

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin



MARCH 1955

BULLETIN NO. 136

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

No. 5. Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois.

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



MARCH, 1955 — NO. 136

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing these lines January 29th. The thermometer outside my living room window registers two below zero. About three inches of snow covers the ground. I would that there were three inches more for the good of some of my plants. Peonies will take it without injury, but there are other things not so rugged. With subzero temperatures and snow, the annual meeting and exhibit of the American Peony Society in June may seem too far away to give much thought. But the people of District Five are thinking about it—have been making plans for several months. I have had several letters from Dr. Hyde, their able and enthusiastic president. Mrs. Hyde, by the way, is secretary. (I hope you people of District Five don't work a willing team too hard; give them the support they deserve).

Dr. Hyde indicated in his letters he felt they would be able to put on a show that would measure up pretty well. I'll wager it will be a knockout if we have a good blooming season. I know the kind of flowers they produce in northern Illinois, and I know they will be

effectively staged. Another thing, Chicago comes pretty close, I think, to being the geographical center of North American peonydom. So exhibits should come in from far and wide to give the District Five people a run for their money. Attendance should benefit also from the central location.

Roy Gayle heads the committee to work out the show schedule and he has a tough job. The growing importance of hybrids poses some real problems for schedule makers. I wrote Mr. Gayle the other day that he should be prepared for some expressions of dissatisfaction; he will not be able to work out a schedule that will be approved by all because there are many divergent opinions as to the handling of hybrids. I predict that it will be some years before they fall into their appropriate groove, whatever that may be. Meanwhile, let us all be patient, tolerant and good natured about it, but not afraid to voice our opinions and argue our viewpoints. By so doing, we will help those who have the responsibility to make wise decisions.

☞ 3 ☞

I have appointed Mr. Peyton and Mr. Lindgren from the Board of Directors to represent the Board relative to the schedule. They will act in an advisory capacity to the local committee, especially with reference to the medal classes. In recognition for his fine handling of the job last year at Minneapolis, I have asked Frank Moots to serve again as chief judge, and he has agreed to do so. He will choose, instruct, assign and supervise the judges who make the awards. A big job it is, but Mr. Moots has proved he can do it.

The death of Mr. Wassenberg left a vacancy on the Board of Directors. When such a vacancy occurs, the President is empowered under the constitution to appoint someone to serve the remainder of the term. This I have done. Clarence Lienau of Detroit is our new Director, serving until 1956. Mr. Lienau is from the same district as Mr. Wassenberg, so the geographical balance of the Board remains the same. Those who know Mr. Lienau, know him as a red hot peony fan, a man of sound judgment and progressive in his thinking.

Mr. Smirnow, Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee, is in the midst of assembling and evaluating the suggestions of the Committee members for the betterment of our Society. If anyone (you need not be a member of the Committee) has an idea he has not yet passed on to Mr. Smirnow or myself, there is yet time before the final report is compiled and submitted to the Directors. Get that ball point right now and get the idea down on paper; send it to Louis Smirnow, 8 Elm Court Drive, Sands Point, L. I., N. Y.

If you are one of our loyal members who has never attended an

annual meeting and exhibition of the American Peony Society, why not make this the year? And take some flowers with you. Start planning for it now. Go to one and you will never miss another if you can help it.

W. A. Alexander, President.

The Tree Peony Monograph

By the time this issue of the Bulletin reaches you, the January issue of the National Horticultural Magazine should have reached you. It was mailed to all members in good standing about February 20. If you did not receive your copy, please advise me at once.

It was free to our members. We have quite a number of extra copies of this Monograph on Tree Peonies which we sell at one dollar each. If you wish additional copies, we shall be glad to supply you.

Membership In The AHS

There was enclosed in the copy of the above magazine sent you, an invitation to become a member of the American Horticultural Society which publishes the National Horticultural Magazine. It stated that those who wished to become members could do so by sending three dollars to American Horticultural Society, Inc., 1600 Bladensburg Road, N. E., Washington 2, D. C. The date of expiration of this special offer was given as March 1. It has been extended to May 1, we understand. You should state that you are a member of the American Peony Society in order to get this special rate as the regular rate is five dollars a year.

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The Fifty-Second Annual Meeting

Of The

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Chicago, Illinois, June 16-18, 1955

THE BANQUET. will be held at Nielson's on Thursday evening, June 16, 1955, at 6:30 P.M. Nielson's is quite a famous eating and meeting place and is at 7330 West North Avenue, which is U. S. Route No. 64, six blocks west of the Exhibition Hall.

THE MEETING will be held at the same place, immediately following the banquet.

THE DIRECTORS will hold their first meeting sometime before the annual meeting at a time and place yet to be decided. Our President hopes it can be arranged to hold it the evening before the exhibition, that is on the evening of June 15. The second meeting will be held probably sometime on Friday morning, June 17. The time and place of this meeting will also be announced when decided.

THE EXHIBITION, which is the Fifty First, will be staged in the lobby of the St. Paul Federal Savings and Loan Association of Chicago, 6720 West North Avenue on U. S. Route 64. The bank is air conditioned. The staging will be on tiered benches. The block, in which the bank is situated, is 1600 North and 6700 West. It is only five blocks east of Harlem Ave, U. S. 42 A, and one block east of Oak Park Avenue. It is also about 2½ miles west of Cicero, State Route 50.

There is plenty of parking space

at the rear of the bank and also a rear entrance.

ACCOMODATIONS

It is recommended that rooms be secured at one of the following places. For those who like a motel, the Leyden Motel has been selected. It is situated in Melrose Park, and its phone is Fillmore 4-2653. It is on U. S. Route 64, West North Avenue, about three miles west of the Exhibition Hall and of Route 42A and two miles east of the La Grange-Mannheim Road which is U. S. Routes 45 and 12. Those not familiar with the Chicago area should find little difficulty in locating U. S. 64 from which route all the places mentioned are easily reached.

The rates for rooms at the Motel are as follows: Single: \$7.00; Double: \$8.00; Twin Beds \$10.00; Three or four people: \$12.00. All rooms have bath, hot water, Beauty Rest mattresses, radio and television.

For those who wish hotel accommodations, two have been selected. THE OAK PARK ARMS HOTEL, 408 South Oak Park Avenue, corner Washington Boulevard. Phone: Euclid 6-4040. This is a fine, modern hotel and the rates are as follows: Single: \$6.00; Double: \$9.00. It is easily reached from the show room by going one block west and turning south (left) on Oak Park Avenue. Follow this Avenue until

you reach the hotel about twenty blocks south, three miles. It is two blocks south of the Lake Street Elevated Lnes.

THE CARLTON HOTEL is an older, but clean, well-kept hotel, one block from a downtown shopping center including Marshall Field, Fair and Wieboldt stores. It is situated at 1110 Pleasant Avenue and its phone is Village 8-5000. It is one block from the Lake Street Elevated. Those who use public transportation, take the Lake Street bus and transfer to the Oak Park Avenue bus going north, which lands them one block from the show room. The rates are: single, \$4:50 up; Double, \$6.00 and \$7.00; Twin Beds, \$8.00 and \$9.00.

There are many other motels, and hotels within fairly easy traveling distance to say nothing of the many downtown Chicago hotels.

Those wishing accommodations should secure them as soon as possible by writing *direct* to the place of their choice at these addresses:

Leyden Motel, West North Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois; Oak Park Arms Hotel, 408 South Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Carlton Hotel, 1110 Pleasant Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois.

For any additional information wanted, you should write Mrs. D. S. Hyde, Secretary, Fifth District, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois. Do *not* write Mrs. Hyde for reservations for rooms.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITORS

The bank will be open from five to ten P.M. on Wednesday, June 15, for the convenience of those desiring to set up their flowers at that time. It is strongly urged that all who possibly can, do this at this time as on Thursday morning the bank will be open for business

as usual and there will be less confusion on Wednesday evening.

COLD STORAGE

By courtesy of AMLING'S FLOWERLAND cold storage will be available at any time after June 1. Shipments will be stored and delivered to the Exhibition Hall free of charge. However, local growers must transport their own blooms. Shipments should be made in your name to:

AMLING'S FLOWERLAND
Care F. RENDE,
8200 West North Avenue,
Maywood, Illinois

They should be plainly marked: FOR PEONY SHOW. Postage or express should be prepaid.

STAGING

If unable to be present to stage your own bloom, please do *not* send more than 25 blooms. You should furnish the District Secretary, Mrs. D. S. Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois, with full information as below and your blooms will be staged for you.

Each variety must be labelled with a wooden label. Mark on the *Back* of the label the class number in which you wish the variety to be shown. Do *not* mark your name on the label. An exhibition number will be assigned you at the show and this will be shown on the back of the label also. Please note that every bloom must be labelled and use only the wooden tree labels which are usually 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Write the names so they can be read and fasten them securely. It is discouraging to the Show Committee to receive blooms so carelessly labelled, often on small paper sales tags gotten from a neighborhood store, that they can't be read. Also do *not* send in a bunch of blooms of one

variety with just one label on the lot. Label each bloom. The Show Committee will not have time to do this labelling for you.

Instructions to Exhibitors
who expect to be present to handle their own blooms.

1. Register as an exhibitor at the Secretary's desk.

2. You will be assigned a number from 1 to 99. This number will identify your entries in the various classes.

3. ATTACH WOODEN LABELS to your blooms. If you do not have them, they can be had at the show room. Ask for them. Do *not* use any other kind of label.

4. On one side of the label mark the name of the variety and be sure it is legible. No other markings on that side of the label.

5. On the reverse side of the label mark at the left end your identification number which was assigned you. Do *not* mark your name on the label. Mark the identification number only.

6. Mark the number of the class, as given in the schedule in which the bloom is shown, to the right of the identification number. For example the front of the label might read.

Philippe Rivoire

and the back:

17	106
----	-----

which would mean 17 (John Smith) your identification number and 106 (one bloom red-Double in the Open Classes) the class in which the bloom is shown, the numbers from 1 to 99 being assigned as identification numbers and the numbers

from 101 up to the various classes. However certain special classes are assigned letters. For instance if the letter A appeared where the number 106 is on the above label, it would mean the bloom is to be shown in the Gold Medal Class.

If you will label your blooms with wooden labels with the name of the variety on one side, at home, it would expedite matters a great deal, as only the identification number and class number would have to be added in the show room. Work space will be quite limited.

GENERAL RULES

1. It is not necessary for you to be a member of the American Peony Society to exhibit. Non-members are cordially welcomed.

2. All blooms shown must have been grown by the exhibitor except as specifically excepted, notably in the Arrangement Classes.

3. All blooms shown must be correctly labelled except in the Arrangement classes and the basket and vase classes.

4. *Seedlings* may be shown either by the originator or by proxy. See under *Seedlings* in the schedule for rules governing these exhibits and awards.

5. Those who wish to compete for the *American Home Achievement Medal* should familiarize themselves with the special rules which govern these entries. See the Schedule.

6. Only lactiflora (albiflora, chinensis) varieties may be shown except in classes 401-412 which are especially for hybrids in class 450 for tree peonies and in classes 125, 126, 307, 501-509 in which there is no restriction as to the species of peony shown, and in Classes 600-602, *Seedlings* and new varieties.

The Fifty-First Annual Exhibition
Of The
American Peony Society
Held Under The Auspices Of
Oak Park-River Forest Garden Club
And The
Fifth District, American Peony Society
At The

St. Paul Federal Savings and Loan Associaton Of Chicago
6720 West North Avenue, (U. S. Route 64).

Thursday and Friday, June 16-17, 1955

9:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M.

**CLASS NUMBERS AND
CLASSIFICATIONS**

OPEN—Nos. 101 to 126 inclusive.

These classes are open to all exhibitors, whether commercial, amateur or novice.

AMATEUR—Nos. 201 to 224 inclusive.

These are limited to those who grow plants by their own efforts, have less than fifty varieties, and do not sell roots or flowers.

NOVICE—Nos. 301 to 307 inclusive.

Limited to those who grow their own plants, have less than twenty five varieties, do not sell roots or or flowers and who have never won a blue ribbon in a Regional or National Show.

HYBRID—Nos. 401 to 412 inclusive.

Open to all.

TREE—No. 450.

Open to all.

ARRANGEMENT—No. 501 to

504 inclusive.

Open to all, members or non-members. Material may be obtained from any source.

JUNIOR—Nos. 505 to 509 inclusive.

Only boys and girls under fifteen years of age may enter these classes. The flowers must have been grown in the exhibitor's home garden, except that material for the arrangement classes may be obtained from any source.

SEEDLINGS—No. 600 up.

These, including the entries for the American Home Achievement Medal, may be shown by either the originator or some one else, but the awards will go to the originator. See schedule for special rules for these classes.

THE SHOW will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, the 16th and 17th. It will not be dismantled until after 12 noon on Saturday the

18th.

8 8 8

Schedule

If necessity or policy demands it some changes may be made in the following schedule.

SPECIAL CLASSES

Only *lactiflora* (*albiflora*, *chinensis*) varieties may be shown in classes A, B C or E; only hybrids in Class D. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry in any one of these classes.

No. A. GOLD MEDAL CLASS.

Open to all. Fifty different varieties of which not over twenty may be single or Japanese type. One bloom each variety and each bloom in a separate container.

No. B. SILVER MEDAL CLASS.

Open only to Amateurs. Twenty five different varieties of which not over ten may be single or Japanese type. One bloom each variety and each bloom in a separate container.

