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QUARTERLY

Florence Bellis — Editor Emeritus

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE, PRIMULA AND AURICULA SOCIETY

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(3. All dues are payable each November 15 and should be sent to the treasurer.
MRS. LAWRENCE G. TAIT, 14015 84th Ave. N. E., Bothell, Washington

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Notes from Rhone Street

In a letter from Mr. Thomas Martin, in this issue, mention is made of a primula found between Grand Junction and Durango, Colorado. That recalls a pleasant memory, Mr. Alexander and I took some of our best, or most interesting to us, pictures in that area during a summer of Continental Divide crossing and recrossing as Mr. Alexander looked at areas of timber for his client. I remember sudden drenching rains, blue and white skies, narrow twisting roads, brilliant flowers, and over all, driving with my right arm in a plaster cast.

Many of the members of the high altitude plant community are grown at lower altitudes in screens, while the native primulas are seldom seen. Mrs. Agge brought a blooming plant of P. Cusickiana to an Oregon meeting last spring, which had been given to her several years before by Mrs. Berry. Is there not an interest in native primulas for the collector, and a potential for the hybridizer? Is it that the "imported" primula are easier to obtain and the native ones are looked upon as poor, unattractive things? American gardeners have managed to utilize the many forms of the more spectacular Lewisia despite the beating it often takes in its native site. If we let the Primula go too long perhaps the sheep will obliterate most of them.

The next issue will feature an article concerning the garden of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry, our foremost grower of Primula species.

It is the hope of all concerned that the reprinting of the Pictorial Dictionary of Species will further this interest. Mrs. Watson did the original copy, when she was editor, and we are all very grateful for the time and effort and skill she is putting into the task now.

Quarterly Mail

I wonder if you would mind a couple of criticisms. One is the misspelling of my name, on the address label, and worse still, in my article! Griswald is a Yankee name, dating back in Ct. for 327 years. Secondly, I note Mrs. Rodney K. Pipers' address is given as Weatherfield, the town is Weathersfield.

Dr. Arthur S. Griswold
Stratford, Ct.

We stand corrected! And extend our apologies!

Cyrus Happy grows Florist Tulips and Laced Pinks, in addition to having the well-known Show Auriculas.

His authoritative article on "The Auricula" is in the Summer, 1965 issue. He has sent some interesting information on Florist Tulips, "That should interest broad-minded Primula growers." During the 19th Century, the "florists' era," standards were published listing the desired properties of the auricula, rose, ranunculus, carnation, picotee, pink, dahlia and tulip. The Wakefield Tulip Society was formed in 1836 and is still giving annual shows. The tulips are still judged on three things, form, purity and markings. The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society bought the tulip stocks of Barr & Sons, and share the stocks with their Society members who wish to share in the culture and survival of the Old English Florist Tulips. Perhaps some A. P. S. members have old varieties of florist tulips which would be interesting to the Tulip Society secretary, Mr. H. V. Calvert, 7 School Crescent, Lupset, Wakefield, Yorks, England.

Alice Hills Baylor notifies us her address during the winter months will be % Stowe Bound Lodge, Stowe, Vermont. She writes concerning a strange mix, "the only thing I had on hand, which worked wonders when the plants were, for the first time, frost-heaved!" I saved my heaved plants with a well-mixed blend of 1 bucket each of sawdust, wood ashes, compost, peat moss, and 1 pt. of chemical fertilizer. My primroses, including auriculas, came through the winter fine, and had better foliage and flowers than before.

"Once, many years ago, I spent the entire spring and summer zigzagging across western Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona. Many of the roads used were no more than fire trails. Of course I saw numerous wild flowers of the mountains and deserts. The primulas I particularly remember were both growing at very high altitudes, about 11,000'. One diminutive primula was growing and blooming at the very edge of a snow bank, high on Wheeler Peak, in New Mexico. A nearby lake was still partially frozen over, and it was the 15th of June. This wonderful blue primula, shaped much like a myosotis, was growing with another wee flower that formed a little tuft about 2-3" in diameter. Above the lake, which was in a small cirque, the slopes of the mountain were covered with snow. On the highway between Grand Junction and Durango, Colorado, also, at a very high altitude, I saw another primula which was about 6-8" tall. The color was a sort of magenta, and it was growing in a very wet situation, with a white flower of the ranunculacea. It was growing in melting snow water, where the stream was more of a wide sheet of water than confined to banks."

Excerpt from a letter to the editor from Mr. T. F. Martin, of Virginia. His Primula Symposium report is in this issue. P. angustifolia is "wheel-shaped" but identified specimens of it have been pink or white. The above could be any one of several varieties. With a few notable exceptions, not very much has been done by Society members with American species. About ten years ago, Roland E. Cooper had this to say about it:

"The full continent of America stretches from the arctic circle in the north to the antarctic circle in the south; and the few primulas we know, 20 in all, are scattered along the entire length of the country. 20 in 10,000 miles! Let's look at them, and see who found some of them. Wm. C. Cusick who found Cusickiana was just an ordinary man of Oregon interested in wild flowers. His flower has the most heavenly perfume of violets. The finest of all America's primroses with 18" high trusses of inch-wide garnet flowers with a golden eye, P. Parryi, was found by Dr. C. C. Parry and seems in danger of extinction because flocks of sheep graze upon its masses. P. Ellisae was found by a Miss Ellis, on the mountains to the south of the Rio Grande, growing in crevices of limestone cliffs. Americans should be plant hunting in a more organized way, the opportunities are infinite and the cost could be shared."

