

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin

MARCH - 1945

Number 97

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
Northbrook, Ill.

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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 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. *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 25 cents per copy and 50 cents for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No BULLETINS available prior to No. 13.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



MARCH - 1945

1935 - 1945

How far have we gone in ten years?

At a meeting of Minnesota peony growers, February 3, 1945, for a discussion of peony topics, a very interesting one arose, viz.: "Best Peonies."

This subject was actuated by an article published in the June issue, 1935, of the *Minnesota Horticulturist* on the subject of Iris and Peonies, by L. W. Lindgren, one of the best judges and growers of fine peonies in our country.

Our group decided to take up the subject of double peonies only as set forth in Mr. Lindgren's article, wherein he gives under Color Classifications those varieties entitled to be listed under the Select Class together with a secondary group of very fine peonies, lacking only a shade of the Select Class, but candidates for higher honors when better known.

SELECT CLASS

White

Mrs. J. V. Edlund
Le Cygne
Mrs. Frank Beach
Kelway's Glorious

Flesh

Solange
Hansina Brand
La Lorraine
Alice Harding

Red

Philippe Rivoire
Mary Brand
Longfellow
Karl Rosenfield

Pink

Myrtle Gentry
Milton Hill
Therese
Lady Kate

Dark Pink

Walter Faxon
Martha Bulloch
Souv. de Louis Bigot
Blanche King

CANDIDATES FOR SELECT CLASS

Frances Willard
Lillian Gumm
Pres. Wilson
Florence Macbeth
Mad. Jules Dessert
Reine Hortense

Sarah Bernhardt
Phyllis Kelway
Mrs. Deane Funk
Mrs. A. M. Brand
Enchanteresse
La France

The last decade has seen the production of many of the grandest peonies in existence. This is not to be wondered at when we consider that America's foremost growers have been striving to produce new and better varieties, and it is evident that the last ten years have proved conclusively that their efforts have been rewarded in a superlative degree in the creation of some of the greatest peonies of all time.

Herewith is a comparative list of best peonies as of today, as seen by our group after many hours of careful study.

SELECT CLASS

White

Mrs. J. V. Edlund
Le Cygne
Elsa Sass
Mrs. A. M. Brand
Kelway's Glorious
Harry F. Little
Alesia
Mrs. A. B. Franklin
W. L. Gumm
Dr. J. H. Neeley
Margaret Lough
Mrs. Frank Beach

Flesh

A. B. Franklin
La Lorraine
Mrs. J. H. Neeley
Alice Harding
Geo. W. Peyton
R. A. Napier
Mary Auten
Marilla Beauty
Tourangelle

Light Pink

Hansina Brand
Myrtle Gentry
Nick Shaylor
Minuet
Ella Lewis
Walter Lindgren
Auten's Pride
Mrs. W. L. Gumm
Milton Hill
Therese
Victory Chateau Thierry

Medium Pink

Martha Bulloch
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Walter Faxon
Lady Kate
Sarah Bernhardt

Dark Pink

Blanche King
Mrs. Livingston Farrand
Lee W. Pollock
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Loren Franklin
Tondeleyo

Red

Philippe Rivoire
Ruth Elizabeth
King Midas
Mary Brand
Longfellow
John L. Crenshaw
W. E. Blanchette
Sir John Franklin
Mark Twain
Mrs. Bryce Fontaine
Matilda Lewis

CANDIDATES FOR SELECT CLASS

	<i>Variety</i>	<i>Originator</i>
<i>White:</i>	Rapture	Thurlows & Stranger
	Mary E. Nicholls	Nicholls
	Louise Lossing	Lossing
	Victory	Thompson (See Peony Bull. 94, pp. 44-45)
	Alice Schneider	Schneider
	Mrs. Harriet Gentry	Brand
	Rev. H. N. Tragitt	Brand
	Dr. F. G. Brethour	Sass
	Florence Bond	Gumm
	Evening Star	Sass
	Mount Everest	Sass
	Plymouth	Auten
<i>Flesh:</i>	Mrs. R. M. Bacheller	Vories
	A. M. Brand	Brand
	Laura Kelsey	Kelsey
	Mrs. Harry F. Little	Little
	Dorothy J.	Jones
	Flower Girl	Auten
	Edith M. Snook	Snook
	Odile	Doriat
	Florence Nicholls	Nicholls
<i>Light Pink:</i>	James Pillow	Christman
	Hans P. Sass	Sass
	No. 35, See Peony Bull. 94, pp. 12-13	Cooper
	Lottie Dawson Rea	Rea
	Josephine Hope Healy	Brand
	Judge Snook	Good and Reese
	E. C. Shaw	Thurlows
<i>Medium Pink:</i>	Chief	Franklin
	Ella Christiansen	Brand
	Helen Hughes	Snook
	Dolorodell	Lins
<i>Dark Pink:</i>	John Howard Wigell	Wigell
	Joanne Foreman	Brand
	A. E. Rowe	Schneider
	Franklin's Pride	Franklin
	Queen of Hamburg	Sass

Red:	Judy Becker	Sass
	Mrs. A. S. Gowen	Brand
	Tempest	Auten
	Sam Donaldson	Brand
	Onondaga	Little
	Carolyn Mae Nelson	Sass
	Radiant Red	Auten
	Kansas	Bigger

The above list of candidates for the Select Class, together with names of the originators, contains many of the greatest peonies yet produced. While we know that many of these varieties belong in the Select Class at this time, we did not feel that they should be placed there until they had proved their sterling worth under the fire of competition.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. COE, Minneapolis, Minn.
 R. W. JONES, St. Paul, Minn.
 J. F. JONES, Minneapolis, Minn.
 C. R. JENKS, Stillwater, Minn.
 HOWARD ENGLUND, Minneapolis, Minn.



Comments on Genetics

C. M. CLARKE, *Teepee Creek, Alberta, Canada*

"Color is color," as Mr. Hodgson says, but color as a distinguishing plant character can be modified permanently only by a new combination of genes, which takes place when two plants, differing in character, are crossed; or by chromosomal or genic mutation, a process which, until recently, occurred only through natural agencies, but can now be induced by artificial methods.

To quote from his article: "Take a cross between two peonies, *Albiflora*, for example, let's take two red, on straight species, the resulting seedling should be red. Try it on the peony *albiflora* and see what you may get — whites, light pinks are likely to show up in the seedlings."

There is really no reason why the resulting seedlings should necessarily be all red because all horticultural varieties of *P. albiflora* are in heterozygous condition, carrying recessive genes for characters that are not apparent in the plants, but appearing in their progeny raised from seed, and if the two red parents happen to have recessive genes for white, both whites and pinks may appear among their progeny, as Mr. Hodgson says they do. Conversely, as most whites show some influence of red, they obviously carry genes for that color, and when two such whites are mated, they will produce a pure red if a gene for red from the pollen parent should happen to pair with a gene for red from the seed parent in the process of seed formation.

If, however, two wild plants of *P. albiflora*, each genetically pure for red flower color, were mated — or cultivated ones, if such could be found (and I am sure we have them) — all the progeny will be red flowered, and if they are not allowed to cross with plants having a dif-

ferent flower color, or with red flowered plants that are not genetically pure for that color, they will all come true from seed so far as color is concerned.

Similarly, two white flowered plants of *P. albiflora*, each genetically pure for that character, will produce only white flowered seedlings that will come true from seed unless crossed with plants bearing flowers of another color, or with white flowered plants that are not genetically pure for white flower color.

For reasons which will be given presently, two pink flowered plants of *P. albiflora* will produce red, white and pink flowered seedlings.

In genera, where the gene for red is fully dominant over the gene for white, when a red and a white flowered plant are crossed, both being genetically pure for these characters and having the genes for red and white in the same position on their respective chromosomes, all the resulting seedlings will be red flowered hybrids, carrying the gene for white flower color as a recessive, and if they are self-pollenized, their progeny will break up in the following definite ratio — one red flowered plant that will be pure for flower color, and will come true for this character from seed when self-pollenized, to two red flowered plants, like the first in appearance, but really hybrids like their parents, carrying the gene for white as a recessive that will produce white flowered plants among their progeny, to one white flowered plant, which, like the first red, will be genetically pure for color and will come true from seed for this character when self-pollenized. There will be three red flowered plants, one pure and two hybrid, to one pure white.

There is no gene for pink. That color comes from the blending of red and white when the genes for red and white meet in the same cell in genera where red is not fully dominant over white, as in *paeonia*. When a genetically pure red peony is crossed with a genetically pure white, their progeny will all be pink flowered hybrids, carrying the genes for both red and white, and when self-pollenized, the seeds will produce plants that will segregate in the ratio of one pure that will come true from seed when selfed to two pink flowered hybrids that, in turn, will produce red, white and pink flowered plants, to one genetically pure white.

The above ratio, of course, will hold true only when a large number of seeds is sown. A dozen, or a score of seeds may produce colors in a very different ratio, and may even chance to be all one color. The above ratio is really an established natural law (Mendel's Law), that is the basis for the whole modern science of genetics, and the foregoing is its simplest form of expression.

Continue the process of crossing through many generations, remembering that many characteristics besides color are involved, and it will be readily understood why our present collection of horticultural peony varieties is such a complex mixture; but exactly the same thing is true of all our other cultivated plants that take a long time to reach maturity from seed, because when a new hybrid plant of this kind proves superior to its parents, or to other existing varieties, no attempt is ever made to secure a genetically pure strain as is done with plants that reach maturity quickly from seed. The new hybrid is propagated vegetatively and becomes a widely dispersed clone carrying recessive characters that will appear in its progeny raised from seed, whether self-pollenized, or crossed with other clones, varieties or species.

