

American Peony Society Bulletin

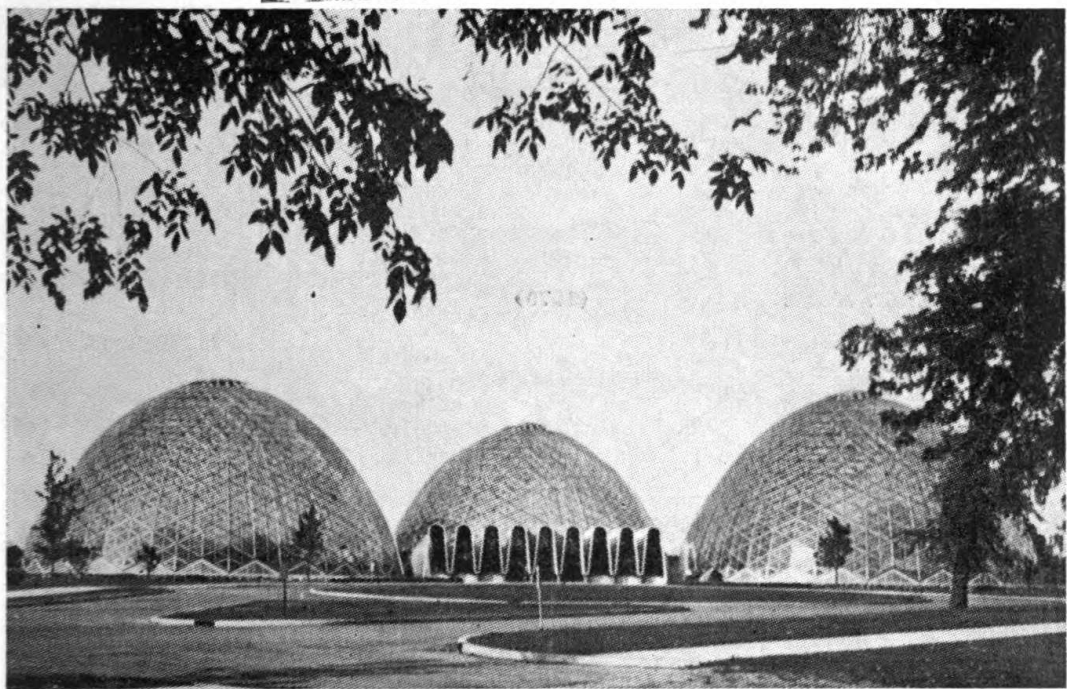


JUNE, 1968 — NO. 189

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

107½ W. Main St.,
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Area Code 419-232-0861

1967-1968 OFFICERS

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V. Pres. _____
Treasurer _____ Chas. D. Pennell, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Sec'y.-Editor _____ Catharine C. Pennell, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891

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President _____ Samuel E. Wissing, 93 South Lombard Ave., Lombard Ill. 60148
Sec'y.-Treas. _____ Mrs. S. E. Wissing, 93 South Lombard Ave., Lombard, Ill. 60148

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 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 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors and Objectives of Society	2
President's Message	4
Peony Breeding — Orville Fay	
Handling Peony Exhibition Blooms	5
Notice to Shippers — Holiday Inn Headquarters	8
Tree Peony Comparisons	9
100 Years of Horticulture—Part II	10
From the Editor's Desk	12
Sir Frederick's Wish Accepted	13
Memorial Grant Honors Dr. Tinnappel	
Milwaukee — Time Factor	
Our Readers Write	14
Slide Rental Information	16
Seeds Available from Miss M. B. Gerrans	17
Peonies in France	18
Peonies Remain A Garden Delight	19
Peonies Growing Wild	22
Map for Members Convenience	23
Publications for Sale	25
Two of Klehm's Introductions	26
Advertisers	27

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Catharine Carroll Pennell, Editor — Van Wert, Ohio 45891

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My deep appreciation for the opportunity and privilege of serving as your president the past two years.

Mrs. Denlinger and I regret that our plans for the next several months dispel any hope of being with you in Milwaukee. We know the tremendous task Marvin Karrels has as General Chairman. My thanks to Marvin and Division Five, sponsor, under the leadership of Sam and Clara Wissing. We will think of you when we are in Alaska, other western states and Mexico. We hope to visit gardens of our members along the way and report back to you.

My appreciation also to the Pennells for their dedication in carrying on the work of the Society.

Clara joins me in our best wishes for a good meeting and fine exhibition.

Pharon B. Denlinger

May 1, 1968

PEONY BREEDING

The Bulletin gratefully acknowledges permission granted by Orville Fay to reprint his statements regarding Peony Breeding appearing in the Bulletin of The American Iris Society—July 1967.

Mr. Fay was the principal speaker at a joint meeting of Region I of the AIS and Region IV of the AHS on the practical and scientific aspects of modern plant breeding.

Mr. Fay's comments on the problem of Peony breeding are contained in the following paragraph:

"There are thirty-nine peony species, of which twenty-six are diploid and thirteen are tetraploid, all with a base number of five. Triploids from diploid x tetraploid crosses are fine plants but highly sterile, and the tetraploid level is actually optimum. Diploid peonies, however, refused to double even when the concentration of the colchicine solution was increased to ten times that necessary for irises and hemerocallis." As Mr. Fay says, "The peony is one of our most ancient perennials, having been around for 90 million years, and like many another venerable individual, is highly resistant to change."

Handling Exhibition Blooms

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

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

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

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

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

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

BAGGING the blooms will prevent weather and insect damage and keep the delicately colored flowers from being faded out by bright sun light. This should be done a week or ten days before the buds will open, when the bud is dry. Use two pound grocery bags for the large, full, doubles and smaller ones for the singles, Japanese, and the smaller doubles. Transparent bags afford no protection from the sun. Slip the bag over the bloom and fasten with a rubber band, staples, or paper clip; never with a pin, as they are dangerous. Pull the bag up until it touches the bottom of the bud. This is important, as it prevents the bloom from being distorted and keeps the stem straight. For ventilation cut a small hole in each upper corner of the bag. This will keep the bloom from being cooked by the heat of the sun. Examine the bags after each rain and if water has collected in the sacks, remove them and resack when dry. Buds should never be sacked when wet as they may mold. After the bloom begins to open, it is hard to resack without damaging it, so if you

wish to examine the bloom, tear off the sack about halfway down leaving enough to hold the bloom in shape. Then pull another sack down over the first one, which may be done by holding the bloom encircled with one hand. The bags should not be removed, finally, until you are ready to use the flower.

