

SEPTEMBER, 1977
NO. 223

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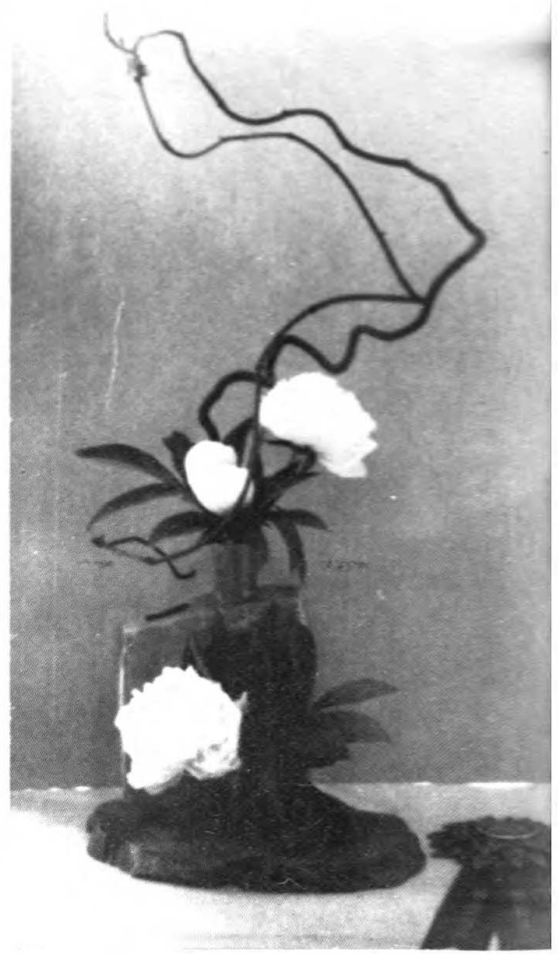
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The American Peony Society Bulletin



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ARTISTIC DESIGNS, MILWAUKEE. WISCONSIN



Many of the finer things in life do come to an end. So it is with our beautiful full color covers which have been scheduled far beyond the original intent because of the continuing generosity of the Klehm Nursery, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Our September issue inaugurates the beginning of a new colorful cover format which will have color modifications from issue to issue. Our grateful thanks for this new cover design goes to Dan Lietz of Germantown, Wisconsin; and to Irvin Ewing of Detroit, Michigan, who has printed the design in color.

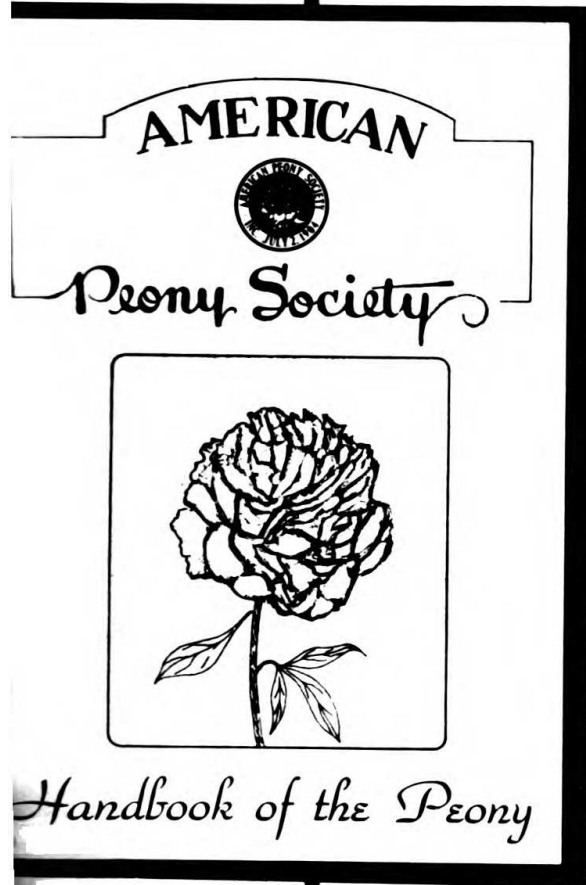
Lietz has been a creative design artist for 35 years. Ewing is currently on the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society and a frequent contributor to all our Society's printing needs.

We hope you will enjoy this sparkling new look.

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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 1977 — No. 223

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

I hope we have a better fall than we had a spring! Nature certainly had a way of upsetting the "best laid plans of mice and men." Our last issue of the bulletin went to press shortly before hail and frost made a shambles of the peony fields at Champaign-Urbana in Illinois causing cancellation of the national peony exhibition there. Fortunately we had a hold on a show site in Milwaukee planned for the midwest show. This enabled us to hold the national exhibition in Milwaukee.

Knowing what effort goes into preparations for a national show, I can fully appreciate the keen disappointment the Champaign-Urbana committee felt over the cancellation. But all's well that ends well. The committees joined forces and put on a superb show in Milwaukee at the Mitchell Conservatory with many, many fine blooms and varieties which managed to survive adverse weather conditions in the areas from which they came.

It was nice to see old friends again who brought so many blooms. Such loyalty to a cause! But that's our peerless society.

So now, as we look back on the close of another peony cycle, it's time to look ahead by adding new varieties to our collections and by dividing plants of old favorites to see how well they will fare when groomed for future shows.

Joe Glocka

— 5 —

PEONY-GROWING BASICS

By Anthony J. De Blasi

If your peonies are established and doing well, congratulations! Whether the circumstances be the result of your efforts or those of others, you are enjoying a refined degree of gardening activity. For those who have not attained that level, or are about to start the great peony adventure, allow me to spread my thoughts out on some fundamentals.

Soil comes first. I emphasize soil because years of experience (that of others as well as mine) lead to the conclusion that the best results come from paying proper heed to the most fundamental ingredient in any gardening venture: the soil in which the peony is to make its home for perhaps generations.

Fortunately there is nothing esoteric about soil. While it is easy to develop a flair for special formulations, based on scientific principles, it is not terribly important whether the soil is on the acid side, the alkaline side or what a chemical analysis reveals. What is important is that it be friable, well-drained, and rich in humus. By humus, I mean decomposed organic substance, such as leaf-mold, compost, composted manure, just about well-rotted anything. It is no exaggeration to say that humus is to soil what blood is to the body—it's "life stream." It is that substance which is taken up and used by seed, spores, and live roots to create the infinitely varied living forms of plant life. A form of life in abeyance, as it were, the dark side of the green world, wiggling its way back and forth from the dark, amorphous state to that of distinct, cellular formation, in an endless cycle.

The significance of humus in the soil is readily affirmed by a variety of facts. It will make even sand grow things. It makes soil "breathe," invites earthworms and other soil organisms to come in and contribute their activities to the general well-being of the root zone, improves the texture and drainage of the soil, and nourishes the plants that grow in it. Now I know that chemical analysis "proves" that humus is deficient in plant nutrients. I do not intend to spark debate, but I will say that engineering analysis "proves" that a bumblebee can't fly and yet the bumblebee does fly. Well, plants do thrive where there is an abundance of decayed organic matter. That is what matters.

Next, prepare the soil deeply. Think big when it comes to digging the planting hole. If your back or your muscles are no match for your thoughts, recruit a younger body to do the spade-work. (Or an older body, if it's strong and willing!)

Third, don't plant the peony in a trap. Exercise some common garden sense. Don't set peonies out in a wet location or where they will have to fight for their existence with nearby trees, shrubs, or

rank perennials. Peonies also hate foundations. If you want them near the house, keep them well away from the foundation.

Full sun will produce the sturdiest plants and the most blooms, but the flowers may not last long or hold their color. A fine spot would be one that is sunny all day except between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. If you have just a few plants—and you have the time during the flowering period—grow your peonies in full sun and shade the flowers during the hottest part of the day with beach umbrellas. It may seem like a bit of a fuss, but your flowers will last much longer and in greater perfection of form and color. Should one of your neighbors deliver a condescending smile, invite him/her to come and look at your RIMPO. You will be one-up on him/her for life!

It is recommended that peonies be planted with their eyes two inches below the ground. This refers to herbaceous peonies. Plant your tree peonies deeper. Otherwise the culture of the two types is much the same, except that the tree peonies need more room to develop and, while you normally cut down the tops of the herbaceous peonies in the fall, never prune the stems of a tree peony except to remove dead wood.

The rest is common sense. Keep your plants watered through dry spells. Keep the lawn and the weeds a comfortable distance away from them. A mulch of peatmoss, lawn clippings, etc., will help the plants weather extremes of heat and drought and will gradually break down and return some of that precious humus into the soil.

There is some work involved here. Getting things started always seems a bit trying. Patience is an asset in this business. If you would have that imagined future grow into a glorious present, do things right. Give the peony your best, and in due time it will give you its best. You will both be the happier for it, in a partnership that will stretch over a life-time.

PEONY PLANTING TIME

By The Rev. Floyd J. Miller, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

This is the first of July and in two months peony-planting time will be here again. This year that season is of special interest because our collection of 240 varieties will be moved to a more rural location. What shall be the pattern of the planting? This will have to be worked out because I have seen only bits of information about the arrangement of a peony garden.

There could be rows four feet apart and the plants separated four feet in each row. This would allow cultivation both ways and with space for the plants to grow and expand. Later on grass could cover much of the cultivated area. Most fields I have seen are

this way and with varieties of the same color together. This arrangement is good for producing specimen blooms. But it is entirely utilitarian with no consideration of beauty in the whole garden.

There could be a bed 150 feet long and of medium width. In a few years the background evergreens will be high enough to set off an attractive display when viewed from the house about three hundred feet away. There are designs for flower borders with a peony bush here and there. But I have seen no plans for a border of only peonies. No doubt varieties of similar height and color should be together with taller plants in the back. Suggested varieties for the back are **Helen, Angelus, Sea Shell, Imperial Red, and Flanders Field.**

There might be irregularly shaped groups with several plants of the same variety. These would be separated by areas of grass. A bed of **Illini Warrior** or of **President Lincoln** or of **Sir John Franklin** or of **Nippon Brilliant** would have an impressive display of mass color in June. Possibly different varieties with similar colors and plant habits could be in the same group. This would provide a longer season of bloom.

My present thinking is to have one or two rows of tall varieties in front of the evergreens. Included here can be **Peg O' My Heart, Henry Webster, Sparkling Star, Dawn Pink, Kathalo, Largo, Break O' Day, Sky Pilot, Mme. Jules Dessert, and Annisquam.**

Then there probably will be several beds each about 6 x 20 feet in size, set apart by substantial grass areas. A bed of reds can have **Richard Carvel, Mary Brand, Valencia, King Midas, Ruth Elizabeth, Longfellow, Edward Flynn, and Tempest.** A bed of whites can have **Le Cygne, Gardenia, Alice Harding, Festiva Maxima, Baroness Schroeder, Carrara, and Ave Maria.** A bed of pinks might have **Dolorodell, Hermoine, James Pillow, David Harum, Blanche King, Irving Flint, and Nippon Gold.** I am inclined to have hybrids together like **Alexander, Woolcott, Helen Mathews, Diana Parks, Sun-bright, Burma Ruby, Montezuma, and Red Charm.** And use in one bed the dainty varieties like **Cardinal's Robe, Bravura, Flame, Ludovica, Coralie, and Lovely Rose.**

Our new house has an east front with a 200' x 200' area open toward the gate and the fields beyond. Mature oak trees surround the house and extend to the gate. This front area will have peonies, evergreens, and grass for the landscaping.

FLOWER OF THE DAY

by Daniel F. Flavin

In grandmother's garden, in red and white and pink profusion, there always grew a flower referred to in plain folks' English as the "piney." Over the years since Grandmother's day, the flower has

changed. It now blooms in many subtle shades, with bigger blossoms, the result of careful cultivation by those infatuated with this very special flower. And most people, except for a few oldsters, call it by its formal name, the peony.

But the qualities that make the peony a special flower and the reasons for its popularity over generations remain changeless. It is a hardy flower, a showy flower: Like the rosemary cited by Shakespeare, it is a flower for remembrance, much in view on the national holiday Americans have set aside for remembrance, the day we call Memorial Day.

Memorial Day itself is a name for modern times. When Grandmother stood in her garden those long years ago, in the sunny days of the middle of May, a standard remark she might be overheard saying would run like this: "I do hope the 'pineys' will bloom in time for Decoration Day."

Call it Decoration Day or Memorial Day, it is a day for peonies, peonies carried by the armful, carried with respect and love to family cemetery plots, there to repose in tribute to people remembered as special.

Nobody seems to be able to pinpoint the reasons for the affinity between peonies and Memorial Day. But everybody agrees that the affinity exists. And those who raise peonies, and love them for all their qualities, can tick off some very realistic reasons why the flower is in such common use on this day.

It is, to repeat, a hardy flower. It is almost always available in time to fill its special role. It has a strong "holding" power, growers point out. If it should bloom too early in some years because of favorable weather conditions, it can be cut and held back for use in the cemetery. Those familiar with peony lore as it applies to Memorial Day say that in one period the reds were most often used on graves of male forebears, with white ones reserved for females. In earlier days, some people even planted peonies in family cemetery plots, almost always being rewarded with a timely blooming of this special remembrance flower. This is still done in many small graveyards.

Early in this century, farmers often would plant several acres of peonies. They would cut the blooms and sell them to florists, who in turn retailed bouquets for family use. Farmers and florists no longer follow this practice. The peony has become, perhaps for all the right reasons, a "personal" sort of flower grown in private gardens.

For those interested in the lore of flowers, the peony is a rich lode. The ancient Greeks, naturally, had a legend fit for so fine a flower. According to mythology, it was named for Paeon, a physician of antiquity. Paeon was first given the peony by a god on

Mount Olympus. With it, he is said to have cured Pluto of a wound suffered in war—reputedly the first use of a peony as medicine. Paeon also used the peony to heal a wound suffered by Mars.

This successful practice of medicine so aroused the jealousy of Paeon's teacher, Aesculapius, the god of medicine, that the latter secretly plotted Paeon's death. Pluto heard of the plot and, being grateful to Paeon, saved the physician from the fate of mortals by changing him into the plant that had been used in the cure. The plant has ever since borne Paeon's name.

The peony also was found to be useful in the kitchen. The roots of one deep crimson peony were used in soups in Siberia. In China, by 536 A.D., the peony was used both for medicinal and culinary purposes.

Peony seeds were used as a seasoning in food and in drinks. The rich in England during the 14th and 15th centuries used its roots as a fine accompanying dish with roast pork.

The peony legends are rich in imagination. The Greeks considered the flower a charm against evil spirits, and they would have been highly disturbed by the casual way modern gardeners snip peonies for bouquets. The Greeks thought peonies should be plucked with care. They believed that if the flower was taken in daylight, a woodpecker would peck out the flower plucker's eyes. So the Greeks took the flowers at night, when woodpeckers were asleep.

The Romans went even farther afield in caution. They believed the plant groaned as it emerged from the earth, and any human close enough to hear the groan would die. So the Romans tied dogs to the flowers to pull them out of the ground, then enticed the dogs with meat, while the humans stayed safely out of earshot.

The peony is considered virtually a national flower in China. The flower figures prominently in Chinese poetry, in legend, in history, and in romance. In China, the peony's name is "Sho Yo," which means most beautiful, and it is considered an aristocrat among flowers.

All of this adulation, all of these legends and myths, while understood by today's Americans, might also be considered a bit overdone.

To the people of this land, the peony merits recognition for serving a simple basic need. It is, in essence, a flower that helps keep the memory of those who are gone fresh in the hearts of those who remain and helps note, with love and compassion, a fragment in time so rightly named as Memorial Day.

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Submitted by C. D. Pennell.

