

Dearest C:

Thousand thanks for the book
receives!! I couldn't do this without
you.

P.

The Old Texas Rose

Vol. 2 No. 2

July 1983

The Huntington Symposium

Dr. William C. Welch
Landscape Horticulturist

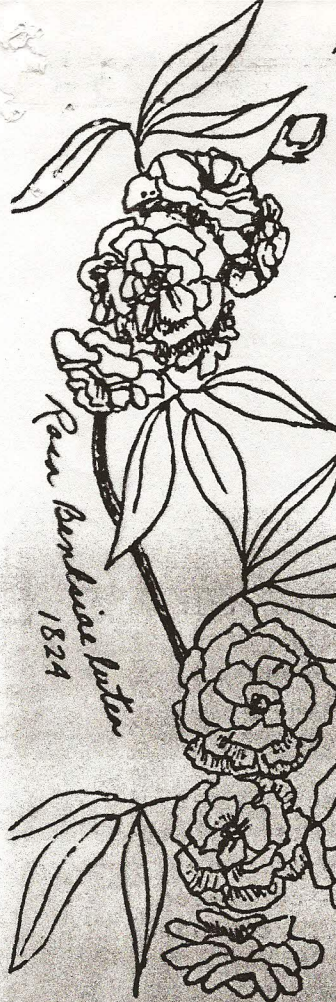
The Huntington Symposium on Old Roses was an event worth the considerable effort and expense to attend. Current plans are for the program to be conducted every two years. Alternate years will probably have a non-competitive show of old roses in May.

Seeing the many hundreds of roses in full bloom was a rare treat. The lectures were all outstanding. I have provided Pam Puryear with some of the handout material that was provided for those of you who are interested.

One of the highlights of "The Huntington Experience" was "The Sale". At the completion of the third day of the program the registered participants were allowed to purchase roses from their nursery. Interest was heightened by a list and number of roses to be sold which was provided to us in the registration packet.

At the word of Clair Martin and John MacGregor - the sale began. The scene appeared to be a hybrid between a Texas calf scramble and bargain day at Macy's.

I left the sale with Champney's Pink Cluster, Etoile de Lyon, (Tea) Jeanna d'Arc (Noisette), Mary Washington (Noisette) and Marie Pavie (Polyantha). I left Mary Washington in California with relatives (it was too pretty to cut back) who promised to send cuttings this fall. The others were cut back unmercifully, most soil removed from the roots and placed in large plastic garbage bags. The weather was cool and the roses didn't seem to mind the week's wait before being placed in containers again. All appear in excellent condition now and are in bud.



Huntington, continued

In addition to spending three days at the Huntington I also visited Disconso Gardens (where parts of Fantasy Island are filmed). Disconso has a good old rose collection that featured a number of mature pegged specimens of such spectacular roses as Alchymist, Arillaga, Reichspräsident von Hindenburg and Belle of Portugal.

After leaving the Los Angeles area I flew to San Francisco to see Filoli Gardens at Woodside, Roses of Yesterday and Today at Watsonville, Barbara Worl's Cowper Street Garden in Palo Alto and Miriam Wilkin's garden in El Cerrito. My visit to the San Francisco area was completed by a visit to Bell's Bookstore where I purchased some of the recommended books on old roses.

I returned from California feeling that I had learned about as much as I could and had made contact with a number of knowledgeable and helpful people. I am firmly convinced that old garden roses are a "new source" of landscape plant material for us in Texas that have a great deal of potential.

I was particularly interested in the Noisettes, the Hybrid Musks and a few of the old Polyanthas. Seeing them reaffirmed my interest in their value and has resulted in a rather large order (29 varieties) I have placed for delivery in January. I was able to name at least two of my unknowns while at the Huntington.

What I have been calling "Else Poulsen" at our farm in "La Marne" a Polyantha and "Lowrey's Railroad Rose" at our front gate is "Russell's Cottage Rose". I have some leads on some of the others but those I was resolutely certain were correct. I took a plant of "Maggie" to the Huntington for them to help identify. They couldn't tell much from the blossoms I brought but Clair Martin says the rooted plant is doing just fine. He concurs that it has lots of China in it but since we have found it on a dozen or more sites, it must have a name.