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

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

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

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

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

TRANSPORTING

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

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

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

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

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

Notice To Shippers Of Blooms

**Those who wish to ship flowers to be
held in cold storage until Show day, address
as follows:**

**C. C. Pollworth Co.
For Peony Show
802 N. Market St.
Milwaukee, Wis. 53202**

**If you wish our Floor Committee to
stage them for you, notify —**

**M. C. Karrels
3272 So. 46th St.
Milwaukee, Wis. 53219**

**State what classes you want them en-
tered.**

HOLIDAY INN — BANQUET HEADQUARTERS

**Our 65th Annual Banquet and Meeting will be held in the Head-
quarters Motel.**

**Holiday Inn of Milwaukee-Midtown
2611 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Telephone Area Code 414-344-7600**

**The location and Mitchell Park are adjacent to 27th Street, one of
Milwaukee's main north-south thoroughfares.**

**Please make your reservations as soon as possible with Holiday Inn
and state you will be attending the American Peony Society events.**

**Make Banquet reservations with Marvin Karrels, 3272 South 46th St.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219.**

**USE YOUR MAP
and**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Turn to pages 6 and 7 of your American Peony Society Bulletin—No.
188 for Map, Travel and Accommodations Information if attending the
65th Annual Meeting and 63rd Annual Peony Exhibition.**

— 8 —



Tree Peony Comparisons

Anthony J. De Blasi

Tree peonies differ from one another in many ways. The differences are sometimes subtle, sometimes bold. Such is the case of two neighboring plants that I planted at the same time, a few years ago—one HINODESEKAI, the other unlabelled.

The unlabelled plant is now a towering giant, HINODESEKAI hardly over a foot high.

Some plants have a habit of growing straight and tall, such as Yachiyo-tsubaki or Hana-kiso; others, like Alice Harding, hug the ground. Some, like Rimpō and Hodai, develop umbrella-like tops high above the ground, while others become leafy mounds with foliage to the ground, such as Renkaku and Vesuvian.

Most tree peonies are quite symmetrical in overall shape, but some are more so than others. Sakuragasane, Aurore, Angelet, and Vesuvian are fine examples of that "well rounded look."

Leaf colors in early spring are typically reddish or purplish—those of Hira-no-yuki being among the liveliest reds in the group and those of Gumpoden being a unique, dusky purple right up until it blooms. A nonconformist in this department is Kinkaden which in early spring is pale, grayish, yellow-green.

The matter of shooting out into leaf is noteworthy. No two varieties have quite the same style of coming into full leaf. Some look thin and wiry, others compact and burly, some slow and deliberate, others fast and precipitate. Some, like HINO tsukasa, cannot wait to get started and show their impatience in February. At the other extreme is Mine d' Or which doesn't "wake up" until late April (and invariably ends up blooming last).

Flower buds are prominent and fat on some plants (Kamada-fuji,

Hana-daigin) immediately after bursting out of the leaf buds; others start off with tiny flower buds that very slowly swell (Hira-no yuki, most Lutea hybrids).

In full leaf, some plants are willowy and sway in the breeze—Angelet and Gessekai, for instance; others, like Kamada-fuji and Rimpō, are nearly stone-rigid even in the wind.

The variations in flower buds, stems, leaves, shape, size, and color from plant to plant are a source of keen pleasure on a bright crisp early spring morning. Just one thing exceeds the uplift gained from the fresh, sweet air, the rich, rapidly changing patterns, colors, and textures, the swelling flower buds, and the vibrant colors peeking through the parting sepals: the spectacle of the full open blooms! Then the air is charged with an excitement and a fever and a beauty that distill to pure joy.

RESTORATION OF FAMOUS GARDEN

A. B. Halderman of the firm of Halderman and Leland, Landscape Architect, Glenview, Kentucky 40025, has written seeking the source where they may purchase *Paeonia Officinalis* Albo-Pleno which Mr. Halderman says "no nursery seems to have. They desire to plant this Peony in the garden of My Old Kentucky Home at Bardstown, Kentucky.

Anyone able to be of assistance to Mr. Halderman is asked to write him directly or contact the A.P.S. office.

100 Years of Horticulture Service

Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota

(**Editor's comment:** This is the second and last installment of the history of Minnesota's Oldest Nursery.)

Upon the retirement of Oliver F. Brand, A. M. Brand continued this work of breeding new peonies and brought out a long list of very desirable new varieties, some of which are considered by many as being as fine as anything in the entire peony list. Of the many varieties originated by A. M. Brand, the following are a few of the more widely distributed ones.

A. G. Perry
Blanche King
Dr. Christopher Graham
Dr. F. R. Huxley
Dr. John L. Crenshaw
Dr. Lee W. Pollock
Ella Christiansen
Hansina Brand
Krinkled White

Mrs. A.M. Brand
Mrs. Bryce Fontaine
Mrs. Deane Funk
Mrs. Frank Beach
Myrtle Gentry
President Lincoln
Rev. H. N. Tragitt
Victory Chateau Thierry

About 1920 the business in peonies became so great that shipments were made to all parts of the peony-loving world—to Canada, Alaska, Australia, Chili, New Zealand, China, Japan, South Africa and to almost every country in Europe, etc.

Some 40 years ago, the firm became interested in French Lilacs and they have become another of our specialties. Foundation stocks were accumulated from the best known growers in America and importations were brought in of the newer sorts from France. At one time over 140 varieties were blooming on our grounds. From these the best were selected for the building up of one of the largest stocks of French Lilacs in the world.

Here also some breeding work has been carried on four or five new Lilacs thought worthy of introduction have been made available to the public, namely the lilacs, A. M. Brand, Col. Plum, Margaret Rice Gould.