No. C. BRONZE MEDAL CLASS.

Open only to Novices. Ten different varieties, one bloom each variety and each bloom in a separate container. Any type may be shown.

No. D. HYBRIDS. Open to all. Fifteen different varieties, one bloom each variety and each bloom in a separate container. Any type or color may be shown. First prize: \$15.00; Second: \$10.00; Third: \$5.00; all donated by Dr. Hyde.

No. E. GUESTS. Open to anyone living over 150 miles from Chicago. Fifteen different varieties, one bloom each and each bloom in a separate container. Any type or color may be shown. First Prize: \$15.00; Second: \$10.00; Third: \$5.00; donated by Messrs. Marvin C. Karrels and Roy G. Gayle.

Specimen Classes

OPEN CLASSES

Each exhibitor is restricted to two entries in each class which must be of different varieties. He may win two awards.

Only *lactiflora* varieties permitted except in Classes 125 and 126

Doubles.

- No. 101. One bloom—white.
- No. 102. One bloom—blush.
- No. 103. One bloom—light pink.
- No. 104. One bloom—medium pink.
- No. 105. One bloom—dark pink.
- No. 106. One bloom—red.
- No. 107. Three blooms, same variety,—white or blush.
- No. 108. Three blooms, same variety—pink.
- No. 109. Three blooms, same variety—red.

Semi-Doubles

- Stamens must be plainly visible.
- No. 110. One bloom—white or blush.
 - No. 111. One bloom—pink.
 - No. 112. One bloom—red.
 - No. 113. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

Singles

- No. 114. One bloom—white or blush.
- No. 115. One bloom—pink.
- No. 116. One bloom—red.
- No. 117. Three blooms, one variety, and color.

Japanese

- No. 118. One bloom—white or blush.
- No. 119. One bloom—pink.
- No. 120. One bloom—red.
- No. 121. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

Decorative

Three or more blooms on each stem. The terminal bud must be removed.

- No. 122. One stem—white or
blush.
No. 123. One stem—pink.
No. 124. One stem—red.

Arrangements.

Lactiflora hybrids and tree peonies may be used in these two classes.

No. 125. Basket, main feature to be peonies. Any color or type permitted.

No. 126. Vase of peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage. Any class, color or type permitted.

AMATEUR CLASSES

Each exhibitor is restricted to two entries in each class. He may win two awards. Each of his entries must be of a different variety and staged in a separate container.

Only *lactiflora* varieties permitted in Classes 201 to 224

Doubles

- No. 201. One bloom—white.
No. 202. One bloom—blush.
No. 203. One bloom—light pink.
No. 204. One bloom—medium pink.
No. 205. One bloom—dark pink.
No. 206. One bloom—red.
No. 207. Three blooms, one variety, white or blush.
No. 208. Three blooms, one variety, pink.
No. 209. Three blooms, one variety, red.

Semi-doubles.

Stamens must be plainly visible

- No. 210. One bloom—white or blush.
No. 211. One bloom—pink.
No. 212. One bloom—red.
No. 213. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

Singles

- No. 214. One bloom—white.
No. 215. One bloom—pink.
No. 216. One bloom—red.
No. 217. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

Japanese

- No. 218. One bloom—white or blush.
No. 219. One bloom—pink.
No. 220. One bloom—red.
No. 221. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

Decorative

Three or more blooms on each stem
Terminal bud must be removed.

- No. 222. One stem—white or blush.
No. 223. One stem—pink.
No. 224. One stem—red.

NOVICE CLASSES

Each exhibitor is restricted to two entries in each class. He may win two awards. Each entry must be a different variety. Only *lactiflora* varieties may be shown in classes 301-306. Suitable awards will be made in these classes.

Doubles and Semi-Double

- No. 301. One bloom, white or blush
No. 302. One bloom, pink.
No. 303. One bloom, red.
No. 304. Three blooms of one variety in one container, any color.
No. 305. One bloom, single any color
No. 306. One bloom, Japanese, any color.
No. 307. One bloom, hybrid, any color.

JUNIORS

See classes 508-509.

HYBRIDS

A hybrid is a variety obtained by crossing a variety of one species with one of another species.

Open to all.

Each exhibitor is restricted to three entries in each class. If more than one entry is made in a class, the varieties shown must be different. Each exhibitor may win as many as three awards.

Doubles and Semi-Doubles

- No. 401. One bloom, white or blush.
No. 402. One bloom, pink.
No. 403. One bloom, red.

No. 404. Three blooms one variety, any color.

Singles

No. 405. One bloom, white or blush.

No. 406. One bloom, pink.

No. 407. One bloom, red.

No. 408. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

Japanese

No. 409. One bloom, white or blush

No. 410. One bloom, pink.

No. 411. One bloom, red.

No. 412. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

TREE PEONIES

Open to all. The number of entries and awards for each exhibitor is not limited.

No. 450. One bloom, one variety, any type or color.

ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Open to all.

Qualifications

a. Peonies to be featured in all arrangements. Any species or hybrid, including tree peonies may be shown.

b. Other flowers and foliage permitted in all classes.

c. Flowers used need not be grown by exhibitor.

d. Accessories permitted in all classes.

e. Exhibits must be ready for judging by 12:00 o'clock noon on the opening day, June 16.

f. Exhibits must remain on display until 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 18.

g. The American Peony Society, its affiliates or sponsors assumes no responsibility for the damage or loss of any type of arrangement material; however, reasonable care will be taken to safeguard material.

h. A *Sweepstakes* prize of \$25.00 in cash will be awarded the exhibitor scoring the most points in these classes. The point score is as follows: First, 5; Second, 3; Third, 1. This prize must be applied to the

purchase of a distinctive container or suitable accessory. Donor Dr. D. S. Hyde.

No. 501. Dramatic arrangement in metal container.

No. 502. Mass arrangement.

No. 503. Appropriate for church.

No. 504. Suitable for hall table or in these classes.

Junior Department

(Under fifteen years of age)

buffet.

Suitable awards will be given

No. 505. Arrangement for teacher's desk.

No. 506. Arrangement for birthday party.

No. 507. Arrangement for home usage.

No. 508. One specimen bloom, any color, any type, any class. The bloom must be from the exhibitor's garden.

No. 509. Three blooms in a vase. The blooms must be from the exhibitor's garden.

**SEEDLINGS AND
NEW VARIETIES**

The following classes will be judged by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society. If less than three members of this Committee are present, the President shall appoint sufficient temporary members to serve.

**No. 600 THE AMERICAN HOME
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL CLASS**

The American Home Achievement Medal is offered for award to the originator, amateur or professional, of the most worthy, named variety of Peony whether shown by the originator or some one else.

No variety that has been offered for sale for over three years prior to this show, may be entered.

At least three blooms must be shown, and entered specifically

in a separate, clearly designated class provided in the schedule.

The award shall be made only to a new variety of adequate merit, distinction and novelty; one having distinctiveness compared with existing varieties. It cannot be made to an unnamed seedling; in the event of a successful competing variety being without a name at the time of judging, the award will not be confirmed until a name, satisfactory to, and approved by, the American Peony Society has been given.

The winning of this Medal automatically renders the variety winning it, ineligible to compete for it in any future year.

The above conditions must be included in the class description in the prize schedule of any show at which the Medal is offered.

A photograph of the variety winning the award must be furnished the AMERICAN HOME MAGAZINE, E. L. D. Seymour, Horticultural Editor, 444 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York, free of charge. It should be suitable for reproduction and preferably about 4" x 5".

Any type, species or hybrid, including tree peonies, may be shown. Owing to lack of space, exhibitors are asked to limit their entries to not more than five of their best, that fulfill the above conditions.

No. 601 SEEDLINGS. A seedling is defined as being any variety that has not been offered for sale to the public. It must be either named or numbered. Three blooms of each variety entered must be shown in one container. Each exhibitor is limited to five entries. No. 602 NEW VARIETIES. Any variety of comparatively recent origin that has been named and offered for sale, shall be recognized as a New Variety. Three

blooms of each variety, must be shown in one container. Each exhibitor is limited to five entries.

Certificates of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificates, bronze, silver or gold medals may be awarded at the discretion of the judges in the two above classes. Their decisions are final.

Any colors, any types, including hybrids and tree peonies, may be entered in these classes.

Exhibitors are asked to enter only blooms of the best quality and condition in the above classes.

THE COURT OF HONOR

The following flowers shall be contestants for the Court of Honor: The winners of all first and second awards in all classes except the Arrangement classes.

In addition, any exhibitor or member may withdraw any specimen from any class and enter same. This applies to individual blooms entered in special classes or individual blooms from exhibits having three blooms in one container. *No bloom of merit should be overlooked.*

All rejected entries should be returned, immediately, to the Class from which they were taken and it shall be the duty of the exhibitor or the one who withdrew the bloom, to see that this is done. Also, if a bloom that has been so withdrawn wins an award in the Court of Honor, a notation to that effect should be placed in the class from which it was withdrawn. The winner of the award should see that this is done. It will save a great deal of trouble to the one whose duty it is to write up the show.

The Court of Honor shall consist of the following blooms, chosen as the best in their respective classes, colors and types:

Lactiflora (albiflora, Chinesis)

Doubles

White

Medium pink

Blush

Dark pink

Light pink

Red

Semi-Doubles: One specimen, any color.

Singles: One specimen, any color

Japanese: One specimen, any color

Hybrids

One specimen, any color or type.

Tree Peonies

One specimen, any color or type.

From the entire show, the judges will select the outstanding bloom to be crowned:

GRAND CHAMPION OF SHOW

If deemed advisable, a Second Day Grand Champion may be chosen.

MEDAL AWARDS

The Gold Medal of the American Peony Society—

To the collection winning first in Class A.

The Silver Medal of the American Peony Society—

To the collection winning first in Class B.

The Bronze Medal of the American Peony Society—

To the collection winning first in Class C.

To the best specimen single in the show.

To the best specimen Japanese type in the show.

To the best specimen hybrid in the show.

Any one of the above medals may be awarded to any variety or person selected by the Board of Directors or Seedling Committee as worthy of the award.

The American Home Achievement Medal—

To the best and most distinctive seedling entered in the class provided for the purpose under the conditions specified and selected

by the Standing Seedling Committee of the Society.

The James Boyd Memorial Medal in Silver—

Awarded by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on a year to year basis. Winner to be chosen by the American Peony Society.

Three judges appointed by the President of the Society will make this award.

The Bertrand H. Farr Memorial Medal in Bronze—

To the best bloom of a double *lactiflora (albiflora, chinensis)* in the show. This award will be made by three judges appointed by the President.

Fifth District Announcement

There will be a **FIFTH DISTRICT, American Peony Society, meeting on Sunday, April 17, 1955, at 1:30 P. M.**

It will be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois.

OKLAHOMA SHOW

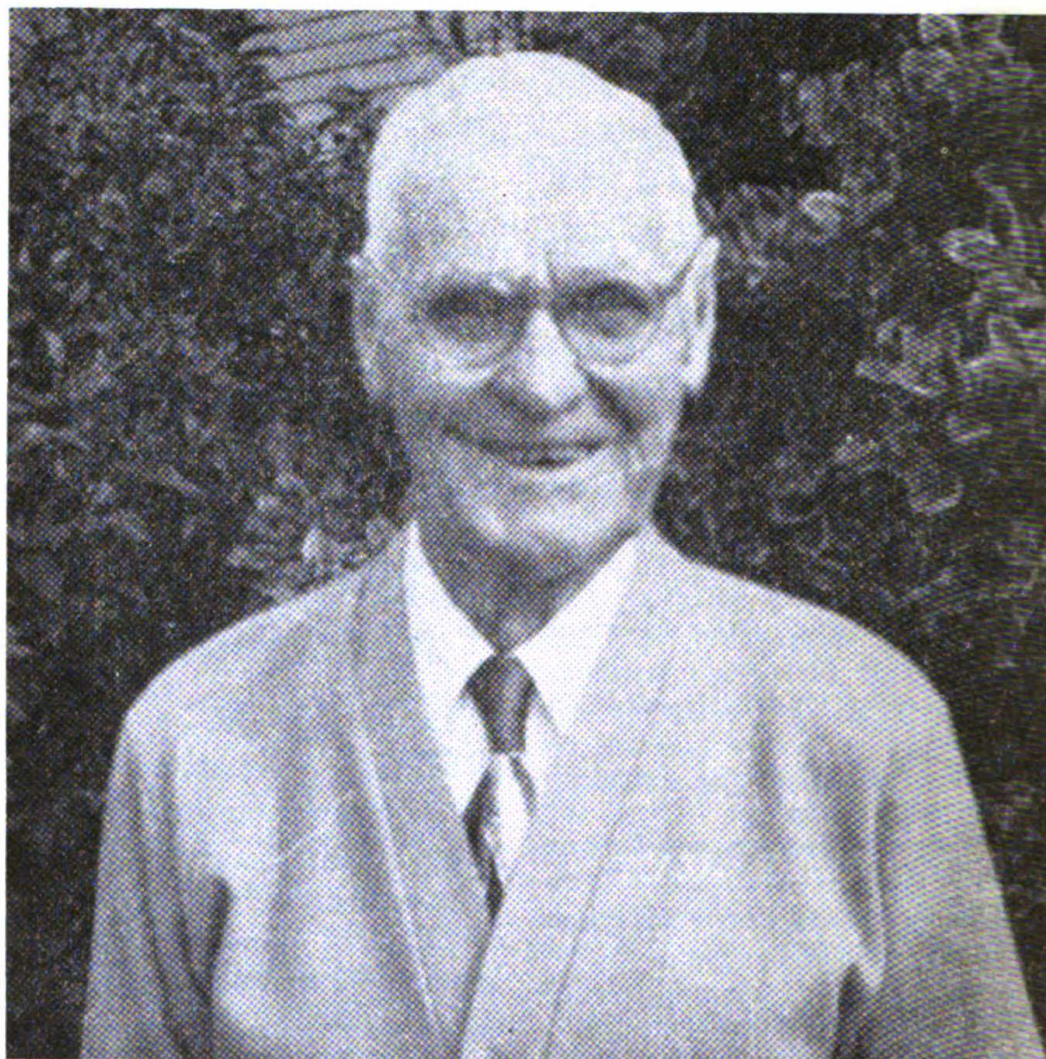
The Oklahoma Annual Peony Show will be held May 7th and 8th at the Oklahoma City University. The banquet will be on the 7th at 7 p.m. Mr. Allen J. Wild will be the guest speaker.

