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# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

## Bulletin

DECEMBER 1951

Bulletin No. 123

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Other districts not yet organized. If above are not correct, please report correct officer.

### OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 2. That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, or in any other manner.

### MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fees include a subscription to the Bulletin for the current year. To other than members the subscription is \$5.00 a year. Life memberships are \$50.00.

### THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. Back numbers will be charged for at \$1.25 a copy for the current and preceding years and fifty cents for others when available.

### DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1951 — NO. 123

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Organizing For The Peony Locally

NEAL RAYNARD VAN LOON

I guess as good a way as any, if one wishes to promote local organization for the peony, is to draw from practical experience where it has been successfully done.

I will tell you something about the Sussex County Peony Society of New Jersey and what makes it click and how it came to be.

Five years ago I invited a dozen or so garden people to the house to discuss the peony and to see if we could find means of furthering her cause. Each person was asked to bring a favorite dish of "vittles." The response was enthusiastic. After we had thanked the Lord for all our manifold blessings, we went to work on the food. The dishes were quickly emptied and our stomachs quickly filled. When, at a time like that, you are in an expanded and expansive shape and mood, it is opportune to talk about 'most anything.

I offered the group my plan for a small peony society. It was to do without the usual appendages. We were to have no dues, no officers and no by-laws. I think this comes close to the ideal.

The tie that was supposed to keep us closely knit, and subsequently did, was a common cultivated appreciation of broad culture, of home, and of beauty; and of course the special liking for peonies.

One might think that such a group so welded would have a slim chance of survival. I think the exact opposite is true. The fact that we have no officers helps preclude the creeping in of little jealousies that plague such organizations. The fact that we have no by-laws gives us all complete freedom of action. The fact that we have no dues puts the whole thing on a voluntary basis.

Money we do have and a volunteer carries the bag. We like good old U. S. lettuce just the same as anybody else and we usually have a little boodle of it. We do our best to get rid of it when occasion arises and that is our way with that business.

Each person was asked to win one recruit and now we number thirty and are going pretty good we think.

### *A Show, A Show*

We immediately formulated plans for a show the next June. We got the use of one wing in the building where the 1952 National will be

held. We had access to the main hall but we had gumption enough to confine ourselves to this wing. It measures only 24 x 42 but we reasoned that it would look more like a success if we were crowded a bit and if we should overflow our quarters. Overflow we did. It not only looked like a success but it really was one. It delighted several hundred visitors.

The next year already we were missionary minded and we invaded the quaint and quiet little Village of New York. The Horticultural Society was still located in their older cramped quarters high up above Madison Avenue. Did that show have flowers? Yes indeed! Not all were in condition but every place you could look were peonies; on the floor, in the windows, under the tables, and, if my memory fails me not, Geo. Peyton was parading through the aisles with a bottle in each of his six pockets, crammed with flowers, and several others balanced on his head and shoulders like a Bedouin on his way to market.

Of the five shows we have participated in, the best one from the standpoint of bloom quality, was the one we sponsored in Reading in 1951.

This show was held in Whitner's beautiful modern store. It was a distinct pleasure to work with these people. They insist we come again.

One show was held in a Newton Bank. I thought that surely after the bank closed its business at noon, things would be mighty quiet, but the denizens from all around, in the glens and mountains of our fair county, crowded in until it was, in miniature, just like Grand Central Palace at the rush hour of their big doings.

We did not steal a dime. We did not try to force any of the cages or the big vault and the bank people

seemed to be as pleased as we were. Now, maybe not every county can do what we have done. Our area is small and we do have a tremendous county consciousness. We do not claim to be the greatest county in the U. S. A., we just humbly concede it.

If you can just get a small organization going, say a group of five or more, well, even three, by all means arrange for a show next year. A store or a bank will be a likely place to ask. You do not need much space. What you do need is *Good Peonies*. Not many maybe, but they just simply must be good. Otherwise why insult the intelligence of the people with a show?

Also you want people and eyes—eyes, all the eyes you can round up to look at the stuff. Every once in a while a pair of those eyes will flash an insistent message to some brain and the first thing you know several somebodies will come to you and say, "I want in on this. What must I do?"

We here in Sussex have made our schedules simple but they follow the pattern of our National Shows, except we have no classes calling for more than ten blooms.

We try to work in a few special features. A great deal of interest has been shown in our public balloting to determine the popularity queen. It is amazing how seriously people take this simple part in the judging, and they think it fun. Furthermore, it helps the dealers and breeders to find out what the public likes.

We simply prepare a couple hundred mimeograph ballots and have a hostess or two hand these out the first couple hours of the show. We put a ballot box in a central spot and count the ballots at a designated hour and carry the winner to the Court of Honor.

Our ballots are worded something like this:

"Help choose the Popularity Queen. Select the specimen you like best from classes 1 to 12 (or whatever the numbers are you want taken into account). Write the class number on your ballot with the exhibitor's name and drop into the ballot box located by the Court of Honor."

Make your shows as pretty as you can. Make a floor plan. Try for the greatest possible beauty as far as general effect is concerned.

Milk bottles in a quart size are the most practical containers. They hold plenty of water, are not too heavy and are easy to obtain. If sparkling clean they do not look too bad just as they are. We like to cover them with sleeves. Our sleeves are simply pieces of colored blotting paper about 10 x 13 inches and fastened with tape or a stapler.

#### *Points That May Be Helpful*

1. Plan definitely to make a start this winter by calling a group together.
2. Give your group a name and begin to toot your tooter.
3. See your newspaper.
4. Don't get too large a place for your first show.
5. One day is long enough for a show, but
6. Pick the day in the week when you may expect the most visitors.
7. Try the art department in the school to see if they will not make you some attractive window cards.
8. Put a plate near the door and thus receive an offering.
9. Offer attractive awards. Nice entry cards with seals of the conventional colors may well be the fundamental awards. Supplement these with fruit, pictures, roots, or cash. Everybody loves the feel of a little spondulix.
10. Do not hold your show twice

in the same place. Move into other communities if you can.

11. Set a comparatively late date for your show. There is little you can do to redeem a too early date. There is plenty you can do if your show seems to be late.

12. Arrange for refrigeration for all prospective exhibitors. Experiment all you can and pass what knowledge you gain in this field to each other. We like a 34 to 40 degree temperature. You want a circulation of fresh air. Allow ten to twenty hours for the buds to open after removal, depending on temperature inside the refrigerator and out. The colder and the longer the hold the longer it takes them to open fully. Flowers treated are larger, cleaner, fresher, and will last much longer. Generally speaking, the time to cut doubles is when the buds are like great fluffy marshmallows. Singles and Japs may be taken soon after color first shows strongly.

13. Now won't you please really try to do something? Do not let another year go by.

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### **Best Peonies - New Jersey**

MISS R. DOROTHEA JONES

*Elizabeth, New Jersey*

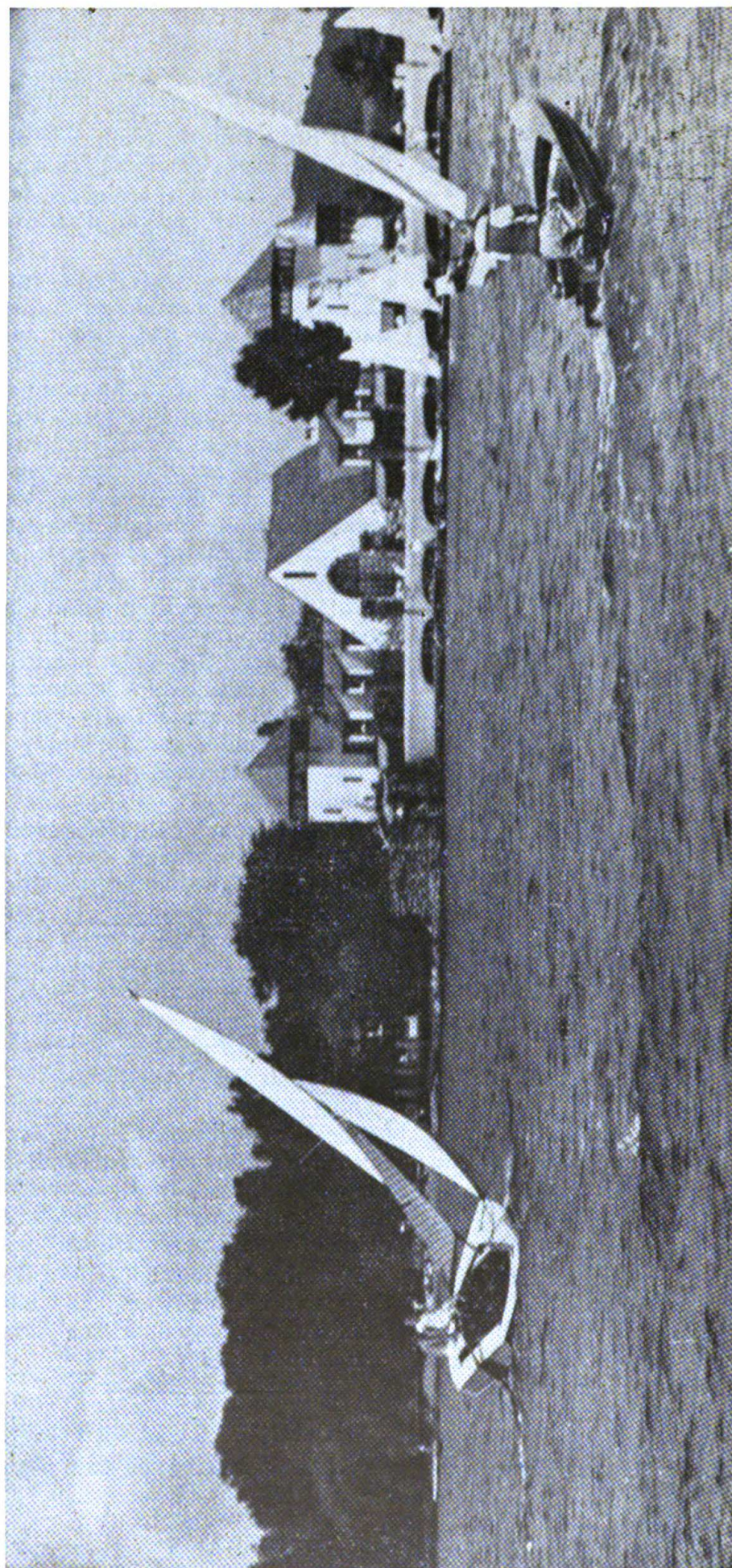
My first love was *Festiva Maxima*, my earliest love as a child. My second love was *Mons. Jules Elie*, my first real joy in my own small place after my parents died.

My third is *Isani Gidui*, the first Jap that I bought and the most beautifully, breathtaking flower that I know.

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READ THE ADVERTISING PAGES. Then buy a new peony.





**Lake Mohawk, N. J. — The high peaked “Club House” (center of picture) will be the scene of the 1952 Show.**



# The Forty-Eighth Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society

Lake Mohawk, New Jersey, June 21-22, 1952

## Changes in Schedule

It has been found that some changes in the schedule as published in the September Bulletin are advisable.

Three prizes will be offered in all classes in which only two were listed. No class will have less than three prizes. This applies to Group One, to Group Four, Classes 19 to 26 inclusive, to Group Six, Classes 31 to 40 inclusive, and to Group Two, Mr. van Loon's Welcome and Judge Losey Memorial Classes.

In Group Two, change the wording in the following classes as noted: Mr. van Loon's Welcome Class, change to read five blooms instead of six. Judge Losey's Memorial Class should read four red varieties instead of six. Boost Your State Class should read five double or semi-double *albiflora* varieties, one bloom each, assorted colors, instead of twelve.

Complete schedules, with changes and full information will be mailed to all who contributed to the show either in roots or otherwise and to all others who ask for it. They will be ready about March 1. Send in your request so that the mailing list will be ready as far as possible when the schedules are printed.

In connection with this show we are presenting in this issue a picture of Lake Mohawk and the building in which the show will be held. The property around this lake is private and visitors are usually not allowed to enter. However visitors to the Peony Show will be granted passes which will allow them to drive around the lake. Also swim-

ming privileges will be allowed any who wish them.

Let us hope there will be many to take advantage of these. It would be fine to have visitors from every state in the union and all the provinces in Canada and also from foreign countries.

The scenic attractions around Lake Mohawk are many including the Pocono Mountains and Delaware Water Gap to say nothing of the lure of "Little ole New York."

## Proposed Rules and Suggestions for Lake Mohawk

1. Entries will be open to anyone.
2. All exhibitors must register before setting up their exhibits.
3. A list of entries should be sent in thirty days before the show. If this is done, entry cards will be waiting for you upon your arrival. However entries may be made up to 11 a.m. the first day of the show.
4. Judging will start at 11:30 a.m. June 21, 1952, except for amateur and seedling classes in which judging will begin at 12:30 p.m.
5. All blooms must come from plants owned by exhibitors, and must be correctly labelled. One person, however, may set up and exhibit for another person.
6. All containers will be furnished.
7. Unworthy blooms will not be set up by exhibitors, nor will the Staging Committee set up flowers which are in bad condition, even if sent long distances.
8. Length of stem should approximate seventeen or eighteen inches if possible.

9. The American Peony Society Manual will govern type of bloom.

10. No exhibit may be removed from its place until the closing of the show.

11. Judges and clerks are requested not to lift flowers out of the water and not to move an exhibit from one place to another, unless absolutely necessary.

12. The Farr Memorial Medal and the Boyd Memorial Medal can be awarded through scoring by the judges without moving exhibits for comparison.

13. Exhibitors sending blooms to be set up by the Staging Committee are limited to 25 each.

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## **PARDON US, GENTLEMEN, CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THIS ROAD LEADS?**

ADRIAN GIBSON

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Last spring, we enjoyed the experience of watching some peonies bloom that we had grown from seed. One plant in particular interested us very much as it was different from any we had ever seen; it was a pronounced dwarf, fully double, and a good blush pink; the 5-year old plant was only 16 inches high. Time will tell whether it will maintain its characteristics after division. This plant came from a group of some 20 chance seedlings that were found in or near the *Mme. Jules Dessert* row. We know that our chance of having anything worth while from that small beginning is slight, but the thrill is there. 'Tis perhaps a poor thing, "but mine own." We will stand with it until we get something better.

Spurred by the satisfying results of our rather aimless venture, we planted about a quart of open pollinated seeds last year and intend to plant regularly as long as we have

the time and space. We have begun to speculate about results that might be obtained by controlling breeding. We hope that someone with experience will canvass the possibilities for us. Since we have whites with some red markings, would it be possible to produce a real bi-color in the peony—one that would be irregularly marked half red and half white? And how about a white with a red or pink collar? In short, is there anything in peony lore that would preclude the possibility of achieving such a result?

Recently, peonies with brown coloring have been introduced, and we understand that the true yellow herbaceous peony has arrived. What should be so difficult about a bi-color? How can it be obtained—by selection? Will it eventually come by mutation, or will hybridization speed the result? We hope that someone who has ideas along these lines will make them available to us neophytes through these columns.

