

The Old Texas Rose

VOLUME X

WINTER 1992

Number 3

Historical '91 Fall Rustle *Historical as Ever*

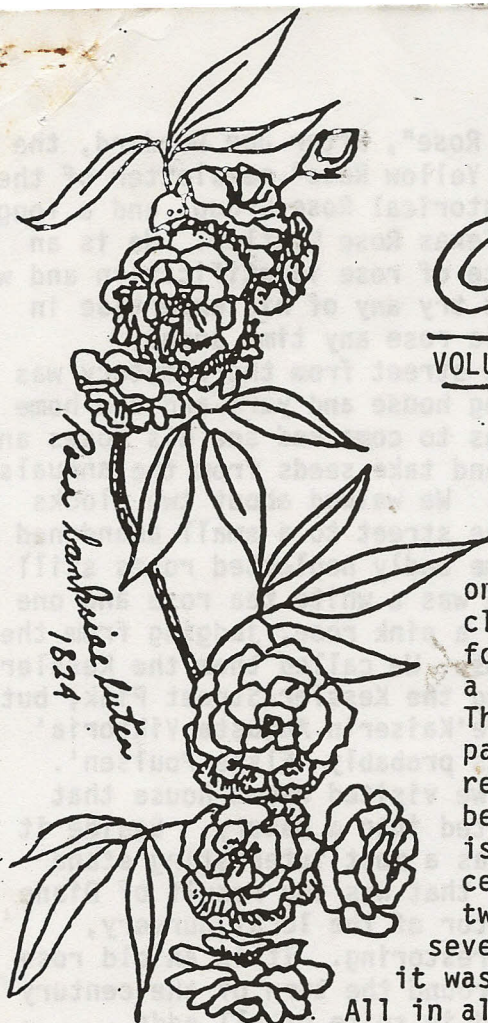
Our 12th Annual Rose Rustle was held on October 19th, 1991, with our heads in the clouds, as it were. It was a cool and VERY foggy morning when we arrived at Industry, TX, a small town about 12 miles southwest of Brenham. The "clouds" were so dense that several of us passed the large white building known by local residents as "Welcome Hall." It was erected to be a meeting place for the community in 1899 and is large and airy with wooden floors and old style ceiling fans. The owners had it moved from some two miles up the road to its' present location several years ago which is very convenient even tho it was a bit obscured by the dense fog that morning.

All in all, there were at least 140 people attending. It was a wonderful place to start our day and some 54 different varieties of rose cuttings and 40 pots of roses were exchanged. Cuttings like Stanwell Perpetual, Sanguinea, Seguin Red Ching, Marie Pavie, Multifloras, Westerland, Henry Nevard, Texas Centennial (from our New Braunfels Rustle in 1988), Maréchaël Neil, Sir Thomas Lipton, Chinatown and Duchess de Brabant, to name a few. David Allen brought 5 of the virus-free Maréchaël Neils that were given to the lucky winners in a drawing. He also brought many other fine potted roses he had grown from cuttings, as did several others.

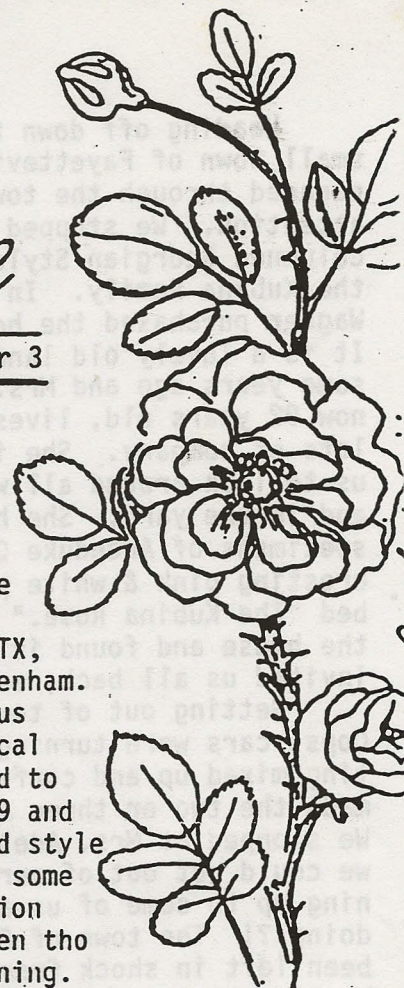
To keep it true "Country", bluegrass picker Paul Langston treated us to old folk songs and tunes on the "Git-ar" and banjo for background music while we traded rose slips and the like and collected hugs and kisses from our Rustler friends across Texas who attended. About noon we settled down a bit to rest and David offered a most appropriate invocation as we began our "dinners-on-the-grounds", even though it was under the roof of Welcome Hall. Jackie Fischer, Rose Rustler Chairman, welcomed everyone and proceeded to honor Pam Puryear in absentia for her great efforts to stimulate the formation of the Rose Rustler group by declaring her a Life Member having already presented her with a lovely rose floral tote bag made especially for her. Margaret Sharpe was also honored with a free Lifetime Membership and with a rose floral tote bag. She was also honored by the presentation of a very beautifully framed 26"x36" enlarged to poster size photo of her at our 1988 Rustle in New Braunfels standing beside a large bush of the rose we found there and could not name, so gave it the working name of "Margaret's Rose", or "Margaret Sharpe Rose." We thank Leslie and Angie Smith, Austin, for such a beautiful picture and framing. Pam and Margaret were the original influences in organizing us. Pam started "The Old Texas Rose" newsletter and Margaret is now the editor.

Around 1 pm we got in our cars, trucks, vans & campers and started on our Rustle. We travelled some 6 miles to the small town of New Ulm where we toured the beautiful yard and rose gardens of John and Joan Mitchell. They have 10 or 12 arbors in front when you drive up that each have 3 climbers and rose bushes are planted between the arbors. Beds are quite high above ground level and are watered by a drip system. The roses were strong and healthy and had only been planted one year! Thanks to the Mitchells for we really loved it!

