

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

INC. JULY 2, 1904

Bulletin

DECEMBER — 1956

BULLETIN NO. 143

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



DECEMBER, 1956 — NO. 143

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To every member of our fine society, to our directors, to our officers, to our friends, to all who love flowers and plants—and especially peonies — Merry Christmas!

Whoever you are, wherever you may be, may all of us set aside one hour out of all the mad whirl of holiday activity and festivities, even now descending upon us, in which to recall and re-affirm in our hearts some of the ideas about Christmas that were ours in years now long past; to re-orient ourselves with respect to our families, our friends, and yes—the world itself; to seek out and mark well the corner markers of the areas of our faiths; to touch, each in his own way, that Something, that

Someone above and beyond us, in Whom we move and have our being, transcending seemingly all our attempts to define and circumscribe Him; to gird well ourselves for the year just ahead, and whatever problems and heartaches it may bring; to see, each of us, the stars in our respective heavens; and most of all to grasp, if but for this hour, the full significance of the message that one Star still has for us, and Whose mystic beams, shining down through the ages, still brighten men's faces when we say, as I say again to all of you—

Merry Christmas!

Harold E. Wolfe

Belleville, Illinois
December 1, 1956

NEWS NOTES

It is noted with pleasure that our President, Mr. Harold E. Wolfe, has been elected President of the East Saint Louis Chamber of Commerce. We congratulate him.

Besides his other duties, he has taken time to send donations of

tree peonies to Kingwood Center, the Morton Arboretum and the Holden Arboretum as the beginning of collections in these centers. We hope many of our members will be able to do the same, so that the Peony may be brought to the attention of many more thousands who visit these places.

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Eleventh Annual American Horticultural Congress

The eleventh annual congress of the American Horticultural Council was held on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, October 20 - 23. Business commitments prevented our president from attending and he asked me to take his place as an official delegate. Member organizations are entitled to two delegates. As it happened, Dr. J. Franklin Styer, our permanent representative to the Council, was unable to be present, so I was the only official representative of the American Peony Society, but several other members were present.

At the request of Mr. Peyton, our secretary, Mr. Nick Kriek and his son-in-law, Harold Hicks, of Cottage Gardens, Lansing, prepared an exhibit for the Congress. It consisted of a step by step illustration of the process of grafting a tree peony onto a herbaceous root. There were also healthy and diseased clumps of herbaceous peonies and examples of standard divisions. Society literature was prominently displayed. It was one of the most attractive of the plant society displays and attracted much favorable notice. Our thanks to Messrs. Kriek and Hicks.

The membership of the A. H. C. is made up of more than sixty organizations, each representing some facet of horticulture, for the most part ornamental horticulture. The Council is a sort of consolidation of all horticultural interests including such diverse groups as the educators and research specialists, commercial nurserymen, editors and garden writers, directors and staff members of arboreta and botanical gardens, and of course, the spe-

cial plant societies. One session was devoted to reports from member organizations. A surprisingly large number of them had delegates prepared to report — too many for the time available. The reports had to be brief and in most cases, it was a race to see whether the reporter could beat the first crash of the gavel wielded by timekeeper Donald Wyman. I reported our Kingwood Center project and it appeared to be received with some interest.

The program was a very full one and there were a number of "side shows" such as the flower arrangement demonstrations, special tours, etc. I chose to stay by the speech making, illustrated lectures and forums. A tour of the campus was arranged for all visitors the second day. We were transported by two big busses owned by the University. From a horticulturist's point of view, there were five things of special interest: the landscaping of the various buildings, an evergreen planting representing all common types of plant materials commonly offered by nurseries for landscape work, the botanical garden (the guides could hardly drag us away from that to continue the trip), the experimental lawn plots and the greenhouses where various research projects are in progress. One of these projects which holds tremendous possibilities was fascinating to all of us—the visual evidence was there. I refer to the work with gibberelic acid. A very minute quantity of the material on the growing point of plants, results in tremendous stimulation of growth. Beans so treated show noticeable increase over

non-treated beans in twenty four hours and grow to two or three times their height. They also produce flower buds and pods at an earlier age. Celery, lettuce and other leafy vegetables produce much more heavily when treated. Its applications and economic significance, if any, can only be guessed at as yet; the experiments are only months old. But the researchers are excited about it. They think it may be valuable for plants used for leaves and stems; it is also conceivable that it will speed up breeding programs with plants such as forest and shade trees which are slow to produce seed. My thoughts went to peonies naturally. I wondered how I could get a few drops of the stuff so I could take some blooms to the next show that would make Doc. Hyde and Marv. Karrels green with envy. But there is not a chance I am afraid. It is the product of a fungus which the chemists find difficulty in extracting and it is available as yet only to research institutions.

The luncheon Monday was not only a delicious meal, but was of special interest to the ladies and a lot of fun for the men. Billed as a demonstration luncheon, Kay Savage, Food Editor of the Detroit Free Press, was the after dinner speaker. Her subject was "Let's Eat Flowers." The idea was carried out in the menu. The fruit cup and salad were embellished with rose buds and yew berries. The dressing was flavored with chrysanthemum buds, and petals of the same flower along with cranberries were in the muffins. Carnation petals were folded in the whip cream, and the "nuts" were roasted and salted sunflower seeds. The men at the table where I sat were a bit hesitant about eating the yew berries. We all had

heard that they are poisonous. Someone finally came up with the fact or theory that only the seed is poisonous, the pulp harmless. We agreed that it would make newspaper headlines if we ate them and got sick. (Some of the most famous horticulturists of this country were in the group). But we ventured, and made no headlines in that way. But I noted that the luncheon and its menu did make the front page of at least one metropolitan newspaper. In her talk Miss Savage told many ways of using flowers for seasoning, garnishes and decoration. One to interest peony people was serving a salad on or in a peony bloom which has had the center removed. Our salad at the luncheon was served on brightly colored autumn leaves. Miss Savage read excerpts from some old cook books dating back several hundred years which brought smiles, sometimes gales of laughter, because of the quaint wording or unusual procedure suggested.

A detailed account of the program cannot be given in this article, but one of the highlights I will mention briefly because of its general interest. This was an illustrated lecture on "Recent Landscape Accomplishments at General Motors Technical Center" by E. A. Eichstedt, landscape architect of Detroit, who, in conjunction with another landscape architect from California, did that work. This was a million dollar job, which seems like—and is—a tremendous thing but is not out of proportion when the total cost of the project is considered—said to be around 140 million dollars. Putting greens were constructed in the lawn areas to provide recreation for employees during the noon hour. Large artificial lakes were made, complete with islands

on which large willow trees were planted. The number of Pfitzer Junipers used — 8,000 — gives some idea of the magnitude of the job.

Michigan State University provides ideal facilities for such a meeting. The Kellogg Foundation for continuing Education where the Council met, was designed with just such events in mind. There are numerous conference rooms, both large and small, dining facilities for hundreds, ample, free parking area, and a hotel of nearly 200 rooms. University students studying hotel management use it as a laboratory and thus get actual experience. The schedule of events posted on the bulletin board showed no open dates for October. The building is used not only by the people of Michigan, but also by National groups such as the A. H. C. The University as a whole is an impressive institution. Ten thousand students are housed and fed on the campus. There are many beautiful, modern buildings. The campus is well kept. There is plenty of room for expansion. The research program of the agricultural college seems to be well balanced as well as extensive. In fact, Michigan State appears to have something besides a football team.

A by-product or bonus, so to speak, of my trip was a very pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. Kriek.

I was entertained in their home for lunch and found them delightful people. Mr. Kriek took me on a tour of the nursery, an extensive operation with around 200 acres planted. Peonies constitute an important item in their business. Some 15,000 grafts of tree peonies are made each year, and a 12 acre field was in readiness for the annual planting of herbaceous kinds, which are dug and sold when three years old. I was glad to know that peonies are being bought in such quantities. The Cottage Gardens business is exclusively wholesale, the landscape and retail departments having been discontinued a few years ago.

It is a stimulating experience to attend a meeting such as the Congress of the A. H. C. One does not often have the opportunity of meeting so many distinguished people of horticulture. The enthusiasm is contagious. I feel that the Council is doing a great work in coordinating the efforts of the various member organizations; and I am proud that the American Peony Society is a part of it. To be a member of the Council gives us prestige and standing in the world of ornamental horticulture. I urge our members who may have the opportunity to attend a future Congress to do so. You will find it an unforgettable experience.

W. A. Alexander

Eleventh Annual American Horticultural Congress

**From the Office of Margaret Herbst, Promotion and Publicity
Chairman, American Horticultural Council**

Over 100 delegates attended the 11th Annual American Horticultural Congress sponsored by the American Horticultural Council at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Delegates represented

states from coast to coast. The program was chairmanned by Dr. Donald P. Watson and Dr. Harold B. Tukey of the Michigan State University Department of Horticulture. Phillip Alampi, Secretary of Agriculture for the State

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of New Jersey, presided as President of the Council.

Highlights of Sunday, October 21 included a fast tour around the world with Dr. Tukey as seen through the eyes of a horticulturist. His illustrated talk was given at the Presidential dinner followed by outstanding entertainment by the State Singers of the University.

The evening session was devoted to a panel on Horticultural Communications moderated by Stanley Andrews, Executive Director of the National Project on Agricultural Communications. Ira Glick of Glick and Lorwin Inc., New York spoke on accomplishments through education; Margaret Herbst, New York for public relations; Dr. Armand Hunter of Michigan State University for radio and television; Earl Richardson of Michigan State University for bulletins and Carol Woodward, editor of the MacMillan Company, N. Y., for books. A lively question and answer period followed.

On Monday, October 22 various reports were given by Committees and Commissions of the American Horticultural Council. Two outstanding contributions were presented by Dorothy Nickerson, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D. A. on the development of the Munsell Color Fan, the completion of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map by the Commission headed by Dr. Henry T. Skinner of the National Arboretum, and the new A. H. C. Handbook for Plant Originators and Registrars completed by the Commission on Nomenclature and Registration, Chairman G. H. M. Lawrence.

Monday's luncheon was most unique using flowers in food in subtle ways. The menu featured Rose Bud Fruit Cup, Turkey

Divan, tomato slices with chrysanthemum bud dressing, Autumn Fruit Salad, Whipped Cream Carnation, cranberry chrysanthemum petal muffins, orange blossom honey, salted sunflower seeds and coffee. This unusual bill of fare was in honor of the luncheon speaker Miss Kay Savage, Food Editor for the Detroit Free Press, who spoke on "Let's Eat Flowers."

