

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

INC. JULY 2, 1904

## Bulletin

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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.

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# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

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DECEMBER, 1947

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## SOCIETY NEWS

This column will be a regular feature in each issue of the Bulletin. It is the result of a suggestion in a letter I received commenting on the "President's Message" in the June issue. This letter suggested that an interesting feature might be added if the membership heard from the President in each issue. I shall try to keep faith with this suggestion. It is my hope that I can take the membership into my confidence and present our problems, trials, tribulations and triumphs.

The problem that has received the greater part of my attention in the past several months is the membership drive and contest. I want to report on what has been done so far.

I felt it was of first importance to announce the contest and drive to the membership at large. This was done in Bulletin No. 105. The dates of the contest were set as of September 1, 1947 to September 1, 1948. Due to the fact that our June Bulletin came out very late, causing a considerable delay in the announcement of the contest, it was deemed necessary to extend the expiration date to January 1, 1949. This will take in all of 1948.

In spite of the delayed announcement, some of our members have gotten busy and sent in memberships for entry into the contest. Mr. Christman is keeping a careful record of them. Be sure to identify yourself as the sponsoring member when you send in your memberships so our secretary can credit you with them. We have also received a generous response for prize root offerings and as a result it has been decided to lower the qualifying total from 5 to 3 new memberships. We are still receiving free root offerings and the probability is that a number of contest entrants with only 3 new members will receive an award. Get your memberships in early as winners will be decided (in case of ties) by the earliest dates they were received.

Next in importance was the setting up of a Membership Committee. The aim was to spread this over the peony growing area of the United States and Canada. The problem resolved itself into this:—A large number of members on this Committee to begin with would make it very cumbersome as correspondence would be considerable for both the chairman and myself. So I decided to start out with about six or seven, trying to select those who had shown interest and were willing and able to devote the necessary time and effort. If these six or seven showed results, we could gradually add new members to the Committee until we had covered all of the good peony growing states and areas, using the experience gained by the initial group, and by fall of 1948 a comprehensive organization could be functioning. By adding to our Committee gradually, the correspondence will remain limited.

Not only was it important to get willing and capable members on this Committee (and I am happy to report that each letter showed a warm interest and willingness to help), but it was of prime importance to appoint a good chairman. He had to be highly capable and have unbounded energy. Sounds like quite a bill to fill, but I think our Membership Committee chairman, Mr. Roy Gayle of Rockford, Illinois, measures up to all this. I want to quote from his letter of acceptance, "You have given me a fine group of men to work with and I will spare no effort to accomplish the task for which you have brought us together." I have a hunch his Committee will produce some startling results.

The initial Committee members are as follows:—

Roy Gayle—405 Rockford Trust Bldg.—Rockford, Illinois  
 J. E. Carter—Guelph, Ontario, Canada  
 Clarence Kleffman—Hibbing, Minnesota  
 J. W. Bernstein—1439 S. 28th Street—Lincoln, Nebraska  
 Louis Smirnow—No. 6 Hartley Road—Great Neck, Long Island N.Y.  
 Frank Moots—Newton, Kansas  
 Neal R. van Loon—Newton, New Jersey  
 M. C. Karrels—3272 S. 46th Street—Milwaukee, Wisconsin (ex officio)

It is planned to have the Committee members work with Garden Club members, commercial growers, and state and county agricultural departments. Colored slides, talks to clubs, etc., will be used in addition to mimeographed and personal letters. Every means will be exploited to reach a prospective member.

Our Committee members made some excellent suggestions to further the campaign and some have been incorporated in a plan of procedure. Mr. Neal R. Van Loon has suggested an essay contest to be conducted in conjunction with our membership drive and contest. This contest is designed to stir up interest, and in addition, will give our secretary a wealth of material to use in our Bulletin. I have asked Mr. van Loon to conduct this essay contest and he describes it elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin. It is probably the first thing of this sort ever attempted by the Society and I am sure we have much hidden talent which only requires a challenge of this type to bring it out. Get into this contest as it is not only worthwhile, but I am also sure our secretary will be most grateful for a large list of articles to draw from for the Bulletin.

The work of our Committee will also make it easier for our contest entrants to get memberships. I believe the greatest source of new memberships lies within the ranks of our present members. I am convinced there are many garden enthusiasts who need only a little urging and a sincere invitation to join the A.P.S. to bring them in. There are many ways and methods to get new members. Our Committee is compiling "methods" for their own use which I hope to get in shape for publication later. I feel the most fertile field for new members are Garden Club members with a few or small collection of peonies. I circularized some here in Milwaukee by mimeographed letter and obtained 12 new members. I did offer an inducement in the form of a free peony root, but some told me that it wasn't because of the free root offer that they joined, but because they often thought of it but just didn't get to it.

I was fortunate to have a large number of divisions this fall as I acquired the Ben Haberman collection at Jefferson, Wisconsin. As I was dividing these 200 plants, the idea came to me to give some away to those who would probably most appreciate it—amateur gardeners belonging to local Garden Clubs, and at the same time help the campaign along. If you have a surplus of some good varieties, possibly you might try it out on a small club or two in your own locality, or get in touch with our Committee chairman or myself.

I wish we could offer a root of a good standard variety to each new member joining the Society during this campaign, but this is probably just a dream of mine as it could easily run to five or six hundred roots and I don't think we could get that number of free root offerings. To me it would seem like good advertising, as a new member just coming into the Society would, of a certainty, remember the firm who sent him his free root when he was considering future purchases of peonies.

I feel certain our campaign will enjoy at least a moderate success and it could certainly go beyond all my expectations if all our members would enter the contest whole-heartedly. I wish I could infect every member of the A.P.S. with the enthusiasm and hopes I have for it. Let's put the American Peony Society up there on a par in memberships with the other fine floral societies in the United States. Surely, the peony is as fine a flower as the dahlia, iris, gladiolus and rose. I think it is better.

In conclusion I want to invite all members to send me little newsy items about peonies or peony topics if they are too short for an article. I will be glad to mention them in my following article in Bulletin No. 108.

Marvin C. Karrels, President, American Peony Society

\* \* \*

## 1947 on the Mesaba Range

CLARENCE H. KLEFFMAN, Hibbing, Minn.

Now that the last of the recently purchased peonies are in the ground, the shovels and equipment put away and winter has set in it seems about time to get ready to enjoy several months of indoor peony pursuits with the bulletins, the manual and the catalogs and to do a little bit toward the cause by giving the secretary a lift with a report from this area.

Yesterday, November 7th, we had our first real snow — it was wet and stormy and developed into a pretty fair sized blizzard so that we can really say that the 1947 season is gone. Our spring in 1947 was very slow compared with the springs around here generally and particularly the two previous years. I noticed from my notes that in 1947 the first peonies to show up above ground appeared on April 26th. In 1946 they were above ground on April 10th and in 1945 *Golden Glow* had appeared on March 31st, which was the earliest I had ever seen peonies up in this area. The 1947 season continued slowly all the way down to blooming time. May was quite cool and for weeks on end the peonies seemed to remain about the same size. The latter part of May, however, things began to perk up and from then on until June 28th when the first peony bloomed the weather turned gradually warmer. The first to bloom in my garden was a two-year-old plant of *Salmon Beauty* and it was followed quickly by another hybrid *Golden Glow*. Then *Karl Rosenfield* appeared and after this one they began blooming one after another.

It is a good thing that a person's enthusiasum isn't limited by the size of his peony planting. If that were the case I am afraid I would have a very limited report as I am one of those backyard gardeners with relatively few varieties and very little room for expansion. In fact, I sympathize deeply with F. O. Hubert, who said "Give me land, lots of land," because my entire peony plantation is in one corner of my backyard. Worse than that, when I moved into my present home six years ago and set aside a part of the yard for peonies, I planted a row of trees around the back with the result that some of the peonies are being smothered out and had to be moved, and with trees, kids, dogs, shade

and other difficulties I haven't been able to get along too well although my small garden has brought me pleasure completely out of proportion with its size. I have come to the conclusion that a small garden isn't too bad because then you get to know personally every cutworm, slug, nematode and thrip, as well as every bud on every plant. Perhaps this last is a little on the sourgrape side, though.

Most of my garden has been planted within the last three years and because of that fact and the encroachment of the trees some of my varieties, such as *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Primevere*, *Longfellow*, *Asa Gray*, *Cherry Hill* and several others have not bloomed. *LeCygne*, despite being almost completely overshadowed by trees bloomed well until 1947 and then failed completely. When I dug up *The Swan* to move it this fall I found that all except one or two of the tap roots had disappeared entirely and there were only a couple of small buds ready for the next season. The same thing happened to *Tourengele* and *Blanche King*. Despite the difficulties of location and conditions however, I did have a number of star performers which didn't seem to mind the trees and are tough enough to take the abuse of dogs and kids (six kids, two dogs). I have only three hybrids but all of them performed magnificently. *Golden Glow* has been producing regularly for me for several years. Ordinarily it is the first peony out in the garden and while not too lavish with its blossoms constantly gives me its brilliant blooms with an 8-inch diameter or larger. This one is described as tall growing but it does not grow that way for me. I would say it is more of medium height with very heavy stems. It does, however, have one feature that I have not noticed mentioned and that is its fragrance. It has a very pleasing fragrance that lasts for 24 hours or so after the bud opens.

*Salmon Beauty* on a two-year-old plant produced five very nice blooms for me. These were about five to six inches in diameter with good form and all a very deep pink. In fact, I believe that most people would call this one a light flaming red. The color is distinct and when the plant first bloomed the shading seemed to be more on the red side than on the Salmon side. This might have been due to the cool season, however, although as the flowers reached their prime they faded to a true Salmon color. I noticed that the flowers had a faint fragrance — not odor.

*Rose Marie*, also a two-year-old plant, produced three blooms — one of which was from six to seven inches in diameter. This one is a deep velvety red with absolutely no blue in it. When compared with some of the older reds it certainly is a standout. I have found that it is very fragrant and held up very well when cut. It has a high rating, but in my opinion if it continues to perform in the future as it did this year it fully deserves it.

One of my Duluth friends wrote me early this spring concerning the ability of these hybrids to withstand our cold northern weather and gave me the information that apparently some of the hybrids were not so durable. This was a surprise to me as I have always regarded them as being especially tough customers. Perhaps the reason why some folks have had a little difficulty is because of one of the apparent peculiarities of these plants which was first brought to my attention a year or two ago by George Peyton. At that time I secured a hybrid root from him and he told me that small divisions of hybrids are never satisfactory and just seem to gradually die out. I know that many folks divide all the roots they buy if they can be divided and possibly that was tried out with the hybrids up in this section with the result as Mr. Peyton had observed that they just gradually died out rather than succumbed to the climate. I am passing on Mr. Peyton's experience and observation in the hope that those of you who are interested in hybrids may profit by his experience.

In the Japs the two which I have found most outstanding have been *Tomate Boku* and *Charm*. *Charm* produces its dark blooms in profusion and while *Tomate Boku* is much less liberal, nevertheless it has not failed me and has given me quite a number of its tremendously large, well-shaped and beautiful blossoms. *Nippon Brilliant* could not stand the trees so was moved this fall. *Aureolin* did very well for a transplanted plant. *Nippon Gold* always fools me. Its buds are ordinarily small and then as it develops it produces blooms of very good size and appearance.

My best performers in the white doubles were *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Moonglow*, *Elsa Sass* and *Alice Harding*.

*Kelway's Glorious* has always come good for me but this year *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* gave me quite a surprise. It was one of my peonies which I believed was too close to the trees, but despite this it decided to go ahead and show what it could do for itself and produced a wealth of tremendously large, beautiful, white blooms. As usual the stems began to bend so I secured some three-foot chicken wire to brace them and everything was fine after that. *Moonglow*, *Elsa Sass* and *Alice Harding* all produced a number of exceptionally fine flowers from two-year plants. As one-year infants, *Alice Harding* and *Moonglow* each had produced two very fine blooms. *Elsa Sass*, during that year, just grew. As two-year plants, *Elsa Sass* produced four blooms, *Alice Harding*, four, and *Moonglow*, six. It may sound like a bit of heresy to others but in comparing the blooms this summer, in my opinion, *Moonglow* had it over *Elsa Sass* by a shade. Perhaps time will bring a different result, but believe me up to now *Moonglow* is certainly a prize winner. Its delicate pale yellow highlights are very distinct.

In the pink doubles I had several good performers. *LaFrance* I believe was the best, topping such reliable varieties as *Nick Shaylor*, *Minuet*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *M. Jules Elie*, *Therese*, and one or two others. The blooms of *LaFrance* were quite large, several being nine or ten inches across. All of these pinks that I have mentioned are very good and consistent performers in this area and seem to stand the spring frosts and freezes, as well as the wet, heavy snows that sometimes unexpectedly arrive, very well.

*Souv. De Louis Bigot* is another pink that does very well. So far in my garden it has proven to be better than *Walter Faxon*. Another pink, which I like, but about which little is said, is *Anna Sass*. This one has performed splendidly for me and I find that its lilac tinted blooms keep very well in storage.

In the red doubles I have only a couple blooming varieties. I have several plants of *Karl Rosenfield* and it never fails to produce its large nine and ten-inch blooms in wild profusion. Another good one is *Richard Carvel*. *Cherry Hill*, *Philippe Rivoire* and several other reds have never bloomed so I recently moved them also. I only wish I had room for more reds, but I did manage to crowd in *Matilda Lewis* and *Victory de LaMarne* this fall. This idea of giving a peony plant three or four feet of elbow room on each side doesn't go in my garden. They have to be satisfied with about half that space and like it.