During the fall of 1918, Miss Myrtle Gentry joined the Brand Peony Farms. After 15 years in the school room, she decided to try a new line of work. One year later, Miss Gentry became a partner of Mr. A. M. Brand. Here she remained for 37 years.

During these years, the business changed rapidly. The first years, they grew windbreak stock—willows, poplars, and all kinds of evergreens for the farms in the northwest section of our country. They also grew fruit trees, and berry bushes and employed many agents who sold the nursery stock.

Mr. A. M. Brand passed away in the early spring of 1953. Miss Gentry became the owner and with the help of excellent office and field help, she carried on the nursery for 3 years.



R. W. and A. P. Tischler

On January 1, 1956, A. P. and R. W. Tischler, two local businessmen and flower lovers, purchased the nursery from Miss Myrtle Gentry and have continued to operate the nursery in the same location and have continued to grow only the very best nursery stock that can be grown.

Since the origination of the Brand Peony Farms, most of the new prize winning varieties have been developed by Brands. Each year, we plant a large number of seedlings so new varieties can be originated. Any new variety that shows signs of producing something new is transferred and grown in the trial gardens for a number of years to make sure that it will develop into the quality worthy of carrying the Brands name.

In the past several years, we have developed a number of very outstanding new varieties such as Terry Grudem, Myrtle Tischler, Wilford Johnson, Kay Tischler, Gail Tischler, Vera Tischler, Dr. Walter Rumpf, Douglas Brand, Elsie Pickett, William Pickett, Almyra MacRae, Faribo Gold, and Fantastic. Many of these new varieties will not be listed for sale until sufficient roots can be produced. For the past years, some of these new varieties have been First Prize winners at the National Peony Shows about the States.

Mr. R. W. (Bob) Tischler purchased his brother's interests in January, 1968.

Mr. A. P. Tischler is now semi-retired and assisting Bob.

Cover Picture

Our picture on the cover of this issue is of the famous Horticultural Domes where we are privileged to hold our 63rd annual exhibition.

1776 DANIELS

Beneath this stone a lump of clay
Lies Uncle Peter Daniels
Who too early in the month of May
Took off his winter flannels.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .

Peony blooming seasons come and go like many in the floriculture realm however a true gardner knows you must invest in planning and planting, then work! Organization of The American Peony Society required planning and this followed by effecting an organization and obtaining members. This work has continued for more than 64 years.

Officers, Directors and loyal members are continually working to increase the membership. Not the least effort is that of publishnig articles in magazines and newspapers telling the story about your favorite flower, the PEONY! Many are helping by encouraging public plantings and holding flower shows.

We in the office are endeavoring to improve the Bulletin-our contact with our members located far and wide over fifty states and in foreign countries. The work goes on with a daily routine, mail, telephone calls, many details of office procedure. The Bulletin is no longer the work of one person and the printer. Of course this is what we want, however this is our plea—that our members pay more promptly that we can better plan our work. The treasure tells me that membership is not returned by July 1st it means the elimination of more than 100 who will not receive the last two Bulletins this year. Will you help?

* * * *

Peonies grow early in our locality—the Van Wert area-and so far have made remarkable growth. Peony Officianalous Rubrum is in flower against southern exposure foundations. This all means we will have Peonies here by Decoration Day or before , if weather continues.

* * * *

Mr. Denlinger, our president, stated they had a real deep freeze early in the month (May) The temperature got down to 28 degrees with

¼ inch of ice in the bird bath.

* * * *

Your officers plan each year for the annual ROOT AUCTION. This year it will be held at the time of the annual meeting. Not only will you have the opportunity to purchase- new introductions but some of your favorites. This is also the time when the Society treasury benefits!

* * * *

Each year your Board of Directors have discussed the problem of rising costs of publishing and mantaining the office procedures with the thought in mind that amore equitable sharing on the part of the membership would be the most feasible. If you have any suggestions relative to dues or how we may each share won't you please write us at the office or send your suggestions after June 15th to me in care of Mr. Marvin C. Karrels, Chairman of Arrangements. See list of Directors on page 2 of this Bulletin for his address.

Plea For Exhibitors

Many exhibitors are needed to make a Show a success. This is, therefore, a plea to our membership, your relatives and friends to participate in what can be for everyone a fine experience.

Most important is the wonderful opportunity of proving that peonies are important in every garden, be it large or small.

We have been told by authorities that the average week-end attendance of visitors in Mitchell Park, site of the world famous Horticultural Domes may be 25,000 to 30,000 persons.

This can be worth hundreds of dollars in publicity for public awareness of the beauty of the PEONY.

SIR FREDERICK'S WISH ACCEPTED

(Gardners Chronicle: Dec. 1, 1967.)

Sir Frederick Stern's world famous chalk garden at Worthing, Sussex, is being offered to the town by Lady Stern so that it can continue as a focus of interest for gardeners for all time.

The offer will go before Worthing Council at its meeting on December 7. Sir Frederick planned to hand over his 41-acre estate at Highdown to the town early this year, and before his death last July at 83 he had started informal negotiations.

Mr. Thomas Ford, town clerk of Worthing, told GN: "This is the most generous offer this town has had for many years. Lady Stern has offered the garden to be preserved for ever, in accordance with Sir Frederick's own wishes."

The garden was started by Sir Frederick in 1910 as an experiment to see what would grow on the chalk soil of the Downs. Trees and plants brought back from China and other parts of Asia by famous collectors are a main feature.

With Lady Stern, Sir Frederick created the garden from a disused

chalk pit, and has told its story in **A Chalk Garden**, which has become a standard work for all who have to garden on lime.

Soldier, big game hunter and amateur steeplechase jockey, he was one of Britain's great modern makers of gardens and was knighted in 1956 for services to horticulture after 30 years as one of the moving spirits of the RHS.

DO YOU SWAP PLANTS WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

The following information has been received from the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, pertinent to swapping plants, bulbs, and tubers, for, if you do, you may be spreading pests or diseases that destroy flowers and garden plants.

In many areas, State and Federal quarantines restrict the movement of plants and associated materials. Soil, sod, compost, shrubbery, plants, and decorative greenery may harbor microscopic cysts or insect eggs, subsurface grubs and worms, seeds from parasitic plants, or other pests.

