

REQUIRED READING:

1. "The Peonies" by John C. Wister, \$3.50 from American Peony Society. 250 Interlachen Rd., Hopkins, MN 55343
2. Bulletins of the American Peony Society.
3. History of the Peonies and their Originations.
4. The Best of 75 Years; 3 & 4 ed. by Greta Kessenich, and available from the American Peony Society.

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Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49007.

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"Redgarth"
17, The Piece
Churchdown, England
27 January, 1981

Dear Mr. Laning,

I am sorry your letter has not been answered before, but my husband died suddenly last year.

I have informed Mr. Simkins and he said he would put it in the Bulletin, so perhaps you already know by now.

My husband had about 500 peony plants so I have had to dispose of them. Kelway's had a good many and I managed to sell nearly all of them to friends.

I found some packets of seeds so perhaps you could make use of them.

I have kept a few plants. He grew roses as well and also begonias. It is a big garden so I have had plenty to do.

We had a very interesting life in the flower world and he is greatly respected in this part of the country with his lectures knowledge of horticulture.

Hope you will have some success with the seed.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Rita Graham-Jones

LETTER TO: Chris Laning
FROM: LeRoy Pehrson
DATE: February 12, 1981

I have a copy of the letter you wrote to Don Hollingsworth concerning the plants remaining in my garden. I must tell you that nothing of any importance remains in my garden, it has either been sent away or destroyed. The situation has been awkward because no one else in the family has any interest in or liking for flowers of any kind, I think that during the twenty years or so that I grew peonies by the thousands, not one of them ever walked into the garden to look at or admire them. So don't come here to rescue plants.

Now as to the hybrid, '**Mary Jo Legare**', I am sure you know my only plant of this was divided and sent to two of you a year ago last fall. I should like it very much if both of you would report how it survived the first winter and how well it behaved. In addition, I would like a yearly report from you without fail. Mary Jo will also like to know how the plant fares, so please report to her as well.

Now there is something else again, you will recall that I advised that the *P. lactiflora*, cultivar '**Mikado**' not be permitted to become extinct. I think it is still available from a few sources, although it is not one of the better sorts for garden use. If you have not done so, please get some. As you know, Chris, a cross ('**Mikado**' x '**Good Cheer**') produces some remarkable seedlings. Some of these were double triploids which had carpels, but no stamens,, I should say that this is the only real "nick" I have obtained from the thousands of crosses in the years past. The cross should be repeated by everyone because the seedlings obtained will be of such merit they will supersede all red triploids now in cultivation except for '**Red Charm**'.

You may have noted that Don Hollingsworth has bloomed some seedlings from several different lactifloras crossed with '**Good Cheer**', and while some of those seedlings were doubles of a sort, all of them had stamens. '**Mikado**' overcomes this difficulty.

'**Good Cheer**' is one of the four little reds produced by Professor Saunders. Two of the other "little reds" are also capable of producing good doubles. The experience with '**Scarlet Tanager**' is very minimal, but another one of these, '**Little Dorrit**', is, of course, the pollen parent of the great '**Mary Jo Legare**'. The last of these "little reds," '**Ladybird**', is another matter. I grew about two hundred seedlings of this one, using its pollen on several lactiflora and there was no sign of doubling. Avoid using this one because it is no good.

In one of the articles by Professor Saunders and published in the Bulletin he states that "Doubleness in this cross is dictated by the officinalis parent." Since officinalis blooms earlier than lactiflora, he was compelled to use officinalis as the male parent in this cross and could not use the well known double form of this species. He had several single flowering clones of officinalis for use as pollinators and one or more of these produced doubles among the seedlings and other ones did not.

I think it would be well here to point out that the hybridizers who worked with peonies in the 1930s, must have obtained very few double seedlings or we should see more of them in the marketplace. I am pretty sure that the "little reds," being one-half officinalis, would behave in essentially the same way as officinalis itself. Since the cross '**Mikado**' x '**Good Cheer**' produced a surprising number of doubles, it can be assumed that the lactiflora '**Mikado**' is an exceptional candidate for use in this cross. I think it can be properly said that the statement by Professor Saunders can now be enlarged to include the following: "In the cross, lactiflora by officinalis, the degree of doubleness is controlled by

the lactiflora parent." The same would be true of lactiflora by "little reds". Clearly, the phenotype of the seed parent is of little or no importance. Other lactifloras which are just as good as **'Mikado'** may be discovered by experimenting, but there is no reason at all to believe they would be better in any way. It would require five years or probably more to uncover them, a big waste of time. This is a discovery about which I feel so strongly, that I have engaged a secretary at astronomical prices to tell you about it again!!!