Doretta Klaber is working on a new book on violets, and would very much appreciate specimen plants sent to her for study and use. She plans to draw the root system, leaves and flowering parts. Any help the A. P. S. members can extend will aid Mrs. Klaber in this noteworthy research.
Notes from the Treasurer

The response to the dues payment slip in the fall issue has been very rewarding. Prompt response to the billing saves me a great deal of time, and provides the member concerned with his opportunity to participate in the winter seed exchange. At 20 packages of seed for $1.00 that is a bargain indeed, and made possible by the many hours of effort Mr. Baldwin puts out in letter writing, collecting, sorting, and mailing seed.

Local banks will cash Canadian and English checks, but they send the checks from other countries back to that country for conversion to U.S. funds, a slow process. International money orders can be readily cashed at the Bothell post office, so that it is a good method. If that is inconvenient for any overseas member, perhaps they can convert their check to U.S. funds at their local bank before sending the dues into the treasurer.

Members out of the Seattle area who wish to get Liquinox can obtain it by mail order from the central office, Liquinox Co., 1409 West Chatman Ave., Orange, Ga. No more Fertosan is available in our office.

We send out thanks to all those members who have included a few extra dollars with their dues for the Dictionary fund. Take advantage of our Quarterly Special for winter reading, 10 for $3.50, up to the current issue, of the copies available. The Society needs to build up some complete sets to be kept as Society property, so would much appreciate it if people who have back sets they wish to dispose of would let us know.

The American Primrose Society has given an Honorary Life Membership to Mrs. Ellen Page Haydon in recognition of her devoted effort in furthering the interests of the Society. She has been an active member for many years, and has generously supplied additional memberships and contributions toward Society publications. Too far from the Primula Shows of the Northwest to attend them, she has supported them with an active interest and has given a large silver bowl for a National Show Trophy. Named the "Haydon Trophy" it was won by Mr. Ralph Balcom for the best double auricula, in 1966.

Mr. Orval Agee, Life Membership Chairman

VETTERLE & REINELT
CAPITOLA, CALIFORNIA

In some areas it is difficult to send money out, and for that reason many of the members exchange A. P. S. memberships for seeds, publications, or foreign society memberships.

Seeds of Alpines & Unusual Plants

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A.P.S. Board Meeting Report

Place: The Net Loft Restaurant, Victoria, British Columbia
Time: Sept. 24, 1966, 1:00 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Grace Conboy, called the meeting to order and introduced guests from the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society, Mrs. J. L. Kennaugh, Mrs. J. C. Carruthers, and Mrs. S. McCulloch. The treasurer reported $2,167.00 in the checking account, $1,191.77 in the savings account, and $189.13 in the Pictorial Dict. fund. Mrs. Tait also reported the addition of 105 new members this fall. She has received numerous requests for sets of Quarterlies from libraries in the Eastern states.

The Correspondent from Vernon, Mrs. Alice Baylor, was able to attend, and brought special greetings from Mr. Lincoln Foster, president of the National Rock Garden Society. Mrs. Baylor takes care of a good deal of overseas and Eastern mail, and reported the sending of seed to the overseas correspondents.

The reprinting of the Pictorial Dictionary was discussed. The Treasurer reported that copies of the Dictionary issues are out of print and not available and that she has numerous reprints for the Dictionary. Mrs. Baylor reported that Mrs. Watson, who did the original Dictionary, has offered to re-do the original copy by assembling the material in one issue with the corrections. A motion was made by Mr. Herbert Dickson to accept the offer, with the Society authorizing the President to use her discretion in this matter for any money spent as needed, and that negatives used should remain the property of the A.P.S. Motion carried. The publication of the Dictionary as a summer or fall issue was discussed, with the decision to leave the matter up to Mrs. Watson, and have the other issue very small to curtail expenses.

Mr. Edwin Winterling, president of the Tacoma Primrose Society, petitioned for the 1967 National Show to be held in Tacoma, confirmation granted.

The meeting was adjourned. Twenty board members were present.

by Anne Siepman, Rec. Sec'y

Prior to the board meeting in Victoria I had the pleasure of a four day motor trip into the interior of beautiful British Columbia, guest of Mr. and Mrs. James Watson. We traveled on superb highways; followed rivers in deep mountain canyons; along shores of blue lakes where waterfowl rested before their migration; into rich orchard planted valleys; up through passes on roads carved into the mountainsides, where waterfalls dropped like silken scarfs from rocky heights. The majestic mountain peaks, capped with ice fields, sparkled in the sun or changed to iridescent blaze at sunset or sunrise. Each glacial unique in shape, each displaying different character and moods. The grandeur of the Canadian Rockies must be seen to be appreciated.

The board meeting in beautiful Victoria was well attended and gave me the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. I took pleasure in being Corresponding Secretary and am glad to hear from members and non-members who are interested in Primroses. The letters I have received from this country and from abroad have been rewarding. I am happy to report that many new members have joined our Society. This is a propitious time to become a member as we are now exploring several avenues in the hope the Pictorial Dictionary can be published in one volume in the near future. It was published in the Quarterly in 1954 with the supplementation in 1955 when Mrs. James Watson was Editor. She was assisted by Sir William Wright Smith and Dr. Harold R. Fletcher who wrote the monographs. This valuable work on the Genus Primula is now out of print. Mrs. Watson has generously offered to do the corrections on the 1954 Dictionary and Sirrata included. This great undertaking has begun and the board members are most grateful to her.

