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American Peony Society Bulletin

SEPTEMBER, 1976

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CORAL CHARM . . . description next page



SUSIE Q - Klehm Estate Peony (Plant Patent 3266) (Late - Double) Short and extremely cute bright pink. Large blossoms.



ANGEL CHEEKS - Klehm Estate Peony (Plant Patent 3266) (Mid - Double) Delicate, petite soft pink with red freckle-like fleckings.

COVER PICTURE

CORAL CHARM (P.A.F.) (Early hybrid - Semi-double) Deep coral buds open to a pleasing coral-pink well-formed blossom. An exciting new "color-break" in the peony world. Hybridized by the late Sam Wissing of Lombard, IL

Pictures furnished and cover printed by Chas. Klehm & Son.

FIRST EDITION JUST OFF THE PRESS

PEONIES

A HISTORY OF PEONIES AND THEIR ORIGINATIONS
 compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich in cooperation with the
 nomenclature committee of the American Peony Society

In Three Parts

1. VARIETY CHECKLIST

Based on a list compiled and edited by Mr. & Mrs. Byron Gist, completed in 1956, and kept on file at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.

2. REGISTERED PEONIES

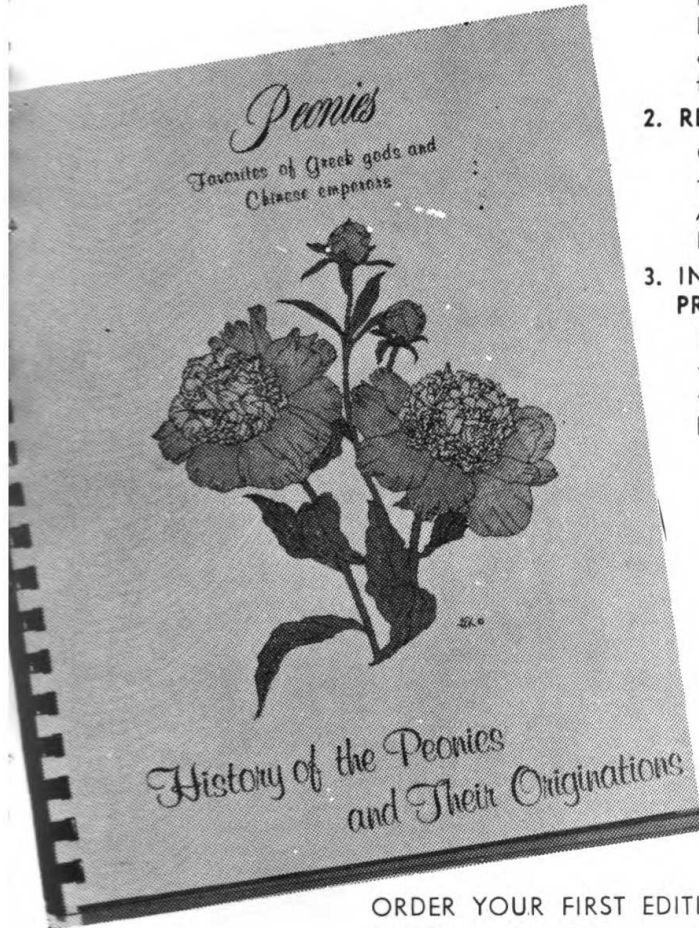
Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich from bulletins of the American Peony Society. All varieties registered with the American Peony Society are listed.

3. INTRODUCERS OF PEONIES AND THEIR PRODUCTIONS

Peony varieties listed by growers and developers with emphasis on information provided by George W. Peyton during the years he was secretary and editor.

5,000 INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

Peony growers who have had to rely on fragmented sources for tracking down peony varieties and their origins can now avail themselves of this magnificent work—a spiral bound, 9x12 inch book which lists and presents a capsule history of all varieties in commerce. It is the result of a monumental research, compilation and editing effort by Greta Kessenich and the nomenclature committee consisting of three American Peony Society past presidents: Roy G. Klehm, Marvin C. Karrels, and Clarence O. Lienau.



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You'll enjoy this fine companion to your interest in peonies and will refer to it many times during the course of your peony gardening activity. It bears a beautiful color cover, contains 162 pages and is printed on fine stock. Cover and all artwork contained inside is the work of artist Joseph F. Kuczek. Price per copy \$10.00



American Peony Society
 250 Interlachen Road
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Please send me copies of "The History of Peonies and Their Originations" at \$10.00 per copy for which I enclose \$.....

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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

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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

OBJECTIVES

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Single Annual	\$ 7.50	Junior of member family	2.50
Single Triennial	20.00	Junior non-member family	3.50
Family Annual	10.00	Life	150.00
Family Triennial	27.50	Commercial membership	25.00

Family membership, any two related members in same household — One Bulletin.
 Junior membership, any age through completion of High School — Separate Bulletin.
 For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



September 1976 — No. 219

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

It is a great honor to be chosen to represent one of America's oldest flower societies. With the honor also comes the obligation to discharge my duties in as dedicated a manner as did our retiring president John Simkins, and all our predecessors.

I am most fortunate, indeed, to have Dr. Carl "Chuck" Klehm join me as newly elected vice president. His expertise will prove most valuable.

Our board of directors has been brought up to full strength by the addition of two new members and old friends of the society—past president Myron D. Bigger of Topeka, Kansas, and Don Hollingsworth of Kansas City, Missouri.

Attending national and regional meetings makes one thing apparent. It's the dedication and singleness of purpose all members have toward promoting the peony. This was evident at the June 5-6 exhibition at Glencoe, Illinois, conducted by the 5th District. It was also apparent on a greater scale at Minnetonka, Minnesota on June 19th where the National Exhibition was held under the most capable direction of our secretary/treasurer, Greta Kessenich, and the efficient members of the Minnesota Peony Society.

The setting at the new Ridgedale Shopping Center was magnificent. Exhibition blooms which survived the ever changing vicissitudes of Spring weather came through with perfection. Artistic arrangements depicting epic events in America's Bicentennial history were truly innovative.

One of the highlights of the banquet at Minnetonka was the exhibition of the newly published peony checklist "The Peony and the history of Their Originations" which is now available to the membership and the public. It represents a monumental editing effort by our secretary/treasurer and three past presidents of the society.

The American Peony Society is making great strides in perpetuating the peony in America and throughout the world. I hope that I, too, in my own way can contribute to the every growing stature of our favorite flower.

Joe Glocka

MOVING PEONIES

By Anthony J. De Blasi, Sanbornville, New Hampshire

At one time or another it seems we are inevitably faced with the necessity of moving a prized peony. Perhaps it was placed temporarily while we dealt with other jobs at the time that we received it, or maybe we planted it in a spot that proved to be less than perfect. Could well be that we wish to change the garden scheme, or it may simply result from our moving and wish to take it with us. Whatever the reason, it is always painful to have to move a peony that is well established, particularly one that has been doing well where it happens to be.

The first step is to resign oneself to the need, aware of the interruption in the plant's performance over the next year or so. However, with a few simple precautions, the disturbance to the plant may be minimized. If the move is accomplished with TLC, chances are it will bloom the following year and with hardly a loss of quality (but almost certainly a reduction in number). It is always a risk, and no one can predict how rapidly a plant will re-establish itself.

The next step is to prepare the spot where the peony is to be placed. Dig a generous hole and be prepared to replace any poor portions with good soil or a mixture of soil and organic materials.

Next, brace yourself and lift the peony carefully. Do not yank it out of the ground but try to dig it out in such a way that the roots will not be unduly injured. Try to imagine that the plant is lifting itself up out of the ground with all its roots intact. Finally, move the plant immediately to its new location, plant it carefully, and water it in.

Gently handled and quickly reinserted into soil, the plant may never "know" that it's been moved at all. At any rate, with such treatment, it should be quick to settle down and perform normally.

Words of caution: If the peony is herbaceous and is a large clump, it would be best to divide it before replanting. If the clump of roots doesn't fall apart or break apart easily with a gentle snapping pressure—as a peony root often will—you had best cut it with a sharp knife. Undivided, such a clump may give up its blooming career. If you don't have room for the extra plants, share them!

The following spring you may find one or more little shoots appearing where the original plant was removed, from bits of root that remained, attesting to the peony's tenacity to life. Planted in rich soil, in an open location, such little starts will develop into nice plants in a few years. A good project for the budding gardener!

Whatever you do, don't move your plants in the spring. That is when they are most active and most resent being disturbed. It may not kill them, but it will set them back severely. Wait, instead, until early fall. Then both you and the plants can relax.

GROWING PEONIES ON THE EDGE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, NEW JERSEY

By Arnold W. Messmahl, Sr. North Brunswick, New Jersey

Our good Secretary has encouraged me to write about my peony planting. I know full well that in doing this that it is contrary to the teachings of all peonydom; but in defense, it is the way peonies are grown here due to soil conditions.

I am a farmer and have been associated with farming to this day, at 85 years of age. I still work every day with flowers and shrubbery on a large Memorial Park that is adjacent to my peony fields.

Over sixteen years, I had added peony roots, until now my planting numbers over 2000.



Peonies growing in sod with no cultivation.

Here in New Jersey, we are situated on a fall line or edge of the Continental shelf. The soil is well packed from five to eight or nine inches deep. From then on it is solid shale rock.

Growing peonies is done strictly on farming views here. Peonies are set, not planted. I recall from boyhood that potatoes were planted in New Jersey, while tomatoes, trees, and orchards were set out.

The digging of a big hole here as described in the many present and past Bulletins, is not practical here.

It would be more pleasure for us to dig such a hole than to view the results. If such a hole were dug here, the plants would drown. So we dig a hole to accommodate the root, no longer. Should the roots be too long for the depth of the hole, they are shortened. Long roots are not of any benefit.

The trick of hole digging is straight sides to the bottom, no tapered center. A tapered center bottom is slow drainage, and a quick hard freeze would cause winter heaving.

Eyes on the roots are set just about one-half inch below ground level. Fill in with a little soil, use plenty of water and repeat to full level. Gently jerk the root each time so as to fill up any pockets or air spaces. A shovel full of dirt on top for the winter is all that is required for protection.

When dividing my own roots, I use a common metal hack saw. It is

just unbeatable and saves many injuries to the hand. The divisions can almost be doubled. It is wonderful on Japs and one can make a concave cut.

My plants are set out in quite heavy sod, mostly bluegrass. No cultivation is ever done; in fact, I have never seen cultivation in any home garden. This practice would not work where land is infested with quack or Johnson grass or running root weeds, such as morning glory, thistle, etc.

All peonies are mowed about six times a summer, all residue is left, nothing removed. After the tops die in the fall, a tractor lawn mower is used to cut them down. The residue is left to decay. Total lawn mowing time on 1500 to 2000 plants is about 20 hours for the season. An extra hour is spent in the spring where sod is heavy on a few clumps.

If cultivation were practiced on our thin soil, wind and water erosion would destroy us in a few years. Grass culture prevents rain spatter, which is a sure carrier of disease, if any is present.

I have a few old varieties of peonies set out 45 years ago, using the described method, and very little care has been given them. They bloom every year and this season, the best ever and as good as any variety that I grow.

I have never sprayed for disease and do not intend to. On one purchase of 400 root varieties, I lost about eight or so which died in a year or two, after the purchase. Last year, I had two bushes of Botrytis Blight. This year none was found on 2000 plants. Some years in the past, I have had plenty. It all depends on the weather.

This year I had about a dozen clones of Botrytis Sclerotitis. I think it was caused by too much shade and dampness at the beginning of the season. There were several cases of this eighteen years ago, on Festiva Maxima. This variety is said to be almost immune to the disease of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. The disease was gone the second year. The plant has from 100 to 150 blooms every years since.

These are the methods of growing peonies in my area of New Jersey, with very thin soil. There are three more factors to be considered in successful growing of good garden peonies, far more important than just setting them out. That will come later.

* * * * *

We regret that the Grand Champion of the show, P. CAROL, exhibited by Joe Glocka could not be on the cover of the Bulletin. The picture taken was not in focus.

COMMON QUESTIONS THAT ARE ASKED EVERY YEAR

By Rev. Joseph A. Syrový, Vining, Iowa

"My peonies have not bloomed for five years." "Why haven't my peonies bloomed?" Refer to the June Bulletin #214, 1975. The question is answered in detail. However, the emphasis being planted too deep. If the eyes are more than three inches underground, raise the plant, two inches. This is the most common fault of peonies not blooming. There are other causes listed as disease and enemies of the peony. Do buy your plants from reliable nurseries, especially those listed in our Peony Bulletin. They are members of our Society.

They not only send you good disease free plants but also send directions for planting and the care of your peony.

Visit members of the American Peony Society, or write to them. Consider joining a Round Robin.

The most colorful and brilliant of all peonies are the hybrid. Now, what is a hybrid? It is a cross of a variety of one species with one of another. Our ordinary herbaceous peonies growing in most gardens is of the species called Albiflora or Lactiflora. A cross of this species with *Officinalis Lobata* gives us the vibrant reds and the pinks. Some of them are single, semi-double and a few are double. RED CHARM is one of the finest doubles and usually wins first prize in nearly every show. FLAME and CARDINAL'S ROBE describe their colors. There are LAURA MAGNUSON, LUDOVICA, RED RED ROSE which are eyecatching. There are snowy whites and near yellows also. Fay's PRAIRIE MOON is especially beautiful, being a clear light yellow, semi-double and early blooming. CHALICE is a single white, which is lovely. Your garden is not complete until you have a few vibrant hybrids. When the peonies bloom, why not do some cross pollination.

Good books are listed in the back of the Bulletin. Informative on all subjects regarding the Peony. Your library should have the book, THE PEONIES, edited by John C. Wister and the book PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN by Arno and Irene Nehrling, as well as the HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY.

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive it without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. No one is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and no one so poor but that he can be made richer by it. A smile creates happiness, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile so much as he who has none to give. —Author unknown

BOTRYTIS BLIGHT

By Fred C. Helmling, 8050 S. 88, Ravenna, Ohio

Botrytis blight is not much of a problem here, as we cut and burn all the tops in the fall, using a propane fueled torch, which burns off chickweed and other perennial weeds in the rows of plants. This is done sometimes during the winter and early spring when the buds are below the surface of the soil. A kerosene weed burner was discarded in favor of the much hotter propane burner. This may help to control disease.

