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# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



## *Bulletin*

MARCH, 1965 — NO. 176



George W. Peyton — 1874 - 1965



## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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 145 Eberly Avenue  
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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



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Letter — Frank L. Howell .....	4
Tributes to George W. Peyton .....	5
Silvia Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Jones, W. A. Alexander, Wm. H. Krekler, Mrs. Earl Knapp, Ralph H. Giff, Clarence O. Lienau, Angus Green, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Massey, Mr. and Mrs. Leland H. Cole	
60TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION PROGRAM .....	9
Handling of Exhibition Blooms .....	12
Medals and Awards .....	15
New York World's Fair 1965 .....	16
Hybridizers Round Robin — Dr. David L. Reath .....	17
George W. Peyton in His Garden .....	18
Obituary Courtesy Orange Review .....	19
1964 Report on Counting of Chromosomes — Silvia Saunders .....	19
Hybridizing Peonies — Samuel E. Wissing and Thomas J. Buckley .....	21
Tree Peonies — Leo J. Armatys .....	25
Florist's Review — Tree Peony .....	26
Our Readers Write .....	27
Tree Peony Thoughts — Anthony J. De Blasi .....	29
Spring Show Calendar .....	30
Itinerary Suggestions .....	31
Flower Shows .....	31
Chicago's World Flower and Garden Show	
Northwestern Ohio Garden and Flower Show	
The Magnolia, A Worthy Companion to the Tree Peony	
— Harold Tinnappel .....	32
A Report to the Members — W. A. Alexander .....	34
Nomenclature .....	35
Dr. Allen Honored .....	37
Color Slide Collection .....	37
Seduction of the Innocents .....	38
Publications For Sale .....	40
Our Advertisers .....	41

In tribute to Mr. Peyton, our Mr. Fred Baltzell, Publisher, is endeavoring to use our old plate once again.  
The new cover will appear with the June issue.

## President's Letter

Many of our members have heard of the recent passing of our immediate past secretary and editor, "Mr. George W. Peyton," of Rapidan, Virginia. Mr. Peyton was a great peony enthusiast and held in high esteem by those whose good fortune it was to know him. Few if any had a better knowledge of the peony than he. His passing leaves a void that will be hard to fill.

At this time I can safely say that arrangements have been completed to hold the 60th annual exhibition of the American Peony Society at Lake Mohawk, Sparta, New Jersey. The dates to mark down on your calendar are June 19 and 20th. Many of you will remember the 1952 show being held at this location. The Association at Lake Mohawk have spent a sizeable sum on the club house making it a most desirable location.

It has been suggested that this is an ideal year to hold the annual meeting of the A.P.S. in the East as many of our western friends and members would like to combine the show with a visit to the World's Fair which is only about 60 miles away. Those desiring further information may obtain same by writing to your president, Frank L. Howell, Box 485, R.D.1, Newton, New Jersey, and your requests will be referred to the proper parties. A tentative schedule is printed elsewhere in the Bulletin. It is hoped that a goodly number of western growers will make an effort to come and bring or ship flowers for the show. As most of you are aware of the fact that there are more and larger growers in the central and western part of the country than in the east, it is important that as many as possible make an effort to be present.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the show with lots of flowers so start now to make plans to be present.

Frank L. Howell, President

\* \* \* \* \*

This issue is dedicated to the late George W. Peyton, affectionately called "Mr. Peony." His tireless work, travels and writings will long be remembered and certainly have contributed much to the sustaining interest and growth of the American Peony Society.

My first personal meeting with Mr. Peyton was at breakfast during the Milwaukee Show in 1949. We became much better acquainted when working on the 1960 Show held here in Van Wert, then later at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. Other than our visits in April and July of 1964, our contacts, like many, were through the written word.

Mr. Peyton's energy and knowledge of the peony as demonstrated at Annual Meetings and exhibitions was remarkable. He has left a legacy of challenge to all of us!

— The Editor

## HONORED WITH DONATION

Last December this office received a letter from Mrs. Arthur I. Harris, of Atlanta, Georgia, stating "May I also enclose a donation for the Society? I'd like to give this in

honor of Mr. George W. Peyton whom I've admired for many years." We wrote Mr. Peyton immediately and know how much he appreciated the honor.

— 4 —

## TRIBUTES

Our "hats have been off" to George W. Peyton and now our heads are bowed — not in grief — but in humility and in the words of Miss Silvia Saunders — "... Dear Mr. Peyton has left us, but there is no cause to mourn. We should rather give thanks that we had him so long, and that he, through his great enjoyment of the Society and the Peony, increased our enjoyment of both."

We have received many tributes to Mr. Peyton —

\* \* \* \*

From Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Jones, Tuckdawa Garden, Peru, Indiana:

"Only today we learned of the passing of our good friend George W. Peyton of Rapidan, Virginia; the gentle, friendly man who doubtless well earned to be known to 'Mr. Peony' himself.

"Fortunate we are to have known Mr. Peyton for nearly 25 years, and privileged to have him as guest many times while enroute west and northwest to the National shows.

"His devotion to the Society and the Peony was genuine and enthusiastic, and his knowledge of the subject fairly unlimited. In addition he carried a definite interest in general horticultural subjects, as well as being active in his own community civic affairs.

In deepest reverence may we quote of him:

"Well done thy good and faithful servant."

\* \* \* \*

I will always remember George W. Peyton as one of the most remarkable men I have ever known. He had three characteristics in unusual degree which all of us could wish for ourselves. First was his capacity for friendship. He knew people from Maine to California, and from Canada to Florida; every-

one he knew considered him a friend. He was a man of whom it could be truly said, He was a beloved friend.

Second was his profound knowledge of Peonies, Peony people and the Peony Society. He seemed to know all the details about every variety that was ever offered for sale: who developed it, where it could be purchased, how it behaved in different parts of the country — everything. His knowledge of the people making up the membership of our Society was astounding. It was never necessary to look up anything about the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society if Mr. Peyton was around — he knew. I suspect his knowledge was just as comprehensive on every subject in which he became interested.

Third was the thoroughness and the meticulous care with which he did his work. As treasurer, I had every opportunity to judge him in those respects. When he sent me a lot of checks, everyone was listed with name, city and bank of origin and what it was for, whether dues, advertising, registrations, literature, etc. If my total did not agree with his, a recheck invariably found that he was right and I was wrong. The last remittance I got from him, sent just shortly before he suffered his stroke, was just as detailed and accurate as the first; age had not affected his ability to do that job perfectly. Another example of his care and accuracy: I had been misspelling the name of one of our members. He corrected me in a way I could not take offense, reminding me that people like to have their names spelled correctly.

George Peyton's life was an inspiration to all who knew him. I consider myself fortunate in having known him for more than 15

years, and to have had the privilege of working with him for five years while I was president and later treasurer of the Society.

W. A. Alexander

\* \* \* \*

"With Mr. Peyton gone where can we turn when we need peony information? Somehow he always found the time and the energy to promptly send pleasant replies to one's letters and he **always had the answers**. No one I have ever known had half the peony knowledge and appreciation as our beloved "Mr. Peony?" Now we must somehow carry on without our dedicated leader, as he would wish.

I am certain our Peony Society will flourish if the members (especially larger growers) will only take the time to submit articles for the Bulletin, so our new Secretary can have a supply from which to choose. When he asks (as he should) one of us to write a certain article surely we should promptly do our best, for it's our Society and responsibility as well as his. We can no longer leave it all up to George. I miss him so very much."

—Sincerely, William H. Krekler

\* \* \* \*

Dear Mr. Pennell:

Just last December Earl and I enjoyed such a nice visit with Mr. Peyton. In his "cord" suit, he looked like a real country gentleman and it was hard to realize he had been so ill. His keen mind was as alert as ever. Yet as we left, I knew I was saying goodbye to my dear old friend.

We promised him we would visit "Windy Hill." As we wound our way through the beautiful Virginia country-side, my thoughts were of our wonderful friendship over the past 28 years. Among my memories was his Biography which I had the pleasure of writing, and my heart filled with gratitude to have been

privileged to know this good man. Always I shall remember the pride that shown on his face as he pointed to the wall of his room where hung a long framed letter from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. This great honor given him, the fitting climax to a long and distinguished life with the Peony Society.

Sincerely, Dorothy J. Knapp  
Carmel, Indiana

\* \* \* \*

Ralph H. Giff of Sarnia, Ontario, sent this message:

"Despite circumstances word of Mr. Peyton passing on to his reward cast a dark shadow over my path. He lived a full and useful life; useful in the sense that his efforts were always directed towards making this world a better place in which to live.

"Unfortunately, only on two occasions did I have personal contact with him — Guelph, Ontario, in 1948 and Chicago in 1955. I found him on those two occasions to be a most genial and likeable gentleman. I really got to know him better through the medium of notes we exchanged from time to time and through those exchanges his help with my Peony problems really meant something. To say his help to our Society was invaluable is putting it very modestly.

"At a time such as this, words fail me but there comes to mind the words of a poet who once wrote "There is no death. What seems so is transition."

\* \* \* \*

From Clarence O. Lienau, Lienau Peony Gardens, Detroit, Michigan:

"George W. Peyton was a very fine gentleman and scholar. I am sure his many friends and especially we of the American Peony Society will never forget our beloved George W. Peyton."

Our friend is gone. The American Peony Society will not be the same without the moving, living spirit of George W. Peyton. We shall always cherish the memory of that honest and sincere face of his at the National Shows. Beautiful peonies and this man seem inseparable to us.

The finest tribute and, undoubtedly, the one that George would appreciate most, is a living, growing, enthusiastic Peony Society. With us, as no doubt with hundreds of others, it was at the National Peony Shows where we first met this good man. After that, he was a close personal friend. We vividly remember that first meeting at the New York National Peony Show in 1948.

The beautiful flower that George loved most, can always beautify our gardens and remind us of the work and perserverance of this peony lover. Let his memory and good works go on and on in our hearts and finest thoughts.

Ben and Anna Massey  
Youngtown, Arizona

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Leland H. Cole of Silver Springs, Maryland, attended the service for Mr. Peyton. Mr. Cole, a long-time close friend of Mr. Peyton, wrote us as follows:

"Mrs. Cole and I were able to drive down to Rapidan on Wednesday, January 20th, for the funeral. Mr. Peyton's son Jimmie who lives across the river here in Arlington, Virginia, called me about 11:00 p.m. on Monday, January 18th, to tell me he had just gotten word that his Father had passed away.

The service was at 2:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church just over the hill from his home. If you stand

on the back porch of Windy Hill and look across the peony garden, you can just see the steeple of the Church over the rim of the hill. We got there at 1:30 p.m. and were able to see him in the Church before they closed the coffin. He looked as though he hadn't been sick at all.

The service, conducted by Rev. Charles Speight, was simple but very effective. There were around 20 very pretty floral pieces. Mr. Peyton was buried in the graveyard, about 100 feet from the Church, I imagine in his family lot. The day was clear and cold and there was about two inches of snow on the ground. The Blue Ridge Mountains in the background and the frozen Rapidan River at the foot of Windy Hill made a very quiet and peaceful setting.

After the service we were invited over to Windy Hill where we had a very nice visit with Major and Mrs. George Peyton (they will live at Windy Hill) and Mr. and Mrs. James Peyton.

We visited Mr. Peyton at the Nursing Home at Gordonsville on September 18th, our Anniversary, which we were celebrating on Sky-line Drive and he seemed very bright and said he liked the treatment he was receiving there. I'm glad his last days were pleasant and in nice surroundings. George asked me if I could come back in the Spring and help him in trying to identify some of Mr. Peyton's plants. I would like to very much if possible. I also try to spend some time checking the Society's test planting at the National Arboretum here in Washington."

\* \* \* \* \*

"In the death last week of George William Peyton of Rapidan, Orange County lost a man who although unknown to many, was a 'giant' in his own field of horticulture, and whose life spanned an era identical to that of Sir Winston Churchill. Both were born in November, 1874, and died in January, 1965.