After the meeting I joined the Washington and Oregon members on the boat trip to Seattle where I was the guest of Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait. Beth's garden had a wealth of bloom, her Primroses under that and in the open garden in excellent condition with some showing color. I could visualize the magnificent display in spring. We visited Mr. and Mrs. Anton Swartz in their extensive gardens where Primroses and miniature Evergreens abound. In the garden of Mrs. John Siepman fall flowers made colorful patterns against the background of shrubs. From the entrance one knew it was the home of a master gardener. The flowers were in separate pots. Everywhere I visited I wished to linger, to see more, to ask questions, but with the limited time it was not possible. Every moment of my trip is etched clearly in my mind. I may never again be able to visit the glorious Northwest but memories are lasting and I wholeheartedly suggest other members of A.P.S plan to meet with the board for a refreshing experience, to make new friends and see unusual and delightful gardens.

Alice Hills Baylor, Corresponding Secretary Johnson, Vermont

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 Arboretum, Seattle.

The East Side Garden Club of Kirkland meets the third Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A workshop is conducted in the morning and a program in the afternoon. Visitors are welcome.
The Barnhaven Primroses

Used by permission of the author Mr. J. W. Sinclair

Elegance, fragrance and charm are symbolic of the Silver Dollar Barnhaven primroses introduced by Florence Bellis and described here by JARED W. SINCLAIR

In the middle of the depression years, a young woman in Oregon, United States of America, invested almost her last few cents in polyanthus seed from Sutton and Sons of Reading. The strains she chose were those of 1935 "Sutton's Brilliant," "Sutton's Superb," "Sutton's Blue" and "Sutton's Crimson King." She moved into an old barn near Gresham and began the dogged, determined, and reliable garden plants breeding programme of hand-pollination that has given us today the aristocrats of the primrose world. From the beginning, colour and form were an obsession - the magentas, the muddies and the squirts in their thousands were discarded along with the big, blowy broads with petals like paper. Over the years she has religiously kept faith with the original elegance and charm of these flowers, featuring the size of bloom, from which the Silver Dollar trademark of the Barnhaven strains came as a by-product. Fragrance has been maintained, and in some cases unbelievably enriched, and now, after thirty years of hybridising the polyanthuses and primroses raised by Florence Bellis are honoured the world over by devotees and connoisseurs of these plants.

Though they have gained countless awards on the show bench, the main object has been the production of good and reliable garden plants breeding true from seed. Due to the overwhelming demands of an almost captive American market, seed until now has not been generally available in Europe thus the strains are not yet widely known except to a few commercial cut-flower growers and primula enthusiasts. For the uninitiated, then, a brief description of the various strains.

To start with polyanthuses, the "Marine Blues" with heart-shaped petals and delicious fragrance were developed from "Sutton's Blue" and present colours in the series include light sky blue, delft, Prussian blue, cobalt and ultramarine, all with a compact eye which does not detract from the clear colour of these strains. From the violet and purple blues of the old "Sutton's Blue" emerged the velvet and opulent strains with the suffix "Victorians," subdivided into six separate colour strains: "Carnation" - containing smutty shades of cerise, fuchsia, carmine and carnation pinks; "Violet" - made up of plum, red plum, wood violet, red violet and royal-purple, many with bronze foliage, all awesomely rich and elegant; "Mauve" - a frothy selection of lilac, heliotrope, lavender, orchid and pink-orchid shades, mostly widely ruffled; "Old Rose" — embracing mallow pink and Victorian rose colours; "Striped" — veined and striped like irises in dusty pinks, light porcelain and dark blue and smoky peony shades, and finally the "Muted Victorians," results of a pollinating accident and a wickedly sophisticated combination of frosted sepa on a mauve or violet base.

From "Sutton's Brilliant" a plant appeared with tall, black stalks bearing dainty blooms of purest, glowing red with a perfect gold star centre. It was named "Kwan Yin," and crossed with "Sutton's Crimson King" to produce the fiery "Indian Reds" now composed of the most brilliant clean, true scarlets, orient red and glowing crimson. It was used in the creation of the "Grand Canyon" strain, containing rich bronze shining copper and tile reds. From this strain came "Desert Sunset" - coral, apricot, shrimp, salmon and burnt orange shades - and the sensational cocoa and coffee browns of the "Spice Shades." These are true browns of heavy crepe or velvet texture. "Kwan Yin" was involved in another pollinating mishap that launched "Little Egypt." This has all but superseded "Kwan Yin" and is a dazzling and floriferous selection of stunningly bright shades of pink brick and Egyptian reds, medium sized blooms with either a tiny yellow eye or no eye at all. "Kwan Yin" has also been used in other raisers' strains as a "purifier" of red shades, notably by Vetterle and Reinelt in their Pacific strains.

"Cowichan," the famous eye-less strain, also owes its existence to "Kwan Yin." Containing Primula juliae blood, the blooms are solid pools of colour with no yellow centre in jewel colours of garnet and amethyst. A recent addition to the series, "Venetian Cowichan," caused a little sensation when exhibited by Dr. Lester Smith at the National Auricula and Primula Society's southern section show last year. The Venetian label covers mandarin and strawberry reds with a black bee centre. Newer still are the eye-less blues and pinks, and all the colours in the Cowichan strain have the sheen of hot coals.

