



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



SEPTEMBER, 1965 — NO. 178

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The Presidents Letter . . .

The 1965 A.P.S. Show has now become ancient history. The show was held for the second time at Lake Mohawk, Sparta, New Jersey, the previous one in 1952. We are indeed indebted to the Lake Mohawk Country Club for their splendid cooperation and hospitality; also to the Ladies Garden Club of Sparta, whose members were so helpful and gracious, all of which added to the success of the show. I also want to thank those members who shipped or brought blooms. We owe Miss Silvia Saunders of Clinton, New York a debt of gratitude for the splendid talk she gave, telling us of her trip to the "Chelsea Flower Exhibit" in England as well as for the beautiful display of "Saunders Hybrids" she exhibited.

Our annual meeting was attended by ten directors. Our new secretary Mr. C. Dan Pennell, assisted by his wife, were present for the first time since being elected to the office of secretary and it is the feeling of the directors that they are doing a WHALE of a job. We were also honored by the presence of Dr. John C. Wister of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania a noted authority on the tree peony. We were pleased to have "Jimmy" and Mrs. Peyton as our guests.

In concluding I want to thank the members who were present for the fine spirit of helpfulness as well as friendliness that was displayed throughout the show.

FRANK L. HOWELL, President

September Cover Picture

Among the total attendance of 346,501 persons attending the Chicago Seventh World Flower and Garden Show in March this year, was a little girl who found peony blossoms to her liking. So did a staff photographer for the Chicago Tribune, for this picture appeared on the page of pictures of the March 29th issue. In fact, the picture ($7\frac{5}{8}$ " x $5\frac{1}{4}$ ") was one of the largest on the page. We are indebted to the Chicago Tribune for this photograph.

The Sixty-Second Annual Meeting and Sixtieth Annual Peony Exhibition

THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

LAKE MOHAWK, SPARTA, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 18 - 19, 1965

The two day session of the sixty-second annual meeting of the Society co-ordinated with the sixtieth annual Peony exhibition included the final meeting of the fiscal year for the Directors — a Banquet followed by the annual meeting of the membership and the first calendared meeting of the Board of Directors for the new fiscal year beginning July 1st and ending June 31st.

The first day, June 18th, was a busy day for the assisting organization, The Sparta Woman's Club, in setting up their own Display and Flower Show in conjunction with the Peony Society Exhibition, but was also an extremely busy one for Mr. Frank L. Howell, president, who drove many miles, meeting planes to escort members attending the Show, to pick up boxes of blooms flown in for the Show, by members unable to attend.

DIRECTORS MEET

The Board of Directors met Saturday afternoon preceeding the banquet with the following present: Myron D. Bigger, Pharon B. Denlinger, Frank L. Howell, William H. Krekler, Clarence O. Lienau, Frank E. Moots, C. Dan Pennell, Miss Silvia Saunders and Louis Smirnow. President Frank L. Howell officially welcomed the Board and expressed appreciation for the help in arranging this exhibition and handling of blooms shipped in by members unable to attend, as well as to those acting as judges of the exhibit.

The president announced the appointment of the Nominating Committee, Frank E. Moots and Louis Smirnow members of the Board, and Gus Sindt, Minnesota, representing the lay membership; their report to be made during the business meeting following the banquet.

Mr. Smirnow read a recent communication he had received from W. A. Alexander, containing the suggestion for consideration of combining the office of secretary and treasurer. Upon recommendation of C. D. Pennell, secretary, the Board agreed that concentration of responsibility this year would not be feasible.

The secretary asked the Directors for a re-statement to be placed on the minutes as to the period covered by annual dues. As a matter of record, the By-Law covering this portion was re-read; the dues period being from January 1st to December 31st. The fiscal year of the Society is July 1st to June 31st.

Discussion followed on a number of facets relative to the agenda submitted to the Directors by mail, prior to the meeting, and these were tabled for presentation at the next Board of Directors meeting to be held the next day, June 20th.

Deep regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. W. A. Alexander, due to his wife's illness and a suggestion was made that a card be circulated for signature at the banquet and mailed to Mrs. Alexander. Meeting adjourned.

BANQUET AND LECTURE

The banquet and lecture preceeding the annual meeting of the Society membership is always a delightful experience for it is on this occasion friendships are re-newed; new members welcomed and always an outstanding lecture.

The 1965 banquet was held in the New Sparta Inn, Sparta, New Jersey. Welcome and invocation were given by the president, Frank L. Howell, who then turned the gavel over to the secretary, C. D. Pennell.

Mr. Pennell extended appreciation on behalf of the Society to both Mr. Howell and the Sparta Woman's Club for the excellent staging of the 60th Annual Peony Exhibition and for the many courtesies extended members and guests.

Honored guests for the banquet included Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wister, representing the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and Mr. and Mrs. James Payton of Arlington, Virginia, the former, son of our beloved "Mr. Peony" the late George W. Peyton. It was with regret that Major and Mrs. George Peyton were not able to be present.

Miss Silvia Saunders was guest lecturer for the evening, her topic "Showing at the Annual Chelsea Flower Show in England — May, 1962". Miss Saunders recounted her experiences covering the many weeks of planning the lay-out for the exhibit — the exhausting torment of fear regarding weather conditions prior to cutting — her careful transportation of blooms and exhibit materials by air — arrival in England and seeking additional props and containers in the final hours of staging and setting up the display.

This famous exhibition, staged in a huge tent and auxiliary tents in an area covering three and one-half acres, attracts ¼ million people from all over the world. Miss Saunders' slides, shown during her recital of the over-all exhibition added much to the interesting story. She took 400 buds of Saunders Hybrid Peonies gathered in the beautiful gardens of Mr. Henry F. DuPont at Winterthur, Delaware, and with her went Mrs. R. W. McIlvain, Lexington, Kentucky, who took 400 more Saunders Hybrid Peony buds cut in her gardens.

We noted 20 containers, each one with some 20 blooms in it, pictured in the slides. Some containers were on high stands, others lower down and some very low arrangements across the front of the stage. The background was enhanced by a beautiful eight foot screen on loan from the Massachusetts Horticulture Society.

"The Society is extremely proud and appreciative of the honors accorded Miss Saunders, and her father, the late A. P. Saunders, our first Secretary of the Society," said the presiding officer at the conclusion of Miss Saunders presentation. "Not only is the Society proud of the invitation to exhibit," he said further, "but also for the awards she won; namely the Lindley Silver Medal, much coveted by exhibitors for it is given to 'Exhibits of Special Interest and Beauty'". She also won, in the "New Plant Tent Division, one award of Merit (with Vesuvian) and three Preliminary Commendations (with Silver Sails, Chinese Dragon and Princess)".

THE ROOT AUCTION

The root auction, held following the banquet this year, was spirited as always and conducted by Clarence O. Lienau in his usual and skillful manner.

Through the unselfish offers of several growers as well as Directors a total of 46 peony roots and 25 iris roots (Art Murawska brought the iris roots) netted the treasury a total of \$304.00.

ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSION

The minutes of the last meeting having been published in the June-September issue of 1964, were not read. The Treasurer's Report was read by the secretary's assistant, in the absence of W. A. Alexander, Treasurer, due to his wife's illness. The report follows:

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY — REPORT OF TREASURER 1964 - 1965

Receipts:

Received from Root Auction	\$ 304.00
Contributions	1,281.00
Remittances from Office of Secretary	2,013.69
Total Receipts for the Year	\$3,598.69

Expenses:

March, 1964 Bulletin (Orange Review)	\$ 228.00
Rockford Press — Bulletins, Printing, Office Supplies	1,468.50
Moving Office from Rapidan, Va. to Van Wert, Ohio	158.02
Salary of Secretary	750.00
Office Expenses, Help, Postage, etc.	230.39
Miscellaneous, IRS, Flowers, Telephone, etc.	76.11
Travel Expense for Secretary	150.00
Total Expenses for the Year	\$3,061.02
Net Income (Receipts minus Expenses)	537.67
Balance, June 1, 1964	572.35
Balance, June 1, 1965	\$1,110.02

Comments:

It should be noted that without the contributions, more than \$1,100 of which was outright donation, expenses would have exceeded our income by more than \$740, which would have meant two numbers of the Bulletin could not have been published. But it should also be pointed out that the moving meant considerable expense that will not be repeated. Another year should see our Society on a self-sustained basis.

W. A. ALEXANDER
Treasurer

The Secretary's Report was then read — "This my first report to the Society since assuming the duties of the late "Mr. Peony" — George W. Peyton — could be extremely lengthy, however, due to brevity of time tonight, this report will be brief. During the past ten months since the office was moved from Rapidan, Virginia to Van Wert, Ohio, we have not had time to peruse the vast amount of correspondence and give time to a number of items we should like to report to you. It became necessary for us to immediately on change-over, solicit bids from printers and publishers — then publish a joint June-September Bulletin (the March Bulletin had been printed by Mr. James Green, publisher, due to Mr. Peyton's serious illness).

During the past year there have been many changes in mailing procedures as outlined by the Postmaster General of the United States and Second Class Mailings had come under direct scrutiny. With this we had a problem regarding change of post office mailings and many members not reporting their change of address during the year. We are pleased to report that we are now busily organizing our mailing procedures to conform to the zip code zoning methods and in another 6 months every member should be receiving their Bulletins soon after mailing at our post office.

Price changes in periodicals made available to members and non-members had to be put into effect immediately and Mr. Denlinger, vice president and Mr. Alexander, treasurer, met with the secretary to determine those prices as well as advertising rates.

Statistically, we are now mailing out under one thousand Bulletins, not only those in the "paid-up" column but to many whose names are on the "unpaid" lists, as well as to many inquiries regarding membership. We are pleased to report, however, that re-newals are coming in and also new members. We can report members in every state in the Union, Canada, Mexico and 11 foreign countries.

Our goals for 1965-66 embrace (1) increase in membership (2) more press — radio and T.V. interviews — and magazine articles (3) recognition of peonies in civic beautification programs and by Horticultural Gardens as well as small garden plantings (4) improvement in our Slide Library (5) careful study of Nomenclature procedure (6) more area, regional, state Peony Shows through efforts of Flower and Plant Societies and Clubs.

We now offer for your consideration our four Bulletins and welcome your suggestions and/or criticisms to the end that the American Peony Society Bulletin may rank with the top horticultural publications.

May I express my appreciation and that of my wife for the gracious assistance extended us through this "change-over", by the retiring Directors and repeat we need and welcome the help of every member of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,
C. D. PENNELL, Secretary

A letter from Mrs. Arthur I. Harris, Atlanta, Georgia, received in December was then read regarding a gift of Fifty Dollars to the Society to honor George W. Peyton. The chair entertained suggestions regarding some manner of carrying out this splendid gesture and the matter was referred for the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

Dr. John C. Wister, on behalf of the Philadelphia Horticultural Society was to present the James Boyd Medal, however, the recipient, Marvin Karrels was not present and the medal, suitably engraved will be sent Mr. Karrels. The award was given for the most distinctive 10 Best Hybrids.

Mr. Frank L. Howell was the recipient of the B. H. Farr Medal for his entry of Dorothy J. The Gold Medal for the 25 Best Blooms in Class (A) was awarded Marvin Karrels and the Myron D. Bigger Plaque for the Best Seedling to A. P. Tischler of Brand Nursery.

Mr. Gus Sindt, representing the Nominating Committee including Louis Smirnow and Frank E. Moots, moved that the present Board of Directors, whose terms expired this year, be re-elected. No nominations be-

ing made from the floor — the secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Meeting adjourned.

It might be added that the chronological order of the program and meeting including the root auction, lecture and awarding of medals was interspersed with procedures of the meeting during the entire evening; a definite change from the formal to more informal master of ceremony type of programming. However for matter of reader information, the secretary has assembled the report as printed.

FIRST FISCAL YEAR MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The first meeting of the newly elected and existing Directors was held the morning of June 20th. Mr. Frank Howell, president, presided. Directors present were: Myron D. Bigger, Pharon B. Denlinger, Frank L. Howell, William H. Krekler, Clarence O. Lienau, Frank E. Moots, C. D. Pennell, Miss Silvia Saunders, Louis Smirnow, Dr. J. Franklyn Styer and Mrs. C. D. Pennell, associate editor of The American Peony Society Bulletin. Communications were read from Mr. Myles A. Neilson and Allen J. Wild, unable to attend.

