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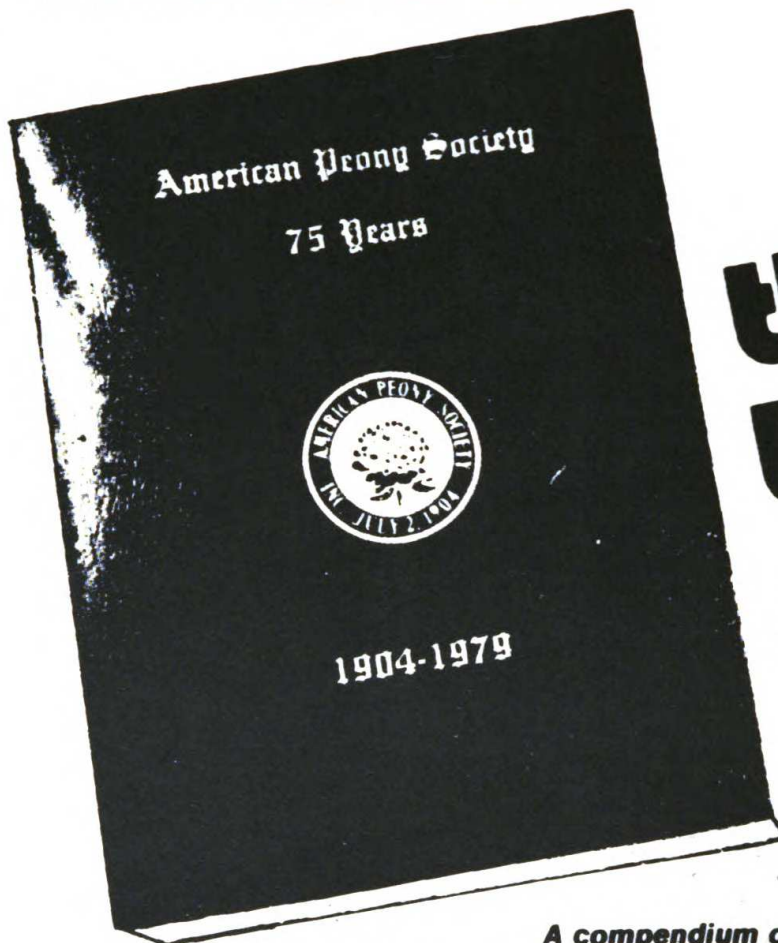
NO.248

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The American Peony Society Bulletin



SPECIAL CHARTER EDITION



the best of 75 years

Compiled and edited
by Greta M. Kessenich

*A compendium of authoritative articles
gleaned from 75 years of American Peony Society bulletins*



Those of you who pursue the study of the peony with diligence know that there are very few books on the market dealing with the peony in depth. The Best of 75 Years is destined to be a landmark edition for decades to come. It touches on subjects dealing with peony culture, history, exhibitions, peony ratings, nomenclature and new propagation techniques written by botanists, growers and hybridizers since the founding of the Society in 1904.

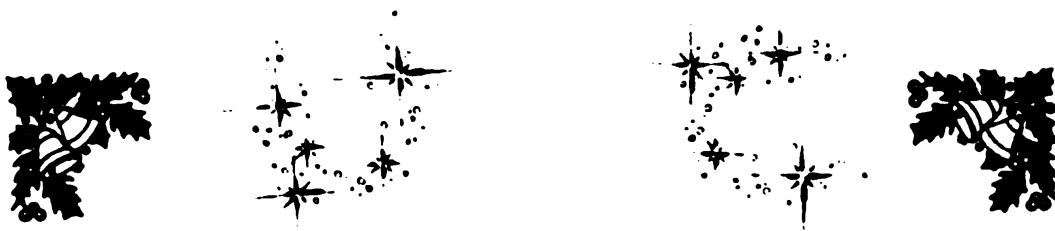
Bylines such as Saunders, Auten, Peyton, Wister, Gayle appear throughout supported by such contemporaries as Krekler, Wild, Hollingsworth, Lienau, Karrels and scores of others ... all ex-

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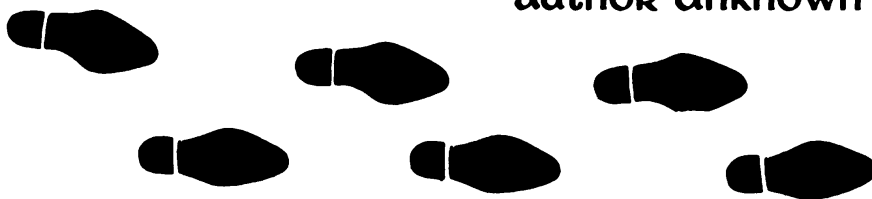


a CHRISTMAS REVERIE

one night I had a dream . . .

I DREAMED I was walking along the beach with the LORD, and across the sky flashed scenes of my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand—one belonged to me, the other to the LORD. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of life, there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life. I questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way; but I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you most, you would leave." The LORD replied, "My child, I would never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you see only one set of footprints, it was then I carried you."

author Unknown



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



December 1983 — No. 248

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is Columbus Day and the thought occurs that, like most of us, the peony is an immigrant. The tree peonies came to us from China, Japan and Tibet; many of them by way of Europe.

P. Wittmanniana and *P. Mlokosewitschii* came from Iran and the Caucasus. A fairly large group of species have come to us from the Mediterranean Islands and Europe. *P. emodi* comes from Northern India. *P. officinalis* comes from Spain through the Adriatic area and *P. tenuifolia* (the fern leaf peony) from around the Black Sea (Hungary, Bulgaria, Armenia/the Crimea and Caucasus). The most important species, as ancestor of most of our modern peonies, is the *lactiflora* and it comes from a broad area of northern China and Siberia. It is also found in Mongolia and Tibet.

As the many nationalities have furnished unique qualities to the melting pot of America, the many species of peonies have been blended into some lovely new plants by the hybridizers.

We look forward to many new hybrids in the future. Perhaps someone can even involve the shy American species, *P. Brownii* and *P. californica*.

Edward Lee Michau

HAPPY 1984

by Anthony De Blasi, West Newfield, Maine

A delicate coral rosette embedded in a ball of glass—it was a paperweight—was Winton Smith's link with a past that he only vaguely remembered. The beautiful crystal object that stirred buried memories was a dangerous possession for Winston. He lived in a society in which beauty was suspect, thinking was subversive, history was rewritten daily to suit the requirements of the State, the dictionary was purged of all words that did not directly serve the established order, and Big Brother watched and listened tirelessly through telescreens mounted in every public place, office, and dwelling.

This is, of course, the world of George Orwell's 1984. That chilling vision of a society in which every move—every word, every facial expression, was carefully monitored—was conceived in the 40's. Today, as we celebrate this New Year, we can sigh with profound relief that in 1984 fact does not meet fiction!

Orwell chose a fake rose-like flower to symbolize something that helps define being human—the yearning for beauty. You and I who associate to magnify a favorite flower, such as the peony, are aware of the value of cultivating and spreading beauty. The time spent growing peonies, breeding them, showing them off, discussing them, or writing about them, is not productive time—in dollars and cents—and does not contribute anything of strictly practical value to society. But, along with Winston Smith, clutching a small plastic flower, we know how important it is. Like smiles, our flowers soothe the wounds of the soul and mend frayed nerves. Flowers—breaths of harmony abundant as the stars—remind all of us of something embedded within us. The words needed to describe that something are hard to find, even in an unpurged dictionary, but we know it is good, and it is vital, and it is healing.

I remember a boy who lived in an apartment house in Brooklyn. He was racked with fever and confined to bed. The very sick boy was me. It happened to be Good Friday, and a normally empty store across the street was temporarily rented and stocked with potted plants from a local greenhouse. My mother went over and picked out a pot of Easter lilies, a rose bush, an acacia, hyacinths, and one or two other plants and brought them into my room. The family budget was out of whack for over a week, but that did not matter to her. What mattered was that I loved plants. She lived by the dictum expressed in an old saying:

If thou hast two pennies, spend one for bread.
With the other, buy hyacinths for thy soul.

My bedroom—suddenly alive and flooded with a bit of heaven—seemed to be floating in a cloud. My mother's love had been converted into an instrument of recovery, the likes of which medical science still gropes for.

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Maybe it is luck—more likely it is Providential design—that has kept the yearning for beauty from being squeezed out of us by such agents as expedience, uniformity, conformity. But whatever the reason, we are fortunate that we still live in a world that makes horticultural societies possible—for their mission, is to promote activities whose chief aim is not production but the appreciation of beauty. In a sense, this is of the utmost practical value, for the appreciation of beauty keeps us human and makes it extremely difficult to fall into step with a robotic society.

PLANT PEONIES NOW FOR COLOR IN THE SPRING

The Chicago Tribune, Sept. 11, 1983

(Permission given for reprint)

By Art Kozelka

It is PEONY planting time—time to start or add to collections of these magnificent flowers that bring such glamour to springtime gardens. Through October, the weeks ahead are favored for setting out the roots of these long-lived, popular perennials.

Few other hardy garden plants provide such an abundance of beautiful blooms, and even fewer are as dependable for repeat performances year after year, all with a minimum of care. These are perennials in every sense of the word, regarded by many as “lifetime” plants.

