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American Peony Society Bulletin



JUNE, 1966 — NO. 181



ROYALTY OF THE PERENNIALS



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OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefore, or in any other manner.

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

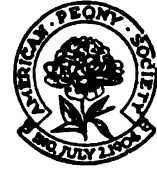
The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to C. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



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President's Message

Time has passed quickly since the last Meeting and Show held at Sparta, New Jersey as well as the two years I have been privileged to serve as President of the Society. It has been a pleasure to serve and work with the officers and members of the Board of Directors. The Society has enjoyed an increase in membership and I feel that if everybody will continue to assist the leadership in all phases of the organization, the American Peony Society will continue to advance the cause of Paeonia culture, as indicated in the history of this, the oldest of the incorporated societies.

—Frank L. Howell

I MET PROFESSOR SAUNDERS

William Gratwick



Tree peonies have been a very important part of my life; working with them has been one of the happiest and most rewarding experiences I can imagine. And I have Mrs. Winty Chanler of Geneseo to thank for it, for it all came about through her. Plus a little serendipity.

In the summer of 1935 Mrs. Chanler invited us to dinner to meet the Saunders. She said it was very important that we know each other—something about growing plants, I gathered. So we went.

Now, Professor A. P. Saunders was a gentleman distinguished in many other fields of horiculture. Since it was a large party, discussion ranged all over the place. Finally, the party was almost over—and not a word about plants. I was somewhat miffed, having donned a dinner coat for this!

Rather than give up without a try, I began quite boldly, "Professor Saunders I think you may be interested in some hybridizing work I am doing, crossing the Korean with colonial boxwood to produce hardiness."

"Good," he said (Ha! I had captured his attention.)

"What does the hybrid look like? How far have you gone?" he asked with penetrating interest. His look turned to sadness when I admitted I really hadn't gotten started at all, that it was only a plan.

"You'd better get started right away. It may take years, but it sounds like an important cross. Will you really do it?"

I said I would. And I did. It took several years, but finally I was able to send off a letter. "... you may not remember me, but I am the young fellow who promised to make the box wood hybrid, which I have done—80 little seedlings, thrifty and promising."

He answered almost immediately, "Of course I remember you. Congratulations! And now how about getting started with tree peonies?"

To make a long story short, I learned about tree peonies from Professor Saunders and worked with him as an informal partner for the better part of 20 years. He finally turned over to me the responsibility of carrying on his hybridizing work and extending it into the second and third generations. "By the time it's accomplished," he said, "I'll be a hundred. You had better take over." And again I did.

— 4 —

If you are interested in what exactly this has amounted to, you may look it up in the Brooklyn Botanical Garden Record of August, 1959. Or better yet, come see for yourself. Our Tree Peony Festival is generally during the last week of May. In the words of a Japanese grower, "It is guaranteed with confidence to receive your appreciation."

* * * *

TREE PEONIES

William Gratwick, Pavilion, N.Y.

HISTORY

The Tree Peony of China was known as "The King of Flowers" and the common herbaceous peonies as "The King's Ministers". In paintings, poetry, and medical texts, references to cultivated forms of it extend back into Chinese history for more than 1400 years. For many centuries the rulers of China decreed that such regal flowers could be grown only in the gardens of the imperial palaces, "where they never failed to astonish the beholder, rows upon rows of them arranged in narrow, shallow terraces, piled up one behind another—ablaze with blossom." The first Tree Peony known to the western world was secured for Kew Gardens in 1785. But it was left to Robert Fortune, the explorer-botanist, to go into Central China and bring back the finest flowers in 1846. To him we owe the unforgettable description of a Mandarin "sitting for hours, smoking and drinking tea, while he gazed at a Tree Peony covered with four hundred flowers."

THE WILD PLANT

Curiously however, the wild form of this plant has only been discovered within recent years. Among the first to see it was Reginald Farrer, author of "On the Eaves of the World" who writes of finding it near the border of Tibet:

"So I sat at last and rested, till my eye was caught by certain white objects farther along the hillside, that were clearly too big by far to be flowers . . . Through the foaming shallows of the copse I plunged, and soon was holding my breath with growing excitement as I neared my goal, and it became more and more certain that I was setting eyes on *Paeonia moutan* as a wild plant . . . that amazing flower, the most over-poweringly superb of hardy shrubs. Here in the brushwood it grew up tall and slender and straight, in two or three unbranching shoots, each one of which carried at the top, elegantly balancing, that single enormous blossom, waved and crimped into the boldest grace of line, of absolute pure white, with featherings of deepest maroon radiating at the base of the petals from the boss of golden fluff at the flower's heart. For a long time I remained in worship and returned downward at last in high contentment."

JAPANESE TREE PEONIES

Plants grown today from seed are often single whites closely resembling this description of the wild plant. But lovely though they are, they cannot compare in beauty with the finest Japanese varieties, a strain which stems from those brought to Japan by Buddhist monks in the 17th century. Varieties like "World of the Rising Sun", "Host to the Cherry Blossom", "Mountain of Sun-lit Snow", and "Invitation to Abundant Pleasure", and the long list of other named varieties are the culmination of patient selection and improvement. The purity of their

whites, pinks, salmons, and reds cannot be described in words; nor can the delicacy of their blossoms be imagined. There is a daintiness about the semidoubles and an airiness and sparkle in the full doubles which is undescribable. Our collection is entirely of this type selected from an importation of 114 varieties made through the Chugai Shokobutsu Yen in 1935.

DESCRIPTION

Tree Peonies differ from the common herbaceous peony in two conspicuous ways: 1) they develop rough-barked, woody stems which, instead of dying back to the ground each winter, continue to grow year after year so that a bush, (not a tree) is formed four to six feet tall and as many feet across; 2) they blossom about two weeks earlier. Tree Peony flowers are also much larger—eight to twelve inches across—than the herbaceous kinds. This great size, combined with a delicate perfection of texture and form, and a color range which extends from white through pink and red to almost black, make them unique among all garden plants.

Tree Peonies grow in any good garden soil and are winter hardy in those parts of the country with a climate comparable to that of their native home, which means in most of New England, New York, and west to the Pacific Coast. They will also grow farther south. North of that latitude some winter protection should be afforded, such as is given roses. The fact that plants brought back from the Orient shortly after Admiral Perry entered Japan are still thriving in some of the old gardens of New England and New York indicates that the Tree Peony is naturally adaptable to our country.

USE IN THE GARDEN

A Tree Peony is usually the most notable plant in a garden and may well be given the place of honor. A single specimen can hold the focal point in an intimate design; two look well as accents on each side of steps or the entrance path; four can be used in a balanced design at the corners of a flagged area reflected in a pool. Or a group of Tree Peonies is perfectly adapted as a middle-ground of the flower border with Lilacs in full bloom in the background. When not in blossom, Tree Peonies are still extremely handsome and an addition to any garden for the beauty of their leaves, the gesture of their branches, and rich autumn color. Brought into the house, Tree Peony flowers should be cut with a short stem, and are at their best floating in a shallow dish or enclosed in a crystal bowl.

HYBRID TREE PEONIES

Until the 1880's only one species of Tree Peony was known (*P. moutan*). Then a Tree Peony with a little yellow flower (*P. lutea*), somewhat resembling a St. Bridget anemone, was discovered by French missionaries in Southern China. Cross-pollenating these two plants has created new hybrid strains. Those made in France by Lemoine and Henry, using the heavy Chinese doubles as the other parent, are not much to our liking because the stems are not strong enough to hold up the enormous blooms.

The Saunders Hybrids

In the late twenties, Professor Saunders began crossing his fine collection of semi-double Japs with a strain of *lutea* which he had imported from England. The resulting hybrids are an exciting new race of flowers. To quote Frances Affeld: "It was in the old Saunders house on the cam-

pus of Hamilton College. I was led into the dining room. There the big mahogany table was covered with peony blooms—or were they peonies? They were certainly the most extraordinary flowers I had ever seen.”

It is difficult indeed to describe them. In form some of them are like magnolia blossoms; others remind one of lotus flowers or great anemones. There are some seventy varieties, “from silvery-cream through all the yellows to the color of ripe grain, and from dusty pink through deep strawberry tones to a maroon that is close to ‘black’, with a scattering of subtle mauves and shadowed rose colors.” The names suggest their colors; Silver Sails, Amber Moon, Golden Isles, Harvest, Black Pirate. For many years these hybrids will be among the rarest and most sought-after of flowers, and well they may—for these hybrids are among the true aristocrats of the garden. We believe a few of them are among the most beautiful hardy plants in the world.

