



See p. 11!

The Old Texas Rose

Vol 3 No. 3

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WHAT IS MY NAME?

by Mrs W A Barnwell (Cleo),
Shreveport

In this Old Rose Experience, most of us have favorite varieties, mine being Tea, China, Noisette and Polyantha roses. I have roamed old gardens, deserted yards and cemeteries and have found many kinds of old roses. One of my first questions is, what is your name? Seldom do I have the answer. I know a rose is just as beautiful and smells just as sweet if I cannot call her name. I always want to know, so I never give up the search. Now do I go about finding the answer? I will make some observations in this area.

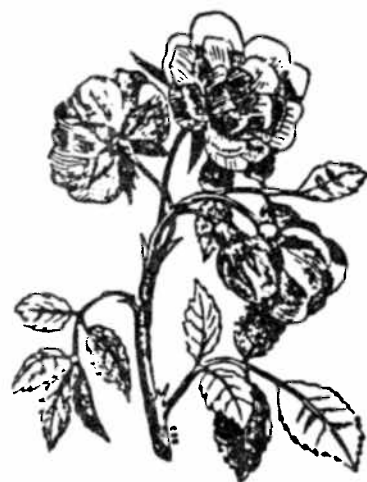
I have been growing roses in my yard for a long time. I started my Rose Garden with hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas. I had two hundred or more varieties, I guess I always liked a challenge. I could grow all of the these roses I could pay for. I kept remembering the roses in my Mother's garden. She had old roses and some hybrid teas. I decided to replace my hybrid teas with old roses. I bought tea, china, gallica, damask, centifolia, moss, bourbon and others. At this time I was photographing native plants. This took me into byways and back roads. I noticed old roses at old home places and old cemeteries. Why not take cuttings, root them and grow them in my yard? I tried this plan and with some success, I was growing more old roses and was completely lost to the cause.



SMALL LEAFLETTED ROSE (*Rosa microphylla*).



WILLIAMS DOUBLE YELLOW SWEET BRIAR.



YELLOW BANKIAN ROSE (*Rosa banksia lutea*).

From past experience, I was able to identify some of the roses. I have a Lady Hillingdon in my yard that came from my Mother's yard, so I know the name is correct. My Mother grew many roses and that goes back to my early childhood. My favorites were La France and Mrs. Dudley Cross. I still have the fragrance of La France lingering in my mind. I remember the thornless stems of Mrs. Dudley Cross and the beauty of her creamy blooms, brushed with rose.

Old Rose catalogs give us much information about the roses we find in old gardens. We know most people bought their plants from nurseries with available stock. It is true that many of the rose bushes we find are from rooted cuttings, possibly rooted under a fruit jar. The original stock had to be purchased from some place. I have a journal dated 1903 to 1905 which belonged to Kate Glenn Flourney. She lived on a farm, which is now part of Shreveport. She lists the roses she ordered in 1903 from Mrs. Ella V. Barnes of Springfield, Ohio: Bessie Brown, Helen Gould, Francis Willard, Bouquet of Gold, Winnie Davis, and Admiral Schley. In 1905 she ordered roses from H. G. Hastings of Atlanta, Georgia: Rubin, Keystone, White Maman Cochet, Henry M. Stanley, Golden Gate, Chlothilde Soupert, Coquette de Lyon, Crimson Rambler, Franciska Krüger, The Bride, Bridesmaid, Helen Gould and Star of Lyon. She gives a description of each rose and where she planted it in her yard. It is interesting to note that some of these roses are still being grown.

I bought Rosette Delizy from a California nursery, and it looks exactly like the description given in most books. I also bought the same named plant from a nursery in Georgia. The rose I received was the same as the Franciska Krüger I had bought from a nursery in Ohio.

I have Mons. Tillier purchased from the Ohio nursery. It is a many petaled and brick-red rose. In an issue of the British Rose Annual, there is a picture of Mons. Tillier, which is not like the plant I have. They show the rose with lesser petals and a different shade of red.

