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The American Peony Society Bulletin

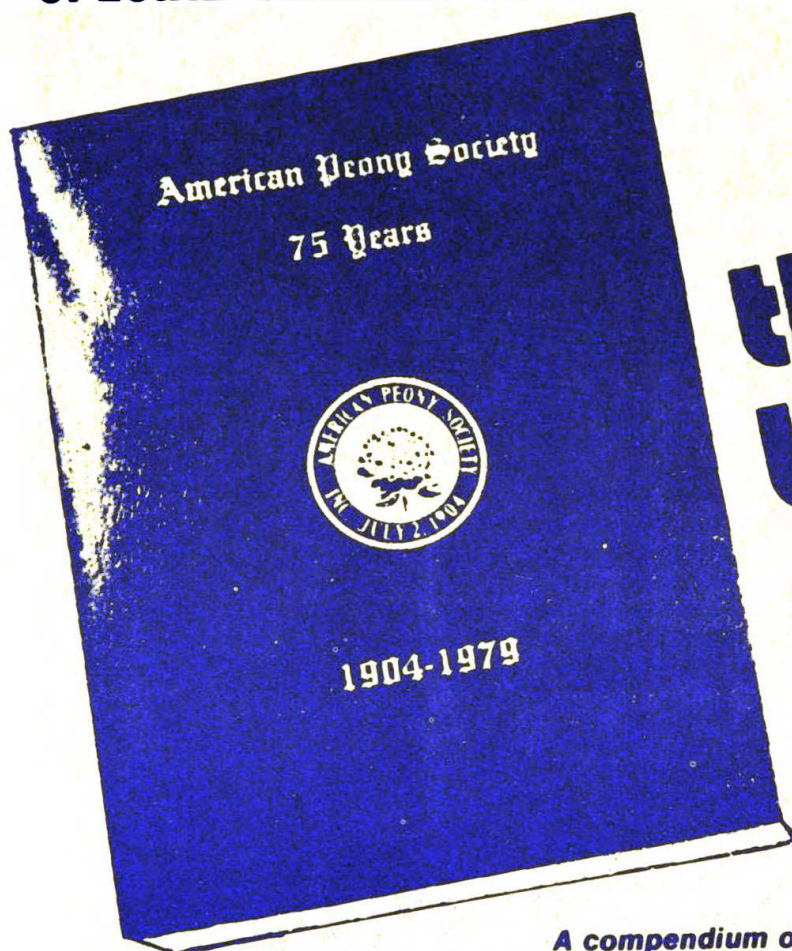


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Compiled and edited
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MOVING AT THE TEMPO OF THE PEONY

by *Anthony De Blasi*

An Italian proverb has it that *chi va piano, va sano, e va lontano*: "He who proceeds slowly moves safely and goes far." That fits the American Peony Society like a broken-in pair of shoes. In the society's eighty-year walk, so far, there has been no shuffling about on tortoise feet, however, but a deliberate, steady climb to a dramatic present. Crystal red peonies and luminous coral ones have established themselves in gardens where once only non-hybrid whites, pinks, and reds bloomed. Tree peonies, once rare, shimmer every spring in some garden in almost every neighborhood, some in styles and colors never before seen. Yellow peonies are no longer dreamed of but grown.

In the wake of such giant steps, the yet unfulfilled possibilities of the peony still keep hybridists busy sketching the peony's future with their pollen brushes. With no plateau in sight we move on toward a golden age of peonies. That future includes plants with unstinting performance under all conditions of culture combined with all the beauty that distinguishes today's cultivars. It will feature yellows, apricot shades, purples, and lavender with the magnificence of form found in the whites, pinks, and reds. We expect to see a race of Alpine types suitable for the rock garden as well as shrubs for landscaping. The peony's season of bloom will extend further into summer with later, easier-opening types. We have no crystal ball, of course, and our dreams may never match the genetic possibilities. But when we consider the many unique alterations of the genus already accomplished, and in progress, there is room for optimism.

All this with the peony's slow nature! For every new peony making it to the list of registered varieties, half a dozen iris or roses pop on the scene. The speed with which some new flowers are introduced is breathtaking by comparison to the slow-motion progress of the peony. This must be disconcerting to some, but I view it as a blessing. The slower pace, like that of the flower it celebrates, gives the octogenarian APS a teenager's vigor and enthusiasm. (A six-year-old dog is a middle-aged animal, thanks to a faster pace.) The plus in this is that a built-in lag cultivates patience and anticipation, two qualities that keep us young inside.

The reason why Peony People are so dedicated and enthused over their pet flower is that the peony is special. What other plant that is hardy to subzero temperatures provides an abundance of glamorous flowers—some like roses, and even perfumed like them—with petal textures and sheens found in orchids? All with virtually no attention? With no thorns! Without resetting! And for generations! A lovingly planted peony, either herbaceous or tree, is a gardener's friend forever, eager each spring to demonstrate the power of creation with a truly spectacular unfolding of leaves and blossoms. To paraphrase a sweepstakes commercial: What is your excuse for not planting another peony? Come on, plant it! — 1 —

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

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 kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is the official Society publication. It is mailed postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing.

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. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual.....	\$ 7.50	Junior or member family.....	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial.....	20.00	Life.....	150.00
Family Annual.....	10.00	Commercial membership.....	25.00
Family Triennial.....	27.50		

Family membership, any two related members in same household..... One Bulletin
Junior membership, any age through completion of high school..... Separate Bulletin

For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

Contributing.....	\$25.00	Supporting.....	\$100.00
Sustaining.....	50.00	Patron.....	250.00



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



March 1983 — No. 245

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Commemorating our 80th year, this issue of the Bulletin is dedicated to all our octogenarian members. There are many.



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Eighty years ago, confusion reigned because of peony names. A plant could have many different names, and different varieties the same name. It was because of this ridiculous disarray, the American Peony Society was formed by an interested group of men who decided this must be corrected.

Arrangements were made at Cornell University to undertake this big problem of correcting, and untangle this mixed and careless use of peony names and establish an accurate nomenclature.

As the plants break through the ground this eightieth spring since their meeting, let the beauty of the bloom remind us of the debt we owe. We continue with a nomenclature that was corrected and all of us must strive to keep it so.

A wide variety of beautiful blooms will be displayed at the National show in Milwaukee this June. Please come.

Edward Lee Michau



BUILDING A PEONY COLLECTION

Joe Glocka, West Allis, Wisconsin

The American Peony Society has recorded a good number of achievements in its 80-year history. One of which helped distribute garden varieties throughout the country, has been the annual peony root auction held in conjunction with annual meetings.

Those of us who are serious peony growers never fail to glow with excitement upon securing a new specimen to add to our collections.

Will it live up to its name? Will it do better in my garden than where it came from? Will it round out my grouping of doubles, or

hybrids? Great anticipations are always in the offing upon getting a new root.

And how do we get these new roots?

Well, you can get one from Aunt Martha when she sets upon relocating a favorite eyecatcher. You can perhaps make an even-steven swap with a peony-growing colleague. Or, you can ponder over the contents of a peony catalog to make a purchase from a nursery which takes pride in stocking only correctly labeled varieties.

But the most exciting of all takes place in the peony shoppers' marketplace—the annual auction.

These annual auctions are held in the spring following the business meeting of the National Peony Society during the National Peony Exhibition—and also through district meetings in the Fall of the year.

Inventory from the auction is built up through root donations from the membership, both private and from those professionally engaged in nursery peony propagation.

The auctioneer begins with a disarmingly low, low price for a generally very prized root. Through his legerdemain of words, he gradually builds the price until that last, long pause where he says: "SOLD" — and this with such finality that many times you wish you had entered still another bid. When a root does become yours, you handle it ever so tenderly as you exult in your success. You look it over with the eye of a diamond cutter to see, if in some cases, you can split the root to make it two. If you can, I am sure this was not overlooked by the donor who always donates his best roots.

Where, but at an auction, can you find such prestigious names offered as *Cytheria*, a coral to pink semi-double hybrid? — or, *White Innocence*, a proliferous white single hybridized by Dr. A. P. Saunders?

And where, but at an auction, could you purchase a root of *Liebschen* which was taken from the same plant which supplied a bloom which reached the Court of Honor to become a National Grand Champion?

There have been many hard-to-find, and rare, buys offered at auctions such as *Red Charm*, a bomb-type red full hybrid double, *Coral Fay*, *Carol*, *Morning Daybreak*, *Claire de Lune*, *Princess Margaret*, *White Cap*, *Annisquam*, *Yellow Crown* and *Windflower*.

Auctions, too, supply such grafts as *Age of Gold* among the tree peonies — and also *High Noon*, *Silver Sails* and *Roman Gold*.

The annual banquet in Milwaukee on June 18th at the Marc Plaza Hotel, will see a goodly number of these prized collectibles at the auction. Bidders who succeed in buying them will have them delivered by contributors in the fall after Labor Day. Money from the auction is contributed to the APS treasury for promoting the Society's bulletins, booklet printing, annual show expenses, etc.

Plan to attend the annual banquet in Milwaukee at the Marc Plaza on June 18th and bid, adding a few new beauties to your garden this fall.

THE 80TH ANNUAL MEETING 78TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 17, 18, 19, 1983

All events except the Annual Banquet at the Mitchell Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes); Headquarters and Annual Banquet at the Marc Plaza Hotel, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203, (414) 271-7250.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 17th

2:00-9:00 p.m.

Prepare Show Entries

8:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting in the show annex

Saturday, June 18th

7:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Set up and enter exhibits

8:00 a.m.

Registration for meeting and banquet

11:30 a.m.

Judging begins

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Open

1:30-9 p.m.

Show open to the public

7:30 p.m.

Annual Banquet and Presentation of Prizes. Members and Visitors welcome.

9:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting

10:00 p.m.

Root Auction. Open to members, guests and the public.

Sunday, June 19th

9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting at the Domes in the workroom annex

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Show open to public

HOTELS/MOTELS

The Marc Plaza Hotel in downtown Milwaukee has been designated the Headquarters Hotel for the exhibition. A special rate has been granted to the members of the American Peony Society which is \$36.00 for singles and \$41.00 for doubles with free parking in special parking structure adjacent to the hotel.

The hotel is just two and one-half miles away from the Domes within exceptionally easy reach. It is also located just one block away from the newly-created "Grand Avenue Mall" which is a four-block-long enclosed shopping complex inter-connected by overhead skyway bridges- a shopper's paradise.

For reservations call or write the Marc Plaza Hotel, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203, directed to "Future Reservations" — Phone Number (414) 271-7250.

PLEASE NOTE: It is vitally important that when you make your reservations, that you also notify Joe Glocka, exhibition co-chairman, if you are going to attend the banquet. He must pledge a guarantee in

advance to the Marc Plaza Hotel for the banquet. The cost of the annual banquet dinner has been set at \$13.50 which includes the service charge and state tax.

Mail your banquet reservation check to: Joseph R. Glocka A.P.S., 12120 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis, Wisconsin 53227

If you wish to defer payment until you come to Milwaukee, send Joe a note telling him that you will attend the banquet.

For MOTEL accommodations—Suburban Motor Inn, 4600 S. 27th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. Rates: \$28.00 single — \$32.00 double. Phone: (414) 282-9595. Located straight down the road, one and one-half miles from the Domes and four miles from Mitchell Field.

Members going to the banquet, Sat., June 18th, can park for a flat rate of \$1.25 by mentioning they are attending the APS banquet.

It is imperative that you make your reservations at an early date as the demand for rooms in June is at a premium.

RULES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS

1. All entries must be completed and in place by 11:30 a.m. on opening day.
2. All entries must have been grown by exhibitors.
3. Entry tags supplied by the Society must be filled out completely as to class, variety, and name and address of exhibitor. In addition, each variety must be identified with a small wood or plastic tag with the variety name legibly printed thereon. Entry tags may be obtained in advance from the secretary of the American Peony Society. The exhibitor or his agent shall be responsible for proper completion of the entry tags.
4. Stems should be approximately 12" long (tree peonies excepted.)
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 201, and 301. In all other classes up to two entries of each variety are permitted; however, any number of different varieties may be entered.
6. The show committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants it.
7. Correct varietal labeling is mandatory in the Open and the Amateur classes. It is recommended in the Novice classes, but no entry shall be disqualified for failure to identify.
8. Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and must be in all classes.
9. The American Peony Society Handbook will govern bloom types and color.
10. Anemone types such as Gay Paree shall be shown as Japanese.
11. Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
12. Flowers are to remain as placed on the show tables by the exhibitor, moved only when necessary, and then the exhibits must be kept in the same position.
13. The decision of the judges is final—NOTE: See Page 13, Division VI —

COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS

DIVISION 1. Open to all Exhibitors.

- Class** **101** American Peony Society Award
Twenty-five varieties, any color or type.
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 102** American Peony Society Award
Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 103** American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 104** American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 105** Five varieties, Japanese Type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 106** Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three Blooms, one variety lactiflora only, in one container.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Class | 117 Semi-double red |
| 110 Double white | 118 Bomb any color |
| 111 Double blush | 119 Japanese white or blush |
| 112 Double light pink | 120 Japanese pink |
| 113 Double dark pink | 121 Japanese red |
| 114 Double red | 122 Single white or blush |
| 115 Semi-double white or
blush | 123 Single pink |
| 116 Semi-double pink | 124 Single red |

One Bloom Lactiflora Only

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Class | 138 Bomb white or blush |
| 130 Double white | 139 Bomb pink |
| 131 Double blush | 140 Bomb red |
| 132 Double light pink | 141 Japanese white or blush |
| 133 Double dark pink | 142 Japanese pink |
| 134 Double red | 143 Japanese red |
| 135 Semi-double white or
blush | 144 Single white or blush |
| 136 Semi-double pink | 145 Single pink |
| 137 Semi-double red | 146 Single red |

Three blooms, one variety Herbaceous Hybrids or Species in one container.

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------------------------|
| 150 | Double or semi-double white, blush or yellow | | |
| 151 | Double or semi-double coral | 155 | Single yellow |
| 152 | Double or semi-double pink | 156 | Single white or blush |
| 153 | Double or semi-double red | 157 | Single coral |
| | | 158 | Single pink |
| | | 159 | Single red |
| 154 | Japanese, any color | 159A | Itoh, hybrid any color |

One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 160 | Double or semi-double yellow | | |
| 161 | Double or semi-double white or blush | | |
| 162 | Double or semi-double coral | | |
| 163 | Double or semi-double pink | | |
| 164 | Double or semi-double red | | |
| 165 | Japanese, any color | | |
| 166 | Single yellow | 169 | Single pink |
| 167 | Single white or blush | 169A. | Single red |
| 168 | Single coral | 169B. | Itoh hybrid, any color |

Three blooms, one variety, tree peonies only, in one container.

Class

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|-------------|
| 170a | Japanese (Moutan) White, Single | | |
| | 170b semi-double | 170c | double |
| 171a | Japanese (Moutan) Pink, Single | | |
| | 171b semi-double | 171c | double |
| 172a | Japanese (Moutan) Red, single | | |
| | 172b semi-double | 172c | double |
| 173a | Japanese (Moutan) Violet single
(Really purple lavenders) | 173b | semi-double |
| | | 173c | double |
| 174a | Japanese (Moutan) Maroon single | | |
| | 174b semi-double | 174c | double |
| 175a | Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single | | |
| | 175b semi-double | 175c | double |
| 176a | Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single | | |
| | 176b semi-double | 176c | double |
| 177a | Lutea Hybrid, blend, single | | |
| | 177b semi-double | 177c | double |
| 178a | Lutea Hybrid, pink, single | | |
| | 178b semi-double | 178c | double |
| 179a | Lutea Hybrid, red, single | | |
| | 179b semi-double | 179c | double |
| 180a | Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single | | |
| | 180b semi-double | 180c | double |

One bloom tree peony only.