The "Harvest Yellows" and "Winter Whites" are direct descendants of Miss Jekyll's "Munstead" strain. The whites are magnificent in size and form, heavily ruffled in bloom, and many have a red-lead centre. From these has been developed the new "Chartreuse," cool lime green, eyeless, fading to a white edge. The "Harvest Yellows" have the same exquisite form as the "Winter Whites," the colours including yellow, gold, orange, ivory and a new lemon with the scent of freesias.
The "New Pinks" were developed from a strain raised by Linda Elkan in Astoria, the origin of which is reputed to be seed from Toogoods of Southampton. Before Miss Eickman's death in 1955, she had given some of her plants to Mrs. Bellis (who had been advising her on how to perpetuate her new colour break) and over the years she has succeeded in breeding out the rather delicate constitution of the originals. Indeed, in early days, the "New Pinks" needed very careful handling — flower stems were prone to collapse with botrytis for no apparent reason and whole plants would easily disintegrate. Today they are as robust as the other strains and are spectacularly lovely in colours ranging from that of the cherry in a tin of fruit salad, through bright raspberry to the most exquisite shades of wild rose, peach, apple blossom and sweet pea. All are true, clear pinks, with no trace of blue in their make-up.

Traditional forms — "Jack-in-the-green" and "hose-in-hose" — have been maintained and developed from gifts made to Mrs. Bellis by friends in England in the 1950s and 1940s. There are now 25 colours in the Jack-in-the-green series, and startling advances have been made with Hose-in-hose. The first of these, a lovely, large-flowered, frilly, limpid true pink, is almost ready for distribution, with other colours to follow. These traditional forms, together with the famous strain of "Barnhaven Gold Lace" Primula vulgaris, are mild seeders and many, many blooms have to be pollinated to give a crop of seed.

The same ideals of form and colour are evident in the beautiful strains of Acaulis Primulas. All have the true woodland fragrance and the long, classic buds explode into colour series that speak for themselves — "Candy Pinks," "American Blues" (every conceivable shade of true blue), "Blue Bells," "Pink-apricot" and "pink bronze shades"), "Traditional Yellows," "Osiereed Amber" (with red stems and calyses), "Tartan Reds" and the lovely "Harbinger," purest white, with heart-shaped petals, developed from the white sport of Primula vulgaris found in a Cornish wood some 80 years ago, and as a sport an infuriatingly capricious seed mother.

Florence Bellis's work with Asiatic Primulas has produced two brilliant forms of P. pulcherrima — "New Pink" and "New Apricot," a glittering race of candelabras, mostly with black-green stalks, named "Oriental Sunrise," and the enchanting P. sieboldii hybrids — called "Barnhaven" — in a limitless sequence of peppermint and marshmallow colours. Last year she unleashed in America the famous strain of "Barnhaven" Gold Lace', grown by Mrs. Berry, "So few realize what a really great editor she was that decade or more of early years. She was so resourceful, so imaginative... a splendid Editor." We have asked permission to reprint the perceptive article by Mr. Sinclair of England, Barnhaven's Successor. Please see the ad on the back cover of the Summer issue for further information.

Tribute to Florence Bellis Editor Emeritus, of Barnhaven

1966 has come and gone, we have a new dateline on the Quarterly, marking the 26th year since the formation of the American Primrose Society, founded in Portland in 1941. The large collection of species Primula, grown by Mrs. Berry, were ample proof that many of the little-known plants would prosper here. The poetic and knowledgeable newspaper articles written by Mrs. Bellis provided the publicity that drew the first groups to horticulture. She can look forward to a long and happy retirement, for she says she is going to live to be a very old lady and with the same dogged, determined steps she has taken toward her goal over the past thirty years, I am sure she will.

Reprinted from "The Gardener's Chronicle" — May 1966

Barnhaven plants... Photo by Orval Agee
Primula Symposium Report
from Pennsylvania

By MRS. WILBUR I. NISLEY,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

My husband is a horticulturist, primarily in Contract Landscaping and Nursery business, and I have developed my love for growing things through him. In 1950 he took on the extra task of Sec. - Treas. of our Pa. Nurserymen's Assn., and helped him with the office work and at official meetings until his resignation this year. Last year he was a delegate to the groups' national meeting, held in Portland, Ore. The entire trip was a delight. We saw many lovely gardens in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, but my one regret was that I did not have time to visit the people who grow primroses.

The place where we live consists of two acres; once part of a farm. It had a small woods and stream, and we have added to the plantings with many conifers and deciduous trees, and many varieties of berry producing plants to attract the birds. About four years ago the ingressive tree roots had penetrated all the formerly sunny flower beds, and I sought the perennials that will prosper in shade. We saw many lovely gardens in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, but my one regret was that I did not have time to visit the people who grow primroses.

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In the book "Contemporary Perennials" by Roderick W. Cumming and Robert E. Lee, I read about the Ellen Carder Hybrid Polyanthus "that grow in the surly New England weather," and thought that would be the answer to make use of all our filtered shade. I sent for seed from Mrs. Carder and bought plants from Mr. Cumming's nursery in Bristol, Conn. When the seeds and plants arrived I planted them in a Univ. of Rochester Mix, which consisted of a generous portion of vermiculite and many other ingredients. The plants germinated very well, then in a few days they all "burned off." I wrote to Mr. Cumming and explained what I had done, and he thought the Mix was too strong for the tender roots. He suggested I use ordinary garden soil, sowing the seed sparingly with just enough moisture, cover with glass, place the flats in the shade and cover with something to keep it shaded for at least eight days. Fortunately I had used only a portion of the seed. These seeds germinated very well, and after the true leaves appeared I transplanted them into other flats where the soil included peat moss and a small portion of dehydrated cow manure. By early September the plants had become sturdy and when I cut them out of the flats with a putty knife they looked like pieces of cake with a plant growing out of it. They all had strong root systems.