THE MOUTAN PAEONY

by F. C. Stern, F.L.S.

The Tree Paeonies of the gardens of China have been famous among the Chinese since very early times. They have been surrounded by an air of romance and are still, even in the twentieth century, capable of romance, as this story will show.

The early missionaries to China sang the praises of their wonderful flowers which they called the "Moutan" after the Chinese name "Mou-tan-wha," the Moutan flower. In the eighteenth century the pictures of Tree Paeonies, bushes with huge and beautiful flowers, were first seen in the Chinese paintings sent back to Europe. Stories were told how these flowers were closely guarded in the gardens of the Imperial Palace and in the gardens of the mandarins.

These tales excited the adventurous gardeners in England to try to obtain the plants of which they had heard so much. Sir Joseph Banks, who was always to the fore in trying to introduce new plants, engaged a Mr. Duncan, a medical man attached to the East India Company, about 1786, to procure a plant for the Royal Gardens at Kew. It was received at Kew in 1787. Sir Joseph Banks also planted a Tree Paeony at Spring Grove within ten miles of London about the same date, which in 1825 was said to be about 8 feet high and about 10 feet in diameter; it was named *Paeonia Moutan* var. *Banksia*. Sir Abraham Hume of Wormley Bury, Herts, also imported these plants; one of these was said to have grown into a huge bush by 1835 and to have borne 320 flowers!

Tree Paeonies became more common in the nineteenth century owing mainly to the work of Robert Fortune, who was sent to China by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1843. He went round the Tree Paeony nurseries in China and sent home plants which were propagated and distributed by the Society. But the wild habitat of the Tree Paeony was still unknown. In a Chinese work describing the province of Shensi, written about 1698, the Moutan was stated to grow in great profusion on a hill called Moutan Shan, colouring the whole hill red with blooms in spring and scenting the air around.

The travelers H. Scallan and G. Giraldi found the wild Tree Paeony in Shensi, but no seeds or plants or dried specimens were brought back. R. P. Licent and W. Purdom also found it in the same province; Purdom sent back seed and plants to Mssrs. Veitch and also dried specimens in 1910. Most of the plants and seeds were lost, but there are still one or two plants growing at the Arnold Arboretum, Boston, U.S.A. This paeony turned out to be a variety of the wild Tree Paeony, but is probably not the ancestor of the garden form. It was named by Alfred Rehder *P. suffruticosa* var.

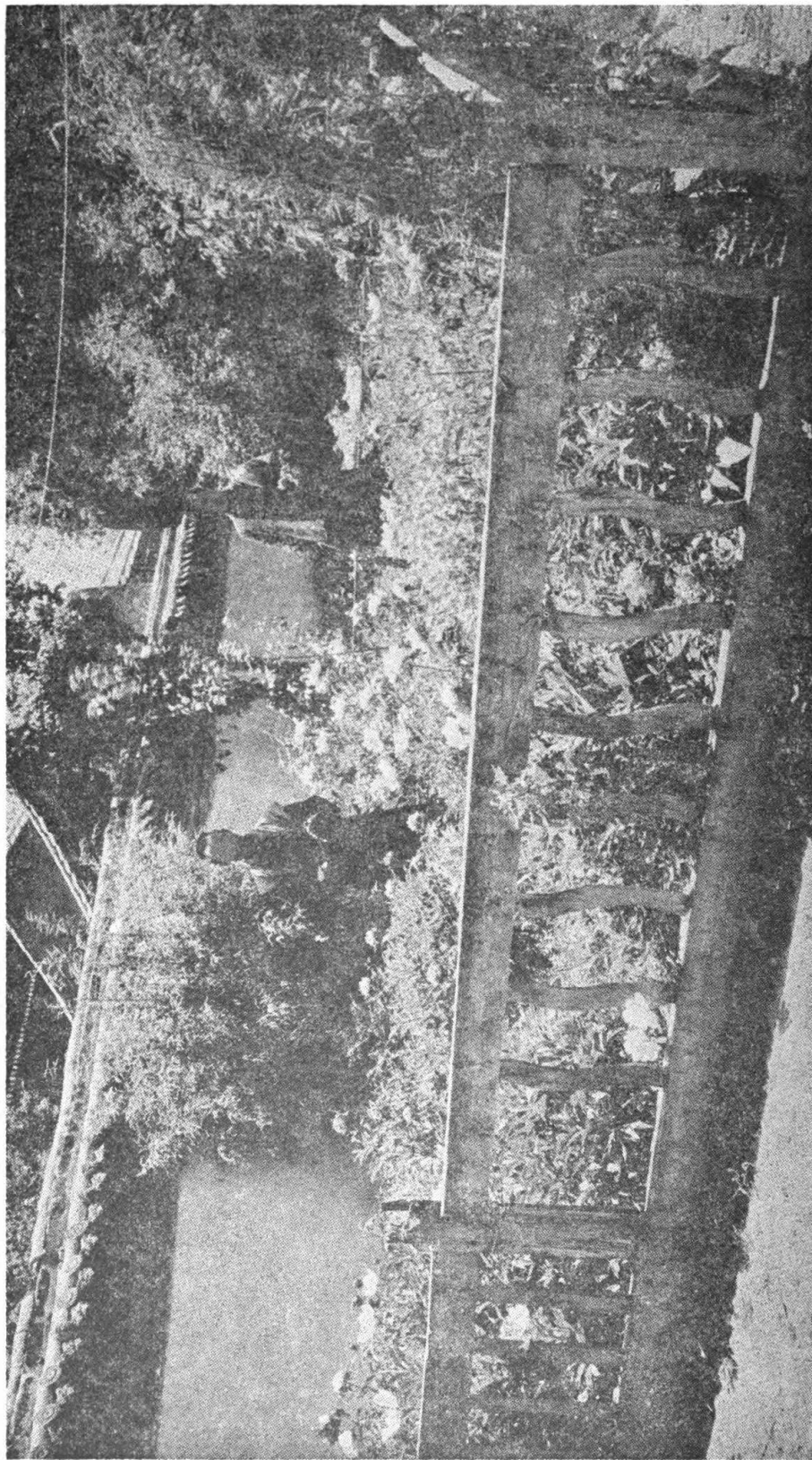
spontanea; it differed from the garden form by being smaller in all its parts, with the leaflets rather stunted and the teeth of the divided leaflets blunt instead of the leaflets being deeply divided with the teeth long and sharp. Other so-called wild forms were found by native collectors in the north of India and Tibet. These plants differ little from the garden forms and, in my opinion, are possibly escapes from monastery or lamasery gardens; the monks of China have a particular liking for Paeonies, and no doubt their brethren in Tibet and northern India have the same affection for this flower. It seems unlikely that stray specimens should be found such immense distances from the probable wild habitat of the Tree Paeony.

The ancestor of the garden Tree Paeony had still to be found wild, and it was the good fortune of that most enthusiastic of plant collectors, Reginald Farrer, to see the wild Tree Paeony in all its glory. He found it in the province of Kansu in western China in 1913. In his book, *On the Eaves of the World*, he writes: "Through the foaming shallows of the copse I plunged and soon was holding my breath with growing excitement as I neared my goal, and it became more and more certain that I was setting eyes on *Paeonia Moutan* as a wild plant . . . that single enormous blossom, waved and crimped into the boldest grace of line, of absolutely pure white, with feathering of deepest maroon radiating at the base of the petals from the boss of golden fluff at the flower's heart."

It is interesting to read further in his record of that day that "the breath of them went out upon the twilight as sweet as any Rose," which confirms the statement in the old Chinese work that the wild Paeonies scent the air around; this might have been thought to be poetic fancy as the flowers of Tree Paeonies have little or no scent in the gardens in England. Unfortunately, Farrer brought back no seeds, plants or dried specimens, so the wild Tree Paeony was yet to be introduced.

In 1925 Dr. J. F. Rock was living at Choni in south-west Kansu; some time after that date he sent seeds of a Tree Paeony to the United States, which were distributed to growers in U.S.A., Canada, Sweden and Great Britain. It flowered in all these countries in 1938. One plant flowered in my garden at Highdown. The flowers seemed to tally exactly with the description given by Farrer of the wild plants he saw, so I wrote to Dr. Rock, who was still in China, asking him if these seeds really had been collected from wild plants. He answered:

"The seeds of the *Paeonia* about which you enquire I collected from plants which grew in the Yamen of the Choni Lamasery (elevation 8,500 ft.), in S.W. Kansu. I occupied the Yamen in that Lamasery for about a year. In the court of the Yamen grew a very



beautiful single-flowered *Paeonia*. There were no double-flowered ones, all were single. I remarked at the time that it looked to me like a wild species. The Lamas told me it came from Kansu but from which exact locality they did not know. I never came across it in a wild state. It had been kept forty years in the Lamasery. I took a photo of it growing in the court and I enclose a copy with my compliments. The Lamasery has been entirely destroyed and the Lamas all killed in 1928 by the Mohammedans, so the plant, in all probability, does not exist any more, as the entire Lamasery was burnt to the ground."

The photograph of this Paeony growing in the Yamen court of K'ang-ting ssu (Lamasery) Choni (fig. 130), south-west Kansu, at an elevation of 8,500 ft., was taken by Dr. J. F. Rock in 1925. It may be interesting to record that seeds of this Paeony kindly sent to me by Mr. K. McDouall of Logan, were sent to Dr. Rock in China to replace the plants destroyed in the Lamasery at Choni and were safely received by him, so let us hope the Paeony will again bloom in the Lamasery in years to come to bring peace and joy to the monks.

This Paeony is very like the plant which Andrews described and illustrated in the Botanical Repository, vol. vii, t. 463 (1807) as *P. papaveracea* and differs from it only in the colour of the sheath surrounding the carpels which Andrews describes as purple while in Dr. Rock's plant it is white. Dr. Rock's Paeony growing in my garden at Highdown is seen in fig. 131; it agrees with the two wild plants of the Tree Paeony *P. suffruticosa* collected by R. P. Licent in south-west Kansu and by A. E. Pratt in Szechwan, of which dried specimens are in the Kew Herbarium.

So it would seem that at long last the true wild Tree Paeony has been introduced to the gardens of Europe and America, and as it has been so well distributed owing to the kindness of the authorities of the Arnold Arboretum, Boston, it will remain a permanent adornment to the gardens of the Western World.

Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society 1939. Vol. 64, Part 12. Reprinted with permission.

DISCOVERING UNIQUE NEW PEONIES BY WAY OF PART-TIME BREEDING PROJECTS

by Don Hollingsworth

Inasmuch as the process of raising peony seedlings to maturity requires a few years, what sort of promise of gratification is necessary in order to capture and hold one's interest? For most of us, it is undoubtedly the hope of creating new forms and superior individuals through the application of the breeder's arts—selection and controlled matings. Can one reasonably hope that when the effort has been expended the results will justify the choice?

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The answer, as I have experienced it, is an unqualified "yes." In addition to being satisfied with the number of unusually interesting plants produced, I find that there is a never-ending succession of new learning which enables one to devise new solutions for achieving the desired ends. From the outset, there has been a successive renewal of satisfaction as I have achieved new information and skills which enable better control of the various processes, such as pollination, seed germination, nurturing the seedlings and propagating. There are potential rewards at every step. Then, as seedlings come into maturity from various lineages, one begins to be more confident of what can be expected and is enabled to concentrate on the more promising lines. All of these results enhance one's anticipation of reaching longer-range goals.

Several years ago, my attention was originally attracted to peonies as a possible subject of plant breeding upon seeing a friend's home-bred seedling win the sweepstake honors at a flower show. In more recent time, seeing and hearing of the peony breeding discoveries of others through the activities and publications of the Peony Society has continued to spur my anticipation and to reinforce my confidence. My own home-bred seedlings commenced flowering five or six years ago and each passing year has brought new assurances. It is great fun to have your hopes vindicated when the new generation of seedlings commence to flower. Although plenty of crosses come to nothing, when you've tried enough different combinations, many will be found that you will want to repeat. I can now offer accounts of some of the results that have served to justify my own hopes. Perhaps this account will help others envision possibilities for breeding that exists among the peonies which they grow.

The recent 1977 peony flowering season was especially favorable in the Kansas City Area for evaluating seedlings. It was a season in which most peonies seemed to flower better than usual. Both the quality of the colors and the flower form tended to be expressed rather well. In contrast, the 1976 season featured a visit by freezing weather on May 3 which visibly affected the flowering of most hybrids and the earlier flowering Chinese peonies. Thus, in 1977 we in effect saw two crops of new seedlings.

Spring came early, remained mild and was abnormally free of high winds, cold and heat. The flowers opened over an unusually extended period. The season lasted nearly seven weeks. Herbaceous hybrids opened from April 13 to May 13 or later, Japanese tree peonies opened from April 16 until May 5, Lutea Hybrid tree peonies from April 21 to May 18 and Chinese peonies from May 6 to late May. While this is perhaps as long a peony flowering calendar as I will ever see in the Kansas City Area, I believe that six weeks can be expected fairly often. Seedlings of 1973 pollinations flowered in

fair numbers and some important seedlings from earlier pollinations were seen in their best performance so far.

A very full-petalled double, light yellow of **Lady Alexandra Duff** x **Claire de Lune** flowered beautifully. It is a mid-season Chinese peony in effect except for the flower color, which is entirely unique in my experience—a “greyed yellow” according to the color chart of the Royal Horticultural Society. The flower opens very slowly and ends up a bit lopsided. Whether or not this plant ever proves worthy of introduction, its value is already established in its having shown that doubleness and yellow pigments can be combined through breeding. The cross of Chinese peonies by **Claire de Lune** is easily repeated. While getting seed production from double flowers isn't so easy, it is achievable. Other seedlings of this general cross are in the seedbeds from 1975 pollinations. Along with them are several seedling lots of Chinese peony varieties x **Prairie Moon**, another very interesting yellow hybrid. Doubling seems possible in this group, too. In the seedbed from 1976 pollinations are also some from Chinese peonies x **Nova**, the very single, clear yellow tetraploid. I'll be surprised if doubling shows up in this group.

The evidence that doubling is possible from crosses of some of the hybrids onto Chinese peonies is further supported by a very full double from **Madame Butterfly** x **Ludovica**. While this seedling is distinguished only by the very heavy flower, it is also encouraging as it definitely shows the influence of its hybrid parent in the color development. The color is livelier than that of **Madame Butterfly** and passes off whitish at the end as do the SLP (Saunders Lobata of Perry) Hybrids.

Among the Early Hybrids seedlings there appeared a clear yellow single from **Roselette's Child F2** (therefore a third generation of the Triple Hybrids) x **Cream Delight** (Reath's). Others in this seed lot that have flowered are pale ivory yellows, generally very vigorous. **Cream Delight**, an especially fertile pollinator, descends from **Mloko** through both parents, as **Roselette** does by way of her pollen parent. Since **Roselette** has a double flowered Chinese peony as pod parent, I want to repeat this combination using her instead of her grandchild.

Midway through the herbaceous hybrid season a distinguished, red flowered seedling from **Legion of Honor** x **Moonrise** appeared. It has a large, single type flower almost identical in form with that of **Moonrise**. The color is unusual, the overall effect being a cerise red with a suggestion of officinalis blue and it is slightly muted by a creamy suffusion throughout—striking.

Among the older seedlings, some of those by **Good Cheer** are confirming the earlier judgments of their promise. **Karl Rosenfield** is the pod parent of two that are notable. One is a full double red

about the shade of **Bravura**, having center petals, but loose in form, similar to **Heritage**. The second is a low statured, open-centered semi-double of richest hybrid red. The sharpest red (most orangy) is from **Sword Dance**. It has a fairly large, golden center that has previously been single but now shows evidence of developing stamino-odes—what a happy prospect! There are also some gorgeous pinks from **Westerner**, **Christine** and **Miss America**, those of the latter being as a whole the most vigorous of all the **Good Cheer** hybrids.