(over)



Pam Langston letter
1824



Heading off down the road we reached the small town of Fayetteville. Over 42 vehicles paraded through the town, drawing considerable attention. We stopped in front of a large, columned Georgian Style house built in 1912 by the Kubina Family. In 1946 Mr. & Mrs. O.A. Wagner purchased the house for \$12,000.00! It is a lovely old landmark. Mr. Wagner died some years ago and Mrs. Wagner (Tony), who is now 92 years old, lives there alone but has lots of company. She invited us in and told us to look around all we liked in the house and in the yard. She has some magnificent specimens of Archduke Charles and a most interesting pink & white polyantha that we dubbed "The Kubina Rose." About 90 of us toured the house and found it very interesting. She invited us all back, so I guess we did good.

Getting out of town was like the Keystone Cops; cars were turning left & right and getting mixed up and confused. Finally we all made the two or three miles to the next house. We stopped at Mrs. Adele Wied's house. Before we could get out of our cars a lady came running up to some of us and asked what we were doing!?! The town of Fayetteville must have been left in shock from the looks of her face! We had travelled down FM 955 from Fayetteville and had not turned on headlights so we must have appeared to be a disrespectful funeral procession. S.J. Derby explained about our organization and the lady joined up right on the spot! Somewhat an unconventional way to solicit new members. Mrs. Weid had some large and beautiful roses growing by her house and yard. A Mrs. Dudley Cross made a huge display of bloom in front along with several 'Eutins', 'Maggie's' and unknown polyanthas. A huge 'Marie Van Houtte' displayed a mass of blooms by a shed in the back yard, 'Gay Hill Red China', 'Russelliana' and the old polyantha 'Golden Salmon.' And there were more.

Once again our caravan took off, this time down US 71 and across I-10 to the town of Schulenburg.

About two miles from I-10 through town we stopped at a cemetery named St. Rose of Lima on Lyons Avenue. Few live plants were growing there but there was a large 5'x5' rose bush with dense foliage, medium green leaves and the scent of a Tea rose. The flowers were a soft pink and white blend, very double but flat when fully open. It was prospering and blooming in the direst of dry, drought conditions. It is truly an outstanding rose and hopefully many Rustlers will succeed in its' propagation. Since no one could even guess at its name we decided to

call it "Joe's Rose", after Joe Woodard, the Editor of "The Yellow Rose" newsletter of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Group, and a long time faithful Texas Rose Rustler. He is an excellent source of rose identification and we hope he doesn't try any of his expertise in identifying this rose any time soon!

Across the street from the cemetery was a most interesting house and yard and the home owner invited us to come and see his roses and take cuttings and take seeds from the annuals and perennials. We walked about two blocks further down the street to a small abandoned house where some badly neglected roses still struggled. One was a white tea rose and one was evidently a pink rose, judging from the distorted blooms. We called them the Kessler Street White and the Kessler Street Pink, but they likely were 'Kaiserin Augusta Viktoria' and the pink was probably 'Elsie Poulsen'. The last place we visited was a house that has been converted into a Bakery. Beside it near the back was a most interesting stand of rose foliage that was the result of Diane Antosh, proprietor of the local nursery, caring for and restoring. It is an old rose planted there around the turn of the century and has survived in spite of all odds. Margaret Sharpe had located it some 10 or more years ago on a stop in Schulenburg and at that time it had deep purple, quartered, highly fragrant blooms on it. The foliage was, and is not, quite serrated and pretty round when mature. The new growth, however, displayed longer and narrower leaflets, reminiscent of the Galica's. We will watch this rose as it is a real interesting "find." Diane has been given permission to cultivate this rose and will be taking cuttings to root plants as soon as enough wood is mature and available. We thank Diane for arranging permission for us to visit all the sites in Schulenburg and we will keep in close touch with her.

The Rustle officially ended there, but about 8 cars of Rustlers decided to drive on a few miles to the community of Moulton. We found about every yard full of flowers. It was a beautifully groomed village, but most of the roses and flowers were of modern types and only a few China roses. We ended a long and productive Rustle with 13 Rose Robbers eating steak dinners at the Kloesser Steak House in Moulton. Animated and interesting tales were related and a great time was enjoyed reminiscing the beautiful small Texas German towns and villages we had visited and will never forget.

-- Frances Brandes

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ROSES & ROSE CULTURE ON THE UPPER GULF COAST OF TEXAS

*A Concise, if Blatantly Idiosyncratic,
Listing Compiled by*

PAMELA ASHWORTH PURYEAR

and Annotated by

H. CONRAD TIPS

Edited by

MARGARET P. SHARPE

The difficulty is, there is not much from which to make a bibliography. Our gardening literature seems to originate mostly in England, or from the north-eastern states of United States. It is enjoyable, but not so useful hereabouts in a practical way. One reason is that gardeners in less mild areas spend six months of the year wrapped in layers of wool, huddled by the fire with a warm drink and some good books; therefore, they have sufficient leisure in which

to write books. We, on the other hand, are out and doing every blessed day. So what, exactly, is useful to the industrious rosarian in our often tiresome climate with its bugs and blights, droughts and floods, impromptu freezes and devastating storms, and liquid heat? On the ancient principle that gentlemen prefer Old Masters and young mistresses, we will first consider the work of a few Old Masters, required reading, as it were, in the discipline.

Part 1

Agreeing, first, that summer blooming roses are not, by and large, very plentiful and that books devoted to them satisfy mostly intellectual curiosity, we begin with the Earl Coleman reprints of favorite rose information sources in years gone by in the 18th to the early 20th centuries. Happily these are still available. A lengthy listing of works unavailable would be pointless; we do not have a distinguished horticultural library at our command in which to peruse old sources we know.

*ROSARUM MONOGRAPHIA, John Lindley. London, 1820. Rev. ed. 1830. With a foreword by Lily Shohan. A reasonably good record of what was being grown in England at the time, with emphasis on the species. The plates are not reproduced in color.

