

THE GARDEN CLUB OF B. C.

Quarterly of the American
Primrose

Society *The Canadian Primula
& Alpine Society*

Volume XV

WINTER, 1957

Number 1



"DENNA DOUBLES"

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THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: Revived interest in doubles, starting some years ago and rising in pitch with Peter Klein's Acaulis doubles, received further impetus with the introduction of Denna Snuffer's double Auriculas. Though the Green-edged Show is the unquestioned aristocrat, these "Denna" doubles have added a warm friendliness with their double proclivities that capture your heart. Pictures of these beautiful doubles, both on the cover and on page 4, courtesy of Francis W. Jaques, Bay City, Oregon.

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

*The Canadian Primula
& Alpina Society*



Cyrus Happy III in his garden

The President's Message

MY DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS:

What a fortunate time of year this is for me to be able to visit with all of you on the subject of gardening. The new seed catalogs are arriving and our enthusiasms are mounting with each turn of the page.

The new crop of novelties brings to mind one of our own problems. We must encourage the hybridizing of our own favorites, the Primulas, particularly among the young people. When you remember that Mr. Russell worked for over seventy years in developing his magnificent Lupins, think what could be done with the many Primulas. Even the Auricula, which has been subject to intensive hybridizing for over three hundred fifty years shows there is still plenty of room for improvement.

Always be on the alert to interest your friends, neighbors, and especially the children, in the fascinating pur-

suit of the improvement of plants. In the long run, our progress in this world, as a plant society, will be judged by our success in maintaining the best of the old and fostering steady development of the new. I wish to congratulate all those who have worked so hard in the past fifteen years of the Society's existence on a job well done, and look forward to a future of continued progress.

Our new Editor, Mr. Gilman, has done a fine job on his first issue, and I hope at least a few of the members will volunteer a little extra financial support so that he will not be limited by the number of pages he may publish. Incidentally, all gifts to the Society are deductible from your taxable income, and I am sure that many of you will feel that maintaining a first rate horticultural publication is a worthwhile cause.

Best wishes to you all,

—CY HAPPY

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THE DENNA SNUFFER STORY

Auricula Doubles That Set Seed

By FLORENCE LEVY

BECAUSE DENNA SNUFFER'S achievement is so astounding and her estimate of it so humble, the only way to relate it is a simple, unembellished account beginning with that day last October when her work was first brought to our attention. Mrs. Snuffer had asked her husband, Bryan, to drive the hundred miles from Bay City, on the Oregon Coast, to Gresham, with forty or fifty different double Auricula blooms to see if she "had anything worth while," and to ask if anyone else was developing double Auriculas as she "thought it would be nice to correspond with them." However, one thing bothered her. She knew double flowers usually lost their power to reproduce by seed, since stigma, style, ovary, and practically all of the pollen-bearing anthers disappear when doubling occurs. And her double Auriculas set seed, having managed somehow to hold on to their seed-bearing parts. "The pods," she writes, "are larger than those our single Auriculas produce, some of them so packed with seed they burst and have to be handled very carefully."

When Mr. Snuffer brought in the two coffee tins filled with moist peat and solidly studded with the double Auriculas Mrs. Snuffer was so modestly in doubt about, we were stunned. We had read of Hogg and Emmer-ton's Auriculas produced in the early 19th century which have been, more or less, the criterion for doubles these past hundred and fifty years. But here were blooms in such profusion of color and perfection of form we knew we were looking at flowers brought into existence for the first time. Here were blue, apricot, crimson, dark maroon, pink, scarlet, lavender, white, purple, and leather, plus shades and tints ranging up and down this color scale. Here, also, were those which could be described only as having a luminous edge to the petals, and others that were perfectly flat, perfectly shaded, dark-to-light double Alpine Auriculas.

There were two types of bloom which might be called the formal and the informal. The formal ones were flatly layered like camellias of which Mrs. Snuffer says, "Some of them bloom with one layer of petals, and

then add another layer making a layered double. Some of them keep adding layers of petals until they have five and six complete layers with an eye." The informal form is full, often with waved petals, and bring to mind the Hybrid Perpetual roses of the 19th century. It must be this type about which Mrs. Snuffer continues her description. "Then there are some which start opening from the center and produce a round blossom of petals not in layers and without an eye."

With all this it is only natural to suspect some flaw, some hidden defect that would bring disappointment such as weak plants needing "two men and a boy to hold them" as one English old-timer said of certain named varieties. Or that they would not be hardy, or that the seed would not throw a fair percentage of double flowers. But we found the plants growing outdoors, squatting about like fat hens with beautiful blooms in November. None were lost in the November, 1955, freeze when many primroses and other plants were AWOL from coastal, as well as other, gardens.

When she was asked about the percentage of doubles the seed produced, Mrs. Snuffer's answer was typically deprecating and typically to the point. "We will not know until spring just what percentage of double plants we can expect from our double crosses. In one of our experimental beds we have one hundred plants out of which five of them were single and ninety-five were double, some two layers of petals, some five and six."

Back of Mrs. Snuffer's accomplishment is a touching story. It is the story of a mother's struggle back to life after the loss of her two sons, and only children, in the last war. In the course of Mr. Snuffer's casting about for a consuming hobby for his wife were numerous fishing trips and on one of these he noticed a definite interest in flowers. As it turned out, at that particular time in April a flower show was reviewed in the Portland

papers and it just happened to be a primrose show. So it was to the primrose show he brought her and there she took root before a display of green Auriculas, compliments of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry. Determined to have seeds of her own to try for green Show Auriculas, Douglas, Thompson & Morgan, and Sutton's were written to for all kinds of Auricula seed. Every type—Show, Alpine, and Garden—were ordered. In this quest for seed, an Irish girl who wanted a swim suit came into the picture. When Mr. Snuffer heard some "fine primrose seed" was on the way, he dropped everything to get the finest swim suit money could buy and mailed it. When the seed arrived, it was ordinary Acaulis in which the Emerald Isle abounds.

In the first year of bloom one double Auricula appeared. That was four years ago, five this coming spring. A natural affinity for Auriculas suggested to Mrs. Snuffer that here was something to perpetuate. Despite plant poisoning, brought on by blackberry picking, and the need to wear heavy gloves while working, she began hand-pollinating and now has approximately one thousand doubles.

It was no surprise to have Mr. Snuffer tell us his wife is a real Auricula lover with her nose in the plants twelve hours a day. Nor is it surprising to know that her mail box has seldom been empty these past few months even with only a handful of people aware of her accomplishment. No one can see these double Auriculas of such diversified beauty and easy ways without realizing that Denna Snuffer has made horticultural history, and that her plants will populate gardens for generations to come. On her, the honors accruing as originator will sit lightly for, like all who contribute advances in any field, her love is for the work and not for the acclaim.

Editor's note: Mrs. Snuffer advises that there will be neither plants nor seeds available before August.



OLD IRISH DOUBLE AURICULAS

A Member from Ireland Talks About Her Doubles

By MISS W. F. WYNNE

Double auriculas have almost vanished out of the world through the indifference of gardeners and the vagaries of fashion. Now their star seems to be in the ascendant once more. Their story goes back through the centuries. What is perhaps the first mention of a double auricula, the yellow one, occurs in Rea's "Flora", dated 1665.

In a catalogue of Dr. MacWatt's "Auriculas in Scotland", dated 1911, he enumerates the following doubles—Green, Yellow, Blue, Lavender, Dark Crimson, and Grey. Of these I have had Yellow, Green, and Crimson. The Dark Crimson is probably one now called The Cardinal, supposed to have come from Cardinal Richelieu's garden. The old Double Green is a rather washy Yellow-green, brownish in the center, a good double, and of rather intriguing appearance. The Yellow is charming, but at present it is no longer with me. There is also the old Double Brown, and a purple called The Bishop.

Besides these, there is the very rare old striped red and white Auricula, Mrs. Dargan, thought to be the last survivor of a once greatly admired section of striped auriculas. When properly grown, the blossom is double and the leaves so powdered as to give a silvery white effect. Regrettably, it often blossoms single or with only one or two double flowers in the truss.

I have raised various doubles. If you have a couple to start with it does not seem very difficult. I think the important thing is to ascertain that the pistil of one plant is at the right stage of stickiness, and the pollen of the other ripe and powdery. I generally use a magnifier.

My doubles include Apricot, Tawny, Red-Brown, and Crimson. I



*Cyrus Happy's Double Auricula
Grown from Miss Wynne's Seed*

had at one time a double White and a lovely Brick-Red, but they, alas, have departed. The latest variety is from seed of the old Double Green (hence its name, Glaslanna, Green-Child), it is a small neat robust plant, very floriferous and very double. The color is hard to describe, a mixture of yellow-green, brown, and lilac.

