

*Quarterly of the American*  
**Primrose**  
*Society*

VOLUME XVIII

SPRING 1960

Number 2



*1960 Yearbook*

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British Subscription price (including membership): 1 pound per year

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Subscription price (including membership): \$3.50 per year, \$10.00 for three years paid  
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 (Free cultural chart with new memberships.)

## Quarterly

of the

## American Primrose Society

VOLUME XVIII

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THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: *Primula Vulgaris (Acaulis)* is the Primrose of the English hedgerows. This is what they mean, over there, when they say "Primrose". The true color is pale yellow and is the Editor's favorite species. *P. Vulgaris* shows no sign of the polyanthus scape and is the very best for making nosegays. The picture is of a drawing made by Doretta Klaber and is actual size. The pictures illustrating Mrs. Klaber's article beginning on page 34 were also drawn by her.

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The editor is Mr. Charles E. Gilman, 16320 Burton Rd., Los Gatos, California  
 It is published at the Seattle Printing & Publishing Company, Seattle, Washington.

Published four times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall.

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Entered as second-class matter at Seattle, Washington, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

# Primroses and Spring

*The Denticulatas are in bloom again on Cloud Hill*

DORETTA KLABER

It is mid-March. Spring is in the air. You feel it, hear it, see it everywhere. Winter aconites have been opening their golden cups whenever the sun shone. I've seen buds along the Primrose Path. On this mild, bright day I hurry out. Yes, the Prelude to Spring is in full swing. The denticulata primroses are in bloom! They precede the big show of the vernal primroses by several weeks. There are other early primroses that come "the day before spring" but denticulatas are undoubtedly the easiest, hardiest, and most dependable. They come from the Himalayas and are sometimes listed as "cashmeriana." The latter is now considered a variety of denticulata. It is usually a bit mealier on stem and back of leaf, shorter, and of a pure lavender.

With the first breath of warm weather in March, the denticulatas put forth small crisp leaves from the large resting bud at the surface of the ground. Almost simultaneously flower stems lift up gay balls of bloom. These may be white or the typical pinkish lavender, but they now can be had in shades of pink, purple, and red. The flower stems start blooming at two to four inches but they continue to grow and bloom to twelve to fifteen inches. The leaves also keep growing, gradually forming an upstanding head, with crinkled toothed leaves, sometimes downy. These plants have a long season of bloom, as new flowering stems

come up. A well grown plant can be divided in early fall, by lifting and gently pulling apart, so that each division has some of its heavy thong-like roots. The leaves stay green until frosty weather, then gradually disappear. If there is too much rain they may rot and, if so, it is advisable to pull the leaves off.

A big fat scaly bud or buds will be found to have formed at the surface of



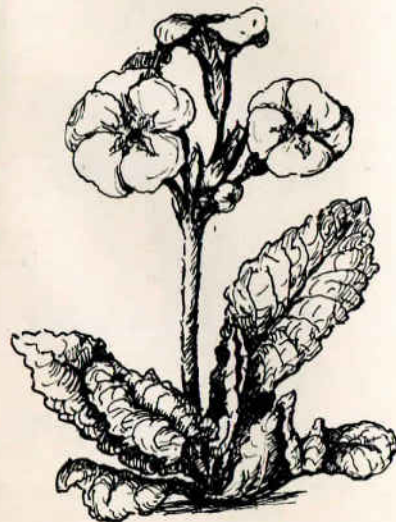
*Primula Denticulata*  
Courtesy the author

the soil. A top dressing of gravel or stone chips will be all that is needed to bring it safely through the winter. The only precaution one needs to take is to see that the plants are placed where they won't get water-logged in winter. They will be happy at the edge of shrubs, beside a wall or rock, in light woodland or even in a well drained border. They will grow in full sun but the leaves flag when the weather gets very hot or dry, so that light shade is advisable. They can be naturalized in quantity along the bank of a stream—a wonderful sight—or just a few plants in your garden will give you the spring tonic so sorely needed by most of us at their time of bloom.

The farinosa group of primroses are among the smaller more delicate looking ones that also bloom at this early hour—or perhaps a minute or two later. The easiest of these for me have been *farinosa* itself, *frondosa* and *fauriae*. *Farinosa* is a widely distributed

plant found growing in moist mountain meadows with much "root company". I find that it is sturdily perennial if grown in partial shade with adequate water (whether natural or via a hose) and the plants divided in early fall. It makes a basal rosette of small leaves heavily powdered on the under-surface with white meal. The silvered flower stems can be from an inch to six inches high, carrying a loose head of small pinkish lavender flowers with a yellow eye. The leaves disappear in late fall leaving a silvery bud at the surface. These, too, appreciate a light dressing of stone chips over winter to give them some protection from heaving and thawing. Of course if a snow cover stays on the plants all winter that is all that is required. *Froncosa* is just a somewhat stronger growing plant than *farinosa*. *Fauriae* has yellow meal on the back of the leaves instead of white, and is more readily available in a fine white form than the others. These small primroses need to be planted in quantity, close together, to make a show. Raising them from seed is the least expensive way of achieving this end. The seeds are infinitesimal, but if sprinkled over the surface of the soil in coldframe or flat, placed where they are subject to freezing and thawing, they almost invariably sprout in spring and will bloom the following spring.

There are still some denticulatas blooming in April when the vernal primrose shout to us that spring is here. Primroses and Spring. Spring and primroses. These are the descendants of the wild English primrose of their woods and hedgerows—the cowslips and oxlips of their meadows—the polyanthus that march up along the walks of little dooryard gardens. The polyanthus is, of course, a hybrid. Gardeners over the years have played



*Polyanthus Seedling*  
Courtesy the author

many variations on the simple theme of native primroses, crossing the English wildlings with each other, and again and again with those from Turkey and elsewhere. Now, instead of rather small flowers in shades of yellow, the garden blooms are larger and the rainbow itself has not so many colors. In addition to the pure prismatic tones there are now available bronzes and browns, blues from pale to indigo, new pinks embracing apricot, sunrise and sunset, and all the jewell tones thrown in for good measure,—amethyst, garnet, topaz. A less poetic comparison was made in my garden: "Picking your favorites is like trying to choose from a box of bonbons." Another person's reaction as we walked along the Primrose Path was "This is heaven!"

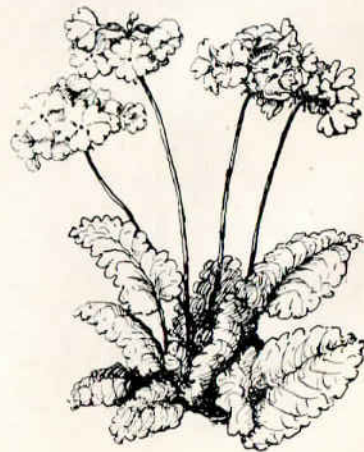
These hardy plants will accomodate themselves to any position where they get decent soil, light shade, and adequate moisture. Here, most of them are planted in the woods. The fall of leaves gives them just enough protection over the winter. They hold their foliage during the cold months, so that even in winter it is cheering to walk along the path and see their green lifting through the leaves, with Christmas ferns and a few evergreen shrubs for companions.