Class

185a	Japanese (Moutan) white, single	185b	semi-double	185c	double
186a	Japanese (Moutan) pink, single	186b	semi-double	186c	double
187a	Japanese (Moutan) red, single	187b	semi-double	187c	double
188a	Japanese (Moutan) violet, single	188b	semi-double	188c	double
189a	Japanese (Moutan) maroon, single	189b	semi-double	189c	double
190a	Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single	190b	semi-double	190c	double
191a	Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single	191b	semi-double	191c	double
192a	Lutea Hybrid, blend, single	192b	semi-double	192c	double
193a	Lutea Hybrid, pink, single	193b	semi-double	193c	double
194a	Lutea Hybrid, red, single	194b	semi-double	194c	double
195a	Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single	195b	semi-double	195c	double

DIVISION II AMATEUR: Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants.

Class 201 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three blooms, one variety lactiflora only, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class	205	Double white or blush	
206	Double pink	210	Japanese any color
207	Double red	211	Single any color
208	Semi-double any color	212	Hybrid any color
209	Bomb any color	213	Tree any type or color

One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise.

Class	220	Double white	225	Semi-double any color
	221	Double blush	226	Bomb any color
	222	Double light pink	227	Japanese any color
	223	Double dark pink	228	Single any color
	224	Double red		

- 229 Hybrid any type or color
- 230 Tree, any type or color

DIVISION III NOVICE: Open to all amateur gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.

- Class 301 American Peony Society Award**
Five varieties any type or color in separate containers.

Three blooms one variety lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

- Class 305 Double any color**
 306 Semi-double, any color **308 Single, any color**
 307 Japanese, any color **309 Hybrid, any color**

One bloom lactiflora, unless otherwise stated.

- Class**
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 315 Double white or blush | |
| 316 Double pink | 320 Japanese any color |
| 317 Double red | 321 Single any color |
| 318 Semi-double any color | 322 Hybrid any color |
| 319 Bomb any color | 323 Tree any color |

DIVISION IV: Seedlings and New Varieties.

- Class 401 Seedlings.**
Three blooms, one variety in one container, not currently introduced.
Variety must have been divided at least once.
Must be shown under name or seedling number.
- 402 New Varieties:**
Three blooms, one variety in one container. Limited to varieties named and registered with the American Peony Society and introduced no earlier than five years prior to show date.
Awards given in the two preceding classes may be Certificates of Merit or Honorable Mention at the discretion of the judges, but no ribbon awards. Varieties having won either award in previous competition may not be shown again in that class, except that varieties shown in class 401 may be shown again in class 402 regardless of awards.
- 403 Seedlings:**
One bloom. This class is for display only.
No awards will be given and any seedling entered in class 401 is ineligible.

DIVISION V: Special Entries.

- Class 501 Commercial Exhibit.**

Collection by commercial grower of 25 to 50 varieties in separate containers. A placard approximately 9" x 14" may be furnished by the exhibitor to identify his display.

502 Visitor from greatest distance.

Five different varieties any type. Mileage verified on entry tag.

503 Multiple bloom.

Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open blooms.

Class 504—505 North Dakota Memorial Award

One bloom each separate container, any color, only named varieties. One entry per individual family.

Class 504—Tree peonies, Lutea and Japanese. Herbaceous hybrid, double and single.

Class 505—Lactiflora, Double, semi-double, single, Japanese.

These two classes are not considered for Class VI.

DIVISION VI: Court of Honor Candidate Class

Court of Honor blooms will be selected from this Division. Entries are limited to two bloom in each class. Exhibitors are urged to enter their best blooms in this Division.

Judges may select two blooms from the floor in addition to placements, for consideration of Grand Champion on the Court of Honor.

One bloom Lactiflora

Class 601 Double white

602 Double blush

603 Double light pink

604 Double dark pink

605 Double red

606 Bomb any color

607 Semi-double any color

608 Japanese any color

609 Single any color

One bloom Hybrid or Species

Class 610 Double any color

611 Semi-double any color

612 Single any color

613 Japanese any color

One bloom Tree

Class 614 Lutea any type or color

615 European any type or color

616 Japanese any type or color

Grand Champion

The best flower in the show will be selected from all named entries in the show.

EXHIBITIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota

The American Peony Society has held annual shows since 1904 with one or two exceptions. In this article I will try to trace the change in shows through the years. Results of some of the early shows are rather sketchy as to winning varieties and winning exhibitors.

The first show was held in New York June 8-9, 1904. No papers to indicate a prize schedule or results of the show have been preserved by the society. The secretary's report did have this brief report: "The exhibition held during the meeting at New York was a fairly good one, there being about seven exhibitors, who staged many fine flowers, but there was a great lack of names, thereby diminishing the value of the show." It was recognized very early that the value of a show was greatly enhanced if the flowers were correctly named.

The early shows were mostly for doubles and the most coveted award was for "Best collection of not more than 100 named varieties, one bloom each." The schedule for Philadelphia in 1917 included the following as some of the classes:

1. Collection of not more than 100 named varieties, one bloom each
\$25 \$15 \$10
2. Vase or basket of peonies, not less than 100 blooms arranged for effect
\$15 \$10
3. Collection of 25 varieties, double, three blooms each
\$15 \$10
6. 25 blooms white or cream, double, one variety
\$ 8 \$ 5
9. 25 blooms red or crimson, double, one variety
\$ 8 \$ 5
11. One specimen bloom, double, any variety

These were large classes and there was only one class for one specimen bloom any variety.

According to the records of these early shows some of the consistent exhibitors and winners during the teens were:

- T. C. Thurlow's Sons, West Newbury, Massachusetts
- B. H. Farr, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania
- Mr. James Boyd, Haverford, Pennsylvania
- A. H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts
- C. W. Ward, Queens, New York
- Klehm's Nursery, Arlington Heights, Illinois
- A. P. Saunders, Clinton, New York

As the years advance, and we go into the 1920's, we find exhibitors from farther west participating. It seems too that there was emphasis on new varieties as evidenced by awards for seedlings. Some of these awards during the 1920's were:

- Gold Medal for Mrs. A. M. Brand (Brand)
- Silver Medal for Myrtle Gentry (Brand)
- Certificate of Merit for Grace Loomis (Saunders)

Honorable Mention for President Wilson (Thurlow)
Honorable Mention for Katherine Havemeyer (Thurlow)
Honorable Mention for Seedling 877 (Saunders)
Certificate of Merit Seedling 051 and SB1 (H. P. Sass)
First Class Certificate for Florence Macbeth (H. P. Sass)
First Class Certificate for Nancy Dolman and Frankie Curtis (L. A. Vories)

One of the large shows was held at the Hippodrome, Minnesota State Fair Grounds, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1923. The Hippodrome was large enough to have horse shows and to play hockey. This immense arena was filled with peonies. Mr. Brand of Faribault brought up several carloads (railroad cars, not automobiles) of peonies and greens to help decorate. The Class of 100 varieties was won by Brand. Amateur of 50 varieties, double, was won by T. F. Donahue of Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts. Think of his transportation problem; it had to be by rail. The Franklin Nursery of Minneapolis showed over 100 varieties. Mr. Clarence Hubbard of Chicago had over 150 plants of Jeannot. These named are just a few of the exhibits. Today we would be hard pressed to find space to hold such an exhibition.

The first recording of a Best in Show was in 1933 when C. W. Bunn of St. Paul received that honor in Chicago with Hansina Brand. The 100 variety class still seemed to be the favorite. Top exhibitors during this period of the 1930's included:

Riverview Gardens, St. Paul, Minnesota
Charles F. Wassenberg, Van Wert, Ohio
Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota
Harry F. Little, Baldwinsville, New York
A. P. Saunders, Clinton, New York
Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas
Henry Sass, Omaha, Nebraska
L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul, Minnesota
Franklin Nurseries, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The 1940 show in Rochester, Minnesota, was a very large show by any standards. Counting the number of entries in each class results in an estimate of over 3500 blooms entered in competition. Of these there were three tree peony and no hybrids, although there may have been hybrids entered as seedlings. Martha Bullock by Franklin Nursery was Best in Show and Brand Peony Farms won the Gold Medal in the Class of 100 with six exhibitors competing. The 1941 show in Syracuse, New York, was a Harry F. Little show. He had all blooms on the Court of Honor except one. From all reports he was a super showman.

During the 1940's there were some new exhibitors, a few of whom are still with us. Some of these were:

L. R. Fischer, Hastings, Minnesota
R. H. Jones, Peru, Indiana
R. C. Schneider, St. Paul, Minnesota
Mrs. A. S. Gowen, Excelsior, Minnesota

Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Illinois
Frank E. Moots, Newton, Kansas
Glen H. Greaves, St. Paul, Minnesota
M. C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Neal R. Van Loon, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
L. W. Cousins, London, Ontario

The 1950's saw hybrids being exhibited and the classes for them expanded. In 1951 at Cleveland, Ohio, the Best in the Show was a hybrid for the first time. Marvin Karrels took **Red Charm** into the top spot. Other names appearing as winning exhibitors were:

Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, Chicago
Lloyd C. Thompson, Grand Forks, North Dakota
Elizabeth Falk
Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri
Roy Gale, Rockford, Illinois
Clarence Lienau, Detroit, Michigan
A. L. Murawska, River Drive, Illinois

Some of the varieties there were Best of Show in this decade were: **Kansas, Red Charm, Le Cygne, May Delight, Ann Cousins, Doris Cooper, Hansina Brand, Florence Nicholls.**

The 1960's saw many more hybrids being exhibited and classes for them further expanded. In this ten-year period the hybrids appeared as Best in Show three times. The varieties were **Lovely Rose, Red Charm** and **Carol**. Some of the exhibitors starting to make their presence known were: Walter Mains, Walter Seidenkranz, A. L. Volz, William Krekler, W. G. Sindt, Joe Glocka, Walter Alexander. In the early 1960's the collection class which formerly called for 100 blooms was reduced to 25. The exhibitors were no longer the large growers with acres of plants and thousands of blooms but mostly hobbyists with a couple hundred plants and blooms they could take to a show limited to a few hundred. Competition was no less keen and the top awards as highly prized as ever.

The 1970's saw the hybrid and tree classes expanded to include a complement of types and colors. In 1979 the first tree peony became Best in Show for Kit Klehm. The variety was **Yachiyo Tsubaki**. John Simkins in 1982 had **Haku-Raku-Ten** as the top peony in the show in Canada. New exhibitors during this decade included: David Reath, John Simkins, John Kreichbaum and Henry Landis with the Klehms starting to show heavily again.

The shows through the years have been an indicator of the change taking place in peonies. The early shows emphasized doubles and large classes. The present shows emphasize all types equally with fewer specimens per class. To know who the exhibitors were is a "Who's Who!" of peonydom. There are many deserving names to be added but space for an article is limited. Going over the September issue of old bulletins gives an interesting insight to peony shows, the peony society and peonies.

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PEONIES IN THE GREAT DEPRESSION

J. Franklin Styer, 1257 Birmingham Road, West Chester, Pa. 19380

We have described the cut-flower business up to 1930, and the market conditions leading to the need of lengthening the season. We had enlarged our nursery business also, and by 1930 were buying plants from the mountain district of North Carolina. The need to produce peonies earlier led to our renting a farm at the foot of the Blue Ridge near Marion, and we planted about five acres there.

That was at the beginning of the Depression. At home we went on just as usual; depressions were nothing new in the country, but were called "hard times." We paid men 25 cents per hour, ladies 20¢, and children 7 to 10¢. The Memorial Days went on; we received 33 cents per dozen less commission, in the market.

We were experimenting. The spent compost from our mushroom beds had been used for fertilizer on peonies. Trials with commercial fertilizer proved the compost was far superior, partly because it was 60 percent ordinary soil which served to keep the peony crowns covered. We had established nurseries in which small purchases of new cultivars were built up to quantities for field planting. Market tests were made in the process, and wholesale dealers were finding out we were producing better flowers. We had stopped putting stems in water and were shipping dry. Those wilted flowers, at first detested, soon became our standard and were in demand.

After five years in the South, we had to give up because the spring frosts were severe. Frosts had never hurt us at home. So we made gifts of plants to several selected farm people elsewhere in the Carolinas, and about 1938 rented land near Charlotte where these little gardens appeared to be safe. This patch grew to be about ten acres and produced until 1957. The stock was quite good, although not all kinds were productive in that climate.

During that time the Railway Express deteriorated until we could no longer ship that way, and we went over to air freight; which was awkward as to schedules, and expensive. That was reason to change again, accumulating truckloads in a cold storage and then making overnight truck trips to Washington, Philadelphia, and New York.

The market responded to this early production just as Herman

Weiss had predicted. Styer's became the only firm shipping for up to twenty-five days. The retailers could count on our product when they would have a certain party. And so, we decided to do still better by expanding northward.

The testing for frost-free locations began again, and having been stung by the Appalachians once we were very careful. That will be another story.

Memories of the Carolina travels are precious to the whole family. The sorting and bunching were done in an apple orchard. Every year we were visited by swarms of bees. The disbudding had been done during apple blossom time among left-over dogwood flowers. The field hands were clever, happy, and friendly—cotton pickers, all; and to give us a special start in the morning, there was a slice of country ham with biscuits, gravy, and hominy grits.

For all the seventy-five years of my experience among peonies, the cutting season and the disbudding never failed to be real parties, each lasting two weeks—sometimes hot, sometimes wet, but always fun. And this was repeated with different crews in different places—now six parties in quick succession.

PEONY FRAGRANCE

Ruth Beltz of Berlin, Germany, grows peonies not only for beauty in her picturesque garden, but also for fragrance.

She has written the following about some of them:

“For the first two years **VIVID ROSE** had very little fragrance, but this year, a very wonderful scent, sweet and strong. **DINNER PLATE** smells only when the blossoms are fully developed, especially in the evening and with high moisture; it is like sweet, spicy, wild cyclamen. I am delighted with this fragrance. **ATTAR OF ROSES**, a pure scent, sweet, strong and full, is a rose-like narcotic for the senses. With **DUCHESS de NEMOURS**, the entire area around this plant smells like Lilies of the Valley—it is a treasure. **MANDALEEN**, is sweet and lovely—I like the color and form of the blossoms. **MYRTLE GENTRY**, clear rose fragrance is like old historical roses. **BLANCHE KING**, has an enchanting, sweet scent. **KELWAYS GLORIOUS**—very sweet and intensive. **PRIMEVERE**, has a delicate tender scent of Lily of the Valley. **FLORENCE NICOLLS**, is very strong but a little like shoe polish—I do not like it! **LOVELY ROSE**, is such a beauty, but the scent is very disagreeable.

Some of my older ones are more or less fragrant—just normal—not outstanding.”



Lake of the Woods Botanical Gardens are open to the public from May through mid-October. The garden is under the auspices of the Champaign County Forest Preserve. The Botanical Gardens comprises almost ten acres of plantings. There you will see all types of peonies, tree peonies, hybrid peonies and many other flowers.