All registrants then toured the campus including the grass plots, experimental greenhouses and a most interesting visit to the Beal-Garfield Botanic Garden at the University.

Monday evening's session began with a slide presentation on "Recent Landscape Accomplishment at General Motors Technical Center" by E. A. Eichstedt, Landscape Architect. Regional meetings were held by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and the Garden Writers Association of America. At the Garden Writers meeting, Margaret Herbst of New York was re-elected as President with Les Satterlee of the America Rose Society, Vice-President and Marguerite Smith of the Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis, Ind., Secretary-Treasurer, new officers.

On Tuesday, October 23 the morning session was devoted to three-minute presentations by delegates from over 60 member organizations. The review was chairmanned by Gretchen Harshbarger of Household Magazine.

The afternoon program was devoted to Contributions of Research moderated by Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Michigan State University. Ten-minute talks were given by advanced graduate students including such subjects as "Effect of Protophase on Rhododendron"—Harold Davidson, Michigan

State University; "Deficiency Symptoms in Grapes"—Ernest L. Bergman, Oregon State College; "Radioactive Tracers for Measuring Loss of Nutrients from Plants"—Harold B. Tukey Jr., Michigan State University; "Bitterness in Carrots"—Paul Bessy, University of Wisconsin; "Fantastic Effects of Gibberelic Acid on Horticultural Plants"—John Bukovac, Michigan State University "and Application of Research"—Jack Hill, D. Hill Nursery Company, Dundee, Ill. Although all of the contributions to research were most interesting, the presentation on Gibberelic Acid probably attracted the most attention. Congress attendants saw some results of experiments with this acid in the experimental greenhouses.

The following members of the Executive Committee were elected for a two year term during the business sessions: Richard B. Farnham of the Horticultural Society of New York, Carl W. Fenninger, American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, Philadelphia, Pa., Dr. Raymond C. Allen, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, Dr. Richard P. White, American Association of Nurserymen, Washington, D. C., Mr. Harold Epstein, American Rock Garden Society, Larchmont, N. Y. and Mr. Theodore Weston, Horticultural Editor, American Home Magazine, New York, N. Y. Also two past Presidents, Mrs. Helen Hull and Mr. Carl Wedell.

To complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Helen Hull, Dr. L. H. MacDaniels of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York was also elected to the Executive Committee for one year. Officers elected last year will serve a second term in 1957, namely Phillip Alampi, President, Ray Hartman, 1st vice-president, Mrs. Jesse R. Hakes, 2nd vice-

president, Donald Wyman, secretary and Larry Hubbard, treasurer.

The President appointed the following committee and commission chairmen. Nomenclature and Registration—G. H. M. Lawrence, Bailey Hortorium, Ithaca, New York, Plant Hardiness Zone Map—Henry T. Skinner, National Arboretum, Washington, D. C., International Horticultural Relationships—Russell J. Seibert, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa., Awards and Citations—John C. Wister, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., New Color Chart—Donald Wyman, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., Congresses—Richard P. White, American Association of Nurserymen, Washington, D. C., Finance—Carl W. Fenninger, 1632 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., Long Range Planning—William H. Frederick, Jr., Newark, Del., Membership—A. J. Irving, 1 East 57th St., New York, Plant Finding List—Henry T. Skinner, National Arboretum, Washington, D. C., Policy—Mrs. L. M. Hull, Boonton, New Jersey, Promotion and Publicity—Miss Margaret Herbst, New York, N. Y., Publications—Joseph J. Lane, House and Garden Magazine, N. Y., 12th Congress—Patrick J. Gallavan, Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association, Denver, Colorado, Editor of Publications—Theodore A. Weston, American Home Magazine, New York, N. Y.

The climax of a most stimulating Congress was an impressive Annual Dinner held at Kellogg Center. Fitting tribute was given to the late E. L. D. Seymour of American Home Magazine who contributed so much to the development of the American Horticultural Council.

Five citations for outstanding service to horticulture were presented at the Annual Banquet by Dr. John Wister of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., Chairman of the Commission on Awards and Citations. The awards were made to Miss Ethel Zoe Bailey of Ithaca, N. Y., daughter of Liberty Hyde Bailey, for her outstanding accomplishments in verifying, organizing and editing horticultural literature; Mr. William Russel Leslie of Morden, Manitoba, Canada for his 50 years of devoted work in testing plants for cold climates; Mr. P. Mark Parthemore, J. Horace MacFarland Co.,

Harrisburg, Pa. in recognition of his service for more than half a century in the production of catalogues and books; Mr. George Pring of St. Louis, Mo. in recognition of his half century of work as Superintendent of the Missouri Botanical Garden; the Ferry Morse Co. of Detroit, Mich. in honor of its 100th Anniversary celebration as a producer and distributor of garden seeds.

The 12th Annual American Horticultural Congress will be held in Denver, Colorado October 21 to 23, 1957 and will be chairmanned by Mr. Pat Gallavan of the Green Thumb Magazine.

Shows and Sideshows

By Les E. Foster, York, Nebraska

Nearly every year, Mrs. Foster and I, visit the Minnesota State Peony show and about every other year the National Peony show. This year the National was in Dixon, Ill., close enough for a motor trip. We arrived at the Armory Friday evening and for an hour watched the Men's Garden Club of Dixon, the largest of its kind in the country, decorate the interior. Next morning the members of the Garden Club and the exhibitors were still quite active with their preparations. The Club brought in thousands of potted plants and cut flowers and the exhibitors were busy handling their peonies. My sympathies go out to any large exhibitor of peonies for in 1937 when the National Show was at Lincoln Nebraska, I spent many hours cutting, bagging, crating, storing, delivering, uncrating, cutting stems, placing blooms in water and finally classifying over one thousand blooms. It is a trying and tiring

job. I have witnessed hundreds of exhibitors prepare their exhibits and am always amazed at the remarkable stamina they display.

The Garden Club promoted many horticultural classes. In roses there were many hybrid teas, hybrid perpetuals, floribundas and climbers. In perennials there were the delphinium, dianthus, hemerocallis, heuchera, lily and daffodil. Also a few biennials and annuals. A beautiful table of arrangements was greatly admired and with outstanding. Next to a peony show I love arrangements. A large central pool banked with potted plants and filled with floating blooms was a focal point of interest. Myron Bigger, the Chief Judge, assisted by our capable Secretary, George W. Peyton, were prompt in assigning the judges to their respective tasks and by one post meridian the great job of judging the many classes was finished. Since another commitment 250 miles distant forced

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an early departure, I missed the judging of the Court of Honor but did see the flowers assembled and mentally chose my selections, most of which were confirmed by those in charge.

There are few white doubles that can beat *Le Cygne* when it comes good and, this year, it was good enough to be the winning white and the Grand Champion of the Dixon National. There is so much substance, purity of color and perfection of form in this variety that it is often a winner. In the garden it is a supreme white, very impressive as it slowly develops from an ugly half bloom to a gorgeous heavy full flower. Best red was *Kansas*. This variety wins in all shows and is most outstanding in the garden. The originator of this fine flower was none other than the Chief Judge of the National. The medium pink champion was *Alice Reed Bates*. This year as a two year old plant this variety bloomed for me, displaying several huge and gorgeous beauties on long strong stems, just right for church bouquets. It was a champ in my garden and I am glad it won in the the National. It should be a universal favorite. The old variety *Mme. Emile Debatene* was best dark pink double. It is a fine flower, but is sometimes criticized on account of weak stems. *Moonstone*, one of the newer varieties, won honors as the best blush double. It has that light pink shade and beautiful form so much admired by the peony lover. *Miss America*, the white semi-double winner is the type of semi-double that I most admire. *Minnie Shaylor*, *Mildred May* and *Rare China* all somewhat similar grow in my garden. *Red Charm*, the hybrid champ, is one of the best red doubles. Several say "best." One who has not

seen it on a growing plant has missed some of the bright beauty of the growing bloom. It is breathtaking. My first sight of it was in Mrs. Wipson's terraced gardens in Duluth, Minn. The two blooms of championship caliber were open showing that dark red color that is so remarkable. Last year my two year old bush developed six large blooms, so entrancing that I could not resist the temptation of cutting three blooms for a home vase. These remained fresh for six days. This is one high-priced peony that is worth the money. This fall *Red Charm* was divided into five good divisions. Whenever I discover an excellent peony it is usually marked for division. My garden, as a result, contains many long rows of favorites. *Akashigata*, the champion Japanese is a garden friend of mine, a real good old one. *Exquisite*, won the single class. This is a victory for this variety. Usually it is beaten by *Pico*, *Krinkled White*, *Seashell*, *Arcturus*, or *President Lincoln*. The light pink champion, *Frances Mains*, is a newcomer. It looks as if it has class enough to stay on top.

Usually the honors are about evenly divided on the Court of Honor but occasionally one exhibitor will get-the-jump on competition by having better growing conditions, better refrigeration or doing a better job of cutting. Such an occasion occurred this year with E. H. Lins of Cologne, scoring heavily with his own varieties. The following four champions are his: *Gardenia*, a delightfully formed blush with heavy substance was declared the blush champion and Grand Champion of the show. *Ensign Moriarty* was the winning dark pink, *Burma*, the top red, and *Dolorodell* the best light pink. Mr. Lins also won the silver

medal for the best five doubles with the same named varieties mentioned plus Ramona Lins, and the American Home Achievement award with a numbered seedling (since named Mercedes). W. G. Sindt, who classifies himself as a novice, had two champions, Duluth best white and a real beauty it was and Isani Gidui best Japanese. L. W. Lindgren, the veteran advanced amateur scored with two champions with best hybrid, Red Charm and Pico best single. I remember certain years when others controlled the Court of Honor. There is great friendly rivalry here as well as in all classes and the judges always find strong competition in all departments. The success of the Minnesota State show is due directly to an enthusiastic group of officers, an active membership and of course a good show manager.

Mrs. D. Y. Dunn from Lexington, Ky., wrote very complimentary several years ago in the Bulletin about a dark pink variety named Nobility. On account of this article, the write bought this variety and when it bloomed as a two year old this year found a delightful strong-stemmed pink full double that is a dandy. Why haven't we seen this one in the show room? It is a splendid garden variety and opens at the correct show time.