In those genera that have already been extensively studied by geneticists and their recations catalogued, if a plant geneticist or a plant breeder knows the history of the original cross of two homozygous types and of all the succeeding crosses, back crosses and interclonal crosses, he should be able to tell, with a fair degree of accuracy, what new combinations and variations in flower color and other plant characters may be expected from any later cross before it is made; but as the crossing of peonies by natural and artificial means had been going on for centuries before the principles underlying heredity were understood, existing horticultural varieties of peony are all heterozygous, won't come true from seed, and as no one knows just what went into the making of them, except the recent species crosses, no one can tell in advance what new combinations may appear when two clones are crossed.

Owing to the length of time required to bring a new generation of peonies to maturity from seed, the genera has had very little attention from geneticists who prefer to work with genera that reproduce themselves by this method more rapidly as they can learn more from them in less time, and they naturally give more attention to those slow-developing genera that are of higher economic value. Later on, they will give to peonies the same attention that has already been given to many other ornamental plants, and peony breeders will be able to apply in their work the knowledge gained by scientific research.

Mr. Hodgson's attempt to produce mutations in his peonies by "adding oxides, chlorides and iodides of various metals" to the soil "where seedlings were growing" isn't altogether new. I believe that versatile Italian, Leonardo da Vinci, tried something of the kind more than 450 years ago: not with peonies though, nor for the purpose of producing yellow flowers.

As natural minor mutations in plants, often passing unnoticed, are said to be of frequent occurrence and major ones are often observed, unless the experiments with chemicals are made under carefully controlled laboratory conditions, it could not be known positively whether any mutations that may be observed were due to the chemicals used or other causes. The rate and extent of these natural mutations can be greatly increased by the use of certain agents, we are told, but the changes are always accomplished, and can be accomplished only by effecting changes in the chromosome structure of the cell, or by genic mutations.

By far the most effective stimuli that have been tested to date are colchicine, X-rays, and radium, and they, like the others of less importance that have been reported, are all local in their action; they must come in direct contact with the seeds, or with the growing tips or buds where new cells are being formed. As *P. albiflora* does not produce new shoots from the roots, but only from crown tissue, it seems unlikely that stimuli applied by mixing them in the soil where they would come in contact with the roots, rather than with the crown, would induce mutations in this species.

The genes are too small to be seen under a microscope, but in many genera geneticists have already learned enough to be able to locate the exact position on the chromosome of the gene through which any specified character of the plant is transmitted. As no means is known at present of directing the action of any of these stimuli toward any specified gene however, their action is haphazard: they will bring about a change and the new form will be heritable, but the new plant must be grown to maturity before we can tell whether it is of any value, i.e., superior to the parent plants and other known varieties in desirable qualities.

When scientists have learned to direct these agents, and any others that may be discovered hereafter toward specified genes, and to destroy or remove them without injury to the rest of the chromosome, the grower will be able to take a handful of seeds to a plant geneticist and say, "Here are some peony seeds; I want yellow flowered plants." With his ray projector, or electron forceps, or whatever other name the as yet unknown inventor may give the instrument that is still to be, the geneticist will kill or cut out every gene for flower color except those for yellow, and return the seeds to the grower (with a bill, of course) — and every seed that grows will produce a yellow flowered plant. What is more, they will all come true from seed when self-pollenized. But that is for tomorrow.

Differences in tone or intensity of flower color, or other observed differences in plants resulting from variations in soil, or from other factors of environment, to which Mr. Hodgson refers in the paragraph telling about the use of chemicals to induce mutations, are not heritable characters. Some plants give a remarkable response to treatment of this sort. Pink flowered Hydrangeas, for example, can be made to bear blue flowers by treating the soil in which they grow, but the change is not permanent and not heritable. It isn't a mutation. Seeds from such plants will produce seedlings that will bear the normal pink flowers, and if the plants in treated soil are transplanted to untreated soil, they will bear pink flowers again as soon as the effect of the contained chemical is exhausted.

Even if he does not succeed in producing yellow peonies by this method, Mr. Hodgson may be able to give us some very useful and interesting biochemical information later on if adequate checks are maintained and careful records kept, including notes on the organic matter and the water-soluble mineral contents and the reaction (p.H) of the soil before and after application of the chemicals, so that a correct interpretation may be made of the results obtained.

He will find his rose and peony breeding even more interesting if he would make a sort of "check-up" on genetics. Books are available on the subject, both for the serious student and the casual reader, and two of these are free, if they are still in print. There is also a small, compact primer of genetics that will cost only fifteen cents, if it is still available.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Year Book of Agriculture for 1936, a volume of about twelve hundred pages, and that for 1937, containing about fifteen hundred pages, both deal almost entirely with genetics and the breeding of both plants and animals, and should be read by everyone who is interested in these matters. Residents of the United States can have them free, if they are still available, by applying for them through a senator or congressman. Unfortunately, for reasons already mentioned, there is scarcely a word about peonies in either of them, and very little about roses. They are recommended for the information they furnish on genetics and on plant breeding in general.

Those who do not care to go through so much detail in work with plants or animals that may not be of special interest to them can buy for fifteen cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., the Department of Agriculture Yearbook Separate No. 1605, a bulletin of about a hundred pages, which includes two articles published in the 1937 Yearbook: Fundamentals of Heredity for Breeders, by E. N. Bressman, and Studies in the Behavior of Chromosomes, by Albert F. Blakeslee. Any library can supply them, of course, as well as other works on the subject.

Testimonial Dinner Given Mr. A. M. Brand

The Minnesota Peony and Iris Society held its annual meeting February 28 at the Lowry Hotel in St. Paul, Minn.

As it was the 74th birthday of our beloved Mr. A. M. Brand, it was thought fitting to turn the affair into a testimonial dinner meeting for him.

After a fine turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, we retired to the Colonial Room where Mr. W. T. Coe took over as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Coe, Mr. Ed. Flynn and Mr. Brand could indulge in reminiscences for they were classmates at the law school of the University of Minnesota way back when.

Mr. Walter Lindgren, Mr. Louis Fischer, Mr. R. C. Schneider, Mrs. H. B. Tillotson and Mrs. A. S. Gowen each offered a toast and congratulations to Mr. Brand, and Mrs. John Taylor, Miss Helen Fischer and Mr. W. T. Coe read letters from Mr. George W. Peyton, president of the American Peony Society, Prof. A. P. Saunders of Clinton, N. Y., and Mr. W. F. Christman, Northbrook, Ill., Secretary of the American Peony Society.

Mr. Peyton offered much praise for Mr. Brand, both for his work with peonies and the American Peony Society. He said: "He is broad in his knowledge lovable in disposition, tolerant of others, firm and just in his decisions. His contribution to the American Peony Society has been one of love and devotion and never can be repaid."

Prof. Saunders said: "You have done an important service to the cause of peony culture and by the introduction of your fine seedlings you have added beauty to thousands of American gardens where your memory will long be cherished."

Mr. Christman's letter contained the following passage: "If we had men in power possessing Mr. Brand's philosophy of life, we would not be embroiled as we are now, man against man; nation against nation: the strong trampling underfoot the weak and unprotected — but instead, the beauty of flowers, the peace and prosperity displayed in fruitful orchards, colorful vineyards and beautiful landscaped homes would obliterate the ghostly ogre of destruction and carnage."

After this part of the program was completed, Mr. Brand told us the story of his seedlings. His remarks were interspersed with quips of his own inimitable wit which we enjoyed immensely.

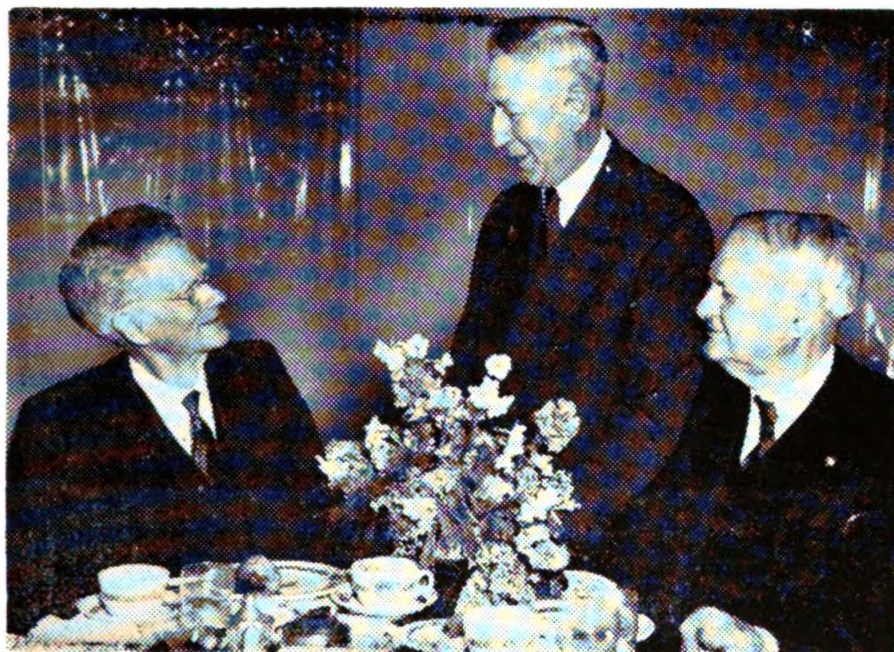
He told us that in 1899 he was much interested in pure-bred animals, and had acquired some pure-bred cattle, hogs, sheep, and bantam chickens. The care of these animals took a great deal of time, but he had also a planting of 1000 varieties of peonies, collected by his father, to care for. He said he used to gather seed each day and shell it out at night until he had a four-quart milk pan full. From this lot of seed came *Richard Carvel*, *Mary Brand*, *Frances Willard*, *Longfellow* and *Martha Bulloch*.

From a small handful of seed taken from a plant of *Alba Sulphurea* in 1909 and planted hurriedly at the base of the parent plant, he got *Hansina Brand* and also *Prairie Rose*.