In order to determine whether some varieties are more resistant to botrytis, one would have to grow many plants of a given variety and check one plant against another to find an honest answer. One year one variety may have the disease and the next year not show it. Botrytis seems to appear in a wet season.

Some so-called botrytis blight may be caused from frost damage to some stems on a plant and not to others.

For many years I operated a "Maple Sugar Bush" on this farm. While collecting sap I noticed some younger trees would fill one or two buckets and there would be very little sap in the third one. This was not always caused by weather conditions. I believe that the flow of sap in a maple tree is not always equal around the entire circumference of the tree. The same may occur in peonies. Some stems may contain more sap or water or lack that same something that other stems have, which causes frost damage to some stems and not to others, after a hard frost.

The end result could be a blackened decaying shoot that resembles botrytis.

Withered and brown buds are not always caused by botrytis. Page 19 of THE PEONIES has an article on it which states that 'Brown Bud Blight' could also be caused by a lack of potassium.

We do not use over one-half cup of 5-10-10 fertilizer around the clump, putting it on in late winter.

Some stems that seem to have botrytis are from buds growing too close to the old stem that is decaying back to live root tissue.

Decay is a natural process in peonies. The cut off stalks of the previous years growth decay back to the live plant.

Some day perhaps hybridizers will come up with a herbaceous peony that will shed its old growth like a tulip or union bulb!

When stems looked like they had botrytis, a solution of four tablespoons of Benlate to a gallon of water was used to drench the crown and roots of the plant. This is a stronger solution than recommended. This is the most effective fungicide that I have found. Of the 150 clumps of hybrids that were dug last fall to propagate, the few that were drenched with the solution did not show decay or damage.

One clump of a hybrid was badly decayed, although it had not shown any diseased stems. I took some Benlate and made a slurry or paint and brushed it on the entire root. These four roots are marked on a planting chart and in this extra dry season, are growing as good as any of the other plants.

In 1967, I set out about 400-450 divisions of lactiflora on ground that had been summer fallowed and had barnyard manure spread on it in May. The result, I lost $\frac{2}{3}$ of them from botrytis. We do not use barnyard fertilizer at all now.

There is a new fungicide called "Ban Rot TM" that is supposed to be good for crown rot and root rot of plants. We have not used it yet but will experiment with it this fall, should we find roots that show excessive root or crown rot.

We have used 'Dacthal' at the rate of four tablespoons to three gallons of water to spray 250 sq. feet of ground to control weeds, with fairly good success. We spray the rows of plants only and cultivate between the rows.

We have been growing 245 varieties of herbaceous hybrids, over 400 varieties of lactifloras and about 30 herbaceous species of peonies. About 70 varieties of oriental poppies, 300 varieties of bearded iris along with species of bleeding heart. All the original stock of peonies were purchased from Am. Peony Society growers.

Although we sell quite a few peony roots locally and to people that drive by and see our peonies in bloom and our sign, we do not consider ourselves to be Commercial growers.

At present, we do not have a printed list but expect to have one this winter. Many of the peonies are scarce and we do not have a large stock of them.

A wedding gift of peonies from our late Uncle, Wm. F. Christman got us started in 1939, collecting peonies.

This article is written entirely from my own experience and my own method of growing peonies over the years. It is advisable that readers should experiment themselves with new ideas and chemicals before going all out on anything they hear or read.

* * * * *

This is the time to divide and plant peonies. Try using a small 6 or 7 inch carpenter's key hole or compass saw, in cutting divisions. It is much safer than a knife and a valuable clump of peonies can be divided much better, saving more divisions and more propagating roots than with a knife. I still have a hunting knife, a pocket knife with a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " blade and a large heavy screwdriver. Sometimes it is used to pry saw cuts apart, on the cutting table. Also at hand is the long-nosed pruning shears, as recommended by Mr. Krekler in one of his articles, in the Bulletin. The keyhole saw can be purchased at any good hardware store. It has a cast iron handle and has different kinds of blades that fit the saw. —Fred C. Helmling

THE OHIO STATE INSPECTOR CAME!

Fred C. Helmling

A few days after I had written the article on Botrytis Blight for this issue of the Bulletin, the Ohio State Inspector came to go over the field of our plantings.

He remarked that our peonies were in the best condition that he had seen this year. In walking through three acres of plants, we came to the new area, where we were moving and planting hybrids. We also have Lacti's and some hybrids there.

This area is hit by strong winds at times. This spring I noticed cone shaped holes about two and one half inches deep around the stems of a number of plants. One plant that was growing in an outside row had this cone shaped two and one half inch hole across the top with a stem that was turning brown. It was then observed by both of us that the wind had whipped the plant until the stem wore the cone shaped hole in the soil. The stem rubbing on the soil in the hole was getting the same treatment as if being rubbed by sandpaper. It was breaking the outer shell of the stem and allowing bacteria to work on the stem, giving the same results as botrytis. Observe your peonies and remember that all so called Botrytis Blight in peonies is not the genuine Botrytis Blight but the after effects of something else.

In our talk he was told that we do not spray our peonies but do use a Benlate drench if any botrytis seems to show. We did put a handful of dehydrated lime in the center of the clumps in March 1974. This added lime probably raised the PH higher than normally required for peonies, but it does not seem to harm the plants.

Dehydrated lime has long been used by farmers to purify and disinfect stables. Do use rubber gloves when applying lime and protect your eyes and skin. Lime coming in contact with moist or wet skin will eat or burn into live tissue.

It was thought that by using lime and burning the rows with a propane torch, burning all tops in the fall accounted for the good condition of the plants.

When finding anything resembling botrytis blight of any description, it is just good practice to drench the plants with Benlate or one of the other fungicides.

MY PEONIES, MAY 17, 1976. JOHNSONVILLE, N. Y.

Mrs. Hollis Cornell



In early April a 90 degree temperature forced the plants into a quick soft growth. May 17th, three to eight inches of snow fell in and around this area, south and east of Johnsonville. This was followed by a freezing rain.



May 17. Tree peonies bloom in the snow.



May 17. Rescued tree peony blossoms, cut and placed in warm water.

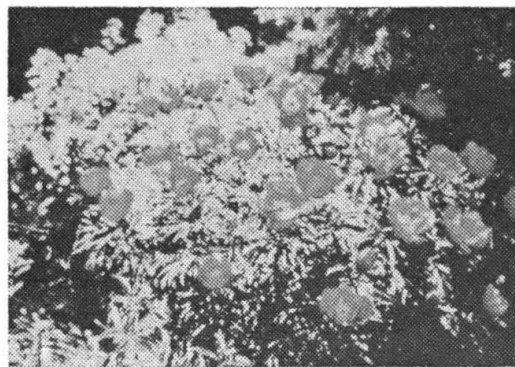
PEONIES IN SASKATCHEWAN

Brian J. Porter, Horticulturist, Dept. of Agriculture. Adm. Bldg.
Regina, Saskatchewan. S4S 0B1

Herbaceous peonies thrive in Saskatchewan in spite of our cold winters and limited rainfall, and are commonly seen throughout the province. Essentially all of the varieties grown here are lactiflora varieties, many of which were originally acquired from nurserymen in neighboring provinces. At one time there were large collections of peonies grown at federal experimental farms and the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon, but currently there is no varietal testing being carried out.

Most peony growers in Saskatchewan are not concerned about variety names, and grow only a few plants. There are no commercial nurseries specializing in peonies here, but all carry a few varieties, usually listed by color only. This was not always the case, but in the last 10 to 15 years nurserymen have found that the demand for peonies has dropped considerably. One nurseryman in Saskatoon imported several varieties from Holland, but as the public continued to ask merely for a red, pink or white variety, that is how they are now listed. I'm sure many other nurseries have the same problem.

The peonies most commonly seen here are the double varieties. **Festiva Maxima**, **Felix Crouse**, **Karl Rosenfield**, **Monsieur Jules Elie** and **Sarah Bernhardt** are by far the most popular. The double fernleaf peony is reasonably popular as well, but its availability is somewhat limited. Interest in singles, semidoubles and Japanese varieties has never been very great here, although there is one single variety which is enjoying some popularity. Its identity is uncertain but it seems to be either the hybrid **Paeonia smouthi** or **Peter Barr**. Many refer to it incorrectly as a Japanese peony. **Peter Barr** is carried by a couple of nurseries here, but no one knows much about its background, except that it was introduced from our neighboring province, Manitoba. I have never seen **P. smouthi** listed for sale here, although I did find it in the old University of Saskatchewan collection. The flowers, cutleaf foliage and seed pods look identical to me, although I haven't had the opportunity to see the two blooming side by side yet.



Paeonia Smouthi? Peter Barr?

Our main peony season is generally late June and early July. This year we have had an early spring and most peonies were through blooming by the first of July. In contrast, I picked a few late blooms of *Festiva Maxima* on July 25 last year, when spring was a bit late in arriving.

Hybrids are virtually unknown in Saskatchewan if *P. smouthi* and *Peter Barr* are disregarded. Undoubtedly the difficulty in selling lactifloras by name makes nurserymen reluctant to try new hybrid varieties which would have to be sold at higher prices, initially at least. Most nurserymen are not even aware of the many new hybrids that have been introduced. This spring I did discover, however, that one nursery lists the Saunders hybrid, *Jacqueminot*, which according to our newly published check list, was discarded. This is the only modern day hybrid available here. Other varieties must be obtained from British Columbia, Ontario, or the United States.

The planting of tree peonies has never been encouraged here. Winter lows of -35 degrees F are often experienced, and it is not too unusual for temperatures to drop another 5 to 10 degrees occasionally. The southwest portion of the province is considered the mildest, but suffers from minimal snow cover in winter. Further north, the snow cover is more dependable and is of benefit in protecting tender plants such as hybrid tea roses which are grown as far north as 400 miles from the U.S.-Canadian border.

Just across our eastern border is the town of Dropmore, Manitoba. Near here the late Dr. F. L. Skinner, who introduced scores of new plants into western Canada, grew and propagated a Japanese tree peony. Although he did not have a variety name for it, his catalogue description seems to be that of Rock's variety. Undoubtedly some of these were distributed to Saskatchewan where the climate is nearly identical but the fate of these are unknown. Referring to the U.S.D.A. plant hardiness zone map (given in the June 1976 Bulletin,) Dropmore is in zone 2. According to Dr. Skinner this tree peony flowered well when bent over so that snow covered it completely for winter. Apparently no other protection was provided.

A few years ago I visited the Devonian Botanical Gardens, University of Alberta, Edmonton and was surprised to find *Paeonia lutea* blooming on new growth. Probably many of the lutea hybrids would be worthy of trial here in Saskatchewan, although they would be considered herbaceous in habit.

Mr. Percy Wright of Saskatoon (roughly 200 miles north of the Canadian-American border—zone 2) is an avid plant breeder and has had a tree peony survive two Saskatchewan winters. No protection was given except natural snow cover held by the close proximity of other shrubs. The first winter it killed back to within

one foot of the ground and this past winter it killed right to the ground. Nevertheless this peony grew back vigorously this spring and bore several single or semi-double deep red flowers. Mr. Wright could not recall the variety name for this peony, a gift from Silvia Saunders. I would assume it is a *P. delavayi* hybrid considering its ability to bloom on new growth.

My own peony patch is just in the beginning stages, and as I am presently an apartment dweller, the few that I have collected are growing on the farm where I grew up 250 miles away.

I would be glad to hear from anyone growing peonies, especially tree peonies in the colder regions.

Professionally I am a horticulturist with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture. Our department expects to publish a new bulletin on peonies this fall and I have enjoyed working on this project. Hopefully, it will encourage a few people to try some of the more recent peony introductions.

PEONIES IN POTS

John Simkins, Oakville, Ontario, Canada

The average householder buys plants in the spring and prefers those which are flowering in the container.

Peony roots are usually sold in the fall and don't even have leaves on them.

Peony marketers have found that while a peony is best planted in the fall a plant held over in storage will survive spring planting without dying but also without flowering the first or maybe even the second year. Tree peonies are even more set back by spring planting as often they have six-inches of growth poking through the top of their square box before being sold and the soil is so loose around the roots it falls off during planting, baring the hair roots.

This probably accounts for the few tree peonies one sees in gardens when about a quarter of a million grafts are sold in nurseries each year. Most of them die although this year I dug up a three-year graft in June, cut off all the leaves and transplanted it. It has now (in July) a fair number of leaves and seems to be growing all right, although it will take a year or two to measure the set back. This would indicate that the foliage of the boxed varieties should be removed when planting.

Another way around the problem is to pot up the roots in the fall for sale in the spring. This adds to the expense, but a few years ago I worked on a peony promotion for a local nursery in the

fall. The peonies were hybrids, and it was an attempt to sell these higher priced plants to the general public. They didn't sell so well so we potted them up and buried them in a lot behind the nursery. In the spring we brought them out in late May and placed them on a stand near the perennials with a sign explaining their virtues.

Nothing much happened until they flowered, and about 70% did this. Then they sold like hot cakes, even at the high potted price.

We even sold the non-flowered ones, as people who saw their friends' plants in bloom came for one and were told that these would produce similar flowers next year.

We did the same with some left-over boxed herbaceous peonies, and as they grew into small bushes during the summer, they gradually sold. So potted peonies are for spring sales.

Another advantage for growing potted peonies is that they can be moved around the patio to a place of prominence and then moved to an out-of-the-way place when flowering is over.

One of the problems of peonies in pots is winter protection. They can be buried in the fall still in the pot and will winter quite well at least in Zone 3 where I live.

Three years ago I planted a seedling of **Dainty** in a five gallon pail. It produced a flower the second year and had five flowers this year. This plant has just sat on the top of the ground all winter without harm.

Last winter I potted up thirty three- and four-year seedlings that had flowered in six inch pots. I buried a dozen at ground level. I put a dozen in the shade of a hedge and also a dozen on the patio. In the spring the dozen buried were alive and grew quite well, the dozen in the shade had about 30% casualties and those on the patio were 80% killed. I'm not absolutely sure that all the losses were due to winter kill, as those in the sun dried out between waterings.

So a five gallon pail is big enough to prevent winter kill while an eight-inch pot is too small. So we should try a few in between sizes, or maybe protect the smaller pots with cardboard covers. I will try a few more this winter and invite you to join me. Send your comments to Greta for the Bulletin or to me if you want them included in my next report on this subject.

