CONTENTS

The Strange Story of the Auricula,
  Professor Sir Rowland Biffen, F.R.S. - - - 17
On the Auricula, By an Old Countryman - - - 21
Important Notice - - - - - - - - - - - - - 24
Mt. Angel Primrose Show, Loretta E. Dehler - - 25
Notes from the East, Doretta Klaber - - - - - 27
Primroses in Utah, Olof Lundwall - - - - - 28
Sketchbook, Jack-in-the-Green - - - - - 29
Primroses in Manhattan, Mrs. Ernest L. Scott - 31
Attempts to trace the history and origin of our old-fashioned garden plants form one of the many pleasant byways of horticulture. It is a task which can keep one busy throughout the year, for it involves a study of the literature of bygone centuries during the dead season, and the more practical work of cultivating every variety one can raise or acquire during the growing period.

I drifted by slow stages into a study of the auricula. Study, is perhaps a too high-sounding word to use for what came to be in reality a mere pottering with complex scientific problems which are to be solved with any approach to finality only by someone with the resources of a considerable research station at his disposal. However, the incompleteness of the following account of its results may be a meritorious feature, for it may lead some other gardener to carry the story still further.

The cultivation of the auricula has a long and, in some respects, well-documented history. It dates back in this country to at least 1597, when the first description of the plant was published in Gerard's classical 'Herball.' By then it was apparently widely grown on the Continent, and the tradition that it was introduced here by refugees from the Netherlands about the year 1575 may well be based on fact. It became an established garden plant rapidly, for in Sir Thomas Hamner's 'Garden Book,' printed in 1659, some forty named varieties are described.

Even at this early period the colour range was a wide one, for he mentions 'yellow, white, hare colour, orange, cherry, crimson, purple, violet, murrey, tawny, olive, cinnamon, ash, dun,' and others. Other contemporary accounts add still further to this list. These descriptions can convey only a vague impression of the flowers of the seventeenth century, but fortunately the Dutch and Flemish artists of the period included many Auriculas in the noble bunches of flowers they delighted in painting. These show that the old-world varieties were counterparts of those now grown in our borders under the name of alpine auriculas, except for the fact that the present-day varieties are decidedly more rich and vivid in colour. But, though the soft dove-grey, cafe-au-lait browns and quiet purple tints are no longer to be found among the plants raised from commercial seed, they occur still in many of the plants in cotterger's gardens.

*Reprinted from the 1947 issue of The Countryman, founded and edited by J. W. Robertson Scott at Burford, Oxford, England and forwarded this office by Capt. C. Hawkes, Rapley, Nantwich, Cheshire, England. Sir Rowland Biffin become Professor of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge in 1908 and has been Professor Emeritus since 1931, until his death last year.
In addition to this long series of coloured forms, two distinct types—the double and the striped auricula—had come into existence. The double, once a highly appreciated flower, is no longer obtainable in commerce, but a few of its once numerous varieties still find a place in amateurs' collections. They lack so many of the characteristics of the present-day flowers, however, that few florists now have any interest in them. Further, if those I have grown are at all representative, they have the distressing habit of throwing bushes of single flowers as often as doubles. The striped forms, which, in their day, were outstandingly popular and often extraordinarily expensive, have become scarcer still. In fact they are said to be extinct. But I have been fortunate enough to raise a few, and hope they may prove a nucleus for the recovery of the race, for their gay colour-effects are a pleasing foil to the quiet formality of the show auriculas.

It was only after some three centuries of cultivation that the origin of these alpine auriculas was discovered. Then Kerner's observations made it practically certain that the plants first collected in the high Alps were natural hybrids between two very unlike species, Primula hirsuta and P. auricula. The former has rosy-pink flowers and bright green foliage, the latter sweetly scented yellow flowers and, for the most part, leaves with a silvery cast. This effect is due to the fact that the green ground of the leaf is obscured to a variable extent by a coating of microscopic glandular hairs—the 'meal' of the florists. If slight, the leaf colour is a grey-green; if dense, white. It may also be concentrated on edges of the leaves, thus outlining them with an exquisite silver margin. Kerner's views, much criticized at the time and then more or less forgotten, are undoubtedly correct, though the full story is more complex than could be foreseen in the days when plant breeding was a mystery rather than a somewhat bewildering science.

