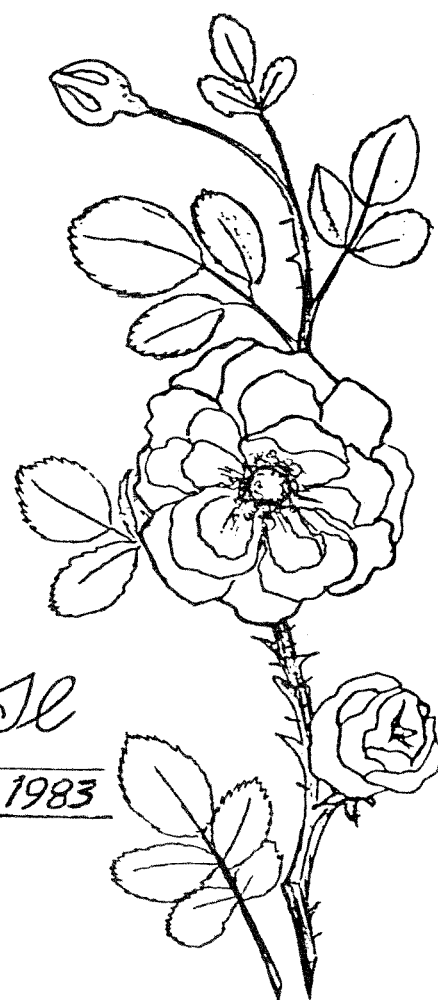




The Old Texas Rose

Vol 2 No 1

May 1983



OUR LADY VEEP CHOOSES LA CRÈME FOR
HOUSTON

--by Mrs Mel W Sharpe,
ARS Life Judge &
Consulting Rosarian

R. gallica officinalis (G) Also called the Apothecary Rose, Provins Rose, and the Rose of Lancaster. Very Old. Semi-double to double blooms, clear red. Its dry petals hold their fragrance.

R. gallica versicolor (G) Also called Rosa Mundi. Before 1500. Like the officinalis above except the petals are red and white striped, spotted or marbled.

R. damascena bifera. Also called the Rose of Four Seasons, Autumn Damask. Ancient. This grows to 3 to 4 ft., and has small clusters of pink, quartered blooms.

"Marechal Neil" (Noisette) 1864. Climber to 40 ft., begins bloom in early March and blooms every 40 days until frost. Bloom clusters of three or more, of big, yellow, quartered blooms. It requires a very strong trellis for support. Tends to ball in damp or cloudy weather. Present stock seems to be scentless. The best of its type.

"Souvenir de la Malmaison" (Bourbon) 1843. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. This is an attractive mannerly bush to 30 inches tall with large

LA CRÈME, Cont.

blush, flesh pink blooms, which repeat all year. Plant in full sun. If you can have but one old rose -- THIS one!

"La Reine Victoria," (pronounced "ren") 1872. (B) Good bloomer, growing to six feet, with cupped, double, orchid-pink, very fragrant blooms. Most satisfactory.

"De Meaux" 1789. (Centifolia) To three feet, dwarf when compared to others of this type, making it good for small areas. Double pink blooms.

R. centifolia bullata. before 1815. (C) To 6 or 7 ft. with distinctively crinkled green through bronze foliage -- like red lettuce. Sprawling plant does best on a wall, on a tripod, or in a mound. Its pink blossoms are clear cups of fragrance, three per stem, in the spring only. A good landscape plant, though it does tend to blackspot and mildew. (Treat with Funginex and Vendex)

"Salet" 1854. (Moss) A Damask Moss, this rose grows to 6 or 7 ft, with double deep pink blooms that repeat often through the year. Strong Damask fragrance.

R. centifolia muscosa, "Old Pink Moss," 1696. (M) A three foot plant, with pink mossy blooms which occasionally repeat. Mossing is a lush green, covering long sepals, and the parental centifolia fragrance is muted by the pine scent of the moss.

"Archduke Charles" before 1840. (China) Usually to three feet, its red buds open to pale pink, with outer petals turning to bright dark red as it opens.

"Louis Philippe d'Angers" 1834. (China) This rose is still, like "Archduke Charles," found still growing and blooming in and around Houston. It grows in a clump of a bush, with typical China foliage. The cupped red blooms have a silvery reverse, though it is prone to ball and bud-drop. Prune only the dead wood.

