Quarterly of the American Purist Society

Montreal Botanical Garden
Photo courtesy of the Director
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QUARTERLY

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Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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Notes from Rhone Street

Many a gardener hurries through the seasons, raising the "Big Four" in perennials, keeping the grass in its proper place, developing better backgrounds for the annuals that blaze with color during the hot months of summer and fall. An occasional black sheep of a gardener wanders from the fold and becomes a specialist in one or more genus. Years ago, during a garden tour, the magnificent Pagoda Hybrids, developed by Maude Hannon from numerous candelabra species, caught my imagination. Primulas, they were, and they drew me to a new garden site of creek and shade and abundant water. The final push was given by an exquisite plant in a Tacoma show. On an exhibition table was a well grown pot of P. Reichart var. Williamsii...based by a hairy rosette of leaves, the stem and flowers set off in star dust and delicately perfumed. Mrs. Berry made a contribution to that show that will be an enchanting memory to me forever. The articles in this issue neglect the variety of magnolias and numerous birds in her garden. The activity around her bird feeders attests to her continuous care and estate garden area of bird sanctuary.

The Officers of the Society are pleased and proud to be able to publish, as the summer issue of the Quarterly, a reprint of the Pictorial Dictionary. This was planned for and begun during Mr. Ralph Balcom's term of office as President. As reported in the last issue, Mrs. Watson is doing the editing of it. The roster will also be published in the summer. Members whose dues are not paid for 1967 will not receive the summer issue.

There seems to be a misunderstanding in the Northwest concerning the origin of Linda A. Eckman's pinks; she named "Warm Laughter" and "Crown Pink." After she retired, she lived on the old family farm near Dayton, Oregon. "Here she developed her renowned majestic strain of pink polyanthus primroses." Readers will be interested in the information in V 14:4, page 140 by Dr. Mathew Riddle, and, in the same Quarterly, Barnhaven Notes on page 160.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Sydney Baylor passed away January 25, 1967 following an intermittent illness. He cared fastidiously for Alice's "specials" while she attended our last Directors meeting. When she returned home she was pleased and surprised to find them in fine fettle although Mr. Baylor was not a gardener himself. Mr. Baylor was very active in community affairs and was the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Johnston, Vermont. Mrs. Baylor's address will be c/o Mr. Kenneth Schramm, Stowe Bound Lodge, Stowe, Vt. 05672

THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
(founded 1934)

"THE ROCK GARDENER'S HANDBOOK"
140 pages - 36 Articles and Bibliography selected from many years of publication
Hard Cover $2.50 Paper Back $1.50
Lawrence Hochheimer, Secretary Ridge Farms Road
Norwalk, Conn. 06850

Quarterly Mail

Detailed reporting of the Northwest shows is not of great interest to the members not in contact with the region. It is quite natural to suppose that such reporting is of particular interest to those directly involved with the effort. I suspect it may be difficult for the grower in Oregon or Washington to believe there is insufficient material in any one community in the East to be even warrant thinking of putting on a show! Nevertheless, it is a hard fact, because, in our climate, primroses are a garden flower for relatively few persons. Garden tours have been more successful for our area. In planning for a tour, the final evaluation poses the question: Can it succeed, generally? Tour objectives are primarily to see well grown primulas and to hope for some rarities.

Elmer Baldwin
Syracuse, New York

It seems to me we certainly need a new and different approach to writing about shows. A long list of names of people we do not know is not very interesting reading. Most of our local show reports that give descriptions and pictures of plants and show plots should be of more interest. As for your question on show objectives—I think the shows are given for a dual purpose. A show provides an opportunity for members to exhibit the product of their growing and hybridizing efforts; and it stimulates public interest in and knowledge of primroses. Without a show, many people would never have an opportunity to see these lovely new varieties, as well as many of the old Victorian Era primroses. As one who has been helping put on shows for ten or more years, I have been in a position to see the happy delight expressed when a newcomer to primrose shows, sees, for the first time, this beautiful and varied new world offered by the primrose family. Believe me, it is worth all the planning and hard work that goes into putting on a show. Garden tours are helpful, too, for they provide the chance to see mass plantings, as well as individual plants that bloom earlier or later than the shows. We have many growers around, both hobbyists and commercial who would cooperate, I'm sure. It would be interesting for the Quarterly to have pictures and an article reporting such tours.

Anne Siepman,
Bellevue, Wn.

For my next book, I need to collect and draw from life all the wild violets of the U. S. showing them in full color in both flower and seed stages, root system and manner of growth. They arrive in good condition when sent soilless, in closed polyethylene bags in a cardboard box, AIRMAIL. I'll be happy to pay postage. Some of these have been promised by (if possible), but it will not matter if I get duplicates. Specimens from different parts of the country frequently vary enough to warrant showing both forms.

List of Violets Still Needed

Affinis, arvensis (annual), beckwiti, bradtiotiana, bilfora, chrysanthha, esculenta, euglestonii, feltri, floridan, incognita, lanceolata vittata, langoisii, loveliiana, missouriensis, novae-angliae, nuttallii, ocellata, palm, palustris, pedunculata, rugulosa from midwest, rafinesqui-annual, scopulorum, septemloba, septentrionalis, triobio, dilatata, tripartita, vita rum, villoosa.

To say that I will be grateful is a gross understatement.