Your county agent or plant pest inspector will tell you if your area is **infested** with destructive plant pests and how you can safely move plants, bulbs, and tubers.

MEMORIAL GRANT TO HONOR TEACHER

Bowling Green ,Ohio (Toledo Blade, April 18, 1968). A conservation scholarship in honor of Dr. Harold E. Tinnappel, a member of Bowling Green State University mathematics department for 19 years, has been established. Dr. Tinnappel died March 9.

The scholarship will provide about \$500 a year to an outstanding student interested in horticulture, conservation, or botany. Applications may be submitted to the university's scholarship committee by June 1 each year.

The memorial scholarship was made possible by a \$10,000 gift from Joseph J. and Marie P. Schedel Foundation, of Toledo and other donations.

CENTRAL DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

We call your attention to the **TIME FACTOR** if you are attending the Annual Meeting and Exhibition. Milwaukee will be on Central Daylight Saving Time.

OUR READERS WRITE . . .

INDIANA

Mrs. S. R. Derby, P. O. Box 307, Bunker Hill, Indiana 46914: "My Single red Fern-leaf Peony opened its first bloom April 21. After a rain last night a great many of the bloom have fallen away, but several are still nice. It was loaded with 20 blooms to begin with. Early Scout is ready to open it's 15 blooms soon as the sun comes out. Three tree Peonies have fat buds which will soon open, I'm sure. When and by whom was the Pioneer originated?"

* * * *

NEW YORK

Aden L. Gokay, Canaan, New York 12029 stated "I think I told you that my tree peony, **Thunderbolt**, outgrew its box last year, and since we had a heavy snowfall early, I tried to get away with just covering it with a big pile of snow. That would have been fine, except that the snow all melted while I was away, and the subsequent 25 to 30 below zero weather killed a lot of the top of the plant. This spring, Thunderbolt seemed to recover nicely, and made a lot of new growth, (and produced a lot of bloom) but I noticed that the leaves died and I cleaned the plant up preparatory to boxing it in for the winter, I found about eight of the old stems had borers in them. These were the ones that had had the stunted growth. I cut these back and burned them. In every case, the borer had made its entry hole in the soft area where a side branch had been cut off, or in a leaf stem scar. I think that in the future I'll put some of that black tree paint on any pruning scars, but it would be a little too much to paint on every scar left by an old leaf stem. I sprayed them, but apparently not early enough. This is the first time I have ever had any

insect attack one of my tree peonies, and I suppose it may have been because the stems were weakened by freezing. I understand that a weakened plant is much more susceptible to borer attack than a healthy one is. My three tree peonies are all securely boxed **this** year. I'm anxious for the spring to come, to see how my new one, **TAMA FUYO**, will do here."

* * * *

Mrs. Hollis E. Cornell, Johnsonville, New York, 12094: "We have had such an unusually early spring here that everything is nearly three weeks ahead of schedule. My tree peonies have enormous buds ready to pop in a very few days, and all the hybrid and herbaceous are also budded. Let's pray for no late frost!"

* * * *

NEW JERSEY

Richardson Buist, 143 Old Stanhope Road, Sparta, New Jersey: "Last Fall. I had the opportunity of being in Milwaukee for a speaking engagement. At that time while I was otherwise occupied, my good wife, Dr. Jean Buist, had a trip through the Horticultural Domes at Milwaukee. From her description, I would certainly feel that this would be a most wonderful selection for the annual exhibition in June."

* * * *

VIRGINIA

Mrs. Herbert Howard, Box 288, Leesburg, Virginia. 22075: "We moved into our new home last summer and have plenty of space to grow what we like (10 acres). My interest in Peonies was through a friend. I had never planted one in my life, nor especially liked them. But when I saw "Kansas" I knew then I must try my hand.

Last Fall, we ordered 13 plants from Gilbert Wild. All of these are

double, medium height. They are various shades of pinks and reds.

I would like to know more about the Hybrids and the Japanese varieties. Are they truly worth the price?

I shall wait and see what luck I have with the "familiar" varieties."

* * * *

TEXAS

Mrs. Byron Gist, 2501 Julian Boulevard, Amarillo, Texas: (April 19, 1968) Claire de Lune and Golden Glow in bloom. We do not depend on rain for we irrigate. We do have trouble getting the soil right. It is alkaline, and some varieties just can't tolerate that. About 8 out of 10 varieties grow nicely and bloom profusely. My first albiflora will bloom about May 1, or sooner.

* * * *

WISCONSIN

Mr. Carl J. Weis, 2552 N. Bainbridge, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601 seeks information on where he may purchase a Fern Leaf Peony. Does anyone have any to sell or share with him? If so, please write him.

* * * *

CANADA

John E. Marquis, 1112 Bratty Avenue, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada: Letter received January 20, 1968. "Was up to my park a couple of days ago and I note the deer are helping themselves to the choice young leaves of the azaleas and some of the small leaved rhododendrons. On others they took next years blooms off. My son got a couple of them and another lad got one, so there are three that won't eat anymore. I was out too and though I saw one I did not get a shot. I did manage to dig up over fifty large peony clumps last spring and sort of half healed them in. These peony roots are still there. I had intended on splitting them up to scatter around but as I did not get the ground

prepared they are still there. I have a small creek running through my property and I intend on planting rhodos, azaleas and peonies within watering distance.

I sure had a fine showing of peonies last June and I should have a much better one this year. It is hard to find words to extol their virtues. My what grand flower. I have lost many of what I consider my best varieties and before long I must replace them. My memory is poor. When I look over a list I can remember some of the choice ones.

My park is in an isolated location and it is necessary to go in by boat, as the highway is across the lake from it. In a way I like it as I am sure thieves would help themselves to some of my small rhodo plants Rhodos are so easy to pull out of the ground when they are small. The peonies are another thing as they must be dug out and a large plant is something to handle. It is only eight miles from where I live but sometimes do not visit for months on end. There is a couple of feet of snow and today it is really coming down. It will remain until sometime in April."