American Peony Society Gives Awards

Four first place awards for peonies were made to the Florama Council of Garden Clubs in Wichita Falls, Texas at the annual flower show held April 30-May 1 at Midwestern University. The American Peony Society, American Rose Society and American Iris Society each gave awards of merit.

“Our Universe in Bloom” was the theme for the show, Nearly seven hundred people attended the show, including groups from nearby cities in Oklahoma.

“Our ‘Evaluation Grade’ for the over all show was a plus ninety-five” wrote Mrs. Eugene F. Post, General Chairman. “It being a Standard show with that grade, qualifies us for a State Award and also National. We have fine cooperation at the University, where our show was held for the second time, last year and this year. The ballroom is a lovely, well-lighted, air-conditioned room. Tables are furnished us but to have to pay a rental fee of \$150.00, plus some janitors fees . . . admission kept low-fifty cents so general public can feel welcome.”

Winning peonies were “May Moon” and “Harainin” by Mrs. Paul Moron of Popular Gardeners Club; “Better Times” by Mrs. O. H. Cole,

University Park Garden Club, and “Kansas” by Mrs. Martin S. Nelson of Popular Gardeners Club. Entries were all of excellent quality.

Over 250 classifications were scheduled. The educational division exhibits stressed prevention of soil erosion.

A representative of each of the six federated garden clubs on each of 19 committees appointed to plan and execute the flower show.

“We were most pleased with the Awards,” wrote Mrs. Post,” and we do want to thank the American Peony Society for your wonderful cooperation.

HINT OF THE MONTH

June

Gardening at this time of year is something like housekeeping - pick up, pick off, and put away.”

* * * *

August

August is an excellent month for garden reconstruction. Use plenty of organic material and fertilizer.

“Gardening is a blend of all the arts” . . . Nichols

Indiana's State Flower — The Peony!

The Peony (*Paeonie*) was adopted as the official state flower of Indiana by act of the 1957 General Assembly. Prior to this time (from 1931-1957) the Zinnia was the state flower.

Indiana is celebrating the Sesqui-Centennial year in the state history and to honor the occasion, R. H. Jones, Tuckdawa Garden, Peru, Indiana, has registered his Seeding No. 117 as Hoosier Heritage. Discussing the naming of the beautiful pink Peony with Mr. John Favinger, State Entymologist, this name became the favorite.

The Hon. Roger D. Branigan, Governor of Indiana, appointed Mr. Favinger to further the planning of the project and could not have

chosen a better emissary for Mr. Favinger has known the peony growers in Indiana for a very long time and is a strong admirer of the Peony.

Flans are now being completed for a planting of HOOSIER HERITAGE on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion early in October. Date and picture of the Peony will be carried in the September issue of the Bulletin.

Enclosed in this June mailing is the brochure depicting the Emblems of the State of Indiana. We pay homage to the state having the Peony as its floral emblem and express appreciation for the Governor's courtesy in sharing this colorful brochure with us!

R. H. Jones – Retiring

Word that R. H. Jones, owner of Tuckdawa Gardens, Peru, Indiana, might be retiring, resulting in the elimination of Tuckdawa Gardens, is one of the beauty spots in Miami County, Indiana, struck a chord of disappointment. We are happier since we have learned that daughter Dorothy (Mrs. Earl Knapp) will have her father's seedling's and the majority of his fine originations in the Knapp's Sun-Down Gardens at Carmel, Indiana.

Mr. Jones has written us that he "... now have an area down in front of the home across the drive road, just about at least, where will start filling with specimen peony plants, including our originations; still a lot of detail and work involved in the change-over; my thumbs are still a good green."

Mr. Jones became interested in peonies when visiting the garden of Walter L. Gumm in Remington, Indiana, and began cultivating on a plot of ground at the Jones cot-

tage, Lake Manitou, Indiana. Although a hobbist (his business was the family partnership in a hardware store in Peru) beginning in earnest when moving to their new home on Route 19, Mr. Jones plantings gradually expanded until three acres were developed. Shipments of peonies were made into all parts of the country as well as Canada and Central America.

He has originated 28 varieties of peonies, all of them registered and several taking high awards, including Dorothy J. (named for his daughter) taking top honors at the National Peony Show in Minnesota, later Queen of Show in New York City.

Naming one of his most beautiful seedlings HOOSIER HERITAGE to honor his state, Indiana, is indeed a tribute coming as it does during this milestone in the history of the state and of Tuckdawa Garden, named because Jones said it was "tucked away" against a hillside.

Peonies Forced For Show



"Flowering Wonders", by Charles Klehm and Son Nursery, Arlington Heights, Illinois, was an outstanding Garden feature and Medal winner in the World Flower and Garden Show in Chicago, March 19-26, 1966. Hundreds of peonies and tree peonies in full bloom (see Bowl of Cream and Kansas in picture) proved to the thousands of excited viewers the value of the Peony in a practical garden plan.

Pink and white flowering crabs . . . the largest trees ever "forced" for the Flower Show, together with birch, redbud and shade trees, and the peonies provided the perfect example of planting properly in relation to shade and sun. A large espalier and figure of St. Francis of Assisi accented the background.

Peony

To the Chinese the Peony is the "king of flowers." When it grows luxuriantly, it is an omen of good fortune; if it withers unexpectedly the owner may expect poverty or misfortune.

The Peony

The peony is a jolly flower,
She's nice to hold and touch
She always grows in bunches,
For she likes herself so much.

* * * *

"Nature teaches more than she preaches." . . . John Burroughs

CHRISTMAS IN JUNE!!

Peonies in bloom next spring !!! What a wonderful **CHRISTMAS GIFT!** Had you ever thought when you are enjoying the beautiful blooms and listening to others exclaim over their beauty, how you could share your enjoyment? N. Brandewie Emig wrote in her article (page 15—March 1966 Bulletin) "The peony is to the garden, like a mother is to a home, for it provides backbone, strength and solidity . . . all the other plants are her helpers in making a unified pattern of beauty."

How can you share your enjoyment? Shop early, if you must shop to obtain the roots—remembering our member growers. Or, you can go into your own garden in the fall and select the root you wish to share and divide. Send the

root or roots with a note explaining—this is your Christmas gift! Then send a Christmas card as a follow-up' next December!

Membership in the American Peony Society should be a must!

Books on our publication list make an excellent gift for any occasion. You have approximately 5 months in which to order and have mailed either to you or we will place the order for the receiver to have in time for Christmas. We offer our assistance to Santa Claus, who will be happy to accept your checks and your gift card. Other gift items are gift box sets of 8—12½ oz. beverage glasses with peonies etched on the glass (styled by Libbey) and birthday greeting cards featuring hand painted peonies. Prices and further information in the September Bulletin.



Carl Klehm, and Mrs. Catharine Pennell, wife of the A.P.S. Secretary, were surprised by a press photographer as they were looking at one small segment of the peony planting in the Charles Klehm & Son Nursery Garden in the Chicago World Flower and Garden Show last March.

From The Editor's Desk

Public plantings are assuming more importance because of the interest in our nationwide beautification program. Municipalities have been developing recreation areas and fewer parks, building programs are better landscaped in keeping with the design of good housekeeping—a pattern that has probably been established by industry. Industrial plants are setting a fine example—a pattern our municipalities must follow.

Peonies are hardy and one of our permanent perennials; they should be used more often. Since albiflora peonies are known to be easily grown, they lend themselves to large and long beds. Beds long enough for row cultivation, properly arranged and grown, they produce a good landscape effect even after blooming season. When old flowers are removed the plant becomes a good foliage one, having erect and up right growth.

The following recommendations are based upon practical experience and observations of the writer. A bed for peonies should be at least six feet wide, the bed should be in all most full sun. The bed should not be under the drip of trees or close enough to shrubs for the shrub to rob peonies of plant food or moisture. The material used should be at least two plants of a variety. I would make the bed six feet wide, this would permit the first plant to be 18" from the edge of the bed. The peonies would be planted in rows, space between rows should be 36". A good application would be to place, peonies 24" apart in the row. Spacing in this manner would allow cultivation with mechanized equipment the first and second years. This spacing would also be suitable for mulching at the end of the second or third year. Another thing the spacing

would allow is the use of a wire fence to be supported by posts and rods for peonies to grow thru to serve as a support. Designers using this plant will hope that many people will come to study and appreciate the beauty of various varieties.