Moreover, they are remarkably versatile and adaptable to a landscape situation that favors them with a place in the sun. Use them freely as showy specimen plants in mixed beds and borders, plant them in massed beds for really spectacular effects or put them to work as a summer hedge along a walk or driveway.

Thus, because peonies have so much going for them, new homeowners and newly confirmed peony buffs would be amiss not to include them in their planting plans now so they can add to their garden pleasure next spring. Peony lovers of long duration need no encouragement to enhance their collections with some of the newer creations offered each year.

Inasmuch as peonies thrive indefinitely in the same location so long as conditions remain favorable, they deserve the best planting site you can provide. Such a site should offer full sunlight and a soil that drains well, and be especially visible so the flowers can be enjoyed at all times.

Unlike most other perennials, peonies need not be lifted and divided every few years unless, of course, you decide to move them elsewhere or share roots with gardening friends. Plants have been known to continue producing fine blooms when left in the same location for 20 or more years.

With approaching autumn, peony planting conditions are ideal,

just as they are for commercial or specialist growers to dig the roots for market.

Plants dug now have developed plump new eyes [buds] for next season after their summer's growth and, when replanted before frost, will be ready to produce their fluffy blooms next spring. Soil and weather conditions at this time are conducive to proper plantings.

Planting holes should be dug deeply enough to hold the entire fleshy root system, but care must be taken not to set the eyes at the top of the roots any deeper than 1½ or 2 inches below the level of the ground. Deeper placement of the eyes is one of the most common causes for failure to bloom.

On the other hand, too-shallow planting might result in winterkill the first season, especially if temperatures drop near the zero mark. It is wise to protect newly set plants the first year with a light mulch of straw, leaves, or other similar material after the ground freezes. The mulch should be removed early in spring. Once plants become established no mulch is required.

Peony foliage will continue attractive all through the summer and should not be cut down until after it is blackened by frost. Apart from normal watering, weeding and occasional applications of a balanced plant food before and after flowering, the plants demand little care.

While all peonies yield handsome blooms, more recent introductions, such as the ever-expanding Estate Series, produce a profusion of large, double flowers with improved forms and livelier colors on strong stems. These modern beauties, incidentally, are the result of generations of hybridization and propagation by the Charles Klehm & Son Nursery of Arlington Heights, foremost growers of peonies.

Some of these newer varieties with exceptional appeal are **Glory Hallelujah**, a blend of red and pink with petals edged in silver; **Raspberry Ice**, red highlighted with silver; **Moon River**, cream and pink blend; **Bowl of Cream**, creamy white; **Dinner Plate**, immense-flowered shell pink; and **Fairy's Petticoat**, dainty pink with ruffled petals.

Selected varieties of the Estate Series peonies are available through the fall catalogues of Wayside Gardens, Hodges, S.C. 29695; W. Atlee Burpee Co., Warminster, Pa. 18974; and other mail order firms, as well as at Klehm's Nursery at 2 E. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004.



GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

- An American Peony Society membership to a friend.
- Gift certificates for herbaceous, hybrids, or tree peonies.
- Peony books listed in the Bulletin.
- The NEW IMPROVED PEONY HANDBOOK with the bright and magnificent colored peonies on the cover.

It's a beauty!

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SHADE: AN INSIDIOUS ENEMY

Eldred E. Green (Horticulturist), Chicago, Ill.

Every night when my dog takes me for an evening walk, we pass a garden that has a row of peonies along one side—trouble is, the peonies have only produced two or three small flowers during the last several years. There are several plants, about 8, and numerous small stunted stems.

The garden was landscaped by a professional firm some years ago and maintenance had been done by the owner. Until three years ago, a widow occupied the house after the death of her husband and the garden had been quite neglected. While the neglect did not kill the peonies it did something else—it allowed weed trees to take over. At first, these small seedlings of Norway maple and white ash were cute, but, like kittens and puppies, they outgrew the cute stage and became problem adolescents.

As the shade from the weed trees increased each year, the size and number of the flowers on the peonies (and other plants as well) decreased. Now they are just about finished.

While the pattern of change in this garden can be traced to the change in occupancy and the emphasis on the garden, there are many cases where the change is more subtle but nonetheless devastating.

Large trees that develop on a neighbor's lot can cast shade up to 100 or more feet away in the early morning or late afternoon hours. If there is any shade during the middle of the day, this distant shade can make a marked difference in the health of a garden.

Feeding of a lawn or garden can make a marked increase in the size of any nearby trees. The canopy of leaves may be greatly enlarged and the amount of light coming through may be correspondingly reduced. This effect is easily overlooked unless you stop and notice the telltale signs of shade—poorer grass, leggier plants, fewer blooms, plants that tend to face in one direction, paler color, and smaller leaves.

Once shade has been determined to be the cause of reduced growth the next problem is that of correcting it. If the offending tree is a relatively small one, a sharp saw is the best solution. Cut it off at the ground. If the trees are too valuable for such treatment then a hard pruning of the lower branches may let enough light in. If the trees are the neighbor's property than a dilemma may exist—will the neighbor be obliging and prune the trees or will you have to remove the peonies to another location!

Obviously, the best plan is to select an open place that cannot be shaded, but that may be impossible in city gardens—so watch your shade. Be sure that your peonies get about 6 hours of full sun a day

during the growing season—and don't guess! Just because there was no shade when you planted the roots years ago may not mean that it isn't there now. Shade is insidious. It creeps up gradually year after year and as the small trees grow or the older ones spread out, trouble is ahead.

Watch your shade now. Winter is a good time to prune or remove trees. The sooner the better!

REGISTRATION

EVA IANTHA (C. R. Aldritt—1983, Excelsior, Minn.)

Double hybrid. Parentage unknown. Seedling #I-one

First bloomed 1927-1928.

Pink double hybrid, ball form, no stamens, pollen or seeds. Good substance, strong stems, 36 inches in height. Very fragrant.

Season of bloom, midseason to late, the foliage is heavy and dark green.

Flower measures 6-7 inches across and 3 inches in depth.



Tree Peony from the Puget Sound

This beautiful tree peony blooms every year in March, often in early March in this community. It is on the south side of the home of Mrs. Mary Baumgardner. Her brother gave her this plant from his garden when he moved, so she does not know its age or its name.

I have enjoyed seeing this large plant in bloom for years. It is the earliest blooming peony that I am aware of in this area. This is quite remarkable in that we are very near the Cascade Mountains, although we do enjoy the mild temperature of the Puget Sound region.

William J. Koenig, Buckley, Washington

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PEONIES—A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING

Peony arrangements at the wedding of LaDonna Hollingsworth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri.

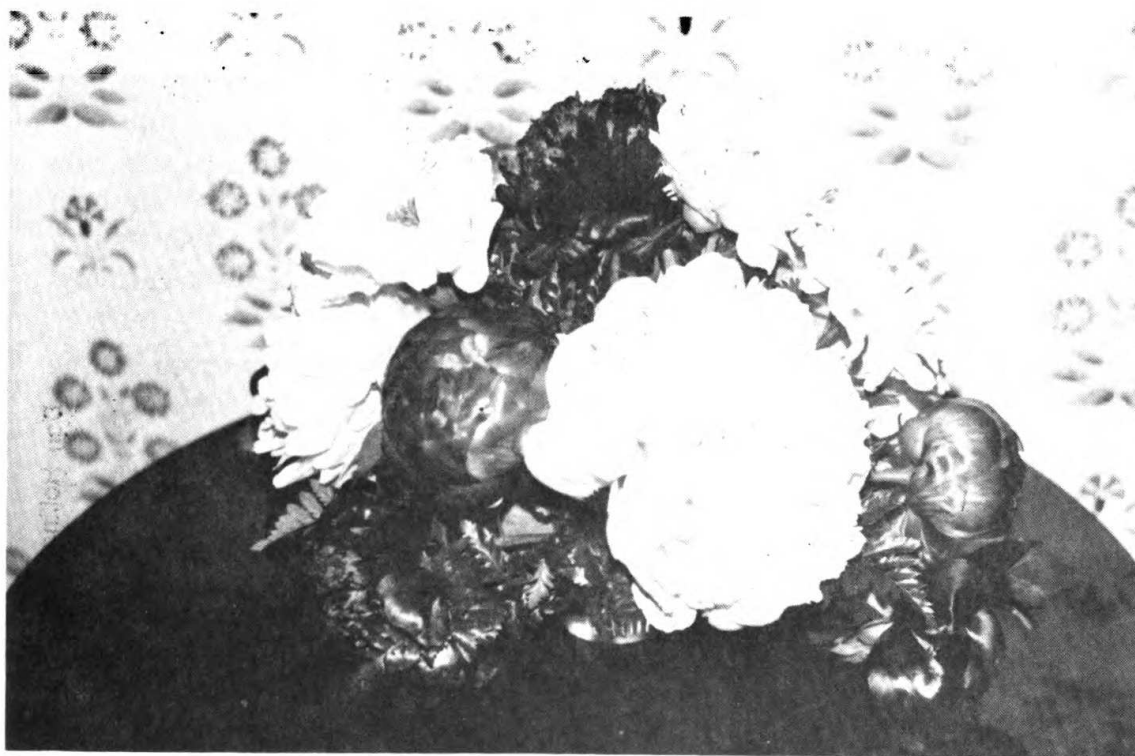
Over 500 specimen blooms were cut and held in cold storage until the professional arranger began working with them Saturday for the wedding, Sunday, June 5th. All peony blooms were from Don's garden, featuring his own seedlings, some of which will be introduced in the near future. Many named varieties were also used. Chartreuse shrub, fern, coral bells and sweet rocket were cut from his garden. Gladiolus, spikes and florist greens were also used with the large arrangements. Other florists traded materials for the bouquets and corsages, complimenting the artistic arrangements. In addition to this lovely wedding, it was a peony show of magnificent bloom as Don selected the varieties and cut them at the correct stage for opening on this special day.



