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When asked which plants are best for growing in the sun-heated pit, I promptly reply “Primroses.” They seem particularly adapted to the temperature and growing conditions of the pit, and can be counted on to supply patches of color on the bench from December on. For readers unacquainted with the “pit” I should explain that it is a sunken, insulated lean-to greenhouse depending for its warmth on the heat of the sun. The temperature of the pits around Boston vary with their individual locations, but in general the night temperatures range from 33 - 40 degrees F.

In discussing the growing of Primroses for the pit, I would divide them into two groups — the tender and the hardy — regardless of botanical relationships.

The sowing procedures for all Primroses are probably too well known to need description. Personally, I take coffee tins with holes punched in the bottom, fill them two-thirds full of drainage material, then almost to the top with a mixture of sand, leafmold and peat-moss in about equal quantities. I use rather coarse sand, do not sift the mixture and have the surface firm and even. I pour boiling water into the cans and wait until the surface is lukewarm before sowing the seeds. A thin layer of Micagro, or its equivalent, goes over the seeds, bringing the surface level with the top of the can. I water from above with a Harco sprayer and lay a square of damp paper towel over each can to prevent drying out. Other people use newspaper or pieces of glass. The cans need no water for several days but should be watched intently thereafter. I water carefully from above with my hand sprayer and have had no trouble, though I know most people recommend watering seedlings by setting the cans in water so that they are watered only from below.

Until the seedlings appear I keep the cans on an old tin tray in a north-west window (temperature about 55 degrees to 65 degrees F). Then I move them down to the pit, unless there is a spell of dark cold weather, in which case they stay in the house longer. While very small, I keep them on the back shelf of the pit where they get light but not direct sunlight. As soon as they seem to be taking hold and doing well, I set them on the bench behind some taller plants that will give them partial shade at noon. When they are big enough to handle, (I don’t actually count to see whether they have one, two or three true leaves) I thin them into small flats or shallow bulb-panes, using sandy, fibrous loam and good drainage. This mixture should contain more sand than the later potting mixtures.

Up to this point I treat the tender and the hardy Primroses alike, but from now on the tender, or greenhouse, varieties are carried on in pots.
Those are Primulas malacoides, obconica, sinensis, stellata, kewensis and floribunda. P. malacoides is certainly the most popular and typical Primrose grown for the pit. Best results seem to be obtained by sowing the seeds in May. I have them blooming for Christmas by sowing them in March. I tend to sow mine too early because I go away for the summer and want them large enough to be set out in individual pots in June. I am sure it is better to wait till April or May. The handling of P. malacoides during the summer is very important, and for the last two years mine have suffered from heat and/or drought. A gardener who transports her seedlings to Maine for the summer, thus giving them a cooler and more even temperature, has excellent results. Everyone agrees that extremes of temperature are very hard on the greenhouse Primroses and that careful watering is of great importance. They should never be allowed to dry out, and during a hot summer they too often get alternate dryings out and soakings with the hose. They go through the summer best in pots or large flats in a shady place sunk in peat-moss. They should be carefully watched, and if necessary sprayed for aphis and red spider. (It will probably be necessary.) They are usually potted into about 3" pots, and then into 5 or 6" pots. Three plants in an 8" pot are extremely effective. They should be potted on as soon as they need it and not be allowed to become pot-bound until in their blooming size pots. The potting mixture I use consists of approximately 3 parts fibrous loam, 1 part leafmold, 1 part manure, 1 part sand. Some complete fertilizer should be added, and everyone has a favorite—Clay's, Electra, Hypox, etc. When in their final pots they should have liquid manure or a complete fertilizer once a week. In September the pots should go into the pit, where they must not be too crowded and do best set on inverted pots. Watering must be carefully done in damp weather, but unfortunately it is easy to let them dry out as the leaves hide the soil so completely. If signs of rot or fungus troubles appear they should be dusted with sulphur. To control aphis, I fill a deep, wide-mouthed vase with NNOR spray and dunk each plant head-first into it.

P. obconica prefers a higher temperature but does well in the warmer pits. It can be sown in March or April and will start blooming the following winter. I had a white one that bloomed erratically but continuously for two years and I regret to say that I got tired of it and threw it away. As one is likely to want rather few of them (they take quite a lot of space), I would recommend buying small plants in desirable colors and growing them on.