It is one of the gardener's great thrills, after months of care and watching, to see the first blossom opening on a plant from crossed seed. The result may be worthless, but he can always hope for the superlative, and if something really good ever develops, it is a very satisfying achievement.

(Editor's Note: For a look into Miss Wynne's garden, read pages 104-105 of the Year Book, 1951-52, of the National Auricula Society, Northern Section.)

AURICULA GROWERS! LISTEN!

A Few Comments from England on Auricula Growing in America

By DAN BAMFORD

AT THE END of last year, several American members wrote to tell me of the disaster to their Auriculas during the November freeze. Some said their collections were wiped out, others almost so. No doubt many members will have reached a decision on future steps to avoid a recurrence, and I am prompted to add a few suggestions, hoping they will be of assistance.

I shall deal only with the Show Auricula, because it is a little more temperamental than the Alpine Auricula. In many places the latter can be grown in the open, all the year round. The first thing to keep in mind is that the Auricula is the evolution of a Primula of the European Alps and therefore an Alpine. We can conclude that it likes a cool, moist position in summer and, as it will have its blanket of snow in winter, it calls for drier conditions at that time. For that reason, and that alone, it is better with the protection of a cold greenhouse or frame in winter. But apart from cultivation, there is another reason for glass protection when the foliage and flower buds are unfolding in spring. All Show Auriculas have a mealy deposit on some part of the flower and in many cases the foliage is densely coated. One drop of water on flower or foliage would splash the meal and render the plant unfit for exhibition.

In over sixty years of gardening experience, which has embraced most subjects from cabbages to orchids, I have reached the conclusion after careful observation, that *growing and climatic* conditions are more important than compost. I am not suggesting that compost and fertilizers play no part in plant cultivation. An epiphyte

orchid, for instance, would be hopeless in a compost suitable for the Auricula, and vice versa. In my opinion, we make too much fuss and bother about composts and pay far too little attention and study to growing conditions. To complete the sacrilege, I will say I never measure the ingredients in any compost. I judge from feel and appearance. True enough, I alter the mixture when I find it is not to the liking of the plant, perhaps more grit is needed, perhaps less, perhaps a heavier loam or perhaps a lighter one, perhaps more leaf mould, perhaps less, and so on. We soon find out if we watch the plant—it will tell us in its own language. Watering also plays a part, but this comes more in the category of growing conditions.

We are growing the Auricula under different climatic conditions than in its Alpine pastures, and we are at sea level. I have found that it is easier to grow many plants from the tropical zone than many Primulas from the uplifts of Tibet, and some of these are in fact impossible. The first question is, "Is the greenhouse the right place for the Auricula in summer?" My answer is, "Generally no." In my opinion the correct place in summer is a cool, moist spot in the open, with a little shade, and where the air can circulate freely all around it, both above and below the foliage. Under such conditions the growth will be firm and sturdy—almost tough—and the flowers in spring will have solidity, which gives this flower a refined and noble appearance. Too often do we see both foliage and flower with paper-like texture, which is not an ideal plant or flower. As I have never had

the pleasure of visiting America, I am not acquainted with the climate, but I know it is diverse. If the climate in one vicinity is cool and moist in summer, the Auricula can be placed outside without any special preparation. Choose a spot which is semi-shaded; stand the plants under garden lights (*i.e.*, *greenhouse sash*) elevated about three feet above the plants. These lights or frames can be supported on a wood framework which slopes a little to allow the rain water to run away freely without dripping between the laps of glass. These lights will prevent the pots becoming saturated with water during heavy rainfall. The sides and ends of the wood framework will, of course, be quite open all the way round and ensure air and light, reaching the plants at all times. The object of all this is to produce hard, sturdy growth through the whole growing period. I suggest plunging the pots up to the rims in small pebbles, gravel, or cinders, providing there is no dust among the cinders and it will be better to elevate the gravel about six inches above ground level, to allow the water to drain away freely. Really it is a slightly elevated bed. This will keep the roots cool and render watering less frequent. When there is no heavy rainfall, it will be an advantage if the lights can be removed from the framework to give the plants full benefit of air and light. If sufficient space is allowed between the rows of pots, the gravel can be watered during hot weather with the rose on the watering can. This will keep the atmosphere around the plants humid, which is to the liking of the plants, but water should not be splashed over the plants and pots.

There they can remain until danger of frost arrives, then they can be transferred to the cold greenhouse. There they must have full ventilation. It is bad to allow the atmosphere to become close and stuffy, but avoid dry cutting winds flowing over the plants, as these will sap their vitality. If such winds prevail, ventilate on the lee-

ward side of the house, but if the atmosphere is genial, let them have ventilation through the winter. If, on the other hand, the climate is hot and dry in summer in your vicinity, then I suggest you adopt the same procedure as already outlined, let them have shade during the hottest part of the day, choose the coolest spot in the garden, but not one where the air is stagnant. Keep the gravel around the pots moist by watering. The aim must be to reduce the arid conditions and maintain a moist, buoyant atmosphere. The real gardener can smell whether the atmosphere is right for any plant. When severe frost threatens, transfer the plants to the cold greenhouse and treat as before described.

The worst conditions are, no doubt, where it is hot or cold and where persistent East winds prevail. These tend to dry the sap out of the plant, and even frequent watering does not produce the conditions the plant appreciates. Here it will perhaps be better to keep the plants under glass throughout the season. Ventilate carefully to avoid the dry East wind blowing over the plants, damp the floor of the house, and syringe between the pots on the bench to produce a moist buoyant atmosphere. Carefully attend to shading as sun heat and East winds combined can be devastating. Yet, even in such a climate it is probable, with a careful selection of site, some success can be achieved, with about three months in the open in summer. It is at least worth a trial with two or three surplus plants—the gardening world is full of surprises.

What I have written covers practically all conditions from hot and dry, temperate, to very cold. Readers will appreciate that what I am stressing is "*Produce firm sturdy growth in summer so that the plants will withstand cold wintry weather better.*" Again I am not writing this for members who are skilled in the art of culture of this particular plant; it is intended for beginners who are just taking up the culture of Show Auricula. It is really

anything but funny for beginners to pay high prices for plants and then watch them vanish.

I would like to say a few words on shading. I do not favour a permanent wash shading, it certainly breaks down the sun's rays, but the interior of the house becomes too hot. The shading I used on all my houses was of the lath roller type, made of strips of wood one inch wide, one-quarter inch thick, with one-half inch gap between each lath. They are quite easy to make and I made all my own. The blinds were elevated about six inches above the glass on a simple framework and this air gap between glass and blinds kept the house beautifully cool in summer. The advantage of this type of shading is that it is easily rolled up during dull periods when shading is not required and it is very useful during periods of hard frost in winter. *If they are lowered during such periods, it is amazing how a rapid fall in temperature in the house can be checked.*

Another suggestion I would make: Do not grow the plants in a very rich compost. Use one made up of about four parts fibrous loam of medium texture—for preference slightly sandy—one part leaf mould, one part sharp sand. Add a sprinkling of crushed charcoal about the size of a split pea, which will tend to keep the compost sweet and open. If you can procure a little dried cow manure three or four years old which can be rubbed fine, you can add a little to the compost with advantage. This should carry the plants through to the next potting season. In spring when the flower stems begin to form, it is no detriment to water two or three times with weak liquid cow manure, about the colour of tea; it will assist the production of stiff flower stems and firm, solid flowers. Let me stress again, avoid the excessive use of fertilizers. Plants the size of cabbages with leaves like tissue paper are not ideal; they will not stand up to hard, severe weather, or sudden drops in temperature in winter.

I suggest that growers try a few plants under the open air treatment in summer. Don't subject all your plants to this treatment until you have thoroughly proved it; then you can act accordingly. I tried it years ago and proved the results. But conditions in Lancashire are not American conditions and that is why I advocate caution. You cannot solve the problem of plant culture as you can a mathematical equation. Like we humans, plants have their own likes and dislikes and are often, as we are, "queer fish". Way back in my youth in Middleton, I saw many green-edged Auriculas and selfs grown in the open all the year round. True, the meal was often splashed by rain, but the owners had nowhere else to grow them. Sir Rowland Biffen, in his book on the Auricula, tells us that he grew some green-edged seedlings, in the open, all the year round, and they were as good at the end of twenty years as when he first planted them. One of the leading Lancashire growers and an eminent judge in his day wrote as follows almost one hundred years ago:

"In the early cultivation of the Auricula, there were no glass lights, as few could afford to pay the price then (about one shilling per foot), but in winter the pots were placed on their sides at the bottom of the frame, so that no water could lodge upon the plant. Mr. Wrigley of Langley Hall, who was a grower in 1767, had his frame made like a green house, but open at the north side. At a later period doors were in use for winter covering, they were so called on account of being made similar to the door of a house but not so long, and these were, a few years ago, superseded by glass."

