

Profile

Frank Fordyce

Frank Fordyce is one of America's most respected and experienced Orchid persons. The following article is part personal autobiography and part commentary on his life.

In March of 1947, Frank went to work for Fred Stewart, a wealthy amateur who was in the process of opening a commercial Orchid nursery in San Gabriel, California. Forty-six years later Frank now has his own family Orchid nursery in Livermore, California where he specializes in Cattleyas, mostly miniature Cattleyas.

Frank travels throughout America lecturing on Orchids. Frank's comments from the transcript of his autobiography are of special interest and have never been published. His autobiography was given on September 26, 1984 and recorded by Ernest Hetherington. Frank's comments on his personal life add special insight to those who know him and to the casual reader.

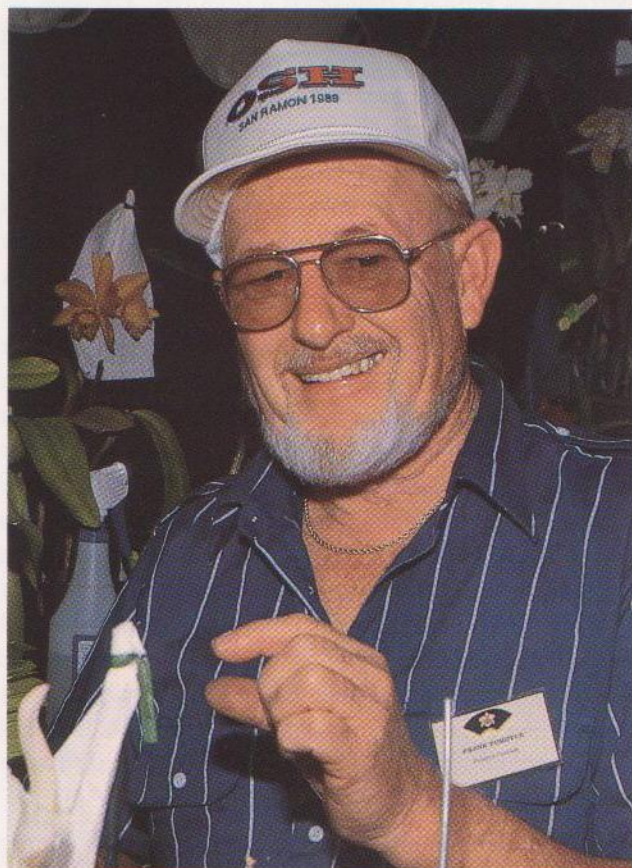
★ ★ ★

PARTS OF AN INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 26, 1984

"I was born in Oxnard, California in St. John's Hospital, April 23, 1924, and raised on a farm outside of Oxnard which grew walnuts and lima beans. I went to Oxnard High School. I entered service during World War II in the Army Air Corps in 1943. I trained in various places, not that interesting, all deserts, and went overseas in November 1943 with the Eighth Air Force as a gunner in a B-17 airplane bomber. We were shot down over Holland during a mission in January 1944. I remained a prisoner of war of the Germans until the end of the war in 1945. Out of the service, November or October of 1945, I went to work for Coolidge Rare Plants Gardens in Pasadena, California, that specialized in Epiphyllums, Camellias, Azaleas, and Orchids. I began to work with Cymbidiums there with James Carberry, a crusty Englishman.

I married Madge Ramsey, a childhood sweetheart, whom I knew when I started first grade with her. She is the only date I have ever had in my entire life! I went through all the grade schools with her, started to go with her as a junior in high school and married her upon getting out of the service in 1945. We have two children, Stephen and Susan.

In regards to my war time experiences. Evidentially, I flew on the same airplane with William Eilau. Much later I found out that he was an orchid hobbyist. Bill was past-president of the Orchid Digest. We rekindled old war time experiences in later years. Actually, we had gone on a mission together. He was a navigator. Later I was shot down on my fifth mission and spent time in Starlife Gulf 3 in Germany. I was on a forced march a year later to Nuremberg. We stayed there for



