

## 1970 DAFFODIL NOTES

Establishing a precedent may occasion an unwanted responsibility. For many years we have written observations on past flowering seasons as the new one is approaching, until now these reminiscences are anticipated by at least some who read them. Perhaps they are helpful even to us in bringing into focus some of the things that should be observed or done as the Daffodils come into flower once more. A faulty memory precludes an accurate assessment of much that was seen last year, but were this not true, these notes might be unduly lengthy.

Present indications point to an early season with the prevailing mild temperatures and copious rainfall in contrast to the snow and cold of a year ago. Already some precocious blooms of *N. asturiensis* and *N. cyclamineus* are opening (Jan. 23rd), and for some days primroses, camellias, crocuses, violets, and jasmine have been making a display to say nothing of the Christmas roses which have been loaded with blooms for six or eight weeks. A year ago we were shoveling snow! A few days sojourn in the south seeking respite from the rain was fruitless.

The date in our title refers to the time of writing but the season to be described is that of 1969. On the whole, I think that the flowers were a little better than in the previous year when the Convention was held in Portland; however, the pinks made an excellent showing in 1968. I cannot recall another year with as little wind and heavy rain in March as last year which was ideal for the lemons and reverse bicolors, most of which are early midseason in flowering. Many selected clones which had little opportunity to show their character without being spattered with mud were consigned to discard but gained a reprieve with their performance last year. Others, whose merits were recognized despite adversity, outdid themselves. About five years ago Y40/1 from FAWNGL0 x LUNAR SEA appeared as the best quality, very strongly contrasted flower of its type and it was outstanding again. Though quite consistently good, it has not been as prolific as most of its clan. From its pollen used on W12/1 (P5/8 x LUNAR SEA) there flowered as four-year-olds several most promising seedlings of which the best were F88/1 and F88/2. Two or three flowers reminiscent of CHILOQUIN came from a group of open pollinated seed from DAYDREAM. While we are firm believers in judiciously selecting parent varieties and hand crossing the best, rather than leaving pollination to chance, occasionally we sow open-pollinated seed with gratifying results as witnessed by CHILOQUIN, MILESTONE, EUPHONY and others. One cannot gainsay the evidence that nature's methods often provide breaks not otherwise attainable, and give suggestions for new lines of endeavor, or new approaches to a desired end.

Doubtless most who have worked with lemon yellows occasionally find unexpected shades of buff, amber, bronze, and even pinkish tones appearing in the crowns or trumpets. Though not strictly a reverse, we felt AMBERGLOW should properly be classed as a "d" while at the same time giving SCIO an "a" rating. Both are of exquisite form and delightful color having clean yellow perianths and crowns more or less flushed with amber, but completely distinctive. Each has a broad, flat, overlapping perianth, but in AMBERGLOW the segments are pointed where they are much rounded in SCIO. The first has a long trumpet-like crown, while that of the latter is much like that of many of our red cupped "2a's", it being from PLAYBOY x DAYDREAM. Several of its siblings are in line for names, and they are being used extensively in our breeding program. Another flower with bronze buff coloring extending even throughout the perianth as it ages or when cut and taken indoors, is AMBERJACK, a selection from open pollinated lemon seedlings, named and owned by Dr. Throckmorton.

Some years ago among our TUNIS progeny there appeared a pale yellow seedling with a buff pink crown. It was grown for some years until a sizable stock was obtained only to be discarded because of its poor form. On flowering a group of seedlings from open pollinated LEONAINÉ seed, one was selected with similar color but with good form. It was not until its third flowering that the real beauty and distinctiveness of this clone was realized. Though rather short and slow to increase at first, it now appears to have reasonably good growth habits. After having hot water sterilized the bulbs in 1968, the blooms were more rough in texture than usual last year but we anticipate them returning to normal this coming spring. Recalling that LEONAINÉ was grown next to DAYDREAM and its sibs the year when these seed were saved, it was obvious that crossing these two flowers might give similar seedlings. Such a combination was made and the first of the resulting progeny started flowering as four-year-olds in 1969. Among these were several with pale yellow perianths and crowns with pink, buff,



and apricot, and in one or two instances, multi-hued mother-of-pearl tints. This year's blooms will be anticipated with much interest.

