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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

MARCH, 1964 — No. 172

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George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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OBJECTIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.

Note from the Printer of the "Peony Bulletin"

This message is to all subscribers of the American Peony Society *Bulletin* concerning the tardiness of this "Spring" issue.

I regret to report that the "grand old man of the peony world," George W. Peyton, of Rapidan, Virginia, was taken ill just before the March issue was ready to go to press. Mr. Peyton has been a life-long business and personal friend and his state of health has been a matter of genuine concern to all of us in his neighborhood. I have had the pleasure of working closely with him in the bulletin's preparation and publication ever since he took over the editorship, and our firm the printing contract, about 1947-48. His inimitable wit and analytical mind are always a source of amazement coupled with pleasure, a rarity of intellect for a man of his years.

Mr. Peyton has unmistakably always been the "editor" of the Society's Bulletin, and this humble writer's contribution has been primarily in the scheduling, lay-out, and other printing technological assists. Despite this a great deal of "general knowledge" concerning peonies could not help but rub off on me as I shared his enthusiasm in "telling the peony story."

Mr. Peyton was delaying the March issue until early April, that he might include as much information as possible concerning the forthcoming National Show. Most of the Bulletin was already in type and had been proof-read by him. Around April 1st Mr. Peyton was taken mildly ill with a cold virus which created enough chest congestion that his doctor deemed it wise for his age (89) to hospitalize him for several days. He then returned home but a few days later apparently had a relapse and returned to

the hospital. This time the diagnosis was a "possible mild cerebral hemorrhage." He spent 2-3 weeks in the hospital on this occasion. At this time I contacted the Society's President, Mr. Louis Smirnow and between us we decided that I would just have to try to get out a bulletin with what information and material was on hand.

However, as I have mentioned, Mr. Peyton was the *Editor* and some of the material had not been completely assimilated so this particular issue is published with my apologies for any discrepancies occurring in its format. Also, please bear in mind that most of the material was written in the late winter and early spring so is a chronological disorder.

An additional part of the delay is also my responsibility for an unusually heavy regular May schedule of work on many other publications which we produce (i.e. nine weekly newspapers, several school newspapers, several other magazines, etc.) has prevented my having enough time to pick up Mr. Peyton's editorial mantle.

The future of the Bulletin rests in the hands of your Society's Directors. I am afraid that Mr. Peyton is definitely out of the picture as he continues quite weak while receiving excellent care and attention at home from his most attractive German daughter-in-law, as well as a constant male nurse.

I again ask your forbearance in the delay of this issue and wish you much success at the National Show in Grand Forks, N. D., Thursday-Friday, June 25-26.

ANGUS M. GREEN,
Vice-President
Green Publishers, Inc.
Orange, Virginia





AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



MARCH, 1964 — NO. 172

President's Message

There has been a lack of concerted effort on the part of the American Peony Society to study the Peony in a manner which other societies have for their particular favored flower. Now we learn with great pleasure of a movement which should benefit many of our members.

The Mens Garden Clubs of America under the guidance of Mark M. Taylor of Salem, Oregon, and ably assisted by George A. Spader, is embarking upon a Plant Study of the Peony. It will be the purpose of this program to have a representative from each of more than 250 member clubs grow some Peonies and keep records as to such matters as soil analysis, weather extremes, rainfall, temperature and the like, hours of sunlight daily, exposure, fertilizers used on the Peonies, cultivation, blooming times, fall color foliage, depth of planting, mulching, consistency of flower form, color and foliage by species variety, pests and diseases and their treatment. It is contemplated that the findings of this continuing study program, to last three years, may be able to substantiate with facts some things

that have been merely theory heretofore, and they may be able to arrive at some new findings in Peony culture that will open up more gardens to the use of Peonies, both herbaceous and tree type.

All of us should encourage their efforts. Congratulations to Mens Garden Clubs and the best of luck for the program.

The National Show and Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society will be held in Grand Forks, North Dakota, under the sponsorship of the North Dakota Peony Society on June 25-26, 1964.

In 1959 our show and meeting was held here and those present will recall the wonderful cooperation of the city accorded us. I hope you will make every effort to attend and exhibit.

It is hoped that the 1965 will be held in New York at the World's Fair. Negotiations are now in progress and it will be at least sixty days before we will have definite word. The obstacles are many but we may have favorable word before long.

I sincerely hope each and every one of you will have a good growing season. Louis Smirnow

The 1964 National Peony Show

June 25-26

Grand Forks, North Dakota

For the second time in six years, the national show and annual meeting of the American Peony Society will be held in Grand Forks, Ralph Rohde, president of the North Dakota Peony Society, has announced.

The national events will be held in conjunction with the North Dakota show here June 25-26.

The national show also was held here in 1959, the first time a national flower show ever was held in North Dakota. The national meeting and show of the North American Gladiolus Council was held here in 1963.

"The board of directors of the American Peony Society was extremely well pleased at the wonderful cooperation of this city and the surrounding communities in staging a truly magnificent show" in 1959, Rohde said in explanation of the decision to come here again.

Had the show not been awarded to Grand Forks, Rohde said it probably would have been staged at the New York World's Fair. Much of the credit for bringing both the 1959 and the 1964 national shows here belongs to Loyde C. Thompson of Grand Forks, Rohde said.

The 1959 show attracted exhibitors from 16 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. There were exhibitors from 65 communities in North Dakota and Minnesota.

George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Va., national secretary of the American Peony Society, said all officers and most directors of the APS will attend the annual meeting here.

Rohde will serve as general chairman for the state and national shows, with Mrs. Winston Regis-

ter of Grand Forks as assistant. She is secretary of the North Dakota Society.

"UNUSUAL PEONIES"

by Clarence O. Lienau

25804 Joy Road

Detroit 39, Michigan

In my twenty-one years of growing peonies I have at one time or other grown about 250 varieties. Included were some unusual kinds. In white the variety *Lois Kelsey*, a single, is a very unusual one. I call it a shasta daisy type of bloom which it resembles. It has very narrow white petals not more than tuft of yellow stamens make up this bloom. LOIS KELSEY is not a large flower but it makes fine floral arrangements such as table center pieces, fill in flowers for basket work or small singular, distinct arrangements.