some time. I now know the experience of having been without food. Knowing what that is like, you begin to grow up very rapidly. When you are a youngster, and everything is taken away, you really realize what the United States is all about and the freedom that you have. I have a great deal of respect for the flag, having had it taken away from me at one time. Another forced march out of Nuremberg with more airplanes and more bombs than I could ever remember seeing. U.S. airplanes strafed us because there were 35,000 prisoners of war on a highway and they did not know, of course, that we were U.S. prisoners. There are some things I choose to forget. Since I have always had a sense of humor, I remember some of the strange things that happened. If you saw the movie, *The Great Escape*, that was in a camp in which I was held. The majority of it was very true except for the motorcycle experience at the end of the movie. Tough times — basically treated very fair by the Germans except for certain instances where people were killed or where men froze to death. I stayed until the end of the war in a prison camp and wound up finally just outside of Munich, Germany in a little town called Mooseberg. My wife, Madge, and I visited there during the Tenth World Orchid Congress Conference in Frankfurt in 1975. Ironically enough we finally found the old prison

camp. It was devoid of any fences, but we found a man who worked in the carpenter shop, in one of the barracks in which I had been a prisoner. He took us to that barracks. There on the wall were some of the writings of prisoners and a hollowed out beam where we used to hide things. Some forty years later, the barracks were still there. So, it was a time of remembering and brought back a lot of old feelings.

When Fred Stewart went into the orchid business at the Burton Avenue address, he leased an existent nursery. James Carberry went with the Fred Stewart organization. He suggested that I come along, which I did. James Carberry was not an experienced orchidist other than with Cymbidiums. Ernest Hetherington was brought in as manager from Armacost & Royston because of his experience in growing orchids on May 27, 1947. I had been with Stewart's two months prior to Ernest's coming. We opened the doors of Stewart's the very day that Stewart's went into business as a commercial orchid grower in late March of 1947. Ernest came in two months later as manager. Ernest included me in on something I've always cherished, that is learning hybridizing. We had a unique thing going at that time. Ernest would take the positive side of breeding and would say, 'I want to use this particular parent because of such and such reasons'.

I would take the opposite view and say, 'Well, if you put these parents together, you will get crowded stems.' I would be the devil's advocate to Ernest when he was suggesting crosses. Frequently, he would ask that we change roles and that I would take the positive side and he would take the negative side. It turned out to be one of the best training programs for a young man coming up. Also, a good training for anyone in the business of hybridizing because one tends to see all the positive things in a hybrid frequently without seeing the negative sides. When Ernest came to Stewart's he had not had training in Cymbidium hybridizing, but he learned very rapidly.

Believe it or not, I was a shy person. Ernest pushed me into doing the plant forum at the Orchid Society of Southern California. He used to say, 'Now, Frank, I want you to speak about the plants tonight'. He would designate the side of the table that I would be speaking from and before the meeting, I would have all of the names of the plants down and during the meeting in the hallway, I would research Sanders' List of Orchid Hybrids to find out the parents and would write them down. When I finally did speak about the plants I would have to hold up in front of everyone, at least I seemed knowledgeable, although I was simply parroting the parents. When you do that long enough, you begin to gain confidence. It was great training.

Ernest and I are very different in our outlooks. I have always had what I call a "twinkle" in my eye and looked at things a little lightheartedly and Ernest has always been much more reserved. So, it was a strange team that worked together but we worked as if the place was our own. Hours meant absolutely nothing.

A fond memory is being in on the making of Slc. Jewelbox, and Slc. Paprika and the Cymbidium hybrids bred out of Balkis 'Silver Orb,' Lillian Stewart, San Francisco, Edna Cobb. Another memory is the beginning of the popularity of miniature Cymbidiums. Ernest made two of the first of all the miniature hybrids that were introduced. Those were Cym. Bo-Peep and Flirtation. Stewart's were the first who began to make rather complete descriptions of the parents used and the hybrids that we hoped would come from them.

I remember Fred Stewart as almost the kindly grandfather of some of us younger people at Stewart's. I remember so very well going with him to the Santa Barbara Orchid range to help establish that up there. Mr. Stewart and I would stay up in Santa Barbara for three or four days and I would work on the first range of greenhouses, where we grew Cymbidiums. I recall, with a great deal of affection, the evenings that Mr. Stewart and I used to sit and he would tell me stories about his younger days in San Francisco and the sailing

*Orchids
Australia*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL

92 Pages Eye-catching Colour

SIX ISSUES PER YEAR

Subscription Rates

Sea Mail Aus. \$38.00 OR U.S. \$30.00
Air Mail Aus. \$55.00 OR U.S. \$45.00
Single Copy Air Mail U.S. \$10

Send Application to:
Orchids Australia,
P.O. Box 11, Highbury,
South Australia, 5089

 (Advise Card Name,
Number and Expiry Date) 

ships and the fact that he knew Jack London personally. Those were good times. I really enjoyed Fred Stewart, he was like a second father.