ED NOTE: This article, excepted from a longer essay by our 1st VP, began in our May, 1983 issue. In this section, Margaret chooses the species and shrub roses best for the Houston and Gulf Coast area. The remainder of her essay may be found on page 7, in our combined "Advice to the Beginner." The whole five page essay is probably still available from her: 9426 Kerrwood, Houston 77080. If you live in the southeast or south central portions of the state, and are just starting out, this advice would be invaluable. Would that I had known her when I was just beginning!! (Be sure to send a SSAE).

SHRUBS - Many old garden roses with confused genealogy are placed in this group because they are truly good shrubs and cannot be denied. While almost any rose either permanently or temporarily classified as a Shrub has been grown in Houston area fairly successfully, I must mention Golden Wings, 1953, that I feel is truly a Hybrid Spinosissima. Now, Spinosissimas I Have Known have not done anything here but cook and die, Golden Wings did pretty well. This was grown by Roy Shepherd (a recognized Old Garden Rose authority, if ever there was one) as a cross of the HT Soeur Therese (yellow) and a seedling plant of a seedling cross with R. Spinosissima. It makes a thorny, twiggy mass to about 4 ft. diameter producing blooms of 2½" to 4" yellow single blooms all year!

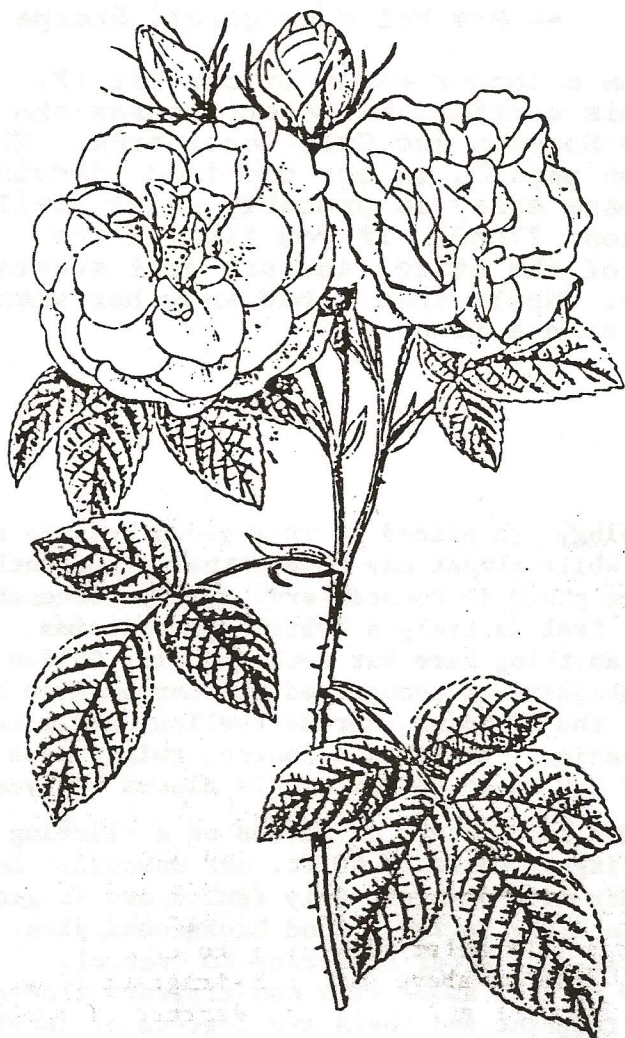
ROSA BANKSIAE - Lady Banks Rose 1796 - White flowers in clusters or umbles on a climbing but thornless plant with evergreen foliage. Canes to 40 ft. not unusual. Does NOT blackspot or mildew or suffer spider mite damage. Only faults are it grows to enormous size and only blooms in early Spring. Good background plant for yard if enough room available. Trim back after flowering to control. R. Banksiae Lutea (1824) is yellow form of above with non-fragrant flowers. The white Lady Banks is sometimes fragrant and there are degrees of doubleness.

