

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Bulletin

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	3
PEONY PERSONS: Edward Auten, Jr. — Mary Rainey	4
The Man in Ohio, Walter Mains—W. A. Alexander	8
Red Charm — Marvin C. Karrels	11
Suggestions from Canada — L. W. Cousins	12
Tree Peonies at Boston Show — Secretary	14
Tree Peony Topics — L. Smirnow	15
Success With Tree Peonies — Secretary	16
Acid Speeds Up Plant Growth — Prairie Farmer	18
Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting, Sarcoxie, Missouri	19
Fifty-Third Annual Exhibition	24
Peony Shows and Gardens	29
Department of Registration	32
Death To Nematodes	33
Keagey Originations	34
Obituaries: Gus J. Boehland	35
Fred E. Gustin	38
Abraham Newhouse	39
Mrs. Robert W. Jones	40
Peony Suggestions — William Krekler	41
Peony Colors and Norway — Dr. Armando Mencia	43
New Members	45
Forcing Peonies	45
Notes	33, 34, 42, 44, 45

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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 Peony 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



MARCH, 1957 — NO. 144

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These lines are written in the last hour of February. In just a few minutes it will be March. March and April will zip by and before we realize it, it will be mid-May and time for the Society's fifty-third annual exhibition and meeting. I am sure we will have a fine show, although we will miss a lot of fine albifloras that some who live several hundred miles to the north of us cannot bring. They will, however, be able to bring many of their fine hybrids, which are year by year growing in favor. In addition, some of us "southerners" should be able to provide tree peony blooms in quantity, in both the suffruticosa and hybrid varieties. We should be able to provide also many of the hybrid herbaceous peonies. There can be no doubt that there will be plenty of fine blooms, and that means a good show.

There is in connection with the show and meeting, one thing that is of concern to me, as I know it has been to others in recent years. It is the lack of time for meetings of the Board of Directors. There are problems to be solved, situations and plans to consider, and all this takes time which just does not seem available. How this time is to be made available I do not at this moment see, but there must be a way found. Perhaps it would be advisable to have the Directors stay over an extra day. At least something should be tried,

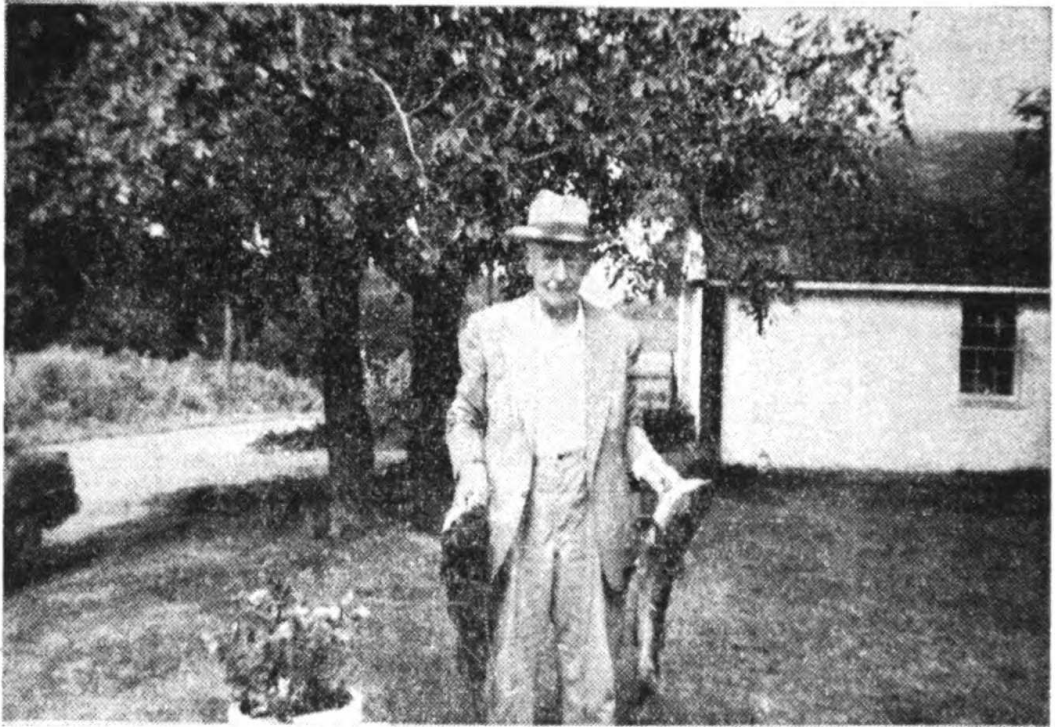
some plan devised that will make it possible to have more time for affairs of the Society. If there are any suggestions, let's have them.

And speaking of suggestions, let me recommend to all that we give more attention to the raising of seedlings, whether straight or albiflora or hybrids. For the possibility of getting something new, fine and valuable is still present, in spite of the thousands of fine peonies that already make glorious our springs and early summers. Without going into details as to the reason why, the mathematical possibilities of chromosome and gene combinations in albifloras alone are so great as to indicate that we have but started, to say nothing of the marvelous world that certainly awaits us yet in the hybrid groups. Saunders, Auten and Glasscock showed us the possibilities here. It is left with us to realize them. The more crosses made, the more beautiful the gardens of the world will be. Two classes of peony lovers should give this matter of hybridizing their special attention: men and women under sixty, and men and women over sixty. If these two groups pursue it actively, what others fail to do will not hurt us.

So, give some thought to hybridizing this year, but in the meantime, let's enjoy the fine peonies we already have, and be sure and bring all you can to Sarcoxie. See you there!

Harold E. Wolfe

... Peony Persons ...



EDWARD AUTEN, JR.

Edward Auten, Jr. is one of three men to receive the Gold Medal of the American Peony Society for outstanding work in hybridizing peonies. Recently four of his peonies grown by the Royal Horticultural Society in English trial gardens have received Awards of Merit; one was "Highly Commended". Such originations as Chocolate Soldier and Arcturus have won many prizes in national competition and are well known to peony growers. Less well known, but with an infinitely greater future are Auten's Red, Robert W. Auten and Red Dandy.

In his own community, Edward Auten is known not primarily for his peonies, but for the kind of man he is. He is spoken of with an affection that is almost vehement, even with a certain reverence.

My father is 75 years old. This

week he will do some, more probably most, of these things:

Compose a piece of sacred music for the organ.

Appraise a large farm.

Attend a concert at the school or a basketball game.

Work on the files of his peony business.

Make out a will, income tax return, lease or deed for somebody.

Answer his voluminous mail.

Answer the doorbell a half dozen times daily (Help about a legal problem, or the school insurance or the church property).

Listen to fine recordings of Chopin Etudes.

With intense interest watch on TV Big Ten Basketball, a prize fight and a bowling match.

Feed and watch the birds and squirrels in his yard.

In later weeks you can guess he will:

☞ 4 ☞

Appear on television for the third time.

Plant and care for his large vegetable garden.

Visit his two children in Philadelphia.

Attend the National Peony Show wherever it is.

Carry on his peony business as usual.

Go fishing (see cut).

Write an article for the Bulletin.

In past weeks he:

Sold real estate and insurance.

Played the church organ (23 years).

Wrote articles about peonies for national magazines.

Bowled, hunted, played tennis, ran the mile.

Directed the church choir.

Wrote and published several popular songs.

Raised thoroughbred Chow dogs.

His home and yard reflect these interests. In the living room is a Steinway piano, a TV set, a Hammond organ, and plants. In the dining room is a combination radio and record player, many fine records and more plants. There are plants in the kitchen and pantry, too. On his lot the grass is little loved; the tree peonies, iris, glads, lilies, lilacs and I know not what all, are cherished.

At the age of 4 my father began to garden. As a young man he grew roses, but the thorns and winter losses turned his interest to peonies. One peony order placed with Mr. W. A. Peterson of Chicago finished the roses. But at this time a root of Solange cost \$20.00 and besides there were nematodes. An order sent to a prominent dealer specified that the roots be free of nematodes, but of the 14 roots sent, 9 were badly infested. So, in 1916, my father decided to raise peonies from seed. Thus began

"the fever". He bought the lot across the street and by 1923 had a small field planting, and to finance this work issued a price list.

About this time at a National Peony Show in St. Paul, Mr. Charles F. Wassenberg and he were rooming together. One night they talked until early morning. When my father told him he was raising seedlings, Mr. Wassenberg told him he was wasting his time, because there was no chance of improving on the peonies then in existence. (This remark Mr. Wassenberg never forgot and told Dad on several occasions how wrong he had been.)

My father had no scientific training in plant breeding. After he graduated from Harvard, cum laude, he was expected to be a banker as were his father and grandfather. He was, too, for a time, but his heart was in his flowers and that he persevered in making his hobby his profession is a story in courage, especially since at this time the depression was breaking in the midwest and our little town seemed utterly paralyzed. And what an inconvenient moment for his two children to be ready for college! But he sent us anyway, my brother to the University and on to Brown for a Ph.D. in Chemistry and me to Wellesley and Simmons for lesser degrees.

At the same time he was beginning this long patient watch over the 2800 plants he selected from many thousands of seedlings, my father was building a commercial business, selling roots throughout this country and Canada. He had inherited no nursery business, had no ready-made market for cut flowers at his door. Princeville, Illinois, where he has always lived,

has a population of 1,000. The nearest city, Peoria, is 25 miles away and Chicago is 150 miles away. Princeville is just slightly too far North for us to be able to count on peak bloom at Decoration Day. There has been no great amount of advertising; rarely has my father displayed at National Shows.

Dad estimates he has made more than 250,000 root divisions in growing 29 acres of peonies. These he makes himself. He has people working for him, but he feels no root should be sold from his fields unless *he himself* has divided it, inspected it and packed it. Harder to believe, but also true, is the fact that he himself does the cutting for the bloom business. He works 70 hours a week during the shipping and blooming season; since his Mother lived to be 90 and his Father 104, I suspect he will continue this rigorous schedule.

The doorbell goes right on ringing during these periods of intense activity. "Will you decorate the gym for graduation?" "Will you play for the funeral tomorrow?"

For many years visitors at the field have been made welcome. Even on the most hectic days (the people come by the thousands, their cars clogging the hard road), an attempt is made to give individual attention to each customer's needs. Small wonder a visitor traveling cross country exclaimed on arrival, "Now we understand why it seems as if all the yards in central Illinois have peonies!"

A typical carload of visitors comes from at least 40 miles away, spends the afternoon, leaves an order for Rose Marie, Louis Joliet, White Delight and Peggy or another and larger assortment of Auten originations, though many

commercial kinds are grown and displayed beside our own. Our customers show an overwhelming preference for Auten originations. Some customers simply add each year to their collection of Auten peonies, keep planting notebooks, bring them to us and buy what we suggest. But it is not all business; many customers become friends. Farmers come after the chores are done, and simply sit looking at the sunset and the flowers and chatting with my father.

A sketch of my father is most incomplete without mention of his wife. Alice Chapin was the daughter of a Vermont Congregationalist minister. Until her death seven years ago, she encouraged Dad in everything he did. She loved his flowers and she loved to listen to the hymns he wrote. Together, to illustrate their accomplishments, they helped create a Public Library for the community, discouraged those who wanted to cut the High School to a three year course, helped establish an ice-skating rink at the church, and for years maintained a tennis court in our yard where "everybody played."

Which brings me to what I love most about my father. He is adored by young people; he is keenly interested in them. I am not talking about his three grandchildren, of whom he is most appreciative, but of the neighbor child or even a youngster he has only read about. One of his dearest delights is telling others about some talent some youngster possesses, as a beautiful singing voice or an ability to rebound on the basketball court. My father's young friends are myriad. (A three year old boy he met briefly in Philadelphia, last November, is still talking about him.) They disbud his peonies, tell him their troubles, come to call after moving

away, and invite him to their weddings.

It has been a pleasure writing this. Come to Princeville. He would love to show you his color

slides, or play his "20 Organ Miniatures" for you, or best of all, take you into his North Field to see his glorious, red, red, hybrids.

By Mrs. James L. Rainey



Mr. Auten and Grandchild, Edward Rainey

We learn from the biographical sketch of Mr. Auten in the Manual, that he was born in Princeville, Illinois, in 1881, graduated from Harvard in 1904, planted his first peony in 1910 and began to experiment with seedlings in 1916.

He joined the American Peony Society in 1921.

He was a director from, 1937 to 1941 when he declined re-election.

His first originations were registered in 1925. His introductions to date have been well over two hundred. A complete list of those introduced to that date was published in the September, 1943, Bulletin No. 91. A like list of his hybrids was in the June, 1953, Bulletin, No. 129. His greatest efforts have been directed to improving the red peonies. That these efforts have been crowned with success is shown by the fact that his reds

lead all others in the Japanese, single and semi-double types and are high up in the doubles. He also has more good red double hybrids to his credit than any other originator.

He has also introduced a large number of whites and pinks in all types except in hybrids. He has never introduced a tree peony, though we see from his daughter's sketch that he has some in his yard.

I am sure we speak for the entire membership of the Society in wishing for him many more years of happiness in which to enjoy the fruits of his labors and be able to pursue his many activities.

We salute you as a man who is loved, honored and respected in his own community and whom many of us feel honored to be numbered among his friends.