The peonies shown by Kelway's and Bee's at Chelsea were all held up by bamboo stakes. The tree peonies had been held back a week or two and the herbaceous were forced a week or two early. The flowers held well for the six day show. Maybe we should consider a class in our show for potted peonies.

REGISTRATIONS

PURE JOY (Myron D. Bigger 1976) (11-58) Parentage unknown. Full rose type double on a fine 36" stem with good clean dark green foliage. Beautifully shaded pink in two or three shades. Well blended so as to make the flower pure joy. Many peonies are larger but not many more beautiful. Mild but fine fragrance.

AMERICA (Nathan Rudolph, Aurora, Illinois. 1976) (60-62) Hybrid, single, Parentage **Burma Ruby** x unknown. First bloomed 1960. Early. Fiery red red flower, tulip like cupped buds, ruffled flower petals. Has pollen and stamens, no seeds. Blooms are 30% larger than **Burma Ruby**. 28" height. Exceptionally strong stems. 8-10 blooms on a three-year-old plant. Clean green foliage, center of flower, pure yellow.

CAROLYN S. GAKER (William H. Krekler 1976) Deep pink Jap. Parentage unknown. (Could be Westerner). Backs and tips of petaloids cream, fades to near white, bush and flower not large, has seeds, landscape type, reliable with average amount of bloom.

LOUIE B. GAKER (William H. Krekler 1976) Deep red Jap. Landscape type. Center petaloids extra wide with unusual ends that are sawtoothed and white. White side stripes down the back of these petaloids. Narrow petaloids by the collar petals of deep red, pistols pale green at base blending red near top. Reliable, medium height, has seeds, blooms with most Japs. Most unusual flower.

LLOYD KENNEDY (Krekler Farms, Somerville, Ohio. Wm. H. Krekler 1976) Parentage unknown. Late double white lactiflora. Sulphur glow in center of flower. A small hole in the center of a high built flower. Some red under collar petals. Slow to open large buds, one bud per stem, good substance, no stamens. Named for Ohio Nursery Inspector.

Names of peonies registered (William H. Krekler 1975)

All names in the 1976 check list.

Description of each, as follows:

BRUCIE — Big single red, golden stamens, ball, midseason, very sturdy.

COLUMBUS — Large near white, semi double, early, tall plant.

DON RICHARDSON — Tall, near black Jap. ball. Flat, side buds have gold.

ELIZA LUNDY — Dense small double red, Twisty dwarf *officinalis*.

FRANKLIN — Large early pink single hybrid. Small petaloids.

FRED COUCH — Bright light wine red single hybrid. Many petals.

GERMANTOWN — Large very red single hybrid. Sturdy bush.

- KEVIN — Large, silvered double pink. Early, low bush. Lasts.
- MARY HENDERSON — Vivid red Jap. Golden center ball. Late, medium to tall.
- MARY SOMERVILLE — Early, double, purple-red flowers. Medium height.
- MARTHA WEBSTER — Large near white semi-double flowers. Pistols.
- MIDDLETOWN — Gay cactus petaled pink double. More silver in center.
- NORMIE — Early red hybrid.
- RENYKENS — Early red hybrid.
- RICHMOND — Dark red double, side buds semi-double. Stamens peep.
- STEVE NICKELL — Large gay light pink, single hybrid. Near white center.
- STEVE'S PRIDE — Glossy double white. Medium size, center hole.
- WARREN KREKLER — Heavy late double purple-red. Lazy.
- WILHELM KREKLER — Gay semi-double cerise pink flower.
- WILLIAM GAGE — Big early single red hybrid. Sturdy. Pistols.
- XENIA FRIEND — Early light red single hybrid. Medium.

NORTH DAKOTA PEONY SHOW

Due to adverse weather conditions, heat, droughts, high damaging winds and other weather elements, the North Dakota Annual Peony Show had to be cancelled. Before a decision was made, I called the major exhibitors that could be reached by telephone. I did not get a single optimistic report, nor did I get encouragement from anyone to have the show regardless of weather damage. Heat also upset the normal bloom pattern of all types of peonies. All types, late and early, all seemed to bloom at about the same time. A good bloom was a rare exception.

We look forward to 1977 which we hope will give us more normal weather conditions. If that is the case we will again have our usual North Dakota State Peony Show at Grand Forks, N.D.

Harold Thomforde, President

Crookston, Minnesota

A VISIT TO THE 1976 NATIONAL PEONY SHOW

by *Harold Thomforde, Crookston, Minn.*

If my memory serves me correctly, it seems that I recall reading that Greek mythology credits peonies with having magical power. Also that they were used in the field of healing medicine. Whether those are facts or fiction I have never made any effort to check. However, after attending the 1976 National Peony Show in Minneapolis, I have the answer. The answer has to be, yes, the peony does have magical powers. Otherwise why would people come from all sections of the United States as well as from Canada to attend a Peony Show? The healing power ability was also proven. Aches, pains and a worry of any kind are all forgotten when one is surrounded by all of the beauty from the flowers and the greetings and friendly hand shakes of friends.

To attend a National Show, or even a large district show just has to be a 'must' for every grower and peony breeder. Attendance serves as an energizer or a rejuvenator of interest and a determination to grow our own flowers better next year.

Important as flowers are, the renewal of acquaintanceship of old friends, the meeting of many new people, the common interest we all have in peonies, plus the camaraderie of the entire gathering are some of the pleasant thoughts we take back home. Here are the peony greats such as the Lienaus, Karrels, Klehms, Biggers, Reaths, Tischlers, our own spark plug, Greta Kessenich and others.

It was a beautiful show room on the second level overlooking the first floor. The show room was large, well-lighted, air-conditioned and surrounded by beautiful modern stores of all kinds. You combine all of this with the thousands of flowers, in many colors, shades and types plus friendly people and you feel a tug in heart of thankfulness that you have the pleasure and privilege of being there.

The first people we saw as we came to exhibition hall were our long-time friends, the Myron Biggers of Topeka, Kansas. Myron has put in almost a life-time in the improvement and betterment of the peony plant and our society. He is a store house of information of peony lore and information. He is a noted peony breeder introducing such outstanding varieties as **Kansas**, **Westerner** and now his **Topeka Garnet**. The last named looked very good in the show, and Myron tells me it aways comes good. We started out together to look over, possibly to "study" is a better word, for that we did. Then we re-studied them. When judging time came Myron was one of the members on our judging team, and it is always good to have a man of his knowledge and background on the team.

The awards will be given in this Bulletin, so I shall make very few specific references. Neither did I know I would be writing this

article, so I did not make any notes. My comments come from memory. First let me say that I have attended national shows where the average quality of bloom was higher. But, when we think of the weather problems so much of the peony growing area has experienced this year, we will all agree this was a tremendous show. We in Minnesota have had all-time high temperatures and the most severe drought on record. Then it seems every day was very windy and each tried to out-do the last. Therefore, it is a real credit to each of the exhibitors that labored so hard to get some good flowers to the showroom. This takes dedicated effort and we are indebted to each of you. In our section of Minnesota and eastern North Dakota, our peonies were three weeks early. The hybrids, the lactiflora both early and late all bloomed within a few days of each other. Flowers were small, many blasted, and so far as peonies were concerned it was a calamity.

In my opinion many of the newer varieties stood out in all of their glory. The new **Douglas Brand**, introduced by Brands two years ago took everything it competed for, including best red peony of the show. Even with the fine showing of this variety, it was not nearly as good as it usually is. The weather had its effect. Several of the new Klehm varieties were just fine. **Bowl of Cream** stood out in the various classes it was exhibited in. Without any question, this has to be a good variety. I don't have it due to the reason I think of the description given in the catalog. Bowl like? Anyway, it is a big, well built flower that has substance. I will add it to my collection this fall. Their **Vivid Rose** was good and a big winner. **Glory Hallelujah** was huge, and a good colored symmetrical flower. I have both of them in my garden. They are dependable. **Biggers' Commache**, a medium red Jap, was very good.

Now for few short comments on some of the oldies. We pay honor and homage to **Elsa Sass**. Introduced in 1930, Elsa is now in middle age, but she still has all of the beauty she had as a young girl. Elsa walked away with many top honors. That size and whiteness of bloom, the rose form petals and the heavy substance still makes this one of the best varieties we can grow. **Dorothy J** has been around for about 35 years and in that time she has given me good bloom almost every year. Dorothy was nice at the show, winning some ribbons and no one ever goes wrong adding this variety to any high class collection. **Dolorodell**, introduced by Gene Lins in the early 1940's, was again at this year's show, walking away with top honors. If my memory is correct, we think Lins made his first showing of this variety at the National in Minneapolis. I saw this flower on the original plant, bought a division for \$25.00 and had to wait two years to get it. Such was the demand for divisions at that time. This variety was a good investment for me in real beauty.

Largo, a Japanese was just very good at the show this year again. **Kay Tischler**, a more recent introduced Japanese was very good.

One could go on and on, but I do think these comments cover the highlights as I recall them. It was a treat for me to attend this show. It was a pleasure to meet and visit with so many fine people. One just cannot attend such a gathering, visit with so many people and not come back home enriched from the pleasant experience of being there.

I would be remiss if I did not express my thanks, and I know all visitors at the show join me in expressing our thanks to the Board and all others that had a part in making the show a success. A special thank you to Mrs. Greta Kessenich for the tremendous amount of time and effort she must have given, to do all of the jobs she did.

CONVENTION IN MINNESOTA. 1976

by Charlotte E. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota

To the seasoned attender of American Peony Society conventions this event means two things: a spectacle of peonies and a gathering of friends for whom the peony is a bond of interest. This year, the 73rd Annual Meeting and the 71st National Exhibition, held in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, was no exception. Blooms were brought in abundance from many states and Canada and people were there from all over the country. In the preparation room as hundreds of flowers were extracted from their bags, exhibitors exchanged views with other exhibitors as to weather conditions that had contributed to the quality of bloom. Anyone who has ever been a part of this camaraderie wants a repeat performance in succeeding years.

Ridgedale Shopping Center, in a suburb just out of Minneapolis, was the location for the national show, a beautiful setting for such a spectacular display. Peonies of all types were shown from throughout the country, and the thousands of viewers marveled at their beauty. Exhibitors worked hard to make this one of the outstanding shows of the Society and many were rewarded with special citations. On the Court of Honor the seven top flowers were shown by six different exhibitors, a tribute surely to the quality of showmanship by all members of the Society. Queen of the Show was Carol, shown by Joe Glocka of Milwaukee, a thrilling first for our new president.

One part of the show which always attracts the public is the artistic division. This year the arrangements were set around an open fountain area one level below where the specimens were shown.

A bicentennial theme of "Notable Events" from 1776-1976 was used, and again the viewers had reason to marvel at the talent displayed by the arrangers. Mrs. K. W. Fisher of South St. Paul was the top winner of this division with her interpretation of "1969 Man on the Moon."

The annual banquet of the **American Peony Society** was held at the Mandarin Yen Restaurant, located at the Carriage House, headquarters for many of the activities. Almost a hundred people were in attendance, from California to New York, from Oklahoma and Kansas to Canada, and many from Minnesota, relaxing now after the exertion of the previous several hours. Cantonese fare, beginning with the shrimp fantail appetizer through the moo goo gai pan to the traditional fortune cookie delighted those in attendance.

At the annual meeting which followed two new directors were elected to replace one whose term had expired and another who had resigned, Allen Harper and Calvin Helgoe. A warm welcome was extended to Myron Bigger, a grower well known in the peony world, and Don Hollingsworth, a writer with whom every reader of peony articles is familiar. The new book of the Society, **History of the Peonies and their Originations**, was available for the first time at this event and members had an opportunity to buy this valuable contribution to all of horticulture, compiled and edited by our own secretary, Greta Kessenich. The top award of the Society, the bronze medal, was presented to Irvin Ewing of Detroit, for his "years of generous contributions," an honor richly deserved. Exhibition awards and gifts were also presented. Program for the evening was a report with slides by President John Simkins on his recent trip to England.

The real climax of this eventful evening is always the auction. With Clarence Lienau serving as auctioneer many roots were sold and profits were good, but most especially everyone had a good time.

One delightful event not included in the printed schedule was a garden party Sunday morning at the home of Greta Kessenich. In this spacious setting members of the Society were treated to a view of a beautiful rose garden, as well as extensive plantings of peonies, past their bloom time, irises, also long gone, hostas of many varieties, and chrysanthemums, blooms of the future. Large trees shaded the ample lawn and other plantings of perennials were to be found in borders in this beautiful location. Pie and coffee were served as a gesture of hospitality to the many travelers who had come long distances to attend the convention of the A.P.S. The invitation of our secretary was indeed a gracious and fitting conclusion to an eventful and exciting weekend.

THE PEONY SEMINAR

Reported by Don Hollingsworth

The grafting of tree peonies, research in tissue culture propagation methods and the culture of embryos for peony seedlings production were program topics during the 1976 National Convention. Illustrated lectures and demonstrations were given by Mr. Scott Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, and Professor Martin M. Meyer, Jr., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Both speakers discussed topics that have been the subjects of APS Bulletin articles in the recent past, so that the presentations helped in understanding the articles on the one hand and the articles provided a base for gaining more from the seminar.

Scott Reath demonstrated the grafting techniques described in the March 1975 article written by his father, David Reath, and illustrated with drawings by Joseph Kuszek. Scott, who completed high school this year, does the grafting at the Reath peony nursery. The ease with which he neatly matched the scion and root cuts in forming the relatively complex triangular inset graft was enormously impressive to at least this observer, who has tried it a few dozen times. This type graft is believed to give the best chance of achieving a well knitted union between root and scion. David Reath pointed out during the discussion period that upon the examination of poor-doing plants from grafts, one usually finds that there is only a small area of live tissue joining the scion and root.

Grafting commences at the Reath nursery the first of August. Since Lutea Hybrid tree peonies were brought to this year's show (June 18) directly from their fields, one may assume that their earliest Japanese tree peonies may have come into flower about June first. Grafting is started, then, about 60 days following flowering. Scions having strong, large buds are found to give the best results. Two-bud scions are preferred over singles as the percentage of takes and growth are superior. The scion cuts are made near the bud so as to place it close to the nurse root in the completed graft. For nurse roots, pieces 6-8" long, end sections with small roots left on and not overly thick in diameter are considered best. Roots of both Chinese peonies and the hybrids are used. **Early Windflower**, a hybrid, is especially desirable, for it makes a relatively larger number of medium sized storage roots, giving a good yield of premium nurse roots.

