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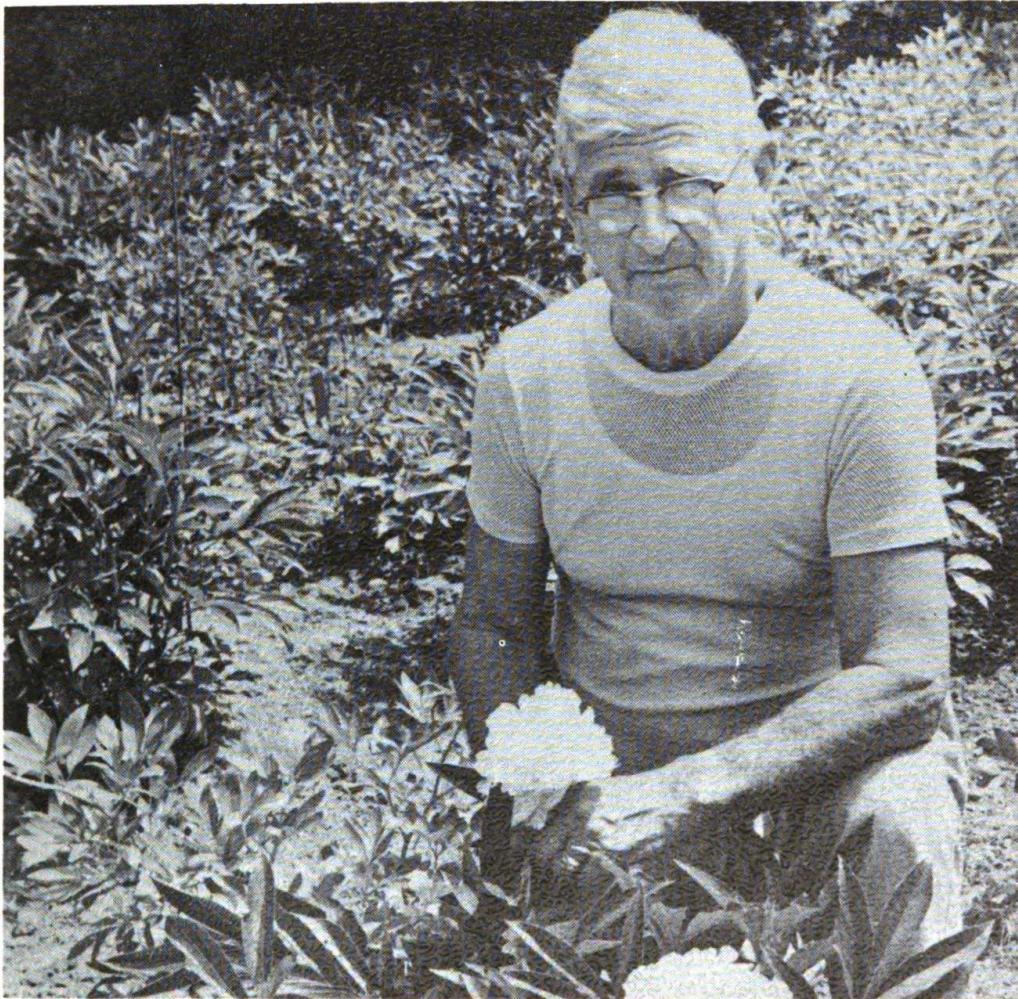
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SECTION
ARY
UNIVERSITY

The American Peony Society Bulletin



FRANK HOWELL — BULLETIN COVER

Photo, Dick Poots

KING OF THE PEONIES — *Frank Howell of Lake Lenape, whose garden includes 150 varieties of peonies, has won the national championship for peony-growing three times, including 1980. Howell's roots in flower-growing date back to 1950.*

VARIETY'S THE SPICE OF LIFE FOR ANDOVER PEONY KING

Reprinted with permission of the New Jersey Herald, Newton, New Jersey

by Michael Sillup, Staff Writer

ANDOVER — When most people grow peonies, they have four or five bushes along their driveway or next to their house. But with Frank Howell, of 7 Penn Ave., Lake Lenape, it's different. Howell has more than 175 peonies, with about 150 different varieties. But something else is different about Howell's peonies—he has grown the national championship flower three times in his 30-odd years of peony-growing, including 1980.

Howell, a 78-year-old retired mechanic, has been growing the plants since 1950. His flowers have won more awards than he can remember. "I have a whole boxful of 'em," he said.

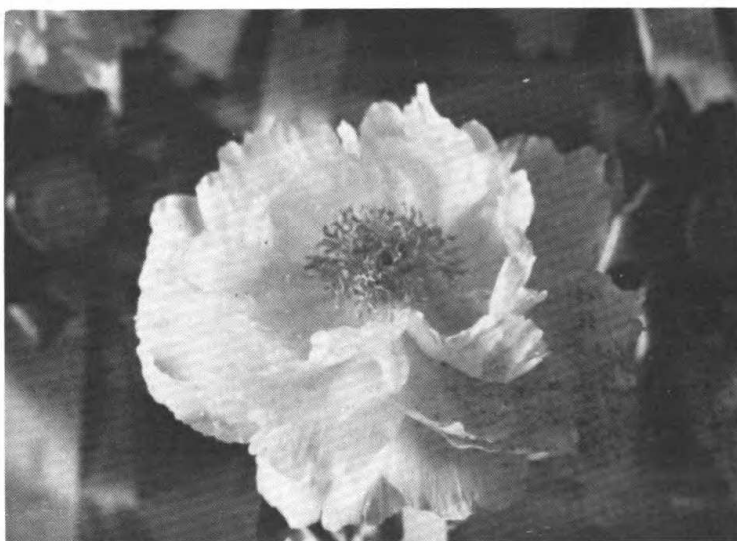
He's sold roots of plants for up to \$50 but donated the proceeds to the National Peony Association, of which he is a member and past president.

Howell went to a competition with Van Loon in Lake Mohawk around 1950, got some roots from him, and started growing them himself. Now, Howell says, his favorite thing about raising the plants is the competition. With a smile, he says, "I guess I like the horse racing." His competitions have taken him as far away as Canada. Transporting the flowers those distances isn't an easy task.

The flowers used for a show have to be selected while the buds are smaller than a golf ball. After choosing which buds have grand champion potential, Howell places a small brown paper bag over the bud and secures it around the stem. When the bag "feels like a marshmallow," Howell says, it's time to cut it and put it in refrigeration—a huge metal milk box insulated with styrofoam. Howell says he tries to keep the plants at a temperature just above freezing. When he leaves for the shows, he brings the bagged flowers in a picnic cooler.

Howell says his delicate treatment of the flowers is no indication of how tough they are. "I've heard of them growing 40 miles outside of the Arctic Circle," he says.

*Peony Miss America,
Grand Champion
Exhibited by Frank
Howell at Ithaca,
New York, 1980*



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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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 or member family.....	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial.....	20.00	Life.....	150.00
Family Annual.....	10.00	Commercial membership.....	25.00
Family Triennial.....	27.50		

Family membership, any two related members in same household..... One Bulletin
Junior membership, any age through completion of high school..... Separate Bulletin

For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



September 1981 — No. 239

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

When you viewed the exhibition at the National Show in Kingwood, you saw the best in peonies. There was a wide representation of the many peonies grown in this day. The exhibitors are careful to select only specimens that show their true and delicate color. This is achieved by protecting each bud with a small paper bag while still on the plant. At a certain stage, that flower is cut and put in a room refrigerated at 40 degrees. There it stays until the date of the show.

Not every good and beautiful flower can be on the Court of Honor. Many flowers of that quality are left on the show tables. Peonies are judged by how they look at the time of judging—not before, not after a judge has passed by. He rates that flower by how it looks in the present. Peonies have a way of changing their appearance either way in a very short period of time.

The bomb type peonies are more difficult to exhibit, as the guard petals are easily bruised or damaged. To show this class of peonies at its best with all the rough handling peonies endure is a real achievement of the exhibitor, or the flower is exceptional.

This year after the judging I saw a newcomer on the table, a perfect bomb type peony. The guard petals stood out as if they had been starched. It was without a blemish, with a perfect bomb of pure pink that seemed to have a lighter shade at the base of the flower—a beautiful specimen called *Pink Derby*. On the Court of Honor, there was a double hybrid called *Salmon Beauty*. It had a deep reflection of its color that seemed to radiate to a lighter shade. This we seldom see in peonies.

Another great peony takes its place with a chosen few that have been awarded the Gold Medal, and that is *Bowl of Cream*. This wonderful peony meets every requirement and adds to the select as being worthy of receiving this honor.

This is the time to plant peonies—from now until the ground freezes. When selecting your varieties, keep in mind that peonies last a lifetime. You will enjoy an abundance of bloom from your peonies every spring. Follow the planting directions.

On behalf of all the members of the American Peony Society attending the convention, I extend my thanks to the entire staff of Kingwood Center for your genuine hospitality.

—Irvin Ewing

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THE MIDAS TOUCH

(Lutea Hybrid Tree Peonies)

Anthony J. De Blasi

“... I always have the hope that perhaps one or two of my readers may believe what I say and be stirred by a desire to have a few of these beautiful plants in their garden. And when once you have seen a fine tree peony in bloom you will never again be happy without them...” These thoughts were recorded in 1943 by Professor A. P. Saunders in a bulletin of the American Peony Society (No. 92, Dec. 1943). Peonies—favorites of Chinese emperors and Greek gods—were *his* favorites, and Saunders’ enthusiasm for these plants shows in the many hybrids of herbaceous and tree peonies he left to the world, each one an adventure on the peony frontier.

The discovery about a hundred years ago by French missionaries in southern China of a tree peony with small, nodding, single yellow flowers, *Paeonia lutea*, ushered a dynamic spurt in peony breeding. In France Lemoine and Henry crossed it with the heavy Chinese double tree peonies. When large double peonies in shades of yellow, from soft to bright, dawned upon the world, Lemoine must have felt like King Midas. One can imagine the excitement of watching the first bud of Alice Harding open to reveal the color of a daffodil! The yellow is muted in Henry’s famous *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* and suffuses to rosy-sanguine tints at the edges of the petals, which, owing to their ruffles and imbricated profusion, create a lavish and arresting tropical fantasy. And its wonderful citrusy odor, typical of lutea hybrids, adds a haunting element to the mix of impressions. But the combination of weight in the blooms of the double parents and the nodding habit of *P. lutea* endowed these European progeny with a disposition of the blossoms to hang face down and hide in the leaves.

Saunders chose the lighter, stronger-stemmed Japanese tree peonies for his crosses. He also used *P. delavayi*, in every respect like *P. lutea* except for its black-red color. The resulting plants are more successful in displaying their flowers and with their finer foliage are striking ornaments in the garden. Their flowers are not like peonies previously seen. There are leafy mounds of “magnolias,” “camellias,” “giant anemones,” “roses,” and “lotus blossoms,” sporting petals of cream, butter, silvery yellow, canary, pearly lavender, dusty pink, strawberry, maroon, and almost black, the centers of many radiating red-to-black flares. Much of the artistic style of the Japanese tree peony comes through with a saucy verve, as the simple buttercup-like bloom takes on the frills and twists and waves of the Japanese parent.

Saunders’ work with tree peonies has been extended by Gratwick and Daphnis, who went beyond the *P. lutea* x *suffruticosa* cross to initiate back-crosses and work over some of the F2 generation, with an eye toward paving the way for super tree peonies. Along that path are *Tria*, with three crisp, bright yellow flowers on each strong stem high

over its delicate foliage; **Gauguin**, a dramatic, sunny yellow blossom bursting into red flares and veins at its center; and **Kronos**, a very large and very dark red hybrid that is a hallmark of the Gratwick standard of excellence.