72

The Man In Ohio

Walter Mains might well be called the "Mystery Man of the Peony World." Although he has been a peony enthusiast for close to 50 years, a breeder for nearly as long, and a member of the American Peony Society for nearly 30 years, he has never attended an exhibit or annual meeting of the Society, and never exhibited any of his originations until 1951. As might be expected, he is known by very few of our members. The late Lee Bonnewitz of Van Wert knew him, was a frequent visitor to his gardens and a great admirer of his work. Harry L. Smith of Red Key, Ind., is a good friend and was a frequent visitor as long as his health permitted. I took Pres. Harold Wolfe to see him last summer. For most of our members, if they have heard of him at all, he is "a man in Ohio who has done some breeding work."

My first contact with Mr. Mains came as a result of a chance occurrence at the Cleveland show in 1951. While helping to get the show set up, I found some bagged blossoms in the back room stowed under a bench which no one seemed to know anything about. A note attached to one flower stem indicated they were from Walter Mains of Belle Center, Ohio, and were to be entered in the show as seedling H3. I saw to getting them entered and placed in exhibit. Although in poor condition, it was easy to see that they had as much inherent quality as anything in the show, and they won the top award for undivided seedlings. Four years later H3 was shown at Chicago, won the American Home Achievement Award, was named FRANCES MAINS and registered with the Society.

Upon my return from Cleveland, I wrote Mr. Mains to let him know how his flowers had fared in the show, and received a very gracious letter of thanks for my part in getting them staged. That was the beginning of an association and friendship which I treasure as one of the highlights of my peony experiences. For me the cloak of mystery was removed. The rumor about some man in Ohio who had done a little breeding work was resolved into the substantial fact that Walter Mains of Belle Center, Ohio, had done a tremendous lot of peony breeding and had some of the finest originations, both albi-flora and hybrid, that I have seen anywhere. Since that time, I have had the privilege and honor of helping him get some of them on the market so that other lovers may grow and enjoy them.

Mr. Mains' first letter nearly discouraged me from seeking further contact with him. I have preserved that letter and quote from it: "I was fortunate in being located in an out-of-the-way section where no one bothered me during many years of pollinating, sacking and planting seed beds. Of course local residents cast many side glances at me in a friendly, half suspicious interest in any grown man who busied himself puttering around with a standful of little bottles and a bunch of brushes. But they considered me harmless, if a little off balance. I found the work an interesting hobby." I thought about that "no one bothered me" a good long time before I decided to risk "bothering" him. I finally decided he had reference only to the busy seasons of pollinating and planting, which I found to be true. He welcomes and enjoys visitors

who know about peonies, but hasn't much patience with garden clubbers who know little about them and have less appreciation. He tells with a savage light in his eyes about the woman in a garden club who broke off a flower saying, "Oh, Mr. Mains, you have so many, I knew you wouldn't care if I took just this one." "Just this one" happened to be the lone bloom, a very special one he was planning to use as the seed parent in a cross pollination.

As to physical appearance, Mr. Mains is a little above average height, so thin that he looks rather frail, but has a surprising degree of physical toughness (he has pretty well overcome the effects of a broken back sustained seven or eight years ago resulting from a fall while picking fruit). His features have that rough-hewn, craggy appearance we associate with intelligence and character; they smooth out into a pleasant smile as he talks. He is smooth shaven, and has a shock of iron gray hair. He is in his seventy-seventh year, but is erect in carriage and moves with a degree of certainty and briskness that belie his years.

Before retiring, Mr. Mains was a railway mail clerk. His run was at night. The habit of working at night and sleeping daytime became so firmly entrenched that he found it inconvenient to change. So he keeps about the same hours as he did during his working days, staying up until two, three or four A. M. and sleeping until about noon. So if you, fellow APS members, ever go to see Mr. Mains (and you will be welcome) time your call for the afternoon or evening hours.

Intellectually he is a man of no mean attainments. Well read and interested in what is happening in

the world, he talks easily and understandingly on a wide range of subjects. He often quotes Shakespeare in conversation. When Pres. Wolfe visited him last summer, they had a good time reciting poetry, Wolfe giving him some of his own original works. This left your author a nonparticipant but an interested listener. To me, the most unusual and surprising characteristic of Mr. Mains' mental make-up is his intellectual curiosity. He is research minded, likes to follow uncharted paths. He has made all sorts of species crosses in his peony breeding work, has treated seeds with x-rays and colchicine, and last winter joined a high school chemistry class, hoping to learn a little more about plant nutrition and possibly get some clues on the use of colchicine. Last summer, he grew a lot of strawberry plants which he had treated with that drug, and at the time of my last visit, showed me several pots of peony seedlings growing in his basement he had so treated. When I gave him a Buckeye pyrethrum plant, he immediately set about cross pollinating to try to improve the color. He chuckles as he tells of some of his early experiments, e.g. trying to graft peonies onto rhubarb roots.

Mr. Mains has never married. Until her death a few years ago, he lived with his sister, Frances, who was very dear to him. The peony, which he considers his masterpiece, was named as a memorial to her. After her death, the registered nurse who cared for Frances during her last illness, stayed on as Walter's housekeeper. His A18 seedling, a late, dark pink albiflora was named in her honor, MARGARET CLARK. The Presbyterian church of Belle Center plays an important part in the life of

Walter Mains. He has served it long as a trustee. At the time of my last visit, he showed me a letter he had written to one of the church's national boards suggesting a plan to encourage more people of means to make bequests to their local churches by preparing and making easily available a codicil form which can be appended to wills without the necessity of complete remaking.

During his early days as a peony enthusiast, Mr. Mains bought practically every good variety, or highly touted variety, then in commerce, and all of the various species he could get hold of. He imported from Europe varieties not then available in this country. He bought seeds also, both herbaceous and tree. Nearly all those early purchases have been discarded to make room for the ever-growing number of seedlings. Except for an occasional plant somewhere in a corner or along a fence, the only standard variety one finds in his gardens is ALICE HARDING, and that one is there in quantity: seven rows 150 ft. long, plants 18 inches or less apart. He considers it his most important purchase and believes it is the best albiflora variety extant. If it performs everywhere and always as for him, I would be inclined to agree with him. It has been his most important parent variety in the production of albiflora doubles. How it and certain others have been used in breeding is too long a story to be told now, but Mr. Mains has promised to get down on paper for a later issue of the Bulletin a brief account of his "many failures and few successes," as he puts it.

Walter Mains' work with peonies has been strictly for his own enjoyment and satisfaction. Commercializing has had no place in his

program. If he sells a plant to a stranger or gives one to a friend, it is with the reluctance of a parent allowing a child to go away from home to live. Only the argument that it is his moral obligation to make available to other peony lovers that beauty he has been instrumental in creating, was effective in getting him to release some of his finer things for distribution. He believes there are now too many varieties in the catalogs, and hesitates to add any more, even though they may be of superlative quality or have characteristics which set them apart. He thinks that many of the standard varieties are very mediocre in quality, and that many are near-duplications. The following sentence from one of his letters makes clear his feelings regarding the matter: "I have little patience with those who rush to introduce mediocre plants to clutter up our already overcrowded ranks of such."

It is certain that Walter Mains will never "clutter up" the lists. To date he has named three albifloras—two doubles and one Jap—and four officinalis hybrids. One of the latter, CHARLES MAINS, (named for his father) won the American Home Award last year at Dixon, thus making two years in succession Mains varieties have won that coveted award. There are others in his garden that are top-notch, but do not even have a seedling number. And the baby plants growing in his seed beds—we can only dream of the beauty that is yet to unfold.

—By W. A. Alexander

(Ed. Note: We expect an article from Mr. Mains for future publication with which we hope to have a suitable picture.)

—5102—

RED CHARM

By M. C. Karrels

It is the destiny of mankind to reach upward and on w a r d. As man's knowledge increases and his spirituality broadens, nature yields and unfolds ever more new wonders of the universe. Scientific knowledge in medicine, chemistry, engineering, etc., have, step by step, unlocked the doors of nature and even now give us but a glimpse of the marvelous and wondrous design that God has given mankind as his earthly heritage.

Who was it that said the progression of the peony towards perfection had reached its ultimate some thirty or forty years ago? I wonder if Lyman Glasscock realized what his magic hybridizing wand produced when he set eyes on that first bloom of Red Charm? How else can you explain the inadequate name of "Red Charm" to so wonderful a creation? It should have borne the name of the man whom destiny chose as the instrument to bring to mankind this glorious beauty of nature. If the rules of nomenclature prevented the use of the name "Lyman Glasscock" it should most certainly have had a more descriptive name such as Red Emperor, Red Imperial, Robe of Glory or even just Red Glory. Was it the Bard of Avon who wrote "A rose by any other name is still a rose"? So "Red Charm" will for evermore designate one of the finest peony creations since the French and English hybridizers gave us the fine albifloras at the turn of the century.

If the law of patenting or copy-writing plant varieties is justified, this variety is an example of its justification. It will enrich the growers of it for many years to

come leaving Mr. Glasscock and his heirs but small recompense for the many years of selection and waiting to bring about its introduction. I am convinced Red Charm will hold a relatively high root price for some time to come because much of its propagation will go into high priced cut-flower sales. Where it can be brought into bloom for the Decoration Day trade it should prove to be a bonanza.

Red Charm possesses all the qualities to make a fine cut flower. Its substance is above average and it opens perfectly from even a fairly tight bud. This is characteristic of all the bomb type peonies. It takes cold storage well without any loss of its rich, clean color. Not only does it possess the finest red color, but the striking carriage of its bloom and perfection of its bomb fairly exudes that intangible something sometimes referred to as "Class," "Charm" or "Appeal." It compels admiration and when the "lay" public sees it in exhibition form, it fairly gasps in overwhelming rapture.

I have grown it now for 12 years and have dug, divided and propagated a great deal of it in recent years and have yet to find an unhealthy root. The plant is very sturdy and vigorous and appears to be long lived. Its blooming season is roughly a few days after officinalis rubra or with the early albifloras. It is of medium height and makes a well formed plant in the garden. The stems are thick and very strong. Its foliage resembles officinalis, possibly a trifle deeper green shade. It starts well down on the stem, with the stems longer than officinalis. The Board



of Directors of the American Peony Society has awarded it the Gold Medal as a variety of great excellence. It fully deserves this honor.

Even though Red Charm is a step upward, I think it is but a vision or glimpse of things yet to come in hybrid peonies. Already there are some hybrids that appear to equal or surpass Red Charm in

some respects. God in his wisdom opens the doors to progress rather slowly sometimes as if he beckons us to reach upward and onward, to ever keep trying towards the goal of perfection and the unraveling of the secrets and wonders of our earthly heritage. What combinations of the infinite and complex mysteries of nature will yet produce an improved Red Charm?

Suggestions From Canada

L. W. Cousins, London Ontario

Undoubtedly our members would like to see the Society in a more prosperous condition. The reason for our lack of progress may be a simple one but the remedy is not simple and the directors best efforts for improvement will fail, unless there is a sufficient response from the membership.

When we compare our Society with other organizations having similar aims, we find one notable difference that may account for the enthusiasm that prevades the more progressive societies. Let us choose the Iris Society for our comparison and with which I am most familiar. Here we find that hybridizing is the outstanding activity of the members. Approximately 500-600 new varieties of Iris are registered annually. As evidence of their keen interest, the originators not only "think up" names (not always an easy task) but also pay a registration fee.

The Iris Society has sometimes been referred to as the tall bearded Iris Society, but there are now within the parent organization the Dwarf Iris Society; The Median Iris Club; The Spuria Iris Society and the Aril Iris Society. These dependent societies look after the particular interests of their mem-

bers and are indeed a credit to the parent body.

There are also diverse interests in the Peony Society, but there has been too much emphasis on the show type of flower. There has not been sufficient progress to satisfy the demand for smaller, lighter and more graceful types that could be used for flower arranging or corsages. The gardener also wants varieties that go well with other plants in the nicely designed garden. A planting of albiflora type peonies by themselves is interesting only for a week or two of the entire year; a practice that can hardly be recommended.

I do not think we shall get very far by telling our members what they should or should not do, but as hybridizing progresses, the charm and novelty of the new varieties may create the incentive for others to try their skill or luck. The discriminating gardener, whose ideal is not size alone but suitability will recognize certainly no more beautiful color combinations can be imagined than those provided by Irises and hybrid peonies. An ordinary blue Iris planted on the sunnyside of the pink peony Coralie is simply gorgeous.

It may be that in the past there

has been too much emphasis on the length of time that it takes for the peony seedlings to come into bloom and the difficulty of obtaining seedlings that are superior to our present named varieties. Regardless of how this may have applied to the albiflora strain, it definitely does not apply to production of superior hybrid seedlings.

It should be quite evident that the albiflora, having been used for breeding these many years, have little possibilities left; for while good seedlings can be obtained they are not radically different from those already named. I have often wondered if many dwarf or otherwise different, but useful types were thrown away as being useless, during the time that the old buxom types were being developed and what we wouldn't give today for some of those breaks in breeding that may have been bred out of present-day stock? It is indeed exciting and encouraging to consider the present situation where we have a considerable number of available species that can and have shown us that the hybrid has the vigor to grow and bloom within a reasonable time. The many lovely hybrids that we have are both a proof and a promise of the almost limitless opportunities for the hybridist that remain in the immense pool of inherent possibilities of the available species.

