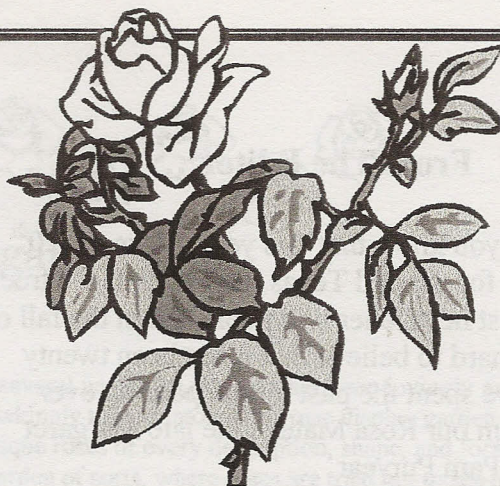


# The Old Texas Rose



Number 3

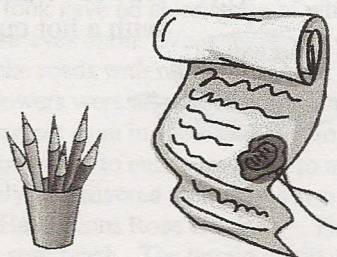
Summer 2002

www.texas-rose-rustler.com

## A Hello From The New Editor

By Candy Fite

Well folks, I have the privilege of being the new editor of the Old Texas Rose newsletter. Shannon Sherrod and I have switched board positions for the duration of the term. I am honored and looking forward to being editor. I hope those of you who have a knack for writing will submit your articles. You can send them to me by mail or by email. My address is below and my email address is [queenorosa@yahoo.com](mailto:queenorosa@yahoo.com). It will be my duty to edit, publish and write for the newsletter. I will consider all articles sent to me, but I have one request: I ask that the articles be written in relation to roses or gardening. So come on, don't be shy, break out those pens and get busy! I will try and let everyone know each newsletter when my deadline will be for the next issue. My goal is to publish each newsletter one month prior to each season's event. I welcome any suggestions, ideas and/or complaints, just send them my way! The deadline for the fall issue will be August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are going to include pictures, make sure you send them in earlier. Thanks!



## Adios Editing, Hola Weeding

By Shannon Sherrod

Well as Audrey once said it's time to pass the pen. It's been a fun job and I hope ya'll have enjoyed it as much as I have. Those who know me well could ever believe me when I say, that I have finally run out of things to talk about, but it's true! I reckon I can still chat on some more but not to the ability that I feel the Old Texas Rose deserves. I am glad to know that I'll be leaving the newsletter in Candy's trustworthy hands. She's been a lot of help to me over the time I've spent as editor. I am going to try and do the same for her and I hope all of you will too. I'm excited about some of the new ideas she has about the newsletter and really looking forward to the big surprise that I used to get from opening the mailbox and finding the OTR there. Candy and I have swapped jobs and I am excited about taking over as Program Chairman. I've always liked having big parties, so this should be fun! We're going to try and find a balance between having meetings in other parts of the state and near where the bulk of our members live. So if you know of a great public garden, nursery, or a good rustle site, drop me a line and we'll check it out. If you're wondering about the title of this article it's referring to one of my favorite lines. When people would ask why my garden was so weedy I would tell them it was because I was so busy working on the newsletter. (Feel free to use that, Candy!) Now I'll have to get busy weeding I suppose... although, now I can say being the Program Chairman keeps me busy!

Chairman  
Program Chairman  
Secretary  
Treas./Membership  
Webmaster  
Editor-OTR

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Mr. Shannon Sherrod  
Mrs. Virginia Sissom  
Mrs. Gladys Cronquist  
Mr. Joseph Cooper  
Mrs. Candy Fite

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210-736-2383  
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## From The Editor...

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I plan on giving the OTR a sort of face-lift so to speak. I found a lot of interesting material and want to integrate the old with the new. I believe sharing the information of the TRR founders will have a positive impact on us all. There were a handful of Rustlers who started this group and reading about their early rustles is fascinating! So if you will allow me to include articles from the past, I think you will find it a wonderful addition to our newsletter.