During the period 1650-1750 no changes are recorded in the make-up of the flower, and an observer might well have considered that it was more or less stabilized, and that further striking changes were unlikely. But about the end of it there occurred one of the most extraordinary developments known to florists, when a strange and totally distinct type of auricula came into existence. This had two outstanding characteristics: the edges of the flowers were green, grey or white, and in the centre of each was a zone of shining white meal—the 'paste'—a feature still unknown in any other flower. This sudden change (for no one can imagine that anyone thought of a flower with these characteristics and then set out to build it up by a process of selection) was the result of the replacement of the normal petals by structures which, even in microscopic details, are identical with the foliage leaves. The paste, too, is a leaf characteristic seen to perfection at the base of the leaves forming the calyx of the flower. The green, grey and white edges of the flowers thus represent the various stages of mealiness seen in the foliage of P. auricula.

The mutation started the auricula off on a new course of development. The presence of the paste, which added immensely to the attractiveness of this strange flower, had one disadvantage, for, solid as it appears to be, a single drop of rain ruins it. This led to the auricula becoming a pot plant and hence, almost inevitably, an exhibition plant. So rapidly did
this phase of its culture extend that by 1798, in the interests of judges and exhibitors alike, florists found it necessary to determine the ‘points’ of flowers suitable for the show-bench, and a schedule of seventeen requirements was drawn up which, almost unchanged, still defines the perfect flower. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the edged auricula had become everyone’s flower, and surviving nurserymen’s catalogues show that hundreds of distinct varieties had been raised. Coloured plates of a large selection of these were published in 1828 in Sweet’s ‘Florist’s Guide’ and show that the flower, by then, had reached a stage of perfection equal to that of the present day.

These early years of the nineteenth century form a peculiarly interesting horticultural period. Gardeners were no longer content with the natural beauty of their flowers, and they sought a formality and refinement which, once seen, is immediately appreciated, although it is difficult to describe. It is dependent on the combination of a complex of attributes such as the proportions of the various parts of the flower, the shape of its outline, its markings, its texture, and so on. The assembly of all these features constituted as difficult a breeding problem as one could ask for, and even nowadays it has to be admitted that the resulting production of the perfect flower is mostly a matter of chance. Still, it was tackled, and by none more thoroughly than the weavers and miners of Lancashire, who during the 1850’s were producing flowers which, hearsay has it, were the finest ever raised.

There is nothing known so far as to the date when the two other sections into which auriculas are classified put in their first appearance. One of these, the ‘fancy,’ is in reality an edged auricula in which the colour brought in by Primula hirsuta has disappeared, leaving the flower a symphony in green and golden-yellow. Good and distinctive varieties are easily raised, but the group has never been so popular as the second, known as the ‘selfs.’ The sumptuous colouring of these selfs and the presence of a paste suggest that they are hybrids between alpine and edged varieties, and crosses between these sections tend to confirm this view. But they also appear in families raised from self-fertilized seeds from both the grey-and white-edged plants, so that a multiple origin seems almost a certainty, and only further breeding experiments can clear the matter up. They are well worth the making, for the mixture of plants which result will almost certainly contain a few fit to be included in any amateur’s collection.

Friends of Allen Davis will be interested to know he has moved across the street to the southwest corner of 2nd and Yamhill Sts. where he is making a real hobby gardeners’ shop of Portland Seed & Pet Store. Mr. Davis, past president of the American Primrose Society, is carrying on his interest in Primroses and Primrose people with friendly garden advice part of the service.

Mr. Editor:—As my papers on the Carnation and the Chrysanthemum have met with your approval, I venture to send you my experience with another special favorite with old florists.

We must always remember that the Auricula is originally an Alpine plant; that cold and frost to almost any extent, it will bear when under glass; and that fire-heat in winter will do it much more harm than any frost that gets into a frame, if properly managed. But summer-heat is ruinous to it, (unless guarded against, as I shall presently direct,) and a few hours’ full exposure of a pot to such a burning sun as we have here often is enough, if it doesn’t kill the plant outright, to destroy all expectation of recovering it under a twelve month’s care. To grow Auriculas well, then, mix up an equal quantity of good loam, stable-manure a year old at least, and black peat earth. Turn this over two or three times during as many months, and mix plenty of it when you begin, for the longer you keep it the better it gets; but don’t expose it to heavy rains, so as to let the goodness of the manure be washed out of it; but, except in wet weather, the more it is turned and exposed the better.

