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(A free cultural chart and Seed Exchange privileges with new memberships.)

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 98011
Dear Fellow Members:

May I welcome all the new members. I hope that your association with the American Primrose Society will be long and fruitful and that your enthusiasm and interest in primulas will be a source of considerable pleasure as it is for so many of our long-standing members.

The number of new members and the steady growth of the A. P. S. is gratifying. There is nothing but good to report. Before you read this our Round Robin director, Mrs. Nelson, will have one robin in flight and another in the process of organization. If you would like to join a Round Robin on primroses drop a note to Mrs. Olaf E. Nelson, 10803 Butte Drive S.W., Tacoma, Washington 98498, and she will get you started.

At the annual meeting in Tacoma, the amendments to the Constitution evoke a lively discussion. The raise in general membership dues was approved effective January 1, 1970; but the raise in dues for Affiliated Societies was voted down. I have appointed a committee, with Al Rapp of Tacoma, Washington, as chairman, to study the Constitution of the A. P. S. and those of other plant societies and to recommend changes which will encourage a better national and international organization. These recommendations will be studied by our board and a finished product will be presented for acceptance at the next annual meeting. Now is a good time to start planning to attend.

I cannot say too much in praise of our Seed Exchange director, Elmer Baldwin, for the tremendous and very successful seed exchange he has operated this winter, in spite of many difficulties. Thanks, Elmer for a job well done. Many of us are able to grow numbers of plants which would not have been available to us without the Seed Exchange.

Finally I got my point across and I received a good number of excellent letters with a lot of good ideas. Thanks to each one of you. Maybe after I retire from my job and get my nursery move completed I will be able to carry on a two-way correspondence. Until then please keep the letters coming.

To all you members who have not been to a primrose show or who have not participated in putting one on, have missed one of the most wonderful experiences of a lifetime. After many years of participation I sometimes dread the shows because of the work involved and the neglect my plants at home must suffer. To see the crowds, the looks on their faces and listen to their comments makes all the work seem worthwhile, not to mention the personal pride and job of winning some coveted trophy with one of your own seedlings.

This year's shows in the Pacific Northwest were of exceptional merit in spite of the unusually severe winter and late frosts. Dorothy and I entered material in five shows this year. Enough about us. Let me tell about the shows.

The show in Milwaukee, Oregon (a suburb of Portland) on March 29 and 30 started the season. It was a bit early but the Primula juliae and P. acaulis were present in great variety and in excellent condition. Also, P. rosea P. denticulata, P. Polyanthus and some very fine greenhouse grown P. obconica. Some of the early species seldom seen at shows were there such as P. mineina, allionii, spectabalis, daonensis, carniolica, rubra, montana and some hybrids.

Next was the National Show sponsored by the Tacoma Primrose Society on April 12 and 13 at the Villa Plaza in Lakewood. Everything was there in abundance and in top quality except garden and show auriculas as it was still early for them. Ralph Balcom had a nice display of double auriculas that had been grown under cover. The most outstanding feature of this show were the crowds of people to see it. The floor was crowded with interested spectators from the time the doors opened until they closed both days. Sales were brisk at the Society's sales table. Lots of interest developed in the educational display and demonstrations of cross pollination. Outstanding features were a class for hybridizing and one about other Primulaceae.

The same Sunday, the Mount Angel, Oregon Society had their show which has improved in quality each year. Some outstanding plants of P. frondosa and P. obconica were displayed. When asked where the seed came from, the answer was the "seed exchange." This show has achieved its purpose. The entire community grew primroses in their years. The town could almost be a primrose show with all the plants in the gardens.

The Eastside Garden Club in Kirkland, Washington, has had difficulty with finding a place for its show since the old Community Center burned down three years ago. This year it was held in the VFW Hall on April 18, 19 and 20. The nursery gardened exhibits were beautiful. The education table developed interest. The amount of participation in the potted plant competition was below normal but the quality of plants entered was excellent. The outstanding plant, which was a "Garryard," was a foot across and was a solid mass of bloom which completely hid the foliage except around the edge. It was a shame that more people did not see this beautiful show.

Closing the season was the Washington State Primrose Society's Auricula Show in Bellevue, Washington on April 26.
and 27. When this show started it was exclusively an auricula show. Now it includes all primulae with emphasis on auriculas. The named show auriculas were very few but there were many alpine seedlings. This show illustrated the dramatic increase in quality in garden auriculas, especially in the doubles. The trend is for better, brighter colors with vertical stems topped with large full-rounded umbels of well-formed flowers. It was quite a job picking the best plants from so many excellent ones. Finally a perfect yellow was selected as the best garden auricula and a red-purple with a ruffled edge was picked as the brightest. A special display of double acaulis and polyanthus showing the results of crossing and selecting done by Mrs. Clarence C. Chambers evinced many ohs! and ahs! from the visitors. The best attendance ever and heavy sales of good quality plants made this show a real success. Many more people will grow and cross-pollinate primulas as a result of these shows. That to me is the real purpose of our society and of our shows.

