The Daffodil Bulletin

Summer Issue

August 1962

THE STORY OF THE PLOIDS

By IMA KIBITZER (Special to the Bulletin)

Many years ago, at a time beyond which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, the ruler of the great country of Narcissus was named Ploid. Herodotus mentioned him in passing (he did not stop) and in more recent times Homer in the Lays of Ancient Rome praised him in the most equivocal terms. These references would have established his place in history even if there were nothing more. There was plenty more, but we cannot go into it here.

The Ploids were a prolific family with innumerable branches but we shall confine ourselves here to the direct descendants of Adam Ploid who started the dynasty and then was unable to stop it. The facts are few and not well known and we shall have to use our imagination, assemble what artifacts we can lay our hands on and see what, if anything, we get.

Problem Children

Adam and his wife (we don't know which one) had many children but relatively few of them grew to manhood, or womanhood, and again few of these became really famous. The first child, Uni, died in infancy and we can forget her forthwith. The second child, Di, was small and unpretentious but something of a juvenile delinquent, and since he lived in Peyton Place we can assume that he knew what was going on and even added his own contribution. His brother, Tri, was rather eccentric and an introvert. The next child, and one of the best liked, was a girl, Tetra. She was of the stately regal type, 38-25-36

and a blond. She was an important factor, or factress, in the life of the family, but was probably no better than she ought to be. The younger children may be disregarded for the most part (they will be wholly disregarded by our male readers while Tetra is around). Quinta and Septa were both alcoholics and were never mentioned in public. It is probably not true that they were the founders of AA. Hexa was small like Di and was not a good mixer. He kept rather quiet and we do not know much about him. Not much is known about the home life of the Ploids but from old manuscripts and kitchen-midden it appears that they lived in clones (that will clear up the meaning of THAT term for many of you) probably much like the mud hut villages of central Africa.

Then Came the Somes

There was another important family of the time whose fortunes, and other things, were inextricably intermingled with those of the Ploids. I refer to the Somes. Perhaps because of their florid complexions and because they always wore bright costumes in very poor taste they were derisively called Chromos. The name stuck and in time the family came to be known as Chromosomes.

You may well ask at this point what the Somes have to do with the Ploids. That is a good question, but as this is being written for a family type paper it will be better not to go into the heterogeneous relationship at this time. If any of you are curious a request to the (Continued on page 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Since writing for the spring issue of our BULLETIN I have spent three and a half weeks in Western Europe on a special assignment in connection with my official duties.

My arrival in Europe was on the cool but sunny morning of May 1. Paris was quiet, with offices and most shops closed as is the custom there on May Day. By mid-afternoon I was on my way to Brussels. After a few days there I went on to The Hague in the Netherlands.

Spring in Europe was about three weeks late. Consequently many of the spring bulbous flowers were still in full bloom on my arrival. As a result I had the unexpected opportunity to see the famed Keukenhof Gardens in all their brilliant colors. Fortunately the day I was there it was one of those rather rare sunny days, so my two rolls of color photographs turned out beautifully. Any one with a camera must have taken home brilliant reminders of the Keukenhof at Lisse. On the following day, the annual Blumencorso (flower parade) moved through the bulb district cities of Sassenheim, Lisse, and Hillegom, under cold and cloudy skies that from time to time scattered rain on paraders and spectators alike.

During the remainder of my time in Holland, I did field inspection work with the head U. S. inspector and his Dutch counterpart. In this way I added to my knowledge of the virus diseases of tulips, hyacinths, and narcissus. The Netherlands bulb growers are doing well in their efforts to eliminate these diseases from their plantings but it is no simple task.

The Story of the Ploids (Continued from page 1)

author may bring you a reply under plain cover. And again it may not.

It is hoped this brief sketch will have cleared up for the beginner the meaning of the more esoteric terms that have puzzled him, but if not he will just have to get out and do his own research. A letter to the editor of the BULLETIN will probably be of no help. By now I'm sure all of you are thinking about your bulb purchases or have already made them. I do hope many are planning to do a little daffodil breeding for doubles, even though you may never have pollinated a bloom before.

Each of us should be interested in the award offered by Mrs. Joseph H. Thompson of Willoughby, Ohio, for "an improved Albus Plenus Odoratus". Full details on this award will be published later.

In the meantime, those who want to try their hand at raising a new double, white, fragrant daffodil that will bloom and not blast, should be sure to obtain the necessary parent bulbs this summer. Otherwise you'll lose a year. Some ADS members who were at the Nashville meeting in April have already made their start at this breeding assignment.

And so, best wishes to all!