There is a small admission charge at this time.

—Roger Kirkwood, Supt., Old Lake of the Woods Road, Rt. 3, Mahomet, Ill.



Cut-flower field, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri



*Cut flowers from the field, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri
Scott Moore, Allen Wild, Hobart Block — Picture before 1953*



Loading peonies in the refrigerator car, getting them ready to 'roll out' for the Memorial Day sales.

In this 80th anniversary year of the American Peony Society, we look back and reminisce about one firm, Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri. One-hundred (100) acres of peonies were under cultivation at Wilds; cut flowers were in demand. During the peak cut-flower time, 18 refrigerator cars were shipped one season with nine of the cars being shipped one day. In addition, some went by truck, others by air. The peony buds were packed nine dozen to a box.

Cut flowers from the field were put in the cooler which was a big refrigerator room with capacity of 80,000 dozen flowers, with the temperature kept at 34-38 degrees.

As soon as picking season was past, cultivation began. This was one operation where the tractor could not displace the horse and manpower. Six big percherons, working in single hitches, would pull the plows back and forth up and down the rows, and the man with a hoe was a common sight in the flower fields. Those were the days in about 1947.

In 1957, the temperature dropped to 6° about April 10th and we lost all our cut-flower fields at that time, so we turned to plant sales only.

One of the problems encountered over the years is root rot, says Mr. Wild. That is caused by wet weather and is most prevalent in the red varieties. The reds just cannot stand wet feet. In 1972, we had over 100 inches of rain from July 1 to the following July 1, and then in October, another 20" of rain and we lost peonies.

We ship fifty states and forty-eight foreign countries. This year marks the 97th anniversary of the Gilbert H. Wild and Son catalog of Peonies, Iris and Daylilies. The first colored catalog was published in 1949 and continues.

DR. JOHN C. WISTER

1887-1982

John C. Wister died at his home in Swarthmore, Pa., on Dec. 27, 1982. He was born March 19, 1887, in Germantown, near Philadelphia, the son of William and Mary Wister.

Mr. Wister was one of the nation's most highly honored horticulturists, with a wide and deep interest in gardens, garden plants, and the societies devoted to them. He was especially knowledgeable on the peony, both herbaceous and tree. His work in the Peony Manual of 1928 comprised much of what was then known about tree peonies, and the Tree Peony Check-List published in 1944 as Bulletin #95, included all tree peonies and their hybrids that were then known. In 1962, he edited "The Peonies," bringing up to date all our peony knowledge.

His interests included lilacs, hosta, rhododendrons, irises and dafodils, as well as many other flowers and shrubs. He was active in the organizations devoted to these plants, and founded the American Iris Society. He was secretary of the American Rose Society for 24 years, and also secretary of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. All in all, he belonged to some 50 Horticultural Societies, and about 30 scientific and conservation organizations, including half-a-dozen hiking and outdoor groups.

He graduated from Harvard University in 1909, then studied at the Harvard School of Landscaping and the New Jersey Agricultural College. He served in World War I in Europe in the Ordinance Corps; while in Europe he visited and became acquainted with many European horticulturists.

Mr. Wister was the first director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation in 1930. This foundation's public garden of 240 acres, once described as "an outdoor gallery of blue-ribbon plants," ornaments the campus of Swarthmore College, where Mr. Wister lived. It contains more than five-thousand species of trees and shrubs. Mr. Wister landscaped 40 acres, grouping plant families together; his goal was to seek out hardy plants that could be grown without special care, in eastern gardens. He was also the first director of the 600-acre Tyler Arboretum in Lima, Pennsylvania, and was president of the arboretum and bird sanctuary until 1968. He was a life member of the American Peony Society and a close personal friend of Dr. A. P. Saunders for over forty years.

He is said to have been the first recipient of four major horticultural awards namely:

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal, presented by the American Horticultural Council; the Scott Garden and Horticultural Award; the Honor and Achievement Award of the International Lilac Society; and the A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal of the Peony Society.

Swarthmore College awarded to him in 1942 the degree of

— 20 —

Honorary Doctor of Science, in recognition of his work on their campus, and in 1966 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden awarded him its Garden Medal for his distinguished service. The Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain dedicated its "Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook" to him; the first time an American gardener received that honor.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Smith, herself a well-known horticulturist.

* * * * *

PEONIES OF THE PRAIRIE STATE — ILLINOIS

Diana I. Hubbard

(Diana had written about their peonies for the Bulletin; it will now be a memorial to her, as she passed away October 21, 1982. She loved the peony and excelled in flower arranging. The Hubbards exhibited at some of the National Exhibitions and also at the Fifth District shows.)

Having loved peonies practically all of our lives, we are now looking forward to spring and to the new beginning of nature with anxiety and hope that all the flowers will survive the winter. We dread signs of failure in any of the plants.

All our peonies are now well established. They grow in good soil with adequate drainage. Many are very old favorites which our parents enjoyed years ago, such as: Jules Elie, Felix Crousse, Karl Rosenfield, Minuet, Marietta Sisson, Nick Shaylor, Kelways Glorious and Mikado. Of all the singles, Sea Shell is the most impressive. It produces large sturdy plants and up to 20 or more bloom which resemble a sea of pink color.

In the front yard we started a bed of tree peonies. In winter, it is fenced in with chicken wire to prevent the rabbits from chewing off the newly-formed buds. The plants are interesting in appearance with attractive gray-green foliage. The blossoms of some play peek-a-boo partially hiding under the leaves of the plant.

In the center of the living room window is a bed of hybrid Peonies. They have shown the poorest rate of survival. However, the varieties John Harvard, Golden Glow, Claire de Lune, Halcyon, Requiem, Hardy Giant and Dandy Dan have been dependable bloomers for a number of years.

After the peony season is over we look forward to the blooming of our Spuria Iris. They multiply by leaps-and-bounds which is the major problem we have with them—to get more growing space. However, their lovely form and colors of yellow, yellow and white, light and dark blue, purple, and violet cause the growing of the Spuria to be well worthwhile.

The destructive iris borer is a serious menace. Partial control can be accomplished by spraying with Lindane in early April till May.

To all peony lovers—good luck! As a new season approaches, we are grateful for one of nature's favorites—The Peony!

THE PEONY PATCH IN '82

Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, North Dakota

The year '82 was quite favorable weatherwise for the growth and development of all crops and plants, all of which finished out the season better than average. The only difficulty we had was the very wet conditions present at harvest time.

Peonies grew and developed very well with the cool weather at bloom time, prolonging the life of the fine bloom.

The **HAKUO JISHI X ALICE HARDING** tree peony that I described in last year's Peony Patch had five very fine full-double yellow bloom so identical to **ALICE HARDING** that I could not see any difference in the bloom themselves, except they do not face down like **HARDING** does, but rather straight out from the stem or 90° angle. You do not have to turn them up to look them in the face.

The plant is not stoloniferous as I reported last year, but like the regular tree peony. This fall I carefully dug away the soil from around the base of this plant, hoping that I could remove two or three stolons as new plant divisions, but found these stems all came out of the mainstem and gradually turned upward, and had no roots attached to the stems, so cannot be removed as new plant divisions.

I made nine grafts of this plant on herbaceous roots and at this time, early January, six have well developed buds on the grafts, so I should have seven plants by the fall of '83, or at least a good start at increasing.

New, this year, was a **Tenuifolia X Pall** cross that had its first bloom. I had one large single flower of a burgundy red color. I think it will be a very nice addition to our fern leaf family of peonies. The root of this plant is typically **tenuifolia** and in moving the plant this fall, one of its several radish-like roots broke away from the mainstem, which I planted temporarily on the original spot. Later in the fall I checked on it, and found that it had several buds developing on the neck of the root piece. This is something I have never seen happen in **tenuifolia**.

Also, this fall, I found one red, three pink, and three good white-double seedlings, plus one more single near yellow, large white with a good center fluff of stamens of pollen—a good source of pollen. It is a seedling of **GOLDILOCKS X**—a near yellow seedling. I have several of these near yellow seedlings, nearly all of them **GOLDILOCK** offspring.

All of the above came from three rows of seedlings that I dug this fall. I still have several rows of seedlings that are not old enough to have had their first bloom. I find that I get a good deal better quality bloom now than I did in earlier years.

I also have two new squash varieties developing very well, but not yet stable enough to release to the trade. One is an improvement of our

Kindred squash, a short vine orange-colored turban-type squash and this is very similar in growth and size but dark green in color. Both are completely bush-type plants and do not run at all.

REGISTRATIONS

1983 Peony Introduction . . .

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (Wild, 1983) Hybrid, each \$25.00.

V.E.S. Red. 31 in.—Vibrant, glistening bright rich red of very broad petals which surround a fairly large cluster of golden pollen-bearing stamens. After **STARLIGHT**, this is 1st to bloom in our garden. Stiff, strong stems on a row of **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY** look like a row of cadets, erect & strong, marching through our field. Broad, good dark green foliage.

THE TALE OF A PEONY AND MY FAMILY

Edward Lee Michau

In the late 1940's, my sister, Beatrice Hooper, was living in Memphis. A lady that was a part-time domestic worker brought her a peony root, as a gift. The plant grew very good and my mother, Iva Michau of Little Rock, was given a division. Her division also flourished. When she had to move to Morilton, Arkansas, the peony plant went along in a wash tub. It was then divided and divisions were given to friends, and two divisions were planted in the yard of my aunt. They were to remain there until the family was settled. I went to Derby, Kansas, and my sister bought the house next door.

In 1961, my father was killed in an auto-train accident and my mother came to live with me. In the meantime, my aunt's house had burned; now I was to return and dig those peonies. Again they were divided; some went to relatives, two were planted in my yard, two in my sister's yard, Helen Titus planted one, and also another neighbor wanted one. The plants grew and were a source of my mother's pride.

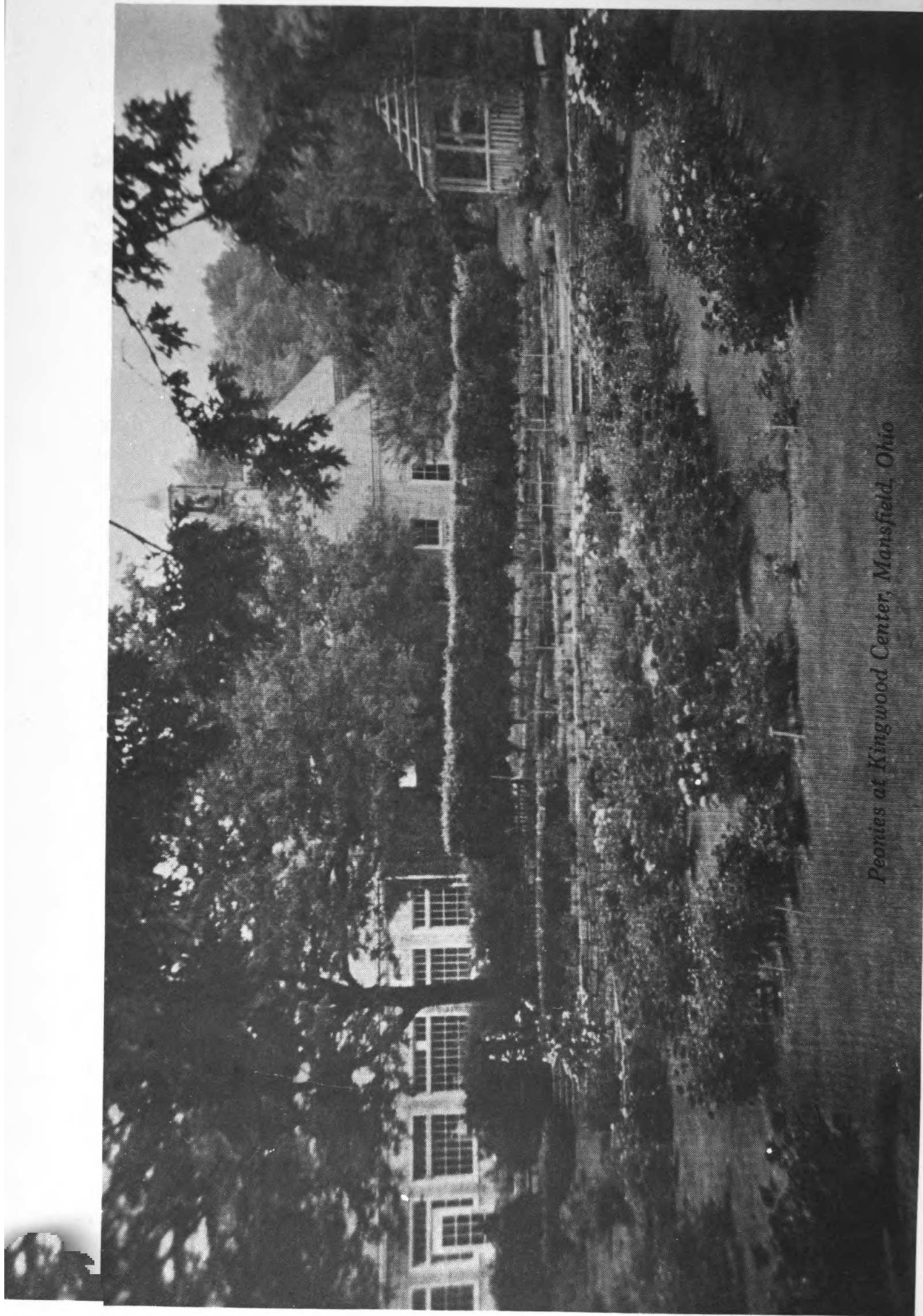
My interest in peonies was growing and I joined the American Peony Society. In 1969, my mother and I attended a local show in Kansas City and we took along some bloom of her prized plant. Mr. Harper saw them and took us to a table of identical blooms that were on display. What were they? **Festiva Maxima!**

My two plants will have their 21st year of blooming this spring. My sister moved once and took her peony. Mrs. Titus divided hers and gave divisions to her sister and neighbors.

Now, if you multiply this story many times, it is easy to understand why these old peonies are so widespread. People like them and they survive.



*Mrs. Iva Michau and her prized peony, **FESTIVA MAXIMA**.*



Peonies at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

THE KINGWOOD PEONY GARDEN

Frederick Roberts, Director Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

Ten years ago in January of 1973, I started work at Kingwood Center as Horticulturist. Ray Allen was Director at that time. One of my projects during my first year at Kingwood was to evaluate, redesign, and reconstruct the Peony Garden. At that time there were obvious problems with drainage, since the water table was within 18 inches of the surface of the ground over most of the area of the Peony Garden. The peonies were often weak and appeared to be suffering from botrytis.

Most of the design changes were simple and primarily made to improve traffic patterns in the area and especially to correct drainage problems, both of which were done successfully. During the next two or three years, new varieties of peonies were added to the garden, and since that time, many generous gifts from members of the Peony Society have been added to our collection.

During the first few years following the redesign and reconstruction of the garden, it was noted that we still had serious problems with what was thought to be botrytis. Laboratory tests did in fact indicate that botrytis was present on declining plants. However, the botrytis was not the primary cause of decline. It was found that slugs and snails were actively mining out the crown and central core of most of the peony plants. Once the peonies were weakened from this activity, they then succumbed to botrytis as a secondary pest. During the last three years, we have been on a very intensive program of slug and snail control. This has worked wonderfully, and as an additional precaution, we have continued with preventative measures to control botrytis.