Earlier in the summer I had prepared beds for them, and where ever I dug the beds I took bushels of tree roots away. To this soil I added peat moss, our own leaf mold, (for we never burn any leaves, but turn them into leaf mold) superphosphate, and dehydrated cow manure. These beds were dug especially deep. Next spring there were more than 200 lovely, luscious plants and sturdy flower stems with gorgeous flowers of all colors. I was so proud of them. I have since prepared new beds, part of which are dug under the limbs of a mature Japanese Crabapple flowering tree. We laid sections of old locust trees, or logs, along a path leading into the woods, keeping them in place with stakes hammered into the ground. This keeps the soil from rolling down the steep slope onto the path and levels the bed, as well as providing a rustic appearance. The bed was wide enough for four plants
Primula Symposium Report from New York

By MRS. ESTHER HASKO

Why do I grow Primroses? Well, dear Editor . . . my name is Esther, not Elizabeth (as you have it listed) . . . I grow primroses because they are a challenge, and so lovely with the spring bulbs and in the wild garden. They make fine gifts when in bloom, too. At first I bought my plants, but there is more satisfaction in raising them from seeds. I have tried a wide variety; Julianas, Acaulis, Sieboldii, Polyanthus, Denticulata, Cortusoides, Belled, Bulleyana, Japanese, Candelabra Hybrids, Kisoana, and Auricula. I also had some Gold Lace Polyanthus, but either lost them over winter or gave them away by mistake. Once the plants are well-established, I increase them by dividing the clumps after blooming. The blooming seasons vary, with the Julianas starting the show in March and the bulk of them in April and May. The primroses brighten the whites and pastels of the wild garden; including Pulmonaria lutea, Epimediums, Trillium grandiflora, Solomon Seal, Mertensia Virginica, Iris Cristata, and Shortia, various anemones, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, ferns, and bulbs. In the border I use the primroses with early daffodils and species tulips; the big, late tulips are too massive and overpower the primroses. The Denticulata can stand up to them, but it blooms early and the lavender tints overpower the primroses. The Julianas are in the most sun. Some form of good mulch is necessary for wind protection.

The original soil of this section has a very peculiar structure as a consequence of many fires through the years. The top layer is about an inch of black acidic granules on about 8 inches of grey sand. Under that is a deep layer of very fine sand, but with poor drainage. So every bed has to be deeply dug, with quantities of humus incorporated. I introduced earthworms, too, because I believe their castings improve the soil. In the spring, when the flower buds start to form, I fertilize with liquid Blue Whale. My primrose beds get filtered light in the spring, high, but complete shade in the summer. The Julianas are in the most sun. Some form of good mulch is essential to keep the soil cool. There is not enough rainfall to grow them without additional watering during summer. The snow cover is uncertain, most of the time it is light and melts soon, but occasional heavy falls smash everything down. This spring the soil was dry as we had no snow unexplained and fun. Last fall I potted up about 50 tiny seedlings to grow under the cellar lights and use for Easter gifts. Soon I did not have room for them down in the cellar where it was cool, so I brought them up to a west window, where they made big plants but did not bloom. Early in May the ground warmed, so I set them out, but they did not bloom until June and July. I think they needed that cold weather out side to set their buds. It was very hot by late June, but I was using the sprinkler every day, which lowered the temperature in the beds and increased the humidity.

Garden Situation:

In the border I use the primroses with early daffodils and species tulips; the big, late tulips are too massive and overpower the primroses. The Denticulata can stand up to them, but it blooms early and the lavender tints are fine with the daffodils. For the later blooming candelabras, the little ground covers that complement them are Phlox divaricata, and the golden Trollius and little double buttercups. They all need the extra moisture, and as there are no bogs or streams in this area I just use extra water and mulches to bring them to perfection. This summer I had pink and blue acaulis blooming in July, which was unexpected and fun. Last fall I potted up about 50 tiny seedlings to grow under the cellar lights and use for Easter gifts. Soon I did not have room for them down in the cellar where it was cool, so I brought them up to a west window, where they made big plants but did not bloom. Early in May the ground warmed, so I set them out, but they did not bloom until June and July. I think they needed that cold weather out side to set their buds. It was very hot by late June, but I was using the sprinkler every day, which lowered the temperature in the beds and increased the humidity.

Continued on page 19
Primula Symposium Report from Virginia

By MR. THOMAS F. MARTIN

Growing primroses in this part of Virginia is not the easiest thing to do, and I do have my failures, but have found the plants do well in a suitable place with proper attention. I hope the following information from tidewater Virginia will be of help and encouragement to others.

I have three generations of ancestors back of me who were horticulturists, so my education began as soon as I could walk into my mother's flower garden. Cowslips were grown. Then, as I grew older, primulas were mentioned in many of the writings that fell under my gaze, especially as I became interested in Rock Gardening. When I finally settled down in my own "backyard" I decided I would try some of the improved polyanthus types. My first packet of seed produced one plant, a lovely deep golden yellow, and I cared for it and divided it until I had about 150 in one area along a path. In the meantime I had sown additional polyanthus seed with more success, and as each plant prospered I divided it and kept the same plants together to make a mass showing of one color. I want to try auriculas and the new julianas, for their early bloom. There are casualties now and then, but why grow marmalades, black-eyed Susans, etc., when for very little more work I can have a plant that is unusual here and different. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I have gained a reputation for having the unusual, so have to live up to it, and that, in the long run, is a very good thing for people who garden.

