

VOLUME XII

SUMMER 1993

NUMBER 1

ROSE RUSTLE TO BE ANNOUNCED

At this time we are unable to affirm any details of the annual Fall Rose Rustle. We have just about covered all the "good" spots to search for old roses within our area. In fact, some of our Rustles have been quite far for most of us. We entertained joining with the new New Orleans HRS this fall, but we have not been able to coordinate satisfactory plans. We **will** be having some kind of a rose program and activity, however.

Normally we plan the Rustle in October and in "The Lazy Gardener Calendar" it is scheduled for October 23rd. This is still the most likely date for our "Fall Fling" if you need to mark your calendar. Schedule of the events will appear in the early October Old Texas Rose.

The Antique Rose Emporium will hold its Fall Festival November 5, 6 & 7, 1993. You may have read of some of their plans in their Summer newsletter, "Potpourri."

ICE CREAM SOCIAL SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 21st

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOMEMADE CAKES
COOKIES AND FREEZER ICE CREAM
CALL FRANCES BRANDES AT
324-1457

5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

at the home of

E L V I N M c D O N A L D

3106 Randall Street

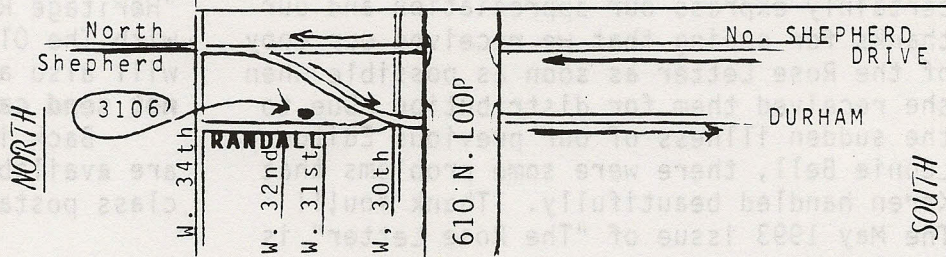
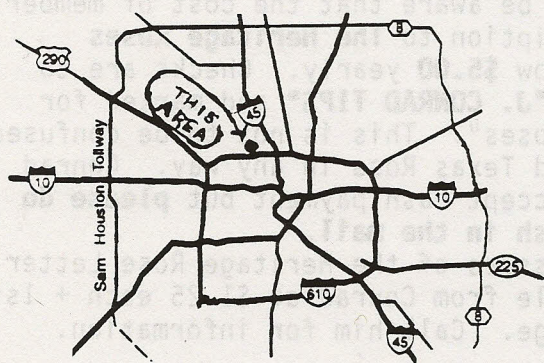
Houston TX 77018

[See Map Below]

Drinks will be compliments of our host
It will not be necessary to bring chairs

A MOST INTERESTING PROGRAM IS
BEING PLANNED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

BRING ROOTED CUTTINGS
AND
PLANTS TO SHARE



CHAIRMAN	Cal Dempsey, 112 Lakeshore Dr., Conroe TX 77375	409/539-6840
PROGRAM	Marion Brandes, Jr., 27326 Farm Creek, Huffman TX 77336	713/324-1457
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TREASURER	Mrs. Deanna Krause, 5020 Fairvent, Pasadena TX 77505	713/487-3347
EDITOR	Mrs. Margaret Sharpe, 9426 Kerrwood, Houston TX 77080-5428	713/464-8607

NEWS OF CHANGES!

Many Rustlers also subscribe to the Heritage Rose Group's "Rose Letter", which is the popular old rose news that has stimulated so many old rose groups gathering together in various parts of the country. The Heritage Roses Group formed in May 1975 with a group of volunteers working together to produce "The Rose Letter". There were no organizational officers other than some outstanding old rose enthusiasts, one of whom agreed to be the Editor and one who agreed to be the Secretary. One member from each of the 6 areas of the country agreed to represent their section, being called "Regional Coordinators", to help the Editor and assist in the distribution of the Rose Letter and the subscription-memberships as volunteers.

Today, summer 1993, the Heritage Roses Group is still an unorganized collection of rose lovers working together in a surprisingly organized manner to disburse knowledge and enthusiasm of and for old roses. When the Rose Letter was first offered the annual cost per year for the quarterly issues was \$3.00. Area Co-0's collected the "dues" and withheld enough to cover mailing costs for each subscription, a percentage going to the Editor for printing and shipping bundles of the Letter to each Area Co-0 for first class mailing to subscribers. No salaries are paid except those by the printer and no funds are paid contributors of articles to the publication. The job as Editor changes every few years, as do the jobs of the Area Coordinators. So, while they are a non-profit group they are in no way a tax deductible group, even though there have been times when some of the volunteers have chipped in to supply funds to cover unexpected expenses.

Karen Walbrun has been our Southcentral Area Coordinator since August 1991. We certainly express our appreciation and our thanks for seeing that we received our copy of the Rose Letter as soon as possible when she received them for distribution. Due to the sudden illness of our previous Editor, Léonie Bell, there were some problems that Karen handled beautifully. Thank You!!! The May 1993 issue of "The Rose Letter" is the last issue Karen has acted as Coordinator.



NEW HERITAGE ROSES

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Those wishing to subscribe to The Heritage Roses Letter may direct their inquiries to the new Regional Coordinator, who now is **J. CONRAD TIPS**, a long time member of our Rose Rustler group and frequent contributor of rose articles to The Old Texas Rose and to the Heritage Roses Letter. The Rose Letter of Heritage Roses Group has long proven its importance to the communication of value regarding Old Roses, and The old Texas Rose has also been complimented for disseminating Rose news. We wish to compliment Conrad on being asked to take this volunteer job and congratulate him for accepting - there couldn't be a better merging of thoughts for the Southcentral Regional Coordinator!

