



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter
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President's Message

On the way home from work the other day my Husband and I were listening to Margo Watt on the good old C.B.C.. She says that without leaving the Portage Ave studio she can gauge the temperature outdoors simply by the number of waves and smiles they get through their front windows! On the cold, damp, gray days never so much as a tilt of the head! Well I have a prediction making formula of my own. That is, the earlier you receive your garden catalogues for the next Spring season, the: faster you forget that you never did extend the garden that extra 10 feet (therefore no room) and that just when you are certain that the list is complete, some new company will dazzle you with more "to die for" product. I used to thank Stokes had the earliest one out, but my Thompson & Morgan arrived the last week of October. The competition for orders is fierce. Soon they will be releasing the new hybrids in early September like the car dealerships so that new cultivar you have so lovingly planted, mulched and readied for the winter will be old news by the time it appears in Spring!

My next prediction is that more lilies than ever will be gracing the yards of Manitobans this Spring. Our Fall bulb sales in all 3 locations were phenomenal and each and every one of you who participated are to be congratulated, Outstanding!

We will be looking forward to an evening at the conservatory in February and it is not too early to start thinking about the; Spring Seminar. Any special requests, suggestions contact myself, or any Board member.

A safe, peaceful and joy-filled Season to you all.

Susan

Question & Answer

Q: What is an Aurelian and its history?

A: Jean Ericksen told me in a letter it is a cross, first made by a man in France. He named it after a Roman named town in France. The first cross named *L. aurelianense* was made by Debras and was a cross of *L. sargentiae* and *L. henryi* made in 1928. Aurelian hybrids have had *L. leucanthum* to the cross by Carlton Yerex. The RHS Lily Registry also add the term Aurelian has become synonymous with all hybrids of similar parentage. *L. henryi* has given hardiness to trumpet crosses.

Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact me, 'the editor' and I will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

Let me know what else you would like to see published in your newsletter

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Inside:

?? Lily Breeding: Jean C. Ericksen - Page 2-3

?? Growing Lilies from Seed - Page 4-5

?? Visit of Dr. Reg Gallop to the Floriade in
Holland - Page 6-7

?? Bulb Sales Report- Page 7-8

?? Upcoming Events - Page 8

Jean C. Ericksen:
Lily Lady of the Prairie
Eugene Fox, Millet, Alberta
Edited from NALS 1994 Yearbook

It is almost impossible for the urban city dweller of today to know what pioneer life was like on the Canadian prairies. Specifically, it hardly seems possible that a person of today could grasp the emptiness of the southern portions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta near the turn of the century. The prairie, while certainly undulating upon close inspection, appeared flat and treeless to the eye of one sitting aboard a passenger train looking out at the horizon. People joked that Saskatchewan was so flat, that if you looked intently, you could see tomorrow coming. Winter meant blizzards, bone-chilling cold and restricted or no travel at all. There were no telephones and horse drawn conveyances over primitive trails were the order of the day. That same country is kinder and gentler today as trees, farm homes, hedges, villages, towns and modern cities dot the landscape tied together with a massive road network and a state-of-the-art communication and transportation infrastructure.

Make no mistake though, when Jean Ericksen was born December 20, 1908, the Canadian prairie was a formidable and isolated part of the earth. Jean was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, to very young, adventuresome parents from Manitoba who were exploring the wild west. She was christened, Jean Cynthia Craig. Within a very short time of her birth, she was taken to her mother's family home near Hartney, Manitoba. Her maternal grandparents, the O'Higgins, from Ontario, originally and came west to homestead.

While still a child, she began to pay attention to the beauty of flowers. None of her gardens were without a few annuals and after her marriage to John Ericksen she even made room for perennials. Before finally settling on their own family farm, they lived on a few other farmsteads where Jean always gardened. Those early years were difficult almost all over, but on the prairie they were even more brutal, not only due to drought and harsh winters, but to a collapse in prices for farm commodities. To add to the difficulties, John was ill for almost 4 years from 1938 until 1942. Jean is a petite person and all the work she did at that time and always gives meaning to the words, "mighty mite". Finally, in the years following the end of W.W.II, the Ericksens built up a successful herd of dairy cattle.