Among the vernal primroses, less well known than *acaulis* and *polyanthus*, are the *Juliae*s. *P. Juliae* itself, from the Balkans, is rarely seen. It is a brilliant amethyst in color, with small bright flowers close upon mats of little dark crinkled round leaves that spread by underground stems. Its hybrids are very numerous and come in a great variety of colors. They may have the rich purple of their parent, or range from white and creams to yellow, pink, blue. These hybrids are known as *Julianas*. Some lose the tight habit and small leaves, others have de-

veloped short stalks with a special airy grace of their own.

As the vernal are beginning to go out of bloom, the cortusoides or woodland section from Asia, comes into flower. Of these, *Primula sieboldii*, from Japan, is outstanding for hardiness and ease of culture. It has scalloped slightly hairy leaves close to the ground, then blooms at about a foot. Its flowers vary from white, pink, and lavender to two-toned, when there is a contrasting color on the under-surface of the petals. The petals may be notched at the outer edge, or have a snowflake pattern. *Sieboldii* increases rapidly into wide clumps that need not be divided. It has a delicacy and charm appreciated by all who see it. The plants disappear entirely in late summer after forming their seeds, so must be marked or placed with care. Any position in light woodland soil suits them.

Of the primulas following the vernal, I find *P. japonica* of the candel-



The popular *P. Sieboldii*  
Courtesy the author

abra section the most reliable here in Pennsylvania. There are many so-called Candelabra primroses from Asia, which raise their flowers tier on tier on lengthening stems. They come in fine colors: yellow, orange, tawny, purple, pink, red. Their names sing: *pulverulenta*, *bulleyana*, *aurantiaca*, *burmanica*. They all want moisture and part shade. They all disappear entirely over winter. *P. japonica* will seed itself where conditions are right for it, and may grow to three feet high with huge clumps of foot-long leaves. In my garden where a hose has to supply much of the moisture, they only grow to about eighteen inches. The japonica colors range from a fine white known as Postford White to and through shades of pink until you reach the rich crimson of the original plant. They bloom from May into June.



Very showy Candelabra type, *P. Pulverulenta*  
Courtesy the author

The auricula section, also hardy, blooms with the earliest of the vernal, but that is another story.

There are other earlier and later primroses that you can grow if you live either in a milder climate, or in a colder section of the country, where the snow cover stays on. I've tried many of them and have felt repaid by even one season of bloom. But they are acquaintances rather than true friends whom you know you will see again when another season rolls around.

Reprinted from the *Sunday New York Times*, March 13, 1960, by permission, with some editorial differences.

#### TO A PRIMROSE

The First Seen in the Season  
Thy smiles I note, sweet early Flower,  
That peeping from thy rustic bower  
The festive news to earth dost bring,  
A fragrant messenger of Spring.  
From TO A PRIMROSE—Coleridge

#### MORE SLIDES NEEDED FOR THE LIBRARY

As you know, our Keeper of the Slides, Dorothy Dickson, will loan a set of one hundred colored slides to any group or club on request and upon payment of \$5.00 plus postage and a small insurance cost.

There is need for new slides—the greatest need is for good slides of Julianas. This was brought home to Dorothy recently when she had three sets out simultaneously and realized that a fourth request would have had to await the return of one of the other sets.

As original slides are much better than reproductions, it is suggested that any members taking colored slides please take an extra for the APS Slide Library and send along to Dorothy Dickson at 13347 56th Avenue South, Seattle 88, Washington.

# 1960 National Show

Seattle, Washington

With the dates for the National Show this year set to accommodate the Show Auricula, we are looking forward to a Show of outstanding quality.

Also with more people each year giving more attention to the Show and Alpine Auricula, the 1960 Show should be the high point for the Auricula in this country to date.

We expect the banquet to be better attended than ever this year and hope to see all our friends there. Remember to make your reservations early. See you at the Norselander.

Tickets for the Annual Banquet are \$2.75 each and reservations can be made by calling Mrs. Ralph Balcom, 6216 N. E. 25th, Seattle 15, Washington, Phone LA 5-6270.



One of  
Ralph Balcom's  
Double Auricula  
Courtesy  
Ralph Balcom

## 1960 Show Dates

### THE NATIONAL AURICULA SHOW

presented by  
The Washington State Primrose Society

Queen Anne Field House  
3rd West and West Howe Street,  
Seattle, Washington  
April 30, May 1  
Saturday 1-9 p.m.; Sunday 10-8 p.m.  
Admission 50c  
Tea Room for Refreshments  
Show Chairman: John Shuman

### OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Milwaukie, Oregon  
Wichita School  
6031 S. E. King Road  
April 9-10  
Saturday 2-8:30 p.m.  
Sunday 1-5 p.m.  
Admission Free  
Theme: *Primrose Lane*  
Plant Sale

Show Chairman: Mrs. Gilbert Hanson

### EAST SIDE GARDEN CLUB

Kirkland, Washington  
Kirkland Civic Center  
April 22, 23, 24  
Friday 2-9 p.m.; Saturday 12-9 p.m.  
Sunday 12-8 p.m.  
Theme: *Primroses by the Sea*  
Admission 50c  
Tea Room—Plant Sale  
Show Chairman, Mrs. E. T. Wold

### MT. ANGEL PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Mt. Angel, Oregon  
St. Mary's School, College Street  
April 24, 2-8 p.m.  
Admission Free  
Show Chairman: Mrs. George Schmidt

### CLARK COUNTY PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Vancouver, Washington  
Experiment Station  
1918 N. E. 78th Street  
April 23-24  
Show Chairman: Mrs. Walter Roe



APS 1959 Display  
Designed by  
Ruth Smith  
Photograph  
courtesy Oval Agee

## EAST BREMERTON GARDEN CLUB

Bremerton, Washington  
Sheridan Park Community  
Hall Lounge  
May 13  
1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Silver Tea  
(Not a Show)

*Floral arrangements and scenes will depict high points of the Club of the past 25 years.*

Mrs. Robert Murphy—President

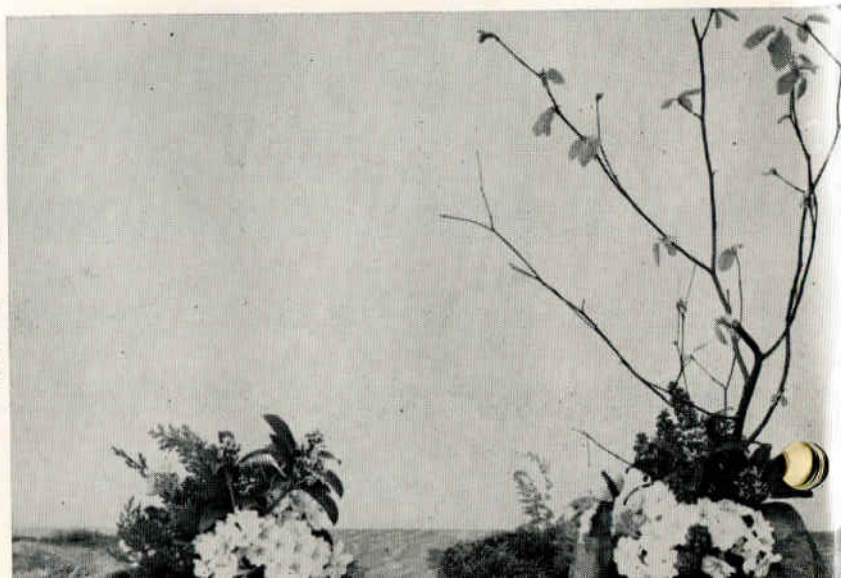
## FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Friday Harbor Study Club  
April 14—12:30 to 5 p.m.  
Primrose Tea (not a Show)  
Tea Chairman: Mrs. R. D. Dahl  
(Note: There will be no formal Show this year but a few growers will be on hand to sell Primroses).