Primulas sinensis and stellata appear to be more difficult for the amateur; everyone I have asked has a tale of woe about growing them. Their germination is uneven, and rather few seedlings come up. An amateur who has considerable success starts seeds in a warm greenhouse in January or February, grows them on in flats and pots and keeps them under cover in a shaded greenhouse for the summer. They bloom in midwinter in either pit or cool greenhouse. Most people feel that they should be kept on the dry side, as far as water is concerned. They last a long time in bloom in the pit, but are brittle and tend to break and topple about if carelessly handled.

P. kewensis and P. floribunda, the yellow Primroses, are rarely grown but can be flowered successfully in the pit. Plants can be kept in the same pot for several years, or be repotted in the fall.

The hardy Primroses are ideal subjects for pit-gardening especially for people who do not want to fuss with a lot of seedlings or pot-plants all summer. The hardy ones can spend the summer in the ground where they have light shade, a mulch of compost or peat-moss, and thorough watering in really dry weather. I have found it satisfactory to grow the Polyanthus and Acaulis Primroses from seed, starting them as described above from February to April. I have set them out in the ground, or occasionally kept them in large flats, for the summer, potting them into 5" or 6" pots in September. In general they will bloom during February and March. This year however some of my seedlings started to bloom in November and I am waiting to see how they will behave during December and January. The white Acaulis "Harbinger" starts in January and still has a few blossoms in April.

The Juliana Primroses seem less easy from seed, and require more care their first summer. The plants I have bought are set in the ground and potted up in the fall for February bloom. The only trouble I have found with them is that they have large root systems but rather small leaves, so that they do not make handsome pot-plants, as the size of the pot looks out of proportion. Still one can sink the pots in cinders or moss in a bench, and the flowers are perfectly charming.

Once these hardy Primroses are established in the garden, all one
needs to do is to divide the clumps and pot up as many divisions as one wishes. I have made divisions in June and also in September. (In a cool summer it could be done at any time.) For good plants in the pit it is best to divide in June, and pot up in early September.

P. Auricula has a reputation for being difficult, and I have rarely seen it grown in a pit. I see no reason why it should not do well, though I think it might bloom rather late. I am trying some this winter.

Other hardy varieties that may be tried are P. dentiflora and some of the Alpine Primulas. The latter bloom in March but do not last many years. Most of the Asiatic Primroses bloom so late in the season that it is hardly worth keeping them inside all winter. I think that there is a good chance for experimentation with unusual kinds, and I would like to have some of the standard kinds and a few odd ones, just for the fun of it.

The general care of Primroses in the pit is pretty much the same for all kinds. They should be dusted with sulphur to discourage rot, and be sprayed with, or dunked in, a greenhouse spray to keep down aphids. They require regular feeding with liquid manure or a balanced plant food, or both alternately. A big Malacodes would naturally be fed more than a small Juliana. Watering should be carefully done, and the soil kept neither dry nor soggy; the soil should be sufficiently fibrous not to become packed down. I use the same basic mixture for all Primroses—3 fibrous loam, 1 leafmold, 1 manure, 1 sand—but would add extra leafmold or compost for a strong-growing Polyanthus, and more sand for an alpine. I think the leaf and leafmold should be left rather coarse and fibrous.

The enemy of all Primroses seems to be a dry atmosphere and a high temperature. A pit, if the ventilation is adequately controlled, appears to be ideal for them in this climate. Anyone wishing to specialize in Primroses could give them more attention and better culture than the average pit-owner who sandwiches them in between Camellias and South African bulbs. A pit devoted to the different kinds of Primroses could be very exciting, particularly if there could be a warm section—possibly by means of a heating cable.

Ordinarily one should not expect much bloom in such a pit in the autumn unless one had P. obconica, or persuaded some of the outdoor ones to start early. Around Christmas the Malacodes group starts up with its color range of white, pink and lavender. The early Acaulis varieties come along in January, and if warm enough, Sinesis. Through February and March there is a complete range of colors. The blue Acaulis has been particularly showy in the pit, and a group of the taller orange and red Polyathus, with the pale yellow and blue Acaulis in front of them is a beautiful sight. In the warmer section would be the Sinesis and Stella Primroses in quite a wide assortment of shades, perhaps some of the bright reds and salmons. It is delightful to have some of the little and delicate appearing ones, like the Julianas and the alpines, up on a bench where one can really see them, instead of having to go down on ones knees on the muddy ground outside.