Meanwhile we shall continue to pollinate reds and whites, and watch results. What can we expect? Come on, fellow amateurs, let us sign in . . . what can we lose? Let us keep records of our crosses. Sooner or later, some of us will get something really good. How about an *Elsa Sass* with fragrance? That, to us, would really "be something!" By the way, how do you go about producing an *Elsa Sass*?

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## **Notice**

Mrs. John F. Daly of The Embassy Apts., Washington, D. C. has for sale a complete set of bulletins from No. 1 to about No. 100 including the Cornell bulletins issued prior to No. 1 nicely bound. If any one is interested they should communicate with Mrs. Daly direct or write to your Secretary.

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## MY CLAY COURT PEONY GARDEN

JAMES MASON

*Chicago, Illinois*

Our neighbors think the peonies in our patch terrific, but we are in Chicago. It is when we get into competition with some of the past-presidents that we run into good natured kidding.

At the Cleveland show one of these past-presidents said: "Mason, how do you stunt 'em like that?" I just grinned. The chances are that spectators look at specimens from my garden and say: "That looks like those we grow."

The wise peony grower, especially in a city, sprays his foliage to protect the flowers from thrips. The spraying should be started about the time he normally disbuds the plants, approximately one month before the first buds start to open. The formula I use is six teaspoons of chlordane (liquid), six level teaspoons of 50% wettable D.D.T., one half cup sugar or Karo syrup to three gallons of water. Three sprayings, ten days apart, should reduce the thrips population to a minimum, while aiding the late bloomers to open. The work is not too much when results are considered.

Last spring I took some choice specimens to a business friend who remarked: "Your peonies do not have thrips on them." I explained about my spraying program. As a matter of fact I do not confine this program to peonies, but give the whole garden the chlordane-D.D.T. treatment, even the grape vines, squash, sweet peas, gladiolus, irises, etc. The ant population is reduced too, but never eliminated. Since the ants do no harm to plant or flower and no noticeable good, I am indifferent to them. There is

one type of ant which is untouched by my spray formula.

The ants are smarter than you and because they can tell far in advance if a bud will produce a flower, they do not visit dud buds.

Aside from the treatment for thrips, I have only one absolute rule; in the fall the dead tops must be removed and burned. A couple of years ago I bought a flame thrower which I now use after the tops are brown and dry and while the ground is frozen. The hot flame will remove the foliage and stems to the ground level. I have no trouble at any time with botrytis in my patch. This may be due in part to the fact that the gravel beneath my top soil goes down four or five feet, providing wonderful drainage at all times.

Those of you who live as far north as Faribault, Minnesota, or Sheboygan, Wisconsin, may not have trouble with nematodes, may not know what they are or what they do. They produce swellings on the small roots which cause the plant to waste its energy producing more roots, great quantities of roots. Production of flowers is reduced. Sometimes the plant quits producing flowers.

The top layer of my garden is heavy soil because the plot was a clay tennis court, abandoned twenty years ago. Whenever I plant a peony I put it in heavy surroundings. The fact is I give the peony plant an atmosphere of solid clay in a hole two feet wide and two spades deep. It takes my peonies longer to reach maturity, perhaps one extra year, but I get results for many years because the clay discourages nematodes.

When I plant, I measure very carefully to be sure that the eyes are not more than two inches deep.

So far you have heard all the troubles I have faced and, Eureka,

they have been solved. How wonderful to know that common clay, a flame thrower and a four gallon sprayer have done the trick! For evidence of success, I have the Peony Shows, where I have won many ribbons, even purple rosettes in Courts of Honor. This is not bragging, just assuring every home gardener that success with peonies is easy.

There isn't a tree within fifty feet of my peony patch. My garden hose is three hundred feet long and it reaches every plant when necessary. It soaks the ground thoroughly if and when rain fails to do so. No hard and fast rule is followed about watering. Just do the job well when you think you should, especially just prior to blooming and during the blooming season.

In some years, when peonies bloom, it is always a good bet in Chicago, that Nature's great watering system will operate at its greatest efficiency. I can remember seasons when this was not the case. There have been times when the skies were overcast throughout the blooming season and only gentle rains fell, unaccompanied by winds. Then we see the pink peonies at their exquisite best. Those rich pink tones are something you want to share with your friends.

Many commercial plantings in the midwest area have one thing in common, their soil turns up brown when plowed. To me this is evidence that the men who specialize in producing peony roots of quality, were encouraged to do so by their own natural success. They happened to own land which gave superb results when peonies were planted. The gardener just kept on growing peonies and sharing them with others until his business was big and mildly profitable.

You can have success as an ama-

teur peony grower, no matter with what conditions you start, provided you can plant in full sun, and are willing to put your heart and soul into your task. When I started my work on the abandoned tennis court, I had to remove a cottonwood tree about thirty feet tall which had grown in the center of the court. Weeds of many kinds, short and tall, and thick sod had to be dealt with. My next door neighbor scoffed at the idea of starting a garden on a tennis court and predicted complete failure. When I planted my vegetables (except carrots), I used Vigoro generously. Bumper crops of lettuce and sweet corn encouraged me. Thorough soaking at judicious times with the garden hose, have contributed to my success.

In a single season that corn would be fed three times with Vigoro in a complete circle around each plant. I am sure the crops cost more than I would have invested for the same number of ears from a vegetable stand, but our corn was always fresh when we ate it and awfully good. The neighbors got some of it, particularly the one who had been skeptical. Our vegetable garden still flourishes and we enjoy the produce of it every month of the year.

There are now more than two hundred peony plants out there and about the same number of iris clumps. The peony rows are three feet apart and in each row there are fourteen peony plants and thirteen iris clumps, alternating. The iris clumps must be reduced occasionally to give the peonies room to expand. Between the rows I am adding red tulips, sort of naturalized. When red tulips and irises bloom together, the color effect is nothing short of breath-taking. A tall late variety of red tulip should be used with irises. Some years the

iris garden is at its peak with early red peonies starting to bloom and the tall red tulips still around. When that happens the visitors are numerous and we get little work done because we just walk and walk through the patch, absorbing every charming vista. Then the visitors are so enthralled that they forget to tell me about their own gardens. That I believe is the highest tribute a visitor can pay me.

After ten years of experience, I am beginning to add singles and Japs because their garden value is great when they bloom. They stand up well in rain and wind.

A new color clarity is supplied by some of the hybrid herbaceous peonies from Auten, Glasscock and Saunders. Salmon pink is one of the new shades. Another is orange pink or light red-orange. The deep red hybrids have a charm which is irresistible. I refer to *John Harvard*, *Veritas* and *Illini Belle*.

## A TALK WITH A GROWER

FRANCIS P. TIKALSKY

*La Grange, Illinois*

There are many growers of peonies in our Society that have a wealth of data on the culture of peonies and reliable, up-to-date information on the virtues and faults of many varieties, both new and old. For some reason or other, these well-informed growers are reluctant to record some of the knowledge they possess and send it to our secretary. One of the guilty parties is A. L. Murawska of River Grove, Illinois. In the past he has imparted information to many, which not only made them richer in peony lore, but also financially, since his information or advice, saved them expenditures for questionable varieties that they had intended to acquire.

A week ago I visited Art and between the digging and dividing of roots he gave me such valuable information that, at the moment, I felt it was a pity that some of this could not be passed along to others. I approached him on this phase and he agreed to give me the data, if I would record it and relay it to our secretary. So, I picked up a couple of his price lists and on the unprinted backs of them recorded these data that are presented in the following quotes:

"One of the important factors in the growing of peonies, is to have a proper location. The soil must be well drained and preferably of clayish, loamy texture. The importance of drainage cannot be emphasized too much, since a wet, boggy soil will eventually bring about fungus conditions so discouraging to the lover of peonies."

"About three years ago I had a copious net-work of tile installed in my field and the improved drainage had a pronounced and marked effect in the improvement of the quality of the plants."

"The next important step is to prepare the soil, since it is folly indeed, to plant a twenty-five dollar plant in a ten cent hole. Well rotted manure or humus is worked into the soil. I use and prefer bone tankage. After the roots have been planted, I sprinkle, sparingly, a light application of some form of potash. I use muriate of potash. However I prefer wood ashes which in these days, is almost impossible to obtain. The addition of potash reflects very favorably in the root growth. The difference between roots grown without the addition of potash and with potash can be visibly determined, without a question, when the roots are given only a casual glance."

"About two years ago, I sus-

picioned a deficiency of boron in my soil. I added about two pounds of borax to an area about fifty by sixty feet after I had planted about fifteen hundred plants. The plants that grew in this field to which borax had been added, came through perfectly and I did not have a single case of wilt, and all plants had the most lush, healthy growth that I have ever observed on one and two year plants. Since no harm can be done by adding such small amounts, I would recommend a trial of it by some of our members."

"Incidentally I disinfect all planting stock, dipping it in a solution of semesan for about fifteen minutes. I have found this beneficial and it is an insurance against the introduction of some fungus diseases into my plantings."

"An extremely important factor in the growing of peonies for root division or for flowers, is frequent and thorough cultivation. The soil must be kept loose and free of weeds. Roots in neglected fields are often damaged when large weeds are pulled out."

"I feel quite certain that the promiscuous cutting of blossoms reflects unfavorably in the future root development, even if done by following the recommended practice of leaving two leaves on the stalk from which a flower is cut. For this reason I rarely cut flowers from the scarcer varieties, knowing full well that the unwise close division of roots now practiced generally has robbed the roots of some of their vitality. Everything should be done to help these devitalized roots to regain their vigor. I do not sell flowers to the trade because I am certain that the profit that would come from these sales would be nullified by the retardation of the development of the roots."

"Ordinarily members of our Society should report on how well certain varieties do in their vicinity. I will have to admit that I have been very negligent in doing this. So I will submit a report which will embrace only those which I feel are the best in their respective classes. All of the varieties reported in the following list have been growing in my field for a number of years. I have observed them closely and I have tried not to be influenced by what I have seen in shows and read in reports. Also I have tried to refrain from boosting unjustly, the wares of those with whom I have been in contact so many years."

"Among the whites and blushes I am of the opinion that *Nick Shaylor* is the very best in this class. Its only fault is that the very large diameter of its stalk leaves quite a scar to be healed and often a large portion of the crown decays before healing arrests it. This fault, however, is only objectionable to growers who divide and disseminate roots."

"The next best is *Elsa Sass*, a wonderful variety both on the show bench and in the garden. Third best in this list would be *Margaret Lough*, a dream if there ever was one in my planting. This variety approaches perfection here and I feel that it is not known as well as it should be. *W. L. Gumm* is fine and reliable in every way. This is another variety of the late *W. L. Gumm* and, incidentally, I think that this originator was one of the most discreet. There are very few of his creations that are disappointing."

"The next in order of my preference are *La Lorraine* and *Le Cygne*, both of which perform outstandingly in my planting. *Victory* has come along very well after the murdering it got when growers



wanted to make a fast buck or two by unwise propagation of roots. It promises to be one of the pillars of the elite in Peonydom."

"*To Kalon* has done well and so has *Yosemite*. The latter is late and has many virtues. *Dr. F. G. Brethour* certainly belongs among the very good ones."

"Among the near-yellows, *Carolina Moon* seems to do the best here. It is lovely, reliable and is good for both the garden and for show. It has individuality too. *Golden Dawn* is next in order of preference. I like its form and good garden habits. *Laura Dessert* is next in order and I find that its color holds a little better than *Golden Dawn*. *Primevere* produces fine flowers, but its weak stem prevents it from being good for the garden. I obtained *J. C. Legg* this year after I saw an imposing bloom of it."

"Now to the light pink class. At the top of the list in this class I prefer *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt* which is superfine both for the garden and for exhibition. *Therese* comes next, but has a fault in that the substance is soft. *Grace Batson* and *Sarah Bernhardt* are next in line and are a pair that are hard to beat when well grown."

"*Marietta Sisson* comes close to my heart. In addition to being a fine flower with excellent habits, it has the longest blooming period of any variety that I have ever seen. *Mons. Jules Elie* is an old one, but still rides in the royal carriage. *Auten's Pride* is not appreciated as much as it should be. It performs well with me."

"Among the newer introductions in the light pink class, watch *Flurence Nicholls*. It seems tops in every respect and appears faultless both for the garden and show bench. This one has individuality too. *James Pillow*, with its unique

blending of peaches and cream, weaves a hypnotic spell over me and in spite of its sprawliness, because of a long stem, it is on the list of preferred ones. The stalk is not a weak, bending one. It is a stiff one that yields at the base. As a show flower only it should have appreciative admirers."

"*Moonstone*, my own origination, for modesty's sake, is last on the list of light pinks. It has color, form, stalk and plant habit, lacking only in fragrance to make it a perfect peony."

"The dark pinks are next. There are too few good ones of this hue. My personal preference in this class is *Blanche King*. It has size, form, and individuality. Sometimes, but not too often, it gets bashful and refuses to go through the strip tease act to reveal its loveliness. Next comes *Mme. Emile Debatene*, most reliable and with perfect garden habits. *Cathie Ann* is a honey, new but tops. It has color, form and stalk coupled with an exquisite fragrance. Also it is desirable for cut flowers. *Tondeleyo* although new, has given a good account of itself in the past three years that it has bloomed for me. This is one to watch and looks like a must-have. *Walter Faxon's* color is exceptional, but the substance seems bad. The plant habit could be improved upon quite a bit. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* has the same virtues and faults. *John Howard Wigell* is a consistent performer for me. It is good as a garden plant and has possibilities as a fine show flower. Too bad its stamens show. I like its brilliant color."

"Let's advance to the reds. (Don't confuse them with the Commies.) I still maintain that *Philippe Rivoire* is supreme among the reds as old as it is. It is everybody's dream to produce a larger *Philippe*. Next comes *Kansas*, with its lively color,

fine size and outstanding plant habits. *Tempest* performs well and has many virtues. A new and lesser known variety, *Kinney*, surprised me and has consistently outperformed *Matilda Lewis*, which is a good one too. *Kinney* will doubtless be sought for by growers and connoisseurs alike when better known. *Rio Grande* is another "sleeper" and has won me over as the best dark red. I am certain that it has old *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* beaten by the proverbial mile. It has a waxy, slippery, wet appearing sheen that commands attention. Its plant habits are ideal."

"*Burma* is slow becoming established, but when well started is a star of the first magnitude. It is too bad that it is dwarfish. *Ruth Elizabeth* looks good so far and should become very popular. Again one of my creations is listed last, *Chippewa*. I am fond of its color and its excellent performance in the garden."

"The Jap varieties are rapidly coming to the fore front. I sold more Japs than I ever did this year and many growers report the same experience. Although *Tamate Boku* has the loveliest and most impressive flower; it is a very poor grower with just so-so garden attributes. So, I have to place *Westerner* as tops in the pink Japs. This one approaches perfection and its fall foliage is attractive indeed. *Largo* is good and beautiful to behold, but unfortunately it feathers sometimes."

"There seems to be an ample supply of red Japs. *Charm* is about the best of the extremely dark ones and either *Sword Dance* or *Hari-ai-nin* is next in line in this class. *Nippon Brilliant* is a challenge to the best when well grown. *Onahama*, a lighter red, but perhaps the largest, comes next."