R. chinensis veridiflora, the Green Rose. 1855. (China) This plant has an oddity of flowers consisting of whorls of green sepals. Roots easily from cuttings. An interesting landscape plant to about 3 ft., and excellent in bouquets.

"Catherine Mermet," 1869. (Tea) This rose is considered the best of the Tea class, with well-formed flowers of light pink to cream to soft tan. It makes a large bush which spreads to 7 or 8 ft. here.

"Duchess de Brabant," 1857 (T) Flowers are rosy to bright pink. This is renowned as Teddy Roosevelt's favorite.

"Safrano," 1839. (T) This is a pale yellow, fading to white.

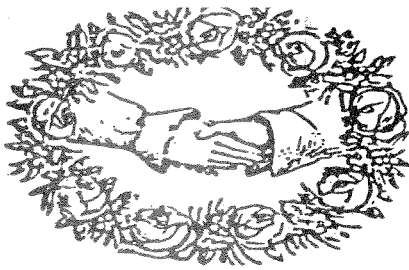
"Lady Hillingdon," 1910. (T) Unlike most Teas that hang their heavy heads, this has a strong neck, and blossoms from a dark orange to a bright yellow.

"Mme. Scipion Cochet," 1872. (T) Grows to about 4 ft, with shiny leaves on a compact plant which produces clusters of three to five clear pink blooms on strong canes.

"Mrs. Dudley Cross," 1907. (T) A favorite with many, it is a yellow blend with blush edges, growing to 10 ft or more with pretty bronze red springtime foliage.

--TO BE CONTINUED.

FOR THE REALLY DEDICATED: Martex has some bedlinens named Tuilleries Rose, which are lattices and old gallicas. One can recognize "Cardinal de Richilieu," and probably "Belle de Crecy," but really! need they have rugosa foliage???? Let's watch that, Martex.



THE STATE OF THE STATE

-Pam Puryear, ED and SEC

The commercial sources list is undoubtedly incomplete, but it will probably be a help when confronted by an old rose beginner who wants to see catalogues and price lists. Might I also recommend Mrs Irving Dobson's Complete Lists, which may be had from her for \$3.75 plus postage at 215 Harriman Road, Irvington, NY 10533? This booklet includes every rose there is, where in the world and from what firms it's available. (A SSAE will get you this information if you are a Heritage member, also). Everyone loves Beverly! If she has her house as organized as roses, she is the world's best wife and mother!

Pat and Buddy Harrison swept up the aisles with their Old Garden Rose bouquets in San Antonio, and then went home for the Dallas show May 7th. Joe Woodward reports that gale winds for three days killed twenty of the roses at the Samuel Farm (see article this issue); wrecked havoc with their miniatures.

I must apologize to everyone for mixing up R anemoneflora and R Fortuniana. Both have Banksia leaves, you see. A real sight this spring was Mr B.C. Moore's yard in College Station where he had alternated Fortuniana and R laevigata, "the Cherokee Rose."

My HRG Tea Rose Robin #1 slides this time proved that Buddy Harrison's 'November Surprise' is the same as 'Cleo Barnwell's Pale Yellow Tea.' Just what we needed -- more study names!!! If anyone is out to admire the scenery in south central Texas, might I suggest the town of Weimer, about 12 miles south of Columbus on I-10? It certainly is a town of flowers and vegetable gardens -- and lots of 'Nov Surprise'!

Welcome to new members Deanna Carroll (Canton), Maxine McFall (Wichita, KS), Brent Pemberton (TAMU Ag Res Station, Overton), and Mrs Mary Fulgham (Bellaire). We are happy to welcome newcomers at any time; just send me a few dollars (more if you're flush) to cover postage and printing, and you receive a year's worth of optimism, good fellowship, and information! (708 HOLLAND, NAVASOTA 77868.)

Mrs J A Still: I couldn't stand it and ordered us both a "Marechal Neil" from RoYaT. Can you come get it? I potted it up for you. Mrs Fulgham: with lots of TLC I hope to be able to share cuttings with you in the fall.

We are sorry to lose William Barber to newer fields in Oregon. Bon voyage.

Joe Woodward also has a source for all of you are want to try willow water without a nice riverbank to ravage for trees: RVP Vitamins Products Western, Inc. has tablets or capsules of 325 mg willow bark at \$1.95 for 50, \$3.50 for 100, or \$6.95 for 250. Less than \$12. 50 order, \$1 handling charge. They are at 2015 S Davie Avenue, PO Box 22051, LA, CA 90040.