I have never seen the variety Mrs. J. H. Neeley, a light pink double in the show room either. It is an excellent garden variety, tall and strong. It is good for long stemmed bouquets. Mons. Jules Elie has nothing on it for vigor. Mark Twain, an excellent red double has been one of my standouts for cutting. It has huge blooms and should be a good exhibition peony, but I seldom see it at a show. It grows well in Nebraska, but may be not in other states.

At Dixon I saw a colored photograph of White Cap, a Jap seedling originated by G. E. Winchell of Oskaloosa, Iowa. The center staminodes were white and the guards dark pink. It looked to be as large as Mons. Jules Elie. A vase of these should be something.

At Dixon, also, Mr. Walter Mains had a half dozen really excellent seedlings which were shown by W. A. Alexander. They were Margaret Clarke, a dark pink double, Charles Mains, a large deep salmon pink double, Constance Moore, a dark red Japanese, Buckeye Belle, a red semi-double, Belle Center, an excellent red double hybrid admired by all and Ann Zahller, a semi-double red hybrid. Future shows should see many Mains winners.

Among the interesting peonies of this show was Lois Kelsey, a novelty number of scraggly petalage, and a medium red double hybrid named Carol brought in by W. S. Bockstoce. This red has distinct form, and is different from any other peony in this respect. It is compact and appears to have good substance. Let us watch this variety. It may amount to something which is more than I can say for several well advertised hybrids I am now growing. Another hybrid, Red Red Rose, a decidedly brilliant scarlet single was very attractive.

Sunday morning we arrived in Faribault, Minnesota, to visit the Brand Peony show. Bob Tischler and Myrtle Gentry of this firm whom we had met at Dixon had invited us. Heavy rains during the night had soaked the fields but in spite of this we enjoyed tramping through the peony gardens. Inside the show room were single specimens and also large bouquets of the fine Brand introductions. Also many other varieties. The peonies had apparently but recently been

placed on display (we were early) for as we passed through the aisles one could fairly see the thousands of blooms unfold themselves in all of their beauty. We had seen the Brand shows before, but for us, on this fresh Sabbath morning with the peonies opening in all of their beauty and with the perfume of the blooms pervading the place, there was something especially enchanting about it all.

Next morning we attended the 37th annual Minnesota State Peony Show held in the beautiful Northwestern bank building in Minneapolis. For us this is the ultimate of all peony shows. And for several years we have paced our vacations so we could attend these grand shows. The setting is near perfection. Next year it will be perfection with the newly installed air-conditioning. The second floor of this block-long building is, for a few days in mid-June, more or less dedicated to this state peony display and thousands of people have formed the yearly habit of passing through and admiring the flowers. The blooms are placed on the marble partitions and counters, all at proper eye-level. The aisles are wide enough to accomodate the largest attendance. Hundreds of

busy clerks continue to conduct their daily work at the ends of the aisles of this vast interior. The exhibitors set up their displays from designated spots throughout the room. They are experts, busy people but not so enthralled in their work that they do not take a moment off to speak to a passer-by. Old-timer exhibitors have their regular stations year after year. The Franklins near the center, L. W. Lindgren near by, E. H. Lins at one end and Glenn H. Greaves at the other. The R. C. Schneiders' across the aisle from Mr. Greaves and the Fischers' close by and so on. Even a nice easy chair is stationed near the center marked, "For Geo. Peyton, Sec'y of the American Peony Society." These exhibitors are old heads. There is no excitement, no fuss. They select their blooms rapidly without error and by judging time every bloom is placed in top condition. Here we find peonies that are peonies. There is, in spite of terrific heat and drenching rains, something about the Minnesota climate and soil that produces blooms of unusual color and substance. "Heel in a peony diivision anywhere and you will grow a champ" could be their motto.

Claybaugh Collection Sold

We learn from a letter from Mr. Harry C. Reed of Star Route, Franklin, Pennsylvania, that he has purchased the Claybaugh Gardens and wishes to dispose of the plants as he will use the grounds for other purposes. If any are interested, they should contact him at once.

Until recently, at least, Harry Claybaugh maintained a representative collection of herbaceous peonies. We hope that he has been

able to keep a collection for his own use and enjoyment. However as we go to press we have no word in regard to this.

All of our older members know Harry well as he almost never missed a meeting for years and was a member of our Board of Directors for a long time and served as President for two years.

We wish him good health and prosperity in his retirement.

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Report From Baltimore

(Continued from September Bulletin, No. 142, page 60)

F. H. Barclay

ALBIFLORAS

We finally come to the regular albiflora varieties which are really the only peonies known to the general flower loving public. I will comment on these backwards, that is to say I will start with the singles, following these with the Japanese, then double red albifloras, and ending up with the double pinks, blush and whites. I do this because my collection of singles, Japanese, and reds is so very limited that what I write can be of little if any value. On the other hand I have a very good collection of pinks, blush and whites plus a rather long growing experience.

SINGLES: In the reds I have only Arcturus, Imperial Red and President Lincoln, all of which are very satisfactory indeed.

In the pinks I have only Angelus, L'Etincelante and Seashell of which Angelus and Seashell are exquisite flowers. In the whites I have only Krinkled White, Le Jour and Pico. of which Pico is the best but all three are very fine.

JAPANESE: I have only two Japanese Reds, Dignity and Onahama but both are fine. Onahama is a very remarkable cut flower under artificial light and hardly to be recognized as the same flower growing in the garden.

I have only one pink, Westerner, but the plant is quite dwarf, the flowers small to medium and I feel that disease is present somewhere.

In the whites I grow Gold Standard, Isani Gidui, Roberta, Saga-

more and Shaylor's Surburst, all of which are beautiful. Isani Gidui is certainly the loveliest but its growth is none too strong.

RED DOUBLE ALBIFLORAS: I am presently growing only Cherry Hill, Inspecteur Lavergne, June Giant and Sir John Franklin which is about as sorry a collection of reds as can be found anywhere.

There are several reasons for the lopsidedness of my selection of albifloras. It was not always so. I hate to think of how many varieties I have replaced with other peonies. My space is limited and I have surely been spoiled by the quality and pure color of the hybrid reds. In these days I rely on the oriental poppies for color contrast. These bloom at the same time as the albifloras and their vivid colors of pure pink, salmon pink, watermelon pink, flame, and red lend a startling accent to the spring garden. They seem to be little known to the gardening public. Were it not for the poppies, I would be compelled to grow red albifloras because pale pink and blush peonies fade in the sun, and some vivid colors are necessary to avoid an almost all white garden. Peonies, poppies and a few iris make for a perfect blaze of color immediately following the hybrid peonies. I love this blaze of color but I love the individual flowers more.

In choosing white, blush, and pink varieties for this particular locality, I select the following as the all around best and most reli-

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able. All open well, bloom regularly each year, have strong healthy growth and very beautiful flowers.

WHITE: Elsa Sass, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Mary E. Nicholls, Joseph Christie (beautiful yellow tints at base of petals, giving a glow to the whole flower), White Rose, Gardenia, Kelway's Glorious, Henry Sass, Rapture, Yosemite (yellow tints), Margaret Lough, Avalanche, The Fleece, Laura Treman and Mildred May. These in attempted order of preference which is exceedingly difficult.

BLUSH: Nancy Nicholls, Nick Shaylor, Marilla Beauty, Mme. Jules Dessert, Florence Nicholls, Mrs. J. H. Neeley, Moonstone, Minuet, Garden Princess and Rare China.

PINK: Ella Lewis, Blush, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Hermione, Sarah Bernhardt, Reine Hortense, Phyllis Kelway, Auguste Dessert (quite distinctive in the garden), Mme. Emile Debatene (vivid), Therese (beautiful but a soft cut flower which wilts easily), Mabel L. Gore (tremendous grower and bloomer), Marietta Sisson and Phoebe Cary.

The above thirty-eight varieties may be absolutely relied upon to bloom every year and some of them are as lovely as any peonies grown.

The following varieties in the white, blush and pink section rank with the very finest but are not always reliable bloomers and were therefore omitted from the foregoing list. These are Alesia, Dorothy J, Hansina Brand, Mandaleen, Mattie Lafuze, Myrtle Gentry, Priscilla Alden, Solange and Victory. I cannot possibly give any of them up because when they bloom properly the quality is exhibition quality.

There are two peonies which I dearly love and which in past years

gave me wonderful blooms. Their names are La Lorraine and Milton Hill. Something has happened but I do not know the cause. I have divided, bought new roots, tried in every way I knew to bring them around but without success. I can find no trace of illness. I am still struggling with La Lorraine but have about given up on Milton Hill.

The following are in my opinion worthless in this section of the country yet some are among the most famous peonies in the world. These are A. B. Franklin, Duluth, Blanche King, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Harry F. Little, Le Cygne, Martha Bulloch, Mary Auten, Evening Star, Mt. Everest, Walter Faxon, La France and others not so famous. I still retain Le Cygne and Walter Faxon but they are not satisfactory. I have discarded the others

The following valuable varieties I have lost outright due to root rot or nematodes or some other disease. Annisquam, Casablanca, Doloro-dell, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Oliver Brand, King Midas, Ramona Lins and Ruth Elizabeth. I may yet lose Mandaleen which tends toward root rot.

I could go on and on with specific comments on varieties such as Victory Chateau Thierry, Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, Moonglow, etc., which can be very good at times and very poor at others. But the report is already far too long and I will stop writing about varieties.

A word or two about ratings. In the June 1943 Peony Bulletin No. 90 there is a short article by Judge Snook about ratings. I have never forgotten that article probably because it so exactly voices my sentiments. To those who keep the back bulletins I would suggest that they look up that article. Judge Snook

says in part "I have pondered over this question of what is the best bloom, for I know we do not all see this question alike, nor have we the same standards on which we base our judgments. . . . When I look at a beautiful bloom in the garden or in a vase on the mantel, or a table at my home, some way it is the general effect that the flower has on my consciousness that counts. . . . Does it without any conscious reference to (usual) standards of judgment, arouse a sense of wonder; of emotion beyond the ordinary sense of sight; of rapture at beauty which one is quite unable to adequately describe? I wonder if you think I exaggerate?"

I think that is very fine indeed. I would have liked so much to know the man who wrote those words. He was, I am told a very special person. Certainly he expressed what must have been in the minds of many peony lovers and he expressed it in a way that is not easily forgotten.