Mr. Howell was commended for the manner in which banquet arrangements were handled and Miss Saunders for her excellent lecture and slide presentation, pertaining to her showing of Saunder's Hybrids at the Chelsea Show in England. Appreciation was expressed to the secretary and his wife for their work in the capacity of secretary and editing the Bulletin.

Upon motion by Myron D. Bigger, seconded by Mr. Smirnow, and carried, present officers of the Society were re-elected to their respective offices. The agenda, mailed to Directors prior to the meeting, was discussed in detail and this gave the new secretary and his editorial assistant many new ideas in carrying out the duties of the office. Discussion regarding Life Memberships in the society resulted in a policy of \$100 being established.

The Society has furnished medals and ribbons in the past for all Annual Shows and this action was re-affirmed by motion and carried. This does not preclude special trophies and/or awards given by sponsoring organizations if they elect to do so in order to induce greater participation in the Shows.

The matter of reciprocal arrangements and agreement with other Societies was delegated the secretary.

Mrs. Arthur I. Harris, Atlanta, Georgia, was unanimously chosen to represent the Society as official delegate to the meeting of the American Horticultural Congress to be held at Pine Mountain, Georgia, in October this year.

Miss Silvia Saunders graciously offered the correspondence records of her father, the late A. P. Saunders, to be housed in the offices of the Secretary. These records will be of extreme value to the Society because of availability for reference. Cross-indexing and cataloguing will be done by the secretary and assistant.

A gift last December of Fifty Dollars by Mrs. Arthur I. Harris with the statement "this given to honor Mr. Peyton" was discussed and various suggestions offered. Dr. J. Frank Styer told of Mr. Peyton's often expressed hope that the American Peony Society be recognized by the International Horticultural Society, and accorded the honor of being the Inter-

national Paeonia Nomenclature Committee. Much work must be done, said Dr. Styer, toward meeting the requirements, however, the Directors expressed the hope that this might be accomplished in the future. Dr. Styer is elected by the American Peony Society to serve as a member on the American Horticulture Society Executive Board. It was concluded that an official delegate to the meeting in October and active participation also in the 1966 International Meeting to be held in this country for the first time would be desirable and that Dr. Styer would be available for consultation with our chosen delegate. We are entitled to one additional member in the A.H.S. to vote on proceedings.

Mr. Louis Smirnow was delegated by the president to confer immediately with Mr. Samuel Wissing, president of District V of the parent Society regarding the place for the 1966 annual meeting.

The president was empowered to name a membership committee to be announced in the near future — this due to the number of requests that District groups be re-organized and new ones formed.

Other committees are — Seedling Committee — Myron D. Bigger, Louis Smirnow and Frank E. Moots (responsible for selecting seedlings at the national shows). Nomenclature Committee — C. D. Pennell, Myron D. Bigger, Louis Smirnow and Frank Moots. A re-statement of procedures relative to the work of these committees was made. Mr. Louis Smirnow was named chairman of a committee to review classifications for future show purposes. Mr. Marvin Karrels was appointed chairman of color committee — Mr. Karrels to select two members qualified to serve on this committee.

Other matters for discussion included (1) request for decals and cuts to be procured and sold through the secretary's office (2) exhibit posters and materials assembled for use at National, State and Area Flower Shows — Home and Garden Shows and at such other exhibits as the secretary deems advisable; this for the purpose of publicizing the work of the Society and advantages of membership. A concentrated effort by the Society during the next year was urged so that more peony plantings be made in test gardens, public and industrial plantings as well as small home gardens. (3) The matters of rating produced much discussion and resulted in the secretary being instructed to conduct a survey through the membership with inclusion of a survey form in the September Bulletin. This survey will be titled 1965 Survey or List of Most Popular Peonies. The report will be subject to the approval of the Directors before publication. Rating symposiums were discussed and action deferred until a later meeting.

The secretary was instructed to further the contest for a slogan to be used by the Society. Several suggestions had been offered, however, it was felt there should be more member participation in the project.

The Directors were pleased with the report from Miss Silvia Saunders confirming the plans for the A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal. It is hoped our members will familiarize themselves with the story on page 17 in Bulletin No. 177 — June, 1965; page 15 in Bulletin No. 138; and page 15, September, 1955 — September, 1956. We would like to see this project completed — (another goal for 1966?) Meeting adjourned.

PLANT PEONIES

THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The exhibition hall in the Lake Mohawk Country Club presented a beautiful sight indeed as the doors were opened to the public following the completion of judging.

The Court of Honor

The Court of Honor Award is one of the most coveted since specimen blooms may be entered from any exhibit and contestants are not limited to award winners. Honors were won as follows:

Best of Show — Red Charm... Frank L. Howell. This double, rich red Hybrid was introduced by Glasscock in 1944. The beautiful bomb shaped large bloom with tall stiff stems is always a popular bloom in any show. (*Albiflora* x *officinalis*.)

Best White Double — LeCygne... Frank L. Howell. Lemoine introduced this plant in France and when good, the flower is the acme of quality. Such was the case this year. Its broad overlapped incurving petals and compact form gave it this place even among the recent and new peonies offered for registration.

Best Blush Double — Dorothy J... Marvin C. Karrels of Wisconsin. A. B. Jones described this peony when entering to be registered "A rose type double, the color of a salmon tea rose with a darger flush at center of flower — perfect in carriage, symmetrical petalage with center full and lacy. The heavy stems with light green foliage carry a peony that is perfect in bed and gorgeous in full bloom."

Best Light Pink Double — Adonis... Marvin C. Karrels. This one is one of Sass's introductions and blooms mid-season to late. The flower is large, pink with yellow collar and the stems are strong.

Best Medium Pink Double — Dolorodell... Marvin C. Karrels. On the occasion of our last visit with Mr. Peyton he told us when questioning him in regard to his favorite peony — "I would have to say — Dolorodell" one of Lins — a late midseason bloomer. The color is practically that of Walter Faxon. The foliage is way down on the strong stemmed plant.

Best Dark Pink Double — Princess Margaret... Marvin C. Karrels. This lovely bloom is a new variety with great promise.

The remainder of class entries in the Court of Honor were won by Marvin C. Karrels and were as follows: **Best Double Red** — Highlight (Auten-Wild) named by Mrs. D. Y. Dunn, medium height, dark red of pleasing color, form and good substance, a late midseason bloomer and a "highlight" in the garden. **Best Semi-Double** (any color) — Ave Maria (Mann-van Steen) a distinctive and beautiful blush fading into white and blooms early midseason. **Best Single** (any color) — Angelus, one of Auten's, another white midseason blooming flower, medium height. **Best Jap** (any color) — Largo, one of Vories, an interesting flower, described by Wild's in one of their catalogues as "large and rounded soft pink guards with white staminodes suffused pink and tipped and edged yellow, undoubtedly one of the finest Japs we have".

Red Charm again took honors for Frank L. Howell as the **Best Hybrid**. This flower has placed in the Court of Honor in many shows.

"**James Pillow**" (Christman) entered by Clarence O. Lienau, was the

Popularity Queen of the Show, selected by the visitors as being the most popular. It had perfect form — a light pink double and truly a distinctive flower.

SPECIAL CLASSES

CLASS (A) — The Gold Medal Class — won by Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Varieties were: Blanche King, Florence Nicholls, Francis Willard, Blush Queen, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, West Hill, Peter Brand, Red Goddess, Mother's Choice, W. E. Blanchette, Walter Mains, Kansas, Alice Harding, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Hari-Ai-Nin, Red Charm, Princess Margaret, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Madelon, Miss America, Elsa Sass, Moonstone, Mr. L. van Leeuwen and Pink Cameo.

2nd Place Winner — Frank L. Howell with James Pillow, Sarah Bernhardt, Bonanza Judge Snook, Mrs. J. H. Neeley, Alesia, Break o' Day, Red Charm, Florence Nichols, Ave Maria, Kansas, Nancy Nichols, Sky-Pilot, LeCygne, Mme. Emile de Batene, Josette, Friendship, White Wings, Adolph Rousseau, Great Lady, Carolyn May Nelson, West Hills and Catherine Crain.

3rd Place Winner — Gus Sindt, North St. Paul, Minnesota. His entries were: Robert E. Lee, Dr. John L. Crenshaw, John Gardiner, Mark Twain, R. A. Napier, Henry St. Clair, Elsa Sass, Seashell, A. G. Perry, Longfellow, Prairie A Fire Duluth, Francis Willard, Avenger, Sam Donaldson, Rev. H. N. Tragitt, Shawnee Chief Walter Faxon, Bonanza, Gay Paree, Owatonna, A-32-P, Ruth Elizabeth, Loren Franklin and LaLorraine.

There were no entries in Classes B and C.

CLASS (D) — Hybrid Class was won by Marvin Karrels with the following 10 different varieties: Laura Magnasun, Diana Parks, Walter Mains, Carina, Avelyn, Lovely Rose, Bravura, Edward Staechen, Red Charm and Convoy.

CLASS (E) — 1st: Clarence O. Lienau — entries: James Pillow, Dresden Pink, Red Charm, Alesia and Imperial Red. **2nd:** Gus Sindt — his entries: Friendship, Mahogany, Krinkled White, Walter Faxon and Duluth.

CLASS (F) — 1st: Clarence Lienau — entries: Felix Supreme, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Florence Nichols, Alesia and Fern Leaf. **2nd:** Gus Sindt — his entries: Francis Willard, Loren Franklin, Duluth, Dr. John L. Crenshaw and Walter Faxon.

OPEN CLASSES

Albiflora Varieties

DOUBLES: (1) 1 bloom White: 1st, Clarence Lienau, Ann Cousins; 2nd, Clarence Lienau, Admiral; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Francis Willard.

(2) 1 bloom Blush: 1st, Frank L. Howell, Judge Snook; 2nd, Frank L. Howell, Florence Nichols; 3rd, Clarence Lienau, Florence Nichols.

(3) 1 bloom Light Pink: 1st, Clarence Lienau, Pink Cameo; 2nd, Clarence Lienau, James Pillow; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt.

(4) 1 bloom Medium Pink: 1st, Clarence Lienau, Vivid Rose; 2nd, J. Broersma, Walter Faxon; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Anne Bigger.

(5) 1 bloom Dark Pink: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Princess Margaret; 2nd, Clarence Lienau, Emma Klehm; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Princess Margaret.

(6) 1 bloom Red: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Highlight; 2nd, Frank Howell,

Kansas; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Bonanza.

(7) 3 blooms, same variety, White or Blush: 1st, W. G. Sindt, La-Lorraine; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Mother's Choice; 3rd, Clarence Lienau, Henry Sass.

(8) 3 blooms, same variety, Pink: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt; 2nd, Clarence Lienau, Emma Klehm; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Blanche King.

(9) 3 blooms, same variety, Red: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Mabel Gore; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Highlight; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Bonanza.

SEMI-DOUBLES: (10) 1 bloom, White or Blush: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Ave Maria; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Miss America; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Susan White.

(11) 1 bloom Pink: 1st, Frank Howell, Aerie; 2nd, Clarence Lienau, Spring Beauty.

(12) 1 bloom Red: 1st, Frank Howell, Daniel Boone.

(13) 3 blooms, same variety, Any Color: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Miss America; 2nd, W. G. Sindt, Susan White.

SINGLES: (14) 1 bloom, White or Blush: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Pico; 2nd, Frank Howell, Pico; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Owatonna.

(15) 1 bloom Pink: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Angelus; 2nd, W. G. Sindt, Seashell; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Helen.

(16) 1 bloom Red: 1st, Marvin Karrels, President Lincoln; 2nd, W. G. Sindt, Florence Bruss; 3rd, Frank Howell, Kickapoo.

(17) 3 blooms, same variety, Any Color: 1st, W. G. Sindt, Florence Bruss; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Seashell; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Krinkled White.

JAPANESE: (18) 1 bloom, White or Blush: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Carrara; 2nd, Frank Howell, Lotus Queen; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Lotus Queen.

(19) 1 bloom Pink: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Donna Jean; 2nd, W. G. Sindt, Patricia Hanratty; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Gay Paree.

(20) 1 bloom Red: 1st, Frank Howell, Break o' Day; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Nippon Beauty; 3rd, Clarence Lienau, Red Charm.

