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PRIMROSE ADVENTURING ON LONG ISLAND

Miss Alida Livingston, Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.

"Rise these forms from underground 
With a soft and happy sound."

Beaumont and Fletcher

Of the many flowers I have loved in my life, there are some which first appeared to me in a flash of beauty so sudden and intense as to haunt me forever after; sometime, somewhere, I must contrive to grow them or never know peace again. Once I came upon Cyclamen neapolitanum, a sheet of lilac-pink blossoms and marbled leaves, growing at the foot of an old, gray castle in Gascony; now, some thirty years after, I have them with me here at last, and others of their hardy little relatives besides.

I have had two Primrose revelations—the first came to me very early in life on one of those family picnics where earnest young parents try to combine culture with an outing. Mine took me to Versailles, but their careful words about history and art went unheeded while I squatted among the fragrant bunches of yellow Cowslips which grew thickly in the moist meadows of Marie Antoinette's toy farm. Another April day, much later, I was climbing among rocks and scrub oak, high above the Mediterranean, looking for miniature wild daffodils. The sun shone but the wind blew chill from nearby snowfields. I found my fairy trumpets and growing with them were some mountain Primroses whose bright green tufts of leaves were almost hidden in big yellow flowers.

I have never lived in good Primrose country—for many years I had no garden at all, still the little wretches kept on teasing and would not let me forget them. After I came into possession of a scarred and worn-out cornfield, it took some years to provide trees for shelter and shade, humus, moisture; at last I ventured to write to England for seeds of mixed Polyanthus and P. vulgaris. Those seeds arrived and, lo and behold, they grew surprisingly well. Their descendants are with me still. After reading Sacheverell Sitwell's "Old Fashioned Flowers," I had to try Auriculas, so once more I wrote to England, and once more the seeds grew; it seemed too good to be true.

If it is possible to have a garden at all, Polyanthus will grow in it as easily as roses. All of them are lovely in my eyes, but there are degrees of refinement. The very names often are rare and evocative: "Jack-in-the-green," "Pantaloons" (and this one I do not have as yet), "Hose-in-Hose," "Gold Lace," "Silver Lace." Like a troupe of Morris Dancers, the old Elizabethan flowers, formal or fantastic, still come to celebrate May Day.

Inside the museum, on the yellowing silk of a rare Sung painting,
Kwan Yin, the ancient Chinese Goddess of Mercy, sits in her red robe beside the lotus pool, and in a cool part of my garden the wonderful new Polyanthus, her namesake, with incredible grace and dignity, lifts flame-colored blossoms in the checkered spring light.

I long to grow all of the wonderful new strains of Polyanthus that are being developed on the Pacific Coast; massive scapes that look like a whole bouquet on one stem, or dainty miniature plants, their leaves quite hidden under a mass of great big flowers. And what colors there are—every shade and gradation from the subllest pastels to the richest, most solid cherries and purples or the blazing splendor of a sunset; best of all, those pure blues, azure to cobalt. The textures of the petals are as varied as the wares on the counter of a silk merchant.

Forms of P. acaulis, their flowers displayed on separate stalks, are not difficult to grow here though a bit more exacting than the Polyanthus. In too much sun they do not die but they get frowzy. They must never be forgotten during dry spells. They will attract red spiders from miles away, yet, once settled in the right place, little Vulgaris will self-sow and take over as firmly as under an English hedge-row. “Harbinger,” another lovely Acaulis, rests in summer and in the dead of winter, but its great white flowers, powdered with hoar-frost, shine unabashed in late November, although the real show comes in the spring as soon as the snow melts. I love the blues best, perhaps because they alone give me real trouble. Their seeds are rather slow to germinate and the seedlings grow slowly; they are small when the heat comes. I am always sure that those which pined away would have had the purest colors. This year I sowed in October, in a cool greenhouse, where I can control the temperature, but of course not the length of the days.

As yet I have no double because of a sense of unworthiness. They are said to be delicate and I am afraid to destroy a work of art with clumsy handling, but sooner or later I will try them. Maybe before the dangerous day arrives some skillful growers will tell of their methods in this Quarterly.

