



# The Old Texas Rose

NUMBER 3

SUMMER

1998

## IN MEMORIAM BOBBIE MCKENNA

SEPTEMBER 3, 1932 - JUNE 18, 1998

It is with a heavy heart that we note the passing of a dear friend and veteran Rose Rustler, Bobbie McKenna. Those of us who considered her a good friend will feel her absence at each and every event. Many of us owe the beginnings of our collections to Bobbie, who was always generous with her rooted cuttings and her time.

Bobbie battled heart disease and had to curb her Rustler activities for the last year. The last time we got together was in May when fifteen Rustlers and newcomers met Bobbie and her daughter, Darla, for an afternoon of pruning roses on Bobbie's property in Splendora, TX. That collection of roses was Bobbie's passion and it meant a lot to her to have help with their maintenance. Darla, Mary Herr and a neighbor, Mr. Smith, are continuing to be "rose angels" with their upkeep.

Everyone was also impressed with Bobbie's grandkids, Derek and Desiree (and friend) who spread

manure, cleaned away clippings and generally did Bobbie and Darla's bidding. It was easy to see how much they loved their "Mamaw". We loved their Mamaw too, and will continue to miss her very much.

A number of Rustlers were able to attend Bobbie's visitation at Heights Funeral Home, but unfortunately, none were able to make the trip to Pilgrim, TX the next day for her burial. We are discussing a trip in the future to plant roses in the cemetery where she is buried next to her best friend. More on this later.

### Many Thanks to the Angels Who Helped Prune the Roses in Splendora on May 23rd

Carol Anderson	Jill de Maurier
Henry de Maurier	Candy Fite
Doana Fite	Derek Gips
Desiree Gips (and friend)	Phil Eilar
Linda Eilar	Mary Herr
Al Loroniz	Della Loroniz
Audrey McMurray	Susan Miller
Carol Nayman	Virginia Sissom
Billy R. Smith	Opal Vazzana

CHAIRMAN	C. Ray Valigura	1109 Loesser, Houston, TX 77055	(713)237-0707
TREASURER/MEMBERS	Mrs. Lucille Idom	13106 Blythe, Houston, TX 77015	(713)453-1274
EDITOR	Mrs. Audrey McMurray	11031 Dunlap, Houston, TX 77096	(713)729-5307
PROGRAM	Earl Krause	5020 Fairvent, Pasadena, TX 77505	(281)487-3347
SECRETARY	Mrs. Bobbie McKenna	5426 Candletree, Houston, TX 77091	(713)682-4365



## Did you know?...

☘☘ There are two Rustlers who are in need of our prayers...and not just Rustlers, mind you, but our two *Rosa matris*, founders Margaret Sharpe and Pamela Puryear. Both are battling cancer.

?! To the gentleman to come to the '98 Spring Symposium in Brenham with a few roses to be identified...do you remember the cluster of small, white roses that Ray Valigura held up for us to see? He said they smelled like baby powder. Could they be **Champney's Pink Cluster**? Bobbie McKenna's bush in Splendora has similar roses with that same baby powder smell. Her blooms were bleached nearly white in the intense sun, though some blooms were pinkish.

✍ Mark your calendars now for the World Federation of Rose Societies' World Covention on April 20, 2000. (Don't say we don't give you enough advance notice of these events!) It will be held in Houston and hosted by our capable friends in the Houston Rose Society. The World Federation of Rose Societies represent thirty-four countries around the world. Should be great!

## Our next event

Our summer program will be geared to helping rookie Rustlers and gardening enthusiasts. We will meet in the Botanical Information Center at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, on July 25th from 1pm - 3:30pm.

Mary Herr of Herr's Lawn and Landscape will give tips on landscaping with old garden roses and other Gulf Coast hardy plants. Ray Valigura, aka the Dirtmaster, will discuss dirt preparation and soil problems peculiar to our area and offer some solutions. Marion Brandes and/or Ray Valigura will discuss soil microbes and offer suggestions on enriching your soil.

(Our Next Event, cont'd)

Audrey McMurray and Eunice Roberts will demonstrate two ways to root rose cuttings, and will discuss the 10-15 easiest roses from which to start cuttings. As always, there will be plenty of rosarians on hand to answer questions.