Nobody can say that those plants were nursed and fussed. With no scientific knowledge and with no educa-

Continued on page Twenty-four



AURICULA "FLORENCE LEVY"

from painting by Alan Coupe

1957 National Primrose Show Tacoma—April 27 and 28

The Tacoma Primrose Society will stage the 1957 National Show in Tacoma on April 27th and 28th, Saturday and Sunday. Wesley Bottoms is show chairman and his co-chairman is Harold Blake. The theme and place

will be announced in the Spring issue of the Quarterly.

Thanks and appreciation of the A.P.S. to the Eastside Garden Club for their cooperation in changing the dates of the Kirkland show to the week earlier.

National Auricula Show In Seattle May 5

By H. H. DICKSON, *Publicity Chairman*

Announcement of the date and place of a National Auricula Show marks another step forward in the rapid progress of the American Primrose Society and the increasing popularity of primroses in America.

The Washington State Primrose Society in Seattle will sponsor the First National Auricula Show of the American Primrose Society on Sunday, May 5, in the auditorium of the Malmo Nurseries Garden Store at 4700 25th Northeast, in Seattle.

This will be the official auricula show from which the judges will select the winner of the Bamford Trophy. The schedule will include all types of auricula including species, garden, alpine, show, and double auriculas, and also the show type, gold laced polyanthus.

Entries will be accepted from any part of the United States and Canada. Address mailed entries to The National Auricula Show in care of the Show Chairman whose address is below. All mail entries will be handled with special care, watered, and groomed, to the best advantage for the

show, then after the show returned promptly, with transportation charges collect, in the manner specified by the exhibitor.

For further information and space reservations for commercial exhibits, get in touch with Mr. Ralph Balcom, show chairman, at 6216 - 25th N.E., Seattle 15, Washington.

The show is the best place to keep up with current developments, to renew old acquaintances, and make new ones.

Proposed Amendment To The Constitution

(For references to Constitution, turn to page 78 of the 1955 Year Book.) To add to Article III, Section II of the By-Laws, as amended (page 144, Fall Quarterly, 1956): Active membership dues may be had for three years by payment of \$10.00 in advance.

ABOUT GROWING PLANTS FROM SEEDS

From a Grower in Pennsylvania

By DORETTA KLABER

EACH experienced gardener has his or her own pet way of growing plants from seeds, and the answer is that the one that works for you is the right way. "New" gardeners may, however, be scared off from the fun of growing their own by the experts' talk of sterilization of the soil, the use of chemicals or refrigerator freezing, etc. I therefore offer my easy methods with the word of caution that I find them changing a little each year. My latest way is as follows.

Seeds are ordered from tried and true growers just as soon as the new seed lists arrive and, when received, from midsummer on, the seeds are put in preserve jars with the rubber ring in place, closed tightly, and put on a lower shelf in the refrigerator. There they stay until the first warmish,

unwindy days in January or February. This year (1956), on January 22 all those on hand had been planted. Other seeds still to come had to be planted in February.

All are grown outside in homemade coldframes which are far from tight—an advantage as they never need "airing". The frames were prepared in the fall; raked over, and filled to within an inch of the top with my rockgarden mixture, which consists of:

- 1 part—good loam (a wheelbarrow for measuring)
- 1 part—coarse sand or grit
- 1 part—stone chips (one-quarter to one-half inch, any kind)
- ½ part—peatmoss which has been open to the weather and is not dry



(as printed in American Rock Garden Society Bulletin)
PATH AT CLOUD HILL NURSERY

½ pail of very well rotted manure (spent mushroom soil if available)

The same soil is then sifted over the surface to a depth of about one-half inch, and this, in turn, is just hidden from view by a layer of vermiculite. I find the latter keeps the seeds moist and seems to discourage weeds and bugs to a certain extent. Cello-glass covers are then placed over the frames, weighted down with stones.

Originally the frames had drainage material at the bottom, mostly stones, before being filled with the mixture, but I leave the old soil in, for every now and then some long dormant seeds will sprout. The frames are covered to keep animals out and to prevent the soil from heaving with the changes of weather.

The seeds are in rows, just sprinkled on the surface, labeled, barely covered with sand and then watered with warm-to-the-hand water from a fine rose on a watering can. (The hose lines are not working at this season. Later on, all watering is done with a fine spray from the hose.) Newspaper two layers thick is placed over them and the cello-glass covers are replaced. If there is snow on the ground, the watering is omitted, the frame filled with snow, and covered. When the snow melts, the seeds will then get their dose of warm water and be covered with newspapers. When more snow comes, it will be heaped into the frames. When the weather turns warm, the glass covers are replaced by slat covers or one of the new shade cloths on frames.

At this season the ants and other bugs and slugs are not around and the seeds will probably sprout before they are molested, but as soon as there are any signs of animal life, slugshot and antpowder will be dusted around the outside of all the frames.

From then on, the frames are watched, watered as needed, for they

should be kept moist. At the first sign of sprouting, the row is uncovered (one advantage of using newspaper that can be torn and left on other rows). At any sign of moss or bugs under the paper, it is all removed. Some seeds sprout most readily in the dark, some in the light, but in either case they usually come up. The seedlings as they come up get another light coating of sand to anchor them and prevent legginess. As soon as they are large enough to handle, and they are very small indeed, the seedlings are transplanted into nursery beds where they are cultivated and watered as needed, and left until large enough to take their places in the garden.

I have tried seeds of all the available primrose sections, and have come to the conclusion that here in Eastern Pennsylvania there are some that cannot stand our hot summers. Those sections that will grow here—where they have no alpine house, no peat wall, no special petting—are:

Sections: Auricula—auriculas and pubescens hybrids, slow to develop, then O.K. No luck with other members of the section, yet, some seedlings are alive.

Candelabra—Most.

Capitatae—Mooreana bloomed, but may prove biennial.

Cortusoides—All.

Denticulata—

Farinosae—

Nivales—Some bloomed but not perennial here.

Sikkimensis—Biennial here.

Vernales—All.

Sections: Parryi, Petiolaris, Rotundifolia, Amethystina, Soldanelloideae have all come up from seed using the above simple methods; many lived over the winter but all succumbed to the summer heat.

Pete Klein Says...

January, 1957

SEED GATHERED WHEN RIPE should be cured and dried for a week or two, cleaned and stored in a glass jar with lid and placed in lower part of refrigerator until ready to plant. Seed of Primroses, Alpine, and many of the perennials after only two months will germinate very unevenly. This is because the longer they remain before planting, the shell or hull of these seed becomes harder and tougher as it ages. This is Nature's own way of preserving the seed germ inside the shell. When we plant these seeds in the spring, they are already six to eight months old and, if planted without any artificial or natural freezing and thawing, there will be several germinations from two weeks up to a year, sometimes longer with some seed. To remedy this, we must either use artificial or natural freeze several times to stratify them.

Those who have a green house or cold frame and want to start seed of Primroses and other perennials before the spring warm weather begins, should start natural or artificial freezing and stratifying of seed in January, February, and March, for a quicker and more even germination.

Seed Mixture

Prepare soil for seed pans, a good mixture of one-half old compost and garden soil and one-half peat moss and leaf mold. Add one-half gallon of number three charcoal to the bushel of mixture and blend well. You will now have a fluffy and porous seed mixture. Do not use fertilizer in the seed mixture. Run this mixture through a quarter inch mesh. This soil mixture should be sterilized in a 180 degree oven for an hour; soil must be moist but not soggy wet. This moisture will form steam in the hot oven, killing all fungi and mold. Never leave in the oven to bake dry. The soil will be

steaming hot when you take it out of the oven.

Whatever seed pan is used, place broken pot or coarse gravel in bottom of pan for good drainage. Fill seed pan with sterilized soil until one-half inch below rim; tamp seed pan a few times on bench to settle; level top of soil; sprinkle over this number three charcoal and press into soil. Sift over the sterilized soil a one-eighth layer of the mixture using a finer screen. Your seed pan is now ready to plant. Plant seed thinly; press lightly into the soil; cover seed with one-eighth inch layer of vermiculite (teralite, horticultural grade), but first sift out all dust and small parts of vermiculite, using only the cleaned part.

Now we come to the natural freezing and stratifying process. Water your planted seed pan with a fine bulb spray, using warm water. You will notice the vermiculite covering is firm and will not splash or roll even in heavy rains; leave seed pan indoors for a day, again water with warm water; now set seed pans outdoors to freeze and thaw. Cover seed pans with wire mesh to protect from birds and mice.

Seed should freeze and thaw at least six or eight times, even more. If using clay flower pots, do not let freeze solid or the pots will crack. Freeze only the top surface where seeds need to freeze; keep seed pans wet as they freeze dry. It is the moisture and freezing that cracks the shell so that moisture can get inside. After the desired time, put pans in the greenhouse. Water them each morning with warm water. They will start to germinate when warm weather begins.