MILDRED MAY is a nice versatile white which can be used in two different ways as a garden plant, also in several ways for floral arranging. One may have two different size blooms from this plant. If you disbud the side buds and leave the terminal bud, you will have a fine large semi-double, similar to a water lily bloom, pure white with yellow stamens intermixed. If you do the opposite, disbud the terminal bud, leaving the side buds, you will get a cluster of two to five smaller nice white blooms, which nearly always open at the same time. The small blooms, growing in a nice cluster, can be used in several ways, fill in for basket work or used individually for any other arrangements.

SNOWBALL, this small white

☞ 5 ☞

compact bloom, is just what its name implies, round, small and tightly knit; a small LE CYGNE. The blooms vary in size from two to three inches in diameter, small enough to make a bride's bouquet, and can also be used for center pieces or for a bud vase.

CARRARA is a very unusual white Jap, as everything about this fine flower is white, white petals, white staminodes, with white pistils.

In pink, GAY PAREE, anemone type, is a fine rose and white flower. The plant of this variety is very floriferous, also very spectacular. After it is in bloom a few days, the staminodes turn pure white. The colors, rose and white make a gorgeous display. I consider this variety one of Mr. Auten's finest originations.

MME. BUTTERFLY is a rose pink, pink on pink anemone or Jap. It makes a nice plant and a good bloom.

NEON has brilliant pink guards and staminodes tipped gold, also edged with gold; very nice.

DO TELL, with outer petals orchid pink and center petals dark pink, presents striking combination of colors.

In red: IMPERIAL RED is a vary large, brilliant red single. The flower and plant are both fine. The plant resembles a large poinsettia at Christmas time. A very picturesque plant, it seems there is a bloom placed exactly where one should be. Heavy stems hold up its most brilliant, large red blooms. This fine bloom has won the best red single many times.

WHITE CAP, a fine red and white anemone is similar to Gay Paree but has red guard petals about the color of Richard Carvel with pale yellow staminodes that also turn white in a few days. This variety was originated by the late

Mr. George Winchell; of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and is very scarce.

In my humble opinion these varieties are unusual and worth growing; however, I know there must be a good many other unusual varieties.

I would like some of our good members to express their opinions on unusual varieties they have grown.

Dept. of Registration

The following cultivars (varieties), whose names have been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, are presented for registration:

By *Col. J. C. Nicholls*, deceased, originator and *Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Inc.*, Sarcoxie, Missouri, owners, growers and distributors.

CELEBRATION, Nicholls-G. H. Wild & Son, Inc., 1964). D. L. Deep rose. Seedling No. N 630. No parentage given. Deep pink peonies are much in demand and this one is an eye-catcher in its color class. Col. Nicholls described its color as deep rose purple, which a color chart gives as mallow purple. The large rose type flower has a center of small, finely cut petals giving it an airy appearance. It has good form and substance with no stamens. The plant is strong, growing with stiff stems and dark green foliage. Tall, late.

LAVENDER BOUQUET (Nicholls-G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964) D.M. Lilac pink. Seedling No. N 1382. No parentage given. This medium to large, full double, has a definite lilac or orchid cast. It is high built and of exhibition form with large well shaped guard petals and a center of finely cut thickly set petals and occasionally a crown of narrow bright yellow petals. It has definite interglow. Its much admired flowers hold well when cut and are carried on tall,

strong stems with good dark green foliage. It blooms in midseason.

PINK CHAMPAGNE (Nicholls-G. H. Wild & Son, Inc., 1964). Anemone. Midseason, pink and yellow. Seedling No. N 289. No parentage given. A "different" new color break! The single row of guard petals is a delicate pink edged with silver, surrounding a full center of lemon yellow petalodes which fade little. A few petalodes the same color as the guard petals surround the carpels, making an attractive center. The bright, showy flowers are carried on strong, stiff stems.

By *Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Inc.* Sarcoxie, Missouri, originators, owners, growers and distributors.

A. J. CHOICE (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964) D.M. Red. No seedling No. nor parentage given. An attractive red that draws much attention in the garden. Its large flowers with well placed petals are carried on good stems with dark green foliage.

ANGEL'S DREAM (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964) D. EM. White, fragrant. Seedling No. W 1002. No parentage given. There are flakes of green interspersed throughout this large white flower which seems to have a creamy light shining in it. The large blooms often measure 7½ inches across and 5½ inches in depth. Their form is that of Mons. Jules Elie but not so compact. It has good stiff stems and dark green foliage and blooms in early midseason.

CLEAR SAILING (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964). Anemone. M. Rose red. Seedling No. W 53-60. No parentage given. The guard and center petals of this 8-inch flower are the same shade of cyclamen purple with no white on the reverse side. This pleasing variety is a prolific grower with good foliage and stiff stems. Fragrant.

JUDY ANNE (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc., 1964). D. LM. Rose pink. Seedling No. W 52-21. Parentage not given. This is one of the largest peonies, its immense, heavy, compact blooms often measuring 10 inches and more when cut from well established plants. It has been a favorite on our show tables for a number of years. We predict great things to come from this deep pink peony.

PAUL M. WILD (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964). D. M. Red. No seedling No. nor parentage given. This is one of the best reds that we have introduced and may become the top red on the market. Its large, velvety red flowers are fully double and unfading with us. It makes a handsome garden plant with excellent habits.

PEACH FLUFF (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964). D.M. Peach pink. Seedling No. W 52-108). Parentage not given. This exquisite peach pink perfect "bomb" type peony has two rows of large, guard petals of delicate peach pink. A heavy row of yellow stamens is intertwined with the peach pink petalodes at the base of the bomb. The midribs of these petalodes are yellow, giving a heavenly glow throughout the flower. The foliage is dark green and it has stiff stems.

SHOW-OFF (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc., 1964). Anemone. M. Red. Seedling No. W-55-1. No parentage given. Two rows of guard petals surround a full row of fine petalodes which is followed by three rows of needle-like petals and a small tuft of stamens in the center. The flower is a velvety ruby red self with the color going through to the back side of the petals. It has good clean green foliage with stiff stems.

VELMA ATKINSON (G. H. Wild & Son, Inc. 1964). Jap. E. Pink, fragrant. No seedling No.

nor parentage given. Large deep jink guard petals surround a full compact center of yellow stamens touched deep pink. The good green foliage is carried on strong stiff stems. It is an attractive novelty of great garden value. It is named for Mrs. H. B. Atkinson of Midwest City, Oklahoma.

