

Forgive the typos!
P.

The Old Texas Rose

Vol. 1 No. 2

Dec. 1982

THE 4TH ANNUAL GREAT ROSE HUNT

The Brazos and Dallas Symposia assembled December 5, 1982, at Pam's house in Navasota. President Bill Welch brought his colleague, Dr Clarissa Kimber of the Geography Dept, and rooted cuttings of a white Banksia, and a few "Mermaids" to share. They were followed by Glen Land, a Senior in Hort. at A&M, and his partner, Russell Cox. Mrs Mel Sharpe (Margaret), our Vice-Pres arrived with pieces of R roxburghii, and a glass of the famed (but not yet named) 'Maggie.' William Barber, who owns a nursery in Tomball, came with Nolan Guillot, who works at Lynn Lowrey's Nursery outside Conroe. These gentlemen passed a china ("Princess de Saigon"?) and a rugosa (rubra?) around to everyone.

James W "Buddy" Harrison, son Micheal, and Joe Woodward came in from Dallas, bearing "Archduke Charles", "Banshee," "Jaques Cartier" and other good things!

Mitzi Vansant in from Austin, and Linda and Richard Wheat from Garland, completed our group.

This august body then adjourned to Bill's farm outside Burton for a tour of his old roses and lunch. We were all charmed with Bill's 1900 "shotgun" farmhouse, and lustful of his roses! Of special note were the Scotch rose "Little Pinkie" which had oblidgingly formed suckers; 'Maggie'; "Sombruiel"; and what passes for "Glorie de Dijon." We sat on the porch in the glorious sunshine and ate fried chicken, cucumber and pimento sandwiches (fast becoming a Tradition), potato salad, and streudel.

Our first stop in Brenham and the hit of the Tour was the fascinating yard of Mr Carl Meyer. Among his roses, we

cont. p.2

identified "Louis Philippe," 'Baptist Manse Tea,' "Cecile Brunner" bush and climbing form; 'Schvarda's Light Pink' (from last years' Rustle); and a luscious white Tea/Noisette, dubbed 'White Carl'.

Our next stop was the yard of Mr Adam Bronkowski, who was (perhaps understandably) not in. He had some of the same kinds as Mr Meyer. I was pleased to note Salvia greggii and a fine specimen of Weigela.

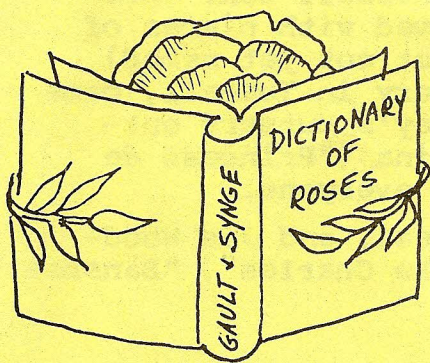
Mrs Emma Renz shared two yellow shrub roses with us. The first, on the west side of her house, we called 'West Emma': it had quartered blooms, but many thorns and shiny foliage, which might mean that it is a hybrid Tea. The large bush on the east was a paler yellow, more Tea/star shaped, with almost no thorns. We need to share future cuttings with this sweet lady! She says she prefers yellow and white roses.

Miss Dorris was also not home, but we identified "Souvenir de la Malmaison" -- quite obviously, and another yellow Tea.

At this juncture, Margaret and Mitzi departed for their respective homes, as did the Wheats. The remainder of us headed east for Navasota and Anderson.

Miss Martha Gonzales was also gone, but we admired her yard full of a small, single red China, and tons of "Old Blush." Roses to her! We snapped 'November Surprise' at a store on the highway. We then headed east to Anderson. Mrs Mary Minor, bless her! shared her Bourbon with us -- for the umpteenth time! We swung by the Old Blush in the cemetery, and then dispersed homeward. A fun day!

— Pam Puryear, Ed.



QUERIES. -- Would any of our members be interested in my doing the following things in the next newsletter?

- 1) a current list of our ca. 75 members?
- 2) A sources list of old rose nurseries for beginners, plus society addresses?
- 3) A bibliography of rose books and bookmen (re Tips & McFall & Woodward?)

