. acaulis       P. veris
P. Juliana       P. Japonica

P. Polyanthus and P. acaulis double varieties I cannot keep over winter. I have purchased good plants and given same conditions as the other polyanthus but no luck. In talking with other gardeners in this part of New England this seems to be the experience of all.

I have grown the following but have not been able to keep them with me long whether due to climate or soil.

P. Allioni         P. Bulleyana
P. Beesiana        P. Aurantiaca
P. Alpicola        P. Sikkimensis

Perhaps some day I will try them again and others. Right now lack of room to transplant them. Our entire garden is only about 8,000 sq. ft., at last count we were growing over a thousand varieties of plants including Iris, Daylilies, Ja. Iris and many Rock Garden plants. I expect to dig up a large part of the iris and daylilies to make more room for wild flowers and ferns and rock plants. Nearly all the primroses I have set some seeds, and all are increased by division except the auriculas which are from cuttings from side shoots in sand. They have grown in my garden for the last ten years. My Denticulatas and Auriculas growing in Mrs. E. C. Newtons’ “Stone Chimney Gardens” Reading, Vermont.

primroses are growing in a partly shaded border with ferns, trillium, hepatica and other shade-loving plants. The Japonicas I grow in a more moist place in the border and on the edge of our second bog area.

GARDEN SITUATION:

Perfectly flat. Shade furnished by two large apple trees, four dwarf apple trees, a pink dogwood and a large pear tree. There are no rocks larger than an egg so all the rocks we use in the beds we have luged in from the country. We like best the slab rock, which is a big help in growing our Hart Tongue ferns and other rare varieties of English ferns which we purchased from the Kramers, 4543 S. E. Harney Drive, Portland, Oregon. They are hardy and the most beautiful I have ever seen.

Average rainfall 42.17 in. (Have not had this for five years.)

SNOW COVER:

Three or four months, off and on. We use a pine needle mulch. Usually we have about a 14-inch water level under our soil. During the last three years, we have had a serious lack of rain, and a serious water shortage does not permit our using much hose on the garden. One thing that has helped our garden is the large amount of compost we use each year, so that our soil soaks up what little rain we get but absorbs and retains it for awhile.

Maximum humidity — 100%
Average humidity — 66%
Average summer temp. — 70 deg.
Average winter temp. — 30 deg.

From 15 below zero to over 100 at times. So far not in the same day!

In our garden a light mulch of pine needles around the primroses, and, in the summer, once a week watering (if it doesn’t rain) seems to satisfy their needs in this area. There is only one exception, and that is P. Denticulata. The resting bud of this variety is above the surface of the ground and the leaves reach a growth of 12 to 15 inches, they fall and cover the bud in November, which causes the resting buds to rot by spring. To avoid this, in October, we cut the leaves back to about three inches so they cannot fall on the resting bud. We are also careful to rake up all tree leaves so they do not cover the plants.

I don’t know how to answer your last question, but if we could have more and longer snow cover in the winter and more summer rain and less 90 to 100 deg. heat, I think it would be better for plant growth.

Remember our Slide Chairman has fine program material.

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(cont’d from page 114)

with excelsor and pine branches helps greatly. Also mulch under leaves of each plant with rotted sawdust.

BEST conditions are fairly frequent rains in summer or consistent snow in winter.

Polyanthus start blooming about May 15 and continue till about June 10 — a few bloom again in October. Candelabra Primulas start blooming about June 10 and continue till about July 10.

My auriculas are too small to bloom yet.

I have no other varieties.

(continues from page 115)
Primula Report from Redmond, Washington

By MARY WOODS

In my garden trial and error proved primula to be the plant that grows and blooms best because of wetness and shade conditions, varying from very, very wet through moderately wet, to dry in summer (in spots) because of tree roots, and one-half hour of sun, or less, to three hours of sun, at most, in any one spot.