Jean began to devote time to contacts around the globe about lilies. Jean knew of the local wild lily, *L. philadelphicum*, but had little opportunity to learn much about lilies in general until about 1953. She had contact with Dr. Frank Skinner's nursery in Manitoba and bought a few bulbs. Shortly afterward, she was able to give a few of her nearly 100 cultivars to Ed Robinson. She also main-

tained correspondence about lilies with Dr. Bert Porter of Parkside, Saskatchewan. At this point, Jean began in earnest her worldwide communications with people she read about or heard about who were growing lilies or might possess some specific lily breeding knowledge. This was the era of high flying Round Robins by active hybridizers; Jean mailed away hundreds of letters and participated fully. Membership in the British Lily Group of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and in NALS helped her to find people with the specific lily knowledge or lily genetics that she wanted to obtain. A prime motivation besides seeds, pollen or bulbs was the intellectual contact and stimulation with world-class minds. Isolated by winter and distance on a farm, those letters were a taste of the world. During these years, Jean read voraciously and to this day remains well informed technically about the genus *Lilium* at a level beyond what a gardener or grower would need to master. She always learned rapidly from the printed word. One reporter sent to interview Jean for the "Western Producer", a prairie farm weekly, complained that Jean used, big technical terms like "cultivar" and "species". Probably, Jean expected the reporter to be a bit more sophisticated and the reporter was too unlearned to admit she did not know the terms. Jean was embarrassed to read later that the same reporter called *L. philadelphicum* a "tiger lily" despite being informed otherwise. It was a while before Jean wanted to grant another interview. Naturally, Jean has a wealth of practical "hands-on, know how" about growing lilies and for that matter any number of perennials.

The letters and correspondence also permitted Jean to talk with anyone about lilies and about the genetics and mechanics of breeding lilies. In those days, a lady could not travel far from home alone and go to a plant nursery run by a male and talk about "plant breeding" to him. That just was not acceptable. In fact, even though she managed the breeding program (i.e. sire and dam selection) of the family dairy herd, she was never able to admit this to others, who would look askance in that era at a woman who knew such things.

However, she had always turned her knowledge of lilies and hybridizing toward her garden and her correspondence. She hybridized lilies all bloom season and traded for seed and pollen to the far-flung corners of the globe. It is to be hoped that she will one day contribute her letters from famous lily persons, arboretum horticulturists and plant explorers to the historical archives of NALS. Many of the letters show that she not only received seeds and pollen, but that some of the lilies grown from her gifts of her seed were magnificent. Mrs. Ericksen wrote and exchanged with the nobility and important professionals but also with many farm wives and young people with an appetite for pretty lilies and no money who got a super start from Jean Ericksen. Indeed, any person who wrote those years when she was younger and more active would receive her attention and their requests for techniques or germplasm would be honored when possible. Sometimes,

when she lacked the requested ingredient, someone in her world network of lily friends would receive a request to help a novice grower or beginning hybridizer by sending a bulb or some seed or pollen. Out of respect for Jean, the request would be filled. She was a mentor with outreach!

Jean had a family to look after and other farm responsibilities, so she reports that although she could easily have designed a "set of hybridizing goals" to pursue, she did not have the luxury of time to follow such a program in the busy summer time. She had to steal a few hybridizing and weeding moments in the morning before others stirred or take five minutes while hanging out a wash or grab a moment while waiting for the oven to heat to baking temperature. Moreover, gophers, rodents, drought and early frosts could rob her of a lily stem or a healthy bloom and call for her to change her pollination plans on the spot. Jean perfected methods of dealing with these harsh realities. She gathered her lily stems which carried pollinated pods early in the fall when frosts were predicted and put them in mason sealer jars in her windows. She changed water, recut stems, experimented with different additives to the water and somehow brought those pods to the point where they dehisced viable seeds into her brown bags. She wrote "messages" on the bags regarding the seed parentage, e.g. " huge petal Ia yellow by shed X ('Lemon Queen' x 'Edith')". Oftentimes, she tried inter-specific breeding with a mentor mix of pollen and almost the whole brown lunch bag carried the written breeding details. Inside the bags, a few pods of the same cross in various states of opening would be found and usually a hybridizing tag and string that was once tied to the live plant in her garden. She built up an enviable knowledge of the breeding potential of many cultivars.

