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Boulder, Colo.*

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Northbrook, Ill.

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Mr. Shaylor and His Peonies

By W. C. OTIS, Woburn, Mass.

MR. SHAYLOR, who lived to the ripe old age of 83, did not take up the culture of flowers until ill health made it necessary for him to give up his business career. This occurred in 1898 when he was 55 years old. Though born in Ashtabula, Ohio, Mr. Shaylor had come East and for many years before his retirement had traveled for the Meriden Cutlery Company of Meriden, Conn. When Mr. Shaylor retired he looked around for a place where he could specialize in the growing of gladiolus. He finally bought a 20-acre estate in Auburndale, Mass. The purchase of this estate took about all the ready cash he had and when he discovered that a further considerable investment would be necessary if he stuck to his original intention of growing gladiolus, he finally gave up this idea and turned to peonies.

STARTED CAREER IN 1900

In 1900 he bought about 200 varieties of peonies from American growers and started his career as the dean of American peony originators. At the time that he bought these varieties, the classification of peonies was in a sad state, the Nomenclature Committee of the American Peony Society not being in existence. Apparently Mr. Shaylor was disgusted with the mixture he got for shortly after this he began to import foreign varieties. In order that he might do this it was necessary for him to mortgage his home. This he did in the face of the almost universal disapproval of his friends. He had faith in the peony and he was willing to back this faith to the extent of a \$6,000 mortgage on his home.

NOTE.—See pages 24 and 25 for halftones of Mr. Shaylor and 22 of his varieties.

That this faith was justified is amply proven by the fact that all of the Shaylor varieties were originated from these foreign varieties and while his own varieties never brought him wealth, they did return his original investment many fold.

DID NOT HAND POLLENIZE

Mr. Shaylor did very little hand pollenizing. He believed that the bees and other insects were better able to do the pollenizing than he, but he also knew that the chances for improved varieties of peonies would be far better if the insects had only the finest varieties to work on. Even with the hundreds of seedlings raised, it was not until 1915 that Mr. Shaylor was able to introduce the first of his peonies. In that year he put on the market *Wm. F. Turner*, *La Nuit*, *Le Jour* and *L'Innocence* and for the next five years new varieties were introduced rapidly. There never has been a severer critic of new varieties of peonies than Mr. Shaylor and when he did put out a new one it was only after he had examined it from every angle and felt sure that it was worthy of a commanding place in the peony world.

DATES OF SHAYLOR'S ORIGINATIONS

From all the data in the possession of Mr. Allison, who was Mr. Shaylor's partner and his successor, I have carefully compiled the following table and feel that it is authoritative for dates of introduction:

1915—*Wm. F. Turner*, *La Nuit*, *Le Jour*, *L'Innocence*.

1916—*Le Noir*, *Deborah Sayles*, *Alma*, *Mrs. Chas. Gilbert*, *Wilton Lockwood*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Jessie Shaylor*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Frances Shaylor*, *Secretary Fewkes*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, *Aureolin*.

1917—*Shaylor's Dream*, *Mrs. M. P. Clough*, *Luella Shaylor*.

1918—*Nell Shaylor*, *Eunice Shaylor*, *E. J. Shaylor*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Shirley Walker*, *Dorothy Allison*, *Marjorie Allison*, *Cornelia Shaylor*.

1919—*Miss Emery*, *Mrs. Shaylor-Force*, *Will McClelland*, *Minnie Shaylor*, *Mrs. E. J. Shaylor*.

1920—*Doris Shaylor*, *Lucy Shaylor*.

1921—*Ruth Force*.

It is likely that some of these dates may be questioned as Mr. Shaylor sold many of his originations by numbers before he finally had given them names. The Manual gives the date of introduction of

*Eunice Shaylor**Will McClelland*

Two of Mr. Shaylor's introductions. See pages 24 and 25 for reproductions of 22 others.

Georgiana Shaylor as 1908. I cannot reconcile this with the fact that Shaylor did not start to grow peonies until 1900, only eight years before *Georgiana Shaylor* is supposed to have been introduced. The first mention of this variety in his notes is in 1916 so I have given this as the date of introduction. This is the only variety of which I have any doubt as to the accuracy of my table. Of all the other varieties the notes are very definite.

SOLD STOCK SHORT

Owing to the fact that Mr. Shaylor needed funds to carry on with, he was inclined to sell his stock pretty short. For this reason, several growers eventually had a larger stock of his varieties than he did himself. Just as soon as this happened, the control of prices was taken from his hands. Before this happened a price of \$50, \$65 and \$75 per root for some of his varieties was not at all uncommon. Mr. Shaylor, however, did not always guess the right price to charge as one or two customers who got *Mrs. Edward Harding* for \$30 can vouch for. *Cornelia Shaylor* sold for \$75 per root and quite a few were bought at this price.

Mr. Shaylor's customers included practically all of the principal growers and peony lovers throughout the United States and Canada.

With all of these his business relations were always very pleasant as he was absolutely four-square with everyone.

FIRST SEEDLING INTRODUCED IN 1915

In the year 1915 Mr. Shaylor introduced the first of his seedlings by name. Of the four introduced, three were singles and one a double. The double, *Wm. F. Turner*, rated 84, is a very dark crimson, loosely petaled and without fragrance. It lasts well without burning and is very free-flowering. The plant is tall and strong growing. In spite of the fact that it is a fairly early-flowering variety it is, with me, one of the last ones to break through the ground. The singles were *La Nuit*, rated 77; *Le Jour*, rated 86; and *L'Innocence*, not rated. Of these three *Le Jour* is the best known and to my mind it is still the finest single white peony grown. The flower is large to very large with long rounded petals; the plant is tall and vigorous. *La Nuit*, carmine, and *L'Innocence*, white, are not varieties that are particularly distinctive.

1916 INTRODUCTIONS OUTSTANDING

Mr. Shaylor made his real bid for peony fame in the year 1916 when he introduced such outstanding varieties as *Wilton Lockwood*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* and *Georgiana Shaylor*. I am prepared to argue the date of introduction of these varieties even against the Manual. My dates are correct and those differing from mine are incorrect, if data in the possession of Mr. Allison means anything.

It is hard for me to control my enthusiasm when I try to write about the 1916 introductions of Mr. Shaylor. Just imagine putting on the market in one year, seven varieties which peony lovers have considered worthy of ratings from 86 to 91. Three, *Jessie Shaylor*, *Frances Shaylor* and *Secretary Fewkes* are rated 86; *Wilton Lockwood*, 88; *Georgiana Shaylor*, 89; *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, 90; and *Rose Shaylor*, 91. Had Mr. Shaylor never introduced another variety he could well have rested on his laurels.

SECRETARY FEWKES SURPRISINGLY BEAUTIFUL VARIETY

There seems to be a quite generally favorable opinion of *Jessie Shaylor* and *Frances Shaylor* but I note that the Manual's description of *Secretary Fewkes* is discouraging, to say the least. When Mr. Fewkes expresses disappointment with any variety that variety is lost. I have had no opportunity to talk with Mr. Fewkes but I am wondering if

he may not have changed his opinion of this variety. Last season was a very early one in this section of the country and it was necessary to cut very tight buds to be sure of having anything worth while to display at the Boston Peony Show. On the morning the show opened, Mr. Allison called my attention to an enormous unopened bud of *Secretary Fewkes* and suggested that I watch it. This bud had been in cold storage about two weeks. The first day of the show the bud did not open at all and it was well towards the close of the show before it had opened fully. No peony that I have ever seen surprised me more than this one did; it was very large and of a most wonderful shade of glistening pink. A day or two later, still unconvinced that I had actually seen a bloom of *Secretary Fewkes*, I went out to Mr. Allison's gardens and he pointed out to me the plant from which this bud had been cut. There could be no doubt about its being *Secretary Fewkes* as blooms on this plant, while pretty well gone by, were typical of this variety. I am sure if Mr. Fewkes saw this bloom in the show at the time that I did, he would be proud that it bears his name. To get its full beauty, however, it very evidently must be cut in tight bud and opened away from the sunlight.

WILTON LOCKWOOD TALLEST GROWER

Wilton Lockwood is the tallest variety originated by Mr. Shaylor. From my observation I should say that of the really excellent peonies it is the most reliably free-blooming one grown. No matter what the season may be it always throws a profusion of enormous rose-pink flowers and it takes a pretty heavy storm to beat them down. I have often seen three-year-old plants of this variety with from twelve to fifteen blooms on them. It is a rapid grower in spite of its profuse blooming habits. Its dark green foliage makes a very attractive plant after the flowers have gone. A row of this variety is a sight to behold and it also makes an excellent showing as a specimen plant.

MARY WOODBURY SHAYLOR A MASTERPIECE

Probably the best known Shaylor varieties are *Georgiana Shaylor* and *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*. By many *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* is considered Mr. Shaylor's masterpiece. Both can be considered semi-dwarf and both very free flowering. Had last season been a representative one I should say that *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* is the freest blooming of all as I have never seen finer blooms nor more of them of this variety. *Georgiana Shaylor* has the crimson splashes on the petals so characteristic

of many of Shaylor's varieties while *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* has the golden light at the center as well as the crimson splashing. Excessive propagation has undoubtedly had something to do with the growth of both of these varieties as neither is really dwarf growing. I do not consider a peony as being a dwarf when, on a well grown plant, the blooms are from two and one-half to three feet above the ground. I am sure that many peony lovers, who have given these varieties a real chance for development, will agree with me in this. The plants of both of these varieties are exceptionally sturdy and are very desirable for specimen plants.