Many hybrids, from polyanthus in many varieties, thru p. Juliae, dentirculata, acaulis, sikimensus, auriculas, pulverlenta, florindae, japonica, pagoda (Maude Hannon) have been raised from seed or acquired as divisions. All have grown more or less well, most of them well, many of the tall varieties growing four feet tall, setting seed and sowing themselves in all directions. Auricula has done the least well, perhaps due to the acidity of the soil.

A few plants have proven to be good companions to the primulas in moderately wet situations; especially yellow, medium-growing mecanopsis poppy, columbines, trillium, campanulas: both tall-growing and sprawling varieties, especially poscharskyana, c. portenschlagiana and a mat-forming white variety which spreads underground, whose name I have lost. Mossy Saxifrage varieties do well with the primulas, also, and astibles seem to love the shade and moisture. Monthebratia provides graceful arches of bright late-summer color in the summer spots. All of the anemone tribe do well in all situations except the very wet. Hostas in variety provide strong leaf contrast. Gentians like the moist, but well-drained spots with stones around sprawling varieties to keep the flowering branches out of the wet. In planting primulas I have tried to put each in the best situation for it; sometimes by planting seedlings in different spots to find where they would be happiest, and moving them away from what proved to be a poor spot to the spot where they did best.

My garden is very spotty as to soil, wetness, shade, and sun. It is in a clearing in a forest of tall conifers of fir and hemlock and cedar. Deciduous vine maple, alder, and dogwoods fill any openings. Glaciers long ago dug hollows, left sand banks, laid down an almost impenetrable clay, and left boulders mixed in. The forest growth has left a rotten wood and leaf mould over all.

The water level is one and one-half feet so that except where tree roots on the hummocks exhaust the moisture no surface watering is necessary.

The average rainfall according to my son's rain gauge is about 36 inches and the amount of snow very small and never lying on the ground more than a few days.

The average humidity in this spot is high because of water in ponds and bogs all about and the shade.

Polyanthus in April
Mary Woods' garden

Summer temperatures seldom go over 80°, staying mostly in the 60's and 70's with a night temperature in the 50's while the winter temperature seldom goes much below freezing.

Wind, because of the protection of the tall trees, is never a problem but the constant winter drip from the conifers affects some Primula species badly. These must be protected, especially auricula, by plastic shelter in winter. Otherwise the leaves tend to rot. This has been the greatest problem except for crown rot and invasion of liverwort from the forest. Horse tail rush and ferns also are a problem. The wild mimulus and violets are attractive, but are invasive weeds here.

Crown rot in the water-loving primula is still unsolved. (Ed. note: Burn the affected leaves and treat the crown with tera-chlor compound)

Liverwort is discouraged by wood ashes sifted over it, I find. Horse tail and ferns must be pulled out.

The best summer weather for primula growing here is shifting sun and cloudy skies so nothing gets too hot and showers at intervals are enjoyed. Winter weather most suitable is 30° to 40° with not too much rain. Snow is not heavy or long lying on the ground here, so can't say how heavy, long-staying snow would affect primula growth. Rains here are never heavy. Drizzle is our rain type.

Every year I plant a seed bed of new species and/or new colors and varieties. This keeps the garden more interesting and exciting and gives an old woman an incentive to live another year or two to see what will blossom on the new plants.

All in all, primula growing is a wonderful thing, very rewarding in this climate and situation.
**The Enchanting Auriculas**

By Mrs. Joan E. Youle

Editor, National Auricula and Primula Society

Southern Section, England

When I tell my friends that I belong to a society to encourage the "improvement and extended cultivation" of auriculas, they often ask, "Why?" (In fact, sad to say, most people don't know what auriculas are: "It sounds like bones," said one.) Why? — why am I so bewitched by auriculas, these dignified yet demure little flowers?

My interest was first aroused by an article in that delightful magazine, *My Garden* (now, alas, no more). Perhaps, for I can see no other reason for their extraordinary fascination for me, long, long ago I loved them in the glow of morning years — these "Dusty Millers" with their impenetrable magic. And, too, in this modern world "swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight," of nuclear fission and satellites, surely one finds tranquillity in getting down to earth with the small living things which have their roots in the old Elizabethan age.

