


AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY *Bulletin*



DECEMBER 1954

Bulletin No. 135

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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No. 5. Dr. D. Sanford Hyde, 810 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Illinois.

OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 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 standard of excellence of the flower; 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 examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, 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 to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. Back numbers will be charged for at \$1.25 a copy for the current years. Contact the Secretary for prices on other available numbers.

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 George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



DECEMBER, 1954 — NO. 135

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reading Mr. Peyton's very interesting historical sketch of the American Peony Society in the last Bulletin, I was impressed by the work and accomplishments of the Society during those early years in bringing order out of the chaos that existed in names and varieties. Straightening out the nomenclature seems to have been the principal objective of the founders, and they did a good job of it. Fortunate it is that they recognized the need and tackled the job. Had they not done so, progress in development of the Peony as a garden perennial and especially as a show flower would have been retarded possibly by several decades.

Today we can buy with confidence from most growers. The standard varieties are well known and names seldom confused. Originators, at least those who are members of the Society, register their new things with the Society, thus avoiding duplication and confusion of names. I do not mean to say that

a state of perfection has been achieved. Nor can we expect it. There will always be the unscrupulous and the careless as well as the honest but ill-informed grower. Chief offenders are the cut-rate nursery sales and garden stores. Their supply is often of dubious origin, and careless handling often results in loss of variety identity. A few years ago, I purchased from such a store three Peonies for one dollar just to see what kind of divisions they were and what they would turn out to be.

They were not divisions but very small plants about like two year old seedlings. But they grew well and bloomed the second year. They were advertised to be and were labeled Reine Hortense, Lowell Thomas and Aviateur Raymond. The last named I had never heard of. The authentic Lowell Thomas was then selling for \$7.50. Reine Hortense was true to name; so I got my dollar's worth. Both of the others were semi-double pinks, very

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pretty, but there would be a dozen equally as good in most any lot of a hundred seedlings. Such merchandise is not likely to bring into the fold many new Peony converts. But I believe our condition in regard to variety and name confusion is relatively better than that of some other specialty clubs.

Eternal vigilance is necessary to maintain our position and improve it. The recently organized American Horticultural Council concerns itself with this matter among others and speaks with a louder and more authoritative voice than any single member organization. The APS is a member of the Council. We are fortunate in having as our representative Dr. J. Franklin Styer who is first vice president of the Council. We may be sure that the Peony will not be forgotten.

As we begin the second 50 years of the Society's existence what will be, what should be our major endeavor? At this point please look back at page 2 and read the paragraph which states the objectives of the Society as given in the Articles of Incorporation. Read

them carefully and think them over. Which, in your opinion, should be most heavily emphasized? My vote goes for the first: "To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony." But I would add this supplement: "And to build up the membership and strength of the American Peony Society." I am sure you will agree with me although your primary Peony interest may be breeding, cut flowers, showing or what-not, because those things are necessary for progress all along the Peony front. Those objectives are, of course, set forth in very general terms. They must be broken down into steps and goals which can be undertaken and achieved one by one. It is my hope that the President's Advisory Committee will tell us how to go about it. But let's not rely on them too much. If you have an idea, won't you write me, or better yet, send it along to Mr. Smirnow, chairman of the Committee?

W. A. Alexander, President
Bowling Green, Ohio
November 1, 1954

Dayton, Ohio Peony Garden

I started my own first garden about 1910 and very soon programmed a very fine collection of peonies. My present garden was started in 1937 and again I included a fine collection of double peonies.

For some reason, which I have never been able to correct in my present garden, all garden plants have grown very tall and thus easily damaged by thunderstorms. My garden is almost entirely for landscape purposes. We do very little cutting and the big, heavy double blossoms of the peonies I had planted lasted in exquisite condition for

so few hours that I lost interest in peonies for a number of years. I am a poor rosarian for the same reason.

Of recent years I have purchased a few of the new double peonies but have not felt very enthusiastic about them. My list of the large, double peonies includes the following: Mons. Jules Elie, Tourangelle, Philippe Rivoire, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Therese, Kelway's Glorious, Solange, Milton Hill. Myrtle Gentry, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Victory and many others.

Almost by chance I bought Golden Glow and Arcturus. I realized then that the new hybrids, the singles, and the Japanese types repre-

sented something that stood up in a landscape way, and remained beautiful for days, so that I have turned almost exclusively to these types and have had a thrilling experience with them. In giving below the list of my favorites, you will understand why I felt an explanation was advisable. Were I to fill my house with cut blooms, the list might be entirely different. In a small way I have recently gone in for tree peonies as well and just in the last day or two I have planted a root of Claire de Lune.

The following is a list of some of my favorites: Tree Peony Gessekai, Flame, Charm, Golden Glow, Amansode, Arcturus, Prairie Afire, Silvia Saunders, Flower Girl, Isani Gidui, Toro-no-maki, Helen, Rose Marie, and Wild Rose.

Sincerely yours,
Karl Lorenz
2320 Ridgeway Rd.
Dayton, Ohio.

Surely, Peonies Can Be Forced

In the article "Can Peonies be Forced" in the September (1954) issue of the bulletin, Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., states that "forcing Peonies will never be a commercial proposition." I know however of one person in Canada who has forced a considerable quantity of peonies and has done very well. The main idea is to have the blooms at such a period, when flowers in general are rather high-priced, viz. in February or early March.

The only way to make forcing profitable is to produce enough flowers per square foot. We all know to arrive at this, peonies should be left undisturbed in the same place for several years and should not be moved. Mr. Auten's

idea of putting the roots in pots or pails, trimming off a large portion of the roots to fit the container, does not sound right to me.

Mr. G. Khignesse, a French-Canadian florist of Belgian origin at Longueuil, Quebec, near Montreal, planted near his greenhouse a block of commercial doubles, such as Festiva Maxima, Edulis Superba, Lady Alexandra Duff, Mons. Jules Elie. He planted these rather solid, not leaving more room between the rows than was absolutely necessary to let the plants develop properly. The roots were left undisturbed for three years, topdressing the roots with good manure.

After these three years, he built, during the early winter months, a moveable greenhouse over the entire block, installing steam pipes for heating. These movable greenhouses, partly made of large sash are used for vegetable crops in some parts of Europe, where Mr. Khignesse got his idea.

Giving ample heat, he had some varieties (if I remember well, Lady Alexandra Duff was one of them) in full bloom in February, cutting large sized blooms with long stems in large quantity. Every flower, which would have come naturally if the roots had been left in the field, developed fully.

Being large and of beautiful form, they were greatly admired as an off-season bloom and very useful for large bouquets and funeral work.

Herman J. Grootendorst
Boskoop, Holand

If any one has not received a Bulletin due him, please let us know and one will be sent. Back numbers of some issues are now getting scarce. So do not delay.

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Fifth District Regional Show

Garfield Park Conservatory

Chicago, Illinois

JUNE 12-13, 1954

OPEN CLASSES

Class 1. 20-25 varieties, any class or type, one bloom each. 3 entries.

First: Dr. Sanford Hyde, River Forest, Ill., with A. G. Perry, Agnes Reed Bates, Anne Bigger, Arcturus, Auten's Pride, Elsa Sass, Ensign Moriarty, Judge Snook, Kansas, King Midas, Le Jour, Lotus Queen, Mary B. Vories, Mattie Lafuze, Miss America, Mme. Emile Debatene, Mons. Martin Cahuzac, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Pepite d'Or, Pride of Essex, Silvia Saunders, Tulagi. (22).

Second: Marvin C. Karrels, Milwaukee, Wis., with Angelo Cobb Freeborn, Angelus, Black Monarch, Bravura, Cecilia, Dainty Lass, Ginny, Good Cheer, Great Lady, Heritage, Imperial Red, Lovely Rose, Ludovica, Mme. Ducel, Mons. Jules Elie, Nathalie, Peach Blow, Red Charm, Red Red Rose, Scarlet Tanger (20).

Third: Mrs. Elizabeth Falk, Plainfield, Ill., with Black Monarch, Buddy, Burma Ruby, Cherry Red, Commando, Crusader, Dearborn, Elsa Sass, Golden Glow, Illini Belle, Illini Chief, Illini Warrior, Indian Hill, Karl Rosenfield, Lassie (Laddie?), Mahogany, Mons. Jules Elie Mother's Choice, Prince Charming, Red Charm, Reliance, Salmon Glory, Wildfire. (23).

Class 2. OUT OF TOWN. 10 varieties, one bloom each. Open only to those living more than fifty

miles from Chicago. 1 entry.

First. M. C. Karrels with Black Monarch, Bravura, Cecilia, Ginny, Lovely Rose, Great Lady, Red Charm, Red Red Rose, Scarlet Tanger, Sophie.

SPECIMEN CLASSES

ONE BLOOM

Doubles

Class 3. White or blush. 20 entries. First: D. S. Hyde, Alice Harding. Second: D. S. Hyde, Gardenia. Third, D. S. Hyde, Judge Snook.

Class 4. Light pink. 13 entries. First, second and third: D. S. Hyde with Nick Shaylor, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt and Mary B. Vories in order.