Having got your plants, say, in spring, just before they bloom, have the benefit of it, such as it is; and after they are out of bloom place the pots under a north fence, where they will be entirely in the shade, without any sun upon them at all. This you must effect in the best way you can, but you must not put anything over the plants; if you do they will draw up weakly, and the heart will be so exhausted that no healthy growth will be made. Look over the plants daily, and take care they don’t flag in the leaf for want of water. So let them be until the last week in August; then the time has been arrived at to pot your plants for next years bloom and upon the way in which you do this much of your success will depend. First, take some of your compost, and pass it through a coarse sieve, and throw the siftings on one side (you will want them presently) break up into pieces an inch square or so, some broken pots, and then you are ready to begin potting. For a plant the neck of which (at the place where the leaves spring from) is the size of your little finger, you take a pot measuring about four inches across inside. Place three or four of the broken pots over the hole, and upon these put enough of the rough siftings of the compost to fill up the pot to a depth of an inch from the bottom. Then put in a small handful of the sifted compost. Now take one of your plants, turn the pot over upon your left hand, in which you will support the plant by passing the neck of it between the first and second fingers; give the edge of the pot a slight tap against the edge of your potting-bench, and the plant will come out upon your hand; press gently the matted ball of roots with your right hand, but so as not to tear or hurt them, and then shake the
mould from it, so as to leave the network of roots nearly bare. (This takes many words to tell, but the whole thing is done in half a minute). Now you will find the thick stem of the plant, which is called the tap-root, exposed to view, surrounded by the numberless mass of small roots that, if the plant is healthy, proceed from all its length. Examine this tap-root; if it is solid, nearly white, and free from black specks or rot, all is well; if any black marks appear, cut them out with a sharp knife. This done, the plant is ready for its new pot. Mind and preserve all the fine fibrous roots, which are the mouths of the plant, and only remove such of them as are dark colored, or have a withered appearance. To place the plant in its new pot, take it by the neck between the fingers and the thumb of your left hand, and hold it in the pot so that the neck is just on the level with the top, and with your other hand fill round it with sifted compost, which, with a small stick the size of a quill, you must gently stir down between the small roots, giving the pot now and then a tap or two on the bench, to shake down and fix the mold. When potted, the earth should come up just to the bottom leaves, but not higher.

If you bury the lower half of the leaves in the mould, depend upon it you will, before the winter is through, get half your plants rotted off at the neck. This is, of all thing, one of the great points in Auricula growing.

When the pots are all potted, set them in a north aspect, out of the sun, as before; put boards or a good bed of cinders under them, so as to keep out worms. (This is a first point, too) and then give them a thorough good watering through the fine rose of the watering-pot, so as to wet them well through. Here they are to stand until the fine weather sets in; slight frosts will not hurt them. Water them regularly; they will grow considerably; the old outer leaves will turn yellow and come off during the next two months, and by that time you will have nice short-leaved plants, with stiff necks and close hearts, which are sure signs of good trusses of bloom next spring.

As soon as signs of winter weather are manifest, whether by cold rains, snow, or hard frost, put your plants in their winter quarters. The best place for them is a common garden frame, with a glass light upon it; but many and many a good show of Auriculas has been grown without glass at all, by having only a board top to the frame, upon hinges, like lid of a box, to shut down at night and in hard frost, but to be open all day in fine, or raised up in front in wet weather. Take care here, too, to have something to keep the worms out.

And now for their winter treatment. In hard frost or snow shut down the lights close. At all other times, except in wet weather, draw the lights off all day; and in wet, and also in frosty weather, unless very severe, give air for five or six hours by raising the lights a few inches. They will want but little water until the beginning of February; only just prevent them from getting dry.

In frost throw over the frame a mat or some straw or litter at night and if severe, this may remain on in the day also; and with even slight covering of this sort the plants will stand any weather. You will find their leaves get quite black with frost sometimes; never mind that; but do mind this: that when the frost breaks and you begin to give air, don't let a hot sun come right down upon them at first, but raise the lights a few inches, and throw a coarse cloth on the frame, or just a handful of straw, thinly, so as only to let a little light through. If you have no glass, but only a wooden top, you have only to lift it half open, fasten it so, and shade the open side next to the sun with a cloth. In this way your plants will take no harm with any frost, for they are hardy enough to stand almost anything; but it is sudden exposure to the direct sunshine, upon the breaking up of frost that kills them. During winter they should have sun; but in the middle of some days in this country the winter's sun is pretty hot; and then I generally shade the frame for an hour or two.

As soon as you see, in the spring, that the plants are beginning to grow, you should give them a good top-dressing. For this, use the same sifted compost that you did for potting. Take a plant and with a point of a small stick remove the top earth about half an inch deep, or rather more, and fill up its place with the new compost: at the same time take off any yellow and decayed leaves, and also any offsets that are rooted. Cut these off with a small penknife, don't pull them off. Then give the plants a good watering, so as to soak the whole ball through, because now you are going to begin growing for bloom.

Remember always, from the time the plants are put in the frames until they have done flowering, you must never water them over their leaves, because the water often would settle down in the heart of the plant, and rot it; and also that you always give water through a fine rose, holding it close to the pot, so that the water does not disturb the mould, which would expose the roots.