Then there is a lovely pink, anemone-flowered, having a creamy center and heavy petals from **Dawn Pink** x **Echo**. **Dawn Pink** has also given a group of lavender toned pinks by **Ellen Cowley**, mostly doubles. Its seedlings are very vigorous.

Another group of older seedlings which draw attention to their pod parent are from **Kickapoo**. When the pollinator carries inheritance for doubling, this good red single gives progeny having fine double forms and most of them in good colors, free of violaceous tones.

My oldest Itoh Hybrid seedling by **Alice Harding** (Lutea Hybrid) is standing the test of time. A thick petalled semi-double of lovely form and jonquil yellow color, it will go into serious propagation this fall. It is now joined by 20 or so other Itoh Hybrid seedlings, about 15 of them from 1975 pollinations.

Among the 1977 crosses, Lutea Hybrids flowers were available for the first time in sufficient numbers to be inter-crossed. For the most part, two of Reath's F2 seedlings were used as pollinators. The flowers pollinated were generally of first generation Lutea Hybrids, which seldom make seeds. Nevertheless, by the appearance of the pods in early July, I am guessing that there might be as many as a dozen advanced generation seeds to put into germination this year.

One of the Reath F2 seedlings, although planted only last fall, produced large, heavy petalled flowers with very thick stems. The only F1 Lutea Hybrid that has given flowers here that are comparably heavy in detailing is **Gauguin**. Does this suggest that the coming generations of Lutea Hybrids may offer some strikingly different forms?

As a whole, peony breeding seems almost certain to be carried on as a part-time venture whether approached from a commercial position, that of a novice amateur or a position somewhere between the two. How rapidly progress is made will no doubt depend a little on the selection of plants available at the outset, a little on the vision and experience of the breeder and a great deal of fortuitous genetic combinations. However, the climate of information sharing that now exists in the American Peony Society and the wide array of unusual lineages in breeder plants that are currently known go a

long way toward making the opportunities for achievement more or less equal for all who are interested and prepared to devote the attention necessary to carry out the project.

Interestingly, with one exception, the seedling results reported above involve parent plants that have long been available in the listings of peony nurseries. Various of the parent combinations are, no doubt, already present in the plantings of many Society members. If not, they are readily available to anyone who may be interested in adding them this year in order to use them for future breeding projects. Some of the finest peonies of the future could very easily come from some of the smallest gardens. It all depends on who gets into the arena. I believe that the opportunities are virtually unlimited, and that the competition is minimal.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF 40 SAUNDERS LUTEA HYBRIDS

by Dr. David Reath and Silvia Saunders

For some time now, there has been a need for exact botanical (or near-botanical) descriptions of the new hybrids. The present article includes some 39, or about half the Lutea Hybrids introduced by A. P. Saunders. This may perhaps be the first in a series of similar chapters, so that eventually we may see all or almost all peony hybrids (tree and herbaceous) much more exactly described than has ever been done, yet in terms easily understood by anyone.

These descriptions aim to provide the nurseryman and the average gardener with a means of determining the differences between the hybrids, many of which are very similar indeed. Of course terms for color, fragrance, etc., are quite subjective. Not only that, but characteristics of a flower will often change as the flower ages, or may even vary with soil conditions, etc. An attempt has been made, first to avoid the subjective, and second, to describe fully open, but not aging, bloom. Following are some of the terms used:

Flares (also called blotches, or onglets) on the petals, radiating from the center. These are almost always in shades of crimson or maroon.

Stamens consist of two parts:

- a. **Filaments**, the small "stems" which may be fine or coarse, supporting the anthers. When described as "cream to reddish" the cream is at the base. Fine means the opposite of coarse.
- b. **Anthers**, bearing the golden pollen; or they may appear "naked."

Carpels are the seedpods, usually light green.

Stigmas at tips of carpels. May be cream, light or deep pink, and may change color with age.

Sheath encloses the carpels. May be white, cream, lilac (pale) or purple (deep). May be "broken" or change color, especially with age; may be almost invisible. (This distinguishing feature of tree peonies and their hybrids does not exist in the herbaceous, where instead there is a "disc" at the base of the carpels.)

Laterals — Usually there is only one bloom per stem; when more blooms occur on one stem, these are called laterals.

Root growth — From the parent *P. lutea* (or *P. Delavayi*) the roots of some of the hybrids may be stoloniferous, i.e. with slender, outward-growing roots which then develop branches above ground, thus causing great width of the plant.

Groups — For catalog purposes, the hybrids were put into groups, according to color and singleness; it was not thought necessary to follow that system here. **Illustration on page 55.**

Age of Gold — Semi-double; bright warm yellow. Petals in a camellia form flat, ruffled rosette, are scalloped, and may be edged rosy. Flares small. Filaments fine, short, reddish. Stigmas creamy pink; sheath pale lilac. Anthers small and uneven. Carpels, up to about 12; Foliage rather light green. This plant may have laterals.

Alhambra — three or more rows of clear yellow ruffled petals, open wide. Flares small. Filaments same color. Stigmas cream. Sheath cream. The plant is an upright grower.

Amber Moon — Single; 8-10 petals, slightly tawny (hence the name) yellow, with a distinct rosy edge. Flares small; filaments short, very dark red. Stigmas cream-white; sheath white. Carpels pale green. Upright grower with broad leaves.

Argosy — Introduced in 1928, first of a long line of Saunders Lutea Hybrids of wide color range. Now superseded by better single yellows. Single 12-14 petals, light clear yellow. Not a prolific bloomer. Flares crimson, filaments crimson. Stigmas cream. Sheath cream.

Banquet — Double; suffused deep crimson; ruffled petals. Flares dark, hidden. Filaments reddish, very few. Stigmas rose; 7 or more. Sheath purple. Stems and leaf petioles pale green.

Black Panther — Almost fully double; ruffled, very "black" maroon petals. Flares lighter-colored. Filaments red; uneven lengths. Stigmas crimson-pink; sheath very dark and small. Foliage narrowly cut. The stoloniferous habit soon makes a wide bush.

Black Pirate — 3-4 rows of huge dark red satiny petals. Flares "black" and wide. Filaments very dark. Stigmas bright pink; sheath lilac. Only rare side-buds. Foliage broader than **Thun-**

derbolt, which is similar to **Black Pirate**.

Canary — Very single; 9-12 petals; one of the most brilliant yellows. Perfect form and heavy substance. Flares dark, wide, and brilliant. Filaments short, maroon, abundant; anthers long. Stigmas cream. Sheath cream. Foliage large and broad, a good deal of red. Upright grower on heavy stems.

Chinese Dragon — Single; 10-14 petals, purple-crimson. Flares large and dark. Filaments coarse, maroon. Stigmas almost crimson; sheath purple. Foliage luxuriant, finely cut, with bronze tips. Stems purplish-crimson. This variety should perhaps be classed in Group 5.

Coronal — Single; 10-16 petals, pale creamy yellow, edged rosy. Picotee. Very finished flower in a "bell" shape. Flares lightly "brushed" on. Filaments short, reddish. Stigmas rose. Sheath purple. Heart is compact and regular.

Corsair — Very single; 10-20 pointed, notched, and ruffled petals. Dark maroon, heaviest substance. Flares large, "black." Filaments coarse, black. Stigmas small, pink. Sheath creamy lilac-rose. Foliage ferny. With **Heart of Darkness**, the two darkest maroon in color.

Daffodil — Small rosette, 4-5 rows of petals, clear light yellow. Flares none. Filaments cream (at base), to reddish, uneven lengths. Stigmas cream; sheath cream. Foliage light green.

Damask — Quarter to semi-double; warm, even, creamy gold with rosy tones. Flares dark; filaments crimson. Occasional petals among the stamens. Stigmas creamy-rose; sheath small, cream. Stems may be lilac-tinted; foliage rather broad. Flowers heavy for the stems.

Golden Bowl — Similar to **Argosy**, but larger.

Golden Hind — Large fluffy double, cream yellow. About 30-100 petals, frilled, and furled outwards; may be tinged or edged rosy. Less brilliant yellow than **G. Isles**. Flares dark and dramatic. Filaments dark, coarse, long, abundant. Many carpels; stigmas creamy pink. Sheath lilac. Heart is warm. Foliage large, heavy. Flower-buds huge, conspicuous. Stands up well on heavy stems.

Golden Isles — "Double Canary." More brilliant yellow, but less double, than **G. Hind**. Petals among the stamens. Flares very dark wine-color; filaments same as flares. Stigmas cream; sheath cream.

Golden Vanitie — Very single; 8-10 petals crimped and notched. Creamy yellow, edged rosy. Flares short and dark; Filaments reddish. Anthers "naked." Stigmas rose-pink; sheath purple. Heavy bloomer. Blooms well help-up. Foliage broad.

Gold Sovereign — Semi-double medium-size blooms, clear yellow. Flares small and dark; heart otherwise all gold-and-cream. Fila-

ments fine, uneven lengths, Anthers "naked." Stigmas cream; sheath cream.

Harvest — Quarter- to semi-double; many prettily frilled petals, tawny, color of ripe grain, edged rose. Flares crimson. Filaments light reddish. Stigmas pink, on 3-4 small carpels. Sheath lilac. Foliage bronzy.

Heart of Darkness (one of the very rare F-2 from Dr. Saunder's days). Very single, somber dark maroon, with dark center. Heaviest petal substance of them all.

Hesperus — Single; 10-16 petals, rosy red, with golden tones, deeper at edges. Very finished flower, very similar to **Renown**. Like **Renown**, a rebloomer. Flares none; filaments short, dull crimson, darker than the petals. Stigmas bright pink; sheath crimson, darker than the petals.

High Noon — Semi-double bright yellow; tall plant; flowers well held up. A re-bloomer. Flares crimson; filaments short, uneven lengths, reddish. Stigmas cream; sheath pale cream.

Holiday — Full double; 100 or more petals, cream with rosy tints and edged rosy. Flares small. Stigmas cream. Carpels small. No anthers. No sheath. The heavy double blooms may need staking.

Marchioness — 2-3 rows of petals, suffused tea-rose color and of heavy substance. Flares very dark; filaments dark and abundant. Stigmas creamy pink; sheath creamy lilac. Heart is dark and dramatic.

Mystery — Very single; 8-10 petals, good substance. Color pale ivory lilac; may have greenish or purple tints and veins. Flares crimson, dramatic. Filaments reddish. Stigmas cream; sheath creamy-lilac. Foliage big and broad, like a **Tetraploid**.

Narcissus — Single; 10-16 rounded petals; flowers not large. All-yellow, with no flares. Flares none. Filaments cream to reddish. Stigmas cream-pink; sheath cream. Sepals (under the flower) rosy. Foliage large, broad and slightly ruffled.

Princess — Single to semi-double; 12 or more prettily frilled and notched petals, warm lilac-rose with golden tones. Flares small, wine color. Filaments creamy reddish. Stigmas cream-white; sheath cream-white.

Red Cloud — Single; 14-20 petals, Curious dusky red; very crimped and irregular petals; much paler on the outside. Flares almost black; Filaments few, creamy-red. Anthers "naked." Stigmas about 6; rose-pink; sheath purple. Carpels pale creamy-green.

Red Currant — Single; 12-16 petals, large satiny crimson bloom. Flares dark, not conspicuous. Filaments dark, satiny. Stigmas rose; sheath lilac. Foliage rather fine-cut.

Renown — Single; 10-12 petals in 2-3 rows. Copper rose with gold undertones, very similar to **Hesperus**. (Differences lie in fila-

ments, stigmas and sheath; Renown's are paler.) Flares small, darker than petal color. Filaments very short, dull reddish. Stigmas cream; sheath mauve-lilac. Stamens abundant. Reblooms in July - August.

Right Royal — About 3 rows, 16 petals, cream-color, overlaid and veined strawberry-red. Gay and unique; unlike anything else. Petals fringed and fluted, and edged strawberry. Flares crimson. Filaments crimson. Stigmas yellow; sheath cream. Occasional petals in the heart. Foliage rather ferny, may be tinged copper or bronzy. This might be in Group 3.

Roman Gold — Single; 10-12 petals; one of the most brilliant yellows. Petals pointed, giving a "star" effect to the blooms. Flares crimson; filaments crimson. Stigmas creamy-yellow; sheath creamy.

Rose Flame — Fully semi-double flower; many matte (no gloss) rounded petals in a rose-form. Unique color: rosy with an "ash-pink" or "smoky" tone. Flares small, dark. Filaments dark. Stamens few. Stigmas light pink; sheath lilac or invisible. Carpels about 8, "naked," cream-color. Plant rather dwarf, with reddish stems; foliage narrow, and matte (no gloss).

Savage Splendor — Very single. The petals, ruffled and twisted, are lilac; flared and veined pearl, gold and purple. Flares "black" make a large dramatic heart. Filaments crimson. Stigmas rosy pink; sheath crimson-purple. Anthers "naked."

Silver Sails — Single; about 10 petals, palest clear yellow. Very finished bloom. Flares faintly reddish, hardly visible. Filaments uneven lengths, sparse, fine, reddish. Anthers small. Stigmas cream; sheath cream. Heart all pale.

Summer Night — Very single; 12 petals, dusky crimson. Flares dark; filaments uneven lengths, crimson. Anthers "naked." Stigmas many, warm yellow, sheath crimson. Foliage bronzy.

Thunderbolt — Very single; 10-13 petals, deep crimson, with black or scarlet streaks but no flares. Streaks on outer petals as well. Flares none. Filaments dull red. Stigmas (about 5) tall, crimson. Sheath blackish-purple. (stigmas darker, filaments lighter, than in **Black Pirate**). Foliage rather finely-cut. The plant may have laterals.

Tiger Tiger — Single; 10-14 petals, dusky purplish-rose with creamy tones. Flares very dark. Filaments same color as petals. Stigmas cream or rosy-cream; sheath purplish-crimson. Anthers "naked," uneven lengths; carpels about 10. Foliage and stems tinged bronzy.

Vesuvian — Double rose-form; the very dark glossy petals are furled back. Flares none. Filaments short, few, dark. Stigmas crimson, may be 10, small. Sheath short and dark. Carpels pale

creamy. Foliage finely-cut. deep color.

Wings of the Morning — Single; 10 petals, palest yellow, of heavy substance. Furled back. Flares wide and dark; dramatic. Filaments creamy reddish. Stigmas cream-white, sheath cream-white. Anthers uneven lengths. Foliage of heavy substance.

TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow, Brookville L.I., New York

The tree peonies now here from Mainland China should be regarded as rare treasures. A small quantity was obtained of the best varieties after several years of effort.

Not many nurseries in Mainland China are growing tree peonies, one or two grow them for medicinal purposes. No one will ship them out of the country. Some of the names of the varieties are so typical of the Chinese as is apparent from these listed below.

Pink Dragon in a Pink Pool — a brilliant pink, similar in color to some of our brilliant pink herbaceous hybrids.

Purple Pride of the Orient — a satiny, lustrous vivid purple.

Black Dragon in a Dark Pool — deepest maroon, lustrous, beautiful variety.

Heaven of the Orient — huge shiny cherry red.

Star of the East — unusual mauve color, some violet on the petals.

Sweetheart of the Orient — lustrous white, some petals cream colored.

Spring Over a Heavenly Pink — deep pink shaded purple.

We expect to obtain in the near future, a green flowered tree peony. We have seen it in bloom but could not get any to bring here.