I have two roses of the same kind and labeled Etoile de Lyon, one from a Georgia nursery and one from a friend. I also have ^aplant from Puerto Rico, and the sender said the rose grew all over the island and was known as Etoile de Lyon. It is not like the other two. I have a climbing rose of Perle des Jardins, and the bloom of this rose is similiar in form to the Puerto Rico rose; the color of one is darker than the other.

I have a rose sent to me from Houma, Louisiana, and the name given was Mrs. Blum's Favorite. This rose is medium size, full petaled, soft pink in the center, fading to cream in the outer petals and the leaves look like the china rose. I have found this same rose in an old garden in Shreveport and also in the group of unknowns of the Antique Rose Emporium. It would seem that this rose must have been in commerce in it's day.

In the group of unknowns at the Eaporium, I found a rose they called Pink Buttons. I have the same rose given to me by Louise Stuart of Alexandria. She said the cutting came from a rose bush said to be at least one-hundred years old. I have ask her to make an effort to find out the history of this rose.

I have received Pat Harrison's beautiful new rose catalog. Looking through it, I find he has given me credit for having found Cels Multiflore. I did find this plant in an old cemetery in Natchez, Mississippi, and also in an old cemetery in Natchitoches, Louisiana. After rechecking Mrs. Keays description of Cels and also checking other books, I decided it must be Cels. I did not have any definite authority, but I think I am correct.

The red china rose is found in more gardens in Louisiana than any other old rose. It can be confusing in trying to identify the varieties in this group. Louis Phillipe, which is bright red with a lighter center, is in many yards. There are others that are red-red, some very double and some semi-double. I think this rose has given us many seedlings and we find variations in color and petals. The foliage is always the same.

In identifying species, we have certain characteristics that designate the rose to be tea, china, gallica or others. When it comes to deciding the name of a rose it becomes more difficult. Descriptions given in books are confusing, for they are not always the same. At times we have seen the rose growing in an area where it has grown for many years, so we think

the name given it must be correct.

My wanting to know, is a desire that drives me and others to look long and hard for answers. I visited friends in North Carolina and I was asked^{ed} what is this rose? I visited in Texas and I was asked^d the same question. If you visit my garden, I have many roses just waiting for you to call them by their correct name.

I am not too good about keeping records of where and when I find roses. My friends, Charles Walker and Carl Cato, are super record keepers. They might have a suggestion as to how we could find an answer to the question, what is my name? I will offer a suggestion. Lets ask the A. R. S. Center to let us use a block of land in the neighborhood of the Heritage Rose Garden. We can prepare the area in beds, which will be numbered. We can plant the unidentified roses, which many of us have found. As visitors see the roses in bloom, they might be able to identify them. The information could be left at the Center or mailed to me. I will keep the records and it would be interesting and helpful to see the results. Rose gathering can be mystifying^y and satisfying. What is your suggestion?



The illustrations reproduced in this issue are taken from C.M. Saxton's The American Rose Cultivist, published in New York by Mr. Saxton's company in 1852. The engravings are by William H. Starr. Queen, a bourbon rose shown at left, is described as delicate blush. Mr. Saxton's lists — teas, chibas, noisettes, and so on — might be of importance to those in The Symposium who have an interest in identification. Many of the subjects admired by the author are altogether unknown to me.

-Conrad Tife

HELP FROM ELLEN

by Maxine McFall, KS

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Ellen Willmott's The Genus Rosa has the most beautiful and probably the most botanically correct illustrations of species roses that I've seen. The research she did for this book was certainly impressive. (She must have had a cook, a maid, a hairdresser, a housekeeper, a gardener, and a fortune!) I know that she had one of the best plant illustrators -- Alfred S Parsons. As one thing leads to another, I'd like to know more about Ellen Willmott (There being no dust jacket biography). She could evidently read and interpret writings in French, Spanish, German, Latin, and Greek as well as the King's English, and she must have had an oriental interpreter. She evidently lived in the neighborhood of copies of the Botanical Register and Crepin's volumes; I only hope the curator at Kew realized how helpful her gleanings would be, and appreciated her work at the time.