By Mrs. Elizabeth Falk, R.R. No. 1, Plainfield, Illinois, owner and grower, and Lyman D. Glasscock (deceased), originator:

OLE FAITHFUL (Glasscock-Falk, 1964). D. E. Red. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given, Fourth generation hybrid. Double red with heavy substance, large plant and roots. Excellent keeper, late blooming for a hybrid.

ILLINI ROSE (Glasscock-Falk, 1964). D. E. Deep rose. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given. Fourth generation hybrid. Medium size plant. Blooms with the later hybrids.

NIGHTINGALE (Glasscock-Falk, 1964). S. E. Seedling No. B 1 B 6. Parentage not given. Third generation hybrid. Dark red semi-double, large flowers. Blooms with the late hybrids.

PINK CHIFFON (Glasscock-Falk, 1964). J. E. LP. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given. Fourth generation hybrid. Beautiful, delicate, light pink Jap which blooms late for a hybrid.

WHITE CHARM (Glasscock-Falk, 1964). D. E. W. Seedling No. 4-1213; Parentage not given. Fourth generation hybrid. Resembles Red Charm in size and shape. Outer petals light pink when cut in bud, center of cream colored petals. Blooms late for a hybrid.

PILGRIM (Glasscock - Falk, 1964). S. E. American Beauty red. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given. Tall, vigorous single. Large flower, rose red, good substance, holds its shape and keeps well.

STARDUST (Glasscock - Falk, 1964). S. E. white. Seedling No. not given. Parentage not given. Grandchild of Le Cygne. Good form, excellent for breeding purposes. Not a hybrid.

NOTE: Mrs. Falk says that STARDUST is one of the parents of most of the hybrids and it is the source of the white in them.

PEONY NOTES PEONIES IN IOWA

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. White operate White's Floral Garden as a hobby only, in Woodbine, Iowa. It contains many lilacs, nut trees, walnuts, magnolias, oaks, maples and other trees and shrubs. It also contains 232 varieties of *lactiflora* peonies, 835 plants; 24 hybrids, 52 plants; 17 species, 12 plants; 68 tree peonies, 267 plants; 2 species tree peonies and 1700 seedlings. They are attempting to grow some trees and shrubs that are not ordinarily considered hardy in Iowa.

Here is his comment on his peonies:

Last spring at blooming time I marked on my charts the peonies that I thought were beautiful, also some that were very beautiful. The very beautiful ones are listed below in alphabetical order.

Bonanza - Carrara - Dolorodell - Dorothy J. - Emma Klehm - Elsa Sass - Ensign Moriarty - Hans P. Sass - Hansina Brand - Isani-Gidui - Kelways Glorious - Moonstone - Mattie Lafuze - Mrs. Livingston Farrand - Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt - Nippon Beauty - Nancy Nicholls - Nick Shaylor - Paul Bunyan - Ramona Lins - Therese - Victory - Walter Faxon

Hybrids—Alexander Woolcott - Burma Ruby - Crusader - Claire de Lune - Flame - Golden Glow - John Harvard - Laura Magnuson - Lovely Rose - Mermaid - Victoria Lincoln

Species—L o b a t a Sunbeam - Mlokoewitschi

Tree peonies — Chromatella - Echigojishi - Festival - Gumpoden - Godaishu - Imashojo - Rimpo - Reine Elizabeth - Souv. de Ducher - Souv. de Maxime Cornu.

I thought that some might be interested in how some varieties do here. My first tree peony was purchased about 1952 and my first hybrid peony was purchased in 1955.

I have planted in the last three years a great number of the highly recommended varieties of all kinds. This should be taken in consideration by anyone evaluating the above list as in all probability a large number of other varieties will be just as beautiful when established.

One note about tree peonies: In 1959 I planted a bed of 2-year-old tree peonies 4 feet apart each way. This past summer the tops of some of the varieties were touching each other. Last fall I planted a new large bed and planted them 6 feet apart this time for trial.

In the fall of 1956 I planted a good root of Mlokoewitschi. The next summer it just had a few leaves. It made no growth. That fall I dug it up to see if anything was bothering the root but it was all O.K. I moved it just one foot and it has done fine since. It probably would have been all right without moving.

—Herbert L. White

GROWING PEONIES IN ALABAMA

Commenting on the fact that some growers do not recommend growing Peonies in the Birmingham area in Alabama, Mr. Ellis P. McDonald of that city has this to say: "We have had two mighty good years for peony bloom, the last two years. In fact the last five or six have been good. I have now

about 100 varieties and almost 2,000 clumps.

I cannot understand that some of the growers do not recommend the Birmingham area for Peonies. They just do not know what they are talking about. In fact Peonies are one of the easiest and most satisfying of any flowers to grow."

For many years this Society has had members living in Birmingham and also in areas further South than that and they have grown peonies successfully. We think it is time growers stopped discouraging their growth that far South. The Winter Haven Garden Club once, several years ago, tried them as far south as that town in Florida which is somewhat south of Tampa and they succeeded in flowering them, but evidently it was not an unqualified success as we have not heard of any further experiments. But if freezing temperatures continue to penetrate that far south maybe it will make peony growing possible at least in Northern Florida.

Since it is becoming common to grow peonies in containers maybe that will solve the problem as they can then be placed in a cold storage plant for two or three months and then they would get the necessary freezing. But, and there is always a "but", it would probably be too expensive to be worthwhile. Maybe Dr. Earle White, who lives in Daytona Beach might have an opinion on that. He has probably tried to grow them in Daytona, but we expect it has been out-of-doors.

We have had friends try them in Tallahassee but while the plants lived, there was no bloom.

PEONIES IN YOUR GARDEN

This is the title of a booklet of 36 pages published by T. F. H. Books, Box 33, Jersey City 2, New Jersey and is one of a series of

about 20 on horticultural subjects. They sell for 35 cents plus 5c postage.

This is written by Mark M. Taylor of Salem, Oregon. Its contents are quite similar to those of our Handbook, though it has more illustrations and drawings, about thirty of these. It also has a hardness map and a genealogy table of the species. It has paragraphs on growing in containers and on propagating by cuttings. Its lists of varieties contain an early mid-season and late in white, pink and red, of each type. The tree peony list contains a general lot of 13 and 13 of recent American origin, all names beginning with "Santa".