SOME OTHER 1916 INTRODUCTIONS

Of the other 1916 introductions, *Le Noir*, rated 74 and *Deborah Sayles*, not rated, crimson and pink respectively, are not of sufficient importance to justify any particular attention. *Alma*, rated 85, a pink Jap, was a favorite with Mr. Shaylor. With me, it is a good bloomer and, in spite of the authority of the Manual, I rather like the blooms when the center "feathers." It is a rapid multiplier and the plant is a good strong grower and of pleasing shape. *Aureolin*, rated 89, is, according to the Manual, both of the anemone and the Japanese type. I incline to the Japanese as anemone does not mean much of anything definite. It has a large bloom on well-established plants and the center is undoubtedly the yellowest of any peony grown. With me, it is a medium shy bloomer. To judge by the exclamations of delight by visitors to my garden, it is one of the most attractive peonies there. *Aureolin* attracts the ladies as much as *Fuyajo* does the men. Mrs. Charles Gilbert, for some reason unknown to me, was never rated. It is a large, loose flower with a color very much like that of *Therese*. This similarity in color may have served to hide the good qualities of this variety but I think it has enough good qualities peculiar to itself to justify consideration by all peony lovers. With me, it holds its shape very much better than does *Therese*.

Of the varieties placed on the market in 1916, *Rose Shaylor* seems to be the least known. The stock is still scarce with resultant high prices. The Manual gives the date of introduction as 1920 but Mr. Shaylor's notes show that this variety was sold as *Rose Shaylor* in 1916. It is a very large, flat, flesh-pink flower that is strongly held up by its stout stem. It is not as free-flowering as *Wilton Lockwood* but the plant reliably bears a fair number of blooms every season. The plant is a handsome, strong growing one, good for a specimen. As with nearly all of



LILLIAN GUMM

Shaylor's varieties, it is fairly fragrant. It is a relatively slow multiplier which undoubtedly accounts for its scarcity. As this variety becomes better known I feel sure that it will be rated as one of the most desirable peonies grown.

1917 INTRODUCTIONS

Only three new peonies were introduced by Mr. Shaylor in 1917; *Luella Shaylor*, Mrs. M. P. Clough and *Shaylor's Dream*. In the Manual, the one that strikes me as being the most beautiful of the three, is condemned the most severely. I almost wish that the following statement might be printed in very small type as I realize that my knowledge and judgment of a variety are not to be compared with the critic of *Shaylor's Dream*, but I am bound to say that I do not think it is over-rated at all; in fact, I should be glad to see its rating increased to 88 where I think it belongs. In my garden and elsewhere that I have seen it, the bloom, for delicacy of coloring, is hard to beat. It is a large flat flower with outer petals flesh-pink and center creamy-white. This variety is so delicately colored, it is out of the question to see its full beauty in a bloom the sun has played on. It simply must be opened away from the sun's rays. When properly handled it is very beautiful. The plant growth is strong and the bloom is carried on a good stout stem.

Luella Shaylor will appeal only to those who can appreciate delicacy and daintiness in a peony. It is a pure glistening white peony with a yellow center, not extra large and not at all coarse in texture. It is not a striking garden bloom but shows at its best in a vase on the center table. Personally, my tastes incline towards blooms of this size. I think mere size is being too strongly stressed in the newest varieties of peonies. I'll admit that, to the ordinary garden visitor, size seems to be the most important characteristic of a peony but I am sure that this is simply a manifestation of the American craze for size in everything.

Mrs. M. P. Clough is a pink variety, large and of rather coarse texture. The plant is not as strong-growing as many of Shaylor's varieties. There is nothing about it to rave over and I certainly favor exchanging the ratings of this variety and *Shaylor's Dream*.

The year 1918 saw eight more Shaylor varieties on the market. Three of these were singles: *Shirley Walker*, pink; *Dorothy Allison*, pink; and *Marjorie Allison*, white. The fact that Mr. Shaylor introduced such a relatively large number of singles is evidence of his intuition. At the time that other growers were generally discarding singles as not worthy of raising, Mr. Shaylor was carefully examining his seedlings to discover,

...

if possible, any worth while singles. In spite of the fact that all three of these singles are rapid multipliers I do not think any of the three is widely disseminated, probably because the demand for singles has not yet reached its height. All three are worth while varieties, particularly *Shirley Walker* with its crepe-like petals.

E. J. Shaylor, a dark rose-pink double with tips of the petals shaded lighter, is a variety about which there does not seem to be any unanimity of opinion. The Manual says that it is undoubtedly a good variety but similar to a great many others. One grower, who has opinions of his own about the various varieties of peonies, says he regards this variety as one of the very best of the new Shaylor varieties. I think that when this variety becomes better known its good qualities will cause a revision of the Manual's criticism.

From the generally meager descriptions of *Eunice Shaylor* I am inclined to believe that it has not been grown long enough by many of the growers to permit careful notes being taken. The Manual's description and one by Mr. Little are the only ones that do justice to this fine variety. When properly grown, it is a creamy flesh-pink, showing its full beauty only when cut in the bud and opened away from the sunlight. A good bloom absolutely glows. Its fragrance is that of a tea-rose. The plant is a strong grower with a profusion of light green veined foliage. It was one of Mr. Shaylor's favorites.

Nell Shaylor is so little known that it is not described in the Manual nor has it been passed on in any symposium. It is a white if opened on the plant and a delicate pink if cut in the bud and opened indoors. On well-developed plants it is a large semi-rose bloom with petals of heavy, leathery texture. The plant is of sturdy growth, medium tall and the stout stems carry the large blooms to perfection. The bloom is pleasingly fragrant and is a good keeper. No garden can afford to be without this beautiful variety.

A year or so ago I remember reading a description of *Cornelia Shaylor* in which the writer expressed doubt as to whether this variety was worth the price he had to ask for it. I do not remember what this price was but I can assure everyone that *Cornelia Shaylor* is worth any price, within reason, that may be asked for it. It is a very large globular bloom with soft pink guards and the center shaded deeper salmon pink. It opens late but never misses. It has a faint but pleasing fragrance. The plant is a strong growing one with stout stems and dark

glossy foliage and makes a handsome specimen plant. It is unquestionably one of the finest of the Shaylor varieties.

MRS. HARDING, BEAUTIFUL WHITE

Mrs. Edward Harding, a wonderfully beautiful white, has suffered from over-propagation more than any other variety with which I am acquainted. This variety, displayed for the first time at the Cleveland National Show, took the peony world by storm. The roots were priced at \$100 and each grower bold enough to pay this price apparently felt that he must cut and cut again in order that his purchase of this root might be a good investment. The result was that all of the vitality of this variety was thrown away. Probably, by this time, there are quite a few peony lovers who have large clumps of *Mrs. Edward Harding* and I look for increasingly fine blooms of this variety at the coming shows. A large clump, however, is by no means proof that the original vitality has been recovered. I have seen plants of this variety of good size, apparently perfectly healthy, with small, weak-looking blooms, indicating that the plant had not yet come into its own. It is a wonder that it was not propagated to death. A bloom from a plant that has not been weakened by propagation is all that has ever been claimed of it. It may be objected that the picture I am showing is not that of a perfect bloom of this variety. I admit this and can only plead, as an excuse, the lateness of the season when I took the picture. A first class bloom of *Mrs. Edward Harding* is a very large, full double, pure white flower of exceptional quality. The plant is a strong, robust grower and carries the tall, stout stems very gracefully. It makes an ideal specimen plant. Unfortunately it is without fragrance. So far as my observations go, this is the only white peony that can in any way dispute the supremacy of *Le Cygne*.

1919 INTRODUCTIONS DESCRIBED

Of the five varieties introduced in 1919 only three have been rated in the symposium and none of them seems to be very well known. Unfortunately there are two, *Miss Emery* and *Mrs. E. J. Shaylor*, of which I have been unable to get pictures. So far as *Miss Emery* is concerned, I do not think I have ever seen a bloom of this variety and I am sure I have never seen a growing plant of it. I understand that it is a salmon-pink, the quality of which I know nothing about. Mr. Shaylor must have sold this variety outright, either because he did not think it

of enough value to propagate or because he did not realize its value, as I have been able to find no mention of it in any of the catalogues issued recently by Shaylor & Allison, nor is it mentioned more than once or twice in his notes.

Mrs. E. J. Shaylor is a large, loosely built but full flower of delicate pink. The plant is a strong grower and its dark green foliage and stiff stems make it an excellent specimen plant. The plant is tall and a profuse bloomer; light but pleasing fragrance.

DELICATE SEMI-DOUBLE PINK

Minnie Shaylor is just beginning to come into its own. It is a large, semi-double bloom of clear light pink guard petals and a center of yellow stamens. The delicate blooms are carried on wiry stems and the plant is a strong, robust grower. This variety pleases by its delicacy; delicacy of coloring, delicacy of form and its delicate gracefulness. It is far superior to *La Rosiere* to which I have seen it compared. It is still rather high priced, so not as well distributed as it will be when it is possible to sell it cheaper. However, it is well worth the price charged for it now.

