

The Old Texas Rose

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SUMMER 1994

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15TH ANNUAL ROSE RUSTLE OCTOBER 22ND

Plans for our Fall 1994 Rustle are being finalized but we are reasonably certain that the date will be Saturday, October 22nd, and that we will begin 9:30 am with cutting and plant swap similar to last year. It will be followed by browsing the grounds and then eating picnic lunches. By 1pm we should be leaving to follow a map you will receive to visit some special rose plantings. These will be announced in the Fall OLD TEXAS ROSE in detail.

The Fall Rose Rustle is the Annual Meeting of this organization and there will be some important announcements and it is likely we will vote on some matter(s) of importance. This is the only meeting we have at which any business is conducted, but it never takes long. The rest of the time we follow our Constitution & Bylaws, and our Standing Rules. Any member wishing a copy of these to keep may contact the Editor. They were revised Summer 1990, when the Standing Rules were reviewed and found adequate.

CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE

To determine when you are to renew your subscription and membership in the Texas Rose Rustlers see your address label on the front of the last issue you received. To the right of your name & address is a code that will be one of the following: **F 94** - Fall 1994 **W 95** - Winter 1995, **SP95** - Spring 1995, **SU95** - Summer 1995. If yours is marked with a colored pen it is the final issue you will receive under your current membership. You may renew your membership up until 5 days of the mailing of the next issue. You may restore membership by sending it in after the next issue is mailed but any issue you missed must be requested, or you may order one if you do not want it deducted from your newly paid dues for \$1 each.

We cannot mail billing invoices as we have no service for this and our volunteer time is as full as our Antique Rose growing time. Coloring the expiration issue label as we mail the newsletters is as near as we can come to sending out invoices.

SUMMER GATHERING SATURDAY, JULY 30TH AT HICKORY HOLLOW RESTAURANT Program 1 pm - 3 pm

You may arrive anytime after Noon if you wish to order a lunch of their delicious Bar-B-Que, or anything you like.

Hickory Hollow is on the northwest corner of Heights Blvd. and Center St. This is one block north of Washington and next to "Joshua's Native Plants and Garden Antiques." A nicely landscaped parking lot is between the two buildings.

This is near downtown Houston. There is a large screen TV in the Restaurant that we will view Peter Beale's film on old rose gardens, and also VCR of the National Trust's on the 3 finest gardens in England, Hidcote Manor, Sissinghurst, and Mottesfont Abbey. We will have a private room and can enjoy food and drink while we view in air conditioned comfort. If you wish to bring any cuttings or plants to swap you may feel free.

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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
SECRETARY	Mrs. S.J. Derby, 12431 Broken Bough, Houston TX 77024	713/461-6886
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

ROSE RUSTLERS STRIKE AT WILLIAMSBURG

WILLIAM C. WELCH

An unscheduled stop for several Southern Garden History members attending the annual meeting in Williamsburg, VA, was the Dora Armistead garden on Duke of Gloucester Street. The home is one of a handful of Victorian structures still remaining in the historic district and has fallen into a state of benign neglect. Fortunately, the owner, Judge Robert T. Armistead, has allowed the roses in the garden to remain and provided occasional pruning. According to Judge Armistead the present home was built in 1890 on foundations of a 1715 home in which George Washington was said to have once slept. Dora Armistead was a good gardener and had a nephew who was a botanist.

There were several roses in full bloom, one of which I consider to be a major find. For years I have searched for the climbing form of 'Cramoisi Superieur', a robust dark red China rose. The bush form is frequently found on old home sites, cemeteries and similar locations throughout the South. Although I have seen references to the climbing form it has eluded me till now.

Quite often old roses are found at abandoned sites in less than ideal condition. It is not common to find one in splendid form and flower. The specimen had been carefully trained to shade the large front porch and that it has done! Judge Armistead adds that this rose has been very vigorous, sometimes climbing well on to the roof of the porch. It is not quite so large now because it froze back severely several years ago. He speculates that Dora Armistead planted it in the 1890's.

It wasn't difficult to infect SGHS members Steve Wheaton, Peggy Newcomb and Peter Scharr with my enthusiasm for this rose. Rumor has it that these members (until now highly respected) left Williamsburg with a few carefully selected cuttings. We have also heard that a few snippings have made it to Texas.

