



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VIII, No. 3, March, 1982

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.

NEWS FROM THE WEST COAST

From Margaretten Park at Leona Valley CA

Dr. Joel Margaretten writes:

We in California experienced a record heat and dry spell starting the beginning of May (1981) and lasting until the end of October. The temperature ran up to 100 degrees F. every day and sometimes up to 117 deg.. Not a drop of rain all that time. In fact the humidity never got above 5% during all that heat.

Yours truly got out in the hot sun to do his chores and suffered a severe heat stroke that incapacitated him for two months, never going out of the house, in bed most of the time, while poor Tita substituted with the irrigation chores. She too finally had to limit her outside excursions for sundown and night time to avoid the heat.

During the period of incarceration I went through "The Upton Papers" this time reading it from cover to cover, in earnest. I wondered why I hadn't done it before. The wealth of information in that book surprised me. Anybody interested in lilacs should read it. There is so much important material between the covers that not to do so leaves one ignorant of pertinent lilac information! It answers a lot of questions I have been asking.

On November 1st (1981) Tita and I flew to Portland, Oregon where we were met by Mr. & Mrs. LeVee of the Hulda Klager Lilac Society and taken to Woodland, Washington. The following day I addressed the group and interested visitors,

many from Oregon. After an hour of lilac talk a slide show and a question and answer period followed.

The press and radio covered the event and judging from comments and attendance the seminar was a success. On Tuesday we visited the lilac garden and I gave a noon lecture to the local Chamber of Commerce. There our plaque was presented to Mrs. Daisy Grotvik, president of the Society.

The Society is to be commended for all the work they have done in acquiring the house and gardens and then restoring them to the original condition as when Hulda Klager was alive.

Just the financing of the project was a Herculean task and on top of all that the physical work involved in the restoration. It is now a National Historical Monument.

I asked the Chamber to please assist the ladies in much of the physical work involved all year round in maintaining the Gardens; weeding, cultivating and transplanting chores.

The next few days we spent in the garden checking on problems they had and advising them.

One big problem is in identifying some of the cultivars as some of the records were destroyed.

During a flood period Hulda Klager lost many of her original creations and I promised I would try through the ILS and its members to get them back to their home. Within a month I will publish a list of the lilacs Mrs. Klager registered and I will ask the membership to look for them in their collections. If members will be kind enough to send scions of those next winter then I could identify those the Society still has and add those that they lost.

In between our activities at the Garden the members of the group entertained and dined us in their homes. We felt like visiting

royalty. The people of Washington are hospitable and gracious. The people of the Hulda Klager Lilac Society topped that - they are wonderful.

The International Lilac Society lost an esteemed member. Mr. Hans Conried passed away January 5, 1982 from a severe heart attack at the age of 64. As a comedian, actor and teacher, on the stage, radio and television he had no equal. The variety of roles he played attest to that. He was a good man. He leaves his wife, Margaret, four children and a large group of friends and admirers. In Han's memory I am forwarding a check to the ILS Hans Conried Memorial Fund. He loved lilacs.

Dr. Joel Margaretten

STORY OF THE LILAC LADY....

Hulda Klager Lilac Garden

Hulda Klager came to this country from Germany with her family in 1865 when she was two years old. She often told of her love for flowers and how, as a little girl in Wisconsin, she would wander through the woods near her home looking for wild flowers. The family moved to Woodland in 1877 when she was 13 and purchased a farm. Her home was later situated on five acres of this original farm.

Despite marriage and a family, she continued to find time to work with flowers. In 1903, when she was recovering from an illness, some of her friends brought her a book on Luther Burbank. After reading this book, she could hardly wait to start her own experiments with apples, roses, dahlias, and lilacs. Her interest in apples came from a desire to save time. It took too long to peel those little apples when making a pie. She set out to make a bigger apple. By crossing a Wolf River, a mild apple, with a Wild Bismark, a sour juicy apple, she got the desired result.

Finally about 1905, she began working with lilacs. By 1910 she had 14 new varieties to show for her efforts. Ten years later, she had a wide array of new lilacs to stir the interest of flower fanciers, and it was then she decided to hold an open house each spring when the lilacs were in full bloom. She kept up this observance until her death in 1960 and she became known as "The Lilac Lady".

