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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin



MARCH — 1956

BULLETIN NO. 140

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George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: W. A. Alexander, 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio
Vice-president: Harold E. Wolfe, 24 South 86th Street, Belleville, Illinois.
Treasurer: L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, 4, Minnesota.
Secretary and Editor: George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia.

L. W. Lindgren, 1787 West Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, 4, Minnesota. (1958).
Frank E. Moots, 1127 West Broadway, Newton, Kansas. (1958).
George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Virginia. (1958).
Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York. (1956).
Louis Smirnow, Linden Lane, Glen Head Post Office, Brookville, Long Island, New York, (1958).
Allen J. Wild, Sarcoxie, Missouri. (1957).

Mrs. W. E. Wipson, 903 Arrowhead Road, Duluth 3, Minn. (1957).

Harold E. Wolfe, 24 South 86th Street, Belleville, Illinois. (1958).

DIRECTORS

W. A. Alexander, 145 Eberly Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio. (1957).
L. W. Cousins, 472 Tecumseh Avenue, London, Ontario, Canada. (1956).
Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois, (1956).
Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 South 46th St., Milwaukee 15, Wis. (1956).
Clarence Lienau, 25804 Joy Road, Rt. 1, Detroit 28, Mich. (1956)

DISTRICT V
President: Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois.
Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. 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. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

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 names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



MARCH, 1956 — NO. 140

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just as I am buckling down to the task of writing this message, it has been decided that our 1956 annual meeting and exhibition will be held at Dixon, Illinois, sponsored by the Men's Garden Club of that city. So, for the second time in successive years, our National Show will be held in District V. From one point of view this is fine. It is the heart of peonyland. It is what might be called the midseason area; the optimum show date there will catch the early bloom of the northern areas and also the late bloom of the south without unduly prolonged storage. In another way it is the heart of peonyland, with more members, more exhibitors, more activities, more everything peonywise. It may be argued that this District deserves the honor of having the National more frequently than other districts in which there is less interest.

With that sentiment, I have much sympathy. But twice in succession! If it can be considered an honor to be awarded the National Show, and surely it is, perhaps there are those in District V who are becoming confused about the meaning of honor and burden, are beginning to link them as synonyms. People who have never had

responsibilities in staging a major show have little idea of the work involved or how difficult it is many times to get people to work. We trust that the burden will not overshadow the honor for Dr. and Mrs. Hyde who are again chairman and secretary respectively of their district organization, and the other loyal workers. They certainly merit the thanks and gratitude of all members of the Society.

From another point of view, having our show too frequently in any one area is not so good. The American Peony Society is a North American institution with members from all areas where peonies can be grown. We can even boast a few overseas members. Every section having a reasonable number of members should look forward to the honor of being host sometime. A successful show on the National level will do much to stimulate interest, build morale of members and win new ones. Here are some areas I would like to see on the waiting list: Detroit or Lansing, Des Moines, Duluth or Superior, Toronto, Montreal or Quebec, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Williamsburg, Wheeling, Lexington or Louisville, Little Rock, Amarillo, St. Louis, Lincoln, Cincinnati.

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Indianapolis; and of course Mansfield, Ohio, which is to become the mecca of peonydom—we must go there soon. Why don't you loyal members in those places or others begin to agitate, see what you can stir up? A strong, up-and-coming men's garden club might be happy to sponsor the show, as is the case this year. Or a federation of clubs, a horticultural society—any horticultural group capable of doing the job.

I would like to see the Society receive no less than six or eight invitations every year. I would like to have our meeting places and dates set for two, three, even four years ahead. Those of you who are in favor of the prevention of cruelty to the A. P. S. Secretary and President will try to do something about this. It is a nerve-racking ordeal to approach the time for the March Bulletin to go to press and not know where the show is to be, even whether a place can be found.

I believe that horticultural groups can be sold on the idea of bringing honor and glory to themselves by acting as local sponsors for the A. P. S. show. I see no reason why at least two could not be held each year, an early show for southern peony areas, and one for the north. A two show plan would enable us to have far better displays of the herbaceous hybrids. Several of the fine, early albifloras such as Mons. Jules Elie, Marietta Sisson, and White Delight would appear on the exhibition tables in quantity. More tree peonies could be shown. More people could exhibit more varieties. Far greater numbers of people interested in ornamental horticulture would see for the first time just what a peony can be. The opportunities are limitless.

Local groups could bring these

things to pass, even a few members in one locality. Our district plan of organization—a beautiful thing on paper—has failed. The districts are too large, members too scattered. What we should have, what would work, are many local groups made up of the peony people living in a city, a county, or an area of perhaps 50 mile radius. Contacts can be maintained and group activities participated in without making a long journey and taking several days time. That, I think, is the basic reason for the success of District V, the only really live district organization we have. There are enough peony people in the Chicago area to give it the character of a local.

If I were asked to be adviser to a local group, I would counsel them to go easy on set programs and formalities; such things get to be burdensome and boring. Have an Autumn dinner meeting which will be little more than a peony gab-fest. Hold a show if possible, even if it has to be in a member's garage. If there are too few to have an interesting show of peonies exclusively, try for special emphasis on them at a general flower show. Failing that, at least have a visitation day, see what your fellow members have. And keep as your objective for the crowning achievement to someday bring the National Show to your city and be host to the American Peony Society.

Some may say these things are only the dreams of an impractical visionary. I admit that at present they class as no better than wishful thinking. But I say it is possible to make them realities. Required to do the job: salesmanship and hard work. For further details, ask the people of District V.

Appearing in this number of the Bulletin are the first of a series

of articles entitled "Peony Persons."

These are the result of Mr. F. P. Tikalsky and your president putting our heads together (via the U. S. mails) to attempt to carry out suggestions made by several members of the President's Advisory Committee appointed at the beginning of my first term of office. Mr. Tikalsky has been our publicity director during the past year, but, I regret to report, recently tendered his resignation. However, he had done much to get this series under way before resigning, which he felt compelled to do for personal reasons.

These articles are being presented so that all will come to know our members who are distinguished in some phase of peony work such as breeding and hybridization, exhibiting, merchandising, and service to the Society. Too often we never find out much about such persons until we read their obituaries. The American Peony Society is a comparatively small organization and will probably never be very large. This would seem to make possible better acquaintance among the members and more intimate knowledge of those who have gained some measure of fame. But it does not seem to work that way. Our members are widely scattered, often isolated, so to speak. Many have never been able to attend a National show. There may be some like

me: I was a member several years before I ever met anyone else who belonged.

I saw the names of men like A. M. Brand, W. F. Christman, Art. Murawska, Charles Klehm, Roy Gayle, George Peyton and others in the Bulletin. I always wondered what manner of men they were: age, occupation, family, interests other than peonies, and particularly their peony experience and histories. I would not yet know about most of them (except the ones who have passed on) if I had not started going to the shows where I met most of them personally.

The stories are not meant to be biographies. They are not for the purpose of boosting anyones business. They are not just a back-slapping project, although well deserved and long overdue recognition for work and accomplishments may result in certain instances. Rather, they are intended as straight forward, factual statements about our more illustrious members presented so that they will emerge for you as real people, friends whose hands you hope to shake some day.

Incidentally, we hope the series will take a little pressure off our Editor who is continually faced with the problem of finding suitable and interesting copy for the Bulletin.

W. A. Alexander, *President.*

Annual Meeting Men's Club

The Annual Meeting of the Men's Garden Clubs of America will be held May 15-18, 1956 at the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

We are sure that many of our members who are also members of Men's Garden Clubs will attend this meeting.

Their attention is called to the fact that the Peony will be Flower of the Day on Thursday, May 17th. Gilbert H. Wild and Son of Sarcxie, Missouri, will supply three thousand blooms for display on that day. Our members should take every advantage possible to push our flower. Memberships will be accepted at Booth No. 5.

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Peony Persons

CHARLES KLEHM

Charles Klehm was born on May 11, 1867 in Arlington Heights, Illinois. His present home is just a long winter's shadow from the old homestead. But his love for the peony can be shown by the fact that both the old and the present home are still encircled by peo-

his father's nursery, where he acquired a practical knowledge of horticulture. Upon the death of his father, he and his two brothers gained control of the nursery business. It was not long after that Charley became interested in the peony. Whenever a flower show



nies. His memory is excellent and he recalls vividly the old one room school house with its glowing pot-bellied stove, where the rudiments of the three R's were assimilated by the threat of the ever poised rod. After receiving educational grounding deemed necessary in those days in order to embark on a life of self maintainance, Charley, as everyone who knows him well addresses him, started to work in

was held in a location that was accessible by train, or was a day's journey by horse and buggy, he would invariably be present to exhibit and to see what was new. The World's Columbian Exhibition was held in Chicago in 1893 and in connection with it was a major flower show that was held at peony blooming time. It was at this exhibition that Charley had his first glimpse of the recently

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introduced peony variety Mons. Jules Elie. There were a number of them in large wooden pails and quoting his words, "No floral beauty has ever made such an impression upon me before or since. At that time it eclipsed anything that I had ever seen before by a country mile. My impression was a lasting one, I still maintain that it is one of the very best peony varieties for all purposes that is in commerce today." All of our members know that last year, Mons. Jules Elie was voted the most popular peony variety by members of our Society, so, in a way, this sort of substantiates Charley's high esteem of it. Of course, he would not rest until he had obtained some stock of this new sensational variety, and after making inquiries, he located an importer who could obtain them. He smiles when he relates that he procured one thousand divisions of this newly introduced variety for twenty cents each! He makes it very plain that the old buckeroo went much farther in those days, but he reminds you that there was little demand and the gardeners had not gone loco for somethings that were new and different. But, of those imported, sixty percent of them had root knots and had to be thrown away.

In 1902, Charley started to grow peonies on his own. He is a charter member of the American Peony Society, joining in 1903, and as far as anyone can determine, he is the sole surviving member of that optimistic group of peony lovers. He cherishes the pin that was given to him when he joined, and he believes that the issuance of it was one of the first official acts. Some day, he hopes to see a reproduction of it in one of the pages of our future Bulletins. In his earlier days he was

active in exhibitions, but later his chief interest was the cut flower business.

On September 20, 1899, Charley married Emma Klehm, a girl that resided in his own community. She, too, loves the peony and is well known for her floral arrangements. They have been seen in many of our past shows. She also seems to possess the same perpetual youth of her husband and only two years ago the writer saw her play "Cops and robbers" with some of the grandchildren. The Klehms have six daughters and a son, the latter, Carl, is now in a partnership with his father in the Klehm and Son nursery. He is edition number two of his father and seems to possess most of his desirable traits to continue to make the business a success. Charley Klehm and his wife celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary six years ago, and it was quite an event with nineteen grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, relatives and a host of well wishing friends.

The extent of the Klehm and Son nursery comprises four plots of over two hundred acres located in proximity to one another, near Arlington Heights. They also have over a hundred acres farther south in Illinois, near Noble, of which twenty acres are utilized for the growing of peonies. While the principal portion of all of their plots is devoted to peonies, the better general nursery stock is grown as well. In all the fields where peonies are grown for the cut flower trade, the plants are set out on centers four feet both ways, and consideration is being given to increase these centers in future plantings. The stock that is grown for the sale of roots is set out in rows four feet apart but the plants are one and a half feet

apart in the rows. Machine cultivation is supplemented by the old fashioned hoe, and a visit to any of the fields at any period in the growing season will reveal an orderly and well kept nursery.

In 1928, Charley sold his former farm to a horse racing enterprise, which is now the site of the Arlington race track. It became mandatory that he move his stock and in the process of doing so, he observed some seeds on one year old plants of Mons. Jules Elie, that were the result of a fortuitous fertilization. He had never seen seeds on this variety before, so gathered and planted them, and then waited anxiously for results. One of the fruits of this sowing was Charley's White, possibly one of the very best whites in the cut flower trade. It is one of the most beautiful of all peonies in the opening stage. It opens a pale cream that fades to a pure white, and it is one of the very few white peony varieties that does not have the slightest trace of pink or blush. Like its renowned parent, it is of bomb type and is an early bloomer. The stalks are tall and strong. A reproduction of a photograph shown elsewhere in this issue of three year old plants after finishing with cutting, illustrates the sterling growing habits and the form of the flower. Charley makes no claims for it as an exhibition flower, but says that it is one of the very best cut flowers in commerce today, and he should know, since he is one of the foremost authorities in this highly specialized business.

Another seedling that came from the same batch of seeds collected from Mons. Jules Elie resulted in the creation of the variety, Emma Klehm, named after his wife. Charley frankly admits that this variety is not primarily

a cut flower type, but states that it is a combination exhibition-garden variety. The flower is of a fine rose type form, the color is of the deepest pink, with good substance. It is of medium height and a late bloomer. Charley is known to be one of the most discreet growers, and knows all of the desirable elements that enter into the sum total of a great peony, and the fact that he chose this one to bear his wife's name attests his esteem of it.

When the last national show was being held in Chicago, the late Byron Gist, Allen Wild and I and our wives stole away from the exhibition hall and paid the Klehms a visit. At that time the three men folks accompanied by Charley and Carl were given the opportunity to browse thru the beds where the advanced seedlings were being grown for observation and test. One in particular impressed us was a seedling tentatively called "Improved Sarah Bernhardt." This one seems to have an abundance of class but Charley will have to be entirely satisfied with it before it can be released to commerce. He said that he does not especially appreciate the beauty of single and Japanese types. We saw many "candidates for fame" but from what we gathered, these in all probability will never be introduced. What a pity if this will be so, particularly for those who admire these types.