I am naturally very much in favor of any idea that will make our Bulletins more informative and interesting but I find it difficult to go along with the variety polls that are supposed to serve as a buying guide. They do not work out in practice as well as they should for too many out-moded varieties are recommended.

It has been many years since I

grew most of the older albiflora varieties, but fortunately, last season I was able to visit a nursery where there was an extensive planting of them. The sight of these oldsters was a distinct shock to me. Any illusions that I may have entertained were quickly dispelled and I know that I am not interested in ever seeing them again. I must admit perhaps grudgingly, that they are of some use, for they often serve as a parent for some lovely hybrids.

How does the peony business compare with the other businesses of like nature? How can the old time peony compete for the luxury dollar with the everchanging styles and advertising in millinery, cosmetics, women and men's clothing and motor cars to name only a few? Is it a mistake to offer a peony root for sale at a dollar or a dollar and a half? Is it not true that the price often sets the real value or suggests the quality in the mind of the would be purchaser? Will the impression received from observing these blooms so impress the tyro that more purchases are unlikely or would the blooms of a more modern type of flower create a desire for more varieties, more knowledge and hence a membership in the Peony Society?

I do not know the answer to all these questions but personally I am not impressed with prices that suggest that peony roots are in the same category as potatoes or turnips. I would sooner pay more for a root that promises to produce a bloom that may arouse my enthusiasm. There is little glamour about potatoes and turnips and like most persons I like a change once in a while.

In conclusion I would like to point out hybridizing and originating of new and different types

of peonies is the key to a rejuvenated Society. Look over the situation for yourself. If you then decide to climb out of the grand-

stand and join in the game even in a small way, I believe that there is a little chance that you will regret your choice.

TREE PEONIES AT THE BOSTON SHOW

According to the Boston Herald "Visitors thronged around an Oriental Garden upstairs where exotic tree peonies, with blooms the size of a dinner plate, framed a small pool. The garden was designed by 21-year-old Allen C. Haskell of New Bedford." Another paragraph tells us that the garden was unique for its exotic tree peonies, Oriental evergreens and dwarf shrubs.

A letter from Mr. Marinus Vander Pol who entered the garden in the show, gives us this additional information: "Our success with this exhibit is exemplified by the fact that we were awarded the Gold Medal and Certificate of Cultural achievement. We have learned much in the preparation of Tree Peony plants; however, we feel that our knowledge is limited to the cultural achievements only. Transportation and longevity are two major problems to be ironed out, in spite of the fact that we have achieved some success.

Several unnamed Japanese seedlings forced very well, also Howzan, Mt. Rokko, Tama-Fuyo, Yae-Zakura, Reine Elizabeth, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, Souvenir de Entiene, Moutan, Madame Stuart Low, Frangrans Maxima, Athlete and Jules Pirlot. We have complete records of our forcing and preparation, along with some snapshots.

Thank you for your interest, and we shall be glad to furnish more information when desirable."

Mr. Marinus Vander Pol is a

nurseryman and landscape architect who lives on Route 6, Washington Street, Fairhaven, Mass.

According to the records we have, the types and colors of those exhibited are: Howzan, double light pink; Mt. Rokko, rose red, no type given; Tama-Fuyo, double blush pink; Yae-Zakura, double cherry pink; Reine Elizabeth, double salmon rose; Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, double yellow; Souvenir d'Etienne Mechin (which is probably the variety listed as Souvenir de Entiene) salmon pink; Moutan, single purple; Madame Stuart Low, salmon red or rose red, double; Frangrans Maxima Plena, rose or salmon red double; Athlete, rose pink or lilac rose double; Jules Pirlot, rose red, no type given, all except one probably double. Four are of Japanese origin, seven European and one species.

FOLIAR FEEDING OF PEONIES

Mr. A. P. Murray of the Walla Walla Flower Farm of Walla Walla, Washington, asks if anyone can supply data as to the effect of foliar feeding of peony plants for as long a period as three years. He says information should be of interest if the operation was carried on with unsprayed plants as a check.

We hope some one will tell about this, if anyone has tried it. Also we hope some one or more will try experiments this spring of foliar feeding of plants for better blooms for exhibition, with and without antibiotics. The results should be interesting to all of us.

—\$142—

Tree Peony Topics

By Louis Smirnow

The tree peony is at last coming into its own. The increased interest in the "King of Flowers" is apparent from one end of the country to the other. It has been grown successfully in the warmer climates and it is not surprising that enthusiasts are now included from Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma. Unlike the herbaceous peony, the tree peony does well in the deep South. Reports have been received that it has done well in the coldest parts of the U. S. and Canada.

With this increasing interest, it is not surprising that the number of nurseries offering tree peonies are constantly on the increase. Once more I must caution our readers to be sure to buy tree peonies from the specialists to get truly named varieties. The unscrupulous Japanese jobbers are flooding the country with many tree peonies at low prices, improperly labelled and poorly kept in storage. They are being offered by several nurseries and dealers at low prices in one year plants. At this stage, the plant has little or no roots and its chances of survival are slim. No plant should be sold under two years of age to insure proper seasoning and an adequate root system. It has come to my attention that several varieties are sold by nurseries, who quite innocently are unaware of their mistakes, improperly labelled. Ubatama, a maroon, has been listed as pink; Hira-no-yuki, a white, as pink; Shintench, rose pink as white, etc. Just as long as the buying public will fall for low prices and bargains in tree peonies, these problems will continue.

Quite recently, a new pink has

been seen in bloom called Suigan. It is a beautiful true pink reminding one of the old baby ribbon pink. It is a gorgeous semi-double and holds its color well in the sun. If you like pink, get this variety.

Landscape architects of the very finest have found in the tree peony, a new subject of interest in their planning. Its use in gardens has now been firmly established. Arboretums all over the world are seeking tree peonies constantly.

It is my plan to print the lists of favorites in tree peonies. Please send your list of best twelve. I prefer to list my favorite twelve Japanese omitting the Europeans and luteas for the time being. This list is based on popularity, performance in all sections of the country, varieties which make a good show each and every year:

1. Gessekai, D., white.
2. Hana-kisoi, D., cherry pink.
3. Hinode-sekai, D., rose red.
4. Rimpō, D., purple.
5. Shintench, S. D., shell pink.
6. Taiyo, scarlet.
7. Tama-fuyo, D., blush pink.
8. Shujakumon, pink.
9. Kamada-fuji, D., wisteria blue.
10. Renkaku, S., white.
11. Ubatama, SD., Maroon.
12. Hodai, D., rose red.

All of these are seasoned performers and I do not rate any one superior to the other. I do feel that the most spectacular peony extant is Hinode sekai. Next year it may be another. It seems every year another variety catches our fancy.

Taking a page from the book of baseball, it may be an idea to have a tree peony Hall of Fame. Just as the baseball authorities do, we should select two or three each year based on reports received from

every section of the country and abroad. Consideration should be given to public appeal, performance and our standard should be high. Here are my candidates:

1. Gessekai—universally considered best white.

2. Hana-kisoi—hugh pink, known and seen everywhere.

3. Alice Harding—striking, fragrant full double purest yellow hybrid.

What are your candidates?

In the next issue, I shall have a

complete report of my visits to the many tree peony plantings in the East and will try to visit some Western gardens. All varieties seen will be listed—those of interest, of course.

Try to get to the National Peony Show, where our good friend Harold Wolfe will have an excellent display of tree peonies.

Have you ever seen a planting of tree peonies against a background of lilacs—completely breathtaking!

Success With Tree Peonies

In the March, 1951, issue of the American Home Magazine, there appeared an article on Tree Peonies by Mr. H. F. Stoke of Roanoke, Virginia, which seems to have been a major factor in arousing interest in this plant. If we may judge by the thousand or more inquiries that have come to the Secretary as a sequel to its publication, and the request of nearly every one for sources from which seed can be obtained, the flood of new varieties should be overwhelming in a year or two, if even a fraction of those inquiring really bought seed and planted them. Many of the seedlings should now be near maturity.

Since then the interest has been steadily increasing until now it bids fair to outdo that in the herbaceous. So maybe it might be in order to look over the situation and see what is the real value of the tree peony in the garden and how successfully it may be grown.

First it may be said without much danger of contradiction, that it is one of the most magnificent of all flowering shrubs when loaded with its immense blooms, often ten inches in diameter, in colors that cover almost the entire

range of the spectrum.

As a lone specimen plant it is grand and when seen growing and blooming on a gently sloping hillside, as it may be at Swarthmore, it makes a picture of haunting beauty that is not soon forgotten.

It is a historical fact that the plants have been grown for hundreds of years in the western parts of China, dug just before blooming time, transported more than a thousand miles to Canton and sold on the open market, planted, and brought into bloom within a few weeks.

We also know that it can be successfully forced in a greenhouse. It has several times been shown in the spring flower shows in this country. Lately it has been the center of attraction in the Boston Spring Flower Show. See the article in this issue.

It is hardy over the greater part of this country without protection and with some protection, will survive any winter in the United States.

A well grown plant will be from three to six feet high and of about the same breadth or somewhat more.

While its stems are not great

❧16❧

objects of beauty in the winter its foliage is always beautiful.

It has practically no insect enemies that seriously damage it. Nematodes do sometimes attack its roots. See the proposed remedies elsewhere. Scale sometimes attacks the stems. It can be easily controlled by any of the remedies recommended for these pests.

Botrytis and similar blights may infect the stems and foliage. A good fungicide, properly used, will control these.

Stems will sometimes die to the ground in winter. But they will put up from the roots when spring comes.

Its principle fault seems to be that it starts to grow with the first warm day in the winter and as the flower buds are at the tips of the shoots, they are often killed by hard, late freezes.

The full double European varieties seem especially liable to frost damage. Most of the Japanese originations seem to suffer much less and lutea and its hybrids which bloom later and do not start growth so early, usually escape damage.

There have been published a number of letters and articles in the Bulletin dealing with these matters. Your attention is especially called to the one from Mr. Poisal in the December, 1956, issue and that by Mr. Barclay in the September, 1956 number. Also do not fail to read Mr. Fay's remarks in this issue.

While my own personal experience may not amount to a great deal yet here it is for what it may be worth. About thirty years ago, when my enthusiasm was at high pitch, I imported about fifty varieties from France. They were mostly the doubles and the lutea hybrids, *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*, *Chromatella*, *La Lorraine* and

Satin Rouge. Needless to say, I looked forward to their blooming with great expectations. Well, these expectations were largely never fulfilled. The lutea hybrids all bloomed well until I finally lost them in moving around. Only two of the others have proved good bloomers. Both are whites, *Beatrix* and *Yeso-okina*. Occasionally some of the others would open and when they did, they were beautiful, but it only has happened once or twice in the thirty years I have grown them, so when I last moved in 1949 I just did not bother to move them. My neighbors dug up most of them, but they have never had any blooms. The plants were full of buds every year, but they just did not open. Mr. Clint McDade, who lives on Signal Mountain, just outside Chattanooga, Tennessee, and considerably South of me, planted a large number of them and finally gave up for the same reason. Others have had the same experience. But look what Mr. Wolfe has accomplished just outside St. Louis, where he blooms them by the thousand, but I rather think he uses the Japanese varieties mostly. And we think that the Cottage Gardens, Lansing, Michigan, and Whitnall Park Gardens at Milwaukee, have little trouble in flowering them. From the reports given here and previously, we think we may safely draw some conclusions as to what we may expect from tree peonies.

First, it would seem that those who live above the fortieth parallel and below the forty third may plant any variety they please with good prospects of success. Those living North of the 43rd parallel should give their plants some winter protection or possibly cut them to the ground each year and treat them as herbaceous perennials

How much of this treatment the plants will stand has yet to be discovered. But it will probably not make a great deal of difference in their life span. We hope some of our members in Minnesota, Canada and other parts of the country with similar climate will try this plan and report.

Those living South of the fortieth parallel where late hard frosts are common and also in Washington and Oregon where late frosts also occur, will almost certainly have little success with the full European doubles, but will have much better luck with the Japanese and lutea hybrids.

Those who live still further South may be able to grow them well as Mr. Poisal has done. Few have tried to grow them, but I am told that plantings are being made much further South than the herbaceous peonies succeed. What the final outcome will be has yet to be proved, but we wish them much success. It may be found that some will do well even as far South as New Orleans and the Northern parts of Florida. We see from Mr. Bothner-By's letter he blooms them as far South as Atlanta, or the middle of Texas.

Maybe Dr. Earle White who lives in Daytona Beach, Florida, has tried them or will try them if he sees this. He knows how to grow peonies as well as any one I know and if they can be successfully grown where he lives, he will do it if any one can.

Possibly greater chances of success will be had with lutea and its hybrids as it is native about as far south as Florida, though at much higher altitudes than the suffruticosa varieties.

We certainly hope that some will make the effort and try out the methods suggested.

ACID SPEEDS UP PLANT GROWTH

From Prairie Farmer, Jan. 5, 1957

Spectacular increase in plant growth has been chalked up to a little-known substance called gibberellic acid.

USDA scientists rubbed a lanolin paste mixture containing the acid on the young growing stems of many different plants such as geraniums, poinsettias, sunflowers, roses, dwarf dahlias, petunias, and asters. In three to four weeks the plants were as much as three times as tall as untreated plants.

Snapbeans, soybeans, peppers, eggplants, corn, peanuts and barley grew twice, sometimes three times, as high as untreated plants.

