

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY *Bulletin*

DECEMBER 1953

BULLETIN NO. 131

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Vice-President: W. A. Alexander, 207 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Treasurer: L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, 4, Minnesota.

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William F. Christman, Northbrook, Illinois. (1956).

Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 South 46th St., Milwaukee 15, Wis. (1956).

L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, 4, Minnesota. (1955).

### DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

No. 2. J. V. Rodimer, Newton, N. J.

No. 5. Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 South 46th Street, Milwaukee 15, Wis.

The above are the only two districts now organized.

### 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 fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members \$5.00 for one year.

### 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 years. Contact the Secretary for prices on other available numbers.

### 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



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DECEMBER, 1953 — No 131

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Peony Loving Friends:

Having been associated with the Society for so many years, I feel I can take the liberty of addressing you as friends, as that is the way I feel about all members of the American Peony Society.

On the 15th of November, 1953, the Fifth District of the A. P. S. had a most enjoyable and profitable meeting and dinner in the city of Milwaukee, Wis. I expect a full account of this meeting will appear in this issue. The afternoon proved much too short to transact the matters needing attention and conduct the peony auction of roots.

I have tried to impress, for a number of years, how important it is to have these regional meetings once or twice a year. I am sure this is the one and only practical way to keep our Society active and the members alert to what is happening in the peony world. These regional shows give members in more remote sections an opportunity to exhibit their bloom and personally meet others interested in the same hobby. The Fifth District is already arranging and planning for their 1954 exhibition, which will be in the Chicago district. Tentative dates for about the second week in June will see this

show beautifully staged and many startling varieties will be on parade to make this a lavish production. Definite dates will appear in the Bulletin. It is planned to stage this exhibition about a week in advance of the Annual Show in Minneapolis, Minn., which will be approximately June 21. Here again, definite dates will be announced in the Bulletin.

Again I want to urge every peony lover or admirer, to make it a point to attend the Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society in Minneapolis, Minn., next June. This will be the Fiftieth Annual Exhibition of the Society and plans and preparation to make this an outstanding event have been in progress for many months, assuring everyone attending, a great floral treat and an opportunity to view and compare the finest new varieties grown. Not only the middle West and central states, but the East will present its finest, and if season permits, Canada will be well represented.

Many states have experienced a record breaking drought, and it is sincerely hoped that this will not be reflected in the quality of bloom we may expect next season. It will give a most excellent opportunity to really evaluate what a peony can

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take and still come through victorious. This is the prime reason I have for being a close devotee and have chosen the peony, with its many splendid attributes, as my favorite perennial.

Take a tip from me and watch the progress of the hybrids and tree peonies at our coming exhibitions.

This will be my opportunity to

extend to you the sincere wishes of your officers and directors for a most Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. My tenure of office will expire at the next Annual Meeting, but not my interest and enthusiasm, which will remain with me to the end.

Most sincerely,

W. F. Christman, President

## The Peony Season In Chicago

By E. C. Bills

5253 N. Winthrop Ave, Chicago, Ill.

The 1953 peony season in the Chicago area was one of considerable confusion among the early, midseason and late varieties.

An excess of moisture and record breaking heat during May and June brought early and late kinds in to bloom at the same time, with the midseason ones coming in sort of hit and miss.

I had Therese and Baroness Schroeder in bloom during the early midseason period.

The season was also shortened by at least a week.

The quality of bloom, however, was average to somewhat above.

My finest bloom this season was Ethel Mars—an enormous, pure white with not a trace of red.

It was one of the finest white blooms I have ever seen.

This variety is bound to go places as it becomes better known. It has just about everything that a high grade peony needs. Sturdy stems which hold the flowers well above the plant, making it a fine landscape subject as well as a good garden variety.

The foliage resembles its parent, Kelway's Glorious. The fragrance is pleasant but a bit delicate.

I believe Ethel Mars will rate 9.4 or better in the new symposium. Mildred May was very fine in my garden. The blooms were unusually large and profuse.

Among the Japs, Lotus Queen and China Maid were beautiful.

Ama-no-sode is always a stand-out and a consistently free bloomer. Dignity is invariably an eye catcher. A beautiful and richly colored flower.

This one is a slow propagator and will probably be rather scarce for some time to come.

I could go on and on with such as Elsa Sass, LeCygne, Nick Shaylor, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Hansina Brand, Marietta Sisson, Matilda Lewis, Chippewa and the old reliable Philippe Rivoire, each one claiming its share of admiration.

As a whole I would say that the season was a better than average success in spite of the uncooperative weather.

# DISTRICT FIVE REPORTING

On November 15, 1953, forty-two eager and peony hungry members and their wives, attended a fall meeting of District Five at the Boulevard Inn, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Roast beet *au jus* and all of the fancy trimmings, were served at noon sharp. Just after the last member got on the outside of his dessert, the business part got under way.

Mr. Marvin C. Karrels, our President, asked the entire assembly to rise and pause for a few moments in silent tribute to the memory of A. M. Brand, Prof. A. P. Saunders and W. W. Cook who slipped over the sunset to their reward, earlier this year.

Mr. Karrels brought out that his term as National Board member expired June, 1953, and at the annual meeting in Kansas City, he was re-elected. But, he brought out, that he was not elected for the purpose of representing District Five, so our District was without representation on the National Board. He also brought out that two courses of action remained, one was for those present, to elect another Board member who would be authorized to represent our District, or have a vote cast to have him (Mr. Karrels), authorized to do this. There was a unanimous vote cast to have Mr. Karrels represent District Five on the National Board.

The next order of business was to elect officers for the ensuing year. Those present voted unanimously for Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, President, R. Hallett Shumway, Vice President and Francis P. Tikalsky, Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Hyde stated that he would appoint

members of the District Board later.

Mr. Karrels informed those present that forty color slides of peony varieties had been accepted from the Color Slide Contest and that the obligations to the winning entrants had been satisfied by the donations of roots. He stated that he wished to express thanks and gratitude to those who had donated roots for this purpose and requested that this expression be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting. He then stated that the District Color Slide Library had been turned over to our District Secretary and that he invited proposals and discussions of the method and manner in which this library would be loaned to those who wanted to show the slides. Mr. J. Elmer Smith made a motion, which was duly seconded, to loan the slides to any one who wanted them, if insurance and postage were paid. He later withdrew his motion in favor of a proposal made by Mr. Howard Wigell to loan to Society members, this Library upon payment of postage and insurance. All other parties could obtain the loan of the slides upon payment of five dollars. This proposal was carried without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Karrels asked the District Treasurer to make a report of the financial status of the District. He reported that a balance of \$14.22 remained in the treasury. This surplus brought much favorable comment because of the fact that disbursements were high, due to supporting a District Show, a spring and fall meeting and a symposium. The report was unchallenged.

Mr. Karrels asked the Secretary to read an excerpt from a letter

from George W. Peyton, National Secretary, wherein he touched on the 1955 National Show. Mr. Peyton asked in his letter, that our District assembly seriously considered Chicago as the site for the 1955 National Show. This was put to the members present for discussion. It was unanimously agreed that District Five would gladly act as host to a 1955 National Show in Chicago.

Mr. Karrels asked Mr. J. Elmer Smith, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, to make a report of his committee. He reported that his committee reviewed the various potential sources of obtaining revenue for the District's operating expenses and came up with the recommendation that cash donations should not be solicited unless the revenue obtained from the proceeds of the sale of donated roots proved inadequate for operating expenses. There was universal agreement that this procedure be followed.

The President then asked the Secretary for a report on the progress of the District Symposium. He reported that only nine members had turned in ratings of peony varieties. It was the consensus of opinion that ratings based on such small numbers would be conducive to much inaccuracy. It was decided by all present, that it would be advisable to have the dead line for the symposium returns to be extended until after the 1954 blooming period. The President asked the members to bring forth any new business or enter into such discussions as would pertain to the welfare of our District. Since there was no new business, Mr. Karrels asked that the auction of donated roots proceed. He stated that the functions of our District in the future would, more or less, depend on the revenue obtained from this

auction.

He appointed the sage of the Peony Society, Mr. Roy G. Gayle, to act as auctioneer and no better *hombre* could have been selected for this purpose. As each root was offered for sale, the peony wolves drooled and how their eyes gleamed as they snatched some snooty and ritzy varieties for less than a king's ransom. All the way through, the auction was spirited and when bidders became shy of cash, credit was extended to them.

The following varieties were sold, viz.:

Four tree peonies: Nissho, Godaishu, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, and a bright, unnamed, pink (*moutan*) from which the label had been lost in importation.

The herbaceous varieties were: Marilla Beauty, May Morn, Wildfire (hybrid), Ruth Clay, Lottie Dawson Rea, Rosada, George W. Peyton, (4), Louise Lossing, Westerner, Hansina Brand, Harry Little, Burma, Mildred May, Break o'Day, Lotus Queen, Ethel Mars, James Pillow, Moonstone, Therese, Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Casablanca, Red Ball, Chippewa, Tondeleyo, Jean Harlow, Mark Twain (2), Boehland S-58 (pink single seedling) (3), Victory (2), Dusky Dinah (hybrid), New Era, Mrs. A. M. Brand (6), Snow White (5), John Howard Wigell (2), Lois Q. Gayle (2).