From the time you begin to grow for bloom, you must give extra covering at night, because, although frost would not hurt the plant, it will injure the young truss of flower which is now formed in its centre, and if this gets frozen at any time, in the first place your bloom will not be so large, and in the next it will not open flat. This is important.

Having top-dressed your plants, you will soon see their centre open, and your trusses of bloom begin to rise upon a straight, stiff stalk, and you must give water regularly, and not let them flag for want of it. But be cautious about one thing: sometimes when the sun is pretty hot, and the trusses are growing, you will find the new leaves (which have got to be a good size) will flag in the afternoon; don't fancy this is from want of water, or you will overdo it. All that is wanted is to keep the earth in the pots just moist.

I will suppose the flower stem is grown up nearly its full height, and that the pips are beginning to swell out. Now it is time for you to show your skill. If the weather is hot, you must at once move your frame out of the full exposure to the sun, and put it where it only gets it for an hour or two at sunrise; because, unless you contrive to keep your plants cool, the heat will expand the pips before they are half grown, and instead of having them the size of a quarter dollar, as you ought, and many sorts larger still, you will have them the size of sixpences. To grow the pips large before they expand, I have often in hot seasons taken one of the largest-sized empty flower-pots, and placed it in the shade on three stones so as to have a draft of air through the bottom hole, and then placed the Auricula pot in it, and put a hand glass over it. Then, by leaving it thus for a week, and watering the outside of the large pot, so as to keep it wet, the evaporation from it has preserved for the plant such a cool temperature that I have had pips a third bigger than they otherwise
would have been. This, of course, can only be done with a few plants, but
an enthusiastic amateur does not mind a little trouble. The offsets of
Auriculas, when first taken off, should be grown around the edges of a
good-sized pot for a twelvemonth, and then treated like the old plant.

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

General election of officers will be held at the annual meeting of the
American Primrose Society, December 12, 1950, at 7:30 p.m. Members
outside the Portland area in good standing who wish to vote but cannot
attend the meeting may send for ballot, request to be received by
the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Earl Marshall, 1172 S.E. 55th Ave., Port-
land 15, Oregon, not later than December 1st. Marked ballots must
(Continued on page 26)

MT. ANGEL PRIMROSE SHOW
Loretta E. Dehler, Mt. Angel, Oregon

Mt. Angel has now had three primrose shows and each year the show
has grown a little larger and attracted more attention. This year the
entries were so plentiful that they used up most of the available space
in the city hall where it has always been held.

The Mt. Angel Garden Club, which is just one year older than the
show, sponsored all of them and the general chairman of the show
each year has been Miss Juliana Dehler. The committees likewise have
consisted of more or less the same people throughout the three years.

All this has probably contributed more than a little to the expansion,
for the group has learned to profit from each previous year's experience.
But with all, the show has kept the distinctive charm and 'homey' per-
sonal character of the small town celebration.

It is everyone's show, and the little old lady with one prize primrose
and the small child diffidently offering his much-handled plant are
equally welcome to exhibit their treasure side by side with the snooty
grower who knows all there is to know about primroses. And surprising
though it may be—just as often come out with the blue ribbon.

Voices have been raised now and then for cash awards and for com-
mercial competition, but each time have been waived down by those
who wish to keep the show a friendly show with pride in the flowers
rather than in the prizes the primary motive.

And it is remarkable how much interest in the primrose has grown
since the first show. Three years ago, there were few primroses in Mt.
Angel and very few outside the polyanthus class. The primrose was
chosen as the show and town flower more because of its adaptability,
ease of culture, modest cost and early blooming than for its popularity
at that time. Since then, most every garden owner seems honor bound
to plant at least a few primrose plants.

And it never remains "a few" very long. The primrose has a way of
growing into your heart and it certainly has grown into the heart of
Mt. Angel—and the surrounding country. For there was scarcely one
time during the day and evening of the show Sunday, April 30, that the
city hall, where the shows have always been held, was not jammed with
people, men, women and children, young and old. Most every town in
the Willamette Valley had representatives.

And the primroses were gorgeous to behold—an array that begged
description. Polyanthus in most every shade, with of course a prepon-
derence of the red and bronze shades, but a good many blues, lovely
yellows and cream, some lavenders and orchids and three fine true pinks.

It was rather late for acaulis and not many were shown. The Julias
failed about the same, but the Auriculas were in their prime and foliage
and blooms were of the finest. There was also a very fine showing of
Sieboldi, included in the show for the first time this year.

The entries outnumbered those of last year by 59 plants, the total
number of exhibits this year being 239.

Mrs. Roy Palmer of Mt. Angel, primrose lover and garden enthusiast
in general, won the grand sweepsakes silver cup, donated by the city
council, for her wonderful collection of primroses that had represent-
atives in every named division and also among the rarities. She collected 72 points on her entries, counting up eight blue ribbons, nine reds and five whites. Her closest competitor was Mrs. John Basil of Stayton who had 59 points.