While we do not agree with some statements made and with the classification of some varieties, it is an interesting book and deserves a place in the libraries of our members. Its price being small, any one can afford a copy.

ROT IN PEONIES

A letter from Mr. Kenneth Welsch of Miamisburg, Ohio, tells us: "During the fall season just passed, I dug up about 30 peony plants, ten to twelve years old, for dividing and replanting. Much to my surprise, I found almost without exception, that the entire crowns of these plants were rotted or eaten away and in many instances both the crowns and roots were almost black in color.

"The crown structure at eye level, was so damaged that all plants were thrown away. These plants have good drainage and receive above average spraying attention, yet I found hundreds of triangle shaped earth worm colored slugs deposited throughout the crown structure. From the above can you suggest what might be the cause of this? Bone meal is their main diet."

What have our readers to say?

EVELYN S. PIERCE

(Vories, 1937)

This is a worthy addition to the list of Unusual Peonies as given by Mr. Lienau in this Bulletin, though we doubt if many now have ever heard of it. It is described as a double, pink, midseason. An unusual flower with several rows of medium rose pink guard petals white at the center and yellow at the base. There are no stamens. The stigmas are pink. It makes a nice medium height plant and is good for arrangements. There are few if any other peonies like it. It is a perfect cup in form.

RESEARCH ON PEONIES

Within the past weeks several of our growers have sent me a copy of a letter they received from Mr. George A. Spader, Executive Secretary, of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. This letter was sent to 15 growers and reads as follows: "Gentlemen: The Men's Garden Clubs of America is embarking upon a new Plant Study Program—Peonies. This program will be headed by the group's former National Secretary, Mr. Mark M. Taylor, an authority on Peonies, 1090 Crescent Drive, N.W., Salem, Oregon 97394. Please reply to him.

"It will be the purpose of this Peony Study Program to have a representative from each of our more than 250 member clubs, grow some Peonies and keep records as to such things as soil analysis, weather extremes, rainfall, temperature and the like, hours of sunlight daily, exposure, fertilizers used on the Peonies and nearby; cultivation around Peonies; blooming times; fall color foliage at what temperature, depth of planting, mulching, time of planting to first blooming, consistency of flower form, color and foliage by species and/or variety, pests, diseases and their treatment, blooming times.

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"It is contemplated that the findings of this continuing study program (participants will probably be expected to continue in this field for about three years), we may be able to substantiate with facts some things that have been merely theories heretofore and we may be able to arrive at some new findings in Peony culture that will open up some gardens to the use of Peonies both herbaceous and tree peony types.

"If you would like to participate in this program actively, we suggest the preparation of a study kit of Peonies (many will never have raised Peonies before) at a nominal price; to include mailing charges, of representative kinds. For example, a kit could be made up of roots of some of the more common *P. lactiflora* varieties in each of the flower forms and colors and including both European and Japanese types, as many species as can be included. Something that would amount to only a nominal investment would be fine. We are not asking for new or recent, introductions, but just want to get our study participants off to a good start with a fairly representative collection to begin with.

George A. Spader,

Executive Secretary

February 17, 1964."

A letter from Mr. Taylor gives further information about this study plan. It seems to have originated many years ago as a testing of new varieties before their introduction to the general public, but this proved to be entirely too expensive for most flowers and there were not enough plants available to do this. So it developed into a "Study" program instead of a "Test" program. These "Study" programs have proved far more successful than the "Test" ones.

The statement that "participants will probably be expected to

continue in this field for about three years" does not mean that this study will be conducted for only three years. It means that each person who undertakes to do this study will be expected to give at least three years continuously to it. The study will continue for many years probably, as it will require time to reach any conclusions worthwhile. It is definitely not a scheme to get a good collection of peonies for little outlay and then lie down on the job. Mr. Taylor also reports that the response from the growers has been excellent.

Such a study as proposed has been needed for many years as so far as we know none has ever been conducted on Peonies before and those who contribute of their time and resources are doing the cause of the Peony inestimable value. Our thanks and appreciation go to the members of the Men's Garden Clubs for undertaking the study.

GROWING PEONIES IN CONTAINERS

A letter from Mr. J. L. Harper of Dallas, Texas, reminds us that we know some have grown or are growing peonies, both herbaceous and tree, in containers. Mr. Harper wishes to do this so he can have them in bloom for the patio and move them off after they have bloomed. He intends to grow both herbaceous and tree and asked for information.

Unfortunately we had little to give him. We hope that some of our readers who have tried to do this will write us what success they have had and what is their method. How are they carried over the winter?

Here is what Mr. A. C. Bothner-By of Alamogordo, New Mexico, says about his experience with them: "My main interest has been tree peonies of which I had grow-

ing about 100 different kinds and I lost practically all from a most severe and unexpected freeze two years ago (-17°F). Usually a hard freeze will stop at 5°F. The trouble undoubtedly came from the fact that I was growing all my tree peonies in 20 gallon cans for better to work with them.

My ambition was to grow these peonies into regular tree shape of which I saw one matched pair in a temple in China. I am, however, most anxious to know if anybody else has seen or knows how to grow these plants into regular tree shape."

Who has? Let him tell us, please, if so.

Mr. M. B. Meacham of Fort Mill, South Carolina, grows some of his tree peonies in containers, evidently with good success.

LUTEA and MLOKOSEWITSCHI

Mr. R. H. Giff of Sarnia, Ontario, writes us of his experience with these. He states he imported them from the British Isles some fifteen years ago, or more. Lutea grew along and bloomed, but never made much progress. He finally gave the plant to a friend who still has the plant and it blooms every year but hasn't made much growth.

The plant of Mlokozewitschi grew and bloomed for a year or two, but began to gradually get so "scrawny" that he put it out with the garbage. On referring to Bulletin No. 124, March, 1952, we find there directions for planting this variety given by Mr. Troyan who is now dead. He says a large hole was dug and steamed bone meal was mixed with the soil in the bottom of the hole and a mixture of sandy loam and leaf mold, taken from a ravine where leaves had rotted down year after year, was used to fill the upper part of the hole. The eyes had their tips just

visible at the surface level of the soil. Location was where the soil never gets water logged and no water stands on top of the ground, regardless of how often or how much it rains. This plant bloomed every spring after it was planted. It was given cultivation for a year or two but not much or even none after that. Mr. Troyan seemed to think his success with it was due to his placing the bone meal below the roots and also to the type of soil and situation. Maybe those who have little success with this unusual and beautiful plant would have better, if they followed the method of Mr. Troyan.