Peter Henderson in the American Agriculturist quotes a German neighbor who came to him in great irritation, and said, "I have so much drouble wid de ladies when dey comes to buy mine rose; dey wants him hardy, dey wants him doubles, dey wants him mondly [monthly?], dey wants him fragrand, dey wants him nice gouler, dey wants him eberydings in one rose. I have sometimes say to dat ladies: 'Madam, I never often sees dat ladies dat was rich, dat was beautiful, dat was youngs, dat was clever, dat was perfection in one ladies. I sees her much not.'"

from Country Gentleman, Feb. 20, 1873

AN OLD TEXIAN ROSE GARDEN

While doing some research on early horticulturists in Texas, we discovered the papers of Dr Samuel E Asbury in the A&M Archives. Now, Asbury was an eccentric character, and there are as many stories about him as memories on campus, but among his clippings was a folder devoted to old roses, on which he did considerable research himself in the 1930s. As this was the time of the Texas Centennial, he sent out questionnaires to all his historical contacts, asking them about their memories of their grandmother's gardens. He received many short answers, but two ladies who answered more fully were Miss Ima Hogg and Miss Adina deZavala. The latter wrote an article on the subject, which was published in the Dallas Morning News, December 16, 1934. I thought it terribly interesting, and so I condense and edit it for us here. (If anyone would like a direct copy of the whole thing, send me 40¢ at 708 Holland, Navasota 77868).

Of grandmother's first Texas garden I remember very little. I remember the house in a level place on the top of a fine hill -- commanding a view in every direction. Looking up the San Jacinto River, Lynchburg was in full view and directly in front of the house ... was ...the Houston Ship Channel, and across the bayou was the battlefield of San Jacinto. Here were magnolias, crepe myrtles, and roses of every kind and color and all sorts of sweet-scented herbs and old-fashioned flowers. There was a rose bower and rose hedges. The old house was burned, but the remains of the garden lingered here and there for many years and I understand there are yet crepe myrtles to be found.

The second garden was brought down from the old one and renewed as new flowers were obtained ... As I gazed back in memory on my grandmother's garden my first picture was of a beautiful althea which stood at the right of the gate.... The house faced south and on the right or east side of the small veranda was a yellow climber, the yellow banksia. On the left or west side was a dark crimson double cupped climber, cramoisi superieur. It appeared to be a continuous bloomer. A small passage on the east side of the house led down to a lot .. on which was a quaint "story and a half" house belonging to grandmother... This passage was lined with roses of every hue, form and fragrance. The roses of Provence were well remembered for the way the leaves wrapped about one another and for this reason they were called cabbage roses.

Then, too, grandmother often spoke of the beautiful gardens in France, which she much admired when she was at the Court of St Cloud, as the wife of an Ambassador plenipotentiary -- Texas was part of Mexico at this time. [The Ambassador was Lorenzo deZavala, later Vice-President of the Texas Republic, and a scholar and a gentleman!] I believe that the crimson Glorie des Rosomanes, the Louis Philippe, the rosy flesh-colored Madame Bosanquet, and perhaps others came from the Gardens of St Cloud

cont., p. 4

4

In the front yard of this garden were moss and tea roses of different colors and delicious perfume. Outlining the beds were violets, pansies, forget-me-nots, and Johnny-jumpups. Along the fence were pinks, verbenas and geraniums of many kinds and colors and beautiful Texas stars. There were also lady slippers (moccasin flower) and larkspur. In the southeast corner was a cape jasmine -- quite a large bush with beautiful blooms.

On the west side, north of the magnolia tree, was a long bed of flower de Louis Further along, on the west side, were coxcombs, bachelor buttons, old maids, (zenias), touch-me-nots (sensitive plants), hollyhocks, marigolds, etc. and next came a bed of sweet-scented herbs of various kinds -- and in the northwest corner, a rose bower.

I remember one among which she called her later roses, which she loved, the Marechal Neil, a beautiful yellow; the light pink Catherine Mermet was another; also the double white Ducher; the rose-colored Paul Neron; the lovely bright pink La France, and the rosy-pink moss rose, Salet, double and fragrant.

