



The Pipeline

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Vol. II, No. 9.

September, 1976.

DIRECTORS TO MEET. President Eickhorst announces Saturday, October 16th, as the date for the fall meeting of the Board of Directors at the Lord Jeffrey Inn, Amherst, Massachusetts, at 7:30 p.m., where the 1977 Convention will be held on May 20-22nd. Al Lumley, local chairman, will present the programme for our Sixth Annual Membership meeting for approval by the Board of Directors, and other Society business will be transacted. Should you have any proposals to make, please write them down and mail to the President (Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL 60532) prior to October 5th.

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1976 SEED EXCHANGE. Nancy Alexander, chairman of the Seed and Scion Committee, sends the following message: "Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article by your editor on the value of hybridizing and raising lilacs from seed. It is now the time for harvesting lilac seed. In order to make this year's exchange a worthwhile project we need the help of everyone. Please be on the lookout for ripening seed capsules on your favourite species and hybrid lilacs. Carefully collect the capsules when ripe, being sure to label each packet as you gather it. This avoids mix-ups later. Clean the seeds carefully, pulling the husks apart and shaking out the seeds. Place the cleaned seeds in carefully sealed envelopes, clearly labeled with your name, the name of the plant from which the seed was taken, and the source of the parent plant. If you hand-pollinated any, put the pollen parent second. Send the packets to me (238 Holmes Street, Hanson, MA 02341) as soon as possible. I will publish a complete LILAC SEED LIST in the November issue of 'The Pipeline' with directions for submitting requests."

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HAVE YOU USED YOUR "TENTATIVE CHECK LIST OF LILACS" YET? And did you find any errors, inconsistencies or incomplete entries for which you can supply additional information? If you have, please share it with the compiler or registrar whose addresses are on page vii of the Check List.

"CANADA GEM" and "CANADIAN TREE" LILACS, a mystery solved by Freek Vrugtman, registrar.

The names "CANADA GEM" and "CANADIAN TREE" lilac which appeared in commercial catalogues and lists of lilac collections puzzled us. We traced these two names to the J. W. Jung Seed Co. of Randolph, Wisconsin 53956. Page 15 of its SEED AND NURSERY ANNUAL FOR 1976 has the following descriptions of a shrub-form and a tree-form lilac:

"Canada Gem Lilac.

- A grand new lilac that is hardy as an oak and rivals the best French Hybrids for grace and beauty. It comes into bloom after our native varieties are through and remains in flower a long time. We consider this one of the finest shrubs you can have on your lawn. Will not spread like common lilacs."

and

"Canadian Tree Lilac. Unusually Hardy, Profuse Bloomers. Increase in Size and Beauty Year After Year.

- These beautiful Lilacs of the "Canadian Gem" type are grown in tree form and will grow to a height of 10 to 12 ft. but may be kept lower by pruning. The branches bear flower heads of giant size, rich lavender-pink color and are very fragrant. Usually bloom the year after planting and rapidly grow into unusually attractive trees. Easy to grow and will not sucker."

In reply to our letter Mr. John C. Jung writes:-

"In discussing the Canadian Hybrid Lilacs, I feel that we are propagating the 'Roylaty' cultivar. It's possible it could be 'Isabella' but it is definitely a single violet and perhaps dark violet color. You are correct that our designation is to a tree and a shrub form rather than a specific cultivar."

To summarize, if you have obtained lilacs under the names of "CANADA GEM" or "CANADIAN TREE" you may be growing Syringa x josiflexa 'ROYALTY', x prestoniae 'ISABELLA' or other cultivars.

LINN'S STAMP NEWS Monday, August 25, 1975

Behind the Postmark

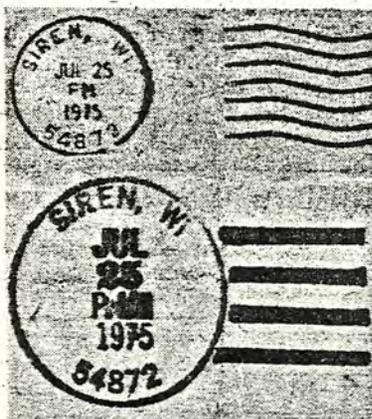
Siren based on Swedish lilac

By Stan Durnin

Permanent settling in the area of Wisconsin that was to become Siren took place between 1880 and 1900. When the need for a post office arose, Charles F. Segerstrom, who resided about one mile north of the present village, undertook to establish such an office in his home.