The basic difference between a tree peony and its herbaceous counterpart is that the tree peony does not discard its stems each season in perennial fashion, but keeps them. These harden into wood, and next year's growth and flower buds form above ground. In time this habit results in a shrub, quite bushy in the case of *lutea* hybrids since they inherit *P. lutea*'s stoloniferous root system with its tendency to spread and send up new stems from the ground. In stature tree peonies range from the height of a bedding plant to that of a man. Tree peonies are fully as hardy as herbaceous peonies, but a snowless winter in the North may prune them to the roots. Unlike the Japanese tree peonies, which then require a season or two to build themselves up, the *lutea* hybrids are capable of blooming from buds below the ground.

Tree peonies would be worth growing for their exceptional beauty alone. But when you add to that the fact that their culture is simple, you have a gardener's dream come true. There is no need to prune, no need to divide, no need to spray. One feeding a year, after bloom, checking the weeds by either cultivating or mulching, and watering the plants in dry weather is all it takes to make them flourish.

Most of the gardener's attention comes at the time of planting. The price of a *lutea* hybrid tree peony generally insures that here is not just another perennial or bush to tinker with. You know ahead of time that it is an investment in lifetime floral grandeur *if* you plant it properly.

TIME: Fall.

LOCATION: In well-drained soil, well isolated from trees, shrubs, and encroaching perennials.

DISTANCE APART: Six feet.

SUNSHINE: Full sun for best results. Some shade at midday protects the flowers.

SOIL: Good loam mixed with compost or peat moss (2:1 ratio). Add sand if clay. Thoroughly mix in two pounds of bonemeal per planting hole.

PLANTING HOLE: Three feet wide, two feet deep.

PLANTING DEPTH: Set crown five inches deep.

WATER: Copious initial watering.

Do not tamp the soil down during or after planting. Mulch the plant heavily before the first winter sets in. This will not be necessary in succeeding years. During the growing season, see to it that the tree peony does not go dry.

In the past few years there has been a wave of controversy over the merits of bonemeal. Without discounting the deficiencies in

today's deodorized and devitalized product, I cannot ignore the fact of my experience with bonemeal by not saying that it is still an excellent albeit expensive fertilizer for peonies. Superphosphate, on the other hand, encourages an unnatural exuberance of bloom at the expense of size and quality and can shorten the life of a peony. Wood ashes are a good source of potash, but manures should be avoided, along with fertilizers with an average-to-high nitrogen content. In my experience the best feeding program is the maintenance of a two- to three-inch mulch of organic matter—such as shredded leaves mixed with chips of twig and bark, dried grass clippings, etc.—and a generous sprinkling of bonemeal worked in around each plant right after it blooms.

The lutea hybrids bloom later than the Japanese tree peonies (and start up later in the spring), providing a thrilling bridge between those celestial beauties and the familiar, heart-warming herbaceous peonies. Between the earliest peonies—such as *P. tenuifolia* (fernleaf peony) and *P. suffruticosa* (Japanese tree peony)—and the latest blooming *P. lactiflora* cultivars (the standard herbaceous garden peonies), a month of peony bloom is possible.

To name a dozen lutea hybrid tree peonies worthy of consideration as an investment in your garden—and simultaneously illustrate the range of possibilities—is not an easy task. But here goes:

Age of Gold — Ruffled, semidouble rosette of soft cream gold, outstandingly floriferous and vigorous.

Angelet — Semidouble yellow, faintly edged rose with a dark center. Like a yellow Japanese tree peony.

Banquet — Glowing strawberry-red semidouble rosette with brilliant dark center. A sensational show in the garden when in bloom.

Black Pirate — Dark mahogany-red single with black flares, heavy substance, and satiny finish.

Canary — Brilliant yellow single with dark flares on a dramatic, tall plant.

Chinese Dragon — Semidouble bright crimson-fringed blossoms on attractive plants of distinctive, finely cut foliage with bronze tips.

Coronal — Bell-shaped single flowers with rich ivory and pale yellow-furled petals, delicately flushed and edged rose.

La Lorraine — Refined, soft yellow double rosette with red hiding in the depths. Haunting fragrance. A low plant and late bloomer.

Mystery — Large pearled lavender single flowers with greenish or purple tints and veins. Dramatic crimson flares.

Silver Sails — Large silvery pale yellow single, faintly flushed and flared, outstanding in plant habit and performance.

Thunderbolt — Stylish, vivid black-crimson single. Floriferous, attractive, tall.

Vesuvian — Bushy mound of fully double dark red flowers, like giant Crimson Glory roses.

Those who have seen these flowers will attest to the fact that while these descriptions seem unusual, they are mere hints at what awaits your first glance if they are new to you. Some would question the fact that they are peonies at all. Others would say they are novelties. But however they may be regarded, in beauty and performance they have few rivals. Most of all, they are the living expressions of a noble tampering with nature's secrets by men who loved peonies so much that their boyish zeal led them to a labor of love that gave the peonies a new look. And the transformations are hardly less fantastic than the gold-making touch of an extravagant king.

TREE PEONY TOPICS

Louis Smirnow, Brookville, Long Island, New York

In May, when tree peonies were in bloom, I visited several gardens in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York State to see tree peonies in bloom. In three gardens I was greatly surprised to see two differently colored flowers growing on the same plant. Upon investigation, I found that these peonies were grafted on tree peony roots, and the understock on each came up along with the scion; hence the two different colors. This is another reason for using herbaceous understock instead of tree peonies. The advantage is that should the understock come through the ground, the foliage of the herbaceous can be readily detected and the growth removed, whereas tree peony understock foliage looks like the foliage of the scion.

Once again, I recommend that we try the Chinese method. Instead of grafting (they do no grafting at all), the tree peonies are grown from roots of the parent plant. A plant is dug up during dormancy, and a few root tubers are carefully cut from the parent plant. These tubers are nurtured until a mature plant is developed. Then the tree peonies have the same root system that the original tree peonies have had.

Two letters have been received—one from France and one from Argentina—asking me to name a low-growing tree peony and also a tall-growing tree peony. I recommend **Alice Harding** for a low grower and **Renkaku**, a beautiful white, for a tall grower. A most unusually colored tree peony is **Kamada Fuji**. It is a gorgeous purest violet with a small yellow center. Another unusually colored tree peony is **Seidai**, a great favorite in Japan. It is an appealing white semidouble with a deep rose-colored marking at the base.

I asked 14 tree peony growers in the above states to name their favorite tree peony other than white, pink, or red. Unanimously they named **Ubatama**, a brilliant, lustrous maroon of great beauty. It is huge and almost black. When the sun shines on its petals, the flower is simply magnificent.

Our Thanks to You

A very special thanks to all the gracious people of Kingwood Center for hosting our Annual Peony Convention on June 12-14. We realize the stress and anxiety that were on the minds of everyone because of the cyclone that passed through Kingwood on Saturday afternoon, June 12, leaving destruction in its path. The transformers were blown to the ground, leaving the buildings without lights or controlled temperature for the conservatory with hundreds of various plants. In addition, beautiful trees and shrubs were destroyed.

As if this were not enough, our Convention was in progress, with many people attending, which added to the concern. However, the beautiful people that make Kingwood the place it is arranged the banquet in the big hall to be enjoyed by candlelight.

The following morning a temporary generator was set up to light the building where the peonies were on display. All was done so quietly and with so much competence that all in attendance marveled at the ingenious work accomplished, bringing Kingwood out of darkness.

We thank you for making our Convention, our peony show, and general surroundings so pleasant, especially under these adverse conditions.

*Members of the American Peony Society
Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary*

BOWL OF CREAM, THE GOLD MEDAL PEONY 1981

To the connoisseur—it has everything desired in a peony.

To the ladies—it is a big flower of loveliness.

To the child—it is admiration.

To the athlete—it's a basketball.

To the artist—deep in the flower, the gold radiates.

To the arranger of flowers—just one, for expression.



This year 1981 was a bad year for cross breeding. Due to transplanting all the plants from one part of the nursery to the other and the severe weather, there were very few flowers. The result was that I did not do any crossing this year. However, there are many little ones growing from other years. Some new plants bloom every year.

Nassos Daphnis, New York

**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
THE 78th ANNUAL MEETING
AND THE 76th NATIONAL EXHIBITION
JUNE 12, 13, 14, 1981**

COURT OF HONOR

**Grand Champion and Best in the Show — Douglas Brand —
W. G. Sindt, Afton, Minnesota**

Double lactiflora

White — Sylver — Lienau Peony Gardens

Blush — Madylone — Marvin C. Karrels

Light pink — Margaret Clarke — Marvin C. Karrels

Dark pink — Princess Margaret — W. G. Sindt

Red — Douglas Brand — W. G. Sindt

Bomb lactiflora — Angel Cheeks — Dr. Carl H. Klehm

Semidouble — Minnie Shaylor — Joe Glocka

Japanese — Barrington Belle — Dr. Carl H. Klehm

Single — Krinkled White — Dr. Carl H. Klehm

Hybrid or species

Single — Yellow Crown — Lienau Peony Gardens

Semidouble — Prairie Moon — Marvin C. Karrels

Double — Salmon Glory — Marvin C. Karrels

Tree peony — Black Pirate — Dr. Carl H. Klehm

DIVISION I. OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS

**Class 101 — Twenty-five varieties, any color or type. One bloom each
in a separate container.**

1st won by W. G. Sindt.

**MOON RIVER, GOLDEN GLOW, MOUNT EVEREST,
DIANA PARKS, NORMA VOLZ, FRANCES MAINS,
DINNER PLATE, CORAL CHARM, JAMES PILLOW,
TOPEKA GARNET, PILLOW TALK, HIGH NOON,
PRINCESS MARGARET, ANNISQUAM, WHITE CAP,
HESPERUS, MRS. F.D. ROOSEVELT, DAWN PINK,
DOUGLAS BRAND, ROMAN GOLD, DR. WALTER
RUMPH, MOONSTONE, GARDENIA, MANDALEEN,
MYRTLE TISCHLER.**

2nd won by Chuck Klehm.

**MOONSTONE, BOWL OF CREAM, HERMOINE, EDU-
LUS SUPREME, CHIFFON PARFAIT, PILLOW TALK,
MISS AMERICA, ANGEL CHEEKS, CHARLIE'S
WHITE, MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND, RED GRACE,
DINNER PLATE, FAIRY'S PETTICOAT, BARRING-**

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TON BELLE, SWEET SIXTEEN, PRAIRIE MOON, KRINKLED WHITE, BURMA RUBY, GOLDEN BOWL, CHINESE DRAGON, BLACK PIRATE, HIGH NOON, CONTESSA.

3rd won by Marvin Karrels.

COMMANDER, SALMON GLORY, LIEBSCHEN, YELLOW EMPEROR, CHIEF PONTIAC, ANNISQUAM, MADYLONE, WALTER MAINS, SUSIE Q, BLACK MONARCH, LE CYGNE, ELLA CHRISTIANSEN, PAULA FAY, KAY TISCHLER, SPELLBINDER, FIREBELLE, AGE OF GOLD, BRAVURA, PRINCESS MARGARET, HERITAGE, RED CHARM, MABEL GORE, CYTHEREA, GIBRALTER, HIFALUTIN'.

Class 102 — Fifteen varieties herbaceous only, any type or color.

1st won by Marvin C. Karrels

MADYLONE, SUSIE Q, PILLOW TALK, ANN COUSINS, SPELLBINDER, MRS. F.D. ROOSEVELT, NORMA VOLZ, ELLA CHRISTIANSEN, COMANCHE, MOONSTONE, GIBRALTER, ANDREW MUEHLIG, LIEBSCHEN, PRINCESS MARGARET, KANSAS.