SEED FROM "LE CYGNE"

Sometime ago the BULLETIN gave a complete and accurate report on the process of Decapitation for those breeders interested in working with Fully Double Lactiflora, but frustrated because they fail to produce reproductive organism. This was written by Mr. James Murawska, son of the colorful Mr. Arthur Murawska of River Grove.

I had a twelve-year-old plant, this I decapitated and the regrowth came fully double, so again I did not have anything to work with .

Then I dug and divided the old clump of LeCygne and when the young plants sent forth their stems the following spring, I then decapitated and sure enough they all had capable carpels, so seed were set on each plant.

So I suppose the suggestion I must make is, divide your fully double *Lactiflora*, then decapitate, and success is assured. I submit this report to help our plant breeders who may have had the same problem.

Samuel E. Wissing
93 S. Lombard Ave.
Lombard, Ill. 60148

TREE PEONIES

by Leo J. Armatys
Central City, Nebraska

In a world where individuality is fast disappearing, where any deviation from the norm is suspect, Moutan remains the unreconstructed individual. I wouldn't want it any other way. Listen to *The Little Boxes* folk song, which envisions a world where everything is made of 'tickee-tackee,' where everyone is just the same. Whatever tree peonies are made of, their particular brand of beauty is not duplicated in the gardening world.

Nurseries in the News:

Inter-State Nurseries, Hamburg, Iowa, giant of the direct sales group, has finally listed tree peonies. This marks the biggest step yet toward getting the Moutan message to the masses. No exponent of the 'hard sell,' *Inter-State* says tree peonies are "Hardy to Central Iowa". I was tempted to ask if they meant *north* or *south* of that line. I hope they imported enough plants to do a bit of growing-on & eventually offer older specimens.

Kelly Bros. Nurseries, Danville, N.Y., issue one of the more effervescent catalogs. Expanded offerings last fall included specimen size tree peonies of good Japanese varieties. It must have been a huge success. Two of the three plants that I ordered in October were sold out. Let this be a lesson to all procrastinators. Order early!

White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Conn., has graduated to the \$1.00 catalog class, and copyrighted, too! Required reading for the serious gardener, it is good, clean fun for the more frivolous ones. No tree peonies are listed, perhaps because of short stocks of their favorite, YASO-NO-MINE. Among the illustrations is a beautifully detailed sketch of *The Moon Garden*. This

all-white perennial border gives a place of prominence to a tree peony. Your Lucky Number:

No. 47. No. 19. If you can spare either of these Bulletins, please send me a card. They are worth their weight in Herbaceous hybrid peonies.

Growing Hints:

Tree peonies can be given too much protection. In the case of *Lutea Ludlowi*, one expert feels that coddling may be a factor in its hesitancy to bloom. I covered one rare young plant a couple of seasons ago before a late April freeze. In the process, I knocked off its only bud. The freeze didn't bother any of the others, and I haven't worried about the effect of cold weather since. The only protection really needed here is a small pyramid of dirt mounded part-way up the stems the first winter after planting.

Tree peonies do appreciate some defense against small children and big dogs. Stems are especially brittle in early spring and late fall. Footballs in the tree peony patch cut down on next season's crop of blossoms. Fencing might work, but I like an open garden. I also like kids. I do cover some small plants with wire cages in the wintertime. Corn-tunnels work as well, and are easily obtained in the Midwest.

The *sine qua non* of tree peony culture is good drainage.

Landscapes:

More and more landscape architects are making use of tree peonies. One plant will add class to any border. Although catalogued as an informal shrub, two tree peonies can make your border as formal as a white tie. If space is available, an impressive grouping can be had with any odd number from seven on up. Even numbers seem to be taboo.

Miscellany:

This is the Year of the Dragon,

4662 on the Chinese calendar. The Year of the Tiger (4661) saw the mainland Chinese move to improve trade relations. It is possible that tree peonies will again find their way from China to the Western world. If the green tree peony is included, we'll be tempted to believe that their intentions are honorable.

Our question and answer section is off to a slow start. I misplaced a letter asking for information on the 'David' Crab. This tree is stocked by the *Earl Ferris Nursery*, Hampton, Iowa. Arie den Boer now includes it in his list of ten favorite flowering crabapples.

"You don't have to be a millionaire—just think like one." So says the new men's magazine, *Bi-monthly Millionaire*. It is rumored that the editors are divided over the question of whether azaleas or tree peonies should be featured in an early garden article.

Editorially Speaking:

Many amateurs will take to the field this summer in an attempt to duplicate Harold E. Wolfe's experiments with Naphthalene Acetamide. My small supply of this hydrocarbon is on hand, awaiting 90 degree temperatures, but I have misgivings. It would take little increase in size to change some fine tree peonies into side-show monstrosities. And how much more 'substance' can we stand without losing the airy translucence that forms such an integral part of Moutan's charm?

A. P. Saunders, noblest hybridist of the mall, was a qualified judge of both herbaceous and tree peonies. He recognized the fact that Moutan, without benefit of artificial aids, had reached the plateau of excellence toward which other flowers must still strive. Professor Saunders gave us new shadings of color. He brought the

yellow flowered kinds up out of their foliage. But historians may well place greater emphasis on the fact that his successes alerted younger men to search out more of Moutan's well guarded secrets.

We all appreciate improvements in sturdiness of plant, in carriage of stem and leaf. Those whose plans go much beyond that and a broadening of the color range, those who envisage a more graceful FLORA, a bigger SAKURAGASANE, a more jaunty THUNDERBOLT or SUIGAN, are treading on dangerous ground.

Coming Sooner or Later:

My top ten—annotated.
More Nurseries see the light.
Still another peony book?
And more—about tree peonies!

TREE PEONY HISTORY

One of our correspondents, Miss Dorris Pellet, Markham, Virginia, sends us two interesting accounts of the tree peony in its native country, China, in appreciation of certain information given here. We appreciate her doing this a great deal.

While some of the information given was published by Dr. John C. Wister in his article on Tree Peonies in the old *Maunal*, "Peonies", now out of print, and reprinted in his *Tree Peony Monograph* (*National Horticultural Magazine*, January, 1955) and more recently in his book "The Peonies" we are sure that many of our readers may never have seen these books and so we are reprinting these excerpts here.