"For Mr. Peyton, life began at Rapidan in the same house in which he lived until failing health reached him a little over a year ago.

"He attended the old Locust Dale Academy and then took first honors with the degrees of A.B. and B.S. concurrently in 1893 at Hampden-Sydney College, followed by a M.A. degree at the University of Virginia in 1897. These early academic abilities remained throughout his life. While still in his eighties, he faultlessly gathered and compiled the complexities of the Orange County budget as he had for many years. Seemingly tireless, this man could out do most anyone his junior and was known as a walking, living encyclopedia on almost any subject.

"His entrance into the field of horticulture, and particularly the well-known garden and show flower, peony, began in 1918. Before his life ended, he was to become National President of the American Peony Society in 1944 and in 1959 he was recognized with a Gold Medal Award by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The commendation read: 'To George W. Peyton of Rapidan, Virginia: without any doubt or challenge the greatest living authority on herbaceous peonies, as well as being the living encyclopedia on most any horticultural subject, his interests have been legion and his contacts many and far flung. He is a man of great stature in the peony world, no one greater.'

"This knowledge did not go unrecognized for among his correspondence is a letter from the Queen of England graciously granting permission for the Society to name a new variety of peony after a member of the royal family.

"Until two years ago his national renown sent him on an annual 6,000-mile jaunt throughout the country on 'Peyton's Peony Pilgrimage' as arbiter for shows and authority on peony gardens from coast to coast.

"Since 1951 his literary abilities were manifested as editor of the Peony Society's quarterly magazine until 1964, and as contributor to many other national home, garden and flower magazines, as well as numerous articles for the New York Times and other newspapers.

"At 85 years of age, he could be witnessed simultaneously furiously pecking a typewriter with a phone cradled on his shoulder and a radio blaring out the news — missing nothing of any of these. His grasp of figures and rapid mental calculations would leave a C.P.A. gasping. More evidence of this ability was seen in his 'reading' for a trip which included a pocketful of railroad timetables from all over the country, from which he could recite verbatim.

"His garden at Rapidan has annually been a mecca for peony growers and flower lovers from all over the country. It contained almost every peony that has been on the market with over 2,000 varieties at one time and 25,000 or more blooms each year, offering a breath-taking spectacle.

"His full, active life and contributions to the horticultural world will fortunately not be forgotten, for one of the most beautiful specimens of this well-known flower was propagated by a friend and named 'George W. Peyton,' to continue to grow in gardens throughout the United States, a constant reminder of 'Mr. Peony.'"

Angus Green



# 60th Annual Exhibition

## PROGRAM

### Friday, June 18

Clubhouse open for exhibitors.  
Put flowers in water.

### Saturday, June 19

Early morning to 11:30 A.M. set up blooms and attach entry cards to stems of entries.

1:30 P.M. Show opens.

1:30 to 4:00 P.M. Ballots given out for Popularity Queen.

3:00 P.M. Meeting of Board of Directors.

4:30 P.M. Popularity Queen will be placed in Court of Honor.

6:30 P.M. Banquet.

Following banquet annual A.P.S. meeting.

9:30 P.M. Show closes.

### Sunday, June 20

9:00 A.M. Show opens.

Board of Directors will meet.

5:30 P.M. Show closes.

## NOTES

**EXHIBITORS' NOTE** — If you ship blooms, address them to yourself, Newton, New Jersey. Prepay the charges and mark plainly, "FOR PEONY SHOW". Cold storage will be provided. All flowers will be delivered to show room Friday evening, June 18th.

## SCHEDULE

It is not required that an exhibitor be a member of the A.P.S. All blooms exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor, except in the "Seedling" and "New Variety" classes.

All blooms exhibited in competitive classes must be correctly named or labelled. Use wood labels.

Judges and Clerks will be appointed by Chairman of Judges.

Entry tags will have class numbers visible and exhibitor's name con-

cealed. Entry tags to be furnished by Show Committee.

In all classes there will be three awards; viz: 1st Award, Blue Ribbon; 2nd Award, Red Ribbon; 3rd Award, White Ribbon.

## Court of Honor

Specimen blooms may be entered from any exhibit and the contestants are not limited to award winners. The winners will then be selected by the Judges as the outstanding specimens in their respective class.

## Albiflora Class

White Double, Blush Double, Light Pink Double, Medium Pink Double, Dark Pink Double, Red Double, Semi-Double, any color; Single, any color; Japanese, any color.

## Hybrid Class

Any type or color.

## Tree Peony Class

Any type or color.

## Grand Champion

Will be selected as the outstanding bloom of the show.

## Special Classes

**Class A (Open to all).** Gold Medal Class. Collection of 25 different varieties, each bloom labeled with name of variety, and each bloom in separate container. Not more than 10 blooms may be single and/or Japanese types. Hybrids not permitted.

**Class B (Open to Advanced Amateurs and Novice Amateurs).** Silver Medal Class. Collection of fifteen varieties, each bloom labeled with name and variety, and each bloom in separate container. Not more than five blooms single and/or Japanese types. Hybrids not permitted.

Class C (Open to Novice Amateurs). Bronze Medal Class. Collection of 10 different varieties, each bloom labeled with name and variety, and each bloom in separate container. Not more than three blooms may be single and/or Japanese. Hybrids not permitted.

Class D (Open to all). Hybrid Class. Collection of 10 different varieties, each bloom labeled with name and each bloom in a separate container, all types permitted.

Class E Visitors Class (Open to visitors not living in New Jersey). Collection of five different named varieties, one bloom each and each bloom in separate container, any type or color.

Class F Geo. W. Peyton Class (Open to all). Albiflora varieties only. Collection of five double and/or semi-double varieties, one each any color, separate containers.

### OPEN CLASSES

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

### ALBIFLORA VARIETIES

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

#### Doubles...

1. One bloom, white.
2. One bloom, blush.
3. One bloom, light pink.
4. One bloom, medium pink.
5. One bloom, dark pink.
6. One bloom, red.
7. Three blooms, same variety, white or blush.
8. Three blooms, same variety, pink.
9. Three blooms, same variety, red.

#### Semi-Doubles...

10. One bloom, white or blush.
11. One bloom, pink.
12. One bloom, red.
13. Three blooms, same variety, any color.

#### Singles...

14. One bloom, white or blush.
15. One bloom, pink.
16. One bloom, red.
17. Three blooms, same variety, any color.

#### Japanese...

18. One bloom, white or blush.
19. One bloom, pink.
20. One bloom, red.
21. Three blooms, same variety, any color.

#### Hybrids...

Exhibitors are not restricted as to number of entries made in the Classes 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26. If more than one entry is made in each class the entries must be of different varieties. An exhibitor is eligible to win three awards in any class.

22. One bloom, white or blush.
23. One bloom, pink.
24. One bloom, red.
25. Three blooms, same variety, any color.

#### Tree Peonies...

26. One bloom, any type or color.

### ADVANCED AMATEUR

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

### ALBIFLORA VARIETIES

#### Doubles...

27. One bloom, white.
28. One bloom, blush.
29. One bloom, light pink.
30. One bloom, medium pink.
31. One bloom, dark pink.

32. One bloom, red.
33. Three blooms, same variety, white or blush.
34. Three blooms, same variety, pink.
35. Three blooms, same variety, red.

#### **Semi-Doubles ...**

36. One bloom, white or blush.
37. One bloom, pink.
38. One bloom, red.
39. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

#### **Singles ...**

40. One bloom, white.
41. One bloom, pink.
42. One bloom, red.
43. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

#### **Japanese ...**

44. One bloom, white.
45. One bloom, pink.
46. One bloom, red.
47. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

### **NOVICE AMATEUR**

Limited to exhibitors who do not sell roots or flowers and who have never previously exhibited at a show sponsored by the American Peony Society. Number of entries per class is limited to three. If exhibitor makes more than one entry in a class, the varieties must be different.

### **ALBIFLORA VARIETIES**

#### **Doubles and Semi-Doubles ...**

48. One bloom, white or blush.
49. One bloom, pink.
50. One bloom, red.
51. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

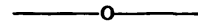
#### **Singles ...**

52. One bloom, white.
53. One bloom, pink.
54. One bloom, red.
55. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

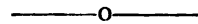
#### **Japanese ...**

56. One bloom, white.
57. One bloom, pink.
58. One bloom, red.
59. Three blooms, one variety, any color.

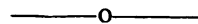
### **SEEDLINGS NEW VARIETIES**



Why are plants winterkilled? "Wintering of Plants" by I. M. Vasil'yev, provides some interesting answers. The book is translated by Professor Jacob Levitt of the Botany Department of the University of Missouri and published by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. We have not read it but are told the writer states feeding in spring and summer is important to give an ample supply of soil nutrients for sturdy growth and winter storage. More about this in the June issue of our Bulletin.



We have been reminded by Marilyn Holmes, editor of the Green Thumb Newsletter, that dormant sprays should be applied to trees and shrubs to control scale and certain other insects between now and the time growth starts this spring.



### **Let's All "Show"**

From experience, your editors know that many exhibitors are needed to make a Show a success. Those coming from a distance, or those unable to attend, should plan to package some bloom, take or ship as directed. Your help is needed to help in making this Show representative of our large membership.

## *Handling Exhibition Blooms*

To have the finest exhibition blooms, it is presumed that plants have been cared for as directed. When the buds appear, go over the plants and select the buds that have the heaviest stems immediately below the buds. They produce the largest flowers.

Label, disbud, bag, cut, store as follows.

**LABELLING.** The blooms should be properly labelled, preferably as soon as selected, certainly before or at the time they are cut. Use wired wooden tree labels. Paper labels are not satisfactory. Write the name of the variety legibly, on both sides of the label. This will save many an overturned container. Fasten the label securely to the stem, just below the bloom.

**DISBUDDING.** Removing the side buds from a stem will make the center or terminal bud a larger, better flower. This should be done when they are about the size of a pea. Take the bud between the thumb and forefinger and give it a quick outward twist and it will break off with no damage to the stem. If the main stem is damaged in the process it may cause the center bud to die.

Usually the terminal bud will open before the side buds do which often open all at once.

So, to get a fine bouquet of blooms, remove the terminal bud and you will have from three to five, or more flowers only slightly smaller than the center bud would have made, all on the same stem. The blooming period is often prolonged for a particular plant for from one to two weeks by not disbudding.

**BAGGING** the blooms will prevent weather and insect damage and keep the delicately colored flowers from being faded out by bright sun light. This should be done a week or ten days before the buds will open, when the bud is dry. Use two pound grocery bags for the large, full, doubles and smaller ones for the singles, Japanese, and the smaller doubles. Transparent bags afford no protection from the sun. Slip the bag over the bloom and fasten with a rubber band, staples, or paper clip; never with a pin, as they are dangerous. Pull the bag up until it touches the bottom of the bud. This is important, as it prevents the bloom from being distorted and keeps the stem straight. For ventilation cut a small hole in each upper corner of the bag. This will keep the bloom from being cooked by the heat of the sun. Examine the bags after each rain and if water has collected in the sacks, remove them and resack when dry. Buds should never be sacked when wet as they may mold. After the bloom begins to open, it is hard to resack without damaging it, so if you wish to examine the bloom, tear off the sack about halfway down leaving enough to hold the bloom in shape. Then pull another sack down over the first one, which may be done by holding the bloom encircled with one hand. The bags should not be removed, finally, until you are ready to use the flower.

To remove the bag, cut the rubber band or pull off the paper clip and tear off the sack. Do not pull it off.

**CUTTING.** You can tell when the bloom is ready to cut by the feel of it. Press down on the center of the bloom, through the sack, and, if it feels soft to the touch, like a marshmallow, then it is ready. Until the center softens up, the bloom will not open well when cut.