* * * * *

In 1974-1975-1976 we received a number of tree peonies from Hong Kong which were supposed to have originated in Mainland China. These were mislabelled and not true to name. Those emanating from Mainland China mentioned above are all true to name.

While it is of utmost importance to hybridize to improve on existing varieties of all types of peonies, apparently very little effort is being made to bring back all those beautiful varieties in herbaceous and tree peonies which have disappeared from circulation. More and more some of the old time peonies are no longer available. All of us should give some consideration to try to locate and bring back some of the "old timers."

We are especially concerned with many tree peonies no longer seen. We have visited many gardens but have not seen some of the old varieties, several of which are superior to those seen in most gardens. During the last three years, we have devoted very little

time to hybridizing but spent most of our time in locating real beauties of former years.

Over thirty varieties have been located, propagated and some are now available. Some of these are listed below:

Banzaimon	Nishiki No Shitone	Hino Maru
Buga Kuden	Naniwa Nishiki	Esu Gata
Gabisan	Sumi No Ichi	Gekkeikan
Ima Show Jo	Teri Kuni	Kokirin
Kintagio	Yae Nishiki	Gekkyuden
	Yu Taka No Haru	

In herbaceous peonies there are a large number which have completely disappeared. We urge all peony lovers to give serious consideration to finding some of the old beauties that we saw in the nineteen forties and fifties.

IN MEMORIAM

HARVEY F. STOKE

Harvey Foster Stoke, age 98, of 1436 Syracuse Ave., N.W., died Saturday May 14, 1977, at his home. He was a retired partner of the former Roanoke Oil Company. He was an active member for a number of years and taught Sunday School at Belmont United Methodist Church. He was also active as a director of Goodwill Industries. Mr. Stoke was a nut culturalist and engaged in various functions of both local and national garden clubs. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mabel Williams Stoke; two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Creasy, Roanoke; Mrs. Margaret Robertson, Salem; son, Warren Williams Stoke, Roanoke; brother, Edwin W. Stoke, West Plains, Missouri; 9 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be conducted from Oakey's Roanoke Chapel at 3:00 p.m. Monday with the Rev. LeRoy V. Jones officiating. Interment will follow in Fairview Cemetery. Friends may call at Oakey's Roanoke Chapel.

—Roanoke Times and World-News

Mr. Stoke was a life member of the American Peony Society. Over the years he wrote many informative articles on peonies for the Bulletin. "Propagation of Tree Peonies" by Mr. Stoke was published in the First and Second edition of the Handbook.

WINTER 77 AND MICRO-FOAM

Fred C. Helmling, Ravenna, Ohio

Refer to Bulletin June #222. Page 18. Last paragraph to read:

"On the same day, pots in another cold frame, a few feet away had about one inch of soil on top that was not frozen solid. The rest of the soil was frozen solid in these pots that had been packed in sawdust to the brim and covered with 4-6 inches of straw.

NAME LIVES ON IN PINK PEONY

By Anita Stork of The Journal Staff

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Most people perpetuate the family name through children. Silvia Saunders will leave a different kind of heritage: Her name will live on through a flower, the **Silvia Saunders** variety of peony.

The peony was developed by her father, the late Prof. A. P. Saunders, who gave the pink petaled flower his daughter's name. That happened back in 1921 when Miss Saunders was a teenager, and she says she can't really remember what it felt like to have a flower named after her.

"He wanted to name the flower after pretty little girls, and I was the first pretty little girl he had," said Miss Saunders, who was in Milwaukee over the weekend for the weekend for the the American Peony Society's national show at Mitchell Park Conservatory. She was interviewed there.



Miss Saunders said she liked having a flower namesake, but "in our family we were used to it."

Her father developed hundreds of peony hybrids; her sister and two brothers had peonies named after them, too.

As she talked, Miss Saunders was filling out entry tags for a

table of peonies. There were perhaps 40 flowers, each in its own vase, some in groups of three.

Her concern for the flowers was evident. A gentle breeze blowing through a nearby door worried her. The wind, she said, would "make the peonies' blooms fade, killing them." So she asked that the door be closed.

Her father was a chemistry professor at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. He developed more than 17,000 peony plants. About 165 were named and marketed to the public. He introduced peonies with bright shades of vivid pink and yellow.

Miss Saunders took over the selling of peonies from her father in 1951 after a stint as a photographer for *House and Garden* and *Better Homes and Gardens* magazines. She gave up raising peonies in the mid '70s and the operation was transferred to a nursery in Vulcan, Mich.

Exhibiting Saunders peonies at flower shows simply continues the work her father started, she said. "He did the spade work — I'm doing the promoting," she said. "I want to get others interested in working with them (the peonies) and loving them."

As she surveyed the peonies on the table, pointing out a brilliant pink one here and a flaming, satin-textured red one there, her love for the blooms was obvious. "Aren't they beautiful," she said.

"I don't have to be modest about them — I didn't originate them," she said.

She's proud, she said, to be associated with something of such importance to the gardening world. The rare Silvia Saunders peony is called one of the best varieties by the American Horticultural Society in the book "The Peonies."

A member of the American Peony Society since 1951, Miss Saunders has served on the society's board of directors. One of her fondest memories is exhibiting peonie at the Chelsea Show in London in 1962.

Flying the more than 800 blooms across the Atlantic was quite an undertaking, she said. They were transported in large cardboard boxes, 100 flowers to a box. The flowers arrived without incident — "the stars must have been with us."

The enthusiastic reaction of the English people to the flowers especially pleased Miss Saunders, because "in England plants and gardens are the national passion, like baseball here."

An energetic woman of 75, Miss Saunders still lives in the house in Clinton, N.Y., where she spent her childhood. The house has been in her family since 1903, but was built almost 100 years earlier. Miss Saunders is writing a book about the builder of the house.

**72nd ANNUAL AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
EXHIBITION**
Mitchell Park Conservatory, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 17, 18, 19, 1977

**GRAND CHAMPION AND BEST OF THE SHOW — JAMES PILLOW —
Clarence Lienau**

Best Double White — MRS. J. B. EDLUND — Gus Sindt

Best Double Blush — MOONSTONE — Clarence Lienau

Best Double Dark Pink — DINNER PLATE — Gus Sindt

Best Double Red — DOUGLAS BRAND — Gus Sindt

Best Semi-Double White — MISS AMERICA — Clarence Lienau

Best Semi-Double Pink — BETTER TIMES — Clarence Lienau

Best Japanese White — BU-TE — Clarence Lienau

Best White Single — KRINKLED WHITE — Gus Sindt

Best Red Single — PRESIDENT LINCOLN — Joe Glocka

Best Yellow, White, Blush Hybrid — YELLOW EMPEROR — David Reath

**Best Double light pink OVERALL — JAMES PILLOW — Clarence Lienau —
GRAND CHAMPION**

Best Semi-Double — MAESTRO — Clarence Lienau

Best Japanese OVERALL — DRAGON'S NEST — John Kreichbaum

Best Single OVERALL — DAWN PINK — John Kreichbaum

Best Hybrid OVERALL — CARINA — David Reath

Best Tree Peony OVERALL — CHINESE DRAGON — David Reath.

DIVISION I. OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS

**Class 101 — Twenty-five varieties, any color or type, but not less than fifteen
lactifloras or more than five trees. One bloom in separate containers.**

1st. Won by LIENAU PEONY GARDENS.

**RUBIO, LOTTIE DAWSON RAE, CYTHERIA, BU-TE, FRANCIS
MAINES, MAESTRO, FIRE BELLE, JUNE ROSE, RED CHARM, MISS
AMERICA, MOONSTONE, DINNER PLATE, BOWL OF CREAM,
FELIX SUPREME, VIVID ROSE, CINCINNATI, GLADYS HODSON,
EMMA KLEHM, MRS. FRANK BEACH, JAMES PILLOW, NEON,
PAULA FAY, RED, RED ROSE, ANNA MARY.**

2nd. Won by Dee Garrison.

**PEACE (Murawska) KANSAS, SALMON GLOW, MISS AMERICA,
WESTERNER, MOONSTONE, DINNER PLATE, MARY E. NICHOLS,
SARAH NAPIER, EMMA KLEHM, THERESE, DOROTHY J., DR. J. H.
NEELEY, ANN COUSINS, FLAME, RASHOON, MOTHERS CHOICE,
SARAH BERNHARDT, RED CHARM, PRINCESS MARGARET, VIVID
ROSE, MRS. F.D.R., ANNISQUAM, DAVID HAREM, MARTHA BUL-
LOCK.**

3rd. Won by Joe Glocka.

**NEVADA, ROSADA, FLORENCE NICHOLLS, MARY E. NICHOLLS,
CARRARA, THERESA, KANSAS, DOROTHY J. HARI-AI-NIN, FIRST
LADY, LOUISE LOSSING, VICTORY, HERMOINE, MRS. F.D.R.,
GLORY HALLELUJAH, RED GODDESS, HERITAGE, MISS AMERI-
CA, FIREBELLE, RED SPLENDOR, COL. McCORMICK, CHOCOLATE
SOLDIER, MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND, DAY BREAK, VIVID ROSE.**

**Class 102 — Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color. One bloom
each in separate containers.**

1st. Won by Marvin Karrels

— 27 —

FESTIVA MAXIMA, AMA-NO-SODE, KAY TISCHLER, DOROTHY J. HIFALUTIN, MOONSTONE, DINNERPLATE, KING MIDAS, MADY-LONE, ANNISQUAM, GIBRALTER, FRANCIS MAINS, PILLOW TALK, ANN COUSINS, NORMA VOLZ.

2nd. Won by Dee Garrison

CYTHERIA, CONVOY, ANNISQUAM, RED CHARM, MOONSTONE, DINNERPLATE, MISS AMERICA, MOTHER'S CHOICE, FLAME, ANN COUSINS, DOROTHY J. KANSAS, PRINCESS MARGARET, EMMA KLEHM, PHILLIP RIVOIRE.

3rd. Won by Joe Glocka

GLORY HALLELUJAH, FLORENCE NICHOLLS, PRESIDENT LINCOLN, MARILLA BEAUTY, HARI-AL-NIN, VICTORY, RED SPLENDOR, ROSEDALE, KATHERINE vanSTEEN, CARRARA, NEVADA, MARGARET CLARK, NICK SHAYLOR, MRS. F.D.R., DAYBREAK, ROSADA.

Class 103 — Ten herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color.

1st. Won by Davis Reath

RED CHARM, OLD FAITHFUL, ELLEN COWLEY, PAULA FAY, PRAIRIE MOON, CYTHEREA, CARENA, CLAUDIA, DIANA PARKS, CHERRY RED.

2nd. Won by Marvin Karrels

HARVEST MOON, FRIENDSHIP, SALMON GLORY, BURMA RUBY, DIANA PARKS, ROSELETTE, CYTHEREA, RED CHARM, FLAME, PAULA FAY.

3rd. Won by Dee Garrison

CONVOY, CLAIRE deLUNE, GOLD STANDARD, GOLDEN GLOW, SALMON GLOW, RED CHARM, FLAME, HERITAGE, BLACK MONARCH.

Class 104 — Ten varieties, tree peonies only, any type or color. One bloom in a separate container.

1st. Won by David Reath

GOLDEN HIND, CORONET, HARVEST, CHINESE DRAGON, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, BLACK PIRATE, BANQUET, AGE OF GOLD, MARCHIONESS, VESUVIAN.

2nd. Won by John Simkins

GOLDEN BOWL, GAUGIN, MARCHIONESS, ANGELETTE, DAREDEVIL, AGE OF GOLD, BLACK PIRATE, ALICE HARDING, STARDUST, (name in error) only initial listed.

Class 105 — Five varieties, Japanese type lactifloras, any color.

2nd place. Lienau Peony Gardens.

BU-TE, KAY TISCHLER, MR. THIM, GAY PAREE, AMA-NO-SODE.

Class 106 — Five varieties single type lactifloras only, any color. One bloom in separate containers.

2nd place. W. G. Sindt

TOPEKA GARNET, FLORENCE BRUSS, ROSE BOWL, KRINKLED WHITE, SEA SHELL.

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY LACTIFLORA ONLY, IN ONE CONTAINER

Class 110: 1. Clarence Lienau—ELSA SASS

2. Marvin Karrele—ANN COUSINS. 3. Frank Howell—VICTORY

Class 111: 1. John Kreichbaum—FLORENCE NICHOLLS.

2. John Kreichbaum—NANCY NICHOLLS. 3. Joe Glocka—FLORENCE NICHOLLS

Class 112: 1. Marvin Karrels—MOONSTONE

2. John Kreichbaum—MOONSTONE. 3. None

- Class 113: 1. Marvin Karrels—PRINCESS MARGARET
2. Marvin Karrels—GIBRALTER 3. John Kreichbaum—PRINCESS MARGARET
- Class 114: 1. W. G. Sindt—DOUGLAS BRAND
2. W. G. Sindt—BONANZA. 3. Clarence Lienau—KARL ROSENFELD
- Class 115: 1. John Kreichbaum—MISS AMERICA
2. Clarence Lienau—MILDRED MAE. 3. None
- Class 116: 1. Clarence Lienau—BETTER TIMES
- Class 117: None
- Class 118: None
- Class 119: No 1. 2. John Kreichbaum—BU-TE. 3. None
- Class 120: 1. None. 2. D. Garrison—WESTERNER
3. John Kreichbaum—VERA WASENBERG
- Class 121: 1. Bill Seidl—DIGNITY
2. W. G. Sindt—TERRY GRUDEM. 3. Clarence Lienau—NEON
- Class 122: 1. W. G. Sindt—KRINKLED WHITE
2. Marvin Karrels—SPELLBINDER. 3. None
- Class 124: 1. W. G. Sindt—TOPEKA GARNET
3. W. G. Sindt—FLORENCE BRUSS
- ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY.**
- Class 130: 1. W. G. Sindt—MRS. J. V. EDLUND
2. Clarence Lienau—JOSEPH CHRISTE 3. Frank Howell—FRANCES MAINS.
- Class 131: 1. John Kreichbaum—NANCY NICHOLLS
2. Clarence Lienau—MOONSTONE. 3. Frank Howell—LOTTIE DAWSON RAE
- Class 132: 1. Clarence Lienau—JAMES PILLOW
2. Frank Howell—DORIS COOPER. 3. Clarence Lienau—NICK SHAYLOR
- Class 133: 1. W. G. Sindt—DINNER PLATE
2. Clarence Lienau—EMMA KLEHM. 3. Dee Garrison—EMMA KLEHM
- Class 134: 1. Bill Seidl—GLORY HALLELUJAH
2. W. G. Sindt—DOUGLAS BRAND. 3. C. Klehm—BEST MAN
- Class 135: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—MISS AMERICA
2. None. 3. John Kreichbaum—MINNIE SHAYLOR
- Class 136: 1. David Reath—ROSE SHAYLOR
2. None. 3. None.
- Class 137: 1. None 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—HARRY L. SMITH
- Class 138: None
- Class 139: None
- Class 140: 1. Dee Garrison—GINNY
- Class 141: None
- Class 142: 1. Dee Garrison—WESTERNER
- Class 143: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—COMMANCHE
2. W. G. Sindt—TERRY GRUDEM. 3. John Kreichbaum—MIDNIGHT SUN
- Class 144: Marvin Karrels, Honorable Mention—SPELLBINDER
- Class 145: 1. Joe Glocka—SEASHELL 2. John Kreichbaum—DAWN PINK
3. Clarence Lienau—SEA SHELL
- Class 146: 1. Clarence Lienau—CINCINNATI
2. W. G. Sindt—TOPEKA GARNET. 3. W. G. Sindt—FLORENCE BRUSS. John Kreichbaum, Honorable Mention—PRES. LINCOLN

**THREE BLOOMS ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS OR SPECIES
IN ONE CONTAINER**

Class 150: 1. David Reath—PRAIRIE MOON

Class 151: 1. David Reath—PAULA FAY

2. David Reath—CYTHEREA. 3. David Reath—ELLEN COWLEY
Frank Howell, Honorable Mention—CYTHEREA

Class 152: 1. David Reath—OLD FAITHFUL 2. David Reath—DIANA PARKS

3. Marvin Karrels—WALTER MAINS. H.M. Joe Glocka—FIREBELLE
H.M. Marvin Karrels—DIANA PARKS H.M. Clarence Lienau—RED
CHARM.