A number of points should be made regarding the Kingwood Peony Garden. Unfortunately, there was a somewhat misguided article written by L. J. Dewey in the December, 1981, issue of the American Peony Society Bulletin. This article has created misunderstanding and a number of questions that should be clarified. First of all, in the ten years that I have been at Kingwood Center, there was never a formal garden or gardens devoted to peonies. A few specimen tree peonies were planted in the perimeter of our formal garden areas. We continued to maintain these peonies and would like to add new varieties to that area. However, they are not part of our peony collection, per se. They are primarily accent plants used to improve the visual quality of the formal garden and to show the visiting public how tree peonies can be used in a landscape. As for our Rose Garden, it is currently where it has been since long before I have been at Kingwood Center. The current Rose Garden is the third restoration of the Rose Garden in its present site. Since the Rose Garden and Peony Garden are contiguous, over the years there has been some shifting back and forth along the border area. For example, there is a raised triangular bed that currently houses a small collection of shrub

roses. Prior to that, it had a collection of tree peonies. This small area has been used as a holding area, and it will soon be converted to additional permanent display area for new varieties of herbaceous peonies. The shrub roses are being added to a shrub rose collection that borders our Linden Road fence row and will extend along the north border of the Peony Garden. The north border area will also house a collection of tree peonies which will be an integral part of a massive border area featuring spring bulbs, as well as flowering trees and shrubs.

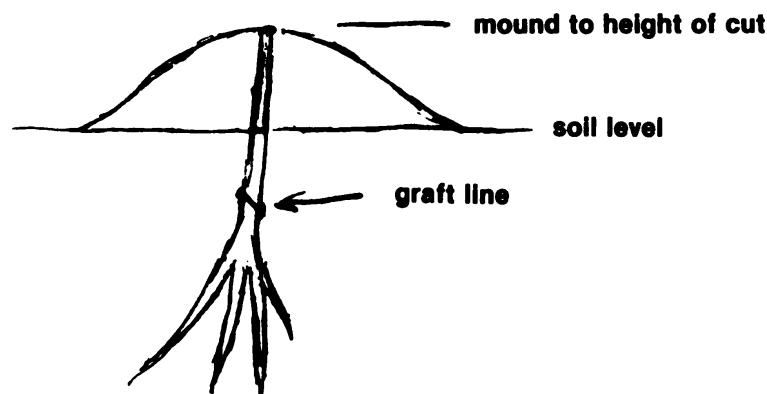
Kingwood Center has always enjoyed its fine relationship with the Peony Society. Our tradition of hosting the National Show and Convention every third year is much enjoyed and appreciated by Kingwood staff, as well as many area gardeners and Kingwood visitors. We greatly appreciate the many contributions that we have received from peony hybridizers and growers, and hope that you will continue to assist us in showing the visiting public some of the best varieties of peonies currently available.

ARTISTICALLY MOULDING TREE PEONIES

Dorothy W. Smirnow, New York

We all like the appearance of a beautifully shaped plant. Consequently, one of the questions often asked is: "Which varieties branch more readily?"

Experience has shown that all varieties of tree peonies can be forced to send up several stalks. One-year-old grafted plants may be pruned back to approximately three or four inches above the ground surface. Soil is then mounded to the height of this cut.



This forces enzymes which are normally concentrated in the terminal bud to produce new buds (either lateral or adventitious).

Pruning is one of the plants' friends. If your plants were not forced to branch as suggested above, other methods can be employed. At the time of flowering, cut some blossoms with very generous stems, or in the fall prune liberally.

Either method will encourage lateral bud development. Although you may sacrifice some blossoms while the lateral branches mature, 's will pay liberal dividends.

TREE PEONIES AS GROWN IN SAN JOAQUIN CO., CALIFORNIA

Nova Beecher Leech — Submitted by Toichi Domoto

Although peonies are one of the eastern states' big boost to garden superiority, it has been our delight here in the heart of San Joaquin County to find that we can succeed with them also. Not only the herbaceous type but the shrub or woody types also. For the latter, one must have a true garden lover's patience, as they are very slow growing but from blooming-size plants even though it be only stem, they almost, without fail, continue to bloom every season and with a minimum of care.

Shrub or tree peonies, as they are popularly known, are planted here at the Beecher Nursery in various positions, some receiving only the morning sun, some all day, while others just the later afternoon sun. All seem to grow well, but of those receiving the full sun, the flowers are apt to burn or wilt quicker according to the intensity of the first warm days. They should be planted out of north winds if possible for as the foliage and blossoms infurl in spring, the winds do injure them.

Soil for them has never been the problem that camellias and other aristocrats of the garden demand. A large hole, twice the spread of the roots, is dug. Some good composting soil is placed in the bottom; plant is set and more top soil, with well-rotted leaf mold or peat incorporated, is spread around and over roots, firming all thoroughly. A thorough soaking of water is given and a final light coating of composty material completes the planting of shrub peonies.

The following winter, a generous application of barnyard manure (either cow or sheep) is spread around the plant and later, after a good rain, soil is lightly turned over. This is all the attention, (other than a good soaking every four or five days during the summer), that they seem to need.

There are two seedlings on the north side of a Juniper tree that are some 20 years old and still flourishing, although blossoms this past year or so are not as large as they were—but a large Sycamore tree was usurping territory for yards around. That has now been removed and plants should be happier.

We are not enthusiastic over grafted plants, not that they do not grow well, but because the plants are not as graceful and picturesque in habit and do not branch enough. So, if seedlings or divided stock can be secured, we certainly advise such, since they will send out more shoots from the bottom and will soon make a good-looking shrub for the garden.

The fact that they leaf out very early in the spring with lovely bronzy foliage and retain good-looking leaves till late in the fall, is something else in their favor.

A contribution was given to the American Peony Society as a memorial to Mrs. Jean Kozelka *from the Fifth District*

TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow, Brookville, L.I., New York

Landscape architects are now using peonies, especially tree peonies, when landscaping homes. Now they plant them in front of porches, near steps, and near foundations. When in bloom, they plant them with Iris, Azaleas and Rhododendrons—it makes all the blooming area more beautiful. We saw many homes at blooming time more beautiful than ever. LADDIE, TINY TIM, and T.P. ALICE HARDING are in demand by the landscape architects.

We have had many inquiries as to the proper feeding time for tree peonies. First, when planting your peonies in the fall or early spring, feed them (5-10-5 or super phosphate are our favorites). Secondly, after they bloom, about three weeks, dig a small trench around the plant near the stalk and insert the same fertilizer, then cover the trench with soil. Do not feed again in the fall because the plants are dormant.

I have been asked how to get a longer blooming period. Plant tree peonies which are the earliest bloomers; also plant some herbaceous. In that way, you can get four to six weeks of bloom. The earliest blooming peony is TAMAFUGA, and the latest are RED MOON and SHINTENCHI.

The demand for species peonies is diminishing. This is understandable because the blooms on most species are very small. Their greatest value lies in their use for hybridizing.

During the past two years, I asked all visitors and people I visited to name their favorite peonies. From notes I made, here are the results:

White colored—GODAISHU, RENKAKU, STOLEN HEAVEN

Pink colored—HANAKISOI, TAMAFUGO, SHINTENCHI

Red colored—TAIYO, KAOW, HIGURASHI

Purple or Lavender—KAMADA FUJI -RIMPO

Scarlet color—NISSHOW - TAMA MIDORI

Yellow color—ALICE HARDING, L'ESPERANCE

In 1982, I visited about 20 gardens with good collections—the largest flowers I saw were on TAIYO, GODAISHU, SHINTENCHI, DR. MARTIN SMIRNOW, YACHIYO TSUBAKI, and ALICE HARDING.

In our opinion, best-sized plants are three-year-old tree peonies. They seem to become more easily established at that age. Specimen plants, through 8-10 years old, are often set back for a year or two before they bloom.

EXCITING NEW CORAL HYBRID PEONIES

by Roy Klehm

During the past few peony seasons, I have been fortunate to grow, judge, enjoy, register, and introduce five new hybrid coral-colored peonies. These have been super gratifying because of the unique color tone they represent. Coral colors of these intensities are not found in the peony kingdom and certainly are a most welcome addition. Following is a listing and description of the varieties. All five were recently introduced or will be introduced this fall. I've added the breeder's name to justly note the credits due.

CORAL CHARM (Wissing)
CORAL SUPREME (Wissing)
CORAL SUNSET (Wissing)
CORAL 'N GOLD (Cousins)
PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL (Klehm)

CORAL CHARM has an outstanding true deep coral bud which opens into an attractive semi-double cup shaped blossom. This intense coral color is most unique in the peony world. To my knowledge, **CORAL CHARM** was the first peony introduction to break this color barrier. It can be so dominant that when overviewing a large field or planting of peonies, **CORAL CHARM** invariably and eyecatchingly stands out from all the other blossoms. The coral color holds for a few days after the flower opens and then gracefully lightens as the blossom ages. **CORAL CHARM** is a vigorous, robust grower maturing out at about 36 inches. It's a typically early hybrid bloomer and generally has no sidebuds. **CORAL CHARM** was hybridized by the late Samuel Wissing of Lombard, Illinois. It first bloomed in his garden about 1964 and was first offered for sale about 1979. It carries the United States Plant Patent #4247. This patent prohibits propagation and distribution without specific consent of the patent owner.

CORAL SUPREME has an outstanding, smooth, medium coral bud which opens into a soft salmon-coral semi-double blossom. This coral shade is most pleasing to the beholder and does blend well with other creamy yellow and delicate pink hybrids. **CORAL SUPREME** also is a most vigorous variety maturing at about 38 inches. Its blossom coloring also does change and lighten as the flower ages, but like **CORAL CHARM**, they age gracefully and attractively. Also hybridized by Sam Wissing, **CORAL SUPREME** was introduced for sale in 1981.

CORAL SUNSET displays a third unique coral shade in its attractive semi-double hybrid blooms. It's more of a vibrant peach coral with underlying coral-rose tones. It might be Mr. Wissing's best introduction in that the total plant habit has an inexplicable classy aura. The blossom's color, style, shape, and positioning relative to the complementary foliage is superb. It's a moderately vigorous grower maturing at about 32 inches. **CORAL SUNSET** was introduced for

sale in 1981.

I am also fortunate to be testing some of Mr. Wissing's other selections and will introduce these in the future if they prove to be worthy. These are also hybrids and are in the peach, coral, and raspberry tones.

In 1972, after the National Convention at Hamilton, Ontario, and at the suggestion of my good friends Dr. David and Eleanor Reath, my wife Sarah, and I, visited the home and garden of Lyman Cousins. His residence was in London, Ontario, where he had been quietly breeding peonies for many years. There we saw some beautiful seedlings which were subsequently procured for further testing. One selection which we obtained under three different numbers did show itself to be unique and very, very choice. **CORAL 'N GOLD** was recently registered and will be first offered for sale this fall. It's an extremely strong and healthy grower with robust stems. The single blossoms are large and brightly coral colored with a striking bold gold stamen center. **CORAL 'N GOLD**'s color combination is attractively contrasting and again stands out and shouts to the beholder . . . "Here I am a most handsome coral peony—something new and different . . . please try me."

The good Lord also smiled on my hybridizing efforts some time ago and gave another coral colored peony to the gardening world. **PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL** first bloomed for me some 10 to 12 years ago. I was thrilled and amazed then and am still year in and year out very satisfied with this variety. It has a distinctive cup-shaped semi-double hybrid blossom of a most delicate soft coral with salmon overtones. Its bud, blossom shape and general color tones reminded me exactly of the beautiful pink coral found and sold as jewelry around the Hawaiian Islands. What a perfect name for a truly superior garden peony. **PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL** has vigorous plant habits, abundant flowers, and will be first offered for sale this fall.

Five distinctive new coral peonies. Five blessings from an unlimited, multi-specie gene pool. Five reasons to make five spaces in your perennial garden. Five reasons to smile!

UNUSUAL PEONIES OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY

Clarence Lienau, Lienau Peony Gardens, Detroit, Michigan

In my 40 years of growing peonies and exhibiting about 25 years, the following 15 varieties are unusually beautiful in their own right. I do not remember any of these varieties on the Court of Honor individually with very few exceptions. I am appraising and judging each variety as I have seen them growing on the plant and cut for enjoyment. **VIRGINIA DARE, MINNIE SHAYLOR, GAY PAREE, IMPERIAL RED, SPARKLING STAR, BRIDES DREAM, PINK DERBY, WHITE CAP, CHARM, LOIS ARLEEN, RASPBERRY SUNDAE, DO-TELL, NEON** and hybrids **CYTHEREA** and **WALTER**

MAINS.

VIRGINIA DARE—A beautiful small white single with thin strong whip-like stems. Medium height, excellent for floral arrangements, not over three inches in diameter, cup shape, small tuft of yellow stamens. Good keeper.

BRIDES DREAM—Very fine white Jap, most unusual white on white very narrow twisty pointed petaloids with a wide circle of shorter cream tinted ones underneath.

RASPBERRY SUNDAE—An ivory white bloom with a definite splash of raspberry color appearing on top of the large bloom. A distinct variety with strong stems, floriferous, strong grower and large plant.

MINNIE SHAYLOR—Semi-double light pink to white. Several rows of fluffy crepe-like petals of clear light pink serrated at the tips toward the center. Stamens very prominent. Anthers golden yellow with paler filaments, carpels green, pink at base with striking red stigmas. If one stops to look closely at this beautiful flower and plant, they would be amazed at its beauty.

PINK DERBY—Pink on pink bomb, deeper pink on the outside of the petals. Medium height, strong grower, slightly longer than its diameter. Unusually nice.

GAY PAREE—Very fine deep cerise anemone type Jap. Center opens ivory, a day in the sun, the petaloids turn snow white, good grower, tall, good stems, floriferous. A distinct variety.

WHITE CAP—A very different red anemone type Jap. Center opens ivory, a day in the sun, the petaloids turn snow white, fine grower, tall, good stems, floriferous, a distinct variety. **GAY PAREE** and **WHITE CAP** grown side by side make a fine pair. There is a big difference in color. Give them plenty of room as they grow to large plants.

NEON—Rose and gold Jap. Stands up nicely. Staminodes are tipped and edged with gold. Wide petals, very bright and very nice.

IMPERIAL RED—Excellent, large single medium red like a large poinsettia plant. Thick heavy stems, very floriferous, blooms are very large and evenly spaced.

CHARM—Very late dark red and gold single. A lustrous satiny sheen on the petals. One of the best in its class.

SPARKLING STAR—Early, tall, bright dark pink, single. A strong sturdy and worthwhile variety.

DO-TELL—Pink on pink, outer petals light pink, stamens and inner petals darker pink. A very striking combination, unusual.

CYTHEREA—Hybrid coral pink. One of the most sought after peonies. Low grower, good keeper as a cut flower and on the plant. Admired by all that see it.

LOIS ARLEEN—Hybrid, medium brilliant red, medium height,

floriferous. The brilliancy of the bloom can be seen for many yards away.

WALTER MAINS—The finest hybrid Jap. Dark red and gold, very large cup shaped, thick stems, gold medal winner, large plant.

PEONIES

Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

The American Peony Society in recent years has offered a number of benefits to its members which enhance the joys of peony gardening. Probably the two greatest recent contributions are books edited by Greta Kessenich, one of which is "History of the Peonies and Their Originations." The other book is "The Best of 75 Years." Both are valuable and of help to the hybridizer and others interested in our favorite flower.