Cut-flower varieties may be cut when the first line of color appears and the first petals begin to unfold. Use a sharp knife and cut the stem about eighteen inches long, unless a longer stem is necessary. Leave at least the two bottom leaves on the stem uncut. Never cut more than two-thirds of the blooms on one plant. Remove all the leaves from the cut stem except the two upper ones. Plunge the stem into cold water up to the leaves. Take a pail of water along with you to the garden, so that there will be no delay in doing this. If the blooms have not been bagged previously, this should be done when they are cut. Make a hole in the bottom of the sack, stick the end of the stem into the bag and through the hole, then pull the bag over the bloom, leaves and all, until it touches the base of the bloom. Bagged blooms are not easily damaged by handling.

**STORAGE.** Store the blooms in a cool, dark place, if you do not have to keep longer than a few days. If they must be kept longer, they should be put in cold storage. The best storage temperature is about 33 or 34 degrees. It should not be over 40. If stored dry, be sure to keep the stems in deep water for at least two hours before placing in storage. The leaves may be wetted down when placed in storage, but the buds must be kept dry. If wet, they should be wiped dry. Take them to storage as soon as possible after this soaking. The household refrigerator will serve if no better storage is available. If mold appears, wipe it off at once. Remove the blooms from storage from twelve to twenty-four hours before using, depending on the temperature at which stored, the colder the storage temperature the longer it will take the bloom to warm up and open properly. Take them from storage direct to the work room or ship, if that has to be done, as directed. Blooms that have been stored dry will usually take at least two days to fill with water.

Blooms that are slightly faded or just beginning to fade may often be revived by placing the stems in water as hot as the hand will bear, and leaving them there for an hour or two.

### **TRANSPORTING**

If the blooms have to be transported any great distance, they should be packed with the bags on them, in well insulated cartons, tight enough to keep them from shifting about in transit. The cartons should be placed in the storage room the day before they are to be used and the packing done in this room. A good sized piece of dry ice, well wrapped and fastened securely in the center of the box, will keep the flowers in excellent condition for from twenty-four to thirty-six hours while in transit.

When the blooms reach the work room, place them in water at once, not forgetting to cut off about an inch of the stem. Arrange them alphabetically by color and type on the work table. Then remove the bags and allow them plenty of time to expand and fill with water. Always plan to take several times as many blooms as you will set up as you may need replacements. If the blooms are wide open, do not remove the bags until you are ready to display the blooms.

In taking replacements you also have a much better choice as some blooms may fall and others not be in prime condition. Always have two or three of every variety if possible. Choose flowers that you hope will be at their prime at judging time. Select the finest blooms for the Court of Honor classes, if you are allowed to enter them, and for the many

specimen classes. You may have to change them later on. Set them up in their proper places on the show table. Then select the flowers for the collection classes. After you have set up all the flowers you wish to exhibit, keep going over them continually until judging time. Remove all that show signs of wilting and replace from your surplus. Swap from your collection classes to the specimen classes any that prove better than those first chosen. Be sure you have the correct number in every class and be sure they are properly labelled. This is important. Failure to do these simple things is a common fault. Be sure the containers are well filled with water and that you have plenty of them on hand. Try to get your exhibits set up well before judging time so you will have time for the final check which may prevent a failure to get an award. Watch your opponents and try to select flowers that are better than theirs. Do not display mediocre blooms, just to fill up. They do the show no good. Be especially careful not to show bad blooms of a new variety as they create, unintentionally, a bad impression of the variety and may damage its future.

Do not show Japanese type blooms in a class calling for singles or vice-versa.

Make your entries, retire gracefully, do not criticize the judges and praise the other fellow's exhibits. Never mention the grand flowers you left back home in the garden. Take your winnings with modesty and your defeats with sportsmanship.

## JUDGING EXHIBITION PEONIES

### Specimens

**COLOR**, 30 points. Clear, harmonious, rich; true to variety, outstandingly beautiful. **Faults:** Fading, discoloration, blotches, streaks, defacing marks, unpleasant combination, lack of beauty.

**FORM AND PATTERN**, 30. Symmetrical, attractive, graceful, true to type and variety. Form of petals, attractive placement, depth of flower, form and development of center. **Faults:** Lopsided, unattractive, abortive, poorly developed, petals notched and crimped, lack of uniformity in placement of petals, looseness, falling apart, any deviation from norm for type or variety. Coarseness.

**TEXTURE**, 10. Silken sheen, velvetly, suede-like, glistening, satiny petals. **Faults:** Poor condition, poor sheen; lack of sparkle, iridescence, glow; coarse.

**STEM AND FOLIAGE**, 10. Stem adequate to support flower. One or two leaves. **Faults:** No stem, weak, side buds, any damage to stem or foliage. (Flowers taken from storage not to be penalized for lack of or damage to foliage.)

**SIZE**, 5. Normal for variety in the locality or slightly above. No penalty for oversize except for miniatures and at the expense of other qualities. **Faults:** Undersize for variety and type. Big miniatures.

**DISTINCTIVENESS**, 5. Novelty, rarity, difficult of culture, overall charm and quality. Well staged. Fragrance may be counted as an asset. **Faults:** Old, commonplace variety and characteristics. Poor staging.

**CONDITION AND FRESHNESS**, 10. Correct degree of maturity, healthy condition, cleanliness, without insects, spray residue, foreign matter. No pollen stains or fallen pollen. Turgid. **Faults:** Water spotting, soil

or spray residue, pollen stains, over or under age, indications of poor culture, wilted.

### **Collections**

**GENERAL QUALITY, 40.** Fleasing appearance. Uniform high quality, harmonious color combination.

**CONDITION, 30.** See above.

**CONFORMITY TO SCHEDULE, 20.**

**LABELING AND DISPLAY, 10.** All labels legible from the aisle preferably written on both sides.

### **Remarks**

Judges should know the difference between the different types. Many mistakes are made by entering singles in classes calling for Japanese and vice versa. Remember that the chief difference is that singles shed pollen and Japs do not. Also, there is widespread ignorance about the anemone type. Usually no attempt is made to separate this type from either the double or the Japanese according to the variety. It is probably better not to have classes for this type.

Entries not properly labelled should be disqualified. Unlabelled flowers in a class calling for named varieties should disqualify the entry. However, this is usually caused by hurry in setting up exhibits and if possible a chance should be given the exhibitor to correct the error.

As the color of a variety often varies with the location and weather, be cautious about disqualifying a flower because of color. It is extremely hard to make a hard and fast color classification of some varieties, especially blushes and light pinks.

Exhibitors should give far more thought to the appearance of a collection than is done. Colors should not be unpleasantly mixed nor should short and long stemmed flowers be staged helter skelter. Arrange the entry so that it makes a good picture.

## **MEDALS AND AWARDS**

Article VIII -1 of the American Peony Society By-Laws states The Society may offer medals or other awards as prizes in exhibitions under conditions set by the Board of Directors. The Society may accept medals and other awards, donated by other organizations or persons, for award at exhibitions under conditions set by the donors and subject to approval by the Board of Directors or other authorized authority.

2. The Society may award medals or other awards to any person, firm, organization or corporation, they may wish to honor, for any worthy

contribution to the objectives for which this Society was formed.

3. The Board of Directors and the Seedling Committee are also authorized to make such awards as may be delegated to them in these By-Laws.

4. THE GOLD MEDAL of the Society may be offered for award as first prize, for a collection of 50 different cultivars (varieties) one bloom of each and each bloom shown in a separate container, in the Annual Exhibition of the Society. Not over 20 blooms may be single or Japanese types. All blooms to be correctly labeled. It may be awarded by the Seedling Committee to the originator for any named

cultivar that they may deem worthy, such award to be confirmed by the Board of Directors.

5. **THE SILVER MEDAL** of the Society may be offered for award at the Annual Exhibition of the Society as first prize for a collection of 25 different named cultivars — one bloom of each and each bloom shown in a separate container. Not over 10 blooms may be single or Japanese type.

6. **The BRONZE MEDAL** of the Society may be offered for award at the Annual Exhibition of the Society as first prize for a collection of 15 (or 10 if allowed by the Schedule Committee) different named cultivars, one bloom each and each bloom shown in a separate container. Forty per cent of the blooms may be either single or Japanese type. It may also be offered for the best Japanese type bloom in the show, for the best single type bloom in the show, for the best hybrid shown and for the best tree peony shown.

7. **The B. H. FARR MEMORIAL MEDAL** may be offered for award at the Annual Exhibition of the Society for the best albiflora (lactiflora) double or semi-double in the show.

8. The Society, or Board of Directors, may award any medal of the Society to any one whom they may deem worthy of the award for any outstanding contribution to the cause of the Peony.

9. **The GOLD MEDAL CLASS** shall be open to all exhibitors. **The SILVER MEDAL CLASS** shall usually be limited to **ADVANCED AMATEURS**, (those who grow more than 50 cultivars and who do not sell roots, flowers or plants as their main sources of income and who do not issue price lists) and **NOVICE AMATEURS** (those who grow not more than 50 varieties and who do not sell roots, plants or flowers). **The BRONZE MEDAL CLASS** shall

usually be limited to Novice Amateurs. However the Show Committee has the authority to change these conditions if considered advisable only for the Silver Medal Class and the Bronze Medal Class.

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## NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR — 1965

The 1965 edition of the New York World's Fair Hotel and Motel Guide, which contains listings on 409 motor inns and hotels with a total of more than 100,000 rooms is available from the New York City Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Department C. T., 90 East 42nd Street, New York 17, New York.

Visitors touring New York by car now can buy a "Motorists Guide to Free Parking in Manhattan," the publication is in map form. It shows where parking is legal, when restrictions are lifted, and, among other things, what streets have meters. To get this guide write Ardel Instrument Co., P.O. Box 992, Jamaica, New York 11431. Price \$1.00.

Admission costs can be saved by buying tickets at a new group rate. The new group-rate "discount period" lasts only until **April 1st**. During this time blocks of 50 or more tickets will be sold at \$2.00 per ticket. Bulk sales will be made to anyone. For more information or for tickets write: Ticket Sales, New York World's Fair, Flushing Meadow Park, New York 11380.

Best ticket buys, states one fair official, will come from transportation firms and agencies that provide tickets as part of package travel deals. The Long Island Rail Road, for example, will carry fairgoers from New York's Pennsylvania Station to Flushing Meadow for \$2.50, the price of admission alone. Bus Companies such as Gray Line, New York, Tours Corp., also will be making package travel offers. So will most airlines.



## Hybridizers Round Robin

During December of 1961, Mr. Peyton assisted with the organization and formation of the A.P.S.'s Hybridizers Round Robin. The purpose is to stimulate greater interest in peony hybridizing by the exchange of information and ideas on all phases of peony hybridizing and experimentation. Mr. Peyton supplied the names and addresses of several peony enthusiasts, who he thought should be contacted to activate such a project. This was done with the result that the robin made its first flight on December 10, 1962. There were five members with one additional member added during this first round.

Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., who is one of the foremost hybridizers of peonies has introduced nearly 300 varieties of lactiflora and hybrid parentage. His vast knowledge pertaining to hybridizing, seedling culture, commercial propagation and seedling judging gained through years of experience is reflected in his very interesting robin letters.

Mr. L. W. Cousins, the originator of the excellent exhibition variety "ANN COUSINS," is another of our key members. Mr. Cousins has developed many choice peony hybrids by utilizing several of the Saunders' hybrids as foundation stock. His new hybrid seedlings clearly reflect the sound judgment of his high standards used in making his selections. His garden contains many excellent new hybrids just waiting to be discovered by the gardening public. His letters are always very interesting and informative.

We hybridizers are very fortunate that Miss Silvia Saunders has been conducting the peony nursery originated by her father, the late Professor A. P. Saunders. Professor Saunders' vast experimental work with peony species has resulted in the accumulation of much important information as well as excellent breeding stock. Miss Saunders has been most helpful in supplying the information contained within her father's well kept notebooks. She has also been especially helpful in distributing rare advanced generation fertile interspecies hybrids for use as a foundation in our breeding projects.