From Reginald Farrer's
"ON THE EAVES
OF THE WORLD"

(page 109, Vol. I. pub. 1917)

After a very long stage we reached our haven at Fu-erh Gai a tiny place, as pretty as are all these little valley-villages, and with

a promise of nobler rugged ridges rising behind, while in front, across the back, rose a long high hillside all copped and wooded and blurred with promise, illuminated here and there with the tender pink of *Pyrus* or *Dipelta*. In the quiet evening we crossed the stream and ascended the woodland by different paths. My own object was a specially rosy tree of *Pyrus*, to which I at last attained toilsomely through the jungle, delayed only by one other new beauty, a wild-rose just beginning to break out in arching sprays of golden-yellow blossom. A lady-slipper was peering up, indeed, amid the brushwood, but it was as yet too undeveloped to be made out; it had, though, several buds to the stem, and thus differed from all those with which I came in contact later on.

So I sat at last and rested, gazing down the steep loess tracks to the little village at my feet, so comely and there above the small-fry fortable and pleasant-looking in its grove of poplars, till my eye was caught by certain white objects farther along the hillside, that were clearly too big by far to be flowers, yet must certainly be investigated, if only to find out what clots of white wool, or yet whiter paper, surely, could be doing in the wild coppice, perked up here and there above the small-fry of little barberries and so forth. Probably they had some religious meaning, I would see.

Through the foaming shallows of the copse I plunged, and soon was holding my breath with growing excitement as I neared my goal, and it became more and more certain that I was setting eyes on *Paeonia Moutan* as a wild plant. The event itself justified enthusiasm, but all considerations of botanical geography vanish from

one's mind in the first contemplations of that amazing flower, the most overpoweringly superb of hardy shrubs.

Here in the brushwood it grew up tall and slender and straight in two or three unbranching shoots, each one of which carried at the top, elegantly balancing, that single enormous blossom, waved and crimped into the boldest grace of line, of absolute pure white with featherings of deepest maroon radiating at the base of the petals from the boss of golden fluff at the flower's heart. Above the sere and thorny scrub the snowy beauties poise and hover, and the breath of them went out upon the twilight as sweet as any rose. For a long time I remained in worship and returned downwards at last in the dusk in high contentment, to find that Purdom's only other record from his higher ascent was spiteful and hunchy *Ilex Pernyi*, abundant in the upper copice of these comparatively dry regions.

As for the Peony, its home has long been a problem of botanists. Though it has been cultivated for countless ages in all the gardens of the Far East, it was long before it could be traced to its original "point de départ" . . . In any case, no investigations in Shensi brought wild tree peonies to view, and it was not till Purdom visited the foothills of the Min San in 1911 that at last the Moutan was discovered in its original cradle. But along the upper regions of the Blackwater its form is that with flowers of dark and rich magenta-crimson; occurring again here, along the extreme southern fringe of Kansu, it is always of the purest white. No doubt different districts, when China is yet farther searched, may reveal yet other divergences of colour.

I wish I might one day set eyes on the wild original of that marvelous variety which is forced so freely for the Chinese market, and is sold for extravagant sums at mid-January in Peking. It is like the one we call *Reine Elisabeth*, which is still the most gorgeous of all tree-peonies in point of colour, and is very likely *Reine Elisabeth* herself in the country of her birth; anyhow you have to keep a tight grip of your pockets when you enter one of the big sunken lean-to's, papered with white, which are the Chinese flower-shops, and see before you a glowing stretch of purest, most brilliant salmon-pink, the huge blossoms, like the chalices of the Magnolias close by, being carefully tied in with sashes, as if they were on their way to a Chelsea show.

The bushes themselves are dwarf and sturdy, the naked roots are pulled up and sent down by bales to Peking, and immediately potted up in jardinières, to bloom a few weeks later; and after that, presumably, to die. For tree-peonies at all times are no friends to change or removal; it is not conceivable that they should condone the brutality of the Peking market-gardener's processes.

But China continues its immense demand for Moutans, and the supply continues inexhaustible, though the most cherished forms are rare and do not often appear on the market. A black one is talked of, and is of an intensely dark maroon; green and blue ones are almost certainly Chimaeras, such as Chinese imagination likes to invent as the special treasure of some lonely monastery far away in cands of Shin-jang or the desolate moorlands of the Koko-nor. The most precious of all is the so-called yellow, which merely indulges in a faint greenery-yallery

flush spreading from the base among the tumbled whiteness of the petals.

The Moutan is "par excellence" the national flower of China, indeed, in every form: paupers, prelates, and Emperors affect its charm, and there is hardly a house or any abbey up the Border without its bush or two of Tree Peony; while the Imperial Palaces revel in rows upon rows of them arranged in narrow, shallow terraces, each just wide enough for a single line of plants, and piled up one behind another till the effect of that towering long bank all ablaze with blossoms must surpass the wildest imagination of the show-bench, in something of the same style.

I cannot but feel that in similar raised terraces the peonies might find better drainage and kindlier conditions in England, where at present they still remain more loyally obedient to the wishes of their late Imperial mistress than do her other special favorites, the Palace doglings, one of whose special points, as laid down by Her Majesty's own hand, was that they should "bite the foreign devils instantly."

To the cool damp climate of many parts of England the Chinese and Japanese Moutans still remain as hostile as the most exclusive of Empresses could desire; but the Palace dogs have accepted a new life much more readily, and take as kindly to a comfortable English cook as ever to court life in the now-forgotten days when whole troops of them went ambling up and down along the marble-railed groves of the Summer Palace in attendance on their mistress; even as in yet older days, before they came as an Imperial present to the Emperors of China, they ambled up and down yet other palace terraces beside the Bospho-

rus, on the skirts of Theodora or Theophano.

* * *

From Robert Fortune's
"TWO VISITS TO THE
TEA COUNTRY OF CHINA"
(page 108. Vol. 1. pub. 1853)

Another example may be given to show the cunning and deceit of many of the Chinese here as elsewhere. A flower-painter in Chusan had informed me that several very valuable varieties of the *Moutan*, or Tree Peony, were to be found in gardens near Shanghai. Those varieties of this flower which are yearly brought from the northern provinces to Canton, and which are now common in Europe, have blossoms, which are either rose-coloured or white; but it was always asserted, although not believed, that in some parts of China, purple, blue and yellow varieties were produced, although these were never brought to Canton for sale.

