



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

JUNE - SEPTEMBER — NO. 173 - 174

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OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (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 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 C. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



JUNE - SEPTEMBER, 1964 — NO. 173 - 174

President's Message

For some time there has been a general feeling that the American Peony Society needed to grow and procure more members who would have a real interest in furthering its growth. This could be done if every member would bear his or her share of the burden and not leaving it to one man namely the secretary as has been done in the past. The "society" has been very fortunate indeed in having such capable men as secretaries, and again blessed by having so apt a person as C. Dan Pennell to take over the duties of George W. Peyton who has served the American Peony Society so faithfully for so long a time. Although this may seem to be an ideal condition allowing one man to do the work that should be done by the membership it is far from satisfactory as the secretary could never reach the number that we as individuals can. The officers or directors of the society have expressed themselves as being in favor of trying to expand the membership so let's see what can be done about it. If every member would obtain but one new member our society would double its membership. We need to cultivate a generous amount of enthusiasm as well as interest for our society throughout the year and not

"hot" or enthusiastic at show time and just luke warm or a "cold potato" for the rest of the year which reminds me of a statement made by one of our big league baseball managers when being complimented on winning the pennant. "I did not do it alone, had to have the rest of the team behind me." So it is with the American Peony Society, it needs every member behind it. I am sure if every member would do some little thing for the "society" we would move forward and make 1964-65 a successful year.

FRANK L. HOWELL,
President
American Peony Society

—o—

ADVANTAGE OF BELONGING

Mrs. A. H. Anderson, 901 Ferris Avenue, Waxahachie, Texas, is interested in growing some good Show specimens. She writes — "Will you please give me the names of a few outstanding ones for our area?"

We hope our members will write Mrs. Anderson in answer to her question. That's one of the wonderful advantages of being a member — exchanging ideas — questioning and answering!

Our Hats Are Off To You...

George W. Peyton

Yes indeed, not only our hats off to you George, but our everlasting appreciation for all you have contributed to the American Peony Society as an organization and the members individually, for your encouragement and advice in peony culture.

Mrs. Pennell and I visited with Mr. Peyton in April, at the time of his confinement in the hospital in Culpepper, Virginia. We had expected to see him in his home, Windy

of more than 100,000 miles he said he had come into contact with so many different people from all over the world, exchanging ideas, all of which he shared through the columns of the Bulletin.

Mr. Peyton will be 90 years young November 16, 1964, and since his birthday falls in the interim between the September and December editions of the Bulletin, we and all in the American Peony Society membership family will say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** now and again on that date. We all indeed salute you!

— The Editor



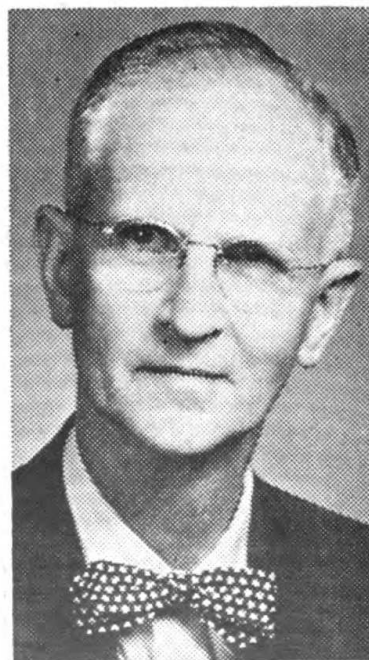
George W. Peyton

Hill, and were indeed surprised to learn of his illness. His ever ready smile and good humor encouraged us to know that he would be able to return to his home. This was true.

Mr. Peyton is now receiving good care under the direction of Mrs. Arlene H. Reisinder at her Rest Home on Route 2, Gordonsville, Virginia, who told us (when we called on him in July) that he was responding very well and his appetite was excellent! During our visit with him at this time Mr. Peyton told us he first became interested in peonies in 1917 and has grown close to 3,000 varieties. Of his seedlings Mr. Peyton considers Duhlora, Peyton's white single, one of the best of the many he has introduced.

He first became Editor of the Bulletin in 1951 with the publishing of Bulletin No. 122. In his traveling

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW EDITOR...



C. Dan Pennell

Your Editor began working with peonies in 1924 in the employ of

Lee R. Bonnewitz. My experience as Field Superintendent over the following five years included supervising nine men in planting and packing as well as assisting Lee Shimer in the office with catalogue and mailings.

It was my feeling that Mr. Bonnewitz must have placed great confidence in me because of his delegating the responsibility of handling the display work for the 1924 Show in Des Moines, Iowa, and the 1926 Show held in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Having worked with peonies, iris and oriental poppies, it was only natural for me to continue this as a hobby after Bonnewitz's business was sold and I became employed in the Home office of a large Insurance Company.

During my years with the Bonnewitz Nursery I attended Massachusetts Agriculture College (now Massachusetts University in Amherst) in 1928, taking a short course in Floriculture.

Gardening and farming have always been dear to my heart and I feel that row cultivation and nursery work is not only a great vocation but an excellent avocation, especially for one in Insurance and Real Estate as I now am.

Van Wert has long been associated with the history of the American Peony Society having had two presidents, each of whom served as Directors, as well as one in the office of Treasurer. Executive history of the Society will now include the fourth office as Secretary. In that capacity as well as Editor, I will approach the responsibility with humility and the knowledge that to follow A. H. Fewkes, A. P. Saunders, W. F. Christman and George M. Peyton is no small job!

Your Editor needs the help of every member. It will be a challenge and I will do my best to issue Bulletins of interest to all

members, growers, amateurs alike, to make the American Peony Society the great Society it has always been.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the American Peony Society Board of Directors was held June 26th, 1964 at the Westwood Ho Motel, Grand Forks, North Dakota, with L. Smirnow, President; Frank L. Howell, Vice President; Walter A. Alexander, Treasurer; and the following Directors present: Myron D. Bigger, Frant E. Moots, William H. Krekler, Clarence R. O. Lineau and Myles A. Neilson.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Officers elected were Frank L. Howell, President; Pharon B. Denlinger, Vice President; C. Dan Pennell, Secretary; and Walter A. Alexander, Treasurer. Messrs. Moots, George W. Peyton, Tinnappel and Wolfe were re-elected Directors as their terms expired with this annual meeting. Mr. Lloyd C. Thompson and Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton were elected Directors for a period of three years. Mr. Pennell automatically becomes a member of the Board of Directors.

Gold Medal Certificates are to be awarded the following upon vote of the Board of Directors; George Peyton for long term of service to the Society; Walter Mains for hybridizing; and Robert Auten, Jr. for many fine introductions over the years. Further details regarding the awards will be given in the December Bulletin.

Mrs. Opal M. Hamilton was appointed chairman of the Membership Committee, a new committee formed in the interest of promoting the Society's growth.

The Board of Directors expressed the wishes of the entire member-

ship in extending condolences to Mrs. Hyde on the passing of her husband, Dr. D. S. Hyde.

A vote of thanks was given to the North Dakota Peony Society for the fine manner in which the 59th American Peony Society Show was managed by them and for the extremely courteous treatment accorded all visitors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Louis Smirnow
Acting Secretary

—o—

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PLANT PEONIES THIS FALL!!!

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The American Horticultural Magazine for July has reached our desk. This is the official publication of the American Horticultural Society of which we as a Society are a member. We learned about a book — "Pictorial Plant Guide for Mild Region Landscaping" by Paul J. Pearl, Montvala Publishing Co., Monterey, California. (\$19.75) This book is suggested as a good one for Libraries. Two Hundred page indexed hardback volume of superb black and white photographs with practically no text; the pictures tell the story. They show clearly the characteristics of the selected material and how it may be used in a sub-tropical climate.



We are indebted to Mr. Myron D. Bigger for the above picture taken at the National Show of the Society in June. The men from left to right are: Mr. Louis Smirnow, Brookville, Long Island, New York; Mr. Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas; Mr. William H. Krekler, Sommerville, Ohio; Mr. Frank Howell, Newton, New Jersey; (our new president) Mr. Walter Seidenkranz, Moorhead, Minnesota; Mr. W. A. Alexander, Bowling Green, Ohio (Treasurer); Mr. Frank Moots, Newton, Kansas; Mr. Arthur Muraw-ska, River Grove, Illinois; Mr. Clarence Lineau, Detroit, Michigan.

For benefit of new members may we say that Mr. Smirnow is the immediate past president and was preceded by Mr. Clarence Lineau as president.

59th Annual American Peony Society Show

JUNE 25 - 26, 1964

This 59th Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society was held Thursday, June 25th and Friday, June 26th in the Grand Forks Armory Auditorium, Grand Forks, North Dakota. The Show was sponsored by the North Dakota Peony Society.

The schedule together with names of winners follows:

COURT OF HONOR: Frank L. Howell, White, (Alesia); Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota, Myron D. Bigger Plaque (Variety No. 93); Geo. Tollefson, Best Blush, (Mattie LaFuge); W. G. Sindt, Pink, (Hansina Brand); Walter Seidenkranz, Dark Pink, (Ensign Maria-rity); W.G. Sindt, Dark Red, (Bonanza); Loyde C. Thompson, Hybrid, (Carina); Geo. Tollefson, Japanese, (Le Charm); W. G. Sindt, Best Single, (Kindred White).

GRAND CHAMPION: W. G. Sindt, (Hansina Brand).

**NOVICE GROUP, MRS. KAN-
NOWSKI AWARD:** Mrs. Louis Ugl-
land, (Mrs. J. V. Edlund).

**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
BRONZE MEDAL:** Best Single, W.
G. Sindt, (Hansina Brand); Best
Japanese, Geo. Tollefson, (Le
Charm); Best Hybrid, Loyde C.
Thompson, (Carina).

**JAMES BOYD MEMORIAL
MEDAL:** W. G. Sindt.

**B. H. FARR MEMORIAL
MEDAL:** W. G. Sindt.

One bloom each of five varieties:
1st, Frank Howell, (Kathryn-Gur-
ran); 2nd, Loyde C. Thompson; 3rd,
Walter Seidenkranz.

Collection of 25 varieties, one
bloom each: 1st, W. G. Sindt; 2nd,
Frank Howell; 3rd, Geo. Tollefson.

Five blooms, one variety, double
white or flesh: 1st, Christian Olson,
(Amalia Olson); 2nd, Ralph Rohde,
(LaLorraine); 3rd, Loyde C.
Thompson, (Frances Willard).

Five blooms, one variety, double
light pink: 1st, Geo. Tollefson,

(Myrtle Gentry).

Five blooms, one variety, double
dark pink: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Fran-
cilia).

Five blooms, one variety, double
red: 1st, Christian Olson, (Kansas).

One bloom, double white: 1st,
Geo. Tollefson, (Mother's Choice);
2nd, Martin Lystad, (Yuken).

One bloom, double flesh: 1st, Mar-
tin Lystad, (Nancy Nichols); 2nd,
Geo. Tollefson, (Alma Hanson).