Of those many hundreds of crosses she made using mentor mixes some marvelous interspecifics emerged. Mrs. Ericksen does not often discuss her inter-species hybridizing for fear of being disbelieved as were other notable hybridizers. She is truthful, she did get some mature lilies out of crosses of *L. duchartrei* with a yellow trumpet and *L. duchartrei* with a form of *L. tigrinum flaviflorum* to mention only two such of many exotic crosses she achieved. She gave away hundreds of seeds and often sent her promising select seedlings to nurserymen she hoped could get them to market.

Her interests were broad, she worked with trumpets, Aurelians, species and martagons among other divisions. Her Aurelian, 'Salutations', is prairie hardy and a yearly bloomer. Some of her yellow trumpets were absolutely hardy. She grew beautiful species and shared seed around the world and with the NALS seed exchanges. Of more than passing interest is her many decades of devotion to Division II or the martagon hybrids. Some of her martagon hybrids delight one and all who see them. I think she had a flare for good names also. Her 'Royal Bright' is a burgundy martagon with a great name and color. Her 1975,

'Windsong' hybrid line is made up of shades of lilac and lavender and carry an evocative name. Still another fine name and martagon is her beautiful cultivar, 'Pantrillis', which is mauve/purple wherein every dark maroon spot is set in its very own white outline. Jean has received some good measure of peer recognition such as the New Zealand Lily Society Medal of Honor in 1992 and a NALS Honorary Life Membership in 1991. She always says that she accepts these awards on behalf of all her lily friends and correspondents who shared their lilies and their hybridizing dreams with her, along the way. If you know her, you know that is the truth.

Lily Lady of Saskatchewan

By: Barrie Strohman

Shortly after the Manitoba Regional Lily Society was formed, a name that stands out as legendary in the lily world, came to my notice. It belongs to a person known to lily people world wide as the Lily Lady of Saskatchewan. Her name is Jean Erickson. On having her name mentioned on numerous occasions it was high time I met this illustrious lily lady, so I wrote her and received a warm invitation to visit her. What a joyous friendship has developed these past few years. As Jean lives about a three-hour drive from us, we usually try to visit her 2 or 3 times a year, and keep in touch by phone and mail. What a wealth of information and contacts we found that this lady has and who shares with all those genuinely interested in lilies.

Every time we visited we usually ended up with a 3 to 4 hour stay, with all topics on lily breeding, lily growing, lily hybridizing and lily people being discussed. I always came away with pearls of wisdom like, "Barrie, always plant the chaff of your crosses as well as the good seed" or "If you cross a couple of good pink lilies you will likely get some good white ones" or "germinate martagon seed as well as start your martagon scales at a lower temperature." Every time we visited Jean, she always gave us some bulbs or seedlings to take home. Never it seemed that we could get away empty handed. Always the admonition was, "Now you take care of them so you can share them with others."

Over the years, Jean has registered more than 50 lilies, many as clones, and some as grexes. 11 different martagons, 9 Aurelian, and the rest as asiatics, are credited to her work. A number you can find in commercial trade like the asiatics, 'Chilicoot', 'Methcal', and 'Lilass'. Some of her prairie hardy Aurelian are finally being increased, such as 'Salutation'. In 1992 I particularly had the pleasure and honor to present her with the Medal of Honor from New Zealand Lily Society. Yes, as far away as New Zealand, her generosity and sharing has made its mark. I feel privileged to share her friendship and have her end her letter with the inscription "Granny Jean."

Growing Lilies from Seed

There are as many different methods of growing lilies from seed as there are types of lilies available. Here are some of the ways and methods:

Usually ripe clean seed is used. By clean seed we mean seed that has been cleaned and has had the "chaff" removed. It is possible to tell if the seed is viable. Hold the seed up to the light or place on a piece of glass with a bright light source under it. You should be able to see the growing point of the seed.