* * * *

GEORGIA

Mrs. W. O. Blount, 190 Grandy Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30601 May 15, 1968, "My peony blooming season is almost over, having started on April 21 with an *Officinalis Rubra*. At present I have an Ann Cousins blooming that is beautiful. Yosemite is in full bud, and should be open in a few days. I have another bud on Nick Shaylor, and a few others almost finished blooming. I made a few notes while the plants were blooming, trying to determine which were most satisfactory here. I also noted the dates on which the first bloom of each appeared. This should give me an idea as to which

varieties I might want to increase.

"We had a good bit of sub-freezing temperature (teens and twenties) during the winter, with about three light snows. We usually have sleet or freezing rain instead of snow. We had a late frost early in the Spring after my plants had budded; but my husband and I covered them with newspapers, and saved most of the buds. After my plants started blooming, we had several hard rains, followed by wind and hot sunshine. Of course this was rough on the blooms. However, in spite of the weather, I had plenty of beautiful blooms. I had plenty to share with relatives, ill neighbors, my husband's business acquaintances, and for his office; also, two bouquets for the Chamber of Commerce office, and I furnished peonies for my Church two Sundays.

"A florist to whom I sent a bloom said she had tried growing peonies, but had nothing to compare with mine.

"As soon as I have time I will try to make a list of the approximate

blooming dates of the peonies I have tried.

"I hope you have a successful season with your peonies; and enjoy them as much as I have mine."

* * * *

OHIO

Mr. Ferd Brubaker, 2675 Wingate Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44314 wrote regarding his interest in Treflon as a weed killer in Peony beds. Mr. Brubaker is interested in trying it out in a new planting of Myrtle he has around his home.

Those having experience with this are asked to write Mr. Brubaker.

SLIDE RENTAL INFORMATION

If you are planning a program for 1968-1969 it would be wise to send us your request as early as possible.

- (1) Slides are for a 35 m.m. projector. Renter supplies projector.
- (2) Slides must be ordered six (6) weeks in advance.
- (3) Rental fee — Five Dollars (\$5.00) Checks made payable to American Peony Society.
- (4) Return postage must be paid by the renter. Insurance for Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).
- (5) A charge of Two Dollars (\$2.00) is made for every slide missing when collection is returned to this office. Count slides when received and again before sealing for return.

FLOWER COOKERY

Fleet announces its new title **FLOWER COOKERY: THE ART OF COOKING WITH FLOWERS** by Mary MacNicol for September publication.

From Biblical times to present, flowers have been used in cookery, not only for nutrition, but for their beauty, flavor and aroma.

Mrs. MacNicol has been engaged in the intriguing literary research of flower cookery for the past twelve years and the bypaths of this study were endless and enchanting.

The author, in addition to providing unique recipes for over 86 different flowers has sparked the text with many pertinent quotations from literature, history and poetry.

The publication date has been scheduled for September and is priced at \$10.00.

SEEDS AVAILABLE

The Hon. John C. Wister received a letter from Miss M. B. Gerrans, in England, offering seed of Ludlow Peony. Mr. Wister has sent us a copy of his letter in answer to Miss Gerrans—excerpts are as follows,—

“When the introduction of the Ludlow Peony was first announced many people in this country were quite excited about it because the description said the flowers were held upright and did not droop under the foliage as was the case of many seedling *Paeonia lutea* and of its hybrids. We kept hearing about how fine it was in England and plants were sent to this country by Sir Frederic Stern and later by Mr. Puddle at Bodnat and probably later still by various commercial growers.

“I cannot tell you how different people in this country may have received either seeds and plants and grown them but all the ones I happen to know who have tried it have been very disappointed in it and apparently it has grown and not bloomed, or in some cases, as in my own, it has refused to grow and by and by has disappeared.

“I do not know the reasons for this as the hybrids of Lemoine and of Prof. Saunders are all good growers and I have never heard that anyone had difficulty with the species *Lutea* itself.

“The scientists at the Boyce Thompson Institute in New York years ago worked out a seed treatment for the Moutan Peonies which, as with so many other seeds, consists of chilling and then a warm period and then a second chilling. This can be done very easily in any scientific organization, but I do not think the ordinary amateur can handle it very well. On the other hand Mr. Harold Wolfe, a former president of the Society (presently a Director) had wonderful success in

gathering his seeds in September just before they got entirely black and hard and planting them in sand about six inches deep and leaving them there until December at which time he lifted them and found they had many small white roots. These he planted again in a seed bed and protected well the first winter and had no further trouble. At Swarthmore we have raised many seedlings just by ordinary planting in the fields. Some years they come up well and some years not at all but with valuable seed, we would of course soak them and clip them as you have suggested.

“You are most generous in offering to supply seed and I am notifying the officials of the Peony Society about your kindness and you may hear from some of the members directly.”

If anyone is interested in corresponding with Miss Gerrans you may write her at the following address;

Miss M. B. Gerrans,
8 Broad Lane
Hampton,
Middlesex,
England

NOTICE

Those who wish to ship flowers to be held in cold storage until Show day, address as follows:

C. C. Pollworth Co.
For Peony Show
802 N. Market St.
Milwaukee, Wis.

If you wish our Floor Committee to stage them for you, notify—

M. C. Karrels
3272 So. 46th St.
Milwaukee, Wis. 53219

State what classes you want them entered.

PEONIES IN FRANCE

The following letter has been received from expéditeur Le Vicomte De Noailles, Villa Noailles, Grasse (Alpes-Maritimes) France:

17th April, 1968

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
107½ W. Main St.,
Van Wert, Ohio
U.S.A.

Sirs,

Having noted in Gardener's Chronicle of March 22nd a letter of Mr. J. WISTER suggesting you would be interested by information concerning peonies in foreign countries, perhaps the following would be of interest to you.

From the beginning of this century to his death towards 1930, a French specialist, Mr. PIEDOYE, living at SAINT-LAURENT-du-VAR, near NICE, hybridised tree peonies, mostly I believe using plants imported from Japan and California. He had been much encouraged by Major Lawrence JOHNSTON who, in his MENTON garden, grew many of these plants. Also by Mrs. Edith WHARTON (the Novelist) who grew them in her garden at HYERES.

I also acquired a good many of his Japanese importations which are now in my garden at GRASSE.

