

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

MARCH 1944
 Number 93

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
 Northbrook, Ill.

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Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. All checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership. Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back BULLETINS of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 25 cents per copy and 50 cents for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No BULLETINS available prior to No. 13.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

MARCH - 1944

Peony Performance in the Garden State

NEAL R. VAN LOON, *Newton, N. J.*

In his peony manual Mr. Brand makes a daring statement for which I am surprised he has not been lynched. The statement is: "For the most beautiful peonies are more beautiful than the most beautiful of roses." Here in New Jersey it would take a man of monumental courage to say a thing like that. The fact of the matter is, however, Mr. Brand undoubtedly speaks the truth. Except, perhaps, in the matter of variety of fragrances, the peony has the better of it over the rose right on down the line.

I wonder how many people, besides the outright peony fans, realize what a wonderful plant the peony is, even if it never gave a particle of bloom. It has a most graceful figlike leaf that is really marvelous to behold as it develops. From the time the shoots break the ground they offer a whole gamut of color: ruby, red, crimson, maroon, bronze, copper, and even amber and tan, while finally you have any and every imaginable shade of green.

Peonies catch the eye as few flowers can. Last June I put fifty really big fellows with stems from twenty to fifty-four inches into a large white box and set them in a shop window in a city on the Jersey coast. I used only whites and light-pink shades. Did those colors sing! The lady keeping the shop told me that as near as she could tell every one who passed the shop stopped; children, high-school youth, men and women, laborers, and everybody. Many came in to inquire. The peonies had created absolutely a sensation. In front of the box I had placed a card with these words in large letters: "This silent music comes direct, all dew-wetted and fresh, from the beautiful soul of God. It reaches not the sensual ear, but with sweet compulsion rather, is writ in characters deep and permanent, upon the fleshly tables of the human heart."

To be entirely honest, I must admit I do not consider the peony the MOST beautiful garden flower although it does definitely outclass the rose, no doubt. At the risk of being unceremoniously lynched myself, I must nominate two candidates for most beautiful garden flower. One of them, though it can hardly be called a garden flower generally here in America as yet, I have to put at the head of the class. It is the tuberous begonia. The other one is the hybrid delphinium. If Mr. Brand or Mr. Auten, or some of the rest, start in my direction full of wrath and mayhem, I hope they will at least give me a little warning.

While dealing with inflamed and inflammable words, there is one more thing I must get off my burdened chest. Mr. Ralph Schroeder in his really delightful article in the June '43 BULLETIN opens up with this

sentence: "They grow them bigger in Minnesota, but they grow them no better . . . than we in Illinois." If Mr. Schroeder can have the patience to wait about one decade, he may see the interesting sight of some prophets arising in the Garden State who consistently grow them both bigger and better than either Minnesota or Illinois!

Now for some nominations for honors, year 1943, for good and bad performances in my garden of 500 hills in 100 varieties. The plants are from 2 to 7 years old. All were carefully disbudded. Nearly all the varieties rate 9.0 or better. No doubt when my *Edlund's*, *New Era's*, *Alesia's*, *Mary Auten*, *June Giant*, etc., get going, the picture will radically change.

Tallest — 1st, *Phoebe Cary*, 2nd, *Cherry Hill*.

Largest — 1st, *Claire Dubois*, 2nd *Lillian Gumm*.

Heaviest Bloom — 1st, *Hansina Brand*, 2nd, *Enchantress*.

Most likely to go to the gallows — 1st, *E. B. Browning*, 2nd, *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, 3rd, *Longfellow*.

Best plant — 1st, *Tourangelle*, 2nd, *Myrtle Gentry*.

Most fragrant — 1st, *Myrtle Gentry*. (Very sweet at night, exact replica of the *Sweet Bay Magnolia*.) 2nd, *Kelway's Glorious*.

Best petal substance — 1st, *Isani Gidui*, 2nd, *Rose Shaylor*.

Most outstanding color values — 1st, *Solange* (by a mile), 2nd, *Tourangelle*, 3rd, *Alsace Lorraine*.

Best for arrangements — 1st, *Isani Gidui*, 2nd, *Kelway's Queen*, 3rd, *Baroness Schroeder*.

Best year after year performance from first year planted — 1st, *Mons. Jules Elie*, 2nd, *Myrtle Gentry*, 3rd, *Judge Berry*, 4th, *Festiva Maxima*.

Whitest white — 1st, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, 2nd, *Enchantress*. *Le Cygne* is more ivory colored than white; *Kelway's Glorious* has some red, especially on buds; *Madam Emile Lemoine* has red as does *Nina Secor*. *Mrs. A. M. Brand* is a consistent teaser (not one first-class bloom in seven years). *Isani Gidui* is the color of a gardenia.

Best red — 1st, *Cherry Hill*. Here is a fine plant all the time year after year. It gives prodigiously of roselike blooms of a marvelous sheen. Color has wonderful carrying power. 2nd, *Adolphe Rousseau*.

Most appealing personality — 1st, *Solange*, 2nd, *Tourangelle*.

Most remindful of other flowers — 1st, *Mons. Jules Elie*, like a mum. 2nd, *Marie Jacquin*, like a water lily. 3rd, *Lady Alexandra Duff* like an apple blossom some years.

Heartbreakingest (just plain beautiful) — 1st, *Phyllis Kelway*, 2nd, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, 3rd, *Isani Gidui*.

Most majestic — 1st, *Grace Loomis*, 2nd, *Therese*.

All round queen of the garden — *Grace Loomis*.

Additional Notes

Lora Dexheimer, wonderful color, shy bloomer.

Luetta Pfeiffer, poor copy of *Lady Alexandra Duff*.

Gigantea, quite coarse, but had one 12 inches or better a while back.

Martha Bulloch, also rather coarse.

Loveliness, lacks style.

Milton Hill, poor opener.

La Lorraine, weak grower.

Le Cygne, rather languid year after year.

Raoul Dessert, weak and finicky.

Walter Faxon, fades badly.

Richard Carvel, washy color here.

Georgiana Shaylor, very pretty but shy bloomer and temperamental.

Baroness Schroeder, very pretty in younger stages, flower is quite perishable.

Jeannot, very fine plant and flower. Takes several years to develop.

La France, beautiful buds, crêpy substance, exasperating in its behavior.

Cornelia Shaylor and *Katherine Havemeyer*, scanty bloomers.

Festiva Maxima performs consistently but hardly has the "Class" to compete with other whites.

Marie Crousse, very pretty, quite weak in growth.

Editor's Note: — Here is the beginning of a splendid resumé of observations made by Mr. Van Loon at blooming time. Can't we have a score or more of a similar nature this year of 1944? Mr. Van Loon has set the pace, let's follow his lead.



Peonies In Alabama

POPE M. LONG, *Cordova, Alabama*

For thirty years I have been in quest of a double red peony that compared favorably in size and otherwise of the best varieties of the pinks and whites. My quest to date has been in vain after testing in my garden two score of reds.

Below I give my evaluation of several reds tested here in Alabama by me.

1. *Philippe Rivoire* — Best red in all around merit. Blooms are rather small but excellent form and color. Free bloomer and sure. Healthy plant. It has a delightful fragrance. Late, mid-season.
 2. *Richard Carvel* — Very early. Blooms larger than *Philippe Rivoire*, but form not so good as its long petals give it a ragged look a few days after it opens. Good grower and bloomer and excellent color. It has the same delightful odor as *Philippe Rivoire*. This is a rare quality in reds.
 3. *Felix Crousse* — About ten days later than *Richard Carvel*. It has no fragrance. A good, sure bloomer of medium-sized blossom. For some years I gave it 1st as best red, but time has now relegated it to 3rd in my estimate. It is a better cut flower than *Richard Carvel*.
 4. *Cherry Hill* — As a cut flower for house decoration it rates low. Its strong growth, healthy roots and free-blooming qualities, together with beautiful color, make it a great landscape variety. It is not fragrant. Very early and sure.
- Mons. Martin Cahuzac* — The very darkest crimson I ever saw. It would be a great peony if it were sturdy and free like *Cherry Hill*, but unfortunately it is a weak, sickly plant that can't survive our hot, dry summers.
- Charles McKellip* — The largest and most perfect blooms I ever saw on a red peony were produced on this variety in 1926. Unfortunately it has not produced a worth-while blossom since. Why? I do not know.
- Adolphe Rousseau* — A fairly good peony. It opens its buds nicely and is rather good for lawn or house.

Longfellow & Mary Brand — I have seen some beautiful clumps of these two in an Ohio garden, but for some reason they do not thrive in Alabama. Of these two, *Mary Brand* is better.

Karl Rosenfield — I have been worse disappointed in this variety than in any other I ever tried to grow. I have received roots from several different growers, but none could bloom in my garden.

Lora Dexheimer, Eugene Bigot, Masterpiece, Rachel, Mrs. John M. Lewis, and a score of others I have tested, and none of them have proved satisfactory.

I have planted the past year the following reds: *Matilda Lewis, Shawnee Chief, Ruth Elizabeth, Chocolate Soldier, Rose Marie, Topeka, June Brilliant* and *Tempest*. I will report on them later, after seeing them in my own garden.

I am still seeking a red double that is the equal of the highest rating of the pink and white varieties.

The above comments do not apply to red Japs, for these grow and bloom to perfection for me in white, pink and reds, and my most spectacular clumps are reds, such as *Fuyajo* and *Mikado*, and some other reds nearly as good. I am sure that Mr. Auten's originations, like *Nippon Beauty* and *Nippon Brilliant*, which I have recently added to my plantings, will surpass my old varieties.



The Law of Hybridizing as Discovered by Richard Deiner

Explanation of Diagram

Sizes A and B, in figures 1, 2 and 3 are intended to represent the comparative sizes of sex parents of flowers, fruit or grain concerned in fertilization. Size C represents the resulting offspring as compared to size. Each figure represents but one fertilization; by using new parents derived from the offspring C the process can be continued indefinitely.

The first or declining way: reduction in size.

Size A, figure 1, shows a small pollen parent, one half the size of the ovule parent B. Under such a condition the resulting offspring C will be one-half the size of the pollen-bearing parent A.