This array of mint stuff is like gold in the bank and the proceeds of the sale or "Take" was very good. Now District Five is in the enviable position of being able to finance many activities from this nest egg.

In concluding the meeting, Mr. Karrels expressed his thanks to those who so generously cooperated in the sale and particularly to those who donated high grade roots

of peony varieties for the auction. All roots were disposed of before the deadline, 5 p.m.

Mr. Karrels then adjourned the meeting. It was most interesting to see the peony cashews, shell 'n all, tuck their precious acquirements under their arms and leave, as hap-

py and gay as mosquitoes in a nudist camp and depart to all points of the compass.

Francis P. Tikalsky, Secretary  
Fifth District  
La Grange Park, Illinois  
November 28, 1953

## SUBSTANCE

*Frank P. Tikalsky  
LaGrange Park, Illinois*

District V had unfavorable conditions for its annual exhibition that was held in Milwaukee, June 1953. The official temperature for the two show days was 104° F. Under the glass of the conservatory where the flowers were shown, the temperature must have ascended to 114° F.

Shortly after the fine blooms were placed on the tables and exposed to the furnace-like heat, the blooms wilted and collapsed; that is, most of them did. When the show was finally judged, Hari-ainin was selected as the best posie in the entire show. For two entire days, after being fried, stewed, boiled, broiled and roasted, it still retained its pristine loveliness, that it had when it was first placed on the show bench. What substance!

Most of the notorious show winners looked like so many floppy dish rags and "pooped out" only minutes after they were placed in the show room.

Most of our major shows look very bedraggled on the second day of the show. As a result of this a number of folks get the impression that peonies have substance akin to poppies and adopt an antipathetic attitude towards having them in the garden. To improve the quality of the show for its entire period, everything should be done to have flowers entered that can

take adverse conditions without falling apart.

The awarding of prizes, in the later period of the show, for blooms that are very superior and can take the gaff, would help immeasurably to encourage quality for the entire show. After all, a real champion can take adverse conditions and still come out on top. If a flower falls apart before the show closes, it is in my mind, no champion. Until the show committee recognizes the import of substance, Hari-ainin is on the top of them all, in my book, for substance and in the parlance of baseball, is hitting in the charmed three hundred circle.

## WHITE JAPS

What are the best white Japs? Here are some that are candidates for the honor:

Isani Gidui, the loveliest of all peonies. Early.

Moon of Nippon, strong stemmed. Form and habit excellent. Late midseason.

Bu-te, a new one. Late midseason. Tall, strong stems. Large flower. Late.

Polar Star, red tipped carpels, strong stems.

Christine, narrow thread-like filaments. Fine.

Toro-no-maki, lilac tinted, excellent plant habit.

Shaylor's Sunburst, Sunmist, blush on opening, extra good.

Lotus Queen, beautiful form, plant, a great show flower.



# TRIBUTE TO A WHEEL CHAIR HABITANT

*Francis P. Tikalsky  
La Grange Park, Illinois*

As the guests were assembling at the Boulevard Inn at District Five's Fall Meeting, Art Murawska passed a letter to me that he had received from a member of our Society. This letter is so interesting that a quotation will be made of the intriguing portion of it:

"... As a result of an accident, I was left with a progressive type nerve injury and no known cure to date. Two years after the accident, it had progressed to a point where it was necessary for me to give up my line of work and, to keep my mind occupied with other things except my physical handicap. I took up the hobby of raising flowers. At first, I used a cane in walking and it finally got worse, requiring a cane in each hand. That was my condition in 1944 when I received a shipment of peonies from you: Le Cygne, Solange, Fire Ribbon, Rosalie and three Tamate Boku, all of which have established into fine plants.

"My ailment has advanced where I cannot walk and I use a small wheel chair to get around. Having read descriptions of the beautiful flowers on your Moonstone, I would like a plant of it for my collection, because I am unable to visit any peony gardens or peony shows. The National Peony Show was held in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1951 and I could not even have attended that, even though we are located only nine miles south of Cleveland's Public Square."

What an inspiring letter! He is a peony filbert, shell 'n all! With a

handicap that would send most of us into the depths of despair, this fellow embarks on a new adventure with enthusiasm, fortitude and gumption galore. He is made of a superlative brand of human fibre and refuses to reconcile himself to lead a sedentary life of idleness, bemoaning his fate.

There are a few who are still hybridizing when past the age of four score, hoping for that pure will o'the wisp—the ideal peony. There are others, decrepit, bent and pain-wracked, who are still breaking sun-baked clods of soil to do their replanting. But our good habitant of the wheel chair eclipses them all for the price that is paid to worship at the shrine of loveliness before God's great outdoor altar. Before this epistle is ended, we will state that the name of the most fortunate unfortunate member will be kept anonymous. Also, it might be well to toss in that good old generous Art Murawska gave the object of our handicapped member's affection, gratis, and threw in a little added measure besides.

As this, our anonymous member, reads this testimony to him in this issue of the Bulletin, may I surreptitiously, take the authority to say to him, in behalf of all of our members, we all wish you a bountiful harvest of high quality blooms and may you continue to derive both physical and spiritual strength from the hidden messages that are contained in God's lovely creations. Our wishes too, that this verve and bull-dog tenacity to carry on, will always remain with you.

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# Peony Activities In Texas

The following clipping from the *Amarillo News-Globe*, Amarillo, Texas, of September 27, 1953, will show that one of our members who has only recently joined our ranks, is really imbued with the true Peony Spirit. We hope his enthusiasm will spread to many more of our members during 1954, the beginning of our second half century, and make it the greatest year in our history.

We may say that this one talk resulted in the sale of about a dozen Handbooks and at least one new member.

Secretary

*The Amarillo Sunday News-Globe*, Amarillo, Texas, 9-27-53.

Peony has been chosen "flower of the year" by the Amarillo Garden Club, which will hold its first meeting of the fall season at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon in the Federated Club room, 2001 Wolflin Circle.

As one feature of the meeting Byron Gist, 2501 Julian, will show colored slides made while he and Mrs. Gist, for whom a peony has been named, toured gardens and attended shows throughout the country.

More than 35 of the slides in the Gist collection have been selected by the National Peony Society for their show list.

Garden Club members have discussed with Mr. Gist the possibilities of a peony pilgrimage in Amarillo next Spring.

The Gists became interested in peonies some years ago, but made their first planting in the fall of 1949. Now they have more than 250 plants, including some 165 varieties.

The new peony "Jessie Gist" is a distinctive pink double with red markings. It is a seedling developed by the famous plant breeder, Col. J. C. Nicholls, from a cross of the old French origination "Marie Crousse" and one of his own early pinks, "Spring Beauty"

"Jessie Gist" was selected by Mr. and Mrs. Gist from a large number under study in the Gilbert H. Wild and Son fields, Sarcoxie, Mo.

"Mr. Wild named it 'Jessie Gist' because we liked it so much," Gist explained.

"The peony probably is king of hardy perennial flowers," he continued. "It has fewer parasites and diseases than most plants. It takes from one to three years to produce a productive plant, but is good for many years when given reasonable care. The peony can and is being grown successfully in Amarillo. Like all plants in this area, water is the main thing to provide."

Mr. and Mrs. Gist each year go on tour, visiting the largest and best known peony fields and the peony shows, regional and national. They were at Lake Mohawk, N. J., for the 1952 national show, in Kansas City, Mo., for the 1953 show and hope to be in Minneapolis next June for the 1954 show.

## Notice to Medal Winners

No medals have been sent to the winners for several years. We hope to send all bronze medals for the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 within

the next few days. The other medals have to be cast and it will be a little longer before they are sent. Meanwhile if you have been awarded one of these medals before 1951 and have not yet received it, please advise me at once.

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# TREE PEONIES

By Louis Smirnow  
Long Island, U. S. A.

(Reprinted from The Journal of the  
Royal Horticultural Society, Vol.  
LXXVIII., Part 6, June 1953.)

The tree Peony found its way into the gardens of the Chinese aristocracy hundreds of years ago. It was later brought into Japan and, about 150 years ago, Europe received it from the Orient.

The tree Peony is a shrubby counterpart of the familiar herbaceous perennial and is distinguished principally by its woody stems. The branches do not die back to the ground in winter as do the herbaceous types. It puts forth its buds in the autumn and thus develops somewhat faster in the spring. By the time it is several years old, it is capable of blooming in great profusion. Tree Peonies usually are taller than the herbaceous kinds and have larger flowers—which are produced two or three weeks earlier. The plant may grow to a height of 4 to 5 feet and may become 3 to 4 feet in diameter. Grafted varieties will occasionally exceed this size but seedlings have been known to grow larger. There is a large light purple in the gardens of Dr. Gurin of Great Neck, Long Island, New York, which is 9 feet tall and 8 feet wide, but this is the exception.