At his death, Mr. Basil LENG (who was in close touch with him and had acquired many for his garden at CAP d'ANTIBES) arranged for what was left to be acquired by Mr. RUSSELL of the Sunningdale Nurseries, England. I have heard that they have not done well.

A very fine collection, alas all plants nameless, grew in a garden at COSTEBELLE near HYERES, mostly planted around 1900 by Mr.

SMITH and added to between the two wars by another English owner, Sir Marc COLLET. I fear it is hardly looked after by the actual owner.

On the Riviera, we do not make much use of the LEMOINE Hybrids of Lutea which flower late and are happier in the North. I grow them in a garden at FONTAINEBLEAU with some of the Saunders varieties.

P. LUDLOW does not do well on the RIVIERA but is worth planting for its growth and foliage in the PARIS region, the flowers I think rather disappointing.

Yours sincerely,

Le Vicomte De Noailles

—o—

CLIMATIC TRENDS — A WARM PERIOD IN THE ICE AGE

Authority has it that we are now living in an Ice Age, starting for unknown reasons, about a million years ago. So far, it has featured four major cold waves, with advancing glaciers, the last of which reached a peak some 18,000 years ago.

We are now told that we are in a relatively warm interglacial period, but the ice may well start advancing again any time within the next 75,000 years.

Various lines of evidence suggest that there have been at least four previous ice ages, recurring every 240 million years or so and that in between, the earth is a much more balmy place, with an average temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

During the early years of this century, right up to 1940, we have enjoyed a much milder period than

during the series of heavy snows between 1812 and 1820.

Glaciers in the Alps and Scandinavia shrank dramatically. Since 1950, there have been signs of a colder trend. It is sobering to realize that all these changes were brought about by quite small climatic fluctuations—no more than a degree or so in average annual temperatures. But as with the big changes which bring palm trees and glaciers to our latitudes the cause of these

smaller fluctuations is unknown. And it is becoming increasingly urgent to find out, because we may have begun, unintentionally to alter the climate by our own activities—notably the dumping of vast quantities of gases, vapors, fumes and dust into the atmosphere through industrial and urban activities. But this hazard cannot be assessed, or its effects predicted, without a much better understanding of why the climate varies naturally.

Peonies Remain A Garden Delight

By Mary M. Hobbs
The Kansas City Star's Garden Editor

(The **Bulletin** gratefully acknowledges permission by Mr. Allen Harper of Kansas City, Mo., and Miss Mary M. Hobbs, The Star's Garden Editor, to reprint the following article appearing in the Sunday, March 17th, 1968, Garden Section of The Kansas City Star. Mr. Harper is a member and advertiser in the American Peony Society Bulletin. The article was contained in a full two page spread with colored pictures.)

Peonies are better planted in the autumn, but they may be put in place in spring if you can't wait to get these mainstay perennials started. Confirming this, Allen Harper adds that these should "be in the ground by the first of April, or not later than April 10" in an average year.

The long-time peony grower, who has turned to hybridizing in recent years besides taking care of his semi-hobby of 500 to 600 plants, admits that his experimentation has stretched the spring and fall planting times once or twice so that he has

"planted peonies each month but May" through the year.

In May, the peony lover should relax and enjoy the fruits of earlier labors. That's when this plant, probably one of the least demanding types of garden blossoms to grow, shows off with massive blooms of reds, pinks, salmon and white shades.

"If you do plant peonies in the spring, you have to provide summer mulch and keep them watered better than if they were fall-planted," Harper advises.

His own decision on the ideal planting time however, is at 10 o'clock the morning of Columbus day each October. He came to this pattern because Columbus day was an easy time to remember in a season when autumn weather can bemuse the gardener into forgetting what needs to be done.

"The 10 o'clock is my own preference, because I don't like to get up any earlier than I have to," Harper says with a grin.

For those unfamiliar with peony habits, Harper explains that about 60 per cent of plants placed in the

fall will bloom the first year.

"Don't cut them," he warns sternly. His short, slight stature seems to take on extra dimensions when he assumes the role of expert he deserves.

Relaxing, Harper adds that the peony grower "can cut about half of the blooms the second spring from plants, but try to leave some foliage, about half on the stem you are cutting.

"It's smart never to cut more than half of the bloom from any bush, no matter how well established it is, but snip off faded buds as high on the stem as you can unless you want to have seedlings."

* * * *

Basic Care Tips Help Success of Peonies

HARPER PROVIDES these tips to be clipped and saved by the person who wants to wait for fall when the best chance of success is offered in peony planting:

- Buy bare root stock from a good reputable grower.

- Get the division in the ground as soon after you buy it as possible.

- Be sure the root has from three to five eyes, usually the number obtained when purchasing standard commercial varieties, and with good root system to balance the eyes. Harper prefers divisions having four to six eyes when he selects stock.

- Dig a d e e p enough hole, 12 to 18 inches deep. If ground is all packed clay, be sure the hole is at least 8 to 10 inches around the root area to let roots have their best chance to get a good growing start

before winter freezing occurs.

- In the bottom of the hole, with a "good scoopful of dirt, mix a fair-size trowelful of any good garden fertilizer." (Harper said this can be such food combinations as 5-10-5 on up, just so the material is low on nitrogen. Fertiloam Winterizer at 5-13-12 is good, he has found).

* * * *

THE PEONY GROWER agrees that bone meal, often recommended, can be used if one likes it, but he doesn't use it any more "because other things work as well and are cheaper."

How deep to plant is an often-received question. Harper continues his tips with these comments:

- "My theory is against being so exact as a lot of people advise. You don't need a micrometer. Anywhere from 1½ to 3½ inches deep would probably be all right, and an average of 2 inches of soil about the eye is fine.

- "Hold the peony about where you want to plant it, and put soil in under and around it up to the base of the eyes, with the soil for this not containing any added fertilizer.

- "Put in about a gallon of water. Let it settle, then fill the rest of the soil into the hole loosely.

"Mark the location so you don't accidentally dig out the new plant."

* * * *

MANY GROWERS still use Bordeaux mixture as the means to pre-

vent or treat botrytis, about the only really bad threat to peonies in the disease line. Don't use it, Harper says, because there are later products that are available that do as good or a better job for this.