Other Methods

Seeds of Primroses, Alpines, and other perennials planted in April and May are treated the artificial way by putting a few drops of water in the seed package with the seed. Let lay on table twelve hours. Seed will absorb some moisture. Then place in freeze-

Continued on page Twenty-four

Site of the 1957 National Asiatic Primrose Show

Historical and Descriptive Notes by the Horticulturist of the Western State Hospital, Fort Steilacoom, Washington

By LEONARD R. RIGBY

IN 1853 THE FIRST settlement of white people who established a colony on the shores of Puget Sound, in the then Territory of Washington, received a Charter for the Town of Steilacoom. For several years prior to receiving the Charter, the colony had been located in this area. Due to the numerous forays and attacks by Indians, the settlers appealed to Congress for protection. In response to the appeal, a small detachment of United States troops was sent from Oregon in August, 1920, and established Fort Steilacoom, one mile outside the settlement. In 1868 the Fort was abandoned, and in 1870 Washington Territory purchased the Fort buildings.

In August, 1871, Territorial Hospital for the Insane had its beginning with a nucleus of sixteen patients. In 1874 an Act of Congress approved the donation of the military reservation to the Territory for an asylum which is now Western State Hospital. This hospital now has a population of over 3000 patients. It is the largest of Washington State's three mental hospitals and comprises 860 acres of which approximately 260 acres are buildings and campus. The campus consists of acres of lawns, flower beds, shrub nurseries, cutting gardens and recreation areas.

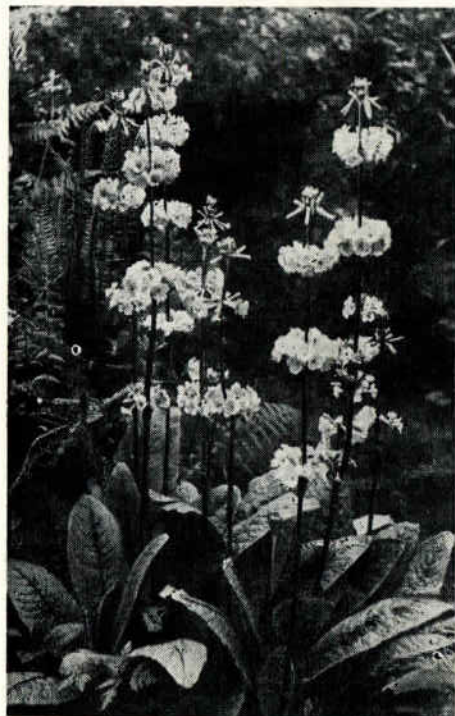
To maintain these extensive grounds and grow and supply over four hundred pot plants a month for the wards and also grow sixty thousand or more plants each year, and to plant the flower beds and cutting gardens, are four 22 ft. x 199 ft. green houses. To operate these greenhouses and the grounds, there is a staff of horticulturist and eight assistants. Three of these are women who supervise the

occupational activities of approximately twenty-five women patients who do the greenhouse work of watering, feeding plants, potting, pricking out seedlings, and planting and weeding the flower beds. One male employee supervises a group of eight male patients who work in the natural canyon described later in this article. One male employee supervises another small group of male patients in grounds trimming and clean-up work. Another group of about eight male patients have full ground parole and work on the grounds at spading, nursery work, trimming shrubs and hedges, general gardening, watering, etc. In this manner, occupational therapy is provided for some fifty patients on the grounds and in the greenhouses among the beauties of nature.

One of the principal features of the grounds is a natural canyon in which originates a spring from which flows a stream of water between 2500 and 3000 gallons per minute. This makes a beautiful creek which cascades down a series of man-made waterfalls, forming several pools varying from ten feet wide and twenty feet long, to some twenty feet wide and fifty to seventy-five feet long, in which hundreds of rainbow trout make their home. From the sides of the canyon, twenty-three additional springs pour their water into the creek to swell its flow. Through the entire length of the canyon in the hospital grounds (about one half mile), winds a road and on one of the canyon sides are trails with additional pools formed by small springs. The main creek is crossed by two traffic bridges and several rustic foot bridges.

It is in this natural setting that the 1957 National Asiatic Primrose Show

is to be held. Some credit for the selection of the site must be given to Mr. Ted Keller of the Tacoma Primrose Society, who mentioned its beauty to the former editor of the Quarterly, Mrs. Susan Worthington, who realized the potentialities of such a setting in relation to a garden where *Candelabras* could be grown as in their natural habitat. With her usual enthusiasm, she asked the writer of this article to see what could be done about it. After receiving the official sanction of the Western State Hospital authorities, work was immediately started clearing areas among the Alder, Maple, Fir, and Cedar trees and native wild flowers and ferns, in the most moist and swampy places, by the springs and pools for planting the Asiatic Primulas which grow to their best in this type



courtesy Levys of Barnhaven

P. BURMANICA

of environment. To further supplement these plants, many *Rhododendrons*, *Azaleas*, and other shrubs and plants common to the same soil and shade conditions have been planted, always bearing in mind the natural setting. The various types of primula are being planted in drifts and are being marked with labels telling not only names and sections to which they belong, but, wherever possible, where and by whom they were first discovered.

Besides creating a beauty spot open to visitors daily throughout the year, this new project is giving the patients another interesting and worthwhile occupation, for they not only have the pleasure of raising, planting, and caring for the seedlings and plants, the making of the markers, building the trails and preparing the planting areas, but also they are developing an interest and beauty in the grounds that will last for many years to come, and which thousands of other patients and their relatives and visitors from all parts of the United States and Canada may come and enjoy.

This article would not be complete without a word of thanks and appreciation to the many Primrose Society members from Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, and other Northwest areas who have donated many plants and seeds for the project and who are cooperating in many other ways to make it a success. An open invitation is extended to all to visit the Western State Hospital greenhouses and grounds any day throughout the year and especially for the National Asiatic Primrose Show of 1957.

(Editor's Note: Date for the Show has been set as June 9th, when the Candelabra should be at their peak. It should be remembered that they start to bloom in May and the Western State Hospital grounds are open to visitors every day of the year so the Canyon may be visited at any time).

Essentials For A Successful Show

Suggestions from the New APS Vice-President

By HERBERT H. DICKSON

If you are a member of a Primrose Society and would like to see your society continue as a growing concern, you must do your part toward an annual primrose show put on by your society. The only reason for the existence of a Primrose Society is to promote interest in and knowledge of primroses. The medium of a show is the best method devised for spreading this information and interest to the general public.

As a society, the show gives you a goal to work for, a common project where each member can contribute and experience satisfaction in achievement. The show publicizes your society and helps attract new members.

In staging a show, your first or your tenth, the same elements must be considered in your planning.

First, the society as a group must be in favor of the show. Start the planning as far ahead of the show date as possible with appointment of a show chairman and the other members of the committee. A definite understanding must be reached as to what questions the society must vote on and what the committee can act on.

How much money is available for the show at the start is important. It is nice to have all the money you need to rent a nice hall, buy fancy ribbons and awards, and pay for publicity; but it is not necessary to a successful show. Places to put on a show can be had "for free". Tables can be borrowed. Trophies can be solicited. Donations can be solicited for ribbons. Aid of business and civic organizations can be obtained. The best publicity of magazines, newspapers, radio, and television is always free and cooperative. All this takes work, and lots of it, enough ahead of time so that the other businesses and organiza-

tions can fit your show into their planning. Everybody in the society must work for the show and not leave it up to one or two energetic people.

In selecting the place for the show, steer clear of the overheated places. Try to find a place big enough to display the plants to advantage with mass effects on the floor and individual potted plants on tables to be looked at closely, leaving plenty of room for the public to circulate. If a choice must be made between a small or a large place, the show will create a better impression a little crowded than lost in a large place. Good parking facilities close by is an essential.

Schedules must be prepared and printed two or three months ahead of show time. If money is short, an ad or two on the schedule will help pay for it.

The success of your show is only partly dependent on the beauty of the show and the number and quality of plants in competition. Remember the purpose is to promote primroses. Unless new people come to see them, you have done no promoting. The show is for the public, not the people who put on the show. They are already interested. Properly handled publicity will insure that crowds are there to view your favorite flower at its best.

You must furnish the facts in printable form to the garden magazines in advance of their deadline date (from 3 to 6 months before publication). Send special notices and invitations to other flower and garden societies, they are your best source of exhibitors and visitors. Get a notice in the Sunday paper when the committee is appointed, then when the time and place is decided. Plan a heavy campaign the two weeks before the

show on radio, television, and newspaper. You have to make these arrangements well in advance and furnish speakers, plants, and information in a usable form. Most places are glad to help. A display of a plant or two with a poster in business windows a few days previous to the show helps.

There is always the question—Paid

or Free admission. A free show gets more people to see it and does more promoting. A plant sale, a free will donation, and a raffle of some kind will usually finance your show if you get the word out and the public comes to look.