As you can see the main center of our activity is in the Pacific Northwest where the majority of our members used to be. That is no longer true. We have become international and the majority of our American memberships are now in the Northeastern part of the United States. This poses certain problems that need solving. We need greater sharing in our activities, more contributions to our Quarterly, and more local units which hold regular meetings and shows in order to maintain an increased interest in, and knowledge of, the various primulae.

I hope to take a trip through the Northeast sometime this fall or early winter to meet with groups of members and assist, if possible, in organizing some local societies. Please do some planning now as to where meetings can be held and as to what people will be attending. Write to me for a date if I have not contacted you. I expect to see and visit with as many of you as possible so that the American Primrose Society will grow and give better service to all of its members.

Sincerely,
HERBERT DICKSON

The years are strewn with memories of plantings too lovely to forget. Some of those involving primroses head the list.

Brightest in memory is an old fashioned primrose path meandering through tall native trees from a more formal garden, and then on to open lawn and a lake shore. Each side of the path drew the eyes with Primula officinalis (Cowslip); Primula acaulis with many hues but most notably of blue from pale to very dark, and some of velvety red, as well as as of soft yellow; and, farther removed from the path and more scattered, the taller Primula Polyanthus, mostly of yellow from sulphur to burnt orange, with a sprinkling of reds and a few Gold Laced ones. The shade was filtered rather than dense, the plants had been wisely and lovingly tended, and one strolled at a slow pace to enjoy to the full the wealth of beauty.

Another woodland planting, this one employing many lovely ground covers, was high-lighted in the spring by two large drifts of Primula Sieboldii, one of mauve and one of white. The more open sunny spots had been selected for these plants which flowered so heavily as to hide the downy stems and lobed leaves. They almost seemed to re-radiate the light they caught from the sun.

Primula Viali is eye catching wherever it is planted. I have sometimes seen it in woodland plantings where one enjoyed the sequence of scarlet buds changing to pink and finally to bluish-violet as the tubular flowers opened. But one picture haunts me because I shall never know the ultimate success or failure of the combination of plants shown. This was a kodachrome taken when Primula Viali was newly set in fair sized groups among large hybrid rhododendrons. A heavy mulch had been applied to conserve moisture and to prevent weed inroads. But I often wonder if these primula have multiplied and how the plot looks at this later date.
Then there are memories of plantings involving running water or bog conditions. One such is of a trickling stream which bubbled down over a few rocks in which there were pockets holding plants with "a delicate air" such as maidenhair ferns, *Corydalis lutea* and *Primula Cockburniana*. The rich orange blooms of the latter were happily backgrounded by the soft green foliage and soft flowers of the corydalis. There may have been a blue forget-me-not among these other appealing plants. I am not sure.

Another memory picture is of a huge swale midway in an even larger lawn. Tall shrubby plants made the background for *Primula japonica* whose ramrod straight stems supported whorl upon whorl of deep purplish-red or rosy-red or pale pink flowers, like so many miniature oriental towers. A carpet of *Limnanthes Douglasii* spread its so-called "Angels' Poached Egg" flowers in the background.

Other moisture loving primroses which I remember seeing in semi-bog conditions include *Primula sikkimensis* with its very long leaves at the base of a two- or three-foot stem bearing a large umbel of bright yellow flowers, the color softened by quantities of farina. The Bartley Strain of *Primula pulverulenta* is responsible for several border plantings, some by streams and other by lawns. The soft hues of this, another candelabra type, have enhanced otherwise drab plantings so that one cannot forget them.

A special page in my memory book is reserved for the charming planting around a little pool in a show garden of yesteryear. Two species from Section Farinosae were used in sufficient quantity to make up for their small stature and gave the appearance of natural colonies in the wild. *Primula farinosa* itself came to the water's edge with its lilac flowers and *Primula frondosa* filled the outer area of the boggy looking depression with its deeper rosy hue. Strength of numbers combined with individual daintiness fashioned a picture approaching perfection.

Here I will digress to mention an incident involving *Primula denticulata*, or *Primula cachemiriana* as it is known in horticultural trade. A bed of medium-large plants proved to be tempting morsels which were consumed by invading mountain beavers, who also chewed off at the base a large number of camellias of considerable size. Our disappointment over this great loss was only slightly mitigated by finding that a whole circle of young primulae grew around each hole where an original base had been eaten away. Root cuttings by the unwelcome marauders had provided a new crop of plants.

But now we turn to a happier memory, of *Primula Juliae* tucked in the crevices of rock steps to keep soil from eroding and to soften the harsh lines of the stones. The bright purple flowers against the deep green foliage made ascent or descent of the steps in early spring a special privilege. I doubt if any of the hybrids would be so well adapted to this use. Only *P. Juliae* itself would flatten its leaves in this unobtrusive yet attractive manner.

