

Oscie Whatley's Daylily Records, Vol. 1

1947 to 1969

By Michael Bouman (2017)

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Introduction

Oscie B. Whatley, Jr. was born in 1923 and grew up on his family's plant nursery in Longview, Texas, 65 miles west of the Louisiana border. He trained as a pilot in St. Louis during World War II and flew transport aircraft in the European Theatre. While in training, he met and married Dorothy Henderson in November 1943. After the war, he attended college and became a manufacturing engineer with McDonnell-Douglas. In 1947 he was a 24-year old father of two, making his first daylily crosses at 8116 Braddock Drive in University City, just west of the St. Louis city limits.



One way or another, he met William Dill, a daylily hybridizer who lived three and a half miles east of him. Dill had been working with daylilies since 1934. An energetic and enterprising man, Dill would eventually select, name, and introduce the daylilies of Dr. Charles Branch of Piper, Illinois.

I first heard of Dill when I corresponded with Doc Branch in 1998 in connection with a profile of Oscie for *The Daylily Journal*. Branch recalled Dill as "one of the dearest friends of my past. He would come and stay at my house for 3-4 days during peak daylily bloom and sit for hours in front of the better flowers

taking data on the blooms. Then, when he finished we would go over his notes and pick the following year's introductions."

"He was here when my HORTENSIA first bloomed in 1960. I noticed him going back to it several times that day. After our evening meal we sat down as usual to talk about the day's notes and he said, 'Doc, I'd sure like to introduce that ruffled yellow seedling, but it wouldn't be fair to you or it. If someone like Julia Hardy would introduce it, it would win the Stout. It has to be introduced by someone with immediate national exposure.' So he and I went to the Chicago national convention a few days later, met and talked with Mrs. Hardy, and she asked for a guest plant. The next summer, I was called to the house with an 'urgent' telephone call. It was Julia. She said, 'your seedling just bloomed. It has to be introduced! And I want to be the one to do it! It will go through the awards in record time and win the Stout Medal.' How prophetic!!"

Will Dill had been a charter member of the American Hemerocallis Society in 1946. He had connections throughout the United States. He registered 72 cultivars between 1951 and 1968, winning the Stout Medal posthumously for the daylily RENEE in 1971. Dill was Oscie Whatley's first mentor, but Oscie tended to absorb information and knowledge from everyone he met. He was the epitome of the lifelong learner. He remembered the first daylilies he acquired from Dill this way:

"[I gave him] the astronomical sum of \$30 for a starter collection. I began working with English cultivars from Perry and Yeld, because the British achieved width before the Americans. I wanted to create tailored, yellow flowers with wide forms, and it seemed to me that I could move toward something distinctive by taking a different path from the other hybridizers I knew about."

When Oscie's Aunt Mary Stevens, who owned a plant nursery in Ft. Worth, Texas, learned of his new hobby she sent him a plant of REVOLUTE, which was on the way to winning the Stout Medal in 1953. Oscie told me, "It was the most beautiful daylily I had ever seen. It wasn't wide, but it had a quality of color that set it apart."

Aside from Dill, there were several other experienced hybridizers whose names weave in and out of the notebooks. Earl B. Rexroad was twenty years older than Oscie, and I don't know much about him. Oscie's slide library included Rexroad's two 1962 registrations, apparently photographed at a daylily show where Oscie won "Best in Show." Rexroad registered nothing more until 1987, four years before he died.

Rexroad's ORANGE MONARCH and



PINK MINT



Irma Searles (1908-1996) was a nationally renowned teacher of Ikebana floral arranging. In a brief hybridizing career between from 1957 to her last Journal entries in 1973, she earned two Honorable Mentions, one Award of Merit, and one Lenington All America Award. [I scanned her Journal and placed it online in the Region 11 area of the AHS Membership Portal.]

George and Jane Pettus were Oscie's contemporaries and became dedicated to tetraploid daylilies when Oscie did in 1961. They registered 32 cultivars between 1962 and 1985, earning five Honorable Mention awards. George Pettus served as the President of AHS in 1968 when the National Convention took place in St. Louis.

Harold L. Harris was Oscie's contemporary and fellow resident of Florissant, Missouri after Oscie moved there in 1964. Harris, too, was involved in tetraploid conversions from 1961 onward. He registered 58 cultivars between 1971 and 1983, earning four HM awards and two AMs. Oscie told me Harris decided to stop hybridizing because daylilies were "ruling his life." John Benz acquired the remaining Harris seedlings and registered 63 more between 1984 and 1990. Those releases earned seven HM awards and one Award of Merit. Oscie observed to me once that Harold Harris had achieved better results than he did with Whatley conversions.

Also active at that time was Louise Bellagamba (1912-2007), who was a Master Flower Show Judge. She registered 21 cultivars between 1978 and 2001.

For Midwesterners in the 50s and 60s, "Daylily Mecca" was Sarcoxie, Missouri, where the growing fields of the Gilbert Wild Company contained 300,000 seedlings. Every year after the Wild company removed its selections from the seedlings, visitors were allowed to roam and dig as many leftovers as they wanted for a dollar a plant. Some of Oscie's friends made the tedious 300-mile drive there as if heading for the gold fields.

Oscie and his fellow hybridizers founded the Greater St. Louis Daylily Society in 1960. In 1964 he moved his family to a new subdivision in Florissant, Missouri in the northern suburbs of St. Louis. He laid out garden beds on about a quarter of an acre of flat ground in the back yard and grew his daylilies in the glare of a treeless landscape. Everyone in the neighborhood added trees and shrubs to their lots, and the neighborhood eventually took on a lush appearance.

Oscie came into national attention at the 1968 AHS National Convention in St. Louis. His future diploid registrations created a sensation. For the next thirty years he was a major contributor to progress in developing the genetic potential of the hybrid daylily. He continued to open genetic doors for other hybridizers until his death from pancreatic cancer in 2005 at the age of 82. His cultivars earned more AHS awards than those of any other individual hybridizer in the three-state region of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. In 1984 he received the AHS Bertrand Farr Award recognizing contributions to hybridizing.

I was lucky to make a career move from Vermont to St. Louis in 1995, early in my own journey as a hybridizer. I knew about Oscie Whatley and arranged to meet him as soon as I got to town. He drew me

into the activities of the daylily club and took me with him to meet the people in the Columbia, Missouri daylily club that fall. I became one of a huge network of people who considered him a "best friend."

I wrote about Oscie several times and edited a piece he wrote for the Region 11 newsletter on the subject of setting goals in hybridizing. He taught me to make tetraploid conversions using a chemistry kit and instruction sheet he had developed for anyone interested. Before his surgery in 2003 he had me dig a fan of his seedling 6421 to be sure that I had it. He registered that seedling as SASSY SALLY in 2004.

After Oscie passed away, I worked with Dorothy and the family to liquidate his daylily garden in 2007. Dorothy passed away in 2009 and their daughter, Linda Polkinghorne saved Oscie's daylily records, such as they were. With her permission, I have scanned his garden notebooks, registration papers, and color slides for study and publication.

Oscie Whatley's Character

Anyone studying Oscie Whatley's daylily records should bear several things in mind about the man and his intellect.

- Oscie was naturally friendly, courteous, generous, modest, and curious. He would take the initiative to engage people, but never overpowered them. His conversation was relaxed. Wry humor came readily to him. I never heard him make a joke at someone's or some group's expense. He made everyone feel welcome in his life.
- He had wide-ranging plant interests. He hybridized dogwood trees and geraniums, bought hybrid daffodils, sampled various kinds of columbines, irises, lilies, hostas, roses, and peonies.
- He believed in working on distinctive results in hybridizing. He was always on the lookout for breakthrough material to work with. He horse-traded for plants or pollen all the time.
- He enjoyed lab work and experiments. He liked to make precise drawings. He liked to keep detailed records of his work with a microscope or with chemical solutions.
- It is hard to discern a plan or order in his seedling bed maps. Sometimes he consolidated multiple pods of the same cross, but most of the time he didn't. In all of his seedling maps, you will find the same cross in random locations throughout the bed. It's as if he saved seeds pod-by-pod and planted them in whatever order they came out of the refrigerator.
- His prose was easy-flowing and compact in construction. His feeling for the plants and for his values imbued his descriptions.
- His record-keeping stressed economy of expression, shorthand, code, and abbreviations. I believe he was more comfortable with numbers than with written words.
- I believe he was dyslexic, but I don't know if he realized the scope of his challenge. I didn't realize this until I studied his notebooks. His difficulty involved the process of hearing a sound and thinking of how to speak or write it. The difficulty only seemed to affect combinations of sounds that were novel to him, such as the local place name, Carondelet, or the word "Finlandia." In everyday conversation, you'd never guess he had a difficulty. And if you knew that he had studied Spanish and American Sign Language at the Community College, and that he

liked the sound of certain Italian words such as "Italia," you'd be shocked when you saw his garden notes.

Overview of the Notebooks

Oscie's slides and notebooks help correct each other, yet neither set constitutes a complete record of what he wrote or photographed. He began hybridizing in 1947, but the earliest records he saved date from 1960.

I have compiled all the notebooks just as they are into a PDF e-book, *Oscie Whatley Garden Notebook Compilation*, and have added an index at the beginning so that the student of this material can follow Oscie's journey in chronological order rather than in the discontinuous order of the notebooks. I have also compiled an annotated list of all his selections. This is handy for anyone who wants to check the background of numbers that appear on the seedling bed maps. I also undertook a transcription and full decoding of each seedling map. The annotations provide the ultimate registered name of the mapped seedlings as well as guesses about the identity of abbreviated plants. You can download any or all of these materials to help you study Oscie's notebooks and double-check my guesswork.

