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As your new V.P. and very new editor of the New England Newsletter; following Mrs. Anthony. On behalf of the New England region, I wish to express our thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Anthony for such a superb job in writing knowledgeable and interesting issues during her years as editor.

Most of the following letter is thanks to her kindness in letting us share in her account of a trip she and Chuck took last spring, which follows:

DAFFODILS IN ENGLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND - APRIL 1980.

We missed seeing our own flowers this year but we have no regrets. England and Northern Ireland had a rainy, cool Spring and the daffodils were at their best while we were there.

The R.H.S. Daffodil Show was superb and all the growers claimed it was the best show in ten years! John Lea won the Engleheart Cup again with a stunning collection of twelve of his own flowers and his Loch Hope, 2 Y-R, won Best in Show. Tony Noton's Rutland Water, 2 W-W, went Reserve. The trade stands are always eye catching. John Lea and Brian Duncan (Rathowen) both won Gold Medals for their exhibits. Kate Reade Mrs. Abel-Smith and Broadleigh Gardens were awarded Silver Medals.

Of Mr. Lea's flowers those that caught my eye were Achduart 3 Y-R, Creag Dubh 2 O-R, Croila 2 WG-GW, Cul Beag 3 W-R, Gold Convention 1 Y-Y with a very formal straight trumpet (although this is priced at \$141, he sold ten at this show!), Loch Lundie 2 Y-R awarded an A.M. as a Show Flower, Shildaig 2 Y-YYO and Verwood 3 Y-Y. Later in the week we had lunch at Dunley Hall, a charming house part of which was built in 1530 with its lovely informal garden with a sweeping green lawn surrounded by flowering shrubs and daffodils and magnificent old trees, and the chance to see his commercial plantings of about three-quarters of an acre.

It is interesting to note that orange-red flowers are suddenly appearing from all growers just as the pink doubles did several years ago. John Lea has Creag Dubh; Brian Duncan showed a seedling of the Havens on his stand and Kate Reade has the brightest of them all so far, a medium-sized large cup, a nice round flower.

Broadleigh Gardens along with the Daffodil Mart is still the best place to buy miniatures and Lord Skelmersdale is trying to build up his stocks and to send out correctly labelled bulbs. Just received his catalogue. Unfortunately, he is having trouble with some of his varieties. For his sake, I hope the situation clears up quickly. Incidentally, while we were in Holland we discovered the Dutch are beginning to become interested in growing more miniatures.

We were pressed for time having been allowed to accompany a team of judges, the privilege of attending the meeting of the Narcissus and Tulip Committee and be entertained at a hearty luncheon for judges and committee members so I did not devote as much time to the Rathowen and Carncairn flowers as I might knowing we would see their flowers in Northern Ireland. Rathowen's stand was a mass of color on either end and with a center of white flowers. Your eye was drawn, however, to the pink cyclamineus hybrids - Lilac Charm, Lavender Lass, Nymphette and Snoopie; also, to the

doubles - Pink Pageant and Pink Paradise. On Kate Reade's smaller stand Heat Haze, 2 Y-R, was a star attraction.

Another day we spent a fascinating hour in Frank Waley's garden in Sevenoaks. Tall Trees shade the hillside garden and rhododendrons and azaleas are a foil for the many species Mr. Waley, now 86, has collected on his several trips to Spain and Portugal. There were still a few cyclamineus in bloom of the hundreds that carpeted the ground in several places. *Bulbocodium citrinus* was just coming into flower - I was amazed at the size compared with those I've seen in this country. He also had a small clump of the rare Queen of Spain of x *Johnstonii*. He sent us off with several varieties among them *triandrus loiseurii*, *cyclataz*, a *rupicola* x *triandrus* cross and *minicycla* x *asturiensis* which are safely planted at the Harrison's for ripening and shipping in the Fall.

The hospitality shown us by our hosts in Northern Ireland made our two week stay unforgettable. We were asked to judge at the three shows held while we were there. The shows are true flower shows with classes for other horticultural plant material and classes for floral art along with the classes for daffodils which are divided into three sections: open, intermediate and novice. It was nice to see the numbers of young people that were participating.

