

American Peony Society Bulletin



MARCH-APRIL, 1970 — NO. 196



THORNHILL CONFERENCE CENTER

Morton Arboretum — Lisle, Illinois



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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

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OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the Peony; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefore or in any other manner.

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the Peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development are eligible for membership.

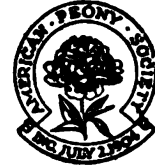
Annual dues are \$7.50. The year begins January 1st and ends December 31st. Applicants for membership should send check or money order payable to the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, c/o Secretary, 107½ W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio 45891. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances.

THE BULLETIN

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is issued quarterly. Issues of back years \$1.00 each, to members when available. \$2.00 to non-members.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies". Those who desire to register a new variety (and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names) should apply to Chas. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Fee is now raised to \$10.00 for each variety registered.



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Catharine Carroll Pennell, Editor — Van Wert, Ohio 45891

KLEHMS HOST MEMBERS AND GUESTS AT SUNBURST FARM

Members and their guests attending the 1970 Annual Meeting and Peony Show will be entertained by the Klehm family Sunday, June 14th, at the Sunburst Farm. Started in 1962, the farm now comprises 490 acres in Cook County, 35 miles from the heart of Chicago. All peony plants raised for root sale are on this farm as well as one-half of the cut flower plantings are located here.

The breeding and selection program which has covered three generations in the Klehm family is carried on at Sunburst Farm. Three or four hundred new varieties are presently being tested in advance stages.

varieties will be judged. With each judging we get tougher and tougher because of the volume of accumulating stock. After about ten propagations and selections, we might have an acre of variety and we make a final judgment. If the judg-



(Courtesy Chicago Tribune)

Carl Klehm, owner of Chas. Klehm & Son Nursery and Art Kozelka, Chicago Tribune, Garden editor, discussing new variety of peony at Klehm's Barrington Peony farm.

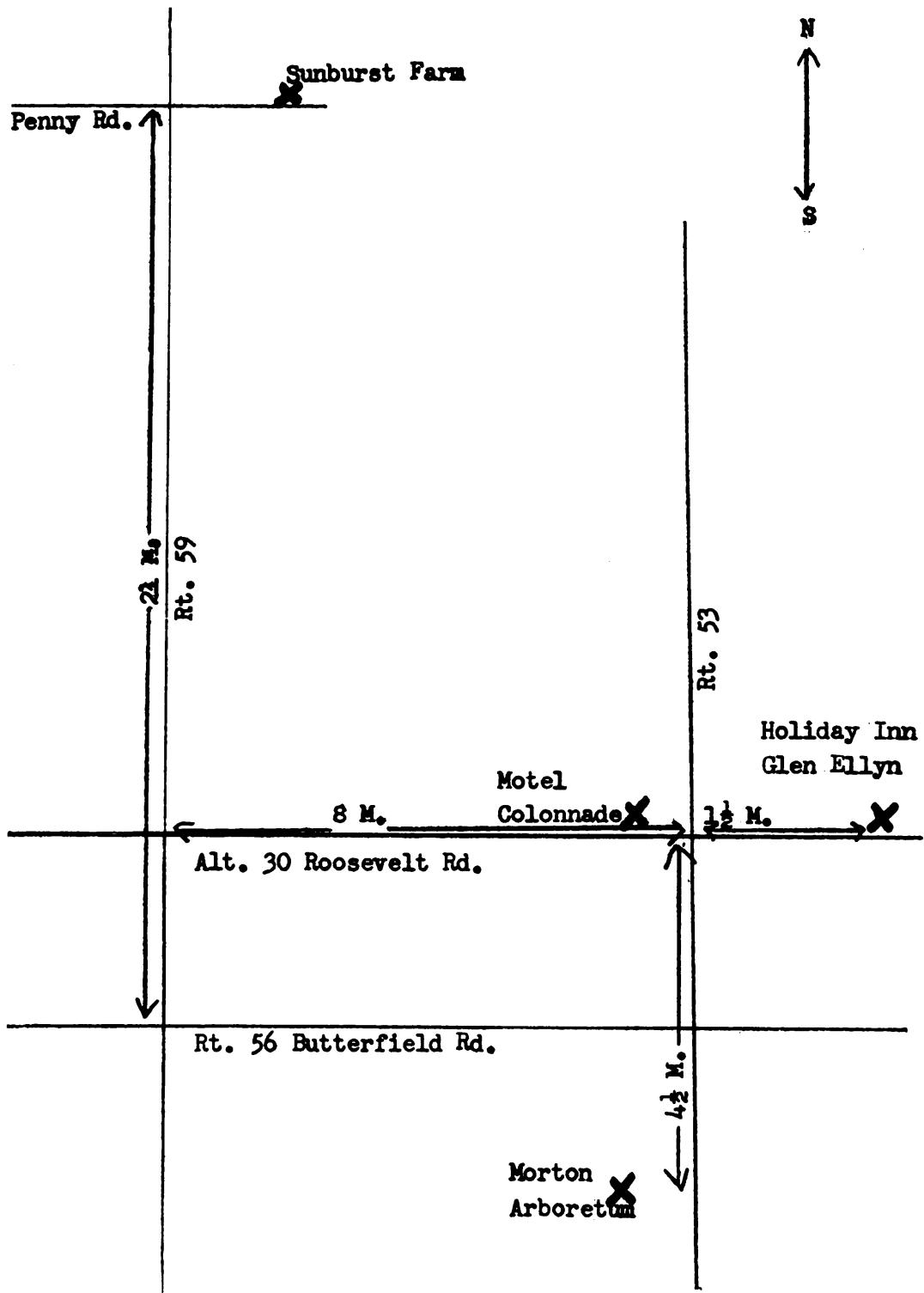
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Roy Klehm told the writer "We follow a process of elimination, When a plant is three years old it is either eliminated or propagated. Three years later the remaining ment is positive we get the variety on a three year cropping system so a new crop of fresh plants is available every fall. We then apply for patents and trademarks and offer the plants on a pricing structure that is favorable for mass wholesale and retail distribution. We feel it is very important to maintain quality. We are striving for varieties that will perform well every year for the average home gardener and be a thrill for him or her to grow. We do not want any 'prima donnas.' "

Mr. Klehm further stated—"Guided hay ride tours will be available for the guests enjoyment and information. This will give everyone the opportunity to view the whole farm. We will try to have all varieties labeled and our numbering system explained to help in judging these varieties. Everyone is invited—the idea is to have a good time. Our Treflan Herbicide applicator for peony planting fields will be on display. We have found this saves hours and hours of hoeing. The trick is to throw treated soil up and over the plant ridges. If the blooming season is normal our harvesting and processing crews will be in full operation."



(Courtesy Chicago Tribune)



MORTON ARBORETUM

The Morton Arboretum, site of the 65th Annual Peony Exhibition, an outdoor museum of living woody plants (trees, shrubs and vines) was founded in 1922 by Joy Morton, eldest son of J. Sterling Morton, originator of Arbor Day. Approximately 4,800 species, varieties and hybrids of the woody plants of the world are included in the living plant collection.

The Arboretum Center is a complex of buildings, housing Administrative offices, Research Laboratory, Auditorium. The **THORNHILL BUILDING** will house the Show. This building stands on the site of the Joy Morton residence "Thornhill", incorporating its original library, now designated as the Founder's Room where the Court of Honor will be exhibited this year. The Root Auction may be held in the lecture room with a seating capacity of 250, equipped for showing still pictures and sound movies, or in The Outpost, a rustic building which serves as an annex to the Education Department. Those attending the two day Meeting are urged to take note of any changes in location.

Members are urged to **turn off of Route 53 onto Park Blvd.**, and enter the Conference Center on the West side, which will be open all night at no charge, for those bringing peonies for the Show. This entrance should also be used at all times by those attending the exhibit, Root Auction and Workshop. A charge of 50c is assessed if entering the Visitor's Center, on the East Side of DuPage river.

This will be the first cut flower Show to be held at the Arboretum and the staff is doing everything possible to make this an outstanding occasion.

The 67th ANNUAL MEETING
and
The 65th ANNUAL PEONY EXHIBITION
MORTON ARBORETUM

Illinois Rte. 53

Lisle, Illinois

* * * * *

PROGRAM

(All times are C.D.S.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12th, 1970

12:00 Noon — through Saturday, June 13th. Prepare and place exhibits in the Show. (Building will have police protection all night.) Remember to obtain Entry tags. These are available on request from Roy Klehm, Chairman, Klehm's Sunburst Farm, RFD Box 196-A, Barrington, Illinois 60010. Entry tags will be available at the Secretary's desk in the Show room.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13th, 1970

Continue placing entries to 12:00 noon.

12:30 p.m. — Judging begins. All judges and clerks are requested to assemble immediately after entries close for an instruction period.

2:00 p.m. — Show open to Public. Board of Directors Meeting.

3:00 p.m. — Work Shop—Hybridizing for the Beginner.

4:00 p.m. — ROOT AUCTION.

7:00 p.m. — Annual Banquet. Collonade Hotel — reservations required by June 5th. May be made with Roy G. Klehm, R.F.D. Box 196A, Barrington, Ill. 60010. Presentation of Awards and Annual Business Meeting will follow speaker.

10:00 p.m. — Show Room closes.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14th, 1970

9:00 a.m. — Exhibition open to public.

9:30 a.m. — Bus trip to Klehm's Sunburst Farm. Busses will be waiting in front of Thornhill Building. Free chuck-wagon lunch at noon. Guided hay ride tours, guests of Klehms.

10:00 p.m. — Exhibition closes.

ALL RIBBONS WILL BE MAILED TO EXHIBITORS. It is requested that all entry tags with addresses as well as ribbons be left in place. Special awards will be removed after 6:00 p.m. An accurate and detailed report of the Exhibition depends on co-operation of Exhibitors incorrectly and completely filling out entry tags.

* * * * *

For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone:

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the birds is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

— Song of Solomon 2:11-12

1970 PEONY EXHIBITION

MORTON ARBORETUM

Route 53 and Park Road

Lisle, Illinois

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. C.D.S. TIME

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. C.D.S. TIME

Sponsored by the Fifth District of the American Peony Society

Awards

American Peony Society Awards:

- A. A gold medal certificate in Class 1 and Class 59.
- B. Silver medal certificates in classes 2 and 33.
- C. Rosettes in Classes 19 and 26, and to the outstanding entry in Division IV and to all Court of Honor flowers.
- D. Peony roots will be awarded to all first place winners in Division II (Arrangements). Roots will be sent in the fall at the proper time. Be sure name and address on entry tags are legible.
- E. First, second and third place ribbons will be given in classes other than those in which certificates and rosettes are awarded.

Other Awards:

- F. B. F. Farr Memorial Medal for

the best lactiflora bloom in the Show.

- G. Charles F. Wassenberg Trophy donated by the Van Wert County (Ohio) Foundation for the best entry in Class 1 (25 Varieties).
- H. James Boyd Memorial Medal for most outstanding entry or entries in show.
- I. Arrangement Classes will be awarded Peony Root prizes. See section in schedule.

Special Awards:

Div. II—Amateurs only: 5th District Memorial Trophy.

Div. IIA.—Novice Class winners: 5th District Memorial Trophy. This trophy is given in memory of outstanding men in District V who have contributed so much to the Society and growing and showing of peonies.

Schedule

DIVISION I—Open to all.

Section A. Certificate Collections.

Class 1. Twenty-five varieties, any type; one bloom each in separate containers, each labeled as to name. Gold Medal Certificate.

Class 2. Fifteen varieties, any type; one bloom each in separate containers, each labeled as to name. Silver Medal Certificate.

Section B. Three blooms in one container. Lactifloras (albifloras) only. One variety.

Class 3. Double white or flesh.

Class 4. Double light pink.

Class 5. Double dark pink.

Class 6. Double red.

Class 7. Semi-double white.

Class 8. Semi-double other than white.

Class 9. Doubles, one each red, white and pink.

Class 10. Bomb type any color.

Section C. Specimen Classes. One Lactifloras only.

Class 11. Double white or flesh.

Class 12. Double light pink.

Class 13. Double dark pink.

Class 14. Double red.

- Class 15. Semi-double white or flesh.
Class 16. Semi-double pink.
Class 17. Semi-double red.
Class 18. Bomb type, any color.
- Section D.** Japanese type lactifloras.
- Class 19. Collection of five varieties, any color or colors. Separate containers.
Class 20. Three blooms of white, same variety; in one container.
Class 21. Three blooms of pink, same variety; in one container.
Class 22. Three blooms of red, same variety; in one container.
Class 23. Specimen bloom, white.
Class 24. Specimen bloom, pink.
Class 25. Specimen bloom, red.
- Section E.** Single type lactifloras.
- Class 26. Collection of five varieties, any color or colors. Separate containers.
Class 27. Three blooms, white, same variety. One container.
Class 28. Three blooms, pink, same variety, one container.
Class 29. Three blooms, red, same variety. One container.
Class 30. Specimen bloom, white.
Class 31. Specimen bloom, pink.
Class 32. Specimen bloom, red.
- Section F.** Hybrids (inter-species crosses) and species except lactiflora and mou-tan.
- Class 33. Collection of ten varieties, one bloom each, hybrids only. In separate containers, each one name-labeled.
Class 34. Collection of three species or varieties of species. Any type or color.
- Class 35. Collection of three double varieties of hybrids.
Class 36. Collection of three semi-double varieties of hybrids.
Class 37. Collection of three single varieties of hybrids.
Class 38. Specimen bloom, double. Hybrid or species
Class 39. Specimen bloom, semi-double. Hybrid or species.
Class 40. Specimen bloom, single. Hybrid or species.
Class 41. Specimen bloom, Japanese type. Hybrid or species.
- NOTE: A class for three Japanese varieties will be created if needed. If there are sufficient entries, Class 41 will be sub-divided into color classes.
- Section G.** Tree Peonies and Lutea Hybrids.
- Class 42. Collection. **Tree Peonies**, 6 varieties, any type, any color.
Collection **Lutea Hybrids**, 6 varieties, any type, any color.
Class 43. Collection **Tree Peonies**, 3 varieties, any type, any color.
Collection **Lutea Hybrids**, 3 varieties, any type, any color.
Class 44. Specimen Bloom — **Tree Peony**, any type, any color.
Specimen Bloom—**Lutea Hybrid** any type, any color.
Class 45. Seedlings, not yet introduced.
Tree Peony, any type, any color.

Seedlings, not yet introduced.

Lutea Hybrid, any type, any color.

DIVISION II — Amateurs only:

Those who raise peonies for pleasure only, do not sell flowers or roots except casually, and do not have more than 200 plants. All entries must be named.

Section H. Collections. Lactifloras only except as noted.

Class 46. Ten varieties, one bloom each, any type, any color. Hybrids permitted. Separate containers. Name labeling not mandatory, but advisable.