With Julianas I have done little. The pleasure they have given me, however, has been great although I have not had as good germination with the seed as I could have wished. Perhaps an autumn sowing and a long, cold winter might have given better results—or should those seeds have stayed longer in the freezing tray of my icebox? When my Julianas do germinate my troubles appear to be over. So far I have never lost a seedling; all have lived to bloom enchantingly and reach, though rather slowly, the ripe age for division.

Two groups have proved particularly delightful. The “Miniature Cobalt Blues,” a description to which I need only add that the petals have the sheen of satin and the tufts of bright green foliage increase rapidly, for these little plants are eager to live and happy to please. It was an adventure, last spring, when the new hybrids “Red Riddle” x “Purple” began to bloom. I had a sextette, much alike, but one was more perfect in every detail and bloomed ten days earlier. These newcomers are sumptuous small persons, the flowers deep velvet in texture, the darkest crimson color with black tones; the small golden eye like a tiny wedding ring encircles the golden anthers that hide the stigma in the
throat below. For all their pride they show a very mixed origin. The straight, dark stalks, at first, carry single flowers acaulis-wise, but towards the end of the season there comes a cluster or two; the young leaves have the kidney shape of P. Juliae. Later the apparently predominant Acaulus strain appears, but they never lose their modesty, staying well below the flowers and, as befits accessories of those dark beauties, they too are very dark. If nothing goes wrong, this spring I should see the flowers of "Dorothy" x "Red Riddle." All I know as yet is that it looks altogether like a miniature Polyanthus.*

Garden and Alpine Auriculas have been so obliging as to give me a certain feeling of confidence. I wonder why, for I have no rock garden; they just grow in a raised bed near some pine trees; have a mulch of gravel for the winter and extra shade from slat screens in the hottest part of summer. Theirs is the quickest seed to germinate, and the seedlings go right ahead. After three or four years the stems begin to look like gnarled tree trunks. This is not very pretty and, suspecting that they might rot away in winter, I pick up those old plants, trim off the green shoots, and start them again as cuttings. Losses are negligible, the increase is considerable, but I cannot have too many Auriculas.

There is a different and a sadder story. Twice I have had seeds from Show Auriculas. Many of the seedlings were very weak and died. These, had they lived to bloom, I feel sure would have had gray, green or white edges. The strong survivors reverted to garden plants, uncommonly nice ones, but so far I have raised only one Show Auricula. It is a wonderfully symmetrical black self with a thick white paste.

With gardeners one of the cardinal sins is accounted a virtue, I confess to insatiable greed. Perhaps I will never be able to provide the right conditions for the moisture-loving Asiatic Primulas or the exacting, true alpines. That cornfield would have to be completely transformed, and I am growing neither younger nor richer. Still I hope and plan, giving thanks to the Primrose Quarterly for nourishing remote dreams while keeping me happy working at the attainable.

*Dorothy x Red Riddle opened this morning, red, not so dark as Red Riddle x Purple but with the same velvety texture and almost embossed gold eye, a very brilliant flower with only one fault, pin-eyed. In habit and foliage it is altogether a Miniature Polyanthus. The stem is straight, strong and short, the flowers in a cluster. I love it dearly!
spring. A dehydrated cow manure which can be purchased at most places that sell peat moss will help light soils. It is dry and easily handled. If you have open woodland, it is an ideal place to grow Primroses, with probably very little conditioning necessary provided there is good drainage and enough humus in the soil so that it will not dry out quickly. Little fertilizing need be done. Cow manure or old horse manure will be appreciated by Polyanthus, Auricula and P. denticulata but the humus or leaf mold will satisfy the rest. Bone meal is used occasionally.

Always purchase your seed from a reliable grower. This will assure you of seed that has been gathered at the right time and has been cured and handled properly.

Unplanted seed should always be kept in their packets in a covered jar and placed in the bottom or cool part of the refrigerator. Most Primrose seed is harvested in July and August, and this freshly ripened seed will generally germinate within ten days without treatment of any kind. Seedlings from this summer-sown seed as a rule must be held over winter to set out the following spring and will bloom late if at all. The best time to plant is during the early spring months of February, March and April, and on into May in some of the northern states. The seedlings will then have all summer to build healthy root growth, and when set out in late summer or early fall will be just waiting to pop into bloom at the first hint that the worst part of the winter is over.