2nd won by Dr. Carl H. Klehm

MOONRISE, HONEY GOLD, MY PAL RUDY, MISS AMERICA, FAIRY'S PETTICOAT, BARRINGTON BELLE, BURMA RUBY, GLORY HALLELUJAH, ANGEL CHEEKS, MRS. F.D. ROOSEVELT, FIRST LADY, JAY CEE, MINNIE SHAYLOR, RED GRACE, PINK LEMONADE.

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

1st won by Lienau Peony Gardens.

RED CHARM, PAULA FAY, BURMA RUBY, HERITAGE, BUCKEYE BELLE, SALMON GLOW, CYTHEREA, WHITE CHARM, MARTHA MAINS, HENRY BOCKSTOCE.

2nd won by Marvin C. Karrels.

ORANGE GLORY, RED CHARM, CHIEF PONTIAC, ATHENA, FIREBELLE, PAULA FAY, SALMON GLORY, FLAME, HERITAGE, EVELYN CLAAR.

3rd won by Joseph Glocka.

GOLDEN GLOW, FIREBELLE, GINNY, CAROL, SCARLET O'HARA, MAHOGANY, RED CHARM, DIANA PARKS, WALTER MAINS, LOVELY ROSE.

— 11 —

Class 104 — Ten varieties, tree peonies only, any type or color.

1st won by Dr. Carl H. Klehm

CHINESE DRAGON, BLACK PIRATE, HIGH NOON, MARCHIONESS, HARVEST, VESUVIAN, SAVAGE SPLENDOR, HOLIDAY, BANQUET, ROMAN GOLD.

2nd won by John Simkins.

MARCHIONESS, WINGS OF MORNING, ALICE HARDING, KROMOS, HESPERUS, GOLDEN ISLES, GOLDEN MANDARIN, SUN RISING, ANGELET, CHINESE DRAGON.

Class 105 — Five varieties Japanese type lactiflora only, any color.

1st won by Lienau Peony Gardens.

BU TE, WHITE CAP, DIGNITY, DO TELL, ROSE VALLEY.

2nd won by W. G. Sindt.

KAY TISCHLER, GAIL TISCHLER, GAY PAREE, WHITE CAP, JOHN GARDENER.

Class 106 — Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color.

1st won by W. G. Sindt.

SEA SHELL, DAWN PINK, FLORENCE BRUSS, TOPEKA GARNET, RIVIDA.

2nd won by Lienau Peony Gardens.

SEA SHELL, SPARKLING STAR, SPELLBINDER, PRESIDENT LINCOLN, IMPERIAL RED.

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY LACTIFLORA ONLY

Class 110 1. Carl H. Klehm — Bowl of Cream

2. Carl H. Klehm — Cheddar Cheese

3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Sylver

Class 111 1. Marvin C. Karrels — Madylone

2. Carl H. Klehm — Moonstone

3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Moonstone

Class 112 1. Carl H. Klehm — Hermoine

2. Marvin C. Karrels — Susie Q

3. Carl H. Klehm — My Pal Rudy

H.M. Carl H. Klehm — Chiffon Parfait

Class 113 1. W. G. Sindt — Princess Margaret

2. Marvin C. Karrels —

3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Rose Glory

H.M. Carl H. Klehm — Jay Cee

— 12 —

- Class 114** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Karl Rosenfield**
 2. Joe Glocka — **Red Goddess**
 3. Marvin C. Karrels — **Kansas**
- Class 115** 1. Joe Glocka — **Minnie Shaylor**
 2. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Miss America**
 3. Carl H. Klehm — **Minnie Shaylor**
 H.M. Carl H. Klehm — **Miss America**
- Class 116** None
- Class 117** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — **The Mighty Mo**
 2. None
 3. None
- Class 118** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Angel Cheeks**
 2.
 3. Carl H. Klehm — **Raspberry Sundae**
 H.M. Carl H. Klehm — **Top Brass**
- Class 119** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Moon of Nippon**
 2. Joe Glocka — **Butter Bowl**
 3. Carl H. Klehm — **Honey Gold**
- Class 120** 1. Joe Glocka — **Largo**
- Class 121** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Charm**
 2. Carl H. Klehm — **Barrington Belle**
 3. Marvin C. Karrels — **Walter Mains**
- Class 122** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Krinkled White**
 2. None
 3. None
- Class 123** Lienau Peony Gardens — **Sea Shell**
 2. None
 3. None
- Class 124** 1. W. G. Sindt — **Florence Bruss**
 2. None
 3. None

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY

- Class 130** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Le Cygne**
 2. Lienau Peony Gardens — **Sylver**
 3. W. G. Sindt — **Mount Everest**
 H.M. Paul Thurman — **Ann Cousins**
- Class 131** 1. Marvin C. Karrels — **Madylone**
 2. Carl H. Klehm — **Moonstone**
 3. Lienau Peony Gardens — **James Pillow**
 H.M. Carl H. Klehm — **Moon River**
- Class 132** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Chiffon Parfait**
 2. W. G. Sindt — **Pillow Talk**
 3. Carl H. Klehm — **Pillow Talk**

Class 133 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Ensign Moriarty
2. Carl H. Klehm — Jay Cee
3. Carl H. Klehm — Mrs. Livingston Farrand
H.M. Carl H. Klehm — Pink Parfait

Class 134 1. Marvin C. Karrels — Douglas Brand
2. W. G. Sindt — Kansas
3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Karl Rosenfeldt
H.M. W. G. Sindt — Best Man

Class 135 1. Joe Glocka — Minnie Shaylor
2. Lienau Peony Gardens — Miss America
3. Joe Glocka — Miss America

Class 136 None

Class 137 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Maestro
2. Lienau Peony Gardens — W. E. Blanchette
3. None

Class 138 1. Joe Glocka — Snow Mountain
2. Joe Glocka — Berle Crockett
H.M. Carl H. Klehm — Charlie's White

Class 139 1. Carl H. Klehm — Angel Cheeks
2. Lienau Peony Gardens — Pink Derby
3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Angel Cheeks

Class 140 None

Class 141 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Bride's Dream
2. W. G. Sindt — Carrara

Class 142 None

Class 143 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Ray Payton
2. W. G. Sindt — White Cap
3. W. G. Sindt — Terry Gruden
H.M. Carl H. Klehm — Barrington Belle

Class 144 1. W. G. Sindt — Pico
2. Carl H. Klehm — Krinkled White
3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Le Jour

Class 145 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Dawn Pink
2. W. G. Sindt — Dawn Pink
3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Dawn Pink

Class 146 1. W. G. Sindt — Rivida
2. W. G. Sindt — Topeka Garnet
3. Lienau Peony Gardens — Imperial Red
H.M. W. G. Sindt — Topeka Garnet

THREE BLOOMS ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS OR SPECIES IN ONE CONTAINER

Class 150 1. Marvin C. Karrels — Coral Charm
2. None
3. None

- Class 151** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Cytherea
H.M. Marvin C. Karrels — Paula Fay
- Class 152** 1.
2. Lienau Peony Gardens — Red Charm
3. Carl H. Klehm — Red Grace
- Class 153** None
- Class 154** None
- Class 155** 1. Marvin C. Karrels — Friendship
- Class 156** 1. Marvin C. Karrels — Orange Glory

ONE BLOOM HERBACEOUS HYBRID OR SPECIES

- Class 160** None
- Class 161** None
- Class 162** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Cytherea
2. W. G. Sindt — Coral Charm
- Class 163** 1. Lienau Peony Gardens — Buckeye Belle
2. John Simkins — Diana Parks
3. Carl H. Klehm — Red Grace
H.M. Marvin C. Karrels — Diana Parks
- Class 164** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Prairie Moon
2. W. G. Sindt — Moonrise
3. None
- Class 165** None
- Class 166** 1.
2.
3. John Simkins — Athena
H.M. Marvin C. Karrels — Firelight
- Class 167** None
- Class 168** None

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, TREE PEONIES IN ONE CONTAINER

- Class 172A** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Chinese Dragon
1. John Simkins — Angelet
Both peonies received a first award.
- Class 175C** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Holiday
- Class 176B** 1. Carl H. Klehm — High Noon
2. Carl H. Klehm — Alhambra
3. Carl H. Klehm — Roman Gold
- Class 176C** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Golden Hind
2. John Simkins — Alice Harding
- Class 177B** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Spring Carnival
- Class 179B** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Chinese Dragon
- Class 180A** 1. Carl H. Klehm — Black Pirate

ONE BLOOM TREE PEONY ONLY

- Class 186B** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Yae Zakura**
- Class 187A** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Chinese Dragon**
2. W. G. Sindt — **Chinese Dragon**
- Class 188C** None
- Class 190C** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Holiday**
- Class 191A** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Alice Harding**
2. W. G. Sindt — **Roman Gold**
3. Carl H. Klehm — **Golden Bowl**
- Class 191B** 1. John Simkins — **Aurora**
2. John Simkins — **Sun Rising**
3. John Simkins — **Star Dust**
- Class 191C** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Alice Harding and Golden Hind**
2. Carl H. Klehm — **Age of Gold**
2. John Simkins — **Souvenir de Maxime Cornu**
3. Paul Thurman —
- Class 192A** 1. John Simkins — **Daphnis 288**
2. Carl H. Klehm — **Countess**
3. Carl H. Klehm — **Marchioness**
- Class 192B** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Savage Splendor**
- Class 193A** 2. Carl H. Klehm — **Themes**
- Class 194A** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Dare Devil**
- Class 194B** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Chinese Dragon**
2. Carl H. Klehm — **Banquet**
- Class 195A** 1. Carl H. Klehm — **Black Pirate**

DIVISION II. AMATEUR

Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants only casually, and do not grow over 200 plants.

Class 201 Ten varieties, any type or color.

1st won by R. F. Schmidt.

ELSA SASS, LARGO, JAMES PILLOW, RED CHARM, MIGHTY MO, NICK SHAYLOR, HELEN HAYES, THUNDERBOLT, ROSE FLAME, VICTORY.

- Class 205** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Elsa Sass**
- Class 206** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt**
- Class 207** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Valencia**
- Class 208** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Mighty Mo**
- Class 210** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Rashoomon**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Largo**
3. R. F. Schmidt — **Cararra**
- Class 211** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Kankakee**
- Class 212** 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Cytherea**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Red Red Rose**
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One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise

Class 220 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Elsa Sass**

Class 221 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Victory**

Class 222 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Pink Cameo**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt**
3. R. F. Schmidt — **Nick Shaylor**

Class 225 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Mighty Mo**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Minnie Shaylor**

Class 227 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Rashoomon**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Break O'Day**
3. R. F. Schmidt — **Akashigata**

Class 229 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Walter Mains**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Prairie Moon**
3. R. F. Schmidt — **Red Red Rose**

Class 230 1. R. F. Schmidt — **Thunderbolt**
2. R. F. Schmidt — **Souvenir De Maxime Cornu**
3. R. F. Schmidt — **Rose Flame**

DIVISION III. NOVICE

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

Class 301 Five varieties any type or color.

1st won by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball, Stillwater, Minn.

**MYRTLE TISCHLER, RED CHARM, SEASHELL,
GARDENIA, OWATONNA.**

Class 305 1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Jean Cooperman**
2. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Bonanza**

Class 315 1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Mme. de Verneville**
2. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Mercedes**

Class 316 1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Edulis Superba**

Class 317 1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Kansas**

Class 319 1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Red Bird**

Class 320 1. Mrs. Martha Beal — **Gay Patee**

Class 321 1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Owatonna**
2. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Seashell**

Class 322 1. Charles Applegate — **Carol**
2. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball — **Red Charm**

DIVISION IV. SEEDLINGS

Seedlings displayed.