Mercer Arboretum is located at 22306 Aldine Westfield, two traffic lights north of FM 1960 in far north Houston. It is a living museum of plants that are native to this part of Texas. Why not have a look around after the meeting and see what is surviving this heat and drought?

## Bobbie McKenna's Drought Busters

Speaking of surviving our drought, I made a note of those roses on Bobbie's property that were blooming in spite of the fact that they had received little attention for about 2 1/2 years and had not been watered for months. The roses with an asterisk were particularly healthy and had many blooms.

Climbers: **Cl. Perle des Jardins, Crepuscule\*, Vanity, LaMarque, San Felipe Noisette\*, and Mermaid**

Bushes: **Katy Road Pink, Antoine Rivoire, Safrano, Duchesse de Brabant, Mlle. Franziska Krüger, Vincent Godsif\*, Homère, Champney's Pink Cluster, Old Blush, First Edition (modern), Prairie Harvest\*, Gartendirektor Otto Linne\*, Souvenir d'Elise Vardon, Marie Pavie, Popcorn, Mrs. B. R. Cant, Mrs. Dudley Cross, Madame Antoine Rebe, Madame Joseph Schwartz, Isabella Sprunt, Mrs. R. M. Finch, Perle des Jardins, and Mignonette**

It makes ecological and economical sense to plant roses that will thrive in our flood/drought/searing heat/hard freeze weather. For more drought-busters, see Lucille Idom's list of winners on page 7.

-ABM



## Re-creating a Historical Rose Collection in California

by Catherine Yronwood

Synopsis of article from  
Journal of The Heritage Rose Foundation  
Conference, 1991

by  
Frances Brandes

My husband and I were privileged to attend the Heritage Rose Foundation conference in Santa Rosa, California in 1991. The conference was very informative and fun and we were given souvenir books that contained colored reprints of roses from historical catalogues from the turn of the century. Mrs. Yronwood's publishing company provided our souvenirs.

Mrs. Yronwood said that garden research can be broken down into two stages, "garden archeology" - digging around for old plants and "garden librarianship" - consulting lists in period books and nursery catalogues to see what varieties were available at the time and in the place you wish to re-create.

Cat and her husband moved into an 1875 farmhouse in western Sonoma County, California. The entire half acre closest to the house was covered in blackberries. When they uncovered the brambles, they found about ten varieties of roses introduced before 1900. They found '**Hermosa**', '**Fu Jwan Lo**' (used as a rootstock and known as '**Oderata 22449**'). Along their driveway, they had hedges of '**Eglantine**'. The back of the house had '**Madame Alfred Carrier**' - a white Noisette from 1879 that covered a lost fence. She found a huge Gallica called '**Hippolyte**'; it was clustered and covering a long ago felled tree. She thought she had found two small dead trees, but discovered a matching pair of '**Rosa banksias**', the '**Alba plena**' variety. They had collapsed their trellis after the better part of the century and were cut to the ground as part of a clean-up process by the previous owner. In four years the banksias had covered a 30 foot triangle, much to the pleasure of those who walk under it about mid-April.

Along with the varieties mentioned above, Cat found '**R. gallica officianalis**',

'**Climbing Cecile Brunner**' (1894 Tea-Polyantha), and '**R. banksia lutescens**', all within a mile of her house.

Cat found some information on California roses that could help with the "garden librarianship" she was seeking for accuracy to re-create her garden in particular. This came from one of the great old catalogues of the time.

The Worlds' Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago, Illinois in 1893. The state of California displayed many samples of agricultural and industrial excellence. California mounted large horticultural and floricultural showings and contributed plants and flowers to the general landscaping of the Exposition. The California Building was the second largest at the fair and the most popular.

It boasted spectacular displays of semi-tropical agricultural products, the likes of which had never been seen in the Midwest: huge towers of mission bells composed of oranges, a mounted horseman made entirely of prunes and two full-grown date palms, one made of fruit. The other palm was a gazebo with "stained glass" vari-colored beans. They gave away fresh fruit to 230,000 fair-goers in one day! (Not a typo!)