One bloom, double light pink: 1st,
Geo. Tollefson, (Lovely Louise).

One bloom, double, dark pink:
1st, Geo. Tollefson, (Martha Bul-
loch).

One bloom, double red: 1st, Ida
Lein, (Kansas); 2nd, Martin Lystad,
(Kansas); 3rd, Geo. Tollefson, (Fe-
lix Supreme).

One bloom, single, any type: 1st,
Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Encilante);
2nd, Frank Howell, (Jassette).

One bloom, Japanese: 1st, Loyde
C. Thompson, (Plainsman); 2nd,
Harold Thomforde, (Charm); 3rd,
Martin Lystad, (Plainsman).

One bloom, hybrid: 1st, Loyde C.
Thompson, (Red Charm); 2nd,
Frank Howell, (Red Charm); 3rd,
Mrs. Loyde C. Thompson, (Clare
de Lune).

Three blooms, Japanese, one var-
iety, white or flesh: 1st, Geo. Tollef-
son, (Plainsman); 2nd, W. G. Sindt,
(Fujui Mine).

Three blooms, Japanese, one var-
iety, pink: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Gay
Paree).

Three blooms, Japanese, one var-
iety, red: 1st, Geo. Tollefson, (Nin-

pon Beauty); 2nd, Geo. Tollefson, (Nippon Beauty).

Three blooms, single, one variety, white or flesh: 1st, Ralph Rohde, (Krinkled White).

Three blooms, single, one variety, pink: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Seashell).

Three blooms, hybrid, one variety, red: 1st, Frank Howell, (Red Charm).

Collection of three varieties, hybrids, one bloom each: 1st, Frank Howell, (Alesia); 2nd, W. G. Sindt, (Coralie).

AMATEUR CLASSES

Silver Medal Class—15 different varieties, one bloom each: 1st, Walter Seidenkranz; 2nd, W. G. Sindt; 3rd, Christian Olson.

Collection of 7 named varieties, three blooms each: 1st, W. Seidenkranz; 2nd, Ralph Rohde; 3rd, Franklin Page.

One bloom, double, white: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Elsa Sass); 2nd, Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Mrs. Frank Beach); 3rd, Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Mrs. J. V. Edlund).

One bloom, double, flesh: 1st, W. Seidenkranz, (Hans P. Sass); 2nd, Francis Kanno, (Dorothy J.); 3rd, W. G. Sindt, (Dorothy J.).

One bloom, double, light pink: 1st, Martin Lystad, (Hansina Brand); 2nd, W. G. Sindt, (Hansina Brand); 3rd, Ralph Rohde, (Mary Eddy Jones).

One bloom, double, dark pink: 1st, R. J. Darling, (Martha Bullock); 2nd, Mrs. Ed Olson, (Sarah Bernhardt); 3rd, W. Seidenkranz, (Blanche King).

One bloom, double, red: 1st, Christian Olson, (Felix Supreme); 2nd, Ben Gilbertson, (Kansas); 3rd, Ida Lien, (Kansas).

One bloom, single, any type or color: 1st, Frances Kanno, (Moonglow); 2nd, W. G. Sindt, (Krinkled White); 3rd, Franklin Page, (L'Ectencelant).

One bloom, Japanese, any type or

color: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Vaniety); 2nd, Harold Thomforde, (Mrs. Welder Bancroft); 3rd, Franklin Page, (Carolina Moon).

One bloom, hybrid, any type or color: 1st, Harold Thomforde, (Smoky Joe); 2nd, W. G. Sindt, (Red Charm); 3rd, Ben Gilbertson, (Red Charm).

Three blooms, double, one or more varieties, flesh: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Dorothy J.); 2nd, W. Seidenkranz, (Florence Ellis); 3rd, Ralph Rohde, (Nancy Nichols).

Three blooms, double, one or more varieties, light pink: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Hansina Brand); 2nd, Christian Olson, (Dolorodell); 3rd, Carrie Houge, (Minuet).

Three blooms, double, one or more varieties, dark pink: 1st, Ralph Rohde, (Howard Wegell); 2nd, W. G. Sindt, (Lady Kate); 3rd, W. Seidenkranz, (Mrs. Livingston Farland).

Three blooms, double, one or more varieties, red: 1st, Ralph Rohde, (Kansas); 2nd, W. G. Sindt, (Bonanza); 3rd, Martin Lystad, (Kansas).

Three blooms, single, one or more varieties, any color: 1st, Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Krinkled White); 2nd, Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Helen); 3rd, W. G. Sindt, (Seashell).

Three blooms, Japanese, one or more varieties, any color: 1st, Ralph Rohde, (Fugui); 2nd, Carrie Houge, (Japanese Plainsmen); 3rd, Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Nippon).

Three blooms, hybrids, one or more varieties, any color: 1st, W. G. Sindt, (Gay Cavalier, Ludoviea, Mahagony); 2nd, Loyde C. Thompson, (Claire de Lune, Red Charm, Carinia); 3rd, Franklin Page, (Red Charm).

Basket, main feature peonies: 1st, Geo. Tollefson.

Small vase of peonies: 1st, none; 2nd, Geo. Tollefson.

Large vase of peonies: 1st, none; 2nd, none; 3rd, Geo. Tollefson.

NOVICE CLASSES

Bronze Medal Class—10 different varieties, one bloom each: 1st, Floyd L. Castle.

One bloom, double, white or flesh: 1st, Mrs. Louis Ugland, (Mrs. J. V. Edland); 2nd, Mr. J. Lloyd Stone, (Festiva Maxima); 3rd, Mrs. H. F. McBride, (Avalanche).

One bloom, double, light pink: 1st, Floyd L. Castle, (Hansina Brand); 2nd, Ida H. Lein, (Reine Hortense); 3rd, Mrs. R. W. Hill, (Pres. Wilson).

One bloom, double, dark pink: 1st, Mrs. Earl Kushner, (Sarah Bernhardt); 2nd, Larry Bue, (Sarah Bernhardt); 3rd, Mrs. H. F. McBride, (Sarah Bernhardt).

One bloom, double, red: 1st, Mrs. Edgar Massee, (Edward Flynn); 2nd, Carrie Houge, (Phillipe Revoir); 3rd, Ida H. Lein, (Kansas).

One bloom, single, any color: 1st, Mrs. Clarence G. Olson, (Krinkled White); 2nd, Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr.

One bloom, Japanese, any color: 1st, Martin Lystad, (Plainsman); 2nd, Mrs. Earl Kushner; 3rd, Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr., (Nippon Brilliant).

Three blooms, one or more varieties: 1st, Mrs. A. E. Pagliarini, (Festiva Maxima); 2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde, (Ruth Elizabeth, Howard Wigell, Nancy Nicholls); 3rd, Mrs. Pearl Bohnen, (Sarah Bernhardt).

Collection of three varieties, one bloom each: 1st, Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr.

Basket, main feature peonies: 1st, Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr.

SEEDLINGS & NEW VARIETIES

Seedlings—three blooms of one variety: Honorable Mention, Brand Peony Farms.

Myron D. Bigger Plaque, Originator of best and most distinctive new peony: 1st, Brand Peony Farms; Honorable Mention, Harold Thomforde.

GARDEN FLOWERS AND ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

Hugh Roberson Silver Plate: Mrs. Armin Rohde.

Best collection of roses: 1st, Mrs. Armin Rohde; 2nd, Mrs. Winston Register; 3rd, Edna Thomson.

Best collection of Pansies: 1st, Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr.; 2nd, Mrs. Lewis Ugland.

Best mixed bouquet of garden flowers in a vase or bowl: 1st, Edna Thomson; 2nd, Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr.; 3rd, Mrs. Anna Tronson.

Best collection of Iris: 1st, Mrs. Ralph Rohde.

Best artistic arrangement of peonies without other flowers: 1st, Mrs. John D. Wood; 2nd, Mrs. Armin Rohde; 3rd, Edna Thomson.

Best artistic arrangement of peonies with other flowers: 1st, Ethel Matthews.

Best artistic arrangement of garden flowers, ornaments may be used: 1st, Ethel Matthews; 2nd, Mrs. John D. Wood; 3rd, Edna Thomson.

Best Shadow Box arrangement: 1st, none; 2nd, Edna Thomson.

Arrangement of fruits and flowers: 1st, Ethel Matthews; 2nd, Mrs. John D. Wood.

Best arrangement in odd or unusual container: 1st, Edna Thomson; 2nd, Mrs. Ralph Rohde; 3rd, Mrs. Winston Register.

Doris Lee Smith Award—Children 14 and under: 1st, Amy and Laurie Benson; 2nd, Rusty Asleson; 3rd, Nancy Cunningham.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyde C. Thompson Garden Flower Sweepstakes Cup—Mrs. Robert Howard, Sr.

—o—

Our advertisers are sending in their new catalogues and price lists. We do hope you will put your own name on their mailing lists so that you will not miss out on purchasing for planting this fall. Check the ads!

NOTES ON THE SHOW

It is doubtful whether any national peony show or, for that matter, any other national flower show, was ever held under greater difficulties. First was the lack of publicity. The Bulletin which should have been in the hands of members in April, certainly no later than the middle of May, was delayed due to the untimely illness of the secretary until only a few days before the show. Only the officers and directors of the Society and those they were able to contact, knew anything about it in time to make their plans. Second was the weather which made the bloom so early in southern Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio — probably all over the country except for the northern areas — that it could not be held for the show. Heavy storms and too much rain in North Dakota made it difficult for the local people.

However, the North Dakota Society must have done a good job of publicizing it and their members rallied to give it excellent support. They attended in goodly numbers and brought their flowers. The result was a good show. There was competition in most classes. While the quality in general was perhaps a bit below our usual standards, there were many specimens that would win anywhere. And the staging was most attractive. The arrangement classes were outstanding, much above average, in my opinion. They attracted a lot of attention — helped make the show.

* * * *

Our president, Frank Howell of Newton, New Jersey, was no doubt the exhibitor from farthest away. He came with a nice lot of flowers of fine quality and got them there in good condition. Mr. Sindt of Minneapolis (or is it St. Paul?) took a car load and won sweepstakes for

his trouble. Director Miles Neilson, who had no cold storage available to hold his own flowers, assisted Mr. Sindt.

* * * *

I got to see a variety which I had despaired of ever seeing and which I feared had been lost with the untimely death of its originator, M. A. Eliason of Minnesota. He wrote me about it a year or so before his death. It's a lovely medium pink Japanese of great size but charming refinement. It made the court of honor. Mr. Eliason had named it "Le Charm." It's a flower with a future.

* * * *

Not many hybrids were shown and few of good quality. They seem to be a little tender for those northern areas and require heavy mulching. The bloom was too early farther south and could not be held. However, they can be raised in the area of Grand Forks as was proved by the fine display Walter Seidenkranz had at the Minneapolis show a few years ago where he won best in the show with the lobata hybrid LOVELY ROSE.