Class 5. Medium pink. 7 entries. First, second and third: D. S. Hyde with Anne Bigger, Ensign Moriarty and Sarah Bernhardt in order.

Class 6. Dark pink. 10 entries. First, second and third, D. S. Hyde with Pink Monarch, Mme. Emile Debatene and Mabel L. Gore.

Class 7. Red. 14 entries. First, second and third, D. S. Hyde with Kansas, Mons. Martin Cahuzac and Ruth Elizabeth.

Semi-Doubles

Class 8. White or blush. 8 entries. First, second and third: D. S. Hyde with Miss America, A. G. Perry and Prairie Belle.

Class 9. Pink. 5 entries. First,

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second and third: D. S. Hyde with Silvia Saunders, Garden Princess and Rose Shaylor.

Class 10. Red. 2 entries. First and second: D. S. Hyde with Chippewa.

Japanese

Class 11. White or blush: First: D. S. Hyde, Lotus Queen. Second: Roy G. Gayle, Rockford, Ill., Isani Gidui.

Class 12. Pink: First. Roy G. Gayle, Largo.

Class 13. Red. First, second and third: D. S. Hyde with Dignity. Dignity and Break o' Day.

Singles

Class 14. White or blush: First, second and third: D. S. Hyde with Pepite d'Or, Krinkled White, Pepite d'Or.

Class 15. Pink: First, second and third: D. S. Hyde with 3 Seashell.

Class 16. Red: First: M. C. Karrels, Imperial Red. Second and third: D. S. Hyde with 2 Arcturus.

Hybrids

Class 17. Any type or color. First: Mrs. Elizabeth Falk, Com-mando. Second: Mrs. Falk, Illini Belle. Third: M. C. Karrels, Red Charm.

Tree Peonies

Class 18. Any type or color: First, second and third: Frank Willming, Lincolnwood, Ill., with Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, Chromatella, and Souvenir de Maxime Cornu.

AMATEUR CLASSES

Class 19. 10 varieties, one bloom each.

First: D. G. Gorski, Chicago, with Kansas, La Lorraine, Marie

Crocuse, Mons. Jules Elie, Mrs. Edward Harding, Nick Shaylor, Rubio, Sarah Bernhardt, Therese, Victoire de la Marne.

Second: James Mason, Chicago, with Elsa Sass, Majestic, Minnie Shaylor, Monterey, Myrtle Gentry, Phcebe Cary, Ruth Elizabeth, Sistine, Souvenir de Louis Bigot.

Third: Dr. George H. Joost, De Kalb, Ill., with Judge Snook, Long-fellow, Loren Franklin, Margaret Lough, Matilda Lewis, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Livingston Far-rand, Primevere, Ruth Clay, Ruth Elizabeth.

Class 20. AMATEUR'S SPECI-AL. Five varieties, one bloom each, in one container. First: D. G. Gorski with Kansas, La Lorraine, Matilda Lewis, Nick Shaylor, Victoire de la Marne.

Second: Samuel E. Wissing, Lom-bard, Ill., with Florence Nicholls, Kansas, Kelway's Glorious, Martha Bulloch, Miss America.

Third: Dr. George H. Joost, with Gessekai, Golden Bracelet, Hana-kisoi, Isani Gidui, Shugyokuden.

SPECIMENS

ONE BLOOM

Double or Semi Double

Class 21. White or blush. First S. E. Wissing, Nick Shaylor. Sec-ond: D. G. Gorski, Nick Shaylor. Third, D. G. Gorski, Le Cygne.

Class 22. Pink. First: S. E. Wis-sing, President Wilson. Second: D. S. Hyde, Moonstone. Third: D. G. Gorski, Nancy Dolman.

Class 23. Red. First, second and third: D. G. Gorski, with Victoire de La Marne, Rubio and Victoire de la Marne.

Classes 24 ,25, 26, Japanese. No entries.

Class 27. SINGLES. Any color. First: D. S. Hyde, Pico. No second nor third.

Class 28. HYBRIDS. Any type or color. First, second and third: D. G. Gorski with Laura Magnuson, Challenger, Challenger.

SEEDLINGS

Class 29. Three blooms for each entry.

First Class Certificates awarded to:

Charles Klehm and Son, Arlington Heights, for No. 83-0-Q Rose type, full double, white to blush.

Mrs. Elizabeth Falk for A1A1, large, cupped, mahogany red single hybrid.

HONORABLE MENTION to:
Howard E. Wigell, Rockford, Ill. for No. 49 a Kelway's Glorious type full double white.

Mrs. Elizabeth Falk for No. B1B7. Large red with some blue. Japanese type hybrid.

COURT OF HONOR

Best Flowers

Grand Champion: Lotus Queen, D. S. Hyde.

Doubles

White or blush: Alice Harding, D. S. Hyde.

Light pink: Moonstone, D. S. Hyde.

Medium pink: Anne Bigger, D. S. Hyde.

Dark pink: Mme. Emile Debattene, D. S. Hyde.

Red: Kansas, D. S. Hyde.

Semi-Doubles

White or blush: Miss America, D. S. Hyde.

Pink: Rose Shaylor, D. S. Hyde.

Red: Chippewa, D. S. Hyde.

Japanese

White or blush: Lotus Queen, D. S. Hyde.

Red: Dignity, D. S. Hyde.

Singles

White or blush: Pico, D. S. Hyde.

Pink: Seashell, D. S. Hyde.

Red: Imperial Red, M. C. Karrels.

Hybrids

Double: Red Charm, M. C. Karrels.

Japanese: Prince Charming, Mrs. Elizabeth Falk.

Single: Great Lady, M. C. Karrels.

BEST AMATEUR FLOWER IN THE SHOW: Margaret Lough, D. S. Hyde.

BEST TREE PEONY: Souvenir de Maxime Cernu, Frank Willming.

Special Exhibit

Mr. Elmer A. Claar of Northfield, Ill., sent in a labelled collection of tree and hybrid herbaceous peonies that were outstanding. Some of these were used in the arrangements exhibited by Mrs. E. Rohde, who was in charge of the Arrangement Section. Mr. Claar is known as a peony exhibitor of long standing.

Commercial Exhibitors

Mrs. Elizabeth Falk, Plainfield, Illinois.

Charles Klehm and Son, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Mission Gardens, Techny, Illinois.

A. L. Murawska and Sons, River Grove, Illinois.

Flower Arrangement Section

Peonies to be featured in all arrangements. Other flowers and foliage permitted in all classes.

**THEME: A DAY WITH
M'LADY PEONY.**

SECTION I. M'LADY PEONY

Single type featured.

Class 30. M'Lady, white or blush.
First: None. Second: Mrs. D. S.
Hyde with LeJour.

Third: Jane Hyde with Krinkled
White.

Class 31. M'Lady, pink.

First: Mrs. E. Metschke with
Helen, Second: Mrs. H. J. Bluhm
with Helen.

Class 32. M'Lady, red. No first or
third. Second: Mrs. D. S. Hyde with
Harriet Olney.

"BUXOM MISS"

Semi-doubles featured.

Class 33. White or blush. First:
Mrs. D. S. Hyde with Miss Amer-
ica. Second: Mrs. A. Raymond with
Minnie Shaylor. Third: Mrs. J. D.
Koucky with Garden Princess.

Class 34. Pink. No entries.

Class 35. Red. First: Mrs. E.
Metschke with Red Goddess.

Second: Mrs. J. D. Koucky with
Chippewa.

"ORIENTAL LADY"

Japanese type featured.

Class 36. White or blush. First:
Mrs. A. Raymond with Toro-no-
maki. No second nor third.

Class 37. Pink. First: Mrs. H. C.
Peterson with Westerner. Second:
Mrs. D. Morgan with Jap Giant.

Class 38. Red. First: Mrs. E.
Metschke with Break o'Day. Sec-
ond: Mrs. H. C. Peterson with
Midnight Sun. Purple Award: Mrs.
E. Metschke with Break o'Day.

"M'LADY'S NEW LOOK"

Hybrids featured.

Class 39. First: Mrs. E. Met-
schke. No second. Third: Mrs. Eliz-
abeth Falk. Honorable Mentions:
Mrs. A. Raymond and F. Willming.

SECTION II

"THE QUEEN"

Any type peony may be used. Per-
iod Arrangement.

Class 40. First: James Mason.
Second: Mrs. J. Sills. Third: Mrs.
A. Raymond.

SECTION 41

Class 41. INVITATIONAL.

Guests who exhibited were: Mrs.
Evelyn Rohde, La Grange, Ill., who
had charge of the arrangement sec-
tion; Mrs. David Morgan, Western
Springs, Ill.; Mrs. Ruth Walpole,
Beverly Hills, Ill.; Mrs. James
Sills, Chicago.

There were twenty-three compe-
titive arrangements and fifteen in-
vitationals.

Reported by Mrs. D. Sanford
Hyde.