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COMMERCIAL OLD ROSE SOURCES

How convenient it is, we old rose collectors have found, to be able to sit down and order old lovelies out of a catalogue! No willow water, no hormone, no canker!! As far as my (un-vast) knowledge extends, this is the sum total of such concerns at present. Will anyone who knows of others drop me a post card? --Ed.

Pickering Nurseries, 670 Kingston Road, Pickering, Ontario, LIV 1A6
Mr Schraven is their manager, and this firm has just about everything, excepting Teas, and the very tender types. They are generally slightly cheaper than US firms. Free catalogue.

Joseph J. Kern, Box 33, Mentor, Ohio 44060. 216-257-7201. This firm is going out of business, but ask Mary Karrick if they have any bushes remaining. Their selection was always good.
Historical Roses, 1657 W Jackson St, Paineville, Ohio 44077 are the successors to Kern in their area. Write for their free list. They have old shrub roses and species, in particular. Phone 216-357-7270.

High Country Rosarium, 1717 Downing Street, Denver 80218, 303-832-4026. Dr Campbell specializes in very hardy and species roses, which will, of course, do for us here. Brochure list free for the asking.

Lowe's Own Root Nursery, 6 Sheffield Road, Nashua, N H 03062. These people have everything! Even the Teas. But the only fly in this ointment is their 17 month delivery. (You might like this, because by the time they come, you will have forgotten what you ordered and it will be a dandy surprise!) The own-roots is really a good idea, too. Send for their free list.

Roses of Yesterday and Today, 802 Brown's Valley Road, Watsonville, Ca 95076, catalogue \$2.00. Mrs Pat Wiley is the high priestess of old roses in America; this firm has been just about everybody's "one and only" for so long that we all have a sort of proprietary feeling about them! It was the same way with Pat's mother, and Will Tillotson before her. Their catalogue is something to warm the rosarian's heart on cold winter nights, and their roses, grown in California, are more acclimated to Texas.

Magnolia Gardens, 18810 Turtle Creek Lane, Magnolia 77355, 409? 356-1179. Tom and Frances Marek are a young couple who run this wholesale nursery just north of Houston. Though they specialize in magnolia species, Tom took some cuttings in the hopes of offering them at some time in the future, which we all devoutly hope he will!

Lowrey Nursery, 2323 Sleepy Hollow Road, Conroe 77302, 409? 367-4076. Though Lynn sold out and moved to New Braunfels, the staff here has remained, and they have a few roses. Ask for Nolan Guillot, who is our member.

Thomasville Nurseries, P O Box 7, Thomasville, Ga 31792, 912-226-5568. Mrs Hjort (pronounced "Yort") is the second lady of that title, as her husband's mother was there before her. They had Teas for sale by mail order a few years ago until scourged by nematodes; now, they have some for sale there: All of the better old Teas, and white and yellow banksia, at very reasonable prices. I doubt they are listed in the catalogue.

Cont, p. 5.

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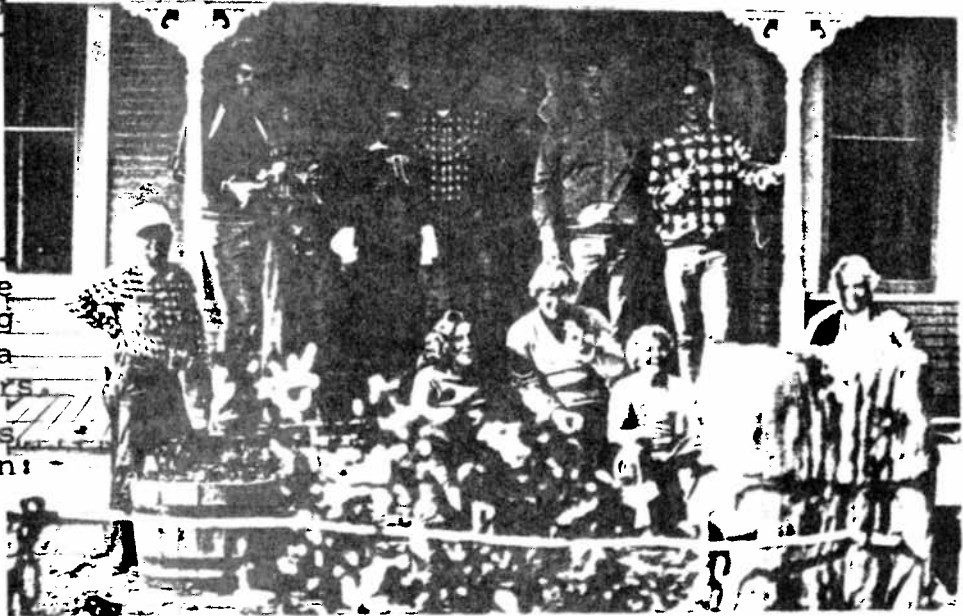
COMMERCIAL OLD ROSE SOURCES, Con't.