Yet all manner of memorable plantings of the hybrids come to mind: Wanda in all its robust and royal splendor at the base of *Pieris floribunda*; a gradual deepening of color from the white of *Nettie P. Gale* through the pink of *McGillivray* to the garnet of *Rae*; and, pure exuberance of color where there were small drifts of each of eight or ten hybrids at the base of a low rock wall.

Wishful thinking makes me conclude with one picture I have never seen but that I have heard so much about that I feel I can see it — a garden where *Primula rosea* propagates itself until it has been described as "growing like a weed". I imagine all the brilliance of the yellow-eyed rose-colored flowers in such abundance and it becomes a tantalizing goal to keep in mind as I enjoy more prosaic plantings.

Frances Kinne Roberson

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COWICHAN . . .  

I Love You

By Dorothy Ross Springer

Each spring brings for me a renewal of a long time love affair with Cowichan.

Many years ago I purchased my first packet of hybrid Cowichan seed from Florence Bellis and since that time I've become more deeply involved each year in trying new spots for old plants and, more important, hand pollinating to continue the strain.

Cowichan is a strain of polyanthus developed originally by Barnhaven from a clone of the same name. The original plant of Cowichan was found in 1944 in the Cowichan district of British Columbia. It was a dark glowing garnet in color, with no eye, and was thought to be a chance garden hybrid between possible Juliana Wanda and a crimson polyanthus. Whatever the origin, the discovery of the plant started a fantastic quest by primula lovers to possess a piece of it.

Cowichan himself was weak and sterile, but has been used as the pollen parent in many a plant breeding program. Probably no other single plant in the United States has had such influence on polyanthus breeding in this country. All plants carrying Cowichan blood have that special satiny sheen which instantly proclaims their ancestry.

I have, most unsuccessfully, I might add, been trying for quite some while to duplicate a bed of mixed Cowichan grown by my mother. After many a trial and error I am firmly convinced it is the site as well as the contents which make this such a special spot! The bed is situated on the west side of the property beneath a tall fence, and shaded slightly by an old apple tree. The late setting sun strikes the bed directly, illuminating it like a glowing bed of colored coals. Seen from the other side of the orchard the sight is so beautiful one feels a necessity to stand hushed before it.

My own particular taste runs to the dark and red garnet and ruby shades of Cowichan, but breeders have recently introduced into the strain a lovely eyeless dark blue and strawberry and venetian reds and pinks.

I am also a lover of daffodils and find that the dark Cowichan plants make a nice contrast between the various sorts of bulbs.

It is interesting to notice recent developments by hybridizers using Cowichan to impart a velvety black coloring to Juliana hybrids and to Jack in the green strains.

I was pleased this spring to receive from Floyd Keller a charming Jack of deep garnet color, parents of which were a black garnet plant I'd given him several years earlier.

As a Cowichan lover, I am a little distressed to see many plants being passed off as members of the Cowichan strain. An eyeless plant many times does not have any Cowichan blood, and so may not be called Cowichan. All the Cowichan tribe are distinguished not only by the lack of eye, but by the conspicuous black bee on each floret and by the greyed reddish bronzy green of the foliage. This foliage coloring, which of course varies in color from plant to plant, is just another reason why I love Cowichan!
A Note From PENNSYLVANIA

By Doretta Klaber

Have you ever wondered what would survive in your garden if through illness or death you no longer petted it? I have, and after several years of a minimum of attention, due to three years spent on writing and illustrating my book on violets, I have taken an inventory of the "survivors".

We had a difficult winter for plants this last year and much was lost. We had too little snow, which meant loss of moisture as well as freezing and thawing and poor "cover".

All the vernal primroses in the woods, came through. They were protected by the fall of leaves. In intention, due to three years spent would survive in your garden if

All the gentians came through in good shape, with practically no cover except gravel mulch which had not been renewed.

All the Lewisias survived, though some may not bloom — only gravel cover.

All the wild woodland flowers came through better than ever. On the open hill, where I lost the most, there is still the common dwarf iris, the creeping phlox, ordinary pinks, and other run-of-the-mill flowers blooming profusely and the androsaces survived but not as many of them as usual. Heaths survived but heathers were killed.

There are great open patches of desert land where I have weeded this spring, or else still covered with onions, grass, clover and dandelions, plus other weeds.

However, I'm not too unhappy about the garden. If primroses, gentians and Lewisias will survive neglect, with a few other choice plants, how can I complain? At the moment forget-me-nots, woodland phlox and wild columbine (A. canadensis) are adding big patches of color in both sun and shade, the dogwoods and Azalea indica alba are blooming . . . Spring is still spring!

SUMMER AND FALL CARE OF PRIMROSES

by Herbert Dickson

Most of us are prone to blame our losses of primroses on unusual or severe winter weather when, in truth, the real cause is lack of proper care in the summer and fall preceding the winter. If the plant is weak or unhealthy at the start of the winter it dies during the winter and we blame the winter weather.