Grafted Tree Peonies

Also Species - Officinalis - Hybrids
and Other Herbaceous Varieties
SEND FOR FREE LIST!

A T H A G A R D E N S
West Liberty, Ohio

Edward Berneche Dies December 12, 1954



Edward Joseph Berneche
1864-1954

Edward Joseph Berneche, was born January 7, 1864, at Acton Vale, Province of Quebec, Canada. He passed away at 1:20 p.m. at his home, 3903 S.W. Baird St. Portland, Oregon on December 12, 1954. He went to sleep in his favorite chair, after having attended church in the morning, while waiting for his lunch.

During the year 1907 he had the urge to go in the peony business. He wrote Mr. Oliver F. Brand,

Faribault, Minnesota, asking him about peony roots, Mr. Brand wrote him to go ahead that he would help him select a collection of choice peony roots. He bought roots from other Charter members of the Peony Society later on. We were at the time located at Olympia, Washington. When we moved to Browns Point, Tacoma, Washington, we sold most of our peony roots to Howard E. Weed, who was just beginning to start business. How-

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ever Mr. Berneche retained a root of each variety, as he was not satisfied to give up all of his stock. In 1920, we came to Monroe, Oregon, to help out a friend who had a large fruit farm, working there a couple years. Again the urge came to start all over again. Mr. and Mrs. Brand paid us a visit and so we bought a tract of land, five lots at West Portland, which is our present home. We later expanded and bought one third of a forty acre tract, clearing this land to prepare the land for planting. In 1926 we were well on the way for a large planting. We planted a plot for cut flowers only, of about three acres, also a plot for root sales. The cut flower business increased tremendously. The root business was good also. We increased our plantings each year until we had about nine acres at the time of retiring in 1945. It was difficult to get help, so we decided to sell out all the roots and land separately.

We moved many plants to our home place and have retained our State License, so Mrs. Berneche can work with her hobby, lilacs, of which she now has ninety varieties. During June, 1909, we displayed a basket of Peony blooms, an excellent collection, at The Alaska Yukon Exposition, Seattle, Washington. This created great excitement. The A.Y.F. Commissioners awarded him a silver medal, for his participation in making the exposition a success.

Mr. Berneche brought the first peony roots to the Northwest.

The next medal awarded him was on June 4, 1928, at a local peony show. This was for a sweepstakes prize.

At the national show, June 14, 1928, he was awarded a sweepstakes medal. During 1939, he received a Certificate of Participation, from

the State of California, Hall of Flowers, California Commission for the Golden Gate International Exposition, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. For this he also received a Gold Medal.

We shipped fresh cut flowers twice a week to the Hall of Flowers, which was an educational program. The medal was awarded in person at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, California.

Each year we held peony shows all up and down the coast. Also in our basement we had a show of blooms for the full month of June. Advertising this, it brought peony lovers from near and far

One of the peonies first bought from Mr. Brand, was Addielanchea, (Brand) named for the late Mrs. Oliver F. Brand. In packing, there was a mistake made, and we received the stock that Mr. Brand cherished most of his loved seedlings. He wrote all of his customers and he found we had the stock, so this was returned to him promptly.

Mr. Berneche went to school for only three months of his life. He came to the States when he was nine years of age, but his parents returned again to Montreal, Canada, They lived at Worchester, Massachusetts, for a time.

Again he had the urge to do things and so he came back to the States at the age of fourteen. He worked at different jobs. He was a very versatile man and could do most any kind of work. He was a born salesman and followed that course for several years, traveling in almost every state in the Union. He lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1893-95, when the gold rush was coming up, and again he moved to northern Minnesota, where he took a homestead. There he was appointed Post Master at Burnett,

Minnesota. Grover Cleveland signed the appointment. It was during those years that the iron ore mines were opened. One day the officials of the Missabe Railroad came to Mr. Berneche and asked if he would sell his land. They wanted it for gravel. So he finally agreed, after much discussion, to give up his farm. Right a way the workmen came out and cut the house in two and started to dig gravel for the roadbeds.

He then decided to come west, stopping at Spokane, Washington, for a brief look around. He then went on to Seattle, Washington. He engaged in the grocery and meat business for a while, when the urge to go to Alaska, came upon him, so he went up for two summers. In the meantime he lost his first wife in 1900, leaving two daughters and one son. He again traveled for a time. Then he located a bakery business, the owner of which wanted to sell, so he bought it. He was looking for something better when he read about his beloved peonies. He married a second time in 1904 and at once bought land to grow peonies, and has been boosting the peony ever since that time. He lived them each day, read about them and was always happy when folks came in for a peony talk.

He achieved all of his desires, he reached his ninetieth birthday, then his golden wedding anniversary. He had a successful life and a happy one. His wife Mary May survives him, also his daughters, Eva Louise Richards, Seattle; Emelia Marie Laseter, Seattle, and his son, Rudolph A., of Sacramento, California. He has five grand children, seven great grand children and seven great great grand children. He was laid to rest in the family plot in Mt. Calvary Cemetery,

Seattle, Washington.

—Mrs. Berneche

Mr. Berneche was for about 28 years a loyal member of this Society. His name first appeared in the membership list published in the December Bulletin 1926. His first advertisement was in the September issue of that year and listed his four top peonies as follows:

TOMATBAKO (Tamate Boku), \$15.00.

SOMEGANOKO, \$5.00.

ADDIELANCHEA (Brand) \$5.

CONSTANCE (Berneche) \$5.00

His address is given as Route 6, Box 193A, Portland, Oregon.

He originated and introduced a number of varieties, all either Japanese or single. They are listed in the Manual (1928) as follows:

JAPANESE

Constance (1924). Midseason, pink.

Mary May (1924). Midseason, red shaded deep maroon.

SINGLES

Black Beauty (1924). Midseason, deep red.

Emy (1924), Midseason, red.

Favorite (1920). Midseason, crimson.

Florestine (1924). Midseason, dark red.

In addition to the above, we find in the list sent out for rating in 1939, two more singles:

May Bee (no date). Midseason, red.

Samuel Hill (1932). Light Pink.

Later on he introduced a deep red single Rubaiyat, which he thought one of his best.

Of these varieties, we find listed in the last Reno Rosefield catalog Catherine S. Fox and Samuel Hill at \$2 each, and in the Wasenberg Gardens list, Constance at \$2. We do not know whether any of the others may now be obtained. Doubtless whoever bought his planting may have them all.

None of them seem to have been rated by this Society.

Personally we shall sorely miss the yearly Christmas greeting from him. We have known him for many years and a few years ago had the pleasure of a visit from him and his good wife for a few hours.

He was blessed by having retained all his faculties at such a ripe old age and his friends will feel his loss as a big gap in their lives that cannot be easily filled. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife and children.

George W. Peyton, Secty.

SHOWS

In addition to the Fifty-First Annual Exhibition of the Society to be held in Chicago, June 16-18, there will probably be shows in Oklahoma; Newton, New Jersey; Grand Forks, North Dakota; Boston, Massachusetts; Superior, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Duluth, Minnesota; Albany, Oregon and the big Peony Festival in Van Wert, Ohio, June 8. There may be others.

The gardens of Mr. Clare F. Wood at Queenston, Ontario, near Niagara Falls and of Mr. William H. Krekler, 721 Cleveland-Massillon Road near Akron, Ohio, will be at their best in June. Both contain extensive collections of herbaceous peonies, including quite complete collections of the newest hybrids.

Large plantings of tree peonies may be seen in Rochester, New York, Whitnall Park, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at Swarthmore College near Philadelphia. The last named also has large collections of all kinds of herbaceous peonies.

Private gardens of tree peonies are found in Great Neck, New York, and in near by places also. These are usually open to the public.

Remember the hybrids come in to bloom from a month to a week earlier than the regular herbaceous kinds and the tree peonies

also are from one to three weeks earlier than the regular ones. In nearly all sections hybrids and trees bloom sometime in May.

If at all possible a visit to one or more of these gardens will be most enjoyable as well as profitable.

HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

If you do not have a Handbook of the Peony, by all means get one (price 25c in coin from the Secretary) and follow directions for spring work, such as spraying for disease and thrips, cultivation, fertilization and handling of blooms for exhibition.

SPRING PLANTING is not recommended unless absolutely dormant roots can be secured or potted plants. No grower should be asked to dig roots in the Spring to fill an order. The roots are entirely too brittle now to handle without a great deal of breakage, in digging, transportation and planting, all of which seriously damage the root and cause the grower to lose on every such shipment made. The spring planted root is much more subject to disease and death than fall planted roots.

If it is necessary for you to move any of your plants, this may be done, subject of course to the risks stated above.

Be sure to attend a Peony Show and exhibit if you can.

CALIFORNIA PEONY GARDENER

Mrs. A. Hawkins Kidd

Sebastopol, California

Here, on our small farm in Sonoma County, California, ten miles from the home of Luther Burbank, it is in the middle of February. The *officinalis* plants and my one hybrid peony are beginning to push above the ground. That does it! Within me a pushing sort of excitement sends me to the flower beds, pulling weeds, checking labels, studying catalogs and reading peony bulletins. I'll be that way now until the middle of June.

Few people here raise peonies. There are no peony shows, and it is difficult to check authenticity of names and standards of bloom. Our winter frosts are light. Our summers are usually dry, often no rain from the middle of June until October or even later. Sometimes we have fog, but many weeks the only moisture is pumped out of the well. No, not ideal peony country, but when was a girl in love ever deterred by the unsuitability of her choice?

Many of my seventy varieties have not bloomed. From sheer greediness I have gone in for quantity rather than for high priced plants. Maybe someday I will cease my glutton feeding and turn critical. But, oh, such beauty as I have found.

From all this you more experienced growers may evaluate my remarks—I just want to talk peonies.

Janet, my one hybrid, was first to bloom last year. "Cerise," Mr. Auten calls the color, but I call it purplish red—and oh, how rich and beautiful. *Officinalis* Rubra Plena was next. Lovely, as you all know. My other *officinalis*, must, I be-

lieve, be *Rosea Superba*. It is a pure glowing pink. The parent plant grows some miles away, and I swapped for it.

This brings us naturally to *Edulis Superba*, which is about next in time of bloom anyway. If this peony grows for everyone the way it does for me it should have at least a 9. rating. I have several plants and believe them true to name. I disbud and the blooms reach tremendous size of perfect bomb form. Both flower and color last several days. *Edulis Superba* is just finishing its bloom as *Mons. Jules Elie* comes in. Visitors often believe them to be identical varieties. I think *Mons. Jules Elie* has a trifle the advantage in purity of color, but *Eddie the Superb* is first and I do love him.

But if I would raise the rating of *Edulis Superba* I would lower that of *Festiva Maxima*. To me there are so many finer. Its pure white shows up well at a distance, but the bloom is coarse and the little curling red petals, unevenly placed, spoil its symmetry. How can it possibly rate 9.3?

From visitors, the white *Jap Roberta* draws the most "ohs" and "ahs." To be quite fair, it is the only white *Jap* variety I have, and there is something about the white and gold that gets 'em. It is not quite perfect, having a pink tint that fades white and sometimes the petals of the first and largest blooms split in the wind and turn floppy; but whenever I consider moving them to a less conspicuous location, the later blooms open like a golden summer morning and I succumb. Also, *Roberta* is the free-

est and most consistant bloomer of any variety I own.

Planted near by, is Sea Shell. From the bulletins I learn that it is tops as an exhibition flower. In my garden it opens eight inches across in color and form; but our hot sun and wind is too much for it and three days later it is a pale and floppy thing. From now on I shall cut and take it inside.

Sometimes location has to do with the appreciation we give a flower. I have the Jap, Goblin, planted next to a Hadley rose. The opening buds of both peony and rose are identical in color. But the mature peony holds its color better than the rose. The Goblins are over five inches across and hold both color and form very well, and the self petalodes are daintly gilded with gold.

What a flower Rashoomon is! Large, almost color fast, with the rose red guards contrasting with the heavily curled center of gold.

I try to select for different types and colors, so ordered Hinode Se-Kai because the catalog called it violet. Well, a peony is something like a baby, you may not get what you thought you wanted, but once you've got it, you couldn't get along without it. This color certainly is not violet. I would call it fuchsia rose, though lavender rose might be as close. It is a small Jap, only about four inches, and almost a self. To me it is utterly graceful and full of charm, one of those I visit daily during blooming season.