It is to be noted that in case the pollen-bearing parent A is smaller than the ovule B, but more than one-half its size, the offspring C would be proportionately larger; on the other hand, if A is less than one-half the size of B, then C will be proportionately smaller than shown in the diagram. Consequently, if smaller sizes than the current normal size of a given plant are desired, any amount of reduction can be secured by continuing the process illustrated in Figure 1.

The second or enlarging way: increase of size.

For the purpose of increasing the size the best results will be obtained by using pollen and ovule-bearing parents of exactly the same size, as shown in A and B of Figure 2. If the sizes are the same, an actual doubling of size will be secured in the offspring C.

It is to be understood that not every individual represented by C will be doubled even if A and B are precisely of the same size. In the first generation the average number of C individuals of maximum size will be

12 out of 100 under conditions stated. The remaining 88 in 100 will be larger than either A or B and will range in sizes between the size of parents and the maximum size of offspring illustrated. As for the second and later generations derived from C, since the A and B of subsequent fertilizations are more closely related than were the original A and B, the percentage of maximum results runs up as high as 40%, as I found in my petunia crossings. This will happen only in close relationship between A and B.

The third.

Figure 3 illustrates the result when the ovule parent B is one-half the size of the pollen-bearing parent A. In this case, the offspring C will be slightly larger than the pollen parent A, but no great increase in size can be expected from this method.

By observing the results obtained under the conditions represented by Figures 1, 2 and 3, one can determine exactly what to expect out of material on hand, whatever the relative size of the plants A and B may be. Size comparisons are made between parent blooms when pollenating for the purpose of increasing the size of blossoms, between fruits by increasing the size of the fruit and between kernels by increasing the size of the kernels.

Modifications of Color or Form of Flowers

The pollen-bearing parent is always the dominating factor in changes of form or color. For instance, if one desires to increase and accentuate incipient ruffling or frilling which may occur in the petals of a given plant, A and B parents already having some marks of the nature desired should be chosen; but the pollen should be taken from the individual which shows the desired feature most strongly.

Likewise in modifying colors to increase the intensity of a given color, choose two colors of the same shade but take the pollen from the one that shows the most pronounced coloring of the shade desired. On the contrary, if lighter shades are desired, select colors as before but take the pollen from the plant which has the lighter shade.

Further, in attempting to derive new colors always use a white flower as a B parent with which to break up colors. This will work to absolute perfection. This method of mixing colors works the same when applied to plants as the actual mixture of colors on an artist's palette.

A. A declining way

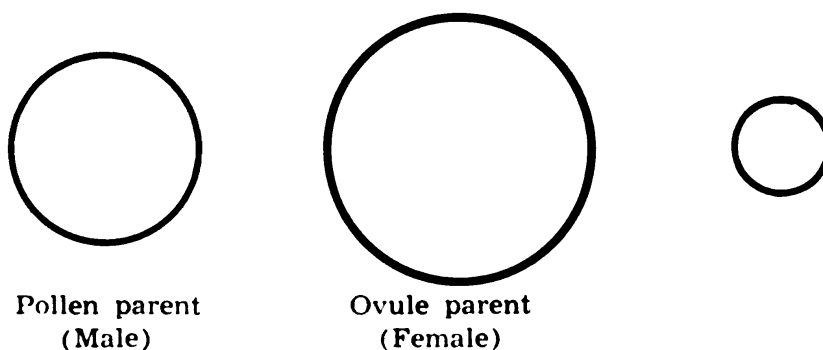


Fig. 1
Result of 1st
generation

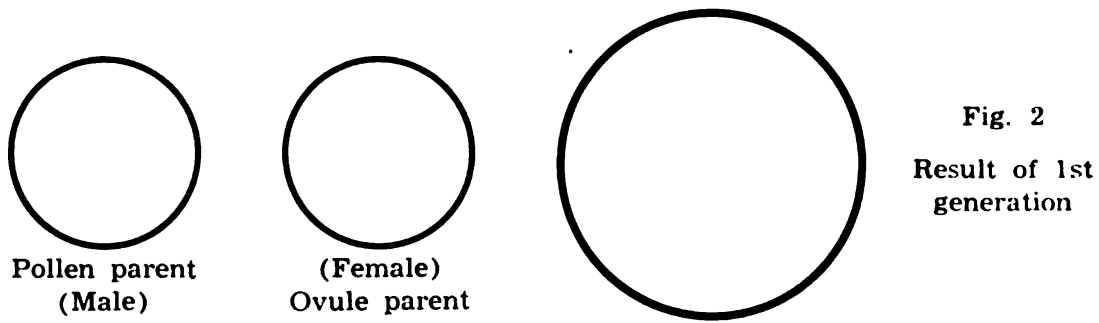
B. *Enlarging way*

Fig. 2

Result of 1st generation

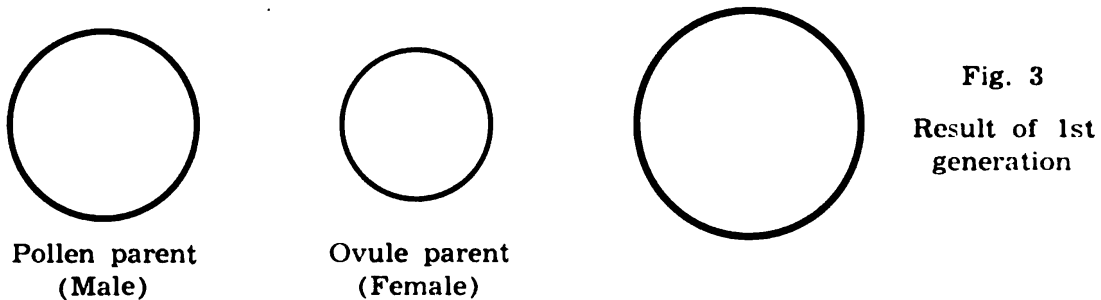


Fig. 3

Result of 1st generation



Secretary Is Given A Party

By W. T. COE

During Mr. Christman's visit in Minneapolis, a few of his friends gave him a luncheon on George Washington's Birthday. Those present were A. M. Brand, of Faribault; C. R. Jenks, of Stillwater; R. W. Jones, of St. Paul; and Joseph F. Jones, Howard W. Englund, and W. T. Coe, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The group were together for three hours, and they talked peony. During the conversation, there was considerable wisdom expressed which is worth recording. Mr. Brand asked what was new in the peony world. The following new ones were discussed: *Bataan*, a new late red seedling of A. B. Franklin; "*A. M. Brand*," a new white which Mr. Brand has named for himself; *John Howard Wigell* (pink); *Mrs. Livingston Farrant*; *Pink Dawn*, a new single of H. P. Sass. All these were thoroughly discussed and approved. There was then some agreement on a few old ones. It was agreed that *Martha Bulloch*, and *Blanche King* were both rated too low, and should have a boost of two points each.

Mr. Brand said that this year, on account of the shortage of help, he was obliged to go out in the field and do work himself, and while there he learned something. One would think that Archie Brand could not learn anything more about peonies after spending forty years developing them. He said he found that the disease of botrytis, which greatly affected peonies in 1942, had done considerable injury to certain varieties, and no injury whatever to others that seemed to be immune. He said he regarded this as a vital observation.

The subject of deep planting was discussed, and it was agreed by all that about two to three inches in depth was best. Some advocate setting the buds at the surface of the ground. The evil in that is that the ground

is likely to wash away and leave them exposed, and this wrecks the bloom. It was agreed by all that a reasonable amount of fertilizer was a desirable thing for the production of good blooms. Caution must be exercised not to put on too much fertilizer.

Covering of newly planted roots was recommended for the first year. For commercial purposes it is inadvisable to make use of clumps any older than three years. One may divide the older clumps satisfactorily, but the result is rather unpleasant-looking divisions which are not attractive to the average person. However, when planted they do about as well as the younger divisions.

All recommended for safer planting in your own garden, the cutting of the root pretty close in order to get a good new root growth on the new clump. The planting of roots with long tap roots is no good. The entire tap root should be cut so that it is no longer than three or four inches, if you want good results. For dividing an old clump the best method is to come in from below with a very strong knife, and if need be the use of a chisel alongside the knife to pry the clump open. Thence it can be divided more economically. The usual method of going in from the side of the clump to divide it is very destructive.

It was agreed that the best soil for the growing of peonies is one that is clay or largely clay, with a mixture, of course, of some sand and gravel to lighten it up.

There was considerable regret over the prevalence of nematodes and the question of procuring perfectly clean roots of certain varieties, more especially those produced by Lemoine of France. In fact, in certain of these varieties it is almost impossible to get them free from disease.

A. B. Franklin was quoted as claiming that he can get rid of this disease by trimming the root very closely, and planting it in the peat soil of a swamp.

There was some discussion also of the subject of changing the name of Japanese peonies, and all were against making the change. Regardless of the unpopularity of the Japanese at this time, when the war is over that will probably pass away, and the name is too firmly fixed to make it worth while to change it.

There are two varieties that are especially desired for propagation, namely, *Philippe Rivoire*, red, and *LeCygne*. Mr. Brand stated that he was unable to produce as many of these as the trade called for. Mr. Christman reported that he had never known the demand for cut flowers to be as good as it was in 1943. Chicago seems to be the center of demand for cut peonies. However, one must have a supply of at least 1000 to 2000 blooms to make it worth while for any florist to be interested. It is also probable that if certain varieties of singles or Japanese were cultivated in a sufficiently large number, there would be a considerable demand for them for the florist trade.

There was discussion of the date for the National Peony Show for 1944 at Milwaukee. It is not quite fixed, that is, whether it will be June 17 and 18 or June 22 and 23. That date will be settled later.

Mr. Christman announced that the membership list was increasing, and that it now had arrived at nearly 600. A lot of new members have signed up.

The society appears to be in a very flourishing condition.

We found that the seven peony fans can find a lot of peony gossip to talk about in three hours.

Some Of My Personal Experiences

A. B. FRANKLIN, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Well, to begin with, I have been a chicken raiser, an expressman, a flour packer in a mill, a wagon and buggy maker, a roller skater, a cutlery grinder, a hardware man and a flower grower.

I put in eleven years in one store; was the head clerk for ten years with nine clerks. In 1899 the store apparently did not make any money and they let their highest priced help go. I didn't see it that way and they never did recover. They let me out February 1. If I had known their intentions January 1, there were two jobs in sight. I called on the other stores to seek employment. I was forty years old. The answer was, "We don't want any old men," but if a young man came along who would work for six or eight dollars a week, they would hire him.

