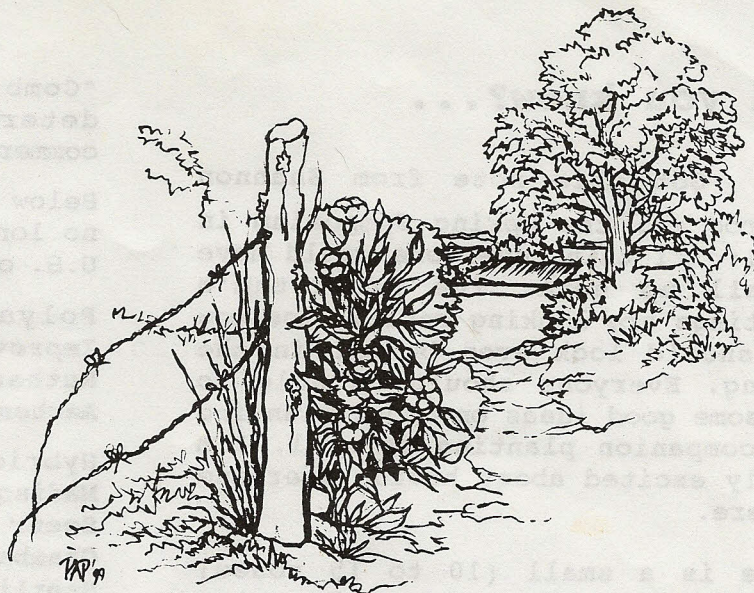


# The Old Texas Rose



NUMBER 4

FALL 1999

www.texas-rose-rustlers.com

## Fall 1999 Texas Rose Rustler Cutting Exchange

October 23, 1999

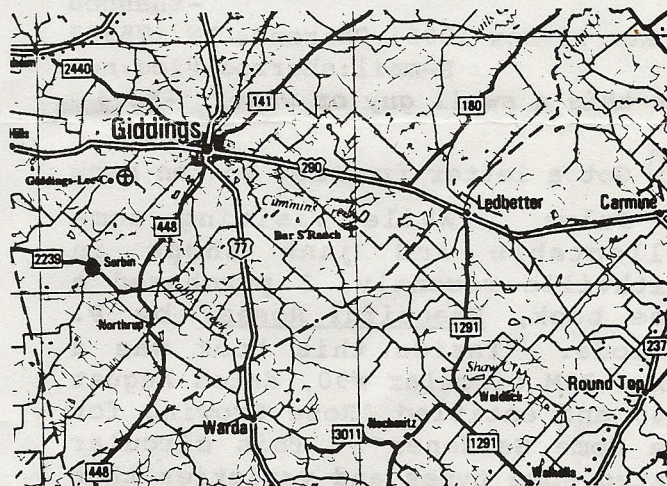
On Saturday, October 23, we will meet at 10:00am under the covered barbecue pits and tables in front of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and cemetery for our annual cutting exchange. Bring your cuttings to share, paper towels, plastic bags and a marker and pick up some good finds!

After our cutting exchange you might enjoy a visit to the Wendish Heritage Museum, where for \$1.00 you may visit the connected log cabins and building that contain farming and carpenter tools, beautiful Easter eggs and traditional wedding dresses of the Wendish.

The Wendish came to Texas in the 1850's from the Slavic country of Lusatia to preserve their unique language and pursue religious freedom. Their church is one of the "painted churches" of South Central Texas.

Afterward, you can either brown-bag a picnic lunch or join those Rustlers interested in eating at Jalisco's in nearby Giddings.

Unfortunately, the planned sight-seeing trip around Giddings has been cancelled. It was a very dry summer and there is a poor Fall crop of roses expected. If you care to visit the Antique Rose Emporium after the cutting exchange, Brenham is about 35 miles from Giddings on Highway 290. Take FM 105 in Brenham and go toward Navasota. Turn left on FM 50 about 11 miles to Independence to the Antique Rose Emporium.