(21) 3 blooms, same variety, Any Color: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Largo; 2nd, W. G. Sindt, Gay Paree; 3rd, W. G. Sindt, Vanity.

HYBRIDS: No entries in (22).

(23) 1 bloom, White or Blush: 1st, W. G. Sindt, Coralie; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Laura Magnuson; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Friendship.

(24) 1 bloom Pink: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Walter Mains; 2nd, Marvin Karrels, Red Charm; 3rd, Clarence Lienau, Red Charm.

(25) 3 blooms, same variety, Any Color: 1st, Marvin Karrels, Golden Glow; 2nd, W. G. Sindt, Mahogany; 3rd, Marvin Karrels, Red Charm.

ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASS

Albiflora Varieties

DOUBLES: (27) 1 bloom White: 1st, E. Baugeard, Yosemite; 2nd, Frank Stoll, Elsa Sass; 3rd, Frank Stoll, Morning Star.

(28) 1 bloom Blush: 1st, Frank Stoll, Dorothy J.

(29) 1 bloom Light Pink: 1st, Frank Stoll, Hansina Brand; 2nd, E.

Baugeard, Lady Orchid; 3rd, Frank Stoll, Minuet.

(30) 1 bloom Medium Pink: 1st, E. Baugeard, Frank Leyo; 2nd, Frank Stoll, Myrtle Gentry.

(31) 1 bloom Dark Pink: 1st, J. Broersma, Pink Monarch; 2nd, Frank Stoll, Victory.

(32) 1 bloom Red: 1st, Frank Stoll, Ruth Elizabeth.

(33) 3 blooms, same variety, White or Blush: 1st, E. Baugeard, George W. Peyton.

(34) 3 blooms, same variety, Pink: 1st, J. Broersma, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt; 2nd, J. Broersma, Florence Ellis; 3rd, J. Broersma, Doris Cooper.

There were no entries in Semi-Doubles, Singles or Japanese.

NOVICE AMATEUR

Albiflora Varieties

DOUBLES AND SEMI-DOUBLES: (48) 1 bloom White or Blush: 1st, Richardson Buist, Madame de Vernville; 2nd, E. Baugeard, Martha C. Nichols; 3rd, John Broersma, Elsa Sass.

(49) 1 bloom Pink: 1st, John Broersma, Walter Faxon; 2nd, John Broersma, Doris Cooper; 3rd, John Kreichbaum, Nick Shaylor.

(50) 1 bloom Red: 1st, John Broersma, Phyllis Kelway; 2nd, John Kreichbaum, Harry L. Richardson; 3rd, John Broersma, Kansas.

(51) 3 blooms, one variety, Any Color: 1st, John Broersma, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt; 2nd, John Broersma, Elsa Sass; 3rd, E. Baugeard, Casablanca.

SINGLES: (53) 1 bloom White: 2nd, Richardson Buist, Angelus.

Myron D. Bigger Plaque — BEST SEEDLING SHOWN: Awarded A. P. Tischler of Brand Peony Farms.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL CONGRESS MEETING

The first meeting of the American Horticultural Society in the South will be held at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia from October 13th-15th.

In conjunction with this meeting, the Garden Writer's Association of America, will meet on October 12th, the Georgia Horticultural Society will sponsor a portion of the A.H.C. meeting on the 14th and the America Botanic Gardens and Arboretums will meet October 16th-17th.

Callaway Gardens is approximately 85 miles from Atlanta and bus and train connection may be made easily.

WEATHER CONTROL!!!

Government programs are being spurred on for weather control, prediction and better warning systems. Recent hurricanes have intensified the program. The havoc wrought in the south and southeast has been extremely serious.

This year will have a history of unusual weather conditions, severe drought — water logged areas — and snow falling in areas earlier than usual!

A survey of the growth results in peony growing should certainly convince gardeners that the Peony can withstand many of the hazards. Write and tell us your experiences!

PLANT PEONIES

From the Editor's Desk

Driving to National Show "The Pennells" were shocked by the absence of PEONIES in yards and gardens of the country side. Stopping at Kingwood Center we noted the late varieties in bloom and really spent more time in the office going over the Original Check List. We saw pink peonies in farm and home gardens in New Jersey! We will watch for Mr. Howell's check list of favorite peonies!!!

VISIT WITH MR. COUSINS

Your Secretary and Associate Editor had a most enjoyable visit in the home and garden of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Cousins in London, Ontario, August 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. Cousins have a beautiful garden. There we saw seed pods sacked just prior to harvest.

Mr. Cousins, a long time member of our Society, who has grown peonies for more than 50 years, is convinced that the future of our flower, the Peony, is dependent upon the Hybrids. He maintains they will compete with the other introductions in the flower realm. Mr. Cousins says we place too much emphasis on size — that there are many fine flowers in the Hybrids that will result in new types, free from disease and therefore easy to handle. The reasoning is that peonies will and do grow in foreign lands where extreme heat is prevalent and that we should develop some that will grow in the Southern states.

Mr. Cousins stated we should take more time with hybrids and establish a good family and possibly find a school to do scientific breeding with the Peony. He also questioned that if peonies grow in South Africa then why not in our southern states? Mr. Cousins feels we should have more area meetings and was delighted to learn of the work being done toward activating regional or district groups.

Mrs. Pennell and I are indeed grateful for the gracious hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Cousins and the opportunity afforded us in visiting their garden. We recommend to any of you driving through Ontario to include a stop at 472 Tecumseh Avenue.

TALK — WRITE — SOLICIT

It is evident that more knowledge of the Peony must go to gardeners. The American Peony Society official family will play a part — but you the member — the true fan — will play the most important part on this stage. We must have more regional shows, stage garden tours where peonies are planted, maintain and improve the existing test plantings.

Inform this office about Flower Shows and Schools in your area — assist us in seeing that an exhibit of our posters and materials are shown, also classifications for peonies. If they are not included, endeavor to persuade the show committee to include the peony.

Write articles about planting, about the ease of growing peonies, that they are comparatively free from disease — make a good foliage plant until frost — they are even beautiful after that frost. Above all — your article should stress the Peony as a hardy perennial — one that lasts a life time with little care. If you feel your editors will accept an article from our office instead of from you — write us and we will be glad to assist you. It is amazing what one article can produce. Percy A. Wright in Saskatchewan wrote one — ending by suggesting anyone interested

write this office. We have had five inquires immediately and now to date 3 new members!!! A timely article about the peony in locations where public plantings do exist, will call attention and make people conscious of these hardy plantings.

Certainly every member welcomes visitors to their gardens in the blooming season. How better can we expose the average gardener to the beauty of our special flower? The commercial grower plays his part, however the grower is in a position to show, advertise and promote peonies as the flower supreme.

PLANT PEONIES NOW

Certain tasks are necessary to insure continued success with peonies. Simple deep watering, complete division or transplanting are a few tasks when working with this hardy and useful plant. Useful, yes, for peonies have many uses in both the garden and landscape scheme. They add dignity to a mixed perennial bed and even more when mixed with daylilies and iris as the blooming period is extended for many weeks.

Peonies can be used properly in a landscape plan as a nine-month hedge, flowering for a month or longer (using different varieties and types) and then offering green, healthy foliage as a low hedge and dividing strip.

DELAY IN DATE OF MAILING

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been delayed a few days in publishing and mailing the September Bulletin. Unfortunately the Society is not financially in a position to pay for manuscripts submitted and we are dependent on our good, generous authorities within the membership to assist us.

When we took this responsibility, our goal was to always have the Bulletin in the mail the first week of the month of publication. We beg your indulgence and assistance as well.

PEONIES FOR PERMANENCE

Our first peony was purchased 10 years ago — many have been added since then. Once planted they are indeed permanently yours.

— Mrs. Walter Seidenkranz
Moorhead, Minnesota

GARDEN CLUBS VISIT FAY'S GARDEN

Hundreds of "green thumb" club women meeting in Chicago in July, heard a succession of authorities on the lecture platform reporting on and demonstrating what's new in the world of gardening, flower shows and the art of flower arranging. They were members of the Garden Club of Illinois and the Illinois Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges. The two day program was topped off with a trip to Orville Fay's gardens in Northbrook, Illinois. Mr. Fay is known as the foremost hybridizer of tetraploid daylilies. He is also a member of the American Peony Society and introduced "Prairie Moon", available through Bro. Charles of Mission Gardens. For a description of this beautiful flower turn to page 41.

**THERE IS MUCH INTEREST
IN FERN LEAF PEONIES.**

MAILING ADDRESSES

Mailing procedure is of **extreme importance** to you and to our office. We urge you when making changes in addresses to inform this office immediately! This is so easily done by filling in a card the Post Office provides for this service. Then there will be no interruption in mailing and receiving copies of The American Peony Society Bulletin.

Be sure and send in your old address together with your new address **including** the Postal Zip Code Number.

A letter from the Postmaster General announces that as of January 1, 1967, he will require all mailers of Bulk Second and Third Class mail to re-sort their mail by Zip Code. The purpose of this is to provide less costly mail handling by the Postal Department and faster mail service. We are doing this with this September mailing. We will appreciate hearing from you as to date you receive this Bulletin.

We believe that during the next two years if the Zip Code Number is added to all new and renewed subscriptions, as well as on change of address notices, the majority of our mailing list can be mailed without additional cost.

One more thing — when you do not inform us of your change of address — your Post Office may or may not put your new address on the Bulletin and it is returned to us — days later — and we must pay 10c or more for every returned Bulletin. You realize, I am sure that that cost added to the cost of sending out the Bulletin, paying for the return and mailing another one — means a decline in revenue. Who suffers? You do — because we then must cut down on the printing of the Bulletin!!! Your co-operation is needed! May we depend on it?

GROWERS PLEASE NOTE

The following questions have been sent in by Mrs. L. M. Scott, a new member of the Society. We hope the membership of the Society will take note and write to Mrs. Scott.

"I am accepting your kind invitation to write you in the hope of gleaned information. Three tree peonies failed to make any growth this year; by that I mean they failed to show any sign of life. They are: Kinshi, a five year old plant; Kamada Fuji, a three year old; and Jitsunetsu Nichiki, a three year old.

"I dug up the plants to discover if the plant was dead or had been frozen over the winter (the temperature dropped to minus two degrees which is cold and unusual for this area) and saw that the root system appeared to be undamaged and quite healthy. I replanted them, but so far no growth is in evidence. Do you think they will send up new growth in the spring or is that anyone's guess? Perhaps a member has had such an experience?

"One more question—could you refer me to a peony grower (commercial) on the West Coast? Walter Marx carried a selection of herbaceous and tree peonies at one time, but at present his catalog listing is limited. Thank you."

Mrs. L.M. Scott
12561 22nd Avenue
White Rock
British Columbia, Canada

FLASH!!! TREMENDOUS NEWS

READ your **DECEMBER** Bulletin! News just received too important to not tell full story, and no room in this issue as Bulletin is on the press and we are too late to hold up issue.

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN TOUR!

South America is different! The brochure just received from Jean Burke Travel Service, Inc., regarding the tour of that country is so intriguing we certainly will envy anyone fortunate enough to experience all of that country's marvels.

A noted horticultural authority will be with you as well, to add his contributions to your knowledge while visiting garden cities, the patio heritage that have been searched out for the tour. Sponsorship is by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Rhode Island Horticultural Society, Michigan Horticultural Society, Ohio Association of Garden Clubs and The Gardeners' and Florists' Association of Ontario. Counties to be visited include Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentine-Chilean Lakes, Argentina, Brazil with an optional excursion to Brasilia. Tour dates are:

Leaving Nov. 7—Return Dec. 13

Leaving Jan. 9—Return Feb. 14

Leaving Feb. 13—Return Mar. 21

For further information and cost write either this office or Jean Berke Travel Service, Inc., 518 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10036.

HYBRIDS AVAILABLE

Walter Stuber, 721 Van Buren Street, Logansport, Indiana 46947, has 100 true to named varieties in about 150 large healthy plants he is forced to sell. Included are a number of hybrids among them Red Charm. He also has daylillies in variety and Oriental poppies. Mr. Stuber is forced to give up one of his two lots. He will furnish anyone interested with a list of all the plants that are true to name and no reasonable offer will be turned down.

