BENJAMIN YOE MORRISON

Word of the death of Benjamin Yoe Morrison at Pass Christian, Miss., on January 24, 1966, came as a shock to members of the American Daffodil Society who were among his many friends in the world of horticulture.

"B. Y.", as he was affectionately known, was born in Atlanta, Ga., in 1891. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California in 1913 and two years later the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University. Then followed a Sheldon Traveling Fellowship which made it possible for him to spend time in the Orient. While there he studied Japanese art and horticulture.

Following a brief period of employment after his return to this country Mr. Morrison entered the army and during World War I served in the Camp Planning Division of the War Department. In 1920 he joined the United States Department of Agriculture where he became assistant to Dr. David Fairchild in the Office of Plant Exploration and Introduction. The many years of his government service which followed were in the same organization. In the latter part of his career he was its director.

During the years of his employment with the government he planned and brought into being the U. S. National Arboretum in the Northeast corner of the District of Columbia. At that same time he had many other personal horticultural interests including iris, azaleas, and daffodils. His enthusiasm led him into an azalea breeding project for the development of cultivars suited to the conditions of the Middle Atlantic Region. From the thousands of seedlings that resulted, something over 400 "Glenn Dale" hybrids were named and introduced to the nursery trade.

Mr. Morrison's enthusiasm for daffodils developed in the early 1920's and resulted in a voluminous personal correspondence with the famous daffodil raisers of the time, including the Brodie of Brodie, P. D. Williams, Guy L. Wilson, Barr, Bath, Chapman, Donard, Richardson, and Watts. From these men he imported the latest novelties and his private garden served to educate the gardeners of the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area concerning the best things of the genus Narcissus. Indirectly, his enthusiasm for daffodils brought about daffodil shows, and later the creation of the Washington Daffodil Society, which in turn was followed in 1954 by the American Daffodil Society, a national organization.

In the early 1920s he was largely responsible for the founding of
what is now the American Horticultural Society. He served it both as
director and president, and for 30 years was editor of the National
Horticultural Magazine. Upon his retirement in 1950 he returned to
the South, where he continued with his azalea breeding and his work
with daffodils suited to the warmer climate of the southern states.

Mr. Morrison received many honors, including the Liberty Hyde
Bailey Medal of the American Horticultural Society, the Arthur Hoyt
Scott Medal and Award of Swarthmore College, the Barr Memorial
Cup, and the Gold Medal of the American Daffodil Society. He also
was a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, a vice president of the
same organization, and a member of the Washington Academy of
Sciences.

The writer first had the privilege of meeting Mr. Morrison in 1946,
and through the years had a most cordial relationship with him.

—WILLIS H. WHEELER

HOW TO BE CALM, COOL AND
COLLECTED WHILE SHOWING DAFFODILS

By MARY S. CARTWRIGHT, Nashville, Tenn.

Show time is almost upon us again. Do you turn pale at the thought?
Many of us dread the effort of preparing and entering our flowers. It
is always such a rush at the last minute. Our nerves become frayed,
our heads ache, hands tremble, and worst of all—our feet hurt. Then
there is this talk about grooming flowers! Who in the world has time
for that?

The answer to all your problems is to establish some sort of routine
in your preparation. You won’t find the easiest way the first time, but
each time you prepare your flowers you will discover new ways of
becoming more efficient.

Grooming really begins in the garden. If you have a good mulch on
your beds you will have fewer dirt spots. An adequate windbreak
helps prevent tears. As volumes could be written on the subject of
mulches and windbreaks, this step will be left up to you for the time
being.

As your flowers bloom out during the weeks before the show you
can cut them and place them in a refrigerator that is not colder than
45°F. Now cutting is not a matter of just walking along a flower bed
and plucking a likely looking bloom with your fingers. It is a serious
matter. First of all, check the bloom for quality before you pick it.
This is a big time saver as it immediately eliminates a lot of flowers not
worthy of the show bench which you would have to cull at a later time