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SECRETARY	Mrs. Virginia Sissom	11615 Wolf Run Ln., Houston, TX 77065	(281)955-2599



## Did you know?...



Got this note from Shannon

Sherrod re: the Spring Symposium in April: "I think everyone would have a ball up here. The Arboretum's plantings are looking really nice now and should look even better in the Spring. Everyone should be able to get some good ideas on under planting and companion planting as well. I'm really excited about having everyone up here.

There is a small (10 to 15 roses) planting at the old University building a few blocks from the College that has some very well established roses. Kings Nursery in Tenaha has really nice one gallon roses for \$5 and perennials in four inch pots for \$1 and is about a forty-five minute drive away. There's a bed and breakfast in Center that has a pretty nice old rose garden, as well, that we might could go to.

I figure that some of you might want to see some more stuff while you're up here. If anybody wants to come up and "scout" out the area, feel free to give them my address or number and I'll be glad to show them around. I hope all is well with you and your garden. Hope to hear from you soon."

-Shannon

Rt. 1, Box 1005, Chireno, TX 75937

E-mail:sherrod1@lcc.net

(Is this a swell guy or what? -Ed.)



Got a letter from Ray Ponton back in July: "While visiting some collectable and junk shops in Smithville recently, I purchased a rose book, Beautiful Roses, by P. Svoboda. Inside this book was a Texas A&M circular #90, dated August 1940 and entitled "Rose Growing for the Home Gardener". This circular listed some types and varieties that ordinarily do well in Texas gardens. I found the list interesting and thought maybe the membership would too. If A&M was suggesting their suitability in the 40's, then we may keep an eye out for some of the more unfamiliar ones. I reviewed the

"Combined Rose List - 1999" to determine the ones still in commerce."

Below are those roses Ray found were no longer in commerce, either in the U.S. or abroad:

Polyanthas - Ruth Shamburger, Improved Lafayette, George Elger, Katherina Elger, Snowbank, White Aachen

Hybrid Tea Roses - Alezane, Dolly Madison, Heinrich Gaede, Luxembourg, Soeur Therese, J.L. Mock, Mme. C. Chambard, Nellie E. Hillock, Sterling, Ami Quinard, E.G. Hill, Francis Scott Key, Grenoble, Lord Charlemont, Rough Mallerin, and one listed as extinct, Caledonia (Dobie 1928).

"Anyone growing the polyanthas and hybrid teas which are no longer in commerce should take note. (None of the species were reviewed as to availability.)"

If you would like to see the complete list that Ray sent me, with the descriptions of the complete list of roses, I will bring it to the Cutting Exchange in Serbin.

## ●●● Almanac Dates ●●●

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs for the Year 1999.

### For rooting all cuttings

Oct.: 1-2, 8, 25, 28-29

Nov.: 4-6, 24-25

Dec.: 1-5, 23, 29-31

### For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

Oct.: 9-12, 15-16

Nov.: 12-13, 16

Dec.: 9-10, 13-15

### To prune roses for increased blooming

Oct.: 1-2, 28-29

Nov.: 7, 24-25

Dec.: 4-5, 23, 31





## Our next event

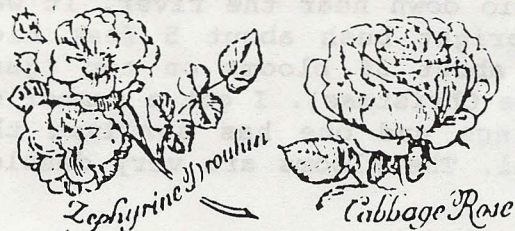
We will be having our annual Spring Symposium at the Stephen F. Austin State University Arboretum. It will be held on April 8, 2000 from 10am-3pm. SFASU is located in Nacogdoches, TX about 120 miles north of Houston off of US 59 north. A map will be included in the Winter 2000 newsletter.

Mike Peters, editor and publisher of Gardening on the Gulf Coast and the Texas Garden Yearbook will speak on "The Roses of Texas Folklore: Revisiting the Yellow Rose of Texas and other Floral Legends". Our second speaker will be Greg Grant, co-author of The Southern Heirloom Garden. Greg is now a lecturer with SFASU and on the staff of its Mast Arboretum. And, of course, we will have the usual Lotto Roses and (back by popular demand) rose judging!