Heritage Rose Gardens, 16831 Mitchell Creek Drive, Fort Bragg, Ca 95437. Their list costs \$1. Conrad Tips says that they are "all own root and some very interesting selections." Two he mentions are "Comtesse du Cayla" and "Mme. Berkeley."

The 1982 Rose Rustlers

Back, 1 to r: Nolan Guillot, Conroe; Wm Barber, Tomball; Richard & Linda Wheat, Garland; Micheal Harrison, Richardson; Dr Bill Welch, College Station; Glen Land & Russell Cox, C6; bottom row: Joe Woodward, Dallas; Mitzi VanSant, Austin; Dr. Clarissa Kimber, CS; Margaret Sharpe, Houston; Missie Puryear, Navasota. Missing are Buddy Harrison & Pamela Puryear, being photographers.

In the foreground at Bill's Farm at Rehburg near Burton: "Old Blush."



UPDATE OF THE 1982 ROSE RUSTLE

-- Dr William C Welch, Pres.
Landscape Horticulturist

A brief follow-up of the December 5th Rustle seems appropriate at this time. I was particularly pleased to find the two yellow roses at the Renz home in Brenham. One is a pale yellow, almost thornless Tea, which may be 'November Surprise.' The other is a bright, full yellow with quartered blooms and shiny foliage. Both have rooted readily in my south-facing rooting bed in College Station, and I hope to have a few blooms by fall.

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UPDATE, Cont.

I am most excited about finally rooting several cuttings from Mary Minor's beautiful pink shrub in Anderson. This may be "Souvenir de la Malmaison" or "Louise Odier", but whatever it is if it grows half as well for me as it does for Mrs. Minor I will be delighted. Other successes from Brenham include the medium-sized pure white from the Meyer residence -- 'White Carl' -- as well as the full pink shrub rose we called 'Brenham Pink' for want of a better name.

Some of you took cuttings from the rough-leaved rose with colorful hips at the front gate of our farmhouse near Burton. I continue to be highly impressed with that rose, originally collected along an East Texas railroad track by Lynn Lowrey. I took a flowering specimen to Robert Basye near Caldwell this week, and he says that it is a Damask. It is easily the most fragrant rose I have and has never had a speck of blackspot or mildew. This is the more impressive as it resides near "La Reine Victoria" who always has blackspot. My sources aver that Damasks do not have the dark purplish colors, yet this plant definitely has a blueish cast to its full, two to three-inch flowers. They also vary to white occasionally.

Other roses that bloomed for the first time in our farmhouse garden this year include "Fortune's Double Yellow" and "Belle of Portugal." Both have been spectacular. "Fortune's Double Yellow" was a mass of salmon-yellow flowers but only lasted about two or three weeks. "Belle of Portugal" has huge blooms that are blousy when open but make an impressive show.

The rooted cuttings I gave away at Pam's house prior to the Rustle as white Banksias have been positively identified by Robert Basye as Rosa Fortuniana. There are several large specimens around College Station and I continue to be favorably impressed. Clean luxuriant foliage and a month or more of one to two-inch fluffy white flowers make this vigorous vine a stand-out. It smells of violets, too. Deserving of widespread landscape use, this rose has only been popular as an understock on poor, sandy soils.

I made an early reservation for the old rose symposium at the Huntington May 12th through 14th. While there I hope to spend a couple of days in the San Francisco area to visit Roses of Yesterday and Today, Filoli Gardens, and other sights of interest.

Texas Homes magazine sent a writer and photographer to see our roses at the farm April 22nd, supposedly for an article in the July issue. Most of the plants are still rather small, but the masses of shasta daisies do a good job of visually tying it all together.