This is the rose most Texas rosarians think to be the "Yellow Rose of Texas" rather than "Harrison's Yellow", so often acclaimed. R. Banksiae Lutea roots so readily and grows so vigorously that we feel the wagon trains spread more of these cuttings on homesteads in Texas than the Harrison's Yellow, that does not like the heat, is hardier and does not compare in vigor to R. Banksiae Lutea. Harrison's Yellow is a Foetida, not recommended for Houston as they do not like our hot weather.

ROSA EGLANTERIA - Sweetbrier Rose, or Eglantine, grows beautifully at the American Rose Center near Shreveport LA. In a similar location, under the filtered sun of tall pine trees in a protected location and with care they should grow well here in Houston. Spring blooms of small, delicate pink single flowers in big clusters, they mature into elongated hips that turn bright red in Fall. In early morning when the foliage is wet the strong scent of apples fills the air wherever they are growing. They prefer cold weather to grow well but we should try them as there are hybrid Eglanterias available. Eglantine grows to about 8 to 10 ft. tall.

ROSA VIRGINIANA - The one rose exclusively native to North America. Blooms in Spring only and the fruits or hips stay on tightly until the next Spring. Bright pink blooms with shiny green foliage, practically disease proof. Grows about anywhere it can get enough water and sunlight. White single blooming R. carolina is thought to be a sport but has dull green foliage. May be grown here but unlikely to be found naturally as is true in colder climates.

Cont., p. 4



Rosa damascena var. *bifera* ('Quatre Saisons'; after Redouté, there named "*Rosa damascena italica*").

THE OLD TEXAS ROSE is published erratically by Texas old rose enthusiasts from the Houston and Dallas areas.

The Dallas area calls themselves The Historical Rose Group of Dallas, and they are a sub-group of the Dallas Rose Society. Mr J W Harrison, 2119 Oak Brook, Richardson is president.

The south central part of Texas is served by The Brazos Symposium drawing most of its members from Houston and Bryan. Its officers are: Dr W C Welch, 2111 Langford, College Station 77840, Pres.; Mrs Mel W Sharpe (Margaret) Houston, 1st VP; Mr J Conrad Tips, Houston, 2nd VP, Publicity; Ms Mitzi VanSant, Austin, 3rd VP, Membership; Mr Joe Woodard, Dallas, Executive Council Chrmn; Mrs J T Derby (Sarah Jean), Sec; and Miss Pamela Puryear, Corres. Sec. and Editor. All correspondence should be addressed to her at 708 Holland St, Navasota 77868. Phone 409-8253220.

The Purpose of both groups is to collect, preserve, and identify the old garden roses of Texas, and to provide good fellowship, encouragement, and sound information to all old rose gardeners everywhere. An invitation to become a member is included in each issue. Membership is \$5/year.

The title page of the Old Texas Rose shows both roses thought to be the fabled Yellow Rose of Texas. On the left is the straw-yellow R Banksia lutea of China (1789) which prospers so well in this area and on the right is R Harisonii (1830), the slightly semi-double butter-yellow rose the pioneers spread across the western states on their march to the Pacific.

La Creme, cont.

ROSA LAEVIGATA - Cherokee Rose 1759. A China rose type that has glossy foliage and grows in a tall mound or bramble. Spring Bloom ONLY. Usually white, single 2½" to 3½" blooms, occasionally a red variety found. Fruit is large and bristly. Often confused with the common Macartney Rose in the Houston area. Very hard to transplant but will start from cuttings here fairly well.

'MIGNONETTE' - Polyantha 1880. This rose keeps appearing, especially since miniature roses are now so popular and people are aware of small rose plants. This is thought to be from the same seed crossing as Cecile Brunner, "The Sweetheart Rose" that was originally named "Mignon." It produces very small double rosy pink to white clusters of 30 or more blooms on a stem very freely throughout the year. It was frequently grown in a pot and I have seen one such plant still thriving in a pot that belonged to the owner's mother at least as far back as 1915. This is in Houston that this plant grew and I have heard of other such plants. The lush little dwarf Polyanthas grow only about 12 inches tall and the only care other than watering and liquid fertilizers was keeping the dead twigs tweezed out.