NEW BOOKS

The Picture Book of Perennials by Arno and Irene Nehrling (\$6.95, Nelson, Foster and Scott) is a good basic guide to garden perennials. The first half of the book consists of 134 pages of encyclopedic listings of perennials from Achillea to Zauschneria by family, thoroughly illustrated with black and white photographs, line drawings and four pages in color. The second half, also well illustrated, contains tables and general garden information.

Picture Book of Perennials is a good one to start on if you want a ready reference or simply want to know about more perennials.

PLANNING AHEAD!

We hope District V members and all other peony enthusiasts will assist in planning a place for peonies at the Eighth World Flower and Garden Show to be held in 1966 at McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois. Dates are March 19th to 27th. According to attendance figures this is the nation's best attended spring flower show. Will all commercial growers please keep us informed of your plans?

Gene Wild of Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Inc., Sarcoxie, Missouri, told us of the weather conditions in their area this year — rain in June and July — hot in August and rain in September — in fact the day we talked — Brownsville, Missouri had had 4 inches in 45 minutes!

GOOD PEONIES LAST
A LIFETIME — WHY NOT
PLANT THE BEST?

— Clarence Lienau

Time for Peony Planting

By Percy H. Wright

Peonies have long occupied an unusual place in the affections of flower gardeners, half way between popularity and unpopularity. They have been liked for their magnificent blooms, and disliked for the short season in which they look good as well as for the sprawling habit of a good many of them and their susceptibility to botrytis blight. They also occupy a good deal of space in full sun, and are slow to become re-established after being transplanted.

There is one form of the peony which is in strong demand at the present time, so strong that the price has gone up to more than \$5 for a division so small that it could scarcely be any smaller. If anyone could wave a magician's wand and produce 10,000 plants of it overnight, his fortune would be made. This is the Fernleaf peony, which produces extra early flowers.

The latest issue of *The Minnesota Horticulturist* has an article on peonies which brings out numerous points usually overlooked in articles or talks about peonies. The author says that peonies suffered a relapse in popularity, but are now making a remarkable comeback, "we are using peonies in our gardens correctly for the first time in many years."

One of the uses she names is, believe it or not, as hedges, not for dividing your property from your neighbor's or keeping out dogs and cats, but for ornamentation along driveways and walks. The problem of a short season, she believes, can be met by choosing early and late varieties to supplement the usual middle season ones. Some of the latest bloom as late as July 1 in Minnesota, which would mean 10 days or so later here in Saskatoon.

It is not hard to add further ideas about peonies and peony culture which would undoubtedly increase their popularity by large leaps if applied. One is to select varieties less for the perfection of their flowers (used for rating varieties in the official value lists), than for resistance to botrytis and short, sturdy stems that do not need staking to hold the plant and its flowers above the dirt. In other words, plant characters should count as well as floral characters. After all, when a peony is not especially esteemed, it is because of poor plant characters, not because of poor flower characters. Though peony flowers differ in form, color, and attractiveness, they are all beautiful. Even the singles are magnificent. It would be possible to write a whole chapter about how sadly the singles have been neglected.

If anyone who reads this finds himself sufficiently interested to seek out further information about peonies and their culture, let him write to the Secretary of the American Peony Society, C. Dan Pennell, 107½ West Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891, U.S.A.

P L A N T P E O N I E S

Peony Records And Labels

Edward Auten, Jr.

When I sold my four acres of peonies in 1963 there were about 1500 stakes in the field, each one with a plain, unpainted and not wired tree label, wood, $3\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{8}$ inches, nailed onto top of a 16 inch wooden stake with a $\frac{5}{8}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wire nail. Stakes were from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches cross section; of cypress if obtainable, or any fairly durable wood. I bought bundles of 50 stakes, 4 feet long, from Yoho & Hooker (somewhere in Ohio) selling scrap from their greenhouse building operations. These cost \$4.50 per bundle, plus freight, but made 150 stakes each. A power saw can be used to cut boards into size.

Stakes would heave more or less every winter, but could be quickly redriven, even if entirely out. (This happened last winter here.) In other years I sometimes had as many as 2500 stakes in place, on seven or more acres.

Entire field was rechecked every spring before growth was more than 6 inches, and entirely new labels nailed on. This was a tedious job, as was disbudding. I started using young boys, but they quarrelled and disappeared whenever baseball was available. Then I tried boys and girls, and that was worse. Then I tried all girls, sixth to eighth grades, and that worked fine. No fights, no bud throwing, some nice singing occasionally, etc. Never worked more than two hours at a time, usually after school.

Never planted in an open furrow, dug separate holes for every root. That made spacing correct, and size of holes just right, so that no danger of getting them too deep. Rows 4 feet apart, plants about 15 inches apart. Holes dug in advance of laying out the roots. We always planted in rows East and West, just happened to be handier that way.

Labels for every plant to be dug were made in advance and kept separate for each variety. If we were starting at West end of field, the plants were always East of their stakes. If we started at East end, plants were to be West of them. We had to have alleys through a big field, and wanted rows not more than 250 feet long. So we kept separate records for each block. Stakes in each row numbered beginning at 2. Number 1 has block and row. For writing on labels we used Eberhard Faber all weather No. 6639.

When planting, a stake was laid for the end, then a stake for every variety. We did not try to plant each kind all together over a period of years, too many kinds. We carried 2800 different seedlings to advanced trial and divided them when large enough. Then I had over 100 other kinds not my own. Also, at end of a shipping run, we would plant the left overs except those to be used in next run. We often dug 50 to 90 kinds at a time, and there were many left overs of only one of a variety. These we planted with stake every 4 plants. If two or more of a kind, a stake for every kind.

The labels at end of row might read Section (E) Row (23) OLS (old siwash) next stake might be 2 RC. If four in a lot between stakes, we simply gave initials of first variety and a plus sign to indicate they were one of a kind. Field book listed all varieties as they were placed on the ground. Helper drove the stakes, which had been laid out as roots were placed, and he also removed all labels from roots. Large numbers of one variety were never all labelled. Initials alone did not identify. R C might be Richard Carvel in one row, Red Champion in another. Field book tells

the story.

As plants were spaced, if a stake out and lost, or a label gone we could be counting in either direction, locate the mark for stake from the field book, and adjacent stakes. If an entire lot between stakes were dug, we crossed that out of book, and as laid out for digging, we crossed out the singles taken from a block of four. That showed us where to get plants when we were making ready for a new run of orders. We always checked the field and surviving kinds if we could at end of season, and again at start before plants got very tall, say 6 inches.

I kept my planting records in fireproof safe at home and a duplicate in safety deposit box at bank. Have often said that this system was lots of work, but if every stake were pulled out I could put them back probably in one year, certainly in two. I had no real trouble with people molesting my stakes. They were not easy enough for a small boy to enjoy pulling. If people pulled off wood labels I could easily replace them. That was the way some adults found out or tried to find out, what kind a certain plant was.

For small gardens, I think it best to keep a planting record or diagram in their home, as well as labels on the plant. And records should be made at planting time, not trusting to memory or shipping labels to help if record made later.

GROWING THE PEONY

By James Boyd

It hardly seems necessary to give advice in regard to planting, cultivating, and fertilizing the peony, because those subjects are so generally treated in the catalogues of all the principal growers throughout the country.

SELECTING

I have bought from many growers throughout the country, have purchased thousands of roots, and do not believe that I have ever been intentionally deceived by any grower. Of course, plants have been occasionally received under the growing label, but I believe that this was due to mistakes or carelessness and not to trickery.

It is advisable to visit the gardens of the grower from whom one intends to purchase, if possible, and to note his care in keeping his field labels in good condition, and his system for numbering, naming, and registering in his stockbook or on his stock-cards. If a grower prints a careless catalogue or price-list, misspelling the names and making various mistakes in his printed matter, he is likely to be careless in his garden methods and therefore not a desirable grower to purchase from. The amateur will learn to purchase a rare and expensive variety only from a man who is careful and accurate in all details. If one is unable to visit gardens, he may form an impression from printed catalogue or price list. Carelessness and inaccuracy in one generally denote the same failings in the other. Extravagant descriptions of known varieties make one doubt the praise of those unknown.

The strong division having from three to five eyes, and cut from two-, three-, and four-year-old plants, is the best investment for a heavy clay

soil. It is true that divisions with only one or two eyes will grow successfully in some soils and produce good bloom in the course of two or three years but, as a rule, a purchaser desires to get good bloom as quickly as possible, and therefore, the standard division, having three to five eyes, is strongly recommended.

A high price does not necessarily mean a fine peony, nor does a low price denote plants of little value. Supply and demand are large factors in regulating prices. A new peony of moderate merit may for a short time command a higher price than is asked for on older one of far greater merit.

In forming a collection, a grower should seek quality rather than quantity. It is advisable to buy from the man who offers not over two or three hundred varieties of high quality, which he grows with care in labeling and listing, rather than from the man who claims to have over a thousand varieties, and who necessarily must give a considerable portion of his time to cultivating, labeling, and listing worthless stock. If he does not cultivate, carefully label, and list his worthless stock, the buyer is likely to get some of it when ordering good stock.

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING

It is advisable to prepare for planting in advance. The ground should be deeply dug. If possible, soil should be thrown out to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet and then thrown back again. This is not practicable with a very large planting, and in such cases the ground should be plowed deeply and the soil allowed to settle well before the peonies are planted. A few heavy showers will bring the soil down to the desired level, and the roots should be carefully planted with the topmost eye from 2 to 3 inches below the surface. If the soil is light and friable, 3 inches is the proper depth, but if it is heavy clay, 2 inches is sufficient. A handful of bone-meal mixed with the soil at the time of planting is sufficient fertilizer for each peony.

The planting should be done preferably between September 1 and the time the ground freezes. After the ground is frozen, it is advisable to cover with a mulch of leaves, corn-stalks, or such material to prevent it from thawing in the winter. The mulch is to prevent the plants from being heaved by the frost and will not be necessary after the first winter. In the spring, sheep-manure will improve the growth and bloom; not over a trowelful should be used around each healthy plant.

Peonies may also be planted in the early spring but it is better not to disturb the old plant at that time of the year. Stock dug the previous fall and kept in cold storage over winter can be planted in the spring with very satisfactory results.

When the plants start to grow, they should be cultivated as deeply as possible, and cultivation continued at frequent intervals until after the blooming season. The more cultivation, the better bloom. This and proper disbudding are two essential factors in securing exhibition flowers.

Disbud as soon as the buds are formed, allowing only the terminal buds to develop. This, it is understood, is for exhibition bloom, but if quantity is desired rather than quality, some of the lateral buds may be allowed to develop. I always disbud every plant in my garden. The ants that gather on the buds come for the syrup which exudes from the bud and disappear when the bud opens, doing no harm.

In a very dry season it is sometimes advisable to apply water to the roots if fine flowers are desired, and some growers advise the use of liquid

cow manure in order to obtain prize-winning bloom. I have tried it and have also used a small quantity of nitrate of soda, but this is rather dangerous and should only be used with great care. I have also used Stim-U-Plant tablets with very satisfactory results. Do not use stable manure in any way at any time, and remember that a little bone-meal in the fall, and frequent cultivation during the spring, will give fine flowers without additional fertilizers of any kind. After plants bloom it is always advisable to cultivate occasionally to keep the weeds down and the garden clean.

LABELING

If one has purchased fine varieties of peonies and planted them with care, he certainly wishes to know their names when they bloom, so a suitable label is very necessary.

—Re-printed from the Peony Manual, Edited by James Boyd

Propagating by Division of Roots

By James Boyd

When peonies become too old, and flowers begin to get small and stems rather crowded, it is advisable to divide the roots; or, if one wishes to sell or give a certain variety to friends, he may do so by carefully dividing the roots, either in the spring or the fall. The latter time is preferable because the bloom for that year is not lost, and the flowers the following spring are generally as numerous and as good from the fall-planted division as they are from the division planted six months earlier.

Amateurs should not divide a plant that is less than three years old, but commercial growers who desire to increase their stock as rapidly as possible can successfully divide two-year-old plants.