*Toro-no-maki*, I think, is the best

in the white class because it is both good in the garden and in the show. *Isani Gidui* has the best flower in the white category, but has a sprawly habit in the garden. *Kukeni-jishi* is fine all the way through. *Shaylor's Sunburst*, *Margaret Atwood* and *Plainsman* are all highly desirable. Two Japs, *Lotus Queen* and *Dignity* are my originations and, for reasons explained before, trail the list. Both brought favorable response from the growers. I only wish I had more stock of them to sell."

"*Arcturus* comes to the top as the best red single with *Imperial Red* next. *Helen* and *Sea Shell* are my favorites of the pinks. Two old whites with kindred habits, *Le Jour* and *Exquisite*, are still hard to beat. I was much impressed with *Angelus* growing near my planting. *Pico*, from my limited experience, looks as though it might grab the royal throne as the very best white single. However I do not want to commit myself on this until I have had more experience growing it."

Here end the quotes from Art Murawska. They make good reading and contain sound advice. Follow it.

## PLANT METABOLISM (Growth Processes)

ROY G. GAYLE  
Rockford, Illinois

NOTE: The word *metabolism* (also *metabolisis*) as used in this article is defined in Webster's Dictionary as: "the act or process, by which living tissues or cells, take up and convert into their own proper substance, the nutritive material brought to them."

The metabolic activities of a plant produces its continuous process of growth. As long as a plant is feed-

ing it will continue to grow, and the rate of growth is limited only by its species type, available food supply, and seasonable climatic control.

The ANNUAL plant grows in length along its principal axis until it achieves its destiny—sex maturity—then dies. Maturity is evidenced in seed production, by which it is annually reproduced.

The PERENNIAL plant continues to live, throughout repeated growing seasons, by root development and it is not dependent on seed production. The roots become food reservoirs and annually develop by root expansion.

Plant species are normally male, female, or bi-sexual. Cross or in-breeding often results in varieties being sterile through complete loss of normal sex elements, so propagation of sterile varieties is only possible by root division, stem or leaf cuttings.

Any plant, whether annual, biennial, or perennial, spends the greater part of its life cycle in various processes of growth. Throughout this early period of growth there is a very close analogy between plant and animal life as, in infancy, both require the supply of nourishment to be made available in liquified form. While animal life later adopts solid food—all plant life continues with a basic liquid diet throughout its existence. Mineral food cannot be absorbed until the digestive action of root hairs dissolves them into so-called soluble salts, as no food element can enter the root hair unless it is in solution.

Root hairs also act as a respiratory organ and they obtain oxygen, needed for metabolism, directly from the soil. They also excrete a small amount of carbon-dioxide which, when united with water, forms carbonic acid, which in turn

aids in dissolving some of the minerals in the soil and enabling the roots to absorb the food.

Plant growth simultaneously proceeds in two directions—stems grow above ground while roots advance in their subterranean environment. With root hairs acquiring sufficient nourishment the upper plant growth will proceed at a regular and normal rate and a healthy condition is reflected in the stem, foliage and flower.

#### ROOT ANATOMY

A general understanding of root composition adds interest to the pleasure of plant production and the following is a list of the physical components. The root of a growing plant consists of regions, or zones, and starting with the outermost tip they are:

1. ROOT CAP. This is made up of hard, thick-walled cells whose rugged exteriors form a penetrating point to press forward in the soil in search for food. No ingestion (food intake) occurs in this part.

2. GROWING POINT. Immediately back of the root-cap is the region known as the Growing Point. In this region the roots cells are small and tender and are so closely packed together that individual cells are hardly distinguishable. No ingestion occurs in this region.

3. REGION OF ELONGATION. In this zone are cells which are left behind as the former parts proceed through the soil. These cells expand and push the growing point and root cap forward through the soil. This region is characterized by the distribution of nutritive tubes which bring foods down that have been manufactured by the leaves to stimulate root growth. The true root growth takes place in this region.

4. **ROOT HAIRS.** It is in this zone that problems of plant nutrition are involved. Root-hairs are the structures by which assimilation is carried on. They are individual cells of the epidermis (outer skin) which elongate and reach out into the surrounding soil and absorb nutrition. This zone is interesting,—unlike twigs or branches, the root-hairs are tiny single cells which are born, grow, and die within the matter of a few weeks. In certain species of plants the root-hairs survive only a few days, but regardless of the duration of their life, new root-hairs are constantly being formed; however, as the older root-hairs die, the zone of Elongation becomes the zone of the Root-hairs and in this way the root gains access to new stores of nutritive elements in the soil.

5. **MATURE SECTION.** The principal functions of this division are to provide anchorage for the plant and to provide channels to send water and nutritive elements upward to the stem and leaves and to return food materials to the growing roots. In this section are channels for returning waste products from the plant to the soil. Reserve food supplies are herein stored for future use of perennial plants.

A normal healthy plant, receiving an ample supply of balanced food will naturally develop sturdier growth which is characterized by strong stems, clean foliage, larger blooms, and purer color. Weak plants are usually the result of undernourishment or lack of certain vital mineral elements in the soil. Such plants are susceptible to disease and the attacks of insect enemies. Corrective measures can be adopted through the administration of proper feeding but, as in medicine, an overdose can prove fatal. The proper amount of cor-

rective feeding is the solution—and that is the problem each individual must solve for himself. Humus is necessary as it not only provides food but also enables the root to breathe. Peonies are very sensitive to over-feeding and are said to be very susceptible to “indigestion.” The application of strong chemicals forces tender roots into digestive evolutions, due to over stimulation, which is productive of violent reactions. Such treatment seriously affects the vitality of the plant. The result of this year’s treatment will be reflected in next year’s product.

Character of soil, light hours, air circulation, sunshine and drainage are all factors related to metabolism and each and all have much to do with the ultimate result sought by the grower. While climatic conditions do not rest within the province of control by mankind, the judicious selection of an agreeable environment cannot be ignored as it will have a major effect upon the ultimate result.

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## MY FAVORITE TWENTY-FIVE

W. A. ALEXANDER  
*Bowling Green, Ohio*

In making up a list of 25 favorite double and semi-double peonies, I find that I must first decide the purpose for which I want them. If I could have but 25 varieties, I would want them to have as wide usefulness as possible. I would not choose kinds valuable for only one use, such as exhibition. I would want general purpose varieties. They might not be tops for any specific use but would give greater all-round satisfaction.

To illustrate my point of view with two rather extreme examples: *Edulis Superba* is undoubtedly the most profitable cut-flower variety



in this area because it blooms for Memorial Day and has a color that appeals to most buyers. But it is a flower of poor quality and deteriorates very quickly when left on the bush. *Mrs. A. M. Brand* is a flower of superb quality, a great show flower, but is so unreliable in blooming and opening, in my experience, that it could have no place in a general purpose list. To make it brief, I want the following characteristics in a general purpose variety: a plant that is a "good doer" and has reasonably attractive foliage; a dependable and profuse bloomer; flowers of fair size with adequate stems and enough substance to make good cut flowers for the home; flowers of high quality which remain in good condition when left on the plant. If they have the quality for exhibition and open well from storage, so much the better. While I like to extend the season as much as possible, I favor the earlier kinds as I find them more reliable, in general, and they suffer less damage and injury from storms and rose chafers which are bad some years.

I have only about 75 varieties, most of them old timers. A great many of the standard varieties which now dominate the shows, even those in the three to five dollar class, are still on my wanted list. So my 25 will hold little interest for the peony sophisticate, but possibly may be of some help to the beginner with a limited budget. My experience with the newer varieties mentioned is limited to one or two young plants,—perhaps it is too limited for sound evaluation. For what it is worth, here are, my 25 more or less in order of preference according to color groups.

#### WHITE

1. *Kelway's Glorious*: About all one could ask for in one peony.

2. *Dr. F. G. Brethour*: Vigorous, a good bloomer and a beautiful flower.

3. *Baroness Schroeder*: A fine plant, extra stems, large, floriferous.

4. *Mary E. Nicholls*: A beautifully formed flower and a good bloomer; plant a little too dwarf.

5. *Minnie Shaylor*: Slightly pink at first but soon pure white; tops for a semi-double.

6. *White Delight*: Its earliness puts it in my list; fragrance adds to its attractiveness. Stems not too good.

7. *Victory*: A good doer; its show record bespeaks its quality. A bit late for us here,—our peony season is over before it blooms; trouble with the rose bugs.

8. *Festiva Maxima*: A hundred years old but still unsurpassed for the garden. Very attractive bush.

#### CREAM AND BLUSH

9. *Mattie Lafuze*: One plant and one season of bloom, but it looks like the best peony I ever owned.

10. *Nick Shaylor*: A great one in all respects.

11. *Nancy Nicholls*: A nice flower and a good grower.

12. *Solange*: Doesn't measure up in reliability but grand when right.

13. *Mrs. C. S. Minot*: Beautiful form and color; reliable for me.

#### LIGHT PINK

14. *Myrtle Gentry*: Truly a patrician among peonies.

15. *Reine Hortense*: An old one that rivals the best of the new in refinement and quality. Most dependable.

16. *Therese*: The strawberry soda color, size and earliness put this old timer in my list.

#### MEDIUM AND DARK PINK

17. *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*: It grows, it blooms, it opens; it has fine color, beautiful form, great

size, adequate stems. What else is needed?

18. *Phyllis Kelway*: This semi-double is spectacular in size and color; sometimes a bit lacking in refinement.

19. *Marietta Sisson*: A massive deep flower. Color not too good and is a bit on the coarse side but gets in my list because it is the earliest of the good pinks with which I am familiar; almost as early as *Eduilis*.

20. *Blanche King*: Has performed well for me. The leading dark pink for the shows.

21. *Lowell Thomas*: I have one young plant which had one flower this year but it was "best in the show" and lasted for days. If it never blooms again, I will still keep it for the beautiful foliage.

22. *Tempest*: Fine color, long-lasting, doesn't fade.

23. *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*: The black-red color is eye-catching. A good doer.

24. *Richard Carvel*: There are more attractive flowers among the reds but this is my Memorial Day red. Reliable and profuse.

25. *Longfellow*: A good clear medium red accented by yellow stamens. Reliable with great quantities of flowers.

*Kansas* will probably make the first team in a year or so if it keeps coming and lives up to early promise. It will displace — what? Maybe the list will have to be 26.

### Visitors

It was a great pleasure to have Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Thompson of McHenry, Ill. and Mrs. Thompson's brother-in-law and sister, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Howell of Newton, N. J., with Mr. Howell's father and mother, call on me on their vacations. —*Ed*.

### THE MEDAL WINNERS

In a letter dated June 2, 1951, Mrs. Lena Hansford asks:

"Could you without too much inconvenience to yourself, list for me the peonies that have won the Gold Medal of the American Peony Society for about the last fifteen years? I have looked and read for that information, but haven't been able to find it." Mrs. Hansford is a public school teacher.

Thinking it would be a good idea to compile this information and also to list the winners of the various medals given to individual varieties over the years I have gone through all the bulletins of the Society and am giving here the results of my search. It is possible that there may be some omissions due to oversight, if so will someone please call my attention to them?

#### The Gold Medal of the American Peony Society

*Mrs. A. M. Brand* (Brand, 1925) St. Paul, 1923.

*A. B. Franklin* (Franklin, 1928) Chicago, 1933.

*Mrs. J. V. Edlund* (Edlund, 1929) Chicago, 1933.

*Harry F. Little* (Nicholls, 1933) St. Paul, 1934.

*Nick Shaylor*, (Allison, 1931) Syracuse, 1941.

*Elsa Sass* (Sass, H. P., 1930) Minneapolis, 1943.

*Hansina Brand* (Brand, 1925) Rockford, 1946.

*Golden Glow* (Glasscock, 1935) Rockford, 1946.

*Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt* (Franklin, 1933) Guelph, 1948.

*Doris Cooper* (Cooper, 1946) Milwaukee, 1949.

All of these awards were made by the Seedling Committee except those to *Hansina Brand*, *Golden Glow*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt* which were made by the Board of Directors.

### The Silver Medal

*Saunders No. 362*, Boston, 1915.  
*Myrtle Gentry* (Brand, 1925)  
St. Paul, 1923.

*Challenger* (Saunders, 1929)  
Washington, 1929.

*Diadem* (Franklin, 1931) St.  
Paul, 1934.

*Mrs. Livingston Farrand* (Nich-  
olls, 1935) Toronto, 1936.

*Ruth Elizabeth* (Brand, 1936)  
Rochester, 1940.

*Dorothy J.* (Jones, 1937) Roch-  
ester, 1940.

All the above awards were made  
by the Seedling Committee. It is  
rather ironical that the first medal  
ever awarded by the Society to a  
variety should have been awarded  
to one that has never been named  
or introduced. Prof. Saunders once  
wrote me that he still had the plant  
in his garden. No description what-  
ever could be found of it. This re-  
fers to *Saunders No. 362*, the first  
award above.

### B. H. Farr Memorial Medal

This medal, established by the  
Society as a memorial to the devo-  
tion of Mr. Farr to the work of the  
society, was first awarded in 1929  
at the Washington Show. In order  
to save space I shall list only the  
year of award and the name of the  
winning variety.

1929, *Tourangelle*; 1930, *Solange*;  
1931, *Solange*; 1932, *Solange*; 1933  
*Hansina Brand*; 1934, *Hansina*  
*Brand*; 1935, *Avalanche*; 1936,  
*Mrs. J. V. Edlund*; 1937, *Mrs. J. V.*  
*Edlund*; 1938, *Harry F. Little*;  
1939, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*; 1940, *Mar-*  
*tha Bulloch*; 1941, *Blanche King*;  
1942, *Mrs. R. M. Bacheller*; 1943,  
*Mrs. A. M. Brand*; 1944, *Doris*  
*Cooper* (shown as Cooper No. 35);  
1945, No show; 1946, *Hansina*  
*Brand* and *Illini Belle*; 1947, *Blan-*  
*che King*; 1948, *Yukon*; 1949, *A.*  
*B. Franklin*; 1950, *Kansas*; 1951,  
*Dorothy J.*

From 1929 to 1946 this medal  
was awarded to the Best Flower  
in the Show. Since then it has been  
given to the Best Double (*albi-*  
*flora*) in the Show

### The Bronze Medals

At the Directors' meeting in  
Rockford, Illinois, in 1946, it was  
decided to award a Society's bronze  
medal each year to the best Japan-  
ese type flower, the best single type  
and the best herbaceous hybrid in  
the show. All of these medals have  
not been awarded every year.

Here are the winners as recorded  
to date.

#### Pest Japanese in the Show

1947, *Westerner*; 1948, *Tamate*  
*Boku*; 1949, *Moon of Nippon*; 1950,  
*Nippon Gold*. No award was made  
in 1951. The best Jap. was chosen  
without medal award as follows:  
1930, *Isani Gidui*; 1931, *Onahama*;  
1943, *Onahama*; 1944, *Exquisite*  
*First*.

#### Best Single in the Show

1947, *President Lincoln*; 1948,  
*Krinkled White*; 1949, *Krinkled*  
*White*; 1950, *President Lincoln*. No  
award in 1951. The best single was  
chosen without medal award as fol-  
lows: 1931, *Vera*; 1943, *Le Jour*.