Let us all cooperate to assist Conrad in his efforts to successfully complete the several jobs necessary in this position. He may be calling on your help and we hope we can all assist in effecting the purpose of spreading old rose information.

J. CONRAD TIPS, Area CO-0
1007 Highland, Houston TX 77009
713/868-5606

Please be aware that the cost of membership/subscription to **The Heritage Roses Letter** is now **\$5.00** yearly. Checks are to be made to "**J. CONRAD TIPS**" and marked for "Heritage Roses". This is not to be confused with The Old Texas Rose in any way. Conrad will also accept cash payment but **please do not send cash in the mail.**

Back issues of the Heritage Rose Letter are available from Conrad at \$1.25 each + 1st class postage. Call him for information.





JUNE GATHERING

The Rose Rustler meeting on June 12th at the old rose planting in the Heights was eventful to say the least. A flooding rain dominated the day but we persevered. Rustlers finally began appearing under umbrellas and congregating in the small park planting at the end of Heights Boulevard at 20th Street. Standing in the rain under umbrellas and dripping wet while examining the masses of blooms on the roses Marion Brandes had supervised the planting we quickly ignored the rain and had a most interesting time examining the China and Tea roses so laden with blooms. Of much interest was a corner of the designed area that contained several Monsieur Tillier (Tea 1891) covered with blooms in all stages. They were under the protection of a rather low drooping live oak tree limb but were very thick and deep green with no signs of either blackspot or mildew in the shaded location. This is the first full year for the rose planting and it is something to be seen! All rose bushes are growing very well and proves that the China roses and the China Teas are truly the roses to grow in Houston!

After some 40 to 50 people gathered and the rain began to dwindle about 10 A.M. we began walking down the esplanade about 2 blocks to a beautifully landscaped former homesite of one of the original homes built in Houston Heights when it was first opened about 1912. The family lived in the home there until the last occupant died and no one wanted to buy the property. They turned it into a public park area complete with gazebo and a few of the original trees and shrubs. One of these is an old rosebush that is still living in the rather dense shade of the trees that is 'Archduke Charles', known as the "Heights Rose" as cuttings from it have been shared with neighbors since it was first planted there. Nearly all the yards around these Victorian era houses evidence this rose and several others, especially the rose we know as 'Maggie'.

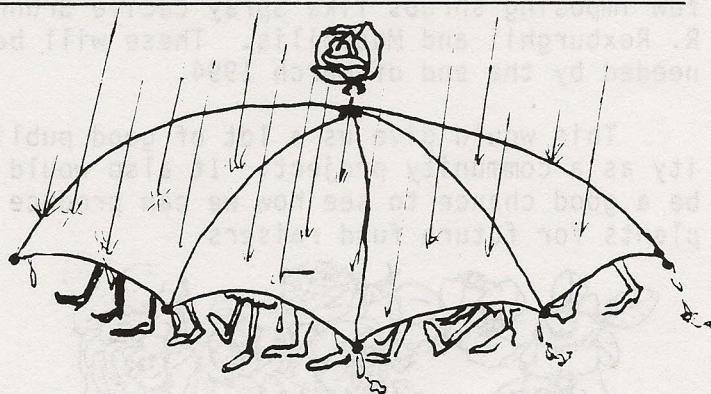
We found ourselves on the corner of Harvard and 18th St. where there is a beautifully restored Victorian home, only one of the two original homes remaining of the houses that first graced Houston Heights. It is now owned by Bart Truxillo, a well known Houston architect. Bart invited us in

out of the rain to spend the rest of the morning touring his lovely home. Bart's restoration is about as authentic as one can get, even to the hardware items and the methods of construction! He has it restored to meet his needs, from the library in the sunny attic on the 4th level and the tower with round shelves for books clear up to the top, down to the basement below the first floor where cool summertime rooms for relaxation and entertaining are enjoyed.

The yard around the house is planted with native annuals & perennials in a natural landscape design, keeping xeriscaping in mind. It is a "city lot size" of about 50' X 100', with detached garage and driveway from the front on Harvard to the back to the garage. Interesting and unusual plants are located among the plantings, there being little or no grass to tend.

Leaving Bart's we went to Lana Nelson's new plants and gift shop she is starting at 1116 Oxford St., next to Buchanan's Nursery on 11th Street in the Heights. Lana served us cool punch, which was most welcome at that stage. We enjoyed our visit and tour of her developmental stages of improvements. Then we went back almost the way we came but traveled Columbia rather than Harvard and stopped at The Briarpatch Herb Farm, 1612 Columbia, where two of our members, Dee Smathers and Charlene Smith are starting a small organic herb business.

We all owe our thanks to Bart Truxillo, Lana Nelson, Dee Smathers & Charlene Smith for turning a rainy, miserable day into such a happy one.



EFFECTS OF THE OLD ROSE GARDEN IN THE HEIGHTS

The Heights Civic Association chose to locate a rose garden at the end of Heights Boulevard at the intersection with 20th Street. The layout was drawn by a landscape designer and Marion Brandes was consulted as to what roses to plant. In fact, Marion oversaw the actual planting operation, as described in The Old Texas Rose, Vol X, No. 4 (Spring '92) page 17. The planting has grown beautifully and blooms profusely. The retired citizens living across the street watch it from their windows and report suspected vandalism and any problems that need attention. So, it might be considered a true community project. Almost all the residents of the area are very aware and interested in the old roses, even the youth. It has stimulated pride and concern.