THE POSES OF THOMAS AFFLECK

Thomas Affleck (1812 - 1868), the great nurserymen of Natchez, wrote a lively and informative series of articles in 1856 for a Louisiana newspaper on recommended rose varieties for the South. (All fine & good, you say, but what does a Scot from Mississippi have to do with old roses in Texas????) It was in that same year that Affleck scouted and began to move his nursery stock to his new plantation "Glenblythe" a few miles north of Brenham in Washington County, Texas. And but for an untimely accident, all the roses he mentioned would be growing there still.

It seems that he had gradually transported his fruit trees and livestock to Texas, but in the spring of 1860 he and several helpers loaded the last -- the "rare and valuable" -- onto the steamer Charmer, which promptly proved her appellation by burning to the waterline that night below Natchez. Affleck was not insured. He struggled to found the Central Nurseries at Glenblythe, but was ruined by the war. He died of pneumonia there in 1868. His many books and writings on Southern agriculture remain, most are held by Louisiana State University Library Archives at Baton Rouge.

Here I reprint his comments in paraphrase on the Bourbons and Chinas. Affleck's own words are in quotation marks. The numbers written in ink or faint pencil beside the names probably referred to his foreign catalogue numbers, as one lists the price in shillings. (Mr Charles Walker says that the numbers are not from William Paul's Cheshunt.)

Of the BOURBONS, Affleck stated that they were "best adapted of all to the extreme South." He admired them for continuing in flower "from frost to frost again," their few, light-colored thorns, smooth & glossy branches, leathery leaves, thick "satin" or "burnished" petals which endure the summer heat and of course their hardy luxuriant growth.

- Chaillot -- large clusters of rose-colored blooms
- Enfant d'Ajaccio -- very noisette-looking, fragrant, brilliant scarlet shaded crimson, best used as a pillar
- Gerbe de Rose -- (also a hybrid) rich foliage, color bright rose edged and shaded with white.
- Glorie de France/ Monthly Cabbage -- light rose, abundant "fine old variety"
- Glorie de la Guillotiere -- large, light rose
- 11 Hermosa -- "still one of the best" very double & perfect, delicate rose color "nearly always in bloom"
- 23 La Quintinie -- deep crimson-purple, slender habit, large fine shape "new"
- 12 Leweson Gower -- deep rose, very large and double, equal to Souvenir de la Malmaison (it ought to be: it's a sport! --ED)
- 13 Madame Desprez -- robust, rosy-lilac, clusters of cupped blooms
- 14 Madame Nerard -- blush color, fragrant
- 21 Souvenir de la Malmaison -- magnificent pale flesh tinted fawn, immense size. "How I envy the grower who first saw that plant bloom, the seed of which he had sown, feeling that such a gem was his!"

Cont., p 6

6

AFFLECK, cont.

Below on the newspaper clipping are other numbers and names:

- 3 Bouquet de Flore
- 16 Oscar le Clerc
- 18 Truinces des Charpenuer (?)
- 26 Acidalie -- (put out by Fousseau, 1837, des. as blush often wh,
frag. --ED)
- 27 Aurore de Guide
(remainder too faint -- ED)

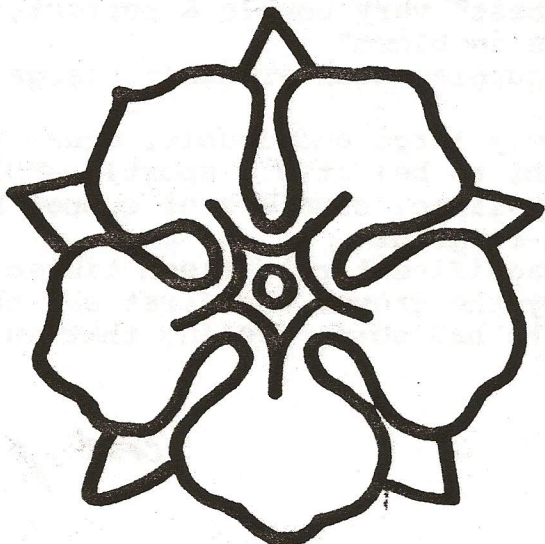
Of the China roses and their hybrids, Affleck recommended that they be severely pruned as they bloom on new wood, and that they be pegged down for a better show. Those he picked in 1856 were:

- 41 Abbe Maillard -- very showy deep rich crimson
 - 42 Agrippina or Cramoisie Superiure -- a constant bloomer and
strong grower of rich brilliant crimson, large and cupped
with a white stripe down the center of the petal. Good
for hedge or fence
 - 44 Clara Sylvain -- pure white, large (Said to be syn. w/ Lady
Warrender -- ED)
 - 45 Eugene Beauharnais -- globular bright amaranth
 - 46 Fabvier -- semi-double, showy scarlet
 - 47 Green Pose -- "very curious"
 - 51 Indica Superba -- "somewhat resembles the old Indica or Daisy
rose so common here but is a great improvement on it."
Rose paling to the center, very double, early bloomer.
 - 48 Mrs Bosanquet -- vigorous, pale flesh
 - 49 Nemesis -- very dark velvety crimson
 - 50 Prince Charles -- globular, cupped brilliant carmine
- Others listed below were:

- 53 Madame Breon
- 54 President d' Olbecque
- 55 Archduke Charles

Of the hybrid Chinas, Affleck listed:

- 356 Jenny -- deep rosy-lilac, "profuse"
- 357 La Fontaine -- brilliant crimson, robust
- 351 Descrates -- purplish-rose color, fine form
- 353 George IV -- darkest crimson, "black rose" hardy, vigorous,
& free blooming.



The rose of English heraldry, usually "tricked" (painted) argent (silver), or (gold), gules (red), azure (blue), later, murray (maroon), or purpure (purple). The Tudor rose was doubled by having a second line of petals within the first, and was pink to denote the union of the white rose of York & the red rose of Lancaster.

ADVICE TO THE BEGINNER

-- Mrs Mel W Sharpe & Pamela Puryear

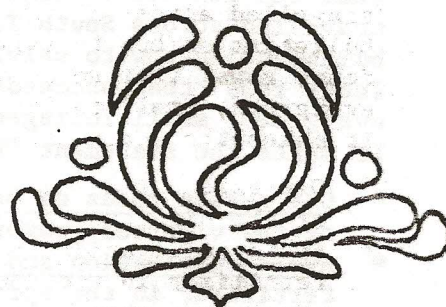
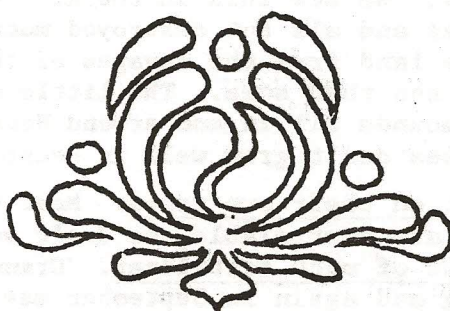
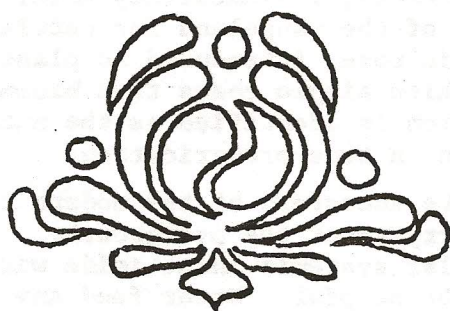
The Old Garden Roses have survived because they are tough and persistent. Maybe not everywhere but in certain areas a type or variety can naturalize itself and thrive on the adversities some others cannot. Notice that we do not refer to the Oldtimers as "Old Fashioned Roses" for Roses are never out of style, regardless of color, form or growth habits. These old roses are sold budded to a newly developed understock of some type in most cases. This is because not all of the oldtimers make roots of their own that will thrive in any old soil - the same reason the newer varieties are budded to an extremely tolerant rootstock. It is always a good idea to try to root cuttings for your own satisfaction to see if the variety will grow better on its own roots in your garden. More often than not it will grow better, which makes it well worth the try. We read a lot about the Old Garden types that get on their own roots becoming monsters that can all but consume us. We see this in the R. bractacea, The Macartney Rose, that has travelled across South Texas and all but destroyed much of the rangeland for cattle. A & M has bulletins on how to salvage land from the ravages of this rose, introduced to plant for "living fence rows" that succeeded and then some. The little white single roses that bloom on deep, evergreen, small foliated mounds all in and around Houston is identified as the Macartney Rose. It makes the statement "Roses don't grow well in Houston" a true prevarication.