Length of this bed would not be specified, however a careful planter will anticipate that new varieties will be added by extending the bed. Furthermore if one or two varieties fail to materialize or suffer injury, then the bed could be broken permitting a grass walkway at intervals for the visitors, making your show garden excessive in all kinds of weather.

Naturally, I would group the albi-floras, japanese, singles and species. The ideal planting will include in the area a bed for tree peonies and hybrid varieties.

Labeling can be costly and if planting is undertaken by a garden club a plot should be made of the exact location showing placement of varieties and photostat copy made for the records of the garden club minute book, a copy for the Park Director and then a copy for the head gardener or employee who cares for the plantings. The writer has followed these recommendations and one week before blooming season the Park custodian will take my photo copy and wooden stakes 24" long made from $\frac{3}{4}$ " square material and drive in a stake on the front side of our planting. Attached to them are aluminum plates 2"x4" on which has been lettered the variety name. These labels are attached with one screw. When the blooming season is over this same employee removes the labels and stakes and stores them for another year. This practice is followed because we have a very limited personnel, their time is spent in mow-

ing and edging our park areas.

Soil preparation is important because you anticipate the bed will be in existence at least 25 years. Experience has proved that sod should be removed and then the earth spaded to a good depth of 18-20" and then supplemented by good garden soil in good friable condition. Peonies will do well in any soil that will grow good potatoes. Plant food should be incorporated at time of preparation. To have this bed in annuals the first year would improve the condition and texture of soil. The annuals could be removed in early September, bed spaded and peonies planted in late September.

Garden clubs could, with assistance of public officials, make the planting on national flower planting day—a ceremony that could be news worthy and very pleasurable for those people participating in the program.

Outlined in this story are the procedures followed by the planters, directors, and gardeners in the public parks. Plantings where adequate funds are available will follow this outline. The Writer has adapted this commentary to small and medium sized communities where municipal funds are not readily available.

Using an example: a small garden club having 12 members, could furnish or buy two plants per member. The resulting bed 27'x6' will make an effective show—one that will thrive and please succeeding generations for many years. The minimum care and expense will please your city officials — who should approve and ask for more.

* * * *

Your Secretary has been asked to be a member of a committee composed of leaders in the horticulture world and its environs to help further the Beautify America cause. The Committee is requesting Congress to enact legislation declaring

October 6th as the beginning of a National Spring Garden Planting week.

Plant Societies are requested to have their members write their Representatives and Senators in Washington, urging the passage of the bill. After the bill has been passed and signed by the President, we hope everyone will plant peonies ! ! !

* * * *

The Chicago Horticultural society, sponsor of the Chicago Botanic garden 300-acre site, has named Harry Weese & Associates of Chicago building architects, for the garden. Weese was recently selected as architectural designer for Washington's new subway.

The botanic garden located a half-mile east of Edens expressway on County Line road west of Glencoe in Cook County, Illinois, tax supported through enabling legislation, will occupy a picturesque tract of forest preserve property at the north end of the Skokie lagoons. Construction of the garden began last fall. It is understood that ninety of the 300 acre site will be under water. Two or three residences will be constructed to accommodate the botanic garden staff.

—o—

Consider the value of vistas in the small garden. There are many kinds—long or short, broad or narrow, formal or informal, sunlit or shady—and serve different purposes in garden planning. Priority should be given Peonies when planning your garden. You will be amazed at the results!

* * * *

"A modest garden contains, for those who know how to look and wait, more instruction than a library." . . . Amiel

* * * *

"One is nearer God's heart in a garden

Than anywhere else on earth"
. . . Gurney

Check Peonies For Defects

Now is the time to check your peony plants—Here's a few suggestions:

(1) If ants are now crawling all over peony buds, plant lice or aphids are present. Ants do not harm peony buds but instead act as "cowherds" for the aphids and milk them and carry them from bud to bud.

However, the aphids do some harm to the tender bud scales and if not killed, can cripple peony blossoms later on. To control these pests—and kill ants, too—spray peonies as soon as possible with either a 10 percent solution of DDT, chlordane, Isotox or Spectracide. The systematic chemicals will do the job too.

(2) If no peony buds are showing it means the plant is either planted too deeply, was not properly fertilized last summer or is not in a sunny location.

All of these factors can be taken care of later on—

(3) If peony buds are extra small or are turning black in color, the plant is infected with a fungus disease called botrytis blight. Advance stages of the disease show up as black or brown splotches on the foliage. Control of this killing disease must be swift. Pick off infected buds—and foliage when evident—and burn. Start spraying plants with either phaltan, captan, fermate or manzate. Repeat application every two weeks.

(4) Later on after peonies have finished flowering, remove faded

blossoms—but leave plenty of foliage on the plants. Spread a good handful of 4-16-16 or similarly ratioed fertilizer over the entire root area of each peony. Water in the spread material.

—o—

ROUND ROBIN REPORT

News from the Round Robin organization in the American Peony Society has been received. Hybridizers in the American Peony Society are making a valuable contribution in the field of *Paeonia* culture. The purpose of the organization within the Society is "to stimulate greater interest in peony hybridizing by the exchange of information and ideas on all phases of peony hybridizing and experimentation," according to Dr. David L. Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, chairman of the members in the program. One member, Mr. Samuel E. Wissing, is a hybridizer of considerable note. He has sent the following report and with it a beautiful petal, its color extremely exciting:

RE New seedling. After nine years of waiting, I finally was rewarded with 1 bloom. On Plant 689B which is a dwarf, single inbred Minnie Shaylor. This is sister seedling of 689 (Coral Supreme) which is a semi-double. Same color.

I have attempted to line breed these two seedlings, however, I will not know until 15th or thereabouts if they are compatible. This should be very interesting.

However, I am not too hopeful as my experience with this type of breeding cautions me not to be optimistic.

But what is proved here, I believe is that Lacti does have good genes for color if we will just exploit them."

God had lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us, and we have no right by anything we do, or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or deprive them of the benefits which was in our power to bequeath.
—Ruskin

Our Readers Write . . .

CANADA

British Columbia

Frances M. Scott, 12561 22nd Avenue, White Rock, British Columbia, wrote:

"I am afraid that I cannot give much information in the way of growing peonies in 1965. The herbaceous of which I have a few, namely: Sarah Bernhardt, Festiva Maxima, Solange, Mons Martin Cahusac, Officinalis Rubra, Jules Eli, Laura Dessert, Coral Isle, Edulis Superba, Tourangella and an unidentified pink did exceptionally in the blooming performance last year.

As for the tree peonies they suffered from frost damage and an unnamed rose pink along with Beni Chidori and Godaishu bloomed, poorly. However, I have acquired a few more and hope to have better success with growing them. Also, I have a few seedlings which I hope will become acclimatized."

Province of Quebec

Your Editor's modesty has bowed to pride with the compliment received in the following letter which proves that prideful acceptance of a little flattery is every human being's prerogative!

Mr. R. W. Pilot, 51 DeLavigne Ave., Westmount, Province of Quebec, Canada, writes as follows: "I read with great interest your recent essay on peonies in the current issue of Horticulture magazine. The marvelous colour reproduction which you used of "Daystar" (Saunders' hybrid) has completely enchanted me. Would it be asking too much if you could tell me where I might purchase plants of this particular peony for fall planting, I would be greatly obliged if you would."

"I first became interested in peonies through the late Mr. Harry Norton of Ayerscliff, P.Q. who was

an avid grower and had a large garden devoted entirely to this lovely flower. Perhaps his name may have a place in your memory, as he was such a devotee of this plant and a purist in the question of their nomenclature. I believe also that he originated several new varieties. Amongst these he named one after the landscape artist Maurice Cullen, a great friend of his, who happened also to have been my stepfather. Would this variety be included in the records of the American Peony Society, It was a large single, wine red with huge yellow center."

California

Mrs. Roy G. Gayle wrote us May 3rd, from the Gayle residence, 151-0 Avenida Majorca, Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653, stating, "... my husband is at present in Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach, California. I am happy to report that he is on the way to recovering after two weeks of being seriously ill. We moved to "Leisure World" at Laguna Hills, California, March 18, 1965 and have found it a fabulous place to make a home. The climate is ideal, just a few miles from Laguna Beach and the Pacific. Roy misses the Peony Society and the Peony Shows very much. We had been planning on returning to Rockford, Illinois in June in time to see Roy's beautiful peonies, and we may make it, although that is only one month away! Roy has been receiving and enjoying the Peony magazine. Do give his kindest regards to any of his old friends who inquire about him."