* * * *

Although the weather was hot and the show room was not air-conditioned, the flowers held up remarkably well. The appearance the second day was about as attractive as when the show opened. There was plenty of work room at the back of the armory. Exhibitors could spread out as much as they wanted without stumbling over each other.

The banquet was a delightful affair and well attended. The cocktail hour provided an opportunity for the out-of-towners to meet the local people. The room and surroundings were most attractive, the food was excellent and the service good. The president of the North Dakota

Society, Mr. Ralph Rhode, called on Mr. Loyde C. Thompson to make the introductions. This he did by naming everyone around the tables without reference to notes and never once fumbling for names — a feat few people could duplicate. His introductions were spiced with humor and some pertinent facts.

* * * *

A root auction was held following the banquet and a very brief business meeting. This was a spur of the moment undertaking, the directors having decided on it just that afternoon after hearing the treasurer's report and learning of the extra expense that would be incurred in moving the secretary's office from Rapidan, Virginia, to Van Wert, Ohio. People were hurriedly solicited for root donations and word was spread that there would be an auction. As usual people were very liberal in making donations. Clarence Lienau was the auctioneer. People got right into the spirit of the thing and there was some spirited bidding. Director Myron Bigger and his wife acted as clerks and volunteered to send names and addresses of the buyers to the various donors. Proceeds of the auction totaled \$304; the treasurer sleeps better nights as a result.

* * * *

It is always a pleasure to make new peony friends, and the shows provide the opportunity to do so. I always look forward to seeing old friends with whom I have been associated in affairs of the Society over the years. Directors Myron Bigger, Frank Moots and Louis Smirnow were accompanied by their wives. Frank Howell, our new president, Bill Krekler, Clarence Lienau and Myles Neilson were all on hand as usual. Several who are usually to be counted on were unable to attend. Marvin Karrels, Pharon Denlinger and Harold Wolfe were unable to leave their busi-

nesses, and Harold Tinnappel was tied up with summer school. Miss Silvia Suanders, who doesn't miss many meetings, could not make it. Although he was not there to do any electioneering, Denlinger was elected vice-president. After a years absence, it was a pleasure to see Art Murawska again and to hear how he is enjoying his retirement. He says he loves it. Roy Gayle hasn't attended since his wife died more than two years ago. We understand he has remarried and now lives in California.

* * * *

I had not heard until I arrived at the show of the death recently of Dr. D. Stanford Hyde of River Forest, Illinois. Dr. Hyde had a tremendous enthusiasm for peonies, was a great showman and a loyal member of the Society. He was a man of very positive character and personality who was bound to leave his impression in whatever activity he engaged. Last year Mrs. Hyde took a nice lot of flowers to the show and did very well. We hope she will carry on and that we will be seeing her at subsequent shows.

* * * *

Despite the festival and holiday atmosphere that always prevails at our shows, there was an undercurrent of sadness this time. George Peyton, Mr. Peony himself, was not there; and the word was that he was so grievously ill that in all probability he would never again be able to take part in any of the Society's activities. It is too much to hope that a man of 89 would make any substantial recovery from a major stroke. We can only thank God we have had him so many years as a wise counselor and tireless laborer for the Society, and pray that his last days can be spent in relative comfort and freedom from pain.

W. A. Alexander

NOMENCLATURE

An Important Function Of The Society

This Committee — the Nomenclature Committee — is one of the most important committees in the American Peony Society, for this is the committee that passes on the registrations.

The present committee is composed of C. Dan Pennell, Chairman, Myron D. Bigger, Frank Moots and Louis Smirnow.

We would like to present the following information regarding this fine contribution to those in membership, not only because this is the 60th anniversary year of the committee's contribution in the history, but because there may be many new members not aware of this phase of the work.

According to the minutes of the Preliminary meeting of the organization, it was stated that co-operation was needed "due to the unsatisfactory condition of the nomenclature of the peony . . ." The first report made at the 1904 annual meeting provides us some interesting facts, namely (1) the noted French peony enthusiast, A. Desert, was induced to compile a list of the French and Belgian introductions with original descriptions taken from the catalogues of Guerin, Verdier, Mechin, Calot, Crousse, Lemoine and Dessert, covering the years from 1824 to 1902, comprising 549 varieties of the Sinensis section.

The Committee compiled a list of the English origin from the catalogues of Kelway & Sons, covering their introductions from the year 1884 to 1904 and included 294 double varieties of the Sinensis section. Mr. F. A. Blake furnished a list of Japanese varieties with correct translations obtained through a Japanese friend.

Lists from all the American raisers of seedlings known to the

committee were obtained and these included Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas, George Hollis, H. A. Terry, Ellwanger and Berry and John Richardson.

"The entire collection was named by Professor Jackson without knowledge of eight other names which had previously been given by the late John C. Hovey who was the original disseminator of such of the varieties as have been sent out." — copied from the original report. They had original descriptions of over 1,100 varieties of herbaceous peonies, mostly double and beside the original descriptions, the official list of names and descriptions published by the Holland Associations of Florists, including 244 double varieties and 13 single of the Sinensis section; 12 varieties of the Officinalis section and 33 of the Moutan section.

The question of trial grounds was taken up at that time and through the efforts of the president, Mr. Ward, a proposition made by Cornell University was to receive careful consideration.

An extensive test plot at Cornell University was planted with upwards of a thousand varieties of peonies, all of which were contributed by members of the committee without one cent of expense to the Society.

It was a foregone conclusion that this attempt to straighten out the peony nomenclature, undertaken under the auspices of Prof. John Craig of Cornell University would be productive.

We have written to Cornell University regarding the work over this period of nearly 60 years and hope to have an interesting follow-up in the next Bulletin.

The present committee is in receipt of the following introductions

from Mr. S. W. Wissing.

Let us all take particular interest in this all important phase of the American Peony Society membership advantages. Won't you?

NEW REGISTRATIONS

CORAL CHARM: F2 (formerly seedling 640) inbred *Officinalis Otto Froebel* (tetraploid). A huge bowl shaped flower with a brilliant penetrating coral color, which has a mild agreeable sheen. The color lightens to a pale cream as the golden center of stamen's is approached. It is semi-double. The guards and second row of petals are large and have no undesirable petal notches. The petals become narrower and become gradually erect toward the center of the flower. The flower has unusual substance and is a free bloomer. Borne on 36 in. rigid stems, with good foliage. It is late "June 1st here" for a hybrid, and has real vigor. It had three blooms the first time it bloomed in 1962, seven blooms the second year in 1963, and ten blooms in 1964. It has the stamina to stay in refrigeration for ten days at least and still do well.

Samuel E. Wissing

* * *

CORAL SUPREME: Formerly seedling No. 689. This beautiful color break is the result of inbreeding *Lactiflora Minnie Shaylor*. 1964 was the first time it bloomed, although the seed germinated in 1957. Four seeds were planted, two of which germinated. One is 30 in. in height and the sister seedling 689A is a dwarf. Not more than 10 in. in height, this may bloom next year. My inbreeding experiments are the result of the suggestions given on page 191 by Dr. Saunders in the American Peony Society Manual.

Samuel E. Wissing

DEBONAIRE PINK: Formerly seedling No. 636. "*Lactiflora Minnie Shaylor X Officinalis Otto Froebel*." A really debonaire pink. Single, on very strong stems 40 in. in height. First bloom in 1963 had strong laterals. Second bloom in 1964, two blooms on which one stem had laterals. This is my 25th anniversary breeding Herbaceous Peonies, and it is the first time I have ever seen laterals on what should be a triploid. I have another plant also a triploid which also has laterals. Let me explain that these seeds were soaked for one hour in a 2% Colchicine Solution, which may have something to do with it.

Samuel E. Wissing

* * *

SATAN: (Formerly seedling No. 635). "*Lactiflora Minnie Shaylor X Officinalis Otto Froebel*, Triploid." A brilliant vermilion red, semi-double, on the strongest stems in the field. Height 36 in. Flower large 6½ to 7 in. across. The foliage is the best ever seen, a beautiful dark blue-green that keeps well late in the season. A slow increaser. First bloom 1963, one flower only. Second bloom 1964, it had two blooms.

Samuel E. Wissing

We are in receipt of the July issue of the News-Mag. employee publication of Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, Port Hope, Ontario, in which is noted the report of the untimely death of Harry H. Haydon, MBE, FCIS, former Company Treasurer, occurring May 31 in his 75th year.

The December Bulletin is already in the making. We will share extracts from the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society July, 1964, bulletin, as well as from the Proceedings of the Society and Wisely Trial Reports, 1964, Part One.

Sixtieth Anniversary

Saluting the 60th anniversary of the **formal organization and incorporation** of the American Peony Society is indeed an honor for the new Editor and Associate Editor. This Society is one in the floriculture field having one of the most enviable records, as it was one of the first on record!

Charter members will tell you that the preliminary meeting was held in Brooklyn, New York, February 18, 1903, for the purpose of completing the temporary organization. The first annual meeting was fixed to be held during the session of the American Association of Nurserymen, which was to be held in Detroit in June, 1903.

"Previous to this preliminary meeting a circular signed by Mr. C. W. Ward (later elected president) dated June 26, 1902, was sent out to the peony growers in the country, referring to the unsatisfactory condition of the nomenclature of the peony and other matters in connection therewith; asking for cooperation in the formation of an association for the purpose of advancing the public interest in the peony and especially in straightening out its nomenclature.

In response to this request 24 interested persons and firms signified their willingness to cooperate, and a call was issued for a meeting to be held as above." — Taken from the proceedings published in 1909 of the Society for the years, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

The first annual meeting was held at the Hotel Cadillac, Detroit, Michigan, June 11, 12, 1903, at which time the Society was formally organized. The most important question first proposed was whether or not to incorporate or not. After reading a "communication from Mr. Frank B. Lown, of

Poughkeepsie, New York, offering his services as attorney, free of cost, it was voted on motion of Mr. Reeves that the Society be incorporated under the laws of the State of New York." Mr. Lown's offer was accepted.

A draft of the proposed constitution and by-laws was presented. (The Secretary has this original draft.) The Constitution as adopted is printed in the Proceedings mentioned above.

The matter of incorporation was brought up at the second annual meeting held at the Museum Building, Bronx Park, New York, in conjunction with the New York Horticultural Society, June 8, 9, 1904. Owing to a defect in the articles of incorporation no action could be taken further than to name a home county for the Society, and on motion of Mr. Rolker (who represented August Rolker & Sons, New York, New York) it was voted that New York County be made the legal home. It is therefore interesting to note that the certificate of incorporation was filed in Albany, New York, July 2, 1904, and a certified copy of the same was deposited at the New York County Clerk's office on July 11th, thereby completing the legal incorporation of the Society.

SENSE OF HUMUS

"Garden Open Today" by Beverly Nichols is a collection of droll stories and opinions together with a good deal of practical information. The scope runs from planning a garden to making cut flowers last; but Mr. Nichols sense of humor and humus is always present, so we are told. We haven't read this, but it has been recommended but with the warning that this is not a typical how-to book and should be read primarily for enjoyment.