*THE ROSE FANCIER'S MANUAL, Catherine Frances Gore. London 1838. Foreword by Léonie Bell. A translation from the French; therefore, what was being grown in France at the time. Hence, this is the exciting part - what was being exported! By this time the French breeders were pre-eminent in Europe and their roses in great demand. These early ever-blooming sorts crossed the Atlantic in quantity, it seems, making landfall along our coast. Has any one ever seen a copy of J.F. Lelièvre's book, LE NOUVEAU JARDINIER DE LA LOUISIANE? Published by the author in New Orleans dated 1838, we understand it is a consideration of gardens and decorative plants in the New World.

*THE ROSE AMATEUR'S GUIDE, Thomas Rivers. London, 1846, 4th ed. rev. Foreword by Léonie Bell. Absolutely the standard work in its time, a period which saw triumph of the ever-blooming roses.

* Earl Coleman Reprint

*THE ROSE MANUAL, Robert Buist. Philadelphia 1844. Foreword by Edith C. Schurr. A popular handbook, revised and updated often. The sections on the early teas, bourbons and noisettes are of special interest. Buist's CULTURE OF THE ROSE, of 1854, we have never seen.

*PRINCE'S MANUAL OF ROSES, William R. Prince. New York, 1846. Foreword by Léonie Bell. The **most complete history of the rose**, including every class, and **ALL** the most **admirable** varieties that have appeared in Europe and America. All this, together with ample information on their culture and propagation! A superb chapter on noisettes.

*THE ROSE GARDEN, William Paul. London, 1848. Foreword by Richard Thomson. A luxurious production with 15 plates in color and our best source of information on certain classes. Paul also wrote OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTIVATION OF ROSES IN POTS, London (?), 1844, and ROSES AND ROSE CULTURE, London, 1874. These have not been available to us at this time.

*THE ROSE, Henry Ellwanger. New York, 1882. Foreword by Edith C. Schurr. Our greatest authority on the Hybrid Perpetual roses.

*PARSONS ON THE ROSE, Samuel Parsons. New York, 1888-1906. Foreword by Helen L. Blake. Excellent on all the classes of roses grown at the time. The names will be familiar.

*OLD ROSES, Ethelyn Emery Keays. New York, 1935. Foreword by Léonie Bell. This is **the Mother of us All!** Granted, Maryland is not Texas, and, yes, Mrs. Keays has a lot to say about the ever-bloomers, too (chinas, teas, bourbons, noisettes and all the rest); and this was written in the day when the traditional roses of old Southern gardens had been forgotten. Invaluable, but also moving. Unfortunately, Mrs. Keays's essays and articles have never been collected.

*OLD GARDEN ROSES, Edward A. Bunyard. London, 1936. One of the most perfectly beautiful rose books ever published, in an understated way. Not a lot about the old ever-blooming roses, however.

*THE HISTORY OF THE ROSE, Roy E. Shepherd. New York, 1954. Foreword by Lily Shohan. A fascinating book by an eminent breeder. Good on species and their hybrids, not so good on the old roses, which is surprising since he was the American Rose Society's Old Rose Committee chairman and chief consultant for many years.

THE BEAUTIES OF THE ROSE, Henry Curtis. London, 1850-53. Implacably rare but Barbara Worl has made a beautiful replica. Thirty-eight of the best roses of the period, bourbons, chinas, teas and noisettes among them, all discussed and illustrated by a practical horticulturist who is a skillful artist as well. Who else, as Léonie Bell asks in her foreword, has done this? Rather few. As botanical documents, the plates do what they are meant to do, if little more. Not so alluring as Redouté's but more accurate. There is some doubt as to the accuracy of the detail of his illustrations. His original colors may have been accurate but much of his detail verges on the platonic ideal moreso than the reality. "The Beauties of the Rose", published in 1980, is available from Miss Worl at the Sweetbriar Press, Bell's Book Store, 536 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

GENUS ROSA, Ellen Willmott. London, 1910-14. Another replica now available, it has often been condemned, seldom seen, entirely fascinating. Marion McKinsey has reproduced the entire weighty affair in one volume, the famous watercolors by Alfred Parsons in black and white. For information write Miss McKinsey at 4117 Hessel Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-6057. One might satisfy oneself with a selection of Parsons' designs, to say nothing of a commentary by Graham Stuart Thomas.

* Earl Coleman Reprint

A GARDEN OF ROSES, Alfred Parsons & Graham Stuart Thomas. Salem House, Mass., 1987. Designs by Alfred Parsons and commentary by G.S. Thomas. Ravishingly beautiful! Everyone involved have done themselves proud. Miss Willmott commissioned Parsons to illustrate her monumental "Genus Rosa". While 132 paintings were done the flaw in the printing ink reproducing them created inaccuracies. This book describes 70 of Parsons finest with a background to Miss Willmott's ambitious project. Miss Willmott is still greatly admired by many and was admired by Gertrude Jekyll, too. In this book she has been rediscovered. Further insight into Miss Willmott and her work may be enjoyed by reading Audrey le Lièvre's book, "Miss Willmott of Warley Place: Her Life and Her Gardens", Faber, 1980, a biography in the grand English manner.

ROSES FOR ENGLISH GARDENS, Gertrude Jekyll. London, 1902. This has been re-issued at least twice, once by the Antique Collector's Club, in 1982, and in 1983, by the Ayer Company, with revisions by Graham Stuart Thomas. Both use Miss Jekyll's photographs from the original edition, along with color plates. It's not that she deals with the old ever-blooming roses all that much; her use of roses as flowering shrubs in mixed plantings is, of course, the main lesson of her book.

As yet unrestored to us, unfortunately, is THE BOOK OF ROSES, by Francis Parkman, Boston, 1866, reprinted 1871. Also Georgia Torrey Drennan's valuable book, EVERBLOOMING ROSES. "The Yellow Rose", newsletter of the Dallas Historical Rose Group, Joe Woodard, Editor, has been printing a chapter of this book in each issue for some months. The book was published in New York in 1912. We will be giving you more about these books later. The Coleman Series of reprinted books described above are each available from the Antique Rose Emporium, Rt. 5, Box 143, Brenham TX 77833; The American Rose Society, P.O. Box 30000, Shreveport, LA 71130-0030, and occasionally some are seen in large bookstores. There are 11 of these books of the Colman Reprints, ranging in price from about \$12.50 to \$27.50 + tax and shipping.