To divide a clump, the first important thing is to dig it up carefully. A three- or four-year-old plant will generally have roots 12 to 15 inches long, and the spread will be between 20 and 30 inches. Dig around it and under it in order to pry and raise it without cutting or breaking the roots, which are rather brittle when they are first exposed to air. When the plant is free, lift it out of the ground and shake it to remove as much of the earth as possible, and then let it stand in the sun and air for two to three hours. When it begins to wilt, the roots will have become softer and more pliable and may be handled without much danger of breaking. Then, holding the plant by the leaves and stems, wash off all the soil, either in a tub of water or by using a garden hose. When clean, remove the tops within 1 to 2 inches of the topmost bud. Next, examine the clump closely, holding it in both hands. Work or bend it back and forth slowly to determine where it seems inclined to part. If it bends readily in one or two places, these are the points at which it should be cut. A short, stiff-bladed hunting knife is very useful, because one often has to pry the roots apart as well as cut them.

When the clump is divided into two or three main parts, examine each part carefully to see where it may be cut or divided again with as little injury as possible to the roots. If a root should accidentally be broken off without an eye on it, throw it away because it never can make growth. Sometimes a very small eye may be concealed under dirt, and when the

root is thrown away this eye will develop and in time send up a shoot, eventually making a plant. This will take time, and unless the variety is extremely rare and expensive, it is not worth while to endeavor to get a plant from a division with only one very small eye. It is very important to remove all pieces of root from the ground when plants are dug, otherwise roots with concealed eyes may form plants in years to come and cause much confusion by mixing varieties.

There have been many arguments in regard to the size of the division, but it is generally conceded that the greatest success comes from the strong standard division having three to five eyes. A division with one or two eyes, planted in a light, friable soil, will generally thrive and make a good plant in two to three years, but a standard division in the same soil should make a good plant a year sooner. A small division in heavy clay soil will not make a good sized plant in less than three to four years, and the results at the end of the first or second year are generally so disappointing that one is inclined to dig it up and throw it away, unless it is a very valuable variety.

I have planted roots of all sizes and have found the standard division the best and most satisfactory in every way, but the novice often thinks he would like to buy a big plant, and hopes thereby to get an abundance of bloom almost immediately. This is a great mistake. Often a large plant will not develop all its eyes in the first season, and at the end of two or three years a plant grown from a good division will be much finer than a larger clump that has been transplanted. It is a great mistake to purchase old, heavy clumps with the expectation of getting immediate results; a standard division having three to five eyes will make an entirely new root system and give far better results in a very short time.

TREE PEONY NOTES

Anthony J. DeBlasi

Here are a few "thumb-nail sketches" of some of the less often discussed tree peonies. All of them are outstanding performers that will add "spice" to any tree peony show:

Hino-tsukasa (Ashes of the Setting Sun). This variety produces a profusion of large, many-petalled blooms of a deep, warm red that grows darker as the flower ages. There is not a trace of blue or violet in its makeup. A most unusual and rarely seen tone of red in peonies. The silken texture creates strange reflections that enhance the color interest. The petals have serrated edges and are well wrinkled, twisted, and perfectly held, in an overall high-centered, deep goblet shape.

Suigan (Intoxicating Face). An extremely difficult blossom to characterize, since it is irregular in shape within an overall flat goblet and since the petals readily change their position at different times of day. Sometimes the picture is completely altered in less than an hour! The blossom is enormous when fully open, with huge, round, spoon-shaped outer petals — inner ones variable, with petaloids in the center. The reverse of the petals is a pale, silvery pink, the inner surface a glowing mid-pink irregularly flushed with deeper hues, creating a brilliant show of color. There are hints of purple at the very base of the petals. The stately plant, with its rounded, spreading top over a rise of bare bark, cuts the

kind of classic shape in space that must have inspired Oriental artists of yore.

Vesuvian, in the bud stage, resembles nothing more than an exquisitely perfect hybrid tea rose. Its deep, velvety crimson hue is reminiscent of Crimson Glory, but unlike the rose, Vesuvian retains its dark, rich color to the very end. Here is a medium-sized, quite double peony with imbricated, ruffled petals that will create an enchanting picture wherever placed. The plant is densely foliated and especially floriferous. "Different".

Princess. Few catalog color descriptions are as accurate as the one for this variety: dusky mauve suffused with gold. That is exactly what it is. But if you have never seen this flower, you must have an enormously active imagination to visualize such a blend of colors. The bloom is large and well held, its several rows of broad round petals neatly arrayed around an attractively formed center. The flower possesses the silken texture and the translucence of the Japanese tree peonies. The foliage is unusually handsome, with leaflets not as sharply tapered as those of most other Lutea hybrids. From the shape of the leaves, the form and purplish undertone of the petals, and the pearly sheen of the blossom, I get the "sneaking suspicion" that the male parent of this hybrid was Gumpoden.

Gumpoden (Temple Adorned with Many Flowers). Second to none in floriferousness, this variety is outstanding for the unusual and quite "different" shade of purple it introduces to any collection, no matter how complete. The color is elusive, changing according to the light that plays on it. It is not the same color in the morning as it is in the afternoon, nor is it the same on a cloudy day as in sunshine. The reason is that, close-up, it is a blend of colors. The base of the petals are steeped in a glowing, rich reddish-purple, fading to a grayish blue-lavender at the edges, the latter hue rivalling the "blueness" of Kamada-fuji. The overall effect, at a distance, is a mid-tone of purple such as often occurs in phlox or iris. The bloom is quite full and the petals broad, fringed, and held in a cupped rose-like shape that holds its form to the end. A pearly cast over the petals adds a final touch of refinement to this masterpiece.

(Would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who knows the identity of a Japanese tree peony having ruffled, smoky-white (almost gray) petals flushed at the base with lavender, creating a most unique and sumptuous effect — certainly one of the strangest and most artistic tree peonies.)

TREE PEONIES

Leo J. Armatys, Central City, Nebraska

We will never know how many worthy seedlings, bud-sports or mutations were lost in the eons before we learned the art of grafting. The early history of *P. suffruticosa*, the Moutan tree peony, is lost in the gray mists of antiquity. The present day tree peony represents one of the few finished products of the flower world. New varieties have been introduced and more are on the way, but their merit, for the most part, lies in being different rather than being an improvement over older varieties.

MINOR EXPERIMENTS

Marigolds planted nearby seem to have a salutary effect on tree peonies but they detract from the overall garden scene. Next year I'll try Park's new 6 inch "Irish Lace" marigold that looks like miniature heather.

Last year I buried a small graft of L. Smirnow's **STOLEN HEAVEN**, its graft-line 10 inches under and with a top bud just above ground. No sign of life until late May, then it sent up a stem when other plants were in full bloom. It is alive and well but I've decided smaller grafts shouldn't be planted deeper than the recommended 4 to 6 inches.

THE VILLIAN — REINE ELIZABETH ?

Why isn't everybody wild about tree peonies? Why aren't they in every garden? Maybe it is **REINE ELIZABETH**!

Recently I talked with 3 people who had poor experience with this variety. A gentleman from St. Joseph, Missouri, had three plants. They bloomed twice in 27 years, then were discarded. Today he grows no peonies. A lady in western Nebraska had one plant, which she pampered for 15 years without a single bloom. She has none in her garden today. Both of those gardens have many visitors. Surely they went away convinced that tree peonies are tempermental novelties. The third grower, whose original stock came from John Wister, was more fortunate. While her plant bloomed sparsely a couple of times in 20 years and was finally ditched, she had planted other varieties at the same time and their performance has made her enthusiastic about tree peonies in general.

This European variety, in commerce for a hundred years, is a free-growing plant, rather easily propagated. Some 19th century grower with an easy conscience described it as free blooming. Nurserymen have copied this description ever since. Whether it is a deep pink, rose red, cherry red or rose salmon as it is variously described, its blossoms are said to be well-formed and quite large. It has received votes in the peony polls, including some for the top spot. I have never seen it in bloom, and I wonder how many of our members have had any luck with this variety.

MISCELLANY

All of the Barclay tree peonies that were moved to Dorothy Scott's Baltimore home last fall survived. She reports that those moved with a ball of dirt established more quickly than those moved bare-root, and gave a surprising amount of bloom.

A late developing underground bud sent up a heavy stem and provided several good blooms on **RIGHT ROYAL** for my birthday, June 22nd.

Fall planting of bare-root plants is best, but a small, potted **SATIN ROUGE** from Kelsey Nursery, planted in early June, doesn't yet know it was moved.

COMING SOON

Back on Schedule.

Order out of Chaos.

Some of the articles promised in earlier columns.

And more — about tree peonies!

— 26 —

TREE PEONY

Reine Elizabeth The Black Sheep

Now that the 1965 peony season is close to past history, I have further news re P. Reine Elizabeth—all bad.

Hopeful that it may clarify the overall picture somewhat, would point out having three well matured plants—the original one imported from England back in the 1930's and grafted on herbaceous stock; the second one a division from the original, and the third one a graft from the original on a herbaceous root. Only the original plant has ever flowered.

Beyond these three there are two younger plants, these being grafts from the original plant, using herbaceous stocks. These two grafts were made as I recall it, six years ago this coming fall. One of these flowered in 1963 and again in 1964, but went "haywire" this year.

The other one, which flowered for the first time in 1964—and what a beauty it was—developed two buds in readiness for 1965. One of these two buds was discovered in early March, 1965, hanging by a shred of bark. I suspect a cat or dog as the culprit. The remaining bud developed in a sensational manner, and by the first of May had attained a diameter of 1¼" and hard as a rock.

However, within a very few days after that it started to shrink and soften. By the end of May it had shrunken to the size of a small marble.

As to the graft I made from a scion off the "check plant" (see page 6, column 1, Bulletin 175). This developed amazingly fast. In six weeks' time, union between the stock and scion was firmly made. This spring it was one of the first to show above ground, and for a good measure had a bud on the tip.

I could not resist the temptation

to allow it to remain. It developed to the size of an average marble, but that's as far as it got—it, too, shrivelled up. The plant itself has kept coming along. It is a good size now and the picture of health.

The bottom of my bag of tricks is dangerously close, so much so that steps I am now taking are so ridiculous that I respectfully decline mentioning them.

So, folks, the above is my story and I am "stuck" with it.

Ralph H. Giff

DROUGHT NOTES ON THE LUTEA HYBRIDS

From West Cornwall in the northwest corner of Connecticut comes this note...the ground is dry, two or three feet down. Oddly enough, the yellow tree peonies (hybrids) have proved rugged, have bloomed beautifully each year and still seem pretty healthy, even though all the plants around them are dying: phlox, delphinium, even clematis, shrubs, etc.

And from Greenwich, Connecticut...fine lutea hybrids this year, especially Savage Splendor. Magnificent always.

— Silvia Saunders

COLOR SLIDE LIBRARY

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.

Peony Planting Down South!!!

SOMEBODY said it couldn't be done — plant peonies in the south and grow them successfully. Several growers have taken exception to that statement, among them Milton F. Rubel, retired banker of Corinth, Mississippi, who staged a big peony display at the National Convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America held a few years ago in Jackson, Mississippi.

K. M. Colby of Monroe, Louisiana, sent us the following letter, together with an excellent page of Planting Instructions for Growing Peonies in the South. We are delighted to share both with you.

Dear Mr. Pennell,

We received the March and June Bulletins today and have already read them from cover to cover. Am only sorry we have not been members before. We were waiting to see if we could grow peonies successfully this far south. I believe after nine years of success we have proved they do well in our area.

We fell in love with peonies in 1956 in Illinois while working there. We made a trip to see Mr. Edward Autin who reluctantly sold us six plants but did not give us much encouragement. Mrs. Jeff Rhodes of Assumption, Illinois "potted" some roots in good "Illinois" soil for us. We also visited Mr. Harold Wolfe and became enthused over tree peonies.

It would take a book to relate all our mistakes, experiences and fun over the past nine years. We have most of our original plants and our garden has grown to over a hundred varieties and seventeen tree peonies. It would be hard to select a best but Le Cygne, Bute, Nick Shaylor, Marietta Sisson, Ica Shill, and Isana Gidui never fail. Two new ones, Red Red Rass and Diana Parks were beautiful this year. So far Red Charm has not done well but we are hoping. The late varieties Lady Kate, Evening Star, Mrs. Frank Beach do not open here because of the heat. Oddly, but some quirk, Alma Hansen always opens well.

We have had bloom on several tree peonies ,too. Do Maxime Connio, Tamafuyo Hinode Ickai, and Alice Harding. The foliage holds better here in partial shade as our summer sun is murder.

For the past three years our garden has received a lot of publicity because of the peonies. We have had some T.V. shows on the local station showing bloom and giving planting instructions.