Ernest and I used to go up on top of the greenhouses to shade them. It was my job to carry the five gallon container of hot "quick lime." It was his job to spray the greenhouses. This was before there were any catwalks on the greenhouses at all and if you have ever been up on top of a greenhouse that only has a 2" x 6" ridgewalk, it's quite an act of balancing. I've always liked to kid Ernie about the reason that he wore a necktie. One day when Ernest was turning around he lost his balance. You can imagine Ernest Hetherington on top of a greenhouse going over backwards with his arms flailing wildly in the air. I reached out and I grabbed him by his necktie and I swear to this day that's the reason he wears a necktie.

Because of Ernest's insistence that there be no smoking on the job, I took up smoking a pipe. Every time I would see Ernest coming, I would puff madly on this pipe and so would Jim Carberry. Ernest never really got after us for smoking although the rule was "No Smoking." I got ill from smoking, and finally went to Ernest and I said this is ridiculous, you're not going to stop some of the Mexican help from smoking behind your back and taking time out to do it. Why don't you make the rule that smoking is permitted on some jobs but not on others. So he did. He corrected that possible error in judgment as he began his first management job and considered the entire scope.

Let's get off the Stewart's phase and go on to the time I left Stewart's which I believe was in the early 1960's. I saw an opportunity to go into business for myself by purchasing the collection of Albert Stephenson, of Carlsbad, California. I entered into that particular agreement and left the Stewart company. I purchased the property next door to Mr. Stephenson, and entered into an arrangement that no knowledgeable businessman in his right mind would ever consider. I was obviously not experienced in business. The agreements that Mr. Stephenson made weighed in his favor so much that he was amazing that we made it. But, the Stewart experience had taught me to work many, many hours. My wife, Madge, and I worked round the clock. As a matter of fact, I was so involved in orchids that I finally wound up as the president of three orchid societies the same year, traveling some eighty to one hundred miles to be involved. They were The Cymbidium Society of America, The Palomar Orchid Society, and The Orchid Grower's Association of San Diego County.

(Concluded in next issue)

(Continued from back cover)

Gratiot to make *P. Monique*; Reve Rose by *P. Minon* to make *P. Marmouset*; and Reve Rose by *stuartiana*, a species, to make *P. schilleriana-stuartiana*. In the years 1946 through 1960 there were *P. Labelle*, and *Gloriana*, a hybrid of pink glory. Hybrids registered in the decade of the 60's used *P. Goleta* to make *P. Bride's Blush*; *P. Ramona* to make *P. Mary Moser*; *P. September Morn* to make *P. Blush of Spring*; and *Zada* to make *P. Pink Bounty*. They tell the story of the use of this species in creating pink hybrids.

It is necessary to leave the primary hybrids of *P. schilleriana* and *P. sanderiana* to focus on pinks of the modern generation, which are now truly superb and rival the finest whites in many hybrids. This is especially true in the pink tetraploids. It was not until the introduction of *P. Doris* in 1945 and the subsequent use of these white tetraploids, plus the creation of other white tetraploids, that modern *Phalaenopsis* reached the truly outstanding quality we now know and take so casually for granted.

In these short notes *P. schilleriana* from Luzon and *P. sanderiana* from southern Mindanao, both of the Philippines, have been described as starting points in pink breeding.