LETTER TO AN IMPORTUNE EDITOR: or THE YELLOW
ROSE OF TEXAS: ITS IDENTITY, AND/OR REALITY

-- J Conrad Tips, VP (PR)

[Conrad wrote this letter/article at my insistence, I hoping for some definite answer, but it seems as if the two front-runners will have to forever face each other across our title page, Mr T having taken refuge in that literary sanctuary: Hawthornian ambiguity! I take a personal interest in the question as my gggf especially commissioned this subject on the chinaware used in his hotel, The Austin House, which flourished in the old town of Washington from 1853. I have literally sifted the sands of that and family house sites for the tiniest sherd, to no effect; it would be nice to know what early Texians thought their yellow rose was! -- ED.]

Dearest Pamela,

What, you ask me, is the Yellow Rose of Texas? I don't know. Perhaps the question should be, what could it have been? Assuming that it existed, the Anglo settlers would have had to find it here, or have brought it with them. If they found it here, it could only have been a wilding or an established garden form. Now, there are wild yellow roses, but I've never seen one in East, Central, or South Texas, which, after all, were the colonized areas of this state. Robert Vines' list of species, natural hybrids, sub-types, variations, and what-not found in the Southwest ... runs to 17 pages and not a yellow rose in the lot. As for garden forms -- well, who knows what the padres brought with them from the Moorish gardens of Spain? I've always had a fantasy that I would stroll one day into a deserted garden adjoining a crumbling mission and find growing there, healthy and untrammelled, R hemisphaerica, the more-or-less

cont., p. 9

OLD ROSES IN VICTORIA

-- Bill Welch, Pres.

This inventory and comments on the roses at the Victoria rose garden may provide some insight into those forms best for South Central Texas. The garden itself is relatively small but was well maintained and labeled when I was there. It is located in Riverside Park near the northeast entrance; the park is on the west side of the city of Victoria, adjacent to the Guadalupe River.

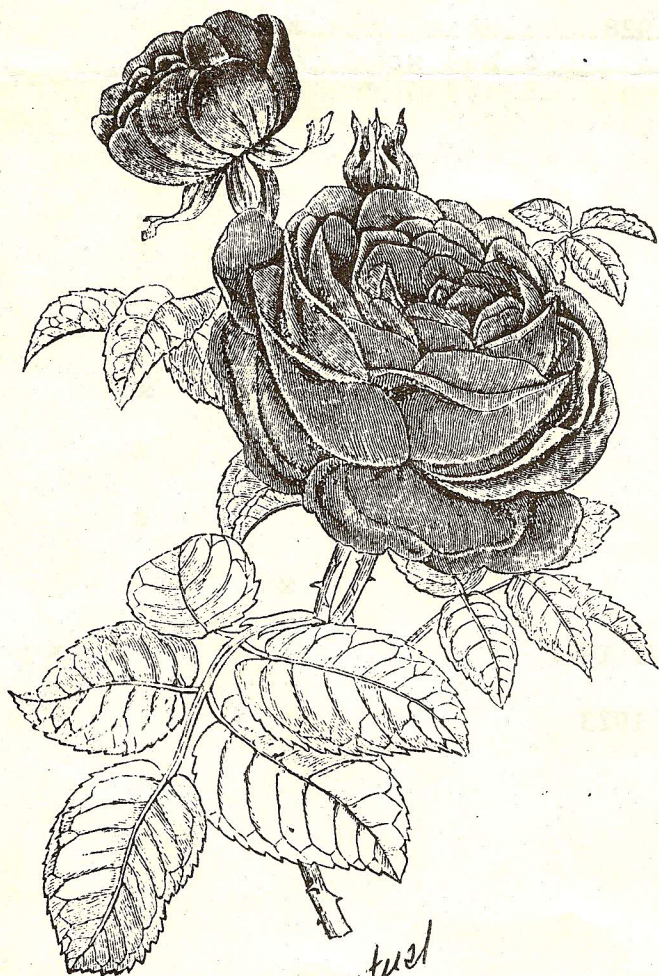
The Victoria Parks Department and local rosarians should be commended for developing such an attractive and educational display as part of their program to make Victoria a "city of roses."