DID YOU KNOW?

On August 1st, 1904, a cooperative study of the Peony by the Horticultural Department of Cornell University and the American Peony Society was printed?

The study was to extend over a period of years to enable the investigators to cover the following objects:

PURPOSES OF THE TESTS

(1) **NOMENCLATURE:** To bring order out of confusion which now exists in the naming of varieties. This part of the study aims to establish correct names by applying rules of nomenclature, and will furnish growers with accurate descriptions of all authentic variety.

(2) **BOTANY:** To obtain the botanical status of each variety. In other words, to refer it to the species from which it appears to have been derived.

(3) **CULTURAL:** Careful studies of varieties shall be made in order to determine the commercial values of the different kinds. Such points as vigor, health, floriferous qualities and colors shall be noted. It is also expected that fertilizer experiments designed to influence the size and shipping quality of the flowers shall be included.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE TESTS

(1) The land, the labor of planting and all subsequent care are provided by the experiment station. All notes are taken by the Station according to a scheme arranged and cooperated in by the Committee on Nomenclature appointed by the American Peony Society.

(2) **PLANTS:** The plants are to be furnished, free of cost, by the American Peony Society, members thereof, or interested growers of peonies. Three plants of each variety shall constitute a test, but the

donors may send one or two if more are not available.

(3) **FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE PLANTS:** At the close of the test, in perhaps four or five years, Cornell University Experiment Station, shall be entitled to a complete set of two plants each of all distinct varieties. Each contributor of plants to this test shall be entitled to as many plants of distinct varieties as he originally contributed, provided they are available after the Experiment Station has been made up. The remaining plants shall become the property of the American Peony Society.

(4) **PUBLICITY:** The results of the study shall be published in bulletin form by the Experiment Station. All members of the American Peony Society shall be entitled to a copy of each publication, and 100 copies of each shall be deposited with the Secretary of the American Peony Society for the use of members of the organization."

The above was copied from the Proceedings for year 1903-8.

Another letter from A. M. S. Pridham, Professor, Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, stating that Mr. Richard Lewis is in charge of Cornell Plantations under whose care their plant collections now reside. They have a few Saunder's Tree Peonies from Mr. Gratwick, Pavilion, New York, and report they are doing well.

Mr. Pridham stated "There are some old tree peonies at Aurora, New York, may be 100 years old, certainly close to it. They are four foot or more in diameter and three or more foot high." He added that when coming that way one might be interested in the tree peonies at the Rochester Parks (Dr. Bernard Harkness) at "The Castle" on Mount Hope Avenue.

Men's Garden Clubs of America To Study Peonies

Mark M. Taylor, Chairman Peony Study Program, M.G.C.A.

The following article and letter from Mark M. Taylor, Salem, Oregon, was forwarded to us from Mr. George W. Peyton. It arrived just on the deadline date for publishing this issue, however, because of the content of Mr. Taylor's article we felt all of the members of the Society would be interested and have urged the publisher to assist us in adding it this time.

Anyone wishing to write to Mr. Taylor may address him at 1090 Crescent Drive, N.W., Salem, Oregon 97304.

We thank you Mr. Taylor and are delighted with the report of your new assignment, the interest in the First Peony Show in the Northwest sponsored by the Willamette Valley Peony Society. We look forward to many new memberships in the American Peony Society not only in Oregon, but the entire Northwest!

Our congratulations also to you as Peony Show General Chairman for this first show in the northwest which from all reports was so extremely successful.

— The Editor

Men's Garden Clubs of America's Gold Medal was awarded to Grant Mitsch, Camby, Oregon, hybridizer of daffodils and other flowers at the 1964 M.G.C.S. Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Men's Garden Clubs of America, an association of some 250 Men's Garden Clubs scattered across the Continent has added the Peony to its list of Plant Study Programs, in order to bring to the more than 10,000 members practical and authentic information about the Peony and to, perhaps, develop some scientific research that may aid the culture of Peonies in the home garden. I have been privileged to head this program.

Our search will be for more knowledge concerning this wonderful plant — how to care for it, how to help it develop in areas not now considered possible to raise it. And, it is possible, to dispel some of the cultural myths that have developed since the Peony was first recognized as a desirable garden subject.

As an example, let me cite a personal observation: Having been associated with a firm manufacturing fertilizers, I had come to believe

that Nitrogen was the most valuable of all nutrients consumed by plants. While scientists pointed out that certain elements induced flower growth, another root growth, and so on. The idea that large amounts of nitrogen resulted in excess or succulent foliage and was undesirable seemed inconsistent. My strange reasoning was that the more growth, including leaf growth, that was developed would mean more facilities for manufacturing the proper foods (that is, converting the other foods consumed into their proper element) should be desirable. Having tried this with some success on other plants, I figured, "Why not the same with Peonies, provided ample supplies of other nutrient elements are available, too?" So, this last Spring, as the reddish spears made their emergence through the soil early in May, I put one-fourth pound of a 12-8-6 fertilizer with trace elements under each of three Peony clumps in my garden. Irrigation converted the dry fertilizer quickly into a liquid consumable form. One clump of these Peonies had never bloomed before, yet all three had been

planted for at least 10 years. As a check, I had duplicates of each variety growing elsewhere in my garden as they had for the past several years. To my amazement, and pleasure, these fertilized Peonies produced larger blooms and more certainly colored blooms than ever before and much better than the check plants given the old treatment!

Of course, one isolated experience can not be considered proof, but there is enough evidence there, to justify further study and investigation. My theory, now, upon this experience, is that it is not the quantity of the nitrogen that was important, but rather it was the proportion of the nitrogen to the other needed elements — the nitrogen giving impetus to the growth. This is what plant scientists might call a “balanced” fertilizer.

Through duplicating such trials as this under the varied climate and soil zones of the country, we may reach conclusions vastly different from the rules we have been following in years past. Similar studies with relation to disease control may be conducted.

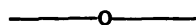
Plans are not yet wholly complete, but we have made a start and hope, through our study group (one representative from each member club) to create a greater interest in Peonies throughout the country.

Another instance of some old beliefs already disproved, was reminded me: Some years ago, someone advised me, as I was about to plant some Peonies at my place, that our climate in western Oregon was too damp and that the roots would not survive a Winter for our Winters are, largely, rainy. The roots, it was said, would rot.

This past June, here in Salem, Oregon, we staged the Northwest's First Peony Show and the number of blooms entered amazed all of us

in the sponsoring group, the Willamette Valley Peony Society, in both the quantity of entries and the quality of the bloom as well as the attendance. This, it seems to me, is another facet of Peony culture worthy of study. Perhaps this was a freak season; perhaps our Peonies survive because of excellent drainage. We cannot say for sure, but, if studies were made of many growers, we should be able to draw some reasonable conclusions that would be helpful to all.

It is my understanding that there has been no concerted scientific studies made with Peonies in the last 50 years. We hope through our Peony Study Program to correct that situation.



International Garden Tours for the coming Fall and Winter as offered by the Jean Berke Travel Service, Inc., certainly sound exciting. Five special tours to South America are being offered — Tours especially designed to visit this fascinating continent at the best season. Each Tour is conducted by a nationally known Horticulturist and sponsored by five of the leading horticultural organizations in the United States and Canada; namely The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Rhode Island Horticultural Society, Michigan Horticultural Society, Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, and The Gardens' and Florists' Association of Ontario.

The descriptive booklet is fascinating and tells of the following countries to be visited: Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentine-Chilean Lakes, Argentina and Brazil. Tour dates are October 12th, November 2nd, November 30th, January 4th and February 8th.

If interested, write to Jean Berke, Travel Service, Inc., 518 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 10036 or call Murray Hill 2-7844.

TREE PEONIES

Louis Smirnow, Long Island, New York

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

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

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

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

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

Tree Peonies begin to flower in the New York area about May 15 to 20. The Lutea hybrids open latest, about May 20 or 30. Some varieties lend themselves to forcing but all are easy to grow in most parts of the country. They have been known to survive winter temperatures of twenty to thirty degrees below zero and will endure more neglect the year round than most plants. Though a tree Peony cannot suffer from neglect, a little

attention produces better flowers and a more handsome shrub. Well drained soil and sunlight for the greater part of the day, are the major requirements. If the plants are set rather deeply into the ground, the production of new sprouts or shoots from the roots will be induced and a larger shrub will result. The tree Peonies need at least 4 foot spacing since the mature specimens are that high and as wide. Bone meal or a commercial fertilizer low in nitrogen but high in phosphoric acid and potash is the best to use. Bone meal is sufficient and no other fertilizers need be applied. The use of manure is advisable only when mixed with soil. Others have employed it to advantage when digging the hole. One-half spadeful of manure is placed at the bottom and then covered with soil. The danger comes when the manure is permitted to touch the stem of the plant. Often the stem will rot and the root will be affected. Since the plants are hardy, they need but little winter protection after the first year. Young plants, however, should be covered with leaves or some such mulching material. In severe winters, an occasional limb may be killed by extremely cold winds but this does not affect the rest of the plant. The dead wood can be cut off in the spring.

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

Tree Peonies are propagated by grafting, dividing and layering. Though most experts agree that grafting is by far the most rapid and satisfactory method, the propagation of these plants has long been a matter of dispute and experimentation. If grafted on "wild" tree Peony roots as is done by the Japanese, trouble is likely to appear in the form of untrue shoots from the roots. These shoots generally grow rapidly and succeed in killing the desired grafted variety. Grafting on roots of the herbaceous Peony by the cleft method is much safer and is the method used by a majority of propagators. The tree Peony scion is grafted to the root tip of a herbaceous Peony. The herbaceous root tip has no bud or eye which can sucker and has just enough vitality to support the tree Peony until it develops its own roots. If the herbaceous understock should sucker, its foliage would be distinct and easily removed. Grafting of tree Peonies is generally done in late August, when the plants have just entered their dormant period. This is continued through early September. Young grafts are aided considerably by heat, directly under a propagating bench, if plants are grafted in greenhouse. If grafts are planted in frames, a hotbed would be superior to cold frame, although many hundreds of grafts have thrived by being inserted in a regular cold frame, without any bottom heat. Dividing is another method of propagation but is considerably slower than grafting. Layering is less practical than dividing—it is slow and uncertain. Experiments with cuttings have thus far proven unsuccessful.