There are a couple of things the student must constantly bear in mind when checking selection lists and seedling maps:

1. Any seedling map with "Bloom" in the title was probably written the year before the plants first came into bloom. It would make no sense to map the bed in the second season because the small plastic labels might be dislodged by squirrels or frost heaving after the seedlings were set out. Best to make the map as insurance against loss of labels. "Bloom" may be taken to mean the first season of bloom. That leads to the conclusion that the plants were created two seasons earlier: 1995 Bloom represents crosses made in 1993. That helps establish an upper limit on the age of the cultivars he used. For purposes of this study, I have arbitrarily assumed that a daylily registered in 1996 would not have been used in Oscie's garden in 1995. There are potential exceptions to this: what if the daylily was released a year or more before registration? That was the case of Oscie's CHAMA, and it is not unusual in the world of daylilies. There is also a possibility that a hybridizer would have pre-registered a name, "locking it in," and shared a plant or pollen with Oscie before formal registration. These variables cloud the seeming certainty of the decoding I have undertaken. For every guess I think I have made on solid ground, there is possible quicksand.
2. In most selection lists, there are instances where the parents Oscie has written in the notebook can't be located in the seedling bed map. In some cases, the seedling map is definitive because he mapped the bed before he made selections. For example, "Ger. Smith" is GERTRUDE SMITH in a seedling map but "G.S." in the selection list. There is no other "G.S." daylily in the seedling map of that year, so I have excluded GOLDEN SURREY as "G.S." even though Oscie told me twenty years later that he had used GOLDEN SURREY once upon a time. There is no record of GOLDEN SURREY in any of the seedling maps. Oscie had profound confidence in his intuition about who the parents of a seedling might be if he doubted what he saw in the notes.

3. Oscie had to rely on his memory and his intuition because the weak links in the disciplined chain of thinking in his program were his memory, his hard-to-read labels, his method of abbreviation, and his dyslexia. I think he placed impossible demands on his own memory from the beginning. He frequently went back over notebook pages to write keys to the abbreviations on facing pages, but I don't find these keys 100% reliable. The poor readability of his plant labels made mapping a very difficult chore. The crowded conditions in his seed starting trays made transplanting always subject to the misplacement of some seedlings into the wrong batch. His abbreviations invited confusion from the earliest notes to the latest. "SFM" is good for SILOAM FAIRY MIST, but he also used that abbreviation when he meant SILOAM MEDALION. He used both conversions, but firmly believed that what he selected came from SILOAM MEDALION. "HLW" is another example of a system that confused him. He decoded this as ATLANTA ANTIQUE SATIN at a later date. I think it means HIGHLAND WATER. In the same year there's another abbreviation beginning "HL" that has to mean "Highland." I think he had ATLANTA ANTIQUE SATIN on his mind because if was a popular "stud" pollen to make reluctant pod parents set seeds and he might have remembered using it then. But I think he forgot about HIGHLAND WATER, had no idea what HLW meant and "coerced" that code to mean something else.

Oscie favored small 6-ring binders that fit in a pocket. Each notebook is arranged in reverse chronology and is jammed with pages. He wrote in pencil, ball point pen, sometimes calligraphic pen, and occasionally a standard ink pen. He used several methods of abbreviation and provided himself occasionally with keys to his abbreviations because of the complexity of making readable notes quickly in a cramped space. There are instances where the student may doubt his guesswork.

He wrote the notebooks for his own short-term reference. These books are primarily lists of each year's selections and maps of his seedling beds. The lists are the source material for understanding his interests and methods of work. There are also sections of scientific notes, small business notations, reminders about plants he had seen or judged for AHS awards, and some records of his tetraploid conversions. The notes on his conversions are incomplete. He was not compiling a history of his work in that field but a convenient reference for several experiments with chemistry and a microscope.

It strikes me from looking at his first notebook that it is, in fact, a filing cabinet in which the pages have been arranged in an order that suited his needs in the early 1970s, and that some material of no particular importance to him has been discarded. In "Notebook One" we are plunged into something more like a memory book of someone on the edge of national fame, someone riding the wave of discovery with an eye to making every inch of garden space count.

Oscie's gardening habits are relevant to studying his notebooks:

- In the years that I helped Oscie transfer his seedlings from metal trays in a cold frame out into his seedling bed, I saw numerous ways that uncertainty could lie behind the apparent authority of his written record. Garden labels were green plastic about 1.25" x 6." They became brittle

over time and were sometimes removed by squirrels. Oscie marked the labels with a No 2 pencil, a durable practice limited only by the legibility of his writing.

- During hybridizing season, Oscie apparently didn't make daily notes of his daylily crosses. He wrote plastic push-on tags at the end of the morning, from memory, and put them on the blossoms he had crossed. His transcriptions of these tags in the seedling maps reveal that he often forgot which pollen he used on a specific plant. The tags often fell away during the summer, as they do in my garden, and he relied on memory and guesswork in notating a pollen parent. When a cross tag is missing, there's always a chance that an insect was the hybridizer.
- Virtually every seedling map contains mistakes. Selection lists based on those maps often suggest that he overlooked several crosses in the bed. When a selection is not found on the map, there are four possible answers: (1) he misread the number on a tag, or (2) the tag was illegible, or (3) he overlooked a cross when he made the map, or (4) his "garden intelligence" prompted him to replace a "?" on the map with a definite seedling number or cultivar name.
- Oscie's seedling beds were not large, but mapping them required good vision from some distance because the pencil markings on the green plastic labels were not easy to read.
- Although there was a lot of guesswork, there was also a formidable "garden intelligence" at work. You can see revisions in his notebook when he changed his mind about parentage. One clear example is his TARTA. His revision note about the pollen parent says "Age of I?" Having grown AGE OF INNOCENCE myself, as well as TARTA, I realized that his guess was on the money. TARTA inherited a distinctive opening quirk from AGE OF INNOCENCE.

Remember: I've had to make a lot of guesses. Your guess might be better than mine.

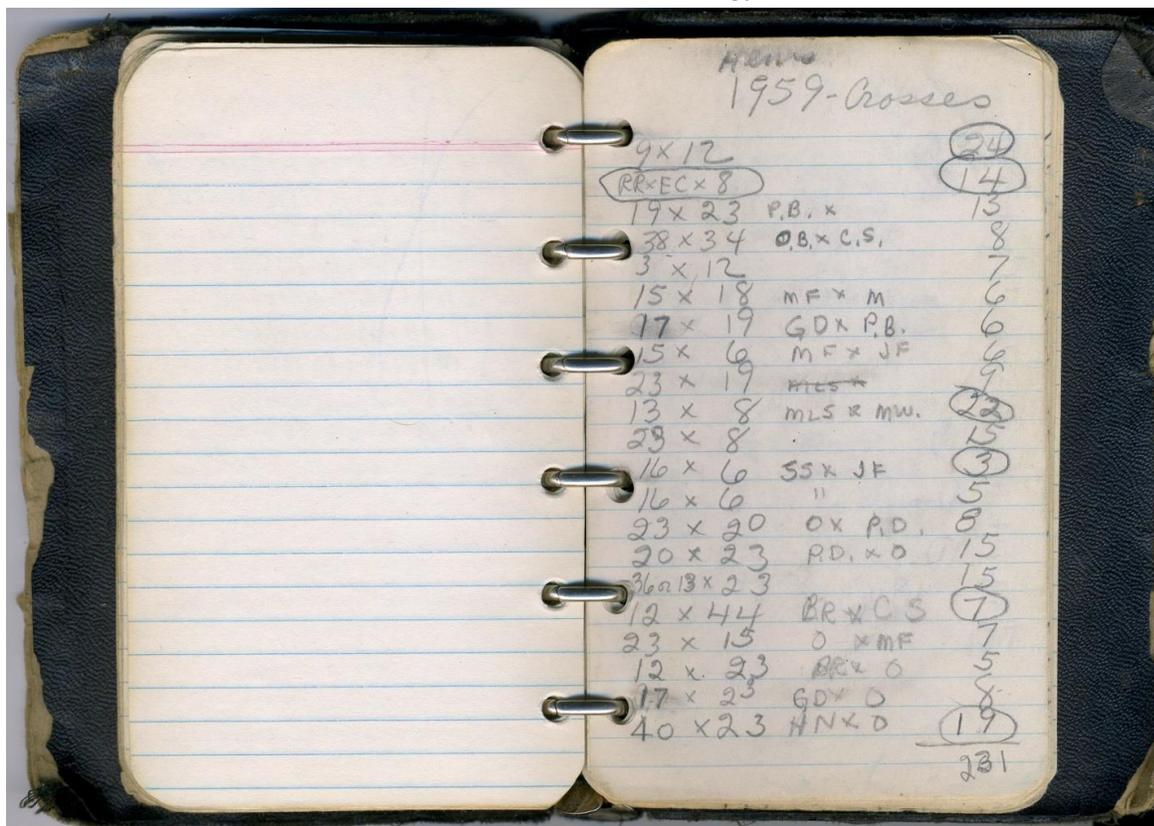
Research tool: I've been fortunate to have a recent version of the AHS database loaded into software on my computer that allows me to perform much more sophisticated searches than are possible online at AHS. The most convenient feature is the ability to search for multiple words in the name, using only the first initials: J*" "S* will find any name with two adjoining names beginning in J and S and separated by a space. If I add to that search that the ploidy is "Dip" and the registration year is <1969 I can find all the diploids before 1969 with two words beginning with J and S. If I further constrain those found records with a second search show registration years later than 1960, I will see that JENNY SUE, a creation of Oscie's mentor, David Hall, is a likely diploid Oscie could have converted to Tetraploid before 1969. That is the way I've drilled into the history of daylilies. Even with this research tool, there are many, many examples of multiple "solutions" to a puzzling abbreviation, and I've had to reason my way to the best one or two.

From Diploids to Tetraploids, 1947 - 1969

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Oscie's notes are written on 3" x 5" ruled white looseleaf pages. Generally, he only wrote on the right hand page of seedling maps and selection lists, leaving the left side available for follow-up notes. The e-book compilation of his notebooks includes everything except blank pages. To follow in the compilation, just click the appropriate hyperlink at the top of the document.

"Hems 1959 - crosses" is the earliest data in Oscie's chronology.



Compare this with the first page of Irma Searles's Journal:

1957
CROSSES

SEED PARENT	POLLIN PARENT	PLANTS
57-1 PICTURE	x OKAY	7
57-2 PICTURE	x RINGLETS	7
57-3 FLANDERS	x SILK	3
57-4 ROYAL RUBY	x SILK	9
57-5 EVELYN CLAR	x SILK	9
57-6 MABEL FULLER	x SILK	9
57-7 CLAY	x GOLDEN ORCHID	1
57-8 EMPIRE ROSE	x OKAY	2
57-9 EVELYN CLAR	x PICTURE	1

PINKS AND MINIATURES WERE THE TWO AIMS. ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEEDS WERE OBTAINED BUT GERMINATION WAS GENERALLY GOOD. THESE WERE MOVED INTO SEEDLING BEDS EARLY IN SUMMER OF 1958. NEARLY ALL BLOOMED IN 1959.