I also want to dedicate an article to the facts and classifications of antique roses. For me, no matter how many times I read about roses, I always learn something new and it is an enjoyable read!

I am currently working on a brand new layout for the Old Texas Rose. So bear with me for the next couple of issues. As they say... Out with the old and in with the new! And remember, change helps us grow and it is good for the soul!



*Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Old Texas Rose!!!*

## Did you know...???

I was in Starbucks recently ordering my usual Café Latte and before you say, "Hey, this has nothing to do with roses!" keep reading. I noticed that they give away their coffee grounds for your compost! They call it "Grounds For Your Garden." They bundle them up for you and keep them in a basket up front. I spoke with the manager, John Fiscus, at the Kingsland Blvd. store in Katy and he informed me that all the Starbucks in Houston are participating in this program.

They also hand out a tip sheet to give you all the valuable information about using the coffee grounds. They state that you can apply the coffee grounds directly as a top dressing to acid loving plants (Roses!!!). They also suggest adding brown material, such as leaves or dried grass to the top dressing to keep a balanced PH in your soil. You can add it to your compost or if you worm compost, add them to your worm bin.

Starbucks commissioned a study about the nutrients in the coffee grounds. It was performed by the University of Washington, College of Forest Resources. Here are their results:

Primary Nutrients		Secondary Nutrients	
Nitrogen	1.45%	Calcium	389 ug/g
Phosphorus	ND ug/g	Magnesium	448 ug/g
Potassium	1204 ug/g	Sulfur	high ug/g

Terms: ND = indicates sample is below detection limit  
ug/g = microgram / gram

Check out those Potassium levels! If your area Starbucks is not participating in "Grounds for your Garden" encourage them to do so! If they need information or help getting started, tell them to call the manager at the Kingsland Blvd. Starbucks in Katy and speak with John Fiscus. Just think, what better way to "wake up" those roses, but with a hot cup of java!





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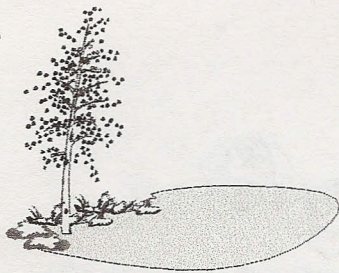
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## Notes From Serenity Pond

By Patricia J. McCain

COMMON NAMES vs LATIN BINOMIALS: For some time I have intended approaching this subject. Never did the importance become clearer to me than last spring and summer. A dear friend of mine and I got into a big discussion, mainly on my part, because she was calling what I refer to as *Coreopsis*, Black-eyed Susan (Brown-eyed Susan) = "*Rudbeckia hirta*." Now I must state that I come from "the land of Black-eyed Susans"; it is the State flower where I grew up! The flowers are yellow (and NO red) and have dark brown centers. Since I have lived in Texas I have only seen them in East Texas, though I have learned they are also abundant in South Texas. The argument still continues, though I dropped the subject after she phoned me to tell me she read "*Rudbeckia*" sometimes may have red with yellow in the flowers. Of course I was sure she was referring to the Mexican hat = "*Ratifida columnaris*." Both are in the "Compositae" Sunflower family, as are "*Coreopsis tinctoria*."

My dear friend Randy Kirkpatrick, a botanist, was a graduate student at Texas A&M when he was constantly telling me, over and over, that I should learn the Latin names. "I know." I would answer and then would shrug it off, not in total disinterest, but rather a thought of "another time, I must do that." In all earnest, when writing I have tried to supply the proper Latin names, when I know the information to be correct. The fact is that it keeps things in order. Randy still reminds me of the value of learning the Latin name, now long distance. He also warned me if you don't know the structure of the plant, it is easier to get confused. One cannot identify by color only. Scientific names never change. In ALL countries each plant has one name, in Latin. Never was this more realized to me than last summer when I took a long trip to Korea.