Scientists are trying to find out just how the acid could be put to practical use. They would like to know why some plants grow much faster after treatment while others do not. Young forest trees for example, such as willow oak, tulip poplar and maple, grow very rapidly after treatment. Other species like pine and white spruce show only slight increase in growth.

The acid is produced by a fungus much as antibiotics are produced. At present gibberellic acid is produced only in very small amounts.

USDA scientists are working on many plant growth regulating compounds.

Extra growth would give many crop seedlings an advantage over weeds. It would help get young tree seedlings started in a nursery or in a forest. If a growth regulator could be used to stimulate growth of hay crops, it would up forage yields. Foresters would like to have a chemical that would speed up the growth of pulpwood, now in good demand.

Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting
AND
Fifty-Third Annual Exhibition
OF THE
American Peony Society

SPONSORED BY

The Chamber of Commerce of Sarcoxie
Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, 1957
WILDWOOD AUDITORIUM — SARCOXIE, MISSOURI

SARCOXIE, MISSOURI

As intimated in the December Bulletin, the Fifty Fourth Annual Meeting and the Fifty Third Annual Exhibition of this Society, will be held in the Wildwood Auditorium, Sarcoxie, Missouri, on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, 1957.

This is the town that so boldly proclaims itself as the Peony and Strawberry Capital of the World. Maybe it will add also the Iris and Hemerocallis Capital as well, as they grow immense numbers of them.

It is not a large town, but one which figures much larger in the economy of its State than its less than two thousand souls would indicate. You will find below a short history of it, written by one of its citizens, that will give you a good idea of what a visitor may expect. But we shall add some additional information here that should be of interest to our members.

The town is in the southwestern corner of the State about 25 or 30 miles from the point where Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma meet and about forty miles north of the Arkansas line.

It is easy to reach from any

part of the country. Two of the most heavily travelled highways in the country cross just 11 miles west of the town, U. S. 166 and Alt. 71. Alt. 71 is a short cut from Carthage to Neosho, No. 71 passing through Joplin 11 miles further west from this junction which the local people call the Cross Roads of the Country. No. 166 is a short cut from Springfield, Missouri, where it leaves 66 to join it again at Joplin, 66 going through Carthage six miles north of the Cross Roads. Those from the South may also use State Route 37 which starts from its junction with 166 in Sarcoxie and leads south through Monett about 18 miles away. No. 71 leads almost due north and south from New Orleans through Shreveport, La., Texarkana and Fort Smith, Ark., to Kansas City and slightly west of Des Moines and Minneapolis to the Canadian border at International Falls, Minnesota.

Kansas City is 165 miles away and Minneapolis not far from 600. Route 66 begins at Chicago and ends at Los Angeles, passing through Springfield, Illinois; St. Louis, Springfield, Missouri; Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Amarillo, Texas and Albuquerque.

1957

New Mexico. St. Louis is 285 miles away and Chicago about twice that. Tulsa is about 140 and Oklahoma City about 260 miles distant. It will be seen that it is within a days ride by auto from many large centers of population, and within two days from even the East Coast if those hardy drivers wish to put in long hours a day. Those who travel by air can reach it in less than a day from anywhere in the country as nearby Webb City or as the air lines say Joplin, has connections with all important air lines in all directions. Bus travellers will take somewhat longer to make the trip than an auto, but there are good connections at Springfield and Joplin to almost any place.

Those who wish to use the trains make excellent connections at St. Louis from all points beyond that town, using the Frisco from St. Louis to Monett, 18 miles from Sarcoxie. Joplin has direct service over the Kansas City Southern from Kansas City and New Orleans with several trains a day. A branch line of the Frisco passes through Sarcoxie with one train each way a day. These trains make direct connection at Monett with the main line Frisco trains.

SARCOXIE AND THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

In the Society's publication, *Proceedings of the Society*, for the early years of the Society we find Wild Brothers of Sarcoxie listed as charter members of the Society having joined in 1902 when the first preliminary meetings were held. All who joined in 1902 and 1903 are listed as charter members. Of those who joined in 1902, only Arthur Bryant and Son of Princeton, Illinois, and Wild Bros. are still members under the orig-

inal name, though T. C. Thurlow is now represented by Winthrop C. Thurlow and Rev. Edward K. Thurlow, his sons; and J. F. Rosenfield by his son, Reno Rosenfield and his son-in-law Floyd Bass. Klehm joined in 1903.

At the First Annual Exhibition, C. M. Wild, of Sarcoxie showed ten blooms. The names of the varieties shown were not given. Mr. Wild evidently took these blooms with him all the way to New York where the exhibition was held. So transporting blooms a long distance was not unknown then. C. M. Wild was a member of the firm of Wild Bros., and is now dead. His brother, Arthur Wild, is still an active member of the firm of Wild Bros., and is connected with the Society. We hope he will come to our meeting at Sarcoxie this year. He was a member of the Society's Committee on Diseases of the Peony from 1907 for many years. In addition to Wild Bros., the name of Frank Wild appears on the list of members from 1913 to 1925.

The firm of Gilbert H. Wild and Son became members in 1946. Both of these firms have exhibited in a number of shows and all of us know the success of the show in Sarcoxie in 1950 was largely due to the large exhibits staged by these two firms.

If all goes as planned, there should be outstanding exhibits of tree peonies and herbaceous hybrids as several of those who grow these have indicated their intention of coming and making exhibits.

We hope the nearby peony enthusiasts of Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas will come forward with big exhibits of the later varieties. If so, we shall have a most representative show.

SARCOXIE: *"The Friendly City"*

Dr. Leroy Simmons

Sarcoxie can boast of being the first town to have been settled in Jasper County. The first permanent settler was Thackery Vivian, a Kentuckian, who built a log house by a spring just a few yards east of the present Public Square in 1831. A short distance away was the village of a tribe of Delaware Indians, whose chief bore the name "Sarcoxie." This tribe was so friendly to the white immigrants that they shared their lands with the farmers, until the influx of settlers became too great, when they migrated to the west still without the violence which marked so many other early settlements. Because of this friendship and tolerance the name "Sarcoxie" was given to the city.

A Post Office was established in the drug store of a pioneer, Doctor Wilson in 1833. The mail was hauled at more or less regular intervals from a settlement on the Gasconade River, a distance of 150 miles, and the arrival of mail had the same effect as mail call in the Armed Forces — everyone came, whether they expected any mail or not. The occasion gave an excuse to visit with your neighbors, near and far. Other "firsts" were saw mills, flour mills, brick plants and lime kilns.

Sarcoxie's Civil War history was similar to that of many other communities in the Ozarks. While the sentiment was predominantly with the South, and States' Rights, there were many who were loyal to the Northern cause. In fact many families had members in both armies. The "bushwhackers" and irregulars made life uncertain. Since Sarcoxie was situated on a network of roads, the city

changed hands many times as the tides of war ebbed and flowed. To be neutral was well nigh impossible, but enough buildings were left standing, in spite of the common practice of burning all homes of known partisans of either side, to keep the name in existence, and the first county court session after the war was held in a school house nearby.

In World War I Sarcoxie furnished a Machine Gun Company, and in World War II a Medical Detachment to the Southwest Missouri National Guard Regiment known as the "Houn' Dawg" Regiment, although the War Department had a more prosaic designation for it. Both units served with credit to the city.

Today Sarcoxie still serves a community which is predominantly Agricultural. The characteristics of the soil which makes the Ozark strawberry the best in the world made that industry important. The first co-operative for the benefit of the growers was formed in Sarcoxie. The Aroma strawberry was first propagated here, and the fine quality of flavor, look, and ability to withstand shipment of this strawberry has made it the standard of many growers in this and many other states. The strawberry of the Ozarks is unequalled anywhere, and Sarcoxie claims credit for that justly deserved fame.

While the strawberry appeals to the appetite, the aesthetic part of human nature must be provided for, and here, too, Sarcoxie was first to share the beauty of the Peony with the rest of the world, since from a few imported roots the growing of Peonies has grown to a dominant position

the field of flowers for the market. Today the name Sarcoxie brings to thousands of people the memory of the miles of rows of these beautiful flowers which are viewed annually by the visitors from all over the United States—their vivid coloring and shape make a picture of breath-taking, never-to-be-forgotten beauty.

A well-stocked nursery provides homemakers with all the essentials for beautification of their homes, not only the plants, but the technical knowledge as to their arrangement.

A shoe factory recently has been located in Sarcoxie as the result of efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, and the pay roll of approximately 200 workers is very much appreciated by all.

As modern transportation demands gasoline, and as the tractor has replaced to a great extent the faithful horse on the farm, so the use of fuel oil for heating saves many trees of our forest from destruction. Sarcoxie has three bulk stations for this purpose.

A large part of Sarcoxie's streets are paved, while many miles of all-weather roads radiate from the city making it possible for the farmer to bring his produce to market the year 'round. There are two numbered highways which touch the city—State 37 and U. S. 166, The Frisco furnishes railway transportation.

Religious needs are provided for all the principal Protestant sects, with ample sanctuaries for worship, while the Catholics worship in a rural church a few miles away.

The Masons and Odd Fellows with their feminine auxiliaries are active. The American Legion and its feminine counterpart, the Lions, the Chamber

of Commerce, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Hawthorne Club, the Progress Club, the PTA are all active, as is the Red Cross branch. For the Juniors, the Boy Scouts, Brownies, 4-H and other clubs fill the needs of the youth.

Sanitation is provided by an excellent municipally-owned water system, with two deep wells tapping what is known as the sea level sands, furnishing a never failing supply of potable water, free from contamination of any kind. A third deep well and tower, privately owned, can be attached to the municipal system should more water be needed. A sanitary sewer system provides the correlary to the water system by furnishing adequate sewage disposal. This was built with the idea of future growth in population, and has the full approval of the State Board of Health.

As protection against a fire a volunteer fire department has served Sarcoxie for many years. Two pumper trucks are housed in the City Hall. Recently the farmers of the community have purchased a truck with all the equipment for fighting rural fires, which is also housed in the City Hall, and manned by the same public-spirited men. Thus the problem which confronts every city, that of helping your neighbor in case of fire outside the city limits was resolved, and the question of legal responsibility found an answer. Needless to say the rural truck is available for the city in case of necessity.

The schools of Sarcoxie are a source of pride to all its citizens. They include an accredited High School with 240 pupils and 11 teachers, while the Grade School has 190 pupils and 7 teachers. Housed in modern buildings, they

serve a wide area, the six buses covering a mileage of 214 miles daily. A double-purpose assembly hall and basketball court provides for public meetings as well as a court on which the sub-regional basketball games have been played. A well-lighted kitchen and dining hall furnish the students with wholesome and nourishing lunches as well as a place for those clubs and other groups who desire food with their deliberations. The Home Economics class makes use of this building also. The Vocational Agriculture class has a separate shop, well-equipped for the usage intended, and housed in it's own building. A strong music course also has it's own housing, and the training is above the average.

To call the roll of the Alumni of the Sarcoxie school system would find answerers from many successful leaders in business, industry and the Arts from all parts of the Nation, including leaders in the church, the oil industry, advertising and the armed forces and in fact all worthwhile fields of endeavor and accomplishment. Incidentally, the present Mayor of Joplin, and present head of the Springfield Public School System claim Sarcoxie High as their school.

So this is Sarcoxie. The same spirit of friendliness and co-operation which made possible the founding of the city, in the fertile Center Creek valley, deep in the heart of the hostile Indian country has persisted to this day. The success of the larger cities in Jasper County is a source of pride to Sarcoxie, for most of them are stemmed from that city which was first established here. The 126th year of its existence as a city finds it prosperous, conservative, but also progressive; modern, but yet proud of its antiquity.

The phrase "A Friendly City" is one which most fittingly describes the Sarcoxie of Yesterday, and the Sarcoxie of Today. "Come and see us,"

INFORMATION

SHIPPING BLOOMS FOR DISPLAY. Prepay all charges. Ship by air mail or express to Kenneth Jackson,

%Gilbert H. Wild and Son
Sarcoxie, Missouri.

at any time before the show notifying him when shipped and how and whether you wish the blooms staged for you or whether you will be on hand to attend to that yourself.

ACCOMODATIONS

Mrs. Dale Wild, Sarcoxie, Missouri, has charge of reservations for visitors. Please make your arrangements through her.

There is no hotel in Sarcoxie, but excellent accomodations will be provided in private homes and motels in Sarcoxie or hotels in nearby Carthage and Joplin. Rates will be reasonable, probably from \$3 up single and \$4.00 up double. There are excellent restaurants in Sarcoxie.

COMMITTEES

GENERAL SHOW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rev. Wilbur Wood, Chairman

Dr. E. L. Oxeman

Jim Wild

Arthur Baker

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

Dale Wild, Chairman

Jim Wild

Mrs. Jack Gouverneur, Carthage

All addresses Sarcoxie, Missouri, except Mrs. Gouverneur.

Anyone who wishes to make a commercial exhibit should contact Mr. Dale Wild as soon as possible.

Mrs. James E. Bellah, Chairman of Committees.

The Fifty-Third Annual Exhibition

PROGRAM

Friday, May 17th

4:00 P.M. Show room open for exhibitors

Saturday, May 18th

8:30 A.M. Show room open for exhibitors. All exhibits must be placed by 11:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M. Judging begins

2:30 P.M. Show open to the public. Admission 30 cents

6:00 P.M. Banquet, Wildwood Cafeteria, adjoining the exhibition hall. Tickets \$2.00. Reservations should be made by May 8, if possible, through Mrs. Stanley Lewis, Sarcoxie, Missouri.