I think that there is a great opportunity for pit (and cool greenhouse owners) to try some of the unusual species as pot plants. Several of us are experimenting with buying and raising the less common ones, and (Concluded, page 40)
THE SANDWICH METHOD OF GROWING THE JULIANA HYBRIDS
Clare W. Regan, Butte, Montana

Members who read this article will doubtless ask why it was ever written. I do myself, for I am certain that no one else in the membership but can grow the Julianas with the greatest of ease. However, in a moment of indiscretion, I mentioned in a letter to our ever vigilant editor, my “sandwich method” for the cultivation of these plants, and she asked me to write some notes about it for the bulletin. Here they are for what they are worth.

I have been trying for 20 years to grow these easy members of the Primula family, or more accurately — for they grow as well for me as anyone else — to keep them after they do grow. Only certain varieties lived over the winter with any regularity. They are Dorothy (almost indestructible), Mrs. Nettie P. Gale, Primrose Lodge and Kinlough Beauty. The experienced grower will see at once these exceptions are not from the Acaulis cross but have the stamina derived from Polyanthus and P. veris blood.

I did occasionally keep some of the more tender varieties by planting them in a sloping semi-scree bed, but unfortunately, while the drainage was so good that the plants survived, the soil was too poor for them to bloom. This did not solve the problem, for who wants leaves only from a Julianas?

The trouble lies in the quality of our springs. When April comes along gardeners almost everywhere are eagerly working out the pleasant anticipations of winter. I, on the contrary, am looking forward to six weeks of trouble and unremitting vigilance, covering and uncovering my plants, (rock garden plants). I would like to say I emulate the classical lady “sitting on a monument and smiling at grief” but it is no laughing matter to sit on a cold rock, day after day, and watch your Julianas slowly disintegrate; so that after several weeks of thawing and freezing the leaves, still green and firm, part company from the roots, still alive and vigorous.

I know you are asking, “Why doesn’t she adopt the shock tactics of the Wyoming member and freeze them in solidly for the winter”? The answer to that is, they won’t stay frozen. We are situated at a climatic crossroads—with an added handicap of 6,000 feet altitude—where the gentle Chinook winds come out of the west and thaw two feet of snow in a day. Everything melts and the streets are rivers of water, even in January. The next day, perhaps, a blizzard roars out of the north and starts all over again the endless cycle of thawing and freezing.

What needed doing clearly, was to devise a method of protection at the weakest point, the neck of the plant. Soil was scooped out below the crown and sand and coarse gravel was substituted as one does for Lewisias, but the Julianas still continued to fall apart. As a last desperate measure, several years ago, I tucked a lingering fragment of P.x Julianas Gloria between two rocks both tilted back into the earth at an angle of 30 degrees, the upper one slightly protruding over the lower. Gloria, suitably ensconced there in good soil, came through tri-
umphanty and the following spring was a glorious mass of red-purple
that was tight, compact and looked moreover, becomingly housed
between the gray stones. Gloria had, in fact, become a rock plant.

A cautious experimenting with several other varieties confirmed my
hope that the vexing question had been answered. The tilted stones
covered with excess surface moisture; the neck was protected both under-
neath and overhead, and probably the vital parts of the plant kept
frozen until the weather was warm and settled. Then, no doubt, the
rocks gave out comforting warmth they had absorbed during the day.
Whatever the reason, it worked.

Cheered by this success I determined last spring to put my method
further to proof and constructed a small bed for Primulas, facing east
and located between two small evergreens. This future home of the
Julianas was made into a slope with the basic soil of the neighborhood,
a disintegrated granite, for drainage and height. The "growing soil"
came from an old vegetable garden with about one-fourth of its volume
of old stable fertilizer for humus and another fourth was TERRALITE
which I find unexcelled for roof growth. Having run out of small flat
stones I used pieces of broken pavement, with great misgivings as to
its aesthetic value, but the Julianas did not mind at all and soon the
foliage covered all visible portions of this plebeian material. Pieces
used were small as the idea is to cover the neck leaving the roots
to roam about unhampered.

Not only were the above plants planted horizontally between gaping
jaws of cement, but some miniature Polyanthus, Cinderellas, and even
a few plants of Acanthus found their way into the bed. My chances of
keeping these had never in the past been as good as that of the Julianas
even, and what they will do under the new method remains to be seen.
I have never kept the Candelabras either but I must draw the line somewhere.

