SAMANTHA JOINS THE ADS

“George, the Computer With the Green Thumb,” has resigned from the ADS. During the eight years of his membership activities, “George” has held in storage the Daffodil Data Bank of the American Daffodil Society. He has also kept the membership roster, the list of judges, and has supplied name-and-address labels for the use of Regional Vice-Presidents and to aid George Lee in mailing The Daffodil Journal.

Indeed, a helpful and creative member—and yet “George” (I.B.M. #1440) has left the stage and stepped forever into the wings of obscurity. And into the spotlight has come “Samantha” (I.B.M. 360 Model #30). This winsome bewitching electronic computer, with her high speed electronics and printer, is utterly feminine. For example, her programming logic is upside-down and backwards, as compared with “George.” “Samantha” has many more built-in and integrated circuits—which is just another way of saying she is “bull-headed.” There is none of this business about “a woman convinced against her will, etc., etc.”—“Samantha” just naturally has to have everything her way!

Once in a great while, when she is contrite and helpful, the folks in the Computer Center call her “Sam.” This denotes a certain friendly fondness. But when her unpleasant qualities are in evidence, she is called “sa-MAN-tha!”

Her measurements are not in inches, but here is what she can do:
1. Store 7,250,000 pieces of information on a single disc storage pack. (George held only 2,000,000.)
2. Her double disc-drive allows 14,500,000 pieces of information to be processed at one time.
3. She has a core-memory of 16,384 pieces of information, more than double that of “George.”
4. The printer reels off copy at 600 lines a minutes. (Try reading 10 lines each second!)
5. Her card-reader can assimilate 160 columns each second.
6. “Samantha’s” special typewriter chatters out 14.8 characters a second. (What do you do with 0.8 of a character?)
7. “Samantha” is a great deal more expensive to keep and maintain than “George”—another feminine attribute.

However, when “Samantha” is loved and cherished, she responds to such understanding by turning out prodigious amounts of work in almost no time. If all goes well, “Samantha” can turn out units of work less expensively than “George.” But if she turns stubborn, little less than a full-length mink will make her eyes flash again.

By taking advantage of “Samantha’s” helpful attributes, it should be possible to maintain our costs, despite an otherwise spiraling overhead.

1. A full “print-out” of the Daffodil Data Bank for 1969 at $7.50 post-paid within the U.S.A. Abroad, extra postage required.
2. As a new service, “Samantha” will up-date any 1968 Daffodil Data Bank for only $2.00.
3. Minor lists and family trees, $1.00 each.
4. An entirely new product for the daffodil “nut” and hybridizer: Dr. Throckmorton’s Almanac and Daffodil Stud Book can be seen at the A.D.S.
spring convention in Nashville. It will cost $50.00 the copy — but you may look at it without charge.

Send all orders through George Lee at the Society's headquarters, 89 Chichester Road, New Canaan, Connecticut. 06840.

— Tom D. Throckmorton, M.D.

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**MUSINGS AND MEANDERINGS**

*By Poeticus*

It is something of a surprise to realize that the effects of the population explosion and the flight of the middle class to the suburbs are having an impact on the world of daffodils. The disappearance of truck farms from metropolitan areas has been noticeable and the orange groves of southern California have retreated in the face of hordes from the East seeking the good life. At one time the Dutch firms of Frylink, van Bourgondien, and Zandbergen grew many acres of daffodils on Long Island, but competition from growers overseas when Plant Quarantine No. 37 was ended in 1936 and rising prices of land due to the demand for acreage for development forced the abandonment of commercial production in that area.

Virtually the last stronghold of bulb production in this country has been the Puyallup Valley in the State of Washington, centering around Tacoma, Mount Vernon, Sumner, and Woodland. The Daffodil Festival that celebrates the flowering season there was described in the December *Journal*. It dates back to 1934, but if it is to be continued much longer it may be necessary to import the flowers. Such is the bleak judgment of Frank C. Jackson, chief agricultural extension agent of Pierce County. "Puyallup Valley's bulb industry is in real danger of becoming extinct," he is quoted as saying. "Urban growth has put daffodil bulb growers under heavy cost pressures, especially from rising taxes. There is very little, if any, profit in the bulb business today. Only 2.2% of Pierce County is considered to be prime farmland. Between 1959 and 1964 21,000 acres of farmland was taken from production and the rate is increasing."

We cannot escape the fact that commercial bulb production in this country is waning. The vacuum being created will doubtless be filled by bulbs imported from Holland, where growing conditions are favorable and production costs are under tighter control. While we will probably always have room for the individual operator of a few acres catering to the demand of hobbyists who are willing to pay the price for exhibition flowers, the road will become increasingly hard and the lure of the outside more difficult to resist. What this country needs are strains of regional varieties and their creation is well within the reach of our amateur hybridizers scattered over the country, but the prospects of commercial production and distribution of these varieties are dim indeed.