

MARCH 1989
NO. 269

MAR 02 89

The American Peony Society Bulletin



Tenuifolia Flora Plena, commonly known as the Fern-Leaf Peony,
photographed by Don Meyer, Kimball, Nebraska — from his garden.

Announcing

The limited
publication of
a "TABLE TOP"
edition devoted
exclusively to

AMERICAN

**TREE
PEONIES**



Appended cultural notes cover:

- *Tree Peony history*
- *Planting and general culture*
- *Propagation by root grafting of scions*
- *Pruning, fertilization, winter protection, etc.*

Compiled and edited by
Greta M. Kessenich;
photos by Roy Klehm
and David Reath

The AMERICAN TREE PEONY

63 BRILLIANT FULL COLOR PHOTOS

True, tree peonies with their 1400 year history are not native to America. But a class of exceptional HYBRID tree peonies are. Efforts by seven world renowned American hybridizers* who successfully cross-pollinated *P. Lutea* with *P. Suffructicosa* are covered in this limited edition. Photos are razor sharp in detail and reflect all the brilliance and subtle hues of these native Americans, including the new generation of ITOH's.

* A.P. Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Daphnis,
David Reath, Toichi Domoto,
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson

\$25 Postpaid

Send check or money order to—

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road (612) 938-4706 Hopkins, Minn. 55343

President Dr. Kent Crossley
Vice President Robert F. Schmidt

Secretary-Treasurer Greta M. Kessenich
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Sec'y/Treas. Sandra Anderson
Rt. 4 W. 665B Sunset Lane
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538

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 1989 — No. 269

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

It is exciting to know that information about the 1989 show and meeting will be in the same issue of the BULLETIN as this letter. The coming show will be in a new location for us and will highlight the work of Roger Anderson and the Itoh hybrids. Since Greta Kessenich and I visited with Roger last June, I know that there are some wonderful things for us all to see this year.

The Itoh hybrids are certainly worth a paragraph or two of comment. Having grown all four of the original Itoh hybrids (Yellow Crown, Yellow Dream, Yellow Emperor and Yellow Heaven), it is hard to be anything but enthusiastic about these plants. All four are from crosses of the tree peony Alice Harding and a white herbaceous peony named Kakoden. These were raised in Japan by a gardener named Itoh (pronounced eee-taw) and brought to the U.S. by Louis Smirnow in the mid-1960's.

The four are quite similar in flower and plant habit. The foliage is an attractive dark green and the semi-double flowers (which are good-sized but not huge) are a clear bright yellow with red flares. The major advantage of these hybrids is that they allow those of us who live in areas that are difficult for tree peonies to have splendid yellow flowered peonies in our garden. The major disadvantage is the cost (about \$50.00/division) and limited availability of these plants.

Some newer colors are appearing in the Itohs. This is where Roger Anderson will be making a major contribution in coming years. Don Hollingsworth and Chris Laning have also developed attractive new Itoh hybrids.

Join us in Janesville and see these wonderful new plants!


Kent Crossley

**THE 86TH ANNUAL MEETING
84TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
June 2, 3, 4, 1989**

JANESVILLE MALL, 2500 Milton Ave., Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 2

8:00 a.m. —Preparation room opens

Work area open as needed on Friday evening, to prepare show entries

8:00 p.m. —Board of Directors meeting

Saturday, June 3

6:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. —set up and enter exhibits

Exhibit area is open to the public at all times

Registration and information table located in exhibit area

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. —Judging

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. —Slide presentation (no theme) by Bill Seidl

Milton Room, Ramada Inn

7:00 p.m. —Banquet at the Alpine Restaurant, 1335 Creston Park Drive — located three blocks south of Janesville Mall — parking area is entered from Milton Ave., Hwy. 26

Welcome Address - Roger Anderson

Annual Business Meeting

Root Auction - peony roots to be donated

Sunday, June 4

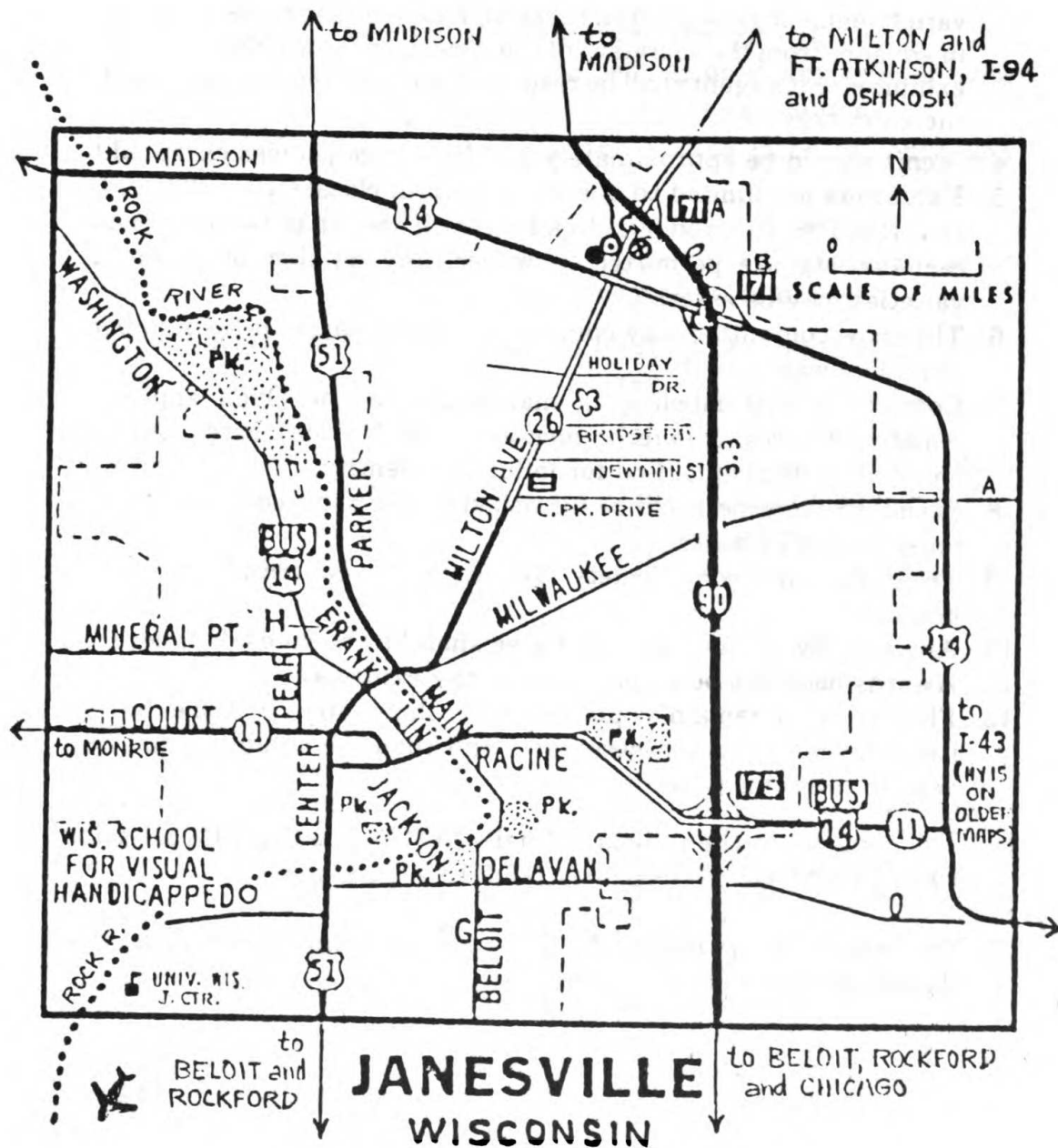
All shopping centers are closed until noon

Board of Directors meeting at Roger Anderson's home A.M.

9:30 a.m. —Tour of Roger Andersons Itoh's and garden

Time for visiting and discussion

- ⊗ ROAD STAR INN, 3520 Milton Ave. (Hy 26)
 - ⊙ RAMADA INN, 3431 Milton Ave.
 - OASIS MOTEL, 3401 Milton Ave.
 - ✱ JANESVILLE MALL (Exhibition), 2500 Milton Ave.
 - ▢ CRESTON PARK MALL and THE ALPINE RESTAURANT (Banquet), 1335 Creston Park Drive.
- Parking lot can be entered from Milton Ave.