Grafting is done under clean conditions in order to reduce decay problems. The union is bound with plastic strip tie material to hold the parts firmly together and to cover all exposed tissue against entry by disease organisms. The plastic strip is preferred at Reath's because it deteriorates slowly and it is believed that this tends to discourage continuation of the nurse root. When dug after

the second year of growth, the tie will have caused a noticeable constriction of growth at the graft union although the nurse root will still be functioning.

Planting of the finished grafts is done directly into prepared beds at the beginning of the season and while the soil continues to be warm. Later prepared grafts are kept warm under more controlled conditions as necessary to give them the warm temperatures needed for the callus growth period.

Several persons related that grafting may also be used to increase other types of peonies. To do this, a large crown bud is taken with a bit of tissue to form the scion and is then grafted onto a nurse root piece as with tree peonies. Itoh Hybrids may also be grafted successfully from crown buds, whereas their lesser stem buds do not make very satisfactory scions. A unique use of grafting in herbaceous peonies was reported by Mr. Marvin Karrels. He has successfully used crown buds of a weak-growing exhibition cultivar grafted onto roots of a healthy kind to help establish healthy new plantings.

Professor Martin Meyer is conducting the most promising research that this reporter has heard of being done anywhere, perhaps the only research being done on the possible applications of significantly different, new propagation techniques in peony production. He has treated us to four articles about his work which have appeared in the APS Bulletins during the past year. The technology of this research gets most of us into unfamiliar subject matter, so that the combination of his presentation at this National Convention and the articles for supporting reference has been especially effective, as well as fascinating.

The traditionally available methods of propagation—root division and grafting—require, even with the very highest skill, a relatively large number of years to increase a chosen cultivar from one plant to the large number of pieces necessary for marketing effectively. It was reported that peonies now (or recently) being introduced by the Klehm Nursery were hybridized in 1952 and 1953. The current potential annual rate of production on these was not mentioned. However, I have heard that it is not uncommon for large mail order general nurseries to schedule 10,000 pieces of an item as a minimum requirement for public offering. More specifically and of particular interest to me, the few tree peony grafts from Japan that showed up in Kansas City area garden centers during spring, 1976, are part of several hundred thousand peonies processed into this country last winter, according to recent correspondence from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Those several hundred thousand pieces apparently had very small impact upon the availability of peonies in my consumer area. The evidence points to the conclusion that the domestic pro-

duction of new peonies will also continue to have small or minimal impact upon consumers of horticultural plants until such time as a propagation breakthrough can be achieved.

Professor Meyer reviewed the history of propagation researchers' efforts to discover the requirements for growing quantities of the tissues of various plants under artificial conditions, and to discover how particles of this tissue might then be induced to grow into whole plants. Large numbers of individual plants might then be produced in a comparatively short time. With achievements of these goals, how fast an individual plant can grow becomes no longer the limiting factor controlling how much increase can be made in a given amount of time.

A meristem culture technique has been successful with some species. This is much less complex physiologically than is tissue culture and enables the proliferation of growth points (meristems) under artificial conditions when a species adaptations are compatible. Peonies are not so adapted. Professor Meyer pointed out that when peony meristems grow, they normally terminate in a flower bud, effectively defeating their proliferation.

With respect to tissue culture propagation, peonies have also proven difficult, so far. Although most peonies are herbaceous, they are physiologically rather primitive and behave similar to woody plants under presently known tissue culture techniques. However, Professor Meyer indicated the outlook for new breakthroughs in tissue culture techniques for woody plants seems promising just now. If these hopes become reality, the work with peonies may be helped.

The principle of tissue culture involves the production of undifferentiated tissue from a selected plant (most tissues of a plant are specialized or different in order to carry on the necessary specialized functions). To be used for propagation, the undifferentiated tissue must then be capable under achievable conditions of growing a new whole plant. Locating the cultivars and parts of the plants from which suitable tissue cultures may be developed, identifying suitable formulas of culture medium to produce the desired results, and the search for other appropriate techniques are some of the items which must be worked out, if tissue culture propagation of a particular plant or species is successful. Professor Meyer reported upon and displayed results of progress in the identification of promising tissue lineages, and formula development. Tissues explanted from flower buds of peony have been the most promising so far. In other species new plants have been produced starting with flower bud tissue. Slides were shown picturing plantlets of a rare variety of hosta growing from tissue cultured from flower buds of the parent plant. Examples were also shown of variations in peony tissue lineages resulting from various combinations of the

growth substances kinetin and naphthalene-acetamide in the culture medium.

As a sidelight, some APS members will recall the published reports (this Bulletin) of experiments conducted by Harold Wolfe of Belleville, Illinois, in which he used a preparation of naphthalene-acetamide to treat growing plants of peony and other herbaceous and woody species. The growth response achieved was first attributed to induced tetraploidy but this conclusion has since been dropped. However, Harold still concludes that the change is persistent, once achieved, and that the evidence shows it to be passed on to progeny through the female line. This is not proposed here to mean anything for tissue culture, but reflects only an enlargement of my own awareness of the growth substance naphthalene-acetamide. I recently observed wheat plants at Belleville in which there was a dramatic difference between treated and untreated specimens.

Of benefit for immediate application by hybridists is Professor Meyer's second topic, embryo culture. In this procedure, the tiny embryos are extracted from peony seeds under conditions of careful sanitation and transferred to a sterile culture medium in a closed glass tube for the period of development into plants. Once the technique is mastered, it affords the opportunity of developing rare seeds into plants that might otherwise fail during the natural germination cycle. The culture medium need not be so complicated as that required for tissue culture. Commercial sources are believed to be available, inasmuch as sterile culture techniques are widely used in growing orchid seeds.

The procedure for preparing the embryos was described in the recent APS article by Professor Meyer. As a part of his presentation at the peony seminar he showed slides picturing embryos in various stages of development, tools and materials used. He also had real life examples of material in various stages of development. However, the highlight of this part of the program was the demonstration of procedures using a readily achieved set-up which might be contrived under home conditions with a reasonable amount of interest and effort.

Professor Meyer had set up a "mini clean room" on a table top, using a large, new plastic bag held open in a chamber shape using pincer clips supported by two chairs (thumb tacks would do if the chairs are of wood). He proceeded to extract some 40 embryos from their seeds and to install them in culture tubes for distribution to members of the audience.

The materials had been disinfected in advance and the seeds partly prepared by cutting away the "back" portion of the seed, leaving the embryo protected in the remaining part of the endo-

sperm. The air in the "clean room" was sprayed with a fog of water periodically to wash any dust out of the air in the room. Everything was kept covered when he wasn't working with it. When an embryo extraction was complete, he held and uncapped the culture tube with a one-handed technique that allowed him to place the embryo quickly and get the cap right on to protect sterility of the interior.

A **Clorox** preparation, one part to nine parts water was used for sterilizing things. This may seem a surprisingly high concentration to persons who know that undiluted **Clorox** in the laundry will eat holes in clothing, but plant tissues seem to tolerate it for dip treatment and it is effective against pathological organisms and fungi.

In spite of the sanitary precautions, however, it seems that perhaps the seminar conditions proved at least partly too much for the procedure, for the two embryos which I brought home in culture tubes now have been attacked by a mold which got in there somehow. There is the alternate possibility, I suppose, that the embryos carried a contamination which was present in the seed, since Professor Meyer reported finding some contaminated embryos among two- and three-year-old seeds that had previously failed in natural germination procedure. At any rate, this part of the seminar was especially stimulating and the prospect that one may master the technique and facilities under home conditions is a much more realistic prospect for hybridists who attended.

About 35 persons attended the seminar and several mentioned especially their satisfaction with having participated. The credit goes to the speakers and to Greta Kessenich who conceived of the program and helped to arrange it.

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, 1976 PEONY SEEDS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Don Hollingsworth, 5831 N. Colrain Ave., Kansas City, Mo. 64151

A peony seed distribution is being started among members of the American Peony Society. Participants will have the extraordinary experience of growing new kinds of peony, each unique from any others ever grown before and may draw upon resources of other growers for the raw material. Some of the seeds will represent species and hybrid groups not easily come by as either plants or seeds. Others will come from the best of the Chinese peonies, the varieties of which continue to make up the backbone of peony growing in North America.

The United States has long been the center of peony growing in the Western world. Now the recent rise of interest in hybridizing predicts a new era of peony growing history. For example, the

restricted image of tree peonies is fading as they are being found to make their way in gardens across the nation. Interspecies hybrids are no longer rare. New cultivars are needed which possess better adaptations for the disrupted soil conditions that are so common around modern real estate developments. The use of new hybrids and species tree peonies holds promise, of a wide range of climatic adaptations. These new peonies will come in large part from seedlings not yet grown.

The 1976 Peony Seeds Distribution Program will help interested persons gain experience and skill in the germination and development of young seedlings. Newcomers to seedling production will have access to materials similar to those used by members who have been in hybridizing for a longer period of time. Instructions will be provided with each shipment.

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED. Growers who will be able to provide seeds of choice garden peonies or other interesting kinds are asked to send them to MR. P. C. "CHRIS" LANING, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

Please tag each lot separately by pod parent and give as much information as may be helpful to the receiver. Specify whether tree peony, Chinese herbaceous, the hybrid group or the species. Also give the form of the flower if the parent is not a single flower, the variety and color. This will enable the receiver to know something of the breeding potential beyond that evidenced by outward appearance of the resulting seedlings.

REQUEST SEEDS by sending the coupon below or a letter with \$1.00 to help defray costs of postage and packing material. Mail to—P. C. "CHRIS" LANING, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

Seeds received early will be made available immediately on a first come, first served basis as long as supply lasts. Seeds received later will be shipped in late fall for planting next year. Instructions for both fall planting and next spring or summer planting will be furnished with the seeds.

1976 Peony seeds application.

SHIPPING LABEL

Please print name and mailing address.

.....

Declare Preference.
 in numerical order.

(1st, 2nd, 3rd)

..... Tree Peony

..... Chinese Herbaceous.

..... Hybrid (give preference
 of type, if any

..... Species

71 ANNUAL AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY EXHIBITION

Ridgedale Center, Minnetonka, Minnesota

June 18-19-20

GRAND CHAMPION and Best of Show — CAROL — Joe Glocka

- Best Double White — ELSA SASS — C. F. Spangler
- Best Double Blush — NICK SHAYLOR — Dee Garrison
- Best Double Light Pink — DOLORODELL — Greta Kessenich
- Best Double Dark Pink — VIVID ROSE — Clarence Lienau
- Best Double Red — DOUGLAS BRAND — The McCallums
- *Best Double Overall — VIVID ROSE — Clarence Lienau
- Best Semi-Double White — MISS AMERICA — Dee Garrison
- Best Semi-Double Pink — BEV — Clarence Lienau
- *Best Semi-Double overall — MISS AMERICA — Dee Garrison
- Best Bomb Pink — RASPBERRY SUNDAE — Clarence Lineau
- Best Japanese White — BU-TE — Dr. Carl H. Klehm
- Best Japanese Pink — BREAK O DAY — Lienau Peony Gardens
- *Best Japanese overall — BREAK O DAY — Lienau Peony Gardens
- Best Single White — KRINKLED WHITE — Dee Garrison
- Best Single Pink — SEA SHELL — W. G. Sindt
- Best Single Red — TOPEKA GARNET — W. G. Sindt
- *Best Single overall — TOPEKA GARNET — W. G. Sindt
- Best Hybrid Yellow, White or Blush — YELLOW EMPEROR — Bill Seidl
- Best Hybrid Pink — CYTHEREA — The McCallums
- Best Hybrid Red — CAROL — Joe Glocka
- *Best Hybrid overall — CAROL — Joe Glocka
- Best Tree Pink — ROSE FLAME — Dr. David Reath
- Special Award — Red — D-240 — Dr. David Reath
- Best Tree Yellow — HIGH NOON — Dr. David Reath
- Violet, Blend or Bicolor — PRINCESS — Dr. David Reath
- *Best Tree overall — PRINCESS — Dr. David Reath
- Best Amateur bloom — DOLORODELL — Greta Kessenich
- Best Novice bloom — RENE HORTENSE — C & D Hubbard

ARTISTIC DESIGN AWARDS

- Artistic Design — GRAND CHAMPION — 1969 Man on the Moon — Mrs. K. W. Fisher
- Artistic Design — RESERVE CHAMPION — 1776 Washington's Crossing of the Delaware — Mrs. K. W. Fisher, 2208 Wentworth, So. St. Paul, Mn.

DIVISION 1 — OPEN TO ANY EXHIBITOR

Class 101 — Twenty-five varieties, any type or color.

Won by DR. DAVID REATH — AGE OF GOLD, HARVEST, CORSAIR, CHINESE DRAGON, MYSTERY, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, ROMAN GOLD, BLACK PIRATE, BANQUET, SILVER SAILS, PRINCESS, GOLDEN HIND, HESPERIUS, SPRING CARNIVAL, CORONAL, ROSE FLAME, HIGH NOON, VESUVIAN, WINGS OF THE MORNING, GOLDEN ISLES, AMBER MOON, KRONOS, YELLOW EMPEROR, RED CHARM, YELLOW HEAVEN.

Second. MARVIN KARRELS — DIANA PARKS, MOONSTONE, PAUL M. WILD, ANGEL CHEEKS, FIREBALL, MADYLONE, CAROL, BURMA RUBY, CYTHEREA, ELSA SASS, GENE WILD, FLORENCE NICHOLS, NIPPON BEAUTY, COMMANCHE, NICK SHAYLOR, RED CHARM, NORMA VOLZ, MARGARET CLARK, CARRARA, GOLDEN GLOW, LARGO, PRINCESS MARGARET, HERITAGE, BLACK MONARCH, HENRY BOCKSTOCE.