Having a few garden auriculas, I wanted to try other types, but first to learn something of their history. It is thought that auriculas, whose ancestral home was the Alps, were brought over to this country in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries by the Flemish weavers, Protestant refugees who fled from religious persecution in France and the Low Countries. (Perhaps Huguenot forefathers had handed on their love for these flowers!) As well as the weavers, there were religious persecutors in France and the Low Countries. (Perhaps Huguenot forefathers had handed on their love for these flowers!) As well as the weavers, there were middle-class merchants and gardeners, and as there was a flourishing trade in fruit and vegetables to England, they could smuggle even children amongst their wares.

The refugees settled in Lancashire and Yorkshire and around London — still the strongholds of the two societies devoted to auriculas. In 1507 Gerard was writing in his *Herball of Auricula ursi* ("Bear's ears") because of the shape of the leaf: "This beautiful and brave plant hath thick, green and fat leaves, somewhat finely snipt about the edges, not altogether unlike those of Cowslips, but smoother, greener, and nothing rough or crumpled: among which riseth up a slender round stem a handful high, bearing a tuft of flowers at the top ..."

And Parkinson, in 1629, enumerated "sundry and several sorts of Bear's ears" of many glorious colours, including "murrey," "tawney," "Spaniars Blush" and "hare coloured" so that they were evidently well-known by then. "Many other varieties are to be found," said Parkinson, "with those that are curiosous conservers of these delights of nature, either naturally growing on the mountains in several places, from whence they (being out by divers) have been taken and brought, or else raised from the seeds of some of them, as it is more probable: for several varieties have been obtained (and no doubt many of these before specified) to bee gotten by sowing of the seeds, every yeare lightly shewing..." Of course, there were also commercial varieties devoted to auriculas. In 1507 the Flemish weavers, Protestant refugees who fled from religious persecution in France and the Low Countries, (Perhaps Huguenot forefathers had handed on their love for these flowers!) As well as the weavers, there were religious persecutors in France and the Low Countries. (Perhaps Huguenot forefathers had handed on their love for these flowers!) As well as the weavers, there were middle-class merchants and gardeners, and as there was a flourishing trade in fruit and vegetables to England, they could smuggle even children amongst their wares.
amongst themselves, often in the village pubs on Sundays, the most coveted prize being a copper kettle. These old florists (not to be confused with the florists of today) raised their own auriculas and concentrated on perfecting the form and beauty of the flowers in all their velvety richness of colouring.

By 1820 there was a craze for auricula growing, in France, Holland and Germany, as well as in England. In order to display the plants to the best advantage to admiring friends, the growers constructed special theatres or stages, on which the pots were set when ready.

These decorative "stages" were characteristic of the Regency period: the back was painted with a dark colour or with a landscape, or had rich velvet curtains, and often mirrors were fixed at the sides to add lustre to the whole effect. A "staircase" of shelves supported the pots, which were painted green to tone in with the flowers. It was these stages which gave the name to Stage auriculas.

The names listed in catalogues and show reports were, I found, very confusing to a beginner: Shows and Alpines, Green-edged, and Selfs. I gazed at these names with wild surmise: why a Show class at a show? Surely all exhibits were on show!

It took me a long time to realize that "Show" is the name given to a group of flowers of distinctive colourings, characterised by a thick layer of meal, known as "paste," surrounding the eye in the centre of the corolla, with middle zone called body colour (black, maroon or violet) and outside this again, the green margin — hence, green-edged, grey-edged (green lightly powdered with meal), and white-edged (green, thick with meal).

The Selfs have the central disc of paste, no middle zone, but an edge of an unshaded colour. It was these edged forms which the old florists
Propagation is by offsets after flowering, or from seed, which is very erratic in its germination. The potting compost for both Shows and Alpines is simple: good loam 3 parts, sharp sand 1 part, peat or leaf mould 2 parts, is a good mixture, with the addition of a little bone meal, hoof-and-horn and dried blood. How different from those early years when Emmerton in 1815 was advocating three barrowsful of goose-dung steeped in bullock’s blood, two barrowsful of fine yellow loam and three barrowsful of sugar-baker’s scum!