#### Best Herbaceous Hybrid in the Show

1947, *Ludovica*; 1948, *Legion-*  
*naire*; 1949, *Red Charm*; 1950,  
*Chocolate Soldier*; 1951, *Red*  
*Charm*.

#### American Home Achievement Medal

This medal has been awarded  
since 1928 (Garden and Home Mag-  
azine that year only) to the Best  
and Most Distinctive New Peony  
Shown under conditions set forth  
by the donor which has been the  
American Home Magazine. At first  
it was sometimes awarded to a va-  
riety that had not been named. Now

a name must have been chosen for the winner. Here are given the year of award, the name or number of the variety and the originator.

1928, *Argosy*, Saunders; 1929, *Challenger*, Saunders; 1930, No award. 1931, *Auten 614*, a Jap. with rose pink guards and cerise and yellow petalodes. (*Nippon Princess*); 1932, *Brand No. 73*, light pink double. (*Oliver F. Brand*); 1933, *A. B. Franklin*, Franklin; and *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, Edlund; 1934, *Harry F. Little*, Nicholls; 1935, *Onondaga*, Little; 1936, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, Nicholls; 1937, *Rose Valley*, Scott; 1938, *Westhill*, Little; 1939, *Snow White*, Little; 1940, *Dorothy J.*, Jones; 1941, No award; 1942, *Kansas*, Bigger; 1943, *Dolorodell*, Lins; 1944, No award; 1945, No show; 1946, *Doris Cooper*, Cooper; 1947, *Westerner*, Bigger; 1948, *Ann Cousins*, Cousins; 1949, No award; 1950, *The Mighty Mo*, G. H. Wild and Son; 1951, *Jacob Styer*, Styer.

The above awards were all made at the National Shows. This medal has also been awarded at the annual show of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society in Minneapolis since 1942 as follows.

1942, *King Midas*, Lins; 1945 *Victory*, Thompson; 1947, *Bonanza*, Franklin; 1948, *King Boreas*, Wilkus; 1949, *Mary L.*, Lins; 1950, *Pink o'Dawn*, Cooper.

#### Best Flower in the Show

Before 1929 the winning variety in the class calling for one specimen bloom double seems to have been considered the best flower in the show. From 1929 to 1946 the Farr Medal winners were the best flowers. No best flower was chosen in 1947, 1948 and 1949. One was chosen in 1950 and 1951. Also one was chosen for the first show at Chicago Fair in 1933 which was not given the Farr Medal. Here is the list since 1915 omitting the Farr

Medal winners which see for best flowers from 1929 to 1946.

1915, *Mons. Jules Elie*; 1916, *Mons. Jules Elie*; 1917, *Le Cygne*; 1918, *Enchanteresse*; 1919, *Le Cygne*; 1920, *Le Cygne*; 1921, *Therese*; 1922, *Avalanche*; 1923, *Solange*; 1924, *Milton Hill*; 1925, *Therese*; 1926, *Le Cygne*; 1927, *Tourangelle*; 1928, *Therese*; 1933, *Le Cygne*; 1950, *Kansas*; 1951, *Red Charm*.

There have been other "best flowers" chosen at various shows. In three shows the best red was a special honor. It was won in 1930 by *Karl Rosenfield*; 1938, *Onondaga* and in 1939, *Hiawatha*. Since then there has been no special award for it. However it is now chosen each year and has its place in the Court of Honor along with many other "bests." Possibly some time these Court of Honor winners may be tabulated.

At various times in the history of the Society, special cash awards have been made for outstanding varieties. Among these we find *Mrs. Edward Harding* offering a prize of \$100 for an outstanding new peony which was won at Cleveland in 1918 by E. J. Shaylor of Auburndale, Massachusetts, with his seedling No. 35, named *Mrs. Edward Harding*. This was famous as being the first peony to be offered at \$100 a root.

*Mrs. Harding* also offered a similar prize in France and this was won in 1922 by V. Lemoine and Son of Nancy, France, with his variety first named *Amitie Americaine*. This was changed to *Alice Harding*, which action created a great deal of hard feeling between many members of our Society which unfortunately lasted a long time.

*Mrs. Harding* also offered the same prize for a new tree peony in France and this was also won by



Lemoine in 1937 with his yellow tree peony then named *Soleil d'Or*. This he changed to *Alice Harding*. It is now known as about the best yellow tree peony there is.

The J. A. Taylor Prize of the same amount was won in 1924 by Judge Vories of St. Joseph, Missouri, with *Frankie Curtis*. This prize was offered for a new herbaceous peony of splendid merit. Its winner has certainly proved that it deserved the honor. It is still one of the best sellers.

The Brand Peony Farms prize of \$100 for the best Japanese type peony was awarded Mr. Edward Auten, Jr. of Princeville, Illinois, in 1927, for his variety No. 10 B 48 which is *Nippon Beauty*.

The Sisson Memorial Prize of \$100 for a new pink peony seems never to have been awarded, though many entries were made for it.

A similar fate awaited the Harrison Memorial prize of \$1000 for a true yellow herbaceous peony. The search for a true yellow herbaceous peony has gone on relentlessly for many years. Many rumors have reached us that the goal had been attained. One of the earliest was that Father Terry, as he was affectionately known to his friends, had succeeded and a Mr. Meneray once wrote me he had bought the plant for six hundred dollars, but that when he divided it into about twenty divisions, it bloomed semi-double and he discarded it. However, a variety under the name *Terry's Yellow* was offered for some years. My plant of it was pink.

Mr. Smirnow has imported from Japan a variety *Aurea*, that is said to be full double yellow. It has never bloomed here yet. Some of us are looking forward to seeing it next year. Let us hope it will be the long sought yellow.

However we do know that there

are several singles that are yellow, though very light. Also in the multiple hybrids of Prof. Saunders, and Dr. White some seedlings have appeared of a distinct yellow, so we may look forward probably to a fulfillment of the dream of a pure yellow double herbaceous peony sometime in the future.

## STEM ROT

Mr. R. F. Koby of Superior, Wisconsin, says: "*Officinalis rubra*, *Veritas* and *anomala* showed up this spring with stem rot which ordinarily I have controlled and stopped with Bordeaux, but that cold, damp weather with the heavy top growth served as a swell place for the fungus to grow. At the greenhouse at the Vocational School I used a spray of semesan less than normal strength and knocked the damping off in one night. This was so successful that I fixed up a normal strength solution and sprayed those few peonies that showed the young shoots were affected. Well, it worked swell and immediately the loss of the young tender shoots stopped and with the exception of two or three, my planting is just tops. *Le Cygne* usually shows up with some trouble, but a spray of semesan puts that in good order if there is trouble starting. I have hesitated to use some of these newer sprays for fear of burning or injury to leaf or stem, but I am glad that I had been working at the greenhouse with cabbage and pansies and did not mind losing them if I did something wrong. I shall watch this through the summer and may switch to another spray other than Bordeaux for leaf blotch and other fungus troubles. I find that the plants in low spots are usually the ones affected. But I see no reason why once an infection is set up it will not spread to other healthy plants."

## GROWING PEONIES IN POTS

In the September 20, 1951, issue of *The Florists Review* the following article appeared:

### "POTTED PEONIES

"The popularity of potted or canned plants has opened up new sales opportunities for the peony grower. Many nurseries and garden shops are now potting peonies for sale during the bud stage, as well as when they are in full bloom. For potting purposes, the standard rose pot is suitable, but the shrub pot is to be preferred. The 3-eye to 5-eye divisions from young, clean plants will produce bloom buds the first season and make a desirable-size plant that sells at a moderate price but allows a satisfactory markup.

"A potting mixture of sixty per cent clay soil, ten per cent sand and thirty per cent strawy manure that has been run through the grinder is recommended. The addition of a 4-inch pot of bone meal to each wheelbarrow of finished potting soil is also recommended. Plants should be potted in the fall and treated as other potted plants, watering as conditions require. Covering with a light trashy mulch until growth begins in the spring is generally practiced, but is not essential."

As this was something that I had never been aware was being done, I wrote *The Florists Review* for information and permission to publish the article which was given and they referred me to Mr. Dale Wild of Sarcoxie, Missouri, and also to the Cloverset Flower Farm of Kansas City, Missouri. Both of them replied very promptly to my inquiries and here is what they have to say about growing peonies in pots:

Mr. Wild says: "Quite frankly this growing of peonies in containers came to my attention in California. Three years ago I was advised that peonies could be grown in cans and partially exposed to their cooler or cold weather during the winter by only half submerging the can or pot in the soil. The plants were not in bloom when I saw them; however, they had good foliage and showed evidence of bloom the past season.

After returning I had some correspondence with some firms who were interested in growing peonies in containers. I told them of the plants I had seen growing and they decided to try it.

Since that time we have had several customers who have used this method and since I was particularly interested I made a trip to the Old Orchard Gardens at St. Louis to observe their method and results. They are one of the largest users of peonies to be grown in pots in this area, and I found they had been successfully growing them 2 or 3 years prior to my knowledge that the plants they were securing were being potted. Last year they purchased several hundred plants for potting and before this article was written, I had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Roy Graham, the owner of the firm, here at the nursery. I asked him for a potting mixture which he gave me. (See the above article.) Customers like to buy plants in foliage; also with bloom buds. A large percentage of the standard 3 to 5-eye divisions will produce buds; however the flowers will not be large the first year. The customer has an opportunity to see blossoms on a plant that is placed in his garden in May.

Personally I think it is somewhat like potting roses. The plants will have to be properly cared for until

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they go into the permanent garden or results will not be good. Potted peonies have this advantage over potted roses in that the roots are not wound up and crammed in the pots, but can start a normal growth when the plants are placed in the soil and the pots removed."

Mr. Kenneth Haysler of the Cloverset Flower Farm, Kansas City, Missouri, has this to say:

"We are at the present time potting our peonies for spring sales. We sell hundreds of peonies dormant root, through the fall season and then at this time, the middle of November, we pot several thousand in our No. 2 Cloverset pot. This pot is 9½-inches high, 7 inches in diameter, made of a heavy waterproof paper. These plants are potted with the eyes about one inch below the soil surface. The pots are then placed in outdoor frames and after a thorough watering are mulched with shavings. We find a very popular sale for these plants in the spring, after they have started to grow and up to and including blooming time. There is actually more demand for the plants at that time than in the fall of the year, since in the spring at blooming time, many people will buy peonies who would not remember them in the fall.

"These plants are removed from the pot by simply peeling the pot away, ball of earth, roots and all planted in the permanent bed. Since the plants are not disturbed, they are handled with complete satisfaction."

I have not gotten around to writing Mr. Graham but intend to do so. All of the above is quite interesting, especially to the growers I should think. It would seem that this method is used principally where the plants are sold direct to the customer and not shipped. I wonder how they would stand ship-

ping? Probably the plants that have hardened their stems would do all right, but when they first come up there might be some breakage which would be bad.

How many of our readers have had experience with such plants? We will welcome any and all information on this.

It would seem that these plants might be forced into bloom for the early spring flower shows and maybe they are. Tree peonies have been so handled. Does anyone know about this? The blooms would probably not be up to the standard of those from a mature garden plant, but many would be good, especially the singles, Japs and some semi-doubles. Let us have more information, please.

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### The Twenty-five Best Double and Semi-Double Peonies

At the final meeting of the Board of Directors in Cleveland last June a resolution was passed asking each director present to send in to the Secretary a list of twenty-five double and semi-double peonies he considered the best. The Secretary was directed to tabulate these lists and present the results in a future issue of the BULLETIN. Having received lists from all eleven of the directors who were present, the results are here presented.

The number appearing in front of each separate tabulation is the number of lists in which that particular variety appeared. For instance 10. *Myrtle Gentry*, indicates that *Myrtle Gentry* appeared in ten of the eleven lists submitted.

10. *Myrtle Gentry*. (1).

9. *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Elsa Sass*. (3).

8. *Victory*. (1).

7. *Blanche King*, *Dorothy J.*, *Kelway's Glorious*. (3).

6. *Kansas*, Philippe Rivoire, *Therese*. (3).

5. *Doris Cooper*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Hansina Brand*, *Le Cygne*, *Mattie Lafuze*, *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Ruth Elizabeth*. (7).

4. *Dolorodell*, *Florence Nicholls*, *George W. Peyton*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Mary E. Nicholls*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Walter Faxon*. (7).

3. *Dr. J. H. Neeley*, *La Lorraine*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Minnie Shaylor*, *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Nancy Nicholls*, *Sarah Bernhardt*. (9).

2. *Alice Harding*, *Bonanza*, *Baroness Schroder*, *Frankie Curtis*, *King Midas*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, *Lottie Dawson Rea*, *Mandaleen*, *Minuet*, *Miss America*, *Moonstone*, *Moonglow*, *Phyllis Kelway*, *Red Goddess*. (19).

1. *A. B. Franklin*, *Aerie*, *A. G. Perry*, *Alesia*, *Andy*, *Ann Cousins*, *Annisquam*, *Ann Pfeiffer*, *Arthur H. Fewkes*, *Big Ben*, *Blush*, *Casablanca*, *Cathie Ann*, *Cherry Hill*, *Dr. F. G. Brethour*, *Ella Lewis*, *Ernest F. Kelsey*, *Evening Star*, *Florence Ellis*, *Frances Willard*, *Grace Kelsey*, *Hans P. Sass*, *Hargrove Hudson*, *Harry F. Little*, *Helen Hayes*, *Highlight*, *Irving Flint*, *Irwin Altman*, *J. C. Nicholls*, *Karl Rosenfield*, *King Boreas*, *Laura Dessert*, *Laura Kelsey*, *Longfellow*, *Loren Franklin*, *Lowell Thomas*, *Margaret Lough*, *Marietta Sisson*, *Mary Brand*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mrs. A. O. Norton*, *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, *Mrs. Harry F. Little*, *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, *Nancy Dolman*, *Noel*, *Pink Formal*, *Pink Monarch*, *Pink c'Dawn*, *Plymouth*, *President Wilson*, *Primevere*, *Priscilla Alden*, *Rapture*, *Reine Hortense*, *Richard Carvel*, *Silvia Saunders*, *The Mighty Mo*, *Tondeleyo*, *Venus*, *W. E. Blanchette*, *White Delight*. (64).

For the statistically minded it will be noticed that no variety ap-

peared in all eleven of the lists, the nearest to that goal being *Myrtle Gentry*. Only eleven varieties were listed in more than half the lists. To get the high twenty-five we have to include all that appeared in four or more lists. The total number of varieties listed is 116 of which more than half, 63, were listed in only one list. However, it may safely be said that these 116 constitute a list of exceedingly high merit, as each one was considered good enough to appear in someone's best twenty-five.

The oldest variety listed is *Festiva Maxima* which has kept its place in high society for one hundred years. The youngest members are *Pink Formal* and *Highlight*, which as yet few of us have ever seen. Only four are over fifty years old, though possibly two more should be included, *Lady Alexandra Duff* and *Walter Faxon*.