As I look back over the season I decided that all in all I had a lot of fun. Both of our local shows, one here in Hibbing and the other in Chisholm came at too early a time to make a showing with peonies, although I did manage to show a few flowers at Chisholm. ("Too early" seems to be quite a prevalent malady across the peony circuit this year.) I had decided, however, that I would try to show a few blooms at the Duluth show which was to be held July 15th and 16th. I learned about the date, but started storing some buds and blossoms anyway. We do not have a commercial storage house here in Hibbing so I immediately ran into difficulty. The first blooms I cut I placed in my own



refrigerator, but they soon overflowed and the plan failed to work out, so I got the cooperation of another peony fan, Norman Johnson, of this city and secured the use of the refrigerator in his store. That didn't work out either so we made another move and transferred them this time to a beer cooler, where the temperature was about 45 degrees. It was just a little too warm but it held them fairly well nevertheless. (Just in case you do not know, beer and peonies make a pretty good combination). The morning of July 15th Norman Johnson and I got up early and put peonies in the back of the car and drove to Duluth. It was quite a warm day and about half of the 150 blooms that I had in storage gave up the ghost and the other half certainly didn't look so hot. I couldn't make the classes I wished, but George Peyton heard me grumbling and kidded me along considerably so I set up a few displays anyway that proved passable after the flowers had a chance to come back.

The show was very much worthwhile and I certainly enjoyed meeting the folks and the Judges and viewing the displays grown by others. The Duluth group was very hospitable and it was a pleasure to talk to George Peyton, A. M. Brand, R. W. Jones, W. C. Coe and other well known experts and specialists. I always feel that originators, such as A. M. Brand and others must get a big wallop out of seeing their originations go into the Court of Honor. In this show Mr. Brand saw *Blanche King* given the award of the best dark pink and also the best flower of the show, while *Hansina Brand* received the award of the best light pink.

I had determined earlier this year that I would make the season for me last just as long as possible. This is not too difficult in this area for although we are only 75 miles from Duluth, because of Duluth's situation on the shores of Lake Superior their season commenced about two weeks later than ours. Up the North Shore of the lake, a distance of 60 miles or so W. C. Coe has his famous plantation and blooms start there a couple of weeks later than in Duluth proper, so that after enjoying the peonies here and attending the show in Duluth I combined a brook trout trip with a journey to Beaver Bay to catch the last of the 1947 peony season. We had a nice visit with Mr. Coe and although his flowers were mostly past their prime we did see his famous plant of *LaFrance* by the big boulder, and also saw some of his own seedlings and particularly a bright red which was very appealing. I understand that Mr. Coe is going to name the flower shortly and I feel certain that it will be recognized as one of the good ones. I learned, too, that my first look at this famous peony garden would be my last as I was told by Mr. Coe that he sold the garden and that the stock would be sent to the Twin Cities.

So ends another peony season filled with a great amount of pleasure and some disappointments and holding the usual glorious promises of the future. If every peony season were as good as this one there certainly would be no kick from this area. So now back to the prosaic business of earning a living in the practice of law.



### Comments from Wisconsin

F. O. HUBERT, *Beloit, Wis.*

After a springless spring, a snow storm on May 28th and June floods, peony time finally came to the mid-west. This year we were unusually anxious for the blooming season to open. Spring freezes had ruined our peonies out at the "ridge" the two previous seasons but this year they really paid off.

The first to open on June 15th was a deep maroon red, a single seedling. The last was *Solange* which furnished us good cut flowers as late as July 5th.



A large planting of named varieties planted four years ago and sixty-five seedlings bloomed for the first time on a plot of heavy fertile soil just east of the city limits.

Roots of *Solange* that showed prominent swellings when moved to this heavy clay soil three years ago bloomed to perfection. The newer George W. Peyton looked very good, a very impressive variety, but *Solange* at its best is a color still unmatched. Some roots of Myrtle Gentry, quite badly affected with nematodes on our home grounds when moved to this heavy soil bloomed profusely this year with extra large flowers.

An extra fancy bloom of Frances Willard was simply out of this world. All of this planting had much larger and higher colored flowers than those grown on our place here in the city. I never expected to grow such fine peonies and gave most of the credit to having them in proper soil.

The seedlings were a thing of great interest to watch, always curious of what's inside the bud. Some few were tops and plenty of them plain flops. Some of the more promising ones were cut and opened indoors alongside our best named doubles and a few compared very favorably with the fast company they were in. The number of doubles ran far past the 10% that was expected.

After gardening all but about seven years of my life I learned for the first time this year that strawberries are ripe at exactly the same time peonies bloom. Everytime I looked down those two rows of strawberries near the peony planting I saw red and when I looked up I saw a storm brewing back in the west. I was torn between pleasure and duty. I much preferred to browse about the peonies but at nearly 50c a quart I let a few berries go to waste. I am sure some of our garden visitors must have noticed that my earthly glances were not directed at flowers at all. I recalled later when a man asked me the name of a certain peony I told him it was Premier, about the finest berry grown. He probably considered me harmless.

On a trip to Carlsbad, N. Mex. this summer we traveled through some good wheat and Hereford country. We were more fortunate than the average tourist at Carlsbad caverns, as we were guests of one of the park Rangers who lives in a cottage near the entrance of the caverns. It was a surprise to find a few peony plants in a flower garden at a nearby cottage. I think this was the only garden within 26 miles that used other than native plant material from the desert. The peony plants appeared healthy and the Ranger's wife, who so lovingly cared for this little plot told me they had bloomed quite well for her.

It had required a long haul to bring in soil and careful placing of stones to hold it on the hillside, to build this garden in such a place. The scant rainfall required careful attention to watering, but she had another obstacle few of us would guess. Deer would come out of the desert at daybreak and eat her plants. When we were there in early August the deer had passed up the peonies preferring petunias, zinnias and gladioli, therefore I am unable to give a report on the value of peony tops as pasturage for animals.

Farther North on the great plains at Fort Morgan in N.E. Colorado, I learned from a florist near our tourist court, that the growing season there compared almost to a day with that in Southern Wisconsin. It is much South of here but has an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet compared to 675 feet in Beloit, Wis.

The earliest peonies began to open May 31st, an average year, of no use for Decoration Day trade. He told of growing some of the *officinalis rubra* one time at a lower altitude a short distance from there but the difference in blooming time was hardly noticeable.

Before leaving this pleasant and comfortable tourist court the next morning I met Henry Will, a wheat grower from Newton, Kansas. Oddly enough he was the only Kansan I had talked with on this trip. Yes, he knew Frank Moots, had gone to school with him. Said Frank grew a lot of flowers. We had intended traveling through Newton but circumstances made it necessary to return through Nebraska. Southern Iowa that had suffered such destructive floods earlier in the season was burning under a blazing sun during the mid-August drought when we came through there. Made one wonder about the oft repeated expression, "Ain't Nature Grand?"



### Some Outstanding Peonies

It will be impossible to mention the very large number of outstanding peonies seen this year. However, a few must be noted for their almost universal excellence. I hope later to publish a tabulation of the best in every section.

Possibly the one peony that stood out among all the others was *Elsa Sass*. It is beautiful in every garden and often of great size. A close runnerup was *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*.

*Mattie Lafuze*, though not often found in any garden on plants older than two years, was invariably considered among the best ten.

*Victory*, as has been so often predicted, has made good in a very wide area of distribution and will certainly even do better on more mature plants.

*Marilla Beauty* is continuing to do well in every locality and easily ranks as one of the most beautiful and dependable of the late bloomers.

*Moonglow* is now found in gardens in almost all sections of the country and has met with a most favorable reception. It has fulfilled all predictions.

*Moonstone* is another one not widely distributed, but is showing itself to be one of the finest garden plants to be had as well as producing beautiful flowers of exhibition quality.

*Doris Cooper* is found in only a scant two or three gardens so far as I am aware. The plants in Mr. Lindgren's garden in St. Paul have given flowers every year for about four years that have been possibly the best in his garden. Nothing as yet can be definitely said about its performance elsewhere, except in the originators garden in Portland, Oregon, where it has done equally well. It is a great pity it is not more widely distributed.

*Louise Lossing*, in the few gardens in the United States where it is grown, has made flowers these last two years of unsurpassing beauty. It also seems destined to become a great peony.

*Dolorodell* is also making good and proving a great peony, very large strong stemmed, with a beautiful color.

In reds, *King Midas*, *Burma*, *Sir John Franklin*, *Judy Becker*, *Mark Twain*, are all proving excellent varieties.

*Bonanza*, not yet disseminated, looked extremely well as shown in Minneapolis last June. *Irene Jones*, medium sized, dark red with good stems, also looked very promising and may prove an excellent cut flower too.

*Evening Star* did exceptionally well this year and made many new friends by its excellent performance.

*Florence Nicholls* and *George W. Peyton* are also making good in every section and are now ranked very high up by those who grow them.

The one Jap. that was found at the top of the best in gardens, North, South, East and West was *Westerner*. Large flowers, beautiful color, strong stems, big leaves, what more do you want?

Those seedlings of the late James R. Mann, for so long kept segregated in Mr. Van Steen's garden, are now doing well in several others. Of these *Ave Maria*, *Miss America* and *Rose of Tralee* appear to be extra good flowers.

For beauty of form and coloring and excellence of plant habit, *White Rose* is a flower that is hard to equal. However many new ones we may get, yet some of our older varieties will still equal or surpass them and among these we find *Alesia*, *Blanche King*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mt. Everest* and *Minuet*, nearly always topping the best of the best where they do well.

*Gold Standard*, a white Jap. and *Pink Dawn* a single, are new ones we should watch.

George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Va.



### Comments

I have just been reading the June Bulletin. I fear Most of the Bulletin readers, including myself, always enjoy getting the publication but contribute little or nothing to help you in this time consuming task. I noted your usual plea for letters from members so here are some comments under several topics.

#### THE BULLETIN

I see that a major step was taken at the Boston show to increase the membership of the A.P.S. I should think increased membership is a must to enable the society to do a real job.

More letters in the Bulletin of a gossip nature would, it seems to me, generate new interest and enthusiasm. The decision at Boston to use the talent of professional advertising men is a constructive step.

I was very much impressed with "The First Yearbook of the Midwest Hemerocallis Society." This publication is chuck full of short articles and letters that to me are very interesting and instructive. In reading this publication one can almost feel the enthusiasm. This new society and new flower are in quite a different position of course to that of the A.P.S. However, I think these people have got something that we need.

There are many thousands of peony growers. Everyone of these could contribute an interesting idea or letter. I suppose the \$64 question is how to get this material. Perhaps the advertising men will come up with some good thoughts on this point. However, every present member of the A.P.S. might do some serious thinking and perhaps surprise himself with what he can do. I believe a personal appeal to all these peony lovers would do the trick. However, just how and in what form this appeal should be made I don't know.

#### 1947 SEASON

I am in the northern part of New Jersey, twenty-five miles from New York City. Similar problems and peculiarities were experienced here as apparently over most of the country—rain and more rain. Usually the ground gets a chance to dry about June from the wet slush of the winter. This year excessive rainfall continued beyond midsummer.

For one thing, the time of bloom was delayed by about two weeks. Then the plants bloomed slowly and extended the season considerably.

The bloom of most varieties was approximately normal for quantity and quality. There were some important exceptions, however. For instance, the old dependable standby, Duchess de Nemours, had no more than about 20% of normal bloom. The buds blighted off early. LeCygne was about normal with eight to ten good blooms per plant. Edulis Superba and Baroness Schroeder were normal or better. (I refer to my own planting of only a few thousand plants total).

A more serious result of the season is rather excessive root rot. As yet I do not know the complete picture on this point but observations so far are very disappointing. Inasmuch as we seem to live in an age of new fungicides and pest destroyers let us hope that something new and more positive will be developed for the peony. As far as my limited experience goes, root rot is the number one enemy of this lovely plant.

### PEONIES SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR

Two years ago I was in Santiago, Chile on Christmas Day. I had Christmas dinner with some old friends. Being aware of my interest in peonies they cut a few blooms from the one plant in their garden and used these to decorate the dinner table. This was a double red and looked to be one of our common American varieties—which one I don't know.

Although Santiago is far south of the equator (Christmas comes in their midsummer), the ocean currents gives them a mild climate throughout the year. Under these conditions it is odd to note that the peony reverses itself to conform to the seasons there, even though they are not pronounced. Perhaps some of our super experts can tell us how a peony knows it is south of the equator.

In conclusion I should like to express my personal thanks to such people as yourself, Mr. Secretary, who put in a great deal of your time, year in and year out, in this association.

Yours truly,  
Ben R. Massey  
Black Oak Ridge Road,  
R.D. No. 1,  
Paterson, New Jersey.

\* \* \*

### Peonies in Northern Minnesota in 1947

*HAROLD THOMFORDE, Crookston, Minn.*

The season of 1947 was backward in Minn. and the peony season was about as late as we have had it. The Spring was cold and wet and nothing really bloomed at its normal blooming time. Finally, when it did warm up, everything came fast and we had iris, peonies, bleeding hearts, (dicentra) columbine, companula, etc. all blooming at about the same time.

The peonies were beautiful even though the season was rather short, as early, mid-season and lates all bloomed close to the same time.

In my own planting, *Victory* was the standout of my whole garden. From a two year old plant we had seven blooms and everyone was large and near perfect in quality. It will remain one of the best varieties for many years to come.

The E. H. Lins varieties such as *Burma*, *Tondeleyo*, and *Ensign Mannix Moriarity* were good. *Burma* shows much promise but will need another year

to fully establish itself. It is now two years old. *Tondeleyo* also needs another year but it has color that will make it a favorite. *Ensign Mannix Moriarity* is an outstanding variety as grown in my garden. It has nice color, is very large and has a heavy stem that holds those huge flowers without any difficulty. It is one of the best of the new varieties in my estimation.

