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WINTER 1962

Number 1



Primula marginata

SEED PLANTING METHODS . . . By Ralph Balcom and Doretta Klaber

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All material for the Quarterly should be sent direct to the Editor's Office,

2406 Boyer Avenue, Seattle 2, Washington

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British Representative and Treasurer—

Mr. Norman Lawfield.....17 Quarry Rise, Cheam, Surrey, England

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 Treasurer and photographed by Orval Agee. For an authoritative article
 see James Stuart McLees' *Dictionary of the Hybrid Primulas of the*
Auricula Section, Vol. 14, No. 4, Page 148.

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What To Do In The Primrose Garden In The Pacific Northwest—Jan., Feb. and March

RALPH BALCOM, *Seattle, Washington*

During the month of January and the first half of March there is very little that can be done outside in the Primrose garden in the Pacific Northwest. About the middle of February, depending on the weather, the plants awaken from their winter's sleep and start growing again. Then when the first warm period of sunshine comes along, it is time to get out of doors and commence the spring clean-up. Cultivate and weed the beds and pick off the yellowed decayed leaves from the plants. Be sure to look for signs of slugs and if they are found, spray or bait for these pests in order to eliminate them before they multiply. This is also a very good time to apply a well balanced fertilizer which the plants relish in the spring of the year.

My biggest task, during these spring months, is the sowing of Primrose seed for I am one of those who prefers to do it at this season of the year. If you are one who has never grown Primroses from seed, now is a good time to try it. Much has been printed in past issues of the *Quarterly* describing various methods of doing this but the editor deems it wise to discuss the subject here again for the benefit of new members and those who do not have these old issues available. There are almost as many ways to sow Primrose seed as there are growers who do it. Each has his own pet method and his own bag full of tricks and surprisingly enough, most of them are successful at it even though they vary in their routine. So one wonders who is right. However, all successful growers do adhere to the same fundamentals and these variations are but incidental. I will attempt here to give a sort of composite of the

opinions of my own and other growers describing the methods that appear to give the best results.

How To Sow The Seed Containers

Most any shallow receptacle can be used, preferably one 2½" to 3" deep and of a size in proportion to the amount of seed to be planted. For small amounts, shallow pots are good or even coffee cans or other shallow tins. For large amounts, a standard nursery flat is best. No matter what sort of container is used, however, it should have sufficient small openings in the bottom to afford good drainage and it should be clean.

Seeding Medium

The kind of soil mixture is not too important so long as it is porous in texture and will not pack, thus assuring good drainage and it should contain enough humus so that it will retain moisture. A standard mixture of equal parts of sand, peat (or leaf mould) and garden soil sifted through a one-quarter inch screen is used in most nurseries. Sterilization of this medium will eliminate most of the weed seed and disease organisms and will also help prevent the damping-off of the seedling plants after the seed has germinated. This can be done by placing the soil mix in a metal container and baking in an oven or by covering it with cellophane and applying Methyl Bromide gas. However, this is not absolutely necessary if one will spray the top of the soil just after the seed is sown with a solution of Natriphene and then give other occasional sprayings as the seed germinates and later as the small plants are growing.

Sowing

Place a layer of coarse material such as gravel, turkey grit or even charcoal on the bottom of the container to prevent the soil from falling through the holes and to insure good drainage. Then fill it level full with the compost (which has been moistened slightly) and press down with a small flat board but do not pack hard. Leave it rather loose and fluffy but be sure to make the top level. Sow the seed by scattering it thinly and as evenly as possible and then press it lightly into the soil with the flat board. I do not find it necessary to cover the seed but many other growers do by sprinkling a thin layer of sand or vermiculite evenly over the top just enough to barely hide the seed. It can be either broadcast or sowed in rows about an inch apart so that the seedling plants can be cultivated later with a kitchen fork. The bed should then be thoroughly watered by setting the container in water to about two-thirds its depth and leaving it there until saturated.

I now, except for older seed, seldom freeze it before planting nor do I give it the so-called hot water treatment. If you wish to try this treatment, place a coarse cloth over the soil to prevent the washing of the seed and sprinkle hot water heated to about 120 degrees over this just after planting and then repeat the same process twenty-four hours later.

Finally, place a glass or sheet of cellophane over the flat and then a sheet of paper over this.

Although one should avoid a soggy condition of the soil never allow the seed to become dry at any time during germination. **THIS IS QUITE IMPORTANT.**

Care

The optimum temperature for germination is about 60 degrees. Inspect

the flat EVERY DAY and as soon as the first seeds sprout, remove the paper and, if the coarse cloth was left on when applying the hot water, remove it too at this time. Also raise the glass an inch or so at one end to give more air. Then a few days later remove the glass completely. The seedlings need good light but extreme care should be taken that they are not exposed to a scorching sun. This is quite important because the tender plants can be easily burned at this stage and once scorched they will surely die. If they should begin to grow tall and spindly, give them more light (within reason) and a better circulation of air. Avoid frequent sprinklings of water. Wait until they really need it and then give them a real soaking.

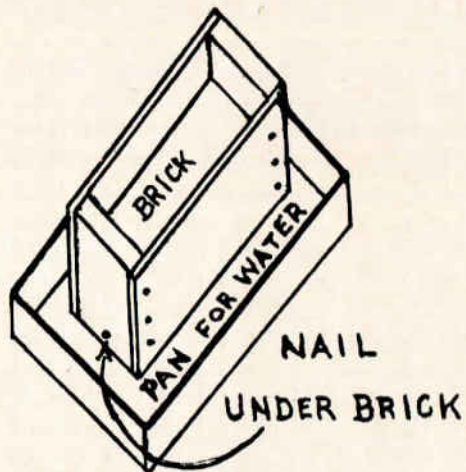
Transplanting

The plants are ready to transplant to another flat containing a slightly richer growing medium when they have their first set of true leaves although they can be left longer if not crowded. Space them about two inches apart in the new flat. The final moving to the open garden should be made when the plants have established a good root system and begin to get crowded here. It is best to do this in the afternoon of a cloudy day. A thorough watering several hours before transplanting the seedlings as well as a good soaking afterwards will lessen the shock and help them get established.

The Brick Method

This method of germinating Primrose seed is quite popular with growers of this area who have but small bits to plant. It is simple to do for one has only to place about one-half to three-quarters of an inch of compost on an ordinary unglazed brick, sow the seed on top and then set it in a shallow pan of water.

There is never any worry that the



The author's sketch of a brick seedpan. soil or seeds will dry out because the water seeps up through the brick and this moistens the soil so that it is always a bit damp but is not soggy. The task of watering is an easy one. Just see that there is always enough water in the pan to wet the brick.

There are many ingenious devices used to keep the soil from falling away and naturally I have my own way of doing it. Using thin apple box material, I build sides as shown in the accompanying illustration. They extend about 1 1/4" above the top of the brick and of course the top and bottom is open. Nails should be driven through the ends as near the bottom as possible and these protrude under the brick so that it will not fall out when handled.

This is actually but a miniature flat and the seeding operation is the same as it is with the large flat but on a smaller scale.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY, Southern Section

Invites all Auricula and Primula lovers to join this Old Society
Membership of \$1.50 per year includes Year Book

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World's Fair & National Primrose Show Open April 21

The East Side Garden Club of Kirkland, Wn. has enclosed the Fair brochure in hopes that you will come to Seattle during the weekend of April 21, 22, 23, the dates of the National Show. Kirkland is just a few miles from Seattle. The annual A.P.S. meeting and banquet will be April 22.

Other Primrose Show dates known at this time are: Both Friday Harbor and the Canadian show on April 13, 14, and Lewis County and Oregon shows on April 14, 15. Further details will appear in Spring Quarterly.

Your 1962 APS membership card, plus tax, will admit you free to the National Show so be sure to send dues in time to receive this card.

All Nature seems at work. Slugs leave their lair—

The bees are stirring—birds are on the wing—

And Winter, slumbering in the open air,

Wears on his smiling face a dream of spring!

—SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

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See back of Index for Price.

What To Do Now...

**January, February, March
Northeastern Pennsylvania**

DORETTA KLABER



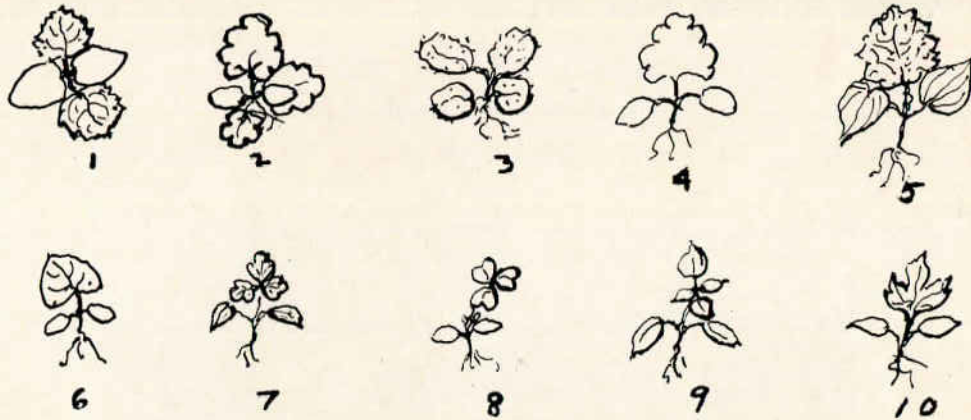
A corner of the nursery beds at Cloud Hill with a snowfence roof for shade.