Almost anything can be used as a seed flat (so long as it will not deteriorate and fall apart when wet) that has holes in the bottom for drainage. Very good seeding flats can be made in a few moments out of orange crates. They need no more than three inches deep. Shallow pans or clay pots may be used also. Before using as a seed flat, it is a good idea to wash the container in water to which a little Lysol has been added.

Seeding mixtures vary greatly according to the grower’s preference and at one time were quite complicated formulas with each successful grower guarding his own recipe with his life. A good seeding medium should be porous, must: not dry out quickly, and be as free from weed seeds and bread-mold spores as possible. One-third sharp sand, one-third peat, and one-third screened garden soil mixed with leaf mold will make a very good seeding mixture and can be sterilized by steaming, baking in the oven, or with boiling water. The latter method may be the simplest. Just pour the boiling water over the mixture, making sure that it is thoroughly wet, and let drain for twenty-four hours before you sow. Vermiculite has been used and experimenting done with sawdust, but you will find that the mixture given above will prove to be satisfactory for Primroses.

Primrose seed is very small and is equipped with a very hard, tough shell, so better germination is obtained if the seed is treated to an artificial winter just before sowing. About ten days before planting, put a few drops of water into the envelope with the seeds and shake a little so that all the seeds are wet; then place the envelope in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator. Leave them there for one week, thaw out for twenty-four hours, and replace in the freezer for one day. When thawed out the second time, plant at once.

Fill the flat with the seeding mixture and tamp level with a piece of board; then re-fill and re-tamp so it is about one-half inch from the top of the flat. Sow the seed very thinly on the top, making sure that each seed is separated from the others. If sown too thick, some of the seedlings are bound to damp off despite all you can do. Press the seed in with the board and to prevent picking up any of the seed when this is done, a light covering of peat or sand may be sifted on with a flour sifter. The newly sown flat should now be watered and better germination will result if the hot water treatment is used. With a fine spray so as not to disturb the seeds, spray the flat with water that is hot but not hot enough to burn your hands, about 110 to 115 degrees. The hot water is used when you sow and once each day during the next two days, making three times in all. About the fifth day, sprinkle a good fungicide on the flat. This should be put on before the sprouts appear and if you use a liquid fungicide put it on with warmish water. But be certain your fungicide is tested and safe. The flats should need no other watering until the sprouts appear.

After planting and each hot-watering, put something over the flat to keep out light and to prevent drying out. A piece of glass with newspaper over it is the easiest, but anything that answers the purpose will serve. The flat should be placed out of the sun and rain and may be inside or outside but, if left inside, the temperature should rise no higher than 60 degrees. After the first week, check daily for germination. Sprouts should begin to show within two weeks, though some will take longer. When the sprouts appear, remove the covering and place the flat outside, out of the sun and rain and with a free circulation of air. All waterings from now on should be from the bottom. An old sink or anything that will take the flat and hold a few inches of water will do. Never use very cold water on very young seedlings and be sure of the free circulation of air. This last is important as the combination of cold water and dead air will cause damp-off faster than anything else.

When the seedlings have developed their true leaves, they will come on faster if they are “picked off” into another flat that should be at least an inch deeper than the seed flat, and contain a richer mixture. Well-aged material from your compost box is excellent for this. Or a mixture of screened garden soil, leaf mold or peat and dehydrated cow manure in equal parts will be found to be spongy, will drain well, and still will not dry out. Care should be used in picking off so as not to disturb ungerminated seed, which is another good reason for thin sowing.

If you plant 100 seeds and see only 50 seedlings you know there are ungerminated seeds in the flat and these should be undisturbed and kept damp until they germinate. Often these stubborn late comers will turn out to be plants with the best characteristics and color. Watch for the appearance of aphids which are the easiest of the pests to kill but are also the most persistent. Use a good Insecticide. Keep the transplants out of the hottest sun, water regularly and the seedlings should be ready to be placed in their permanent position in September.

From May to the end of August the strawberry weevil is laying its eggs and the Primrose plant is one of its favorite depositories. The grub that is hatched from these eggs eats the roots just below the crown and
you seldom know it until your plant is dead. So beginning in May, give your plants a treatment twice a month until the end of August with a good strawberry weevil killer. This regular spraying or dusting for weevil will also control aphids and other pests. Always keep a good bait around the plants to prevent foliage damage from slugs.