The evidence for the other two "little reds", **'Scarlet Tanager'** and **'Little Dorrit'**, is very, very sketchy. Our man in Minneapolis obtained a double from amongst some plants I had sent to him as baby seedlings, using a cross of lactiflora by **'Scarlet Tanager'**, I don't know how good this one is and I grew out none of these seedlings myself.

Then we have **'Little Dorrit'**, I used its pollen to produce a few seeds which I planted in their dormant condition in the garden. They were very crowded and I did not tend them properly. Two or three bloomed and one of those became the wonderful **'Mary Jo Legare'**, This cross, although very little studied thus far, appears to produce better plants in stem and foliage and better roots than any of the others, so would not be surprised if the cross **'Mikado'** by **'Little Dorrit'** were to produce the best seedlings of all. Try to do this as soon as you can.

Now on a personal note: I am now on my back in a nursing home. In 1975, I had surgery for an enlarged prostate. It turned out that I had to have part of my bladder removed because it had bulged. Cancer was found in the prostate, but it was thought it had all been removed. This assumption was incorrect apparently, because it has now been determined that my bones are cancerous. My breathing has become more difficult, this is emphysema. I am now breathing supplementary oxygen most of the time. Further surgery has been done to slow the spread of cancer by reducing the production of male hormones. Commencing the first winter after my initial surgery, I spent four winters in Yuma, Arizona. During this time Mary Jo did most of the work in the garden. She has now become a registered nurse, has married and is employed in a Veteran's Hospital in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Greta Kessenich: Greta, you have asked in the past for a story of my life for the Bulletin. Since this little lady is agreeable, I will arrange to do this in the near future.

CHEERS ALL !!!!!!!

Roy

.....

Dear Roy:

I'd like to say that the plant **'Mary Jo Legare'** grew very well last year and developed into a nice bush. It failed to bloom but I expect a generous display of flowers from it this year and am anxiously awaiting its first bloom!

Your plant of **'Mikado'** x **'Good Cheer'** surprised me with a strange performance. Two years ago the flowers were semi-double with all petals seeming to be guard petals. The bloom looked like a great big **'Red Red Rose'** and of about the same color. Last year it changed its appearance looking like a bright **'Red Charm'** and was very much like the photo of it you sent me the prior year. This should develop into a great peony.

Roy, upon your prompting I bought five plants of **'Mikado'**. These were small roots all of which survived but not one bloomed. We have had a very wet summer (excellent growing conditions) and now I expect them to provide many blooms to work with for the great "Roy Pehrson cross". Also those plants will be a good source for distribution in three or four years.

NOTE:

I doubt that Roy Pehrson realizes that his hybridizing progress is showing up in my garden at ever increasing tempo. Seeds, seedlings, and mature plants he gave me resulted in the producing of many fine clones!! Let me list a few of them:

Laning's Best Yellow — a full double though having stamens and carpels and is fertile
— has red flares.

Another is very much like it, but without the flares — this one too is fertile.

A third yellow one is $\frac{3}{4}$ double, with abundant pollen and is seed fertile.

Then there is a beautiful peach colored double, a big pink double and a jap that I call cardboard because of its stiffness (not a lady's flower). All of these are tetraploid many of which have an "inner glow." Singles are opulent, and of many colors. A very, very large tan single shown at the show at Champaign, Illinois, was by Mr. Krekler called the best flower in the whole show. I like it too.

Roy, I wish you could see the results of your cross of Quad F₃ x 'Silver Dawn' F₃. For me, this is the greatest cross ever.

- Chris

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January 14, 1981

Dear Chris,

Thanks for the fine peony seeds that arrived last week. I hope I can follow your careful directions and grow them successfully. When and if they grow and flower, I will give you a further report.

I finally got the original Smirnow-Itoh hybrids from a friend in Akron, Ohio. Now that I know more about them, will not try to do much with them in breeding except to try to set an occasional seed, but will enjoy them as plants for their bloom and foliage which is unusual.

As soon as the Denver Botanical Gardens' new peonies become established and bloom, will try to take some pictures and report which varieties do best here. Our climate is so different from Michigan and Missouri, particularly as far as lack of summer moisture is concerned, that this may be helpful to those who grow peonies in dry climates.