TWO PLANTS FROM THIS GROUP WERE MICHISED IN LATER BREEDING. ONE WAS NAMED LIBBY KEONE IN 1960; REGISTERED 1962.

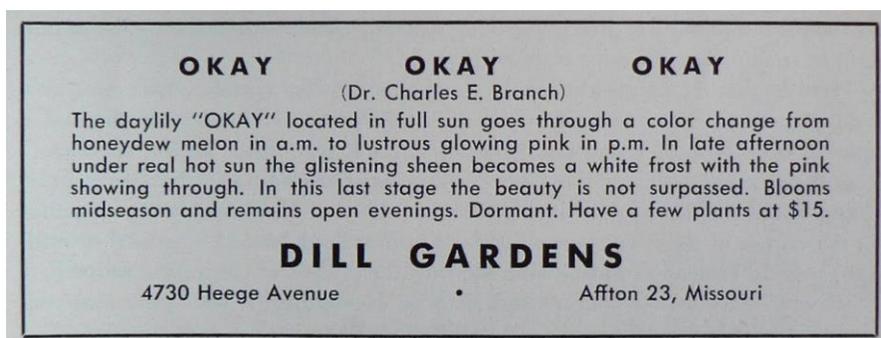
It is obvious that the Searles Journal is a "fair copy" from her notes and that it is for the edification of anyone interested in her methods and achievements. She could have written this fair copy in 1973 when she ceased hybridizing. Searles adopted a practice of numbering each cross. Oscie didn't following that practice.

The first question about Oscie's "1959 Crosses" is whether 1959 is the current year or the previous year. Does this page date from 1960 and does it sum up his results from 1959? At face value, that's what it means. This question of whether a map is keyed to a "hybridizing year" or a "mapping year" dogged him throughout his career. In other words, using a different heading, the two choices are "This is a map of my seedlings in 1959" or "This is a map of the results of my work in 1959, made in 1960." The notebooks are full of places where he changed the designation of the year at the top of the page. This makes a difference to the student of his work because if this is a record of what he did in 1959 and planted in 1960, we can make guesses about his parent plants with 1959 as the latest possible date of registration. On the other hand, if "1959 crosses" is a way of talking about a seedling bed planted in 1959, the latest registration he could have used was 1958. I am opting to take this as a record of work in 1959 that he planted in 1960.

I have transcribed every map and decoded abbreviations with guesses I thought plausible. Bear in mind, though, that only Oscie knew which plants he used, and sometimes he forgot. **Except for plant names partially written out, every editorial note on the transcriptions is my guess.**

At this point in his hybridizing career Oscie is using a double code to remind himself of what is in the ground. Each cross is recorded on the left. I think he has assigned a number to each named cultivar in his collection. He probably had a separate numbered list and opted to memorize the numbers to save space. He appears to have added abbreviations of those cultivar names in the middle column, probably at a later date, when reviewing the pages. Occasionally, there is an inconsistency of matching an abbreviation with a number code. The numbers on the right probably represent seedlings in the ground. As long as plants in his collection had names beginning with unique initials or combinations, this system of abbreviations might hold up for a year or two, but as he added and subtracted breeding plants it would not serve well.

Number 23 is "O." Is that the abbreviation for Charles "Doc" Branch's OKAY (1956) which Will Dill was selling and Irma Searles was using, or is it Anna Sheets' OLEN (1958) a yellow self, or David Hall's OPALINE (1955) a cream blend? I doubt it was Hamilton Traub's OPHELIA (1959).



OKAY OKAY OKAY
(Dr. Charles E. Branch)

The daylily "OKAY" located in full sun goes through a color change from honeydew melon in a.m. to lustrous glowing pink in p.m. In late afternoon under real hot sun the glistening sheen becomes a white frost with the pink showing through. In this last stage the beauty is not surpassed. Blooms midseason and remains open evenings. Dormant. Have a few plants at \$15.

DILL GARDENS

4730 Heege Avenue • Affton 23, Missouri

Here is Will Dill's comment about OKAY in an article on Doc Branch in the 1957 AHS Yearbook:

'Okay' sold on sight to the St. Louis fanciers. The flower has everything in form, substance, texture, color and sheen. Growing in the full St. Louis hot sun, the morning color is melon, the noon color a clear light pink. In late afternoon the diamond dusting turns white, resulting in a frosted pink that is striking and sensational.

During database research on these abbreviations, I ruled out cultivars with eyes, prominent veins, and (for the most part) evergreen foliage habit. I looked at daylilies registered in "the latest possible year" and in the five or six years prior to that. Oscie had only a fleeting interest in eyes and he disliked veining. OKAY was available, and if Will Dill recommended it, Oscie would have used it. I lean toward guessing OKAY because the color allows versatility in crossing with it. Considering how he used "23," I ruled out OPALINE.

Number 20 is "P.D." Is that David Hall's PARTY DOLL (1958)? That's a plausible guess, but the going gets rough as the list of codes continues.

The system has challenges for the researcher. Look at the second line. What is "RR x EC x 8?" There are two ways to read it, "(RR x EC) X 8" or RR X (EC x 8). The answer turns up in Oscie's 1962 map, where he uses parentheses to clarify: (RR x EC) X 8. Later, it seems a selection from that cross is written as (RR x EC x 8).

There's no explanation why RR and EC don't have numbers like every other cultivar in his collection. What's the difference between 8 and either RR or EC? Is this a cross of RED RAMBLER (George Lenington, 56) X EMERALD CENTER (Mrs. T. A. Walker, 57)? Also, can we safely assume that Oscie made the RR X EC cross? No, we can't. That could have been a seedling someone gave him in 1959 or earlier. Generally, he indicates when a seedling is from someone else, so I think he made this cross.

One has to consider the possibility of errors in notation, but one must bear in mind that Oscie was keenly interested in these plants and was as attentive as a person can be when going back over his notes. Since the notes were for his short-term use alone, he left no record of why he circled some numbers on this list or the whole cross on line two.

There is no record of what he did in previous years. In his recollection, he began to hybridize in 1947. He may have discarded earlier notes or lost them. His records begin thirteen years into his journey.

His crop of seedlings in 1960 contains 231 plants.

The Advice Oscie Sought

Thirty years after he began to hybridize, Oscie drafted a booklet on "The Art of Hybridizing," which was serialized in *The Daylily Journal* from the Spring of 1988 to the Fall of 1989. In the first installment he recounted the circumstances of a novice hybridizer.

“There will always be some frustration about what to cross, what to select, and what to introduce; but intuition should become more natural and come easier with use. It is like throwing the reins over the horse's head and telling him to go home. Just be sure he has been shown where home is.

Moving pollen from one flower to another does not make a hybridizer any more than clicking a camera makes a photographer. There are several facets to hybridizing that play important roles in leading up to and following the actual cross. Being aware of and improving the skill in these supporting activities will greatly increase the chances of hybridizing success.

The first and most important of these supporting activities is setting your goals. How many objectives? How do we limit these objectives? How should we formulate them? These are some of the questions we will deal with in Part I.

In my earlier endeavors as a hybridizer I hung onto every word of the old masters (Hall, Fay and others) in the hope that they would reveal the secrets of their success in flower breeding. There was every opportunity for me to observe and learn from these accomplished hybridizers; yet it took many years to understand what they had outright told me.

I suppose magic, mystery, and gimmicks were what I was looking for and this pursuit blinded me from seeing what was really happening. When Orville Fay told me he pursued only one goal at a time I thought, "How dumb! I'll pursue 10 objectives and pass him up." If I had listened to his next piece of advice, "don't dilute your efforts," I could have saved many wasted years.

The point is that one must start with a very low number of objectives and give them strong, undeviating attention.”

1960

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His list of “1960 crosses” uses the same coded system we've just examined.

1960 crosses

12x44-	①	23
48x23 SSxO	①	7
46x23 POxO		4
45x18 GGxM		3
46x23 POxO		15
85xR58-8 MDxPate		5
23x39 OXChum		11
48 or 45x23		15
23xR48-8		10
23x F.W.		7
45xR-48-10-GG	①	3
45x23 GGxO		12
39xR-58-8 Chum	①	9
Rex. Seed x F.W.		14
46xR-48-8 PO-	①	5
23xR-48-8	2	4
15x16x48	① S.S.	7
		157

The previous system is in use, but he has added notes with a different pen. In one instance he has written the number 39 over the word "Chum" which is an abbreviation for CHUMMY. He's trying to make himself stick to number codes for cultivar names. We see "selection numbers" in this list, too, as in "R-48-10" or "R-58-8". If this were Oscie's later coding system, the 48 would indicate the year of selection. It's an open question whether these are Oscie's selected seedlings. He appears to have an Earl Rexroad seedling in the fourth line up from the bottom, "Rex. Seed."

What is the meaning of the circled numeral ones?

1961

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Oscie records more detail in his 1962 record of 1961 work, but his meaning remains obscure to the outsider.

113

1961 Crosses

REX-Y x MULT - *23 - R	Z
H-527 x #18 Red.	2 - 2✓
H-527 x ALBRIGHT - H	4
REX-Y x HALLW #5 -	0 -
H-527 x 12 -	6 6
BH x HW-527	1 1
(5x6) x 15	7 7L
75 x #7 G.E. Inv.	3 3L
(15x16) x 48	0 -
13 x #7 *15 -	5
56 x 73 *7	7
64 x 23	9 al
(RRx2x8) x ?	3 3
16 x MULT *3	3 3
45 x 64 -	2 2✓
16 x #14 J.D.	8 8
12 x 44 IN GROSS	6 6
64 x REX-Y *14	6 6✓
120 x 23 x MULT *84	24 ✓
64 x #19 GG *12	12 ✓
(40 x 23) x 64 *13	7 ✓
#527 x 82	4 4

I assume the column on the far right is the number of seedlings in the ground. The number to the left of that may be a seed count. What does the asterisk mean?