Charley Klehm is one of the foremost peony cut flower growers in this country and in searching for a little of the past he related some very interesting experiences, that have a part in this thumbnail sketch of his life. Just before the turn of the century, peonies were cut in the fields and sold directly to the customers. There were no commission houses

at that time and how to keep them in storage was not known. The prices were generally one cent each, and for something unusual, two cents sometimes was obtained. An old cut flower grower, Mr. Kennicott, and Charley began to experiment with the storage of peonies. The prices charged by commercial storage plants were prohibitive, so a little beginning was made by using Kennicott's kitchen and an improvised storage plant was started. The experiment was encouraging so the next season a ton of ice was purchased and it achieved such good results that ice was used from that time on, until economical mechanical means of refrigeration were developed for commerce. But there were many disappointments, certain varieties would not keep in storage, others would not open in water. Some had stamens which blackened or gave off an offensive odor. It had to be determined at what stage was best for each variety to pick for storage, some opened freely when picked in the tight bud stage, others had to be picked at a more advanced period. Some varieties would degenerate with constant and severe cutting, while others could be abused without much loss of vigor. Now, all of these things have been determined and cutting is done on a scientific basis. Charley has a cold storage capacity of 35,000 dozens of blooms. Last year over 30,000 dozen cut flowers were sold.

The writer of this article asked Charley for the names of the men who are now over the horizon of the living that made a lasting impression upon him. So, here they are, not in order of their preference: A.M. Brand, A.B. Franklin, Lee Bonnewitz, William Christman, W.L. Gumm, Dr. Knapp, Harry Little, Julius Van Steen and

Charles Wassenburg. He made one comment and it was this, "I think that Harry Little surpasses anyone as a exhibitor."

He was asked what were his favorite peony varieties. He returned with the question, "What for?" So, each of the varieties that he named has after it letters designating in what field they are best, namely, garden, cut and exhibition. So, here is his opinion of the cream of the crop:

Reds: Augustin d'Hour, C.G.; Dixie, G.; Kansas, C.G.E.; Karl Rosenfield, G.; Longfellow, G.; Philippe Rivoire, G.E.; Matilda Lewis, G.E.; Mr. L. van Leeuwen, G.E.; Onondaga, G.; Ruth Elizabeth, G.

Pink: Auten's Pride, G.E.; Blanche King, C.E.; Cathy Ann, C.; E. G. Hill, G.; Emma Klehm, G.E.; Lady Kate, C.G.E.; LaPerle, G.; Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, G.E.; Mons. Jules Elie, C.G.E.; Nick Shaylor, G.E.; Reine Hortense, C. G.E.; Sarah Bernhardt, C.G.E.; Therese, G.; Vivid Rose, E.G.

White: Alice Harding, E.G.; Barcness Schroeder, G.C.; Charley's White, C.; Elsa Sass, E.G.; Festiva Maxima, C.G.E.; LaLorraine C.G.E.; Moonstone, E.G.; Miss America, E.G.

Charley was asked to hazard his opinion of the new hybrids that are commanding so much attention at the present time. He did not duck the issue, but met it head on as he always does. So, here is what he said, "No one can dispute the wonderful colors that were introduced by the hybrids, they certainly are innovations and are sensational. But I see a weakness in almost every hybrid that I have ever seem so far. Wouldn't it be a treat to come back, say fifty years from now and see the harvest? I'm certain that hybridization in the future will eventually reduce the

magnitude or eliminate most of the current faults."

It would be remiss if a narration was not included concerning an incident experienced with Charley and the late A.M. Brand. Here's the way Charley tells it. "Mr. Brand was visiting at my home, and after dinner I suggested that he and I attend a movie. When we got to the ticket window, I found that I did not have my wallet with me, so borrowed the money from my good friend, Brand. When I arrived home late that evening, I discovered that I had forgotten to transfer my wal-

funny thing about the story is that whenever I tell it, someone always seems to remark, "Charley, this proves that you can afford to lose your pants in the peony game, but not your shirt."

Charley appears to be in fine health, his reflexes and reactions testify favorably to this, since at the age of eighty eight, he successfully passed the automobile driver's test last spring. He manages to take two trips daily thru the four fields near Arlington Heights to direct and keep his fingers on the pulse of things. This youthful old peony pioneer looks



Charley's White

let when I had changed my trousers. I then reimbursed him. When I awoke the next morning, I could not find my trousers any where and I was quite perplexed. Later, we found the trousers and the empty wallet a short distance away. Apparently, someone saw the payoff in the house and later hooked them thru an open window in the room where I slept. The

like a perennial fixture in our Society. When some one asks him for the recipe for longevity he will invariably answer, "Always keep the mind and body active, be moderate in all things." Charley has the greatest faith in God, and this is reflected in every act that he does. And did you ever meet any one with such modesty?

Francis P. Tikalsky

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A RECOGNITION—

A. L. MURAWSKA

Arthur Louis Murawska was born on the north side of Chicago January 15, 1893. He completed grade school at the age of fifteen and, although his father was engaged in the sausage business, son Arthur heard the call of the railroads and went to work as a fireman, fibbing of course about his age. And since that time he has been, for forty two years, employed by the Milwaukee Railroad Company. He now serves as a locomotive engineer on the Chicago-Milwaukee line.

Art, as his friends call him, has since childhood been tremendously interested in peonies and at the age of ten his favorite hangout was the Peterson Nursery located on the northern outskirts of Chicago. During the period when the peonies were being divided in the fall, Art would hang around and the workmen would, now and then, pass some root fragment with a semblance of an eye to him. Thrilled with these donations, he planted them in the back yard of his father's home, and soon the entire yard was filled with them. Then he persuaded his neighbors to let him plant some in their yards, and in a few years the area around Art's home was known as Peony Row.

When World War I broke out Art joined the army and was quartered at Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill. Even during the rigors of training he could not forget his beloved peonies. Whenever he had a week-end leave he would go home and work around his plantings and would take roots back to the military camp and plant them

around the officers' quarters.

Not only did Art plant roots wherever he could, he gathered seeds from fine varieties in the various nurseries and somehow managed to squeeze them into his yard. His first seedling was a red and white sort that bloomed for him shortly after he left the army. It was good to look at but had deplorable stalks. Nevertheless he was thrilled and named it American Legion. He soon realized, however, that it was considerably short of being desirable, so he dug it up and threw it into the garbage can.

Arthur Murawska married Miss Louise Gongoll, of Chicago, on New Year's Eve, 1921. He still brags about the two wedding celebrations he had in one day, one at Chicago and one at Milwaukee, and laughs as he relates that his bride was, during a prank, stolen from him. His wife quickly learned the peony game and could go into a field and identify any varieties there by their blooms, and most of them by their foliage and plant habits. Art readily admits that she knew more about peonies than he did and he never failed to seek her counsel when something new and expensive was under consideration to be acquired. Unfortunately, she passed away suddenly in 1949, and now he carries on alone, except for the boys.

Art has three sons, Jim, Bill and Art Jr., aged 27, 29, and 20 respectively, and Jim and Bill maintain more than ordinary interest in peonies.

Shortly after Art was married he obtained the loan of a plot of

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Ready For Work

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ground at Bensenville, Ill. and transferred the stock from his father's and neighbors' yards to this new place. Two years later he purchased a four-acre plot in River Grove, Ill. and built a home there. The better stock at Bensenville was moved to the new home place and a little later he acquired another acre directly across from his garden. This is where his new hybrids are now planted.

A. L. Murawska has introduced a number of outstanding varieties of peonies. He likes to relate the circumstances surrounding Dignity, his first important introduction. He told Roy Gayle about it and gave him some blooms to enter in a show. Roy put them into his car but forgot about them until several days later. When he found them he put them into water, they opened beautifully, and were voted best Jap in the show. Roy is responsible for the name and for giving the variety its initial publicity. It is one of the best red Japs.

His second major achievement was Moonstone, one of the very best exhibition-garden varieties. It lacks fragrance only to be a perfect peony. Its bewitching color, form, and ideal plant habits are really something to get excited about.

Then came Lotus Queen, a duplicate of the Lotus flower in both appearance and fragrance. It has a beautiful, firm, cup-shaped form which it retains until the flower withers. The color is unique, being white with a very delicate green suffusion. Plant habits are excellent.

His next important introduction was Helen Hayes, a very good deep pink. It has fine form and, as with all the Murawska introductions, fine garden habits. It is not known as well as it should be, but,

without doubt, should find a place in every important planting.

Those who have seen his Mildred May will attest to its effectiveness for decoration and basket work. The six lateral buds on long stems open into angelic white sprays of camellia-formed flowers. This is something very distinctive, with grace and charm in abundance.

His Kate Smith has a very distinct color, a blazing deep pink with an orange cast. It can be spotted from afar in a field of blooming peonies. The flower is large, has a mild, agreeable fragrance and is one of the best for garden effects, giving a sparkle and a snap to the color scheme. Along the same line but not as well known is Dorothea, a vibrant deep pink with oomph aplenty. It, too, is grand for the garden.

Other introductions include Attar of Roses, one of the most fragrant of peonies; Ethel Mars, a white seedling of Kelway's Glorious; Renato, an improved Felix Crousse; Chippewa, a dark red semi-double; China Maid, a soft pink Jap; Golden Light, a white Jap; and also Flare and Pepite d'Or, singles.

Just introduced is his new Walter E. Wipson, a seedling of Le Cygne, and what a promising one this is! Like its parent it is a white of breath-taking form and has the same plant habits. It has been tested over several seasons already and if these observations continue to repeat we will have something to go alongside Nick Shaylor and Elsa Sass for quality.

In 1954 Mr. Murawska introduced a new and very dark red Japanese variety, Midnight Sun, and it is the opinion of many that this will eventually be one of the most popular of all dark Japs. Also a new pure white, cup-shaped

single is under observation and test. It may be too early to type it as outstanding, yet it looks to be a fitting companion for Le Jour and Exquisite.

Art is also a hybridizer and grower of irises. His Aladdin's Wish, one of the most individual and fragrant of all bearded irises, has won for him the respect of discreet iris fanciers. His new 1956 introduction, Azure Sails, was well received by many experts in northern Illinois. Next spring over two thousand seedlings will bloom for the first time, and this field will be the gathering place for iris growers who want to look over the new harvest.

Mr. Murawska's favorite peony varieties have been listed in a previous issue of this bulletin. However, one fact along this line impressed the writer. He likes Marietta Sisson because it always blooms for Memorial Day. And every year he takes a bouquet of it to his wife's grave; never fails.

What about hybrids, Art? "You know, I haven't grown them for a long while, so don't consider me as an authority. For one thing, there have been too many singles and semi-doubles introduced that are too much alike. I like the colors very much, but the foliage seems 'ratty'. As I see it, the superb things are yet to come."

Art has in recent years added to his plantings a fine assortment of these new hybrids. So, with his keen interest in hybridizing, we may be sure that he will be very active with them in the future.

Who were the men that impressed him most in the peony game? Why, the trio, Peyton, Christman and Klehm. "I don't believe there is anyone in our Society who

knows peony varieties as well as George Peyton. He certainly helped me considerably. I miss the annual tours that he made at blooming time. From what I see, we should go in a big way for these. They do more good than the shows.

"I admired Will Christman very much. First of all, he was a gentleman in every respect. His integrity and crystal clear sincerity made a very great impression on me. He knew his way around peonies too. Visiting with Will for a while was like a good kindly talk with a revered gentleman. I needed this counseling and looked forward to it.

"Charley Klehm is sort of a leaning post for me. He's a real peony sage and I enjoy visiting with him as he goes back in retrospect and recounts the developments in the peony business. He has an abundance of integrity and what he tells you is the gospel truth. I like his homespun philosophy, too; it gives me a boost."

Art spends all of his spare time from his job in his fields and, with only a little outside help, manages to keep them in good shape. He is looking forward to retirement when he can devote all of his time to his flowers. So, maybe there is more Murawska "junk" yet to come. Who will doubt it?

Mrs. D. Y. Dunn

Lexington, Ky.

Our members near New York and Boston should certainly avail themselves of the opportunity to see and exhibit at the shows in these cities which feature peonies. See the dates given in the list of shows in this issue.