What is this quality that some peonies possess and others lack? Elsa Sass has it as do Nancy Nicholls, Gardenia, Ella Lewis, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Joseph Christie, Moonglow and others. Some lack it completely.

That is why I cannot rate Mons Jules Elie at all. Regardless of its many, many fine qualities, it fails to arouse that "sense of wonder." Martha Bulloch lacks it and Nick Shaylor with apparently everything that a peony ought to have somehow misses the boat. But of course this is all personal opinion.

At any rate this elusive quality is the only way I know to judge a peony. Time and again I have sat in my bedroom and watched perfect blooms of Alesia, Dorothy J., Mattie Lafuze, Myrtle Gentry, Solange, La Lorraine and Milton Hill unfold

(and these are unreliable bloomers with me) until sleep became difficult and a thing not to be desired. What matter if they bloomed perfectly but seldom. Here in front of me was "beauty's self" and I would continue to grow them if they failed four years out of five. They aroused in me a sense of wonder and awe.

Goethe once said "the highest to which man can attain is wonder . . . and if the prime phenomenon makes him wonder, let him be content; nothing higher can it give him." Wonder is certainly the opposite of cynicism or boredom; it is "an opening attitude—an awareness that there is more to life than one has as yet fathomed—it goes with humility."

A noted music critic once wrote "There are those who would deny themselves the sustenance that all excelling art can give" and surely flowers belong to art. And surely they give substance. But even that is not quite comprehensive enough. Flowers have a protean quality of infinite self renewal. Each year we welcome the peonies with a fresh sense of wonder. We know them as we know intimate friends. And yet each year we are astonished at their capacity for self renewal. That is the reason why the peony is and will always be my favorite flower. I will never cease to love them and I will never cease to wonder at that "something" which is so elusive and yet so endearing. I have quoted much too much but I cannot get out of my head that phrase of Shakespeare referring to Cleopatra. "Age cannot wither, not custom stale her infinite variety. Other women cloy the appetites they feed but she makes hungry when most she satisfies." Note how exactly the sense of that phrase applies to peonies.

Antibiotics On Peonies – Maybe

Mr. Harry G. Jackson, of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, sends us three articles that appeared in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin last June, which describe in detail several experiments with antibiotics on roses. We are printing these experiments as we are sure many of our readers will be interesting in the results obtained and also hoping that some of our adventuresome peony growers will try them on peonies and report to us the results.

Mr. George Lippincott of Germantown, Pennsylvania, uses terramycin in connection with Rapidgro. The terramycin is for combating disease and the Rapidgro for food for the plants. It contains many of the trace elements which are so necessary for the best results from plants. It seems impossible to tell which material does the job, but they must be used together to get the results reported.

Six inch cuttings grew six to eight feet tall in one summer. Some plants made as much as three years' growth in one year. Other plantings stayed prolifically. Though spraying was stopped the first week in September, new growth was still coming on Nov. 5.

Terramycin can be gotten from a drug store only and only with a doctor's prescription. Rapidgro is obtainable from any dealer in garden supplies.

One capsule of terramycin about the size of an eraser on a pencil, is dissolved in 50 cc of water. This is one and two thirds ounces. By using a one or two

ounce bottle the measurements are easily made. Or your druggist will probably do the job for you. This mixture is then used at the rate of one drop to a bucket of water or a watering can full. This is one part of the mixture to a million parts of water. The Rapidgro is used according to the directions on the package. Mix the two together and spray once every two weeks, or once every week if you are so inclined. Better results may come from the once a week spray. Start the spray as soon as the leaves unfold and continue not later than Sept. 1st. Later spraying may induce too much new growth to winter safely.

Mrs. Peter C. Paul of Northfield, New Jersey, mixes a 50 milligram capsule of terramycin with fifteen gallons of water, using two and a half gallons of this plus the Rapidgro to each large plant, every three or four weeks. She also sprays the ground, thoroughly saturating it with the spray.

Mr. Robert Kraeger, of Germantown, uses streptomycin, which also requires a doctor's prescription. He has his druggist dilute the streptomycin in distilled water so that one teaspoon of the mixture contains four milligrams of streptomycin. For spraying he uses a teaspoon of the mixture in one gallon of water and mixes it with Rapidgro. He thinks it takes about a quarter to a half pint of this to each bush. He sprays every two or three weeks, but thinks maybe a once a week spray would get better results.

Mr. Everett Sutherland uses agrimycin. This is a trade name

for a mixture of terramycin and streptomycin and is obtainable through Farm Bureau Cooperatives, without any prescription necessary. He gets his from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Cooperative at 3609 North Derry St., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It costs about two dollars for a two ounce bottle which is enough for an average garden for a season. An eighth of a teaspoon of agrimycin is mixed with a pint of water and this is mixed with the Rapidgro as in the other case.

Mr. Sutherland used an electric paint sprayer to apply the mixture to the foliage. He says his roses were from fifty to one hundred per cent better because of its use. He uses it once a week.

Whichever method is used, the same results seem to be obtained.

Users must remember that the antibiotic should never be used alone, but always with some foliar spray as Rapidgro. Also extreme care should be used in mixing the Rapidgro as too much will damage the foliage.

We are sure that some of our readers will say: "What has all this to do with Peonies?" Well, what has it? Maybe some of them can answer the questions Mr. Jackson asked in his letter which are as follows: "While any high nitrogen fertilizer would be sure death to peonies, just how would agrimycin affects nematodes? Would it destroy this enemy of peonies or would it make them healthier?"

"Have any of our members tested an antibiotic on peonies?"

"Have any reports been made by members on the efficacy of ethylene dibromide capsules in controlling nematodes?"

Mr. Jackson is allergic to some insecticides and is reluctant to try

the above experiments himself.

He also sent an article telling how to have roses in winter from your garden. Here it is:

It is a wax dip. You coat the buds in melted wax and put them away. Then when you wish to use them, you soak the wax off and there are your rose buds, ready to open into fresh roses. The buds should be cut on a dry, sunny day. The dryer the petals the greater chance of success. Select tightly closed, fat, unblemished buds. Cut more than you will actually need as some may fail. Have some matches handy and cut the stems with a sharp knife, not scissors, making quick, clean cuts on a slant. Sear the ends of the stems with a flame. Let the ends turn as black as charcoal. Pull off the leaves. Get some paraffin or cut up pieces of old candles. Put them in a can and set the can in hot water. Let the wax melt into a liquid. Dip your finger in and see if the wax will coat it. The wax should be liquid enough to run, but solid enough to coat anything. Take each bud separately and dry with a towel or a piece of cotton and dip head first into the wax. Dip just to the bottom of the bud, the stems do not need waxing. Have a little fringe of wax just under the bud where it joins the stem. Let the wax dry and wrap each bud separately in paper and store in any place that is not damp or too hot in summer. A closet or attic or even the rafters of the garage are good places. When you wish to use them, unwrap and float overnight in warm water. Cut the ends of the stems and there are your fresh roses. Have buds dry, dip quickly, do not soak. Have the wax cool enough to stick.

If this works with roses, why will it not do so with peonies? Try it.

Control of Nematodes in Soil

For many long years, we who grow peonies, have wanted an insecticide that would kill the pesky nemas in the soil and not kill the the plants as all previous remedies would do. At last the Virginia - Carolina Chemical Company of Richmond have found such a remedy. It is called V-C 13 Nemacide.

It has been tried successfully on peonies as well as many other plants. Samples, for trying, were sent to some of our members this fall and we shall look forward to hearing what results were obtained.

Anyone interested should write this company at 401 East Main Street, Richmond 4, Virginia, for full description and how to apply. It can be done at almost any time the ground is not hard frozen.

It can be used on trees, shrubs, potted plants as well as many perennials and also on flower beds of all kinds.

It should NEVER be used on any vegetables, fruits or ground that may be used to produce anything for human consumption. It is described as a relatively non-phytotoxic, residual nematocide, possessing very little volatility. It is a 75% emulsifiable concentrate which mixes easily with water, forming a milky-like suspension, and apparently does not

function as a true soil fumigant. It must be distributed through the soil by water movement or by mechanical means in order to obtain maximum dispersion.

Another Method of Controlling Nematodes

Mr. E. F. Wright, Jr., of Monterey, Tennessee, sends us a clipping from the New York Times of September 16, 1956, which describes an experiment by Dr. C. L. Duddington of the London Polytechnic Institute in killing eelworms by a method, which to say the least, is new. It seems that he uses fungi, which are called Phycomyces and Hyphomycetes and which were first investigated by Dr. Charles Dreschler of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Beltsville, Maryland, about twenty years ago.

These are predatory fungi that snare the worms in coils of long threads which bind the worms down like flies on fly paper. Then they are killed by doughnut-like rings of cells that strangle them in a noose.

It is not yet known whether these fungi can be grown cheaply enough for commercial purposes.

Maybe with these vegetable hangmen and VC-13 we shall get the best of the nemas, which so far, usually get the best of us.

FRANKLIN NURSERY RETIRES

It is with sincere regret that we learn that our good friends, Loren and Lydia Franklin are retiring from the commercial field. But we are glad to know that they have sold their stock of albiflora varieties to the Brand Peony Farms, Inc. We know, that in their capable hand, there will be no shortage of the Franklin varieties.

You will see from their advertisement in this issue, that they are keeping their beautiful home at the intersection of Nicolet and 104th, Minneapolis, as well as their large collection of hybrids and a representative collection of the albiflora varieties as well. And also they have no intention of not participating in the annual shows in Minneapolis.

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California Tree Peony Report

Dear Mr. Peyton,

I am enclosing a picture of Reine Elizabeth and myself, taken last Easter. The picture is not too clear but I'm sure that you can see the blossoms that are chin high and the two buds at the right of my head. My height is a fraction over 5 ft. 11 in. and the tallest flower came out at about 6 ft. 3 inches. The bush was just leafing out at the time so does not show at its best. It has a spread of about five feet and there were about 60 blooms all told. Very near to this I have a Moutan which has a spread of at least 9 feet and if the branches were held erect they also would be higher than my head. It produces over 125 blooms each year. This I hope will settle some of the argument which I noticed in one of the bulletins.

Tree peonies do very well around the San Francisco Bay area and there is much that I might tell you about their culture but I'm sure that I can't improve on the Horticultural Magazine of Jan. 1955.