Name	Class & Date	In Flower 5/20/82	Excellent	Good	Fair
Jacques Cartier	Portland 1868	x	x		
Austrian Copper <u>Rosa foetida bicolor</u>	1590	x			x
<u>Rosa chinensis viridiflora</u>	1856	x		x	
Camaieux	Gallica 1830		x		
Ruskin	Hybrid Rugosa 1928	x	x		
Crested Moss <u>Rosa centifolia cristata</u>					x
Chestnut Rose <u>Rosa Roxburghii</u>	before 1814	x		x	
Eglantine <u>Rosa eglanteria</u>	ancient				x
Rosa du Roi	Autumn damask			x	
La Reine Victoria	Bourbon 1872			x	
<u>Rosa moschata</u>				x	
Blush noisette	Noisette 1817	x	x		
Ferdinand Prichard	Hybrid Perpetual 1927				x
Lawrence Johnston	Hybrid foetida 1923		x		
Rubrifolia <u>Rosa rubrifolia</u>	prior to 1830				x
Apothecary rose <u>Rosa gallica officinalis</u>	Gallica			x	

cont., p. 6

6

Name	Class & Date	In Flower 5/20/82	Excellent	Good	Fair
<u>Rosa chinensis mutabilis</u>		x			x
Old Blush	China 1752			x	
Gloire des Mousseux	Moss 1852		x		
Baroness Rothschild	Hybrid Perpetual 1868		x		
Common Moss <u>Rosa centifolia</u>	Muscosa 1727		x		
Nastarana	Moschata		x		
Koenigin von Daenmarck	Alba 1802		x		
Madame Pierre Oger	Bourbon 1878		x		
Suzanne	Hybrid Spinossima 1949				x



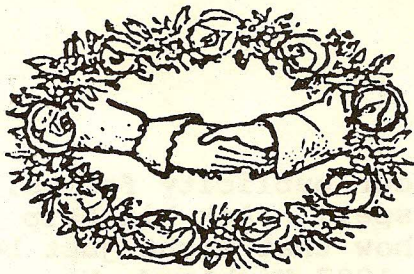
Hybrid Perpetual

21. PEANS FOR BENGALS. Amid all the clamor and adjectival praise heaped on the newest Hybrid Teas, I would like to raise my own basso in appreciation of the Bengal or China Roses. Many of them are of respectable antiquity—Old Blush, the original China, dating back to 1796—a longer life than is accorded any H. T. They bloom continually in a mild climate and quite regularly in others. They can resist disease.

If we had a spare stretch of wall, we'd plant them beneath it. Lacking that, they grow in open beds. Our favorite is the relatively new comer, sent out in 1902, Comtesse du Cayla, with its coppery-orange flowers. Next is Cramoisi Superieur, a double velvet crimson and our third choice, on the market only ten years now, Frau Dr. Schricker. Then come Laurette Messimy, yellow-tinted rose; Fellemberg, double crimson, quite vigorous to 3' 4". Gruss an Teplitz with crimson fragrant flowers is another tall grower. We also like Mme. Eugene Resal, rose red and yellow and White Pet, an American-created variety of 1879, which bears little double white flowers. There are several others.

Light pruning is the best for these Bengals. Thin out to prevent the branches becoming overcrowded, otherwise old wood should be untouched except for shortening lateral shoots.

from Richardson Wright.
Gardener's Day Book, c 1938



THE STATE OF THE STATE

-- Pam Puyear, Ed & Corres Sec

The Rustle. -- The Fourth Annual Great Rose Hunt is reported on page one, but I'd like to say here how much I enjoyed it. The fellowship of you good people makes it something to look forward to each year. Thanks to Bill for the chicken & rolls, Missie for the sandwiches, and Dr. Clarissa Kimber for the streudel.

The Address. -- Everyone has fussed at your poor, hard-working secretary because she didn't put in the address of this august publication. Well, as every one of you correspond with me, you ought to have it! 708 Holland St, Navasota 77868. Bill is Dr. William C Welch, 2111 Langford, College Station, 77840; his phone is 713-693-4051 at home, school is 713-845-7341. Vice-Pres Margaret Sharpe is 9426 Kerrwood, Houston 77080; Treasurer James W Buddy Harrison is 2119 Oak Brook, Richardson 75081.

