



The Indiana Ledger

A Triannual Publication of the Indiana Daffodil Society
Suzy Wert, Editor Vol. XVI No. I March 2003



HELEN ESSIE LINK

August 24, 1912 – November 30, 2002

Helen Link, wife of Dr. Goethe S. Link, M.D., was a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, the Fall Creek Garden Club, Charter member of the American Daffodil Society, Founder of the Indiana Daffodil Society and member of the Indianapolis Hosta Society, to name a few.

Born in Bristol Indiana, daughter of George Herman and Lottie Edna (King) Kegerreis. A graduate of Indiana University and the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, she was a surgery nurse in the 1930's.

Helen was active in all the garden organizations in which she held membership, and probably held any office available both locally and nationally in those organizations. She was internationally known for her hybridations of daffodils, with an excess of 50 registered and numerous unregistered seedlings. She was a Renaissance woman who enjoyed the science of horticulture, with many detailed studies and grew the full breath of plant materials, her orchids and tropical were her joy in her greenhouse when weather would not permit an enjoyable experience out doors. It was always a search for Helen anywhere on the 17 acres of her domain if she was not in her house. She could handle a tractor with ease, and yet would set a table with small cakes and sandwiches for a proper tea.

Helen's generosity will be missed. She believed in giving away many of her creations, since "...the Creator gave them to me, how can I expect money in return for His bounty."

Helen wrote in the 1985 Daffodil Journal, "Perhaps there will be daffodils in the hereafter for us to enjoy, without all the tasks of digging, sorting, replanting, showing and wondering why we missed that blue ribbon. I doubt there will be any shows, but one can never tell." ~ Joe Hamm

2003 Daffodil Calendar

2003 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Meeting Holliday Park 1:00

Helen Trueblood and a Garden Club Flower Arranger (TBA) - "Garden Club Flower Arranging" Learn how to better display your cut daffodils.

Kentucky Daffodil Society Show - Saturday, April 5-Sunday April 7th contact Chuck Schad or Hilda Dunaway for more information.

The Indiana State Daffodil Show

April 17 and April 18, 2003

Meridian Street United Methodist Church, 5500 N. Meridian Street, Indpls. North Entrance. Entries accepted **April 17** (6:00 pm until 8:00pm) & **April 18** (8:00 am to 10:30 a.m.) Stay for the Potluck luncheon.

April 16 - Set-up Indianapolis Show Call Joe Hamm 291-6197 to volunteer to help set up or tear down.

April 17-18 - IDS Show & Potluck Luncheon on the 17th (55th & Meridian) Call Sara Kinne or Joe Hamm if you can clerk or be a page.

Saturday, July 13th - Picnic at Joe Hamm's house. Maybe the last time we all get to see it if it sells quickly! Details in the June **Ledger**. Also, Mitsch orders due to Joe Hamm. Look for the "D" after the price in the catalog for a 25% discount.

Saturday, August 16*- Bulb and Plant Exchange

HOLLIDAY PARK 1:00

Suzy Wert presents ADS Slideshow on Miniatures

Sat. October 11th - Bulb and Plant Exchange

HOLLIDAY PARK 1:00

Daffodil Databank demonstration and how you can organize your daffodil lists on the computer.

Bulb Sales at Holliday Park: Sunday July 27th and Sunday August 24.

2003 Sales & Bagging Parties

July 13, Sunday, Bagging Party at Joe Hamm's at noon.

July 27, Sunday 9:00 a.m. setup Holliday Park Nature Center

Aug 21, Thursday, Bagging Party at Joe Hamm's 9:00 am - noon.

Aug. 24, Sunday 9:00 a.m. setup Holliday Park Nature Center

45th Annual Party!

Mark your calendars for April 16, 17, & 18! Come and get involved in the fun. This is our annual party, the Daffodil Show! Show Schedules will be available at our March meeting so you will have plenty of time to decide how you can participate in the revelry! The choices are multiple, over 253 places to exhibit blooms and four Artistic Classes available for floral arrangements. Extra flowers are always available for making the arrangements...just bring a container and some greens. Bring any blooms you have for the entries, we will try to be available to aid you in your decisions for entries. Those blooms you do not use will not go to waste as the Nursing and Assisted living visitors that come to view the show, will enjoy taking a bloom home with them. It is great to see the sparkle in their eyes and smiles on their faces. OH! Don't forget to bring your appetites and a covered dish for the luncheon at noon on the 17th. Club furnishes meat, drinks and eating utensils.

Spring is a Good Time to . .

- **Check your tags** - make sure they are directly in front of (or in back of) the daffodils they're marking. Make sure the ink is not fading away and rewrite them before they've faded completely.

- **Make some crosses.** Just take the pollen from one flower and put it on the sticky stigma of another and see if you can get some seed to set. Daffodils are very easy to grow from seed; but they need 5-7 years to grow to flowering size. Once you have them, though, they come up reliably every year and once they bloom, you are the only person in the world to have them!

Aspirin for Rot?

~by Michael Larmer, Aqueduct, California

I would like to call your attention to a fascinating concept I recently discovered in a back issue of the North American Lily Society yearbook (1998). Titled "A Solution for Erwinia", it was originally published in the 1997 Aril Society International yearbook. It was written by a guy who's growing Aril and Arilbred irises in Illinois instead of the arid region to which they are native.

The gist of the article is that many, if not all plants, when attacked by a pathogen, produce *acetylsalicylic* as part of the defensive response. This in turn activates other physiological responses which together function to render the plant somewhat "immune" to further attack (Systemic Acquired Response).

The SAR can be induced artificially by giving the plant aspirin and the plant responds as if it had been injured, but in some cases to a phenomenally higher degree (he quotes a research figure of 9,000 times normal).

It seems to me that the application would be worth trying for those of you losing significant numbers of bulbs to rot (of whom, thankfully, I am not one).

If you are interested in trying this I suggest you seek out and read this article. I'm guessing the best application time would probably be about three or four weeks prior to dormancy, but who knows really?