### 1960 Officers

FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE SOCIETY  
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Vice President .....Mrs. R. M. Blashfield  
Secretary .....Mrs. Raymond Dahl  
Treasurer .....Mrs. Frank Woods  
Corres. Sec. ....Mrs. B. F. Hannah

Flower  
arrangement by  
Mrs. L. C.  
Murdock  
Annual Banquet  
1959  
Photo Courtesy  
Orval Agee



## TACOMA PRIMROSE SOCIETY

The Washington National Bank  
Village Plaza, Lakewood  
April 9-10  
Saturday 1-9 p.m.; Sunday 11-6 p.m.  
Theme: *Old Fashioned Gardens*  
Refreshments available  
Plant Sale  
Show Chairman: Mr. Wesley Bottoms

## PARADE OF GARDENS

Gresham, Oregon  
Multnomah County Fairgrounds  
April 27-May 1  
Theme: *South Sea Island Fantasy*  
Admission Charged  
General Show Chairman:  
Mr. Melvin Surface  
Co-Chairman: Mr. Harold Miller  
Chairman of Florist Building:  
Mr. Marshall Gifford

## CANADIAN PRIMULA AND ALPINE SOCIETY

Vancouver, B. C., Canada  
Dunsmuir Auditorium  
111 Dunsmuir St.  
April 22-23  
Friday 2-10 p.m.; Saturday 12-9 p.m.  
Admission: 50c to include tea  
Show Manager: Mr. George Boving

## Experiences of a Commercial Gardener

*A visit with Ruth Bartlett is worth while at any time but especially so when the Primroses are in bloom on her beautiful Spring Hill overlooking Gig Harbor, Washington*

RUTH BARTLETT

We have earned our soup and beans by growing primroses and other plants for more than a dozen years. It is hard work and the pay leaves much to be desired, but I love it.

Primroses—I love them and have loved them for over fifty years. I will never forget the first primroses I ever saw. They were in the garden of a little old Irish widow who made her living in the time-honored way of "taking in washings." She lived in a little house directly behind my grandparents' home. Since the street end of her hillside lot was twenty feet below street level, her house faced the alley and was surrounded by a queer tiny garden that fascinated a rather timid little girl. There were Primroses and Polyanthus and pansies along the walk but there were also onions, radishes, and nice green heads of lettuce between them. The roses along the fence rubbed leaves with cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and turnips. The main beds were potatoes with marigolds and asters for company, and right by the step was a clump of bell heather and shamrock carefully protected with white-washed stones. The garden was carefully tended, entirely weedless, and as Irish as the brogue of its owner. Her fascination for all children was great. She talked of fairies and little people as easily as she did of the mailman and the woman next door. After a little while with her you could see

them too, dancing under the leaves. I used to slip out the back gate of Grandpa's yard to gaze through the pickets at this wonderful garden. One day she lifted a brownish red polyanthus with a yellow edge and yellow eye and gave it to me. It was the most wonderful flower that ever lived! The flowers were not very large or showy, but they were sweet and mine. I had that plant for many years and lost the last of its descendents in the deep freeze of a few years back. Its seedlings were always the same brownish red but, oh, the memories that they invoked!

That was the first, and from that interest has come the shade house with its hundreds of doubles, species plants, and Juliae; the rock garden, the experimental plots, and the field of over an acre with thousands of plants of over thirty sorts and colors by the dozens.

The quest for the new and the different goes on here at Spring Hill all the time. It is a pleasure but with a headache. We look through dozens of seed lists and catalogs, make out orders, and revise them again and again before we finally order. We freeze seed in the refrigerator, put pots of seed in the deep-freeze, and put flats of seed out in the yard to winter. We plant in flats, pots, pans, and on bricks. We watch the water and the light, protect them from birds, mice, and slugs, and then wait. Finally we

spy a tiny spot of green with the seed shell still attached. Some of the flats are soon full of tiny plants, but others—there are always some that fail to germinate at all. We keep the failing flats around for two or three years, just in case,—and sometimes we are rewarded in time by a few seedlings. We spray with insecticides and fungicides, water with nutritive water, and transplant the little things as soon as they can be handled.

How nice. We have the greenhouse half full of lovely little primrose plants and half full of bedding annuals and vegetable plants. Our worries are behind us, we think! The days are busy ones. We have customers to wait on now besides the gardening. We have protected our seedlings from almost everything but there is no spray made for the last pest in the greenhouse,—people. They go into the greenhouse just to look around while we finish with the customer ahead of them; they knock a flat or a pot or two off the bench; they step on the glass-covered flats of late seed under the bench and spill them; and they take the labels out of the flats to read them. It is doubtful if many of them know what the names they read mean but, anyway, they carefully replace them—in the wrong flat or pot. Did you ever see a *Sikkimensis* tomato?

Spring becomes summer. The Primrose shows with their commercial exhibits and beauty are over. The selling has dwindled to the low, and work on the fields begin. One bed at a time, we work it over. Remove the remaining plants, haul manure, and work the soil with the little rotovator, put on 5-10-10, and rake. Then the seedlings go into place ready for next season. The acaulis, polyanthus, and others of the more common sorts we know from the leaves and a few do have

proper labels still in place. It is the Candelabra and other species plants that have us guessing. We have the plants, but *what* do we have? We set them out, some in the shade house, some in the rock garden, and some in the experimental plots, but we pot up a few. Next spring we know that variety X grows well in the shade house, rock garden, and well drained garden bed, but rots in the wet; Y is a bog lover, and Z will grow anywhere but is too large for the rockery. We have been reading and, by the leaves, have narrowed the possibilities down. Now we take our potted plants with us whenever we go near primrose people and, after gaining enough conflicting opinions, we decide just what we have. So a new (to us) plant is added to our list. Strangely enough, once we have a variety we can usually keep it, as our own fresh seed usually germinates readily.

Questions? Oh, yes, we get some dandies here in the spring selling season and by letter. The where to plant, how to plant. When and why are understandable but how about the lady who wanted to know how much to dilute bull manure to make it the strength of cow manure? Or the man that wanted to know what element of fertilizer was in sand, after I had advised him to place it around the crown of some primroses and under his lily bulbs? Our pet milk cow growled at another man, and the mother whose little angels threw rocks and broke several pieces of glass in the greenhouse didn't think it would matter as no doubt we were insured.