At the beginning of the first volume is a glossary of the terms used. It is difficult for me to translate the description of words such as "oblanceolate" to what the actual leaf should look like, but this glossary takes care of that by showing many variety of stipules, sepals, fruit, and so forth drawn out so that the meaning of the terms are unmistakable. Miss Willmott thanks the Keeper of the Royal Herbarium at Kew for drawings of parts of roses, so he may have provided these. Very few of the illustrations are initialed.

Not being a professional researcher, I marvel at the amount and the careful research she has recorded. Ellen notes where illustrations and information on each rose can be found, on the page concerning that rose. As I remember from my college texts, the notes usually followed the chapter, or were located at the back of the book, and I, for one, certainly didn't want to flip back and forth unless it was absolutely necessary! Ellen tells the names a species has been given, and by whom. Thank goodness she also uses inches and feet instead of the metric system.

Ellen says comfortingly to us of Rosa blanda, "...Its forms are infinite and a source of bewilderment to amateurs who attempt to determine their wild roses." Of "Seven Sisters" she says, "... the amount of the flower buds was about 3,000 (on one plant). The variety of colour on the buds at first opening ... was not less aston-

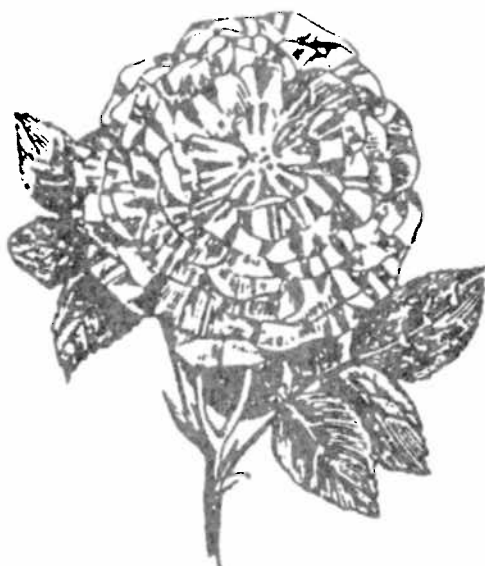
WILLMOTT, Cont.

ishing than their number. White, light blush, deeper blush, light red, darker red, scarlet, and purple all in the same corymb. ... these seven colours are said to be the reason why this plant is called the Seven Sisters Rose." The Chinese ascribe the derivation of the name from the seven flowers which generally open at the same time on each corymb.

When one looks at the paintings and reads the descriptions in The Genus Rosa, one wishes for instant spring just to see ones old and species roses in bloom again! My first acquaintance with the book was through Inter-Library Loan from the Lewis and Clark Library in Oregon. I don't know whether they still loan it or not; you might check with your library.



JASPE DESPREZ (Yellow Rose)



THE VILLAGE MAID (La Belle Villageoise)



BOURSALT ROSE (Rosa gallica)

Hermann Sons and St. John's Lutheran Cemeteries

It used to be that cemeteries in Texas were wild gardens that preserved some semblance of the local flora, but with the march of ligustrum and the advent of the power mower, most of them have become anonymous. For whatever reason, these two cemeteries, on South New Braunfels between Wyoming and Nevada streets, are not so nondescript. There are old gnarled mesquite trees, unmanicured lawns, and wild-flowers. On my visit I saw golden-fronted woodpeckers, loggerhead shrikes (seldom seen in cities), mourning doves, house finches, and mockingbirds, but the most convivial occupants were the Mexican ground squirrels, which kept popping out of their holes like jack-in-the-boxes.

OLD ROSES AS LANDSCAPE PLANTS

G Micheal Shoup Jr, The
Antique Rose Emporium

Landscape professionals and homeowners now have some exciting new choices for shrub, mass and groundcover materials: own-root (grown from cuttings) garden roses offer color, easy culture, and long life, while providing fragrance and historic interest for today's landscapes.