*Spellbinder, Shawnee Chief
Hollingsworth pink anemone #688.
Also Western and Sophie*



*White Sands
Hollingsworth #199 pink
and Le Charme*



*Large double - Hollingsworth #685
Red Charm, Cytherea and Virginia Dare*



*Hollingsworth Itohs #205 and #206
Red Charm, Virginia Dare, Mystery Red*

PEONY RATINGS

W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota

What is a good peony, and how does one determine it before purchase? There are various criteria and all of them have some merit. A peony may have a very high rating for one purpose (exhibit) and rate very low for another purpose (landscape). Probably one of the best means of selecting would be Gold Medal winners of the past thirty years. I just happen to grow all of them and they are excellent varieties in all respects.

The Gold Medal winners of the 20's and 30's were selected by the APS Seedling Committee. As might be predicted, they were new introductions that had been available less than five years before being awarded the Medal. They also tended to be excellent show varieties since that is where they were seen and selected. These could not have had too wide a distribution when the award was given.

Since about 1945, the award has been given by the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society. The time since introduction has increased to at least ten years and in many cases to over twenty years. This has led to much wider distribution and many more people having an opportunity to evaluate.

The requirements are rather rigid as established by the Board. All Board members (18 people) must be very familiar with it and preferably grow the variety under consideration. One negative vote by anyone stops the award. This vote may be either "I grow it and don't think it is that good" or "I don't grow it and don't know enough about it." To receive approval of all these eighteen "experts," a peony must be good in all categories—landscape, exhibit, health, availability, etc. Some years, the Board has shirked its responsibilities and because of pressing business has not considered a Gold Medal variety. Other times they cannot agree on a variety that they consider good enough to be worthy. At the present time, a number of varieties have been suggested and are under consideration.

The list of Gold Medal varieties was published in the March 1983 Bulletin #245, so will not be repeated here. In June of 1983, the variety **Chinese Dragon**, a very vigorous red lutea tree, with beautiful finely-cut foliage, was voted the Medal. This is the second tree peony to be so honored. The first was **Age of Gold** in 1973.

The number of Gold Medal varieties is not many but they are certainly all excellent varieties. If one wanted to start growing a few peonies and knew nothing about them, this would be a good place to start. For someone who has quite a few varieties and doesn't have all of the Gold Medals, they would make an excellent addition.



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

PLANT PEONY SEED

We thank all contributors of peony seed this season as well as in the past. Our seed pool has been replenished with choice seed that will produce beautiful plants. All peony seed is free, although we do ask \$1.50 for preparation and mailing charges.

Send your order to me: Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Toichi Domoto
26521 Whitman St.
Hayward, CA 94544

Suffruticosa - T. P. seeds

Maurice Menard
1194 Montee Champagne
Ste. Dorothy Laval
P.Q.-Canada H7W 356

1. Mons Jules Elie - P. lactiflora
2. Festive Maxima - open pollinated
3. Festive Maxima x mixed pollen
4. P. lactiflora seedlings
5. Minnie Shaylor - open pollinated

Marvin C. Karrels

Lactiflora mixture from:

1. Miss America
2. Spellbinder
3. Liebschen

Gus Sindt

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Seashell | 8. Gay Paree |
| 2. Pico | 9. Liebschen |
| 3. Vanity | 10. Miss America |
| 4. Dawn Pink | 11. John Gardner |
| 5. Terry Gruden | 12. Owatonna |
| 6. Hazel Brand | 13. Florence Bruss |
| 7. Eastern Star | 14. Kay Tischler |

Don Hollingsworth

1. Herbaceous—mixed kinds—mostly tetraploid early whites, early pastels, few mid-season reds and few lactiflora
2. Mixed suffruticosa (T.P.'s)

Chris Laning

1. Vista x Archangel
2. Quad F³ x Moonrise
3. Serenade
4. Quad F³ x Silver Dawn F³
5. Tetraploids from pink and from yellow clones
6. Sanctus x Silver Dawn F³



Wanted — Peony ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

Write to: Mildred P. Mauldin, Research ass't.
Armstrong Browning Library
Baylor University
701 South Old Robinson Road
Waco, Texas 76706



Victor Lemoine



Lemoine in his nursery



*The Rue de Begonias
where Lemoine lived*



The tomb of Victor Lemoine

LOOKING FOR LEMOINE

Kent and Dee Ann Crossley, St. Paul, Minnesota

In late March, just as winter was ending, an invitation arrived to participate in a meeting in Vienna in August. As it appeared to be an interesting conference, we wrote the organizers and indicated that we would attend.

By early summer, we were busy planning our trip. Our two children would also travel with us to Vienna, and we would plan our vacation around the meeting. We decided to fly to Paris and then drive to Vienna. That route would take us through eastern France, part of Switzerland and into Austria. As we looked together at a map of Europe, the city of Nancy, France seemed like the best place to spend our first night after leaving Paris. Something about the name of the city was familiar. A moment looking at the biographies in *The Best of Seventy-Five Years* confirmed our suspicions—Nancy was where Victor Lemoine had lived and worked.

Pierre Louis Victor Lemoine lived in Nancy in 1849 until his death in the fall of 1911. He was, perhaps, the most significant of the many important French horticulturists of the second-half of the last century. He was trained by several prominent predecessors, among them Auguste Mieliez, who introduced *Festiva Maxima*. Lemoine worked closely with Felix Crousse (who was seventeen years his junior and

also a resident of Nancy). Lemoine's business was continued by his son, Emile.

In late August, after flying to Paris, adjusting to jet lag, renting a car, and mastering the stick shift, we drove out of the city. That evening we arrived in Nancy and found a room in an eighteenth-century hotel on the city's magnificent main square.

The square itself was enough reason to visit Nancy. Being named the Place Stanislas, it was built about 1750. Dominated by a large statue of King Stanislas, the square was surrounded by beautiful buildings that were artistically lighted at night.

The next morning we visited the city's tourist office. The name of Victor Lemoine was recognized but the staff knew nothing of him and directed us to the local historical museum. At the Mus'ee Lorrain we were kindly assisted by Mme. Francine Roze who was able to provide some information about Lemoine.

We were told that there were no direct descendants of Victor Lemoine's living in the city. (A number of people named Lemoine are in the Nancy telephone book but none are close relatives). The Lemoine tomb contains the body of a Henry Lemoine who died within the past few years. How he was related to Victor Lemoine is unclear.

Mme. Roze also told us that, unfortunately, the local botanical garden was closed. The director was said to have a particular interest in the history of horticulture.

The museum had several important brochures about Lemoine in its collection. Reproduced here is the photograph of Victor Lemoine which was used to illustrate a commemorative booklet published when a monument in his honor was dedicated in 1926. (The monument, located in the Parc Ste-Marie, lost its head in the Second World War and was only recently restored). Another photograph which accompanies this article is from the same brochure and shows Lemoine in his nursery, perhaps about the turn of the century.

There are several reminders of Lemoine which we were able to see during our day in Nancy. The Rue de Begonias (shown in figure 3) was the location of his home. The street dates from the late Victorian period and it probably was named in Lemoine's honor because of his extensive efforts in hybridizing this flower. We learned that Lemoine was very active in developing plans for public areas and the landscaping of developments in Nancy.

Lemoine's tomb (located in the Cimetière du Sud) contains the remains of a number of his relatives as well. It is not an impressive grave. (When the cemetery caretaker found its location in one of his large leather-bound record books, he muttered that the Lemoines were obviously not well to do).

Taken together, the materials available to us in Nancy re-emphasized that Victor Lemoine was a most versatile and skilled hor-

ticulturist. Material in the museum refers to Lemoine's work with phlox, lilacs, gladiloi, begonias, delphiniums and "those wonderful herbaceous peonies of splendid and expressive manner." Interestingly, those Lemoine introductions which are presently available or which were of tremendous popularity in the past (Solange, Le Cygne, Sarah Bernhardt and La Lorraine come to mind) aren't among the varieties mentioned by the French writers in publications from the early part of this century.

Unfortunately, peonies are uncommon in Nancy today. We walked through all of the city's public gardens and saw hundreds of roses, fuchsias and begonias. I counted three herbaceous peonies in all of Nancy. Lemoine's legacy, however, lives on all over Europe and North America. The herbaceous perennials and lilacs he introduced insure that his name will be remembered for generations to come.