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 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 11. Division VI—COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS
14. The best seedling judged by the seedling committee will be displayed on the Court of Honor.

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

One Bloom Lactiflora Only

- Class**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 130 Double white | 138 Bomb white or blush |
| 131 Double blush | 139 Bomb pink |
| 132 Double light pink | 140 Bomb red |
| 133 Double dark pink | 141 Japanese white or blush |
| 134 Double red | 142 Japanese pink |
| 135 Semi-double white or blush | 143 Japanese red |
| 136 Semi-double pink | 144 Single white or blush |
| 137 Semi-double red | 145 Single pink |
| | 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 |
| 196c | European tree peony | | | | |

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, in one container.

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 North Dakota Memorial Award

Five full doubles, named varieties, any color.

One bloom each separate container.

One entry per family.

This class not considered for Class VI.

DIVISION VI: Court of Honor Candidate Class

Court of Honor blooms will be selected from this Division.

Exhibitors are urged to enter their best bloom and are limited to two in each class.

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

Class 617 One bloom Itoh Hybrid any color.

Grand Champion

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

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

RAMADA INN - 3431 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Reservations no later than May 19 - 20 rooms set aside - when registering, mention American Peony Society reserve.

Toll free # 1-800-2 RAMADA

Rates: \$46.00 single — \$52.00 double — Tax 10%

OASIS MOTEL - 3401 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: 1-608-754-2800

Rates: \$28.95 single — \$34.95 double — plus tax 10%

ROAD STAR - 3520 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: 1-800-445-inws (in Wisconsin) — 1-800-446-inws (outside Wis.)

Rates: \$28.95 single — \$34.95 double — tax 10%

Located off I 90 and St. Hwy. 26, Exit 171A.

THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BANQUET June 3, 1989 — 7:00 p.m.

The Alpine Restaurant, 1335 Creston Park Drive, Janesville, WI 53545 — located in the Creston Park Mall, 3 blocks south of Janesville Mall on Hwy 26.

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Menu Entree | #1. Roast Pork and Dressing | \$10.00 |
| | #2. Baked half chicken | 10.00 |
| | #3. Prime Rib | 12.50 |

All meals include: potato, tossed salad, rolls and banana bread, coffee or tea, and a piece of Alpine's delicious homemade pie.

Banquet Reservations: It is imperative that reservations be in by May 19th. The restaurant must make preparations. We sincerely ask you to comply and save embarrassment to those that have arranged the program and made this meeting place possible.

Send reservations with check to: (by May 19, please).

Sandra Anderson

Route 4, W.6658 Sunset Lane

Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BANQUET RESERVATIONS

Choice of Entrees:

Name _____ 1. _____
Address _____ 2. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ 3. _____

LIST OF PEONY GARDENS

(Plantings, etc. open to the public)

Arnold Arboretum—The Arborway, Jamaica Plains, Mass. 02130

Heritage Plantation—Sandwich, Mass.

The Greenwich Garden Center—Bible St. Cos Cob, Connecticut

Public Peony Planting—University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Congregational Church at Birmingham, Michigan—1000 Cranbrook Rd.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

The George Landis Arboretum—Experance, New York

Royal Botanic Gardens—Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

U.S. National Arboretum—Washington, D.C.

Kingwood Center—Mansfield, Ohio

Alfred L. Boerner Botanical Gardens—Whitnall Park Hales Corner, just south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Charles Klehm and Son Nursery—Pretty Petals Production Farm, two miles northwest of Champaign, Illinois

Gilbert H. Wild and Son—Sarcoxie, Missouri, peak bloom about May 25-June 19

Caprice Farm Nursery—15425 Pleasant Hill Road, Sherwood, Oregon

Reaths Nursery—Vulcan, Michigan

The Tischler Peony Garden—1021 East Division St., Faribault, Minnesota

Longwood Gardens—Kenneth Square, Pennsylvania

Winterthur—Wilmington, Delaware

Swarthmore College—Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

A and D. Peony and Perennial Nursery—6808 180th S.E., Snohomish, Washington

Columbus and Franklin County Metro Park System—999 Park Road, Columbus, Ohio

Inniswood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve—940 Hempstead Road, Columbus, Ohio

Home of Andrew Jackson—Nashville, Tenn. — garden laid out in 1836

Stan Hywet Gardens—Akron, Ohio—Stan Hywet Hall

Denver Botanic Gardens—Denver, Colorado

Twentieth Century Gardens—Hot Springs, Arkansas—contact Verna C. Garvan

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Dean—6 Sibley Place, Rochester, NY
Iowa State University of Science & Technology—Ames, Iowa — tree peonies

Stampe Lilac Garden, Duck Creek Park—Davenport, Iowa — peonies and lilacs, April 20-June 15

South Dakota Arboretum, McCrory Gardens—Brockings, South Dakota

Linda Hall Library—5109 Cherry St., Kansas City, Missouri — peonies

White Memorial Gardens—Woodbine, Iowa — one acre of peonies — over the years, name tags have been lost

Botanica, The Wichita Gardens—701 Amidon, Wichita, Kansas

Zoological Garden of Detroit, Michigan located at Royal Oak

Harry Kuesel—4 Larkdale Drive, Littleton, Colorado — May 20-June 20

White Flower Farm—Litchfield, Connecticut

Weston Nurseries—Route 135, Hopkinton, Mass.

Cornell University—Ithaca, New York

Edgewood Gardens—Anna Walrad, Rt. 2, Box 505, Warrenton, Virginia — several thousand peonies (commercial)

Golden Glow Gardens—115 Sligo Road, Cumberland Center, Maine — peonies displayed in extensive borders and in rows, herbaceous and trees

Les Wiley—Cobleskill, New York — by appointment only

Mrs. Carl (Pearl E.) Jones—120 Rosewood Drive, Dayton, Ohio — over 500 peonies

Busse Gardens—Cokato, Minnesota

The New Peony Farm—Faribault, Minnesota — by appointment only — write: P.O. Box 6105, St. Paul, MN 55118

Roger Anderson—Route 4, W. 665B Sunset Lane, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Sedgwick Gardens—(Long Hill) Beverly, Massachusetts — 114 acres — tree peonies — species — gateway to the gardens located on Essex Street

IN MEMORY

Harold Wolfe, Belleville, Illinois, died Sept. 1987

Mr. Dee Garrison, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Jan. 28, 1904-April 18, 1988

Mr. Robert V. Redpath, South Orange, New Jersey, Dec. 28, 1987

L. J. Dewey, Richmond, Virginia, Feb. 17, 1927-Nov. 17, 1988

HAROLD WOLFE was President of the American Peony Society 1956-1958, a director for many years, and also Vice President. He was active in all affairs of the Society and a great advocate of the Tree Peony. In 1957, the annual exhibition of the American Peony Society was canceled at Sarcoxie, Missouri, because of snow and a hard freeze. In place, the landscape garden of Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe at Belleville, Illinois, had been arranged for viewing as well as his ten-acre planting of tree peonies and hybrids. Mr. Wolfe was one of the authors of the book "*Peonies*," Dr. John Wister, Editor.

* * * *

MR. DEE GARRISON was a great exhibitor of the peony. At the exhibition at Ridgedale, Minnetonka, Minnesota, he took top honors with his peonies. A great advocate of the peony, was President of the 5th district in 1974.

MR. ROBERT V. REDPATH, grower of the tree peony, with a special interest in the peonies at Michigan University.

* * * *

DR. L. J. DEWEY, a quiet and gentle man, always ready to take on any difficult assignment. He was a student of the peony, a breeder of the tree peony. As a scientist, he was always searching for books and had written often about a noted book published in modern China, not yet translated regarding the species. His project was not completed. He was a supporter of the Society attending every exhibition, as this event was looked on as a family reunion by all the Deweys from various states.

We will miss L. J. Dewey; he was always present, reflected stability, and always most encouraging of any new program concerning the peony.

TRIBUTE—L. J. Dewey:

It was with deep sorrow and a sense of great loss that I learned of the death of L. J. Dewey. L. J. was a man of enormous capacity for kindness and good will. He was a great friend personally and in the quest for discovery in matters pertaining to the peonies. We will miss him. Thankfully, we have his writings and our personal memories by which he will remain with us in spirit.