Some of the Rustlers will be booking rooms at the La Quinta in Nacogdoches. Their address is 3215 S. Street and their phone number is (409) 560-5453. Their rates as of now are \$59/night for a double occupancy room. As many as four people can share a room at no extra charge.

If anyone is interested in booking a room at the La Quinta please let me know before Oct. 15, 1999. I will be more than glad to reserve a room in your name along with mine, so that we may all stay close together. Candy Fite: ldybugs@hotmail.com or call me @ (281) 395-9806.

After the Symposium is over, you will be invited to stay to tour the Arboretum. The SFASU Arboretum has about 120 acres of gardens. Yes, there are even some old roses!



## Future Event

### WINTER PLANNING MEETING

Feb. 12, 2000  
by Candy Fite,  
Program Chairman

We will have our winter planning meeting in Splendora, TX. Thank you Darla Gips and family for providing a place in which to hold it. The meeting will last from 9:30am-11:00am, at which time we will break for lunch, which will be a bring-your-own-sack-lunch deal.

Afterward, come with clippers in hand because there will be a pruning demo, led by our own veteran rustlers, of course! We will try to get to as many bushes as possible for the remainder of the time. You can leave when you want.

For those of you who don't know about Splendora, here is a little information: Darla Gips is the daughter of Bobbie McKenna, a veteran Rose Rustler, who sadly, passed away last year. Darla was left her mother's house and a very large beautiful rose garden, located in Splendora, TX. Her garden, which is actually like a rose "island", has more than 300 bushes!↵

I had the pleasure of meeting Bobbie last year in May and hearing her tell the delightful stories of how she came about all of her old garden beauties. Most of her roses were started from cuttings given to her by others. She was most generous, and would share all that she had to anyone who asked. I know this to be true, because the start of my own garden was a result of her giving way.

Hopefully, we will be able to prune enough to help out Darla and her family with the chore of a heavy spring pruning. With the number of roses they have, this job could take them weeks! Remember to bring: clippers, gloves, and if you would like to keep some of the cuttings, don't forget paper towels, baggies and a marker to label with. Depending on the weather, sunscreen, hat and maybe a sweater! Hope to see you there!



# Along the Rustling Trail

by

Joe Cooper

I got cuttings earlier this year of two old roses with some interesting oral history. One is called the "**Hoyt 1840 Tennessee Wagon Rose**". This rose was brought across the mountains into Tennessee in 1840 by the Great Grandmother of a Mrs. Hoyt, who now lives in Houston.

The other is called the "**Hoyt 1918 Cemetery Rose**". It seems that Mrs. Hoyt must have been one of the original Rose Rustlers (or maybe the idea originated with her) because she collected this rose personally when she was a young girl. The cemetery was probably in Columbus, where her family had moved, but it may have been in Houston. I managed to get a few cuttings to grow and planted them in our display garden. Now, I am anxiously awaiting the springtime when I can make a few cuttings and start to propagate them.

I also now have six specimens of **Kaiserin Friedrich** (1889), discovered at an undisclosed location in San Antonio by Marion Brandes. It is a noisette that starts out yellow and pink but turns to orange. It is very double, resembling **Gloire de Dijon** in shape, but it has its own distinctive color. This rose is a cross between **Gloire de Dijon** and **Perles des Jardins**, and it has not been seen in commerce for many years. The only reference I could find to it was in The Old Rose Advisor by Brent Dickerson.

Interestingly enough, when **Kaiserin Friedrich** was introduced it was named for the late Empress of Germany, and it probably found its way to San Antonio with German immigrants around the turn of the century. The plant we found was grown from a cutting taken in the 1930's from another plant in San Antonio, down in the German neighborhood near the King William area. The oral history is complete at least to that point.