The most important condition for survival and good health of primula plants is being planted in the proper location. Some degree of shade is essential, the hotter your climate the more shade is necessary. Primulas like cool moist weather for their growing and flowering season. They must have good drainage, no stagnant water for their roots, and no water to stand around the crown to freeze and thaw during the winter.

To properly view and enjoy our primula we cannot always plant them in the spot they prefer; so, we must give them special care to compensate for the difference in site. If drainage is not good plant primrose in raised beds. If they must be in full sun they need extra water and spraying to keep under control insects (red spider) and hot weather fungus which causes the crown and roots to rot. You can never eliminate these two hot weather dangers. But you can give temporary control.

Watering is a problem. Water thoroughly to soak the ground eight to ten inches deep, preferably during the night. Even then some-
Primula rosea grandiflora

By Beth Tait

As a supplement to the answer given in the spring quarterly by Alice Hills Baylor of Johnson, Vermont I would like to give some cultural suggestion that I have found suitable to the Pacific Northwest in growing this loveliest of all the Primula roseas.

This species is native to the Himalayas. The bright rose-pink blossom is eye catching planted beneath forsythia or in the very early spring it may be seen in the rock garden as early as late February if a mild winter is enjoyed in the Pacific Northwest.

The maroon colored leafbud is an interesting subject to watch as nature pushes it up through the earth. It appears so very round and hard at first, and then the leaves start peeling back from the crown. They look almost like a rosebud. They are slow in growing, tinged in silver for a short period and the little pink buds of the bloom start rising from the center, blooming almost as soon as one bud appears. More florets follow as the bloomstalk slowly rises from the center and continues on until it is about six inches high. Provided the winds do not burn the florets P. rosea grandiflora will remain in bloom for approximately one month before the seed pod forms.

My case of “primrose fever” came at a Kirkland show—my first. I saw a large plant of P. rosea grandiflora, a well established clump several years old, and this is how it looks best in a display. It was at this show that I bought my first primrose plant in the salesroom and learned that there are hundreds of various kinds. There is no known cure for “primrose fever,” at least none that I know. I believe that everyone should grow at least a few roseas in his garden for its brilliant color.

After blooming, the leaves slowly extend until they reach about six inches in length by mid-April.
in the Pacific Northwest. The seed pods have formed quickly and are almost ready to pop before you know it. You must watch them closely or the seed will scatter to the four winds and become lost. I have never had new seedlings appear around the base of a seedbearing plant (perhaps if I did not weed the garden I would have). It is difficult to get germination from old rosea seed and some say that “green” seed or very fresh seed is best.

I find the best method is to pick the seedpods as they become light colored and when you can notice a small split at the top of the pod. Put them into a paper bag and hang them in a dry place for about a week. Use a tea strainer to sift them as they are very tiny and dark brown in color. Place them in an airtight jar and store in the freezer (not the refrigerator) until February or March when it seems best to plant in this area.

Whenever you decide to plant your rosea seeds (the eastern and midwest parts of the United States would probably much later than mine are planted unless you were to use a coldframe or heated greenhouse) you might wish to use the same soil mix that is always successful here at Primrose Acres: Fill flat with one-fourth parts sand, one-fourth peat moss, and one-half garden soil. Be certain that the corners and edges of your flat are filled with enough of the soil mix. Press it down outward toward the edges to make sure by using a board or brick to distribute soil evenly so there will be no low spots for seed to wash away later.

I freeze and thaw the seed three times, placing it in the freezing compartment each morning and taking it out overnight. On the fourth day I plant it in the prepared flat byjust sprinkling the seed over the top of the soil sitting a very thin coating of soil to cover seeds. Cover this with paper towels (two strips are enough to cover a flat so that it extends over the sides and ends). Now pour hot water over the top. Repeat the hot water treatment for three mornings. You should keep the towel damp after this with regular temperature tap water until the seed germinates in about three weeks. After germination use a fine spray mist or gentle application of water so as to be possible with an ironing mist or gentle application of water. Don't be concerned if, after transplanting to the permanent border your rosea loses its leaves. This is natural. It is one such as the P. Sieboldii and the candelabra, and they “go underground,” so to speak, for the late fall and winter.

In the case of P. rosea the new crown will be at ground level. Here in the Pacific Northwest some winters are so mild the plant keeps growing underground all winter, coming up with rather surprisingly large rosettes.

A good spot to plant rosea is under shrubs or deciduous trees. The leaves will cover them during the winter and the mulch in the summer will conserve moisture.

After three or four years they should be divided. By that time the roots are so compacted a large chunk of earth comes up with one plant. It doesn't hurt to cut some roots to get to the crown. Cut off and discard half the mass of roots and soak the plant in water, gently pulling off the divisions. When they are reset in fresh soil keep them well watered. I lost several hundred one year, thinking they had plenty of moisture. Now I divide in spring, but this could also be done after seeds are harvested in early summer if enough water is available.