It is advisable to purchase two- or three-year-old vigorous plants. They are easier to establish and will bloom the second season after planting, sometimes the first season. If flowers are wanted the first year, purchase four- to six-year-old plants which have already bloomed. Seedlings may be desirable but only a small percentage of them are equal to the named varieties. Most are not as good as the named varieties. The seed-

lings generally run to magentas, a few whites and pinks, very few scarlets and almost never any crimsons. Quite often, seeds will germinate the first spring after planting but that is the exception rather than the rule. In most instances, seeds will germinate the second spring after planting. The habit of the seed is to make root growth first and then leaf growth second. Among the following are some of the better named varieties:

- JAPANESE (Whites)** . . Tama-sudare (Jewelled Screen)
 Renkaku (Flight of Cranes)
 Yaso-okina (Venerable Man)
 Fuso No Tsukasa (God of Japan)
 Godaishu (Large globe-like)
 Gessekai (Kingdom of the Moon)
- JAPANESE (Pinks)** . . . Momo-yama (Mountain of Peach Orchards)
 Yae Zakura (Very Double Cherry)
 Sakura-jishi (The Lion in the Cherry Orchard)
 Shintenchu (New Heaven and Earth)
 Yachiyo-tsubaki (Long Hedge of Camellias)
 Hana-kisoi (Floral Rivalry)
- JAPANESE (Reds)** Hodai (Reign of Chinese Emperor Ho)
 Hinode-sekai (Landscape at Dawn of Large Scale)
 Yo-meimon (The Most Gorgeous Gate of Japan)
 Ima-shojo (New Orange Qutang)
 Nissho (Sunbeam)
 Impumon (Gate of Opulence)
- JAPANESE** Hana Daigin (Minister of Flowers)
 (Purple, Violet, Mauve) Kenreimon (Gate of Kenrei)
 Kokamon (Gate of Koka)
 Horakumon (Gate of Abundant Pleasure)
 Rimpo (Bird of Rimpo)

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

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

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

A single blossom floating in a shallow dish on a dining table is breathtaking in its beauty. The popularity of the tree Peony is constantly increasing. The supply has not been keeping up with the demand, which is easily understood to one who has seen or grown them. The tree Peony can be grown in any garden — small or large. It won't be long before they will be seen in most gardens for this aristocrat in the flower world — "the King of Flowers" should grow in every garden. Its great beauty lies in its flower and its fragrance is not the least of its virtues.

JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE . . .



Genichi Akatani

Your Associate Editor has become very much interested in the history of the Nomenclature Committee since this is the 60th year since the committee was formed (see article in this Bulletin). We wrote to Cornell University to inquire about the report of the first test planting in which the Nomenclature Committee's first job was in cooperation with the University. We are delighted to have received a copy of the first report printed in 1907, for it will be a splendid addition to the Society Library. The interesting factor today is that they state, "We do not have a collection except a few tree peonies from Mr. Gratwick at Pavilion, New York."

This office received a news release concerning the annual Tree Peony Festival at Mr. Gratwick's this past spring at which time Genichi Akatani, diplomatic representative of the Japanese government,

officialated at the opening.

A number of the varieties in the test planting at Cornell University, were sent from Japan so we are told. Mr. Gratwick imported in 1937 some varieties from Japan.

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The Society is grateful to Mrs. Laura P. Strong, Postmistress at Rapidan, Virginia, for her assistance in taking care of correspondence and endeavoring to keep the membership record straight following Mr. Peyton's illness, until someone could take over officially. Mrs. Strong's loyalty to Mr. Peyton and the Society goes back many years, to the time she became clerk when Mr. Peyton was Postmaster at Rapidan.

We wrote her requesting that she write us something about herself. She stated in return "There is really not much to write about me. I've helped Mr. Peyton with the addressing and mailing of the Bulletins for a number of years, at least 10. I have taken care of the correspondence for him when he was away at the Peony meetings during this time. Since he became ill the last of March this year, I've tried to take care of the correspondence and keep the membership record straight until someone could take over".

Mrs. Strong has become a member of the Society. Welcome Mrs. Strong and we shall look forward to viewing your entries in the next annual American Peony Society Show!

TREE PEONY NOTES

Anthony J. DeBlasi, Floral Park, New York

Those of you who photograph flowers using Kodachrome II know how difficult it is to obtain true purple tones on film. KAMADA FUJI reproduces consistently pink and the purples, such as HANA DAIGIN, come out quite reddish. Though purported to be an improvement over the former Kodachrome, Kodachrome II is less sensitive to the blue end of the spectrum than it is to the red; hence when these two colors occur in mixture, this film favors the red and minimizes the blue. This means that in any bluish or purplish subject that has even the faintest hint of red, that slight amount of red will nevertheless be exaggerated and the resultant hue become distorted in the transparency, a distortion which may be described as a shift toward red.

The difficulty cannot be completely overcome. However, a great improvement occurs when such subjects as HANA DAIGIN, RIMPO, KAMADA FUJI, or other purple subjects are photographed through an 80C filter, a blue filter commonly used to convert outdoor film for indoor use. You must compensate for the loss of light through this filter, which has a factor of 2. There are two ways of doing this. If you use a light meter, divide the ASA exposure index of the film (in this case 25) by 2 and set your meter by the resultant number (in this case 12). Or you may increase the normal exposure by opening the lens one stop more or cutting the shutter speed in half. (Thus, a subject whose normal exposure, without filter, is $f/8 @ 1/100$ would become, with filter, either $f/5.6 @ 1/100$ or $f/8 @ 1/50$).

The catch to all this is that, while

the purple subject is improved, all non-purple background will distort toward blue, since Kodachrome II handles non-purples well without filter. Hence it is wise to minimize background and move in as close as possible to the flower you are shooting. Though all this may sound like quite a fuss, it really is not and is important if you do not want your purples and lavenders to reproduce red and pink, respectively. There is no problem, of course, if you like this transformation; somehow I can't take the sight of KAMADA FUJI in pink!

A stretch of twenty days with temperatures falling into the twenties and 'teens is considered a pretty mean wintry spell in this area. When such a period falls between March 18 and April 10, you have a rather extraordinary "arrival of spring"! Which is precisely the way spring "arrived" here this year. The anomaly was made even more acute by the fact that during the entire first half of March we did not have a single touch of frost! The Japanese tree peonies had burst into growth, the first week of March, and by the beginning of the long cold snap were beginning to leaf out. I was nearly a nervous wreck by the end of those twenty cold days, but the tree peonies were not fazed and came through in their normal way, blooming as well as ever. An unbelievable performance.

What did seem to have been affected by the prolonged cold weather were the lutea hybrids. Since they do not come out of their shells as early as the Japanese, they were caught on the verge of bursting just as the cold period set in. They did not get a chance to start into growth until the middle of April, and since

the luteas bloom during the latter part of May in this area, they had scarcely more than a month to come to flower, which is too fast for any peony. This, I believe, is why some of them did not do so well this year.

The name and label problem among the Japanese tree peonies is responsible for a rather droll circumstance in my garden. What I had been admiring as HAKU UN KAKU, since I planted it a few years ago, turned out to be none other than RENKAKU, a pleasant surprise since I had not included this magnificent variety in my collection.

It is easy to see, from some very old specimens, where the name **tree peony** came from, and it is not entirely a misnomer as is sometimes suggested. Since I have had occasion to visit the extensive tree peony plantings of our president, Louis Smirnow, (a fantastic sight during the blooming season), I have come across some very old plants. One of them had a distinct trunk, with a diameter at its base of about three inches. It rose to a height of some six feet and had practically all of its branches and leaves at the top, its base quite bare. From its appearance, under no stretch of the imagination could it have been considered a "shrubby perennial" but, for all the world, a small tree! And since it **was** a peony, what more natural or compelling logic than to call it a tree peony?

The ways in which the various tree peonies develop in the spring is a subject that could fill many pages. The differences in leaf color and style of growth among varieties are as fascinating as the differences in personality among people. The most intriguing in my collection is that of SAKURA GASANE, a magnificent dwarf, rounded plant that studs itself with a profusion of per-

fectly placed, rigidly held, large blossoms of glowing pink, an incredible sight. I have had visitors remark that they thought the plant was artificial! While most of the other varieties shoot out like geysers, in early spring, this one sits calmly and very slowly and deliberately unfolds like a cluster of fans in slow motion. KAMADA FUJI is rather strange in this respect. It seems to be all stems and flower buds in its developing stages. One wonders how it will ever be possible for it to have its beautiful, broad, rich green foliage unfurl in time to accompany the wonderful blooms. But it always manages to do so — and never a day too soon!

—o—

C. G. Milne, Garden Editor of the Indianapolis Star, once wrote "During September and October, peonies may be planted, divided and transplanted if necessary. The earlier these essential tasks can be done the better, as plants should be able to form new feeder roots and become established before soil freezes." This is primary to those of you who have been in the business but essential for the new home owner to learn when planning to landscape their new home grounds. Let us share our knowledge — this includes spacing, information about old plants, old plant division, old plant foliage, general culture and troubles.

—o—

The annual Flower Show of the Port Elgin Horticultural Society in Ontario, Canada, was held the third week in August and featured the society's charter presentation to Mrs. C. R. Wright of Port Elgin, Society President, by Clifford Epps of Clinton, Director of District 8 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. We hope to have a more detailed report for the next issue.

TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys, Central City, Nebraska

Long neglected by all the most perceptive of gardeners, shunned by the busy ones, ignored by the lazy ones, maligned by the restless ones, Moutan has finally entered the mainstream of the gardening world. This is the same tree peony (*p. suffruticosa*) that followed such an unhurried and seemingly purposeless path through the ages. There is reason to believe that it was one of the very first flowering plants to excite the imagination of developing mankind. It can now be found in every section of the country. Soon, it will be in every garden worthy of the name.

Whites vs. Pinks:

A sizeable majority of the growers will give white-flowered tree peonies top rating as a group. All colors have a place in the landscape, but whites are the basics. Some colored cultivars rate better than the high-flying whites, but the whites do show off to better advantage, with or without companion plants. Less thought need be given to their placement in the garden.

The white-flowered group remains my favorite, but the margin has narrowed. This resulted from a double-barrelled assault last spring by a true pink and by one with a hint of lavender. I am inclined to believe that only the tender age of these newcomers to my garden kept them from overtaking my favorites. Moutan is a plant that improves with age.

The true pink is DOKUSHIN-DEN, from the collection of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College. It is a cup shaped semi-double with fine, delicate yellow center stamens. The red tips of its carpels have a hair-thin yellow border. All in all, a truly finished flower, well held on good stems—and this was a two-year graft planted last fall! DOKUSHIN-DEN may be the pink that will join forces with HANA KISOI and eventually break the white group's monopoly on the top brackets of the popularity polls.

The other plant is William Gratiwick's COMPANION OF SERENITY. It has seen two summers here, and obviously likes Nebraskaland. Don't be surprised if it becomes as much sought after among tree peonies as the hybrid, Red Charm, is among the herbaceous kinds. A sky-high price tag may keep it out of some gardens whose owners don't consider tree peonies among the necessities of life. Everything considered, however, its price is probably not out of proportion.