The United States is represented by 34 originators and 94 varieties, Canada by two and two, England by one and five, and France by six and fifteen. Here is the list of originators and the number of varieties credited to each:

UNITED STATES: The House of Brand, 13; J. C. Nicholls, 10; Ernest F. Kelsey, 9; Edward Auten, Jr., 7; E. H. Lins, 6; Franklin Nursery, 5; Hans P. Sass, 5; Cherry Hill, 4; G. H. Wild and Son, 3; Myron D. Bigger, 2; H. C. Cooper, 2; A. L. Murawska, 2; J. F. Rosenfield, 2; E. J. Shaylor, 2; L. A. Vories, 2; A. P. Saunders, 2; J. V. Edlund, 1; A. H. Fewkes, 1; Good and Reese, 1; W. L. Gumm, 1; John M. Johnson, 1; R. H. Jones, 1; John M. Lewis, 1; Harry F. Little, 1; C. S. Minct, 1; J. H. Neeley, 1; Rea, 1; Elizabeth D. Roberts, 1; John Richardson, 1; Reno Rosefield, 1; Pfeiffer Nursery, 1; Robert A. Thompson, 1; Julius van Steen, 1; A. J. Wilkus, 1.



CANADA: L. W. Cousins, 1; Harry A. Norton, 1.

ENGLAND: Kelway and Son, 5.

FRANCE: V. Lemoine and Son, 7; Auguste Dessert, 4; Jacques Calot, 1; Felix Crousse, 1; Mieliez, 1; Riviere, 1.

The lists submitted were made out in a number of different ways. Some were in order of preference as a whole, some in order of preference by color, some alphabetical as a whole and some by color. Only one had remarks on all the varieties listed and that one is published in full in this bulletin as it was very interesting. Mr. Karrels also made some very pertinent remarks and here they are:

"Selecting the 25 'Best' double or semi-double peony varieties from the more than four hundred varieties growing in my garden, is at best a most difficult task. I would have much preferred to have listed 50 or even 100 "Best" varieties. I have tried to take into consideration all factors which go to make up a fine peony with the exception of those qualities, which are technical to what goes to make a good commercial cut flower variety. I have confined my selections to those with which I have had personal experience for at least five years, plus observations from what I have seen in other gardens. I have also tried to make my 25 'Best' list a well rounded one. That is, I have tried to include all the color classifications and several of the semi-double varieties. I have also tried to keep show flower qualities from becoming too prominent in my calculations, but have rather given priority to all around excellence as a plant plus of course a fine flower. In compiling my list I have adopted the method of the Football Writers Association of America. My 25 list is the All-American and I have

listed an additional 27 for Honorable Mention and as that organization has often remarked possibly a team of the Honorable Mentions could beat the All-Americans.

The above mentioned varieties are not necessarily the best in commerce. They are simply my choice of the varieties I grow. There are undoubtedly some better than the ones I have named. Their omission is simply because I do not grow them and have either no experience or not enough with them. There may also be some criticism of putting two bomb type varieties (*Mons. Jules Elie* and *Frankie Curtis*) in the select list. It has always been my opinion that *Mons. Jules Elie* is the most universally satisfactory peony in commerce. I grow five or six other white bombs, but none, in my opinion has yet surpassed *Frankie Curtis*. It is one of the few double peonies that has a stem that always holds up its large blooms in all weather. My plants of *Frankie Curtis* are absolutely magnificent. Every stem is of uniform height and each stem bears a specimen bloom. The inclusion of *Festiva Maxima* may also produce some raised eyebrows. I know its flower has undoubtedly been surpassed in beauty by a number of other whites but again its absolute dependability in bloom and probably the healthiest plant of any *chinensis* peony in existence, makes it a must in any 'Best' selection."

Mr. Karrels supplementary list contained the following ten that were not included in any other list, all of which are grand flowers: *Ave Maria*, *Carclyne Mae Nelson*, *Elizabeth Huntington*, *Jean Cooperman*, *Judge Sncok*, *Katherine van Steen*, *Mabel L. Gore*, *Ramona Lins*, *W. L. Gumm*, and *Yosemite*.

Mr. van Lcon added a note: "My three favorites of all 25 in order are: *Mattie Lafuze*, *Florence Nich-*

olls and Nick Shaylor." Mr. Wasenberg's list began with *Therese* and *Kelway's Glorious*. The other lists mentioned no especial favorite.

From the above lists I am sure we can say that it is extremely difficult to pick out a list of twenty-five that are the best. I am quite sure that if we had lists of the twenty-five best doubles from all our members we would have at least five hundred varieties mentioned. I wish we could persuade all of them to send in such lists. It would give us a good view of the ones that stand highest in our members estimation. I have in mind to ask for these lists and to include also all types as we plan to do with the directors later on. It would be a great help if all our readers would prepare their own lists when they read the above. I rather expect many will do just that. Why not let us have the benefit of them?

### **Performance of Peonies in a Backyard Garden in Minnesota During Their 1951 Blooming Season**

WILLIAM H. BOYLE  
St. Paul

Number of plants grown: 100;  
Number of varieties: 85.

Good blooms were obtained from the following varieties: *A. B. Franklin, Annisquam, Charles Verdier, Dorothy J., Duluth, Florence Bond, George W. Peyton, Hansina Brand, Judge Snook, Judy Becker, La Lorraine, Laura Kelsey, Louise Lossing, Marilla Beauty, Mary E. Nicholls, Minuet, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Harry F. Little, Mrs. J. H. Neeley, Nancy Nicholls, Nick Shaylor, President F. D. Roosevelt, Ruth Elizabeth, Thura Hires* and *Doris Cooper*.

Of these the best flowers were produced by the plants shown below:

WHITE: *Louise Lossing, Duluth*  
FLESH: *A. B. Franklin, Dorothy J.*

LIGHT PINK: *Doris Cooper, Hansina Brand, Marilla Beauty*

DEEP PINK: *President F. D. Roosevelt*

RED: *Ruth Elizabeth*

In case some are interested in other qualities than color, size and substance of bloom we append the following:

Most fragrant—*Charles Verdier*

Best stems—*Doris Cooper*

Consistently good performers—*A. B. Franklin, Dorothy J., Duluth, George W. Peyton, Hansina Brand, La Lorraine, Laura Kelsey, Louise Lossing, Minuet, Mrs. J. H. Neeley, Nick Shaylor, Ruth Elizabeth.*

### **Death**

The death of Mr. John F. Daly of the Embassy Apts., Washington, D. C., one of our life members, has been reported.

**STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, and CIRCULATION,** required by act of Congress of August 24, 1912 as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933 and July 2, 1946 of American Peony Society Bulletin published four times a year at Rapidan, Virginia for October, 1951.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager are:

Publisher: American Peony Society, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Va.

Editor, Managing Editor, and Business Manager: George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia.

2. The owner is: American Peony Society, Incorporated, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia. No stockholders.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

George W. Peyton, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of October, 1951.

Margaret E. Garnett, Notary public.  
(My commission expires Feb. 11, 1953.)

-\*(26)\*-

## TREE PEONY TOPICS

LOUIS SMIRNOW

*Sands Point, New York*

Quite recently, Dr. David Gurin received a few plants from some European growers. I was quite surprised to see the fine root system on the young plants. It is quite apparent that some of the old growers did their grafting on 2 year tree peony seedlings. If you have ever seen a 2 year seedling, you will note it has a rather extensive root system. The accepted method is to take a 3-4 inch piece of a vigorous herbaceous peony root and do grafting on this stubby understock, with the result that the progress of the plant is slow, for it may take 2-3 years to establish even a fair root system. It seems to me that if more of our specialists in grafting would try using young tree peony stock, we may get better results.

While on the topic of vigor in tree peonies, it has now been pretty well established, at least in the sources with which I am familiar, that *lutea* hybrids seem to possess more vigor than the Japanese or European hybrids. I have long been an advocate of the public purchasing young stock and giving the plants a chance to become established, rather than buying big plants and suffering a severe setback until they re-establish themselves. This past summer, in a neighboring garden, I saw several *lutea* hybrids. Each one had a flower or two, on a previously planted 2 year old tree peony. These varieties were *Souvenir De Maxime Cornu*, *La Lorraine* and *L'Esperance*. I planted a 1 year graft of *Alice Harding* and the first spring after planting, it had one small bloom. This is further evidence of the vigor of the *lutea* hybrids.

For some time, I have been working on a plan to clear up the situation regarding the Japanese varieties. This is a really large undertaking because of the fact that tree peonies in one section of Japan will have different names for the same variety from those used in another section.

I am glad to submit some of the findings and hope they will prove to be of interest to those who are interested in the names of plants. As a matter of fact, I dislike to see the trend toward growing thousands of seedlings and offering them for sale to the public by color. No plant can attain much success without giving more consideration to established named varieties. This is evidenced by roses, lilacs, iris and others.

Tree peonies were primarily grown in the Hyogo Province, with their names known to all of Japan. Niigata growers introduced them from Hyogo and substituted their own names, for sales reasons. Some of the Japanese exporters have been selling plants bought with Niigata names and they sometimes change or vary them slightly in their catalogs, in order to obtain more sales. To the real Japanese experts, and I do not refer to those who are exporting them and pose as tree peony experts, the description of the flowers are decisive factors. Several of those experts, when told of the colors, leaves, shapes, petals, etc., in most instances, can identify them easily. I have tried to find varieties similar in name and I have listed them below. In the first column the name by which the variety is known in Hyogo Province and in the second parallel column the name by which the same variety is known in Niigata Province.

Hyogo	Niigata
<i>Kintajio</i>	<i>Kirin nishiki</i>
<i>Shinseiki</i>	<i>Gosho Zakura</i>
<i>Hooner kagami</i>	<i>Kinshi (Chromatella)</i>
<i>Ki Yamabuki</i>	<i>Kinyo (La Lorraine)</i>
<i>Kijohime</i>	<i>Godaishu</i>
<i>Kagami jishi</i>	<i>Ukare jishi</i>
<i>Honode</i>	<i>Hatsu hinode</i>
<i>Taihooden</i>	<i>Setsu gekka</i>
<i>Kinkooden</i>	<i>Hodai</i>
<i>Hirate Nishiki</i>	<i>Yachiyo tsubaki</i>
<i>Daifuuki</i>	<i>Arashi yama</i>
<i>Yoo roo</i>	<i>Terute nishiki</i>
<i>Hanadijin</i>	<i>Taisho no hikori</i>
<i>Kenreimon</i>	<i>Abokyu</i>
<i>Okina jishi</i>	<i>Manju</i>
<i>Teru kuni</i>	<i>Kikoku (similar to Jitsugetsu nishiki)</i>
<i>Arashi yama</i>	<i>Ranzan</i>
<i>Chihiro no sato</i>	<i>Yoi sugata</i>
<i>Hakuoh</i>	<i>Shira tama jishi</i>
<i>Hakuo jishi</i>	<i>Renkaku</i>
<i>Dantenmon</i>	<i>Shishi saki</i>
<i>Fuso tsukasa</i>	<i>Gekkyuden</i>
<i>Shin kumagae</i>	<i>Asahi no sora</i>
<i>Abomiya</i>	<i>Atokiu</i>
<i>Eno sugata</i>	<i>Kasuga-no</i>
<i>Higure</i>	<i>Higurashi</i>
<i>Hao</i>	<i>Maihime</i>
<i>Gessekai</i>	<i>Tsuki sekai</i>
<i>Gyokuto</i>	<i>Gabisan</i>
<i>Bugakuden</i>	<i>Burakuden</i>
<i>Kuri kan ko</i>	<i>Tsukasa jishi</i>
<i>Tamasudare</i>	<i>Gyoku ren</i>
<i>Nippon Zakura</i>	<i>Yamato zakura (also Nihon Zakura)</i>
<i>Nishiki no tsuya</i>	<i>Nishiki no en</i>
<i>Tenryo-no-hagoromo</i>	<i>Sekimori</i>
<i>Suigan</i>	<i>Yoigawo</i>
<i>Hino maru</i>	<i>Mikuni no hata</i>
<i>Kagami jishi</i>	<i>Ukare jishi</i>

*Daigyokuden* is a glistening pure white, full double, has attained 15" across and is possibly the largest flowering tree peony in existence.

*Kamikaze*, also known as *Jimpu*, is a seedling of *Gessekai* and has

proven to be an improvement on its parent, even though this has a shorter stem. It is an immense double, pure white, has beautiful center of various colors.

*Taiyo* has been reported to be a seedling of *Shinkagura*. The varieties *Ubatama* and *Shunkoden* have been reported as being seedlings of *Hatsu garashu*.

The herbaceous peony from Japan called *Kakoden* is a pure white, early bloomer, flowers are large, while not full double, has a strong stem and leaves are attached directly to the flower, with very slight evidence of stamens.

The variety *Kokko-no-tsukasa* is generally considered to be correctly named as *Kokuho Tsukasa*. I have made a close study of several of these maroon colored tree peonies and in my opinion, this variety is similar to *Hatsu garashu* and *Kokkoshi*, with *Ubatama*, another one of the same color, a smaller flowered edition of the above.

I had a good deal of correspondence with a grower in Japan, who does some unusual grafting on tree peonies. He has taken good understock and grafted 2-3 cions on one root. I do not have a photograph of the varieties *Godaishu* and *Akashi jishi* grafted on one root but both are flowering and doing nicely on 4-5 year old plants in a Japanese garden. I am not prepared to say whether this is advisable but it sounds very interesting. There is a Japanese who claims the variety *Chihiro-no-sato* as being his own introduction. I have been informed that this resembles greatly the variety *Yoi sugata*.

I have just received letters from the foremost growers of tree peonies in Japan. One has selected the following as his favorites; the second list was selected according to popularity of the variety and not to the general beauty of the bloom.

## FIRST LIST

<b>*Meikow</b>	<i>Terute Nishiki</i>
<b>Manju (Okina jishi)</b>	<i>Kinkaden</i>
<b>Kamikaze (Jimpu)</b>	<i>Hinomaru (Mikuninohata)</i>
<b>Tamafuyo</b>	<i>Arashiyama (Ranzan)</i>
<b>Hanakisoi</b>	<i>Nissho</i>
<b>Abokiu</b>	<i>Gessekai</i>
<b>Yaezakura</b>	<i>Hatsu hinode</i>
<b>Genkimon</b>	<i>Mifukumon</i>
<b>Hodai</b>	<i>Momoyama</i>
<b>Iwatokagami</b>	<i>Tsukumo jishi</i>
<b>Kamada fuji</b>	<i>Shichifukujin</i>
<b>Kokkono tsukasa</b>	<i>Taisho no nikare</i>
<b>Haru geshiki</b>	<i>Sangokai</i>
<b>Kinko (Alice Harding)</b>	<i>Kintei (L'Esperance)</i>

## SECOND LIST

<b>Nishikinotsuya</b>	<i>Imashojo</i>
<b>Nishikijima</b>	<i>Kasugayama</i>
<b>Arashiyama</b>	<i>Tachiyo jishi</i>
<b>Fosotukasa</b>	<i>Shinkagura</i>
<b>Kai-haku-hatsu</b>	<i>Kansenden</i>
<b>Taiyo</b>	<i>Yukinoakebono</i>
<b>Taishonohikari</b>	<i>Yukidoro</i>
<b>Suigan</b>	<i>Terukuni</i>
<b>Renkaku</b>	<i>Aya goromo</i>
<b>Goshozakura</b>	<i>Tamafuyo</i>
<b>Tama nishiki</b>	<i>Kasugano</i>
<b>Yaezakura</b>	<i>Gyokushokaku</i>

\*The variety *Meikow* is the same as *Shinseiki*. This variety was introduced in commerce before the war in the center of Hyogo Prefecture. Soon after the war, Chugai Nursery exported it, using the name of *Meikow*. There is some feeling that the variety *Meikow-no-Tsukasa* is possibly the same thing. Several Hyogo growers have taken this variety and have sold this as *Shintenchu*, which of course, is an entirely different variety.