The plaque donated by the American Primrose Society of Portland was awarded by the judges, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence of Portland, to Mrs. John Ramage of Woodburn for the most outstanding plant in the show, a huge Auricula with lush foliage and a mass of yellow blooms with a decided greenish cast.

The tricolor award was presented to Mrs. Wm. Heilman of Brooks, another heavy exhibitor and winner, for a purplish-blue P. denticulata.

In the Garden Club division, Gervais won first place, Labish Gardens, second and Brooks third.

No story of the Mt. Angel Primrose show would be complete without mentioning Mayor Jacob Berchtold, the gracious little mayor of Mt. Angel whose enthusiastic backing has had a good deal to do with the success achieved. He has been a member of the club since its infant beginning, is a primrose lover and has consistently given the Garden Club recognition wherever possible. It was his enthusiasm for the Primrose Show that led the city council to vote a silver loving cup trophy for the sweepstakes prize.

(Continued from page 24)

be returned to that office before the annual meeting, at which time they will be opened and counted.

In addition to the election of officers will be the proposed amendment of Section 2, Article III, raising the active membership dues from $1.50 to $2.50 per year to provide additional funds commensurate with the successful conduct of Society affairs; and a new Section (9) under Article IV for the establishment of regional vice-presidents. This Section to read as follows:

The Board of Directors may designate and constitute certain geographical areas as official Regions of the Society and shall appoint a Regional Vice-President to represent the American Primrose Society locally for each of such Regions and to preside over such official Regions. Likewise, the Board of Directors may vacate and rescind or change from time to time the designation of such official Regions whereupon the appointment of such Regional Vice-Presidents shall be vacated. Regional Vice-Presidents shall be appointed annually in January by the Board of Directors for terms of one year and no one person shall be eligible more than three successive years for reappointment as Regional Vice-President. A person who has served three successive years as Regional Vice-President will become eligible for reappointment after having been out of office for one year.

The by-laws and all activities of such Regions shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

I read Dr. Worth's article in the April issue of the Quarterly with great interest, and was especially glad to see someone speaking up for primroses in the east, as the Quarterly by its origin, home and surroundings naturally features western growers.

I'm years behind Dr. Worth in experience with primroses (though no doubt not in age!) but can agree with him from personal observation and some experience that many species of Primula "do" in the midwest and in Washington, D. C. as well as in the east. As my situation is somewhat different from Dr. Worth's it might be of interest to report from here.

We are in Pennsylvania, about 40 miles north of Philadelphia, and in many ways an ideal location. Woodland with rich humusy soil, a tiny spring-fed pond from which I have been able to lead a rivulet of water, and a rockgarden sloping slightly to the north. Along the lightly shaded woodland paths P. acaulis, polyanthus, denticulata, Julliana and candelabra species thrive with very little trouble. Rosea has lived by the little stream, not quite as happily as I could wish, but that may be from over-division and I shall try leaving them alone this year. Involucrata and Waltoni came up profusely from seed last year, but I echo Dr. Worth, the trouble comes when you move the young seedlings. One Waltoni and a couple of Involucrata survived the winter but are growing slowly and have not bloomed. So far I have had trouble with Auri- culas. Three seedling plants are in their third year and still have not bloomed. New seedlings are up in quantity... Cortusoides grew happily for a couple of years, then disappeared.

I have no lath house but think it would be a boon over my nursery beds which are shaded by a barn from mid-afternoon on, but in hot weather get too much sun. I have most success with planting seeds in coldframes. Not nice neat commercial frames, but just boards roughly put together with covers of slats with celloglass on top, which air themselves with no trouble to me. When the weather gets too hot the glass is removed, the slats remain. I tried the sawdust method last year for growing primrose seed and didn't like it nearly as well as my own mixture of soil or compost, sand, a little peatmoss, stone chips, screened mixture for the top 1/4 inch and a slight covering of sand over the seeds. The weeds come up, as they don't with the sawdust, but I have a theory that pulling out the small weeds cultivates the small seedlings, and they seem more sturdy, less lush, than the sawdust grown plants. For the first time (of course it was an awful winter and spring) I lost practically all my seedlings, of even polyanthus, Juliae and such tough babies. I wasn't here in the winter to pot them, but now that we have moved here permanently I hope by poking back seedlings when they heave out, etc., that I won't have those losses.