A tree Peony is a striking plant and should be given a place of honour. So placed, a single specimen may become the focal point in an intimate garden. A group of them is spectacular and when backed by Lilacs, is unbelievably beautiful. Landscape architects have recently recognized in the tree Peony an

excellent small shrub for their planning.

At the present time, three distinct groups of tree Peonies can be distinguished: the European, the Japanese and the Lutea hybrids. Though the European and the Japanese types are from the same ancestry (*Paeonia suffruticosa*), they are quite different in appearance. The European tree Peonies are usually very double and have broad foliage; the Japanese types have single or semi-double blooms and the leaves are much finer and thinner than the European. Also, the Japanese tree Peonies usually have in their centres a beautiful cushion or circle of yellow stamens. The Lutea hybrids are the product of crossing *Paeonia lutea* with *P. Suffruticosa*. These are difficult to propagate and are very rare.

The colours of both the European and the Japanese tree Peonies range from pure white through pale pink, rose, cherry, violet, salmon and cerise, to deepest red. The Japanese have a much broader colour range than the European types. Lutea hybrids display colours and shades all their own. Yellows ranging from clear tones to orange tints, vie with combinations of yellow and red for the viewer's attention. Some of these are unsurpassed even by the Rose. In the Japanese tree Peonies, there are clear whites, pinks, salmons, reds, purples and maroons that cannot be described in words. Their Japanese names may come close to it. The refreshing daintiness of the semi-doubles and the airiness and sparkle of the full double blooms of any



of the tree Peonies defy description.

Tree Peonies begin to flower in the New York area about May 15 to 20. The Lutea hybrids open latest, about May 20 or 30. Some varieties lend themselves to forcing but all are easy to grow in most parts of the country. They have been known to survive winter temperatures of twenty to thirty degrees below zero and will endure more neglect the year round than most plants. Though a tree Peony cannot suffer from neglect, a little attention produces better flowers and a more handsome shrub. Well drained soil and sunlight for the greater part of the day are the major requirements. If the plants are set rather deeply into the ground, the production of new sprouts or shoots from the roots will be induced and a larger shrub will result. The tree Peonies need at least 4-foot spacing since the mature specimens are that high and as wide. Bone meal or a commercial fertilizer low in nitrogen but high in phosphoric acid and potash is the best to use. Bone meal is sufficient and no other fertilizers need be applied. The use of manure is advisable only when mixed with soil. Others have employed it to advantage when digging the hole. One-half spadeful of manure is placed at the bottom and then covered with soil. The danger comes when the manure is permitted to touch the stem of the plant. After the stem will rot and the root will be affected. Since the plants are hardy, they need but little winter protection after the first year. Young plants, however, should be covered with leaves or some such mulching material. In severe winters, an occasional limb may be killed by extremely cold winds but this does not affect the rest of the plant.

The dead wood can be cut off in the spring.

The tree Peonies are relatively free from disease though they are sometimes threatened with Botrytis blight. If a branch suddenly wilts and droops, it should be cut off and burned. Little will be lost except the diseased part, for Botrytis blight seldom kills a tree Peony. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture during the early growing stages will act as a preventive.

Tree Peonies are propagated by grafting, dividing and layering. Though most experts agree that grafting is by far the most rapid and satisfactory method, the propagation of these plants has long been a matter of dispute and experimentation. If grafted on "wild" tree Peony roots as is done by the Japanese, trouble is likely to appear in the form of untrue shoots from the roots. These shoots generally grow rapidly and succeed in killing the desired grafted variety. Grafting on roots of herbaceous Peony by the cleft method is much safer and is the method used by a majority of propagators. The tree Peony scion is grafted to the root tip of a herbaceous Peony. The herbaceous root tip has no bud or eye which can sucker and has just enough vitality to support the tree Peony until it develops its own roots. If the herbaceous understock should sucker, its foliage would be distinct and easily removed. Grafting of tree Peonies is generally done in late August, when the plants have just entered their dormant period. This is continued through early September. Young grafts are aided considerably by heat, directly under a propagating bench, if plants are grafted in greenhouse. If grafts are planted in frames, a hotbed would be superior to cold frame, although many hun-

dreds of grafts have thrived by being inserted in a regular cold frame, without any bottom heat. Dividing is another method of propagation but is considerably slower than grafting. Layering is less practical than dividing—it is slow and uncertain. Experiments with cuttings have thus far proven unsuccessful.

It is advisable to purchase two- or three-year-old vigorous plants. They are easier to establish and bloom the second season after planting, sometimes the first season. If flowers are wanted the first year, purchase four- to six-year-old plants which have already bloomed. Seedlings may be desirable but only a small percentage of them are equal to the named varieties. The seedlings generally run to magentas, a few whites and pinks, very few scarlets and almost never any crimsons. Quite often, seeds will germinate the first spring after planting but that is the exception rather than the rule. In most instances, seeds will germinate the second spring after planting. The habit of the seed is to make root growth first and then leaf growth second. Among the following are some of the better named varieties:

#### Japanese (Whites)

Tama-sudare (Jewelled Screen), Renkaku (Flight of Cranes), Yasookina (Venerable Man), Fuso No Tsukasa (God of Japan), Godaishu (Large globe-like), Gessakai (Kingdom of the Moon).

#### Japanese (Pinks)

Momo-yama (Mountain of Peach Orchards), Yae Zakura (Very Double Cherry), Sakura-jishi (The Lion in the Cherry Orchard) Shintenchii (New Heaven and Earth), Yachiyo-tsubaki (Long Hedge of Camellias), Hana-kisoi (Floral Rivalry).

#### Japanese (Reds)

Hodai (Reign of Chinese Emper-

or Ho), Hinode-sekai (Landscape at Dawn of Large Scale), Yo-meimon (The Most Gorgeous Gate of Japan), Ima-shojo (New Orange Qutang), Nissho (Sunbeam), Impumon (Gate of Opulence).

Japanese (Purple, Violet, Mauve)

Hana Daigin (Minister of Flowers), Kenreimon (Gate of Kenrei), Kokamon (Gate of Koka), Horakumon (Gate of Abundant Pleasure), Rimpō (Bird of Rimpō).

Plants of the purple, violet and mauve group seem to be more vigorous than the maroons, scarlets and many pinks and whites and the flowers usually larger.

European . . . Of the European varieties, 'Reine Elizabeth' is the finest and best. It is a rich salmon pink. 'Bijou de Chusan' is the finest of the European whites. 'Souvenir de Ducher' (purple) and 'Jeanne D'Arc' (pink) are outstanding.

Lutea Hybrid . . . Of the Lutea hybrids, 'L'Esperance' is one of the better varieties. Other good ones are 'Satin Rouge,' 'Chromatella' and 'La Lorraine.' 'Souvenir de Maxime Cornu' and 'Silver Sails' are other good ones too. The Lutea hybrids are not as effective in the garden as the European or Japanese varieties because the flowers are borne close to the foliage of the plant and tend to droop or hang downward. In spite of their drooping habit, the Lutea hybrids are well worth growing for their perfect lemon-scented flowers. Recently, a variety of *P. lutea* was found in Tibet, which has erect blossoms on strong stems. Peony experts agree that the promise of much improvement is forseen in the offspring of this Tibetan form, if it is crossed with the present Lutea hybrids. This is called *P. lutea Ludlowii*.

# FIFTIETH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

*of the*

## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

*in cooperation with the*

## MINNESOTA PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY

### NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL BANK

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Monday and Tuesday, June 21-22, 1954

As announced three years ago, this exhibition will be held in the spacious lobby of the Northwestern National Bank, Seventh and Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Monday and Tuesday, June 21-22, 1954, unless circumstances arise that may make a change in dates necessary. This bank has, for many years, sponsored the annual shows of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society and has largely made them possible by furnishing the show room, tables, and much of the labor, free, and in addition giving them substantial financial aid. They were hosts to our Fortieth Annual Exhibition held on exactly the same dates in June, 1943, as are now proposed for this show.

Preparations for this show have been going on for many months and it is planned to make it an outstanding one in every respect. If the weather man co-operates, those, who attend, may confidently expect to see an exhibition of the highest quality.

In order that the members of the Society may have the schedule as far in advance as possible, it is presented here. However, if it is found necessary, some changes may have to be made later on.

Your attention is called to some things that slightly depart from the usual custom.

The show will be held, if present dates are not changed, on Monday and Tuesday, June 21-22, 1954. It will be noted, also, that the Bank will do business as usual while the

show is going on. No admission will be charged.

No actual solicitation of business is allowed on the floor, though catalogues, price lists and literature may be displayed.

A side entrance to the bank will be open until a late hour Sunday, June 20, for the convenience of the exhibitors.