Note: The article on stem rot is one of the few letters we have had on such troubles. We hope Mr. Koby will let us know his experiences with his plants this summer.

—Editor.

## THIS IS MY STORY

MRS. D. Y. DUNN, LEXINGTON, KY.

Once upon a time a lady school teacher, while passing along the road between her home and school, noticed in a yard nearby an enormous peony plant literally covered with immaculate white blooms. A little later she found herself the recipient of a specimen bloom from that plant—a bloom of snowy white touched at the heart with green, a bloom fresh and pure as the morning dew. And she learned that its name was *Duchesse de Nemours*.

The student who presented this bloom said, in effect, "Have you seen the peony test garden of our local nursery? They have a plot of three acres where may be seen many different varieties, all labeled for easy identification." The teacher replied that although she had not then visited this beautiful garden, it would not be long before she would. And so she went. She went early. She went midseason. She went late.

The memory of those gorgeous flowers, row on row, is still with her. She saw for the first time beautiful *Estafette*—cup shaped, silver tipped, rosy pink; *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, brilliant and beautiful; *Walter Faxon*, in softer salmon; *Golden Harvest*, *Bunker Hill*, *Longfellow*, *Venus* and ever so many more. She saw *Baroness Schroeder*, large and strong, her bloom stems studded as if by hand, and her petals like chiseled marble. She inhaled the sweet fragrance of *Mme. de Verneville*, *Eduis Superba*, *Duke of Wellington* and *Martha Bulloch*. She resolved that even though she was a school teacher who did not then own her home, she would start her own planting of peonies anyway. She would hope, and believe, that somehow these flowers would follow her and

that before too long she would own her own garden where they could be at home evermore.

And, sure enough, that fall found this teacher planting her beloved first selections in a rented garden. And, true to her hope and trust, these flowers did follow her. She has long since quit teaching school and now owns her home in beautiful Cherokee park. Her residence lot is fairly large and, although she has more than a hundred varieties, she still wants more. She wants *Largo* - and *Margaret Lough* - and *Dr. F. C. Brethour* - *Lottie Dawson Rea* - and *Summer Glory*. She wants *Carolynae Mae Nelson* - and *Kansas* - and *Chippewa* - and *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine* - and *Onondaga*. She wants *Arcturus* - and *Sky Pilot* - and *Pico, ad infinitum*. She wonders if she will ever have enough space for all the lovely peonies she wants.

This lady takes her vacation in May and June. Then she spends her husband's Christmas check visiting gardens and attending peony shows. Last year she went to Sarcoxie, Mo., where she saw 135 acres of peonies in bloom, reveled in the magnificence of the National peony show and saw such nice people as the Wilds, of Sarcoxie, Mrs. John A. Tharp, of Winfield, Kans., Mr. Peyton, Mr. Christman, Mr. Murawska, Dr. Hyde, Mr. Mason, the Loren Franklins, Mr. Karrels and daughter, and the A. M. Rileys, Independence, Kans., Mr. H. M. Hill, one of her first benefactors, and many others. This year, 1951, she attended the National show in Cleveland with the same delightful experiences, there meeting Mr. Gayle, Mr. van Loon, Mr. Wassenberg, the Louis Smirnows, Mr. Auten, Mr. Glasscock and others.

Due to the nature of her husband's work this former teacher spends many evenings alone at

home. But she is never lonely. Her beloved peony catalogs, saved through many years, are always nearby. She reads them over and over again with continuing interest and satisfaction. She fully expects the "golden streets" of heaven to be lined with peonies. For she thinks she might be lonely there without them.

### Peony Performance In Kentucky

Since the editor of our A. P. S. bulletin has requested reports from different sections of the country on the performance of peonies, we are contributing our bit from Kentucky. The following is a composite report based upon data compiled over a test period of 25 years by Hillenmeyer Nurseries, of Lexington, and upon the memory of the writer with respect to the varieties in her garden.

As will be noted, the field covered consists of all three types—doubles, singles and Japs—and for the most part, of the older varieties, those which will cost the buyer not more than (to use Mr. Gayle's expression) "a buck or a buck and a half." Four plants of each variety were grown and were judged according to five qualities, or characteristics: plant vitality, amount of bloom, quality of bloom, stem, foliage. The ratings given were: excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor.

It was the intention of Hillenmeyer to check the test plot at least three times during each blooming season, early, midseason and late. But, due to the stress of other duties, that was not always possible. And although the data assembled was not complete in all respects, it may well be considered as authoritative.

The writer has in her garden a goodly number of the newer varie-



ties but some of them have not bloomed for a sufficient number of years to warrant reliable testimony as to their true merits. However, a report is given for what it is worth, the last mentioned varieties in each group being those observed.

Too much space would be required to give the complete record, so we are grouping the varieties into three classes: (1) those averaging very good to excellent, (2) those averaging good and (3) those fair to poor. The varieties and their ratings are as follows:

Very Good to Excellent—

*Clairette, LeJour, Ruigegno, Nippon Beauty, Rashoomon, Torino-maki, Mikado, The Moor, Lacinata, Harriet Olney, L'Etincelante, Karl Rosenfield, Myrtle Gentry, Venus, Reine Hortense, Georgiana Shaylor, Festiva Maxima, Mme. de Verneville, Edulis Superba, Mons. Jules Elie, Richard Carvel, Longfellow, Martha Bulloch, Cornelia Shaylor, Bunker Hill, Baroness Schroeder, Cherry Hill.*

*Estafette, Adolphe Rousseau, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Minnie Shaylor, Elsa Sass, Duluth, Jeannot, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Hermione, Better Times, Mme. Emile Debatene, Victoire de la Marne, Rosabel, Ozark Beauty, Candeur, Nanette, White Delight, Mons. Dupont, Mme. Emile Galle, Duchesse de Nemours, Mr. L. van Leeuwen, La Perle.*

Good—

*Krinkled White, Akalu, Ama-nosode, Alma, Waseca, Duchess of Portland, Mischief, Laverne Christman, Phyllis Kelway, Souvenir de Louis Bigot, Therese, Lady Alexandra Duff, Susan White, Mrs. Edward Harding, Evangeline Newhall, Walter Faxon, Grover Cleveland, Rose Shaylor, Samuel Hughes, Sarah Bernhardt, Francois Ortegat, Marie Jacquin.*

*Grace Batson, Frances Willard,*

*Eugenie Verdier, Golden Harvest, Clemenceau, Judge Berry.*

Fair to Poor—

*Prairie Afire, Mrs. Mac, Snow Wheel, Josephine, Some-ganoko, King of England, Philippe Rivoire, Felix Crousse, Rosamond Grant, Wilton Lockwood, Elise Renault, Mme. Gauthier, Le Cygne, Mrs. Romaine B. Ware, Mary Brand, David Harum, Solange, Tourangelle, Nancy Dolman, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Alsace Lorraine, Kelway's Glorious, Auguste Dessert, Avalanche, Mme. Emile Lemoine.*

## THE 1951 PEONY SEASON —A Report from La Grange, Illinois

Francis P. Tikalsky

The 1951 peony season, in our particular area, which is just about fifteen miles southwest of Chicago, approached the fulfillment of our fondest dreams and hopes. We did not have any of those hot, blistering days which we normally have and only one rainfall doused the flowers during the entire blooming period, which is in contrast to last season, when we broke all records for precipitation during the months of May and June.

We had an early snow in the fall and from that time until the buds on the forsythia unfurled, we had a good covering of snow and few of those disastrous periods of alternating freezes and thaws.

So we had an enviable display of fine blooms in our garden from the time that *Peach Blow* opened its gorgeous buds until the petalage of reliable *Lady Kate* fell to the ground. Every one of the two hundred varieties in our planting bloomed exceptionally well, except our unnamed seedling that failed to make the grade. Yes, by far, the season that just passed was the best within our memory.

Four years ago, I was determined to acquire some new outstanding varieties, that I had watched with interest, in our local community for some time and was certain that they would be reliable, too, in my own garden. This garden was already crowded and they could not be accepted until room was made for them. Seven plants, therefore, had to be culled out, and I chose these for the bum's rush without batting an eye, because they performed very poorly, some having never opened in my garden: *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*, *Lillian Gumm*, *Hans P. Sass*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Hansina Brand*, *A. B. Franklin*, and *Martha Bulloch*. All of these had been reported as unbeatable up north and I acquired them principally on their show performances.

Many of the local gardeners and neighbors know that I start digging and planting peonies around Labor Day. They know, too, that the culls can be had, if they just take them away. So they inquired and were on deck to carry off the surplus. In the presence of five waiting, eager gardeners, I boisterously degraded the culls as absolutely useless when grown in our locality. But gardeners are the only members of the entire kingdom that seem to thrive on hope alone. In spite of my warnings, these varieties were given welcome spots in their gardens. At that time, I felt very sorry for these stubborn people, who would not listen to the wisdom and recommendations of a person who had had practical experience and demonstrated performances with the varieties that were culled out. Well, four years later, or to be more exact, this year, I received five separate and frantic calls, via phone, to come and see the "gorgeous" blooms on the culls. I went to each of the five gardens and Glory Be, Holy Cats, etc., I

saw about the most breath-taking beauties that I ever saw in any garden around these parts at least! And how the gardeners smiled in childish glee and queried about a thousand times, "What do you think of these varieties that you threw out now?" These questions I interpreted as a sort of salt in an open wound and these smiles, how cynical and sarcastic they seemed! My prestige as an authority, if I ever had prestige, descended lower than the prevailing television necklines. Words explaining the reasons for the exceptional flowers on these temperamental varieties were of no avail, so I had to go on an humble-pudding diet. But just for the spite of things or because I would like to see my ego elevated, I wouldn't wish for failures on these seven in succeeding years, no sir, not me, but I'll bet my tin gun and hop-along hat that they will prove to be "busts" again. Wanna bet?

These throw-outs that performed so outstandingly this year, were replaced by these: *Victory*, *Moonstone* *Margaret Lough*, *Kansas*, *Westerner*, *Cathie Ann* and *Ruth Elizabeth*. They did exceptionally well this year too, as they did as younger plants, last year, under very unfavorable conditions. I think that, year in and year out, in this locality, they will far outperform those that were given the heave-ho. So the giver and the recipients are happy and isn't that the way it should be?

Here is a summary of the good performers along with a word or two about some disappointments this past season.

*Margaret Lough* was the best bloom in my garden and it was something to behold. This variety always does well and, in my opinion is a very much improved *Mrs. Edward Harding*. *Le Cygne* again gave a very fine account of itself.

It always does well with me. This may be due to the fact that I put two baskets of gravel about a foot or two below the level of the surface of the garden, right under the plant. This was the recommendation of the late Harry Lawrence of Elmhurst, Illinois. I thought I would pass this along since I never had *Le Cygne* to disappoint me, while others find it a very uncertain performer.

The trinity, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Nick Shaylor* and *Elsa Sass* did splendidly as they always do. *La Lorraine* again was something warranting more than just a look and only one "Ah!"

*Daphne* was outstanding and so was *President Wilson*. My four year plant of *Victory* produced enormous blossoms of fine quality and easily justified the twenty bucks that I parted with to acquire it.

*Kansas* was a "bullseye" with its grand stalks and unusual coloring. It attracted much attention. The older variety, *Grace Ott*, was exquisite. *Karl Rosenfield* put on its customary good show and performance. *Moonstone* lit up a drab corner of the yard like a light house on a clear, dark night. *Kelway's Glorious* was its usual large size and fine form.

The Japs just ran rampant. I have a large planting of them and not a single one failed to put over a top-notch show.

It is difficult to pick a single best one out of such a stellar display. *Westerner*, I would say, was again the best. This is almost a perfect gem, if the color would only hold up a little better. *Lotus Queen* was beautiful, retaining its cup-shape until the petals relaxed and fell. *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft*, *Dignity*, *Shaylor's Sunburst*, *Hari-ai-nin*, *Onahama*, and *Break o'Day* were just grand.

The singles showed well too. *Le Jour* was about the best, followed by *Helen*, *Sea Shell*, *Dancing Nymph* and *Black Prince*. An old old variety, *Saul*, never registered with our Society, was by far the largest, but did not retain the fine form it had upon opening, for a desirable period.

I shopped around the vicinity to get some information on three varieties that I wanted to acquire. *Pico* had very good words said about it, so that was one of the objects of my research. I saw it in three places and I did not see a blossom that would hasten my pulse one iota. It was growing within arm's reach of old *Exquisite* on a matured plant, in James Mason's garden and did not come within a gunshot of this fine old performer. So, I'll wait another year and then take another peek at *Pico*.

The next one was *Florence Nicholls* and this time I really got a "hopping-up" and a good eyefull. I saw this fine variety in four fields and it was outstanding in everyone of them. So, there's one that is just a must-have.

The third object of my search was an old-time, over-looked, single, *Mischief*. This impish, dark pink single, with good form and no petal notches, looks like something outstanding. It was fine wherever I saw it grow. This one I also must have.

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Never dig and plant an old peony without dividing it into divisions of from two to five eyes. Larger ones may give fine results the first year, but often fail after that. Never plant where a peony has been planted before unless all the soil is removed and replaced with new.

# GARD - EM - KEY

## REGION NO. TWO

BEN R. MASSEY, *President*

The 1951 season was a good one in this area. It was about two weeks earlier than average. Writers to the Bulletin often say their buds have been damaged by late frost. I have never seen that happen here. Perhaps that unfortunate experience will catch up with us yet.

The Peony fan has no dull months. No sooner has one blooming season finished than he starts thinking about what's cooking for the next time. The first bloom of a new variety in the plot brings about as much excitement as the arrival of a new baby. This is why peony people live long.

This season I saw my first peony show in a department store. The store contributed liberally of its space and facilities. It was one of the occasions where everyone seemed to profit. Certainly there was good wholesome publicity and new visitors to the establishment. Region No. 2 of the Peony Society had an excellent place to stage its bloom; an ideal setup it would seem. Much of the credit for thinking this out goes to the president of the American Peony Society.

Speaking of Flower Shows, the State Federation of Garden Clubs of New Jersey, instead of having its Fall Show, had a Spring Show this year, so we got in a few good licks with peony blooms. As a suggestion, if your local Garden Club has always had a Fall Show, you might suggest it is jolly well time they have a Spring Show—at peony time, of course. The good women of the gardens are very cooperative in these things.