Rosea comes in a light pink as well as the brilliant darker pink. For those who have a path in the woods of a semi-shaded border the rosea would put on a grand show clustered under trees.
Question: Will you kindly tell me the best conditions to establish a Primrose garden. We have shady areas, in which I should like to naturalize the plants. I need to know the proper Ph of the soil for Primroses and some ideas for winter protection.

Answer: The Ph. of the soil is not as important as fertility. Most Primroses will endure an acid soil if it is rich enough in plant food. The auricula group likes lime and that can be added in the form of lime chips or crushed egg shells. The acaulis, Julianas (especially the stemmed types) and the Candelabras are best for naturalizing. In our woodland garden we use those with the native ferns, closed gentians and wild flowers. (Trilliums, Mitella diphylia, Erythronium, Violets, Actaea rubra, Mervernia virginica, Cypripedium parviflorum and Phlox divaricata). The most important condition is good drainage if there is a brook or pond. For winter protection only use something light to protect from wind and to hold snow. Evergreen branches are best. Primulas are hardy and can be smothered with too much winter covering.

Question: We lost some of our best Primulas by cultivating the planting site. What do you suggest?

Answer: No cultivating should be done in or around Primulas. The planting site should be mulched around each plant and care should be taken not to have the mulch on the crown of the plants. Fertilizer should be added to the mulch in early spring and again after blooming.

Question: When is the best time of the year to make and plant a Primrose garden?

Answer: One may plant Primroses in spring and again in late summer. The beds should be prepared in advance of planting. Late summer gives plenty of time for the preparation and also time for the plants to become established before cold weather.

Question: Should all seedlings which were started in February be held over in a cold frame the first winter?

Answer: Not if the plants have been transplanted and have good root development. If they are sturdy they may be planted in the open beds in August. If not strong holding over in a frame is advised.

Because the Editor has not received the regular amount of Q. & A. from Mrs. Baylor, due to her busy shipping schedule this past month, she has the following accumulation of her own requests for answers. The following answers were given by Nancy Ford, ye editor is most grateful to both Mrs. Baylor and Mrs. Ford.

Question: If an area is to be devastated by blasting, logging, highway construction or any other reason it is often necessary to go in and get precious wild flowers and plant them elsewhere. Nancy Ford asked Frances Roberson, a well-known plant authority and collector of rare plants for her nursery, how and when to dig certain plants and the ideal time, if possible to wait or return to the site. Mrs. Roberson gives the following advice:

Answer: SOLOMON SEAL—Preferably in spring when new growth is just beginning and before any height has been attained. ERYTHRONTIUM (Dog Toothed Violets)—Ideally in fall when dormant (or very early spring) but it can be done when in growth and flower if care is used to not detach stem in the digging. Roll in paper for transplanting.

TRILLUMS—The same care applies here as above except that it is often possible to dig these with a ball of soil and so do less damage and run less risk of losing the leaves by which food is manufactured and stored in the rootstock.

* * *

Question: Is it possible to ripen seed on a primrose stem that has been broken from the plant?

Answer: Yes, if you place the stem in small container with a half inch of water containing some small amount of fertilizer. Watch it carefully for water evaporation and should the stem begin to rot, cut it off to sound tissue. Seeds have been ripened in this way over a period of a month in both the vernacles and auricula section.

Please send any of change address to the Treasurer.
At The Shows

By Nancy Ford with inserts by Ye Editor

MRS. AVANEL AGEE WITH HER BANFORD TROPHY WINNING PLANT
Photo by Orval Agee

American Primrose Society
National Show, Tacoma, Wash.

In spite of the severe winter experienced in the Pacific Northwest there were many blue ribbon plants shown. The judging, under the supervision of Dorothy Dickson, was serious and thorough. It was an early date for show and exhibition alpine auricula, but in spite of this there were enough to make the selection of the Bamford Trophy properly. Mrs. Avanel Agee had a number of good ones as did Cyrus Happy III. Mrs. Agee won the coveted Copper Kettle again.

President of the Tacoma Society, Al Rapp, is doing nice things hybridizing in several areas. He had some very fine double auriculas and vernales. Dorothy Springer had one enormous (AA) yellow polyanthus of the best color and substance I have ever seen. It won a best in the class and made the trophy table. Ruth Bartlett was there with her very fine double vernales and, as usual she did the hybridizing herself. The decorative section was well done and the chairman was most gracious and helpful to those setting up their floral arrangements. The arrangements featuring primula are my favorites and there were many lovely juliana hybrids, double vernales, early species and even show and exhibition alpine auricula used in these.

The purpose of these shows, national or otherwise is to present to the public and to other members our latest and best results in hybridizing or just growing someone else's seed or plants. The educational booth was well manned at all times and this is also a good chance to talk to prospective members and encourage them to come to the next meeting. Then, too, we often have interested groups from areas where there are no local primrose clubs and in this case they usually join the A.P.S. so that they can see the Quarterly, and possibly get their garden clubs to affiliate with A.P.S.