There's good news and there's bad news. The good news is that Gertrude Jekyll's books are back in print. The bad news? -- well, I'll get to that. First, we must understand this about Miss Jekyll and her career: she was a lady (she would have said "aristocratic") in an era that took class very seriously indeed. Limiting to some, no doubt, but rank can be the means to freedom. Affluent country-living gentlefolk, the Jekylls were in terms of their milieu unusually cultivated. Miss Jekyll's grandfather was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and founder of the Athenaeum. Her father collected Etruscan pots and casts from the antique. Her mother, a pupil and later friend of Mendelssohn, was a talented artist. A brother was in the vanguard of the English Wagnerites -- a freakish taste then -- and Bach was played in the family circle before his music was generally known. They studied languages and adored travel, but, scornful of the usual tourist round of the day, they took ship to Greece and the Isles, to Constantinople and Asia Minor, and this in a period of difficult, not to say dangerous, passage. At length, Miss Jekyll decided to study painting in London, an eccentric activity for a young lady of the 1860s. She copied the Turners at the National Gallery and admired the Impressionists; she read Ruskin and met Morris; she moved in society and the upper reaches of artistic and literary Bohemia. She danced; she rode to hounds; she posed for Susan Mackenzie smartly gowned and showing a neat waist. She enjoyed herself. And here we must deal with another determining aspect of Miss Jekyll's life: so far as can be known, not once did she feel passion, or even a moderate attraction, towards any of the men she met in the circles which suited her best and in which she might be expected to glitter. Possibly she was in essence sexless, but it is undeniable that she was plain in an age that valued physical charm in a woman rather than wit, intelligence, or character. Admirable qualities she possessed and in abundance but no particle of allure, and the realization of this may have warped her. As she began to achieve some success with her painting, her sight, never good, began to deteriorate, so she turned to crafts -- carving, modelling, gilding, metalwork, inlay, embroidery, photograpy; nothing seemed beyond her skills, and she found herself in demand as what we would call an interior decorator. But her eyes continued to fail, and she was brought at last to the great crisis of her life. With a devoted family and no great need of money, she was an independent woman in middle age who found herself wracked with all the anxieties of an artist who is abruptly deprived of the means to consummate herself. So she turned to gardening. Country life she preferred at all times, and since childhood had liked grubby, practical work in the gardens of her father's houses; now she purchased a property of about 15 acres in Surrey and began to arrange there a garden so original and unconventional, so seductive in its beauty that it soon became a shrine for garden pilgrims. The most eminent of the gardening gentry of the time gathered about her and applauded. Her celebrated head unturned, Miss Jekyll continued to dig, plant and plot. Then, on a summer day in 1892, Fate in the guise of a lanky, very young, very talented man on a bicycle arrived at her front door: Edwin Lutyens. He was to be the greatest English architect of his generation and unarguably one of the select of any other. Impressed by the fledgling genius -- and Miss Jekyll was not easily impressed -- she invited him to build the *house* she had contemplated for many years. She knew little enough about architecture but she knew what she wanted, and Lutyens knew nothing at

JEKYLL, Cont.