There is a well-known Rustler/botanist named Fred Boutin, who lives in the gold mining country of California (there is a whole chapter of In Search of Lost Roses by Thomas Christopher, devoted to Fred). Fred sent me two "treasures" last year, and I managed to get a few survivors of each. One is a dark pink Hybrid Tea that is 1900-ish and blooms prolifically with flowers that look a little like **Old Blush** but are much darker in color. The other is a 1930 vintage small cupped, single polyantha with dark pink (almost purple) flowers and white centers and gold stamens. It is called **Eglantine**, and it has dwarf growth habit. This rose is mentioned in Modern Roses 10, but I do not think that it can be found commercially.

Just before Thanksgiving last year, I got a wonderful surprise - my first sport. I had been making cuttings of "**Bermuda Kathleen**" and one of the plants turned out to have uniformly magenta-colored single flowers. Normally, "**Bermuda Kathleen**" displays a wide variety of colors ranging from light pink to magenta, but this sport was just magenta. I was delighted, and surprised, so I named it "**Bermuda Thanksgiving Surprise**" (yes, my study names are a little weird). Well I planted it in a safe (deer-proof) location and it is now 4 feet high and blooming its little heart out.

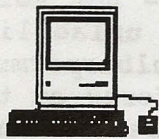
And finally, just before Christmas last year, Marion and Francis Brandes took me Rose Rustling in San Antonio. Our efforts that day were fruitless in San Antonio, but we wound up at a nursery in Seguin where Marion identified a treasured find from Rose Rustles past. He called it "**Purple Cabbage**". Unfortunately, they were not propagating it at the time.

However, a few weeks later, I found the same (or a highly similar) rose growing in the front yard of a Mrs. Prado, in an old section of San Antonio down near the river. It was an upright bush about 5 feet high with about 36 blooms on top (just before Christmas). I got a number of cuttings and one has survived the ordeal. The blooms are very double,



cabbage shaped, and a very dark shade of pink. As they age, they turn successively darker shades until they are a medium purple. So I named the rose "**Prado's Purple Cabbage**". It is now planted in our display garden, awaiting its first "haircut".

I will be off to Alabama between now and the fall cutting exchange, and I hope to come back with some more "goodies". Come see us this fall if you have a chance. We will hopefully be able to offer the "**Hoyt 1918 Cemetery Rose**", the "**Hoyt 1840 Tennessee Wagon Rose**", **Kaiserin Friedrich**, **Eglantine**, and "**Prado's Purple Cabbage**" in about a year to eighteen months. Directions to the Peaceful Habitations Rose Gardens are on our web site.



## Internet Connections

Rustler Candy Fite suggests the Steven F. Austin website for those of you who would like to get a feel for the university and its arboretum. There is also a map of the area, if you would like to start planning your trip there!

[www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum](http://www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum)

Our TRR Webmaster, Joe Cooper, has a website to pass on for those of you who are particularly interested in Griffith Buck roses:

[www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad/rosel.html](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad/rosel.html)

And don't forget Joe's own website:

[www.ph-rose-gardens.com](http://www.ph-rose-gardens.com)

where you can take a virtual walk through his gardens as well as a remarkable private garden in Florence, Alabama.

Rustler Shannon Sherrod suggests:

[www.HelpMeFind.com/sites/rrr/rosetest.html](http://www.HelpMeFind.com/sites/rrr/rosetest.html)

(and)

[www.gardenweb.com/](http://www.gardenweb.com/)

At the latter site, go to the forums, then select the antique rose forum. While you're there, check out the rose propagation and exchange forum also. He highly recommends it.

## WINTER & SUMMER MEETINGS

by

Candy Fite,  
Program Chairman

We usually meet four times a year: a winter meeting, our Spring Symposium, the summer "Rookie Rustler" meeting, and our Fall Cutting Exchange. Of course, the ideal situation would be for all of our TRR members to be able to come together at each event.

Unfortunately, because of the size of this great state, the traveling distance for some would be impossible. That is why we are encouraging those of you in other cities to hold your own winter and summer meetings. Each area or city would need someone to organize these events.