Another robin member, Mr. Samuel E. Wissing, who has been a recent Bulletin contributor, is a hybridizer of considerable note. Mr. Wissing has recently named several choice new seedlings and more are scheduled for introduction in the years to come. Sam's letters always stimulate interest as they contain many ideas gained through experience.

For several years Mr. E. L. Pehrson hybridized gladiolus. He became rather discouraged when disease destroyed many of his choice seedlings which were the result of much hybridizing effort. He then turned to the more exciting opportunities of peony hybridizing. His experiences in gladiolus hybridizing have been very beneficial to him in that much of the information gained is useful in his peony hybridizing projects. We look forward to his future introductions.

This round we gained four new members — all show great promise as peony hybridizers.

There will be two foreign members added soon.

The amount and quality of material contained in the last round of the robin clearly shows that our objectives are being achieved. Much credit is due to Mr. George Peyton and to the excellent cooperation among all members.

David L. Reath, February 17, 1965

Membership list of the American Peony Society Hybridizers Round Robin  
Number 1, February 15, 1965.

David L. Reath, Box 251, Vulcan, Michigan  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dunbar, 928 N. Rochester Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana 46222  
Dr. Harold Tinnappel, State Route 105, R.R.1, Femberville, Ohio  
Mr. John Van Zandt, 107 Le Moyne Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania  
Mr. E. L. Pehrson, Box 179, Mankato, Minnesota  
Mr. F. P. Cooper, 49 Crownhill Street, Ottawa 9, Ontario, Canada  
Mr. L. W. Cousins, 472 Tecumseh Avenue, London, Ontario, Canada  
Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York  
Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Illinois  
Mr. Samuel Wissing, 93 South Lombard Avenue, Lombard, Illinois



This picture and the cover picture were loaned through the courtesy of Mr. James Peyton, Arlington, Virginia, and Mr. Angus Green, Orange, Virginia. Mr. Green was publisher of the Bulletin and Mr. Peyton did much of his work as editor in Mr. Green's office. Many will remember the above picture as having appeared in Bulletin No. 141, June, 1956, together with an article written by Mrs. Earl (Dorothy) Knapp, in the section on Peony Persons.

Mrs. Knapp's article stated in part . . . "His gardens have probably contained almost every peony that has been on the market, for at one time over 2,000 named varieties were growing there. This figure has been greatly reduced since that time . . . His life with peonies began in 1918 when he planted his first division. He joined the A.P.S. in 1921 and served the Society in many capacities — member of the Nomenclature Committee, Vice-President, President, Secretary and Editor; the latter until June, 1964, when illness forced his retirement."

## OBITUARY

### George W. Peyton

George William Peyton, 90, of Rapidan, internationally known authority on horticulture, died Monday night, January 18, 1965, in a Gordonsville nursing home.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday from Waddell Presbyterian Church at Rapidan, Virginia, conducted by Rev. Charles F. Speight, with burial in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Angus M. Green, John Wright, Philip Peyton, James Peyton, James Ellis, Bill Breeden and Roger Holiday.

Until his health declined last year, Mr. Peyton had been for many years secretary of the American Peony Society, and annually prepared the Orange County Budget. He was superintendent of Waddell Presbyterian Church Sunday School for nearly 50 years.

He was son of the late George

Quaintance and Hilda Holladay Peyton of Orange County, and his wife was the late Marion Furnival of Rapidan.

Surviving are two sons, Major George M. Peyton of Rapidan, and James F. Peyton, Arlington; two daughters, Mrs. Elsie P. Jarvis, Palo Alto, California, and Mrs. Marion P. Downey, Haddonfield, New Jersey, and eight grandchildren."

—Reprinted from the Orange, Virginia, Review.

On Page 25, December, 1964, Bulletin, you were asked — "How about a Slogan for 1965?"

We have two to start...

"Peonies for Preference," Associate Editor, and "Peonies Evermore" or "Peonies Forever," "Bill" Krekler.

How about this one? "Preserve Peony Perfection." Can you come up with a better one?

## 1964 Report on Counting of Chromosomes

By Silvia Saunders

In 1963, we succeeded in having Chromosome Counts made on 11 different Saunders Hybrids. In 1964 we got 11 more done. We now have counts on 20 kinds, for two of the 1964 batch were repeats; there was some question whether Gwenda, and particularly Roselette, both counted as triploids (15 chromosomes) in 1963, weren't more likely to be tetraploids (20 chromosomes). They were therefore re-counted in 1964, resulting in a count of 20 for each.

A glance at the sketch of a micro-photograph on page 29 of the June-September 1964 Bulletin (No. 173-74) will quickly tell the story that in the actual counting there is still room for many a slip. Peonies, say the geneticists, are "easy to count" — the chromosomes are unusually large, and besides they seem to come in multiples of five. But it is a very tricky matter to gather the anthers (my job) at precisely the right stage of development and moreover it requires three and sometimes four hours for a trained man to prepare the microscope "stains", squash the anthers, and then search through them for cells in just the desired stage of division, before he even starts counting; and even then the result is not always absolutely certain or sure.

If any reader of the Bulletin knows of a University-trained geneticist with time on his hands, who would undertake to work for me, they will

be conferring a favor on the Peony World if they will kindly put me in touch with him. I am now offering almost whatever is necessary, to get it done!

I append herewith the total list of hybrids counted to date, with their counts. Feeling that some sort of classification simplifies reading the list, I have grouped them according to their Parentage.

I have no doubt but that we shall have more counts made this Spring, though at the moment, just who is to do them for us is still an open question.

Parentage	Name	Chromo Count	Year
Albi-macro:	Chalice	15	1963
	Archangel	20	1964
	Serenade	20	1964
	Rose Crystal	20	1964
	4992	10	1964
Mloko-tenui F2:	Nosegay	20	1963
Tenui-Mloko F2:	Gwenda	15?	1963
	Gwenda	20	1964
F3:	Daystar	20	1963
Mloko-macro F2:	Nova	20	1964
F3:	9037F2	20	1963
Officinalis-decora:	Diantha	20	1964
Albi-Ozieri alba:	Halcyon	10	1964
Albi-lobata F2:	Moonrise	20	1963
Triple: Albi x (tenui-Mloko) F2:	Roselette	15?	1963
	Roselette	20	1964
	Sprite	15	1963
	14400	15	1964
Triple: Albi x Mloko x macro:	14414	20	1964
	Rose Noble	15	1963
	Starlight	15	1963
	Winged Victory	15	1963
Quadruple: Albi-offic-Mloko-macro:			

### Date Change For June Publication

The deadline for material to be published in June issue of our Bulletin has been changed to May 1st. The Bulletin will be mailed May 24th to enable all members to receive this issue before leaving for the Annual Meeting, June 19th and 20th. A more complete list of gardens and shows for the month of June will be included as well as further information about the World's Fair.

### Does Someone Want Collection?

"I have an almost complete list of Bulletins, beginning with June-September, 1939. I would be willing to sell all or most of, to an enthusiastic new member, but not a few selected Bulletins. I have read them three times. They never become out-dated."

Carrie Hovland  
R. R. 1, Minneota, Minnesota



# Hybridizing Peonies

## THE FIRST STEP

Recently a letter I received from Mr. Louis Smirnow of New York expressed his desire to try his hand at crossing a few Peonies, come spring.

"I am really too old to start now," he wrote. "But even if I don't see the results, I still believe it is worthwhile."

I do not usually find occasion to disagree with a Nationally known authority on the Peony. This time, though, I would like to half-disagree. It is worthwhile, all right, but no one is ever too old to start, and the time to get ready is now before the season begins.

The rewards of starting are, in fact, too numerous for any Peony lover to put off any longer the desire that he may have to try his hand at hybridizing. The delights of the Peony garden and Peony lover knows well enough. The delights of the seedling bed, and its bittersweet disappointments too, are known to only too few. It is the seedlings which will carry the dreams and hopes of the Peony lover — and of the Peony itself. For here are first revealed the flowers of tomorrow, the improvements in form, color and vigor that will bring the Peony to new popularity; here fresh candidates for fame compete with each other for the first time under the admiring eye of the amateur hybridizer.

No true peony fan can afford to believe that our present flowers are beyond betterment. The Peony itself cannot afford such complacency. Love our favorites as we do, we can recognize, for instance, the need for better pinks and red among our lactiflora and for a greater variety of color among the hybrids.

No man at all can be indifferent

to the joy of his own creation, even when he does not always produce prize winners; and there is no better way for the Peony fan to enjoy it than in a personal quest for newer and lovelier flowers.

The very least he can do for himself is to make Peony time not only the happy time it always is, but the most really exciting time of the year. And, who knows, the new enthusiasm that his own creations give to him may spread and attract others to the hobby of Peony breeding, so that a growing number of willing workers can only promise new heights of beauty and popularity for our favorite flower.

The trouble facing the one who would like to begin is making the right start.

Mr. Smirnow confesses that he once made it. "Years ago," he wrote, "I bought a desiccator, costs \$25.00, which had glass dishes (Watch Crystals) on which to accumulate pollen, but I never followed through with my plans and never used it." I regret that he did not, for with his profound interest in the Peony and his great knowledge of what it takes to make a good Peony he would by now have created some very fine additions to the Peony family.

Nevertheless, it was the right first step — and I am glad that he is making it again — because it shows his interest in a controlled breeding program. For a month this winter I spent my spare time checking the registrations, and over and over again I found "no parents given" and incomplete pedigrees such as "seedling of Jules Elie," indicating that the cross was done by the bees.

Intelligent breeding, on the other hand, is planned breeding; and the only way we are going to be assur-

ed of success in getting improved flowers is to know our parent plants.

This is the reason for my tremendous respect for Dr. A. P. Saunders. He followed a meticulous procedure and planned formulae according to which he crossed the most difficult species. Not only did he create many flowers of great beauty, but he left a number of seedlings still of importance to breeders today. Some of them have as many as four species in their parentage; some are F3 Tenifolia X Mloko (the Russian Yellow). The importance of these seedlings is the fact that they can save the beginning hybridizer as much as twenty years time. They can still be purchased at nominal prices from Miss Silvia Saunders of Clinton, New York.

Following the example of Dr. Saunders when I first began to hybridize Peonies, I used a botanists type of desiccator, and I soon found this equipment was too fragile to use in the field. I then made my own portable, unbreakable desiccator, which has proved entirely satisfactory over many years of use. It is this simple and inexpensive device I should like to describe and urge you to make in anticipation of any controlled breeding you may hope to do.

The picture indicates how simple the equipment is. All the items you need to make it and use it are:



1. Polyethylene plastic container, pint size, available from your local stores or mail order houses at less than 20 cents each. Four is a convenient number to buy.

2. Calcium Chloride, No. 4 mesh, one pound. This is obtainable at the drug store or a chemical supply house, and a pound will be enough to make four desiccators.

3. Paper pill boxes. These are obtainable at the druggist at a small cost.

4. Paper bags, half pound size, obtainable from your local merchant.

5. Gummed tape. (To label the pollen boxes.)

6. Tweezers, purchasable at a cosmetics or notions counter.

7. Plant labels with copper wire. obtainable at the garden supply store.

To assemble the desiccator, pour about four ounces of the calcium chloride into the plastic container and put a layer of cotton on top of the chemical to serve as a shelf for the pill boxes which will hold the collected pollen.

The gummed tape is glued over the top of the box and marked to identify the pollen inside. Never mix pollen. Otherwise you are never sure of the male parent, and you are hardly more selective in your crosses than the bees.

The paper bag has several protective functions. It is first used as a weather cover over the developing flower intended as either pod or pollen parent, being fixed below the bud with the copper wire of the plant label when the sepals first show color. It is replaced over the pod parent after pollination to shield it from unwanted chance pollination.

Obviously, there is no use in pollinating bloom not insured against field pollination or self-pollination. The bag is left on until seed harvesting, protecting the developing

pod and collecting any seeds that fall from prematurely opening carpels.