Mrs. Shaylor-Force may not appeal to everyone as it does to me but I think it one of the most beautiful peonies grown. It is a very large, fully double peony with beautifully arranged petals of creamy-white with a faint glow of pale lemon in the depths of the bloom. An occasional margin of crimson on the petals adds very much to its attractiveness. To add to its other good qualities it is very fragrant and it is an excellent landscape variety.

Will McClelland is a variety that is practically unknown in the peony world. Just why this should be, I do not know as it is a very beautiful peony. It is a very strong grower, tall, with strong stems and is an ideal landscape variety. The salmon-pink bloom is very full, holds its color exceptionally well and it keeps well. It has no fragrance. I should say it is worthy of a rating of about 86.

Beginning with 1920, there was a decided falling off in the number of new varieties introduced by Mr. Shaylor. I am not able to assign any reason for this for I know he had many seedlings to choose from nor had his interest in peonies suffered any diminution. I can only suggest that his advancing years may have made it too great an effort for him to give much attention to his peonies. *Doris Shaylor* and *Lucy Shaylor* were introduced during the season of 1920 and *Ruth Force* in 1921 and there his introductions end. I know there were other varieties

which he might have introduced and a little later I shall have something to say about them.

Doris Shaylor is a light pink, semi-double peony of large size, fragrant and a mighty good keeper. The plant is a strong grower with dark green foliage. The blooms are carried on medium tall, stout stems.

Lucy Shaylor is an ivory white bloom with a very few yellow stamens showing on a well-developed plant. An occasional carmine marking on the edge of a petal adds to its beauty. The buds of this variety are exceptionally beautiful. The plant is a strong grower with dark green foliage. The blooms are carried on stiff stems three to three and one-half feet high. *Lucy Shaylor* is well worth its rating of 90.

Ruth Force is a Japanese type peony with bright cerise-pink petals and with stamenodes of petal color edged with yellow. It has a peculiar cinnamon odor which adds to its attractiveness. The bloom is wonderfully beautiful under the electric light. The plant is a very strong grower with dark green foliage and a profuse bloomer.

MR. SHAYLOR'S SEEDLINGS TRANSFERRED TO MR. ALLISON

After Mr. Shaylor's death, all of the stock and seedlings became the property of Mr. Allison, who continues to carry on the business. He has several seedlings which are about to be placed on the market. It has been my privilege to see all of these seedlings and I can assure my readers that, due to my shortcomings as a writer and describer, only an inadequate description of their beauty can be given.

Nick Shaylor, numbered 74, is, according to my judgment, the most beautiful of all the seedlings. Something of its beauty can be guessed at when I tell you that it is an improved *Solange*. It is a relatively slow but strong grower with good, clean roots. The fragrance is no more pronounced than is that of *Solange*. It does not have the ugly bud that is so characteristic of *Solange* and, while late, it opens without fail. Its stout stem holds the bloom well above the foliage and, while not a profuse bloomer, a well developed plant carries from seven to ten blooms.

Mrs. George W. Rawson is another seedling that will force itself to the front when it has had an opportunity to show its sterling qualities. It is a globular bloom of the *Will McClelland* type. It opens a delicate pink but soon fades white. Fragrance is strong and it is a wonderful keeper.

SUNBURST A BEAUTIFUL PURE WHITE JAP

Shaylor's Sunburst, or his No. 101 seedling, is a pure white Jap of the size and quality of *Isani Gidui*. It is a much stronger grower than *Isani Gidui* and multiplies very much faster. It is very fragrant. I feel sure that *Isani Gidui's* supremacy as the leading white Jap will suffer when this variety is placed on the market.

When Congressman James R. Mann was establishing his peony garden, Mr. Shaylor sold him a seedling, No. 70, which was described as having a peach-blossom color. At the death of the Congressman, this variety was purchased and put on the market as *Peach Blossom*. The bloom is double, not very fragrant and the plant is a strong tall grower and an early bloomer. It really is a Shaylor variety and, as such, is worthy of a place in every peony lover's garden.

Seedling No. 102 is a flat, rose type, light pink bloom with a very pleasing fragrance. It is a tall, strong grower and a very desirable peony in every way. This variety has not yet received a name.

MORE SEEDLINGS COMING ON

There are several other seedlings which have not yet proven their worth which may or may not be placed on the market at a later day. These I shall not attempt to describe, but, if they later prove to be worth while, I promise to get pictures and send descriptions for the BULLETIN. I wish all of my readers to understand that I, alone, am responsible for all of the statements and opinions in this article. Some may differ with me but I wish to state that I have given much time and thought in the preparation of this article and hope that I may have clarified much of the information regarding the Shaylor varieties. A very good friend of mine, a man who knows peonies from A to Z, complained to me recently that the Shaylor varieties, while beautiful, seemed to lack substance. Now I happen to know that this man divides his peonies at comparatively short intervals so I might have told him that he had never given them an opportunity to show their true worth. Give them a chance to get good growth and I am sure you will agree with my estimates rather than with those of the Shaylor critics.

The indebtedness of American peony lovers to Mr. Shaylor cannot be stated in words. He was the dean of American peony growers and, it is hoped, will be granted this posthumous honor by all.

A Peony for the Mountain States

By REV. H. N. TRAGITT, JR., *Dillon, Mont.*

IN THE fall of 1928 I moved my peony collection from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, to Dillon, Montana, situated in the high and arid Beaverhead Valley in extreme southwestern Montana, west of Yellowstone Park.

In the collection was a three-year-old root of the Brand peony, *Helen Wolaver*, which had never bloomed for me in Minnesota. This I dug with the other roots, separated into three divisions, giving one to a friend, and planted the other two in the rectory garden at Dillon.

A PEONY FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

I had bought this root of *Helen Wolaver* with the distinct understanding that it was a variety for the connoisseur rather than the owner of a small collection, and so was not particularly disappointed in securing not a single bloom in three years.

In fact Mr. Brand had told me that if *Helen Wolaver* came good once in four years, it was about all one could expect.

BLOOMED FINE A YEAR AFTER PLANTING

Consequently I was greatly surprised when the season of 1929 saw a dozen exquisite blooms on these newly planted divisions of *Helen Wolaver* in my garden at Dillon. However, I supposed that this was the year for the temperamental *Helen* to bloom, and that she insisted on blooming in spite of being transplanted and divided. Accordingly, I enjoyed the unexpected blooms and thought no more of it.

BLOOMED FINE IN 1930

But when the season of 1930 disclosed some twenty of the same exquisite blooms, only bigger and better, on the two plants, I began to wonder if the erstwhile temperamental *Helen* had not found her metier, and decided to settle down and become the backbone of the garden in peony time. Moreover, these Montana blooms of *Helen Wolaver* were better than any I had ever seen elsewhere, both larger, averaging just under seven inches in diameter, and opening wider.

Of course two seasons are insufficient for any conclusion, but it may be that the high arid valleys of the Mountain States, where the air is thin and dry, the sunshine blazing hot and high in actinic rays by

day, and the nights cool and often frosty, afford the proper environment for *Helen Wolaver*. If so, peony lovers in these states cannot do better than to plant a root or two of this variety.

A MOST INTRIGUING VARIETY

For *Helen Wolaver* is perhaps the most intriguing of all peonies, excelled by none in beauty or fragrance. A row of broad shell pink guard petals of marvelously heavy substance surround a center of deeper pink petals usually described as resembling a rose bud, but as grown here, more nearly like the center of an intensely double hollyhock. No other peony has as interesting a form. Its substance is excellent and as a cut flower it lasts upwards of ten days here, where due to the dry air most peonies last less than five. Also in the rectory garden it blooms late, as *Marie Lemoine* and *Grandiflora* are falling, with only *Mireille* to keep it company. The plant is a sturdy grower with erect stems of medium height and light green foliage.

All in all, *He'len Wolaver* is one of the bright spots of my garden here, and in a measure makes up for the disappointing behavior of many other varieties of peonies in a locality not particularly favorable for their growth.



Disease-Free Peonies

By EDWARD AUTEN, JR.

Admiration of some magnificent blooms of Lemoine's peony, *La Lorraine*, at the Duluth show brought forth the information that they were raised on disease-free stock, which had been cleaned up in Minnesota, and was now available from at least three dealers. Since I myself have had disease-free *Solange* for about seven years, a few other dealers say they have some also, and one dealer advertises clean *Alsace-Lorraine*, it has occurred to me that it would be most laudable for the members of the Society to make a concerted effort to see if we could not eventually obtain clean stock of *all* of the Lemoine peonies. If any one has clean stock of any other varieties than the above, they should report them, and it should be propagated and disseminated as widely as possible. While fine new peonies are being introduced all the time, we are as yet a long ways from being ready to discard most of the Lemoine peonies, and on the other hand, I have never felt like working up a stock of diseased roots of any variety, no matter how fine.

Plant Patent Information

By O. M. KILE, 1295 National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

NEW plants are now patentable under the Townsend-Purnell amendment to the Patent Act approved May 23, 1930. Developers or discoverers of new varieties of plants reproduced asexually (by cuttings, buds, bulbs, etc., rather than from seeds) may obtain exclusive rights to reproduce and sell their creations for seventeen years. Tubers (in the strict sense) are excluded.

Plants on which patents are obtainable must not have been known, used by others before discovery or development by the applicant, nor described in any printed publication either here or abroad more than two years prior to date of patent application. No plant actually "introduced to the public" prior to May 23, 1930, will be eligible for patent. Varieties developed or discovered prior to May 23, 1930, but distributed to others for purposes of experimentation or propagation, and not sold, may be eligible for patent.