But, thinking that the preparation of this mixture might “be considered foolishly troublesome and unnecessary but this I venture to assert, it is not be excelled,” he wisely suggested no less than eight variations, finishing with one easy to obtain: 2 barrowsful night soil, 2 of cow dung, 2 of goose-dung, 3 of fine yellow loam.

Goose-dung was easy to obtain in those days in Mile End or Bow, as many geese were brought up to London from Lincolnshire, to fatten for Michaelmas — but he added a warning against being fobbed off with hen or pigeon dung. It is strange, in a way, to think that all these extremely smelly fertilisers were used to produce a flower of such subtle and bewitching fragrance! Emmerton was most concerned about an old gentleman who had been unsuccessful in growing auriculas: till “with some reluctance he at length candidly confessed the compost he had procured and planted them in was all haphazard.”

Now I am trying a few Alpines, and though I can manage the modern ingredients for a suitable compost, I fear that my methods, too, are somewhat haphazard. But auricula enthusiasts, like all gardeners, are so helpful that perhaps one day I shall be able, even without a cold frame or alpine house, to raise Shows. Anyhow, auriculas, as the Rev. Samuel Gilbert wrote in *The Florist’s Vade-Mecum* in 1883, with all their pretty shades and ornaments, their parti-colour’d coats and pleasing scents, were the colour.* many more to please that sense, other with rich and great magnificence, in double Ruffs, with gold and silver laced, on purple crimson and so worthy placed, have caught me for ever in the spell of their enchantment.

Best Alpine, National Show, 1966 Shuman Perpetual Trophy, won by Nancy Ford — Seattle

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WINNERS of the Second Contest

Mrs. Ralsey S. Peterson, Seattle, Wn. won the first prize: Five Exhibition Alpine Auricula plants.

Winners of the packets of Exhibition Alpine Auricula seed are: Mrs. Edward De Marrais, Rutherford, New Jersey; Mrs. Doretta Klaber, Quakertown, Pa.; Mrs. Hugh Pavey, Darlington, Wash.; Mrs. Edward C. Wilson, Corbett, Oregon, and Mrs. Rosina Laughlin, Everett, Wash.

Others who sent in correct puzzles but were not lucky enough to have their names drawn are: Mr. A. L. Masley, Madison, Wisconsin; Mrs. A. E. Mackie, Sault St. Marie, Mich.; Mrs. Albert Freeborn, Kirkland, Wash.

The lucky names of the winners were drawn at the meeting of the Wash. State Primrose Society on August 26.

Visitors are welcome to the Washington State Primrose Society meetings which are held the fourth Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., in the Washington Abo return, Seattle.

Crossword Puzzle #3

By RALPH BALCOM

RULES FOR CONTEST ENTRY

1. Open to all members of A. P. S.
2. Solutions must be mailed to Ralph Balcom not later than Dec. 1, 1966.
3. Names of all members who submit a correct solution will be published in the next Quarterly.
4. Names of those who submit a correct solution will be thrown into a hat and a drawing will be made the 1st week of Dec., supervised by Nancy Ford.
5. First Prize: A generous packet of H. P. Gold Lace Seed.
6. 2nd-6th prizes: Each will receive 2 packets of seed, one of H. P. pink polyanthus, one of H. P. Pagoda Strain candelabras.

The seeds will be furnished by BERNHARDTS of Boring, and Anita Alexander.

Crossword Puzzle #2

Answer Sheet

HORIZONTAL
1. Mrs. "____" Dines-APS member
5. Fail to germinate
9. Famous named alpine auricula
12. Operatic melody
13. Ball
14. Grape
15. Irish primrose
17. Man's name
18. Garland or wreath
19. Checks
21. And (Latin)
2. Early rosy-pink primula species
24. Fruit
27. Statute
28. dragon
31. Everything
32. Former president's nickname
33. Beverage
34. Pinches
36. Chess pieces
37. River in Austria
38. Poetic metric syllables
40. Contained
41. De government
43. Recessed nook
44. JR College in Cincinnati (Abbr.)
45. The tincture green
46. Icelandic tales
49. Single unit
50. Mormon religion (Abbr.)

