Vol. 13

January 30, 1970

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Newsletter: T. Ross Martin, Binbrook

O. R. L. S. ANNUAL MEETING:
Headquarters Bldg., R. B. G., 2P.M.
Sunday, April 26, 1970

(Board Meeting - March 22, 1970)

1970 Membership dues are now payable. Send your payment now!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having come to the end of one more year in our short history, it may be said that we have accomplished a great deal of what was set out to do in the beginning. Our chief aim perhaps was to promote the growing of lilies in more gardens, and there is ample evidence that we have done just that. The large attendance at our annual shows, and the increased membership from year to year indicate a growing interest in lilies by the ordinary gardener.

More rewarding in a lot of ways are the relationships we develop by meeting and talking to other people of like interest, and the opportunity to visit others' gardens. This goes a long way in keeping the society functioning smoothly and the members working together on a project when called upon to do so.

Never before has the co-operation of all the members of our society been needed as much as in the coming months. With the North American Lily Society annual show being scheduled under our sponsorship and that of the Royal Botanical Gardens, many of us will be called on to help in this venture. Luckily we have Fred Hayes to head up the show committee, and he has wasted no time in putting his committee members to work on their assignments. We may be sure that Fred and the rest of his dedicated group of workers will come up with a fine program. This does not mean that the rest of the members will have nothing to do because at show time extra help will be required, and we hope we may count on you.

We may look ahead then in eager anticipation of yet another great year for our society. I know that all the executive officers are anxious to provide an interesting program of events to warrant your continued (Continued Page 2)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

support. Everyone can help by bringing to the attention of the board any thought or suggestion they may have, keeping in mind the difficulties encountered with such a widely distributed membership.

In closing, I wish to extend my very best regards to every member, with the sincere hope that I can fulfil the trust you have given me.

Robert S. Barber, Pres.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

A new and exciting year is ahead of us. Hosting the international lily show of the N.A.L.S. will make 1970 an especially interesting year for the O.R.L.S. The show committee has already been busy planning much of the activities for this show, and a preliminary schedule of events will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. Our president has emphasized the necessity of every member to help take an active part in this show. You can do your part in many ways. First, and by no means last, you can bring all the lily stems to the show that you possibly can. January may not be the time to plan your entries, but you can drop the show chairman, Fred Hayes, a note offering your help to work a short time on the admission desk, or help set up entries, or man the N.A.L.S. information desk, or perhaps work as a judge's clerk. There are many ways each of us can help ease the workload for our chairmen, so please send a note along to Fred Hayes now offering your help. It will be greatly appreciated.

Joe Tiffin is not a new name to horticulture nor to lilies. His interest in lilies goes back many, many years, but it is only recently that I have had the privilege of meeting him. A talented lily breeder as well as writer, Joe will be naming one of his own introductions this year. The light pink outfacing Asiatic hybrid has been an outstanding attraction at our regional lily shows and garden tour in 1968. The medium to large flowers, spotted, show a great deal of vigor, and it is indeed a unique new addition. It currently is being propagated by the Royal Botanical Gardens. Joe writes of his interest in lilies in this issue.

Edith Cecilia has often been cited for its part in the parentage of new pastel lilies. Many of our members will recall previous articles and of course Jim Taylor's exhibit ofhybrids raised from a single pod of seed using Edith Cecilia as one of the parents. Mr. Hans Jacobi writes of his experiences using Mega as the other parent. Most certainly this should encourage others to try their hand at hybridizing, for it is a facinating passtime. Need I add that Edith Cecilia should be included in such a programme?

The Dr. F. L. Skinner Memorial Fund is still open for contributions to the Skinner Memorial Library to be set up in his honour. Dr. Skinner's work with lilies alone, is outstanding, but his achievements in horticultur got far beyond lilies. A brief resume of the horticultural highlights of his life which we are reprinting here has been supplied by the Skinner Memorial Fund Committee.

A sincere thanks to those who have contributed articles for our January Newsletter.