To collect pollen, remove the bag from the pollen parent and then remove its stamens and anthers. Here, timing is important, and a little experience and perhaps experiment can be of great value. If you remove the stamens before the anthers are ready to go into dehiscence, that is, to discharge the pollen they enclose, you may find that they refuse to cooperate. Exercise care, then, that there is indication that they have matured. The tweezers are useful, though perhaps not absolutely necessary, to facilitate removal and handling of the stamens. The protective bag may be discarded unless the same plant is intended for use as a pod parent, in which case the guard petals should be removed along with the stamens.

When the stamens are collected, bring them indoors and place those of each variety on its own piece of glossy paper, on which the correct identity of the pollen source is written. Allow them to "Cure" for 24 to 48 hours. In a dry season 24 hours will be sufficient; if there has been much rainfall before the anthers are harvested, the longer time will be necessary. (Of course, the pollen may be used immediately if the intended cross can be made at this time.)

When the pollen of a variety is cured, it is put into a pill box, which is labeled with the identity of the pollen it holds and placed on the "shelf" of cotton in the plastic container. A maximum of three pollen boxes may be placed into each container. The container is capped and put aside in a dry place indoors, ready for use. It need not be placed in a refrigerator. Pollen so stored may be kept indefinitely, for all practical purposes. I have successfully used pollen stored for twelve months, though it appears

that its viability declines rapidly after about 60 days of storage.

To prepare the intended pod parent for pollination, remove the protective bag and then remove the guard petals along with the stamens and anthers. The latter may be discarded unless the pollen is intended for use.

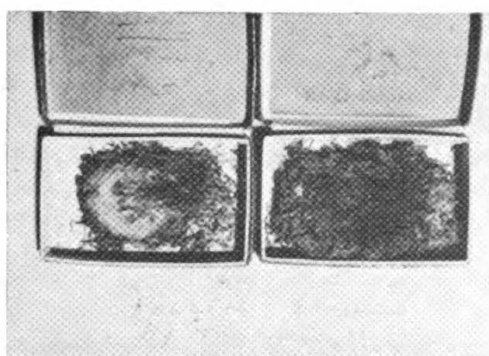
In using the pollen in the desiccator, it is not necessary to apply it with a camel's hair brush. Just gently dip the nose of the carpel of the emasculated pod parent into the pollen in the box. The sticky fluid on the carpel at this time will absorb enough pollen to set the cross. The use of the pill box is very effective on a windy day. Simply open the cover and the lid acts as a shield. Replace the bag and fix it with the copper wire of the label on which you have properly recorded the cross, pod parent first and then pollen parent. Leave the bag on until time to harvest the seed. (You won't be able to resist "peeking," so don't try to. That's part of the fun.)

Make the same record of the cross in your "stud book" adding whatever notation seems pertinent, such as the date, time of day, weather conditions, age of pollen, and so on. This is your permanent record, and to it will be added the record of the subsequent history of that cross. As your breeding program progresses, your book becomes a valuable guide, in fact the book you will do your dreaming with.

In selecting plants to serve as pod parents the beginner would be wise to start with Jap Peonies. They cannot get him into trouble by selfing or dehiscing. Singles and semi-doubles require some skill or, maybe I should say, experience to work with because some easily pollinate themselves and some dehisce so early in the history of the flower that it is almost impossible to emasculate the bloom before it has gone into dehiscence. Doubles present their

own problems which need special solutions.

There are two lessons in the use of the desiccator that I learned the hard way. In 1960 I underwent surgery just before the Peony season, but I was determined not to pass the season up without getting some seeds. So I did everything in a hurry. The second picture tells both the sad story and the lessons; be sure to cure the pollen properly before transferring to the storage box and do not cram the pollenbox too full. Otherwise, the fungus will get to it before you do.



**Pollen spoiled  
by too much moisture.**

Even the brief hints to which I limit myself in this article will indicate to the beginner that hybridizing Peonies is not a hit or miss proposition, at least it should not be if it is to be intelligently pursued. Fortunately, only the one inexpensive piece of equipment and accessories I have described are needed over and above what is normally found in the Peony grower's garden. But, if you want to make a start, don't delay until the moment you need the desiccator. The flowers won't wait for you. Delay only means another whole year lost. That is too long to postpone the promise of what the hobby of breeding Peonies can bring to you personally and to the Peony itself.

For Peony Success Insurance; join the American Peony Society.

Send check for \$5.00 to C. D. Pennell, Secretary, 107½ West Main, Van Wert, Ohio."

Editor's Note: — The above article was submitted by Mr. Samuel E. Wissing of Lombard, Illinois, who stated that he furnished the material, however, credit for writing should be given Mr. Thomas J. Buckley, 6330 South Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Buckley and Mr. Wissing became acquainted when associated with the Northern Illinois Iris Society. "Mr. Buckley served as Publicity Chairman for the American Iris Society at the time of that Society's convention at the Pick Congress Hotel and Show at McCormick Place."

### **Word From Wisconsin**

William Bringe, West Salem, Wisconsin, wrote us as of January 11 this year to say, "We are now in grip of minus zero weather and no snow cover following five days of muddy thaw. Such weather is rough on peonies, more especially on iris.

"Last season's bloom was fair but better than 1963. Le Cygne again failed to open, which is now the fourth year of no bloom. So it must be that next year will be a Le Cygne year.

"Such a year heralds good bloom on all spring flowering plants, since it requires cool weather and plenty growth moisture to bloom Le Cygne. Le Cygne is still No. 1 on my list of most beautiful peonies, but for hardiness and performance it shouldn't be mentioned.

"Planted three tree peonies last fall. How they will take to 20-below winters we will soon find out. Plants have been covered and mulched. If they make it here, I will increase the planting. Will keep you informed of the progress."

Fine, Mr. Bringe—we will be watching for word from you!



# TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys, Central City, Nebraska

A Jaguar parked in the garage, real logs burning in the fireplace, good music playing in the background — and tree peonies growing in the garden . . . ! If you don't think that combination makes for gracious living, conjure up a list of your own. Don't let another season pass without investing in the King of Flowers. The rewards are great, and they are non-taxable.

## Baltimore Report:

There will be no more Reports from Baltimore. F. H. Barclay, member of the American Peony Society for more than 40 years, died last April. Bulletins 142 and 143 carried comprehensive reports on the peonies grown in his Oakfield Avenue garden. Those reports are as appropriate today as when they first appeared.

Mr. Barclay grew hundreds of plants. He knew the name of every flower in his garden. His greatest praise was reserved for the Japanese tree peony, which he called the most beautiful flower in existence. He summed up his feelings about peonies by applying to them Shakespeare's appraisal of Cleopatra: "Age cannot wither nor custom stale her infinite variety. Other women cloy the appetite they feed but she makes hungry when most she satisfies."

The Barclay home has been sold. It is rumored that a 32-unit apartment will be built on the garden-site. Mr. Barclay's son and two daughters moved most of the tree peonies and about 100 herbaceous peonies to their gardens, but more had to be left behind.

## Miscellany:

One of the most interesting articles to appear in these pages last year was Ralph H. Giff's report of progress in developing a free-blooming clone of European tree peony, REINE ELIZABETH. He rated it among his top three, but failed to mention the other two. They are

SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU, a Peace-rose colored lutea hybrid, and the big white Japanese, GESSEKAI. Like most growers his choices are fluid, probably subject to change as the challengers grow older. I get the impression that lemon-yellow ALICE HARDING and the red Japanese HINODE SEKAI are making strong bids for a place in Mr. Giff's top trio.

## Editorially Speaking:

I doubt that the ranks of albiflora peonies are contaminated by any more varieties of questionable merit than any other species with thousands of cultivars extant. Nevertheless I managed to gather together a group that turned out over 50% duds. They have been phased out, the good with the bad. L'Etincelante was the last to go. Last May it bloomed beautifully in a finale worthy of a prima donna. Its roots now give life to several tree peony grafts.

Today, the only herbaceous peonies in my garden are hybrids, mainly albiflora X lobata with a sprinkling of the other crosses and, of course, Red Charm. And a few of the species. It would be easy to let the matter rest there, but I'll try again some day. George Peyton once promised to help me select some more promising garden varieties but fate intervened.

## Coming Soon:

Spring!

Preview of the fall catalogs.

How much shade?

And more — about tree peonies!

## *Florist's Review - Tree Peony*

A set of 15 stamps and one miniature sheet featuring the tree peony were issued recently by the Postal Ministry of the Chinese People's Republic. This is the first time the plant has appeared on Chinese stamps, though it has been cultivated in the country since the Tang dynasty more than 1,000 years ago.

The tree peony (*Paeonia suffruticosa*) was first mentioned in the Chinese work "Sheng-nung-pen-tsao-ching" more than 2,000 years ago. The plant had been used in medicine and was a popular garden flower in China a long time before it was introduced into the West at the end of the 18th century.

The plant is native to the northwestern provinces of Kansu and Shensi, where it can still be found growing wild. It has long been known as the "King of Flowers" because of its large, attractive, showy flowers which range in color from white to yellow, green, light red, scarlet, purple and black. It became increasingly popular because of its cultivation.

During the Tang dynasty (618-907), tree peonies were extensively grown in Changan (now Sian in Shensi) and Loyang in Honan. Legend has it that a man named Shan Fu in Loyang, on the order of Emperor Hsuan Chung, of the Tang dynasty, grew more than 10,000 peony plants on Lishan mountain.

In the Northern Sung Dynasty (960-1126), the fame of the tree peonies in Loyang spread throughout the country. Many fine species were cultivated, among which the most beautiful were the Yao Huang (the yellow species cultivated by the Yao family) and Wei Tse (the purple species cultivated by the Wei family), called the king and queen of the tree peonies. It was said that when the Yao Huang was in bloom, the Yaos' garden and the roads and streets leading to it were filled with visitors. So famous were the Loyang varieties that the city came to be known as the "City of Tree Peonies."

In the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), Pochou (now Pohsien county, Anhwei) also won fame for the varieties it produced. In the Ching dynasty (1644-1911), Tsaochou in Shantung (now Hoche county, Shantung) became famous for shipping over 100,000 plants annually to Peking, Canton, Tientsin and Hankow.

In recent years, the cultivation of the tree peony has been expanded in many places. Tsaochu is again supplying many famous varieties. Loyang is making a real effort to regain its fame as the "City of Tree Peonies" and has succeeded in growing a number of excellent varieties. The Loyanghung (the red species of Loyang), for instance, blooms even in winter. But the most well-known flowers, such as those of a globular form in the double varieties known as twin beauties, are cultivated in Peking.

EDITOR'S NOTE—This article was sent to The Review by China Features, an editorial service of the People's Republic of China. The author is Pien Chi.

## Our Readers Write

Gurnee, Illinois:

"I joined the Society several years ago, when we were living in an apartment. I was gardening in the back yard through the favor of my landlord. Since that time we have frequently moved, and this has involved the move of up to 20 peonies, including 10 tree peonies. One move was in early spring and after another move the previous November. I haven't lost a plant yet. This speaks very well for the plants. I have even had bloom usually from the herbaceous plants, with the notable exception of **Prairie Afire** which resents change. The trees grow a little and bloom sparsely, if at all.

We are finally settled now and everything is in a permanent spot. If my flock survives this winter I'm sure they will settle down and bloom well. The soil is rich and well drained, and we are close to Bro. Charles at Mission Gardens where the peonies and iris are glorious. I have about 30 name plants — tree, hybrids and the older types. My largest group of flowers is iris and I have quite a modern up-to-date collection. We have a half acre. We will add varieties regularly, of peonies, iris and oriental poppies.

Gurnee is directly west of Waukegan, about 40 miles north of Chicago, and in a year or two the planting should have developed enough to be worth seeing during the season. All visitors are welcome, any time. Again all good fortune to you in the endeavor. I am glad to enclose my check for another year."