I noticed his use of the term "incross" in the left column. That suggests that cultivars 12 and 44 are genetically related. I have guessed that these numbers mean BOLD RULER and CHRISTINE SMITH, both by David Hall in 1958, but no parents are listed for these in the AHS database, so how would Oscie know they share the same genetic material? David Hall was one of his mentors, so it would be like Oscie to spend a lot of time on the phone with Hall.

Rex-Y could be a Rexroad seedling. Another possibility is that this is the yellow seedling Rexroad noticed in the Wild seedling fields and brought back for Oscie's use. The "Wild seedling" was the magical parent that yielded Oscie's breakthrough daylily, JAKARTA, but we don't know if "Rex-Y" is that seedling.

I have guessed that 45 is GREEN GABLES because one of the offspring is a near white. Crossed with "Rex-Y," that makes sense, but I have no idea with a superscript "4740" means to the right of the Y in Rex-Y. The asterisk denotes crosses of high interest. It never means "Tetraploid" in these notes.

H-527 is someone's seedling. I think it likely that "H-527" is identical to "HW-527". The use of the "#" sign before a numeral may distinguish a numbered selection of someone's from Oscie's code for his own collection. It could even denote an early system Oscie used to number his own selections.

The 1961 pages show how quickly Oscie Whatley built a wide network of sharing. Look at how much unique material is in his work now! They do not show the big story of his career: he and the Pettuses and Harold Harris have all started to learn the art of converting germinating diploid seeds to tetraploid.

1962

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Oscie decided to keep more details when he laid out the pages in 1963 for work done in 1962. It looks like he intended to count seeds, then plants, then keepers. This is a map of the garden bed, not a list of his crosses. I think the seed column amounts to a count of seedlings in the ground because once he designed the pages for this year he didn't use the empty columns on the right. Numerous items are overwritten in blue ink. Five rows up from the bottom, it looks like a 1959 cross of (RR x EC) x 8 has yielded a seedling that he used as a pollen parent with 136. It's just (RR x EC x 8) on this page, so it doesn't have a selection number at this point.

David Hall's 1962 GLOBE MASTER is the only recognizable name fully spelled out. As the 1962 list continues, the notation of the year is in blue ballpoint pen, so this is an update after the original pencil notations. One notation is especially mysterious. It reads "76 x Pete x Boq". This may be Mary Lester's 1960 PETITE BOUQUET. I doubt the x between syllables means a cross of two one-syllable plants.

1962		1962		
CROSS		Cont		
	S - P - Keep	S	P	Keep
(40x23) x FS	6	* (46xR-8) x ⁵⁰⁰ 105	18	
* 23x(46xR-58-8)	6	45xR-58-8 x F-1500	3	
23x(15xR.F.)	18	23x109-Line	14	
46xR-58-8 x X	18	* 106x130	8	
(15x16)x48	11	56xLAV-X	18	
* RF x 125	13	(45x23)x23xR-8	8	
(23x15)x23 ^{Back} _{Cross}	13	(15x16)xPany #3	16	
(70x23)xFM or FR.	3	(RRxEC)x ⁵⁸ ?		
* 56x x R.F.	11	x 136	16	
136x(48x23)	6	76xPete x Boq.	21	
* 56x LAV-X	38x	76xLAV-X	6	
90x125	3	(98x23)xR-8	13	
23x136	17	R-10 x Corn. ?	43	
23x R-H-101-59	4	73-C x 124	4	
* 136x(46xR-58-8)	7	90x105	4	
(15x16)x48 x	7	* (40x23)x \$1000	10	
FISHER 1500 =	20	(15x16)x48)x 108	18	
* R-10 x 93	22	56x HALL 60-47	23	
* 136x(RR x EC x 8)	4	* Cora 55 ST x 125	6	
R-10 x FIRST R.	20	* 104x HALL 60-47	20	
23x 125	16	* 105x 90	22	
* R-10 x Glob Master	8	(15x16)x 105	24	
Chica 39 x LAV X	2	(Chum x R-58-8)x LAV?	5	

As the 1962 list continues, the cultivar he noted as "Pete x Boq" is rendered "Pet Bog." He must have enjoyed the suggestion of "Peat Bog" in that abbreviation, as he stayed with that form or its variant, "Pete Boq." A reference to "Fas Mod" is probably Mary Lester's 1960 FASHION MODEL out of MULTNOMAH. A reference to "Em Isle" is Orville Fay's 1954 EMERALD ISLE. (When I interviewed Oscie in 1998 he told me Orville Fay was his mentor. But when I asked him about Will Dill, he said, "Oh, I'd forgotten Will. He was my first mentor!")

Will Dill was about to strike paydirt in 1962 when he registered his RENEE, which marched up the pyramid of AHS awards. Dill passed away in 1969, two years before RENEE won the Stout Silver Medal.

Here is Will Dill in the early sixties.



Oscie's 1962 records continue with the year fully stated in blue ink. There are blue ink updates all over the page. "Em Isle" is back, along with "Pet B." and "Pet. Boq". "Fas Model" is FASHION MODEL, and PINK LOVE is by Laura Pearl Hancock of Steele, North Dakota, 1961. A number of Hall seedlings are in use. The list continues with more information on outcross parents. "Pink L" in pencil is filled out to "Pink Love" with blue pen. "First Rom" is Mary Lester's 1960 FIRST ROMANCE. HIGH GLORY is Elmer Claar's 1961 Chinese yellow. SUPERFINE is a 1960 Fay-Hardy, a pink melon self. "Green Val" is Hubert Fischer's 1955 GREEN VALLEY, an "aureolan yellow self." Oscie is also using a seedling, "Fisher 1500," that I presume came from the same Hubert Fischer in the Chicago suburbs. "Elis Payne" is Mary Lester's 1958 ELIZABETH PAYNE, a pale canary self.

The final page seems to complete this list, but without any blue ink updates and without a year notation. "Green V" is no doubt GREEN VALLEY. The bottom half of the page is titled "Spring Planting" and lists six crosses.

It might be useful at this point to list the apparent seedlings in Oscie's arsenal and to note variations in how he rendered them:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| R-58-8 | Possibly a Whatley red seedling from 1958. He liked this method, but there's no way to know for sure where this plant originated. |
| R-H-101-59 | could be someone's selection from 1959. There's a guest seedling H-101-51-A and B from Laura Sue Roennfeldt. This is something else. The R means "red." |
| Fisher 1500 | Most likely a seedling of Hubert Fischer's. |
| R-10 and R-8 | Seedlings. R-8 may be shorthand for R-58-8. When Oscie made a list of his diploid keepers several years later, 08 and 10 were both yellows, so these red seedlings may be someone else's. |
| F-1500 | Probably "Fisher 1500" |
| Parry #3 | Seedling from Mrs. Arthur Parry of Signal Mountain, TN? |
| \$1000 | Mystery: see the "Wild" guess below. |
| Hall 60-47 | Probably a recent David Hall seedling |

HW-26-55 Possibly a Harvey Warwick seedling
R-39-D, R-16 More red seedlings.
HW-55-113 Harvey Warwick seedling?
H-101-59 Same as R-H-101-59 earlier in the list.
F #3 Could be an Orville Fay seedling.

Here's a wild, "Wild" guess. I've been looking for the parents of JOMICO, Oscie's first registration. He gave the parents as "seedling X (SOLO x WINNING WAYS)." There is no abbreviation of WINNING WAYS early enough in the notebooks to have produced JOMICO. The name SOLO is also absent. I guess, wildly, that cultivar number 105 in his maps is SOLO. In his 1962 work there is a mysterious abbreviation "\$1000." It's crossed with 105. Could "\$1000" mean "I hit the jackpot!"? Knowing Oscie's ability to wheel and deal for unique breeding material, and his knowledge of the Wild Nursery's bountiful fields, I can imagine that he obtained a bud or a single blossom from a "future" that would be named WINNING WAYS a year later, and he promised or decided not to reveal that he got it. So "\$1000" also means TOP SECRET. The lack of "\$1000" on the pod parent side of the list suggests that he only had pollen, not a plant, and not much of it. Wild.

1963

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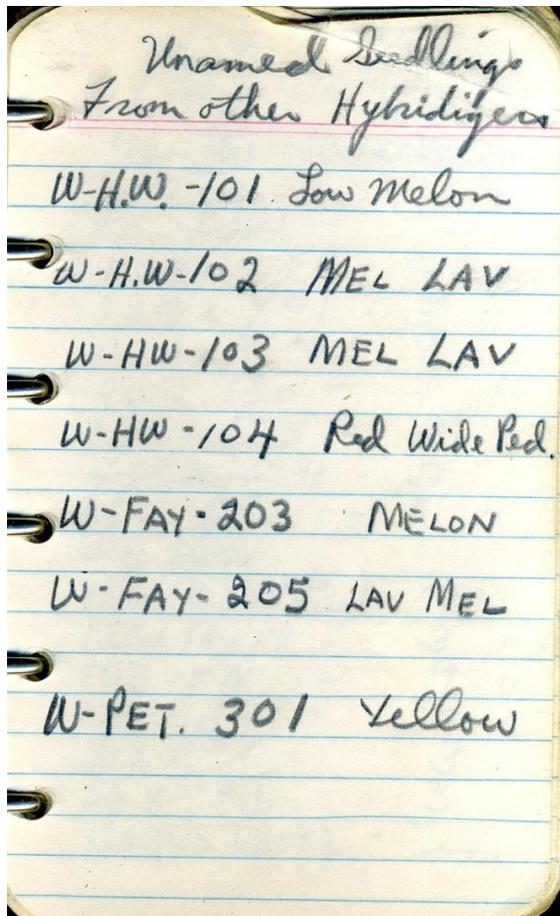
Oscie's growing body of work was about to move from University City to a new house in Florissant, a thirty-minute drive north and an easier commute to McDonnell Douglas. I don't know if he knew he was moving in the summer of 1963, and I surmised the move was in 1964 from a 1968 garden write-up in *The Hemerocallis Journal* that spoke of the Whatley garden being only four years old.

1963 Crosses

15x16 x LEN #2		5
15x16 x LEN #1		9
15x16 x Y #1		20
15x16 x MS -		
W-HW-101 x 64 x 192 -		
W-HW-101 x RR x 1 x 8 -		10
135 x 39		17

The lists for the 1963 work are found in several notebook locations and the plants themselves are in more than one garden. His method of notation is new. There is evidence on subsequent pages that the strokes represent a count of pods and the numerals in the far right column are a number of seedlings in the ground.

