



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DAFFODIL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1993 NEWSLETTER

JACK S. ROMINE - IN MEMORIAM

It was with a deep sense of personal loss that northern California daffodil enthusiasts learned of Jack Romine's sudden death from heart failure on November 21, 1992. Having just completed a term as ADS president, Jack also served as a Regional Vice President and chaired the ADS convention the first time it was held in San Francisco. In the fall of 1967, almost exactly 25 years ago, twelve of us met in Jack's home to organize the Northern California Daffodil Society. It would be but the first of many occasions when Jack would open his home to NCDS dinners and other daffodil events. Ever the gracious host, his warmth and informality invariably put every one at ease.

While Jack's many contributions to our local daffodil society and to the ADS are well known, what is not so well known, perhaps, is that Jack was far from a one-species gardener. His horticultural interests were broad and diverse. In addition to hybridizing daffodils, he was also a successful hybridizer of *hemerocallis*, being among the first to induce tetraploidy in *hemerocallis* through the use of colchicine. He served on the Board of Directors of the American *Hemerocallis* Society, as President of the California Horticultural Society, and was active in the American Rock Garden Society and the American Iris Society. He was truly the complete horticulturist, his knowledge of plants virtually encyclopedic. Of his daffodil introductions, Little Soldier, a charming and distinct miniature, is perhaps best known. He also introduced Old Smoothie, a 1Y-Y. Jack loved growing rare and unusual plants and shared both his plants and his expertise unselfishly. Those of us fortunate enough to visit his garden were often the recipients of his unfailing generosity. If you admired a choice new *hemerocallis*, he would immediately grab a spade and give you a division, even when the plant was really too small to divide.

Jack taught English at Merritt College in Oakland for many years and authored several successful textbooks in his field. Those of us privileged to have known this warm, generous, multi-talented man are the richer for the experience. He will be long remembered by a host of friends.

(This remembrance of Jack Romine was written by Dr. Stan Baird for The Daffodil Journal of the American Daffodil Society.)

END-OF-WINTER PARTY

Once again NCDS will have an End-of-Winter party in anticipation of the next daffodil season. It will be Sunday, February 28 starting at 1:00 p.m. with a potluck supper at 3:00 p.m. This is a chance to reacquaint yourself with daffodil enthusiasts you haven't seen for months and to meet new members. If you have any daffodils, bring them. If you have not entered a daffodil show before and would like to do so, we can have some of our local experts show you how to groom, clean, and stage them. You can also get some advice on how to evaluate your own daffodils to decide which to enter. While you can't turn a

sow's ear into a silk purse, you can make substantial improvements in the appearance of a daffodil. Not all the beautiful winners you see at the show grew that way; they very likely had some help. Come learn the secrets! Since this is a potluck, we again offer suggestions on what to bring:

Last name initial: A through D - main dish
E through J - dessert
K through R - hors d'oeuvres, munchies, or bread
S through Z - salad

If you have a specialty or if you prefer to bring something else, that's fine. Everything seems to work out regardless of our suggestions. Please call me, Kirby Fong, at (510) 443-3888 to let me know that you are coming and what you are bringing. NCDS will furnish beverages. For many years we have met at Jack's house for the winter meeting and the banquet. This is now solely Bob Engelke's house, and I am pleased to tell you that Bob, Jack's friend, has agreed to host both these events again this year. The location is 2065 Walnut Boulevard in Walnut Creek.

ALAMEDA COUNTY HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The Alameda County Home & Garden Show is February 5, 6, and 7. By the time you receive this newsletter, Wayne Steele will have contacted people to volunteer to staff our booth at the Show. However, we could still use any daffodils anyone is able to donate or lend. (Yes, last year we had some daffodils in pots lent to us.) If you can furnish some daffodils, please contact Kirby Fong at (510) 443-3888 or Wayne Steele at (510) 447-5216.

BUYING NEW DAFFODILS

If you are considering buying some new cultivars, we ask you first to patronize the growers who were kind enough to donate bulbs for our fall auction. They are

Grant E. Mitsch Novelty Daffodils
Post Office Box 218
Hubbard, Oregon 97032

They have Tom Throckmorton's
cultivars as well as Mitsch's.

Oregon Trail Daffodils
3207 SE Mannthey
Corbett, Oregon 97019

Murray Evans and Bill Pannill
cultivars.

Nancy R. Wilson
6525 Briceland-Thorn Road
Garberville, California 95440

Specialist in species and
miniatures.

William R. P. Welch
43 East Garzas Road
Carmel Valley, California 93924-9450

Short list specializing in
tazettas.

Hatfield Gardens
22799 Ringgold Southern Road
Stoutsville, Ohio 43154

The catalogue gives no descriptions, so you'd better know which cultivars you want.

Brian Duncan
Novelty and Exhibition Daffodils
'Knowhead'
15 Ballynahatty Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone BT78 1PN
Northern Ireland

Winner of ADS Challenge Cups.

Clive Postles Daffodils
The Old Cottage
Purshull Green
Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 0NL
England

His Chelsea Girl won the Gold
Ribbon at the 1992 national in
Columbus, Ohio.

Other sources in the northern hemisphere are:

Columbia Gorge Daffodils & Tree Farm
Post Office Box 205
Corbett, Oregon 97019

A limited number of Murray Evans
cultivars.

Bonnie Brae Gardens
1105 S.E. Christensen Road
Corbett, Oregon 97019

A modest list of proven standards,
intermediates, and miniatures.

Oakwood Daffodils
2330 W. Bertrand Road
Niles, Michigan 49120

Has some hard to find down under
cultivars.

Daffodil Mart
Route 3, Box 794
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

Mostly bulk varieties for land-
scaping, but also the most
source for split coronas.

Carncairn Daffodils, Ltd.
Carncairn Lodge
Broughshane
Ballymena, Co. Antrim BT43 7HF
Northern Ireland

A very extensive list of English,
Irish, and some American hybrids
as well as their own hybrids.

Ballydorn Bulb Farm
Killinchy
Newtownards, Co. Down BT23 6QB
Northern Ireland

A modest list primarily of their
own highly weather resistant
cultivars.

Tyrone Daffodils
90 Ballynahatty Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone BT78 1TD
Northern Ireland

An extensive list of older
cultivars, especially Richardson
cultivars.

Mrs. J. Abel Smith
Orchard House
Letty Green, Hertford SG14 2NZ
England

Many Irish cultivars in addition
to her own.

Hofflands Daffodils
Bakers Green
Little Totham
Maldon, Essex CM9 8LT
England

The source for Altun Ha, one of
the best new reverse bicolors.

R. A. Scamp
18 Bosmeor Close
Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4PX
England

Many English cultivars in addition
to his own cultivars.

Perhaps at the End-of-Winter meeting we can discuss preparing joint orders for some of these growers. Alternatively, you can write them now for their catalogues. It's a bit late now for ordering from southern hemisphere growers, but in a future newsletter I'll give you some of their names and addresses. You would write in the fall to ask for their catalogues.

SPRING DAFFODIL SHOW

Our spring daffodil show will be at Heather Farms Garden Center March 20 and 21. Volunteers are most welcome to help set up Friday afternoon March 19 and to put things away after the show Sunday, March 21. Just come at 4:00 p.m. on Friday or Sunday. Entries may be staged Friday evening from 7 to 11 p.m. and Saturday morning from 6 to 10 a.m. The show will be open to the public Saturday, March 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, check with show chairperson Jan Moyers at (415) 453-5261. Heather Farms Garden Center is at 1540 Marchbanks Drive in Walnut Creek.