Sincerely, Richard J. Sloan

\* \* \* \*

### WHAT ABOUT A PEONY RATING SYMPOSIUM?

Lesley J. Wiley, Cobleskill, New York, writes as follows: — "I should

like to cast a vote for the re-establishment of the Peony Rating Symposium. Being a relatively new member of the Society, I never had the opportunity of participating in a Symposium, but I did make very extensive use of the results published in 1939 and 1941 when the last Symposiums were conducted.

As I built my modest collection of peonies starting in 1958, I referred constantly to the last ratings. I have been most sorry not to find ratings on the peonies introduced since the late 1930s. Perhaps to the enthusiast who can travel the country over to see newer varieties, the ratings are comparatively useless, but to the beginner whose job holds him close to home during the peony season, the ratings are the one most valuable aid available in selecting varieties. I would further submit that the rating symposium would give the membership something to do in the Society and would thus strengthen the Society. Right now you know there is very little in the Society for the average amateur. Even the chance to select favorite varieties was removed from the membership by the publication of the "List of Recommended Varieties" last year.

In reinstituting the rating of peonies I would suggest that the older varieties be rated again. I believe that some of our nines would not make the grade if admitted to competition with many of the newer varieties. It is equally inconceivable that a 7.6 rating for an *Edulis Superba* would remain on the books.

I should like to make the following suggestion about ratings. They are made without extended explanation.

1. If the clerical work involved in ratings is extremely arduous, let

the Society rate only certain colors each year rather than all peonies each time a Symposium is conducted.

2. Divide the country into regions and let volunteers from within each region do the clerical work under the direction of the Society.
3. Besides an overall rating, publish ratings by areas or sections. I am certain that many varieties perform extremely well in some areas and very poorly in others. Let's all participate in the Society's business.

Very truly yours,  
Leslie J. Wiley

NOTE: Thank you Mr. Wiley — one does get out of something just what they put into it and we welcome all the suggestions and participation. This augurs well for the future of the American Peony Society !!!  
— The Editor

\* \* \* \*

#### WE HEAR FROM WYOMING!

Nelson H. James, in Wyoming, writes as follows:

"Had a very good peony year here in 1964. No frost during the blooming season. Tree peonies did very good. Nissho was the best — that odd red color, also the herbaceous hybrids were very good, no yellow ones.

I have some (Mlokoewitsch + Lactiflora) plants I hope I may get a yellow one some day. The (Tenuifolia + Mlokoewitsch) cross are all pink singles and plants are larger than either parent bloom and

about the same time — real early. Hoping this will find you enjoying good health and prosperity."

Your Peony friend,  
Nelson H. James

—o—

#### GARDEN WEEK . . . WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg, Virginia — Seven gardens and six houses—all in Colonial Williamsburg's famed historic area and not generally open to the public—will be featured during Garden Week here, April 27-28.

Special gardens open for Garden Week—all planted with materials introduced here prior to 1800 in various layouts including a British flag design—are: Dr. Barraud's, the King's Arms and the Powell-Waller.

—o—

#### BOOKS FOR SALE

Mrs. Carl Carlson, R.R.2, Prentice, Wisconsin, has a copy of Boyd's "Peonies," published in 1928 — she will sell for \$10.00.

Mr. W. A. Halligan, 10, Guildford Avenue, Cheedle Hulme, Cheshire, England, writes: "I have a surplus copy of Frederick Stern's book "The Genus of the Peonia" — very rare nowadays and hard to come by, in fact a collector's item. If anyone is interested the price is \$100.00.

\* \* \* \*

We are desperately needing Back Bulletins 1, 12, 15, 16, 71. If you have an extra copy, please notify the Secretary.

Plan Now To Attend And Exhibit Your Blooms  
At The 1965 Annual Show And Meeting  
June 19th - 20th  
Lake Mohawk, Sparta, New Jersey

# TREE PEONY THOUGHTS

Anthony J. De Blasi, Floral Park, New York

Is there anything in the floral world like the tree peony? If we add up the qualities of huge size, artistic beauty, abundant variety of form, rich color in a broad range, variety of texture, fragrance, attractive plant, ease of culture, dependability and longevity, the totality leaves all others behind.

Yet, there are some instances of resemblance in other flowers. Take a good look at double portulacas — they are, for all the world, simple, capsule versions of some tree peony forms. Examine the foliage of the bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*) — you could swear you were looking at the leaves of a Lutea hybrid tree peony. In the semidouble-to-peony-form-double classification of camellias, there are a number of striking similarities, in miniature. I was recently startled at the uncanny resemblance between the tree peony, Renkaku, and the *Camellia japonica*, variety Clower White (classed as a loose peony-form), a day or two after opening and before its petals became fully “stylized.” The relaxed, open petal formation, gracefully waved, the larger cluster of golden anthers, the very translucence of the petals — all were there. Missing, however, were the great size of Renkaku (by three to one), its ephemeral poise, and dramatic showiness of the plant in full flower.

Of course these are exceptional cases and though intriguing in their similarity, decidedly not substitutes in any sense of the word.

On occasion I have alluded to a sort of mysterious connection between Japanese art and the tree peony, in such phraseology as “The tree peony seems to have been fashioned by a Japanese artist”. The Japanese arts of Bonsai, Ikebana, Sumi (to mention three famous ones) result from a temperament and a way of life that are inextricably bound in philosophy and religion, specifically Zen. Is it possible that the Japanese growers of tree peonies, in ages past, could have somehow imposed their will upon nature in such a way as to transform the tree peony into an image that conformed to their artistic temperament?

On first voicing, the proposition appears far-fetched. I wonder how far-fetched it really is? Even a superficial study of genetics reveals that the possibilities for variation in a given species are greater by far than there will ever be time in the universe for them to be realized. Left to nature, these possibilities are realized in a more or less random pattern, the variations accelerated or decelerated by the needs of the species in a given environment (natural selection). But when man steps in and accelerates beyond randomness the cross-breeding and in-breeding of a species, **and does the selecting himself**, then the results bear some allegiance to his will. What I am saying is that

1. Nature “allows” certain combinations resulting in certain variations;
2. If left to herself, nature takes a “course of least resistance” and many possibilities never materialize;
3. Man, in cooperation with nature, by manipulating the process of variation and **selecting the results he prefers**, effectively transforms certain of nature’s organisms to suit his desires, concurrently realizing many more of nature’s possibilities than would have been otherwise.

I may be overstating what is perhaps obvious to my readers, but I do

so in order to make myself clear and more especially to highlight what I feel is the key idea: **selection**. We hear of Saunders' peonies, Read's geraniums, Bodger's fuchsias, and so on. Of the thousands of possibilities, breeders select just a few and discard the thousands that do not meet **their** criteria for selection. Now one of the several criteria, in most instances, is beauty and here is where the individual's esthetic tastes have a field-day! In a very real sense, aren't these results reflections of some aspects of their creators' personalities?

When a specific process of breeding and selecting is a concentrated one and does not end in one man's life-time but continues from one generation to another, and the creators are steeped in Zen esthetics, with its highly artistic consequences (as was the case in Japan), then we may expect that the results of such a pointed and persistent effort should succeed in approximating the special and peculiar qualities of a Zen-oriented sense of beauty. Effectively, isn't the Japanese tree peony a grand work of art, in that countless generations of breeders "fashioned" — from the already latent possibilities of this flower — those features which most nearly coincided with their artistic taste?

Just a theory.

The season of excitement is about to begin; may it be a joyful one for all.

## SPRING SHOW CALENDAR

- March 6 - 14... International Flower Show  
Coliseum, New York City
- March 6 - 14... Southeastern Flower and Garden Show  
Merchandise Mart, Charlotte, North Carolina
- March 6 - 14... Cleveland Home and Flower Show  
Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio
- March 6 - 14... Midwest Flower and Garden Festival  
State Fair Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- March 8 - 10... 17th Annual Northwest Archid Society Show  
Washington Mutual Savings Bank, Seattle, Washington
- March 12 - 14... 9th Alamo Orchid Society Show  
North State Mall, San Antonio, Texas
- March 12 - 21... National Capital Flower and Garden Show  
National Guard Armory, Washington, D.C.
- March 13 - 14... Flower Show, Orlando, Florida
- March 13 - 14... Flower Show, State Planters Bank of  
Commerce and Trust, Richmond, Virginia
- March 13 - 18... Pennsylvania Horticultural Society  
Armory-First Troop, Philadelphia
- March 13 - 21... New England Spring Show — auspices  
Massachusetts Horticultural Society —  
Rt. No. I-A, Wonderland Park, Revere Beach, Mass.
- March 20 - 28... Chicago World Flower and Garden Show  
McCormick Place
- March 21 - 26... Garden Symposium, Williamsburg, Virginia
- March 30 - April 4th... Northwestern Ohio Garden and Flower Show  
Sports Arena and Exhibit Hall, Toledo, Ohio
- April 2 - 4... San Francisco Spring Flower Show



## ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few places we might suggest putting on your itinerary when traveling to and from the Annual Meeting and Exhibition at Sparta, New Jersey, June 19 and 20th.

Peony Test Planting at National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

Plantings at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, on Route No. 30.

The C. J. Herman garden, located in the Maplehurst section on Route No. 408, (seventh house on the left after you turn off Rt. 16), Hinsdale, New York. Hinsdale is located north of Olean. If any members wish to stop Mrs. Herman graciously suggests they might telephone Hinsdale 4841 and she will direct them from wherever they are calling.

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

President Frank L. Howell at Lake Lanape, Rt. 1, Box 485, Newton, New Jersey.

Tree Peonies at Gratwick's, Pavilion, New York.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Arboretum, Brooklyn, New York.

Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois.

Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado.

Sonora Desert Museum, 16 mile west of Tucson, Arizona.

Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, Superior, Arizona.

Montreal Botanical Garden, Montreal, Quebec.

Dominion Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Ottawa, Ontario.

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri.

Miss Silvia Saunders' Tree Peony Garden at Clinton, New York. Loca-

tion—10 miles South exit 32 (West Moreland) on the Thruway 12 miles South Utica-Rome Airport (served by Mohawk Airlines). Miss Saunders will meet any plane.

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### EDITOR'S COMMENT:

On Page 29 of the June-September, 1964, American Peony Society Bulletin, we carried an excellent article by Miss Silvia Saunders entitled "Miss Silvia Saunders Reports." The article dealt with the counting of chromosomes of hybrids and prepared for the Bulletin because of the growing interest in peony hybridizing in this country. Miss Saunders' report in that issue covered her 1963 count. We stated as a footnote to her article "We shall look forward to Miss Saunders' report for 1964.

Turn to page 19 for the Report.

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## Chicago's World Flower And Garden Show

Opening of the 1965 Chicago World Flower and Garden Show in McCormick Place has been set for Saturday, March 20th, and will continue through Sunday, March 28th. The Show is produced in association with the Chicago Horticultural Society of which Robert P. Wintz is executive secretary. Over-all design of the Show and many of its individual gardens, are under the direction of Harold O. Klopp and Associates, landscape architects.

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## Northwestern Ohio Garden & Flower Show

More space will be devoted to gardens this year than ever before at the 15th annual Northwestern Ohio Garden and Flower Show which will be presented March 30 through April 4th at the Toledo Sports Arena and Exhibit Hall,

# *The Magnolia, A Worthy Companion To The Tree Peony*

Harold Tinnappel

Mr. Leo J. Armatys makes the interesting observation in his article on "Tree Peonies" in the **American Peony Society Bulletin** No. 168 (March, 1963, page 20) that the tree peony is a primeval contemporary of the magnolia, the ginkgo and the metasequois. In fact, the last three mentioned might be used as companions in the garden to provide the light shade needed to protect the tree peony blossoms from the bright sun. The Asiatic Magnolias are indigenous to sections of China from which the first tree peonies were brought. Tree peonies were found in the Shansi, Szechwan and Kansu provinces of western China and some magnolia species came from Szechwan, Hupeh and Yunnan provinces of southern and western China, Tibet, and Assam in Burma.

