

Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VII, No. 1, January, 1981

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Single annual	7.50
Family	10.00
Sustaining	15.00
Institutional/Commercial	20.00
Life	150.00

*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As surely as the sun sets each day and rises again the following morning, a New Year will be granted to us that we might somehow cleanse our slates of those old unfulfilled resolutions and start anew. Somehow we'll all manage to readjust our thinking, our values and anticipations, to include those things that go into the planning of yet another series of days during which we hope to accomplish bigger and better things. Rarely do we accomplish all that we set as our goals for a given period, but time will indeed be at our side when plans sincerely direct us into the future when our wishes exhibit concrete thinking and our endeavors are given with strength.

As a society with a common cause we have now begun to narrow our efforts toward functional and meaningful goals that are within our reach. If we could somehow draw on the capabilities of each and every member to the extent of their willingness to contribute and share their experiences in such a way as to bring about a better understanding, then our progress would begin to take on a new dimension producing a force unknown to failure. With the birth of each New Year we are given with new hope to search for things that our future might offer a brighter opportunity to somehow serve those that follow in our footsteps.

May the NEW YEAR bring to each and every one a full measure of Joy, a fullness of Life and a generous measure of Good Health.

Walter E. Eickhorst, Editor.

A MEMBER WRITES

Without a doubt when Carl Purdy named Lilacs as Ukiah's official flower he had given it a great deal of thought.

I have often wondered if our native Lilac had anything to do with his decision. They grow profusely and the blooms are feathery white and very sweet scented. They really are not lilacs but Ceanothus, white in color here, but as you travel up the Redwood Highway there are shades of soft blue to deeper color and sometimes almost pink. One particularly lovely Ceanothus velutinus, commonly called tobacco bush on account of a sticky substance on its leaves, is very lovely with thicker, more dense panicles of bloom.

Both Carl Purdy and Mrs. J.Q. White did much to increase Lilac interest in Ukiah. They were both very dear friends of mine so I am trying to carry on for them. Each year Lilac bouquets are placed in the banks, library, chamber of commerce and other places of interest.

There are still a number of the old plants brought in by the Ukiah Chamber of Commerce in the 1920's. At least one I know of reaches a second-story window. Many are in the White garden but lack the care they had when Mrs. White was alive. The suckers keep them going and most of them bloom well. We try to give rooted suckers to many of the new homes and encourage the nurseries to stock larger and better plants.

There are two garden clubs in Ukiah - The Ukiah Garden Club and The Kosmos Garden Club. Both are very active, putting on standard flower shows and having plant exchanges at every meeting. Both are members of California Garden Clubs, Inc..

About fifty years ago an old house was being torn down (it had been the old Henry Stage Stop, where the horses were changed for fresh ones) and I dug many

suckers from the old plants, both purple and white single. They are now at least twenty feet tall and bloom well. One problem, they sucker!

Of the French Lilacs, 'Alphonse Lavelle' blooms the heaviest and 'Mme. Lemoine' grows so tall that it takes pruning to keep it in reaching distance, (that is just my experience).

Ukiah Valley is a deep valley within the Coast Range. (Ukiah is the Pomo Indian name for deep valley). The climate is varied, some hot days in August, from 90 degrees to over 100 degrees. Winters are not too bad, but it does get as low as plus 18 degrees Fahrenheit. Very little snow, seldom over two or three inches stays on the ground perhaps a couple of days in the valley, of course more in the mountains. Some frosts are heavy and ground stays frozen several days in shady places.

The population in the City limits of Ukiah is 13,000 and the outlying farming districts and 'smalleys' make 35,000 to 40,000. Elevation is 610 feet and it is located 150 miles north of San Francisco.

There are many different types of soil and the Farm Advisor, when asked, said there are so many it is difficult to say. I know on my own place I add lime for my Lilacs, bone meal for Bearded Iris and Redwood mulch for Japanese Iris, etc.. Along the river the soil is a rich loam and as you near the foothills it becomes more acid. Crops in the valleys are pears, prunes, and grain, while the vineyards are mostly on the bench lands.