I do however have a few different ideas from some of those expressed by other growers in other localities. I have found that tree peonies on their own roots are far better than grafted ones. Perhaps grafting is a faster way of increasing numbers but the waiting for them to come to be a mature, fruitful plant takes a great deal longer. And it seems that they do not come to be at their best until they have grown their own roots; after which they can be divided and you get nice flowers the first year. I purchased one lutea which

took twelve years to see the first bloom.

I do not agree that the so called Jap varieties are better than the Europeans, altho they are mostly all nice which I have purchased from American growers. Perhaps the soil and climate could be a factor in other sections of the U.S.A., but here Reine Elizabeth, Banksi, Sou. de Ducher, Princess de Metternich, and Triomphe de Vandermaelen are not surpassed by any that I have seen.

Moutan usually comes out early in March with us (once on New Years Day) and the Europeans are always out by March 15. Then about April 15 or 20th, just as they are about through, the luteas come along. I have a few herbaceous plants which bloom in May, so you see we have a pretty long season.

I find that the early varieties of herbaceous type are the best for us. We do not have enough cold weather (no freezing) and by May our warmer, dry weather is upon us and the later varieties just don't seem to like it. As you know the tree type doesn't seem to know any difference as to weather. We have them in full sun, shade and half and half and it doesn't seem to make much difference.

I always look forward to receiving the bulletin and feel a certain friendship with all of those fine people mentioned in it. I sincerely hope that sometime I will be able to meet some of you in person and see some of your wonderful blossoms.

Very truly yours,

H. D. Poisal.

San Leandro, Calif.

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Department of Registration

The following varieties are presented for registration by the originators or owners, the names having been approved by the Nomenclature Committee.

By **E. H. Lins**, Cologne, Minnesota, originator and owner:

MERCEDES (Lins, 1956). D., L. M., Blush pink. Seedling No. M-L-96-B. Parentage not given. Large full double blush pink, deepening towards the center. Good stems and foliage, heavy substance. Winner of American Home Achievement medal at Minneapolis, June, 1956. Opens late midseason.

By **William H. Krekler**, R.F.D., Somerville, Ohio, owner:

HARMON (Smith - Krekler, 1957). This is a seedling originated by Harry L. Smith, Redkey, Indiana, and bought by William H. Krekler. Full description will be sent later.

JACK BARCLAY (Winslow-Krekler, 1956). This is a seedling originated by the late Fred Winslow and bought by William H. Krekler. Full description will be published later.

MAJOR A. M. KREKLER (Johnson-Krekler, 1957). D. LM., White. Originated by John M. Johnson, Liberty, Indiana. Entire stock bought by Mr. Krekler. No seedling number or parentage given. Large, long lasting, pure white full double. Stems strong, tall (about four feet), large dark green leaves, late midseason bloomer. Named by Mr. Krekler for his brother because both he and the flower are unsurpassed, big, enduring handsome Hoosiers. The Major was a tough tank major (6 times wounded) serving in Africa, Europe and Korea.

Note: The above name violates two rules of nomenclature but if they had been followed there would have been inevitable confusion with the name of a variety to be registered later.

By **Gilbert H. Wild and Son**, Sarcoxie, Missouri, owner. **Col. J. C. Nicholls**, Ithaca, New York, originator of all except Dresden Pink which was originated by **G. H. Wild and Son**.

J. BEENEY (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). Seedling No. 1374. D., LM., White. Fragrant. A clear paper white flower with ivory cream at base. An occasional red penciling in center petals. Petals are wide and interspersed with fluffy petaloids throughout. Stems are extremely strong and foliage good.

OPAL HAMILTON (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). J., M., Orchid Pink. Seedling No. 1355. A luscious flower with orchid pink guards and the same color stamens. The carpels and base are yellow, giving the flower a heavenly glow. The blossom opens well and has good stems and foliage.

ELIZABETH PRICE (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D., LM., Orchid Pink, Seedling No. 892. A beautiful rose type flower of orchid pink throughout. Outer petals are broad and deeply ruffled. Each petal is edged with silver. The center petals are crimped and deeply folded, giving the flower frilly effect. Some of the petals are edged with red. Stems are stiff and foliage is good.

ADELE SAWYER (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D., M., Rose pink, Fragrant, Seedling No. 1177. A large rose pink with deeply cut petals. The mature blossom meas-

ures nine inches in diameter. Center petals are marked occasionally with red. The flowers are borne on stiff stems with foliage better than average. Attracts eye in the garden.

GILBERT H. WILD (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D., LM., Rose pink. Seedling No. 392. A large two-toned rose pink. The petals are slightly recurved and have the appearance of grained wood with lighter edging, giving the effect of a two-toned flower. Petals are long, wide and are uniform in size and shape. Buds are large and round. Stems stiff and foliage good.

PAULINE HENRY (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D., LM., White. Seedling No. 436. A smooth open blush white with a suggestion of yellow at base of petals. A pencilling of red around petals near center. Petals broad with good substance. Holds well when cut. Stems strong. Foliage good.

DRESDEN PINK (Wild & Son, 1957). D., L., Pink. Seedling No. not given. A smooth well-formed flower of a very pleasing shade of medium pink. When it is open it is edged over with a crinkled edge of silver. Flower not too large but well formed. Petals are symmetrical and frilled. Stems stiff and strong. Foliage good.

DAISY B. (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D., L., White. R. F. Seedling No. 920. A beautifully formed rose type, large petaled white, blending to a flesh white center. Has the appearance of a huge white rose. The sepals are frequently edged in rose pink and have green markings which are especially noticed in the buds. The petals are slightly recurved. Stems extremely stiff and foliage good. The overall appearance is very pleasing to the eye.

W. W. BLACK (Nicholls-Wild &

Son, 1957) D., LM., Pink, Seedling No. 1003. A large soft appearing blush pink. Has occasional flecks of carmine in center of petals giving a candy-striped effect. Flower has appearance of a large softly formed rose and remains blush until gone. Stems are stiff with good dark green foliage.

TRANQUILITY (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957) D., M., White, F., Seedling No. 960. A pure white bomb of huge proportions. Collar petals large and flaring. Petals in bomb are loosely placed, large, and well spaced. Petaloids are fine and feathery. A faint suggestion of yellow at base of petals gives the bomb a glow. Stems are stiff and foliage a good green.

LETTIE (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1956) D., M., Pink. Seedling No. 940. A beautiful peach pink bomb. The collar petals are large and flaring. The petals of the bomb are of same size giving it a smooth look. The petalodes are interspersed throughout giving bomb a soft lacy appearance.

NEW MEMBERS

Raymond R. Baker, Route 1, Ashland, New Hampshire.

Mrs. Joseph E. Blankenship, Box 933, Stanhope Road, Sparta, New Jersey.

Merle Brush, Chelsea, Iowa

William Fueger, 631 East 128th Street, Cleveland 8, Ohio.

S. J. Janovac, 17191 Kinross, Birmingham, Michigan

V. W. Lane, Route 2, Coldwater, Michigan.

Carl W. Ohrt, 8110 Rivershore Drive, Niagara Falls, New York

George R. Thompson, Box 550 A, Gurnee, Illinois.

Mrs. M. W. Trumbull, 1003 East 16th Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

Paeonies In New Zealand

Mr. Krekler sends us the following letter from our New Zealand member, Mr. O. W. B. Anderson. We think it will be of interest to many of our readers.

Dear Mr. Krekler,

I have had three flowers of Helen Matthews which you sent me and I am writing to say that it is just the greatest thrill I have had for many years. Being its first flowering I did not expect a large flower but one of them was 8½ in. in diameter, another 7½" and the third 6" so if it improves in future years it should reach at least 10". It is the color of it that is so striking. It glows and seems to throw its color out to you while you are watching it. In one of your letters you said it had one fault, to use your own words, "it stinks." Well, I can't agree with you there, for as far as my flowers are concerned, they have no smell whatever. Perhaps our climate here suits it better than yours and therefore it responds to kindlier conditions by not stinking.

Mr. Smith's varieties have not flowered yet and only some of them will give a flower this season but as soon as they flower I shall write to Mr. Smith and tell him how they are doing. Acting on your advice I got six paeonies from Mr. Wild: Tempest, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Sunburst, Mary Auten, Minnie Shaylor and Veritas. Mary Auten has two fine large buds on it and will flower in about three weeks which is very good considering that they were only planted a year ago. The others are doing well but will not flower this season.

I am trying to get a collection of

tree paeonies from Japan this year as some years ago I gave all my trees to the local Botanical Gardens and now want to have some more in my garden.

Can you tell me what treatment you give your plants for botrytis. Often the buds go brown and decay and I believe it is due to that disease. If you can, please state the constituents of the remedy because a lot of these sprays, etc., are sold under a trade name and it is unlikely that we can buy in New Zealand your proprietary remedies. So if you can give me the chemical make-up of the remedy I can check up on the different brands sold here and select the correct one.

At one time I had the Peony Manual but evidently lent it to someone and failed to make a note of the borrower's name and he has failed to return it to me. I could have got the remedy from the Manual.

Should you ever come across an owner of a Manual who wishes to part with it, you would do me a kindness if you would buy it for me, at any price you think reasonable.

I do not remember whether I told you about the trouble I had with the Horticultural Section of our Government Agricultural Department last year over Helen Matthews. All paeony plants on entry into New Zealand have to go under quarantine for twelve months. They are planted by the importer in his own garden at least 50 feet away from any other paeonies and are inspected periodically by the Dept. Helen Matthews developed a scabby patch on a stem and the Department suspected a virus.

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The leaves and part of the affected stem were sent to the mycologist division in Auckland for inspection and after a long time I was advised that there was no evidence of virus and the plant was released from quarantine. The plant this year is in the best of health and very vigorous, so all is well. You can believe me when I say that I

was greatly pleased when Helen's health was beyond question.

Will write you later telling you how the remainder of the plants perform.

With kind regards and renewed thanks for Helen Matthews.

Yours sincerely,

Oscar W. B. Anderson

Most Popular Peonies — 1956

Having now taken two polls of the Most Popular Peonies, it may be well to have a look at the results. For the most part only the 1956 list will be reviewed.

