

American Peony Society Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1969 — NO. 195



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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

107½ W. Main St.,
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
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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 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 exhibitions, 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 for membership.

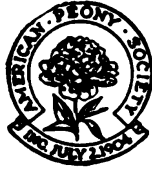
Annual dues are \$7.50. The year begins January 1st and ends December 31st. Applicants for membership should send check or money order payable to the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, c/o Secretary, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances.

THE BULLETIN

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is issued quarterly. Issues of back years \$1.00 each, to members when available.

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 Chas. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Fee is now raised to \$10.00 for each variety registered.



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WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR PEONY SPECIES?

by Silvia Saunders



This spring, in anticipation of some demand for it, and having very little myself, I wrote to some English nurseries to see whether it was possible to obtain plants of *Paeonia tenuifolia*. In the end I must have written to fifteen nurseries specializing in species and rare plants. To my dismay, every single answer came back "We have none." Some nurseries directed me to others, but when I wrote to these, the same answer was returned. I was looking for the rubra, single and double forms, and would have taken almost any quantity I could have laid hands on.

The question of Garden Help was not mentioned in any one of the replies; still I cannot help surmising that this must be one of the reasons. Be that as it may, what are we to do if our rare plants and our species disappear altogether from Commerce? If a little not-too-rare thing like *tenuifolia* can simply get lost down the cracks in this manner, what must be happening to other plants, harder to grow, to sell on the market, harder to find in their native habitats?

The Peony Society itself cannot be expected to produce suggestions,

much less answers, to problems such as this one. It will be up to some of us growers to come forward with a willingness to collect and grow some of our peony species, so that they are simply not permitted to disappear one by one from our gardens altogether.

I note that the list of Surplus Seeds for Distribution, published by the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens in Wisley, does not even list *tenuifolia* among the peonies whose seeds it offers. I do not know about Thompson & Morgan; possibly they may carry it. At least when we could obtain seed, and start the plant up again in that way.

With the growing interest in peony breeding, there might also be a growth of interest in the species themselves. Or, even if such is not the case, these little-known plants should simply not be allowed to disappear. They are too precious a part of our historic peony past.

PRETTY PEONIES POPULAR QUEEN

by Art Kozelka

Garden Editor — Chicago Tribune

When perennials are considered for the garden, peonies are certain to top the list. What other flowers offer so much beauty, fragrance, and such dependable hardiness that makes them virtually a lifetime gardening investment?

Their massive double or single blooms in all shades of pinks, reds, and whites or blends are the focal point of the garden scene in May and June, often stealing the show

from the late tulips and other spring flowers. But to enjoy them they must be planted in autumn.

Roots with plump eyes (or buds) are freshly dug by commercial

growers for autumn planting, and altho they can be set out at any time the ground can still be worked, the earlier they are planted the better.

Early planting allows the roots to "take hold" in their new location before freezing weather so they can begin vigorous growth early in the spring.

* * * *

The same holds true for lifting and dividing older plants in the garden, should this be necessary, but keep in mind that peonies, unlike most other perennials, may grow well in favorable spots for a score or more years. If you are moving and want to take favorite plants with you, or maturing trees or shrubs have deprived them of needed sun, don't hesitate to transplant them.

If you are planning to add some of the newer, outstanding varieties to your collection, or if you are planting your first peony bed, you'll find types and colors to suit every whim. In recent years, growers such as Carl Klehm, owner of Charles Klehm & Son Nursery, Arlington Heights, have produced varieties with short, stiff, weather-resistant stems and breathtaking blooms.

A remarkable series of hybrids that fall in this category, known as Estate Peonies, include these aptly named double-flowering varieties: Bowl of Cream, large creamy white; Raspberry Sundae, red and pink over white petals; Vivid Rose, bright and delicate pink; Jaycee, large, light red with silver edges; and Lois Kelsey, frilled lacy white.

Among the newer single, anemone-flowered varieties are Sea Shell, bright pink with lemon center; Burma Ruby, dark crimson; and Krinkled White, which starts as light pink and turns to a ruffled white. Peonies

in this group usually are earlier flowering, and last longer than the doubles when cut for indoor arrangements.

Because the peonies are such durable garden subjects and thrive so well and long in one place, it makes good sense to give them the utmost attention at planting time. The planting site should drain well, and permit full exposure to the sun, if possible. Also avoid locations that are near trees and shrubs that would compete not only for sun, but for moisture and soil nutrients as well.

* * * *

One of the most important phases of planting is to keep the eyes (buds) about 2 inches below the surface level. Planting holes, however should be dug at least one foot deep and about 2 feet wide, with compost, peat moss, or dried manure worked into the subsoil. When the eyes are set at the proper depth, firm the soil between and over the thick roots until the hole is filled, then water thoroughly.

The 2-inch planting depth for the eyes must be adhered to, because deeper planting may affect blooms adversely, if blooms are produced at all. For the first winter after planting a light mulch of straw or peat is recommended, but no mulch is needed once the plants have become established.

Peonies make excellent accents in either the perennial or annual borders, and of course, are truly spectacular when grown in massed beds or borders. Even when the blooms are gone, foliage kept tidy will prove attractive and can make an effective hedge.

Some gardeners find such a hedge useful along driveways and walks because when the foliage is gone there is room for piling snow as the driveways or walks are cleaned

in winter.

Top quality peony performance may not occur until the second or third year after planting, but the

chances of an abundance of blooms always are better if you purchase well-branched root divisions with at least four or five eyes.

HOW TO START A NEW PEONY PLANTING

by Clarence Lienau

In starting a new peony planting, the first decisions are about the number of plants you will have, and how and where you will locate them. They make a fine edge to a lawn, either along the back or near the fence in front. Or you might choose the center, make a bed of any size, and fill it with peonies. All these are rather personal matters and will be affected by the size of your place and the number of peonies you are planning to have.

A peony, even after blooming, makes a fine green bush, handsome until heavy frosts.

Check your soil, and if it is a good garden loam that will grow vegetables, and is not too sandy, you can go ahead. If your soil is sandy or is heavy excavation clay, or full of debris such as many builders leave in the ground, you should dig out a hole or a bed. The bigger and deeper you dig, and the finer topsoil you put back into it, the faster and finer your peonies will grow. In any case, a minimum would be two feet square and 1½ feet deep; this leaves no room for stones, so your drainage should be sharp and active.

This may sound like a large chore but remember you only do it once, and it will repay you very handsomely. As we peony men say, "Put your five-dollar peony into a twenty-five dollar hole and it will be a joy to you the rest of your life." It is a good idea to make the holes or beds as long in advance as possible—at least a month or more—so that the ground may be well settled by planting time. Peonies should be set three or even four feet apart, to allow plenty of breathing and growing space.

The time to plant peonies is during their dormant season in the fall.

Therefore this is when Nurseries ship them. The earlier in fall you can plant, the more time you are giving your peony to get well settled before frost. Peony growers usually send planting instructions, but if these are lacking, proceed as follows:

After having dug the hole, it should have been filled with fresh topsoil, into which bonemeal has been mixed. Two cups of bonemeal to each bushel of earth is not too much. Let us assume the topsoil you put into your holes or bed in June or July has now settled. Perhaps you'll need a bit more, to fill up the hole. Now mound it into a little hill, set the peony root on or into this, with the roots pointing downward, and the pink buds or eyes upward. These should never be deeper than 2 inches below ground level. One inch deep is enough in warmer latitudes like St. Louis, and just at the surface if you live in the deeper South.