You asked if the Garden Clubs were active and the answer is yes. They both sponsor Civic Beautification and have plantings in the parks, airport, Senior Citizen Center, as well as giving scholarships to young people interested in agriculture, horticulture and floriculture.

I was delighted to see Faye Baker's "Lilacs in Ukiah" in the November Lilac Newsletter and will look forward to Gay Neep's poem at a later date.

I think this covers most of the information you requested, but should you need anything more, I'll be glad to oblige.

Leila E. Romer
(Mrs. Arthur L. Romer)

It's lilac time in Ukiah...

And everywhere you go
You see the lilacs' nodding plumes...
And view their purple glow

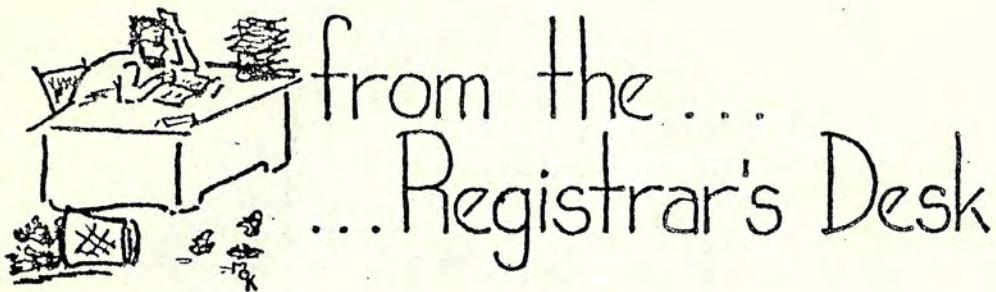
On tree-lined streets, o'er garden walls...
In hedges lining roads
Are lilacs growing, large and small...
They're such a royal show

Perhaps they're white, like pattern lace...
Perhaps a soft pink-mauve
Or even purple, velvet deep...
But what a thrill to see

And fragrant! M-mm-m!...
It's romance just to smell
The perfume of the lilacs...
That fills the balmy air

And townsfolk in Ukiah seem...
Once Spring is here again
To feel its inspiration more...
'Cause lilac-time is here!

by Gay Neep



from the... ...Registrar's Desk

Freek Vrugtman, Curator of Collections, Royal Botanical
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INFORMATION WANTED on H.N. Wiles of Dayton, Ohio, and
on his two lilac cultivars:

Syringa vulgaris 'Jane Ellen', Wiles (pre 1953)

Dr. John Wister, in Lilacs for America (1953), lists
'Jane Ellen' as a single bluish lilac (S III)
growing in the Scott Horticultural Foundation's
collection at Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and offered
for sale by the Siebenthaler Company of Dayton,
Ohio. The Siebenthaler Co., in its Catalogue No.
165 (1953), p. 17, list 'Jane Ellen' as "Single
clear pink".

Syringa vulgaris 'Lilac Hill', Wiles (pre 1953)

Listed by Dr. Wister (1953) as having single and
pinkish (S V) flowers and growing at Swarthmore;
no commercial source given.

My questions are:

1. Does anyone grow 'Jane Ellen'?
What is the colour of the flowers of 'Jane Ellen'?
2. Does anyone grow 'Lilac Hill'?
What is the colour of the flowers of 'Lilac Hill'?

3. Who is or was H.N. Wiles? Can anyone give me any biographical information or any suggestions as to whom I may contact for such information?

(I should note here that I did contact the Siebenthaler Co., they were kind enough to reply, but tell me that they have no information on these two lilac cultivars, nor could they give me any information on H.N. Wiles.)

* * * *

CORRECTION:

Through error the name of Mr. William H. Horman, 246 Chalmers, Detroit, Mich. 48216 was omitted from the 1980 ILS Membership list as printed in the December 1980 issue of the NEWSLETTER. Mr. Horman has been a sustaining member since 1976 and still maintains that status. Please update your list accordingly - if you by chance detect any other such errors please call such to our attention so that we might properly adjust our records. These things will happen from time to time.

Charles D. Holetich

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