May your Primroses thrive.

How Primroses Are Grown in Chicago

In reply to yours of May 27th, I am glad to give you the following concerning our Primroses.

Type of soil: Black humus, medium light (common to the prairies of Illinois.) The Primrose bed is given a liberal quantity of spent horse manure secured from local mushroom growers. It is, of course, well rotted but doubt if much fertilizer value remains. It is valuable for making the soil loose and friable when mixed with the top six or eight inches. The soil is then enriched with a 4-12-4 organic base fertilizer put up in our local stockyards.

When planted: Eighteen blooming-size plants were planted in May; fifty seedling transplants in September. Plants were mulched when planted with the mushroom horse manure 1-1\(\frac{1}{2}\)" deep. Blooming size plants came through 100\%, seedlings grew 100\% but suffered about 10% winter loss. Both plantings required protection from the sun (inverted flower pots) for about ten days before their leaves would remain upright.

Sun and shade: The bed is completely shaded from about 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Watering: Rainfall last season was so ample and well dispersed that no watering was required. The mulch should obviate watering except under drought conditions.

Winter protection: A three to four-inch covering of oats straw was used. Winter set in early last season, November 7th and 8th, and this year our spring was a dragged-out affair. Some hot days the first part of April followed by overcoat weather well into May.

Some of the larger leaves on plants measure 9\(\frac{1}{2}\) and 10" long and up to 4" in extreme width.

Primroses are not uncommon in Chicago suburbs. Several years ago I saw a large bed of them in Lake Forest. The bed must have been one hundred feet long by twelve to fifteen feet wide and certainly a sight in full bloom.

—Charles F. Fabri, 6202 N. Neva Ave., Norwood Park, Chicago
Early in the history of the Society, standards of excellence were worked out for the judging of Polyanthas, Acaulis, Garden Auriculas and Julianas which have remained adequate enough throughout the ensuing years of Primrose development with the exception of the Juliana score. At that time there were the established varieties originated mainly by the English and the Dutch with one or two American originations, but no new developments in any quantity. As Primrose perspective broadened to admit an interest in these miniatures their materialization was a natural result, and as lovely as these new little gems are today we know we have glimpsed only a fraction of the beauty that is yet to be.

The old score based on 100 points allowed 30 for floriferousness, 25 for miniature foliage as near P. Juliae as possible, 25 for clearness of color and eye and 20 for cultural excellence. But what provision was there for the new colors, or the wonderful luminous, sheen, or the very small circular eye giving the effect of an unbroken, self-color? Also the new Julianas often excel in petal substance valuable not only in point of durability but in color quality and essential richness as well. A new Juliana with all these additional refinements could not, under this old score, receive a correct evaluation and as often as not remained unrecognized, overshadowed by large clumps of well grown old varieties. In the following score worked on by Lou Roberts, Florence Levy, Dr. M. C. Riddle and Dr. R. M. Bond it was endeavored to equalize these discrepancies so that a younger, perhaps less conspicuous plant, could compete more fairly and receive recognition for any superior quality it might possess.

**JULIANA SCORE ADOPTED JANUARY, 1952**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flower</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color—clear, pure, rich</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare color—new, unique, unusual</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance—substantial petal tissue</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye—clear, very small, circular or non-existent</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfection of Form—pleasing, open, symmetrical</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Texture—luminous, silky quality | 2
| Thrum—eye | 2

| 50 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Habit</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floriferousness</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniature foliage—creeping rootstock as near type of P. Juliae as possible</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural excellence</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 50 |

50 100

This score applies to both the stalked form which blooms on a comparatively short, knit-needle stalk and the cushion form which blooms mat-like on very short, individual stems like an Acaulis in miniature. It also applies to the form which is intermediate between the two combining the cushion form and the stalked. Neither the cushion form nor the stalked form take precedence over one another, but either of these forms are preferred to the intermediate.