Groundcover. -- Beginning with groundcover roses, there are at least three that offer exciting possibilities. All three are highly insect and disease resistant. Two of them are species or near species of Rosa wichuriana. The first is the species itself, noted for quickly covering slopes and large areas with small, shiny, fine-textured foliage. Sometimes called the Memorial Rose, this plant has attractive white blossoms in spring, and will grow in a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions. One surprising characteristic of our particular selection is that it is completely thornless. Cold and drought tolerance are another character in this plant which usually grows no more than one or two feet tall, but spreads rapidly horizontally.

Second, Rosa wichuriana poterilifolia is a more dwarf form than the species, better suited to smaller plantings. It is a rare species collected by the National Arboretum in a coastal area of Japan. The white spring flowers are followed by oval red hips.

Our third possibility for groundcover use is Petite Pink Scotch (a cultivar of Rosa spinossima). Discovered in a neglected garden on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, we feel this hardy plant is destined to become a popular substitute for such favorites as Indian Hawthorn and dwarf Yaupon. The evergreen foliage is almost fern-like, with flowers appearing in early spring, making the plant seem a series of cascading waterfalls of very double pink flowers that whiten with age. Petite Pink thrives on sand or clay soils, is drought and cold tolerant, and only grows to three feet, making it useful as a groundcover on a large scale, or as a specimen shrub in smaller quarters.

Shrubs. -- There is considerable potential for using many of the old China and Polyantha roses as shrub masses. All of the ones we have

LANDSCAPE PLANTS, cont.,

grown bloom from early spring until hard frost and are reasonably insect and disease resistant. Spring and fall flowering is outstanding and can almost cover the bush for weeks at a time. Moderate pruning in August and January will keep the plants sufficiently uniform to give a mass effect in the two to four foot range. Three foot spacing is optimum in most situations, although varietal size differences should be taken into account.

The choices for mass planting are many: some of the most effective include Old Blush, Cramoisi Superieur, Hermosa, "Gay Hill Red China", Marie Pavie, La Marne, The Fairy, White Pet, bush form Cecile Brunner, and Perle d'Or.

Although somewhat larger in size, some of the Hybrid Musk roses also perform admirably as shrub masses. We see Skyrocket used this way all over south central Texas. Nastarana and Ballerina add the soft colors and magnificent fragrance of the Hybrid Musk class to good disease resistance.

Hedges and Borders. -- Still another functional use of old garden roses in today's landscape is for hedges and borders. Many varieties offer good shrub and foliage characteristics as well as outstanding color and fragrance. The China roses mentioned above can serve as excellent hedges. Hybrid Musks are popular for hedge and border use in England and New Zealand. Their attractive and healthy foliage, soft pastel colors, and easy culture are making them more frequent choices for United States' gardens as well.

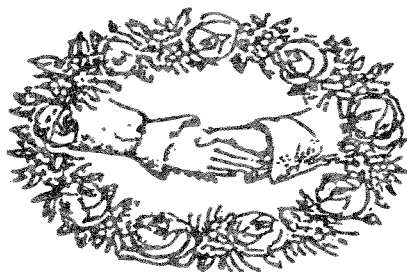
Russell's Cottage Rose is one of the most satisfactory hedge roses we have grown. It is amazingly heat and drought resistant, and forms a neat four to seven foot shrub with little or no pruning or care. The Damask scented flowers perfume the entire garden during their mid-spring season. Russell's Cottage Rose is also a good choice for background planting, and has attractive orange hips that ripen in the fall.

Some of the Hybrid Perpetuals such as American Beauty and Ulrich Brunner are effective as hedges. Tea roses like Safrano, "Dallas Tea," Duchesse de Brabant are great medium-sized border plants. Bourbons such as Grüss an Teplitz, La Reine Victoria, Mae

LANDSCAPE PLANTS, Cont.

Isaac Perreire, and Zephirine Drouhin are spectacular in bloom and unmatched in fragrance.