T'aint nothin' to it. 'Cept a lot of work and a lot of fun.

DUTIES OF THE SHOW COMMITTEES

Suggestions from the National Show Chairman, Kirkland, Washington, 1956

By MRS. WILLIAM H. MASSEY

The Show Chairman is manager of the show, and her decisions on matters where conflict in policy or operation arises must be final. The type of person most likely to be successful at this job has been adroitly suggested by Mrs. M. A. Lawrence, who writes, "She must have nerves of steel, a sense of humor, soft shoulders to cry on, be steady in time of stress, quick in decisions, and ready to take over any chairman's uncompleted tasks." I believe, too, that the successful chairman is one who willingly listens to suggestions and strives to make an objective evaluation of them. I also insist upon delegating as much responsibility to co-workers as possible.

The following outline of Committee Chairmen and their duties summarizes the result of past experience at Kirkland Shows. It is the one followed in the National Show last year, and although it does not differ basically from the outline presented by Mrs. Lawrence in the 1953 Year Book, our own experience has made certain changes advisable.

For instance, we find that schedules and rules are more easily accomplished by the Show Chairman and the Staging Committee. The selection of committee chairmen, while becoming

the first duty of the Show Chairman, should be exercised with extreme care. It is necessary to consider which people will work best at a particular job and make appointments accordingly. My own choice of committee chairmen is guided by these qualities: (1) Their willingness to devote adequate time and effort to complete their assignment; (2) their ability to plan and carry out a project; and (3) their ability to work harmoniously with others.

Our list of Committees, their responsibilities and duties, are as follows:

The STAGING CHAIRMAN assists in planning and supervising all phases of the show including schedules and rules, floor plans, and actual staging. At least two assistants who have a working knowledge of plans should be available.

The PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN holds a key job in the show and should be a willing worker with ambition and time. An ideal arrangement would include two helpers so that each of the committee could concentrate on newspaper, magazines and garden club, radio, and television publicity respec-

tively. Coordination with head committees should be present at all times. No matter how much work is done on a show, or how beautiful the result, it can be a failure if the publicity is not handled properly.

The PROPERTIES CHAIRMAN helps acquire materials, props, and equipment needed for the show and takes care of all salvage and necessary storage at the close of the show.

The SALESROOM and COMMERCIAL CHAIRMAN lines up people who wish to sell or advertise in the salesroom space. Commercials draw for the number of their sales table which eliminates favoritism.

The FINANCE CHAIRMAN makes all tax reports, handles all arrangements for tickets and complimentary tickets, collects and deposits all moneys, writes all checks approved by the Show Chairman, and completes a financial report at the close of the show.

The JUDGES and CLERKS CHAIRMAN prepares scoring and point schedules for each judge and records sheets for each of the clerks, and assists in determining trophy winners after judging. There should be at least two people to handle this job.

The RIBBONS and AWARDS CHAIRMAN orders all ribbons, contacts trophy donors, collects and buys trophies, and helps determine trophy winners after judging.

The CLASSIFICATION CHAIRMAN classifies all exhibits and fills out the entry cards. Thorough knowledge of specimens is vital. There should be one assistant.

The ENTRIES CHAIRMAN and Committee take specimen plants from the classification table, recording names and corresponding numbers on a suitable register, and help check out at the close of the show. The number of persons on this committee must be

sufficient to assure complete accuracy of records.

The PLACING CHAIRMAN sets up classification cards on the benches, takes plants from the Entries Committee and places them in their designated places. Several helpers are necessary to help check out plants at the close of the show and to store classification cards in proper order for use the following year.

The HOSTESS and HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN cooperates with the Finance Chairman and arranges for hostesses at the door to take tickets. She must also have several hostesses in the showroom itself at all times. She is responsible for the guest book and arranges housing when required by out-of-town guests.

The TEA ROOM CHAIRMAN makes all necessary arrangements for refreshments and keeps the tea room open during the hours agreed upon by the Show Committee.

The HISTORIAN CHAIRMAN keeps a complete record of publicity, schedules, pictures, etc., and makes up a scrap book to be submitted to the Show Chairman after the close of the show.

CLEANUP of course is the responsibility of all members of the club. The more who help on this uninspiring job, the easier it becomes for all concerned.

Though I think it is impossible to put on a show with the "peace at any price" attitude prevailing, I believe it is possible to be firm and avoid hurt feelings. We were fortunate in having a minimum of friction in setting up our show, and I feel that this is no mean accomplishment in view of the tremendous job and the many who work at it. I feel, too, that in association with my co-workers I have formed friendships and understanding of great personal value to me. My sincere thanks is extended to each one of them.

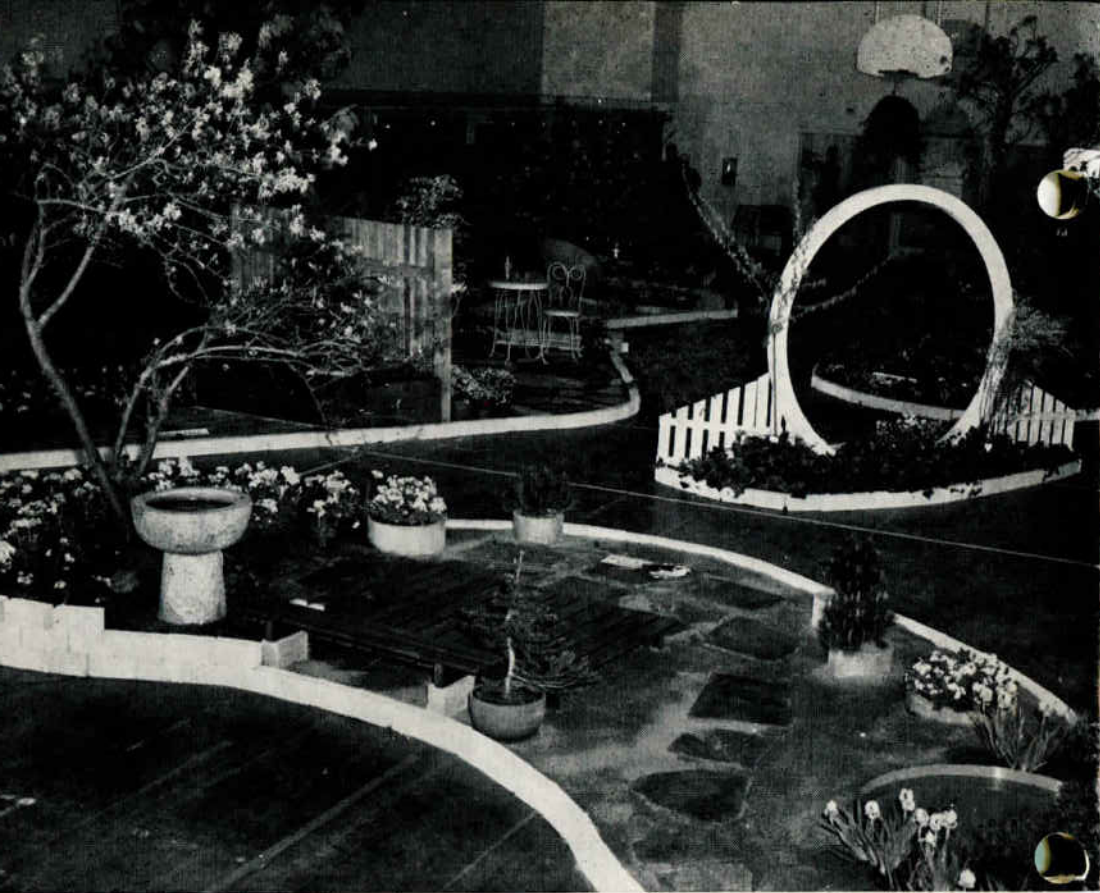


Photo courtesy Gwladys Bowen

1956 NATIONAL PRIMROSE SHOW, KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON

News of the Affiliated Clubs and Societies

Eastside Garden Club

Notes from Kirkland, Washington

By ANNE SIEPMAN

Despite a rather disastrous winter resulting in the loss of thousands of Primrose plants, the Kirkland show went on as scheduled, and proved to be the most successful financially and attendance-wise of any show held in Kirkland. The entire show committee did yeoman work to bring this about and must be given credit for the good results.

The plants were surprisingly good after what they had been through, and especially notable were the seedlings. The theme of the show "Primrose

Patio" was carried out beautifully by the growers and garden clubs alike, and was a great help to the nurserymen who were forced to come into the show with less bloom than usual and found their displays of outdoor living fitting nicely into the Primrose Patio theme.