This year seeds are up in quantity. I usually buy seeds in fall or winter, put them in preserve jars with rubber band, and keep them in the refrigerator over the winter. This year I planted in my coldframes about April 1, and to date have germinated Cawdoriana, Joessa, Concholoba, Wattii, Farinosa, Chrysopa, Auriculas, Nutans, Viali, Secundiflora, Helodoxa, Japonica varieties, with one or two more maybe. How many of them I will be able to bring to blooming size remains to be seen!
Although I must class myself as a beginner in the growing of Primroses with special interest only in recent years, I can recall them away back in early childhood in Bozeman, Montana. It was in pioneer days when the railroad had not yet come through that my mother grew a few flowers which she loved very much. Among these were some English Cowslips. Where she got the seed or plants I am not prepared to say but those yellow Cowslips held a fascination for me that I still have in spite of the time that has passed.

It was not until years later when I took up residence in Salt Lake City that I renewed my interest in growing flowers and about ten years ago I came into possession of an English seed catalog and was amazed to find such a variety of the species and the many colors to be had. I immediately sent for two packages of seed, one a mixture and the other containing red and maroon shades. After some difficulties I managed to save about fifty plants. Of these I gave a few to friends and planted about three dozen under an apple tree where they were shaded from the noon day and afternoon sun. The results the following spring were surprising, and doubly so because of the expressions of delight from my friends at the marvelous display of color and variety.

I am still growing some of those plants in the original location "in the shade of the old apple tree"; some I planted, after separating, under the north side of some lilac bushes that had been established in that place for several years, but I find it is not wise to plant too close to the shrub, at least not closer than two feet, for lilacs are enormous feeders. I also planted some on the north side of my residence under some evergreen shrubbery where they were not shut off from the light, and these prolonged the blooming season at least two or three weeks, making a fine display.

Our summers are hot and dry, especially during the month of August, but those Primroses are a marvel considering the conditions under which they grew back in England and the adversities they must contend with when transplanted to a foreign soil. My soil is a heavy clay which has been pulverized some by the addition of rotted manure. I do not know what the plants can do where weather conditions are more favorable, but here they do wonderfully well.

Fall and Winter Mulches

For the finest flowers, both early and late in the spring, a good top mulch now around the plants is advisable. Compost, rotted sawdust, rotted wood, or old barnyard manure are good, the favorite being the latter which provides quickly assimilated food when the plants are ready for it. All absorb the beating rains and provide a warm blanket during the winter and humus later. In wet areas, make sure heavy mats of leaves do not cover your plants.

Jack-in-the-Green, along with the Hose-in-Hose, Pantaloon, Galligaskin, Jackanapes, and others, takes us back. In direct descent, four hundred years or so when the Morris-dancers reveled along English streets and lanes on May Day. The following conversation written by Margaret Campbell Barnes in My Lady of Cleves, although unsubstantiated, may well have taken place in 1540 during those few months when the Flemish Anne of Cleves was the fourth wife of Henry VIII and stepmother to the young Elizabeth.

"What do you English people do on May Day?" Anne asked.

"We have revels, Madam", vouchsafed little Elizabeth hugging the nightgowns Anne had just finished embroidering for her.

"Revels—what are they?" Anne inquired, selecting a strand of gay embroidery silk. "I do not think we ever had any in Cleves."

"Well, for one thing, there is a sort of set dance", Elizabeth explained a trifle absently her envious gaze lingering on a length of green damask stitched with seed pearls. "With everybody dressed up as Robin Hood and Maid Marian and the Devil..."

"Not another dance?" protested Anne, who had scarcely mastered her latest lesson from Culpepper.

"We don't have to do them," she assured her step-mother. "The Morris-dancers come round...with bells on their ankles...And then there's Jack-in-the-Green, Madam. A man walking about in a little house of flowers. And garlands hung on all the peoples' doors."

This is definitely the mood of Jack-in-the-Green which seems to radiate spontaneous fun quite distinct and apart from the other old forms. The Morris-dance, dating from 1458, and performed by fancily costumed dancers representing characters from Robin Hood and other legends, did have its Jack-in-the-Green, but it is doubtful he was known as such in early times. Parkinson, writing in 1629, does not include Jack-in-the-
Green in his list of odd Primrose forms known at that time, but does describe such types as Hose-In-Hose and Galligaskins. The Oxford dictionary dates the word Jack-In-the-Green from the year 1801, a term used for a man or boy enclosed in a wooden or wicker pyramidal framework covered with leaves in the May Day sports of chimney-sweeps, etc. Not until 1876 was the term used to describe the type of Primrose with the large collar, or ruff, caused by the exaggeration of the calyx into leaves which hold the flower as a large ruff provides an elaborate framework for the face.