I still have some plants of the first yellow I raised 15 years ago. Most of them were lost by too early division one hot summer, but there are still enough for a nice showing. If I save my seed I freeze it in plastic bags with water, about June, and then sow it in March. I use flats set up off the ground on stands that snails cannot climb. I also hybridize daffodils and collect seeds from my various bulbs, which is refrigerated at about 40-42°F. This retains nearly 100% viability.

The primulas and their companion plants are growing in a specially prepared loam-compost-sand mix which I mulch about Thanksgiving time with well-rotted manure, lifting the foliage and placing the manure mulch around each plant, to cover the ground. Begonia Evansiana, and Dicentra eximia have found this place much to their liking and I have to weed them out each summer, but their shade and color are welcome through the summer months. In the background I have naturalized daffodils that bloom about the same time as the primulas. All of this is on the north side of a small thicket of loblolly pine and shaded from the afternoon sun by a tall black oak.

Garden Situation:

Knowing that any primula needs moisture and coolness, I have always located my plants where they would by shaded by some sort of high foliage, and in the dampest spots of the garden. I also try to give them plenty of light from the north side, and morning sun. Our soil here ranges from extremely wet in the winter to extremely dry in the summer, and we have water shortages in summer, so I cannot always irrigate. I have had the plants lose every leaf in the summer, and then come back with a flourish with the fall hurricanes and rains. The average rainfall for this part of Virginia is about 44 inches. Snow is not unusual but does not amount to much, with a few exceptions. We value snow mostly for the moisture it brings, and not for the protective cover it affords. Our only irrigation is from the garden hose, attached to the domestic water supply. There are underground streams beneath my garden, but a town ordinance prevents my putting in a well. This stream gets low, and there is much air-space underground. There is a stratum of clay hard-pan, called "easy-fish soil," just above the surface and their holes drain the surface water away.

Our winter humidity is high, but during the summer it drops to 50%, and hovers about 40-50%. Our coldest month is Feb. with an average of 29.2°F, with the coldest on record a -12°F. Ordinarily the winter temperatures will dip into the teens, for a short period of time, with the first killing frosts in early November. I enjoy having a small bloom of something coming along all winter, with the daffodil show in spring, from February into May. No special protection from weather has been necessary, for we welcome the cold and plan for summer shade. I try to compensate for summer moisture-lack by using shade removed from tree roots, using good mulches, and if possible, a good soaking twice a month. If all else fails, I just keep my fingers crossed!

The winter mulch keeps the plants growing and producing strong and deep root systems which I believe is responsible for survival during the summers. The new bed has two feet of rich soil. Those plants get watered and are always green, a fine ground-cover even when not in flower. The only trouble with that area is that it can get too wet in the winter and drown the plants. In all of the areas the plants seem to want to grow all winter, so I give them encouragement and anticipate a sensational color display in the spring.

COMING EVENTS
Oregon Association of Nurserymen & Landscape Gardeners present
SPRINGTIME
IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST
Multnomah Ct'y. Exposition Center
March 7-12
Featuring a very large theme garden, membership and guest displays.
Free Parking Freeway Access
Admission: $1.00


Continued from page 17
all winter but -26°F one night. My plants did not freeze out because I had mulched them with evergreen boughs and excelsior over the crowns, and they were not heaved out of the ground to perish. The average winter minimum is about zero, but the temperature fluctuates, unfortunately. The summers are hot and dry, but the soil temperatures in the primrose beds are about 20° cooler thanks to the watering and the shade. I do set potted plants of Caladium in the borders where the bulbs have died down, that helps create more shade for the primroses and adds summer leaf color.