The Oregon Primrose Society held its Spring Show on schedule but not without a certain amount of misgiving. Many felt that the early date, March 29th and 30th, combined with a late season could result in insufficient entries. The decision to go ahead proved to be correct, as an unusually large number of entries ended up on the show tables, including many types usually too early for the April shows.

The show was held in the Milwaukee Community Club. A display garden featured a white picket fence, narcissus, and a foreground planting of juliana Wanda with a planting of julian Wanda with a number of fine polyanthus in between. Ivan Kniss, one of our Portland growers, also had an attractive garden display.

Claude McGraw won the amateur Sweepstakes. His entries included many fine julianas. Mr. and Mrs. R. Charlton of Wagon Wheel Gardens won the commercial sweepstakes. A junior exhibitor, Channing Snively was awarded the trophy for the Best Plant in Show, a large plant of juliana Wanda.

At the Milwaukee, Oregon show Mrs. Ivan Agee was back in full swing with some very fine show auricula. She and her husband Orval both had severe heart attacks, so we can be thankful that they are both still with us. Incidentally, Ivy won the coveted Dan Bamford Trophy at the Tacoma Show for the best seedling show auricula in America. This is not the first time for her, but she was the first woman to win it for her wonderful strain of "Etha Tate" type green edged shows. I think this is the fourth time for Ivy to win the trophy. A newcomer at the Milwaukee Show was Mr. Kniss of Portland. He has a flare for growing as well as being a hybridizer now. Expect to see more of him next year.

At the Portland, Oregon show Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, three times to commercial growers. This nine year old lad, Channing Snively won it this year with a beautiful plant of Primula Wanda. He helps his grandmother grow her primulas and selected the plant to enter the show. Young Snively is a grandson of one of our members, Mrs. Christine Hanson, a faithful chairman in charge of the Education table during shows. Her grandson will be a very interested grower and exhibitor from now on.

Oregon Primrose Society had a good show this year thanks to the hard working Show Chairman, Rusty Gates and his Co-chairman Doris Burge of Forest Grove. Mr. Gates lives at Lake Oswego.
The Eastside Garden Club of Kirkland had a beautiful show this year. The Northwest Indian theme "Potlatch" was skillfully carried out by their floor plots and decor. About 800 people attended the landscaped show. Nursery men, growers, and garden clubs participated. It was a standard show.

There were approximately 200 horticultural entries and 160 flower arrangements. An educational exhibit of plants used, and crafts made by the Indians, was a center of interest. Plants were sold also, by the growers and garden clubs.

The Captain Comely Hawkes Trophy went to George Schenk this year and with the same plant he won best in division at the Kirkland Show. Mr. Schenk, of Schenk's Wild Garden in Bothell, is not a member of A.P.S., but he had a very fine Gold Laced Polyanthus for which the trophies were given. The original plant was given him by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Putnam, ARGs friends of George, and he has grown about 50 clonal divisions of this same plant in his beautifully landscaped home garden, along with his famous collection of wildlings. He knows how to grow primulas better than any members of the A.P.S., and he has a liking for the genus primula. He grows many primula species and has a collection of vernalis section primula that appealed to his keen sense of perfection. The winning plant had been given to me three days before the show and, since many A.P.S. members have not been entering good gold laced polyanthus in recent years I decided to enter it in his name. . . . He was not aware of my so doing . . . Due to a strange mixup, after it had been shown on television to advertise the Washington State by Mr. Balcom and Dr. Winter it entered the Eastside Garden Show at Kirkland under my name. I noticed this, and just in the nick of time, corrected the error and put George's name on it again, since the rule is you must have grown the plant in your own garden for at least three months prior to the show . . . which I certainly had not. Well, he won a divisional best plant award this time and he deserves a lot of credit for having grown such a good quality plant in such large quantity. Funny things happen around primrose shows. I forgot to ask Bob and Evelyn Putnam if they raised this plant from their own hybridizing, or whether it was a Peter Klein, Wesley Bottoms (both deceased) or Cyrus Happy the Third creation. . . .

Washington State Primrose Society Show

Ralph Balcom, internationally known hybridist, was the sweepstakes winner. His double auricula and exhibition alpines were at their best as were his many species primulas which he raises to perfection. He was awarded the Marion Hannah Perpetual Trophy. He and his wonderful wife Evelyn were given an appreciation recognition for many years of faithful help at the meeting prior to this show. They both deserve great credit for being the unselfish people they are . . .

President Herbert Dickson was awarded the Caperchi Nursery Trophy as Runner-Up Sweepstakes winner. Driving over fifty miles from his Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery he entered some exceptionally fine specimens in many divisions. He, too, is a well known hybridist from the Northwest.

The entire show, efficiently chairmained by Dr. Patricia Allynson Winter and her co-chairman Mrs. Alice Warneck, reflected the efforts of the hybridizing talents of many of the members of this largest affiliated local primrose club.