In submitting an application for the new post office, Segerstrom was aware of the fact that one of the requirements when naming a new post office is that there must not be any other office with the same name in the state.

As his home was surrounded with lilacs, he surmised that "lilac" would be a most appropriate name. Being of Swedish background, Segerstrom used the Swedish word of "syren"



for lilac and entered it in the appropriate blank space on the application form.

Apparently the review office of the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., contained no employees of Swedish descent so the submitted name of "syren"

was treated as a misspelling and the "y" was changed to "i" with the office approving "Siren" as the name of the post office. And Siren it has remained to this day.

Several years after its establishment with Segerstrom as postmaster, the post office was moved to a point 1½ miles west of the present village, where a store and creamery had been established on the shore of Little Doctors Lake.

There it remained until 1912 when it was moved into the village after the Soo Line Railroad was extended from Frederic to Duluth.

Siren is located at the junction of state highways 35 and 70 in Burnett County in northwest Wisconsin. Its post office serves the village of about 850 people and a total delivery area of 2,500 people.

The area is a resort community and the population swells in the summer due to visitors. Siren's industries include three woodworking plants and a plastic factory, a manufacturing plant for small motors and one for wood-burning stoves.

Jane M. Wilcox has been serving as postmaster since June 30, 1973, and the office is served by two rural carriers and two part-time employees.

Article sent to editor for inclusion in 'The Pipeline' by Dick Mekenian, Spring Lake, N.J.

SIREN, WI 54872. Behind the postmark, Siren based on Swedish (name for) Lilac, an article appearing in the August 25th, 1975, issue of "Linn's Stamp News" by Stan Durnin (reprint by permission).

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REWARDS FROM OPEN-POLLINATED LILAC SEEDS. Raising your own lilacs from seed can be a rich experience, if you are willing to wait three or four years for results. All you need is a garden plot, a little knowledge of gardening, Job's patience, and of course a source of lilac seeds.

My present task is to persuade you that starting with seed of a given lilac it is worth your while and will fulfill, partially at least, your great expectations. Remember, contemporary lilacs, the so-called French hybrids, almost entirely are from open-pollinated stock. Snooty horticulturists and other experts will tell you freely that you are wasting your energy growing lilacs from open-pollinated seeds. Besides, it's not scientific, and very probably you'll not get anything worthwhile into the bargain. Don't pay any attention. Go right ahead with your pottering, since you are not really set up for large-scale production anyway, only for a couple of hundred seedling lilacs to see if you can "strike it rich" on the first throw.

This fall your Seed Committee is offering members open-pollinated lilac seed (both species and hybrids) of particular seed parents. The list will appear in the November number of 'The Pipeline'. Then in three or four years, if you take advantage of this real opportunity, you'll find variations such as we saw in the 'Rochester' seedlings on the Sunday bus tour at Rochester last May. If you start with seed of a "good" cultivar (that is, a named variety), you may reasonably expect a large proportion of quality seedlings more or less resembling the seed parent. Those 1700 'Rochester' seedling lilacs were second and third generation plants beginning with open-pollinated 'Rochester' itself. "I should live so long?" you ask. Indeed, if you start right now!

I remind you that Father Fiala in his talk last May mentioned several "good" French hybrid lilacs which offer prospect of real achievement.

The rage today is to work with 'Rochester' with its five-petaled florets. This is good, but Fr. Fiala suggests that Lemoine's 'DeMiribel' (1903) also throws five-petaled florets, and it is a single violet-flowered lilac. Still on colour, a potentially good blue is produced in the Havemeyer 'Mrs.A.Belmont', while the reddest red is found in his 'Lady Lindsay'. We need good pinks to liven up our coveted deep reds and violets. Dunbar's 'General Sherman' produces a narrow pyramidal thyse with exceedingly delicate pinkish-blue florets. Lemoine's 'Decroncels' has a distinctive old-rose floret, and of course the enchanting 'Lucie Baltet' is still worth developing. Besides its pink florets, 'Siebold' is slow or low growing. Not to be overlooked is Lemoine's 'L'Oncle Tom' for its dwarf stature.

We hope you are tempted to request a packet or two of lilac seed from our 1976 offering, and to sow them in a favoured spot in your garden or even on your window sill this winter. Join in the fun!

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