Inadequate moisture and strong winds constitute my garden problems. I mulch winter and summer, and water in the summer to meet the moisture needs. Through the years, many special plantings of evergreens have diverted the winds around the garden.
VERMONT HARDY PRIMROSES:  
Sky Hook Giant polyanthus, Acaulis,  
Denticulata: lavender and white.  
Juliana-Jack-in-the-Green, other  
Julianas. P. longiflora, Yellow and  
pink Hose-in-Hose; P. secundiflora  
Sieboldii, pink, white, and Southern  
Cross P. darialica (the robust Bird's  
Eye).  
P. Abschasica; P. rubra; Boothman  
Hybrid, Miniature polyanthus; Cande- 
delabras; Pulverulenta, Pagoda Hy-
brids, Species.  
Seeds, double auriculas, 5 ea. All  
others, 100/50. List on request.  
SKY HOOK FARM JOHNSON,  
VT. 03656  
---  
Informative reading on African Vio-
lets, Orchids, Cacti Lilies, Begonias,  
Dias, Gourds, Herbs, Wildflowers,  
Birds, Rock Gardens, Growing  
Under Lights, ads swaps. Published  
monthly. Sample copy 25¢. $2.50  
one year. Ozark Gardens, R. 1. Box  
227. p.s. Fairview, Penna. 16415  
---  
Bernhardt's MT. HOOD STRAIN  
OF HAND-pollinated polyanthus.  
Generous pkts. of mixed seed, many  
colors. $3.00 ea. — BERNHARDTS,  
Rt 3, Boring, Oregon  
---  
Double Primrose Seed ... hand-
pollinated Klein strain double polya-
anthus or acaulis. From bright red  
grandparent plants, the offspring  
come in shades of red, yellow and  
white. 25 seeds, $2.00. (30 seeds  
£) Auricula seed — Alpines or Selfs  
5 cents each.  
CY HAPPY  
4 Country Club Drive  
Tacoma, Wash. 98498  
---  
A Visit to England  
On our recent trip to England, my  
wife, Evelyn, and I had the pleasure  
of actually meeting and visiting some  
of our English garden friends. Dr.  
E. Lester Smith had visited us at our  
home in Seattle in the spring in 1963  
but the others we knew only through  
our correspondence with them and  
from an exchange of family pictures.  
How delighted we were to be invited  
into their homes and to actually meet  
these charming folks face to face.  
Dr. and Mrs. Smith have retired to  
a lovely country home near Hastings  
on the south coast of England where  
he can pursue his hobby of gardening.  
His favorite plant is the double au-
ricula and he has the ideal shaded gar-
dens and the proper greenhouse for  
growing them. Our visit with them was  
a delightful one.  
We also called on Mrs. Joan Youle,  
the very capable editor of the Year  
Book of the English National Auri-
cula and Primula Society (Southern  
Section), at her home near London.  
It took but a few minutes, while enjoy-
ing English tea and cakes, to become  
fast friends with her and her charming  
daughter, Nan.  
Our final week-end was spent in the  
home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gould.  
Kenneth is also partial to the double  
auricula and his greenhouse and gar-
dens were a delight to an auricula ad-
dict like me. He and Dr. Smith have  
both been winning many honors at the  
recent English shows in the double  
auricula classes. On a Saturday even-
ing Kenneth invited two other prominent  
members of their Auricula and Pri-
mula Society, Mr. A. Marlow and Mr.  
G. H. Case, to his home so that we  
could meet them. What an enjoyable  
time we had together comparing notes,  
"talking shop" and viewing each  
other's slides of our favorite primulas!  
I am sure that we all profited from the  
exchange of ideas between gardeners  
whose homes are so far apart. Ken-
neth and Pamela, his wife, and also  
their delightful teen-age children, Cath-
erine and John, all did everything  
possible to insure that we enjoyed our  
visit with them.  
Evelyn and I will be ever grateful  
to these English garden friends for do-
ing so much to make our visit to Eng-
land such a pleasant one.  
Among the rare old books in Mr.  
Kenneth Gould's library, is one pub-
lished in 1792 entitled "The Florist's  
Directory" which was written by  
James Maddock. In it is a chapter  
which shows the extremes to which  
some of the growers of that era would  
go in preparing a compost in which to  
grow their auriculas. Here is the chap-
ter,  
"The compost proper for the Auri-
cula should consist of the following in-
gredients, in the annexed proportions,  
viz,  
One half rotten cow-dung, two  
years old.  
One sixth fresh sound earth of an  
open texture.  
One eighth earth of rotten leaves.  
One twelfth coarse sea, or river  
sand.  
One twenty-fourth peaty, or moory  
earth.  
One twenty-fourth soft, decayed wil-
low wood. (Found in the trunks  
of old willow trees).  
One twenty-fourth ashes of burnt  
vegetables.  
"In order to procure the last article  
with very little trouble, any weeds,  
sticks, straw, or old mats, that are of  
no other value, may be collected to-
gether in a heap, and consumed by  
fire, in the open air, till their ashes be-
come white; they will contain a small  
portion of alkaline salts, and should  
be spread upon the surface of the other  
ingredients.  
"The compost is to be placed in an  
open situation, perfectly exposed to the  
action of both air and sun, from the
WINNERS OF PUZZLE #3

I have received quite a number of solutions to our Crossword Puzzle #3, but only six of them were all correct. For some reason this one must have been a bit trickier than the others.

Nancy Ford supervised the drawing of the names as per the rules of the contest and here are the winners,

First Prize, Mrs. Agnes Lindsay Anderson Island, Washington 98303

2nd Prize, Mrs. F. C. Ahlman 7420 Bedford Ave. Omaha 34, Nebraska 68134

3rd Prize, Mrs. Doretta Klaber Cloud Hill, R.D. #1 Quakertown, Pa. 18951

4th Prize, Mrs. Hugh Peavey Box 537 Darrington, Wash. 98241

5th Prize, Mr. George S. Lee, Jr. 89 Chichester Road New Canaan, Conn. 06840

6th Prize, Mr. A. L. Masley 3626 Spring Trail Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Mrs. Agnes Lindsay will receive a generous packet of H. P. Gold Lace seed, each of the others will receive Pink Polyanthus and Pagoda Strain candelabrum seed. Ray Bernhardt and Anita Alexander have donated the seed prizes.

by Mr. Ralph Balcom, member of the A.P.S. Board of Directors and former President of the Society.

The influence of which it will reap great benefit, it should be turned over once or twice, and as often pass through a coarse screen, or sieve, that it may be well mixed, and incorporated, it should then be laid in a regular heap, or mass, from fifteen to eighteen inches thick, but not more; in this state it may remain a year before it is made use of, during which period it will be proper to turn it over two or three times, in order to expose all parts to the atmosphere, to mature and meliorate them more perfectly, the compost should always be kept free from weeds, as they rob it of its nutritive qualities.

“The due preparation and proper consistence of the compost is of very great importance, nor will the plants succeed well, for any considerable length of time, if this part be not particularly attended to.”

The 1967 Seed Exchange

Please note rules governing distribution. Requests must be on form provided, and sent before March 1, 1967. Names used are those furnished by donor excepting in the case of colloquials which have been eliminated as much as possible. The symbol (*) denotes seed was collected in the wild. The “Country of Origin” section as in the past, includes new strains and some of the best strains available from growers in the countries listed. The name of the grower or source of any items in this section is available on request. As will be seen, members have been most generous in their contributions, and an exchange of thanks is in order.