New Acquisitions. -- Your President has set some early gleanings under mist -- with purified water, mind you -- at A&M. One is 'Mary Minor', the Bourbon we got on the Rustle in Anderson. The other bears the study name 'Pam's Pink'; she has some China and some Bourbon in her. [The rose, not Pam!!] Blessings on Josephine Kennedy, Springfield, Louisiana, for plants of a lavender Gallica study name 'Josephine', of course -- and R anemoneflora cuttings. We are going to get the latter yet! Can you believe that Larry Davis of Manhattan, Kansas, sent all those rooted cuttings he promised??? That'll larn him to offer HRG members roses! We've ALWAYS got room for more!

Our House Style. -- You will notice that I have unilaterally decided that all known rose varieties are in double, and all study names are in single quotation marks. This, I think, is exactly the opposite of Heritage Rose Newsletter practice, & I do it to be contrary. (Oxford's "house style" differs, you see, from Cambridge's!)

Public Relations. -- Our Honorary Chaplain Mr Patrick Harrison spoke to a gardening group in Dallas, Joe Woodward reports. Roses to him for his hard work on the Hudson Heritage Garden in Shreveport. VP-Margaret Sharpe recently addressed a garden club in Columbus, Texas. Pam has been asked to speak at a district workshop in Houston this January on finding old roses. (I wonder, do they really want to know??) Bill wowed the Bryan-CS chapter of the DRT with his talk on old-fashioned gardens, which led to my being asked to do a mini-tour in April. The Bryan Eagle ran a nice little feature Nov 21st on our group and its aims. Speaking of which, I have prevailed upon Houstonian Mr J

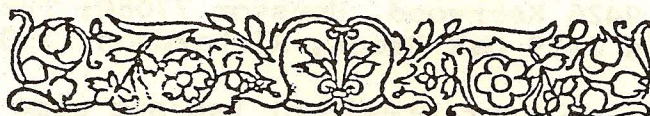
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Conrad Tips to handle our publicity for us. Bless his heart, he's literate and can spell. Ask his help if you know of a publication or media show that might just be pining for news of us. His address is 1007 Highland, Houston 77009.

The Census. -- Buddy Harrison kindly copied more and better census forms for Texas old roses. Whatever you grow, we surely would appreciate your filling these in and sending them to Dr Wm C Welch, 2111 Langford, College Station 77840.

Sounding Off. -- I'd just like to say a personal word here in praise of Mssrs Howard Walters and Sid Shackleford, whose unstinting efforts for the ARS have been, to say the least, unrewarded. We your neighbors know how much you have both done, and appreciate you. Floreat!

Next Number. -- Joe Woodward promises that he will do an article next time on the native and naturalized roses of Texas. He swore that he doesn't write garden articles! But he surely has been good about it for us.



DEATHLESS POETRY

Now, I consider that I have lived a full life, yet when my business partner presented me with this epic the Monday following the Rustle, I realized that no one had ever dedicated a poem to me! Her only excuse is that she was an English major at UT!

RUSTLED ROSE

Rustling rose, rustling rose,
Why you're rustled
No one knows.
Mildewed and aged, notwithstanding,
Who can by-pass a rustled rose?

Rustling rose, rustling rose,
Where you're rustled
Will be exposed.
China or Hong Kong, who knows how long
You've been growing where you don't belong?

Rustle on, rustle on,
When your blooming days are done,
We will miss you,
But not forget you,
Grannies live through a rustled rose.

YELLOW ROSE, cont. from p. 4

mythical Sulphur Rose. If I ever do, you will be the first to know. Also, it seems that Mexico traded with China in the 18th Century, which certainly opens all sorts of intriguing prospects, but if the scholars have looked into all this, I am ignorant of it.

What then might the pioneers brought with them? Our colonial period has been studied pretty thoroughly -- Miss Leighton's books are admirable -- and it is known that in 1790, Prince offered a yellow rose at 1s. 6d. This, as I understand Leighton, was R foetida persiana, very double and brilliantly yellow. Certainly Jefferson used Prince, and recorded a yellow rose in his garden notes. Lady Skipwith in her garden in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, had yellow roses both single and double. The single form could have been either R foetida, the Austrian Brair, or R spinosissima, some forms of which are yellow or yellowish. During the 1830s, "Harison's Yellow," a cross between R foetida and R spinosissima, came onto the scene, and at some time, unknown to me, R banksiae lutea was brought to these shores. It first flowered in England in 1824, writes G S Thomas, and was available in Charleston, South Carolina by 1843 -- as were "Safrano," "Cloth of Gold," "Lamarque," "Jaune Desprez," and a number of other types of the same coloration. So take your pick, Pamela, but excuse me if I do not. Some partisan of this variety or that would snub me as a boor, a fool, and a generally nasty lot, which would send me into a Decline.