The next planting was made in 1912, and from this lot of seed he got *Blanche King*, *Ella Christiansen*, *Mrs. Frank Beach*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Myrtle Gentry* and *Victory Chateau Thierry*. These, with others, were

shown at the National Peony Show at St. Paul in 1923 and started a peony craze, almost the equal of the early tulip boom in Holland. Mr. Brand booked 110 orders for these six varieties at \$50 each at this particular show.

His 1914 planting produced only *Flanders Fields* and *Krinkled White*, but in 1916 from one and a half bushel of seed he secured *A. M. Brand*, *Lee W. Pollock*, *John L. Crenshaw*, *Oliver F. Brand*, *Golden Bracelet*, *Joanne Foreman*, *Man o'War*, *Mrs. Rowland*, *Resident Lincoln*, *Red Goddess*, *R. A. Napier*, *Ruth Elizabeth*, *T. E. Carpenter*, *Walter Lindgren* and *W. E. Blanchette*.



From left to right: *A. M. Brand*, Faribault, Minn., *R. W. Jones*, St. Paul, *W. T. Coe*, Minneapolis

The 1924 planting produced *Ed F. Flynn*, and that of 1930 *Sam Donaldson* and *Ralph Smith*.

In 1931 he had a grand idea of planting out the seedlings in check rows like corn and had fifteen acres planted in this way from two and a half bushels of seed. About this time the depression was in full sway, and peony plants were being thrown on the market for next to nothing, so he plowed up the whole field of seedlings and twenty-three acres of three-year-olds to boot. We can only imagine what treasures we missed from these fields.

Mr. Brand's last planting was made in 1942 and it is too early yet to know what is in store for us from this lot of seed, but we can rest assured that it will be something good.

All in all, Mr. Brand has seventy-nine varieties of his own introduction in commerce, growing from one end of the country to the other. That is a record that he may well be proud of.

The meeting closed with the showing of some excellent color pictures of peonies and gardens around St. Paul, Minn.

Mrs. A. S. Gowen
Gowen's Gardens,
Excelsior, Minn.

Report of Meeting of the Minn. Peony & Iris Society

February 28, 1945

Lowry Hotel

St. Paul, Minn.

The Minnesota Iris and Peony Society gave a dinner to A. M. Brand at the Lowry Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota, on February 28, 1945, at 6 P.M., in honor of his great services to the Peony World and his 74th Birthday.

Thirty attended the dinner, and after the dinner W. T. Coe of Minneapolis was introduced as toastmaster. There followed an interesting meeting. The following friends toasted Mr. Brand, and he finally responded.

T. E. Carpenter
Louis Fischer
R. C. Schneider
Mrs. Tillotson
Mrs. Gowen

Helen Fischer
Howard M. Englund
J. F. Jones
Mrs. Taylor
L. W. Lindgren

Three letters were read, one from George W. Peyton, of Rapidan, Virginia, one from Prof. A. P. Saunders, another from W. F. Christman. The speeches were all good.

Mr. J. F. Jones, an old friend of Brand, made exceptionally appropriate remarks, which I append hereto.

J. F. Jones, a close friend of Mr. Brand, told how about 25 years ago they first became acquainted and how a passive interest in peonies became a growing passion until today he is one of the most ardent lovers of this, the greatest of all perennials.

The speaker, who is slightly older than Mr. Brand, endeavored to prove that Mr. Brand was still a young man and as proof cited the ages of the last eleven living veterans of the Civil War from Minnesota, of which two were 95, one 96, one 97, two 98, one 99, one 100, two 105 and one 108, concluding with the thought that should our birthday guest fail to reach the century mark many of his productions would, viz.: *Hansina Brand, Myrtle Gentry, Blanche King, Martha Bulloch, Mrs. A. M. Brand*, and many others.

After the dinner the officers of the previous year were all re-elected and all matters pertaining to the shows were turned over to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Brand said: "Today is the happiest of my life."

W. T. COE
Minneapolis, Minn.

✻ ✻ ✻

A. M. Brand - Peonies and A Pattern of Life

J. F. JONES, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

One of the very outstanding recent events was the Birthday Testimonial Dinner given to Mr. A. M. Brand at the Lowry Hotel, St. Paul in connection with the meeting of the Peony and Iris Society, February 28, 1945.

We are naturally very proud of our distinguished raiser and producer in connection with what peony fans consider the greatest of all perennials.

Mr. Brand gave an attentive group a wonderful address and related his experiences in raising seedling peonies covering many years of his interesting career. It was nice to see Mr. Brand looking so well and carrying his 74 years so easily. It is hoped that many years will be his to enjoy and to carry on his great work so notably achieved.

To the writer the thought frequently occurs: "What have we done for humanity?" It is self-evident that Mr. Brand and many other raisers of this great flower have contributed to the pleasure of millions who love beauty in the floral world.

The year 1944 had its drawbacks for peony men on account of labor shortage, but there is one consoling fact that in this locality sales have been very good, running strongly to the better varieties. This means, of course, that there is more money in circulation and that peony exhibitions and skillful advertising are making people more conscious of the beauty of this great flower. When young men come home from the war and begin to establish homes, they will want to beautify their property, and nothing can be more appealing than a few peonies in all the colors and in the choicest varieties. It is regrettable that our National Peony Show as planned for Rockford, Ill., cannot be held this year.

These exhibitions are intensely interesting and a profound stimulus in creating an interest in the beauty and value of the king of flowers. We always look forward to something new and sensational at the shows, hoping to see some aspiring candidates in the seedling classes that will be vying for supremacy with the great *LeCygne*, *Blanche King*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* or others that have achieved greatness.

Now let us take stock of our past efforts, including some disappointments, and be animated with hope for better things in the year we are now facing. Let us be thankful we are so fortunate as to live in America where there is room for freedom and happiness for all and where we can achieve a degree of success for ourselves as well as to lend a helping hand to someone less fortunate. A message to cheer us onward which we think worthy of our thought at this Easter Season is herewith presented.

"Greater Than Kings and Parliaments"

"He is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His Divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying — and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of . . . progress.

"I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments

that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life." — *Anonymous*

O Lord and Master of us all:
Whate'er our name or sign,
We own Thy sway, we hear Thy call.
We test our lives by Thine!

Whittier



Double Peonies in Cut Flower Arrangements

FRANK E. MOOTS, *Newton, Kansas*

Flower arrangement experts shake their heads or look pained when double peonies are mentioned. One lecturer, when asked about arranging double peonies, literally threw up her hands and said, "It can't be done."

But I have some peculiar ideas on the subject. I firmly believe that double peonies can be arranged in a pleasing manner. Of course, they are different from peach blossoms or willow catkins, but why should they not have true esthetic value if given the same thought and care and the right approach in arranging.

With no effort one can stick a dozen or two long stems in a basket. You have a mass of color and little else. And a few peonies crammed into just any small vase can offend your senses as much as any other flower that is mistreated.

It is true that peonies don't lend themselves to line arrangements and in mass they are usually overwhelming or just dull. But by carefully selecting an extra fine specimen bloom and building an arrangement around that flower, emphasizing the perfection of color and form of that individual, a very pleasing effect can be achieved.

Containers must be rather large so that the arrangement will not become top-heavy. Plenty of small meshed wire inside the vase is necessary to hold stems in place.

Pottery vases are usually best, and light colors, or those which will not kill the pastel tints and delicate shades in the peonies, are essential. My favorite is a beautiful oyster-white Spode vase. It is quite plain, twelve inches high, almost six inches in diameter, with sides nearly straight.

Select a large perfectly formed peony of extra good substance. I like to use *Raoul Dessert*, *Milton Hill* or *Tourangelle* if you can find one with a stem strong enough. *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* should be excellent, and even those as light as *Solange* and *Hansina Brand* do very well. Generally this flower should be the hardest one in the arrangement. Place this specimen so that it will stand a few inches above the container in about the center. Four more good peonies, not quite so large are needed. Keep in mind the principles of unity and balance. Usually one placed high and one rather low on the left and one just above and to the right and the fourth low on the extreme right will make a pleasing combination. Fill in with some peony foliage, but do not overdo it. Of course, this kind of arrangement should have a background.

Centerpieces are more difficult, but can be worked out. One of the most effective I have seen was one huge deep pink blossom floated on three peony leaves in a heavy cut-glass bowl.

Peonies combine well with other flowers, especially those having long spikes of bloom, such as snapdragon and gladiolus. Try two or three spikes of white glads with a few *Walter Faxon* peonies, or salmon pink glads with white peonies.

Perhaps my ideas are impractical for many folks whose supply of good peonies, is limited because in these arrangements emphasis must be placed on the perfection of the individual flower. But for those who have a plentiful supply there is no end to the beautiful effects which can be achieved.



Blossom Time, 1944

FRED E. WINSLOW, *Western Springs, Ill.*

Having been away for several weeks, on account of sickness in the family, we returned to our home in Southern Indiana from Northern Illinois early in the morning of May 18 to find the blossom time well advanced. The hybrid lilacs, flowering crabs, daffodils, and tulips were past their prime. The peach, cherry, plum, pear and apple bloom were gone and fruit had set for the year's crop. The iris and roses were in their prime. Oriental poppies and delphinium were starting their annual show. Other flowering shrubs were doing, or had done their bit. The soft, moist, warm spring air was coaxing out the leaves on the trees, helping make a fairyland for the garden lover as we drove into the home, but the climax of it all was the fragrance filling the air and the wonderful color from a row of one hundred clumps of *Richard Carvel* peonies coming into full bloom in the adjacent garden.

They were a part of a small commercial peony planting set out in April, 1941, of 500 roots, consisting, in addition to *Richard Carvel* (which is my favorite peony) of *Mary Brand*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Myrtle Gentry* and *Hazel Kinney*.