Third. JOE GLOCKA

- Class 102 — Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only — Special Award**
 Won by DEE GARRISON — KANSAS, MOONSTONE, DOROTHY J, LORA DEXHEMMER, ANNISQUAM, NICK SHAYLOR, MRS. F. D. ROOSEVELT, VIVID ROSE, MARY E. NICHOLLS, FLAME, FELIX CROUSE, MISS AMERICA, RED CHARM, HERITAGE.
 Second — LIENAU PEONY GARDENS — FIREBELL, BREAK O'DAY, SYLVER, VIVID ROSE, WILFORD JOHNSON, DINNER PLATE, SYLVIA SAUNDERS, NICK SHAYLOR, WALTER FAXON, BURMA RUBY, HARI-A-NIN, KAY TISCHLER, ELLA CHRISTIANSON, REINE HORTENSE, LE CHARM.
 Third. DR. CARL H. KLEHM
- Class 103 — Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid.**
 Won by The McCALLUMS — MOONRISE, ALEXANDER WOOLL-COTT, FIRELIGHT, QUEEN ROSE, ELLEN COWLEY, RED CHARM, CYTHEREA, BRAVURA, PRAIRIE MOON, JANICE.
 Second. DR. DAVID REATH — ELLEN COWLEY, CYTHEREA, PRAIRIE MOON, BURMA RUBY, KINGS RANSOM, MOONRISE, RED CHARM, PAULA FAY, DIANA PARKS, BLAZE.
 Third. MARVIN C. KARRELS.
- Class 104 — Ten Varieties Tree Peonies — Special Award.**
 Won by DR. DAVID REATH — AGE OF GOLD, CHINESE DRAGON, HESPERUS, VESUVIAN, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, ROMAN GOLD, D-297, D-238, A 201 REATH SEEDLING, 2 DAPHNIS SEEDLING.
- Class 105 — Five varieties, Japanese Type Lactiflora.**
 Won by LIENAU PEONY GARDENS — BU-TE, WESTERNER, COMMANCHE, LARGO, BREAK O'DAY.
 Second. JOE GLOCKA — HARI-A-NIN, WESTERNER, CAR-RARA, LARGO, WHITE CAP.
- Class 106 — No entries.**
- Three blooms, one variety lactiflora only, in one container.**
- Class 110:** 1. Clarence Lienau—Bowl of Cream
 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Elsa Sass 3. Dee Garrison—Bowl of Cream
- Class 111:** 1. Dee Garrison—Dorothy J.
 2. Joe Glocka—Ave Maria 3. Dee Garrison—Annisquam
- Class 112** 1. Dee Garrison—Vivid Rose
 2. Dee Garrison—Dinnerplate 3. Delia Garrison—Mrs. F.D.R.
 H.M. Dee Garrison—Mrs. F.D.R.
- Class 113:** 1. Art Landen—Emma Klehm
 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Jaycee 3. Dee Garrison—Martha Bullock
- Class 114:** 1. The McCallums—Douglas Brand
 2. Brand Peony Farms—Douglas Brand 3. Marvin Karrels—Kansas
- Class 115:** 7. Joe Glocka—Miss America
 2. Brand Peony Farms—Garden Princess 3. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Mt. Everest
- Class 116:** No entries
- Class 117:** 1. Joe Glocka—Red Goddess 2. None 3. None
- Class 118:** 1. Roy Klehm—Raspberry Sundae
 2. Bob Rose—Angel Cheek 3. None
- Class 119:** 1. Marvin Karrels—Spellbinder
 2. Brand Peony Farms—Faribo Gold 3. None
- Class 120:** 1. Dee Garrison—Westerner
 2. Marvin Karrels—Largo 3. Joe Glocka—Largo
- Class 121:** 1. Brand Peony Farms—Terry Gudrum
 2. Bob Rose—Barrington Belle 3. Joe Glocka—Break O'Day
- Class 122:** 1. W. G. Sindt—Pico 2. Bob Rose—Pink Dawn 3. None
- Class 123:** 1. The McCallums—Seashell
 2. Bob Rose—Mischief 3. Dee Garrison—Sea Shell

- Class 124: 1. W. G. Sindt—Florence Bruss 2. None 3. None
One bloom lactiflora only.
- Class 130: 1. C. F. Spangler—Elsa Sass
 2. Dee Garrison—J. H. Neeley 3. Dee Garrison—Mary E. Nicholls
 H.M. Roy Klehm—Elsa Sass
- Class 131: 1. Dee Garrison—Moonstone
 2. Dee Garrison—Mary Nicholls 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—Moonstone
 H.M. Dee Garrison—Dorothy J.
- Class 132: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—Vivid Rose
 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—Nick Shaylor
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—Truly Yours.
 H.M. Marvin Karrels—Moonstone
- Class 133: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—Glory Hallelujah
 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Emma Klehm 3. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Jaycee
- Class 134: 1. The McCallums—Douglas Brand
 2. Brand Peony Farms—Douglas Brand
 3. Dee Garrison—Lora Dexheimer
- Class 135: 1. Dee Garrison—Miss America
 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Miss America 3. Joe Glocka—Miss America
- Class 136: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—Bev
 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—Sylvia Saunders 3. None
- Class 137: 1. Marvin Karrels—Robert McCormack
 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—Mighty Mo
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—W. E. Blanchett
- Class 138: 1. Joe Glocka—Snow Mountain
 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—Weatherball 90
 3. Dr. Carl Klehm—Angel Cheeks
- Class 139: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—Raspberry Sundae
 2. Roy Klehm—Raspberry Sundae 3. Marvin Karrels—Angel Cheeks
 H.M. Lienau Peony Gardens—Wilford Johnson
- Class 140: No entries
- Class 141: 1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Bu-te 2. None 3. None
- Class 142: 1. Joe Glocka—Westerner 2. Brand Peony Farms—Gail Tischler
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—Kay Tischler
- Class 143: 1. Joe Glocka—Hari-Ai-Nin
 2. Joe Glocka—Break O'Day 3. C. F. Spangler—Hari-Ai-Nin
- Class 144: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—Pico
 2. Dee Garrison—Krinkled White 3. None
- Class 145: 1. W. G. Sindt—Sea Shell
 2. Joe Glocka—Sea Shell 3. Roy Klehm—Mischief
- Class 146: 1. W. G. Sindt—Topeka Garnet 2. None 3. None
Three blooms one variety Herbaceous Hybrids or Species in one container.
- Class 150: 1. W. Seidl—Yellow Emperor 2. None 3. None
- Class 151: 1. None 2. Marvin Karrels—Cytherea 3. None
- Class 152: 1. Dee Garrison—Red Charm 2. Joe Glocka—Carol
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—Red Charm
- Class 153: 1. Wm. Seidl—P. Lutea 2. None 3. None
- Class 154: 1. W. G. Sindt—Requiem 2. None 3. None
- Class 155: 1. None 2. Dee Garrison—Flame 3. Joe Glocka—Friendship
- Class 156: No entries
- One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species**
- Class 160: 1. Dr. David Reath—Yellow Emperor
 2. Wm. Seidl—Yellow Crown 3. None
- Class 161: No entries
- Class 161: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—Cytherea
 2. The McCallums—Queen Rose 3. Marvin Karrels—Cytherea
- Class 163: 1. Joe Glocka—Carol 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—Firebelle
 3. James E. Holmberg—Red Charm

- Class 164: 1. None 2. None 3. Dee Garrison—**Claire de Lune**
 Class 165: No entries
 Class 166: 1. Dee Garrison—**Flame** 2. James E. Holmberg—**Coralie**
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—**Friendship**
 Class 167: 1. None 2. Dr. David Reath—**Burma Ruby** 3. None
Three blooms, one variety, tree peonies only, in one container.
 Class 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176: No entries
 Class 177: 1. Dr. David Reath—**Age of Gold** 2. None
 3. John Simkins—**Alice Harding**
 Class 178: 1. Dr. David Reath—**Savage Splendor**
 2. Dr. David Reath—**Coronet** 3. None
One bloom Tree Peony.
 Class 180: 1. None 2. None 3. John Simkins—**Yaso Okina**
 Class 181: No entries
 Class 182: 1. None 2. None 3. John Simkins—**Wisters**
 Class 183, 184, 185: No entries
 Class 186: 1. Dr. David Reath—**Vesuvian**
 2. Dr. David Reath—**Black Pirate** 3. Dr. David Reath—**Chinese Dragon**
 Class 187: 1. Dr. David Reath—**Age of Gold**
 2. Dr. David Reath—**High Noon** 3. Wm. Seidl—**Alice Harding**
 Class 188: 1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—**Hesperous**
 2. Dr. David Reath—**Savage Splendor** 3. Dr. David Reath—**Marchioness**

DIVISION II — AMATEUR

Open to exhibitors who grow peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell or cut flowers only casually and do not grow more than 200.

- Class 201: Ten varieties only, any type or color.
 1. Dee Garrison—**Kansas, Red Charm, Flame, Lora Dexheimer, Vivid Rose, Dorothy J., Princess Margaret, Dr. J. F. Neeley, Mrs. F.D.R., Moonstone.**
 2. The McCallums—**Queen Rose, Claire de Lune, Carina, Cardinals Robe, Ellen Cowley, Red Charm, Alexander Woollcott, Prairie Moon, Walter Mains, Bravura.**
 3. W. G. Sindt—**Nadia, Bonanza, Topeka Garnet, Norma Volz, Francis Mains, Emma Klehm, Mrs. F.D.R., Cytherea, Hansina Brand, Big Ben.**
 H. M. K. W. Fisher
 Class 205: 1. C. F. Spangler—**Elsa Sass**
 2. K. W. Fisher—**Dorothy J.** 3. None
 Class 206: 1. K. W. Fisher—**Nick Shaylor**
 2. Dee Garrison—**Nick Shaylor** 3. C. F. Spangler—**Martha Bulloch**
 Class 207: 1. Dick Edblom—**Kansas**
 2. C. F. Spangler—**Cleopatra** 3. C. F. Spangler—**Karl Rosenfield**
 Class 208: 1. Dee Garrison—**Miss America**
 2. C. F. Spangler—**Minnie Shaylor** 3. None
 Class 209: 1. K. W. Fisher—**Mons Jules Elie** 2. None 3. None
 Class 210: 1. K. W. Fisher—**Break O' Day**
 2. Dick Edblom—**Le Charm** 3. Dee Garrison—**Soshi**
 Class 211: 1. K. W. Fisher—**Sea Shell**
 2. K. W. Fisher—**Florence Bruss** 3. Mrs. K. W. Fisher—**Sea Shell**
 Class 212: 1. K. W. Fisher—**Red Charm**
 2. W. G. Sindt—**Prairie Moon** 3. Dick Edblom—**Edgar Jessup**
 Class 213: 1. Dick Edblom—**Age of Gold, Golden Hind, Marchioness**
 2. John Simkins—**Wister 58, Hana Kasi, Gumpo** 3. None
One bloom Lactiflora.
 Class 220: 1. C. F. Spangler—**Elsa Sass**
 2. Greta Kessenich—**Sylver** 3. Mrs. K. W. Fisher—**Dorothy J.**

- Class 221:** 1. W. G. Sindt—Lullaby
2. Greta Kessenich—Moonstone 3. Mrs. K. W. Fisher—La Lorraine
- Class 222:** 1. Greta Kessenich—Dolorodell
2. Greta Kessenich—Pillow Talk 3. Dee Garrison—Pink Cameo
- Class 223:** 1. C. F. Spangler—Martha Bulloch
2. Greta Kessenich—Emma Klehm 3. Dick Edblom—Princess Margaret
- Class 224:** 1. The McCallums—Douglas Brand
2. Dick Edblom—Kansas 3. Greta Kessenich—King Midas
- Class 225:** 1. Dee Garrison—Miss America
2. C. F. Spangler—Minnie Shaylor 3. None
- Class 226:** 1. Dee Garrison—Mons Jules Elie
2. K. W. Fisher—Mons Jules Elie 3. None
- Class 227:** 1. K. W. Fisher—Break O' Day
2. Dee Garrison—Soshie 3. C. F. Spangler—Hari-Ai-Nin
- Class 228:** 1. W. G. Sindt—Topeka Garnet
2. K. W. Fisher—Sea Shell 3. C. F. Spangler—Red Velvet
- Class 229:** 1. Dee Garrison—Flame
2. K. W. Fisher—Red Red Rose 3. Greta Kessenich—Firelight
- Class 230:** 1. Dick Edblom—Golden Hind
2. Dick Edblom—Marchioness 3. C. F. Spangler—High Noon

DIVISION III — NOVICE

Open to all gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.

- Class 301:** 1. James Holmberg—Coralie, Henry St. Clair, Red Charm, Patriot, Hansina Brand
2. Floyd Kimball—Firelight, Frances Willard, Moonstone, Golden Dawn, Festiva Maxima
3. Henry Halvorson—Sea Shell, Red Charm, Westerner, Walter Faxon, Hakuow jishi.

Three blooms one variety, lactiflora, in one container.

- Class 305:** 1. Floyd Kimball—MMe. de Verneville
2. James Holmberg—Walter Faxon 3. James Holmberg—Winnie Winkle
- Class 306:** No entries
- Class 307:** No entries
- Class 308:** 1. Henry Halvorson—Sea Shell
2. James Holmberg—Florence Bruss 3. Henry Halvorson—Westerner
- Class 309:** No entries.

One Bloom Lactiflora.