The winter meeting is usually a planning meeting and/or pruning clinic. It could be done in the middle of February, which is a great time to prune your roses. For example, the group could meet at someone's house who needs help with the heavy chore of pruning and their annual spring cleanup. During lunch break you could discuss what you would like to do for the summer meeting.

The summer meeting is usually held for the benefit of our "rookie" Rustlers. The meeting gives information on gardening in your specific area. These can be held at a community center, local garden or arboretum, even at someone's house! The different areas could just get together and have their own rustles, exchanges, garden tours or simply meet with others who have a common interest.

I hope this will inspire you to organize these kind of meetings in your own area. If anyone needs advice or help getting things started, please feel free to contact me. Candy Fite (281) 395-9806 or e-mail me: [ldybugs@hotmail.com](mailto:ldybugs@hotmail.com)



# The Case of the Criminal Crinum

-or-

How to go to Hell in a Hand Basket

by Anonymous

It is a lovely, sparkling day in late spring in South Central Texas. The bluebonnets mantling the fields and roadsides are replaced with sunflowers, horsemint and butterscotch flax. A giddy group of five, middle-aged matrons emerge from a close-packed but inspirational day of seminars. They are sated with gorgeous Kodachrome vistas displayed by attractive experts. It has been a visual orgy for these gardeners. Just so would maenads have left a Dionysean debauch.

They turn to each other and one thought flits from eye to eye. "Let's [it whispered] use the remainder of this day and go out into the countryside and pillage!" There exists in even these staid breasts the desire to "Hab it", as one succinctly admits.

So they take stock: secateurs - 6; ziplock bags - limitless numbers; liquid refreshment - sufficient. One heroine grips the wheel and they head off into Adventure. Armed with juicy burgers, they turn like homing pigeons to their spiritual home - a small (deserted) cemetery. There they munch their aliment while mentally tabulating the surrounding greenery. Alas, the gallicas are not in bloom. Those puce-shading-to lavender, flat blooms boast a white center and green button eye. "Anais Segales, 1848"? They can but hope!

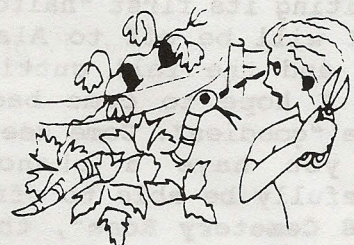


"PRUNED FOR SHAPE"

A tamarix tree, shading an early pioneer's last home, is "Pruned for Shape" and the cuttings placed in baggies. See how neat our heroines are?

The next call on the itinerary is a flower-bedecked hill nearby. Oh, my, did someone forget the spade? There being no umbrella ferule or tire iron to hand, a small shovel is pressed into service.

A fence line, the happy home of *Clematis pitcheri* (the purple clematis) and *Rhus toxicodendron*, proves to also domicile a coral snake!



HAPPY HOME

Two matrons admit to a drop in energy level.

The heroine at the helm - not Edith or Enid - professes an unladylike passion for a *Crinum bulbospermum*. A previous unsuccessful foray at the site produced undue interest from a landowner and her progeny - wrongly, as the criminal crinum occupy a railroad right-of-way. This time she will not be denied.

Dusk is settling over the landscape as a third Amazon takes the wheel of the unfamiliar vehicle. The hostess, with many confusing oral and hand signals, directs the driver to shoot a "U" on a major Texas artery, whereupon the driver gets athwart the road and kills the car. Raised hands