* * * *

—Don Hollingsworth

At the time of the passing of Mr. Christman and Myron Gist in 1955, Mr. Harold Wolfe wrote the following: "We are poorer for their having left us. No one can replace them for no one has the particular qualities each possessed. But the work in which they were engaged must go on and the gaps in our ranks must be filled. It will be our part to duplicate their efforts and emulate their example, for we are all the richer because of their having lived and worked with us."

We reprint the above and the following L'Envoi by Mr. Wolfe as a continuing tribute to our loss of these men today.

L'ENVOI

Each spring when peonies shall
bloom
And to our eyes their splendors
hues display,
We, who still walk among them,
will recall
The ones who walked beside us
on the way.
Each had his part to play, his
talents each,
Each leaves his mark upon the
world he knew,

Each to mankind a legacy be-
queathes—
The heritage of all he dreamed
and dared to do.
O friends passed on, who helped
us realize
The wealth of all that's fine that
this life yields,
Thanks for the pleasant steps we
took with you
Who walk now in those bright
Elysian Fields.

—Harold E. Wolfe

OUT OF NECESSITY, I DRIED PEONY BLOOM

By Dr. Helene Toolan, Old Bennington, Vermont

On June 8 and 9, 1988, the Garden Club of America held its Zone I meeting in Bennington, Vermont (Zone I comprises the Garden Club of America Clubs of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont (there is only 1 in Vermont), Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. There are, I believe, 17 in all in this area. The theme flower for the meeting was the peony. Mr. David J. Smith, Director of Horticulture at White Flower Farm, was the speaker for the Horticulture section of the meeting; he spoke about peonies and their culture at White Flower. After his talk, the ladies visited my gardens where herbaceous peonies were the main flowers in bloom. Alas, the tree peonies which bloom here in the latter half of May were gone. Since I had also been asked by the Program Committee to prepare a table demonstrating as many varieties and types of peonies as possible from my garden, I wondered beforehand how I would demonstrate some of my favorites: the lovely tree peonies that I knew would be past. It was not possible to keep any number in the refrigerator—there just wasn't room. Therefore, I tried drying some, especially Godaishu, but others as well. This was a great success. The fresh flowers were placed in large boxes lined with waxed paper and filled with silica gel to a depth of one inch. Some of the gel was sprinkled very carefully over the flowers and the boxes then tightly closed for 8 days after which the flowers were thought to be ready and wire stems were applied. I showed some of these, and others were placed in a huge bouquet of dried garden flowers that I have in the living room today; they are quite lovely.

Originally our gardens were beautifully laid out by the Mr. Worthington who built our house in 1890. There are about 10 plus acres and we are known for our trees since Mr. Worthington planted every variety he thought would grow and some he was in doubt about, as to survival. We now have a veritable arboretum in magnificent old beeches, oaks, maples, etc. Our most beautiful tree is a superb Camperdown elm that Arnold Arboretum has on their files.

All that was left of the original gardens when we bought the house and its neglected grounds in 1961 was a bed of very old peonies valiantly blooming away. One of the oldest members of our garden club remembers these peonies blooming in the same place when she was a child in the 1890's. I thought anything that could survive that long with neglect deserved some study and encouragement. They are over 100 years old and still blooming, the old reds and whites.

I began planting a few labeled peonies here and there, and when the old carriage house and horse stalls were torn down, the space was ideal for a peony garden. The old trees with overhanging limbs and shrubs in various places gives the correct sunlight for the many tree peonies planted, while along the paths and other sunny areas, the her-

baceous peonies makes for an ideal setting. All the peonies bloom magnificently year after year in spite of our cold, some years -30 degrees.

Since I am now retired, I have more time to apply to the gardens and greenhouse. I also have three large Newfoundland dogs (about 150 pounds each) so the garden is not always groomed.

I love the new peony shown in the tree peony book, **BARTZELLA**. When will it be available?

REGISTRATION

PINK TRANQUILITY (Harold Copeland—now deceased, Chatham, Massachusetts), Jan. 16, 1989

Parentage, Tamate-Boku & Isani-Gidui. Not certain which was the seed or which was the pollen parent.

First bloomed in the late 1950's.

Japanese type of intense pink with silvery edges. A reliable plant with good substance and fragrant. Exceptionally strong 36 inch stems holding large pink buds opening to a flower fully nine inches across, with bright yellow staminodes filling the center. Bloom, midseason to late. A vigorous plant with dark green foliage. The flower is long lasting, holding its pink color to the end.

David M. Smith, Director of Horticulture

White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

SONATA (Harold Copeland—now deceased early 1970's, Chatham, Massachusetts)

Parentage, Tamate-Boku and Isani-Gidui. Not certain which was the seed or which was the pollen parent. First bloomed in the late 1950's.

Japanese type with buds opening to blush pink and gradually paling to almost white. Most reliable with good substance, strong stems holding up in wet and windy conditions. Outstanding vigor, blooms in mid season. Foliage compliments the delicate color. These shell pink flowers measure nine inches across with a mass of yellow staminodes in the center.

David M. Smith, Director of Horticulture

White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

* * * *

Cultivation should begin as early in the spring as the ground can be worked. Keep well away from the crowns of the plants, to avoid breaking the new shoots before they appear above the ground. It should be often enough to keep the weeds down and the ground well aerated. To prevent a crust forming, the ground should be broken after every hard rain. Cultivation should never be deep enough to damage the roots. Two or three inches is enough near the plants. It may be deeper in the centers between the plants.

On one of the quiz shows on TV, the category was to be the peony. One of the contestants called here saying he knew nothing about the peony and asked many questions. Many of the answers given can be found in the following article. Information worth remembering! —The Editor

A SHORT HISTORY OF PEONY CULTIVATION IN JAPAN

By Kaneo Mega & Takahiro Somei
(Translated by Ron Ringdahl)

1. Tree Peonies

There are no tree peony species native to Japan, and it is natural that the first tree peonies introduced into Japan should come from China. They were first brought to Japan from China during the reign of the Emperor Shomu (724-749 A.D.). It is said that they were thereupon grown in Nara and in Ikeda near present-day Osaka, and later in other locations. We cannot actually associate their introduction into Japan with any specific person but should rather think in terms of their being brought into Japan by numerous students and diplomats on missions to the Chinese court of the Tang Dynasty.

In the beginning, the tree peony was not brought in as living plants, but, as in the case of the plum, the morning glory, and other plants, probably in the form of dried roots for medicinal purposes.

From documents dating back to the tenth century A.D., we can see that there was already considerable production of tree peonies in various provinces. We also see that by this time, the tree peony had found its place in the garden as an ornamental plant.

The introduction of Zen Buddhism from China to Japan in the thirteenth century brought with it Chinese varieties of tree peonies. Even today, one commonly finds tree peonies growing in temple grounds and it is said that this practice began at this time.

Later, the development of such arts as flower arranging and the tea ceremony brought a tremendous increase of interest in the tree peony and also in other flowers, and as a subject of decorative and graphic arts, it was almost unparalleled in its day.

From the late seventeenth century, the tree peony became greatly favored among the common man, resulting in a rich assortment of new varieties. In a certain document of the day, written in 1695, we find reference to 168 varieties of white tree peonies, 166 varieties of reds, eleven "old" varieties, and 149 miscellaneous varieties, for a total of 494 varieties. Taking into account varieties listed under more than one name and other such problems, perhaps we are not far wrong to consider that there were about 400 different varieties of tree peonies at this time.

Japanese tree peonies first became known internationally at the Paris World's Fair in 1889. From this time on began a period of inter-

change and mixing between sources within and around the world. Varieties of tree peonies were imported from Europe, especially France. It is now known that Chinese varieties were introduced into France, and then brought to Japan from France. The yellow tree peonies which can be seen today are representatives of the improved French varieties, which originated from *P. lutea* of Yunnan Prov., China.

Later, during the 1920's, varieties were imported directly from China, proving to be greatly popular, until the war. Just recently (1982), direct contact has again been made with China, opening a new age of peony culture in Japan.

2. Herbaceous Peonies

There is no record of when herbaceous peonies from the Asian continent first came to Japan, but it would be no surprise to find that they arrived at a very early period. The oldest recorded documentation goes back to 1455 A.D.