Jeannot is like an opal, sometimes one color, sometimes another, but beautifully tinted until it turns white. Bright red, El Capitan, is gay and compelling. I will quarrel with nobody about Walter Faxon's rating. White Beauty is pure and satisfying. And Minnie Shaylor is the charmer I was prejudiced

against, as being over-praised until she became my friend, and now I join the chorus. Among all the virtues of Myrtle Gentry I have read little of its stamina. It is one of the strongest growers I have. It opens to better color in the house. What exquisite fragrance.

I want to add more hybrids, and it is true that Japs do better than doubles here. For all that, the most beautiful flower I have ever set eyes on is Martha Bulloch. I have only one plant, located in the semi-shade of a pyracantha bush. Some of the flowers are ordinary, but every year there will be at least one that is sheer perfection. I return to gaze a half dozen times a day and call the family to share my worship.

Peony growing here has special problems and some day, through the bulletin, I will talk about them. But last year I lost my only Kelway's Glorious from rot—and it jarred me. Philippe Rivoire doesn't look too well either, so I think I will wait another season or so before spouting off.

In the meantime I read the "Favorite Peony" articles over and over, and order many of the varieties they discuss. I thought it only fair to contribute a word because of the pleasure your articles have given me.

NOTICE

Mr. Louis Smirnow is compiling a check list of all varieties of tree peonies in commerce in all countries. In order to make this list as complete as possible he would like all growers and amateurs who grow tree peonies to send him a list of the varieties they grow with the color.

Address: Louis Smirnow, Knoll Road, Sands Point, Long Island, New York.

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Planting Peonies In Alabama

NOTE: The following letter gives excellent information on how to plant Peonies in Alabama.

Birmingham, Alabama
September 25th, 1954.

Mrs. A. H. Goree,
1519 St. Charles Avenue
Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Madam;-

Your request of the 23rd instant for information regarding the planting of peonies in Alabama was received and I trust that I can give you some help.

I have just had a note from Mr. George W. Peyton, the secretary of the American Peony Society, Rapidan, Va., that you are seeking information so I presume that he has advised you about the "Handbook of the Peony" which can be gotten from him at small cost if not now out of print. This handbook is stocked with interesting information and I suggest that you secure a copy of it. The directions for planting are good for the South except that in this climate we cannot plant two inches deep. I would suggest that in planting that the hole be firmed well and the top eye or bud of the peony be planted even with the surface level of the ground. The root can then be covered with about an inch of soil. Use bone meal and wood ashes for fertilizing if you can get the wood ashes. Do not use manure unless you want to use sterilized sheep manure which is available in the stores. If you use this do not let it contact the peony root directly. Unless your soil is too sandy, it should be all right. Prepare the ground twenty to twenty-four inches deep and allow each root a space at least three by three feet, three by four would be better. One of the most

essential points is good drainage, and I mean both top soil and sub-soil.

Your climate in Montgomery is somewhat warmer than ours, but I do not think that heat and sun interfere with the peony, certainly they would not thrive in the Middle West as they do if this were so, as their Summers are usually considerably hotter than ours. My theory is that we are handicapped by not having enough continuous cold weather in the Winter—the peony's rest period—so we plant the root high so it will get as much cold as possible. I do not think that they should be mulched in this climate.

The peony is a cold climate flower and we have to recognize that fact and make compromises if we hope to have any success.

There is the matter of what peonies to plant. This is quite important for many of them will not do well in the South and it is wise to try and pick the ones that have been tried and found more or less satisfactory. I say more or less, for there are some good ones that are not too reliable.

I would suggest that you start with the lower priced varieties—many of which are as good as the best and usually more dependable. You should avoid all late blooming varieties and avoid reds in the doubles and semi-doubles. The singles and Japs in all colors do well here as do many of the semi-double and loose double whites to fairly dark pinks. Some do better than others so I am listing a few below that have done well for me.

Singles: Krinkled White, Le Jour, Helen, Sea Shell.

Japs: Isani-Gidui, Ama-no-sode, Tokio, Nevada, Roberta, Plainsman.

Semi-doubles & doubles: Minnie Shaylor, Mme. Calot, Gigantea, Festiva Maxima, Venus, Kelway's Glorious, Reine Hortense, White Delight.

A few picked from the above list and well-planted should determine for you whether or not you can grow them successfully in the Montgomery climate. My guess would be that it will take two to three

years for the peony to become well established.

I trust that I have given you some information that will be helpful to you.

If you undertake peony planting I would be glad to hear, in a year or two, just how the peonies are getting along.

Yours very truly,

J. Lewis Underwood

P.S.: I am not a commercial grower.

TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow

Sands Point, New York

The late Reuben Oberlin, a great tree peony fancier, for many years had been enthusiastic about the unusual wisteria blue, which is more like a rich lavender of the variety Kamada Fuji. Some years ago, I saw several of these plants at Swarthmore and a year later, visited Mr. Oberlin's nurseries, especially to view this variety. The color was most disappointing and at both points visited, they seemed to be a magenta or "muddy" purple. I later discovered and like so many other wrongly named plants, that these were not the true varieties of Kamada Fuji. Later I saw the true Kamada Fuji at Oberlin's and several plants in Long Island and these had the true color. There is no color like it in any form of peony, whether tree, herbaceous, hybrid or specie. The plants were beautiful, full double and they last longer than most tree peonies and it is indeed an admirable variety.

This brings to mind the great necessity for clearing up the muddled situation regarding correct names for tree peonies. I have seen Gabisan, a true white, called "pink." Hanadaijin, a purple was listed as "red" and others constantly mis-

represented by disreputable Japanese growers. As I have stated on so many occasions, tree peonies are being shipped into this country in great quantities by Japanese jobbers. There are only a handful of growers in Japan, with a very limited number of them adhering to the proper naming of varieties. I have had some bitter experiences regarding this.

With the ever increasing popularity of the tree peonies, several nurseries are listing them and advertising them. Few, if any, have had real experience and some of them have never grown them before but are handling them commercially. Here too, the misrepresentations of names is not willful on their part, but is due to ignorance. Quite recently, I have had occasion to take two of these nurseries to task for advertising tree peonies and showing photos of herbaceous.

This is a clear case of misrepresentation and seems to me something should be done about this to prevent this type of unfair advertising. People who buy tree peonies from these advertisements soon lose their enthusiasm for these beautiful

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plants when they get them and they do not look like the photos and all the good work done by some of the tree peony fanciers will be for naught if we do not stop the improper advertising and are not careful with naming the varieties.

Quite recently, I had a letter from a reputable Japanese horticulturist who told me that he knows of instances where from 800-1000 plants were deliberately mislabeled and shipped to this country. For two years we have had many requests on methods of propagation of tree peonies. It would serve the tree peony fancier equally well, if we were to do something about getting properly named tree peonies. If some of our reputable sources of supply in this country have some varieties, which they have been propagating for years and are uncertain about the proper names, they should get busy and make sure they are rightly named.

Some years ago, it was my privilege to see a planting of tree peonies against a planting of lilacs

in the gardens of the late Louis Vasseur of Milton, Mass. This was a breathtaking display. Since then, there has been a growing evidence that landscape architects, using then in other gardens, arboretums, parks and many public gardens have come to regard the tree peony important in other plantings. The tree peony plant is equally beautiful when not in flower. The finely cut foliage of the Japanese varieties and the fact that it turns various hues of red in the Fall serves to enhance their value in many gardens.

I have discovered to my surprise that some varieties of tree peonies can grow in so called "warm" climates like the Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky areas. This is indeed encouraging. Interest in tree peony circles in Canada is constantly on the increase. Tree peonies have been purchased in almost every part of Canada. It seems to me that anyone who grows perennials could not afford to be without at least one tree peony.

POTTING PEONIES

Herman Meyer,

Homewood, Illinois

Several years ago, we had an unusually mild spell of weather in February, to the extent that the frost had left the soil, so out of curiosity, lifted a small one year old plant of Mrs. John M. Kleitch, with the soil intact around the roots and put it in a 12" clay pot, took it inside where the temperature was about 60 to 65 degrees, after the shoots appeared, placed the pot in a cold frame. About the 1st of May it got too tall for the cold frame, at this time it had two good stems, one with a bud of about one inch in diameter and showing color, so decided to plant

it out in the open, hoping that it would be in bloom for Mother's Day, but instead it got chilled by a cold snap and never did open. The next year it had five very beautiful blooms and it now is a fine specimen plant, fully developed. The idea behind this was to have a blooming potted peony for a lasting Mother's Day gift for the florist trade.

Fortunately, I am located in a metropolitan suburban area where there is a good demand for potted plants, as thousands of new homes have been built in this area during the past few years, and there does not seem to be any letup. So, in

the fall of 1953, I intended to pot 500 peonies, but due to lack of time, I got only 118 potted. They were potted with various different sizes of divisions and some small one year old plants in Cloverset No. 3 pots late in October. The divisions did fairly well, but the one year old small plants were by far the best as to vigor and sold readily. They happened to be Marietta Sis-son, a plant that is always way ahead of the average in the field.

Last fall, as usual due to lack of time caused mostly by a ten inch rainfall inside of twenty-four hours, I got only ninety potted, all one year old small plants of several different red varieties and they were sold for spring delivery before they were potted. They were potted in the field by digging the plant the same as one would a small evergreen for ball and burlap, carefully placed in the pot, then packed loose soil around the ball in the pot. The pots were then placed in a sheltered frame upon several inches of straw so the bottoms will not stick to the soil in the spring when they are removed. Next they were given a good saturation of water and where any soil settled, loose soil was added. They were planted with the ground level a good half inch below the rim of the pot, this space was then filled in with oat hulls, but most any kind of mulch, such as peat moss or saw dust should do. Then several inches of asparagus tops (which happened to be handy, but straw or hay should do as well) was placed on top of the pots, then weighted down with a few old boards in order to keep a strong wind from blowing the top covering away. About the latter part of March, I will remove the top covering and mulch so as to let the sun work on them. I will deliver them

as soon as the leaves begin to appear or later.

In this locality, I firmly believe that more potted peonies can be sold than divisions because the customers like to have a sure-fire and easy way of planting them, so at the present I am investigating the possibilities of a new type paper pot that is supposed to hold up above the ground for six or eight months and yet disintegrate rapidly when planted in the soil—pot and all. If true, then they can also be potted in the early spring and sold and planted at any time during the spring, summer or fall and without the customer having to guess if they are planted too deep or not deep enough. The public will buy, plant and love this grand flower if we can remove some of the causes of disappointments and failures as a lot of people must be disgusted by planting some of the roots that I have seen foisted upon them, in fact, one customer gave me a song and dance about some that she bought through the mail from one of these so called nurseries of which mention has been made in the last few issues of the APS Bulletin, it sounded to me like she had received seedlings about the size of one's small finger with a small eye on it. Anyhow she left happily with some good sized freshly dug divisions.

About six years ago, I also was fooled by some 59c roots, nicely labelled, well packed in rotted peat moss and healthy looking. They were under the name of F. D. Roosevelt, worth about ten times that price. I bought ten of them, all that they had of this variety, what a musty lot of pink, red and whites they turned out to be. Well, they were promptly removed from the field. On this point, I wish to stress that all good peony lovers

should know their source of supply and I firmly believe that if bought from any advertiser in the APS Bulletin, and one should happen to be the wrong kind, any complaint would be promptly and cheerfully taken care of to the buyer's satisfaction, as we are only human and mistakes will unintentionally happen. Furthermore you will not receive fingerlings, but divisions of peonies from people that also love them and know how to raise and divide them to your satisfaction, and that should be worth paying a few cents more for than these so called advertised bargains. Also that is where your local nursery man comes in. Because he intends to stay in business, works hard for his living, he can not raise everything he sells, so if you buy a few peony roots from him, then it is also his business to know his source of supply. When you go to your food market and say for instance buy a can of soup, I am sure that you pick out a brand named can put up by a firm that you can depend on.

The article on "Can Peonies Be Forced," in the December 1954 issue of the Bulletin was read with great interest. Mr. Grotendorst hails from a country where they make two blades of grass grow where one should and I believe that he could write some very informative articles on peonies and their propagation, flower markets, etc. I understand that they have a unique way of auctioning cut flowers very efficiently.

Quite a number of years ago I read an article written by some lady in the State of Washington on how they raised peonies like they did in Holland by planting small one eye studs in the spring and growing them for two summers and then selling them as a plant instead of

divisions. Often I have threatened to place some in cold storage, so that they can be planted in the spring when the soil would be in proper condition to plant, I feel that it would save the trouble of putting on several inches of dirt in the fall after planting and removing same in the early spring when the ground is usually too wet to do so. Also it would permit closer planting and use of soil for only two years. Although I do plant a lot of one and two eye small divisions in the fall, the one eyed mainly for potting purposes, plant them about one foot apart in the row, and rows about 28" apart, grow them one year for potting, or two years for a division by trimming them down. By planting one eye divisions for salable plants, then one would have to have a plot of older plants to draw from to be used for cutting stock.

MAIL DESTROYED

On the morning of January 31, 1955, the mail from one of our trains was either destroyed or badly damaged, the bag having fallen under the rapidly moving train. If anyone sent us a communication during those last few days in January and has not received an answer, it may be possible that it was in that mail. You should notify us at once of the fact. If you sent any remittance you should find out if your bank has paid it. If a money order, you should apply for a duplicate. If cash it will be impossible to recover it unless it was in a registered letter.

652420

Which Shall It Be?

