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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Azalea Deduction

HARRY WILLIAM DENGLER
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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF MARYLAND

October 3, 1957

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING

EXTENSION SERVICE
COLLEGE PARK, MD.

Mr. B. Y. Morrison
Pass Christian
Mississippi

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Now that the Handbook of Hollies is out of the way, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for several things: First, for giving us the opportunity of working on the Handbook; secondly, for your patience, under what must have been exasperating circumstances; and lastly, for the tremendous amount of work you did in editing various papers. Unfortunately, all of these things do not show up to the membership of both the American Horticultural Society and the Holly Society of America.

I do hope that I will sometime be in a position to indicate the great help that you and Miss Blaine were to us, for surely it would have been impossible, or at the most extremely difficult for us to have ever finished the job.

I hope that when you come North again, it may be my pleasure once again to meet you and to express to you my deep appreciation in a manner more appropriate than I have done in this letter.

With all good wishes to you, I am --

Very gratefully yours,

Harry Wm. Dengler
Harry Wm. Dengler
Extension Forester

HWD:jls

*B. Y. M.
This is woefully inadequate
but I am "all writ out."*

96.21.22.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF MARYLAND

10/4/37

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING

EXTENSION SERVICE
COLLEGE PARK, MD.

B. Y. M. -

This is a very small world so I thought that you might like to have the enclosures in front of you ever plan to write your memoirs. Or, send them to Skinner for the Arboretum files - if you have now use for them.

It might interest you to know that this required me to take two days off from work plus several nights of writing. How

some stupid, inexplicable reason the
U.S.O.A. photographer would not give
me pictures until about two weeks
after the event. By then, the story
was no longer newsworthy to the
American Nursewoman Magazine and
they used only one picture for which
I was paid \$10.00 for all my work.

So, now - we are some what-

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I hope to have the pleasure
of meeting you again.

With kind regards!

Harry W. Seyler

1,3,12

Azalea Gardens Dedicated
At National Arboretum

Harry William Dengler

Double ceremonies, impressively dignified by their simplicity, marked important milestones in the 27-year-old history of the United States National Arboretum at Washington, D. C. Here, on May 3, in a setting of unparalleled loveliness, Mr. J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the people of the United States, dedicated the B. Y. Morrison Azalea Garden. And, on the following day, His Excellency, Dr. J. H. van Roijen, the Netherlands Ambassador, formally presented the Dutch Azalea Collection to the people of America, an event previously planned by Mr. Morrison, first director of the Arboretum, at such time as the plants would have reached flowerly stage. With a most gracious response, the collection was accepted by the honorable Ezra T. Benson, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The events marked, too, pleasurable feelings of justifiable pride and achievement in the minds of Frederick P. Lee, chairman, U. S. National Arboretum advisory council and his twelve other committee members. Established by an Act of Congress on March 4, 1927, the National Arboretum occupies an area of about 410 acres located in the northeastern section of the District of Columbia. This congressional act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and maintain a National Arboretum for purposes of

research and education with respect to trees and shrubs susceptible to cultivation in the climate prevailing in the Washington, D. C., area. The soils here are typical of this section, but, because of the diversified nature of the terrain, the land offers a great variety of sites and exposures for specific plant requirements.

The Arboretum includes historic Mount Hamilton along its western border. Its eastern portion overlooks the broad expanses of the Anacostia parkway. The Arboretum, which is still in its early stages of development, is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Agricultural Research Administration and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. The Secretary is assisted by an advisory committee of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations in developing the Arboretum and its program.

The strategic location of the Arboretum enables it to serve as a national institution in a very real sense. It is in an intermediate climatic zone enabling the cultivation of plants from a wide range of habitats. While many of the conifers do not thoroughly enjoy the District of Columbia climate, a creditable collection has been started. Major emphasis has been placed upon junipers, true cedars, pines, hemlocks, yews, and their close relatives. Groves of white pines, hemlocks and spruces, and individual specimens of lacebark pines, Himalaya pines and other conifers are beginning to show their true characteristics and the promise of mature beauty. Present plantings of magnolias, crab apples, and holly are now giving suggestions of what the effect will be in years to come.

A loop roadway follows the general outline of the property. A small section is devoted to greenhouses, nurseries, and the service area. The work of the staff of the Arboretum is temporarily carried out in a recently completed stone gate-house. An administration building with an auditorium to accommodate 200 persons is planned for the future. For technical reference purposes, the Arboretum is custodian of a herbarium of some 470,000 dried plant specimens, gathered from all over the world.

The plantings at the Arboretum are arranged in varied patterns. At one entrance is a 30-acre "synoptic" garden, which is an assembly of representatives of all the plantings within the Arboretum.

There are single-genus plantings of hollies, crabapples, and azaleas.

There are simple and mixed plantings grouped for landscape effect. Other plantings have been grouped for use as ground covers and bank covers. The azalea clonal garden is a formal arrangement.

Plant groups of unusual interest include the azalæ^{ea} plantings, which are among the most extensive in the world, the collection of Oriental plantings in the Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America, and the dogwood planting of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

On the afternoon of May 3, Mr. Frederick P. Lee, Washington, D. C., chairman of the Arboretum's advisory council, welcomed the many friends of Ben Y. Morrison who had gathered there that day on the occasion of christening the Morrison Azalea Garden in which are growing the best varieties of azaleas which were the results of twenty-five years of careful breeding and selection under Mr. Morrison's supervision. He remarked that it always

seemed quite odd to him that while Mr. Morrison is a bachelor yet he designated most of his azalea selection with feminine names. Mr. Lee then introduced the new director of the Arboretum, Dr. Henry T. Skinner, whom, he charged, is now the custodian of this beautiful harem of azaleas.

Dr. Skinner recognized with pleasure the presence of representatives of the many groups and organizations which have extended their encouragement and generous assistance towards the building of this institution. On behalf of the National Arboretum he welcomed all to this very pleasant occasion.

Just four years ago, he recalled, he was a guest here at a rather similar event--the dedication of Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America, and, was among those welcomed by Mr. Morrison. Little did I dream, he remarked, that the tables would thus be turned and so quickly.

This earlier occasion was my first view of Mr. Morrison's azaleas

in full flower on this hillside. I shall never cease to marvel at them and can only hope that, with other plants and in other lines of plant research, this National Arboretum will remain ever mindful of the standards set by its first Director.

This clonal azalea garden is already unique, Dr. Skinner continued. Perhaps never before have the authentic products of a single breeder's skill been assembled as a permanently maintained master set for future observation and comparison. It will be of immeasurable value for continuous reference for azalea growers the world over.

Planned at this arboretum are a series of gardens to ultimately contain all the named azaleas susceptible of cultivation in this climate, to be used to determine correctness of name, cultural desirabilities, and their peculiarities

on a testing basis. It is eminently fitting that the first unit of such a project should be the Glenn Dale hybrids, and equally fitting that the garden should be named for the originator of the finest race of azaleas we have yet seen-- in Mr. Morrison's presence and while he is at the start of his career in producing azaleas, concluded Dr. Skinner.

After an introduction by Mr. Lee, Mr. J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, stated that it is always a pleasure to attend a meeting of this kind to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of one of our former workers in the Department. This pleasure is multiplied today, because the achievement we are honoring represents a work of art as well as a scientific accomplishment.

In these days of national and international tension, it is a rare privilege to gather in a spot where there is so much natural beauty. As we look around us, we cannot restrain a certain amount of envy for those who have the privilege of working here every day. I have that feeling every time I visit the Arboretum, Mr. Coke remarked.

Many people seem to feel that the best thing about a job with the Government is the security it affords. You sometimes hear people say that a career in the Government does not offer enough opportunity for really creative accomplishment. Those people would change their minds, he ventured, if they could have witnessed the transformation of this piece of property from a very ordinary hillside into one of the most beautiful spots in America. It is entirely fitting, therefore, that we should be here today to recognize the work of Ben Morrison, and to dedicate to him the azalea clonal garden that will serve as a

living tribute to the work of this man. The naming of this garden for Mr. Morrison was suggested by the National Arboretum Advisory Council, and has met with unanimous approval in the Department, the Assistant Secretary continued.

I am sure that most of you know Ben Morrison much better than I do. You know that he was in charge of the Plant Exploration and Introduction work in the old Bureau of Plant Industry for many years. The primary responsibility of this group is to introduce promising plants from all parts of the world and make them available to plant scientists in this country. That was quite a sizeable job, and would have been enough to use up the energies of most men. But, as you all know, Ben Morrison is not an ordinary man.

A secondary responsibility of his group was to carry on limited breeding investigations in fields where there was no active interest elsewhere in the Department or at the State experiment stations. I should add that this secondary responsibility had to be carried out on a very small budget, so it was necessarily a small sideline activity.

I suppose the starting point of our story, Mr. Coke recalled, goes back to a trip to the Orient made by Mr. Morrison on a Sheldon fellowship awarded by Harvard in 1916. There he saw what had been done with azaleas^x and visualized possibilities of what might be done in this country.