In April 1994 the Woodland Heights Civic Association will sponsor a House & Garden Tour of the area. Among the attractions will be the Student Gardens at Travis Elementary School, where there is an excellent horticulture program. Travis School is a magnet school with many of the students coming from homes in difficult circumstances; the value of a horticultural program is obvious - better to be in the garden than on the street. The chairman for this event is J. Conrad Tips.

During this event the children's gardens will be judged and awards given. Conrad asks that we Rose Rustlers propagate from your own collection some 30 to 40 rose bushes to be awarded. Ultimately, they will be used to landscape the campus of Travis School. The easiest to grow will be the best - Chinas for borders, hybrid Musks to cover the not too handsome fences. Gay Hill Red China, Louis Philippe, Lindee, Tip Top, Marie Pavié, and Red Cascade for miniature red blooms; and a few imposing shrubs like Spray Cecile Brunner R. Roxburghii and Mutabilis. These will be needed by the end of March 1994.

This would give us a lot of good publicity as a community project. It also would be a good chance to see how we can produce plants for future fund raisers.



HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION 7th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 8, Natchez Miss.

The annual convention of the Heritage Rose Foundation in Natchez this year. The Rose Rustlers were charter members with organizational status as well as several of our members being individual members of the Foundation. There were none of our local Houston Area members who attended this year. Mike Shoup, Joe & Helen Woodard, Liz Druitt, Charlotte Haring, and the Charles A. Walker, Foundation Executive Secretary are names familiar to most of the Rose Rustlers. Altho the program was most interesting and the tours of the sights and the old Natchez cemetery we have not yet received a full account of the convention. We will relate more on this in our Fall Old Texas Rose.

Highlights of the event were the the representation of two new Heritage Rose Societies. Maureen Reed Detweiler and Rosemary Sims (Rose Rustlers) represented the newly formed New Orleans Heritage Rose Society, and Martha Davies and Malcolm Manners (now DR. Malcolm Manners!) along with other officers of the Central Florida Heritage Rose Society attended. All in all, 71 of the Dallas Area Heritage Rose Society were in attendance.

The Chairmen of the Texas Rose Rustlers Group decided to discontinue our club membership in the Heritage Rose Foundation since the cost of group membership was not worth the expense. We received the quarterly HRF Newsletter, which passed around to those of our members who wished to read it, but so many who are individual members receive the newsletter anyway and it was felt that we do not require an extra copy, especially since several of us receive newsletters from other Heritage Rose Societies, which contain more news of interest to us than the Heritage Rose Foundation News.

Judging from the beautiful photo of a "Yellow Tea" in the Natchez Cemetery, there must be a tremendous number of new pictures of old roses resulting from the 1993 Tour of this and other famous historic cemeteries in the area. The New Orleans HRS would like to stimulate a project of the restoration of the roses that once was a National Memorial Monument to the historic founders and heroes immortalized by them. Work is in progress!

Questions, Questions (or, Why I Chose Organics)

by Ron Jorgensen

Country Heritage Roses

For years I have been fertilizing and spraying with the chemicals you see highly touted in horticulture publications; Funginex, Rubigan, Orthene, etc., etc..

If I had rose trouble A, I had to spray with one thing.

If I had rose trouble B, I had to spray with something else.

If I had rose trouble C, I had to spray with yet another product.

After a short while I was spending more time trying to remember what I had used last and what should I use on problem C this time? Am I over-using some of these chemicals? Are they compatible with each other or will they have adverse effects if they are mixed? Am I causing problems or am I curing them? Questions, Questions. This sounds like a Catch 22 situation: damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Are the spider mites becoming immune to Avid or Vendex? Are the thrip and aphids beginning to like the taste of Orthene or Malathion? Where or when does this ever stop? Do I have to start wearing HAZMAT clothing? Questions, Questions.

My answer was to get rid of all these miracle working chemicals. This was a very hard thing for me to do as I have been brainwashed by all those ads we see. Organics sounded too simple to be effective. I originally learned the care of roses from some very tough exhibitors who swore by chemicals. That is what they were taught when they were learning to grow roses up to and including winning "Queen" at the shows.

We live on a farm that has a creek running through it. Was the runoff getting into the creek where the cows drink? Was it affecting the milk for the calves or even effecting the unborn calves? Questions, Questions.

My wife has been trying to influence me to go organic for quite a while because she doesn't want the runoff getting into the stock tank where her peacocks, ducks, rabbits and geese drink.

More and more publications/studies from universities have been presented in trade publications pertaining to organics. The more I read these studies the more I liked the idea of organics so last year I took the giant step (Simon said OK) and shut the door containing all my chemicals. Boy was that hard!

I am basically following Cornell University recommendations. An ultra-fine horticulture oil, soap and baking soda. The past year I feel and see that I am getting much better growth on my bushes even though Mother Nature has only blessed me with 2 weeks of sunny days in the past 3 months (*Jan. through March*). Rain, Rain, Rain.

I have yet to run a cost analysis on modern chemicals vs. organics but just off the top of my head I can see a 60% (\$) savings. The horticulture oil (Sunspray) I use comes in a 5-gallon container with a cost of \$26.00 and when you only use 2 1/2 tablespoons per gallon of water this will go a long, long way.

The following is what I use as a spray program.