One of the most common questions is, "How can you stand to sell these lovely plants?" The answer is that it is part of the business and, besides, I have a chance to "buy" every plant

(Continued on Page 70)

## Some Notes On Tufa

*Those of you who find your Mrs. Wilson, Linda Pope, or others of your lime-loving auriculas with little or no bloom: Try growing them in tufa!*

BETTY JANE HAYWARD

Where one enters the rock garden at its highest point, to the left of the central walk that starts the gradual descent, is an area in which pieces of tufa have been assembled to provide crevices for some of the plants that are lime-loving.

Here, a large colony of *Primula marginata* has grown contentedly for many years. The rosettes now cover more than a yard of the slope, and in spring the lovely flowers in shades of soft blue and lavender create a beautiful and effective group. Some other primulas of section *Auricula* grow well in the tufa.

The encrusted saxifrages are happy here too, and many have long since left the crevices to grow in the rock surface itself. *Saxifraga apiculata*, a *Kabschia* hybrid, grows better here than elsewhere, and complements the soft blue of *P. marginata* with its blossoms of pale yellow in spring. *Draba bruniaefolia* completes the trio.

While *Primula marginata* grows happily near the tufa rocks, it does equally well in other parts of the garden, showing the adaptability of plants. In Nature, many cling to the limestone or to granite as the case may be; in the garden, if other conditions are favorable they adjust to the situation.

*Primula rubra* grows in a crevice at the edge of the tufa; in its native habitat it prefers the granite. Other varieties of *Primula* in the small mountaintop are several forms of *P.*



*Auricula at base of Tufa*  
Photograph courtesy the author

*pubescens* from white to deep purple in color. In the past, other European species grew and blossomed too, but they have been lost in the recent severe winters. Among them were *P. carniolica* and *P. glaucescens* as well as a lovely plant we thought was *P. Allionii*. *P. minima* lives on with a few blossoms each spring.

Several interesting small types of *P. auricula* are prized; one with small leaves and compact growth has blossoms of soft orange; several stems produce fully double flowers while on others the flowers are single. *P. rufa* grows but is stingy with blossoms. We wonder if it is a characteristic of that variety. We have had *P. pubescens*, both The General and Mrs. J. H. Wilson. This choice high corner of

the rock garden has always seemed the ideal place to plant the rare and valued treasures.

The plants mentioned, and others, seem to like the small mountaintop. Until quite recently no attempt had been made to introduce small and difficult plants into holes in the soft surface, as is often mentioned in rock gardening articles by some of the experts. However, two years ago, after I had failed repeatedly to grow and keep *Petrocallis pyrenaica*, tiny plants were established in holes in the tufa, and began to grow and lengthen, until at present the little colony flows down the slopes for about ten inches. Last spring the tiny deep green wedge-shaped leaves were hidden by the sweet vanilla-scented blossoms.

Near by, *Omphalodes Luciliae* lodges in its own rock. This lovely plant, tried and lost more than once, has at last settled down to grow and blossom. Perhaps some of its seeds will fall in the fertile rock. One languishing remnant of *Phyteuma comosum* is at present in the sand frame; if it survives the winter perhaps we can report a happy ending some day, in the tufa mountaintop.

*Editor's Note: This article was originally printed in the Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society, Vol. 18, No. 1, January, 1960. It is reprinted here, with permission, and the author has added a few paragraphs concerning primula for the Quarterly.*



*P. marginata in Tufa*  
Photograph courtesy Mrs. Hayward

#### ADDENDUM TO SEED LIST

The separate sheet enclosed with this issue is Addendum Number 2 to the seed list enclosed with the Winter 1960 Quarterly.

The Seed List would not be complete without the inclusion of the names of these additional contributors which arrived late and, together with many new contributions, made the separate sheet necessary.

Members and friends desiring additional seed lists should write directly to the Seed Chairman:

Mr. Elmer C. Baldwin  
400 Tecumseh Rd.  
Syracuse 10, New York

#### NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY, Northern Section

Invites all Auricula and Primula lovers to join this Old Society  
Membership of \$1.50 per year includes Year Book  
Hon. Sec., R. H. Briggs  
Springfield, Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancs., England

## Classification As It Pertains to Primulas - Simplified

*A hybridizer of first rank, specializing in Primula, presents classification in language within the grasp of the beginner.*

RALPH W. BALCOM

The arrangement of plants in groups, and these into sub-groups, in accordance with their structural similarities and their evolutionary relationships, is called *Classification*. When one considers the enormous number of plants growing upon the earth which vary in complexity from the tiny one-celled algae and fungi to

the highly complicated forms such as the big trees, it is quite evident that such an orderly arrangement is necessary in order that they may be identified.

Any system that could be devised would necessarily be complex but the one now in use is actually quite simple in basic structure. A general under-



*Double Auricula*  
Photograph courtesy

Ralph Balcom



standing of it, and a knowledge of how Primulas are classified, showing their relationship to each other, can be of great help to those that grow them.

The modern method of classifying plants is very similar to that used in identifying the land of the world upon which these plants grow. All land is first divided into the great continents. The continents are sub-divided into countries, and then the countries are further divided (at least in our country) into states, counties, townships, sections and finally into the smallest units, the farms or city lots. The plants growing upon these lands are classified in much the same way. The plant kingdom is first divided into the four great groups. Group IV, called the spermatophytes, which includes the higher forms such as the Primulas, is sub-divided into classes, then into orders, families, genera, species, varieties or strains, and, finally, the individual plants. It is evident that these are only the simple basic divisions in both the above cases. There are many variations in each of the systems. Consider the complications that arise in determining the status of the many lands belonging to the British Empire. Some are termed dominions, others colonies, protectorates, dependencies, territories, and so on. Many of these might be said to be sub-countries of England. And so it is in the classification of plants where sub-groups are often further divided into still smaller sub-groups. An example of this is the division of the spermatophytes into two subphyla, one called gymnosperms whose seeds are naked and exposed, and the other called angiosperms that produce seeds enclosed in an ovary. Another example occurs when a genus contains a great number of species and is often sub-divided into sections because it is so large and unwieldy. And in still another instance there are

ofttimes sub-divisions called sub-species under the species group, which are plants that differ but slightly from the true species.

Now let us see how Primulas fit into this system of classification. The Primula is a genus of plants and, because it is a higher form and produces seed, belongs to the fourth great group called the spermatophytes. It is a member of the sub-group called angiosperms since its seed is enclosed in ovary. It is in the class known as dicotyledons, is in the Primulales order and the Primulaceae\* family. The genus is divided into sections, the sections into species and sub-species, these into varieties or strains, and finally into the smallest units, the individual plants.

It will be noticed that both the Primulales order and the Primulaceae family take their names from the Primula genus to which it belongs. This is because the Primula is the important genus in those groups and also because it is considered the representative type. The names of orders usually end in "ales" and the names of families in "aceae" which makes it easy to recognize them.

The Primula genus is a large one, consisting of about six hundred species and sub-species and so it is divided into thirty sections.\*\* Some of them, such as the Auricula and the Candelabra sections are easily recognized by their general appearance.