As you know, when we had numerical ratings, some members complained that the results were not reliable as a guide to the best peonies to plant as some high rated varieties did not do well in some parts of the country, and so, those who followed the results, were disappointed that these varieties did not do well for them. These ratings were, therefore, declared null and void by action of the Society at the meeting in Minneapolis in 1954 and the Secretary was directed to take a yearly poll of the members, asking for lists of those peonies that they thought best.

In June, 1956, a printed list of varieties was sent to each member individually, and they were asked to mark it and return at once. One hundred and two lists have been received. Two were too late for tabulation in the printed results, which appeared in the September Bulletin. We regret to say that many of our best growers did not bother to return the list. Of the 100 tabulated, thirty were commercial growers and seventy amateurs.

The lists by districts are as follows:

District I. Massachusetts 4, New Hampshire 1; total 5.

District II. New Jersey 5, New York 3, Pennsylvania 5; total 13.

District III. Alabama 1, Maryland 1, North Carolina 1, South Carolina 1, Virginia 1; total 5.

District IV. Indiana 4, Michigan 4, Ohio 6; total 14.

District V. Illinois 18, Wisconsin 4; total 22.

District VI. Iowa 4, Minnesota 10, Nebraska 3, South Dakota 1, Wyoming 1; total 19.

District VII. Kansas 3, Missouri 3, Oklahoma 2, Texas 1; total 9.

District VIII. Oregon 4, Washington 2; total 6.

District IX. Canada 7. These came from all parts of Canada and so represent conditions in almost every province.

While a number of states did not have any representation, yet it would seem that the poll covered about all the peony growing territory well and so the results should be quite representative of which varieties our members consider the best.

THE ONE BEST PEONY

Several different lists were compiled from the lists returned. Not all answered every question asked. In the published list, as it

will appear in the pamphlet, which is now ready for distribution, the first list is of those varieties which each member marked No. 1 as the One Best Peony regardless of its color, type or species. Ninety-seven answered this. A few picked more than one. The list is headed by Kelway's Glorious, named by ten as the One Best Peony. It is composed of fifty varieties. In this list are 39 doubles (albiflora) 2 of which are white, 5 blush, 2 light pink, 4 medium pink and five red. There are no semi-doubles. Four Japs are named, 2 white and 2 pink. Only one single made the grade, Krinkled White. Five red hybrids are listed and one yellow tree peony. A list that came in too late to include, named Gessekai as the One Best, that is a white tree, as we know. There was a total of 14 whites, 6 blush, 12 light pink, 6 medium pink, 1 dark pink, 10 reds and one yellow. The color classification used by the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society in their Minneapolis show was decided the best available, except that the medium and dark pinks were divided according to the classification once gotten out by the Society.

As was to be expected, the doubles far exceeded any other type. Four of the five hybrids are double and one semi-double, which is the lone semi-double in the list. The tree peony is double.

Light colors also predominated, there being 32 in the white, blush and light pink classifications.

The varieties that appear in this list that were once rated, number 31. 19 were never rated. 28 of those that were, rated 9 or better; two, Dixie 8.51 and Ella Christiansen 8.84, rated between 8 and 9 and one, Mme de Verneville 7.9 below 8.

Thirty-three of the varieties were originated in the United States. The originators are: Auten 3, Auten-Glasscock 1; Bigger 1, Bockstoce 1, Brand 5, Edlund 1, Franklin 4, Glasscock 1, Lins 1, Murawska 3, Nicholls 3, Rosenfield 1, H. P. Sass 2, Saunders 1, Shaylor 1, Thompson 1, Vories 1, Wild Bros. 1, Winchell 1. Cousins of Canada 1, Kelway of England 2, France has 11 as follows: Crousse 2, Dessert 1, Henry 1, Lemoine 5, Mieliez 1, Riviere 1, Three are from Japan.

THE FAVORITE PEONIES

The second column lists the Favorite Peonies of the 77 who answered this question. Rather a coincidence maybe, but these 77 listed exactly fifty varieties, the same number as were listed as the One Best Peony. Sixteen were not duplicated. Eighteen varieties were listed by more than one person as their favorite, while twenty varieties were listed as the One Best by more than one. No variety received more than four votes as the favorite and four received that number, Elsa Sass, Hansina Brand, Mons. Jules Elie and Victory, while Kelway's Glorious was the favorite of three persons.

Thirty-six double were included of which 7 were white, 5 blush, 11 light pink, 4 medium pink, 6 red. One white and one blush semi-double were listed. There were two white Japs, two pinks and one red, total five, Again Krinkled White was the only single listed. Five hybrids, two semi-double, one single and two doubles, two pink and three red, were named. Combining all types and hybrids also, there were 39 doubles, four semi-doubles, five Japs, two singles. The only tree peony listed was Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, a yellow double.

The same combination shows

ten whites, seven blush, fifteen light pinks, seven medium pinks, ten reds and one yellow.

The originators were Auten 2, Auten-Glasscock 1, Brand 8, Cooper 1, Edlund 1, Franklin 2, Glasscock 1, Kelsey 1, Mann-van Steen 1, Murawska 2, Mains 1, Nicholls 3, Payne 1, Rosenfield 1, H. P. Sass 1, Saunders 3, Shaylor 3, Thompson 1, Winchell 1; total U. S. 35; Crousse 2, Dessert 2, Henry 1, Lemoine 4, Miellez 1, Riviere 1; total France 11. Kelway had two and Japan 2.

Twenty-six rated 9 or better, 4 from 8-8.9 and 20 have not been rated.

THE MOST POPULAR PEONIES

The next list was supposed to contain the 100 Most Popular Peonies compiled from the 87 complete and 8 partial lists of the Best Twenty Five sent in. To do this, all varieties that received six or more votes and two that received five votes had to be listed, but as 20 varieties received five votes each, it was necessary to include 118 varieties in the list, as it would not have been fair to the other 18 to have only picked out two from this list of 20.

This list is the most important one as it includes those varieties that are supposed to be the best in all types, colors and classes of herbaceous peonies. It is composed of 112 albiflora varieties and six hybrids.

All six hybrids are red, except one; three doubles; two semi-double and one single. Some will certainly say that Laura Magnuson should be classed as a pink. Probably it should be. It is described as "rose."

The 112 albifloras include 88 doubles of which 17 are white, 13 blush, 20 light pink, 12 medium pink, 8 dark pink, 16 red and 2 white and yellow. The four semi-

doubles are one white and three blush. There are three white Japs, five pinks and five reds; total 13. Three white, two pink and two reds comprise the seven singles. In all there are 24 whites, 16 blush, 20 light pinks, 18 medium pinks, 9 dark pinks, 29 reds and 2 white and yellows.

In this list 56 were formerly rated 9 or better, 24 from 8 to 8.9 and only one below 8, Edulis Superba. Twelve thought it worthy of being included in a list of the 25 Best Peonies. This would indicate that it should have been rated far above its 7.6. 37 were never rated. It would seem that anyone who thought a variety deserved to be classed as one of the 25 Best Peonies, would rate that variety 9 or better.

The originators of these 118 varieties are: Andrews 1, Auten 10, Auten-Glasscock 1, Babcock 1, Bigger 2, Bockstoce 1, Brand 13, Cooper 1, Edlund 1, Franklin 6, Freeborn 1, Glasscock 2, Gumm 1, Johnson 1, Jones 1, Kelsey 2, Lins 6, Mann-van Steen 1, Murawska 3, Neeley 1, Nicholls 5, Pillow 1, Rea 1, Richardson 1, Rosenfield 2, H. P. Sass 9, Saunders 2, Shaylor 4, Thompson 1, Vories 1, Welsh (Good and Reese) 2; Total U. S. 85. Cousins 1 (Canada), Calot 1, Crousse 4, Dessert 9, Lemoine 7, Lemon 1, Miellez 1, Riviere 1; Total France 24. Kelway 4 (England) and Japan 4.

THE BEST VARIETIES BY COLOR

The next lists were compiled from the lists of the ten best double albiflora varieties in each color. 49 responded though some did not list as many as ten in each color. From these lists we selected the varieties that received at least five votes. A number of varieties appear in these lists that did not appear in the list of the

118 best varieties and the number of votes for each variety is different in almost every case being higher in the Best By Color lists. There are 26 whites, 16 blush, 26 light pinks, 12 medium pinks, 11 dark pinks, and 34 reds. This make a total of 125 double varieties. There are 49 that had 9 or better ratings; 32 8 to 8.9; two 7 to 7.9 and 42 that never were rated.

The following lists include all varieties receiving one or more votes. There were four of the varieties that many call "yellow" but are not real yellows. They are all of the anemone type and 2 were formerly rated between 8 and 8.9 and two were not rated.

The true semi-doubles had four whites, four blush, eight pinks and five reds, 21 in all. Of these seven formerly rated 9 or better, five between 8 and 8.9 and nine were never rated.

Eighty-nine Japanese were listed, 27 whites, 32 pinks and thirty reds. Eighteen once rated 9 or better, twenty between 8 and 8.9, one below 8 and fifty never rated. One white, Queen Alexandra No. 24, was accidentally omitted from the printed list. It received one vote and was never rated. It is one of Kelway's and is certainly one of the finest white Japs we have. It seems to be unobtainable in this country, but it can still be imported from Kelway.

Eighteen white, eighteen pink and nineteen red singles made the grade, a total of fifty-five. Eleven formerly rated 9 or more, thirteen 8 to 8.9 and thirty-one never rated.

In these lists of doubles, anemone, Japanese and singles there are 294 varieties. Of these 85 formerly rated 9 or better; 72 from 8 to 8.9, three from 7 to 7.9 and 134 were never rated. There were

99 white and blush, 107 pink and 88 red.

Two hundred and twenty of these were originated in the United State, five in Canada, eleven in England, thirty-five in France, four in Holland, fifteen in Japan and there are four whose originator is unknown.

The originators are: United States; Auten 43, Brand 36, Nicholls 17, Franklin 15, Hans P. Sass 14, Kelsey 10, Murawska and Lins 9 each, Shaylor 7, Bigger 5 Gumm and Vories 4 each. Jones, Mann-van Steen, J. F. Rosenfield, Thurlow, G. H. Wild and Son, three each; Freeborn, Neeley, Saunders, Scott and Welsh (Good and Reese) two each; Andrews, Babcock, Brant, Cooper, Edlund, Glasscock, Johnson, Lewis, Peyton, Pillow, Pleas, Richardson, Roberts, Reno Rosefield, Rea, J. Sass, Shrader, Terry, Thompson, Wassenburg, Wilkus, Wright (22 in all) one each.