WILLIS H. WHEELER, President

NEXT BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for the November BUL-LETIN will be October 8. This issue will contain reports of the Regional Vice Presidents. *Please* assist your Editor and get your items in promptly so the BUL-LETIN will be on time.

THE DAFFODIL BULLETIN Published Quarterly by AMERICAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY, INC.

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Mrs. Grover F. Roennfeldt, Treasurer 7426 Lynn Avenue University City, St. Louis 30, Mo.

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NEMATODE CONTROL WITH SUGAR

Your editor has often wished that a simple housewife's test for daffodil virus diseases would be invented. Now it seems that a cook's cure for nematodes may be on the way. Excerpts from a U.S. Department of Agriculture press release of March 1, 1961, follow:

Ordinary sugar mixed into soil acts as an effective killer of nematodes . . . the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported today. The use of sugar as a nematocide was discovered recently by Dr. W. A. Feder, plant pathologist . . . and his associates. This is the first known nematode-killing material discovered that is non-toxic to warm-blooded animals and leaves no residue in the soil . . . Sugar mixed into soil infested with these crop-damaging pests, at rates of 1 part sugar to every 20 to 100 parts of soil, killed up to 100 percent of the nematodes within 24 hours. Dr. Feder explained that the nematodes died from dehydration-not from any toxic effects of the sugar. The sugar could not pass into the nematodes' bodies, but water passed out of their bodies to dilute the sugar solution in the soil . . . The scientists also found that nematodes thrived in a weak sugar-water solution, demonstrating that the sugar was not toxic to them. Experiments in which sugar was added to nematode-infested soil of varying moisture contents showed that as moisture content was reduced, sugar concentration and nematode mortality were increased. From these experiments, Dr. Feder concluded that predictable percentages of nematode kill would result from the addition of specific amounts of sugar to nematode-infested soils of known moisture content . . . The experimental sugar-soil treatment is subject to further research to determine its potential value as a practical means of nematode control. Among the problems to be solved is how the sugar can be applied to reach nematodes below the upper eight to ten inches of soil. Re-

B. Y. MORRISON, EDITOR, GIVEN PETER BARR MEMORIAL

B. Y. Morrison, Editor of the National Horticultural Magazine, has been awarded the Peter Barr Memorial Cup. This is given annually by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society for work, either scientific or practical, in the field of daffodils. This is the first time an American has received this honor.

Many members of the American Daffodil Society had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Morrison when he was the featured speaker at the banquet at the 1960 Annual Meeting. Mr. Morrison also has the distinction of hybridizing the Glenn Dale azaleas of which the National Arboretum in Washington, D. C., has a spectacular display.

sults so far show that sucrose-ordinary cane or beet sugar-works well for this purpose, and dextrose-obtainable from corn and other plants-may be even better. The amount of sugar required to treat even the upper six inches of soil runs into tons per acre, which makes this experimental soil treatment too expensive for ordinary farm use at present. The ready availability of sugar and the fact that plants grown in treated soils accumulate no residues toxic to man or higher animals may make the treatment practical for pot culture, greenhouse benches, or possibly even for garden plots. Cheaper types of sugar, or other non-toxic materials having a similar effect, or effective means using less sugar may be found.

Mr. Wheeler comments: "To be effective the sugar must be applied at a rate of one part per 20 to 100 parts of soil. Those who have daffodil beds where they can be easily fumigated with methyl bromide will at present get better eradication of nematodes in that way."

(The above article was excerpted from the Washington Daffodil Society Newsletter edited by Mrs. George D. Watrous, Jr.)

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ADS STUDENT JUDGES

Listed here are the names of student judges whose credits were received prior to April 1, 1962:

- Mrs. Fred Allen, 899 Van Leer Dr., Nashville, Tenn.
- Mrs. Wm. T. Allen, 2208 Tyne Blvd., Nashville, Tenn.
- Mrs. Henry Ambrose, 208 Blackman Rd., Nashville, Tenn.
- Mrs. Maurice C. Abercrombie, Rt. 1, Palmetto, Ga.
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- Lane, Dayton 59, Ohio
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- Mrs. Chas. Dillard, 204 Walnut St., Gordon, Ark.
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- Mrs. Robert J. Ingersoll, 1220 Goodloe Dr,. Nashville, Tenn.
- Mrs. Robert Johnson, 2537 W. 89th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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- Mrs. Homer Jones, Rt. 1, White House, Tenn.
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- Mrs. H. Walker Jernigan, 3215 Wood Valley Rd., Atlanta 5, Ga.
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- Mrs. Wm. McVaugh, Jr., 10 O'clock Ridge, Nashville, Ind.
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- Mr. Wm. H. Roesse, 14873 San Ardo Dr., LaMirada, Calif.
- Mrs. C. L. Reed, Box 60 River Rd., Richmond 29, Va.
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- Mrs. W. K. Russell, Rt. 1, Carrollton, Texas
- Mrs. Virginia Robins, 1820 College Ave., Conway, Ark.
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- Mrs. Grover F. Roennfeldt, 7426 Lynn Ave., University City 30, St. Louis, Mo.
- Mrs. Wm. Seipp, Brook Hill Farm, Middleburg, Va.