Horticultural writings from the seventeenth century and later detail numerous varieties of herbaceous peonies. One such document from the late seventeenth century indicates that there were more than 100 varieties, mostly in the red, purple, and white color ranges. The variety names, however, are not given. Another writing from the same period lists 116 varieties.

During the early part of this century, an effort was begun at the Kanagawa Pref. Agricultural Experiment Station (near Yokohama) to improve herbaceous peony varieties. At this time varieties from Europe were also imported. Later, private companies also began importation and sales of European varieties. According to records of the Experiment Station, in 1925 there were more than 300 varieties available, and as a result of efforts in hybridizing and improving, there were as many as 700 varieties by the early 1930's.

In regard to popular flower forms, prior to this period, singles with in-curving petals, dainty, elegant and reserved, had been most highly prized among peony lovers. Now, with changes in living styles, the more flamboyant and colorful doubles gained greatly in popularity.

At present, it is not known exactly how many varieties are in existence. Since the end of the war, many new varieties have appeared on the market. On variety of special interest is "Oriental Gold," a cross between the pure white herbaceous variety "Kakoden" and the tree peony variety "Kinko" ("Alice Harding"). This outstanding and famous cross is the result of efforts by Toichi Itoh and Naruo Oshida, who first made it public in 1958. The feat was duplicated in Niigata Pref. by Yugen Higuchi in 1962.

Another unusual herbaceous variety of recent origin is "Yo Ki-Hi," named after the classical Chinese equivalent of Helen of Troy in color, the most yellow yet obtained in a herbaceous peony variety.

Translations from **ACTA PHYTOTAXONOMICA SINICA**

(Highly respected Chinese Botany Journal)

Dr. James W. Waddick, Kansas City, Missouri

Peony species are little grown and generally misunderstood in the United States even though they form the basis for all garden hybrids. In recent years only Prof. Saunders had seriously collected and crossed these wild types to develop new combinations and incorporate new genetic information. A resurgence of interest in wild species is shown by these two recent articles by Chinese botanists. It is hoped that this information will help all peony growers to understand better the place of peonies in nature.

**A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE CHEMISTRY
AND SYSTEMATICS OF PAEONIACEAE**

Yu Jin Xiao Pei-gen

(Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy
of Medical sciences, Beijing)

Abstract From the root of *Paeonia suffruticosa* and *P. lactiflora* seven compounds have been isolated. They are identified as paeoniflorin I, benzoylpaeoniflorin II, oxypaeoniflorin III, paeonol IV, paeonoside V, paeonolide VI and apiopaeonoside VII. The contents of the seven constituents in the root of 23 *Paeonia* taxa, including 19 species and 6 varieties, are determined by means of the quantitative HPTLC scanning method. The results show that paeoniflorin occurs ubiquitously in all the species examined and is the characteristic constituent of the family Paeoniaceae; The paeonol compounds (IV, V, VI, VII) are found to be restricted to the woody Sect. Mountan and notably absent in the herbaceous Sect. Paeon. This differentiation gives a support to the division of sections in Paeoniaceae.

The chemical comparison between Paeoniaceae and 15 possibly related families shows that Paeoniaceae is different from Ranunculaceae, Ranunculales of Magnoliales and is similar to Dilleniaceae, Theaceae and Rosaceae in some respects. The chemical data support the suggestion that Paeoniaceae be elevated to the order rank, Paeoniales.

from Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica 25(3): 1987

Studies on the Genus *Paeonia* (1) Report on the Karyotypes of some wild species in China by Hong De-Yuan and Zhang Zhi-Xian (Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Beijing) and Zhu Xiang-Yun (Northwest Institute of Botany, Shaanxi).

Abstract: In the present paper 8 species with 15 populations of the genus *Paeonia* L. (if *P. papaveraea* and *P. japonica* are recognized as species) were collected from Sichuan, Shaanxi and Hebei Provinces. The micrographs of their somatic metaphase were prepared. Karyotype formulae, range of chromosome length and classification of karyotype according to Stebbins are shown in the table. The essential points follow:

(1) Chromosomes of the various species in the Section Modan ("Tree Peonies") have so far been examined and they are all diploid; the two species in the section Onaepia (California Peonies) are also diploid, and thus tetraploids exist only in the section *Paeonia* (Herbaceous Peonies).

(2) Chromosomes in the genus *Paeonia* are relatively stable. The karyotypes show no differences among the taxa in Iect. Modan and the same can be said about the taxa in Sect. *Paeonia*. Between the sections, however, the situation is different. Arm ratios of the first pair of chromosomes indicates that the two sections have differentiated.

(3) One population (PB85024) in the *P. obovata* complex has a karyotype of 2B which is new for the genus *Paeonia*. This karyotype is stable and shows that all species in *Paeonia* do not have a 2A karyotype.

(4) Three populations of *P. obovata* from Sichuan and Shannxi are tetraploids and one from Hebei is diploid. From this and previous work it is shown that plants from Japan and Korea, Heilongjiang Province and Hebei Province regardless of flower color are all diploid, while plants from Priamur in the Soviet Union, Shaanxi and Western Sichuan are all tetraploid. From this data as far as is known in this particular complex, ploidy is correlated to geographical distribution: diploids are found in the central part and tetraploids occur in the extremes.

(5) Materials of *P. mairzi* from Sichuan and Shaanxi are found to be tetraploids which shows that both tetraploids and diploids are found in this species, but the geographical distribution pattern will be revealed in future investigations.

Table: The Characters of karyotypes of wild *Paeonia* species from China.

| taxon | range of chromosome length | the longest/ the shortest | SAT | | karyotype formula | type of karyotypes |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--------|---|--------------------|
| | | | position | number | | |
| <i>P. suffruticosa</i> var. <i>papaveracea</i> . | 16.41—11.18 | 1.4 | 2,3,4,5 | 6 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(2SAT) + 2sm(2SAT) + 2st(2SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. szechuanica</i> | 15.57—10.89 | 1.4 | | | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m + 2sm + 2st$ | 2A |
| <i>P. aff. suffruticosa</i> | 12.42—12.38 | 1.4 | 3,4,5 | 4 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(1SAT) + 2sm(1SAT) + 2st(2SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. lactiflora</i> | 13.31—8.48 | 1.5 | 1,2,4,5 | 4 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(2SAT) + 2sm(1SAT) + 2st(1SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. veitchii</i> (PB85091-1) | 15.78—9.86 | 1.6 | 1,2,3,4,5 | 7 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(4SAT) + 2sm(1SAT) + 2st(2SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. veitchii</i> (PB85091-2) | 16.28—10.56 | 1.5 | 2,3,4,5 | 5 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(2SAT) + 2sm(1SAT) + 2st(2SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. veitchii</i> (PB85040) | 18.05—11.63 | 1.5 | | | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m + 2sm + 2st$ | 2A |
| <i>P. veitchii</i> (PB85065) | 17.47—11.12 | 1.5 | 2,4,5 | 3 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(1SAT) + 2sm(1SAT) + 2st(1SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. mairei</i> (PB85023-2) | 17.41—11.82 | 1.6 | 9,10 | 4 | $2n = 4x = 20 = 12m + 4sm + 4st(4SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. mairei</i> (PB85023-4) | 18.84—11.51 | 1.6 | 9,10 | 4 | $2n = 4x = 20 = 12m + 4sm + 4st(4SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. obovata</i> (PB85078) | 17.73—11.62 | 1.6 | 2,4,5 | 6 | $2n = 2x = 10 = 6m(2SAT) + 2sm(2SAT) + 2st(2SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. obovata</i> (PB85067) | 19.00—13.18 | 1.6 | 8,9,10 | 3 | $2n = 4x = 20 = 12m + 4sm(1SAT) + 4st(2SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. obovata</i> (PB85068) | 15.95—8.03 | 1.9 | 8,9,10 | 4 | $2n = 4x = 20 = 12m + 4sm(1SAT) + 4st(3SAT)$ | 2A |
| <i>P. obovata</i> (PB8524-4) | 15.56—6.3 | 2.8 | 9,10 | 4 | $2n = 4x = 20 = 12m + 4sm + 4st(4SAT)$ | 2B |

from Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica 26(1): 26-1988

A PORTFOLIO OF PEONY SPECIES

By *Silvia Saunders*

(Originally published July 1934, *National Horticultural Magazine*)

Preface to the Re-publication

Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri

It is with great satisfaction that I accept our editor's request for my participation in preparations for the re-publication of these excellent photographs by Silvia Saunders.