Doretha Klaber
Notes from the Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT
Calendar Year 1966

Savings on hand
Jan. 15, 1966 ....... $2093.72

Receipts
Dues for 1966 & future. .... 2020.35
Commercial ............. 10.00
Sustaining .............. 85.00
Family .................. 9.00
Library .................. 40.60
Affiliated Garden Clubs ... 29.00
Not Affiliated
Garden Clubs ............. 21.00
Horticulture Societies .... 17.50
Over-Seas Memberships Sponsored .... 57.00
Over-Seas Memberships not Sponsored .. 51.00
Members sponsored by Seed Exchange .... 37.00
Total 2377.45

Sales
Commercial Advt. ........ 471.85
Interest on Bank
Savings .................. 68.10
Wash. State plant sales ... 56.30
Old Quarterly sales ....... 24.50
Donations ................. 108.00
Plant sales ................ 57.10
Total 787.85

Expenses
Quarterly Expenses ...... 2668.78
Officers Stationary ....... 64.88
Membership Blanks ....... 27.61
Advertising ............... 82.60
Life Membership Awards .... 32.00
Trophy Engraving .......... 19.31
Treasurers Bond .......... 9.00
Treasurers Postage, envelopes etc .... 86.53
Check charge and exchange on Foreign money .... 12.47
Total 3003.18

Balance for 1966 ........ 162.12

Balance on hand
January 15-1967 ........ $2255.84

Respectfully submitted by BETH TAIT, Treasurer,
Audited by ROBERT M. FORD

Primroses seem to be gaining new interest, as we have gained many new members during the year 1966. We must have a growing membership in order to finance the Quarterly and the Summer issue of the Pictorial Dictionary. Printing costs increase in these inflationary times, and we may have to increase dues or decrease the size of the Quarterly. This was discussed at the last board meeting, and we hope that each member will do what he can to bring in additional memberships. Dues are payable from January to March.

Primulas of the World
by DR. VAČLAV SATAVA
Czechoslovakia

Primula modesta, Bisset et Moore. This beautiful and delicate Japanese Primrose has domesticated rather easily here in Central Europe and has become much favored and desired for our rock-gardens even though it can be said it is still rather little known. It comes into bloom in April and May and often again in October.

Primula modesta subsp. Fauriae (P. fauriae) Franchet is only slightly smaller than the type and has also a lovely white form, Primula modesta Fauriae forma leucantha, also from Japan.

These plants are members of the Farinosae Section and nearly all of them are covered with farina. Their distribution is wide—over all of the Northern Hemisphere. Jelitto-Schacht mention about 80 species from Europe, Caucasus, Himalaya, West China, Japan, North America, Iceland, and there are also a few from arctic and antarctic countries.

Primula modesta is usually 5 to 12 cm. tall. The leaves make a basal rosette and are on the margin slightly turned down and a little wrinkled, mid-green, heavily farinaceous on the underside, ovate-lanceolate and blunt. The petiole is slightly winged and at flowering time the leaves 6 to 7 cm. long, 2.5 cm. wide and the margins are rather crenate. The yellow farinose scape is about 5 to 10 cm. long and the pedicels of the umbel are also farinose and about 0.5 cm. long with minute bracts. The umbel has from 4 to 10 flowers the calyx tube is bell-shaped, the corolla tube is short, the petals are pale lilac and the throat has a large orange-yellow eye. The corolla measures 1.5 cm. across.

Primula modesta loves, as do nearly all other primroses, moisture and semi-shade. I grow it successfully in a mixture of a heavier loam with 1/4 to 1/2 course leafmould or needle humus. Some authors recommend a good drainage and winter protection but this is not necessary here in North Bohemia because we have a good snow covering.

Dr. Vaclav Satava,
Liberec - 1, Alsova - 12
Czechoslovakia
National Show & Annual Meeting

The Tacoma Primrose Society will be the host for the American Primrose Society Show this year.

The show will be held at:
The National Bank of Washington Villa Plaza - Lakewood Banking Center 10225 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW

The dates for the Show will be:
April 1, 2, 1967

The theme of the Show will be "Primroses, No Foolin'"

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

President — Grace Conboy
Vice-president — Herbert Dickson
Recording Sec'y. — Mrs. John Steplman
Corr. Sec'y. — Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor
Treasurer — Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait

Board Members: Muriel Ross and Orval Agee

The Banquet and annual meeting will be at The Embers Restaurant which is just a short distance from the bank. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and the price is $2.75.

Mrs. Margie Fallstrom is Show Chairman.
Mrs. Ruth Bartlett is President.

To reach the bank from the Freeway, turn off at LAKEWOOD and drive about one mile.

(Ed. note: The American Primrose Society standard rules and minimum requirements for a national show are given in V 20:No. 2, p. 64 of the Quarterly.)

Washington State Primrose Society Auriula & Primrose Show

Dates: April 29, 30.
Hours: Sat. 1-9; Sun. 10-6.

Admission — Free. Sales room and tea room open during show hours.

Show Chairman — Mr. Richard L. Long, 65268 N. E. 188th, Seattle, 98115.

Friday Harbor Primrose Club

Dates: April 14-15, 11-4 p.m. each day.
Place: Study Club in Friday Harbor, Washington
Theme: "Primroses and Driftwood."

There will be an exhibit table of hybrid primroses, a plant sale, and tea. The show chairman is Frances Dahl, Rt. 1, Box 129 A, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250

The Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia

Date: April 15 — 2-9:30 p.m.
Place: New Auditorium, Douglas Park Field House, Willow St. & 22nd Ave., Vancouver, B. C.

Refreshments will be served. Everyone interested most welcome. A potted plant show of Primulas and Alpines. Mr. R. Woodward is Show Chairman.

The Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society

Dates: April 7, 1-10 p.m.
April 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Place: The Main Hall of Christ Church Cathedral on Rockland Ave., Victoria, B. C.

This show features some very lovely displays of Alpines and Primulas, Bonsai and potted plant exhibits.

Mr. R. Woodward is Show Chairman.

Oregon Primrose Society

Dates: April 8, 2-8 p.m.
April 9, 1-6 p.m.
Place: Milwaukee Community Club House — 42nd and Jackson St., Milwaukee, Oregon.

Entries: April 7, 2-9 p.m.
April 8, 7-10 a.m.
Admission — Free
Sales and Tea Room open

Show Chairman: Orval Agee and Bill Tate

L. N. ROBERSON COMPANY
1539 N. E. 103rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98125
LA 3-1189

Acaena, Ajuga, Hypericum, Ivy, Pachysandra, Sedum, Vinca minor
Bog and Pool Plants

Bogbean, Dwarf Cattail, Iris, Poppy, Marsh Marigold, Umbrella Plant
Mrs. A.C.U. Berry & Her Garden

"Happy Days in Mrs. Berry's Garden"

By LOUISE HOLFORD LUCAS

Some of my happiest memories, are of the Spring and Summer days I spent helping Mrs. Berry tend her Primroses, Alpines and Rhododendrons.