On the other hand, I have never been exaggeratedly disinclined to not help stir up any controvesy that came along, and in that spirit I call your attention to an article in the American Rose Annual for 1961. The author, B L Wagenknecht, horticultural taxonomist to the Arnold Arboretum, became interested in the question, and found that at various times and in various places, the following have all been called the Yellow Rose of Texas: Potentilla glandulosa, Kerria japonica pleni-flora, R bracteata, R spinosissima, Allamanda cathartica, and at least one Acacia. Also, he relates this story: two hot-blooded boys became enamoured of the same New Orleans belle. They fought, one died -- the youth most favored by the lady. She, agrieved, forsook this world and retreated to a convent in Mexico, taking with her only her pet yellow rose. Years later, she was sent as a Little Sister of the Poor to a mission near Brownsville -- suitably, one might think -- and of course she was accompanied by her faithful and suavely well-traveled bush. It was propagated by cuttings and in time the district was entirely wreathed in yellow roses. Have you heard this tale? I have not. It does seem -- how shall I say? -- a bit contrived.

All things considered, I feel in the end that I must take a severely traditional position. The Yellow Rose of Texas was Captain Morgan's Emily, who entertained Santa Anna on the eve of the Battle of San Jacinto so successfully that next morning he felt not quite the thing, with consequences we all know. Poor girl; from what I've heard of Santa Anna, I can only say, better she than me. The words of the song's refrain are: "She's the sweetest rose of color this darky ever knew/ Her eyes are bright as diamonds, they sparkle like the dew/ You may talk about your dearest May [or, Clementine] and sing of Rosalee/ But the Yellow Rose of Texas beats the

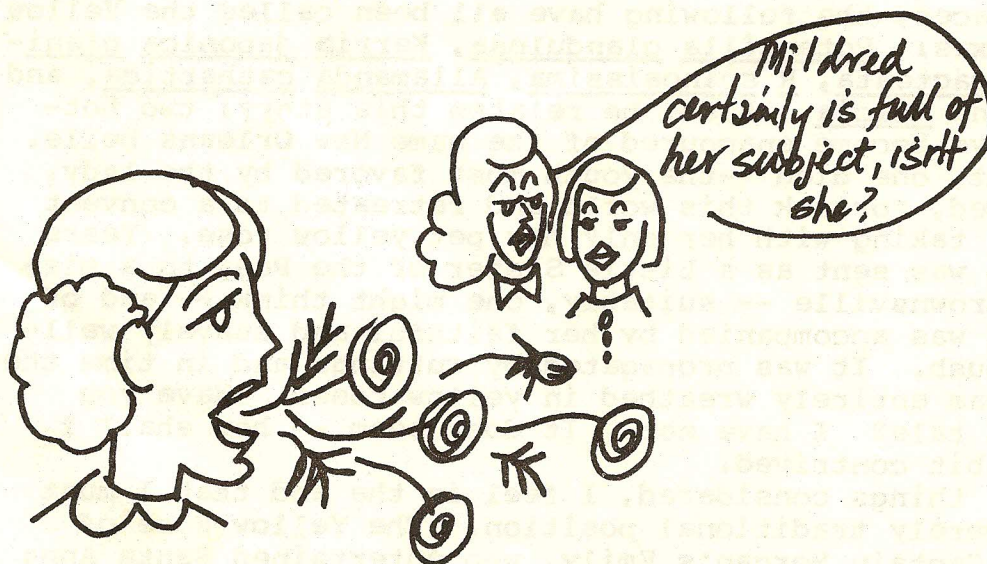
belles of Tennessee." So it was sung when I was a boy but certain revisions have been made through the years -- the belles of Tennessee threatened to sue, I expect.

So, dear Pamela, with a flourish of conventional flatteries, I remain
Forever yours, Conrad

WANTED

Definitely Alive!

By Mrs J A Still, PO Box 288, Kemah 77565, strong cuttings of Marechal Neil.



OLD ROSE INFORMATION

OWNERS NAME _____

ADDRESS[illegible]