Now at the first thaw on a windless sunny day, the seeds are taken from the refrigerator. As mentioned in the last Quarterly, they were placed there in preserve jars as soon as they were received. Wooden labels are marked with the name of both seeds and nursery from which they came, using pen and indelible ink.

The seeds are taken outdoors to the coldframes, the preparation of which was also spoken of in the last Bulletin. Perhaps it will be necessary to brush snow off the tops of the frames. Although the ground is undoubtedly frozen, the vermiculite which covered the soil in the frame does not freeze. Each row is labeled and the seeds carefully shaken out of the packet. If the seeds are very tiny, a little sand (kept in a shed where it did not freeze) is added to the packet, which

may prevent planting them too closely. The row is patted down, a sprinkling of sand put on, just deep enough to hide them from view, if you can see them. Now a sprinkling can with a very fine rose is filled with warm, not hot, water, and when the whole frame is planted it is carefully watered. Newspaper, two layers thick, is spread on top. The cellophane covers, and stones to hold them down are replaced. If there is snow on the ground the water is omitted and the frames are filled with snow. Once the seeds are in no further attention is needed until late winter or early spring. There may be some heaving of the soil. If so, the rows will need patting down.

As soon as frost is out of the ground slugshot or slug bait must be used around the frames and ant powder put about. Mice, too, need to be



SEEDLINGS AND WEEDLINGS . . . sketches by Doretta Klaber.

1. primrose, 2. viola, 3. forget-me-not, 4. celandine, 5. hollyhock. 6. clover, 7. columbine, 8. sourgrass, 9. chickweed, 10. anemone.

guarded against. There are mouse "seeds" which come in small packages, and these should be put close to the frames. I try to put them out of sight of birds as I imagine they are as bad for them as for the mice.

Now the newspaper should be lifted every day or two to see that no small creatures are making themselves at home under it. If they are the paper is removed and the intruders disposed of.

The soil should be kept damp and at the first sign of sprouting the paper should be torn from the row. A sprinkling of sand is needed to anchor the seedlings. From now on they must be carefully watched. They should be constantly damp and any late snows piled into the frame. If the weather turns warm it may be necessary to water twice a day. Evident weeds can be pulled out, and a light stirring of the soil around the rows of seedlings is helpful. Some grow painfully slowly, while others hop right along. As soon as weather permits, a hose is used instead of a watering can, but

gently so as not to wash out seeds or seedlings.

The seedlings stay in the cold-frames until large enough to move—and that is where we came in, the Spring installment.

Garden Housekeeping

A "P.S." to the October "What to Do Now" by Doretta Klaber

Whether you like housekeeping or not, you must know the wonderful feeling when rugs or carpet are clean and fresh looking, floors polished or mopped, furniture oiled, the house tidied up, brass and glassware shining, and an aura of cleanliness, peace and quiet descends on your home. You sit and look about, resting from your labors, and admire your surroundings. There is a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment not easily duplicated.

Well, you can have almost the same feeling in the garden. An occasional thorough garden-cleaning is essential if you want to keep your plants healthy and growing well and prepared to do their utmost for you in the season ahead.

This fall (1961) I've been doing that sort of job on the Primrose Path. (The October, 1961, article was written well ahead of publication.) A long hot dry spell had hardened and dried the soil in spite of daily watering. Many of the primroses looked wilted and yellow—red spider, though they had been sprayed. The new seedlings were ready to be planted but couldn't be put into such surroundings. Primroses like a rich and humus-filled soil — look starved without it, but plump up and cheer up when you give them what they want.

Nothing to do, I decided, except to make over the the entire Primrose Path. This is no decision to take lightly, as it is altogether about 265 feet long and varies in width from 5 to 20 feet. By doing a "stint" a day, it was finished in about six weeks, between September 1 and October 15.

A systematic process of renewal was carried out. Early each morning, to forestall interruptions, the wheelbarrow was loaded with small spade, potato rake, basket of small tools (trowel, cultivator, scissors) soil poison and duster. These were delivered at the "stint-for-the-day." In addition, a watering can of foliage poison was delivered, ready for use. The wheelbarrow was now filled with a humus, rich, peaty mixture and placed ready for use. The "soil poison" I use is called "chlordan" but your locality may have other specifics to control insects, grubs, etc. in the soil. The "foliage-poison" is "Malathion" which controls red-spider and many other troubles . . . but again, local specifics may be different. The humusy mixture I used was made up of "Humall," a kind of peat mixture, dried cow manure, sand and stonechips. The two latter ingredients were to keep the peat from packing and assure good drainage. In some parts of the country

"Blue Whale" or other soil improver would probably have been used.

Every plant and weed was lifted from the area to be renewed. When all plant material was out, a thorough raking was followed by dusting with chlordan. The peaty mixture was spread about six inches deep, dusted and raked in. Then the good plants were separated from those not worth while saving. Those remaining that needed it were divided, and all diseased or unattractive foliage cut off. The plants were trimmed back about a third, a little of the root system removed, then replanted at the back of the bed. Next was the delightful job of going to the Nursery Beds and digging a batch of sturdy seedlings, mostly in separate colors. The bed was filled with them—perhaps blue polyanthus, or "Cowichan" that velvety red one, or some of the new pink ones, or new Julianas. Then the whole bed was given a dose of the malathion, and finally a thorough soaking with the hose.

All trash was put on the pile to be burned, the path raked, the tools removed and neatness and order prevailed.

With what pride one looks at the finished bit, dark soil and green and perky plants. When a whole section of such beds are finished, ah, then you can look at them with the tired but contented feeling of the housekeeper in her shining room.

The job was finished just before the fall of leaves. Now the plants are safely mulched with them for the winter, the green of the primroses showing through their cover.

It is surprising how much easier it is to do a job of this sort of renewal, than to try to fix up a border or bed in a patchy way. By doing a limited amount each day you can gradually renew even a large garden without excessive effort.



Dan Bamford and C. G. Haysom in the latter's greenhouse

The Old Florists

DAN BAMFORD, *Middleton, England*

The florists of the N.W., where they were in the strongest evidence, were mostly hand loom silk weavers, proud of their craftsmanship and floricultural skill. Much of their silk fabric graced many mansions and adorned many an humble cottage, and their floricultural skill needs no further praise sufficient to say that our present day horticulturalists have much to thank them for.

The Carnations, Pinks, old English Tulips, Pansies, etc., were developed by them from the crude wildling to the floral period pieces the last of them left behind. Our present day horticulturalists have developed many of them along other lines giving the brilliant display we see in the present day — Carnations, Pinks, Tulips, etc.

We see a little of this desertion from the perfect florist Auricula towards

the so called Fancy Auricula but I suppose every man has his own FANCY and is entitled to grow or develop what he likes, but there are still many who refuse to be swayed from the perfect flower, to the more easily developed flowers which conform to no rule. But I must be careful here. I am on foreign soil. I am prepared to and have fought on this in my own country and am prepared to do so again, but not among my friends here. I will advise and leave it at that.

But do not make any mistake. I like the present day Carnation but I look back with a tender feeling for another glance to the beautiful perfect striping on the old Bizarre and Flake Carnations. Alas, we can say that they have now departed.

Looking over the hawthorn hedges of the gardens you would see the old

veterans, many with white beards, tending their plants—maybe puffing peacefully at their pipes—and if the day was hot you would often see one sitting on a crude seat, gazing over his beds, the smoke curling peacefully from his pipe.

My friends, we cannot halt the march of progress but I ask quite frankly, do you prefer the picture I have just painted to one I could paint of our present atomic age?

Again follow me round one of the old shows usually held in one of the old inns. The first prize, a well burnished copper kettle, and other household utensils, were often exhibited on a pole pushed through the bedroom window — a form of advertisement which cost nothing yet was absolutely arresting. (You must try this at one of your shows and let me know the effect it had on the public, but where will you get the brass jam pans and the other utensils?). If there was a gentle breeze the lid jingled against the kettle, kettle against jam pan and in full chorus the whole exhibit produced quite a soothing symphony. We shall never see or hear anything like that again, yet I look back to it over the years with a very tender feeling. There was no charge for admission but it was assumed that you would indulge in a tankard of beer when viewing the exhibits.