7:00 P.M. Auction of roots, if held.

7:30 P.M. Annual Meeting of the Society.

9:00 P.M. Show closes until Sunday, May 19.

Sunday, May 19th

9:00 A.M. Show opens. Admission 30c.

There will be morning worship in the churches of Sarcoxie at their regular hours. All visitors are cordially invited to attend.

9:00 P. M. Show Closes.

The Sarcoxie Lions Club will sponsor a Peony Queen Contest. Time of Coronation will be announced at the show.

SCHEDULE

General Rules and Awards

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

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

3. All blooms exhibited in com-

petitive classes must be correctly labelled.

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

5. All exhibits shall be in place by 11 A. M. of the opening day, May 18th.

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

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

8. If possible two entries will be permitted each exhibitor in all specimen classes and he may receive two awards. If more than one entry is made by any exhibitor, they must be of different varieties.

AWARDS

In all classes, except 401-402-403, there will be three awards:

1st Award—Blue ribbon

2nd Award—Red ribbon

3rd Award—White ribbon

Court of Honor—Purple ribbon

SPECIAL AWARDS

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

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

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

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

The Bertrand H. Farr Memorial Medal will be awarded to the best

double bloom of an albiflora variety in the show.

The American Peony Society Bronze Medal will be awarded to:

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

The best specimen single albiflora variety in the show.

The best specimen Japanese albiflora variety in the show.

The best specimen Hybrid in the show.

The American Home Achievement Medal will be awarded to the originator of the best new peony in Class 403.

SCHEDULE

Special Classes

Only albiflora (lactiflora) varieties are permitted in these classes except in Classes C, D and E. Each bloom must be in a separate container.

Class A. Gold Medal Class. Open to all. Collection of fifty different varieties, one bloom each. Not over 20 may be Japanese and/or single types. Hybrids are not permitted.

Class B. Silver Medal Class. Open to Advanced Amateurs and Novice Amateurs. Collection of twenty-five different varieties, one bloom each. Not over ten may be Japanese and/or single types. Hybrids not permitted.

Class C. Bronze Medal Class. Open only to Novice Amateurs. Collection of fifteen different varieties, one bloom each. Not over six may be Japanese and/or single type. Hybrids are permitted.

Class D. Hybrid Class. Open to all. Collection of ten different varieties, one bloom each. Only hybrids may be shown. All types permitted.

Class E. VISITOR'S CLASS. Open only to visitors from Missouri living over 100 miles from Sarcoxie, and to all other exhibitors

regardless of distance. Collection of five different varieties, one bloom each. All types permitted, also hybrids and tree peonies.

Class F. WM. F. CHRISTMAN MEMORIAL CLASS. Open to all. Collection of five different varieties, double, one bloom each. The winning collection in this class will be displayed in the Court of Honor, if deemed worthy by the judges. Cash awards: 1st. \$15.00; 2nd. \$10.00; 3rd. \$5.00. Donated by Dale Wild, Sarcoxie Nurseries, Wild Bros.

Class G. BYRON GIST MEMORIAL CLASS. Open to all. Collection of five different varieties, Japanese type, one bloom each, any color. Cash Awards: 1st. \$15.00; 2nd, \$10.00; 3rd, \$5.00.

COURT OF HONOR CLASSES

Open to all

No bloom from these classes will be placed in the Court of Honor or awarded a medal, if the judges deem it not worthy of the honor. Only albiflora (lactiflora) varieties permitted, except where otherwise specified.

The blooms winning first in the following Classes 101-105 will be placed in the Court of Honor. Hybrids not allowed except as specified.

101. One bloom, double, white.

102. One bloom, double, blush.

103. One bloom, double, light pink.

104. One bloom, double, dark pink.

105. One bloom, double, red.

The one bloom chosen as best from the winning blooms in the following three classes 106-108 will be placed in the Court of Honor.

106. One bloom, semi-double, white or blush.

107. One bloom, semi-double, pink.

108. One bloom, semi-double, red.

The one bloom chosen as best from the winning blooms in the following three classes, 109-111, will be placed in the Court of Honor, and will receive the Bronze Medal of the Society as the best Japanese type in the show.

109. One bloom, Japanese, white or blush.

110. One bloom, Japanese, pink.

111. One bloom, Japanese, red.

The one bloom chosen as best from the winning blooms in the following three classes, 112-114, will be placed in the Court of Honor and will receive the Bronze Medal of the Society as the best single type bloom in the show.

112. One bloom, single, white or blush.

113. One bloom, single, pink.

114. One bloom, single, red.

The one bloom chosen as best from the following six classes will be placed in the Court of Honor and receive the Society's Bronze Medal as the best hybrid in the show.

115. One bloom, double or semi-double, white or blush.

116. One bloom, double or semi-double, pink.

117. One bloom, double or semi-double, red.

118. One bloom, Japanese or single, white or blush.

119. One bloom, Japanese or single, pink.

120. One bloom, Japanese or single, red.

The winning bloom in each of the following classes will be placed in the Court of Honor.

Class 121. Decorative. One stem with not less than three open blooms, any type or color.

Class 122. TREE PEONY

CLASS. One bloom, any type or color.

Class 123. YELLOW. One bloom, any type or class, hybrids and tree peonies permitted. The guard petals must be distinctly yellow. Such varieties as Laura Dessert, J. C. Legg, Primevere, whose guard petals are not yellow and whose inner petals fade, will not be permitted.

OPEN CLASSES

Only albiflora (lactiflora) varieties permitted, except in classes 131 and 132.

Class 124. Collection of not over fifteen different varieties, Japanese, one bloom each.

Class 125. Collection of not over ten different varieties, single, one bloom each.

Class 126. Three blooms, one variety, double, white or blush.

Class 127. Three blooms, one variety, double, pink.

Class 128. Three blooms, one variety, double, red.

Class 129. Three blooms, one variety, any color, Japanese.

Class 130. Three blooms, one variety, any color, single.

Class 131. Three blooms, one variety, any color, hybrid.

Class 132. Three blooms, one variety, any color, tree peony.

ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES

Open only to those who grow over 50 varieties and do not sell roots or flowers as their main source of income.

As limitations of space prevent offering the usual full schedule in these classes, advanced amateurs are requested to enter the open classes as far as possible. Only albiflora (lactiflora) varieties permitted except as specified.

Class B. Silver Medal Class. See Special Classes.

Class 201. Collection of five dif-

ferent varieties, three blooms each. Hybrids allowed. Any type allowed.

Class 202. Collection of five different varieties, hybrids, any type. One bloom each.

Class 203. Collection of five different varieties, tree peonies, any type. One bloom each.

NOVICE AMATEUR CLASSES

Open only to those who do not grow over fifty varieties and who do not sell roots or flowers as an avocation.

Class C. Bronze Medal Class. See Special Classes.

Class 301. One bloom, double, white or blush.

Class 302. One bloom, double, pink.

Class 303. One bloom, double, red.

Class 304. One bloom, any color Japanese.

Class 305. One bloom, any color, single.

Class 306. One bloom, hybrid, any color or type.

Class 307. One bloom, tree peony, any color or type.

Class 308. Three blooms, one variety, any color or type.

Class 309. Collection of three different varieties, one bloom white or blush, one pink and one red. Any type.

Class 310. Collection of three different varieties, hybrids, any type or color. One bloom each.

Class 311. Collection of three different varieties, tree peonies, any type or color. One bloom each.

SEEDLINGS

Class 401

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

limited to ten (10) entries. All species are eligible.

NEW VARIETIES

Class 402

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

AWARDS

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

AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Class 403

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

1. Entry need not be shown by originator.

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

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

4. It cannot be awarded to an unnamed seedling; however, in the event of a successful competing entry being without a name at the time of judging — the award will not be confirmed until a name, satisfactory to and approved by the American Peony Society, has been given.

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

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

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

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

Classes 401, 402 and 403 will be judged by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society.

ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Open to all

SPECIAL RULES:

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

b. Other flowers and foliage permitted in all classes.

c. Flowers used need not be grown by exhibitor.

d. Accessories permitted in all classes.

e. Exhibits must remain on display until 8 P.M. Sunday, May 19.

Class 501. Dramatic arrangement for picture window.

Class 502. Mass arrangement for banquet table.

Class 503. Period arrangements.

Class 504. Appropriate for church.

Class 505. An arrangement using driftwood.

Class 506. Corsage, using parts of peony flowers.

Class 507. Suitable for hall table.

JUNIOR CLASS

Class 601. This class is open to young people, 18 years old and younger. The exhibitors do not have to grow the peonies themselves. Other flowers and foliage are permitted. The arrangements

are not limited to any certain classification as in the above classes (501-507). Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st. \$25.00; 2nd. \$15.00; 3rd. \$10.00. Donated by Allen G. Wild, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri.

THE COURT OF HONOR

This will consist of the blooms chosen from Classes 101 to 123 as specified in those classes. Also the GRAND CHAMPION OF THE SHOW. (Best bloom picked from all exhibits, requiring one bloom of a variety), the winner of the American Home Achievement Medal, the best arrangement in the show and any bloom winning a special honor or medal.

ZINNIA PLUCKED, PEONY PICKED AS STATE FLOWER

INDIANAPOLIS (UP) — Some time this summer the zinnia will be plucked from its place of honor as Indiana State Flower and the peony will take its place.

It won't be official until a bill signed Thursday by Governor Handley is acknowledged as received by the last of Indiana's 92 county clerks.

The bill by Sen. Paul Bitz (D-Evansville) was one of dozens passed by the General Assembly and signed into law Thursday by Handley. Included were the multi-million-dollar budget bills and a bill raising the gross income tax 50 per cent.

Bitz didn't want the peony at all. His bill called for changing the flower to the tulip tree blossom, on grounds that the zinnia is a native of Mexico.

But the House amended the bill to make it the peony. Rep. Laurence Baker (R-Kendallville) makes his living growing peonies commercially.

Peony Shows and Gardens

As we go to press, only a few dates for the regular shows have been received.

We presume that they will be held in the following cities about the times mentioned. Additional information may be obtained from the persons whose addresses are given in connection with each show.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—

Mrs. W. H. Allen, 809 S. W. 35th, Oklahoma City, 9, Oklahoma, advises that their annual show will be held either on the 4th and 5th of May or the 11th and 12th of May.

She says they are planning a nice show celebrating Oklahoma's Centennial Year.

Also she says that so far the season is wonderful. Her letter was dated February 19.

She hopes some of their members will be able to attend the National Show this year. She did not know then that it would be so close to them. We hope that a great many from Oklahoma will make the trip to Sarcoxie and also bring exhibits. Sarcoxie is about two hundred miles from Oklahoma City, which is an easy half-day drive on Route 66 changing to 166 in Joplin.

BOSTON. Possibly two, one about the tenth of June and the other about two weeks later. These will be combination shows in which peonies may be shown. Arno H. Nehrling, Executive Secretary, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, (Horticultural Hall), Boston 15, Massachusetts.

NEW YORK. The Horticultural Society of New York will probably hold the annual June Garden, Rose and Peony Show in the Es-

sex House. R. B. Farnham is Executive Secretary, 157 West Fifty-Eighth Street, New York 19, New York.

TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND.

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Peony Show of the Takoma Horticultural Society is due about May 25. Ask Mr. Leland H. Cole, 1512 Grace Church Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

Undoubtedly the Thirty-Eighth Annual Peony Show of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society will be held in the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis June 17-18. Mrs. R. J. Wysocky is Secretary, Route 1, Box 103-A, Mound, Minnesota.

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA. The Thirty-Fourth Annual Peony Show of the North Dakota Peony and Iris Society is due about June 25. Ask Hon. Harold Thomforde, Crookston, Minnesota.

DULUTH, MINNESOTA. The Thirty-Fourth Annual Show of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society will also most probably be held in early July. Mrs. J. F. Thompson, Secretary, 529 Woodland Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN. The Twelfth Annual Show of the Peony Garden Club usually follows or precedes the Duluth show by a day or two. Secretary: Mrs. Chas. W. Lund, 1731 East Eighth Street, Superior, Wisc.

ALBANY, OREGON. The Men's Garden Club of Albany generally have an annual peony show. Contact Mr. Harry Commons, Secretary, Route 3, Box 742, Albany, Oregon. The time should be in early June.

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY. So far, the Sussex County Peony Society has made no plans for a show this year.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will have no Peony Show this year.

GARDENS & ARBORETUMS

KINGWOOD CENTER, MANSFIELD, OHIO. The Society's planting is two years old for most of the plants and there should be some good blooms. The hybrids will begin about the end of May and the other herbaceous in June. The tree peonies are not old enough to bloom well yet, as none were planted until last fall.

WASHINGTON, D. C. While there is no peony planting yet in the National Arboretum, 1600 Bladensburg Road, N. E., there are beautiful displays of azaleas, rhododendrons, lilacs and many other flowering plants throughout the season and it will be well worthwhile to visit these gardens. Also a visit to the United States Department of Agriculture's plantings at BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND, and GLENDALE, MARYLAND, will be interesting and instructive. Many interesting experiments are being carried on at these plants. All three of these are within a few minutes driving time of each other.

SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA. Anyone who can should by all means, visit the displays of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Foundation, at Swarthmore College. They have about the most extensive planting of peonies of every kind to be found in this country. The hybrids and tree peonies are at their best about the last two weeks of May and the regular peonies follow them. Iris is plentiful a little earlier. Lilacs, azaleas

and almost every kind of flowering plant imaginable, may be found growing at their best in these plantings.

VIRGINIA GARDEN WEEK, April 20-27. During this week there will be open to the public, many of the most beautiful and historic homes and gardens in the State. For full information, write the Garden Club of Virginia, Jefferson Hotel, Richmond, Virginia.

VIRGINIA'S 350th BIRTHDAY Continuing on from April 1 to November 1, Virginia will celebrate her 350th birthday. While the events will center around James to wn, Williamsburg and Yorktown, all close together, many communities will also hold celebrations. Full information will be given by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development, Department No. 127, State Office Building, Richmond, Virginia.

While the millions of daffodils will be out of bloom by the time this reaches you, yet the magnificent display of dogwood and red bud will just be coming in, especially in the Shenandoah National Park and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. They will be followed by the rhododendrons, mountain laurel (kalmia) and other flowers throughout the summer. Virginia has some beautiful peony gardens especially in the Lynchburg and Roanoke neighborhoods. Tree peonies may be seen in the garden of Mrs. Carter Glass in Lynchburg and Mr. Henry Stoke in Roanoke. Mrs. William Goode Robinson of Lynchburg has a large collection of herbaceous peonies. The tree peonies will be in bloom about May 1-15 and the herbaceous from May 1 to June 1.

Besides the notable collection of tree peonies at Swarthmore, there are large collections of these in

Rochester, New York, Whitnall Park Gardens in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and around Great Neck New York. Atha Gardens of West Liberty, Ohio; Curtis Gardens, Cincinnati, Ohio; and the largest in the country—that of Harold E. Wolfe, Belleville, Illinois. In a year or two there will be many large plantings of them in nearly all states. Those on the Pacific Coast should not forget the large planting of Mr. Toichi Domoto, in Hayward, California. Nor should the grand displays of these in the Saunders Garden, Clinton, New York and the nearby garden of Mr. William Gratwick of Pavilion, New York be passed by. Mr. Elmer Claar of Northfield, Illinois, and Mr. Orville Fay of Northbrook, Illinois, have probably the best collections of tree peonies around Chicago. The Mission Gardens of Techny, also have a great many of them.

Herbaceous hybrids may be seen in large numbers in many gardens now, especially those of Mrs. Elizabeth Falk, Plainfield, Illinois, and Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York. Many growers now have large collections of them and the garden of Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Illinois, has herbaceous peonies of all sorts, especially the fine reds.

Cherry Hill Gardens of West Newbury, Massachusetts, have the most extensive peony gardens in New England.

In the Chicago area the large plantings of Mission Gardens, Techny, A. L. Murawska and Sons, River Grove, Charles Klehm and Son, Arlington Heights, and many with not so large, but with excellent quality plantings, are convenient to reach and worth seeing. There also many private gardens of outstanding excellence in

the area as well as around Rockford, Illinois.

Ohio has a number of excellent plantings, some of which are Wassenburg Gardens, Van Wert; Atha Gardens, West Liberty; Walter Mains, Belle Center; W. A. Alexander, Bowling Green and several near Cleveland. The planting of Mr. William Krekler will be one of the most extensive in the country when present plans are carried out. This is near Richmond, Indiana, and the address is Somerville, Ohio.

The L. D. Baker Peony Farm, Kendallville; Littleford Gardens at Vincennes; Tuckdawa Garden near Peru; Sundown Gardens outside Indianapolis and Floyd Bass near New Augusta are all excellent places to see good peonies in Indiana.

Inter-State Nurseries, Hamburg, Iowa, has a large peony planting. Also several nurseries near Shenandoah, Iowa, have good collections.

The Kansas people have many good ones, of which that of Myron D. Bigger and Mitchell Peony Garden in Topeka, Hill Iris and Peony Garden, La Fontaine, Arthur Poundstone and M. A. Hamel in Wichita and Frank E. Moots in Newton are excellent examples.

In Missouri, Mr. L. E. Nichols of Chillicothe is carrying on some interesting experiments in peony growing which all who can, should see. Of course all who can go will look forward to seeing the large plantings of Gilbert H. Wild and Son and Wild Bros. at Sarcoxie, where many other flowers besides peonies may be seen.

On the Pacific Coast there are many excellent plantings around Wenatchee, Washington; Salem, Oregon and the large one of Reno Rosefield outside of Portland at

Tigard. Near Haywood, California, are several and that of Mr. Raymond Zeismer near Julian, in Southern California, is probably the one furthest south we know of.

In Mississippi, Mr. Milton Rubel has a beautiful garden at Corinth, which also has large collections of *hemerocallis* and other flowers.

In South Carolina, Mr. W. B. Meacham grows peonies and camellias to perfection. He lives at Fort Mill.

In Delaware the beautiful show gardens at Longwood and Winterthur are known all over the world for their beauty.

Of course we all know Minnesota is Peony Paradise and with the Brand Peony Farm, Faribault, leading, there are many commercial and private plantings in every section of the state that will provide a person visiting peony gardens many days of pleasure and profit. The plantings of E. H. Lins of Cologne and Mrs. A. S. Gowen, Excelsior, should not be overlooked.

The above are but a fraction of the many fine gardens that may be visited by those seeking new thrills in peonies. We advise asking for more information from anyone interested in gardening in the community visited.

THIRTEENTH VAN WERT, O. PEONY FESTIVAL

The festival will be held again this year. The managers issue a memorial program each year with articles about Van Wert. This year the program will feature articles on the peony personalities who have made that city famous as a peony center. Those who may wish a copy of this program, which is sold to help finance the festival, should

be able to get one from the publicity committee. We do not know the price or the date of the festival this year, but we hope we can get this data in time to include in this Bulletin.

GARDEN TOURS

This office has received folders describing many. One, the Flower Festival Tour of Europe, leaves New York on April 24 and returns on June 18. This tour should especially interest peony growers, as peonies would probably be in bloom in Italy, Switzerland and France when the tour visits these countries in late May and early June. It is under the direction of Dr. Benjamin C. Blackburn, and reservations are obtained through Travel and Study, Inc., 681 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Another sponsored by five Horticultural Societies, and personally conducted by Mr. Paul F. Frese, so well known to all of us, leaves San Francisco May 2 on the S. S. Lurline for Hawaii, returning June 6. While there will hardly be any peonies seen on this one, yet it will certainly be of interest to our members who wish to do some travelling to that Land of Enchantment. The Jean Burke Travel Service, Inc., 516 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, New York has charge.

That organization also has several other tours, details of which may be obtained from them by the travel-minded.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

LETTIE. The introduction date of this variety was given as 1956 in Bulletin No. 143, December, 1956, should be 1957.

5828

FAY GARDENS

Northbrook, Ill., Jan. 5, 1957

Dear Mr. Peyton:

I am enclosing my check for the 1957 dues. Have enjoyed all of the Bulletins and am very much pleased with the Peony Society.

This year I bloomed my first, second generation herbaceous hybrid. It produced four cup shaped flowers with three or four rows of petals, in a very nice shade of light yellow. It bloomed in its fourth year from germination, and the 5th year from pollination. I also harvested and planted two large, fat hybrid tree peony seeds; one from "Black Pirate" and the other from "Roman Gold." Now that I have found two lutea hybrids which show some signs of fertility I will really bear down with the pollen next Spring.

I now grow about 50 tree peonies equally divided between moutans and Dr. Saunders hybrids. Grown on the open prairie, with no winter protection, twenty-five miles northwest of Chicago. I find them most satisfactory, and I have had no losses over a period of five years. If the rabbits do bite the stems off at ground level, or if the storms should freeze back, new shoots will be up in the spring and they will bloom almost as well as though they had not been cut back. If those who would like to grow tree peonies would only read and follow the directions, as laid down by Dr. John C. Wister and Mr. Harold E. Wolfe in Horticultural Magazine for January 1955, it is my belief that Tree Peonies could be grown almost any place in the United States, from St. Louis north to the Canadian border, and some of the lutea hybrids should do well far south of St. Louis.

Orville Fay.

DEATH TO NEMATODES

A letter from Mr. A. C. Bothner-By of Alamogordo, New Mexico, which is way down South near the Mexican border and El Paso, Texas, tells us: "The winter disappeared around January 10. My first tree peony is showing color today (March 13) and fruit trees, lilacs, etc., are in full bloom—one month too early.

In the last issue (Bulletin) I read with sympathy, various expressions concerning efforts in clearing up nematodes. Perhaps the following may be of interest. Some time ago I received one infected root. I tried hot water treatment and cutting out infected areas without success. Infection had spread to another plant and I bethought myself of using some nemacide I had on hand for use with mums, namely sodium selenate. The leaves of the plant turned straight white and withered. So I put the plant (which I had growing in a 5 gallon can), over at the fence to dispose of in due time. The treatment took place in July. In November I took the plant in its container over to the incinerator, but on shaking the plant out, I discovered the root knots had completely disappeared from the roots and that there were shoots ready for next year.

It is now out, showing perfectly good green foliage and with good growth too. Our alkaline soil (Ph. 8.0) probably accounts for the violent reaction to treatment."

So here we have another product that further trial may prove efficient in killing the worms and not killing the plant.

Possibly there is not as much danger of poisoning with this as there may be with use of VC-13.

If anyone tries these or any other remedy for this pest, please let us know what happens.

5382

PENNSYLVANIA NOTES

Franklin, Pa.
Feb. 11, 1957

Dear George:

I have been laid up for the past four months and only lately able to use my right hand to do a little writing. I had a stroke the latter part of September and was in bed for over a month, unable to move my right arm and leg but now I am making a slow recovery. As you know I had a coronary thrombosis about six years ago and that was the end of my work with the peony gardens.

I had over ten thousand plants in at least five hundred of the best varieties and several hundred unnamed seedlings from many hybridizers. I got the first of the Sass seedlings, both peonies and iris many years before they were named, also Myron Bigger sent me many seedlings under number. Many came from Mr. Shaylor and many from Thurlows. I got all the Brand new ones—also Franklins. Prof. Saunders sent me his new ones, including his hybrids. Also I received all the Dr. Neeley and Judge Snook seedlings.

You will no doubt remember the Edwin C. Shaw gardens at Akron, Ohio, he was a friend and I got many from his gardens, also many others.

I believe in those days I had the finest collection of peonies in the country, worth thousands of dollars and while I had many inquiries, I would not sell stock, but operated the garden for the pleasure of many hundreds of visitors who came to the gardens yearly. I believe I was the only past officer of the Society who was an amateur and did not sell peony roots or blooms.

I did give away many roots to

my friends and in return they sent me new ones for my garden. As you know I am a Civil Engineer and worked at the business over fifty years retiring from the Pennsylvania Department of Highways the end of 1955.

I was in California last winter and expected to be in Florida this winter but this stroke changed our plans, and I also decided to sell the place at Sugar Creek to my friend Harry Read. It is four miles from our home in Franklin and I never go out there. I owned it thirty years.

Yes, I have surely enjoyed the many years of my peony friends and the shows and meetings. I surely do enjoy your bulletins and am enclosing 1957 dues.

All good wishes to you,
Sincerely,

Harry W. Claybaugh

KEAGEY ORIGINATIONS

In our list of the originations of the late James W. Keagey in the December Bulletin, we mentioned the fact that he had reserved the name "Falaise" but did not know whether he had ever used it. Dr. R. H. Knowles, Associate Professor of Horticulture, in the University of Alberta, tells us that he did name a variety Falaise which is described by Mr. Keagey as "double white, large, fragrant, late midseason."

Dr. Knowles also tells us that Mr. Keagey named three others, Margaret Logie, Nosegay and Premier Yoshida. We have no descriptions of these. All are in the planting at Edmonton, of the University of Alberta. Mr. Smirnow also called our attention to the fact that Mr. Keagey had named a variety "Falaise", but he did not have the description.

5342

OBITUARIES

Gus J. Boehland



Mr. Gus Boehland of Rockford, Illinois.

Mr. Boehland, 84, died in Rockford, Nov. 19, 1956, after a four months illness. He was born in Freeport, Illinois, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Boehland. He moved to Rockford when he was 22 years of age and established the E and W Clothing Store in Rockford in 1895, operating it until his death. He married Rosalind Remington, Feb. 6, 1899.

He was an active gardener and was interested in encouraging children to enjoy nature. On Arbor Day 1914, he gave 14,000 Elm trees to Rockford school children. He continued the custom of giving away trees and by 1939 had given away 181,000 trees.

He had a 20-acre garden of his own and experimented in the raising of peonies and iris.

He was active in civic affairs in Rockford and served on the city's earliest planning commission, was a trustee of Rockford College and the first president of the Rockford sanitary district.

Mr. Boehland joined the American Peony Society in 1921. Since then he has attended many of the annual meetings and is well known to many of our members, who will remember him as a man we were all delighted to know. His last show was that at Dixon last June.

Mr. Roy Gayle has sent us a

5352

copy of the May, 1954, issue of the Compost Heap, the Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Rockford. This issue was a tribute to Mr. Boehland for the work he had done for the benefit of that city. We wish we could publish it in its entirety, for it so adequately depicts what one man, with a purpose, can accomplish by his untiring efforts. He worked mainly through the young boys and girls to whom he gave yearly, many thousands of tree seedlings, for them to plant, his aim being to make Rockford a city of trees. Due to these efforts, Rockford has long been known as the Forest City.