The floriculture displays included living plants, not cut flowers. There were Hybrid Teas, Tea-Noisettes, and Chinas, all grown as standards. Gold medals for outstanding floriculture went to the exhibition of California roses, the California Nursery of Niles (a town in the San Francisco Bay area). the Escondido World's Fair Association of Escondido (a town in southern California), and to a Mrs. S. D. Spear of Los Angeles. The roses named were '**Laurette**', probably '**Madame Laurette Messimy**' (1887), a pink China; '**Luxembourg**', probably a crimson Moss-Gallica that blooms once a year, but more likely, '**Triomphe de Luxembourg**' (1836), a buff-colored Tea.

Mrs. Spear trained her roses as standards. She had '**La France**', a (1867) pink Tea; '**Duchesse de Brabant**' (1857); '**Grace Darling**' (1884), a peach Tea; and, '**La Sylphide**', a blush-pink Tea. Other California rose trees included were '**Comtesse Riza du Parc**' (1876), a rose-carmine Tea; '**La Marque**' (1830), a pale yellow Noisette; '**Safrano**'



(1839), pale yellow Tea; and, 'Le Pactole', a creamy yellow Tea. A mystery rose was entered as White Tea Rose Tree by a Mrs. C. Koster of Los Angeles. Was she perhaps related to Margo Koster? Two more rose trees that were given notice were a matched pair of plants, each bearing ten varieties of flowers grown by a C. H. Richardson of Pasadena, Calif. What an exhibition in grafting! There were other rose trees, as well, and some of the exhibitions showed up as paintings titled "Red roses", "Yellow roses", and "Tea roses". One artist named William Huebaeck of San Francisco titled his "Maréchal Niel Roses".. 'Maréchal Niel', (1864) was a pale yellow climber favored by many Victorian gardeners as was 'La France', and these were popular in paintings and ads for nurseries and postcard companies. A Mrs. Mary Williams Davisson of Saint Helena titled hers 'La France'.

All of these roses and plants at the Exposition helped Cat with her historical plans through these beautiful catalogues to re-create her garden.

For sale: About a dozen rose books collected over the years, like new. Call Marion & Frances Brandes for titles and prices: (281) 324-1457

## ●●● Almanac Dates ●●●

...from Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanacs for the Year 1998.

### For rooting all cuttings

June: 11-12, 15-17, 20-21  
 July: 10, 13-14, 17-18, 22  
 Aug.: 9-10, 13-14, 18-19  
 Sept: 10-11, 14-16

### For transplanting rooted cuttings and potted roses

June: 24-26  
 July: 29-30  
 Aug.: 25-29  
 Sept: 22-25

### To prune roses for increased blooming

June: none listed  
 July: 22  
 g.: 18-19  
 Sept: 14-16



## A New Rustler Asks for Our Help

Some people have a problem with rats,  
 But I have a bone to pick with cats.

They tramp down my flowers, they bring me  
 their fleas,  
 And my gosh, they don't even belong to me!  
 Yes, my neighbors allow them to prowl all the  
 night,  
 Emitting their catcalls and getting in fights.

And why, oh why is it my yard they choose,  
 To invade in the night while I'm trying to  
 snooze?

The daytime brings with it some problems as  
 well,  
 Cats "go" in my (vegetable) garden,  
 This fact please do pardon,  
 But this really makes me mad as ....heck!

And my wonderful feathered friends that give  
 me great joy,  
 Are looked upon wistfully by these felines as  
 toys!  
 Or worse yet, they catch them and on them  
 they feast,  
 DO YOU BLAME ME FOR THINKING THAT CATS  
 ARE SUCH BEASTS?

With this problem at hand, I've come to a  
 conclusion,  
 I need some suggestions for CAT EXCLUSION!!!!

How about it, Rose Rustlers? Have you any  
 surefire suggestions for repelling cats from your  
 flower beds? My backyard is cat-free thanks to  
 my pet, Sheba, the war dog. Cats know better  
 than to mess with her!

Please send suggestions to:

Virginia Sissom  
 11615 Wolf Run Lane  
 Houston, TX 77065

Editor's note: Virginia, will you share the  
 suggestions you receive with us? I have a  
 Cape Jasmine that would really appreciate it.  
 And while we're on the subject, does anyone  
 know the antidote for a tom's markings? We  
 left the windows open in our car one night  
 and now can hardly stand the smell! - ABM



## ALASKAN ADVENTURES

By  
Lucille Idom

In June and July of 1997 my husband Mayo, our dog Rosie and I took our "vacation" in Anchorage, Alaska. We arrived at 10:00 PM and it was still daylight. The scenery was beautiful as usual. It is daylight until 12:30 AM when the sun goes down, then the sun comes back up at around 2 AM. We have visited up there nearly every year from 1979 through 1987 and again in 1996.