This set me thinking. I decided to work for Franklin only. I thought I would try the nursery business on my own hook. It would keep me out of doors and would be healthier, and about this time I heard two men on a street car talking about peonies and lilacs good for cut flowers, which I didn't forget. I afterwards looked up about peonies and decided to try them. I had two clumps growing in the yard (they were given me by E. W. Becker of Lake Minnetonka), a white and a pink. I dug these up, and with a butcher knife and hand axe made thirty-two plants. They all grew.

Then I went to a neighbor who had money to loan and borrowed \$100 on my note at 8% interest and bought more peonies. In the meantime I was dabbling in nursery stock with the idea of growing enough apple trees for an orchard of forty acres I figured on buying. When the peonies grew to be two years of age, I began selling flowers. They were pretty good, only I found out from experience not to cut them until they are three years old. Well, I found some varieties under three or four names. This was before the American Peony Society got the names straightened out. I then got curious to plant seed to see what I could get. I chased over the city and found one broken package at Northrup-King & Co., for 50c and planted them. Eleven of them came up the second year — they were all pink and single. When I got seed of my own growing, I planted some and found out that if seed was not allowed to get too dry it would come up the first year after planting. My seed varied, and occasionally I would get a flower that was good. In 1920 I had four that I thought were good enough to put on the market. Named three of them, *Mabel L. Franklin*, *Ball O' Cotton* and *Red Bird*, and with the Secretary saying they were good, sold \$1100 worth that fall, and these varieties are still on the market, though I have much better ones now.

In the meantime I planted 25 plum trees and enough apple trees to make 600 and sold the rest of my trees. I had ten acres, and when they developed into bearing trees, I had plenty of plums and lots of apples. I bought a cider mill and one year made eleven barrels of cider. Kept my children and myself healthy. One time my youngest boy brought three school companions home to eat apples. They went into the orchard and got what they wanted and sat on the porch eating them. My son had six big *Wealthy's* in a row beside him. His mother happened to come out and seeing them was afraid he was eating too many. He didn't get sick. He said he had only eaten six and had six to go on. They used to begin

eating them when about the size of hickory nuts. I think apples are about the healthiest fruit of all. I ate lots of them when growing up, and the only liquor I drank was sweet cider.

Well, four or five years after I began growing peonies I bought \$3,000 worth. I thought then that it would be overdone in ten years, but I have put in forty-three years, and it isn't bad yet, though now the help question is the worst on account of the war.

I bought fifty-two varieties of French lilacs. They are fine but have not been so profitable as peonies.

I am going to tell you what seems like a secret — if you want to get seed from a full double variety, cut off a few stems when four to six inches high and they will sprout out at the side and some will seed.

In growing seedlings, I have had some setbacks. At one time I had about three hundred to transplant and I had only a gravelly north hillside to put them on. They were planted rather late in the fall, and the ground was extremely dry and I lost most of them. Another time I had two long rows near the apple trees. I got a neighbor who had horses to do some cultivating. I showed him what I wanted cultivated and when I came home from the store found that he had cultivated my seedling peonies all out. One time I had just planted a lot of choice peony seed and as the ground was rather light in texture, we got a wind storm that blew them all out. At one time, I had a pink like *Felix Crousse*, and a pink Jap, the finest I ever saw, together with a lot of other good ones. I transplanted them on a level piece of ground without mulching them, and in the spring they were covered with ice and they all killed out. Had a seedling about six inches across with about two inches of dark red in the center. Never saw it but once and don't know what happened to it. Perhaps some one took a fancy to it and removed it from the seedling bed. Have been successful with a good many. I did not plant seed every year, but the longer I worked at it the bigger the proportion of good ones I found. I guess this is enough, though I could tell much more.

Editor's Note: — The above was a summary of the talk Mr. Franklin gave at his 86th birthday dinner spoken of in a previous BULLETIN. I wish we could get a number of our members to reminisce. I am sure it would make most interesting reading. Mr. Franklin in his eighty-seventh year seems hale and hearty with the prospect of several useful years ahead of him.



Memories of the Minneapolis Convention

MRS. J. F. EMIGHOLZ, *Cincinnati, Ohio*

When peony time comes around, I become restless and want to see the newer peonies and want to discuss them with others of similar tastes. Especially wanted to see the Brand and Franklin peonies in their native place. I have a number of the former but just a few of the latter's introductions. Saw them only on exhibition, which is not the best way to judge them. Because of travel restrictions, felt that it might not be possible to get to the meeting, but somehow the trip was managed and a second peony season was enjoyed.

In going to Minnesota, one expects and prepares for cool weather. On arriving I found it was as warm as in Cincinnati and was obliged to wear the lightest dress brought along. The trip was worth while, and they certainly can grow peonies in Minnesota. Varieties like *Hansina Brand*, *Le Cygne*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand* and several others were marvelous, while they seldom show up well here. I can see why they are so highly thought of.

Last spring we had rather cool and wet weather for quite a while. so hard-to-open kinds like *Solange* were lovely. Heavy rains often come in May, followed by a hot spell, so that many late or close-petaled varieties do not open well.

A number of familiar faces were missing, as sickness and shortage of labor prevented several peony growers from being present. It did not seem like a convention with Mr. Little and Mr. Wassenberg absent. They and peonies are inseparable.

There were many fine entries, but this has been written about in other articles. Thought it would be of interest to mention varieties that attracted me on which I had taken notes. (Some may be older kinds.)

Singles. *Apple Blossom*, delicate pink with a paler edge; *Bun Lau*, broad white petals, with a close ball of stamens in the center; *Sea Shell*, large, crinkled rose, with paler center; *Red Harmony*, cupped petals of dark maroon and a dull golden center.

Japanese type. *Chugai 17*, a blush Jap with bright, golden petals. *Chugai No. 29*, a white crinkled variety with a yellow center. Very good. Two fine whites were *Leto*, a creamy white with a golden anemone center, and *Polar Star*, broad cupped petals with crinkled edges, and a sprawly center of light yellow petaloids, showing the red-tipped stigmas. *Silver Plume*, with light-pink guards, and an anemone type center of light yellow, tipped flesh; *Mrs. Mac*, another delicate pink, with deeper flushings; *Rashoomon*, a little lighter crimson than *Mikado*, better form, loose rose petaloids tipped chamois.

Among the whites we note the following: *Alesia* in fine form; *Argentine*, a fluffy creamy white with broad petals; *Dr. J. H. Neeley*, a large, full and fragrant flower; *Elsa Sass*, a marvelous creamy white; *Grace Loomis*, with heavy imbricated and lacinated petals, a late bloomer; *Rev. H. N. Tragitt*, a heavy, ball-shaped creamy white; *Robert Lee*, a fine flower with a flat center, and the Franklin varieties, *A. B. Franklin*, a blush white, with a form like *Kelway's Glorious* but a heavier flower; *Cherokee*, a late variety, with large flat blooms; *Mrs. A. B. Franklin*, a fragrant, compact rose type with a touch in the center and *Snow Ball*, not large, but fine for cutting. Another fine white, a Neeley variety was *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, a blush white with a paler center composed of heavy, close petals.

In the light pinks were noted, *Auten's Pride*, blush pink with creamy collar; *Mrs. Bates*, a heavy, fragrant light pink, with a deeply colored center; *Chief*, a large blush pink, with a slight white collar; *Hansina Brand*, shown in fine form; *Katherine Havemeyer*, broad petals, with a high center of deeper color; *Minuet*, another fine blush that will remain in popularity; *Nimbus*, a lovely blush pink; *Pink Beauty*, with large and flat petals and *W. L. Gumm*, a heavy flower with a deeper colored center.

In the medium pinks, *Acme*, a fragrant, bright rose with cupped petals; *A. E. Rowe*, a full bloom of brilliant rose, with paler edges; *Franklin's Pride*, a heavy, close-petaled flower, with a cupped center; *Martha Bulloch*, shown here in fine form; *Mrs. F. A. Goodrich*, a fragrant, lavender pink with paler edges and a high crown.

Deep rose. *Carbondale*, an outstanding deep rose, with loose outside petalage; a larger *Souv. de Louis Bigot* type; *Dolorodell*, a medium clear pink, the best and most distinct peony noted in this color; *Loren Franklin*, a deep pink, almost the color of *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, but larger and better, with no pale edge; *Mabel Gore*, a showy flower of American Beauty coloring; *Tondeleyo*, a brilliant dark pink of distinctive form.

Reds. When it comes to evaluating reds, one has to live with them to judge them. Mr. Auten sent us some of his introductions several years ago, and it took at least three years before the value of *Dearborn*, *Louis Joliet* and *Santa Fe* were apparent, then they outshone other reds we had. Older reds like *Charles McKellip*, *David Harum*, *Grover Cleveland*, *Martilda Lewis*, *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* and *Philippe Rivoire* are always good and dependable. Am adding the following newer ones: *John L. Crenshaw*, a light crimson red with a loose center, quite good; *King Midas*, a close, ball-shaped bloom of rich red, a tone lighter than *Philippe Rivoire*; *Sir John Franklin*, a fine deep red of spicy fragrance.

In the seedlings, there were many entries. While not able to give them the time they needed, the following were noted: Dr. H. C. Cooper of Portland, Oregon, *Seedling 101*, a broad-petaled, pale pink resembling *Victory Chateau Thierry* in form. E. H. Lins of Cologne, Minn., showed *R3-474*, a large, brilliant rose red, with a paler edge; *R 2-79*, large, dark crimson, flat center filled with small petals. Others were *A-1001*, heavy, blush white with a cupped center; *A-1003R*, heavy, large deep rose with reflexed guard petals; *A-118-R*, very dark red, with heavy, notched petals; *A-350-P-1*, a large, deep pink. Many others were noticed but these seemed the most distinct.

Mr. Franklin had named a fine blush pink *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* and a prizewinning dark pink *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt*. As we were looking at a collection containing them, one man said, "Those are fine peonies, but I won't have any with that name in my garden." Another said, "Same here, I would have bought them but for the name." I mentioned this to Mr. Franklin, and he said, "Oh, yes! A lot of people may say that, but they come back and buy them anyway." He said that the peony *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* reminded him of the real person: it was always dependable for bloom, knew what it wanted and went places. It seems to be a risky thing to name flowers after presidents or political people as they rise or fall in popular favor.