List of Illustrations

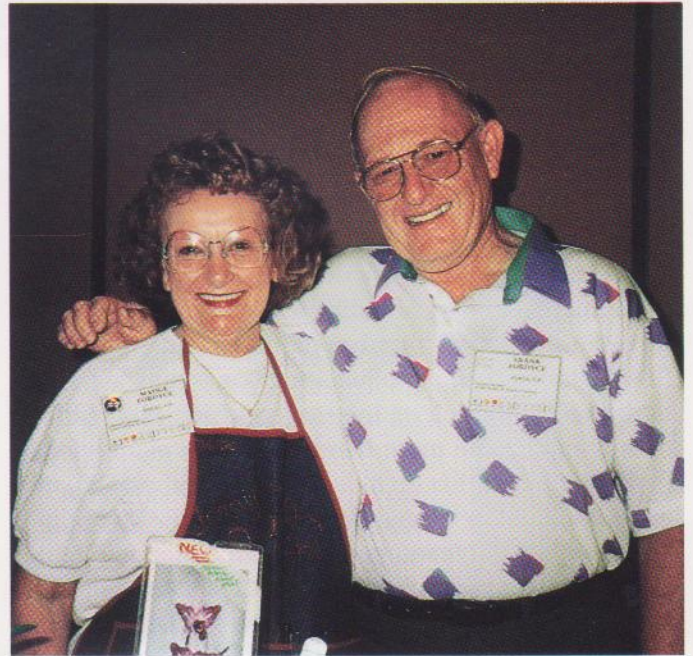
Ratliffe Orchids display	100	(color)
Sun Moon Orchids display	100	(color)
<i>Paphiopedilum emerald</i> 'Glory von Monster'	100	(color)
<i>Cattleya virtue</i> 'Milber'	100	(color)
Cattleyas in the Eric Young Foundation display	102	(color)
<i>Cymbidium pontac</i> 'Garey' AM/RHS	102	(color)
Display staged by Zuma Canyon Orchids	102	(color)
<i>Catasetum</i> var. <i>aurea</i>	103	(color)
<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i> (foliosa)	103	(color)
<i>Paphiopedilum Saint Quen</i> 'Saint Clement'	103	(color)
Trees covered with <i>Oncidium</i> s in bloom	103	(color)
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> —Taiwan Sugar Company	106	(color)
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrids in years of introduction	106	(color)
Display by Exotic Plant Company	106	(color)
<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildiana</i> 'Mont Millais' FCC/RHS	106	(color)
Slc. Jewel Box 'Sheherazade'	106	(color)
White <i>Phalaenopsis</i> —Taiwan Sugar Company	106	(color)
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Eric Young 'Trinity' 4N & Eric Young 'Jersey'	107	(color)
A display of <i>Lycaste</i> photos	107	(color)
Shah Alam display—Orchid Society of Malaysia	107	(color)
<i>Miltoniopsis</i> (<i>Miltonia</i>)—City of Glasgow	107	(color)
Pot plant <i>Cymbidium</i> —Japan	107	(color)
<i>Cymbidium lowianum</i> var. <i>concolor</i> FCC/RHS	107	(color)
<i>Odontoglossum</i> Ayres 'Jersey'	107	(color)
<i>Anglocaste</i> <i>Olympus</i>	107	(color)
Sir Trevor Lawrence	108	(B&W)
Professor Reichenbach	108	(B&W)
Orchid display—Gardeners' Chronicle, 1885	109	(B&W)
<i>Psychopsis sanderiae</i> (Rolfe) Lueckel & Braem	117	(color)
<i>Psychopsis versteegianum</i> (Pulle, Lueckel & Braem)	117	(color)
Habitat of <i>Paphiopedilum wilhelminiae</i>	120	(color)
<i>Paphiopedilum wilhelminiae</i>	121	(color)
<i>Galeandra batemanii</i> 'Stones River' HCC/AOS	124	(color)
<i>G. devoniana</i> —Missouri Botanical Garden	124	(color)
<i>G. stangeana</i> 'Sorpresa' CHM/AOS	124	(color)
<i>G. stangeana</i> 'Tower Grove' CHM/AOS	124	(color)
The Apartment Tree	131	(color)
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Group	138-9	(color)
Frank Fordyce	141	(color)
<i>Phal. schilleriana</i>	144	(color)

Profile

Frank Fordyce

(Continued from p. 143 of July-Aug.-Sept. issue of *Orchid Digest*)

From Stephenson I had purchased a superb cattleya collection with a few cymbidiums and phalaenopsis. We began to develop that nursery which eventually amounted to some 20,000 square feet. I refinanced out from under Mr. Stephenson, found a buyer for his property, leased the estate, the home and office from this new buyer and began our own hybridizing. In the early 1960's I was approached by Maurice Lecoufle of Vacherot and Lecoufle of France to be their sales representative in California. After some consideration I decided to do so and sometime later they told me by letter that they were progressing with a means of reproduction of orchids called meristem tissue propagation. This was new, of course, to the orchid industry, having been developed by a research scientist in France and put to commercial use by the firm of Vacherot and Lecoufle. (Morel published his revolutionary paper in *The American Orchid Society*



Madge and Frank Fordyce tending their display at an Orchid show.