Contributors To The Seed Exchange

A Neumann, Karel (Czechoslovakia) U Clarke, Helen R.
B Turkmen Botanic Gardens V Woods, Mary
C Refrigerated Seeds W Johnson, Nina
D Stavropol Botanic Garden X Baylor, Alice Hills
E Leningrad Botanic Garden Y Commercial Sources***
F Zagreb Botanic Garden Z Duchacova, Olga (Czechoslovakia)
G Tashkent Botanic Garden AA Baldwin, Elmer C.
H Brinkerhoff, Mrs. Herbert BB Jelenits, Dr. Istvan (Hungary)
I Hasko, Esther CC Baker, Mrs. Alfred
J O'Connor, Audrey H. DD Gopherud, Robert
K Langfelder, Richard EE Ruffier-Lanche, R. (France)
L Faust, Dr. Mildred ** FF Marshall, Mrs. Earl A.
M Balcom, Ralph GG Wright, Mrs. Wm. T.
N Hamilton, Dr. Wm. J. HH Ozawa, Motomoske (Japan)
O Foster, H. Lincoln II Lutz, Mrs. Paul C.
P Kartack, R. E. JJ Wells, James
Q Alexander, Anita KK Paterson, Wm. M. (Canada)
R Hayward, Mrs. Harry T Ashkelhadd Botanic Garden
S Stanley, Dorothy

* Seeds from 1966 seed list refrigerated from March 1, 1966 to December 31st.

** Member of A. P. S. Affiliated Club

*** Please see “Country of Origin” section of the list.

For addresses of contributors, please refer to the Year Book—Spring Issue of the Quarterly.

Short notes on certain of the items contributed:

Primula auricula form, from Afghanistan, may be P. auriculata ssp. tourenfertiana.

Primula chionantha mixed: P. chionantha, as the name implies, MUST be white but some seedlings are violet and undistinguishable from P. sinopurpurea. I have found such seedlings at Lautaret (whence the origin of the P. chionantha mixed, the flowers of which are either white or violet) and I have observed at Kew, in the Royal Botanic Garden, a bed of primulas labeled “P. chionantha,” with the same variations. Of course these variations may be called hybrids yet I am not really satisfied that this is so.

Prima say: said to be very difficult, even in America. At Lautaret it grows easily, making big clumps with leaves up to two feet long and more, in slightly acid soil, along the bank of a rivulet, in full sun.

Hieracium x pamphili: a natural hybrid between H. lanatum and H. villosum: well worth cultivating for its foliage alone.

R. Ruffier-Lanche.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Color/Type</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iris douglasiana hybrids</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inula ensifolia</td>
<td>A A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosta coerulea lanceolata</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieracium x pamphila</td>
<td>DD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hibiscus palustris</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;tall rose&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;tall red&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;rose-pink&quot;</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;rose bicolor&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;'Red Wine'&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;red &amp; gold&quot;</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The table continues with similar entries for various plants with their respective colors or types.
MAIL BEFORE MARCH 1, 1967 to:

ELMER C. BALDWIN
400 TECUMSEH ROAD
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13224

Please list in numerical order — not in order of preference. Give extra numbers to permit substitution if necessary — no refunds or credits. Preferences may be underscored, if desired. If additional items are desired, continue listing on reverse side of this form. (Or on separate sheet if you are using page from the Quarterly — but please be sure your name is on each sheet.)

RULES GOVERNING DISTRIBUTION

Members may select up to 20 packets for minimum charge of $1.00. No limit on total number that may be requested: $1.00 for each 20 packets. Extra numbers should be given so that in the event certain items are exhausted, the full number of packets paid for may still be sent. No credit or refund can be made. Late arriving seeds will be listed in the addendum which we anticipate will be issued in April. The addendum will also contain seeds from various Botanical Gardens. It is anticipated that a clearance list will be issued about May first. If either or both of these supplemental lists are desired, please check in the appropriate box on order blank and enclose with order, 5-cent stamp or coin to cover postage, for each copy desired. Requests are to be sent with remittance to the seed Chairman. Remittance may be made as follows:

All Overseas
International Postal Money Order or bank draft in U.S. funds, or in U.S. bank notes. Note: Postal Reply Coupons have a cash value of but eleven cents.

Great Britain
As above, or if desired, by local bank notes.

Domestic
U.S. Postal Money Order, postage stamps, currency, or check drawn to the order of the Seed Chairman,

Elmer C. Baldwin
400 Tecumseh Road
Syracuse, N.Y. 13224.

For further information regarding postage rates, please refer to chart below.

Additional charges for Special handling

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Class</th>
<th>First Class</th>
<th>Air Mail</th>
<th>Spec. Del. any number</th>
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<td>Domestic</td>
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<td>.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>All overseas</td>
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<td>.45 on 28 pkts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>prepaid</td>
<td>prepaid</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount Enclosed _______ 1967 Membership Card No. _______

Name ____________________________
Street Address _______________________
City ___________________________ State __________ Zip # _______

Send addendum: (include 5 cents for postage)
Send clearance list: (include 5 cents for postage)
Various methods of sowing fine seeds, such as petunias, have been attempted in order to get even distribution over the seed bed. Sometimes they are thoroughly mixed with sand or some other neutral carrier. The added bulk makes even and thin distribution simpler. But there are times when a proper carrier is not to be had. Another method that works well is to wet a piece of thread; spread the seeds evenly on a sheet of waxed paper, then lay the moist thread on the seeds. Some will adhere and can be transferred to the seed bed easily. Repeat the transfer until row after row is placed with proper spacing.


These pictures were taken by Mr. Baldwin to accompany his article "Seed Hunting in the Northwest" on page 130, in the fall issue. Additional pictures and a second half of the article will be in the spring issue.