After a southern farm breakfast of hot biscuit, ham, eggs, etc., I cut and filled the refrigerator of the local florist from the row of *Richard Carvel*. About one-quarter of the *Mary Brand* and one-fifth of the *Martha Bulloch* were developed to the proper cutting stage, but there was no cold storage room.

The next few days were occupied in planting the vegetable garden, interrupted by rains. I found the weather had been unusually wet.

At times, during the flowering period of the peonies, I visited my planting of nearly four hundred peony roots, consisting of one hundred varieties and thirty-five seedlings in another garden, with notebook for performance records. This last planting was made in October and November, 1942.

Because the ground froze at the usual time of the last week in November, approximately 100 roots, which were dug late in September and stored in the basement, were planted on January 1 and 2, 1943, during a winter thaw. The most of this planting had bloomed in the spring of 1943 and as usual were much better in 1944, but as usual for the second year were a few days later and not yet normal for well established clumps. The soil was well drained above red clay subsoil over limestone rock. Each clump had three or four tablespoons full of good commercial fertilizer per hill, mixed in the soil before they were planted.

The notes on the seedlings, which were mostly unfixed, are of no especial general interest. The season, which had been cooler and rainier than usual, suddenly became warm and resulted in a short blooming period.

On May 19, *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Richard Carvel*, *Therese*, *Red Bird* and *Umbellata Rosea* were in various stages of full bloom, and *Baroness Schroeder*, *Le Cygne*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Jean Cooperman*, *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Mme. Emile Lemoine*, *Mrs. Deane Funk*, *James Kelway*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Mabel Franklin*, *Felix Crousse*, *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*, *Lora Dexheimer*, *Cherry Hill* and *La Fee* were in various stages of opening.

On May 22, *David Harum*, *Fuyajo*, *Winnifred Domme*, *Frankie Curtis*, *Inspecteur Lavergne*, *Victoire de la Marne*, *Laura Dessert*, *Elwood Pleas*, *John M. Good*, *Auguste Dessert* and *Walter Faxon* were in various stages of full bloom, and *Lady Alexandra Duff*, *Claire Dubois*, *Mrs. Romaine B. Ware*, *Mme. Jules Dessert*, *Thomas C. Thurlow*, *Albert Crousse*, *Reine Hortense*, *President Wilson*, *Minnie Shaylor*, *Denise*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, and *Blanche King* were in the various stages of opening.

May 24, *Blanche King* and *Philippe Rivoire* each had one-half the bloom fully opened, and *Walter Faxon*, *Denise*, *Felix Crousse*, *Mrs. Romaine B. Ware*, *Minnie Shaylor*, *Mabel Franklin*, *Eugenie Verdier*, *Marie Crousse*, *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*, *Mme. Jules Dessert*, *Thomas C. Thurlow*, *Albert Crousse*, *Reine Hortense*, *David Harum*, *Ama no sode*, and *Lillian Gumm* were in full bloom, and *Hansina Brand*, *Solange*, *Mrs. F. A. Goodrich*, *Phoebe Cary*, *La Perle*, and *Sarah Bernhardt*, were beginning to open.

May 31, *Blanche King*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Martha Bulloch*, and *Mrs. F. A. Goodrich* were still in their prime, and from my notes, "A fine show." *Hansina Brand*, *Solange*, *President Wilson*, *Phoebe Cary*, *La Perle*, *Elwood Pleas*, *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*, *Mrs. Frank Beach* and *Sarah K. Thurlow* were past their prime, but still in bloom.

The "Commercial Planting," set out one and a half years earlier than the above, was blooming on fully established roots, and would fill the heart of anyone, who loves flowers, with admiration.

The fine globular flowers of *Richard Carvel*, averaging 7 1/2 inches in diameter, was most satisfyingly luscious to me. The stunning 8- and 10-inch *Martha Bulloch* were superb. *Mary Brand* ripened over a ten to twelve-day period, and while without noticeable fragrance were 7 1/2 inches average size. Peony lovers know what perfectly developed *Myrtle Gentry* blossoms are, and these would have been prize winners in any showroom, and last the *Hazel Kinney* was outstanding with 8 1/2-inch deep blossoms of narrow petals. They resembled enlarged and glorified *Le Cygnes*, tinted a flesh color.

Mary Brand, *Myrtle Gentry*, and *Hazel Kinney* were just right for the Decoration Day trade, and I cut and delivered three florist's truck loads of these blooms to the local florist at the patch on May 29.

People passing on the nearby highway often came in to see the flowers, and when they saw the flowers took bouquets and ordered roots for fall delivery for their homes. They asked me to select the varieties.

The sale of roots, added to the income from the sale of flowers, increased the popularity in the community.

The *officinalis* and tree peonies in the yard had bloomed before May 18.

The average high temperature for the time was about 90 degrees, with rains on three days. As often noted in the bulletin, the weather made the blooming season short.

The adaptability of the peony to all kinds of soil and nearly all climates is wonderful. It even endures neglect with less injury than most perennials, although it repays for good care with more and much finer flowers.



Comments From Wisconsin

VICTORIA G. KARTACK, *Baraboo, Wis.*

Often during the winter months, especially when we are having a blizzard as we are having today, my mind wanders to the peony season of the previous spring and if I have time I like to look over the notes made at blooming time.

What a different winter we are having from the last one! There is an abundance of snow. The first heavy snowfall came on Thanksgiving Day and we haven't seen the ground since. This usually means that there is no frost in the ground and that all plants will come through the winter well, including such biennials as foxgloves and campanulas.

Last winter we had no snow here until late in January and we had a cold wet spring. On heavy clay soil such as we have here, we cannot get at our garden work when we should. It was so wet in my peony patch that I was unable to disbud at the proper time. Later I was too busy and consequently no disbudding was done. This produced some interesting results and that is what I want to write about as well as mention the varieties that were best, as our secretary, Mr. Christman, likes to have us do.

I might mention the fact that I never disbud the semi-doubles, singles or Japanese varieties, as I think you lose a lot of your display that way, you shorten your blooming season and in the case of the semi-doubles, you often do not get typical blooms. I remember some years ago I accidentally disbudded *Marie Jacquin* and I had very mediocre double blooms instead of the charming cupped semi-doubles I should have had. I do, however, usually disbud all doubles, which is no small task since I have 150 plants of doubles. The rest of my planting which just now totals 186 plants is made up of single, Japanese and semi-double varieties. I have grown peonies as a hobby for over 25 years and my planting naturally has in it many of the peonies that were still in the high-priced class 20 or more years ago. Many of these varieties are still favorites with me.

I am not attempting to list the following varieties alphabetically but as they bloomed. I cannot remember a blooming season as erratic as the last one, the early ones were all late and due to the sudden heat, the late ones developed quickly. I was able to pick some *Edulis Superba* and *La Fee* the same day I picked *Grandiflora* and *Rubra Superba*. I wonder if I will ever be able to do that again?

Mons. Jules Elie outdid itself in depth of color and perfection of bloom. This old variety always does well for me and is very dependable.

Auguste Dessert had quantities of bloom many of them quite double. The color was very dark this season. *Georgiana Shaylor* was unusually full-petalled too. This variety has always had a great deal of charm for me. It has such broad petals and is such a dainty flesh-pink. It and *Rosette* are fine for flower arrangements.

Inspecteur Lavergne grew very tall and was unusually fine in color. I think this should be classed with our good reds. *Chas. McKellip* is another red that has always done well for me and last season, much to my surprise each stem had 4 side-blooms almost the equal of the center one.

What would we do without the old reliable *Reine Hortense*? Always a dependable bloomer, it stood the wet season very well. *Sarah Bernhardt* is as well liked by me today as it was years ago. Last season the petals were unusually full and crinkled. It had many side buds which all developed into perfect miniatures of the center one.

Kelway's Glorious was outstanding, but proved that it should always be disbudded. The enormous side blooms, almost as large as the main ones, weigh the stems down too much. This peony has wonderful fragrance and ranks among the fine whites. We do not hear much of *Marietta Sisson*, but it is a fine dependable early deep pink and has the advantage (for some spots in the garden) of being a low grower.

I have not had *Fanny Lee* many years. This was the first year it did well. This color shows up well in the garden and we do not have so many peonies of this American Beauty shade. Shouldn't this be classed as a semi-double?

I wish all peonies could be as aptly named as *Standard Bearer*. Every garden should have this one. While similar to *Mons. Jules Elie*, the chrysanthemum-like center is even more perfect and the color is a little darker. The guard petals drop sharply almost as they would on an iris. The plant grows rather low, but there is nothing low about it when it is in bloom. Even with all the beating rains we had during the blooming season *Standard Bearer* stood up tall and straight, true to its name.

Victory Chateau Thierry was a delight. I had always faithfully disbudded this variety, but last year, allowing nature to take its course, it produced so many blooms that the plant was literally covered. No other plant bore as many blooms. The flowers, all of them large, are loosely built and did not weigh the plant down too much, consequently it remained graceful and shapely. The color of this variety is one of its chief charms, a beautiful shade of light pink. I think it is one of Mr. Brand's best originations. This was named, if memory serves me rightly, on the day the victory at this battlefield was won by our troops. Mr. Brand in one of his catalogs some 20 years ago said that he named it for two of the boys from Faribault who lost their lives in this battle. I think that Mr. Brand's habit of naming his peonies for people who have served him well, or have meant a lot to him in one way or another, is a fine one. How much better than naming peonies for people in public life whose names always cause controversy over political or other issues.

Minnie Shaylor is my favorite semi-double. Perhaps it is because I do so much flower arranging that I like the semi-doubles if they are well formed. There is something about the half-opened flowers of this variety that is truly charming. I noticed too that it held up well in the garden during a trying season.