What, if anything, did Mt. St. Helen's eruptions do to peonies in the Northwest? Several of my iris growing friends expect possible mutations as the ash was flying during bloom and pollination time.

Hope you have a very successful 1981.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Kuesel
4 Larkdale Drive
Littleton, CO 80123

Don Hollingsworth
5831 N. Colrain Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri 64151

January 2, 1981

Dear Don:

I did acquire peony varieties from Mr. and Mrs. Cousins in 1972 and again from Mrs. Cousins in 1974 and 1976. All the plants turned out to be hybrids, but neither Mr. or Mrs. Cousins knew the parentage of any of them. Eight or ten varieties in my judgment seem to be worthy of introduction. I will attempt to do that after I see them bloom again this May and June. The others may have breeding potential and will save stock of these pending an inspection from you and/or Chris. Some of the selections readily set their own seeds.

David Reath did obtain seeds from Lyman in the 1960s and Myron Bigger did receive sprouted seedlings from Mr. Cousins. **'Topeka Coral'** is excellent and very similar to two of my Cousins selections.

My Cousins selections are strongest in the coral, salmon coral and rose coral color ranges. Also there are two nicely shaped, smooth, "saucer" varieties of cream and pink.

The plants are at my home in Barrington. Most selections have been divided into reasonable numbers and will be 3 and 2 year olds this year. Come if you can.

Concerning Sam Wissing's selections - our new catalog now being edited will list two other coral peonies from Mr. Wissing's efforts - **'Coral Supreme'**, and **'Coral Sunset'**. Both are excellent and uniquely different than the original **'Coral Charm'**. I would suspect the breeding was similar (possibly **'Otto Froebel'** x **'Minnie Shaylor'**). I also have a few other numbered selections from Sam under testing and evaluation (one salmon looks promising). It's also possible some of the other stock is in someone else's hands - I don't know. After Sam passed on, no plants were either given to me or sold to me from his yard.

Gratwick's "Choni" in my yard is a vigorous, very early blooming single purple tree peony. It seeds readily and Bill told me that he has 3 or 4 separate Choni selections - each slightly different. For the last few years I have grafted what he considers the best one and in the future will have plants of this available.

I also understand that Rock's has variability when started from seeds. This may explain why slight variations have been noted from various collectors. Again, Bill Gratwick has various moutan white selections with purple flares. I haven't seen these bloom but did graft quite a number of these this year for Bill. Possibly these are relatives of Rock's variety.

Sincerely yours,

Roy Klehm
Arlington Heights, Illinois

cc Chris Laning

March 4, 1981

Dear Chris and Lois,

I always look forward to the next issue of PAEONIA and appreciate your efforts and feel guilty about not contributing more. The recent letter distributed by Roy has spurred me to write the enclosed article about plants he has sent me. As I described one of his '**Mikado**'-'**Good Cheer**' seedlings the thought occurred to me that this one should bear his name or at least a name remindful of him, however, since so much of his efforts and time were spent on making the Ito crosses, it might be more appropriate to name one of his Ito hybrids after him. Have you thought about this? You probably have his best plants so are in a position to make the proper selection. On the other hand, for wide scale commercial distributions a plant named after a person would not be as sellable as a non-personal name like '**Yellow Crown**', '**Gold Sovereign**', Primrose Beauty, etc. etc. Peony specialists and hybridizers might better remember him if a peony of great or promising hybridizing value was named for him. Here again you might be in a better position to select such a variety. Of the ones I have, the seedling I call SSD would best fit the bill. It is a double, has ample pollen, seems to grow well, although I haven't had it long enough for it to become established, is white and therefore probably useful in breeding yellows and many other colors, not having (probably) an undue influence toward any one color. And if derived from '**Sanctus**'-'**Silver Dawn**' will bring the genes of two varieties not common in most hybridizers' breeding stock.