At the back of this small bed I planted PP. chionantha, sinoplantigineca,
Sieboldi, kisooana, secundiflora, gemmifera var. zambalenses,
Halleri, and a few Meconopsis; interspersed among the Julianas were
frondosa, dariaica, involucrata and at the very foot of the tiny slope is
P. rosea grandiflora and P. Parryi. For further, and later, blooming interest
I planted quantities of seedling Florindae Hybrids which are said
to come in many colors including tomato and orange shades. These are
in a low bed below the Julianas bed, where it will be easy to keep them
very wet during the summer.

(Continued from page 36)
I am looking forward hopefully to a pit bench absolutely covered with
rare and spectacular Primroses. And if I am unable to handle all the
unusual ones, I shall still think even the commonest ones are some of
the most beautiful flowers there are.

Oh joy, oh joy! The first exquisite pink, yellow and lavender blossoms
of the most beloved flower in our garden are coming into bloom!
Of course we mean the Primrose. It is always amazing to us to find these
strawberries partially covered with snow, braving the cold of the Febru-
ary winds, but coming up so carefully as though testing the weather's
disposition before the galaxy of full bloom occurs. How very, very wel-
come after the particular trying winters we have had.

One of our friends asked us the other day, "How do you make the Prim-
roses live year after year? Do you take them to bed with you to insure
keeping them through the winter?" The answer was definitely "No". We
have found them no more difficult of culture than other flowers one
raises in this zone, in fact not as much as some. Given early morning
sun, protection from the hot afternoon rays, plenty of water (the latter
is an absolute must), keeping them as free as possible from that little
pest the Strawberry Root Weevil, these infectiously gay little sweet-
hearts will outdo most flowers in profuseness, beauty and perfection
of bloom, and will soon have one scurrying madly around looking for new
homes in which to house the many divisions with which they soon carpet
the orginal bed.

We in Bend and Central Oregon have had two excessively severe
winters as indeed has all the Pacific Coast. Those of us blessed with
twenty or more inches of snow before the blizzards hit were lucky as
our plants nestled beneath, snug as the bugs, while evergreens, shrubs
and plants not so fortunate suffered untold damage.

Many weather problems are ours in Central Oregon. Although located
less than twenty-five miles from the ice-capped Cascade glaciers, there
is often fifty degrees variation in a twenty-four hour temperature read-
ing. Our annual mean temperature was the usual average (46.8), but
our annual growing season this particular year was only eighty-seven
days, or thirty-three days shorter than our usual one hundred and
twenty average. In attempting to get these facts as accurately as pos-
sible, we found six different authorities with as many opinions, how-
ever the one point of agreement was that the winter and summer of
1948-49 was unusually severe. All of which makes the culture of flowers
a challenge which we decided to accept many years ago. We, as a result
have many, many lovely flowering shrubs, roses and plants flourishing
in our small yard which are supposedly not hardy in this area! Please
don't ever tell them so . . .

It has been many years now since we discovered there were vari-
atious of the "hardy" Primrose. Upon making our original purchase of
six Primrose plants, we asked the dealer their name. He called them
"Hardy Primroses". We accepted the term ignorantly and to this day
we haven't the faintest idea what variety they are, but that half dozen
has multiplied many, many times. Imagine, then, our surprise to find
one of these nurturing a seedling which had not the remotest resemblance
to any we had! Our interest and curiosity was instantly aroused and upon
making inquiry, were told there were many different species and varie-
ties but that none were hardy in this zone. A discussion with our fav-
orite nurseryman drew forth much the same... all seemed to agree that Primroses would live a year or so up here but would eventually die out.

Our private conclusion is that the Primrose is one of the most maligned flowers of all. We have many species and varieties of Primulas now, Acaulis, Polyanthus, Julianas, Asiatics, Auriculas, and we have our first yet to lose with no more care given them than any other flower in our yard... although my husband tells our children that if there is an extra shovel of fertilizer or handful of bonemeal they know which flower bed gets it. And he is so right.

Our Primrose beds are situated, mainly, facing east and north. The one exception being the bed we have under a hawthorne tree whose kindly branches and leaves allow only filtered sunlight to reach its charges which seem to be very happy under her protection. We are experimenting with a border of the Julianas in full sun watching them closely for a sign of distress, instantly prepared to remove them should they complain. So far, however, they seem content. These wee gems are new to us and we are eagerly waiting the blooming season... Kay, Schneekissen, Crisp, a mixture of the pastel colors and one which we are especially anxious to see called Roberta.