As to the actual schedule, special attention is called to Classes 100A and 100B from which classes the Court of Honor is largely chosen. In these classes each exhibitor must make his own entries.

In each color section for doubles and semi-doubles in Class 100A he is allowed two entries unless it is found necessary to restrict this to one. Only one entry will be allowed him in the Japanese, single and hybrid sections. But he is restricted to six entries in the double color classes combined. In order to make any entry at all in these sections he must have made and actually set up entries in at least three other peony classes in the show.

Class 100B is unique to Minneapolis. It usually contains the most beautiful blooms in the show. It is a collection of five different varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each. Some elect to show blooms of different colors; others show all one color or any combination of colors that may be deemed best. The award in this class is usually the Silver Medal of the American Peony Society, but as this medal is offered in Class 201 a spec-

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ial award may be made.

From the blooms shown in various sections of Class 100 A and Class 100 B judges will select the Color Champions, and winning collection in Class 100B is placed in the Court of Honor.

The Grand Champion of the Show is selected from these Champion blooms and from any other blooms in competition, that may be deemed worthy.

The best double, Japanese, single and hybrid blooms in the show are selected in the same way. Various medals are awarded for these blooms.

Please also note that many arrangement classes are provided in each division of this show.

The attention of exhibitors from a distance is called to Class 107 which is especially for their benefit. It is not open to local exhibitors.

#### SCHEDULE

##### OPEN CLASSES

Open to all who grow peonies, whether for pleasure or for profit.  
**100-A. COURT OF HONOR**

**A CHAMPION** (best double flower) of each color (white, flesh, light pink, dark pink, red) and **CHAMPION** single, Japanese and hybrid will be chosen from this class.

All exhibitors are urged to enter their best blooms, but are limited to six blooms double flowers, not more than two blooms in any one color and to one single, one Jap, and one hybrid flower, one bloom to a vase.

**100-B. COLLECTION** of five double varieties, one each, any color, in separate vases.

**NOTE:** All peonies entered in 100-B will be eligible for competition with peonies entered in the Court of Honor, Class 100-A. Color must be marked on each label.

**QUALIFICATIONS** - Court of

Honor. In order to be eligible to enter this class, the exhibitor must have entered three or more peony classes and actually made entries in same.

**GRAND CHAMPION OF THE SHOW** will be selected from the winning blooms in the above color classes or the judges may select any flower shown in competition, which may merit the award. Do NOT make an entry for Grand Champion.

**SWEEPSTAKES:** The persons winning most points in the Open, Advanced Amateur and Novice Amateur Classes, will be awarded special prizes. The figures following each class indicate the points scored for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

**101. GOLD MEDAL.** 50-60 different varieties, each in a separate container of which 60% or more must be double or semi-double, one bloom of each variety.

25-20-10

**102.** Collection of ten varieties, double, three blooms each, any colors.

20-15-10

**103.** Five blooms, one variety, white or flesh, double.

5-3-1

**104.** Five blooms, one variety, light pink, double.

5-3-1

**105.** Five blooms, one variety, dark pink, double.

5-3-1

**106.** Five blooms, one variety, red or crimson, double.

5-3-1

**107. VISITORS' Class.** Not open to exhibitors from the State of Minnesota. Vase of five different named varieties, one bloom each, any type or color. A special award will be made in this class.

5-3-1

**108.** One bloom, white, double.

5-3-1

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109. One bloom, flesh, double.  
5-3-1
110. One bloom, light pink, double.  
5-3-1
111. One bloom, dark pink, double.  
5-3-1
112. One bloom, red or crimson, double.  
5-3-1
113. Three blooms, white, one variety, Japanese.  
5-3-1
114. Three blooms, pink, one variety, Japanese.  
5-3-1
115. Three blooms, red, one variety, Japanese.  
5-3-1
116. Collection ten varieties, Japanese, one bloom each.  
10-5-3
117. Three blooms, white, one variety, single.  
5-3-1
118. Three blooms, one variety, pink, single.  
5-3-1
119. Three blooms, one variety, red, single  
5-3-1
120. Collection of ten varieties, single, one bloom each.  
10-5-3
121. Three blooms, white, one variety, hybrid.  
5-3-1
122. Three blooms, pink, one variety, hybrid, any type.  
5-3-1
123. Three blooms, red, one variety, hybrid, any type.  
5-3-1
124. Collection of ten varieties, hybrids, one blooms each.  
10-5-3
125. One bloom tree peony, any color, any type.  
5-3-1
126. Handle basket, greatest diameter of container not to exceed 20 inches, main feature to be peonies.  
9-6-3

127. Handle basket, greatest diameter of container not to exceed 12 inches, main feature to be peonies.  
9-6-3

128. Small vase of peonies artistically arranged, with or without other flowers or foliage.  
9-6-3

129. Large vase of peonies, artistically arranged, with or without other flowers or foliage.  
9-6-3

130. EAST-WEST. Open only to team members. Captain for the East, Frank L. Howell, Newton, N. J. Captain for the West, Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wis. Two teams of five persons each, one team from east of Ohio, and one from Ohio and west will show in groups of six varieties. Any species, type or color.

#### ADVANCED AMATEURS

201. SILVER MEDAL. 25-30 different varieties, one bloom each variety in separate container of which 60% or more must be double or semi-double.  
15-10-5

202. Collection seven varieties, double, three blooms each.  
15-10-5

203. Three blooms, one variety, white, double.  
5-3-1

204. Three blooms, one variety, flesh, double.  
5-3-1

205. Three blooms, one variety, light pink, double.  
5-3-1

206. Three blooms, one variety, dark pink, double.  
5-3-1

207. Three blooms, one variety, red or crimson, double.  
5-3-1

208. Vase of three blooms, one variety, single or Japanese.  
5-3-1



209. Basket, main feature to be peonies.

9-6-3

210. Small vase of peonies with or without other flowers or foliage.

9-6-3

211. Large vase of peonies with or without other flowers or foliage.

9-6-3

#### NOVICE AMATEUR

301. BRONZE MEDAL. 10-15 different varieties, each in separate container, of which 60% or more must be double or semi-double. One bloom each variety.

15-10-5

302. One bloom, white, double.

5-3-1

303. One bloom, light pink, double.

5-3-1

305. One bloom, dark pink, double.

5-3-1

305. One bloom, red, double.

5-3-1

306. Collection, vase of six varieties, one bloom each.

307. Collection, vase of three varieties, one bloom each, open only to those who have never won a peony prize in a State Show.

5-3-1

308. One bloom of any named single or Japanese.

5-3-1

309. Basket of peonies arranged for effect, main feature to be peonies.

9-6-3

310. Vase of peonies with or without other flowers or foliage.

9-6-3

The following medals may be awarded in the discretion of the judges, in addition to those mentioned in the above classes:

B. H. FARR MEMORIAL MEDAL in bronze for the best *lactiflora* (*albiflora*) variety in show.

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BRONZE MEDAL for:

Best Japanese type bloom in the show.

Best single type bloom in the show.

Best herbaceous hybrid in the show.

#### SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES

The following classes are open to all. Any color, type, species or hybrid, including tree peonies, may be shown. Any variety that has not been offered for sale to the public, shall be classed as a SEEDLING. It must be either named or numbered.

Any variety of recent origin that has been named and offered for sale shall be recognized as a NEW VARIETY.

Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded in classes 401, 402, and 403. First Class Certificates, bronze, silver or gold medals may be awarded in classes 402 and 403.

All awards in the following classes 401-404 will be made by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society. Their decisions are final.

401. Seedlings that have never been divided or propagated. Each exhibitor limited to five varieties. One to three blooms of each variety. Only Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

402. Seedlings that have been divided and propagated. Each exhibitor limited to ten varieties. Three blooms each variety.

403. NEW VARIETIES. (See definition above.) Three blooms of each variety must be shown. Each exhibitor limited to ten varieties. Certificates of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificates, bronze, silver or gold medals may be awarded in classes 402-403 at the discretion of the judges.

Class 404. AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. Offered by the American Home Magazine of New York to the originator of the best and most distinctive

new peony shown, specifically, in this class under rules specified by them, as follows:

1. A specific entry must be made in this class. The number of entries by any one exhibitor is not limited.

2. Not less than three blooms of each variety entered must be shown.

3. Any type, species, or hybrid, including tree peonies, may be shown.

4. The varieties entered must have distinctiveness as compared to existing varieties.

5. No variety that has been offered for sale for more than three

years prior to the date of this show, may be entered.

6. No variety that has won this award in any previous year, may be entered.

7. Every variety entered must be named and the name approved by the American Peony Society. No awards will be confirmed until this provision has been met.

8. The award shall be made by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society.

9. A photograph, either in color transparency or black and white, preferably not smaller than 4" x 5" must be furnished by the winner to the American Home Magazine free of charge.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Donald L. Benfer, 2611 Ashman, Midland, Michigan.