Part II of this Bibliography will be in the next issue of "THE OLD TEXAS ROSE", Volume X, Number 3. We hope to print the entire bibliography after we have printed it entirely in this newsletter. We anticipate adding to it from time to time so you may want to reproduce it on a copier to set aside for ready reference. Of further interest to Gulf Coast gardeners is LES ROSES, Pierre-Joseph Redouté. Paris, 1817-24. Text by Claude-Antoine Thory. This is not on every shelf, sadly, but often reproduced in very inaccurate colors. The most useful of late we have found is the Wellfleet Press handsome folio entitled "Redouté's Roses", 1990, in cooperation with the Natural History Museum, London. 170 plates of roses, each about 10"x14", very good colors, were printed in Spain, and are in bound hardback book form. The original Redouté paintings were destroyed in a fire in The Louvre so we do not know the exact colors of unfading watercolors Redouté used.




Mark the date of **APRIL 11** on your calendar

for our Annual **SYMPOSIUM** at the same

COMMUNITY HALL as last April, in **BRENNAM**. More about this in next issue, to reach you near the **END OF MARCH**.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GOOD MODERN ROSES GONE?



At the Fall Festival were a collection of most outstanding speakers on Roses. Mike Shoup gave us the greatest "bargain" of authoritative rose information by his miraculous gathering of these wonderful people we may never be able to surpass again! Our sincere thanks to him!

One of the speakers stirred considerable audience "feedback" that called for more explanation than could be given at the time. John Walden, a rose breeder with Jackson & Perkins for 15 years, spoke on the topic of "They Kill Roses, Don't They?" It was more

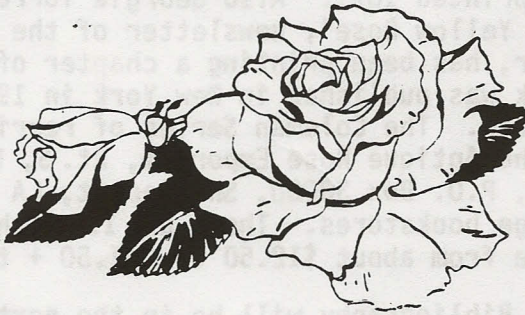
appropriate than intended, I'm sure. The point was that thousands of seedlings with promise were destroyed in the breeding of roses and the hoosing of roses that are to be introduced into commerce. Here as the "killing" of roses.

The quite vocal audience finally asked why so many of the excellent modern roses of 1930's or 1960's (40 to 60 years old) were no longer propagated by the larger rose growers. Many rose growers would like to be able to purchase 'Texas Centennial', for example, from a retail grower in the USA or in Canada. There are many other desirable modern roses unavailable to the public and John would not reply. As brazen as we were, none of us gave an answer either, probably because few if any knew the answer.

It all boils down to \$\$\$\$\$! Big growers spend huge sums of money developing a new rose to catch the public fancy. Home gardeners who love the stately hybrid teas will pay anything for an outstanding new rose to exhibit in the garden, home or rose show. Home landscapers will do the same for heavy blooming new types of floribundas, miniatures and climbers. Not only is price no object for them, neither is the cost of anything that makes them perform outstandingly well. Modern rose growers are the way they are because they ENJOY the work of growing roses, whether they are suited to the climate or not! NOTHING costs too much and is too much trouble! They LOVE ROSES and particularly the stately Hybrid Tea; perfumed blooms are nice but not as important as bloom form and the pose of the stem.

Big rose hybridizers are after the big bucks the public will spend on the new roses advertised that have been at least 10 to 12 years in getting to the public market THIS YEAR. They will sell the new varieties for a few years until sales dip downward and at some point they will no longer be propagated by the larger growers but only by the smaller growers who have less volume of business. Sometimes a modern rose continues to generate much income but has just outlived its commercial use - it sells but one or more new varieties are very similar and are not selling as well as desired.

This leaves the home gardener at the mercy of the small propagator, local nursery sources and growing from cuttings. An example of sources for older modern roses is the wholesale availability of 'Texas Centennial' but no retail accessibility in the USA or Canada.



The large rose growers have spent many years creating public awareness of the new rose varieties. This is evidenced in the rose catalogues of the Victorian era that we so avidly search for descriptive paragraphs on roses we wish to identify. Some of these are so excessively described they are more humorous than informative. But this is the evolution of the marketing of roses, to whet your appetite for the newest rose varieties available.

Many people, like we Rose Rustlers, are not as interested in the modern roses as we are older types for a variety of reasons. One of the most named reason is the fragrances of old varieties, and another is that "they are resistant to black-spot and mildew." There are many old roses that have little or no fragrance but have old rose form and soft colors that make up for fragrance. They do not need pruning or forcing like modern roses; the older the wood the more they bloom. Most will not respond to treatments that is mandatory in growing of modern roses.

Growing a modern hybrid tea is like growing a piece of art. Growing old roses is creating beauty in roses unlike any other experience. This, too, is an art. Let us learn from each other by sharing our knowledge.

- Sharpe



PROGRAM SHAPING UP FOR SYMPOSIUM

Our Annual Symposium will be held April 11th in Brenham at the Community Center where we met last year. Next issue will carry a map for you to follow. Remember to plan to bring all the rose blooms you can for our own display and to use for a drawing.

Fred Boutin has accepted our invitation be our speaker. Fred is a botanist specializing in cultivated ornamentals and his early collections of unknown Old Roses helped form the nucleus of the now extensive Heritage Rose Collection at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in California. Tom Christopher says that Fred "has more rose names at his fingertips than anyone." The "Journal of the Heritage Rose Foundation Conference 1991" notes that Fred's catalogued investigations of rose families' characteristics has caused necessary changes of long-standing errors in rose geneology; thus, placing him at the forefront of Old Rose research in America.

One of the outstanding speakers at the HRF Conference last year, he reviewed some of his 25 years of discoveries and collection of old roses from cemeteries, mining towns, old farms and gardens in the Western United States and Mexico. We are truly fortunate to have such an outstanding guest speaker!