In late years, many of these trees have been destroyed to make way for so-called "progress." Determined efforts seem now to be underway to stop this destruction or limit it as far as may be possible.

Those of us who have been privileged to visit the home of Mr. Boehland on the high bluffs overlooking the Rock River near the city, will remember its great natural beauty and also the outstanding planting of peonies and other flowers, especially the pink lily of the valley of which he was quite proud.

His wife a most charming hostess, died several years ago. He had quite a number of his own seedlings in his planting. So far as we know, he named only one, Nina Boehland, a double white with pink and yellow tints. This one has been seen in several of our national shows. His No. 69-S won a certificate of Honorable Mention at the National Show in Rockford in 1946. It is a rose pink Jap. His No. 59-S is an outstanding dark pink single.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to his family, the City of

Rockford and his many friends in their great loss.

GUS BOEHLAND, THE MAN by Roy Gayle

Four score years ago, when General Grant of Galena was president of these United States, there was born in Stephenson County, a lad destined to exert a marked influence in the development of Rockford.

The vicissitudes of his early farm life formed in this youth a rugged constitution and an equally rugged determination to combat all obstacles that interfered with the making of his life a successful adventure.

And so it was that Mr. Gus J. Boehland trekked from his native heath and established himself in business in our gawky young city. It required brazen courage to invade, unknown, a city with many firmly established competitive stores but with confidence and an unalterable faith he refuted the predictions that his adventure would have a brief career. His faith was based on the creed that success depended on the elements of integrity, honesty, determination, energy, diligence, service, and self sacrifice. He ultimately became the guiding factor of six outstanding stores throughout Iowa and Illinois.

His keen interest in the advancement of the welfare of this community, its people, his family and home, horticulture, blooded-poultry and livestock, flowers, birds, hunting, fishing, books, civic and social clubs, athletic events and modern progress in communication and transportation, has enabled him to gain the rewards of an eventful, constructive, and wholesome life.

To quietly cruise through the serene acres that comprise his

home-estate, and to meander through his numerous gardens is sufficient evidence of our Creator. This area of beauty reveals an atmosphere of unselfishness, for thousands of visitors have been privileged to enjoy the beautiful landscape and gardens through which he has so graciously conducted them. He seems to never tire nor expend his exhaustless supply of interest, and hospitality. In the midst of these surroundings is seen the reflection of the innermost soul of the man who has toiled to develop that charming environment. The whispering winds and delicate scent of flowers seem to say: "To know him—gaze about you."

His amazing physical vitality and mental alertness causes one to suspicion that some where, concealed in the fern covered cliffs or embedded in the blanket of blue bells on the river side of his estate, is secreted a Fountain of Perpetual Youth from which he drinks deeply of its crystal waters. His unobtrusive manner and modesty, and general simplicity are qualities so naturally a part of him that he is unaware of these priceless virtues.

And so it is that the people of Rockford in general, and the Men's Garden Club in particular, have a deep affection for the man whose qualities have endeared him to us over the span of many years. In his busy career he found time to assist in the formation of this club and it is a rare occasion that he misses a meeting. He has encouraged its advancement since its inception and is a common-sense counselor in the fundamentals of horticulture. His hybridizations of Iris and Peonies have produced some meritorious results.

Therefore. Mr. G. J. Boehland,

we affectionately salute you and selfishly hope that for many years to come we will be privileged to enjoy your association. You, sir, are an inspiring personage.

LIVING FLOWER MEMORIAL TO HONOR G. J. BOEHLAND

The Rockford Morning Star
Jan. 13, 1957

Creation of a living memorial to honor G. J. (Gus) Boehland, nationally known horticulturist who died here last Nov. 19, will be sponsored by the Men's Garden Club of Rockford of which Mr. Boehland was a charter member.

The memorial will be created immediately to the north of the present Sinnissippi park sunken gardens through co-operation of the Rockford park board, it was announced by Lee Fetzer, chairman of the club's memorial committee.

Committee members, which also include Dr. Howard Maloney, Tauge Lindquist and Cecil Waldsmith, conferred with park district officials, who approved a plan to get the project started this spring.

Present plans call for the memorial garden to be about an acre in size. It will be expanded as additional funds become available.

The club at its last meeting voted to allocate \$100 to start a fund to finance the memorial. Fetzer said that a number of contributions from Rockford residents also have been received by the club. A. W. Ullrich, Harrison Rd., club treasurer, was authorized to receive contributions from citizens desiring to help finance the project.

Roy Gayle has been assigned to draw up the ground plan for the memorial garden.

Tentative plans call for the inclusion of a wide variety of flow-

ering shrubs and trees as well as evergreens.

Boehland's son, Robert R. Boehland, also has pledged his co-operation and preliminary plans call for the inclusion in the garden of some of the tree peonies which Boehland raised on a 20-acre tract at his home at 2910 S. Main rd.

Fetzer said that all 15 named varieties of flowering crabs will be included in the garden. An effort will be made to include as many varieties of flowering shrubs and trees as will fit into the garden plan.

Garden club members will work closely with park district employees in planting the garden.

Once the garden plan is developed, contributions of needed shrubs and trees as well as cash donations will be accepted, Fetzer said.

During his lifetime, Mr. Boehland probably contributed more than any other Rockford resident toward making Rockford a city of trees and flowers. He distributed a total of 181,000 trees to school children. His flower gardens on S. Main rd., were nationally famous. He specialized in raising choice iris, peonies, and pink lilies of the valley.

Mr. Boehland was 84 years of age at the time of his death and had lived in Rockford for 62 years.

FRED E. GUSTIN

The following letter from Mrs. Fred E. Gustin, tells us of the untimely passing last December, of Mr. Gustin.

Mr. Gustin has been a member of this Society for many years. I do not think a great many of us ever met him personally, it is a matter of great regret that we did not have that pleasure.

We welcome Mrs. Gustin as a new member and appreciate her continuing interest in the Society and also her gifts of membership to two libraries in which Mr. Gustin was known and honored.

We wish to extend to her the Society's sympathy in her bereavement.

Stevens Point, Wisc.
218 S. Ill. Ave.
March 11, 1957

Mr. Geo. W. Peyton
Rapidan, Va.
Dear Mr. Peyton,

My husband, who passed away last December, had been a member of the American Peony Soci-

ety for many years. He was a teacher for more than thirty years and his favorite hobby was gardening. He enjoyed everything that grew but his favorite flower was the peony. He aimed at horticultural perfection and we refrigerated the buds so we could enjoy the blooms a couple months or longer.

He encouraged an interest in conservation of natural resources, tree planting and gardening and was active in establishing a school forest in one of the schools he served as Superintendent. He was sixty five years old and died suddenly of a coronary heart attack.

I am enclosing a check and will you please enroll me as a member for this year? Also in his memory I wish to present memberships to the public libraries in two communities where he taught for ten years. We have many garden friends in each place and I'm sure they'll enjoy the peony bulletins.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Fred E. Gustin

5382

ABRAHAM NEWHOUSE (NIEUWENHUYZEN)

On February 5th, 1957, Abraham Newhouse passed away at the age of 80 years. Mr. Newhouse was born at Boskoop in the Netherlands and at the age of eleven helped his widowed mother work the small nursery his father owned. He later became intensely interested in the culture of peonies and became one of Holland's foremost peony growers. In 1921 he decided to move to the U.S.A. with his wife and seven children. He joined the American Rose and Plant Co. of Springfield, Ohio.

In 1928, Mr. N. I. W. Kriek engaged Mr. Newhouse as propagator for The Cottage Gardens, where he remained.

Mr. Newhouse was one of those rare, ardent plantmen. He was not only a great peony enthusiast but well posted in ornamentals in general. Even though the last few years he was not able to go through the Cottage Gardens peony fields on foot, he insisted that a seat be fixed on a cub tractor so he could go from row to row and check and admire the peonies he loved so well.

Mr. Newhouse was a plantsman in the full sense of the word. He was a fine artisan and had the admiration for beauty of an artist.

—H. Hicks

In addition to the sketch given above we learn from his biographical sketch in the Manual that Mr. Newhouse learned the nursery trade under Jac Akerboom and that he imported from America a hundred varieties. Also his origination Dr. H. van der Tak (1916) a red double, was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Holland Bulb Society in 1919 and in 1920 a sil-

ver cup at the International Flower Show at Antwerp.

In America his introduction, Mr. L. van Leeuwen (1912) a large red semi-double and his best peony variety, was judged the finest crimson at the National Show in 1923. This variety had already received several certificates of merit in Holland.

From a clipping from the Florists Review, sent us by Mr. Myron D. Bigger we find that he is survived by his wife, Aleida, five sons, three daughters and 39 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Also four of his sons are connected with the nursery business: William, with Jackson and Perkins, of Indiana, Incorporated, Richmond, Indiana; John, of Bagatelle Nursery, Huntington, Long Island, New York; Henry, a cemetery superintendent, Lansing, Michigan; and Louis, of the Lansing park department.

While living in his native land, Holland, Mr. Newhouse originated several peonies which we find in the lists of varieties in the manual as follows:

Dr. H. van der Tek (1916). Double red.

La Hollande (1918). Deep blush pink double.

Mr. L. van Leeuwen, (1912). Semi-double, red.

Mrs. Henry Kalle (1918). Double, pink.

Petite Louise (1918). Single, red.

Of these only Mr. L. van Leeuwen seems to be generally known now. Its color is a light red, often disputed as to color, some saying it is pink which it may be according to an artist as it has some white mixed with the red, but its general effect is red. It is a strong up-

right plant, not tall, and has rather large flowers.

Since his connection with the Cottage Gardens there has been registered in his name six as follows.

Bella Donna (1935). Double, light pink.

Countess Maritza (1935). Double, blush.

Rio Grande (1935). Double, red.

Smiles (1935). Double, light pink.

Ecstasy (1935). Japanese, medium pink.

Virginia Dare (1939). Single, white.

Rio Grande is certainly a fine flower and should be better known than it is. Virginia Dare is one of the most charming of all peonies. It is a medium sized white single that has great distinction. It has never been sold generally. We hope it will be made available to the public some time soon, as it well merits a place in every good collection. It was awarded a First Class Certificate at the Cleveland Show in 1951.

Honorable Mention has been awarded the following seedlings which were exhibited by the Cottage Gardens and which undoubtedly were originated by Mr. Newhouse. At Lansing in 1938: Nos. 32, 40, 106, 107—all red doubles and No. 24, a red Jap.

At Milwaukee, 1949: No. 6, red double; Nos. 49 and 114, rose pink doubles and No. 400 red double.

No. 6 is now Felix Supreme.

Some of these are fine flowers and they will probably be named and placed in commerce, if they still prove worthy.

We extend the sympathy of the Society to the family and friends of Mr. Newhouse in their bereavement.

Mrs. Robert W. Jones.

Mrs. Irene Fay Jones, widow of the late Robert W. Jones, died suddenly on Thursday afternoon, December 20, 1956, at her home, 731 Delaware Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

For many years Mrs. Jones was a familiar figure at the annual shows of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society in Minneapolis. Mr. Jones was always an exhibitor in these shows and Mrs. Jones contributed her share in the many fine arrangements she entered over the years.

Many of our members will remember with pleasure, their visits to their beautiful garden on the Jefferson Highway in West St. Paul, and the cordial hospitality with which they were always received.

It has been the writer's privilege to spend many happy hours as a guest in their beautiful cottage during peony season.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we chronicle her passing. Her many friends will remember her as a loving wife, a devoted mother and a devout churchwoman.

Since her husband's death in January, 1954, her eldest daughter, Margaret (Mrs. Patrick Mather of St. Paul) and her husband have made their home with Mrs. Jones. She is also survived by a son, Robert W. Jones of North St. Paul; two daughters, Mrs. Robert Webb (Shirley) of Hamburg, Arkansas, and Mrs. Neill Gebhart (Gwen), of Riverton, Wyoming; 13 grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

Both personally and in the name of the Society, we extend them our sincerest sympathy in their great loss.

PEONY SUGGESTIONS

I believe average quality peonies are very worthy of a place in the average inexpensive garden, though they may not be the near-perfect ones we prefer cutting for indoors. Overconscientious breeders destroy a great many good average seedlings in the illusion that they are benefiting posterity—what a pity! It surely follows that any peony worth a place in our gardens is worthy of a name. We peony breeders should have a standard policy—"If it's average quality keep it, and name it." Of course average peonies should be described as only "average" stock when registered and sold. In time, as better varieties are bred, these once-average varieties become below-average, and then should be sold in low cost, nameless mixtures, for massing long broad borders and in thick hedges, where only color effects (from at least a little distance) are desired.

I further believe there are a very great many below-average seedlings that are far too good to be destroyed, and when carefully selected are plenty fit to be used for big low-cost mass plantings. Obviously these are not worthy of being named, though they are quite usable for massing for broad distant color effects. The farther away a flower is to be viewed the less perfect and expensive it need be.