William Botts and Son, 933 Wheeler Street, Woodstock, Illinois.

Breeze Hill Gardens, 2101 Bellevue Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

John Burton Brimer, Box 594, Suffern, New York.

Miss Mary E. Chaffin, 933 Highland View, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. Stella J. Cotten, 2402 Julian Boulevard, Amarillo, Texas.

Van Duyn and Son, Cape Charles, Virginia.

Orville W. Fay, 1522 Isabella Street, Wilmette, Illinois.

Hometown Owners' Association, Box 41, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Interlaken Garden Club, Care Mrs. R. A. Tilkey, 68 West Shore Avenue, S. W., Tacoma, Washington.

Frank J. Lang, 1950 North River Road, Melrose Park, Illinois.

Men's Garden Club of Albany, Care Arnold Steen, Secretary, Albany, Oregon.

Robert Monroe, Jacksonwald, Pennsylvania.

F. W. McDaniel, 2701 South Lindbergh Road, Kirkwood 22, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Osborne, 123 South Gordon, Wichita 12, Kansas.

A. L. Popko, 357 Lancaster Street, Sterling Junction, Massachusetts.

J. Milton Roesch, 911 Marseillaise Place, Aurora, Illinois.

Rutland Free Library Association, Rutland, Vermont. (5 years).

C. A. Sanderson, Union Mills, Indiana.

Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York.

Mrs. F. A. Spencer, Rancho Samataguma, Descanso, San Diego County, California.

Mrs. Mildred Stover, 7014 Fourth Avenue, South, Minneapolis 23, Minnesota.

Walter J. Stuber, 721 Van Buren Street, Logansport, Indiana.

Mrs. W. S. Sundahl, 221 Conklin Avenue, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Dr. Ernest H. Yelton, Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

## Experiences Of 1953

By W. A. Alexander  
Bowling Green, Ohio

The advent of the New Year calls for both a backward and a forward look. Forward because progress requires intelligent and constructive planning. These plans can often be more solidly based if past experiences are carefully reviewed, properly interpreted and evaluated.

As I look back on my gardening experiences of 1953, I find that most of them would be of no interest to others, but that a few may be worth reporting to my peony friends. Not that I have made any world-shaking discoveries. Actually, I have uncovered more problems than I have solutions. But some of my observations may parallel your own, or again, they may be contradictory and so point up the need for further study.

First thing I will mention is the change in my thinking regarding hybrids. I have always thought of them as interesting novelties and collectors' items, of little value as garden subjects or cut flowers. But I have changed my mind to a considerable degree. I have had only a few plants of the hybrids in my own garden and but one variety which could be rated good. As hybrid performance for me was, on the whole, rather poor, I fell into the common but inexcusable error of forming a conclusion without sufficient evidence. The experience which caused me to realize my error was a visit to Walter Mains' gardens in Belle Center, Ohio. There, about May 25, I saw dozens of hybrid varieties, all of Mains' own origination. None are as yet named or ready for distribution. There were hundreds of plants at the height of bloom. They made a spectacle of dazzling bril-

liance—far more brilliant than a like number of *lactiflora*. The only thing lacking was white to give some respite from the intensity of the reds. For most of them were red, ranging from chocolate to cerise. There were a few salmon pinks. All types and forms were in evidence—singles, Japs, semi-doubles and full doubles.

Not all were good. Some were blooming for the first or second time and were being given their chance even if first performances were not good. Others were being kept because of some odd or striking peculiarity, although recognized as worthless. But most were very fine things, or so they seemed to me. However, their value as cut flowers was the thing that impressed me most. Mr. Mains cut several dozen for me to take home. Practically all were wide open. They were cut in the heat of the day and carried home, 70 miles, with car windows down and no protection from hot winds. All kept well and some lasted a week although I did not cocdle them by moving to the cool basement at night, using ice water, occasional spraying, etc. I have never had straight *lactiflora* keep any better under similar conditions. I have never tried hybrids in cold storage, but have heard that many of them do well. Because of this experience, I plan to pay more attention to hybrids. If I were planting for cut flowers, I would buy all I could find (or pay for) of certain ones. Although the flower yield per plant might be less than from *lactiflora*, the value per flower would be two or three times as much because of being in time for Memorial Day.

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And the brilliant red of most hybrids enhances their value for that occasion. More people ask for red than for white and pink combined. The old red "piney" (*officinalis rubra*) is very popular here as a cemetery plant because it blooms just right for Memorial Day.

Early blooming *lactiflora* varieties have always interested me. This is true, I presume, because they so often plague me almost beyond endurance by being 12 to 63 hours too late for Memorial Day. Richard Carvel, Marietta Sisson, Judge Berry and Mons. Jules Elie are the principal culprits. White Delight, Festiva Maxima, Mrs. Edward Harding and Mons. Martin Cahuzac cause me less anguish of spirit because they are usually 36 hours or more off—far enough so I have not counted on them. Once in five or six years, all, in both groups, will be along in time. If I lived 100 miles either north or south, I would have little interest in early kinds except to extend the season somewhat. A hundred miles north, there would be no possibility of having them bloom by the last of May, and that far south the earliest varieties would be past their prime most years.

Another reason for my interest in the earlies is that I have found them to be more reliable, on the whole, than later sorts. They have always opened—no deformed flowers, less storm damage, quality relatively better. But I had a jolt last season. The late kinds performed far better than the earlies. Festiva Maxima, which I have always considered a sure thing, was a complete failure—not one good flower. Mons. Jules Elie was not much better. Carvel, Berry and Sisson were just fair, a few nice flowers. Mrs. Edward Harding, Cahuzac, Kelway's Glorious and such in the early mid-season group were under par.

On the other hand, late ones such as Nick Shaylor, Myrtle Gentry, Victory, Blanche King and Nancy Nicholls were the best ever. Every bud opened and the plants were bouquets of show flowers.

What is the explanation of this reversal of the usual? I wish I knew. I feel sure that some combination of unusual weather conditions was responsible. The early spring was very dry, but May was the wettest month of the year, with most of the precipitation coming early in the month, if my memory serves me correctly. I recall nothing freakish regarding temperatures during the spring or the previous growing season, but a close study of weather data may reveal something. Every peony grower should provide himself with the essential instruments and keep weather records. A lot of interesting relationships would turn up, I am sure.

Last summer I staged three small shows for women's garden clubs following the procedures described in APS Bulletin No. 126 (Sept. 1952 - p. 18). All flowers were bagged, placed in cold storage and were handled exactly as for a real competitive exhibit. I had enough good ones in each color class to provide some competition. As might be expected, there were differences of opinion in some instances, but no more, I venture, than if a committee of "expert" judges had been working. In two instances the decisions were unanimous as regards best flower in the show. In both cases it was that fine red, Lowell Thomas. I did not have any of that variety for the third show. There, Kansas was the top red, but was not a serious contender for best flower. Tempest, M. Martin Cahuzac and Karl Rosenfield were also admired.

In the pinks (only one class, light, medium and dark considered to-

gether) three went to the finish almost neck and neck: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Helen Hughes and Blanche King. Mrs. F. D. R. finally got top honor in the third show. Judge Berry was greatly admired in this class as were Sarah Bernhardt and a seedling I threw in for test purposes. Myrtle Gentry should have been right up there, but was a bit slow in opening. Cut a little tight, apparently.

The white class, including flesh and tints, posed a real judging problem for the ladies, with good flowers of Nick Shaylor, Mary E. and Nancy Nicholls, Victory, Mrs. C. S. Minot, Kelway's Glorious and several others. Nick got the nod twice and Mary E. Nicholls once. (Nick should have had top place over Mrs. FDR. People who are not peony-wise often fail to recognize the quality of the white and delicately tinted kinds.)

I did not have enough semi-doubles, Japs or singles for competition, but the few I had were greatly admired. Many of the women had never seen Japs or singles. With garden clubs emphasizing flower arrangement more and more, I predict ever-increasing popularity for these types.

As a result of these little shows,

a baffling cold storage problem cropped up. I use the facilities of our local locker plant for storing my show peonies. The chilling room is supposed to be held at 34 degrees. A few days before I removed the first lot of flowers, I found ice in the containers—at least an eighth of an inch. I informed the manager, he adjusted the controls and the temperature was O. K. thereafter. Some damage resulted. Marietta Sisson was ruined. The petals had a sort of translucent character. Most of the color was gone. But they did not wilt. Mons. Jules Elie, some flowers of Mrs. FDR, Georgiana Shaylor and a few others had lost so much color they were unrecognizable, but the petals were not translucent. The peculiar thing was that only early pink varieties showed any damage and not all of them. I was unable to detect any injury to reds, whites or late pinks. What is the explanation? There is a good research problem for some graduate student. It sometimes seems that in the peony business (as in other matters involving nature and science) the more we learn, the less we know for sure.