My first reference to this rose was in an article published in the San Antonio Express (September 2, 1934) and the Dallas Morning News, (Dec. 16, 1934) by Adina de Zavala. Miss de Zavala was chairman of Texas Centennial Commission and was encouraging Texans to plant roses to celebrate the state's

upcoming centennial celebration in 1936. Adina related her memories of conversations with her grandmother, Emily West de Zavala and visits to her garden originally begun in the early 1830's soon after Emily's husband Lorenzo returned from a stint as ambassador to France from Texas. He also served as vice president for the newly formed Republic of Texas. While in France Lorenzo was reported to have received gifts of new China roses to take back to his home in Texas.

Adina specifically mentions the climbing form of 'Cramoisi Superieur' being planted on one of the columns of the plantation house. Her recollections preceed the actual introduction of this rose that follow.

Greg Grant's files on red China roses include two climbing forms of 'Cramoisi Superieur', 'Rev. James Sprunt', by Sprunt in 1858 and Cl. 'Cramoisi Superieur' by Coutourier in 1885. Rev. Sprunt was a Presbyterian clergyman of Kenansville, NC. Peter Henderson, well known author and plantsman of the period introduced the rose.

Two early Texas nurseries listed these roses Gilbert Onderdonk's Mission Valley Nurseries in 1888 and William Watson's Rosedale Nurseries of Brenham in 1899. These two forms may be the same, both being climbing sports of the well known shrub 'Cramoisi Superieur'.

In his book Shrub Roses of Today, Graham Stuart Thomas says about this rose, "The climbing form 'Cramoisi Supereieur Grimpante' is a magnificent plant for a sunny wall; Tom Smith mentioned in his catalogue of 1912 that he had "seen the whole front of a two story house completely covered with the climbing 'Cramoisi' whose flowers are continually produced all season through."

One reason for my excitement over this rose is that there are few old roses that are truly red in color and even fewer climbers. Since China roses are usually profuse rebloomers it could be a very useful plant for period or modern gardens.

The Armistead garden contained several other roses, all apparently old and interesting. On a small side porch and valiantly trying
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ROSE RUSTLERS STRIKE AT WILLIAMSBURG

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to deal with a very shady location was what I believe is 'Jeanne D'Arc, a pure white Noisette introduced in 1848 and known for its intense fragrance and handsome red hips (fruit). Off the end of the front porch is an old Tea rose that may be 'Duchesse de Brabant' (1857), a creamy pink rose frequently worn in the lapel of Teddy Roosevelt. Judge Armistead adds that this Tea rose may have been planted in the 1930's but could have been moved from another site on the property. Over the fence in the back yard was a nice specimen of Rosa roxburghii, better known as the "Chestnut Rose."

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Bordering a wooded area in back was a beautiful rosy-pink shrub I could not identify but believe it to be one of the old Gallica roses. These highly fragrant roses bloom for a month or more each spring and are sufficiently tough to endure neglect for many years.

We hope that the cuttings of our climbin red China will root and that plants will become available through Barnsley Gardens in Georgia (Steve Wheaton), Monticello (Peggy Newcomb) and other sources. Meanwhile, I will appreciate any additional information on this beautiful rose that may help to document its past.

NOTES FROM THE BOOK OF ROSES, FRANCIS PARKMAN, 1866

Recently I was fortunate enough to find a fine copy of Parkman's book on Roses, considered to be the best on the subject in the mid 1800's. It was most interesting to read of his experiences growing roses and learning about them from some of his well known contemporaries such as Thomas Rivers and J.P. Vibert, William Paul and others. It is also interesting to read the ideas he and others had about the botanical steps in hybridization as compared with the scientific knowledge we have today.

It has always puzzled me why the Hybrid Perpetuals became so famous in the mid 19th Century only to drop from favor slowly by the mid 20th Century. The same was true of the Bourbon Roses and, more recently some Noisettes are drifting away. Hybrid Perpetuals may be traced back to the Portland Rose, that has a mottled history. It came from England to Paris and was carried in Dupont's nursery in 1809 under the name of 'Duchess of Portland.' She could have found it in Italy where it was named 'Rosa Paestana' and grew in the vicinity of Paestum. It was considered to be a cross

between a French rose and Autumn Damask. It is bright red to scarlet and blooms twice a year if properly pruned. Redouté's picture shows it a China-Damask-French hybrid. Roses in Italy were largely grown outdoors in sun and warmth. The dwarf habit of the Portland and the color of red suggests it could have been crossed with 'Slater's Crimson.'