- Mr. Richard Sabin, 564 S. Lodge Lane, Lombard, Ill.
- Mrs. Alfred B. Schad, 214 Canterbury Rd., Richmond, Va.
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- Mrs. John R. Salois, 6322 Lakeside Dr., Dallas, Texas
- Mrs. Ted Schwalchoff, 2160 Haskell Blvd., Muskogee, Okla.
- Mrs. Julius Seeman, 1233 Nichol Lane, Nashville, Tenn.
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- Mrs. Paul F. Wellborn, 3526 Carroll Ave., Macon, Ga.
- Mrs. E. D. Warner, Rt. 32, Box 7-A, Brookville, Ohio Mrs. Robert Walker, 501 Mulberry St.,
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- Mrs. Luther Wilson, 2051 Nashville Rd., Bowling Green, Ky.
- Mrs. W. L. Wiley, 412 Cameron St., Chapel Hill, N. C.
- Mrs. Gordon Young, 5618 Namakagan Rd., Washington 16, D. C.

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SOME DAFFODILS TO LOOK FOR DURING THE COMING SEASON

Some are new, some are not. I'll take them by classes.

In 1*a* (yellow trumpts), the very best to my way of thinking are Slieveboy, Ulster Prince, Golden Rapture, Joseph McLeod and Luna Moth.

The bicolor trumpets contain only two I am completely sold on, namely Lapford and old Effective.

The white trumpets must be led by Vigil, Empress of Ireland and Rashee.

I am passing over 1d entirely.

In 2a (self yellows) there is nothing any better than Galway and St. Keverne, and they are generally quite good.

In the large cup yellows with red and orange cups there is an imposing list comprising Court Martial, Ceylon, Air-Marshal, Border Chief, Revelry, Narvik, Paricutin, Armada, and the delicately colored Balalaika and Fastnet.

The large cup 2b class with white perianths and yellow cup contains several fine ones, namely, Festivity, New Castle, Green Island and Aldergrove.

Arbar, Avenger and Kilworth are the best 2bs with color in cups predominating.

The white large cups 2cs heretofore so often characterized by great beauty and poor health now claim several that are all around top items, namely Ardbane, Easter Moon, and Castle-of-Mey.

Mitch's Bethany is the only 2d I can include here.

Dinkie is the best 3a, all things considered.

There are two new 3bs with delicate color in their cups I must include, namely Shantallow and Crepello, that raise this class quite a bit.

NEW SLIDES AVAILABLE

The excellent new ADS slide collection of novelties and newer varieties is now available and may be obtained from the photography committee chairman, Prof. L. P. Maine, Drexel Institute, Philadelphia 4, Pa. Send \$5 to cover the cost of producing and handling the slides.

The 3bs, with white perianths and

bright cups, contains some very fine items such as Rockall, Bravura, Matapan, Tulyar, Clockface and Enniskillen.

The 3cs contain Chinese White and Foggy Dew as yet unsurpassed altho I hear rumors.

The doubles are sporting several flowers we can include here, namely, Cheerfulness, Yellow Cheerfulness, Double Event, White Lion and the new Acropolis. The triandrus group is led by Tresamble, Thoughtful (yellow) and the new Ice Wings.

Charity May is the only cyclamineus I can include in this list.

Among the jonquils there are five we can include, namely Tittle-Tattle, Sweetness, Trevithian, Golden Perfection and Shah.

The tazettas contain only two items I can include—the new Matador, and the Dutch Orange Wonder.

The poets can place only Cantabile and Actaea, and I have some doubts about both the health and sunproofness of the beautiful Cantabile.

The pink group now contains several items of top rank namely, Rima and the new Debutante. Perhaps Rose Caprice and Flamingo should be included and another year may find Infatuation and Rose Royale on the list.

Among the miniatures the first I have been able to grow and keep include: Raindrop, April Tears, Kidling, Shrimp, Frosty Morn, Bobby Soxer, Tanagra, Tete-a-Tete, Sun Disc and Picarillo.

It takes no more room and effort to grow the best. And a really good daffodil should look as good in the garden as on the show table or vice versa. But if they fade too fast or if one can't grow or keep any given daffodil over most of the country, then there is no reason for it. All of which will explain why a number of much talked about items are not on this list.