Sic. Madge Fordyce
'Red Orb'

Bulletin in 1960.) Maurice Lecoufle said that they were not ready to release plants to the public yet but that they were in flask.

As I reviewed the varieties of orchids that were to be introduced, I said to him that these were not things that would sell in America. They were basically cymbidiums of older vintage such as Pauwelsii, 'Compte de Hemptine' FCC/RHS, Babylon 'Castle Hill' FCC/RHS and others of like nature. In my experience these were fine breeding plants, but Americans had already passed these by the use of Balkis 'Silver Orb' in hybrids. Maurice asked if I could gather a group of plants. I was fortunate enough to have many of the clones myself. I asked my close friend, E. W. "Doc" Miller to help me gather together some of the finest cymbidiums. We did that and presented 110 superior clones to the Lecoufle firm for reproduction by meristem tissue culture. We also submitted 14 plants of the cattleya alliance for meristem reproduction. Among those were such well-known names as Sc. Doris 'Pamela' AM/AOS, *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Sheherazade' AM/AOS, *Slc.* Falcon 'Westonbirt' FCC/AOS and RHS, *Slc.* Paprika 'Tahiti,' and *Blc.* Fortune 'Legacy' AM/AOS. The first introduction of meristems to my knowledge on the West Coast was made at the 5th World Orchid Conference by our firm, Frank Fordyce Orchids of Carlsbad, California, in 1966. We then began to tell growers throughout the West they could send their own specific clones to France for multiplication by meristem process. These would go under a code letter or number and be returned some one year later in flask in the quantities that they wished to receive. As I recall, the charge for this was \$1.25 and \$1.00 per meristem plant returned in bottle. At our small nursery in Carlsbad, California, we received thousands of bottles from the Lecoufle Company of France and planted them into flats, transferred to pots and began to sell those we had sent for meristem in the cymbidium alliance. They became the first meristems in the U.S. to be utilized for cut flower purposes and were the backbone of the entire cut flower industry in cymbidiums for a number of years.

I had two very close and dear friends at the Fire Mountain, Carlsbad, California, Nursery. They were E. W. Miller and Dr. Walter Johnston. These two men had retired from their business pursuits and actually grew their plants as a hobby at our nursery. Both had greenhouses there. They potted as many orchids for me, personally, as they did for themselves. We had a great deal of fun at the nursery because we began to develop a retail relationship with orchid growers in

Southern California. We established an amphitheatre, in the Hawaiian style, which would seat approximately 100 people. We had Hawaiian grass structures and bamboo structures. We planted bamboo, plumeria, and macadamia nut trees. We had bus loads of orchid people from orchid societies visit the nursery during the summertime. We established such orchid centered games as Back Bulb Bingo, Guess How Many Pieces of Bark It Takes To Plant This Orchid Plant and Win, Orchid identification games, and various treasure hunt games that would get our customers into the greenhouse looking for little keystone stars I would place on plants throughout the greenhouse. If they found those, they would automatically win the plant. It was our way of getting the people to come, spend a day with us, have fun surrounded by orchids and hopefully purchase a good portion of those orchids as they went home. It is a philosophy I embrace, today. I sincerely believe the orchid hobby should be pleasurable to those who follow it and that people active in orchid circles are as important as the orchids themselves. We maintained that nursery for approximately 7½ years.

As the Rod Mclellan Company reorganized, Rod Mclellan, himself, came to visit me and asked that I join his team. This was rather amusing to me because we were just beginning to make a good profit. However, our hours were absolutely horrendous and we, my wife and I, weren't spending any time with family. So, Doc Miller made a suggestion after I mentioned to him that Mclellans were interested and I had more or less laughed at the suggestion. He gave me a good piece of advise I will always remember. "Frank, why don't you ask them to pay your way to San Francisco. Then you can sit with them, listen to what their offer is, listen to what their futures are going to hopefully be. Then, if you like what you hear, you can join them. If you don't you've had a nice one-day vacation and you also know what your competition is going to be doing."

That sounded like a lot of sense. Rod Mclellan was a man before his time in orchids. He was a businessman, and he put business practices to work in the orchid industry. He was an innovator of merchandising, especially. I asked that they come down and speak to my wife, Madge. Together we decided that this might not be a bad venture, especially when Mr. Mclellan offered to give me stock in the company if I would come with him. We moved to San Mateo, California and worked in south San Francisco and Watsonville, first as manager of the orchid

department and then later as the sales manager of that department. Rod Mclellan was the first who wanted to bring orchid plants to the general public, not only to the hobbyist, but to the general public. To do this, he felt the price of orchids must be reduced so that they would be appealing at the super market level.