These are certainly not the only possibilities for ground-cover, mass and hedge use of old garden roses. Many of the reprinted classical rose books offer helpful ideas, and antique rose catalogues can provide creative gardeners with infinite possibilities for including these colorful and practical plants in home, community, and commercial landscape developments.



THE STATE OF THE STATE
-Pam Puryear, ED and SEC

A zillion thanks to Mr J Conrad Tips of Houston for being the OTR guest editor for the last two issues, and for writing a goodly portion of this one. Conrad certainly added a touch of class to an otherwise prosaic publication -- reviewers years hence, I believe, will collect his laundry lists for publication!!!!

Our counterparts in Dallas, the Heritage Roses Group, are now putting out their own newsletter, The Yellow Rose. President Buddy Harrison and editor and program Chairman Joe Woodard have really "put the big pot in the little one" with a dozen issues a year and a color rose portrait on the cover. Subscribe by writing Joe at 8638 Sans Souci Dr, Dallas 75238, or send your check for \$10 (\$1 each) to him, or treasurer Troy Christopher, PO Box 270914, Dallas 75227.

The banner on the front page tells it all: the famed 6th Annual Great Rose Hunt and Second Annual Texas Symposium will be held Sunday, November 4th. I will send everyone who could possibly come a reminder a week beforehand.

We will meet as usual at my house in Navasota to visit and swap cuttings. Please bring cuttings of one or two unusual or collected varieties, and label them. I will brew some willow water to share.

Then, when all assembled at 10 or so, we will go in a caravan to the Antique Rose Emporium at Independence for a guided tour by owner Mike Shoup, Jr. He and propagator Tom Adams will show us how they root roses from cuttings. Some parent plants in 15 gallon tubs are certainly in bloom so a camera might be handy.

RUSTLE, cont.

We then plan to follow Mike or President Bill Welch to Mike's parents' place nearby for our usual picnic. The Shoup Srs have a border of roses which promise to be spectacular. Iced tea and food provided as is our custom, bring your own otherwise!

We will then return to the Episcopal Parish Hall in Navasota for our symposium section, to start about 2:00. Joe and/or Buddy will discuss and show the best cultivars for North Texas. Mitzi Van Sant will tell us how SC HRG is going, we hope, and President Bill Welch may -- or may not! -- tell us all we wanted to know about drip irrigation, but were afraid to ask. New member Jeanne Williams of La Grange will present a slide program on the great gardens of England. The party should break up about 4:00 so that out-of-towners can get started home.

Can you believe that we've done this for six years now? We're not only dedicated, we're TOUGH. [I still think that cucumber sandwiches taste better served out of a car trunk in the driving rain at a filling station between Sealy and West Columbia!!!!]

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES ARE DUE THIS SEPTEMBER, EVERYBODY. My address is 708 Holland, Navasota 77868, or pay at the Rustle. \$5.00

I have found two new societies to join. The first is a delightful Cottage Garden Society in England. They have a chatty newsletter, are heavy on old roses, and have a fun seed exchange for rare & unusuals. Send about \$4 to Hon Sec Mrs Doris Stephenson, "Avalon", Ferry Lane, Thelwall, Warrington WA4 2SS GB. The second society is our very own Southern Garden History Society based at Old Salem, Inc, Drawer F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem NC 27108. They are interested in the resoration of old gardens, and the preservation of older plants, etc.

Conrad writes of the losses of two Texans: E M "Buck" Schiwetz, the artist, and Carroll Abbott, the wildflower expert from Kerrville.

GREAT THINGS FOR THE NEXT NUMBER. Plus a candid and unexpurgated view of the doings on the Rustle, we have Mrs Patti Wilson's review of Anne Dowden, Conrad's discussion of the making of the pot-pourri, his biography of the (in)famous Vita Sackville-West of Sissinghurst Castle fame, and many other goodies which he was so kind as to write for us, and we so ingratitudeful as to put off until next time! [The fact is we're too cheap to mail these with a 37¢ stamp, which it will be if it gets any heavier!]