Yarrow Point Garden Club of Bellevue received a special award for its arrangement in the Japanese manner, using old stone basins and containers for its plant material of yellow Primroses, Iris, and dwarf Pine. Tindall's Nursery of Bothell again took first place in the Nurseryman's display. Among the professional growers,

Floyd's Gardens of Yelm was judged the best floor display. Peter Klein, of Klein's Nursery, Tacoma, was the sweepstakes winner with Denna Snuffer of Bay City, Oregon, runner-up.

The amateurs were well represented, with Bert Lobberegt, Jr., Mercer Island, the sweepstakes winner, and Mrs. F. H. Wallick of Kirkland and Cyrus Happy III of Tacoma tied for second place. Mr. Lobberegt also won the A.P.S. award for the most best-plant ribbons.

It was a very heartening commentary on the future Society and Club progress to note the large number of entries in the Junior division. There were fifty-nine horticultural, and seventeen decorative entries submitted by the Juniors, with Mary Lu Massey, daughter of the very able show chairman, the Junior sweepstakes winner.

Main attraction of the show was the greenhouse full of Show and Alpine Auricula, enabling many visitors to see these named treasures for the first time. Mr. Michaud of Alpenglow Gardens, New Westminster, B.C. was probably the largest single contributor, but enough Shows and Alpines were brought in to fill the benches of the greenhouse and a beautiful sight they made.

Arrangements in which Primroses could be used occupied a room by themselves, and demonstrated how well this flower lends itself to decoration. In this division Mrs. E. H. Halliday of Renton won sweepstakes and Mrs. L. C. Murdock of Bellevue was runner-up.

Climax of the show was the dinner honoring Dr. Matthew Riddle of Portland for his outstanding achievements in hybridizing. Florence Levy of Barnhaven made the American Primrose Society's Hybridizing award. (see page 145, Fall issue for story).

Dates for the 1957 Kirkland Show are April 19, 20, and 21, and the theme is "Primrose Panorama." Mrs. L. C. Murdock is the Show Chairman.

Tacoma Primrose Society

Tacoma, Washington

By HERBERT DICKSON

After much discussion whether to have a show of the plants that survived the winter or to have none and admit defeat by the weather, The Tacoma Primrose Society reached a compromise in a non-competitive display show in Tacoma in late April.

In spite of the severe damage done by the November '55 freeze followed by periods of warm growing weather between other deep freeze periods and a cold late spring, a good representation of nice quality plants in the various types and classes of primroses was assembled for specimen display. Mass primrose and other floral displays provided a setting and background of beauty.

The lack of ribbons and awards caused expression of many pros and cons by the large number of visitors who viewed the show.

Peter Klein's display of new doubles was an outstanding feature of the show. Colorful floral displays were provided by the Tacoma Metropolitan Park Board; Washington State Hospital, Steilacoom; and U. S. Naval Hospital, Bremerton. Some outstanding commercial displays were made by Just-A-Mere-Farm, Mrs. Bartlett, Wesley Bottoms, Ted Keller, and Howard Larkin.

Mt. Angel Primrose Society

Mt. Angel, Oregon

By LORETTA E. DEHLER

The Mt. Angel Primrose Society is looking forward to their tenth annual Primrose Show this year with pride in past accomplishments and determination to make the tenth show the best ever. As with most of last year's shows, there was a moment when it was doubtful whether the show would go on, but go on it did and equalled and even surpassed former ones. Mayor Jacob Berchtold and the Mt. Angel

community have always given encouragement and solid backing to the show and extend a cordial invitation to all Primrose lovers to take part in the 1957 show on Sunday, April 28th, from 2 to 8 p.m. in St. Mary's School dining room.

A tour of Portland area gardens, arranged by Mr. Claude Mills, is eagerly anticipated for early spring.

Friday Harbor Primrose Club

Friday Harbor, Washington

Dame Nature smiled on the members of the Friday Harbor Primrose Club, for it was touch and go as to whether the show could go on due to the hazardous winter of 1956. But go on it did, and was a great success.

The Show, held on April 27 and 28, at the Study Club, was beautifully staged by Mabel Hitching, Chairman of the Show and her Committee. The theme of the show was "The Primrose Bower," and revolved around a garden shrine featuring St. Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of birds. The whole idea was intended to convey the thought that a bower is a place to reflect and commune, and in such a place there is no flower to surround oneself with that is so beautiful and inspiring as the primrose.

Surrounding the Bower, on the outside as well as within, were many and varied types of beautiful primroses, embedded in moss, included in which were the following: acaulis, polyanthus, Sieboldii, auricula, Linda Pope, Jack-in-the-Green, rosea grandiflora, gold lace and silver lace. One member brought a most beautiful deep pink polyanthus and another member brought a magnificent blue auricula, garden form, but truly a gem.

The Plant Sale table, in charge of Margaret Price, proved most attractive due to its artistic arrangement and the variety of primroses contributed, not only by members, but also by non-

members from the various islands of the San Juan group, to whom sincere thanks are due.

Date for the 1957 Show (probably late in April) will be supplied by the chairman, Ethel Salisbury, Friday Harbor.

Onondaga Primrose Society

Syracuse, New York

By HILDA BALDWIN

Though the 1956 show was canceled, there has been a rebirth of enthusiasm. An educational program to interest new members has been started with every member cooperating. Each member has promised to bring a prospective new member to the next meeting for a program of colored kodachrome slides.

Dr. Jorden, at whose home the November meeting was held, proudly displayed two double Auriculas, a white and a pink. The pink was only three inches high but had two carnation-like blooms over an inch in diameter.

Canadian Primula and Alpine Society

Vancouver, British Columbia

By GRACE M. CONBOY

Our associated group of the Vancouver district has made favourable progress in its short span of existence. In May, 1956, we staged our first parlour show which was non-competitive. Despite the '55-'56 disastrous winter season, some exceptionally fine material was shown.

Mr. V. Costly showed some outstanding plants of Miss Eickman's Warm Laughter and Firebells besides fine pans of Primula cockburniana and P. chionantha. Pans of a variety of Alpine material were shown by Mr. Boving, Mr. Archibold, and Mr. Augermann which included well grown Cassiope lycopioides, a collected pot of Calypso bulbosa and many of the delightful little spring bulbs so indispen-

sable in the rockery. Mr. Brown of West Vancouver, our Alpine-house man, showed some exquisite pans of Lewisia and a lovely Phyteuma Comosum. Other exhibits of Garden, Alpine, and Show Auriculas, and various Vernales novelties and other species leant a jewelled splash of colour to the benches. In all, the small show was educational and gave members some insight into methods of exhibiting.

In addition to evenings of pleasure with slides during the year, we worked on useful lectures on Primula classification, raising plants from seed, and basic general culture of various more easily grown varieties.

We look forward in '57 to having our first real show in conjunction with Thetis Club's Spring Flower Show. *Prospective dates are to be the 2-3-4 of May, to be definitely confirmed later.* At that time there should be a wealth of Primula and Alpine material available to stage. There will be a competitive section which it is hoped some of our American friends will help swell with exhibits. This, our first effort, we do hope will be worth while and something to remember. There has never yet been a show of potted hardy material of this calibre in Vancouver so we do hope all will benefit who are garden minded.

Editor's note: Schedules will be available in February from Mr. Lance Taylor or Mrs. Conboy.



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Clark County Primrose Society

Vancouver, Washington

Word from Vancouver, Washington, tells of seed and plant exchange paying dues for a New Zealand member, and plans for their own show this year. This would indicate a very active group in Clark County, and we hope all the members who have exhibition plants will rally around for their first show. Heretofore, the Clark County Primrose Society members have taken their plants to the Gresham, Oregon show, but feel that they can now produce enough exhibition plants to stage their own show and we heartily endorse this display of enterprise. The show will probably be staged at the Washington State Experimental Station in Vancouver, where the Society holds its monthly meetings.

East Bremerton Garden Club

Bremerton, Washington

The 1957 Primrose Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 at the Sheridan Park Hall, Bremerton, Washington. The theme of the show will be *Carnival of Flowers*.

Auricula Growers: Listen

Continued from Page Nine

tion, they used their imagination and observation to an amazing extent and developed Florist flowers to a state of perfection to which I can recall no parallel. In my young days many of the greenhouses of the old florists were home made and crude. Many of my American friends could be excused a smile could they see them today, but I assure them that their smile would have quickly vanished when they entered the greenhouse and saw magnificent trusses of some of the classics in the Auricula world "Lancashire Hero", "Richard Headley", "George Lightbody," etc. No man living will ever see those superb Auriculas in that form again.

In my opinion we have pampered the Auricula too much. It is surprising it is still with us. I well remember being in the garden of an old Florist way back in my youth, well over a half century ago, and I admired the condition of his Auriculas. He flicked the leaves with his finger nail and it sounded like striking wood. He looked up and said, "Ah, Dan, those are not leaves, they're leather." Those plants would stand hard treatment in winter. There has been so much matter written on the Auricula, presenting all kinds of difficulty that is enough to deter any amateur attempting them. Grow them with care and intelligence as you would grow any plant which is worth growing well; don't fuss them, overfeed them, but don't neglect them, and I don't think you will fail.