Compilation Page 21 contains a page headed, "1963 Crosses." This list apparently continues after a few intervening notebook pages on page 23. In my index on the compilation, I have called this apparent continuation "1963 crosses again." The intervening material begins with a list of unnamed seedlings from other hybridizers.



What is the meaning of the prefix "W?" It is not a color. Is it a way of identifying something in the Whatley garden? The "HW" is a puzzle; "Harvey Warwick" comes to mind. Fay is Orville Fay, Oscie's mentor in Chicago and a leader in the "tetraploid revolution" that was gathering momentum at this time. "Pet" is probably George and Jane Pettus.

The next list of seedlings is unique in the six notebooks in that it defines an off-site location, "1963 crosses @ Mr. Baldwin." I don't know who Mr. Baldwin was or where he lived.

In my transcription of the 1963 notes, I have combined the lists that I think belong together and then have continued with the list at Mr. Baldwin's because it is in a different format.

If these lists are also maps, then the planting is a lot more organized. On the other hand, this list of "1963 crosses" may also have begun as an organized tally of seed pods in the refrigerator, and Oscie wanted to review his use of specific pod parents.

Why are there no entries in so many places in the far right column? If this were a seed count, I would assume there were nothing but squishy seeds in those pods, but that makes little or no sense when one considers the ease of diploid hybridizing. In the first line, to have only five seeds from four pods is unbelievable.

1963 Crosses		1963 Crosses	
40x23x64 x Pink #2 ^{Wild}		HW-26 55 x C. Cherry	11 35
40x23x64 x P-HW-K	1	HW-26-55 x 62-93	1 16
14x23x149 ^m x130 ^{Del.}	1	12x62-93	1
① 20x147 x Renee	1	12x Chip Cherry	1 3
② 20x147 x 94	1	12x64x#19-2	11 14
③ 20x147 x Renee	1 4	126 (S Grove) x LAV #1	1 -
W-Ped-301 x Renee	1	126 x LAV	1 -
✓ RRx1x8x K #1 LAV	1 7	126 x 105	1 -
RRx1x8x 135	111 23	126 x Findlander	1
RRx1x8x EAG Scout	11 19	① 64x#19x 145 L.G.	11
RRx1x8x Clear Rose	11 2	② 64x#19x 120 L.C.	11 2
12x44x 12x44x82	1	③ RRx2x8x149x Clear Rose (Red)	1 3
12x44x 62-93	1	④ RRx2x8x? x LAV, LILY	1 5
12x44x ?	111	RRx2x8x? x 135 DM.	1 4
LEN#3 x Silb. King	11 8	RRx2x8x? x ?	1 -
LEN#1 x Pink #0	1	① 64x#19 Low x R-W.#5	1
LEN#4 x Silb.	1 4	RRx1x8x? x LEST #1 LAV	1
12x44x82x 62-143	6	44x12x82x Clear Rose	1 1
		44x12x82x 6-143	1

The 1963 list is rich in its use of codes. What is the meaning of the circled numbers on the left? What do the check marks mean?

Decoding

- Y #1 Conjecturally, a yellow cast-off seedling Earl Rexroad brought back from the Wild nursery for \$1
- Del Conjecturally, BELINDA (Julia Hardy, 1956) Possibly BELOVED BELINDA (David Hall, 1961) HM 67, but I think Oscie would not have used a single syllable code for this.
- W-Ped-301 Usually, read "Pet" for Oscie's "Ped." This is a Pettus seedling

If you return to the index at the top of the compilation and click on "1963 @ Mr. Baldwin's," you'll see a different format for noting what's in the ground. The right column gives the number of rows of each cross within larger rows. I imagine those larger rows are really strips and that Oscie planted across each strip rather than lengthwise.

It is likely that the list of "Guest Plants" immediately following the list of seedlings at Mr. Baldwin's also dates from the same year. There are twelve guest plants, some of them named cultivars, from Irma Searles (local), Ed Stone (local), Wilma Bryant (region 11, OK), Hazel Lacey (region 11, KS), George and

Lucille Lenington (Kansas City, MO), James Marsh (Chicago), and Laura Sue Roennfeldt (local), who registered seven cultivars between 1961 and 1966.

It looks like Oscie found the original system of codes a bit shaky in 1964 and used abbreviations for newer material. I don't see any instances of his erasing a name and replacing it with a numeric code. Here is his picture of David Hall's EAGLE SCOUT.



1964

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Oscie moved his family to a new subdivision in Florissant, MO in 1964. Florissant is one of a cluster of towns forming the northern suburbs of St. Louis. His one-acre lot didn't have much more than a quarter of an acre of usable ground for daylily beds. The small front yard sloped up to the ranch-style house. The flat ground behind the house was ideal for gardening, but a steep hill at the back was mostly unusable. When he laid out the garden design he allowed plenty of lawn space for family enjoyment before filling the periphery with plantings. On the slope at the back he later added peonies and some hostas as well as a dogwood tree he hybridized.

This picture from *The Hemerocallis Journal* in 1968 shows convention attendees in his garden.



This was the Whatley home in 1991, after the trees had matured



Here is a panoramic view of the back yard beds taken in 1997, taken from the patio outside the kitchen door and garage entrance.

Left:



Middle: the local golf course is just beyond the ridge.



Here's the right side, showing a compost bin of recent construction:



The format of the 1964 notebook pages is simplified. The numbers on the right are plants in the ground.

1964 Crosses.		1964 Crosses.	
west bed road West		East bed road South	
76x Pet. Bogx Dawn Snow	7	01 x Finlander	2
76x 114 x 149	5	03 x 11	12
117x Rennee	3	56x Les. Sav. x 135	4
Lady LYNN x 135	2	56x " - 2 x Les #1	5
117x 01	6	124x L.C. x LP Mix.	4
105x90x03	6	12 x 155x20	17
03x Rennee	8	Sen. Y x 16 x 105x1000	16
91x 03	16	Sen. Y x Renne	5
03x EM-IsL	6	23x40xWW incross	21
F3x03	7	Les. #2 x W. 00 x Luyta.	3
W101x03	30	20x155x Knud Hill	1
Bli Spr x 03	6	20x155x Casmere	3
03x P25	6	12x Casmere	12
105x90-2x03.	2	152x Sil King	14
20x155x03	5	Thum. x 152 ^{Mary} Renne	12
105x90xGR. CHANP	3	RFx125x L.T.P.	5
01x GR. PARD	18	117 x 143.	2
BRICK		Brick	

This is a map. The page I've placed on the right is several pages later than the one on the left. I think he has begun to number his selections, 01, 02, 03 and so on. There's no key to the identity of these, but we know from AHS registration papers that 03 is going to be named JAKARTA. It is a breakthrough daylily.

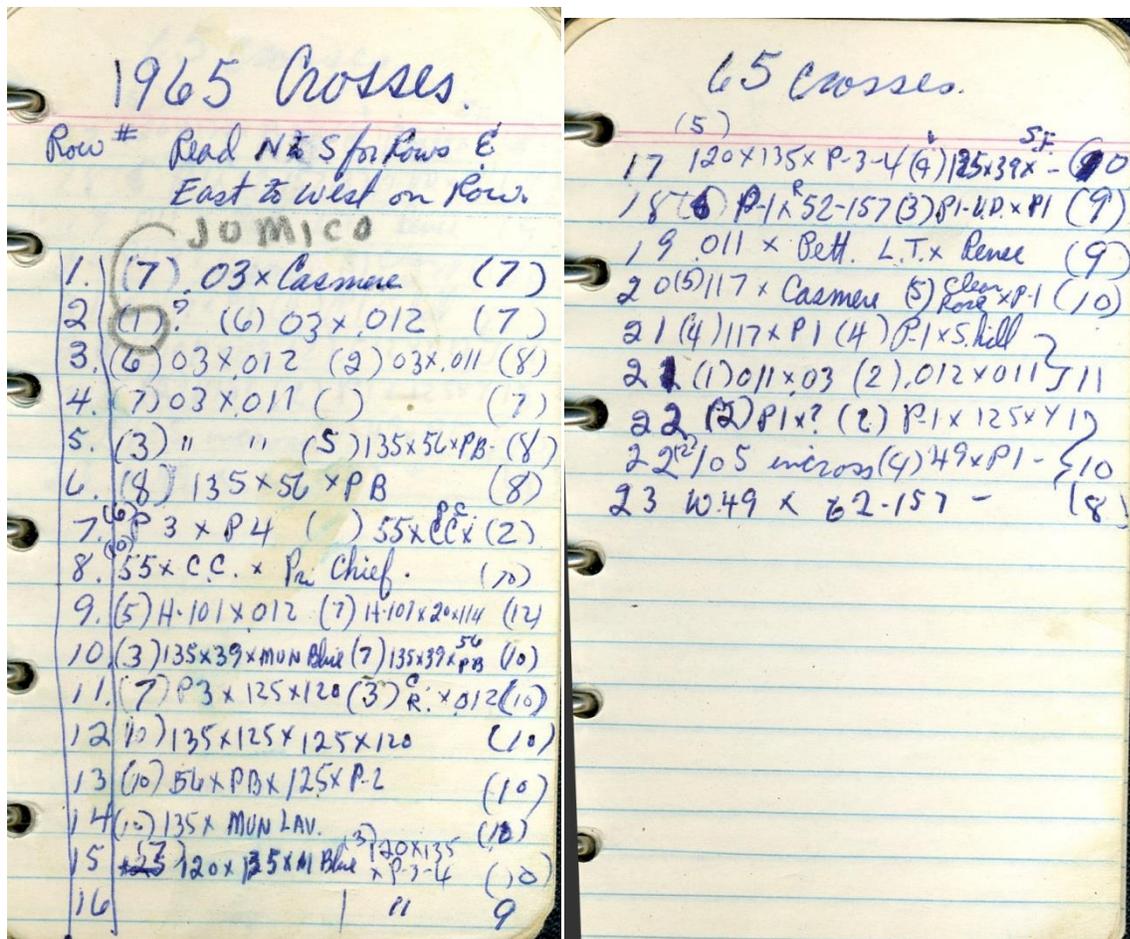
The writing is as clear and careful in this set as anywhere else. Many names are spelled out. 105x1000 was 105x\$1000 in 1962. This may be SOLO X WINNING WAYS. He has eight numbered seedlings in play, guest seedlings, and the following cultivars:

PETITE BOUQUET (Mary Lester, 1960)	
DAWN SNOW (Bob Kennedy, 1960)	
LADY LYN (S.A. Calhoun, 1962)	HM 66
RENEE (Will Dill, 1962)	Stout Medal 71
EMERALD ISLE (Orville Fay, 1954)	HM 62
BLITHE SPIRIT (Hubert Fischer, 1955)	
GRAND CHAMPION (Mary Lester, 1960)	AM 67
GRAND PARADE (Steadman Buttrick, 1960)	HM 62
LOVE THAT PINK (David Hall, 1962)	AM 68
SILVER KING (Sally Lake, 1959)	AM 67
PREMIER PEACH (David Hall, 1962)	
CAREY QUINN (David Hall, 1960)	AM 66
CHIPPER CHERRY (David Hall, 1961)	AM 69
NOB HILL (David Hall, 1962)	AM 68
LILAC CHIFFON (Mary Lester, 1959)	
FINLANDIA (Claar-Parry, 1959)	HM 64
WARM WELCOME (Doc Branch, 1957) maybe	
LUXURY LACE (Edna Spalding, 1959)	Stout Medal 65
CASHMERE (Wild Nursery, 1963)	AM 70
THUMBELINA (Hubert Fischer, 1954)	HM 56
ROSY FUTURE (Mary Lester, 1955)	
HANS SASS (George Lenington, 1956)	HM 62
COOL VALLEY (Doc Branch, 1960)	
FASHION MODEL (Mary Lester, 1960)	AM 67

1965

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In his second season at the new house, it looks like he did less hybridizing. There are only two notebook pages of 1965 crosses, 23 rows of seedlings.



The format of these two pages stretches the limit of what each line can hold. Row numbers run down the left side. Within rows, numbers in parentheses are a seedling count, with the number on the far right being the total for the row. There is a single seedling with unknown parents in row two. At a later date, and in pencil, Oscie has written JOMICO above the list and circled the (1). JOMICO was Oscie's first registered daylily (1968). He gave the parents as "seedling X (SOLO x WINNING WAYS)." I have hypothesized that he crossed SOLO with WINNING WAYS in 1962 in a cross written "105 X \$1000." This would bloom for the first time in 1964 and if he crossed it with a seedling and got one seed, that would have been this single seed with "?" parents. It's a huge leap of the imagination to get to that conclusion, but it is remotely possible.

His 1964 map shows 16 seedlings from a seedling X (105 x 1000), so if my guesswork is correct, the pedigree of JOMICO is in the 1964 map for sure. Finding "JOMICO" in the 1965 map on a single seedling with unknown parents is puzzling.

There are abbreviations such as "Mun Blue" and "Mun Lav" that make me think he's working with Bill Munson's plants

Robert Griesbach, one of the "tetraploid pioneers" in Chicago, taught Oscie a method of treating germinating diploid seeds with a colchicine solution. Griesbach favored this method because the

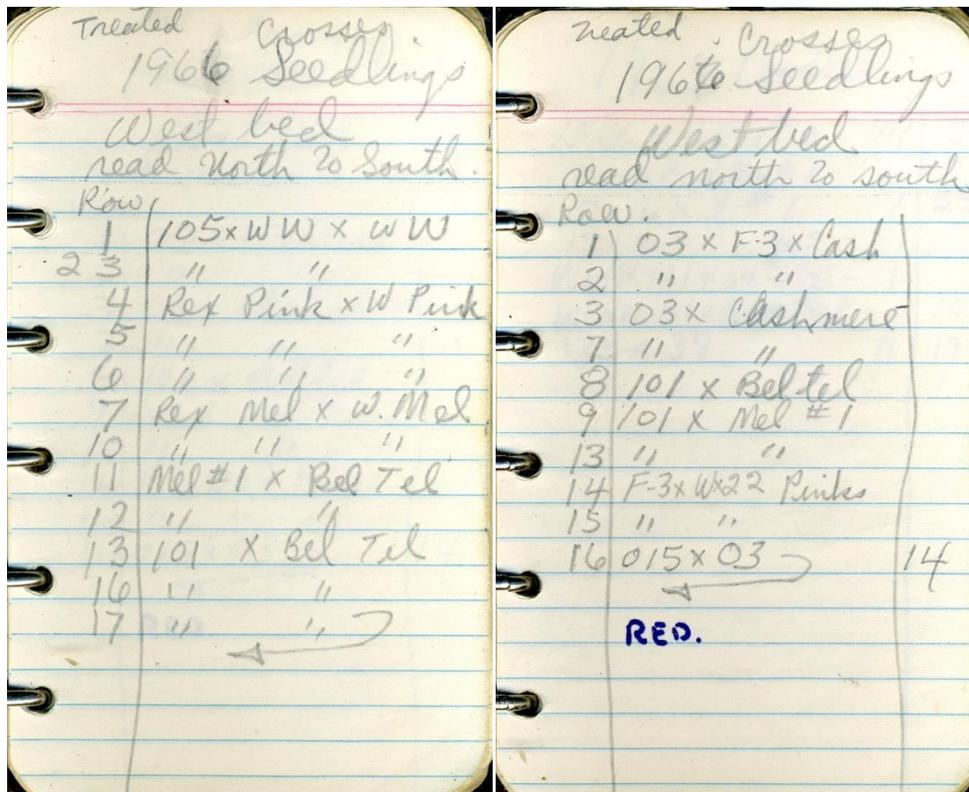
conversions were more stable than those obtained by treating plants. However, the treatment usually killed more than 80% of the treated seeds. Oscie learned both methods and used a microscope to measure pollen grains and stoma cells of the leaves. "It's often very difficult to know how to work with a plant if you're just guessing about the pollen," he told me. "Some blossoms have too little tet pollen, so you have to check different anthers, different blossoms, different days, and learn how your plant operates." After 1965, tetraploids are Oscie Whatley's area of concentration.

1966

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The seedling map was originally dated 1967 because that's when he made the map, but he erased the 7 and wrote 6 because this is a map of the work he did in 1966. The only seeds planted in 1967 were the result of Oscie's determination to produce his own line of tetraploids.

I have taken a wild guess that 105 in Oscie's numbering of his breeder plants is Doc Branch's SOLO. The number first appears in his 1962 map, and the cultivar is much used. The use of "WW" tells me that Oscie acquired an actual plant of WINNING WAYS when it was available. I surmise that "105 x WW" is a keeper seedling from a cross he noted in 1962 as "105 X \$1000." The cross in Row 1 is a back cross of 105 X WW to its pollen parent, WINNING WAYS.



We know from Oscie's description of JUTLAND in a 1973 ad that he also used CHETCO (Ezra Kraus, 1956) AM 61, Chinese yellow self; SHOOTING STAR (David Hall, 1951) AM 59, yellow self; and MASTER TOUCH (David Hall, 1964) AM 74, pink. We don't know if the list above represents his first attempt to treat

seeds. Assuming he remembered correctly in 1972, why are the parents of JUTLAND not in this list of crosses behind his induced tets?

1967-68

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I am not sure about the chronology of the notebook pages for 1967 and 1968. The pages are somewhat disordered in the notebook, and some of the years are erased and overwritten. I think these pages date from 1968, the year his garden was on tour during the AHS National Convention. These pages begin with a formal set of seedling numbers for his diploid selections. He made this list in 1967 and evidently updated it in 1968 and 1970.

A handwritten notebook page titled "SEEDLING Nos" with "DIP." written below it. The page lists 21 rows of seedling information. Each row has a formal number on the left and an informal number on the right. The formal numbers are combinations of a year, a color descriptor, and a number. The informal numbers are single digits from 03 to 21. The last row, "68-Y-21", is written in red ink. The word "flat" is written in cursive next to "67-Y-15" and "68-Y-20".

Formal Number	Informal Number
64-Y-03	03
64-L-4	4
65-M-5	5
66-Y-6	6
66-P-7	7
66-Y-8	8
66-R-9	9
65-Y-10	10
66-Y-11	11
67-R-12	12
67-B-13	13
67-Y-14	14
67-Y-15 flat	15
67-Y-16	16
66-R-17	17
64-P-18	18
68-Y-19	19
68-Y-20 flat	20
68-Y-21	21

Formal numbers are on the left, and the previous informal numbers are on the right. His system includes a color descriptor, P(ink), Y(ellow), R(ed), L(avender), M(elon), and B(lend). I don't think the year numbers on the left are reliable or definitive. The maps suggest otherwise. The year numbers don't actually define seedlings in his system; the seedling number does.

He saved a slide of 64-L-4:



Oscie was 45 years old when his garden was on tour at the 1968 AHS National Convention. It is not an exaggeration to say that people were thunderstruck by what they saw of his work. Here is the write-up of his garden in the Fall *Hemerocallis Journal* in 1968:

GARDEN OF MR. & MRS. OSCIE B. WHATLEY

This garden proves that daylilies bloom and branch better in the direct sun. There was not a single tree to shade them as this garden was started in 1964. There must have been more rain in this area as I have never seen plants grown better. The foliage was a deep green and the colors were very rich and brilliant. I believe Mr. Whatley mentioned that he used only fish fertilizer and if this is correct, we should all go out and buy some. I think Mr. Whatley should advise our editor (Ben Parry) as to exactly what he used.

In this garden we all flipped over the Whatley seedlings. They were under number and about six of them were truly perfection. These were bright waxy ruffled blooms of amaryllis form and some were in the deeper shade of gold. These were the best seedlings in their color class

and if Mr. Whatley doesn't introduce them, we may all get up in arms. I don't know what he used to get them but he sure hit the jack pot. It would be hard to choose the best but it would possibly be Whatley 64-Y-03. Oh how I would love to stroll out and find one like that in my seedling patch. A clump of MISSION MOONLIGHT (Reckamp) was a solid mass of pale yellow. The low well-branched scape made it an ideal plant for landscape value. DREAM AGAIN (Unger) was another low growing pale yellow which often has eight segments. PRAIRIE DELIGHT (Marsh) was a good true pink with a green throat. His PRAIRIE CHARMER made an eye-catching clump in many gardens. This is a pale pink with a purple eyezone. KING OF HEARTS (King) was a lovely bright deep very velvety red with a green throat. GRACIOUS (King) was a large flat creamy golden yellow with a slight eye and good branching. SPACE AGE (Hughes) was a pretty ruffled golden yellow. Two Fay tetraploids I liked here were LADY CYNTHIA, a well formed creamy melon and KATHLEEN ELSIE RANDALL, a blend of creamy melon, gold and pastel pink.