The most amusing thing is our visitors in the bloom season. They will look at all the blooms and remark, "They are just beautiful. Isn't it a shame they won't grow down here?"

Sincerely,
K. M. COLBY

Thought you might be interested in what we have worked out by trial and error.

Planting Instructions for Growing Peonies in the South

Peonies are easily grown in the south but culture is somewhat different than in colder climates. In selecting double varieties choose those that bloom early or in mid season. Singles and Japanese varieties do well here.

- (1) Selecting the planting site.
 - A. Good drainage is a must. (Peonies cannot stand wet feet.)
 - B. At least one half day of sunshine or full sun. (High passing shade that will allow one half day of sunshine is ideal.)
 - C. Avoid planting too near trees, shrubs or hedge plants. (Peonies resent intrusion by the roots of other plants that may rob them of food and moisture.)
- (2) Preparing the planting site.
 - A. Dig planting hole at least three feet in diameter and two feet deep. Save the top soil but discard the sub-soil and hard pan if encountered. Now fill the hole to within eight inches of ground level with good friable garden soil with at least one pound of bone meal added. Tamp firmly or settle dirt by flooding with water. This should be done several days before planting.
- (3) How to set the Peony root.
 - A. Before planting soak the peony root in a bucket of cool water with clorox added. (One tablespoon of Clorox per gallon of water.)
 - B. Mound up and compress with hands good friable soil to a height that when the peony root is placed on the mound, the buds will be at ground level or slightly above. New fill in the rest of the hole with good friable garden soil with no fertilizer added. Cover buds or crown not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch with soil and water thoroughly.

K. M. COLBY
4307 Bon Air Drive
Monroe, Louisiana

Report from a Flower Show School

When planning the program for a Flower Show School to be held in Alexandria, Virginia under the auspices of the National Capital Garden Club League, Inc., Mrs. Rixse, the chairman, wrote for information and a handbook. Further correspondence with this office regarding the School resulted in our receiving an outline used by Dr. Charles E. Dunham, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

Dr. Dunham has graciously consented to our re-printing his outline of his lecture at the School which we thought might be helpful to many of our readers in judging a flower show:

JUDGING PEONIES

When there are a great number of entries for one kind of flower at a large flower show, qualified judges from that plant society are usually called on to judge that section. Often however, the show is made up of a small number of entries of many different kinds of flowers and a judge is required to determine the merits of a variety of kinds.

The following concise outline, which points out the more obvious characteristics of herbaceous peonies, is offered as an aid to judging a

few peony blooms in a general show. More detailed information is available in the **Peony Handbook** and in John Wister's book, **The Peonies**.

Peony Botanical Classification

Peonies belong to genus *Paeonia*. It is usually considered to belong to the family Ranunculaceae, although some botanists feel it is a separate family. There are two main groups, the herbaceous and the woody or tree peonies.

Horticultural Classification of Herbaceous Peony Varieties

- (1) **SINGLE TYPE:** flower with five or more true petals arranged around a center made up of stamens with pollen-bearing anthers.

Good single varieties:

White — Pico, Snowshute

Pink — Champlain, Dawn Pink

- (2) **JAPANESE TYPE:** flower with five or more guard petals and a center made up of stamens bearing abortive anthers, nearly or completely devoid of pollen.

Staminodes.

Good Japanese varieties:

Red — Mikado, Nippon Brilliant

Pink — Ama-no-sodu

White — Bowl of Beauty

- (3) **ANEMONE TYPE:** resembles the preceding type but distinguished from it by the absence of anthers; filaments of stamens have taken on a petal-like character, narrow, more or less incurved and imbricated. **Petaloidy.**

- (4) **SEMI-DOUBLE TYPE:** flowers always show a greater or less number of broad petals intermixed with the stamens, the latter always a prominent feature.

- (5) **DOUBLE TYPE:** transformation of the stamens and sometimes the stigmas into petals has advanced to that stage where they make up the main body of the flower; sometimes no traces of stamens on carpels.

Good double varieties:

White — Festiva Maxima, Flower Girl (2'), Victory

Red — Karl Rosenfeld

Pink — La France, Sarah Bernhard

Yellow — Claire de Lune, Oriental Gold

(a) Double types include the following:

- (1) Crown — (for description, see Bush-Brown, America's Garden Book)
- (2) Bomb — carpels petaloid, broader than crown but still differ from guard petals and petaloids of stamens.
- (3) Semi-Rose — occasional stamen, otherwise like rose.
- (4) Rose — all petals and petaloids, similar.

CULTURE — Peonies are one of the long lived perennials and thrive when left undisturbed for many years. Fertilize in early spring. Stake

before growth gets too high; replant or divide only in the fall. Depth of planting is very important. Tips of the buds should be 1" to 2" below the soil.

Scale of Points for Judging Peonies:

Condition	25	Size	15
Color	25	Substance	10
Form	15	Stem	10

CONDITION — bloom should be in prime condition showing no evidence of over age, water spotting, or physical damage.

COLOR — clear and typical of the variety.

FORM — variety must be taken into account but generally specimens showing most perfect radial symetry are preferred.

SIZE — normal to slightly above normal for the variety.

SUBSTANCE — thick, waxy petals, turgid and firm.

STEM — 15 inches or less, stiff enough to hold the flower, free from insect or disease blemishes.

"ALL DOORS ARE OPEN"

Silvia Saunders

I have just had a most truly inspiring two days with David Reath and his nice wife Eleanor. They arrived in Clinton on Sunday, May 30, in time for an hour among the peonies before dark. Next morning and in fact all day we spent in the peonies either here where they now live in the old garden behind my house, or up on the old "Ribbon" — land now owned by the College, and where very soon I shall not be able to take any more plants away — identifying and exclaiming at things I either had never noticed before or had missed by not being there at the moment they were in bloom. He found much to interest him (mostly in the seedbeds) and I listened and tried to learn and remember, profiting by his very well-digested knowledge and his experience. A fine, fine man, and with endless patience!

Tuesday afternoon we flew over to Rochester, rented a car and drove in a misty rain to the Gratwick's in Pavilion, some 40 miles to the southwest. There we found Bill Gratwick and his partner of 26 years' standing — Nassos Daphnis, "In charge of the Plant Breeding Program" as Bill's elegant catalog states. We all walked about the huge old gardens and the extensive new fields stretching away out, with row on row of "splendiferous" Japanese Tree Peonies all in full dazzling bloom — beautiful plants, and beautifully grown. Bill stresses the flamboyant reds and the sombre purples — "the brass section in the orchestera" he calls them. Also in rows among these were the Lutea Hybrids, some Saunders, some Gratwick-Daphnis, but not many of these were in bloom yet.

Bill Gratwick and my father met in about 1934 and for ten or fifteen years after that Bill did all the grafting for my father, building up as he worked, a complete collection of our 70 Lutea Hybrids. He has raised many hundreds of Japanese from seed, selecting with ruthless and scrupulous care, so that he now has a very large number of very well-established

plants and what a Show they make! In addition he has grown a number of plants of *P. lutea*, selecting those with the best-held stems.

Here, through several hours' walking and talking, we learned that Bill and Nassos have been doing on pure hunch just what they probably would have done had they had either David himself at hand, or his scientific knowledge. I am speaking, of course, of Chromosomes. If appeared to us, as it had to them, that here and there among these new Japs and the new hybrids, a Tetraploid or two had appeared. We took tight buds to be sent to our Chromosome Counter in Cambridge, Mass., but when I got home and split them open to put into the "fix" I found what I should have known, that they were too old. The anthers were already too yellow. We shall have to gather buds again next year, a few weeks or a month earlier in the season.

Anyway it was terribly exciting to be introduced to F2A and F2B (the only two F2 *lutea* hybrids raised here in Clinton; later taken to Pavilion to become part of a great breeding program) and to many other hybrids, some with 3 parts Jap and 1 part *lutea*, blood; or to the new F2's, and even "F2½'s" — and to many other odd, unexplained and perhaps unexplainable things.

I have heard people complain that Bill has told us far too little of what he and Nassos are up to. It seems it's the other way round: — they've been talking all along, but there are too few of us who know enough to fully grasp what they've been aiming towards. Be that as it may, Peony Breeding is one Long Slow WAIT, and it heartened us to learn that Bill and Nassos have had the patience to stick at this work now for 26 years together. (Bill a few years before that, alone.)

Nassos spends two weeks in Pavilion in Spring, doing the crossing, and two weeks in late summer harvesting; then carries the seed young and fresh, back to Provincetown, Mass. where he lives and has his work — he is a sculptor. There, near the sea, it is even milder than Pavilion which itself is milder than Clinton. He germinates the seed by the rapid heat-cold process, saving a year, and when the seedlings are several years old, back they go to Pavilion to be worked into useful life there.

Bill has been, as long as I've known him, a sculptor in stone, an opera-librettist, a singer, a breeder not only of Tree Peonies but of Dorset Sheep; now in addition, he breeds horses of I forget just which fancy brand, and directs his own small "museum" of Elegant Vehicles — carriages of bygone days. He and his lovely wife are as delightful as ever they were; Harriet served a delicious supper to us while we dried our wet shoes. We had a very wonderful few hours with them.

Bill is, as he always was, lovely towards my father; always generously saluting him as the Creator and Inventor of the whole program, whereas I know my father would count himself doubly fortunate to have his small beginnings carried forward in so intelligent, so well-planned and so vigorous a program.

Great Days. these. As a friend of mine remarked to me recently: "All Doors are Open."

P L A N T P E O N I E S

Chromosome Count

Silvia Saunders

Since the Chromosome Counts of 20 Saunders Hybrids were published in the March, 1965, Bulletin (No. 176), the following 12 have been added to the list:

Albi-macro F-1	Audrey	15	(a semi-double)
F-2	Anthem	20	
	Fantasia	20	
Back-cross	Requim	10	
Mloko-macro F-2		20	
r'-3		20	

(So perhaps we may safely assume that all Mol-mac F-2's and F-3's are Tetraploids. There are no F-1's — at least no Saunders F-1's.)

Triple: Albi x (tenui-Mloko F-2):

"Roselette's Child"	20
Roselette's Grandchild" (R's Child F-2)	20
Rushlight (3 different plants)	15 each

(Rushlight is two different clones. 16344 and 16363, by now hopelessly mixed. I hope we may assume that both are 15.)

16350 F-2	20
Albi-lobata F-2	20
Quadruple F-2	20

A triple Hybrid 16130

(albi x offic Otto Froebel x Mloko) 15

(It sets no seed. I was hoping it would.)

A "pink Mloko" from England 20

(This is a particularly handsome plant — is it perhaps Russi? But it is much better than my other plants of Russi.)

Two errors (through no fault of Editor or Printer) appeared in the March Bulletin. Note that Nova is a Mlo-mac F-2m and 9037 F-2 is correctly given; the F-3 is **incorrect**. Triple Hybrid No. 14414 has been recounted and is found to be 15, not 20. No. 4992 has been counted as 10, and also as 20. Question?

I shall continue having Chromosome Counts done until enough have been completed so that we can feel we have all the information we need. If anyone cares to let me know of any Counts they wish made, I will do what I can towards that.

Chromosome Studies In Varieties of Tree Peonies

By Kaoru Hagiya

From the Bulletin of the Faculty of Agriculture,
Niigata University, No. 10, Niigata, Japan

Generally speaking, the varieties of tree peony and herbaceous peony have limited variations cytologically, and almost everyone of them have been determined to be diploid ($n=5$ or $2n=10$). An exception is the yellow flower tree peony, Alice Harding, which was observed to have $3-+4-$ at MI in pollen mother cell and abnormal pollen tetrad. It was also discovered that all the varieties of *Paeonia officinalis* are tetraploid, and the European peonies, whose botanical names are unknown, are triploid.