Some of our Primroses bloom before the snow has entirely melted, P. denticulata for instance has an exquisite cluster of violet blossoms on a single sturdy stem, a lovely and amazing sight for the leaves are so comparatively tiny. Primulas marginata and hirsuta are others that are new to us and utterly delightful.

The soil in this area is a wonderful sandy loam to a depth of about 36 inches and the lava rock base makes for excellent drainage. We have some very good friends who keep us supplied with loads of well-rotted horse manure and the sheer delight with which this is welcomed never fails to amaze them. And she says “One would think we were really giving you something.” Something? What could be better than a sandy loam with plenty of horse manure? We use the manure for mulching in the fall, digging it into the ground in the spring, and adding more to the top-soil. There are many plants we prefer to mulch with the sun-dried Canadian peat moss, the Primroses are some of these for though we do give them the horse manure, we dig it into the soil, then add the moss around the crowns being careful not to get it on top of the plant. Care must be taken not to get too heavy a layer of peat because, up here at least, we notice it has a tendency to draw moisture from the soil and heaven knows we have to really water this soil to keep it moist. In the winter we mulch with horse manure first, then an addition of moss. They wouldn’t winter kill in any event, but we have found the soil less likely to heave the roots out if adequately protected.

Our greatest problem, and one with which we could use some good advice, is an infestation of a small white grub. We have been told it is the Strawberry Root Weevil. Only prompt action on our part saved a bed of Primulas last spring, and the persistence and endurance of these beasties is unbelievable. We have doused them three times with soil fumigant, applied apple pomace bait religiously and still they are there! Not so abundant, trite, but abundant enough to worry us. A greenhouse operator told us the only sure eradication is to fumigate with a formaldehyde solution, lifting the plants, then replanting them in three weeks. We don’t have the necessary space, however, to do that. Does anyone who has had this trouble have any suggestions to offer? We would certainly be grateful.

We have read the articles in the Quarterly with some awe and full knowledge of our own inexperience, determining one day to be able to read, with understanding, these same articles by experienced growers. Until such time our favorite flowers will have to bear with our mistakes, but do you know, maybe that is what they have been saying all the time, “Come on, fellows, these people love us, and we’ll show them we can grow in spite of the stupid things they do to us.”

(SONNET)

When barren winter seems about to die,
And withered leaves decay upon the earth,
Release from aching discontent have I
With Primula Rosea’s bright rebirth,
Lighting empty ground with tiny flames
That gaily mock the February rains,
Seeming to increase with every day.
Now it is a joy to live once more
Anticipating treasures yet to see:
Acaulis sweet, and Polyanthus friends adore,
And Marginata blooming in the green.
No lonliness is mine nor time to grieve;
These mark the potent season’s full reprise,
And life is rich in sight and song and mirth.

—V. B. Benedict
Kent, Wn.

Progress Report of the Onondaga Primrose Society

The news bulletin of the Garden Center Association of Central New York, has just been received from Mr. Elmer C. Baldwin of Syracuse, and carries this interesting item on the affiliated Onondaga Primrose Society:

“The Society meets the third Tuesday of the month. Seed germination tests started last season have been completed. The current season program concerns the new double-flowered Primula, acaulis and polyantha, from seed. Tests are being carried on seed from sources geographically as widely spaced as possible for a cross-section of the progress made in the rediscovery of the lost art of breeding these lovely flowers. It is hoped a good number will be ready for the spring primrose show.”
Saluting the Primrose Club at Friday Harbor, Washington

The address of Friday Harbor, Washington holds no clue that it is different from hundreds of other northwestern coastal towns; that it is located on San Juan Island, the largest island in the group of San Juan Islands which lie off the coast of Washington to the north of Puget Sound, south of the Straits of Georgia and east of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Or that it was on the San Juan Islands that the British flag last flew within the territorial limits of the United States. In 1846 the 46th parallel of latitude was established by treaty as a boundary between the United States and the British possessions, but the treaty failed to determine definitely the ownership of the San Juan Islands. Both countries claimed them and in 1859 the trouble came to a head in the famous Pig War. An American settler on San Juan Island shot a pig belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company men for rooting up his garden and the British settlers demanded that he be tried in Victoria. The Americans on the Island were outraged and a detachment of American troops from Fort Bellingham under Capt. George F. Pickett, afterwards famous as the leader of the charge at Gettysburg, was sent to keep order. He established an army post on the southeast end of San Juan Island (American Camp) and a few months later, in March 1860, the British established a post on the northeast end (English Camp Bay). Actual fighting did not occur, however; a settlement of the dispute was finally made in 1872 by Emperor William I of Germany as arbitrator sustaining the American claim to the San Juans.