Mr. Brand had similar experience. A man admired *President Coolidge*, a fine lavender pink, but he also would not buy it on account of the name. Perhaps time allows one to forget political differences, but I still question the practice of naming flowers for men and women in public office.

Through the kindness of our President, Mr. Lindgren, Mr. Bigger of Topeka, Kansas, and I were able to drive out to the home of Mr. E. L. Lins, of Cologne, Minn., on Monday afternoon. He has a choice collection of peonies, well grown. *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, the grand champion, and several prize winners came from his garden. Everything looked well kept. *Elsa Sass* was magnificent; *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* seems to have weak stems for so large a flower. *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, as good as in the show, were especially noted. We were not able to stay long as we wanted to be back in time for the supper and evening meeting, but the memory of the beauty of this garden will remain with me for a long time.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Christman's son drove several of us to Mr. Franklin's nursery, and we enjoyed the lovely scenery of Minnesota along the way. Was told that the nursery was an old lake bottom, or at least a part of it. It was a breath-taking sight. Standing on one side, one saw a broad, billowing carpet of peonies as far as the eye could see with the colors running in uneven stripes. In the field visited, large plants bearing eight to twelve blooms were growing, and one could see them in their prime. They were taller and finer than any I saw growing here. *Mr.*

was the tallest, and nearly came up to my waist. *Crusader, Duluth, Mrs. A. B. Franklin* and *Richfield White* were noted among the many fine whites. *Acme, Blushing Beauty,* and *Lavender Pink* among the pale pinks. *Alice Reed Bates, Diadem, Edith Scovell* and *Loren Franklin* were admired in the darker pinks, and *Hiawatha, Mark Twain* and *Sir John Franklin* for red varieties.

Mr. Franklin took us to his seedling bed, and it was hard to decide what was the best in the short time we could be there. Have noted the following: A-209, a large, deep rose, broad petals which roll back like a rose and a flat center. A-218W, large, creamy white, with a cupped center; A-343-R, a fine red; A-292, a deep rose with a silvery edge, flat ruffled guards; A-262, a large, flat, deep cerise rose that fades to a silvery edge; A-213-W, a small blush, fading to white, compact form and A-350, a large rose of heavy petalage.

All too soon it was time to go as Mr. Christman had to leave early in the afternoon. We were able to see only a few of the many fine varieties there.

On Tuesday evening I took a bus to Faribault, Minn., to see the Brand Peony Farms and stayed over night. Early the next morning Miss Gentry called for me, and I was able to see a few of the plantings while the dew still lingered on the foliage. The fields visited were mainly younger plantings, grown for roots only. Noted for the first time the clear, unfolding red of *Mary Brand* as compared to the more bluish tone of *Karl Rosenfield* as it ages.

We went to the office, and in the display shed saw many fine varieties that were not noticed in the show. *L. W. Pollock*, a rich, deep rose; *Ella Christiansen*, a favorite light pink; *Ella Lewis*, deeper than *Marie Crousse*; *Ellen Foster*, deep blush guards with pale center. A flat bloom, with lacinated petals. *Golden Bracelet*, a Jappy type of broad, yellowish white petals, and a broad collar of deep yellow, irregular form; *Joanne Foreman*, a salmon pink with broad petals; *Louis Barthelot*, a deep, creamy white, with a greenish tone in the center; *Mrs. Harriet Gentry*, a heavy white with a tan center like *Solange*; *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*, my favorite in lavender pinks; *Myrtle Gentry*, a fragrant late blush; *Rosamond Grant*, a deep salmon pink.

Among the singles were *Krinkled White*, not large, but fine for arrangements; *Mankato*, another fine white with two rows of petals; *Mellon Knight*, narrow, long crimson petals, and *President Lincoln*, a wonderful red. The new Jap, *Midway Island*, had pale pink guards with a pale yellow center. Two seedlings were outstanding, 32-171, a fragrant deep lavender pink, with a silvery edge. It had rigid stems and a high-built flower of rose type. The other, 2970, a heavy rose type in blush pink, fading slightly at the edges.

All too soon I was obliged to leave to get the 10 A.M. bus back to Minneapolis in order to take the afternoon train home. Took with me a box of buds of *Mrs. A. M. Brand* and *Myrtle Gentry* (the latter my favorite), and was able to prolong for over a week the peony season at home.

Some of the new varieties I liked were planted last fall, so in a couple of years when these bloom, there will be a visible remembrance in my garden of that convention.

My Experience With Peonies

ARTHUR L. MURAWSKA, *River Grove, Ill.*

When a boy, I lived in the heart of Chicago but had started a very good peony garden. I started to work for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company and found I had ample time on my hands to do something else, so I started growing peonies as a hobby. Now, after thirty years, I am still with the same railroad working as a locomotive engineer, and my hobby has become a business.

I make a study of my plants and blooms and try to find their good and bad points. As soon as the young shoots come through the ground, I watch them closely, and in this way can detect their faults.

I find there are a number of peonies that do well in some localities while the same varieties will not do so well somewhere else. Through this experience I have discarded about fifty varieties. Many of these are still highly rated and praised, but after growing and watching them for years and finding they do not come up to my requirements, I finally plowed under about three or four thousand plants. This place will be used in growing vegetables to help the war effort.

For years I have been growing seedlings but must say practically all have been discarded. It's fun to watch them grow and see what they will do. I finally registered one in about 1932 but have finally discarded it. I now have a number of them that are really good in my opinion.

During the last blooming season I was honored with a visit from Mr. George W. Peyton. We walked among some of my seedlings that I had selected as being good when Mr. Peyton stopped suddenly and exclaimed, "Why, here is something good; this is a true white peony." I tried to tell him that there were a lot of white peonies, but he insisted that they were not true white but usually show a pink or cream tint. This certain peony has been renamed *Mildred May*, formerly called *Mrs. L. E. May*. I believe this dainty flower will be a good commercial cut flower when the stock is available. This variety should not be disbudded, for herein lies its beauty. Each spray makes a bouquet by itself, and the main bud and side buds all open about the same time, producing perfect miniature blooms, well branched. A ring of golden stamens glows brightly among the snow-white petals, which makes a wonderful showing. Have watched this variety for a number of years, and a three-year-old plant is a wonderful sight. It is a fast propagator, a sure bloomer, and has wonderful foliage.

Some years ago I secured a plant of *James Pillow*. Well, this peony surely is a "knock-out." It is one of the most compact blooms I have ever seen; a beautiful rose pink with a collar of cream-yellow petals, giving it the effect of peaches and cream. It is a glorified *Nancy Dolman* but does not have the bad habits or faults of this variety of not opening well. *James Pillow* will surely be a show flower when stock is available. I believe all peony lovers should have a plant of this as it is really a prize winner. It was the outstanding bloom in my planting last year.

Some years ago Mr. W. F. Christman received a shipment of seedlings from Mrs. James Pillow that were originated by the late Mr. Pillow. When in bloom, Mr. Christman selected this variety as the best of the entire lot and received the permission of Mrs. James Pillow to name it in honor of her husband. The stock is limited and can be obtained only from Mr. Christman, the introducer.



"Mildred May" (Murawska) Note beautiful branching habits. This illustration shows a single stem.

There is such a great demand for the deeper pinks, and I believe I have seen a new seedling at Charles Klehm's place at Arlington Heights, Ill., that fills the bill. To my knowledge, I would say it is an improved *Blanche King*; a little deeper pink and blooms a little later. I think it is superior to *Blanche King*, but neither love nor money can buy this peony from Charlie.

All through our BULLETINS and different literature I have always read comments against *Le Cygne* as being a poor doer everywhere. I have grown this peony about twenty-seven years and have never had much of a failure with it. Perhaps I happen to have a different strain than almost everyone else has. It has tall, stiff stems and very good foliage. Now and then I find a bloom that will split on one side, this being the only fault I

know. Year after year it produces an abundance of blooms with us. I have a fourteen-year-old plant in my display garden that produced 29 perfect blooms last year. We are located in a section where some of the very good varieties do not do so well, but I find *Le Cygne* still to be my No. 1 peony.

Another favorite of mine is *Solange*. There are many failures with this peony on account of the so-called Lemoine disease. Thanks to Mr. Auten for succeeding in freeing this variety of this disease. The clean variety differs 100% in both bloom and foliage and is never a failure with us. The blooms from a clean plant are a gorgeous sight.

There are many peonies that I would like to write about, but space is limited. We are still looking for a good yellow peony, and to my estimation there is that old variety, *Fanny Crosby*, put out by Mr. Brand, that has more yellow in it than all the other so-called yellows. This variety is very seldom seen by the public as it blooms so early and is gone when the others start opening. I would like to cross *Fanny Crosby* with *Blanche Elie*, which is a bomb type, and sets seeds rather freely; and then see if we get anywhere near the yellows. This takes some years, so we will just have to wait and hope.

Time and space being limited, I will have to put off writing about the fungus disease of peonies and winter killing, which has happened during the last four or five years, but hope to have another article in our next BULLETIN.



A Special Request for Tree Peony Information

John C. Wister is trying to get complete information about all Tree Peonies grown in this country for publication in a BULLETIN of this Society next summer or autumn. He has complete information now as to varieties catalogued by or grown by Oberlin Peony Farms, Sinking Springs, Pa.; Cottage Gardens, Michigan; A. P. Saunders, Clinton, New York; Bobbink & Atkins, Rutherford, New Jersey; Wayside Gardens, Mentor, Ohio. If there are any other nurseries which grow and offer for sale Tree Peonies by name, he would like to have information about them. Note that the Farr Nursery Company is not included in the above list because they are now offering Tree Peonies only by color and not by name.

Mr. Wister has also information about named varieties of Tree Peonies grown at the Arnold Arboretum; Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Scott Foundation, Swarthmore College; Whitnall Park Arboretum, Milwaukee. He has been promised similar information from the Arboretum of the University of Seattle. If there are any other public collections of named varieties of Tree Peonies in the country, Mr. Wister would appreciate having information about them.

Mr. Wister has also lists of varieties grown by such amateurs as Josiah Whitnel of East St. Louis, and Charles Hammersley of Milwaukee. If there are any other amateurs growing named varieties, he would appreciate information as to the varieties they have.