The Canadians were: Keagey 2, Brethour, Brown and Cousins one each. Five varieties. Barr one and Kelway 10 gave England 11. Calot, Lemon, Mieliez and Riviere with one each; Millet 2, Crousse 7, Lemoine 7 and Dessert 15 made 35 for France. Holland had four with Hoogendoorn responsible for one and van Leeuwen for three. Fifteen originated in Japan. We have no knowledge of the originators. Four others also are of uncertain origin.

In reply to the question asking for the ten best hybrids, 32 sent in more or less complete lists. From these a list of 88 hybrids was made. It has 4 whites, 3 yellows, 22 shades of pink and 59 shades of red. Auten originated 13, Auten-Glasscock 3, Bockstoe 3, Mrs. Freeborn 1, Glasscock 28, Saunders 37 and White 3. Prof. Saunders originated all four

whites, two of the yellows, 14 of the reds. Dr. White produced one yellow and two reds. Auten-Glasscock gave us one pink and two reds. Mrs. Glasscock has 7 of the pinks and 21 of the reds. Auten, Bockstoce and Mrs. Freeborn only had reds.

Counting these hybrids it will be seen that Mr. Auten originated 56 of those considered by our members as worthy of being classed with the best, which is 14.66 per cent of the total 382 varieties listed. Prof. Saunders has a total of 39, Mr. Glasscock 29 and Auten-Glasscock, Mr. Bockstoce, Mrs. Freeborn and Dr. White three each.

We find that No. 12 Coralie, S. 1 was accidentally omitted from the list in the pamphlet of the Shades of Pink and No. 13 was printed as Dainty when it should have been Dainty Lass, J. I.

It will be noted that only those varieties that received five or more votes were included in the 118 Most Popular Peonies. Twenty eight other varieties received four votes each; 62 three; 63 two and 181, one. Adding these to the 118 considered worthy of being included in the best 25 peonies. The list of the best varieties by color had a total of 570 varieties all told.

When we take into account these varieties that were not published in the lists, we find that quite a number are added to the originations of many and many more originators are added to the list also.

The greatest number added to any one originator is nineteen to Auten; nine were added to the House of Brand; five to Bigger; 11 to Franklin; 5 to Kelsey; six to Lins, 10 to Nicholls; 10 to H. P. Sass; 5 to Thurlow and lesser numbers to others.

THE TREE PEONY LIST

So few sent in lists of tree peonies that we did not publish a list of these in the September Bulletin. However as we were certain that the ever-increasing number of tree peony enthusiasts would be disappointed if there were no list of tree peonies published, we sent a hurry call to several of the biggest growers of tree peonies and we got replies from all but one. So we have compiled from these lists and from those already received a list of 133 varieties which we are sure represent the best in tree peonies. These lists came from seven commercial growers and nine amateurs and it covers practically all the territory where they are successfully grown.

We find that one variety was omitted—No. 52, Horakumon, D. purple, 2 votes—please add it.

This list had 67 doubles, 29 semi-doubles, 17 singles and 20 that had no type published or given in any of the lists that could be located on the spur of the moment. In fact we have little really reliable information as to the type of a great majority of the tree peonies on the market. We hope that those who are compiling the check list of them will be sure to give us some accurate information as to the type and color of these grand flowers.

The originators, so far as we could find out, are: Lemoine 9; Louis 2, other European 6, Oberlin 1 (Osiris), Saunders 17, Japanese 90, China (Banksi) 1, uncertain 4, species 3.

The colors given are: white and blush 31, pink 16, crimson 11, purple 10, cherry 2, rose red 10, scarlet 16 maroon 5, black red 5, wisteria blue 1, yellow and yellow-

shaded other colors 26.

We expect to mail each member of the Society a copy of the pamphlet. Those who wish additional copies can get them at ten cents each. If you wish to order them in large quantities, it may be possible to supply them if ordered at once. No quantity order will be

taken after January 15 unless those ordering will be willing to pay for resetting them as the type will be scrapped then or may-be even sooner.

We regret that some errors and omissions occurred in the lists as printed. We have noted them in the above notes.

OBITUARY

James W. Keagey

James W. Keagey, well known resident of Dundas, Ontario, Canada, died Friday the second of November, 1956, at his home, at the age of 78. He was born on the farm of his father, W. H. Keagey, and later moved to "Logie Brae." He attended the Dundas Public School and Hamilton Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Keagey studied achitecture at the University of Pennsylvania after which he studied in Rome, Italy for a year. He was married to Anna Bertha Steele and after spending nine years in Vancouver he returned to Dundas. He was the architect of the Dundas Public Library and the Ellen Osler Memorial Home.

On his return to Dundas he purchased the George Hanes farm and developed the property into one of the beauty spots of the district. He was a member of the American Peony Society and developed a number of new peonies which with others made his garden a mecca for the lovers of these beautiful flowers. A talented etcher, many of the results of his artistic ability may be found in his home and elsewhere in the community.

Mr. Keagey was a member of Paul's United Church and the church was being built

he served on the building committee. He was a member of the Session and Trustee Board of the church.

Surviving are his wife, the former Anna Bertha Steele; two daughters, Joan and Barbara of Toronto; three sisters, Mrs. Frank Robertson of Dundas and Misses Effie and Jessie Keagey of Toronto.

The funeral service took place at the family residence. Interment was in Grove Cemetery. Rev. Malcolm Johnston officiated. The pallbearers were Logie Robertson, Court Colter, Harry R. Donald, Stephen McKay, Charles W. Pennington, David C. Grubbe.

Those of us who were privileged to attend the National Show in Guelph, Ontario, in 1948, will remember with pleasure our meeting with Mr. Keagey.

At that show he entered some of his seedlings and received a First Class Certificate for his Rose Bowl, and Honorable Mention for Dieppe.

In the December 1943 Bulletin, No. 92, there is an article from his pen entitled "Peonyitis Germ In Coote's Paradise." Coote's Paradise is the name of that remarkable strip of land just west of Lake Ontario. Those who have

this number should look up this article as it is a gem of the first water.

In it Mr. Keagey describes his connection with peonies and his attempts at raising seedlings, which were attended by excellent results. He planted 80 seeds from which he secured seventy seedlings. Of these he kept 20 and **named several**. Those registered in the March 1946, Bulletin, No. 101, are:

Dieppe, double, late midseason, light pink.

Dunkirk, double, late medium pink.

Rose Bowl, single, midseason, light pink.

White Cockade, single, mid-season, white.

He also registered for use the

name Falaise. Whether any variety was ever named this we do not know, but as the Check List prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Gist only lists it as reserved, we think that it has never been used.

A few plants of these varieties were sent to one or two members of the Society in this country, but whether any one has them for sale at present we do not know. Mr. William Brown of Elora, Ontario, Canada, lists one or two and may have all of them.

We understand that Mr. Keagey had been unwell for several years as his letters clearly indicated. Our sincere sympathy is extended his family.

We are indebted to the Dundas Star for the main facts of Mr. Keagey's life.

Ambassadors Of Good Will

The attention of our members is called to the following letter, which explains itself. Certainly such undertakings can produce only good will as all flower lovers, of whatever nationality they may be, have a common bond of friendship.

We happen to know of somewhat similar projects contemplated for the high mountains of Mexico and also for New Zealand.

We think also that Dr. Mencia has a friend who may be trying an experiment in growing peonies near Caracas.

In response to a request from the Royal Horticultural Society of England, some of our members sent roots to their trial gardens at Wisley, and we published in the September Bulletin a list sent us of honors awarded some of these varieties.

We also know that roots have been sent to public gardens in

Canada several times.

Let us keep up the good work.

Dear Mr. Peyton,

Being an admirer of Peonies, and a lover of Norway, I have thought of a project, which could only be worked out with the acquiescence of the Norwegian authorities, and the assistance of Norwegians and the valuable help of some members of Garden Clubs, American Peony Society, etc., in the United States.

Roughly the idea is this. While visiting Norway, I saw Peonies in all white, and all red colours, and not of the largest size. There could be gigantic, double ones, in pastel shades somewhere, but I think these are not yet popular.

Perhaps a concerted action could be started, so as to obtain that some growing Peonies in their gardens, and I am thinking of

Norwegian descent, might be able, in Fall and Spring—when I understand the dormant plant can be divided without harm—to make a gift of certain varieties, so as to ship them together, by large quantities of roots, to Norway. . .

Thus, various public gardens in different communities of that superb country, would be, little by little, enriched with such Peonies, to supplement the beauty which Nature has given them.

What do you think of it? It would be a token of good friendship between the two countries, eloquently speaking every year.

Perhaps some interchange (Norwegians sending something in turn) can be considered too.

Experts, and growers of Peonies can decide on the steps, mention a note (as I say, with the blessing of Norwegians there) in Bulletins of yours and other societies interested in flowers, etc.

This Fall, in a microscopic way, I am starting such a movement, having ordered a collection of Peonies from the firm of Louis Smirnow, at 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, Long Island, New York; and requesting the kind assistance of the Consul General of Norway in New York, Mr. Thor Brodtkorb (115 Broad Street, New York 4, N. Y., telephone Whitehall 46920, cable address NORKONS, is the complete address of the Royal Norwegian Consulate-General) so as to have some peonies in the public gardens of Oslo and Bergen. The Consul-General will be so good as to help in the obtention of all necessary papers, and look after the shipment.

This will be an interesting experiment, and I thought that you and the American Peony Society should know of this development. I am not asking anything, this be-

ing merely information for yourselves.

But it may pave the way for other steps in the same direction, and with different flowers.

In other words, we are starting a "bataille de fleurs" in an international scale.

I am sorry to give the Consul-General of Norway in New York such a trouble. But he was so kind when I wrote to him of my plan of this extremely modest gift, that he offered to give assistance, and while he was away in Norway, instructed Consul Arthur M. Hansson, in charge of the Consulate General during his absence, to lend assistance, which I deeply appreciate.

And I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of these lines to Mr. Thor Brodtkorb.

Well I trust that your annual meeting, and exhibition of Peonies in Dixon, Illinois, was a great success, thanks to the effort of all those who grow and love Peonies and flowers.

I think it is thrilling to consider the vast possibilities of an interchange in an international scale, of Peonies and other plants. . .

It will be a real pleasure to hear from you at any time.

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Armando Mencia
Caracas, Venezuela.