Name	n	2n		
Akasigata	5		Kirintukasa	10
Akasijisi	5		Kamadamisiki	5
Arasiyama	5		Kikkotukasa	10
Asahinosora	5		Kokuryunisiki	5
Ayagoromo	5		Kujukujisi	5
Benitidori	5		Kumagaya	5
Benitukasa	5		Nisikinomine	10
Bigyoku		10	Nisikinotuya	5
Bugakuden	5		Nissyo	10
Daikagura		10	Okinajisi	5
Etigojisi	5		Orihime	10
Huromon	5		Outihime	5
Husotukasa		10	Rinpo	5
Godaisyu	5		Sakurajisi	5
Gosyozakura		10	Sitihukujin	5
Gunpoden		10	Sinkagura	10
Hakubanryu		10	Sintenti	5
Hakuojisi	5		Sirotae	10
Hakusin	5		Suigan	5
Hanadaijin		10	Suisyohaku	5
Hao	5		Syugyokuden	5
Harunoakebono		10	Taisyoko	5
Hatugarasu		10	Taiyo	10
Hatuhinode	5		Tamahuyo	5
Higurasi	5		Tamasudare	5
Hinodesekai		10	Taisyonohokori	10
Hiraoyuki	5		Tamausagi	5
Hodai	5		Teikan	5
Horaisan		10	Tukisekai	10
Horen	5		Tyoraku	5
Hozan	5		Ukarejisi	10
Imasyojo	5		Yaezakura	5
Imatyoo	5		Yamatotukasa	5
Iwatokagami	5		Yomonosakura	5
Jituketunisiki		10	Yatitubaki	5
Kamadahuji	5		Yukidoro	5
			Yukizasa	10

Asahimara	5		Kokuomaru	10
Terukuni	5		Konronzan	10
Kasugayama	5		Mangetu	10
Sikinosato		10	Meigetū	10
Syutoko		10	Meiko	10
Tanimanoyuki	5		Mihata	10
Yukigasane	5		Miyakoharu	5
Meijinohomare	5		Miyonohomare	10
Sijo		10	Nisikinokaze	10
Yomoku		10	Omoinomama	10
Kinkaku			Osyokon	5
Souvenir de Prof.			Ojo	10
Maxime Cornu		10	Roraku	10
Kinko			Rozan	10
Alice Harding	3- + 4-		Seiryukaku	10
Kinsi			Seiten	10
Chromatella		10	Sinkonoharu	10
Kintei			Sinsekai	10
Le Esperance		10	Sinsirokarako	10
Herbaceous Peonies			Sirabyosi	10
Name	n	2n	Sitihukujin	10
Akagiyama		10	Suibijin	10
Amanogawa		10	Sirokarako	10
Bankokuiti		10	Syodai	5
Bikan		10	Syozoden	10
Enyu		10	Takatiho	10
Gabisan		10	Tamatusima	10
Godaisyū		10	Tensin	10
Hagoromo		10	Tensyo	5
Hakubanryū		10	Tiyonisiki	10
Hakugan		10	Tobao	10
Hakuturu		10	Togen	10
Hanamigasa		10	Tukikage	10
Hatugarasu		10	Yodaimu	10
Heiwa		10	Yomeimon	10
Higasayama		10	Yosinoyama	10
Hinodeumi		10	Yuki-ikkyoku	10
Hoonisiki		10	Albide flora	10
Hujizomenisiki		10	Berlioz	5
Huyajyo		10	Camille carotte	10
Izayoi		10	Couronne d'Or	10
Kagaribi		10	Festival maxima	10
Kakoden	5		First	10
Kamadahuji		10	Francis de Sales	10
Karabijin		10	Grandiflora Superba	5
Kimigayo	5		Jupiter	5
Kimizyo		10	Queen Victoria	10
Kinkazan		10	La Tulipe	10
Kinsei		10	Lamartine	10
Kintaiko		10	Madame de Galhau	10
Kirintukasa		10	Madame de Verneville	10
Kirinmaru		10	Madame Phetisie	
			Memindar Mac-Mahon	10

Name	Species	n	2n	Rubra Plena	20
				P. tenuifolia L.	10
Alba			20	P. obovata Maxim	10
Rosae			20	P. Wittmanniana	15

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

William Kreklers New Peonies submitted this year.

A. KREKLER (B-77). Large double hybrid flower of a very deep glossy black-red color. It is midseason of hybrids. Has a twisty petal makeup. Dense medium sized bush.

ALAN EBY (B-86). Wide long-lasting very abundant midseason wine-pink Jap. borne well above dense 32 inch bush. One and a half inch twisty cream petaloids (narrow bases) fade to white. Pistols are palest green with pink tops.

AVIS CULLEN (B-20). Fairly large midseason intense pink double — bright and gay. On the average sized stems and bush. Charming like its namesake.

BRIDE'S DREAM (B-46). Unusual, refined and entrancing large white Jap. Its fadeless long-lasting midseason blooms are borne on upright 30 inch stems. Has mostly two inch very narrow twisty pointed white petaloids — a few are a bit wider in the center. There is a wide circle band of shorter cream-tinted ones beneath that show through the white longer top mass thus giving a delicate creamy effect that is most charming. The pistils are palest green with white tops that peep through a bit. An adorable picture of delicacy.

DEBORA GRAY (F-2). This large neat late much-silvered pink double is on an upright 34 inch bush. The deeper wine-pink center shows its few stamens. Small green pistils are topped with pink.

ELLENE ALLEN (B-22). Huge flat very-late buds open slowly into heavy waxy nearly-white glowing fairly large double flowers on 32 inch rather arching stems a foot above the leaves of a fairly dense bush. There are almost no side buds. There is a palest pink and lemon glow upon first opening. A few buds may freeze.

EVELYN TIBBITTS (B-47). An early persisting white Jap with big flowers placed down near the rather wide 28 inch sturdy bush. The two inch light clear yellow narrowish petaloids form a rather flat ball. Its light green pistils have whitish tops. The petaloids bases remain palest lemon but their tops finally turn near-white. Earlier than most similar Japs.

EVERETT ROBERTS (B-25). The flowers are fair-sized midseason bright doubles that open light red. They are borne on droopy 32 inch stems, that form a dense bush. The golden stamens show through the narrowish wide-spaced petals. Small greenish-white pistils have wine tops.

FAMIE GAGE (H-2). The low bush very much resembles *Officinalis* in size, leaves and make up. This presumed hybrid peony flower is a rather large full ball in a better soft "baby pink" color. Blooms are very long lasting and they hold their pleasing color extra well. They seem to open a bit later than the *Officinalis*. This beauty is most promising for Memorial Day cut flowers up north.

HENRIETTA FLORY (B-31). Its flatish late deep pink big double flowers stand well above a dense bush. The 33 inch stems are gracefully upright. Few buds may freeze. Many bright stamens can be glimpsed among its many petals. The small white pistils have red tops.

JOHN WHITIS (B-82). Flatish rather large dense very-late glossy light pink double flowers on 36 inch stems that droop slightly. The clear pink fades to a nice near-white. The flowers open a bit slower on one side so they have a distinctive attractive off-center pinkish blotch. Makes a good cutter as it is quite prolific and nearly no leaves on long stem between its bush and bloom. There apparently are no pistils or stamens.

KAREN GRAY (B-1). Has gay largish little-fading wine-red early flowers in great profusion — (which much resemble the later deeper Sword Dance). Its 34 inch very dense bush, with the flowers down near the leaf mass, is a fine landscape type. The center is open so the pistils show — pistils are the same color as petals. Its narrow two inch long petaloids have pale wine-red bases and a bit wider twisty light cream tops.

MARTHA REED (B-15). Huge glistening very-early, very-long-lasting, double white flowers have twisty petal arrangement (not in usual dense rows). Flowers are placed half foot above the thick 29 inch bush. This very popular peony is mud-hating (not lazy). The stamens golden light glimmer slightly through the thickish petals but its wineish pistils do not show. This one promises much — very much.

MYRON BRANSON (B-19). Like its husky Quaker namesake, its leaves and flowers are big, and its tall 37 inch (bit sprawly) bush is robust. This nice colored huge early Jap is a deepish little-fading red with its flowers placed fairly well above the foliage. The inch and a half long narrow-bottomed petaloids open a light pinkish, with pointed fourth-inch wide creamy tops. These tops slowly fade to nearly white and their ends twist a bit. The olive pistils with pink tops show some.

PHILIP KUNZ (B-92). Selected by a great flower admirer (A.P.S. member) as his namesake. The largish dense glossy flatish double blooms open a glowing light pink, and finally fade to a near-white with pale pink persisting in their centers. These very late flowers grow over a foot above the dense bush on graceful three foot stems — (hence is a good cutter). Apparently no pistils or stamens.

SUZANNE KREKLER (B-14). A ball-like medium-sized high-built exceedingly-late silvery-light-pink flower of great substance, on strong upright 33 inch stems. Strong side buds. Centers are somewhat twisty and a few spots show some buff. Apparently there are no stamens or pistils. palest green of petal bases glow through bottom downward-growing petals.

TOM ECKHARDT (B-32). The bright attractive midseason Jap blooms open a wine-pink and very slowly fade to a pretty pale pink. Its large numerous flowers are almost a foot above its wide dense bush on upright 35 inch stems. The broad gay pink shallow bowls hold a wide shapely mass of very showy petaloids. Their bases are a light greenish-tan and their tops are a pink that fades to lavender. Their tips are clear bright golden points that twist. The pistils are pale green with whiteish tops.

ALICE ROBERTS (B-17). A huge many-budded bright silvery-pink Jap. All petaloids have thread-like light-lemon bases. The central ones have tops curved in a U shape that are over a third of an inch wide. These

open pale lavender-pink and fade finally to a near-white. Their tops are twisty like a corkscrew, sharp pointed, and a light golden color. Beneath these are shorter light golden ones that shine through the longer overlapping ones above. Fat light green pistils have small whiteish tops. Flowers are clear and delicate colored.

ASHIE (B-16). A lovely large rather-high-built very-late much silvered soft-pink double of much substance. The 33 inch stems are a bit too weak for their heavy load — otherwise a great peony. No apparent pistils or stamens. A charmer.

ROBERTA SOUTHARD (K-22). Not big, but a pleasantly different late peony. It is a very high-conical-built double flower with much-cut darker deep rose-pink outer petals at its base. Its center high ones are silvered with white on their outsides. No apparent pistils or stamens. The 32 inch stems are upright and like soldiers on parade.

THELMA CAMPBELL (B-39). A fairly large very-late flatish deep-pink double. The outside of petals are silvered with a white sheen. No apparent pistils or stamens in the petal-ball in the sunken center. The 34 inch ample stems arch out attractively from an undense bush.

ANNA MARY (R-15). A broad medium-sized bowl of delight. An extremely late clear-pale-lemon double that finally fades to a near-white. Apparently no pistils or stamens. Erect 33 inch ample stems. Not big, but a memorable one to end the peony season.

ATTIE (B-88). A heavy pleasing very-late much-silvered light-pink double of good substance and above average in size. No apparent pistils or stamens. Ample 34 inch stems arch nicely.

REBA SHAW (B-55). Extra late glowing pale pink double with a pinker center. Considerable substance. No apparent pistils or stamens in center cup. Has 31 inch stems.

LATE DATE (B-87-A). Extremely-late medium-sized palest-pink double that finally fades waxy white. No apparent pistils or stamens among the many small center petals. Arching 32 inch stems.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following were submitted by
Myron D. Bigger, Grower of Fine
Peonies:

Comanche (4-57) Parents unknown. This fine Jap type peony has guard petals that are a beautiful shade of medium red with a little touch of rose. The stamenodes are finely cut and not heavy as in some Japs. They are yellow with a little of the guard petal color. Pistils are green with tips the same color as the guard petals. It blooms mid-season on a very good three foot

plant that has fine dark green foliage.

Gibraltar (9-58) Nippon Beauty X? Full rose type double, very dark pink, blooming very late. This flower has excellent substance and lasts a long time when cut and it should also make a good show flower. It has good bright green foliage on stems about three feet tall.

The following has been submitted by **Samuel Wissing**, Lombard, Illinois:

Coral Sunset. Semi double, very good color, on a fine plant, with fine foliage, it is Triploid. Its parents are: Lactiflora "White Semi Double" X Officinallis Otto Froebel.

Our Readers Write . . .

As you all know, we encourage our readers to write us with their questions, experiences and suggestions, or any other points of interest that we can use to improve our Bulletin, and thus, our Society. And so, the letter below:

Virginia

Mr. Austin D. Kilham of Charlottesville, Virginia, writes us, "My suggestion for the Bulletin is to segregate in a separate department everything that has to do with tree peonies as I think there may be some confusion.