In one gallon of water I add:

- 2 1/2 tablespoons horticulture oil ** (Gets most insects)
- 1 tablespoon Palmolive soap (Sticker/spreader)
- 1 tablespoon fish emulsion (Fertilizer & discourages insects)
- 2 drops of Superthrive (A good B-1 type tonic)
- 1 tablespoon baking soda (Blackspot/Powdery mildew)
- ** 1/4 cup of "blue label" CRISCO oil may be substituted

I wash off the bushes with water prior to spraying. I like to wash the bushes in the morning and spray in the evening or wash in the evening and spray in the early morning. I want the leaves on the bushes dry prior to spraying as it would only dilute the spray and I want the spray to dry before the sun hits the bushes. I sprayed late one morning which was not smart (and I knew better) and I had some defoliation. I also DO NOT add more of any ingredient than is called for. This will also cause leaves to drop. The old axiom of, if one is good I will use two, is not very smart. At the meeting Tues. May 25, several people informed me that they were having problems with defoliation. After asking them a few questions I discovered the main problems.

- 1) More material than the formula calls for was used.
- 2) They were spraying "sometime between 9 a.m. and noon."

Both of these are big NO NO's! Spraying should be done very early in the morning. I try to be **finished** by 7 to 7:30 a.m. I prefer to spray in the evening (after 6 p.m.) Pick a day to spray and if you miss it by one day then spray the next. If it rains it is a good idea to spray again the next day. If you have a severe problem then spray every 3 days until the problem is gone. DO NOT INCREASE THE INGREDIENTS.

I have a Gallica bush (Anaïs Ségales) in one of my greenhouses that looked like a flocked Christmas tree. It was covered with powdery mildew that no modern chemical could cure (since Acti-Dione PM is off the market). After three applications of oil and baking soda five days apart, the powdery mildew was gone and I had nice, healthy, green bushes. Paul Neyron (HP) loves to black spot but since using baking soda they are almost clean. LOVE IT!

I currently have a cabinet full of half used Avid, Orthene, Daconil, Benomyl, Captan, Seven, Vendex, Cygon IIE, Diazinon, Malathion and no telling what other chemicals. What I paid for these chemicals would make a dent in the national debt. NO MORE..

Am I sorry I changed from modern chemicals to organics? NOPE....I will write about it again in 1 year—stay tuned!

EVERBLOOMING ROSES

BY

GEORGIA TORREY DRENNEN

DUFFIELD & Co., NYC, 1912 (COPYRIGHT EXPIRED)

"The Tea Rose"

(Editor's Note: This is the beginning of a series of reprints from this well known book on Roses that we will be featuring in this newsletter. The chapters will not necessarily be in numerical order, or will all of them be reproduced. We hope to follow chronological order with the chapters that are the popular choices as the "best". None will be edited or knowingly changed from original wording. The publishing company has long been out of business and the book has never as yet been reprinted for sale, to our knowledge.)

Once upon a time, a new rose came to France from a far country. Pale pink, semi-double and of small size, the new rose could scarcely claim a relationship to the famous Damask or Rose of Damascus, nor compare with the classic Provence or Rose of France. Neither did it rival the well-known Austrian and Persian roses, nor surpass the modest Eglantine or wild Sweetbriar. Yet there had never been such a rose.

"Never sure, since high in Paradise

By the four rivers the first roses blew."

The Chinese introduced this new rose of 1810 to France. They called it The Tea, for they knew no higher encomium for its sweet, suggestive odour. The hitherto unattainable cardinal virtue of blooming repeatedly gave the Tea rose fame not born to die, and the great nineteenth-century impetus to rose culture. The Greeks and Romans sought by every artifice and spared no pains to produce roses that would repeat their blooms. They were incited to this attainment by the twice-blooming roses that immortalised the gardens of Pæstum, the Greek city of Lucania by the sea. Virgil in Georgics, Ovid in the Metamorphoses, Martial, and other Latin poets, have sung of them. The gardens were described as of deep loam, reclaimed from swamps and irrigated by perpetual streams. As true everblooming roses were then unknown, the classic twice-blooming rose has ever remained mysterious. We do not know them.

The Chinese regard the creation of the everblooming Tea rose as a matter of great

national pride. The American Rose Society held its first annual exhibition in New York in March of 1900. The Eden Musée was a palace of enchantment: there were fifteen hundred roses in proud array, the product of conservatories of wealthy amateurs, and scientific rose growers, enthusiastic, skilful and successful, of roses not surpassed by June roses when nature is at her beautiful best.

Yet charm the roses never so wisely, there was a small rose-bush, a very dwarf, that drew the admiring throng, and centered attention like a magnet. Even as a wayside wilding it would have been accounted ordinary. The trunk bore signs of age, but the three small branches with scant foliage were fresh looking, and the three five-petalled blossoms were pretty, simple and sweet. During the three days of exhibition, various and interested crowds surrounded the place of honour it occupied. The Japanese placed it on exhibition as a priceless work of art. The great masters of horticulture, in nothing is their skill more wonderful than in dwarfing trees. This typical dwarfed rose-bush, bearing indisputable testimony of antiquity, suggests the Fountain of Vaucluse, a deep and tranquil pool without a ripple on its surface, yet by its ceaseless flow creating a river. This little plant is one of the original Tea roses, from which countless thousands of the roses of all lands have come its ceaseless flow.

The Chinese introduced another everblooming rose in 1824, which was pale yellow and of semi-double form. Interest that had never abated since the advent of the first, increased with this second variety and reached a height that has been steadily maintained to the present day. Rosarians began selection and cross-fertilisation as soon as the prolific nature of the everblooming Teas were known. Enthusiasm in growing roses was by no means confined to professional rose growers. Amateurs among men and women of all ranks became enthusiasts. Every new rose created a sensation. The

EVERBLOOMING ROSES

(continued)

vital statistics of the bulletins of current literature contained the name of every new-born Tea rose. Each one as it appeared was adopted by the votaries of fashion, royalty and the nobility.