Additionally there are three other miniature classes, two of which are larger and one smaller than the Julianas. Cinderellas are the cushion type, hybrid between Julianas and Acaulis, too large to qualify as Julianas. They are more bunched in plant habit like the Acaulis, have larger leaves than a Juliana should have, and usually larger flowers without the typical round eye of P. Juliae, and are best judged by the Acaulis score disregarding size. Miniature Polyanthas are intermediate between the stalked form of Julianas and the garden Polyanthas. Stalks are thicker than those of the Julianas, shorter than the Polyanthas; leaves are mid-way between the two; flowers are smaller than the Polyanthas and have more the texture and eye characteristics of the Juliana; the umbel is more floriferous and opens more simultaneously than the giant Polyanthas. Miniature Polyanthas are at present judged by the garden Polyanthus score without consideration of size. The third miniature group is unbelievably tiny and seems almost unreal as I remember my first and only meeting with them at one of the national Primrose Shows in Portland. Could they really be Primroses—these minute mounds of almost moss-like foliage encrusted with equally fairy-like blooms? Ode they were imagined? That they were overlooked is understandable but regrettable, and to avoid such a recurrence should they put in an appearance at some future show a place has been made for them under the classification of sub-Julianas for want of a better name.

The four miniature classes—Julianas, Cinderellas, Miniature Polyanthas and sub-Julianas—excited the imagination of those who attended the Judging Schools held in Portland and Seattle this February. A review of the Cinderellas' origin was made giving credit to Mrs. Ben Torpen for the name, but so far the Miniature Polyanthas and the sub-Julianas are plain, unglamourized descriptive titles. Shall they remain as they are or should more appealing names be selected? If so, Jeannette Wallick of the Seattle area offers Petit Polys for Miniature Polyanthas and Mrs. Howard Venn of suburban Portland, Juliettes for sub-Julianas. Ideas on the subject are being sent to Mrs. Dale Worthington, 6016 Jennings Ave., Portland 22, Oregon.

**Primrose Show Schedule, Pacific Northwest**

- **American Primrose Society**
  - Eleventh Annual Show  
    - Journal Bldg., Portland, Oregon. April 19-20
  - Fifth Annual Show  
    - Civic Center, Kirkland, Washington. April 18-19-20
  - Second Annual Exhibit  
    - Women's Study Club, Friday Harbor, Washington, April 15
  - Fifth Annual Show  
    - Community Hall, Grants Pass, Oregon. April 10-11
  - Third Annual Show  
    - Building Laborers' Hall, Tacoma, Washington. April 19-20
THE SHOW MUST GO ON
Lewis J. Cullen, Great Kills, Staten Island, N. Y.

Give me a toon, that is windy and sloppy!
Up with the cup, that is symbol of Spring!
Sing ho, for the Primulas, we writers of copy
Apparely grow for the heck of the thing!
With apologies to F.P.A.

Three American Primrose Society members in our far-flung metropolitan area have just co-operated in a display of thirty (30) Primulas at the Flower Show of the Gramercy Park Association, at the National Arts Club. Where is the N.A.C.? It is next door to the Friars Club. And where is that, you ask? It is directly facing the former home of Robert Ingersoll!

And now, you are possibly wondering, what all this has to do with the exhibit. Well, here is the story—our rather remarkable, Dr. Aleita Scott, of Bogota, brought over four of her pet Auriculas to add to the exhibit. These were marvelous plants, ten years old. They were in nine-inch pots and two (2) of them had nine stalks each, in bloom. Beside them, my Julianas and Jack-in-the-Green were completely dwarfed—after all, that was the effect we were striving for.

That charming personality, our Regional Vice President, Miss Alida Livingston, was to be present at the Show—we sort of converged on the Club.

And now, with the Show but five days away, I had nothing in bloom fit to pot. A year ago, for the same Show I had about fifty (50) plants to choose from, but today I had none. Lots of buds, but it had been an odd spring and the buds seemed inclined to remain buds. We notified Miss Livingston of the sad fact and then, the sun emerged, and it emerged! For two (2) days it beat down upon the rich and the poor alike—the thermometer hovered around 80. Now the buds really began to open, but by mid-afternoon the plants had wilted badly and the flower stalks laid over on the ground, like Moslems praying in the noon-day sun—and the Show was two (2) days away!

