

GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

When you stand in front of the house and gaze in wonder over the water of Strangford Loch and the Irish Channel and beyond, and your host tells you that on a clear day you may see the Isle of Man, you are apt to find yourself so lost in the joy and beauty of the moment as not to notice that the bright array of daffodils in their long beds that sweep down almost to the sea endure some of the most brutal onslaughts of wind and rain and cold that any grower anywhere ever asks of them.

It will not surprise anyone who has visited Ballydorn Bulb Farm that letters about Sir Frank Harrison say things like, "He is as kind and generous as his daffodils are tough and persistent," and "His introductions seem always to have a certain strength of character," "If he can grow them to show quality in the open, you know you can."

He wants them strong and healthy or not at all, so the daffodils get but little mollycoddling at Ballydorn, which is why Churchman, Firestorm, Golden Sovereign, Lancaster, Hilford, and especially Golden Amber prove to be great garden flowers as well as perennial contenders on the show bench. How many of the best of late flowers and those with deep green eyes have come from Ballydorn.

The list of world class daffodils introduced by Sir Frank in almost fifty years of life at Ballydorn could go on and on, but would have to include Moon Rhythm, Ireland's Eye, Witch Doctor, and Golden Halo, flowers that can excel in the most exalted company.

And when company — exalted or otherwise — visits Sir Frank and Lady Harrison they are treated to the sort of gracious and genuine hospitality that can make them forget they came for the daffodils.

His legendary generosity when filling bulb orders, his encouragement of novices, the sprightly wit that has made him a favorite speaker at several ADS meetings, are but a few of the reasons, it gives me such pleasure to announce the awarding of the American Daffodil Society's Gold Medal in recognition of creative work of a pre-eminent nature in the understanding and advancement of daffodils to Sir Frank Harrison.