By CAREY QUINN

Last fall the Gloucester County (Va.) Community Council planted 20,000 daffodil bulbs along primary highways in its area.

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WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THIS?

Dr. John L. McClenahan, who lives at 39 East Chestnut Hill Ave., Philadelphia 18, asks a question which probably has arisen in the minds of many daffodil growers. We present it in his words:

"Can you explain a botanical phenomenon that mystifies me? I have noticed that when daffodils begin to sprout, the shoots on coming up under a dried leaf, do not lift the free leaf as you might expect but perforate it very neatly. It would seem to me that this would require tremendous force which, exerted relatively slowly, should lift rather than puncture. The alternative suggestion is that some chemical substance is secreted at the nascent tip of the shoot that dissolves the leaf on contact. This would be fairly efficient if it, in fact, is the case. Do you know anything about this?"

Any ideas on this phenomenon that ADS members may have would be welcomed as interesting to all BULLETIN readers.

A WOMAN REFLECTS ON A MAN'S EYE-VIEW OF A GARDEN

During my nine years of gardening, I have now and again observed the habits of visitors to the garden, and I have concluded that the male side of the human race has a unique way of viewing a garden.

Upon entering a garden, the male becomes primarily interested in certain matters that for a time exclude all other interests. To begin with, he always first notices the mulch. It is only after we have discussed the availability, rate of disintegration, cost, and other merits and demerits of the mulch in question, that he can turn his thoughts to other significant matters—like markers. For example, "Do they bend or break? How long do they last? What type of pencil or ink is used?" are but a few of the questions that come tumbling out.

Size of stem seems to be another male preoccupation. And the fact that the stems of a particular variety may be twice the height of any he has ever seen, is a matter of great wonderment to the male visitor. (Really, the stems are just reaching for the light amidst all the trees and foliage.) On the basis of this vital evidence, he may even conclude that you're not such a bad gardener after all.

However, nothing quite matches the acuity with which the male notes diseased foliage. If you ever have any desire to seek out some of this offending foliage, just invite some of these "disease spotters" into your garden. Nothing brings out such an excited glint in their eyes as some pathological disturbance in the foliage. If by some fortunate turn of events, your daffodils have something like stripe or any other identifiable disease, then you have really made their day, and the long trip out was more than worthwhile.

These males may wind up their visit on a gay note by asking about the kind of trees you have, and what do you do with all your leaves in the fall? The daffodils? Well, maybe they noticed, but not so as you could hear it!

> ESTHER SEEMAN, Nashville, Tenn.

TENTATIVE DATES CHOSEN FOR DAFFODIL SHOWS

The following dates have been tentatively selected for three of the large daffodil shows in the East:

April 9-10, Garden Club of Virginia;

- April 17-18, Maryland Daffodil Society; and
- April 20-21, Washington Daffodil Society.

These dates are printed at this time to avoid any possible conflicts.

MRS. L. H. HOUSTON of Hartselle, Ala., has come up with a membership suggestion. This is that all accredited ADS shows set up a table to distribute membership blanks, accept dues and forward them to the Treasurer.

The interest in miniatures is increasing rapidly. Have you tried some?

Form 3547 Requested

Dr. Goethe Link R. R. #6, Box 152 Martinsville, Ind.

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HEALTH AND CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Health and Culture Committee has something tangible to show the Board of Directors—a card file of typed references, arranged by authors, totaling about 3000 items related to all aspects of daffodils. As far as I know, this is the first time such an extensive index has been brought together in one file. It will be expanded as time and material become available.

In view of this major task and other research projects, I am glad to announce the appointment of a Vice Chairman. Dr. George G. Gyrisco, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, will fill this position and be in charge of the committee's advisory functions. Dr. Gyrisco is an enthusiastic daffodil grower and hybridizer. He has prepared an authoritative paper on "Some Daffodil Pests and Their Control".

Regional members of the Health and

Culture Committee, who serve as consultants to their respective vice presidents, should refer their more difficult problems to Dr. Gyrisco for expert advice.

> HAROLD S. KING, Chairman Health and Culture Committee

DAFFODILS OR REMBRANDT?

Major William Manville Peareth Kinkaid Lennox of Downton Castle in Shropshire recently sold at auction Rembrandt's "St. Bartholomew" for \$532,000. According to Time "he sold the Rembrandt to keep up his 14,000-acre estate on which he farms, raises sheep, cattle and daffodils. The daffodils are his real passion. He grows 200 varieties and says with greater pride than when speaking of his art collection: 'I don't know where you could find more beautiful daffodils than in our grounds'."

H. S. K.