David Simpson, staff member of the A & M Horticultural Design School, has accepted our invitation to demonstrate floral design using the old roses we bring for display. These designs will be given to members at a drawing to be held at the close of the program.

Spread the word about our Symposium and invite everyone interested in learning more about Old Roses to **COME - and don't forget to bring rose blooms AND A PICNIC OR SACK LUNCH.** Also bring any cuttings you have or rooted roses you have to trade or share. As always, admission is free and hot coffee and cold drinks will be furnished free.

CLYDE GREER (1920 - 1991)

On October 14, 1991, Clyde Greer died from a stroke. He and Catherine frequently attended our Rose Rustles and Symposiums. Catherine has only missed one or two. Clyde was very active in rose and gardening areas and our condolences to Catherine and family.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 14th - **Houston Area Gathering.**
(Saturday) Date subject to change but post cards will be sent.

April 11th - **Annual Symposium in**
(Saturday) Brenham
Founders Day in
Independence TX
Antique Rose Emporium Open House

April 12th - **Country Open Gardens**
(Sunday) **Day**
Washington & Fayette Counties between Colorado and Brazos Rivers. Peak of the Bluebonnet Display should occur this week end.



HERITAGE ROSES LETTER

Those of us who are members of the Heritage Rose Group have not received our November 1991 "Letter" and are wondering what has happened. Our Regional Coordinator, Karen Walbrun, wants to assure you that yours will arrive soon. She has been in touch with the editor and others who say that a February "Letter" will arrive soon for distribution. Do not fear that yours was lost in the mail or your subscription overlooked (unless you have reason to!). It is still \$5 per year (Feb.May.Aug.Nov.) send to Karen Walbrun, Rt.2 Box 6661, Pipe Creek TX 78063



HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION CONVENTION TO BE APRIL 23-25, 1992

ROOTING ROSES...AND MORE!

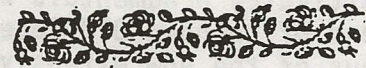
The Heritage Rose Foundation would like to extend a special invitation to members of the Texas Rose Rustlers to attend its Annual Meeting and Conference on the campus of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, April 23-25, 1992. Activities begin with a reception on Thursday evening, followed by a rose propagation workshop on Friday, April 24. Here participants will learn in a "hands-on" setting the basics of rooting cuttings and budding and grafting roses. They will also tour a tissue culture lab and a heat treatment facility, where infected rose plants are freed from mosaic virus.

Saturday's agenda will include speakers on various topics related to collecting and enjoying old roses, as well as a special meeting about the issues involved in identifying them. Participants will visit rose gardens on campus and see firsthand how well virus-free roses grow. These gardens also house a sizeable collection of rare "mystery" roses from Bermuda, some of which may be significant ancestors of many of today's roses.

The campus of Florida Southern College is the home of the world's largest collection of structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and conference participants will be able to tour these. An optional post-conference bus tour on Sunday, April 26, will feature the nurseries of Martha Davies and of Jim and Diann Giles, where rose propagation on a commercial scale can be observed. Stops at Highlands Hammock State Park and at Bok Tower will offer a view of

Florida animals as well as native and exotic plants.

Advance registration is required for the Conference and bus tour. For an information packet, send a stamped business size envelope to The Heritage Rose Foundation, 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. Registration is limited to 100 participants. Deadline: April 16, 1992.



THE TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS ARE A MEMBER CLUB OF THE FOUNDATION AND EACH OF OUR MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS VERY INFORMATIVE AND EXCITING ANNUAL MEETING. WE HAVE ALWAYS FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ALWAYS LIMIT THEIR ATTENDANCE TO 100 PEOPLE, BUT THEY DO. SO IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN TODAY!

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF LIMITING THE ATTENDANCE IS THAT THE GROUP IS SMALL ENOUGH TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH A LARGER NUMBER. IT ALSO CREATES MORE OF A "FAMILY" ATMOSPHERE AND MEMBERS GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER EASILY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, MANY OF THE ATTENDING MEMBERS ARE PEOPLE YOU HAVE READ ABOUT OR HAVE, PERHAPS, READ ROSE BOOKS OR ARTICLES THEY HAVE WRITTEN. YOU WILL FIND THEY ARE ALL "INDIANS" WORKING FOR THE ROSE, FEW, IF ANY, RICH CHIEFS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO ENDOW THE FOUNDATION WITH MONEY - ONLY GREAT DISCOVERIES AND IMPORTANT RESEARCH. YOU WILL ENJOY THEM ALL!



WHERE'S THE "TRI-O-GEN"?

Along with the revival of interest in old roses comes the "back to basics" for the control of insects and fungus diseases on roses. This, of course, is prompted by the advent of "I P M" (Integrated Pest Management) made so popular by Environmentalists.

It is true that many of the "old timey" methods worked pretty well....considering... but those of us that practiced some that are resurfacing learned something about them, too.

We used to be told to use a "clean-up" spray every January, which was bordeaux mixture (copper sulfate & lime in water) or, even better for roses was "CalSul", a mixture of calcium and sulphur in a water soluble oil that could be either sprayed on the plants or on the ground around them. I must admit it was pretty effective but, while not very expensive, probably was worth its cost and no more to the plants treated. There is a movement today to get back to using clean-up sprays and "CalSul" is still my choice, if it can be found - product of the Destruxol Corp. Orthorix Lime Sulfur spray has some modern insecticides in it other than sulfur, as do the other brands of modern clean-up materials on the market.

Tri-O-Gen was the finest spray product available to rose growers until the early 1960's. It was a 3 can kit of a Copper Sulfate mix, an arsenate of lead mix and a wettable sulfur mix, I think. Well, it did o.k. if one knew how to use it. The Copper Sulfate sort of held back blackspot so long as the weather was above 80° and the Sulfur held it back when it was below 80° and this was true for mildew also. Of course you didn't have to mix all 3 every time you sprayed, but the manufacturer didn't make much of a point to stress that importance. The lead arsenate did not phase many insects or did the sulfur but it did stop enough to make it worth while, but it really wasn't cost efficient.