For many years, she took shares in the great Expeditions to the Himalayas, when Rhododendron species, new Primulas and Gentians and many other high mountain plants were being discovered. Mrs. Berry was really in on the "ground floor" when seed of the new plants was distributed. Consequently she has probably one of the finest collections of species Rhododendron in the country, all grown from seed.

After more than a half century of growing plants from seed, having great success with many, and of course losing many too, Mrs. Berry is still actively growing rare plants from seed. Not as many Rhododendrons, perhaps, unless they are tiny alpine forms, as she has so many now, she is like the proverbial "old lady who lived in a shoe". The Rhododendrons have grown to huge proportions in many cases and while it is fun to grow them, once in a while one has to look around and stop and think "where will I put even one more?". However, no true gardener really worries about that till the time to plant out comes! Still some discretion is necessary now, so Mrs. Berry now sticks mostly to Alpines and Primulas.

Rhododendrons and Primulas are naturals together in many cases, so Mrs. Berry has combined them to make lovely effects. One of the best is the boggy area at the foot of a shaded slope covered with large Rhododendrons underplanted with native and Japanese woodland plants. Most of the plants at the foot of the slope are Candelabra Primulas.

Earliest of the great masses of color is Primula rosea. This is a gorgeous brilliant rose form and is so prolific that it seeds into the paths and grows so thickly that once while weeding, I, unknowingly, got too close to a Junco's nest and it flew up almost in my face. If the Mother had not panicked, I doubt if I would have ever known the nest was there!

Later on come the Candelabras. The end bed is a solid mass of brilliant pure orange—a hybrid of a larger one and Primula cockburniana, with the color of the latter. It is a sight to remember. Next to it is the small Candelabra P. aurantiaca, with purplish stems and rooting by runner. At the back of its bed are the wonderfully fragrant and delicate spikes of Primula alpicola in white, cream and violet. Farther up the slope, the lovely white stars of Primula chionantha with its sweet butterscotch scent stop all beauty lovers. Beside it grows its lavender counterpart, P. sinopurpurea and the slightly smaller P. melanopsis. Small Rhododendrons grow in the bed with these.

Beyond these beds are two large beds full of the delicate pinks of Bartley's Pink, pulverulenta hybrid. This comes in various soft shades of pink and is a dreamy foam of beauty for a long period. In front of the pinks, grow the tiny rosettes of Primula fondosa, one of my favorites. It seems to be permanent here and is a lovely sight with its soft lavender flowers in early Spring.

In June, the delicate Meconopsis, "Tibetan Poppies" bloom. The sky blue, blooms with the Candelabras and the "Blue Poppy" is exquisite, but not a very long lived plant. With them are the monocarpic kinds with tall spikes of pink, yellow, white and red flowers. Very beautiful, but their chief beauty is the lovely rosette of soft furry leaves, with long fur of either silver or gold. One almost hates to see them bloom as they die after they set seed. They take two years to bloom usually and one can "have the cake and eat it too", by keeping a succession of seeds sown.

In the bed with these lovely things, we had Primula Vialii with its strange cone of lavender flowers, topped by scarlet buds. A real "conversation piece". With it grows Primula nutans, that elegant pale blue bell flowered beauty with furry leaves. The stem is covered with white dust and so are the calyces and flowers and a really fairy like effect is the result. It is one of the charmers of the race, but is not quite like one's idea of a "Primrose".

This is supposed to be short-lived, but is so delightful, any effort is worthwhile to keep it. Some people keep it for several years and Mrs. Berry did.

A small bed of Primula clarkii is carefully tended. It is big enough to give a lovely touch of color to the end of the path. The coldframes are behind this bed containing the rarest small Primulas and seedlings. The Petiolaris Primulas and the alpine types such as P. tyroliensis and P. alioni are planted here in permanent beds. The plants are in a special soil mixture with rocks arranged for effect and protection.
Some of our natives are here such as Primula Parryi and P. Ellisae and P. suffrutescens. Primula Edgeworthii sessilis, bracteosa and my favorite P. Bhutanica thrive here and give small old-fashioned bouquets of flowers each year. They have so many flowers the leaves are almost invisible except for a ruff at the edge of the bouquet. Also in these beds grow the lovely Primula Reidii williamsii, soft bells of lavender-like larger P. nutans and, also like nutans, very fragrant. It has a beautiful white form also. This is a Primula I cannot praise too highly. Its beauty is beyond words. Another mouth-watering rare beauty is Primula Wattii, a lovely violet.

We had Primula Wigramiana, a most delicately beautiful cream with bell-shaped flowers. We also had the lovely white P. eburnea and rarest of all was the very tiny P. sapphirica. Its tiny head of flowers about 1 inch high and so small you could almost see it! It is almost Impossible to get the seeds of many of these any more, but one keeps on trying. Someday, perhaps expeditions will be permitted again and we can replenish our supply.

The rock garden is beyond these beds with all kinds of rare native and foreign plants, looking very much at home in their special beds. In front of the rock garden beds are beds of alpine auriculas and P. x pubescens hybrids. She also has beds of our native Iris in lovely colors, natural hybrids collected in Southern Oregon and special forms of Iris innominata and douglasiana.

At the far end of the Rock Garden, making a background for it, is a large bed of yellow wild Auriculas. These Auriculas vary, from deep yellow to cream and among them Narcissus of the "Hoop Petticoat" variety, make a natural looking meadow in miniature. The bright yellow of the "Hoops" blends well with the yellows of the Auriculas. Show Auriculas grow in special frames and are a natural looking meadow in miniature.

Rae S. Berry
By FLORENCE BELLIS

What can I say about Rae Berry? How do you imprison in words an indomitable spirit? A soaring mind? Or an age-old kinship with nature, or a little girl's wonder and mischief that persists in the face of time? Gentlewoman, world traveller, student of philosophy and world affairs. Indefatigable worker in the soil. Lifelong friend. How do you go about even the most simple summing up of one whose life continues to influence the lives of all who come within her sphere?