Rooting Peony Cuttings

I did not have much success root-
ing cuttings in sand this year. Was
away a couple of days in the spring.
Some wilted permanently, and oth-
ers got too many leaf spots. Some
started fine, but finished very
poorly. This is not surprising as
seedlings in sand often do the same.
This medium is easiest for all plants
that root quickly, but takes too
much attention with plants, more
difficult to root. However, I have
about five plants and believe
they are growing better than
the cuttings of other years. It would
be best to leave them undisturbed
until spring, and give them the best
chance to continue growth. The ones
from last year made a flurry of root
growth this spring but without
sending up stems. They disinte-
grated by fall.

Arthur E. Rigby
New Castle, Pa.

Letters From Correspondents

Charles M. Wild

The following extracts from a letter from Mr. Dale E. Wild will prove of interest to many of our readers:

"With reference to Charles M. Wild of Sarcoxie, who was a charter member and exhibited peonies in the first annual show of the American Peony Society, he was of the second generation of Wilds and a member of the firm of Sarcoxie Nurseries (Wild Bros. Nursery Co.) of Sarcoxie, Mo. He was an enthusiastic member of the Society, He and his brother, Arthur Wild, who is still active in the firm, exhibited peonies at a number of the Society's shows.

Mr. Arthur Wild was the introducer of Lillian Wild, Red Rocket and Ozark Beauty, all award winners in the 1950 American Peony Society Show at Sarcoxie.

Mr. Charles M. Wild died in November, 1947, and was my uncle. Since that time, I have taken his place in the office. I was previously in charge of our Landscape Department, having taken training in landscape engineering and design, graduating from the School of Agriculture at the University of Missouri in 1931."

Mr. Wild tells us also, in the same letter that the following are his best sellers and most popular among their customers, who see them on display at Sarcoxie each year: Felix Crousse, Karl Rosenfield, Festiva Maxima, Mons. Jules Elie, Mme. de Verneville, Ozark Beauty, Sarcoxie, Edulis Superba, Baroness Schroeder Myrtle Gentry, Minuet, Philippe Rivoire, Le Cygne, Lillian Wild,

Red Rocket, Sarah Bernhardt, Venus, Nippon Beauty, George W. Peyton, Hans P. Sass, The Mighty Mo, Isani Gidui, Ama-no-sode, Charm, Mrs. Wilder Bancroft, Krinkled White, Solange, Kansas.

While some of these varieties are now over forty years old, it is safe to say that in any popularity poll of members they will all rank high.

PEONY MAD

The following letter, quoted almost in full, portrays vividly how one of our new members became "peony-mad." Would there were more!

"It is with deep satisfaction that I receive my membership card in the American Peony Society.

Seven years ago, when I didn't know a peony from rhubarb, I acquired a house with four acres of beautifully landscaped ground. That first spring, you can imagine my delight and wonder, when, all around the border, there appeared hundreds of large blooms, which I found were peonies, some planted thirty years before by the original owner, the late Eugene Angert, who, incidentally, was the first president of the St. Louis Horticultural Society, these very grounds having been opened to the public each spring. At that time this was "country" and, in spite of the distance, 10,000 came each spring to see the beauty of the place.

Getting back to our first spring here, my wife says I then became "peony-mad," and since then, each spring, we have gone, either before or right after blossoming time here, to look at the peonies elsewhere. We

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Peonies In Oregon

Here is a letter from Oregon that gives us some of the best in that State.

In sending me my membership card to the American Peony Society, you requested me to send you a list of the varieties of peonies I think best.

I do not have many varieties planted and grow them only as a hobby. However, I am sending you a list that I like, all of which I now have. Perhaps as the years go by and I have had an opportunity to study these varieties, taken from more mature plants, I may change the order of my listing entirely.

In the whites I have not listed LeCygne because this variety does not open well with me, and I have been told by others in the Northwest that they have had the same trouble.

I have not differentiated between light and dark pink, but have grouped them together in the order that I think best.

It is very difficult to list these varieties in order of preference for so many of them are so nearly equal in excellence.

I have also listed my Japs without cognizance of color.

You asked me about tree peonies. I have about 45 plants, all of which are seedlings, ranging from two-leaf little plants to one plant fifteen years old. Mine are all singles and the older plants bloom beautifully. The fifteen year old plant puts out in the neighborhood of thirty blooms every spring. Out here, one must dust or spray with copper continuously in order to prevent wilt.

Sincerely,
H. M. Broadbent,
Salem, Oregon
Oct. 12, 1954

have three times, visited the wonderful acres of peonies of Mr. Edward Auten, jr., Princeville, Ill., a distance of more than two hundred miles, and closer, Mr. Harold Wolfe of Belleville, Ill., has been of tremendous inspiration, through his marvelous peonies we have become personal friends.

You ask about my favorite peonies! To me, each one is a delight, the old ones, Monsieur Jules Elie, Festiva Maxima, Primevere, etc. because of the pleasure they gave to countless thousands, and each of the scores of new ones I have added, have repaid me in personal pleasure and that of the friends who have come to see them. I cannot deny that some have given even more pleasure than others, though, and with heartfelt apologies to all our peonies, I will name some outstanding ones.

Chocolate Soldier is our deep, dark red breath-catcher. Other wonderful reds are John Harvard, Rose Marie, Bright Knight, Nevada, Veritas, Zulu Warrior.

In white, Moon of Nippon is sheer delight to see, as well as Krinkled White, White Perfection, Sistie.

For pink, Angelus has bloomed beautifully. Moonmist is a lovely, delicate crepe-paper pink. Nippon Gold is sunlight on pink satin.

In short I am glad I found such a happy hobby. I know, that even on bleak winter days to come, in my mind, I shall have spring with its dogwood and tulips, a lovely complement to the Peony.

Sincerely and happily your
New Member,

Elwin R. Smith.
Ladue, Missouri.
Sept. 22, 1954

Here is Mr. Broadbent's list:

White. Alesia, La Lorraine, Elsa Sass, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Kelway's Glorious, Odile, Joseph Christie, Frances Willard, Festiva Maxima, Baroness Schroeder.

Blush: Judge Snook, Marilla Beauty.

Pink: Hansina Brand, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ella Christiansen, Martha Bulloch, Blanche King, Mons. Jules Elie, Nick Shaylor, Sarah Bernhardt, Myrtle Gentry, Walter Faxon.

Red: Mary Brand, Philippe Rivore, Chocolate Soldier, Cherry Hill, Felix Crousse.

Japanese: Isani Gidui, Nippon Gold, Nippon Beauty, Charm, Neon, Shaylor's Sunburst, Instituteur Doriat, Mikado.

Best Hybrids To Plant

Here is a problem that I am sure, many of our members face, when they try to select from a long list, of the herbaceous hybrids, the varieties they would like to plant. Most people have limited funds to put into them and their cost is still high, owing to a scarcity of stock. Naturally they do not wish to spend ten or twenty or more dollars for a root and when it blooms, they find it inferior.

We have a few best lists of hybrids, but again we are faced with a problem, as not many have more than a half dozen or so of them and so the best are often selected from quited a limited list and may not be a good guide to the really best.

Here is the letter from Mr. Richard N. Maxwell of Middleton, Massachusetts.

"I have become interested, this fall, in adding quite a few herbaceous hybrids to my collection of

lactiflora varieties. The thought struck me, 'Would'nt it be nice if we had several growers of hybrids give a short list of their best hybrid varieties? The same as others have done with the *lactiflora* varieties. Not long lists, but just lists, say of ten or fifteen of their favorite varieties.

At present one has to buy a pig in a bag and pay good cash for good and mediocre kinds. At any rate if we had a list to go by, we could try and get some now and then. I am sure I am not the only one who would welcome a few lists of favorite hybrids and you probably know of those that have them and would be willing to make up a list of favorites.

Sincerely and thank you
Richard N. Maxwell,"
September 28, 1954

Peonies In New Mexico

You asked me to write you a few lines if I grew peonies way down here in New Mexico.

I do not grow them on a commercial basis, but certain varieties will grow and bloom here and I use some occasionally in my landscaping work.

The explanation is quite simple. Although we are only 100 miles from the Mexican border, our altitude is close to 4,500 feet. In winter we usually have freezing weather, at least at night, from Thanksgiving to the middle of February, so we have a reasonably long dormant season.

Herbaceous peonies commence showing by middle of March and the earliest, common varieties such as *Edulis Superba* are in full bloom by middle of April. Any varieties which are still in bud by May 1st,

will dry up as by that time the hot dessert winds bring the daytime temperatures up to 90 to 100 degrees.

Soil and shelter do of course change things a bit, but as far as I can judge, Therese seems to be the latest variety to give a proper performance.

In a modest way I am growing Tree peonies, mainly from one year grafts. They usually bud out by middle of February. The blooms are slow in opening up. For the last three years the first ones opened in full bloom on exactly the same day, namely April 4.

The herbaceous peonies seem to do well in the local stiff clay soil and as long as they are well watered through the summer they do not mind the low humidity and drying out winds. The tree peonies seem to require a much better soil with plenty of humus to retain soil moisture.

The New Mexico State College in a pamphlet on gardening has divided the State into no less than 10 different growing zones. I trust this will explain why I do not wish to comment on the rest of the State.

Sincerely yours,
A. C. Bothner-By
Alamogordo, N. Mex.