Class 401 R. F. Schmidt

Class 403 R. F. Schmidt

Class 403 Paul Thurman

DIVISION V. SPECIAL ENTRIES

Class 502 Visitors from the greatest distance.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kimball, Stillwater, Minnesota.
760 miles

GOLDEN DAWN, BONANZA, PATRICIA HANRATY, KAY TISCHLER, FUYAJO.

2. Joe Glocka, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

CAROL, PAUL M. WILD, WALTER MAINS, WHITE CAP, MINNIE SHAYLOR.

DIVISION VII. ARTISTIC

Section A. Focus on Beauty

Class 1 Grandmother's Garden — Linda Applegate, Reserve
Champion

Class 2 June Wedding

1. Martha Beal, Grand Champion

2. Betty McKinney, Rt. 2, Box 177, Shelby, Ohio 44875

Class 3 Vacation Time

1. Martha Beal, 1676 Friday Lane, Mansfield, Ohio
44906

2. Jan Neighbarger, Upper Fred Road, Mt. Vernon,
Ohio

Class 4 Sweet Sixteen

1. Betty McKinney

3. Jan Neighbarger

Class 5 Peonies Are to Cherish

2. Linda Applegate, Route 2, Perrysville, Ohio

3. Jan Neighbarger

H.M. Martha Beal

Class 6 Recycling Conserves Beauty

1. Martha Beal

2. Linda Applegate

3. Jan Neighbarger

Class 7 Oriental Splendor

1. Betty McKinney

2. Jan Neighbarger

3. Martha Beal

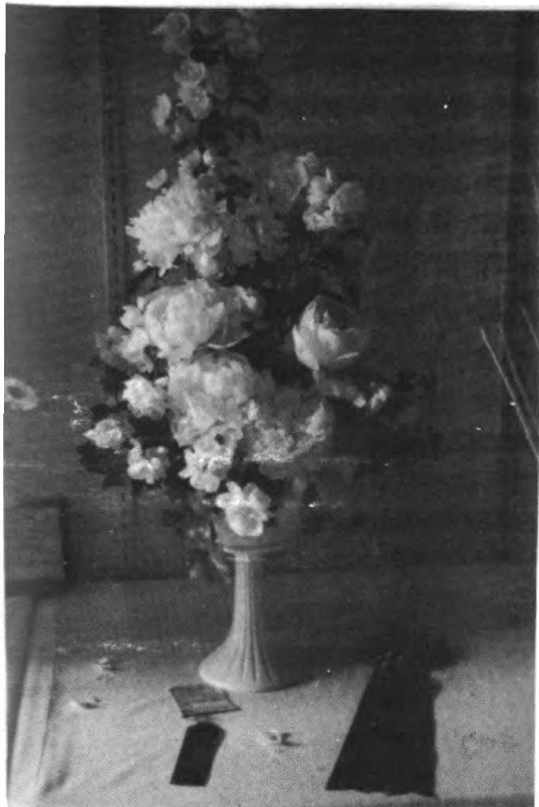
H.M. Mrs. W. A. Stahl, 2131 Springmill Rd., Mansfield,
Ohio 44903

Class 8 1. Anniversary Dinner — Linda Applegate

No class recorded — Holly S. Shaffo, 424 Shepard Rd., Mansfield, Ohio
44907. Award received.

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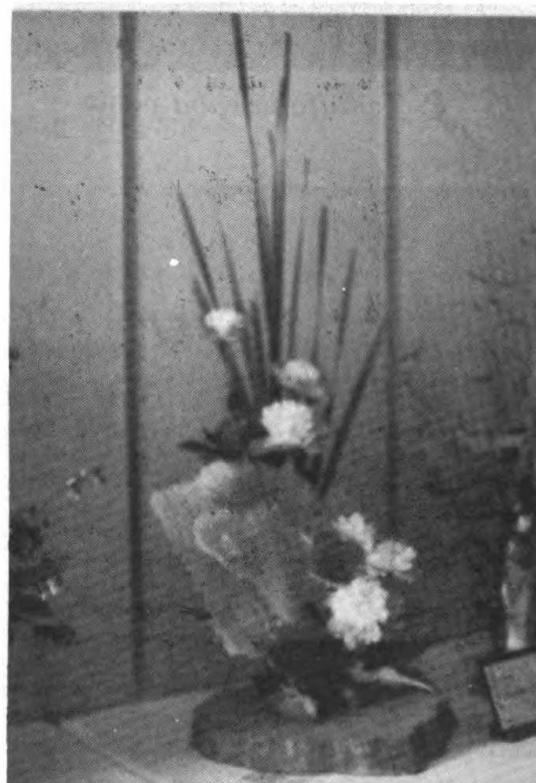
*June Wedding
Grand Champion
Martha Beal*



*Grandmother's Garden
Reserve Champion
Linda Applegate*

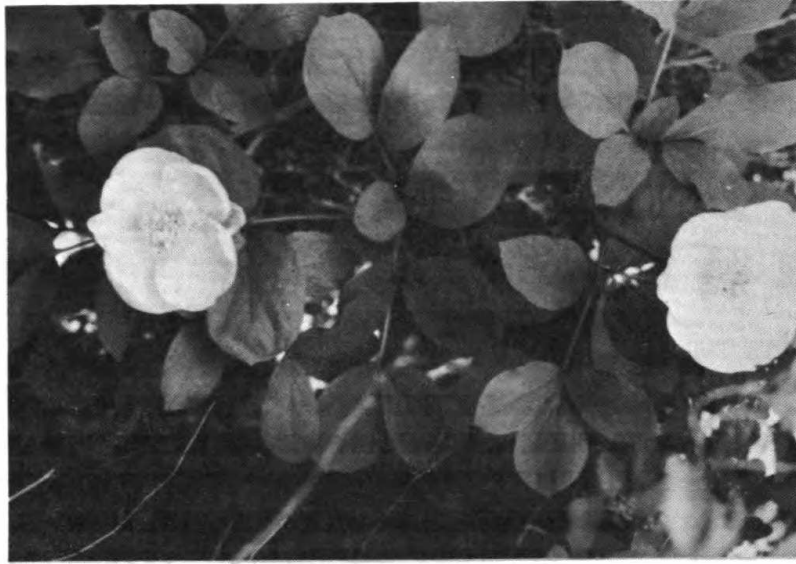


*June Wedding
Betty McKinney*

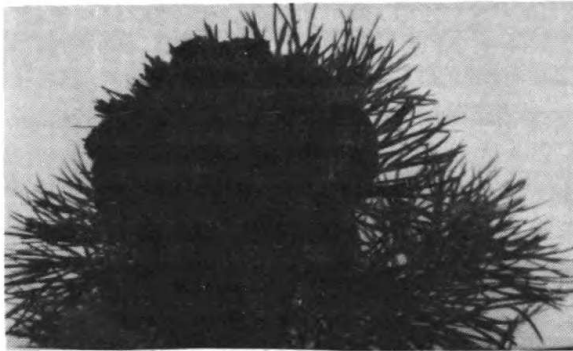


*Vacation Time
Martha Beal*

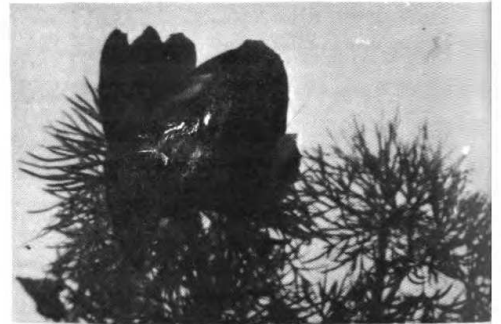
Photographs, Edward Lee Michau, Derby, Kansas



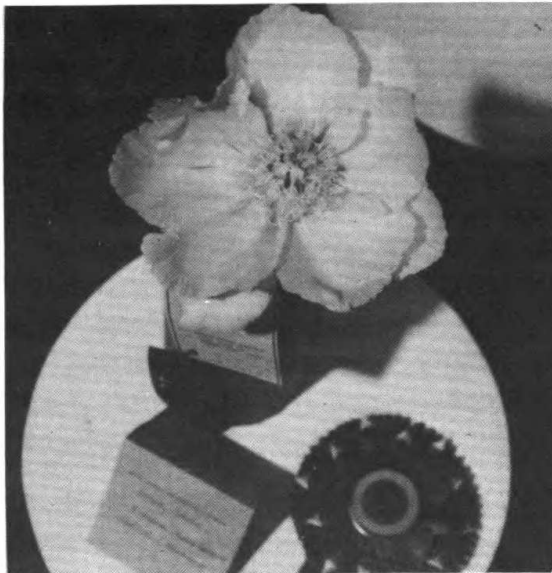
Mlokosewitsii foliage and bloom
Garden, Helen Titus, Derby, Kansas



P. tenuifolia ruba plena



P. tenuifolia ruba (single)
Species, The Fern Leaf



Yellow Crown (Ittoh hybrid)
Court of Honor
Clarence Lienau



Oriental Splendor
Betty McKinney

Photographs, Edward Lee Michau, Derby, Kansas

ADDRESS GIVEN BY SILVIA SAUNDERS AT KINGWOOD CENTER

AWARDING THE SAUNDERS MEDAL

Ladies and gentlemen, there will be some here tonight who may never have heard of the Saunders Medal, so with your permission I will give a brief history of it. Founded 13 years ago in memory of my father, A. P. Saunders, of Clinton, New York, who made several important breakthroughs in the field of peony hybridizing, the Saunders Medal is awarded for "outstanding contribution to the peony." Primarily, of course, to encourage the production of hybrids (and not just one or two hybrids, but whole new races of hybrids), it may also be given for writing—bulletins; letters; articles about the technical aspects, such as genetics; the sharing of knowledge; or the distribution of hybrid seeds or plants of known valuable parentage; in short, anything that will advance the men and women working on the peony. And they need it; they get little or no help from the peony itself, a balky, wayward plant if ever there was one.

The medal is not given every year. It was first awarded in 1968 to that elder dean of American horticulture, John C. Wister. Mr. Wister is 94 this year, but he says, "We're not counting anymore till I reach a hundred." Then it was given to three men who now live only in our memories: Mr. Edward Auten, Mr. Itoh of Japan, and Mr. L. W. Cousins of Canada. After this it was given to E. L. (known as Roy) Pehrson; to the house of Gratwick and Daphnis; and finally to me. No hybrids came from me; I was called "active sponsor of the new era in peony development." I hope I am. I try.

A man who was greatly generous with his time and knowledge, although he never introduced a race of hybrids himself, was awarded the medal for the untiring encouragement and knowledge he shared with us all. This man is Roy Pehrson, now flat on his back in a home in New Ulm, Minnesota. Here is just one thing that he did: He took an advanced hybrid of my father's, known as "Quad F-3." "Quad" means that that hybrid contained four species' "bloods" (lactiflora, officinalis, macrophylla, and mlokosewitschi). F-3 means that it was the grandchild of the original cross, so it was much more fertile. Roy then took another Saunders hybrid containing still another species, called *Willmottiae*. He crossed this plant with the Quad F-3 and thereby produced a *quintuple* hybrid. There was a savings bank of species' bloods for you! Then instead of hiding this treasure under his pillow, he distributed pieces of it to hybridists, thus saving them years of time and labor, for as you know, peonies don't just come up overnight like petunias.

