

OBITUARIES



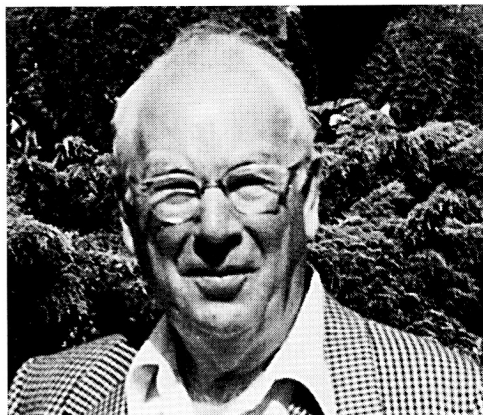
DR TOM D THROCKMORTON

Dr. Tom D Throckmorton, well-known throughout the daffodil world, died at his home in Des Moines, Iowa, on 21 June of a heart ailment. He was 86.

Dr. Throckmorton was a former chief of surgery and director of the Surgical Residency Program at Iowa Methodist Medical Center. In 1963, he was working with a program which applied electronic data processing to clinical medicine. A comment at the American Daffodil Society (ADS) Fall Board meeting that year that "... we should possibly institute a file or collection of known daffodil parentage..." triggered the idea for what subsequently became the Tom D Throckmorton Daffodil Data Bank of the ADS. The earliest edition included additional information about the colour of a daffodil. In 1973, on behalf of the ADS, he made a "proposal of marriage" to the RHS to include colour coding as part of the official classification of daffodils. The RHS, after consultation with daffodil bodies around the world and some minor grooming of the proposal, accepted it in 1977.

Living in Des Moines, where he said spring "often begins on Sunday and ends on Thursday," he was able to grow daffodils by careful selection of cultivars, and by changing the "rules" for cultivation to suit his climate. Dr. Throckmorton was also a daffodil hybridizer of note. There are fifty-one of his registrations listed in the Data Bank. He was particularly intrigued by those daffodils which changed colour as they matured, and he used the computer's capabilities to search the data base to find which flowers tended to give offspring which he called "toned."

Dr. Throckmorton enjoyed fine wines, and



Dr Tom D Throckmorton

served for years on the Iowa Wine Advisory Board, and co-authored a small book called *Drink Thy Wine with a Merry Heart*. Written in a conversational style, it is easy to read, gives basic information, and includes a pronunciation guide.

He was a life member of The American Daffodil Society, and served as president from 1968-1970, and served on the Board of Directors for many years as Chairman of the Data Bank. Most awards in the daffodil world came to Dr Throckmorton. He was the recipient of the ADS Silver Medal for service to the Society in 1977, the ADS Gold Medal for creative work in the understanding and advancement of daffodils in 1980. In 1977, the RHS awarded him The Peter Barr Memorial Cup for good work in connection with daffodils. In 1980 he was also awarded the Garden Club of America's Distinguished Service Medal given for "his dedication to the genus *Narcissus*," and in 2000 he was elected a vice-president of The Daffodil Society.

Mary Lou Gripshover