Class 47. Three double varieties, one each red, white and pink. One container.

Class 48. Three semi-double varieties, any color. One container.

Class 49. Three Japanese type varieties, any color. One container.

Class 50. Three Single varieties, any color. One container.

Class 51. Three varieties hybrids or species, any type, any color. One container.

Section I. Specimens — one bloom. Lactifloras except as noted.

Class 52. Double white.

Class 53. Double Pink.

Class 54. Double red.

Class 55. Semi-double, any color.

Class 56. Japanese type, any color.

Class 57. Single, any color.

Class 58. Hybrid or species, any type, any color.

DIVISION IIA — Novice

For those who have never entered a National Peony Show. Name la-

beling not mandatory, but desirable.

Amateur and Novice growers are encouraged to enter other Divisions.

Class 58B. 1 Double white or blush.

Class 58C. 1 Double light pink.

Class 58D. 1 Double dark pink.

Class 58E. 1 Double red.

Class 58F. 1 Single — any color.

Class 58G. 1 Semi-double any color.

Class 58H. 1 Japanese any color

Class 58 I. 1 Hybrid any color or type.

Class 58 J. Groups of three in one container any type or color. Any number of entries permitted by each exhibitor in all of above classes. Peony roots will be awarded to each 1st place winner.

DIVISION IIB — Garden Clubs.

This class for Garden Clubs only. Entries must be in groups of 10 varieties. Each club member will enter specimens in the name of his or her club. Entry tags must bear name of Garden Club. Variety name labeling not required but desirable.

Arrangers will be encouraged to know that a "Bank" of peony blooms will be available to draw on to make their arrangements. There will be some peony foliage. This will, we hope, encourage entries in this Division.

Class 58K. Ten varieties — any type or color in separate containers.

Prizes as follows:

1st — Gold Medal

2nd — Silver Medal

3rd — Bronze Medal
Above medals awarded
by Morton Arboretum.

DIVISION III — Seedlings and new varieties. Open to all.

Section J. Seedlings.

Class 59. Three blooms of one variety that has not been offered for sale, but has been divided one or more times. It must be designated by name, number or code. In one container.

Section K. Recent Introductions.

Class 60. Three blooms in one container. Limited to varieties which have been named and registered by the American Peony Society, and have been offered for sale no more than six years. Awards in the above two classes will be CERTIFICATES OF MERIT or HONORABLE MENTION at the discretion of the judges. Varieties which have won either award at a previous American Peony Society show are not eligible.

DIVISION IV. — Commercial growers — Licensed Nurserymen only.

Section L. Commercial Exhibit.

Class 61. Collection of not less than 25 nor more than 50 varieties, one bloom of each in separate containers, name labeled. Any type permitted. NOTE: This class will be eligible to all special awards and for competition in Court of Honor. A placard giving name, address and location of nursery in front of ex-

hibit is permitted. Placard limited to 9" x 14".

DIVISION V. — Visitors from out of State.

Section M. Collection.

Class 62. Five specimen blooms, any type, any color. Separate containers. May be the same or different varieties.

Section N. Greatest distance.

Class 63. Exhibitor from greatest distance. Must exhibit one or more blooms in this class, and state on entry tag distance from Chicago.

DIVISION VI — Court of Honor

Specific entries are not required for this division. Participation is attained by excellence and merit of entries. It is composed of the best flowers in the Show of the various types and colors as follows: a) double white or flesh; b) double light pink; c) double dark pink; d) double red; e) semi-double white; f) semi-double pink or red; g) Japanese; h) single; i) hybrid or species; j) tree.

CHAMPION of the SHOW: The finest flower in the Court of Honor.

Note: Court of Honor candidates will not be limited to specimen classes. It shall be the duty of the judges to search the collections for outstanding flowers for the Court of Honor.

DIVISION VII — Arrangements.

Open to all.

Theme: "Dawn of Summer." Peonies, queen of flowers are appropriate for any room in a house for any architectural style or period. This has been true for centuries. Rules for exhibitors:

1. Any amateur arranger may enter.
2. Building will be open at 7 a.m., Saturday, June 13. Exhibits must be in place by 12:00 noon and must be removed by 6 p.m. Sunday.

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- Class A. Peonies at the Wedding.
- 62. Church — an elaborate display of peonies for display on a pedestal.
 - 63. Bride's bouquet.
 - 64. Bridesmaids' baskets
 - 65. Corsages — Mother of Bride, Groom.
 - 66. Arr. for bachelor dinner.
- Class B. Peonies at Graduation.
- 67. Presentation basket.
 - 68. Stage arr.
 - 69. Arr. for graduation buffet

- Class C. Peonies for Anniversary "At Home"
- 70. Arr. suitable for foyer
 - 71. Arr. suitable for coffee table.
 - 72. Arr. suitable for dining table.
- Class D. Peonies on Vacation
- 73. Bon Voyage bouquet for steamer.
 - 74. Centerpiece for Bon Voyage luncheon.
 - 75. Arr. for lobby in Country Inn.
 - 76. Arr. for guest room in Country Inn.

MOTEL COLONADE

The Motel Colonnade, where the banquet and meeting are to be held, is located at 677 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn, Ill., approximately four miles from the Arboretum. Those desiring reservations for overnight accommodations may write Dominick Balsamo, Manager or telephone area code 312-858-1100.

A Prime Rib dinner will be served — \$7.00 per person, including tax and tip. Reservations are to be made not later than June 5th, with Roy Klehm, Business phone 312-437-2880 or residence 312-426-4907. When writing, address him at Sunburst Farm RFD, Box 196-A Barrington, Illinois 60010

MOTELS AND RATES

Colonnade
667 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137

Highland Manor
19 W. 545 Roosevelt Rd.
Lombard, Ill. 60148
Telephone 312-MA 7-5700

Holiday Inn
311 S. Lincoln Way
North Aurora, Ill. 60542

Holiday Inn
1250 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137

Singles—\$11.00
Doubles—\$16.00
Telephone 312-858-1100

Singles—\$12.60
Doubles—\$14.70
3 or more—\$15.75

Singles—\$12.50
Doubles—\$16.00
Telephone 312-896-0801

Singles—\$16-18
Doubles—\$18-20
Telephone 312-629-6000

Reservations are necessary at all the motels.

DR. R. A. GRIESBACH — BANQUET SPEAKER

Dr. R. A. Griesbach will be the banquet speaker for the 67th Annual Banquet and Meeting of the

Society. Our informer tells us he is 46 years old (this April) married and father of 5 children (age 6

through 14). He graduated from De Paul University, Chicago with B.S. and M.S. degrees (1951 and 1952) and received his Ph.D. degree, majoring in Botany in 1955 from the University of Chicago. His formal Coursework was in all areas of Botany with special emphasis in Plant Psycuology — Ecology, and Genetics — Cytogenetics.

Upon graduation in 1955, Dr. Griesbach joined the Faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences, De Paul University, where presently is an assistant Professor. He has recently been appointed, we understand, to the rank of Associate Professor for the forthcoming school year. His teaching obligations are— Genetics, Cytogenetics and Plant Physiology.

Dr. Griesbach has been an admirer of peonies since childhood days in Wisconsin. His father had a rather extensive collection of modern varieties back in the 1930's and 1940's.

His plant breedings activities have been with Gladiolus, Hemerocallis and True Lilies. He has been a breeder of Gladiolus since 1949. These have been grown on Mr. Orville Fay's property in Northbrook since 1956. Between four and six-thousand first-bloom seedlings per year have been grown there since then. To date a total of 76 seedlings have been named and in-

troduced since 1961—through Summerville Gladiolus Gardens, New Jersey. He has been a contributor to that Society Bulletin and a member of the North American Gladiolus Council Research Committee.

Work with the Daylily began under Dr. Paul Voth of the University of Chicago in 1953. This work culminated in a published thesis entitled "On dormancy and seed germination in Hemerocallis." He has co-authored with Drs. Voth and Yeager a chapter of the Daylily Handbook (1968) entitled "Developmental Anatomy and Physiology in Daylily."

Starting in 1953 Dr. Griesbach and Orville Fay began work on their seedling method of inducing polyploidy in Daylily Since 1960 he has been engaged in a limited amount of tertaploid Daylily breeding—being especially interested in reds. The extent of his Daylily breeding efforts has been increased since 1967, at which time Hardy's Nursery (Alabama) started to propagate their choice of his selected seedlings. The first of these were introduced in 1969.

His work with True Lilies began in 1961. This has dealt with the induction of polyploid in pink, white and yellow trumpet types, aurelians, etc. These in turn are now being used in a tetraploid breeding program.

WORKSHOP ON HYBRIDIZING

The Workshop on Hybridizing for the Beginner will be run this year by Dr. David Reath, of Vulcan (Upper Peninsula) Michigan. Possibly one or two others will be with him, in which case they might run a "Panel." In any case the 1970 Workshop promises to be as good as the 1969 one, where we learned so much from E. L. Pehrson and Father J. L. Fiala. Dr. Reath is a trained geneticist, and has been hybridizing among a number of plants for a number of years — peonies for seven or more. This is sure to be a good hour for Members and non-Members, Hybridists and Potential Hybridists, alike. The scheduled hour is Saturday, June 13 at 3:00 in the afternoon, but keep watch in case this may have to be changed.

THE "INNER GLOW HYBRIDS" AND THE PEONY WORK OF L. W. COUSINS OF LONDON, ONTARIO

By The Reverend John L. Fiala

EDITOR'S FOREWORD: The very remarkable exhibit of peonies by Mr. L. W. Cousins of London, Ontario, at the Peony Show in Mansfield in June of 1969, excited the interest of all who saw them. Alas, nothing at all could be ascertained about the parentage of these plants—hybrids, we felt certain. Mr. Cousins, now very elderly, was quite unable to tell us anything whatever about the crosses that produced them.

It would seem a major horticultural tragedy if we were literally never to learn anything of the lineage of these peonies. During the summer, therefore, Mrs. Cousins complied with our urgent request and most kindly lent us her husband's Hybridizing Records: thirteen very tiny pocket notebooks containing in somewhat random and confused manner his notes on forty full years of crossing peonies.

Busy as all of us claim to be, Father John L. Fiala of Cleveland may easily be the busiest of us all. But because of his deep knowledge, and because he CARES, to him was entrusted the important task of trying to decipher the thirteen little notebooks. (Readers will recall that it was Father Fiala who elucidated for us the story of the chromosomes of the lutea hybrid Alice Harding, a year ago, in these pages.)

Following is his account of what we now know was an exceptionally prolonged and exhaustive search for clues. A man of deep inner faith, Father Fiala quite obviously has a good dash of Sherlock Holmes in his make-up, too. We cannot imagine that we have any other member who would have been able to ferret out what he did. We will all be forever in his debt. Through these treasured nuggets of information we gain new insight into the making of these beautiful Cousins Hybrid Peonies, and particularly into the working methods of their creator. But let that search serve to point up once again what cannot be too often repeated, that Records of crosses must be kept, kept scrupulously and accurately, AND in terms that may be readily deciphered by any reader.

For every hybridizer, there is some particular aspect of his work that is uniquely his own. He envisions certain goals, through a kind of "hybridizer's intuition" that reaches out toward certain species and clones which to him appear to have the values that will make his vision a reality. In the work of the master hybridizers, men like Victor Lemoine and A. P. Saunders, we see this gift at its highest level. The real hybridizer not only sees his dream, but in a very real sense, through his scientific knowledge, experience and skill, and above all through very careful observations, he comes to acquire the genetic materials that, combined correctly, will make his dream a reality. Some hybridizers are extremely scientific: among them Dr. Saunders, Orville Fay, Edward Auten Jr., Brother Charles (of Mission Gardens), and Gratwick & Daphnis. Their records read like a logged adventure into the scientific unknown. But

there are others, less articulate, less given to recording and writing, yet who share the same gifts of vision and of life dedication. Though their exact work is not so carefully logged, their dreams and labors nonetheless bring forth wonders. L. W. Cousins was a hybridizer of this category. Although these latter men did not always clearly indicate what they used, nor how and why, their hybrids are achieved through the same careful steps; only these must be unlocked by those of us who care to understand their methods and their progress. Their less copious notes and records (often in private "code", as in this case) mean much more careful, painful and slower study on our part, and require sustained scientific tracking by us, together with a deep knowledge of basic materials, species, and the like. This is not easy.

"INNER GLOW HYBRIDS" the name given them by a visitor at the Show, is a perfect description of these fine, fully double, uniquely vivid hybrids. What visions did their creator see in the original breeding materials? How did he proceed to realize them? From a prolonged study of his "coded" notes, some extremely significant hybridizing facts come to light. These hybrids did not "just happen". They are the result of a long, careful, planned program of hybridization by a Master Hybridist.

To understand Mr. Cousins' work, one must begin by understanding his "raw plant materials", his objectives and his program of hybridization. Where did he begin? What did he use? Just how did he go about making his dream a reality? His work spans almost half a century of dedication. The first peony notes begin in 1929, and from then on to the present the "thirteen little notebooks" unfold a lifetime of love, vision and dedication to the peony (and to the iris). In the Springtime of his dedication we find Primevere (also recognized as good breeding stock by Dr. Saunders), La Lorraine, Kelway's Glorious, Le Cygne, Mme. Lemoine, Raoul Dessert, P. Rivoire, and Alice Harding (the white lactiflora, of course, not the yellow lutea hybrid), among the 40 peonies planted out in the fall of 1929. The connoisseurship of these first selec-

tions are a clue to the high quality of Mr. Cousins' insight.

From 1929 to 1939 was a decade of acquisition of raw materials, of reading and of initial crossing of his select lactifloras. This proved to be the First Phase of his entire program. In 1939 the fall entry reads: "... planted out 59 seedlings of Primevere x La Lorraine, plus a number of little lobata seedlings." (We shall see how important these little lobatas were to be). "40% of the seeds germinated and grew." (Even today this would be a good percentage, for hybrids.) These years were to prove to be his Springtime—the joy, the success with these first crosses, the vision! The inbreeding of a strong line of lactifloras in this first decade of work provided him with an exceptionally fine "gene bank" of lactiflora. Later, these were to produce his famous Ann Cousins.

The "little lobatas" he refers to are two Saunders hybrids in which he foresaw tremendous possibilities of new color. No. 9002 (officialis rosea plena x lobata Perry) named Little Dorrit, and a sister seedling Good Cheer—these were selected as something special to be worked with. (Indeed anyone seeing Good Cheer must be struck by its unique color even today). In his notes Little Dorrit became "Apricot" and Good Cheer simply "Cheer". Throughout his hybridizing career Mr. Cousins never lost faith in

those lobatas. He continued to use them to the last crosses made; he recommends them to other hybridists, and emphasized that we have only just scratched the surface of their possibilities.