Once again we benefit from the excellent documentation of the extensive research carried on by Arthur Percy Saunders, and so carefully maintained by his daughter, Silvia Saunders. Miss Saunders, who at last closed the Saunders Peony Nursery about ten years ago, was also the sponsor and many times benefactor to the present generation of peony hybridists.

We have had few illustrations or places to go to see the uncommon species of peony in North America. American gardening has long emphasized the horticultural varieties and it is the easily grown varieties of the *Lactiflora* peonies which have dominated gardens, along with their hybrids and occasional plantings of tree peonies and the *Officinalis* varieties. There has long been some use of the *Tenuifolia* peonies and, recently some distribution of the *Peregrina* garden varieties. Other than these, there is little opportunity to see any of the more than thirty peony species recognized in F. C. Stern's monumental study, *The Genus Paeonia*, in growth in North America. Thus these illustrations form a valuable addition to the reference material furnished by the American Peony Society.

However, the plants illustrated here have an even greater value in that they are examples of the species used in the Saunders research and are representative, in some instances, of the ancestor plants of hybrids used by the present generation of breeders. In this connection, it should be noted that Professor Saunders wrote that he made no attempt to classify the plants received into his planting, but carried them under the names by which they were received, mostly from European nurseries and seed suppliers. Thus, were there questionable labeling (not uncommon, inasmuch as the use of species names evolves over time) what we are seeing here is illustrations of plants by the same names as they appear in the Saunders' written accounts of variety ancestry. This is of special interest to persons who are using Saunders hybrids and their descendants in planned breeding programs.

The listing of species in *The Peonies*, Wister, ed., The American Horticultural Society, 1962, (available from the American Peony Society,) follows Sterns' groupings of the species and gives some of the then recognized synonyms under which herbarium specimens had been labeled over the years. Wister also specifically, states names under

which Saunders had some of the species growing. Wister is an important species reference and a valuable tie-in for one attempting to relate the Stern reference to North American garden literature.

Finally, as this article was being prepared, there came to the Society the written report of a new study, "*Survey of Paeonia Species in Light of Recent Literature*," 1988, by Ray Cooper, Oldham, England. In addition to bringing this new article to the attention of BULLETIN readers, I want to mention the vehicle by which it comes to the Society. An internationally dispersed group of individuals who are interested in the study and propagation of interest in the species peonies is working to stimulate interest and motivate such efforts as is represented by the Cooper article. A newsletter is being issued from time to time and assistance has been provided in obtaining seeds and plant materials. Input of information from interested persons is sought and the identity of persons who may wish to cooperate in specifically planned species preservation plantings is welcomed. Contact with the group may be made through the American Peony Society office or directly to Mr. Leo Fernig, La Fougere, Lucinges, 74380 Bonne, France.

SOIL

Soil is the secret for good peonies. A good garden loam that is suitable for vegetables will also grow good peonies. If soil is sandy or full of heavy excavation clay and debris such as most builders leave in the ground, it is imperative that a hole be dug 2 feet in diameter and one and one-half feet deep; then replace with loam (fertile top soil) for each plant.

Plant growth is best in topsoils, since more humus and bacteria are present and the texture and structure of the soil is more conducive to normal development.

This work will repay you many times, with abundance of bloom and a strong, healthy bush. Prepare the holes of planting area several weeks in advance, so the ground will be settled before planting time.

In planting leave three feet between each plant, measuring from the crown. If space is no problem, four feet would be better.

The peony plant makes beautiful, attractive bushes after blooming. With the coming of cool weather, the foliage is colorful with red and bronze until heavy frost. It is then the entire plant should be cut to the ground.

* * * *

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



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia Beresowskyi

Flower faintest pink, 3 inches across, May 31

— 25 —



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia Brownii

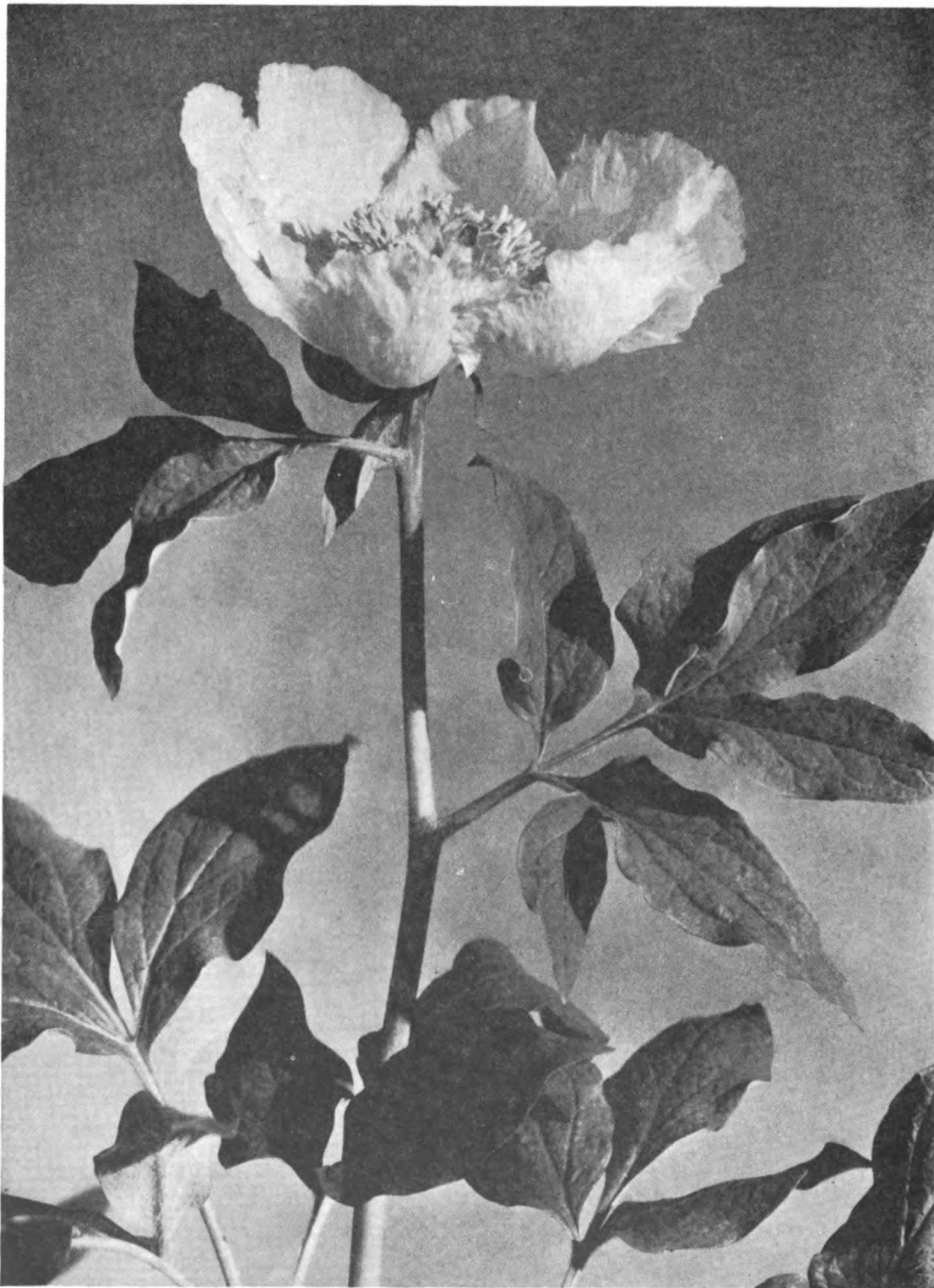
Flower dark mahogany red, 1-2 inches across, May 18



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia corsica

Flower purplish pink, 4 inches across, May 20



Suwa Sumaers

Paeonia cretica

Probably a form of P. arietina

Flower very pale pink, May 20

— 28 —



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia decora (red)