Inside the Inn the largest room would be filled with tables stretching from one side of the room to the other. If it was a Spring show what a sight would meet the eye. The tables packed with plants—not one medium sized table as you see today, there you would see in quantity those famous old varieties we only read about today, *Lancashire Hero*, *Richard Headley*, *George Lightbody*, *Smiling Beauty*, and scores of others alas, now gone with the wind with the exception of a few plants of *Lightbody*. Peering over the plants

could be seen growers of all ages, some with long flowing beards, their eyes like microscopes glued to each truss they examined. Criticism and praise were given without mercy in the rich full Lancashire dialect.

The judging of such a large number of plants must have taxed the skill of those old judges.

As I pen these notes I have in mind one show in particular held over 60 years ago. I was unaccompanied and when I had seen all the exhibits I went up to one grower I knew and complimented him on his *Richard Headley*. He had two or three plants of the Auricula there and they were in great form, one plant carrying at least 12 pips was a real picture. By the time I finished my chat with him the show was over and the exhibitors were moving their plants. The old boy—he must have been over 80—took me by the arm and lifting from the table the plant of *Headley* I had admired said, "Take that home. I have plenty more at home." Then passing to the polyanthus he said, "I saw you admiring these *George IV*. Take two of them home and tell thy father that Ned— sends his 'How do,' will tha!" I assured him I would. I was quite a young grower then, now alas, there are no *Richard Headleys* or *George IV*.

In the days I refer to there were few forms of amusement. They had to make their own and I can assure members that some of it was of a very high order. Floriculture ranked high with many of the artisan class. They had a ready wit and a high sense of humour.

A sample of this is displayed in a conversation between Sam Barlow and old Jack Beswick. Barlow was a very wealthy industrialist and had one of the finest collections of florists' plants in the North country. Jack was an old craftsman with little in his pocket yet the two were great friends. I must

say that Barlow did like to win whenever he showed but he was no match for old Jack with Gold Laced Polyanthus. At one show in Manchester he put up a good group of polyanthus, but old Jack was too many for him and he had to take second place. He decided to give old Jack a very liberal amount of liquid refreshment and when he reached the talking stage ask him outright what he did to produce such fine trusses on his polyanthus. The moment eventually arrived and he said, "Oh Jack, how does tha manage to get such fine trusses on thi polyanthus?" Old Jack looked up sleepily and uttered this crushing reply, "Well Sam, some folks never asks me and some folks I never tell!" For sheer evasion I think that unrivalled either here or in America. No diplomat could beat it. Sam Barlow took it with a smile and a pat on old Jack's back.

Barlow was also a great grower of old English Tulips. He had one of the finest collections in the country. His tulip beds in spring were a fine sight and he cared little how much he paid for a bulb. There was one old grower who lived within one half mile of where I now write who raised some magnificent varieties. He exhibited one of his best at Manchester and it carried off the premier award. He named it Mrs. Barlow. Sam Barlow saw this and was determined to have it at any cost. The following day his carriage drew up at the door of the old weaver and Barlow explained that he had come to buy a few bulbs of his Tulip *Mrs. Barlow*. The reply was a blunt "NO, I want them myself and I would rather have them than your money." For a long time Barlow pleaded in vain and finally told the old grower that he had named it after his wife and he must have it in his garden. Barlow then made this offer. "You put Tulip bulbs on one side of the scales and sovereigns on my side

and we will call that the price." By this time the old man was worn out with arguing and agreed, so a few bulbs were put on one side of the scales and sovereigns on the other. I did hear it said that the old man insisted on another sovereign being put on the scales, just in case the scales did not weigh correctly, but I would not guarantee the accuracy of that. But everything else I have written is correct. There is an old saying that some article was worth its weight in gold. Here was surely a case in point.

There was equal enthusiasm about the Show Gooseberry. I wonder if any member has tasted one of the real show berries. If not, then they do not know the real flavour of this fruit. They were grown to such a size that the skin was almost transparent and the size of a Victoria Plum. Put one in the mouth, press the tongue and the result was a mouthful of jelly, sweet and delicious. I have never tasted gooseberries since those days. I smile as I write when I recall the announcement of one gooseberry show posted outside the Inn in large writing. After describing the awards it ended thus: "Open to all the world and all sorts." Yes, they challenged the whole of creation and they could buy any variety they wished . . . they were waiting and ready for them.

It was amusing to look over those hawthorn hedges and see the different forms of protection given to the bushes. In spring you would see bed clothes and other household apparel (description barred) to protect the setting fruit from frost. To protect the fruit as it approached the ripening stage, from heavy rain or strong sunlight, it was common to see the whole of the bed covered with umbrellas of all ages. But when the protection was removed you would see a fascinating and amazing sight. The bushes, some of very great age, resembled dwarfed Japanese

trees in the best Bonzai style. There was a single central stem, about 18 inches high, and the branches radiated horizontally from the top like the spokes in a wheel. There were no vertical branches. The fruiting spurs which covered the horizontal branches were short and gnarled by the most severe pruning. A limited number of berries was allowed on each branch and they were of considerable size. I have seen them stand in an egg cup. I have lost my record of the heaviest berry shown, but I have seen them weighing 34 pennyweights. I have often regretted that I never had a photograph made of a bed filled with these dwarfed bushes. It would have been of interest to you in America. I had quite a number of these bushes prior to the war but alas, they vanished during the war years.

In the judging size, shape, weight, absolute freedom from blemish and the eye where the flower had been must be as small as a pin point—almost. This was called pin eyed. The enthusiasm at the shows was terrific. If some fault in judging had been criticized there was as much uproar as if Mr. K had been in action at a summit conference, but it always ended by everybody sipping his beer and enjoying a joke. Far better if all conferences ended this way. I should like to visit one of those shows but alas, we shall see them no more. Today we have the radio, television, cinema, motor cars and scores of other forms of amusement which were undreamed of in those more placid days.

When we of the older generation look back we see the vast difference in the two forms of amusement. Then they made their own and some of it was really skilled, as for example floriculture. Today it is, to a large extent served up for us over the radio, television, etc. Please don't misunderstand me, I am not criticizing radio, tele-

vision etc., I am criticizing some of the matter they put on, and again I am speaking now of my own country. I do not know what you do in America and if I did I have no right to comment on it.

But I have gone on with these rambling notes too long. It was my intention to confine myself to the Gold Laced Polyanthus yet I found myself rambling along about the old shows, gooseberries and everything but what this society stands for . . . a sign of old age, I think. I could have filled quite a volume with humorous stories of those old veterans, their plants and gardens, but it would probably have been of interest to a few only.

My intention when I first started was to try and arouse more enthusiasm for many of the old world favourites, developed in the land of many of your fathers. If you are developing and growing the classical Show Auricula keep it classical and up to the standards of old. If you grow the fancy Auricula keep them apart from the classical flower and do not cross the two. Yet again if you grow the border Auricula, which will be of the Alpine class, then again keep them apart from the exhibition class of Alpine Auricula. And the same with the Gold Laced Polyanthus. You have gone quite a distance in raising Show Auriculas and Gold Laced Polyanthus in the short time you have been cultivating them and you deserve all praise for the progress you have made.

I will name only two outstanding raisers and growers of this society, the late Peter Klein and my dear old friend over your northern border, Frank Michaud. Frank was one of the first I ever corresponded with on horticulture in America and the flow of correspondence between us has made life far more pleasant than it otherwise would have been. I hope

that many happy years lie ahead of him, but, alas, we are both getting older, yet I hope a little wiser and mellowed as the years roll on.

This Society has a lovely name 'Primrose Society,' which from my first acquaintance with it seemed to have a binding link between us. Yes, many things far less lovely than our Yellow Primrose have linked nations together.

Let us band ourselves together and work together in harmony to cultivate the flowers we all love so well. Long after the last bomb has exploded and the last gun rusted away the Primulas, Gentians and Nomochares will still be blooming peacefully in far away Tibet. Whatever the outside world may do, let us cling to our gardens and there I am sure we shall all find peace.

When buying anything advertised in these pages, please say you saw the ad in the Primrose Quarterly.

In a letter to Mr. Cyrus Happy recently Mr. Bamford wrote "The seedling Gold Laced Polyanthus illustrated on the cover of the Fall issue and raised by Peter Klein is the best G. L. seedling I have seen for over 50 years. Such a flower does not need any judging—it judges itself It is amazing that he went so far in so short a time with the limited material at his disposal.

IN MEMORIAM

Wesley M. Bottoms, a past president of the Tacoma Primrose Society and winner of Hybridizing Award for his work with pink hose - in - hose, passed away December 13. To his wife Vilate we offer heartfelt sympathy.

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Notes From Barnhaven

BY FLORENCE BELLIS

The last Quarterly brought me pictures of four good friends and, Oh! so many memories. There were Mr. Briggs and Captain Hawkes, Mr. Bamford and Pete Klein. To each I owe much and to each a different debt. I am not speaking of the letter I have owed Mr. Bamford for the past sixteen or seventeen years. Nor of the photograph of "Tiny" borrowed for Quarterly use in the infant years of the Society and which still lies hidden in some old file and heavily on my conscience. I am not speaking of the letter I owe Mr. Briggs for the past fifteen years or so, and apologies for unfinished intra-Society business. Surely, I must owe Captain Hawkes a letter for he, too, is an old correspondent of mine.