I have traveled some, in the U.S. and abroad, but I have never gone to a place where the culture is so very different, yet the vegetation was just like at home. I was totally surprised. That was true all over South Korea, and I traveled from the actual border of the North and the South, to Seoul, Icheon, Teajon, Pusan and the sea there, Masan, and on south to farming villages and orchard villages. Beautiful undeveloped mountains cover 75 percent of their country. We passed field after field completely covered with green houses. I saw rice fields, went over and along peaceful rivers. The roadsides are never mowed, so wildflowers, as well as some planted flowers, are always in bloom. I recognized old friends in this foreign land - grasses, water plants and trees also. Fleabane Daisy = "*Erigeron philadelphicus*" were abundant, and planted Cosmos and Mallows = "*Hibiscus moscheutos*"; their name translated means "Plate flower." Large yellow Coneflowers = "*Rudbeckia*" were displayed in front of bushes and along the borders of gardens. Althea, aka Rose of Sharon = "*Hibiscus syriacus*" is S. Korea's National flower, which they commonly call Moo-Goong Hwa. They are planted in groups usually, displayed throughout their towns and cities, as well as in small country villages. As I reflect on some of the trees and shrubs, I do ponder some as to what vegetations were really native. Knowing much of Korean history, I know that at one time Japan had taken over the country and during that time planted many Japanese

things. Many of our popular landscape shrubs and trees are Japanese, so there is a parallel.

When in Soul, I was a guest of Dr. Yong-Seop Kim and his wife, Kyung-He Jung, who helped make my trip to Korea possible. When Dr. Kim was a visiting professor at Texas A&M, he had taken Conversational English classes from me, we all developed a special friendship. They shared their home, family and friends. They shared much of Korea, and broadened my knowledge. One day we traveled an unusually long time on subways to meet with Dr. Kim's colleague, Dr. Young-Jin You, who took us mountain climbing. Much to my surprise, very near to the top of the mountain I saw Gayfeathers = "*Liatris elegans*" blooming. They were off to one side of the mountain creek. Now I admit I was very tired; it was a very tall mountain and the climb was steep, and the air thin, but I know Gayfeathers when I see them. However at the time I was not so wise as to know the scientific Latin name. That I added upon my return to the U.S. and researched. Near the Buddhist Temple at the top, growing among larger trees, were smaller trees that looked to me to be like our Common Hackberry = "*Celtis occidentalis*."

When visiting friends in Changwin City, Myung-Soon Gi said she wanted to take me to see a rose garden close by, still remembering my gardens in Texas. Her husband, Dr. Kang-Jae Lee, was a visiting Professor of Architecture at A&M. Since 80 percent of the Korean population lives in high-rise condominiums, their home was most unique and they proudly state the influence of America. Their lovely home was nestled in a small mountain, surrounded by Persimmon orchards, and had a view of a distant lake. They had put in our type of "Cottage Gardening" using wildflowers, roses and fruit trees, enhanced by running spring water from the mountain.

Myung-Soon and her delightful young son, Jae-Ha Lee and I took an afternoon to visit the rose gardens, which I then learned were part of a Biotech Center. She introduced me to Dr. Chul-Gu Been, Technical Advisor for Orchids, who guided me through the entire operation. I soon learned why it was not the "rose man" escorting me, since after-all that is my main interest. Upon introduction I learned Dr. Chim-Gin Kim spoke no English. However, he followed us smiling as if he understood everything spoken, as is perfectly possible, as most Koreans know some English. Dr. Been was fluent due to his studies in America.

At the Biotech Center new orchids were breed. Dr. Been proudly informed me the orchid blooms last 2 to 3 months. Their goal was for more blooms as well to achieve a fragrance. A new small orchid had recently been purchased for there is a great demand for the smaller flowers in America. They want to profit from the America's demand for the plants. Zinnias are also breed there, for improvement of the plant and the flower. Two green houses were for the "mother plants" with numerous others full of the results of their work. The zinnias were the most plentiful, with roses second and the orchid operation a little smaller. In front of one of the rose green houses was a bucket full of cut roses. A