Members of the American Peony Society can help make Mr. Wister's publication of greater value by sending him the information requested above so that his list may include every variety not only offered by American nurseries but also those grown in amateur gardens.

Information should be sent to John C. Wister, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 1600 Arch Street, Philadelphia, 3, Pa.
Memories . . .

SPECIAL NOTICE

ANNUAL PEONY SHOW AND MEETING

The forty-first Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the American Peony Society will be held in the Milwaukee Gas-Light Company Building, 626 East Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis., June 24th and 25th.

I quote a portion of a letter received from Mr. Charles E. Hammersley, 714-715 Majestic Building, Milwaukee, Wis., Chairman of the Show.

"After mature consideration and after investigating the facilities for holding the American Peony Society's Show in Milwaukee. I have come to the conclusion and decided that the show will be held in the Milwaukee Gas-Light Company Building, 626 East Wisconsin Avenue.

They have generously offered us the first floor, being their main lobby, and the East room which now has guests and accessories, which they will move out, with the exception of the Cashier's window, on Saturday of the show. They have also offered us the basement, 60x90 feet, with adjoining rooms for workrooms. They will supply janitor and police service, as many tables as they can, and will help us get additional tables. . . . They will also furnish a display window for any prizes and cups that may be offered. This, all without cost to us unless their public liability insurance would not cover them, in which event we will have to pay the cost of public liability insurance. They will render us all the service they can, but we will have to run our own show. This building is in the second block East of the Pfister Hotel, is a new and modern building, has an outside elevator to take the supplies, etc., to the basement, and I think it is better than the Auditorium. The lighting facilities are excellent. It is on the main street and about three blocks from the Northwestern Depot, on the main East and West roads in the city and adjacent to several excellent hotels. They also have a limited amount of cold storage space which they will let us utilize. The background is green marble and makes a very beautiful setting for the show. They have had several flower shows in the building, which have been well attended, and the people speak very well of their treatment. I have had a two-hour conference with Mrs. Chester Thomas, who has staged most of the flower shows in Milwaukee, and she will act on our floor committee, as well as act as Chairman of the Garden Club, which will make an independent display.

In addition, they have an auditorium that will seat 500 to 600 people, which is provided with a screen. It is my suggestion, subject to your approval, that some of the larger growers be asked to show pictures of species of Japanese peonies, Tree peonies and Chinesis peonies, together with other flowers, so that we can have a movie in the forenoon, afternoon and evening, as this will give the guests an opportunity to get a rest and see pictures of the various types of peonies. Some of our members may wish, when these pictures are shown, to give talks on the various types of peonies if this feature of the program appeals to you. I think it would make a very

interesting part of the show and at the same time give our visitors a little relaxation and rest from mulling around and standing up all the time."

Now let us make this a show to be remembered for years to come. The committees have worked hard for your benefit so let us not fail them.



Shipping Instructions for Exhibition Bloom

Have just received, April 8, the following information from Milwaukee concerning cold storage of peonies for the Peony Show.

All shipments of peonies (cut bloom) intended for the Annual Peony Show should be sent prepaid express to Holton & Hunkel Co., 797 North Milwaukee Street, Milwaukee, Wis., and plainly marked "FOR PEONY SHOW."

Send a postal card or letter at least two days before shipment is made to the above firm, advising the number of boxes or packages in the shipment. This will enable them to be on the lookout for the shipment to see that it is promptly handled when it arrives in Milwaukee either day or night.

A duplicate list, showing classes to be entered, should be mailed to Charles E. Hammersley, Room 714, 231 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

This storage space is only two blocks from the exhibition hall, and we are indeed fortunate, under present conditions, to be able to secure storage. This information should be of particular interest to prospective exhibitors located in sections where bloom comes well in advance of the show and who have no storage facilities. Previous exhibitors are familiar with the cutting of buds to know the proper stage of development for best results. Those desiring information should write the secretary, W. F. Christman, Northbrook, Ill., and we will be able to help you.



An Answer to a "Query"

Having become well acquainted from sad experience during the past few years, with the extreme reluctance with which the great majority of the members of The American Peony Society answer questions put to them or give any information requested, however valuable or urgent such answers or information may be to the one desiring it (all honor to those who do!), I have taken it upon myself, maybe quite presumptuously, to endeavor to answer the query put forward by Mr. Clarke in his article on page 42 of the December, 1943, BULLETIN (No. 92). In answering this query I am assuming as true and correct several things. It may turn out that my assumptions are wrong. I am assuming that the author of the book quoted knew what she was doing, that she made no misstatements, and that the ancient authority quoted by her also knew his facts and especially knew what *paeonia officinalis* was and did not confuse it with any other species. I am also assuming that Mr. Clarke wanted an answer to his query, and I do not wish him to suffer disappointment as has so often been my lot.

His query is: "Hasn't Mr. Foore made a mistake in saying his family heirloom peony imported into the United States direct from China in 1825, closely resembles *P. officinalis* in habit and appearance?" My an-

swer is, "Not necessarily so." If the reader will refer to Mrs. Edward Harding's Book of the Peony, page 37, the following statement will be found recorded there: "Loureiro in 1790, says *P. officinalis* was grown over the entire Chinese Empire, but principally in the northern provinces, and that it had been imported to Cochin China." If that statement is correct, and I have never seen it refuted, it seems entirely possible that a root of a peony imported into China at some unnamed date before 1790, and that had been disseminated over the entire Chinese Empire thirty-five years before 1825, might have been brought back to the United States on a ship returning in that year. This also leads me to disagree with the deduction: "If the plant is a variety of *P. officinalis*, it did not come from China."

While I am sorry to say that lack of really definite data may be sufficient to disqualify entirely what I have next to say, yet I shall risk it anyway. From the rather scant array of facts that I have been able to assemble I am venturing to disagree with Mr. Clarke's conclusion that "if it is an *albiflora* variety, his father did not acquire it in 1825." From what I know personally and have heard from others, I feel very sure that there were many plants of *albiflora* peonies in the United States by 1825. There were certainly thousands in China. There are many gardens along the Atlantic Seaboard whose beginnings date from one to three hundred years ago. The material used in making these gardens came mainly from Europe, probably mostly from England, though much from other countries. The varieties and species found in them are all of very ancient lineage, and many of them have been very jealously guarded from invasion by the moderns. Rarely do we find in these gardens any other varieties of peonies except *officinalis rubra plena*, *Whitleyi*, *Fragrans*, and *Humei*. A great many of these plants have an unbroken history extending back for well over a hundred years, and they are not by any means all *officinalis* that have this record. If they or their forebears were not imported prior to 1825, why is it that we seldom find the later and supposedly finer varieties in these gardens? My answer is that they were probably imported before these varieties were introduced. In 1934 a lady gave me a root of *Fragrans* that she said had been in her ancestors' garden at a place named Wry near Philadelphia for about 115 years. There are many gardens very near me that contain one or more of these four varieties which have been in these gardens ever since the present owners can remember and that evidently went back equally far before they were old enough to remember. This would mean from a hundred to a hundred and twenty-five years ago. In 1828 or 1829 (Mrs. Harding uses the latter date in her book mentioned above, pages 57-58), William Prince of Flushing, Long Island, made the following statement in his catalogue: "No class of flowers has recently attracted more attention in Europe than the peonies. Most of the varieties are extremely splendid and others possess striking peculiarities. Anticipating that a similar taste would be evidenced in this country, the proprietor has by a great exertion, obtained every variety possible from Europe and a number from China." He lists forty kinds containing a great diversity of shades and colors. The prices range from fifty cents to twenty dollars (quite similar to our present day range). As he had forty varieties for sale in 1828, I think it stands to reason that some of them were *albiflora* varieties, as he got some of them from China and evidently did not get the same ones there as he did from Europe as there would have been no point in that, and I also think it reasonable to suppose some of them or all were in his garden in 1825. If some one knows this list, please send it in.

Leaving out all question of Mr. Foore's peony, I think Mr. Clarke has raised two very interesting points in peony history, and I sincerely hope that any one else who may have some better or more accurate information to give us will not be bashful about bringing it out into the light of day. If I am in error in any of my information or conclusions, I also hope that I shall be strictly called to account, and I shall consider it a favor to me for any one to do so. Maybe our good friend Prof. Saunders may have some very definite and instructive ideas on these subjects. May we hope for some remarks from him?

In view of what I have said above my answer to the final query of Mr. Clarke: "Is it possible that the plants at Higbee, Randolph County, Mo., represent the entire cultivated stock of a rare Chinese species that is still unknown to botanists?" "I think it extremely doubtful."

Humbly submitted and with full knowledge of my own vast ignorance on the subject.

GEORGE W. PEYTON

Rapidan, Virginia
March 26, 1944



List of Recent Peony Introductions

The following additions, changes and corrections to this list, as published in BULLETIN No. 91, have been received. There is still much information desired on some varieties, and some very bad duplication of names has not been corrected. It is hoped that the originators responsible will soon remedy this situation. It is bad business to duplicate and use the other fellow's name for your peony. Confusion, bad feeling, and chaos result.

A. B. FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN NURSERY, 61st and Portland, Minneapolis, Minn. The following changes etc. were sent me by Miss Mabel L. Franklin. The data are still not complete.

Aksarben. Name dropped.

G1-1p. *Alice Reed Bates* (1939). D. M. Medium dark rose pink (instead of light rose pink). This variety was shown at Rochester, Minnesota, in 1940 as *Mrs. Guy Reed Bates* and at Minneapolis in 1943 as *Mrs. Bates*. These names should be disregarded. They are incorrect.

G-26. *Banner Bright* (). SD. M. Brilliant medium pink. Tentative name was *Fluffy Ruffles*.

Bataan (1943). D. Red. No other data given.

Chic (). D. LM. Red bomb, beautiful bud, dependable for cutting, good stems, stores well.

Distinction. Name dropped.

Favorite. Name dropped.

J-37. *Gypsy Rose*. Number corrected.

Harbinger. Name dropped.

Min Sing Tang (1943). J. M. Deep rose pink with twisted staminodes that resemble a shaggy chrysanthemum. The petals fall and the staminodes remain on the stem with charming effect.

Mrs. Guy Reed Bates. Name dropped. See *Alice Reed Bates*.

My Pet. Name dropped.