Eugenie Verdier is an old variety that I like very much. The petals have a crisp look and they seem to spring from the center in a way somewhat different. *Luetta Pfeiffer* has this same habit of bloom. In a large planting it is fine to have as many forms of bloom as possible. They lend variety and interest. I know some amateur growers care only for certain peony forms but to me that would be very monotonous.

Albert Crousse is another old peony that has a little different form. This is a heavy bloom, but opens well. The outer petals look as if they were snipped with a scissors or pinked, somewhat like a carnation.

The old variety *La Perle* should be planted more often. It is such a good plant and the beautifully shaped lilac-pink blooms which are darker in the center are large and fragrant as well.

Mr. L. van Leeuwen and *Miss Eckhart* were somewhat disappointing. Perhaps they need more than three years to become established. The blooms were not full double and they did not last long on the plants.

Kelway's Queen produced some wonderfully fine blooms last year. There is something about the coloring of this flower that is outstanding. It is bright rose-pink with a suffusion of lilac. A large flower, having good substance and fragrance. I wish it would do well every year. *Raoul Dessert* is another variety that does not do well every year, but when it does, as it did last season, it is outstanding. The color alone, a rich salmon pink, would put it in a class with few others. Add to that beautiful form and fragrance, and we have a really fine peony, but frequently like *Solange* it does not open well and like *Solange*, it is very unattractive in bud.

Milton Hill is another pink peony with a salmon glow that I like very much. It has a luminous look that few others have. It is a beautifully built large flower of fine substance and lasts well. It grew to perfection last season.

The wonders of *Myrtle Gentry* have been extolled from one end of the country to the other. It had very large flowers last season, as large as *Tourangelle*, which I seem to be able to grow unusually well. We are cautioned never to cut all blooms from a plant, but one plant of *Tourangelle* that I have had for 20 years has had all blooms cut from it every year for 10 to 15 years (from 18 to 24 blooms). Why? Because of the only fault this wonderful variety has — weak stems. It certainly has not harmed the plant in any way and the blooms are as fine as any of this variety I have ever seen at peony shows.

I wonder if we have another peony that has as many side buds as *Nina Secor*? They seemed to be halfway down the stems last year and made the plant look very untidy. The blooms were very poor, proving that this variety needs careful disbudding.

Of all the reds I have, and I have many, *Philippe Rivoire* is my favorite. A rich dark glowing red, it does well every year and seemed to do well even when not disbudded. Its fragrance, of course, is what lifts it above the other good dark reds.

I bought *Denise* some years ago because I like the vivid red edges which seemed to form a pattern in the center of this white flower. Last year there was very little red and so for me *Denise* lost its character. I suppose we must blame weather conditions.

I wonder why we so seldom find *Cornelia Shaylor* in peony plantings? I think it is a real gem. It is unusual in form, having a very crisp neat high-built center. The coloring is a delightful, delicate pink and it is fragrant. There are not many peonies having this form.

Ella Christiansen did unusually well. It has wonderful substance and the deep pink blooms lasted a long time on the plant. Besides this perfection of bloom it is fragrant and should be more often found in plantings.

Lillian Gumm was another surprise to me in the way it bloomed undisbudded. The center blooms this year were as large as *Martha Bulloch* and the smaller side blooms were fine too. The flowers on many varieties were larger than normal last year. I wonder if the cold wet spring was the cause of this? *Grandiflora* was especially large. This delicately beautiful flower does not always develop well. The suffusion of lavender over shell-pink was unusually fine.

The old *Rubra Superba* outdid itself too. Not often found in modern peony plantings, it is a fine late red when it does well.

Years ago I struggled with an expensive root of *Alice Harding* which was diseased and I finally discarded it. A few years ago I tried again and this plant bloomed well for the first time last spring. It is a fine flower of rich creamy white.

Betty Blossom had an unusual amount of yellow in it. Many of the crinkled center petals were all yellow.

I wonder if *Commander* takes a long time to become established? I cannot seem to get a first-class bloom on this plant.

My greatest pleasure last year came with the first blooms of a two-year-old plant of *Elsa Sass*. Each of the four stalks was crowned with a perfectly shaped flower much like a huge gardenia in color, shape, substance and fragrance, or did I imagine this last? I noticed that the glossy dark green foliage grew up the stem close to the bloom. I arranged two of them in a flat clear glass dish for a dinner table and they certainly looked like mammoth gardenias. I wonder if the plant will always be like that with foliage 'way up the stem? *Evening Star* had four fine blooms too on a young plant. In petalage, or shall we say construction, it is quite different from *Elsa Sass*, but it has lovely form and the yellow glow in the center, with a few petals faintly edged red, make a distinctive flower. When I lengthened my peony rows in 1943, I purchased a few more of the Sass peonies, *Dr. Brethour* and *Hans P. Sass* among them. I am hoping for some bloom on these next spring.

Mrs. A. M. Brand also bloomed well on a young plant. This is a beauty and I am looking forward to the time when it really establishes itself. The blooms had a fine red line on one or two center petals. I have never found this mentioned in any descriptions, and wonder if this is O.K. I have often seen blooms of *Nick Shaylor* in shows that do not have red edges but mine usually have. Could soil conditions cause this?

Mrs. John M. Kleitsch and *Blanche King* were the last peonies to bloom. I found them in bloom when I returned from the Milwaukee show. It would be grand to have the rich deep pink of *Blanche King* at any time but to have it late in the season is especially welcome. I like the color of *Mrs. Kleitsch* too as well as its fragrance. The plant has dark foliage which adds to its attractiveness.

Here's hoping for a good season for all of us.



Fertilizer Experiences

RALPH B. SMITH, *Keokuk, Iowa*

I have been trying to get the time to get notes together so I could give you some scientific data on fertilization.

My peony man and also the boy who was in the office with me are in the army and navy, and I just do not get a chance. However, I am going to

write you some of my experiences as they have occurred, and will try to keep it up so you can have the data.

In the first place, my experimental patch lies on the watershed between the Des Moines and Mississippi Rivers, the east line being the top of the ridge, the patch sloping to the south and west about two feet in a hundred.

The rows of the peonies are from east to west with 20 plants in a row — spaced four feet apart. There are four varieties — five plants in each row. A path down the center of the patch makes it possible to go to the end of the row of any variety without going into the patch.

In making tests, we make them north and south. This gives you a different variety each four feet and leaving the center row of each five untreated, gives you a check row.

Ever since this patch was put in we have mulched it in the fall with wheat straw. This was taken off the plants April 20 of each year, but was left between the plants and was plowed under during the summer and fall. Since the war I have been unable to get wheat straw, so in the fall of 1943 I purchased a large pile of sawdust.

To counteract acidity we spread a layer of powdered limestone over the bed and then put on four inches of sawdust.

At the time the sawdust was put on it was very dry, which was the reason for the heavy coat. In April and May of last year it started to rain and the sawdust held the moisture. In fact it held too much. Down through the center of the bed there is a slight depression, not more than three or four inches at the outside, but in this depression the peony plants did not grow over eight inches in height and the blooms were not there.

I was unable to get this sawdust under this fall and it is still on the bed. It has been a big help this spring in holding back the plants and I will write you later as to what happens.

The plants that did not grow last year have healthy buds this spring.



A Peony Tragedy

A. M. BRAND, *Faribault, Minn.*

You ask me to write you of the great dream I had about peony seedlings and of the bed of peony seed I planted and which were growing fine when I plowed them under.

Well, I have made quite a few plantings of peony seed over the years. Some of these plantings were of but a few seeds, while in others I planted seed in such quantity that I required as much as an acre and a half of ground to accommodate the seedlings when I transferred them from the seedling bed to the field.

Finally I decided to make one big last planting of seed and be done with it.

I had fifteen acres of beautiful ground for a testing bed, and I decided to gather enough seed to fill this entire field with the plants spaced $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, as corn is generally planted, so as to cultivate both ways.

I figured that if such a field turned out the same proportion of desirable new peonies that my other plantings had, the results would be several hundred real good new peonies. I do not mean by that several hundred great show peonies, but peonies that would be attractive to one who has spent years with peonies as I have done, and who likes all good peonies.

whether they are show peonies or not. Good peonies like *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Reine Hortense*, *Felix Crousse*, *Modele de Perfection*, etc.

Well, we had a great field from which to gather seed. A field of 43 acres of beautiful 3-year-olds covering about the entire range of good peonies in the trade at that time. Beautiful varieties in the best of singles, Japs, semi-doubles, and doubles. A field where the rows ran 60 rods in length.

I had working for me at that time an old deaf and dumb man who had been with me over 30 years, a man whose forefathers rode in the ships of the Vikings, Oscar Johnson, an absolutely dependable old fellow who always did things right. I told him what varieties to pick from and he picked the seed.

When he was through we had five or six big galvanized iron tubs full of the unhulled seed. Along during the course of the fall when we had a few minutes of spare time we hulled the seed out. At the end we had between two and three bushels of big plump brown seeds.

This seed we planted in a field of well prepared soil. The rows were about 20 rods long, made with a six-inch wide hoe and to a depth of about two inches. In these trenches the seed was broadcast, trying to have the seeds lie about an inch apart. There were some ten of these rows.

The seed did not germinate until the second spring after planting as it had been allowed to become somewhat dry lying around in the storage before we had time to get it into the field.

With the coming of the second spring the seed germinated. We had a splendid stand. The rows six inches wide showed red clear across the field. It was a beautiful sight to one who could envision what it promised for the future.

But in the meantime the depression had come upon us. We were right at the bottom of it. The nursery business and with it the peony business had gone to pot. The fall before we had dug, divided, and sold to department stores 60,000 peony roots at 6c apiece. We had managed to keep our help off WPA a little better than three quarters of the year, and it seemed that at the rate we were recovering, it would be many, many years before we would need any addition to our then list of peonies.