\*Primulaceae is pronounced "prim-eu-lay-see-ee" . . . Other genera in this family, which are closely related to the Primula, are: Anagallis, Cyclamen, Androsace, Dodecatheon, Lysimachia, and Soldanella.

\*\*The Primula sections are listed on Page 2, Volume XII, Number I, of the Quarterly.

But others are not so readily discerned. Some contain a large number of species while in others there are only a few since an attempt has been made to group those together that are the most closely related. The accuracy of these groupings is evidenced by the fact that in only a very few instances has there ever been a successful cross made between two plants belonging to two different sections, and, in all of those instances that are known to the author, the plants resulting from such crosses either died after a short life or were sterile. Thus it is almost a waste of time and effort to attempt a cross except between plants of the same section. Even crosses between plants in the same section do not always produce seed, which

may indicate that there is yet a possible need of a rearrangement of some of these groupings.

A species is defined as a group of plants so similar in their more stable characteristics that they differ no more than offspring of the same parents. As a general rule, it is the plant as it grows wild in nature and its seed comes true. There are, however, natural hybrids in nature that were produced by crosses between species while growing in a wild state, often because of an overlapping of the territories in which each originally grew. It seems to be more common in the Auricula section than in any other.

There is often considerable variation, especially in color, within a

*Garden Auricula*  
*Photograph courtesy*  
*Ralph Balcom*



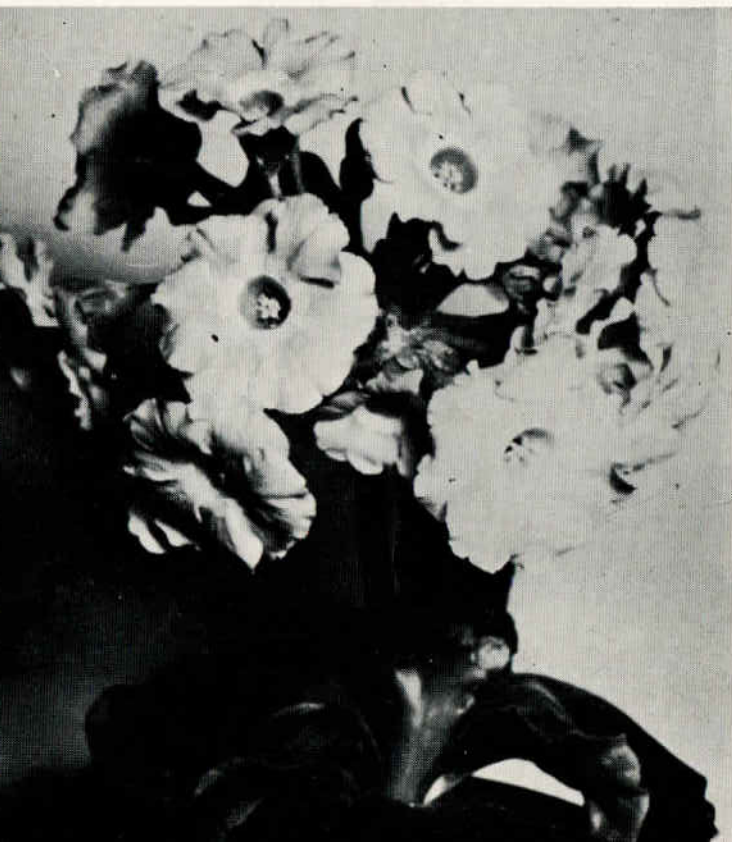
species itself. This may be due to environment and frequently occurs when a plant will vary in habit or form when grown in different climatic conditions or when grown in other soils. Or a plant may mutate to a slightly new form or to a new color and still be classified under the same species. Varieties are constantly being obtained by cultivation and selection when domesticated. A good example of this is *Primula Sieboldii* which has been cultivated in Japan for over two hundred years. In that country, and also in England, many varieties have been developed which differ widely in color and also in form. These are still classified as species *P. Sieboldii* because they occurred within the species itself. Quite frequently a variety will be developed sufficiently dis-

tinctive to be called a strain. Such a one is *P. Pulverulenta*, Bartley Strain, created by G. H. Dalrymple of England.

A great many of the Primulas now grown are hybrids; that is, they originated from crosses made between plants belonging to different species. The acaulis, and the polyanthus in all its forms, originated from crosses made between species belonging to the Vernales section, and are hybrids. Likewise, the Show, the alpine, the garden or border, and the double Auricula are all hybrids originally from crosses between species of the Auricula section.

Changes are constantly being made in the classification of plants, including Primulas, and no doubt there will be many more when evidence is pro-

(Continued on Page 72)



Garden Auricula  
Photograph courtesy  
Ralph Balcom

## Trips Afield In New England

*There is nothing about Primroses here, but read it anyway. See if you don't get a lift and added enthusiasm from this plant hunting trip.*

ALICE HILLS BAYLOR

Mt. Washington in the Presidential range in New Hampshire lifts its majestic peak above all else in New England to a height of 6284 feet. The first view of the range comes to us Vermonters as we gain a rise going east before we reach the Connecticut River. Often the summit is wrapped in clouds but on this July day when my daughter and I were driving east to meet the members of our group from Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts, the mountain stood bold and proud against a clear blue sky. It was a perfect day to collect plants on this interesting mountain.

We met our friends, had a plant exchange, collected our gear and in two cars started up the Toll Road, our destination the summit. A steady rise of the road took us through pine, spruce, and hemlock forests which prevail on the base of Mt. Washington. At the Halfway House we emerged from the woods, took a sharp hairpin turn and were in a small parking lot on the edge of the Great Gulf. A low stone wall separated us from the gorge which drops away for a thousand feet. The expanse with tree tops reaching up, the sensation of height, and the extensive view were awe inspiring.

Around the cold spring which surged from the side of the mountain grew two members of the Ericaceae family. In moist depressions we found *Vaccinium vitis-Idaea* var. minor the true dwarf mountain form with pale

pink flowers one fourth inch long in nodding racemes. This member of that interesting family is called "Cowberry" and grows from Alaska down into the mountains of New England. The other low evergreen shrub found there is *Ledum groenlandicum compactum*\* which has white flowers in clusters in spring followed with capsular fruits in autumn. Both the *Vaccinium* and the *Ledum* have succeeded in my rock garden in sandy peat soil in a corner with a southeast exposure and both give a feeling of strength to an alpine plant association. We also found low mats of the decumbent Sandwort *Arenaria groenlandica* draped over rocks with erect stems on which bloomed one to five white long-petaled flowers. This plant is good for rock gardens as well as for wall plantings. It is found in mountains in Greenland, Labrador, and on into North Carolina, one of the finest of its tribe. It may be propagated easily by divisions and in moist seasons by cuttings.