The tree peony and the magnolia were introduced to the western world from Asia almost simultaneously. Sir Joseph Banks, in whose honor the peony ***Paeonia moutan* var. *banksia*** was named, was instrumental in importing to England the tree peony around 1787 (see the article "Tree Peonies" by Sir F. C. Stern in the **Bulletin** No. 175 [December, 1964, page 9] and the Yulan magnolia [***M. denudata***] in 1789 [see **Garden Shrubs and Their Histories** by Alice M. Coats, page 211).

Just as the tree peony was transported from China to Japan around the eighth century the magnolia was moved from the mainland of Asia to this island in which both of these fine shrubs were so highly prized. It is from Japan that ***Magnolia kobus***, ***stellata*** and ***salicifolia*** came.

Another interesting parallel exists between these two genera. It was in France some of the first hybridizing of tree peonies occurred. The Lemoines of Nancy began in 1902 to cross the recently introduced ***Paeonia lutea*** and ***P. suffruticosa*** to produce the beautiful yellow hybrids 'L'Esperance' (introduced in 1909), 'La Lorraine' (1913) and 'Alice Harding' (1935). Professor Louis Henry of the Paris Museum of Natural History is remembered for his varieties 'Mme Louis Henry' and 'Souv. de Maxime Cornu' both introduced in 1919. Seventy-five years earlier an accidental hybrid between ***Magnolia denudata*** and ***M. liliflora*** bloomed in the garden of M. Soulange-Bodin, a general retired from Napoleon's army, who also founded the National Horticultural Society of France. It was this cross which was subsequently so often duplicated to produce the popular Soul-angiana hybrids.

We should not neglect to mention the prominent role played by the Arnold Arboretum in introducing these two shrubs to the world. E. H. Wilson, at one time Director of the arboretum, introduced from western China ***Magnolia sinensis*** and ***M. Wilsonii*** in the early 1900's. The names of Professor Charles Sprague Sargent and Dr. J. F. Rock, both members of the arboretum staff, are associated with the collection, growing and distribution of seeds and plants of wild tree peonies found in southern Kansu as recently as 1926.

I will describe only those magnolias which I have grown in northern Ohio (zone six). These shrubs do not seem to be particular about the soil in which they grow; it is often advised that peat moss be mixed with the soil when planting. The magnolias should be moved when active

growth has just started, perhaps when in bloom. Care should be exercised to avoid damaging the roots.

The first of the magnolias to bloom for me is *M. denudata*. The flowers are creamy-white and about six inches in diameter and appear before the leaves. I have a couple of plants of *M. kobus* and they so far have produced only a scattering of bloom, but this species is notoriously shy blooming until well established. I also have a couple of *M. salicifolia*, and although they have not yet bloomed they provide a handsome pyramidal effect in the garden. The leaves are narrow, about four inches long and when crushed give off an aromatic odor, a property which gave it its common name — the Anise magnolia.

For years I have taken great pleasure in the beautiful *Magnolia stellata* in the botanical gardens at the Ohio State University. It must be over 30 years old now and is about nine feet high with 12 feet spread and early in the spring is covered with fragrant starlike blossoms. Naturally this was one of the first species I planted in my garden. In addition to several plants of the species, I have *stellata rubra*, 'Waterlily' and 'Royal Star'. *Stellata rubra* opens a deep rose and fades to a pleasing light pink. This shrub occasionally produces a few scattered blossoms in the fall. Waterlily produces flowers somewhat larger than *stellata* and often is more double and some years is distinctly pink. Royal star is my most recent acquisition and last year the young shrubs, less than two feet tall, had several flowers, larger than the species, and a week or so after the species. It is claimed that the Royal Star regularly flowers a week to 10 days after the species and is more likely to escape the late frosts that sometimes blast the *stellata* display.

*Magnolia loebneri* is a cross between *stellata* and *kobus*. For me it is a vigorous grower and has larger flowers than *stellata*. I also have the named variety 'Merrill' produced by Dr. Karl Sax at the Arnold Arboretum.

I grow a number of named varieties of the hybrid *Magnolia soulangeana*. 'Alexandrina' grows very vigorously for me and provides many large flowers, rose purplish on the outside and white on the inside. 'Brozoni' has been slow in getting started for me; it has the largest and most nearly white blossoms of any in this class. Although it grows as a low sprawling shrub, 'Grace McDade' has the largest leaves of any of the soulangianas with immense blooms closest to true pink. 'Lombardy Rose' blooms well from very small sizes, as in fact do most of the soulangianas. 'Rustica' has very dark purplish red flowers. 'San Jose' has large beautiful rose purple blossoms of very heavy substance.

The last Asiatic magnolia on my list which blooms regularly for me is *liliflora nigra*. I have planted it near to the house to afford it some protection since this species does not appear to be very hardy. It has the darkest flowers, a stylish reddish-purple bloom which is vase-shaped, flaring at the ends of the petals. I am trying small plants of *Magnolia obovata*, *Watsonii* and *Wilsonii*. These three bloom later in the season and differ from those mentioned previously in that their leaves have expanded by the time the flowers appear.

It is a biological curiosity that a number of Chinese species have very similar American counterparts, especially along the Atlantic seaboard. This is true not only for the magnolia, but also for the redbud tree (*Cercis*), the fringe tree (*Chimonanthus*) and the witch-hazel (*Hamamelis*) to mention a few. In fact the American native, *Magnolia virginiana*, was one of the first magnolias to be grown and appreciated in England.

The leaves are shining bluish-green and whitish underneath, and in milder climates is an evergreen whereas in the North is deciduous. The fragrant creamy-white blooms come in June and July. The display of flowers is not as spectacular as that of *soulangiana*, for example, since they do not come all at once, are smaller, and appear after the leaves have come. I am also trying a form of *M. grandiflora* which is reputed to be hardier than the type and *Magnolia fraseri*. I have lost a plant of *Magnolia cordata* after it produced a couple of lemon yellow flowers and was sufficiently intrigued to attempt it again.

## A Report To Members

In the last Bulletin, I began my Letter to the Members in the following words: "It is my painful duty as Treasurer to report to you that our Society is in serious financial difficulty." I begin this report on a much happier note: It is my pleasant duty to report to you that "Operation Save the A.P.S." was most successful and that the Society is now out of the financial woods. Survival is assured — at least for the immediate future.

I must admit that your Treasurer is a man of little faith. I set \$500 as the goal to be striven for, but privately I doubted that we would get anything like that much. However, when the checks stopped coming, I had a total of \$1,272 to deposit which brought our bank balance to the highest point since I have been Treasurer. Not all of this amount is outright donation. Some asked to have their membership dues extended, and two life memberships came out of it. But even so the donations top the \$1,100 mark. The generosity of our members was a revelation to me; it reflects the intense interest they have in their favorite flower and the deep concern about the continued existence and welfare of the Society which promotes their flower.

Contributions ranged from a few dollars to \$200, which was for two life memberships. There were sev-

eral checks for \$50 and \$100 and many of from \$10 to \$25. The Fifth District (Chicago-Milwaukee area) gave \$300 from their treasury. All told there were 35 responses. If one could feel any disappointment with the outcome of the campaign it is that not more people responded. I expected more contributions of \$3 to \$5.

As to the future of the Society, only time will tell. It is too early to make a forecast that would have much validity. The money from this campaign will keep us going until the new secretary can become thoroughly familiar with the work, and will allow the Directors time to analyze the situation and make policy changes if needed. I am very optimistic. I think the Society can again attain a sound financial status. If it does, the credit will go to those of you who contributed so generously in time of crisis.

W. A. Alexander, Treasurer

## A Testimonial

Mr. Leo J. Armatys has written us stating, "Here's a testimonial as to results of advertising in the A.P.S. Bulletin. I've just received a letter from Mrs. Clarence Scott, Baltimore, Maryland, saying she has Bulletin No. 59 I've been wanting. Perhaps she can also find the No. 70 and No. 71 that I lack.

"Mrs. Scott is the daughter of a long-life member of the A.P.S., F. H. Barclay, who died last April."

## NOMENCLATURE

The following have been received for Registration from Gene Wild, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri, together with a beautiful color picture of each introduction. They are beautiful and our only regret is that we cannot at this time reproduce them in color for our readers. We might add that both Gene Wild and Jim Wild are new Life Members of the American Peony Society.

**HIT PARADE** (Nicholls, 1965) N 177.

M. J. Pink. T. A very good rose-pink Japanese for a showy display in the garden. The full fluffy center is a lighter pink than the two rows of petals. The color of the center of the petals is Magenta Rose, and the color lightens towards the petal edges. The pistils are a light green. Good stems and foliage. A mature clump is two inches taller than the Peony, **CELEBRATION**, and goes nicely planted with **CELEBRATION**.

**PAINTED DESERT** (Nicholls, 1965) N. 428.

M. D. Pink. A magnificent rose formed Peony whose coloring has been stippled or painted on the very large, wide and rounded petals. The upper half of the petals is silvery white with the dots of pink becoming more concentrated toward the center of the flower. Thus the light pink becomes much deeper at the flower's center. Occasionally several petals have dark red edgings, which extend through the length of the petals. The coloring of the flowers makes one think that the colors have been painted. The large buds, looking like peppermint candy, open very much like **NICK SHAYLOR**. Good strong stems. The very large foliage is a good dark waxy green. Parentage: Marie Crousse x Spring Beauty.

**RED CARPET** (Wild, 1965) W25-44.

M. D. Red. Yes, flashy in field and garden! In looking down the row full of bloom, it looks like someone had rolled out the red, Red Carpet of Welcome! This good deep rich velvety red does not fade for us. The many flowers, having a double row of large petals encircling a fluffy center, bloom at the same time and have good keeping qualities. There are many side blooms to bud on an established plant. Good stems and foliage.

### KREKLER REGISTRATIONS

William H. Krekler, a life member of the Society, has submitted the following for registration:

**BOB KREKLER**: Named for originator's brother. A Jap that is similar to Western (probably a child of it). Very outstanding — big bright yellow center.

**ANN GOEMANS** — Late big silvery pink double. Named for a delightful Dutch lady.

**CAMDEN** — Many large very red single flowers. Named for an Ohio village.

**GEE-WHIZ** — Light yellow. Resembles Laura Dessert.

**GOLLY** — Nice big 30-inch near white double Jap. St. pale yellow Upright pink tuft.

**GOSH** — Jap whose wine-red petals are tipped gold.

**LEE** — Dark double red. Similar to Harry L. Smith. Named for Mendenhall of Sevenmile, Ohio.

**MORE GLORY** — Lavender pink double, similar to Gloriana.

**NICE GAL** — Big frosted semi-double rose pink. Good landscaper (flowers placed down near bush).

**OH MY** — White and wine, similar to Cathedral.

**SCHAFE** — Big lavender-pink Jap double. A different color and buildup. Most promising. Named for Albert Schafer at New Lebanon, Ohio.

**VICKIE** — Sturdy lasting very late huge glowing near-white ball. Named for Mrs. James Lewis of Somerville, Ohio.

**WESTINE** — Huge late silver-pink double with 27 inch arching stems. Named for Westine Shuefelt, a Quaker minister.

#### **A. L. MURAWSKA**

The following has been submitted for registration by Mr. Murawska.

#### **SECRETARY GEORGE PEYTON**

— Formerly called Mrs. X is a seedling of Avalanche and Mildred May. It is a sister seedling of Peace when first discovered in the seed bed it was a beautiful single white — after dividing it became a full double. Tall — 40 inches — good dark green foliage — strong stiff stem that stands up straight. Flower full double white with no pollen. Large petals of good substance — makes a beautiful flower. Form is good, more loosely built than its sister Peace. Will make a good cut flower, also good for the garden and show table. Slightly fragrant. Named in honor of our former Secretary, George Peyton. (NOTE: This was sent for registration October 1, 1964, and Mr. Peyton was notified of the submission to the Nomenclature Committee). According to Variety Check List (compiled by Mr. and Mrs. Byron Gist - completed in 1956; original card file at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, copy on file in A.P.S. office) on Page 150 the following:

**GEORGE W. PEYTON** (Nicholls, 1938) Double. Pale buff. Midseason.

Medium height. Slight but pleasant fragrance. Large double of rose shape with very wide petals of lasting substance. Pale buff with a very definite and persistent suffusion of pink, deepening to the center. Exactly the color of Solange except

that the pronounced flush of pink gives the flower more life. Strong stems. Vigorous and floriferous. Seedling from Lady Alexandra Duff.