At our shows the yellow colors are conspicuous. It seems that more and more clones of this color are coming along. Soon a new Itoh will make its appearance at our shows. It is bigger and better than any Itoh so far introduced, still only known by number as Hollingsworth's H-205. It is a real beauty!!

The vibrant colors of the herbaceous hybrids share in the interest that visitors at the show display. They may lead the general public out of the stereotype red, white and pink full doubles of the lactiflora type domination. While the lactiflora are very beautiful, we need to be led into the area of greater variety.

Also, while *P. suffruticosa* (tree peony) displays are becoming more prominent at our shows, quite likely these beauties will only occasionally be found in the gardens since propagation problems still remain with us. The only practical means of increasing stock of these clones is grafting, an art that is not yet well developed. Raising tree peonies from seed is still an unsure proposition offering more failures than successes. We are working on this project and when a sure method is discovered, the *P. suffruticosa* will take its place alongside the herbaceous peony in our gardens.

With the issuing of our American Peony Society Bulletin on time and full of interesting reading and information, our Society is thriving. Also, while not authorized by the Peony Society, a newsletter dedicated to hybridizing called "Paeonia" is issued four times per year. From the hybridizers will come the long range benefits necessary for the health of our Society.

Our Peony Society's seed distribution program is becoming an ever-expanding arm and its success lends a feeling of wellbeing along with a sense of service.

We, unlike the Whimpe Pooff bird (he is a bird that flies backward since he doesn't care where he is going but wants to know where he has been), are interested in both the past and the future. Therefore I feel

that the Society should initiate a program of plant, or rather a seedling distribution program alongside seed distributing. This project could be taken over by one or several members of the Society. Can't you just envision such a program issuing a list of extra special crosses of exotic parentage alongside the regular hybrid tetraploids! At first, one-year-old seedlings would be offered, later two-year-olds and even three-year-old seedlings. Still further down the road this program could be expanded to include the *P. suffruticosa*!

As of now, on my own, I will offer one-year-old seedlings of mixed variety at a price of \$5.00 per dozen. Any thoughts you may have on this idea would be most welcome!

*—Lois and Chris Laning are the Editors of *Paeonia*. Address above.

ANYONE CAN GROW PEONIES FROM SEED

Robert C. Wise, Sidney, Ohio

Growing peonies from seed is a very satisfying experience. However, be prepared to wait five years for the first blooms to appear. Surprisingly, the blooms may differ from the seed parent. When you plant yellow marigolds, you get yellow marigolds just as pictured on the seed envelope. But when you plant a pink peony seed the chances are good you will not get a pink peony exactly like the seed parent. The petals may not be the same color. The shape of the bloom may be different. The height and size of the plant may vary. You may get two colors on the same bloom. Granted most of the new plants are not really quality peonies. However, the fun part is the anticipation of the unknown peony, raised from seed, bursting forth with an unexpected characteristic.

The serious hybridist will collect and store pollen and make painstaking crosses between peonies that do not produce seed easily. This is necessary for the breeding of top quality varieties and new hybrids. But, for the beginner, this spoils the enjoyment. Let the bees and other insects do the pollinating until you have gained some experience in growing peonies from seed.

I started with about forty name-brand varieties, purchased in the early 1970's. They consisted of many kinds, from early to late, single, semi-double, and full doubles. The colors ranged from white to blush, pink, red and dark red, with short medium and tall varieties. The



Some of my seedlings.

singles and Japanese are the most prolific seed producers, with practically every bloom-producing seeds. These closely resemble their parents when planted and raised to blooming age, but not always. There is always that unexpected bloom that may suddenly appear, as if by magic. The doubles are not good seed producers, especially, if you depend upon insects to do the pollination.

The experts say to discard the peonies that are not top quality. This seems such a waste, so I plant the respectable ones in a large cemetery next door to my house. Peonies have been growing on the graves there for more than fifty years. Since my five daughters and I mow and take care of this cemetery, we are careful not to cut down the peony foliage until late in the mowing season. Many people in our area consider this the prettiest cemetery in the county. It is also one of the oldest. The original county seat is just one-half mile away. Many of the tombstones date back to the 1850's.

Many people think that growing peonies from seed is only to discover and improve new varieties, but it can be for the thrill of the unexpected, like opening gifts on Christmas morning. In the fall of 1975, I planted about 250 seeds, and the following spring approximately 80 seeds sprouted. That next fall, 1976, about 185 seeds were planted, of which 75 sprouted. This represents germination rates of 30-40%, which can be improved with careful attention to watering and planting location. My seed-grown peonies were just planted and ignored. Many were lost through careless cultivation practices and some through winters' freezing and heaving them out of the ground. Even with this "plant 'em and forget 'em" attitude, about 40-50 plants survived to maturity, with 20-25 different flowers from about 15 varieties of seed. The names of some of the seed pod parents are: HELEN, NIPPON GOLD, GARDEN GLORY, WHITE SANDS, NIPPON CHIEF, KRINKLED WHITE, MINNIE SHAYLOR, YELLOW KING, WATCHMAN, DETROIT, KARL ROSENFELD, PRIMEVERE and NIPPON PARADE.

With these results in mind and having tasted the satisfaction and anticipation of new blooms, this past October I planted many more seeds and plan to give them more attention and hope to get a higher germination percentage. With more careful cultivation practices, a greater number should survive to maturity. In closing, if you think you can't grow peonies from seed, try it. Just plant them in the fall, give them reasonable cultivation and wait four to six years. They will reward you with many different blooms. It's fun. Try it, but you must be patient.



**If you cut a tree, plant a tree.
It is nature's replaceable energy.**

CONTROL OF DISEASE AND PESTS IN COMMERCIAL PLANTINGS OF HERBACEOUS PEONIES

*George A. Hernandez, Vice President, Mail Order Division.
Charles Klehm and Son Nursery.*

Control of the diseases and pests which attack herbaceous peonies has always been a major concern of those who grow these peonies commercially. The disease and pest problems that pose the greatest threat to our production farms here in Illinois are *Botrytis cinerea* (grey mold), *Cladisporium paeoniae* (Measles and or leaf-blotch), and Northern RootKnot Nematode.

Large commercial plantings have always been more susceptible to diseases than smaller home gardens. There are many reasons for this, with the most obvious one being the difficulty of disease detection in large plantings. It would not be easy to examine every leaf in a forty acre field each day. It is therefore possible for a disease to exist unnoticed for years in a production field. With every growing season the disease population would slowly increase, and by the time that the disease was detected, a large portion of the planting could be infected. *Botrytis cinerea* is an example of a disease organism that can thrive undetected for years in a field and then seemingly come from nowhere to infect an entire planting. These explosive epidemics of *Botrytis* can damage a field so severely in one growing season that future production in that particular field is jeopardized.

The control of *Botrytis cinerea* and *Cladisporium paeoniae* are essentially the same, as both of these organisms have a similar life cycle. Our control program has three phases. Each phase is designed to attack the disease at those stages of the disease organism's life cycle where active infection of the peonies can take place. First, fungicides are sprayed in the spring during the early growth of the peonies. This coincides with a time when the plants are vulnerable and the disease is active. These sprayings help the plant's own defense systems fight off infection from any inoculum which may have overwintered in the field or blown on to the nursery from adjoining fields. These sprayings will also help to extend the storage life of our cut flowers, as no viable inoculum can be carried from the field into our storage areas in the buds or on the stems of our cut flowers.

Second, all roots that are cut for shipping or for propagation are dipped in a fungicide solution. Any active inoculum are killed prior to storage or shipping and the roots will have resistance to any inoculum which may be in the soil where they are to be planted. Active inoculum of *Botrytis* have recently been isolated in the interior portions of older roots of peonies, an area which previous research had indicated that the inoculum did not exist. This recent discovery has increased the importance of the dipping operation. The fungicides also kill other organisms which may cause rot problems in our storage areas.

Third, all dead foliage is cut and removed from the production areas in the late autumn after the plants have gone dormant. The inoculum of both *Botrytis* and *Cladisporium* are dependent on dead or decaying plant matter to overwinter. The removal of these materials, including any weeds, will eliminate the primary source of inoculum from the growing area. Each phase of this program is considered by us to be essential for the control and eradication of these diseases.

The fungicides which we use are Benlate (Benomyl) and Captan 50W (Orthocide). A combination of these two fungicides is used for both spraying our fields and dipping our roots. Benlate is a systemic, narrow spectrum fungicide. *Botrytis* can build up a resistance to Benlate and therefore should always be used in combination with another fungicide. Captan is a carbamate with a broad spectrum range. It apparently kills by disrupting the cellular activity of the disease organism and there are no known cases of disease resistance. This combination of fungicides provides systemic control without the danger of strains resistant to them developing in our production areas. Another advantage of this combination is that the disease will be arrested no matter what phase of the life cycle it is in at the time of treatment. A spreader sticker is always used with these fungicides.

Spray Schedule

Three sprayings with these fungicides during each growing season are necessary for adequate control of *Botrytis* and *Cladisporium*. A fourth or fifth spraying may be necessary if an outbreak of *Botrytis* occurs in a season that is favorable to its growth. The optimum conditions for the germination of *Botrytis* spores are 100% relative humidity at 60 degrees Fahrenheit for twenty-four hours.

The spray rates which follow are taken from the product labels of the manufacturer. Care should be taken to use these products in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

The first spray is applied at the rate of 4 pounds of Captan 50W with 1 pound of Benlate for each acre to be treated. This spray is applied when the shoots have first broken through the soil and before any leaves have begun to unfold. Because of the wide range of varieties that we grow, a portion of the plants that are treated have not broken through the ground completely at the time of this treatment. This spraying will arrest active infections in those shoots which may have had tissues damaged by a late frost. The spray should remain on the plant for at least twenty-four hours without any rain to be effective.

The second spray is applied ten to fourteen days after the first. The fungicide rates are halved, i.e., 2 pounds of Captan 50W with ½ pound of Benlate per acre to be treated. This spraying should catch the first leaves as they are unfolding and the remainder of the shoots that had not broken through the soil at the time of the first spraying. Because any lesion on the plant's surface is a potential site for the germination of spores and subsequent infection of the plant, we try to

cultivate prior to spraying. Then any tissues that are broken or damaged when the tractors pass over them are treated when we spray the field.

The third spray is applied ten to fourteen days after the second. This is about the time when our earliest blooming varieties are flowering. The third spray rate is determined by the amount of rain that has fallen during the season. If it has been a rainy season, the full rate is applied - 4 pounds of Captan 50W with 1 pound of Benlate per acre to be treated. If it has been a dry season, the half rate is used - 2 pounds of Captan 50W with $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of Benlate per acre to be treated. Since this will be the last spraying, it should be used to treat the wounds that are caused in removing sidebuds from those plants that are being grown for cut flowers. The third spraying may be delayed until all of the plant disbudding is completed.

A helicopter is used to apply the fungicides to our fields. It is quick, efficient and the prop wash helps to disperse the spray droplets throughout the foliage. Any conventional spray equipment can be used as long as it is high enough above the ground to prevent harm to the plants.

Dip Rates

The fungicide dip that we use to treat our peony roots is 2 pounds of Captan 50W and 1 pound of Benlate per 100 gallons of water. We use a large galvanized livestock watering tank in which we dip our peonies. A drainage rack which slopes back toward the dip tank was installed to help eliminate waste. A submergible pump was placed in the dip tank to keep the fungicides in suspension. The roots are dipped after they have been washed and cut. This insures that all cuts on the roots are treated and that the employees that are cutting the roots are not exposed to the fungicides.

Roots that are being cut and trimmed are examined for signs of disease damage, elongated or blasted eyes, eyes that are smaller than normal for a particular variety, or poor eye development. Care is taken to remove all of the old stem from the root.

A bushel basket makes a convenient container in which to submerge the peonies in the fungicide. There are many suitable containers of both plastic and metal available. Our roots are handled in bushel baskets from the time that they are dug until they are shipped. This helps make the dip operation go smoothly as we do not have to transfer the roots into special containers for dipping. It also helps to keep the varieties from being mixed together while being transferred from one container to another.

The dip solution is changed every day during our peak season. We do not allow it to stand for more than 48 hour periods at other times.

Mowing

Our cut flower fields are mowed with a hay chopper every year. The chopper that we use has a chute that blows the clippings into a

dump wagon that is pulled behind the chopper. Since these clippings will invariably contain weed seeds as well as spores in the diseased plant parts, they cannot be used as mulch. Wind and water can carry the spores of these disease organisms back into the production areas, so these waste materials are burned immediately or hauled off the nursery.

A smaller mower is used in the production rows that cannot be mowed with the hay chopper. We are still trying to develop a means to pick these clippings up for removal from our nursery. Now the clippings are plowed into the soil to speed up their decomposition. The removal of dead leaves and stems is a vital part of our disease control program. It is as effective as the fungicide sprays, but since the spores of *Botrytis* can be carried into a planted field by the wind, mowing is only a part of our overall control program.

Control of RootKnot Nematode

The control Rootknot Nematode requires diligence as well as dedication on the part of the nurseryman. The alternative to its eradication could be the relocation of the entire operation to uninfested soil. To maintain a healthy nursery, any plant materials which are brought onto the nursery must be free of nematodes. The importance of this simple control measure is based on the fact that unless your soil already is infested with nematodes, new plants from another nursery would be the only source of infestation. If you suspect that a group of plants has nematodes, it is better to destroy the infected plants than to take the chance of introducing nematodes to your nursery.

Quarantine blocks, a part of the nursery where new plants can be physically separated from the production areas, should be established and used for plant materials that have come from a questionable source. The plants can be grown, observed and treated if the need arises without endangering the entire nursery. Soil can act as a carrier for the nematode. It will be necessary to wash and sterilize all of the tools used in the quarantine block, including boots, before they are used in other areas of the nursery. One pregnant nematode which escapes the quarantine could infest the remainder of the nursery.

Chemical controls for nematodes are available, and as a group nematicides are very toxic. Methyl Bromide is a soil fumigant which can be used to kill nematodes. Plastic is placed over the soil of the area to be treated and the Methyl Bromide gas is released beneath the plastic. Weed seeds, fungi, nematodes, and all other living organisms beneath the plastic are killed by the gas. This is a method used by vegetable growers to control soil-borne organisms which may threaten their harvests. This method can be an expensive way to treat an entire nursery, but it is a last resort that is available for the severely infested nursery soil. Companies that have the special equipment available for the application of Methyl Bromide to large areas can be contacted for this service.

Vydate L (Mfg. by Dupont) is a nematicide that is labeled for use on peonies. Vydate L can be used as a foliar spray, a soil drench and for dipping roots.

As a soil drench, Vydate L can be applied directly to peony roots that have been lined out in the quarantine block. The rate that the manufacturer recommends is 1 pint per 100 gallons of water, and 2 to 4 gallons of the drench per acre. While the furrow is still open, the exposed roots are drenched with the Vydate L. This is safer than dipping and the employees do not have to bundle roots that have been soaked with this toxic substance.

During the active growth of the peonies, Vydate L can be applied to the foliage. Four applications at 2 to 3 weeks intervals are recommended. The rate that the manufacturer recommends is 2 to 4 pints per 100 gallons. The final spray solution should not exceed 8 pints per acre. The sprayings should begin after the first leaves have unfolded, and should not be applied to plants under water stress. A spreader sticker should be used. The Vydate L is taken up by the plant and will be translocated to the roots by the plant. When the nematodes penetrate the roots they are killed. This interrupts their life cycle, as the young of the females who manage to lay eggs in these rootlets will not survive. These foliar applications can reduce the population in time and are best suited for light infestation.