It was getting late in the spring, something must be done one way or the other. So finally one day I went down to this field of little seedlings. They had now grown to a height of between four and six inches. It was a great sight, a field of wonderful possibilities. There must be some of the world's most beautiful peonies as yet unseen.

It seemed futile to go on with them. So after taking one long last look, I turned and went to the storage and told the man with the tractor to take his plow and go down and turn the field under. He looked at me as though he thought me crazy. But he went as he was told and within a half hour, a world of beauty was lost to us forever.



Requirements for a good Commercial cut flower

EDWARD AUTEN JR.

Hundreds of acres of peonies are grown for the sale of cut flowers, and the business has become highly specialized. While one might with very little trouble buy four hundred different varieties, almost all blooms grown commercially would be from less than twenty kinds all told.

While almost every one of four hundred kinds might be pretty to look at and have some other good points, only a very few have enough of the good points required for commercial cut flower production to merit their extensive use.

Singles and Japanese type are definitely not wanted by most florists. The singles do not open well out of storage, many do not last long enough, they have an unpleasant odor, shed objectionable pollen, which also may rot in cold storage. While the Japanese type is almost free from these objections, and many of them are most artistic for professional use, still they are not wanted. I once asked a florist why the public would not buy the Japs, and he said it was because with the scant petalage people thought the bloom had started to fall. He said they shied away from the anemone type chrysanthemums for the same reason. So, until the public is better educated, Japanese type peonies are not for the florist the country over.

In the doubles and semi-doubles which are grown in quantity the present leaders are *Felix Crousse* in red, *Mons. Jules Elie*, and *Sarah Bernhardt* in pink, *Baroness Schroeder* and *Avalanche* in blush white. Also grown in quantity are *Festiva Maxima*, *Mme. de Verneville*, *Reine Hortense* (Pres. Taft), *Edulis Superba*, and a few others. But none of these kinds fulfill every requirement of the trade, and growers are keenly anxious to get better kinds.

What characteristics, then, should a first-class cut flower peony have? Probably more than one would suspect at first thought. Not all of these characteristics are required for a good peony for the small yard, but one cannot help wondering whether as we approach nearer to perfection the standard for both uses of the peony should not be the same.

A good cut flower kind must first of all be a vigorous plant that blooms freely and will stand cutting year after year. Many fine hybrids will fail to make commercial grade because of a deficiency on this point. They are vigorous if blooms are not cut, however. Then we must have good root growth that resists decay and that divides easily into good divisions. *Edulis Superba* and *Felix Crousse* are outstanding in this respect. Some very fine kinds are naturally slow growers and increase slowly.

While a florist can probably make better use of five and six-inch blooms than larger ones, it is important that a variety give fair-sized blooms after several years of cutting. For that reason some of the very large kinds are acceptable for average size over a term of years. The old variety *Fragrans* has a small bloom to start with. At full size it has many points in its favor for commercial use. But when in 1923 at the St. Paul National Show the florists decorated our banquet table with blooms of *Fragrans*, actually not much larger than a man's thumb, the need of larger kinds was quite evident.

Young buds of different kinds vary greatly in their susceptibility to damage from a late freeze. I have two seedlings from the same batch of seed, full doubles, almost identical in appearance. One kind is as resistant to frost damage as any kind I have, the other the most susceptible among my hundreds of kinds. There is also great difference in susceptibility to blight, especially stem spot. Many of our good reds are very susceptible. While this can be controlled by spraying, still a resistant kind is much to be preferred.

The peak demand for blooms comes at Decoration Day, May 30, and for graduations and weddings immediately after. Since between early and late seasons there may be as much as fifteen days' variation in bloom-

ing dates of the same variety, most of the commercial growing must be done far enough south to make sure the crop will be in before May 30 every year. Evansville, Indiana, and points east and west seem to be best suited. And that the belt may be widened as far north as possible, early kinds are in especial favor. As a rule, also, the early and midseason kinds are more certain to open when cut in bud and also when stored, than the late kinds. The latter are often too full petaled and do not "grow" properly after being cut in bud.

The best type of bloom seems to be either a full double rather loose petaled rose type, or the bomb type. Semi-doubles might do from the standpoint of form, but stamens have an offensive odor and may turn black in storage. *Sarah Bernhardt* has stamens, but is much liked nevertheless.

Sureness of opening when cut in rather tight bud and then stored is a vital factor. *Karl Rosenfield* has many good points, but it cannot be cut until long after the tight bud stage, and so probably is of value only for local sales either from the field or if cut when at one-third to one-half size and held for only a few days. Years ago, when there was an acute shortage of peonies in the commercial fields a Chicago wholesaler visited my fields and begged me to sell him a block of *Karl Rosenfield*. I knew they couldn't possibly make Decoration Day and refused, and the wholesaler no doubt thought I was very foolish.

Rose fragrance is, of course, very much to be desired, and it should be obtainable eventually in all commercial kinds.

Florists want stems to be at least eighteen inches long, like twenty-four inches better, and pay somewhat according to stem length. Personally I think this point is overemphasized. For funeral work and table decorations long stems are not needed. A vase of long-stemmed blooms to be in proper proportion should contain many blooms, and would probably run into a price range that would keep many buyers away. I have often wondered whether florists do not often cut off part of the stems because not really needed, also whether the price paid for shorter stems is not unfairly low.

No grower is justified in cutting some of his blooms clear to the ground in order to meet the demands of the market for long stems. By so doing certain parts of the root system are deprived of sustenance for the rest of the year, and vitality is affected.

How tall, then, should the ideal commercial kind be? It must be taller than is necessary for an effective garden plant. Two or three leaves must be left on every stub, and above this we must have the eighteen to twenty-four inches of stem for cutting. Naturally a variety whose leaves start from the stems near the ground is essential for commercial cutting. This even if the stem is therefore not strong enough to support the full opened bloom, since cutting is done in bud, and almost any stem is strong enough to support the bloom after cutting. A stiff ramrod stem the thickness of one's thumb is not desirable for the florist. One tall white bomb seedling which had rather weak stems I am now propagating after having neglected it for several years, since a Chicago wholesaler said the bloom was of exceptional quality for his trade, and I know the stem is good enough for cutting. One of my disappointments was another exquisite flat white double, very pure, rose fragrant, on tall very slender stems so limber a florist could bend them easily in making flat pieces. But it is not a sure opener and so never graduated from high school.

A tall stem may bend some, but it must be straight. *Venus* is very tall, a useful commercial sort, but here the stems are often so crooked the blooms are not salable. Quick growth and high winds do the work. More nitrogen might stop this, I don't know.

A variety should have only a few side buds, as the cost of disbudding is a real item to the grower. *Edulis Superba* is ideal for disbudding. The side buds are few and some distance from the main bud. *Nina Secor* is a fine peony, but it has a bunch of buds at the end of the stem, and disbudding is an almost endless chore, so that I am discarding the variety. With that kind of a bloom head, there is real danger too in injuring the main stem and thereby killing the main bud.

A good commercial peony must have substance. It must stand rough handling. I have seen workmen in wholesale houses throw peonies around on wet tables, slam them down and do almost everything except to throw them on the floor and tramp on them. Long keeping is dependent on substance, and there is no place for a peony which will not last several days after opening, either fresh or out of cold storage. Some of the old commercial kinds have exceptional substance, and that is perhaps the most important single factor. But with this heavy substance may also come coarseness, and the breeder who can get a refined bloom combined with long keeping qualities is indeed fortunate. Some kinds shatter too easily when brought out of storage — the cold takes the kick out of them.

Now, finally, as to color. Some people like whites with the red flecks on the center petals. But I believe the florists would welcome an absolutely pure white without blush or flecking. *Baroness Schroeder* is a beautiful peony, but often it is almost pink out of storage. There is a place for the blush whites, and the flesh pinks. There is especial need for good clear dark pinks. *Edulis Superba* has ruled supreme there for many years. Often now one will read in the trade paper how it has been discounted. I wonder though whether that hasn't been because the blooms were below standard quality. Some think *Mons. Jules Elie* a better pink. Personally I believe both will be displaced with better kinds.

In reds, it is surprising how *Felix Crousse* dominates the market. Its color to me is far from ideal, but florists swear by it. They do not like the "black" reds, like *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, but prefer something lighter. My objection to *Felix Crousse* is that often the color is bad out of storage, hideous, in fact. It has no fragrance. But it is a good keeper, opens out well, and the stem and plant are fairly good. I have often wondered, whether if a dark red with the durability of *Felix Crousse* were available, there would not arise a demand for it. Even in a light red I believe there is room for improvement over *Felix Crousse*. A shade with less purple and with more of an orange cast would have more life. The public seems to like a deep old rose shade. It should not be denied anything it likes, but I believe that a bright clear deep pink in the color class with *Walter Faxon* and *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* should eventually be obtained that has the necessary other qualities for commercial use, and that when this is available it will dominate the market just as much as the pink gladiolus *Picardy* has done in its color class.

Now, if you wonder why more high-class commercial cut-flower varieties have not been produced, just go through this article, count the number of essential qualities, and then figure your chances of dealing a hand of all aces from a deck with an equal number of different classes (as spades, hearts, etc.). You may then realize it is not a simple matter, and also that luck plays quite a part in the solution of the problem.

Comments On Bulletin No. 96

B. C. AUTEN, *Carterville, Mo.*

Page 8, Line 14. "Give me a crown with lots of eyes. . . ." As to quality, it has been my experience that fine varieties produce eyes sparingly, and my impression that some mediocre to good kinds would give better results with fewer eyes. I once tried to eliminate a variety by hoeing off the crowns. In two or three years I had the strongest growth and finest blooms I ever had from that kind.

"The knife supplies the adequate root system" (in making divisions). The knife can easily make divisions with root systems that are large, but not necessarily adequate; the cuts may be crosswise of the grain, thus putting the right crowns on the wrong roots.