CRISIS ON HIGHWAY 6

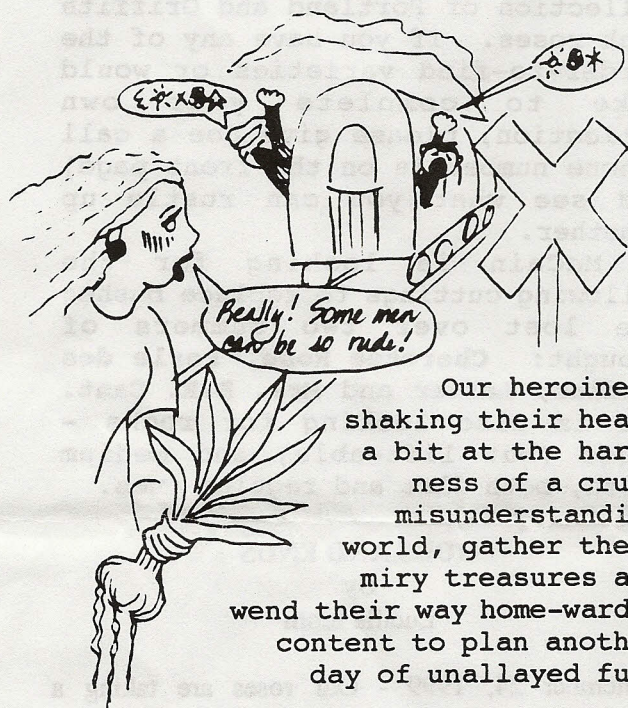
and murmurs show the back seat are in the throes of sincere dialogue with their Creator. The driver manages to park between the railroad tracks.

It should perhaps be mentioned at this juncture, that lashed to the top of the station wagon are a pile of wilted willow saplings, the proposed materiél for rustic trellises. Thus the car gets some odd glances, parked beside the road with the hazard lights on.



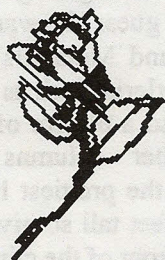


Three persevering ladies leap for the ditch and are confronted by a vista of limitless crinum, all with deep roots embedded in black ooze. As dark descends, the female with the bag observes that she has heard a decided rumble, at which a heavily laden freight train appears. Its conductor can thankfully not be clearly heard as it passes, but his gestures may be readily translated as, "What the @#%&^\$ are you drunk @#%&^\$ doing in a ditch this close the &^\*%#&@ train tracks?!"



Our heroines, shaking their heads a bit at the hardness of a cruel misunderstanding world, gather their miry treasures and wend their way home-wards, content to plan another day of unallayed fun.

The heroine sums up her experiences: "Girls, it doesn't get any better than this!"



## Coffee with Auntie Lotte

Thank you, Pam Puryear, for the beautiful heading of the column. You did a wonderful job.

Walking around the yard with my coffee, I notice that most of the roses are the size of a silver dollar. If anybody has larger ones than that, let me know the secret and I will share it in this column. Maybe they need Geritol or Viagra.

Now I know nobody is thinking about Christmas, but now is the time to make these lovely Christmas tree ornaments. These trees are about 8 inches high. Use any kind of material that looks Christmasy.

Materials: 3/8 yard of fabric, matching thread, 3/8 inch wide ribbon, small silk roses, polyester fiberfill stuffing.

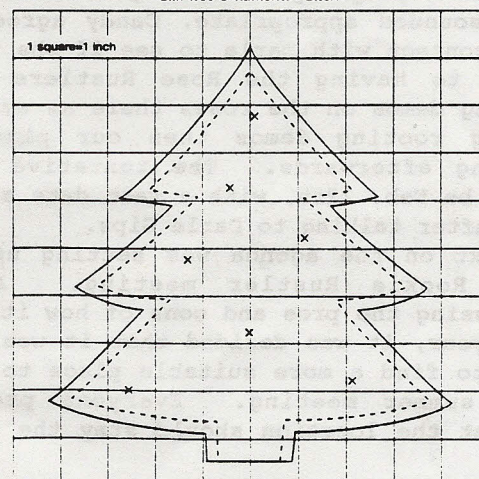
1. Cut two tree shapes of material for front and back. Pin tree front to matching tree back, right sides facing, raw edges even.

2. Stitch edges in 1/4" seams, leaving tree trunk end open. Re-stitch to reinforce. Trim seams and clip inner corners.

3. Turn trees right side out; stuff fiberfill through opening, then turn under 1/4" at opening and slip stitch closed.

4. Glue roses on the tree. Cut ribbon in half. Tie one piece into a bow and stitch to top of tree. Make a loop with the other piece and sew the loop onto the top for hanging.