- * Old garden roses do best on their own roots. Meet the ancestors of the modern types! Most of the vigorous growers are controllable, so don't worry about the overgrowth.
- * Avoid cultivation and use of much fertilizer. Granular systemic insecticide with or without fertilizer in the Spring and again in September may be helpful. Never feed any fertilizers after September 15th in Houston. Osmocote used in January and August is the easiest way.
- * Pruning is a No-No. Remove dead wood anytime, and control-pruning is limited to tips of the canes at the end of the plant's bloom year. Removal of dead blooms prevents seeds to form and the "Hips" are attractive and affect the maturity of the cane and plant. Removal of them does not aid in bloom production as with the newer type roses.
- * Water often and regularly, overhead and soil soaking, with good drainage provided the soil.
- * Regardless of what you've heard or read, most old garden roses are prone to either powdery mildew and/or blackspot. Watch them to see and spray only those that seem prone. Those not being affected may suffer damage from fungicide spraying. Spray with "Funginex" as directed and this controls blackspot, mildew and rose rust. Do not pester your old roses with unnecessary care!
- * Red Spider mites will take up residence in the bramble mounds of old garden roses and denude the canes quickly. Spray the plants and entire area around with a solution of "Vendex" at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water at the first sign of leaves dying and yellowing close to the ground in late spring or early summer. Do Not Spray Again for 28 days. If spider mite damage is again noted at the end of 28 days, spray again. It is unlikely you will need to spray Vendex again until the next year.
- * Old Garden Rose blooms are unstable in every way. Weather is all-important to bloom quality and quantity. Dampness or cloudiness may cause blooms to ball or rot; drought or heat may cause leaf drop and cane dieback, or skip a bloom cycle. If you think old roses are not human, just try to grow some of the old timers!
- * Do not judge a plant by its first years' growth or bloom. Most take several years to get their roots down into the earth and to absorb nutriment.
- * Grow those roses which mean something to you, either "family heirlooms" or those you know the original owners, or collected them yourself. Sharing cuttings always makes a plant special! Join our Great Rose Hunts in December, ask your friends, and scout old homesites and cemeteries!

Cont., p. 8

ADVICE, cont.

- * There are quite a few tricks to rooting roses. Try them all: willow water, raised beds, coldframes, darkness, rooting hormones, &c. Write me or any collector for loads of instructions on this, but take it all with a grain of salt: everyone has his favorite systems.
- * Grow those varieties first which are sure to grow in our climate. See Mrs Sharpe's recommendations, or write our President. There is no sense becoming frustrated over something that is known not to succeed here.



State, cont. from p. 9.

HUNTINGTON. --- Pres. Bill Welch attended Huntington last month -- known here as The Other Symposium -- and had a wonderful time hobbing and nobbing. See his article p.1. He was pleased to meet Joyce and Gary Demits, who with Virginia and Howard Hopper are Heritage Rose Gardens, 16831 Mitchell Creek Dr, Ft Bragg CA 95437 (list \$1). These folks have the Right Attitude, as they market some Teas and HP they collected under their study names.