In carrying on the work of plant introduction, ornamentals were included along with our food and fiber crops. Some of the introduced azaleas appeared to have many desirable qualities, but most of them did not have the hardiness needed in the Washington area, or the flower size of the Indian

azaleas in our southern gardens. At that time, which incidentally was in the late 20's, there was very little interest in azalea breeding in this country, so Mr. Morrison decided to begin a breeding program to develop new varieties with large flowers and sufficient hardiness to be adapted for general Eastern planting. He also wished to extend the flowering season, and to fill in some of the gaps.

As with most plant breeding work, Mr. Coke reminded the audience, this job required many years. Those who knew Mr. Morrison during this time tell me that he went about the new task with great thoroughness. He had to become familiar with every known species of azalea throughout the world and arrange for introduction of those which had qualities that he needed in his breeding work. In those days, Department people worked 5 1/2 days a week, but Morrison went on a 7-day week. The first fruits of his work were distributed in 1939 and 1940. Something like 50 new varieties were released at that time under the name of Glenn Dale Hybrids. Some of these new forms were distinct improvements over the older varieties adapted in this area, but, they were only a hint of what was to come later.

During the war, all of the greenhouse facilities and manpower at Glenn Dale were turned over completely to special war-time jobs, and the new azaleas had to wait, recalled the Assistant Secretary. After the war, Mr. Morrison returned to his breeding work. Most of the crosses had already been made, and the big job at this time was to make selections. We can realize what a big job this was by recalling that he grew 300,000 seedlings.

After years of propagation and distribution to nurseries, the 20-year

program yielded some 450 varieties. These are now represented in the vast planting here at the Arboretum. I understand that this is one of the largest azalea plantings anywhere in the world.

The creation of beauty for its own sake is a significant achievement. But a horticulturist such as Mr. Morrison would not be satisfied to stop at that point. One of his earliest plans for the Arboretum called for a clonal garden in which one or more examples of each variety of azaleas would be included. As it now stands, the garden represents primarily the Glenn Dale azaleas, but future plans call for adding individual plants from all available species and varieties that will grow in this area. Here, then, will be a place where students, plant breeders, and plain ordinary folk can come to study azaleas. This garden will serve as a "card catalog" to one of the most notable collections of azaleas to be found anywhere. It is a privilege for me to meet here today with the National Arboretum Advisory Council and friends of the Arboretum to pay tribute to the man whose vision and untiring efforts have created this dazzling display of beauty in the Nation's Capital. I know that all true lovers of ornamentals throughout the country join us in honoring Ben Morrison by naming this the Morrison Azalea Garden, Assistant Secretary Coke concluded.

With his usual characteristic modesty, respected by all who know him, Mr. B. Y. Morrison responded to Assistant Secretary Coke's address by saying that at this moment the one item which seems most important to ^{him} me is to assure you that I do not feel distinguished; that I do not feel important; that I feel extraordinarily humble.

I would like to say that it has been a privilege to work for the Government. I still well remember the day, a good many years ago, when I signed my name to a sheet of paper as a newly appointed Government employee. I signed that very seriously and very ceremoniously, he remembered, and I promised to give loyal and faithful service to my country as I began my Government service. And, I can assure that there were times when some of my colleagues thought that perhaps I had brought forth too much and too fast. If I have brought too much, then I can say it has been a great privilege to work where I did see a great variety of plants, and also to see them in the hands of great colleagues and to work with persons who were willing to give me their faith and trust in my accomplishment in the developing of the things that you see about us and that you see and enjoy them today--and you will likewise be able to appreciate and enjoy them later on.

The thought that comes to me that is most important, Mr. Morrison recalled, is that there was the proper timing in the breeding program in the stepping up of time and place. This came about through your hands, and please note that I say "through your hands". All we did was to hasten matters and the only other things that comes out of it all is the credit and trust for me in that no one individual stands alone. These same things would have been accomplished at some other time by someone else anyhow.

I am honored and greatly touched by the honor and extent of your garden dedication, and that I happen to be here as dozens of people with me who knew what I was doing. I owe a great debt to a great number of persons, some of whom I know and some of whom I shall never know, for I have never been able to find who they were. For instance, he regretfully said, I have no way

of knowing the names of the Japanese gardeners who were so kind and helpful in passing the azaleas through our hands. I owe a debt to those unknown persons and a debt to the persons who lived years ago in England, China, Belgium, France, and to many others in this country, and an enormous debt to my colleagues at the Station and at Glenn Dale where they were grown, where they grew them for me so that they lived and so that they were increased. I also owe still greater debt to all of those faithful employees who did the hard jobs; who cut down the trees, suffered with the poison ivy and the chiggers and various other inconveniences. I even owe a debt to those who built the old school along our boundary--for nearly all the brick from the school was used in the building of this garden. And, I owe still another debt to Sir Edward Luytens, an English architect after whose pattern for formal gardens in England, this garden was planned. So if there is any beauty in the brickwork of this particular garden I am happy to acknowledge it.

As I stand before you today, Mr. Morrison continued, I would like you to realize that I am honored, I am moved, and I am touched by what you are doing.

In my mind, I am here often, and even when I am not here I hope you may feel my presence in this garden. Eventually, I hope to be able to send you from my own new garden other azaleas which I do believe will grow and be hardy here.

I, too, believe in the values and beauty of human life, and as one enjoys it to the degree of his own person, but I myself like to think that I am only one link in the great chain in the Department of Agriculture. So, if I

could, as a conductor of a symphony orchestra does, I would ask you to stand and accept the blessings of his performance.

At the conclusion of Mr. Morrison's informal talk, Mr. Lee invited the audience to come up to meet Mr. Morrison and to inspect, what is now to be called, the Morrison Azalea Garden.

The Morrison Azalea Garden is a magnificently simple yet unobtrusively dignified garden setting on a hillside with graceful brick and gravel approaches. The garden is walled in old brick, is rectangular in outline with a raised pool in the center and contains 32 separate beds of permanently labeled azaleas. The beds are partially outlined in small box.

The approach to the garden itself is through a hexagonally-shaped terrace, walled with matching brick and skillfully landscaped with a variety of hollies, osmanthus, box, evergreens, laurel, azaleas, and rhododendrons.

In the immediate center of the terrace is a low, bricked enclosure in the center of which is a specimen pine surrounded with a ground cover of Confederate violets. The approach wall of this enclosure contains a bronze plaque bearing this inscription: "Morrison Azalea Garden. Assembled In This Garden Is A Permanent Collection Of The Glenn Dale Hybrid Azaleas As Originated, Selected And Named By B. Y. Morrison, First Director Of The U. S. National Arboretum. 1954."

The Garden contains 457 plants of Morrison's selections and is surrounded with 65,000 representative azaleas planted in drifts on the adjoining hillsides.

On the afternoon of May 4, Frederick P. Lee, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the U. S. National Arboretum, welcomed an audience of distinguished guests to the occasion of the presentation of a gift to the people of the United States from the people of the Netherlands in sincere appreciation for American assistance to the Dutch during World War II and subsequent years. The gift consisted of a collection of several thousand Mollis and Ghent hybrid azaleas, all originating in the Netherlands.

The beautiful setting of this notable event was beside an attractive brick and cement roadside overlook flanked with yews, Japanese holly, azaleas, and evergreens. Mass plantings of these Netherland azaleas are here assembled in a small, steeply-banked valley below. Paths crisscross the ravine and wind about under towering oaks and yellow poplars. Studded here and there are underplantings of mixed conifers, broadleaved evergreens and dogwoods to compliment and enhance the beauty of the azaleas.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Lee stated that if we here today were dedicating blossoms instead of plants, we would have absent our star performers. At five o'clock last evening we had a rainfall of two and one-half inches in three-quarters of an hour. During most of this period there were hail stones as large as the yolks of hens' eggs. What we have left now in the way of those beautiful blossoms, Mr. Lee regretfully said, is scattered far and wide. But what you will see when you come back next year will be the beauty the way we saw it yesterday before the storm—a gorgeous array of yellows, oranges, and rose-reds and all the pastel shades between, he promised.

Representing the culmination of the work of many men and the production

of our good friends from Holland, we owe much of the early spring beauty in our country to the bulbs, the daffodils, the snow drops, and we owe much, too, to the spring beauty of these azaleas. But perhaps we owe more, and should realize we owe more, to the fact that we have a staunch ally in these troublesome times; a people of courage who not only will battle to preserve their lands and to reclaim it from the waters, as we have been told since children, but who are willing to battle along side with us to preserve the rights of the free peoples of the world. It was with these thoughts that Mr. Lee introduced His Excellency, Dr. J. H. van Roijen, Ambassador to the United States from the Netherlands.

Dr. van Roijen expressed his extreme pleasure at being present at what to him was a most delightful and eventful occasion. It hardly is the usual task of a diplomat to talk about flowers, the courtly doctor said. An ambassador usually has to deal with reports, with negotiations, with the signing of treaties and, too, has something to do in the way of intimate international relationships in general. However, an ambassador has also a more pleasant side to his duties and that is fostering, sponsoring, and promoting international good will and friendship. And, here, a foreign ambassador and a special representative of the Netherlands can talk about flowers because certainly there are no better interpreters of friendship and good will than flowers.