## NEW VARIETIES

Many fine new varieties are being offered this fall. Be sure to try some of them. You will find some of them advertised in this Bulletin. Some seem to have been sold out long ago. This seems to be true of those much sought after hybrids, Red Charm and Laura Magnuson.

Would you like a tall, strong stemmed, white Jap of the largest size? If so, you might try Bu-te if you can find it.

Do you wish a late variety that will usually open well? There are several that seem quite dependable. Virginia Lee is a beautiful light pink, flower rather flat. Alma Hansen is white with a delicate flush of pink. This is new and has not been tried in many gardens, but it was seen in several this year and opened perfectly in all of them. Doris Cooper seems also to be in the same category, along with Victory and Mattie Lafuze.

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## Obituaries

### JOHN WOLZDORF BERNSTEIN

1884-1953

Born August 1, 1884, in York, Nebraska, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Bernstein, John Wolzdorf Bernstein was the eldest of twelve children. His parents' home and business were destroyed by fire when he was quite young, so he went to work, early in life, in his father's harness shop to help support the large family. He also worked after school hours and during vacation in several other positions.

As a young man he moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he was connected with the Harpham Brothers, Wholesale Saddlery and Harness Company, for thirty years as salesman and secretary. He then joined the Wyeth Hardware and Manufacturing Company of St. Joseph, Missouri, as traveling salesman and worked for them ten years, at the end of which time he retired and gave all of his attention to his flowers.

He bought a small place of several acres on the outskirts of Lincoln to which he moved in 1950 and there was busy with his peonies, lilacs, iris, gladiolus, roses, fruits and chickens until his death.

He was exceptionally well-read and enjoyed sports of all kinds and good music, having studied voice in his younger years. He was a great home lover and liked to have others in his house. He was a devoted husband and father.

On November 25th, 1908, he married Miss Nancy Nora Bishop of Lincoln. They had three children, one of whom, a daughter, died in childhood. His son, John Bishop Bernstein, now connected with the Navy in Jacksonville, Florida, his daughter, now Mrs. David L. Whit-

more of Lincoln, and his wife survive him. He also has two grandsons, one granddaughter, three brothers and five sisters still living.

He was a member of the Lincoln Garden Club, the Travelers' Protective association, Lincoln Lodge No. 19, A.F. & A.M. and the German Lutheran Church.

He died September 17, 1953 in the Lincoln General Hospital after two years of declining health. He is buried in Wyuka Cemetery.

Mr. Bernstein joined the American Peony Society in 1931. Since that time he has been one of its most loyal members. He has attended many of its annual meetings, showed in several of its exhibitions and acted as judge a number of times.

He is the originator of *Nancy Nora* (Bernstein, 1942), named for his wife a light pink or blush double that was good enough to win a Certificate of Honorable Mention at Topeka, in 1942, and the best flesh in the Court of Honor at Minneapolis in 1949, as well as being one of the five composing Class 100B in the same show which won the Silver Medal of the A. P. S. His second origination, *Beth Ann*, (Bernstein, 1948), named for his granddaughter, is a bright red double about the color of the American Beauty rose.

Those of us who were privileged to know Mr. Bernstein, personally, will miss his good humored participation in the business of the Society in all the meetings he attended and his loyal friendship.

Mrs. Bernstein is now carrying on the business and for her we wish success.

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## HERBERT L. MANTZ

1896-1953

It was with a great deal of regret, that we learned of the sudden death of Dr. Mantz on December 14, 1953.

From the records available, we find that he joined this Society about 1926 as his name first appears as a member in that year. He seems to have continued his membership for a number of years and then allowed it to lapse until he re-joined last December.

He was active in the show held in Kansas City in 1952 and was general chairman of the National Show held there June 6-7, 1953.

Those of us who were privileged to meet him at that time, will remember him as a most agreeable and hospitable host.

It is understood that he had planned to hold annual peony shows in Kansas City in the future. We hope someone in that area will take over and carry on the good work which he intended to do. His peony collection was large and noted for its being up-to-date in all respects.

The following account of his life is taken from the Dec. 14, 1953 edition of the *Kansas City Star*. It will be noted that he was especially active in the fight against tuberculosis and had attained world wide fame in that field.

"Dr. Herbert L. Mantz, a nationally known tuberculosis specialist, died early today at his home, 7420 Terrace St. He was 57 years old.

He awoke shortly after midnight complaining of severe chest pains. He died shortly after the arrival of the family physician, Dr. Hubert Parker. It is believed Dr. Mantz died of a heart ailment.

### Just Completed Trip

Dr. Mantz returned Saturday from Panama City, Panama, where

he was the United States delegate to the Central American Congress Against Tuberculosis.

He was an officer and member of many medical organizations, both national and local. His practice was limited to internal medicine with particular specialization in tuberculosis and diseases of the chest.

Dr. Mantz, known as Pete to his friends, had directed the tuberculosis clinics at the city's General Hospital for about twenty-five years.

He was superintendent of the city tuberculosis hospital at Leeds from 1926 to 1927, president of the Missouri Tuberculosis Association from 1945 to 1948, president of the National Tuberculosis Association in 1948 and national consultant in the tuberculosis program of the Veterans Administration.

### Born In Missouri

He was born at West Plains, Mo., the son of a prominent merchant. After being graduated from the West Plains High School in 1914, he attended the University of the South, Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Chicago. In 1918 he received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Mantz received his medical degree in 1920 at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

He served his internship at the General hospital starting in 1920, and his residency training from 1922 to 1926 at the Leeds hospital.

Dr. Mantz was a member of the Kappa Sigma social fraternity and the Phi Beta Pi medical fraternity.

### A Church Deacon

Dr. Mantz started practicing from an office at Thirty-first street and Indiana Avenue. His home then



was at 3301 Olive street, near the First Baptist church of which he was a deacon and member for many years.

He was a member of the American Trudeau society, and served on its national and regional committees on post-graduate medical education.

He also was a member of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, and of the American College of Chest Physicians, serving as a regent for that organization. He was a past president of the Missouri chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians.

Dr. Mantz's other organizational affiliations included the Jackson County Medical society, for which he once was editor of the weekly bulletin, and the Kansas City Southwest Clinical society.

He was a member of the board of trustees of the Baptist Memorial hospital and active in the efforts of the hospital's fund-raising group.

In 1946 he was selected as one of thirteen tuberculosis specialists to direct the Veterans Administration program for tubercular veterans. He headed district No. 9 of the administration, and had supervision over eight hospitals in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

He also served as tuberculosis controller for the Kansas City health department, and as a part-time consultant to the United States Public Health service.

Dr. Mantz was a staff member at St. Luke's, Research and St. Mary's hospitals in Kansas City.

His hobbies were photography, stamp collecting and horticulture. He was most proud of his peony development and his entries won many show awards in national and local competition.

He leaves his wife, the former Mary Eager Reese, whom he married in 1921; two sons, Ben Reese Mantz, Beverly Hills, Calif., and William Walter Mantz, a student at the University of Colorado at Boulder; two daughters, Mrs. Robert Stooker, Tulsa, Okla., and Mrs. Richard Griffith, 4033 Walnut street; his mother, Mrs. William W. Mantz, West Plains, and three sisters, Mrs. E. H. Logan, 428 West Sixty-first street, Mrs. Martin Walt, Los Angeles, and Mrs. Charles Jackson, Burlington, Wis.

*The Kansas City Star*, December 14, 1953.

#### EDITORIAL—

##### *Dr. Mantz's Human Service*

In the gaining battle against tuberculosis probably no physician has had a more active part than Dr. Herbert L. Mantz. Until his death yesterday he carried a tremendous load of public service work in addition to his own heavy practice.

During and after his presidency of the National Tuberculosis association he became well known to the specialists of many countries. To professional meetings in England, Italy, France, Norway and Sweden he carried information on the kind of efforts that have given the United States the lowest tuberculosis rate in the world.

His death followed by two days his return from Panama City where he served as a delegate to the Central American Congress Against Tuberculosis. It was his fourth such meeting in Latin America.

As national consultant on tuberculosis for the Veterans Administration he traveled the country visiting hospitals and conferring on their problems. Friends report that Veterans Administration work alone took about ten days of his average month.

To Dr. Mantz national leadership



simply widened the physician's obligation to serve humankind. He contributed his prominent part to

a fight against tuberculosis that is now saving many thousands of lives each year.

## BEST PEONIES — OHIO

Mr. William H. Krekler, Peacock Nurseries, Akron, Ohio, has just sent in a list of the varieties that did best for him in 1953. He has over twelve hundred varieties, most of which are now three years old. This year about a thousand will be in prime condition. They are all planted in a small area and so are easily seen by visitors without having to wander over large fields. Included in this planting are the majority of the originations of Messrs. Auten, Glasscock and Prof. Saunders in hybrids as well as nearly all of the good herbaceous peonies in commerce today. During the blooming season visitors are cordially welcomed. It begins about May 5 and lasts well into June. There are not many tree peonies.