It was for these that I made the most particular inquiries, and this painter not only affirmed he had seen them, but also offered, for a small sum, to make me drawings from memory of all the different kinds. I employed him at once, and when he had finished the drawings I took them with me to Shanghai. A nurseryman who had a flower-shop in the town, to whom I showed these drawings, promised at once to procure living plants for me, but said they would be very expensive, as he would have to send to Soo-chow, a distance of nearly one hundred miles, for they were not to be procured in the vicinity of Shanghai, and a man would be absent at least eight days.

I was, of course, glad to get them upon any terms, and gave the man the price he asked, which, after all, was not much out of the way, if they were to be brought a hundred miles.

At the appointed time, the Moutans arrived, and proved most valuable kinds, which, in England, would have brought a very high sum. Amongst them were lilacs and purples; some nearly black; and one which the Chinese called "the yellow", which, however, was only white with a slight tinge of yellow near the centre of the petals. Altogether the collection was a valuable one, and I was highly satisfied with my bargain.

Great was my surprise when I afterwards found that these plants were brought a distance of not more than six miles from the walls of Shanghai, and that the celebrated town of Soo-chow was, in fact, supplied with "Moutans" from the very same place.

* * *

It may also be of interest to our readers to know that plants deemed identical with the wild white form described by Farrer may be obtained as *Paeonia suffruticosa* Rock's variety. Some of the varieties brought to England by Robert Fortune may also still be obtained, especially "Reine Elisabeth". Now, there are a number of varieties that approach black, enough so to have many with "Black" in the name. There is no true blue as yet, though under ideal conditions Kamada-fuji comes quite near it.

Those of you who have a copy of Bulletin No. 115, December, 1949, will find a picture of the green tree peony, then growing in the Peony Temple in Peiping. Here is what Mr. Fletcher Steele, the author of the article, says about it: "Tales of a green peony sent a visiting Gardener in Peiping to the Peony Temple. There he found it sure enough. A Tree Peony the color of green pea soup with a luscious golden cluster of stamens in the center. . . Over it bent an old Chinese gentleman, watching and

waiting while a bud slowly spread and opened before his eyes." Whether it was ever propagated we do

not know nor do we know what has been its fate in the years since the advent of the Red regime.

OBITUARIES



MRS. MARY E. G. FREEBORN

Mr. Freeborn has just sent us word, through his daughter, of the death of Mrs. Freeborn after a long illness, early this month.

Mrs. Freeborn's gardening activities began many years ago as we find her originating a new peony in 1929. We find some account of them in Dr. Wister's book, "The Peonies" from which we quote:

"Mrs. Mary E. G. Freeborn, of Proctor, Vermont, attended Vermont Academy and Cornell and the Women's Medical College of New York. She worked in research laboratories in New York City and taught bacteriology and chemistry. She has a fifty acre wild flower

preserve and has done experimental farming with fruit trees. During the past forty-five years she has grown a great variety of plants. Her best known peony hybrids are Angelo Cobb Freeborn, Red Signal, Sunfast and Garden Sentinel."

She joined the American Peony Society about 1929 and attended many meetings to which she brought her originations when she could. At Cleveland in 1951 ANGELO COBB FREEBORN was awarded a First Class Certificate by the Seedling Committee and we find PICO being shown by others in several classes and winning first

in the class for white singles, in which class it was shown by Dr. B. R. Gardiner of Orillia, Ontario. Since then it has won so often that we shall not attempt to give its record here. At the Lake Mohawk Show in 1952 Mrs. Freeborn attended and showed her new Jap EMILY D. PROCTOR. This was the last National Show she attended.

She has originated several varieties that have risen far into the top ranks and all are noted for their outstanding difference from other varieties.

Probably the most famous of all is PICO. This has taken first in its class in nearly every show in which it has appeared and is now generally recognized as the finest of all white singles. It is a tall plant and has the largest leaves of any *lactiflora* we know of. The late Mr. W. H. Boyle of St. Paul once sent us a specimen from his plant that was over a foot in length. It is named for a mountain near her home and the "i" is pronounced as in "pike". About thirty years ago she sent the writer a root of it which was probably one of the first she ever sent from her garden. We think a goodly proportion of those now widely spread across the world came from this plant.

Another exceedingly distinct variety is the one she named for that famous lake near her home "Champlain". It is a tall plant with large single flowers of a soft blush pink. Its light green foliage is large and smooth, quite different from any other. This one has also been in the writer's garden for many years, a gift from Mrs. Freeborn. It has never been widely distributed. It would be interesting to know the parentage of these two.

Her red single "RED HARMONY", is a brilliant red, but we doubt that it is known to many, though it deserves to be.

Probably the most noted herbaceous hybrid she has ever sent out is ANGELO COBB FREEBORN. This is a tall plant and has a flower that is a perfect sphere and a shade of red that she calls coral red. It is also "different".

ARBUTUS PINK is the name given a fine blush pink single hybrid, evidently named for that elusive wildling the trailing arbutus which is probably growing in her wild garden.

A less well known hybrid is "GINNY", which from its bright green stems and leaves is some relation to PICO. Its color is a glowing red. It is full double.

Many years ago Mrs. Freeborn imported some peony seed from the Chugai Nursery in Japan and from them she raised a number of Japanese type flowers. She once sent several blooms from them to the Minneapolis show. They were all characterized by small compact flowers of excellent form. Of them she has named one "WILLIAM H. PARK" which was numbered Chugai 29. The late Harry F. Little of Camillus, New York, had a small bed of them which Mrs. Freeborn had sent him for trial. Unfortunately this bed was accidentally plowed up after Mr. Little's death.

She never grew peonies as a commercial project, but she exchanged some for other varieties she wished to have and gave away far more. So some of them have eventually been sold by growers. Mr. Little and the writer had almost all of her named varieties and some seedlings that were never named, but both of these collections have been lost or nearly so, due to circumstances not foreseen in time to save them. Mr. Myron D. Bigger of Topeka, Kansas, has probably the largest collection of them outside her own garden. There used to be quite a number of them in the private collection of

Mr. Elmer Claar of Northfield, Illinois.

As we go to press we have not been able to get many details of her life. The picture presented was sent us by her family. It had to be reduced in size to get any detail worth reproducing.