In my country, flowers have played an important part and they still play an important roll in the whole outlook on life of the Dutch people. For centuries, flowers have formed the pleasures and hopes of the people of the Netherlands. They have brought flowers, too, to give a beautiful and new

look to otherwise somewhat drab surroundings of industrial towns and cities, and where nature in itself did not provide flowers. They are turning more than ever to cultivated flowers where they can be brought in from other areas and which tend to give the pleasant and beautiful aspect to our country, Dr. van Roijen announced.

Our people have always attached great importance to the kinder aspect of life in their homes but they have been able also to combine idealism with realism and the hard earned acceptance of realization. I have often pointed out in this analysis that they are both idealists and realists. The well-known story of the little boy who put his fingers in the dike to hold back the water, which as you probably well know is a myth, expresses this realism. But, yet, we felt in Holland that that little boy represented something of the courage, resourcefulness, and industriousness of the Dutch people. And eventually in Holland, our people saw fit to build a statue to pay honor to that little boy and it is erected in the city of Aaltmar. A secondary reason for this was that, realistically speaking, that statue meant an increase in tourist trade. Now people are coming from far and wide to see this statue in the city of Aaltmar. But, ladies and gentlemen, as with flowers there is also a purely realistic side to it and that is business. We cultivate flowers for business, and a profitable business, and have been doing so for a good many years, for most do so for profit, the Ambassador acknowledged.

The azaleas you see here are part of a gift from the Netherlands people. This gift was decided on in the year 1945 shortly after the delivery of our country from the hands of the enemy; they were sent over here with bulbs,

daffodils, scilla, winter snow drops and various other plant material which was then planted in the Arlington Memorial Cemetery. And, the whole gift was offered in gratitude for what we had felt America had done for the Netherlands during the Second World War. Our gratitude was then, and is still, deep and our flowers here are a token of it.

In Holland we have climate and soils which help in the cultivation and growth of flowers, but at the same time it is also a question of effort. If it is true that genius is the product of patient effort, then the Dutch flower grower must be imbued with a small touch of genius for he is a most patient craftsman. The flowers of Holland are a product of this craftsmanship, Ambassador van Roijen stressed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, unfortunately these flowers are now what they should have been, or what they were even yesterday, as Mr. Lee has told you, but they will stand here and if all goes well, we expect that they will last at least the span of one human generation. They will bear witness to the gratitude by the people of the Netherlands across the seas. It is therefore a great privilege for me to present these azaleas to our American neighbors through the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Ezra Taft Benson.

I am truly happy Secretary Benson said, by way of introduction, to have a part in the dedication of the thousands of beautiful azaleas given to us so generously by the people of the Netherlands. It is a privilege for me, as Secretary of Agriculture, to accept these plantings in behalf of the people of the United States and their Government.

It is only a short step from the busy streets of Washington and the bustle of motor traffic to this vantage point--but what a transformation it is! It is an exhilarating scene, one that all privileged to view it will long remember. We feel the difference as we look about and the refreshing glories of Nature draw us closer together in a common bond.

I know that I speak for all Americans when I say we have a warm place in our hearts for the people of The Netherlands. Their gift is a symbol of the mutual trust and friendship that has grown between us over the years. In these days of national and international tension, we hope and pray that friendship will continue to thrive and to grow, blooming like these shrubs with a brilliance that all men will see, and remember.

At this point the Secretary broke away from speaking from his prepared notes and said, in words and inflections convincingly sincere, that here he wished to express his personal appreciation to the people from this lovely little country. I have lived in their homes, I have worked with their leaders, and I have a deep and sincere love for these very fine and loyal people."

The 400-odd acres that comprise the National Arboretum already have won a special place both in the scientific and the aesthetic worlds. The concept of this institution is one of great vision in plant science. It is as a "library of living plants", used by scholars and plant scientists from all parts of the world, that the National Arboretum will fulfill its most significant role in research and education. The fact that, at the same time, it is a place of infinite natural beauty adds greatly to its significance.

Below and to the right of us, visible from this overlook, are representative plantings of each of the 160 different varieties of Ghent and Mollis hybrid azaleas included in this gift collection. Three plants of each variety, named and labeled, provide ready reference for anyone desiring to learn more about them, Mr. Benson explained.

Beyond are additional plantings, not only of other varieties of azaleas, but also of various other species of woody plants within these grounds. They serve to demonstrate the value of these plants to the public and to assure their perpetuation.

The Arboretum is still in its early stages of development. Institutions of permanent value seldom mature quickly, and growth is rarely easy. Nor can Nature be hurried. Yet, the difference between what this area looked like 25 years ago when work first was begun, and its appearance now, shows what great progress actually has been made.

Signs of developmental work may still be observed today. They probably will be observable for many years to come. An institution built upon great ideas such as that of B. Y. Morrison, whose name is honored wherever azaleas grow, and the many others who have contributed to the development of this Arboretum, will continue to increase in stature. Already the scientific value of this institution is well established. Its reputation as a place of rare natural beauty is spreading far and wide, he mentioned.

I personally appreciate the valuable advice given by the Advisory Council of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations in developing the Arboretum and its program. Under the

chairmanship of Mr. Frederick P. Lee, this Council has been of great assistance in planning the work, and guiding it toward the purposes intended.

The thousands of azalea plants from the Netherlands are a permanent and valued part of this Arboretum. It is a privilege indeed to dedicate this most welcome gift to the perpetuation of the friendship across the seas that motivated the giving.

Thanks again to our good and true friends from The Netherlands. God bless them for their friendship and love of which this gift is a beautiful and fitting expression, the Secretary concluded.

At the conclusion of the Secretary's inspiring speech of acceptance, Mr. Lee called upon Tjapke and Erik Beukenkamp to present bouquets of Dutch azaleas to Madame van Roijen and Madame J. W. van Kretschmar, wives of the Netherlands Ambassador and the Agricultural Attache of the Netherlands. Young Jacky and Erik, children of the Agricultural Attache, Dr. R. L. Beukenkamp, in their colorful Dutch costumes, provided an attractive ending to what had been a delightful occasion.

In concluding the Dutch Azalea Dedication exercises Mr. Lee called upon Dr. Henry T. Skinner, director, U. S. National Arboretum, to read aloud the bronze memorial plaque embedded in the center of balustrade overlooking the Dutch azaleas. The words, as Dr. Skinner read them:

"The Noteworthy Collection of Deciduous Azaleas in the Valley Below is a Gift to our Nation from the Netherlands in Appreciation for Assistance During the Second World War. The Gift was Instituted by Popular Subscription of the Netherlands People in 1946. Planting Commenced Two Years Later. 1954."

Azalea Gardens Dedicated
at National Arboretum
Harry Wilhelm Dregler.

(1)

Double ceremonies, impressively dignified by their simplicity, marked important milestones in the 27 year old history of the United States National Arboretum at Washington, D. C. Were on May 3, in a setting of unparalleled loveliness, Mr. J. Earl Coke, assistant secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the people of the United States, dedicated the B. Y. Morrison Azalea Garden. And, on the following day, His Excellency, Dr. J. H. van Roijen, the Netherlands Ambassador, formally presented the Dutch Azalea Collection to the people of America, an event

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most gracious response the collection was accepted by the honorable Ezra T. Benson Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The events marked, too, pleasurable feelings of justifiable pride and achievement in the minds of Frederic P. Lee, Chairman, U. S. National Arboretum advisory council and his twelve other committee members. Established by an Act of Congress on March 4, 1927, the National Arboretum occupies an area of about 710 acres located in the northeastern section of the District of Columbia. This congressional act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture

to establish and maintain a National Arboretum for purposes of research and education with respect to trees and shrubs susceptible to cultivation in the climate prevailing in the Washington, D. C., area. The soils here are typical of this section, but, because of the diversified nature of the terrain, the land offers a great variety of sites and exposures for specific plant requirements.

The Arboretum includes historic Mount Hamilton along its western border. Its eastern portion overlooks the ~~eastern~~ ^{eastern} end of the Anacostia parkway. The Arboretum, which is still in its early stages of development, is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Agricultural Research Administration and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. The Secretary is assisted by an advisory committee of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations in developing the Arboretum and its program.

The strategic location of the Arboretum enables it to serve as a national institution in a very real sense. It is in an intermediate climatic zone enabling the cultivation of plants

from a wide range of habitats. While many of the conifers do not thoroughly enjoy the District of Columbia's climate, a creditable collection has been started. Major emphasis has been placed upon junipers, true cedars, pines, hemlocks, yews, and their close relatives. Groves of white pines, hemlocks and spruces, and individual specimens of lacebark pines, Himalaya pines and other conifers are beginning to show their true characteristics and the promise of mature beauty. Present plantings of magnolias, walrus apples, and holly are now giving suggestions of what the effect will be in years to come.