Silk Tree Ornaments Pattern



(Enlarge on a copier.  
One square = 1 inch)



Summer '99-Texas Rose Rustlers  
Officers Meeting Minutes (07/25/99)

**Those present:** Lucille & Mayo Idom, Earl Krause, Candice Fite, Audrey McMurray, Virginia Sissom, Gladys Cronquist, JoAnn Hardy, Doana Fite

The meeting began with a lively discussion of ideas for the 2000 Spring Symposium. The date decided on was April 8th. Possible locations mentioned were the Brenham Community Center, Welcome Hall in Welcome, TX., and the new meeting hall at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park near Brenham. Then the idea of choosing a locale farther away from Houston so that other rose rustlers in other parts of the state might have easier access to this event was suggested by one of the officers. The majority of those present agreed that sounded like a great idea, and the San Antonio area was chosen as a good location. Audrey McMurray suggested the program chairman, Candy Fite, check into having the Antique Rose Emporium in San Antonio host this spring event for us. She agreed to do so.

As far as speakers, several officers present remembered that Frances Brandes had mentioned at the spring symposium that she had a wonderful slide presentation of the numerous places she and her husband had conducted rose rustles in Texas. She offered to present this to our group some time. So it was decided that she would be asked to make this presentation at the spring 2000, since there has been an increased interest in how to do a rose rustle. Candy said she would contact her about this. Mike Peters had been asked at the summer rookie meeting if he would like to speak to our group, and he agreed to. The subject matter would be determined at a later date.

The Winter '99 Planning Meeting was the next topic of discussion. Candy suggested we contact Darla Gips about having it in February in Splendora, TX at Bobbie McKenna's property. Those present agreed that sounded appropriate. Candy agreed to make contact with Darla to see if she would agree to having the Rose Rustlers give pruning demos on the roses there as well as having rooting demos then our planning meeting afterwards. The tentative date would be Feb. 12th, with a rain date set as well after talking to Darla Gips.

Next on the agenda was setting up the 2000 Rookie Rustler meeting. After discussing the pros and cons of how it went this year, it was decided that it would be hard to find a more suitable place to have this summer meeting. Everyone present thought the location should stay the same.

A July 22nd date was tentatively set for this event. Virginia Sissom was asked and agreed to send thank you notes to Mercer Arboretum, and the 2 guest speakers who did a fine job of presenting to the group.

Speakers for the summer event were then discussed. Virginia Sissom suggested we get someone to speak on what plants are new on the market that would be good companion plants for antique roses. She then agreed to contact a local nursery she frequents to see if they had anyone on staff willing and knowledgeable enough to speak to our group on this topic.

The final topic of discussion was the Fall 2000 Cutting Exchange. Possible locations suggested were Secret Gardens near Magnolia, TX on or near Oct. 7th, 2000. The second choice was Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## Trader's Corner

Joe Cooper is trying to complete his collection of Portland and Griffith Buck roses. If you have any of the harder-to-find varieties or would like to complete your own collection, please give Joe a call (phone number is on the front page) and see what you can rustle up together.

Pat McCain is looking for the following cuttings to replace bushes she lost over two summers of drought: **Cherokee Rose, Perle des Jardins, Lafter** and **Mrs. B.R. Cant.** She is also looking for rocks - large (but lift-able) and medium sized, both flat and regular ones.

### ODDS AND ENDS

By

Lucille Idom

September 24, 1999 - Our roses are taking a breather and some are putting on buds. We have had very little rain this year and what water the roses get doesn't soak in very far. Lavender Dream gave up the ghost after giving us the most fantastic blooms in July - I guess she wanted to go out with a bang. Polonaise and Mutabilis are blooming once again and the Barleria bush is in full bloom. The Lazy Gardener had a picture of the Barleria in one of her September columns in the Houston Chronicle. It has the prettiest lilac colored blooms but will get five feet tall so give it plenty of room. We have ours in front of the climbers