The Germans produced the greatest variety from seed.

The French produced the greatest variety of rare and beautiful colours.

The English excelled by bringing the German and French roses to a higher degree of perfection by scientific modes of culture.

America imported, then created, new kinds. In 1830, from Flushing, Long Island, over five hundred named roses were entered on the trade lists, although hybridisation was then in its infancy.

From the earliest to the latest, nothing in the history of the rose has been of greater importance than the creation of the tea. Its introduction to the Occident ranks with the bountiful best gifts of the nineteenth century.

Proven by the works of art of France, England, Flanders, Germany and Holland, the eighteenth century was distinguished for beautiful women; proven by faithful chronology, and by living, blooming witnesses, the nineteenth was the century of beautiful roses. Immortal upon canvas are beautiful faces with beautiful roses close beside. Prud'hon's portraits of Marie Louise, so often copied in dainty miniature with a garland of roses surrounding the face, shows an even balance of charms between the roses and the fair fresh face of the Trianon, Marie Antoinette was compared to the rose for queenliness. La Reine à la Rose, Vigée le Brun's masterpiece, shows beautiful roses close beside the proud, beautiful face.

Under all the excitement, stress, and strain of the decade that followed the introduction of the fragrant everblooming Tea rose, floriculture flourished; it had never known such triumphs. These were years of commotions, upheavals, advances, triumphs, and tragedies. There were victories of war and peace. In various fields, this decade saw the Wars of Napoleon; the War of 1812 between the United States and England; among the good gifts of literature, Sir Walter Scott's Waverly Novels, Torrey's Flora of North America, Washington Irving's Sketch Book and Knickerbocker

History of New York, books which compelled recognition from Albemarle Street and Paternoster Row of critical London. Alexander von Humboldt and Bonpland explored the tropics and, returning to Paris brought new exotic plants which enrich the flora of Europe and America. These great naturalists were patronised by the Empress Josephine, who had Bonpland constituted intendent of Malmaison and Napoleon conferred upon him a royal pension. When the allied armies of Europe entered Paris, Vibert had fifteen thousand new roses. He removed them to his royal grounds forty miles from Paris, in time to save them from destruction. These treasured roses had been produced by selection, crossing and re-crossing the Tea rose with other classes.

The flood-tide of new and varied roses, all marked by some feature of improvement, date from 1839, when the Triumph of Luxemburg, Bon Silene and Safrano were introduced. Devoniensis, the earliest English-raised Tea, and Niphetos, appeared in 1824. Niphetos created as great a sensation as any rose that ever appeared. The peculiar elongated, oval, pure white bud had not been seen among roses.

The great consideration of this day is to increase the powers of endurance beyond southern boundaries, of the Tea and its kindred roses. Hybridisation with hardy classes is accomplishing this desired end, and better understanding if the pure Teas is extending their limits.

From Elizabeth and Her German Garden we learn that Tea roses are more hardy than generally supposed. She says her garden is located on what was the highroad between Sweden and Brandenburg during the Thirty Years War. It lies within fifteen miles of the border of the Baltic Sea. She says, "There is not a German gardening book that does not relegate all Teas to the hothouse. I rushed in where Teutonic angels fear to tread, and made my Teas face a northern winter. They did face it, however, under fir branches and leaves, and to-day are looking as happy and determined to enjoy life as any roses, I'm sure, in Europe."

This was her garden chronicle for May, the

EVERBLOOMING ROSES (continued)

Teas having passed the winter safely. She says further: "I am beginning to think the tenderness of the Teas much exaggerated. I am certainly glad I had the courage to try them in this northern garden."

Celia Thaxter, in An Island Garden, says she accidentally left Anne Montravelle, the double white Polyantha rose, out in garden and it came through the cold Isle of Shoals winter chipper and cheery, and was full of blooms all summer.

The significant fact in all this is, that the Polyantha roses are of close Tea kindred, and true everbloomers. Favourable conditions fortify the tender roses against cold. I am aware that Tea roses are considered too delicate for out-door gardens north of Baltimore, but there are instances that show the possibilities of hardening them so they may become available in apparently uncongenial latitudes. Given a wind-break of cedars, an eastern exposure and a foothold in fertile soil, even Niphetos became heroic and established itself in a mountain garden. It occurred in the sixties that Niphetos was entirely lost to culture. The most diligent search failed to recover a single Niphetos rose-bush. It was universally regretted. Accidentally, a Northern tourist came across a garden of the Blue Ridge, Virginia, that had in it a rose-bush full of unmistakable elongated, oval, snow-white Niphetos buds. The prize was secured and taken to Philadelphia. Niphetos was restored to its own. The accounts of the fabulous prices paid for the cut rosebuds from the recovered Virginia rose are so much like fairy tales that I refrain from quoting them. This isolated instance of a pure Tea enduring the cold of the mountain top is encouraging. There is hope for the full development of this incipient power of endurance.

The pure Tea is the most pliant of roses. The readiness with which it blends its own exquisite loveliness, fragrance and constancy with coarser, hardier qualities of all other classes suggests unlimited possibilities. The Tea holds within itself the latent hardy nature of the type, which expert culture may develop, making it as much a rose of the North as of the South. While the types are mainly

found in the temperate parts of the northern hemisphere, limited numbers extend to the colder regions. Our native Rosa Cinnamomosa is found at Point Barrow in Alaska, and Rosa Blanda extends to Hudson's Bay. Bayard Taylor found wild roses in the frozen region on the Midnight Sun. He reported the crews of whaling vessels that called at Spitzbergen coming off shore with bouquets of native roses of pale pink, similar to those he found in Greenland and northern Siberia.