The University of Washington has erected monuments at both sites which attract many visitors. Some of the furnishings and equipment can still be seen at the English camp. The San Juans were named by Manuel Quimper, an explorer of the late 18th century who was responsible for most of the names of Spanish origin in this region.

Last fall the Primrose Club met on Henry Island at the home of Mrs. J. H. Bressler with nineteen present and four new members added. Mrs. Roy Evans assisted the hostess. Good fellowship, good food, fun and enthusiasm for Primroses ran throughout the report of the meeting which was originally scheduled at the home of Mrs. Edna Wright with Mrs. Joseph McKnight assisting. Mr. Bressler's willingness to taxi the club members in his motor boat made the trip possible.

From these Islands a sweeping view of the Straits, the Olympics, the Cascade Range and Victoria, B.C. is to be had, with nine lighthouses flashing throughout the night. Primroses love these islands as the inhabitants love the flower. But inaccessibility to sources of material is a major problem and the group would be very happy to receive assistance in the suggestion of outlines and material. Send to Mrs. Marlon Hannah, Friday Harbor, Washington, to whom we acknowledge with thanks the report of the Club's Primroose activities.

A New Book on The Auricula

Letters received from Mr. T. Meek of Stillingfleet, York, England and the American Branch of the Cambridge University Press within a few days of each other, announce the imminent publication of the late Sir Rowland Biffen's book on The Auricula. Mr. Meek, undoubtedly prompted by seeing Sir Rowland's article The Strange Story of the Auricula reprinted in The October, 1950 Quarterly, from the Spring, 1947 issue of The Countryman, writes as follows:

"The late Sir Rowland Biffen was one of the world's greatest plant biologists and became interested in Auriculas some years ago. He tried a great many breeding experiments, mostly to try to trace the origin of our plant. Perhaps you may have seen some of his articles in the Southern Auricula Society's Report in past years. When he died he had almost completed a book on The Strange Story of the Auricula, and a colleague has put it through the press. I learn this week that the Cambridge University Press will issue it about the beginning of March . . .

"The book will be really worth while to those who have under the fascination of Primula breeding and I am glad it has not been lost to us."

The Cambridge University Press states they will send announcements of the book's publication this spring to members of the American Primrose Society.

An Exciting, New Kind of Show for 1951

To be held at the Civic Information Center, located on the landscaped lawns bordering the harbor wall of the Willamette River in downtown Portland with indoor benching and outdoor plantings, the Tenth National Primrose Show will be a complete departure from previous shows. The show will be set up April 6th and open to the public, free of charge, Saturday and Sunday, April 7th and 8th. Trophies and ribbons, as usual. Affiliated groups, clubs, local and out-of-state members and non-members can begin planning their entries any time. Complete details in the April Year Book scheduled for March distribution.
A number of members are growing this species from seed obtained from Jack Drake's Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery in Inverness-shire, Scotland, and find themselves with seedlings and no clue as to the type of Primula they have or its cultural needs. It is one of those hairy-leaved species of the Muscarioideae Section which resents wet winters and hot, dry summers, is not as easily grown as P. Vialis of the same Section and is, in comparison, insignificant. Very small, the ten to twenty bright yellow flowers, more or less powdered outside with snowy meal, comprise a globose, compact head about 3/4 inch across, stalks ranging from less than three inches to eight inches, leaves from less than one inch to three inches. The cylindrical flower tube, hardly more than the calyx, gradually widens into the small, bell-shaped flower, evidently like a conch shell judging from the descriptive name it bears. Most Primulas are dimorphic, having two forms which are commonly called "pin" and "thrum," determined by the length of the style which either projects the stigma above the pollen-bearing anthers in the "pin" or long-styled form, or remains in the flower tube below the anthers in the short-styled or "thrum" form. P. concholoba is monomorphic, having one form, the anthers being near the mouth of the tube and the style projecting slightly above them.