A loop roadway follows the general outline of the property. A small section is devoted to greenhouses, nurseries, and the service area. The work of the staff of the arboretum is temporarily carried out in a recently completed stone gate-house. An administration building with an auditorium to accommodate 200 persons is planned for the future. For technical reference purposes, the arboretum is custodian of a herbarium of some 470,000 dried plant specimens, gathered from all over the world. The plantings at the arboretum are arranged

in varied patterns. At one entrance is a 30-acre "synoptic" garden, which is an assembly of representatives of all the plantings within the Arboretum.

There are single-genus plantings of hollies, crabapples, and azaleas. There are simple and mixed plantings grouped for landscape effect. Other plantings have been grouped for use as ground covers and bank covers. The azalea clonal garden is a formal arrangement.

Plant groups of unusual interest include the azalea plantings, which are among the finest in the world, the collection of Oriental plantings in the Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America, and the Dogwood planting of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

On the afternoon of May 3, Mr. Frederic P. Lee, Washington, D.C., chairman of the Arboretum's advisory council, welcomed the many friends of Ben Y. Morrison who had gathered there that day on the occasion of christening the Morrison Azalea Garden in which are growing the best varieties of azaleas which were the results of twenty-five years of careful breeding and selection under Mr. Morrison's

supervision. He remarked that it always seemed quite odd to him that while Mr. Morrison is a bachelor yet he designated most of his azalea selections with feminine names. Mr. Lee then introduced the new director of the Arboretum, Dr. Henry T. Skinner, whom, he charged, is now the custodian of this beautiful haven of azaleas.

Dr. Skinner recognized with pleasure ^{the presence} of representatives of the many groups and organizations which have extended their encouragement and generous assistance towards the building of this institution. On behalf of the National Arboretum he welcomed all to this very pleasant occasion.

Just four years ago, he recalled, he was a guest here at a rather similar event - the dedication of Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America, and, was among those welcomed by Mr. Morrison. Little did I dream, he remarked, that the tables would thus be turned and so quickly.

This earlier occasion was my first view of Mr. Morrison's azaleas in full flower on this hillside. I shall never cease to marvel at them and can only hope that,

with other plants and in other lines of plant research, this National Arboretum will remain ever mindful of the standards set by its first Director.

This clonal azalea garden is already unique, Dr. Skinner continued. Perhaps never before have the authentic products of a single breeder's skill been assembled as a permanently maintained master set for future observation and comparison. It will be of immeasurable value for continuous reference for botanical growers the world over.

Planned at this arboretum are a series of gardens to ultimately contain all the named azaleas susceptible of cultivation in this climate, to be used to determine correctness of name, cultural desirabilities, and their peculiarities, on a testing basis. It is eminently fitting that the first unit of such a project should be the Glenn Dale hybrids, and equally fitting that the garden should be named for the originator of the first race of azaleas we have yet seen -- in Mr. Morrison's presence and while he is at the start of his career in

producing azaleas, concluded Dr. Skinner.

After an introduction by Mr. Lee, Mr. J. Carl
Coke, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, stated
that *it is always, etc. on page 8.*

For Mr. Coke
Dedication of Morrison
Azalea Garden
5/3/54

8

8 it is always a pleasure to attend a meeting of this kind to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of one of our former workers in the Department. This pleasure is multiplied today, because the achievement we are honoring represents a work of art as well as a scientific accomplishment.

In these days of national and international tension, it is a rare privilege to gather in a spot where there is so much natural beauty. As we look around us, we cannot restrain a certain amount of envy for those who have the privilege of working here every day. I have that feeling every time I visit the Arboretum, Mr. Coke remarked.

Many people seem to feel that the best thing about a job with the Government is the security it affords. You sometimes hear people say that a career in the Government does not offer enough opportunity for really creative accomplishment. Those people would change their minds, he ventured, if they could have witnessed the transformation of this piece of property from a very ordinary hillside into one of the most beautiful spots in America. It is entirely fitting, therefore, that we should be here today to recognize the work of Ben Morrison, and to dedicate to him the azalea clonal garden that will serve as a living tribute to the work of this man. The naming of this garden for Mr. Morrison was suggested by the National Arboretum Advisory Council, and has met with unanimous approval in the Department, the assistant secretary continued.

I am sure that most of you know Ben Morrison much better than I do. You know that he was in charge of the Plant Exploration and Introduction work in the old Bureau of Plant Industry for many years. The primary responsibility of this group is to introduce promising plants from all parts of the world and make them available to plant scientists in this country. That was quite a sizeable job, and would have been enough to use up the energies of most men. But as you all know, Ben Morrison is not an ordinary man.

A secondary responsibility of his group was to carry on limited breeding investigations in fields where there was no active interest elsewhere in the Department or at the State experiment stations. I should add that this secondary responsibility had to be carried out on a very small budget, so it was necessarily a small sideline activity.

I suppose the starting point of our story goes back to a trip to the Orient made by Mr. Morrison on a Sheldon fellowship awarded by Harvard in 1916. There he saw what had been done with azaleas, and visualized possibilities of what might be done in this country.

In carrying on the work of plant introduction, ornamentals were included along with our food and fiber crops. Some of the introduced azaleas appeared to have many desirable qualities, but most of them did not have the hardiness needed in the Washington area, or the flower size of the Indian azaleas in our southern gardens. At that time, which incidentally was in the late 20's, there was very little interest in azalea breeding in this country, so Mr. Morrison decided to begin a breeding program to develop new varieties with large flowers and

Mr. Coke recalled,

sufficient hardiness to be adapted for general Eastern planting. He also wished to extend the flowering season, and to fill in some of the gaps.

Mr. Coke reminded the audience,

As with most plant breeding work, this job required many years. Those who knew Mr. Morrison during this time tell me that he went about the new task with great thoroughness. He had to become familiar with every known species of azalea throughout the world and arrange for introduction of those which had qualities that he needed in his breeding work. In those days, Department people worked $5\frac{1}{2}$ days a week, but Morrison went on a 7-day week. The first fruits of his work were distributed in 1939 and 1940. Something like 50 new varieties were released at that time under the name of Glenn Dale Hybrids. Some of these new forms were distinct improvements over the older varieties adapted in this area, but they were only a hint of what was to come later.

During the war, all of the greenhouse facilities and manpower at Glenn Dale were turned over completely to special war-time jobs, and *recalled the assistant secretary.* the new azaleas had to wait. After the war, Mr. Morrison returned to his breeding work. Most of the crosses had already been made, and the big job at this time was to make selections. We can realize what a big job this was by recalling that he grew 300,000 seedlings.

After years of propagation and distribution to nurseries, the 20-year program yielded some 450 varieties. These are now represented in the vast planting here at the Arboretum. I understand that this is one of the largest azalea plantings anywhere in the world.

The creation of beauty for its own sake is a significant achievement. But a horticulturist such as Mr. Morrison would not be satisfied to stop at that point. One of his earliest plans for the Arboretum called for a clonal garden in which one or more examples of each variety of azaleas would be included. As it now stands, the garden represents primarily the Glenn Dale azaleas, but future plans call for adding individual plants from all available species and varieties that will grow in this area. Here, then, will be a place where students, plant breeders, and plain ordinary folk can come to study azaleas. This garden will serve as a "card catalog" to one of the most notable collections of azaleas to be found anywhere. It is a privilege for me to meet here today with the National Arboretum Advisory Council and friends of the Arboretum to pay tribute to the man whose vision and untiring efforts have created this dazzling display of beauty in the Nation's Capital.

I know that all true lovers of ornamentals throughout the country join us in honoring Ben Morrison by naming this area the Morrison Azalea Garden, assistant secretary Coke concluded.

With his usual characteristic modesty, respected by all who know him, Mr. B. V. Morrison responded to assistant secretary Coke's address by saying that *at this moment, etc,*
on page 13.

Notes taken from speech of acceptance by B. Y. Morrison at Dedication Ceremony of the Morrison Azalea Garden, National Arboretum, May 3, 1954

~~Mr. Secretary, Mr. Lee, Members of the Arboretum Advisory Council and all my friends.~~ At this moment the one item which seems most important to me is to assure you that I do not feel distinguished; that I do not feel important; that I feel extraordinarily humble.

I would like to say that it has been a privilege to work for the Government. I still well remember the day, a good many years ago, when I signed my name to a sheet of paper as a newly appointed Government employee. I signed that very seriously and very ceremoniously, ^{he remembered} and I promised to give loyal and faithful service to my country as I began my Government service. And I can assure that there were times when some of my colleagues thought that perhaps I had brought forth too much and too fast. If I have brought too much, then I can say it has been a great privilege to work where I did see a great variety of plants, and also to see them in the hands of great colleagues and to work with persons who were willing to give me their faith and trust in my accomplishment in the developing of the things that you see about us and that you see and enjoy them today - and you will likewise be able to appreciate and enjoy them later on.

^{(Mr. Morrison recalled,} The thought that comes to me that is most important is that there was the proper timing in the breeding program in the stepping up of time and place. This came about through your hands, and please note that I say "through your hands" -- All we did was to hasten matters and the only other things that comes out of it all is the credit and trust for me in that no one individual stands alone. These same things would have been accomplished at some other time by some one

else anyhow.