Now, as to what varieties to choose! If possible, visit a peony grower in your vicinity during blooming time and make your selections. Ask his advice about the strength and dependability of the various kinds. There is a very wide variety in peonies, when you take into consideration doubles, semi-

MR. LIENAU'S LIST

	Early	Mid-Season	Late
SINGLES			
	White: Le Jour Pico	Virginia Dare	Krinkled White
	Pink: Sparkling Star	Sea Shell	Dawn Pink
	Red: Imperial Red	Mr. Thim President Lincoln	
JAPANESE TYPE			
	White:	Lotus Queen Toro-No-Maki	Bute Moon of Nippon
	Pink:	Do Tell Gay Paree Largo Neon Westerner	Polar Star <hr/> Ona-Ha-Ma
	Red:	Dignity Hari-Ai-Nin White Cap	Charm Nippon Brilliant
SEMI-DOUBLES			
	White: Susan White	Minnie Shaylor Miss America	
	Pink: Spring Beauty	Silvia Saunders	Phyllis Kelway
	Red:	Rosalie The Mighty Mo	
DOUBLES			
	White: Festiva Maxima Le Cygne Snow Mountain	Gardenia Bowl O'Cream	Ann Cousins Elsa Sass The Admiral
	Blush:	Moonstone	Nancy Nicholls Nick Shaylor
	Light Pink: Mons. Jules Elie Mr. F. D. Roosevelt Westhill Therese		Auten's Pride Dolorodell James Pillow Lottie Dawson Rea
	Dark Pink:	Ensign Moriarty Walter Faxon	Emma Klehm Helen Hayes Mme. Emile Debatene Sarah Bernhardt
	Red: Kansas	Matilda Lewis Rubio Tempest	Dixie Felix Supreme Sir John Franklin
CUT FLOWER			
	White: Mme. de Verneville		Baroness Schroeder
VARIETIES			
	Pink: Edulis Supreme Mons. Jules Elie	Reine Hortense	Helen Hayes Sarah Berhardt
	Red: Red Charm (a Hybrid)	Karl Rosenfield Mary Brand	Sir John Franklin

doubles, singles and the so called "Jap" types, plus the fact that there are early, midseason and late-blooming ones in each group, as well as a great range of colors, from white thru all shades of pink, and on into crimson.

A normal blooming season for the lactifloras (our common or garden June-blooming peonies) would be three or even four weeks. By adding a Hybrid or two to your list, you may lengthen out the season of peony bloom by as much as a week or even ten days into May. For those who cannot visit a grower, here is a list that I can highly recommend. These varieties may be purchased from most good growers; they are outstanding peonies, selected from more than 300 varieties that I have grown, over the course of more than 25 years' experience. Many of them have won prizes at our big National Shows.

SOME UNUSUAL VARIETIES

Akashigata, Do Tell, Gay Paree, Golden Bracelet, Hawaii, Neon, Madame Butterfly, Mildred Mae, and White Cap, (all mid-season) plus Lois Kelsey, (late-blooming).

HYBRIDS

These fine new kinds of peonies have added zest to the peony world. The colors are very exciting. Every gardener who grows peonies should try at least two or three of these new wonders. Here is a list of those I consider very fine. Red Charm in my opinion is the finest of all. A strong grower and free bloomer; bomb-double type, with a fine form and very unusual red color. It's a good keeper as well.

Ludovica (semi-double coral pink). Moonrise (single erect pale ivory). Lovely Rose (fine single creamy pink). Diana Parks (unusual orange-red). Sophie (fine cerise pink). Red Red Rose (glistening dark red semi-double). Cytherea

(very fine coral pink, much in demand). Prairie Moon (semi-double pale ivory). Walter Mains (the finest dark red-and-gold Jap type hybrid. Strong grower and a good bloomer. Very large fine staminodes). Carolina (large single pale pink). Athena (early large cream single, flared deep pink). Carina (fine pure brilliant red single). Lois Arleen (semi-double unusual light red; strong grower).

You may find some of these a bit hard to locate, and some a little costly, but when you consider that peonies last for many years, I feel they are well worth the price.

In ending, let me add some **DON'TS** for peony growers. These are very important. **DON'T** plant in low ground or where soil appears to stay damp or soggy at any time or in any season. Drainage is most important.

DON'T over-fertilize: 3 good handfuls of bonemeal mixed in your soil is sufficient for three years.

DON'T cut down foliage right after blooming time, but wait till fall. Then cut it to the ground and be sure to throw it well away. (Not on a compost heap).

DON'T cut blooms for the first two years.

DON'T cut more than two-thirds of the blooms on any one plant. When cutting blooms, leave two leaves on the bottom of each stalk remaining.

DON'T plant in light, sandy, soil.

DON'T plant close to large trees or shrubs which will take the nutriment from your peonies.

DO: Water young plants when necessary; give each plant 3-4 gallons of water, and cultivate again after the soil has dried out.

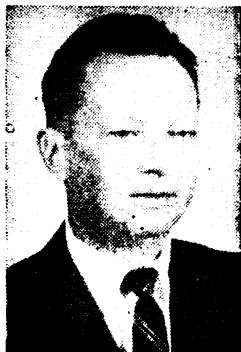
DO: If you wish the main bloom to be large, do dis-bud all side buds when they are as large as marbles or smaller.

DO: cut off faded blooms and

trim plants into nice looking bushes when the blooming season is ended. (Of course if you are saving seed, leave the old blooms on the plant).

DO: mulch the first three winters.

Finally: Proper soil, good drainage, disbudding, and most of all frequent cultivation, and you should surely be a most successful grower of peonies. It's as easy as that.



TREE PEONIES

by Leo J. Armatys

There is still time to place a gift order for tree peonies to be delivered to recipient at the proper planting time. Why not give yourself one? It will brighten your New Year and brighten each spring season from now on.

Color:

One of the big things going for Moutan is its wide range of exciting colors. Selling by color is better than not selling at all, but the trend is to named varieties. Let's face it — there are dogs, even among tree peonies, and they are usually "by color only" plants.

Judge for Yourself:

Read the new guide for peony judges, then practice in your own back yard. If your point totals don't match up with your list of favorite varieties, don't worry. You may just have demonstrated that showroom favorites and garden favorites aren't necessarily synonymous. Some of us would grow peonies for foliage effect if they never bloomed at all.

The Open Road:

Many people welcome garden visitors. I can vouch for positive benefits of one recent visit. A rosarian from Colorado had no more than stepped into my yard when he said, "Borers!" Right there in plain sight, little holes in the tips of several branches of a newly transplanted tree peony. More in several others. He cut into a stem and there was the proof. I'll keep a small bottle of clear nail polish or Elmer's glue, or a handful of thumbtacks to block

their entrance into any stems cut in the future.

My visitor is high on tree peonies, and on the lookout for dark flowered ones. Sooner or later I'll see that he gets one of the darkest.

Supply and Demand:

Look for a minor run on INFANTA and GOLDEN MANDARIN since they shared a top spot with popular HIGH NOON at the 1969 exhibition. The showing made by these lesser known hybrids points up the fact that Professor A. P. Saunders introduced few if any losers.

New Faces:

Gary P. Seaman may be destined to occupy a chair at the mythical roundtable with that small group of 20th Century tree peony experts. While still a student, his spare time was spent working for William Gratwick, protege of Prof. Saunders. Here he learned that hard work coupled with research was the rule; that rose-colored glasses were for lesser men. Gary probably knows as much about Daphnis hybrids, developed at the Gratwick nursery, as anyone except Nassos Daphnis himself. He is now Gratwick's sales manager.

My carton of plants ordered in October illustrates Gary's attention

to detail. Neatly taped to one was a notation that it would divide easily. Many won't. Recommended planting depth was marked by tape on a stem of each plant. His mark on one 3-ft. plant was 8 inches from the top! It has been said you might as well cut off all stems—they'd

be lost in a year or two anyway. Not necessarily so. When a big plant has a major portion of its stems covered, it looks upon them as part of its root system, and has little difficulty keeping the shorter exposed stems going.