In Region No. 2, all eyes are turned to Lake Mohawk for 1952. A

great spell of calm seems to prevail at the Lake (40 miles from where I sit now). Even van Loon is quiet. Everything is quiet. Such calmness may be just a buildup for what is about to happen. We shall see what we shall see.

This I just learned from a customer. The opening remark was hers and the frequent query of why doesn't my peony behave better. It was finally and definitely established that she had been moving her plant around in the same fashion that some folks move their furniture from place to place. The last time the move was made a fowl had just perished, so a hole, or grave, was dug. The fowl was planted in the bottom and the peony was buried in the upper section. What will happen now is the question? I am at the end of my rope.

I was going to say some things about the lazy people who have not sent in their articles to help Mr. Peyton in his new responsibility. At second thought, I fear I too have erred—so I will just skip that.

The September Bulletin discusses the publication of a handbook. I would like to add my suggestions. No doubt there is important information about that publication with which I am not familiar but looking at it from this distance, here are my thoughts.

A thousand copies is entirely too small a quantity to get a decent price from the publishers. Furthermore, \$5.00 per copy is entirely too much for this sort of publication. If it goes out at this price we will sell a few to our own members and that is about all, I fear.

It was very generous of Mr. Wild

to offer to underwrite one hundred of these at \$5.00 a copy. However, instead of one hundred copies, perhaps Mr. Wild could handle several hundred copies at a popular price, and little increase in total cost. For a popular price I have in mind from \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Here is what the Iris Society did. They put out an excellent handbook full of good, practical, usable information (224 pages)—good paper and good print; the paper-bound copy \$1.50—the cloth \$2.50. At the end of two years their supply of five thousand is exhausted so they are revising and republishing it.

I have a paper-bound copy and it is quite good enough. I do not think the general garden public will buy such a book at \$5.00. I do think it can be sold to them, in quantities, at \$1.50 to \$2.50. If these are not distributed in quantities we are not accomplishing our main purpose in the first place. I suggest the following points be considered.

1. That the secretary, at the proper time, ask the publishers for prices in two or three different quantity lots. If we need to go to five thousand copies to get a good price we should consider it.

2. That the officers consider some special setup to promote the sale of this handbook and not leave all that detail work for the secre-

tary. Maybe it could be organized in each district.

3. Since our secretary is overworked and underpaid and probably always will be, I suggest some nominal percentage of the returns of all books be given the secretary personally for his extra time and work to handle this publication.

4. Once this book is out we should figure on revising and republishing it at least every four or five years; otherwise, we are selling an obsolete publication.

5. It is the practice of commercial growers to give many of their customers extras. What would be more suitable than a good handbook?

6. Since we have no funds in the treasury, perhaps we will have to finance the book the hard way, as already suggested—pay for our books in advance.

7. Perhaps our Iris friends could give us some helpful suggestions in our first attempt in this direction. If anyone wishes to examine their handbook and ask for suggestions, here is the information. The publication, "The Iris, An Ideal Hardy Perennial," paper binding \$1.50.

Geddes Douglas, Secretary,  
American Iris Society,  
444 Chestnut Street,  
Nashville, 10, Tennessee.

## DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following varieties, whose names have been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, are presented for registration by the originators or owners as noted:

By Fred E. Winslow, Route 2 Salem, Indiana, originator and owner.

BONNIE WINSLOW (Winslow, 1951). Double. Midseason. Light rose pink. Seedling No. 27. Broad

guard petals of sparkling pink or light rose, inner petals narrower and incurved, silvered with pink. Mildly fragrant. Tall, strong stems, medium to light green foliage. Substance good. As the flower expands the central petals increase in size, but retain the same general shape. It resembles *Mons. Jules Elie* in size, shape and color but blooms a few days later.

**DARWIN** (Winslow, 1951). Single. Midseason. Dark red. Seedling No. 5. Guard petals dark red. Center of yellow stamens. Color of stigmas and disc not stated. Medium height. Vigorous grower. Strong stems. Good foliage. In opening the buds resemble a large Darwin tulip, hence its name.

**MARDI GRAS** (Winslow, 1951). Japanese. Midseason. Dark red. Seedling No. 16. Large bright dark red guard petals of excellent substance. Center of flat petalodes dark red with bright buff edges. These increase in length and width as the bloom develops. No color

given for stigmas and disc. Height above medium. Its height and striking color causing the plant to stand out boldly in the garden make its name seem fitting. It is slightly fragrant.

**PINK JEWEL** (Winslow, 1951). Single, Early. Bright pink. Seedling No. 1. Bright pink guard petals with a striking center of yellow stamens. Medium height. Good stems. Vigorous and of good substance. Blooms in clusters which prolong the blooming period. Very showy in the garden. No color given for stigmas or disc.

## BEST PEONIES

**NOTE:** The following reports are taken mainly from letters received by me.

### ALABAMA

**POPE M. LONG, SR., CORDOVA, ALABAMA.**

This season has been one of the worst on record. To illustrate, my two or three dozen clumps of *Festiva Maxima* did not open one bloom due to several hard frosts after growth had started. The same report for *Kelway's Glorious* and most other varieties. But *Big Ben* opened every bud on my two dozen clumps. Why the difference?

My own health has been very bad so I could give no personal attention. My 79 years of age make recovery difficult and slow.

*Victory* was quite nice and was my last plant to bloom. *Mattie LaJuze* was very beautiful, but *Mrs. Farrand* was a "bust." *Big Ben* gave me my first bloom and all clumps opened all buds into glorious blossoms. By far my best red.

The best Jap was *Westerner*.

*Prairie Belle* from a distance of forty or fifty feet looked like a perfect bi-color of orange and very

light pink. The orange center was only stamens produced in enormous numbers. There was no prettier bloom in the garden. This is really a "knock out" for garden use; so unique. All my plants now have rich green foliage and excellent growth. I expect 1952 to be a great peony year. I hope I shall be spared to see my garden in full bloom once more.

May 22, 1951.

### ILLINOIS

**E. C. FREED, GROVESIDE GARDENS, DOWNER'S GROVE, ILLINOIS.**

1. *Le Cygne*, white, constant repeater for 18 years and always a show winner for us. I think underrated at 9.4. I would settle for about 9.7.

2. *Kelway's Glorious*, when it hits it is immense and would outpoint *Le Cygne* if it were not so shaggy.

3. *Therese*, pink, constant in its performance regardless of the season.

4. *Isani Gidui*, large blooms on tall upright stems. Seems to attract attention.



5. *Onahama*, dinner plate size, seems as if it stops the crowds on field days if in bloom.

6. *Victory*, very good performer. I was afraid it was given too much of a push, but I have decided that it is living up to all claims.

I am stopped. All I can say is that they are all tops in their field and like people, some are large, some are small, some are fat, others are thin, but look for their good qualities and you will love them each one and all for the rest of your life.

I think each variety listed plus many others are wonderful performers in this area. The following are exceptions:

*Solange*, temperamental and does not bloom every year. But when it hits, I sell out all in the garden in spite of all I tell people.

*Tourangelle*, also is temperamental, but like *Solange* is outstanding when right.

By the way, do not ever overlook *Nancy Dolman* for a late. We have had it blooming on the Fourth of July as the latest of them all.

## MISSOURI

MRS. O. T. GOUVERNEUR

*White Cloud Farm*  
*Carthage, Missouri*

Kansas did beautifully again this year and *King Midas* was a surprise to me, the form was as good as *Philippe Rivoire* and every bloom of exhibition quality. But for us it does not store well, as it seems to lose much of its size if cut in the bud. *Jean Cooperman* seems to be a sadly overlooked peony. For us it is very good, yet no one ever mentions it. *Noel* is certainly an outstanding garden flower. It was simply loaded with flowers. Though its form is not what I would call good, it is certainly a stand out in the patch. People coming to the house,

when it was in bloom saw it although it was planted 200 feet from the house and insisted on our cutting some of it for them.

Our peonies were lots better than they were last year. It would have been awfully hard to beat Kansas for best flower again.

I do wish there were a local show for this section, preferably not commercialized too much. It would stimulate a world of interest in peonies, but evidently the big wigs are not much interested. If an amateur grower around Kansas City were interested enough to get behind and push such a show, it would be an ideal spot. (How about it Kansas City?—*Editor*).

## OHIO

DR. HERBERT H. HOLLIGER, HURON, OHIO.

I went over my peonies and divided them into four groups as follows:

FIRST GROUP: Peonies of incredible beauty and exhibition quality:

1. *Mattie Lafuze* (seven inches in diameter and five deep).

2. *Myrtle Gentry*.

3. *George W. Peyton*, (a few on a plant).

4. *June Giant*.

SECOND GROUP: Peonies from which we picked blooms to give away to friends, churches, etc. this year: *Sir John Franklin*, (good but small), *Nick Shaylor*, *Hansina Brand*, *Walter Faxon*, *Jean Harlow*, *Edith M. Snook*, *Therese*, (some ten inches in diameter) *Eled Sass*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Nancy Dolman*, (nice and tall) *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Cornelia Shaylor*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mons. Jules Elie*.

THIRD GROUP: Good garden peonies, not good enough for picking for various reasons this year. *Summer Cloud* (might improve), *Annisquam* (small), *B. B. Wright*,

Mrs. Livingston Farrand, (poor), Burma, Red Cloud, Louise Losing, Minuet, Le Cygne, Alice Harding, Mary Brand, Solange, Snow Mountain, A. B. Franklin, Primevere, Laura Kelsey, White Gull, Longfellow, Kelway's Glorious, Mons. Martin Cahuzac, King Midas, Alex D. Vories.

A number of the peonies in Group 3 may be better next year. However, this is how they did this year.

FOURTH GROUP: One and two-year-olds not reportable: Yosemite, Tempest, Victoire de la Marne, Onondaga, Shawnee Chief, Moon glow, Ruth Elizabeth, Kansas, Victory, Dolorodell, Dorothy J., Mount Everest.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

W. B. MEACHAM, FORT MILL, S. C.

I have before me, on my desk, perfect blooms of *Elsa Sass* and *Victory*. These are the very last to bloom for me. *Elsa Sass* was perfect this year, its first good bloom. In fact every plant I had put on a big parade and my near half-acre, very densely planted, was a solid mass of bloom, some plants having as many as 38 blooms.

My first bloom was on the 27th of April and a few scattered blooms remain today (May 19, 1951). It was a short blooming season with not a drop of rain. In fact we are very dry.

In singles, *Pico* and *Le Jour* are rivals, with the odds to *Pico* because of its rank, healthy growth. *Sea Shell* was very good.

I have about 25 red Japs and singles, entirely too many and too much similarity.

*Phyllis Kelway* I like more and more. *Kelway's Glorious* and *Therese* were very good. *President Wilson* and *Nancy Dolman* are equal to the best. Probably the most

beautiful plant I had was *Auten's Gay Paree*. His *Do Tell* must improve over the past three years. His *Radiant Red* is good. This, with *King Midas* a different type from *Philippe Rivoire*, are the best with *Philippe Rivoire* tops.

For some unexplained reason, I have lost and continue to lose every hybrid I have ever planted.

If anyone ever comes up with a better plant and bloom than *Rapture* I will take it.

Only a very few of my over 200 plants are less than four to ten years old, some are around twenty-five years in the same location. And they told me you could not grow Peonies in South Carolina!

### MY 1951 PEONY SEASON

GEORGE W. PEYTON

Starting with the opening of *Seraphim*, that interesting hybrid single, on April 26 and ending on June 29th, my season was one of many pleasant surprises and few disappointments.

My own plants are all very young. The oldest of them were planted in the fall of 1949 and so they are not very mature. Yet they gave me some good flowers. I have about thirty hybrids. Of these *Golden Glow*, with its brilliant orange red flowers, *Cardinal's Robe* bright red, *Chocolate Soldier* dark red, *Lovely Rose* light pink, *Grace Root*, salmony pink, *Skylark* distinctive rose pink and *Sophie* bright cherry were the best this year.

The only tree peony that opened was on a small plant of *Sagura-kagami* set last fall. It is a delicate reddish pink single or semi-double.

Of the white singles *Pico* was as usual the best. It is distinctive with its strong stems and rather light green foliage. My own origination, *Dunlora*, is to me an attractive

flower with its vivid green carpels in the center of a flower of purest white set low in a nest of dark green leaves. It is rather small until the plant is mature when it reaches large size. A new one to me was *Rebecca Wright*. It is a large white with stigmas also white. It has tall stems and is a good flower. One of the nicest in the garden was the new one from Holland, *White Wings*. The flower is large and well formed with red stigmas which makes it a rival of *LeJour*. It has good foliage and strong stems of medium height. *Virginia Dare* is certainly a fine garden subject with its medium sized flowers of pure white borne on tall stems. Of course *Le Jour* and *Krinkled White* gave the usual good account of themselves. *White Perfection* is a flower of great purity and attraction. *Angelus* is about the finest light blush pink and *Sea Shell* still reigns supreme among the pinks. However its sister, *Dawn Pink*, slightly darker in color, is its close rival. *Imperial Red* was exceptionally tall this year and it seemed its color was a darker red than usual. It is certainly one of the best of all reds. *Man o'War* was the only other red single that bloomed for me. It is also a grand one, large and brilliant color with strong stems of medium height. *Thelma* is tall, large and bright pink.

I think without doubt that the most beautiful flower I saw during the entire season, was a bloom of *Isani Gidui* in a neighbor's garden. The grace and charm of this flower are unsurpassed. Mr. Auten has certainly produced some great white Japs. I do not have all of them, but two, *Moon of Nippon* and *Christine* were of exceptional beauty. *Gold Standard* is large with strong tall stems and its stamens are fully transformed, making it quite different from the oth-

ers. *Lotus Queen* is not as tall as the others and has attractive flowers of fine form. It well deserves the many honors it won this year.

Among the pink Japs, *Westerner* was probably the best. However there were two that were new to me which were remarkable for their beauty and brilliance of flower. *Golden Sun* is an origination of the late J. F. Rosenfield and is little known. It is large and medium rose pink with a brilliant yellow center. The second is *Doreen*, a Jacob Sass seedling. Its color is soft and pleasing. Its plant habit is good. Certainly one of the most spectacular of all Japs is *Sky Pilot*, tall, strong-stemmed with very dark green foliage. Its flower is large and its color a dark pink with brilliant yellow center.

*Break o'Day* is a Jap of distinctive coloring with its two tones of red. It might be called a novelty Jap. Certainly the newcomer from Holland *Bowl of Beauty* with its glowing pink guards and almost white center belongs to this class. It makes a showy spot of color in the garden.

If you wish good garden plants by all means plant singles and Japs. They are now nearly all moderate in price and lavish in bloom.