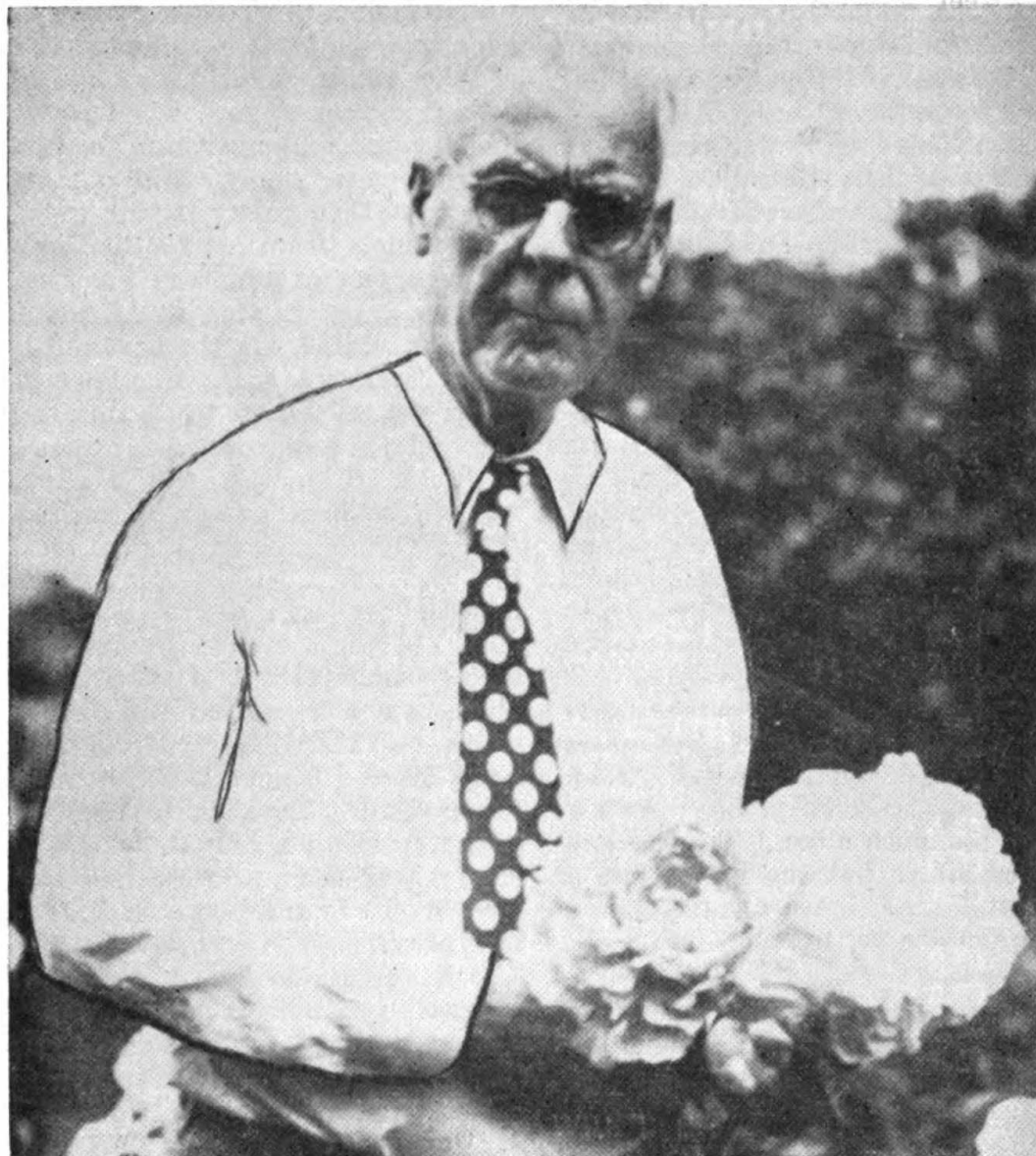
☞14☞

HARRY L. SMITH

The idea of articles on our living "Elders" seemed excellent, until I had to write one. I know our highly respected Redkey, Indiana, member to be an able, generous, quiet gentleman, but for the likes

prove his greatness. One who has shown so much affection for people, wild creatures, and peonies can be naught but good.

Our Hoosier friend Harry started out, (no doubt with a lusty



o' me to clothe him in words is quite a task. I shall try. BIG seems to be the proper word to describe his body, beliefs, play, and accomplishments. Innumerable smiles given, and received,

howl), at Ridgeville, Indiana, on July 7, 1877—and what time or place could have been better? At fifteen he was sweating out hard days in a glass factory, but when twenty he opened his grocery in

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Redkey. Here he made friends and prospered, until his health forced retirement in August 1952. Miss Evelyn Wilson and he said their solemn "I do" in October 1923. This union was blessed with three precious replicas—Harmon, a six year service man (including Okinawa), pretty Bonnie Lou, the good wife of Dr. David Ayres of Springfield, Ohio, and equally lovely Autumn Joy, chief commander of lucky top sergeant C. G. Wagner, of Denver, and their two young joys.

Mr. Smith is slowly recovering from a stroke suffered three years ago last November. He can work a bit with his peonies, and they and friends' letters are his life. Believe me, he knows good peonies when he sees them, and never is confused about his hundred plus faithful backyard intimates, collected over the past twenty-six years. It is amazing how long he keeps blooms of these beauties, and those that friends mail to him. When not contemplating them, (as fanciers have for centuries in peonies native orient), into the refrigerator they go — oh! his poor wife, he has the place overflowing. Harry married this good, praiseworthy lady (Evelyn) when he was nearly fifty. She keeps a nice pleasant home for them, and somehow also finds time to hold a busy desk job in a large local bakery—Laus tibi!

He, too, found time for his business, a Presbyterian office, his peony breeding, etc. and when able also ranged far with his dogs and "ol' reacher" over Dakota's vast billowing plains, or would drive his horse two long days north to wet a line in the great lake—(where anything under five lbs. was a minnow). Most members have heard of a legendary sure eyeshot hunter, with such a repu-

tation that upon entering a hickory grove, all squirrels would meekly come down and let him take his choice—well, members, that was our Harry.

His good friend, Mr. W. Mains, writes—"No one has honored a hobby of living things with greater joy and zest than he, zest that radiates reverence for the Author of all that is good and beautiful—I have known him too few years—generous to a fault — appreciative of the small favor."

A few years ago, when Mr. Smith could no longer care for his many lovely "peony children" he entrusted them to my eager hands. I now quote from his 1950 letter: "I have one of my reds opening here in the store this A. M. I tell you, Mr. Mains, it's the best red I have seen. I wish Mr. Peyton could see it." Later, when this intense, deep double red first opened for me, I knew he was not far wrong in his "papa" judgment. Mr. Peyton and I decided it was his best one, so should bear his name. However, I now believe his dark red single (Redkey) is even better—such color! I also have given names to the following worthies — Friend Harry, Wabash, Ace, Wee Philippe, Oliver P. Bayne, Laura Marches, and Helen Sears. Three he named, which I have never seen in flower—Evelyn Smith, Bonnie Lou, and Autumn Joy.

It is surprising how many fans so quickly found those two fine reds among my 1200 plus varieties, and insist I sell—(I did send free samples to New Zealand, Holland, and many sections of our U. S. for trial)—sorry, there's no more for a few years.

Mr. Smith will appreciate your blossoms and letters, but it is too difficult for him to reply.

By William H. Krekler.

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Fifty-Third Annual Meeting and Fifty-Second Annual Exhibition

American Peony Society

Sponsored By

Men's Garden Club of Dixon

Saturday and Sunday, June 16-17, 1956

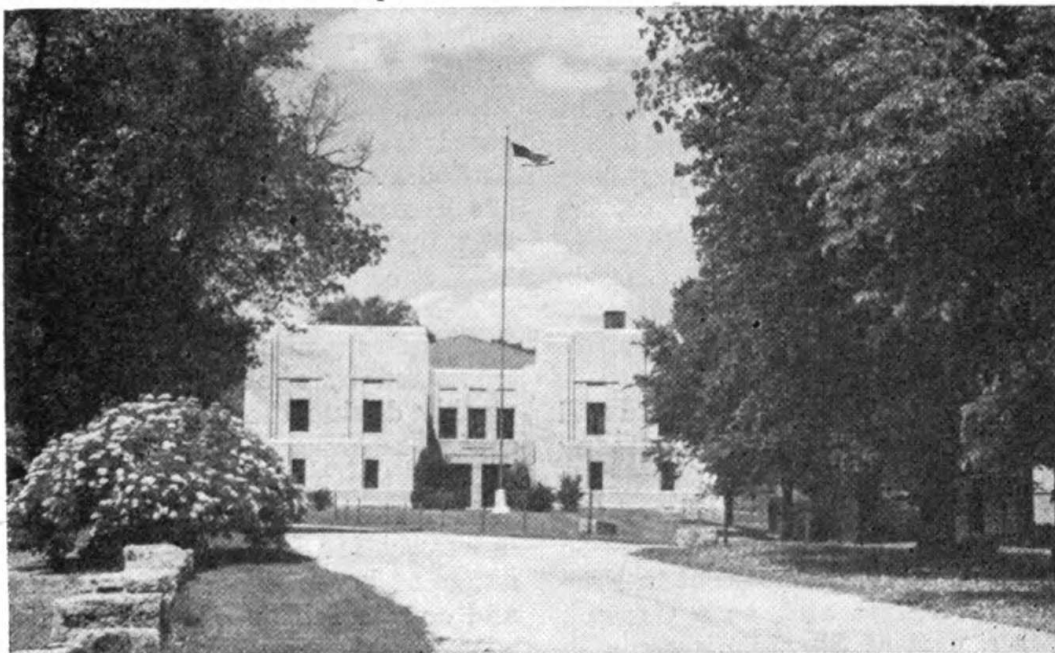
Dixon, Illinois

For the benefit of those of our readers and members who plan to visit Dixon when our annual meeting and exhibition are held there this coming June, we give some facts that we are sure will be of interest to them and which, we hope, will induce many to make the trip who had not planned to do so.

Last June, when the newly renovated Nachusa House opened its

doors once more to the public, an eighteen-page section of the Dixon Telegraph was published in commemoration of this event. In this section are many articles descriptive of the city and its neighborhood. We only wish we could publish much more of the material than we can, but most of the information contained in this article is taken from those articles and to them must go the credit for what we have learned.

As stated elsewhere, this thriving city is located in the Northwestern part of Illinois which is noted for its historical lore as well as its scenic beauty. It is built on the banks of the Rock River, one of the most beautiful of all rivers in



Armory

doors once more to the public, an eighteen-page section of the Dixon Telegraph was published in commemoration of this event. In this section are many articles descriptive of the city and its neighborhood. We only wish we could publish much more of the material

this United States, noted for its beautiful rivers.

Previous to the coming of the white man it was the home of the Black Hawk Indians and the country is steeped in the legends of this noted tribe.

Exactly when the first white

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man ventured to make his home in this country, the writer does not know, but it was probably about 150 or more years ago. It may be mentioned in passing, that for about twenty years in the seventeenth thirties and forties it was a part of Orange County, Virginia, which is my native county.

In the inevitable struggle between these Indians and whites, known as the Black Hawk Wars, at least two presidents of the United States, Zachary Taylor and Abraham Lincoln, and the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, took part and were frequent visitors to Dixon.

Much of the native beauty and wildlife has been preserved by the establishment of a number of State and other parks nearby.

One of these, Lowell Park, is owned by the city. It was formerly a two hundred acre farm, bought by a young Bostonian, Charles Russell Lowell, then employed by the railroad, the predecessor of the present Burlington Road. He never lived to enjoy his purchase as it was made in 1860 and the next year, when the call to arms was issued by President Lincoln for troops to come to the defense of the Country, young Lowell walked almost the entire distance to Washington, where he enlisted and was made a Captain of a company of cavalry employed in defending Washington from the raids of the Southern troops. He took part in many of the battles fought in Northern Virginia and, as a Colonel, was a part of Sheridan's army in the memorable campaign in the Valley of Virginia, in 1864. He was killed in a battle near Winchester, Virginia, on October 19, 1864, in the same battle and on the same day that my father, then a private in the 13th Virginia Regiment on the Confederate side, was

captured by a cavalryman, possibly one of Col. Lowell's command. My father's diary, which I have, contains a day-by-day account of this campaign. Col. Lowell, whose uncle was James Russell Lowell, the noted New England poet, had married a year before his death, Miss Josephine Shaw, a scion of another noted New England family. Their daughter, Miss Carlotta Lowell, presented the farm to the City of Dixon in 1907 with the following conditions attached to the gift: That it shall always be preserved as a natural woodland for the public to enjoy, that no cultivated flowers may be grown in it, no alcoholic beverages sold, bought or drunk in its confines, no statutory of any kind ever erected in it, and no trees ever cut except for the public safety. These conditions still apply and visitors are asked to comply.

Twelve miles to the north is White Pines Forest State Park, which contains the southernmost stand of virgin white pine in the United States. Many of these trees are a hundred feet high and 2½ feet in diameter. This park has 1385 acres of natural forest and is inhabited by all the native fur-bearing animals and birds. It is visited by about 25,000 people weekly during the season. It has cabins, meals and camp sites available to the tourist.

In former years it was the hideaway for Indians and outlaw gangs of horse thieves, cutthroats and counterfeiters. Nowadays life within its bounds is much less exciting.

General Grant's home, in Galeana, is not far away and Lowden Park, near Oregon, is the site of the famous Black Hawk statue.

In 1843 a noted New England writer and poet, Miss Margaret Fuller, visited this region and

wrote vivid accounts of her journey from her native State. Her descriptions of the Dixon country are most interesting reading for all who plan to visit it. Especially so are her accounts of her stay overnight in one of the primitive hotels or inns of the period and her visit to Hazelwood just outside Dixon, of which more later on.

Dixon owes the preservation of much of its natural beauty and progress to the efforts of three women. We have already mention-

Unfortunately she did not live to see the fulfillment of her dreams, as she died early in 1955, just a few months before the "new" hotel was completed and opened to the public.