Now, where to grow the seed

Lily seed will grow irrespective of where it is sown, but for beginners, we recommend to grow the seed in a pot. A margarine pot will do fine. Make two or three holes in the bottom, extending to about 1cm up the side of the pot for drainage, then using sharp sand, mix 50/50 with compost or seed raising mix. Fill the pot to about three quarters full with this mix, then place the seed on top of this. Using a fine sieve, sieve some compost over the seed to about 5mm. Place the container in water for 1 or two hours or until the water is taken up by the mix. Take the container out and let it drain. The seed should sprout in two to three weeks if it is kept damp but not wet. Leave the seedlings for a year in the container, again ensuring they do not dry out or are too wet, and after one year, transplant into the garden or individual pots.

Growing Seeds in the Open Garden

Prepare a fine bed of soil, once again drainage is very important, so I recommend that some sharp sand be placed into the bottom of the drill, then place the seed on top of this bed, cover with 5mm of fine soil or compost. These seedlings should also be left where they are for at least 12 months.

Some Variations of Growing Medium

As already mentioned, sharp sand is the cheapest and easiest to obtain.

Vermiculite (Granulated mica). This is light in weight, easy to handle, and holds large quantities of water without becoming waterlogged. It is free from weed seeds and the fungi that causes "Dampening off". Nutriments have to be added.

Perlite - A greyish material of organic origin, mined from lava flows. It is very light in weight and is also sterile, but

tends to float off when watered. It is easy to over-water and very hard to dry out because of its fineness. Nutriments have to be added.

Sphagnum moss - A natural material found in bogs, mostly on the West Coast. It is relatively sterile, light in weight and has a high water holding capacity. It is mostly used by placing seed on compost first, then covering the seed with sphagnum moss to a depth of approximately 10 mm.

Pumice - Pumice is organic in origin and is sometimes difficult to obtain, but it has very good moisture retaining properties, is sterile and would need nutriments added.

Sawdust - is easy to obtain, is cheap and has some good advantages. The most important thing to remember about this medium, is that it should not be from any treated timber. Also sawdust tends to retain moisture and should be kept relatively dry. It would be better used with some other medium such as compost, peat or seed mixture.

It would be a good idea to try some of these mediums on their own or as a mixture, but do be careful when watering as some of these are so light, that they tend to float when watered from above.

When to plant our seed; As a general rule you will receive your seed about February or March. Most people would advocate sowing the seed as soon as possible after receiving it for two reasons:

- (a) The older the seed the less viable it becomes.
- (b) Spring is nature's growing period and April/May is when new growth will be at its best.

Green seed that is, seed straight from the pod. This works quite well with some types of lilies and is worthwhile experimenting with.