ACTUAL DEVELOPER MUST APPLY FOR PATENT

Actual discoverer or developer must make application for patents on his own discoveries or creations. Employers may protect themselves by having employees make assignments to them covering all new varieties developed. This is common practice in research laboratories. When patent applications are accompanied by assignments, patents may be issued in assignee's name. Forms obtainable from this office.

Patent applications should be made early. There is no advantage in delaying the date of application and there are frequently important disadvantages. All applications and all information concerning same are held in strictest secrecy until the patent is either granted or refused. The following possible disadvantages of delay in making application are noted:

- (1) Some other person may have secured cuttings from the new plant, or may actually create or discover a closely similar plant and by applying promptly greatly complicate the task of securing the patent for the rightful originator or discoverer.
- (2) The two year time limit will be expiring soon on some plants that have been described in print nearly two years ago.
- (3) At present it takes about 18 months to get a mechanical patent. It will probably take much less time to get a plant patent, but

considerable time must be allowed. Any person desiring to advertise a plant next season as "patented" must proceed with the patent application with utmost speed.

APPLYING FOR PATENT

An applicant for patent *may* draw up his own application and specifications. But they must be made out according to certain forms and the final value of a patent frequently depends upon the skill with which the claims are drawn. An applicant *may* make his own illustrations, which must be of a certain size and on certain kinds of paper, sometimes in true color and sometimes in black and white. Few who are not thoroughly familiar with the Patent Office and its rules of practice obtain patents unassisted. The only safe course is to obtain the services of a competent patent attorney or agent. The Patent Office is now making new rules and regulations applying to plant patents.

Information required. Certain information not apparently pertinent may be very important in deciding the patentability of a plant. Ordinarily it will not be necessary for the applicant to come to Washington in order to secure his patent. It may not always be necessary to send his specimen.

NOTE.—For further information address Mr. Kile who is making a specialty of this work.



Barre Flower Show Has Excellent Exhibition

THE Barre Flower Growers' association entertained a large crowd at the opening of its annual spring flower show in the armory yesterday afternoon and evening. It was, in fact, the greatest crowd ever present at a spring exhibit. An even larger gathering of flower lovers is expected for the wind-up of the show today.

DELIGHTED WITH ARRANGEMENT

There were many expressions of delight over the new method of arranging the blossoms in enclosures on the floor of the auditorium. The system introduced for the first time with the present show enabled everyone easily to view the flowers. The dainty perfumes exuded by the flowers filled the entire armory and a great many people remained seated in the balcony throughout the evening to enjoy the perfect harmony of the sweet scents, the beautiful colors and the fine music, the latter given in

the form of a concert by Dr. D. C. Jarvis and his Barre Junior Symphony orchestra.

A great deal of interest was shown in the flowers and the prize awards. Peonies predominated in the floral display but roses, Canterbury bells, lilies, pinks, daisies, pansies, delphiniums and columbine were only a few of the many flowers shown. The flowers were divided into many different classes with prizes awarded in each. The Gardenside Nurseries of Shelburne, Vt., had a fine growers' display banked along the armory stage. The display featured shrubs, evergreens and rock garden flowers. It was exceptionally well arranged. Emslie & Co. also had an attractive dealers' display, featuring not only flowers, but vases, baskets, ribbons and other articles for enhancing the display of blossoms and plants. Mrs. John Pressly had a truly wonderful exhibit of peonies that were not entered in competition.

"ISLAND GARDEN" ATTRACTS ATTENTION

A great deal of favorable comment was heard during the afternoon and evening on the island garden arranged by Mrs. Donald Smith, and a dinner table completely set and arranged with flowers by Mrs. J. W. Smith also attracted much attention. It carried off first prize. Two other tables were also splendidly set.

Space would not permit a proper description of the many prize winning flowers and displays but a few deserve special mention. George Seager of South Barre had the best single peony in the show, his *Solange* winning both the blue ribbon and two special ribbons. Mrs. Donald Smith had first prize in the group of three peonies with three very fine *Marie Lemoine* blooms. They also captured a special ribbon. A group of lilies by E. L. Clark of Richmond is deserving of special mention and a prize-winning basket of peonies exhibited by George Seager was especially well arranged. Mrs. E. D. Palmer and Mrs. Donald Smith displayed some very beautiful roses that came in for much attention and expressions of favor.



REPORT FROM N. W. PENNSYLVANIA

By H. G. READING, *Franklin, Pa.*

Peonies here in N. W. Pennsylvania almost a total failure.

Earlies came on pretty good but midseason and lates, small, buds water soaked from rains and flowers marred from unfavorable weather conditions. Worst season, all in all, ever experienced.

Some Peony Problems

By GUY H. SMITH, *Detroit, Mich.*

I'M WRITING to you for advice. I seem to be in trouble and have not had enough experience to know what to do to combat it.

I have about an acre and a quarter in peonies, some of them in heavy clay loam, some in a rather light sandy soil and the balance in soil that is a variation of the sand and clay. I set them out three years ago, having purchased them from a neighbor who was moving to Missouri. I knew nothing whatever about them at the time of purchase and hired them dug and transplanted.

BLOOMED SATISFACTORILY FIRST YEAR

The first year after setting them out I got a rather satisfactory showing of bloom and last year I cut about 13,000 blooms. This year everything seems to have gone haywire.

I bought a ton of Grasseli fertilizer and had half of it broadcasted on the plants early in the spring when the stalks were about half up. About two weeks later the man from whom I purchased the fertilizer said that I should have put it all on—that it was not possible to get too much on—and so I had the balance put on.

The plants came through in good shape and seemed to be doing nicely, in fact some of them developed enormous stalks, especially *Festiva Maxima* and *Mons. Jules Elie*, though all of them seemed to benefit, but the production of bloom was a distinct disappointment. Usually *Festiva Maxima* turned out to be really large, satisfactory flowers, but this year they seemed to be dwarfed. *Mons. Jules Elie* had a few decent-sized blooms but poor in coloring. Many other varieties such as *Couronne d'Or*, *Marie Lemoine* and Richardson's *Grandiflora* seemed to outdo themselves in putting out large and beautiful blooms, though a long ways from uniform, many of them developing on one side only. Fewer and smaller flowers the second year.

Altogether I cut about 11,000 blooms this year that were salable, 2,000 less than before they were fertilized.

The lack of blooms, however, is not my chief wail. About two weeks after blooming season ended a few of the plants commenced to turn brown and apparently die. I dug up some of them and found that the roots were splitting open and turning black. For the past

three weeks there have been an increasing number turn brown, wither up and apparently die, although new shoots seem to be forming. The majority of those so affected are on the lighter ground.

WANTS THESE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Here are the questions:—

Did the fertilizer in any way affect the growth or blooms? (It was all cultivated into the ground within a short time after applying and soon after there was good rainfall.)

Are the plants withering due to being forced too much by the fertilizer or because of some disease of the roots?

Will the new eyes grow next year and should the plants be left in the ground?

If this splitting of the roots is a disease, is it infectious and will it spread to surrounding plants? How long does it take to develop and do you think it was brought over to my place with the plants or could it have been developed here? (The ground had formerly been planted to potatoes, but had had several applications of cow manure previous to its being used for peonies.)

If I seem monotonous in my questions, please forgive me. I have never had anything to do with flowers before and while I have been a member of the Society for three years, I have never had occasion to write you before. If you can diagnose any or all of my troubles, I'll be everlastingly grateful to you. I have considerable of an investment in my plants and would not like to see them all fade out of the picture.

NOTE.—We have replied to Mr. Smith's letter in detail but there are many points that I am sure will be worthy of discussion through the BULLETIN. I hope to receive a generous response from a number of sources.



COMMENT ON THE MANUAL

By MRS. FRANCIS H. McCULLAGH, *Los Gatos, Calif.*

Color standards by Mr. G. A. Stevens, I think is the best thing that has ever been offered to us on this confused subject. It is most helpful because exact, practical and written by one with eyes to see.

I have long felt that the best way to describe the shade of color of a little-known peony bloom was to compare it, if possible, with a well-known one. The old "154," "180," and other abominations have been an obstruction rather than a help. My compliments and thanks to Mr. Stevens and those who helped him.

Samuel Carpenter Passes On

By W. F. CHRISTMAN

The grim reaper has again removed from us a most ardent flower lover and one who was particularly partial to peonies.

It has been our pleasure to have personally known Mr. Carpenter and to have talked with him about the flowers he loved. He had made an extensive collection of the finest obtainable peonies, iris and many other flowers and flowering plants and had published a splendid catalogue describing them in detail.

Mr. Carpenter passed away very suddenly August 11, following a heart attack. The gardens will be continued and handled by the family who will follow out the same ideals that were so carefully planned in his plantings. The choicest delphinium, gladioli and dahlias were outstanding features of the garden, and the same high-grade stock is to be handled in future by the new management.

Mr. Carpenter was born at Palmetto, Tenn., on July 15, 1867, and was 63 years of age a month ago. He was the son of Samuel Carpenter, Sr., pioneer Oswego merchant, and Sarah Elizabeth (Montgomery) Carpenter.

With his parents and family, Mr. Carpenter settled in Oswego in October, 1874, after a trip to California where plans to locate there were abandoned. His father and J. B. Montgomery started a mercantile establishment on the site now occupied by the American State Bank. For 56 years, therefore, Oswego has been his home and he always has been a loyal worker for its betterment.