The plants are very beautiful and keep their bright colors all year due to the cool weather. The city has hanging baskets on all the streets with beautiful Begonias in all colors, edged with bright blue Lobelia. The courthouse is landscaped with all the wonderful plants they have in Alaska. Before now there were only the wildflowers, what the city planted in town and what the Highway Department planted to beautify the roads. Lilacs, Peonies, Lupines, Columbine, Bleeding Heart, Tulips, Daffodils and Fireweed were planted in a few yards but nothing else. The main reason for that was there was only one greenhouse in Anchorage. There was no competition. This kept the nursery plants so expensive that people couldn't afford to buy too many plants. Lupines grow wild up there and bloom in June. Fireweed, which is a native plant there, has a pretty pink bloom like a large Larkspur and blooms all summer. A small, single pink Rugosa rose grows wild up there.

Now there are plenty of nurseries and people have taken a new interest in landscaping. Besides the Lupines and Fireweed, there are all kinds of native wildflowers and purple Vetch planted along the highways along with the Fireweed. Rugosa roses and the hardy Canadian roses are planted along the streets and around buildings. Along with the roses are planted Peonies, Huge Oriental Poppies, Lilies, Lupine hybrids, Thyme in all colors, Artemesia, Lilacs, Hostas, Bleeding Heart, Monkshood and purple Chives. There are huge hanging baskets of Begonias, Fuschias and Lobelia in bright blue, light blue, lavender, white, pink and bicolors. The city has added Marigolds, Petunias and Geraniums to their plantings. While we were up there for our "vacation", we built 3 large flower beds for April, our daughter, and planted them with Rugosa roses, one red hardy Canadian rose named 'John Franklin', Peonies, Lupines, Lilies, Geraniums, wildflowers and edged them with Thyme, Artemesia and some

little wildflowers. The Lilacs grow as tall as a two story house and the Bleeding Heart and Monkshood grow as tall as 8 feet. Huge Hostas and Rhubarb were growing on the side of the house. 'John Franklin' bloomed all summer and the blooms lasted the three weeks we were there and were still on there when we left in the middle of July. I saw 'John Davis' at one of the nurseries so it will probably grow there too. I have this beautiful rose in my garden but it grows as a climber in Houston.

Moose wander around my daughter's neighborhood and eat the weeds in summer. Just stay in the house while the moose is eating, please. Especially when she has a baby with her. When winter came and the snow was covering the ground, the moose came back. First she ate a few Lilac branches, then moved on to the flowerbed and browsed in it for awhile. When the moose finally left, April went outside to look at the beds and found the moose had pruned her roses for her. In May those roses started putting out new growth so I guess "Moose pruning" is good for them.

**Trivia question:** Which rose started life in France as Mme. Ferdinand Jamin?

Best moon signs to take cuttings:

1. Cancer ☾
2. Scorpio ♏
3. Pisces ♛
4. Taurus ♉
5. Capricorn ♐

### Home recipes for preserving cut roses:

(University of Arkansas says proved better than commercial preservatives) 1 teaspoon vinegar, 1 aspirin tablet and 1 tablespoon sugar per 3 cups of water, or 1 teaspoon vinegar, 1/2 tablespoon bleach and 1 tablespoon sugar per 3 cups of water.

My garden is all overblown with roses,  
My spirit all is overblown with rhyme,  
As like a drunken honeybee I waver  
From house to garden and again to house  
And, undetermined which delight to favour  
On verse and rose alternately carouse.  
*Sonnet by Vita-Sackville-West (1892-1962)*

Gardens are places to renew yourself in mind.



## NATURAL FERTILIZERS

By Lucille Idom

Organic fertilizers release nutrients slowly and naturally so they nourish and improve the soil. These fertilizers are introduced into the soil in a state that is easy for microorganisms to break down so that the plant can utilize them completely.