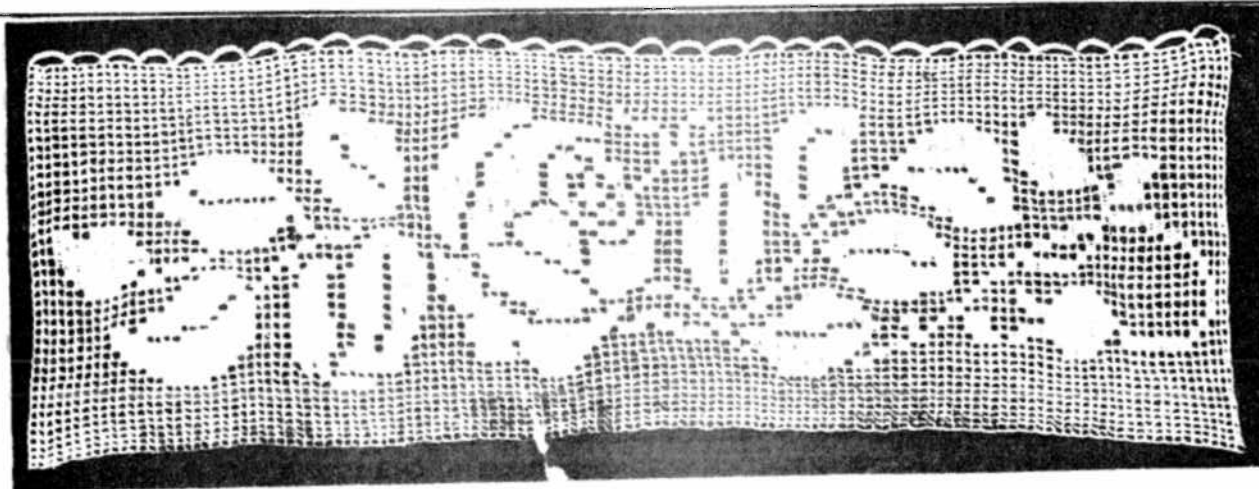
all about gardening, but he knew very well that his remarkable houses required something equally remarkable around them. It was a partnership made in Heaven; all the world wanted a Lutyens house in a Jekyll garden. As her fame spread, Miss Jekyll accepted (or not) hundreds of commissions and wrote without pause, so achieving a second fame far beyond her first. Honors were heaped upon her, distinctions which really-keen gardeners would immolate, cheerfully, their firstborn. Miss Jekyll smiled and said her little knowledge was merely the result of hard work and simple experience, and surely anyone could do the same? Perhaps, but then perhaps not. At any rate, Miss Jekyll lived to a great age -- formidable, humorous, a woman with no time for fools or social climbers but with unlimited sympathy for children, cats, and industrious gardeners. She died soon after her 89th birthday; a devout and humble believer, her last words were, "Peace, perfect peace in Jesus Christ." On her monument are engraved, "ARTIST, GARDENER, CRAFTSWOMAN."

Of her many books I will say little. Some think her masterpiece Colour Schemes for the Garden. I love best Wood and Garden and Home and Garden, and we must all admire Roses for English Gardens, a fine work superbly illustrated. Let us conclude with Miss Jekyll's own words:

... a garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and ~~A~~trifft; above all, it teaches entire trust. "Paul planteth, and Apollos watereth, but God giveth the increase." The good gardener knows with absolute certainty that if he does his part, if he gives the labor, the love, and every aid that his knowledge of craft, experience of the conditions of the place, and exercise of his personal wit can work together to suggest, that so surely as he does this diligently and faithfully, so surely God will give the increase.

Miss Jekyll's books are available in this country through The American Horticultural Society, Mount Vernon, Va 22121. They are not inexpensive -- I said there was bad news -- though much less dear than the old editions. The color plates are good to very good, but the black and white illustrations could be more distinct. The printing is undistinguished -- Miss Jekyll would have been livid!

The curious will want to read Francis Jekyll's Gertrude Jekyll: A Memoir (London, Jonathan Cape, 1934), and Betty Massingham's Miss Jekyll: Portrait of a Great Gardener, which is in print, and may be ordered from David & Charles, Box 294, North Pomfret, VT 05053.



from Home Needlework, about 1910.

NEW "TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY" ROSE GARDEN

-- Joe Woodward, Ex Comm'

On Saturday, March 12, 1983, and old-fashioned rose garden will be planted at the Samuell Farm by the Historical Rose Group of Dallas. The Samuell Farm is located along I-20 east of Dallas at the intersection of Beltline and I-20, actually in the town of Mesquite.

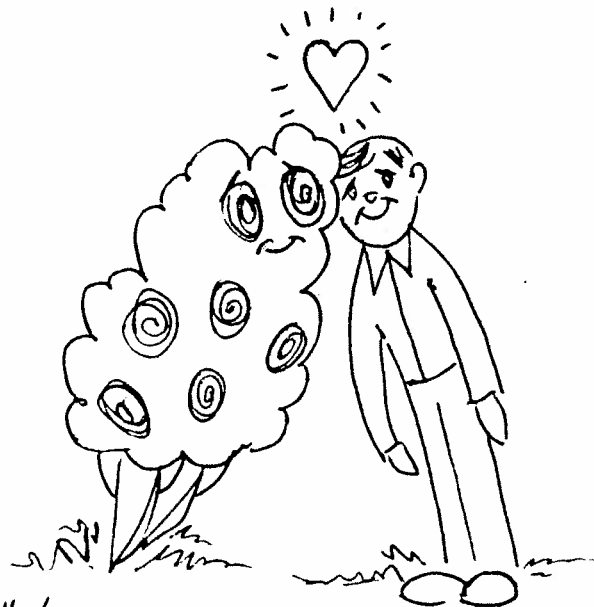
The Historical Rose Group of Dallas is a sub-group of the Dallas Rose Society, and was recently formed from those members interested in old garden roses. About 75 old garden roses, contributed by members and friends, will be planted this year. Since these are not easily available through commercial sources, members have exchanged cuttings and seeds with others interested in these historical roses.