We now have a good number of men working on new seedlings, trying for new colors, doubleness (hybrid blooms are proverbially single), better form of plant or of bloom, longer blooming season, and especially important, greater fertility. In the past five years quite a few men

have brought interesting new seedlings to the show table. I would mention Roy Pehrson, David Reath, Bill Seidl, Chris Laning, H. E. Briscoe, Don Hollingsworth, John Simkins, and others; so you can see there is lively competition in the seedling class.

Besides contributing fancy hybrid plants and seeds, a very worthwhile contribution may be with letters, a sheet, or a bulletin in which experts report their findings. This cannot be overestimated. Something has to bind us together, and this something usually is someone, someone who cares. First we had a round robin, but that died. Then we had a sheet called *Paeonia*. It was first written and edited by Lois Kozak, the niece of our own Father John Fiala. I wish Lois were here to stand up, and I wish her uncle were also here to stand up. Lois ran *Paeonia* for a year or two and got it on its feet; then it was taken over by another person. The current issue is Volume 12, No. 1, so he's been writing, editing, and mailing it (no small task) for ten years now. Full of technical details dear to the heart of the expert, it is undigestible to us ordinary mortals. We have the *Peony Bulletin*, written and edited by our own first lady, Greta Kessenich. Greta, may I ask you to stand, please?

Another very valuable contribution is importing new peonies from overseas and introducing them to the public. After all, all our peonies were originally imports, just as all of us were. Still another way is to keep talking peonies; keep talking, writing, advertising, and showing peonies, peonies, peonies until it is as familiar a household word as Post Toasties.

That brings us to the award itself, or rather themselves, for as usual the award is overdue, as usual it is to go to two persons, and as usual those two persons are men. I should add, and will do so here and now, that for every man of honor and distinction in the world in whatever field there has been a woman—sometimes more than one—standing shoulder to shoulder with him, urging him on, tidying up after him. Sometimes her only reward has been three little words: "Thanks for helping." Sometimes it is much more than that. These women are mostly nameless, but invisible on the Saunders Medals are the names of the wives.

Our first award is to our elder statesman. Ever since he first learned to write—fifty years ago?—he's been writing about peonies. He traveled in the East (Japan and now China) and brought back new beauties, especially the hybrids of a man named Itoh. You all know who I mean. He has kept the words "tree peony" constantly before the American public, who must be vastly more aware of peonies now than they ever were before. In Israel he founded a memorial garden; how many of us have ever taken part in such an endeavor or ever thought of it? He has been a real international ambassador of the tree peony. The inscription on his medal, long overdue, can only be a shorthand version of what I've told you, so it reads, "Time-honored Importer and Promoter of Oriental Tree Peonies and Hybrids, Louis Smirnow."

The other medal awardee is one of our youngest enthusiasts. I don't think he has been at it more than ten or twelve years. Right away he jumped in and took over the sheet that binds us all together: *Paeonia*. In this he is greatly aided by his wife Lois. This man, like Roy Pehrson, is a tireless distributor of hybrid peony seed. He gave twenty-six pounds last fall to one friend.

But behind all this he is a true hybridizer, possibly of the first class; time will tell. I've been noticing his new seedlings for several years now, and I'll quote my own words: "He has, for this viewer, a very superb exhibit of seedlings. He's getting yellow without benefit of lutea or the Itoh hybrids, doubleness (where hybrids are usually singles), and according to him they are fertile and set seed. Best of all they are brand new and extremely handsome." His hybrids are the products of earlier work by Roy Pehrson, who in turn used earlier work by A. P. Saunders; so three generations of men have helped produce these new peonies. He calls his two best ones "P. C.'s best yellow, No. 1" and P. C.'s second best yellow, No. 2." Number 1 has faint rose at the base of its petals like Mr. Cousins' Inner Glow hybrids. Number 2 also has faint rose—even fainter—but it is a better-shaped flower. They're not butter yellow like Age of Gold, but I compared them last year at Ithaca with a bloom of Silver Sails, and they were the same yellow. These are certainly an "outstanding contribution to the peony." On his medal these attributes are in reverse order, so it reads, "Hybridist, Editor, Distributor of Plants, Seeds, and Expertise, Chris Laning."

This medal honors Chris. It honors Lois; Lois, would you please stand? It honors the sheet *Paeonia*. Most of all it honors the very advanced, very complex, very fine hybrid peonies he has created. We shall hope to see these offered to the gardening public as soon as Chris can build up stock of them. Best of all, we look forward to seeing Chris introduce additional hybrids in future years. Chris, I don't know how old you are, but let me remind you all that my father did *all* his important hybridizing after he was fifty years old.

I am not going to have a captive audience again during this show, so while I have you here, let me put in a plea for the peony. The peony has a long way to go yet—a long way. Now, you hybridizers, hang in there. Give us 1) Longer blooming season; not only back into spring, but forward into July and August. Why not? 2) More flowers per stem, opening not all at once, but successively; this would be one way to do this. 3) More variegations of flowers: streaks, flares, shapes of petals, two colors to a bloom (as we have in the Japs).

These are only three of the many ways we can work on the peony, which I insist on calling our most neglected perennial, our postponed perennial, our unexplored perennial. This may all be summed up by the words "Peony in Progress."

Thank you.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

I am most grateful for the honor bestowed upon me at the National Convention in being awarded the Saunders Medal. I am especially grateful to Silvia Saunders for her many kind words. It all came as a complete surprise. Furthermore, I was delighted that this was all done in the presence of so many of my old peony friends.

It is almost 50 years now since I first became interested in peonies and about 45 years since I began specializing in tree peonies. My first important lesson came from Professor Saunders (Silvia's father) when I met him at his home in Clinton, New York. The name Saunders will never be forgotten by peony enthusiasts in this country. His contribution defies description.

As most of you know, I have made many trips to foreign countries in an effort to find tree peonies that would be of interest to all tree peony enthusiasts. I have spent many thousands of dollars on these trips and have always felt them worthwhile. I have done some hybridizing several years ago on a large scale, and frankly, I still have a few tree peonies which will be introduced in the near future. My son, Dr. Robert Smirnow, is very enthusiastic, as is his wife Dorothy. I am confident in future years they will have introductions of their own.

I also want to thank our secretary, Greta Kessenich (I rightfully call her Mrs. American Peony Society); she has been most helpful. The American Peony Society is still in existence because she accepted the challenge. She has devoted years of great effort to the success of our Society. Through her tremendous efforts, several books about peonies are now available, the membership has increased, and she has inspired much enthusiasm about peonies, as is evident in the Society.

Again thanks to all of you.

Cordially,
Louis Smirnow



The 1980-81 winter ended in drought although now we are getting back to normal moisture. The peonies have been a little late in starting. The hybrids are in excellent condition with large buds forming. Several of the less hardy evergreens died back to the ground. On Long Island many roses were completely dried out and destroyed. Rose enthusiasts in the northeast will have a sad year.

—Bill Uhde, Sandy Hook, Connecticut

I saw a fine block of peonies in bloom at the rose gardens at Iowa State, Ames, Iowa—many of Autens' and quite a few of Klehms'. Excellent!

—Marcus Maxon, Webster City, Iowa

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TREATMENT FOR SLOW PEONIES

Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri

"What can be done for a peony plant that is slowly declining?" or "Those peonies I planted three years ago still haven't bloomed." Questions and comments like these can be heard around most any gathering of flower gardeners, especially when specimens or pictures of exhibition quality peonies are on display.

As a committed advocate of fine peonies, these kinds of statements always disturb me and make me want to help find a solution to the problem. I simply don't want that person to be disappointed in peonies or to be going around sharing such disappointment with other gardeners.

Of course, what I have to go on for helping comes from the same sources as for anyone else—my experience with similar problems and such study of gardening technology as I have been able to make. During the last 10 years or so I've been fortunate to have the experience of growing a great many uncommon peonies, some of which are difficult. Some apparently do not have the robust good health which is inherent in the best of the introduced varieties. At the same time I am not always able to provide uniformly ideal native soil and moisture conditions for best peony growing. Thus I've had a considerably above average opportunity to work through problem cases.

When talking about "slow" or "declining" peonies we are necessarily dealing with chronic disease, rather than an acute disease. The plants affected by acute conditions are usually done for unless taken up promptly with hopes of salvaging a propagation piece. I am using the term "disease" here in its broader sense, meaning that anything which significantly retards the good health and performance of an individual is disease. There are three distinct categories of disease-producing conditions. These are environmental causes; infective agent causes; and genetic causes. Often, our thoughts focus first on infective agent causes, for very good reasons—the marketing activities of the pesticide industry and our general understanding that infectious conditions are something of an emergency or episodic nature.

In slow or declining peonies the conditions are, by definition, chronic. Furthermore, two or three of the causal categories are likely to be involved. For the sake of example, a peony which has an inherent weakness in vigor of growth (genetic), when planted at a less than ideally drained site (environmental), may be periodically dying back due to episodes of crown decay (infective agent). While this may not be a very realistic example, unless the plant also has some inherent resistance to the infective agent, it illustrates the point that a chronic condition may or may not respond to a single remedial action.

What is required in order to have finest quality peony flowers is to have varieties which are genetically capable of producing such flowers

and then to keep them growing well. Established peony plants should be expected to thrive and flower well when given suitable growing conditions. Young peony plants, after they get past the first growing season, should increase in number of stems and in flowering each year until the plant reaches a mature size. At this point it will be more or less in equilibrium with its environment and can be expected to remain more or less stable in performance to the same degree that what it is getting from the environment remains more or less stable. Thus, the limitations in the environment which we provide to our plants can be considered the principle cause of how well or how poorly they perform. While infective agents (such as botrytis) may require regular attention, the control of these factors will not make up for an inadequate growth environment.

When peonies aren't performing well in my plantings, I have learned to look for several sorts of problems which I have previously found associated with chronically slow development. Low soil fertility is a prevalent problem. In the press of work I find it is easy to neglect fertilizing—either to miss putting it on or to delay past the best time. Peonies come into seasonal growth in the autumn, at which time new heavy roots are initiated near the large buds which will grow the following spring (and from other regions of the crown). These roots absorb soluble nutrients from the soil, which will then be already in the tissues when stem growth commences next spring.

Peonies are reported to use unusually large amounts of potash as well as nitrogen and phosphorous. In soils which are low in organic matter and in certain regions around the North American continent, one or more minor elements may also be deficient. Calcium and magnesium are very important and are easily supplemented as dolomitic limestone. Other major nutrients are readily obtainable in refined fertilizers and from organic fertilizer products. Bonemeal is virtually a waste of effort, however, according to my sources, for plants can only take up dissolved minerals. Wood ashes are a good source of potash.

Since I feel most of us are overly sensitive to the risk of "burning" a plant with fertilizer, I only reluctantly mention that a salt condition can be created by putting on too much of a highly soluble material, such as muriate of potash, at one time. Feeding of refined chemicals should be done according to authoritative directions as to quantity and placement. The agricultural extension office in every county of every state will have authoritative information. All progressive gardeners should take advantage of this information resource.

Irrigation practices are another prevalent source of peony growth problems. When peony cultural instructions admonish that "peonies don't tolerate wet feet," it means just that. This is especially true in the summer when it is hot and dry and we are irrigating other plants.

Peonies are, for the most part, not in a good state of growth when temperatures are high. Perhaps the best way to say it is that many species of plants become physiologically debilitated when the tempera-

ture goes above some critical point. Other plants are physiologically adapted for warmer seasons and are not active at cool temperatures. Peonies are, for the most part, cool temperature plants. There does seem to be variation among varieties, since some retain their leaf color better through the summer and even become greener during cooler temperatures of late summer. The point is, peonies rarely are diminished from drought and heat of summer, but they have a tough time resisting invasion by decay organisms if their crowns are kept wet during this time.