Of course, the four (4) grand Auriculas were looking as fit as a group of politicians just returned from a tour of Europe at government expense, so we started to pot twenty-six (26) plants.

Upon arriving at the Show were assigned a spot on top of the facade of a Greek Temple!

The Show officials were very worried about the unexpected heat wave and open windows for all the circulation available. Four (4) large French windows were opened directly behind our displays, so there was a ray of hope as we put the last pot in place and went to lunch. Yes, lunch! It is only in Brooklyn that they have dinner at noon.

The Show opened at 2 P.M., and our exhibit had taken Second Prize, finishing behind a grand display of 100 dwarf geraniums. In all fields of endeavor, golf, tennis, running, chess and shooting, it seems we are destined to a "runner-up," a perennial also-ran, but this is the first time I have been beaten by a geranium.

Now a new worry had beset us. The weather had changed and the wind came swooping in these open French windows. My flower-stalks swayed about like silk you-know-whats on a Monday morning wash line in March.

To add insult to injury, as we stood there discussing Primulas with Miss Livingston, a lady gave us a lecture on the Primula. "They are easy to grow. You just scatter seed upon the ground and in the Spring, up they come!" She told us that Primulas had been growing on her mother's grave in Brooklyn for many years. "But," she added, pointing to our display, "they are not like those—those are forced." Miss Livingston informed her that they were mine. The lady stared rather abashed as I told her that I dug them out of the ground yesterday.

The rain fell and the wind blew as we sadly made our way to the subway, glad to get away from New York and its terrifying inhabitants.

The fact that I and the Primulas, which had been rated "a very interesting collection" on the entry card, survived this Show speaks well for the hardiness of the Primula and the obstinacy of the author.

Although this is our first experience with a Show, we feel assured that life for an exhibitor is no bowl of cherries, pitted or unpitted.

When someday, the A.P.S. hands out medals for obstinacy rather than beauty, please note that I wear medals size 7¼.

A movement for a Primrose Show for members in the Metropolitan area in 1953 has been launched by the enthusiasm of Miss Alida Livingston, Regional Vice President for that section, and Lewis J. Cullen. Prizes have already been donated by Miss Livingston and Mr. Cullen and all members of the area have been contacted.

A Letter to Members

This is a plea for the Primrose! What? Why? I must have my say and then I hope those for and "again" will be heard. This is a plea to the growers and breeders of Primulas to STOP making "bigger and better" Primroses; to STOP making more and more with scrambled colors, for what can be lovelier than clean, clear yellows, reds, blues and pastel tones? To me, a Primula has lost immeasurably when the jewel-like clarity of tone is muddied by gradations of color. I concede that through hybridizing there have been great improvements in the past over some of the wild species, but there comes a point when the very size has spoiled the charm, the grace, the appropriate look in woodland or rock garden plantings. So many of our border plants have been spoiled, their innate beauty sacrificed to mere size and heaviness, so many of them have lost their sweetness of fragrance and appearance. Do let us stop before our precious Primroses follow in their...yes...vulgar footsteps. I claim there is a point beyond which one has forgotten the best...the open sesame...of beauty, grace, fragrance and charm. What do you think?

—Doretta Klaber, Quakertown, Pa.
JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL PRIMROSE SHOW

For the past three years Jefferson High School has held a Primrose Show in conjunction with their May Day. This year it was held on the 6th of May with charming Barbara Bogue as chairman. Sponsored by Klat-a-wa Club of Jefferson, the theme was “Garden in the Rain” which was beautifully carried out with a white cottage on a hill, over which was a rainbow with a pot of gold Polyanthus at its end. The foot of the hill was banked with Polyanthus in red hues, later planted on the school grounds.

Despite the lateness of the date there was a very fine showing and interest was high. Sweepstakes went to Barbara Earle, a copper bowl and membership in the A.P.S., for her Primula polyneura. Incidentally Barbara told me she bought it at our 1951 sale for 15c. Runner-up was Miss Esther Olsen, of faculty, who also received a copper bowl. Miss Olsen works hard to encourage the young people at Jefferson in the cultivation of Primroses. Many Primroses were given as prizes.