Pearl Harbor (1943). D. White. Tentative name. May be changed to *White Peace*. No other data.

G-247. *Pink Hat* (1943). D. Pink. A perfect sailor hat, brim and crown. It should not be disbudded as the side buds make perfect miniatures.

Pioneer (1942).

Ruffled Swan. No description given.

J-21. *Symphony in Rose*. Number corrected.

Ting Ling (1943). J. M. Light red with narrow staminodes of same color. Side buds open to form a perfect triangle and completely cover the seed pod on the central stem. Name may be changed.

W-198. *Ultima* (1942). D. VL. Creamy white tinted blush. Rose form, wide petalled. A flower of beauty and distinction.

White Swan. Name dropped.

MRS. WALTER CAMPBELL LYMAN, Downer's Grove, Illinois.

Ariel. Name changed to *Flippancy*.

Fantasia. Name changed to *Capriccio*.

Francis Edwin (1942). J. Anemone type. Deep pink guards. Tentative name.

Harriet Cory (1939). J. Deep rose, staminodes tubular shaded deep rose red and pink with touches of white and yellow tips. ball center.

Irresistible (1942). SD. Flesh pink warming to white. Very beautiful. golden collars. Tentative name.

Juliet (1942). J. Anemone type. Deep rose pink guards. center of broad petaloids, flattish, notched, fading lighter than guards, curled and fluted, fragrant. Very lovely, some carpels bear feather tips striped white. Tentative name.

Mary Merrill (1942). SD. Deep red bomb. large, scattered stamens in irregular collars. Tentative name.

Nancy (1942). S. Large dainty white. Tentative name.

Regal is a single and not a double.

Susan Kimball (1942). SD. Exquisite faint soft pink, fading white. Tentative name.

The name *Peace* was also proposed for a white single, but it is already in use by Kelway for a white double well known in many gardens.

A. L. MURAWSKA, River Drive Gardens, 8440 Ridge Street, River Grove, Ill.

J-50. *Dignity* (1943). J. M. Guards dark red, large center of fully transformed staminodes, bright red heavily edged and tipped yellow. Carpels yellow-green tipped light coral red. Disc inconspicuous white. Court of Honor, Chicago, 1943.

Flare (1943). S. Brilliant flaming red.

DR. JOHN H. NEELEY, Paulding, Ohio

75. *Fortune's Gift*. It was reported that all of this was lost. however, Mr. Harry W. Claybaugh of Franklin, Pennsylvania, writes us that he has a plant of it under the name *Morning Gleam* sent him by Dr. Neeley in 1926. Dr. Neeley changed the name to *Fortune's Gift* in either 1928 or 1929 as it was so listed by him in a letter to me and he also reported it to Prof. Saunders in 1933 under the name *Fortune's Gift*. His garden notebook also has the name *Morning Gleam* erased and *Fortune's Gift* substituted.

REMARKS:

There are other varieties that should be registered. Mr. John M. Johnson of Liberty, Indiana, has a very beautiful white Jap named *Dr. Price*, also a white double *Mattie Lafuze*. He also has others. I wish to get some additional information about his seedlings from him and will then list them as fully as possible. I also understand that Mr. F. J. Littleford of Downer's Grove, Illinois, has several he has named. I have as yet no information on these, but shall try to get it so they may be duly listed. There are doubtless many others. Lately a catalogue of Miss Blacklock of Meadowvale, Ontario, has been sent me. In this I find a number of her introductions of which I had no previous knowledge. They are listed below. Mr. William Jerry of Woodstock, Ontario, also has named at least one *Lockie Wilson*. It is a blush pink but no further description is as yet in my hands. I hope in the near future to have a very complete list of Dr. Brethour's named varieties as well as those of Mr. Harry Rolph of Markham, Ontario.

CANADIAN PEONIES

MISS M. E. BLACKLOCK, Rowancroft Gardens, Meadowvale, Ontario, Canada

No dates of introduction were given for these.

Angela. D. L. Large soft flowers of delicate flesh pink on opening with a flush of lemon at the heart. Strong, upright growth, free flowering, fragrant.

Aroha. J. A lovely soft pale pink with full center of narrow creamy petals.

Audrey. D. M. Lovely creamy white fading pure white, fully double, fragrant. A good lasting cut flower. This name was used by Prof. Saunders in 1938 for a pink hybrid.

Chalice. S. Large brilliant rose pink that does not silver at the edges. Strong, upright growth resembling a gigantic tulip. Name used by Prof. Saunders in 1929 for a pure white single hybrid.

Fidelity. D. M. Fine pure creamy white. Name used by Prof. Saunders in 1935 for a salmon flesh single hybrid.

Grace Adams. S. White with fine boss of yellow stamens.

Joyce. D. M. Huge flowers of soft white with a pearly pink cast. Very delicate coloring. Name used by Edward Auten, Jr., in 1938 for a pink double.

Lizbeth. D. Large pink, strong growing. Good garden value.

Peep-o-Day. S. E. Pinkish white petals with lovely boss of golden stamens.

Polly Prim. D. L. Pale pink. Good size. Neat fluted petals primly arranged. Edward Auten, Jr., has used this name for a dainty white miniature in 1942.

Single Bliss. S. E. Rosy pink fading lighter. Stamens on long filaments. Large flowered and pretty.

W. E. Macoun. S. Double row of clear red petals that do not fade. Large. Strong, healthy grower.

It will be noted that there are five names used that are duplicates of other varieties. These duplications could very easily be avoided if originators would report their varieties to the Society.

Hybrid Herbaceous Peonies

Mary E. Hall (B. 1933). 1. D. Pink similar in color to *officinalis rosea*. Taller and larger. (Correct description.)

GEORGE W. PEYTON

Secretary's Notes

Tho long the barren winter, and white the drifted lane,
 Skies will be warm in April, and earth be green again.
 Yes, doubting heart, remember how other years have been
 When days grow long and linger and ice begins to thin.
 How trailing sweet arbutus, fair, frail, exquisite thing,
 Will thread the woodland carpet with the first pink flush of spring.
 Then mornings, blue and golden, the meadowlark will sing
 His silver throated lyrics to another new born spring.

Spring — When a young man's fancy lightly turns to what the girl has been thinking about all winter. At any rate, spring is with us again and always instills within us a feeling of hope and satisfaction that we have been spared another season to work with our flowers, fruits and vegetables. Perhaps all my readers do not share with me in this view, as combined with the feeling of hope and satisfaction there are backaches and tired muscles to be reckoned with that for a few days tempers our enthusiasm. Spring, to me, has always been a mystical season. We wonder if our treasured flowers have been damaged by the winter's blasts (which, by the way, in this region were much milder than usual) and eagerly watch the days when they shall make their appearance to greet us again and thrill us with their lovely presence. We have such a wide choice of beautiful flowers to choose from that there is little room for the person who cannot decide upon some particular variety to make a pet of.

The jokester tells us that a philanthropist is one who returns to the people publicly a small percentage of the wealth he steals from them privately. There may be considerable food for thought in this statement, but we do know that the flower philanthropist who passes on to his friend a portion of one or more of his beloved flowers, is adding immeasurably to the pleasure and satisfaction of that friend, and building up a secure friendship more valuable than gold. There is so much that is beautiful in this world if we would only look about to see it. Man has fallen short in making the most of opportunities offered. Mr. James J. Metcalf, one of my favorite poets, has given us a pretty good picture of life in the following lines, entitled, "What God Wants."

"God made the world for all of us, not just to please a few,
 And there are certain little things He wants us all to do.
 He wants us to be honest and to do the best we can
 To set a good example for our friendly fellow-man.

"He does not ask us to become great giants of success.
 To give our lives, or sacrifice our right to happiness:
 He only wants us to be kind and share the earth He made.
 To love and help each other out and not to be afraid.

"He asks us to obey His laws and keep away from crime.
 And last and least He asks us all to think of Him sometime."

During the past year we have received many hundreds of letters from our members, and most of them have been personally replied to. We would like a much closer fellowship with our members, but it is impossible to do so and carry on with our regular duties. It has been our purpose in writing these quarterly sections of the BULLETIN to give them a personal touch. We feel that our Society is one large flower-loving family, many having similar tastes and featuring the same flower or flowers that we have chosen to cultivate.

Every one of your officers and directors has your interests at heart and this BULLETIN is prepared with that thought in mind. Remember, it is what you make it with your contributions and comments. We have a large family and there naturally will be many differences of opinion but we can't all see alike, and what a blessing this is! Our pages are open for favorable criticism at all times. We can help one another with new ideas of doing old things. Improvements are constantly being made in practices followed in large manufacturing establishments, and many are offering very substantial awards for these ideas. Sorry we can't offer a cash award that would be commensurate with new ideas formulated or proposed, but we will be only too glad to give them publicity and let the remuneration automatically revert to the author through commendation, praise, honor or other deserved recognition. Perhaps we could bestow an Award of Merit that would appease in a small measure for the effort expended. In the commercial world, there may be little secrets of success that the grower may have discovered in his experience that he is not willing to divulge, but there are very few of these people at the present time. Most of them are willing to pass on to others what they have learned from years of experience. A few may possess firmness, that admirable quality in ourselves that is detestable stubbornness in others.

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We are going to face problems this year in the way of labor that were not so aggravated the past season. Our country is calling for more food to be raised than ever before to feed this nation and those we are helping abroad. I know every flower lover is willing to devote more ground to the growing of food. Fertilizer of many kinds cannot be procured; limitations and restrictions are constantly being applied; taxation and regulation of business and personal enterprises are being exerted; but this is what war brings when our country's liberty and independence is challenged and put to the acid test. We must meet these obligations to the best of our ability. Clouds of uncertainty will not always obscure the happiness and enjoyment we get out of our flowers, and we have not been asked to give them up at any time. We feel that it adds greatly to the morale of those in trouble to provide them with beautiful flowers, and the work of producing them need not greatly interfere with our regular duties of producing food for the hungry, and clothing for the needy. Out of the soil, the microbes living in it, the rain falling on it, and the air permeating and blanketing it, come the materials that go in the making of food, clothing and a large part of the shelter of the people of the earth. There has been ample provision made so that sufficient land can be provided to indulge in our hobby of raising flowers, and not impair or in any way defeat the garden movement. Most, if not all, flower lovers are garden-minded, and it is my sincere wish that none of them will be foolish enough to entirely give up the raising of flowers. Flowers to the sick are like food to the healthy person: they satisfy a longing and desire that cannot be

exhibitors. We can't all be winners, and to lose should arouse our desire to try again and hope for better success. When success comes, it is all the sweeter. Determined and constant endeavor towards a particular aim is usually rewarded with triumphant success.