Illinois and New York

Moving peonies—Illinois to New York—so wrote **Mrs. George P. Watts**, from Lombard, Ill., prior to their move in April at which time Mrs. Watts wrote stating—"The Monday after Christmas my husband

was told of a possible move to the East—and the Monday after New Years confirmed the possibility. After April 15th our new address will be 133 King Street, Armonk, New York 10504 and sometime after we're settled I'll write to let you know how the peonies stood the Spring move. Art Murawska assures us we won't kill them, but we know this isn't quite the best time to disturb them. Our experiences will be a little out of the ordinary but may prove helpful to someone else who may have to move in the Spring. 600 cartons of peonies, iris, daffodils and hemerocallis will move with us. . . ."

Needless to say we are anxiously waiting for word from Mrs. Watts!

Montana

The Gallatin Empire Garden Club of Bozeman, Montana, has been given the opportunity to choose a possible site for a garden in the new park to be created in that city.

Mrs. John P. Kelly, City Beautification Chairman, queried this office about peony plantings. Though peonies grow remarkably well and trouble free in that area, plantings are limited.

The American Peony Society will assist the Garden Club in their landscape plan.

Illinois

Mr. Harold E. Wolfe, 24 S. 86th., Bellville, Ill., 62223, a member of the Board of Directors, accepted the commitment to speak at the Annual Meeting this year, and tell about his progress with experiments in transforming sterile varieties into fertile ones by increasing the number of chromosomes through the use of the chemical naphthalene acetamid.

We regret, as does Mr. Wolfe, that neither plane, train or car connections make it possible for him to leave Mansfield, Ohio, in time for another meeting the next day.

"There is simply no way for me to get back from Mansfield to Bellville and on to Moline," wrote Mr. Wolfe, however I guarantee you, if I am alive and capable of getting about that I will be at the Detroit meeting with much more usable and interesting information than I could bring this year. I will bring a series of kodochromes that will convey a full picture of what I am doing some new red hybrids I have (herbaceous), never a suggestion of purple, even during the final fading phase; of some tree peonies which are crosses between the "Japanese" and "European" types; of several new lactiflora seedlings that are interesting, and of course the polyploid.

Yes, in answer to your question several years ago I presented to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Ill. over 3,000 Japanese type tree peonies for use in landscaping. These will soon be seen on the campus there. Also, last year I sold to the University (for use in landscaping their Edwardsville, campus) over 2,000. These are in the nursery there at present.

My principal area of interest at present is in further development of herbaceous hybrids. I aim for progress in this area by (A) interspecie crosses (B) F-2 and succeeding generations from existing hybrids. (C) pollinating lactiflora with pollen from hybrids, particularly lactiflora x officinalis (B) and (C) are the areas from which the finest results will be obtained."

* * * *

Dr. R. Milton Carleton, Research Director, Vaughan's Garden Research Center, Downers Grove, Ill. 60515, stated in his last letter—"The comments by Ralph H. Giff in the bulletin on tree peony REINE ELIZABETH were most interesting. I have two specimens growing side by side; one is now five feet tall

and bearing 32 buds following exposure to 18 below zero. The other is less than three feet tall, with half a dozen scattered buds. Incidentally, I was happy to arrange to have many of the best specimens from the late Elmer Claar's collection moved to the Morton Arboretum:"

* * * *

Paul L. Battey, R.R. 1, Box 330, Mundelin, Illinois, writing to Mr. Sameul E. Wissing, stated he had been under the weather for some-time as he is now over ninety years of age and doesn't get out like he used to. "I miss my old friends in the Peony Society. I've been a member for fifty years and a life member for over thirty years. I've been a consulting engineer for over sixty years with my office in Chicago. I retired when I was eighty-two to our farm between Munlelein and Lake Jurich, from which I commuted to Chicago.

"We had nearly 300 acres that we operated for 35 years with a pure bred herd of Holstein cattle. My hobby all my life has been Horticulture and we have a garden of 400 varieties of peonies, 250 varieties of lilacs and over 150 varieties of daffodils and many other perennials and many trees of landscaping value.

"I operated for 25 years a Peony and Iris business at Northbrook which I called Northbrook Gardens. At one time I had 40 acres of Peonies and Irises, 20 acres at Northbrook and 20 acres here at the farm. But in 1945 I gave up this business . . . Charlie Klehm and I had the two largest Peony fields in this area!"

Mr. Batty was a charter member of the Chicago Horticultural society, a Past President and Trustee for many years. He was one of three men who originated the Midwest Horticultural Society and was the First President. We regret Mr. Bat-

ty will be unable to be with us at the Annual Meeting as he states his doctor objects to his doing anything in the garden but walk around which he enjoys greatly.

Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Hobbs, residing at R.R. 1, Box 127-B, Noblesville, Indiana, wrote the secretary on May 31st as follows:

"We have been in flowers about fifteen years give or take a year or two and by many people's standards we probably do not have many Peonies. We have approximately 100 varieties—some new, some old. We do not have a commercial garden. Have many of Dorothy J. and Earl Knapp's plants and Art Murawska, we have know Art for years.

We have the Central Dwarf Iris Society test garden here (It was previously at Walettr Welch's garden in Middlebury). We grow around 2000 varieties of Iris, all types and kinds, also have day lilies, poppies, tulips, and all other kinds of perennials. We are both AIS judges.

I would like to do some work with our hybrid peonies but to be honest I don't know how. My wife does most of the breeding, planting in the family. Unfortunately, my work has prevented my being home enough during blooming season.

As for our location, we are exactly 4½ miles west of the court house in Noblesville on Highway 32, ours is a brown split level on the south side of the road, we have a small real estate type sign in front that says Hobbs Hobby Gardens. Someone is usually here during blooming season.

We had a bad freeze the 5th of May but so far it doesn't look as though our Peonies were hurt as badly as other plants, to show how late our blooming season is, Clare De Lune is just now blooming as

SESQUI-CENTENNIAL
1966

INDIANA STATE FLOWER
THE PEONY



The Peony (*Paeonia*) was adopted as the official state flower by act of the 1957 General Assembly. Prior to this time (from 1931 to 1957) the Zinnia was the state flower. The peony blooms (last of May and early June) in various shades of red and pink and also in white, and appears in single and double forms. No particular variety or color was designated by the legislature. The peony is cultivated widely throughout the state; it is started from roots planted preferably between the first of September and the time the ground freezes. It does not require rich soil but should have the full sun.

INDIANA STATE FLAG

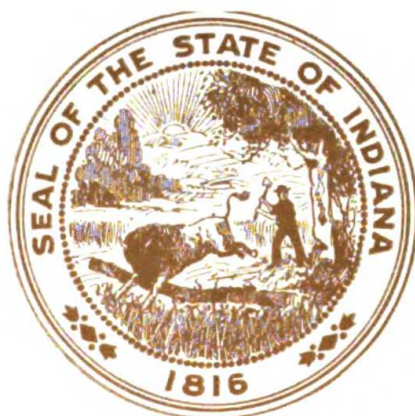


The state flag (formerly called banner) was adopted by the General Assembly in 1917 as part of the commemoration of the state's Centennial, after a competition sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The prize-winning design was submitted by Paul Hadley of Mooresville, Indiana. The torch in the center stands for liberty and enlightenment; the rays represent their far-reaching influence. The outer circle of stars stands for the original thirteen states, and the inner circle of stars for the five states next admitted to the Union. The larger star stands for Indiana, the nineteenth state. The name was changed from banner to flag by act of the 1955 General Assembly. The state flag is "regulation in addition to the American flag, with all of the military forces in the State of Indiana, and in all public functions in which the state may or shall officially appear." The state colors are always carried or displayed on the observer's right of the Stars and Stripes.

Emblems

of the

STATE OF INDIANA



The pioneer scene shown above has been used on Indiana seals since territorial days. It is found on official papers as early as 1801. Both the 1816 and the 1851 Constitutions provide that "there shall be a Seal of State, kept by the Governor for official purposes, which shall be called the Seal of the State of Indiana." [1851 Constitution, Art. 15, Sec. 5] In 1963 the General Assembly gave legal sanction to the design and provided an official description. [*Laws of the State of Indiana . . . Regular Session . . . 1963, p. 274*] The seal is two and five eighths inches in diameter.

Issued by the Indiana Historical Bureau, 408 State Library and Historical Building, Indianapolis.