From about the first of September to date when answering communications from members, I have asked for lists of the varieties they considered best, in all classes, types and colors, including hybrids. Several hundred such requests were made, but few responded. Of the replies received a few are published here from widely scattered sections of the country, which will give some idea of how differently var-

ieties perform in different sections.

The first letter quoted below is from Mr. John A. Soule, Q. C. of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Best Peonies — Canada

"I have your request for a list of my favorite varieties. My city garden only gives me room for some 75 or 80 varieties from which to choose.

My favorites in the doubles are: Mrs. A. M. Brand, Nick Shaylor, Mary Auten, Sarah Bernhardt, Alice Harding, Le Cygne, Milton Hill, Therese, Philippe Rivoire, Florence Nicholls, and Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt.

In Japs I prefer Isani Gidui and Aureolin, and in singles, Josette and Pico.

All of these varieties bloom freely each season. My only criticism is with respect to Milton Hill and Aureolin. Milton Hill gives me 8 or 10 beautiful blooms, but the late buds brown off and fail to open in hot weather. To my mind a perfect bloom of Milton Hill is just about unbeatable. Aureolin blooms profusely, fading, however in the sun, but the bloom as it opens in the morning is of a most appealing pink. One could hardly expect such a beauty to last.

Yours very truly,
John A. Soule."
October 6, 1954.

Best Peonies — Alabama

The next letter is from as far South as peonies will grow and bloom satisfactorily. Mr. Ray L. Lange is the writer and the place is Birmingham, Alabama.

As suggested in your last communication I list in alphabetical order the peonies which during the past 25 years have performed the

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best for me here in Birmingham, viz:

Big Ben, Cherry Hill, Edulis Superba, Felix Crousse, Festiva Maxima, Gigantea, Kelway's Glorious, LeCygne, Le Jour, Mattie Lafuze, Marguerite Gerard, Mikado, Minnie Shaylor, Mons. Jules Elie, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Livingston Farrand, *Philippe Rivoire, Phyllis Kelway, Pride of Langport, *Primevere, Therese, Venus, *Walter Faxon, White Delight, Yellow King.

I do not have a full and complete list of the peonies which I have tried here and which have failed to do well. Neither have I tried to grow very many peonies, probably not more than two or three times the number listed above.

If you really want to get a better idea of what peonies will grow well in the northern part of Alabama, I suggest that you write Mr. Pope Long of Jasper, Alabama, who has been raising peonies extensively for, I guess, 50 years or more. His list will be longer, I am sure, than the above list and I am also sure that he has tried to grow most of the peonies here in Alabama at some time or another during his long lifetime. While Jasper, Alabama, is only 35 miles north of Birmingham, it is remarkable to observe how many more peonies will perform satisfactorily in the Jasper area than in the Birmingham area. For example, you will find Le Cygne listed above. It does not do too well in Birmingham, but just well enough to warrant growing it here. However, the last time I talked to Mr. Long, several years ago, he told me that Le Cygne was one of his best performers.

Another thing that might inter-

est you in reference to growing peonies on the southern borderline is this. Most roots do not get a sufficient amount of cold in the winter here to really do well. No peony will do well in this locality unless it is planted as shallow as possible, that is, unless the tips of the growth buds are even with the top of the soil. This is the only way in which the peony root can get a sufficient amount of cold. My experience has been that the colder the winter in Alabama the better the peonies the following spring are going to be. I have often flirted with the idea of experimenting with a few roots by buying ice and putting it over the roots, but I have never gotten around to this.

Trusting the foregoing will be of some benefit at least, I am,

Yours very truly,

R. L. Lange

* On second thought perhaps I should not have listed these peonies, as they probably do not do as well even as LeCygne. Some years they are allright.

Best Peonies — Minnesota

On our way to the Far West, we shall stop off at Royalton, Minnesota and quote what Dr. A. M. Watson of that town has to say about his five best:

"First in my garden, is Hansina Brand. It has everything. I have five plants from dividing one. They have been in the same spot for ten years. They are never diseased, always bloom and are so gorgeous, My No. 1 variety.

Second: Mons. Jules Elie, always good and healthy.

Third: Sarah Barnhardt, always good and healthy.

Fourth: Auguste Dessert, always good and healthy.

Fifth: Karl Rosenfield, my best red and I have many.

The above five are my best ones, though I raise about fifty varieties and about 200 plants.

Yours truly,
A. M. Watson, M. D."
Oct. 8, 1954.

Best Peonies — Washington

The next letter is from Mr. Roy L. Storm of Camas, Washington, which is in the extreme Southern part of the State near Portland, Oregon.

"It would be hard for me to say just which ones I thought best. One year will favor certain ones and it may be that the next year some other one will prove outstanding. It may be the season, weather or otherwise. Mainly, I think, care. My reds have not done so well as the pinks. Possibly on account of their being planted to the west of a Port-Orford Cedar hedge. I placed them there thinking that the hedge would protect them from the East wind as some years it is rather bad. The whites are next best to the pinks, I believe. Have some beautiful ones at times. Pinks are in front where I take better care of them. Probably get more petting and fussing with. This year they were fine excepting the rains spoiled them badly.

This year *Edulis Superba*, *Katherine Havemeyer* and *Martha Bulloch* were outstanding. *Festiva Maxima* and several others were fine. I think *Red Emperor* caused most comment when cut and placed in our office window. One lady wanted to know how I colored the edges of the petals. Thought I had put them in colored water.

I have three tree peonies and am

awaiting their blooming. Haven't done too well their first year.

Roy L. Storms
Sept. 24, 1954

Best Peonies For The Altar

The following letter is from the Northwestern part of Washington State, Bellingham. It explains itself:

"You request a list of those I think best.

I suppose mine is a large garden, but most of mine are raised for the altar, so they must be white or pink. I love the reds, but they cannot be seen as well, unless they have a light background. Mine is only an eight years' experience.

The best for my purpose:

White or blush: *Dr. J. H. Neeley*, *Sclange*, *Alice Harding*, *Krinkled White*. These come well every year. *Le Cygne* and *Kelway's Glorious* are washouts.

Light pink: *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Ella Lewis*, *Marietta Sisson*, *Minuet*. *Therese* is a washout, so is *Myrtle Gentry*.

Darker pink: *Martha Bulloch*. *Ella Christiansen* is a washout.

Red: *Kansas*, *Irwin Altman*, *Mary Brand* and most of the years, *W. E. Blanchette* and *Dr. John L. Crenshaw*. *Philippe Rivoire* is a washout.

For cutting for the house, two strange selections: *Laura Dessert*, and *Mrs. A. L. Auk*—don't remember its source. (We never heard of it. Ed.)

I have given away many and thrown away many and may do so with the hybrids, though they are good for foundation planting.

All the late bloomers did not do well this year, but my lilies were never better. No two gardens are the same every year—strange.

Of the tree peonies: Gessekai.

I would like to include Marilla Beauty, but it hasn't been around long enough. Mrs. J. V. Edlund was on my list, but failed for the first time this year.

I regret that fragrance is losing its appeal among peony lovers. If it were not for the fragrance it would not be favorite of my flowers. For me the Peony and the white *speciosum* lily win the honors, though I am just a tyro and an inexperienced judge.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Bernard Cremer.
Church of the Assumption,
Bellingham, Washington.
October 21, 1954.

Old Member—Bryants Nursery

Yes, so far as we know, this firm has been a member of the Society since it was first organized. I also would have no way of checking this, but the Society was quite a pet of my father's and I know that the membership has been kept up since his death on August 1, 1942, at the age of 73 years.

You ask that someone here write an article for the Bulletin telling of his connection with the Society, but neither my brother nor I know enough about his activities at that time to have sufficient information for such an article. The only thing we know is that Guy A. Bryant was present at the meeting when the Society was organized and was the first Vice-President of the Association.

Very truly yours,
Arthur Bryant & Sons
by Miles W. Bryant

Trials and Tribulations of An Amateur Gardener

Benjamin W. Guppy, Melrose, Mass.

This is an account of my so far unsuccessful efforts to develop a yellow peony but it may help other seekers down the same path.

Years and years ago, I read somewhere in the works of Luther Burbank that the way to produce a yellow flower was to cross two white ones of the same species. The theory being that since white is a combination of all colors the latent yellow in the two parents will unite in some of the offspring and yellow flowers will result. I immediately sat up and took notice. I had several white peonies in my collection with double pistillate flowers, but none with stamens to furnish the necessary pollen. To remedy this deficiency, I purchased a root of Dessert's La Fiancee, a beautiful single white.

Thereafter my annual seed bed usually contained seeds of La Fiancee crossed with such of the double whites as were receptive and seeds of LaFiancee self fertilized. To date none of the plants raised from these seeds have born yellow flowers. I do not wish to contradict Mr. Burbank's statement so we will assume that I have not raised a sufficiently large number of seedlings of the white by white cross to obtain the desired result.

A few years ago I heard about that yellow peony with the jaw breaking name Mlokozewitschi so I bought a plant and started off on a new track. This plant was used as a pollen parent. The plant used for the seed parent was the pistillate albiflora variety Primevere. The reason for this choice is best told by giving verbatim a description of the flower taken from the catalog of a well known firm of

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nurserymen.

