

W H (BILL) ROESE, 1927-2000

Readers who knew him will be sad to learn of the death of Bill Roesse on 14 September 2000. Bill and his wife Rosemary were regular and popular visitors to the British Isles, mainly during the 1980's. As well as attending the main shows in London and in Ireland they were also very welcome visitors and guests of most of the principal growers and hybridizers of the time. Bill's infectious good humour, which he maintained despite long term and recurring migraines, and Rosemary's warm and friendly nature ensured that wherever they went they left a trail of happy memories.

Mr Roesse served in the US Navy in the South Pacific in World War II and later was Captain of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. On retirement he and his wife moved north to Santa Maria to grow and breed daffodils and to raise and race pigeons. From being a key enthusiastic and encouraging member of the Southern California Daffodil Society Bill served the American Daffodil Society in many capacities culminating in the highest office of President from 1974 to 1976. In 1984 he was awarded the Society's Silver Medal for his many and valued services to the society.

Being a very severe critic of his own flowers he only registered ten cultivars, probably the best known being 'La Paloma' and 'Rio Dell'. His greatest exhibiting success was at the San Francisco Convention when he won The ADS Challenge Cup for twelve varieties raised by the exhibitor.

My wife and I shared many days and travelled many hundreds of miles in the delightful company of the Roeses (including three trips through California to Portland). There was never a dull moment or a dreary mile as we enjoyed the ever changing scenery, checking

out the wineries and calling upon the daffodil growers and pigeon fanciers along the way. Bill's vast knowledge and obvious love for his native California made him an ideal tour guide and companion. However, he forgot to warn us about the occasional "Big Wave" rolling in from the Pacific - which resulted in a well known Tasmanian daffodil breeder and yours truly having to change their clothes by the side of a busy highway - much to Bill's amusement. If to leave happy memories to many is a rich endowment then Bill Roesse has left riches aplenty - and in sympathising with his wife Rosemary we trust that she is likewise sustained by numerous happy memories of the years when they were inseparably together.

Brian S Duncan