Judges from the American Primrose Society were: Mrs. Ben Smith, Mrs. Orville Agee, Mrs. A. G. Miller, Mrs. John Hannon and Mrs. Dale Worthington.

Jefferson is doing a fine piece of work with their shows combining the increasing interest of the students, work of the faculty and cooperation of A.P.S. members.

—Mrs. E. J. France Jr.

Report of the Friday Harbor, Washington, 2nd Annual Primrose Exhibit

To grow Primroses just for sheer joy and anticipation always arouses great interest in the average gardener, but to grow and bring them into perfection for display purposes is indeed a challenge—and that is what the Friday Harbor Primrose Club (comprised of twenty-four members) achieved in this year’s really beautiful exhibit.

It was on April 15th, the hours from 12:30 until 9:00 P.M., when the club staged their Second Annual Exhibit at the Women’s Study Club in Friday Harbor. It was well attended as shown by the number signing the Guest Book which was presided over by Mrs. Nellie Darnell.

This lively group of women headed by their general chairman, Mrs. Howard (Lillian) Carter, really did themselves proud for the display of the various types of Primroses was a sight to be long remembered.

The theme for the exhibit was “Lil’s Primroses by the Rail Fence.” Against a background of fir trees flanked by a rustic rail fence were mos- sy beds studded with well over one hundred and twenty-five different Primroses. It was a most artistic arrangement and broug h much praise from everyone who attended the Exhibit.

A silver tea was held in connection with the exhibit. Mrs. Arthur Gil- mer and her committee were well rewarded in their efforts as the tea tables attracted everyone for that refreshing cup.

Mrs. H. C. Price and her committee attractively arranged potted plants which everyone seemed eager to purchase from the sale table.

Our gratification in accomplishing a higher goal than originally planned will spur us to even greater success next year. Our climate, our soil and our attention seems to please the Primroses which return our enthusiasm here in the San Juan Islands.

—Marian Hannah
The English Garden theme, chosen by Mrs. T. W. Blakeney, chairman, is particularly adapted to the lobby of the Journal Building where the show will be set up April 18th, and to the opening date April 19th, which as many Primrose enthusiasts know, is Primrose Day in England. The date commemorates the death on April 19, 1881 of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister to Queen Victoria. In 1883 the Primrose League was formed in support of Disraeli’s principles of conservatism by those subscribing to his policy, one of the founders said to be the father of Winston Churchill, present Prime Minister to the queen. In England, on this day Primrose blossom in conservative lapels, in what proportion would be interesting to know.

Commercial exhibits will be planted in geometrical design covering approximately one thousand square feet constituting the lobby. Complimentary and competitive displays will be benched to the rear and left.

Trophies seem to be approaching the embarrassment-of-riches stage—silver plates and trays, engraved cups, glass flower containers, copper items, vases and trays of various metals. One showing thoughtful sentiment is the bird bath given by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Marshall in memoriam to Mr. Marshall’s aunt and one of the Society’s much loved charter members, Arlie Seaman.

Assisting General Show Chairman, Mrs. Blakeney, are: Mr. Carl Maskey, Assistant Show Chairman; Mrs. Earl A. Marshall, Finance; Mrs. John P. Hannon, Publicity; Dr. Robert Wise, Properties; Carl Maskey and Allen Davis, Staging; Mrs. L. G. Miller, Mrs. A. Helen Jones, Mrs. Boyd Myers, Mrs. C. Y. Griffin, Mrs. Willard Kelley, Entries; Florence Levy, Classification; Mrs. E. J. France Jr., Mrs. Joyce B. Neillan, Mrs. Ralph W. Hanna, Placing; Mrs. Orval Agee, Receiving Exhibits; Dr. Matthew C. Riddle, Judging; Mrs. Robert O. Boyd, Clerks; Mrs. E. H. Bowes, Hostesses; Lew Levy and Mrs. Howard Venn, Commercial; Mrs. Otto J. Zach, Trophies; Mrs. Orval Agee and Mrs. Ben Smith, Educational Exhibits; Mr. Robert Ewell, Window Displays; Mrs. C. Y. Griffin, Mrs. M. Paulson, Mrs. Boyd Myers, Membership; Mrs. H. A. Hartshorn, Garden Clubs; Mr. Robert Ewell, Mrs. Carroll Higgins, Registration; Mrs. Ben Torpen, off-the-town guests; Mrs. J. H. Holmes, Ribbons.