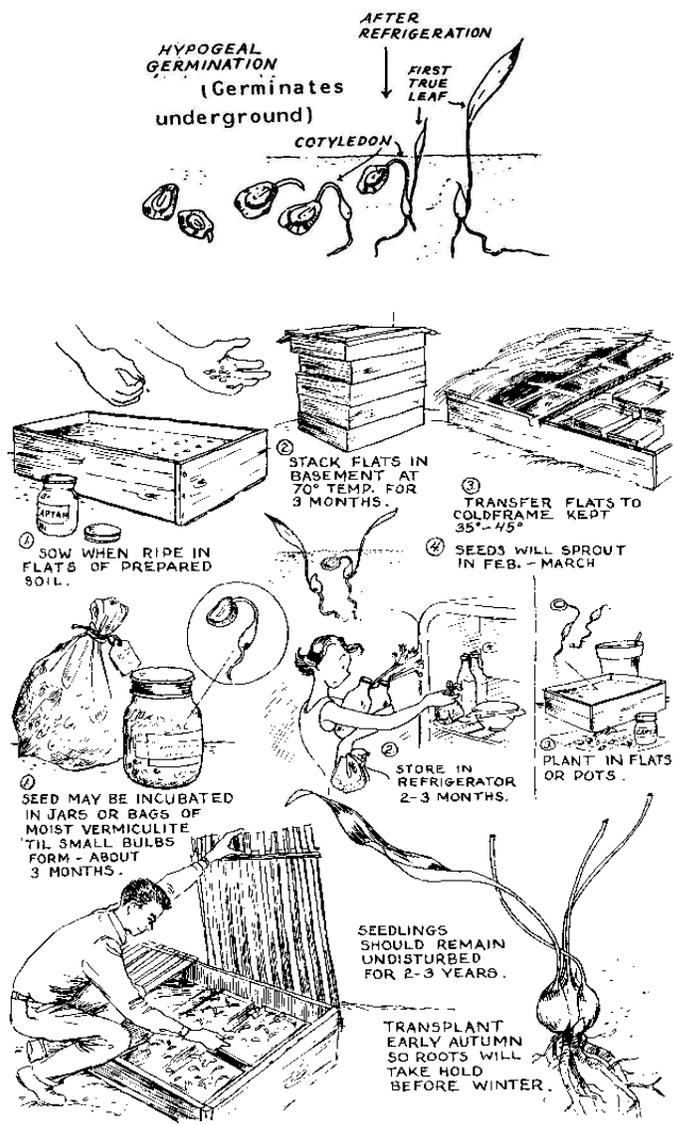
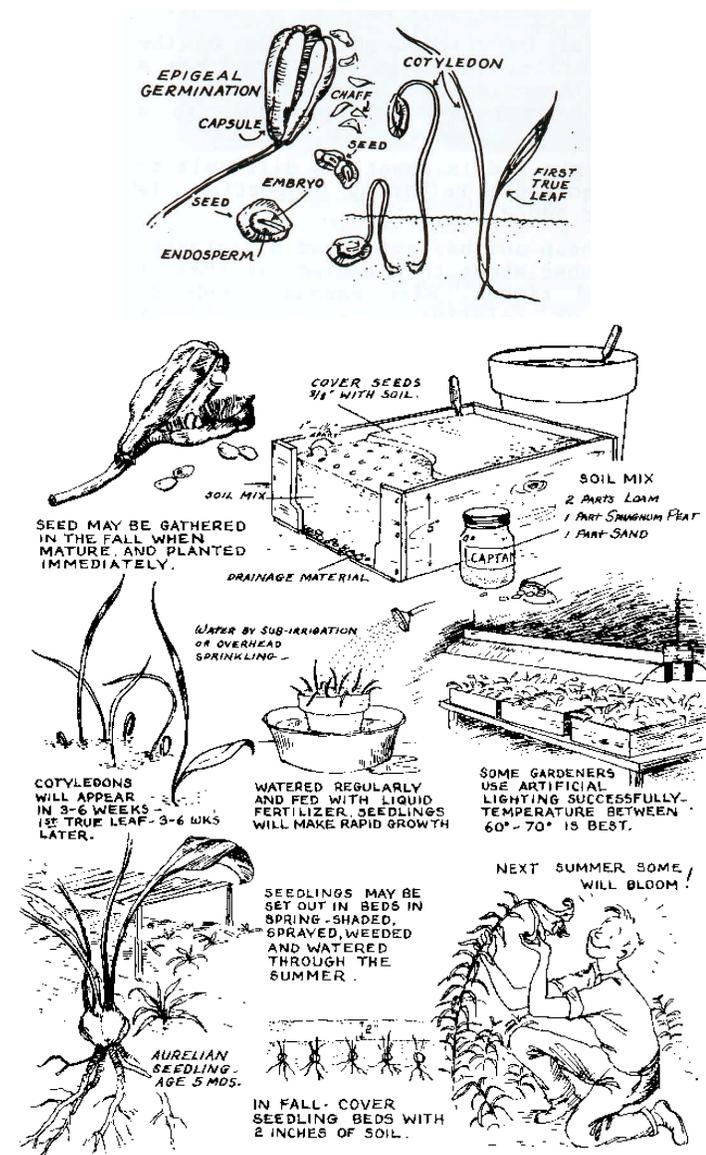
One Member sometimes uses tweezers to place his seed no more than 1" deep in the medium (about 5 seeds to a 6 inch pot), with the tip pointing down. It would be interesting to know whether seed planted this way germinates any sooner.