**Alfalfa meal (or pellets)** Very nutritional with soil organisms. Has many of the trace elements that roses need and love. It encourages roses to put up basal breaks and have better blooms. Use at 1 to 2 cups per bush 2 or 3 times per year.

**Animal manures** - Contain zinc, iron and most other trace elements. They should be composted and used liberally, especially in the spring and fall.

**Blood meal** - Excellent organic source of nitrogen and phosphorus. Stimulates bacterial growth. It is a good idea to soak the ground thoroughly before applying blood meal. It can be used in compost and is good for iron deficiency. Use as a mix with cottonseed meal. Phosphorus is important for a strong root system and for good growth. Use 1/2 cup per bush.

**Bone meal** - Excellent source of calcium and phosphorus. A favorite of roses. I usually just fling mine over the beds. The Lazy Gardener, (Brenda Beust Smith) used to say she did a spring fling and a fall fling with bone meal. She would go out in the yard, take the bone meal and fling it all over the flower beds. I have been doing the same thing ever since I read about it. It works fine and it's fun as long as the wind isn't blowing.

**Compost** - Contains microbes that are good for the soil. I have found that three to four inches of compost spread around a rose bush will clear up black-spot and mildew on our plants.

**Cottonseed meal** A good natural high nitrogen fertilizer with an acid PH.

**Fish Meal** - Is a slow release source of nitrogen and phosphorous. Work it into the soil around plants, put it in your compost or put it into your dry grow mix.

**Fish Emulsion** - A concentrated liquid fish fertilizer for use directly in the soil or as a foliar feed. A source of nitrogen and phosphoric acid.

**Granite Sand** - Is a non-burning, natural mineral rock. Excellent slow release source of potash. Potash content varies between 3% and 5% and sometimes more. Good for plant growth and health and is long lasting. I either 'fling' this or add it to my dry growing mix.

**Greensand** - Glauconite greensand or greensand marl is an undersea deposit mined from the sea floor. A good source of potash. It's best used with other fertilizers and is a good potting soil ingredient.

**Kelp or seaweed** - The use of seaweed as a fertilizer dates back many centuries. As long ago as 1681, a Royal decree regulated the conditions under which seaweed could be collected on the coast of France; the kinds that might be collected were specified as was the manner in which they should be used. It contains a lot of trace elements and is the first known plant source of vitamin B-12. You can use the liquid seaweed in a liquid grow mix and the dry meal in a dry mix or add to your compost.

**Magnesium** - If you make compost and can obtain seawater, add a quart of sea water to each 100 pounds of compost. It encourages roses to put up basal breaks and have greener leaves. A magnesium deficiency will cause lower leaves to turn yellow between the veins, which remain green. The color changes to orange and brown and then the leaf dies. Most gardeners use Epsom Salts for magnesium. Use 1/3 cup per bush in the spring.

We have been using the following formula for all our plants since the first of May and it is very good. This formula was graciously given to us by Mike Herr of Herr's Lawn and Landscape in Splendor.

### GROW FORMULA

1/4 cup Liquid Seaweed Concentrate  
2-4 Tablespoons Blackstrap Molasses  
2 Tablespoons Superthrive  
1 Cup Medina Plus  
1 Cup Organic Life

Put this in a hose end sprayer jar and fill the rest of the jar with water. Spray on your plants and around the roots. Most of these ingredients can be obtained at Gardenville Square in Stafford or Austin, Texas. Nurseries that deal in organic supplies will have them too. Medina Plus and Superthrive are available at most Home Depots.



## MORE ROSE NEWS

By Lucille Idom

These are some of the roses we are enjoying now, in June, while it has been anywhere from 100° to 109° at our house. We have had no rain in 3 months unless you want to count the .25 of an inch we got the fourth of June.