JOSEPH A. TIFFIN - MY EXPERIENCES WITH LILIES

In 1940, my wife and I found our bungalow too small with our growing family, and decided to build a new home at Scarborough Bluffs. This of course meant starting a new garden is a field which had not been cultivated for probably twenty years. I had not been cultivating it very long when the late Miss Sadie Ashbridge, who was an ardent gardener and a member of our horticultural society, gave me along with some other plants, a bulb of L. martagon album. They had been growing in her garden for many years. At approximately the same time, the late Mr. Gordon Miller, who lived next door to Miss Ashbridge and who was also a member of the horticultural society, raised some very fine specimens of L. michiganense. At that time these were growing wild along the Bluffs, and I collected some of them. These two episodes, that is Miss Ashbridge's beautiful martagon albums, and Mr. Miller's beautiful specimens of L. michiganense, were responsible for infecting me with the lily bug.

During the nine years I resided there, I collected a few lilies and had very good success in growing them although the soil was a fairly heavy clay. Some of those I grew were, in addition to those mentioned above, L. candidum, MAXWILL, CORONATION, L. davidii, L. regale, TESTACEUM, L. willmottlae, LILLIAN CUMMINGS. However at that time I grew them from purchased or donated bulbs and made no effort to grow them from seed or do any hybridizing.

In 1949 my wife and I decided to move again. She wanted a place in the country, so I told her to take the car and look for a place - we finally bought ten acres about a mile and a half from Agincourt. It was part of a pasture field, and there were no buildings, no garden, no cultivated land, no well, and no fence, so we started from scratch. It took us a couple of years to get settled again and then having joined the North American Lily Society I became more interested than before in lilies. I had not salvaged many from my previous location, only a few L. davidii. L. regale, and L. martagon album.

As you know, the North American Lily Society issues a list each year of the varieties of seed which has been donated by members. Consequently at that time, I purchased several lots of seed which I planted in cold frames in April. I had very good success with this seed and if I remember correctly I had seedlings from every variety - but in some cases I had to wait till the second year as some of the varieties were hypogeal. Amongst the latter were some L. auratum seeds and I waited six years from the time of planting until they bloomed.

The new location was better than the previous one for growing lilies as the soil was lighter, and about a foot down there was a sandy sub-soil giving perfect drainage. Each year I planted several lots of seed in the cold frames. I found that they took quite a lot of care as in the warmer weather they would need watering every day or oftener. Of course in the warm weather the glass was removed and the frame covered with slats (a piece of snow fencing is fine). When cold weather arrived I removed the slats, filled the frame with mulch (usually straw), replaced the slats and put the glass on top of the slats. In case of a thew this procedure provided ventilation.

As the seedlings became large enough to plant out, I lined them out in the garden in the autumn of the year, leaving room enough between the rows to operate a motorized garden cultivator. When the ground froze (Continued)

JOSEPH A. TIFFIN - MY EXPERIENCES WITH LILIES (Continued)

it was mulched with straw. In the spring this was removed for a time, the earth cultivated between the rows, and then the mulch replaced. The summer mulch keeps down weeds and gives the lilies a cool earth for their roots. This more or less provides a similar situation to that in which the lilies grow in the wild.

During this period (sometime in the 1950's), I met Mr. Percy Byam who lived only a few miles away, and I spent many an hour in his garden and learned much from him as he had been growing lilies much longer than me, and had more free time to spend with them. However I have previously written an article on Mr. Byam so I will not dwell further on his work here.

At this time I started some hybridizing on a more or less haphazard basis. When one is working steadily and heaving home around seven o'clock in the morning, there is not much time to hybridize. However I obtained some seed each year from my endeavors which I always planted the following spring. For me the greatest thrill in growing lilies or any other flower is to see a plant bloom for the first time from seed which has been obtained by my own hybridizing, and also to see the variety that will result in the plants grown from one pod of seed.

However, time catches up with us, and according to my company's regulations, I had to retire on December 31, 1960. However, the company was in the process of computerizing their operations, and needing some extra qualified staff, asked me to stay on temporarily, which I did until May 1963. In the meantime the city had expanded tremendously. My property had been zoned for industrial use. Factories were springing up around me so I had no option but to sell the home and move again.