The modern Jacks-in-the-Green differ only in vigor, size and robust health from the old named ones of Anglo-Irish origin, the majority of which came from Counties Kerry, Ulster and Limerick, near Dublin, and which are still listed in a few English trade lists. These old named ones, though far from being invalids, are apt to fall into a decline when subjected to small ill that have no effect upon the new plants raised from seed rather than multiplied by division over a long period of time. As with the Hose-in-Hose, Jacks-in-the-Green are so easily accomplished by selective hybridizing, they are now in such numbers as to make naming individual plants out of the question. Very handsome are these new Jacks, each generation yielding a larger ruff with correspondingly larger blossom and in shades of pink, peach, rose, red, white, yellow, bronze, but, as yet no blue. Like the blue Hose-in-Hose, which is now grown from seed by innumerable American gardeners, the blue Jack is only a matter of a few years. These modern Jacks-in-the-Green, like the modern Hose, are direct descendants of the old English varieties through seed sent by Capt. C. Hawkes of Cheshire who is a fancier and collector of Elizabethan flowers. American gardeners wish to express here their appreciation to Capt. Hawkes for the pleasure he has made possible in the revival of these old forms in fresh vigor and almost unlimited quantity.

This year, at the Primrose Show held in Tacoma, Washington, Jacks-in-the-Green were displayed in numbers, and the delight experienced there could have sprung from the same source as that which prompted the early dancers to tuck a bunch of Cowslips in their doublets and caper to the tune of Mollie on the Shore.

---

1. Larva, or grub, approximately two times size. 2. Pupa, approximately two times size. 3. Adult beetle, approximate size.

Unless the Strawberry and Black Vine Beetle was kept in check during the summer with a baiting or spraying program, there may be the weevils, or larvae, of the beetles feeding on the roots of Primroses, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Coral Bells, Saxifrages (to name a few) during the fall and winter. If you suspect the presence of weevil now, there are a number of treatments used for eradication. There are several advertisers in the Quarterly who offer reliable and effective products, one in this issue, Gotzum Products, with Carco-X. The soil is soaked with a 1:200 solution of Carco-X several inches around the plant and in sufficient quantity to allow penetration of the liquid to the depths of the roots. This is always the rule whether using this product or the soil fumigants and other controls offered by California Spray Chemical in past issues.

"One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin" (Troilus and Cressida) might be paraphrased "Love of Primula makes the whole world kin". Such was the thought when speaking on primroses for the garden, before the Garden Club of Yorktown at the home of the president, Mrs. William P. McCool, on Beekman Place, Manhattan.

The corner apartment overlooked the East River and the new Secretariat building of the United Nations, in the East Fifties, described in the June 17th issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The solid six blocks of property was in a tumult of activity with bulldozers and men working the ground for the buildings to house the staffs. The Secretariat rose aloft, a huge, oblong slab, straight up, without equivocation, plain, functional, unafraid. Around and beyond was the magnificent East River with its bridges between Manhattan and Long Island. A brilliant April day, the sun glistened over the dancing wavelets and showed up the swift tidal currents in the water known as the East River, but which isn't a river at all. A superb setting in which to discuss our shy little primrose!

Members had journeyed from homes along the Hudson for the meeting in Manhattan. The club meets monthly during the summer and only occasionally in the winter. Plants such as the primrose, are wanted that will do well in natural, woodland gardens. I shared the knowledge I have gained over eighteen years in growing more than a score of species, and showed color slides as well as black and white for culture.

Mr. W. J. Sparkes, Cromley, Yorktown, gained his love of primroses in his early years in the south of England at the turn of the century. He writes "Usually there was a harsh winter and tardy spring, and we had an eye for the first spring signs. Sometime it was wild snowdrops of which I have seen great solid banks, or the first primrose. As a schoolboy in Sussex, I picked the first primrose on January 31st, 1897. Later, I have seen vast sheets of wild primroses growing in their millions, in the woods or in the open, or on nearly bare banks of chalk cliffs. We used to refer to the primrose as P. vulgaris, the cowslip, P. veris and the Polyanthus as a cross between the cowslip and primrose. We knew the Auriculas and Sinensis, Primrose Day, April 19th, and the Primrose League, were supposed to commemorate Disraeli's devotion to this wildflower". It is not unusual here in Bogota to find a stray primrose in bloom in a warm January.

The Yorktown Garden Club has a number of well-known members, such as, Mrs. Mortimer J. Fox, of Foxten, an authority on herbs, Miss Elizabeth Remson Van Brunt, honorary curator of the herb garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Mrs. Willard Brinton, an authority on Iris. Mrs. McCool has a remarkable collection of old rose jars and gave me a welcome receipt for Rose Pot Pourri.

I ended my lecture as I did at the N. Y. Botanical Garden—P. Seiboldii (Concluded next page)
is the only primrose that naturalizes itself under ordinary garden conditions. It sends out its rhizomes unaided and makes its own way in the garden, increasing gradually from year to year. Unlike the Auriculas, Denticularta, and Polyanthas, this species sticks by me with no effort on my part.