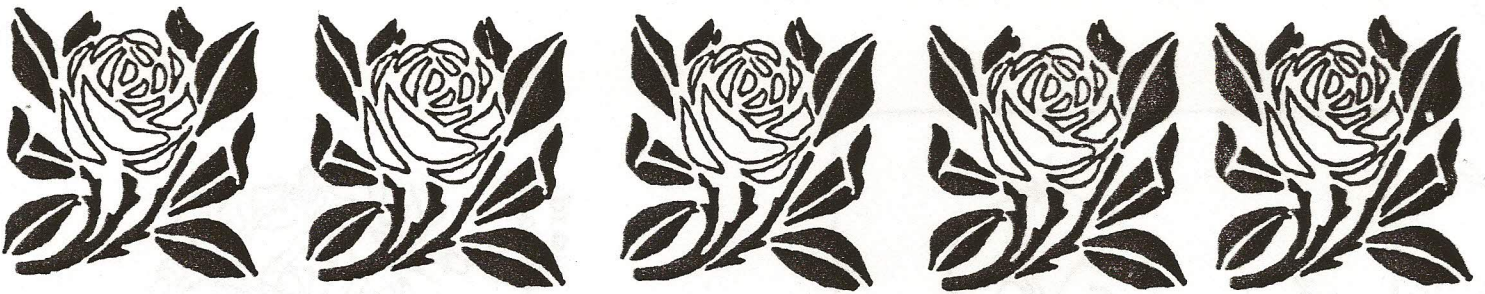
INFO SHEETS. --- Bill brought back several goodies from Miriam Wilkins you-all might like: one a sheet on how to import (5¢ ea.) and another her California newsletter which I promptly plagiarized for the names of new nurseries she had compiled (5¢ ea.) Also, anyone wishing to subscribe may have the following of her at 925 Galvin Dr, El Cerrito Ca 94530, for :

- 1 Old Rosers Digest(out Apl & Sep) SW news & advice, \$1/yr back issues (now 5) at 50¢ ea
- 2 book list 5¢ (1 p.)
- 3 Beginner's List of Old Roses 10¢ (2 pp)
- 4 fragrant roses 5¢ (1 p)

All the above need to have stamps enclosed: one 20¢ one for each 4 sheets, add second stamp thereafter.

HOOF IN MOUTH. -- A thousand apologies to Joe Woodard, as I have consistently added an extra "w" to his name. I'm not usually that consistent!

Cont., p. 10



THE BUSINESS PARTNER'S LAMENT

9

Well, here she's gone and done it again. I'll bet when she starts to move in the new house she won't have time for the finer things, like great poetry in honor of her friend's weird hobbies. (By the way, I inquired what Oklahoma smelled like in line four, and she said that was all she could think of that rimed with aroma.)

Basically old roses are troublesome.
Cut them, vase them: they can't keep their petals on.

And they cannot be relied upon for real rose aroma,
But may turn on you: smell like lemons, pepper, or Oklahoma.

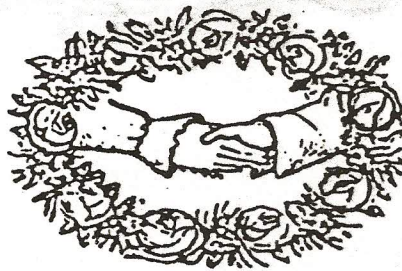
Plus, they think they're so smart with their fancy long names.
Remembering them requires you to be a 15th century Benedictine monk,
Pam, or insane.

And then there is the scandal, re: purloined rose residuals,
Snatched by various nice but radically unbalanced individuals.

(Rose Rustlers are kind to their mothers and friends and all that,
But they'd nab your rare blossom at the drop of a hat.)

Fortunately, though, I am not one to gripe or otherwise complain or
impose
About the partner's historical, hysterical, inexplicable obsession with
some silly Old Rose.