As you entered the doorway immediately to the left was a display of a full color range of double primulas, a result of many years of hybridizing in this vernalis section by Mrs. Clarence C. Chambers. They had been farmed out and cared for by Beth Tait of Primrose Acres since Mrs. Chambers' garden is too small to care properly for her many projects in primula hybridization. Directly opposite the entry were only two auricula theatres. As you entered the doorway immediately to the left was a display of a full color range of double primulas, a result of many years of hybridizing in this vernalis section by Mrs. Clarence C. Chambers. They had been farmed out and cared for by Beth Tait of Primrose Acres since Mrs. Chambers' garden is too small to care properly for her many projects in primula hybridization. Directly opposite the entry were only two auricula theatres this year. At previous Washington State Shows there have been more of these, a recreation of old French Floriculturists' way of showing off prize exhibition, show, and double auricula. This year the Nancy Ford trophy was won by Dr. Patricia A. Winter, who has been the winner since its inception until the 1968 show. Ralph Balcom's lovely double auricula made this an outstanding theatre.

Treasurer's Report

The American Primrose Society owes a "Thanks" to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clarke of Tacoma, Washington, for the $25.20 sent in from plant sales at their home during the National Primrose Show, and to Mrs. Orval Agee, who sent in the Society $5.00, from plants sold at her home during the Milwaukie, Oregon Show.

Mrs. R. E. Kartack of 115 10th St., Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913 informs us she has some Primrose Books she would like to sell. Anyone interested please contact her.

This is the time of year when memberships not paid for the year are pulled from the files. Sorry to say some members will miss their issues.

Due to the cost of printing, the Board feels they have been generous in sending out the Winter and Spring Issues. All members have been billed.

Pictorial Dictionary $2, postage 12c.
Back Issues of Quarterly 10 for $3.50, postage 20c.
Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait, treasurer 14015 84th N.E.
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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
"Fishing waters by cowslip bank and shady willow tree"* was happiness to Izaac Walton in the years around 1650. Shakespeare once wrote

> A cowslip by a river's brim
> A yellow primrose was to him
> And it was nothing more.

Much has been written in poetry and prose about the lowly cowslip. Its charm comes, I believe, from its being there amidst the grasses, naturalized. Another of its charms is its petite blossom and interesting face. Its value to the hybridist is its qualities as a hardy member of the vernales section in the vast primula family and the fact that it has been used to help them achieve success with the many vernales hybrids that adorn the show bench at primrose shows and the gardens of primula enthusiasts today.

This is a story of Fred and Helen Clarke of Tacoma and not a tribute to the lowly cowslip. I should like to see England as the Clarkes did in 1964. It was the realization of a lifelong dream to them to travel around the world, taking slides of the Orient, England, and other countries. They visited the Chelsea Flower Show in England, and their tour included the notable mansions, cathedrals and gardens for which England is famous. The gardens were of especial interest as both Helen and Fred Clarke have gardened all their lives. Fred's father was English and they visited his boyhood home.

Helen Clarke loves wild flowers, and especially the smallest of these plants, so I am sure that she must have appreciated the cowslips of England, Ireland, Switzerland and wherever they grow wild. Little plants are to Helen the "real cuties." One sees primula naturalized by the rivers brim at Barnhaven, Gresham, Oregon, and candelabra naturalized themselves in the lovely gardens at Hannon Acres in Oregon and in past editor Anita Alexander's large candelabra garden in Oregon. But America is a young country and perhaps someday primroses will grow wild in profusion here. I'm sure Thoreau would approve of the wild garden of Helen Clarke and the poets and other writers of long ago the long border of yellow primroses growing in mad profusion along one side of the Clarke estate in Tacoma. These primroses were grown by Helen's mother over 50 years ago (probably imported from England) and Helen has cared for them and used them in her hybridizing to establish hardiness in her pink primula.

Happiness is many different things to gardeners. Some spend a lifetime collecting and growing on their wildlings. Others grow plants for the market. Still others grow for their own personal enjoyment and the sharing with friends and neighbors. Plants from many different types of gardeners meet on the show bench at a National or local show in America. Everyone does his own thing here in this exciting desire for beautiful primula. Any facet of it is happiness! The greatest happiness of all comes from hybridizing, I believe. Fred and Helen Clarke have combined many of the above reasons for creating lovely primula except one... They do not sell their plants. They have shared them with others, have given freely to those who showed interest in their treasures. Just this year they gave plants to neighbors and turned in to the A. P. S. treasurer contributions which the neighbors made to help a dwindling bank account of our
A visit to the lovely estate and home of Fred and Helen Clarke will soon convince you that they know great happiness. They have had a full and useful life together on their 50-year-old estate near lovely Lakewood Village in Tacoma's suburbs. Fred Clarke is a very young looking man for 75 years. His gracious wife Helen is not far behind in years and the happiness shows in both faces. What it means to have lived fully, sharing the joys of a lovely daughter and son, grandchildren, travel to Europe and Hawaii, winning Sweepstakes at the Tacoma Primrose Societies last four shows, two of which were National Primrose Shows, growing the choicest rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, erythronium montanum (seed collected from Mt. Rainier on long ago plant hunting expeditions for Helen's wild garden which covers one length of their large estate. I don't know of many plants they have not grown or still grow. The estate is next to a rare bit of woods and not grown or still grow. The estate had carried on for Linda and others.