TREE PEONY TOPICS

by Louis Smirnow

This year was an excellent one for all peonies and tree peonies did exceptionally well. In my visits to many gardens in the surrounding states, I was particularly impressed with the excellent growth of hundreds of young plants.

It may interest our readers to learn that many varieties of tree peonies may be lost forever. Changing conditions in various parts of Japan have caused many growers of tree peonies to enter more lucrative fields—labor problems, higher paying jobs for workers in other industries, and the new inspection methods by the Japanese authorities has created general havoc in the Niigata Prefecture, where so many good varieties originated.

The better tree peonies are grown west of Osaka but concentration on fewer varieties is being resorted to by the growers. Many tree plants are entering this country not by named varieties but by color. Our public is being asked to buy by color not by name and this is bound to lead to confusion in named varieties. Another problem is getting desirable varieties—for example, plants are being advertised as pink. How can you expect to get the salmon, Hatsu henode or the Coral, Yacheys tsubaki or the blush Momoyama when they are called pink:

.....
The following varieties will be lost very soon. I list only outstanding famous beauties—

Daigoku Den—perhaps the largest white; Arashi Yama—brilliant rose

pink; Gekkyu Den—often 12" white flowers of great beauty; Ima Showjow—outstanding brilliant rose red; Jowten Kaw—gorgeous scarlet.

How Mei—cherry red, enormous semi-double; Harv No Akatsuki—Pastel pink, deeper bare-double; Gekkeikan—rich lilac rose; Hino Maru—enormous, full double rose red; Iro No Seki—Deep salmon pink double.

Kami Kaze—large white semi-double beauty; Kenshunmon—yellowish white, purple base; Kowgyoku Den—Deep maroon, yellow center, double; Kokirin—brilliant scarlet semi-double; Kunkei—10" semi-double crimson.

Mifukumon—velvety mauve, full double; Nikko—well known Japanese faronte-scarlet; Ow Kan—fragrant, scarlet semi-double; Oto Hime—brilliant, bright red double; Reigyoku—fragrant, bright purple, double.

Sen Yow Mon—light crimson, full double; Shin Momo Zome—light pink fragrant double; Shogyowmon—large white double-bluish cast; Shutowkow—Reddish purple double Tai Hei Beni—double, red flowers variegated foliage.

I have listed only 25—there are many more which will be lost to commerce very soon.

Many people seek unusual foliage

in tree peonies. Chinese Dragon, Savage Splendor, and Yachiyo Tsubaki are especially recommended. Several Lutea hybrids other than those mentioned have interesting

foliage. For a beautiful symmetrical growth in a tree peony *Aurore* is magnificent, it's beauty lies in the perfectly round shape of the established plant.

1969 — A MEMORABLE YEAR

by Anthony J. DeBlasi

1969 has been a memorable year. For the world, it is the year that man set foot on the moon. For New York City, it is the year that we had a perfect spring. For me and my wife, it is the year that our first child, Gina Mary, was born.

Of the **first** event, I have this to say: I am glad to be alive and a witness to such a splendid achievement; it just has to be the grandest step mankind has ever taken! I would like to remind the many critics of this venture that this was not a treasure hunt but a knowledge hunt. It is also a brush with the infinite. "Man does not live by bread alone." I believe the trip to the moon marks the dawn of an era in which science and religion face each other, laugh at their former disputes, and embrace—to the betterment of all. Congratulations Armstrong, Aldrin, Collins, and the entire NASA team!

Of the **third** event, allow a proud father to say that Gina is a fine, "bouncing baby" (14 pounds at 3 months) and a joy to her parents. Congratulations Janet!

As for the **second** event, and my main topic, let me begin by saying that it will never happen again—there will just never be as beautiful a spring weather wise as we had in 1969. (Beautiful here means favorable to the garden world.) After a long, cold, snowy winter, which did not ease up until the week before spring, the weather gradually grew milder, with no sudden heat waves or cold snaps. After the start of spring, not a single frost.

Abundant rainfall and sunshine. In May, almost day after day of subdued sunshine, general cloudiness, and little rain, so as not to spoil the tree peonies! It was too good to believe! The up-shot of it all was the earliest, finest, and longest tree peony show ever. The abundance, size, and magic beauty of the blossoms spelled the kind of pure, unalloyed delight that legends are made of.

Needless to say, a price was paid. On May 29th (fortunately well past tree peony prime time) the temperature rose to 97. We picked herbaceous peonies in the bud like mad, to keep them from being sacrificed to the heat. These too were early this year and quite good. We had our own little show indoors, with peonies tucked here and there throughout the house. Visitors were asking where we got such beautiful **artificial** flowers! "Flame," especially with its enormous petals of crystal clear coral masses of long, golden anthers, was an incredible sight. This variety produces a consistently finer flower in my garden than the similar, more famous "Laura Magnuson."

One of the most beautiful red peonies (alas—only upon opening) is "Diana Parks." It is a very full bomb type, with a deep, rich color,



having no purplish cast, has velvety texture, and a delightful scent. Unfortunately it fades rapidly and unevenly and becomes a shambles in just a few days. Were it not for this bad habit, I'm sure it would knock "Red Charm" off its pedestal, overnight!

Which brings me to the seedy side of my discussion. Much has been written and said about the herbaceous hybrid peonies. I am compelled to add "my two cents" here because, in spite of the many raves these plants have received in recent years, I must say that the hybrids, as a class, are to me a disappointment. Too many of them have a habit of fading; what good are their exciting colors if they soon pale to colors that are inferior to the *sinensis* peonies? Too many of them are slow to increase. Too many of them "go underground" before the sum-

mer is over. As I write this (August 4th) there are a number of hybrids that have yellowing and deteriorating foliage. These are surely not qualities that are desirable in garden flowers.

Of the hybrids in my garden—Cardinal's Robe, Laura Magnuson, Red Charm, Victoria Lincoln, Flame, Diana Parks, Prairie Moon, Alexander Woolcott, and Chocolate Soldier the two best performers are "Flame" and "Alexander Woolcott." The others, though planted at the same time (1964), just haven't proven themselves so far. Maybe it's me—maybe it's my garden—maybe it's "them."

However, there is no question that, in my vicinity at least, Spring 1969 will go down as the standard by which all future springs will be judged. **Congratulations Mother Nature.**

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The Bulletin of August, 1919, contains interesting "Notes from a Traveler," the Traveler in question being none other than Mr. John C. Wister, visiting nurseries in France immediately after the cessation of World War I, in which he had served. He describes a visit to M. Emile Lemoine, (son of the great Victor Lemoine) then in charge of his late father's nurseries in Nancy, in the Eastern part of France. Mr. Wister describes three of the "new yellow Tree peonies": — L'Esperance, a single clear yellow, "indescribably lovely, and must take its place among M. Lemoine's greatest achievements," La Lorraine and Souv. de Maxime Cornu, both double yellows. "These three suggest that continued crosses of lutea and mou-tan may give us many beautiful and interesting things. It is a great pity that these three varieties have proved

to be sterile."

"Of interest to peony lovers," Mr. Wister goes on, "is the new herbaceous species *P. Delavayi* from China; it has small reddish chocolate flowers which are not decorative but may be of value for breeding."

Editor's comment: The paragraphs above contain many prophetic words! We wonder, however, how the term "herbaceous" crept in past the watchful eyes of both Mr. Wister and Dr. Saunders!

Later, visiting M. Auguste Desert Chenonceaux in May, Mr. Wister writes: In an adjoining portion of the garden and in several fields I saw the Japanese single tree peonies. These do not give the big mass effect of the doubles, but as individual flowers they have a grace and delicacy that no double flower can ever possess. These varieties seem

to be practically unknown in the United States, a misfortune probably due to the fact that most importations from Japan were grafted on P. moutan stock, which being strong growing soon smothered the more delicate growths of this variety. M. Dessert claims that when grafted on herbaceous peony stock

(which I will describe presently in detail) they are no more difficult to grow than the double kinds."