The third noted woman to whom Dixon owes so much is Mrs. Myrtle Walgreen, the widow of Charles Walgreen, the founder of the Walgreen Drug Company that has now become the owner of nearly four hundred stores throughout the country and also has



View of Hazelwood Estate

ed the gift of Lowell Park to the city. Later on Mrs. Mabel S. Shaw, the publisher of the Dixon Telegraph, bought the Nachusa House, and immediately formed plans to rebuild it, while preserving its architectural beauty of by-gone days. Over the years she collected furniture suitable to her purposes and finally had plans drawn up to rebuild and refurnish the hostelry.

1800 agency stores.

Mr. Walgreen started his career in a Dixon drug store, the David Horton store. He moved to Chicago in 1901 and opened a drug store at the corner of Bowen and Cottage Grove Avenues, which has now grown to the enormous chain mentioned above. He bought Hazelwood in 1929 which he called "Heaven on Earth". He and Mrs.

Walgreen gradually developed the estate until his death in 1939. Since then Mrs. Walgreen has carried on the work and it is now one of the most beautiful in that country. The garden contains many notable collections of flowers and at present Mrs. Walgreen is interested in raising tree peonies from seed, one of which she has named for Mrs. Mabel S. Shaw, her friend and companion on many journeys throughout the world.

The grounds are open to the public on stated days for the benefit of garden clubs and her favorite charities.

Besides being an ardent gardener, Mrs. Walgreen is a camera fan and has large collections of pictures taken on her many journeys.

She is also noted throughout the country as an ardent supporter of the work of the 4-H Clubs and is hostess to the eight sectional winners during the annual 4-H Club Council. She is still active in spite of her 76 years and we wish for her many more years of useful life.

Sports-minded visitors to Dixon will find excellent golf courses and tennis courts available as well as numerous swimming "holes", including Memorial Pool, the pride of the city. This pool is open to the public daily at stated hours and is managed in the best manner with lifeguards on duty at all times and the water changed every six hours.

Those who like to fish will find ample opportunity in the many streams in the area. Practically all kinds of fresh water fish are found in more or less abundant supply. These include several kinds of trout, catfish, gar, blue gills, bass, pike, pickerel and crappies.

Hunters will find duck, quail,

pheasants, rabbits and squirrels in the open season. Other game such as ruffed grouse and prairie chickens (of which there are a few still left) are on the prohibited list.

Boating on the Rock River is a favorite sport and its devotees may go all the way to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico as well as all through the Great Lakes and their tributaries and to Minnesota as the Rock River is connected by canals to outlets to all of these.

Two Noted Dixon Citizens

Miss Louella Parsons, the Hollywood columnist and radio reporter, began her career as a columnist in Dixon. She was born in nearby Freeport and began work on the Dixon Star as society editor, drama and music critic and general reporter when a school girl. She wrote the world's first newspaper motion picture column in 1913. She has gone far in fame since then, being now one of the world's most noted reporters of the intimate personal life of Hollywood's great.

Also the motion picture actor, Ronald Reagan, attended high school in Dixon and was employed there as a lifeguard in Lowell Park. He is credited with having saved at least eighty lives while there.

Another man, not so directly connected with Dixon, Lorado Taft, founded the Lorado Taft Field Campus as an art colony in 1898. This is now an Extension of Northern Illinois State College of DeKalb. This man became the midwest's best known sculptor, artist and lecturer on such subjects. His best known work is the Black Hawk Monument which stands 250 feet high above the bluffs of Rock River not far from

Dixon, and can be seen night and day from the highway which passes nearby.

Dixon's Nachusa House

Dixon's first hotel or inn, was opened in 1829 by one Joseph Ogee who operated the ferry across Rock River at that point. The inns of that era were generally onestory log buildings and had only one room. If there was a second story, it was reached by a log ladder. If there was another room on the first floor, it was just a shed room. The beds were made of logs with cords for slats. Sometimes they were built in tiers, one above another, sometimes as bunks against the wall. The chairs were equally crude and often only three legged stools. If there were women guests, their beds were curtained off by deer skins or some other like material.

The Board of County Commissioners set the prices for services as follows:

Each meal	37½c
Horse feed	25c
Horse per night with corn and hay	62½c
Man per night	12½c
Half pint French brandy or wine	25c
Half pint whiskey or other do- mestic liquor	12½c
Half pint Holland gin	25c
Quart of porter, cider or ale ..	25c

Compared with present day prices, we have climbed a long way up the price ladder. We wonder what comprised the menu?

In 1837 the State Legislature approved the articles of incorporation of the Nachusa House. It was named for the founder of the City of Dixon, John Dixon, who had moved there with his family, from New York, in 1830. He was the contractor for carrying the mail over that part of the route from Peoria to Galena and was

known to his many Winnebago Indian friends as Nachusa, meaning Head-Hair-White.

The foundation of the hotel was laid the next year, but, due to the financial panic of 1837, construction of the hotel was held up for fifteen years. In 1853 the 48 by 40 building was built and it opened for business in December of that year. Next year plans were made for an eighty by thirty-two foot addition, four stories high, so evidently business was good. This addition was recently rebuilt into a three story, 60 room building. The original walls of the house were three feet thick and built of native Rock River limestone.

In 1867, the top story with a mansard roof was added. In 1915 a south wing was added and this was completely remodeled in 1953 and made into a modern "in town" motel.

Some years ago, in 1945, Mrs. Mabel S. Shaw, the publisher of the Dixon Evening Telegraph, bought the hotel and immediately formed plans to make it into a modern hostelry, while preserving its old charm. So she began to purchase furniture suitable to her purpose and after the completion of the 1953 motel, began the final remodeling which was completed in 1955. Unfortunately she did not live to see her plans carried out as she died in March, several months before the completion of the improvements.

The present Nachusa Corporation is officered by her three sons, George, Benjamin and Robert E. Shaw. It is managed by Edward Robinson (Bob) Perry, who is well trained in the business.

Under him Margaret Brenneske as auditor, Jean Sargent, hostess and Viola Crawford, housekeeper, with their corps of clerks, waitresses, bellmen provide efficient,

courteous service for the guests.

As visitors are always interested in the food they may expect, it may be well to tell them that the ultra-modern kitchen is under the guidance of Calvert Occomy, who during his long career as a chef has served on the Twentieth Century Limited, on many steamships, in clubs and other hotels besides a time in the service of Uncle Sam. His motto is to serve the public with what they want. That he lives up to it is shown by a sample menu, served in the Trail Room. In part this consisted of Nachusa Special Sirloin, broiled pork chops, lamb chops, lobster tails, T-bone steak, filet mignon, New York Sirloin de luxe, French fried shrimp and about a dozen other chef's suggestions, all with the usual side dishes and costing from \$1.00 for Welsh Rarebit to \$3.75 for a filet mignon.

Dixon's Memorable Guests

Many famous people have visited Dixon and been guests in the Nachusa House. Some of these are at least four presidents of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, U. S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederacy, was once a guest. Famous clergymen include Sam

Jones, Henry Ward Beecher, Dwight Moody and Billy Sunday. Celebrated opera singers, Adelina Patti, Mme. Schumann-Heink and Galli Curci, have graced its halls. Helen Keller has also been enrolled. Other celebrities include Maude Ballington Booth, Stephen A. Douglas, Cassius M. Clay, William Jennings Bryan, Horace Greeley, Judge Kennesaw Landis, Lieutenant Hobson, Dr. Cook, the Arctic explorer, Oliver Wendell Holmes, George Ade, Gen. McClellan, Elbert Hubbard and many others too numerous to mention in this article.

We hope as many of our members as possible will attend this meeting. The dates should suit most of them. It looks as if there would be no lack of interesting things to see and the local club is planning many things of interest. So let's make the show a memorable one from the point of attendance and also from the point of exhibitors. If the season is a good one the blooms should be of extra good quality as there is much territory to draw from and many who are noted for the excellence of their blooms will again have an opportunity to exhibit. Also we hope our Eastern friends will have many exhibits there.

Annual Meeting and Exhibition INFORMATION

Dixon is the County Seat of Lee County, Illinois, and is situated in the northwestern part of the County. It is approximately 100 miles slightly northwest of Chicago, 40 miles east of the Mississippi River at Clinton, Iowa, and 40 miles southwest of Rockford, Illinois.

United States Route Alternate 30 runs through it east and west,

U. S. 52 southeast to northwest: State Route 26 south to north and State 2 southwest to northeast. These routes are easily reached from any part of the country. In addition U. S. 30 passes about six miles to the south with several connecting roads to Dixon as listed above.

Direct train service is provided by the main line of the Chicago

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and Northwestern Railway between Chicago and Omaha. Four express trains, each way, stop, furnishing fast convenient service morning, afternoon and evening. Time from Chicago about two hours, the fastest trains taking slightly less time.

In addition to the above, the main line of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy between Chicago and the Twin Cities passes through Oregon, which is about sixteen miles northeast on State Route 2. There are four express trains each way on this road that stop, including the Morning and Afternoon Zephyrs, which make the run from and to Minneapolis in five hours and Chicago in less than an hour and a half. There is bus service between Dixon and Oregon.

The Milwaukee Road passes through Davis Junction about twenty five miles northeast. Three westbound trains stop and two eastbound. As all the westbound trains leave Chicago in the late afternoon, quite close together and the eastbound pass Davis Junction in the early morning, this route is not as convenient as the other two. There is no direct north-south rail service.

Greyhound buses serve Dixon from all directions. Passengers using the Burlington or Milwaukee Roads use bus service into Dixon.

There is no direct air service into Dixon. The nearest airport with regular service is Rockford, 42 miles away. Moline, 70 miles away, also has air service. Those who are fortunate enough to have their own plane can land at the Dixon Airport any time in daylight and take off either in the daytime or night. The runway is 3800 feet long and paved.

The Exhibition will be held in

the National Guard Armory. This is a large building, 88'x115' with a stage 23'x35'. It is not air conditioned, but has high ceilings with plenty of cross ventilation and does not get too hot. It is about half a mile from the Nachusa House. A picture of it is presented in this Bulletin.

Dixon Hotel and Motel Rates Nachusa-3-1641

With Bath:

Single	6.00
Double	8.50
Twin	9.50
Extra Bed	2.50

Blackhawk-2-8661

With Bath:

Single	3.50
Double	4.50
Extra Bed	1.50

Without Bath:

Single	2.50
Double	3.50
Extra Bed	1.50

Bon Air-4-8101 (Motel)

With Bath:

Single	5.00
Double	6.00
Twin	7.00
Extra Bed	1.50

Dixon-2-1241

With Bath

Single	3.50
Double	4.50
Twin	5.00
Extra Bed	1.50

Without Bath:

Single	2.50
Double	3.50
Twin	4.50
Extra Bed	1.50

Lincoln (Motel)

With Bath:

Single	5.00-6.00
Double	6.00-8.00

White Rock-2-2132 (Motel)

With Bath:

Single	5.00
Double	6.00
Extra Bed	1.00

Shipping Peonies For Display

Prepay all charges. If your blooms are to be put in cold storage and held for the show, ship prepaid any time after June 1st. They will be stored free of charge and delivered to the show floor Friday P.M., June 15th. Those desiring longer storage, write Mr. Oehl.

Direct shipments as follows:

National Peony Show (for storage)

% Dixon Floral Co., 117 E. 1st St., or Cook's Flower Shop, E. 1st Street, Dixon, Illinois.

The National Guard Armory will be open Friday, June 15th afternoon and all Friday night.

Exhibition containers will be furnished.

Commercial exhibitors are invited to write to the President of Dixon Men's Garden Club for space:

Mr. Vincent Oehl
1317 6th St.,
Dixon, Illinois

... Program ...

Show Room: National Armory

Friday, June 15—Armory open for exhibitors from 1 p.m. the 15th to 11 a.m. June 16th for placing exhibits.

Saturday, June 16

11 a.m. Entries close. Entries placed after this hour may be displayed, but will not be judged

11 a.m. Judging begins

2 p.m. Show opened to the public

5:30 p.m. Banquet, Nachusa House Dining Room. Annual meeting will follow banquet.

Evening at Armory, special features.

10 p.m. Show closes

Sunday, June 17

Show opens 10 a.m. and closes 10 p.m. Special afternoon and evening features.

There will be two or more directors' meetings. Times and place to be decided at the Show.

SCHEDULE

General Rules and Awards

1. It is not required that an exhibitor be a member of the American Peony Society.

2. All blooms exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor, except in the "Seedling," "New Variety" and the "American Home Achievement" classes.

3. All blooms exhibited in competitive classes must be correctly labelled.

4. The Men's Garden Club of Dixon have complete jurisdiction over all supplementary exhibits such as the "Rose" and "Arrangements" departments. Peony growers desiring to exhibit in those departments are invited to do so subject to the rules of our host Club.

5. Judges and Clerks will be appointed by Chairman of Judges.

6. All exhibits shall be in place by 11 A. M. of the opening day June 16th.

7. Entry tags with class numbers visible, and exhibitors name concealed, will be furnished the exhibitors on arriving at the show room.

8. The number of entries in Classes A through G is limited to one entry per exhibitor.

Awards

9. In all classes there will be three awards; viz:

1st Award—Blue ribbon

2nd Award—Red ribbon

3rd Award—White ribbon

Court of Honor—Purple ribbon

Court Of Honor

Specimen blooms may be entered from any exhibit except three-bloom classes, and the contestants are not limited to award winners. The winners will then be selected

by the Judges as the outstanding specimens in their respective class.