INDIANA STATE TREE

THE TULIP TREE



Branch of the tulip tree in blossom

The tulip tree (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*), known also as yellow poplar, was adopted as the state tree by act of the General Assembly approved March 3, 1931. Monarch of the great forests which covered most of Indiana in pioneer times, the tulip tree has since become comparatively rare. Of recent years, however, it has been extensively used in ornamental planting, as its shape, the size which it attains, and its distinctive blossom make it a feature in any landscape. It should be planted in the early spring. The lovely bell-shaped greenish-yellow flowers appear in May or June. The soft white wood is used for many purposes.

are the species peonies. We have an Iris show Sunday and will have very few plants to enter. Most of what we have have frost damage.

Iowa

Mrs. J. E. Leeper, R.R. 4, Box 272, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, is one of our new members and wrote: "As I have raised hundreds of Peony plants from seed—all types and colors and have 35 specimen Japanese Tree peonies (procured from Japan about 12 years ago), I've become very much interested in growing peonies from seed."

Kansas via Texas

Corresponding with **Mrs. Eugene F. Post**, chairman of the Wichita Falls, Texas, Flowerama, we learned also about her interest in peonies and iris having been due to her mother's love for her garden. **Mrs. Robert J. St. Helens**, (Ida) her mother, resides at 1212 North Fifth Street, Independence, Kansas 67301 and is well known to many of the members of the American Peony Society.

"Thank you so much for your interest in our little Mother," wrote Mrs. Post. "We are so proud of her. She has given her four children a wonderful heritage—to appreciate the God given things in life. After our father passed on 18 years ago, mother busied herself in her garden She is a hybridizer of Iris and Hems."

Mrs. Post reported after her visit with her mother that she had helped gather specimens from her mother's garden for the Flower Show held in Independence, Kansas. Her mother who is ninety years old, won a second for a "lovely peony—single—rose pink and also one a blue ribbon for one of her introductions "Lady in Green" an intermediate white with a greenish cast. "She has been working for a blue day-lily these past few years and has some with a dusty bluish cast

to them but not real true blue as yet.

Frank E. Moots, wrote they had a freeze in Newton, Kansas, April 20th and it was possible he might have lost part of his crop. We hope he was surprised like a number of others who discovered their peonies were the only flower in their garden that did survive!

Midway, the Topeka, Kansas Capital-Journal magazine carried a full page picture of **Myron D. Bigger**, taken in his fields east of Topeka in the Kansas river valley. A full page article about Mr. Bigger and his cultivation of approximately 600 varieties of peonies on his 10 acres of land. Mr. Bigger originated Shawnee Chief, Kansas and Jayhawker.

Michigan

John Wm. Brear 1215 Devonshire Road Grosse Point, Michigan 48236 wrote us with regard to answers to our questions.

"It is just fifty years ago that I acquired my first Peony, *Officinalis*. I have never been without Peonies in a garden since. I recall in the spring of 1927 of assisting Miss Florence Robinson at the University of Illinois, in making charts of the Peony plantings for the annual meeting of the Society.

"You ask about my garden and my interest in Peonies. I started to establish this garden 10 years ago. The lot is only 80' x 200', often wish I had twice as much land. The house is Georgian in architecture so I designed the garden on a somewhat formal plan—but my style of formal has much informality in it. I strive for an overall composition that ties in with everything and which is in scale. Then I try to create many composed pictures. The garden is intensively planted. There are many fine shrubs and small trees—*Ceris canadensis*, *Cercis chinensis*, *Magnolia stellata*, *Prunus triloba*,

Prunus amanogawa (caluminar shaped flaming Jap. cherries (have 8 of them), Prunes kwanxan, *Cornus florida*, *Cornus kousa chinensis*, *Cornus mas*, *Crataegus oxyantha* autumn glory; *Viburnum burkwoodii*, and *carlcephalum*, *Ilex* Vanity, 18 fine specimens of Lilacs hybrids, 48 of the finest Azaleas—I was awarded a Blue Ribbon last fall by the Mens Garden Clubs of America for having an outstanding Azalea collection. The garden offers striking pictures at Daffodil time, at Flaming Cherry time, when the Lilacs and Azalea bloom, and at Iris time and Chrysanthemum time. But the greatest display of all is when the Peonies bloom. I have 12 tree peonies and about 80 large clumps of herbaceous peonies but only one hybrid Red Charm (Clarence Lineau calls it Red Charm **Supreme**). In 1965 the Mens Garden Club of Detroit awarded me a plaque of Special Recognition for a "Competently Designed, all season garden,—In Spring an explosion of bloom." When the Peonies bloom it really is an explosion. All the Peonies have substantial backgrounds—good sized Yews, well leafed shrubs, and in one location Climbing Roses on Posts and chains. The garden has also received a "Certificate of Honor" from the Mens Garden Club of Grosse Pointe for "Garden Excellence."

Minnesota

Under the date of May 10th, Myles A. Neilson wrote from St. Paul, Minnesota, "The vagaries of our Minnesota weather have kept me jumping the past couple of weeks. We have had an unusually cold, dry Spring with a succession of hard freezes, with an occasional day or two when the temperature soared to near 80 degrees. I have just come in this morning from uncovering my peonies following a drop last night to 25 above, and the

day before of 27 above, as you will note from the enclosed newspaper clipping (photograph showing glittering ice on shrubbery resulting when sprinkler was left on overnight.)

"Still the peonies haven't done too badly. All of them are up, with Mrs. F.D.R., RED CHARM, RED DANDY already in the budding stage and many others coming along nicely. We still haven't had a decent spring rain of any consequence, so I have been obliged to continually water my plants to prevent them from becoming dormant and damaging the latent flower formation and stunting the development of adequate stalks

Mr. Neilson's next letter written June 2nd stated " . . . while my plants are loaded with fine, healthy buds, none of them anywhere near opening, the only exception being RED DANDY, a hybrid. I suspect with a spell of good warm weather, many of them will come all at once. I hope in time for me to bring flowers to the Show."

Officers of the **Minnesota Peony & Iris Society** this year are Loren Franklin, President; W. G. Sindt, 1st Vice-President; Lydia Franklin, Secretary; Mildred Stover, Treasurer. Mrs. Franklin has informed us of the death of Evelyn Gowen, elected as 2nd Vice-President. As yet we have had no word of the name of the replacement.

Missouri

Mr. Allen Harper, 100 East 81st North, Kansas City, Missouri 64118 is serving as RVP, Region 17, The American Iris Society and wrote "this has been a most trying year for us. Several late freezes caused postponements and cancellations of Shows and other Regional affairs, Peony bloom suffered also from our unusual spring weather

Severe frosts wiped out most of the terminal buds from estab-

lished blocks, and except for the hybrids, most all of which came through in fine shape, and my seedling patch which is at the top of our "ridge", bloom will hardly make 10%. Have NO cut flowers Memorial Day, except what we can scrounge for our personal use. Will get on that Regional development when I get back . . . maybe get a few seedlings placed. Some of them are now twice divided and still look good to me."

Nebraska

May 24, 1966—"Ludlowi" buds are just starting to open this morning," wrote **Leo J. Armatys**, Central City, Nebraska 68826. "they are WHITE, which can't be! My plant came from Sir Frederick Stern, 1962; divided last fall so I could send a division to Mr. Wood in Canada. It was a tiny seedling; at same time I got a small seedling of *p. suffruticosa*, var. *J. F. Rock*, from Stern. Perhaps Ludlowi is Rock, and vice versa—but the other plant is small and slow growing—nothing like the description of Ludlowi, which stresses its vigorous tall growth. I'll solve this mystery, . . ."

New York

The American Peony Society is fortunate to have such loyal members as **Mr. Robert Curran**, Union Springs, New York 13160. Mr. Curran has contributed a special slide to our slide library. He wrote us this spring stating—"I became interested in Herbaceous peonies through some slides showing about 300 peonies both single and double, planted by the late Mr. Webb of Ithaca, N.Y. at the home of Mrs. Austin in Venice Center, N.Y.

"I wrote to the American Peony Society inquiring about Gardens that I might be able to visit and received a very wonderful letter from Mr. George W. Peyton. I was able to visit Dr. Little's garden at Camillus, N.Y. (Enclosed slide showing

part of the garden). There were two or three hundred Herbaceous peonies and also several tree peonies. There is also in a vacant field a number of small plants which are evidently named varieties or seedlings planted out by Dr. Little. It is possible that if these could be obtained and moved to a better location some valuable plants could be saved.