Our first stop was at Carncairn Lodge with Robin and Kate Reade. The driveway leading to the lovely old stone house was lined with old cultivars and rhododendrons. The big field of over an acre is to the back and side of the house. With the cold wind blowing off the Irish Sea the best place to groom the flowers was in the kitchen with its oil-fired stove. Kate was fearful that she'd have nothing for the Ballymena Show but the sugar and warm water treatment plus a temperature of 65° brought the flowers along nicely and she tied Brian Duncan for most points. She won Best in Show with a lovely Cool Crystal from her American-bred Collection. Other flowers we admired at Carncairn were Ashmore 2 W-W unlisted, Craigdun 2 W-00Y, Drumnabreeze 2 Y-WWY, Irish Linen 3 W-W, Lemon Sherbet 2 W-GYY and Pixie's Pool 3 W-GGY. In Omagh she won a number of prizes in the Open Classes including American Bred with Precedent, Sunapee, Cool Crystal, April Clouds and Daydream.

We stayed next at Ballydorn Farm in Killinchy overlooking beautiful Strangford Loch with the Harrisons. There were daffodils on the sunporch to admire. One I especially liked was a seedling 74/3BCWO/XXX which had a straight cup and coloring that reminded me of Daviot. The Harrisons have always had lovely Division 3 flowers but they don't limit themselves to this division. Others I liked were Port Erin 3 W-GGW, Golden Amber 2 Y-O, Ireland's Eye 9 W-GYR and Topkapi 2 W-00Y. Blooming this year for the first time was a cyclamineus hybrid with a white perianth and a poeticus-colored cup, quite different from anything I've seen before. One evening we had a most pleasant time at the nearby home of one of the Harrisons twin daughters. At the family dinner were Louise Gordon and her husband, their two sons and her sister, Nicola; also Richard Gordon's mother and uncle. It was so very nice to be entertained this way.

Our last weekend was spent outside of Omagh with Clarke and Rosanna Campbell in their charming old farmhouse. This is a real working farm and where the major stocks of Rathowen Daffodils are grown as well as Tom Bloomer's seedlings. Brian Duncan's own seedlings and the small stocks of other growers are grown in his backyard which is nearer to the Town of Omagh. Rathowen with the largest acreage of all the growers has many beautiful flowers and won their share of prizes at the three shows. Tom Bloomer's seedlings were outstanding at Ballymena and Brian's were equally good at the Championship of Ireland Show at Bangor where his D335 3 W-Y won Best in Show.

Among flowers I liked here are just a few: Campion 9 W-GYR and Pismo Beach 2 W-GYP, a rimmed pink, two of his newest introductions; Brindisi 2 Y-P with a smooth perianth, Galahad 1 Y-Y and Roseate Tern 2 W-P, an unlisted Navarro flower. We spent a fascinating evening at the Duncans listening to Willie Toal, a daffodil judge from Belfast, talk about his friendship with Guy Wilson and the Richardsons.

The daffodils were lovely but the nicest part of all was seeing old friends and the making of new ones.

The Memphis Convention during my brief stay was a delight. From Miss Leslie Anderson's garden, I was whisked to the airport, came home and the next night departed for Copenhagen. In many of the shop windows daffodils were used in the displays. Then on to Sikkim, Nepal, Kashmir and India. Daffodil wise very disappointing. In Kashmir in the grounds of a ruined temple we saw the only blooms of our 10 weeks round the world trip. *Canaliculatus*

A week in Singapore, orchids by the thousands; in unusual smoky browns as well as more colors. China, found a modern print and then one in Japan, here again both depicting *Canaliculatus*.

In the small excellent Santa Barbara museum, in an exhibit of gorgeous Chinese robes we saw one in turquoise silk embroidered in silver thread, bordered with white embroidered in gold as well as silver. A court robe-based on a Manchurian women's garment. K'o-siu period. The Chinese forced daffodils, probably *canaliculatus* for their New Year - as they brought good luck for the coming year. Came home to disaster. The 3 long beds of my Guy Wilson seedling chopped off and most of the others which are naturalized in grass, also. A mistake, but done by someone who should have known better. We are going to spread 0-20-20 and then water in, so hopefully we will have a few blooms next year.

Please let me know if there are any programs you would enjoy, such as informal meeting at Horticultural Society, etc.

Please send me a card if you have any good ideas about what the members would like.

Louise V. Conrad
Editor