In the meantime, Mr. Byam had died very suddenly and knowing that he had no sons to carry on his work, I consulted the late George Holland regarding Mr. Byam's seedlings. George had no room for them and as Mrs. Byam said they would probably be destroyed, I obtained her permission to take them to my place. This I did. The next year I turned these over to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, along with all my own lilies as I was moving.

May 1964 arrived, and we moved to Nova Scotia. I sent my car by freight and in it I placed some perennials from the garden, and also a couple of flats of lily seedlings which had been overlooked, & a few lily plants which also had been overlooked when digging the bulbs the previous autumn. My car was supposed to reach me in three days but didn't arrive for ten. In the meantime the temperature in Toronto and also in Montreal was in the 90's. I expected all the plants would be dead but was amazed to find that all had survived and some of the lilies had grown four inches. Needless to say I planted them immediately and later in the season they bloomed. The seedlings, of course, I kept in the flats till fall.

During the summer I prepared some beds for lilies along the south tide of a small orchard. This was in sod and in digging the beds I found that almost fifty percent of the material I turned over was rocks, some as large as my head. I discarded all these rocks, and then had to wheel in extra earth to bring the beds up to the level I desired. That autumn Mr. Laking of the Royal Botanical Gardens sent me a hundred bulbs. These grew well and bloomed each year, but spring comes slowly in Nova Scotia and I would read articles describing the exhibits at the N.A.L.S. shows (Continued).

JOSEPH A. TIFFIN - MY EXPERIENCES WITH LILIES (Continued)

and some of the regional shows, and my lilies would not be in bloom. This led to another disadvantage. It was almost impossible to ripen any seed.

While in Nova Scotia I didn't use any summer mulch. The weather never gets very warm, and it is often very damp. I was afraid a summer mulch would probably cause disease in the stems of the plants. Of course the bads had to be mulched for the winter and as there was no straw available (no farming in that locality), I copied the strawberry growers and covered the beds with spruce boughs. This I found very satisfactory.

In 1967 we found it necessary to return to Ontario and I put my Nova Scotia property up for sale. The place was sold and I planned to move early in November, but the party buying the property was doing so under the National Housing Act, and for various reasons the sale was not completed until the middle of January. In the meantime I had dug the bulbs at the end of October and packed them in sphagnum moss, expecting to get them planted in Ontario during November. However, they laid around until the movers arrived in the middle of January. Then they were loaded on the van where they stayed for a week with the temperature during part of the trip at below zero temperatures. When they arrived at our destination in Waterford they were placed in a cellar which was much too warm and as I was ill at the time, I was unable to make any other arrangements.

In the spring I was anxious to get them planted, but found that the garden had not been cultivated for years. The house had been occupied by various unsatisfactory tenants, and the garden was littered with broken glass, old iron, etc. It was also grown up with Manitoba maples, some of which were six inches in diameter. Consequently there was a big cleaning-up job to do, heavy equipment needed to pull up the trees, then the garden plowed, disced and harrowed. The result was that I couldn't do any planting till May. By that time the bulbs had started to grow. Some had forced their way through the plastic bags, and had stems 18" long. However, I planted them, those with long stems on their sides, so that only the tips of the stems showed above the ground. I lost some of them but the majority survived and bloomed. Who says lilies aren't hardy?

In the fall of 1968 we had to move into an apartment due to my wife's ill health. That meant digging the bulbs again and planting them in a portion of a garden which has been loaned to me.

This article has been written not to get any sympathy for an itinerant lily grower, but in the hope that it may be of help to anyone else who has to move and start growing lilies under different conditions than they have done in the past. It shows the abuse to which I have subjected lilies, and how well they have withstood it.

Joseph A. Tiffin

SEED EXCHANGE -- I NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY

The January issue of the Quarterly Bulletin of the N.A.L.S. is now available from the secretary. It contains part one of the list of seed available from the society. Seed is 25¢ per package and must be ordered directly from the N. A. L. S. Part two will appear in the March bulletin. Members of the O. R. L. S. may order seeds from the Seed Exchange.