With these lobatas we come to the Second Phase of his program: the crossing of these lobata hybrids with the lactiflora seedlings and then the backcrossing of the results of these. Little Dorrit was intensely used in these initial years, as was Good Cheer. The little notebooks throughout the 40's, 50's and 60's read like a testament of faith: Primevere x Dorrit, La Lorraine x Dorrit, Le Cygne x Dorrit, and all the lactiflora seedlings x Dorrit and x Good Cheer. (In these crosses we find intensified backcrosses of triple hybrids: lactiflora x officinalis x lobata). Their offspring were highly fertile, and at his command "they increased and multiplied and filled the whole garden!"

In 1943 the notebooks first record the presence of other wonderful peonies in Mr. Cousins' now quite fabulous garden. These were to constitute the Third Phase of his program. We note the use of the Saunders hybrids No. 4710 and 9037 (both macro x Mloko) and No. 12037, a lacti x macro later named Archangel. From the beginning Mr. Cousins recognized the eminent work of Dr. Saunders, and he, too, saw in many of the Saunders hybrids the "beginnings" and not the "end" of a whole new race or races; new colors, forms, structures and seasons. This is part of the hybridizer's vision. He was quick to acquire whatever materials he could. (Note: Here is one key to a good hybridizing program: obtain the best available pool of materials to work with.) Together with these there are others such as corsica x macro (Picotee) and a plant that intrigued him, that he calls Maroon

(Saunders' Burgundy). His interesting asides read: "planted Franklina seeds, Toringo crab, syringa amurensis tomentosa" (would that we had some of these ourselves!) The listing of seeds planted grows with the lengthening of his hybridizing Springtime: Primevere x decora, double lacti seedlings x double lacti x lobata crosses, and macro-Mloko crosses. The lacti crosses are now even more inbred and refined: Primevere x A. Harding xx La Lorraine x White Jap Fairbanks. And Hybridist Mr. Cousins blessed them and said that all was good.

From 1946 through 1949 the Thirteen Little Notebooks faithfully record endless crosses made using his favorites "Apricot" (Little Dorrit) and Cheer, crossing these with the intensely crossed lactifloras and back again to the macro-Mloko crosses. The "Springtime" of his lactiflora program had passed through the "Summer" of the richly colored lobatas, and their offspring were numerous. The next twenty years see an intensified finalization of the program. The warm-colored macro-Mlokos must be worked into his "perfect flower". Now he works like a man in a hurry, knowing what he wants. His seedlings receive hurried baptisms, short succinct nicknames: descendants of Saunders triple and quadruple hybrids become simply "4 Klose" (a 4-time inbred at the end of its line): Mlokosewitschi simply ends up "Whisky" (for its intoxicating color??) and these elegant inbred heirs of his hybridizing program are simply introduced as "Salmon macro x 4 Klose, buff macro, warm pink sdg., apricot macro" (undoubtedly a macro-Mloko x Little Dorrit), and even a "cold pink macro" raises its aristocratic head. Let someone else name these crowning culminations. Autumn is slipping into Winter, and Mr. Cou-

sins had "miles yet to go" before his program would be complete.

Then came 1954—a hybridizer's treat in his notebooks. Here he evidently took a little respite to put down in greater detail some of his observations. These provide an insight for any hybridizer to study. Albeit his own Winter may be at hand, perhaps somewhere another visionary sits in another Spring and reads his recommendations: "Rose Noble (one of the Quadruple Hybrids) bears seed ... for yellows try Primevere x Cheer, and Primevere x lobata yellows (his seedlings of Cheer and Dorrit). Cross Laura Desert with lobatas ... for yellows cross Isani (Gidui) with Cheer; for fertile seedlings use the fertile lobatas ... these may be best for yellows as progeny is fertile ..." (Note: Every hybridist must in the back of his mind be acutely aware of the fact of strong and fertile progeny, or else his program will come to a sudden and sorrowful end.) ... "use 4 Klose (the triples and quads) with Cheer, cross Isani with seedlings from Primevere and La Lorraine to get good stalks and then cross them for yellow with the lobatas ..." and the hurrying hybridizer's hand moves on: "Roselette is a lacti-tenui x Mloko; try it again back on Mloko. Cross Rose Noble with tenui x Klose and use Rose Noble on Primevere and on Isani. Use Roselette's pollen on all seedlings ..."

In 1956 ... "planted 8 macro-lobata 3rd generation hybrids, 6 white macro x 4 Klose x Diantha seedlings, 5 Ann Cousins x Dorrit x lobata x macro hybrids," and 10 seedlings of intense crosses x backcrosses. What prodigiously intensified intensity! And still he planted seeds: "Primevere hybrids x rosy hybrids (macro-lobatas), Primevere hybrids x lobata hybrids x Noble hybrids ..."

On through 1959-60-61 (he is now 73) in the Indian Summer of his years of feverish work, of wonderful crosses; of his many seedlings, of new fulfillments each Spring. His intensified crosses were beginning to bloom. The backcrosses of Primevere x Ann Cousins x White Jap Fairbanks were all crossed and recrossed with the "double albi x macro x Mloko x lobatas". In 1959 "17% of the seeds grew into 78 plants"—and what plants they were! Even at his age, his vision was still clear. He writes "For Spring of 1960 pollinate all fertile lobatas (his seedlings) with pollen from cream and buff macros and also use on others including lactifloras". Then a succinct note to someone who might try to unravel his notes: "Pink macro is a lobata hybrid x a macro-Mloko."

And the crosses continue to be made in abundance, and the little plants are hurriedly set out in their marked rows and boxes "by the old lilac" or "in the window garden". And interesting notes like: "Ann x Cheer: 75 seeds only 2 grew" but among the buff macros x yellow macros and the flesh macros x warm pink macros (these were his intensely bred lacti x lobatas x macros x Mlokos)—among these were more than enough sturdy offspring to take the chill from the foreboding cold! He notes, again "... all seed has been kept moist in soil until planted ... some seed already germinated before being planted in boxes on October 11 ..." These multiple hybrids were indeed a sturdy race as Dr. Saunders had predicted a long time back.

1961: the seedlings and the crosses continue. These final crosses are made in abundance. His program is now filled with fruitfulness: the doubles are there; the colors are there; and what colors! The stems and vigor are there, plus fer-

tility and germinating strength. The Springtime dream is being fulfilled.

In the Notebook for 1962, Mr. Cousins seems to have a premonition that his notes might not be clearly understood (!) and again there is a page of notes in detail, like the treat in 1954. "... quadruple hybrid Rose Noble does bear seed ... cross it with the yellow macros, x Claire de Lune, x buff macros, x triple hybrids and x Roselette." Did he actually make these crosses? Apparently not. He is pointing to still another vision for still another hybridizer to follow. "... triple hybrid Roselette bears seed x Rose Noble, x Mloko x yellow macros and x Claire de Lune" ... "cross warm pink double macros (these I am confident are the "Inner Glow Hybrids") with the pollen from Mr. Bigger to get warm double macros." ... "also cross Good Cheer with warm pink macros and keep recrossing them if possible and also use Whisky" (Mlokosewitschi). He is telling us that Good Cheer is still a wonderful parent with many untapped potentialities. "cross Rose Noble x Claire de Lune and vice versa and the yellow macros with Rose Noble and Claire. Cross Maroon (Burgundy) x Mloko". (Note: twice before, Mr. Cousins mentions Burgundy as an exceptional plant; it is interesting that he sees value in its continued use. Apparently his success with it was limited. It might prove a rewarding project for a young hybridist.) ... "continue the crossing of seedlings. Seedlings that do not bear seed may have good pollen. Try it on others." and a particular note that sums up a great deal of his hybridizing program: "IT MAY BE GOOD POLICY TO SELF EACH CROSS AND THEN SELF THE BEST OF THESE (BUT NOT OUTCROSS). FOR COLOR AND SUBSTANCE WE CAN OUTCROSS

THE BEST OF THESE CROSSES. FOR FINAL SUBSTANCE CROSS ALL SEEDLINGS ONLY AMONG THEMSELVES." These are extremely important observations, and I have taken the liberty of italicizing them. The advice is genetically sound, and from the hybridists' point of view a matter of excellent policy. Coming so late in his hybridizing career, they are surely a summary of his credo that produced such wonderful things.

Age did not stop his rich creative mind. In 1965 we find an amazing variety of crosses—we are now in the final year of the Thirteen Little Notebooks with their meager notes: "... the green carpel macros x warm pink macros, cold pink macros x warm yellow cheers, the double cheers x semi-double cheers crossed with the poly macros x yellow macros ..." and so on, throughout these multi-multi-hybrid seedlings. And the proud race of the "Inner Glow Hybrids", whose exact inheritance we shall never precisely know, per plant, except that they are almost certainly the best of the double lactifloras x the best of the Cheer-Dorrit lobatas x the wonderful macro-Mlokos, and including Rose Noble, Roselette and Rushlight! And that they begat and begat and begat among themselves under the vision of this remarkable Hybridist.

* * * *

Postscript: The new "Inner Glow Hybrids" attest to your success, your vision and your dedication, Mr. Cousins. Your Thirteen Little Notebooks have been a pleasure and an education. They have enabled us to share your vision. We rejoice that you have lived to see such beautiful dreams come to reality. We salute your work and we honor your dedication and your knowledge.

Affectionately Yours,
Father John L. Fiala

THE "INNER GLOW" HYBRIDS OF L. W. COUSINS AS A HYBRIDIZING MODEL

By Father John L. Fiala

For the hybridizer, a short re-cap of L. W. Cousins' hybridizing program might be successfully followed. Although Mr. Cousins' notes are extremely meager, his procedures are scientific, genetically sound, and most worthy of being adopted by other hybridists in different areas of materials.

His entire program is based on a wise, carefully considered selection for values in his basic materials. These were selected for special reasons. There is a dedicated consistency in his program. He did not expect ultimate results in one crossing. He knew the genes were there and he worked to manifest them.

One may divide Mr. Cousins' hybridizing program into five phases:

1. Selection of basic materials. This was most judiciously done. Each plant had to have "something" to offer. Throughout the entire length of the program, the selection of materials was always painstaking. In this careful appraisal of raw materials, what did he use, and see?
 - a. In the lactifloras he saw large bloom, doubleness, often strong stems, and a season of bloom that was for his area relatively frost-proof. He chose lactifloras that were recommended by others from their own experience. (Dr. Saunders had proven the worth of Primevere and Le Cygne as parents.
 - b. In the Saunders lobata hybrid Little Dorrit he saw a unique "apricot" color with chances for new tones; in Good Cheer he saw the warm orange-yellow. These tones were truly unique. Equally unique in his eyes was another Saunders hybrid: Burgundy. The deep maroon color possessed qualities he felt could and should be worked with.
 - c. In the Triple and Quadruple Hybrids he detected a warmth and pastelling that would add a new dimension to the finished flower. Undoubtedly their vigor was an important factor. Roselette, Rushlight, and Rose Noble.
 - d. All his selections had a high degree of fertility and vigor, all were good plants and flowers.
2. Phase One of his actual hybridizing work began with an intense project of inbreeding the best of the lactifloras for a strong genetic lactiflora pool. A real "gene bank." This produced some of its own by-products of value: i.e. Ann Cousins. Following this same in breeding procedure he then intercrossed the lobata hybrids among themselves and the macro-Mloko hybrids among themselves.
3. Phase Two saw the intercrossing of these three highly inbred groups: the lactifloras x lobatas; the lactifloras x macro-Mlokos; and the lobatas x the macro-Mlokos; and then all three groups in the opposite direction. The

second stage of this Phase Two was the continued re-crossing of all these various groups, until the final product was (lactifloras x lobatas x macro-Mlokos)-cubed. That is, all these crosses made upon each other, back to each other. If every single one of these crosses were actually made, the number would be staggering—nevertheless the pattern was there.

4. The backcrossing of the results of step 3 to each other. The “Inner Glow” Hybrids are quite evidently the result of this stage.
5. The reorganization of his results, and plans for new patterns and models. (These are his suggestions in 1962; the work is there for others to carry on.)

In 1969 the Peony World saw at the Show in Mansfield Ohio for the first time these “Inner Glow” Hybrids. They are a tribute to Mr. Cousins, and certainly only the beginning fruits of his life dedication.

It would seem most important that some of these strains should be carried further by younger hybridists, and that some of that magnificent “pool” of seedlings in his garden should fall into the hands of those who would work further with them. Tragedy indeed if this strain of hybrids should be cut off while still so young.

To hybridists everywhere this work of L. W. Cousins is not just a wonderful success of a brilliantly patient man. Like the work of Dr. Saunders, it remains a model to be followed, and carried on. It demonstrates how one hybridist can work on the brilliant efforts of a predecessor, and the works of both can grow in measure!

When the Masters walk among us, it behooves us stand and listen to their wisdom and learn from them with the docility of children. Perhaps thus their gift might become our gift and an inspiration to all of us!

ANNIVERSARIES OF FELIX CROUSSE AND DR. EARLE B. WHITE

This year, 1970, is the 130th Anniversary of the birth of Felix Crousse (in 1840) and the 75th of the birth of Dr. Earle B. White (in 1895). Let us honor these men at our Show, June 13-14, with as handsome displays of their originations as we can bring together.

Felix Crousse originated the illustrious and still popular Mons. Jules Elie, along with many other fine peonies, a number of them still grown and loved today.

Dr. White is famous for Claire de Lune, not only a beautiful thing in itself, but a real Hybridist's Triumph.

Let us have a table for each of these men, where we will display his peony originations. Perhaps we can obtain a photograph of each man, and have a placard describing briefly the outstanding events of

his life. This will remind us once more of our great gardening debt to the men who devote their lives to producing beautiful plants for us. A similar Memorial Exhibit was beautifully staged last year in Mansfield for Dr. A. P. Saunders (born in 1869). There is no reason why we should not have just as fine Memorial Displays for Felix Crousse and for Dr. White.

Listed herewith are seven of Crousse's many fine things that seem to be still offered in today's Nursery Lists:



Dr. Earl B. White

- Avalanche (blush white)
- Felix Crousse (crimson)
- La Perle (light old rose)
- Marie Crousse (pale pink)
- Mme. de Verneville (white)
- Mme. Emile Galle (light pink)
- Mons. Jules Elie (light rose pink)

The combined efforts of gardeners and Nurserymen ought to be able to put together at least one huge vaseful of Mons. Jules Elie, along with smaller containers of the remaining six varieties.

Continuing the list, here are others of Crousse's peonies. If any gardener or Nurseryman has these, he or she will confer a great favor on the gardening public, by bringing

La Rosiere, La Tendresse, Livingstone, Mme. Forel, Mme. Geissler, Marguerite Gerard, Marie Deroux, Modele de Perfection, Pasteur, Pierre Duchartre, Staleny, and Sully Prudhomme.