For most, Mrs. Berry's name is synonymous with wizardry in the garden—with seeds and plants tenderly tamed, provided with this and that and with soils mixed like puddings, made to flower and feel at home whether their home and had been the Maritime Alps or the Himalayas, the Carpathians, or South America or Europe or the Himalayas. Some of these American natives she nurtured in her garden, some were sent overseas to botanical gardens just as seeds were sent to her from botanists and plant hunters working in Asia. This world-wide traffic in seeds and plants, plus her skill as a collector and cultivator, made Mrs. Berry internationally famed before the majority of American gardeners discovered they had such a one in their midst.

So many plants I do not know in Mrs. Berry's garden. But those I know are mine forever: the first planting in this country of the pink and silver Bartley strain of P. pulverulenta—great drifts of it backed by blue Tibetan poppies and, behind the poppies, rhododendrons tall and broad as a house grown from seed collected in Asia, and scalloped in and around the rhododendrons, Lilium himalaicum; rock walls in the sun fragrant with fat Auriculas rosetted against the stone; rock walls in semi-shade with Primula marginata and its hybrid Linda Pope and Raymond—you still there and happy after decades. A sea of Gentians and, far away across the lawn in a wet swale, a sweep of Primula rosea as brilliant in its pink as the Gentians in their blue; and many, many more. And specimen plants so fragile in their fairytale beauty it seemed even a warm breath would burn them.

No, it is as impossible to catch and pin down on a page the beauty and inspiration of Rae Berry's plants and garden as it is the beauty and inspiration of Rae Berry herself. All one can hope to do is to make each year the best year of their life as she has done these many years.

Florence Bellis
Feb. 14, 1967

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.
Mrs. Berry has produced one of the first named American Show Auriculas, a heavily mealed white edge, "Snow Lady." It is a vigorous and very beautiful auricula, fully described in V21 #3 p. 98. Her show auriculas are grown in cold frames to facilitate protection of the meal from the drenching rains of this area.

Farther up the slope of lawn and raised beds of gentians there are many other frames providing numerous species with the particular growing conditions required. Mrs. Berry says of some of these "do mention my P. pubescens alba, it is a love, as is the yellow one like I. I have lots of P. pubescens, including my 'Purple Spark'. The P. carniolica have crossed with something or other and given me some nice hybrids. Other European hybrids with P. minima blood have been interesting. I have enjoyed my P. Petiolares, and have hybrids of these. Losing all my P. Wigramianas nearly broke my heart. Three flats full! They are so beautiful!"

Mrs. Berry has been our foremost collector of Primula species, including the native American ones. Letters and photographs in the Quarterly files attest to interesting experiences in Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, plants from Arizona, and Utah, and many generous exchanges. The forthcoming reprint of the Pictorial Dictionary was enriched with pictures of species growing in her garden. A group of Society members have worked with the editor this Spring to note a few of Mrs. Berry's accomplishments. The following Primula Species list is as accurate as written records, pictures, and memories allow.

SECTION: Primula Species listed:

AMETHYSTINA

Kingii, Dickieana. (Mrs. Lucas says "when I first went to work for Mrs. Berry she had it in one of the cold frames. Very lovely!")

AURICULA

allioni, carniolica, Clusiana, dao-

nensis, glaucescens, hirsuta, or rubra, integrifolia, Kitaiabeliana, marginata and hybrids, minima and hybrids, pedemontana, glutinosa, spectabalis, tyroliensis, Villosa. Garden, Alpine, Show, and Pubescens Hybrids.

AURICULATAE

luteola, rosea

BULLATAE

Forrestii, Rockii

CANDELABRA


CAPITATAE

Capitata Mooreana, glomerata, sphaerocephala

CORTUSOIDES

heucherifolia, jeosana, kisoana, polyneura, Sieboldii

CUNEIFOLIA

cuneifolia saxafragafolia (collected in Alaska) suffrutescens

DENTICULATA

atrodentata, denticulata

FARINOSAE

dariatica, farinosa, frondosa, Halleri, longifolia, lutiola, incana, involucrata, Jaffreyana, gemmifera, mistassinica, modesta, scotica, specuicola, Pulchelloides, Tayloriana, yargongensis, modesta fauriae alba

FLORIBUNDA

(or VERTICALATA) kewensis

MINUTISSIMAE

reptans

MUSCARIOIDES

deflexa, hyacinthina, Giraldiana, Viali

NIVALIS

chionantha, macrophylla, melanops, sinoplantaginea, sinopurpurea, Stuartii

PARRYI

angustifolia, Cusickiana, (collected several times by Mrs. Berry and others, sent to Kenneth Corsar where it bloomed well. See the references), Ellisiae, Parryi

PETIOLARES

Bhutanica, Bracteosa, Clarkei, Edgeworthii, gracilipes Scapegera, sessilis, sonchifolia, Hybrids, both hand pollinated and self-sown

REINII

Reinii, tosoensis

ROTUNDIFOLIA

Rotundifolia

SICKKIMENSIS

alpica, Hopeana (listed as a variety by Smith and Fletcher), Floriniae, ioessa, secundiflora, sikkimensis, Waltonii

SOLDANELLODEAE

cawdoria, nutans, eburnia, Reidi, Reidi var. Williamsii, Williamsii hybrids, Sherriffiae, saphirina, Wattii, Wigramiana, Wallastonii

VERNALES

Juliae, amoena, elatior, double vulgaris, Cowichan hybrids

P. cuneifolia saxafragafolia

Mrs. A.C.U. Berry gave "generously of her time and knowledge" to help produce the "Cultural Chart for the Species of the Genus Primula," a copy of which is sent to each new member for permanent reference.