For several months before the current Fall Quarterly arrived I owed Roy Genders a letter. He had requested a history of the Barnhaven strains of Polyanthus and other varieties for his coming "comprehensive book on Polyanthus" his publishers have asked him to write. This and the pictures of my old friends caused the upheaval which brought from under the dust of years all the old Barnhaven lists and catalogs beginning with the first mimeographed, hand-painted sheet timidly offered in 1939. From these Barnhaven lists and letters of my friends, the revival of Gold Lace Polyanthus, Hose-in-hose and Jack-in-the-Greens were pieced together into a whole.

To Mr. Bamford I owe a debt of inspiration. Sometime prior to 1939 several copies of old Gardening Illustrateds came to hand. In one I read of this man's love of Auriculas and the story of the old handloom silk weavers he visited as a boy. I read how the

weavers would desert their looms by day in Auricula time, go out into their gardens, lift the lights and feed upon the beauty and fragrance of their plants. And how their shuttles clicked far into the night to make up the work time lost. At that time Show and Alpine Auriculas in America existed in print and desire only with the exception of those cultivated by Mrs. A. C. U. Berry. From a distribution point, I believe we had the first Shows and Alpines in the States sent us a few years later by Mr. G. Dalrymple of Bartley Nurseries, together with some cherished letters.

In 1945 Captain Hawkes sent us seeds of Hose-in-hose and Jack-in-the-Green. Then, as now, he was a leading fancier of Elizabethan flowers. Colors were limited to blue-reds and yellow and to enlarge the range, Polyanthus of other colors were used as seed parents. In 1948, Barnhaven's catalog offered "Hybrid seed to throw a percentage of Hose-in-hose and Jack-in-the-Greens in various colors." By 1949 sufficient stabilization of form permitted a straight listing of Jacks and Hose in tawny, red, white, pink and yellow. 1950 saw blue added.

It was about this time the Jacks became so spectacular here many Canadians came down expressly to see these quaint, beautifully colored flowers. This was when I first heard from Peter Klein. The first primrose seed he ever grew was several packets of these Jack-in-the-Greens, and with such success he exhibited the following year at the Tacoma Show. With them he created a sensation as they were little known up there at the time. And within himself he created a love of primroses which lasted the rest of

his life. He next sent for his first Gold Lace seed. It was shortly after this I conducted a Judging School in Seattle which Pete attended. I well remember the digression when someone asked how to make doubles. Time was limited but I briefly reviewed Donald O'Connell's "Hybridizing for Double Primroses" (Quarterly No. 2, Volume 3, October, 1945). To my knowledge, the individual who asked did not hybridize double Primroses. Peter Klein did. Shortly before his death he sent me seed. From these pollen-bearing doubles, more new doubles are being made.

Prior to the second World War, Gold Lace Polyanthus seed distributed by British seed firms and sold internationally produced anything but perfect Gold Lace Polyanthus. The same was true of the offerings following the war. To Mr. Briggs goes the honor of bringing about the revival of Gold Lace Polyanthus measuring up to traditional florists' standards.

About 1944, Mr. Briggs sent us a few seeds of Gold Lace. The history of this seed should not be lost. He wrote that at the beginning of the War there were but two small nurseries in England still engaged in the growing of traditional Gold Lace Polyanthus. What happened to one, Mr. Briggs did not say. The other was just barely hanging on. The seeds Mr. Briggs sent us resulted from pieces of plants gathered by the owner of this nursery over a radius of half a mile, more or less. His nursery had been bombed, and to recover sufficient remains with which to begin again, he set out with a basket on his arm and began the search. From these shreds and scraps of roots he grew plants enough to provide a few seeds, some of which were given Mr. Briggs. Mr. Briggs, in turn, sent some to Barnhaven.

Our first Gold Lace listing was in

1948, and being familiar with Glen-ny's 19th century scoring, knew a good Gold Lace when I saw one. Gold Lace, unlike mutations such as Show Auriculas, respond readily to line breeding as can be seen by the photograph in the last Quarterly on page 108. The coming spring will tell whether or not there are now more perfectly laced specimens than imperfect. It will tell whether or not enough generations have been produced to breed out the heritage of imperfections. The parent plants of these being currently grown were meticulously screened as that generation produced more perfect specimens than could be used. Much of this seed is sold in England where it finds its way to the show tables. The balance goes to Canada and America—mostly to men. The average gardener scattered over America away from centers of primrose interest, knows nothing of the fact that Gold Lace are to be grown for an entirely different purpose than garden Polyanthus. They do not even know that the Gold Lace has been made to conform to certain rules. So it seems strange that they should prefer them to the highly colored, giant border variety. I agree with Mr. Bamford that it is heresy to grow them in the border along with garden Polyanthus. And, further, to have florists make them into corsages tied with gold bow to be worn on the new spring suit, preferably brown. But so they are.

After so many generations of selecting out the perfect specimens and line breeding, they are produced regularly here from seed rather than vegetatively from offsets of named varieties. Now, both Gold Lace and Silver Lace Polyanthus on either black or mahogany grounds will survive as long as there are hybridizers who know the rules. The interest has spread to Australia, and somewhere, someone will

pick up the torch when it is dropped by those who formed the bridge between the old florists and those yet to come.

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H	Danks, Fred M., Victoria, Australia	X	Schatzl, Stefan, Linz-Donan, Austria
I	Berry, Mrs. A. C. U., Portland, Ore.	Y	Baker, Mrs. Alfred, Ketchikan, Alaska
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O	Ford, Mrs. Robert M., Seattle, Wn.	EE	Marshall, Dorothy B., Portland, Ore.
P	Gosling, Mrs. J. G., White Pigeon, Mich.		

SEEDS FOR 1962 SEED EXCHANGE

1	Abutilon hybrids	Z	21	Anemone alpina	M*
2	Achillea atrata	X	22	Anemone alpina sulfurea	AA*, DD*
3	Achillea clavennae	X	23	Anemone baldensis	N, R
4	Actaea pachypoda alba	Z*	24	Anemone demissa	AA
5	Actaea pachypoda rubrocarpa	Z*	25	Anemone globosa	N
6	Actaea rubra	Z*	26	Anemone magellanica	M
7	Adonis vernalis	M	27	Anemone occidentalis	R
8	Aetheonema armenum	T	28	Anemone patens	C
9	Allium karataviense	N	29	Anemone pratensis	M*
10	Allium tuberosum	Z	30	Anemone pratensis nigricans	C
11	Alyssoides utriulatum	AA*	31	Anemone pusatilla CAMLA	M
12	Alyssum petraeum	Z	32	Anemone pusatilla carminea	M
13	Alyssum petraeum saxatile	Z	33	Anemone pusatilla hybrids	C
14	Alyssum petraeum citrinum	J	34	Anemone sylvestris	M, N
15	Alyssum petraeum ssp. arduinii	AA	35	Anemone vernalis	M
16	Amorpha fruticosa	Z	36	Anthemis nobilis	M
17	Anacyclus depressus	M, R	37	Anthyllis montana	AA*
18	Andromeda polyfolia	S*	38	Aquilegia akitensis	Y, AA
19	Androsace carnea laggeri	AA	39	Aquilegia caerulea	N
20	Androsace lactiflora	R			