Limit watering to fairly long intervals (10 to 14 days) in summer and water deeply if you're going to do it at all. Better yet, just ignore watering. When the foliage gets untidy looking, prune as needed to maintain appearance or ignore it when the plants are in out of view places. You may have less gain in crown and roots some years, but you won't be increasing the loss to rot of what has already grown.

Drainage is also important, both internal in the soil and on the surface around the plants. Whether plants are kept wet by frequent irrigation or by rainfall and poor drainage, the risk of promoting rot in the crowns is the same.

Growth and development of peonies from year to year is obtained in the crown and the storage roots. The growth of the stems is only a reflection of what accumulation of growth had been reached in crown and root at the close of the previous season. However, as the plant is able to make more stem and leaf growth it also has more chlorophyll and is able to carry on the photosynthesis of food in greater volume. This makes possible a larger increment of growth in crown and root than was possible in the previous year.

Anything which destroys crown and storage roots (as crown rot) diminishes the plant. Also, conditions such as crowding, competition from trees and other plants, or interference with root function as in root knot nematode infestation, reduces the plant's ability to extract nutrients and moisture from the soil. When the reductions of growth exceed the gains, plant decline occurs. Steps should be taken to identify and correct the problem.

When a peony plant has not been doing well, one should seriously consider digging it. This will permit the examination of the roots and the chance of confirming the cause. It also enables taking correcting measures for defects in the planting site, as replacement of the soil, fertility treatment, or changing the depth at which the crown is positioned when replanted.

However, if no signs of rot or root parasites are evident, then deficiency of soil nutrients may be the problem. In this case, one has the opportunity of getting nutrients into the root zone by using the more soluble products.

For further information on preparation of planting sites, disease control, and fertilization of peonies, see articles in the American Peony Society publications *The Best of 75 Years*, *Peony Manual*, and previous issues of this *Bulletin*. — 27 —

PEONIES IN CALIFORNIA

A. R. MacDonald, San Ramon, California

June 3, 1981. This is the end of the peony season with a bloom left on **Red Monarch** and **Armistice**. On the 29th of February **Early Scout** bloomed, followed by **Renkaku** on the 5th of March. We do have a long blooming season. The late varieties are not for this country. They grow so good, and it always looks as if there will be some bloom, but it never happens. **Elsa Sass, H. L. Richardson, Thura Hires, Lady Orchid**, and many more of the later varieties never, never bloom. This fall all the late varieties will be replaced with early plants.

No problems at all with the tree peonies. Partial shade is to their liking, as the sun does get so hot here during the day. The flowers last much longer also. **High Noon, Age of Gold, Chinese Dragon, Golden Vanity, Rimpo, Argosy, Nissho, Renkaku, Godaishu, and Souv. De Maxime Cornu** all do very well. I also have 10 or 12 trees that are seedlings from the Sierra Mountains. One in particular is tall and slender, a semidouble of deep pink with sort of frilly petals; it remains in bloom about a month. Of all my tree peonies, the one I like the least and which is my biggest specimen with the most blooms is **Souv. De Maxime Cornu**. I always have over 100 blooms on it. The rest of my trees have from 20 to 30 blooms. **Golden Vanity** has a tendency to hide the blooms.

How I love **Red Charm**; this year it was not the best. **Lustrous, Puritan Maid, Nevada, Rashoomon, Aerie, Therese, Santa Fe, White Cap, Big Red Boomer Sooner, and Evening Star**, to name a few, always do really good in this climate.

I am still fighting wire worms; they raise hob with the herbaceous roots. I have lost at least 20 plants because of them. They do not seem to bother the tree peony roots. However, I did lose a small one-year graft that the wire worms got to before any of the tree peony roots started growing.

My wife cuts both tree and herbaceous blooms and takes them to school every day. There is always someone coming that needs a bouquet. We share our peonies with everyone—the joy of growing them! You would be surprised how many people here in California have never seen the peony and ask what flower we are growing.

REGISTRATIONS

SALMON CHIFFON (Nathan Rudolph-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #63-02; single hybrid; parentage, possibly seed from **Lovely Rose**; first bloomed 1963. Salmon, single, good substance, stamens, pollen, fragrant, no seeds; 30-inch height, early, good stem strength with foliage lighter green than normal. Intensely salmon-colored hybrid of great promise. The poised, cup-shaped blooms are very appealing and rather large for a hybrid.

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SALMON SURPRISE (Lyman Cousins-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #75-5; single hybrid; first year bloomed about 1968 or 1970; parentage unknown. Salmon coral pink single, good substance, stamens, pollen, no seeds and no fragrance; good stem strength, 30-inch height, early. Good, bushy plant and bright coral blooms make this new hybrid a very good garden subject.

SOFT SALMON SAUCER (Lyman Cousins-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling # Saucer B; single hybrid; first bloomed about 1968; parentage unknown. Soft salmon pink saucer form, stamens, pollen, fragrant, no seeds, good substance with average amount of bloom; 32-inch height, early, good foliage. A beautiful and dainty saucer-shaped early blooming hybrid. The delicate and cute bossoms are a soft, salmon-pink color and are quite becoming.

PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL (Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #F7; semidouble hybrid; parentage, Charlie's White x Otto Frobel; first bloomed 1972. Pink coral, semidouble, good substance, stamens, pollen, fragrant, no seeds, good amount of bloom; 36-inch height, early, good foliage, excellent stem strength. Cupped and rounded double and triple row of guard petals holding an attractive coral and pinkish array of petals. The semidouble blooms are especially becoming with their golden stamens.

IVORY WHITE SAUCER (Lyman Cousins-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling # Saucer A; single hybrid; parentage unknown; first bloomed about 1968. Ivory white, saucer form, stamens, pollen, fragrant, no seeds, good substance with average amount of bloom; average stem strength, 32-inch height, early. A beautiful, dainty saucer-shaped early blooming hybrid. The delicate blooms are a pure, pearly ivory color and are a perfect contrast to Soft Salmon Saucer.

IVORY JEWELL (Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #11P; single lactiflora; line-bred seedling of Charlie's White and Bowl of Cream; first bloomed 1968. White single, good substance, stamens, pollen, seeds and fragrant; excellent stem strength; 32-inch height; foliage extremely dark and lush; excellent plant habits. This single has smooth and cupped double rows of guard petals. The white color of the guards is pure ivory and the inner gold is very intense.

ETCHED SALMON (Lyman Cousins-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #72-5; double hybrid; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1968. Salmon with some etched petaloids, double rose type, no stamens, pollen, or seeds; fragrant, average amount of bloom, good stem strength, 36-inch height EM. Salmon coral blooms with most unusual attractive, golden-etched internal petaloids, fully double blooms, reliable performer.

CORAL 'N GOLD (Lyman Cousins-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #72-4; single hybrid; bloomed about 1968; parentage unknown. Coral, cup-shaped single; has stamens, pollen, no seeds, no fragrance; 36-inch height, strong stems. Early, vigorous hybrid with most attractive cup-shaped coral blooms with contrasting thick and highly golden stamens. The flowers have a double row of guard petals which surround this golden center.

RASPBERRY FLUFF (Lyman Cousins-Roy Klehm) June 25, 1981

Seedling #74-13; double hybrid; parentage unknown; first bloomed about 1970. Raspberry, ball form, no stamens, pollen, or seeds; average amount of bloom, fragrant, average stem strength, 34-inch height; EM; good foliage. Attractive, deep rose raspberry hybrid with large ball-shaped bomb-type blossoms. Very large smooth buds.

GLOWING RASPBERRY ROSE (Lyman Cousins) June 25, 1981

Seedling #72-2; double hybrid; parentage unknown; first bloomed about 1968. Rosy raspberry double ball form with stamens and fragrance; no seeds or pollen; average stem strength; 36-inch height; good foliage; early. Beautiful raspberry-colored double hybrid with that mysterious Lyman Cousins inner glow quality.

ROSE CITY (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-11; lactiflora; Japanese; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1965. Silvery rose, white edge, cup form, good substance, no fragrance, good bloom, strong stems; 30- to 40-inch height; EM; dark green crinkled leaves; brownish stems; long, silky staminodes; petals a distinctive old rose.

LOUISE MARX (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-14; Japanese; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1965. Pure white, many petaloids, cupped form, reliable; slightly fragrant, good substance, heavy amount of bloom, strong stems but willowy; height 30-36 inches; EM. Large crinkled foliage; tinged yellow, red stems; Mrs. Marx's favorite of all they ever grew.

WALTER MARX (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-28; single lactiflora; first bloomed 1965; parentage unknown. White, faint blush tinge, cup-shaped fluted petals, stamens, pollen, seeds, fragrant and reliable; 4-5 buds per stem; height 48 inches; stiff stems, early, very dark foliage; no support for the 10-inch bloom; 10-11 petals, stays cup-shaped. Mr. Marx's favorite.

MT. ST. HELENS (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-15; double lactiflora; parentage unknown; first bloomed

1965. Rosy red, flat form, reliable, stamens, good substance, no fragrance, good amount of bloom; height 30-36 inches; thick and strong stems; EM; good vigor; dark leaves, red veined, red stems. A molten red with small rings of stamen showing when flower is mature.

FIERY CRATER (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-17; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1965; single lactiflora. Dark red (fuschia); flat, stamens gold-tipped, seeds, good substance, no fragrance, reliable, good bloom, strong wirey stems; 36-inch height; late small narrow dark green foliage with red veining; good cut flower. Petals have a waxy, velvety finish and are overlapped when fully open.

CHINOOK (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-31; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1965; double lactiflora. Light salmon, tailored flower, center marbled red petals, stamens, reliable, fragrant when first open, good bloom, strong stems; 36-inch height, very late, medium green foliage.

HIGH ADVENTURE (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-23; double lactiflora; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1965. Silvery pink, silver edge, ball, opens flat, builds up with age; no stamens or seeds; no fragrance, good bloom; stem strength occasionally lax; 36 inches; EM; broad dark green foliage.

CREAM PUFF (Walter Marx) Introduced by Rogers, Sherwood, Oregon, May 19, 1981

Seedling #68-19; Japanese; parentage unknown; first bloomed 1965. Pale but bright pink cream staminodes, bowl-shaped, no seeds, no fragrance, heavy bloom, M, strong stems; 36-inch height; very dark green crinkled and rolled foliage.

LEMON CHIFFON (David Reath) July 7, 1981

Seedling # Reath 80-4, double hybrid; parentage **Salmon Dream x Reath No. F-3: Cream Delight x Moonrise**; first bloomed 1980. Lemon Yellow, hybrid, double ball; stamens, pollen, and seeds; heavy substance, floriferous; strong stems, bloom held erect; 32 inches; midseason hybrids, June 11; attractive deep green foliage. A very fertile seedling with bloom of bomb to ball-type double.

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

NEW AND BEAUTIFUL PAEONIAS

Submitted by Toichi Domoto from H. H. Berger 1906 Nursery Catalog

Our assortment of Paeonias includes two distinct sets of this fine flower—the “herbaceous” and the “tree” or shrubby ones. These two sets comprise many varieties, all being very handsome and desirable, showing many rich colors, and making a generous return for the care and expense involved in their cultivation.

HERBACEOUS PAEONIAS

These new and choice Paeonias come in most brilliant colorings—single White, Rose, Lilac and Red. 50 cts. each, 3 for \$1.25, postpaid. Double and semi-double sorts, 50 cts. each, 3 for \$1.25, postpaid.