Flower very dark purple-red, 4-5 inches across, May 20



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia decora alba

Flower pure white, 4-5 inches across, May 18



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia Forrestii trolloides
Flower yellow, 2 inches across, May 30

— 31 —



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia lobata

Flower vermilion red, 4-5 inches across, May 31



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia lutea

Flower bright yellow, 2-3 inches across, June 17

— 33 —



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia lutea (erect form)



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia macrophylla

Flower thick, waxy cream-white, 4-5 inches across, May 17

This is now probably P. tomentosa, Stapf

— 35 —



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia microcarpa

Flower dark magenta pink, 3 inches across, May 30



Silva Saunders

Paeonia Mlokosewitschii

Flower pale sulphur yellow, 4-5 inches across, May 18



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia obovata alba

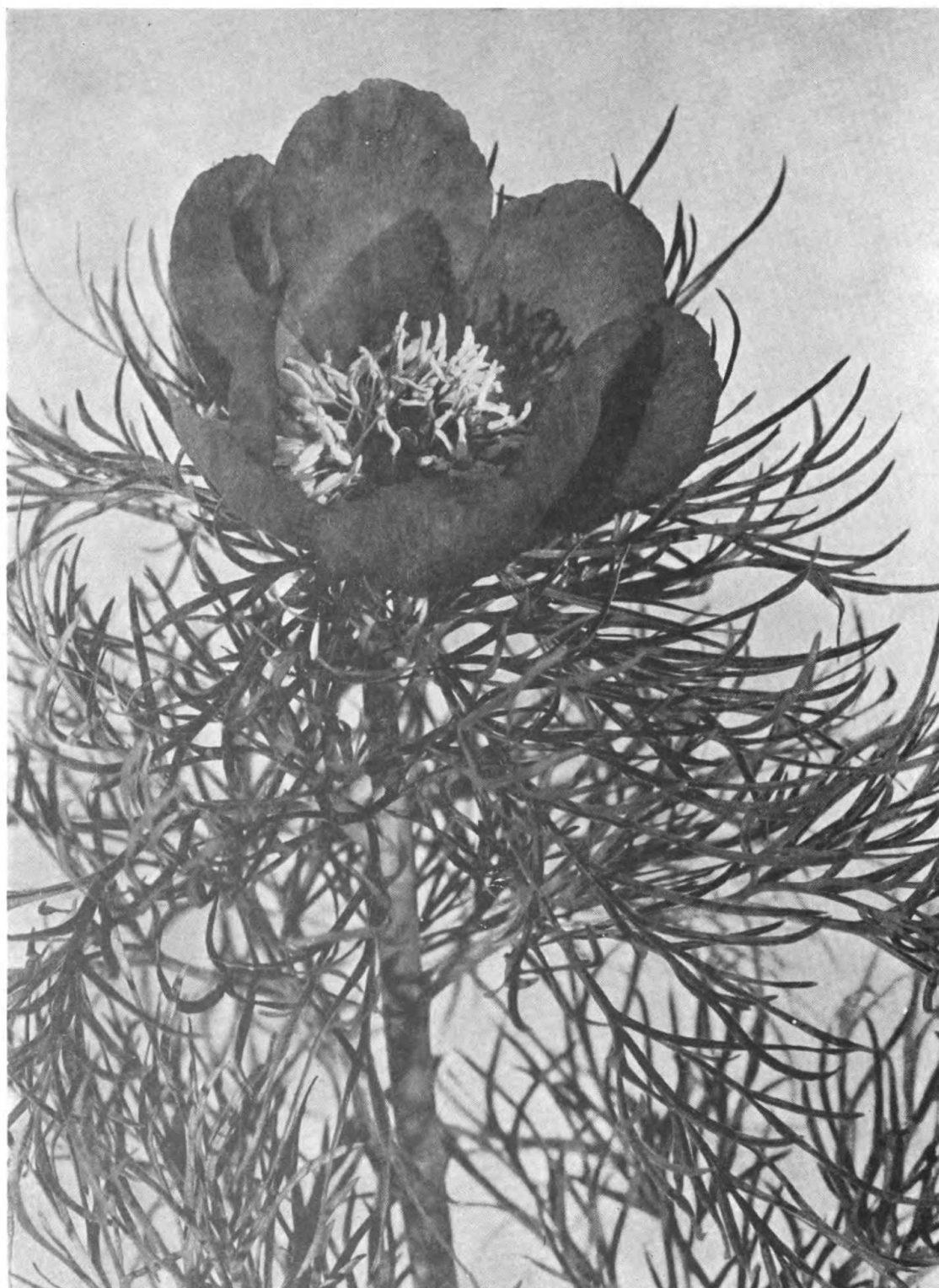
Flower pure white, 4 inches across, May 18



Silvia Saunders

Pæonia, Otto Froebel

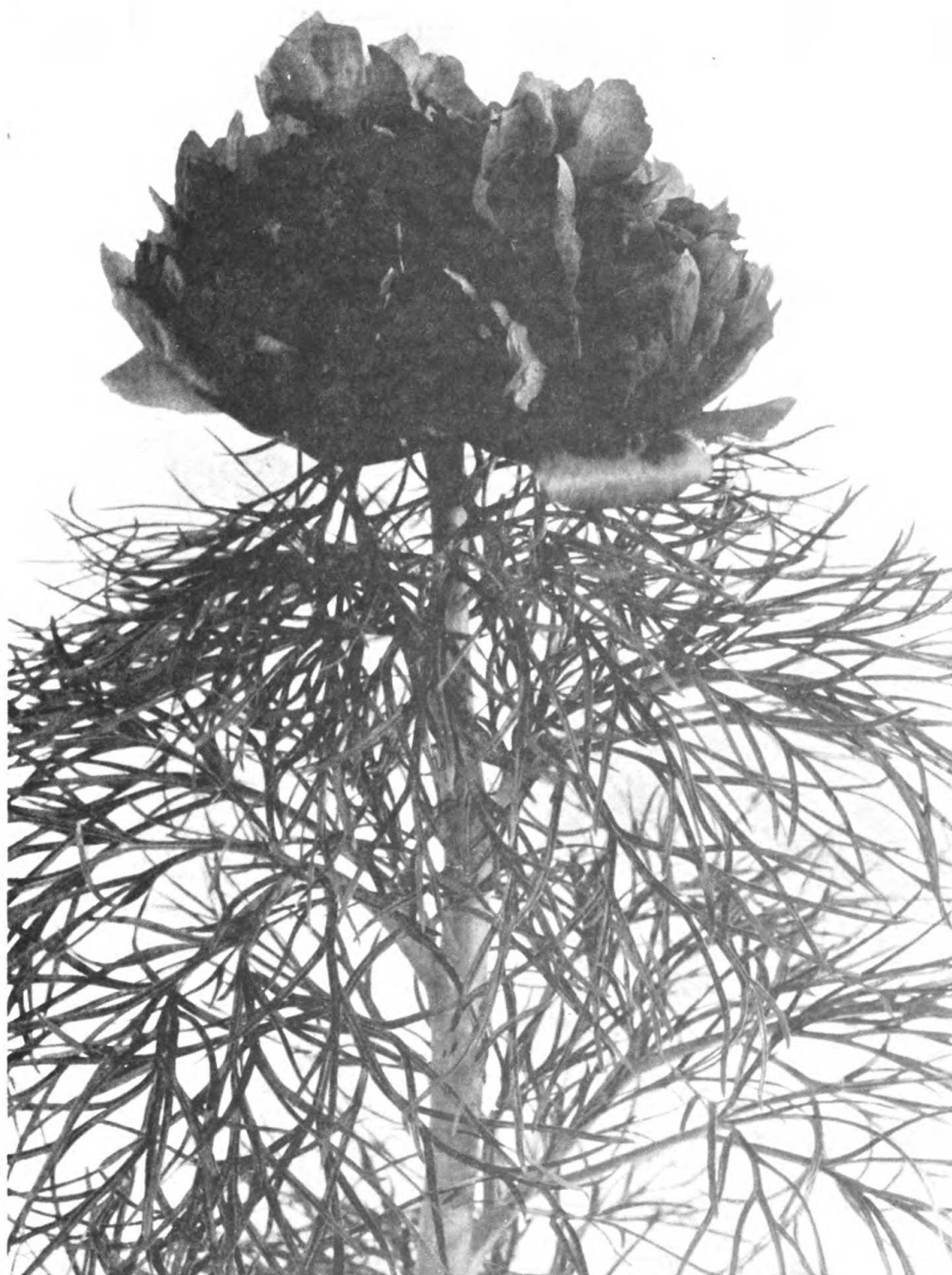
Flower satiny, bright salmon rose, 4-5 inches across, May 30



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia tenuifolia

Flower deep crimson, 3-4 inches across, May 17



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia tenuifolia flore plena

Flower very deep crimson, 4-5 inches across, May 20



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia triternata

Flower very light wild rose pink fading lighter, 3-4 inches across, May 19



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia Veitchii

Flower dull magenta, 3 inches across, June 1



Silvia Saunders

Paeonia Woodwardii

Flower dull pale pink, 3 inches across, May 20

LETTERS

From Rev. Harold A. Toms, Tazewell, Virginia

We had a good peony year. We now have more than 100 plants, Herbaceous and Lactiflora.