"At one time, Dr. Little had one of the largest collections in the world. I also visited Mr. Gratwick's garden at Pavilion, N.Y. and found a collection of tree peonies of such beauty that I haven't the words to describe them. Mr. Gratwick has given Cornell Plantations at Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y. a collection of Saunders hybrids . . . The work Bill Gratwick and Nassos Daphnis are doing at Pavilion is priceless . . ."

"The field of peonies of Dr. Little's is located on the hill going into Camillus from Auburn. I would be glad to show you or anyone interested in them where they are located. You are welcome to the slides. I have 35 slides of tree peonies taken at Mr. Gratwicks which you would be welcome to use or have duplicates made with the permission of Mr. Gratwick. Some of the slides are Japanese, some are Saunders hybrids and some were Gratwick's."

We are following-up on Mr. Curran's offer!

North Dakota

We regretted learning of **Loyde C. Thompson's** having been hospitalized twice in recent weeks. Mr. Thompson, Grand Forks, North Dakota, did such a splendid job for the Society on occasion of the 1964 Meeting and Exhibition being held in that city.

Mr. Thompson wrote that they had had an extremely late spring and that his very latest varieties such as Clare de Lune are still in

bud (June 8th).

* * * *

We received recently a communication from **Mrs. Frank Hauk**, Cottonwood, North Dakota, requesting information about *Paeonia tenuifolia*. Mrs. Hauk asked, "Can you tell me why such a lovely and hardy little flower seems to be unknown? I have one plant, and everyone who sees it in bloom wants to know where they can get one. I got mine from a woman in Cottonwood, S. D., a tiny almost-ghost town on the edge of the Badlands, where the soil is poor and all the water the plant had was waste water from the kitchen. She got hers from a Cottonwood couple who are both dead. It is likely that they got it from a traveling nursery salesman who used to peddle nursery stock in this country in the homestead days, around 1907-08-09. This is semi-arid country and any plant that can survive for 60 years deserves wider recognition than this little peony has. All our family and the neighbors are much interested in this lovely and unusual little flower and we will be eagerly awaiting anything you can tell us about it, and will greatly appreciate your trouble. Can you tell me of anywhere I can buy *paeonia tenuifolia*?"

Mrs. Hauk's request was sent to the late Mr. Christman. She said she got the name from the *Wise Garden Encyclopedia*, printed by Wise and Co. in 1951. This Company has since gone out of business.

* * * *

"Spring has been very slow in coming here this year," wrote **Ben Gilbertson**, Kindred, North Dakota, "but everything seems to have come through in very fine shape. Our very early Peonies such as the *Tenuifolias*, *Latifolia*, and *Flora Plena* are near opening and will make it as usual for Memorial Day. Also the species *Witmaniana* is

right with the earliest. The hybrids *Anomala* and *Claire de Lune* are not far behind. The very late *lactifloras* like *Solange* and *Golden Dawn* are barely out of the ground (May 23rd).

"In Species Peonies we also have besides the ones mentioned above, *Officinalis* in *Rubra Plena*, *Alba Plena*, *Rosea Plena*, *Lobata* and *Peregrina*. Other species are *Mloko-sewitschi* and *Emodi*. In the Hybrids we also have *Prairie Moon*, and *Oriental Gold* in yellow and *Red Charm* and *Red Dandy* in red.

"When we come to the Tree Peonies I am almost a beginner except for *Alice Harding* and *Maxine de Cornu* which I have grown for some fifteen years. Besides these two we have *Gessekai*, *Shun-Koden*, *Tama-Fujo*, *Higurashi*, *Hodai*, *Hakuo Jishi* and *Kokuko-no-Tsukasa*.

"We have a large number of new seedlings, many of them hybrids. So far we have produced none that are better than existing varieties so we have not introduced any of them. We have also experimented with the chemical *Napthalene-Acetamide* the last two summers but no visible results yet. None of the plants treated were damaged either. This summer we shall try some different ways of using it. I am sorry to say that I will not be able to attend the big show this year. I have the honor of being President of the North Dakota Horticultural Society this year and as such will be in charge of the State Fruit Show."

Ohio

The May issue of *The Wonderful World of Ohio*, a monthly magazine published by the State of Ohio, carries a two page center spread in color, taken at **Wassenberg Peony Farm** in Van Wert. A broad section of the large acreage taken in the lower fields behind the packing shed, barns, display buildings and home of the owner, is accompanied

by a short article about peonies. While the peony festival is no longer held in Van Wert, many bus loads of peony lovers make the trip to Van Wert in June to view the planting in local gardens as well as at the Peony Farm located 4.5 miles east of Van Wert on Route 30. There is no doubt that the festival will be at some time be re-activated.

Mr. C. Herbert King, 33 West Ashtabula Street, Jefferson Street, Ohio 44047 writes he is searching for information on the subject of grafting tree peonies. We have written Mr. King and hope some of you will also write him.

South Carolina

James L. Patterson, amateur photographer of Fort Mill, South Carolina, scored a first for the Fort Mill Times newspaper when his color picture of **Mr. A. B. Meacham, Jr.**, was carried on the front page, it being the first time color was used.

The caption under the very excellent picture taken of Ms. Meacham states "The above picture is another first for the Times. Each year Mr. A. B. Meacham Jr.'s. hundreds of peonies transforms his back yard into a brilliant display of color ranging from deep reds to snowy whites. One of Fort Mill's foremost lovers of flowers, when not working in his peonies, Mr. Meacham is devoting time to his many camellias and azaleas. He states that for some years he has been unable to secure adequate labor to care for his flowers, so he does most of the cultivating, transplantings, etc., himself. Mr. Patterson's color shots of close-ups of peony blooms are photographic masterpieces."

Texas

"My first peony opened April 15th—Clarie de Lune," wrote **Mrs. Byron Gist**, 2501 Julian Blvd., Amarillo, Texas. "So far," she continued,

"I have cut 32 blooms from it, which is about half of them . . . Then Golden Glow opened today, April 26th." . . . My plantings are limited to a city lot, and we had at one time some 250 plants and over 150 varieties. Since that time however, I have lost some of the plants and have culled some of them, until I now have only a little over 150 plantings. Our soil in the Panhandle is alkaline, and in spite of continuous effort on our part to make it slightly acid, some plants just will not or cannot adjust to it. Some do not give us blooms, for our summer is very dry and hot, so late bloomers do not open well."

ZIP NOW ABBREVIATES THE ABBREVIATED!!

"The new abbreviations were created for mailers using automated data processing equipment," a post-office spokesman has said, "But anybody can use 'em. They've been approved since 1963 but for some strange reason the word just didn't get around about them."

Are you intrigued? We were and we learned it's Zip Code Jargon. Under the new system, Alabama (Ala) becomes AL. Arizona (Ariz.) now AZ. and Arkansas (Ark.) is AR., Texas is TX.

A Chicago spokesman in the post-office has warned, we are told, that the new abbreviations now in effect for states must be used only with zip code numbers. So better be sure when you are abbreviating the name of the State, better yet, better spell it out.

We express our appreciation for your co-operation in using your zip code when you write us, for we **MUST HAVE THE ZIP CODE** when mailing out the Bulletin.

We've understood you can expect an increase in postal rates within the next year, but not until the November elections.



TREE PEONIES

by Leo J. Armatys

Until you can find beauty in your own back yard, don't expect to find it any place else in the world. Everyone has room for at least one tree peony, and that's all it takes to add class to the smallest garden.

Early Bloomers:

As this is written (May 23rd) one of my latest additions is in full bloom. Smirnow's **STOLEN HEAVEN** is many petaled with pale seed pods and a touch of maroon on the lower third of an upright circlet of stamens. Its stems are heavier than I've seen on any plant its age. Good whites are plentiful, but there is room for this one—near the top.

GUARDIAN OF THE MONASTERY is entering its second blooming season. Already taller than any plant here with the exception of herbaceous hybrid **White Innocence**, it blooms well and its blossoms leave little to be desired. From the catalog description, I didn't know what to expect. Now that I've seen it, I can't describe it properly. I can see why Gratwick compares it to **KAMADA FUJI**, tho they differ as night from day. He lists it with the dark ones, and I can see the reason for that, too, but there is a broad rim of smoky lightness bordering each of the big petals. If you are now sufficiently confused, buy it! You may forget the \$75 price tag when **GUARDIAN** blooms for you.

Miscellany:

The "top ten" item in March brought extra mail. I assume that Mrs. X, who wondered why R. Elizabeth wasn't listed, was joking. Those who thought **GESSEKAI** should be top ranked will get little argument from me. This strong flower has well formed, sizeable

blooms of glistening white. What more could you ask? I could ask that it stand erect under our hot Nebraska sun. In this area it needs some shade. My shady or north-side spots are reserved for other kinds, to help prolong delicate shadings of color.