We lost a lot of healthy foliage from sulfur burn and copper burn, even when we used them properly. Sulfur talc on roses turns dewdrops and raindrops to **sulfuric acid** and THAT does cause "freckles" on rose leaves! Any kind of heavy dust or light talc on rose leaves in the summertime can hold water until hot sun heats it up and cooks the spots on the leaf surfaces. Keep all roses washed off real well. I recommend overhead spraying at night when the dew forms on the foliage.

Arsenate of lead was a long time favorite to control a large number of insects, as was tobacco leaf dust (not much available now) and Black Leaf 40, which was nicotine sulfate. We know these to be cancer causing today and the lead arsenate to be pretty deadly, too. Much better methods are available to replace all the old ones. Baking soda has been advanced as a deterrent to mildew, which was also an old treatment, for those who bothered to do anything. It was used at about 1 tablespoon per gallon of water, and it isn't too bad. Mildew is with us always and old roses seem to survive it, but there are some newer mildew deterrents that are safe and more successful. Never forget the value of the old insect control of spraying roses with a weak solution of soapy water. It should be real soap dissolved in water and just as many drops as needed to make a given amount of water capable of wetting a leaf so that the water does not bead instead of coating the leaf evenly. If you prefer you can buy the Safer Soap in a pump spray bottle ready to use. This knocks off aphids in a hurry!

Frankly, the copper fungicide isn't any better than it ever was. It was dropped from use in the 1960 pretty much and later not used on roses at all. The "death" of the famous "Tri-O-Gen" came with the advent of Funginex and later Triforene cinched it in the humid locations. Of all the blackspot deterrents I have never seen anything do the job as well as Triforene. We have the most unbelievably healthy roses in the hot, humid South today than we have ever had when Triforene is used. Too bad it has such a low LD rating. Here's hoping it is an error. Another reason for the death of Tri-O-Gen was the introduction of fermate, a black, sooty product that did quite well in control of fungi. In the late '50's we had a "new" derivative from fermate called "Phaltan" that did wonders! Only thing was that we learned we could not use it after the leaf temperatures reached 80° - back to square 1 and Sulfur - but it did the best job if you could keep a coating on the leaves at all times. This made it obvious that we needed some kind of a systemic control to stop blackspot and mildew. Phaltan wasn't any good on mildew but Benelate was so in the '60's we used these two products to fight fungi.

I love the good old roses but am not too crazy to return to the good old days. ☹

HEIRLOOM OLD GARDEN ROSES

24062 NE Riverside Drive
St. Paul, OR 97137
John & Louise Clements
503/538-1576

If you have received this large and beautiful rose catalogue you may be wondering about sending them an order. We have had many inquiries about them and the roses they list.

Everyone we have known that ordered from them last year, the first year we received a catalog, was very pleased with the plants they received. Their catalog is well worth the \$3 charge and their rose pictures are large enough to help with identification. One of the unusual features about this grower is the guarantee that, "We guarantee our roses to be true to variety."!!!

Greenhouse grown, they are potted and are on their own roots, which means they can be shipped year around and you can plant them at any time your conditions are suitable. They ship only 2nd day Air or Federal Express. December through February roses are shipped dormant; March thru November they are shipped leafed out from the nursery.

Heirloom also has its own breeding program, with new rose introductions each year, along with numerous old rose varieties. The selection of roses is outstanding! Another practice they employ that many California growers are not using is a very stringent anti-virus program. They are working closely with Malcolm Manners of Florida Southern College in the program to remove virus from roses and certify varieties virus-free.

Should you choose to order some of their tempting roses you would very likely be quite pleased with the plants and the service. ¶

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SUNDRY NOTES ON CULTIVATION

From "The IPM Practitioner", August 1990, we note that vegetable oils mixed with 2% water, the same as petroleum oils, and a small amount of detergent can be used on plants as an insecticidal spray the same as the commercial oil sprays.

This is not approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection agency so commercial growers cannot touch this yet because they cannot get permits for this use. It is implied in the report, however, that the backyard gardeners need not fear that the Feds will raid their vegetable oil trials. Many gardeners do not like using petroleum products on plants.

Oil sprays are the most effective way to treat scale infestations as the oil can coat the scale egg casings and nymphs to cut off the oxygen supply. The detergent acts as a spreader to aid coating infected plant areas sprayed. It should be pointed out that oil sprays in our part of the country should not be used if the plant parts are like to reach 80°F, which limits oil spray use to the cooler fall and winter and early spring months only. the "summer dilutions" on the commercial oil spray labels are quite useless for us in effectiveness; stronger winter dilutions in hot weather causes leaf damage and drop.

"Biosoap from Tobacco Extract Controls Pests", from "GrowerTalks", April 1991 (Geo. J. Ball, Inc.) 112-113.

This headline caught our eye as it is an IPM control that recalls old methods that may be adapted for present day safe use. USDA entomologists have thus far found 8 species out of over 60 tobacco plants that are suitable for incorporating into a soap that, when put into solution and sprayed on plants is as effective, if not moreso, than Safer's Soap to control whiteflies and spider mites. They will soon apply for a patent and commercial development should soon follow. Watch for it. ¶



A HERITAGE ROSE PROJECT

Some months ago Frank David Bennett wrote Pam Puryear a note in which was enclosed a news article from the Pineville, Louisiana, paper. It is the story of a one-man project to save the old roses in his area that I found most interesting and think you will also.

An interstate highway is being built thru his small town, which is near Alexandria, LA, and many houses were being torn down, leaving their rose bushes abandoned. Bennett began taking cuttings from the older homes about two years ago. "As I would go to the mall I would circle a block and try to see which were blooming. I call it 'The Fulton Street Garden'," he said of the roses blooming in one of his beds.

"I watched so many of those bushes being destroyed up and down the throughway," he said. "I have just gone up and down and knocked on doors and asked people if I could have cuttings." All the owners were strangers to him, so he asked the age of their rose bushes and most could only recall that a parent planted it long ago. In all his inquiries he met no one who was disagreeable in any way..... no one came with a shotgun, so he couldn't be classed as a "Rose Rustler"!