TREE PAEONIAS

These are grand shrubs, bearing flowers of the most gorgeous description. Colors Pure White, Rose, Crimson, Variegated, Deep Purple, Lilac. \$1.25 each; collection of 6 assorted colors, \$6.50. Cannot be sent by mail, but must be sent by express. *We pay expressage.*

To those of our customers who wish to select Paeonias from hand-painted pictures, TRUE to nature, we will send a set of either the Herbaceous or Tree Paeonias, on sufficient proof that they will be returned after inspection and selection.

A JAPANESE PAEONY

Paeonias are among the hardiest, most showy and esteemed of garden plants, and the early double scarlet is among the oldest. We have two sets of Paeonias, namely “tree” or shrubby ones, and herbaceous ones, but these sets include a good many species. The tree or Moutan Paeonias are indigenous to China and Japan, and are among the choicest of the race, hardy and free blooming; and although most of them have fine double flowers, their doubleness is not as stiff as that shown in many of our herbaceous Paeonias. Up till recently, though, the more double the flowers of the Moutan Paeonias were the more they were appreciated; within the last few years, however, we have been getting from Japan a race of single and semi-double Moutan Paeonias that for real beauty surpass any of the doubles we used to get from China. They have large flowing, plain or crimped satiny petals, and in color vary from pure white through pink, rose, purple, and scarlet, to glistening crimson, and we have had them as much as 11 inches across.

PEONY SEED—HERBACEOUS, TREE, AND SPECIES

To replenish the peony seed pool, we want your seed. In turn, seed is sent free to all those that ask for it. Do send \$1.50 for postage. Mail seeds and requests to Chris Laning, 553 West F. Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007.

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MINNESOTA PEONY EXHIBITION

June 20-21, 1981, Har Mar Mall, Roseville, Minnesota

**Grand Champion and Best of the Show — Japanese, Kay Tischler —
Floyd Kimball**

Double lactiflora

White — Elsa Sass — The Klehm Nursery

Blush — Moonstone — W. G. Sindt

Light pink — Dinner Plate — Greta Kessenich

Dark pink — Mildred Gardner — Floyd Kimball

Red — Douglas Brand — Greta Kessenich

Semidouble — Minnie Shaylor — The Klehm Nursery

Single — Dawn Pink — W. G. Sindt

Hybrid — Red Ensign — Greta Kessenich

Tree — Black Pirate — The Klehm Nursery

Grand Champion Artistic — Charlotte Sindt

Reserve Champion Artistic — Jim Seeden

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 12, 1981, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

The business meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society was called to order at 9:00 P.M. by President Irvin Ewing of Michigan. Directors present were Clarence Lienau, Michigan; Marvin Karrels, Wisconsin; W. G. Sindt, Minnesota; Chris Laning, Michigan; Edward Michau, Kansas; Joe Glocka, Wisconsin; and Greta Kessenich, Secretary, Minnesota.

The first order of business was to present names as nominees for the Board of Directors whose terms were expiring this year, 1981. The Board of Directors were appointed to serve as the nominating committee. A motion was made and approved to nominate the 1981 outgoing members to serve again the following three years, the names to be read at the annual meeting by the Secretary.

A letter from the North Dakota Peony Society was read. A discussion followed, a decision to be made later regarding the yearly interest on monies received in which the North Dakota Peony Society is to be perpetuated.

For the judging of Class VI, it was suggested that if five judges are available they should be used in making the final decision for the Court of Honor. Chris Laning was appointed as head judge for the 1981 exhibition.

Motion to adjourn was made by Edward Michau, seconded by Marvin Karrels. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

June 13, 1981, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

The annual meeting for the American Peony Society was held in the banquet hall of the mansion at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. The business meeting began at 8:00 P.M. The nominees for the Board of Directors were read by the Secretary. Since there were not any nominations from the floor, the nominees, Irvin Ewing, John E. Simkins, W. G. Sindt, Allen J. Wild, Frank Howell, and Peter C. Laning, were unanimously elected.

Mr. Marvin Karrels reported that the treasurer's books had been audited by him and were in order and the financial statement correct. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

The Court of Honor recipients were read. Mr. W. G. Sindt of Minnesota won the Grand Champion with **Douglas Brand**. President Ewing presented the James Boyd Medal to Mr. Sindt.

A beautiful etched plaque was presented by Marvin Karrels with the inscription "To Our Queen for a Day, Greta M. Kessenich, Esteemed Editor and Secretary/Treasurer, by Members of the Fifth District, American Peony Society, at the Abbey, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, November 2, 1980." The artistic work was done in black on silver, through the efforts of Joe Glocka of the *Milwaukee Journal* of Wisconsin.

The highlight of the evening was the inspiring talk by Silvia Saunders on the work done in hybridizing, the accomplishments, and the coveted A. P. Saunders Medal. She talked about those to whom it had been given and the great work each had done in his own way to further the advancement of the peony. This night it was to be given, in her own words, "to our elder statesman, an international ambassador of the tree peony—and in addition, for fifty years he has been writing about the tree peony. The inscription on his medal, long overdue, can only be a shorthand version of what I've told you, so it reads, 'Time-honored Importer and Promoter of Oriental Tree Peonies and Hybrids, Louis Smirnow.' The other medal goes to one of the youngest enthusiasts. He has made outstanding contributions to the peony in his hybridizing work." A full outline of his great work will be found in the article written by Silvia on page 21. His medal reads, "Hybridist, Editor, Distributor of Plants, Seeds, and Expertise, Chris Laning."

The business meeting followed the banquet. Due to the afternoon storm leaving all the buildings in darkness, the banquet was served by candlelight. The invocation was delivered by Chris Laning. Mr. Fred Roberts, Director of Kingwood, welcomed all the members. After the business meeting the annual auction of peony roots was held. Mr. W. G. Sindt was the auctioneer. We thank you, Mr. Sindt.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 14, 1981, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Irvin Ewing at 9:30 A.M. Directors in attendance were Marvin Karrels, W. G. Sindt, Clarence Lienau, Chris Laning, Joe Glocka, Ed Michau, John Simkins, and Greta Kessenich, Secretary.

The first order of business was a discussion of the peony that would merit the Gold Medal for 1981. Bowl of Cream was approved by all the directors present to be the recipient of that honor. Peonies that are under consideration for this award in the future are Roselette, Westerner, Burma Ruby, Hana Kiso (tree peony), and Black Pirate (tree peony).

A motion was made and approved that the permanent show schedule have two classes added: a color class for corals and one for Japanese hybrids, any color. The classes will be added in the 1982 schedule.

The convention sites for the following years are

1982: Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, June 11-13;

1983: Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

1984: Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio;

1985: Chicago, Illinois.

It was suggested that in order to encourage beginners to exhibit peonies, reprints of articles written by past exhibitors should be published in the *Bulletin*.

The last order of business was the election of officers. A motion was made that Irvin Ewing be reelected as President and Greta Kessenich as Secretary/Treasurer. It was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The report regarding the state of the Society is told in detail when one reads the financial report. It is with satisfaction that we can present this 1981 summation of our finances. Statements for dues were sent to the membership in November for the following year. Your good response was and is always appreciated.

In this day, inflation and high prices concern every one of us. Our organization is not exempt. Costs of operating have increased. Post office rates continue their spiral turn. All bulletins that are sent out singly now in a month are considered first class mail because of the new ruling in the weight of a circular or bulletin. It is impossible for us to airmail any bulletins overseas unless postage has been sent here with that stipulation. The cost of printing the bulletin has also increased.

We are conservative in all our expenditures. Controlled manage-

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ment is continued as in the past. All commitments and obligations are paid currently.

From letters received, I see that there is an increasing interest in all peonies. Information is requested on how to plant peonies, on where to locate certain varieties, and on the new cultivars.

Tree peonies are becoming more popular in the Midwest and are now planted in many home gardens. They are winter hardy but should be given some protection in severe temperature zones. We see more and more tree peony blooms on the show tables.

Three exhibitions were held this year: the national exhibition at Ithaca, New York; the Fifth District exhibition at Chicago, Illinois; and the Minnesota Peony Society exhibition at Roseville, Minnesota.

For the President, Board of Directors, and myself, we express our gratitude for your continuing support of the Society.

This has been a good year.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1980 — June 1, 1981

Balance on Hand June 1, 1980 \$18,102.69

Receipts:

Membership dues \$ 4,531.75
Exhibition Fund 543.55
Advertising 230.00
Rent: Colored Slides 37.50
A.P.S. Auction 620.50
Registration, Nomenclature 55.00
Contributions 10.00
Miscellaneous 15.35

Publications:

Bulletins \$ 55.50
Handbooks 194.25
"The Peonies" 143.50
"Peonies Outdoors and In" 14.85
History of Peonies and Their Originations
. 178.50
Book, A.P.S. "75 Years" 705.00

Total \$1,291.60

Interest on Savings 1,325.27

Total Receipts \$26,763.21

Exhibition Fund from North Dakota Peony Society

Disbursements:

Publications:

Four Bulletins—June, Sept., Dec., March.	\$ 2,913.92
American Peony Society Postage	888.09
Office Supplies	326.41
Exhibitions	233.55
Printing	150.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1.88</u>

Total Disbursements.....\$ 4,513.85

Balance June 1, 1981.....\$22,249.36

\$26,763.21

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary-Treasurer



FIFTH DISTRICT PEONY EXHIBITION

A most beautiful peony exhibition was held at Woodfield Mall, Schaumburg, Illinois, on June 6-7. Grand Champion Peony was **Rocks Variety** by Bill Seidl.

THE 1981 AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY CONVENTION

Leila Bradfield, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Those of us who went to Kingwood Center with some qualms as to the quality of the exhibit need not have worried. The Midwest contingency suffered from the weather that brought most of the bloom too early. However, the Wisconsin-Ohio exhibitors had blooms in their prime.

The setting of Kingwood Center is an ideal one with the magnificent mansion and exceptionally well-tended grounds that made the show an especially festive occasion. However, we were recipients of the tail end of the tornado that flattened Cardington, twenty miles south of us. The damage was extensive at Kingwood in that many trees were topped and uprooted, and electric cables were toppled. This occurred the first day of the show around 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. Chris Laning was leading a colloquium on his favorite perennial—*Peonia*—when the lights went off and the wind's velocity made us close windows, stay in our basement hideout, and proceed by candlelight. The staff at Kingwood was creative and mobilized its resources pronto so that the show could go on. That evening a generator was secured so that our banquet proceeded as scheduled and our coffee was warm. Eating by candlelight did not dampen any of our spirits. In fact, the auction led

by Mr. Gus Sindt netted more than \$700! Who would have believed that Madylone would attain \$125!

Honors were showered on three giants of the American Peony Society. First, Greta Kessenich was honored by the Fifth District for her work and perseverance for the Society. Our hats off to Greta, who has managed to keep the Society solvent and cohesive.

The Saunders Memorial Medal was awarded to Mr. Louis Smirnow for his efforts in introducing and giving hybridizers access to the choice Japanese and Chinese peonies. As promoter and importer of these unusual perennials, he has been of great service to the Society and peony lovers.

Chris Laning was the other recipient of the Saunders Memorial Medal for his work in hybridizing to bring greater fertility to the plant and for his writing and editing of the newsletter *Paeonia*. In this newsletter he succeeded in bringing genetic information to all interested growers and in distributing advanced generation seeds to all who desired them. Lois Laning's efforts were not overlooked, as she has been instrumental in getting *Paeonia* to the press and the readers.

Silvia Saunders awarded the medals to Mr. Smirnow and Mr. Laning and ended by saying very eloquently that efforts like those of Mr. Smirnow and Mr. Laning have helped to make "peony" as much of a household word as "Post Toasties."