With the right conditions, lily seed isn't really hard to grow. One of our members when weeding one spring, discovered a thick, bunch of what she thought was new grass growing between the garden and the concrete path. It turned out to be a trumpet lily pod which had lain there all winter and from which every seed seemed to have germinated. Many self-sown lilies have probably disappeared in spring weeding sessions, or have made a great meal for slugs and snails.

A trap that the beginner could fall into is that there are two types of seeds of lilies;

The first being quick-type, "Epigeal" (Epi-meaning on or above, and Ge, earth). This type of seed will germinate, send up a leaf, and form a bulb under the surface. Some examples are Asiatic hybrids and Trumpet hybrids and their species, *L. pumilum*, *L. davidii*, *L. henryi* and *L. longiflorum*.

The second, slow-type, is known as "Hypogeal" (Hypo-under, Ge, earth), and has a two-stage germination process, a warm period and a cold period. This type still forms a bulb under the surface but may not send up a leaf for several months or a year, so do not throw your pots away for at least a year. Examples are martagons and martagon hybrids and Western American species and their hybrids.



Two methods of starting the Hypogeal or slow-germinating types indoors

How to start the Epigeal or quick-germinating types indoors

1. Purchase some soilless seedling mix
2. Moisten mix until it feel damp
3. Place in growing container
4. Plant seed and sprinkle mix on top
5. Cover with plastic cover and keep around 20 C
6. Check in about 14 days for germination

Keep a diary of your seed sowing, e.g. sowing, first leaf etc. and if your seed is from the seed pool, record the number as well as the name. Don't forget to label your seed sowings.

We would like you to write and tell us about any of your lily growing experiences or problems, and what seed sowing medium you found most successful. Good luck!

VISIT OF DR. REG GALLOP, TO THE FLORIADE IN HOLLAND, OCTOBER 2002

This Trip for two, covering a 5 days stopover in Amsterdam, Holland, had been generously awarded by Schriemer's Home and Garden Showplace, in Winnipeg, per a Draw of Customer's names, last June.

After finding our way around Amsterdam, on October 9th, my daughter Maria and I, visited the Floriade, a huge Exhibition Garden around a man-made Lake, per a fast Bus Line, on its own roadway, with Stations, that kept these buses free of Traffic problems. Other vehicles traveled about parallel to this special track, as the many bikes do, too, all over Holland. The Floriade is put on each 10th year, by the Dutch Floral Industries, with Governments helping, to show the world their great prowess in these trades.

The exhibits began with some nice beds of flowers, shrubs and trees, at its Greenhouse-like entrance, and followed with a long series of gardens alongside pathways around the lake, that represented the gardens and associated rural activities of many countries, from Europe, Polynesia, and elsewhere. Flowers, shrubs, vines, palms, fruit trees, roses, perennials, annuals in season, of very many kinds, were seen in sequence, in many patterns, as we walked around. Most were quite novel and interesting. Many exhibits, especially from Asia, had typical Housing structures associated with them. A beautiful room full of Orchid blooms highlighted the Thailand Pavilion. Gift Shops were attached to many, with all their characteristic, interesting contents. Pedi-Cycles were on hand to take visitors around, if preferred. The Floriade Tour took a whole day to cover it reasonably well.

The flowers planted on the route around, were in the sequence of flowering with the passage of the season. And so while the early ones were past their prime, the later ones were gorgeous, especially the Dahlias, Impatiens, Chrysanthemums, Coleus, Fall flowering bulbs, coloured foliage plants, and so on. They even had a garden of plants supplying pollens to a colony of bees, making a hive in an acrylic box, and honey, in view of the visitors, coming and going through a clear acrylic tube overhead! The Show ended, with a display Cemetery, with all the latest floral / decorative ideas, incorporated into it!