Now I think I have written enough to provoke discussion. No doubt many members have difficulties which remain unsolved. Let them bring them forward in the Quarterly, we will all do our best to transform their disappointments into pleasure.

It will be a great help, both to the Editor and the Treasurer in compiling the Year Book roster, to have your 1957 dues paid by February 15th.

Pete Klein Says

Continued from Page Fourteen

ing compartment of refrigerator. Let freeze solid, perhaps one-half to one hour, take out; let them stratify and add a little more water if seeds roll in package and again place in freezing compartment. Repeat this at least six or more times. Now open package and place seed on a paper towel to dry just enough so they roll. Plant at once as described above. Water in with warm water, cover seed pan with brown paper. Place seed pan in moderate room. When seeds start to germinate, remove brown paper. Keep seed pans moist at all times.

For bread mold and damping off, I use Natriphene. Add only one-half the strength, recommended, to water to the seed and at intervals until they are ready to transplant.

IN MEMORIAM

Members in Massachusetts, and the Boston area in particular, and her many friends and admirers across the country, will be saddened by the news of the passing (October 28th last) of Mrs. Clement S. Houghton whose internationally famous rock garden brought thousands of visitors to her Chestnut Hill home. She had wonderful success with Primula of many varieties and dearly loved the species. Mrs. Houghton will be greatly missed.

* * *

The Washington State Primrose Society lost a most beloved member last November 23rd with the passing of Ida Riggs. Her smiling face and gracious manner, knowing her days were numbered, was an inspiration to all who knew her. There can be no higher aspiration than to hope to be as loved and to try to be as brave.

Seasonal Notes From Barnhaven

By FLORENCE LEVY

Before I knew there were primroses in the world, I saw a plant flowering in a rockery on Portland Heights which made a lasting impression on me. It had great purple blossom-balls that beat out a challenge to the dreariness of the late winter day. A few years later I realized I had met my first primrose and had been conquered by *Primula denticulata*. Since then I have watched similar reactions of those seeing them for the first time. It has always been considered the most common of all the Asiatic Primulas, yet it is surprising how comparatively few primrose enthusiasts use them in their fullest capacity to splash color across a grey landscape.

Although considerable space has been given to various branches of the primrose family in their newly won beauty, little has been said about the *Denticulatas*. And in the last few years this group has, also, become beautiful because growers with keen observation have sighted and developed color variations. Originally, *Denticulatas* were always purple, or pinkish-purple and, occasionally, white. Now the color range has been extended to violet, sometimes with black stems, lavender, lavender-blue, shades of pink and rose, and, this last year, to shades of currant and blood red. About every gradation of tone will be possible in the *Denticulatas* except yellow and, therefore, shades and tints with yellow in them.

The ease with which *Denticulatas* are propagated and grown is a marvel to those who know them. Seed ripens a month ahead of *Polyanthus*, here in the Northwest it is ready in June.

Sown at once, or years later, it comes up thick as hairs on a you-know-what. Seedlings are eager to take hold and grow rapidly, and a year-and-a-half-old plant will throw many bloom stalks making the magnificent sight we all remember in Tacoma several springs ago when a white *Denticulata* was adjudged one of the best plants in the show. When a mature plant is dug, every root remaining in the soil develops a little plantlet on the cut end. You will notice that all plants with a wide geographical distribution have an easy-going disposition, and that it is the plant with the restricted location that is the demanding type. The *Denticulatas* sweep across, and up and down, the Himalayas in a wild abandon from Afghanistan across India and into China, a distance of some 2,000 miles. Their elevation range is almost a mile, extending from 7,000 to 12,000 feet. And therein lies the secret not only of their amiability but of their variability. You will also notice the higher the elevation, the smaller a plant becomes and, often, the later to bloom. Some *Denticulatas*, in situ, bloom as late as August and as small as 1½ inches with such drought resisting devices as farina (gold or silver meal) on the underside of foliage (see *The Denticulata-Cachemiriana Merry-Go-Round*, Volume 6, No. 2).

These new *Denticulatas*, by themselves or in company with the shocking pink *P. rosea Delight*—also a native of the Himalayas—with a few early daffodils and blue and yellow *Acaulis* thrown in, embroider one of the most colorful welcome mats found on the threshold of spring.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Seed Offered for Exchange by the American Primrose Society

January, 1957

PRIMULAS

Seed of the polyanthus group; *P. vulgaris*, and the hybridized garden form of *P. auricula*, do not appear on this list. It has been found that casually bee-pollinated seed of these plants seldom produce vigorous, well-flowered plants which are equal to the best in these groups. Disappointment always results when two or three years are devoted to the growing of flowering size plants from inferior seed to discover that plants also are inferior. This shows in lack of vigor and debased coloring. Undoubtedly the safest course to pursue is to secure either seed or plants from a known source of strong, hardy stock. Hardiness is equal in importance to form and color development.

P. alpicola
P. alpicola var. *luna*
P. aurantiaca
P. Bulleyana
P. burmanica
P. chionantha
P. candelabra
P. concholoba
P. cockburniana
P. Clusiana
P. cortusoides var. *Veitchii*
P. denticulata
P. cashmeriana
P. frondosa
P. Florindae
P. helodoxa

P. Inshriach hybrids
P. involucrata
P. japonica (type)
P. japonica mixed
P. japonica "Pink Lady"
P. japonica "Glowing Embers"
P. Kekillour hybrids
P. Littoniana
P. longiflora
P. malacoides
P. nutans
P. Parryi, collected
P. pulverulenta
P. pulverulenta, Red Form
P. Poissionii
P. rosea
P. rosea grandiflora
P. saxatilis
P. Sieboldii
P. secundiflora
P. sinopurpurea
P. sikkimensis
P. Viali
P. veris var. *macrocalyx*

Primula CHERRY RED: the contributor of these seed comments, "I am sorry that I cannot give the specific name for these primroses, but the seed was given me some years ago by a delightful gardener in Poughkeepsie, New York; and they in turn had been given to her. They are a rich cherry red and comparatively easy to grow. They apparently must, however, be out to freeze in order to germinate."

ASSOCIATE PLANTS

Actaea pachypoda alba; white baneberry or Cohosh; to 2', white berries
Allium tuberosum
Alstromeria aurantiaca: hardy as far north as Boston without winter protection
Alyssum argenteum
" *saxatile*
" *saxatile citrinum*

Androsace albana
Androsace spinulifera
Anemone baldensis
" *leveilei*
" *magellancia*
" *pulsatilla*
" *sylvestris*
" *vernalis*
Antennaria sp: excellent carpeting plant in a dry spot

ASSOCIATE PLANTS (Cont'd.)

Anthericum liliago
Aquilegia kurilensis x *jucunda*
Aquilegia oxysepala: with a small amount of seed from *A. caerulea* intermixed
Aquilegia vulgaris
Arabis alba
Armeria alpina
" *caespitosa*
" *lauchiana*
Aster alpinus
Astrantia major
Calceolaria mexicana, biennial
Campanula latifolia, an excessive spreader under some conditions
Cerastium alpina lanatus, non-ramping
Cerastium tomentosum
Chaenomele lagenaria, shrub to 6', scarlet-red flowered
Chaenomele japonica, flowers orange-scarlet
Chimaphila umbellatum var. *occidentalis*, flowers pink or rose, common name pipsissewa, shrubby
Cheiranthus cheiri: Wallflower, yellow to maroon
Clintonia borealis, attractive berries
Codonopsis clematidea
Cornus alternifolia, Pagoda Dogwood
Cornus canadensis, Bunchberry, but a few inches in height
Corydalis sempervirens, an annual
Cyclamen europaeum, seed supply very limited
Cyclamen neopolitanum
Cypripedium parviflorum, yellow lady-slipper
Dianthus alpinus
Dianthus barbatus, mixed
" " "Sweet William"
" border pink, long flowering
Dianthus caesius (Cheddar pink)
Grower's note: An excellent free-flowering, fragrant pink, that makes a good edging plant
Dianthus deltoides "Brilliant"
Dianthus gratianopolitanus
Dianthus La Bourbrille, supply of seed very limited
Dianthus "Loveliness"

Dianthus neglectus, reverse of petals bronze, foliage grasslike, a happy little plant
Dodecatheon sps.
Doronicum cordatum
Dracocephalum grandiflorum, 6-12", blue
Erigeron glaucus rosea, seed grown in North Ireland
Erythronium grandiflorum, yellow
" *oregonum*
" *revolutum*, rose pink
Erysimum Perofskianum, fragrant flowers, brilliant orange-yellow
Franco sonchifolia, a Saxafragaceous herbaceous perennial, foliage very handsome, flowers white, for mild climates or under glass
Fritillaria lanceolata
Fritillaria Meleagris, flowers wine-purple, checked white. Seed of *Fritillarias* is limited.
Galego officinalis
Gentiana Andrewsii
" *asclepedia*
" *gracipiles*
" *linearis*
" *vera*
Geum rivale, beautiful foliage, odd flowers, likes moist soil
Globularia incanescens
Helianthemum mutabile
Hieraceum villosum
Hutchinsia alpina
Hyacinthus azuerus
Hymenoxys grandiflora (*Rydbergia grandiflora*); the alpine Kobold or Sun-god, a composite, ranges above 11,000 in Rocky Mountains. Excellent
Incarvillea Delavayii
" *grandiflora*
Inula glandulosa
Iris Kaempferi (Japanese)
Laburnum Vossii
Linaria tristis
Lilium columbiana, collected in Kootenay district, British Columbia
Linum alpinum
" *perenne*
Lobelia cardinalis
" *siphilitica*

ASSOCIATE PLANTS (Cont'd.)