I know I shouldn't attempt to describe this plant. Having thus cleared my conscience I will proceed, but with a restraint that will be apparent to those who've seen this cultivar or its blossoms. While I haven't yet seen tetraploid tree peonies, in my mind's eye they have the same sturdy, heavy stemmed dark green plant that makes COMPANION OF SERENITY stand out in any planting. Its leaves are broad, as tho pressed with an iron to remove some of the indentations between the lobes. But it is the flower that makes the big difference. Actually, COMPANION OF SERENITY is not "pink". It is "white", until you place it alongside a pure white. It is almost single, but of such great size and so gracefully formed that you don't think of it in terms of being single, double or semi-double. A pale lavender rib extends from the base of each petal,

suffusing upward and outward, disappearing into broad petals that have a puffed or dappled texture unlike anything I've ever seen.

Soil Testing:

Many plantings are made near concrete driveways, paths or foundations. Lime leaching into the ground in the vicinity can result in an overly alkaline condition. If your tree peonies aren't growing as well as you think they should; if the foliage is lustreless and if some plants have a chlorotic appearance, have your soil tested.

Our local area is a bit short of rainfall, and some artificial watering is required. This fact, combined with a finding of high alkalinity, usually results in a recommendation for use of a field fertilizer, 10-24-16 with 3.5 zinc and trace elements, at the rate of 5 lbs. per 1,000 square feet, and ammonium sulfate, 21-0-0, at the same rate, applied in the spring and again in August.

Caution: This is just an example. Your soil may need something else, or nothing at all. Bonemeal is all that need be used if there are no deficiencies. Only your soil-tester and your plants know for sure.

Information Please:

Why are 3 tree peonies, growing in sod in my back yard with no care other than mowing around them, sturdier looking than many of those in my garden?

Miscellany:

One of the rewarding sights of the post-blooming period is a lutea hybrid seed pod trying to form seed. My crop this summer was one apparently viable seed, proudly produced by CHINESE DRAGON, one of the fine Saunders hybrids. The pronounced laciniation of its leaves helps to make this variety a sum-

mer-long asset, and it closes the season with a good burst of foliage color.

My biggest, broadest tree peony is one planted against the east wall of my home, directly under the air-vent for our gas clothes dryer. It is not one of my older plants, but has more blossoms than any of my others.

Have you noticed the increased volume of tree peony publicity? Garden editors of the larger newspapers seem to be marking their calendars for May and September mention of Moutan. The New York Times had a full column in the garden section of a mid-May Sunday edition.

Editorially Speaking:

Not all amateur growers are purists. Many an honest dollar can be harvested from the tree peony garden.

Some florists will take good blooms off your hands for perhaps a dozen times the going rate for ordinary kinds. They will double their money in the process.

The most interesting possibility is in the commercial use of tree peony wood. The base wood of older plants, to quote a woodcrafter who finished some for me, is at least as hard as maple, and with a distinctive (and distinguished) grain. The Encyclopaedia Britannica says Moutan is a sub-woody shrub, but they must be referring to the upper portion of the stems. Nearer the base, it is truly "tree", complete with annual rings, disappearing pith center, and all the other attributes. We doubt that tree peony wood will replace walnut or teak as wall paneling, but it could be used to good effect for small decorative items, insets on plaques, etc.

Coming Soon:

Seedlings, pro and con.
Chemical shockwaves.
The dark flowered tree peonies.
In defense of Shugyo Kuden.
Fall Color.
And more — about tree peonies!

First Peony Show In The Pacific Northwest

The first Peony Show to be staged in the Pacific Northwest has received rave notices we understand from public and press alike. The Show was held under the auspices of the Willamette Valley Peony Society June 5th and 6th in the Meier & Frank Co. Auditorium in Salem, Oregon, and was attended by more than 3,000 people including registrants from Massachusetts, Alaska, California, Idaho and Nevada. Everyone was enthusiastic about the beautiful blooms.

An outstanding feature of the show was the emphasis placed on horticulture. Every blossom was labeled. Ribbons were given as recognition awards. A comment often heard was "At least I have found out what mine are!" While arrangements were not discouraged they were not encouraged and all arrangements featured the peony.

Ph. Henry Hartwig in commenting about the season and show stated "This year's peony season has been different from any of previous years. The blooms were two weeks late in coming. The tree peonies did not open until after the second week in May. We had no double lactifloras until after June 1st, then they opened with a rush. Had several hundred entries in this first Show. The cool weather did much to bring us the most beautiful

blooms. A shower, quite heavy, also helped very much.

"It would be difficult to mention the names of all the outstanding varieties. To mention just a few there would be LeCygne, Kansas, Miss America, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Therese, Red Charm, Helen Matthews, Nancy Nicholls, Nick Shaylor, Elsa Sass, Mary E. Michalls, Gardenia, Alesia, Lillian Wild, Mattie La Fuze. Some of these, yes, most of them, were simply magnificent.

"The surprising thing was that so many people did not know such beautiful flowers could grow in Oregon. Many of the visitors were vacationing here from California. To them the flowers were a great surprise."

"This first Show was staged by a club of only 31 members, 12 of these man and wife," wrote Mrs. H. W. (Helen) Roberts, "Our membership is about evenly divided between Salem and Albany with two from Lebanon, Oregon. All who could worked hard and from two cities made it a little harder as never had we worked together. We did a good job we feel and we also became better acquainted. The store manager said it was what they called A SHOW, not a lot of stuff that did not belong. Our stage represented the Old and the New. On one side a mannequin in Centennial dress with Old Varieties banked around her and on the other side another Mannequin in garden attire with all new varieties at her feet."

Congratulations to the Willamette Valley Peony Society in Oregon. Thank you Mr. Hartwig and Mrs. Roberts. We look forward to hearing more from you.

HELP OTHERS TO
PLANT PEONIES PROPERLY !!!

Salem Oregon Show

DIVISION I - NOVICE

Open to persons who grow less than 50 varieties, have not exhibited in peony shows, and do not sell peony plants or blooms.

Section A. One Bloom

Class 1. Double white

2. Double light pink
3. Double dark pink
4. Double red
5. Semi-double, any color
6. Japanese, any color
7. Single, any color

Section B. Collections—3 blooms, one or more varieties

8. Double white
9. Double light and dark pink
10. Double red
11. Semi-double, any color
12. Japanese, any color
13. Single, any color

Section C. Special Collections

14. One each of 5 different varieties, any color or type
15. One bloom each of 5 different double varieties

Section D. Not identified varieties

16. One bloom, double white
17. One bloom, light or dark pink (double)
18. One bloom, double red
19. One bloom, semi-double, any color
20. One bloom, Japanese, any color
21. One bloom, single, any color

DIVISION II - AMATEUR

Open to anyone who does not sell peony plants or blooms as a principal source or income.

Section E. One bloom

22. Double white
23. Double light pink
24. Double dark pink
25. Double red
26. Semi-double white
27. Semi-double light or dark pink
28. Semi-double red
29. Japanese white

30. Japanese light or dark pink
31. Japanese red
32. Single white
33. Single light or dark pink
34. Single red
35. Herbaceous hybrid, any color or type

Section F. Collections — One bloom each of three different varieties

37. Double white
38. Double light pink
39. Double dark pink
40. Double red
41. Semi-double, any color
42. Japanese, any color
43. Single, any color
44. Herbaceous hybrid, any color or type

Section G. Special Collections

45. Tree Peony, any color or type
46. One bloom each of 15 different varieties, any color or colors, (not more than six Japanese or single types permitted and no Herbaceous hybrids or Tree Peonies permitted).
47. Amateur Challenge Class — One bloom each of five different double varieties.

DIVISION III

OPEN COMPETITION

Open to anyone; novice, amateur, and commercial grower without restriction.

Section H. One bloom

48. Double white or flesh
49. Double light pink
50. Double dark pink
51. Double red
52. Semi-double white or flesh
53. Semi-double light and dark pink
54. Semi-double red
55. Japanese white or flesh
56. Japanese light or dark pink
57. Japanese red
58. Single white or flesh
59. Single light or dark pink

- 60. Single red
- 61. Herbaceous hybrid, white, flesh or yellow, any type
- 62. Herbaceous hybrid, pink, any type
- 63. Herbaceous hybrid, red, any type
- 64. Tree peony, white or flesh, any type
- 65. Tree peony, yellow, any type
- 66. Tree peony, pink, any type
- 67. Tree peony, red, any type

Section I. Collections — One bloom each of five different varieties

- 68. Double white
- 69. Double light pink
- 70. Double dark pink
- 71. Double red
- 72. Semi-double, any color
- 73. Japanese, any color
- 74. Single, any color

Section J. Special Collections

- 75. Special Award Class — One bloom each of 25 different varieties, but not more than 10 may be Japanese or single types. Herbaceous hybrids and tree peonies are not permitted.
- 76. Popular Peony Class — One bloom each of five different double varieties
- 77. Willamette Valley Peony Society Class — One bloom each of five different varieties, any color or type. Herbaceous hybrids permitted. Tree peonies not permitted. Entries limited to members of the Willamette Peony Society

**DIVISION IV
ARRANGEMENTS**

No flower other than the peony will be permitted except as may be stated.

- 78. The Peony Garden — Mass arrangement using peonies as the dominant flower. Accessories. A traditional interpretation
- 79. Peonies and Line — A line-mass arrangement using

peonies as a focal point. Any color. No accessories. A free form interpretation

- 80. Old-Fashioned Elegance — Peonies and other flowers and/or foliage. Accessories permitted
- 81. Red and Black — Red peonies in a black container. Other material may be used but only peony flowers permitted. An abstract interpretation
- 82. White Cloud — Mass arrangement in double white peony bloom. Other white flowers permitted
- 83. Japanese Simplicity — Single or Japanese type blooms in the Japanese style. Accessories permitted

SLIDES

We hope to print a list of the Slide Sets available in the December Bulletin. In the meantime, if you have slides you would like to donate to the Society, please know we would be delighted to have them. We now have two boxes of slides on loan. Following are a few regulations we would like to have followed:

- (1) Slides must be ordered one month in advance.
- (2) Only one set to a club at one time.
- (3) Rental of slides is \$5.00 plus postage. Checks payable to the Society.
- (4) There will be a charge of \$2.00 for every slide missing. Count slides when you receive them and again before you seal for return.

Speaking of Books don't forget about "Peonies, Outdoors and In" by Arno and Irene Nehrling, which can be purchased through this office. Christmas gift orders should be placed now.

Miss Sylvia Saunders Reports

Miss Sylvia Saunders, Clinton, New York

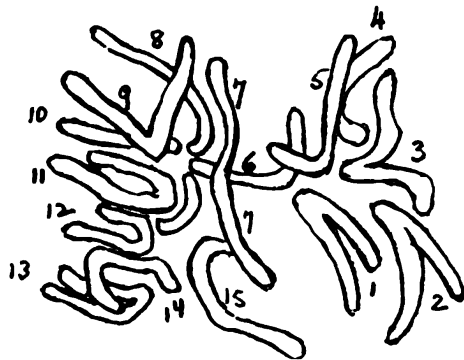
Since printing of the March Bulletin an article was submitted by Miss Sylvia Saunders which we are delighted to publish. You all know Miss Saunders, we are sure and if not, then do stop in Clinton, New York, and make yourselves known. This will be a treat indeed. We had the pleasure of seeing one of the finest exhibits of tree peonies at the Van Wert Show in 1960, we had seen. Miss Saunders flew in from New York with her display. We expect to stop enroute to the 1965 Show. More about her later—we wanted to know just when her father, Prof. A. P. Saunders, became a member. In checking we find that at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society held at the Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass., in conjunction with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, June 15 and 16, 1906, the name of Prof. A. P. Saunders, Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., was presented as a candidate for membership. The other candidates were: A. B. Farr, Reading, Pa., Geo. H. Peterson, Fairlawn, N. J., A. L. Gould Co., Gilman, Ill., W. W. Kline, Sinking Springs, Pa., O. A. Dickinson, Springfield, Mass., and Edwin B. Hedges, Westfield, Mass.