Readers will be interested in this partial listing of references concerning the garden and the Gardener:

(First 11 from the A.P.S. Quarterly)

The First Honorary Life Membership, V2 #1 p10. (reprinted in part in this issue)

The Exhibit of Mrs. A.C.U. Berry, V2 #1 p. 6-7

North American Primulas by Lt. Comdr. C. R. Worth, V2 #2 p. 17-22

Mrs. A.C.U. Berry's Exhibit, V3 #1 p. 13-14

Primula Cusickiana by Mrs. A.C.U. Berry, V10 #4 p. 3-4

Some Summer Chores by Mrs. A.C.U. Berry, V8 #1 p. 10

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Cultivation in the U.S., by Dr. Blasdale. Cultivated Species of Primula, Ch. 19, p. 268
The First Honorary Life Member

The American Primrose Society has awarded its first Honorary Life Membership. In appreciation of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry's comprehensive knowledge of primulas gained through years of devoted study, experiment, improvement and collecting; in recognition of a collection of primulas unequalled in the United States and which would, to put it modestly, compare favorably with the greatest collections of Europe; and in acknowledgment of her untiring work in preparing large, complimentary exhibits for the three Annual Shows of the Society—without which great beauty and much information would have been lost to the public—the honor was unanimously approved April 18th, 1944.

For many years Mrs. Berry has quietly carried on her work in Portland in close collaboration with the great botanic gardens of the world. The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, undoubtedly the citadel of primula knowledge, has long been in the habit of sending seed of the rarest and most recently discovered primulas to Mrs. Berry for cultivation, observation and report. In turn, Mrs. Berry has provided seed of newly found American primulas including some of the almost unattainable Alaskan species, on which records of the most detailed type are kept for herbaria and botanical reports.

Thus the Society gains honor in the giving of honor, and as the years enrich our history, we shall look back with satisfaction on the wisdom of our choice.
Etha Tate, American Named Show Auricula

"Golden Girl" a gold center Al-
pine, raised by Cyrus Happy of Ta-
coma, was the second auricula to be
officially named, 1962. (Vol. XXL,
#1, p. 18)

"Snow Lady" was the second white
edged auricula to be named, grown
by Mrs. A.C.U. Berry of Portland,
named in 1963. (Vol. XXI, #3, p.98)

"Karin" was the first grey edged
show named in America, grown by
Cyrus Happy of Tacoma, named in
1966. (Vol. XXIV, #2, p. 78)

"Ned Happy" was the first named
green edged show in America, grown
by Cyrus Happy of Tacoma and
named in 1966. (Vol. XXIV, #3, p.86)

"Etha Tate" grown by Mrs. Orval
Agee and named in 1967, is the second
green edged show to be named and
the 6th American grown Show Auric-
ula to be so honored.

ETHA TATE AMERICAN NAMED SHOW AURICULA
— Photo by Agee

Ivanel Agee of Milwaukie, Oregon,
has registered this green edged aurici-
ula. She certifies that the plant, formerly
designated as M-18, has bloomed at
the present high standard for at least
six years. It was raised by Mrs.
Agee from seed purchased from Mr.
Frank Michaud. The Green-Edge
won the Bamford Trophy in 1960.
There are six Offsets.

Description of plant from registra-
tion form:
Tube: Slightly notched
Anthers: Good
Paste or Center: Slightly grainy —
slightly thin.
Body Color: Good
Pip: Very slightly mousey
Stem or Footstalks: Good
Size, substance, refinement: Good
Leaves: Heavy texture, good color

S.A.F.A. Judges (all affirmative
votes) Ross E. Willingham, Violet
Chambers, Anne Siepman.

The other American named Show
Auriculas are: "Frank H. Michaud"
a white-edge, grown by Mr. Michaud
of Alpenglow Gardens, and named in
1962. (Vol. XX, #3, p. 93)
(Ed. note: That same issue has the
rules for naming on p. 92)

Ray and Mary Bernhardt have a
farm near Boring, Ore., where quant-
ity production of primroses is evident
at any time of the year. Greenhouses,
lathhouses, and open fields of prim-
roses indicate the Bernhardt family
hobby borders on the vocational.
Mary says, "This is a family hobby,
and we all work together on it." Ray
adds to that, with, "Yes, but the chil-
dren are in school most of the time,
with two in grade school and two in
high school, they are too busy to help
more than Saturdays and summers.
And I like the primroses, and do what
I can, but most of the time I am
working away from home as a car-
penter, so the bulk of the work falls
on Mary's shoulders. Our oldest son,
David, is particularly interested in
auriculas and ham radio. He helps
a great deal with the primroses; we
could never manage it all without
him. David has a quantity of garden
auriculas and some alpines and
shows. We are glad he likes to work
with them and enjoy seeing his auric-
ulas in the open field and cold green-
house."

Mary explains, "We are going to
cut down to about 30-40,000 seed-
lings this year, with 8,000 potted.
Last year we had more than that, but
it was too much for us to handle dur-
ing the spring rush. We change our
methods a little each year, as we ana-
lyze our problems in quantity produc-
tion and try to eliminate some of the
hand labor and time. Soil fumigants
have been as much help as anything.

"Ray built the lath protection over
the sunny part of the field this year
because the seedlings were too exposed
in July and August, when we have
more snow cover than gardeners
closer to Portland get in the winter."
(The 45-acre farm is near the slopes
of Mount Hood, just off the new
Route 26 Freeway, halfway between
Kelso and Boring, at the end of Erick-
son Road.) "We often have a little
snow when Portland has rain."
The Bernhardt family has always had a garden, and has been raising primulas — acaulis, polyanthus, can-delabras, and auriculas in quantity for seven years. "At first, we just grew primroses because we liked them best, welcoming spring the way they do. We have always been curious about plants and liked to experiment, so we tried seed from many different firms and places. In the meantime, Mary was working for Barnhaven. We have friends among the commercial growers who were using different strains and methods, and all of these experiences have been very educational.

"Marguerite Clarke has been a good friend for many years, extending her knowledge or influence from flower society meetings. I ventured 35 cents each for a package of polyanthus seed and one of auricula seed because the picture on the package looked interesting. I had never seen them, and I wanted to grow them to see what they really looked like.

At the time I was working as a Correctional Officer at the U.S. Penitentiary at McNeil Island, Washington, and living in one room in the bachelor quarters. I planted my seed in little boxes and set them in my sunny window. The polyanthus sprouted, grew and bloomed in the border in front of the quarters the next spring.

The auriculas did not come up. I set the box away in the boiler room until the next spring when I planted petunias in it. 'The auriculas came up with the petunias. For a time I kept pulling them out thinking they were weeds. Fortunately, like all part time gardeners, I neglected them for a spell, then discovered the weeds had not grown as weeds should. I let them stay for a few weeks longer to see what they really were, and decided they were auriculas. In due time with no special care they grew to be blooming plants also in the front border.