- 40 Aquilegia clematiflora B, CC
41 Aquilegia flabellata nana J, Y
42 Aquilegia hybrids F
43 Aquilegia pyrenaica R
44 Arabis muralis M
45 Aralia hispida Z*
46 Arenaria austriaca R
47 Argemone mexicana M
48 Arisaema triphyllum P
49 Armeria juncifolia R
50 Armeria juniperifolia N
51 Artemisia glacialis AA*
52 Asclepias currassavica Z
53 Asclepias incarnata P*, Z*
54 Asclepias syriaca Z*
55 Asclepias tuberosa P, Z*
56 Aster alpinus G
57 Aster kumleini G
58 Aster novae angliae roseus Z*
59 Astilbe chinensis pumila M
60 Astragalus alopecuroides AA*
61 Aubrieta deltoidea Z
62 Aubrieta Select R
63 Baptisia australis M, Z
64 Bellium minutum P
65 Bruckenthalia spiculifolia B
66 Calochortus luteus A*
67 Campanula alliarifolia L
68 Campanula collina Y
69 Campanula elatines glabra R
70 Campanula latifolia CC
71 Campanula oblongifolia AA
72 Campanula raddeana P
73 Campanula saxatilis X*
74 Carnation border hybrids Select Z
75 Carnation pinks, Select Z
76 Cassia marilandica Z
77 Catanache caerulea L, M
78 Centaurea cyanus plena Z
79 Centaurea jacea Z
80 Cerastium alpinum lanatum J
81 Cercis canadensis Z
82 Chaenomeles lagenaria Z
83 Chaenomeles japonica Z
84 Cimicifuga simplex R
85 Clematis macropetala M
86 Cleome spinosa PINK QUEEN CC
87 Clintonia borealis Z*
88 Conandron ramondioides S*
89 Coptis trifolia Z*
90 Cornus canadensis Z*
91 Cortusa matthioli R, AA
92 Corydalis rupestris N
93 Cardocrinum giganteum V
94 Crocus byzantinus X
95 Cyclamen neapolitanum A
96 Cyclamen pseudograecum X*
97 Cyclamen repandum X
98 Daphne mezereum Z
99 Daphne mezereum album P
100 Dianthus Allwood's Alpine N
101 Dianthus alpinus E, P, X
102 Dianthus barbatus fl. pl. Z
103 Dianthus carthusianorum AA
104 Dianthus cruentus AA
105 Dianthus deltoides erectus V
106 Dianthus myrtinervis S
107 Dianthus neglectus R
108 Dianthus plumarius F
109 Dianthus plumarius plenus Z
110 Dianthus superbus speciosus S
111 Digitalis ambigua CC
112 Digitalis grandiflora Bulgarian form AA
113 Digitalis lutea L
114 Digitalis sp. mixed CC
115 Dodocatheon dentatum album I
116 Dodocatheon hendersonii A*
117 Draba aizoon AA
118 Dracocephalum ruyschiana AA*
119 Dryas drummondii M
120 Dryas octopetala M, R
121 Dryas suendermannii M
122 Echinops ritro M*
123 Eranthis hyemalis M, Z
124 Erica tetralix mollis M
125 Erigeron glaucus roseus R
126 Erinus alpinus DR HANELLE J
127 Erysimum asperum K
128 Erysimum pumilum L
129 Erythronium revolutum A
130 Euonymus europaeus Z
131 Euonymus oxyphyllus Z
132 Euonymus yedoensis Z
133 Fritillaria involucrata X
134 Fritillaria lanceolata A
135 Fritillaria meleagris N
136 Gaultheria procumbens Z*
137 Gentiana asclepiadea J, DD
138 Gentiana clusii X
139 Gentiana crinita P, M
140 Gentiana cruciata AA*
141 Gentiana gracilipes P
142 Gentiana linearis J
143 Gentiana lutea X, DD
144 Gentiana nivalis X
145 Gentiana pumila X
146 Gentiana verna X
147 Geranium armenum Z
148 Geranium endressii Z
149 Geranium sanguineum DRAKE'S PINK T
150 Geranium sanguineum nanum Z
151 Geranium sanguineum nanum roseum Z
152 Geum montanum J
153 Globularia bellidifolia B
154 Globularia vulgaris L
155 Helianthemum nummularium Z
156 Hemerocallis hybridum M
157 Hermodactylus tuberosus X*
158 Hesperis matronalis candidissima N
159 Hibiscus syriacus, named forms Z
160 Hieraceum villosum Z
161 Hosta caerulea CC
162 Hutchinsia alpina J
163 Hyacinthus FAIRY N
164 Iberis pygmaea N
165 Impatiens balsamina Z
166 Incarvillea grandiflora J
167 Inula montana AA*
168 Iris milesii AA
169 Iris setosa Y
170 Iris sisyrrinchium X*
171 Iris sp. CALIFORNIA GOLD Z
172 Iris tectorum AA
173 Jasione montana N
174 Jeffersonia diphylla X
175 Knautia drymeia Z
176 Kolkwitzia amabilis Z
177 Lavendula officinalis T
178 Leontopodium albanicum P
179 Leucojum aestivum Z
180 Lewisia cotyledon hybrids B
181 Lilium amabile V
182 Lilium canadense G
183 Lilium hybridum, mixed Z
184 Lilium pumilum V
185 Lilium regale Z
186 Lilium superbium V
187 Linaria purpurea AA
188 Linaria supina P
189 Lindera benzoin Z
190 Linum perenne M
191 Lobelia cardinalis W, Z, CC
192 Lobelia siphilitica L, M
193 Lobelia siphilitica alba L
194 Lonicera tatarica lutea Z
195 Lonicera tatarica rubra Z
196 Lunaria annua K
197 Lychnis chalcidonica alba Z
198 Lychnis chalcidonica salmonea Z
199 Lychnis coronaria Z
200 Maianthemum canadense Z*
201 Malva alcea Z*
202 Malva moschata Z*
203 Malva moschata rosea L
204 Meconopsis cambrica A, R, Z
205 Meconopsis SSW PINK U
206 Meconopsis SSW RED U
207 Meconopsis villosa N
209 Mimulus longiflorus T
208 Mitchella repens Z*
210 Nigella damascena CC
211 Paeonia officinalis AA*
212 Paeonia sp. mixed Z
213 Papaver alpinum J, R, EE
214 Papaver rupifragum G, CC
215 Parnassia caroliniana P
216 Parnassia palustris X
217 Pelargonium zonale mixed Z
218 Penstemon cyaneus T
219 Penstemon digitalis Z*
220 Penstemon richardsonii T
221 Phyteuma orbiculare M, AA*
222 Platycodon grandiflorum AA
223 Platycodon grandiflorum plenum Z
224 Polygonatum biflorum P
225 Portulaca grandiflora Z
226 Potentilla nepalensis willmottiae P
227 Potentilla rupestris L
228 Primula acaulis A
229 Primula acaulis BLACKBERRY BB
230 Primula acaulis light blue Z
231 Primula acaulis dark blue Z
232 Primula acaulis mixed blue R
233 Primula acaulis pink BB
234 Primula acaulis yellow BB
235 Primula alpicola I
236 Primula alpicola LUNA BB
237 Primula angustifolia heleniae Z
238 Primula aurantiaca O
239 Primula auricula Alpine mixed A, D
240 Primula auricula Alpine Select Z
241 Primula auricula bauhini AA*
242 Primula auricula double mixed D
243 Primula auricula gigantea Z
244 Primula auricula mixed border A, D, R, BB, Z
245 Primula auricula Select Z
246 Primula auricula Show A
247 Primula auricula Show Select Z
248 Primula bullesiana hybrids Z
249 Primula bulleyana U, Z
250 Primula bulleyana Inshriach hybrids BB
251 Primula candelabra A, Z
252 Primula capitata mooreana B, Z
253 Primula chinensis KARDINAL Z