GRATIS PLANTS

by L. Bonnewitz—1867 - 1947

(Mr. Bonnewitz was 68 when this was written—there was no date on his catalog from which this was copied)

When I was a boy, ten to fifteen years old, my father had a country store. In those days the farmers' wives usually made only two trips to town each year, to procure their supply of dry goods. The smaller children usually came with the mother, and when the trading was completed, my father made it a practice to give to the smaller children, gifts of some kind—a handkerchief, a pair of mittens, a little book, or toy. These gifts to the children pleased the parent fully as much as the child, and goodwill for the store was created. The children to whom those gifts were given, are now men and women of sixty and seventy years, but even yet, some of these elderly people speak to me of the gifts my father gave them, and the smile of appreciation is still upon their countenances.

The first peonies I imported were from Mr. Lemoine of Nancy, France, and in that very first shipment he included a gratis plant of the hybrid tree peony, L'Esperance, and every time I look at that gift peony, it brings a kindly feeling for Mr. Lemoine.

The garden business is today in its infancy, even as the Bonnewitz Dry Goods business was in its infancy fifty or sixty years ago. When I first began selling peonies, I adopted my father's practice of building goodwill among my garden customers, by including in each shipment a gratis plant or two. I believe that my customers appreciated them, even as I still appreciate the gift Mr. Lemoine gave me twenty years ago, and it is a pleasure for me to continue to follow in the steps of my father and of Mr. Lemoine.

A VISIT WITH ROY AND SARAH KLEHM

By Ned Bayley, Silver Springs, Maryland

Roy Klehm was almost as hard to find as the Penny Road Farm in Barrington, Illinois. Joyce and I left O'Hare Airport in a rented car and with what we thought was plenty of time to get to Klehm's breeding and propagating farm by 11 A.M. We got lost in the maze of roads and turns and development around Rt. 62. Finally, we turned in to the farm, 45 minutes late, ready to excuse Roy if he had dismissed us as no-shows.

We stopped at the barn and parked our car among the bulldozers and trucks. Yes, we were told, Roy was expecting us, but he had gone somewhere on the farm. He would be back soon. Maybe we'd rather wait at the house across the road.

At the beautifully landscaped and remodeled farmhouse, we met Sarah and she graciously assured us Roy would be back soon. Back he came, rumbling up the driveway in a large, muddy pickup, ambling up to us, tall and smiling, welcoming us with as much warmth as if we had been a few minutes early.



Roy's enthusiasm was infectious—enthusiasm for hosta, peonies, people and living. He led us through the hosta gardens first; they were nearest the house. We saw the deep blues of **Blue Skies** and **Blue Wedgewood**, the dark green and white margins of **Ginko Craig** and brilliant leaves of **Gold Standard**, **Gold Edger** and **Piedmont Gold**.

In a bank garden against the wall of a renovated barn, Roy showed us some of their display peonies. Recent rain had bent the heavy heads and shattered some of the blooms, but they all were beautiful and we were especially attracted to **The Fawn**, **Cheddar Gold** and **Old Faithful**.

We walked out into the propagation beds, past the rows of **Vesuvian**, **Alhambra** and **Black Pirate**, to acres of seedlings. The multitude of vigorous young plants, responding to the rich black prairie soil and expert care, would be the Klehm selections for the future. Up on a ridge were the older seedlings—those that had survived earlier selections. They were labeled 108Q, 107M, 121M, etc. The numbering system was based on the age of Roy's father, Carl G. Klehm. Several rows on the ridge contained seedlings obtained from William Klekler.

While we were talking, Kit Klehm drove by on a small tractor, equipped with cultivator teeth. Roy explained that their youngsters worked mornings during summer vacation.

We walked back through the fields across the road to the greenhouses filled with thousands of hosta in all stages of development. Roy was proud of the Spanish-speaking help, the adeptness of the women in the greenhouses and the willingness of the men to work in the fields.

The Penny Road Farm is only one of four production farms operated by Charles Klehm and Son Nursery. In addition, a retail store is located in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and is known as the "nursery with the pink buildings."

Started in 1852 by John Klehm, a German immigrant, the nursery first marketed fruit and shade trees. Charles Klehm, one of John's three sons, developed an interest in peonies, imported varieties from England and France, and established an active breeding and selection program. He helped form the American Peony Society and was a charter member. His son, Carl G., continued the peony selection and introduced the Klehm family varieties under the heading of "Estate Peonies." Today, Lois Klehm, Carl's wife, and her three sons, Carl H., Roy G. and Arnold J., run the nursery.

Our visit with Roy and Sarah Klehm was in June, before the APS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. It is now September. The other day I asked Joyce what she remembered most about the visit.

"The gorgeous flowers and plants were obvious," she said, "but what I remember most is what wonderful people they are."

Photograph by N. Bayley

Sarah and Roy Klehm in their farm home—Barrington, Ill. The peonies are Old Faithful and a blush and a white introduction that are to be named for Roy's mother and father.



WE HAVE PUT OUR GARDENS TO SLEEP FOR A FEW FLEETING MONTHS

Some of us may have experienced failures with our garden projects: some of us more fortunate are elated on our success and are planning greater triumphs for the coming year. To those of you who may not have achieved your ambition, let me say that this is a great challenge to your ability as a gardener, and I trust you will meet this challenge with a firm determination and a definite purpose in mind. Often these failures are the stepping stones to future successes that are beyond our present power to visualize.

It takes unlimited patience and years of hard work to be a successful gardener—one cannot achieve this ambition overnight. It has been my privilege to speak to many thousands of gardeners in my span of life and it always affords me great satisfaction to meet the gardener who is not easily discouraged, but who smiles at his failures and tries, tries again. This fellow is bound to succeed.

Bulletin #115—W. F. Christman

CLARENCE O. LIENAU

(1905 - 1983)

It is with sadness that this page carries the news of the death of Clarence Lienau of Redford, Michigan. He died Sept. 25, 1983, and was buried Sept. 29th.

He is survived by his wife, Tillie, a daughter, Sharon Ewing, a brother, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Lienau was appointed Director of the American Peony Society in 1955 by W. A. Alexander filling out the term caused by the death of Mr. Wassenburg, and had served in this capacity consecutively. He was President from 1960-1962.

In 1942, he visited the Brand Peony Farms in Faribault, Minnesota, and while there he purchased his first peonies. At that time, he visited his first National Show in Minneapolis.

This was his introduction to peonies—the flower captured his heart. Little did he realize that he would become one of the great exhibitors of peonies at National shows, an authority on varieties of peonies, a commercial man of high esteem because of the peonies he grew, and always adhering to the principles of a correct nomenclature.

At every National show he was one of the top contenders winning medals, cups, bowls, and other awards given by the Society for prize-winning peonies.

He was a member of the seedling committee and an authority on the evaluation of the peony.

In 1975, he was awarded the medal of the American Peony Society which was engraved with the words: "Master Showman, Supreme Grower." This says it all!

He had written many articles for the Bulletin, and many have enjoyed his list of peonies appearing on those pages. He would talk at length about the wonderful qualities of each variety, never tiring of describing every one in detail.

Clarence Lienau was a man of high renown and a stalwart in the American Peony Society. He was one of the peony Giants of the present era.

Greta M. Kessenich

* * * *

Clarence, my friend, we shall greatly miss you, your warm fellowship, your friendly helpful auctions, and your gorgeous prize-winning peonies.

Though you will not be in the world history books as a famous leader of men, you will be in our books as a leader in our Society—a very great man that was a friend to all, respected, and a very good citizen.

Soon we old, remaining peony growers, too, will move on, and for now I say: "Bon Voyage, Clarence."

William H. Krekler

— 20 —

Clarence was a good friend to the Society and to many in it. He was a splendid showman, a perennial prize winner. The awards and ribbons he garnered over the years, would reach from here to outer space.

He was a delightful friend, with his ready smile and that fine warm handclasp. I always held him in admiration and esteem.

What can one say? Clarence, I miss you—we'll all miss you.

* * * *

Silvia Saunders

Clarence Lienau was one of the premier exhibitors of the American Peony Society for many years. He always had quality exhibits, with many specimens reaching the Court of Honor. For me to achieve success at a show was to come out ahead of Clarence! This didn't happen too often, but when I did, I felt as though I had really accomplished something.

Clarence loved to talk peonies and what good varieties were. In the preparation room one would hear Clarence say: "Isn't this a beauty? It could go all the way," or "Here is a favorite of mine. Don't you have it? I'll send you one."

It was our pleasure to sit at the same table with Clarence at the annual meeting in Milwaukee this year. He was there alone and missed his family but his enthusiasm for his favorite flower did not languish.

I'll miss that enthusiasm and his competition but I'll always remember him fondly.

W. G. Sindt

* * * *

We will miss our friend, Clarence Lienau. He was a long-time prominent and influential citizen in the community of peony growers. Owing to distance and the all-too-short overlap of his tenure and mine in peony affairs, I did not have the privilege of knowing him well in the everyday meaning of the term, but I knew him. Of that knowing came an enormous respect and feeling of gratitude.

* * * *

I knew Clarence as a creative achiever in peony-growing and in peony competition, and as a generous, sensitive person in the sharing of his knowledge, experience and time for the benefit of the many of us who find special satisfaction in working with peonies. I am grateful for having known Clarence and for having shared a part of his life.