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Mr. John Wister and his committee are at work on a very complete listing of Tree peonies and English translation of some of the Japanese names that are meaningless to most of us. We want to get the nomenclature of the tree peony as firmly established as that of the Chinensis and other species of the peony. If any of our members are able to send any information that will be helpful to this committee, please communicate with Mr. Wister at once. We want to have the information as complete as it is possible to make it.

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We have had many calls for a list of our present membership. This has not been presented for some years. We keep the list up to date with each issue of the BULLETIN by presenting the names and addresses of new members. It is quite a job to prepare it for the printer, but we have done so and present it in this issue. We have not listed the libraries, colleges, publications, etc., to which the bulletins are sent, neither have we taken the time or trouble to separate this list into states in addition to the alphabetical list. We want to hold down the cost of printing to the minimum and also conserve paper as a war-effort measure and requirement. You might run over this list and make a note of the number of members from your state. After this is done, make a firm resolve to boost your state's total by soliciting several of your peony friends to join the Society.

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Our request in the last BULLETIN for members to send in their dues without further solicitation met with a splendid response. However, there are a number still who have failed to send in their membership dues for the year. Furthermore, some are in arrears, and we can ill afford to carry such members indefinitely. We have some fine issues of the BULLETIN planned for the future, and you will not want to miss them, so better take your pen while it is fresh in your mind and send us a check for dues and possibly the application of some peony-loving friend.

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In some of the larger cities, zone numbers have been established, and the practice is to be continued after the war. I have not been advised of these zone numbers in any of our cities outside St. Paul, Minn., whose postmaster requested a list of members having a St. Paul, Minn., address, and he supplied the zone numbers. We should have had this information before the list of members was published but overlooked getting them until too late. We want to cooperate with the Postal Authorities as much as possible in order to facilitate prompt and efficient delivery of mail. Whenever we have received the information from our members, we have changed the membership card accordingly.

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If any of our readers get out a price list or catalogue, please help your Society by inserting an invitation to join the Society. Brand Peony Farms of Faribault, Minn., have secured a large number of new members and also disposed of many manuals through their invitation. A few

It is planned to have a fine showing of color slides at the Milwaukee show, forenoon, afternoon and evening, adjoining the show room. Lectures or talks on new varieties or species can also be expected. If you have any good slides of your peonies, bring them along. There will be a projector and screen on hand to show them. You can also talk about their merits as they are shown if you so desire. We want to make this a most interesting feature of our program. Come prepared to help us out. Your slides should be identified in some manner so that the names can be given if desired. We are particularly anxious to have the unusual in peonies, like species, tree peonies and hybrids and various crosses that are not usually seen by most peony lovers, and which have not been displayed at our exhibitions to a great extent. If not able to be present, send your slides in care of the Chairman of the show, and they will be returned to you after the show. If present, you can get them back immediately after their showing. This can be a most interesting feature of the show.

C. E. Hammersley

* * *

NATIONAL PEONY SHOW

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Stage and Floor Committee

Chairman — Alfred C. Boerner
 Mrs. Chester Thomas
 Howard Gregg
 H. J. Dropp
 E. J. Heggerstad
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August Peter
 May J. S. Oleson
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John Gumtz
John Berg
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Edward J. Bruss
Udell Koch
Curtis Beech
Martin Eliason
Miss Nora Mangeold
E. L. White

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We have this date, April 4, received the above information from Mr. Charles E. Hammersley, General Chairman of the 1944 Peony Exhibition in Milwaukee.

In addition we are now in a position to tell you that the schedule will be practically identical with the Minneapolis, Minn., schedule last year, which is to be found in the March, 1943, BULLETIN, No. 89, which all of you should have. We will have these schedules printed up soon, and after May 15 they can be obtained from the Chairman of the Registration Committee, Mr. M. C. Karrels, whose address is, 3272 S. 46th Street, Milwaukee, Wis. The addresses of other members on the committees who are members of the American Peony Society will be found in the membership list which appears in this BULLETIN.

With reference to cold storage. Full information about this can be obtained from the Chairman of this Committee, Dr. Victor Hunkel, at 797 North Milwaukee Street, Milwaukee, Wis. This location is about two blocks from the exhibition hall. Detailed shipping instructions will appear on the premium schedule, which Mr. Karrels will be able to supply in due time.

It would save considerable anxiety and trouble to the Society and the committee in charge of Registration and also Cold Storage, if any prospective exhibitor would write in well in advance of the show, indicating his intentions. Give the number of classes you expect to enter in so that

the committee can prepare in advance and avoid congestion at the last moment.

Remember provisions in the way of tables, containers, workrooms, etc., must be provided for in advance of the show, and if we have some definite knowledge what to expect, we will be prepared.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*

PS. If you don't know whom to get in touch with, write me, and I will help you out. ✻ ✻ ✻

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

Mr. John M. Johnson, 122 East Seminary St., Liberty, Indiana, has sent in the following description of a new seedling of his to be registered. *Mattie Lafuze* (Johnson 1942). Double, white, with faint tinge of pink when first opening. Very large bloom, sometimes measuring ten inches in diameter and five inches deep on mature plants. Medium height. Fragrant. Very long lasting. Late, midseason. Very large foliage (largest of 150 varieties). Very strong, stiff stems. Opens freely in any weather and has come good the past eight years without failure.

We have been advised February 29, 1944, by Emma B. Athrop, R.R. 4, Box 72, Stevens Point, Wis., that the name "*Johanna*," BULLETIN No. 91, September, '43, page 5, has been changed to "*Mary Jo*" so as not to confuse the name with Mrs. Wolf's "*Joehanna*." As none of the stock has been sold as "*Johanna*," there should be no confusion of varieties. ✻ ✻ ✻

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

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 Connecticut State College Library, Storrs, Conn.
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 James Fergus, 211 3d St., West Newton, Pa.
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 Junius P. Fishburn, 631 Wellington Ave., P. O. Box 2531, Roanoke, Va.
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 Dr. A. W. Fordyce, Gilman, Ill.
 L. E. Foster, 610 Lincoln Ave., York, Neb.

- T. C. Frame, 1212 Elk St., Franklin, Pa.
 Paul L. Frank, 144 N. Seltzer St., Crestline, Ohio
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 New York
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 L. T. Gorman, 173 Sunnyside Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Canada
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 Charles L. Gowe, 4211 S. 19th Street, Omaha, Neb.
 Dr. Christopher Graham, 813 3d Ave., S. E., Rochester, Minn.
 Mrs. G. A. Graham, 81 Lincoln St., Englewood, N. J.
 Dr. Henry Lee Grant, 412 Oread Road, Louisville, Ky.
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 G. H. Greaves, 2200 Doswell Ave., St. Paul, 8, Minn.
 Eldred E. Green, 2334 W. 110th St., Chicago, Ill.
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 A. R. Hawkinson, New Rockford, N. D.
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- Dr. Charles S. Helm, 710 Talcott Bldg., Rockford, Ill.
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 Parker Higley, 2000 S. Grandview Ave., Dubuque, Iowa
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 Prof. Robert T. Jackson, Peterborough, N. H.
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- Mrs. B. M. Kistler, R. R. 1, Box 66-E, Anchorage, Ky.
Ivan E. Kivell, R. R. 3, Greene, Iowa
Clarence H. Kleffman, Attorney at Law, Hibbing, Minn.
Edward Kleist, 2622 S.E. 25th Ave., Portland, Ore.
Charles Klehm, Arlington, Heights, Ill.
Dr. A. J. Knapp, 1420 Lincoln Ave., Evansville, Ind.
Elmer D. Kniskern, 3 Cherry St., Oneonta, N. Y.
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Christian Krabbe, Yaphank, L. I., N. Y.
Wm. A. Kregel, P. O. Box 014, Garnavillo, Iowa
O. A. Kummer, 843 Hamilton, Preston, Ont., Canada
Mrs. Wm. F. Kunz, Rt. 2, Box 28, Chillicothe, Ohio
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L. W. Lindgren, 1787 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, 4, Minn.
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D. Victor Lumsden, Associate Physiologist, U. S. Hort. Sta., Beltsville, Md.
Leo E. Lund, 2536 30th St., Moline, Ill.
Philip Lutz, Jr., 734 Circle Tower, Indianapolis, Ind.
Winnie E. Lynde, Box 508, Gillette, Wyo.
Telfer MacArthur, R. R. 1, Old School Road, Libertyville, Ill.
Vincent McAleer, 133 F. St., Johnstown, Pa.
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William Mac Donald, 755 George St., Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada
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 Dr. F. C. Mann, Institute Hills, Box 256, Rochester, Minn.
 Susan G. Marsden, R. D. 1, River Road, Mays Landing, N. J.
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 Columbus, Ohio
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 D. E. Olson, Box 546, 325 W. Main St., Titusville, Pa.
 Merlin N. Osborne, Pres., Dubuque Civic Garden Club, 493 Kauffman Ave.,
 Dubuque, Iowa
 James Owen, Belton, Mo.
 Leo M. Page, 4112 Avenue G., Fort Worth, Tex.
 Franklin Page, Hamilton, N. D.
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 The Penna. Horticultural Society, 1500 Arch St., Room 601, Philadelphia, 6, Pa.
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 Dr. L. W. Pollock, 713 8th Ave., S.W., Rochester, Minn.
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 Charles H. Regennas, 130 W. Lemon St., Lititz, Penn.
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 L. A. Richards, 216 S. Van Buren St., Newton, Ill.
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 R. Hallett Shumway, 2021 Clinton St., Rockford, Ill.
 J. B. Skelton, 424 N. 10th St., Oskaloosa, Iowa
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 South Dakcta State College, Brookings, S. D.
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 G. Walter Spencer, 878 Dutton Ave., San Leandro, Calif.
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 John Spreitzer, 4841 Goethe Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Frank J. Stahl, Dowagiac, Mich.
 Ernest I. Stahly, 912 S. 8th St., Goshen, Ind.
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 J. Prevost Stout, The Peddie School, 31 Curtis Ave., Hightstown, N. J.
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 Loyde C. Thompson, 923 Reeves Drive, Grand Forks, N. D.
 Robert A. Thompson, W. McHenry, Ill.
 Miss Mabel Thoms, 2948 N. Seventh St., Milwaukee, 6, Wis.
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 William R. Troyan, 6806 Brecksville Rd., Independence, Ohio
 John J. Turner, c/o The Tarrey Razor Co., 128 Chandler St., Worcester, Mass.
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 Vaughan's Nursery, Western Springs, Ill.
 Martin Viette, Miller Road, Syosset, N. Y.
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 Lester Votrian, 1202 Lindenwood, Edwardsville, Ill.
 Alvin B. Wagner, 1010 W. Concordia Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Edward Wall 234 Griffin St., Phoenixville, Pa.
 Joe E. Warner, 2200 N. Central, Topeka, Kas.
 L. C. Warrick, 1610 Wildwood Road, Toledo, Ohio
 Charles F. Wassenberg, 643 S. Washington St., Van Wert, Ohio
 S. E. Waters, Miamisburg, Ohio
 Dr. Alex M. Watson, Royalton, Minn.
 Robert Wayman, 3903 214th Pl., Bayside, L. I., N. Y.
 George Weaver, Box 222, Denton, Tex.
 Dr. J. S. Webb, Dept. Electrical Eng., University of Minn., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Dr. W. S. Webb, 1705 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, W. Va.