- Class 315:** 1. Floyd Kimball—Gardenia
2. Nancy Klehm—Elsa Sass 3. Floyd Kimball—Moonstone
- Class 316:** 1. C. D. Hubbard—Reine
2. Kit Klehm—Dinnerplate 3. Floyd Kimball—Myrtle Gentry
- Class 317:** 1. Scott Edblom—Douglas Brand
2. Floyd Kimball—Jean Cooperman 3. None
- Class 318:** 1. Floyd Kimball—La Joliet
2. Floyd Kimball—Judge Berry 3. None
- Class 319:** No entries
- Class 320:** 1. Floyd Kimball—Kay Tischler
2. Floyd Kimball—Vanity 3. Floyd Kimball—Red Bird
- Class 321:** 1. Floyd Kimball—Sea Shell 2. None 3. None
- Class 322:** 1. Floyd Kimball—Firelight
2. Scott Edblom—Red Red Rose 3. James Holmberg—Red Charm
- Class 323:** 1. Kit Klehm—Renown
2. Kit Klehm—Souvenir 3. Kit Klehm—Golden Hind

DIVISION IV — SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES

- Class 401:** Seedlings, three blooms, one variety.
Dr. David Reath—C-38 — Certificate of Merit
Georgine Edblom—E-11 — Certificate of Merit
- Class 402:** None
- Class 403:** Seedlings—One bloom.
Reath Nursery. Variety — A-197, D-74, D-206 — Certificate of Merit

DIVISION V — SPECIAL ENTRIES

- Class 501:** No entries
- Class 502:** Visitors from the greatest distance.
1. John Simkins. 1000 miles. Oakville, Ontario, Canada. — Age of Gold, Sarah Barnhardt, Haku Shodey, Henry Bockstoce, Souv. K. de Corova.
- Class 503:** Multiple bloom. Single stalk not disbudded.
1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Bonanza
2. Kit Klehm—Hermoine 3. Roy Klehm—Bonanza

ARTISTIC THEME

NOTABLE EVENTS — 1776-1976

- Class A:** 1776 Washington's Crossing of the Delaware (7 arrangements)
1. Mrs. K. W. Fisher, 2208 Wentworth, St. Paul, Mn. (Reserve Champion)
2. Phyllis Andrews, 50 Bernamwood Dr., Burnsville, Mn.
3. Charlotte Sindt, 14252 15th St., Afton, Mn.
H.M. Lois Seeden, Rogers, Mn.
- Class B:** 1848 Discovery of Gold in California (6 arrangements)
1. Mrs. K. W. Fisher
2. Grace Jennings, L.P. Rt., Aitkin, Mn. 3. Charlotte Sindt
H.M. Phyllis Andrews
- Class C:** 1854 The Opening of Japan by Commodore Perry (4 arrangements)
1. Mrs. K. W. Fisher (Special Award)
2. Betty Reyer, 1706 Barclay St., St. Paul, Mn.
3. Phyllis Andrews H.M. Lois Seeden
- Class D:** 1871 Chicago Fire (7 arrangements)
1. Betty Reyer (Special Award)
2. Phyllis Andrews 3. Charlotte Sindt
H.M. Caroline Richards, Elk River, Mn.
- Class E:** 1903 First Plane Flight (5 arrangements)
1. Phyllis Andrews (Special Award)
2. Mrs. K. W. Fisher 3. Betty Reyer
H.M. Grace Jennings
- Class F:** 1945 The Atomic Bomb (5 arrangements)
1. Betty Reyer 2. Mrs. K. W. Fisher 3. Grace Jennings
H.M. Phyllis Andrews
- Class G:** 1969 Man on the Moon (5 arrangements)
1. Mrs. K. W. Fisher (Grand Champion)
2. Phyllis Andrews 3. Betty Reyer
H.M. Charlotte Sindt, Lois Seeden
- Class H:** 1976 Joy! We Live! (8 arrangements)
1. Charlotte Sindt 2. Mrs. K. W. Fisher
3. Diana Hubbard, 2524 Oak Ave., Lake Forest, Ill.
H.M. Betty Reyer

MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS. 1976

President, Joe Glocka is assistant promotion operations manager of Newspapers, Inc. which publishes the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel. He grows peonies as a hobby and was show chairman of the National Exhibition in 1973. This year one of his entries at the National Exhibition—CAROL—won the Grand Champion.

Vice President, Dr. Carl H. "Chuck" Klehm has been associated with horticulture all his life, as a member of the Charles Klehm and Son Nursery family and then through graduate studies in horticulture, received his S. S. degree from the University of Illinois. M. S. degree from the University of Wisconsin and Ph. D. from the University of Illinois.

He is a member of the Board of Directors, was show chairman of the Mid-west Peony Exhibition at Chicago Horticulture Society and Botanic Garden, Glencoe Illinois. June 5-6.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 18, 1976

Ridgedale Center, Minnetonka, Minnesota

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society was called to order by President John Simkins at 8:30 P.M.

The Directors in attendance were: Dr. David Reath, Michigan; Clarence Lienau, Michigan; Marvin Karrels, Wisconsin; Joe Glocka, Wisconsin; Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Illinois; P. C. Laning, Michigan; W. G. Sindt, Minnesota; Charlotte Sindt, Minnesota; Irvin Ewing, Michigan; Edward Michau, Kansas; and Greta Kessenich, Secretary, Minnesota.

The reading of the minutes were dispensed as they were published in the Sept. 1975 Bulletin.

The first order of business was the selection of nominees to fill the vacancies on the Board of Directors. Myron Bigger was to be presented as a nominee for a three year term. Don Hollingsworth was to be presented to fill the one-year vacancy of Mr. Calvin Helgoe, who resigned because of ill health.

The Directors were updated on the history of the check list and its completion, by Greta Kessenich.

A lengthy discussion followed on the International Nomenclature. John Simkins related authentic information about the procedure as he had the facts directly from Mr. Chris Brinkle of England. A motion was made by Ed Michau that a decision to act on International Nomenclature be held in abeyance. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Marvin Karrels so moved and unanimously carried that C. Graham Jones of Churchdown, Gloucester, England be appointed

Regional Vice President of the American Peony Society of England.

It was unanimously approved to send \$100.00 for the research fund at the University of Ill., with specific instructions that it be used by Professor Meyer in his work on tissue culture.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 P.M.

Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 19, 1976

Carriage House, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Banquet of the 1976 meeting of the American Peony Society was held at the Carriage House, Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 19th.

Immediately after the banquet, the invocation by Rev. Floyd Miller. Mr. W. G. Sindt, President of the Minnesota Peony Society welcomed the National Society on behalf of the Minnesota organization. President Simkins replied, expressing appreciation on behalf of the National Society.

The business meeting began with the treasurers report, which had been passed to the members. Mr. Marvin Karrels reported that the Treasurer's books had been audited and were in order. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

Myron Bigger and Don Hollingsworth, the nominees for the Board of Directors were unanimously elected. An expression of thanks was given Charles Klehm and Son Nursery for the colored covers that they have been donating to the Society for the Bulletin.

A large gavel was given to the American Peony Society by Mr. Titus of Kansas to be used when conducting serious business over the years following.

Greta Kessenich gave a short resime' on the new check list book. It being available at the meeting. Various members were introduced. She then presented the awards to the Court of Honor recipients.

The American Peony Society medal was presented to Mr. Irvin Ewing by W. G. Sindt, for the work he had done in the past and present, in quiet contributions. The engraving on the medal read: For years of generous contributions.

Mr. Simkins showed slides that were taken on his recent trip to England. His subject, Peonies and the Chelsea Exhibition.

It was then time for the auction. Mr. Lienau was the auctioneer. Thank you, Mr. Lienau.

Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 20, 1976

Carriage House, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Simkins at 8:00 A.M. in the east room of the Carriage House. Directors present: Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Clarence Lienau, W. G. Sindt, Charlotte Sindt, Irvin Ewing, Marvin Karrels, Don Hollingsworth, Myron Bigger, Chris Laning, Joe Glocka, Dr. David Reath, Ed Michau and Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

Joe Glocka was unanimously elected President, succeeding John Simkins. Dr. Carl H. Klehm was unanimously elected Vice President and Greta Kessenich continuing as Secretary-Treasurer.

At this time the meeting was officially conducted by President Glocka. The first order of business was the discussion and decision of the future sites for the Annual meetings and exhibitions.

1977—Champaign-Urbana, Ill. May 21-22 or May 28-29

1978—Mansfield, Ohio.

1979—Several sites are under consideration. No final commitment.

There is a possibility that two shows be held in 1977 as was successfully managed in the 1976 year.

The Fifth District is considering the show in June for dates of the peony bloom in this area. More information later, in the Bulletin.

1980—Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Directors voted and passed unanimously, a peony seed project and program. All members are requested to collect seeds, carefully label the seed parent. If a cross is made, label seeds with both parents, then send seeds to Mr. Chris Laning. He is in charge of the program.

A news release will be sent to various publications, Horticultural Societies and magazines about our book, "History of the Peonies and their Originations."

The permanent show schedule will be revised, in part.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 A.M. Greta M. Kessenich, Sec.

* * * * *

From Iceland—

All the plants, about 50 that I received from Mr. Wild about two years ago are living and thriving well. They are gradually getting acclimatized and are growing vigorously now. I expect to see fine flowering next year. Some of the plants flowered the first year that I had in my garden but have not flowered since. This is our experience in Iceland, the first two or three years. After that time they start to flower and then they bloom yearly and become more vigorous. —Kristinn Gudsteinsson Reykjavik

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY SUMMATION 1903-1976

In this year of our Bicentennial, the peony has its place in the flower gardens of America. The American Peony Society is one of the stalwarts among the Horticultural organizations.

On February 18, 1903, a meeting was called in Brooklyn, New York for the purpose of completing the temporary organization of the American Peony Society which would have these purposes in view: to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to bring about an acquaintanceship among those interested in its culture; to supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of really valuable seedlings; to commend varieties of merit; and to encourage exhibitions by offering awards for worthy exhibits in the form of medals and cash prizes.

The first regular meeting of the Society was held in Detroit, Michigan, June 11, and 12th, 1903. A permanent organization was completed at this meeting.

The second annual meeting was held in New York on June 8th and 9th, 1904. The Society was then incorporated under the laws of New York on July 2, 1904.

One of the things that attracted the most attention in those early days was the surprising chaotic state into which the nomenclature of the peony had been allowed to degenerate. Duplicate varieties were distributed under various names; descriptions were inadequate and misleading. It was necessary to take definite steps to bring about a condition that would straighten out the confusion.

A trial garden was laid out and planted at Cornell University. Several hundred varieties were included in this planting with some firms and persons in France, England and Holland.

The above history was taken from an old 1920 Peony Manual written by Mr. Brand of Brands Peony Farms and is appropriate that it be reiterated this Bicentennial year, in the state of the society .

We owe a debt of gratitude to the men that carried on this work. We continue to give the nomenclature of the peony priority, and it must always be foremost in the programs of the Society.

This year, 1976, we have published a book, "History of the Peonies and their Organization" which is a check list of the varieties of the peonies. There are over 5,000 peonies alphabetically listed, with descriptions, all the registered varieties, also hybridiz-

ers and their introductions. It has taken years of research to obtain this information, to find pertinent data and assemble the book. It has taken hours and hours of correspondence.

This has been the main project in 1976 and foremost in the minds of those closely associated with this book. The beautiful peony drawings were donated for the book by artist Joe Kuczek.

It is most gratifying, in presenting the financial report for the year, to state that while we have had the added expense of this publication, the receipts are in excess of disbursements. The accumulated assets of the Society are in savings accounts at $7\frac{1}{4}\%$ and $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest. A current checking account is maintained, also a daily interest account of $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ which can be used without any interest forfeiture.

1976 dues letters and statements were mailed to members November 17th. Second notices, serving as reminders were mailed April 9th.

Four beautiful covers for the Bulletin this past year were again contributed by the Charles Klehm and Son Nursery. A very special thanks to this firm from the Directors and members for their generosity and interest in making our publication so outstanding in showing the brilliant colors of the peonies.

William H. Krekler has given the book, "A Study of the Genus Paeonia," by F. C. Stern, to the Society. Also the book, "The Paeony" by Roy Genders of London. Our thanks for these two valuable books.

Silvia Saunders has presented the Society with all the American Peony Society Bulletins, every issue since and including 1903. The Bulletins were those of Prof. Saunders. Every Bulletin in excellent condition and in numerical order. These are so very valuable, as with this gift, we have one complete set.

Special recognition is given to all those that contributed to the Bulletin this past year. Through their effort the publication has been one of interest and favorable comments have been received.

Your individual effort in writing an article for the Bulletin would answer the question: "What am I doing for the cause of the Society and the Peony?"

To all members of the American Peony Society: The Board of Directors and the Officers express their appreciation and gratitude for this past successful year.

Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary-Treasurer

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. J. Eliot Coit, Consulting Horticulturist

Dr. John Eliot Coit of Vista, California died June 4, 1976.

Dr. Coit was born March 9, 1880 at San Antonio, Texas. He was educated in North Carolina and New York state, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture at North Carolina State College in 1903 and the Ph.d degree at Cornell University in 1907. He served as Professor of Horticulture at the University of Arizona and later as Superintendent of the Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside.

In 1912 he was appointed Professor of Citriculture and Sub-tropic Pomology at the University of California at Berkeley. During World War I Dr. Coit helped organize the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau and served as the first Farm Advisor there until the end of the war. He was the author of the textbook "Citrus Fruits" and many university bulletins and magazine articles.

In 1920 Dr. Coit resigned from the university and organized "Coit Agriculture Service" which he headed until retiring in 1968. During this time, as Consulting Horticulturist, he supervised operations on many fruit ranches here and abroad, but chiefly between Santa Barbara and San Diego. He took an active part in the organization of the California Avocado Society and Calavo Growers serving on the board of directors of the first for 28 years and the latter for 20 years. As a public service he had complete charge of the beginnings of carob culture in California for non-irrigated lands. Louise Coit, his wife, died in 1962.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Eleanor Finch of Montecito, California, Mrs. Ross Wood of Concord, California and Mrs. Catherine M. Lovell of Boulder, Colorado. There are five grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. And Eloise McGowan, the step-daughter, responsible for his care (of Vista)—in his later years, lived near him. J. E. Coit was often referred to as "the Father of the Avocado Industry."

Dr. Coit made valuable contributions to peony literature by publishing in 1907 under the auspices of Cornell University and of the Nomenclature committee of the American Peony Society, a peony check list. Its purpose was to supply index of all peony names which had appeared in horticultural literature, magazines, or nursery men's catalogues up to that time, as well as of the roots which had been received at the Cornell plot. Quite a big undertaking, as anyone will admit who turns over the pages of work

The first fruits of the studies made in the field appeared in another Cornell Bulletin #209 published in 1908, also from the hand of Dr. Coit. This pamphlet begins with a chapter on the history, culture, and classification of the peony, with a useful bibliography. Then follows descriptions of about ninety varieties, including a few species.

—*Boyds Manual*. 1928. Pages 7-8.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE MIDWEST SHOW

Eldred E. Green, Horticulturist, Chicago, Ill.

The Midwest Show was a fine display covering many of the classes of the peony.

The tree peonies were not as numerous or as large as one could hope, but the presence of a tableful is an indication that the future should hold great promise for these magnificent plants.

The hybrids were reasonably abundant and eye-catching as always. However, the absence of a really good white variety may have been the result of weather which could cause spotting or marking. The weather had been bad for many growers with alternating periods of heat and cold that had speeded up and then retarded the entire midwest. In spite of this the show was excellent and certainly the cooperation of those who had good blooms made this quite a spectacle.

The Court of Honor always attracts attention and this was no exception. Awarded the place as Best in Show was the very beautiful hybrid Cytherea. The bloom was just reaching its peak of color and was in perfect condition. This is striking variety at any time and the perfection of this bloom really made an outstanding display. Also in the Court was the old-timer Nick Shaylor. This was a huge bloom of the variety and had just reached its maximum size. It was a striking flower especially for those who are awed by size.