"Primevere 8.6 Outer petals deep cream color with center deep sulphur yellow. This and Laura Desert are the two best yellow peonies. Midseason." This is the principle reason for using these two varieties for making the cross. Another important one is that both the varieties have the same chromosome number 10. This is a pretty good indication that the offspring will be fertile so that second generation plants can be raised and in this case I have found it to be true.

The cross was successfully made in 1948 and 1949 and then Mr. Moloko etc. etc. could no longer stand up to the New England climate. I hope his lack of hardiness will not be transmitted to his progeny but that is something that time alone can tell. So why worry?

The 1948 cross produced three plants which were moved to Melrose in the fall of 1951. The 1949 cross was disappointing. Every seed sprouted in 1950. However they did not reappear in '51. There were not even the signs of any of the roots in the seed bed. I do not understand it. So I have just three plants of the cross Primevere by Mloko etc. etc., to carry on my experiments. These plants look like three divisions of one root but they are three individual plants. Bushy plants with typical albiflora foliage, stems, average twenty-one inches long, single medium size pink flowers of a pleasing color. Two blooms appeared in 1952. These were bagged, cross fertilized at the proper time and rebagged. A day or so later I found that one of these plants had been pulled out of the ground and thrown back on the bed and the other one had the stem cut through just below the bag. Prompt replacing of plant that had

been pulled up with a drastic pruning of foliage and frequent waterings saved it, but I lost a year.

Seeds of the F2 crosses were raised and planted in 1953 and 1954. Some of the 1953 seeds germinated in spring of '54.

I am now waiting to see what these second generation seedlings will produce, putting my hopes on Mr. Mendel and his theory, but I may be disappointed. I generally am.

SECOND DISTRICT REGIONAL SHOW

A Regional Show (II District) of the American Peony Society was held in conjunction with the Annual Flower Show of the Sussex Garden Club at the Baptist Church in Sussex, N. J., on June 12th, 1954.

Taking top awards in the Court of Honor was Elsa Sass as the best White Double, entered by Jacob Rodimer of Newton, N. J.; Dorothy J. as the best Pink Double and also Grand Champion of the Court of Honor, entered by Mrs. John Losey of Newton, N. J., Kansas as the best Red Double, entered by Mrs. Jacob Tanis of Augusta, N. J., Miss America as the best Semi-double entered by Mrs. Jacob Rodimer of Newton, N. J., and Dancing Nymph as the best Single, entered by Mrs. Jacob Rodimer. Minuet was the Popularity Queen and was entered by Mrs. Jacob Tanis of Augusta, N. J.

Adding much to the beauty of the show was a display of various types of peonies set up by Mr. and Mrs. Neal R. van Loon of Newton, N. J. Frank Howell of Newton, N. J. also had on display some of his choice blooms. The peony specimens were judged by Louis Smirnow.

Reported by
Mrs. Harold Garris

Charles F. Wassenberg — 1875-1954

With the death of Charles F. Wassenberg, the Society has lost one of its oldest members and also one who served it long and well in many capacities.

According to the records, he joined the Society in 1917 as his name is first listed in the membership list in Oct. 1917.

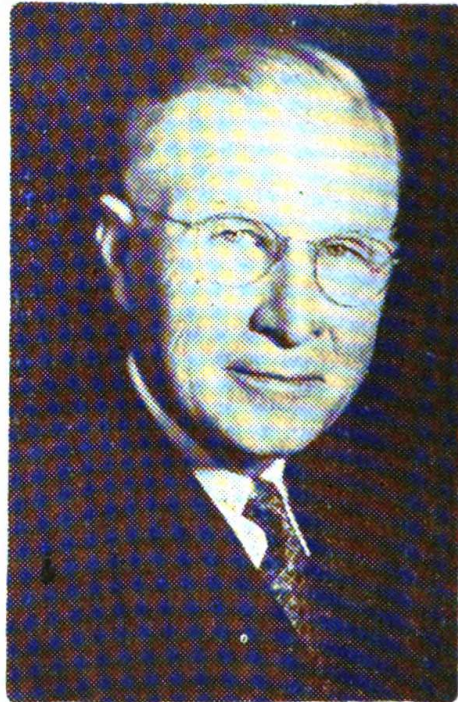
His first advertisement in the Bulletin appeared in May, 1921. It has been there ever since.

He was elected a director in 1928 to replace Mr. Ward Welsh who had recently died. He has been one ever since. He became Vice-president in June, 1934 and President in June 1936, serving two years in each office. On his retirement from the presidency, in 1938, he was elected Treasurer in place of Mr. W. W. Cook who was elevated to the presidency at that time. This office he relinquished when Mr. Cook again assumed it when he had served two years as president.

For many years he was rarely absent from a meeting, but lately his health had not been good and he had been obliged to give up his regular attendance. The last meeting at which he was present was in Cleveland in 1951.

While it has not been definitely decided what will become of his extensive gardens of peonies, iris and hemerocallis, they will be carried on for the present at least, under the management of Mr. Richard Miller, who has been in charge since the illness of Mr. Wassenberg.

His list of varieties of all of these flowers is a long one, and his gar-



CHARLES F. WASSENBERG

den has become the only source of many of the older ones.

While the only variety he has ever registered is the pink Japanese type, Vera Wassenberg, yet he has a white Jap, Bu-te which will probably take its place as one of the finest of all white Japs.

He has been the chief disseminator of the varieties of the late Mr. B. B. Wright of Iowa and also of many of the French originations of Doriat.

An account of his life is published herewith, taken from the Van Wert Times-Bulletin and the Toledo Blade.

Secretary
(We are indebted to the Van Wert Times-Bulletin for the picture presented of Mr. Wassenberg.)

(Times-Bulletin, Oct. 1, 1954)

Charles F. Wassenberg, one of the men who made Van Wert famous as a peony center, died at 9:08

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this morning at the Van Wert County Hospital. He was 80.

Pneumonia which developed yesterday was the immediate cause of death. He had been a patient at the hospital since last Sunday morning after he was found on the floor of his garden seed house.

Funeral services were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church with the pastor, Rev. L. David Miller, officiating. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery.

The decedent was born February 13, 1875, at Canal Dover, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Wassenberg,

He is survived by a sister, Miss Mae Wassenberg, 720 Elm Street, with whom he lived during his illness.

Mr. Wassenberg begun his business career with the G. M. Hall Drygoods Store in Van Wert and for years he was a partner with the late Charles Balyeat in the B & W retail clothing store, but was best known, here and nationally, as a grower of fine flowers.

He was past president of the American Peony Society and active in a similar organization of iris growers.

He began growing flowers as a hobby. Along with a couple of neighbors, L. J. Germann and Lee R. Bonnewitz, he became especially interested in fine peonies. All three men 35 years ago started gardens which were developed commercially.

They were followed by Harry T. Beckmann and other local flower enthusiasts until Van Wert became known throughout the United States as the place to buy the best varieties of peonies, irises and Oriental poppies.

Based on this reputation, the Van Wert Peony Festival was started and for several years prior

to World War II brought crowds estimated as high as 100,000 to the June event.

Mr. Wassenberg first developed his garden on several acres of ground back of his 643 South Washington Street home. Beautified by a pool and pergola, plus thousands of bright flowers, it was visited by crowds of people from a wide area.

Later the commercial business developed to such an extent he bought a farm on the East Lincoln Highway and established the Wassenberg Gardens.

Here Mr. Wassenberg grew several hundred varieties of peonies and other flowers, including new varieties developed by him. He issued an annual catalog and shipped flower roots throughout the United States.

"Karl," as he was generally known, attended school here and was married to Vera Woodruff who died February 21, 1953.

He was a member of the committee in charge of planning and erecting the St. Mark's Lutheran Church building, served on the church council and was one of the devout members of the congregation.

During his years in business here he aided in the development of the community and its organizations in many ways. He was a 50-year member of the Masonic lodge, one of the founders of the Rotary and other civic and social organizations.

He was past president of the Van Wert County Foundation and sponsored a publicity program for this endowment fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Wassenberg both liked art and studied painting here and abroad. They were in Europe on such a mission at the outbreak of World War I.

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FROM TOLEDO BLADE

Van Wert, Ohio, Oct. 22—The bulk of the estate estimated to be worth \$250,000, left by a noted Van Wert Peony grower, has been bequeathed to the Van Wert County Foundation.

The will of the late Charles F. Wassenberg was filed in Probate Court here yesterday. Purpose of the bequest of the Foundation is to establish a fund, bearing Mr. Wassenberg's name, to assist students studying sculpture and architecture and to provide prizes for art students whose work is shown in exhibits in Ohio and neighboring states.

Included in the property going to the Foundation is the Wassenberg residence. Mr. Wassenberg recommended to the Foundation that it become an historical museum.

Stamp Collection

One-half of a valuable stamp collection is to go to the Marsh Foundation which operates a private school here. The other half is to go to Osterlin Home for Children operated by the Lutheran Church at Springfield.