253	Primula chionantha	B	299	Primula polyanthus Gartford strain H		346	Senecio adonidifolius	X	372	Veronica incana	M
254	Primula chungensis	R				347	Shortia soldanelloides	S	373	Vesicaria utriculata	G
255	Primula clusiana	X, AA	300	Primula polyanthus gigantea red	Z	348	Silene alpestris	J	374	Viola cuculata FRECKLES	Z
256	Primula cockburniana	B, AA, U	301	Primula polyanthus Hansehs F.2 mixed	Z	349	Silene compacta	Z	375	Viola cuculata rubra	Z
257	Primula denticulata	R, Z				350	Smilacina racemosa	Z	376	Viola elatior	Z
258	Primula denticulata alba	Z	302	Primula polyanthus mixed	Z	351	Solidago cutleri	M	377	Viola odorata KAISERIN AUGUSTA	Z
259	Primula denticulata cashmeriana	E	303	Primula polyanthus orange	Z	352	Solidaster luteus	L			
260	Primula denticulata lavender	BB	304	Primula polyanthus Select	Z	353	Staphylea trifolia	Z*	378	Viola odorata mixed colors	Z
261	Primula denticulata purple	M	305	Primula polyanthus Sky Hook Giants	BB	354	Stephanotis floribunda	Z	380	Amorpha canescens	Z
262	Primula edgeworthii	U				355	Stipa pinnata	AA*	381	Codonopsis clematidea	EE
263	Primula farinosa	R, DD	306	Primula polyanthus Tecumseh strain	Z	356	Strawberry, alpine	M	382	Crocus iridiflorus	X
264	Primula fauriae	R				357	Symphyandra hofmannii	Z	383	Cyclamen europaeum	DD*
265	Primula floribunda	S	307	Primula polyneura	R, BB	358	Taxus cuspidata	Z	384	Dodecatheon latifolium	EE
266	Primula florindae	J	308	Primula prolifera	O	359	Tellima grandiflora	Y	385	Erythronium hendersonii	EE
267	Primula florindae x waltoni	BB	309	Primula pubescens	J	360	Thalictrum aquilegifolium	AA, CC	386	Gentiana acaulis	DD
268	Primula frondosa	B, J, R, S	310	Primula pulverulenta Bartley strain	I, BB	361	Thalictrum rochebruiianum	Q	387	" " punctuata	DD*
269	Primula geraniifolia	I				362	Thymophylla tennisecta	M	388	" " purpurea	DD*
270	Primula halleri	R	311	Primula reidii williamsii	I	363	Thymus serpyllum	Z, F	389	Hypericum pyramidatum	Z*
271	Primula hirsuta	R	312	Primula rosea	B, U	364	Tricyrtis hirta mixed	R	390	Iris kaempferi	Z
272	Primula japonica	B, R, V	313	Primula rubra	J	365	Tricyrtis stolonifera	M	391	Leontopodium alpinum	DD
273	Primula japonica alba	V, BB	314	Primula saxatilis	B, R, Z, BB	366	Trillium erectum	Z*	392	Lilium washingtonianum	EE*
274	Primula japonica crimson	BB	315	Primula secundiflora	B, I, O	367	Troillius europaeus	R	393	Polemonium carneum	EE
275	Primula japonica FUJIYAMA	O	316	Primula sieboldii	R, S*, Z	368	Tulipa cretica	X*	394	Pontederia cordata	Z*
276	Primula japonica GLOWING EMBERS	M	317	Primula sieboldii SOUTHERN CROSS	D, BB	369	Vernonia noveboracensis	Z	395	Primula obconica dark blue	Z
277	Primula japonica MILLER'S CRIMSON	J	318	Primula sikkimensis, orange	O	370	Veronica allionii	AA*	396	Thymus serpyllum lanuginosus	F
278	Primula japonica pink	BB	319	Primula sikkimensis, SS&W 8119	AA	371	Veronica gentianoides	AA	397	Tulipa persica	EE
279	Primula japonica POSTFORD'S WHITE	A	320	Primula sikkimensis, mixed colors	O						
280	Primula jesoana pubescens	Z	321	Primula sino-purpurea	B						
281	Primula juliae WANDA	M	322	Primula sp. Zimm 1583-B	AA						
282	Primula littoniana	Z	323	Primula tosaensis	S*						
283	Primula luteola	AA	324	Primula viali	B						
284	Primula malacoides	B, O	325	Primula viscosa allionii	AA*						
285	Primula malacoides AEMTLER PERLE	Z	326	Primula x kewensis hort.	S						
286	Primula marginata	J	327	Primula x kewensis THURGOLD	Z						
287	Primula mistassinica	R	328	Rhododendron intermedium	X						
288	Primula modesta alba	R	329	Rhodothamnus chamaecistus	X						
289	Primula nutans	I	330	Rhodotypos tetrapetala	Z						
290	Primula obconica	E	331	Romanzoffia sitchensis	B						
291	Primula obconica FASBENDER BLUE	Z	332	Rudbeckia hirta MEINE FREUDE	Z						
292	P. obconica " RED	Z	333	Salvia grandiflora	AA						
293	Primula obconica FASBENDER WHITE	Z	334	Salvia pratensis	Z						
294	Primula obconica STADT ZURICH	Z	335	Satureja alpina	N						
295	Primula officinalis uralensis	R	336	Saxifraga caespitosa	M						
296	Primula polyanthus blue	Z	337	Saxifraga mossy	J, R						
297	Primula polyanthus COLOSSEA BLUE	Z	338	Saxifraga umbrosa spathulata	R						
298	Primula polyanthus Douglas strain	Z	339	Scabiosa alpina	Z						
			340	Scabiosa columbaria	P						
			341	Scilla hispanica	Z						
			342	Scilla sibirica	Z						
			343	Sedum caucolicum	J						
			344	Sedum ellacombianum	G						
			345	Sedum ewersii	J						

A.P.S. Seed Exchange Report 1961

From Elmer C. Baldwin, Chm.

Cash on hand 8-1-60	.....	\$216.52
Receipts 1961	.....	\$256.95
Disbursements:		
Account book	..... .25	
Postage	..... 27.31	
Sponsored memberships—5	..... 12.70	
Rubber stamp—mailing instructions	..... .79	
Printing, seed list and check chg.	.....108.10	
Seed envelopes 5M	..... 14.89	
Duplicating charge	..... 3.50	
Telephone—Mrs. Ford—list	..... 3.66	
Photograph "Seed Exchange"	..... 5.00	
	176.20	176.20
Net credit 1961	.....	80.75
Cash on hand 8-1-61	.....	297.27
Bank interest 1961	.....	2.92
Amount forward to 1962 account	.....	300.19

A.P.S. 1961 Activity Report, Seed Exchange

Number of items contained	.....	604
Number of contributors	.....	47
Primula varieties listed	.....	117
Members requesting seed	.....	212
Total number of packets distributed	.....	4958
Item receiving greatest number of requests (No. 399)	.....	77
Number of items for which over 50 requests were rec'vd	.....	6
Number of items for which over 10 requests were rec'vd	144
Number on list which were not requested	44

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MRS. DENNA SNUFFER

wishes to advise members that she is not going to seed her double auricula plants in the spring of 1962. There is no seed available now.

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People and Flowers

Mr. Howard A. Short . . .

New president of the Washington State Primrose Soc. is a Professional Electrical Engineer, now on a semi-retired basis. He recently purchased property on Bainbridge Island where he is busy planting his hundreds of rhododendrons and primroses in an ideal location near a stream, in deep leafmold. Mr. and Mrs. Short visited Great Britain in 1957 and New Zealand last winter. The trips were planned to visit Mrs. Short's relatives in both places, but because they both are interested they saw most of the famous gardens en route. Mr. Short, a fine photographer, brought back many excellent color slides.

Mr. Floyd Keller . . .

newly elected president of the Tacoma Primrose Society is successful with all types of primula. He is vitally interested in hybridizing, driving miles to attend meetings of the N.W. Hybridizers. He and his wife Hazel have the Tacoma Avenue Perennial Gardens. Both are active members of their local society and help to make the Tacoma Primrose Shows successful.

Howard
A. Short



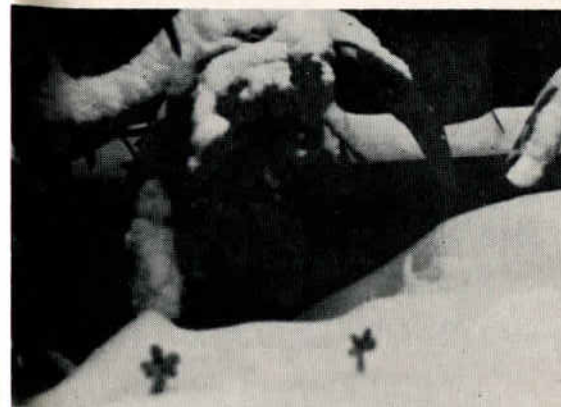
Gold Laced Polyanthus . . .

Dan Bamford will be pleased to know that No. 399 on the 1961 Seed Exchange list was the most popular item. There were 77 requests for this seed supplied by Mr. Elmer C. Baldwin, S. E. Chairman.

Donald J. Lennox . . .

An A.P.S. member, has his first advertisement for *The Mountain Valley Nursery* in this issue. He specializes in choice Rock Garden and Alpine plants as well as Primulas. Write for his new catalog to Jefferson, N.H.

Last spring in your editor's garden a late snow covered a border of Julianas and Polyanthus in full bloom. A week later they were unharmed.



The Heather Garden Never Sleeps

FRANCES KINNE ROBERSON, *Seattle, Washington*

From the December, 1953 edition of PACIFIC GARDEN & HOME with the kind permission of Mrs. Orrin Hale, co-publisher, and the author, one of the N.W.'s most knowledgeable growers.

The newcomer to the Northwest is usually impressed by the evergreen shrubs and trees which abound here. Even greater amazement follows as soon as closer acquaintance reveals winter as a season of flowers and fruits.

One constant joy throughout the year is the hardy clan of Heaths. Perhaps they lack the barbaric colors of summer annuals. Also missing is the surfeit of lush growth, prodigal flowering and early fading which we usually associate with the perennial border. The contrasting even temperament of the Winter Heath is an example of one type of compensation, since it makes a dependable landscape feature in any location where it is suitable, all through the year.

Winter Varieties

The true Winter Heath is *Erica carnea*. The type and all of its varieties spread in low mats of varying characteristics. The season continues from December into March or April, depending on the openness of the winter. Mild weather hastens the flowering and shortens the season, but it also means better flowers with less frost damage. The variety King George begins the season about December when it covers its compact low shrubs with lavender rose flowers. This is really one of the most satisfactory of the Winter Heaths, as well as being the earliest.

Erica carnea itself continues the season through January and early February with a grand display of bright rosy flowers on its more angular branches. The foliage inclines to

bronze instead of to the rich green of King George.

Mid-January or the first of February brings the varieties Springwood White and Springwood Pink into flower. The white one is the most prostrate of all *Erica carnea* varieties and has a light green foliage. It is often used for carpeting large areas, since it covers very rapidly. Springwood Pink is equally generous with its flowers of light pink which mature to deep rose, and it makes a slightly taller plant with deeper green foliage.