During her career as a hybridizer, Hulda Klager had to overcome adversities such as the swirling waters of the Columbia River which swept across her property in the spring of 1948 wiping out her lilac garden and nearly every other shrub on the place. Only the big trees withstood the flood. Undaunted, at age 83, she started to rebuild her garden. Many people who had purchased her lilacs, returned starts to her so she could replace her losses. It took her two years, but she worked with determination, and in 1950 Lilac Week was restored again.

Only once did Mrs. Klager ever consider giving up her work with lilacs. That was following the death of her husband Frank Klager, in 1922. She almost threw away a number of hand-pollinated plants that she had taken a special interest in, but her son, Fritz, insisted on planting them and from these plants came some of her best lilacs.

About 1930 neighboring towns began sending delegations during Lilac Week to choose one of the varieties and have it named for that community. So was born the lilac "City of Longview", "City of Kalama", "City of Gresham", and so on.

Through the years, Mrs. Klager has been honored by many organizations for her work as a leading hybridizer of lilacs. During her lifetime she was honored by the state of Washington, the famous arboretum at Cambridge, Mass., the Washington and Oregon Federations of Garden Clubs, the City of Portland, and other organizations.

After her death in 1960 at age 96, Mr. & Mrs. Van Eaton cared for the estate for a

time, but it became too much for them to handle, so they sold it. When the Woodland Federated Garden Club heard it was to be bulldozed to make way for an industrial site, they decided to try to save it. They succeeded in getting it declared a state and a national historic site. They had to purchase the property in order to get a grant-in-aid to restore the house. The members of the Garden Club put in many hours of hard work hoeing, spraying, weeding, and pruning to return the gardens to the way Hulda Klager had kept them. It was necessary to form a non-profit corporation to administer the property and care for it in the future. At present plans are to open two rooms of the old Victorian house as a museum for viewing by the public. A great deal of Hulda's original furniture is being loaned to the house. By 1979 the Society expects to have the entire house open as a museum for the public.

Plans for the future are to restore the woodshed, the carriage house, the windmill, and the watertower. Caretakers are on the place and care for the grounds. Lilac Week will be celebrated each year just as Hulda Klager would have done.

Anyone can become a member of the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden Society by paying \$1.00 a year dues. Lilacs and other plants are offered for a donation and a small charge for viewing the museum is made to defray expenses of administering the estate.

Hulda Klager Lilac Garden Society
Woodland, Washington 98674

LIST OF LILACS PROPAGATED BY TRAVERS HUTCHISON

From Soft Cuttings

Available for the ILS Auction in May 1982

Cultivar	Year Started	Color Code (Single or Double)
A.M. Brand	1979	S VII
Helen Schloen	1980	S VII
Miss Canada	1980	S V
Mme. Antoine Buchner	1980	D VI
Mont Blanc	1979	S I
Nocturne	1980	S III
Olive May Cummings	Root Division	D IV
Prodige	1980	S VII
Souvenir de Mme. Louis Gielis	1980	S I
Stadgartner Rothpletz	1980	S VII

Reminder Note: For regulations concerning import and export of lilac and other plants to be auctioned at the May ILS Convention, refer to page 5, Lilac Newsletter, December 1981 issue.

"WE'RE HOPING TO SEE YOU AT THE 1982 MEETING
IN OTTAWA

The status of alleged intersubgeneric and
interseries hybrids in Syringa (Oleaceae)

(abstract reprinted from program of Canadian
Botanical Association meeting, 1977)

James S. Pringle

Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario

Although attempts at intersubgeneric and interseries crosses in Syringa have generally been unsuccessful, two cultivars and one group of seedlings in the nursery trade are alleged to be of such origin: 'Pom', said to be S. vulgaris x S. villosa; 'Maiden's Blush', said to be S. microphylla x S. x hyacinthiflora; and unnamed seedlings listed as S. reticulata x S. laciniata. Studies of each of these, however, have indicated that each alleged hybrid falls within the range of variation of one of the supposed parental species, in all details of floral and foliar morphology, and exhibits no traits unequivocally attributable to inheritance from the other. Chromatographic profiles of leaf flavonoids have likewise shown no evidence of intersubgeneric or interseries hybrid origin. It is recommended, therefore, that these selections be classified as S. vulgaris 'Pom', S. x hyacinthiflora 'Maiden's Blush', and S. reticulata.

A full report of the study abstracted here has been published in Baileya vol. 21, pp. 101-123 (1981)



Syringa pinnatifolia

We are trying to locate the source of Syringa pinnatifolia, either as a plant, scions, or seed.

Please mail information to

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Box 399
Hamilton, Ontario
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