In the case of Dr. White, the situation is a bit more difficult but as many blooms of each kind as can be spared from their plants.

Albert Crousse, Asa Gray, Claire Dubois, Edmond About, Gismonda, still not impossible. His far outstanding originations—all hybrids—are, first and foremost, Claire de Lune. This is the one and only hybrid between Mloko and lactiflora, a cross not even yet duplicated by anyone, to our knowledge. Mrs. White seems to think that Claire de Lune first bloomed for its creator in the Spring of 1944. What a moment! Dr. White had made four thousand crosses over a period of many years, to achieve this near-impossibility. It is a pale ivory-yellow single. Not easy to transport, but Marvin Karrels is a Master at cutting, storing and bringing to our Show Benches the tricky hybrid blooms, and perhaps he can help make our Memorial to Dr. White an outstanding one. Dr. White also originated Massasoit (a red, lacti-officinalis); Nancy (peach pink, a triple hybrid involving officinalis, Mloko and macrophylla), and Tecumseh (a red, lacti-lobata). It would be most interesting indeed to see at least a few blooms of each of these if anyone can manage to stage them. Would that we could see Mrs. White at the Show! How we should all love to shake her hand!

POLLENS

COLLECTING, STORING AND SHIPPING: There will surely be new readers this Spring who will want to know how to gather, and store their peony pollens, either for

their own use or for their hybridizing friends. This is excellently described in the December 1968 Bulletin (\$1.00 either from the Society's office or from Silvia Saunders) on

page 13 in an article by E. L. (Roy) Pehrson.

SHIPPING POLLEN: Pollen gathered and thoroughly dried, may be sent through the mails, either in the small Eastman film cans as described by Roy Pehrson, or in the following way: Your pollen has been drying for a time, and we will assume it is now completely dried, and the anthers (stamens) "crisped". Never mail pollen that has **not** been thoroughly dried. When it is, the anthers don't need to be picked out, but may be safely mailed along with their pollen. Assuming you have

your pollen on a square of household aluminum foil (this may be two or three inches square), now: fold it in half (the pollen and stamens are **in** the fold). Turn the edges over twice at each end, and twice along the side. This will insure your pollen not falling out. You now have a small flat "envelope" of aluminum foil. Write the name of the peony on a small piece of paper and attach it to the envelope with a paper clip. All this weighs next to nothing, and you may send a number of them in an ordinary paper envelope through the mails quite safely.

SOME PEONY PARENTS AND THEIR OFFSPRING

by Edward Auten Jr.

The Jap varieties are a goldmine for any breeder. Free seeders, and pollen may be obtained from many of them by splitting open the yellow "bulging" edges of the center petaloids. If I wanted a new white, I'd use Moon of Nippon as seed parent. This, even for getting a double.

I tried twice to get a pink Jap with purest yellow center. First time, I got a large block of all singles, semi-doubles and doubles. Not one good Jap among them. I must have used pollen from a double. Then I tried again, using pollen from singles only, and got my Nippon Gold. I'll **never** forget my first view of what I had been trying for, for eight years or longer.

To get dark pink doubles and semi-doubles (which I think is the smallest group we have) I'd use Garden Glory as seed parent, and pollen from a pink or a white, semi-double if possible. I raised one block of 600 seedlings without getting **one** good thing among them all.

Gambling, isn't it? On the other hand, my jackpot was getting 90 plants from one seed parent, of which 60% were doubles and semi-doubles, and of which I named sixteen!

I will list herewith some of the best Seed Parents I've used, and with each one, the best of its Offspring, with comments. (This list runs up through 1950, but contains none of those I introduced after that.)

Mikado I chose this because no one else was using it, and the plant and root are so very fine. It must carry genes for doubleness. Among the offspring were: Mischief (single), Fancy Nancy, Nippon Beauty and Nippon Gold (three Japs), and Pink Monarch (double).

Richard Carvel gave top color in these four: Arcturus and Medicine Hat (singles), Tempest and Santa Fe (doubles). Tempest gives pollen and a few seeds. Early Scout (Carvel x tenuifolia hybrida) is 5 to 7 days ahead of my officinalis-lacti hybrids.

Marie Crousse I used, trying to get a deeper Walter Faxon, but that

was unsuccessful. I did however get: Yukon (enormous white double) and Plymouth (fine late white double).

Duchesse de Nemours, pollenized by lactiflora The Bride (single) and La Rosiere (single) gave me 90 plants of which I was able to name 16, Among them: White Delight and White Perfection, both an easy source of high quality pollen.

Isani Gidui. In trying to improve primarily on the plant, I raised 60 new white Japs, of which I named five or six. Christine (early), and Moon of Nippon. Both these have deeper yellow centers than Isani. (Moon of Nippon came from pollen of Marie Lemoine, a white double with minute "bulges" on a few of its very narrow center petals. The cross yielded three seeds).

Fuyajo has not the plant strength of Mikado, but gives good results anyway. Mt. Palomar (for a darkest red Jap this is hard to beat). Nippon Brilliant shows some orange, but lacks the vigor of Mikado's offspring.

Laura Dessert paid off well with Carolina Moon (an extremely dearly double white with yellow center) and Polly Prim (a 4-inch trim double on a fine medium-height plant,

with side buds like little rosettes for a corsage.

Plants of unknown parentage, but that I have especially liked, are:

Telstar (double with good stems; probably the earliest pure lacti that I have. It blooms five days ahead of old Edulis Superba, in the middle of my officinalis-lacti hybrid season.

Peggy (also very early, dwarf pink. Free seeder).

Northland (white), Chieftain, (early double red), and Vincennes (a white double that has sidebuds on side-buds!)

Our country doctor once X-rayed some mixed seeds for me for 20 minutes on his medical X-ray. Seed from Martin Cahuzac must have been among them, for the one I named **Country Doctor** is very dark, and has the trimmest plant, stem and foliage of any peony I ever raised. Very strong stems, many of which carry dense foliage, almost like a dwarf evergreen bush. But I never got seeds or pollen from it. My theory was, not to establish a line of breeding to work on, but to try everything at least once. Then when the resultant seedlings bloomed, to see what they promised, and if they looked good, then to abandon the parent and use the **next generation**.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON DR. EARLE B. WHITE

Mrs. White, who now lives in Daytona Beach, Florida, was kind enough to send us the following biographical notes on her husband.

Earle Benjamin White, born December 11, 1895, died March 8, 1966 at the age of seventy. He took his D.D.S. (with distinction) at George Washington University in June 1919, and then practiced in Washington D.C. for over thirty years.

Through his friends Dr. Howard Watkins and Ben Morrison, he became interested in peonies. In 1922 he bought acreage and built his home

in Kensington, Maryland, and the next thirty years were spent almost entirely in his hybridizing beds. Although warned that his goal to make a cross that would produce a yellow hybrid peony was "almost impossible", nonetheless Dr. White continued to persevere and the story is that he made, over a period of 8 years, 500 crosses a year, using P. Mloko on Mons. Jules Elie. Fin-

ally in the early forties his reward came, and the lovely hybrid was born, which he later named "Claire de Lune".

This is a single silvery yellow with orange anthers and pink stigmas. It is a vigorous plant of medium height, and early blooming. So far as we know, no other hybrid of the cross *Mloko-lactiflora* has ever been made. Quoting from the American Home Magazine of April 1955 "Claire de Lune was called by the American Peony Society Secretary 'Probably the outstanding accomplishment in hybridizing since peonies have been grown' ". Dr. White was awarded the American Home Achievement Medal at the Minneapolis Show, where it was introduced by Walter Lindgren

in June 1954. It now belongs to Gilbert Wild and Sons, of Sarcoxie, Missouri from whom it may be purchased.

Dr. White had in 1929 been awarded the Society's Gold Medal for the Best Collection of not more than 100 varieties of peonies, open class. He loved iris too, and hybridized them. The Iris Society awarded him its Silver Medal for an outstanding display. Many rare specimens of evergreen were in his garden, as well.

Dr. White was a Director of the Society for ten years beginning in 1937, and Vice President in 1938 and President from 1940-42. There is a photograph of him in the June 1941 Bulletin.

LACTIFLORAS USEFUL TO PEONY BREEDERS (and a Few Hybrids)

by Silvia Saunders

"Good pollen parent", "poor seed setter", "fertile both ways",—these are phrases one often sees in Iris or in *Hemerocallis* nursery catalogs, as part of the description of certain varieties, but one does not see them in peony catalogs. Thinking such information might be serviceable, six or eight of our chief hybridists were asked to list the names of lactiflora varieties which they had noted as especially valuable in breeding. When this information was finally compiled, it was sent out to some ten Peony Nurseries with the expressed hope that they might incorporate it into their listings.

Since some of our Readers may otherwise miss it, we give it herewith. Additions may be made later on, by anyone having experience with specific varieties. In this way a sort of "catalog" of our own may eventually be completed within the Bulletin's pages, which may serve as an aid to our growing roster of Hybridists.

One may note at the outset that a great many lactiflora peonies have been utilized, with varying degrees of success, by peony breeders. The more fully "double" a flower is, the less useful it becomes, since the reproductive parts (carpels and stamens) have all, or almost all, been transformed into petals. Even so, there are a number of full, or almost full, doubles, and many semi-doubles that are of proven usefulness as

seed parents. Among those that have been noted by modern hybridists as "**Good Seed Parents**" are these: Big Ben, Carnival, Carolina Moon, Detroit, Fanny Crosby Garden Glory, James Kelway, Jayhawker, Laura Dessert, Le Cygne, Louis Joliet, Marie Crousse, Minnie Shaylor (fertile both ways), Miss America, Mons. Jules Elie, Peggy, Primavera, Reine Hortense, Silvia Saun-

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ders, Snow Mountain, Suzanne, and White Delight.

(Note: the newcomer should be warned about varieties such as **Primevere**. Seemingly promising to those looking forward to a race of **Yellow Herbaceous Hybrids**, **Primevere's** mass of yellow petaloids in the center of its blooms, are caused by the stamens all having been transformed, and not because yellow is inherent in the petals proper. **Primevere** is a useful parent, but it is not more likely than anything else to produce yellow offspring.

SINGLE LACTIFLORAS. Since these still retain their carpels (seed-pods) and stamens (covered with yellow pollen), they can be effective both as seed parents and as pollen parents. Protective bagging procedures are recommended. Some singles that have proven "**Fertile Both Ways**" are: **Arcturus**, **Dawn Pink**, **Elfin Pink**, **Kickapoo**, **Medicine Hat**, **Mischief**, **Sea Shell**, and **White Perfection**.

JAPANESE PEONIES may be our most useful lactiflora parents as well as being easiest to work with. Having little or no pollen (except that enclosed within the bulging edges of their petaloids) they serve best as seed parents. Protection by bagging is not absolutely necessary. However, pollen from nearby peonies, borne either by wind or by bees, may contaminate your cross; therefore protect with bagging if you wish to make absolutely sure.

The Japs seem to produce as many, and as fine, doubles among their offspring as do the doubles themselves, and the Japs are easier to work with. Here again the novice should not let himself be fooled by a handsome center of yellow staminodes (petaloids). These are transformed stamens, and such a variety is not more likely than any other, to produce yellow offspring. Among the Japs that have proven themselves "**Use-**

ful Seed Parents" are: **Ama No Sode**, **Battle Flag** (heavy seed setter), **Betty Groff**, **Charm**, **Christine**, **Dignity**, **Do Tell**, **Garden Glory**, **Golden Dawn**, **Leto**, **Minnekada**, **Moon of Nippon**, **Mount Palomar**, **Nippon Beauty**, **Nippon Brilliant**, **Nippon Parade**, **Plainsman**, **Rashoomon**, **Sentinel**, **Shaylor's Sunburst**, **Sky Pilot** (fertile both ways), **Tamate Boku**, and **Westerner**.

HYBRID PEONIES. It is here that the real Unknown in peony breeding lies. The species "bloods" in our present-day hybrids are, besides **lactiflora** (**albiflora**), chiefly **officinalis** in its various forms (including **lobata**), **macrophylla**, **tenuifolia**, and **Mlokozewitschi**. Available on today's market are many hybrids containing the above species in various combinations, even up to three (**Triple Hybrids**) and four (**Quadruple Hybrids**, or "**Quads**").

Although the flowers of most hybrids are single, the first-generation hybrids are hard to work with, as the majority are triploids and seed is rare. Nonetheless, these difficulties can be overcome: their pollen is often useful, and the hybrids should be more and more widely used, as they offer very great potential for the Peony of the Future.

Furthermore, the species peonies themselves may be getting harder and harder to find in Nursery Catalogs. In 1969, requests to some fifteen nurseries in England failed to turn up even one plant of *P. tenuifolia*. If the species themselves are destined to disappear from commerce, their bloods may remain to us only in their hybrid offspring. Some hybrids useful to breeders are:

Archangel (lacti x macro **F-2**). Fertile both ways.

Chalice (lacti x macro). Pollen plentiful but poor seed parent.

Claire de Lune (the only lacti-Mloko hybrid yet produced). Good pollen parent.

Halcyon (lacti by a species now totally lost: ozieri alba). Pollen parent.

Laddie (officinalis x tenui). Good pollen parent.

Laura Magnuson (lacti x lobata). Fertile both ways, but not very. Actually almost any of the "lobata hybrids" may work about as well. This was the seed-parent of Prairie Moon.

Moonrise (lacti x lobata F-2). A tetraploid, and fertile both ways.

Nancy. A triple hybrid (officinalis x (Mloko x macro)). Fertile both ways.

Roselette triple hybrid (lacti x (tenui x Mloko F-2)). Pollen parent.

Sable (lacti x (lacti x officinalis Otto Froebel)). Fertile both ways.

THE PEONY IS WAITING — FOR YOU!

From a Correspondent

A friend with whom I carry on somewhat heated discussions, tossed into my astonished lap the other day the statement that "Well, of course Man hasn't really ever 'Gotten to Work' on the peony, has he. He's never really done anything at all to improve it" "What?" I exploded. "Never done any work on the peony! What **ARE** you talking about? Why, didn't the Chinese work for centuries, and end by completely transforming the undistinguished little peonia lactiflora from Outer Mongolia, into one of the Glories of our Western Gardens? And you call that "nothing"?"

"Certainly I call it Nothing, he came back. "Nothing, compared to what **might** be done; what remains to be done. After all, that's only **one** species. We believe they didn't even do any crossing—any species crossing, that is." "And what about Tree Peonies? again I retorted, feeling that here I really did have the better of him. "Same thing, he replied quietly. "Again, only one species: P. Moutan. Of course it's a splendid thing. One of the best plants we have. But just look at what remains to be done: the Vast Terrain of unfinished business." "But the hybridists, I pressed on. "You don't count Lemoine and Henry? You don't count Auten or Saunders or Glasscock? And now Mr.