MY FAVORITE PEONIES

Looking backward over a period of thirty or more years, since I first became interested in peonies. I have had several favorites.

I believe the first was Festiva Maxima, still a fine variety. Then came Baroness Schroeder, Solange, Le Cygne, Therese and Nick Shaylor in the order named. I still

~\$30&~

have a fondness for all of them, particularly the last, Nick Shaylor, one of the finest and most beautiful of all peonies.

However, one of the more recent introductions has taken the place of all my former favorites—Moonstone—the queen of them all. It has everything a fine peony should have and more. Fine foliage of good texture, strong stems, a good grower, free bloomer, excellent plant habits and dependable in every way.

The bloom—a blush pink with deeper shades at the base of the petals. As a cut flower under artificial light it is at its best—with changeable shading of the delicate tints resembling the stone for which it is named.

I have never had the good fortune to behold a more beautiful flower—and until I do—Moonstone will be my favorite peony.

E. C. Bills

Chicago, Illinois

Secretary's Notes

SECRETARY'S NOTES

This issue of the Bulletin is a small one as doubtless all have noted. It is due to several things. First we had to cut down expense as the September issue was almost twice the usual size. Then a number of articles we hoped to have did not show up. Hence entirely too large part of it is from the Secretary's pen. However we have some excellent articles from our members, though those from our directors are sadly lacking. Our President's timely message and the fine report of Mr. Alexander of the Eleventh American Horticultural Congress are the only two who came across. Let us hope for better luck for the March issue.

Inability of the Secretary to get even this small amount of material ready for publication, has caused the delay in mailing, which will not be until the Christmas holidays.

KINGWOOD CENTER

Dr. R. C. Allen tells us that he has received about two hundred new herbaceous varieties mainly

from Mr. W. H. Krekler and forty or more tree peonies from several sources, Miss Silvia Saunders and Mr. Wolfe contributing most of them. We hope to give a full list of all at present in the planting in the March Bulletin.

Dr. Allen also reports progress on the copying of the Check List of Herbaceous Peonies prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Gist.

1957 ANNUAL SHOW AND MEETING

As anticipated in the September Bulletin, the negotiations for holding these next year in New York City, fell through.

As we go to press, it seems that the 1957 Annual Exhibition and Meeting may be held in Sarcoxie, Missouri. We hope to have the matter settled soon.

SCORE CARD FOR SHOWS

We have just had a letter from Mrs. Peter J. Cascio of West Hartford, Connecticut, who is preparing the new Handbook for Flower Shows for the National Council of State Garden Clubs and which will be in the printer's hands before you get this. She wanted our

schedule for points to be used in judging peonies, both horticultural specimens and collections. Sad to say I had to tell her again that we have neglected to give this matter the attention that it should have and so I advised her to just go ahead and use a temporary or suggested scale, until our Society can finally get down to adopting an official one.

PUBLICATIONS

We hope, soon after the New Year, to get down to the job of preparing a new Handbook of the Peony as our stock is now fast approaching the vanishing point. We hope we shall be able to make it better than it was before without increasing its cost or its size materially. We hope to finance it by selling ads in the Classified Section at ten dollars each as we did before and also by furnishing copies to those who may wish them in quantities which will contain, instead of the Classified List of advertisers, the full page ad of the purchaser, the charge for which will be fifty dollars. We should like to hear from all commercial growers who may wish these. We hope we can finance the entire issue before it goes to press as we certainly have no intention of running the Society into debt, if it can be avoided and we hope it can.

We still have a number of the Tree Peony Monographs (January, 1955, issue of the National Horticultural Magazine) on hand. We should like to dispose of these as soon as possible as they are doing no one any good reposing in my office. The price is one dollar each and we have approximately two hundred on hand.

We also have a large number of back bulletins from No. 110, September, 1948, to date, which we should like to move. For the present we shall charge 25 cents

for each of them, far below publication cost. Some of the later ones are not in as large supply as some of the older ones. We also have a few extra copies of those from No. 100, December, 1946, to No. 108. We have no No. 109, except the file copy. Occasionally we get a copy or two of these published before No. 100. These when available are sold at one dollar each.

THE OLD MANUAL—PEONIES

Many of our readers wish to have copies of this. We have a number of names on file who wish one. Anyone having a copy they wish to sell should get in touch with the Secretary and he will give them the name of a prospective buyer. The secretary would rather these transactions be direct between seller and buyer. So far appeals for copies of this book have gone unheeded in most cases.

THE MOST POPULAR

PEONIES — 1956

We had about two thousand of these run off. We shall send each member of the Society a copy free if desired, but additional copies will be charged for at the rate of ten cents each. We can make some reduction if they are wanted in any quantity, but orders for large quantities should be placed at once as the type will be scrapped soon after the first of the year and then if the supply has been exhausted, they will be available only if the buyer assumes the cost of resetting the book.

We should like our members' opinions in regard to this yearly poll. Is it worth the cost? Does it fill your requirements as a buyer's guide, which it is certainly intended to do?

Quite an extended review of its contents is published in this issue. There is certainly one thing it has brought out and that is that there are a large number of vari-

eties that one or more consider worthy of rating among the 25 best. Also it has shown that many of those much criticized varieties that once were rated at 9 or better still hold the top ranks unshaken by the years. It has also shown that no one can say, with any degree of accuracy, that any one variety does not do well in a given locality. Just because a variety does not do well in a New York garden is no reason to condemn it for use in other sections. It may come as somewhat of a shock to some to know that the proverbial bad-doers often do well in places where they might be least expected to do anything. For instance, Mrs. A. M. Brand is reported as one of the best in some far Southern gardens. Others could be named also.

TREE PEONIES

The interest in these seems to gain momentum as the days go by. It is regrettable that we have so little information to give in regard to the color and form of them. We feel quite sure that many listed as full doubles, rarely meet that requirement, but are really quite semi-double. Different colors are sometimes given for the same variety in different lists. There seems to be no uniform method of spelling. Some use capital letters for each part of the

Japanese names. Some connect them with hyphens and some do not. Some write the names as one word, others do not. All this makes the task of compiling a list for the use of the general buying public quite a difficult one. Two or three of our members are compiling check lists of these tree peonies. We hope that the results will be in accord on the above points as otherwise they will be confusing to all of us to say the least.

The Most Popular Peony List gives as much of this wanted information as could be gotten on short notice.

Now that I have gotten that off my chest, let's talk about the weather. Down here in Virginia we have had, so far, only a few days in which the temperature has gone below freezing. The fields are almost as green as in spring. Some forsythia are in bloom and a plant of *paeonia californica* sent me by my good friend Mr. Krekler from California is up and growing. I shudder to think what may happen to it. We have had plenty of rain since the first of November. No snow yet, except a few flakes that melted as soon as it fell. Peony buds on roots dug, never looked finer. Tree peonies are growing, only to be killed later, maybe.

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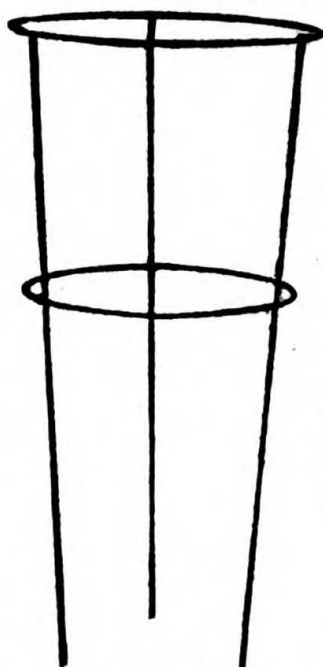
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ANNOUNCEMENT

We wish to announce that we have sold our stock of the albiflora varie-
ties of peonies to Brand Peony Farms of Faribault, Minn. We are happy that
it is the Brands who are taking over as they have a reputation of putting out
fine plants and are well equipped to take care of our customers. They have
dug and planted out the three year old stock and the one and two year old
fields will be grown here for them so there will be no break in the supply
of the Franklin varieties and other kinds we have been furnishing our
customers.

We want to thank all of our customers for their past patronage.

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ORIENTAL GOLD - The all yellow herbaceous peony, guaran-
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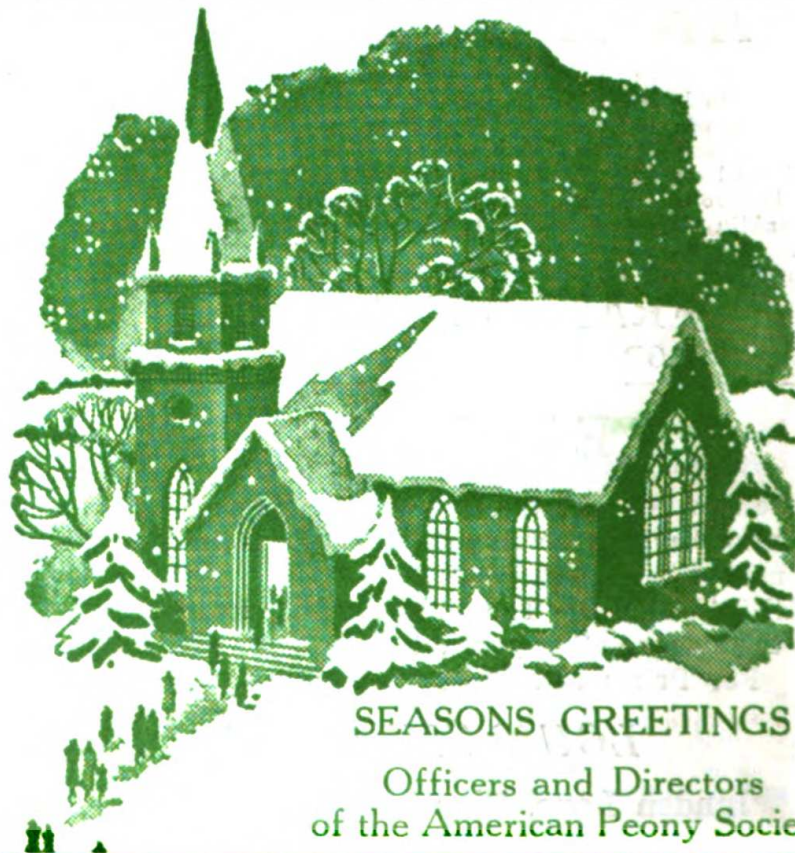
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