Scheduled for early introduction is GLORIOLA, a large deep lemon gold with flaring, bell-mouthed trumpet which develops rich amber buff shadings as it ages. From a large lemon trumpet seedling of DAWNGLOW crosses with LUNAR SEA, this is but one of several interesting flowers. Another from the same cross is a most striking with deep luminous gold perianth and a trumpet that becomes almost pure white; however, the stems are weak and it is doubtful that it will be introduced.

With the flowering of PIPIT and DICKCISSEL we felt we had worthy innovations, and using DAYDREAM pollen on QUICK STEP promised greater achievements. Three years ago when these first flowered, this was the most interesting lot in our planting, there being rich golds with pure white cups, with blooms nearly all white on the other extreme. Cups varied from white to rich amber, and with very smooth to intensely ruffled margins. Numbers carried two or three blooms on a stem, but on subsequent blooming, some became much larger and were a little too crowded for best balance. A few will doubtless merit naming. Last year we flowered a series from DAYDREAM x N. jonquilla which more nearly resembled the earlier series from BINKIE x N. jonquilla, but were of a much higher average in quality. Probably our best reverse bicolor cyclamineus hybrids flowered for the first time in 1969.

Although many looked askance on BINKIE when we first grew it, we have always liked it and it has been the progenitor on many of our best flowers. Among its descendants, DAYDREAM remains almost unbeatable. Some prefer BETHANY and others would choose LIMEADE. NAZARETH and PASTORALE continue to be popular. The English varieties, RUSHLIGHT and HANDCROSS have given some most perfect blooms. RUS HOLLAND is less of a show flower but is much liked for its color and its very heavily ruffled crown.

Some of the lemon trumpets, both in the "a" and "d" classes excelled their usual performance last year. LUNA MOTH gave huge magnificent blooms, a high percentage of ENTRANCEMENT were of show caliber, and NAMPA was exceptional in size and quality. HONEYBIRD and MOONSHOT excel in substance. Though smaller and later flowering, CHILOQUIN tops them all in quality and smoothness. It is in color that RICH REWARD shines, literally.

During the past ten years, we have probably sown as many seed from hand crosses of the pinks as of all other colors combined, and this paper could be devoted entirely to them. For all our efforts, we have but one good pink trumpet to show, and while RIMA has been used considerably as a pollen parent, there are relatively few trumpet clones in our planting now, and it is to be doubted if any of them will replace RIMA. Apparently it does not do well in all sections. We are using it in combination with other trumpets such as PATRICIA REYNOLDS, ALPINE GLOW, and C. E. RADCLIFF but have not yet flowered their seedlings.

Of the large cups there are legions. Though lacking the pure pink coloring of some others, ACCENT remains the most popular in its class. Its intensity along with its good stems, poise, substance, and prolific growth make it an excellent garden flower, and it has proven one of the best for hybridizing. Many of our best pinks as well as our new "red and whites" have come from it. In our estimation, ACCENT, CARO NOME and PRECEDENT have proven the best parents of the pinks we have grown. Doubtless some of their progeny should surpass them. GREEN ISLAND x ACCENT gave us JUST SO and TANGENT which in their first bloom so impressed us that repeated the cross, sowing 6000 seed from which we have made a goodly number of selections, but we might well have had better things had we used PRECEDENT and CARO NOME as seed parents instead of GREEN ISLAND as their pedigree would still have included GREEN ISLAND along with a stronger dose of pink. Aside from giving us COOL FLAME and RUBYTHROAT, the combination of PRECEDENT and ACCENT has produced many other excellent pinks. RUBYTHROAT is possibly the nearest to a true red cup we have had. It is earlier, considerably larger, and has a larger, more flattened crown than COOL FLAME. COOL FLAME is taller stemmed and has a much frilled margin on its cup. Both have quite flat white perianths. One of their sisters is a flower considerably like AIRCASTLE in form but with a larger crown of deep salmon pink. The perianth is white and very rounded.