Mr. Carpenter attended the Oswego public schools and was a member of the first high school graduating class here in 1882. He attended Eastmen Brothers Business College in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., for one year and in 1884 became a bookkeeper and later cashier in the Condon and Carpenter Bank at Neodesha, Kan., his oldest brother, Robert, being one of the partners in the bank. He was founder of the Neodesha Building and Loan Association, which still is in business.

In a few years, Mr. Carpenter returned to Oswego and became engaged in the mercantile business with his brother-in-law, L. J. Van Alstine, the firm of Van Alstine & Carpenter existing and thriving until Mr. Van Alstine's withdrawal about five years ago because of his health. It is a sad coincidence that his business partner, Mr. Van Alstine,

preceded Mr. Carpenter in death by a month and a day, his demise having occurred at Longview, Wash. Mr. Van Alstine's son, Samuel, carried on in the store for two years but later located on the west coast.

DEVOTES ENTIRE TIME TO FLOWERS

Mr. Carpenter maintained the store then until a disastrous fire in January, 1929, prompted him to withdraw from the mercantile business and devote his time to his great love for nature, the growing and development of beautiful flowers.

In 1893, Mr. Carpenter was united in marriage to Miss Aeo Hill of Neodesha, who died three months later. In 1898 he was married to Miss Corinne Sinnott of Lawrence, and to this union were born three children, Edmund S., director of publicity at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.; Mary Elizabeth, secretary for the Barr-Thorp Electric Company in Kansas City, and Richard V., an attorney in New York City.

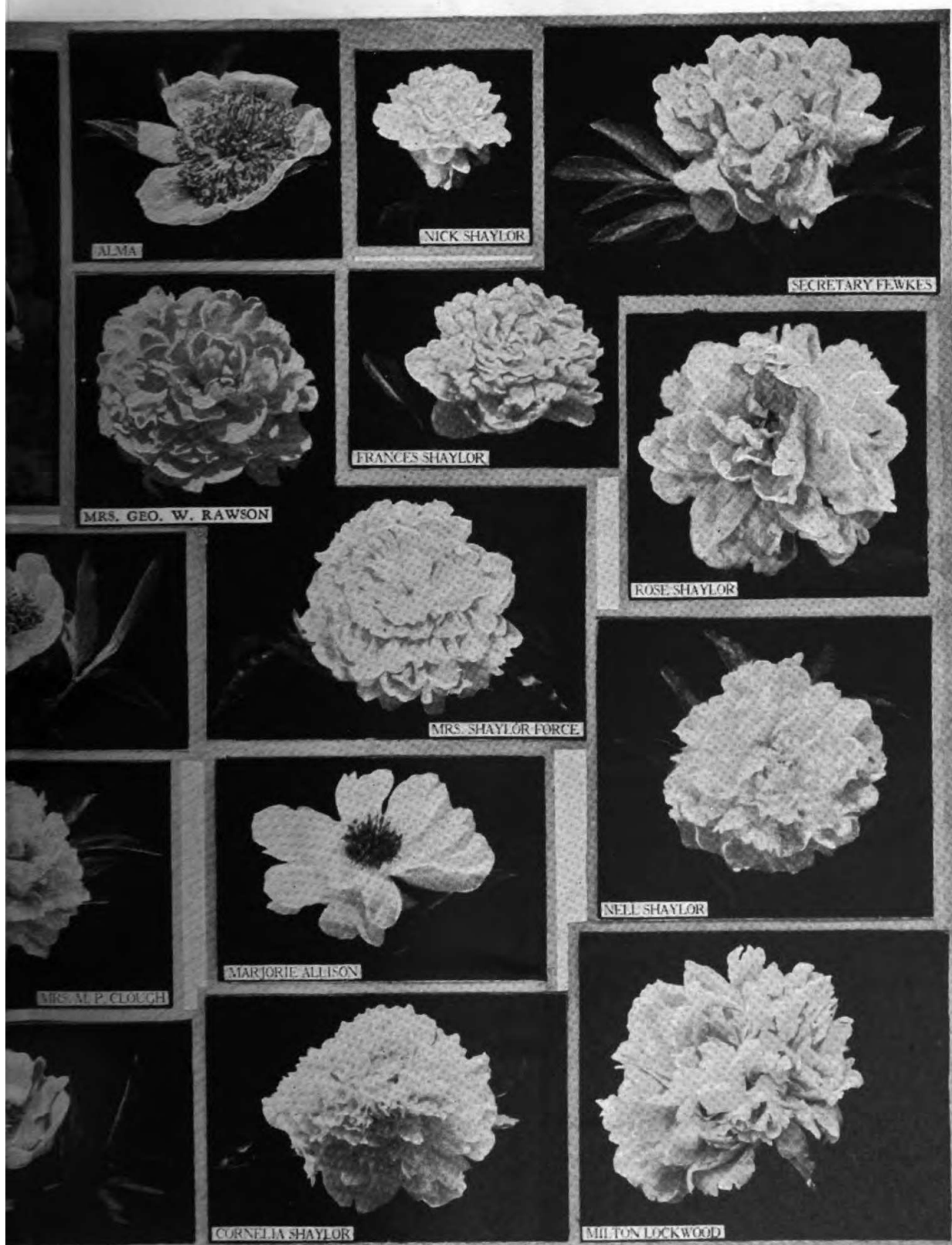
HIS GARDENS BECOME NATIONALLY FAMOUS

In the last few years, Mr. Carpenter devoted himself to the Sam Carpenter Gardens, which have become nationally known through the thousands of rare varieties of irises, peonies, dahlias, gladioli and other flowers, plants and bulbs which he developed and marketed. He was a widely known authority on plant life and, in addition, his love for nature and the great outdoors gave him a powerful command of the entire range of bird life, trees, and so on. The Carpenter Garden service station, northwest of town, was opened this year.

Surviving are his widow and three children; two sisters, Mrs. Laura Belt of Coffeyville and Mrs. L. J. Van Alstine of Longview, Wash., and a brother, Charles T. Carpenter of Coffeyville, as well as many nephews, nieces and other relatives.

We are glad we knew him personally during the last few years, because he was a man of pleasing personality, an interesting correspondent and an all 'round good fellow who was very devoted to his flowers. We wish his family every success in carrying on the work.







Secretary's Notes



SEPTEMBER, the month that the peony usually meets with rather rough treatment, inasmuch as the grower finds this one of the best months to dig and divide his roots. I am wondering if there have not been a good many pleasant surprises in store for those who had to transplant their stock, to find, in spite of the dry season we have just experienced, one of the worst for many years in most sections of the peony growing section, that the plants have made a good substantial growth in the way of strong, healthy eyes. Root development has not been what we had hoped to see, but the eyes have been very much larger than we expected to find. Starting with late freezes after the buds were well along in development caused many to be disappointed. There has come to me many reports of blighted buds and failure to bloom caused by late freezes, in most instances.

It will doubtless be of interest to many to learn that when the giant airship R-100 left St. Hubert airport on August 13 for a return trip to England, the only freight carried was a bunch of peonies sent by the governor general, Lord Willingdon, to the King of England, and a basket of peaches for the Prince of Wales. I assume, of course, that the peaches were of the edible variety. Had the R-100 taken all the freight offered, and had she possessed the capacity to carry it, the pay load would have brought around \$500,000, according to the estimate of officials.

The interesting article by Mr. Otis in regard to the late Mr. Shaylor's seedlings I am sure will be received with more than ordinary interest. Mr. Shaylor has given us some fine peonies and Mr. Otis has put in a great deal of time and study in presenting them to our readers. Several of the photographs were not of the best and as a result, some of the half-tones did not come out as good as we would have liked. Before this article was written, Mr. Otis spent the past two years checking the varieties and studying them in the field, and as he is a keen observer and has a wide knowledge of varieties, he has been able to give us this splendid contribution.

In the next issue of the bulletin we hope to take up the work of another famous originator of peonies, who has done as much as anyone in bringing to us some of the charming varieties we have today.

Rev. Thurlow's article on Planting Peony Roots brings out clearly that there is more than one way to plant peonies. Discussions of this nature will bring out helpful ideas that can be put into practical use.

In the introduction to Mr. Steffen's biographical notes in the last issue of the BULLETIN written by Prof. Saunders, a grammatical error was unnoticed by the writer and the proof readers. Prof. Saunder's notes read: "The following interesting biographical data have been furnished, etc." The singular form of the verb "has" was used in error as *data* is plural and calls for a plural verb. We desire to state that Prof. Saunders notes were grammatically correct and we regret that this error occurred.

In the registration section will be found a number of new names quite unfamiliar to peony lovers. Within the next two or three years there will be some of these varieties taking a leading place in the galaxy of notable originations. We have been receiving some very flattering reports from other than the originators of these varieties, and if some of the varieties prove as worthy as claims made for them, a few of our better-known sorts will be relegated to a lower position on the pedestal of fame. We hope that next year some of these new ones will appear on our exhibition tables to substantiate the worthiness of their existence. The work of originating new varieties goes merrily on and we have every reason to believe that something outstanding in the way of a new color or color variation will be developed. The elusive full-double yellow is not far beyond our reach and I am hopeful of seeing it developed in the near future. There are other colors, not beyond the ingenuity of man to produce, that are not now in evidence in a peony bloom. Who will be the first to claim the distinction of producing a peony possessing a color entirely distinct from any now existing?