Editor's comment: How far we have come in fifty years: And how wonderfully worthwhile to have these valuable and prophetic comments preserved for us.

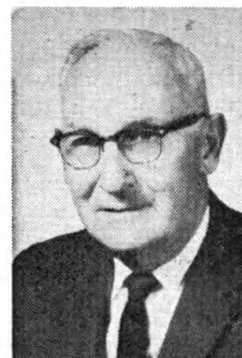
ARRANGES SOCIETY EXHIBIT

by W. A. Alexander

While at her Canadian vacation spot last summer, our publicity minded secretary-editor wrote that she had received word from the president of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs that our Society could have space for a promotional display

at the up-coming convention to be held at Bowling Green State University August 12, 13, 14, Bowling Green, Ohio, but that she would not be home by that time to prepare an exhibit. Since I was the only member of the Society on the spot, she elected me to do the job and said she would have some material sent from the office in Van Wert, and made one or two suggestions. With considerable reluctance I accepted the assignment, as I realized full well that whatever talents I may have do not lie in the realm of publicity and advertising. But this seemed too good an opportunity to get before a large number of garden-minded people the fact that there is an American Peony Society ready and anxious to help anyone interested in growing the finest of all perennial flowers; it couldn't be passed up.

Mrs. Pennell's office assistant sent me an assortment of colored photos of winning specimens, groups and arrangements, at last summer's National Show. I selected about a dozen of the most interesting which



I mounted on a large piece of cardboard in an attractive pattern. I used many of the pictures of arrangements, knowing from experience that garden club women really go for that sort of thing. A local sign painter made a poster about 24 x 28 inches with the words American Peony Society in large letters of red, white, and blue on a gray background. It was really beautifully done and most attractive. I rounded up a few Bulletins, a Peony Handbook and the pamphlet on handling exhibition blooms along with the two books on peonies which are sold through the Society, and an English book on Tree peonies. These were placed on the table at one side of the photos.

At the other side I had a peony clump in tact as dug and another divided into standard divisions, showing how peonies are propagated and sold. The names and addresses of the secretary and president were prominently displayed with an invitation to join the Society. Everything was appropriately labeled. (My son who is an architect did the lettering for me; a beautiful job.) When

I arrived at convention headquarters ready to put up the exhibit, I could find no one in charge to tell me where my spot was. So I chose the best location in the room (I was the first there with an exhibit). I moved a couple of tables to a corner diagonally across from the entrance. I stood the poster against the wall where it could be read from any place in the room, and attracted ones attention immediately on entering the room. Mr. Scott Vandersall of Pemberville helped me with the final assembly and placing of the

exhibit and made valuable suggestions.

The paper reported that there were five or six hundred women in attendance. I was unable to attend, so could not observe the reaction to the exhibit, but several people told me that it was well received and generated some interest. I know at least one person was interested as the Peony Handbook was taken. Whoever the thief was, I hope she becomes interested enough to join the Society; she will be forgiven then.

NEW PEONY PLANTINGS MADE IN TEST GARDEN

by Robert A. Phillips, University of Minnesota

(Reprint courtesy of St. Paul Dispatch Pioneer Press)

Because of their enduring popularity and because there are many new varieties which have been developed in recent years, a new planting of peonies has been made at the Dispatch Pioneer Press Test Gardens, 1033 Lincoln ave.

Twenty-seven varieties were planted in a bed last week so that they may be seen by flower lovers next spring. Each variety will be labeled so that visitors may become acquainted with them; they are all in one bed so they may be easily compared and evaluated.

This new planting came about because Mr. B. H. Ridder Sr., discovered some exciting new varieties last spring and thought it would be a good idea to help other gardeners to learn about them.

In discussing the proposed planting of peonies it was pointed out that only small divisions are customarily sold for planting in late summer and early fall and that it would take a number of years before large, well developed, floriferous plants would be obtained, at least six to eight years, which is a long time to wait to demonstrate

the superior qualities of these new varieties.

To OVERCOME this time disadvantage, Mr. Ridder proposed purchasing eight to ten year (or older) clumps instead of the conventional small divisions. (These small divisions are all right for the average home gardener who can wait, more or less patiently for them to grow to full size). So Mr. and Mrs. Ridder travelled to the Brand Peony Farm in Faribault, Minnesota, to see if large, old plants could be obtained.

They were informed that old peony plants never had been sold, but that specimen plants from their display garden could be had if they were balled and burlapped (like large evergreens) so that most of the root system would be undisturbed when transplanted.

Twenty-seven plants were selected for this experiment. Last week the Abrahamson Nursery of Scandia, Minn., sent a crew of expert planters to dig, ball and burlap, transport and transplant these peonies in the Test Garden.

Each plant was dug with a very large ball of earth tightly wrapped

in burlap. Each of these balls of earth varied from 24 inches to 36 inches in diameter, weighing from 150 to 200 pounds each.

WITH THIS kind of extreme care and expert handling the plants should experience little or no growth set-back and minor reduction in flowering next spring. Peony specialists as well as flower lovers in general are invited to see what happens next year. It is expected that there will be a good display of blooms. It will also be interesting to see the results of this new way of handling the transplanting of peonies.

Among horticulturists it is known that old peonies have occasionally

been transplanted (actually rarely) by professional gardeners.

However, little is known about the success of these efforts or the results obtained. If you have done this or know of someone who has done so, successfully or not, kindly send me a letter in care of the Dispatch Pioneer Press. There should be a written record of the results of this unusual way of transplanting.

Come to the Test Garden next spring and see for yourself the many new varieties of peonies when they come into flower. Incidentally, now is the time to plant new varieties in your own garden or home landscape planting.

LEO J. ARMATYS — OUR NEW DIRECTOR

An historical note in the concluding paragraph of the following letter received (unfortunately too late for our September issue) is indeed a prophecy!! We are printing Mr. Armatys' letter in full for we know how many of our readers look forward to his quarterly contributions in the Bulletin.

We welcome Mr. Armatys for we know his wise counsel and enthusiasm will be an asset to those guiding the destiny of the American Peony Society.

"I was truly honored by my nomination as a director of our Society. If no one demands a recount, and if amateurism isn't a disqualifying factor, I'll try to give this job the time and effort it deserves.

You may not know that my interest in peonies, tree peonies in particular, dates back little more than a dozen years, when I read an article in the American Home magazine illustrating a Japanese tree peony in full bloom. It looked and sounded too good to be true, so I ordered one. Sure enough, here was a flowering shrub that lived up to

most of the extravagant claims made for it!

Since then I've pestered such authorities as Nassos Daphnis, William Gratwick, George W. Peyton, Silvia Saunders, Sir Frederick C. Stern, Louis Smirnow, Dr. John C. Wister, Harold E. Wolfe (note the diplomatic alphabetization), the heads of several botanical gardens and assorted amateurs for information on my favorite flower. I've found that the most important and the most knowledgeable individuals are also the most approachable, and willing to share their knowledge and experience with those of us trying to learn. My correspondence file on tree peonies fills a drawer, and could be converted into quite a few interesting and informative volumes.

As a small town lawyer, with most of my six children still in school, I can't spend as much time as I'd like in my garden. How I envy those in the nursery business who can spend full time in garden related matters! My garden is small, and my tree peonies too often mov-

ed, divided (to send to interested folks or prospective members) and discarded, but I do have a hard core of several dozen that I feel are **CHOICE**, and with plans to add a few more each year. I'd like to grow the top 100 varieties—then would probably want the next 100, and so on.