The minutes stated that, "As the requirements for admission had been complied with by each, a vote was taken resulting in the unanimous election of all. They were then declared members of the Society."

Prof. A. P. Saunders contributed so very much to the Society and now his daughter, that we felt everyone should appreciate having the above information.

—The Editor

Because of the growing interest in peony hybridizing in this country, I have given some attention to the counting of chromosomes of some of father's hybrids. The men who are hybridizing nowadays want counts made of some two dozen or more hybrids. We got eleven done in the Spring of 1963 and will do some more this Spring. I thought you might wish to publish what we have thus far, so here is the material:



Approximate sketch to show the fifteen chromosomes of Saunders TRIPLE HYBRID "SPRITE", May 1963.

- (1) Chromosome counts of 11 Saunders herbaceous hybrids.
- (2) Parentage of the 11 hybrids counted.
- (3) Micro-photograph of Triple Hybrid: SPRITE, showing its 15 chromosomes.
- (4) Sketch of the photograph for clearer seeing.
- (5) Article of importance of chromosome counting by Dr. David Reath.

Chromosome Counts on Eleven Saunders Herbaceous Hybrids Taken in Spring of 1963

Date Bud Was Taken	Hybrid Name	Mitotic Count	Remarks
April 29, 1963	DAYSTAR	20	These is a question whether Roselette shouldn't be 20. Will count again this year.
	MOONRISE	20	
	ROSELETTE	15	
	STARLIGHT	15	
	9037 F 2	20	
May 1, 1963	CHALICE	15	
	SPRITE	15	
	ROSE NOBLE	15	
	WINGED VICTORY	15	
Before May 13, 1963	GWENDA	15?	
	NOSEGAY	20	

Parentage of Hybrids whose Chromosomes were Counted in 1963

Daystar	Tenuifolia x Mloko F3
Moonrise	Albi x Lobata F2
Roselette and Sprite	Triple Hybrids — Albi x (Tenui x Mloko F2)
Starlight, Rose Noble and Winged Victory	Quadruple Hybrids — Albi x Officinalis x Mloko x Macrophylla
9037 F2	Mloko x Macrophylla F2 — the "Vova" strain
Chalice	Albi x Macrophylla
Sprite	(See Roselette)
Rose Noble	(See Starlight)
Winged Victory	(See Starlight)
Gwenda	Tenuifolia x Mloko F2
Nosegay	Mloko x Tenui F2

We shall look forward to Miss Saunders report for 1964.

HONORS TO MR. BURPEE...

LONDON, ENGLAND: July 1, 1964 — The National Sweet Pea Society of Great Britain yesterday presented its Henry Eckford Medal to David Burpee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., for "his outstanding achievements in developing Sweet Peas during the last 50 years" at the Society's National Show in Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster. The medal comes as a high point in Mr. Burpee's 48 years as president of this largest mail order seed firm in the world. Earlier this

year Mr. Burpee was presented with two outstanding American horticultural awards — the "Gold Seal" of the 450,000 member National Council of State Garden Clubs and the American Home Achievement Medal for 1964 — both for his many contributions to flower development over the past half-century.

The American Peony Society congratulates Mr. David Burpee and wishes for him many more years of enjoyment in the field of floriculture as well as more honors in the field we know he so richly deserves!

Twenty-Five Years . . .

Breeding Herbaceous Peonies

Samuel E. Wissing, 93 S. Lombard Ave., Lombard, Ill. 60148

INTRODUCTION: Mr. Samuel E. Wissing, who has so graciously submitted the following article, is celebrating twenty-five years breeding herbaceous Peonies. Our congratulations to you Mr. Wissing—and also those of all members of our "Peony Society family". We solicit your inquiries of Mr. Wissing which he has consented to answer through the columns of the Bulletin.

—The Editor

In 1939 the first pollen was collected, to start a breeding program, which has given so much pleasure, that I feel I must report it to help others, who would like to gain knowledge and save disappointment, in this fascinating, most interesting hobby. The Peony from seed to flower is a six year cycle, so unless you have patience, and are willing to plan 20 years ahead, then its best you don't start.

I was determined to try seriously to improve my favorite flower, and knowing 20 years of work was par for the course, I made it a habit to read everything I could get my hands on that pertained to flower breeding. The Peony Manual, now out of print, had a very interesting article on breeding by Dr. Saunders, which I liked very much, because he seemed to plan his work. On page 191 of this manual, I wish to quote what Dr. Saunders wrote: NO EXPERIMENTS ARE ON RECORD IN WHICH PROTECTED BLOOMS OF THE PEONY HAVE BEEN FERTILIZED BY THEIR OWN POLLEN AND A SET OF PLANTS RAISED FROM THESE SEEDS SO PRODUCED. SUCH EXPERIMENTS WOULD BE OF INTEREST: end of quote.

Therefore this was my first order of business, to try to inbreed everything I was to work with, and finally after a lot of disappointments, I finally set a few seeds here and there. Please remember I was a textile salesman for many years,

and the love of flowers and their breeding came after I moved to Lombard, Illinois, to get away from the city life. So Botany, Biology and Genetics were something new, and I was and still am a pure Amateur.

Then too I traveled in other states, and sometime just when it would be more to my liking to be home in the garden working with the Peonies. So desire and determination are important in this venture like they are in every phase of life, if we really want to succeed and progress, we can, just by determination.

The first big hump for me to get over was the making of a suitable and practical desiccator, so your pollen supply would always be on hand when you wanted it. I tried to follow the directions of Dr. Saunders in this but found it too difficult for me, and then set about to make my own, which has proven very satisfactory.

I got some plastic containers, put 4 ozs. of granulated calcium chloride in the bottom, then put in a layer of absorbent cotton, then used paper pill boxes, which you can buy from your local druggist, to store the pollen in, after it has been collected and cured. Each box properly labeled. I get three pill boxes into each plastic container. This I can assure you will keep your pollen viable for at least 90 days, so you may cross the very early with the very late. The pill boxes give you a protective

shield when working in the field, where on some days the wind can destroy a lot of pollen quickly, unless you have experience in combating it.

Removing the Anthers, curing the pollen, and the problems connected with this operation I will not attempt to cover in this letter, as the conditions vary from season to season, and from species to species, and from flower to flower. Then too you will find one season is not a test, and you must continue four to five years before any conclusions can be reached which will have some definite value. The American Peony Society I am sure will gladly print some articles on this item, in their bulletins, if they know it would be of interest to its readers.

Some flowers will not inbreed (self) then of course you must select a parent like Richard Carvel to breed to Arcturus, then line breed the progeny. I liked *Lactiflora Arcturus*, originated by Mr. Auten of Princeville, Illinois. It is single and therefore has capable reproductive organism. It is a reliable performer, season after season, has good foliage, has good color.

This was the breeding which produced the Dwarf *Lactiflora* in the 3rd generation, and with a bonus that I did not breed for, we lost the laterals. The plants are about 20 in. high, foliage all the way down, the flower is small 4 to 4½ in. across, and is in balance with the rest of the plant.

I wanted to go still further, with line breeding these plants, but they are now sterile, and will not sib, self or take any outside blood. I did take some pollen from one of the dwarfs and crossed it back to *Arcturus*, and got a reluctant take. We have about 4 plants from this breeding which could give us some very interesting results.

I attempted to work with several forms and variations of *Officinalis*

but finally gave up, attempts to inbreed on all except Otto Froebel, James Crawford Wegeulin. Inbreeding Otto Froebel gave me "Coral Charm" a much better plant than its parent, which is single. It has real vigor and has very viable pollen, in 1963 it set 2,000 seeds from seven blooms. The seeds give a very good percentage of 1st year germination. Now the big question is, will the color be dominant or recessive, only time will tell.

This season I had another thrill in a color break, getting a coral by inbreeding *Lactiflora Minnie Shaylor*. Four seeds were planted, and two germinated. The plant which bloomed this year has normal stems about 28 in. in length, but its sister seedling is very dwarf, about 10 in., and did not bloom this year which was 7 years from germination, seeds were planted in 1955. So you see why I say, plan 20 years ahead, and if you don't have that much patience, its best you don't start, as it is a very slow deal.

Marie Crousse is the parent of both Walter Faxon and Mrs. Livingston Farrand, so with this in mind I crossed Walter Faxon to Marie Crousse and have some fine looking seedlings, which I hope to line breed, and hope that we get better pinks, as frankly most of the present day pinks have too much blue caste.

Then I have a few seedlings which are *Lactiflora Arcturus* X *Speckled Pink*. The pink speckling I understand is the result of having some seeds given Gamma Ray treatment, so now I have another possibility, of getting some speckling into our *Lactifloras*.

I just checked my seedling bed, and find that I have some very fine takes, but whether the seed will be good and germinate, only time will tell. Dr. Saunders Seedling which is Yellow (*Lactiflora* X *Tenuifolia* X *Molko*) has taken and I have plants

in the seedling bed, which were crossed to several variations of *Lactifloras*.

Then I believe I have Tetraploid *Anomala*, the foliage is very wide and heavy, which pollen I used on *Lactiflora White Gold*, and this looks very good. This will be a new triploid if nothing else.

My new Coral *Lactiflora* from Minnie Shaylor seedling 689 did not take on an attempt to inbreed it, but it did take on Minnie Shaylor, its maternal parent, and also on several other variations of *Lactiflora*.

Then I got a take by inbreeding (*Lactiflora* X F2 *Tenulfolia* X *Mloko*). This could be a real surprise, and produce, something very unusual as it is yellow.

The *Anomala* which I believe is Tetraploid is the result of vascular injecting a chemical into the plant, and one part of the plant has gone over, another part seems to be in the process, and one part of the plant appears to still be Diploid.

Then the American Medical Society in 1959 had a major breakthrough in their cancer research, and found the Chemicals, which are nicknamed D.N.A. the stuff that Genes are made of, and as Genes control heredity, any mutation of the Genes would give us some mutations not formerly available, as since 1962 I have been working with pollen treated with Ultra Violet Rays. The Lamp I have emits 2,537 Angstrom units, and the time recommended by the Brookhaven Laboratories, was 15, 30, 120, 240 and 480 seconds. While I have seedlings growing which have had this treatment, they all look normal, so let's hope the mutation comes in the color. It will be about three years before any definite report can be made.