By this time I had taken over all the flower beds around the quarters. My main interests then were delphiniums, iris, daylilies, and annuals. During a visit to Jack Offerman in Seattle to buy delphinium seed, he offered me some polyanthus seed he said were too old to sell. These seed germinated and grew beautifully. I now had a double row down the 80-foot border in front of the building.

A friend of mine told me about a show the Tacoma Primrose Society was holding. We went to the show. After six months of receiving notices of their meetings, I managed to attend one meeting and join the society. Just before show time that year, 1954, I asked what I should pick out and put up for the show as I could only carry two pots on the boat en route to town for the show. I was advised to bring something except yellow if I wanted to win. I like yellow; so, my best yellow and my best red polyanthus found themselves on the show bench with a trophy for the best polyanthus in the show for the yellow one.

Some people would say that was wonderful. To me that was a tragedy, for now I am hooked and must grow and exhibit primulas for as long as I live and probably will never get another trophy for the best polyanthus in the show.

The next year, 1955, I was chairman of the show in Tacoma, the first truly national show of the American Primrose Society. This was the first year the APS show was not held in Portland, the birthplace of the APS. We had entries from Canada, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and one from New York State. It was a free show with probably the largest attendance any primrose show has ever had in the United States. Estimates went from five to ten thousand visitors. That was when I found out how much work goes into putting on a show.

In the process of moving plants from a ten-acre place in Tacoma and getting established on a two-acre place in Seattle, the now famous Armistice Day Freeze of '55 gave me a new start in primroses. All I had left were a few Juliae hybrid seedlings and some auriculas. That freeze

"Why and How I Grow Primroses"
by HERBERT DICKSON of Seattle

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At the October 1956 meeting of the APS, I became Vice-President with Cyrus Happy as President. I served as Vice-President until 1961 when I became President. After two years as President and two more on the board as immediate past president, I had a short rest from APS responsibility. Now I am again Vice-President. I find that taking an active part in APS affairs, exhibiting and judging at the shows is great for stimulating interest in primulas, but it robs you of the time to do anything much about your interest but talk. I would like very much to do some serious hybridizing, but so far have accomplished very little.

I have standard treatment I give all seeds including primulas on my first try. I plant the seed in 4-inch deep pots or flats in a mixture of 1 part coarse sand, 1 part peat moss, 1 part vermiculite, and 1 part sterilized garden soil. I add 1 heaping teaspoonfull of 45% superphosphate and 2 heaping teaspoonsful of ground limestone to 3 gallons of this mixture. After putting one inch or more of drainage material in the bottom of the pot or flat, I fill it with this mix and press it down to 3/8 to 1/4 inch from the top edge of the container. For all fine seed I sift a thin layer of ground sphagnum moss on top, sow the fine seed directly on the moss, sprinkle a few grains of vermiculite over the moss, then cover with a cotton cloth cut to fit with no cracks around the edges. Larger seeds I plant on the pressed down mix and cover with vermiculite before putting the cloth over them. The pots and flats are set outside on a rack with full exposure to the elements. This job starts in December or January and continues as I find time in the evenings until the seed comes up, the covers must be removed. Then I use a fog nozzle to transplant into flats to allow space for healthy development before planting out in beds. Sometimes they are planted from overgrown seed flats direct to their blooming bed.

All of the hybrids and species of the Vernales section will grow in the full sun here in the Pacific Northwest, but they do better in partial shade. The real thing to protect primroses from is full winter sun after the ground is frozen hard and there is no snow cover. The leaves thaw out and get hot in the sun while the roots cannot move water from the soil to the leaves; so, they wilt and die.

Being a commercial grower, I grow all my primroses in beds under fruit trees in an old orchard. Planting is done without any thought to color combinations or plant associations, merely when a bed is ready it is planted. The plants are set 6 to 8 inches apart in beds 3 to 4 feet wide. I must admit though that in the spring when the fruit trees and the primroses are both in bloom they produce a colorful display. I tried raised beds, but could see no benefit to my naturally well-drained river bottom sandy loam. The real thing to protect primroses from is full winter sun after the ground is frozen hard and there is no snow cover. The leaves thaw out and get hot in the sun while the roots cannot move water from the soil to the leaves; so, they wilt and die.

Denticulata is supposed to be very easy and dependable, but under my conditions it does poorly because it tries to bloom all winter and seldom has good bloom come spring.

The petiolares group I have had and lost several times. They are all very desirable plants, but I have not found their secret in this variable climate. Once I thought I had their secret and for three years I had several species in various locations all healthy and thriving until one spring — absolutely nothing. Because of the difficulty of getting fresh seed, I have not been able to try again.

Many of the species I have grown until flowering only to discard them as not being worth their time and space. Nutans, vialii, and cockburniana I enjoy and always have some although they are biennial and not a good commercial plant.

Many, many more species primula I would like to try if and when I can get the seed. So many species have been collected and introduced only to die out from lack of interest before they could be adequately evaluated in the various climates. Many of these species would probably grow to perfection in climates where the vernales will not survive and in areas not now considered. Primula enthusiasts the world around must continue collecting and experimenting with primula species. More people in more different climates can and will have primula species and hybrids to enrich their gardens with beauty and enjoyment.
“The Belanska Tatry”
by KAREL NEUMANN, Czechoslovakia

Having read of the floral richness of the Belanska Tatry, as related by the Czech botanist, prof. Domin, we decided to pass our holidays in this part of the Tatra Mountains — as we call our part of the Carpathian Mountains.

Late in June we left Prague by train and arrived at Tatranska Lomnica, the center of sport and tourism. From there, it was but a two hour journey by bus to Zdiar, a small village in the mountains near the Polish border — the Belanska Tatry. This area is rarely visited; has no hotels, nor elevators to the mountains. The inhabitants — small farmers and lumbermen — keep to their beautiful folklore and typical houses. A Sunday morning — people going to church in their wonderful dresses — the pretty village, dominated by the Zdarska Vidla (the Fork) 2,148m. and the Havran (Raven) 2,154 metres, is a view one would not expect in our days.