Favorites? Red Charm and Douglas Brand are probably top favorites. My wife, Dottie, favors Red Charm over all others. I very much like America, Burma Ruby, Scarlet O'Hara, and the species *p rubra plena flora* (fern leaf), Old Faithful, Diane Parks, and some others. Yellow Emperor (my first true yellow) and Garden Treasure are also top favorites. Coral Sunset and Moonstone are also high in our admiration. Old (1888) Mons. Jules Elie is hard to beat, except its stems could be stronger. We like Bowl of Cream, Le Cygne, Mother's Choice and Sylver among the whites. Star Dust is one of the few we do not remove any side buds from. Carina is lovely. We planted a replacement of Alexander Woolcott which turned out to be an unidentified red single in our first plant. Cytherea is one of the top favorites for color and form.

We are adding a dozen or more new ones this year, so we have something to look forward to next summer.

Doris Cooper is a favorite flesh pink, but our first root of it didn't do well, so we are trying again. We like Paul M. Wild and Kansas. Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt is a lovely dependable bloomer. Princess Margaret is a favorite dark pink double.

White Cap draws raves from one of my peony friends from Richlands, VA. We like very much that old beauty Gay Paree. Raspberry Sundae, Pillow Talk and Dinner Plate are varieties that cause our 8-year-old grandson, Kevin, to chuckle. One of these days I want to buy for him and his sister, Karen, roots of "Kevin" and "Karen Gray." I think they will like them.

Our flower interest is a bit diversified: we grow some rhododendrons, azaleas, daffodils and tulips, with probably 400 varieties of daffodils; also hyacinths and crocuses, and a few lilies. We don't grow many roses; we have such a problem with Japanese beetles.

One thing we know: our wonderful God is a lover of the beautiful, and we thank Him for providing for our enjoyment so many lovely flowers.

Leslie J. Wiley, Cobbleskill, New York

Thank you for your good letter to the Society members. Our organization seems to be in excellent financial shape and that is good. The '88 peony season in this location was nothing great. Extreme changes in the weather seem to have been responsible. Yet the season was not disappointing. Cover the blooming season with enough types and varieties of peonies and you're bound to have a lot of good bloom.

I had blooms this year from EVENING STAR. These were the first in five years. I have been nursing this variety for 25 or so years including moving it at least twice. We hate to give up on this tough-to-grow variety. When it does flower, its bloom is of a quality that one can understand the 9.5 rating that it received years ago from the Society.

POLLEN, PISTIL, AND POD

Bill Seidl, 732 S. 19th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220

QUESTION 1: In the book *LILACS*, in the chapter on companion plants, and under the heading “Interspecific Peony Hybrids,” page 135, the author, Fr. John Fiala, bestows high praise on the yellow Ito Hybrids. Since the other hybrids, herbaceous and shrub, are discussed elsewhere, and not at all under this heading, shouldn’t he have used the term “intersectional”? Yes, I’ve read those pages and agree with you. Of course, both terms apply since all intersectional hybrids, by their nature, must be interspecific. But the term “intersectional” would be more descriptive of their uniqueness and call attention to it. He does explain, in the second sentence, that they are hybrids between the tree (shrub) peony and the herbaceous kinds. (My preference is for *shrubaceous*; it’s self explanatory, though not in the dictionary, yet.) To amplify. The botanist Frederick Stern divides the genus *Paeonia* into three sections—PAEON: all herbaceous species except the American, MOUTAN: all woody, shrubby species, and ONAEPIA: the native American species, *browni* and *californica*. Not having entered into any hybrids, the latter can be ignored in this discussion. If you equate inter with between, and intra with within, a number of botanical terms become self-explanatory. Thus, the herbaceous hybrids (Red Charm, Paula Fay, Moonrise . . .) are interspecific and intrasectional. So are the shrub hybrids (Age of Gold, Golden Era, Zephyrus, Thunderbolt . . .). But the Ito hybrids result from crosses between the herbaceous species of Section PAEON and representatives (either species or hybrids) of Section MOUTAN, therefore intersectional. If inbred strains within a single species are developed and then crossed, the progeny are intraspecific hybrids, as with hybrid tomatoes. Such hybrids have never been made with peonies. If one is aware of this, then the term “interspecific peony hybrid” is a redundancy.

QUESTION 2a: I plan to make the cross *tenuifolia* x *lutea*. Would the progeny be called “Ito Hybrids”?—John Smith (Iowa). By some people, yes. Others would balk because your choice of parents is quite far removed from the original cross: *lactiflora* x shrub hybrid. That’s why it is useful to use the term intersectional or shrubaceous; it is more inclusive. One could coin different “grex” names (names for a particular hybrid combination) for each new hybrid combination, thus *Itoensis*, *Smithii* (if your cross succeeds), etc. In time, the process could become confusing and outlive its usefulness if the differences between the hybrid groups became blurred and indistinct.

QUESTION 2b: How would you assess my chances of success? Pretty remote. This cross is straight out of fantasyland. But while we’re there, why not replace *tenuifolia* by Laddie, a *tenui* hybrid? This thought occurs to me as I compare your cross with the original I-cross where Alice Harding was the pollen parent. It’s truly remarkable, as

impossible as the intersectional cross was once considered, that it would finally be accomplished with a nearly sterile hybrid as one parent rather than a fully fertile species parent, either *lutea* or *suffruticosa*! It's not a proven fact that in any existing I-hybrid the shrub parent has ever been the *suffruticosa* species. (Roger Anderson has one seedling using the species *potanini*.) So if you use the *lutea* species as the shrub parent, why not use a *tenui* hybrid, Laddie, as the herbaceous parent? Laddie corresponds to Alice Harding in Ito's cross (but in the herbaceous section). There may be something about the irregular gene and chromosome mix in the hybrids that permits a possible intersectional recombination not possible with the more uniform, predictable genetic structure of the species.

QUESTION 3: I'm keen on trying the shrubaceous cross but feel so frustrated because I do not grow either Kakoden or Martha W. to use as receptive seedparents. I do have the shrub hybrids Alice Harding (AH), Golden Era (GE), and others. What can I do? What CAN I do??—Agnes Jones (Nebraska). Not to worry! You doubtless have a variety of other *lactifloras*, so spread GE pollen on all that have functional carpels. Your seed harvest will probably turn up a few promising parents no one else has discovered yet. In *Paeonia*, L. J. Dewey reported his discovery of a very receptive parent in his garden, an old blush double cultivar, name unknown. Other hybridizers have obtained viable seed from Miss America and Minnie Shaylor. If you choose those with Japanese flower forms you'll have no contaminating pollen to contend with. Don't use AH pollen in your initial experiments; it's not very compatible with anything, including Kakoden. (It purportedly took 1200 plants of Kakoden crossed by AH pollen to produce nine viable hybrid seeds.) Neither is Kakoden very receptive to GE pollen. Martha W. is very receptive to GE, but fails with AH. If you try other pollens, first place a sample under a low-power microscope and look for the presence of good, plump, well-formed grains scattered among the mostly fragmented, deformed, shriveled ones. If you find some, use that pollen in your crosses. If you find none, don't waste your time with it. Some people use a mixture of pollens and sacrifice knowing the exact pedigree. Also consider making the cross in the reverse direction. For this you'll have to call upon a peony friend whose season is earlier than yours to mail *lacti* pollen for use on your shrub hybrids.