Except at great elevations, roses are not found in the tropics. They are not of as far southern habitat as maize. The Indians hardened corn, gradually extending its growth northward from Mexico until it became acclimated throughout the country and into Canada. The hybridised classes of the Tea rose are heroic and pliant as Indian corn. The climate that has favoured the spread of corn, rosarians are proving, offers no insurmountable barriers to the gradual advance of the delicate Tea rose family, farther and farther from the south to the north.

Roses that bloom continuously in the United States can be relied on in any country. The fogs of England have no parallel here; the same roses that bloom two or three months in London are all called everblooming, would not exceed four or six weeks in the drier climate of New York or Washington City. Roses bloom earlier in the south of Europe than in our own country; spring roses there are early summer roses here. A higher degree of latitude there corresponds to a lower degree in our own Southern States owing to the reflection of the Sahara. Portland and Seattle are far north of Los Angeles, yet roses bloom ten months of the year in both cities as profusely as in Los Angeles, owing to the current of air from the Sea of Japan, which bears directly upon these three widely separated localities. This Ocean Current of the Pacific corresponds to the Gulf Stream of the Atlantic, and is the source of the phenomenal climatic conditions of the Pacific Coast, as favorable as any part of the world for roses.

Tea roses endure cold which, in the most northerly of the Southern States, is frequently below zero. On the coast of the

EVERBLOOMING ROSES

(continued)

Gulf of Mexico, the southern Pacific and southern Atlantic seaboards, every rose of Tea relationship blooms constantly eight, ten or twelve months of the year, according to latitude. All through the cotton belt, the entire class, bush and vine, are perfectly hardy, blooming constantly from early to late. For gardens south of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers, the tea rose is the flower of flowers. Arbitrarily, the Tea class includes the Hybrid Tea, Noisette, Bengal, Polyantha tea, all of them true everbloomers. Southern gardens can have no flowers of any strain as prolific, constant, hardy, beautiful, and fragrant as the Tea and kindred roses. Northern gardens can have no plants as florescent, brilliant, varied, and altogether valuable as the hardy roses derived from the Tea and Hybrid Remontant strains.

Whatever the colour scheme, whether rich royal hues of velvety texture, pure pastels, delicate porcelain tints or iridescent gossamer iris, poppy or orchid, the Tea rose in limitless variations, stands in beautiful contrast or gently lends itself in perfect harmony, mutually enhancing its own and the charms of every other flower of the garden. Where sweet violets blow and honeysuckles, jasmines, myrtles and spicy carnations exhale perfume upon the air, the Tea rose blends and completes the bouquet.

The Tea is a rose of modern times, but it descends from a family with established claims to antiquity, for the rose is believed to be the oldest flower of which there is any record.

OLD TIME RECIPES

BORDEAUX MIXTURE (4-4-50)

This is the standard formula:

4 lbs. Copper Sulfate
4 lbs. hydrated lime
50 gals. water

Dissolve Copper Sulfate (bluestone or blue vitrol) in several gallons of water in a glass or glazed pottery container. Mix the lime in another glass or pottery container. When dissolved mix together in a 50 or more gallon container, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, and add water to make 50 gallons. It should be a light blue and used within a few hours while constantly agitating to keep particles well in suspension.

Remember that this is for use in our area in the summertime only, when temperature is above 80°F, because of the copper.

A weak solution would be best for roses of 2 oz. Copper Sulfate dissolved in 1 gal. water & 3 oz lime in another gal. water. Mix, stir well and spray. This is a 4-6-50 mix popular to prevent free copper spray burn.

LIME-SULFUR SPRAY (Dry Mix)

Using Liver of Sulfur (Potassium Sulfide) for its high fungicidal qualities, mix 1 oz. with 3 gals. water. Stir well and spray. For regular Lime-Sulfur mix 8 lbs. sulfur, 4 lbs. Lime & ½lb. powdered skim milk. Mix with 50 gal. water while stirring vigorously. This will produce a weak solution, but possible to do at home. Boiled Lime - Sulfur is superior but may be cheaper and easier to buy. (See CALSUL) Remember that SULFUR sprays are for wintertime application for our area. Apply only when temperatures are consistently below 80°F.

Dusting sulfurs are the only ones fine enough to be used in sprays with water. "Flowers of Sulfur" are too coarse and will cause leaf burning by dissolving in drops of water on the leaf and turning into sulfuric acid. "Freckles" on rose leaves following use of sulfur spray are burned dead spots from sulfuric acid burn. Leaves will live a short while and drop off.

REMARKS ON DOWNY MILDEW

The past year we have been hearing of a strange and devastating form of mildew that is appearing in our area on roses. It has been identified as Downy Mildew and in no way does it resemble the powdery mildew we know so well. According to local rosarians it first appears on lush, new growth having formed buds. Leaf discoloration begins on the under side with black and purple spotting that develops in an area between two or more leaf veins and having the ends somewhat angled as a quadrilateral parallelogram. This defines it from the well known blackspot markings. There is a yellowing of the leaves that moves rapidly and they drop off quickly with the slightest movement of the plant. Lesions will also appear on the canes and the tips of the canes will turn mushy and die, somewhat resembling Fire Blight on apple and pear trees.

It was first thought that we got this fungal spore on roses imported from the west coast, and some could well have arrived. We have had mild winters the last two years that have been very ideal for all kinds of mildew.