I believe all A.P.S. members should get on the ball and help stress the modern use of peonies for their color massing—in catalogs, magazines, handbooks, bulletins, and in samples planted in their own yards, school grounds, roadsides, and parks. Grandma placed one white, one pink, and perhaps two red "pinies" along the fence, and for many illinformed

folks that's still sufficient. Why are people content with cheap inferior bushes (barberries, the low spireas, snowberries, privets, etc.) when far lovelier effects can be obtained from our satisfactory massing-grade of peonies, and for much less money? WHY—it's obviously because we members don't educate them, and their landscape men, (or even bother to plant examples). Try the following along your lengthy drive or property line—in the borders rear use hemlocks, clumps of canoe birch, and many dogwoods, next underplant (seven feet apart) with such medium growers as hybrid rhododendrons, mollis azaleas, ilex verticillata (female), persian lilacs, clethra al., etc., and then to complete the picture plant broad, irregular beds in (or near) the forepart of this border next to the lawn, to hundreds of massed peonies (spaced four feet apart). Temporarily in the open spaces, intersperse all of the border with daffodils and tulips for earlier effects, and phlox, zinnias, and mums for later. Color-massing peonies should never be priced singly, but only in lots of 10, 25, 100, and 1000 unnamed mixtures (always with landscaping suggestions).

Lastly, I believe (and Mr. Peyton agrees) that every named peony should be given a permanent identifying number, for convenience. Thus Festiva Maxima should also be known (especially by larger growers) as F1, and if Felix Crousse is thought to be the next oldest, of the varieties starting with an F, it should officially become F2. By using a peony's first letter, in these permanent numbers, they can be kept shorter, located quicker, and easily distin-

guished from any breeder's temporary seedling plot numbers. These permanent numbers should be made from the Society's file list at Kingwood Center, and then after approval (or corrected) by our A.P.S. directors, they should be printed for sale. Thereafter, new varieties would automatically get the next number, when registered in our Bulletins.

Those dozens of us who have a great many varieties know that peony names are too long, are impractical and expensive to use, in staking, for our private records, and for wholesale price lists, as well as a confusing nuisance for customers who wander through our plots. In staking we could use white painted, two inch broad stakes, only about three inches above the ground, with the varieties permanent number stamped into an aluminum band, and tacked over its top, thus our cultivators, mowers, etc. could pass harmlessly above.

What say you?

William Krekler
Somerville, Ohio

PEONIES IN UTAH

Dear Mr. Peyton:

The bulletin has been valuable to me in learning more about the various varieties, their care, storage, etc.

This area abounds with several Iris hybridizers of note, and in their gardens I can see the latest introductions and seedlings before they are introduced, as well as 'guests' from other hybridizers; but with the Peony it is different. I know of no hybridizers in the area, and there are just a few gardeners who have 20 to 30 varieties. So with about 1500 plants representing about 150 peony varieties I have a great number of visitors each year to see my collection. I

have to depend quite heavily upon correspondence with the large growers in the Mid-West and Eastern areas, and on their catalogs and on the Society Bulletin for information about my favorite flower.

Also bitter experience has taught me that some nurseries are not careful enough with their labels; and so I have come to know the growers one can rely on. With the exception of about 10 varieties, all my stock was bought from outside Utah, as there are no large growers here (and perhaps little demand).

You invited me to write an article for the Bulletin some time ago, but I felt my experience with them was too inadequate — however, I'll write said article one of these days.

With best wishes to you and APS
Warren C. Kirk.

Pleasant Grove, Utah.

NEWS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. W. B. Meacham of Fort Mill, South Carolina, writes that he is afraid he will have a miserable year for peonies as he has never known April to come in during the last two weeks of January and the first two weeks of February. He says his peonies are up two inches and that his camellias are beautiful. The temperature had not been within ten degrees of ice for over a month. His letter was dated Feb. 9.

May we hope that his peonies will fool him and give him good flowers. By this time they should be well along towards blooming, and, if I may judge by our weather, he has had no serious trouble with freezing since then. Let us hope he will have none now, though that is far from impossible.

5428

PEONIES — COLORS AND NORWAY

Feb. 18, 1957

Dear Mr. Peyton,

You have been extremely kind to send me a couple of packages with ten copies of the December 1956 Bulletin No. 143 of the "American Peony Society" in which you were good enough to publish a previous letter to you. I shall forward some to prominent friends in Norway, as they will be interested to know about my suggested interchange of flowers or rather of plants, starting by Peonies possibly.

Here follows something which could be entitled as above.

I've placed an order, asking Vander Vis & Co., in Boskoop, Holland, to please send some of their choicest Peony plants this Spring, to several Public Gardens and institutions in Norway, but in some cases grouping them by colours.

For Roald Amundsen, the great Norwegian explorer who discovered the South Pole, a hero of snow, ice and intrepidity, who has a statue in Tromsø (almost 70 deg. Latitude North) he deserves to have the purest White, all White Peonies and roses . . .

There in Tromsø I visited the Observatory for Northern Lights, the marvel of Autumn, Winter and Spring nights in northern Norway—which I admired—and ask for their gardens, Peonies in "Blush" tints, like the delicate tints of *Aurora Borealis*.

Further South (around 63 deg. N.) is a charming city whose houses are all painted in different colours each, producing the impression of a fruit salad (or one of those flower colour combinations which were served at the 11th Annual American Horticultural Congress in 1956), a town which I therefore "christened" with the

name of "Polychromatic City", and a name which has remained for purposes of publicity in Norway.. So that vivid, strong shades should have the Peonies sent to Kristiansund N.

Pastel shades—some "old rose" and "orchid"—should grow at the foot of the bronze statue of Camilla Collet, a figure highly representative of Norwegian women, which can be admired in the public gardens of the Royal Palace in Oslo.

Also another masterpiece of the Norwegian sculptor Gustav Vigeland, is the statue of her brother, genial Henrik Wergeland adorning a Park in Kristiansand (58 deg. N) representing the extraordinary Poet reciting as if one could hear from his lips a most famous verse dedicated to a bouquet of flowers painted by a colossal Deutch painter, Jan van Huysum (1682-1749) the original of which is now at the Statens Museum for Kunst, in Copenhagen, and a fine copy existing at the University of Oslo.

Wergeland's dying Poem was to a rose, by the way. Perhaps it was a Peony . . . At any rate, on account of his "Jan van Huysums Blomsterstykke" I request the nursery in Holland to please send all the plants which appear in the painting "Blomster i Vase" for that Park in Kristiansand S.

For the Vigeland Museum, in Oslo, right across the famous and hugh Frogner Park which has a display of many other sculptoric work by Vigeland (among them the fantastic "Monolith" in granite), more Peonies will attract visitors to his Museum.

For the garden of the house where Henrik Ibsen worked in southern Norway (Grimstad, if my memory is not weak), Peonies to greet its visitors.

Up North, in Trondheim, Vikings

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built a colossal Cathedral which is an archeologic kaleidoscope, inasmuch as it contains the various arches and styles of architecture which they saw in their extraordinary excursions around the Mediterranean. Peonies should enhance the beauty of this medieval jewel in stone.

Peonies also for the City of Roses, which is the meaning of Molde, where I once played the piano to entertain the patients of its Hospital.

Music and nature lovers touring in Bergen, certainly would love to see blooming Peonies in a square near the market place, as they attend the yearly International Music Festivals.

A collection of Peonies for the

Botanical Gardens of the Oslo University, the beautiful capital of Norway.

Perhaps some growing Peonies in the United States and in Canada, would like to join in this floral invasion of Norway, to add a touch of more colour to its Summer, reflecting the magnificent skies presenting its unique show of Northern Lights, eloquently speaking in the language of flowers of all our deep admiration to that great country and to its citizens.

We shall see if Peonies can grow in some sections of Venezuela.

With best wishes, I remain, cordially yours,

Dr. Armando Menci'a
Caracas, Venezuela

NOTE FROM WYOMING

Greybull, Wyoming
January 8, 1957

Dear Peony Friend:

Enclosed please find check for \$5.00 for my dues for 1957. 1956 was a very good peony year here, especially for the officinalis and lactiflora hybrids. I had one single almost the same color as Golden Glow, also had two plants of the tenuifolia x Mlokosewitschi to bloom. They were a medium dark pink. I sent one of them to our new President, Harold E. Wolfe. We have been exchanging plants for several years. He is very generous with plants and any information he can give me. He must be a very busy man to accomplish all the work he does. I hope to meet him some day.

I have several Delavayi x mountain plants. One might bloom this year. Most of my hybrids are in the seedling stage, not old enough to bloom. 1956 was a very good year for hybridizing. I got seed

from the following crosses: (officinalis x lactiflora x macrophylla), (tenuifolia x Mlokosewitschi), (lactiflora x lobata), (lactiflora x macrophylla x corallina), (lactiflora x macrophylla x lobata), (lactiflora x macrophylla x laciniata), (lactiflora x macrophylla x rubra anemone officinalis), (lactiflora x rubra anemone officinalis), (corallina x Mlokosewitschi). I have had two plants from the (lactiflora x Mlokosewitschi) cross. They died the first year, not strong enough to make it, but I will keep trying and may succeed some day.

We are having a very mild winter here, no snow for the last month, had one cold spell —20 degrees for a few days.

Hope this will find you and your family all well, as it leaves us at present.

Your Peony Friend,
Nelson H. James
225 4th Ave N.
Greybull, Wyo.

5443

NEWS NOTES

The March issue of *Popular Gardening* has an interesting article entitled "Peonies for Easy Upkeep" by Rev. Neal R. van Loon.

In it he names the following as ten almost perfect peonies: *Alesia*, *Le Cygne*, *Moonstone*, *Nancy Nicholls*, *Florence Nicholls*, *Dorothy J.*, *Elsa Sass*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Isani Gidui*, *Vanity*.

We note that eight of them are doubles and two Japs, all either white, or light pink or blush.

All except two appear in the list of THE ONE BEST PEONY in the Society's Most Popular Peonies - 1956 lists. Two also are not in the Favorite Peony list. Only one did not get into the 118 Most Popular list and all are in the lists by color.

The article is well illustrated, though there were several statements in the titling of the pictures that are not in accord with the records of the Society.

The picture of a Japanese tree peony states that these Japanese tree peonies prolong the peony season into July. This was news to us. The only tree peony we know that occasionally may bloom after the herbaceous is *lutea*. *Flamingo* is said to be a double. According to our records and personal observation it is a semi-double that is many times almost if not quite a single. The illustration of it in a former bulletin looks like a single. Also there is a picture of a peony clump which is labelled *Suki Iguchi*. This variety is not among the lists of the Society, though that does not mean it does not exist. It is little known at any rate. Also it is said to be a single which it cannot be if it is a Jap. Also it is said to be an *anemone* type, which also it cannot be if it is a Jap.

Mr. van Loon writes us that he had nothing to do with the boners in the article.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Caroline M. Bach, 2433 N. E. Clackamas St., Portland 12, Maine.

Bangor Public Library, Mrs. Amanda Holmlund, Librarian, Bangor, Wisconsin.

Dessert Public Library, Mrs. Lanta Landfried, Librarian, Moline, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Jane C. Gustin, 218 South Illinois Avenue, Stephen's Point, Wisconsin.

John E. Hansen, Route 11, Box 497, Olympia, Washington.

Arthur J. Hines, 31 First Street, Pequannock, New Jersey.

R. O. Illyes, M. D., 1309 Lexington Avenue, Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Mrs. M. Krusick, 16579-T. C. H., Route 4, Cloverdale, British Columbia, Canada.

Lindstahls Lilla Boklada, Subscr No. 17, Birger Jarlsgatan 102, Stockholm, Sweden.

Earl Rawson, Box 324, Yerington, Nevada.

C. Hugh Rigg, 1712 Olive Street, Higginsville, Missouri.

Carl A. Sievert, 765 Limekiln Pike, Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Kazutaka Tamura, K. Tamura & Co., 1741 Twelfth Avenue, South, Seattle 44, Washington.

FORCING PEONIES

Mr. Bockstoe tells us that he has had fair success in forcing albiflora varieties for pollen to use on earlier flowering plants in a cold frame.

Note the exhibit of forced tree peonies made by Marinus Vander Pol at the Spring Flower Show in Boston, page 14.

PEONIES

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

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

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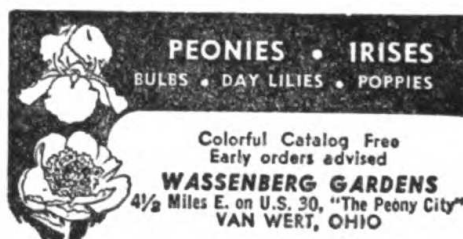
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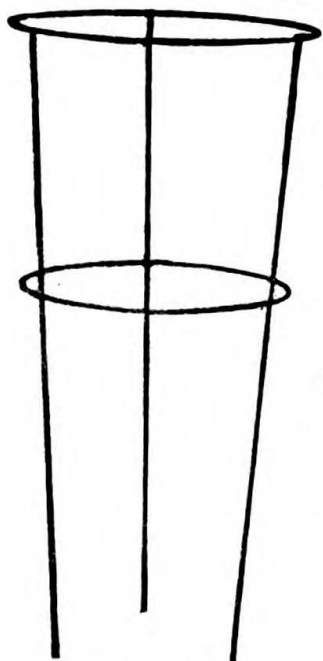
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are offering their usual assortment of first class
PEONIES, IRIS, FRENCH LILACS on their own roots,
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log is now available. Send for your copy, price 25c which
is remitted on first order.

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Faribault, Minnesota

RIVER DRIVE PEONY GARDEN

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