The first cross was made in the summer of 1965 with several capsules resulting. The seed was sown outdoors in 1966 and grown entirely outdoors to blooming. This is, perhaps, as good a time as any to explain about MEGA. The bulb was bought as Mega, but I have been told on good authority that it is not Mega. It certainly does not resemble the picture of Mega illustrated on page 115 of the N. A. L. S. yearbook 1964! My Mega is partly cup-shaped with the ends of the tepals (and sepals) recurved. It faces about half up and out, is six inches wide, and of a good medium yellow with spots. I shall call it "Mega", as in the title.

The summer of 1968 showed a little bloom, but I had to wait until '69 for a complete showing. The height of the plants varied from 3 to 4 ft, while my "Mega" grows to 5 feet. There were some weak and well as strong stems with secondary pedicles.

The flowers were for the most part 5 inches across, a few 4", and the odd six inches. All faced either up or out; there were no turkscaps. Florets were either semi-cupped or flat, with recurved tips - this latter being to me the ideal type.

A total of 27 seedlings flowered, 10 pinks with yellow throats; 2 creams that faded to near white, five yellows of several shades, 3 combination pink and yellow faces, and six hard-to-describe colours close to rusty-melon. There were no oranges. The pinks for the most part were rather dark, with a touch of purple in their make-up. The only clear pink faded badly. One of the miscellaneous colours resembled a day lily in colour, a sort of copper-red that does not appeal to me. But whenever I approached the lily beds my eyes lit on this patch of fire. I guess I like it!

Much planning went into doing some scientific crossing. None of this hit-and-miss pollen dabbing! It didn't make much difference. By the end of the summer I found that most crosses were not successful. 75% of the seedlings are sterile. I did get a few seeds, but on the whole it has been a bad seed year. Out of sixty crosses of Adith Cecilia x "Mega" this summer I got 23 seeds! So part of the trouble may have been weather. And then there was botrytis!

The seedlings were planted too close together (12 bulblets in 48"). This together with their habit of sendout out underground runners that sprout innumerable bulblets, led for a veritable jungle of lily stems. I came back from a four day visit to the west coast to find that botrytis had taken over the lily patch. The stems were in rags.A quick application of bordeaux and some subsequent applications checked the disease, but it was a case of too late and too little. But the seed I did get made it possible for me to see which crosses were good and which were sterile. The odd seedling resisted the first attach of botrytis but gave up on the second attach. That was when the trumpets appeared to fall under it as well. Not having been troubled in previous years, I found the onslaught of this disease most appalling and devastating.

To sum up, I find this a most intriguing cross. Large open-faced flowers in pleasing colours, strong stems, good placement, all there for the patient gardener. Disease resistance too, I hope.

Hans Jacobi

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MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR 1969

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

THE LILY YEARBOOK (ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY) 1970

This new issue (270 pages) contains all the papers delivered to the Fourth International Lily Conference held in the U. K. during July of 1969. Excellent black and white, and coloured illustrations make this book one of the best issues printed by the society. A most comprehensive edition covering all aspects of the genus lilium. Obtainable from the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, S. W. 1, London England for 46 shillings postpaid, or from Fred M. Abbey, Executive Secretary, North American Lily Society, North Ferrisburg Vermont (5.65 Cdn. Funds)

THE INTERNATIONAL LILY REGISTER - 1969 EDITION

The Royal Horticultural Society is the recognized registrars for lily names. This new issue of the Register covers an up-to-date listing of all registered clones and strains together with related data for each. A must for hybridizers. Available from the R. H. S. for 1/7/4 postpaid, or from Mr. Abbey at \$3.30 Cdn. Funds.