Many of the semi-doubles rank as the most beautiful, charming and attractive of all peonies. Those which did particularly well for me this year were: *Aerie* light blush, strong of stem and medium height; *Perrette* an old one from France that has been almost completely overlooked, also a blush; *Mildred May*, purest white, tall and one of the best for the garden we have; *Miss America* large, blush tinted and strong stemmed. Many think it as fine a peony as we have. This is one of the little known van Steen varieties. *Ave Maria* is another from van Steen with more pink and

possibly fewer stamens. *Titania* is the giant of the lot, though its name would certainly not indicate that. It is white with tall, good stems. Many years ago, on one of my visits to Boston, I saw in the garden of Mr. Herbert Chase of Andover, Massachusetts, a fine blush of his origination which he had named for his father, *Albie Chase*. The late W. C. Otis sent me a root of it and it is still one of the best I have. It is quite similar to *Minnie Shaylor* but not as tall and has blush stigmas. *Lily White* was almost a full double this year. It has extra strong stems and is a nice flower. *Rose of Tralæ*, another van Steen variety, was good. It is medium pink, not large, and rather dwarf in growth.

I shall not take up space to say much about the older full doubles. As usual in my garden, *Kelway's Glorious* and its counterpart *Mrs. James Kelway* proved that they are about the best all-round doubles we have. I have never been able to fully make up my mind as to whether they are really identical. Some years I think they are and then there seem to be minor differences. The truth of the matter is that they are probably both seedlings of *James Kelway* and so quite similar if not identical. *Le Cygne* and *Solange* gave me good flowers, which does not often happen here.

On a plant set last fall (1950), *Mother's Choice* gave me a beautiful flower with its delicate creamy pink coloring which is quite uniform over the flower. It has a symmetrical rosette form. Good stems.

The late Mr. E. F. Kelsey originated a variety that he named *Patrician*, which I had long wanted to see. Mr. Christman sent me a fine large plant of it and this year it made good flowers. It is a medium sized flower with broad flaring guards and a globular center which

keeps its form well. The color is a pleasing soft rose pink with some white in the center. It has good stems and foliage and is attractive. It might be a good cut flower if its stems are long enough.

Possibly the one watched with as much interest as any was *Florence Ellis*. This is an exceptionally strong grower with medium tall, heavy stems and dark green foliage. In spite of the thrips, which got many of my late flowers, it opened very well its uniform light rose pink blooms. The plant is one of the most attractive in the garden and bids fair to equal in excellence that other magnificent variety also named for Mrs. Nicholls, *Florence Nicholls*, than which there is no better garden plant. It is also a fine exhibition flower. Of quite different form, but running it a close race for supremacy is *Mandaleen*. This performed with its usual excellence.

Strange to say, that Canadian variety *Louise Lossing*, nearly always opens its massive flowers well for me. It did not fail this year. Murawska's new brilliant pink, *Kate Smith*, did its duty also. It has good form and showy coloring. Its plant is also excellent.

Some years ago I saw listed in Mr. Brand's field book a variety from Dr. J. H. Neeley, *Great Dream*. He sent me a plant of it and when it bloomed this year it seemed to me to be identical with Dr. Neeley's *Matchless Beauty*. I placed them side by side and I could see no difference. They both had light rose pink guards almost white with a large center of bright yellow shorter petals with some pink intermingled. My stock of *Matchless Beauty* was sent me by Dr. Neeley himself. However, I find it described in some lists as creamy white. I wonder if they are really

the same. Maybe some one can tell me.

*Helen Hayes*, a medium sized dark pink, showed up exceedingly well. Jacob Sass' *Trumpeter* gave promise of being a good red. It has good color, stems and form.

The best red in the garden was *King Midas* which gave fine flowers of beautiful form on its good stems. *Ruth Elizabeth* also made good flowers on a very small plant.

The only variety of Mr. Walter Guille that I have is *Ada Priscilla*. This is a tall, strong stemmed plant with flowers built up in pyramidal form. It has wide, well rounded, flaring guards, white with a globular collar of yellow fading to white. It makes an excellent garden subject. As it bloomed for me the Holland variety *Blush Queen* was somewhat similar. This also has excellent stems and foliage.

The other Holland varieties that bloomed made only small flowers this year. It seems that all of them are maybe worth while. The only one that did not bloom was *Vogue* which is said to be fourteen inches in diameter. This was the only one that did bloom for several others. But it was not fourteen inches in diameter, though quite large.

*Victory* and *Mattie Lafuze* were on the job as they usually are.

The local garden club held a meeting at which I made a talk on Peonies and showed some two dozen or more varieties. Among them were about a dozen hybrids that had been cut from ten days to three weeks before and held in my household refrigerator. They came through in excellent condition though they had been cut wide open. Evidently hybrids are good keepers in storage.

My season closed about June 1, though there were some scattering blooms a little later.

## EVERY MEMBER A MISSIONARY

Several years have passed since I've annoyed our dear readers, so by now you surely will have developed an immunity to my intermittent outbursts. Frankly—I am amazed as to how the Bulletin has survived during this period without my prolific pen and weighty words of wisdom. Hell—it even got better and better so it's time for me to do something about it.

This outburst is the result of my overjoy in just having completed planting many peony-roots,—silently grinding away toward my ultimate objective—to reduce the burdensome number. A check-up of my progress reveals a grand total of about seventy additions to last year's total! It is apparent that I am quietly destroying myself with my own hands.

Throughout my earlier career of peony growing there developed a series of emotional and combative convulsions resulting in an uncontrollable desire to grow de-luxe peonies,—primarily for exhibition purposes,—principally to gratify a vulgar vanity. But now I feel the urge to atone so am dedicating my worthless existence to a noble cause—to discover ways and means to acquire additional members for the A.P.S. To accomplish this it is necessary that an effective method of procedure be formulated, so I have compounded a formula wherein every member is a committee to do missionary work.

Enthusiasts in any horticultural pursuit are the result of encouragement and beneficial guidance. The home-gardener is a grower of diversified plant material and thus, at first, is only superficially interested in specific items. Therefore he is not a specialist and is not expected to be familiar with variety

names and habits of the varied assortment of plant material he acquires. He solves the peony problem by purchasing three,—one white,—one pink,—one red. And what a grab-bag he sticks his soil-stained hand into! A bee-u-ti-ful color picture of the outstanding “aristocrats” of the peony world, supplied by chain-stores @ 25c per division. Is it to be expected that this unsophisticated sucker will develop into a peony enthusiast and a potential member of the A.P.S.? It therefore behooves us to spread the gospel by offering our assistance in suggesting the right varieties, where they can be obtained, how to properly plant them,—and possibly by donating a few, if possible, in order to get him started properly on his garden improvement program.

We must keep uppermost in our mind that this individual is interested in his general garden and we must recommend varieties that are adaptable to that usage, and forget the exhibition varieties. Remember that he is not, as yet, a peony fancier but once he possesses, all his own, a fine plant with beautiful flowers—he’s bound to succumb. Carefully scrutinize his eye reflexes for that gleam of adoration such as is seen in a lover’s, or dog’s, eye then strike!

But what constitutes a meritorious garden variety? I have dealt upon this subject for a number of years and have concluded that a satisfactory garden variety must possess the following qualities:

1st: It must have a well formed plant pattern, stand erect and not flop over surrounding flowers, thus creating a disturbing effect. A fine example of plant pattern, in each of the three types, is evident in *Nimbus*, *Hari-ai-nin*, and *Flanders Fields*.

2nd: Foliage should be durable and of fresh, clean color. After the flow-

ering period is over the plant and foliage remains a valuable asset to the garden, due to texture. Texture is a component part of landscape composition and few plants can equal the peony in supplying this quality.

3rd: Stems should be naturally strong and not require artificial support which is unnatural and unsightly.

4th: The blooms should forcefully contribute to a harmonious garden color effect. They should retain their form and color for a reasonable duration and not break-up, shatter, nor fade too soon after reaching their prime point of bloom. Petal persistence relates to the inherent quality that holds the petals firmly to the flower disc. This quality contributes to a neat and tidy garden appearance which is so desirable. Many floriferous varieties fairly erupt myriads of petals making the joint look like a college-girl’s dressing-room.

5th: The price department. The average gardener is not disposed to venture into the high-price field for he has too many other items to consider—rose bushes, rhizomes, corms, bulbs, seed, roots, etc., so he usually restricts his purchases to the moderate-price field. From the price-list of one of the large and reputable commercial growers of peonies, I find the average cost of 36 varieties, which I am recommending to garden friends, to be \$1.82 each. These varieties have been observed for a sufficient number of years to warrant my conscientious approval, for they are all consistent, durable, and beautiful.

The aforesaid list was based on a limitation of 36 varieties embracing the complete color range (6) and the three types. It, of course, does not cover all good garden varieties for such a list would include such plants as “*Reine Hor-*



tense", "Longfellow," "Rose Shaylor," and many others, but I felt it was advisable to limit the number and hold to color-balance, interest, flowering-range, and height variation. My point is this: I concede "Longfellow" to be superior to "Winnifred Domme" but spot position in a well planned garden is an important element and a low red bush supplies a needed accent to a front position. An average gardener would hardly select an initial planting of 36 varieties but I believe in giving him an ample pack to draw from. Once infected, his reaction to good peonies is like poker—starts in as an innocent penny-ante game and winds up at no-limit with everything wild.

As zonal conditions affect the habits of many varieties it would be of interest if members from each of our 9 zones would assemble a list of their garden favorites and submit them for general comparison.

I herewith immodestly expose my "perfect 36":

**DOUBLES:** WHITE—*Elsa Sass, Le Cygne, Mrs. Frank Beach, Mrs. Edw. Harding, Minnie Shaylor (S/D).* BLUSH—*Mary B. Vories, Nimbus, Mme. Jules Dessert, La-Lorraine.* LIGHT PINK—*Myrtle Gentry, Mrs. F.D.R., Minuet, Therese.* MEDIUM PINK—*Mrs. F. A. Goodrich, Lady Kate.* DARK PINK—*Loren Franklin, Aug. Dessert (dark str.) Mme. Debatene.* RED—*Philippe Rivoire, Matilda Lewis, Winnifred Domme, Tempest, Shawnee Chief.*

**JAPANESE:** WHITE—*Shaylor's Sunburst.* PINK—*Largo, Akashigata.* RED—*Nippon Beauty, Goddess, Hari-ai-nin.*

**SINGLES:** WHITE — *Krinkled White.* PINK—*Helen, Sea Shell.* RED — *Flanders Fields, Kickapoo, Imperial Red.*

The name of the misplaced person who wrote this article will be

undisclosed. However—the A.P.S. will award a one-eye division of "*Eduilis Superba*", postage collect, to the lucky person who first wires the correct answer as to his identity.

### A Questionnaire

To carry out the suggestion in the article above, if time permits, a questionnaire will be included in this bulletin which we hope every member who grows any peonies at all will fill out and return. We need this information very badly. It will be used as a basis for recommended varieties for each section and for compilation of a general list of the best. If the questionnaire is not included will each member please send us a list of their favorites in all types, and colors. List the semi-doubles that show prominent stamens, Japs, singles, hybrids and tree peonies in separate lists as it helps in the work of tabulation.

—Secretary

### Additional New Members

A. C. Bothner-By, Box 526, Alamo-gordo, New Mexico.

George L. Sibley, Route No. 3, Jackson, Michigan.

### Errors in Bulletin No. 122, September, 1951

In about half the copies of Bulletin No. 122 (Sept.) mailed, an error was made in the Secretary's report on page 32, voucher No. 141 having been duplicated and No. 142 omitted. Here is what the report should have read and did read in the majority of the bulletins:

141	9-27-50 Geo. W. Peyton, supplement to bulletin No. 118, 1300 copies .....	\$108.33
142	9-27-50 Printing bulletin No. 117 .....	\$421.50

# Secretary's Notes

As so much of the material in this issue is from your secretary's pen, these notes will be held to the minimum.

The contents of this issue are quite varied. We hope you will like them. The article on Metabolism was accompanied by a chart which showed graphically the various parts of the root. We are sorry that it seemed impractical to reproduce it.

We are sure that growing peonies in pots is something new to many. If it proves practical and from the information we have it seems to be, it should open up a large field of revenue for many of our growers.

Many gardens are troubled by Stem Rot or botrytis blight as some call it. Why not try the remedy suggested by Mr. Koby in his article?

New members come in slowly but we hope surely. Few have so far sent in definite resignations.

However many are behind in their dues and we hope this does not mean an avalanche of resignations. We hope as many as can possibly do so will use the blank inclosed to pay their 1952 dues which are payable January 1, 1952. It will save the Society a great deal of scarce money if they will. To send bills to each of our members costs the Society about fifty dollars in postage, stationery and time. Let's save as much of that as possible.

The date of publication of the article to appear in American Home (Let's Go Shopping for Peonies) has been changed to the September 1952 issue as that seems more appropriate. We wish to thank those who have sent in material for use in that article.

We hope to mail the December issue about the middle of the month unless unforeseen circumstances cause delay. We find it takes as much as six weeks for some copies to reach the members.

## NEW MEMBERS

Frank Beneke, Pocahontas, Iowa.

Claude C. Boykin, Route 1, Box 188, Augusta, Georgia.

Mrs. Karl Braun, Middleville, New Jersey.

George Buchholz, Route 2, Falls City, Nebraska.

Miss Teresa F. Coen, 1908 West Grandview Drive, Tacoma 6, Wash.

Stuart W. Condon, 52 Salem Lane, Evanston, Ill.

Mrs. R. G. Ferris, Route 3, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mrs. John W. Ford, Route 3, Shelton Road, Walla Walla, Wash.

William H. Goldsmith, 47 High Street, Danvers, Massachusetts.

A. Wilson, Harlan, Iowa.

Mrs. Lena Hansford, Smithfield, Missouri.

Ph. Henry Hartwig, 3485 Sunnyview Avenue, Salem, Oregon.

Edward A. McFaul, 28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 900, Chicago 4, Ill.

Miss Nell Wilder H. McKnight, Lu-Wy Flowers, 4672 Princeton Road, Memphis 17, Tennessee.

Jule P. Miller, 1401 Arcade Bldg., St. Louis 1, Missouri.

L. E. Nichols, Nichols Nursery, Chillicothe, Missouri.

Percy L. Rogers, Manor Road, Route 1, Front Royal, Virginia.

James E. True, 14 Channel Drive, Kings Point, Long Island, New York.

--(44)--

## Red Charm

Here is what Mr. Howard Stollery of Downsview, Ontario, thinks of it: "*Red Charm*, as observed at Cleveland, has a mild but delicious fragrance, which added to its form and pure color, places it on the top shelf in hybrid 'must haves' in my opinion. I would be interested to know its time of flowering. Perhaps some reader could give accurate information about this."

## Queries

Where may the variety *Tonowanda* be obtained? Whose origination is it?

Does any one have the old red Jap *Diana*?

Can tree peonies be grown successfully in Florida?

Can peonies be grown in Los Angeles County, California or south of it?

Has anyone grown peonies successfully from San Antonio, south in Texas?



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All orders should be sent to the office of the Secretary,  
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Best medium pink: MYRTLE GENTRY, 1948; MARTHA BULLOCH, 1951.

Best dark pink: BLANCHE KING, 1948, 1949, 1951.

Best red: RUTH ELIZABETH, 1948, 1951.

Best white single: KRINKLED WHITE, 1948, 1949.

Best red single: PRES. LINCOLN, 1950.

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For full descriptions of these and other fall offerings of new peonies see our new color catalog which will be issued about May 1. Do not forget that **ANN COUSINS** will be for sale this fall. Also many of the new Nicholls seedlings.

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