I am honored and greatly touched by the honor and extent of your garden dedication, and that I happen to be here as dozens of people with me who knew what I was doing -- and I owe a great debt to a great number of persons, some of whom I know and some of whom I shall never know, for I have never been able to find who they were. For instance, ^{he regrettably said,} I have no way of knowing the names of the Japanese gardeners who were so kind and helpful in passing the azaleas through our hands. I owe a debt to those unknown persons and a debt to the persons who lived years ago in England, China, Belgium, France, and to many others in this country, and an enormous debt to my Colleagues at the Station and at Glenn Dale where they were grown, where they grew them for me so that they lived and so that they were increased. I also owe a still greater debt to all of those faithful employees who did the hard jobs, who cut down the trees, suffered with the poison ivy and the chiggers and various other inconveniences. I even owe a debt to those who built the old school along our boundary -- for nearly all the brick from the school was used in the building of this garden. And, I owe still another debt to Sir Edward Luytens, an English architect after whose pattern for formal gardens in England, this garden was planned. So if there is any beauty in the brickwork of this particular garden I am happy to acknowledge it.

Mr. Morrison continued,
As I stand before you today, ^{and,} I would like you to realize that I am honored, I am moved, I am touched by what you are doing [^] but I would also like you to think that I am only one of a living body and will ultimately after I am gone.

I hope

In my mind, I am here often, and even when I am not here you may feel my presence in this garden. Eventually, I hope to be able to send you from my own new garden other azaleas which I do believe will grow and be hardy here.

I, too, believe in the values and beauty of human life, and as one enjoys it to the degree of his own person, but I myself like to think that I am only one link in the great chain in the Department of Agriculture. So, if I could, as a conductor of a symphony orchestra does, I would ask you to stand and accept the blessings of His performance.

gpb

At the conclusion of Mr. Morrison's informal talk, Mr. Lee invited the audience to come up to meet Mr. Morrison and to inspect, what is now to be called, the Morrison Azalea Garden.

The Morrison Azalea Garden is a magnificently simple yet unobtrusively dignified garden setting on a hillside with graceful brick and gravel approaches. The garden is walled in old brick, is rectangular in outline with a raised pool in the center and contains 32 separate beds of permanently labeled azaleas. Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Each bed is in a small box.

The approach to the garden itself is through a hexagonally-shaped terrace, walled with matching brick and skillfully landscaped with a variety of hollies, osmanthus, box, evergreens, laurel, azaleas, and rhododendrons. In the immediate center of the terrace is a low, bricked enclosure in the center of which is a specimen pine surrounded with a ground cover of Confederate violets. The approach wall of this enclosure contains a bronze plaque bearing this inscription: "Morrison Azalea Garden. Assembled in this Garden is a permanent collection of

the Glenn Dale Hybrid Azaleas As Originated,
Selected, and Named by B. Y. Morrison, First
Director of the U. S. National Arboretum. 1954."

The Garden contains 457 plants of
Morrison's selections and is surrounded
with 65,000 representative ^{specimens} planted in drifts
on the adjoining hillsides.

(Follow with A.)

On the afternoon of May 4, Fredric P. Lee, chairman of the Advisory Council of the U. S. National Arboretum, welcomed an audience of distinguished guests to the occasion of the presentation of a gift to the people of the United States from the people of the Netherlands in sincere appreciation for American assistance to the Dutch during World War II and subsequent years. The gift consisted of a collection of several thousand Mollis and Ghent hybrid azaleas, all originating in the Netherlands.

The beautiful setting of this notable event was beside an attractive brick and cement roadside

overlook flanked with yews, Japanese
holly, azaleas, and evergreens. ^{Mass plantings} of these
of these Netherlands azaleas are ^{here} assembled
in a small, steeply-banked valley
below. Paths crisscross the ravine ~~below~~
and wind about under towering oaks and
yellow poplars. Studded here and there
are underplantings of mixed conifers,
broadleaved evergreens and dogwoods to
complement ^{and enhance} the beauty of the azaleas.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Lee stated that
if we here today were dedicating blossoms
instead of plants, we would have absent
our star performers. At five o'clock last
evening we ^{had} a rainfall of two and one-

half inches in three-quarters of an hour. During most of this period there were hail stones as large as the yolks of hen's eggs. What we have left now in the way of those beautiful blossoms, is scattered far and wide. (Mr. Lee regretfully said). But what you will see when you come back next year will be the beauty the way we saw it yesterday before the storm - a gorgeous array of yellows, oranges, and rose-reds and all the pastel shades between, the promised.

Representing the culmination of the work of many men and the production of our good friends from Holland, we owe much of the early spring beauty in our country to the bulbs, the daffodils, the snow drops, and we owe much, too, to the spring beauty of these azaleas. But perhaps we owe more, and should realize we owe more, to the fact that we have a staunch ally in these troublesome times; a people of courage who not only will battle to preserve their lands and to reclaim it from the waters, as we have been told since children, but

with us

who are willing to battle along side, to preserve the rights of the free peoples of the world. It was with these thoughts that Mr. Lee introduced His Excellency, Dr. J.H. van Roijen, Ambassador to the United States from the Netherlands.

Dr. van Roijen expressed his extreme pleasure at being present at what to him was a most delightful and eventful occasion. It hardly is the usual task of a diplomat to talk about flowers, the courtly doctor said. An ambassador (etc in D)

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

and

E

and

F

(D)

are willing to battle along side to preserve the rights of the free peoples of the world. And it is with thoughts of that sort that I bring you his Excellency Dr. J. H. van Roijen, Ambassador to the United States from the Netherlands.

Unverified text of speech made by Dr. van Roijen - Netherlands Ambassador

~~Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, friends:~~

START
↓

~~It hardly is the usual task of a diplomat to talk about flowers. An ambassador usually has to deal with reports, with negotiations, with the signing of treaties and, too, has something to do in the way of intimate international relationships in general. However, an ambassador has also a more pleasant side to his duties and that is fostering, sponsoring, and promoting international good will and friendship. And here, a foreign ambassador and a special representative of the Netherlands can talk about flowers because certainly there are no better interpreters of friendship and good will than flowers.~~

In my country, flowers have played an important part and they still play an important roll in the whole outlook on life of the Dutch people. For centuries, flowers have formed the pleasures and hopes of the people of the Netherlands, and they have brought flowers, too, to give a beautiful and new look to otherwise somewhat drab surroundings of industrial towns and cities, and where nature in itself did not provide flowers. They are turning more than ever to cultivated flowers where they can be brought in from other areas and tend to give the pleasant and beautiful aspect to our country, Dr. van Roijen ^{which} announced.

E

Our people have always attached great importance to the kinder aspect of life in their homes but they have been able also to combine idealism with realism and ^{the} hard earned acceptance of realization. I have often pointed out in this analysis that they are both idealists and realists - and the well-known story of the little boy who put his fingers in the dike to hold back the water, ^{expresses this realism.} which as you probably well know is a myth. ^{But,} yet, we felt in Holland that that little boy represented something of the courage, resourcefulness, and industriousness of the Dutch people. And eventually in Holland, our people saw fit to build a statue to pay honor to that little boy and it is erected in the city of Aaltmar. A secondary reason for this was, that, realistically speaking, that statue meant an increase in tourist trade, ~~and~~ Now people are coming from far and wide to see this statue in the city of Aaltmar. But, ladies and gentlemen, as with flowers there is also a purely realistic side to it and that is business ~~to accept the flowers for business and profit~~ We cultivate flowers for business, and a profitable business, and have been doing so for a good many years, for most do so for profit, *the ambassador acknowledged.*

The azaleas you see here are part of a gift from the Netherlands people. ^{This gift} ~~which~~ was decided on in the year 1945 shortly after the delivery of our country from the hands of the enemy; they were sent over here with bulbs, // daffodils, Scilla, winter snow drops and various other plant material which was then planted in the Arlington Memorial Cemetery. And, the whole gift was offered in gratitude for what we had felt America had done for the Netherlands during the second World War. Our gratitude was then, and is, still deep and our flowers here are a token of it.

F

In Holland we have climate and soils which help in the cultivation and growth of flowers, but at the same time it is also a question of effort. If it is true that genius is the product of patient effort, then the Dutch flower grower must be imbued with a small touch of genius for he is a most patient craftsman. The flowers of Holland are a product of this craftsmanship, *Ambassador van Roijen stressed.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, unfortunately these flowers are not what they should have been, or what they were even yesterday, as Mr. Lee has told you, but they will stand here and if all goes well, we expect that they will last at least the span of one human generation - *They will* and bear witness to the gratitude by the people of the Netherlands across the seas. It is therefore a great privilege for me to present these azaleas to our American neighbors through the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. [Ezra Taft] Benson. *Documentation*

- 30 - (SPEECH BY Secy. Benson on pages 4-a, 4-b, and 4-c)

Mr. Lee: Now I will ask Japke and ~~Erik~~ *Geuzenkamp* Buchankamp, both children of the Agricultural Attache Dr. Buchankamp, to present bouquets of these azaleas to Madame van Roijen and Madame van Kretschmar, wives of the Netherlands Ambassador and the Agricultural Attache of the Netherlands.