The next leg of our trip was one hair-pin turn after another in a steep rise with the hood of the car elevated as it took the ascent. Low scrub trees, dwarfed and twisted by wind clung to the rock embankment on our right. Water seeped from crevices in the rocks or became silver falls. On the left was a sheer drop. At the middle of a hair-pin turn the lead car edged over off the road where there was just \*Labrador Tea

enough room for the two cars to park. We were at 5000 feet and at the base of what is known as Nelson Crag, a wall of rock where Mt. Washington takes a mighty thrust upwards. Here at the foot of this crag, only a few acres in area, is a shoulder onto which we stepped. It is the true Alpine meadow, a garden of great beauty, with the rocks covered with soft, spongy carpet of growth and tiny pools of water lay like slivers of broken glass between them. Above us 1200 to 1300 feet was the summit now scarfed in wisps of clouds.

Beneath this crag, cradled and protected from wind we found the true Alpines. The dwarf alpine Willow, *Salix uva-ursa*, hugged the rocks. The leaves are pointed tapering at the base, slightly toothed, smooth and shiny above, pale and glaucous beneath. The scales are obovate, rosy-red at the tip and covered with long silky hairs. The central root stalk spreads out and is easily lifted as moss clings to the roots. It is a fine rock garden specimen and has done well in a southwest exposure at the top of a wall in my garden and seems as much at home here at Sky Hook at 900 feet as it did at 5000 on Mt. Washington. The catkins appear with the leaves in spring as dangling ornaments.

The Alpine Azalea, *Loiseleuria procumbens*, of circumpolar regions extends only to the White Mountains and Mt. Katahdin, is a depressed sub-evergreen shrub which grows in mats six to eight inches in height. The tiny leaves only one fourth inch long give the effect of a bright green cushion. The specimen I collected has clusters of white flowers but I understand they may also be pink to rose. With the Azalea we also found the arctic Birch, *Betula glandulosa*. It grows in alpine club moss, *Lyopodium Selago*, and

may be lifted with the moss. The leaves are one inch long, orbicular to obovate and pale beneath. The two Birch I brought home seem not to have grown at all but are healthy miniature trees.

Across the Toll Road was another meadow, undulating with giant rocks covered with dark green growth the color of an angry sea in tempest. Larger pools lay between the subterranean connections so it was difficult to walk without sinking in ankle deep. The growth was *Rhododendron lapponicum*, the true boreal species of this wonderful family. It is the pigmy of its giant cousins in form, growth, and blossom. The flowers are broad, bell-shaped and purple; the leaves one half to three-fourths inches in length, shining dark green above and rusty scaly beneath. They were growing in such close association in mats of moss that, on returning home, I discovered tiny Rhododendrons not more than an inch over all in size surrounding the mature plant which was about a foot across. These I separated and planted in a mixture of leaf mold, peat, and granite chips. All have grown on a northwest area of my rock garden where it is exposed to the west wind of the Green Mountains which whirl down on us at all times and all have bloomed.

I wandered over this alpine wonderland watching the terrain and growth with intense interest and did not see the bank of clouds drifting towards the crag. Suddenly I was engulfed in a mist so dense I could not see more than a foot in any direction. A queer feeling of isolation swept over me. Here I was alone in a dream-like shroud of clouds. I thought of the planet Venus and wondered if this was the type of atmosphere it contained. My mind swiftly went back in



*Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea var minor*

Photograph Courtesy Grace E. Butcher

a mental picture of our own planet during the Pennsylvanian era when mists prevailed, giant plains covered our continent and reptilian giants roamed the earth. The clouds parted and I was again in the company of friends and plant collectors. As we circled back towards the Toll Road in this mountain swale, we also collected the arctic Laurel, *Kalmia polifolia*, which grows to about twelve inches in height with blossoms of bright pink which seem too large for this plant.

The decision of the group was to go to the summit. The road proved so steep, hazardous and treacherous that before we reached the next stop, a rocky promontary a few hundred feet below the summit, I wished I were on good old Terra Firma in the valley below! Our last collecting spot at first seemed barren. Huge rocks, bare and weathered, littered the area. Exposed as it was, the view far down into the ravines that slash the sides of Mt. Washington were visible, their course easily traced where glaciers had formed and ground rocks and where the

melting ice had caused water to rush carrying rubble in its foaming path. On this wind-swept ledge we found the treasured alpine *Diapensia lapponica* wedged between boulders. The plant, only an inch high, has minute leaves so dense that the whole makes a mound of living fabric of soft light green. Lifting the edge of a plant nine inches across, I noticed the roots were hairlike against the rock on which it rested but seemed not to be able to support this mat. Carefully I folded the edges back until I found a thin central root which had thrust itself deep into the loose stones. With my fingers I lifted the stones and brushed the chips away following that eager life-seeking root, unmindful of broken nails and bruised finger tips. Down, down it went until where the rocks were cold and moist it started to branch. I put it in a plastic bag in wet moss collected below at Nelson Crag. This mound of *Diapensia*, polar in origin and extending into the White Mountains of New England, has white

(Continued on Page 69)

# Gardening Tips From Old English and Scotch Magazine, 1933-1937

NANCY FORD

## Bird Damage

The one complaint frequently made concerning polyanthus is that sparrows destroy their blossoms and buds. We used to suffer that exasperation, but of late we have adopted the plan of dusting the plants with pepper from a rubber powder-blower just when the first clusters of buds show colour. The birds make but one attack, and thereafter leave the spot severely alone. Pepper has the advantage that it is effective after rain as well as in a dry state. Furthermore, slugs cannot tolerate particles adhering to their hides.

## The cat nuisance

Probably many readers, especially those living in towns, have been troubled by cats wandering over their gardens, the animals usually selecting the best flower-beds and ruining the tenderest shoots.

All the ordinary methods of keeping them away are open to objection.

There is, however, one very simple method which does not seem to be very

generally known. Chloride of lime is very cheap, and a few saucers full of this compound, placed in the parts of the garden which it is desired to keep clear of cats, will be quite effective. Indeed, so much do cats dislike its smell that quite often they will cease from coming into the garden at all.

Another good method of keeping away cats is that of sprinkling pepper around each seed bed. On no account will these animals cross over a "barrier" of this substance. It is extremely effective and one sprinkling will last a fortnight or so.

## Evenings's the time to hunt for slugs

Use the empty half skins of grapefruit as slug catchers. They are rather better than orange peel, dried bran, or lettuce leaves, or anything else we know. Place the half skins hollow side down and raise them one quarter inch on one side on a stone or soil lump. About a couple of hours after night-fall, if you take a lamp, you will find slugs there in plenty.



Kerri Jo Ford, the author's two-year old granddaughter, admires the first Show Auricula of 1960.

## Save the old potting soil

A great deal of compost is thrown away which might well be saved for spring seed sowing, the striking of spring cuttings and the potting on of rooted cuttings of bedding and other plants.

Quite often when the ball of soil is turned out of a pot it seems to be nothing but a mat of fibrous roots, but this is not by any means the case.

Shake out the unwanted plants, hold them by the stems and shake them vigorously over the potting bench or sheets of paper. You will be

astonished at the amount of soil thus gathered, and although most of the plant foods have been extracted by the last occupants of the pots it will be quite fertile enough for the purposes named above.

The soil should be kept under cover until wanted. And shortly before use the heap should be opened and a *hot brick thrust into the centre*—the brick covered with the outer soil.