Mrs. Edward Paulson, Mrs. A. G. Salzman and Mrs. Wm. Hallam will set up the show.

The show will be officially opened by Mrs. O. J. Zach, President of the Society, and Mr. Dean Collins, Editor of Garden Magazine, The Journal, and Honorary Life Member of the Society, at 10 A.M. Saturday, April 19th, continuing through Sunday until 8 P.M. There will be no admission charge.

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The Double Greene Feathered Conspire reproduced from Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris by John Parkinson, Apothecary of London, 1629. "... flowers are many standing together at the tops of the stalks, but farre differing from all these kinds, for every flower standing upon his owne stalk is composed of many very small and narrow leaves, without any huske to containe them, but spreading open like a little rose, of a pale yeallowish green colour, and without any scat at all, abiding in flower, especially if it stand in a shadowie place out of the sunne, about two months, almost in as perfect beauty as in the first week."
Treasurer's Report For 1951

Balance, January 1st, 1951 .......................... $ 504.55

RECEIPTS:

Memberships and subscriptions .................. 1,288.25
Receipts of sales for show ....................... 196.99
Show expenses ...................................... 20.96
From sale of Corsar Books ....................... 5.00
Total Credits ...................................... $1,818.76

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing of Quarterly ............................ $1,329.09
Less advertising .................................. $83.00
and Quarterly sales ............................... 244.50

Balance for Quarterly ........................... $1,001.59
Office Expenses .................................. 211.01
Secretary Expenses ............................... 160.00
Advertising ....................................... 38.67
Incidentals ....................................... 55.35
Balance, Kodachromes and pictures .............. 1.15

Total disbursements .............................. $1,467.77

Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1951 ..................... 350.99
In savings account ................................ 500.00

Since memberships begin to come in in December, it was decided to close the books December 1st, instead of the first of the calendar year. Therefore this statement is for eleven months only.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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1211 S. Verde St., Tacoa 6
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803 Cherry St., S.E., Grand Rapids
5770 Graydon, Detroit 24

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Distribution of the Valid Species of Primula, Howard W. Lynn

Eleventh Annual Primrose Show April 19-20

From Mexico to Montana, Mrs. Clare Regan

Growing and Exhibiting Auriculas in My Youthful Days

Growing Auriculas in Montana, Clare W. Regan

Growing Auriculas in British Columbia's Dry Belt

How Primroses Are Grown in Chicago, Charles F. Fabri

Indoor Culture of Primroses, Mrs. Anna Johnson

Jefferson High School Primrose Show, Mrs. E. J. France, Jr.

Let's Plant Some Primrose Seed, Charles E. Gilman

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Raising Auriculas in Pots, Mrs. John L. Karnopp

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Primrose Exhibit, Marion Hannah

Rhododendrons and Primroses as Companion Plants

Some Ways of Conserving Natural Moisture, Alice R. Foster

Sterilization of Small Amounts of Soil, Laura M. Sikes

The Show Must Go On, Lewis J. Cullen

Year Book

Recommended Reading Volumes 1 through 4

Primula Juliae and Hybrid Julianas Forms (Lou Roberts), Vol. 2, No. 3

The Chemistry of the Furina Produced by Certain Primulas (Walter C. Blasdale) Vol. 2, No. 4

Understanding the Asatice (Florence Levy) Vol. 3, No. 1

Hybridizing for Double Primroses (Donald Neil O'Connell) Vol. 3, No. 2

Standards of Excellence for Garden Polyanthus, Garden Auriculas, Acaulis and Julianas Hybrids Vol. 3, No. 3

Auriculas in the East (Dr. C. R. Worth) Vol. 3, No. 4

An Early Book on the Auricula (Walter C. Blasdale) Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2

And the Part It Plays in Plant Survival (A. H. MacAndrews) Vol. 4, No. 1

The Origin of the Alpine Auricula (Walter C. Blasdale) Vol. 4, No. 3

The Auricula in England (R. H. Briggs) Vol. 4, No. 3

Old World Primroses (Captin C. Hawkes) Vol. 4, No. 4

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