His journeys resulted in the collection of about 25 varieties of old roses. They grow in beds at his Pineville home, imparting a rich rose perfume that hangs in the humid air. The rosebushes are labeled as to the variety name on stakes in front of each; however, some have not been identified and Bennett is using old books and calling on the expertise of other Rose Society members in central Louisiana to help him find their correct names.

Bennett says he has always loved the old roses. He has only been growing roses for about 8 years now. He got started when he saw a rose growing on a fence around an abandoned homeplace. He took a cutting and set it out and two weeks later the fence was torn down and the rose destroyed. His first cutting bush is now about 4 feet tall. When he began growing roses the old roses were hard to find and few commercial sources existed. Some of his rose varieties can trace their roots about 100 years or more.

His cuttings root in four to eight weeks and he finds them quite heat tolerant as well as cold hardy where he lives. Also they are very disease resistant and insects do not bother them like they do his modern roses.

He mentions that he has used a variety of books to help identify the plants, but some remain a mystery. Bennett would fit in well with our Rose Rustling group in that regard. Perhaps we should tell him how we give "working names." His final understatement was that, "It would be some time before we can identify all of them."

Bennett is certainly correct in that he feels th's preserving a part of Alexandria's history. "I've got my eye on two or three more, and I plan to keep on collecting," he said.¶

Editor's Note: Anyone visiting in or near Pineville, Louisiana 71360, may want to contact Mr. Bennett and drop by to see if you can help him identify any roses, or, better still, learn how he roots his "slips" and get some ideas. His Pineville address is 125 Glen Ellen, phone 640-0386.



Tea Rose White Bon Silene

An "OGR" Nursery (From Scratch)

by Ron Jorgensen
Country Heritage Roses



How in the world does a person start a rose nursery? We thought about this for a long time as my time was coming near to retire from the 8 to 5 work a day. The first thing we agreed upon was that it was to be a wholesale type of business. We knew this would be less income than retail. In retail, you have to be open on a somewhat scheduled time which I was very much against. Why "retire" and then go back on a "schedule"? We also decided not to ship as this would lead to a lot of problems we did not want to tackle.

The next hurdle was "do we have enough room for this undertaking?" If you grow and sell mini's you can get by on a back yard size area. If you are going to grow "standard" size plants then a back yard is out. We were fortunate enough to retire to the family farm. Now you ask how much of this space do you use and how much do you leave for the cows? We decided to re-fence about one acre. That done we next had to figure out how we were going to winter protect the more tender roses.

I picked up a second-hand greenhouse frame from a nursery and we put it up for our propagation. It is 16 X 60 ft. It also served as our winter protection area for two years (sure was crowded). It is now used only for starting cuttings. Most of our mother plants are wintered over in a drainage ditch and covered with oak leaves, which we have in great abundance.

A year later we bought a new 20 X 100 ft. greenhouse frame and put it up. This holds about 1800 two gallon pots. This is where we winter protected the next years crop. I heat it by using a central heater, just like you have in your house that I bought at an auction for \$20. The thermostat is located $\frac{3}{4}$ the way down one side at a height of 4 foot. I have it set as low as it can go (40°F). The G/H has double poly with air blown in between the layers for insulation. If I bought a heater from a nursery dealer made for greenhouses it would have cost around \$800. The 3 & 4 ft. fans I have mounted in the greenhouses all came from auctions at \$25 to \$50 each. Dealers want up to \$600 per fan.

One very important point is if you can do a little carpenter, plumbing and electrical work yourself you can save a bundle. All my plumbing is PVC which is easy to work. I have put all my water, gas and electrical lines under ground and they run under each house so all I have to do is run a "tee" up inside each one. The ditches for the utilities are all dug by hand 12 inches deep. I soaked the area of the ditches with a soaker hose first to loosen up the dirt.

Two years later we bought four more greenhouse frames (used of course) that are 18 X 70 ft. The odd length is to fit into our shrinking area. Most greenhouses can be of any length to fit your space or needs. The main thing to remember is the lengths poly and shade cloth come in. Standard length is 100 ft. You can get shorter lengths but they are a special order and cost more. If you have your greenhouse at 70 ft. you order 150 ft. lengths of poly and double it up.

In November '91 we bought another greenhouse from a local farmer (20 X 100 ft.) We really bought the unit for its accessories. It has two climate controlled exhaust fans with motor driven shutters, one top dollar Modine heater and heat tube with fan, one water cooler, etc. The cost of the accessories would be in the \$2,000 range. The frame about \$700 +

freight. We got all the pots, timers and other greenhouse items and we paid \$500 for all this.

To find this type of deal just drive around in the country and look for greenhouse frames behind farm houses or out near the out buildings. If they look neglected its a good bet you can pick it up pretty cheap. Look up the new price for the greenhouse and offer the person \$.10 on the dollar explaining that there is not much call for a used greenhouse as you kick at the ground, rub your jaw and look off in space and then go from there. You should never go past 25%. If he says no, ask him if he knows of anyone around that has one for sale. You never know.

Next, which varieties do you want to sell. Ask around at some nurseries which varieties do they think they can sell. To start out we think you should stay with the ever blooming types. They are by far the best sellers. The once bloomers are nice but not good sellers. They can be phased in later. Start with ten to twenty five varieties. Which ones you ask? Check with some local OGR rosarians and Consulting Rosarians as to which are grown most in your area. You can be sure Souv. de la Malmaison will be high on most lists. It is the most popular OGR in the south. There are many more to chose from so check around. Ask the rosarians to list their ten favorite OGR's and you have the start of your list.

Join one or more of the Historical Rose Groups. THE DALLAS AREA HISTORICAL ROSE SOCIETY of course is our first choice. Bev Dobsons's Combined Rose List is also a must. It will tell you where to get most varieties. Buy your starter plants from a grower who has a good reputation. Here is one place where you don't want to be shall we say, "frugal". Accept plants from your friends who you know grow correct varieties. If you are going to grow your mother plants in pots we would suggest a 15 or 20 gallon pot. You will get a better overall plant in the long run plus you can move it around to fit your needs. By all means use drip irrigation. Saves a lot of watering time and water.