A \$5,000 bequest was made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Van Wert. Provision also was made for the lifetime care of Mr. Wassenberg's sister, Miss Mae Wassenberg.

Established in 1925

The Van Wert County Foundation was established in 1925 to receive bequests for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Wassenberg's bequest is the second sizable one to the Foundation. Another from the estate of G. M. Saltzgeber now is worth \$142,000. It is used for the promotion of music in the community.

Robert Koch and J. P. Bailey, both of Van Wert, are executors of the Wassenberg estate.

OWEN FINED \$17,000

In a United States District court, Springfield, Ill., James W. Owen Bloomington, who was convicted August 6 of using the mails to defraud, on August 25 was sentenced to one year in a federal jail and fined \$17,000. The fraudulent operator had been found guilty on 17 counts, each of which carried a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine. The prosecution dropped three counts against him during a 6-week trial. The convicted man's defense attorney moved to set aside the judgement and to ask for a new trial. The motions were to be heard September 2.

Judge Charles G. Briggie, who tried the case, found that the defendant had defrauded customers by misrepresenting his products in his advertisements and shipping inferior wares when he had obtained orders. In sentencing the convicted man, the judge said that a penalty that consisted only of levying a fine "would be little more than a slap on the wrist." The assistant United States attorney who argued the government's case in court had asked for a severe penalty so that the public confidence in government could be maintained and free enterprise protected. The prosecuting attorney said that about 2,500 letters of complaint had been received by the government from Owen's dissatisfied customers.

A change in the name of the James W. Owen nursery was indicated by a certificate of business ownership on file Tuesday in the McLean County clerk's office.

The new name listed on the certificate is the House of Wesley. The company previously operated under the names of Owen's Nursery,

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Reuben L. Oberlin — 1888-1954

Mr. Oberlin, the owner of Oberlin Peony Gardens of Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, died suddenly the last week in September.

He was born in Sinking Spring, Berks County, Penna., on March 28, 1888 in the homestead which is now a part of the Oberlin Peony Gardens, he was educated in the public schools of Sinking Spring. He devoted his entire life from an early age, under his father's supervision, to the growing of tree and herbaceous peonies, and at no time was he engaged in any other enterprise.

We believe he enjoyed the reputation of being one of the outstanding growers of tree peonies in the Eastern States, and his reputation has long been established in the peony business.

The Gardens have passed into the hands of a niece of Mr. Oberlin's, and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Morris James, 936 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. What

will be their future we do not know.

We find the following varieties of tree peonies listed in their catalog as being originations of Mr. Oberlin:

Albert Crousse, (no date), large, double, flesh pink, similar to the herbaceous peony, Albert Crousse, in color and shape.

Nira, (1934), Large, extremely double, light salmon rose. A fine variety and a good bloomer.

Panama (1920), large, semi-double, brilliant salmon rose with central cushion of gold anthers. Profuse bloomer.

Salmon Perfection (1922), large, semi-double, brilliant salmon-rose, with central cushion of golden anthers. Profuse bloomer. Erect and attractive. Light green foliage.

T. J. Oberlin (1944), semi-double, brilliant rose red, the color of Felix Crousse. Produces blooms in profusion on strong upright stems. Robust plant.

James Owen Nursery, Marie Kruse Nursery, Marie Kruse Enterprises and Bob Richard Nursery.

Mr. Owen was the only signer of the ownership certificate. The business address was listed as 2200 E. Oakland Ave.

Editor's Note: For the first chapter of the story told above see the article "WARNING" published in the September Bulletin, 1954.

The first of the above articles was taken from the Florists' Review of September 2, 1954 and the second from a clipping sent us by one of our members. The paper could not be identified, but was evidently, taken from either a Peoria, Illinois, or McLean County, Illinois, newspaper.

SOME REMINDERS

At the last annual meeting of the Board of Directors, it was voted to change the wording of the various Medal Classes as follows: The Gold Medal Class will now read: Collection of fifty different named varieties, one bloom of each and each shown in a separate container, of which 60 per cent or more must be doubles or semi-doubles. The Silver Medal Class will be a definite 25 varieties and the Bronze Medal Class ten varieties, all other conditions to be the same as the Gold Medal Class.

It should also be noted that hybrid peonies will be admitted in all classes and also that it was recommended that the special hybrid classes should be continued to which only hybrids will be admitted.

Fifth District Reporting

The Fifth District picked a beautiful day to hold its Fall meeting on Nov. 21, 1954. Thirty-one members the wives and friends, met at the Colonial Hotel at Lake Delavan, Wisconsin, for a delicious roast-beef dinner. After this sumptuous repast there were all-round introductions and then the door prize of a Doris Cooper was brought out. The members found their numbers on the leaf part of a paper peony pinned on them as a name tag. Mrs. Paul Sbonik of Milwaukee was the lucky winner. Mr. Sbonik had wanted No. 13—but then Mrs. Sbonik's number was twice that, No. 26.

The group left the dining room to meet for business.

The agenda called for the election of a President and Sec.-Treasurer of the Fifth District. This was cut short with a motion and a second to it that a unanimous ballot be cast for Dr. Hyde to continue as president, and Mrs. Hyde as Sec.-Treasurer. This motion was carried. The Fifth District board of directors to be Mr. Gayle, Mr. Karrels, Mr. Mason and Mr. Tikalsky.

Dr. Hyde then brought up the question of a site for the National Show. In asking for a vote, it was voted to be held in Chicago. Of course, we all know Garfield Park Conservatory is an ideal place as far as finances, physical set-up and service to the society staging the show. But we also know (from experience) that flowers, of any variety cannot take the heat of a kind that the conservatory can put out. At present, preliminary negotiations are already well advanced, indicating assurance of a good show in a good setting and air-conditioned.

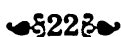
Roy Gayle was appointed chairman of the schedule committee and Mr. Gorski and Mr. Wissing in charge of properties. Mr. Christman brought us the information that a solid gold medal is being cast to be presented by a member of the Society, to one of the Hybrids. It wasn't definite as to whether this was to be a seedling or the best in the show. This led to the discussion of classes for hybrids and chinensis peonies. The majority of members desired the hybrids be kept in expanded hybrid classes until such time as an increased number of entries justify departure from our usual schedules, and or that every schedule should cover the matter specifically.

In the letter announcing the meeting it was suggested that if any member had a sought-for peony root or one artistically divided that it be brought to the meeting for auction in order to increase the treasury. We are indebted to Brother Charles, Mr. Fay, Dr. Hyde, Mr. Karrels, Mr. Klehm, Mr. Lange, Mr. Murawska and Mr. Mysyk for a donation of some of the most beautiful roots ever seen. The auction was considered a success to the tune of two hundred and twenty-five dollars; a good tune in any key. Mr. Shumway of Rockford donated ten dollars in the interest of our coming show.

The meeting adjourned with a feeling of warmth, good fellowship, humor and cooperation toward each and every member there.

Until our next meeting,
Respectfully submitted,

Hertha L. Hyde.
Secretary, 5th District



I'll Choose Peonies . . . !

Under the above title, an article was published in the magazine *Lifetime Living* for May, 1954. In this entertaining and instructive article by Mr. John Burton Brimer, there was mentioned a list of 48 varieties, compiled by Mr. Brimer. Here is this list and an excellent one it is:

SIXTEEN CHOICE TREE PEONIES

Japanese Varieties

Gessekai, Best Japanese white, huge.

Imachowkow, Sulphur white, flat, rare.

Rimpo, Purplish, medium double, large.

Shugyokuden, Scarlet crimson, double, rare.

Ubatama, Dark red, incurving petals, large.

Yae Zakura, Soft cherry pink, double.

European Varieties

Bijou de Chusan, Best European white.

Jeanne d'Arc, Flushed salmon pink, double.

Reine Elizabeth, Rosy salmon, best European pink.

Souvenir de Ducher, Large double, amaranth-red.

Lutea Hybrids (yellow strain)

Alice Harding, Pure yellow, ball shape, double, very fragrant. Rare.

Chromatella, Pure sulphur yellow.

Flambeau, Large double, salmon red, veined with amaranth-red.

L'Esperance, Clear primrose-yellow, fragrant.

Satin Rouge, Satiny blood red, fragrant, large

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, Deep yellow, orange-salmon shading, very double, very fragrant.

THIRTY OUTSTANDING

HERBACEOUS PEONIES

CODE: s-single, d-double, sd-semi-double, J-Japanese, ve-very early, e-early, m-midseason, l-late.