Tagalong at the end of the season is *Erica carnea vivelli*. Deep bronze foliage and rich crimson flowers are its best attributes.

Spring Varieties

Spring finds the Mediterranean Hybrid Heather at its best, with an ever-increasing number of color forms from which to choose. Perhaps appetites have been satiated with too much Mediterranean Hybrid, but I doubt if other varieties of heather or of other shrubs will ever diminish its usefulness on banks, in large rock gardens, or in the foreground of the shrub border or foundation planting. One valid objection to it should be directed more properly at the habit of pruning it into an absolute sphere. Irregular outlines fit so much better into natural landscaping.

Summer Varieties

Summer wends its way through a maze of varieties of heather in flower. *Erica Dawn* is one of the earliest. Its wiry, twisted stems weave a bunchy mound which bears many clusters of

large pink bells over a very long season. Early fall usually finds it still in flower.

Other hybrids which follow along through July and August include *E. Watsoni* and *E. Williamsi*. Reddish tones haunt the neatly arranged foliage of the former while yellowish tints gleam through the green of the latter and center in the tips of new growth. Flowers of *E. Watsoni* are large reddish purple bells. Those of *E. Williamsi* are small and pink.

Erica ciliaris and *Erica tetralix* are combined in these and many other hybrids, with sometimes one and sometimes the other contributing most strongly to the new type. These all like plenty of moisture.

Erica cinerea adapts itself to drier soil than most of the other Heaths. This fact applies to the varieties as well as to the species. All of these have very fine leaves and all are mid-summer to late summer in flowering season. Also, they are easily grown from seed. Two variegated ones, Golden Drop and Golden Hue, have won considerable praise for their foliage.

The true Scotch Heather, *Calluna vulgaris*, begins its parade of beauty in July or earlier with its variegated form. The lavender flowers come and go almost unnoticed because they blend so unobtrusively into the bright foliage. The dense soft green foliage of *Calluna vulgaris McKayi* makes a much better foil for flowers of similar coloring.

Late summer brings a galaxy of Heather into flower. *Erica vagans*, the Cornish Heath, and all of its varieties are the most substantial contribution to the wealth of color in Heather plantings in that season. All of these plants grow into sturdy mats up to eighteen inches (rarely two feet) in height with more spreading than upright growth. The flowers are borne

around the stem in great profusion. New growth extends the flowering stem almost immediately after the buds begin to open, so that pruning should be done before too much plant strength has been expended on new foliage. *Erica vagans* itself has lavender flowers which are pleasant to see in combination with other colors. The best known varieties are *Lyonnesse* which has white flowers, *St. Keverne* with clear pink ones, and *Mrs. D. F. Maxwell* with brilliant cerise ones. A fairly new variety, *Erica vagans nana alba* lives up to its name, or rather down to it, by being very low and compact. Its flowers are white and the foliage tips are golden.

Simultaneously with *Erica vagans*, the double forms of *Calluna vulgaris* delight the observer with the little pompons which crowd their stems. The favorite for cutting purposes is *Mrs. H. F. Beale* which has long spikes of lavender pink flowers in mid-August. The bush itself becomes loose and straggly with many bare stems in the center unless pruned heavily and judiciously. The dark green foliage seems overlaid with a wash of gray.

Two weeks later *County Wicklow* flowers. The spikes are shorter and inclined to be twisted. The bush itself is much smaller and more compact than the preceding variety, although flower color is practically the same. The foliage is brighter green.

Concurrently come the deeper, clearer pink flowers of the variety *Mrs. J. H. Hamilton*. Its foliage is the darkest of any of this group. The growth habit is very low.

Another double Scotch Heather of great popularity is *Else Frye*, with a double white flower exhibited against gracefully lax stems which are clothed in as bright green as *County Wicklow* wears.

Culture

Generalities regarding the culture of Heather are few. However, they usually thrive best in the sun in well drained soil which has plenty of peat moss incorporated in it. Watering should not be neglected, particularly in the late summer. The root ball often exceeds the top growth in young plants, so they should not be crowded too closely.

Annual or biennial mulching with wet peat moss comes close to duplicating the natural condition under which heather thrives. The peat moss should, however, be worked down into the plants so that it will not foster decay of the new growth.

This suggestion reminds us to mention a planting combination to avoid. The filling of bare spots, in a planting of young heather, with fast growing annuals or perennials (i.e., Nasturtiums, Petunias or Marigolds) should be shunned. The young shrubs will suffer from the dankness resulting from overlapping stems and may even be annihilated. One way of circumventing this situation is to grow small plants of Heather in a nursery bed where they can receive close attention, meanwhile growing a colorful, fast-developing plant in the permanent planting area. The lush plant will be expendable and may be removed as soon as the Heathers have achieved sufficient size to preclude the need of an in-between planting when they are set out.

Propagation

Varieties of Heather may be propagated in the garden by layering branches of the old plants. In fact, inspection of the base of such plants usually reveals some pieces already rooted, unless the plant is not set deeply enough. These rooted sections may be separated from the parent, tip pruned, and set out as progeny.

The home gardener may also root Heathers from cuttings, as the nurseryman propagates them. Non-flowering tips are best. These may be no longer than an inch. In fact, they are most satisfactory when not too long or too hard. Various media are employed, from sand only or peat only to any number of combinations of various substances. A dependable medium is a mixture of one part each of sharp sand, peat moss and perlite. Bottom heat in a hotbed or greenhouse is helpful but not essential. Rooted cuttings should be transplanted as soon as sufficient root ball has developed and before the roots have intertwined. This early handling prevents damage which might be suffered in separating individuals from each other.

Climate Affects Blooming

The season of flower necessarily varies from year to year as climate affects timing, but the relative position in the schedule remains about the same. The flowering period for each variety seldom extends beyond one month of real display. A smattering of bloom may precede and follow this peak period.

You will see by these notes that late spring is the scanty season for Heather bloom. This lack goes unnoticed in the wealth of other plant material which flowers then and, much of it, then only. The remainder of the year we find no dearth of flower among the Heathers.

Much more is to be said about Heathers. Their history, lineage, economic values, and landscape usefulness are some of the facets of the subject to explore. A great deal has been written about them and it is all interesting reading. They are a never-failing source of satisfaction in literature as well as in reality.

Primroses and the A.P.S. Deserve More Popularity

HERBERT DICKSON, *President of A.P.S.*

For several years I have been trying to figure why Primroses and the American Primrose Society are not enjoying the popularity they deserve. After growing many species and hybrid primula, reading available literature, and talking with many people who grow primroses and many more people who do not grow primroses, I have formed some definite opinions on the subject.

First, in all our literature and most of our society meetings we play up the difficult and make growing primroses sound like a real achievement. This discourages people from starting with primroses.

Second, we do not have enough primrose information given wide circulation to the gardening public and presented in an interesting enthusiastic manner.

Third, the breeding program followed by our hybridists and seed growers has lacked sound principles. There has been no scientific experimental or testing program to back up their work. Too many of them used line breeding and selection to intensify the color and size of the flowers alone with little or no attention to the other good qualities a garden plant must have to keep public favor.

Fourth, we are not interesting enough young people in primroses. The average age of our members has increased to the point that growing primroses is looked upon as an old folks' hobby.

What Can We Do About It?

We can and must change our approach in all our writing and speaking about primroses to emphasize the ease and simpleness of primrose culture instead of dwelling on the very few dif-

ficulties encountered. We must stress their beauty and how and where to use them in landscaping. I know of no other border perennial as easy to grow as primulas of the vernaes, candelabra, and auricula sections; in fact, under favorable conditions they will reseed themselves almost to the point of being a nuisance.

As specialists we must write more articles to interest and recruit the beginner, and we must get these articles printed in the popular garden magazines where many gardeners will read them. We must make these articles carry a contagious enthusiasm instead of the impersonal second-hand information put out by the professional writers. Their articles usually leave the reader in the same state as the writer, cold.

Our greatest opportunity as primrose growers lies in a good breeding program. Here we have the chance to improve what we now have and to develop completely new and desirable hybrids everyone will want. First, we must inject vitality, longevity and hardiness into our present large size bright color creations. When these new creations become as tough and reliable as Wanda, they will be grown by everyone.

The A.P.S. needs more members and younger members. We have become a small collection of experienced specialists with no appeal to the young inexperienced gardener. Without young enthusiasts to develop into old experienced specialists to take our place the society will gradually die out.

How do we interest young people between 20 and 40 in growing primroses? We need your ideas and your

willingness to devote your time and energy in carrying out these ideas so the A.P.S. can be rejuvenated with a host of young new members.

In primroses we have the most interesting, versatile and rewarding group of plants in the world. To match this we should also have the biggest, most enthusiastic specialty plant society in the world.

Growing Suggestions

Care of Auriculas

During freezing or very cold weather it is best not to water auriculas. If any pots seem overly dry bring them into a cold basement or covered, protected area and water them well. Do not put out in the coldframe or cold greenhouse until they have dried out somewhat. Always keep auriculas well ventilated during cold weather. Heavy frost will not hurt them if they are not too damp. Fog can cause more harm than cold.