Auten's *White Beauty* is a most promising white as grown here and is well liked. *Auten's Pride* is another one of the real good ones. Large flowers, heavy textured and strong stem with a beautiful light pink color. It's hard to beat in beauty and is always reliable with me. Auten's *June Brilliant*, while not large, flowered with us, is one of the best reds. Almost every bloom comes open perfectly and has a lot of class. Nice colored and being so late it is especially valuable.

I also visited the garden of Mrs. A. S. Gowen of Excelsior, Minn., and while her flowers were a wee bit past their prime, there were many nice ones. Here again *Victory* was outstanding. *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Acme*, *Minuet* and *Thura Hires* were all fine in her garden. *Elsa Sass*, as grown by her, was an outstanding variety. It has a wonderful color as well as good texture and substance. Her seedlings were past their prime but she felt she had some worth growing for further study.

In the garden of Frank Cross at Savage, Minn. many of the newer varieties are grown under perfect care and cultivation. His seedling bed was especially interesting and some very promising seedlings were in bloom. No. 04, a most promising red, not large, but rather of medium size. Good color, full double and good stems. His No. 022, a light pink, is a most promising variety, in fact one of the most beautiful flowers I have ever seen. No. 021, a dark pink of huge size and No. 07, a white, also have much promise. Let's hope these flowers this year are typical, and if so the peony lovers have a real treat in store for them when these varieties do become available. He is also growing some tree peonies that have wintered well and given good bloom.



## Late Peonies and Thrips

JAMES MASON, *Chicago, Ill.*

Many gladiolus growers were discouraged until D.D.T. became available as an effective spray against thrips. I am convinced that my late peonies would benefit by two or three sprayings with a D.D.T. and tartar emetic formula prior to blooming date.

Thrips are present when and if the late peonies open in my garden. In all city gardens, this is likely to be true. Most of the early peonies and all the tall bearded iris have gone by before thrips are in evidence. *Last Rose* and other late ones open freely, even though thrips are present.

The experts may say that the thrips I see are pollen thrips and harmless. Nevertheless, it is possible that some late peonies have difficulty in opening as thrips make the petals sticky.

This subject seems worthy of research by several members. Perhaps Prof. Weinard of the University of Illinois, Prof. A. P. Saunders and other experts. would have some valuable comments to make in the bulletin.

A spray formula which is effective in severe infestations of thrips in gladiolus is as follows:

- 6 teaspoons 25% D.D.T. (liquid)
- 6 teaspoons (level) tartar emetic
- ½ bottle Karo corn syrup
- 3 gallons water.

Evidence is strong in my garden that peonies and irises are host plants for gladiolus thrips.

\* \* \*

## ANNOUNCING

### Our Essay Contest—Open now to all—Closes Sept. 30, 1948

#### Purpose

Though our Editor has done a splendid job for us when you consider all the headaches and difficulties that are inevitably connected with the publishing of such a Bulletin as ours, he has labored under almost constant embarrassment.

The months roll around very swiftly and scarcely ever is there a sizable amount of suitable material on hand.

It is our purpose to provide our Editor, through this contest, with an adequate copy pool. This will enable him to draw off what he needs and get out for us a well balanced magazine,—ON TIME.

#### Four Classes of Competition

1. Articles on:
  - A—Culture of the Peony, or
  - B—Handling and Displaying Peony Blooms.
2. Articles on:
  - A—Personal Peony Experiences, or
  - B—Reports on Visits to Shows or Gardens.
3. A—Tree Peony Lore, or
- B—Pests and Diseases.
4. A—Peony Verse, or articles on
- B—How to Appraise and Judge New Peonies, or
- C—Personal Choice,—any subject not here suggested.

#### Rules

1. Anybody can compete.
2. Judging will take place by a panel of judges to be announced later, at the conclusion of the contest. Selected articles will be published during the course of the contest. Send in your articles early.
3. All entries must be mailed by Sept. 30th, 1948 to Neal R. van Loon, Rt.. 1, Newton, N. J.
4. Contestants may submit one or two articles. One may be a continuation of the other if the writer wishes.
5. Articles may not exceed 2000 words in length, double spaced, type-written material is preferable but not necessary.
6. Each article may bear any title which the writer selects but must begin with the class number and name and address of the writer. The number of words should also be indicated.
7. All articles shall belong to the American Peony Society. The Editor of the Bulletin shall have the right to edit all articles before publication.
8. Winners will be notified by Jan. 1st, 1949. Results of the contest will be published in the earliest possible issue of the bulletin after that date.

### Awards

All awards will be in the form of credit slips on peony growers. First, second and third awards in each of the four classes will be \$15.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00 respectively. An extra Grand Award of \$25.00 in roots will go to the one outstanding entry of the contest.

### Suggestions

We are not looking for fancy or "high-falootin" materials. Be yourself. Just remember that no leaf of any tree since time began has ever been duplicated. There is not another "You" in the whole wide world.

Put your own personality into your work. Tell 'em what you are going to tell 'em,—then tell 'em what you have told 'em. This is your pattern.

We want to continue the present "homey style" of the bulletin.

Judging will be on the basis of sincerity and originality, rather than on the basis of elegant literary style or composition.

### Judges

The names of the Judges will be announced in the bulletin as noted in Rule No. 2, at the conclusion of the contest.

### Information

If we have not made all points clear, write to the Manager of the contest direct, addressing a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Neal R. van Loon, Manager,  
Rt. 1, Newton, N. J.

\* \* \*

## Peonies in Wyoming in 1947

NELSON H. JAMES, Greybull, Wyo.

This was a very good peony year here. *Tenuifolia* bloomed May 8th then *laciniata*, *corallina*, tree peonies, *officinalis* and *albiflora*. I did some hybridizing with *moutan* and *Delavayi*. As a result had about twenty seeds, most of them just shells when I got through discarding them I had six good ones left. The seeds are very large. Also hybridized *tenuifolia* x *officinalis*, and *tenuifolia* x *albiflora*.

I already have some seedlings of these which should bloom in a couple of years. I had two more *albiflora* x *officinalis* seedlings bloom this year.—one cherry red double and a dark red double should have several more bloom next spring.

Have some Mlokosewitschi seedlings. They will be two years this next spring and seem to have made very good growth so far with beautiful foliage and large leaves.

I experimented with some tree peony seed spring of 1946. Planted ten seeds and only one came up last spring. It didn't look like a tree peony at all, two stalks with four oval leaves on each. I dug down to make sure what it was and found it attached to the seed. It may be just a freak.

It has been snowing for the past three weeks here and looks like a long winter.

Nov. 23d, 1947.



## Shows and Judges

Before many bulletins are out the spring flower shows will be in full swing. The flower shows, whether local, regional, or national all have value to the gardener either amateur or professional. I have seen some of the most unusual material at some of the smallest shows. Back of every show is an organization that has a nucleus of very serious-minded gardeners that are constantly trying new methods and materials. The latest in roses, iris, peonies, phlox, fruits, perennials, and vegetables can be seen. It is a chance to show off the new items and to win the applause of friends and neighbors on doing a good job.

Visiting these shows and talking with the proud exhibitors is one fine way of picking up some useful pointers on new methods and ideas in growing plants. No one has all the answers and the more information that you can obtain the better you will be able to succeed in growing your garden.

If you are an exhibitor there are some points that need repeating. One is to follow the schedule. Too often four flowers will be shown instead of the three called for. Pick the three best. Enter only one exhibit in a class. Don't embarrass the judges and show committee by having them try to decide whether the flowers from the east side of your peony or rose bed are better than the ones from the west side. Many shows limit the number but if not specifically stated in the rules avoid this breach of show etiquette as it always leads to hard feelings and embarrassment all around.

Many exhibitors go entirely on size only and then wonder why a smaller bloom is given preference. Look for uniformity. Is the flower perfectly shaped? Are there any misshapen petals on one side, or bruises, or insect damage? If more than one bloom is called for get them as uniform as possible. I have seen many exhibits with two large flowers and one runt entered as a group of three. Uniformity is most important in these classes.

In arrangement classes avoid stressing the accessories. In every show you will find very poor material in fine bowls or vases, with scant thought given to the general effect. Remember that the flowers or fruits are the important items and the others are incidental to them. Harmony of size, color and use are the major points. Good taste and pleasing appearance are the main points. The same fundamental rules apply to furniture, clothes, or other decoration.

In preparing for a show plan ahead. Find out what classes you are going to enter and get your material ready in advance. Have containers on hand and anything else you will need. Cut your flowers in advance. Most flowers benefit by being cut the day or evening before and being placed in deep water in a cool spot, such as a basement so that they can fill up with water and become conditioned. Select blooms that are not wide open. About three-fourths full bloom is right so that they can open in coolness and have the fresh colors not spoiled by wind or rain.

Some few flowers need special treatment such as searing the ends. Poppies and plants with milky juice need to be held in a flame or placed in near boiling water to prevent the end from sealing over and causing wilting. After the searing cut off a thin slice from the bottom of the stem to remove the part that has already been sealed.

In long shows plan to use material that can be replaced or use one of the chemicals that help prolong the life of cut flowers.

When flowers are cut all foliage that will be submerged in the container should be removed. The leaves near the blossom should be left. Foliage shows off the flower and the culture. Removing all the foliage detracts from the

flower and leads to the assumption that it wasn't fit to be shown. Too much foliage may weaken the flower in hot weather and result in wilting. The safe practice is to leave that which will show and remove the rest.

Wires and other devices to hold a flower are usually not allowed and always have an adverse effect on the judges even in the arrangement classes. Holders at the bottom of a bowl are necessary but should be unobtrusive.

Some of our members will no doubt be called on to judge flower shows. Some of my most amusing and trying experiences have occurred in this field.

Judging should suit the show. In some shows liberality of prizes is desired to encourage members and keep up the spirit. In others a hard and fast point system is needed to maintain a high quality professional show and keep out worthless exhibits that would overburden the space. Large shows, old established shows, and specialty shows will need the most exacting judging and will generally have the judges selected for high professional knowledge and experience. Local shows may sometimes be forced to put up with inexperienced judges. In most shows the judges should give a lot of consideration to the weather conditions. I have seen judges complain of wilting when the room temperature was over a hundred. This certainly showed poor judgment as 90% of the material was suffering in some manner in spite of all that could be done. In drought years many flowers will be smaller, or if other unfavorable weather has prevailed during the flowering or growing period.

Arrangements should be judged from a use standpoint. How will it look when placed on a table, or in a room? Do the colors harmonize? Is proportion good or is it one sided or unbalanced? Consider the light. Some colors do not show up at all under artificial light. I remember one exhibit that was tops when seen in daylight but looked like half of it was missing under electric lights. The blue colors at one side just faded out and gave a one sided effect.

One case of shadow box judging is still fresh after many years. The boxes were slightly elevated and the judges commented that the accessories were too large for the container. No one could understand the criticism as the effect was very striking. I was cornered to explain after the other judges had left and was equally at a loss to know what their reasoning had been. It certainly looked all right to me. Finally after much study I concluded that the other judges had been looking up at the accessories and had gotten a distorted view. When seen from eight or ten feet the distortion was not noticed. Had these been judged as they should have, from the point of view that would prevail if they were in use this blunder would not have happened. Shadow boxes are living pictures, and you certainly don't view Rembrandt from 18 inches.

Specimens, of course, should be quite carefully observed. Large flowers as peonies and dahlias should be viewed from front and rear. Frequently the exhibitor will have a fine top to the bloom and a mass of dead petals at the back. Insect blemishes, unevenness of the petals, bruises, discolored foliage are all points that need watching as well as the size and shape.

Be careful of comments. Too often judges will make remarks to the show committee or other judges that will serve to discredit themselves. One lady I worked with at a show turned up her nose at a two foot spike of delphinium. She thought it should be much larger. So it should in a spring show but a two foot spike in the fall is still a good spike for second bloom or a seedling. The lady didn't know the difference apparently in spring and fall spikes. Roses also show a variation in stem length according to the time of year and must be judged on that basis.

Personal tastes should be forgotten. One lady judge abhorred magenta and just eliminated all arrangements that had that color present. Another had a dislike for bright colors and wanted only pastels considered. Such prejudice should have no place in good judging. The harmony should be good whether you hate the color or not and the awards should be on that basis.

Good judges are those with considered judgment and an extensive knowledge of plants. They can't be made by studying a set of rules or listening to some lectures, no matter how informative. Some of the mistakes I mentioned above were made by some of the supposedly best qualified judges in the entire Chicago region, if attendance at lectures and schools of judges are counted.

E. E. Green, Editor Midwest Hort. Society, Chicago, Ill.

## 1947 Situation

With 213 peony plants in my garden *Phoebe Cary* is now the most numerous; eight in all, and well distributed in all parts of the garden. This wonderful pink is such a fine performer that I am interested in multiplying it further, just to have more blooms of *Phoebe Cary* for fragrant bouquets.

Another good doer is *Marietta Sisson*, which is not fragrant but has fine color. It is early; it blooms the first year impressively, and, every year thereafter opens every bud! Strength of stem is another quality of this one.

A sure opener and a glorious flower is *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*, fragrant pink, which comes late. I would rate it as high as *Le Cygne*. The latter does well for me and the root was obtained from the late Mr. Lee Bonnewitz of Van Wert, Ohio. *Le Cygne* is not fragrant. It grows here in sandy loam, inside corporate limits of Chicago.

Among the red peonies are two new ones which I look forward to with pleasure, i.e. "*Illini Belle*" and "*Veritas*." Each of these is in a class by itself. Neither is fragrant. Both are hybrids.