Martin A. Eliason

Appleton, Minn.

"Which shall it be;—W H I C H shall it be,—I looked at John, John looked at me."

So goes the verse in an old "McGuffey" reader. (Yes, I am really that ancient and old-fashioned,) about a couple who had just been offered a wonderful price for just one of their seven children.

Now my little peony patch comes up with a choice which seems to be nearly that hard to decide.

For many years Isani Gidui was my first choice of all peonies, for real beauty, but now I am not so sure about it, because during the last few years Fairbanks, (which was planted the same day, in identical holes, side by side with Isani Gidui,) has smilingly presented such challenging, winsome beauty that it might earn top position after all.

On my soil, the facts about these two varieties seem to be as follows, for all the years so far—Isani Gidui comes closer to that shimmering, bewitching, soul-satisfying, sculptured perfection of petal form and finish which we are always looking for, and as a cut flower it holds its exquisite chalice-shape of blossom till it wilts, which takes days and days; while Fairbanks, when cut, goes down after a comparatively short time, perhaps a day or little more; and when a chalice-shaped blossom goes down it loses its greatest appeal to me, even if it is, like Fairbanks, a long lasting flower.

Fairbanks, on the other hand, has a much more vigorous and healthy plant, and will show about three larger blossoms for each one shown by Isani Gidui, and its larger blossoms have a proportionately

larger central bomb of longer stamens of a deeper, more vivid, color—saturated chrome—yellow; so in the landscape, Fairbanks is definitely first.

So,—“Which shall it be?”—Likely I shall have to decide like those two parents did—they kept them all!

Since our editor wants to know which are our best peonies;—these are my favorites among the common varieties grown here.

My best white has been Mrs. J. V. Edlund, which is exquisite and dependable, but is closely followed by Argentine, which has even better form and color, but is not here so dependably healthy. Then comes Le Cygne, on my soil it has been the dependable early white with the nearest to perfect form, exquisite and very floriferous for 9 years out of ten.

For mid-season white, Kelways Glorious is hard to beat, and as a late white, show me a better one than Duluth, if you can.

Among my flesh-colored varieties the only really outstanding one has been A. B. Franklin, which by its fine symmetrical form, tall, strong stems, exceptional cut-flower durability and wonderful fragrance, easily takes first place.

In light pink, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt takes the top spot for sheer beauty and charm, but is closely followed by Minuet which has beauty with tall, strong stems, outstanding cut-flower quality and rugged health.

On my soil Lillian Gumm, which is very floriferous, fine form and dependable, should be listed with the light pink, and so also should Claire Dubois which is equally

good, but both have stems a little weak for the amount and size of bloom carried.

For an all around good dark pink, the old Mons. Jules Elie seems to be tops, but the relatively new Rose Queen is a more vigorous and floriferous plant of better color, but slightly inferior form of bloom. As a late dark pink, Lady Kate shows superior color and form, with lots of bloom that always open, held up high on strong stems.

Right here comes my saddest disappointment among peonies: Martha Bulloch! The man who sold her to me told me: "she comes good only about once in each three years." But I had seen *how good* she could be then, so I insisted on buying anyway. Now I am through. She has not come good even once in eleven years.

As King of the reds, Philippe Rivoire seems to have the strongest claim to the crown of any in my patch its splendid form, strong, straight stems, every year dependability, brilliant dark color and its delightful, strong, wild-rose fragrance, all attest to its title. Here Judy Becker is just as dependable, equally large or larger, and its richer red color has a sheen as if varnished, but its stems are weaker and its fragrance just is not there. Ruth Elizabeth looks very promising, its bright color comes closest to a true red, but it has only bloomed four years in my patch, so what it can keep on doing remains to be seen.

To use as landscape reds, it seems to be about a toss-up between Red Bird and a seedling, No. 3-41, on trial from Sass, which is supposed to be pink, but is really a very bright red here. It show such brilliant color as to be immediately noticed by visitors. This seedling is

very floriferous, has such strong stems that one has not been seen to bend after a heavy rain yet, and lasts well when cut. Here, Red-Bird is such a "bloomin-fool" that it shows more bloom per plant than any other red, and holds those many blossoms well up on stiff stems, but has little value when cut. Both of these are midseason varieties.

Charm is my most dependable red Jap, and I have seen it doing as well under very diverse conditions. As a parent of seedlings, Charm seems to transmit its strong wiry stems and much of its color to many of them.

It was my great privilege to sit in and listen to the spirited discussion that got going when the last annual meeting was discussing rating, and my understanding of the result was that our society disposed of the very important matter by simply and summarily killing it—just flatly discarding all peony ratings as we have had them!

If that can be a fact, then I am very sorry that such action was taken!

It is very true that the old ratings were far from perfect, but they could not possibly be as inadequate as what we have now—just simply nothing!

We, The American Peony Society, do definitely owe the less informed public a list of peony ratings to which we can refer them when they ask us, "Which are the best peonies?" Other flower associations do publish lists, and some even publish lists of the "The Best 100," revised and new every year according to annual vote by their members.

That is being alive on the job! As it looks to me, we are not.

What we can do now, if the public asks our advice, is to look sheepish and answer something like this,

"We don't know, we are asleep at the switch. Go find out for yourself."

It should not be, and is not necessary for an association like ours to have to give answers like that.

Let us be sure to make a new symposium or rating list, and

please, oh please do not let us wait until we can make a perfect list, for that can not be done!

The best list we can make (though admittedly imperfect) would surely be a whole lot better than what we seem to have now—just nothing.

Minnesotans Pilgrimage

The Franklins (Loren and Lydia)

Minneapolis, Minn.

As January arrived and arctic blasts brought us our first zero cold and spread the peony fields with a white comforter of snow, we felt the urge to go south and see how the peonies in Florida were doing.

We planned to go by way of Kansas and stop and say "hello" to the Moots and the Biggers and the Wilds of Missouri. With the travel bags full and the refrigerator empty, we got the saddening report that travel in Iowa and Kansas was impossible due to too much snow and sleet and another storm brewing so we decided to detour the storm area.

We crossed the bare Dakota plains and the Black Hills where just a trace of snow showed, to Buffalo, Wyoming, at the foot of the snow-capped Big Horn Mountains, where we spent a few days with Lydia's mother and family. Then south on good roads to Cheyenne, to Denver and Colorado Springs. Pikes Peak disappeared in the distance as we crossed the corner of New Mexico into Amarillo, Texas.

At Amarillo we looked up the Byron Gists, who gave us a very cordial welcome. They are definitely peony people. They live in a beautiful ranch-type brick home in the better part of town and the spacious grounds around their home

are well protected by a brick wall and a chain link fence. Bed after bed of fine peonies are everywhere. The ground was covered with a light mulch of lawn clippings to prevent drying and crusting of the surface. Mr. Gist dug down with his hands to show me there was no frost in the soil (Jan. 27). The stubs of last year's stalks looked husky and a few big buds were beginning to show through the ground. The slides of the garden, which we saw projected on a screen in the big living room, showed a vigor rivaling our own northern blooms. Their collection of slides was very extensive and beautiful and we enjoyed them and the friendly hospitality of the Gists so much that it was hard to tear ourselves away.

The goodbyes being said, we swooped down to Dallas on smooth roads and made a bee line east through Shreveport, La. and Vicksburg, Miss. to Jackson and south to Gulfport. We followed the coast through Mobile, Ala. and soon were in Florida and traveling down the peninsula. We didn't find any peonies in Florida and other flowers were not too plentiful. We liked the central citrus belt with its orange groves. They seemed more vigorous than most of the ones in California.

Going home, we drove up the Atlantic Coast through Daytona Beach, St. Augustine, and Jackson-

ville and then north to Augusta, Ga., where Ike plays golf, and our son Jim (Camp Gordon) works the TV master controls that puts the instruction programs on the air for the Signal Corps. Eastward to Atlanta and through Birmingham, Ala., to Memphis, Tenn. We picked our way through detours and rolling countryside. Wayside tables were along the way, (one in Alabama with a pretty little waterfall for a backdrop.)

We made good time over the flat country from Memphis to Little Rock,, Ark., where much of the land is terraced and flooded for the growing of rice. Then near Hot Springs began the twisting roads which carried us over the scenic ranges of the Ozarks and landed us in Joplin, Mo. From nearby Carthage we drove to Sarcoxie to see the Wilds. We were greeted by the younger generation, Gene and Jim, who told us their parents had not returned from their Hawaiian vacation. The clang of hammer on sheet iron spoke eloquently of the new air conditioning going in and Gene showed us with justifiable pride the spacious new office with the separate smaller room where daddy could put his feet on the desk and talk to those special customers who know there are other colors besides red, white, and pink. We had a preview of some of the new pictures going into their new catalog and caught a glimpse of the work room where fall dug clumps were being carved up for spring sales.

We left rather hurriedly as storm warnings had been broadcast and snow flurries had begun to cover the ground. We headed into blowing snow toward St. Joseph, Mo. We paused briefly at the little town of Oregon, Mo. where Lydia was born, tried to locate the old home-

stead and said "hello" and "good-bye" to a lot of her kinfolk.

We arrived home February 14th to find our planting well protected with two feet of snow and more coming. This morning is beautiful! The trees are ridged inchdeep with pearls and four inches of clean, pure snow whitens the landscape. My back aches at the thought of the "jewels" I'll have to shovel. Perhaps we should have stayed longer in the sunny southland and let the new price list and 100 best varieties go hang? It won't be too long, though, till we'll be knee deep in peonies instead of knee deep in "Lower Slobbovia"

COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

Since we received the color pictures we have sent them to five different places, to Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Illinois and at present they are in Canada. Also from the duplicates and from a few others taken in my own garden, I had enough to show about seventy to illustrate my talk before the Williamsburg Garden Symposium, where people from over half the United States and some from Canada saw them. I may say that practically every one of the nearly two hundred present, came forward and congratulated me on their excellence.

However, it is sorely deficient in many respects. We need slides of old varieties, such as *Fragrans*, *Humei*, *Whitleyi* (Queen Victoria), *Edulis Superba*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Reine Hortense*, *Marie Crousse*, *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Felix Crousse*, *Mme. Calot*, *Baroness Schroeder*, *La Lorraine*, *Solange*, *Tourangelle* to properly present the history of the Peony. We have only two singles, *Pride of Langport* and *Imperial Red*. Neither of these is particularly good. We should certain-

ly have Albiflora the Bride, Le Jour, Krinkled White, Pico, White Perfection, Sea Shell, Arcturus, Flanders Fields, President Lincoln and others that are especially good examples.

In Japs we have Ama-no-sode, Hari-ai-nin, and a fine one of a plant of Fairbanks, just sent us by Mr. Martin A. Eliason of Appleton, Minnesota. We should surely have Isani Gidui, Tamate Boku, Mikado, and we should certainly have some of the many fine new ones.

We have about seven semi-doubles, but we should like to have Marie Jacquin, Lady Alexandra Duff, and Silvia Saunders of the older ones and some of the new ones. We do have Ave Maria and Miss America.

Due especially to the generosity of Mr. Fador Kernin of Nebraska, we have a number of fine hybrids and tree peonies. But we lack representatives of these also. We should like to have one of Smouthi for historical purposes. We have only two Saunders hybrid trees, Arcadia and Daredevil. We should like to have more.

If you will refer to page 28 of the June, 1954, Bulletin you will find listed there, nearly all we have. Since that was published we have added: Ave Maria, Bonanza, Charlie's White (in a group), Golden Bracelet, Louise Lossing, Martha Bulloch, Miss America, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Nick Shaylor, Pink Monarch, Rubio, Ruth Elizabeth, Sam Donaldson, Sarah Bernhardt, Victory, Yukon, HYBRIDS: Roselette, Diana Parks, Edward Steichen, Hope, Montezuma, Rosy Cheek, TREES: Moutan and Osiris, Panama, and Souvenir de Maxime Cornu.

We have no species at all, except Mouton.

By referring to the above lists you will see what we need. We hope that anyone who has Claire de Lune or Oriental Gold will see that we have good ones of these.

NEW MEMBERS

Samuel Crabb, 1520 9th Street, Rapid City, South Dakota.

E D. Friedman, President, Swift Cleaning and Laundry, 8920 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Mrs. Rose Gleisle, 38 Malling Drive, Rochester, New York.

Arthur Sworn Goldman, Rayfield Road, Westport, Connecticut.

Fred H. Harris, 148 Charles Street, North Abington, Massachusetts.

Samuel Insull, Jr., 225 South River Street, Geneva, Illinois.

J. Victor Jaeger, 5321 Harriet Avenue, Minneapolis 19, Minnesota.

Mrs. Fred Jevne, Lansford, North Dakota.

Herman G. Lewis, Route 1, Tipton, Indiana.

Richard L. Miller, Wassenberg Gardens, Van Wert, Ohio.

Mrs. E. B. Reeser, 2161 South Owasso, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Jeff Rhoades, Rose Knoll Gardens, Assumption, Illinois.

Mrs. Henry E. Rivers, 474 South Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

Elba Thompson, 5 Catherine Drive, Route 3, East St. Louis, Illinois.

Mrs. Joseph Wilson, 78 Windermere Road, Grasmere, Staten Island 5, New York.

Correct Addresses

Charles A. Landis, Route 1, Crete, Illinois.

Mrs. William A. Brown, 916 Suffield Street, Birmingham, Michigan.