- Milton J. Webber, Broadview Nurseries, R. R. 1, Box 331, Arvada, Colo.
 Prof. F. F. Weinard, Associate Chief of Floricultural Physiology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
 Mrs. L. H. Weld, 6613 N. Washington Blvd., East Falls Church, Va.
 Mrs. Edward Wendland, El Paso, Ill.
 E. L. White, Box 334, Fort Atkinson, Wis.
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*Leon D. Batchelor, Riverside, Calif.
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 Prof. J. Elliot Coit, Fallbrook, Calif.
 Prof. H. H. Whetzel, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
 *Bulletins addressed to Leon D. Batchelor at Riverside, Calif., were returned, and we are unable to secure present address.

Note: The above list does not contain all the addresses of Libraries Magazines, etc., to which the bulletins are sent regularly. We have had to discontinue mailing bulletins to sections of Europe for the duration.

There are 587 addresses in the above list, and our membership is growing constantly. We will keep this list up to date with publications of the names of new members in our quarterly bulletins.

In going over this list, if any discrepancies are noted, or any desired changes to be made, communicate with the Secretary at once, as we want this list correct. Some members have changed their address and failed to notify this office. They do not receive their bulletins as a result as second class is not forwarded, and we have no way of knowing of these changes without your help. Many of the larger cities have inaugurated zoning sections, and this is to be continued indefinitely. We should have these zone numbers to fully cooperate with the postal authorities in speeding deliveries.

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A section of William Brown's Peony Gardens at Elora, Ont.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

As stated in last BULLETIN, the property containing the stock plants of Northbrook Gardens was sold, but fortunately we were able to make arrangements to remain. The partnership between P. L. Batty and W. F. Christman has been dissolved by mutual agreement as of Jan. 1, 1944. However, there is a considerable quantity of stock still to be disposed of that we were unable to move last fall due to labor shortage. I will continue the business handling high-class varieties.

Any party desiring to make a planting of peonies will do well to get in touch with me as soon as possible. We can make shipments this spring as well as in fall. Address all communications direct to

NORTHBROOK GARDENS
W. F. Christman, Proprietor
Northbrook, Ill.

The New Ratings

The new ratings appearing in Bulletin No. 82, together with additional data, has been bound in pamphlet form and is now ready for distribution. A small charge of 50c per copy has been made to cover cost of printing, handling, etc. In the new form it will make a neat supplement for the Peony Manual if you already have a copy.

All orders for this rating list should be sent to the address below.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*,
Northbrook, Ill.

JOIN THE AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

All Dahlia "fans" are cordially invited to join this great organization which is devoted solely to spreading information about and the improvement of the Dahlia.

Read the quarterly Bulletin, a sample copy of which will be sent on request, giving all the latest information and cultural hints on Dahlias. Membership includes the Bulletin, a season ticket to our National exhibitions and all other privileges of the society.

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1934 Minneapolis	Hansina Brand
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1941 Syracuse	Blanche King
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To move the entire stock of Manuals as quickly as possible the Directors this year again have made a drastic cut in price of this most valuable book and it can now be obtained at the remarkably low price of \$1.50, plus 15c mailing charge, or a total of \$1.65. This is less than half the actual cost of preparing and printing the edition and when this price becomes known will result in a rapid reduction of the stock on hand. Better get in on this while they are still available. If you already have a copy, give your peony loving friend a copy. A brief descriptive circular will be sent upon request.

Make all checks payable to the American Peony Society and mail to,

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary,
American Peony Society,
Northbrook, Ill.

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society, since its organization in 1920, has published 83 Bulletins which cover every phase of iris growing. These bulletins go four times each year to all members, who may also purchase any back numbers in stock for 50c a copy. Because the bulletins are not for sale except to members a

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER of SIX for ONE DOLLAR is made to non-members. The six are our selection from surplus stock.

THE ALPHABETICAL IRIS CHECK LIST, edited by Ethel Anson S. Peckham and published in 1940, is an invaluable reference book for all who grow irises or wish to know about irises. The book lists about nineteen thousand names of irises (including synonyms and mis-spellings) and contains as nearly as is humanly possible all the old species and varieties as well as the new ones, with added information about obsolete varieties; species, section, season, color and fragrance. There is a long list of names of breeders, introducers, dealers and authors, with brief biographical details. The binding is durable, water-proof cloth, and in spite of its 582 pages the book is of a size comfortable for holding and carrying. The price to A.I.S. members is \$3.00, to non-members \$4.00.

Orders should be addressed to the office of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C., and checks made payable to the American Iris Society.

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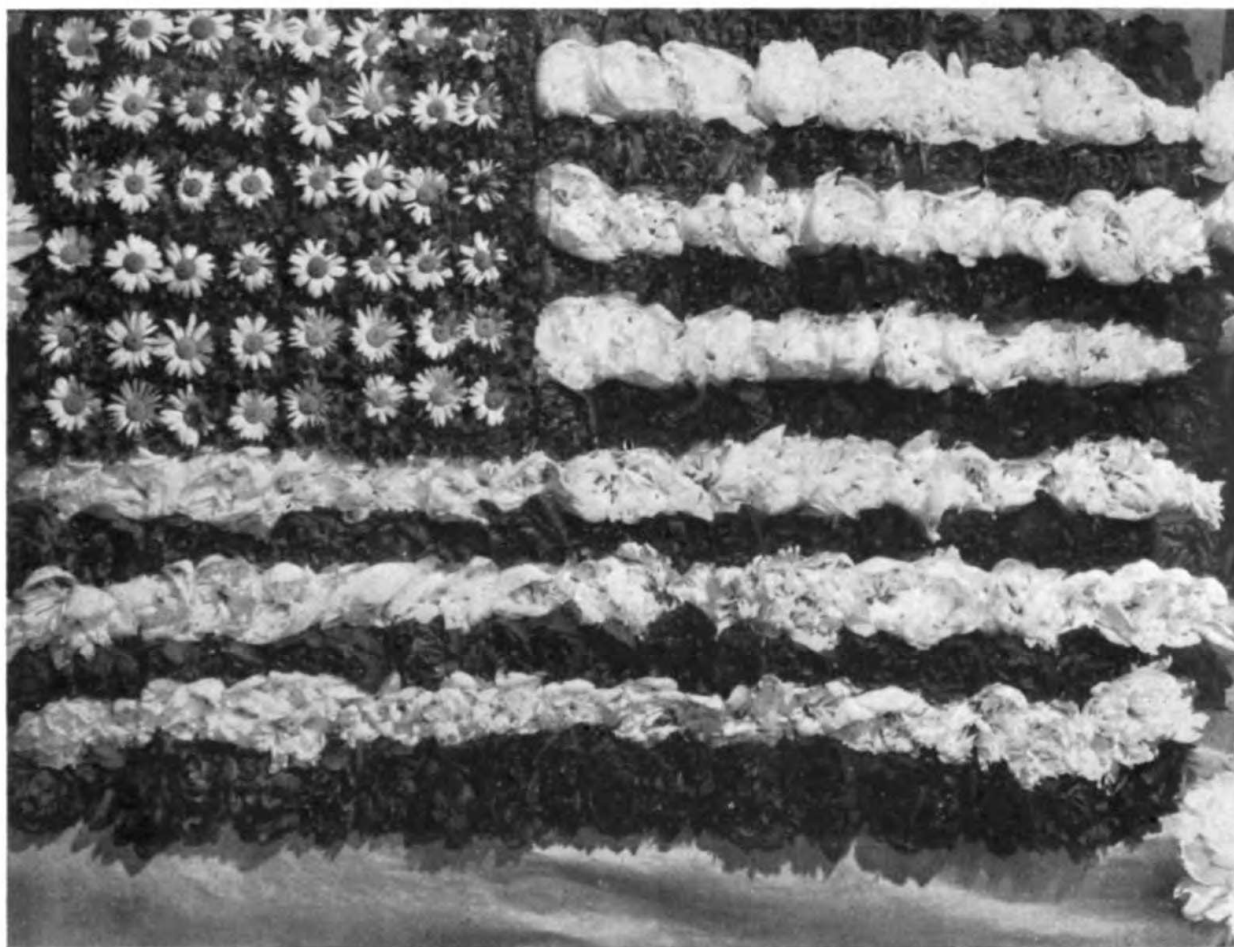
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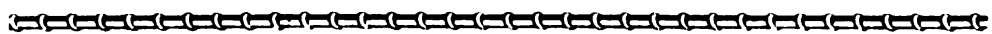
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Peony flag exhibited at the 1943 show of the North Dakota Peony Society held at Grand Forks, N. D. Flag composed of 160 white and red peonies. Delphinium was used for the field and Shasta daisies for stars.

FINAL SHOW DATES

Dates of Annual Show and Meeting in Milwaukee, Wis. changed to June 24-25, 1944. This is information just received from Exhibition Committee April 20th.



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