Albiflora

White double
Blush double
Light pink double
Medium pink double
Dark pink double
Red double
Semi-double, any color
Single, any color
Japanese, any color

Hybrid

Any type or color

Tree Peony

Any type or color

Grand Champion

Will be selected as the outstanding bloom of the show.

SPECIAL CLASSES

Class No. 'A'

Open to All

Collection of Fifty (50) different varieties, each bloom labeled with name of variety and each bloom in a separate container. Not over twenty (20) blooms to be Single or Japanese types. Hybrids are not permitted.

Class No. 'B'

Open to Advanced Amateurs

Twenty-five (25) different albiflora varieties, each bloom labeled with name of variety and each bloom in a separate container. Not over eight (8) blooms to be Single or Japanese types. Hybrids are not permitted.

Class No. 'C'

Open to Novice Amateurs

Fifteen (15) different varieties of which not over eight (8) may be Single or Japanese types, each bloom labeled with name of variety and each bloom in a separate container.

Class No. 'D'

Hybrid Class - Open to all

Collection of fifteen (15) different varieties, each bloom labeled with name and each bloom in a

separate container—all types permitted.

Cash Award: 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5.

Class No. 'E'

Visitors Class - Open only to visitors living over 100 mi. from Dixon

Collection of five (5) different named varieties, one bloom each, separate containers, any type or color.

Cash Award: 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5.

Class No. 'F'

Wm. Christman Memorial Class
Open to all - Albiflora varieties only

Collection of five (5) double and/or semi-double varieties, one each, any color, separate containers.

Cash Award: 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5.

Class No. 'G'

Byron Gist Memorial Class
Open to all - Albiflora varieties only.

Collection of five (5) Japanese varieties, one each, any color, in separate containers.

Cash Award: 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5.

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Gold Medal of the American Peony Society will be awarded to the winner of Class 'A'.

The Silver Medal of the American Peony Society will be awarded to the winner of Class 'B'.

The Bronze Medal of the American Peony Society will be awarded to the winner of Class 'C'.

The James Boyd Memorial Medal donated by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will be awarded to the exhibitor having the outstanding exhibit, collection, or display in the opinion of the judges appointed to award this medal.

The **Bertrand H. Farr Memorial Medal** will be awarded to the best double bloom of an albiflora variety in the show.

The **American Peony Society Bronze Medal** will be awarded to:

The best specimen semi-double albiflora variety in the show.

The best specimen single albiflora variety in the show.

The best specimen Japanese albiflora variety in the show.

The best specimen Hybrid in the show.

The **American Home Achievement Medal** will be awarded to the originator of the best new peony shown in Class 500.

OPEN CLASSES

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

ALBIFLORA VARIETIES

Each exhibitor is restricted to two (2) entries in each Class and is eligible to win two (2) awards in each class. If more than one entry is made in a class, the entries must be of different varieties.

Doubles

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

Semi-Doubles

(Stamens must be plainly visible)

- No. 110 One bloom, white or blush
- 111 One bloom—pink
- 112 One bloom—red
- 113 Three blooms of same variety—any color

Singles

- No. 114 One bloom, white or blush
- 115 One bloom—pink

- 116 One bloom—red

- 117 Three blooms of same variety—any color

Japanese

- No. 118 One bloom, white or blush

- 119 One bloom—pink

- 120 One bloom—red

- 121 Three blooms of same variety—any color

Decorative

- No. 122 One stem—white or blush

- 123 One stem—pink

- 124 One stem—red

HYBRIDS

Exhibitors are not restricted as to number of entries in any class. If more than one entry is made in each class the entries must be of different varieties. An exhibitor is eligible to win three (3) awards in any class. These rules apply to class No. 150 also.

Doubles and Semi-Doubles

- No. 125 One bloom, white or blush

- 126 One bloom—pink

- 127 One bloom—red

- 128 Three blooms of same variety—any color

Singles

- No. 129 One bloom, white or blush

- 130 One bloom—pink

- 131 One bloom—red

- 132 Three blooms of same variety—any color

Japanese

- No. 133 One bloom, white or blush

- 134 One bloom—pink

- 135 One bloom—red

- 136 Three blooms of same variety—any color

Tree Peonies

The number of entries for each exhibitor is not limited.

- No. 137 One bloom, any type or color

Bouquet

Exhibitors choice of peonies

- No. 138 One basket, any size

- 139 One vase, any size

- 140 One bowl, any size

Yellow Varieties

Guard petals must be distinctly

yellow. So-called yellows like Primevere, will not be admitted. Any type class admitted, including tree peonies.

No. 150. One bloom, yellow.

ADVANCED AMATEUR

Limited to exhibitors who grow plants by their own efforts, do not have over fifty (50) varieties and do not sell roots or flowers. Each exhibitor is limited to two (2) entries per class.

ALBIFLORA VARIETIES

Doubles

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

Semi-Doubles

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

Singles

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

Japanese

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

Decorative

- No. 222 One bloom—white
- 223 One bloom—pink
- 224 One bloom—red

NOVICE AMATEUR

Limited to exhibitors who do not sell roots or flowers and who have never previously exhibited at a

show sponsored by the American Peony Society. Number of entries per class is unlimited. If exhibitor makes more than one (1) entry in a class, the varieties must be different.

ALBIFLORA VARIETIES

Doubles and Semi-Doubles

- No. 301 One bloom, white or blush
- 302 One bloom—pink
- 303 One bloom—red
- 304 Three blooms, one variety—any color

Singles

- No. 305 One bloom—white
- 306 One bloom—red
- 308 Three blooms, one variety—any color

Japanese

- No. 309 One bloom—white
- 310 One bloom—pink
- 311 One bloom—red
- 312 Three blooms, one variety—any color

Awards: 1st, Blue Ribbon; 2nd, Red Ribbon; 3rd, White ribbon.

SEEDLINGS

Class No. 400

A seedling is defined as being any variety that has not been offered for sale to the public. It must either be named or numbered. Three (3) blooms of each variety entered must be shown in one (1) container. Each exhibitor is limited to ten (10) entries. All species are eligible.

NEW VARIETIES

Class No. 450

A New Variety is defined as a variety of comparatively recent origin that has been named and offered for sale. Three (3) blooms of a variety must be shown in one (1) container. Each exhibitor is limited to five (5) entries. All species are eligible.

AWARDS

Certificates of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificates, bronze, silver or gold medals may be awarded, at the discretion of

judges, in the above two classes.

AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Class No. 500

Donated by the American Home Publishing Co. Offered for award to the originator, amateur or professional, of the most worthy, named variety, of peony subject to the following conditions:

1. Entry need not be shown by originator.

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

3. The award shall be made only to a new variety of adequate merit, distinction, and novelty; one having distinctiveness compared to existing varieties.

4. It cannot be awarded to an unnamed seedling; however, in the event of a successful competing entry 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.

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

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

7. A photograph, about 4"x5", suitable for reproduction, must be sent, free of charge, to:

American Home Magazine
Theodore A. Weston, Horticultural Editor
300 Park Avenue,
New York 22, New York

Classes 400, 450 and 500 will be judged by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society.

Men's Garden Club Schedule

HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

Section A—Roses Hybrid Teas

(Named, if possible)

Class 1. Red, 1 bloom

Class 2. Pink, 1 bloom

Class 3. White, 1 bloom

Class 4. Yellow, 1 bloom

Class 5. Bi-Color, 1 bloom

Class 6. Salmon, 1 bloom

Class 7. Any color not listed above, 1 bloom

Class 8. Collection, one bloom each of 6 named varieties in one container

Hybrid Perpetuals (Named, if possible)

Class 9. Red

Class 10. Pink

Class 11. White

Class 12. Collection, one bloom each of 4 named varieties in one container

Floribundas

Class 13. Red

Class 14. Pink

Class 15. White

Class 16. Yellow

Class 17. Salmon

Class 18. Bi-color

Class 19. Collection, one bloom each of 6 named varieties in one container

Polyanthus

Class 20. One specimen stem, any color

Class 21. Collection, one stem of not less than 3 named varieties in one container

Climbers or Ramblers

Class 22. Red, one branch not over 30" in length

Class 23. Pink

Class 24. White

Class 25. Yellow

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Class 26. Any other color not listed above.

Section B—Iris

Class 27. Specimen stalk, any variety, named if possible

Section C—Perennials

Class 28. Bleeding Heart

Class 29. Aquilegia (Columbines) 6 blooms

Class 30. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, Solid White

Class 31. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, White, Black Bee Center

Class 32. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, Shades of pink

Class 33. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, Shades of lavender

Class 34. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, Shades of purple

Class 35. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, Shades of medium blue

Class 36. Delphinium, One spike Hybrid, Shades of dark blue

Class 37. Delphinium, Belladonna one spike

Class 38. Delphinium, Bellamosum one spike

Class 39. Delphinium, Best collection in one container

Class 40. Dianthus, (Hardy Garden Pinks) six stems, one or more varieties

Class 41. Hemerocallis, (Day Lily), three stalks, one or more stalks named if possible

Class 42. Gypsophila (Baby's Breath), one stem, named if possible

Class 43. Heuchera (Coralbells), four or more stalks

Class 43A. Any other Perennials not mentioned above, six stems.

Section D—Biennials

Class 44. Campanula (Canterbury bells) one spike

Class 45. Digitalis (Foxglove) one spike

Class 46. Violas, ten stems, one or more varieties

Class 47. Pansies, ten stems, one or more varieties

Section E—Annuals

Class 48. Poppy, Three stems, any variety

Class 49. Cornflowers, Six stems, any colors or variety

Class 50. Larkspur, Three spikes, any color or variety

Class 51. Any other annual not mentioned above, three stems or blooms, one variety

Section F—Shrubs

Class 52. Any flowering shrub or tree—one branch not over 30" in length.

Section G—Arrangements for the Beginner

These classes are assigned to those who have never won a blue or red ribbon in a flower show. This should be especially interesting to the beginner and we encourage them to compete.

Class 53. Arrangement of peonies suitable for use on a mantle.

Class 54. Arrangement of peonies for use on a buffet table. The judges will assume that this arrangement will be seen from only three sides.

Class 55. Arrangement of roses in a low glass container for a luncheon table.

Class 56. Arrangement of roses in a container that would be appropriate for a desk.

Class 57. Arrangement of June flowers for use on an occasional table.

Class 58. Arrangement of garden foliage suitable for a porch.

Section H—Arrangements for the Advanced Flower Arranger

Class 59. "June Radiance". Arrangement of peonies combined with other flowers and foliage, especially suitable for a hall or living room occasional table.

Class 60. "Oriental Accent". A flower arrangement inspired by the Japanese, designed primarily for a low table in the living room, peonies predominating.

Class 61. "Victorian Elegance". An arrangement of garden flowers, peonies predominating, and foliages in the Victorian manner. Accessories permitted.

Class 62. "Supper at Seven". Arrangement combining roses and foliages suitable for an informal dinner table.

Class 63. "Fancy Free". A contemporary composition in which the imagination of the arranger is given free rein as to flowers and color.

Class 64. "Chow-Call". Arrangement of garden flowers and foliages for the Barbeque table. This should let the imagination of the arranger run wild.

Class 65. "Silhouette". All green arrangement of foliages and fruits.

Section I—Arrangements for Juniors

Class 66. Arrangement of peonies suitable for the living room.

Class 67. Arrangement of roses for a breakfast table.

Class 68. Arrangement of garden flowers to be used on a dining room table.

The information and schedule of this show are presented as fully as we had them at the time of going to press. There may be some changes made if found necessary. These will appear in the official schedule which may be obtained from either your Secretary or from the President of the Men's Garden Club of Dixon, Mr. Vincent Oehl, 1317 Sixth Street, Dixon, Illinois, or from Mr. General Chairman of the Show.

If they have not been published at the time your request is received, a copy will be sent as soon as it is.

Peony Shows, 1956

In addition to the National Show of this Society, the following shows will be held. Schedules and further information may be obtained from the officers mentioned :

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.
The Annual Peony Show of the Oklahoma Peony Clubs will be held in Oklahoma City on Saturday and Sunday, May 5-6. The theme will be "Peony Delight." Schedules and any other information desired, can be obtained from Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton, Secretary, 3029 N. W. 23rd St., Oklahoma City 7, Oklahoma. Mr. Jim Wild will be the guest speaker. There will be a banquet sponsored by the Lucky Day Peony Unit.

TACOMA PARK, MARYLAND.
The Twenty-Eighth Annual Peony Show of the Tacoma Horticultural Society will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 26-27, 1956, in the Auditorium of the Tacoma Elementary School, Piney Branch Road and Dahlia Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Leland H. Cole, 1512 Grace Church Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.
Classes for Peonies will be included in two shows of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which will be held in Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, on Thursday and Friday, June 7-8, and Monday and Tuesday, June 18-19, Arno H. Nehrling, Executive Secretary, above address.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. There will be no spring flower show of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, but there will be a display of named varieties of Peonies from the gardens of the Arthur

Hoyt Scott Foundation, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., on Wednesday and Thursday, May 16-17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, in the rooms of the Society at 389 Suburban Station Building, 1617 Pennsylvania Boulevard, Philadelphia. Note: This showing will probably consist mainly of tree peonies and herbaceous hybrids of which the Foundation has outstanding collections. This will be a great opportunity to see the best of these types.