Many of the practices that younger growers have been taught were developed in a time when chemical controls were not available. The trimming of all fibrous roots off of the peony tuber that is offered for sale is an example of this type of practice. The removal of these roots makes a stronger, more vigorous transplant, as well as eliminating the most likely site of active female nematodes. Their removal is vital to the control of nematodes.

Many of these older practices were based on common sense and are still sound today. A good balance between sound nursery management practices and the chemical controls that are now available is the best approach to the control of diseases and pests.



Spring, a magic word of the enchanting season. Soon we will hear the lilting song of the meadow lark, and the happy song of the robin, together with that of the song sparrow and a number of early harbingers of Spring. To me, there is an enchanting loveliness in the song of the meadow lark that is not surpassed by any other wild bird in early Spring. Later in the season, we have the brown thrush, cat bird and other lovely songsters that have a greater variety of song that is so entrancing, and perhaps more pleasing to some.

—W. F. Christman, Editor Bulletin #116, 1950

THE GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

By W. A. Alexander

For almost 50 years (since 1923) the American Peony Society has, from time to time, chosen certain varieties of peonies to receive the Society's Gold Medal for outstanding excellence and performance. During the first 20 years or so, the award was made by the Society's Seedling Committee, but since then by the Board of Directors. In Bulletin #123, December, 1951, the then editor, the late George W. Peyton, published the list of winners.

The following is the list resulting from his search of records. Name of originator, year of introduction, and year of award are included.

MRS. A. M. BRAND (Brand, 1925), St. Paul, 1923
A. B. FRANKLIN (Franklin, 1928), Chicago, 1933
MRS. J. V. EDLUND (Edlund, 1929), Chicago, 1933
HARRY F. LITTLE (Nicholls, 1933), St. Paul, 1934
NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931), Syracuse, 1941
ELSA SASS (Sass, H. P., 1930), Minneapolis, 1943
HANSINA BRAND (Brand, 1925), Rockford, 1946
GOLDEN GLOW (Glasscock, 1935), Rockford, 1946
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (Franklin, 1933), Guelph,
1948
DORIS COOPER (Cooper, 1946), Milwaukee, 1949

These ten varieties were the ones listed by Mr. Peyton up to the time of his search of records. Since then the following have been added to the list:

RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944), Dixon, Illinois, 1956
MISS AMERICA (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Dixon, Ill., 1956
KANSAS (Bigger, 1940), Grand Forks, North Dakota, 1957
MOONSTONE (Murawska, 1943), Minneapolis, 1959
MISS AMERICA (J. R. Mann-Van Steen, 1936), Mpls., 1971
NICK SHAYLOR (Allison, 1931), Kingwood Center, Mansfield,
Ohio, 1972
AGE OF GOLD (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1973
WALTER MAINS (Mains, 1957), Hamilton, Ont., Canada, 1974
BU-TE (Wassenberg, 1954), Kingwood Ctr., Mansfield, Ohio, 1975

Both MISS AMERICA and NICK SHAYLOR were awarded a second time because no one remembered they were already among the elite, which emphasizes their excellence.

CYTHEREA (Saunders 1953), Ithaca, New York, 1980
BOWL OF CREAM (Klehms 1963), Kingwood Center, Mansfield,
 Ohio, 1981
WESTERNER (Bigger, 1942), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1982

GRAND CHAMPION PEONIES — NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

1947 BLANCHE KING	1965 RED CHARM
1948 YUKON	1966 ANNISQUAM
1949 A. B. FRANKLIN	1967 DORIS COOPER
1950 KANSAS	1968 CAROL
1951 RED CHARM	1969 NICK SHAYLOR
1952 NANCY NICHOLLS	1970 PRINCESS MARGARET
1953 LE CYGNE	1971 DOUGLAS BRAND
1954 ANN COUSINS	1972 SPELLBINDER
1955 JAMES PILLOW	1973 DINNER PLATE
1956 LE CYGNE	1974 PRINCESS MARGARET
1957 NO SHOW	1975 ROBERT W. AUTEN
1958 DORIS COOPER	1976 CAROL
1959 HANSINA BRAND	1977 JAMES PILLOW
1960 LE CYGNE	1978 PRINCESS MARGARET
1961 FRANCES MAINS	1979 Tree Peony—YACHIYO TABAKI
1962 LOVELY ROSE	1980 MISS AMERICA
1963 MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT	1981 DOUGLAS BRAND
1964 HANSINA BRAND	1982 Tree Peony—HAKU-RAKU-TEN



Until you find beauty in your own backyard, don't expect to find it
 anyplace else in the world. Everyone has room for at least one tree
 peony and that is all it takes to add class to the smallest garden.

—Leo J. Armatys, Bulletin #181



**If you cut a tree, plant a tree.
 It is nature's replaceable energy.**

GETTING PEONIES ESTABLISHED

by Anthony De Blasi

(Apology is due Mr. De Blasi for a missing page from this article 'Getting Peonies Established'—December Bulletin. It is now printed in its entirety.)

Peonies are so accommodating and tenacious that it would seem that all a gardener need do to get one started is drop a root somewhere, slap a shovelful of earth over it, and move on. That might work for Festiva Maxima, but don't try it with Yachiyo Tsubaki. Getting started is a problem for most peonies. An easy one, fortunately. Past that initial hurdle, of course, it is clear sailing for up to a hundred years! The peony seems able to tilt some of the laws of nature in its favor against bitter cold, searing heat, wet spells, drought—neglect, even—to deliver its annual bonanza of flowers. But it can only do wonders when it is truly at home in the spot you have chosen to plant it.

Before we proceed, it will be necessary to drive home one point. **Peonies cannot be hurried along.** They must strike root in their own time and in their own way. The breathless speed of their springtime spurt of growth must not be confused with a generally active nature. What you see at that time of year is stored energy being rapidly discharged, in style not unlike the release of a hyacinth from its embryonic coil inside the bulb. The moral to this, as you may have gathered, is don't feed a peony extra food expecting faster results. Such a pumped-up plant might respond—bypassing its internal clock and natural signals—but at the expense of disease tolerance, longevity, and normal growth and blooming habits. What a peony needs, to overcome its shyness, is proper planting and patience.

Before you reach for the shovel, take a stroll through the garden and picture where you want to see your peony bush. Where the eyes stop, check to see that the spot is at least 12 feet away from a tree and a comfortable distance from shrubs, foundations, aggressive perennials, work areas, playgrounds, and fast-traffic lanes. Next, determine whether the spot gets a decent amount of sunshine and doesn't become a minipond after a rain. Muck may push buttercups but it kills peonies. If your prospective home for a peony is still holding up, ask next if it is a good spot for a windmill or whether it will bake firewood dry in a month from being too near the south or west side of a house that gets no shade in the afternoon. If yes, choose another site.

The best time to plant a peony is in the fall, for as long as the ground doesn't freeze. So why plant it in the spring? Make up your mind, right off the bat, that your investment in a good peony root calls for digging a large hole, that you're going to do it only once (per plant), and that your effort stands a good chance of being applauded by your greatgrandchildren. Then the 2-foot-wide by 2-foot-deep excavation will go better, and your muscles will spring back faster. Of course, they

don't have to be your muscles. Do not return anything to the hole except your best topsoil, liberally mixed with compost and/or peat moss. If your best topsoil is not very good, get some that is. Do not add any manure or fertilizer.

Space tree peonies 6 feet apart. Set them so that the joint between the roots and the stem is 3 or more inches below the surface. Space herbaceous peonies 5 feet apart. Set them with the eyes one inch deep. Do not tamp the soil. Flood it with water. Add soil, if necessary, to level any depression. Mulch the plant heavily the first winter with straw or other litter to protect against early spring heaving. Remove the mulch about April 1st.

The most crucial phase in getting a peony established is behind you when you have planted it right. In the first two years, be strict about weeding, cultivating, and watering in dry weather. Choose weekly intervals for this care. Don't let any grass grow up to the plants—keep the lawn edge far away. And keep the lawn food even further! In late spring of the first year, give each peony a generous dressing of bonemeal, cultivating it lightly into the soil. Continue this regimen once a year, right after the plants bloom. During the first year or two, either erect a barricade against frisky pets and children or draft the youngsters for guard duty (and pay them according to the degree of their vigilance).

Remove and discard leaves that spot, buds that blast, or stems that wilt. Ants on the flower buds are harmless. Ignore them. Do not prune the tree peonies, ever, except to remove dead wood. In late fall, when the foliage of the herbaceous peonies is brown, cut the stalks down to about an inch-and-a-half. The stubs will mark the positions of the plants. In the North and other areas of severe winters, the tops of tree peonies may have to be protected as you would roses. Nothing is better than a deep layer of snow, and siting your plants where snow drifts naturally build up would be an exercise in foresight. Another worthwhile precaution would be a careful staking of critical branches or boxing the whole plant with a wooden frame to prevent snapping of limbs under the weight of snow.

This discussion has focused on providing a favorable environment for a peony transplant in the garden. Such an invitation for the peony to put forth its best rarely goes unaccepted. But pushing, or treating it as an ordinary garden plant, invites trouble. If the requirements seem bland or nonchalant it is because we are dealing with a plant that refuses to march in lock-step with the hyped technology that generates bedding plants, sod, and landscape stock. It should cheer the discerning gardener that one of the most old fashioned of garden plants, the peony—treated in an old fashioned way—can outpace the newest products of the “state of the art.”

WANTED—Division of peony LA FRANCE. Please write this office.

This was my third year for my Estate peonies from Klehms. The size and beauty of the bloom was unbelievable. There are ten varieties and I haven't decided which is my favorite. I would have to say "All of them!"

—Eileen Wright, Machiponga, Virginia

SEEDLINGS

R. W. Tischler, Faribault, Minnesota

I have been asked many times just how the Brand Peony Farm in Faribault, Minn. grew their seedling peonies. I know that everyone has their own way of hybridizing and planting the seed. If their way proves satisfactory, then that is the way for them to keep on doing it.

I was at a garden show some years ago, where a grower was telling how to hybridize and that you should keep records of this and that. His lecture was on the "deep" side and far beyond many of those in attendance. As his lecture went on, folks walked out, and I followed. We then had a talking bee in the hallway. I was asked how the nursery grew seedling peonies, as Brand's had put many a good peony variety on the market. I replied that when I went to the fields and noticed two flowers nodding to each other, I put them together. This is not true, but close.

For many years, I knew Mr. A. M. Brand. Many times I walked the iris and peony fields with him. His knowledge and love of these flowers was great, and it has been proven so with his varieties that are tops on today's market.

I carried on much the same procedure when I operated the nursery. We did, however, do some hand pollinating on special plants that we hoped would give us a good, new variety. Also, Roy Pherson did some of his work in our fields. He kept records of his crosses and he also bagged the blooms. He enjoyed our show bed as here he had many varieties to work with. In fact, one year our show bed looked like a KKK convention, he had so many of the blooms bagged with white paper sacks. The seeds we got from him were mostly unlabeled, and we planted them as such.

Usually the seedling bed consisted of single and Japanese types of flowers. I would look for a flower of a different color, nice form, or anything that was different, or better than anything that was on today's market—also good foliage and all-around appearances as well as for shorter growing plants that would be ideal for landscaping.

Many times we attached a temporary name to a new seedling—more or less as a distinctive marking. We had named one Peyton's Place because every time Mr. Peyton visited us he wanted to

see or know how that certain seedling was performing. Nanny, was another name we used, suggested by Mr. Bigger as he said the flower would some day get our goat. And it did! It was a beautiful lacinated flower that never bloomed true for us. We finally discarded it. Other seedlings were assigned a number. As the seedling became established, it was given a permanent name. Most of my creations were named for members of my family, workers at the nursery, or friends. Other seedlings were named for a place or subject that seemed to fit the flower.

We feel that it takes fifteen to twenty years to get enough stock of a new seedling to be able to put it on the market. It must be colorful, hardy, good and easy growing and something different and better than anything else on today's market.

If a person plants only a few seeds each year, I can see why they might want to keep records of their crosses; but here where we planted quart after quart of seeds, what a job it would have been to keep the records straight. Then too, you could make the same cross over and over again and never get the same results.

Peony seeds can be fun to grow. Don't expect to get results in a few years. When you do get the first blooms, it will be worth your years of work and waiting. The flowers will delight you and will be of great interest, while others might not like them at all. They are yours, you created them, so be proud of them.

The following article was written by Mr. A. M. Brand in one of his older catalogs and it should be of interest to many readers.

OUR JUNE SHOW

"In June our peony gardens are in full bloom; and with their setting they form a picture which we find great pleasure in sharing with all who love flowers and the great out-of-doors. We shall be glad to meet visitors at the train if they will notify us when to expect them.

During the season of 1919 we had in bloom twelve acres of plants to show our guests. Four hundred and eighty named varieties were found here. These were planted in rows some thirty rods long; and the great fields, banded with every shade from the purest white to the darkest crimson, were a sight to be long remembered.

Besides the named varieties we had probably 60,000 unnamed seedlings in various stages of development. Perhaps the most beautiful and certainly the most interesting spot in the nursery was one of the seedling beds. Everyone who has any curiosity about the origin of new varieties of peonies will want to know something about this little plot of ground.

OUR FIVE-YEAR-OLD SEEDLING BED

This is the one of all our beds of seedlings which was this year at just the most interesting age. It includes perhaps a quarter of an acre, and is located on one of the highest spots in our grounds. In this bed were seen no neat rows and long stretches of a single color. Instead the

entire surface of the ground seemed to be covered with a rich brocaded carpet in which pink, rose, crimson, maroon and white were here blended and there contrasted in an indescribable fashion.

The beauty of such a bed of seedlings strikes one at a glance, but it is not until one begins to examine the individual plants that the interesting fact about it is discovered. Search, as you may, among the thousands of plants and you will find no two that bear flowers exactly alike. In fact, the widest diversity in form, as well as color, exists. And this brings us to the story of the most interesting part of our work; for this bed is the laboratory in which at the present time most of our discoveries are being made. You will meet it again in the following story of how we get our new varieties of peonies.

HOW BRAND PEONIES ARE PRODUCED

Fundamental Facts. There is nothing mysterious about our work. It is based upon a few easily understood facts. In the first place, the modern peony, like many other cultivated plants, is the product of many crosses, and so does not "come true" from the seed. That is, if plants of a single variety are isolated so that the flowers cannot be fertilized by the pollen from another variety, and if the seeds produced are planted, and the resulting seedlings are cared for until they bloom, the flowers of these plants will be found to vary widely in both color and form. The plants themselves will differ in color of foliage, habits of growth, etc. Everyone of the seedlings may be inferior to the parent stock; but, on the other hand, one or more may prove superior to it in some important characteristic at least.

Now, if different varieties are grown side by side, wind, bees and butterflies will carry pollen from bloom to bloom, and thus bring about hybridization. The seeds thus produced will, of course, bear greater possibilities of variation than those produced by a single variety—and if the parent stocks are fine varieties, their descendants are more likely to be worthwhile than are the descendants of common stock.

Now for the story of how we apply these facts. It must be remembered throughout that what we are after is a new combination of desirable characteristics—a new peony as good as any yet produced but different.