1. Cool nights (40°- 60°F)
2. Warm days (70°- 80°F)
3. 85% or more humidity
4. Dew on foliage

Any mildew fungus becomes less active when any to the above requirements are not met. It is more likely that we have had some of the Downy Mildew present in some of our own rose beds for several years and our recent weather conditions have caused it to develop. So, before we point a finger at anyone else we need to practice a little ounce of prevention.

If you suspect that you may have "downy" clean the area of old rose foliage & debris where the spores can harbor - **CLEANLINESS.**

DORMANT SPRAY roses with the old fashioned "clean-up spray" of Bordeaux Mixture. It is a mixture of copper sulfate and lime mixed with water. It should be remembered that in our climate we should use any copper sprays in the summertime when temperatures are 80°+, and sulfur sprays when all temperatures are under 80°F. This would be a mixture similar to Bordeaux and more familiar as "lime-sulfur" mix. Bordeaux Mixture was used in the vineyards of France in the 1800's as a spray to discourage the theft of grapes. In 1882 a scientist (Millardet) reported it protected plants from downy mildew.

For the past two decades we have become very lax in using "clean-up sprays. They seemed unnecessary, although I still have used one from time to time and thought it prevented problems. In January each year I purchased a product from the nursery called **CALSUL**, made by the DEXOL Corp. It is, so far as I have ever known, the only satisfactorily blended mix of lime & sulfur available for home use. When downy mildew was suspect I have used this as a spray (1½ Tbsp. per gal. water) and never had any problems. It also has a very long shelf life. Further preventatives are provision of **AIR CIRCULATION** around the roses and early program of **PREVENTATIVE SPRAYING.**

Modern science has offered us several choices of chemicals to help control Downy Mildew. The best practice is to have the material on the plant when the spores come. After infection is really a bit late, but not always fatal if caught in time. There are several products labeled effective but some have been recently removed and others are hard to find or impossibly expensive. RIDOMIL, RIDOMIL MZ58, PACE and DITHANE M45 may be found locally. Kimbrew-Walter Roses Rt. 2, Box 172, Grand Saline TX 75140, can provide RIDOMIL at the present time and can ship it to you (ph:903/829-2968).

Remember that simply pulling up the plant infected is not enough. Clean up all debris and destroy it, examine the under sides of the rose leaves for discolored areas and remove them and from all surrounding bushes. The same goes for cutting off canes or stems with black or purple spots.

The happy news is that Downy Mildew **is NOT ACTIVE when the temperatures climb above 80°F!** So, now is the time to study up on this possible problem so you will not panic next fall or winter if you find it.

At the American Rose Society South Central Region's Consulting Rosarians' Workshop in Arlington TX, June 5th, 1993, the most informative part of the program was the in depth study of Downy Mildew led by Dr. Larry Barnes, Plant Pathologist, A & M Extension Service.

If you prefer to purchase one of the mentioned chemical sprays or if you use an "old timey" clean-up spray is up to you but do use a cleanup spray of some kind!

-- Margaret Sharpe

ROSE CUTTINGS TAKEN IN THE SUMMER

We all know we have many chances to get cuttings we want "out of season", and summer is considered "not the season." All I have to say to that is one BIG **"N O T!"** Softwood cuttings will root just fine if one uses good judgement. First of all, the summer bloomers are either China roses or in some way related and they bloom best in the summer. Noisettes and Teas are related to Chinas, so there is a good chance your cutting may be one of them. The thing to watch is whether or not the rose is a once flowering spring bloomer - these are best left to fall planting, but worth a try anyway. A softwood cutting is one from the tip of the stem that may have a spent bloom on it - new wood, so to speak. Once flowering roses may grow well in the summer but do not want to initiate new growth, like bloom buds or make roots. China, Teas and Noisettes that are growing on budded roots do not affect their making roots in warm soil but you may not find blooms on them because their rootstocks, for the most part, don't like warm soil and hesitate to produce good blooms in the heat.

Cuttings only need to be long enough to have about 2 leaf joints underground and 2 or 3 above, with leaves on at least one. Just be sure the stem from whence it came has bloomed. No need to grow a rosebush that won't bloom because it hasn't the gene that turns on flowers! Be sure you put the cutting in water (or, better still, Willow Water) for 4 to 8 hours before putting it in to root. (Some prefer to buy Rootone and stick the end of the cutting in it before putting it in to root. This contaminates the Rootone and ruins the whole batch for future use. Pour a little of the powder into a Coke cap or something to use it and discard it when through.) If you use a rooting medium you still need to let the cutting "drink" all the water it can before putting it in to root - Willow Water has all the goodies besides the water. If you're not "organic" you can use 1 regular strength plain asperin per 1/2 gal. of water in place of the Willow Water.

I set my cuttings in a reasonably sanitary commercial potting soil, such as Peters Potting Mix, in a black plastic flower pot set in a pot dish that will hold some water. I fill the pot with the potting

soil and pour Willow Water over it to settle it, adding more of either if necessary. You may want to just put the cutting in the rose bed if you have real good organic, clean soil but you still need to water it well first. Get some washed mortar sand and a piece of broom handle. Push the broom handle in the soil (in pot or bed) about as deep as your cutting is long, then pour sand into the hole to fill it. Pour a little water on top to wet the sand. Push the eraser end of a pencil into the wet sand only deep enough to allow the cutting to be covered to the above ground leaf joints. Add more sand and water to make the cutting firm and steady.