Next day, Maria left per fast (up to 300 Km/hr speeds!) Trains, to go to Brittany, France, via Paris, and arrived safely on time, to meet another dear daughter Karen, at the Rennes modern new Station. I stayed on in AMS for a few more days, to visit some NALS / Internet Lilium friends in the major Lily Bulb Companies there, to learn more about their interesting, challenging, major activities involving their whole systems for many millions of each kind of bulbs annually. I shall report in detail on these matters later.

Then I finally spent a few days, with other friends, from my Potato Processing days in New Brunswick and subsequently, who live in a beautiful big home, in the very lovely, peaceful Arnhem Forest region, of Holland. This was where the Allied Paratroopers landed in 1944, to almost succeed in capturing the Arnhem Bridge over the Rhine, that would have allowed them, to outflank the German Army in Normandy, by going directly up towards Berlin. We toured the war Museum there, and saw the neat Cemetery, where so many good men and women from Canada, USA, England and Poland are buried, in graves lovingly tended by thankful Dutch families. Then I left for Rennes, for a fine 1st-Class, very fast ride, in modern Dutch, then French trains, in very comfortable seats and fine services, with only a few stops en-route.

While at AMS Railway Stn on the morning of October 11th, I was swarmed by two thieves, when I stopped for a minute to call one of my friends in the country, as to what train I was coming on, to visit him. One grabbed my shoulder Camera Bag from in front, while the other took by briefcase from between my legs, from behind, obviously in co-ordination. I yelled "Stop Thieves"; but no-one seemed to care. This was apparently routine, daily there. It is similar in many other European cities, now, and growing. The first melted into the peak-hour crowd in a moment; while the other tried to get away up the escalator to the Platform. But fortunately for me, and my case, with my Nikon Slide Camera in it, the escalator was too crowded for him to get through. And so he dropped my case, retreated down the steps and vanished.

Then I went to the Railway Police Office on that Platform, to report this theft, and like 5 others who had just lost more than just property (their Passports, Credit Cards, Money, Travel Tickets etc, as well!) I was handed Claim Verification Forms, to be filled in, by the very complacent, armed cops at this Desk. They should have been downstairs protecting travelers, and catching blatant, organized thieves! Their irresponsibility appalled me. And there were 5 more such victims, from around the world, filling in these Forms, when I returned from the countryside at 4.30 p.m., and collected the typed version in Dutch, of my Statement, signed by the Supervisor. For use in my Insurance Claim, that will only cover maybe a quarter of the lost replacement value.

I am resigned to my loss of personal integrity and property, from this episode. Today people call this a "learning experience"! Once bitten, twice shy! I will probably buy a pocket-sized compact Digital Camera, as a replacement, in due course, after I have reviewed the vast range of these now available.

It was fortunate that I had used a waist-moneybelt, to keep all my crucial documents and money safe, under the cover of a cardigan and zippered jacket. These thieves cut straps off bags etc; use women with babies-in arms, to play on our Western sympathetic outlooks, while their part-

ners rob their victims left holding the baby!. But outside major cities, plagued increasingly by anti-Western, often illegal immigrant problems, Europe remains as nice as ever.

The lessons of (a) being aware of these growing risks, (b) of not traveling alone, if possible, (c) of minimizing all baggage, and (d) of keeping it always in hand, with small documents and other valuables hidden in one's inside clothing, are obvious. If one puts any baggage down, out of one's direct control for a minute, at A/P's or Stations, either a thief, or a keen Security person, will soon pick it up!

Maria and I were glad to return home, to our normally civilized and relatively peaceful life, in our home cities. We have to treasure what remains of the niceties of our once-great Civilization, for as long as we can, in this much blessed land of Canada; still far from most of the habits of more primitive cultures, that like dark clouds, steadily move our way. Europe is likely to slip into their hands, within a century hence.

The countless barbarians, over a millennium later, led by the Terrorists with the latest means, are on the march again, against all Western lands, perennially now. And worst of all, we have made ourselves almost defenseless, and invited many of them in, by our domestic demographic

follies, since the 1960's. They will attack us, from within and from without, when judged optimal for them.