* * * *

Don Hollingsworth

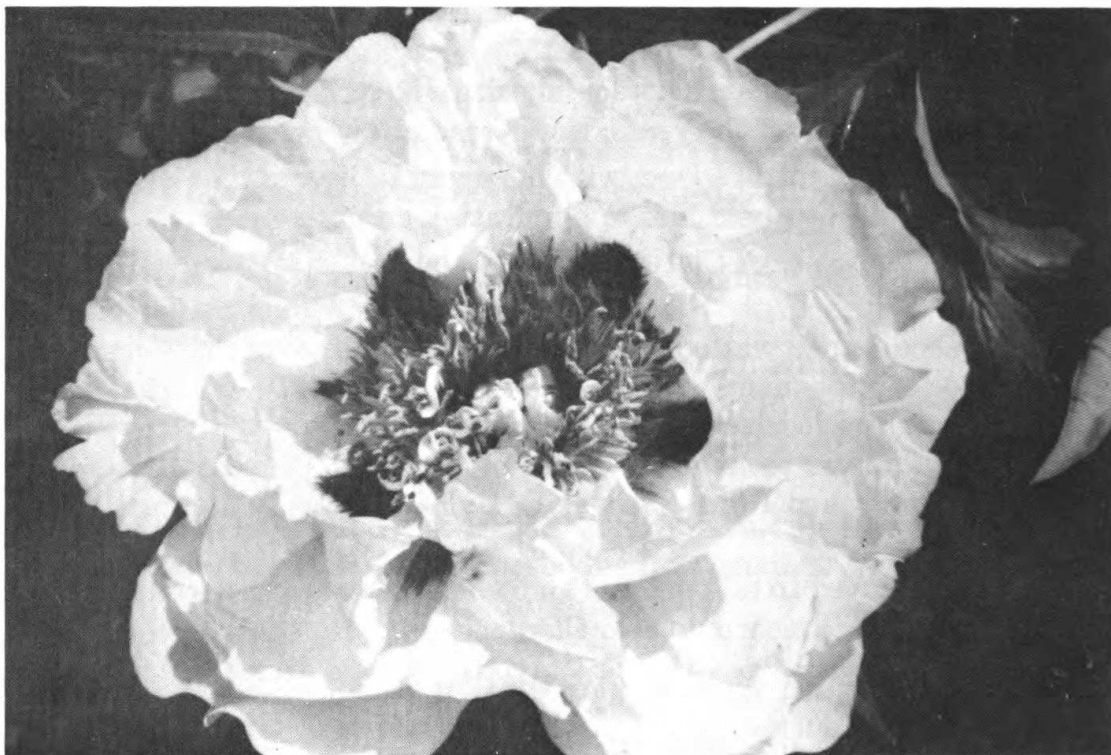
Clarence Lienau contributed so much to our annual peony shows. The pleasure he received showing his peonies, and his praise of our peonies, made every show a happy event.

As a senior judge, his patience with the less experienced, and his friendly manner, improved us all.

His love of the peony showed as he caressed each flower with his hand as he placed it in the large collection classes.

We have lost a good friend, and our Society and flower have lost a dedicated supporter, and a fine gentleman.

John E. Simkins



SEMI-DOUBLE P. SUFFRUTICOSA VAR. ROCK'S

David Reath

A few years ago we noticed that the flowers on one of the young plants of Rock's variety produced flowers that were semi-double with 22 petals instead of the normal single flowers with 11 petals. This plant was grafted in our nursery several years ago. The scions used were from the plant of Rock's variety received directly from Sir Frederick Stern of England. We have since watched this plant closely and it continues to produce semi-double flowers every year.

The petals are very artistically held in a somewhat ruffled position adding much charm to the bloom. Each petal has the characteristic maroon red flare just as the original Rock's variety. The flower of the semi-double Rock's variety is very fertile to other pollen.

We consider the origin of this mutant to be a bud sport of Rock's variety.



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

RECLASSIFICATION OF WITTMANNIANA PEONY GROUP

Betty Halas, BSBS & MSBS

Peonies belong to the Buttercup family, or Crowfoot Family, or Ranunculaceae—all synonyms for the same family. This is a large family which includes 35 genera and 1500 species, of which some 300 species are found in the United States and 14 genera are native to Michigan. From the Wildflower genes, the domesticated plants evolve over long periods of time. We continually tame some of the wildflowers to perform in our gardens for the pleasure of their blooms and attractive green leaves for landscaping purposes. The peony is not a stagnant form of plant but is constantly undergoing development into newer hybrids and increased flower sizes, with shiny attractive leaves.

For a long time, *Mloko* was considered a diploid, while it has been a tetraploid in hybridizing with other peonies. *Mloko* was of interest because of the demand for yellow peonies and the desire for deeper shades of this color.

It has been ironic that the family from which peonies are related are deep yellow plants in some cases. In studying the species, it would appear that only two main wildflowers are potentially possible from characteristics to be related to the peonies that we so much enjoy to use in hybridizing.

One of these would be the Globe Flower called *Trollius*. This is a moisture loving plant with showy bright yellow or orange flowers, some of which are double and often globular in the cultivated species. Some of the different types are: *Asiaticus*—2 feet high, double-orange yellow flowers, 2 inches across; *Chinensis*—three feet high with 20 petals. *Europaeus*—two feet high, with bright yellow globular blossoms and 2 inches across; *Japonicus*—8 inches high with double yellow flowers; *Lexus*—United States with two feet high plants, two inch wide flowers; *Ledebouri*—from Siberia, golden yellow, double flowers and three inches across; *Pumilis*—one foot tall with flowers one inch across, yellow flowers. These plants bloom all summer, from early spring.

The second of these would be the Marsh Marigold, also called *Caltha*. This plant is on the preservation list and is protected in most states. It clusters in smooth, round or heart-shaped leaves which spring directly from the root, which grows submerged in swamps, but will succeed in rich garden soil with plenty of moisture, in sun, or partial shade. The flowers which may be white, yellow, or pink, appear in clusters in early spring on stems from 5 to 18 inches high. There are *Biflora*, with white flowers up to one foot high with 2 inch flowers; *Lep-tosepala* with six-inch long oval leaves with white flowers tinged with blue; the *Palustris*, is the common Marsh Marigold, which was the "gold Marybud" of Shakespeare's sonnet and the delight of many in April and May. The leaves are heart-shaped leaves of dark, shining



PEONY DAURICA

Permission given for publication by:

**Jack Drake, Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery
Aviemore, Inverness-shire
Scotland Ph22 1QS**

There are many different forms of Daurica, some of them more colorful than others. All of them like a sandy soil. It blooms at a time when there are no other flowers and since it has little competition, it stands out all the more.

Betty M. Halas

green 3 to 4 inches across. The leaves disappear by early June.

The common characteristic of all the peonies in the Wittmanniana group is that they are all early blooming plants and they can bloom at the same time in a garden. *Daurica* is often confused for *Mlokosewtschii*. There is always a great deal of confusion in the Wittmanniana peonies because there are a number of them, with some differences, but not enough for the casual observer.

The peonies that we would collect in the wild would only be the unusual or rarer types that would mostly be the yellows or creams. The pinks, and whites, we might just leave where we saw them and never classify them further. Some Wittmanniana peonies are tall and others are short. This would depend upon how the hybridization occurred. A chart has been drawn up to make a genetic chart of at least how I estimate that the Wittmanniana Group developed in some probability. For all of our domesticated plants, the gene pool had to originate from wild flowers. Many distant plants of the Buttercup family normally don't like to cross. However, it would appear that the plants weakened from lack of moisture, or nutrition would have some of their normal defences unable to prevent foreign pollen from bringing about a new cross. With a change of environment, the weakened plant might receive rain or bird droppings and make a remarkable recovery, and drop seeds of a new type to be sowed nearby. In this natural way, some new flowering plants are developed, some collector sees them, admires, and brings back with him. However, we lose a lot of interesting developments because they remain undiscovered and eventually disappear.

The peony *Daurica* is an extremely attractive flowering plant, as the observation of the pictures will reveal. The plant likes a sandy soil. All the plants in the Wittmanniana group would prefer a sandy soil as opposed to clay and some moisture at certain times. On some of these, the leaves will disappear in July or August completely—a reminder of what we have observed in some of the native wildflowers.

The Wittmanniana Group will develop further, and just how it will progress, nobody knows for certain. We only know that these are much admired for the tendency to yellow and orange colors. The colors still require more shading and deepening, and the challenge is being met each spring when the hybridizers go out in force, to put more color into the cheeks of their favorite peony for future generations.

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WITTMANNIANA GROUP DAURICA-Diploid

Betty M. Halas

First Step	Daurica X Marsh Marigold	Daurica X Marsh Marigold	Daurica X Globe Flower	Daurica X Globe Flower
Second Step	F1 X Globe Flower	F1 X Marsh Marigold	F1 X Marsh Marigold	F1 X Globe Flower
Common Name	Witmanniana-1	Macrophyllia	Witmanniana-2	Mlokoewitschii

Possible development of Wittmanniana Group Peonies.
All the resulting plants are tetraploids, including Mlokoewitschii.

Editor's Note—

*In publishing the intriguing proposals of Miss Halas concerning the evolution of peonies in the Wittmanniana group of species, no evaluation has been made of the ideas contained. The extent to which they are consistent with or differ in relation to current scientifically established knowledge in the field of bio-systematics in general, or the genus **Paeonia** in particular, is outside the scope of this Society's present activities. We note, however, that the species discussed are apparently in existence, which situation should make it possible for some interested person to make the proposed crosses and thereby test the proposition.*



YOUTH

YOUTH is not a time of life—it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of red lips and supple knees, it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth is the predominance of courage over timidity, the love of adventure over the life of ease. No one grows old by merely living a number of years; they grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Worry, doubt, fear, and despair—these are the long years that bow the head and turn the youthful spirit back to dust. Whether sixteen or sixty, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement of the stars, the unfailing, childlike appetite for what is next, and the joy of the game of life.