I would be very glad to have reports of your experiences this past season with the raising of peonies. If you have tried out new varieties and they have been planted long enough to warrant an opinion that is fair to the variety, it would be interesting to have such a report. This

report need not be confined to new varieties alone but could include the standard varieties that are better known.

This is the busy time for the commercial grower whose customers feel that they must have their orders filled and the roots planted as early in the month of September as possible. In the extreme northern section of the country this is quite desirable but in the northern section of the United States planting can be continued through October and into November until the ground freezes. Many who find it impossible to complete their planting in the fall can, with assurance of growth, plant in the spring months from stock that has been properly stored during the winter and have satisfactory results.

To get the most enjoyment out of peonies, have liberal plantings of a number of varieties that will give bloom continuously through the early, midseason and late blooming periods. Do not be content with just the full double flowering varieties, but try a few singles and Japanese types as well as the early hybrids that are being produced, and you will realize, as you have never before, what a thrill can be obtained from their culture.



Department of Registration

THE Society takes no responsibility as to the quality of the varieties registered here. A system by which new varieties can be officially rated and approved by the Society has been established and it is hoped that the difficulties inherent in dealing with the peony can be overcome.

The purpose of this department is to provide an opportunity for all growers to register the names of their new varieties which are being put on the market. To avoid duplication of names, every new named variety should be submitted to the secretary, who has a complete list of varieties now in commerce.

Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Ill., has presented the following varieties for registration:

HABANERA. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) An early light red single, edges fade lighter as the flower ages. Good size and plant habit.

KEWANEE. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) A distinctive dark red single, tending more towards carmine than crimson. Long season of bloom, and color holds.

TOM TINKER. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) An early, medium sized dark red single, medium height, free bloomer, striking for landscape.

SNOW SPRITE. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) An outstanding dwarf white single. Green carpels. Center mass of stamens especially rich and durable golden yellow.

- SHY MAID. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) An early anemone Jap, guards palest lavender pink, center palest yellow. A flower of great refinement, fading to white if left outdoors.
- SANS SOUCI. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) Anemone Jap of an unusual light violaceous pink, center same color, flushed to white. Carpels light pink.
- MONTEREY. (E. Auten, Jr., 1930.) A striking Jap, light red, with suggestion of salmon, cerise and golden tints in center.
- TARANTELLE. (E. Auten, Jr., 1929.) *Revised description.* A brilliant light red or deep cerise pink Jap, the tips of the center petals white and incurved. Carpels tipped same color as guards.

The following peonies are submitted for registration by H. P. Sass of Washington, Neb.:

- ANNA SASS. Dbl. type; large; late midseason. Deep pink. Tall; straight stems. Formerly No. 48. Received mention at the Peoria National Show.
- APOLLO. Dbl. type; large; late. Pink with salmon blush in center of flower. Medium height. Formerly No. 9-27.
- ADONIS. Dbl. type; large; late. Pink with yellow collar. Tall, strong stems. Formerly No. B2.
- DIANA. Dbl. type; large; late. Pure white on tall stems.
- ELIZABETH HUNTINGTON. Dbl. type; very large; early. Pale pink fading to nearly white. Tall; strong stems. Formerly No. 8-25.
- ELSA SASS. Dbl. type; large; late. Globular white flowers on strong, medium tall stems. Formerly No. 11-27.
- GEISHA. Jap. type. A seedling of Mikado and similar in growth and shape of flower, but a lighter pink color.
- MINERVA. Dbl. type; large; very late. Symmetrical white flowers on medium tall stems. Formerly No. 102.
- PRIAM. Dbl. type with stamens; midseason. Dark maroon red. Good stems. Formerly No. 12-27.
- LAST ROSE. Dbl. type; very late. Pointed buds opening into loose, flat flowers of a pale pink color. Formerly No. 10-26.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST BULLETIN

- Darrall, Fred C., Route 2, Boise, Idaho.
- Erdelyi, Jos., R. F. D. 6, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- Fillmore Gardens, Mrs Mabel Wernimont, prop., Ohio, Neb.
- Galt Horticultural Society, Arthur MacBean, secy-treas., Galt, Ont.
- Gilmer, George, Charlottesville, Va.
- Malcolm, James E., R. D. 1, Silver Spring, Md.
- Walsh, Harry J., Editor, "Your Home," 1926 Broadway, N. Y. City, N. Y.

CHANGES IN ADDRESSES

- Crowell, C. B., Brattleboro, Vt., add 81 Western Ave.
- Cunningham Gardens, Columbus, Ind., change to Waldron, Indiana.
- Felland, O. G. Northfield, Minn., to 736 W. 736 W. 173rd St., (Apt. B-34) N. Y. City, N. Y.
- Jessup, Harry, from former address, Boston, Mass., to R. D. 1, Wilmington, Mass.
- Maxwell, Earl G., Omaha, Neb., to Knightstown, Ind.
- Miller, Frank J., from Ealing, Ont., to R. R. 8, London, Ont.

DEATHS REPORTED

- Carpenter, Samuel, Oswego, Kansas.
- Kimball, Edward L., 119 Anoka St., Duluth, Minn.

Le Cygne Seedlings

By DR. A. H. LEMPKE, Wausau, Wis.

In regard to the *Le Cygne* seedlings, I have this to say: A delayed eye came forth and developed into its best, and the bloom was not unlike a *Mons. Jules Elie* with wonderful carpels, what phantasies I developed. When the bloom was in the receptive stage my joy faded and anxiety took its place, as I could find no pollen. So my friend Mr. Ringle came to the rescue.

Searching through his plantings, which are a mile distant, we found another belated bloom, a side bud or bloom on *Couronne d'Or*, which resulted in 32 seeds, most of which have fallen by the wayside, and makes another story of no interest to others. Note the result by the blooms sent besides two other insignificant singles.

I am convinced that good parentage may not develop good progeny, although I have an excellent *Cabuzac* seedling which no doubt came from *Mons. Martin Cabuzac*. It never develops a full flower, a better grower, no side buds, and those capable of judging believe it to be a trifle darker. I am sorry it could not be shown at the Duluth Show.



Philippe Rivoire vs. Benoit

By MRS. FRANCIS H. McCULLAGH, Los Gatos, California

I have a fine blooming plant of peony *Benoit*, so called by Mr. Bonnewitz, who gave it to me to try in 1923.

I have never seen *Philippe Rivoire* but have here two colored plates of it; one in the Manual and one in Mr. Bonnewitz's peony list of 1928. Last month I closely compared my full blown flowers with these two pictures, and with the Manual description of *Philippe Rivoire*, they were like the description in every point, except the fragrance was slight, and my flowers I should call medium-size rather than small.

My flowers were a darker and richer red than the manual plate, nearer to Mr. Bonnewitz's color plate, but not quite so dark.

It is clear from notes in Bulletin No. 38 that *Philippe Rivoire* is variable, not only in fragrance but in size, also in color.

I am inclined to think that some slight variance may have misled Mr. Bonnewitz and that *Benoit* is *Philippe Rivoire*. I notice that Prof. Goodner is of the same opinion, (Bulletin No. 37). In one point Prof. Goodner is mistaken, Mr. Bonnewitz gave the name *Benoit* as the given name of Riviere himself and not Madame Riviere.

Planting Peony Roots

By REV. EDWARD K. THURLOW, *Sheffield, Mass.*

THIS subject seems to be of enough interest, and of enough difference of opinion, to appear every little while in the Bulletins. Dr. Beeson's article, in the Dec. 1929 issue, prompts me to add to the list, particularly because he thinks that the "two-foot-hole" theory ought to be "debunked." Perhaps my own experience in the last two or three years may be of interest and of help.

I cannot remember a time when the division and planting of peonies had not become a familiar sight at Cherry Hill. It was probably in 1882 or 1883 (I was born in the latter year, and my memory is thus only of what my father told me) that my father secured from John C. Hovey, one plant each of Richardson's *Dorchester*, *Grandiflora*, *Norfolk*, *Perfection*, and *Rubra superba*; and these were by no means the first peonies he had grown. (See note at end of article.)

COMMERCIAL GROWERS NEED NOT PLANT DEEP

From the time when I was old enough to be of any help in the peony fields, I have had a share in practically every phase of peony culture. But the planting was always for commercial purposes, and not for permanence. It was therefore on so large a scale that deep preparation of the soil was not feasible. Indeed, as others have said in previous Bulletins, the commercial grower does not desire or need a planting soil deeply dug over. His roots are to be sold, preferably one or two years after division. He does not desire to have the plant send out roots that go deeply into the soil. He desires a crown supplied with a well-balanced system of new, vigorous roots, so as to provide the purchaser with a plant which may send its roots out and down, on all sides. The dealer needs a fairly deep, rich top-soil, which will produce such a plant. The nature of the sub-soil, I think, does not matter much, provided it be not gravelly, and not so stiff as to prevent good drainage. Clayish soil holds the moisture, and hence the dissolved food on which the plant is to live. Thus the plant is not obliged to go deeply, to secure what it needs. Whether clay soil, in itself, contains any element necessary to the peony, which other soils do not have, is a question some horticultural chemist ought to answer for us.