(Presentation of bouquets taken from bronze plaque to Mme van Roijen and Mme van Kretschmar)

Mr. Lee: We will close this dedication by reading the plaque commemorating this gift, and I will call on Dr. Skinner, Director of the National Arboretum to read it for you.

Dr. Skinner: The wording of this bronze plaque signifying the gift of the Ghent and Mollis hybrid azaleas by the Netherlands is as follows:

At this point the secretary broke away from speaking from his prepared notes and said, in words and inflections convincingly sincere, that here he wished to express his personal appreciation to the people from this lovely little country. I have lived in their homes, I have worked with their leaders, and I have a deep and sincere love for these very fine and loyal people.

(more)

TEXT OF Speech by Secretary Benson:

Secretary Benson said, by way of introduction,

I am truly happy to have a part in the dedication of the thousands of beautiful azaleas given ^{to us} so generously by the people of the Netherlands. It is a privilege for me, as Secretary of Agriculture, to accept these plantings in behalf of the people of the United States and their Government.

It is only a short step from the busy streets of Washington and the bustle of motor traffic to this vantage point — but what a transformation it is! It is an exhilarating scene, one that all privileged to view it will long remember. We feel the difference as we look about and the refreshing glories of Nature draw us closer together in a common bond.

I know that I speak for all Americans when I say we have a warm place in our hearts for the people of The Netherlands. Their gift is a symbol of the mutual trust and friendship that has grown between us over the years. In these days of national and international tension, we hope and pray that friendship will continue to thrive and to grow, blooming like these shrubs with a brilliance that all men will see, and remember.

The 400-^{odd}~~644~~ acres that comprise the National Arboretum already have won a special place both in the scientific and the aesthetic worlds. The concept of this institution is one of great vision in plant science. It is a "library of living plants", used by scholars and plant scientists from all parts of the world, that the National Arboretum will fulfill its most significant role in research and education. The fact that, at the same time, it is a place of infinite natural beauty adds greatly to its significance.

Insert here the P on page G-2

Below and to the right of us, visible from this overlook, are representative plantings of each of the 160 different varieties of Ghent and Mollis hybrid azaleas included in this gift collection. Three plants of each variety, named and labeled, provide ready reference for anyone desiring to learn more about them, *Mr. Benson explained.*

Beyond are additional plantings, not only of other varieties of azaleas, but also of various other species of woody plants within these grounds. They serve to demonstrate the value of these plants to the public and to assure their perpetuation.

The Arboretum is still in its early stages of development. Institutions of permanent value seldom mature quickly, and growth is rarely easy. Nor can Nature be hurried. Yet, the difference between what this area looked like 25 years ago when work first was begun, and its appearance now, shows what great progress actually has been made.

Signs of developmental work may still be observed today. They probably will be observable for many years to come. An institution built upon great ideas such as that of B. Y. Morrison, whose name is honored wherever azaleas grow, and the many others who have contributed to the development of this Arboretum, will continue to increase in stature. Already the scientific value of this institution is well established. Its reputation as a place of rare natural beauty is spreading far and wide, *he mentioned.*

I personally appreciate the valuable advice given by the Advisory Council of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested ~~of~~ organizations

I

4-c DUTCH dedications

in developing the Arboretum and its program. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Frederic P. Lee, this Council has been of great assistance in planning the work, and guiding it toward the purposes intended.

The thousands of azalea plants from the Netherlands are a permanent and valued part of this Arboretum. It is a privilege indeed to dedicate this most welcome gift to the perpetuation of the friendship across the seas that motivated the giving.

Thanks again to our good and true friends from The Netherlands. God bless them for their friendship and love of which this gift is a beautiful and fitting expression, *the secretary concluded.*

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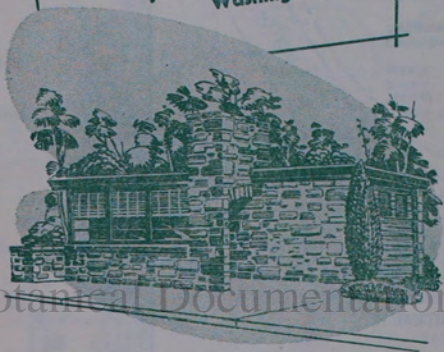
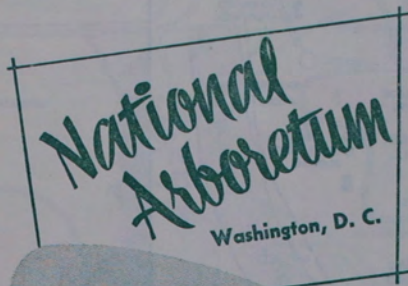
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(more)

At the conclusion of the secretary's inspiring speech of acceptance, Mr. Lee called upon Tjapke and Erik Beukenkamp to present bouquets of Dutch azaleas to Madame van Roijen and Madame J. W. van Kretschmar, wives of the Netherlands Ambassador and the Agricultural Attache of the Netherlands. Young Jacky and Erik, children of the Agricultural Attache, ^{R.L.} Beukenkamp, in their colorful Dutch costumes, provided an attractive ending to what had been a delightful occasion.

In concluding the Dutch Azalea Dedication exercises Mr. Lee called upon Mr. Henry T. Skinner, director, U. S. National Arboretum, to read aloud the bronze memorial plaque embedded in the center of balustrade overlooking the Dutch azaleas. The words, as Mr. Skinner read them: K

The United States



Established by Act of Congress
March 4, 1927

Administered Through
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Cultural Suggestions

With careful hardiness selection both azaleas and rhododendrons are well adapted to cultivation in the gardens of large areas of our country provided that their few demands are satisfied. They need an acid soil which is fairly well drained; they like abundant peat moss, leaf mold, or other suitable organic matter incorporated in this soil; and they are greatly benefited by a year-round mulch or soil top-dressing of leaves, peat moss, or sawdust to retain summer moisture and to eliminate any need for cultivating around these rather shallow-rooted plants.

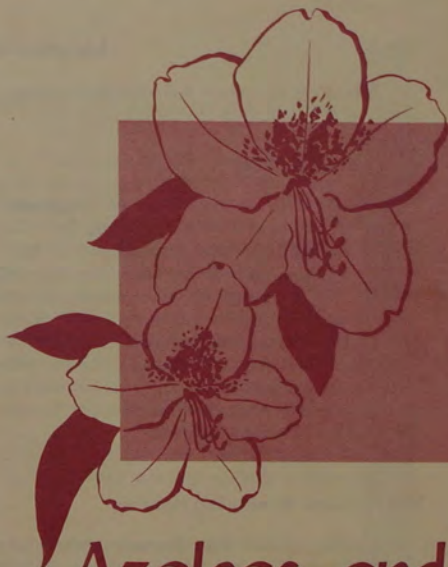
An ideal position, especially for rhododendrons, is the partial shade of structures or high-branched trees, although many of the hardier azaleas will succeed quite well in full sunlight.

Given an occasional spring feeding with sulfate of ammonia, cottonseed meal, or a prepared acid-soil fertilizer for established specimens and with a thorough watering as it is needed during very dry weather, both azaleas and rhododendrons will provide a maximum color display in return for a minimum of further attention.



April 1954.

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Azaleas and Rhododendrons

at the National Arboretum



NATIONAL ARBORETUM
LEAFLET NO. 1

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington 25, D. C.

In a ceremony which had been planned
for several years by Mr.

The ceremony had been originally ~~designed~~ planned
several years previously by Mr. Morrison,
~~and had purposely been planned for this~~

X previously planned by Mr. Morrison at such
time as the plants would have reached
flowering size.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
M1313 -

Amoe. Mat. ^{name} Van Poijen, Madame van Kret.,
Eric, Secretary, Mr. van Kret. Mr. Lee

M1314

Van Rooij, Madame van Poij, Eric.
Madame van Kret, Jackie

is temporarily conducted in a recently completed stone gate-
house. An admin bld with an auditorium to accommodate 200

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18183 -

18184

WORDING OF BRONZE PLAQUE - - DUTCH DEDICATION

" THE NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION OF DECIDUOUS AZALEAS
IN THE VALLEY BELOW IS A GIFT TO OUR NATION FROM THE
NETHERLANDS IN APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE DURING THE
SECOND WORLD WAR.

THE GIFT WAS INSTITUTED BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION OF
THE NETHERLANDS PEOPLE IN 1946. PLANTING COMMENCED
TWO YEARS LATER. ←

1954"

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DUTCH DEDICATION CEREMONY
HELD AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM
Tuesday, May 4 at 3 p.m.

*Dr Van Rijen's speech
(unverfild) is in this
transcript*

H. Wm. Sengler

DUTCH DEDICATION

on May 4, 1954

Opening remarks by Mr. Lee:

I. I am Frederic Lee, I have the pleasure of being the chairman of the Advisory Council of the National Arboretum. The occasion here is the presentation and acceptance of a gift from the people of the Netherlands to the people of the United States of so many thousands of hybrid azaleas sometimes known as the Mollis hybrids and the Ghent hybrids all grown in the Netherlands.