THE YEARBOOK OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY 1969

Containing reports on the International Lily Conference in the United Kingdom, research by various agricultural institutions in the United States, as well as numerous articles written by well known lily personalities, this hard-bound yearbook will be available shortly. Orders at \$4.00 can be sent to Fred M. Abbey, North Ferrisburg, Vermont, U. S. A. (zip code 05473)

WHY NOT JOIN THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY

The North American Lily Society was founded in 1947. It has consistently published excellent yearbooks since that time, as well as other such timely publications as "Let's Grow Lilies", "Classified List of Lily Clones", "Growing Lilies from Seed" and others. Annual membership in the society (\$7.50 Cdn. Funds) includes access to the lending library of books and slide collections, four quarterly bulletins, and the yearbook. Round Robins, seed exchange and lively participation with others who grow lilies, makes memberships all the more rewarding. Write Fred M. Abbey, Executive Secretary, North Ferrisburg, Vermont 05473.

DR. F. L. SKINNER MEMORIAL FUND

On August 27, 1967, F. L. Skinner, M.B.E., LL.D., F.R.H.S., World renowned plant breeder, died at his home in Dropmore, Manitoba.

Dr. Skinner came to Canada from Scotland in 1895 and devoted his lifetime to the introduction, selection and breeding of horticultural plants of sufficient hardiness to withstand the rigorous conditions of temperature, soil and moisture to be found in the Great Plains Region of North America. However, many of his introductions have found favor in many other parts of the world. His prolific plant breeding over the years resulted in the introduction of 248 species of plants as follows -

Trees - 12 in 8 genera, Shrubs and climbers - 90 in 39 genera, Bulbs - 26 in 7 genera, and Herbaceous Perennials - 120 in 62 genera.

In these were 144 new improved varieties in 27 genera or classes, including 21 roses, 26 lilacs, 31 lilies, and 20 chrysanthemums.

In 1956 the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture published a historical review of "The Development of Horticulture on the Canadian Prairies" in which the following statement appears: "Of all the notable contributions made to the advancement of horticulture in the prairie provinces, surely the most notable, all things considered, has been that of Frank Skinner".

In his plant breeding work over the years, Dr. Skinner maintained a relationship with the experimental farms and universities in Canada and similar establishments in the United States and Europe. He participated in many plant-hunting expeditions which took him all over the midwestern States and at the same time he exchanged plant materials with such institutions as the Arnold Arboretum, Kew Gardens, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens and many others in Continental Europe. All of this was done at his own expense.

Dr. Skinner received many honours. In 1933 he was awarded the Cory Cup of the Royal Horticultural Society for his MAXWILL lily. In 1935 he was the first recipient of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal for "Conspicuous Achievement in Horticulture". In 1937 he was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Minnesota Horticultural Society. In 1943 he was made a Mamber of the British Empire in King George VI's birthday honours. he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Manitoba. In 1956 he was given a Special Citation by the Roblin Chamber of Commerce. In 1963 he was awarded a Silver Medal from the International Horticultural Exhibition, Hamburg, Germany, for a display of lilies. He was also given the E. H. Wilson Award by the North American Lily Society for his work in lilies. In 1964 he received a Citation from the American Horticultural Society. In the same year he was presented with the Golden Boys' Good Citizen Award in Manitoba and in December Shellmouth Municipality awarded him a plaque. In 1967 he was presented with the "Order of the Buffalo" by the Government of Manitoba. In addition to his many awards, he as also given honorary memberships by many horticultural and agricultural groups.

Dr. Skinner's work has resulted in the introduction of many varieties of plants which have benefitted in one way or another most citizens of the western world and it is only fitting that some memorial be established to honor his memory and to keep it alive for succeeding generations. (Continued)

F. L. SKINNER MEMORIAL FUND (Continued)

The Manitoba Horticultural Association has decided to set up an F. L. Skinner, M.B.E., LL.D., F.R.H.S. Memorial Library in his honor. These books will be housed in the University of Manitoba Library and suitably identified. They will be selected by the Staff of the University's Plant Science Division and should serve to remind succeeding generations of horticulturists of Dr. Skinner's great contributions. The Association is attempting to collect \$5,000 forthis purpose in the period 1969 - 1970. Then this goal is realized, only the income from the capital fund will be used for purchase of books so that the fund will be perpetuated.