Ito of Japan, who's made a really revolutionary discovery. They've given us a host of perfectly gorgeous hybrids, both herbaceous and tree." "They certainly have," came his prompt answer, "and what have we done with them? Nothing at all. Absolutely nothing. We've just let them sit there, for 30, 40, or even 50 years. Untouched. Why, we could have been making new generations from them all this while. Do you realize there are only about ten second-generation plants, and maybe five of the third generation? What's wrong with us, anyway? Haven't we got any Curiosity? It only takes four or five years for a generation. Where's our Ingenuity? When I think of all this wasted material and these wasted years, it makes my blood fairly boil. Why, just think of the hundreds of men that have created roses by the thousand, iris by the tens of thousands, and hemerocallis practically by the **million**—I don't get it. I simply don't get it."

I couldn't of course just sit there and let him go on. He was getting quite impassioned, but perfectly confident in his statements. So in the end we got out pencil and paper and began to list the improvements that might conceivably be made in the peony—I still thinking that maybe we might find three, possibly

four. To my amazement, when we'd finished, we'd toted up **ten**. Ten ways that the two of us had thought of, right off the cuff so to speak, to improve our beautiful peony; the plant that we all think of as Practically Perfect.

Here they are. We jotted them down, not in order of importance—each person will presumably have his own Priority Listing—but simply as they occurred to us:

1. Blooming season of the peony to be lengthened. It's only about six weeks' duration now. At both ends: earlier into the spring, and later into the summer. Is there any good and valid reason why the peony could not bloom all summer long, like the roses of England?

2. Blooming season of individual plants to be lengthened, from its present one week (or two, if you have a huge clump and a very cool two weeks). Methods of accomplishing this might be: greater durability and substance in the petals themselves, and (perhaps more effective) many side-blooms to each stem. Mr. Auten's Vincennes, I understand, has "side buds on the side buds."

3. Color range extended, although this isn't the most crying need of the peony. Yellows introduced into the herbaceous. "Flares" to be made more striking, as in the tree peonies and some of the herbaceous hybrids. Variegations, such as flecks, streakings, etc. Two-color blooms, as in many of our "Jap" types, introduced into the double herbaceous. I saw in a big bouquet recently a double white peony with large **black** outer petals. It was really a black iris lurking behind the white peony, but I suddenly thought: "Why not? Two-color doubles. As we have in the Jap types, and in the modern dahlias."

4. Foliage more varied. Present peony foliage is remarkably monotonous and "Same." Species with

unique and lovely foliages that could be used: Mloko (jade gray-green, and lovely matte surface; purple stems); Daurica (triternata) with its riffled edges; Emodi, with fern-like leaves; Tenuifolia with its asparagus-like leaves. And the Tree Peonies with the most elegant foliage of them all. We've never bred for foliage, have we. Always for flowers.

5. Quality of petals of the herbaceous improved till more shimmeringly silky, like the tree peonies. Even the lutea hybrids haven't this shimmering quality.

6. Height of peonies to be more varied: more very tall kinds, trained up a post, as in Italy; more very dwarf kinds for the modern small garden.

7. Fragrance should be greatly improved. The yellow species *P. lutea* is the only peony that smells lily.

8. Disease-resistance should of course be worked for, during all these other programs.

9. Climatic Range should be extended: into the South; the moist; the shade, etc.

10. Soils. Peonies should be made to accept a wider variety of soils: more acid, more sandy, etc.

11. Seeds should be made to geminate **always** the first Spring.

12. What about the stoloniferous habit of *P. tenuifolia* and *P. lutea*? Could this be made into anything useful?

There, we've set down not ten but twelve ways, any one of which would definitely improve our peonies. So, now that we see where some of our directions lie, nothing remains but for Man, that is Us, you and me, to roll up our sleeves and get to work. The time is Now. You and I have to start hybridizing, for that is the way most of it is to be accomplished. And we who work

in peonies have one great advantage over our friends in iris or "hems." There are so many of them, and they've introduced so many thousand new varieties of those plants, that your chances of coming up with something really new and worth introducing are not much better than about one in ten thousand. Whereas in the peony, so little has yet been done that all of us have a good chance—say one in a hundred—of bringing forth a new kind that will really be an advance on the old.

Even if you are not in the Peony Society you may still write either to me, or far better to E. L. "Roy" Pehrson, whose address you'll find at the end of this article. Either of us will tell you how best to lay out ten dollars this fall on peonies that will be useful in hybridizing. You'll probably have to buy one or two fertile lactifloras, an F-2 or an F-3 herbaceous hybrid or two, possibly a species, if you wish, and perhaps one or two lutea (tree peony) hybrids. These should start anybody on the right road. The December 1968 Peony Bulletin (one dollar. Address at end of article) gives full and simple directions, in case you've never done it.

I see it all just ahead. We have splendid men now working, either actually on the breeding, or in exploring new paths such as chromosome counting, that may lead us into hitherto unknown terrains. Daphnis, Fiala, Pehrson, Reath, Wising, to mention only five, and these only in America. We don't even know what the Japanese are doing at the moment; I'd look for closer ties with them. We have the work of the past hybridists to build on, so we needn't try to excuse ourselves simply because we are 60 years old or more; just take up where our predecessors left off. Research would almost certainly reveal that all the great breeders did

most of their important work after sixty. And all that is spade-work now over and done with. We can start in right there. We know now that yellow lutea hybrids can be crossed onto lactiflora, so we don't need to put ourselves through that back-breaking, eye-blinding chore of counting chromosomes of hundreds of tree peonies; it's been done. Our present men are telling us every day which lacti's have viable pollen, and which set seed, so we don't need to spend precious time on the useless ones.

The Explorers are just as valuable in their laboratories as the Hybridists out in the sun. Will our Chromosome-counters tell us, please, just exactly what it is, in the rose, that enables one plant to bloom for two months or longer? What exactly is it that causes Dwarfness, or tallness? What is it that makes some seeds need their warm period ahead of their cold (dormant) period?

So please don't ever let me hear again: "Oh if only I were younger! Here I am over sixty!" Nonsense. You'll be one of our most Useful People. Write letters. Help in planning a Show. There'll be many ways of having a part in this great new Movement.

Let us all get to work in some way or other, on the Peony. Who knows? In twenty-five years—that's only the twinkling of an eye, horticulturally speaking—we may completely transform the Peony into the Plant it Should Be.

* * * *

Addresses:

Mr. E. L. Pehrson, 501 South Victory Drive, Mankato, Minn. 56001
or: Lafayette, Minn. 56054.

Peony Bulletin (December 1968)
\$1.00 from the American Peony Society, 107½ West Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York 13323.

CLIMATE AND THE LUDLOWI TREE PEONY

By Don Hollingsworth

EDITOR'S FOREWORD: This we believe is a first Bulletin contribution from Mr. Hollingsworth. He lives at 5831 North Colrain, Kansas City, Missouri (64151), and is in the Administration of University non-degree programs, Division for Continuing Education, University of Missouri in Kansas City. He is hybridizing peonies, and is an active contributing member of that Mid-West District (which includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) and of their District Robin.

He writes us: "My interest in plant and/or animal breeding goes back to my high school days, when I owned a registered Duroc gilt of noble lineage. At one time too I managed pedigreed Polled Shorthorn Breeding Cattle herds in New York State and in Texas. I am now 40 years old, have a wife and three children (two in College and one in Second Grade). I do want to help with the program of the Society in whatever way I can."

Let the Editor take time and space to comment that informative, first-hand articles such as this are **MOST WELCOME** for publication in our Bulletin. This is a well-researched essay on the climatic aspects of one of our stubbornest (peony) members. **P. Ludlowi** has not been known to bloom (so far as we have learned) **ON THIS CONTINENT** except in British Columbia, as reported in the Bulletins for December 1963 and March 1969.

Where else, and how else, if not in these pages, can information be assembled and reported, unless we receive reports from **All Over This Country**. With our wide variations in soil, in water (underground, snowmelt, rainfall, etc.) in temperature, even in wind — every spot may be just a little bit different from every other spot. Some of us would like to see some of you try peonies in **Acid Soil** and report on their growth. Quite possibly peonies can be grown much more widely than their reputation admits. How shall all of you find out, unless you tell each other, using these pages? **MORE, PLEASE.**

* * * * *

In the March 1969 **APS Bulletin** Mrs. Sedgewick reported on her experience with the Ludlowi tree peony at Beverly, Massachusetts. She found that part of the new growth freezes back each winter, presumably the part which would have bloomed.

Lack of winter hardiness is the apparent limiting factor identified by Mrs. Sedgewick. Plant scientists relate winter hardiness of a plant to its resistance to low temperature. As an aid in rating plants for hardiness, this country has been divided into temperature zones by the United States Department of Agriculture.

A related factor in resistance to cold is that the plant tissues must reach maturity and "harden" before frost. Length of growing season is important.

I have looked up references about the climate of those places where Ludlowi has been known to grow and bloom — **Southern England, Vancouver Island and Tibet**, where

it was discovered.

At Kew, England the growing season is about 200 days long. In 70 years no temperature below 10 degrees F was reported and the average annual minimum is around 20 degrees F. The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map assigns Zone 8 where the minimum is ten to twenty degrees.

Victoria, British Columbia is on the southmost tip to Vancouver Island. **Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening** reports 236 days growing season and the USDA assigns Zone 9a.

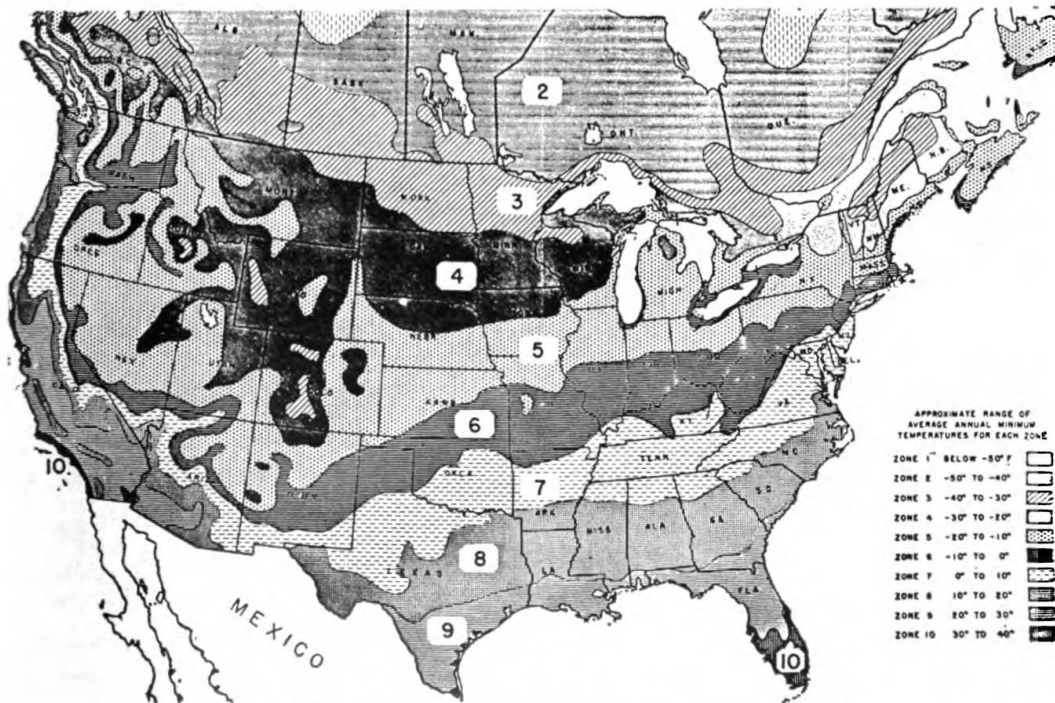
In Tibet, Ludlowi was collected in the Tsangpo Valley at nine to eleven thousand feet altitude.

Weather records over a limited (seven-year) period are available for Lhasa, Tibet, near the Tsangpo in the valley of a tributary, elevation 12,090 feet. These are reported in W. G. Kendrew, **Climates of the Continents**, fourth edition. Winters are dry and sunny. There is frost

almost every night from November to March. Absolute extreme temperatures recorded were 3 degrees and 89 degrees. Precipitation was 16 inches, 84% falling June to September, but melting snow from higher elevations provides supplemental moisture.

Since the collection sites were lower in elevation than Lhasa, the climate is likely more mild. Except for having less humidity, Ludlowi's home grounds may not be much different from Southern England.

In this country, similar growing seasons (200-plus days) and minimum temperatures (10 degrees F or more) occur in USDA Zones 8 and 9. These zones form a belt beginning in southeastern Virginia which turns southward along the Atlantic coast, then swings across the southern tier of states into East Texas, dips into Northern Mexico and then narrows as it swings northward along the west coast all the way into Canada.



The Zones of Plant Hardiness—This is an adapted version of the color map on the reverse side. It may be useful for small-scale reproduction in books, magazines, and nursery catalogs. This map is not copyrighted, and permission for reproducing it is not required.

The climate of Zones 8 and 9 is quite in contrast to that of the much more northern areas where the lactifloras "shine." It is possible that the "wrong" people have been trying Ludlowi. Is this a "southern" cousin in the peony family?

* * * *

December 12, 1969

Dear Mr. Hollingsworth:

We have been growing *Paeonia lutea* var. *Ludlowii* in the Arboretum since 1953. Our original plants came as seed from Mr. Norman Hadden of West Porlock in England in 1950. We planted the seedlings in the Arboretum in November 1953 and we recorded its first flowering in 1958. It is most probable that this plant flowered at an earlier date, possibly in 1955 or 1956 but unfortunately we have no record of this and we have no subsequent record of it flowering until May 3, 1966. Again, this does not mean that it did not flower in the intervening years. I seem to remember noticing it blooming more or less regularly in early May but have no positive proof of this. Just checked plant and it has empty fruit from this spring—despite winter temperatures of 10 degrees F in January it's about 7 feet tall.

We have since added two more plants of this variety to our collection. Both were received as seeds, one from the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, the other from Mr. R. B. Cooke, Corbridge, England. Both seedlings were planted out in October, 1961. Again, we have no positive proof of their flowering but I seem to remember seeing them do so more or less regularly. I might add that we are rather short of staff at this Arboretum, and since we have some 5,000 taxons to watch over, it is not surprising that we do not have perfect records for all of our plants.