Of *Rosalie* I have 9 plants and that is none too many. It is the kind of peony I like to give to friends and I mean roots or cut flowers. Not fragrant.

*Last Rose* is growing in seven places in the peony patch at our house. It is one with fragrance, and always does well. It puts all others to bed including *Lights Out*, and its color is better than the latter.

*Festiva Maxima* occupies five spots, and is used as a garden variety, seldom being cut. Blooms seem to last better on the plant. Visitors to the patch admire it greatly, even though it is not fragrant.

One *Walter Faxon* gives color almost identical with that of *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*. The *Walter Faxon* blooms are not large, but I like its medium size and perfect form. So far, I haven't been willing to pay the price of *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*. *Walter Faxon* is a variety with stamens and fragrance, an exceedingly rare combination.

Recently I have increased *Krinkled White* to five plants because it has a charm not matched by other similar varieties. It is a single, blush pink, almost white. The huge single white *Exquisite* numbers five plants; the double white non-fragrant *Evening Star* has five niches too. It is O.K.

*Modeste Guerin* is an old timer with excellent color and fine perfume. It blooms nicely each year. As an antique I still have one *Humei* Not fragrant.

Next spring *White Delight* will be giving third year white, double, fragrant specimens. Since it is early, I know it will be most welcome. Another fragrant beauty on a promising 3 year old plant, will be *Myrtle Gentry*, which is a good one for the show room.

James Mason



The above picture was taken in the garden of Reno Rosefield, Tigard, Oregon, R. R. 1, and shows his beautiful daughter, Camilla Rosefield, holding a large armful of specimen blooms of various varieties. The large, handsome blooms in the foreground are Myrtle Gentry, one of the very fine peonies of the present time. What a grand setting for such a lovely young lady with such a winning smile, and little wonder, for Oregon is noted for its scenic beauty and delightful climate.

In a letter dated Dec. 24th, I quote as follows from Mr. Rosefield's letter.

"There is no doubt but that winter has set in for good in the mid-west, judging from what I have been reading and based on my past experience of many years there. Of course that kind of a climate is very well suited to many things and is a blessing to have in the country.

Out here it is mild and very moist, as far as the soil is concerned, so we cannot do much planting or field work these days either. We have had only about three frosty nights so far, and they were in succession, during a little cold spell. The low at night now averages 40 to 45, and sometimes as low as 35 degrees. Of course there is abundant snow in the mountains about 50 miles away."

## North of Boston

HOWARD F. DUNHAM, Hanover, New Hampshire

"Warm in December, cold in June, you say?"—Robert Frost

On June 17-18, 1947, the dates of the Boston Show, only three of my 132 varieties of peonies had bloomed, because of the late, cold, rainy spring; so it was not possible to accept Mr. Peyton's kind and cordial invitation to make an exhibit. What a contrast with the warm sunny Spring of the preceding year! On June 18, 1946, no fewer than 26 varieties had been in full bloom in my garden. But in 1947 only the very early Glasscock hybrid *Golden Glow*, Auten's *John Harvard*, and old *La Fiancee* had bloomed—too early to take to Boston—and they had gone by. But they had been gorgeous. *Golden Glow* is the brightest red peony I have ever seen, a riotous color, almost clear scarlet. It stands out like a fiery oriental poppy to bring joy to the heart of the gardener who loves vivid colors. *John Harvard* is a beautiful rich crimson that I would not be without. (And I am not a Harvard man!)

So I set out empty handed for Boston early on a cool misty morning with the temperature only 42 degrees. My hands were cold before I reached the bus station for the four mile ride to the train. The train was being made up and a brakeman, coming through the car, announced that there would soon be some heat for us, and, sure enough, in a few minutes the noisy steam pipes were clanking, and welcome warmth was slowly flowing in. And the sun rose warmer and warmer and brighter and brighter as we rumbled and jolted toward Boston. 150 miles southward.

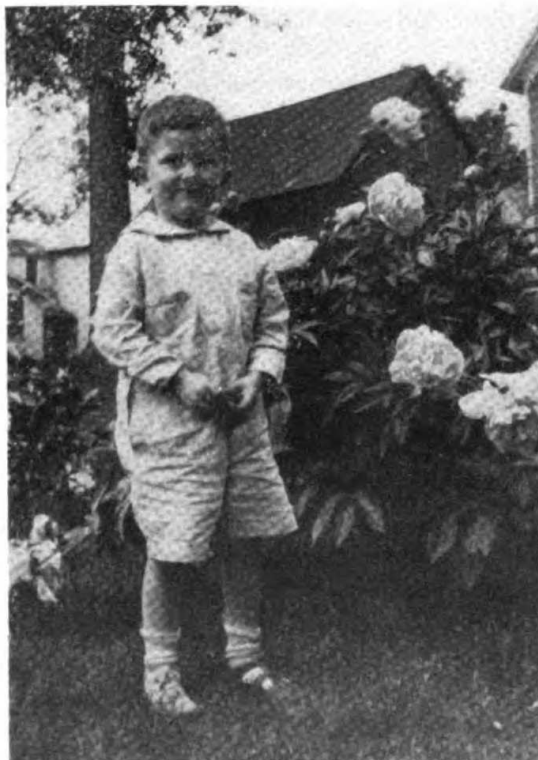
In Horticultural Hall it was a pleasure to meet, shake hands with, and exchange a few friendly words with several of our national officers whose names are familiar to all readers of the Bulletin: Messrs. Peyton, Christman, Lindgren, and our new President, Mr. Karrels. And then I talked with simple dirt gardeners and amateurs like my self, from such widely separated Eastern regions as Quebec and Southern Connecticut. The spacious rooms were a beautiful sight with their hundreds of blooms all tastefully arranged and clearly labeled. One's first thought was: What a tremendous amount of painstaking labor must have gone into the setting up of this Show! We peony lovers should be grateful to those who did all this work!

As one strolled from one sweetly fragrant room to another, with pencil and note book in hand, one stopped more than once at the long table holding the special exhibit of Prof. A. P. Saunders' hybrids. Two of them especially appealed to me and down their names went into my notes as future musts: *Julia Grant*, a lovely clear light-red semi-double, and *Tantrums*, a very dark crimson single with a striking circular band of yellow stamens in the center. (I shall fidget and never be quite content until I see these two growing some day in my Northern hillside garden!)

Myron D. Bigger's *Westerner* is a huge pink Jap that was much commented upon. Others that caught my eye were: *Ziba*, a big red double in the fine display of the Moots Family, delivered miraculously in Boston by air express from far away Kansas; *Nanette*, *Magnolia*, *Queen of May*, *Stanley*, *Whitley Major*, and *Ruth Elizabeth*.

And, scattered around here and there, still serenely at ease amongst the best were such old-time aristocrats as *Adolphe Rousseau* (1890), *Coronation* (1902), *Walter Faxon* (1904), *Bertrade* (1909), *Madame Jurs Dessert* (1909), *Rosette* (1913), *Mellen Knight* (1920), and *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft* (1935).

I was surprised to learn from the Bulletin of March 1947 that our Society has only six members in my state of New Hampshire and only three members in Vermont just across the river. Yet as one travels about in these two beautiful old New England states in late June and early July one sees thousands of peonies. They appear to be in every garden, in every door yard: sunshine, petunias, and the song of birds, they are taken for granted. In 99 cases out of 100, they are not labeled and the owner doesn't know their names. For several years now I have made a point of asking about this, and the invariable reply is: "Oh, there are five pinks, five whites, and two reds. Uncle Charles set them out just after World War I." Sometimes the owner will say: "They have always been here during my life-time. I think Grandfather planted them about 1890."



Here is a photograph of my 4-year old son Richard taken some years ago standing beside our next door neighbor's big, beautiful, venerable and nameless peony plant.

Most of my peonies in 1947 bloomed between June 19 and July 8. Starred in my garden diary as having been outstandingly beautiful are *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Alice Harding*, *Primevere*, *Silvia Saunders*, *Rose Marie*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Hiawatha*, *White Perfection*, *Arcturus*, *Victory*, *Chateau Thierry*, *Daniel Boone*, *Tempest*, *Frances Willard*, *Grover Cleveland*, *Modeste Guerin*, *Sword Dance*, *Mikado*, *Nippon Beauty*, *Nippon Brilliant*, *Reine Hortense*, *Minuet*, *Hans P. Sass*, *Mrs. Frank Beach*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Le Cygne*, *Souvenir de Louis Bigot*, *Richard Carvel*, *David Harum*, *Elsa Sass*, *Pride of Langport*, *Hansina Brand*, *Dr. Brethour*, *Charm*, *Lillian Gumm*, *Dorchester*, *Venus*, *Sanctuary*, *La Lorraine*, *Dr. J. H. Neeley*, *Imperial Red*, *War Hawk*, *Monsieur Dupont*, *Madame Emile Lemoine*, *Blanche King*, *Rev. H. Tragitt*, *Gay Paree*, *Lady Kate*.

I humbly take back the mean remark I made about *Elsa Sass* a few years ago. Ever since then she has been superb!

I have been reading a fascinating book just arrived from England: Britain's biographical study of the late Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. for many years



the famous and popular King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at the University of Cambridge. His favorite flower was the peony, and one of the full page illustrations in the book shows his college study with big vases of peonies on various tables and bookcases.

Incidentally, I have often wondered why, in re-naming the well-known old red French peony, the inharmonious name Felix Crousse was substituted for the musical and beautiful name of the immortal poet Victor Hugo. Can any of our Society's historians of nomenclature explain? I have defiantly restored the name *Victor Hugo* on my labels for this gay and lovely plant.

One day last summer a lady, not much addicted to horticultural pursuits, asked me why her row of six peony plants produced foliage but never bloomed. I went over to her place and found them planted six inches deep in dry sand at the shady north end of her house under a big elm tree!



### Peonies in the Puget Sound District

R. P. LOOMIS, *Bellingham, Wash.*

Of course I have noted the calls for members reports. You will sense why I hesitate, because I have never visited a peony garden, nor had any peony fan in mine to comment and advise. The Reno Rosefield article in Bulletin 104 was especially interesting, as that is only a little over 300 miles away and tempts a 1948 visit! !

About ten years ago I planted a commercial lot of peonies on a tract in a sub-division to have a point of interest and perhaps a selling point. Selections and some additions were made from a few catalogues. Three years ago, that tract was sold and one that suited my uses better secured, two miles from where I live. A year of indoctrination by the Society bulletin started me off in much less of a haze with a new planting, which now amounts to 200 plants in nearly 100 varieties, all but two rated above 8.50; first of the more plentiful and cheaper sorts, with higher priced additions since. With a lot of other flower (bulb) hobbies, I have no notes, but a few "wildcat" comments and offer them for what they may be worth. Of several higher rated whites, none excited the comment made as to *Frankie Curtis*, very large, a flat dome with 'mum incurved petals, satiny texture. After a few days the petals tended to rise and make a little ragged appearance, however. *Georgiana Shaylor* never did too well for me, and *Rosette*, hard to tell from it, and a better grower here, with no blighted blooms, as *Georgiana specialized* in. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* does not appear in reports so much lately. Is it only chance, or "weakening?" Two blooms, second year here, were the biggest thrill so far. Next was *Topeka*, the red I had dreamed about, with no purple. Here it came with a rugged plant, five large blooms third season, and orange red.

English iris have been a garden gem here, and from catalogues and other sources, it seems to appear they will not stand cold climates. However, they have performed 100% for my brother at Rapid City, South Dakota, where it goes away below zero every winter. I have found a white that does not fleck with mosaic, the dark blues are generally dependable, and some of the blues between light and very dark, and the lavender pinks do very well. The very scarce and very dark "wine red" holds color against sunlight and mosaic. They come well before the peony season is over, and make some sharp contrasts and fine harmonies, always thrilling.



In a favorable year here we have some peonies for Memorial Day, and I have never seen it too hot for the big ones and late ones, even *Enchantresse*, to open. We are west of the Cascades, 15 miles from Canadian border, on Puget Sound.

With much appreciation for the Bulletins,  
R. P. Loomis, Box 302, Bellingham., Wash.

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## A Comparison—Memorial Queen and Edulis Superba

Dear Mr. Mason:

Last year you reminded me about comparing the specimen which you sent us of *Memorial Queen* and *Edulis Superba* peonies. I was called away at blooming time this season, but did take a careful look at these plants which were in bloom before I left.

With us they are similar but nevertheless distinct in appearance. It is true that the flowers show a number of similarities. For example, they are both fully double, with no stamens showing. The carpels are hairy, with red tips. The collar is small, pink tinged. The stems are green and smooth. On the other hand, "*Memorial Queen*" is lighter pink in color. The petaloids are not as uniform as with "*Edulis Superba*," some are narrow and some are broad, and the narrower ones fade quickly to white.

While I do not know the history of these plants, many varieties which were strikingly similar were present in the planting of singles which we had some years ago. I have never observed a peony sport. In my opinion, these two varieties are distinct and most likely came from seed.

Very truly yours,

F. F. WEINARD  
Associate Chief in  
Floricultural Physiology  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois.

Professor F. F. Weinard  
Department of Horticulture  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Professor Weinard:

Thanks a million for remembering to compare *Memorial Queen* and *Edulis Superba*. I shall pass your letter along to Mr. W. F. Christman, who will probably want to print it, and I shall tell him he may unless I hear from you to the contrary.

It is grand to have a great college of Agriculture in our state where problems such as mine can be submitted for the right answer.

*Memorial Queen* was introduced by Mr. Rosefield, nee Rosenfield, and I secured a plant from his widow who resided in Indianapolis. She called it a sport, and I asked her if she meant a seedling, but she was sure it was a sport.