For several years we had been using a pink seedling from INTERIM x SHOT TOWER as a cut flower, and it appeared so attractive to visitors, they not infrequently seemed to like it in preference to other named pinks. It gave evidence of being an unusually vigorous and prolific plant; hence we decided to name it and offer it as a premium bulb last year. It should make an excellent garden and cut flower sort, and is now available under the name, MARCOLA. Another that has an amazingly heavily ruffled and scalloped crown but with a very poor perianth is FANCY FRILLS. It is certainly anything but a show flower but florists delight in using it. CORAL LUSTER is a sib to AUDUBON and CORAL RIBBON but totally unlike either. It has a shorter, very stiff stem, and a very large flat white perianth of great substance. The rather small crown is rosy pink. The late Harry Tuggle grew this and thought it one of the best in his garden. Though not quite a trumpet by measurement, TROUPIAL has much the character of a lb, and it makes quite a striking garden flower. CLOUDCAP for height, HOLIDAY FASHION for its big flashy crown, and MOUNT VERNON for good form and size make another trio of interesting pinks.

AUDUBON and CORAL RIBBON remain among our favorites because of their very white perianths, and even the crowns below the color margins become almost white as they develop. Doubtless FLAMINGO is still about as true pink as anything we grow, while LUSCIOUS and GAY MOOD are close to it in color tone. LEONAIN was one of our first to include a definite lavender zone in its cup but there are a number in stronger lilac shades from it and CARITA. A medium sized flower from LEONAIN and CARO NOME has quite a deep lavender zone in its flat heavily shirred and crimped cup. Another large flower from PRECEDENT x CARITA has been registered as LILAC DELIGHT.

Development of pink coloring is quite unpredictable in ANGELES but in any color stage it is a striking cut flower and it seemed to outdo itself in producing spectacular blooms during 1969. There are few pinks that will equal ALLUREMENT in vigor and rapid increase, and while usually not of show quality it is a most attractive and dependable flower as it grows here, at least. We anticipate that it will become one of the most popular in its class.

Several new double pinks are on the way, one having very large, extremely full petalled blooms borne on the stiffest of stems. Deep rosy pink jonquil hybrids and pink cyclamineus are in the offing.

Considerable attention has been devoted to cyclamineus hybrids and improvements are coming. We were surprised to find that six of our 1969 introductions fell in this class and one more, LITTLE LASS, could almost be counted here as it contains both cyclamineus and triandrus ancestry. A red cupped cultivar had long been sought. Our first to have orange in its crown was CHICKADEE, which had nice form but little color. Following it was SATELLITE with much more color when grown under favorable conditions but less smooth as a flower. Finally there is JETFIRE which was introduced a bit prematurely due to many calls for it. It has depth of color to match such varieties as FALSTAFF and form equal to CHARITY MAY. It seems to be a good increaser and we hope it will prove amenable to a wide range of growing conditions. Two deep yellow "6a's" were introduced, the very early, much reflexed, deep gold PREFIX and the very profuse flowering BARLOW. KILLDEER (the name may yet be changed) is a most unusual, informal flower that would make one think a reverse bicolor had figured in its ancestry. Finally, there was GREENLET from Mr. Fowlds, a beautiful little flower that we think is one of the most lovely in its class.

MOONGATE has been one of the very first flowers to bloom and is a lovely flower but some of the stock seemed to become afflicted with a virus and most of the bulbs have not been growing as vigorously as we should like. Several younger sisters have much better form and seemingly are better growers but I think none are as early. One or two are scheduled for introduction.