Since our son (Pfc. Orrin) joined the 1st infantry Division in Vietnam last March, we've modified our open garden policy to exclude draft card burners, Senatorial doves and card-carrying Communists.

Editorially Speaking:

Nurserymen specializing in peonies deserve much credit. Considering the time and effort required to develop and propagate the better varieties, they could no doubt make more money selling other kinds of plants. If they weren't thoroughly sold on the worth of peonies, you can be sure they'd be in some other business.

They are, nevertheless, human, and you can take some of their statements with a grain of salt. **TAMA FUYO**, for example, is universally listed as easy, the best one for a beginner—but mine has never prospered, never bloomed. **Mlokozewitchi** an early yellow single herbaceous, is said to be hard to grow. Here it grows like a weed, has been divided into 8 blooming clumps, and never a hint of trouble. Microclimates in your garden can give varying results with the same plant. Don't let rumors of Moutan's temperament keep you from enjoying the King of Flowers.

COLOR SLIDE LIBRARY

Garden Club program chairmen and growers have been planning for the fall and winter season 1966-67 according to inquiries and requests for the American Peony Society Color Slide Collection.

We are indebted to Mrs. K. M. Colby, Monroe, Louisiana for indexing the slides according to information on the back of them. We are now in the process of giving the complete nomenclature of each peony, in script form.

Mrs. Colby's fifteen minute T.V. Show has caused much comment according to the many inquiries coming to the Secretary since that time. Many persons hearing Mrs. Colby's garden talk and viewing the slides had never seen any peonies except a few doubles like Festiva Maxima and were amazed.

Slide Rental Information

- (1) Slides are for 35 mm. projector, Renter supplies projector.
- (2) Slides must be ordered six (6) weeks in advance.
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- (5) Slides are to be returned immediately unless arrangements have been made with the A.P.S. Office.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Baltzell (Mr. Baltzell is our publisher of the Bulletin) on the birth of a son, Todd Michael, born June 9th at Gibbons Hospital, Celina, Ohio.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The following cultivars (varieties) whose names have been approved are presented for registration by the originators.

By **Walter A. Alexander** Jocelyn Gardens, Bowling Green, Ohio.

CHIEF PONTIAC (Mains-Alexander) *Officinalis* x *lactiflora*. Bomb type. Color is black red, possibly the darkest of all peonies. Very early. Tall and vigorous. Stems heavy and unbending.

* * * *

By **R. H. Jones**, Tuckdawa Garden, Peru, Indiana.

HOOSIER HERITAGE (R.H. Jones) seeding No. 117 percentage unknown. Large, Mid-season. Color is medium dark pink atop 40 inch stems. Foliage clean, medium green from soil 6 inches tapering to below blooms carried clear.

* * * *

By **Myron D. Bigger**, Topeka, Kansas.

APACHE (4-60) (Parentage unknown) This I believe an albiflora Lobata hybrid. Hybridizing by Harold E. Wolfe and raised and introduced by us. This very bright red hybrid single is very late and for a hybrid as is along with the albiflora varieties. About three ft. tall on fine stems with fine dark green foliage.

* * * *

MYRON D. BIGGER (67-55) From a seedling of Primevere. Full rose type white double with a very light pink flush in the center of the flower when it first opens. This flower is very formal with extra large outer petals and smaller inner petals. The foliage is very clean with bright green large leaves on very strong stems about thirty inches tall. Most of the flowers open as round as a full moon.

* * * *

ORANGE LACE (21-59) Plains-

man X? This light pink jap is very large with fine carriage and substance. It holds on exceptionally well as it grows old in the bloom. The yellow and pink stamens have a lacy orange cast which give it its name. Medium dark green foliage on stems about three feet tall.

* * * *

PINK DERBY (32-61) Radian Red X? Dark pink bomb like a pink Derby sitting on pink guard petals of the same color. A few light pink to white petals at the base of the bomb. Foliage is dark green, clean and on three foot stems.

* * * *

POWDER PUFF (7-59) JAYHAWKER X? Very light pink guards with creamy white Anemone bomb center. A medium sized flower with ram rod stiff stems. Will make a fine landscape peony as well as a neat cut flower. The substance is extra good. Clean light green foliage on stems about thirty inches tall.

* * * *

TRAFFORD W. BIGGER (17-59) Charm X? Named for my only brother. The very dark brown red Jap is all one color except small tips of yellow on the stamens. The color holds well in the hot sun. Dark green foliage on stiff thirty-six inch stems.

We again print the information concerning the Nomenclature Committee according to the By-Laws of the Society.

* * * *

NOMENCLATURE

Section 5, Article IX of the By-Laws states — The Nomenclature Committee shall consist of two or more members, elected by the Board of Directors, who shall have charge of the approval and registration of all names of new cultivars. They shall follow the Code adopted by the International Registration

Authority in approval and registration of names and shall be diligent to detect any variations from this code by any persons or firms. All such violations should be reported at once to the registrar and every endeavor made to have them corrected. They shall see that the official check list of names is kept up to date at all times. The registration fee shall be two dollars for each new cultivar registered.

—o—

Obituary Column

Stewart, Charles W.: 1532 Clay-Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. We have just received word of the death of Mr. Stewart, a valued member of the Board of Directors of the Society. His present term would expire in 1968. A complete story regarding Mr. Stewart and his interest in Peonies will be carried in the September Bulletin.

Miller, J. Paul: Grandview, Washington: It is with regret that we learned of the death of J. Paul Miller, 304 Avenue D, Grandview, Washington 98930. Mrs. Miller writes since she is unable to take care of the peonies she is "giving them to the Experiment Station, just out of town and they are making a memorial to Paul. I know they will be taken care of.

We loved our peonies as they were so beautiful. We had people from England, Scotland, India, France, and Japan and from all around here to see them. They were a beautiful sight from about the 15th of May until they had finished blooming.

We enjoyed our contact through the Bulletin and reading about the enjoyment people get out of flowers. Too bad more people can't see the beauty and love through flowers. The world would be a better place to live in as they are God's flowers. "



SPRING MAGIC

Anthony J. DeBlasi

There should be a time each year—a very special time—when a garden can be said to be at its **best**, a period in its seasonal cycle when it overflows with beauty and excitement. The key to such a scheme is the selection of season and flower. My choice for season is May. May isn't a season? Not a conventional one, perhaps, but a very real one nevertheless!!

It is a time of year when winter's cruelty has mellowed to a dim memory and summer is still slumbering. It is a time when plant life enjoys its fullest moment (what a scientist would call an ideal ecology), blended of a rare mixture of the right temperatures, moisture, increasing sunshine, rejuvenated soil, and lack of destructive insect armies and disease mechanisms. Lawns are at their greenest and thickest; trees and shrubs are at their jewel-like best; perennials at their most vigorous; early annuals at their freshest. Everything seems oblivious to the impending onslaught—in the next few weeks and months—of insect marauders and diseases and heat spells and droughts and weeds that will eat away, distort, entangle, discolor, and reduce that youthful picture to an aged one.

The pleasant weather and lush, unjaded appearance of a garden at this time bring a spell of calm in a normally turbulent world, a respite from the tug-of-war of existence; the soul scales a breathless height and tells us: **this** is what the world is really like!

Now that we have the season, what garden plant shall I choose to celebrate it. It would have to be one that embodies to a maximum degree the youth, the exuberance, the abandon, the richness of color, and the grandness of spirit of May. To me, the tree peony is the very essence of this joyous season. The heady and unreal beauty of the individual blooms, the richly varied, perfectly placed foliage, the speed and profusion of the production eminently fit the spirit of May.

No memory will ever properly retain the fantastic images formed by walking through a garden of tree peonies, because they are so transient, so inexpressible. A photograph, at best, is an essay, not a report of the event. Eventually and inevitably, therefore, after the season is gone, when we begin the "wrestling season" in the garden, a forgetfulness sets in, as Tree Peony Time becomes an ever greater task for the imagination to reconstruct. Finally, in the bleak winter months, it is reduced simply to a good feeling and, by early spring, we are ripe for another spell of magic. And what a spell!! Each year outperforms the previous year! The tree peony's thirst for heavenly outbursts is unquenchable and its ability to follow this course inexhaustible.

Have you gotten yourself caught in this splendid spiral?