Not until recently have I been in a position to experiment with a deeply-prepared bed for peony-planting. In 1925, I planted (in the usual way) a number of divisions, in a soil that is basically sand, of a fine, even

texture, without stones. In 1927, my parish secured another rectory, and offered the former one for sale. Lest a purchaser might desire to take possession before transplanting-time, I moved the plants, about the first of May, 1927, to a neighbor's garden, moving as much dirt as I could dig up with the clump. The stems were six or eight inches high. Some of the flower-buds were visible; but the plants bloomed that June, apparently as if nothing had happened. In the fall I moved them again, to the only place then available on the new rectory grounds—newly-plowed land which had been somewhat neglected sod for many years. In many places the top-soil was only about four inches deep. Again I moved the clumps with all the dirt I could.

In the summer of 1928 I began the permanent bed. I dug a trench five feet wide and two feet deep, discarding the sub-soil. Into this I put plant food of every description that was at hand, except fresh barnyard manure: partly rotted weeds, leaf-mould, kitchen garbage, wood ashes, sods, peat-muck (somewhat sweetened by exposure and aeration), lime, and barnyard scrapings. These were spread in layers, sandwiched with top soil, and thoroughly tramped down. In addition to this, at planting time I put a generous supply of sheep manure and bone-meal about six inches below each clump, mixed thoroughly with soil. Only top soil was used to anchor the plant and fill the hole.

BED SETTLED BEFORE PLANTING

The trench was filled two or three weeks before planting time. By means of a continuous stream of water, from the hose, for two or three days, the trench was "settled" as if after several months of rainy weather.

The roots, which were very large divisions, but not clumps, were planted so that the top buds were scarcely an inch below the surface. Over each plant a thick sod, about fifteen inches square, was inverted. This, I have found, effectually prevents "heaving" the first winter. (No protection at all is given after this.) It is not practicable on a large scale, so that a commercial grower must mulch. But it does permit shallow planting, and thus does away with the greatest danger to the beginner. In the spring I found that one or two had been planted so near the surface that when the spring rain came, after the sod was removed, the top of the crown showed. This necessitated early support for the stalks, and extra earth over the crown. But the plants, I find, have remedied this error by forming the next year's buds lower down, at the level the plant needs, for its best growth. (Had the plant been set too deeply, the buds would likewise have been formed at the proper

level. But they would in that case have been on the old stems, above the crown, so that the plant would have been obliged to transform these stem-bases into crown-root. The energy diverted to this, and the scantiness of connection between roots and new stems, would weaken the plant, and prevent its flowering, while the foliage would be half-starved and scanty.)

LITTLE DIFFERENCE APPARENT YET

Last summer was exceptionally dry. We had almost no rain, from early June until after the middle of September. The shortage of water-supply prevented the use of the hose, all summer. The peonies not yet transplanted wilted to the ground, and turned yellow, in August, though they came back, after the September rains. The ones transplanted in the specially filled trench showed scarcely any signs of wilt, and remained green until the stems had been split by hard frosts. This spring the buds showed almost as soon as those of the *officinalis*; and at that time the ground for about fifteen inches around the crowns was full of small new rootlets.

This year's blooms were smaller than they should have been, and had less substance, many of them wilting quickly, especially on the exhibition table. There was plenty of rain this spring and the plants not yet transplanted were not much inferior in appearance, to the casual eye, than those in the deep soil. It seemed to me, however, that on the whole the latter have done better. All of them had a liberal top dressing last fall, of bone-meal; and this spring, of a good "potato fertilizer," and in some cases some super-phosphate. Of course, they responded. But had I been able to water them last summer I am sure the results would have been better. A neighbor, who had fewer plants, nearer his house, was able to water them. His plants were divisions cut from the ones I transplanted. His blooms this year were much superior to mine. Two or three years from now, a comparison ought to be more encouraging, when my plants have made use of the deeper soil, and the stored-up food in it, at any rate, I hope so. In spite of the great amount of work such soil-preparation involves (I did all the work myself), I have filled a much larger trench for transplanting this year.

NOTE—It was only by persistence that my father secured the opportunity to interview Mr. Richardson about his peonies; and only after much persuasion did the old gentleman consent to instruct Mr. Hovey (who had charge of them) to sell the plants. I do not know the price paid. By 1893 these five divisions had been increased to two thousand. In that year T. C. Thurlow issued a four-page catalog, which was, I think, the first in America exclusively devoted to peonies. It was, at any rate, the first time these Richardson varieties were offered for sale to the general public, in a printed catalog.

Believe It or Not

By EMIL F. LEIN, *North Tonawanda, N. Y.*

I HAVE a seedling red peony, which I believe is the finest red, of all the reds now on the market. When I saw it bloom last year for the first time I could hardly believe my eyes,—but there it was, larger and richer in color than *Philippe Rivoire*, rose form, very full, perfectly symmetrical, with a long, strong, straight stem and wonderful substance. Midseason to late.

In color it is identical with the French variety, the true one, but while the color of my seedling is the same deep red, upon closer comparison the color of mine is still richer.

While the bud is very compact and closely packed, it opens very easily in cup formation. The stamens are artfully concealed by the full flower and are not visible before the petals are about ready to drop.

OUTCLASSES PHILIPPE RIVOIRE

Because of its very regular form, fullness, substance, color, size, etc., I believe it outclasses *Philippe Rivoire* (except in fragrance), and leaves in the shade such fine varieties as *Felix Crousse*, *Karl Rosefield*, *Richard Carvel*, *Longfellow*, *Mary Brand*, *Ben Franklin*, *Mme. Gaudichau*, *Cherry Hill* and *Grace Ott*. I have all the mentioned varieties and have made the comparison, and so have others who have visited my garden. I divided the plant last fall and now have four plants which had bloom buds this year but they blasted.

I have at least three other seedling peonies which have bloomed twice and in my opinion are in the 90 class. They are pink and white. I have now about 140 varieties of peonies, and with the exception of two or three, all are rated over 80. I have *Hansina Brand* and *Victory Chateau Thierry*, but I consider my red seedling much more valuable from a monetary standpoint.

Besides the four seedlings mentioned I have other fine seedlings that should make a name for themselves. I have one single red which is very fragrant. Is this not extraordinary in singles? It has nice color and pleased me more than *Helen* and *Isana Gidui*, and held its form well, which the much larger and impressive *Vera* did not.

I have one seedling peony, light pink, with regular petal formation just like water lilies and with the same fragrance and I thought of naming it "*Pink Water Lilies*."

I have another single seedling, which, because of its unusual color, I have named "*Rainbow Beauty*."

"TALK ABOUT THRILLS"

Have still other seedlings which have bloomed and in my opinion are good enough to be propagated and be placed on the market with the best peonies. Talk about thrills.

The one pink seedling is brilliant, on the order of *Souv. de Louis Bigot*. One wonderful white double has a very tight bud like *Enchantresse*, *Hansina Brand*, *Martha Bulloch* and *Nancy Dolman*, but opens at least as easily as *Hansina Brand* and *Nancy Dolman*, very full with a yellow reflex so that people sometimes call it a yellow peony.



Gall Nema on Peony Roots

By N. A. COBB, Senior Nematologist U. S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

The recent developments to which you refer probably relate to the fact that there are other diseases of peony roots that give rise to symptoms so nearly like those caused by the gall nema as to give rise to mistaken diagnoses.

So far as I know, at present the exact nature of these diseases which simulate the gall nema in their effects on roots, have not been entirely worked out.

STUDYING ROOT DISEASES OF PEONIES

I would suggest that you communicate with Dr. Whetzel of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., in regard to this matter, as I understand that he or some of his colleagues are at work upon this other disease of peony roots;—which is caused by some fungus or microbe.

Or, probably you may have heard of proposals of initial experiments in placing peony roots under severe winter conditions in order to kill off the gall nema. The fact is that the gall nema does not flourish much north of the latitude of Washington, except in a few instances where local conditions are peculiar, and it is believed that in such cases the main factor in keeping the gall nema down is the frost penetrating the ground in the winter.

Peony roots will stand a good deal of frost and this has led to such propositions as the removal of peonies from greenhouses in Pennsylvania to northern New York for a few years of growth in the open, the hope be-

ing that valuable roots now infested might thus be cleared of the gall nema;—but no results of such trials are as yet to be had, so far as I know.

WANTS RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS

The climate in many portions of Minnesota would seem to me very suitable for trials of this kind. You may already have information along this line, and, as it is a matter of interest to this office, I should be very glad to know of any trials or observations you have made (or do make in the future) with regard to the "freezing out" of the gall nema in peonies.



Digging Peonies

By EDWARD AUTEN, JR.

Dr. Lempke's request that some manufacturer put out a full one-man power fork to be used in digging peonies leads me to suggest that I have found a regular tiling spade to be much the best tool for that purpose. It not only saves much prying and hard labor, but, by cutting off the roots instead of tearing them, there is almost no waste from roots broken too short, or broken and left in the ground. This has a curved blade, and comes in lengths from 14 to 20 inches. The cutting edge should be straight across, not pointed, and should be kept sharp.

In digging a clump of any considerable size, first make a complete circuit cutting about 4 to 6 inches deep, and throwing out part of the dirt. One can slope the first cut away from the center, or else make a vertical cut facing the center. Then make another complete circuit, as deep as the spade will go and sloping in under the clump, but prying none at all. The clump should then lift out with very little prying and breaking of roots. Those roots going straight down from the center will usually break off at the right length from the protection afforded by the ball of earth already cut.