Being interested in roses, I had joined the Rose Hybridizer's Assn. years ago and their bulletin makes use of an idea that invites greater participation by more members. The editor announces in each issue a theme or topic for the next issue or perhaps 3 or 4 issues in advance, depending on the topic. For example, breeding yellow roses, or breeding red roses, or breeding for hardiness, or seed germination, etc. Then everybody relates their experiences, even negative ones, that touches on these topics. Once, in a winter issue, the editor encouraged readers to concentrate on crossing with the var. Queen Elizabeth and write up their observations for the next winter issue — which crosses took the best, which didn't take at all, etc., and then a year later their observations on which crosses germinated the best, what percentage of seed from each cross produced pink flowers, red flowers, etc., how many were double, single, etc. This latter idea might not be practical for peonies because of the years' waiting period. Some Paeonians may not actively hybridize but be brimming with ideas on what crosses to make if they had the time or the necessary varieties. (Just as I make almost no rose crosses but have some ideas on what to use for hardiness.) So, one topic might be a fantasy type question: "If I had the necessary varieties, what crosses would I make and why." The expression of such ideas might spur on some hybridizer who has the varieties to make such crosses.

For example, I don't have *P. mlokosewitschii* but know that Saunders failed at lacti x mloko and White was successful once, obtaining '**Claire de Lune**'. So my fantasy is —if I had Mloko and '**Claire de Lune**' in my garden, I'd cross the two. Why? To obtain better diploid yellows, of course. And I think there is a chance of success because '**Claire de Lune**' has been proven to be somewhat fertile with other lactis. Also consider '**Pink n' Yellow**', from '**Claire de Lune**' x '**M. Jules Elie**'. Since '**Claire de Lune**' is from '**M. Jules Elie**' parents, why not a backcross to the other parent, P. Mloko? (Actually, I DO have both varieties in my garden with the receipt of P. Mloko from Roy Pehrson, so I plan to realize my own fantasy soon.)

I mention all this because we all know Roy Pehrson and later Don H. and of course yourself have been carrying the burden of the articles in Paeonia and there must be a lot of readers out there with ideas, observations, and experiences to contribute.

Some other topics that come to mind, offhand =

'**Fayette**'; Everybody who has it, make crosses with it and tell us what happened. If you've got a microscope, look at the pollen grains; do any look well-formed and fertile? Don, try your pollen germination test. For some reason I've always assumed it was infertile but I recall an article by Ben Gilbertson in which fertility was implied.

The cross of '**Claire de Lune**' (diploid) with tetraploid creams and light yellows descended from *P. mlokosewitschii*, one parent of '**Claire de Lune**'. The cross Diploid x Tetraploid not be a bummer. Diploid Lacti x tetraploid officinalis is very successful (I've read), and the cross Diploid Lacti x tet '**Archangel**' is met with mostly soft seed, but has anybody tried '**Claire de Lune**' x tet quads?

F₂ ITO CROSS: When I first flowered the Ito-Smirnow hybrids, I pollinated them with lacti pollen and some tetraploid ('**Moonrise**', etc.). I didn't get anything for several years, not even hollow seeds, so I gave up. A couple years ago I broke off the unsightly carpels on some Itos, in early August, and then, as an afterthought, broke open an unusually large carpel and discovered about 6 or 7 firm cream-colored seeds. They shriveled and died. But the only likely chance cross was with a single lacti seedling nearby and when I made the same cross next year deliberately, found quite a few seeds, all hollow it turned out, but still more promising than finding a completely empty carpel. I now wonder if a backcross to the Ito's tree parent, '**Alice Harding**', might not be successful. I've never tried it. Has anybody? If the cross were made with the same diligence and persistence that Roy Pehrson used in his Ito crosses, might not success be attained? We hybridizers have things to work with that Saunders, and even Roy Pehrson, didn't have, for example, Reath's A198 and A199. Might not Ito hybrid x A198 have a better n chance of success than Ito hybrid x '**Alice Harding**'?

Bill Seidl

PEHRSON PEONIES IN MY GARDEN

Bill Seidl

For the past several years Roy Pehrson has been disseminating his peony planting to a select group of hybridizers. I was one of the fortunate members of this group and am taking this means to report what plants were received in order to facilitate future, trades and wider dissemination. In a recent letter Roy asked for reports on the fate of these plants, in particular the one named and registered as '**Mary Jo Legare**', so this article should begin to fulfill my responsibility in that regard also.

Except where noted, none of the plants were identified by Roy by number or letter, so, for convenience sake, I've made up an identifying number or letter name? When letters are used, they are based on the initial letters in Roy's brief descriptions or in the parental names. The letters "RP" represent Roy's initials, "WS" my own. These plants were received in the fall of 1978 and 79. Roy's comments are in quotation marks.

RP-GWST. (Giant White Single Triploid). Big bomb lacti x '**Archangel**'. Makes a few seeds. Laterals. Tall, strong, upright grower, of wonderful habit. Giant foliage. Growing well. Two plants.

