

● **Maurice Herr**
(From page 5)

breeding business, but from here on the process begins to be different.

The seeds produced this year are planted in 1962 and produce a tiny corm, the enlarged stem which produces the new plant, which must be carried over winter and planted in 1963. That tiny corm will produce a bulb large enough to make a flower in 1964 but only a very small fraction of the crosses produce a flower worth pursuing any further.

If the flower is of high quality, it must be grown until it produces new corms, and they are grown to flowering stage. If the flower from these corms are true to type, the bulbs can be multiplied for planting on a commercial scale.

Herr became interested in crossbreeding the flowers when his oldest son, Harold, was studying botany in college and experimented with some flowers in his father's fields.

Herr has been growing gladiolus on a commercial scale for the past 34 years, making him the oldest producer in the county, in terms of consecutive years of production, he figures.

At present Herr has several un-named varieties which look promising, but he does not make any predictions as to their possibilities. There are too many uncertain factors to consider, but whether he has any of the present seedling varieties accepted by the trade or not, he has had some success in the past. One of his seedling strains, the Al'da G, has become a standard variety and has won many ribbons in competitive gladiolus shows.

Among the trophies in the historic old living room (the house dates back to the early 1800's) one bright, shiny silver cup has a place of prominence. During the last week of July Mr. and Mrs. Herr brought home the trophy for best three spikes in the National Gladiola Show at the Botanical Gardens in Washington D. C., plus a host of blue and red ribbons and a sprinkling of white ribbons for individual class placings. The best three spikes were of the Royal Stewart, a red variety, and stood taller than head high in the field.

But Herr points with pride to the other cups, statuettes and trophies on the table. These are the winnings.

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● **Crop Summary**

(From page 4)

of his two younger children, Donald and Mary Jane

Donald, now a pre-veterinary student and Mary Jane, a high school senior, have been active in many 4-H clubs, particularly the beef club where both won many trophies.

The elder Herr was formerly a steer feeder, running as high as 60 head on the 100 acre farm, but when margins grew smaller in the beef cattle business, he cut his feeder cattle to about ten head and shifted his emphasis to flowers. He rents out his tobacco land on the shares.

Mary Jane shares her parents' interest in the flowers, showing in the 4-M classes at the International Gladiolus show.

But commercial varieties or rare experimental strains, the tremendous spray of colorful "glads" adds a look of loviness to the living room of this reporter's home.

ing. Only half a crop is expected; however, the fruit is of good quality and size. Half Havens were being harvested last week, and Elbertas are starting to ripen. Peach growers sprayed quite liberally so very little disease or insect damage is found.

A good clean crop of apples is in prospect. Orchardists in the south central portion of the state started picking summer varieties last week.

Hay made good growth last week and is in good condition. The average quality of hay made was only fair due to unfavorable curing conditions.

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