Later when I was in the garden of Mr. Paul Cook of Bluffton, Indiana, I met a man whose name was Mac Kenzie, I think, who said that he was working for Rosenfield at the time this sport was discovered, and he personally assisted Mr. Rosenfield to separate the eye from the root of *Edulis Superba*. Mac

Kenzie swore that the eye was attached to a root of the darker pink variety. Because I had never heard of sporting in peonies, I wanted an opinion from you, and I am glad to have it.

As a matter of record, in my garden, *Memorial Queen* is doing very well, and while *Edulis Superba* did very poorly last year, and this, both colors have their place in the garden particularly since both varieties are early.

Mr. Hans P. Sass lives near Omaha, and probably knew Mr. Rosenfield when he lived in Omaha. I have sent a division of *Memorial Queen* to the nephew of Hans, Mr. Henry Sass, whose address is Benson Station, Omaha, Nebraska. Because Mr. Sass will be interested in your opinion, I am telling him about it.



This spring, at the right time, I visited Mr. Edward Auten of Princeville, Illinois, and we discussed the master planting at your University. He said that varieties you have from Auten would not be an up to date showing of Auten varieties. If it is your plan to continue this master planting, I feel quite sure that Mr. Auten would like to add some of his new things, which are definitely improvements over similar varieties in commerce. His hybrids extend the peony season by coming earlier. His *John Harvard*, *Veritas*, and some unnamed seedlings are tremendous additions to the peony world.

James Mason



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Left to right: J. F. JONES, Minneapolis, GLEN H. GREAVES, St. Paul, C. R. JENKS, Stillwater, ROBERT A. JOHNSON, Minneapolis, A. M. BRAND, Faribault, L. E. BORNE, Minneapolis, HOWARD M. ENGLUND, Minneapolis, W. T. COE, Minneapolis.

# Secretary's Notes

Wouldn't this old world be better  
 If the folks we meet would say—  
 "I know something good about you!"  
 And treat us just that way?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy  
 If the good that's in us all,  
 Were the only thing about this  
 That folks bothered to recall?

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These notes are being written while the Christmas spirit is in full sway. Traditionally, this is a happy time of the year, when people's spirits take a new lease on hope, no matter how discouraging conditions previously have been. A time when problems seem not so serious; cares not quite so heavy. It is a blessed season, when neighborliness becomes something more than a nice sounding word and the priceless gift of a friendly smile is one to be lavishly bestowed.

I like very much the letter Helen Hayes wrote to one of the large stores in Chicago giving her views, or rather her Christmas hopes and dreams for children everywhere. I am quoting herewith.

"Dear Santa Claus:

I want so little. I want a smile for the face of every child in the world,—a smile in an unafraid heart.

I want the glow of anticipation to light up childish eyes.

I want each child to know the wonderful irresponsibilities of youth.

I want them to have fairy-tale dreams . . . to make wishes they know can come true.

I want them to feel the soothing touch and caressing security of a loving hand.

I want them to have the intimate, 'being wanted' feeling of a tender kiss at tucking-in time.

I want them to close their eyes each night, smiling, know that tomorrow will be filled with laughter, exciting adventures, new worlds to explore . . . another wondrous day in a setting of love and peace.

Dear Santa, I want the Children of the World to have what children ought to have . . . their God-given birthright, the right to be . . . just children.

Is this too much to ask . . . too much to wish?"

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This is the time of year we make resolutions; some of which are broken before the year passes. May I be bold enough to ask that you make a resolution to read very carefully the outline for an Essay Contest that will be conducted this year under the able direction of Neal R. van Loon of Newton, N. J. Read the article that covers this particular subject appearing in this issue of the



You will find in the next issue a list of peony roots that will be offered to the ones getting the most members for the American Peony Society. Here is an opportunity to secure some of the world's best peonies for little effort on your part. We are earnestly hoping that our list of members may be greatly increased during the year 1948 and this contest will continue throughout the entire year. There will be more than 1st, 2nd, and 3d, prizes; in fact we will distribute prizes as long as the roots last. We hope to have the present list augmented considerably before time to make the awards. The party securing the largest number of members will, of course, have first chance to select any peony offered in the list; second highest, 2nd chance and so on until the entire lot has been awarded. It may take but a very few new members to win one of these prizes, so get busy and be one of the lucky winners. The larger our Society grows, the better we can make our bulletins and the more we can help popularize the peony.

I have long had in mind a question and answer column that I am sure could be made the most interesting part of our bulletin. I tried this out several years ago but it did not go over as it should and the matter was dropped. Personally I would like to see this a huge success and there is no reason why we could not get at least a dozen or more questions each issue and these with the answers would make some valuable peony bulletin material.

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Your editor is always anxious for articles for the bulletin and welcomes all contributions, so let them come along and afford me considerable satisfaction and contentment. If you had any conception of the difficulty I experience in getting articles, I am sure you would never complain about the bulletins being delayed or not as large as you would like to see them. Send in the articles and watch the bulletins grow.

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Now that the Essay Contest has been inaugurated, articles can be sent direct to Mr. van Loon as indicated in the article explaining the contest. This should give us ample material to insure getting the bulletins out on time and we can doubtless enlarge them accordingly.

I believe we are looking into the new year of 1948 in a very promising manner and I sincerely hope our aspirations will not be blighted in any way. It will mean a great deal for the Society to have the membership campaign and the essay contest carried through to a successful culmination and we feel confident we can count on you for full and hearty co-operation.

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I regret that it has been physically impossible to acknowledge personally each greeting card I have received, but I thank you from the bottom of my heart for each expression and kindly sentiment expressed. May the year 1948 be most kind to you and yours and also prove to be one of the finest peony years we have ever experienced.

The year 1947 has been crossed off our calendars as expressed in the few lines that follow by Hilda Butler Farr:

The book is closed, the year is done,  
 The pages full of tasks begun,  
 A little joy, a little care  
 Along with dreams are written there.

This new day brings another year,  
Renewing hope,—dispelling care.  
And may we find before the end,  
A deep content, another friend.

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And in contrast we look into the coming year with hope and encouragement. in spite of the fact that New Year's Day was one we shall not soon forget. We experienced everything in the weather department from April showers, thunder and lightning, sleet, snow, terrific gales, frozen and icy streets and sidewalks making it dangerous to step out of doors or to attempt to drive. The high winds played havoc with telephone and high tension wires carrying our electric supply and as a result the phone went out of commission and our power was shut off for 12 hours stopping our deep well pump, oil burner, sump pump, electric refrigerator, lights and all power equipment about the house. We were pleased to have a lantern in the cellar which was put into good use and was our only method of lighting. In our recent move the candles kept for such an emergency were neatly packed away some place where we could not locate them. What a day! Canned heat, (Sterno) of which we were fortunate to have a small supply, made it possible to get a hot supper, and at the stroke of midnight the lights flashed on and all the motors started to make up for lost time. What a delightful sound it was to my ears to hear that hum. They say a "poor start means a good ending" and let's hope this will prove true. It is apt to be a week or ten days before our telephone is in service for poles are strewn in every direction for miles and wires are in a tangled mess. Four days afterwards the trees and all things out of doors are covered with a thick coating of ice which caused the damage. I think I could have changed places with the party described in the following verses and come out the best of it.

Dawn of the New Year  
'Tis the dawn of the New Year  
And all thru the house  
Father is followed about  
By his spouse,  
Her tongue like a rapier  
Stabbing his brain—  
She tells him how stupid  
Inept and insane,  
Moronic, puerile and  
Dumb were his jokes  
And how he offended  
A lot of nice folks.  
Relates her embarrassment.  
Horror, disgrace  
When they started to dance  
And he fell on his face.  
He vows he swapped heads  
With a sick hippopotamus  
And tomorrow he'll join  
Alcoholics Anonymous

*N. F. Christman*

## Harry Franklin Little

1878-1947

On October 26, 1947, Harry Franklin Little was stricken with what proved to be cerebral thrombosis, while at his summer home, Jolly Oaks, Wellesley Island, about four miles west of Alexandria Bay, New York. He was moved to the Noble Foundation Hospital in Alexandria Bay where he died calmly, peacefully, silently, in his sleep at five o'clock in the morning, November 8. He was laid to rest in a quiet rural cemetery on Wellesley Island, a spot he loved very dearly and of which he has now become a part. Mrs. Little is planning a Memorial Peony Planting there of the most outstanding varieties to be under perpetual care and it is hoped the dedication will take place in June 1951 or 1952.

Born June 14, 1878, at Goodland, Indiana, he attended school there, later going to Todd Seminary for Boys in New Woodstock, Illinois, then to Northwestern Academy and finally to Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He graduated from its College of Liberal Arts in 1899. He was captain of the football team in his senior year. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

After he graduated he came back to Goodland where on account of his father's health he took over the business and ran a general store for many years.

When Mr. and Mrs. Little's home was completed in 1903, she asked for a corner planting of her favorite peony, that old fashioned red which had always been just the Best Red Piney, though we know it by its much more sophisticated name of *officinalis rubra plena*. As Harry always did everything he undertook in the most methodical manner and the best possible way, he sent for a Good and Reese (Springfield, Ohio) catalogue and from reading it became the peony enthusiast he continued to be until his death. This was before he ever planted a root or developed a flower. From this catalogue he selected 100 varieties and never discarded one of them, though he increased the planting to over a thousand. Mrs. Little had to wait until 1929 for her Piney when much to her surprise the first thing that greeted her on arrival at her new home, Westhill House, were two old plants of this dear old red piney. She says they will remain there until they die, which may be many years from now.

Finally his interest in peonies led him to give up the store and devote his entire time to growing them. He entered the commercial field in 1924 when he issued his first catalogue. In late 1925 he cast in his lot with the late Mr. B. F. Goodrich and at Christmas of that year he moved to Indian Spring Farm, near Baldwinsville, New York, taking his peonies with him. He was general manager of that immense planting. Mr. Goodrich died in 1927 and in 1928 Mr. Little severed his connection with Indian Spring Farm. He bought and moved to, Westhill House, Camillus, New York, in 1929. There he and his wife began a poultry business that has won world wide fame for its strain of New Hampshires. This business is now operated by Westhill Farms, Incorporated, of which Mrs. Little is president.

Three years ago he purchased Jolly Oaks, his summer home, as a much needed retreat for occasional rests from the strenuous twenty four hour duty of helping to run a rapidly growing poultry farm. He and Mrs. Little had planned to spend this winter in Arizona.

On August 26, 1901, he married Miss Ethel Rider at Kentland, Indiana, who together with his daughter, Mrs. Lulu Staeck Getman of East Syracuse, New York, his grandson Pfc. James E. Staeck of the Army Air Force now



stationed at Mac Dill Field, near Tampa, Florida, and a sister, Mrs. Ruby Gay of Indiana, now survive him. Mrs. Little's present address is General Delivery, Tampa, Florida, where she expects to spend the winter in her comfortable trailer and have her grandson with her. She now owns Westhill House and all the land on which the peonies are growing. It is possible that she may wish to dispose of at least part of this planting next year.

As a young man he began to grow peonies as a hobby, his interest possibly increased later on by the influence of his friend the late W. L. Gumm of Remington, Indiana. He never entirely gave it up. He soon gathered together a collection of the best varieties obtainable and for many years it has ranked as one of the finest in the world. His garden at Camillus contains probably about a thousand different varieties of *albiflora* peonies, fifty hybrid herbaceous and a few tree peonies. He joined the American Peony Society in 1919, was elected a director in 1924, vice-president in 1927 and president in 1928 serving two years. He served continuously from 1924 to 1947, on the Board of Directors. He was appointed a member of the Standing Seedling Committee in 1925 when it was established and became its chairman in 1939 which office he held until his death. He was also a member of the committee that revised the constitution and by-laws in 1926. He was awarded the Master Gardener award in 1942 by the Syracuse Men's Garden Club of which he was a member.

He made his first exhibits at a National Show of the Peony Society at Des Moines, Iowa, in 1924. He made thirteen entries winning eleven firsts. This included The Gold Medal Class of 100 varieties, the class for new varieties since 1905, 76 varieties, and the class for the largest and best collection of named varieties not more than 3 blooms of a kind to a vase, with 247 varieties. This was the beginning of a career as showman which made him famous as the greatest one we have ever known and which has made him the one whose opinion as to the merits of a new peony is more respected than that of any one. His next venture on the show table was at Boston in 1928 where he staged the entries of the Indian Spring Farm winning the Gold Medal and many other awards. He did not show again until 1935 in Boston where he again won the Gold Medal, repeating in 1936 at Toronto, in 1938 at Lansing Michigan, in 1939 again at Boston and finally at Syracuse in 1941 where he staged the greatest exhibits ever shown by one man. He also staged the Brand Peony Farms exhibits at Rochester, Minnesota in 1940, winning the Gold Medal.

Mrs. Little says the three great highlights of his career were when he was first asked to judge (possibly 1923 at St. Paul-Minneapolis, though he was present at nearly all the shows from 1919 on), when he won his first Gold Medal, Des Moines, 1924, and when that grand peony named for him after several years' trial in his gardens, by Col. J. C. Nicholls, won both the Gold Medal of The American Peony Society and the American Home Achievement Medal at Minneapolis in 1934.

The Syracuse exhibits contained about six thousand blooms (the papers expanded this to 50,000) in about six hundred different varieties. He showed 189 different varieties in two entries in Class No. 1, a feat few could ever equal. He was afflicted with peony poisoning every year after the peony season and it became so bad that he was forced to give up handling them. This was his greatest cross. He was at one time always present at our shows to help others, but he has not attended one since the Topeka show in 1942, because of the intense suffering caused by his allergy.