Seeing Peony Gardens And Shows

Mrs. D. Y. Dunn

Lexington, Kentucky

Each year since 1950 the writer has been privileged to make a tour of peony gardens and attend at least one large show, the aims being to study varieties in other localities, to enjoy the beauty of them "en masse," and to meet the people who grow them. Some of these trips have been referred to in previous articles, but the last two have not been reported. So now, even though late, it is a pleasure to share with other peony fans my observations of 1953 and 1954.

One June 7th, 1953, after our own blooming and selling season was over and I had taken a few days of rest, I left home by automobile to visit gardens, small and large, in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. I drove due north from Lexington to Van Wert, Ohio, the first day. And since I had plenty of time, I stopped at just about every small garden I saw along the way. I can't recall the names of all the owners, but my chief observations were that many did not know the names of their varieties, even though *Festiva Maxima*, *Eduelis Superba* and *Mme. Calot* were practically everywhere present, and also that few knew the source of their planting stock.

At Van Wert I met my sister and a cousin, who had come by bus from Detroit. There we spent an entire day enjoying Mr. Wassenberg's peonies, iris and *hemerocallis*. My companions were not especially interested in variety names and had a great time going through the large commercial gardens just seeing and smelling the individual blossoms. But I wanted to know the names of ev-

erything I saw, especially if it looked good. The labeling system may have been adequate for the managers, but I had a difficult time traipsing from one end of a row of a section to the other and then standing on my head to read a small metal label applied vertically to a short stake. Sometimes it was legible and sometimes not. Finally I gave up, realizing that I would be able to see only a few of the many varieties listed in the Wassenberg catalog and that I wanted so much to see.

Mr. Wassenberg grows a great many foreign originations and older American varieties that other dealers do not list. For example, I was much impressed with the variety *Francois Rousseau* (Desert, 1909) an early red, bright as a beacon. It simply glowed in the sunshine and the long row section was beautiful to behold. Another that we liked was *Fulgida* (Parmentier, 1850). Its coloring resembled that of *Mme. Emile Debatene*, but the plant was taller. As a landscape variety it looked mighty good to me. I like the freshness of green in a white flower, and so *Shaylor's Dream* (Shaylor, 1917) gave me a thrill. It was beautiful. Here, too, I saw a variety labeled *Estafette* (Desert, 1910). But it was not at all like the variety I grow under that name and praise so highly. One of us has a mis-labeled variety.

My blooms of *Philippe Rivoire* have always been small, and so one of the many objectives of my trip was to find a large *Phillipe Rivoire*. I saw many plants of it here and in other gardens, but the blooms were never large. I

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asked to see a number of new and high priced varieties now being offered but was told that they were not yet in bloom. So I didn't learn much along that line.

The day of our visit to this garden was a bright, sunny one and the place was "alive" with visitors. The owners were busy as beavers answering questions and taking orders so I couldn't expect any personal attention. Therefore the study aspect of my visit was somewhat disappointing. But the garden is large and there is much beauty for the flower lover to enjoy. If you haven't seen Wassenberg Gardens you are missing something.

Next on our itinerary was the garden of Mrs. Ernest I Stahly at Goshen, Ind. We found her up to her neck, literally, in cutflowers for the Elkhart market. But she took time out to greet us most cordially and to show us the very fine blooms in her garden. I shall not soon forget the magnificent specimens of Nick Shaylor, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Myrtle Gentry, Mary Brand and Karl Rosenfield. Incidentally, the finest Karl Rosenfield I have ever seen, anywhere, were in this garden.

Next we went to see the extensive planting of Mrs. Frank Stahl at Dowagiac, Michigan. Mrs. Stahl, too, was busy cutting blooms for customers, and picking strawberries on the side. But when the customers had gone, she took great delight in showing me through the variety plot, the portion containing the fine collection of new varieties assembled by her late husband. All varieties were labeled and indexed in a neatly bound book she carried with her. My hours with her, among her magnificent blooms, constituted the highlight of my trip. Some were so fine that I did not recog-

nize the varieties although I had grown them in my garden for years. For instance, I approached a gloriously beautiful white and without looking at the label I said, "Oh, what is this beauty? She replied, "You know what that is." I said, "I'm afraid I don't. I don't think I've ever seen anything as perfect as this." Then she said, "That's LeCygne." Remembering LeCygne's poor performance for me at home I looked at the soil, black as the ace of spades, and wondered what it held that my Kentucky soil didn't have.

After coming home Mrs. Stahl wrote me that she had sold her peonies, but that the garden would be dispersed gradually over a period of years, and so she could still enjoy them for some time. She will remember this garden always. So will I.

But all good things have to come to an end and so we began the return to our homes. It was agreed, however, that in 1954—the Lord willing—we would continue our tour, meeting at Fort Wayne, Indiana and going thence westward and northward through the states of Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota.

We planned this year (1954) to see, not only gardens, but a peony show. Therefore on June 12 my two sisters and I again set sails. We met at Fort Wayne, Ind., and from there went westward to Peru, Ind., and the beautiful Tuckdawa (Tucked away) garden of Mr. R. H. Jones. Just before we arrived a heavy downpour of rain had so saturated the soil that we could not walk between the rows and thus see the garden as we would have liked. But we were directed to the basement of the home where we saw a magnificent display of cut blooms. So numerous and so fine were they that

this display would have done credit to any show. I may add that I saw nothing better on my entire trip.

I was interested in seeing Mr. Jones' own originations. Both he and Mrs. Jones pointed out to us those that have already been introduced, (such as Dorothy J., Sagamore, Red Cloud, and others) and also a great many still under number. Several of them looked mighty good.

From Peru we followed the excellent highway—and Indiana seems not to have any other kind—to Goodland and Remington, the former homes of Harry F. Little and W. L. Gumm. We inquired about the former sites of these famous peony men's gardens, but we were told that little remains of them now. I wanted to see where they once were. And it made me feel sad to know that where there was once so much there is so little now.

Our original plan was to continue westward to Princeville, Illinois and Mr. Edward Auten's garden. But since so many gardens in the Chicago area were on our list we decided to by-pass it this year and go on to LaGrange, River Grove, Techny, Arlington Heights and Rockford, there to see the gardens of Mr. Tikalsky, Art Murawska, Mission, Chas. Klehm and Roy Gayle.

At LaGrange we were cordially received by Mr. and Mrs. "Tik". We enjoyed their beautiful garden, their oil paintings and antique china. And when I revealed that I was having some difficulty finding my way around and dreaded the heavy Chicago traffic, they volunteered to go along and show us the way. With me at the wheel and Mr. and Mrs. Tik in the back we soon arrived at the gar-

den of Mr. Murawska, "good old generous Art." He was busy with garden callers but before long we were walking among the plants and admiring his Moonstone, Ethel Mars, Dignity, Chippewa, Lotus Queen and the beautiful new red Japanese variety that he permitted me to name Midnight Sun. We saw many other fine varieties of peonies and also many of his iris seedlings, including his new Crazy Quilt. Many that looked good to me Art called "just junk."

At Mission Gardens we saw Mr. Christman and Brother Charles, the latter busy at pollenating iris. The display garden was interesting and beautiful, but I wanted to see the fields too. Since a black cloud was coming up and we wanted to stop at Dr. D. S. Hyde's garden at Des Plaines we didn't linger longer.

On reaching the Hyde garden, we found that a hard rain had so muddied the ground that we could not walk through it. Dr. Hyde has not only peonies but also a fine assortment of other perennials and annuals. And he does the work himself, after his busy hours at the hospital.

Garfield Park conservatory presents a beautiful setting for a peony show but the hot June sun on that glass roof was deadly for the flowers. Many fine blooms were exhibited by growers of that booming and progressing Fifth Region, but by mid-afternoon they were so wilted that we wondered what they would be like on the second day. Even so, the show was beautiful and we enjoyed it.

Early on the morning of June 16 we began the homeward trek and at 6 p.m. I pulled into my driveway, tired and hot, but with the memories of many beautiful peonies and nice peony-loving people behind me.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SYMPOSIUM

Richard N. Maxwell

Several times I have noticed articles in our bulletin with references to a new symposium that seems to be long overdue.

I was not in the Society when the last symposium was made but it seems that, while it was a step in the right direction, yet it was not entirely satisfactory.

The reason appears to be that too much stress was laid on the winning qualities in the show room and not enough on such desirable qualities as reliable and floriferous kinds with strong stems. The habit of buying high rating new varieties led to some disappointments.

While we could not expect perfection in a new symposium, it would be interesting to try again.

Nothing would create more interest in the society and I believe the voting ought to be open to all the members. The difficulty might be to get enough members to cooperate and send in a list.

I gather that what many members would like is a number that would give varieties a new rating to supersede the old symposium and it ought not to be a hard job to arrive at a number for each variety that would be a fair rating, and now may I add my two cents worth.

There are several ways to arrive at a symposium. First, there is the build up system, which means that one would start at zero and add a certain number of points for this or that desirable quality and see what they all add up to. This is quite a chore and I doubt if it would be very satisfactory.

Another method would be a demerit system, not starting at zero, but at the other end of the scale,

Middleton, Massachusetts

at 100 and deduct a certain number of points for all undesirable qualities found in more or less amounts.

Just to put my idea across more clearly, let us take four of the best well known, old time varieties that every peony lover knows and see what we can do with them using the demerit system.

LeCygne first. This lovely peony starts early with foliage way ahead of most other lactifloras. Have you ever noticed that the foliage does not begin at the ground but several inches of the stalks are bare? So I will fine my lovely lady 2 points for wearing her skirts too short.

The bloom is swell, large fragrant with incurving petals, no points off there. It is a good grower too but what about the stems? The stem is thick and stubbed and also a bit short and not so graceful as some. One point off for a short stem and 2 points more off because the stem is not too graceful. That takes off 5 points in all leaving us 95, which, as I do not think of anything else to deduct, is about how I should rate LeCygne.

It does well here every year so I could not take off any thing for unreliability.

Kelway's Glorious next.

This is a lovely, very fragrant wide petalled large flat bloom on a long, slim, bending, but wiry stem. Very different from LeCygne.

The foliage is rather thin. Two points off for thin foliage and what about its stem? Would you plant this one for a landscape variety? I find the blooms do not stand up well for me. The stems

are a little too slim and bending so it should be supported and right here I should deduct about 4 points. And the bloom, I think I would like it a little fuller. One point off there, leaving us 93 or my idea of about where this one would stand. I saw three different varieties listed in three different peony lists last year, as improvements on Kelway's Glorious.

Mons. Jules Elie next, I don't see how this one could be other than a high rated one as the bloom is very large and the plant is vigorous and a sure bloomer.

This big bomb used to be listed as amaranth pink, but is quite a little way from a true pink. Some of our lavender pinks are decidedly beautiful, but, when they are a darker shade, we like to keep away from the mauve shades.

I would like this one a clearer pink. Two points off there and what about the stems? They hold the massive blooms up fairly well for such large blooms, but there is one thing I have noticed, the stems are a bit too snaky, not always straight, 2 points off there, and because it is such a large bloom there are not so many of them and perhaps another point off there.

As to fragrance, I don't remember just how fragrant it is, but it is not as fragrant as Kelway's Glorious. However, I will let it stand with the deductions as stated at 95.

Philippe Rivoire next. This old favorite is one of the worst offenders for having thin foliage and slow growth, 4 points off for thin foliage and 2 points off for slow growth. As for size, it is only medium, hardly that. Four points off for size. It does have some fragrance. Many reds have none. The stems are sufficient to car-

ry blooms of that size so I will let it stand there at 90.

If a white had no fragrance I would deduct about 4 points, but as many reds have no fragrance I should deduct perhaps 2 points for lack of fragrance in reds.

I do not want this article to carry the idea that I am trying to tell anyone how to vote. I have given it in detail so that one might see how I arrived at a figure by the demerit system. I might even not vote exactly at the given figures myself after I see them in bloom a couple times more.

Perhaps the easiest way to come by a rating is just by comparison. First, we decide about how high a few prominent varieties should rate and then compare other varieties with them and rate accordingly.

I have another rating suggestion that some might consider even better than a symposium number. It would tend to give a broader view of the peony. Not just as an exhibition flower, but also as a landscape and cut flower variety. I would use letters instead of numbers and it would work out this way.

A would stand for excellent, B for good, C for fair and D for poor. I think these four letters would be enough.

Exhibition first, and for exhibition we require large size, exquisite color, and form. Fragrance and substance are appreciated for all purposes. The first letter would indicate the variety's qualities as an exhibition variety.

For landscaping large size is desired, but it would seem that some other qualities would be paramount, such as strong stemmed varieties that hold their blooms erect without supports. We want floriferous kinds and reliable bloomers, plants of good form and

habits with attractive foliage, snappy colors that do not fade too rapidly. Many of the Japs, singles, and semi-doubles would fall in this class as their stems are usually adequate.

The second letter would indicate the variety's qualifications as a landscape variety.

For cut flowers we want floriferous, dependable kinds that open well and are also good keepers and openers from storage. A long stem is a desirable quality so that a fairly long stem may be cut without taking too much foliage. These have generally been the medium size varieties. I do not know this from experience, but I have read that blooms which show stamens do not make the best kind for storage as the stamens generally turn black. The third letter would indicate the variety's standing as a cut flower.

Example, LeCygne A-B-C, which means that the variety in question is excellent as an exhibition variety, good for landscaping and and fair for cut flowers.

This system would not give the fine classification of a point system, but might be more suitable and fill the bill better because it tells more about a variety.