During the last show in Tacoma I had the pleasure of sitting next to them at the annual dinner meeting as I had been so impressed by the trophy winners and blue ribbon plants that bore their name. I seldom open a tag at a show as that is a bit tricky when there are so many plants on the benches, and I had not judged the vernalis section so had not had the privilege of viewing these plants before... however, after the luncheon for the judges, cold and wet as I was from a sudden and lasting spring downpour, I stood in amazement at the beauty of their exhibits. The colors of primroses always attracts me first, then the other points that a judge at a show must observe. Here were plants of rare beauty and new color breaks, the old Linda Eikman and Crown Pinks for which Miss Eikman had won an award many years ago, and which Florence Bellis of Barnhaven had carried on for Linda and established the pure lines so that everyone could share in their beauty. Even Warm Laughter, one of my favorites of that strain was back on the show bench in profusion... Helen Clarke has been working with these colors for years, while Fred's specialty is the Cowichan strain, also securely established in the Barnhaven color range. Little Egypt was there and all the other eyeless red-foliaged, bronze-leaved beauties that have made Florence Bellis a worldwide name among the great in hybridizing.

But there was something new here that excited me... combinations of the Eikman pink tints and the Cowichan deep red shades. Combinations of the Crown Pink and Warm Laughter eyes mixed with the eyeless wonder of the Cowichan strain. I had seen it just once before at a Kirkland Show where it was exhibited by Beth Tait of Primrose Acres, but due to the sudden death of her mother during the show, Beth had to be gone during and after the show; and, in the confusion of the plants returning home it dried out and was lost. I'm sure that Mrs. Bellis has had this exciting color, too, only the sheen of a primrose blossom can capture. It comes from hybridizing the Linda Eikman pink with the Cowichan strain. I saw it at the show and also in the Clarke garden. There are just two nearly alike and I hope they are never lost.

Of all the joys the Clarkes have shared, I believe their primary joy now comes from working side by side, hybridizing. It is what keeps them so young although they both suffered severe heart attacks in the fall of 1967. A hybridist has to stay alive to see what the next spring will bring from the seedlings. So, they take care of themselves and follow doctor's orders and, God willing, they will live many, many years more and continue their gardening together.

If you would be truly happy, a "Complete" person (to spell it the way Isaac Walton himself spelled the word) be like Fred Clarke, winner of the 1969 A.P.S. Sweepstakes Award; retire from business at the age of sixty; have a wife as wonderful as Helen by your side and hybridize, collect, and grow wonderful plants of all kinds.

Nancy Ford, Regional Editor

LOVELY MUTATION...

A miniature lavender p. denticulata, that has bloomed this way for three years past appeared in the garden plot of the Hilltopper's Garden Club at the Kirkland Show. Mary Baxter is the proud possessor of this lovely mutation and we hope she keeps the plugs away from it and gets seed and pollen to use on others.
CULTURAL SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Fred Clarke of Tacoma, 1969 National Sweepstakes winner uses only leafmold and cow manure to enrich his flower and seedling beds. He found that last year when he used liquid Slugfest (Regional Chemical Co., Seattle, Wn.) for slug control—it is sprayed over-all—the wild quail and pheasant, etc. which he and his wife feed leave the primrose blossoms alone. This year he used another slug-control product and the birds went for the red cowichans first, others followed.

Mrs. Helen Clarke, whose wild garden section in their garden sows seed of *Erithronium montanum* (or lets it fall where the blossoms are) in the grass and then sees that the grass is not cut until fall when the leaves of the huge deciduous trees above begin to fall. This may be the most important tip in naturalizing a variety of this species that is not easily naturalized in the home garden. Hundreds of them were in bloom during April. Her collection of trilliums and other wildlings is enhanced by pheasants strutting here and there.

*Thelma Nelson, Tacoma*

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MRS. ORVAL AGEE WINS ANOTHER HIGH HONOR IN HORTICULTURE

More than 30 years of growing, showing, judging and hybridizing primroses brought a special honor to Mrs. Orval Agee, Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee primrose specialist was presented the State Horticultural Award, given annually for outstanding horticultural achievement, at the Oregon State Garden Clubs convention banquet in McMinnville.

Mrs. Agee was nominated by the Ardenwald, Maplehurst, Milwaukee and Wichita Garden Clubs of the Milwaukee area for activities which have included exchanging seeds with countries around the world and growing and hybridizing plants for her own and other gardeners' pleasure.

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