When hobbyists came in to the regular orchid company at that time, they were taken through every one of the greenhouses. The cost of that individual treatment was far in excess of the sale. The company controlled sales areas where everything was priced in bloom. This met with some hobbyist resistance, but was actually the first company to stock an orchid sales house in quantity and maintain it 365 days a year. To serve the general public adequately and give them an opportunity to speak personally with growers, I established the now well-known clinics at the Mclellan Company. These clinics were for the general public. We had a clinic at 10:30 on Saturday morning, 2:00 on Saturday and 1:00 on Sunday. We would seat anywhere from 100 to 250 people at a free lecture and question session. I would address the group in an area that was nicely decorated with foliage and orchid plants. I would use ordinary terminology that the public could understand about the orchids they had

purchased and give them at least 1/2 hour to ask me questions. We would direct those questions back to the general audience so they learned from the answers. It became a well-established service function of that company.

Hybridizing has always been my pleasure and challenge. It was at the Rod Mclellan Company that I began to do more and to train younger people in hybridizing to fit the specific needs of that company. Early training at Stewart's served very well. Before I went with Mclellan's, at Frank Fordyce Orchids we developed the crosses, *Slc. Madge Fordyce*, *Slc. Sue Fordyce*, *Slc. Ember Glow*, *Potinara Mellow Madge*, *Slc. Pixie Pearls*, *Slc. Fire Wagon*, *Slc. Solar Fire*, *Lc. Imperial Torch*, *Slc. Bauble* (which is an *Slc. Falcon 'Westonbirt'* hybrid).

When I joined the Rod Mclellan Company, Bob Jones, president at that time, asked me if I would like to bring some of my hybrids along with me. Naturally, I was delighted. I made a list of what eventually became a large truckload of hybrids and seedlings and suggested them to him. They were entered into the breeding program. While at Mclellan's I was privileged to work with a man by the name of John Germanske, who was an old-timer and had been in phalaenopsis

**JOIN OUR BUNCH . . .
THE MERICLONE OF THE MONTH BUNCH!**

A tremendous opportunity to add the world's finest, proven, award quality Cymbidiums to your collection . . . at the price of seedlings!
Start now to build your collection into one of recognized top award quality.

Reproduction of an early Frank Fordyce advertisement in which some of the first mericlones were offered.

HERE IS HOW OUR "MERICLONE OF THE MONTH BUNCH" WORKS

Select from 3 plans

BUNCH NO. 1.

Select any Cymbidium Mericlones from our offering #14. We will bill you each month as plants are shipped. You are under no obligation to continue purchasing for any specific length of time or any amount of plants. Terms are net, invoice value.

BUNCH NO. 2.

Enroll for six consecutive months. Send us a list of 6 Cymbidium Mericlones chosen from offering #14. We will ship one each month until a total of six have been sent. We will bill you each month as plants are shipped. With your sixth plant we will include one additional Mericlone FREE. Simply indicate which one you wish to receive.

BUNCH NO. 3.

Enroll for twelve consecutive months. Send us a list of twelve Cymbidium Mericlones chosen from our offering #14. We will ship one each month until a total of twelve has been sent. We will bill you each month as plants are shipped. With your twelfth plant we will include *three* additional mericlones FREE. Simply indicate which ones you wish to receive.

If you wish to receive the entire package as listed in Bunch #2 or Bunch #3 at one time, we will be happy to comply. You will be billed for the entire group at time of shipment. All plants will be shipped in plastic pots via best carrier for your area. Transportation charges billed within carton.

SEND NOW FOR OUR NEW LIST OF 43 CYMBIDIUM MERICLONES . . . LARGEST SELECTION . . . LARGEST PLANTS . . . MOST REALISTIC PRICES . . .



'Great Day In The Morning'

Frank Fordyce Orchids

Phone 714-757-1800 2500 Fire Mt. Dr., Carlsbad, Calif. 92008 Calif. residents add 4% tax.

to bring miniatures to the attention of orchid people. It looks like we have done that successfully. We are fortunate to have many of the red *Sic.* hybrids in the compact growing sizes of 10 to 12 inches with a wide variety of other true miniatures having leaf lengths of approximately six to eight inches overall.