NEW YORK, N. Y. The June Garden Show and Rose and Peony Show of the Horticultural Society of New York will be held in the Essex House, 160 Central Park, South, on June 13, 1956, Wednesday, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF PEONY CLASSES

Amateur Growers

No. 25. Collection of peonies, arranged for effect, covering 15 sq. ft.

Nos. 26-28. Three doubles any one variety, 26. White. 27. Pink. 28. Red.

Nos. 29-31. Three semi-doubles, any one variety. 29. White. 30. Pink. 31. Red.

Nos. 32-34 Three singles, any one variety. 32. White. 33. Pink. 34. Red.

Nos. 35-37. Three Japanese, any one variety. 35. White. 36. Pink. 37. Red

Private Growers

No 44. Collection of peonies, arranged for effect, covering 50 sq. ft. on a table.

No. 45. Collection of peonies, arranged for effect, covering 25 sq. ft. on a table.

Nos. 46-48. Three doubles, any one variety. 46. White. 47. Pink. 48. Red.

Nos. 49-51. Three semi-doubles, any one variety. 49. White. 50. Pink. 51. Red.

Nos. 52-54. Three singles, any one variety. 52. White. 53. Pink. 54. Red.

Nos. 55-57. Three Japanese, any one variety. 55. White. 56. Pink. 57. Red.

No. 58. Vase of six varieties.

Commercial Growers

No. 61. Collection of peonies arranged for effect, covering 50 sq. ft. on a table.

R. B. Farnham, Executive Secretary, 157 West 58th Street, New York 19, New York.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Minnesota Peony and Iris Society, Mrs. R. J. Wysocky, Secretary, Route 1, Box 103 A, Mound, Minnesota, June 18-19, 1956.

No definite date has, as yet, been set for the following:

DULUTH, MINN. Duluth Peony and Iris Society, probably early July. Mrs. J. F. Thompson, Secretary, 529 Woodland Avenue, Duluth, Minn.

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA. North Dakota Peony Society, Edward K. Lander, President, Box 349, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Probable date, late June.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN. Peony Garden Club, Mrs. Charles W. Lund, Secretary, 1731 East 8th Street, Superior, Wisconsin. Probably early July.

Also we do not know whether the Sussex County Peony Society will hold a show this year or not. Mr. Frank L. Howell, Lake Lenape, Route 1, **NEWTON, NEW JERSEY**, can tell you.

If the **LYNCHBURG COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS** holds their usual spring show, peonies will doubtless be a feature. Contact Mrs. William Goode Robinson, Route 5, Box 325, **LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA**. Date about mid-May.

PRIVATE GARDENS

We are sure the owners of the following excellent collections of

peonies will be glad to welcome visitors during the peony blooming season.

CORINTH, Mississippi. Mr. Milton F. Rubel, 1109 Jackson Street, early April. Mr. Rubel also has large collection of *hemerocallis* of which he is a noted originator.

CORDOVA, Alabama. Mr. Pope M. Long. mid-April.

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama. Mr. J. L. Underwood, Route 13, Box 160, Homewood, Birmingham 9, Alabama.

FORT MILL, South Carolina. Mr. W. B. Meacham, late April.

QUEENSTON, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Clare F. Wood, hybrid herbaceous peonies also the regular albiflora varieties and iris. Month of June. Mr. Wood's address is

130 Queen's Quay, East, Toronto, Ontario.

The above addresses are given because they are in areas not ordinarily associated with peonies. There are, of course, hundreds of others that might be mentioned. If any one wants further information write the Secretary and he will give you what information he has.

TREE PEONY enthusiasts must not forget the collections in Rochester, New York, the many near Great Neck, Long Island, the Swarthmore collection, the Whinnall Park collection near Milwaukee, the Curtis Garden near Cincinnati, and Mr. Harold L. Wolfe, 24 South 86th St., Belleville, Ill.

All commercial growers will welcome visitors during the season.

NEW MEMBERS

The following additions should be made to the Membership List:

O. W. B. Anderson, Box 1926, Christchurch, New Zealand.

William Aull, Jr., 1601 Main Street, Lexington, Missouri.

George Howard Bemis, Maryland Heights, Decatur, Illinois.

Dr. Edward R. Cannon, 17 Mill Street, Cazenovia, New York.

Mrs. J. Robert Chrismon, 407 Muir's Chapel Road, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Roy Cleaver, 251 Seneca Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Bert Dojonovic, 159 South Fourth Street, Steubenville, Ohio.

Henry H. Dziewior, 602 Elm Street, Mauston, Illinois.

Ed. Garcia, 285 Lugena Avenue, Vacaville, California.

Mrs. Rupert Garrison, 1003 N. Prospect Avenue, Grant's Pass,

Oregon.

Mrs. Byron Gist, 2501 Julian Boulevard, Amarillo, Texas.

R. E. Hay, 1621 Ortona Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Library, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, Ames, Iowa.

Stephen Knobloch, 4499 M-24, Metamora, Michigan.

Mrs. James H. Lane, Box 664, Sylacauga, Alabama.

J. C. Robinson, 2229 North Monroe, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Edward Runyan, Hope, New Mexico.

R. Thompson, Richards Gardens, Plainwell, Michigan.

A. P. Tischler and R. W. Tischler, Brand Peony Farm, Box 408, Faribault, Minnesota.

Mrs. Myrtle Walgreen, 3240 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

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JUDGING SCALE FOR CUT PEONIES

There is a need for the Peony Society to establish an official scale for judging the Peony. This is imperative even if not used by our own Peony judges.

Comparable scales for all Special Flower Societies are published in the Handbook for Flower Shows of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

I am in complete agreement with the above publication, that it is most important to understand the principles of judging and to cultivate and practice an attitude of sympathetic critical analysis. I have attended some of the judging schools and although I learned little about the Peony itself, I have indirectly come to know much more about my flower by the application of the principles there demonstrated; at the same time I gained some of the most pleasant moments in my whole experience despite no small amount of tedium, annoyance and expenditure of ill-afforded time. Certainly, I am the richer for the experience.

A notable fact is that of all Special Flower Societies, the Peony is the only flower shown as an exhibition specimen with naturally attached foliage, which is commonly defoliated. This regrettable and indefensible practice probably stems from competitive maneuvers and to better hold condition. I must concede, however, that to show under the primitive conditions of the past and as is so often still a necessity, there should be some toleration of defoliation to counter-act unfavorable conditions of heat and humidity.

In proper air-conditioning, de-

foliation is indefensible. It is my studied conviction that over-all harm to proper appreciation has been accomplished for untenable reasons. It has promoted divorce between flower and plant.

There is no foliage more beautiful or of higher quality. In less opinionated substantiation, I suggest woe to the commercial grower who would dare consider defoliation for market purposes.

A second fact is that most Special Flower Societies allow no points for Fragrance (3 of 14). Subjectively this is too high. However, there is also to be considered the fact that this quality is too often absent in other flowers.

Without undertaking more than a passing reference to aesthetics or associated philosophical implications of lyric intuition; I will state that the Peony is a thing of beauty; a beautiful composition, a balanced arrangement of parts forming a harmonious unity. To this thing of beauty we are occasionally impelled to apply a critique, which, in this instance, is the art of judging the qualities and values of an aesthetic object. I therefore seek a lightly held formula for critical application which will be no tyrant, but rather, a useful means to an end. A formula which will require knowledge of the Peony, tempered by good sense, with sympathy, and exquisite delicacy of taste.

For many years one of the primary considerations of the Peony Society concerned the rating of the Peony. This differs considerably from my simple theme of elements of Peony judging for exhibition purposes. However, the fundamen-

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tal problem is the same.

I have searched the Peony Bulletins for views and attitudes in judging the Peony. Most articles deal almost entirely with aesthetics and descriptive terms involving the gamut of the beautiful.

Judge Snook observed that he had read many articles in the Bulletin and that most of the authors proposed a method of analyzing the Peony to be judged, allowing a certain number of points each for color, form, stem and substance. However, he concluded that to him, the only thing to be counted was the general effect on his consciousness. He proposed that without any conscious reference to standards of judgment aroused in him, was a sense of wonder and of emotion beyond the ordinary sense of sight. Raptures of beauty and ecstasy were his words.

Judge Snook's article in the September, 1943 Bulletin was followed by an article in the December, 1943 Bulletin by a brilliant Peony judge and analyst, Ralph Schroeder. This article could be said to open the current era which was closed finally by Elmer Claar's article in the December, 1950, Bulletin.

Within the above era were many evaluations, particularly by Messrs. Christman, Peyton, Gayle, Karrels, Moots, Tikalsky, Van Loon and many other competent commentators. Gayle and Karrels made outstanding effort.

In the June, 1948, Bulletin Gayle opened a discussion of qualities and added to his own effort in the June, 1950, Bulletin. Both articles are well worth further review.

Marvin Karrels in the September, 1950, Bulletin made a most comprehensive effort. I know it followed many years of critical analysis and an enormous amount of work. I lacked both courage and

understanding to help follow through at the time. I'm sure he'll come alive again.

I mean, in this article, to appropriate much of the Schroeder-Gayle-Karrels material and definition. So too, I bow to Elmer Claar's article in the December, 1950, Bulletin.

It is entirely impractical to point score, according to scale, save in instances of close competition. Such scales merely become rules of law or procedure or precedence in a court and are of great value to a student or one whose judging experience is limited. Our usual judging is against an ideal in the judges' mind, wherein Beauty is an appeal to the observer and tends always to become fixed in terms of personal preference or to have a fluctuating value. I recall Mr. Claar's emphasis that a woman can have a perfect assembly of physical parts and still not be a beautiful or even an attractive person. I suggest that it wouldn't be an undesirable start, particularly if she should suddenly discover some part or another.

I contend that personal preference is not a part of good judging. It makes little difference whether personal preference be called appeal or general effect, personality or refinement, charm or oomph.

Appraisal points are by no means exclusive. For instance, when one considers color, it is best considered in floriculture as a pigment theory; and pigment as a surface color. There are three primary colors, undiluted with black or white, and combinations of the Primaries. Intensity can be variable and values of lightness and darkness variable.

Texture is openness or closeness in a surface or substance when felt or looked at. Surfaces are gradations of roughness or smoothness.

In any scale I would be inclined to consider color and texture together. Colors will look different because of textural variations and the ultimate color we see will be the effect of light rays striking a surface. A smooth surface will give high lights and an uneven or rough surface will give tones.

Texture is related to substance or the material of which anything consists and substance can be opaque or translucent, firm or soft. Substance may have physical elements producing glow, sparkle, sheen or iridescence and is indeed the substrata of form, of pattern, configuration or structure. All of these, too, are related in effect to texture and color.

We could say that form is shape, or shape resulting from structural lines; and that structure is the way in which a thing holds together as a complex whole and so to come to configuration, as shape or aspect, as produced by relative position of parts. Finally, we come to pattern which, in our flower, is the relation of petals and spaces between them and then arrive at harmony or the inter-relation of component parts resulting in a unified whole.

Now that there is some attempt at definition, either by comprehension and extension of terms or descriptively, I would propose the following tentative scale:

Color and Texture	25
Form and Pattern	25
(according to variety)	
Substance	15
Stem, foliage and proportion	15
Size	10
(according to variety)	
Condition and freshness	10
Total	100

Good qualities or Merits:

Color and Texture: Clear hue.

Rich tones, Harmonious blends and color modulations. Analogous color harmonies. Contrasting harmonies, delicate harmonious shadings. Smooth silkiness or fineness. Tailored finish, granular luminosity and glow, crinkled silk. Translucent glow.

Form and Patteren: (According to Variety) Uniformity of petal agreement. Symmetry. Guard petals firmly supporting inner petals. Crown and collar free from undeveloped or abortive petals. Symbolic design. Rhythmic suggestion and whorls. Distinction is related to harmonious pattern. In Single and Staminode type. Cupped and symmetrical even length guard petals. Lack of notching. Broad petals. Uniform crinkling. Compact center cushion free of tufts. Harmonious Staminode and carpels and carpel tips. Carpel textural harmony.

Substance: Firmness, ability to hold position without distortion. Thickness. Homogenous. Granular elements. Stability. Ability to hold and participate in characteristic form.

Stem, Foliage and Proportion (Leaves and bracts natural to the stem). Sturdy stem proportionate to the related flower and obviously equal to its task. Poise—flower at right angles to straight stem—Stem should be 15 to 18" proportionate to flower size. Foliage of harmonious texture and color. Rich color and should approach flower for proportion. There should be one pair of leaves or number according to size and proportion. Healthy, unbroken disease free foliage.

Size: (According to variety). No penalty for slight oversize since oversize will carry its own penalty in terms of the above listed qualities.

Condition and Freshness: I am reluctant to add these factors. Some

contend that a specimen defective in condition and freshness should not be shown. Condition Prime. No water spotting or foreign material. No back petal burning or discoloration. Good turgidity. Guards falling away will be penalized on form. An unopened center is a common fault. No credit should be given for promise or to come. It frequently never arrives. Stamens-Staminodes not discolored. Absence of Pollen dehiscence or no pollen smearing.