You are as young as your faith, as young as your self-confidence; you are as old as your despair. In that central place of your heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage, grandeur and power from the earth, from men, and from the infinite, so long are you young. When the wires are down—and when the central place of your heart is covered with the snow of pessimism and the ice of cynicism—then you are grown old indeed.—Author Unknown

*Peonies from the garden of
Margaret Parrish Dexter, East Lyme, Connecticut*



Peony Ann Cousins and Nick Shaylor



*11 inch diameter
Peony Ann Cousins*

TREE PEONIES IN JAPAN

Tree Peonies Month by Month

by Takahiro Somei, Nara-Pref., Japan

(translated by Ron Ringdahl, Seattle, WA)

JANUARY

At this time of year, the branches of the tree peonies stand bare of leaves and the buds appear dormant. Since there are no leaves, strictly speaking, sunlight is not especially necessary. Though the "botan" (tree peony) is quite cold hardy, even so it is not desirable that it be subjected, such as it might be in areas of severe cold, to freezing conditions over an extended period of time, nor should the soil of potted tree peonies become frozen. Therefore, one could say that it is necessary to have the heat of the sun in order to keep the ice melted.

Though that portion of the plant above ground remains dormant, the root continues to absorb moisture. Respiration is also taking place. In short, one could simply say that the colder the temperature is, the less the internal activity of the plant.

I. CARE OF GARDEN PLANTINGS

1. Mature Plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Mulch: Mulch is applied to the ground to help prevent freezing and drying out. This is not necessary in warmer climates.

B. Watering: Not necessary.

C. Fertilizer: Fertilizing is not done during this month, but at about the middle of the month at the rate of every other year or so about one handful of lime is applied to each plant to prevent acidity in the soil. This is spread around the circumference of the plant and shallowly worked into the soil. If the plants have been mulched, the lime is applied after the mulch has been temporarily removed.

D. Planting, Transplanting: Planting and transplanting are not ordinarily done during this month; in warmer climates, however, it is not impossible. If transplanting is an absolute necessity, the plant should be removed with the largest amount of soil possible, care being taken not to disturb the roots, and transplanted without breaking up the attached soil and then mulched. However, this activity will have an adverse effect on that year's growth and is not highly recommended.

E. Pruning: No pruning is done during this month.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Root systems of young grafts are limited and shallow. Therefore, these plants should be mulched, as in the case of mature plants, but both in cold and warmer climates. In addition, they should be watered if they appear unusually dry. Other than that, their treatment should be the same as that of mature plants.

II. CARE OF POTTED PLANTS

1. Mature Plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Location: A sunny exposure need not especially be sought out, but the plant should be placed in a location where the soil in the pot will not easily freeze. In warmer areas, they can be placed in an out-of-the-way corner of the garden, or, in areas of average winter conditions, under the eaves. In regions where the soil would easily freeze, the pots can be buried in the soil, thus avoiding pots being broken by the freeze. In the bottom of a hole dug in the ground, small stones, pieces of styrofoam, etc., are placed to a depth of about four inches, or deeper in the case of places with poor drainage. The pot is buried such that the top edge protrudes somewhat above the soil. Then the top of the pot and the surrounding soil are mulched.

B. Watering: Potted tree peonies should be watered at a rate of once a week for those placed in a corner of the garden and twice a week for those placed under the eaves. There will probably be no need to water pots that have been buried.

The secret of proper watering, however, is not in deciding to water "every so-many days," but in watering when the surface of the soil in the pot has dried out and appears whitish. Then it should be watered thoroughly during the morning hours. In colder regions or when severe cold is expected to continue for several days, however, it is important that watering be kept to a minimum.

Since it is difficult to tell the degree of dryness of the soil with a covering of mulch over it, until the grower becomes well accustomed to it, he should directly ascertain the condition of the soil after partially lifting up the mulch and peeking underneath.

C. Fertilizer: Fertilizer is not used during this month.

D. Planting, Transplanting: Not done.

E. Pruning: Not done.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

These should be kept in a place warmer than that for mature plants, such as indoors. Other than that, the care of these plants is the same as that of mature plants.

III. PREVENTION AND REMEDY OF DISEASE

To prevent the appearance of harmful insects and disease later with the onset of spring, a 20:1 concentrated solution of lime and sulfur is sprayed once over the plants. This is especially important to do if in the previous year purple or dark brown spots appeared on the flower petals, leaves, leaf stems, shoots, etc., or if the autumn withering of the leaves came sooner than usual. If only a small number of plants is involved, the application of the solution can be done with a brush rather than a sprayer.

IV. NOTES FOR ESPECIALLY COLD AREAS

In areas where freezing conditions continue over an extended period of time, the plants should be well mulched. Especially in the case of potted plants, each should be buried in the soil and a layer of mulch applied.

In this type of climate, the plants should be maintained in a somewhat dry condition, but if overly dried out, should be watered during the morning.

Since the plants would have been fertilized before the coming of the winter's snow, no fertilizing is done until the coming of warm weather.

FEBRUARY

As during January, the branches of the tree peony still appear to be dormant. But this is only because the temperature is still low, for they seem to be getting prepared for an immediate burst into life as soon as the temperature rises. We can be fairly certain that by the end of February, when the peak of winter cold has passed, the activity of the roots will have commenced. The absorption of nutrients along with moisture will have gained vigor.

If you live in a warm region, by the end of the month you will begin to notice that the buds are starting to swell. The year's growth has begun.

I. CARE OF GARDEN PLANTINGS

1. Mature Plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Mulch: Same as January. When leaves or similar materials have been used as mulch, it is possible that some places around the plant have become exposed by the wind, etc. These areas should be covered again.

B. Watering: Not necessary.

C. Fertilizer: In case lime has not been applied earlier, this should be done as early as possible.

Two to three weeks (or more) after the lime application, a chemical fertilizer (8-8-8) should be applied at a rate of about one handful per plant. This should be spread around the circumference of the plant at a distance of about 12-18" from the center and shallowly worked into the soil. If the plant has been mulched, the mulch should be temporarily removed while the fertilizer is being applied.

D. Planting, Transplanting: This is not ordinarily carried out during this month, though it is not impossible in warm climates. When unavoidable, the same method as indicated for January should be utilized.

E. Pruning: Disbudding is carried out this month. Mainly leaf buds are removed to keep the number of stems to a minimum. If it is difficult to distinguish between leaf buds and flower buds, you can wait until March or April, but it is preferable to disbud before the bud's activity commences. From this time on, you

can observe the developing buds until it is possible to distinguish between them: the flower buds are large and the leaf buds are small. As a rule, all leaf buds of the previous year's growth which are facing inward should be removed. If it is not especially necessary or desirable to increase the number of stems on older growth, leaf buds on this older growth can also be removed.

When the number of stems on each plant is kept few in number, exposure to the sun and passage of air through the plant as a whole will be improved; and in addition, distribution of fertilizer nutrients to each branch will be plentiful, resulting in thicker stems, and the occurrence of disease and the presence of noxious insects will be kept to a minimum. The current year's flowers will be large and will blossom freely and the following year's flower production will also be improved.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

If clear weather continues for any length of time, in order to prevent drying out, the soil under the mulch should be inspected and, if the surface of the soil appears dry, the plants should be watered.

The plants should not be disbudded. Otherwise they can be cared for as the mature plants.

II. CARE OF POTTED PLANTS

1. Mature plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Location: Same as in January. However, in areas where there is no concern about freezing, potted plants can be moved to a location of sunny exposure, where the pots can be warmed, thus helping urge the roots into activity.

B. Watering: Same as in January. In the case of pots that have been placed in a sunny location under the eaves, however, the soil will tend to dry out faster than during January. These should therefore be inspected every day and if the surface of the soil seems to take on a dried-out whitish appearance, the pots should be thoroughly watered during the morning.

C. Fertilizer: Potted plants are not fertilized during this month, but toward the middle of the month, about half of a handful of lime can be spread around the surface of the soil of each plant. There is no need to work it into the soil.

D. Planting, Transplanting: Not carried out.

E. Pruning: Disbudding is done this month. This should be carried out as with garden plantings.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

These should be placed in a location warmer than that of mature potted plants. In order to avoid drying out, they should be inspected for dryness and watered more often than mature plants.

If lime was not applied at the time they were originally planted in the pots, about one-half of a handful can now be ap-

plied to each plant.

No disbudding is done, but other than that, their care is the same as that of mature plants.

III. PROPAGATION (GARDEN PLANTS & POTTED PLANTS)

1. Grafting: Not done during this month.

A. Care of the previous year's grafts:

Garden plantings: no special treatment.

Potted plants: no special treatment, other than inspecting dryness.

B. Seed Sowing. Not done during this month.

IV. PREVENTION AND REMEDY OF DISEASE

If the lime and sulfur solution has not yet been applied, it should be by about the middle of this month.

V. NOTES FOR ESPECIALLY COLD AREAS

Same as in January.