WHITE

type	name	rating	season
s	Krinkled White	9.04	lm
s	White Perfection	9.18	m
J	Isani-Gidui	9.3	m
J	Roberta	-	l
sd	Aerie	-	em
sd	Mildred May	-	m
sd	Titania	-	lm
d	Festiva Maxima	9.3	e
d	Kelway's Glorious	9.56	em
d	Evening Star	9.50	l

PINK

s	Helen	9.0	ve
s	Sea Shell	-	m
J	Nippon Gold	9.02	l
J	Ama-No-Sode	9.2	m
sd	Mrs. Deane Funk	9.05	em
sd	Coral Isle	-	l
sd	Phyllis Kelway	9.0	m
d	Therese	9.54	e
d	Mons. Jules Elie	9.2	em
d	Martha Bulloch	9.1	l
J	Kukeni-jishi	9.5	em

RED

s	Arcturus	9.30	ve
s	Kickapoo	9.17	l
J	Mrs. Wilder Bancroft	9.08	e
sd	Rosalie	8.78	m
sd	Tempest	-	lm
d	Pierre Dessert	-	e
d	Richard Carvel	8.8	e
d	Mons. Martin Cahuzac	8.8	m
d	Philippe Rivoire	9.2	lm

Superior Garden Club Show

Superior Wisconsin, July 13, 1954

As Superior was celebrating its centennial year we decided to use the centennial theme. Members wore old fashioned dresses at meetings, and during the show.

The morning of the 13th found 27 exhibitors with 65 varieties of gorgeous blooms hurrying to have their specimens ready for judging at 12 o'clock noon by Mrs. W. A. Swanman and Mrs. Oscar Anderson of Duluth. 80 entries.

Again this year our prizes were 54 choice peony roots.

The artistic, miniature, and driftwood arrangements, with and without peonies, were judged by Mrs. Walter Salmio and Mrs. Walter Fagen of Duluth. Each year we all learn more about color, size of blooms and containers and arrangements for more beautiful home decorations.

We featured one table of colonial bouquets in antique, or old containers, it was a most beautiful display of garden flowers.

Our shadow box arrangement was pink peonies from a very old unnamed variety with coral bells in a soft green pitcher—vase and background. Chairman of this committee, Mrs. Charles Lund.

In an old fashioned sitting room with antique furniture, lamp, Bible table with Bible, album, and pictures, stood a model wearing a dress and bonnet, over one hundred years old.

R. F. Koby took sweepstakes with 46 points. Mrs. D. J. Wheaton second with 29 points.

The Court of Honor

Best light pink, R. F. Koby.

Medium pink: Sarah Bernhardt, R. F. Koby.

Dark pink: Pres. F. D. Roosevelt, R. F. Koby.

White: Mrs. J. V. Edlund, R. F. Koby.

White single: Krinkled White, R. F. Koby.

Red: Philippe Rivoire, Mrs. S. McLaggan.

Red Jap: Nippon Beauty, Mrs. D. J. Wheaton.

Club Members Only

Red Jap: Charm, single specimen, Mrs. Carl Sandberg.

Mixed flowers without peonies in colonial class, Mrs. H. Juneau.

Peonies only, artistic arrangement, Mr. E. Elmgreen.

Miniature arrangement, Mrs. D. J. Wheaton.

Floral with driftwood, Mrs. Carl Hedenblad.

The winners will soon be planted in their prize roots, and looking forward to the time they will enter them in future shows.

Mrs. Charles Peterson, Chairman
Mrs. Claire Fall, co-chairman
Mrs. E. Eisenmann, sec-treas.

Reported by

Mrs. Charles Peterson

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. J. W. Bernstein, 4900 South 48th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mrs. William A. Brown, 716 Suffolk Street, Birmingham, Michigan.

Kermit D. Herr, 123 South Lawn Avenue, Bluffton, Ohio.

Charles A. Landis, 474 South Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.

W. H. H. Schaefer, 6007 Pershing, St. Louis 12, Missouri.

Oliver M. Stonehouse, 1008 Windermere Road, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Leon J. Walton, 713 Shenandoah Building, Roanoke, Virginia.

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H A P P I N E S S

By Edgar A. Guest

He builded his happiness out of these:

Birds and blossoms and friendly trees,

Books that stood on a little shelf,
Three or four neighbors, much like himself,

The wife and children who bore his name

And asked no favors from wealth or fame.

He found delight in his garden plot,

Knew marigold and forget-me-not;
He walked the hills, and he fished the streams,

With friends he trusted he shared his dreams.

He was sometimes merry and sometimes sad,

But he made the most of what joys he had.

He found his thrills in the lesser things,

The joy a *blossoming peony* brings;
The merry songs and the kindly mirth

Of the gentle women and men of earth.

He thanked his God for the right to live,

And he never asked more than life could give.

Seekers for happiness wander far,
And oh! how jaded and tired they are,

Forever pursuing the strange new thrill

They never have caught and never will!

But he found friendship and flowers and trees,

And builded his happiness out of these.

Sent in by

L. S. Craig, Salix, Iowa
From the book "A Heap o' Living,"
published by the Reilly and Britton
Co., in 1916.

LURE OF THE PEONY

Sent in by Lawrence E. Craig
Salix, Iowa

From an old price list of Morningside Nurseries, Sioux City, Iowa, I find the following:

"The 'Lure of the peony' will overtake you, if you will only plant them, as it has many a garden lover and particularly Mr. C. S. Harrison, a pioneer horticulturist of Nebraska, who wrote the following to some of his flower friends.

" 'IF YOU should receive the announcement that you were to have a visit from thousands and thousands of the best dressed and most beautiful visitors that ever came to earth you would naturally feel like taking a vacation and enjoying such delightful companionship. I am a busy man, but there is no resisting the lure of all this bewitching loveliness.

They have come, the advance guard, the great masses of dazzling splendor; the rear guard, strong full orbed and stately, will shortly bring up the last of the procession.

Who am I that I should have this army? An old man laid aside from professional work, broken in health, yet I secured a somber piece of weedy ground, planted those unsightly roots gathered from various portions of Europe and America, and so secured this harvest of delight. Why should I be so highly honored and treated like a God? Thousands of the most gorgeous are putting themselves on dress parade. They vie with each other to see which can make the most alluring and winsome appearance. Such a trousseau no bride ever wore.

Whence came all these tints of woven splendor which go into this

❧525❧

rich carpet of Gems, the wonder of the world, where rubies, emeralds, sapphires and diamonds, yea, all the unfading flowers of earth's under garden, are mingled in a fabric which shimmers, flashes and blazes in the sunshine. But that gem of gems costs millions. It is made of dead flowers which cannot breathe and which gives out no fragrance. My garden of gems is alive. Its beauty does not last as long, but it is mine, and while it lasts I am a millionaire. These acres are my bouquet.

Whence did they derive these rich perfumes? The mingling of the rose and the violet, the pond lily and the heliotrope, the hinting of cinnamon and the spices. Up from the masses there rise viewless clouds of incense which float above and wander away in the distant air, then sweep earthward so that you wade in billows of aroma.

Whence came all this rich coloring—as if the tints had been taken from the sunsets and the mantles from the stars, all woven by deft and unseen fingers into these forms of entrancing loveliness?

Reverently I stand in this imperial presence. Instinctively I say, "How precious are Thy thoughts unto me, O GOD; how great is the sum of them." All these radiant forms are the revelation of the love of the Father, interpreters of His thoughts, profits of our own resplendent future.

My garden teaches this lesson. How much the Great Florist would do for His children if they would only give Him a chance. This was His opportunity and He took it. His oldest daughter, good Mother Nature, was on hand to work with me and evolve the plans of God. How much she would do for us if

we would only help. What possibilities all around us. Above us Divine ideals waiting for a chance to alight and glorify the earth.

Come around to these rows. These plants are mine. I grew them from seed. See this one with lovely soft velvety petals of pink; see that one of purest white; look at that one robed in dazzling red with heart of gold. How happy and cheerful they look. They are mine. My eyes first saw them. And back in the unknown are other masses of undiscovered loveliness waiting your beck and mine. Sometimes it seems as if they would break open the gates and floor us with a glory yet unseen.

Who would live in desolation when he might live in fairyland, where Nature and all her unseen forces will work day and night to lavish on him her choicest treasures? Plant in masses. Match God's great out-of-doors with abundance. Don't be stingy when a little will bring so much. Open all gates and let the beauty of an earthly Elysium settle around you.

If you have only a small city lot, beautify that and give a kind Providence a chance to smile on you through the countenances of your flowers.

Get Peonies, the most gorgeous flowers on earth; plant in masses, and have a splendid carpet of loveliness fit for the touch of angel's feet. Don't be stingy with the front yard. A fine house in a neglected yard is like a thousand dollar picture in a ten-cent frame. Plant abundance and do not depend on two or three flowers to glorify a whole lawn. Beauty is wealth; raise a crop of it and be rich. Let us get a combination and fix up the home so it will be a blessed memory in after years. The home is not a ken-

nel, a stable, a sty or a barn. It is a dwelling place for immortals, who stand on the borders of the eternal beauty, where the stars are planted in the vast flower gardens of the Father.

If you have beautiful grounds, adorn them with abundance of flowers. You will have your children associated with the most charming companions, and they will have their influence. Your boys will not be boors, but gentlemen; your girls will have lives moulded by the pure and the beautiful."

NOTE: Rev. C. S. Harrison of York, Nebraska, was one of our oldest and most enthusiastic members for many years. He died long ago, but in this our Fiftieth Year, we are glad to have this article from his pen and we thank Mr. Craig for sending it to us. Mr. Harrison published several editions of a Peony Manual, and we have a copy of one of them. It is interesting reading and we may publish excerpts from it in a future Bulletin.

