

JACK S. ROMINE

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 first ADS convention to be 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*, 1 Y-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 unflinching 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. 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 in the gardening world.