Lupinus polyphyllus
 Matricaria eximea, "Golden Ball" Half hardy annual, to 9". A Canadian gardener makes this comment: "Compact upright plants covered with small golden yellow double flowers. Very valuable for bedding and edging purposes. In bloom from July to September."
 Malus theifera, white flowered crab
 Malva moschata, Musk mallow
 Meconopsis
 This was a poor year for the production of Meconopsis seed and as a result supply of seed of all species is limited.
 Meconopsis betonicifolia
 " " var. Baileyii
 " cambrica
 " grandis
 " heterophylla
 " horridula
 " integrifolia
 " paniculata
 " Sheldonii
 " Wallachii
 Medeola virginiana, cucumber root
 Mimulus cardinalis
 " ringens
 Muscari paradoxum
 " tubergenianum
 Narcissus bulbocodium citrinus
 " " conspicuous
 Seed of the two above are limited
 Orobus pannonicus
 " purpureus
 Paeonia albiflora
 Penstemon diffusus
 " Cardwellii
 " Scouleri
 " strictus
 " species from Flathead Lake, Montana, to 30", flowers beautiful red or rose trumpets
 Penstemon species, type not known
 Ptelea trifoliata, shrub with interesting seed
 Potentilla gracipilis
 Pulsatilla sp., good color
 " alpina
 " ludoviciana (Pulsatilla

hirsutissima) Pasque flower of the Rock mountains
 Ranunculus gramineus
 " spicatus
 Rhodotypos tetrapetala, Jet Beads or white-flowered Kerria
 Salvia splendens, the widely grown red-flowered species
 Saxifraga, mossy form, red flowered
 Scabiosa alpina
 Sedum rhodanthum, crowned with rosy bracts.
 Sedium integrifolium, foliage almost black when plants break through the ground, extremely interesting, native to the Rocky Mountains
 Silene saxifraga
 Sisyrinchium angustifolia
 Staphylea trifolia, Bladder pod
 Thalictrum dipterocarpum, Tall growing; late flowering, rosy mauve or purple flowers, stamens drooping, golden
 Thalictrum kiusianum
 Trillium grandiflorum
 " ovatum
 " undulatum
 Tulipa Balalinii
 " chrysantha
 " Tarda
 Verbascum blattaria
 Vesicaria utricularia
 Viola cuculata
 " odorata
 " The Tzar

It will not be necessary for members of the Society who request seed to enclose a stamped envelope, as envelopes will be furnished this year; however, postage for the return of seed should be enclosed with request. For each 25 cents remitted, six packets of seed will be forwarded, but only one packet of each variety. Quantities will be limited. Labels are those of contributors. Requests must be made before April 1st. It will be well to indicate substitute choices or leave it to the distributor to fill requests to the best of his ability. Requests should be mailed to: *Chester K. Strong, Box 126, Loveland, Colorado.*

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The revised edition, *Primula in the Garden*, by Kenneth Corsar, is recommended reading for the tyro, the rock gardener, or the professional, \$3.50.

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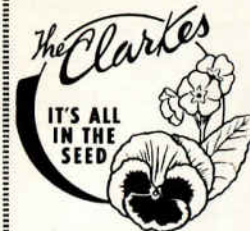
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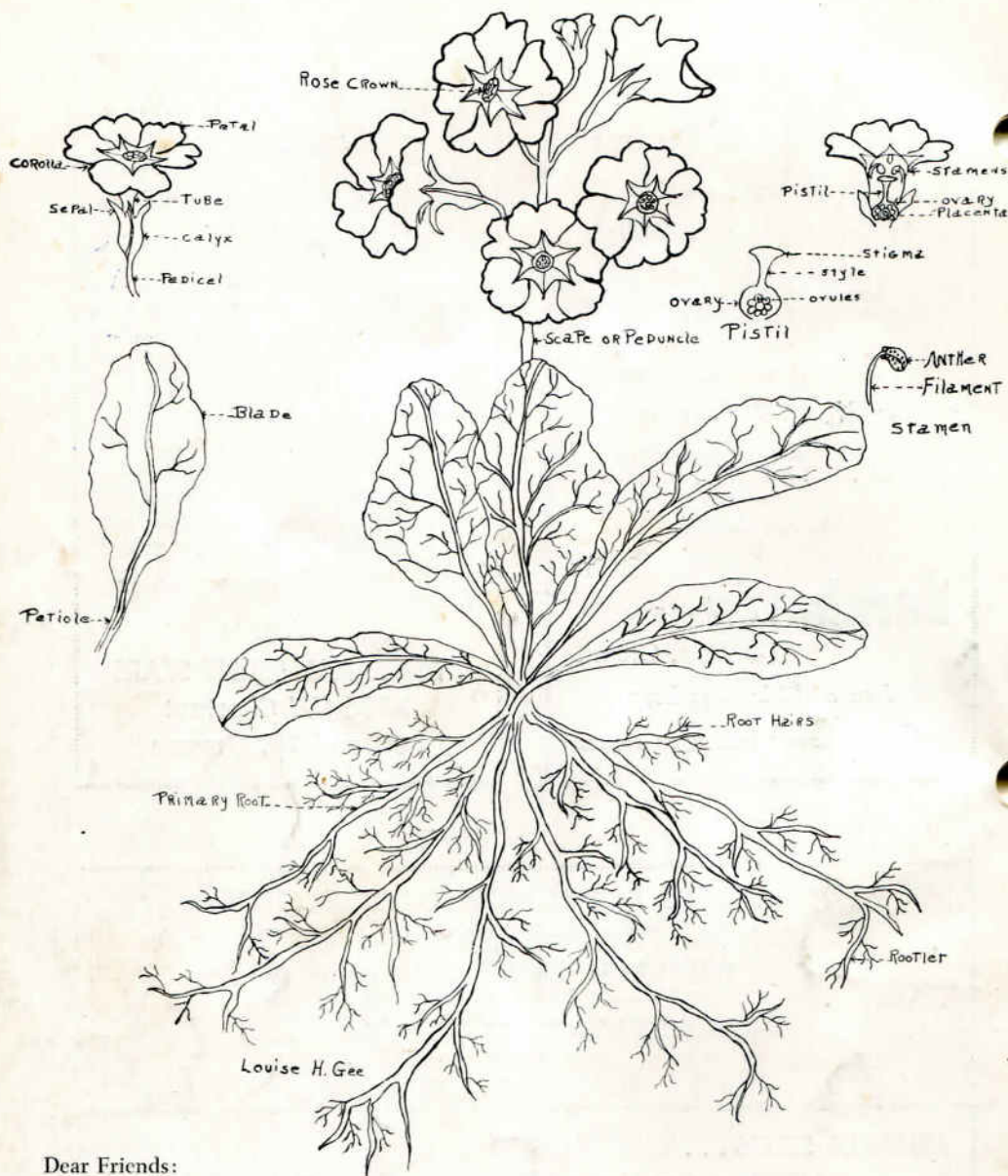
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Dear Friends:

Every flower part is benefited by the use of BLUE WHALE, the impregnated sphagnum moss, as a part of the seed, seedling and plant growing medium. Its organic nutriment nourish the cotyledon, make seedling roots strong and well able to carry out their functions. The baleen and bone in BLUE WHALE carries both organic and mineral matter—including phosphorus, which is one of the elements essential for all living things since it is a constituent of protoplasm itself. BLUE WHALE stays at the roots of the plants supplying this phosphorus in a readily available form from the time it is needed for the root growth until reserves, greater than those provided by nature alone, are needed for the heavy seed crop. The rest of the elements from the Baleen and Bone, such as calcium and magnesia, help the phosphorus to make the natural nitrogen contained in BLUE WHALE available over the long period of the plant's needs.

Sincerely,

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Blue Whale is a product of Acme Peat Products Ltd., Vancouver, B C.