26. Primula species (Sikkimensis Sec.)
27. Outer portion of corolla
29. Side petal
30. Through
35. Convened
37. Primula species native of Idaho and Utah
39. Steam locomotive
40. Ailing
41. Destiny
42. Moslem ruler
43. Disturbances
44. Junior College in Cincinnati (Abbr.)

VERTICAL
1. Turnip (Colloq.)
2. Asian country
3. Italian coin
4. Pantry
5. Deception
6. Malay gibbon
7. Strange
8. Noblemen
9. Wanda et al
10. Baking chamber
11. Frambesia
12. Still
20. Letters
22. Garden tools
23. Man's name
24. Shallow flower pot (Eng.)
25. Hebrew priest

SATIN FUR "fur of tomorrow"
Species Hold Lure

By FLORENCE BELLIS

To have deprived the American pioneer of his hardships, his never ending fight for a toehold against overwhelming odds would have meant robbing him of his virility and his reason for living. The heroic heritage of our pioneers is still carried on through strong-fibered individuals who thrive on struggle, who welcome danger smiling and unafraid.

American primulas have patterned themselves on these rugged lines and are happiest in wild and splendid isolation untamed by the hand of man. One would expect to find them sitting in complacency and comfort along any number of Oregon's silver-tongued streams, but no, they chose the rigors of the high central and southeastern Rockies, Alaska, the Aleutian Islands and the frostbitten northeast.

Approximately only a dozen of the almost 800 primula species are native to our land and only one is found in Oregon, and this one, P. Cusickiana, Cusick's primrose, is found growing in the Wallowa's. A fetching little plant, the typical primrose blossoms being carried on a short stalk, are lavender with a hint of rose. There are primrose enthusiasts in and around Portland who are known to have collected it for it grows in their gardens. Members of the Primrose society appreciated its loveliness when a colored photograph was shown one evening along with other rare primulas. It is reported increasingly hard to find since sheep are grazing in the locality of its habitat.

There is only one authority who mentions P. Cusickiana and since his knowledge is not first hand, being

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Editor's Note: Growers enjoying auriculas need only enough heat to protect the developing flower buds from severe frost damage.

Fertile Soil Is Humus Rich

Humus is the key to soil fertility. Without it a soil is like the sand of the seashore: loose, lacks body, dries readily and becomes hard.

But a soil rich in humus is of good texture, friable and with granular structure. It absorbs water readily, has moisture retentive ability and dries to a loose consistency.
Penn State's correspondence courses in agriculture and home economics were initiated in 1892. By 1894 four students had satisfactorily completed courses totaling over 60 study points and were awarded Achievement Certificates. Two award winners were residents of Pennsylvania, one lived in Canada, and one in the Oklahoma Territory.

(Continued from page 127)

Well-rotted manure is best, but it's not often available to suburban gardeners. Leaf mold is good. But the preparation of large quantities is a big job. Much time is needed to produce rotted compost, but it's good.

Although they decompose slowly, sawdust and wood shavings are good. When large quantities are used, nitrogen deficiency may show as foliage yellow plants. Add one cup of nitrogen fertilizer, ammonium nitrate, to each bushel of wood product to relieve the lack. The deficiency is caused by bacteria in the process of breaking down woody fiber.

Peat moss is the most convenient source of humus for modern gardeners. When mixed with heavy clay it loosens the soil and improves the texture. With sandy soil the water holding capacity is increased. But peat moss is carboniferous, only. No plant nutrients are added to the soil as it decomposes.

The above information is adapted from Penn State's correspondence course Soil Fertility and Management. Anyone can enroll and get the whole course by sending his name and address with $2.50 to Soil Fertility . . . Box 5000 . . . University Park . . . Pennsylvania 16802. A course copy will come to you by mail.