In the Transactions and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh it is said that this quite distinct species was discovered by Kingdon Ward in the valley of Seelghku on the Assam-Burma-Tibet frontier in 1926, growing on steep grassy slopes and on cliff ledges, amongst dwarf Juniper and Rhododendron, at an altitude of about 13,000 feet. The herbarium specimen had been previously identified as P. apocantha, a plant not unlike in foliage, but in the living state the character of the flower is distinct from that species. Ward has also collected P. concholoba in the Deli valley in the basin of the Brahmaputra and it has also been recorded from S. E. Tibet by Ludlow, Sherriff and Taylor. It was named in 1932 when described in the Botanical Magazine, but had been flowered at Kew, Edinburgh and other gardens sometime before that.

It is still in cultivation but sparingly and those who keep it will do so more readily by giving it much more shade than sun, a leaf mold, fibrous soil shot with coarse sand or very fine gravel, a top dressing of the same around the crown and under the leaves, unlimited water in the summer and overhead protection from rain during snowless winters.

\section*{Dues Due}

The Secretary and custodian of the Treasury, Mrs. Earl A. Marshall, is still doing business at the same old stand, 1172 S.E. 55th Ave., Portland 15, Oregon, and is fervently hoping the immediate mail is heavy with $2.50 checks for the current year. If your interest extends beyond into the Sustaining Membership class ($5), this fact will be specifically noted. But whether $2.50 or $5, the Society promises to make the second decade of its history, which begins this spring, one of greatly increased fun and gardening pleasure for its members.

We have some fine additions to the slide library; pictures taken at the time of the 1949 show, also a dozen especially beautiful ones of 1950 prize winners. The charges for the use of the library, as you may know, are $5.00 and shipping costs one way.

By the way, any contributions to our slide library would be of considerable interest and gratefully received. We all like to see what has been done in other sections of the country. Copies of colored kodachromes can be made for a nominal cost, you know.

When sending in your dues,—the sooner the better—remember they are $2.50 this year. Have been pleased to receive several sustaining memberships early; and the large number of new membership applications that have been coming in show an increased interest in Primulas. These are not only from Oregon and Washington, but Virginia, California, Colorado, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York and even New Zealand.

When you send in your dues, if you can write us a note telling of your Primrose garden, it gives us a lift in this work. Perhaps you may have an idea in growing in your section which can be helpful to someone else. The Secretary would like to be considered sort of a human back fence, over which small information can be passed. As one enthusiastic new member writes, "I have found more pleasure in sharing than hoarding, and I hope to make some small contribution to any flower lover in attaining success in growing these fascinating plants." And I am sure the editor enjoys hearing I have a letter such as one recently received from Philadelphia, "I have enjoyed every issue of the Quarterly and only wish I could get some subscriptions for you."

We count fifteen of our members from Friday Harbor this year. As much interest as this on that small storybook island of San Juan is due to the president of their club, Mrs. B. F. Hannah. If, at any time, anyone can help them out by giving them any material that can be used in meetings, I know that it would be very much appreciated, as that is a rather isolated section. If you can visit the Island at any time, we can say by experience that you will be more than repaid by the cordiality of the residents, as well as by the picturesque nineteenth century atmosphere.

Our British member and correspondent, Mr. W. Norman Lawfield of London, is now on the editorial staff of "Gardening, Illustrated." As the man who handles the questions and answers, his opinions would be of real value.

One of our members, in fact a charter member of the Society, has a new book out, "Chrysanthemums for Pleasure." Mrs. Ernest L. Scott and Dr. Scott of Bogota, New Jersey are best known for their chrysanthemum work, but Mrs. Scott insists she still retains her interest in Primroses and grows Auriculas for the New York International, although they always bloom too late.

Apropos of Mr. MacAlevey's comment on pronunciation of Latin names, the old Northwest pioneer botanist, Professor Henderson, used to say he could tell the date of one's schooling by their Latin pronunciation.
National Auricula and Primula Society (of England)
The Society's YEARBOOK will be ready early February and will contain the following articles:

- "The Strange Story of the Auricula," The late Sir Rowland Biffen.
- "Primulas at Chelsea," Guy Howard.
- "Things to Come" — The Auricula of tomorrow.

As well as other items of interest to lovers of Auriculas and Primulas.

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