QUESTION 4: Regarding the photo (Bul. 268, page 5) showing the bagged crosses on peony Martha W. in Roger Anderson's garden—Do I have to transform my plants into such eyesores when making intersectional crosses? Surely this is not an example of the LGC (Landscape Gardener's Cross) you mentioned in PP&P (same issue)! When I saw this photo I was immediately reminded that this is indeed not the LGC. Though the seed harvest from such a cross may be so sparse

you'll never have to sacrifice your lawn to grow the seedlings, the necessity of removing the flower petals and stamens and then bagging the crosses will mar the landscape value of your plants at the height of their beauty. The LGC refers to the use of nearly-sterile cultivars as seedparents. Their flowers can remain intact during pollination on the assumption that, rarely setting seed under any circumstances, any seed that is set will result from your deliberate pollination rather than by haphazard pollination by insect- or wind-born pollen. Since the lactis in the I-cross are chosen for their fertility, the "bagging" (Roger uses envelopes) is necessary to ensure that foreign pollen (usually other lactis) doesn't contaminate your cross and give you "false" hybrids, i.e. seeds that are 100% lacti instead of 50%. The bags or envelopes can be removed after several days or left on all season as a conversation piece. If left on, the ripe seedheads are less likely to be overlooked at harvest time.

QUESTION 5: (a) In the shrubaceous cross how can I be sure all the harvested seed is hybrid? (b) And will I have to grow all the seedlings to maturity before I'll know which are hybrid and which are 100% lacti? The answer to "b" is "No." You can recognize the hybrids by their first leaves. They appear "different," perhaps less glossy and less lobed than 100% lactiflora; more akin to shrub peony foliage. You can selectively destruct the imposters, leaving behind the "true" hybrids and those in doubt. These "imposters," when grown to maturity, have always proven to be 100% lacti . . . or sometimes they are herbaceous hybrids, the contaminating pollen being *lobata* or other non-lacti herbaceous source. As for question "a," you can't be 100% sure you've obtained hybrid seed, but there is a positive indicator: ruptured seed. Roger Anderson says the presence of many ruptured seeds in a carpelhead is the most reassuring sign the planned cross has taken. (The unruptured seeds can still be genuine.) Perhaps the explanation is this: shrub-hybrid seeds are generally larger than lacti seed; the shrubaceous seed inherits (1) its bulk from the shrub-hybrid parent, and (2) its seedcoat from the lacti parent; the seedcoat is not genetically equipped to cope with the bulk, so it ruptures. Because the seedcoat is cracked, the seed can quickly dry out and shrivel, or it can rot quickly because the internal mass is exposed to invading disease and decay organisms. This requires ripe seed to be promptly harvested and planted (or transferred to moist peatmoss), preferably with a fungicidal dip or dusting.

QUESTION 6: Is the "ruptured seed" phenomenon the reason I can't obtain I-hybrid seed from others? Well, it's one reason, I'm sure. Then there is its relative scarcity. And if the hybridizer has a good supply of unruptured seed, he'd be nagged by doubts about it being genuine. Contaminated crosses often occur even when the hybridizer feels he's taken all the usual precautions to prevent it.

James E. Harms, Box 326, Osage, Iowa 50461

I have a copy of the 1928 James Boyd book, entitled *Peonies, Manual of the American Peony Society*. It is in good condition and the first \$30.00 will buy it.

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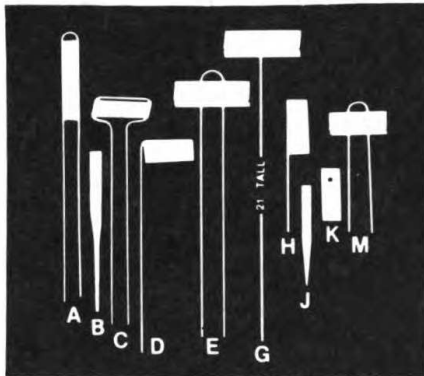
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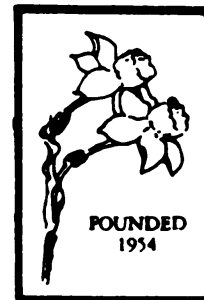
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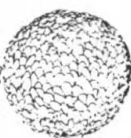
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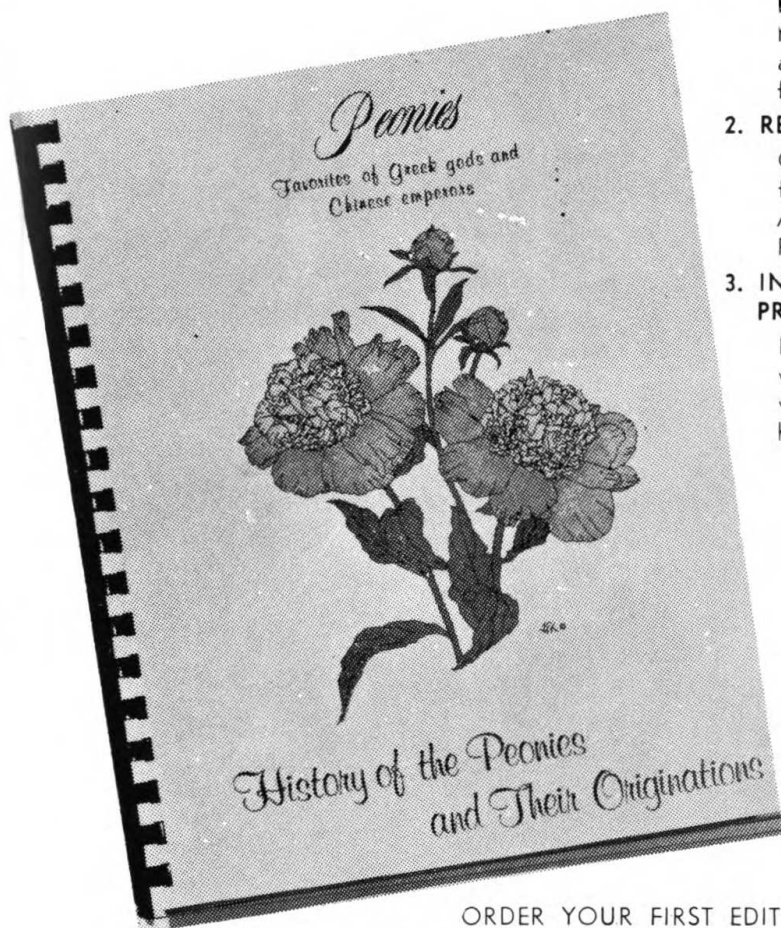
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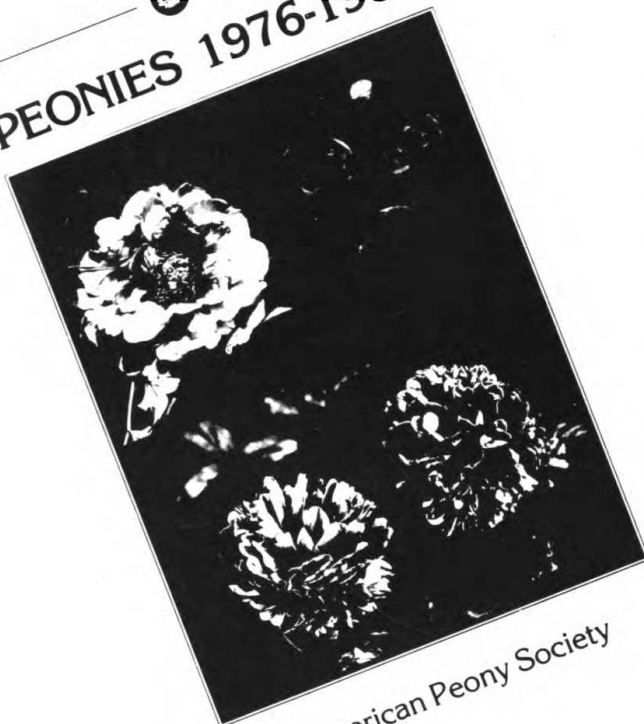
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