## Notes From Serenity Pond con't...

worker was carefully selecting the best rose blooms. Dr Been translated for me that all of the blooms were related to the American rose "Kennedy." I took pictures of some of the roses Dr. Kim was creating, as well as their set-up for growth, and the system for pumping nutrients to each plant, in the green houses. We took a leisure walk through the display gardens. It can get hot there in the summer, but they do get rain, and it does not reach 100 degrees as it has been averaging here. Their display rose gardens are all of Hybrid Teas, all carefully marked. Most were in bloom, though none of the climbers were at that time. A wildflower garden caught my eye, and I wished to show my intelligence and knowledge by naming each plant; after-all they were just like the wildflowers at Serenity Pond. However all that could come out of my mouth were the Texas common names. Each man shook his head with a blank look on his face. To add to my dismay, later when I was offered a tiny metal cup of water (very small containers are used for drinking anything - well - except their wonderful white beer) at a desk in Dr. Been's office, the desk had a glass top under which was a large poster picturing all the wildflowers, with their proper Latin names.

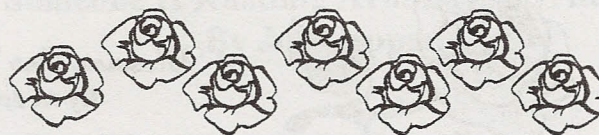
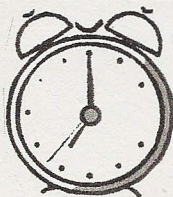
"Saves confusion," Randy always told me, "Keeps an order to things and no matter where you are, one can identify on equal level." Well, guess what? Randy was right!

Do tell me, though; does anyone else have a problem, besides me, pronouncing those Latin Names???

## The Time Is Here Folks!

The end of an even-numbered year is coming to a close, which means that it is time to think about elections for 2003-2004. The current chairpersons are all interested in returning to their positions, with the exception of Shannon Sherrod (Program Chairman) and Gladys Cronquist (Treasurer/Membership) at the end of the term on December 31st. According to our Constitution and By-Laws, new officers must be voted in at the Fall Cutting Exchange. The Nominating Committee must review the list of candidates who have expressed an interest to serve on the Board and publish a recommended list of candidates in the fall edition of the Old Texas Rose. Further nominations may be taken from the floor after the Cutting Exchange, and prior to the members' voting, but please be sure you have secured permission from the nominee. If no nominations are offered, the slate is voted on as a whole at that time. I can be reached at 281-398-8210. The deadline for offering your name is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Doana Fite, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.



# ROSE COLORS

## The Meaning of COLORS IN ROSES

Color is a personal preference.

While the red rose may be the first to come to mind, a rainbow of colors exists. The chart below matches some of the most popular rose colors with the sentiments they express.

RED - Love, respect

DARK PINK - Gratitude,  
appreciation

LIGHT PINK - Admiration,  
sympathy

WHITE - Reverence, humility

YELLOW - Joy, gladness

ORANGE - Enthusiasm, desire

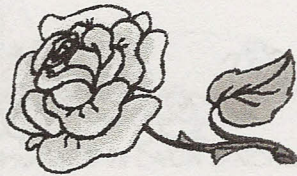
RED, YELLOWBLEND - Gaiety

PALE BLENDED TONES - Friendship

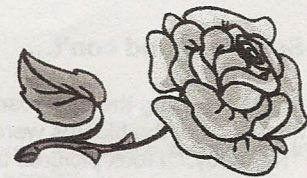
\*\*\*Info. from the "Year of the Rose" website\*\*\*  
Sponsored by the American Rose Society  
[www.rose-2002.org](http://www.rose-2002.org)







*A Blessing that Keeps Us Balanced*  
By Audrey McMurray



I really didn't want to go to New Orleans. My sisters talked about it so much that I didn't want to disappoint them, but the truth was, it just wasn't high on the list of cities I wanted to visit. My oldest sister, Brenda, sensed my hesitation and threw out the one hook that would reel me in. She said, "I betcha you'll find a lot of roses in all of those cemeteries in New Orleans."

Cemeteries? Did she say "cemeteries"? Only a fellow Rustler can appreciate the shrewdness on her part of that comment. And all of you fellow Rustlers who are familiar with New Orleans' cemeteries are probably laughing out loud, aren't you? Can't grow roses, even hardy antique roses, in pure cement. As we took one of the "cemetery tours" and listened to our guide explain why Uncle Pierre had to be cremated above ground, not buried below, I looked for even a tiny piece of earth where, just maybe, a little rose had been planted. I did find azaleas and camellias tucked here and there. But I did not see one rose...not one.