Class 153: 1. Bill Seidl—POTANINI

Class 154: 1. Marvin Karrels—PRAIRIE MOON

Class 155: 1. Lienau Peony Gardens—FRIENDSHIP

2. Marvin Karrels—FRIENDSHIP 3. David Reath—CORALIE
H.M. David Reath—LOVELY ROSE. H.M. Joe Glocka—FRIENDSHIP

Class 156: 1. David Reath—BLAZE 2. Lienau Peony Gardens—CARINA

ONE BLOOM HERBACEOUS HYBRID OR SPECIES

Class 160: 1. David Reath—PRAIRIE MOON

2. David Reath—YELLOW EMPEROR. 3. David Reath—YELLOW
DREAM. H.M. W. G. Sindt—PRAIRIE MOON

Class 161: None

Class 162: 1. David Reath—LUDOVICA. 2. David Reath—PAULA FAY

3. David Reath—ELLEN COWLEY
H.M. Clarence Lienau—CYTHEREA

Class 163: 1. David Reath—DIANA PARKS. 2. David Reath—OLD FAITHFUL

3. W. G. Sindt—RED RED ROSE. H.M. Frank Howell—CAROL
H.M. Lienau Peony Gardens—LOIS ARLENE

H.M. Marvin Karrels—HENRY BOCKSTOCE

Class 164: 1. W.G. Sindt—CLAIR de LUNE 2. Bill Seidl—POTANINI

3. None. H.M. Joe Glocka—Rushlight

Class 165: 1. W.G. Sindt—REQUIEM

Class 166: 1. David Reath—CLAUDIA 2. David Reath—CORALIE

3. David Reath—CORALIE. H.M. Joe Glocka—FRIENDSHIP

Class 167: 1. David Reath—CARINA

2. David Reath—BLAZE. 3. Lienau Peony Gardens—CARINA

Class 170 - 175 No entries.

Class 176: 1. David Reath—CORSAIR

2. David Reath—CHINESE DRAGON. 3. David Reath—VESUVIAN

Class 177: 1. David Reath—AGE OF GOLD. 2. Bill Seidl—ALICE HARDING

3. David Reath—GOLDEN HIND. H.M. David Reath—ROMAN GOLD

Class 178: 1. David Reath—SAVAGE SPLENDOR

2. David Reath—MARCHIONESS 3. David Reath—MYSTERY

ONE BLOOM TREE PEONY ONLY

Class 180: None

Class 181: 1. Marvin Karrels—YAE ZAKURA 2. Marvin Karrels—RENOWN

Class 184: 1. Carl H. Klehm—HOLIDAY

Class 185: 1. Art Landen

Class 186: 1. David Reath—CHINESE DRAGON 2. David Reath—CORSAIR

3. David Reath—KRONOS. H.M. Carl H. Klehm—RENOWN

Class 187: 1. David Reath—AGE OF GOLD. 2. Art Landen—GOLDEN ISLES

3. Bill Seidl—ALICE HARDING. H.M. David Reath—DAFFODIL

Class 188: 1. David Reath—SAVAGE SPLENDOR 2. David Reath—GAUGUIN

3. David Reath—RIGHT ROYAL

H.M. Carl H. Klehm—SAUNDERS PRIDE

DIVISION II. AMATEUR

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

Class 201: TEN VARIETIES HERBACEOUS ONLY, ANY TYPE OR COLOR.
ONE BLOOM IN SEPARATE CONTAINER.

1. Delia Garrison—MARTHA BULLOCK, DOROTHY J., CLAIRE de LUNE, KANSAS, MRS. F.D.R., DINNER PLATE, ANNISQUAM, MOONSTONE, PRINCESS MARGARET, RED CHARM
2. W. G. Sindt—RED CHARM, CRUSADER, NORMA VOLZ, DINNER PLATE, FLORENCE BRUSS, PRAIRIE MOON, MYRA MacRAE, KRINKLED WHITE, DOUGLAS BRAND, GARDENIA.
3. Greta Kessenich

Class 205: 1. Gus Sindt—NORMA VOLZ

Class 206 1. Greta Kessenich—MYRA MacRAE. 2. Gus Sindt—ROMANCE

Class 207: 1. Greta Kessenich—DOUGLAS BRAND

Class 207-208-209 None.

Class 210: 1. Gus Sindt—TERRY GRUDEM

Class 211: 1. Gus Sindt—PICO

2. Gus Sindt—SEASHELL
3. Gus Sindt—SPELLBINDER

Class 212: None

Class 213: 1. John Simkins—ALHAMBRA, CORONET, MARCHIONESS

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

Class 220: 1. Greta Kessenich—MARCELLA 2. Gus Sindt—GARDENIA

3. Greta Kessenich—SUMMER CHARM

Class 221: 1. Gus Sindt—FRANCES MAINS 2. Gus Sindt—LULLABY

3. Greta Kessenich—DORIS COOPER

Class 222: 1. Delia Garrison—ANNISQUAM 2. Gus Sindt—PILLOW TALK

3. Gus Sindt—HANSINA BRAND

Class 223: 1. Gus Sindt—DINNER PLATE. 2. John Simkins—JAY CEE

3. Greta Kessenich—ENSIGN MORIARITY

Class 224: 1. Gus Sindt—DOUGLAS BRAND

2. Gus Sindt—BANANZA.
3. Mrs. Arthur Tersea—ZIBA

Class 225-226: None

Class 227: 1. Delia Garrison—SOSHI. 2. John Simkins—CHOCOLATE

- SOLDIER.
3. John Simkins—MIKADO

Class 228: None

Class 229: 1. Delia Garrison—RED CHARM. 2. Gus Sindt—CRUSADOR

3. Gus Sindt—PRAIRIE MOON

Class 230: 1. John Simkins—ALICE HARDING

John Simkins entered Daphnis tree peony flower for exhibit only—NO-NAME.

DIVISION III. OPEN TO ALL GARDENERS WHO EXHIBIT PEONIES ONLY AT LOCAL SHOWS

Class 301: TEN VARIETIES ANY TYPE OR COLOR IN SEPARATE
CONTAINERS.

1. Eunice Garrison—RED CHARM, KANSAS, THERESE, MARTHA BULLOCK, GOLD STANDARD

Class 305-306: None

Class 307: 1. Eunice Garrison—GOLD STANDARD

Class 308-309: None

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Class 315: None

- Class 316: 1. Bruce Efflandt—HERMOINE. 2. Eunice Garrison—THERESE
 Class 317: 1. Eunice Garrison—KANSAS
 Class 318-319: None
 Class 320: 1. Nancy Milbowski—AMA-NO-SODE
 Class 321: None
 Class 322: 1. Eunice Garrison—RED CHARM
 Class 323: None

DIVISION IV. SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETES

- Class 401: Bill Seidl—AT-1 ITOH TYPE SEEDLING. Certificate of Merit.
 David Reath—A-197. Certificate of Merit.
 Chris Laning—Quad F-2 x Moonrise F-2. Certificate of Merit.
 Class 402-403: None

DIVISION V. SPECIAL ENTRIES

- Class 501: Commercial Exhibit—LIENAU PEONY GARDENS
 Class 502: VISITORS FROM THE GREATEST DISTANCE. FIVE VARIETIES ANY TYPE. MILEAGE VERIFIED.
 1. Frank Howell, Newton, New Jersey—980 miles
 DIGNITY, CYTHEREA, MOONSTONE, DORIS COOPER,
 DANDY DAN
 Class 503: MULTIPLE BLOOM. SINGLE STALK NOT DISBUDED. MUST SHOW AT LEAST THREE OPEN.
 1. Frank Howell—DOLORODELL
 2. Dee Garrison—LORA DEXHEIMER

ARTISTIC DIVISION

- Class 1: NEAR THE HORIZON
 1. Mrs. B. E. Pomeroy—RESERVE CHAMPION. Milwaukee
 2. Betty Carstants, Brookfield
 3. Mrs. Robert Lutzke
 4. Martha Schueler, Brookfield
 Class 2: CANDLE OF SPRING'S DAWN
 1. Mrs. Larry Newman, Menomonee Falls, Wis.
 2. Mrs. William Filber, Hales Corner
 3. Edna Buchta, Racine
 4. Mrs. Charles Brockmeyer, Bayside
 Class 3: SMALL BONSAI TREE
 1. Mrs. Arthur Tersen, Milwaukee — SPECIAL AWARD
 2. Carla Inary, Brookfield
 3. Annette Kerlin
 4. Betty O. Zminkowski
 Class 4: ONE RIVER FLOWING
 1. Mrs. Fred Schoenecker, Sussex, Wisconsin — GRAND CHAMPION
 2. Fran Kalceck, Menomonee
 3. Pat Dvorak
 4. Darlene Jerczyk
 Class V. THE SAME ROMPING WIND
 1. Carla Inary, Brookfield
 2. Mrs. D. E. Buchta, Racine
 3. Dorothy Pierce, Hartford, Wis.
 4. Mrs. Eugene Muezborg, Elm Grove
 Class V: Novice
 1. Bruce Efflandt, Milwaukee

IMPRESSIONS OF THE SEEDLING CLASS

by *Silvia Saunders*

With the genes that went into my make-up, I cannot help being especially interested in the hybrids and in the seedling classes, so I shan't take time to apologize. This year the Hybridists' Workshop was not held, presumably because of the late change of date and place of the show, so that there was too little time to do the everything that had to be done. But I missed it. We started it in 1969 I think, and have had one at every show since then. If so, we have had eight, and I for one hope it may be resumed next year.

The seedling class interested me particularly this year. Although there were as many as 23 entries, this class, since it receives no Ribbon Awards, makes less impression on the general public than the rest of the show. Furthermore, it has less eye appeal than other classes, since the greater part of its interest and value lies in the pedigrees, and not so much in the appearance, of the blooms shown. For this reason, beauty in a seedling bloom is just so much added velvet.

One such was an entry by Bill Seidl of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. We are indebted to Bill for the condensations of the "PAEONIA" letter in our bulletin. He showed a vase containing three blooms of a deep dusky rose color which were labeled a cross between a pink lacti and a dark red lutea hybrid. So this is yet another American-made "Itoh Hybrid," between a herbaceous and a tree peony. Its "sheath" surrounding the carpels proclaims its tree peony ancestry. These were medium-size single blooms which Bill said were all from one plant. The plant grows (or has grown, thus far) 2½ or 3 feet tall. I seem to recall having seen red Itoh Hybrids, but no rose-colored ones. This was, I thought, a beautiful thing in its own right, as well as being a hybridist's triumph, for these Itoh hybrids are not at all easy to produce. Congratulations, Bill Seidl. They must also be difficult to classify, since they are listed in the Show schedule as "Herbaceous Hybrid." Not really an exact title.

The second exhibit which struck me was put on by Chris Laning, who with his wife Lois, writes, edits and distributes to all who wish it, the PAEONIA letter, geared to those interested in peony hybridizing. Among six or eight individual blooms, shown one in each vase, were two in particular: one was labeled "Quad F-2 x Moonrise F-2." A lovely large rounded goblet shape, I should call it one-quarter double, and of a luscious peach ice-cream tone. Roy Pehrson, our veteran hybridizer, made this. It is obviously an "advanced generation" plant, and if you consider that *p. lobata* (in the ancestry of Moonrise) is a separate species from *p. officinalis* (in the ancestry of the Quads—Quadruple hybrids) you will consider this to be a Quintuple hybrid. Be that as it may, this is a beautiful thing. It is rare to find among the very early hybrids

one that is coming along towards double, and this one is. In that, I feel it faces toward the future.

Chris also showed a "Quad F-3 x Moonrise R-2," also peach color, but this is only a single, and so resembles the race of Quads that we already have. I look forward to the future peony with fully double flowers in the new colors that the hybrids have brought to us. Another Laning exhibit was "Quad F-3 x Moonrise," again a pale ivory-yellow single; still another was "Sable x Roy's Super D," a single crimson of prettily rounded form. Also one "Roy's Best Yellow." And several more. Chris didn't tell us at the time, but I've read since in the June PAEONIA, that he will have had these in storage for six weeks when he staged them on June 18th. Marvin Karrels can do that with *Roselette*, but it's a rare achievement.

A vase of five stalks of almost black seedpods was labeled "F-2 of *Battleflag* x *Red Red Rose*." Whatever the flower had been, these pods should be noted by our flower arrangers. Handsome indeed.

"Pehrson's *Selfed Lobata*," shown by John Simkins of Canada, was a good crimson, also a "quarter-double."

David Reath showed three herbaceous and two lutea hybrid seedlings, all good, though whether they represent any great improvement over what we already have, was not apparent to the eye. David is working towards Tetraploids in many hybrids, and these may be such, though they were not so labeled.

But the real thrills were Seidl's rosy *Itoh Hybrid*, and Laning's doubling peach-colored one, made by Roy Pehrson. Roy in fact was very much with us, although his emphysema kept him chained to his home in Lafayette, Minnesota.

Congratulations, though no Ribbon Awards, to Bill Seidl, Chris Laning, and Roy Pehrson.

THE MINNESOTA PEONY SHOW

The 1977 show of the Minnesota Peony Society was held June 16 and 17 at The Park Nurseries, Stillwater, Minnesota. The best single and grand champion was *Seashell*, shown by Floyd Kimball of Stillwater. Greta Kessenich of Hopkins had the best double, *Doris Cooper*. Gus Sindt of Afton had *White Cap* as the best Japanese and *Red Charm* as the best hybrid. Other blue ribbon winning varieties were: *Judge Berry*, *Kay Tischler*, *Jean Cooperman*, *Golden Dawn*, *Emma Klehm*, *Myra McRae*, *Coralie*, *Bonanza*, *Lady Gay*, *Claire de Lune*, *Janice*, *Princess Margaret*.

The nursery management was so pleased with the show that they asked to keep it for two more days, Saturday and Sunday. With a few replacements and some additions furnished by Ben Gowen of *Excelsior*, this was done. A vote of thanks is due both the Park Nurseries and Floyd Kimball, the show chairman.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JUNE 17, 1977

Presidents Room, Ambassador Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society was called to order by President Joe Glocka at 9:00 p.m. The Directors in attendance were: Marvin Karrels, Wisconsin; Irvin Ewing, Michigan; Charlotte Sindt, Minnesota; Gus Sindt, Minnesota; Clarence Lienau, Michigan; Dr. David Reath, Michigan; Frank Howell, New Jersey; Chris Laning, Michigan; Edward Michau, Kansas; and Greta Kessenich, Minnesota, Secretary.

The minutes of the 1976 meeting were read. They were unanimously approved. Mr. Marvin Karrels was appointed to audit the books of the Treasurer for 1977.

The Board of Directors acting as a nominating committee presented the following names for a three year term as Directors: Don Hollingsworth, Marvin Karrels, Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Clarence Lienau, Dr. David Reath and Mrs. Hollis Cornell. The list of nominees was to be read to the membership at the annual meeting by Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

Future sites of the American Peony Society Annual Convention were booked as follows:

Mansfield, Ohio, 1978, June 9-10-11.