If we were dedicating the blossoms instead of the plants, we would be absent our star performers for last night some of us rode by here and stopped for a moment at 4:30 o'clock -- by 5:15 o'clock we had had 2-1/2 inches of rain and for most of that time hail stones that were as large as the yolk of a hen's egg -- and what we have left in the way of those beautiful blossoms is scattered far and wide and what you will see if you come back another year will be beauty the way it was yesterday before the storm -- a gorgeous array of yellows, oranges and rose-reds and all the pastel shades between. Representing the culmination of the work of many men and the production of our good friends from Holland, we owe much of the early spring beauty in this country to the bulbs, the daffodils, the snow drops, and we owe much to the spring beauty of the azaleas. But perhaps we owe more and should realize we owe more -- to the fact that we have a staunch ally in these troublesome times in a people of courage who not only will battle to preserve their lands and to reclaim it from the waters, we have been told since children, but who

Advisory Council - U. S. National ArboretumList for Mr. Bengler
5/7/54/996Executive Committee

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Washington 6, D. C.

Mr. Ovid Butler, Vice-chairman
The American Forestry Association
919 - 17th Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Mr. C. Harris Collingwood, Secretary
Library of Congress
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Washington, D. C.

Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III
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~~Mr. C. S. Woodbury
1801 Botan Road, Northwest
Washington, D. C.~~

* * * *

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4425 P Street, Northwest
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3240 Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Mrs. Harman G. Place
530 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

~~Dr. Marlan P. Kelsey
Marlan P. Kelsey, Inc.
East-Boxford, Massachusetts~~

Re 7-4060

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==== = resigned for coming term

I am truly happy to have a part in the dedication of the thousands of beautiful azaleas given so generously by the people of The Netherlands. It is a privilege for me, as Secretary of Agriculture, to accept these plantings in behalf of the people of the United States and their Government.

I can't think of a better time of the year for this occasion. The profusion of red, orange, and yellow flowers around and below us reveals the full glory of this gift. It is an exhilarating scene, one that all privileged to view it will long remember.

It is only a short step from the busy streets of Washington and the bustle of motor traffic to this vantage point -- but what a transformation it is! We feel the difference as we look about and the refreshing glories of Nature draw us closer together in a common bond.

Informal remarks by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson at Presentation of Azalea Collection, National Arboretum, Washington, D. C., May 4, 1954, 3 p.m.

I know that I speak for all Americans when I say we have a warm place in our hearts for the people of The Netherlands. Their gift is a symbol of the mutual trust and friendship that has grown between us over the years. In these days of national and international tension, we hope and pray that friendship will continue to thrive and to grow, blooming like these shrubs with a brilliance that all men will see, and remember.

The 400-odd acres that comprise the National Arboretum already have won a special place both in the scientific and the aesthetic worlds. The concept of this institution is one of great vision in plant science. It is as a "library of living plants," used by scholars and plant scientists from all parts of the world, that the National Arboretum will fulfill its most significant role in research and education. The fact that, at the same time, it is a place of infinite natural beauty adds greatly to its significance.

Below and to the right of us, visible from this overlook, are representative plantings of each of the 160 different varieties of Ghent and Mollis hybrid azaleas included in this gift collection.

Three plants of each variety, named and labeled, provide ready reference for anyone desiring to learn more about them.

Beyond are additional plantings, not only of other varieties of azaleas, but also of various other species of woody plants within these grounds. They serve to demonstrate the value of these plants to the public and to assure their perpetuation.

The Arboretum is still in its early stages of development. Institutions of permanent value seldom mature quickly, and growth is rarely easy. Nor can Nature be hurried. Yet, the difference between what this area looked like 25 years ago when work first was begun, and its appearance now, shows what great progress actually has been made.

Signs of developmental work may still be observed today. They probably will be observable for many years to come. An institution built upon great ideas such as that of B. Y. Morrison, whose name is honored wherever azaleas grow, and the many others who have contributed to the development of this Arboretum, will continue to increase in stature.

Already the scientific value of this institution is well established. Its reputation as a place of rare natural beauty is spreading far and wide.

I personally appreciate the valuable advice given by the Advisory Council of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations in developing the Arboretum and its program. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Frederick P. Lee, this Council has been of great assistance in planning the work, and guiding it toward the purposes intended.

The thousands of azalea plants from The Netherlands are a permanent and valued part of this Arboretum. It is a privilege indeed to dedicate this most welcome gift to the perpetuation of the friendship across the seas that motivated the giving.

#

HTS:gpb
5-3-54

Mr. Chavira, Mr. Cole, Mr. Morrison, Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I see representatives here from many organizations; from the Garden Club of America, the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, the League of National Capital Garden Club, the American Association of Nurserymen, the Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta and many other groups which have extended their encouragement and generous assistance towards the building of this institution. On behalf of this National Arboretum I welcome you all on this pleasant occasion.

Just four years ago I was a guest here at a rather similar event -- the dedication of Cryptomeria Valley of the Garden Club of America, and was among those welcomed by Mr. Morrison. "I did not dream that the tables would be thus turned!"

This earlier occasion was my first view of Mr. Morrison's azaleas in full ~~flower~~ flower on this hillside. I shall never cease to marvel at them and can only hope that with other plants and in other lines of plant research this National Arboretum will remain ever mindful of the standards set by its first Director.

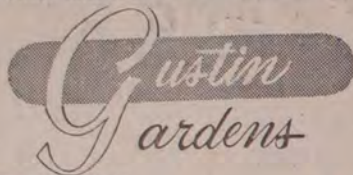
This clonal azalea garden is already unique. Perhaps never before have the authentic products of a single breeder's skill been assembled as a permanently maintained master set for future observation and comparison. It will be of immeasurable value for continuous reference for azalea growers the world over.

Planned at this arboretum are a series of gardens to ultimately contain all the named azaleas susceptible of cultivation in this climate, to be used to

Page 2 -
5-3-54

determine correctness of name, cultural desirabilities, to peculiarities on a test basis. It is eminently fitting that the first unit of such a project should be the Garden of Glenn Dale hybrids, and equally fitting that the garden should be named for the originator of the first race of azaleas we have yet seen -- in Mr. Morrison's presence and while he is at the start of his career in producing azaleas.

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Arboretum Is Now Open; Azaleas to Be Dedicated

B. Y. Morrison to Be Honored at Exercises; Ghent and Mollis Varieties Soon at Peak

The grounds of the National Arboretum, famous for its continuing research in woody plants, have been opened this spring and will display a wealth of floral colors to the public through Sunday, May 16. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, and daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Two special events have been scheduled for the period when both azaleas and dogwoods will be at peak.

Friends of B. Y. Morrison will assemble at 3 p.m., May 3, at the Morrison Garden, where more than 65,000 Glenn Dale hybrid

azaleas are growing, for a dedication address by J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Morrison, who bred these "Japanese" hybrids and maintained them will respond briefly. Frederic P. Lee, chairman of the arboretum's advisory council, will preside.



Dr. Morrison.

On May 4, the Netherlands

Ambassador, D. J. H. van Roijen, will present some 125 varieties of yellow, orange and salmon colored Ghent and Mollis azaleas, the gift of Dutch horticulturists. These plants were received five years ago and hundreds of them should be in full flower on May 4. Ezra T. Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, will accept the gift formally. Mr. Lee will preside at this function also.

The arboretum's main gate is on M street N.E., and the entire area with its valleys and slopes overlooks the Anacostia River. The arboretum is some 400 acres in extent, lying just off Bladensburg road. Most of the azaleas are massed along the winding pathways and ravines of Mount Hamilton, which rises some 300 feet in the west section of the arboretum. Scattered throughout the grounds are genus plantings of crabapples, hollies and rhododendrons, and spread far and away are ground covers of unusual beauty.

Dr. Henry T. Skinner has more than 5,000 cards in his index file listing the native varieties growing in the arboretum, but he says the lists are far from complete. Dr. Skinner is the director of the arboretum.

The Garden Club of America gave the collection of Oriental plantings in the cryptomeria valley along Hickey Hill. The Women's National Farm and Garden Association sponsored the dogwood planting at the northeastern corner, and the American Fern Society contributed many varieties of ferns. The American Association of Nurserymen has assembled 250 varieties of crabapples and other trees.

Scattered shrubs flower in the summer. Massed fruits of crabapples, firethorns and a host of berried shrubs put on a show in mid-September and many



On high slopes of the National Arboretum grounds are growing more than 60 varieties of Ghent hybrid azaleas and more than 100 varieties of the Mollis hybrid azaleas. This natural setting of rare beauty, 400 acres in extent, is a living laboratory for experimental growths in woody plants. The Ghent and Mollis hybrids resulted from skillful crossings of the native "flame" azaleas with *Rhododendron molle* of China, *R. japonicum* of Japan and *R. luteum* from the Caucasus, and were introduced into the arboretum five years ago as a gift from the scientists and people of the Netherlands.

lycoris and sternbergia bloom then. Gums, hickories, tulip poplars and dogwood add fall colorings.

