

~~his~~ might interest you - Wrote the Dec 1 1952
nearest H. I'd love to see it, but
I don't go up for that show except
when I'm judging it - need of on mat
Dear New Jersey Daffodil Fanciers, This year.

I was sorry to miss our annual meeting (hip - hospital), especially as I had some news for you.

Long time members will remember Mrs. J. Whitton Gibson, -president of the South Orange Garden Club, whose lovely house was often on tour and whose garden was loaded with dafs. Nellie came to New Jersey from Philadelphia, where she took all the silver offered for flower arrangements and learned about daffodils from John Wister and Gertrude Smith.

Starting with her own club, where after introducing and providing daffodils, she ran the first daffodil show in New Jersey, ¹⁹⁵² she joined forces with Gay Crosby and me to spread the word through the state.

Gay and I began about the same time with the Mountain Lakes Garden Club, and when other clubs asked help, we provided it--one after another. So, when we learned there ^{was} a move to begin a daffodil society--especially as I was scheduled to teach daffodils at their 2nd meeting to the newly formed Judges Council__we were interested, and I took my two cohorts to Washington, where we became the three New Jersey founders of the American Daffodil Society.

When I became the first RVP, Nellie and Gay became Regional Directors. We did many firsts, as some of you will remember-- both here and in New York---the first ADS test garden, the first ADS judging school - week long garden centers in Lord and Taylor and Boonton - two week long pre season exhibits of forced daffodils for the N Y International--several

small shows, leading up to the first N.J. ADS show in 1957 - which remains unmatched - with over 1000 in competitive classes, staged on risers, 5000 blooms in the show, with the first displays from Ireland north of Washington.

It was a great treat for me to work with these two talented women and a sad duty to report both have left us. Nellie died a couple of years ago; Gay - whose beautiful place in a wealth of daffodils in Towaco, was also often on tour recently, at the age of 93.

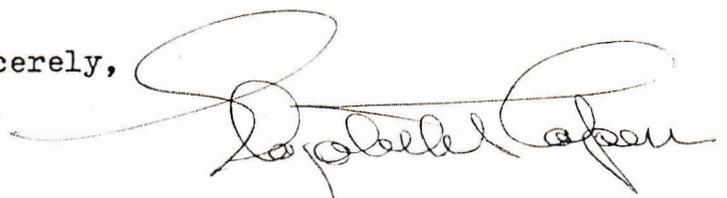
With the sad news comes word of success - for one who has devoted a lifetime to daffodils - often to be met with ridicule and scorn. Jack Gerritsen sent us a copy of the gracious article in The Daffodil Society (Midland) News Letter when it appointed him a Vice President and a picture of Mrs. Gerritsen and him with the prestigious Peter Barr Memorial Bowl, which the RHS awarded him this year. Of how many people can it be said that single handed they had added to a major flower a whole new category!

The last two lots of collars he sent us included some entirely new forms - another generation - another step. But their Christmas card showed their new home-- one more lovely hybridizing ^{garden} gone - but what a gift they made!

And on what we think will be a local high point----those of you who go to the Philly show, be sure to see the American Rock Garden exhibit of forced miniature daffodils. We were happy to provide some help and dafs. It should be very special.

So, carry on--to ever greater achievements. I thought you might like to pause to remember those on whose shoulders you stand and to cheer the ones who are taking a new step with our favorite flower.

Sincerely,



The Capens Of Boonton Honored For Work Breeding Flowers

Elizabeth and John Capen were honored recently at the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey State Council of Garden Clubs at the Aspen Hotel in Parsippany.

The prestigious Dr. W.T. Somerville Hybridization award was presented to them for outstanding work in the field of daffodils and daylilies.

Mrs. Capen is a charter member of the Rockaway Valley Garden Club and the American Daffodil Society. She served many years on the Club Board and is a certified Horticulture Judge. One of the first bulbs developed by Mrs. Capen and registered with the Royal Horticultural Society was a pink-cupped jonquil named "~~Baby Doll~~." The registered name of a new miniature was announced for the first time at the Aspen meeting. The flower, "Alec Gray," was named by Mrs. Capen in honor of the late eminent English hybridizer and originator of most modern miniatures.

The Capen home, Springdale, is an internationally recognized test garden for daffodils and features over one thousand varieties. Members of the Royal Horticultural Society of England and Europe are frequent visitors each spring.

Mr. Capen is a recognized hybridizer of daylily and has produced many registered plants. His garden is the only daylily garden in the metropolitan area to be appointed by the Board of the American Hemerocallis Society as its Official Display Garden. Mr. and Mrs. Capen received a standing ovation from the nearly 500 guests at the Aspen. The Rockaway Valley Garden Club recently presented Mrs. Capen with a Certificate of Appreciation and bestowed Honorary Membership for her many years of service.

Did you happen to see this? They made some mistake but they did "Spell our name right" - though they got Ronnie's wrong. When we returned from the hospital, a visitor & her prepped in a sofa & exclaimed "Oh I thought it was a doll." She did look like one.

became "Doll Baby"...