The judges were a blend of young and old in the peony field and were headed by the veteran Marvin Karrels. Mr. Karrels took time to instruct a class of students from a Men's Garden Club judging school that stopped by to see actual judging in operation instead of theory. His explanations really covered the field of what constitutes an award winner from a runner up. They couldn't have had a better instructor.

The Best Arrangements Award went to large basket of tightly placed blooms with enough foliage and airy flowers to make a glorious picture. Many colors were used in this arrangement and were placed to create a harmonious effect. The blooms were excellent quality and the placing and artistry were superb.

A good show and fine people.

MIDWEST PEONY SHOW

"The first Midwest Peony Show was held June 5th and 6th at the Botanic Gardens of the Chicago Horticultural Society in Glencoe, Illinois. The warm sunny weather brought out many peony lovers. The excellent advance publicity provided by the garden editors of the three Chicago newspapers helped swell the crowds. Many of the visitors took advantage of the beautiful weather to tour the grounds of the Botanic Gardens in addition to viewing the peony displays. Ideal growing weather before the show assured a bountiful supply of peonies at the peak of their beauty."

MIDWEST PEONY SHOW

June 5-6, 1976

Court of Honor.

Grand Champion and Best of the Show — **Cytherea** — Marvin Karrels.
Double White or Blush — **Snow Cloud** — Clarence Lienau
Double Light Pink — **Nick Shaylor** — Dr. Carl H. Klehm
Double Dark Pink — **Vivid Rose** — Robert Rose
Double Red — **Garden Glory** — Clarence Lienau
Semi-Double — **Miss America** — Robert Rose
Japanese — **Santa Fe** — Robert Rose
Single — **Sparkling Star** — Marvin Karrels
Red Hybrid — **Walter Mains** — Marvin Karrels
Pink Hybrid — **Cytherea** — Marvin Karrels
Tree Peonies — **High Noon** — Dr. Carl H. Klehm

* * * * *

DIVISION I

Class A — Ten varieties any type or color.

1. Robert Rose 2. Clarence Lienau 3. Marvin Karrels

Class B — Ten varieties herbaceous hybrids.

1. Marvin Karrels 2. Clarence Lienau 3. None
H.M. Dr. Carl H. Klehm

Class C — Five varieties, Tree Peonies.

1. Roy Klehm 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm

One Bloom Lactiflora Only, unless otherwise stated.

Class D — Double White or Blush.

1. Clarence Lienau — **Snow Cloud**
2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—**Bowl of Cream** 3. Robert Rose—**Cheddar Cheese**
H.M.—**Judy Rose—Bowl of Cream**

Class E — Double Light Pink.

1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—**Nick Shaylor**
2. Robert Rose—**Moonstone** 3. Judy Rose—**Moonstone**

Class F — Double Dark Pink

1. Robert Rose—**Vivid Rose**
2. Clarence Lienau—**Andrew Meughlig** 3. None

Class G — Double Red

1. Clarence Lienau—**Garden Glory**
2. Clarence Lienau—**Highlight** 3. None

Class H — Semi-Double any color

1. Robert Rose—**Miss America**
2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—**Miss America** 3. None

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- Class I — Bomb, any color**
 1. Clarence Lienau—Wilford Johnson
 2. Clarence Lienau—David Harum 3. Roy Klehm—Charlie's White
 H.M. Clarence Lienau—Thunderbird
- Class J — Japanese, any color**
 1. Clarence Lienau—Dignity
 2. Clarence Lienau—Top Hat 3. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Lotus Queen
- Class K — Single, any color**
 1. Marvin Karrels—Sparkling Star
 2. Clarence Lienau—Spellbinder 3. C. K. Spangler—Sparkling Star
 H.M. Ted Mysyk—Scarlet O'Hara
- Class L — Hybrid Red**
 1. Marvin Karrels—Diana Parks
 2. Joseph Glocka—Heritage 3. Robert Rose—Buckeye Belle
- Class M — Hybrid Pink**
 1. Marvin Karrels—Cytherea
 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Eventide 3. Joe Glocka—Friendship
- Class N — Hybrid White or Cream**
 1. None 2. None 3. None
 H.M. Joe Glocka—Rushlight
- Three Blooms, one variety, lactiflora only, unless otherwise stated.**
- Class DD — Double White or Blush**
 1. Robert Rose—Bowl of Cream
 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Cheddar Cheese 3. None
- Class EE — Double Light Pink**
 1. Robert Rose—Hermoine 2. None 3. None
- Class FF — Double Dark Pink**
 1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Best Man
 2. Robert Rose—Vivid Rose 3. None
- Class GG — Double Red**
 1. Robert Rose—Felix Supreme 2. None 3. None
- Class HH — Semi-Double, any color**
 1. Robert Rose—Miss America 2. None 3. None
- Class II — Bomb, any color**
 1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Angel Cheeks 2. None 3. None
- Class JJ — Japanese, any color**
 1. Robert Rose—Santa Fe 2. None 3. None
- Class KK — Single, any color**
 1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Krinkled White 2. None 3. None
- Class LL — Hybrid Red**
 1. Marvin Karrels—Walter Mains
 2. Marvin Karrels—Diana Parks 3. Joe Glocka—Heritage
- Class MM — Hybrid Pink**
 1. Joe Glocka—Friendship
 2. Roy Klehm—Coral Charm 3. Robert Rose—Ludovica
 H.M. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Coral Charm
- Class NN — No entries**
- One Bloom only, tree peony**
- Class S — Japanese or Mouton Pink**
 1. None 2. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—Yae Zakura 3. None
- Class T, U, V, W — None**
- Class X — European or Lutea Hybrid Red**
 1. Roy Klehm—Black Pirate
 2. Sarah Klehm—Black Pirate 3. Roy Klehm—Vesuvian
 H.M. Joe Kuczek—Chinese Dragon

Class Y — European or Lutea Hybrid Yellow

1. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—**High Noon**
2. Marvin Karrels—**Age of Gold** 3. Joe Kuczek—**Golden Hind**
- H.M. Roy Klehm—**Alice Harding** H.M. Roy Klehm—**Artemis**

Class Z — European or Lutea Hybrid, blend or bi-color

1. Roy Klehm—**Gauguin**
2. Roy Klehm—**Princess** 3. Roy Klehm—**Savage**
- H.M. Dr. Carl H. Klehm—**Marchioness**

DIVISION II — NOVICE

Class 50 — Five varieties, one bloom in separate containers.

1. C. Hubbard—**Mons Jules Elie, Marietta Sisson, Kansas, Mrs. F.D.R., Fuji no.**

One Bloom Lactiflora Unless otherwise stated.

Class 52 — Double White or Blush — Lana Gerandy—Sarah Bernhardt

Class 53 — Double Light or Dark Pink — Lana Gernady—Shawnee Chief

Class 54, 55, 56 — No entries

Class 57 — Single any color — C. F. Spangler—Sparkling Star

Class 58 — Hybrid, any color

1. C. F. Spangler—**Red Charm**
2. C. F. Spangler—**Rosedale** 3. Sue Skerke—**Pride of Germany**

ARTISTIC — 69 ARRANGEMENTS

THE YEAR OF THE WILTING PEONIES

Jennifer Simkins (age 15)

We were to leave on Wednesday, June 16th for the National show in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One thousand miles was a long way to go, especially when the peonies looked pretty shot to begin with. Well, my parents were invited to the Chelsea Show in England. The most crucial time for the peonies is before the peony show. Not having "the master gardener" around, my sister and my brother took over. Doing well with the unknown skills of preparing the flowers for a show.

The weather was perfect for travelling, not hot or cold, no rain. We decided to go from Oakville, Ontario and down under Lake Michigan, mother keeping track of every inch of the way with her AAA maps. We had a good trip there, good food and fine accommodation.

We arrived Friday as planned, late in the afternoon. After we took all our peonies to the Ridgedale Center, we found all the names of the peonies must be discovered. Janice had written some names on paper towelling and wrapped the flowers in it. This had pretty well disintegrated from the moisture from the coolers and the melted and solid ice. The flowers were not in good shape either.

Later in the evening while still trying to figure out the names of the wilted flowers, Miss Silvia Saunders most kindly asked us to join Dr. and Mrs. David Reath and Scott their son, Mr. Bill Seidl and herself for dinner. It was lovely in a restaurant beside the hotel.

Saturday morning we were up early and off to the Center. We looked for names, wrote our tags and shuffled back and forth to where the flowers were going to be displayed. Some peonies were moved from the workroom using strollers supplied for youngsters of shoppers. They were good for wheeling vases to the showroom.

Finally at 11:00 a.m. the judging commenced. As in the last three years, I helped being a clerk after the judges made their decision as to which flower came first, second, and third. I placed the according ribbon on it.

After the judging there was a luncheon at Sears which offered a small but filling meal.

Most of us went shopping during and after the judging and lunch. This was almost irresistible considering we were located in a shopping center surrounded by shops of all sorts.

Of course that evening was topped off by the banquet. It was something else again. As an appetiser it started with large jumbo shrimp. The main course was Chinese food. All, of course, were eaten with chop sticks (by the adventurous ones). The dessert was interesting. It was like a fruit cocktail but with jello-like cubes in it. Quite tasty. Naturally with Chinese tea and fortune cookies concluding the meal. After the banquet there was the business to take care of, then the election of the new president Mr. J. Glocka. Medals and prizes were given out, after that a short slide speech from the now past president, my father. The highlight of the evening was the auction. I was a runner. Many plants, a beautifully embroidered shirt and a most attractive and lovely drawing or sketch of a peony by artist Joe Kuczek were auctioned off. It all ended at about 12:00 p.m.

Even though the day's events were officially over, groups still got together to discuss what had happened and what they had done in their own gardens that year and what they had learned from the afternoon's talks by Dr. Meyer and Scott Reath.

Next morning up at 8:00 a.m. for the board of directors meeting. My father was off. When he returned at 11:00 a.m., we were packed and ready to go. Greta Kessenich invited everyone to visit her garden, and she gave us all luscious scream pie and coffee.

On our way home we visited Dr. Reath's peony farm at Vulcan, way at the top of Lake Michigan, where the peonies were still in bloom. They were beautiful and we were asked back to the house for tea. Scott showed me how to graft peonies. I hope to be able to help my father with this.

From there we were homeward bound. My father has decided that May is not the time to take a trip from his peonies. He is looking forward to seeing his seedlings flower and his new grafts growing well, all of which he missed this year. My mother is looking at

the last of her lawn being dug up for a new flower bed which I hope to fill with grafts. My embryo is growing in the culture that Dr. Meyer gave to me, despite its rough 1,000 miles ride home. The show was a nice way to spend a week, and I am hoping that I can go again next year.

NEWSLETTER: PAEONIA

Editors: The Lanings Summarized by Bill Seidl

MARCH, 1976, VOL. 7, NO. 1. The insistence of *P. californica* to grow during the short-day season has created difficulties for Chris Laning in trying to hybridize with it at his Michigan home. He has built a small protective enclosure for his plants and uses an electric soil cable for heat.

Highlights of his 1975 growing season are reviewed by Bill Seidl. (1) A pink double seedling, H12, with functional carpels and intermingled stamens, showed up among some herbaceous hybrid seedlings. It originated from Pehrson seed and is descended from the quadruple hybrids. (2) A single clump of AGE OF GOLD, planted in the fall of 1969, produced about 100 total blossoms. 50 open flowers and 50 buds were counted on June 13th. (3) 54 large firm seeds of lutea hybrid crosses were collected from four plants, 24 of these seeds from the AG plant just described. Other seed-bearers were Gaugin II, D223, and D324. Pollinators were A198, A199, and D223. The prefix "D" refers to *Daphnis lutea* hybrids, the "A" to those of David Reath. (4) One new Itoh hybrid appeared, and survives, from a lacti seedling x ALICE HARDING but a couple more from lacti x A198 or A199 were lost to garden pests. (5) Pollen grains were put under a microscope and an idea advanced by others was verified—the outward physical appearance of pollen grains could be used as an indication of viability. Known fertile varieties (lactis, MOONRISE, A198, A199) had large plump grains; known sterile or near-sterile varieties (CORAL FAY, HIGH NOON...) had small shriveled grains; and some (SPARKLING WINDFLOWER, ...), between these two extremes.

An idea first heard from David Reath is passed on: Cross lactis with tet species and hybrids, treat the germinating triploid seedlings with colchicine to induce hexaploidy, a condition that ought to restore fertility within this group.

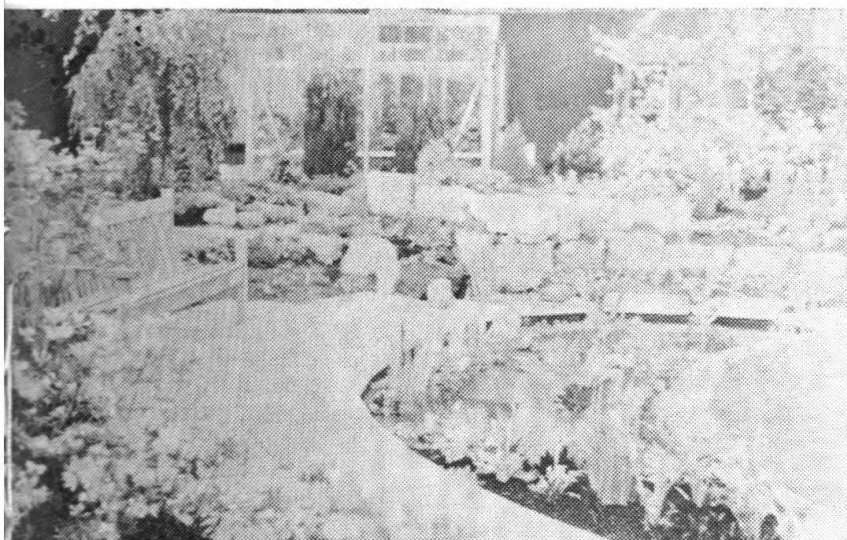
From North Dakota Ben Gilbertson reports on his activities. Four varieties imported from the USSR in 1973 are reaching flowering size and roots and seeds from Lithuania are expected this fall. Ben is interested in improving the common *P. tenuifolia*. A robust plant from DOUBLE TENUIFOLIA x 'SMOUTHY,' with a superior root system and typical single flower, will be used in a backcross to DOUBLE TENUIFOLIA. FAYETTE has also been successfully used as a pollen parent with various Lactifloras. Two new intro-

ductions are ATLAS and GOLDBLOCKS, described in Bulletin #216, p. 31. The latter, from ORIENTAL GOLD x CLAIRE DE LUNE, has light yellow guards and a bright yellow full center of narrow petals. It blooms with the early lactis and is fertile, having set seed well with MOONRISE and to a limited extent with P. MLOKOWITSCHI.