There probably would not be many 3A varieties since the A exhibition varieties would be so large that they would not produce enough blooms to be an A cut flower variety. Yet I believe there would be a few, I can think of one I believe would make it.

Here's how I would rate the four peonies mentioned by the letter system.

Le Cygne, A-B-C.

Kelway's Glorious, A-B-C.

Mons Jules Elie, A-B-C.

Philippe Rivoire, B-B-C.

As I have not given any of the

four varieties listed an A rating as a landscape or cut flower variety, one might be curious as to just what varieties I consider would be entitled to A ratings in these classes.

We all know what happens when a rain or shower comes during full bloom. The peonies are a sorry looking mess, especially the large full doubles. The singles, semi-doubles and Japs look the best after a shower, and that is one reason why these kinds are best for landscaping. If you want a full double landscape variety try Radiant Red. A very brilliant, free blooming red on exceptionally strong but short stems. How about Sarah Bernhardt as an A cut flower variety? There are a lot of blooms on long stems but they don't stand up too well.

What about the three A type? How about Kansas? A in exhibition for sure and as it has a long, strong stem it should go A in each of the other classes. My first plant of Kansas gave me seven blooms, each of exhibition quality the second year and 14 blooms the third year, and then I divided it.

Another three A variety would be Amberglow. It has just about everything a good peony should have. Thirty blooms from a six year plant. I have no other its equal in several respects, no side buds to speak of, no stamens, no red edges on the petals, a full double on perfect stems with the finest foliage of any variety I know about. Few catalogs list it but if you don't have it, I'll say it's a mighty good one you have missed. I could write a lot more about Amberglow, but something tells me I have said enough. Maybe it won't do so well again for me since I divided it.

Making A Gain Out Of A Loss

Francis P. Tikalsky

La Grange Park, Illinois

About a quarter of a century ago, James Mason, one of our members, converted a three quarter acre unsightly weed patch, that was abutting his lot line, into a garden. This became a very outstanding garden, located in an ideal spot where it could be seen and appreciated by a great many people. Jim obtained permission to use the plot from the owner, who was glad to give it, since the tangled, weedy mess was quite a spectacle in a residential area. There was much altering to do before irises, and particularly peonies could be grown successfully. The plot was a deep sand pit, so, much hard labor had to be expended. Clay and loam had to be procured and hauled by wheelbarrow and intermixed with the sand. Inch by inch and foot by foot the garden grew, and in a few years a transformation from ugliness to beauty had taken place.

Things went along serenely for a number of years, then the owner of the lot asked that the plot be vacated, since home dwellings would be built on it. In addition to irises and peonies, the garden contained hemerocallis, gladiolus and many perennials. The garden contained two hundred and fifty well established peony plants, of which there were more than one hundred varieties, embracing the best of the old and many of the newer high octane things. The big problem was what to do, and how to do it. Little time remained before the bulldozer would start to operate. And then came torrential rains; the greatest amount of precipitation registered during the month of October in the weather bureau's

history for this area. The general geographic area was inundated for over a week. This was a needed delay and Jim contacted the local authorities of the Y.M.C.A. and told them that he would donate his peony roots to them and that they could retain the entire proceeds of a sale. A very fine publicity program was formulated, husky youths regimented from the Youth Center to dig and the project was under way. A volunteer or two from our Society assisted in dividing and labeling the roots. Roots were sold for one dollar a division, no matter if the varieties were old introductions or the recent glamorous things. But on the latter, the old knife whittled more closely, but in no instance was there an attempt to split the atom. The commercial aspect was tossed out of the window, since this was an enterprise to help youth. The human peony clay pots, who want to keep abreast of the peony Joneses, would have drooled had they seen this ritzy, snooty stuff go for a basement bargain price. The boys involved in the work could hardly come up for air, since the cruel steel monster was never more than a short distance away. In several instances, the steel track-type wheels pulled eyes from some much fought-for variety, but most of these separted eyes were rescued and temporarily planted near Jim's house.

In mid-November, as this is written, a reckoning showed that two hundred dollars was realized, quite a sum for quite a neat organization. But this does not sum up the entire "Take." There was a good healthy surge in buying at

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that time and from all indications, the final windfall should approach, or possibly exceed, four hundred dollars!

Was this the final benediction to a garden for James Mason? Not by a long shot. He will retreat peony-wise, to within the frontiers of his suburban size lot. Jim says that he will concentrate on Singles, Japs and Hybrids. But he is the top "Scent Hound" of our Society and probably there is no greater authority on fragrance in peonies in this country. Those that know him well will, no doubt, be willing to wager anything that eventually his new garden will contain some of the reliable sweet scented doubles. The new garden will be a small fraction of the one that he had built over the sand pit. Now that he will have more attention to devote to fewer plants, he will be able to "baby" them and obtain better specimen blooms.

How does Jim feel about the burst of his dream bubble? Na-

turally, one would think that he is in the proverbial dumps and about as unhappy as a woman locked in a room with a dozen hats without a mirror. But, there was no outward sign or manifestation of discouragement, neither did he express any grumbles. He's quite a philosophical fellow and feels that this is not the end but the beginning of a challenging adventure. Any condolences, therefore, are not appropos.

With extremely few exceptions, a mortal seldom receives recognition or acclaim for an outstanding accomplishment, this is left to appear belatedly in the obituary, then, let us join in complimenting Jim for his generosity and unselfishness, before his demise, and also, let us join in wishing that he may derive a greater quality harvest of blooms from his diminished garden and greater inspirations from it. And let us congratulate him for a job well done.

Sussex County Peony Society

Frank L. Howell

Newton, N. J.

Saturday evening, January 15th, the Sussex County Peony Society held its annual dinner at the home of the writer at Lake Lenape. Each member contributed some dish to make up a dinner. There were thirteen present in spite of a light snow which made traveling hazardous to those who had to come some distance.

After having satisfied the inner man a short business meeting was held to discuss plans for the coming year. It was decided to hold a small show in Newton in the showroom of the local Chrysler and Plymouth automobile dealer some time the first part of June.

The following committee was appointed to function.

Mrs. Doris Garvis in charge of show; Jacob Rodimer in charge of bottles, etc.; Rev. Neal van Loon in charge of staging; Frank L. Howell, publicity; Mrs. John C. Losey, refreshments, Mrs. Helen Skinner, secretary.

Last but not least, everyone will participate with nothing but their best blooms, with the emphasis on quality and not quantity.

After which there was some discussion on various varieties of peonies, their merits, shortcomings, etc. Also the methods of storage of show flowers were discussed, that

is the dry method in plastic bags over the seemingly universal method of wet storage with refrigeration in both cases. I have tried both and am inclined to feel the dry method has considerable merit. This would make an interesting topic for discussion in the bulletin for anyone having any experience along these lines with modern refrigeration should voice it through this medium.

The hour growing late our peony friends departed to their various abodes in the hills of Sussex County to wait for Dame Nature to wave her magic wand to quicken the magic that lies hid-

den in each and every peony bud.

You requested a list of varieties that I think best. I will try to list a few but not in order of preference.

Mattie Lafuze, Elsa Sass, Tondeleyo, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Sea Shell, Nick Shaylor, Rapture, Ave Maria, Miss America, Judge Snook, Yukon, Kickapoo, Minuet, Nancy Nicholls, Westhill, Ruth Elizabeth, Tempest, Moon of Nippon, Doris Cooper, Gardenia, Moonstone. To end the list with White Wings though it is not a real show flower it is a good white single with a fragrance that approaches the wild water lilies.

Van Wert Peony Festival

Lloyd Hippinsteel, Publicity Director

An event which ranked high in the peony-growing world before World War II is coming back—the annual Peony Festival at Van Wert, Ohio.

The Van Wert Peony Festival Association, which was practically dormant since the last such festival was held in 1941, has been reorganized and plans are underway for the first festival in a new series next June 8.

This once was one of the top such affairs in the nation, attracting in its final year something like 100,000 people to the small Ohio city which has a population of around 10,000 people. There were 52 bands and at least as many floats in that last parade.

It was dropped at that time because of the coming of war to the end of 1941 and was never revived although one mild effort was made in 1946. The war was too soon over in that year, so it was not tried.

Recently, the Festival idea was revived chiefly through the work

of Harry McKeddie, Van Wert electrical appliance dealer and son of one of the directors in the earlier festivals.

McKeddie set up a series of public meetings and enough interest was shown that the association was reconstituted and plans launched for another festival in June.

McKeddie was elected president, along with these other officers: Dr. Ken Miller, vice president; Dale Wilson, secretary; David Brumback, Jr., treasurer; Robert Wollet, Fred Place, Robert Dasher, Clarence Cropper and Herbert Jones, directors.

Since then, directors have been holding weekly meetings to lay plans for the festival.

Many things have changed since the late thirties when the festival was going full tilt. At that time, Van Wert boasted several important commercial gardens, well qualifying for the title of

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"Peony Center of the World." In addition, there were many formal gardens around the city which were opened to public display.

But the war changed all that.

Only one commercial garden remains now—the well-known Wasenberg Gardens. And formal gardens became a luxury which could not be afforded, labor costs for gardeners being what they were, along with the scarcity of any kind of labor during the war.

But promoters of the 1955 festival believe much of this can be built up again in the wake of another successful festival. It was recalled that Van Wert had none of these when it started the festival idea, which grew out of a

"Peony Sunday" when home gardens were open to public view on a Sunday afternoon.

The same pattern will be followed this year as was followed in the pre-war festivals, with a parade in the afternoon, another in the evening, a big program in the football stadium at night, and selection of a queen to reign over the festivities.

A budget of \$10,000 has been adopted to stage the festival, the money to come from sale of memberships in the association, voluntary donations, and income from the special events of the festival day.

Many bands, drum corps, have already entered and many floats promised.

Hybrid Peonies

Elmer A. Claar

I have your letters relative to writing an article on hybrid peonies with the suggestion that I recommend two or three hybrid peonies. It would be much simpler for me to write an article and recommend two or three Chinese peonies although I am growing most of the new prize-winning and certainly all of the introductions that I have heard spoken of favorably, like Ann Cousins, Doris Cooper, etc. I am also growing practically all of the introduced hybrids of Professor Saunders, Mr. Glasscock, Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., Mrs. Freeborn, the Lemoines, Mr. Bockstoce, Mrs. Dancer, Mr. Woods' yellow, and a number of my own seedlings.

I never yet have bought a hybrid peony which I thought was not worth the money, and most of the hybrids I have purchased have increased in value since the time of purchase. I have yet to find that

Chicago, Illinois

true of Chinese peonies. I cannot even recommend three colors or blooming dates among the hybrids, for, in addition to a month's variation in blooming dates, you have a choice in color of red, white, pink, yellow, cream, orange and lavenders, bicolors and some picot-teed edge effects—at least a half dozen color combinations not available in the Chinese varieties.

My sincere recommendation to anybody who is starting peonies and wants something that blooms at a different season in different colors is to purchase any hybrid peony that has been introduced by any of the above hybridizers.

I have written some of the hybridizers about your request and they have replied that stock of any specific variety is so low in these plants that to recommend any one plant would mean that it would be sold out very quickly and entail writing a number of letters

telling the would-be purchaser that the named variety requested wasn't available. If you want to be sure to get a good hybrid let them substitute for they are all good.

I have between a hundred and thirtv-five and a hundred and forty different varieties of tree peonies at this time and all of the species that I have heard of.

I also have a delightful pink tree peony seedling that I have named Buddy, and some others unnamed.

At the meeting of our district, which I was unable to attend, there was an auction to raise funds and the hybrids Convoy and Victoria Lincoln sold for approximately \$17.00 and \$18.00 each, and one of the lactiflora varieties that is most highly touted and which is listed around \$40.00, sold for \$13.00. The man who told me this said that he bought Red Charm some years ago for \$10.00 and this last year sold it for \$30.

The criticisms that I hear most widely about the Peony Society is that in their shows they do not do like the American Iris Society and The Hemerocallis Society, that is, they do not provide treks from garden to garden to show the peony plants as they are actually grown. All the emphasis is placed upon the peony in the showroom which is one form of species of misrepresentation because they are bagged to hide their real garden color and you cannot tell whether the stems are weak nor what the plants look like. As a result, some of your highest rated peonies are of little value as a garden flower.

Also, in the national peony shows complete and absolute emphasis is placed on the lactiflora type of peony which has had very little improvement in the last hundred years as compared with the hybrids.

The public is eagerly waiting for something new and different in peonies and the hybrids are the complete answer. Men have been hybridizing lactiflora peonies for thousands of years but only one person has touched the surface in the hybrid peonies and he is Professor Saunders. Practically all the hybrids by other hybridizers than Saunders are lactiflora crossed with officinalis.

Another difficulty which will have to be overcome in some way is to hold the shows so that you can see hybrid peonies at the time they are in bloom. The lactiflora bloom two weeks to a month later and at most of the shows near the Chicago area they hold the show at least two weeks later than the peak of typical lactiflora bloom so the growers further north can bring peonies to be shown. This places the show four to six weeks later than some hybrids bloom. It means that much of the time of the individual is spent in bagging and refrigerating the peonies.

Another defect of your national shows is that you never divide the hybrids in various classes but stick them all in one group when they are different enough to bear a detailed classification whereas the lactiflora will not.

THE JUNE BULLETIN

will be issued as soon as possible. It will probably not be held for the show reports. It will be a good one to carry your advertisement. Copy must be in by May 1st.