Champaign-Urbana, Ill., 1979.

Birmingham, Michigan, 1980. Tentative.

Mansfield, Ohio. 1981.

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1982. Tentative.

President Glocka read the following Executive Proclamation:

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the Milwaukee County Park Commission and The Milwaukee Journal are co-sponsoring the 72nd Annual National Peony Exhibition at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory on June 18 and 19, 1977; and

WHEREAS the American Peony Society has chosen Milwaukee as the site of its annual exhibition for the fourth time in its 74-year history; and

WHEREAS up to 2,000 peonies and 100 registered varieties of lactiflora and tree peonies will be exhibited by both professional and amateur arrangers for the general public to view and enjoy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM F. O'DONNELL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE, do hereby proclaim June 17-19, 1977, as "PEONY WEEKEND" in Milwaukee County in recognition of the American Peony Society and its decision to hold its 72nd Annual National Peony Exhibition at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory on June 18 and 19, 1977;

and I encourage all Milwaukee County citizens to visit this interesting and colorful national exhibition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto caused the seal of the County of Milwaukee to be affixed this 15th day of June, 1977.

William F. O'Donnel, County Executive

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Ambassador Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 19, 1977

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Joe Glocka at 8:00 a.m. Directors present: Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Clarence Lienau, W. G. Sindt, Charlotte Sindt, Irvin Ewing, Marvin Karrels, Chris Laning, Dr. David Reath, Theo Mysyk, Edward Michau, Frank Howell, John Simkins and Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

Before the business meeting, our attention was directed to the publicity that the Milwaukee Journal had given the American Peony Society. Generous columns of newsprint and pictures could be seen in the Journal, telling about the peonies, award winning flowers on the Court of Honor and general activities.

The first order of business was to elect officers for the following year. A motion was made that the present officers be elected. It was unanimously approved.

A discussion followed about the research of tissue culture propagation of peonies that is being conducted by Dr. Martin Meyer, University of Illinois. A motion was made to give \$500 to Dr. Meyer, in support of his work, in the research of the propagation of peonies through tissue culture. This motion was approved by all the members of the Board of Directors present.

Edward Michau will make a study and keep records of the blooming dates, in sequence of the peony, so that a specific and permanent record can be established. All American Peony Society members are asked to note the first day of bloom on the hybrid, lactiflora and tree peony and mail the information to him.

A general discussion on the permanent show schedule ensued. It was moved that a separate division be made for the Itoh hybrids. The tree peony schedule is to be updated, giving more acknowledgement to the showing of the tree peony by establishing a rule with more exhibits of the flower in the tree peony classes. This was unanimously approved.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Division 1, OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS, Class 101 be changed to read: Twenty-five varieties, any color or type. One bloom in a separate container.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 18, 1977

The Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society and banquet was held at the Ambassador Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The banquet was served at 6:30 p.m. with the invocation by Mrs. Carl Klehm.

After the dinner, the members were welcomed by President Glocka. A part of his address was recorded for the Bulletin:

"In 1904 when the American Peony Society was founded, this paragraph was included in the certificate of incorporation: The Society resolves to:

- * increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony
- * to improve the standard of excellence of the flower
- * to improve methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it on the market
- * to increase its use as a decorative flower
- * to bring about a more thorough understanding of its culture
- * to properly supervise the nomenclature of different varieties and kinds
- * to stimulate the growing and instruction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flowers
- * to promote any of the objects specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and causing to be awarded prizes therefore or in any other manner.

We have come a long, long way since the founding of the Society seven and one half decades ago. Just look what we have here in 1977:

- * A magnificent Peony Society quarterly Bulletin, which continually promotes the cultivation through its articles.
- * Today, we have peonies developed by hybridizers such as the world has never known.
- * These people were inspired by the success of Dr. A. P. Saunders, whose daughter is with us tonight.
- * The cross between the herbaceous and the tree peony has been accomplished and plants of the original cross are known as the Itoh-Smirnow Hybrids. This cross has given us the true yellow herbaceous peony flower.
- * The Society, too, has just completed a monumental work, in publishing a book on the correct nomenclature of peony varieties, known as "The History of Peonies and Their Originations." This, incidentally, was a gigantic undertaking, completed by our Editor, Greta Kessenich, assisted by the Nomenclature Committee, consisting of three past presidents, Roy G. Klehm, Marvin C. Karrels and Clarence O. Lienau.

* Today modern methods are developed, in potting the roots of peonies to be sold to the buying public at any time of the year. Peony blooms when cut at the correct stage have always been held in cold storage so that they can be used weeks after cutting for various reasons. No other flower can be handled so rough, be so treated, without water, when stored dry for days and then unfold in all its beauty to its full size, when brought to room temperature and placed in water.

Now we come to the behest made in 1904. That the Society award prizes. That is part of our program tonight. Just how can we have prizes without holding an exhibition. There can be no exhibition without having a show case. Just what more beautiful showcase could there ever be anywhere in America, than the one right here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Mitchell Horticultural Conservatory.

We are very fortunate to have with us tonight the assistant Director of the Conservatory who will take you on a picture tour of the premises to show the activity that takes place through the year. At this time I would like to introduce Richard Risch, assistant Horticulture Director."

Mr. Risch gave a very interesting talk, with the showing of colored slides of the three glass Domes of Mitchell Park. Each dome provides a different atmosphere: the tropical house provides a rain forest atmosphere; the arid house, desert growing cactus and various plants of the American southwest, and the show house dome displays all flowers in the season of the year, with emphasis on noted calendar days of significance.

At this time we were called upon to introduce ourselves. Mrs. Jessie Gist of Amarillo, Texas was given a special introduction, as one dedicated to peony nomenclature in the past.

The Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report 1977 had been passed to all members. Mr. Marvin Karrels reported that the Treasurer's book had been audited and was in order. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

Greta Kessenich read the names of the nominees for the Board of Directors for a three-year term. They are as follows: Don Hollingsworth, Marvin Karrels, Dr. Carl H. Klehm, Clarence Lienau, Dr. David Reath, and Mrs. Hollis Cornell. No nominations from the floor. All nominees were unanimously elected.

President Glocka presented the new third edition of the Handbook that has just been completed and published. This was the first offering to the membership. The price of the book is \$2.50 per copy.

The Court of Honor flowers and recipients were read by Greta Kessenich. Awards were presented. Mr. Clarence Lienau received the Farr Medal for the Grand Champion peony, JAMES PILLOW.

The six plaques awarded were given the Society by the Milwaukee Journal. They were presented at this time. Recipients were: Clarence Lienau, Marvin Karrels, Mrs. Betty Pomeroy, Dr. David Reath, Dee Garrison and Eunice Garrison.

The Mr. Peony award, represented by the antique bronze medal of the American Peony Society, was given Myron D. Bigger. Even though not present, Mr. Marvin Karrels told of the deserved recognition and achievements of Mr. Bigger for the past 50 years, as a member of the American Peony Society. Through his work of breeding peonies and introducing the fine new varieties, they are now being enjoyed in our gardens. He was President of the Society and has been on the Board of Directors for many years and currently serving on the Board. He is a life member of the Society.

President Glocka was spokesman for the entire Society, in presenting the medallion to the Klehm Nursery. The medallion was engraved with three words that tried to express thanks, individually, for: "Support, Devotion and Leadership."

Mr. Irvin Ewing then presented a most beautiful and meaningful plaque that was especially made and designed for the Klehm Nursery, in appreciation for their devoted interest in the Society. The Klehm Nursery is a Charter Member of the American Peony Society (1903) and the support, interest and leadership has continued over the years.

To the surprise of only the writer, Mr. Clarence Lienau took the floor and said that one more medal was to be presented. With most complimentary remarks about the progress of the Society and achievements accomplished, he presented the beautiful American Peony Society Medal to Greta Kessenich. The engraving reads: "For Leadership and Unselfish Faithful Service."

Mr. Irvin Ewing made another presentation of a bronze plaque with etched Old English letters in words of high praise to Greta Kessenich.

The auction of peony roots followed. Mr. Clarence Lienau was the auctioneer. All the peony roots donated were in demand. Thank you, Mr. Lienau.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary/Treasurer

SPECIAL, NON-COMPETITIVE DISPLAY

The show committee at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, undertook a challenge to see if it could put together 100 or more varieties of peonies on a special table, selected from the work tables after the Exhibitor had entered his show flowers in the main exhibit, 68 varieties were put in this display. Many more could have been selected but they were past their prime for public viewing.

Those exhibited in this special non-competitive display were:

ANNISQUAM	PINK CAMEO	AMELIA OLSON
SARAH NAPIER	VIVID ROSE	HIGHLIGHT
RED CHARM	CONVOY	LOTTY DAWSON REA
MARY E. NICHOLLS	DAVID HARUM	PAULA FAY
ANN COUSINS	KANSAS	EDULA SUPREME
DINNERPLATE	FELIX CROUSSE	PILLOW TALK
NICK SHAYLOR	GOLDEN GOLW	ROSE SHAYLOR
MOTHER'S CHOICE	WESTHILL	PRAIRIE MOON
CYTHEREA	FRIENDSHIP	DIANA PARKS
FLAME	CHOCOLATE SOLDIER	TOPEKA CORAL
LOVELY LOUISE	MOONSTONE	GOLD CREST
RUSHOOMON	GOLD STANDARD	ROSE SHAYLOR
GINNY	HERITAGE	LOVELY ROSE
SALMON GLOW	THERESE	Tree
DOROTHY J.	EMMA KLEHM	AGE OF GOLD
MABEL GORE	MRS. F.D.R.	BLACK PIRATE
SOSHI	ANGEL CHEEKS	BANQUET
DR. J. F. NEELEY	SNOW MOUNTAIN	CORSAIR
NIPPON BRILLIANT	IMPERIAL RED	ALHAMBRA
LAURA DEXHEIMER	MARGARET LOUGH	CHINESE DRAGON
LOVELY LOUISE	PINK CAMEO	PRINCESS
WESTERNER	JAMES PILLOW	TRIA
NORMA VOLZ	FIRE BELLE	RENOWN

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY CONVENTION 1977

Charlotte E. Sindt

For many of us anticipation of an American Peony Society convention in 1977 was concerned with central Illinois and the Klehm Farms in Champaign County with the many acres of peonies grown there. However, it was not to be! Hail and devastating rains re-arranged the plans of the A.P.S. and the meeting was re-scheduled for Milwaukee at the time of the Midwest Show.

Thus it was that on Friday, June 17, we rolled up to the Domes in Milwaukee and were greeted by peonies—and people! Bottles of bagged beauties were fast filling the tables, prepared by peony friends from Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Later more people arrived—from the Upper Peninsula and Canada, bringing their flowers. First order of importance was making those peonies comfortable, giving them air and water. Fast behind it was the greeting of the friends from across the country, friends with whom we have a common interest—the uncommon and spectacular peony.

Saturday morning was a time of excitement and feverish earnestness in preparing each flower with the proper tag and name. Each exhibitor was evaluating each exhibit. Was it worthy or should another replace it? Would this bloom hold until judging time, or would that one regain the pose for which it is known? Those were the problems exhibitors faced, well known in show circles, where the true show people are able to use their years of expertise to good

advantage.

The culmination of these hours of preparation was the 72nd Annual Peony Exhibition in the Mitchell Park Conservatory in Milwaukee, a beautiful setting for a lovely show. Specific results are elsewhere in this issue, but the general effect was spectacular, the kind with which peony exhibitors are familiar. Hundreds of visitors marveled at the many types and the colors of the specimens. The artistic section also did honor to the beauty of the peony. Arrangement were contributed by members of the Milwaukee District Garden Clubs and were indeed lovely.

It was early evening on Saturday when again the peony lovers gathered at the Ambassador Hotel for the banquet and the annual meeting of the A.P.S. This time those in attendance included members not only from those states represented at the show but also from Kansas, New York, Ohio, and Illinois. Again it was friends chatting with friends over a sumptuous prime rib dinner that took priority on this gala occasion until the gavel was rapped, signaling the beginning of the program.

Speaker of the evening was Mr. Richard Risch, assistant Horticulture Director of the Mitchell Park Conservatory, who showed slides of the Mitchell Park Conservatory of all times of the year, with the displays to feature each season. It is no wonder that this horticultural center draws so many visitors and is a fitting site for an exhibition of the American Peony Society.

Each year the top winners of the show receive awards at the annual meeting. This year was no exception, and it was indeed gratifying to have the Milwaukee Journal present six plaques to the following:

Clarence Lienau, Marvin Karrels, Mrs. Betty Pomeroy,
Dr. David Reath, Dee Garrison and Eunice Garrison

Suspense built up, as it was apparent that the coveted medal of the American Peony Society was to be awarded. First to come forward was Marvin Karrels who presented one to Myron D. Bigger and read the inscription:

Breeder of Fine Peonies
Devoted Service — 50 Years
Mr. Peony

Unfortunately Mr. Bigger was not able to be at the Milwaukee meeting, but all present were in agreement that this gentleman, long a faithful grower, hybridizer, and supporter of the Society was a deserving recipient.

It was the president Joe Glocka who next presented the medal to the Klehm Nursery:

In appreciation for —
Support — Devotion — Leadership

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The smiles of both Dr. Carl Klehm and his mother, Mrs. Lois Klehm, confirmed the gratitude of the Klehms for this award. Surely this establishment, a charter member of the A.P.S., with its long heritage of growing peonies and its continuing support as individuals to the Society has an unprecedented claim to such recognition.

Then, there was a third medal still to be awarded, and Clarence Lienau stepped forward. The small smile on his face belied the fact that this award would come as a total surprise to the recipient, Greta M. Kessenich. The inscription read:

For Leadership
and Unselfish, Faithful
Service

The note-taking of the secretary stopped abruptly as Greta looked up in disbelief—and incidentally it was never resumed. Unbelievably our secretary was without words! However, it has been obvious ever since she took this office and later that of treasurer and editor, that the American Peony Society has been the beneficiary of intense and undivided loyalty, of unstinting and praiseworthy devotion. The hours of time and effort on the part of Greta Kessenich are never known and a medal in her honor is well deserved.

But the awards were not complete, for Irvin Ewing had been responsible for the creation of two beautifully engraved plaques and presented them to the Klehm Nursery and Greta M. Kessenich. These plaques, corroborating the esteem and the gratitude of the A.P.S. to two worthy recipients, were a signal event, a first and last presentation. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Ewing for his insight and perseverance to make such an award possible.

The final event of the evening, the annual auction of the Society, had Clarence Lienau as the auctioneer, a past master and a favorite in this role. Bidding was spirited and while the Society was gaining, the members were enjoying the repartee that is a part of this event. "Runners" were Lisa and Steve Ewing who handled their assignment admirably. Once again the American Peony Society is grateful to the donors of the many plants that were auctioned and to those who "paid the price." It is those who grow these treasures who will benefit in the end.

It will be in 1978 when next the friends of the A.P.S. gather in Mansfield, Ohio, as is the custom every three years. It will be good to see the gardens at Kingwood Center again and to greet the personnel, always so gracious and accommodating. Disappointment of not being able to go to Champaign-Urbana has been eased a bit in the knowledge that two years hence we will be there. In that time the anticipation will be even greater and the rewards truly exciting.

THE HEART OF THE SHOW

By Helen Titus, Derby, Kansas

The heart of a National Peony Show is in the workroom. It is from there life-blood is pumped to the display tables. My first impression of this room was a mass of flowers punctuated with people.