"In a recent Bulletin you had an article on herbaceous peonies sandwiched in between articles on tree peonies which I thought was rather confusing. I am delighted to see you are devoting more space to tree peonies and this would seem to justify more space on tree peonies segregated to itself."

From Ohio To California?

Mr. William Krekler of Somerville, Ohio, writes to us, "In a very few days I will be going to my California winter home (until May 1st) at 8160 Edmaru Avenue, Whittier, California." He further states that he would like to have his Bulletins sent there, as it would be a major disaster to miss one."

Mr. Krekler recently gave several hundred GOOD heavy clumps to Stan Hewit Hall in Akron, Ohio, formerly Siberling's old estate.

Minnesota

Under date of June 24, 1965, this letter was received from Carrie Hovland. "I received the June Bulletin today and note that you have again published the notice of my Bulletins for sale. Only two days ago I received a check for same from D. G. Morel of Versailles, France. The address was as follows:

"Ministere De L'Agriculture
"Institute National de la
"Resherche Agronomique

"I feel that they have found a home where they will be of invaluable service to hybridizers and growers. I am very pleased, and I thank you for your efforts in my behalf.

"As always, the first reading of the Bulletin is exciting.

"In southwestern Minnesota, we had a lot of rainfall this spring and our peonies were breathtakingly beautiful. The hybrids outdid themselves. They are beautiful.

"I chuckled at the down-to-earth recipe for raising peonies from seed by Edward Auten, Jr. We have to hope some of our readers will be amateurs. The experts were amateurs once."

Carrie Hovland
Minneota, Minnesota

New York

Miss Silvia Saunders of Clinton, New York, writes us: "It has been such a joyful feeling for all of us to know that the Bulletin is in fine new hands, that I think we rather neglected to tender our thanks and our admiration in another direction—to our president, Frank Howell.

"During the show in Sparta, I ache to think of the labors, physical, mental and emotional, that he underwent on behalf of all of us. It was not a large show, but it was a particularly beautiful one, and the very fact that there was not an over-supply of blooms meant that the audience and members could really study the exhibits.

"The staging was fine and everything seemed to go off beautifully—on schedule and according to plan. Frank was especially kind to me personally, but this I have learned to almost 'expect' from the kind men who make up the Peony Society. No trouble is great when they are working for others and for others' sake, as they so often do.

"We all owe to Frank Howell a very deep debt of gratitude. My personal thanks are contained in these lines, which express most inadequately my deep humble feeling of gratitude."

Ontario, Canada

Ralph H. Giff, of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, writes us of his recent travels:

"On June 16th I visited Mr. L. W. Cousins of London, Ontario, and while strolling among his peonies, I came across a strong, healthy plant of MLOKOSEWITSCHI (what a name). The mental note I made of it is now rather foggy, but it had a dozen or so sturdy stocks and was somewhere around two feet high. I asked him to reveal his secret as to its culture. To this he replied, 'Upon arrival from the supplier I just stuck it in the ground and there it is.' "

"While I did not examine his soil other than a casual glance on the surface, I would classify it as medium clay loam. London has a year-round range of temperatures and rainfall much the same as I imagine is experienced in the northwestern part of Ohio. The moral seems to be, 'leave the plant alone and it will take care of itself.' "

Washington

Rev. Bernard V. Cremer, Seattle, Washington, in answer to our request regarding his peony planting, replied June 23rd, "My planting is too recent to evaluate — it was a

good year — this new church — St. Anne Church — has peonies on three sides."

Of course we wanted to know about that planting and so we requested more information and we solicited slides of the new planting for the slide collection — thinking that a series of slides might be helpful. Again Rev. Cremer replied, "My planting is still young — too young for evaluation. I had a large planting in Bellingham. Mr. Loomis had a large planting there and donated them to the capitol ground in Olympia along with One Thousand Dollars to take care of the planting. I will see what can be done about pictures in 1966." It was too late for pictures this year — so we do hope Rev. Cremer will not forget us next year. St. Anna's Rectory is located at 1411 First Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98119.

Arkansas

Elizabeth F. Sloan (Mrs. W. C.) living in Jonesboro, Arkansas, wrote in answer to our response to our response on receiving her dues "I could kick myself for not joining years ago. I ordered my first peonies from Wayside in about 1941. Three or four of them actually turned out true to name! Later I ordered several from Mr. Brand, and then, in 1950 I went out to Sarcoxie and saw Gilbert Wild's peonies in bloom. I ordered from him and then in 1960 I met up with the Hybrid's in the Cooley's gardens at the American Iris Society convention in Portland, Oregon."

Mrs. Sloan spoke of attending other conventions and of her interest in Alexander Wollcott — Prairie Moon — Carol and "Diana Parks".

"I guess the main thing that interests me is what to do about nematodes, but from our Bulletins I find that nobody else knows either. About the time the Tree Peonies bloom here, the wind blows con-

stantly and they just sort of shrivel up."

"Is there a better yellow herbaceous peony than Praire Moon?" (Who would like to answer Mrs. Sloan on this one?)

"Who is the hybridizer of Moonrise?"

We answered Mrs. Sloan as follows and am printing for the benefit of those of you readers who do not know:

MOONRISE (Saunders, 1949) Albiflora x Iobata, F-2 single, creamy yellow. Hybrid. For more information write Miss Silvia Saunders

(daughter of the late A. P. Saunders), Clinton, New York.

PRAIRIE MOON (Fay, 1959). Laura Magnuson x Archangel. It's large pale yellow flowers are carried on upright, strong stems about 25 inches tall. It has no side buds. Its foliage is a glossy green that remains so until killed by frost. It has a center of yellow stamens and its carpels are well developed. It blooms with the herbaceous hybrids. Distributed by Mr. Orville W. Fay, 1775 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois, originator, and Mission Gardens, Techny, Illinois, jointly.

Challenge To Membership!!!

Allen Harper

There are two areas of information, both of which are well established in other Plant Societies, which seem not to have received comparative emphasis in the American Peony Society. The first is a workable system of evaluation or annual awards, and the second is varietal comment through the Bulletin columns.

It occurs to me that the great popularity of Roses, Iris, Hemerocallis, etc., is due chiefly to the fact that new varieties are annually making their appearance in newspapers and Garden Magazines, labeled variously as the "100 Best", "Judges' Choice", "All American", "Fifty Favorites" or what not.

When we abandoned the rating system in the early 50's, I must agree with Mr. Auten that the system then in effect did not provide an accurate guide to the value of any particular variety. Our failure then was in not proposing a revised evaluation system which would be more accurate and informative, both to our members and to the public.

I think that the encouragement of varietal comment through these columns would serve to stimulate an interest in a greater number of extant varieties. After some general membership exchange, this could in time develop into a compiled Symposium, when a list of the Fifty or One Hundred BEST LIKED Peony varieties could be published each year.

In Mr. Auten's article in the July Bulletin, I note a question as to the availability of sufficient qualified judges to establish an effective evaluation system. It is obvious that we have a strong nucleus of established growers, hybridizers and showmen who are familiar with most of the varieties currently in commerce. I think that if a list compounded by these members were submitted to the membership at large for evaluation, even Mr. Auten might be surprised at the wide range of varietal acquaintance enjoyed by the less articulate members of our Society.

I do not advocate, however, the establishment of a system of values based strictly on a popularity poll. What I do suggest is that there are no

doubt a good number of strictly amateur Peony fanciers who ARE discriminating enough and have grown or seen enough good Peonies to be considered qualified judges or varietal superiority. If these people were to be encouraged to participate in a rating system, whether it be on an A B C D X basis or point score, we could arrive at a meaningful list of Peonies which could be presented to the general public as well as the Peony fanciers as the current or annual best selection by a consensus of qualified judges.

As to this word "Judge" — I think we should establish some minimum requirements, and then empower the Board of Directors to select official Judges who would be responsible not only for the selection of "award" varieties, but also for judging local and National APS sanctioned Shows.

Now as to Shows and National Meetings, I have mentioned privately that a change in the makeup of our annual meetings is indicated. It seems that most of the great Showmen of earlier generations have passed on, or become inactive. On the other hand, the circle of true hybridizers is widening. The past few years has seen the names of several new originators in the list of Registrations. I think we could do breeders and the American Peony Society a world of good if we would seek some means of publicizing these new registrations and introductions.

I can think of no better way to promote interest in the new varieties than a conversion of our National Meetings into a Garden type gathering, rather than relying on a Peony Show to introduce a paltry few really new things to a fairly limited audience. Because of the intensely competitive factor in Peony Shows, few exhibitors will display any but their proven show specimens, so that in too many classes competition is limited to the best specimen of a single variety.

Would it not be possible to organize a completely new format for our National meetings in the following manner:

1. Select a meeting place three years in advance.
2. Solicit growers in that area to accept guest seedlings or new introductions for growing to display at the time of the meeting.
3. Arrange garden tours to these gardens, to be visited not only by the convention registrants, but open to the general public during the entire blooming season.
4. Originate a system of Garden Awards, to help popularize any worthy new originations.

Advance planning and determination of meeting place is most important. Besides giving evidence of Society stability, it permits long range plans by growers and visitors alike, and would minimize the uncertainties largely responsible for lack of attendance at the 1964 meeting. Concentration of new originations in a limited area should stimulate attendance further, especially if advance notice of guest varieties could be published.

In conclusion, I am aware that some of the problems broached are not new, and no doubt have been under consideration by older and wiser heads in times past. I know that George Peyton tried frequently to assemble a meaningful Symposium, often with less than spectacular results. I am reminded of the latter by the fact that in looking for material for this article I came across a Questionnaire in the September, 1961 Bulletin which I thoughtlessly did not complete and mail. I think too many of us are negligent in our duties as Peony Society members, and without active

participation, neither the Society nor the member will benefit to the fullest extent.

I have promised myself to take a greater interest in American Peony Society affairs. Will you?

ALLEN HARPER

100 E. 71st N., Kansas City, Mo.

PEONIES AND WEATHER

W. A. Alexander

The success of agricultural and horticultural projects is to a great extent dependent on weather. Droughts, floods, storms, frosts and freezes, burning winds and prolonged periods of cloudiness are weather conditions that sometimes bring ruin or partial failure.

Peonies, blooming as they do in late spring and early summer, would seem to be an especially vulnerable crop. A late, cold spring delays their blooming so that they may encounter very hot summer weather in opening; violent thunderstorms often play havoc; excessively wet weather may flood them, or extreme drought limit their development.

Many unfavorable conditions or combinations of conditions due to the vagaries of weather often cause much less than ideal seasons. Yet, in the many years that I have been interested in peonies, I have never seen a season when they were a failure, even came close to being a failure.

Sometimes the early ones are hit pretty hard and amount to little; more often hot weather strikes before some of the late ones open and they have a hard time; and most frequently, wind and rain strike when they are at the height of bloom and cut short their time of glory.

But there are always peonies, early, mid-season or late, sometimes all three. Sometimes certain varieties fail or are very disappointing; but that same year some variety most notable for its uncertainty will

be gorgeous.

Over the years I have tried to correlate weather with peony behavior, but with little success other than the obvious things such as temperature and blooming time. However, of one thing I am certain: Growing conditions during the previous season determine in large degree the amount of bloom and probably have much to do with the quality.

If good growing conditions obtain during the time when next year's buds are forming (favorable moisture and temperature) there will be more buds strong enough to make good stems and produce flowers. If conditions are unfavorable, many buds will lie dormant another year, or if they grow, have insufficient strength to develop a flower, and the bud dies, a condition often erroneously attributed to botrytis.

I am unable to produce evidence to support my contention, but I believe that conditions during the latter part of the growing season have much to do with the size and quality of flower. If I am correct in that, it is a good argument for leaving the tops uncut until late, perhaps until frost.

The quantity and quality of bloom we get in a given season, then, are determined in part at least by growing conditions of the previous season. This makes it easier to understand what happened this last blooming season. I think in terms of my own garden—conditions could have been much different 20 miles away—but there were similarities in many respects over much of the peony growing area of the country.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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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.

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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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Mrs. Catharine Pennell, Associate Editor — Van Wert, Ohio

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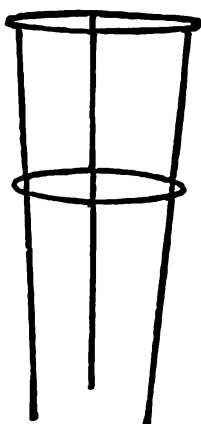
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