By February the plants will begin to show signs of awakening from their rest. Remove any dead leaves (use two hands for this—one to steady the plant, otherwise you may loosen roots on new offsets). Remove any green from topsoil or pots and add more potting mix if necessary. By March they should be in full growth and in April the trusses appear. They should be shaded from full sun to protect from sunburn in April.

Auricula offsets

In some auriculas the offsets form far above the soil level making it dif-

ficult to propagate them. One safe method is to cut a notch with a sharp knife on the underside of each offset, and then mound the stems around with a mixture of sharp silver sand and peat moss. Roots will form in a few weeks and the new plants may then be severed from the central plant by taking the whole from the pot and carefully cutting them away. Dust all wounds with sulphur or powdered charcoal to check bleeding. A collar to hold the rooting medium in place can be made from a tin or paper cup with both ends removed.

Overwatering fatal in the alpine house in winter . . .

From *My Garden* April, 1950 by Will Ingwersen

"The proper way to water, and when, is a lesson which must be learned, and it is one which only experience can teach. Broadly speaking, it is safe to say that it is difficult to over-water in the height of summer, and fatally easy to do so during the winter months. The really important thing to remember is that when a plant is watered it must be watered thoroughly. A good soaking once a week is to be preferred to an occasional trickle of moisture which does not penetrate more than 1 in. below the surface. In a small alpine house, with not very many pans to tend, it is an excellent idea to have beneath the staging a bath, tank or trough deep enough to allow pans to be immersed to within 1 in. of their rims. If the pans are stood in this until the water soaks through to the surface one can

be sure that they are well watered. Failing this arrangement, and if a quicker method is essential, one should have a small can, of not more than two-quart capacity, with a slender, curved spout. Fill the pot until it overflows and repeat the process at least twice.

Experience will quickly show when a plant needs watering, but it is possible to gently explore the condition of the soil with a finger beneath the fine chippings which should cover the surface. It should be remembered that far more damage is caused by over-watering than by draught. If in any doubt as to the necessity for watering a plant leave it for another day."

* * *

From Mrs. George M. Stanley, Bar Harbor, Maine, to Mrs. Agee

". . . I have used a polyethylene plastic covering on my primroses successfully for five years. I find that even the tiniest seedlings in a flat on top of the ground, mounded with excelsior and covered with the plastic will come through our toughest winters. There is enough moisture in the flat to last all winter under the plastic and since I don't put it on until the ground really freezes and don't take it off until real spring weather they are snugly secure. On the open beds of primulas I use either excelsior or, if I have it, fir brush. Anything to keep the plastic from touching the plants directly, and to keep out the late winter sun. We are apt to have such open, wet winters here on the Island that I have lost more plants through winter wet and tree drip than I ever have from cold. The plastic keeps the crowns dry and primulas emerge in the spring as fresh and green as when they were put to bed in autumn. I used to have a lot of rotted leaves and also much damage from our cold, very dry winds."

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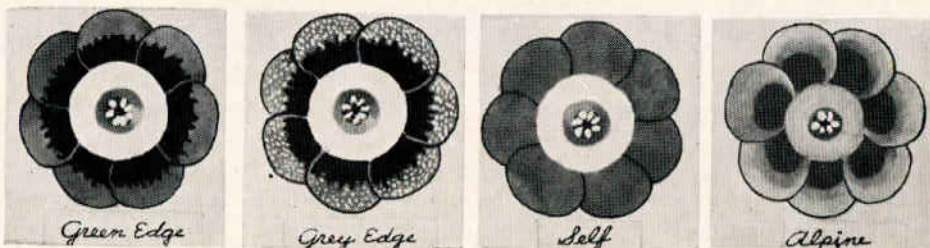
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Letters to the Editor...

From Mr. Burr Bronson, 15 Brookline St., Watertown, Mass. 10-4-61

... "Rose and I are interested in all flowers, but especially wild flowers which we believe make the best companion plants for Primroses, both loving part shade, neutral to slight acid soil and rocks to keep their roots cool. Our favorite wild flowers are Hepaticas, Trillium and native Orchids and we are continually taking trips to wooded lands in many parts of the U.S. and Canada looking for new varieties to add to our collection.

We were fortunate on this last trip to Wisconsin to find three varieties of Hepatica new to us, that is, the foliage is different than any we have seen before, but until they blossom we will be unable to tell the colors. In one variety the reverse of the leaf is a deep plum color purple. Another has leaves of five lobes instead of the usual three.



Prof. Stephen Hamblin confirmed the belief that the accompanying picture is *EPIPACTIS HELLEBORENE ALBA* variety. The usual color is bronze-purple but these are apparently from a sport. If this is true there may be some of the bronze-purple color growing in N.Y. These are a native of Europe and it is thought that the seeds have been brought in by jet stream and left on this coast. This may also be true of several varieties of ferns which have recently been found in this area.

The third variety has variegated or mottled leaves. I have found a reference to this variety which usually is found in North or South Carolina. I wonder what those we found in Northern Wisconsin were doing there. Of the purple leaf kind we found only this one among hundreds of the ordinary triloba and it too, is triloba.

Early in July we made a trip to New York state and back on a dirt roadside in a virgin forest of the Catskills, found a variety of Orchid which at the time was in bud but as the color of the flower was not known, positive identification could not be made. We returned about three weeks later and found them in full flower, a stalk from one to two feet tall with many cream colored flowers along the stalk. One plant had delicate pink flowers instead of cream. We believe this to be Tubercled Rein Orchid but are not sure. I am enclosing a slide I took of it. Perhaps you can identify it. At first we thought it might be the Orchis Hellborine.

We are still searching the world for double Trillium and the green and white ones which are known to exist in parts of central New York state—so far unsuccessfully.

(If any of our readers know the identity of the above Hepaticas or the Orchid please write Mr. Bronson. Also,

please let him know where to find the Trillium. Mr. Bronson goes on to say that on their return from the trip through Western Ontario, Minnesota and Wisconsin they found their garden a foot high with grass and weeds and many of their seedlings completely dried up due to 95 to 98 degree temperatures with no rain.) "Among the many casualties were several hundred of seedling primroses in variety we had never grown before. It only goes to show you can't have your garden and travel, too. However, we can always plant new seeds and the trips are so rewarding."

Dear Mrs. Ford,

I have been fortunate enough to obtain a copy of the Fall Quarterly 1961 which interested me more than ever as I saw the notes written by way of introducing a person of exceptional charm, namely Frank H. Michaud of the Alpenglow Gardens, New Westminster, B.C.

I noted also that on page 127 you published letters to the Editor and I therefore hope that you will find space in the next issue for this.

It was towards the end of the last World War that an English friend of mine introduced me to Mr. Michaud by means of correspondence. In other words, I required a special favour from someone in the States or in Canada to finance an order for Carnation stock which I wished to purchase from an American supplier. Our government was not prepared to assist us growers and prohibited currency conversion to the States or to any other outside country for that matter and yet it was imperative that I should get stock of these new varieties. I did—thanks to Mr. Michaud whom I have never met. He at once, without knowing me in any way, paid my bill and took a chance whether he would ever see his

money back. It was a substantial sum and I was indeed overwhelmed when I heard from the American grower that my cuttings had been dispatched.

How could I let such a man as Mr. Michaud down? Some way or other I am pleased to say my debt with him has been settled, but that was not the end.

I believe the transaction mentioned took place early in 1944. I had many letters from him since, not asking what I would do for him—oh no, but enquiring about my family, how we were getting on during the days of war, whether we had enough to eat, what we had to go short of, and was there anything he could do to help me and my young family? Frequently we received food parcels from him containing items we had not seen for years, such as Best tinned Canadian Salmon, meat rolls, tins of beef, ham, tongue—all too numerous to mention. There were parcels of sweets for the kiddies, luxury items for my wife, which every woman so much appreciates and which we men do not often think of.

Not just once did we get such parcels, but on many occasions and certainly always for Christmas. Affectionately we called him for a long time, our Canadian Santa Claus. Our friends over here envied us as not many of us had such luxuries during those trying years.

I was naturally very interested to read how Mr. Michaud made his way to Canada after a setback in his native land, France. I myself came to this country from Holland and have settled down happily.

How I would love to meet him amongst his plants and on his nursery to shake his hand and express our warmest appreciation of his kindness and his thoughts for others in need without the slightest intention of ultimate reward.

I am perfectly certain that with more men like him in this world it would be a better place for all of us to live in.

Publicly I would like to conclude by saying *Good Luck* to you Mr. Mihaud, long yet may you enjoy good health so that you may derive continued pleasure from your plants. I for one will always remember you with affection and gratitude. God Bless you!

STEVEN BAILEY

When buying anything advertised in these pages, please say you saw the ad in the Primrose Quarterly.

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