Our peonies are growing in a rather shaded area facing west with

a screen of trees which cuts off the western sun for most of the afternoon. They have overhead protection from a very large Douglas fir growing nearby. The soil is a moderately good sandy loam with excellent drainage. There is enough slope in the area to insure good air drainage and we have not noticed any frost damage. The average rainfall in the Arboretum is slightly in excess of 40 inches, the majority of it coming between November and March. We have a distinct summer drought here and the peonies are irrigated during July and August as needed. We have between 200 and 250 growing days. Our absolutely minimum temperature was 3 degrees F. Our absolutely maximum temperature was 100 degrees F., but normally we have a considerably milder climate than these would indicate. Some years we will be frost-free entirely while others like last year we will have a rather severe and unpleasant spell of cold weather in January. I think I can safely say, however, that our climatic conditions suit *Paeonia lutea* var. *Ludlowii* rather well. The U.S.D.A. Plant Hardiness Zone Map puts us in Zone 8A, a few degrees less than Victoria, B.C.

We would be interested in trying a few more seeds of this peony if you still have some. It would be interesting to compare them with our existing plants.

Yours sincerely,
Joseph A. Witt
Assistant Director
University of Washington
Arboretum,
Seattle, Washington 98105

P.S. I assume you have seen the information in *The Peonies*, the handbook published by the American Horticultural Society and edited by John Wister, on page 152.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROWING PEONIES IN THE SOUTH

By Glen Colby

Peonies are easily grown in the south but culture is somewhat different than in colder climates. In selecting double varieties, chose those that bloom early or in mid-season. Singles and Japanese varieties also do well here.

1. Selecting the planting site.

- A. Good drainage is a must. (Peonies cannot stand wet feet).
- B. At least one-half day of sunshine or full sun. (High passing shade that will allow one-half day of sunshine is ideal).
- C. Avoid planting too near trees, shrubs, or hedge plants. (Peonies resent intrusion by the roots of other plants that may rob them of food and moisture.)

2. Preparing the planting site.

- A. Dig planting hole at least three feet in diameter and two feet deep. Save the topsoil but discard the subsoil and hard pan, if encountered. Now fill the hole to within 8 inches of ground level, with good friable garden

soil with at least one lb. of bonemeal added. Tamp firmly or settle dirt by flooding with water. This should be done several days before planting.

3. How to set the Peony root.

- A. Before planting, soak the root in a bucket of cool water with clorox added (One tablespoon of Clorox per gallon of water).
- B. Mound up and compress with hands good friable soil to a height that when the root is placed on the mound, the buds will be at ground level, or slightly above. Now fill in the rest of the hole with good friable garden soil with no fertilizer added. Cover buds or crown not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch with soil, and water thoroughly.



TREE PEONY ACCELERANDO

By Anthony J. DeBlasi

The classic harbinger of spring in my area is the robin; next in line, the crocus. Now while the robin may be reluctant to make an appearance and the crocus may be rolled tight against the cold, in my garden there is one sure sign of spring: the bursting of the tree peony growth buds. This event occurs with clock-like regularity every year at, or a few days before, the Vernal Equinox (March 21). The tree peony obeys the calendar, regardless of weather conditions. How can it fly in the face of wind, frost, and ice, which so often accompany the onset of spring? The tight, reddish bundles of growth seem immune to the elements. The urgency to develop and bloom by a certain date is written

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on every bud and the message is borne aloft on the many bare, exposed branches for everyone to read; "It's spring!—It's spring!" (even though the sky is gray and the winds are howling).

Perhaps the frantic pace the tree peony sets for itself becomes understandable when we consider that each bud, less than an inch in size, must, **in the space of eight weeks**, become a foot-long stem full of leaves on stalks at least a foot long and topped by a blossom up to ten inches wide—a thousandfold increase in size!

So unlike the deliberate, unhurried pace of the camellia, for a contrasting example. Here is a plant, each of whose **flower buds**, fully an inch across, may spend most of that time opening. Much of its kind of beauty lies in the seeming unreality

of being so inactive and yet being alive and capable of flowering! Not surprisingly, it blooms during the winter, when nature is asleep.

The tree peony is definitely an impatient type. You can almost see it grow during the spring. The outcome of such speed is that a mass of stem, foliage, and bloom emerges before us that is so recent, so new, so young that the underlying beauty of form is infused with the vibrance, the ebullience, and the pristine freshness of spring itself. The tree peony is the plant kingdom's crowning celebration of—indeed the "incarnation" of—spring.

The camellia, on the other hand, speaks of crystals and of the hard, cold forms of winter. It is solid and staid and studied. But if the camellia is a work of sculpture, the tree peony is music.

TREE PEONY TOPICS

by Louis Smirnow

While I have tried to write about Tree Peonies in my articles I cannot refrain from quoting from letter received from Mrs. R. E. Peckham of Indianapolis, Ind.—"What is needed now are articles of interest to beginners. They couldn't care less what is winning on show tables—besides very few parts of the country have ever seen a peony show"—So on this suggestion I shall in future articles try to do as suggested.

The Tree Peonies that are easiest to grow—that is, that bloom freely in every section of the country are—

White—Godaishu—superb white, semi double, immense flowers—

Fusow no tsukasa—immense, ball shaped double beauty

Stolen Heaven—largest and perhaps best of all

Gessekai, Hakuow jishi and Renkaku are other easy growers

Pink—Shintenchi—enormous bright pink, deeper at base—

Momoyama—pale pink double, gorgeous center—

Howdai—bright tall pink, almost red—popular

Yachiyo tsubaki—exquisite, coral, stems also coral—

Yae Zakura—soft cherry pink, tall grower—

Red—Taiyow—bright red, enormous, satiny petals.

Nisshow—glistening scarlet, semi double twisted petals.

Orihime—exquisite Chinese red, large double

Kokko No Tsukasa—shining maroon petals—largest dark red

Ubatama—glistening maroon semi-double great favorite

Purple, Lavendar, etc.—Kamada Fuji—distinct lavender, vigorous, full double—

Rimpow—famous, brilliant purple, yellow center—

Yellow—Lutea hybrids—

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu—yellow shaded orange salmon—hangs its head—fragrant

L'Esperance—clear yellow, single to semi-double—fragrant

Age of Gold—Rosette of creamy gold—double—easy grower—fragrant

Roman Gold—Cup shaped semi double beauty—fragrant—

Other Lutea hybrids of great beauty—Black Pirate, Chinese Dragon, Damask and Vesuvian.

Tree peonies should be planted so that the union of the root system and the upper part (scion) is two inches below the ground to encourage new growth from the root system. Experiments have been made with deeper planting—3 to 4 inches—results showed more new shoots ready to emerge than shallow planting. If you wish to divide tree peonies, try planting 4 inches below ground level—

* * * *

Tree peonies grafted on **Delavagi** species develop marvellous root systems—but the species are difficult to obtain

* * * *

Tree peonies unlike herbaceous or hybrids are difficult to divide—we find, however, that **Roman Gold** in

Luteas and **Hana-daigin** in the Japanese are quite easy to divide

* * * *

For beginners it was well to note that the full double **Luteas** hang their heads—flowers are so heavy. These varieties are included **Souvenir de Maxime Cornu**, **Chromatella**, **La Lorraine**, **Satin Rouge**, **Surprise** and **Flambeau**. Nevertheless their redeeming features are extremely beautiful blooms and fragrance. Should be grown, cut while in full bloom and brought inside and placed in a vase to show their great beauty.

* * * *

Beginners will be glad to learn that Tree peonies need very little care. At time of planting mix two cups of bonemeal with the soil, no other feeding until following season then feed with bonemeal as top dressing. This should be done immediately after blooming.

* * * *

Tree peonies will not grow in excessively warm climates—they need some cold weather for their dormant period. Will grow in coldest of climates.

* * * *

Tree peonies perpetuate themselves by new growth from the roots—the branches will eventually die and this new growth will form the new branches.

NEW STANDARDS FOR PEONIES

by Percy H. Wright

Have peonies suffered in popularity because too much stress has been placed on the characteristics of the flower and too little on those of the plant? Do we need a new orientation in the selection (and in the breeding) of our peonies?

To ask the question is to go a long way toward answering it. There is not the slightest doubt that the general flower-loving public would be happier with peonies as perennials if they were sturdier plants well

able to support the weight of the flowers, and if they were not affected by botrytis blight. Nor is there any doubt that the public would be willing to sacrifice something of flower size in return for

these further desirable qualities in their plants.

Peony varieties are scored according to the approach toward perfection of the flowers, but the notion of what constitutes perfection is not a constant. Our ideas of what peony flowers should be are bound to vary from one era to the next. We must comment, however, that the emphasis which flower size has received in the past is natural enough. It would not be difficult to name other flowers, both annual and perennial, that are today being subjected to the selection which long ago resulted in the monstrous size of the familiar peonies.

The weight of the peony flowers of today is great enough to ensure that even if the stems, which nature doubtless intended would hold them up, were twice as strong, they would still droop to the ground when wind and rain add their effect to the pull of gravity. Breeders will have to work, not only for stronger stems, but also for smaller flowers. With the new ideals in operation, eventually we shall have varieties which do not need wire or other supports to keep the flowers out of the dirt.

It is of course the doubleness of the flowers, and not only their size, which accounts for their heaviness. Many people like single flowers—but only while they are in bloom. It is rather an anomaly that the feature of single flowers which is disliked is not their singleness so much as their short life. In spite of the short life of single blooms, however, a partial return to growing them is probably due. If the trade does not offer singles, we can raise them ourselves from seed.

On the other hand it is a piece of good luck that nothing of value, either in flower or plant, need be sacrificed to breed peony varieties which are resistant to botrytis

blight. Resistant varieties which have the most prized virtues already exist, and all that is required is for the public to be informed of their identity. It is surprising to note that such information is not readily available. In government plantings, it is customary to spray all varieties, resistant or not, in order to control botrytis, with the result that no records are kept of which varieties are resistant.

I have never grown any peonies which show susceptibility to botrytis in the Saskatchewan climate. The reason is that I got a start in resistant varieties by leaving it to the judgement of the first nurseryman I patronized (back in 1925), to select those varieties, one in each color class, that he considered to be best in performance. He chose for me Karl Rosenfield in red, Mons. Jules Elie in pink, Sarah Bernhardt in mauve and Festiva Maxima in white. Therefore, to this extent, information on resistance to botrytis is known. It would be most desirable to have on record a grading of every variety in the trade, according to its susceptibility to botrytis, say on a scale of five points.

Another feature of the peony which has become a handicap to extended popularity is its resentment of transplanting. Gardeners may often hesitate to move an established peony root, even though it should be moved, just because they realize how long it will be before the plant looks beautiful again.

As one travels about, one sees many old peony plants, with their crowns so large and oversupplied with buds that they should have been divided years ago. The way to retain this plant without running into the discouragement of lifting the entire thing, is to remove a part of the root and leave the remainder without disturbing it.

In other words, the remedy lies in culture rather than in breeding. It seems unlikely that we shall ever have varieties which do not require some years to "settle down" and return to satisfactory flower production after having been moved.

The necessity of avoiding the deep planting of peony roots is beginning to be understood by gardeners. Nevertheless, every peony root sold should bear a tag, advising the purchaser that the "eyes" on the crown should not be set more than two inches below the surface of the soil.

LIKE SKINNING A CAT, THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF DIGGING A HOLE

From one of our Readers, Mrs. Hubert Fisher, Jr., Cordova, Tenn. —"I am very flattered that you are interested in how I dig my peony holes. I'm afraid this will be vague, for I've never measured exactly, just what goes in to them.

First you dig a bed six feet by eight feet (this is for six peony plants) and five and a half feet deep. The first foot is for drainage, with gravel, rocks, broken bricks, or whatever you have.

The next foot and a half is filled with manure. This need not be rotted.

The next two and a half feet is good woods dirt, manure (well rotted this time), compost (we save everything but cans and tin) and lots of bonemeal. A little sand is good, too.

The bed should be finished the same way as the last 2½ feet, but without manure. It should be a foot above at the end. (Editor: we presume this is to allow one foot for settling.)

This is indeed a lot of trouble, but once these peonies are planted, unlike any other flower, you need never bother with them again.

REPORT FROM WEST SALEM, WIS.

By William Bringe

The 1969 peony blooming season here in West Salem came on with a rush. Several days of very warm weather about June 15th pushed the earlies and some of the midseason bloomers too fast and they blew. A fortunate change brought cool rains and 60 degree temperatures and the lates bloomed well. Almost every bud opened and due to the cool weather and overcast skies the blooms lasted several days longer than normal.

Again I noted Marietta Sisson. It persists in blooming well in spite of all the vicissitudes and calamities of an adverse spring. It is not a show winner by any means, but it is always there, and when there is a

dearth of competition it looks real good.

The tree peonies were excellent. Since I've adopted a system of winter covering, the plants grow taller and broader each year with little or no freezeback.

After the leaves have fallen or the bush has reached a state of dormancy where the leaves can easily be plucked, I encircle the branches with a piece of binder twine and gently draw them together so they can be encircled within a 16 inch Adams Peony support. After the support is in position around the shrub, I insert a sheet of tar paper inside the support and extending an inch above the top wire. The en-

closure is then filled with coarse vermiculite, the insulation grade, right to the top. A piece of tar paper about 22 inches square is then placed over the top, the corners slipped under the wire and pinned to the sides with nails. This keeps out the rain and snow and is also mouse-proof.

In spring the support and paper is lifted, allowing the vermiculite to run out on the ground where it can easily be cleaned up with shovel and broom and put into plastic bags to be saved for the next season.

I've been doing this for four years and experienced little freeze back and the bush increases its size each year. Some of the stems are an inch thick and three feet tall.

Winter temperatures of thirty degrees below zero are not unusual here. I think it is not so much the cold which kills back the stems as the dry winter winds which dehydrate them and cause the most damage.

Some things to note: Water the plants so that the soil is moist before covering. Make sure that the tar paper is snug against the ground before filling, as the vermiculite will run out through a small opening.

On uncovering in spring, leave the branches tied up until all cleaning and cultivating is done, as they are brittle and can easily be broken in

working around the shrub. The lateral stems which bore flowers will be dried up. This is of no consequence. Clip them off. The buds will make new blooming laterals. The object is to save the main stem.

A note here from Mr. Leo Armatus. "Dope the cut end with pruning wax or insert a thumb tack to guard against the entrance of borers.

If this method is used, I am sure that tree peonies of respectable size and shape can be raised even in the Dakotas.

I wish our members who live in cold winter regions would try this. The time and work involved would be well rewarded with beautiful shrubs and flowers.

I take care of some thirty mature plants in this manner. First they are all tied up one after the other, then the supports are placed, then the lining inside each one, and then the filling and covering. If the weather is good it takes about five hours of steady going and it's all done. The spring clean up takes even less time.

The small grafts and seedlings are covered with straw deep enough to cover the twigs. This seems to be adequate for anything up to ten inches.

The work is not too much and it puts an end to the heartwrenching grief of seeing two year's growth frozen back to the ground."