Now, an historical note: The first annual meeting of the American

Peony Society was held in the Hotel Cadillac, Detroit, Michigan on June 11 and 12, 1903. At that meeting, C. S. Harrison of York, Nebraska was elected director. His term ended the following year, and it is rumored that this far-sighted man told the assembled members that another director would be elected from Nebraska when man walked on the moon!

THE COX ARBORETUM

Challenge and opportunity are two words which aptly describe the beginning development of the Cox Arboretum, new on the membership list of the American Peony Society as well as one of the newest arboreta in the United States!

It was established in 1961, through generous gifts of James M. Cox, Jr. a native of Dayton and son of James M. Cox, former Ohio Governor and newspaper publisher.

The Arboretum comprises 164 acres of the former Cox farm and lies south of Dayton on SR 741. Perennial beds have been laid out in

the entrance area for peonies, iris and daylilies (Summer and Fall 1968). Most of these plants were gifts of William H. Krekler of Somerville, Ohio. (a total of over 1,000 plants).

Mr. David Stoller is Director of the Arboretum 6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton, Ohio 45449.

FIRST "CONNIE" AWARDS GIVEN

Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 9—Seven "Connie" awards for outstanding service in the cause of conservation, preservation and beautification were announced here Thursday night during the 14th annual meeting of the Society of American Travel Writers.

These first "Connie" awards are just the beginning, stated Robert S. Kane, travel editor and president of the SATW. "We want to recognize leaders in every State, for there are scores of Americans who have performed dedicated and, in general, unsung service in the cause of quality environment. It is our hope to encourage others to carry out similar work in their respective communities."

Frederick Huette, Norfolk, Va., one of the seven recipients was cit-

ed for the development of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, for later attractions stemming from these gardens, and for nearly 50 years of work on behalf of the country's wealth of natural beauty.

Nominations for the **next selections** in the SATW's continuing "Connie" awards program will be accepted until Jan. 1, 1970. Send entries to Michael Frome, Chairman SATW Conservation Committee, 9426 Forest Haven Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

BACK BULLETINS

Our deep appreciation to Mr. Robert A. Thompson, 3803 West Main St., McHenry, Ill. 60050, who so graciously shared the following Bulletins with the Society office: June 1948 No. 109—June 1949 No. 113 Sept. 1950 No. 118—Sept. 1951 No. 122—Dec. 1951 No. 123.

Today we have received a copy of June 1943 No. 90 from Mr. Thompson. We did not have a copy on file.

Again we send out an S.O.S. for another copy of June 1948, No. 109 so badly needed to complete the library files at the National Arboretum. If you are willing to part with an extra, if you have one, do send it to:

Miss Millicent Spicer, Librarian
U.S. National Arboretum,
Washington, D.C. 20002

CONTROVERSY CONTINUED

Casey Bukro, writing in the Chicago Tribune several weeks ago stated "A quiet campaign against the indiscriminate use of DDT is being waged in the midwest by some authorities on insect control." He further stated the Chicago Park

District has stopped using DDT because it is considered dangerous to wildlife.

We understand they began using methoxychlor in their Dutch Elm disease spraying program.

Our Readers Write . . .

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Lylis T. Waite, 5634 Capstan Way, Sacramento, California 95822 joined the American Peony Society early in May this year.

Mrs. Waite wrote "My collection of peonies, about fifty herbaceous plants were purchased from Gilbert Wild and Brand Peony Farms. I only have five tree peonies, all from Mr. Domoto but will get more in the future. Mr. Domoto and his wife, both, needless to say, are interested in tree peonies and very generous with growing information. They also gave me a handful of tree peony seed when I was there to purchase tree peonies for myself and also several for gifts for gardening friends.

Mr. Domoto told me you have some publication that was sent to members last December or January with an article on growing from seed and suggested that I ask you folks to back date my membership

so I could receive a copy with this article.

I do not know anything about how peonies grow in other states so I have nothing to compare my blooms to but I am delighted with the performance of my young three year old plants. You may be interested to know that they do grow well here in California and in our Sacramento valley where we have cold winters and hot summers.

* * * *

COLORADO

Dear Peony Society Members:

I have been growing peonies for more than 30 years and I have about 80 plants, only 2 of which are tree peonies. One of the tree peonies usually blooms, the other always freezes—I suppose. I ought to make a little house for it, for protection.

I have one small advantage—excellent drainage and my plants stay healthy, tho I occasionally give them some Bordeaux mixture to

insure their well being.

I have one big disadvantage, my soil is poor and sandy but I manage to have some lovely blooms on my peonies because I give them a handful of complete fertilizer and about $\frac{1}{3}$ bucketful of cow manure 2 or 3 times every Spring, and once again in the Fall, always watering it well! If I didn't do this I wouldn't have anything in the way of bloom, they are like hungry children and must be fed. Another thing I do which is important—very early in Spring I take the hose and cut the dirt away from the top of the plants till I can see the pink eyes, then I carefully cover the eyes up again, but barely, since in this windy, dusty country peonies tend to gradually get buried too deeply. The books would say "Dig up your too-deep peony and replant it" but it works better for me to wash away the dirt and leave the roots undisturbed.

Our weather varies from 100 or more in Summer (and bone dry air) to the coldest I remember in the more than 40 years I have lived here—and that was 31 below zero.

Planting directions will say "After the ground is frozen a light mulch should be placed on new plantings—but here in Colorado you may freeze at night and the next day will be warm as Summer—things seldom stay frozen as they are supposed to.

I always disbud my peonies, except perhaps the singles of which I have only 3. The best bloomers of all, perhaps, are Mons. Jules Eli and the Mighty Mo, but almost always my peonies open well and are beautiful—just *once* in a while if it turns unusually bad I have trouble with some of the late ones, but from what I read I am not alone in this.

I do the best I can for my peonies and I am more than rewarded when they bloom—they are beautiful!

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Mary McGlothlin

417 W. Corona Ave.,
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

* * * *

BRITISH COLUMBIA

John E. Marquis, 1112 Beatty Ave., Nelson, B.C., Canada wrote Oct. 9th, "As usual I had a fine display of what peonies I have. Of course, nothing like I once had. What I like most about peonies is the small amount of work to keep them blooming. You do not have to worry whether they will get winter killed like many of my rhododendrons. I lost a few of them last winter. We had a real hard winter and I feel that if it wasn't for the four feet of snow, casualties would have been severe. Our coldest was -22 and for six weeks it froze continuously."

* * * *

INDIANA

James Wyrick, 5600 Clinton Road, Terre Haute, Ind. 47805 wrote us several weeks ago that he had received some nice letters and instructions from members having read his letter reprinted in this column. He was most appreciative. "I thought you would like to know," he wrote. Thank you Mr. Wyrick! He further stated "I gathered several seed from my best peonies and planted last fall. I have 420 peonies now and have plans for 500 by fall this year (1969) I also have gladiolus, about 5,000 this year."

* * * *

IOWA

Mr. and Mrs. William Shroyer have recently purchased a house at 1102 North Sycamore, Creston, Iowa 50801 and with it acquired at least 202 peony clumps. Mrs. Shroyer wrote us for "Help!" and stated "When we bought the house all was under snow and when the peony leaves began popping up all over dark red leaves, dark green, light green, fern leaf and I think, some that are tree peonies which come

out of woody stock—you can see how much we need help! We found your address in "The Golden Garden Guide" a paperback put out by Golden Books."

The Shroyers have since joined the American Peony Society and purchased the book "Peonies Outdoors and In." When sending in their membership they told us the home had been built in 1924 by Thomas York who lived there until about 1961. We are sorry we have no information in our files about Mr. York or his interest in or purchase of peonies. If any of our readers do, won't you write the Shroyers?