Ferbam, Zineb, Maneb or Phaltan are recommended by Harper, who has "worked a little bit with all of them." As directed on the package of any purchased product containing one of these materials, apply a spray drench or light dusting to soil when peonies start up in spring."

"Wait until the first full leaf is on in spring when shoots come up." Harper counsels. "If they start turning black, it means you have some botrytis blight. Spray them at least three times, as the product directs, through their blooming period."

Keep the peonies cultivated and put some water on them through their summer foliage season. Leaves will show wilt if you neglect the watering.

On established plants, in the autumn "as soon as leaves get shopworn, from mid-August on, cut stems to ground level and give the ground another shot of fungicide. If your ground is susceptible to fungus, you possibly should not leave foliage on too late," Harper adds.

Don't move peonies unless you have to once you start them in a bed of their own or in beds or borders with other perennials.

They can be lifted and divided if the grower wants additional plants of his varieties, but this should not be done until after the fourth year, Harper comments, and then after the sixth year this would "be so much of a job that you might as well kill them, or leave them alone, and go buy more."

Older plants start getting heavier and tend to split roots. Least labor is involved after the fourth year, he says.

* * * *

THE PEONIES Harper grows are in both specified plots and intermingled with poppies, roses, small iris that won't compete with the peonies, and daylilies.

He grows them on his lot that is about 320 feet long and 120 feet wide at 100 Northeast Eighty-first street, Kansas City North, with a redwood fence separating some growing areas about in the middle of the property.

Double blooming plants have been the mainstay of the peony world for most of the years of these long-popular garden beauties, but singles are gaining ever-widening attention.

These were developed by the Japanese and Chinese, accidentally or on purpose, and now are gaining ground in hybridizing in this country.

Harper favors the Japanese and is aiming for "strongly contrasting dark petals and centers." His first serious cross was about three years ago, he says.

* * * *

"IN BREEDING, you get a great preponderance of singles, but a few doubles have stamens you can get pollen from," Harper explains.

Few of the home owners who grow peonies probably would want to get into hybridizing them, he assumes, since it is about 15 years from the time the seed is first obtained before enough stock exists to market what you develop.

This is done by letting plants grow from seed three to four years before dividing them. Usually, bloom

doesn't occur for another two years after the division, and then the blooms are evaluated at least twice before you are certain the plant is worth introducing, he says.

Harper, an intensive garden hobbyist, finished a term in November as vice-president for region 18 of the National Iris society. He got started in peony growing about 1937 or 1938 when his wife bought a collection from Brand peony distributors.

Two or three years later, he recalls, he "got excited about them and then after 1943 when I went by Brand's fields, I decided I wanted to get into it big."

* * * *

HARPER BEGAN growing the peonies commercially, not for cut flowers at Memorial day as many

do, but to sell plants.

He explains why he quit that business and returned to work as a clerk at the main post office this way:

"I had them on a large acreage out in Grandview near the railroad tracks. After a while, I found I couldn't eat the dern things, so I went back to work to get some groceries."

As a semi-hobby grower, he raises about 125 varieties in his plantings, he says.

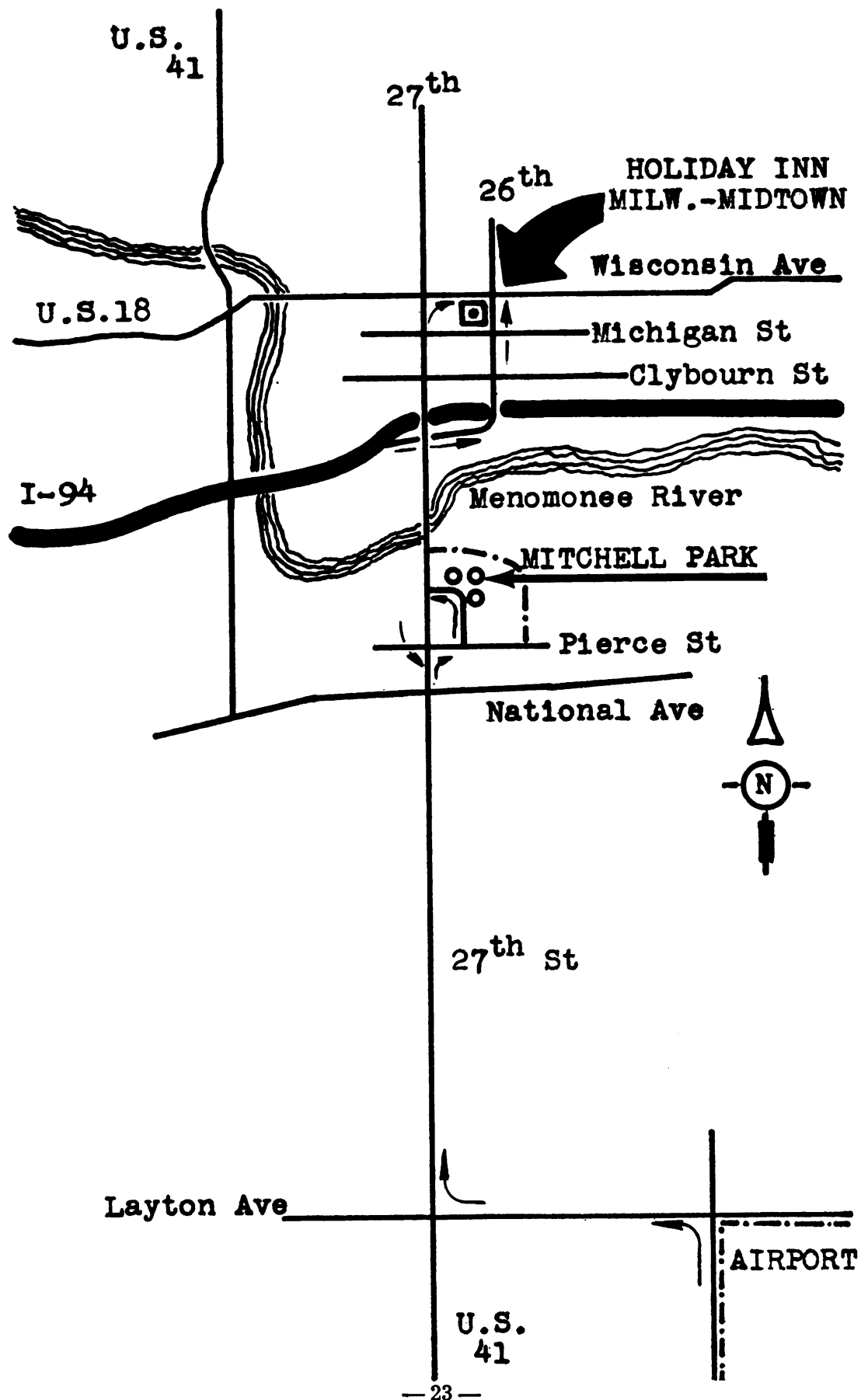
While Columbus day is his choice, Harper concludes his discussion of peonies by saying that everyone should have some, and planting any-time from mid-September to November is all right. But if spring is the only time you can plant them, he advises, go ahead.