RP-GGI. "Chance seedling of the lacti '**Garden Glory**'. Dark red Jap. This may be one of the best ones." Growing well. Four plants. Slender stems but no staking needed.

- P. DAURICA. "Self-sterile but crosses readily with Mloko, both ways." - Surviving, but not thriving.
- P. MLOKO. "Grown from seed." Surviving, but not thriving. Definitely yellow. It bloomed once on a puny plant.
- P. LOBATA. "This clone seems to be the right color — yellow pigment confirmed by paper chromatography — but somehow I have never tested it." Unbloomed.
- RP-SSD. "Possibly '**Sanctus**' x '**Silver Dawn**' F₃. Fertile pollen, Pretty, double, near-white." Growing quite well. As described, very double white but with stamens interspersed among petals. Two plants. Probably a very valuable breeder plant.
- RP-MGC-1. "'**Mikado**' x '**Good Cheer**'. Red Jap. Very interesting." Unbloomed; this grew for a while, then died.
- RP-MGC-6. "'**Mikado**' x '**Good Cheer**', # 6. Possibly better than '**Red Charm**'." Received fall, 1979, it bore two magnificent red flowers in 1980. Staked. Plants relatively small. Carpels, no stamens. Roy numbered this as "number 6". (Roy, have you thought of a name to register this by? I thought of "Lafayette" though I see that is the name of an old Dessert origination. Some peony ought to carry your name and I think it appropriate for you to choose the one.)
- RP-NR. "Nice red." Had lobata type roots. My 1980 garden notes: truly a very nice red, double, carpels, no stamens. Could this be one of the MGC seedlings?
- RP-U1. Simply labeled "1". U1 means "Unknown #1". Unbloomed. Lobata roots.
- '**Mary Jo Legare**'. '**Mikado**' x '**Little Dorrit**'. Received fall 1979, disbudded in 1980 because of weak growth. Had two small stalks that remained green to the end of the season. I'm confident it will survive to grow better in 1981.
- RP-BWFT. "Big White Fertile Tet. Quad F₂ x Moonrise F₂." Have no garden notes or memory of this one.
- JUNIOR MISS: LULLABY. Have no notes on these.
- LTKA. "Nice anemone pink; good seeder." The letter identification is Roy's and I recall was explained in a past issue of Paeonia. A lactiflora that Roy had recommended using in making Ito crosses. Growing well.
- RP-PJH. "Pink Jap Hybrid." Growing well.
- RP-LDEM. "'**Laura Dessert**' x Emodi-Mloko. Diploid, slightly fertile." Growing well; vigorous. Two plants. Bluish- red single. Low. Very early. Foliage attractive, more lacti-like than hybrid (broad).
- '**Otto Froebel**' SEEDLING. Died.
- Daphnis 291; Saunders F₂A. Both surviving, but not thriving. Two- plants of D-291.

Except for RP-GG1, only one division was sent of each plant. Other extra plants resulted from my redividing the divisions Roy sent. If any reader has received plants from Roy that they recognize as being the same clone as any described above I think we should communicate and agree on the same identifying number or letter. Perhaps they should be identified by parentage, if known. Thus the seedling I've labeled "GWST" would be changed to "DLA" for "Double Lacti x '**Archangel**'" and "BWFT" would be "QM"

Roy also sent twenty-two Ito hybrids which I numbered RPWS1 thru RPWS22. #18 and #19 were described as having "complete" flowers, maroon in color. That was the case in 1979, but in 1980 the flowers were incomplete, i.e. having narrow petals. #14 died, never bloomed. All others from #1 thru #15 had incomplete flowers in 1979 in shades of pink, rose, or red and in 1980 most of these had no petals at all, just carpels. All the ones described so far were subject to a black-spot fungus disease on the foliage, some more so than others. #7 had nearly complete flowers of a bright pink and cleaner foliage than the others. All are quite vigorous and most had a rather massive trunk-like root structure, but by vertically sawing thru it I managed to subdivide #1, 7, 9 and 10 when received in 1978. In each case both halves grew very well. I presume these all have a dark-colored hybrid tree peony ('Thunderbolt', for example) for one parent, descended from *P. delavayi*. (I have bred three such Itos myself and one usually has complete flowers, the other two never have. But all three maintain clean unspotted foliage.) Several have yielded promising but unviable seed; their carpels develop well even when empty. (Problem: "When do you pollinate the carpels when there are no unfolding petals to call your attention to the "flower" at its best stage for pollinating?)