—Editor

BEST 100 PEONIES

The March issue will also carry this list, if we are successful in getting in the lists from members in time to compile them. So far few have been sent in. We should like for every member to send in a list of the varieties he or she considers best. Name as many as you like and list them somewhat in order of preference, if possible. Include all kinds and types hybrids as well as regular, and, if you grow any tree peonies, list them separately. We should have these lists by about January 15 at latest if we are to get the list done in time for the March issue.

Secretary's Notes

This issue of the Bulletin will be small, due to the fact that we plan to have one or two issues in 1955 extra large and also somewhat to the fact that few articles for publication have been sent in by our members.

The Fifty-First Annual Meeting

The 51st Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be held somewhere in the Chicago area. This has been definitely decided. We think, that, if the season is favorable, it will be an outstanding show from every point of view. There are many growers of fine peonies, both amateur and commercial, in that area and many from a distance can also make excellent exhibits, if they feel so inclined. The quality should be of the best, if the Weather Man is good to them, and the quantity of both new and old should be all that could be desired. Hybrids are grown in large numbers near by and far enough North so that they should be evident in abundance. Tree peonies can also be shown, though in smaller quantities possibly than we might like.

The date of the show has not yet been set, but it will probably be about June 11 or a little later. The March Bulletin will carry as full information as may be available at the time it goes to press.

A New Check List Of Peonies

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Gist of Amarillo, Texas, whose enthusiasm for the Peony is well known to all of us, have prepared a Check List of all herbaceous peonies whose names they could find in the Bulletins, Manual, Handbook and catalogues which they could obtain. The list

contains approximately 2,500 names. They have listed them alphabetically and have given the originator, the year of introduction, the type, color and source from which they obtained the name. This has been a long and tedious task and they have given the greater part of the summer and fall months to its compilation. Truly a labor of love.

It is the intention of the Society to publish this list. It has not yet been decided in what form it should be issued whether as an issue of the Bulletin or a supplement to it, or as a separate publication or combined with a new handbook.

It will also have to be decided what shall be contained in it. It might be wise to add the time of flowering, the height, the size of flower, and, if we ever expect to have another symposium, the new ratings, though to do this last, the publication of the list might be almost indefinitely delayed. It would save the cost of a new rating list. We, personally, should like to see it published either as the June, 1955, issue of the Bulletin or as its supplement.

All these questions will have to be settled by the Directors. We should like to have an expression of opinion on the above questions from every director and also from any other member of the Society who may wish to express an opinion.

We may also mention that Mr. and Mrs. Gist and Mr. and Mrs. Allen J. Wild drove all the way from their homes to Rapidan to bring this Check List and talk about it. They arrived in the midst of a storm of rain and snow on Election Day. However disagreeable the weather may have been, their visit, which was all too short, was certainly a great pleasure and joy to me.

In order that this check list

should be as complete as possible we need a list of all varieties each commercial grower carries. Please send us your list as soon as possible.

A Coming Article on Tree Peonies

In the January issue of the National Horticultural Magazine, published by the American Horticultural Society, a comprehensive article on Tree Peonies will be published. Its co-authors will be Dr. John C. Wister of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Harold E. Wolfe of Belleville, Illinois, both authorities of the highest rank on Tree Peonies. The article will be approximately 64 pages in length. Their page is somewhat larger than the Bulletin page.

We hope that some arrangement of the Society with this member may be made to supply each article free of charge.

If this is done it will be issued as a supplement to our regular March 1955 Bulletin if allowable under the Postal Laws and Regulations. If this cannot be done it will be sent as 3rd class mail. It will be mailed only to members in good standing.

The Board of Directors will decide what can be done. Its price to the public will be one dollar.

How did Peonies Stand the Drought

Having seen roots from many sections that suffered the severe drought of last summer, and in some instances of two or more summers, it would seem as if they have come through with little permanent damage. There has been little new root growth. This has resulted in more holes evident in the crowns from the rotting of the old stems, which is natural and does no damage, though it does injure its appearance. The eyes, while fewer in number than they would have been had there been moisture, are often

larger than usual, which would seem to indicate that the flowers will be extra fine next year, if the drought conditions do not continue.

Most of the drought stricken areas seem to have had good fall rains, in some cases far above normal, which have done untold good and insure the roots going into winter quarters with abundant moisture. In my own garden, even the smaller roots have survived, though with little increase in size. Tree Peonies seem to have suffered more than the herbaceous.

A Lifetime With Peonies

Under this title, an article was published in the August, 1954, issue of Horticulture by Louise Brownell Saunders, the wife of the late Prof. A. P. Saunders, which is an account of their interest in peonies throughout their lives. It is intimately and interestingly written and will prove a joy to read by all who may be able to see it.

1954 Peony Season

The 1954 peony season in the Chicago area was a combination of frustration and delight.

Due to the exceedingly dry fall and winter, many of the plants failed to set their eyes. Especially the younger ones whose roots had not penetrated deep enough to reach

moisture. Even some older plants failed to get moisture enough and consequently the blooms were fewer and not as large as usual.

The late spring and cold nights during May and early June kept buds from maturing normally and when the weather switched to record breaking heat with some heavy rains, the buds were forced and produced inferior blooms.

However, on the brighter side, some did manage to produce some fine blooms.

My best flower, for the second consecutive year, was Ethel Mars,.

This is a fine addition to our good white doubles, and from my experience I consider it a definite improvement on its parent, Kelsey's Glorious.

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt was very good as was Moonstone and Nick Shaylor.

Blanche King and Mme. Emile Debatene were fine.

My best red was Matilda Lewis. Chippewa was very fine and is one to keep an eye on. It seems to be gaining in popularity. Art Murawska tells me there is a big demand for it. It is a very attractive flower in the garden. A rich red that holds its color in the sun. A fine upright grower and free bloomer.

Among the Japs, Lotus Queen was a standout, with Ama-no-sode

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and Dignity best in pink and red.

Murawska has a new red Jap named Midnight Sun. Very dark red with red staminodes, yellow edged. Fine upright plant and a large bloom, though not quite as large as Dignity. Looks promising.

Art had considerable damage from the weather as most of us likewise experienced.

First drought and unseasonable cold. Then rains of cloud burst in-

tensity which flooded many peony gardens for days at a time; then intense heat and humidity.

The District Five Show at Garfield Park Conservatory was quite a success and brought out many fine blooms in spite of adverse weather conditions.

The season may be summed up as rather freakish from a weather standpoint and limited to about ten days in length. E. C. Bills

1955 Membership Dues

Our members are reminded that their dues for the year 1955 are due January 1, 1955. We hope they will remit promptly without waiting for a regular statement to be sent them. Five dollars is the amount to send for dues for one year. Three dollars of this amount is applied to a subscription to the Bulletin and two dollars for other necessary expenses. A year's subscription to the Bulletin for non-members is five dollars. No subscription is accepted at three dollars a year. Some seem to think this is so, but it most emphatically is not. Postal regulations require the part of the yearly dues set aside for the Bulletin be published, hence the statement that three dollars of each membership is for a subscription to the Bulletin.

Many have already remitted for

1955 and of course these and our life members are already paid up for that year.

Make all remittances payable to American Peony Society and do not include any officer's name in this.

If your address is in any way different from the one appearing on your Bulletin, please be sure to send us the change in address. We have many Bulletins returned each month when this hasn't been done.

If anyone desires to discontinue his or her membership (we hope no one will) they should inform us of this fact at once, by January 1, 1955, at latest.

According to our records your dues are paid to Dec. 31 of the year given on your address label of this Bulletin. Please check and if correct make your remittance to cover all dues unpaid to date.

(See form below.)

Enclosed Check () Money Order (), dues 1955 - - - - - \$5.00
(\$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin and \$2.00 for other necessary expenses.)

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BLANCHE KING, 1941, 1947.

Other Court of Honor Awards

Best light pink: R. A. NAPIER, 1948; MYRTLE GENTRY, 1949, 1950, 1952.

Best medium pink: MYRTLE GENTRY, 1948; MARTHA BULLOCH, 1951.

Best dark pink: BLANCHE KING, 1948, 1949, 1951.

Best red: RUTH ELIZABETH, 1948, 1951.

Best white single: KRINKLED WHITE, 1948, 1949.

Best red single: PRES. LINCOLN, 1950, 1953.

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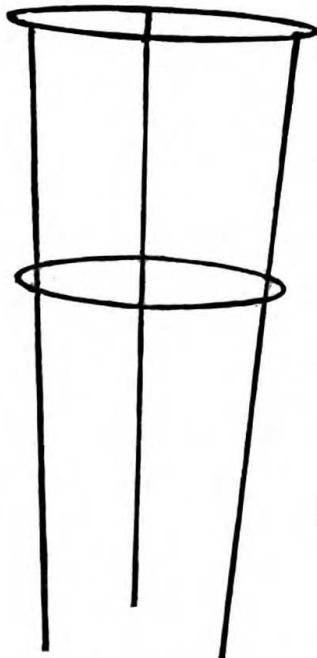
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