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In 1965 correspondence courses in agriculture and home economics at Penn State were distributed through all 50 states and 21 foreign countries for a total of 17,261 new enrollments.

Exchange and/or Gift Memberships

Primrose enthusiasts in other parts of the world are often interested in joining our Society, but are prohibited on account of fiscal regulations. Some members here have found an exchange membership profitable, whereby they are responsible for the dues of someone in Europe or Asia in exchange for seeds, publications, or foreign society memberships. In some instances this has also led to a very enjoyable correspondence. If you would be interested in paying dues for someone outside of this country or Canada, write the treasurer, Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait, 14105 84th Ave. N.E., Bothell, Wn. 98011

The Oregon Primrose Society meets the last Friday of each month, 8:00 p.m., in the basement meeting room of the Ledding Library in downtown Milwaukie. Visitors are welcomed. Mr. Ernest Gates is president.

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Seed Hunting in the Northeast

By MR. ELMER BALDWIN, Regional Ed.

Seed hunting in the North-east differs little from other territories, the difference being in the findings. The same heat, dust, rain, cold, snow, climbing and sliding, for a few tiny seeds which may or may not one day grow in someone's garden!

However, while we have few of the rarities and exotics one finds farther afield, it can be said that for pure color-delight, it will be difficult to excel many of our local "homelys": the almost transparent, shining deep red pendant "cherries" of Streptopus roseus; the stately 12 to 15-inch Clintonia borealis candelabra with their 4, 5 or more, upstanding, bloomy, dark blue berries; the bright scarlet globes of upwards of 25, ¼-inch berries of Cornus canadensis above its fresh green foliage; the rather hard, dark blue of Caulophyllum thalictroides, topping their two-foot plants; the bright scarlet torches of Actaea rubra with their perhaps two dozen cranberry-shape, size, and color, slender pedicelled fruit — or its white form, A.r.neglecta; the very stout pedicelled A.pachypoda alba, and A.p.rubrocarpa—the rosy-purple variety; the deliciously scented yellow apples of Podophyllum peltatum; the one-inch, snowy white, flattened seed cap of Trillium grandiflorum and the more slender, glossy red cap of T.undulatum, or the fruit of Gaultheria hispidula, hidden among its delicately matted leaves and stems, the brown of Coptis trifolia, and the shining crimson miniature of Maianthemum canadense, or its giant relative Smilacina racemosa's great head of ¼-inch, almost translucent crimson berries; the two-inch globes of Smilax herbacea's blue-black berries which, when cleaned are a rich garnet color, and on for no doubt, countless other bouquets. One can say surely, that the color and fragrance of these fruits exceed in many instances that of the flowers.

To return to our subject: It involves repeated excursions and therefore we make these our holidays. This year, being generally so dry, it seemed questionable if seeds would develop and so early reconnaissance was indicated. It was also a capital excuse for the extra trip. Mention of some of the plants seen include the delicate pink aquatic, Butomus umbellatus at Ste. Martine (Quebec). We hope one day to have it at home. In the bog garden, (a minute portion of the very extensive glassed gardens of the Montreal Botanic Garden), grew and flowered Pinguicula caudata, a large pink-flowered species. A note concerning the contents of these gardens may not be out of order for those who have not visited here: the houses are arranged in a broad and flat "U" shape, with the entrance at the base and center, opening into the Conservatory in which is depicted a floral scene, changed at intervals through the year. To the left is the begonia house. The next two are given over to succulents and cacti, and the next contains mid-tropical plants. Two additional houses are to be built. Starting again at the Conservatory and going to the right, the connected houses contain, first: plants of the tropical rain forest (the jungle house); the second is of tropical economic plants and the third, Araceae; the fourth, tropical ferns. Two additional houses are to be built.

Man counts his treasure many ways
In weight and size or silver coin;
Four hundred horses in a car;
A mansion by the sea.
Come walk along the garden path
Where primrose is a joy to me.
Green leafy hands cup velvet jewels
For all the world to see.