The Samuell Farm consists of some 600 acres being developed as a turn-of-the-century farm by the Dallas Park & Recreation Department. Carl and Doris Riedel are the farm managers; with experience from a similar project in Austin. Last year planting at the farm began with a seeding of native bluebonnets around the park entrance. The first planting of old roses will be located at the farm office, which is some 500 feet of the Interstate.

A list of roses planted will be provided for the next issue of the newsletter, and any contributions which differ from the list would be appreciated, either as started cuttings or the seeds of species roses, so that this garden may be expanded.

With the 5000 modern roses in Samuell-Grand Park (sponsored by the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas and the Dallas Park Department), and the 150 miniatures in the Miniature Rose Garden (co-sponsored by the Dallas Rose Society and the Dallas Arboretum at the DeGolyer Estate), this garden completes the collection of the most popular roses for rose lovers and gardeners of the Mertoplex.

James W. "Buddy" Harrison, 2119 Oak Brook, Richardson, Tx 75081, is chairman of the Historical Rose Group of Dallas.



"YOU KNOW, IT'S AMAZING
HOW HAROLD LOVES THOSE
OLD ROSES!"



"Belle of Portugal," a hybrid gigantea, grown by our President. See his article, p. 5.

THE HALLMARKS OF ROSE CLASSES

ED NOTE: In an article in The Country Gentleman, December 1, 1853, the French rose breeder, Mon. Carrierre discussed the marks that differentiate the various classes of old roses -- after all, old roses were all they had in 1853! I omit his first three classes: Portlands, Hybrid Perpetuals (from Portlands), and HP (from Bourbons) as these do not usually survive with us in Texas. I also omit the names, as most of these are lost to cultivation. To the Bourbons, I should also like to add our infallible test-- the pedicel and receptacle of Bourbon blooms always smell of black pepper!

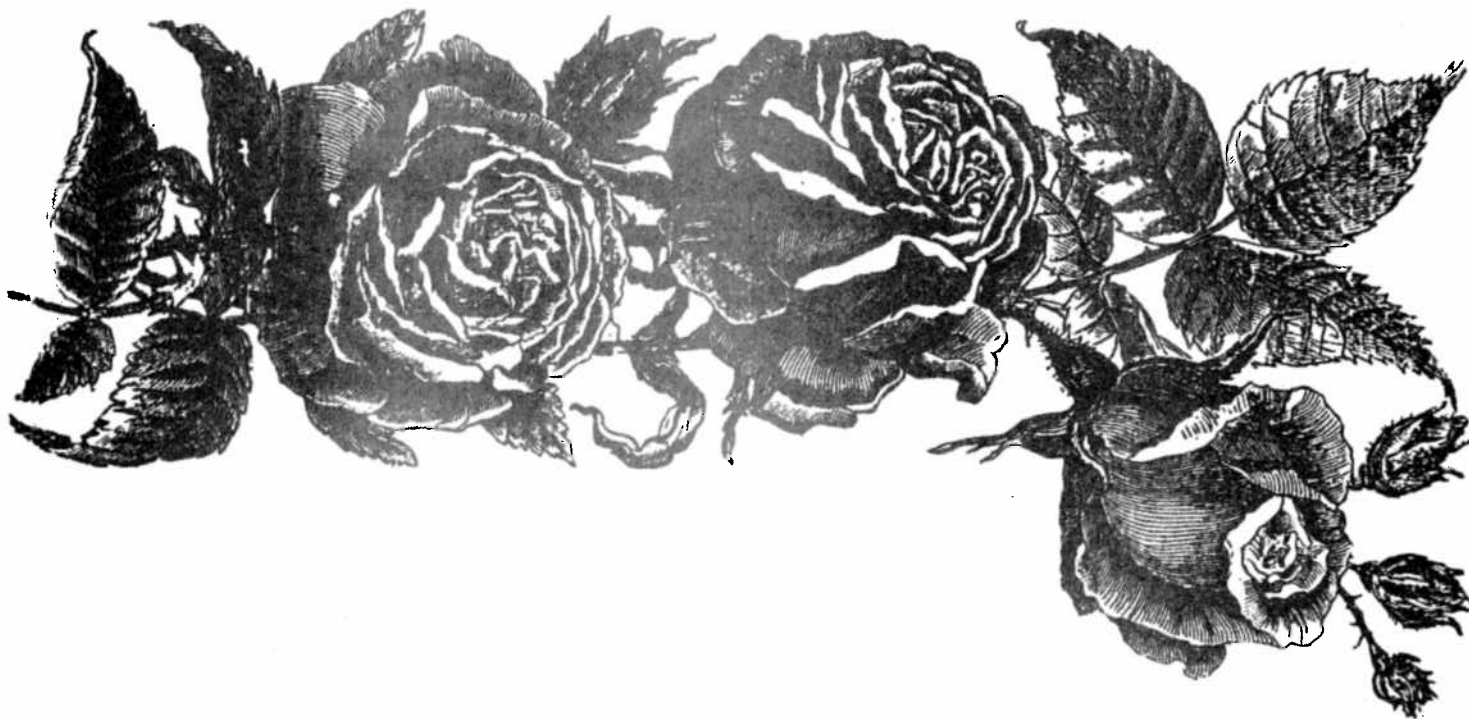
Bourbon Roses. -- The wood of these is smooth; their branches are sometimes short, terminating with a single flower. But the buds of some kinds are strong, and produce vigorous shoots, on the tops of which appear from three to twelve flowers. The thorns at the base are strong, curved, and placed at some distance from each other. The sepals are oval, rounded, strong, fimbriated, smooth, and dark green. The calyx is rounded. It often happens that the branches of some kinds in this class grow horizontally.