We are a small company and intend to remain small. I have been with two of the largest companies in the industry. I have enjoyed both, but there are also management headaches that go with the large company. Ours is an industry, basically, operated by family owned and operated back yard hobby-commercial growers. The larger growers such as Stewarts, Jones and Scully, and Mclellan's have the unique business problem of competing with others in the industry that really do not have to show a profit because their income is either from retirement or from other business pursuits.

As I progress and age, I am of the conviction that I am going to enjoy myself in hybridizing, and eventual merioning of cattleya alliance hybrids. At the present time I am associated with a neighborhood called Orchids Orinda, which is owned by two families, Dr. Maynard and Helen Michael, and their partners, Kay and Harriette Cochran. They have been a great deal of help to Madge and me as we establish our new company. We have a fine working arrangement with them. They are primarily hybridizers of phalaenopsis and paphiopedilum. We complement each other in our orchid endeavors. As we re-established Fordyce Orchids, I entered into a breeding program utilizing Lc. Colorama 'The Clown' and began to work in the tri-colored, splash petaled types. We have been using Colorama as a parent and also *Cattleya intermedia aquinii* 'Sao Paulo' as main parents. We are also utilizing *Sophrontitis cernua* which gives so little seed. We have been successful in getting some good pods and look forward to what I would refer to as "window sill cattleyas."

EPILOGUE

The accounting of the introduction of tissue cultured plants to America and of the pioneering work done by Vaucherot and Lecoufle in France is of great historical significance in the orchid world. Frank was a pioneer in one of the two most important technological events in Orchid history: asymptotic seed culture by Knudsen in 1922 and tissue culture by George Morel in 1960. Frank's recounting of the making of several famous hybrids such as *Sic.* Madge Fordyce, *Sic.* Hazel Boyd and *Sic.* Dixie Jewels is an especially valuable insight.

Frank, his wife, Madge, and their son Steve and daughter Susan run a successful Orchid nursery in Livermore, California.

and cattleya hybridizing before he joined that company. When I met John, he was the cymbidium grower at Mclellan's. I asked him, "Why are you in cymbidiums? You belong in cattleyas and phalaenopsis." He said that this was the only job open. So I moved him into cattleyas and phalaenopsis and enjoyed his rapport and suggestions. One day he came to me and said that Rudy Rabst, of the famous Rabst Blue Ribbon Beer Company, had given to him *Sic.* Jewel Box 'Beverly' AM/AOS, a superior clone of that fine red hybrid, and he had given the plant to the Rod Mclellan Company. He said that it was in bloom and why didn't we hybridize with it? So he and I walked through the greenhouse, looking for something to hybridize. I noticed *Sic.* California Apricot 'Orange Circle' HCC/AOS. I suggested that this was the finest of that particular hybrid that I had seen.

He agreed and we made the hybrid that eventually turned out to be *Sic.* Hazel Boyd. At a much later time he came to me when it had first bloomed and said, "Would you mind if we name it after Hazel Boyd, a close friend of mine?" who I did also know personally. I agreed and that is how *Sic.* Hazel Boyd was named. The cross, #9022, it was entered into the catalog. The cross right directly under it was #9023, which was an attempt on my part to get seed from *Sic.* Madge Fordyce. To that date it had not yet given seed, so I thought I would put it with the cattleya species *C. aclandiae*. I thought if I put a species with Madge Fordyce, very possibly I would get seed. I did so, thinking if nothing else I would get red-headed, freckled-faced kids. Much to my surprise, years later, when it began to bloom, there were no spots on the flowers like I thought came from *aclandiae*, but indeed, they were brilliant red and shades of red with a few flowers having some *aclandiae* spotting. This was named *Sic.* Dixie Jewels. I can't remember, for the life of me, why I chose that name! The cross has been questioned by many people as to its authenticity, but I can assure you I remember that cross very well.

When one is in management of a large orchid firm it is run like a large business, with all the pressures that go with it and not always do you agree with the top management's line of thinking. That is part of business life.

After years with Rod Mclellan Company I chose to re-establish the Fordyce Orchid Company. My philosophy, as we established this new/old company of Fordyce Orchids in Livermore, California, was to remain basically exclusive cattleya hybridizers. We have done much hybridizing in the miniature cattleya alliance. By alliance, I am working on sophrontitis, brassocattleyas, laelias, broughtonias and other miniature cattleya types. We tried at world conferences