He early began to raise seedlings and out of many hundred tried out he has named and introduced seven. Mrs. Harry F. Little, Lulu Little, Westhill.

Onondaga, Snow White, Ziba and Hazelden. Of these Onondaga and Snow White won the American Home Achievement Medal. Mrs. Harry F. Little is the highest rated and now is generally considered one of the finest blush peonies in existence.

His success in exhibiting was largely due to the fact that he always took about ten times as many flowers as he expected to use and even more to his uncanny ability to pick out of a vase full the bloom that would be at its best when the judges came around. Also his knowledge of the exact time at which a bloom should be cut for storage enabled him to have few spoiled blooms when taken to the show room.

My personal friendship with him began when we met at the Philadelphia National Show in 1925 and it has continued until his death. It has been my privilege to know him very intimately and to be a guest many times in his hospitable home and he has also been my guest on several occasions.

No member of the American Peony Society ever did more for its benefit and for advancement of peony growing in America than he. He showed the flowers, others sold them. His contribution was always unselfish with little personal gain.

He was also extremely generous with his plants as he gave them to his friends in large numbers and many a garden in this country is the richer for his gifts.

He was universally respected for his sterling qualities as a man. He was gentle, kindly, considerate of others, and a staunch friend to the end. His passing will leave a void in the hearts of all of us who were privileged to call him friend that can never be filled.

George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia, December 5, 1947

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### **Lee Richie Bonnewitz**

1867-1947

On Saturday, September 27, 1947, there passed away at the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital near Baltimore, Maryland, where he had been a patient for some time, one of the most colorful figures in the history of the Peony in America and one who has done as much to increase the popularity of the Peony as any member of the American Peony Society.

Born in Convoy, Ohio, on April 21, 1867, Lee Richie Bonnewitz moved to Van Wert, Ohio with his parents in early boyhood. He graduated from high school in that town and then attended Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Returning to Van Wert he joined his father in running a dry goods store, later becoming its head and developing it into the largest department store in that town. He kept his interest in this store until 1940.

He lived near Mr. L. J. Germann a noted peony grower for many years and from him absorbed his enthusiasm for the peony. He joined the American Peony Society in 1916 and became director in 1917. He was elected president in 1919 and served until 1921. His interest in the peony never flagged and he attended as many of the National Shows as he could from 1916 to 1941, often exhibiting and winning high honors. For many years he published a pamphlet giving an account of these shows and they are, I feel sure, among the highest treasured articles of many of our older members. So far as I am aware he never raised seedling peonies, if so, he never introduced any, but he often championed a new variety and it was due to him that Mrs. Pleas'

variety Jubilee became so famous about 1916. It was shown by both him and Miss Anderson at Philadelphia in 1917 and was judged the best flower in the show. Later on it was due to him that Alice Harding became such a widely talked of variety so early in its life.

In 1920 at the time new varieties of peonies were selling from fifty to one hundred dollars a root, he entered the commercial field in a very spectacular manner. He had always specified in buying peonies that the roots sent him must be large enough to be divided into three one eye divisions which he had found by actual experience over the years produced excellent plants, so he came to the conclusion that those peony lovers who did not have sufficient funds to buy the standard divisions would be able to build up their collections of fine varieties far sooner if they could buy these one eye divisions at a reduced price, so he offered to sell them to any who wanted them at one third the price of a large division. He also always presented with each order a root of a rare variety with his compliments. This raised quite a stir in the peony world and brought down the wrath of many of the old timers on his head. But he never wavered and continued to offer these small divisions until he retired from active business in 1943. In the fall of 1944 he sold his peonies to Mr. Ernest I. Stahly of Goshen, Indiana, who is carrying on the business at that city.

In the spring of 1922 he went to France and England on a tour of the peony gardens in those countries and imported that fall many new varieties then unknown in this country. Among them was Alice Harding. This variety was named by its originator, Lemoine of Nancy, France, *Amitie Americaine* to commemorate the entrance of the American troops into the city of Nancy on the day this variety first bloomed. Its name changed later on to Alice Harding followed an award of first prize at a show in Paris, offered by Mrs. Harding. This name has stood ever since though the change was vigorously protested by Mr. Bonnewitz, he having imported it under its first name.

On June 6, 1900 he married Miss Nellie Towey of Van Wert, whom so many knew as a most gracious and kindly lady. She died November 21, 1921. From that union one child survives, Mrs. Alice Bonnewitz Caldwell of New York City. He is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Mary McGirr and two brothers Horace R. and Van J. Bonnewitz all of Van Wert.

Besides peonies he was much interested in iris and later on he preserved for our gardens a variety of sweet corn he named Aunt Mary's after an aunt of Mrs. Bonnewitz. This corn had been cultivated in her family for several generations having been procured probably by one of her ancestors from the Indians when he first migrated to Ohio. It is the oldest variety of sweet corn known and in the opinion of those who have grown it also the best. Mr. Bonnewitz sold the stock to a grower in Iowa and it is now also offered by several from Maryland to California.

My connection with Mr. Bonnewitz dates from 1920 to his recent illness. It was my pleasure to have him as a guest in my house in 1927 and the last time I saw him was at his own home in Van Wert, in June, 1942.

He was a member of the Presbyterian church and served as a Ruling Elder in that church for a time. He was also a Mason. He was buried in Woodland Cemetery, Van Wert, on Tuesday, September 30, 1947. And so there was laid to rest a man of boundless energy, great enthusiasm in all he undertook and a staunch booster for the Peony. Those of us who knew him will always be proud to have called him "Friend."

George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia, December 4, 1947

## A Short Eulogy of Mr. A. B. Franklin

On April 1st, 1921 I started to work for Mr. Franklin in his nursery and for the next three years I had an opportunity to know him very well. During all this period we enjoyed a fellowship not always shared by an employer and his employee. We were both deeply interested in the work of propagating and developing peonies.

Mr. Franklin was a very modest man and rather reluctant to bring out any of his introductions, of which he had a number of good ones at that time. I, personally, urged him to name and introduce some of the best of the lot which he did. Since that time he has introduced many varieties greatly improved over his first introductions.

As so often happens, an originator's work is not fully appreciated until after he has passed on. This is true of the great masters of music. How tragic that this condition should exist in these modern days. The kind words that may be uttered at this time will never be known to Mr. Franklin. I do have some consolation in the thought that I did praise his originations to him personally, and how his eyes would shine with deep appreciation and feeling. Mr. Franklin was a man of few words, particularly when it came to praising his own work, in fact he was quite reticent to do so. He would rather stay in the background and let others express their opinions, either favorable or adverse. If there were any adverse opinions you could rest assured that the origination would never be disseminated.

He had a most extensive collection gathered during many years work with the peony, and was in a position to make definite comparisons with the best peonies already in commerce that were acclaimed outstanding. He was very exacting and a peony possessing any faults that were apparent to him had little chance of existing.

I well recall a statement he made to me soon after I started to work for him. He said, "Will,—if I were your age, I surely would start in to raise new varieties, but at my age it would be out of the question." He did not know at the time that he was really beginning to work along the line he had long wanted to follow, that of producing new peonies of merit.

In his list of introductions will be found many fine varieties that should grace any collection of peonies, no matter how large the collection might be. At the time I was employed by him, we devoted a great deal of our efforts, in fact nearly all of them, to the growing of peonies for root sales and flowers for the wholesale market. We did not have time to do much with new varieties, but at the same time Mr. Franklin was gathering and planting seed which later produced some very worthwhile results. We grew several other perennials for the flower market and French Lilacs took up a considerable part of our time in the early spring. He was very fond of lilacs and had a representative collection of many varieties. To my knowledge, he never attempted to originate new lilac varieties but I do know he did work with some other flowers. I recall one incident to prove how we can sometimes be disappointed in our efforts through no fault of our own.

We grew a considerable quantity of pyrethrum (painted daisy) for the cut flower market. There was no good red on the market and Mr. Franklin devoted some time in making selections of the better red toned varieties from a seed bed. After some years of crossing and selection he acquired a beautiful, velvet red beauty that he prized very highly and thought he had attained the very thing he so devotedly sought in a red pyrethrum. He cautioned me to

use care in cutting to see that the two fine bloom it developed were not disturbed as he wanted the seed for future work. The plant itself was not particularly vigorous but the bloom was perfect and it would be hard to see where it could be improved upon.

One day as Mr. Franklin was busily engaged in some work with a good strong spading fork, a stranger made his way through the field of flowers and seeing these two fine pyrethrum snapped off the two blooms between his forefingers and sauntered up to Mr. Franklin with the query, "What's the name of this "posey"? For a moment Mr. Franklin could not find words to express himself but in the meantime a sample of what he had in mind was expressed by his breaking the handle of his spading fork. This was one of the few times that Mr. Franklin lost his temper to a point of exasperation and who could blame him. The result of several years work was lost by some idiotic acting fool who possessed little sense, as I think you will agree with me. With the admonition handed out by Mr. Franklin, this "sap" was not long in getting out of sight, but the damage had been done, the possibility of continuing the fine plant from seed production was lost, and that following winter, even with protection and care, the small plant gave up the ghost and passed into oblivion.

I know he must have experienced many disappointments of a similar nature during his life time but this is the only one with which I am familiar.

In three years time, with a very close association with anyone, an opinion can be formed that is quite accurate as a general thing. In all that time I found Mr. Franklin a man of the deepest integrity. He was absolutely honest in all his dealings and due to his trust in others, he was sometimes taken advantage of.

During these many years since I was employed by him, I have constantly kept in touch with him and have a number of his seedlings growing in my garden. Even last year he sent me a seedling under number that he thought highly of. I have not seen it nor do I recall the number as I write, but my chart will show the proper record when it blooms, and this should be in June for the first time.

Nearly every year, when he was physically able to do so, he made a fine showing of his originations in the Twin City peony shows and received many awards as a result. When we had our National Show at Toronto, Canada several years ago he had a fine exhibit of Franklin varieties that created a most favorable impression. During the past few years his health and age prevented him from actively engaging in exhibiting his bloom and it was left to others to do so.

I recall particularly the fine lot of bloom he brought to the Rochester, Minn. show. He did not get an opportunity to put them in their proper color classifications but said he brought them chiefly to show their sturdy growth. The stems were immense and showed great vigor of growth. Due to the crowded conditions and the tremendous amount of bloom on exhibit, I wonder how many really noted this particular collection and the length of stem on each excellent bloom shown.

When Mr. Franklin gave up the hardware business, in which he spent many years of his younger life, he acquired ten acres of land at 58th Street and Wentworth Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. This was far south of the city limits at that time, and consisted of some fine black soil that was almost, if not quite covered with a very sturdy growth of quack grass. Many of the neighbors thought it a foolish investment due to the infestation of quack grass, but not Mr. Franklin, for his acquaintance with the soil and soil crops stood him

in good stead. In a couple of years he had eliminated the quack grass entirely and for good as long as he remained on the land. He even astonished his neighbors still more by asking for the quack grass they had laboriously removed from their lots and piled up for burning as he wanted to use it for fertilizer. He "bawled" me out one time for burning weeds I had removed from the plants. When I told him the seed was too near ripe and might germinate, he still insisted that they should not be burned. I followed out his wishes from that time on.

On Labor Day of last year we were in Minneapolis and the day following I made a pilgrimage out to the Franklin Nursery, having phoned in the meantime to make sure I would find him there. We spent several hours going over his originations and talking of old times. He showed me a plot of land that he had already prepared for an exhibition garden where he had planned to plant several each of his originations where they could be carefully studied and evaluated by anyone desiring to do so and who was not already familiar with them. I do not know whether the project was completed last fall or not, for just three weeks to the day after I was there he passed on to his reward. On this visit, he told me that he was afraid the end was not far away. Always before that he would say, "I am going to live to be 100 years old" and the twinkle in his eye would make you fully convinced that he would achieve his desire. I lingered long after the time I had planned my departure as I felt it would be my last opportunity to visit with him. When I finally left, he insisted on accompanying me to the edge of his planting of peonies. I will never forget our parting, nor the handclasp that lingered long and fervently as I bade him farewell. He turned and started back slowly to the office and as I walked the several blocks to the street car, I looked back on numerous occasions, feeling it would be my last glimpse of one of the best friends I have ever had. He was more like a father to me than an employer and I have learned many things from him that I will employ in my work as long as I live and am able to work. Little short cuts that his many years of experience had taught him were passed on to me and they have proved of much value.

In the limited space allotted me, I cannot go into a dissertation of the many fine peony varieties to his credit and will have to leave this to some one else. However, I am glad to have many of his fine originations in my planting that I know will become more valuable to me as the years go on. His namesake is one of the beauties I have in mind and I will never forget the impression it made with peony lovers and judges the first time it was exhibited at Fari-bault, Minn.

It was as near perfection as one could wish in a peony bloom. I have never seen it finer than when it first made its bow and I have seen many splendid bloom of it on exhibit at our shows since that time.

I do not think the work of Mr. Franklin has ever received the attention it so richly deserves and I am pleased some effort is to be made to this end. and am delighted that I have been asked to express myself along this line. His was a life that richly deserves praise. He did not crave publicity of his endeavors in any way. If he met a peony lover who was interested in his work. he did not hesitate to tell them how he achieved his results. He could also find great praise for others' efforts along the same line and did not depreciate or disparage their work in any way. He has left a legion of peony loving friends all over the country who will miss his further efforts in the line of new things. He has many originations that have never been introduced and possibly may not see the glory of other gardens. At our last meeting he took out his little record book and painstakingly showed me a list of about thirty five or more numbered seedlings that he had selected the previous Spring. With that ever

present twinkle in his eye he told me that he thought he had a few that would be as good as any he had ever brought out. I am hoping that his son Loren will work with them and give them a thorough trial before they are discarded, for they had the critical test and observance of a master peony originator.