Noisette Roses. -- Their foliage has much resemblance to that of the Tea Roses, but their branches are more vigorous, much longer, and terminated by numerous flower buds. The bark of the branches is smooth and thorny.

Bengal Roses. Chinas -- In this class, the branches are nearly without thorns, the bark is smooth, the sepals are more or less prolonged and fimbriated, the branches seldom bear more than one flower. The calyx is rounded, the flowers have nearly always color, whilst those of the Tea Rose are, with few exceptions, pale white or yellowish. It is also to be observed that the flowers of the Bengal Roses are very seldom scented.

Tea Roses. -- The branches have very smooth bark, and have not many thorns. The leaves are glossy, and the flowers appear on top of the branches, which are slender and not very long. In most cases the weight of the flowers bends the branches, so that only their underside is seen. Vigorous examples produce sometime stronger shoots, which are not so flexible, and bear three or often five flowers on their end.

As long as my grandmother lived,
The sweet white violets that grew
On either side of the garden path
Bloomed every spring, and when in bloom
Made the garden sweet and the lane,
And scented all the avenue;
While in the house, from room to room,
Their fragrance travelled with the breeze.
They thrived until she died, and then
Survived her death another spring.
And after that nobody knew
The words she said to make them bloom,
When walking up and down the path
She poked among them with her cane. --Elizabeth Lawrence



You say the thought of antique garden roses fascinates you but that you couldn't tell the Duchess de Brabant from Marechal Neil on a clear day at ten paces? You say that where you live is sandstone, not soil, and that last week you had tornadoes in the morning, hurricanes in the evening, with a drought in between, viz., ordinary Texas weather???

Well, join your fellow Texas gardeners, who love the Golden (also Pink, Lilac, Crimson, etc.) Oldies, in the Texas Symposium (with Brazos and Dallas areas) -- unofficially -- the Texas Rose Rustlers. Our aims are to collect, preserve, and identify our rosy heritage, and we do it with our newsletter, "The Old Texas Rose," published erratically whenever our "lunchy" editoress feels like it; with our monumental yearly Great Rose Hunt and Picnic in December; with good fellowship and helpful information all year long.

Fill out the application below today!!

CHECK:

- ☐ Membership & OTR \$5 per annum, beginning in Sep.
- ☐ a copy of our membership list \$1
- ☐ a copy of commercial old rose sources 35¢
- ☐ a bibliography of important old rose books, and bookmen \$1
(to be ready late 1983)
- ☐ back issues of OTR: Sep 1982 Dec 1982 May 1983 (Circle)
at 75¢ each, (postage incl.)

MAIL TO: SEC. PAMELA A. PURYEAR, 708 Holland St., Navasota 77868,
or call 409-825-3220. (*Make check to me + note "OTR"*)