Donations to the fund should be made out as follows: Canada Trust Co. (Skinner Memorial Fund), and mailed to Canada Trust Company, Huron & Erie Building, 232 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba. Official receipts for Canada Income Tax Exemption will be issued.

Will you help us to honor the memory of this great plant breeder?

outling from the damage level ed F. J. Weir, Chairman sales as a galwelled Skinner Memorial Fund

Editor's Note: While the above account credits 31 lily originations, the following compiled list extracted from the International Lily Register 1969, and "Lilies for Every Garden" (Preston, 1947) somewhat exceeds this total.

Amaryllis Glow North Star
Assinoboine Golden Candlestick Orange Princess
Azalia Golden Purity Philada
Black Prince Greenland Philadauricum
Concolor var Dropmore Guinea Gold Philras *
Cupid Ivorine Prairie Harlequin
Dropmore Gold Juanita Prisilla
Dropmore Oriole Lady Lou Redman
Lemon Lady Rosalinda
Evening Star Margaret Johnson Russett
Flambeau Maxwill Scottiae
Glacier Moonglo Sunset Glow
The Duchess Skinner's Orange * Yellow Bunting

* Philras and Skinner's Orange appear to be the same lily.

The writer vaguely recalls a lily "Dieppe" being offered by Dr.

Skinner's nursery. Can anyone add anything to this mystery?

(TRM)

MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW PAYABLE and above emus end as well of the

Membership fees for the year 1970 (January to December is our business year) are now due and should be remitted to the treasurer, Gordon F. Utting, 1399 Crescent Road, Lorne Park, Port Credit, Ontario. Annual memberships are \$2.00 per person, or \$3.00 for a husband and wife membership. Paying now will save our treasurer a great deal of work later, so please send your dues early. Please add exchange to cheques. We have a thriving society, but we need you to keep it so. Why not buy a gardening friend a membership too. It's a good way to widen the interest in lilies and make your membership more interesting as well. An application form is printed on the last page of this Newsletter.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - N. A. L. S. SHOW - HAMILTON July 10,11,12 Thursday, July 9th: 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. - setting up of entries and exhibits 6 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. - registration 6:30 P.M. - Directors' Dinner, Tien Kue Inn, 1106 Plains Rd. E. Friday, July 10th: 8 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. - setting up of entries and exhibits 9:30 A.M. to 11 A.M. - registraion 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. - judging 1:30 P.M. - judges' luncheon, The Estaminet, 2084 Lakeshore, Burlington 1:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. - Show open to photographers only 2:30 P.M. - Official Opening of Show 2:30 P.M. to 9 P.M. - show open to public 2 P.M. to 3 P.M. - registration 3:30 P.M. First General Membership Meeting 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. - optional luncheon and tour of Royal Botanical Gardens 8:30 P.M. - Lecture, R. B. G. library Saturday, July 11th: 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. - show open to public 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. - optional tour and luncheon - Niagara Parks System Niagara Falls, Ontario 3 P.M. - Second General Membership Meeting 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. Social Hour 7 P.M. - Awards Banquet, Tyandaga Golf and Country Club, 1265 Tyandaga Park Drive. Burlington) Sunday, July 12th: 1 P.M. to 9 P.M. - show open to the public Above subject to final approval. APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ONTARIO REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY Gordon F. Utting, Treasurer To: 1399 Crescent Rd. Lorne Park, Port Credit, Ontario I enclose payment for my 1970 membership dues in the Ontario Regional Lily Society: \$2.00 Single Membership 33.00 Husband and Wife Membership

Please make cheques payable to the Ontario Regional Lily Society, and include 15¢ exchange to cheques.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY T. ROSS MARTIN, LDITOR

BINBROOK, ONTARIO, CANADA

CO-SPONSORS OF THE

1970 INTERNATIONAL LILY SHOW

OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY JULY 10,11,12

1970

To: Gordon F. Utting, Treasurer

gidagedman eliw 8065 aut.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Please make obscures merable to the Ontario Regional Lily Society,