Mr. Krekler has rated his list as A plus, A, A minus, B plus, and B. I should say that all would rate over 85 in a numerical system and the highest above 95. Here is what Mr. Krekler says.

"Here are 239 above average peonies, selected from my 1953 garden of 1200 leading varieties. Please forgive inaccuracies, as I only had one rather small plant of each to judge.

"As usual my first flower opened May fifth, and two months later the gorgeous show became a memory. June 10th was tops. Most of my plants should be at their best in 1954 and 1955.

"I hope those grand people who produce new peonies will continue to sell me a small division of their better seedlings at a price I can pay, so I can keep this collection up-to-date, as a test and complete dis-

play garden, for everyone to come to see."

Mr. Krekler's complete address for those who may wish to visit his gardens (and there should be many) is 721 South Cleveland-Massillon Road, (U. S. 21), just West of Akron, Ohio.

Here is the list:

### HYBRIDS

#### A. Plus

Carina, Dauntless, Helen Matthews, Mahogany and Red Charm. (5).

#### A

Alert, Bravura, Brightness, Gay Cavalier, Glasscock's A1A1, Halcyon, Laddie, Lavender, Nadia, Red Red Rose, Seraphim, Victoria Lincoln. (12).

#### A Minus

Bright Knight, Burma Ruby, Elizabeth Foster, Golden Glow, Laura Magnuson, Ludovica, *macrophylla*, *Mlokoewitschi*, Montezuma, Olga, Red Dandy, Rose Crystal, Sable, Salmon Glow. (14).

#### B Plus

Black Monarch, Chocolate Soldier, Dandy Dan, Daystar, Elizabeth Cahn, Fortune, Garden Peace, Good News, John Harvard, Lovely Rose, *officinalis rubra plena*, Robert W. Auten, Rose Garland, Sophie, Veritas, Zori, Zulu Warrior. (17).

#### B

Auten's Red, Black Warrior, Buccaneer, Burgandy, Campagna, Cavatina, Cecilia, Cloud Castle, Constance Spry, Dakota, Dainty Lass, *decora*, Early Daylight, Emblem, Fantasia, Gallant Red, Grace Root, Herald, Horizon, Janice, Julia Grant, Magnolia Flower, May Dawn, Nathalie, Pageant, Paladin,

Patriot, Playmate, Postilion, Queen of the Dawn, Roselette, Rose Marie, Saunders 6941, Scarlet Tanager, *tenuifolia flore pleno*. (35).

#### REGULAR DOUBLES

##### A

Dr. J. H. Neeley, Harry L. Smith, Kelway's Glorious, Lillian Wild, Mary Auten, Therese. (6).

##### A Minus

Florence Ellis, George W. Peyton, Henry Sass, Mary E. Nicholls, Moonglow, Mother's Choice, Mrs. Edward Harding, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Frank Beach, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Rapture, S. F. Wood, Virginia Lee, Westhill. (14.).

##### B Plus

A. B. C. Nicholls, Ada Priscilla, Alice Harding, Auten's Pride, Baroness Schroeder, Charlene, Cornelia Stone, Countess Maritza, Dr. F. R. Huxley, Doris Cooper, Dorothy J., Ensign Mannix Moriarty, Ethel Mars, Gardenia, Grover Cleveland, Hargrove Hudson, J. C. Legg, John M. Good, Judge Berry, Judge Snook, June Day, Kansas, Kelway's Queen, Lillian Gumm, Mabel L. Franklin, Mme. Emile Galle, Mme. Geissler, Mconstone, Mrs. James Kelway, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Myrtle Gentry, Nauvoo, Nick Shaylor, Old Siwash, Peter Brand, Philippe Rivoire, Pink Monarch, Pink Solange, Queen of Sheba, Ramona Lins, Reine Hortense, Summer Cloud, Thura Hires, Victoire de la Marne, Victory, Walter Lindgren, W. L. Gumm. (47).

##### B

Admiral, Arthur H. Fewkes, Belladonna, Betty Blossom, Carolina Moon, Clemenceau, Ella Christiansen, Ellen Foster, Etta, Florence Bond, Florence Nicholls, Flower Girl, Frank Wade, Gloriana, Hermione, Kakoden, Laura Dessert, Laura Ellen, Lois Q. Gayle, Lora Dexheimer, Lottie Dawson Rea, Lowell Thomas, Mabel L. Gore, Mari-

etta Sisson, Martha Bulloch, Mary Brand, Merrill Franklin, Miss Dainty, Mons. Jules Elie, Mons. Martin Cahuzac, Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, Onondaga, Pastel, Phoebe Cary, Pink Glow, Plymouth, Rare Etching, Rosette, Rubio, Sam Donaldson, Sarah Bernhardt, Siloam, Sir John Franklin, Souvenir de A. Millet, Thomas C. Thurlow, Vogue, Winnifred Domme, Zus Braun. (48).

#### SEMI-DOUBLE

##### A Minus

Minnie Shaylor. (1).

##### B Plus

Miss America, Red Goddess, Spring Beauty. (3).

##### B

Ernest F. Kelsey, Flamingo, Phyllis Kelway, Silvia Saunders. (4).

#### JAPANESE

##### A Minus

Shaylor's Sunburst, Westerner. (2).

##### B Plus

Margaret Atwood, Moon of Nippon, Rashoomon, Sunmist. (4).

##### B

Antwerpen, Bu-Te, Charm, Fairy, Largo, Minamota, Mr. G. F. Hemerik, Nippon Parade, Tamate Boku. (9).

#### SINGLES

##### A Minus

Dawn Pink, Dunlora, LeJour, Red Key. (4).

##### B Plus

L'Etincelante, Mankato, Medicine Hat, Vera. (4).

##### B

Helen, Krinkled White, La Salle, Sea Shell. (4).

#### TREE

##### A

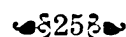
Flora, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu. (2).

##### B Plus

Yasc-no-mine. (1).

##### B

Argosy, Satin Rouge. (2).





# Secretary's Notes



The reasons this Bulletin is late, are legion, so no attempt will be made here to recount them. One advantage of its being late is that we are able to present the schedule of the Fiftieth Annual Exhibition in full. There is a possibility that a change or two may have to be made, but nothing drastic.

This schedule provides classes for all and plenty of them, though not too many. Some of them do not usually appear in our national schedules, but they are all products of long experience in the Minneapolis shows and they work well.

We hope as many of our members as can do so, will plan to come to this show and make it the biggest we have ever had from the standpoint of attendance by members as well as quality. The latter is assured, if the weather does not step in and put a crimp in things. It has been known to do this.

In order that there may be no slips concerning the final dates of the show, those who contemplate attending should verify the dates by writing Mr. R. C. Schneider, 708 Osceola Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota about the first of June, enclosing a self addressed card, and he will gladly give you the latest dope. But no change is contemplated unless prolonged cold weather makes the tentative dates too early.

As this is the Fiftieth Annual Show, it is planned to make it a small celebration of the birthday of the Society. This will probably be done by making the awards different from any made before. Last year was really the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Society, and if we had not been obliged to skip a show

in 1946, this show would have coincided with it. Though a little late we shall try and make our Bulletins for 1954 memorial numbers in some ways. We hope we shall be able to get letters from as many of our oldest members, as possible, telling of their memories of the Society. This may be hard to do. I find that old people, being one myself I ought to know, often think they cannot write, but few of them object to talking, so may be those who will not write, will get some one else to do it for them.

An effort will also be made to get articles from Europe, Japan, New Zealand and other countries where peonies are grown, telling about what the Peony is doing in those regions.

Since there has been no recent tabulation of varieties that embrace all the peonies now in commerce or at least the newer ones, we hope to publish one Bulletin that will have this information in it. This will be on the order of Bulletin No. 91. We hope all growers of peonies will send us their lists so that this can be done without too much correspondence to find out what varieties are still being sold. I find dealers have a great reluctance to give us this information. Why I do not know, unless they think a catalogue sent the Society produces no business. Well, they are mistaken, as I have sent many customers to many different growers just because I happened to have their lists and could tell the prospective buyer where he could find the variety he wanted. It is probable that no additional list of the hybrids will be published as com-

plete lists were given in the June, 1953, Bulletin and it would be only duplication to publish them so soon again. But that will finally be decided later, as it may be found advisable to have complete lists of all in one bulletin. We certainly hope to get the lists of tree peonies brought up to date.

There is the matter of the symposium. If one is to be taken, we hope some steps may be taken to hold it this year, as we should like to get the results in this contemplated bulletin, but we cannot hold the Bulletin indefinitely for the symposium. A symposium is much desired by many and bitterly opposed by others, though the ayes seem to have it.

The final outcome of it all will probably be that I shall ask some of my good friends, who have large and representative peony collections, and those, who are willing to cooperate, to send in lists of those varieties they consider best in each color and type and combine the results, so making a master list of the best.