— 25 —

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members, those re-newing and those asking to be re-instated in the American Peony Society since publication of the March issue of the Bulletin. Our appreciation to those members having brought in new members. It has been said, one of the outstanding attributes of the Society membership is the demonstration of unselfish and wholesome effort to advance the results and enjoyment of peony growing.

Baaken, Clarence, Binford, North Dakota 58416
Bowman, Miss Olive M., 607 W. First St., Woodville, Ohio 43469
Brown, Mrs. H. Guy, New Springfield, Ohio 44443
Bunton, Mrs. Laura, 901 Rio Grande St. Austin, Texas 78701
Carter, Mrs. Roy I., Rt. 1, Box 491, Natchez, Mississippi 39120
Chaney, John P., Rt. 31, Box 28, Val-dese, North Carolina 28690
Chave, Mrs. E. H., 6728 Marine Crescent, Vancouver 14, British Columbia
Cousins, L. W., 472 Tecumseh Ave., London, Ontario, Canada
Cullen, Mrs. Gilbert, 208 Chamberlain Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750
Curren, Robert, Mt. Zoar Nursery and Farm, Union Springs, N.Y. 13160
Davis, Clair, 14 Roydon Drive West, Merrick, N.Y. 11566
Derby, Mrs. S. R., P.O. Box 307, Bunker Hill Indiana 46914
Dernbach, Mrs. Adam, 704 N. Scott, Wheaton, Ill. 60187
Drake, Miss Frances, Box 474, Minnetonka, Minn.
Dressman, James A. Sr., 15 Sunset Place, Winston Park, Covington, Ky. 41015
Ellison, Thomas W., Chestertown, Maryland 21620
Eisel, Mervin C., Box 145, Rt. 5, Excelsior, Minn. 55331
Gilbertson, Ben, Kindred, N.D. 58051
Gracey, M. W., Rt. 32, Blackstone, Virginia 23824
Greenwich Garden Center Library, Bible St., Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807
Hawkins, Roy E., 509 Barberry St., La Porte City, Iowa 50651
Herman, C. J., Rt. 1, Box 41, Hinsdale, New York 14743
Helgoe, Betsey Betts, 1530 Old Mill Rd., San Marino, Calif. 92223
Hilliard, Miss Mary W., 127 Morrison Ave., Easton, Pa. 18042
Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. E. B., Rt. 1, Box 127, Noblesville, Ind. 46060
Howell, Frank L., Rt. 1, Box 485, Newton, N.J. 07860
Hunt, William L., Box 637, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Imhoff, Frederick O., Rt. 2, Hanover, Kansas 66945
Jones, R. H., Rt. 2, Box 32, "Tuckawada" Peru, Ind. 46270
Karrels, Marvin C., 3272 South 46th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53219
Knapp, Earl and Dorothy J., 13100 N. Meridian St., Carmel, Ind. 46032

Lane, T. R., P.O. Box 720, Sylacauga, Alabama 35150
Lundy, Mrs. Ettie E., Rt. 2, Waterloo, New York 13165
Mayer, John Taconic and Howard Roads, Greenwich, Connecticut 06833
McNeil, J. Robert Landfall, Lawrenceville, N.J. 08532
Martin, H. S., 1916 Greenleaf, Evanston, Illinois 60204
Miller, Richard L., P.O. Box 307, Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Moots, Frank E., 1177 West Broadway, Newton, Kansas 67114
Murawska, Art, 8740 Ridge St., River Grove, Ill. 60171
Musialek, Luden, 1419 Christina St., Rockford, Ill. 61102
Neilson, Myles A., 1875 West Ryan Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55113
Nichols, L. E., 507 W. 3rd, Rt. 1, Chillicothe, Mo. 64601
Page, Franklin, Hamilton, North Dakota 58238
Rigby, Arthur E., 120 Smithfield Street, New Castle, Pennsylvania 16101
Rissman, Mrs. Edwin, Chapman, Kansas 66945
Ropp, Mrs. Glen, 601 South Green St., Glasgow, Ky. 52141
Sanderson, D. F., 717 15th Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225
Saunders, Silvia, A. P. Saunders, Hybrid Peonies, Clinton, N. Y. 13323
Scott, Harold, 1111 Wildwood, Jackson, Michigan 49202
Simpson, W. J., "Wayside" Morington, Rd., Frankston, Victoria, Australia
Smirnow, Louis, 85 Linden Lane, Brookville, L. I. New York 11545
Staudenbaur, Jos. A., 728 N. Elmwood, Oak Park, Ill. 60302
Stroud, Walter J., Rockridge Circle, Toledo, Ohio 43606
Tharp, Mrs. John A., Rt. 2, Winfield, Kansas 67156
Thompson, Hershel L., 1421 N. Norfolk Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106
Thompson, William, Eden Gardens, Springdale, Connecticut 06879
Vandersall, Scott, Pemberville, Ohio 43450
Vaughn, Allan C., 88 Coolidge St., Midvale, Utah 84047

MANY SHOWS CANCELLED AS RESULT OF MAY 10 FREEZE

Harry R. O'Brien, writer of Garden Notes, Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio, Sunday, May 22, 1966, stated "Bad news is that there will be no Old Roses Day at the Columbus Park of Roses. More bad news is that the 28th Annual Columbus Rose Show scheduled for June 5, has also been canceled. All because of the terrible freezing weather we had on the morning of May 10.

The freeze damaged the buds and on-coming bloom so badly there will be hardly any bloom to be seen

this afternoon."

Mr. O'Brien further stated that the new leaves on his big magnolia were wilted down. Also the red oaks. He cautioned "take the advice of local nurseryman or landscape man . . . My suggestion is that we wait to see before we begin to do any drastic pruning, without professional advice."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Requests have been made regarding addresses of our contributors. Beginning with the September issue of the Bulletin a "thumbnail" sketch of a contributor will be given in each publication. Becoming acquainted with the contributor's picture, biographical sketch and story should give us all an opportunity to really know one another!

Contributors during the past year

and their addresses are as follows:

Walter A. Alexander, 154 Eberly Ave.,
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Leo J. Armatys, Box 598, Central City,
Nebraska 68826
Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Illinois
61559
Mary Cooke, 731 Maple Grove Rd.,
Duluth, Minnesota 55811
Anthony J. De Biasi, 81-18 261st Street,
Floral Park, New York 11004
Mrs. N. Brandewie Emig, 2551 Sherwood
Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43209
Lyle Rexford Fletcher, 301 Sand Ridge
Road, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Ralph H. Giff, 189 Cecil Street, Sarnia,
Ontario, Canada
Clarence O. Lienau, 9135 Beech Dally,
Detroit, Michigan 48239
Art L. Murawska, 8740 Ridge Street,
River Grove, Illinois 61102
L. E. Nichols, 507 East Third Street,
R. 1, Ohillicothe, Missouri 64601
Dr. David L. Reath, Box 251, Vulcan,
Michigan 49892
Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York
13323
C. Gordon Tyrrell, Winterthur, Dela-
ware 19735
Dr. Harold E. Tinnappel, R. 1, State
Route 105 Pemberville, Ohio 43450
Neal R. van Loon, 511 Birkinbine Drive,
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590
Samuel E. Wissing, 93 South Lombard
Ave., Lombard, Illinois 60148
Percy H. Wright, 407-109th Street, Sas-
katoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Send orders to: American Peony Society, 1071½ W. Main, Van Wert, O. 45891

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

PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN—by Arno and Irene Nehrling. Hearthside Press, Inc. About 300-pages, 100-black and white illustrations, 11-color plates. Contents similar to those of the Handbook, with the addition of a section on Peonies Indoors; arrangement and how to stage a show. About 40-pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price to members-American Peony Society-\$4.95 each. Non-members \$5.95.

THE PEONIES—Edited by John C. Wister and published by the American Horticultural Society, has over 200-pages; over 60-expertly done photographs and line drawings. Section I—The Herbaceous Peonies. Section II The Tree Peonies. For both, there are chapters on culture. Descriptions. Propagation. Check lists-varieties. Botanical classifications. Pests and diseases. History. Breeding, etc. Cloth-bound edition—Members price \$3.50; non-members \$5.00; Paper-bound edition—Members price \$2.50; non-members \$3.00.

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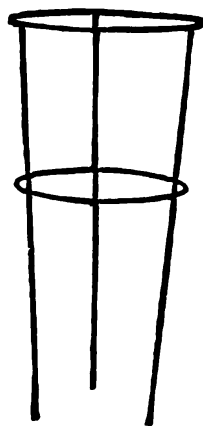
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