Mere military means cannot stop ideological enemies; as our Canadian leaders, President Bush & Co, and most other Western leaders, cannot seem to realize. Most do not know enough History, to know what immense, deep, ancient challenges, that we now must face, again. And most of our successors know even less, about the key issues; and how to win against them!. . Most of our very expensive Security / Defense Programs are obsolete and useless, against our real enemies, who will keep the initiative. They need do little, but patiently wait for us to bring ourselves down, on our present suicidal course of major public policies, wrecking our families and thus our societies.

I will be covering the Gardening aspects of this very interesting, memorable Trip, with slides, in my Presentation to the MRLS Meeting at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2003.

Hoping to see many of you there, and with best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a fine New Year, including in our gardens.

Reg Gallop

FALL 2002 BULB SALE COMMITTEE REPORT

We have pictures to prove that we had one of the best bulb sales ever this past fall. You will be able to see them at the Spring Seminar being held March 29, 2003. It all started on Friday morning at the Conservatory where volunteers gathered for the "Bagging Bee". We had a great time bagging and talking lilies all day. A special thanks to the staff at the Conservatory for allowing us to use Greenhouse #8 and the volunteers who came out to help bag up over 3000 bulbs!

The morning of the sale in Winnipeg the customers were lined up outside a hour prior to opening. When the doors were opened we had the makings of what people were referring to as the 'incredible shrinking' bulb sale. The bulbs where flying off the tables like crazy, many varieties where sold out by 10 a.m.. During the course of 2 days over 250 martagon bulbs where sold. Brandon was kept busy trying to keep up with the bagging as people where buying them almost faster than they could bag them and Dauphin was so busy at opening that 6 people could not keep up to the customers. A special thanks to the Dauphin Horticultural Society for sponsoring our sale and for providing volunteers to help sell bulbs. In all three locations our members and customers got great bulbs at a great price.

Thank you Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg members for supporting the sales!!!!!!

A new 'Bulk' sales section was added this year in Winnipeg. We purchased bulk unnamed bloom size seedling bulbs and a large quantity of one named variety and sold them unbagged at a very good price. Additionally as an experiment this year, to see how the members would receive them we sold bulblets, both named and unnamed. This area of the sales floor was over-run by customers and 4 people where kept hopping for the 1 hour it took to sell out this entire area. We will certainly expand this area of sales next year and be much better prepared for the rush.

We arranged a trade with the English Garden. The extra martagon bulbs they dug for our Orienpets. This enabled us to have over 200 martagon bulbs to sell at a special price. For the first time in memory we where sold out of martagon bulbs by 2 p.m. on the Saturday and in fact had to dig and bag 40 more on Sunday morning just to have some martagons to sell on Sunday and those sold out just as quickly.

The Heritage Bulb sales area was new this year

also. We were able to purchase 15+ Heritage varieties which had not been offered before. They were very well received and most of them were sold out in Winnipeg on Saturday. In fact we had to make special arrangements to get more bulbs of at least 10 of the varieties shipped into Brandon in order to have some for sale there and in Dauphin.

The sales this year were great! There were over 4000 bulbs sold, gross sales of \$29,000.00 + at 3 locations, but the single most successful part of the entire sale was the

member participation. The member volunteers made this year's success possible. Over 40 members said **YES** when asked to volunteer their time to help out at the sale. **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

The Bulb Sale Committee is already working on next year. We will be selling bulbs at the Spring Seminar and we will be partnering again with The Friends of the Conservatory for their Mother's Day Sale. Hope to see you all there!

Notices & Coming Events:

Slide Show Evening: Floriade In Holland - Dr. Reg Gallop

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2003, at 7 p.m.
Place: Assiniboine Park Conservatory
 2355 Corydon Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB.

Manitoba Regional Lily Society 2003 Spring Seminar

Date: March 29th, 2003
Place: Canad Inn - Polo Park
 1405 St Matthews Ave, Winnipeg
 Details to follow in next newsletter!

MRLS 2003 Annual Lily Show

Date: July 25th & 26th, 2003
Place: Details to follow in next newsletter!



Lily Trading Post



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