If there be a place for the qualities of fragrance and distinctiveness, this should be in seedlings. Distinctiveness would indicate in what way the Seedling differs from other varieties to which it is most similar.

I am well aware of the fact that, for some purposes, marked and consistent defects may rate a var-

iety high in Distinction.

In Summary: My plea is for critical, comparative and sympathetic appraisal.

I point the desirability of a special Peony Show Handbook.

The handbook should cover show organization and promotion. Rules and regulations in show schedules. Glossary of terms. Judging Scales. Definitions. Type description. Points of merit and demerit for specimen blooms. Points of merit and demerit for collections and displays. Points of merit and demerit as garden subjects.

The handbook should be handled in a way similar to our present handbook with emphasis on paying its own way.

D. Sanford Hyde.

River Forest, Illinois.

AUTEN ON FLORALIFE

About a year ago I saw an article in a trade paper giving the results of tests as to the efficiency of several compounds used by florists in water to prolong the life of cut flowers. With peonies they reported only one more day in addition to a normal five or six day life in plain water.

The varieties of peonies used were not given, but I wondered whether they had not used standard cut flower varieties which are naturally chosen for their long keeping quality. So at blooming time, I decided to make a test with some kinds which are notoriously uncertain as to keeping quality, but otherwise of great beauty. Therese is one of these.

I used Floralife, which is said to be a mixture of an antiseptic to prevent decay of stem ends (which blocks absorption of water) and of sugar, to feed the bloom and lengthen its life. The result was very successful, extending the life of the blooms to at least a normal period. Bloomlife is said to be a similar compound, it may be the same thing under a different name. Floralife discolors the water, so should be used in an opaque container. A glass or pottery container is preferable to one of metal. Recently a new compound has been advertised which it is claimed does not discolor the water. I have had no experience with that.

Edward Auten, Jr.

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Hybrid Vigor

One of the strongest claims made for the superiority of hybrid originations, both in plants and animals, is the greatly increased vigor over that of the parents. This claim is usually justified. So much so, that one might be led to think that all hybrid offspring is vigorous. But such is not the case. Or at least my experience in hybridizing peonies did not result in increased vigor in every new individual.

Let us go back to one of the fundamental facts encountered in species hybridizing, and also in variety crosses in the same species. In each seed and pollen grain we find different factors, such as color, vigor, plant habit, resistance to disease and many others. In addition each one of these factors will probably exist in each seed or pollen grain in many units, with great difference in them. For instance, in one cross we might get colors from red to light pink, or even white. Which one color would be carried to a new seed is largely a matter of chance (except in the case of closest inbreeding of pure stocks). We might get a new seedling in which all factors were transmitted at their very best, or another with all at their very poorest. Or more likely, a mixture of different grades of quality. Like a card player, we hope to get a seedling with every factor an ace, instead of all two spots or an unfavorable mixture of good and bad factors.

Therefore I have not been surprised to get some species hybrids were were low in vigor. But I have been amazed at the tremendous vigor of others. Veritas is the most vigorous peony I ever grew, and some other hybrids are close

to it in vigor. People who have been hesitant to try the hybrids for fear they would not be as vigorous as the standard old kinds should not hesitate to start raising hybrids.

Let me tell you one of my most trying disappointments. (You know no one should start hybridizing or cross pollenizing unless he can keep going despite the normal high percentage of failures). In 1942 I took from the original seedling bed a most beautiful velvety dark red bomb, a hybrid—a small bloom about the size of a baseball on a dwarf plant with very stiff stems, now number 2580. The seed from which it came had been planted probably in 1935. Well, when it was dug the root was so small I could make only two divisions. These were planted and one died in a year or two. By 1948 the survivor had not done much, so I dug it up and moved it, but it was still too small to divide. Still not showing much pep, I moved it again in 1952, and could not divide it. But in 1955 it had seven stalks and each one bore a magnificent bloom. This was a case of all factors being aces except the one of vigor. The fact that bloom was small and plant dwarf are not objectionable to me. I planned to divide it last fall, but rush of other work prevented.

An experience like this should make one more appreciative of the good ones he does get. And to end on a more cheerful note, let me say that whereas as listed above I have only one 3 year clump from a seed planted in 1935, I also have new hybrids from seed planted in 1943 in 3 year clumps in 1956, as many as ten to forty-three of a variety.

Edward Auten, Jr.
Princeville, Illinois

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PETITION

We are always in the need of Bulletin material, and there were times when it was doubtful whether a presentable issue could be published because of the lack of it. It seems that those who are the most guilty and those who should inspire other members to write, just drift along with an unsuppressed yawn, and adopt the attitude, "Let George do it." These delinquents are the Members of the Board of Directors of our Society. Our Directors were chosen because it was felt that they were supposed to have a better grip on peony matters, or that they had unusual business acumen. Their performances have, with very few exceptions, been disappointing, particularly with regard to giving material support to our quarterly publications. We all know that it is a very rare occasion when we see an article in our Bulletins prepared by a member of our board. All of these men should have initiative and be inspiring leaders. If they performed their tour of duty as they should with exemplary performances, the contagion of them would, without a question of doubt, permeate through the subjects made of a supposedly inferior brand of peony clay. In the past, we have resorted to persuasion, begging and panhandling in order to obtain bulletin material, and these methods oftentimes availed practically naught. It should have been demonstrated beyond a question of doubt, that the future issues of our Bulletins will be thin and vapid unless we take immediate and drastic action to exhaust and exploit other channels, and adopt a positive approach, and apply such measures that will guarantee a fixed supply from a definite source. One of these

sources can very well be obtained by attaching to the position as a member of the board, a condition, that if not met, will make it mandatory that he or she will be replaced. There may be a place in politics, or some decaying organization, for sinecures, but there certainly is no place for them in a progressive vital organization. So, let us attach to this important assignment a duty not just a high falutin name.

It is, therefore, recommended that our bylaws be amended so that each Board member of our Society is obligated to submit an equivalent of four pages of Bulletin material during a fiscal year, ending in June. The retention of holding this office is to be conditional on the submission of this amount of prescribed material. It will be the duty of the Secretary of our Society to read the names of the Board members who have been delinquent at the regular annual meeting of our Society. These delinquents will be then automatically relieved of their Directorship and will not be eligible for re-election or appointment until a year has elapsed. No reason, unless serious illness, will be accepted for the neglect in furnishing the material as governed by the conditions outlined previously. After the delinquents have been relieved of their Directorship, their vacancies should then be re-filled by elective means at the same meeting.

As a member, I believe that I have the right to present this petition to be acted upon by a vote of the members that are present at the next meeting that will be held in 1956. Ordinarily, the regular procedure of business administrations is to announce all petitions that are scheduled to appear at the next meeting. I, therefore, feel

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that the above petition should be advertised in a bulletin issued prior to the next meeting. It is obvious that all members cannot be present at our annual meetings, and it is a pity that they are denied a voice in the matters that come up

for a vote. Outside business knows that this is an injustice, and provide means by which directly interested parties can vote by proxy. I urge that our Society consider this very democratic method.

Francis P. Tikalsky

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following varieties are presented for registration.

By **Elmer A. Claar**, 617 Thornwood Lane, Northfield, Illinois, originator and owner:

BUDDY (Claar, 1955). Tree. SD. E. LP. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given. A large, clear, warm flesh pink, with three or more rows of guard petals. The flowers stand well above the foliage. The plant grows to about five feet high. The color of stigmas was not given.

GRACE WILLE (Claar, 1955). Hybrid. S. E. P. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given except that it is a cross between *albiflora* and *lobata*. Clear coral pink, cup-shaped, single. Grows about three feet tall. No information as to color of stigmas or disc, if evident.

LEE YOUNGBERG (Claar, 1955). Hybrid. S. E. RP. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given except that it is a cross between an *albiflora* and *lobata*. Large cup-shaped, clear, bright rose pink single which grows about three feet high. No color of stigma or disc given.

PHILIP G. CORLISS (Claar, 1955). Hybrid. S. E. BR. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given except that it is a cross between an *albiflora* and *lobata*. No color of stigma or disc given. Imposing, erect carriage. Vivid, shining scarlet red single flowers. Grows about three feet high.

By **A. L. Murawska**, owner and originator, 8740 Ridge Street, Riv-

er Grove, Illinois.

WALTER E. WIPSON (Murawska, 1956). D. L. W. Seedling No. not given. Parentage: *Le Cygne* x *Frances Willard*. Full double like its mother, *Le Cygne*, white with a creamy blush center. A sure opener. Very late, but has never failed to open well. Medium height. Foliage is heavy, dark green and most distinctive. Stems heavy, standing upright, making an outstanding garden and show flower, but it is not tall enough for the cut-flower trade. Fragrance pleasant but slight.

By **The Cottage Gardens**, 2707 West St. Joseph Street, Lansing, 15, Michigan, owner and **N. I. W. Kriek**, originator, same address.

FELIX SUPREME. (Kriek, 1955). D. M. R. Seedling No. 6, Parentage: probably *Reine Hortense* with an unknown *albiflora* variety. Large, full double, rich ruby red. Stem and flower meet all the requirements for a cut flower. Also excellent for garden and exhibition. It blooms in mid-season.

By **Gilbert H. Wild and Son**, Sarcocie, Missouri, owner, and **Dr. H. C. Cooper**, 3120 Carnes Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, originator.

GENE WILD. (Cooper, 1956). D. M. MP. Seedling No. Cooper 6. Parentage not given. Full double, midseason, medium pink over white or medium to lighter pink. Good stems, opens well and lasts long. Excellent garden and show flower.

—5392—

PEONY SPECIES FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

I am often asked which of the Peony species are suitable to grow in the Rock Garden. About eight of the wild plants are excellent for that purpose; they are low-growing and do not get too big. The earliest to flower, usually in April in the south of England, is *Paeonia cambessedessii*. It is found wild in the Balearic Islands; in this country it does best facing south in a sunny aspect. It is a most charming plant; the flowers are a beautiful shade of deep pink and the plant is attractive with its deep green leaves which are purple underneath and set off by the red petioles.

Many of the Peony species suitable to the Rock Garden flower in May. The small-growing *Paeonia humilis*, the lowest-growing of all the officinalis group from the south of Europe, comes into flower now. This plant, with deep red flowers, likes a sunny place and seeds itself freely. Another charming Peony, flowering in May is *P. tenuifolia* from the Crimea area. The fernlike leaves are quite unlike any other peony species and are extremely pretty. The small deep red flowers are also attractive, coming out on stems about a foot long, but as the growth is somewhat decumbent it appears to be a very low-growing plant.

One of the most beautiful of all peony species and just the plant for the Rock Garden is *Paeonia clusii*. It is well illustrated with a painting by Miss Snelling in my book "A Study of the Genus *Paeonia*." This plant never grows more than about one foot high. The finely cut green leaves show up the white cup-shaped flowers with their golden stamens which stand well above the foliage, to perfection. It is an uncommon plant in gardens as

it is not easy to cultivate; a half-shady position seems to suit it best. It is indigenous to the White Mountains of Crete. The name "*clusii*" commemorates Clusius's first description of this peony in his great work "*Rariorum Plantarum Historia*" published in the year 1601.

Two species from Corsica and Sardinia, *Paeonia russi* and *P. russi* var. *reverchoni* are most suitable for the Rock Garden. These two charming plants come into flower at the end of May or first of June and are quite hardy. *P. russi* only grows about one to one and a half feet high, with deep rose-coloured flowers. It seems to do best in half shade while the variety *reverchoni* seems to like a more sunny position. The latter has lighter coloured flowers of a most perfect shade of rose-pink. There is a good coloured illustration of this peony also in my book.

The latest flower of the low-growing species is *P. veitchii* var. *woodwardii*. It flowers in June. The rose-pink flowers of which there are several on each stem, make a delightful garden plant; it never grows more than about a foot high.

Of course, most of the tree peonies are obviously not suitable for the Rock Garden although I once saw *Paeonia suffruticosa* Rock's variety, growing on top of the rock gardens at Stockholm in Sweden. There are however two shrubby peony species which never grow high, at the most about one foot. They are both varieties of *P. potanini* from China. These plants are useful in the Rock Garden as they will grow and flower in shady places and are quite hardy. Both flower at the end of May. The variety *trolliodes* has pleasant yellow

trollius-like flowers with much the same growth as the latter but the flowers when open are rather flatter. The only objection to them is that their growth is stoloniferous

and so they are apt to run about in among other plants but they can be kept in check by cutting the roots back when necessary.

F. C. Stern

Felix Supreme

(Kriek—'55)

In the fall of 1923 I planted on about half an acre of ground back of my home an equal amount of the finest peony cut-flower varieties. This planting was isolated as much as possible from other peonies so as to obtain seed of natural crosses between these top numbers in the peony cutflower world. The planting consisted of : Felix Crousse, Baroness Schroeder, Reine Hortense, (President Taft), Sarah Bernhard, Monsieur Jules Elie, Avalanche and Festiva Maxima. The seed was sown in 1925 and 1926. In 1928 and 1929 we had the first blossoms in the seed bed and they immediately showed a remarkable strain. After transplanting we kept on selecting plants for further observation and propagation and amongst these was our No. 6.