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A Letter From Dr. J. Eliot Coit

Dear Mr. Peyton:

In response to your request that I furnish you some notes on my early connection with the American Peony Society, I submit the following:

One of the important early activities of the Society was the effort to bring some degree of order out of the very much confused nomenclature of the Chinese herbaceous peonies. Arrangement was made with Cornell University in 1904 to plant in one good sized field, specimen plants of as many varieties as possible for comparison and study. It was my job to receive, label and plant the thousands of roots donated for this purpose by some 22 nurseries all over North America as well as eight nurseries in Europe. I was responsible for the records and culture of the field, and later on assisted with the staging of the Society show at Cornell University in 1907.

Of the hundreds of varieties grown, only a comparatively few produced blooms sufficiently typical for detailed description and publication in Cornell bulletin 259. At the same time, with the cooperation and assistance of several members of the Society, a check-list was prepared and published. A serious effort was made to use the earliest published spelling of names, and also to give place and date of all published illustrations of blooms. After I left Cornell in the late summer of 1907, the study of varieties was continued by L. D. Batchelor.

I went from Cornell to the University of Arizona, and after several years, accepted a position with the University of California and was stationed in southern Cal-

ifornia to work on citrus and other sub-tropical fruits. In neither of these areas are peonies grown because the winters are not cold enough to cause the plants to rest. During thirty-five years spent visiting farms and ranches in southern California I have, until recently, seen less than half a dozen peony plants, and they appeared quite unhappy. Here there is such a host of tender, ornamental exotics that there is indeed no particular need for the peony.

Recently, however, I discovered two peony growers at about 4500 feet elevation in the Volcan mountains, 45 miles north-east of San Diego. Mr. Raymond Zeismer on Pine Hills Road has 1400 plants in more than twenty varieties. Nearby, Mr. James Shilt has 2000 plants in three varieties. These growers cut the blooms in bud and stage a peony and lilac show in one of the large department stores in San Diego for the enlightenment of the natives and the nostalgia of the "one time" easterner who can "remember when." Production in that high locality is strictly limited by the scarcity of irrigation water.

With respect to the species *P. Brownii*, it grows wild in the brush lands all along the foothills of southern California. It shoots up and blooms in very early spring, dies down and remains dormant during our hot dry summers. The flowers are inconspicuous with purplish red petals scarcely one inch long. This plant has no ornamental value. It occurs only here and there in the brush and does not grow in colonies as is the case with most of our other wild flowers. It should not be difficult to gather a few seeds as soon as ma-

ture and before they are eaten by our numerous wild rodents. If there is a request for roots or seeds of *Brownii* I can furnish the name and address of a com-

petent botanist here who is familiar with the plant.

Very sincerely yours,
J. Eliot Coit
690 Oceanview Drive
Vista, California

Paeonies In England And New Zealand

Dear Mr. Peyton,

I have for acknowledgement your letter of Sept. 25th and will endeavor to give replies to your various enquiries.

First of all—**Paeonies in England.** Flower shows in England are, in the main, displays of flowers by nurserymen. There are competitive classes at some of the Royal Horticultural Society's Shows, such as the Daffodil and Dahlia shows, and competitions are also seen at the smaller shows in different cities and towns. Generally speaking, however, the Flower Shows are dominated by Trade displays and full marks must be given the Trade for the striking and attractive stands on display. So far as Paeonies are concerned there are only two or three nurseries growing them in quantity and variety and no shows at which there are competitive classes. I have seen several excellent trade displays at shows but these were for trade purposes and not for competition and I have not heard of any awards being made except for the general display. Awards of Merit and First Class Certificates are of course given by the R.H.S. after varieties are tested at the R.H.S. testing grounds at Wisley; but these are not the subject of your enquiry, or so I presume. I have not seen enough gardens in England to give an opinion on the favorite varieties grown here, either tree or herba-

ceous, but at Wayford Manor in Somerset I saw a young plant, *Souv. de Maxime Cornu*, which was definitely yellow in its three beautiful blooms.

Paeonies in New Zealand. On this subject, I can speak with more knowledge. Growers of any quantity of plants are not numerous, but most private and Public Gardens have some varieties of the herbaceous types. The officinalis varieties are common because the English, when they settled New Zealand over one hundred years ago, brought these old favorites with them.

I suppose I have the largest and most comprehensive collection in New Zealand with over 100 varieties and 400 to 500 plants. In Christchurch, Canterbury Province, where I live, paeonies do particularly well and since I began exhibiting them at our Flower Shows about ten years ago, more and more people are growing them and our Competitive classes at the Flower Shows are building up and becoming really good. In our Botanical Gardens, Mr. M. J. Barnett, the Director of the Christchurch City Parks and Gardens has built up a good collection and the large paeony border is a magnificent sight in November of each year. In these Gardens is also found a collection of 30 to 40 tree paeonies. Twenty-nine of these were donated to the Garden by a Major who was serving with

the New Zealand Forces in the Army of Occupation in Japan. I enclose herewith a list of these varieties which you may find of interest.

Here is a list of my favourite paeonies, herbaceous type, not in order of favouritism for I really cannot say that any one is more beautiful than the other. They are all exquisite.

Kelway's Glorious, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Martha Bulloch, Mrs. Wilder Bandcroft, Globe of Light, Ama-no-Sode, Queen Alexandra, Emperor of India, British Empire, Madame Emile Debatene, Elsa Sass, Pink Delight, Mons. Jules Elie, Solange, Kelway's Brilliant, Winston Churchill and Gilded Splendour. The last named is not yet on the market.

Pruning Tree Paeonies. In our climate the bushes tend to become leggy and straggly. Would you or some of your readers be good enough to write to me, giving me your ideas on how to prune the plants so that they become compact, not too high, plants? Such information will be greatly appreciated and for which I thank you and your readers in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Oscar W. B. Anderson
% A. A. Copeland
Cricket Court
Cricket Malherbie
Neal Ilminster
Somerset, England

P. S. I note that your Society has a Mrs. Oscar Anderson as a member. If you meet her, pass on to her the good wishes of Mr. Oscar Anderson of New Zealand.

List donated by a Major in the Army of Occupation in Japan.

**Tree Paeonies, Christchurch, N. Z.
Botanic Gardens**

Nokagura, Deep crimson.
Bikan, Crimson.
Toyo-no-Haru, Pale crimson.
Maihime, Pure scarlet.
Sukiden, Crimson, but margin pale.
Ninjuden, Pink, outer white.
Nokko-no-Tsukasa, Blackish.
Tsuki-sekai, Pure white.
Kenreimon, Purplish red.
Yukigasane, Pure white.
Haku-wo, Creamy.
Ruriban, Bluish purple.
Hakugan, White.
Sei-ryu, White.
Azuma-kagami, Crimson.
Konronjishi, Blackish purple.
Asahiminato, Crimson.
Fuyo-beni, Pink.
Hanakaijin, Reddish purple.
Kume-no-Mai, Red.
Hyakukasen, Crimson.
Skin-abokyu, Deep Crimson.
Kumoizuru, Reddish purple.
Nishiki-no-Tsuya, Scarlet.
Skinkagura, Deep crimson.
Hakuhanryu, White.
Akashi-jishi, Pale red.
Tomo-shiraga, White.
Imashojo, Red.

Secretary's Notes

The schedule and information about the coming Fifty First Annual Exhibition is published in this issue. We hope every one who possibly can, will attend this show. If we have favorable weather, it should be one of the finest we have ever had, as they certainly have the material to draw from.

We hope Dr. Hyde and his good wife will have the full co-operation of all who can help and not leave it all to a few. The work of putting on a show is hard and

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tedious and often attended with heart aches and failures, in some respects. Let us all try to reduce these to a minimum.

We hope all those who possibly can show hybrids and tree peonies will make every effort to do so.

Dr. John C. Wister's Spring Greetings have just come. In it we learn of the many activities that have occupied him for the last year. We regret to see that on Feb. 2, he had a fall, resulting in a broken hip from which he is slowly recovering. He hopes to be able to walk by summer. All of us I am sure, wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Richard Miller has taken over the Wassenberg Gardens. For many years he has been associated with Mr. Wassenberg in conducting them. You may be assured that they'll be managed to the satisfaction of their many customers.

As we go to press we have not heard what will be the fate of the Oberlin Gardens. The present owner, Mr. Morris James, wrote me sometime ago, that he would like to sell, but nothing further has been heard.

It is my intention, at present, to be absent from Rapidan for the greater part of June, attending as many shows as I can. Those who write me during that month may expect some delay in receiving answers.

We note that Mr. Harold E. Wolfe, one of the co-authors of the Monograph of the Tree Peony, which all of you should have received, will enter the commercial field under the firm name of St. Clair Gardens, Inc., 24 South 86th Street, Belleville, Illinois. Needless to say his specialty will be tree peonies, which Mr. Wister says in his Spring Greetings, Mr. Wolfe grows better than anyone he has ever seen.

We hope everyone who can do so, will plan to visit some of the peony plantings and gardens, commercial, private or public, of which there are now quite a number that contain large collections of all kinds of peonies. Almost every commercial grower has an exhibition garden or runs a private exhibition of his own at his place of business. They welcome visitors. One or two gardens were mentioned in another article in this issue. There are many more. Those who attend the Chicago show will find a large number of them in that area.

Possibly a tour of some of the gardens in that section, can be arranged for those who may wish to visit them during the time of the show.

LET US ALL MEET AT
CHICAGO NEXT JUNE 16-18.

New Membership List

Quite a demand has arisen for a new membership list. We shall print it either in a regular issue of the Bulletin or as a supplement to one. We hope it will be before September 1st.

In order to make this list as correct in every detail as possible, we shall need your help. Many fail to give us their postal zone number in cities that have zones. We find these zone numbers have often been changed from the ones originally given. Rural route and box numbers are frequently omitted. Some, who have business addresses different from their residence, give sometimes one and sometimes the other. So we are often in doubt to which address to mail the Bulletin.

Also we would like to call your attention to the fact that married couples may have their membership listed as Mr. and Mrs. though

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only one Bulletin will be sent and they will be entitled to only one vote in a meeting.

In the case of memberships being in the name of firms, we advise that one member of the firm be named as recipient of the Bulletin because we suspect that when non-receipt of a Bulletin is reported by a firm, that it is often due to the "office boy" throwing it in the waste basket as trash and not to the fault of the mails.

So, in order to make this membership list as correct as possible in every respect, will you please examine the address on this Bulletin and if it is not correct in every respect, report the correct address to us AT ONCE. DO NOT ABBREVIATE. PRINT OR TYPE IT LEGIBLY. We often have difficulty reading hand written addresses, though they may be perfectly plain to the writer. Our address is George W. Peyton, Secretary, American Peony Society, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia.

Dept. Of Registration

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

By W. S. BOCKSTOCE, 2803 Bergman Street, Pittsburgh 4, Penna., owner and originator:

CAROL (Bockstoce, 1955). D. E. R. Double, bright red, rose center, medium height with stiff stems and flowers from 5 to 6 inches in diameter.

BESS BOCKSTOCE (Bockstoce, 1955). D. E. LP. Double, light, showy pink. Medium height with good stems.

HENRY BOCKSTOCE (Bockstoce, 1955). D. E. R. Tall, dark red double, rose center with good strong stems.

LANGLEY (Bockstoce, 1955). SD. E. P. Early semi-double pink with good stems of medium height.

TWO-IN-ONE (Bockstoce, 1955), D. E. R. Tall thick stems, four or more feet in height. The large, flat flowers are composed of two blooms in one, having two complete sets of petals, stigmas and stamens in one bloom. A beautiful flower.

WILLIAM SHERADEN (Bockstoce, 1955). D. E. LP. Tall, double light pink with good stems and flowers from 6 to 7 inches in diameter.

NOTE: The parentage of the above is given as being hybrids from a cross of an *officinalis* with *lactiflora* on a 1F single red with a *lactiflora* double white or pink.

By WASSENBERG GARDENS, Van Wert, Ohio, owner:

BU-TE (Wassenberg, 1954). J. M. W. Parentage given as Tamate Loku x Isani Gidui. Tall, erect rather spreading habit, strong stems. Flowers large, pure white guards with a large center of yellow staminodes, Stigmas white or creamy. Excellent for garden and show purposes.

By GILBERT H. WILD AND SON, Sarcoxie, Missouri, owner and originator:

ALBUQUERQUE, (Wild, 1955). SD. M. DR. A magnificent dark red semi-double, blooming in mid-season. It has strong stems of medium height and makes a fine landscape variety.

PEONIES

We grow only the best show and cut-flower varieties, including the early "*officinalis*" varieties.

Also we have large collections of iris, tritomas, hemerocallis, eremurus, etc. Catalog gladly sent on request.

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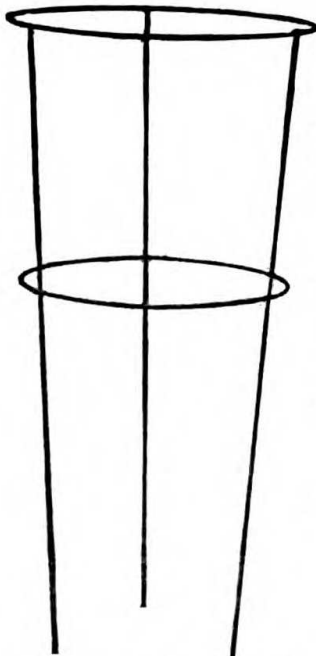
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