We are publishing a list of her registered varieties. There are ten *lactiflora* and ten herbaceous hybrids.

Mrs. Freeborn was truly a noble and lovely woman and one whom her family and host of friends will surely miss. To them we extend the sympathy of our members in their loss.

* * *

ORIGINATIONS OF

MRS. MARY E. G. FREEBORN
REGULAR (*Lactiflora*).

CHAMPLAIN (Freeborn, 1950).
S. EM. Blush. Tall, large light green leaves.

EMILY D. PROCTOR (Freeborn, 1947) J. E. Old rose.

JOHN STARK (Freeborn, 1953). S. E. Deep crimson, Tall. Nippon Beauty x unknown.

KILLINGTON (Freeborn, 1934)
D. L. White. Tea rose fragrance.

MARYGOLD (Freeborn, 1931).
J. L. Rose pink guards, golden staminodes.

MIRIAM MARSH (Freeborn, 1931). J. M. Flesh fading white with pale yellow staminodes.

MRS. JULIA E. GOODWIN (Freeborn, 1929). D. Deep pink.

PICO (Freeborn, 1934). S. EM. White. Tall, large leaves. Probably the best white single.

RED HARMONY (Freeborn, 1941). S. M. Deep crimson.

WILLIAM H. PARK (Freeborn 1945). J. M. White, Chugai No. 29.

HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS

NOTE: the parentage of all the following except Ginny, Red Signal and Sunfast was given as *Officinalis rubra Plena* x *Mme. Jules Dessert*.

ANGELO COBB FREEBORN (Freeborn, 1943). D. E. Coral red. Tall.

ARBUTUS PINK (Freeborn, 1951). S. E. LP. Dwarf.

COPY CAT (Freeborn, 1945). D. E. Brilliant blood red.

CRIMSON BOMB (Freeborn, 1943). D. E. Crimson.

GARDEN SENTINEL (Freeborn, 1943). D. E. Brilliant pink.

GINNY (Freeborn, 1947). D. E. Brilliant red. Light green foliage.

HARDY GIANT (Freeborn, 1943). D. E. Pink. Tall.

PINK POMPON (Freeborn, 1943). D. E. Clear pink.

RED SIGNAL (Freeborn, 1941) S. E. Scarlet.

SUNFAST (Freeborn, 1945). D. E. Bright red.

DR. BERTRAM R. GARDINER

Again we have to report the death of one of our outstanding Canadian members. The account of Dr. Gardiner's life is taken from a clipping from the *Orillia Daily Packet & Times*, sent us by his wife, Dr. Mary Gardiner, and also from her letter.

Dr. Bertram R. Gardiner, L.D.S., D.D.S., of 7 South Street, Orillia, Ontario, Canada, died suddenly on Monday, November 4, 1963, at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, Orillia, in his 72nd year.

He was a member of the Toronto Academy of Dentistry; Masonic Lodge, the Orillia Curling Club and the American Peony Society. He retired two years ago from active practice of his profession.

He was married to the former Mary Nicholson of Cleveland, Ohio. Her aunt in Tillsonburg was one of the first lady dentists in Canada. The Doctors Gardiner formed one of the few husband-wife dental teams in the country. They had two daughters, Betty Jane (Mrs. Ralph Thompson of

Toronto) and Mary (Mrs. Ronald Scott of Boston, Mass.)

Dr. Gardiner was interested in sports, most of his life and at one time he had the ambition to join a circus and practiced intensively at acrobatics, but abandoned that plan and used his acquired skill to win his "T" as gymnastics champion of the University of Toronto. Golf and curling were his favorite sports and for five years he led a rink to Utica, New York, for the Grand National Curling Association Bonspiel and won several times.

Flowers were another hobby. He and his wife specialized in growing peonies and iris. The awards won for the many entries in flower shows were numerous.

One of his more recent hobbies was stereoscopic photography in color.

He is survived by his widow and their two daughters.

* * *

Dr. Gardiner joined the American Peony Society in 1948. Since then he has always sent blooms from his garden for exhibit in our National Shows if it were possible for him to do so. We find his entries winning in the following shows: Guelph, 1948; Cleveland, 1951; Lake Mohawk, New Jersey, 1952; Kansas City, 1953; Chicago, 1955; and Van Wert, Ohio, 1960. He sent flowers to the Kingwood Center show in 1963, but they did not arrive in time to be exhibited.

His wife sends us this additional information about his peonies: "Dr. Gardiner had seventy varieties of peonies in his garden, each year adding a new one. Our two most beautiful peonies were Red Charm and Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt.

"Our soil and climate seemed to be just about right (with proper fertilization each year) for growing peonies. I think one reason Dr. Gardiner chose to specialize in

peonies was the fact that after bloom is spent the foliage is luxuriously green all summer. Also each year they require so little care aside from disbudding (I have done my share of that.)

"More recent was his interest in the Tree Peony. He had several varieties of these. His first was Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, but our favorite was Hana-kisoi. This is a huge, gorgeous deep pink bloom (now all tied up in burlap). In April covering is removed, depending on the weather, and then, with God's sun and rain, it soon becomes the most beautiful Tree Peony one would ever see. To his special patients he would give a bloom—and now:

"I wonder what the flowers will say

When they find he's gone away?
I wonder how the Lilac Bush will face

The loneliness about the place?
For every spring and summer he
Was chum to every bush and tree.
Now Spring is coming 'round
again;

I wonder what the flowers will say

When they find he's gone away?"

—Author Unknown

* * *

For the members of the American Peony Society, we extend his family our sympathy and also we wish to express our appreciation of his loyalty to the Society.

NOTE—See page 26 Bulletin No. 160, March, 1960, for a picture of Dr. Gardiner, taken at his home in Orillia with Mayor Dan Pennell of Van Wert, Ohio.

Several winters ago the Gardiners stopped off for a short visit at Rapidan, while on their way back to Orillia "to get warm" after a short stay in Florida. It may be noted that Orillia is farther North than any of our members live except one in Alaska.

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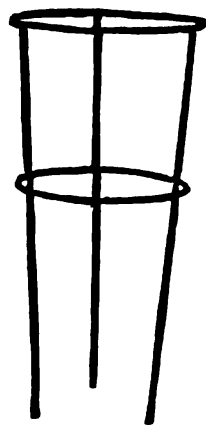
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