Page 10. *Storage*. What are buds when stored are not buds when taken out, however much they may look like it, but matured flowers which have been prevented from opening.

Page 11. *Fragrance*. "... a difference in the degree of fragrance in the same variety from year to year." The fragrance of any peony blossom varies during the day, according to the time of day. Maybe the variety that was different was smelled in early morning one year, and mid-afternoon the next. As to different kinds of fragrance, how come that the rose was not mentioned? I venture to say that a blind or blindfolded person smelling *Mme. de Verneville* would declare it a rose and "nothing else but." So also *Mme. Crousse*. What has become of that fine old kind? If there is an all-white that beats it very much, I have yet to see it, and I have had pretty fair blooms of *Le Cygne*, too.

Page 14. *Nimbus* better than *Baroness Schroeder*? Dozens. *Schroeder* gives magnificent promise; but after it is open a day or two, is a mess of rag. It is not the only peony that has that failing, nor is that the only failing carried by peonies. *Festiva Maxima*, for example, for a day or two is perfectly beautiful; after that it is not a flower any more, but only an expressionless shape, its living color gone.

Page 15. "Larger and taller." It seems that, to many peony growers and fans, those are the only characteristics that count. Too many over-large kinds get their size by thinning out their substance, but substance is of much greater importance than size.

Pages 17, 1, 19. Attempts to develop a new color in peonies by chemicals, fertilizers or stimulants cannot lead to results in the offspring of a plant, because those results in the plant worked on are acquired characteristics, and are not transmitted. What a plant or animal can pass on is what was born in it and nothing more. A piece of frogskin grafted on a person's forehead, and the operation repeated on his descendants, would never bring a child with a frog skin patch.

Varieties apparently new are secured by the use of X-ray and various chemicals. They are not really new varieties, but old varieties — the part of them that is left, after part of their character has been killed out of them by the death-bearing rays and chemicals.

Seeds planted in the droppings of animals and birds naturally make exaggerated growth, because powerful fertilizing chemicals are planted with them. Not only so, but salt also is there, a highly active chemical, which, according to the quantity of it, breaks up some of the locked-up plant-food chemicals of the soil, making them available for plant growth. Salt is a soil-wrecker.

These overstimulated plants not only would not pass on their exaggerated forms to their descendants, but would lose their own if set into ordinary soil.

All the colors of the common type of peony are supposed to have come from an original white variety, not by developing new color, but by losing the other component colors of the color group, the combination of which produced white. Sunlight is white, made up of many colors, commonly named in seven groups, of which one is yellow.

The white fnesia has given several colored varieties. The white of the peony, made up of a blended group of colors, contains no yellow; or, if so, has not released it from other combinations, which it almost certainly would have done before now.

It is easy enough to get yellow in common peonies by crossing with some of the other types, which give odd poppy shades, from red through various degrees of orange to yellow.



In Regard to Kodochrome Slides

At Christmas time I spent an evening looking at slides of various flowers. The collection of slides which Mr. Christman now has, is, as a whole, poor in comparison with what it could be. I believe that the American Peony Society should take measures to improve this condition.

Most people hesitate with parting with their good slides without reimbursement. This is understandable, as most people will find that the really good slides in their collection have cost them in the neighborhood of a dollar apiece. One society overcame this difficulty by offering annual prizes for the best slides submitted, the slides sent in to remain the property of the society. In this manner an excellent collection was assembled. To defray the expenses of this, a fee is charged for the rental of the slides.

I believe that most of us who do take color pictures do not realize the possibility of this type of film. It is far from necessary to use a fast lens for flower photography, although on some very dark specimens it may be desirable. It will be found that by using a small opening and a longer exposure, better detail will result. Many fine slides have resulted from exposures as low as f16 at one-tenth or one-fifth of a second. Of course, it is necessary that the subject be protected from the wind for this type of exposure.

In doing color photography of flowers it is necessary to have not only a camera and film, but also a tripod, a light meter and suitable background. A general garden view out of focus makes a good background but this cannot always be depended on. For taking portraits it is advisable to have a plant stake or to cut the flower and place it in a suitable container. Ofttimes the best flower on the plant has the habit of looking the other way. A rear view is of no value.

No matter what the society may decide to do about this matter, let those with the equipment do their best to get at least one extra color slide for the society.

Ralph M. Schroeder
Warrens ville, Illinois

Note: The size of the slides wanted is 2"x2" and as usual I think these duplicates can be obtained for about 50c each. The editor will be pleased to personally pay for the cost of duplicates of slides that are acceptable to him. This can be determined quickly by sending the original for inspection to this office. — Editor

Comments

B. C. AUTEN, *Carterville, Mo.*

Bulletin No. 89

Page 4. Very badly dried roots should not be put in water to freshen, as the result may be too sudden and violent, but should be buried, or planted at once in normally moist earth. Burying full length is the treatment recommended for badly dried nursery stock, and it can work wonders.

A live bud, with no root, but only an edge of crown tissue, will grow, if given a chance.

Page 8. Is exposure of buds to sunlight essential? Not in their late stage, at any rate. The bagging of buds, to protect them from sun, or to give them moisture conditions, or both, is said to give good results in some regions. Here the buds sun-cook in the bags, even with ventilation.

However, the hard-to-open kinds can be brought to good bloom by bending down the stalk, and fastening it, so the bud is in the shade under an adjoining plant. Here it gets both shade and moisture, also ventilation, and freedom from extreme heat.

Page 9. Late planting, so far as resetting plants safely is concerned: I think that this can be done at any time of the year that planting of anything can be done. For efficiency, however, one time is better than others.

For both plant and flowers, I believe that earlier than September first is better than later, except for perhaps two reasons, mentioned later. The plants should be in their new locations before new root growth begins, and I believe, but have not proved, that this is about the time the seed would ripen, if there were any; maybe before, if there are no seeds. The loss of the old feeding roots for a little while is a small matter compared with the gain of an earlier start of the new roots. Also, I believe that a long fall growth has much to do with flowering the first spring.

Reason 1. The plants should not be set in over-dry soil, or soil liable to be over-dry, until proper moisture is assured.

Reason 2. (a) If there are nematodes in the soil where the plants are to be set (lots of soils have nematodes where peonies have never been, as these pests are not exclusive to the peony), they should not be placed in it until just before winter, when the nematodes have gone deep to escape freezing. The plants then get a start ahead of the nematodes, and will not be so badly injured by them later.

(b) If there are nematodes in the plants, digging should be late. The nematodes that have been in the plants will have left them to spawn, and any young that go into the plants will have gone into the fresh, silvery white rootlets. All of these should be removed from the plant before it is reset, preferably when freshly dug, as then the silvery roots are plainly evident.

Bulletin No. 95. Of tree peonies, I have seen only one kind, *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*, but my impression of it is, if I were a millionaire, I might be willing to pay a good round price for one, but not a nickel for any more.

I once was given a plant of *Moutan*. It started its growth on the least provocation of warmth and sun only to get the tender new growth frozen later. For this neck of woods, spring growth should be delayed by an inverted box or barrel over the plant to hold it dormant.

Bulletin 94. Pages 8 and 9. Baroness Schroeder I think has as refined and aristocratic a plant as any peony I know, but I do not think much of its flowers.

"... an absolutely perfect specimen of *Solange*, it measures only six and a half inches across, but ..." Isn't that big enough, unless decorating a church or convention hall? For a flower to live with, bigness is the smallest consideration. Color, substance, form, and texture, all are more important. Very often, bigness in a variety is at the expense of color and substance. The same amount of color and material, if condensed into a smaller flower, would make it a better one.

My favorite peony? — The one I am looking at, if a fine one. However, there is not any kind I would care to look at to the exclusion of others.

Page 6. Peonies not disbudded look like they need a shave and a hair cut, to get rid, not only of the surplus hair, but fully as much of its dishevelment.

Page 7. "The name alone is enough to make one willing to lay down the twenty bucks for it." It is my impression that, in general, except by those who know them, varieties are selected more for their names than from their description.

Page 10. "Buds break into bloom while being cut." One stormy night I was cutting buds of *Madame Crousse* at highest speed, as they were opening rapidly. Hearing a light rustling behind me, I looked back and saw the row speckled with open blooms from buds that a few minutes before I had considered too green to cut. At another time, due to a hot wind which came up from the southwest, what were tight buds in the forenoon were flat, inferior flowers in the afternoon.

Stems weak on the plant may be adequate for cut flowers.

Therese, the morning it opens, is all I have ever known to be claimed for it. After two or three days, however, I do not consider it worth standing space in the garden. I would not quarrel, though, with anyone who considers it worth its place all the year for that one or two mornings.

In the mad rush for the latest, peonies as beautiful as any, as well as songs, are lost and forgotten. Old *Pierre Dessert* has as beautiful a flower as *Philippe Rivoire*, and blooms at a different time. The plant, from its bushyness and the vivid coloring of the stems, is worth growing for its own sake. The stems, though, are weak, and considerably impractical.



My Northern Peony Garden

W. T. COE, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

I hope the membership of the society will not be tired of hearing my annual report on my peonies that grow on the north shore of Lake Superior.

The summer of 1944 was late in coming, and the first bloom opened on July 5. It was an *Edulis Superba*. There were no storms and the weather was even in temperature. Each variety bloomed in its season, and for three weeks there were new blooms each day. The last one to open was *Peerless* by Franklin, a new variety, a very valuable one. It is a pure white with a slight greenish tinge at first.

Ella Christiansen, Marie Lemoine, Maud L. Richardson and *Rubra Superba* all bloomed at nearly the same time, and fully three weeks after

Edulis Superba opened. The bloom kept on well, and on August 18 I cut my last bouquet.