- RPWS16 Good clean foliage, bluish cast; Unbloomed '79 and '80.
- RPWS17 Unbloomed. Clean foliage.
- RPWS20 "Unbloomed Ito." Unbloomed 1980.
- RPWS21 Ditto. Two plants.
- RPWS22 "Yellow Ito." Unbloomed 1980.

In addition, several years ago Roy sent a few other hybrids, among them 'Sable' and 'Eclipse'.

'Sable' is a maroon single tall, "stalky," needs support or stems break off at ground level. It looks like and breeds like a lacti, that is, a diploid. That is not to deny its hybrid parentages (In fact, I've often wondered at the possibility and value of creating a diploid-hybrid family by using 'Sable', 'Claire de Lune' and Roy's LDEM, all supposed diploids.

'Eclipse' is a purplish-maroon single, with beautiful glaucous foliage, completely sterile, has not increased beyond 1-3 stalks in 6 or 7 years but it does grow within the shade and root area of a nearby Dawn Redwood.

Bill Seidl
732 S. 19th St.
Manitowoc, Wis. 54220

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Dear Lois and Chris,

March 6, 1981

My 1981 contribution for Paeonia is enclosed. I hope you have not dropped me from your mailing list.

Your question and Don Hollingsworth's answer, recorded in the December Paeonia, about the Gratwick advanced generation lutea hybrids encourages me to pose a broader question. Has any one compiled a list of the Gratwick crosses indicating the parents and describing the progeny? It would undoubtedly be a monumental task, but if records are available and if I could get copies, I would be quite willing to at least start the project. As a tree peony hybridizer, I feel particularly frustrated that we have so little data available on the characteristics of progeny resulting from crosses of known tree peony parents. We already know from Silvia Saunders that such records do not exist for the Saunders hybrid tree peonies.

It seems to me that if we are ever going to gain some understanding of the genetics of tree peonies, we will need to pool the observations of a number of hybridizers. One obvious reason for this is the

long time required to go from seedling to flowering, not to mention the sterility and sparse seed production so often encountered in the F₁ generation. One hybridizer can only hope to raise a few generations even if he begins when he is very young. The hybridizer interested mainly in herbaceous peonies appears to have an advantage here since much more complete records are available.

I would like to make a plea for the keeping of careful records which would include identifying the parents involved in a cross and a description of all the progeny even though some or all of them are eventually discarded. This information could then be summarized and made available to interested hybridists. To my knowledge we do not know the genetic basis for the inheritance of a single character in tree peonies.

In connection with your question to Don about the origin of Choni, you might want to read Leo Armatys' brief description of this plant on page 6 of the APS Bulletin for December 1970 (No. 198).

Your story in the September 1980 Paeonia about your "Lucky Dip" tree peony from Dr. Tod's seeds is fascinating. One would hardly expect a mloko - delavayi hybrid to set seed so freely. Could it have been a lutea-delavayi cross? If you ever have seeds enough to share from this plant, I would like very much to have some. A sample of pollen would also be most welcome.

My interest in *P. californica* continues, and I have been germinating seeds of this species which Dara Emery sent me from Santa Barbara. They are easy to germinate and show no epicotyl dormancy. The problem for me comes in getting the seedlings to survive through the winter. If only we could find a source of plants of both *P. californica* and *P. brownii*. For the time being I would even settle for a little pollen.

It was most distressing to learn of the death of C. Graham-Jones in the March 1981 APS Bulletin. Hybridizers and peony enthusiasts in general have lost a most devoted friend. He was always so willing to supply seeds. I myself have received several lots gathered from Stern's garden. Have we now lost all contact with Stern's valuable collection?

It is good to hear you will be bringing lots of seedling blooms to the show in Mansfield. Trust there will be a number of tree peonies. I am looking forward to seeing you both at the show.

Sincerely,

L. J. Dewey
2617 Wyndham Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23235

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The annual Spring Landscape and Garden Show held in Kalamazoo (MI) March 4-7 had a peony display booth which was organized by Mrs. Leila Bradfield, a now peony enthusiast.

The contributors making this possible were: Roy Klehm, David Reath, Wild & Son and Richard Edblom. They provided the displays and photo slides.

Lectures and slide presentations were provided on two occasions. Interest in peonies was excellent and the attendance was just great.

-Chris