**COLONEL ROBERT R. McCORMICK** — Seedling No. R 72 — Ruth Elizabeth seedling. A glorified Ruth Elizabeth, taller than its parent. Good foliage and strong stem holds flower well. Late midseason. Will not make a cut flower, but will be beautiful in the garden and on the show table. It is a semi-rose type double. Color is a vivid red, as its mother. This red did not burn in 94 degree heat as did most other reds. It held its color to the end.

**MRS. LOUISE B. WATTS** — Eormalaly seedling No. P. 71. Tall, about 40 inches. Foliage down to the ground. Color is beautiful dark pink. Full double on matured plants. Midseason to late. This will be a good cut flower, also a wonderful show and garden flower. The stems are stiff and strong, will hold flowers erect.

**PEACE** — a seedling from Avalanche and Mildred May. Height 38 inches. Good dark **GREEN FOLIAGE RIGHT TO THE GROUND**. Stems are strong and stiff; it holds flowers very erect. Midseason to late. Stands heat, wind and rain well. Bud is pure white. Looks well before completely open. Flower opens well and is a rose type with about six rows of guard petals, which holds its shape throughout the life of the flower. Most of the blooms are pure white, but occasionally there are a few flecks of red on two or three of the center petals. These are hardly noticeable. Has some fragrance. I have tested this peony for the last 10 years. I think I have finally got the peony worthy of the name Peace.

NOTE: This registration was filed in 1955 to be introduced in 1965. See Gist — Variety Check List 1956.

— Chr., Nomenclature Com.



## BRAND PEONY FARMS

Bob Tischler

**KAY TISCHLER** — Seedling No. 702. Parentage unknown. (Brand Peony Farms - 1964). Bright pink Jap. Large well formed flowers of 7-8 inches in size. Plants 36 to 38 inches tall. Bright green pistils — staminodes are broad, bright pink in color, tipped golden yellow. Some blooms show tufts of pink. Plants are strong and bright green in color. A very showy Japanese variety. Honorable Mention 1964 Annual A.P.S. Show.

**GAIL TISCHLER** — Seedling No. 93. Further description later this year. This seedling was awarded the Myron D. Bigger award.

## Dr. Allen Honored

Dr. R. C. Allen, member of the American Peony Society and Past Vice-President of the American Horticultural Society, was presented the American Rose Society's Gold Honor Medal at the Society's Annual Fall Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. This Gold Honor Medal represents the highest honor the American Rose Society can award to any of its members. Dr. Allen, author, lecturer, researchers, judge at innumerable shows, has received recognition and awards from many horticultural groups. Among the honors are the medal of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, the A.R.S. Buckeye District Silver Honor Medal, the Silver Medal of the Mens' Garden Clubs of America, the Dahlia White Vail Memorial Medal of the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, the Thomas Roland Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Master Gardener Award of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs.

Dr. Allen is presently Director of Kingwood Center, a botanical-horticultural and nature study institution of Mansfield, Ohio.

## Change of Name

Myron D. Bigger has renamed his peony "PICTURE" and now calls it "CAROUSEL." This name has been reported favorably.

## Color Slide Collection

We have received from Samuel E. Wissing, Lombard, Illinois, the following letter:

"I have enclosed two slides 'MOONRISE' and 'LAURA MAGNUSEN' for your Slide Library. Both I am sure you know are originations of Dr. Saunders. 'Moonrise' (Hybrid-Tetraploid) because it is yellow or at least cream in color without any help in its breeding from Molka, the Russian yellow specie, could be a valuable parent 'Pollen' as we have found a way to inject it, and it will set seeds with both Emfryo and Endsperm, not all but a percentage of them. It always was a good Pod parent and sets seeds freely, and is the reason the plant breeder suspected it was Tetraploid, even before it was counted."

## Slide Rental Information

- (1) Slides are for 35mm projector. Renter supplies projector.
- (2) Slides must be ordered one month in advance.
- (3) Rental of slides is \$5.00. Return postage must be paid by renter. Insure for \$50.00. Make checks payable to the American Peony 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.

# *Seduction of The Innocents*

By Neal R. Van Loon

In the colossal Des Moines Show of 1924 I saw my first Peonies. I speak of Peonies spelled with a capital "P".

The great Coliseum was packed full of Peonies. It was truly a colossal Show and I mean just that! That was the year that Harry Little drove in with a truck load of flowers and made practically a clean sweep of the Show. I remember the fragrance filling the atmosphere to the point of heaviness. The main thing that lingers in the memory all these forty years, is the picture of dozens and dozens of *Le Cygnes*, anyone of which it seemed could be a Grand Champion!

Wife and I were deeply impressed but we were not yet sold. That same June, however, as we were passing through La Crosse, Wisconsin, we saw a few more, just a few more, at my Uncle's place. His face lighted with pride, as he walked out of his dark inner cold cellar with two long stems of "something" in his hands. The flowers, whatever they were, were all wrapped about with tissue paper. As he removed the paper our eyes dilated and we gasped our unbelief! "Ne plus letra!" Here were two super "gobsloptious"! **Mons Jules Elie!** We were goners, on the hook! The seduction proved to be permanent and complete.

But other things must be added to these enervating memories. Myron Bigger had a **Westerner**, a **Blanche King** and one **Honsina Brand** at Boston that were so huge and so immaculately perfect that about all you could say was "Well, it just isn't so". This was a year when the Show mighty nearly turned out to be a complete flop because of a too early date. Mr. Bigger and the Thurlows very much redeemed it. Those two blooms mentioned, just by themselves, made the trip worthwhile. Then there was the great armload of **Ann Cousins** brought in for the first showing at Guelph, Ontario. Bill Brown had lush fields growing and blooming at Elora.

Adding to the rising fever Ben Massey set up five **Mrs. L. Farrand** at Reading that must have made many an eye blink. In the Sussex County, New Jersey regional two Japs were on display that will surely thrill those who saw them as long as life lasts; Brand's delicate **Vanity** and Art Murawska's **Break O' Day**.

So it went and so it goes. The Seduction of the Innocents let us call it.

"Van Loon is gone crazy" — no doubt sympathetic pitying friends said. Was it so with you? Well, guilty we say; but we are only crazy in a rather more sensible way.

Yes I've grown 'em and grown 'em. Skads of 'em, East, West and in the Mid-West. Where can they be grown the best? I can't say for sure. Maybe the answer is "Anywhere except in the far South". You can grow them plenty good in the East, yes, in the gravelly soil of New Jersey with which I struggled for twenty some years. You must furnish the crooked roots plenty of goodies as they twist this way and that searching for pasture.

If you have watched Gayle, Karrells and that past-master, **Dr. Hyde**, start for home after the Shows with a baleful or two of ribbons, well nearly, you'd be inclined to say — the middle-west is the place.

Me, I think I would take my chances on the Grande Ronda Valley of Eastern Oregon. The reason I mention this particular place is that the soil

is so deep and strong, people have to top off the top half of their shade trees every three years or so. Things grow lush in that valley — grain, cherries, vegetables, most anything.

I saw a real old **Festiva Maxima** plant (now hold your hat, I'm not too big of a liar) fifty-four inches high, easily seventy-two inches across loaded with no less than forty great blooms. The thing seemed so happy as to literally be singing with joy. See what I mean?

### **I WISH, I HOPE, I PLEAD**

Could I locate a wishing well that really worked, my first wish would be for five years in Alaska, just to try out a few peonies. With the long, long, rest period, the powerful soil, the almost endless summer sun, I verily believe I could set up displays in States South Shows that would make utterly futile any possible competition.

My second wish is for a hundred-weight of that near priceless Peruvian product—the ichtymic guano of the Cormorant. But those shrewd Peruvians done me wrong! Long since, they slapped a total embargo upon it. When you have some good stuff that can boost cotton production by seventeen hundred per cent, you keep it for yourself.

Well, what is it that I hope for. I hope that in the future we will make it a point to plan our Shows on a smaller scale; smaller schedule, smaller Show room, with emphasis directed to greater over-all beauty. Shows half as big — twice as good. The great big Shows are hard to set up, hard to look at thoroughly, hard to sell. It is getting more difficult all the time to find those who will tackle one.

Hardly anyone can set up a commendable display of fifty varieties. Commercial growers, of course, can, but how many want to take the time and good help is next to impossible to come by. You just watch Walter Lindgren walk into a show room with that little box under his arm. Every posy in that little box packs a triple threat wallop.

I think we must put more thought into the general display plan. Tales are not good. The stepped display rack is not quite the ticket. The lower shelf of this latter points the way. Peonies do not address you as a good daffodil does. They look mostly upward. I saw a Show once where narrow tables one foot high were in use. The shortest person could look every peony in the eye. Really seeing the Peony sells the Peony. That is what we are after. Where is the next generation of show men and show women going to come from?

I plead! We must support our Shows and organize more small ones. I know the man who will daringly attempt to organize and set up the Lake Mohawk Show this year. I know him very well indeed. I know for sure he will work until he drops if need be to bring off a fine show. I ought to know for I was foolhardy enough to tackle it in 1952. I might nearly did go nuts and at that time there was a lot of fine help. Support Frank Howell!!!

One after another, the persons making up that splendid Sussex County group have moved away or passed on. The younger tribe has got to pitch in. Now you can lend a hand. Lend both hands! Let Frank know you are not only for him but with him. Some of us can't get there, but we can send some of our best flowers or a check. Both would be better!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mr. Van Loon has again become a member of the Society. He is a past president of the Society and his reflections of past

Shows and his desire to see the 1965 Show to be put on where he had the responsibility for the 1952 Show is truly genuine. To you, Mr. Van Loon, we thank you for your story. We might add that the 1966 Show will be in the middle West! Interested?

## **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

**Send orders to: American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main, Van Wert, Ohio**

**HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY.** 36-page booklet of concise articles on why, when to plant, care propagation, culture of peonies of all kinds including tree peonies, 8-pages, 3 line drawings, 8 black and white illustrations. Short lists of varieties and sources included. Price 50c each; 35c each in quantities of 25 or more and 25c each in quantities of 50 or more.

**BACK BULLETINS.** Issues in plentiful supply 50c each. Four for \$1.00, our selection. Other issues \$1.00 each when available. Send list wanted for quotation.

**MOST POPULAR PEONIES — 1962.** Small leaflet listing most popular peonies of all types, including hybrids and tree peonies. Price: 25c each.

**PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN.** Arno and Irene Nehrling. Hearthsides Press Inc., New York. About 300-pages, 100 black and white illustrations and 11 color plates. Contents similar to those of the Handbook with the addition of a section on Peonies Indoors, arrangements and how to stage a show. About 40-pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price to members of the American Peony Society: \$4.95 each. To non-members \$5.95.

**COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION.** (35-mm slides), about 200 slides of all types, including hybrid and tree peonies. Rent \$5.00. Return postage must be paid by renter. Insure for \$50.00. Renter supplies projector.

**THE PEONIES.** Edited by John C. Wister and published by American Horticultural Society, 1600 Bladensburg Road, N.E., Washington 2, D.C., has over 200-pages and many illustrations. It treats both Tree and herbaceous peonies. Write direct to publishers for full information.



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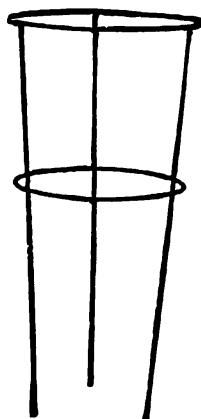
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