MARCH

With the rise in temperature, the buds swell vigorously and young shoots begin to spring forth. Already by the last part of the month, if it is an early year, flower buds might have been seen popping out from in-between the new foliage.

The activity of the roots steadily increase, and, in order to compensate for the transpiration of internal moisture through the tender young shoots, it energetically absorbs moisture from the soil; and also energetically absorbs nutrients so as to nurture and sustain the lengthening stems and spreading leaves.

The young shoots, just beginning to develop, are susceptible to damage due to cold weather. This early spring month, with its unstable weather conditions, is steeped with dangers of this nature, and the plants should be watched carefully.

I. CARE OF GARDEN PLANTINGS

1. Mature Plants (3 + year-old grafts)

A. Exposure: Apprehensions of severe cold are past. When pruning and otherwise tending to other trees and shrubs in the garden, thought should be given to ways of improving the exposure to the sun of your tree peonies.

B. Mulch: Same as in February.

C. Watering: Normally there will be no need to water. However, if the soil is unusually dry, the plants should be watered thoroughly during the morning.

D. Fertilizer: If fertilizer was not applied during February, it should be done during March as early as possible. Fertilizer, however, should not be applied to peonies planted during this month.

E. Planting, Transplanting: As a rule, this is not a good month for planting or transplanting. It is common, however, for plants

to be offered for sale during this month at nurseries and garden centers. If you make a purchase, you should plant it as you would in September. At this time, treat the root as carefully as possible so that it does not break. If you buy a forced plant in which the flower bud is already enlarged, after planting it, completely surround it, until the flower petals begin to open, with a light shade cloth or other suitable material, to promote its taking root.

If you obtain a potted plant in bud that you wish to transplant into the garden, keep it in the pot until fall and transplant it during or after September.

F. Pruning: Disbudding is carried out this month. With the buds beginning to send forth shoots, unneeded leaf buds can be removed. Since the leaf buds are somewhat smaller than flower buds, the distinction between them can be made with a reasonable amount of observation. If you are still uneasy about this, you can wait until April, or wait to determine the presence or absence of developing flower buds to make a decision.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Care of these is the same as that of mature plants, with the exception that they are not disbudded.

II. CARE OF POTTED PLANTS

1. Mature Plants (3+ year-old grafts)

A. Location: The plants should be in a location of sunny exposure. Pots that had been buried should be dug up, except in areas where freezing is still a possibility, in which case they are left as before.

By the way, when pots are dug up, be sure to check that the drainage holes in the bottom of the pots are clear.

B. Watering: Watering twice a week is the usual practice. Since it becomes easier for potted plants to dry out as it becomes warmer, check the plants every day, and water thoroughly during morning hours when the surface of the soil begins to become noticeably dry.

C. Fertilizer: One week or more after applying lime to the soil, spread about one-half of a handful of chemical fertilizer (8-8-8) around the surface of the soil of each pot. As an alternative, a mixture of three parts oilmeal and one part bonemeal can be kneaded together with water and three or four handful-sized lumps of this can be placed on the surface of each.

D. Planting, Transplanting: If you obtain a forced plant with flower buds, it should be planted as you would in September, and then placed in a sunny location, but not so that it will be directly exposed to frost or strong winds.

E. Pruning: Disbudding is carried out as with garden plantings.

2. Immature Plants (1-2 year-old grafts)

Care of these is the same as that for mature plants, except that they are not disbudded.

III. PROPAGATION (GARDEN PLANTS & POTTED PLANTS)

1. Grafting: Not done during this month.

A. Care of the previous year's grafts:

Garden Plantings: no special treatment.

Potted Plants: no special treatment, other than inspecting for dryness.

2. Seed Sowing: Not done during this month.

IV. PREVENTION AND REMEDY OF DISEASE

There is no special treatment for this month.

V. NOTES FOR ESPECIALLY COLD AREAS

Treatment and care of plants should follow that outlined for January for those areas where freezing conditions are still possible.

* * * *

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

By Don Hollingsworth

Continued from Bulletin No. 247, Page 38

When a *Lactiflora* peony is crossed with another species, then the hybrid progeny is backcrossed to a *Lacti*, and the resulting progeny then backcrossed again, and so on, at what point do the descendants cease to be hybrid? They cease to be hybrid when they cease to look hybrid, as a practical matter. This may not be as simple as it sounds. From the standpoint of breeding, we also must remember that "throwbacks" occur, referring to the situation where a characteristic which seemed to have been eliminated from a line of descent crops up in a later generation. However, this is a more likely outcome of a line breeding program rather than of a backcrossing program.

Degree of hybridity is a characteristic of the individual progeny. Only secondarily is it a characteristic of a whole generation. Once we get away from the first hybrid generation, there may be considerable variation in the degree of hybridity which is outwardly shown by different individuals in the same generation.

What is line breeding? A version of inbreeding where more or less closely related individuals are bred together for several generations successively. The objective is to see what can be extracted from the gene pool (represented by the parent sources) through the segregation and recombination of genes which goes on during sexual reproduction. See above: "...F₁, F₂, F₃, etc." and "Self pollination... in peony breeding." Self pollination is the most intense form of inbreeding available. This is often avoided in line breeding due to adverse effects

on vigor, being replaced by the selection of closely related individuals for the crosses.

Is a peony weakened in vigor once it is crossed far down the line? Not necessarily, but it may be, as discussed above pertaining to inbreeding depression. More specifically, genetic capability for vigor and disease resistance may be eliminated or concentrated through gene segregation and recombination just as with the ornamental characters which are the primary focus of the plant breeding project. This is where selection decisions of the breeder become extremely important. How much loss of desirable traits to tolerate in order to hang onto certain desirable qualities that an individual may offer. There is a great temptation to retain the interesting developments even when weakness is also present.

Many hybrid peonies do not have side buds; some do. Why? The answer is in their genes. By looking at a suitable number of different peony varieties we also know that having side buds is not just a yes-no situation. There is a range of degree in the expression of side bud formation. The lowest degree is having one side bud, occasionally, and that bud never fully developing to a flower (e.g., some of the Japanese tree peonies). In the other extreme the degree of expression ranges to varieties which characteristically produce seven or more side buds per stem. There is also a mixed situation in personal preference concerning the desirability of side buds. Perfectionists who focus on the individual flower tend to deplore them, for their presence necessitates disbudding, an often messy and always time-consuming task. Side buds must be removed for florist and exhibition purposes. In the garden, however, the presence of side buds may mean an extended season of flower display. To the breeder of the early hybrids, especially, the later opening side buds mean additional opportunities for crossing and an extension of the time available for obtaining the pollen of other varieties necessary in order to make certain crosses.

Some peony varieties are very similar to other varieties. When there is doubt about the correct identity, what can be done? Discrepancies arise in many ways—on the show table, mix-ups in labeling varieties for shipment or when going back to growing fields after propagation, etc. When the discrepancy involves flower type, color, plant height and/or other characters commonly included in variety registration descriptions, the error is more obvious. Other differences between varieties are very subtle, particularly when the flower type and color are in the same class. A discrepancy can be continued for a surprisingly long time when the error is with a variety which is still rare and not generally familiar when a reliably identified reference plant is not accessible to the questioner. Part of the answer is for the questioner to look for the finer features of flower and plant anatomy. Go further than the show class descriptions in evaluation of the plants in question. In the hybrids and the tree peonies, for example, look for the dif-

ferences in filament and anther (the parts of the stamen). Filament length and color differences are quite variable; anther size may help. Observe stigma color and shape, carpel color, and whether they are covered with hairs, number of carpels, sheath length and color in tree peonies, color highlights in the petals, petal size, petal edges, number of petals, leaf shape and size. Record these observations and compare them between similar varieties which are at hand until you have a certain amount of skill in detecting the differences. These can then form the basis of comparing with identified varieties seen at other places—other gardens, exhibitions—and even for inquiring by correspondence. These techniques do require an extraordinary amount of effort, but it should be remembered that they are available and usable when one is sufficiently motivated to do so.

THE STORY OF THE LONG LOST PEONY

*From Bonnewitz Peony Catalog, Van Wert, Ohio — no date on catalog.
Submitted by Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas.*

Years and years ago, before the activities of any of the present members of the Peony Society and very probably even before the Peony Society was formed, a party of about thirty ladies and gentlemen were invited to visit a garden. I am not sure where that garden was located, because some versions of the story say Philadelphia, other versions say Boston and one lone, but insistent version says New York. The only thing we absolutely know, is that the garden was in a city.

It was a beautiful garden and the guests enjoyed it, as all nature-lovers should; but the culminating point of the visit—the treat which the host had retained till the last—was a group of three peonies, which on that day were blooming to perfection. These peonies were screened from the rest of the garden by some shrubbery, and the host took particular interest in bringing all his guests together at this point at about the same time.

You should have heard the exclamations of surprise, pleasure, joy, and astonishment in the great beauty of the blooms, for no one in the United States, except the host, had ever seen such beautiful flowers. There they were, at least a dozen or fifteen main blooms on each plant, of a delicate flesh-pink, which while bleaching out to a paper-white, still retained the warmth of the pink. Each bloom had a spread of between six and eight inches and showed a golden glow at the center, and each of these main blooms was surrounded by three or four lateral blooms with a deeper and fresher shade of pink, but with the delicacy, size, and form of a water-lily. Is it any wonder that nature-lovers should go into ecstasies over such blooms?