* * * *

KANSAS

Edward Lee Michau, 1412 North Georgie, Derby, Kansas 67037 joined the Society in September of 1968. He told us he bought his first peonies in 1960. This was a joint venture with his sister, who lives next door.

Mr. Michau stated he is 43 years of age and works full time as an Engineering Technician in Infra-red research for the Boeing Company in the Wichita plant.

He purchased a copy of *Peonies Outdoors and In* and read other sources then in 1962 he made his first crosses the first blooming very early in 1965.

In his letter dated July 15, this year he stated "I now have 21 seedlings, more than 1 year old. 15 have bloomed. I took 8 blooms to the District Show in Kansas City. I have 90 or so seedlings that germinated this spring."

In 1961 Mr. Michau obtained a few hybrid and species peonies from Wild's and a few of his seedlings are hybrids. "In the fall of 1968 I received 17 hybrids and species from Silvia Saunders and 5 hybrids from Wild's. "These," he stated, "have been used in attempted crosses this spring, along with herbaceous

and tree pollen brought back from Kansas City."

"We had a very unusual season (snow, excessive cold, unusual warmth, re-freezing followed by rain, hail, and wind.) I lost 8 or 10 of last years seedlings and later when excessive heat began, lost late Windflower and Mlokosewitschi obtained from Miss Saunders.

My older seedlings are in a protected location and bloomed profusely, but most of my named varieties did not produce even enough to enter specimen blooms in the Kansas City Show. As a result, most of my crosses this spring have been on my seedlings plus a few among the hybrids and on *Festiva Maxima* which seems never to fail. I intend this fall to divide my seedlings which have bloomed. I shall also obtain some plants that impressed me at the show—including a couple of tree peonies. I already have 2 tree peonies (my sister has 3) but mine were so very small it will probably be years before they bloom—Here's hoping for improved plants and new shades for us all!!"

* * * *

WISCONSIN

Harold W. Warren, 2985 Riverside Drive, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511 has a small Nursery "For my own enjoyment," he wrote. "I have various perennials, including daylillies, tulips, daffodils iris and peonies. Since this is still a hobby with me my entire sales of what I grow are limited. I am an amateur when it comes to peonies. Last year was a pleasure and a disappointment with peonies. Bloom in 1968 was two weeks after Memorial Day and lasted just a short time. Oriental Gold finally produced six flowers after waiting four years and I was delighted. September 1968 started out wet so digging and transplanting was at a minimum and with the help of two of my sons I only managed to move

I have had peony roots since 1948 and now have only about 70 varieties totalling around 900 plants.

Working in a shop, raising a family and trying to enjoy life as we go makes time go much faster than I desire. I have enjoyed your Bulletin very much in the past years and look forward to receiving it again." Mr. Warren joined in 1966.

* * * *

OREGON

Carl T. Morris, Rt. 1, Box 117, Jefferson, Oregon 97352, wrote — "Thanks for your interest in my flowers. They are still here though the weeds and grass are trying hard to do them in. I'm not as spry as I once was and my wife is not able to do any garden work at all. We are thankful that, come what may, we always have some flowers to enjoy.

You asked me about my double yellow tree peony which I divided. Would you believe, maybe 85! That was the latest count two days ago, also I have sold about a half dozen. I enjoy seeing the first blooms open.

At present I am considering hybridizing. I have only about a dozen herbaceous peonies and hardly know how to make up a collection of the best varieties to use. I am on social security and cannot afford to 'spend money like crazy' but will buy a few to start. Suppose I'd be better off to forget the whole thing, but so far I've been having lots of fun with my flowers!"

Mr. Morris wrote us in 1967 that he had about 150 tree peonies. "About 15 years ago," he wrote, "some of our friends moved away and upon leaving gave us two double yellow tree peony plants. They never failed to bloom." Mr. Morris said they enjoyed them more than any flowers they had. In 1967 he had 30 new plants "instead of one big one." He said the double yellow

ones had a lovely and most enjoyable scent. At that time Mr. Morris stated he would give some thought to joining the Society, and did so in July, 1968. He re-newed his membership in July this year.

* * * *

PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph T. Kramer, 113 N. Walnut St., Mt. Carmel, Pa. 17851 told us "It is just three years that I have been raising peonies. I have seventy-five plants about ten hybrids. I intend to plant a few more. I like them very much and they make a nice show."

Mr. Kramer joined the Society in May, 1968.

* * * *

TENNESSEE

Mrs. Rosa Webb, 3331 Van De-venter St., Knoxville, Tenn. 37919 wrote us she started planting peonies in 1959. She purchased some that were not labeled and received several un-named from friends. "My named varieties include Rubra Plena, Adolph Roseau, Felix Crousse, Midnight, Thor, Rosafel, Mons Jules Elie, Floweret of Eden, Angelo Cobb, Sarah Bernhardt, Phoebe Cary, Mt. Everest, Festiva Maxima, Solonge, W. W. Black, Edulis Superba."

Mrs. Webb planted the following in 1967 and 1968: Kansas, Phillipe Rivore, Walter Faxon, Mons Martin Cahuzac, Nick Shaylor, August Desert, Mable L. Gore, Henry Webster. She has 2 tree peonies, not included in the 50. "I have Kin Ka Ku," she stated. "It bloomed May 10, 1967 and no bloom in 1968. Taiyo has not bloomed. Had these since 1966. I have one from J. W. Jung Seed Co. listed as Giant Red which bloomed in 1968. It is all most like Rosafel and was covered with flowers. My interest in red peonies has been to find one like was grown on the home place when I was a child. It was medium tall, velvety red purple, very dark. I hope it is one I may

now have which has not bloomed as yet. If I can give any help with anything, let me know—thanks for everything.—”

* * * *

VIRGINIA

Burnley M. Tabokin, 7012 Hunter's Court, Norfolk, Virginia 23513 stated in reply to our request for information—“My interest goes back some 25 years ago when I moved some plants my father had that were about 25 years old. What time could

not do to these plants my German shepard dog did. He managed to destroy the bushes I had. I am going to start again this fall with a new lay out. This promises to be a good challenge as I also changed dogs. I hope the Beagle is more considerate of our favorite plant.” (Ed Comment: Readers—you will note in the Membership List that Mr. Tabokin is a Sustaining member of the Society. Doesn't this prove his interest in peonies as well as being a dog fancier?)

WEATHER FORECASTS

A sudden wind blowing from the east is an indication of a heavy rain coming.

Besides being able to lead you to a pot of gold, rainbows are also purported to forecast the weather. If the amount of green in the rainbow is large and bright, it is a sign of continued rain. If red is the strongest color, there will be rain and wind together. If blue is the

most prominent color, it will be fair soon. A rainbow in the late afternoon indicates that fair weather will follow, while a rainbow in the morning is a sign of more rain.

The Assiniboin Indians of Wyoming believe that the winter will be mild if the badgers are all dark in color and if no white wolves are seen.

INTRODUCING DR. DAVID REATH

“GREETINGS . . . For seven years we have been hybridizing peonies, a hobby which has proven to be the most fascinating branch of horticulture. Several articles pertaining to the breeding of peony hybrids, written by the late Prof. Saunders, stimulated this great creative desire. Shortly after studying these fine articles the rewarding friendships with the renowned plant breeders Mr. Orville Fay of Northbrook, Ill.; Dr. R. Griesbach of Park Ridge, Ill.; Brother Charles of Mission Gardens, Techny, Ill.; Mr. Edw. Auten, Jr. of Princeville, Ill.; Mr. Arthur Murawska of River Grove, Ill.; and others further kindled this interest.

The peony world is indeed fortunate that Miss Silvia Saunders (daughter of Prof. Saunders) continued to operate the Saunders Peony

Nursery after her father's retirement. Miss Saunders has very systematically distributed the rare hybrids which existed in “The Ribbon.” It is these plants that the peony breeders, and the gardeners as well, have found to be so valuable.