## ROSES AND TOMATOES - ALASKA STYLE

By April Trekell

June 13, 1999 - Anchorage, Alaska

My mom asked me to write a note about roses in the Great North - Alaska. I really didn't know what to say but I decided it was worth a little time to let you know how we do things in God's country. When Mom and Dad were visiting two years ago Mom commented on how well Rugosa roses did in Alaska. It piqued my interest and I asked if Dad would build us a rose bed. Dad built a beautiful raised bed lining the driveway near the house. We planned on putting 3 rose bushes in this bed along with peony and lupine. I was hoping to plant perennials so the upkeep would be minimal as both my husband and I work and time for garden work is very few and far between. Once we got the bed in and planted, it looked so nice. Dad then suggested a bed out by the road so all my neighbors could enjoy the flowers as well as us. He built a raised bed about 6' x 8' and we put in 1 rose and 1 peony. I put a small cedar plant and a large piece of driftwood for decoration. I was able to plant annuals around the perimeter of the bed and it looked gorgeous. When I got home the next day Dad had decided we couldn't have just one bed out by the road, we needed to balance the look with another bed on the other side of the driveway. So back to the nursery we went for more plants. Now I see why my parent's yard has gone from a couple of rose bushes to a backyard full in the last 10 years. Roses are as bad as any addiction you can think of. The roses bloomed and bloomed well into September when the nights start getting pretty nippy. I crossed my fingers and hoped the roses would come back after the long cold winter. One winter morning I woke up, looked outside and a moose was pruning my roses down to the nub! I knew that the roses were going to die for sure and we would have to start all over next year. Well not only did the roses make it but they were prettier than the previous year and lasted well into October! The roses were still blooming when we received our first snowfall (October 30th). Once again, the moose were back to their pruning and more prayer on my part to let Mother Nature take her course. The roses are off to a great start again this year. They are even putting off shoots 3 and 4 feet away from the mother plant. The peonies have not fared as well nor have the lupines but the thyme has gone crazy under the rose bushes and compliment the bushes well. I have been going out each day to see if I have any buds. Yesterday I went out and 2 big

bear prints were planted squarely between the rose bushes in the raised bed. I did not see any other signs of bear but we have had an over population of bears in the Anchorage area this year and the Fish and Game are asking us to be careful. I guess the bear just wanted to "smell the roses" and went on his way, thank goodness!

As for the tomatoes, my husband dreams of having a tomato plant here that will bear fruit. Living in Alaska is not conducive to having good tomatoes to eat. The tomatoes bought in the grocery store are picked very green and shipped up here to ripen in the store warehouse boxes. By the time they are ready to sell they taste much like the boxes they were ripened in with about the same type of texture. When the store does have hot house tomatoes we pay \$3.99 to \$4.99 per pound for them and they still do not taste like my dad's homegrown ones. We had Dad bring up an ice chest full of tomatoes last visit and now my husband is scheming on how to get Dad to ship them up each summer so he can have some, sell some of them, and gladly eat any profit made! Unfortunately we have not figured out the details so our last tasty tomato was 2 years ago. To remedy this my husband got one of those great ideas that only husbands can come up with - he rigged up the croquet set with dry cleaner bags to grow his own tomatoes! Much to my horror, he set up his "hot house" in my front yard for all the neighbors to see. Well needless to say, after losing many dry cleaner bags to the wind and ruining any chance of the children having a complete croquet game, we had a 3 foot tall tomato plant that never produced anything that even hinted of a tomato. Unfortunately dreams do not die hard with this man, this year he decided he was going to wrap an old aluminum frame he had with plastic and have the plants in big black pots under the plastic. This idea is sure to produce our first "hot house" tomato. It has been 4 days now and he has had to chase down the plastic twice because the wind gets underneath it and blows it off the frame. My son and I just scratch our heads wondering what the next "idea" is going to produce. He swears he will have tomatoes by the end of the summer! If any of you have any ideas we would be glad to hear from you!

August 15, 1999 - April called to say they were eating some of the sweetest tomatoes she has ever tasted. Stan is very proud of his first effort at growing tomatoes in Alaska.

Lucille Idom



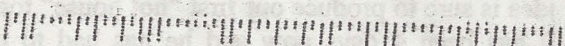
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