The Name. When we had a few three year plants in bloom the late Mr. Jason Littleford of Downers Grove, Illinois, a well-known peony connoisseur and cutflower grower with fields in Vincennes, Indiana and Illinois, came to see our plantings and he immediately spotted our No. 6 as a highly promising cutflower. As both of us considered it an enormous improvement over Felix Crousse, Mr. Littleford suggested the name Felix Supreme. And it is a pleasure for me to give our No. 6 this name, which will also always remind me of Mr. Littleford's outstanding knowledge of

peonies as well as his kindness and fine character.

A Supreme Cutflower. Mr. Littleford persuaded me to let him have one plant of No. 6 and when I called him from Chicago one day to say hello he insisted I come to see him as he wanted to show me something. At his home he had a large vase filled with our No. 6 and he was as enthusiastic about it as I was myself. The flowers he had picked were of exceptional quality and instead of "blueing with age" as so many reds do the flowers seemed to emit an orange glow. Felix Supreme has met the test as to quality of bud, opening, color and substance. It will go into the ranks of the world's finest Peony cutflowers and stay there for many years to come. Time and again we have been asked when we would introduce this peony but in the first place I wanted to test it as long as possible so we were sure we had the red peony the trade had been waiting for, next we wanted at least the initial demand and enough production to offer it at a reasonable price.

Description. Felix Supreme shows the Reine Hortense (President Taft) blood which no doubt it has in its veins. It blooms midseason and possesses an exquisite shade of rich ruby red even richer than that of Felix Crousse. The flower is larger than Felix Crousse and full double type. It has a better stem, is a very free bloomer, does not "blue" and the quality of the bud meets the requirements of the wholesale florist.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Again the members of the Fifth District will be hosts to the Annual Meeting and Exhibition. We are much indebted to them for undertaking this job for the second year in succession and we are also deeply indebted to the Men's Garden Club of Dixon, Illinois for consenting to be the hosts.

Many items of interest and importance to the Society will be brought up at the meetings. It is hoped that we shall be able to take them up and arrive at some definite decisions. This has been rather difficult at the last meetings. The terms of five directors will expire and it will be necessary for them to be either re-elected or successors to them elected. Refer to the inside front cover for the names of those whose terms expire.

In connection with these proposed changes in the by-laws, we are publishing as is our duty, in this issue a Petition from one of our members relating to the duties of the directors. While we feel sure that many of us will not be disposed to attach any penalty to non-performance of the duty suggested, yet your editor would gladly welcome more articles from our directors and members.

We are publishing in this issue, an article by Col. F. C. Stern of England, the author of the Peony Monograph, which is our authority on Peony Species. He has lately been Knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his contribution to Horticulture. This Society extends to him its heartiest congratulations and also acknowledges its indebtedness to him for our frequent references to his book.

Kingwood Center Planting

In accordance with the request of Mr. Wolfe, published in the December, 1955 Bulletin, will all of our members who have tree peony plants of whatever size and are willing to contribute one or more of these plants to this planting, and have not already done so, advise Mr. Harold E. Wolfe, 24 South 86th St., Belleville, Illinois at once, giving the name and size of the variety or varieties they will be able to give.

Most Popular Peonies

We hope to get out this list as soon after blooming season as possible. It will probably be conducted along rather different lines than the 1955 list was done.

We hope every member will be prepared to send us in the list as soon as possible after the season closes.

The Check List

We hope to get the work done on the American Section of this list as soon as we can now.

If anyone has not sent in to Mrs. Gist their list of varieties sold or originated, please do so at once.

It is extremely necessary that all varieties be included in this list. Mrs. Gist's address is Mrs. Byron Gist, 2501 Julian Boulevard, Amarillo, Texas.

First Lady Plants 'Bigger' Peonies

Myron D. Bigger, who raises the most beautiful peonies we've ever seen, has a personal letter from the wife of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Signed "Mamie Doud Eisenhower," the letter thanks Mr. Bigger for the birthday gift of peony roots which he sent to her. The prize winning red "Kansas" and

the pink "Jayhawker" are both planted at the Gettysburg farm, according to the letter. Also, she remarks about the fact that Mr. Bigger's peonies were used for the planting at the Eisenhower Foun-

dation at Abilene. The red "Kansas" peony has won prizes everywhere and we think Mr. Bigger should be mighty proud to have his special plants at the Eisenhower farm. *Topeka Daily Capital*

HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

Spring is normally the great planting time for gardeners. However, those who wish to plant peonies should remember that, unless you live in the North, peonies are already either up or fast nearing the point of growth where only a day or two of mild weather will bring them above ground. If you can get plants in pots, they can be planted safely almost any time, if kept from drying out entirely. Dormant roots may be planted in the North, but, if planted further South, they will come up in a few days after planting, and as they have no connection with the ground and are living entirely on the energy stored in the roots, they will have to be watched carefully to prevent loss.

Cultivation may begin as early as the ground may be worked, but great care must be taken not to break the new growth. Stay away from the crowns and do not cultivate too deep as you may break off the ends of the roots or destroy the small white feeding roots, to the ultimate damage of the plants. If

you wish to do any fertilizing, sheep manure is a good one to use in moderation.

It would be well for those who do not have the book, to get the small Handbcook of the Peony from the Secretary, price 25 cents. This will give you directions for cultivation, planting, fertilizing and spraying as well as how to cut, store and show peony blooms.

In areas subject to damage by thrips, spraying should be done at the proper time, which is when the buds are like small peas and later on just before they are ready to open. The following formula is recommended: Six teaspoons of chlordane (liquid), six level teaspoons of 50% wettable D.D.T. to three gallons of water to which add one half cup of sugar or Karo syrup. Mix thoroughly and use as above.

As a precaution against damage from botrytis, begin to spray as early as the shoots appear and repeat every two or three weeks until blooming time. Use any good fungicide, bordeaux or fermate.

NOTICE

Fifth District Members

There will be a special meeting of the members of the Fifth District at the Phil Johnson Cafe, County Line and Waukeegan Roads, about 1½ miles north of Mission Gardens, at 11:30 A. M., Sunday, June 3, 1956, for the purpose of attending to business matters of the District and to visit the gardens of

Messrs. Fay, Hall, Claar and Mission Gardens when the tree peonies and hybrids are in bloom. The purpose of the walk through the gardens is to establish an annual event and also to preview the possibilities of an early show in 1957 at the time the Tree Peonies and herbaceous hybrids are in bloom.

D. Sanford Hyde, President
Fifth District

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NEW VARIETIES

We should like to call the attention of our members to the new varieties registered and offered for sale since our last show. In the September, 1955, Bulletin we registered 15 varieties, in the December, 1955, issue two and in the present number, seven, a total of 24.

The four registered by Mr. Elmer Claar are doubtless fine varieties. Those who take part in the Garden Walk on the first Sunday in June, which is sponsored by the Fifth District, (see notice), will probably be given an opportunity to see them. If it is possible for Mr. Claar to keep blooms of them for the Dixon show we hope more of us will be given the opportunity.

Mr. Hruby, we hope also, will make every effort to show his origination, Enticing, at the Dixon Show. Its description sounds alluring.

Few of us have had the pleasure of seeing our President's introduction, Jean A. That will be shown also we hope.

Possibly Mr. Lins will be able to get his American Home Medal winner, Paul Bunyan, to Dixon. Evidently it is expected that it will be in bloom by that time as the Minneapolis Show will follow the Dixon Show on June 18-19 and Mr. Lins' flowers are generally in bloom in time for that show.

We feel certain that the other American Home winner of last year, Mr. Walter Mains' Frances Mains, will be on the show table if it can be arranged. We certainly hope so, as those of us who saw it last year can testify to its excellence.

Unless Myron Bigger's season is late, he will have some trouble in

getting his Fury and Leading Lady to the show, but we wish him luck. All of us would like to see them. Myron has a way of selecting winners and we hope these will live up to the others we know so well.

Mrs. Elizabeth Falk registered five of her father's seedlings. Some of them have been seen on the show table under number and Prince Charming and Friendship under their names. Illini Warrior has been shown several times as No. A1A1. This is one of the tallest of the hybrids and another Fairy Princess one of the smallest. Mrs. Falk intends to show as many of the hybrids as she can keep in good condition.

Though we should like to see the six registered by Mr. William H. Krekler, it may be impossible for him to show them as they were probably all divided last fall. He has some extremely promising ones both from his own seed bed and from that of Mr. Harry L. Smith of Redkey, Indiana, whose seed-seedlings Mr. Krekler has bought.

We shall look forward to the showing of Art Murawska's Walter E. Wipson, which is named for our good friend of Duluth. It will be noted that it is a seedling of Le Cygne, but does not seem to have inherited that variety's bad habits.

The registration of Felix Supreme by its originator and the owners. The Cottage Gardens gives us the true origin, which was wrongly stated in a catalog last year, through misunderstanding.

It is quite an interesting story and is told in full.

Those of us who happen to know Miss Gene Wild, will be much interested to see the variety named for her. It should be an extra fine

one to bear the name of such an attractive young lady. That it must be is shown by its description given in the advertisement of Gilbert H. Wild and Son in this issue and also by the opinion expressed of it by Mr. and Mrs. Byron Gist which is as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Byron Gist of Amarillo, Texas made a magnificent arrangement in their beautiful cut glass punchbowl of this seedling that about knocked over their guests and garden visitors, June 3, 1954. Mr. Gist wrote: Among the peonies (blooms) we brought home with us was a very light pink, heavily marked with red and tagged Cooper No. 6, which attracted much attention and outlasted any others of the lot."

Those of us who were at the Chicago Show last year were interested to see a bloom of Oriental Gold, the only double yellow herbaceous peony in existence, so far as we know. Mr. Smirnow expects to show it again this year if the weather and time of blooming permit. It may interest some to know that this variety bloomed last year in the Inter-State Nursery gardens and this is what Mr. Sjulín says about it: "Two of the yellow Peonies bloomed last summer and they definitely were double yellow, not a deep golden yellow, but a clear yellow and we thought very good." For some reason rumors are still going the rounds that this peony is not yellow, probably brought about by the fact that one impor-

tation proved untrue to name. However, those who have seen the true one, know that this rumor is false and should be corrected. It will be available in limited numbers this fall.

There will doubtless be shown a number of new seedlings at the Dixon Show. Among them there may be a number of Mr. Auten's that have never been seen at any show or in any garden except his. He will introduce this year the following ones:

Hybrids: Dazzler, black and red single; Favorita, deep orange red single; El Dorado, red bomb; Fiesta, orange red single; Fire Bird, black red double with some Jap markings; Orange Glory, orange red single; Raspberry Rose, Jap color indicated by its name; Red Beauty, black red Jap; Renown, dwarf double, color not given; Royal Red, dark red single; Sky Queen, dark red single; Tango, orange red single.

Alibflora: Bonfire, early dark red bomb; Campfire, dwarf dark red bomb; Chieftain, early dark red bomb; Garden Glory, early rich dark red bomb or anemone; Red Comet, early dark red bomb; Rhapsody, Jap. guards pink, center yellow flushed pink; Sun Valley, pink and yellow Jap; Sweet Adeline, deep pink single, probably a seedling of Mischief, but better.

Mr. Auten will exhibit if he can arrange it.

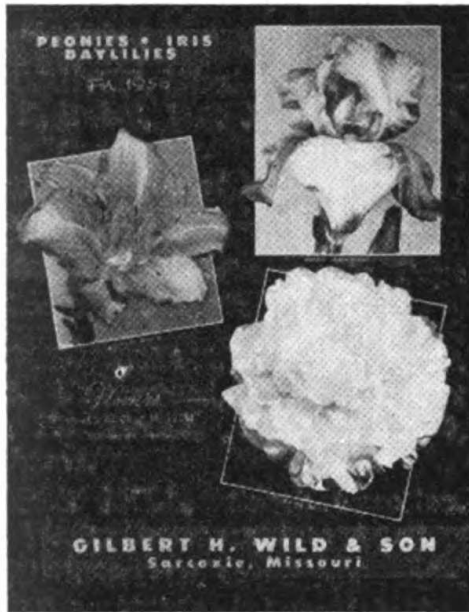
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GENE WILD

(Cooper, 1956) Seedling No. 6

M. D. M.H. N.F. Dr. Cooper describes his seedling as: "Medium pink over white, or medium to lighter pink, occasionally marked crimson. Midseason. Good stems; thrifty; buds open well. You will love this Peony." And love this Peony, I do! For three years I have watched it, and especially its fine performance on the show table. Blooms have remained on display here for almost two weeks before they had to be replaced. When Dr. Cooper visited us in May, 1955, I was telling him of the fine qualities of this seedling, and found myself honored by his naming it for me. —Gene Wild

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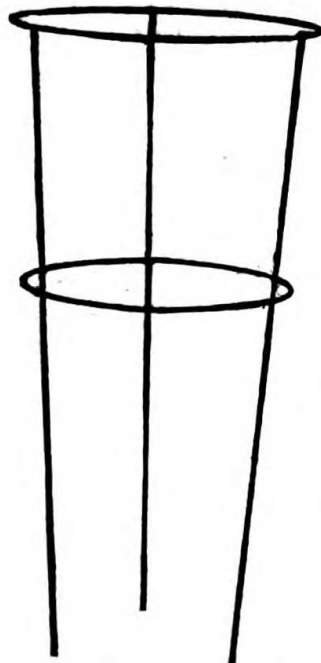
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