On our last day in New Orleans, Brenda wanted to see the house our parents rented when she was born. We passed cemetery after cemetery on our way to Prytania St. but we didn't bother to stop anymore. I was feeling so disappointed. When we finally found the correct address, imagine my surprise when I saw the front yard's fence draped with antique roses! I could identify only a few, but no matter. The trip, in that instant, became complete.

When we introduced ourselves to the lady of the house and her mother, and begged to take a cutting or two, not only did they say yes, but they showed us a back yard with about a dozen more roses. Their large Rosette Delizy was fabulous and a Climbing Louis Philippe had grown up over the second story of her neighbor's house, partially using a large tree for support on the way up. I saw

that it was making its way across the roof of the house, even.

In fact, I stood there and stared at that Louis for a bit. It didn't compute. First of all, I had never seen a rose climb a tree. That was a "first". Secondly, I didn't know Louis Philippe had a climbing sport. I asked her if she was sure that was Louis Philippe and she said she was quite sure. The blooms did look like the Louis Philippe I knew, but then, I was still a novice and that's a rose that is sometimes confused with others. The owner just smiled and assured me that it was Louis. She had been collecting for some time and knew her roses.

Once back in Houston, Brenda, Judy and I sent the family a thank you note and a gift certificate to the Antique Rose Emporium. Several months later, I received a letter from the grandmother, thanking us for the gift certificate. She wrote that she had been diagnosed with cancer right after our visit, and that thumbing through the ARE's catalogue, trying to decide which rose to buy, was one of the few things that made the ordeal of chemotherapy bearable. She looked upon it as a blessing. It made me think of Margaret Sharpe, one of our founders, dying of cancer yet smiling when a visitor arrived with roses. She was blessed too.

How many of us, myself included, spend much of our time dealing with Life's trials - challenges that weigh us down if we aren't careful? How wonderful that, as rose lovers, we have something that weighs in on the positive, light-hearted side as well. It's a blessing that keeps us balanced.





**Fall Cutting Exchange**  
**October 5th, 2:00 P.M till ???**

**Kings Nursery, Teneha, Texas**

This years Cutting Exchange promises to be a grand old time. We'll be meeting at Kings Nursery in Teneha, which is located on Hwy 84 about a quarter mile east of the Hwy 59 & Hwy 84 split. Teneha is small. (Living In Chireno I should talk!) So missing the nursery is going to be pretty hard.

We're meeting a little later than usual this year so folks will have plenty of time to drive up. There's also another attraction in the area that you might want to take in on the way too. Stephen F. Austin University In Nacogdoches will be having their Fall Plant Sale that morning starting at 9:00 next to the Arboretum. I mention the start time because people are lined up when the rope is dropped much like the great Oklahoma land rush! Needless to say it's a little crowded but there's a good reason for that. The plants are cheap, the money goes to supporting the Arboretum, and the variety is outstanding, these aren't your run of the mill nursery plants offered here. There's a list of some of the varieties for sale on their website if you want a sneak peak. You can also check out the Arboretums plantings, which are even more impressive than when we were last there. Of course you can't talk about places having hard to find plants without mentioning King's Nursery. Aubrey King's family has run this nursery since 1915 so they've handled some of our antiques when they were new! He has and still gets the newest varieties that do great in Texas. I've told people that he passes the cherry tree test, lots of nurseries will try to sell you things that are pretty, like cherries, but won't grow here.

Everything at King's should grow in Texas if you've got half a clue! So save some room from the SFA sale and show up and shop around at King's too and even if you don't buy anything you can always enjoy watching Audrey stuff her vehicle!

On a more practical note, if you're wanting to spend the night, you might want to check out Nacogdoches, which is about a forty minute drive from Teneha and the same goes for lunch as well. Everyone could also bring a dessert and turn this thing into a real East Texas Hootenanny!