Choosing the Parent Stock. Our first step is to set out a bed of plants to furnish seed for our venture. The varieties used are selected with great care. Each plant that is chosen must possess in clearly defined form one or more especially desirable characteristics, such as good color, fine form, or pleasing fragrance in the flower, or good habits of growth in the plant. Though we are especially anxious to secure doubles, no entirely double variety finds a place in the bed. Such flowers, possessing neither stamens nor pistils, cannot help in the production of seed.

Hybridization. Having chosen our parent stock with such care, we leave the work of hybridizing for the most part to nature. In this way

we work on a larger scale than we could if we depended on hand fertilization. We also get combinations of characteristics that we could not have worked for. We know the qualities that our parent plants themselves possess, but we do not know what latent characteristics, inherited from their many ancestors, they may be able to transmit.

Raising the Seedlings. Just as the pea-like pods are opening, we gather the seeds, and sometime before freezing weather we plant them broadcast in a specially prepared bed.

With the first warm days of the second spring, the little plants begin to pierce the soil. They remain in this bed until their second fall, when they are transplanted to another bed where they are to remain until they show what sort of flowers they can produce. Here they are given intensive culture; and the fourth year after the seeds are sown, a few plants bloom. But the fifth year is the time we have been anxiously waiting for since we planted the bed which was to furnish seed for our experiment; for then most of the plants bloom.

Selection of Promising Varieties. Each of the thousands of seedlings is a new variety. And now comes the task of selecting from among them the ones that give promise of being distinctly new and choice. Of all the plants raised, about ninety per cent revert to the original type of the peony and turn out singles. Most of these are not worth preserving; but occasionally we find one with a distinctive charm, and this we mark. However, it is the doubles that we examine with the greatest interest.

During the blooming season, the bed is gone through several times a day. Promising varieties are noted and so marked. Each day our interest is fresh, for we know we shall find new plants in bloom; and each day we say to ourselves, with the unfailing enthusiasm of the experimenter: Among these thousands of plants, all unlike, we must surely find a few, at least, different from any that the world has yet produced and as good as the best. But years of work with the peony have made us exacting; and along with our hope goes the constantly deepening determination not to offer to the public as a Brand Peony any variety that does not approach our standard. Fortunately for the ordinary purchaser of peonies, this standard calls for many qualities that the amateur himself would not think of demanding.

The Brand Standard. A good peony, first of all, produces beautiful flowers—that is, flowers that have the charm that comes from good color and fine form. But peonies capable of producing such blooms fall into two classes: (1) those which develop the full beauty of the flower in the field under ordinary conditions, come good every year, bloom profusely, and possess stems strong enough to support the flowers; (2) those that, in order to bring out their full beauty, must be developed in the house away from the sun and unfavorable weather conditions, or that produce good flowers only once in three or four years, or that give scanty bloom, or possess weak stems.

It goes without saying that the first class are the only desirable plants for persons who cannot have all the flowers they would like to have. Nevertheless, the amateur cannot tell one from the other. Now Brand Peonies are selected for the qualities of the first class. Nevertheless, beauty of bloom has not been sacrificed. Time and again they have won prizes at flower shows in competition with those of the second class.

Final Tests. But our work is far from finished when we have marked a variety as promising in the seed bed. Years of experience have taught us that the seedling bed furnishes no real test of the permanent value of a peony even if beauty of bloom alone is considered. Many a plant, that we have here noted as bearing flowers of exceptional beauty, has failed in later seasons and different locations to live up to its early promise. And the conditions of the seedling bed furnish an even less satisfactory test for the other qualities of a truly desirable peony.

So, after we have learned what we can from the performance of a plant in the location where it first blooms, we lift it at the proper season, divide the root, and replant the divisions in different localities. Each year, for anywhere from three to six years, we note the various characteristics of these young plants; and finally we decide whether or not they are worthy to be given a name and to form the parent stock of a new Brand Peony.

Occasionally a variety has some characteristics so desirable that we preserve it in spite of defects. But when the time comes to list the variety in our catalogue we are careful to mention its limitations.

Final Results. In all we have probably tested out 500,000 different varieties. Of all this number, we now list but 45; and some of these, as we have said, we do not consider to be first class in every respect. About 20 of them, however, we do believe must be admitted to the short list of the world's best peonies; and four or five of these are masterpieces. But even if the work from beginning to end had not been full of pleasant excitement, and if only one best variety had passed the tests, we should have been repaid for our experiment. To have produced a Martha Bullock, or an Elizabeth Barrett Browning, for example, is reward enough for the years of working and waiting.

The Development of Stock. When we have finally decided to add a new peony to our list we cannot put it upon the market until we have developed a considerable amount of stock. Now, as we have said, peonies do not "come true" from seed. Therefore, this must be done by the slow process of root division. With some varieties root growth is exceedingly slow, and it takes many years to produce a supply of plants available for the market, since part of the stock must be reserved for further propagation. Such varieties must always be rare."

SOME AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NINTH DECADE

by Don Hollingsworth

The eightieth anniversary of the American Peony Society offers an appropriate milestone for looking at where we've been and where we are going.

This year marks 80 years of service and leadership in the interest of horticulture and, specifically, in the interest of persons who favor peonies. During the past decade under the strong leadership and good judgment of our secretary and presidents, with the selfless support of numerous individuals, and with the patronage of a growing membership, the Society has become stronger in all of its major aspects.

Given the renewed strength of the Society, several opportunities for the enlargement of present leadership and the initiation of new activities by the Society are apparent. These offer a challenge for our planning.

1. Consolidation and expansion of the acceptance of the American Peony Society as the international authority for the registration of peony cultivar (variety) names. The regulation of peony variety names has been a primary purpose of the Society since its inception in 1903. Commerce in cultivated plants is international. The importance of a precise, stable and internationally acceptable system for their naming has long been recognized. International horticultural interests have evolved the present International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants over a period of thirty years. The enlarged activity in international trade in peony plants of recent years has sometimes made the problem of valid name determination painfully apparent. The American Peony Society has long been a favorable influence in the resolution of naming problems. It is time to re-examine our present level of support and our potential for increasing the role of the Society in addressing this subject.

2. Determination of policies and procedures in the establishment of names for hybrid peony groups. The hybridization of peonies has advanced in recent years well beyond the initial generations of hybridization between species. Plants introduced by the early hybridists have become known by group designations, among those persons who wish to discuss them, through common usage, for example, Quad Hybrids, Itoh Hybrids, Officinalis Hybrids, etc. With the advent of many advanced generation interspecies hybrid groups, the confusion is mounting. Instead of letting this situation advance uncontrolled, it is time to evaluate the need and determine arrangements which will enable the orderly establishment of authoritative designations. This will support the interchange of information among persons interested in hybridizing and will be especially valuable in the presentation of new types

and groups to the general gardening public through commerce.

3. Consider the early preparation of a publication directed to the interests of persons who may be considering the idea of hybridizing peonies. There has been a substantial advancement in the information base for peony breeding during the past 20 years. This information is continually being evolved or "perfected." While much of it is contained in published form, this is dispersed through the past issues of this Bulletin and of *Paeonia*, the hybridists letter. In such form it is largely inaccessible to new readers and is not up-to-date in many instances, because of subsequent refinement. Therefore, the solution to this need may well take the form of a hybridist's yearbook, which may or may not be needed every year.

4. Re-evaluate the Society's programs of promoting renewed interest in peonies on the part of the general gardening public. What are the avenues whereby new interest is stimulated in peonies at present? What opportunities exist for the Society to cultivate awareness and desire that are not now being used? For example, can incentives be successfully used in support of local flower shows by Federated Garden clubs, photography contests, publicity packages offered through the garden writers organization, etc.?

Because of the great distance between the geographic boundaries of peony growing, Society members live long distances from one another. Admittedly, this makes deliberation on complex new issues a little difficult. In the past, much of the responsibility for these matters has fallen on the back of the secretary of the Society, with support from other people in varying degrees. If these matters are going to be dealt with in a timely manner, there will have to be a greater responsibility taken by persons other than the secretary. Also, I do not believe that these matters can be entirely dealt with at board meetings during the national meeting. Perhaps the role of the board should be to determine assignments of responsibility and to delegate segments of the effort to persons who will deliberate by correspondence or whatever other means they wish to use and bring recommendations to the board. Some issues may be amenable to giving a delegation of authority to act without waiting for another board meeting, as in the case of a hybridizing yearbook.

There is a great reservoir of talent and knowledge represented by the membership of the American Peony Society. May we please hear from those of you who have an interest in the topics posed here and let your feelings and suggestions be known.



The peonies bloomed extremely well this year; however, an early frost in August made short work of any seeds that were developing. I had hoped again to submit seeds for *Paeonia* distribution—perhaps next year will be better.

—Stan J. Zubrowski, Prairie River, Sask. Canada

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LETTERS

My interest in peonies was sparked by a short passage in Katherine White's 'Forward and Upward in the Garden' where she described the beauty of the hybrid and tree peonies. My first hybrids, now two years old were **RED CHARM** and **EARLY WINDFLOWER**. Easy to get hooked on such flowers. My next additions were **CYTHEREA** and **PAULA FAY**. This fall, I added **REQUIEM**, **ROSELETTE**, **ELLEN COWLEY** and **ARCHANGEL** plus the lactifloras, **PILLOW TALK**, **GAY PAREE**, **MOTHERS CHOICE**, **STARDUST**, **BUTE**, and **WESTERNER**. Sounds like I'm a candidate for "Peonies Anonymous."

I enjoy reading the Bulletin and am looking forward to meeting many of the Society members at the convention in Milwaukee.

—Tom Richards, Boyceville, Wisconsin

Our peonies were super this year but the highlight of the peony year was attending the American Peony Society meeting at Hamilton Ontario, Canada, visiting the Botanic Gardens, attending the peony show, and meeting the wonderful people attending. There you could see and learn about peonies.

At home, I decorated a large church for a friend's wedding with dozens and dozens of peonies, using a higher and lower scale in baskets and containers at the pews and around the church. It helped to make a beautiful celebration of marriage.

—Mrs. Carl F. Hertz, Nevada, Iowa

The peony season in Central, Missouri was great—the weather just didn't cooperate.

The few tree peonies, that I have large enough, bloomed well; however, on one or two the blooms seemed slightly smaller than in previous years. **GAUGUIN** and **VESUVIAN** were special favorites of mine. One tree peony, six or seven years old and about two feet tall, has never bloomed for me, yet looks healthy and grows taller and wider each season.

The hybrid peonies bloomed in all their splendor and the weather cooperated beautifully up to about the end of the hybrid season. Then the rains came. We did have a few nice days during the main season, but the rains ruined hundreds of blooms. The plants were all staked and tied, but these efforts proved no match for the rains sometimes accompanied by winds.

Aside from the bloom season, I noticed considerable *Phytophthora* blight late in the summer. I sprayed a number of times before the blooms opened but tended to forget spraying after the plants were cleaned up after bloom. I did spray a couple more times after I noticed the blight and cut off those stalks on which blight was seen. Hopefully my neglect hasn't resulted in permanent damage.

—Olin Frazier, Warrensburg, Missouri

We had an excellent peony season this year. Cooler than usual temperatures and minimal wind helped to prolong the season to July. **CARINA, DO TELL, NEON, WHITE CAP, BLANCHE KING** and **DORIS COOPER** were among the best performers along with the tree peonies **AGE OF GOLD** and **ROCKS VARIETY**. **CORAL FAY** was severely affected with blight this year, the only variety to have this problem.

—Brian Porter, Regina, Canada

Drenching the soil with Benomyl seems to arrest, if not cure, what Cornell Univ. says is Lemoines Disease.

On a recent trip to China, I saw beds of tree peonies in gardens at the Ming tombs and at several temples. Also found a pack of post cards with beautiful pictures of tree peonies. I did buy a lovely print of a tree peony from the artist, for framing.

—Josephine M. Parks, East Greenbush, N. Y.

I had a great peony season, and blooms were large, bright and beautiful. Some tree peonies had less bloom. This might have been due to the cold windy weather over a prolonged period in Jan. and Feb. Anxiously I await the bloom of **Souvenir De Maxime Cornu, Hansina Brand** and **White Charm**, all recently planted.

—Ada Young, Maryland

Thank you for your care and hard work to keep the American Peony Society in good shape. May your peonies grow well in 1983. This year has been a good season for us, good quality bloom and high prices. **SARAH BERNHART** is always the best one commercially. This year, I have planted a few from the U.S.A. and am looking forward to their bloom. I am sorry the Sept. issue of the Bulletin is not in color, with all those show winners. Anyway, I enjoy reading the Bulletin cover to cover, when it comes in. I grow freesias and watsonia between the rows of peonies. They are looking good now. Just hope we do not get a frost during the winter to spoil them. Many thanks.

—Theodore Person, Jersey, Channel Isle, Great Britain
(Mr. Person is a commercial grower of peony cut flowers; his fields of peonies are in Bulletin #232.)

Over the past four years I have been moving my peony collection to a new location, which will be my home in the future. All are recently established but most that were moved in 1979 put on a good show. With a cool and moist summer, flowering of all perennials were good. I continue to enjoy the Bulletin, the last one particularly because of articles on some of the outstanding peony growers and breeders of the past. While I was dividing some peony plants this fall, I was struck again on how each root presents an individual problem, where to insert the knife so as to cut it up with the best divisions of roots and buds. I would like an article for the Bulletin from one of the older experienced commercial growers on this subject.

—F. P. Healey, Manitoba, Canada

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PEONIES ON AN ATLANTIC BARRIER BEACH

Vernon Kidd, New York, N. Y.

The 1982 season was only the second season of bloom for our peony planting which shares the enclosed back yard of a beach cottage on Fire Island with a dwarf fruit tree orchard, and plantings of Iris, tetraploid Daylilys, roses, grapes and strawberries. In addition, I have a small vegetable plot squeezed in. As you can see, my peony space is limited, and some are planted in less than ideal spots. However, they have performed so beautifully since planting, I have added two more this past fall, **Myra MacRae** and **Douglas Brand**, bringing the number of peonies to thirteen.

My favorite, because of its stunning deep ruby color and beautiful form, is **Red Grace**. It has rather weak stems, but compensates with an unending supply of petals opening until it is a large globe. The peonies, for the most part, were supplied by Klehm's nursery which sent large healthy divisions or whole plants. People have been so impressed with my blooms that I've referred at least 10 different soon-to-be peony fanciers to Klehm's—if only they would put out another color catalogue of their splendid offerings. They also supplied me with my Daylilys which were still blooming when we closed the house for the season.

The other peonies performing beautifully were **Pink Jazz**, a wonderfully large hot pink that holds for a very long time as a cut flower, **Moon River**, also good as a cut flower which fades to white with a pale salmony-pink inner glow; **Vivid Rose**, which I didn't care for the first season, was spectacular this year in color and form; **Whopper**, still has me puzzled. It was breath-taking on the bush, but doesn't hold too well cut—it has three color tones and seems to glow from pink to gold from its center. It just looked different in my catalogue—I love it! I'm waiting for **Best Man** to achieve its dark color—so far it is slow to perform although giving some nice large blossoms. **Cheddar Cheeze**, while interesting in shape and color, has a most unpleasant aroma and doesn't hold well as a cut flower—maybe it needs time to come into its own. Looking forward to **Douglas Brand** and **Myra MacRae** come spring and the next issue of the Bulletin, especially descriptions of the Peonies.