PEONIES GROWING WILD



Paeonia officinalis growing wild in the BANULS PASS, in the very eastern end of the Pyrenees Mountains. We are indebted to Miss Silvia Saunders for this picture, one of four photographs sent to her by Dr. and Mrs. Andre Cauderon, geneticists, of France, friends of Dr. Morel. Dr. Morel, a member of the American Peony Society is also a member of the Round Robin.

The other three pictures are not close-ups, however if one peers long enough you can see quite masses of flowers. Would that we were fortunate enough to be able to print them in the Bulletin as we received them, for the colors are beautiful. However, this one reproduced in black and white was, we felt, worth a try.



1968 PEONY EXHIBITION

Mitchell Park Horticultural Domes
South 27th and West Pierce St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

and

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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BLACK PIRATE — A. P. Saunder's. It is a very dark mahogany red single, with black stains at base of petals. The petals are artistically waved and according to one grower's description, have leathery substance with glossy finish. It is true that this is a very dramatic and beautiful flower as well as a good grower with strong stems. Picture furnished courtesy of William Gratwick, and was taken by Nassos Daphnis.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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 and 25c each in quantities of 50 or more.

Back Bulletins. Current issues 50c each. Other issues \$1.00 each when available. Send list wanted for quotation on purchase of more than one Bulletin prior to current year.

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

Color Slide Collection. (35-mm slides), about 200 slides of all types, including hybrid and tree peonies. Rent \$5.00. Return Postage must be paid by renter. Insure for \$50.00. Renter supplies projector.

The Peonies. Edited by Dr. John C. Wister and published by American Horticultural Society, 2401 Calvert St., N.W., Washington D.C., 20008 has over 200-pages and many illustrations. It treats both Tree and herbaceous peonies. Write direct to American Peony Society Office for full information, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

GIFTS

Birthday Cards: Attractive cards with colored picture of peonies and verse applicable for any occasion—"Someone's Thinking of You"—Limited supply. Twelve (12) Cents each or ten (10) for \$1.20.

Note Paper: Three-fold with cover picture—an etching of peonies. These cards are hand made especially for the American Peony Society by the artist Avis Tyson. These are in packages of 8 and are Seventy-five (.75) cents per package.

Party Napkins: We now have a supply on hand for immediate delivery of white party napkins with pink peonies. Twenty (20) napkins to a package. Sell for Seventy-five (.75) per package.

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THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
107½ W. Main St.
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Blue Peony China: made by Booths of England. Carried in open stock. May be ordered from Tiffany & Company, 715 N. Michigan avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611. This pattern was selected by young Mrs. David Rockefeller, daughter of Senator Chas. Percy. Prices include Dinner plate—\$2.15@; Dessert plate—\$1.20@; B/B plate—\$1.00@; Tea c/s—\$2.15@; Rim soup—\$1.65@; Cereal dish—\$1.20@. Serving pieces are available.

Two of Klehm's Introductions



Dinner Plate



Friendly Federal

The following descriptions appeared under Department of Registration, page 33—bulletin No. 188.

DINNER PLATE: Seedling number 840S. Bloom first observed 1951. Parentage: Charley's White x Own Seedling. Double Rose Type—Mid season—No Stamens.

Stunning, Bold, immense — tetraploid. Medium pink with tint of salmon. Robust, tall and strong grower with the largest flower of any variety we have under observation.

Plant patent applied for.

FRIENDLY FEDERAL: Seedling number 850R. Bloom first observed 1952. Parentage: Own Seedlings Line Bred. Double Rose Type—Mid Season—No Stamens.

Warm, soft cameo pink with smooth buds which open into a large flower. The stems are strong with foliage similar to Mons Jules Elie. The total effect of the plant is friendly. The color is sweet and feminine.

Name trade marked. Plant Patent Applied For.

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Illinois Jay Cee Organization

Plant Patent 2011—\$3.50 each or 3 for \$9.95—Mid-Season Flowering
Lovely red peony—large and double with petal tipped silver
dark green foliage

•

ESTATE PEONY — Variety — VIVID ROSE

\$3.50 each or 3 for \$9.95—Late Blooming—lovely pink peony
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•

ESTATE PEONY — Variety — BOWL OF CREAM

Patent Pending—Full double rose type, long-lasting flowers
glistening cream white—outstanding green foliage
adaptable for landscape planting

•

Peonies not patented by us.

Variety — NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931)

Cream white with varying red candystriping tipping
some of its center pedals—Late season

•

Variety — MRS. F.D.R. (Franklin, 1932)

Shell—pink color—mid season

•

If you do not know these varieties
Watch for these blooms during the blooming season 1968
Then contact us for fall planting season.

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For such plants as Delphinium and Lark-Spur, we make wire flower supports and for long stake plants, wire plant props.

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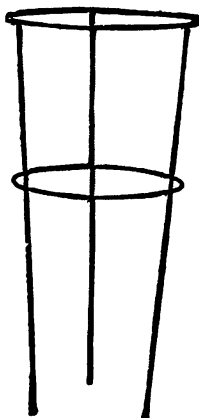
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