All beds in the Whatley garden were long and about five feet wide which made it easy to view all plants. The outer edge of the garden was up on a higher area and I must admit it was not too easy climbing up and down this steep area which was covered with grass (they tell me Mr. Whatley wears golf shoes to dig in with) but there were more of those beautiful very ruffled Whatley seedlings up there so I ventured on up—usually with a helping hand. It was worth the climb as they all had such strong well branched scapes and such heavy substance.

It was with regret that I took the last look at them and also Lenington's LOLABELLE.

In 1998 Oscie told me about how JAKARTA funded the purchase of a nice set of lamps for his living room: “There were a lot of big daylilies then,” he remembered, “but they were unsymmetrical. JAKARTA was obviously different, and it threw symmetrical seedlings. When the tour bus arrived at my house, a southern woman stepped out with a crowd of people who were watching every move she made. She took a long look at JAKARTA and asked in a loud voice, ‘how much do you charge for that plant?’ I had never charged more than \$5 for a plant, but I decided to ask her what she thought it was worth. She said, ‘I’ll give you \$50 for that plant’ and I said, ‘It’s yours!’ Before the bus pulled away I had sold nine pieces of that plant at \$50. Nobody at the convention had offered to buy my plants until she did. After that, my plants were in demand.”



66-R-17

BUDDHA (1969) Wild seedling X JAKARTA

AM 1975

The AHS database says: Buddha (Whatley, 1969) height 30 in. (76 cm), bloom 5 in. (13 cm), season EM, Rebloom, Dormant, Diploid. Black red self with green throat. (sdlg x Jakarta)

Oscie’s registration form says BUDDHA has 25 buds on high, wide branching, and notes “large green throat against black background of petals and sepals. Very good sun resistance. Holds up perfect in rain.” Introduced by Oscie in 1970.

Oscie told me that the Wild Nursery loved to sell BUDDHA because it was virtually self-dividing in the field.



66-Y-8

JAVA SEA (1970) JAKARTA X EMERALD ISLE

The AHS database says: Java Sea (Whatley, 1970) height 20 in. (51 cm), bloom 7 in. (18 cm), season MLa, Rebloom, Dormant, Diploid. Deep yellow self with green throat. (sdlg x Emerald Isle)

Oscie told me JAVA SEA’s reblooming trait made it popular with landscapers. If you look back at the picture of the front of his house in 1991, the mass of yellow flowers is JAVA SEA. He gave its

bud count as 20. Introduced via the Region 11 newsletter in 1971.



67-B-13

MALASIA (1970) JAKARTA X CASHMERE

HM 1973

The AHS database says: Malaysia (Whatley, 1970) height 28 in. (71 cm), bloom 6 in. (15 cm), season M, Dormant, Diploid. Gold blend with green throat. (Jakarta × Cashmere)

Oscie's registration form says, "'Color is a blend of gold and rose that is smooth and attractive. Scant branching, 25 buds, heavy substance. Introduced via the Region 11 newsletter in 1971.'



68-Y-20

CHARBONIER (1970) JAKARTA X seedling (JOMICO)

AM 1976

The AHS database says: Charbonier (Whatley, 1970) height 32 in. (81 cm), bloom 6 in. (15 cm), season M, Dormant, Diploid. Beige self with green throat. (Jakarta × sdlg)

Oscie's registration data sheet gives the pollen parent as "66-Y-015" which is JOMICO. It doesn't matter that "66" is rendered in other places as "67." The only important number is the seedling number "015" which in his system was never used for more than one seedling. Unfortunately, Oscie was not thinking about future researchers when giving parentage. JAKARTA was his stellar attraction and it sufficed to simply give JOMICO's seedling number because the cross was made before JOMICO was named. In truth, the cross was made before JAKARTA was named, too.

According to the AHS data sheet, CHARBONIER was a 6" beige self with a 32" scape and 50 buds, a vigorous plant, rapidly increasing, with scant, close branching, and "very large for this round

form and flatness." Introduced via the Region 11 newsletter in 1971. Later converted to Tet.

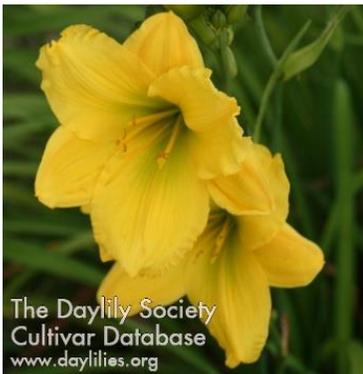


66-Y-6 WABADA (1971) JAKARTA X seedling

HM 1974

The AHS database says: Wabada (Whatley, 1971) height 30 in. (76 cm), bloom 5.5 in. (14 cm), season EM, Dormant, Diploid. Light gold self with green throat. (Jakarta × sdlg)

Introduced by Oscie's Louisiana friend, James McKinney in 1972.



68-Y-21 VANDALIA (1971) CASHMERE X JAKARTA

The AHS database says: Vandalia (Whatley, 1971) height 34 in. (86 cm), bloom 6.5 in. (17 cm), season EM, Dormant, Diploid, Very Fragrant. Light gold self with green throat. (Cashmere × Jakarta)

Oscie's registration form says "buff yellow, 6.6" flower on wide branching, with 27 buds." He made no descriptive comments on the data sheet. Introduced by James McKinney in 1972.



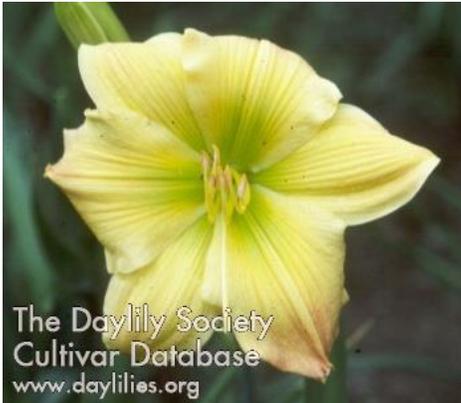
68-Y-23

OLIVETTE (1972) MALAYSIA X sibling

HM 1976

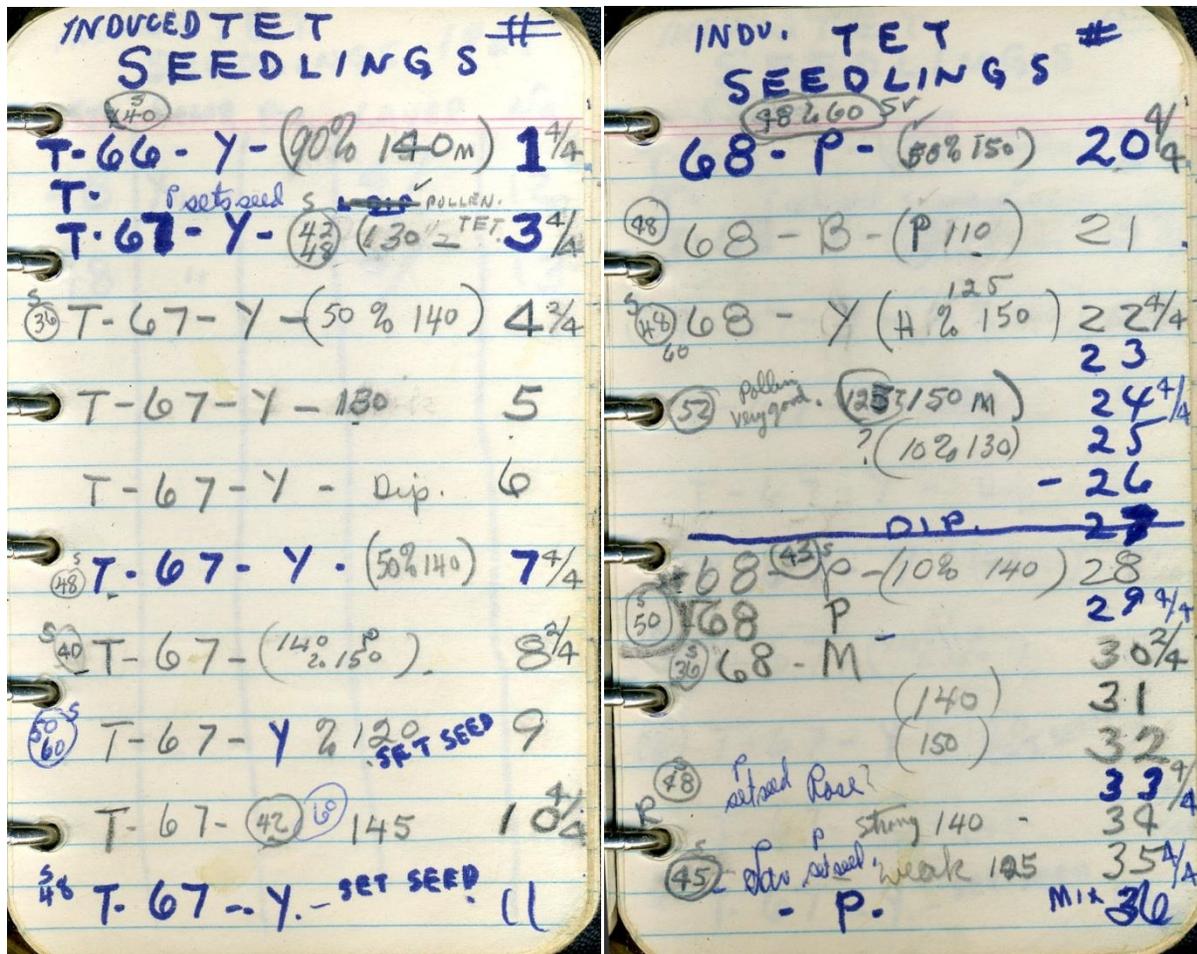
The AHS registration says: Olivette (Whatley, 1972) height 26 in. (66 cm), bloom 5.5 in. (14 cm), season MLa, Dormant, Diploid. Medium yellow with rose tip and green throat. (Malaysia × Malaysia)

The registration database indicates OLIVETTE is a self cross of MALAYSIA, but the registration form says it's MALAYSIA X SIBLING. The rules didn't allow "sibling" as a parent name, so rather than write "seedling," the registrar repeated the name MALAYSIA. Introduced by James McKinney in 1973.