W. F. Chistman, Secretary

Note:—The above was written some time ago at the request of Miss Franklin who had planned a memorial booklet for her father but I understand the project has been dropped.

\* \* \*

## An Art

By PAUL PFUND, *Elmhurst, Ill.*

Early observations and impressions often play a significant part in later life. Sound principles always abide.

Recollections of father's composting methods and results are very vivid. Indeed the underlying principle has become integrated in my philosophy and in the sense that it deals with vibrant soil life it has even become romantic.

Father and mother, both natives of Switzerland, also both trained horticulturists, naturally exerted a strong influence, so my training was early and very rigorous. European preparation in their days was by apprenticeship. Father served his in France and Italy as well as in his native country. As was the custom then, he paid for the privilege so he learned well. There was no such thing as "Earn while you learn." It is my hope to do some reasonable measure of justice to their memory and efforts.

At every possible opportunity we would collect sod from nearby areas along roadsides and ditches wherever permission was secured. It was piled in orderly fashion, interspersed with cow and horse manure from one or two family cows, and from horses used for all transportation. All possible additional quantities were also brought in. The horse manure was usually first used for hot beds. More or less time was allowed for fermentation, but rules were not too strictly adhered to, and since the soil was virgin or nearly so, little if any attention was paid to the mineral content. I do not recall that lime and phosphate rock were added. The consistent remarkable results which were obtained attested to the fact that the soil was in good balance. Present day methods of soil analysis were not employed. Not a trace of artificial chemical fertilizer was used. However, a unique test was always a part of the verification of quality of soil and growth.

Greenhouses were maintained as part of the business operations which included landscaping in all of its phases as well as the culturing of a flower and vegetable garden. In the greenhouses during fall and winter were grown such relatively low temperature plants as large-flowering carnations, giant pansies and sweet-scented English violets. The most telling test however was on violets, for it was aimed to have them in full commercial production by Christmas with blooms large enough (when flattened out) to cover a fifty cent coin. I do not recall that we ever failed to accomplish this. I have yet to see finer and longer lasting blooms. Now one might reason that such a method of testing is too cumbersome and slow. Perhaps so. Nevertheless the final infallible test of the quality of any soil is still in what it will actually produce. The stockiness, disease and insect resistant nature of those plants is a picture which never leaves my mind. Composting has surely stood the test of time and con-



tradition, and is as inviolate and as firmly established as the laws of the universe. Surely it is high time to reiterate and reemphasize the all important underlying principles involved and to sound them forth in no uncertain tones.

The years have brought with them a widely varied horticultural experience both in the North and in the South. With this has come an ever increasing consciousness of the complex nature of soil. Its marvelous functionings and faithful response to all who intelligently culture it. I stand in awe of its profundity.

In our landscaping operations we are constantly faced with soil conditions which are anything but conducive to immediate or lasting satisfactory results. The mere application of rotted manure or of the average topsoil generally falls short of supplying the real need. The answer is Compost.

Good ideas go begging. Sound convictions are toyed with and the world suffers for want of that which it could and should have. Realizing a need many years ago for commercial quantities of compost we have ourselves developed several types of compost, in which various natural minerals are being blended in proportion to the desired results of fertility and physical properties. Many gardeners who are profoundly convinced that organic gardening is the only true and purely scientific way, have no room for composting nor do they have time to carry on the process. Especially is this true in and around large cities. Currently we are supplying compost for the landscape planting of the world's largest building.

Over a period of five or six years we have included the commercial production in our operations, of so-called tender or greenhouse Chrysanthemums. Through the art of composting we have been enabled to bring into maturity the ideal potted mums of low stocky growth with a consequent complete elimination of the need for staking each plant to keep it upright. Among the multitudinous varieties of hybrids there are many with weak stems. Some of these were included in the assortment we grew, but in our compost they grew ideally. Other growers who use artificial chemicals and have seen our plants are flabbergasted. To their question "How is it done" we answer, "It's all in the soil."

And now as to the philosophical phase. I have had a growing conviction for many years that it would be a means of considerable enlightenment and broader understanding, to say nothing of added physical well being, if by some simple practical means in the earliest possible years of instruction all children could be inculcated and imbued in heart and mind with the vital importance of soil conservation, and thereby have imparted to them a vivid and growing realization that from it comes all of our food, raiment and shelter. Such a program would continue gains made during the Victory Garden campaign in which many schools took part. I fear most children grow up with the impression that soil is just dirt, implying filth and therefore to be shunned. However, left to themselves we know they just naturally take to the soil as ducks take to water. Too many times have I seen children severely remonstrated and even punished for as harmless an act as playing in the soil. Let us give them the proper introduction to good mother earth and we will soon see a generation of more intelligent beings insisting upon measures for a truly scientific program of soil conservation.

We know that leaders in many fields of endeavor are coming to a stark realization of the serious decline in nutrition taken as a whole the world over. I am informed thru reliable sources that our government is obliged to constantly lower its required standard of nutrition for the canning industry. All as a result of apathy, abuse, indifference and/or downright ignorance in soil husbandry. This indeed is not the concern alone of agriculturists but of every individual, for obviously we are all so completely dependent upon the products of the land.

From Organic Gardening.

## Peony Society Elects

Mrs. Frances Kannowski, Grand Forks park board superintendent, was elected president of the North Dakota Peony Society at a meeting of the group Thursday. She succeeds Mrs. Carter Prendergast of Bismarck.

Other new officers chosen at the meeting were Floyd Castle, first vice president; Mrs. Ralph Rohde, second vice president, and Edna Thomson, secretary-treasurer.

Directors of the society are Mrs. C. O. Haugen of Larimore, Franklin Page of Hamilton, Mrs. Edgar Masee of East Grand Forks, and Loyde C. Thompson, Mrs. T. A. Toner, Mrs. L. A. Kana, Wyman Sheppard, Ralph Darling and Mrs. Harold A. Boe of Grand Forks.

Retiring officers of the flower society besides Mrs. Prendergast are L. C. Thompson, first vice president; Mrs. H. F. Smith, second vice president; Mrs. Kannowski, secretary, and N. J. Leonard, treasurer.

The annual peony show sponsored by the society was held in Grand Forks July 3 and 4, and thousands of blooms were displayed. Mrs. Kana won the grand champion prize and Ralph Darling received the sweepstakes award at the exhibit.

\* \* \*

## Address of Mr. J. Eliot Coit at the Meeting of the American Peony Society, Ithaca, N. Y., June 27, 1907

*Mr. Coit has been in direct charge of the peony department investigations at Cornell University*

Gentlemen:

Up to the middle of the 19th century the only peony which was known to any extent in America was the old double red of our grandmothers' gardens. It was comparatively common throughout the extent of the Atlantic seaboard, and its large vivid red blossoms with their disagreeable soapy odor were familiar to every one. Even to the present day this flower comes into the mind of perhaps the average American when the peony is mentioned. For various reasons this old peony was looked upon as a vulgar, indelicate and unrefined flower, and while it was tolerated in the yards of the common people, it was rarely if ever given a prominent place in the collections of wealthy and discriminating flower-lovers.

However, a great change in sentiment was destined to take place, and this brought about by the introduction of the species *Paeonia albiflora*, popularly known as Chinese or Chinensis peonies. This species bore single white flowers with many buds upon a single stalk. Under the stress of cultivation by the Chinese and later by M. Lemon, Victor Verdier, M. Guerin and others of France, it sported into many shades of red and all degrees of doubleness. It possessed all the beauty of the old *officinalis* type and also combined fragrance with great hardiness. I consider the species *albiflora* therefore as responsible for the great wave of popularity which the peony has undergone, and as evidence I offer the fact that the vast majority of the popular varieties on the American market today belong to this species or contain a large share of *albiflora* blood.

### Peony History

The history of the peony previous to 1650 should be treated in two parts, for before that date the peony of the Greek and Latin literature was the

*Paeonia officinalis* which is wild in Southern Europe. The ancient history of *P. moutan* and *P. albiflora*, however, lies entirely in China and Japan, as previous to 1656 neither of these species were known to Europeans.

It is the species *P. officinalis* which probably secured for the genus its name. The genus *Paeonia* was so named by the ancients in honor of Paeon, a physician, who cured the wounds received by heathen gods during the Trojan war. Antiquity celebrates the virtues of this plant and places it among the wonders of the vegetable creation. Fable gives us its origin, Aesculapius its properties, and superstition ranks it among miraculous plants, assuring us that demons will fly the spot where it is planted, and that even a small piece of root worn around the neck is sufficient to protect the wearer from all kinds of enchantment.

#### The True Peony

In A.D. 536, the Chinese in a general way distinguished two kinds of peonies: the Sho Yo or common kind which we know as *P. albiflora*; and the Mew Tang (Mow Tan) or improved kind which we recognize as *P. moutan*. In their flower gardens, the *moutans* claimed first place in point of beauty, and the Sho Yos took second place. For this reason the former were often called Hwa Wang, "King of Flowers," and the latter Hwa Seang, "The King's Ministers." I am indebted to an ancient Chinese horticulturist, Hung King, who wrote in 536 A.D., for the information that the original native home of the tree peony is the valley of Pa Keun, in the district of Hang Chung, in the easterly part of the province of See Chuen, together with the neighboring south part of Shen Se, or the country about the two rivers Kea Lin Keang and Han Keang. In 656 A.D., Soo King, another writer, announces Hang Chung as the native home of the tree peony, thus corroborating the account of Hung King in 536. I go into this matter thus fully because it has been repeatedly stated in print that the feral home of the tree peony is not known. Robert Fortune himself states in 1880 that the tree peony may be found on the mountains of the central provinces of China.

An old Chinese book on the "Origin of Matters and Objects" states that by 713 the number of kinds had so greatly increased that the plant was common about the huts of the poor as well as about the mansions of the rich. Soon after this, about 720, eleven hundred and eighty-seven years ago, the number of kinds had so greatly increased that Gow Yang Sew established a genealogical register in which to record the characters, qualities, and parentage of the kinds which came from seed. So we find that our efforts to establish a register for our varieties of peonies are by no means original, but we must take off our hats to our friend, Mr. Gow Yang Sew, whose efforts along this line antedate ours by 1187 years!

In 1656 the Dutch East India Company sent an embassy to China which secured free access to that country, and in the published accounts of this embassy the peonies were described in glowing colors. To make a long story short, Sir Joseph Banks of England became interested in these accounts and after various unsuccessful attempts succeeded in 1794 in introducing into England two living tree peonies. Progeny of these plants were later introduced into France, and Mons. Noisette, a nurseryman of Paris, distributed them throughout the country.

#### Albiflora History

The early history of *albiflora* is very similar to that of the *moutan* except that it was indigenous to a very wide range of territory in Northern China and Siberia. As far as I have been able to find, the variety *Fragrans* was the first *albiflora* to find its way into Europe, and it was brought from China by Sir Joseph Banks in 1805.

Peonies of various kinds were introduced from China into Japan in 724 A.D. and were subsequently greatly improved by the Japanese. Peonies were first introduced into America by William Prince of Flushing, Long Island, soon after they reached England. McMahon speaks of them in 1806, and in 1824 Mr. Prince had a collection of over forty varieties. Some twenty other species have been introduced at various times during the past century, but they are of minor importance. Only one species (*P. Browni*) is native to America, and that we find in California. It is of value solely as a botanical curiosity.

#### Botany

I have not attempted to work out the botany of the peony for two reasons. In the first place, three or four monographs of the genus have already been published; and in the second place, the type specimens of the species are all in European herbaria and it would be useless for me to attempt a botanical monograph without making an extended trip to Europe.

#### Evolution

Certain it is that the magnificent large fragrant blooms which appear upon our tables today are very unlike their wild prototypes which were introduced from Siberia. How has this vast improvement come about? What agencies have here been at work? How are we to proceed to still further develop this wonderful flower? These are all pertinent questions, but their answers are difficult to find.

There are three chief causes of variation in plants. They are: change in environment, change in food supply, and inter-crossing. Now the genus *Paeonia*, together with its relatives, is naturally variable in a wild state. In addition to this, all three of these chief causes of variation came into active play when the peony was removed to Europe, a totally different climate, and heavily manured by the French growers, and all of the species obtainable were planted together in botanic gardens and amateur collections where they had every opportunity for inter-pollination. Many of the early growers cross-pollinated by hand to insure the production of hybrids. Even hybrids between the tree peony and the herbaceous sorts were secured. Small wonder then that the new generations presented striking and valuable variations which were selected as parents for succeeding generations. Not only did the peony vary in color, size and odor, but most important of all, it varied greatly in form; and as a result, we have seedlings representing all stages of transformation from the simple single to the fully double. I find after a careful study of the literature that a great deal of confusion exists in regard to the names given to these horticultural types. Especially is this true in regard to the terms anemone and artichoke. For the sake of uniformity and a better understanding of each other's descriptions, I am therefore prepared to propose and define six horticultural types. I think these six types will fully cover the field and will be found to apply to all blooms existing at this time. These types are not ill-advisedly put forward. They have gradually grown and crystallized in my mind during a two years' study of the subject. For the terms employed I am chiefly indebted to our worthy president, Mr. C. W. Ward.

#### Type I, The Single

This type includes all peonies with a single row of petals, enclosing a mass of pollen-bearing stamens, and normal follicles. For the sake of an example, I mention *La Fiancee*.