In addition to experiments in woody plants the arboretum's studies include experiments in mass and border plantings of trees.

New hybrid maples developed at the arboretum for street planting have been adopted by Cleveland and other cities.

Upon entering the arboretum the first plot that greets the visitor is the 30-acre "synoptic" garden. Here, when complete, will be a collection of samples from all over the 400-acre tract.

Seed Industry Gives Nation One of Its Biggest Bargains

LOS ANGELES. (NANA). — The seed sellers are a comparatively new class of American industrialists. Until World War I most seeds planted in the United States came from Europe or were home grown—a dirty, undependable lot.

But about that time a few far-sighted men were beginning to establish new, and rising standards. Many of their names are still familiar on seed packets: Burpee, Ferry-Morse, Northrup, King and others. Since 1918 the domestic industry has never been overtaken.

one plumper cabbage or juicier tomato.

Special problems are constantly being solved—disease resistant cantaloupes, the potato which will grow best in the Northeast, the sweet pea that can take the heat of the South.

The breeders grow thousands of plants to secure the few best for seed-production purposes. Although until recent years most seeds were handled by hand, harvesting today is done on grand scale, by specialized machinery.

AZALEAS

Dutch Collection Notes

Lee -

Chair - Advisory Council of N. A.

Pres. & accept of gift from pers of Neth to pers of U.S. of agulosa grown in the Neth. 2½ inches of rain, hail, like egg yokes. in ¾ hours, gorgeous areas, orange, yellow, red, rose & shades between. We owe much of our U.S. spring beauty to the Dutch bulbs & agulosa to Neth. We owe much to fact that we have staunch allies in these troubled times. It is with thoughts of that sort that I present his excellency, Dr.

Mr. Chair, my dear ladies, friends. It is hardly the usual task of an ambassador to talk about plants. His job is usually about reports, treaties, & smoothing diplomatic relations. It is a pleasure to talk about flowers. Perhaps no better interpreter is flowers. For centuries flowers have formed the pleasure, profit & pastimes of our Dutch people. Our people have always attached much respect to flowers. Realism of flowers & business - Idealists & realists we must be. We cultivate flowers as a profitable business.

The agulosa are part of a gift of the Witherden Is in 1945. Sent over here with bulbs for planting in the Annapolis cemetery on what we had done during & after the war.

In appreciation for all that you have done for us.
If all goes well, they should last the
span of one generation. It is a pleasure &
privilege to present them to America thru
Mr. Benson.

Mr. Benson expressed his personal appreciation
to these people from this lovely little country
I have lived in their homes, worked with their
leaders & I have a deep & sincere love for
these very fine & loyal people.

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Lee

As symbolic of the apprec. somewhat
tattered to Mrs. B. & wife of the agricultural
attache by the two children of the ambassador.

Skinner read plaque.

Call Hoopz the

The Noteworthy Collection of Deciduous Azaleas in the Valley Belongs a Gift to Our Nation from The Netherlands in appreciation for assistance during the second World War. The Gift was instituted by popular subscription of the Netherlands people in 1946. Planting commenced two years later. 1954.

Single, brick & cement balustrade overlook, flanked with yew, Japanese holly, azaleas, overlooking a small, steeply banked, valley. ^{oaks and yellow} poplars, underplanted with mixed conifers, broad-leaved evergreens, dogwood, to compliment the azaleas. The center railing pillar bears the above bronze plaque. Paths wind around.

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children of agricultural
attache

Erik Beukenkamp

(Erik)

Jackey Beukamp

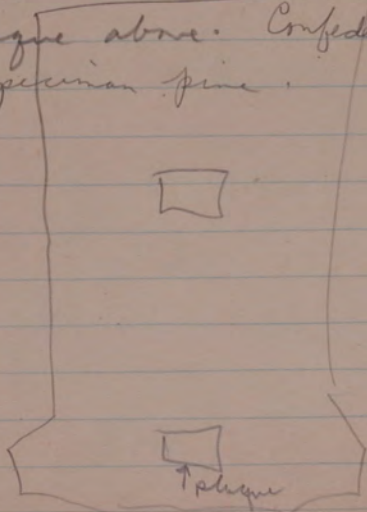
(Tjapke)

Mrs. J. W. Van Kretschmar
wife of agric. attache

Morrison Notes

Morrison Azalea Garden assembled in this Garden as a Permanent Collection of The Glenn Dale Hybrid Azaleas as originated, selected, and Named By B. Y. Morrison, First Director of the U.S. National Arboretum. 1954.

Magnificently simple, yet dignified garden setting on a hillside with a graceful brick and gravel approaches. Walled garden, pool in middle, with 3 2 separate beds of permanently labeled azaleas. beds partially outlined in small box. Approach terrace, walled with brick & skillfully landscaped with a variety of holly, osmanthus, box, conifers laurel, azaleas & rhododendrons. In center of terrace is a low brick enclosure, the front of which bears plaque above. Confederate violets inside surrounding a specimen pine.



W. J. Forsythe Off. Infor.

6085

A. W. Mathews

C. 4022 - Photographer

P. F. Anglesworth - 2851 Coker's Office

Fred. Lee, Chairman of National Arboretum Council

occasion is one, christening of the
azalea garden, some think Mr. Morrison is
being christened, some think that azaleas
are being christened, most of Moss azaleas are

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^{Mr. Morrison is a bachelor}
The custody of this haven of azaleas is
being turned over to Dr. Skinner - the upkeep,
upbringing, etc to Dr. Skinner.

Dr. Skinner

I see representatives of many organizations
who have helped build the National Arboretum
Just 4 years Skinner ago was welcomed here
by the Morrison to the dedication of the
Coytomania valley. Skinner never ceases to
mourn at the azaleas & hopes that the Arboretum
can continue with other plants.

Lee - N.A. Advisory Council - is indebted to Mr. Morrison for the plan he has made & the possibilities for the future. *Coke's Talk*

B. Y. Morrison

Assure you that he doesn't feel anything but humble at this time. A privilege to have worked for the Fed. Gov. thru the course of years to have worked with plants & men. Most important thing was the nothing was done in our garden except speeding up the process. Everything that was done would have happened - we merely speeded it up. Morrison said that dozens of men were associated with him who helped him with their special talents. He owes a debt to the Japs.

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men whom he knows & many whom I will never know. He owes debt to the people who the men who cut the trees, pulled the poison ivy, suppressed the chiggers; owes debt to the people who built the old school which furnished the bricks to build the living garden.

He hopes that the time will come when from his own garden will furnish more azaleas for the N.A.

He is only one link in the vast U.S.D.G. + as a conductor.

Lee. Expressed pleasure at the crowd present
Come up & meet Mr. Morrison.

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TELEPHONE WABASH 2-9011

Chicago 4, Ill.

April 27, 1954

Mr. Harry William Dengler
Extension Forester
Maryland Extension Service
College Park, Maryland

Dear Harry:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 23 and for your report on the Spring Holly Society Meeting, which, with the photographs, has arrived and is now being processed.

Relative to the events to take place May 3 and 4, as per the letter you enclose from Mr. Skinner, we should be very happy to have information on these events, together with the photographs that you mention. Please, therefore, go ahead and prepare this material for us.

With many thanks for your cooperation with us and with kindest personal regards, we remain

Very truly yours,

American Nurseryman

Kenneth A. Brent
Kenneth A. Brent
Managing Editor

KAB/mc

*Van Koppetschmar
Miss Hudig
Press Section*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH BRANCH

NATIONAL ARBORETUM

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 16, 1954

Mr. William Dengler
Extension Service
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Ernie Moore
Rep. 7-4142
St. 5556

Dear Mr. Dengler:

Friends of Mr. B. Y. Morrison and of the U. S. National Arboretum are cordially invited to two azalea events to be held at the Arboretum in early May, and presently scheduled as follows:

May 3rd at 3:00 p. m. at the Morrison Garden . . .

Dedication of the Morrison Azalea Garden by Mr. J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, with response by Mr. B. Y. Morrison; Mr. Frederic P. Lee, Chairman of the U. S. National Arboretum Advisory Council, presiding.

May 4th at 3:00 p. m. at the top of Azalea Valley . . .

Presentation of the Dutch Azalea Collection by His Excellency Dr. J. H. van Roijen, the Netherlands Ambassador, and acceptance by the Honorable Ezra T. Benson, Secretary of Agriculture; Mr. Frederic P. Lee presiding.

Mr. Morrison will be present only the first day which will honor his origination of the Glenn Dale Azaleas to be maintained as a full collection in this Garden. The second event marks formal recognition of the outstanding gift of Ghent and Mollis hybrid azaleas to our Nation from the people of the Netherlands. These plants were received five years ago and hundreds of them should be in flower on May 4. The company of you and your friends will be most welcome at either or both of these events.

*1066 far to College Park so
do stop in! H.T.
Lin. 3-9373*

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Skinner
Henry T. Skinner
Director