There were tables of peonies whose colors flowed from white through the many shades of pink and rose, the vibrant reds, the crimsons and the dark velvety reds, stopping short of black. Small streams of coral and salmon were promises fulfilled of the ever-widening range of color being achieved by our hybridizers. The accent patches of yellow and yellow blends were evidence of the presence of tree peonies. The people in the room were representatives of many states and many occupations. There were husbands and wives, children, grandchildren, friends and relatives. All were engaged in a subdued stream of serious conversation. Here, decisions were being made, preliminary judgments on the quality of the blooms which marked the culmination of a year of hard work and tender loving care. Of the many blooms standing in containers on these tables, only the very finest were selected to appear in the show room. Emotionally, there was a strange mixture of joy, sadness and anticipation—joy that some blooms were opening to the peak of perfection, sadness because others had passed that peak and dropped their petals, anticipation that still others would unfold their tightly closed petals in time to be placed on the show room tables before judging commenced.

The assistance of fresh air and sunshine was elicited by some growers who placed containers just outside the open doors, hoping that an hour or two of additional development would win them a place on the court of honor.

At a table near the door, we met Greta Kessenich, our much loved Secretary writing name tags for her peony blooms as well

as for the peony people, making introductions, answering questions, soliciting articles for the Bulletin—being her ever efficient, ever helpful, ever loving self.

A little further on there was C. F. Spangler from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. He had just decided not to show a lovely pink Japanese bloom with a creamy yellow center. Reason? It's "over the hill," meaning it had passed the peak of perfection. Marvin Karrels from Milwaukee had just placed blooms of **Red Charm** and **Cytherea** outside to absorb some winning sunshine. He spoke enthusiastically of his bloom of **Paula Fay**—"can't recall its past or predict its future."

We met Frank and Edna Howell who brought their blooms all the way from New Jersey, and Mr. Bill Seidl from Wisconsin. He had seven or eight blooms of **Alice Harding**, and selecting the one from this group was difficult.

Gus and Charlotte Sindt from Minnesota had already placed their entries and they were meticulously checking to see if they had yet another bloom to promote to the show room. I asked Charlotte about the tremendous pink single in their group. She told me it was **Seashell**, a beauty whose petals were tired and refused to stand up. From Detroit we met Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lienau and Mr. and Mrs. Ewing. The two children working with them with such interest and delight were the Lienaus' grandchildren, Lisa and Steve Ewing.

Chris and Lois Laning from Kalamazoo, Michigan, brought with them a promise of the future—a marvelous display of seedlings, graced by **Quad F-3 x Moonrise** and **Roy's Best Yellow** and accented by the striking seed pods of **Battleflag x Red Red Rose**.

Our neighbors from the north, Vi and John Simkins from Canada were writing tags for their entries. "Mr. Simkins, someone told me you have a bloom of **Souvenir de Maxime Cornu**." With a sad smile and his usual Canadian charm, he responded, "I did have, but when I removed the bag, I released a shower of petals." This was illustrative of one of the heartbreaks of the work room.

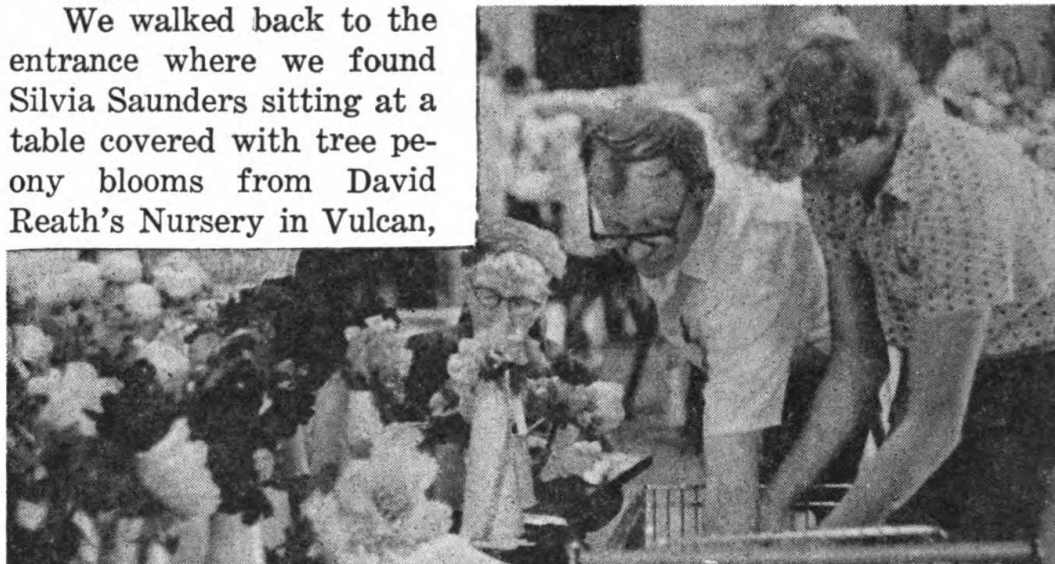
Right at home in Milwaukee were our President Joe Glocka and his family and Dee and Delia Garrison. They did not have far to transport their blooms, but the decisions as to which blooms to enter were just as difficult.

From Pennsylvania, Mr. John Kreichbaum flew with his eighty blooms, some of which he had bagged and stored from three to seven weeks. "What are these three lovely white blooms just outside the door?" "Oh, I almost forgot about **Miss America**," he said as he lifted them to the table and gently caressed each one—coaxing it to open just a little more, "I've worked so hard on my peonies, I decided to show them win or not, he said with determination. Indeed, there were winners among his entries!

Back in the corner we met Bob Rose, Sue Skerke and Mary Landen preparing the Klehm tree peony blooms they brought from

Barrington, Illinois and the herbaceous from Arlington Heights. Their flowers at Woodstock, Illinois had been devastated by the hailstorm, which was the reason we were at Milwaukee, instead of Klehms in Illinois. Sue was studying a large yellow double tree peony bloom. "It's High Noon," she said. "I'm wondering if it will open by judging time."

We walked back to the entrance where we found Silvia Saunders sitting at a table covered with tree peony blooms from David Reath's Nursery in Vulcan,



Michigan. A wild blood-red flushed with yellow bloom of **Savage Splendor** graced her shoulder and highlighted the excitement in her eyes. She was writing entry tags for the blooms selected by David and Eleanor Reath. Their son Mark kept busy by assisting with "leg-work" and clean-up.

One outstanding feature of the work room had to be the beautiful discards. Wastebaskets full of colorful crushed blooms and the delightful carpet of petals forming on the floor. All this was a vital part of the 1977 National Peony Show.

PEONIES IN KOSHKONONG

C. F. Spangler, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

To refresh the memories of the Bulletin readers, Koshkonong is an Indian name meaning "Place where we live." Our place is on the east shore of the lake by that name, in Koshkonong township.

The big lake breaks the tornadic storms and in some years, in spite of what the meteorologists say on the subject, also seems to deprive us, to some extent, of much needed rains. The lack of precipitation has been quite general over broad sections of the country for the past year.

As we left Milwaukee on Friday evening June 17, driving west on I-94, we encountered massive black cloud formations with cooling winds, hoping that Jefferson County too, would get a fair share of the rain they surely held. Arriving home, some forty-five minutes

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later, an inch of rain had fallen in about twenty minutes. We understand that July will give us more frequent rainfall, which means an abundance of flower buds for next peony season's bloom.

We were at the Mitchell Park Domes on the first scheduled day of the National Peony Show to assist President Joe Glocka and Marvin Karrels in the work of setting up for the exhibition.

It was a grand spectacle, a full account will be covered in other pages of this issue. In spite of the reports from most sections of the country and Canada, of drought, too early spring plant growth, late spring freezes, devastating winds, hail, blistering hot sun, and other elements there was a very generous amount of gorgeous flowers to favorably impress a very eager public.

As for myself, with dubious feeling as to the quality of my flowers, I took along a few blooms. I helped a few other people to unbag and get their specimens into water. It is a good way to familiarize one's self with other varieties and visit with people.

Going to my own work table, my worst fears were pretty well confirmed. Not too good flowers, had been in cold storage too long, and many blooms had turned toast brown, as they had cooked in the bag in the hot sun before cutting. Take a lesson!

I did not stage very many flowers and only got one skinny little ribbon on a very nice but rather small bloom of **High Noon**. Even so, an Honorable Mention is better than none.

On the show tables, there was much competition in most classes. In many, the quality was such that judging was sometimes a very tough chore. In spite of the short duration, it was all so enjoyable. Expect to see you next year at Mansfield, Ohio.

1976-77 ANNUAL REPORT, AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

It is gratifying to report that at the close of our year May 31, 1977, we continue to show receipts over disbursements. The accumulated assets are in savings accounts at $7\frac{1}{4}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ % interest, also a daily account of $5\frac{1}{2}$ % and a current checking account. Our commitments for the year have been paid in full. No outstanding bills.

Four Bulletins were issued for the year with beautiful colored peonies on the cover, a contribution from Charles Klehm and Son Nursery. We express our gratitude to this firm for their generosity in making the Bulletin a publication that expressed so vividly the beauty of the peony.

This year 1977, the third edition of the "Handbook of the Peony" has been published. The previous Handbook was updated with added information on the tree peony, diseases of peonies, hybridizing, grafting, growing peonies from seed and many available

varieties of the herbaceous and tree peonies. The book is now available for \$2.50 per copy.

The colored slide collection has been increased this year. We continue to ask for varieties of both herbaceous and trees. We are in need of slides of arrangements and specimen plants. Requests have been received for slides showing planting, digging, and dividing the plant.

1977 dues letters and statements were mailed to members in November. Second notices serving as reminders were mailed April 1.

For the benefit of all members, the following is a quote from Article 1, Paragraph 6 of the BY-LAWS of the American Peony Society.

“All annual memberships shall be for the calendar year. All new members joining prior to August of any year shall be considered members of the calendar year and receive all issues of the Bulletin for that year, unless previously exhausted. Those joining after August 1 of any year shall be enrolled as members of the following year and shall receive all Bulletins issued from that date of joining to the end of the fiscal year.”

Bulletins will not be delivered by the Post Office if your address is incorrect. Do keep us advised of any change of location. We will be pleased to mail the Bulletin to your winter vacation address. Notify us a month in advance of the mailing period, also date of return.

Peony roots and other material that are contributed for the annual auction is of benefit to the organization. The proceeds are included in the yearly assets.

The Bulletin is the link in the chain that holds our Society together. It brings about a more thorough understanding of the objective of the organization, the activities and the general interest in the culture and in the peony flower. Your individual effort in contributing an article to the Bulletin would add to our effort in publishing material that would enhance the interest in it.

We are so appreciative for all the various articles contributed by our talented members. There has been a wide range of subjects, from the impressive descriptions of peonies on the Bulletin covers, to the various educational, experimental, historical and general topics pertaining to the peony. Also, we acknowledge our silent contributor, Irvin Ewing, who gives of his talent in working with new publications, in design and printing, as well as furnishing this office with all required supplies.

The Society has maintained a steady growth and a favorable financial status through 1976-1977, when the cost of all services continues to increase.

This has been a good year.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary-Treasurer

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1976 - June 1, 1977

Balance on Hand June 1, 1976	-	-	-	-	\$ 8648.43
Receipts:					
Membership dues	-	-	-	-	\$3346.60
Advertising	-	-	-	-	101.00
Rent: color slides	-	-	-	-	12.50
A.P.S. Auction	-	-	-	-	547.50
Registration, Nomenclature	-	-	-	-	290.00
Contributions	-	-	-	-	209.00
Publications:					
Bulletins	-	-	-	\$ 30.95	
Handbooks	-	-	-	1.00	
"The Peonies"	-	-	-	38.50	
"Peonies Outdoors and In"	-	-	-	65.80	
History of Peonies and Their Originations	-	-	-	1511.27	
Total	-	-	-	-	\$1647.52
Interest on Savings	-	-	-	-	590.75
Total Receipts	-	-	-	-	\$ 6744.87
					<hr/>
					\$15393.30
Disbursements:					
Publications:					
Four Bulletins, June, Sept., Dec., Mar.	-	-	-	-	2080.40
American Peony Society postage	-	-	-	-	579.60
Office supplies	-	-	-	-	212.65
Research — (Culture of Paeonia)	-	-	-	-	300.00
Books — "The Peonies"	-	-	-	-	27.60
Exhibitions	-	-	-	-	162.73
Printing	-	-	-	-	1700.00
Refund	-	-	-	-	5.00
Total Disbursements	-	-	-	-	\$5067.98
					<hr/>
Balance June 1, 1977	-	-	-	-	\$10825.32
					<hr/>
					\$15393.30
Excess receipts over disbursements for the year					\$1676.89
Savings Account	-	-	-	\$9.641.36	
Checking Account	-	-	-	683.96	
				<hr/>	
				\$10325.32	

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

Hybrids of William H. Krekler, 4030 West Elkton Road. Somerville, Ohio. 45064. Registered May 1977 by William H. Krekler. Bloomed before May 3.

BEELZEBUB (169) Single glossy red. Bush similar to *Officinalis*.

BLAZER (166) Rich red single. Late April, blooms with *Tenuifolia*.

BORDER GUARD (230) Nice single deep clear red. Dense green bush.

BY JOVE (163) Single, dull red-wine. Three feet tall. Blooms late April.

CAMPUS QUEEN (173) Gay, single purple-red, large flowers. Blooms late April.

**DAVID LEE* (218) Bright gay single pink cup. Upright 25" bush.

FLASHER (189) Single red, gay small flowers on lower bush.

GENTLEMAN JIM (172) Single deep red. Clear and pretty. Late April bloom..

LORD OF MAY (185) Bright dark red, single. Bloomed May second.

ODD FELLOW (217) Single, deep bright pink cup. Upright. Unusual hybrid.

PARTY DRESS (175) Big maroon-red, single. May first bloom.

**PATH LIGHTER* (200) Big floppy single red with tan center. Two foot bush.

SHOW OPENER (152) Red, single, low, bloomed first, with *Early bird*.

**TIMOTEIO* (190) Dark red, large single. Flowers on 28 inch bush.

SIOUX (205) Large purple-red. Dense wide bush like *Officinalis*.

SIZZLER (167) Single red, large flowers. Tall and stingy. April bloom.

WOW (170) Wine-red single flowers. Blooms late April. Flowers O.K.

YARD BOSS (157) Single, light red cup. Large and bright. Late April.

UNCLE SAM (162) Dark red single. Good flower. Blooms late April.

YARD MASTER (226) Single, light red, narrow leaves. Upright bush. Bloomed before May 6, with double red *Tenuifolia*.

APACHE WARRIOR (251) Big, wine-red, single. Sparce stamens. 32 inches.

**BILLS CHOICE* (277) Clear light orange-red single. Generous. Foot tall.

**BILLS PRIDE* (247) Black-red, velvet texture, single, large, erect, lasts.

FOR HEAVEN SAKE (265) Intense deep red, single. Different. Oak-like leaves.