During the past seven years I have accumulated a number of peony varieties, some for use in hybridizing, others for use as a standard of comparison in evaluating seedlings being developed here. I have decided to make available all varieties as soon as propagation permits. A large number of rarer hybrids have been received from Miss Saunders and will be released as soon as propagation permits.

Sincerely,

David Reath

Box 251 Vulcan, Mich. 59892

NEW VIEW OF PEONIES

Re-print courtesy Thomas Powell, Editor and Publisher
The AVANT GARDENER. Article appeared in the August 1st, 1969 issue.

Peonies are one of the few true "minimum maintenance" perennials, says a landscape contractors' magazine, recommending them highly for public plantings. Thus this old-fashioned flower has become ideal for modern gardeners. Certainly no other plant gives so magnificent a display for so little attention. Its needs are simple, pests very few, and landscape uses many.

Two trends we've noted in peonies are their increasing appearance in small gardens, and growing popularity for the new dark reds. The latter can be attributed largely to Edward Auten, Jr. Mr. Auten, who received 7 Awards of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society and 3 of the 6 medals awarded to date by the American Peony Society for outstanding originations, writes us: "One achievement which I especially prize has been the origination of dark red peonies in all types of bloom, that show little if any purple and do not get ugly as they fade..." Mr. Auten is now retired, but 75 of his finest varieties are offered by Gilbert H. Wild and Son (Sarcoxie, Mo. 64862; catalog 50c).

An incentive to growing herbaceous peonies for shows is their amen-

ability to storage. A commercial growers' manual advises cutting buds just as the first petal unfolds, soaking in water 2 hours, then storing at 32 degrees in waxpaper-lined boxes or plastic bags. Flowers stored thusly will keep 4 to 6 weeks. On removal, recut the stems and soak in lukewarm water for 12 hours before showing.

An excellent refresher course on peonies is the "Handbook" of the American Peony Society, 107½ West Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Ed. Comment: We have received a number of requests for Handbooks due to the above article. Wasn't it Abraham Lincoln who said "Publicity is the life-blood of any organization."?

From the Editor's Desk . . .

S O S

Have you ever had a suppressed desire to play detective? If so, we have a problem for you!! Please help us locate Gladys Zunsner (Mrs. Joseph). September 25th, 1969, we received a government card from her requesting information about the Society. Mrs. Zunsner failed to give her address. The government postal card was not cancelled, therefore we do not even know the town, state and zip code. The office would appreciate your help! Also, the Membership Committee!

* * * *

We mentioned in the September Bulletin, the 1969 revised edition of Arno and Irene Nehrling's first book entitled "Gardening, Forcing, Conditioning, and Drying for Flower Arrangement." Since that time we have been privileged to receive a copy. It has been said this is the only book devoted to planting for year round flower arrangements. The first book was published in 1958. The revised edition is profusely illustrated with 24 photographs and 127 drawings.

Our interest in this book was due to the request we received for photographs of arrangements using peonies. At that time we had but one picture and that not acceptable. Mrs. Charlotte Sindt, wife of the American Peony Society vice-president W. G. Sindt, was gracious in sending pictures of her prize winning arrangements entered in Peony Shows. We were disappointed that hers were not selected, however, the one accepted by Julia S. Berrall — a Roche photo — is indeed interesting.

Many of our members have purchased the Nehrling's book — "Peonies Outdoors and In." Arno and Irene Nehrling have been a successful husband-and-wife writing team for several decades. They met at Cornell University, where she was a pioneer in teaching flower arrangement and techniques and methods and he was a Professor of Horticulture. Since then, they have written seven previous books. These have all been published, by Hearthside Press Inc. 381 Park Avenue South, New York 10016.

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Butler, Dayton, Ohio, wrote briefly of their European trip and commented on peonies blooming in the Alps of Bavaria and Switzerland. "We threw snowballs and took pictures of spring flowers beside the melting snow banks of the St. Gotthard Pass. A few miles down the mountains, normal summer held sway. I know now how the Europeans got the reputation for being such great gardeners ... the climate from Amsterdam to northern Italy is much more amenable to floraculture. There are drawbacks though ... a friend in England said her tomatoes seldom ripen on the vine ... not enough sun!

Mr. Butler is Urban and Suburban

Commentator for WHIO-AM-FM-TV in Dayton. He was most gracious in extending Mr. Pennell and me the opportunity to show and discuss peonies on his television program June 6th, this year. He has extended us the opportunity of returning during the blooming season in 1970.

We wish that more of our members would avail themselves of the opportunities of showing peonies on television or color slides if peonies are not available.

* * * *

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will present the 1970 Philadelphia Flower Show March 15 through 22 in the Philadelphia Civic Center. The American Peony Society will be included in a directory of PLANT SOCIETIES to be carried with the Flower Show Program also incorporated in a comprehensive Gardeners Guide. Ernesta D. Ballard, Director of the PHS states eighteen thousand copies of the GUIDE will be printed.

* * * *

Correction: On page 4-September Bulletin — Miss Saunders states the Gratwick Exhibit at Mansfield was awarded the Farr Medal. It was the James Boyd Medal as later stated on page 6. Apologies are offered for the error.

* * * *

CORRECT ADDRESS — PLEASE!!

Please notify the office if changing your address. We pay at least ten (10c) cents for every returned Bulletin. If the forwarding address is marked on the returned envelope, we address another envelope put on more stamps and send on. This means a delay of at least 2 months and sometimes 3 and there is the probability the Bulletin might not be returned to this office. We will appreciate your assistance.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. John Philip Baumgardt, a recent contributor-June 1969-No. 193, was recently elected as Mens Garden Club of America's Second Vice-President by unanimous vote at the 1969 convention. Currently serving as Third Vice-President, he will assume the new vice-presidential position in Jan. 1970. A graduate from the University of Missouri with a degree in biology, Baumgardt pursued post-graduate studies and received his Doctrate in 1953 with a major in Phytopathology.

While teaching, following completion of his graduate studies, he developed and organized a horticultural consultation program, for the Kansas City Board of Park Commissioners. From 1958 through 1966 Baumgardt served as executive director of the consultation operation, called the Garden Center, where he developed program series, monthly horticultural bulletins and other related activities. Each summer, under Baumgardt's direction, the Center sponsored an international tour of important gardens.

Miss Silvia Saunders has written us with each of her minutes and articles, asking that her name not be used. However, we believe that credit should be given where credit is due!! We all know Miss Saunders' capabilities as a writer and wish that she would write more often!! The recent article 'Those Other Peonies' appearing in the September issue of Horticulture Magazine has been widely acclaimed and certainly focused attention as well as stimulating interest in Peonies. A **Art Kozalka**—Garden Editor, The Chicago Tribune, resides at 426-55th St., Downers Grove, Ill. 60515. We are indebted to him for photographs and his many articles in the Tribune regarding peonies as well as permission to re-print the article in this issue.

We look forward to see articles for the Bulletin next year!

1970 ANNUAL

MEETING AND SHOW

Roy Klehm, Chairman of Arrangements for the 1970 annual Meeting and Show to be held June 13th and 14th, announces plans are being completed for staging the Peony Show in the Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago.

Meeting and banquet will be held in Henrici's O'Hara Inn. The Inn is located near the O'Hara Airport and is mid-way between the Conservatory and Klehm's Sunburst Farms where all activities will be held on Sunday the 14th.

Roy states buses will be provided to transport members and immediate friends to the Farms where the Klehms will host a barbeque at noon. Hay rides through the peony fields (yes the peonies will be in bloom—acres of them) and field demonstrations by Nursery crews are a part of the plans for the day. This promises to be a gala occasion. District V members will serve on the various committees.