The show attracted a large audience in spite of the dimmed generator that supplied the light. Mr. Applegate of the Kingwood Center made a hugh peony wreath for the entrance to the exhibit room. He also very artistically arranged the Queen's Court with Grecian pedestals to accentuate the honored peonies. The seedling class again drew a lot of attention, and rightly so. They are the big names of tomorrow. The novice class was very well represented, and some lovely blooms got several ribbons.

Besides the regular attenders, Mr. Mitsura Saeki of Japan and Mr. R. R. Ringdahl of Seattle were guests at the show. While most people's admiration centered around the singles, rose, and anemone-shaped peonies and tree peonies, Mr. Saeki was enchanted with the heavy doubles that are most popular in Japan. It was also very heartwarming to see a young couple, house-painters by profession, who have the peony bug in their bloodstream. They were lapping up the ample information with great gusto.



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

POEMS ON THE TREE PEONY BY SU SHIH (1037-1101)

*Original Translations from the Chinese by John Marney,
Associate Professor of Chinese, Oakland University*

Translator's Note:

Su Shih (1037-1101), better known as Su Tung-p'o, was perhaps the greatest poet of the Sung dynasty (960-1279), and without doubt one of the best-loved scholar-literati officers in the entire Chinese heritage. He achieved the highest posts in the imperial government, but involved as he was in the political issues of his day, he was on a number of occasions arrested and banished to wild rustic exile. It was in exile in the malarial south that he eventually sickened and died.

*His literary output was prodigious; he was a renowned painter and calligrapher, and he contributed to philosophical trends at a time when Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism were merging into recognizable schools. Studies of his life and works are readily available: Lin Yutang's *The Gay Genius* (modern semantics here mock an originally appropriate title) (John Day, 1947) is aging, but is still a classic and entertaining source; Burton Watson *Su Tung-p'o* (Columbia University Press, 1965) translates eighty-six verses, and provides an informative introduction; and Drummond le Gros Clark, *The Prose Poetry of Su Tung-p'o* (Shanghai, 1935), translates and comments on Su's famous essays. All but one of the poems on the tree peony in this BAPS presentation are translated for the first time. The Chinese text is in traditional rhyming, pentasyllabic or heptasyllabic lines.*

Like his elder-statesman colleague Ou-yang Hsiu (1007-1072), Su had an abiding fascination with the glories of nature, and the number and quality of literary pieces he wrote on the tree peony testify to his love for this particular wonder. His imagery favors the prospect of the flowers in the rain; he cannot bear to see them dried up butter crisp. Though "king of flowers," in Su's poetry tree peonies are nearly always personified as women—chaste, delicate, decorous and smiling, and shy of their secluded charms. In full bloom upon some embankment they become tiered embroidery, scissored and tailored—women's work—to be culled and stuck in the poet's hair.

Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist concepts subtly intrude to remind the reader of broader universal and social implications. For example, in the third stanza of the first set "Viewing Tree Peonies in the Rain," Su tells how the beauties and vulgarities of various plants disappear with the shedding of their foliage and petals. This recalls a famous aphorism in the Confucian Analects (12.8): "Remove the hairs from a tiger or panther, and what is left looks like the hairless hide of a dog or a goat." That is to say, good birth and position afford opportunity for self-cultivation; they are not enough in themselves. Men stripped of court robes or peasant garb will look very much alike. Then,

flowers fallen into the mud and sand, which Su abhors, is a Buddhist image: of the pure lotus blooming and retaining its purity in the defiling mud of its habitat (the moral being the wish that man do the same). The passage of time is also apparent in this first set, where the second and third stanzas, linked by anadiplosis, detail a schedule for the short-lived flowers. The appeal of Su's poetry lies in the very natural, direct, and simple diction—that only a true master can manipulate into the rigorous poetic forms to which he is constrained.

Viewing Tree Peonies in the Rain

I

The misty rain does not form droplets;
In the glistening void one wonders if it's there or not.
At times upon the flowers it appears,
Brightly lustrous like a shining pearl.
Their elegant colors, washed powder-pink;
Their hidden fragrance born of a snowy skin.
In the twilight, how forsaken, lonely!
Heavy their heads as they seek each other's support.

II

A bright sun; the rain's just stopping;
The dawning light's upon the pine-tree branches.
A limpid fragrance permeates the flowers' very marrow,
And decorously decorous, they now hold themselves straight.
By noontime they put forth their deepest colors,
And offer a smile at just the right moment.
Then in accord with eventide they retire
As though pitying their secluded charms.

III

Their secluded charms need not be pitied.
Next day an east wind arises,
And as I awaken from my wine, where are they to be seen?
They've kept their pollen, and cherish their green seeds.
A thousand flowers and a hundred herbs:
Together exhausted, no more their beauties or coarseness.
I cannot bear them sullied in soil and sand,
And butter-crisp their dried-up fallen buds.

Thanking Messrs. T'ien and Ho for their Gift of Flowers

Within the city, the *yuan-wai* [*lang* officer] T'ien;
West of the city, the *hsiu-ts'ai* [graduate] Ho.
They're saddened not by the four walls of their households
Since there's embroidery, a thousand-tiered banks.
Of precious value, especially rare varieties.
Distressing that they're the very last to bloom!
Their fragrant hearts troubled by the setting sun;

Their delicate loveliness battles a faint thunder.
This old magistrate is full of ills as usual,
And my stout bosom has already turned to ashes.
How diligently attentive these beauties!
And for whom indeed were they culled!
From jade wrists pulled up red sleeves;
From gilded wine-jars poured white spirits.
Why should I pluck my frosty temples?
Rather, I'd stick them [i.e., the flowers] all over my head.

Translator's Note: The huan-wai-lang office was a junior position; the hsiu-ts'ai (Cultivating Talent) degree was the first, local examination, which led to the provincial, and finally the triennial metropolitan examinations. Messrs. T'ien and Ho would be in their early twenties, and here seeking Su's patronage, even though the aging Su has been relegated to some provincial magistracy. They are fortunate indeed to have been immortalized in a verse from the pen of so eminent a master. Note the clever ambiguity between the flowers and young serving girls in their diligent attentiveness and bright robes.

A Triple-Calyx Tree Peony

In what year did it part from wind and rain?
Lingering authenticity has reached this locale.
To this day a bequest of sorrow remains
That its artistry passed on without having produced a peer.

In the Rain Enjoying the Tree Peonies

Mistily misty, the rainy dew creates limpid charms;
Lustrously lustrous, bright lanterns shining as though aflame.
The bright sun and springtime shadows, the flowers not yet grown
old,
And in response I cannot bear them to don a dried-up crispness.

White Tree Peonies Behind the Hall

To the west of the wall, thousand-petaled: how could they not be
admired!
A smiling dance in the springtime breeze, a tipsy face turned
vermeil.
How they liken to the rear-chamber's [i.e., women's quarters] ice-
jade purity!
But the roving bees carelessly pay them little heed.

Matching Tzu-yu's "Tree Peonies Beneath a Peak"

When the flowers are good, we always worry that they're so scarce;
When the flowers abound, we wonder if the quality's fine or not.
While they've fewer than forty branches,
Branch after branch is as big as a ladle.

Translator's Note: Tzu-yu was the nom-de-plume of Su's brother, Su Ch'e (1039-1112). Together with their father, Su Hsun (1009-1066), they became three of the Eight Masters of the T'ang-Sung Period. (See Shih Shun Liu, Chinese Classical Prose. Hong Kong University Press, 1979.) Tzu-yu's poem seems not to have survived. This would have given us a clue as to the "forty" branches; the three "branch" characters in a row; and the balance of "flowers" this and "flowers" that.

Matching [Ch'en] Shu-ku's "Tree Peonies on a Winter's Day"

I

A bouquet of bewitching red with some halcyon about to run;
Reflecting the rays of springtime radiance, shy in the frost and
snow.

The workings of Nature's changes would only wrought new
artistries,
And do not indulge in idle flowers taking some small respite.

I

In season as flowers open, the rains join the wind.
Yet facing lingering frosts, their stained and overblown reds.
Full o'er the ground a springtime radiance favors this one creation—
In my heart I can't believe they come from Heaven's labor.

III

At this time we speak only of the Crane Forest Immortals.
Who can send the springtime radiance to bring forth the azalea.
Who'd believe that poetry could make the Creator return
And order their frosty shoots to bring forth their springtime
charms.

IV

Indistinguishable from the limpid frosts, they permeate my little
garden,
And so I take to verse and music to transform chill to warmth.
I'd have you read the Blue [Field] Pass Elegy,
And thus hire Master Han to stain the roots.

Translator's Note: Ch'en Shu-ku, i.e., Ch'en Hsiang (1017-1080) was chief magistrate of the city of Hang-chou, a poet, and a great friend of Su's. Ch'en's poems on the peony have not survived, but in Su's matching elements, we learn that Ch'en's imagery placed the peonies in the snows and frosts at the onset of springtime, and that he invoked Nature, or the Creator, for the renewal of the flowers' splendor.

The Crane Forest refers to the place where the Indian Buddhist deity Sakyamuni died. There the trees burst into white blossoms, resembling a flock of white cranes.

Lan-kuan, or Lan-t'ien kuan, Blue [Field] Pass, was a mountain pass in modern Shansi province in Western China. The poet-statesman

Han Yu (768-824) (another of the Eight Masters of the T'ang-Sung Period), a great Confucian literatus of T'ang times, was in exile from the central court, and wrote a poem describing how, reaching the distant pass, where the clouds lay athwart, his horse refused to go further. "Where is my family now?" lamented Han. The character "roots" is also used for "stem" or "stalk," hence may be a pun for the stem of a writing brush—to be stained with ink.

**At Chi-hsiang Temple, the Flowers are about to Fall, but Ch'en
Shu-ku Does not Keep His Appointment with Me**

This year the east winds have artfully scissored and tailored them.
Restraining my feelings, I can only wait for you to come.
Facing the flowers, I have no words, and the flowers echo my
disappointment,
And I'm simply afraid that next year the flowers will not bloom.

Translator's Note: Chi-hsiang "Auspicious Fortune" is the Chinese translation of the name of the Buddhist goddess of fortune, Laksni, identified with Mahasri, and confused with the Chinese goddess of fertility Kuan-yin. The temple was at Hang-chou (Hangchow). Su wrote another poem, translated by Burton Watson, on "Viewing [Herbaceous] Peonies at the Temple of Good Fortune," dated 1072. Watson's translation reads: "I'm not ashamed at my age to stick a flower in my hair; The flower is the embarrassed one, topping an old man's head. People laugh as I go home drunk, leaning on my friends—Ten miles of elegant blinds raised halfway for watching." Lin Yu-tang notes that Su journeyed to Hang-chou between July and November 1071, and was deputy magistrate there from November 1071 to August 1074. Again, between April and July 1089 he travelled to Hang-chou, and was Hang-chou commander and governor of Chekiang province from July 1089 to February 1091.

**[Ch'en] Shu-ku Heard of It, and When Next Day He Came to
the Temple, He Wrote Poems Using the Same Rhymes [As the
Poem "... At Chi-hsiang Temple ..."]**

Immortals' robes need no tailoring with scissors and blades;
National beauties at first restrained till the morning wine is here.
The district-magistrates question the flowers, and the flowers have
something to say:
"For you, we'll shed our petals and leaves; for you, sir, we will
bloom."

II

Springtime radiance, gradually gradual, whither does it go?
Again before a wine-jar, we take up a goblet.
All day long we've questioned the flowers, but the flowers do not
speak.
For whom will they shed their petals and leaves, for whom will they
bloom?

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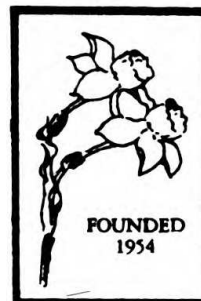
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