Beginning 1837 Laffay, a French rose breeder crossed many Chinas with Damasks, Bourbons and other types to produce Hybrid Perpetuals that often had continuous seasonal bloom. The finest example is his 'Rose de la Reine'. It is believed that he produced these from seeds from Hybrid Chinas (Bourbon-French) selfed and crossed with Portlands and Bourbons. This explains why many early and a few late crosses were not truly perpetual. Loss of size of Tea blooms caused many later crosses to use Teas, which by then were mixes of any and everything. When Hybrid Teas were crossed with Hybrid Chinas there seemed to be more bloom but the Autumn Damask crosses were hardier. Inbreeding took its toll. ¶

SUMMER GATHERING (Continued from page 1)

Opportunities will be plentiful in the fall for you to visit old rose gardens and learn how they are designed and planted. We hope to be able to visit several English Rose Gardens that you have never had an opportunity to see. More about that at the Rustle and in the

spring. We may also have a chance to have a hand in the restoration of an historic rose garden this winter, too. We will be talking about it at our Gathering July 30th. We will also have opportunities to gather some unexpected cuttings. ¶

EVERBLOOMING ROSES

by Georgia Torrey Drennan

(Continuation of chapters from this famous out-of-print 1912 book on Southern Rose Culture until 1990 when Dr. Wm. C. Welch authored "Antique Roses for the South.")

"ROSES FROM CUTTINGS"

Everblooming roses, almost without exception, root readily from cuttings. It is the most usual and successful mode of propagation. Layering and budding are methods that suit the trade but are not so well suited to amateurs. There are some roses in all classes that are obstinate about rooting from cuttings. 'Perle des Jardins,' the beautiful yellow Tea, is an example; it neither roots readily nor grows well from cuttings. It has to be budded on hardy stock. It is advisable in cases like this to get budded plants from the florist.

There are several methods of propagation from cuttings. The time of the year makes some difference, and the quality of material on hand makes still greater difference.

In late autumn, when roses are cut back for the winter, or even where plenty of long cuttings may be taken from plants and vines that are not to be severely pruned, and not missed, it is a good plan to cut them one foot or more in length, of ripened and dormant wood. Such strong cuttings make good-sized rose bushes in one year. Select sound, healthy branches with well-developed buds, and with a sharp knife cut slanting, upward, just below a bud. Bury the cuttings in a well-drained, sunny place. Press the soil, which should be free from obstructions of any kind, firmly around the lower end, and up to a few buds at the terminus, above ground.

Cuttings of this length extend far enough down to reach the source of moisture, and to be in an even temperature, for the roots to form. The lower ends are below the surface fluctuations of heat and cold. The ends, from one to three buds, above ground, should have dry leaves or straw lightly heaped over them, and a glass bell or a glass fruit jar turned over them and the edges pressed firmly in the ground. The principle upon which the glass jar or bells act is that of enclosing a complete stratum of air, the body of air being entirely shut off from the surrounding atmosphere, and as air is a bad conductor of heat, the warmth of the

interior is retained. Whatever prevents the radiation of heat from the interior to the exterior atmosphere, through the conducting agency of glass, decreases in the same ratio the amount of required heat. In short, the cuttings are in a little hot-house, impervious to cold. The dry leaves, or straw, prevent sun-scald of the tender growth, which is sure to begin before time to remove the glass coverings in spring. To be sure, this is a crude method, but productive of good results, and highly to be recommended. This way of rooting roses from long, hardwood cuttings saves material that would otherwise go to waste, when the plants are cut back in autumn. The best plan is to select eligible positions for the cuttings, let them remain, forming rose bushes not to be transplanted. The only work necessary when cutting from rooted plants, will be to enrich and work the surface soil.

Danske Danridge gives excellent directions for rooting cuttings of roses, as practiced successfully in her Virginia garden:

"Select a good piece of land, preferable in the vegetable garden; if partially shaded by young trees so much the better. Dig it deep and intermix some gritty substance. Plant the cuttings in short rows about a foot apart. Cut a niche with the spade about eight inches deep. Fill the niche with sand. Insert the cuttings in this niche by pushing them down until about an inch of their ends are left out of the ground. Then fill the row with cuttings, tread the soil firmly up against the latter and after levelling proceed to cut the next niche. Select cuttings from growth made early this year, and wherever possible with a heel. From six to eight inches is a good length for them."