### Bushes

Anna Olivier - Tea  
Caldwell Pink - Polyantha  
Cecile Brunner - Polyantha  
Folksinger - Shrub  
Highway 290 Pink Buttons - Miniature  
Marion's Texas Portland  
Mary Rose - English  
Natchitoches Noisette  
Perle d'Or - Polyantha  
Polonaise - Griffith Buck Shrub  
Prairie Harvest - Hybrid Tea  
Puerto Rico - Tea  
Vincent Godsif - China  
White Pet - Polyantha

### Climbers

Carefree Delight - Ground Cover/Shrub  
Celine Forestier - Noisette  
Commitment  
Darlow's Enigma - Unknown

The following roses put on a wonderful display in the spring of 1998:

### Climbers

Climbing Pinkie  
Compassion  
Crepuscle  
Commitment  
Darlow's Enigma  
Dortmund  
Dreaming Spires  
Fellenberg  
Freeman rose  
Gruss an Teplitz  
John Davis  
Lamarque  
Mme. Ernest Calvat  
Nur Mahal  
Unknown white climber (Sally Holmes?) I won this rose in the lottery when we met at Texas A&M

University. The pot was marked 'Sombreuil' (but it isn't) so if anyone remembers bringing that plant, maybe you can tell me if you know the real name.

### Bushes

#### Fortune's 5 Colored Rose

The Angel roses  
Anna Olivier  
Le Pactole  
Madame Berkley  
Monsieur Tillier  
Mutabilis  
Natchitoches Noisette  
Polonaise  
Reine des Violettes  
Tip Top  
Vincent Godsif  
White Pet

### SQUIRREL DAZE

I finally saw 'New Dawn' bloom this spring from buds the squirrels overlooked. We have had it since 1992. I went out to look at a miniature rose bed we have and it looked like a miniature war zone. It looked like bombs had been dropped all over the bed. The squirrels had been digging in the bed for acorns. Squirrels will sometimes uproot small plants. All the neighbors are complaining about what the squirrels are doing to their yards and plants too. Squirrels eat buds and stems of roses, hibiscus and canna blooms, bulbs and bird eggs. (They will also eat fried chicken legs and biscuits.)

**Trivia answer:** American Beauty, it was imported into this country as "American Beauty" and gained great fame and popularity as a cut flower

Oh! Youth is the bud of the rose,  
And Love is the flower full-blown,  
And for Age are the dried rose petals;  
The dry rose leaves are our own,  
Sweet-scented with youth long past,  
And with promise of Heaven in store,  
Where the rose shall blossom for ever,  
And the rose leaves shall fall no more!  
E. Nesbit.



BACK ISSUES OF OTR:	SEP'85	APR'87	WIN'89	FAL'90	SUM'92	SPR'94	WIN'96
SEP'82	MAR'84	DEC'85	SUM'87	SPR'89	WIN'91	FAL'92	SPR'96
DEC'82	MAY'84	JAN'86	FAL'87	SUM'89	SPR'91	WIN'93	FAL'94
JAN'83	SEP'84	APR'86	WIN'88	FAL'89	SUM'91	SPR'93	WIN'95
JLY'83	DEC'84	MAY'86	SPR'88	WIN'90	FAL'91	SUM'93	SPR'95
SEP'83	MAR'85	SEP'86	SUM'88	SPR'90	WIN'92	FAL'93	SUM'95
DEC'83	MAY'85	JAN'87	FAL'88	SUM'90	SPR'92	WIN'94	FAL'95
							WIN'98
							SPR'98

TOTAL COPIES ORDERED @ \$1.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Revised set of "Cuttings & Propagation" @ \$3      \_\_\_\_ Texas Rose Rustler Membership list @ \$3

MAIL ALL ORDERS AND MONIES TO: MRS. LUCILLE IDOM, TREASURER, 13106 BLYTHE, HOUSTON, TX 77015

[Note: To determine when to renew your membership/subscription, see your address label. After your name will be listed the last issue you will receive until you renew. Early renewals extend to include all issues paid.]

4 Issues Yearly

*The Old Texas Rose*  
 Newsletter of  
**The Texas Rose Rustlers**  
 Brazos Symposium of Old Rose Enthusiasts

Membership Includes:  
 Newsletter  
 Symposium  
 TRR Functions

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership/Subscription: \$7.00 per 4 issue year. No extra charge to same address.  
 Make checks or Money Orders payable to: "The Old Texas Rose" or "The Texas Rose Rustlers"  
 Mail to: Mrs. Lucille Idom, 13106 Blythe, Houston, TX 77015

First Class Mail

The Texas Rose  
 Rustlers  
 c/o Mrs. Audrey McMurray  
 11031 Dunlap Drive  
 Houston, TX 77096-5853