Another experiment which I hope to check out this year is on *Moonrise* a hybrid, which normally

should be triploid, but which is definitely tetraploid, will set good seed as a maternal parent, but if you use the pollen on *Lactiflora*, you will find you get seeds without endosperm and embryos. This year I vascular injected *Moonrise* 2 times with a chemical, to see if we can get seeds, which will have the necessary equipment to give us germination. It's a little early for this, but taking a peek in the bags, they do look good.

So I hope by now I have you pepped up enough to spend \$5.00 for a membership in the American Peony Society, so you will get four Bulletins a year which carries all the information necessary to make your retirement something to look forward to, as your time can be spent like mine is, each year it gets more involved and I am so busy, I really don't get time to visit as many friends as I would like to, as this can be a full-time job, but it is so different when you are doing something you like to do.

So on and on we go trying each year to make a little progress to help the future generations adore and admire our favorite flower, because we have improved it.

If I find this article has stimulated any interest I will answer any inquiries in the Bulletins of the American Peony Society, as I cannot answer individual mail.

Sincerely,
SAMUEL E. WISSING

This Bulletin becomes a first printing for the American Peony Society by Mr. Fred Baltzell, Rockford Press, Rockford, Ohio. We take pride in introducing him to you through this Bulletin, and trust you will bear with him, your Editor and Associate Editor in understanding. We hope we have not made too many errors, for believe us — none are intentional.

19th Annual Peony Show — The Peony Unit

Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The 1964 Show was an outstanding one according to the report received from the President, Mrs. J. E. (Opal M.) Hamilton. The Show dates, May 2 and 3, were a little early according to Mrs. Hamilton. However, there were 275 entries in Horticulture and 54 entries in Arrangements.

Mr. Robert Jones, President of Oklahoma City Beautiful, Inc., was guest speaker at the Awards dinner. His subject dealt with the plans for "The Most Beautiful Landscaped City in America".

Over 1,200 guests were registered not only from 15 cities in Oklahoma but Colorado, Washington, South Dakota, Louisiana and Texas.

Three panels of judges included the following: Mrs. C. L. Chase, Mrs. Joseph P. Crawford, Mrs. E. E. Bryant, Mrs. Betty Adams, Mrs. Fred Davis, Mrs. Gene Jefferies, Mrs. L. M. Limpus, Mrs. Walter Glenn and Mrs. Leo Hughes.

AWARDS

THE PEONY UNIT TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Horticulture specimen and the Grand Champion Award, Mrs. L. W. Kamin — Bright Knight.

THE OPAL M. HAMILTON TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Japanese Variety, Mrs. J. E. Hamilton — Red Emperor.

THE LUCKY DAY PEONY UNIT TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Single Variety, Mrs. L. J. Weisenberger — Sea Shell.

THE PEONY UNIT TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Arrangement — Mrs. Lee Beck.

THE JUNE DAY PEONY UNIT TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Semi-Double, Mrs. J. E. Hamilton — Exquisite.

THE MRS. G. A. BAWDEN TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Tree Peony — None.

THE MRS. BOZO JONES TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Bomb Peony, Mrs. L. W. Kamin — Mons. Jule Elie.

THE MRS. W. R. BOYINGTON TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Hybrid Peony, Mrs. L. W. Kamin — Bright Knight.

THE MRS. W. H. ALLEN TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Anemone Peony, Mrs. Floyd Gable — Fannie Crosby.

THE ROSE KAMIN TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Seedling Peony, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sisney.

THE C. L. CHASE TRAVELING TROPHY: Awarded for the outstanding Double Peony, Opal H. Hamilton — Ann Cousin.

THE TRI-COLOR AWARD: Blue, Red and Yellow — given to the highest scoring ribbon winner in Classes 1 thru 7 — all fresh material to be used. Winner must score 95% —

SPECIAL AWARD FOR PEONY NAMED FOR OKLAHOMA: Mrs. James Harris — Sooner Beauty.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR PEONIES NAMED FOR OKLAHOMANS: Mrs. H.

— 34 —

B. (Velma) Atkinson on peony named for her by Mr. Wild — "Velma Atkinson".

SPECIAL AWARD FOR THUNDERBIRD: Named by Mr. Auten for Oklahoma's Forty-Sixth Division Fighting Men and given by Mr. and Mrs. Perry Swails was won by Mrs. B. E. Gleason. The award was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Swails son LeRoy who died in the service of his country.

Special appreciation was given to: Mr. Louis Smirnow for donating two Tree Peonies; Mr. Myron Bigger for ten peony roots; Mr. Gilbert H. Wild & Son for two peony roots; all of which were given as prizes.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Hamilton for her effort in sending the material to Mr. Peyton in time for a June issue of the Bulletin. However, due to Mr. Peyton's illness it was not possible to have it printed.

Mrs. Hamilton was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society at the annual meeting held in June this year. Her term of office will be for three years. She was also appointed chairman of the Membership Committee of the Society.

19th American Horticultural Congress

SEPTEMBER 30TH THRU OCTOBER 3RD, 1964

Dr. Albert J. Irving, General Chairman

The 19th American Horticultural Congress, under the auspices of the American Horticultural Society, will be held September 30 thru October 3, 1964 at the Hotel Commodore in New York.

This Congress promises to be the best and largest ever held and a memorable horticultural event, when leaders in the field of professional, educational, commercial and amateur horticulture come together for an interchange of ideas, problems and projects, for the improvement and benefit of the entire field.

On October 2, one entire day will be spent at the New York Botanical Garden, where the Managers and Staff are going all-out to provide a great program of interest and education. There will be a tour of the Garden, Herbarium, Library, Conservatory and Research Laboratory. Several key staff members will give talks and demonstrations, there will also be special exhibits.

September 30 has been designated

as "American Horticultural Society Day" at the New York World's Fair. Talks will be given on operations and landscaping of the Fair, by the heads of these departments, also other special events.

At the meetings, luncheons and dinners, talks will be given by prominent leaders, on many popular and scientific and interesting subjects. The exhibits and decorations, under the able direction of New York's well known horticultural decorator, Everitt Conklin, will be outstanding. The first American Horticultural Film Festival will be featured with Motion Pictures in sound and color competing for awards.

There will be conducted tours and visits to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Queens Botanical Gardens, Old Westbury Gardens, Planting Fields, Sterling Forest, a famous Private estate, Manhattan backyard, terrace and roof top gardens.

Among the affiliated organiza-

tions which will have their annual meetings at the Congress, are the American Association of Garden Writers and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums.

Hosts for the Congress are: The Horticultural Society of New York, The New York Botanical Gardens, The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Queens Botanical Garden, The New York Florist's Club and The New York State Nurserymen's Association.

For further information, write to Dr. Albert J. Irving, General Chairman, Congress of the American Horticultural Society, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.

We will look forward to reports from our members resident in that area, for printing in the December Bulletin.

Dues are due January 1st as the fiscal year is January 1st to December 31st of each year. Mail check or money order to C. Dan Pennell, c/o C. Dan Pennell Agency, 107½ West Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Please note that all copy for the Bulletin should reach the Editor's office not later than the 10th of the following months: November, February, May and August. It is our hope that the Bulletin will be mailed to you the first week of December, March, June and September.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY — 36 pages of articles on why, when, where and how to plant, care, propagation, culture of peonies. 8 pages on Tree Peonies. How to prepare, show and judge exhibition flowers, with scale of points. Short lists of varieties, 3 line drawings, 8 black and white illustrations. Sources of supply. Price: 25c each; 20c each in quantities of 25 or more to one address.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES — 6 page leaflet of herbaceous peonies compiled by our Board of Directors, about 200 varieties. Price: 15c each; 10c each in quantities of 25 or more to one address.

PROPAGATION OF TREE PEONIES — By Harvey F. Stoke. Small leaflet. Price: 15c each.

PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN — By Arno and Irene Nehrling, Hearthsides Press Inc., New York. 288 pages, 100 black and white illustrations, 11 color plates. Contents similar to those in Handbook with addition of section on Peonies Indoors and Arrangements. About 40 pages on Tree Peonies. Price to members of the American Peony Society: \$4.95; to non-members \$5.95.

THE PEONIES — Edited by John C. and Gertrude S. Wister. American Horticultural Society, 1600 Bladensburg Road N.E., Washington 2, D.C. Paper Backs \$3.50. Cloth-bound \$5.50. 144 Pages Herbaceous peonies; 69 pages tree peonies. Many black and white illustrations and line drawings. Order direct from publishers.

Order all of the above from The American Peony Society. Checks or money orders only.

FIGURING SPRAY MIXTURES CAN BE IRKSOME, unless you have dilution facts at your finger tips. The liquid measure table is often useful.

LIQUID MIXTURE

3 teaspoons	1 tablespoon
2 tablespoons	1 fluid ounce
8 fluid ounces	1 cup
2 cups	1 pint
2 pints	1 quart

DILUTION TABLE

Your Sprayer Holds	Amount to use for	
	1,200	1,800
1 quart	1 teaspoon	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon
3 quarts	1 tablespoon	$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon
1 gallon	$1\frac{1}{3}$ tablespoon	1 teaspoon
5 gallons	$3\frac{1}{3}$ fluid	$2\frac{2}{3}$ tablespoon

For success in spraying follow directions on container.

—Horticulture Newsletter

A letter from L. J. Armatys states "The latest issue of the Royal Horticultural Society Journal, has a good run-down (about a page in length) on *P. lutea*, V. Ludlowi, that I think would be worth including in the A.P.S. Bulletin."

Thank you!!! We think so too! However, both Journal and Extracts from the Proceedings of The Society and Wisley Trial Reports are just in! We haven't time to go over them since we are getting Bulletins in mail, so until December. Hope others will read their Journals in the meantime.

Your Editor and wife were in Washington, D.C. in April and learned of an interesting project conducted by Sylvan Sean and Reginald J. Sayre, Smithsonian Institution exhibition specialists in creating a tree for the everglades exhibit in the Reptile Hall. We mention it only because of the possibility of being helpful to some creator of a Flower Show exhibition. With an assist from nature these men were working together on the creation of three cocoa plum trees. The trunks and branches were brought from Florida and treated with formaldehyde and glycerine for preservation. However, the leaves turn opaque and look unnatural after treatment according to the men. So the Smithsonian specialists make their own leaves, natural looking down to brown spots and vein lines. They said it took about three minutes to cook up a batch of leaves in a 350 degree oven. They then add a topping of green spray and even spatter on some brown spots. Making leaves natural to sight and touch is indeed a delicate art. Are you interested?

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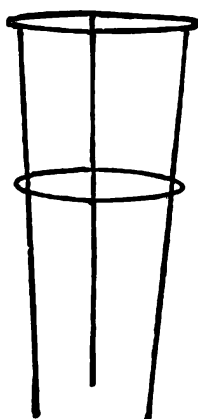
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