**Someone Is Rustling Around Out There**  
**By Joe Cooper**

**"The Flores Street House Eater"**

What would you think if I told you that I found a rose that was actually "eating" a house? Well it is true and pictures don't lie! I first heard about this rose from a "friend of a friend" who had been known to snip a bit here and there while wandering around San Antonio. She found this rose on the near west side, and just north of the downtown area on Flores Street. It apparently had been planted in front of the house in better days, and as the house declined, the rose prospered and expanded. Now the house is all but fallen down (the back wall is entirely gone), and the roof is on the verge of collapse, but the rose is happily eating what remains of the structure.

It is a truly astonishing sight. The rose is about 20' wide and more than 15' high, and it is draping over the entire roof area and into the back yard. I have no idea how old this specimen is, but I must admit that I left skid marks on the street from panic braking when I first saw it. WOW! WHAT A ROSE!

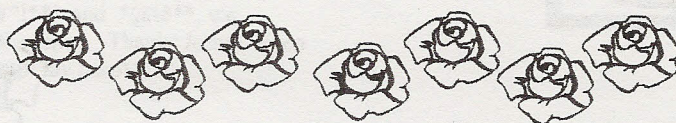
Best of all, it is beautiful as well as huge. The buds are a light buttery yellow and they open to pale creamy, very double blooms. In late March and early April of 2001, the entire plant was covered with flowers, and the blooms persisted until well into the late summer.

When I checked it in January of 2002, it was still blooming!

The flowers occur in large clusters, and it is almost certainly a Noisette. In talking it over with Marion Brandes, we decided that it is probably a very large specimen of 'San Felipe Noisette', (AKA 'Brightside Cream') but we will address its identity and the reasons for our tentative certainty in an upcoming issue.

Suffice it to say, if you want to see an amazing sight, visit the "Flores Street House Eater." But do not delay too long because it could fall victim to urban renewal any day now. Fortunately it is easy to propagate, and cuttings are available from the sidewalk.

Unfortunately, I was unable to retrieve Joe's pictures from his email. This was one of several stories that he wrote about. I thought I would save the remaining for the next couple of issues.







## Almanac Dates

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs for the Year 2002

### For rooting all cuttings

June: 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 26

July: 1, 2, 6, 7, 28, and 29

Aug: 2, 3, 6, 7, 24, 25, 26, 29, and 30

### For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

June: 12, 13, and 16

July: 10, 16

Aug: 12, 13, and 14

### To prune roses for increased blooming

June: 3, 4, 5, 26, and 27

July: 1, 2, 28, and 29

Aug: 6, 7, 24, 25, and 26

*June is the month when feeding, weeding, hoeing, and controlling insects pay off with a thriving, healthy and productive garden. Continue to turn compost pile and keep it moist. Apply mulches before soil heats up and dries out.*

## OUR NEXT EVENT

**By Shannon Sherrod**

It's that time of year again, when it's too hot to be outside enjoying the roses and time to visit under the AC and enjoy them vicariously. We'll be meeting at the Mercer Arboretum again this year on July 27<sup>th</sup> from 10-12:30. Greg Grant will be our guest speaker and a real treat for everyone who shows up! His speech will be "Creating a Cottage Garden."



I'd list his credentials, but that would take up the whole newsletter, suffice it to say, he knows his stuff! Those of us who toured his garden awhile back will never forget how beautiful it was. He's now employed at the Mercer Arboretum so you may want to show up early and check out what they're up to these days. We'll also be having our customary rose lotto and don't forget to bring any other goodies you may have extra of. Mercer Arboretum is located on Aldine Road in Humble. Turn north off of FM 1960 and follow the signs to the Arboretum.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Rosey Facts

### China Roses, *R. Chinensis*

They are usually upright in growth habit from 3-6 feet

Thorns are sparse on most Chinas

Usually flowers in clusters

Hip producers

The leaflets have 5-7 leaves and the leaves are usually shaped long and pointed

New growth is red

Chinas are useful as hedges, specimen plants or borders. They are easily maintained and are carefree. They bloom almost all year and are one of the Gulf Coast's easiest roses to grow. If you are new at growing roses, try one!