- MIAMI MAID* (269) Average size, deep red single. Upright. Attractive.
- **PEEWEE* (259) Large light pink to red gay flowers, single. Generous.
- PREBLE* (243) Light lavender-red single. Dense gray colored bush.
- **SERI SCOUT* (229) Small, deep carmen red, single. Gay. Dense bush.
- SWEET AND LOW* (275) Generous single red. Neat dense bush, picturesque.
- WEE WILLIE* (279) Single red, neat and generous. Dense green bush. Bloomed before May 9, with *Garden Peace*.
- CLINTON* (303) Rich red single. Sturdy. 25-inch bush. Distinct.
- CUCKOO'S NEST* (287) Big single wine-red. Crinkly, stamens, edged cream.
- DO SE DO* (280) Japanese hybrid pink. Petaloids edged cream.
- KARAMBA* (237) Single light orange-red. Unusual color. Cut flower type.
- **PETAL POEM* (283) Single, big deep velvet red. 30" upright bush.
- **PINK PUP* (308) Single bright carmen red, Upright. Full bush.
- SCOTCH LASSIE* (302) Single, baby pink, streaked with white. Sparce.
- WILMINGTON* (178) Small rich red single. Bloomed April 29, 1977.
- ZUNI LAD* (299) Red Single, rich color, full bush, cut flower type. Bloomed before May 12, near Hamilton, Ohio.
- CORNELL* (301) Large single, deep red. Upright. Cutter, low.
- GRINGO* (327) Single, hybrid, big. Buds hardy. 26-inch bush.
- LADY IN PINK* (326) Single, light pink cups. Dense green bush.
- PINKABOO* (317) Small, single light pink with near white base.
- SHAWNEE PAPOOSE* (250) Large rich red single, dense bush. Showy.
- WASHINGTON ELETE* (314) Different. Single, large carmen red, gay color.
- XENIA STORM* (322) Single, deep pink. Upright green low bush.
- SHIN LO* (334) Single, orange, smallest flowered on lowest bush.
- **GRETA* (William H. Krekler 1977) (525) (Lactiflora, Parentage unknown) Dark-purple red, semi-double, large flower. Flat,, with open center where stamens make ball, most attractive. 34-inch in height, very dense bush, landscape type. Many flowers on the plant. Named for the Secretary of the American Peony Society. Greta Kessenich. 1977. Bulletin #223.
- All lactifloras, William H. Krekler, 4030 West Elkton Road. Somerville, Ohio 45064. Registered by Roy Klehm, 2 East Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005, June 1977.

- ***BANDIT** (586) High built flesh pink double. Much silver.
- ***BRAVO** (530) Large flat frosted pink double. Upright. Lovely.
- ***BIGUN** (584) Huge wine red heavy double. Upright. Tall one.
- CHERUB** (574) Glowing flesh double. Hardy.
- CROWN JEWELL** (575) Flat, dense, semi-double red, not tall.
- ***BILLS DARLING** (576) Huge heavy flesh, pink double, Flecks.
- CHIN HI** (524) Tallest peony. Deep red, average size. Cutter.
- DREAM** (556) White Jap with lemonball. Good bush, cutter.
- DOC** (575) Light red double. Knee high. Good one.
- FANCY THAT** (514) Medium-sized wine-red Jap. Pale cream ball.
- FIRST LOVE** (503) Big single, near white. Tall and sturdy.
- FIESTA POSEY** (534) Semi-double, near white. Quite tall. Cutter.
- FLIRT** (577) Large semi-double wine-red. Gold in center. Low.
- GOOD AND LOW** (565) Deep pink double, 20" tall. Cute.
- GAY PARTY** (540) Big lavender tinted baby pink double. Cutter.
- ***GRAND PARADE** (589) Huge. Much silvered light pink double.
- HEADLINER** (585) Generous pink double. Stamens show. Silvered.
- JACKPOT** (580) Big high built deep pink double. Late, Arching.
- ***KINGS CROWN** (510) Large dull red Jap. Cream topped petals.
- LUCKY** (511) Gay, neat pink Jap. Small creamy center ball.
- LITTLE JOE** (523) Gay flat purple-red, open center, semi-double.
- NEW MOON** (509) Near white Japanese. Bright yellow center.
- MING JOY** (527) Glossy deep red double. Average size. Cutter.
- PHANTOM** (554) Deep dull wine-red semi-double. Sturdy, upright.
- PAYOFF** (512) Generous medium-sized deep-red Japanese.
- PINK SHOWOFF** (517) Flat light pink semi-double. Upright.
- PATRIARCH** (529) Different, flat pale pink semi-double. Tall.
- ***PAPOOSE** (538) Large, twisty rich double red. Stamens peep.
- QUEENBEE** (520) Flat flesh colored semi-double. Yellow ring.
- RED IMP** (507) Large flat deep-red, semi-double stamens ring.
- PAL** (578) Double light pink, much silver, glossy bush.
- PARIS GOWN** (583) Big flat light pink silvered semi-double.
- ***SWEETIE** (522) Lavender pink double. Dwarf, eighteen inches.
- SUNGLORY** (544) Huge pale pink Jap. Cream yellow center. ball.
- VIKING GAL** (516) Gay, big deep pink Jap. Big cream ball.
- ***FINAL FLING** (592) Large glossy near white double. Cutter.
- FINEST HOUR** (596) Big flesh semi-double. Landscape type.
- PINK GOODNESS** (597) Dense heavy high built ball like double pink.

Indicates the best. Klehm Nursery to propagate and eventually sell all Krekler peonies.

**REGISTRATIONS. MYRON D. BIGGER,
201 N. RICE ROAD, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66616**

MAY APPLE, originated by Harold Wolf, Belleville, Ill. (12-61) Single hybrid. A very nice shade of medium pink with base of flower that is white. The over all effect is apple blossom pink. About 30 inches tall with good stem and bright green foliage. White stigmas and green seed capsules. Registered by Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas. 1977.

MEADOW LARK (11-59) Myron D. Bigger. 1977. Parentage **Polar Star** x ?. Very smooth light pink Jap. Partially transformed stamenodes form the center that is all one shade of bright yellow. The thirty-six inch stems are very stiff with fine foliage. Red stigmas with green seed.

OSAGE (27-61) Myron D. Bigger. 1977. Mixed parents. Very large double lactiflora, very dark red with good stiff 36" stems and clean dark green foliage. Flower all one color.

VELVET PRINCESS (2-62) Myron D. Bigger. 1977. Parentage. **Radiant Red** x ? Velvety dark red crown type that is almost a small bomb. The beauty of this variety is the smooth velvety flower that is all one color. Small tips of white on the very stiff petals of the bomb. About twenty-five inches tall with clean dark green foliage and good stem.

JOHN C. WISTER CELEBRATES HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

Two hundred friends and colleagues helped John C. Wister, Hon. '42, director emeritus of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, celebrate his ninetieth birthday with a reception in Bond Hall on March 19th. The party was given by the Board of Trustees of Tyler Arboretum, The Scott Foundation, for Dr. and Mrs. Wister.

In addition to a spectacular birthday cake and the good wishes of his many friends, Mr. Wister received a special surprise present in the form of Annette DiMedio '75 who came to play the piano for the celebration. —Swathmore Alumni Issue, Pennsylvania

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PEONY SHOW IS NO GO — AGAIN

The North Dakota Peony Show—which used to be a tradition of June in Grand Forks—is no go, again this year. At a meeting of the board of directors this week, it was decided there was nothing to do but cancel the show. The peonies, which normally reach their full glory in mid-June, are already blooming and some are fading fast. Conditions rule out planning of a show, according to Harold Thomforde, mayor of Crookston, Minn., who is president of the North Dakota Peony Society. Last year the Peony Show was cancelled for reasons somewhat the same as this season and an off-beat season. But the North Dakota Peony Society is not discouraged. It has received a new championship trophy from the E. J. Lander Company and has high hopes to present it to some peony grower—next year.

NEWSLETTER: PAEONIA

Editors: The Lanings. Summarized by Bill Seidl

DECEMBER 1976, Volume 7, No. 4. Editor Chris Laning lists the parentages of seeds distributed. They included hybrids x hybrids, hybrids x lactis, and tree peony crosses; seed sources varied from coast to coast.

L. J. Dewey (Virginia) is experimenting and planning to experiment in germination of seeds under controlled conditions, including chemical treatment of seeds to hasten germination and induced tetraploidy of t.p. seeds. He's looking for seeds of potanini and delavayi species. He has lutea *Ludowii* and hopes it will flower in his climate. It seldom blooms in the U.S.

“Try for yellow,” encourages Chris, as he discusses some problems and theories concerning that goal. *P. mlokosewitschi*, a species with good yellow flowers, doesn't grow well for many people. But if you have it available, try backcrossing *Claire de Lune*, *Nosegay*, *p. Daurica*, using *p. Mloko* as the pod parent. This is suggested on the supposition the mloko yellow is due to the cytoplasm and not inherited when mloko is the pollen parent. If the mloko route fails, the lutea t.p. remains for consideration. A first step, as represented by the Itoh-Smirnow hybrids, has so far been a dead-end due to sterility.

In an article from the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Volume 84, the author, H. R. Fletcher, tells of the discovery of a new species of peony: *P. sterniana*. Originally seen going to seed (S. E. Tibet) in July, 1938, the white flowers were first described in April, 1947, and indigo-blue seeds gathered from bright red capsules Aug. 5, 1947. The plant is herbaceous and resembles *P. emodi* but

not so big, the anthers not so golden, the seeds maturing much earlier. In its subsection, *Disectifoliae*, its nearest kin is *P. anomala*. *P. veitchii* is also closely allied but it has two or more flowers per stem, whereas *P. sterniana* flowers are always solitary.

The August hurricane flooded 18 inches of water over L. Smirnow's peony planting in Long Island, N.Y., and he is looking to replenish his supply of Itoh hybrids and **Oriental Gold**. Lost were several outstanding seedlings.

VOLUME 8, No. 1, March 1977. Crosses planned during the winter season are often difficult to implement during the hybridizing season for a variety of reasons. Therefore, writes Don Hollingsworth, one should have several lines of breeding in progress, thereby increasing the chances of getting something purposeful accomplished. He suggests producing some seeds every season for testing ideas and technique. Also, among chosen priorities, at least one line ought to be easily produced to assure some near-term rewards. For 1977, some breeding lines that Don hopes to develop are (1) lacti cultivars x **Good Cheer**, (2) the Itoh cross, and (3) the Landscape Gardener's cross. In the first, **Good Cheer**, a Saunders Little Red (*P. officii* x *lobata*), has pollen that takes easily on lacti, can give double forms, and has a unique vermilion color. Don suggests using its pollen on the occasional small carpels of the double flower forms. In the second line, the baffling Itoh cross (lacti x *lutea* hybrids), Don urges strict and meticulous control measures to prevent contamination. The best lacti parents for Don have been **Gertrude Allen** and **Miss America** followed by **Carr East #2**, **Shaylor's Sunburst**, and **Alice Roberts**. The third line consists of three hybrid groups, the Quads, the SLP's (Saunders Lobata of Perry), and the F1 *lutea* hybrids. Being relatively infertile, no measures to prevent contamination need be taken, thus retaining the landscape value of the plants. For the SLP group, Don frequently uses **Cytherea** and **Red Red Rose** as pollinators.

COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION

Color Slide Collection: The American Peony Society maintains several groups of excellent sets of peony slides for rental. Each set contains 80 slides. A complete set can be requested of all tree peonies, herbaceous hybrids or lactifloras or a combination of these three types.

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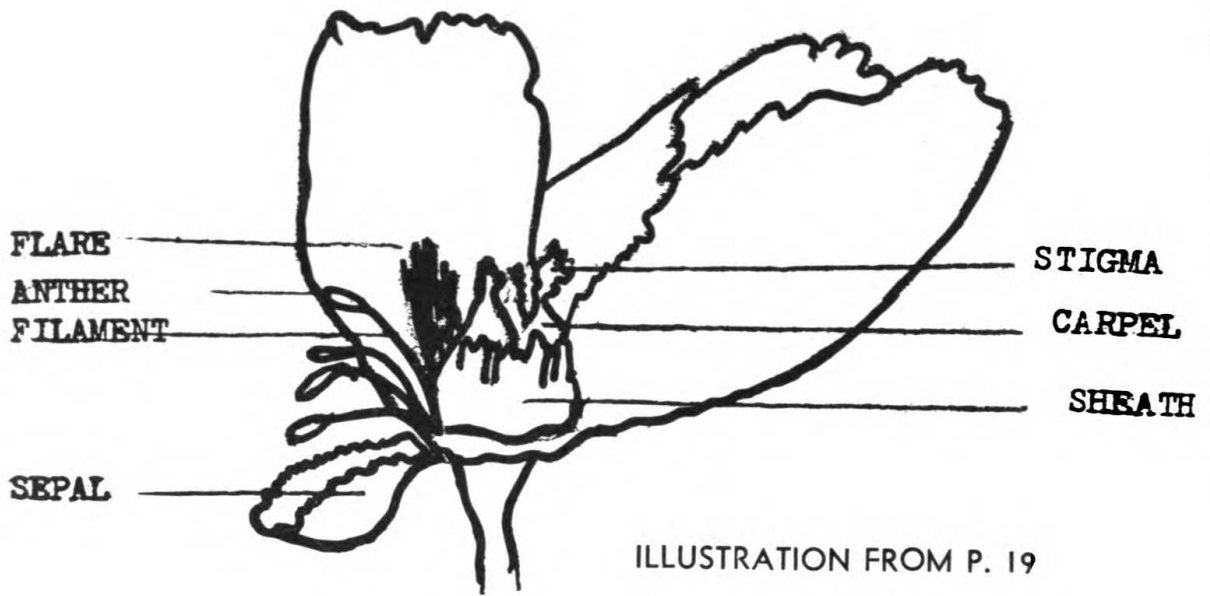


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MEADOW LARK (11-9) Parentage **Polar Star** x ?

Very smooth light pink Jap. Partially transformed stamenodes form the center that is all one shade of bright yellow. The thirty-six inch stems are very stiff with fine foliage. Red stigmas with green seed capsules.

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OSAGE (27-61) Mixed parents. Lactiflora, double

Very large, very dark red with good stiff thirty-six inch stems and clean dark green foliage. Flower is all one color.

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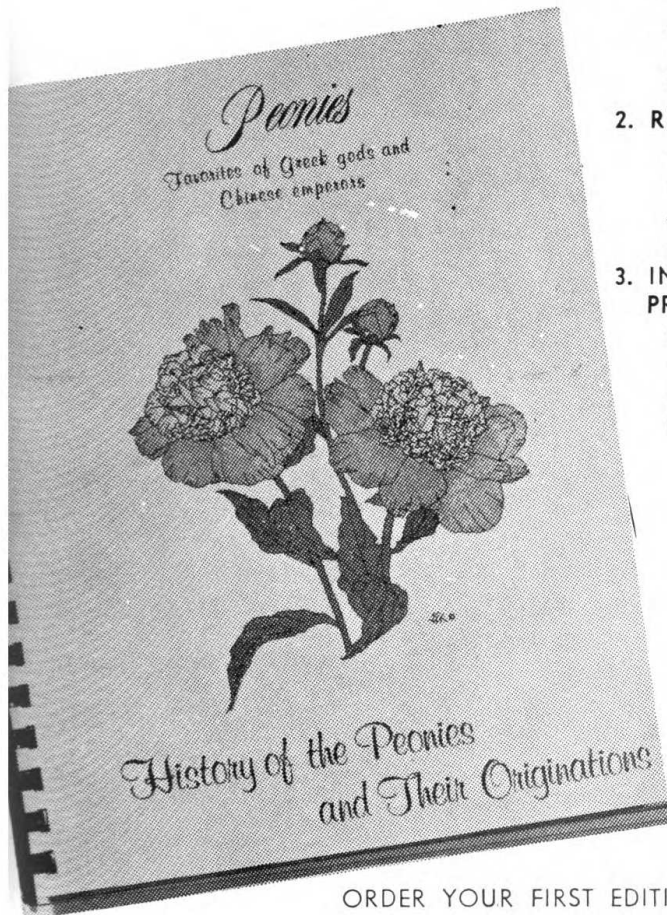
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