* * * *

After a very wet spring, I thought the garden peonies would make a very poor showing, but instead, flowers and foliage did exceptionally well.

The standout in the garden was **SANTA FE**, I think—with **RED CHARM** and **DAWN PINK** close behind as attention-getters. First-year-planted **CHINESE DRAGON**, grew to about 15" in height and produced five beautiful red flowers. All the blossoms seemed to have a deeper color than last year—perhaps the rainy spring?

—Wilma Zapha, Massachusetts

THE BEAUTY OF A GARDEN

This was an exceptional year for the peony gardens at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. There were over 3000 people attending the garden show which also featured flower arrangements, table settings, and fine arts. The theme of the event was "Beauty Created By God." The Ikeban flower arrangements showed off the peonies in all their beauty.

OUR GARDEN AT 1000 CRANBROOK ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

A little at a time - that's how the dramatic gardens and landscaping came into being.

The nine acres of church grounds reflect the love, care, and direction of Harris Olson. Most of the plantings are in the form of memorials and the grounds are maintained entirely by the men of the congregation.

The Michigan Horticultural Society presented an "Outstanding Landscaping" Award to our church in 1970. Our floral gardens include a Daylily display of 400 varieties planted in 1973, and a Peony Memorial Garden of 150 varieties started in 1975.

There are 100 varieties of herbaceous types (green stems that die back down each winter) and 50 variety of the more rare tree peony. These latter boast woody stems and bloom earlier than the others. All are labeled, which makes it an ideal spot for visiting by local gardeners who are always welcome. The church is now listed as a Display Garden by the American Peony Society.

Just beyond the peony beds there's another unusual sight—plantings of spuria and Japanese irises which flower much later than the bearded irises grown by so many people. Many gardeners believe these irises must be grown in water, but they grow happily in these surroundings.

The newest memorial garden planted this year is a rose garden with 40 different varieties of roses.

The beautiful stand of 100 foot tall spruces across the main driveway, form a natural cathedral. During the summer months, services are held in these beautiful surroundings.

—Mr. Harris Olson is a member of the American Peony Society

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All of my Klehm Estate peonies were beautiful this year, especially **BOWL OF CREAM**. Some blooms were 10" across. The later varieties had to be staked and tied due to the heavy rains. We had a sudden hot spell which was hard on the late peonies. It was a beautiful year of bloom and we are looking forward to the coming season with four new plants.

—Mrs. Sherry Castiglione, New Jersey

My peonies were beautiful this year and very healthy. Some of them are over 50 years old. They are ready for winter with foliage removed and burned. —Agnes Cooper Miller, Friend, Nebraska

* * * *

Life with peonies has been a progressive, never-ending education. As a young girl, I used to visit my grandfather, a retired school teacher. His part-time hobby, his garden, became a good source of retirement income. People came from miles away to purchase fresh flowers in the spring, and plants in the fall. His peonies were known for their health and quality. At this time, all I realized were their beauty and variety.

With the passing of my grandfather, my father inherited many of the plants, which he transferred to the home farm, in addition to those he already had. Two beds were planted in 1916 and have flowered every year since. I learned to help my father in their care, watering, keeping the ground cultivated, and how to divide them. To me, they were just beautiful flowers and of no special interest. I did know they came single, double and Japanese types.

Several years after I married, and moved into a new home with plenty of room for a large garden. The first plants were some of my father's favorite peonies. This kindled a latent passion for peonies, that grows more and more every year. More and more varieties were steadily added. Then I was introduced to the American Peony Society Bulletins through my father, and decided to also join the Society. Everything went along beautifully until we had a cool, very wet season. An unpleasant surprise, blight, had arrived and this was a new experience. We learned to conquer this and became interested in disease prevention.

Next, we started to attend National Conventions and the shows held in June. Talking to members across the country, I became aware of 'How do you pronounce the word PEONY?' I have especially noted PINEY, PE'ONY and PEO'NY and all are convinced that he has the right pronunciation!

Now we have over 127 named varieties and the circle is closing. We are starting to think of retirement. For us, this means we will start selling blossoms and plants. We do have many people that stop and browse. All plants are marked so everyone can see the variety. We have been introduced to growing plants from seed. This can be quite challenging but rewarding. We are thankful for the many varied articles in the Bulletin, that not only cover growing plants, but how to prevent and recognize diseases—also how to raise plants from seeds. My husband has progressed from a scoffer to a full-fledged enthusiast. He is often stopped by a passing motorist as he is working, and asked how to grow such beautiful flowers and how to get information. Many have been shown the articles and introduced to the American Peony Society Bulletin.

—Marion DeReamer, Merrillville, Indiana

My peonies were beautiful this year. In all the fifty years that I have been growing them, they have never disappointed me once. I wish that I could see them again in all their beauty.

—Mary McGlothlin, Pueblo, Colo.

(Mary's eyes are failing; she cannot read anymore, but continues with her peonies.)

* * * *

After two years of exceedingly wet and weedy ones in our heavy Missouri clay and also due to my neglect because of time limitations, many of my plants are shrinking rather than increasing. I've lost several of the more delicate hybrids and tenuifolia. I limed heavily last year which I hope will offset the effects of several years of wood chip mulch. Comments anyone? The lactifloras continue to thrive; also Japanese and singles have been particularly rewarding. They are standing up where you can see them and not rubbing their dainty noses in the dirt. TANGO and ORANGE GLORY, planted where passersby could see them, were real traffic stoppers. The tree peony, KAMIKAZE, was spectacular.

—Nyla Tompkins, Webster Groves, Missouri

This year was not too kind to our peonies—a late and cool spring, then hail before bloom, and long dry spells all summer. We did have beautiful blooms in protected areas. Blight struck the hybrids for the first time and some of them were greatly reduced in size.

—Maxine Cover, Billings, Montana

The 1982 season was one of the best ever in our area of the Pacific Northwest. Plenty of sunshine and quite enough rain to keep things moist. All of the peonies, tree and herbaceous, were magnificent. A new seedling bloomed for the first time. If it continues to bloom as well in the future, it should be outstanding. It is a cross of Festiva Maxima X unknown, a most beautiful red, full-double called Daphne Fowler. Tree peonies were loaded with bloom. Apricots and peaches did very well, also. We both enjoy the Bulletin very much.

—Perry and Daphne Fowler, Bremerton, Washington

Spring of 1982 was very damp and rainy. A couple of plants had black leaves; otherwise everything was satisfactory. I have some trouble every year with some of the hybrids. Their buds dry up while small, and turn black—I think it is due to the frost. It is a shame, because I really prefer the hybrids for their clear, pure 'unmudded' red and pink colors.

—Judith Stika, Pittsburg, Kansas

Here in Australia, we are hoping for a wet New Year as we are suffering from the worst drought since the 1940's. Now we are starting summer with water restrictions. I have started with tree peonies; they are small as yet, but growing nicely. The flowers are beautiful. Thanks for your informative book. It's a real help!

—Marti Reilly, Caulfield, Victoria. Australia

We had an extremely successful year, selling out of many varieties quite early in the season. At the beginning of the blooming period most of the varieties were at least two weeks later than usual, and most of them grew at least 12 inches taller this year. As the season progressed, hot weather in June caused them to catch up with the normal blooming time.

We are presently expanding our planting areas and will have doubled our growing space by next season. This will enable us to propagate more quickly. We hope to be able to offer the harder-to-find varieties.

We want to compliment you on your expert and efficient work on the Bulletin. It is an excellent and tasteful source of information to all peony fanciers.

—Dwight Waitman, A & D Nursery, Snohomish, Washington

Dollars have become more and more expensive, but I can't be without the Bulletins, hereby sending my payment for the next three years.

My occupation with the peonies is the most joyful, beautiful and inspiring I have ever had, and ever will have. New ideas and exciting goals are constantly arising.

A lot of varieties had their first blooms this summer. Moonstone was in great form and became my favorite so far. Many more varieties will bloom next year if weather supports the growth. Heat and drying nearly damaged a lot last summer. In the last moment, some heavy showers restored moisture lack. Everything seems to be fine again before this winter.

—Hermann Krupke, Ljung, Sweden

1982 was one of the poorest bloom years. At the very height of bloom, the rains came. For over a week we had heavy downpours. Best performer, as usual, was **RED CHARM**; a close second, good old **BIG BEN**, and next, that wonderful pink, **MONS JULES ELIE**. **RASPBERRY SUNDAE** was good, but the stippling not as definite as in other years. **PEPPERMINT** was just a wonderful garden subject and fine bloomer. **MOTHERS CHOICE** is the best white I grow; **FANCY NANCY** being one of my favorite Japs.

—Mrs. Anna Walrad, Warrenton, Virginia

Each American Peony Society Bulletin is welcomed in our home as a friend. Thank you for keeping us in touch. The few of us in this area who grow peonies have better results with early varieties, Japanese and single types. Heavy rains and hail came in late May, wiping out two-thirds of the cotton crop and causing peony plants to look ragged all season. The summer was hot and dry but in spite of everything, I do expect blooms from **ISANI GIDUI**, **SEA SHELL**, **MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT**, **PINK LEMONADE**, **RASPBERRY SUNDAE**, **NIPPON BEAUTY**, **RED CHARM**, **KANSAS**, **KELWAYS GLORIOUS**, **CYTHEREA** and **GEORGE PEYTON** next year.

— 57 — —Mrs. A. B. Watkins, Texas

This part of the country had a most unusual spring in 1982. Feb. and March were very warm, then severe freezing in mid-April with two days and nights in the upper teens and low twenties. As a result, severe damage. Tulips and lilies never reappeared; no bloom on azaleas or forsythia. Roses and trees in leaf were defoliated and killed back—a gardener's nightmare!

Peonies were also affected. Chalice and Early Scout were about to open; buds froze. Only about one-third of buds that were just forming on the hybrids survived. Flowers were small and deformed. **RED CHARM** and **HERITAGE** bloomed and none of the hybrids had any foliage damage. The tree peonies were a disaster, and entire branches killed. Among the lactifloras, all Japanese types were hit hard, losing all buds and some entire stems. As to the doubles, there were mixed results—most of them did not open at all. **KELWAYS GLORIOUS** lived up to its name. **PINK LEMONADE**, now six years old, was magnificent.

Now in December, we are still having erratic weather. I have covered the exposed shoots with compost and pine branches hoping to protect them. Hopefully, 1983 will be a better year.

—Mrs. E. P. Henson, Kodak, Tennessee
* * * *

A busy time of planting stock is now over. I had planted some new herbaceous hybrids, all purchased based on observations at the shows and in the fields. After planting, I started thinking about hybridizing. If I wanted to experiment, I should certainly want to know what was worthwhile and what was not—I reached for the Society textbooks, History of Peonies and their Originations, and '75 Years,' plus the more recent Bulletins.

I found over 500 hybrids and a scan of commercial catalogs revealed 187 varieties listed for purchase. As suspected, most listings were singles and over half of the singles were red. The alba x officinalis hybrids were the most popular on the list, then counting the labotas, the entire list totaled 137. All the hybrid gold medal winners came from this heritage. Most listings are pink and red. Only four are creamy or white. Twenty-three (23) are doubles, and only 5 of them are pink.

The cross, officinalis x albiflora, are giving us bright reds and pinks with more doubleness and some Japanese. 78 are listed.

The difficulty in crossing these varieties to get better hybrids is that they are triploids. So, as to get on with my observation with relative success, a search for F₂ must be made. These are tetraploids for the most part and can be used to cross with other tetraploids. The following list shows F₂ availability.

	Registered F ₂	Commercially Available
Albi. X Off.	5	3
Off. X Albi.	9	5
Albi. X Macro.	11	5
— 58 —		

The officinalis -decora (*Diantha*), and the Mloko -tenuifolia F2 are also tetraploids. There are only two white doubles and no white semi-doubles, and those two are not commercially available. There are only 15 Japanese hybrids on the registered list and only four are in commerce. WALTER MAINS, a gold medal winner, is one.

Hybridizing can take on many avenues. The Itoh hybrids have given us a clear yellow. Non-Itoh yellow hybrids are being developed. Roy Pehrsons Best Yellow comes from the famous quadruple hybrids. (Quad F2 X Moonrise F2)

Oriental Gold x Claire de Lune (Albi x Mloko), has produced a seed setting double called GOLDILOCKS. Imagine what a back cross can produce in improving the yellow color.

More intricate shadings can be hybridized such as work accomplished by Cousins. Perhaps the quads, plus more complicated hybrids, can give us richer glowing hybrids.

For those not wanting to take the tweezer and paint brush, there are lists of seeds in the Bulletin, and this year there were F2 and F3 seeds from distinguished parents, some of which are not even in the commercial lists yet, they are so new.

Since most commercial catalogs do not make a point of listing genetic backgrounds, the Societies references are valuable in pointing the way to successful hybridizing.

I know what my garden contains and will plan some interesting hybridizing programs. Purchasing some F2 hybrids is going to make it more rewarding and '75 Years' points out more additional things to look for.

Enjoyed meeting everyone in Canada and look forward to the same pleasure at future shows.

—Bill Uhde, Sandy Hook, Conn.

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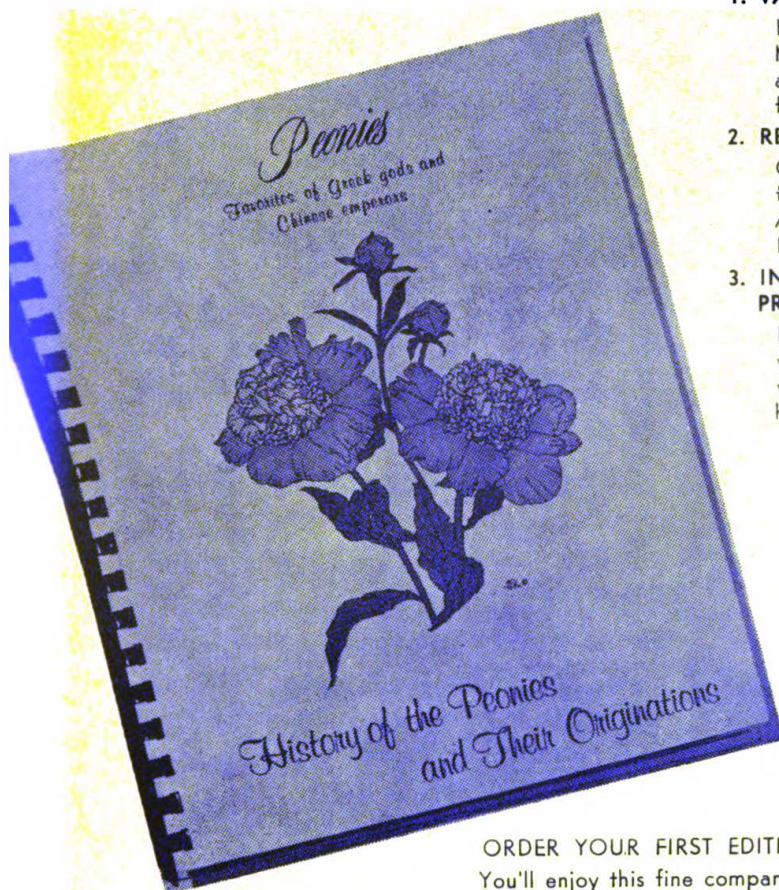
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