Old Blush	pink	4-6ft.
Cramoisi Superieur	crimson	4-6ft.
Louis Philippe	crimson	3-5ft.
Archduke Charles	rose-red/pink	3-5ft.
Mutabilis	yellow/pink/crimson	5-7ft.
Ducher	creamy white	3-5ft.
Martha Gonzalez	bright red	2-3ft.

These are just a few of the Chinas that are commonly grown. The blooms on Chinas are not their best quality, but their carefree, non-stop blooming will win you over!

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As I was reading through some of the earlier newsletters, I came across the first page of volume one, issue one. What a treasure these pages are! It is dated September 1982, which means this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year our Old Texas Rose has been in publication. Here are a few inserts from that page...

*"This newsletter is meant to be a vehicle for old rose growers to share their knowledge. Many of us enjoy 'The Rose Letter' published by the Heritage Rose Group. This Texas newsletter is meant to further promote interest in old roses, and to explore their potential as landscape plants for our state. We plan to do this through articles, plant sharing, and collecting trips. We hope that you will not only join the organization, but lend your active support to its objectives."*

*"Now about those names...As best I recall, it was James W. 'Buddy' Harrison who suggested 'Welch's Night Raiders'. Sara Jean Darby proposed the 'Ragged, Ragged Robin' (None of us looked too hot on that collecting trip!) Your secretary, however, insisted that as we were a collection of giant intellects ourselves, that we should reflect the scholarly, (as opposed to the larcenous), aspect of our organization in our title. I get the feeling that everyone will end up calling us the Texas Rose Rustlers anyway!"*

I feel that as editor it is up to me to keep the original intent of this newsletter alive. I will try and include these "pages from the past" in future issues. Our Rosa Maters, the late Margaret Sharpe and Pamela Puryear wrote many of them. I hope that you find these just as interesting and enlightening as I do!

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>Did anyone happen to catch veteran rustler, Audrey McMurray on Ch. 8 on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.? She was interviewed about roses while they aired a wonderful tribute to old garden roses with Brenda Beust Smith, a.k.a., The Lazy Gardener. So the next time you see Audrey, give her a pat on the back! You might want to get her autograph while you're at it!

WAY TO GO, AUDREY!!!

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>Last Saturday, we here in Houston, had a heck of a storm! The 56mph winds blew my 20x40 ft. Mermaid off the fence. Needless to say, I had quite a challenge! I would like to extend my gratitude to my husband, Jesse, for his help. He and his "high lift" jack, cranked that puppy back over the fence! After Mermaid tried eating us for dinner and we called her names like, #\*!#! and \*@!#!, we managed to get her back up and over the fence. Thanks Jesse! Even with your broken collarbone, you are still my hero!

## Coffee With Auntie Lotte

Walking through the garden and drinking my iced coffee – too hot to drink hot coffee – I'm checking which ten roses survived the last hot summer and winter: Annie's Red, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Caldwell Pink, Eutin, Mutabilis, Puerto Rico, Mrs. B. R. Cant, General Schablikine, New Dawn and Duchess de Brabant. They survived beautifully with little or no care.

I can't say that about the five hybrid roses I bought. They look sick and when they die, I'll replace them with David Austin roses. They do great with little care, especially the one I love, Abraham Darby.

Last fall I took a Master Gardener course, which was very interesting. I had to do twenty-four hours of volunteer work in the garden. My job was propagating roses, which I loved dearly. I also had to do thirty-six hours of answering the phone. The biggest problems of people who called in were about their roses having yellow leaves and black spots on them and mildew causing the rose's buds to ball up. While checking through the library, I came across this book called Roses by Janet Browne, a romantic history with a guide to cultivation. Did you know that archeologists discovered fossilized roses that may be as old as 30 million years? Maybe Adam and Eve were the first people who took care of them. In Egyptian tombs from around 1,500 BC, roses were found as decorations with other ornaments and artifacts. Cleopatra greeted her lover, Marc Antony, in a room knee-deep in rose petals, sat on petal-filled mattress, and wore rose garlands. Very romantic, providing you weren't allergic to them.

Will write more next time. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

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