BOOK REVIEW

by Silvia Saunders

THE COUNTRY GARDEN, a new book by Josephine Nuese (rhymes with Louise) is a most charming garden book. Wise, witty, and jam-packed full of knowledge drawn from her own experience of a lifetime spent with plants: raising baby seedlings in the guest bedroom in February; What to do about Moles;

the Delusions of Spring; All about Manure; Night Lighting; Canada Geese; Plant Tulip Bulbs in Tin Cans; the Beauties of Rhubarb—it's all here. And such Fun reading. She has an easy breezy style that wafts you along with no effort on your part, on waves of delight and good

sound knowledge. It couldn't be better, in my opinion.

Mrs. Nuese names names throughout: tells you exactly how and where to get everything you need or want, and how much it costs. At the last, she lists twenty Nurseries You May Not Know About: specialists, general nurseries, seed nurseries, etc. This list alone is worth the price of admission. There are many pretty photographs, plus the exquisite drawing of Laura Lee Foster. Even the Index is complete and full (I'm a stickler for good indexing).

"My first experience with a Japanese tree peony was unfortunate. Many years ago a friend who was moving away gave me one I had drooled over in her garden. It was snowy white, a single, with softly fluted petals and a great gold heart; it was the legendary blonde who, arriving at the opera swathed in white mink, steps out of the Rolls to enchant the photographers with her innocent wide-eyed smile.

I was so overcome by the magnificence of this gift that, like a dog suddenly given a whole leg of roast lamb, I went around in a daze trying to figure out where best to inter it. Obviously it had to be in some spot where visitors could appreciate it, and this meant near the front entrance. The only sheltered yet sunny spot in that area was up against a screened porch, so this is where I put it. What I had failed to consider, most unfortunately, was the background, for this was when the boys were growing up and that screened porch was their private territory, so my tree peony lifted its white mink elegance against a backdrop of unmade army cots, model aeroplanes, comic books and empty coke bottles."

And later on: "I have a ruffled white which looks quite well in a wall corner against a white shrub-althea with groups of Madonna lilies

nearby and a footing of evergreen candytuft. This gives four separate periods of bloom in that tiny corner and all the inhabitants are congenial, all like the same soil and setting.... Or maybe I shouldn't have started you on all this. Especially as you were probably planning to cut down on your plantings, not increase them. Sorry."

Mrs. Nuese writes only of the plants she herself has grown. So you don't get from her what you do get from Oh! so many garden books: a re-hash of other people's books warmed over. None of that. She doesn't include Roses for the good and simple reason that she doesn't grow roses. "I do not belong to the rose-growing brotherhood, an august breed apart from common gardeners, so am now proceeding with greatest caution. But I have discovered two roses which are so easy to grow, so relatively bug-free that even I can grow them. And without spraying, for I refuse to use poison sprays." The modest teacher flattering her pupils! "And that is all I am saying about roses. If you are a rose grower you probably know more about them than I do and should be writing this part yourself."

She likes searching around for the unusual in plants; then trying to find out what they like and then giving it to them. "But this is merely my own experience, so maybe you should pay it no mind." For me, that is just the very reason why I feel I **should** pay it mind." And I do.

And then there is a heartwarming, darling story of the lily-baskets. It seems that—oh, you'd better read it for yourself; I simply couldn't do it justice in a line or two.

This lovely book is \$7.95 from the publishers: Scribners, 597 Fifth Avenue, New York City. And more than worth every cent. For while that may look like a lot when it is all in one

chunk, figure it at sixty-five cents a month for a year—not a one of us but who can stow that away in a sock, and repay the whole amount to ourself in December ,when once

again, after Christmas, we take down this delightful witty knowledgeable book and curl up for another good Read in it. You may send me the bill if you aren't completely satisfied.

NEW MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Mr. John E. Simkins, 1246 DonLea Crescent, Oakville, Ontario, Canada has consented to become the third member of the newly formed Editorial Board of the Peony Bulletin, of which Miss Saunders and Mr. Leo Armatys are the other members. Mr. Simkins has sent us the following biographical notes on himself:

Born in 1919 in England but lived his early years in Hamilton, Ontario. Served as lieutenant in War II, in England and on the continent. Graduated from McMaster University in 1948 in Honor Chemistry and Physics. Served in Militia as Major until 1965. He works in Oakville (near Toronto) for Shell Canada, as Laboratory Supervisor and is taking evening courses at McMaster in business administration. He is married and has three children, 22, 14 and 9 years old.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, and of the Delphinium Society. President of the Oakville Horticultural Society in 1965, 66 and 67 and now on their Board. He passed the Royal Botanical Garden's Judges Course in 1967. Garden Editor of the Oakville Journal Record since 1968.

Introduced to Tree peonies by Mr. Laking, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens in 1965; he has been trying to grow them from seed and has ten plants. None have bloomed for him yet. Mrs. Ionson introduced him to herbaceous varieties and he has about 15 of these. Intends to concentrate primarily on tree peonies but will probably do some hybridizing of herbaceous peonies as well. Mr. Simkins lectures to local societies on Growing Flowers for the Show Bench; he also acts as Judge in local general shows.

EXCERPTS — MID-WEST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

How does one stay the relentless march of Time? Here on a bleak February day I am too keenly reminded that almost a year has passed since our first Newsletter took wings, and tho it had been promised as a semi-annual release, events seem to have combined to make this "now just under the wire" an annual publication.

It all started last June, soon after our blooming season with RAIN. Not only did it practically prevent implement cultivation, resulting in the greatest crop of fall weeds ever, but many Peonies literally drowned. Then in mid-October we dug clumps

and had the holes start filling with water before the soil could be replaced. Plants that had been healthy were almost completely rotted in the centers, and only small increments at the perimeter remained viable. Thus digging for orders became a double chore, and searching for workable replanting space even more difficult.

It is hard to know just where to begin on a new round of news. For me, the National Meeting was in many respects an artistic success, tho I can't conceive of its continuing healthily with such a small number of members in attendance. It was

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well written up in the Bulletin, so little more remains to be said EXCEPT that you who do not attend are missing the greater part of the joys and privileges of APS membership. Just the proximity of and association with the really great people in the Peony world is an unforgettable experience.

If you do not know Silvia Saunders personally, you cannot begin to feel the energy and enthusiasm which vibrates from her to you, so that you come away knowing that truly "all's right in the Peony World." You can't rub shoulders with Marvin Karrels, Clarence Lienau, Pharon Denlinger, Bill Krekler, W. A. Alexander, Harold Wolfe, Gus Sindt, Allen Wild, Steve Moldovan and others whose names I should recall without renewing your faith in the American Peony Society, and believing firmly that whatever our past difficulties have been, people of this stature are going to set it right.

ADDITIONAL EXCERPTS

A letter from Mrs. James Goddard of Dodge City, Kansas, informs me:

"This garden season has just been spectacular. I don't know when we have had such a wonderful spring. The lilacs and spring flowering trees really put on a show and the bulbs were beautiful. I had little tulips blooming that had not put forth a

bloom in years. The daffodils were lush and lovely. Right now I have a dickens of a time staying inside, as Tree peonies are blooming and they are just out of this world.

I have a white semi-double NAYOGA CASTLE, and today I counted 90 fully open flowers on it and more buds yet to open. Have a large double medium pink with four branches and 26 blooms (do not know the name of it, and of course it is the one that all the garden visitors are interested in). NISSHO has started to bloom today, with 11 buds; SHUJAKOMON was first to bloom with ten great elegant pink flowers that make you glad to be alive just to see and enjoy them.

"I have four seedlings and one of them even looks pretty good to me. Two are magenta, but visitors who do not know this is a color we do not aspire to, are quite taken with them. The one I like is sort of a lavender pink with dark maroon flares in the center.

"In all, I have 42 plants, including 4 named lutea hybrids; one European type (REINE ELIZABETH, which has five buds on it,) my four self grown seedlings, and the others Japanese types. CLAIRE DE LUNE and CHALICE are starting the Hybrids off with beautiful blooms, and the whole border is just bursting with buds."

FIFTH DISTRICT MEMBERS MEET

Members in the Fifth District, of the American Peony Society, met November 2nd, 1969, at Lorenz Start's Restaurant, near Antioch, Illinois.

The main topic of discussion was with regard to their assisting in planning and attending to the duties at the 1970 annual meeting and Peony Show to again be held in that area. Roy Klehm, president, wrote, "It was agreed that a direct

mailing would go out to all members regarding the Sunday morning and early afternoon field day to be held at Sunburst Farm. We will have a field demonstration, hay rides through the blooming fields and a free noon barbeque. All Peony Society members and their immediate friends will be invited.

A motion was passed to include two new Show classes for the 1970 Show. These will be called "Novice

Class" and "Garden Club Competitive Class". Marvin Karrels, Milwaukee, Wis., was asked to draw up the Schedule for the Show.

The idea of establishing these two classes is to encourage more people to become interested and participate.

Two Memorial trophies will be awarded to grand prize winners in the above named classes. One is to be known as the Van Steen-Hyde Trophy; the other the Murawska-Klehm Trophy, to honor the deceased peony pioneers of District V.

The root auction was successful, bringing \$160.00. One plant of Carol brought \$30.00. The money will be

kept in the Fifth District for use in meeting needed 1970 Show expenses. A \$50 Memorial for Mr. Nick Gorski is to be forwarded to the Society.

Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Finn, Mrs. Wissing and Mrs. DeJardin volunteered to assist in the booth at the Show. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sampson were duly elected to serve as President and Secretary for the ensuing term. The Sampsons have their own Peony Gardens, having grown peonies for forty years."

(Ed. Comment. The above report was submitted by Roy Klehm, past president of District V.)

APOLOGIES TO GARY SEAMAN

In June 1969, at the Mansfield, Ohio Show, Mr. Gary Seaman, Sales Manager for Gratwick Tree Peonies at Pavilion, New York, staged a very superlative showing of the Daphnis Hybrids which are originated there by Nassos Daphnis. For this exhibit, Mr. Seaman was, quite rightly as many of us felt, awarded the James Boyd Memorial Medal, given each year by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the most distinguished exhibit of peonies that year.

Through an error on the part of the Society, the medal was actually inscribed to William Gratwick, whereas the inscription should have read Gratwick Tree Peonies, the correct name of this famous Nursery.

The Society herewith offers an apology for this oversight.

Gary Seaman, by profession a chemist, is Quality Control Supervisor for the Pennwalt Corporation in Piffard, near to Pavilion, New York. Pennwalt make organic peroxides; the catalyst in plastics. His title at Gratwick Tree Peonies is

that of Sales Manager. He is in complete charge of sales, orders, shipping, records, and general management of the Nursery. Nassos Daphnis is the Hybridist. Mr. Gratwick is to be congratulated upon this staff of men, each young in years, and each outstanding in his field.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

From a letter to a Nursery, on receiving Peony roots:

"Can't think when I have so thoroughly enjoyed parting with twenty-five dollars!! We had a wonderful week-end. My husband ("and what is **this** one?"), and the children, digging, dickering, positioning, and I in my favorite role of Foreman.

Nor are we daunted by an incredible neighbor muttering about **ants**. Can you believe it? Thank you so very much! As one of our little ones said, "Oh Boy! I can't wait till Spring!"

Our Readers Write . . .

MINNESOTA

Ph. Henry Hartwig, 2143 Highland Ave., New Ulm, Minn. 56073 wrote early in March he plans to offer five (5) roots of Helen Matthews for the 1970 Auction!! The roots of this plant he says are selling for \$25.00 "This is one of Dr. Saunders hybrids" he wrote. "A cardinal red single, nine inches in size. Mr. Geo. Peyton wrote me a few years ago, he believed this variety to be one of the most beautiful of all peonies."

"Now I am looking forward to the first bloom in our new location, here in New Ulm, Minn. Just now there is still a 10" blanket of snow covering the roots."

MEXICO

William H. Krekler, former Director of the Society, enclosed information about an interesting trip. He further stated he "had a hectic winter-surgery twice." The trip mentioned is a Mexico Pack Trip to Sierra Madre of Sonora, planned for July 1970. This three weeks trip into the mountains is planned for those "young enough to take a rugged trip on horseback in wild country . . ." If interested contact Norman Krekler La Paloma Ranchm Apartado 354 Sucursal B. Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico."

MONTANA

"In your last letter, you wanted to know how the peonies survived the 83 M.P.H. wind and the large tree trunk that smashed them down when just coming into full bloom," wrote **Mrs. Elizabeth M. Zimmerman, Rt. No. 4, Grand Ave., Billings, Montana 59101.** "Well, they did come back, but not as prolific as hoped for. The foliage was so badly bruised and most completely broke off. We were fortunate to have a very long growing season however, which may

help develop new eyes, I hope. They looked so pathetically sick."

"Our seedlings were fairly good, considering our exceptionally late spring freezes after an early spring start. Our temperatures were unseasonably warm to begin with and then in the first week of June we had a blizzard with low 20 degrees for 2 days and nights. The iris were about a week from peak bloom and the peonies about 10 days. Bloom was imperfect on both and some buds failed to develop. The old established peonies came through much better than the new plantings, and the seedlings even better. Perhaps they are like people, they learn to live with our rugged climates and environment. Festiva Maxima, Piffers Red Triumph, Edulis Superba, Fanny Lee and Sarah Bernhardt did best of all, but all are old established plants, the first being in the same spot for over 35 years.

We planted quite a few new ones last fall, mostly hybrids. Claudie, Flame, Garden Peace, Legion of Honor, Ludovica, Heritage, Montezuma and Laura Magnusson to name a few and they seem to be doing very well. Little pink and red eyes are ready to come through the light mulching as soon as the weather permits. I am a little concerned, however, about our weather now (February 27, 1970) as it has been so warm all February. Day time temps up to 45 and 57 and three days of over 60 degrees, but night temps down to the 20's. I sincerely hope we are not in for another spring like the last."

VIRGINIA

Garland B. Peterson, 510 W. 37th St., Norfolk, Va. 23508, wrote us as follows: "Thank you for a helpful

letter. The authorities you mention shall be consulted at an early opportunity. Please allow me to give you a brief description of my garden conditions here in Norfolk.

I have a small city plot. Where the neighbors would have lawns, I grow peonies. There are 117 plants (4 tree peonies). Average distance between plants, 2 feet. Average amount of full syn per plant—6 hours. Depth of hole preparation—18 inches. Subsoil removed, rather heavy clay. Hole filled with soil lightened by addition of sand, peatmoss, superphosphate, bonemeal or 5-10-5 fertilizer and top-dressed with lime and wood ashes. Soil allowed to settle 1 month before planting. Tubers planted with eyes at ground level or in a slight mound raised an inch or two above the surrounding level.