In a five-page article Don Hollingsworth analyzes flower form in peonies and attempts to classify the form according to two classes and three types. Class A refers to two-stage flowers or flower-in-flower; Class B to single-stage flowers or regular type. The three types refer to degrees of transformation of stamens and carpels to petals. Type 1 refers to all-over transformation of stamens with variable transformation of carpels; type 2 to progressive stamen transformation with carpels usually normal; type 3 to normal stamens and carpels. Some examples: GOOD CHEER is Class B, type 3; LADY OF THE SNOWS is Class A, type 1; MINNIE SHAYLOR, tentatively Class B, type 2, an unusual lactiflora form; KARL ROSENFELD, class A, type 2; HANSINA BRAND, presumably Class A, type 1. How this can be helpful in hybridizing, especially for doubles, is also analyzed.

THE CHELSEA SHOW, LONDON ENGLAND

by John Simkins



Garden Exhibit, Chelsea Show

The American bi-centennial was commemorated by the Royal Horticultural Society through extending a complimentary membership to 200 amateur and professional American gardeners. Included in this list were the presidents of the specialist societies, including the American Peony Society. Membership includes copies of the *The Garden*, their

monthly magazine and free tickets for their shows and to their garden at Wisley.

Their most renowned show is in late May and is called The Chelsea Flower Show, being held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital commonly called the Chelsea Pensioner's Hospital, in the heart of London.

My wife and I always intended to attend a Chelsea Show one day. This year we could represent the American Peony Society, celebrate the Bi-centennial, and deliver the new A.P.S. check list to Mr. C. Brickel, the International Registration authority, so we decided that this was the time.

We also felt it would give us an opportunity to find out the state of the peony in England and try and obtain a few more members for the Society.

Fortunately I write a weekly gardening column for the Oakville Journal Record and am a member of the Garden Writers Association of America. Mr. Roy Hay is the European Vice-President of the G.W.A.A. and is a very influential and prolific writer, broadcaster and T.V. personality in England and France. He was kind enough to arrange for press credentials for the Chelsea Show.

The show was set up over the weekend being completely ready by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 24. At this time the grounds were cleared except for people manning the exhibits, the press and officials of the Royal Horticultural Society. Then the Royal party arrived. Because of the rather violent behaviour of certain groups in England, security was very thorough especially when large crowds gather and even more so when members of the Royal family attend. So while in the past they visited the show on Member's Day, this year the Royal family had a private show the afternoon before opening.

Roy Hay was with us as we watched the procession. Unfortunately the Queen and Prince Philip were in Finland, but we saw the Queen Mother, with her blue feathered hat, the Duchess of Gloucester, Prince Richard, Prince William, Princess Alexandra and several others.

It was something like attending one of the old openings in Hollywood and watching all the stars go by or maybe like being at the head table for a sports celebrity dinner. Any way it was sort of a thrill.

There are four major areas of the show covering twenty-seven acres. The Great Marquee was 3½ acres under canvass and contained one hundred exhibits arranged in rectangular areas along nine gangways and four through aisles. Some exhibits like Hilliers were quite large, taking up about 900 square feet. Allwood Bros. rockery dianthus took about 100 square feet. The exhibits were mostly arranged symmetrically in rows on stands except for the trees set in the ground in woodland settings. The idea was to show the complete line of plants grown rather than arranging them in any design.

Surrounding the Great Marquee were over 150 commercial exhibits of non-horticultural material. These included garden tools,

like \$30 Stanley stainless steel shovels, fertilizer, books, horticultural paintings and furniture. Around this area was an uncovered space where gardens, pools, stonework, greenhouses and large machinery were shown. Across the road were plants arranged in natural settings, some garden designs and ecological displays.

The Floral Display tent housed the decoratives or arrangements section. Ladies from horticultural societies and professional florists showed flower designs based on current themes. Flower arrangements were in large niches usually three groups of flowers in one niche co-ordinated to carry out the theme.

About four acres were devoted to a band-stand and refreshment area. The band of the Grenadier Guards played afternoons and evenings, playing ninety-one pieces without a single repeat. They played the Stars and Stripes Forever, which I took as their Bi-centennial offering.

On opening day as we walked over from Sloane Square station at 10 a.m., some people were already leaving the show. We felt we had planned well and the show would not be too crowded. There were quite a few streaming in and all bags were inspected but with no hold up. When we were inside I couldn't believe the crowd. The whole world seemed to be there. Nowhere could one see the ground. Never-the-less we were able to get around quite well although picture taking was a bit of a problem as it was hard to step a little way back from the exhibits. The second day, members can still use their tickets, but the public are also invited at £3.00 each. As we were sure all the 65,000 members were there the first day, we thought it would be empty at that price, but not so; it was packed. On Thursday we rested for the Friday assault, taking a side trip to Highdown Gardens at Worthing.

Friday is the day when admission is £1.00 and the show ends at 5 p.m. At this time a whistle is blown and material exhibited in the Marquee can be sold. What a sight, everyone lined up around their favorite exhibit, hands full of pound notes ready to buy their favorite plant. I was carried away myself and ended up with a tree peony from Kelway's at £3 00 that I planted in my sister-in-law's garden. Shortly after, as we walked to the subway station, the street seemed full of moving delphiniums, rhododendrons, roses and trees as the crowd bore off their trophies.

There was so much to see, but as space is limited, I will just touch on the highlights as I saw them, then give a little more detail about the peony exhibits. If you have any specific topics I don't cover, drop me a line, and I will answer directly.

Roses were the most exhibited being over 10% of the show in the marquee. This seems fair as 1976 is the centenary of the Royal National Rose Society. I normally wouldn't give more than a few minutes to roses, but the first person we met in the press

room at Chelsea was Mr. A. Crocker, V.H.M. of Scotland, one of the great modern rose breeders. He gave all occupants of the press room a deep yellow rose to wear. It was called Glenfiddick which he told me is the name of a Scotch malt whiskey. When I said I had never heard of it, some one produced a small drink which was quite enjoyable. Some of the new 1976 roses were **Dame of Sark**, by Harkness, a mixture of orange-scarlet and orange-yellow. It is a beauty and will probably cross the ocean. Another was **Ann Aberconway**, named after Lady Aberconway, wife of the president of R.H.S. This had fragrant apricot flowers with tones of buff and bronze. McGredy introduced **EyePaint**, a single of bright scarlet with an eye of cream and golden yellow. It looks like a winner. **Dublin Bay**, a deep red moderate climber, and **Young Quinn**, a yellow hybrid tea were also shown by McGredy. There were many other introductions like **Norwich Union**, **Antonea Ridge**, **Charles de Gaule**, and **Wembley Stadium**.

The most interesting rose shown was **Rosa Persica**, a wild rose from Iran. It is unique with bright yellow single flowers with bright red eyes. It will not propagate by cuttings, grafting or budding so is proving a difficult one. Seedlings were shown and they have the characteristic eye. This should soon put the flares of tree peonies into roses. It will give an impetus to rose breeders.

Rhododendrons and azaleas are the next most prolific. They grow easily in England and come in so many colors and sizes it is breathtaking. The prettiest one to my mind was a fifty year old bonsai azalea displaying a two-foot ball of pink flowers. It's a crowd stopper—with a price tag in the \$2,000 range. There were several bonsai exhibits indicating an increasing interest in this hobby.

The exhibit which created the most interest was that of *Potentilla* "**Red Ace**" shown by Bressingham Gardens. Dr. Barker, whose hobby is to grow *potentilla* from seed, found a red seedling among the whites and yellows. He and Mrs. Barker propagated and raised for trial some plants at Wisley and showed them last fall at Great Autumn Show. It was only on display an hour before someone snatched a piece. It was immediately withdrawn from the show. This was such a surprising event that Roy Hay's story received front page headlines in the Times. The plant has now been patented and will be on sale world-wide by next year.

This exhibit at Chelsea was guarded by security men on each side. **Red Ace** is a low growing shrub. The bright green foliage accents the semi 2" red flowers. It is an ideal plant for the front of the shrub border.

Just about every house in England has a greenhouse, so there is a great interest in orchids which had eight exhibitors with France, Germany and Barbados growers represented.

Blackmoor and Langdon had a magnificent display of delphin-

iums with the blue the most spectacular. There were also many with reddish tinges. I dropped into the Delphinium Society booth to talk to some of the members. I've been a member myself for many years. It is the greatest bargain in gardening. For \$2.00 you get a 100 page delphinium year book with all the latest information about the plant and a large package of seeds which produce spikes of variety and beauty. Their big news this year is the easy propagation of delphiniums by placing slips in water in a shady window. They root easily in about a month. This is important in England where named varieties are grown and might even make the naming and keeping of good selections a popular practice in North America. Blackmore and Langdon also showed their world renowned tuberous begonias. They are so large and so colourful I wanted to start growing them right away, but I have so many slugs and so little room.

Now the peonies. The main exhibitor was Kelway's who won a gold medal for their display of about forty varieties of herbaceous and ten varieties of tree peonies. Most of them were new to me and the names were unfamiliar. The most popular were the Japanese or Imperials as they are called by Kelway's. **Bowl of Beauty** is one I saw both at Kelway's and Bee's. It has pink petals and a white centre. It had an ethereal appearance.

Other interesting Japs were **Gleam of Light**, pink and gold, and **Globe of Light**, rose and gold. They also had **Ballerina**, the Saunder's pink double. They showed ten tree peonies including **Alice Harding** and **Souvenir de Maxine Cornu**. The rest carried unknown names like **Langport Lad**, **Duchess of Kent**, **Raphael** and **Countess of Crewe**. These names are not listed in Haworth Booth or in Wister. I gather they are renamed varieties from Japan. I couldn't place them, though **Duchess of Kent** looked like **Impumon**, and **Raphael** was a beautiful salmon pink with pinkish bronze foliage.

There was one introduction of tree peonies by Hillier. These were called **Jermyns'** hybrids and was a cross between **Potanini** and **Delavayi**. They stood nearly eight inches high with half-inch brownish red flowers hanging down. These would be of interest to the breeder but unless planted on a hillside would not be good display plants. They were recommended for the front border and would over time make an interesting ground cover.

Another tree peony was noted. It was entered for an award by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Simmonds of Quarry Wood, Burghclere, Whitechurch. This was listed as **Rock's Variety** and was not considered to be **Rock's**, so was not given an award. It was a beautiful pink with dark pink flares.

We were a little disappointed in the lack of peonies at Chelsea but we found many were grown in England in perennial borders but they were not collected as a hobby plant.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1975 - June 1, 1976

Balance on Hand June 1, 1975	\$8175.29
Receipts:	
Membership dues	\$2935.50
Advertising	240.00
Rent: color slides	40.00
A.P.S. Auction — Kingwood Center	589.50
Registration, Nomenclature	150.00
Contributions	500.00
Publications:	
Bulletins	\$18.95
Handbooks	5.00
“The Peonies”	77.90
“Peonies Outdoors and In”	44.75
Total	146.60
Reservations Kingwood	486.25
Interest on Savings	545.61
Total Receipts	5633.46
	\$13808.75
Disbursements:	
Publications:	
Four Bulletins: June, Sept., Dec., Mar.	\$1930.50
June Supplement	78.00
American Peony Society postage	476.01
Office supplies	40.13
Research — (Culture of Paeonia)	400.00
Miscellaneous items	31.00
Books — “The Peonies”	39.00
Exhibitions	158.45
Reservations — Kingwood Convention	504.50
Bank charges on foreign checks	2.73
Printing	1500.00
Total Disbursements	\$5160.32
	8648.43
Balance June 1, 1976	8648.43
	\$13808.75
Excess receipts over disbursements for the year	\$473.14
Savings Account	\$7574.31
Checking Account	1074.12
	\$8648.43

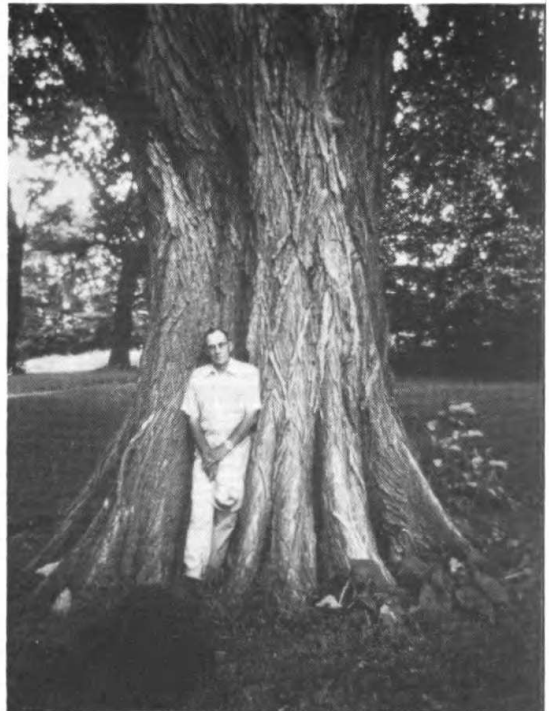
Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary-Treasurer



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Spring of 1976. Victim of the Dutch Elm disease.



BOB TISCHLER, owner of Brands Peony Farms, Faribault, Minnesota.

PUBLICATIONS

The Peonies, edited by John C. Wister (1962). Published by the American Horticultural Society, Wellington, Mt. Vernon, Va. 22121. 220 pages, information on Herbaceous, Tree and Hybrid Peonies. Many techniques of growing, propagation and breeding. A must for every Hybridizer. Price to Members, Clothbound \$3.50, Paperbound \$2.50.

Peonies Outdoors and In by Arno and Irene Nehrling (1960) 288 pages containing information in all phases on the herbaceous and tree peony. Society members \$4.95.

Send check or money order for the above literature to American Peony Society, 250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343.

COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

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1-4 page	\$ 7.50	40.00
1-3 page	12.50	50.00
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below

RIGHT ROYAL (Saunders 1952) (Tree Peony) Unusual and appealing lavender picotee and purple flares. Suffusing semi-double yellow.





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