Having found a room, we went to the local Inn for lunch, and on our way to the village, we met groups of Chamois, not at all shy, but letting us approach to within a hundred metres. Two of the young animals remain vividly as a picture, in my memory. And the brown bear who live there, we were happy not to meet, being quite satisfied with only the large footprints!

Growing in the rocks were Daphne mezereum, and D. arbuscula — the rarest endemic in this area; Saxifragas azoides, aizoon, and cesia; Draba azoides, and Sempervivum montanum. Up we clambered and somewhat exhausted, reached the summit where a glorious view more than repaid our efforts. After resting, we explored the high places and found Papaver burseri (alpinum); Anemone alpina; Petrocallis pyrenaica; Senecio adonidifolius; Erinus alpinus, and even the more rare Leontopodium alpinum. On other excursions, we found Gentiana frigida, with exquisitely green blossoms.

On a rock in the middle of a turbulent stream, the marvelous wax-white flowers of Ranunculus alpestris, and in a stonefield (a moraine, partly covered with snow) Androsace chamamejasme, A. lactea, and the beautiful Dianthus glacilis Haenke.

Even though we did not find all of the plants prof. Domin mentioned, we were most satisfied with our trip; with the undisturbed nature, and its unbelievable floral richness. On all of our excursions, we found something new and interesting and, although we collected neither seeds nor plants, we profited greatly, learning of the requirements, climate, and the society of these plants.

(*) The Belanska Tatry-mountains in the Belanska area, eastern Czechoslovakia on the Polish border, along which extend the Carpathian Mountains.

(1) The Tatre Mountains

(map) (Czechoslovakia)

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1. Prague
2. The area of Tatranska Lomnica, Zdiar, and Belanska jaskyna (stalagmitic cavern).

(X) the Tatre Mountains
Priming Symposium Report for Southeastern Alaska

by MRS. ALFRED BAKER

Having already written an article published in the Fall, 1960 A.P.S. Quarterly, as "A Letter From Alaska," I do not feel I could add much to the present Symposium, but perhaps there are readers to whom this is not available. It was suggested that I might compare my experiences with Primroses in Southeastern Alaska with my present situation in Sumas, Washington, where we have lived since Sept. 1965; but apart from observations on a few plants mailed here before our departure, and those raised from the 1966 APS seed exchange, it is too early to draw any conclusions.

Like most Ketchikan gardeners, I had for many years a bed of ordinary denticulatas, a few polyanthus, and an auricula or two and a few julianas. For several years I had one rosea plant which grew differently, and I didn't know for a long time that it would need (in that climate, at least) hand-pollinating to set seeds.

Then two friends gave me some white denticulata plants, and the same year I was given juliana "Dorothy," and J. Tucker's "Verwain," all of which flourished at once, and which I divided and re-divided and shared with many. About that same year, 1956, I helped to select, and shared in the A.P.S. seeds from the affiliation of the Ketchikan Garden Club, of which I was a member. From this introduction to many species heretofore unknown to us, and those raised from seeds in subsequent years, I expect never to be without primroses of some kind, barring a highly unlikely (and undesirable!) move to a desert; and each year I like to try one or more new species.

All my 1956 seeds (and most later ones) were frozen for several days; then germinated on sphagnum on a moist brick in a pan of water, or sphagnum in a milk carton. This grew locally and after drying, was easy to rub through a screen. Only 3 out of the first 25 packets I tried failed to germinate; but prickling off must be done early from this medium since it contains no nutrients.

I tried many species of seeds over the years, which either didn't germinate, or barely survived. All the following were still thriving when we left, more than ten years later, except as mentioned, and all blossomed well and except as noted, produced seeds and seedlings in abundance: alpicola, Beesiana, burmanica, Floriniae, denticulata in varieties (seeds when hand-pollinated), Inheritance hybrids (but I must confess I never found out what!), japonica in varieties; Miller's crimson (17+ years) and Postford's white; pulvulenta (15+ years), pul lurulenta Bartley, saxatils (blossomed but did not multiply or set seeds — I disposed of them undeliberate); secundiflora, and Viali. These latter did well but rarely set seeds, but their crowns multiplied the first several years, making 2, 4, 7 and even 11. They were striking plants and always elicited admiring comments. They thrived for 6-8 years. I gave some away and the rest declined so that there was perhaps one plant left after 10 years.

In June, 1957, a lady in Valdez, Alaska, gathered P. sibirica along the beach there for me, at the request of Chester Strong, with whom I shared them, but they arrived in very poor condition and did not survive the following winter, and I doubt that his did, either.

In 1957 and 1958 I grew 2 or 3 dozen auriculas from APS seeds. These were placed in a bed with southeast exposure and eggshells frequently added to the soil. They bloomed fairly well, and were still living, the last I knew, but were never as successful as the candelabras, and neither set seed nor multiplied. However, a few of my friends grew some beautiful plants.

In 1958, Mrs. Marion Keyes gave me a quantity of P. rosea grandiflora and P. denticulata rubra seedlings, which I subsequently divided and also propagated from seeds when weather permitted. (Some years it was continuously too wet to harvest seeds). A blue polyanthus from her also bloomed well and all these mentioned were still thriving seven years later.

All my julianas were given to me as plants. Of these, Wanda, Dorothy and Tucker's Verwain made good clumps which could be divided almost every year, and were floriferous. Springtime was only fair in both respects; and Lodge, Mrs. Nettie P. Gale and Snow Maiden remained their original size, a single plant of each with about 4-6 blossoms annually, and were still "stationary" when we left, 6 or 8 years later.

In about 1963 I successfully tried the following APS seeds: capitata Mooreana (was monocarpic, but worth it); and cockburniana and nutans, a few of each doing fairly well in the fall of '63. All the foregoing species were grown in close proximity, in a moist woodland bed with few hours of direct sun — when it was available. The setting was moist, but well drained. Most had an east or south exposure, but neighbors' tall trees on the south gave dense shade in early afternoon, especially the last few years. They were alders, and grew at least a foot a year the 15 years we lived there.

With them grew Meconopsis betonicifolia, lupines, phlox, campanulas (ssp), columbines, and others.