#### Type II, The Japanese

When a peony begins to double under the growth pressure brought about by an excess of food, it may do it in two ways. It may present in the same

flower stamens or carpels in all stages of transformation, or it may uniformly widen the filaments of all the stamens simultaneously. As a result of this second method, we get the true Japanese type. It possesses the petals of the single with all of its stamens uniformly widened into strap-like petaloids with anthers distorted in various ways. It usually has normal carpels. Many writers seem to hold the erroneous notion that Japanese peonies are the progeny of some one species. C. S. Harrison in the second edition of his Peony Manual talks about the wonderful possibilities of the *new race* of Japanese peonies. This is not a *race* at all according to the definition of race as given by Professor H. J. Webber of this University, for this type may and does appear in several species. It simply represents one method or step in petalody of the stamens of any species. It is a horticultural type and is entitled to no botanical standing whatever. Example: *Glory*.

#### **Type III, The Bomb**

The Bomb is one step beyond the Japanese. The guard petals are still well differentiated from the petaloids, but the petaloids are much wider and no vestiges of anthers should be found upon them. They may have increased in number beyond the original number of stamens by chorisis of the cords. In the typical bomb, the follicles should be well concealed. I regard *Claire Dubois* as a good example of this type.

#### **Type IV, Semi-Double**

Into this type we group those forms which have begun to double without any system. They present in the same flower both stamens and follicles in all stages of transformation. They are usually loose flowers of little character, and in general are undesirable. They are common in any batch of seedlings, especially the semi-double reds; and I am perfectly safe in saying that far too many of them have been given names and places in our lists. It is in this type that the greatest confusion of names exists, and we may find it necessary to use somewhat drastic measures in bringing this group into anything like satisfactory shape; and much is yet to be done before anything like success is achieved.

#### **Type V, The Crown**

When the Japanese type retains its narrow petaloids but transforms its follicles into wide petals which resemble the guard petals, we have a two-story effect which is unique and for which I propose the name *Crown*. The Crown may be of two kinds: erect crown or reflexed crown. *Princess Beatrice* (Kelway) is a very good example of this type.

#### **Type VI, The Rose**

The rose type represents the fullest development of which the peony flower is capable. It is fully double, with all stamens and carpels transformed into petals with no vestiges of anthers present and no follicles. Few examples of the rose type will be found which do not show vestiges of follicles, for the crimson flecks present in *Festiva maxima* and *Avalanche* represent the only remains of the lost follicles. These crimson flecks are very common among flowers of this type, and may be found in the double reds on close examination. In the typical form, the guard or primary peals should not be differentiated from the rest; but this is not essential. A good example of the rose type is *Avalanche* (Crousse).

#### **How Confusion Has Arisen**

The confusion in the names of peonies of which so much complaint is made, has arisen in several ways. Most important of these is the habit of making inadequate descriptions. As an example I may say that the description we have

of *Mons. Bellart* (Delache, 1850) consists of two words, "clear purple." Today when we have such a large number of varieties on the market, such a description is useless and any description is inadequate which does not give the color, size, season, and horticultural type, together with the species to which it belongs. Other causes for confusion are the poor attachment of labels to the roots, and illegibly written labels. Then, too, the lack of a check-list has resulted in the same name being used over and over again for different seedlings. And then a certain amount of renaming of old varieties for purposes of pecuniary gain has been indulged in by irresponsible growers. I hope that the check-list will be used for reference to all names already published, and that this Society may maintain a register to take care of the new acquisitions from year to year. It remains for the members of this Society to all work together to build up a sentiment which will cause every producer of a new variety to send in specimens and complete descriptions, together with a photograph and a proposed name, *before* he offers the variety to the trade. In return for this the Society might issue to him a number and allow him to advertise his new variety as American Peony Society No. .... If the secretary found that the type of bloom he offered for registration was already well represented and that his seedling almost duplicated several already registered, he could discourage the registration of that name and furnish the grower with the names of those which it already duplicates. Now, my friends, the question arises, Will the growers do all this? I maintain that this plan is perfectly practicable and is the most natural thing to do, and the degree to which it will succeed will depend solely upon the moral strength and commercial prestige of the members of this Society and in the degree in which people believe in its honesty and reliability. Whatever work we do with peonies, we must do it carefully and well, and in such a way that it will stand the test of the years. If this is done, peony growers everywhere will covet our registration numbers. If it is not done, they will not care a rap for our numbers. When we come to consider this subject, we find that we are dealing with principles which reach far beyond mere peonies. Whether we have to do with apples or roses, potatoes or chrysanthemums, we must face the question of variety descriptions and variety records. Therefore the question arises:

#### What Is A Variety?

Ever since the early forties when C. M. Hovey deluged the readers of "Hovey's Horticultural Magazine" with lengthy discussions in regard to varieties of strawberries down to recent times when the fruit growers of the west were wrought up to such an intense state of excitement over the Gano and Black Ben Davis apple controversy, this question has been the cause of prolonged discussion. One faction holds that every seedling from a plant (which does not come true from seed) is a distinct variety. This idea of a variety is based on its origin. The other holds that a variety is a group established by man for convenience in trade. Those persons who describe seedling peonies with the first idea in mind, add greatly to the confusion, for where many seedlings are raised, many of them necessarily very closely resemble each other.

#### Can the Same Variety Originate Twice?

Here again we have a much fomented question and one which depends for an answer on the idea you have as to what a variety is. I take the ground that a variety is a group of forms which is made for convenience and in which the forms are near enough alike to pass for the same thing in the peony trade. I therefore hold that varieties can and do originate at different times and places and that it is our duty to reduce to synonyms those names which have been given different seedlings of the same variety. We should not be too radical

in this, however, but should always allow distinct names for all seedlings which have differences sufficient to be detected by the eye trained for peonies. It seems to me that this is the only way out of our difficulty.

#### How to Describe Color

Theoretically we should describe colors in percentages of the primary colors, which may be obtained by rotating a graduated wheel with sliding color scales upon it. This method, however, is too complicated and time-consuming for peony work, and we have therefore to rely upon some color chart. After looking over the various charts available, I am convinced that the chart published recently by the French Chrysanthemum Society is by far the best. I am therefore using this and giving the popular term for the color in ordinary use. The page and number of the shade are also quoted and may be referred to in case definite and critical comparisons are to be made. The title of this work is "Repertoire de Couleurs" (Index of Colors) and it contains hundreds of charts in almost every conceivable shade.

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### 89-Year-Old Peony Blooms in McGregor

McGregor, Ia.—A peony that is in bloom in a McGregor yard is by authentic record 89 years old.

It dates back to 1858 when Henry D. Evans, McGregor's first merchant and wealthy citizen, built the town's finest home of its day, and Mrs. Evans' brother, governor of Michigan at the time, sent a large shipment of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants to landscape the grounds. In the shipment was a double pink peony.

The peony was set out on the sunny southwest side of the house, and annually as long as the Evans' lived, produced large, choice blooms.

After the death of the last member of the family 23 years ago, the property was bought by C. M. Brooks and the home remodeled into a modern duplex. The peony was carefully guarded, and has continued to thrive and blossom every June.

Residents of the side of the duplex where the peony grows, are Eric Lawson, manager of the Upper Mississippi river refuge, Mrs. Lawson and 4-year old Tommy.

Note:—The above clipping was sent me recently with the query "Can you tie this?" I am sure some of our members can recall instances where peonies have bloomed for a longer period. If my memory serves me correctly in one of our previous bulletins some one in Indiana reported a peony blooming for a considerable longer period.—Editor.



### List of New Members Since Last Bulletin

- Ahrend, Bert, 1356 S. 92nd Street, West Allis, Wis.  
 Aldridge, Mrs. Robert N., Capitola, Estill, Miss.  
 Carrico, Wm. M., Rockford News Tower, Rockford, Ill.  
 Clevenger, Dr. Lewis, Clevenger's Iris Garden, 824 E. Patterson Ave., Kirksville, Mo.  
 Comstock, Mrs. J. E., 13031 W. 5th St., Fond du Lac, Duluth, 9, Minn.  
 Cooper, Charles V., 610 Downer Place, Aurora, Ill.  
 Earle, Dr. Wilton R., Waters Gift, Burtonsville, Md.  
 Elias, Wm., 940 Madison St., Waukesha, Wis.  
 Flohr, Al, 2412 S. 67th St., West Allis, Wis.  
 Freed, Edwin C., Groveside Gardens, 63rd & Grand, P.O. Box 329, Downers Grove, Ill.  
 Garwood, Mrs. H. E., Stonington, Ill.  
 Gluth, Ace., 237 S. 74th Street, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Greene, Robert L., 945 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, Calif.  
 Griffin, Charles S., 542 S. Broad St., Galesburg, Ill.  
 Gurin, Dr. David, 4 Grosvenor Place, Great Neck, L. I., New York.  
 Harlfinger, Leo, 4050 N. 46th Street, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Harper, Allen, 7300 Brooklyn, Kansas City 5, Mo.  
 Kadlec, Jerry, 11640 W. Clarke St., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Kingshot, Mrs. W. H., R. 2, Box 579, Tacoma, Wash.  
 Klose, Alex N., 3624 N. 62nd St., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Koch, Herman, 1729 N. 74th St., Wauwatosa, Wis.  
 Morrison, Douglas M., 1615 Price Street, Rockford, Ill.  
 Naumburg, Robt. E., 608 N. Forest Drive, W. Englewood, N.J.  
 Parkway Nursery, 9326 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa, Wis.  
 Peter, August, 1621 Church St., Wauwatosa, Wis.  
 Shumway, Roland H., Jr., 2307 Melrose St., Rockford, Ill.  
 Smith, Carl V., Versailles, Ind.  
 Soden, Frank, 6015 W. Washington Blvd., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Sweet, Dr. Grover C., Chief Medical Officer, Veterans Home, Rocky Hill, Conn.  
 Tikalsky, Francis, 312 N. Spring Ave., La Grange, Ill.  
 Thomas, Mrs. Roach, 119 Quinlan St., Lynchburg, Va.  
 Tomoff, Mrs. Lucille, 9283 N. Martindale, Detroit 4, Mich.  
 Unoucek, John, 4147 W. Cullerton St., Chicago 23, Ill.  
 Von Buettner & Son, F., Como Beach Nursery, Lake Geneva, Wis.  
 Wadland, E. B., 102 Watson Street, Sarnia, Ont., Canada.  
 Weiner, Dr. Kurt, 5000 N. Larkin St., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Williams, Perry E., R.R. 1, Vincennes, Ind.  
 Wolff, Mrs. B. L., 1606 N. Washington, Lexington, Neb.

### Changes in Address

- Bagley, Mrs. Glen A., 8423 Island Drive, Seattle, change to 10232 59th South, Seattle 88, Wash.  
 Cook, W. W., 1029 N. 2nd Street, change to 2929 N. 3rd Street, Clinton, Iowa.  
 Eylar, Mrs. F. B., R.F.D. 2 Box 610, Renton, Wash. (No longer officer in Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.)  
 Nielsen, Jules P., from Hotel Wellington, N.Y. City to 247 West 24th Street, New York 11, N.Y.



## Department of Registration

Franklin Nursery of 6119 Elliott Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, presents the following herbaceous peonies for registration:

*Bonanza* (Franklin, 1947) D., M., R. Seedling No. L 1 R. American Home Achievement Medal 1947, Minneapolis. Globular, brilliant, dark red double. Very few stamens, upright grower, good stems.

*Irene Jones* (Franklin, 1946) D., M., R. Seedling No. R 153. Rose type dark red, similar to Philippe Rivoire but earlier. Strong grower and good bloomer.

*Prof. Mackintosh* (Franklin, 1946) D., M., LP. Seedling No. 254W. A new light rose pink. Tall, strong grower and free bloomer. Double.

*Shirley J.* (Franklin, 1946) D., LM., P. Seedling No. P 127. A beautiful pink double of show flower class. It was selected by R. W. Jones of St. Paul, ribbon winner of local and national shows and was named for his charming daughter, Shirley.

*Summer Glory* (Franklin, 1946) D., M., MP. Seedling No. P63. Large medium pink double, which silvers into a very attractive and showy flower. Strong stems and medium height. A superb garden and landscape variety.

Mr. Ralph M. Schroeder of Warrensburg, Illinois, presents the following variety for registration:

*Wildfire* (Schroeder, 1947) S. VE. R. Hybrid *officinalis* x *albiflora*. Brilliant poppy red single with cup shaped flowers. Carpels are green tipped pink. A very brilliant garden flower that blooms with the early *albiflora* varieties.

Mr. A. L. Murawska of 8740 Ridge Street, River Grove, Illinois, presents the following varieties for registration:

*Break o' Day* (Murawska, 1947) J., M., DP. Seedling No. 60. Tall dark rose colored Jap with large rounded guard petals. Large dark red cushion of staminodes, long and gold tipped. Carpels tipped red. Disc light pink. This rather attractive unusual combination of colors makes this a very attractive flower at all stages. A good keeper. Beautiful contrast.

*Lotus Queen* (Murawska, 1947) J., M., W. Seedling No. 37. Pure white guard petals. Stamines long very fine golden yellow. Rather small yellow anthers, Carpels yellow green with very pale pink tips, Disc. white. A very beautiful medium sized flower, cup shaped, slightly fragrant, Plant medium height, upright, dark green foliage, good grower. Wonderful for the garden.

Mr. Charles F. Wassenberg of Van Wert, Ohio, presents the following variety for registration:

VERA WASSENBERG (Wassenberg, 1947). J. M. P. Parents: *Isani Gidui* x *Tamate Boku*. Large flowers, Japanese type, of artistic habit. Guard petals medium pink resembling in color its parent *Tamate Boku*. The central cushion of large pink petaloids (staminodes) edged gold is most unusual, strikingly novel and effective, making a flower that is different and outstanding. It has never been offered for sale.

# 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

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