Garfield Park Conservatory

This Conservatory is considered one of the most colorful attractions in the Chicago Park District. Its 5,000 species and varieties are conservatively valued at more than \$1.5 million. The ground area covers four-and-a-half acres. Included among the many Houses are the Palm House, the Fernery, Horticultural Hall, Aroid House, Cactus House and Economic House.

Peonies are grown for both their flowers and beautiful foliage. Peonies can be used in almost any position in the garden. They are at home in almost any situation, and as for cut flowers, they are absolutely invaluable!!

GARDENING IN ARIZONA

By Ben Massey

"Gardening in Arizona," is a topic I promised to write you about. People knowing our interest in Peonies, often ask how our plants are doing in this state. Peonies are the first love of Anna and I, but unfortunately, we grow none here.

We live in the small retirement town of Youngstown, which is twelve miles northwest of Phoenix. The Phoenix area is too warm for Peonies, as this plant, contrary to humans who have sinus, arthritis, etc. they like to have cold feet. People get a letter from a friend in Arizona discussing the mild year round climate, and that evening, hear over the radio of a big snowstorm in Arizona. This can be confusing, but both reports are correct. It is a matter of altitude.

Arizona is a large state in the southern Rocky Mountains. Incidentally, about 75% of the state is owned by the Federal Government. So, the terrain is mixed with depressions and mountains. The Phoenix area is equivalent to a circle of about sixty miles diameter, flat, and less than a thousand feet altitude. Long before the Europeans came, the Indians valued the area, and called it "The Valley of the Sun". It is so called today. It is a citrus fruit area and that means, there is no ground freezing. In mid-winter we have only very light frost.

In the higher altitudes there is real winter, with heavy snow. Old Prescott is about a mile high and Flagstaff is about 7000 ft. Nearby the latter, are the San Francisco Peaks, about 13,000 ft. high and snow capped most of the year. In these higher altitudes peonies do very well. So, when we located in Youngstown, we knew Peonies were out for this area, but we got some good varieties of Iris and Daylilies.

These will survive and bloom but not good enough to suit us. They simply do not come up to their gorgeous blooms in the north and east — too much sun.

There are too many beautiful blooming plants for this area that love the climate, so we turned our interest to them. In early October or November, we put out small plants of stock, snapdragons, calendulas, sweet peas, and many variations of petunias. These start blooming just after the Christmas holidays, with the calendulas usually coming before. Roses are perfectly at home here and we believe we just about match California with rose blooms. We can have their blooms twelve months of the year. The Dutch Iris bulbs are planted, stay in the ground the year round, and are gorgeous in March. They just keep multiplying.

One of our most ornamental garden plants is the old pyracantha. Here, they make hedges out of it, grow it into a bush, and also train it on a trellis or porch. In this retirement community the majority of the houses have their fronts painted red and green with the pyracantha and its prolific red berries. The berries ripen just before Christmas and make their maximum display during Christmas holidays.

And, speaking of roses, Tombstone, Arizona, claims to have the biggest rose plant in the world. It might be just about that! In the roaring pioneer days, when Tombstone was a rip-roarin' silver mining town, this plant was put in. It seems a forlorn Scotch girl, made the mistake of marrying one of these rough miners. She wrote of her loneliness back to the home folks in Scotland and, to cheer her up, they sent her a little Bancharose plant. This was before the turn

of the century. This plant grew and grew and is still growing. The trunk of it, up to about 6 ft., is as large around as a big man's waist. The top of it is trained over a trellis that spreads out over thousands of sq. ft. of space. It has a small white single bloom that is quite fragrant, and it makes a grand display each Spring. This plant, one time, was the subject of the late Ripley's "Believe it or Not" column. We don't believe California can match this!

Of course, all of our plants must be watered or irrigated. Over most of Arizona the rainfall is only six or seven inches annually. This is not enough to support plant life, except those adapted to the desert. Many varieties of the desert flowers are beautiful. The giant Saguara cactus looks odd with its delicate white blooms edged around the top. There are probably hundred of varieties of the cacti, and most of them bloom. They have a great variation in both color and form. The country roadsides at this time of the year, are fairly well decorated with the desert flowers.

Another indication of Arizona's variable terrain and climate are the White Mountains in the northeast part of the state. They get enough rainfall to support a moderate lumber industry. This region has the largest forest of the ponderosa pine in the country. It has beautiful mountain scenery, equal to that in any part of the country.

About our hometown. Youngtown was started a dozen years ago as strictly retirement community. Now it has about 1500 retirees. Alongside of us is the newer, but much larger retirement center of Sun City. It has over 12,000 retirees and is growing at the rate of about three houses per day. Every state in the union is pretty well represented. Every kind of a hobby you can think of has at least one club. The

service clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions, thrive. We have ten or twelve churches finished and more coming along.

Our building plot is only 60 x 100 ft. but that is quite enough for we senior citizens who are getting more senior each year. About the foundation are our flower beds. When we came, there was just enough room in the back of the house for two citrus trees, so we planted an orange and a grapefruit six years ago, with a height of about six feet. They are robust now, particularly the grapefruit tree, which is about twelve feet high and a branch spread with a diameter of 15 or 18 ft. Recently we picked the last of the oranges, 539 (by Anna's count). From the grapefruit tree we have picked 671 and there are about seventy-five left (Anna's count). It is doubtful if any Peony grower in Minnesota or Illinois can top this!

Over the years we have had fun and much interest with various ornamental plants, however, our interest undoubtedly, was first sparked by the intrinsic beauty of the Peony.

DID YOU KNOW?

"... a garden is a public service and having one a public duty. It is man's contribution to the community. It is not enough that law and order be preserved in our communities—only the policeman with his truncheon would stand between us and chaos if law and order were all we desired. No, it is the mark of an upward-looking civilization that men make beautiful gardens, that the joy of the tulip and the flowering shrub be shared with other men . . ."

Richardson Wright
(Truly Rural, 1922)

PUBLICATIONS

Handbook of The Peony — A 36-page booklet containing concise articles on why and when to plant, the care, culture and propagation of peonies of all kinds, including 8 pages on Tree Peonies. Three line drawings, and 8 black-and-white photographs are included, as well as lists of varieties and sources. Price: \$1.00 each. 25 to 49 copies, \$.75 each. Over 50 copies, \$.50 each.

Back Bulletins. Current Issues, \$1.00 each, to members. \$2.00 to non-members.

Peonies Outdoors and In by Arno and Irene Nehrling (1960). Hearthside Press, 381 Park Avenue, South, New York, N.Y. 10016. 288 pages, including 11 color plates and 118 black-and-white sketches and photographs. A complete guide to selecting, growing and using herbaceous and tree peonies. A 50-page section on Peonies Indoors including Arrangements, and How to Stage a Show. About 40 pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price: To Society members, \$4.95. To non-Members \$5.95. Send check or money order to American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

The Peonies, edited by John C. Wister (1962). Published by the American Horticultural Society, 2401 Calvert Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. 220 pages, packed with up-to-date information on Herbaceous, Tree and Hybrid Peonies. Many techniques of growing, propagation and breeding. A must for every Hybridizer. Profusely illustrated. Send check or money order to American Peony Society, 107½ W. Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891. Price to Members: Clothbound \$3.50 Paperbound \$2.50. Non-Members, \$5.00 and \$3.00 respectively

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- Set of Tree Peonies
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- (2) Rental fee, \$5.00. Checks made payable to American Peony Society.
- (3) Slides must be ordered at least 6 weeks in advance, mailing request to the Slide Chairman:

Steve C. Moldovan
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- (4) Slides are to be returned promptly to the Slide Chairman. Return postage, including insurance, must be paid by the rentor, and be insured for \$50.00.
- (5) A charge of Two Dollars (\$2.00) is made for every slide missing when set is returned. Count slides when received and again before sealing for return.



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