I've been growing peonies seriously for 4 years have at least 40 plants 3 years, or older. No doubt more experience, time and that wonderful virtue 'Patience,' will help with all the difficulties. Meanwhile, here is the problem mentioned to you before. After a year or two the plant sinks slightly below the surrounding ground level. A neighbor who grows peonies asserted the cause is largely the fault of worms working in the soil beneath the plants, that the only solution is to raise the plants. In lifting the plant I dig rather deeply for a large ball of earth so as to disturb the roots as little as possible in the fall of the year. Upon digging I notice that the sand, peatmoss, rotted leaves, manure, have all disappeared and heavy clay soil seems about all that remains. Only in those places where I added large amounts of sawdust does the soil remain friable. Perhaps not enough sand was added, because somewhere I read that clay soils produce more flowers than

sandy soils. More experience may teach me how to handle better this problem, but suggestions are welcome.

As for the tendency to sink, mulching may help against this. I've noticed that established plants in this area send out new eyes about one inch below the ground surface. By applying a summertime mulch of chopped oak leaves an inch or more thick early in summer, the eyes can be encouraged to come out "high." The mulch is then removed in the fall to expose the eyes to Norfolk's rather limited cold weather and a thin layer of soil can be applied to protect them from careless feet.

Of the 40 plants three years old or older, here is a list of those that have bloomed most satisfactorily.

The Mighty Mo—large vigorous plant, good bloomer. Have a dried red blossom, 7 months old, smells like honey.

Minuet—tall, vigorous plant, blooms well.

June Brilliant—did rather poorly 1st and 2nd season, but burst into bloom the 3rd season.

Longfellow—came along strongly last spring.

Eduis Superba—my most dependable pink so far.

Richard Carvel—has to be a favorite, very adaptable. Blooms in sun, in shade, even in dry places.

Mrs. F. D. R.—not a large plant, but a good bloomer. Fades white in the sun.

Cleopatra—A nice light red, looks good in electric light, fragrant—holds up well cut.

Myrtle Gentry—A real beauty, peony lover's gift from heaven. Need I say more?

Nick Shaylor—a sturdy friend. Only 5 or 6 blooms on a 3 year plant, but immense blooms with no disbudding.

Krinkled White — A nice plant—lots of lovely flowers.

Virginia Nance — an unusual rosebud bloom with silvered edges to the pink petals but blooms will not open fully in water.

Festiva Maxima — grows tall, stately, strong and thrifty too. Improves steadily.

Some disappointments:

Sarah Bernhart — have 1 plant 4 years old; another 2 years. Both plants were good size last season and healthy. Each plant had 1 bloom. 4 year old plant has never had more than 1 bloom per season.

Sea Shell — I have 2—3 year old plants of this lovely large pink single. Each plant has produced exactly 3 blooms for last 2 seasons —no more—no less.

Golden Dawn, Mrs. Frank Beach, Mischief — These 3 plants bloomed well 2nd season, poorly the 3rd.

Primevere — in 3 years this plant has not bloomed.

Other plants show great promise including the new Wild's anemone pink introduction.

Clear Sailing which bloomed well 1st year and 2nd year was a tall robust plant. Mons Jules Elie seems steadily improving, as does

Chippewa, Mrs. Wilder Bancroft and Fancy Nancy.

Has anyone ever published a list of plants that bloom well on alternate years?

VIRGINIA

M. W. Gracey, R.R. 2, Blackstone, Va. 23824 stated his peonies were beautiful last year, "My neighbors just stand and gaze at them. I want to get some tree peonies another year, but it is hard to know anything about them."

NEW YORK

Earl S. Miller, 504 Conklin Ave., Binghamton, New York 13903 is

anxious to acquire a copy of Bulletin No. 1. Will you part with yours?

INDIANA

Mrs. Adda E. Ayres, Redkey, Ind. 47373 wrote as follows: I enjoy the Bulletins very much and I always read them from cover to cover. Please, as Editor, retain some of the pages for people who do not hybridize, of which I am one.

I love peonies. I have quite a few species, dwarfs, hybrids, herbaceous, and tree peonies. I try to study them in order to have all types, their time of bloom, singles, doubles, etc. Many people come to my small garden to view, ask questions and where to purchase them. I do not have time or space for hybridizing as again I say, "keep a place in your Bulletin for 'Peony nuts' like me."

INDIANA

James W. Wyrick, 5600 Clinton Rd., Terre Haute, Ind. 47805 is recovering from a coronary attack but "should be able to be out to return to work in 4 or 5 months . . . my peonies will miss my early spring care. I now have over 500 blooming peonies and about 30 seedlings. Have had a severe winter—do not know how many seedlings will come through. I usually grow about 5,000 gladiolus.

I was glad to see my thank you note to the many nice letters received by me in regards to information on seedlings.

SASKATCHEWAN

One of our members has this past fall been in correspondence with Mr. Percy H. Wright of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Believing that some of what he said would be of interest to others in the Society, our Member has sent us the following article by Mr. Wright, together with these notes culled from his letters.

"I would like to raise seedling peonies. I propagate and sell hardy

roses and hardy lilies but am such an enthusiast for hybridization and experimentation that I do not do much better than break even, and am now pretty well down to living on my old age pension.

When I was young I was ambitious to be a wheat breeder, and as a result I then went into the genetics of wheat quite closely. In fact I derived a good deal of my interest in genetics from "Plant Breeding in Scandinavia" by L. H. Newman, back in the nineteen-twenties.

The reason I have not so far raised any peony seedlings is that I felt the odds were against achieving anything new by stirring up once again the old Gene Pool. But if I can get seed of any peonies of hybrid descent, I know I can count upon natural segregation to break out of the old boundaries.

Tree peonies are not practicable in our climate, which may see minus 50, or even minus 65, degrees Fahrenheit, any winter. However I have been successful in wintering Hybrid Tea Roses by planting them in large pails, turning these on their side and partially burying them, for winter. Do you have any information on whether any tree peony would thrive in a tub containing, say, as little as 50 pounds of earth?

I hope to be active for another 15 years, or more, since the doctors tell me that I have the blood pressure of a man of 40. (At 71)."

Ed note: Mr. Wright's address is: Moose Range Rose Gardens, 407, 109th Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Saskatoon appears in our atlas to be somewhat more than 250 miles due north of the Montana-Canada border.

WISCONSIN

Mrs. Jane Gustin, 1425 Ill. Ave., Stevens Point, Wis. 54481 is looking forward to the Peony Show this

year and visiting Klehm's Nursery again. She wrote—"In the early 50's my late husband and I went to a district peony show in Milwaukee and Mr. and Mrs. Klehm and son were there. We had a long drive, so arrived just as the judges were beginning their work. Mr. Klehm and Mr. Gustin sat and discussed various mulches Mr. Klehm had tried and his many experiments. Mrs. Klehm and I sat on another bench and visited . . . A man came from behind the waterfall with a beautiful white peony in his hand and said "look at her—she was in the garbage but I finally found her. She has been stepped on but you can't keep a good flower down." It was Dorothy J., the first one I had seen.

He handed it to Mr. Klehm who looked at the flower and the stem, handed it to my husband who admired it and handed it to Mrs. Klehm and me. I thought I had never seen such a beautiful flower. As the man reached out to take it, I asked him if I could have it, so he let me keep it.

In a short time the judges were finished and we went in to see the exhibit. Mr. Christman and Mrs. Murawska were there, but I didn't know the others. The temperature was 107 degrees and the peonies soon began to wilt and so did we. I still can see the Klehm exhibit—it had not been judged (as they were not amateurs, I presume) but I was simply spellbound. Such delicate colors, such fragrance and the different petal arrangements. One large shell pink had what looked like a row of rose buds about midway between the center and the outside edge. It looked like a bride's bouquet. Very few had names, they had numbers. They all were perfect specimens of a flower grown in good soil with the right food and plenty

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of water. It was so hot we didn't stay very long, regretfully said good-bye to the Klehms—drove to a hospital on the north side of Milwaukee to visit a cousin.

I took Dorothy J. along for him to see but he had a nice bouquet and I didn't leave it with him. I put it on the floor behind the front seat of the car but had nothing to protect it from the heat and a strong wind which we faced driving home.

When we reached Portage, Wis., we stopped at our daughters and I took Dorothy J. into the house. The stem was still straight but the petals all hung limp down around the stem. My little grand-daughter began to cry because the beautiful

flower was so sick. Her mother had a tall vase so she filled it with cold water, put the stem in it and let the petals hang over the side. The next morning Dorothy J. looked almost the same as when I asked her owner if I could have her. The temperature had cooled and she was entirely "cured." My daughter found a box, lined it carefully with tissue paper so no wind could strike it and we left for Prairie du Chien. Cur apartment there was warm but I put Dorothy J. into a tall slim vase and by changing the water 2 or 3 times daily—cutting off the stem a little every day the flower stayed crisp and beautiful many days!

OBITUARIES

MRS. JAMES (OPAL) HAMILTON

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. James Hamilton of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mrs. Hamilton was a past president of the Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs and the Lucky Day Peony Club, having organized the first annual city-wide peony show in 1942.

Mrs. Hamilton's list of activities is long. As president of the city council of garden clubs in 1967-69 she had been involved in landscaping efforts at the County Hospital and the Foundation for Disabled. She had earlier helped promote the building of the garden center at Will Rogers Park and had participated in legal efforts to block the building of a shopping center at the park. Members of the Opal Hamilton Peony Club served as honorary pall bearers at the funeral.

In her own garden she had 1500 peonies representing 500 varieties of the flower many gardeners believed would not grow in the state.

Mrs. Hamilton served the Ameri-

can Peony Society as membership chairman in 1964-65.

* * * *

GLEN GREAVES

We regret to inform the many friends of Mr. Glen Greaves, of his death, occurring in California. Several press clippings and letters have been received, among them a letter from Mr. Myles Neilson, St. Paul, Minn., containing facts about Mr. Greaves, past president of the Society, we share as follows:

"The enclosed clippings detailing the passing of another member of the "old guard" in the A.P.S. I'm sure will be of interest to members and Directors of the Society. Mr. Greaves became a member of the

A.P.S. in 1930 and continued his interest in our national organization until the early 60's, when he decided to retire actively from his hobby of raising championship peonies and disposed of his plantings to the late Adrian P. Gibson, of Rice Lake, Wis.

He was also an active organizer of the many local Minnesota & Iris Society shows, as well as chairman of many national exhibitions held at the N. W. National Bank of Minneapolis. During the years 1933-34 he served as president of the local organization. He was a close friend of Mr. A. M. Brand, Brand Nurseries, Faribault, Minn., Mr. L. W. Lindgren, former Treasurer of the A.P.S. and Dr. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N.Y. as well as George Peyton, Rapidan, Va., former secretary-editor.

My first meeting with Mr. Greaves was during the 1950's at a National Show in Minneapolis at a time when our current vice-president, W. G. Sindt was president of the Minnesota Peony & Iris Society. It was through him that I first became bitten with the peony "bug."

During the early years of his peony hobby, Mr. Greaves leased acreage from a local nursery adjacent to the Farm campus of the University of Minnesota, located close to his home, where he cultivated hundreds of the choice peony varieties that he exhibited and won many court of honor prizes, as well as blue ribbons in best of classes. His favorites were **ALESIA, LA LORRAINE, ALICE HARDING, DOLOREDELL, BLANCHE KING, DORIS COOPER, MRS. F.D.R. and BONANZA** among the doubles; **PICO** and **SEA SHELL**; **ISANI GIDUI** and **WESTERNER** and many of the hybrids including **NATHALIE, BRIGHT KNIGHT, EDWARD STEICHEN, RED CHARM AND CARINA.**

Few of Mr. Greaves acquaint-

ances outside of his personal freinds were aware that he was also a connoisseur, collector and expert in the field of Chinese art. For many years prior to World War II importers on the West Coast furnished him with jades, paintings, wall hanging and drapes wittth which he decorated his home in St. Paul. When he moved to California in 1965 his entire apartment at Palo Alto was decorated in Chinese motif. One of his prize collections was an extensive set of hand carved jade antique snuff bottles, originally the possession of high placed Chinese Mandarins.

—o—

DESIRES COPY

Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas, desires a copy of C. F. Stern's "A STUDY OF THE GENUS PAEONIA."

If you have a copy and are willing to part with it, or know where one might obtain a copy, write

Myron D. Bigger
201 N. Race Rd.
Topeka, Kansas 66616

—o—

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mrs. Glen Colby, 726 Bayou Shore, Monroe, Louisiana, is a member of our Board of Directors. This is the second article Mrs. Colby has shared with our readers. The first appeared in the September Bulletin 1967, No. 186. This was the talk given by her at two Garden Clubs, one in Louisiana and the other in Arkansas.

The current article will be of great help to our other members in the South.

—o—

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**THE WORLD OF
NATURE IS REAWAKENED**

March this year has "gone out like a lion". April has promises—for that special rain, the April shower brings a reawakening to the world of nature."

Clearing banking of leaves, mud on the rug, hearing rain drops bouncing from the eaves, all mean April, a month of promises. The world of nature is reawakened.

* * * *

It has been said that "the atmosphere is filled with tiny flecks of iron ore from outer space. Two tons of them fall into our atmosphere every day and when they pass through a rain cloud they become one of the catalysts for rain making. Vapor snatches them, the hydrogen atom strikes them ... the result; some raindrops with mete-

ors for hearts. When raindrops pass into the earth they find the surfaces of seeds. So, the April shower enters the seed through and around the cells in the coat. Pop some beans into a plate of April rainwater—place it on the kitchen table and see what transpires on a rainy day in the darkness of the earth."

* * * *

Bitter March! Queenly April smiles, sings, whispers! The door is opened to May, a gracious sweet month!

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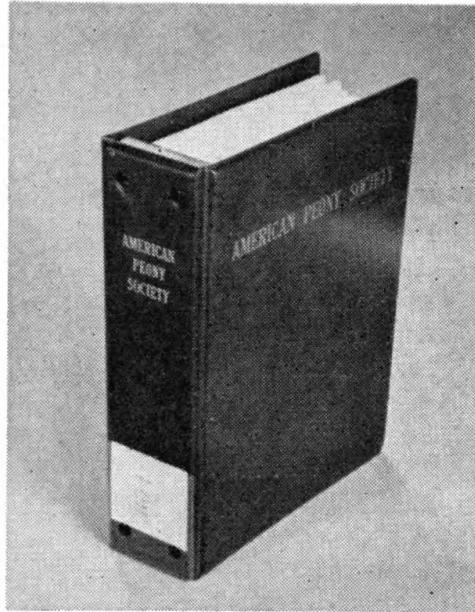
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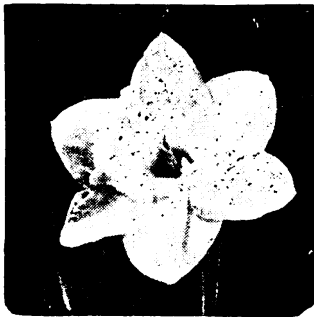
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