--Rosina Laughlin
February 21, 1966.
an English writer, one wonders if his short paragraph is correct. He does not describe Cusick's primrose, he only states that it "is a species quite near P. Angustifolia, if not merely a form of it," and that "it comes from the southeastern Rockies," making no mention of its being native to Oregon.

FOUND IN ROCKIES

This P. angustifolia of which he speaks is found in the Rockies from Colorado to New Mexico. It is one of the few American primulas willing to adapt itself to culture, doing well in a peaty soil on a bed of deep gravel.

Its one or two rosy-purple flowers are carried on hardly any scape at all tucked away amongst smooth edged leaves of unbelievable narrowness. This little floral delicacy blooms very early in the spring and it is hoped that before too many years pass it will be better known.

The Colorado Rockies and a limited area north and south is also the home of the most magnificent of American primulas, P. Parryi. There in its mountain fastness Parry's Primrose enthrones itself in grandeur along tumbling streams, feet in the water, head proudly aloft, disdainful of the occasional prospector or seed-gatherer. It belongs to that regal branch of the family known as the Nivalids, which means snow plants. This is the only Nivalids primrose that does not grow in that stretch of Asiatic territory from the Caucasus to the Eastern Himalayas.

A tall primrose, the white-washed stems measure up to 18 inches and carry up to a dozen large, brilliant rose-purple flowers held in a one-sided cluster. The leaves are long, narrow and fleshy forming upright clumps.

It is difficult for it shares all the Nivalids homesickness for the invigorating air of extreme altitudes and is touchy about water supply. Demanding copious libations during the growing season it perversely insists on absolute drought during dormancy which sets in after the end of summer when the mountain streams run dry. Should anyone wish to accept its challenge, it will do best in a cool spot in rich peaty soil, sand and rock chips with a deep substrata of gravel, a sharp watch on the water situation and a pane of glass over it in winter to protect its crown from wet rot.

DESCRIPTION VARIES

There is a discrepancy in the description of P. suffrutescens from the Colorado Rockies, or so it is placed by the most outstanding English authority. But Bailey's Hortus has it growing in California with only two or three red-purple blossoms on its four inch scape while Reginald Farrer has a cluster of brilliant aniline-pink flowers on tall stems that measure six and eight inches by the ruler in the photograph.

There is a division of this species into a larger form and a smaller, but to avoid confusion these names need not be mentioned since it is probably

DIVISION OF SPECIES

There is a division of this species into a larger form and a smaller, but to avoid confusion these names need not be mentioned since it is probably

According to this photograph the plant is shurbby and runs about making prostrate branches thickly set with saxifrage-like clumps of narrow glossy leaves from which the tall stems rise to an almost awkward height showering out its umbels of deeply cleft blossoms in early summer.

It is reported quite easy of cultivation if provided a warm, sandy and stony well-drained peat in a sheltered situation.

Both authorities agree on the location of P. Rusbyi. It is our most southern primrose growing in the Rockies of New Mexico and Arizona. It is of doubtful beauty if Farrer's description is correct. From tufts of toothed and leathery foliage rise six inch stems bearing, in late summer, loose clusters of funnel-shaped blooms "with the face expanding into a bowl of livid and obscure red-purple like an old bloodstain on faded velvet" which makes it anything but inviting. If your curiosity prompts a check on this description and if you can track down the seed, it wants the same situation as P. suffrutescens.

From the southernmost haunts of American primulas to the far northern habitats the leap is made from Arizona to Alaska where P. cuneifolia grows and which, strangely enough, is almost identical with its southern relative, P. suffrutescens. Fighting for a roothold it has established itself on the Arctic islands of the Bering seas.

Its minute, leathery leaves defy the icy gales and the rosy flowers resting just above the tufts of leaves furnish one of the few cheery notes in the monotony of its bleak environment.

(Cont'd on page 135)
GENERAL CULTURE FOR BLOOMING AURICULAS

The treatment of the superior varieties of the Auricula, solely for the sake of their bloom, may be advantageously considered in three separate subsections, the attention they require being very different at their three annual periods of life.