Ketchikan's official average rainfall is 154" (yes, almost 13 feet!), but in the 21 years I was there, it was more nearly 170" or so (one each it was 99, 120, 190, and the record, 202.5""). Since this rapidly percolated through the soil, it can be seen that fertilizer and humus had continually to be added. Snowfall varied from 6-8 inches to 4 feet, but perhaps 20 inches or so was not uncommon. I can find no figures on humidity, but since so much of the time the sky there is overcast and there is frequent rain or drizzle, it is quite high. However, the mean January temperature is 35.1° (an extremely rare minimum was minus 8 and another time minus 5, in 21 years, but many years the minimum temperature ranges from plus 18°); the mean August temperature is 58.9 (it has rarely been 80° and that only for a day or two in several years; while the mean annual temperature is 48.3°. These figures are based on U.S. Weather Bureau records for 1931-1960 inclusive.

Often, denticulata crowns would rot to a soft mush, especially after late freezing, preceded and followed by heavy rains. If this did not kill a plant completely, I sometimes found a thick "nest" of small plants later, growing from the tops of the damaged root bundles. However, two attempts I made at layering sections of their roots, failed.

For two or three years, I tried floriniae beside our tiny stream, but they did only fairly well, probably due to lack of sun, so I moved them to the primrose bed. But in February and March of 1963 the little patches the crowns were completely covered by a sheet of ice 2-3 inches thick, which completely melted the third week of March, with no harm to the plants.

The only pests ever encountered were a weevil infestation in 1963
and 1964, but that is a long story
I will write up at some future time.

No special wind protection was
ever necessary in our location. Due
to the continual alternation of freez-
ing and thawing each winter, it was
a common practice to cover beds with
hemlock branches, readily available
in quantity. I lost two large plant-
ings of saxatilis and Poissonii seed-
lings from the 1956 sowing, due to
hard rains (4" was not uncommon)
for several days right after the seed-
lings were set out in late summer. I
should have covered them thickly with
boughs then, or with a pane of glass, but neglected to do so.

Watering was never a problem, the
only time the hose was needed being
when there might be a 2-to-3 week
period without rain in midsummer or
fall, every few years. 1958 and 1965
were the driest summers; 1949, the
wettest. Much of the time when I
transplanted anything, it was not even
necessary to water the transplant.

Plants recommended in catalogs to
be given "some shade" in other local-
ities can be given full exposure in
Ketchikan, with no ill effects. The
pH of the soil, except where treated,
was generally 6. Kitchen compost
was added annually, and we intro-
duced earthworms where formerly
they were practically absent. Star-
fish and seaweed (usually Fucus)
were added frequently, but not much
chemical fertilizer was used on the
primulas.

In conclusion, I would say that
primulas are probably the ideal plants
for the climate of Southeastern Alaska,
and vice versa.

Life is over, life was gay:
We have come the primrose way.

R. L. Stevenson

Rare Dwarf Slow Growing Conifers

Flowering shrubs and unusual rock plants suitable for
Bonsai culture are listed in our catalogue, Alpenglow Gardens

ALPENGLOW GARDENS

13328 King George Hwy.  North Surrey, B.C., Canada

"Seed Hunting in the Northeast"
by ELMER BALDWIN, Syracuse

Our route down the south shore of
the St. Lawrence after leaving Quebec
was through peat country where fresh
cut blocks of it piled and ready for
further processing can be seen. Ex-
tending for many miles, the fields are
deep pink with Kalmia angustifolia.
Aralia hispida with its 2" globes of
purple-black berries is at home here,
with Cornus and Clintonia. Berries
of Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea var. minus
were just beginning to show their red
cheeks, near St. Germain. Further on,
near L'Isle-verte, was a great splash
of gentian-blue, fully twenty yards
across, which on closer inspection
proved to be Campanula glomerata.

Near Mont Joli is the Reford Bo-
tanic Gardens, containing indigenous
as well as other plants suited to this
somewhat cool situation where, in
July, paeonias were at their best; lilacs had just passed; Primula's
alpicola, pulverulenta Bartley, and
japonica were also in full flower.
Acaulis and polyanthus, as well as
marginara Linda Pope had flowered.
Here, it was our good fortune to see
for the first time, Meconopsis betonicifolia— and, in our opinion, a more
lovely sky-blue has yet to be dis-
covered; Lilium martagon in pure,
snowy white, and a most delicate
pink form.

Continuing to Anse-Pleureuse,
Murdochville, and Gaspe, the high-
way is bordered by Kalmia angusti-
folia and Ledum groenlandicum.
Occasionally the air was perfumed
with a fragrance quite new to us—
which we found, on searching it out,
was the breath of Linnaea americana. Epigaea repens still showed
color. A deep red-purple form of
Iris versicolor and the pale blue I.
hookeri were found local to Perce.
Bonaventure Island, lying about two miles off-shore to the east, in addition to being a bird sanctuary, is a natural botanic garden. On the short walk of a mile or two, across the island, a few of the plants seen in flower were: Clintonia borealis; Cornus canadensis in two unusual forms: pink bracts, deeper at the tips, and white bracts with a blue black spot in the center of each bract; Geum rivale; Habenaria Viridis; Heracleum maximum; Iris hookeri; Kalma angustifolia; Potentilla fruticosa; Rhinanthus sp; a dwarf, pink flowered Rubus; and Sisyrinchium.

Our return route via the north shore from Quebec to Montreal passed a field of deep, clear yellow Lilium canadense, where in an area of perhaps ten yards square were more than a hundred, three and four foot plants with from ten to twenty or more flowers each.

Our second trip—to collect seed—six weeks later took us only as far as the Vaccinium and Lilium fields. Returning via the Adirondacks, several days were used in short trips from our base at Speculator. The season had been good for many plants including the four Actaea’s; Cornus canadensis, Clintonia, Chimaphila umbellata var. cis-atlantica, Gualtheria hispidula; Streptopus roseus, Trillium’s erectum and undulatum, and Uvularia sessilifolia. Seed of each was collected. The two trips covered 3,500 miles, and judging by the amount of seed collected, the excursions were definitely “vacation!”
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