Walter Faxon

By MRS. FRANCIS H. McCULLAGH, *Los Gatos, Cal.*

Since writing my opinion of this peony I have reason to amend it, as I now have a plant of healthy stock. Two roots previously were not healthy; one from Massachusetts and one from Minnesota.

I now have a fine plant which blooms freely,—oh, so lovely, so I agree with you that there is considerable poor stock in the country. It is a pity for this most beautiful variety and for some other fine ones in the same case.

The Garden

By NANCY BYRD TURNER

Who rears four walls around a little plot
—Some still, secluded spot—
And digs and sows therein, has done a thing
Beyond his reckoning.
In one small, fended space
Beauty and deep, untellable content
Make their abiding-place
And measureless peace is pent.
There time takes note of tender happenings:
The shimmer of a butterfly's blue wings
Above the clustered phlox;
A spider's will to work a miracle
Between two hollyhocks;
A twilight cricket's humble prophecies;
A brown bird by a pool, and all that goes
Into the lovely lifetime of a rose;
A pansy's lore, and little, questing bees'
Strange, sweet biographies.
Who makes a garden plans beyond his knowing.
Old roads are lost, old dwellings have their day,
And he himself, far summoned, passes hence,
An unfamiliar way;
But lo, he has not perished with his going:
For year by year as April's heart is stirred,
Spring after punctual spring,
Across the little acre's wintry gray
Comes, slowly traced, an old, authentic word
In radiant lettering:
A shining script of tendril, vine, and whorl,
New green, faint rose, clear lavender and pearl.
Petal by delicate petal, leaf by leaf;
As though his own hand from the Mystery
Wrote for all earth to see,
Upon a fadeless, beauteous scroll, his brief
For immortality.

The Passing of a Peony Enthusiast

By W. F. CHRISTMAN

Word has just reached my office of the passing of Edward L. Kimball, the winner of the Gold Medal of the American Peony Society and six other outstanding awards at the recent Duluth, Minn., peony show.

It is really hard to conceive that this sudden change has transpired and I am sure the news will come as a sudden shock to those who met him and enjoyed his real admiration of the peony. Mrs. Kimball shared her husband's love for the peony and has a wide knowledge of varieties, many of the finest of which they possess. Their exhibit this past season was very good, indeed, and it has been the writer's privilege to see their exhibits for several seasons, and they were always to be found in the winning classes.

MOST ARDENT PEONY FANCIER

Mr. Kimball was one of the most ardent peony fanciers in Duluth. I have before me a letter written by him under date of July 8th, from which I quote as follows:

"Of the one hundred thirty-three varieties exhibited in my name, at least sixty were from three-year-old plants, and all of my peonies occupy an area which could be placed on a city lot 50x150, although in fact they occupy parts of three such lots."

Mr. Kimball was purely an amateur grower but an expert in producing fine specimen bloom. He understood thoroughly how to handle flowers for exhibition and added to his collection only peonies of superlative merit.

MAN OF PLEASING PERSONALITY

He was a man of most pleasing personality; one you could rely upon to carry out any work assigned him. His quiet, pleasing manner was an admirable attribute. He was exceedingly tactful and a friend of all who knew him. His profession as a lawyer enabled him to handle delicate situations without incurring enmity or discord.

GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

Mr. Kimball was born in Duluth, Minn., June 14, 1872, attended the early schools of the city and later graduated from the high school at Huron, S. D., later attending Carleton College at Northfield, Minn., where he completed the course in 1896. He graduated from the law

school of the University of Minnesota in 1906 and returned to Duluth where he entered the practice of law. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Eva Bradley Kimball, and a sister, Miss Anna May Kimball and his mother Mrs. Nancy Kimball. He was the son of the late Rev. Jeremiah Kimball, pioneer Duluth pastor.

In his passing, Duluth has lost one of its most ardent supporters of the peony and one who was first in bringing the Duluth Peony Society into existence.

We mourn his passing and will miss him greatly at future peony shows where he has been a faithful exhibitor.



Fourth District Peony Show

Regional Exhibition of District of Columbia, Maryland,
Virginia and West Virginia, Successful.

By DR. EARL B. WHITE, *Kensington, Md.*

THE spring exhibition of flowers, fruits and vegetables and Regional Peony Show for the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, which has been held at Somerset School, Md., for two days, under auspices of the Montgomery Suburban Garden Club in co-operation with the American Peony Society, closed last night with the announcement of the final awards.

The attendance broke all records, according to officials in charge of the exhibition, and with more than 5,000 blooms on display, it was stated by visiting peony specialists that, although during the past five years numerous peony exhibitions had been viewed by them, the quality of the specimens entered in the local show had never been surpassed and the attractive displays were justly entitled to the tremendous interest evidenced by the throngs of visitors up to the closing hour.

DR. WHITE WINS MEDAL

Dr. Earl B. White of Kensington was awarded the silver medal of the American Peony Society for winning the most points in the peony classes, while the bronze medal went to Howard R. Watkins of Somerset for winning the next highest number of points. H. D. Scantlin of Drummond carried off the prize membership in the American Peony Society for the non-member winning the most points, while the special prize for the best specimen flower in the show selected from the entries in all the

peony classes was won by Dr. Earl B. White's variety *Therese*. Louise Watkins of Somerset won first prize for the best arrangement of peonies for a school room by a child under 16, while the prize for the most artistically arranged exhibit of hardy flowers by a child under 14 was awarded to Frances Spruce.

EXHIBIT OF JAPANESE PEONIES SPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE

The feature among the peony classes was a rare collection of imported Japanese varieties brought to Washington by George W. Peyton of Rapidan, Va., which included *Nippon Beauty*, a dark red, which was adjudged two years ago by the American Peony Society at its national show as the most outstanding variety in its class. The curiosity of the visitors was aroused by the fact that the roots of the plant from which the bloom was cut are valued at \$100 each.

A new seedling, originated in Somerset by Howard R. Watkins and which required six years to bring to maturity, was represented by four beautiful specimen blooms, an attractive pink with a tinge of gold at the base of the petals. Only one root of this peony is in existence and Mr. Watkins has not yet determined upon a name for it. This new seedling, which was not placed in competition, was the object of widespread admiration by visitors.



Mulching for Winter Protection

By EMIL F. LEIN, *North Tonawanda, N. Y.*

THE importance of mulching, late mulching, after the ground is frozen hard, is not visualized by most of us but realized after such an open winter as we had here this last season. Two and three-year-old peony plants heaved out by alternate thawing and freezing, impressed upon me the importance and value of mulching.

Small baby seedling peonies which I had lightly mulched with a thin covering of straw did not suffer at all. If I could afford it I would mulch with peat moss. Because of the weed seeds contained in the chaff of the straw, I would prefer wild hay if I could get it.

NOTE—The practice of mulching is very important where there is danger of heaving during the winter months. All new plantings should have a light mulch of straw, wild hay or some coarse material, until the plants become firmly set. A well drained location is not subject to heaving like a poorly drained section. Avoid the latter condition at all times. Most heaving is done in early spring by alternate thawing and freezing.—EDITOR.

A Real Floral Boulevard

By OSCAR L. EASTBURN, *Howison, Va.*

SEEING an account of an "Iris Boulevard" in the secretary's notes of the March issue of the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN I wish to state to the readers of the Bulletin what Belvedere Peony Farm is doing in Virginia.

This is a very young organization, only in its second year, but it is planting on the volume production plan.

The farm lies on the Tidewater Trail a few miles below Fredericksburg and the field they are developing comprises one hundred acres of perfectly level, very rich river bottom land. They now have a strip of this field right by the side of the Tidewater Trail, a very popular highway, sixty rows wide and just a mile long. On the other side of the road is a large sheep pasture of 150 acres with over 500 sheep grazing to their hearts' content, and at every other post, the full length of this pasture over a mile in length, they have planted an assortment of climbing roses.

Can you imagine anything more beautiful than this will be in a couple of years, a mile of peonies on one side of the highway and a mile of roses on the other side, a real floral avenue. They are aiming to plant out fifty acres of peonies all in this one huge block.



Handling Peonies in the South

By EDWARD AUTEN, JR.

Here is an interesting item about peonies further south in Alabama than Pope M. Long's gardens.

A friend in the extreme southeast corner of Alabama writes as follows in regard to raising peonies: "I have learned from experience that in this climate or soil, I have to dig them up every year, in August, let them rest in the shade a few days and then replant them. Then they will bloom the next season, but if I leave them in the ground from year to year I do not have any blooms."

This may be the solution of the problem of raising peonies in Florida and possibly southern California. At any rate, it is worthy of trial in all places where they do not succeed under ordinary methods.

The New Peony Manual

TO HAVE the greatest success with peonies is to know how to properly handle and care for them. Every member of the American Peony Society should have a copy of THE NEW PEONY MANUAL, a book brimming full of good things for the peony lover. Valuable information has been collected and presented in a clear, concise manner.

Of the several hundred copies that have been sold, only words of the highest commendation have been received from satisfied purchasers. Order a copy and be convinced of its true worth. We can make prompt delivery to your door.

The price to members is \$5 per copy; to non-members of the American Peony Society, \$6. Manual, including membership in the Society and receipt of quarterly Bulletins for the year, \$8. Ask your local library to secure a copy.

Address all orders to

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*,
NORTHBROOK, ILL.

The American Peony Society

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 per year, and *all checks covering membership dues should be made to the American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership.* Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back Bulletins of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 50 cents per copy and \$1.00 for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No Bulletins available prior to No. 13.