-- M E Keys



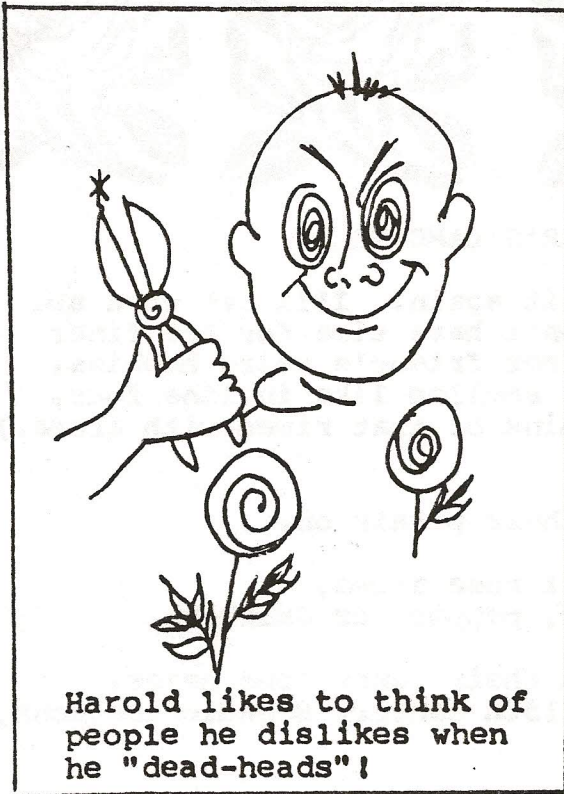
THE STATE OF THE STATE

-- Pam Puyear, Ed & Corres Sec

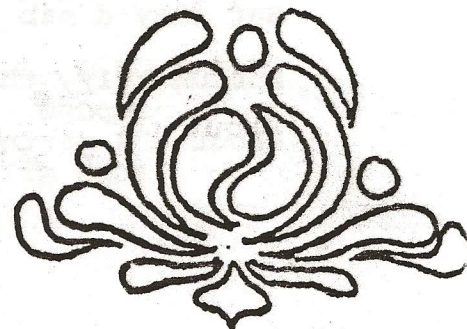
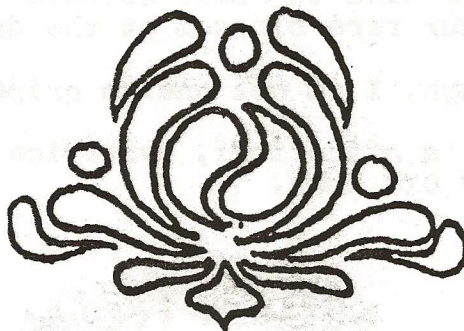
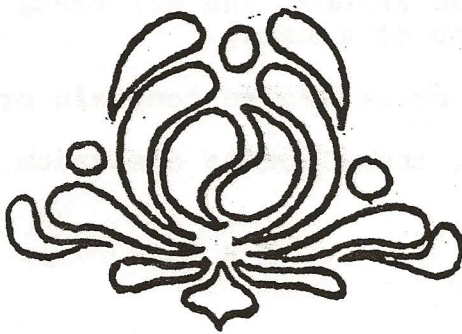
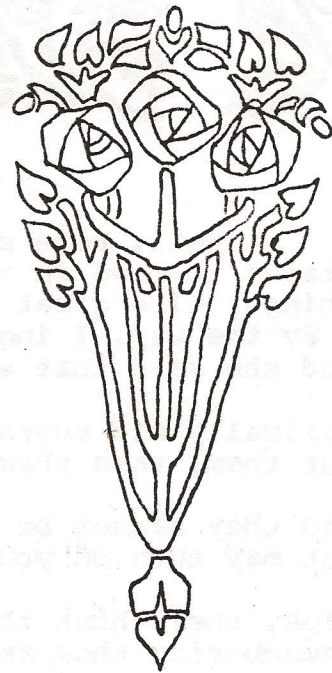
DUES. --- After much brooding and gnashing of teeth, we finally decided to adopt dues of \$5 next year. We hated to do it because we know everyone is just about \$5 & \$10-ed to death, but the post office and printers remain obdurate about charging us -- and we are so worthy!

We put an invitation form with each newsletter; please pass it on to anyone you think might be interested, and ask me for more if you need them. Current members should renew in September.

Cont, p. 8 & 10



Rosebush motif, for china painting prob. from The Studio, ca 1922



State, cont. from p. 8.

GOOD GOSSIP! -- Our membership VP Mitzi VanSant of Austin is now Historical Roses of that city. Her own rose garden worked out so well that she is offering her landscaping services in that area.

The ground-rumblings have it that our beloved Honorary Chaplin, Mr Pat Harrison, is planning on opening an old rose nursery in Mississippi. Pat, can the OTR be the first to know?

NEXT NUMBER. -- I am excited about our Sep edition as we plan to have book reviews and bookmen. If you have any favorites, write a paragraph about it for us!



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:

- ☐ Me bership & 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"*)