1. The Winter, or period of rest. — The objects to be attained at this time of their cultivation, is freedom from excessive wet, protection from intense frosts, and the admission of air freely. This period extends from the close of October, or beginning of November, accordingly as the severity of the season may begin, early or late, to the end of January. The late Dr. Horner, of Hull, one of the most successful cultivators of the Auricula, recommends, for its winter residence, a frame, specially constructed for the purpose, and there is no doubt but that it is the best that has hitherto been proposed for the purpose. It facilitates the admission of light and air, can be easily covered during the more stunted form.

It stands on legs between two and three feet high; the top lights slide, and, as shown in the diagram, may also be propped up by means of an iron bar, perforated with holes two or three inches apart, and which catch on a nail projecting from the wood on which the light rests when down. It is permanently fixed to the sash by means of a small staple, forming a moveable joint, and when not used lies along its lower edge, and is there secured. The front lights let down on hinges; the ends are also glass; and in the back, which is wood, there is a door for the convenience of getting to the pots behind, and also for thorough ventilation. There are five rows of shelves, graduated to the slope of the glass; they have a piece an inch wide sawn out of the middle; there is a space also left between them; so that the bottom of the frame is quite open, for the abundant admission of air to circulate thoroughly around the sides and bottom of the pots. By letting down the front light only, the plants may be left for days together, exposed to all the advantages of light and air, without care or notice, and when it is desirable to give them the benefit of a shower remove the top lights. The following is an end view of the frame. The shelves are made 5 in. in breadth, with about an inch sawn out of the middle, the whole length, simply that the pots may not stand in wet or damp; the air thus also permeates the crocks inside the pot; this is important. w w is simply a skirting-board of strong deal, partly for ornamental round the frame, and in part for strength, and for breaking the wind from blowing, maybe too roughly, in eddies, among the pots; the top lights slide, or may be pulled down in front, as the lights of a green house, &c. The shelves are supported midway by a rest, as at the ends. Fig. a is a vertical section of the frame; b is a shelf, with an inch sawn out of the middle. (Gard. Chron. 1841, 550.)

Dr. Horner recommends that the Auriculas should be placed in the frame early in November, giving them all the air possible, as by letting down the front lights and opening the door behind — the top lights being kept on in case of rain. Watering must be gradually withdrawn, so that during December and January the soil be just kept from being absolutely dry; if it be kept wet or damp, the plants will be in greater danger of contracting disease, and of suffering from frost. In winter, during intense frost, the frame must be protected with efficient covering; two stout blankets, with an outer coverlet of tarpauling, are the best, and, in the end, the cheapest materials.

(Extracts from 19th century English Handbook on "Culture of Auricula and Asparagus". Pages 58-61.)

Only a territorial difference, the extraordinarily severe weather producing the more stunted form.

If one could catch sight of P. eximia referred to in glowing words by Ira Gabrielson, it would certainly set many hearts burning to possess it. It ranges over the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands and conquers the northern mainlands; and with one nod of its rosy blossoms of unusual size and brilliancy. A dwarf, like P. cuneifolia, it is reported to be graciously disposed toward taming if approached respectfully.

There is a form of P. eximia that is hardly distinguishable from it which is found on only one of the Pribilof islands. It is probably even more diminutive.

Besides the strap-leaved Nivalis and the saxifrage-like shrubby primulas, this clan of the family is the most widely distributed for there are species native to England, Scandinavia, the Balkans, Russia, Turkey, China and Siberia. They are always lavender with definite leanings toward pink or outspokenly pink in clear, soft tones and usually fragrant. The silver meal on stems, crowns and leaves heightens their fairy-like daintiness and the unbelievably tall stems elongate themselves from equally unbelievably tiny tufts of leaves.

One of these, P. davurica is native to Saskatchewan and P. mistassinica is known to have been collected on the East Coast from Maine to Nova Scotia.

Rather than say that some of the American primulas are easier of cultivation than others, a more correct statement is that there are a few that offer less resistance to change than others. For the most, they mock our most tender attempts to help in their readjustment and in the highest American tradition, die rather than submit to captivity.
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