

Houston Area Daylily Society (Since 1964)

Part II Highlights "In the Beginning"

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1965-66 Houston Area Daylily Society (HADS) President Dolly Wheeler began hybridizing in 1941. She and her husband Ben had a commercial daylily business around their home and their daylily field was planted in long rows. Dolly also grew crinum lilies, amaryllis, and other plants. She was known for her gold double daylily *Hemerocallis* '**Double Talk**' (1967). Dolly was also an active member of Houston Hemerocallis Society (HHS). She was a member of the Texas Nurserymen's Association for 30 years. Dolly was born October 2, 1905, and died January 7, 1985.

Mrs. J. W. (Neva) Alexander began hybridizing around 1947. She became a Charter Member of the Midwest Hemerocallis Society, July 13, 1946, which changed its name to the American Hemerocallis Society, at the Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 16-19, 1955. She was the 1963-64 HHS President. Neva was the mother-in-law of HADS member Grace Alexander (Mrs. Joshua David Alexander). Grace attended 29 consecutive Region 6 Meetings. She and her husband settled in Galveston in 1939, and later relocated to Burnet, Texas, on Lake Buchanan. Grace collected the registered Neva Alexander daylilies. She watched for them as she traveled on the Region 6 Meeting bus tours. Grace was a Texas Master Gardener, AHS Life Member, and AHS Exhibition Judge. Grace left this earthly life December 3, 2005. Grace and Josh were married for 59 years. Their children are Robert, Steve, and Linda. Linda, Grace's daughter, and granddaughter of Neva Alexander, is collecting Neva's registered daylilies. It is Linda's desire to have an official AHS Display Garden some day. Linda is a member of HHS.

If you have information about Neva Alexander or her registered daylilies you wish to share with Linda please contact her at alexintexas@comcast.net

Sources used for this portion of the article: Region 6 web site; Ray Houston, Region 6 Archivist/Historian; and Linda Alexander.

Clarisse Rasch was 1966-67 HADS President, and was a member of HADS from 1960 until her death, March 7, 1995. She served as 1970-71 Region 6 RPD. Albert Rasch and Clarisse married

October 3, 1953. Albert, of German descent, was born March 7, 1889, and died November 1, 1981. The Rasch home site had been in the family for over 100 years. Clarisse loved to plant flowers, and she wrote poetry.

Mrs. E. J. Barton served as 1967-68 HADS President. I could not find any history on her.

Mildred Lourin (Wellenciek) Schlumpf was born February 9, 1905 and died September 1, 1992. She served as 1968-69 and 1972-74 HADS President. She served as 1970-71 Region 6 RVP. She was known for the many different hats she owned. She served as AHS Slide Librarian. She took slide pictures and donated them to the AHS Slide Library. She established the Robert Way Schlumpf Memorial Award, now named the Mildred Schlumpf Award in her honor. This Award is given for the best individual daylily bloom photograph and for the best landscape photograph. The photographs become part of the AHS Library. In 1983, Mildred won the Helen Field Fischer Award for service to AHS. As a member of HADS, she served in every office. She was an accomplished floral designer and won awards for her designs in the club daylily flower shows. She dabbled daylily pollen at her home garden and registered *H. 'Velvet Apple'* (1968), *H. 'Ruffled Panties'* (1970), and *H. 'Silver Butterfly'* (1976). Daylilies images are carved on her tombstone. Mildred as I knew her was a fun person often reading humorous things to the club as entertainment at Christmas. I met her in the field at Thornwell and Jennie (Russell) Kleb's home in Klein, Texas, in the 1960s. Mildred grew her seedlings on the farm due to not having space at her home. She had the ditch full of seedlings the day I met her for the first time. Back then I could not understand why anyone would throw out a daylily plant. She pulled them up, because they did not meet the requirements according to her rules. On another occasion we both showed up wearing the same fabric and in the same color. We both sewed our own clothes and had chosen the same type of soft blue jean fabric for our creations.