While we are talking about varieties, your attention is called to the fact that this coming fall, the long awaited introduction of Dr. Earle B. White's light yellow single, *Claire de Lune*, will be accomplished. See our advertisements. The history of this remarkable peony is interesting. For many years hybridizers have been striving to produce a variety that was really yellow. It is true we have had two species that are yellow or yellowish. *Mlokosewitschi* is truly yellow, but it is also hard to grow in some sections and hard to find. Many have bought it, only to have it drag along for a few years and finally disappear. So they say they will not put out good hard cash for something they will almost surely lose. Of course there are many exceptions

where this peony has done remarkably well and it is a beautiful plant and flower. The other so-called yellow is *Wittmanniana*; but this is just a creamy white and the yellow is hard to find except in the faintest hints. The yellowest peony of all is *lutea*, that small tree peony from China. Many vain attempts were made to cross this with herbaceous peonies without, of course, any success. So it had to be *Mlokosewitschi* or nothing. Strange to say, by all scientific rules it should be easy to get results, but literally thousands of crosses were made without getting a single seed that would germinate, or, if they did, they died almost at once.

Dr. White tells us in his interesting article in Bulletin No. 101, March, 1946, that he made over four thousand crosses, from which only this one plant lived. We see perseverance finally paid off.

Dr. White has another interesting hybrid single that will come into circulation in a year or two. This one, *Nancy*, is a triple hybrid which has *officinalis*, *Mlokosewitschi* and *machrophylla* in it. It is a light peach pink in color and Dr. White, himself, thinks it the most beautiful of all.

Two other criginations of Dr. White have been preserved from his garden, both brilliant red singles. These are described in the Department of Registration in this issue.

It was my privilege and pleasure to visit two of our good members while on a short trip to Florida at Thanksgiving. They were Dr. White and Mr. John M. Johnson. Dr. White now makes his permanent home at 250 University Boulevard, Daytona Beach, Florida. Mr. Johnson spends his winters in Lakeland. Dr. White now has become a devotee of the hisbiscus as he cannot grow peonies in Florida. His opinion, that this is the most

beautiful of Florida flowers, is shared by Mr. Johnson. It was my privilege to see several beautiful varieties in Dr. White's garden (by flashlight) and in a nursery in Lakeland under Mr. Johnson's guidance.

We again have the sad duty of chronicling the death of some of our members. A great many of us will sorely miss the presence of J. W. Bernstein from our annual meetings where he was so often the life of the party. The passing of Dr. Herbert L. Mantz will leave a void in the ranks of those who have so successfully carried on the fight against tuberculosis that will not be easy to fill.

Another avid peony fan and one who was for many years a member of our Society, Dr. C. F. Menninger of Topeka, Kansas, has gone to his reward. He was well up in his nineties when he died just recently. He had gained world wide fame in his studies and treatment of mental cases and his institution near Topeka was one of the greatest in this country.

During the year 1953 we have added a total of 74 new members. Of these 41 came in through the Secretary's office. Certainly some of these were induced to join by some of our loyal members. But it is often not possible to trace exactly the source of interest. However, we do know that 33 came through direct solicitation of ten members and

nineteen of these are to be credited to the efforts of Dr. D. Danford Hyde. All honor to Dr. Hyde and the sincere thanks of the Society. The next highest number came from the Brand Peony Farms, Inc.

In order to carry out our program for next year as planned, it will take money. We hope we shall have an early response to this appeal to those members who have not already sent in their 1954 dues, to do so as soon as possible. We also hope that many of our members will make an earnest endeavor to get new members. If only each one would send an average of one new member, our membership would soon be where it should be and we could operate far more efficiently.

We should like to increase our advertising. Many say they get no results from advertising in our Bulletin. In answer to this, let me say that it is possibly true that many thousands of dollars worth of peonies are sold each season through notices published in the Bulletin of their performance and so our advertisers benefit, even though credit is not often given by those who order. So we hope we shall have increased support from our members for our advertising pages. We should like to have ten pages of advertisements in each bulletin. We rarely have the half of that. Even ten pages would not quite pay the cost of publication.

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### 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 LOREN V. FRANKLIN, Franklin Nursery, 6105 Elliot Ave., Minneapolis, 17, Minnesota, owner.

FLORENCE BRUSS (Franklin,

1953). S. LM. Dark red. Seedling No. X 474. Parentage not known. This dark red single has large flowers with glossy petals and heavy foliage. It blooms in late mid-season, which makes it especially valuable. It is of medium height and has strong stems.

LORETTA FRANK (Franklin,

5283

1953). S. E. Dark pink. Seedling No. H 2. Parentage unknown. Large dark pink guards, stiff stems and medium height characterize this single. It is a good bloomer and keeps well when cut. It should be a valuable addition as we have few good singles in its color class.

**MAJESTIC ROSE** (Franklin, 1953). D. L. Medium rose pink. Seedling No. A 209 P. Parentage unknown. Large reflexing petals give this medium rose pink double the general appearance of a big rose, hence its name. Its strong stems are of medium height. It is a late bloomer. Its foliage is ample and good. It won the American Home Achievement Metal at Minneapolis in June, 1953, marking it as a flower of exceptional merit.

By GILBERT H. WILD AND SON, Sarcoxie, Missouri, owners and EARLE B. WHITE, Daytona Beach, Florida, originator.

**CLAIRE DE LUNE** (White 1954). S. E. Yellow. Seedling No. not known. Parentage *Mons. Jules Elie* x *Mloko-sewitschi*. This variety represents the only successful cross ever made, using *lactiflora* x *Mloko-sewitschi*. It is true light creamy yellow single. Its guard petals are well rounded and crinkled and form a large cupped flower of great beauty. Its filaments are yellow supporting orange colored anthers, which are usually numerous. It sets abundant seed. It has hairy white carpels and light pink stigmas. The stems are about 28 inches tall and are thin, but stiff. Its foliage is pink in the Spring. It is a vigorous grower and has excellent plant habit.

**MASSASOIT** (White, 1954). S. E. Dark red. Seedling No. not known. Parentage: *Richard Carvel* x *officinalis anemoneflora aurea ligulata*. This brilliant, dark red sin-

gle has cupped guards, red filaments, yellow anthers, striped red, carpels hairy, green, with pink stigmas. It has thin but adequate stems and grows about thirty inches high. Its foliage resembles that of its *officinalis* parent and is especially beautiful in Spring. It is a vigorous grower of good habit.

**NANCY** (White, 1954). S. E. Peach pink. Seedling No. 2-54-36. Parentage: *officinalis rubra plena* x *Saunders* 4710 which is a seedling of *Mloko-sewitschi* x *machrophylla* parentage. This triple hybrid single marks a distinct color break as its light peach pink color is found in no other peony. It has excellent plant habit and grows to a height of about twenty-eight inches. Its stems are heavy and the foliage is broad, light green. The filaments are dark pink and the anthers yellow. The carpels are hairy and green and the stigmas, dark pink. It makes a garden subject of great beauty.

**TECUMSEH** (White, 1954) S. E. Medium red. Seedling No. not known. Parentage: *Marie Crousse* x *lobata* (from Perry). This large, bright medium red single, has excellent plant habit and is a vigorous grower about 36 inches tall. It has heavy stems, side buds and cupped flowers. The stamens are yellow, the carpels hairy with white stigmas. The foliage resembles that of its *lobata* parent.

By GILBERT S. RICHMOND, 4711 Grayton Road, Cleveland 11, Ohio, owner and originator:

**SWEET GENEVIEVE** (G. S. Richmond, 1949). D. M. P. Seedling No. 201-327. Parentage unknown. Double, deep lilac pink. Medium height, dark green foliage. Center petals sometimes show fine crimson edges. Pleasing fragrance to an unusual degree. Abundant bloomer. Midseason.

~529~



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BLANCHE KING, 1941, 1947.

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Best light pink: R. A. NAPIER, 1948; MYRTLE GENTRY, 1949, 1950, 1952.

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, 1953.

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**MASSASOIT** (White, 1954). S. E. R., Brilliant red hybrid single. Parentage: Richard Carvel x officinalis anemoneflora aurea ligulata. It has adequate stems about thirty inches tall. Its foliage is especially beautiful in Spring. It is a vigorous grower ..... \$30.00 each

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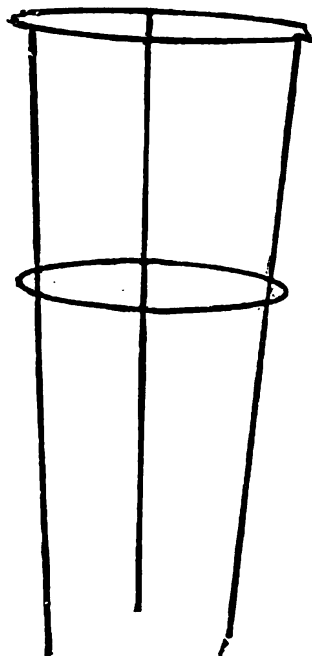
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