The garden is now mature and blooming at its best. There were many outstanding blooms of which I will name a few I regard as the best: *Acme*, *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, *Mabel L. Franklin*, *Mount Everest*, *Chief*, *Hans P. Sass*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, and *Martha Bulloch*.

I am not bothered at that place with any of the peony diseases. I have never observed any root with Lemoine's disease or measles. Apparently roots that were slightly affected entirely recovered. It must be due to the soil and the cold climate. Some varieties are not hardy. *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, and all of his hybrids are tender, and many of them winterkill. *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* is only fairly hardy and not reliable with me. Botrytis or any of the wilts have never appeared. Three years ago I planted about 40 of the older varieties just to try them out and compare them with the newer ones. The result convinces me that the society should discard a lot more peonies and take into its standard list many of the newer ones.

I have in my garden most of the varieties mentioned in the new list published recently, and I found them all greatly superior to the old ones. Some of the older ones are not fairly graded. For instance, *Rubra Superba* is a very high-class red and worthy of a place in anyone's garden. *Mabel L. Franklin* should be marked up at least three points.

One day, in my absence, several auto loads of peony fanciers from Duluth came to see my garden. I regret that I was not there. Mrs. Coe says they spent several hours making notes and taking the names of the newer varieties from the name stakes.

* Editor's Note: The lateness of bloom in Mr. Coe's garden can be attributed to the cold retained in the water of Lake Superior, as the garden is right along the shore of the lake, extending up a rather steep incline from the lake. Mr. Coe states as follows in sending the above comments: "Upon making a careful examination with my thermometer I found that the water of Lake Superior on July 15 was only 34 degrees, two degrees above freezing. The lake did not freeze over this year until February 1. It is also particularly interesting to me to find the absence of peony diseases. I am pestered to death with them in my Minneapolis garden. Botrytis promises to be something we must find a cure for. Some varieties seem to be immune, while others are badly affected. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* seemed to be entirely immune last summer. She stood right among a number of others that went down and showed not the slightest tendency to the disease. I tell you this because it was you who urged me to buy her and I am grateful to you. She is a jewel."

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Secretary's Notes

Another late bulletin, but I hope you will find it worth waiting for. We have experienced delays all along the line and will doubtless encounter several more before this issue is in the mail. Doubtless some of our members become impatient at this delay, but now, frankly haven't you too experienced delays in getting things you have desired? Many feel that if they had the other fellow's job they would be sitting pretty and would have no worries, but this is slightly disproved by the following editorial by George W. Kable in the little publication, "Electricity on the Farm." It is entitled "Sweet Jobs," and here it is.

"There's the butcher. He's got the front half of a lamb, a quarter of beef, some chickens, beef liver and cold cuts this morning. What will Mrs. Jones say about the steaks she ordered? How can he face that line-up of customers? And those reports on points! He'd get rich if he had meat. You can be the butcher.

"Or the telephone operator. A wall full of holes and plugs and hellos and numbers and irate phoners — every hour, all day. Nix. I'd go nuts.

"But the doctor! He has a good office and makes money. Of course, his sleep was disturbed last night when he had to deliver a baby and set a broken arm. And those appointments this morning had to be met. Sick folks, people with complaints, suffering humans, all day long — the office full. They're yours, doctor.

"Oh, yes, the ticket seller at the Grand Central Station. There are ten people waiting in front of his window. They stand for hours waiting, waiting. He holds the phone against his ear with his shoulder, writes out tickets, rings the reservation bureau, rings, rings, rings. Wait, wait, wait. Tickets, people waiting, phones, phones, tickets, people. Nope!

"And I'm the guy waiting on the end of the line for a ticket.

"Gee, that cow stable smells sweet out on the farm!"

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SPRING — that elusive, trying period in the nurseryman's life — is now with us. The unseasonable and sudden appearance of buds, the rush of wings in a brightening sky, thundershowers and temperatures up in the 80's, simply got us itching to dig in the dirt and do things ahead of schedule, all the time carrying a feeling of caution that we would have to pay for it later on. In this particular section we have had two occasions where ice froze to a depth of about a half inch on the bird-baths, but as yet no damage of consequence is apparent. We have gotten such a good start, having already cultivated the fields, that it would be a calamity to lose the fruit and flowers that now look so promising. With a hungry world to feed, we need all the fruit and produce we can possibly produce and a few flowers to brighten our homes and surroundings will help a great deal in keeping our spirits in the fight for production. Just recently I received a letter from Mr. L. E. Foster of York, Neb., and during the first week in April they had ten inches of snow covering the peonies that had made considerable unseasonable advance in growth. During the day the snow melted considerably and the following night the temperature dropped to ten above zero, freezing the exposed peonies black. Mr. Foster

writes for the past six years he has experienced disappointment by floods, drought, hail and freezing, but still is hopeful that he will win out, having previously experienced six years of satisfaction and success.

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Several years ago, when living in Minneapolis, I experienced a similar case with my peonies. They were frozen stiff and lying on the ground. Had advanced to a point where they had been disbudded. I got up before the sun had an opportunity to shine on the plants (have you noticed that the sun usually shines following a morning of unseasonable freezing, and warm weather invariably follows) got busy with the hose and soaked all the plants very generously with water and in this manner removed the frost without any apparent damage whatever. This freeze came late in May.

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I do hope to get many reports from our members for the June bulletin and we will make a summary of them. Check carefully at blooming time to see if any apparent damage resulted from the late freezes. It is most likely that there will be disappointments as well as many pleasing surprises. I have taken the trouble on two or three occasions when there was low temperatures to cover some of my most precious possessions in peonies as I am most anxious to see them in bloom this year, many for the very first time, and you know what a thrill that is. I guess we never grow up, and as has been stated so many times, we are just overgrown children in spite of many years that have grayed our hair and put a few wrinkles in our faces. I hope I can always retain this spirit of youth and exuberance of joy as I behold any outstanding flower for the first time. I think life is entirely too short for a long face and a dignified air that will not permit happiness to creep in, even though sadness and affliction has had its inning. We have too much to be happy and thankful for even in these days of darkness and uncertainty. We must not let the sunshine of life be crowded out of our existence. Soon this war must end and with it will come peace that we all hope will be a lasting one. We never again want to experience the heartaches when our boys go marching off to war as is so beautifully described by Howard Vincent O'Brien. Will add that Mr. O'Brien's boy was killed in action.

There was no band, no flag, no ceremony. It wasn't even dramatic. A car honked outside, and he said: "Well, I guess that's for me. . . ."

He kissed his mother and held out his hand to me. "Well, so long," he said. I took his hand, but all I could say was "Good luck."

The door slammed and that was that — another boy gone to war.

I went then to my room. On the wall was a picture of a little boy, his toothless grin framed in tawny curls — the same boy who had just taken my hand and said: "Well, so long."

Not much time, I thought, between the making of that picture and the slamming of the front door. Not much more than a decade. . . .

Well, curlyhead — you're a man now, bearing your bright new shield and spear. I hated to see you go out of my house and close the door behind you; but I think I would not have halted you if I could. I salute you, sir. I cannot pretend that I am not sad; but I am proud, too. So long.

Howard Vincent O'Brien in *Chicago Daily News*

Soon now, maybe very soon, you'll be saying "Hello, Son," to that same boy that went away to fight a war so that all of us might live in peace, able to worship God according to the dictates of our heart. When your boy comes home again, he's going to be older, steadier, wiser. He's

going to be able to weigh things with the wisdom of hard experience and then to throw off the chaff. What are we, those of us for whom he has been fighting, going to be able to offer him. Will it be something based on a foundation of sand? Will he find us arguing over the petty things of life or will he find that we too have come through the purification of the fire of war and are cleaner, nobler and determined that above all we will consider our fellow man first? He's going to be looking for a better people — let's weigh ourselves in the balance so that we will not be found wanting.

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Last night the light flashed in the office, and I knew that was a signal from Mrs. Christman to come in the house. When I got there she said: "Don't you know it is 'way after midnight?" I had no watch with me and had forgotten to wind the clock on the wall, and outside of being a little sleepy, I did not know the hour was so far advanced. This evening will be another just like it if I don't check up soon.

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I was delighted with the response I got for articles for the bulletin following my appeal in the last issue. I am making another one in this number. It is no easy task to prepare these bulletins, and if I had plenty of articles, there would not be the delays you have experienced the past few issues, at least they would not be the fault of this office entirely. Keep up the good work. You should have a lot to write about after this season's blooming period and let's hope it will be a good one in spite of late freezes in some sections of the country.

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Some of our members are still delinquent in their remittance of dues. I don't believe you will want to miss a single issue of the bulletin and to avoid it, please take care of this little matter of annual dues. We can't function properly without it.

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I hope before this issue reaches you there will be a cessation of hostilities in Europe, followed closely by a similar condition in the far Pacific, so our boys can come home and be re-employed in the pursuit of something productive instead of destructive. Much has happened since the last bulletin was issued with a change in administration that we feel sure will continue working for peace and all it means to this sorrowful world.

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In closing, I am presenting a poem that I think very fitting and worth remembering.

There is a peace that cometh after sorrow,
Of hope surrendered, not of hope fulfilled.
A peace that looketh not upon tomorrow,
But calmly on a tempest that is stilled.

A peace that lives not now in joy's excesses,
Nor in the happy life of love secure;
But in the unerring strength the heart possesses
Of conflicts won, while learning to endure.

A peace there is, in sacrifice secluded,
A life subdued, from will and passion free;
'Tis not the peace that over Eden brooded,
But that which triumphed in Gethsemane.

From "Streams in the Desert"

List of New Members will appear in next Issue

"VICTORY"

Sales for this lovely peony have far exceeded our expectations and the available supply for this year's distribution will soon be exhausted. Join the Victory Club of purchasers of this variety. See Bulletin 95 and 96 for full description. Priced at \$20 each, and well worth it.

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