Using a soft drink 2 liter plastic bottle and a hot knife blade, cut the bottom off the bottle at the bottom of the straight sides of the bottle. Remove and save the bottle cap. Place the bottle over the cutting like a dome. Sit the pot on its pot dish in a well protected location where sun will never shine on it directly, but where it will get lots of light. The object now is to keep the leaf alive and growing on the top of the cutting. Water to keep the soil moist but not sopping wet. Some water should be in the dish under the pot but the pot may be removed if the soil seems to be too wet, or if it rains. The biggest job in the summertime is monitoring the moisture for the hair-fine roots will die if allowed to get too dry only one time. They will also die if covered with water too long to stop oxygen from reaching the roots.

As soon as you can see a tiny bud forming at the axil of the leaf and the stem of the cutting you know you have roots. DO NOT DIG TO FIND THE ROOTS. Hopefully, the leaf will remain to nourish the cutting. When a second set of leaves appears new growth has begun. You can remove the dome for a few hours daily while monitoring the moisture, and gradually harden the cutting off in this way. As it gets larger it may be moved more into exposed light and air circulation. In about 5 to 6 months the cutting should either be planted in a larger pot or moved into the ground.

It is best to keep a cutting in a large pot that can be moved around the yard to find the location it likes best to grow. It can be taken indoors if the winter weather gets too extreme, but we generally leave cuttings outdoors all winter in this area.

As Léonie Bell has said many times, any rose with a dose of China or Tea genes will have good roots in 5 weeks.

(The following are notes taken from an article by Mitzi VanSant that appeared in The Heritage Roses Letter of February 1984. Mitzi was the Southcentral Regional Co-ordinator several years and her old rose plantings around her Austin TX home was renown. She held a very responsible position in the Health profession but delighted in her roses. She took the initiative to restore the original rose beds that again grace the entrance to the Texas Capitol at Congress Avenue. She now lives in California where she is again active in old roses. This is one of the best articles on displaying our old roses in our area that we have. If you wish a copy I will be glad to mail you one for 50¢ to cover the costs.)

- Editor

WALLS/HOUSES

- For house walls, one should choose climbers of moderate vigor and those not excessively woody so that pruning is simplified.
- When growing roses on the walls of a house, it is best to construct trelliswork so that foliage is held at least 4" away from the surface. This will increase air circulation and discourage fungal disease.
- On some surfaces such as brick, stone, and others which do not require painting, they may be attached by "eyes" or nails or wires.
- Growing roses on walls will necessitate pruning some of the oldest wood away to encourage new growth from the base to avoid "legginess" and bareness at the bottom.
- In covering large areas, it is best to plant beneath windows and train canes laterally. This will encourage side shoots, allow more complete coverage and increase blooms.
- One can cover an entire wall, accentuating positive architectural details, or downplay or hide poorly planned areas. Example: grow roses up a corner of the house and along the overhang, or give some support, up and over a doorway.
- Growing roses on south and southwest walls can provide the protection needed for tender varieties in borderline climates. (Examples: Teas, Noisettes, Banksians, Mermaid.)

SUGGESTED VARIETIES

HOUSE WALLS - Climbing Teas/Noisettes like Celine Forestier, Gloire de Dijon, Madam Alfred Carriere, Sombruiel, Reve d'Or; Hybrid Tea Climbers as Cl. Shot Silk, Cl. Dainty Bess, Cl. Crimson Glory - yellow or white Banksians, New Dawn, Cl. Cécile Brunner

GARDEN WALLS - Above roses, Ramblers, Hybrid Musks, Felicité et Perpetué, Mme Plantier.

In 1933 Mr. Samuel E. Asbury, of A&M College Station TX, inquired of Mr. J. M. Ramsey, then President of Ramsey's Austin Nursery, established in 1975, what the most popular roses were through the years to the current date. He responded that varieties of a generation before were limited in number and quality compared to 1933. There was, however a great rage for Moss Roses, which were very inferior bloomers. Both the pink and white "Malmaison Roses" were good but not propagated much anymore. They were called "Cabbage Roses."

The fragrant pink 'La France' continued to be well liked. 'Etoile de Lyon' and 'Pearl of the Garden', both yellow, were about the only yellows known but neither were still being propagated. The Cherokee Rose was extensively used for a climber and for hedges. Several other varieties were used, some having local names, that he did not think anyone could identify. (Editor: 'Grus an Teplitz' was sure to have been one of the unidentifiable.)

He names the 'Seven Sisters', which he believed to be 'Madam Greville', "a strong climber, pink, blooming in clusters." Other climbers were 'LaMarque', "and a little later the 'Marechal Niel', a yellow."

In the Ramsey catalog of 1879 names roses Mr. Samuel Ramsey had never heard before: 'Gem of the Prairie' - red cluster; 'Pink Daily' - profuse bloomer; 'Bella' - a pure white; 'Safrano' - bright apricot, turning to fawn; 'Beauty of Waltham' - bright rosy crimson; 'John Hopper' - deep rose, crimson center; 'Luxembourg' - salmon, buff, coppery hue, peculiar and very large ("still about best of its kind in 1934.")

'Madam Plantier' - pure white;
'Baltimore Belle' - climber, white with bluish center.
'Souv. de la Malmaison' - "cabbage roses" in both pink and white;
'Seven Sisters' - see above. pink clusters.

In the 40 years between 1894 and 1934 the following were listed as being the most popular "but not sure of their order of popularity, or time sequences."

'Etoile de Lyon', yellow
'American Beauty', red
'Dorothy Perkins' pink climber
'Helen Gould', pink
'Radiance' - Pink & Red
'Talisman' and "Pres. Hoover" - Blends

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