Reference has already been made to QUICK STEP. Its open pollinated seedlings appeared to have been selfed, and are so similar that they could pass as a species. ACCENT pollen used on it produced several hybrids with deep rosy pink crowns, and CORAL STAR pollen gave similar colors but nearly always with just one flower on a stem, and of poor quality. DAYDREAM did much better, while triandrus albus produced a great number of delightful little flowers frequently alluded to in our notes of the last two or three years. There are still many crosses we should like to try on QUICK STEP.



We have met with less success working with triandrus hybrids, due perhaps to making fewer crosses involving this species. Several combinations have been tried with *N. triandrus aurantiacus* pollen, primarily in the hope of getting good yellows with red cups. In nearly every instance the perianths have been narrow and twisted; those with the better form having little or no red in the crown. As a by-product of these efforts we obtained the small attractive all yellow flower, PICULET. A series involving PARICUTIN as seed parent included a few brightly colored flowers but none of good form. The same combination made by Mr. Fowlds produced two or three of better form but up to now they have been very slow to increase.

SILVER BELLS and HONEY BELLS are both fertile to a degree but neither grows and increases with the abandon of HARMONY BELLS and FORTY NINER. One hybrid between these two is in effect a giant triandrus albus, but apparently it will make little increase. PIGEON x *T. albus* has given some attractive small white flowers. Another small lot with BITHYNIA as seed parent produced both whites and bicolors with saucer shaped crowns. A larger lot from EASTER MOON produced many lovely things with some of the style of ARISH MELL and TUESDAY'S CHILD which are doubtless the best of their class on the market.

Very little work has been done with poets or tazettas. Harry Tuggle was doing a valuable piece of work with the latter and it is very unfortunate that he could not have lived to see the results of his efforts. Perhaps the outcome of this work will be cultivars not well adapted to the north but ideal for southern gardens. We are doing a little work in this field but are not far enough advanced for reports as of now.

Nearing the end of our space, a few random thoughts on the season may be in order. Being far outclassed in the 2a division, less work has been done here than in other fields. VELVET ROBE was particularly beautiful this last year, and at least one seedling from it and FIRECRACKER was equal to any red cup we have ever seen. Perhaps it will not be as good in the future. One that is very popular with visitors is X42/3, now named MACAW. It is a large flower with very large flaring ruffled and scalloped red crown. Another, No. Y51/4 from (NARVIK x PLAYBOY) x VELVET ROBE, in spite of its pedigree, has no orange in its crown, and to all appearance is definitely a small cup; however, last year, at least, it measured "2". It has been one of the most outstanding flowers in our entire planting the past two years with its tall stems and large flowers of great substance and perfect form. If it were a 3a as it appears, it would certainly be one of the best. It is registered as KINGBIRD.

VO3/2, a CUSHENDALL seedling much admired during the Daffodil Convention has since been named DELIGHTFUL. It again gave superb blooms, as does IMPALA. BIT O'GOLD and GLAMOROUS could hardly have been better, nearly every bloom being magnificent. Another pair, TRANQUIL MORN and SILKEN SAILS are consistantly fine each year. SUMPTUOUS is impressive in that its stems are equal to holding the huge blooms stiffly erect. Each year we are reminded anew of AIRCASTLE'S ability to produce consistantly perfect blooms, and much the same can be said for OLD SATIN. DAINTY MISS continues to please with its dainty snowy white blossoms. While having a perianth that is incurved and informal, GRACE NOTE is among the most exquisite in its class, a marvelous flower for arrangements. ORYX is totally unlike PIPIT although possessed of similar coloring. Vases of it in our display last year brought much favorable comment. We had described CHAT as usually having one or two blooms on a stem and I cannot recall seeing them with more, but last year a high percentage came with three, and it seemed the quality was better than previously.

Several seedlings from VIGIL x EMPRESS OF IRELAND looked good but doubtless they could be almost duplicated in many hybridizers' plantings, and with PANACHE available, white trumpets must be very good. Of course there is room for some with taller stems and greater vigor such as that possessed by CELILO.

And now we eagerly await another season and at the same time almost dread its coming because it will be over all too soon! May all of you have your best year yet!