We find the best time to take cuttings is in the September/October time frame. Most of the dog days of summer are past and the temperature has cooled off somewhat. We start all our cuttings under a mist system in Oasis cubes. Do not skimp on a misting controller. The mister comes on at 8:00 AM (this is controlled by a small timer like you use on a plant stand) and goes off at 5:00 PM. These times change with the season. Within this time my misting controller will mist the cuttings for 10 seconds every 20 minutes. This time also varies with climate. If it is un-seasonably hot I might mist every 10 minutes for 12 seconds.

Well, you now have a bunch of plants to sell, where do you start? When we started hitting the nurseries, we talked to anyone who would listen - WRONG. Find out who the manager is and talk to him. If he wants you to talk to someone else fine, but seek him out first. We lost half a year by not doing this. When we visited the nurseries we took along a few of our better plants as examples and when we left we left a couple of plants as a good will gesture. Never hurts..... We also had a list of the varieties we were growing. Beside each variety we listed the bloom color, height, class, date and if it had fragrance. We would sit down with the manager, or his designate, and discuss each variety listed; its growth habits, etc.. We would try to steer him toward the better blooming varieties and away from once bloomers. They will appreciate this in the long run as they will sell the better bloomers first. If you push a dog or two upon them as "fillers" they will see through this at sale time when they are still sitting there and the others are long gone. Poor business. You should know what sells best in your area and not try to sell them what you like even though it may be a good repeat bloomer. I had a couple of varieties that I really liked and will not be without in my garden but they ended up being poor sellers so I dropped them from my list. Some bummers sell good and some good ones don't sell. Sell them what sells.....

Now that you have established yourself with a nursery and they are happy with your quality (notice I did not say quantity) add a few varieties to your list each year. If the nursery has a good rosarian on staff, ask them to suggest some varieties that they would like for you to

grow. If they suggest one that they really like but you know from years of experience that its a bummer, by all means advise them of such and suggest that you would rather sell them ones that will sell and not end up the season with them. In the long run I believe this will pay off.

Next, expand to other nurseries. One point here; I would not go to my buyers arch competitor. You might be cutting off the hand that feeds you. Try to sell the new nursery about 15 to 25 of the top 10 sellers in your area. We think this is a fair start for the nursery. Too many too soon is not good. You can always add to their list next year. I had one nursery buy 10 of the top 10 the first year. He ordered ten times that the next year. Get too greedy too quick and your pocket book gets bare.

You should set yourself a goal or limit that you will grow each year. Don't grow too many too fast. Three things every nursery owner we talked to before we started our business told us was;

1. DON'T GET TOO BIG TOO FAST. You will end up loosing control of your quality very easily.
2. DON'T TRY TO SELL WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE. You could end up with an empty bag.
3. DON'T BORROW ANY MONEY. The first few years will probably be a little lean and payback could get you in trouble. Like the old saying "don't give up your day job".

We have tried to live by these standards and we believe it is working out real well.

There were times we wanted to expand faster but we knew the outcome would not be good. We could have sold more bushes than we had but starting them, growing them, protecting them in the winter, etc., was in the future and we knew it. Our goals are no longer just a dim light at the end of the tunnel.

These are just a few thoughts about starting an OGR nursery. If you have any questions regarding anything written above feel free to write me at Rt 2 Box 1401, Scurry, TX. 75158. Please send an SASE if you want an answer as it would help defray costs. Most nurseries would appreciate a SASE with inquiries or requests.



Editor's Note: Ron & Myrna Jorgensen are long-time rose growers. About the time The Rose Rustlers got well under way, 1985, they began subscribing to The Old Texas Rose. Myrna was already a American Rose Society Rose Judge and attended the first Old Rose Judging School the ARS held in this area of the country, in Albuquerque. Not long afterwards Ron retired and they moved to Scurry, TX, where they began propagating cuttings of their fantastic collection of Old Garden Roses. Myrna continued to work in Dallas until retirement about 2 years ago. By then Ron had struggled through many hard learned experiences of old rose production and was winning by his sheer strength and determination. This is a most interesting account that we feel the Rustlers are a part, since they have been a part of our "family" from their/our start.

Another couple that have been with us since just before our 1988 Rustle in New Braunfels are Bill and Sonja Parker, of Montgomery, TX. We held our second Area Meeting with them about 3½ years ago in July '89 at their newly started "Days of Thyme & Roses" nursery. They sell only retail while Ron and Myrna only custom grow and sell wholesale at their "Country Heritage Roses" nursery. Both operations will be glad to custom grow for you, but Ron will need a wholesale order for the same varieties in groups of 10 to licensed retail nursery owners only.

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REQUEST FROM SEAN McCANN

Many of you met Sean McCann at the Antique Rose Emporium a few years ago. Sean is an author and quite a rose research promoter. He writes pretty regularly for "The American Rose Magazine", publication of The American Rose Society. He wrote us just before Christmas informing us that he is embarking on another book on roses at the urging of his publisher. He wants to bring together a book "that will tell stories of the rose from American history." He thinks it strange that the history of the rose has been told many times but the American connection has been almost passed over.

He is looking for stories about roses in America. Perhaps a good Civil War story of bringing a rose to deliver a secret message; a rose pictured on a gravestone that tells a story; a rose transported a long distance for a special reason. I doesn't have to be a verified truth, but an old folktale that had some truthful foundation. He is looking for anything of the nostalgic rose heritage that he might incorporate in his book.

If you know of such a story write it and sent it to him, please. His mailing address is: Sean McCann, 173 Clonkeen Road. Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

His son is a student at University of Texas, Austin, so surely we Texas Rose Rustlers can help him! Joe Woodard sent him a whole backlog of "The Yellow Rose" publication of the Dallas Historical Rose Group. Too bad we have no such a backlog of our OTR to share. But perhaps we could all write him a rose story of two that would help. We should be able to recount some of our Rose Rustling "finds" and how they got where we found them; how someone brought rose cuttings with them from Germany in the mid 1800's; an unusual rose that someone first grew from a cutting that did not resemble it's parent and how it spread through a community. Think hard! Send him a story.¶

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