When the excitement had subsided, the host explained that four years previously, in June, he had been traveling in England and that in a private garden he had found this beautiful peony, and because he had fallen in love with it, just as his guests were now doing, he had, at considerable expense, persuaded the owner to part with it. He had it shipped to his home city the following September, and when it arrived he had divided the original plant into the three which were blooming so prolifically before them.

All the versions of the story agree on two points. First: each one of the guests who owned a garden wanted at once to know how he could procure a plant exactly like these. Second: those poor unfortunates who lived in apartments and hotels felt anew their poverty of life even though they could write their checks for thousands, for possessions such as these were only for those who dwelt close to nature.

The host was not able to tell them the name of the nursery in England where the plants had been grown; but he promised to try to find, through the original owner of his plants, where they could be obtained. This he did, and so, late in July, or early in August, he was able to furnish the name of the nursery and to tell them that the price in England was 10s, 6d.

We have no means of knowing how many of them took advantage of this information; but all versions agree that not only guests at the original garden party, but also their friends who had been told of this most wonderful peony, sent orders and their money to the English grower, and you and I know how they told their friends of the beauty of the plants they were importing.

It is a wise providence that allows us to take pleasure in anticipation, and in this particular instance, the pleasure in anticipation was the only pleasure they received, for when the plants bloomed the first year, doubt came in, and when the second blooming season arrived, deep disappointment settled on every one of them. Not one of the many plants sent for, bloomed like the wonderful variety in the garden, and my most confident informant tells me there were eight different kinds sent, to fill orders for it.

Although all these peony enthusiasts were angry, yet their disappointment was far, far greater than their anger, for they had great reason to believe that the most beautiful flower in the world was forever lost, for the original plants of the garden had been accidentally destroyed. The garden, being in a city, had been sold for commercial purposes, and in early March, when the time came to make an excavation for a basement, no one thought of the dormant roots of the glorious peonies. The roots were carted away with the soil, to make a fill, where a fill was needed.

Some years later, a lady from an eastern city visited some gardens in Chicago, and on her return to the east she told, among many other things, of having seen a peony which she thought very beautiful, par-

ticularly so, because while the main large bloom was nearly white, it was surrounded by four smaller blooms of pink, which looked like water-lilies.

She had never heard of the long lost peony, but in the course of the autumn or winter her story accidentally came to the ears of one of the gentlemen who had been at the garden party, and who had tried again and again, to secure the plant in England. When he heard the water-lily part of it, he was at once interested and in due time he found that the plant which had delighted the visitor in Chicago, had been purchased from a hardware merchant in a little town in Indiana.

Further investigation revealed the fact that this merchant was a peony enthusiast, and that he imported peonies direct from the same English grower who had disappointed so many eastern people. The eastern peony lover was so interested in the story and description of the plants in the western merchant's garden, that when spring came he decided to see this western peony himself. One story lands him in the western garden a week before the buds began to open.

We do not know how he spent the time in waiting, but we do know that when the blooms appeared, he was the happiest man in the country, for he had found that which was lost, and disappointment gave way to rejoicing. It is said he lost no time in notifying his friends who had sought with him this wonderful bloom, and that many were the letters that were sent to those who had changed their residence, but still held the memory of the garden scene.

Now up to this point, all versions of the story have had to rely upon the myths and legends of peonydom, and without doubt, somewhat upon imagination, and I do not want anyone to judge of my veracity by his lack of belief in the truth of all the incidents here related, for I am giving it to you on just the same faith in which I tell it, and I trust you agree with me that it is an interesting story, but from now on, we are upon firm ground, for it is no longer hearsay but history.

I never saw any of the letters which were written about the *long lost peony*, but I heard about them and with the story of the letters, I was told the story of the peony, just about as I have told it to you; then my informant wound up the whole story by saying, "And do you know those eastern peony people are paying twenty-five dollars each, for just one little root of the plant?" I confess that statement sounded interesting, and I could not drive the thought from my mind, that it must be a very, very fine peony that would cause anyone to give up for it, twenty-five dollars of good money. The more I thought about it, the more interested I became.

And so I finally asked, the "first peony lover I ever met," who owned "the first peony garden I ever saw" to find out for me, if possible, the name of the fortunate owner of that magnificent peony. When

I had secured his name and address, I wrote and asked him to name me a price on six divisions of it, and upon receipt of his reply I was foolish enough to write my check and mail it, though I did not have the courage to tell any of my friends of my folly.

That check was written many years ago and the Long, Long Lost Peony, through its many divisions is still growing in my garden, with its own name prominently displayed beside it in letters large enough that even the chance visitor may read—Lady Alexandra Duff.

Added information about LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF. Bulletin No. 23, Febr. 1925, by Geo. W. Veditz, in his article THE LURE OF THE PEONY:

Lady Alexandra Duff. What owner of this Kelway peony may not have asked, "Who was this Lady Alexandra? If this flower is the most beautiful of all English peonies, was not its fair sponsor possessed of a loveliness in keeping with that of the bloom? Who was this charming and elusive personality? Was she the most glorious of all English women, the Lady Diana Manners of a score of years back?

Most peony lovers are familiar with the tradition connected with this peony; how it was loved long since, then lost awhile to become even nameless except as the "Lost Peony"; to be searched for in unavailing quest here and there, and to be finally found again in the garden of the veteran peony lover, Walter L. Gumm, of Remington, Indiana.

It always jars the writer's sensibilities to see the name of this glorious peony hacked down to "Lady Duff" or to be given even a masculine form, "Lady Alexander Duff." He has always insisted upon giving it its full sonorous name, and has always associated the flower, entrancingly attractive in the fullness of its bloom, with some fair English beauty, that for all he knew never existed.

And reciprocally, no matter who or what the original Lady Alexandra may have been, her peony namesake invests her with a glamour and fancy for those who have never seen or heard of her, and this, after all, is the finest tribute to beauty in the abstract, as it is based entirely on the imagination. Were this lady to visit our next national peony show in person, it is not difficult to picture the consideration and homage that would be paid her by every peony connoisseur there as godmother to one of the loveliest flowers in existence.



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While I was reading a recent issue of the Bulletin, which I always enjoy, I recall one article on why peonies fail to bloom.

With my experience with people having trouble with peonies failing to bloom, I have come to the conclusion that most of the trouble arises from planting the peonies in an improper location. They usually put the plant in what they think is a protected spot. This proves to be a spot where the sun reflects off a building, fence, or other object, resulting in an unusually warm location on a bright sunny day in Spring. This causes the plant to grow abnormally early and the flowers freeze on them most of the years. When talking with customers, most of the time this proves to be the case. I believe this would be worth mentioning in the bulletin.

CARL G. KLEHM, Arlington Heights, IL, Bulletin #118, 1950

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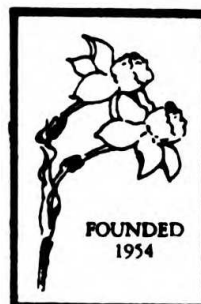
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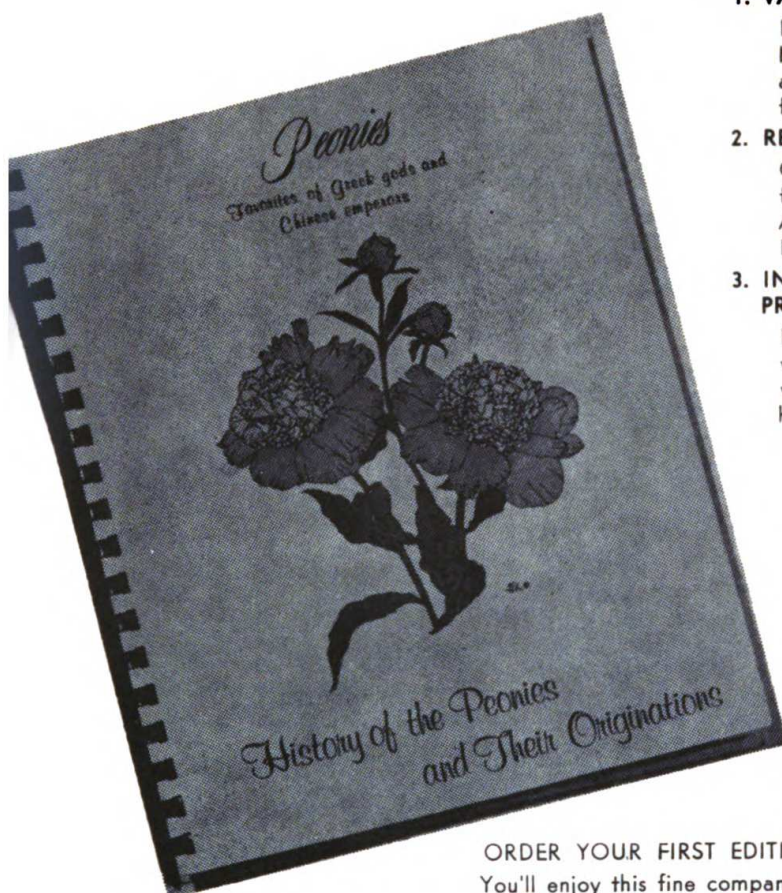
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