The heated brick serves two important purposes—it kills any pests which may be present and warms the compost right through.

## How I Grow My Primroses

Here is an opportunity for some of our members to become "pen-pal" with advice for our New Zealand member.

ANN CROMPTON-SMITH

Mr. Dickson's article in the Winter 1959 number of the Quarterly prompted me to write of my own experiences in growing primroses.

The only way I grow seedlings is in seed boxes covered with glass, outside in the open in all sorts of weather. During the last few years I have used perforated zinc over the boxes when the seedlings have shown through. The reason I use perforated zinc is mainly for shade and fresh air. But I have sown them under cloches in a seed bed also. However, not knowing that some species took a long time to germinate I lost some, but now I sow them in a box together.

The soil I use is compost or leaf mold.

In spite of some handicaps, I find the Polyanthus and primroses fairly easy to grow at any time of the year except in the summer when we have

had long dry spells of weather. In such weather frequent watering is difficult during times of water shortage.

I have never sterilized the soil at any time. Also instead of dividing the box in quarters it is divided into drills with labels and pegs to mark the rows. But how to check the Damping Off process, I do not know yet. Also how to combat the woodlice nuisance and the other hopping insects. Would they do harm to the seed, I wonder, especially the slow-germinating ones.

These notes are written by an amateur grower in New Zealand who likes to grow plant from seed.

*Editor's Note: It may well be that methods easily at hand in this country to prevent damp-off are not easily available to our members "down under".*

## Cowslips For Wine

*Here is an occupation for the Primrose grower who is completely caught up with his work. Skoal !*

ROLAND E. COOPER

It happens that my wife is clever at making various kinds of home-made wines. We've had beetroot wine, cherry wine, and wine from elderberry, dandelion flowers, rhubarb stems, parsnip and turnip roots, and a very fine sherry from ordinary grapes.

Cowslip wine was on the list but had to wait until scruples about tearing up the dainty flowers for the purpose were overcome. Then, seeing in the English Botany by Sowerby, (volume VII, page 134) under *Cowslip Wine*: "It is quite an occupation during the springtime among the rural population of the neighbourhood of Worcester to gather the flowers of the Cowslip and sell them to the great British wine-makers of that city. For this purpose the flowers are picked when they are first open and fermented with sugar and water." Looked about for cowslip flowers.

I learned the quantity required from our famous "Book of Household Management" by Mrs. Isabella Beeton which also contains "A History of the Origins, Properties and Uses of All Things connected with Home Life and Comfort" (1st edition 1861, 2nd edition, 1869) when the methods of "management" were much more extravagant than today. This says "To every gallon of water allow (among other things) one gallon of Cowslip pips picked from (or free of) the stalks and seeds." It is difficult to im-

agine a gallon of such flowers, let alone to procure them.

So I wrote to the Town Clerk of Worcester asking his help. (May I interpolate here that our Town Clerks are as wonderful as our policemen and that I have pestered the Clerks of various towns with really odd and out of the way questions and never failed to receive the most adequate replies almost by return post and invariably

*Primula veris*  
(The Cowslip)



with the compliments of His Excellency, "The Mayor.")

Subsequently I obtained some roots of cowslip from a townswoman of Worcester which I've grown in the hope of getting lots and lots of cowslip flowers. I learned also "Cowslips are in short supply and those I sent you came from Woodbury Hills twenty miles from Worcester." Enquiry for a bottle of the finished brew, a Cowslip wine, through the Womens' Institutes of the county proved in the end fruitless.

The present generation of housewives who go out to work seems to have lost interest in the ordinary (to those of my generation) duties of the still room with its wines and medicines which were then gathered and created from the plants of the garden and the lanes nearby.

My three cowslip roots from Worcester would not yield a gallon of flowers so I began to enquire more over the length and breadth of England. The botanic gardens of Cambridge, Durham, and Kew put me in touch with correspondents who were most helpful with a root or two but Edinburgh with its limited area of botanical high-brow plants didn't yield a root.

The situation was summed up by an old farming friend who lived in a thatched cottage at Ashurstwood in Sussex who wrote, "I have been looking round. The cowslips do not seem to be up much yet or I could not see them. There is only one field that I have where they grow, and not many at that. There used to be any amount of them about here but the plough has done away with nearly all now. Nearly every field round here was ploughed up while the war was on. Things have changed here in the last thirty years and I do not think for the better. Too



*Primula elatior*  
(The Oxlip)  
(Oxlip wine should be as good as Cowslip wine any day)

much building round here. They have spoiled our village and still keep on and nearly everyone has to go elsewhere for work (i. e., the farming men). I expect Laura told you I am in a very old thatched house. The bad season last year did not produce any straw for thatching now so shall have to find a different roof cover after about 700 years . . . Tell Laura cousin they are talking about pulling down her old shop to widen the road."

The result was about six cowslip

roots . . . still barely sufficient.

Cornwall had a job to get cowslips but excited me with "although primroses are very plentiful where I live, so many come pink or in polyanthus form that I wanted to be sure you were getting what you wanted—an ordinary primrose." My desire was to observe the habit of the lowered developing fruit.

Now the cowslip roots from many places had a variety of soils about their great thongy roots but I noticed that those that had grown in shade on a light open soil and which in their shade had found mosses upon the surface were the best specimens.

I pass this observation on to all growers of both primroses and cowslips, and also this. I set my plants between rows of spinach beetroot with sandy peat about the crowns and, in spite of blazing sun, they have thriven.

The Genus *Primula*, Section *Vernales*, says: "there is no evidence that the early coloured Primroses and Cowslips were hybrids. These variations were known to botanists and herbalists before the sixteenth century. One interesting point emerging is that one

colored form of primrose from Turkey (*Primula Sibthorpii*) is quite the match of plants found in Pembrokeshire in southwest Wales known as the St. Dogmael primroses of which also it is known that one particular plant produced yellow flowers in the cold weather but produced red flowers in warm weather; like the Turkey plant."

Even in Wales the coloured flowered primroses seem sporadic, changing from year to year. This may perhaps be controlled by collectors who dig up and take away the better coloured forms.

On the other hand, when the gay coloured forms have been lifted from the wild and most carefully planted with care by knowledgeable people, the colours get weaker and weaker year by year until they revert to the ordinary yellow.

Anyhow, I am now the possessor of two shades of cowslips and also the red, the white, and the ordinary coloured cream primrose from various parts of the country.

I'd like to express the hope that all primrose lovers like me may have a joyous spring with their plants.

*By patronizing the advertisers, you help the Primrose Quarterly in the best way possible.*

## THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

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Its Quarterly Bulletin, of nearly 100 pages, is generally recognized as one of the best specialist horticultural publications in the World.

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The Annual Subscription, dating from the 1st of January, is £1, payable to the Secretary, C. B. Saunders, Husseys, Green Street Green, Farnborough, Kent, England, but American members may find it more convenient to send \$2.80 to Dr. C. R. Worth, Groton, New York, the Society's Hon. Assistant Secretary in the U. S. A., who is empowered to receive subscriptions and to issue receipts on behalf of the Society.