1967 Tetraploids

The first results of Oscie's conversion of germinating seeds are listed in the notebook under "1967 Selects - Induced." The numbering system for selects employs a capital T for tetraploid and D for diploid. The year designation, as in "T-66-Y-1," can vary in his notes. It is not critical because the number on the right of the formula is all that matters. "T-1" is enough to identify tetraploid seedling number 1.



The notes follow microscopic analysis of the pollen and leaf cells. The parents of these seedlings aren't written down! The pages are not in order. It appears that there are 61 selects. These either come from the earlier list of treated seeds or from a missing list that included the plants in the background of JUTLAND. His first tetraploid registration, BELLERIVE, came from this list:

22

BELLERIVE (1971) [Induced] CASHMERE X JAKARTA

HM 74

The AHS database says: Bellerive (Whatley, 1971) height 30 in. (76 cm), bloom 7 in. (18 cm), season EM, Dormant, Tetraploid. Light yellow self with green throat. (Cashmere x Jakarta) Oscie's registration form indicates introduction by James McKinney in 1972.



A few pictures remain of these early tets:

T-3



T-4



T-20



T-23



T-40



T-51



T-100



T-106



Confusion sets in now. A map of 1967 Tet seedlings is crossed out, but the pages are saved. These same crosses reappear in a 1968 map in a different bed. Did he rework his beds and transplant those seedlings in 1968? That is more likely than the extinction of the whole 1967 crop!

1967

TET-SEEDLINGS

Row	WEST END	SEED	PLANT
	T-1 x ENVOY	5	
	PRO x T-1	1	
1	T-1 x GER SMITH	4	
	T-1 x BC-65 or M-65	7	
	T-1 x G. SMITH	3	
	T-1 x T-?	x	
	T-1 x KER	7	
	T-1 x M-65-6	12	
	T-1 x " or BC-65	6	
	T-1 x " or LC.	9	
	PRO x T-6	2	
2	PRO x T-?	1	
	T-1 x LC	6	
	LC x T-?	1	
	PRO x T-3	1	
	LOYAL 5 x T-1	1	

1968

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Oscie treated more diploid seeds with a colchicine bath in 1968 and he planted his first generation of tetraploid seeds. Those seeds were listed on the 1967 page he crossed out. The treated seed list is written very carefully, with two columns of numbers on the right. He focused on his own diploid selections, his unnumbered seedlings, and just four outcross parents. The seedling he would name MALAYSIA is the pod parent on the sixth line, CASHMERE X 03 (03 being JAKARTA). The sibling cross (incross in his usage) resulted in a diploid selection he named OLIVETTE. He has repeated the cross that yielded OLIVETTE to provide seeds for tetraploid conversion. Of his other selections on this page, only 66-Y-6 went on to be registered as WABADA.

1968 Treated seed,			TET. SEEDLINGS E. of HOUSE		
CROSS.	L	S	Row. (Read E 2 W)		#
MIS MOON x 667-6-	54	12	1	KER x T-1 (48) ^s	12
66-P-7 x PINK PARA.	58	49	2	KER x T-1	3
64-Y-03 x WIN. WAY	35	18	2	Lady C x T-1	7
66-R-9 x 67-R-12	56	25	3	T-1 x ENVOY (42) ^s	5
66-P-7 x 64-L-4	189	31	3	PRO. x T-1	1
CAS. x 03 incross	10	5	3	T-1 x G. Smith	2
66-R-9 x FLEETA	22	4	3	T-1 x G. Smith	1
66-Y-6 x Y-16 AND }	10	-	3	Pro. x T-3	1
P x 125 x 66-P-7 }			3	SUM P. x T-4 ?	1
66-Y-6 x (03 x 101)	11	-	4	T-1 x M-65 or BC-67	7
66-Y-6 x 66-Y-8	8	-	4	T-1 x KER	5
66-P-7 x (03 x 101)	17	-	4	T-1 x Y. Cham	2
			5	T-1 x M-65-6	7
			5	T-1 x Lady C	5
			6	T-1 x M-65-6 or BC-67	5
			6	T-1 x LAV FA M-65-6	7
			1'	016 x Y-6 or 07 x 125 x TP	4
			1'	Y-6 x 03 x 101	3

The map of the 1968 Tet seedlings says the bed is on the east side of the house. It gives row numbers and a count of plants in the ground. The circled numbers with superscript "s" are measurements of the stoma cells on the leaves under microscopic examination. Too bad that "101" was never decoded in Oscie's maps. According to the system he had in use early on, named cultivars in his collection were assigned numbers, which he memorized and used in these notebooks. The system was eventually abandoned and replaced with abbreviations that also proved a challenge.

1969

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The 1969 selects appear to be from first-generation induced tetraploid seedlings, and they number 100 through 111, with no names of parents, only microscope data and occasional color descriptors. Originally, Oscie wrote "2nd generation" and "1968" but overwrote the 2 with a 1 and the 8 with a 9. He is using a 100 number series for first-generation and a 200 number series for second generation.

END Tet 1969

	Stem	Pal	Color	Layer
100	?	150	Low Blue Green Th.	4/4
101	48			
102	48	150	White	<u>Chamber</u>
103				
104	48/50			
105	36/40		ROSE	
106	50/60	150	Red.	
107	55	150	ROSE	
108	50			
109	36/40		Red.	
110	48	110	Pink - 7/2	
111			ROSE	

2nd Gen. 1969
TET. Seedlings

201	
LC x T-1 Rev. (Hft) (201)	201
202	
LC x T-1 (Hft) (203)	203
• T-1 x Envoy	204
• T-1 x KER	205
• T-1 x Envoy	206
• T-1 x BC-	207
• T-1 x BC (Rep) (FERTILE) Low	208
KER x T-1 (Hft) (209)	209
• KER x T-1 Low (Rep)	210
T-1 x LC	211
T-1 x GS.	212
KER x T-1 (Best) (FERTILE)	213
T-1 x LC	214
T-1 x BC	215
T-1 x LF (FERTILE)	216
T-1 x C.T. (Fer)	217
T-1 x BC	218

2nd gen. Seedling
1969

Pro x T-1 ? (fer) Rep	219
	220
T x 1 x BC or Mol.)	221
T-1 x LF (FER) (Best color)	222
T-1 x LF (FERTILE)	223
KER x T-1	224
T-1 x BBA.	225
T-1 x BC-	226
T-1 x BC PINK	227
T-1 x LF	228
T-1 x BC	229
KER x T-1 (Hft)	230
T-1 x BC (FERTIL)	231
T-1 x C.T. Rep (Fer)	232
Pro x T-4 (Large fade)	233
T-1 x LF - (white) (FERTILE)	234
T-1 x BC FERTILE	235
T-1 x BC	236
T-1 x Mol	237

This list of 53 2nd generation Tet seedlings involves outcross parents previously guessed or identified, plus a small puzzle. In his map of the seedlings from which these were selected, he wrote out "Ger Smith" to mean GERTRUDE SMITH. There is no indication anywhere of Fay's GOLDEN SURREY. When I interviewed Oscie for an article in 1998 he recalled using GOLDEN SURREY, crossing it into his ETZKORN line, and obtaining YUMA. Like so many cultivars Oscie used and remembered, GOLDEN SURREY is a "ghost." There isn't a trace of it in the notebooks.

My transcription of this select list includes other guesses that are open to argument. For instance, is LF a conversion of Spalding's LAVENDER FLIGHT. I think that's most likely, given Oscie's love of clear lavenders and the Spalding line. Is BC a tet, BRIGHT COPPER, by Orville Fay, 1968? Fay was a mentor to Oscie. I like that guess better than the diploid BCs from the 1960s, but did Oscie? Is "MoP" Mildred Schlumpf's MOPSY, a diploid he would have converted? There's no other cultivar beginning "Mop" before 1968, dip or tet. However, Oscie seems to have written a lower-case "o" in "MoP," which suggests he converted David Hall's MOTHER OF PEARL (1955) or Wild's MIST OF PINK (1966). What do you think?

The list is rich in recent tetraploids by Orville Fay, Brother Charles Reckamp, and Virginia Peck. What is "MOL" at the bottom of the list. Has he converted a diploid seedling from Steve Moldovan?

2nd Gen. 1969

T-1 x BC	238
T-1 x BBA (GIFT)	239
T-1 x LF (PINK Low) FER	240
T-1 x BC	241
T-1 x BC Fertile	242
T-1 x BC (Fer)	243
T-1 x LC	244
T-1 x BC	245
KER x T 1	246
KER x T-1	247
T-1 x Envoy	248
Pro. x T-H (rep. fertile)	249
T-1 x G.S. (PINK)	250
T-1 x BC	251
KER x T 1	252
T-1 x Mol	253
	254
	255
	256
	257
	258

Oscie saved only two slides of these second generation tet selects.:

222 CALAVERA (1971) T1 X Tet. LAVENDER FLIGHT

The AHS database says: Calavera (Whatley, 1971) height 28 in. (71 cm), bloom 5.5 in. (14 cm), season EM, Dormant, Tetraploid. Lavender pink self with yellow green throat. (sdlg x Tet. Lavender Flight)

Oscie's registration form indicated that the spent blooms were shed quickly, the flowers had heavy substance and diamond dusting, the scape was graceful, with ample, wide branching and 20 buds. The daylily would be introduced by Jim McKinney in 1972.



No 248 is the only unregistered seedling picture from that series:



There is no garden map for 1969 in the notebooks.

Jim McKinney is an important part of Oscie's journey as a hybridizer. I don't know when they met, but it could have been at the 1968 AHS National Convention in St. Louis. I will begin Volume 2 with the little I know about McKinney and then continue with the next ten years of Oscie's career, culminating in a breakthrough toothy daylily, YUMA.