Talk of primroses and the love that people have for them in the shadow of the great building of the United Nations in Manhattan gave me hope that love of flowers may help to build a feeling of kinship among the peoples of the world.

THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY of the United Kingdom

This Society, founded in 1930, has over 100 members in North America. Its Quarterly Bulletin is generally regarded in the British Isles as one of the best of the specialist garden publications. It contains descriptions of all new plants of merit, both those raised at home or introduced by collectors from abroad. Further particulars may be obtained from: Dr. C. R. Worth, Groton, New York, who has undertaken to accept and forward the annual subscriptions of Members in the United States, or from the Secretary, C. B. Saunders, Esq., Husseys, Green Street Green, Farnborough, Kent, England.

Subscription rate for American and Canadian Members is $4.00

MAJESTIC PRIZE PRIMROSES

Linda A. Eickman, originator of "Crown Pink & Coral," "Warm Laughter," in packets or ½ packets, while it lasts.

Also Improved Lavender, Purple, Carmine, Yellow, Flannel, Blue, Bright or Dark Red, Pastel, White, mixed or any combination. AH 1930 crop — All Hand Pollinated. FOLDER.

211 E. Sheridan Newberg, Ore.

H OLYWOOD'S PRIMROSES

Mary Brown Stewart Et. 1, Box 484, Mount Vernon, Wash.

Large-flowered Hose-ln-Hose. 25 seeds 50 c

Many other s listed in illustrated 1860 catalog Barnhaven Gresham, Ore.

W OODLAND ACRES

2418 Bertha-Beaverton Highway Beaverton, Oregon

Introducing Two New JULIANA HYBRIDS

Miss Linda, a lovely violet-blue of creeping habit, very early.

Amelia, a beautiful white flower of fine form, creeping habit and later bloom. Alpine Auricula produced from finest English stock.

STIMULATE Your Gardening Interest

With Membership in The American Rock Garden Society

19 Pittsford Way Summit, N.J.

GETZUM PRODUCTS

Box 37-P, Sumner, Wash.

TULIP GRANGE PRIMULAS

SEED POLYANTHUS MIXED

Acuimata Mixed, Auricula mixed or yellow generaus all by each.

Mary Brown Stewart

Rt. 1, Box 384, Mount Vernon, Wash.

NYDEN'S PRIMROSE PATH GARDENS

PRIMROSES

Polyanthus, Asiatic, Auricula

Oak Grove, Oregon

Introducing Two New JULIANA HYBRIDS

Miss Linda, a lovely violet-blue of creeping habit, very early.

Amelia, a beautiful white flower of fine form, creeping habit and later bloom.

ALPENGLOW GARDENS

PRIMULAS

JULIANA HYBRIDS

Kelso, Wash.

Barnhaven's FAMOUS PRIMROSES

Hand-Pollinated Seeds of New Strains, Novelties offered APS members before general distribution of 1951 catalog.

Kwan Yin Strain: Chinese red, vermilion, tomat0 shades, tall, dark stalks, aristocratic form, $1. pkt.

Cowlchan Strain: Smoldering tones of garnet, ruby, amethyst, eye almost absent, tall, dark stalks, perfect form, foliage often red-bronze, $1. pkt.

Improved Blue Polyasntus; large flowered, tall stalks, wide range of true blue shades, $1. pkt.

Large-flowered, tall stalks, wide range of true blue shades, $1. pkt.

Also use as a shrub spray. Write for Free Booklet describing many uses of CARCO-X

Barnhaven Gresham, Ore.
Time to start your DORMANT SPRAY PROGRAM

Once the leaves are off and after fall rains it's time to help deciduous trees and shrubs fight fungi and pests that mar foliage, stunt growth, destroy beauty and value.

Here's what you do:

Get a bottle each of ORTHO® Lawn Groom, MIX, and VOLCK Oil Spray. Mix them according to simple directions on label and spray thoroughly... leaving trees and shrubs literally "dripping wet" to insure complete coverage. Next season you'll be glad you did it!

Give your LAWN its FALL FEEDING NOW!

Feeding your lawn, control insects and the weeds that may over-winter. Only ORTHO LAWN GROOM does these 3 big jobs in one easy treatment... gets the handy 5-lb. size which covers 1000 sq. ft. of lawn, or the large, economical 10-lb. size at...

Pacific Northwest Strain of Double Polyantha PRIMROSE SEED available after July 15th, 1950

About 200 seeds per packet, $3.00

Bay View Gardens
Rt. 1, Box 165, Olympia, Wn.
Phone 22488