## American Primrose Society

Cash Report  
Calendar Year 1959

Cash on hand January 1, 1959.....\$816.75  
Receipts

### Dues

1959 .....	\$ 999.20
1960 and future .....	654.50
Commercial listings .....	6.00
Libraries .....	34.80
Sustaining .....	80.00
Affiliated .....	57.75
Family .....	13.00
Total .....	\$1,845.25

### Plant Sales

Gresham Show .....	52.90
Kirkland and Washington State .....	169.50
Sale of Quarterlies (back issues) .....	101.50
Small donations .....	2.00
Sale of Charts .....	3.00
Judging School .....	84.50
Total .....	\$ 413.20
Total Income.....	\$2,258.65
	\$3,075.40

### Expense

Quarterly .....	\$2,088.76
National (reprints of Jan. '54 Q., and Index).....	295.99
Stationery .....	77.13
Treasurer's Expense .....	66.00
Show Expense .....	30.00
Travel, Judging School .....	5.00
Total Disbursements .....	\$2,562.88
Balance on hand, December 31, 1959.....	\$ 512.52

*Checked and approved by Mrs. O. Miller Babbit and Mrs. Sam Henricke.*

*Respectfully submitted, Ivel Agree, Treasurer*

## STATEMENT OF A. P. S. SEED EXCHANGE—1959

Balance on hand August 1, 1958 .....	\$113.32
Receipts, 1958-59 .....	\$221.48
Disbursements, 1958-59 .....	\$120.47
Net Income 1958-59 .....	\$101.01
Balance on hand, April 20, 1959 .....	\$ 214.83

*Respectfully submitted, Elmer C. Baldwin, Chairman.*

### Erratum:

Cash Report, Calendar Year 1958 (Spring Yearbook 1959)	
Donation, Leonard Klein for Peter Klein award .....	\$25.00
Sale of Quarterlies (old copies) .....	71.80

*Editors Note: These two items were reversed.*

# Roster of Members

## Affiliated Societies

Canadian Primula & Alpine Society.....	c/o Rev. A. Stewart Forbes, 2054 Quilchena Crescent, Vancouver, B. C., Canada
Clark County Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. Seth Barnett, Sec-Treas., 9219 N. E. St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, Wash.
East Side Garden Club of Kirkland....	c/o Mrs. Luis Myers, Treas., 1433 10th St. S. W., Kirkland, Wash.
Friday Harbor Primrose Club.....	c/o Mrs. John Arend, Treas., Friday Harbor, Wash.
Lewis County Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. John Daniels, Pres., 1701 Daniels Rd., Centralia, Wash.
Onondaga Primrose Society .....	c/ Mrs. Darwin N. Camp, Treas., 4 Brae Burn Lane, Syracuse 4, N. Y.
Oregon Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. William Tate, Treas., 1006 40th St., Milwaukie 22, Ore.
Tacoma Primrose Society.....	c/o Mr. Howard Larkin, Treas., 628 North Prospect, Tacoma 6, Wash.
Washington State Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. M. H. Monteith, Corres. Sec., 13210 Beverly Rd., Alderwood Manor, Wash.

## MEMBERS 1959 AND 1960 UP TO PRESS TIME

\* Indicates Sustaining Members

\*\* Indicates Life Members

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(Continued from Page 51)

bell-shaped flowers three-quarters of an inch across. They appeared the following spring in my garden studding the soft cushion with white solitary bells tucked deep into the pile of pale green velvet-like foliage. The planting was duplicated as nearly as possible to that of its high alpine home with a rich pocket of leafmold and peat at the base and peat interlayered with granite chips on which it rested.

The family of Diapensiaceae contains few members as the species *D. lapponica* is alone. There is a variety of *D. lapponica obovata* signifying the leaves differ from the true form by having obovate leaves while the true form has narrowly spatulate foliage. There are three related branches of the family: *Pyxidantha barbulate* called Pyxie or Flowering Moss growing in the pine barrens of New Jersey; *Galax aphylla*, the evergreen herb with wand-like racemes of minute white flowers known to gardeners as a woodland plant of low elevations and the

belled Shortia tribe. None of these distant relatives are similar to the Lilliputian foliaged *Diapensia* which grows near the bald summit of Mt. Washington.

We drove up to the Summit House where the cog railway ends. If one simply wished to have a commanding view that is the proper transportation to take. The Summit House also has limousines which negotiate the road where the responsibility is in the hands of competent drivers. No plant lover would take either for it is only by treacherous driving and climbing that one may find the alpine flora. There are many who have scaled the walls of the Great Gulf, Tuckerman's Ravine, where snow lays until June, or Huntington Ravine, and have found stations of choice plants. Taking the three areas which we visited, we found the choicest flora of Mt. Washington and experienced the moods and the grandeur of this, the highest peak in the Presidential Range of the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

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(Continued from Page 42)

first. From the first of February throughout the spring I make a morning inspection of the field to see what change has taken place since the day before. I go with bucket and shovel and if I find a plant that seems outstanding or different, I carefully lift it and place it in the frame for hand pollinating or in one of the experimental plots for further observation. I have bought the plant.

We hand pollinate for seed to sell and to plant. About half of the plants we raise every year are from our own seed. It is a part of the quest for improvement. We are still trying to carry on the double breeding with the stock we had of the late Peter Klein. Last spring this work took a bad setback when someone stole several new plants including a fine dark red with lots of pollen. It was the best red double that I have seen to date. The other plants from the same pod of seed were not nearly as good.

Spilled flats, broken greenhouse glass, trampled and stolen plants and lost labels are not the complete story of the public in our garden. We have made some wonderful friends and

have gained some memories worth more than money. There is the French grandmother who comes to see and to buy Auricula. They are her first love. She brings me plants and stays to talk about gardening. There is the fat man who comes to sit on a rock and look at the field for an hour at a time, and the well-to-do widow who comes just to talk but buys plants for half a dozen nieces before she leaves. There are the children who come to buy Mother's Day gifts for their mothers and the husbands who come for gifts for their wives. The young people who come to buy the first shrubs and plants for their new homes. Then, too, there are the pen-pal gardeners all over the country. I don't have time to write many letters but the thrill of getting their letters and hearing how the plants we sent them have done and all about their plans and hopes, is worth the sleep I miss. I receive gifts of wild flower seed and seed from their gardens, Holiday greetings and thank-you notes.

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(Continued from Page 48)

duced proving that closer relationship is obtained by a regrouping. Although the ultimate goal of perfection will probably never be reached, the arrangement of the plants of the Primula genus into the ideal system is nearing that goal.



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- b) interest in good design and construction of rock gardens,
- c) to hold meetings and exhibitions,
- d) plant exploration and introduction of new species and forms,
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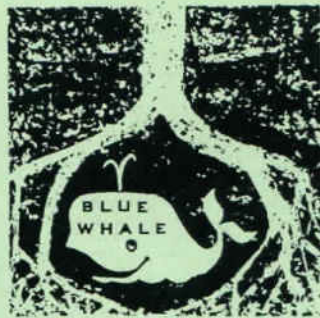
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