The season makes a difference. During the spring and summer, I like the method given in "Practical Floriculture," of taking cuttings of new, tender growth, at a stage that snaps and breaks when bent. The tender cuttings need not be over an inch

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Everblooming Roses.

or two in length. They are rooted in small shallow vessels of wet sand. The roots form as readily almost as those of geraniums, begonias or other soft-wood bedding plants. The sand must never get dry, and the shallow vessels must have a few hours of direct sunshine every day.

Short cuttings, with from one to three buds, cut with a heel, or just below a bud, had better be given protection, if rooted in pots, in a sunny window, or better still, in a cold frame. A little trench across the bottom, back and forth, with sand in the bottom, and the cuttings set in it, with the earth pressed firmly around them, the full length of the trenches, furnishes just the medium required. Cuttings may be set in pots of sand and light friable compost, and be plunged in the cold frame, with certainty of rooting. Potted cuttings are more easily transplanted in spring without disturbing the roots than those what have to be lifted with a trowel from the earth.

In the gentle heat of the hothouse, roses root quite amicably on the cutting bench with all other hard-wood cuttings. Special care in setting them out in spring must be observed as they leave the hothouse as tender as soft wood bedding plants. The showery weather of the last of April is ideal in southern gardens; May the favourable time in northern gardens for transplanting to the open border.

The one point I would urge to reiteration is the importance of selecting everblooming roses. They are the most available for rooting from cuttings at any season of the year, and by any mode of procedure. Long or short cuttings, old or new wood, even withered roses if the stem has a bud, will root with ordinary care, and the plants grow faster and bloom sooner than the very best kinds that have no relationship to the everblooming Tea roses.

LAYERING

There is an ingenious method of layering that has superseded the old way of bending down and burying a branch of rose-bush or vine. It consists of a small-sized pot of earthen ware with a slit an inch wide down one side and half across the bottom, which is slipped

over the base of a healthy branch.

Just below a leaf or bud the branch is cut half way through; the pot filled with sandy of light, friable soil, is secured to the main branch of the rose by wires, and kept watered until roots appear. The rooted branch is then cut from the plant. It is more troublesome than rooting roots from cuttings. It will never be generally adopted. For some reason, other hard-wood plants respond more readily to this treatment than roses. Ficus elastica and Oleander will root in a fortnight. The branches are simply bound in a cushion of wet moss that fills the pots, and the roots soon appear. A rose branch will callous slowly, and stand slowly, and stand for three months without roots.

Propagation by layers was much more adopted before everblooming roses became so popular. The old method is so well known it needs no recounting, but there is a way of increasing plants from one root that I have practised and have never seen in print. With roses that branch freely low down, the lower branch may be partly cut from the main root and the earth hilled up around it, pressed firm and kept moist, and in the course of several months the shoot will be well enough rooted to be detached and set in the border. Sometimes the branch is slightly drawn to one side, but not laid down. This method is quite successful with roses that naturally incline to self-propagation by forming side shoots that make roots near the surface of the soil. Although it is uncommon, 'Blanche Moreau', 'Perpetual White Moss', 'Madam Masson', 'Madam Charles Wood', 'Mabel Morrison', 'Champion of the World' and the hybrid rugosas show this inclination.

Whether from wood of the current year's growth, or tender young shoots, from layers or root divisions, have none but the most vigorous with bark and leaf buds perfectly sound and healthy; propagate from stock that is without blemish. Remember Elizabeth's experience with sick 'Dr. Grill' and throw away every weakling. Plant no young rose but the very healthiest and sprightliest.

Elizabeth says: "I had been quite excited about 'Dr. Grill'; his descriptions in the catalogues being especially fascinating.

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Everblooming Roses.

He had the best place in the garden -- warm, sunny and sheltered; his holes were prepared with the tenderest care; he was given the daintiest mixture of compost, clay, and manure; he was watered assiduously, all through the drought, when more willing flowers got nothing; and he refused to do anything but look black and shriveled; he did not die, neither did he live. He simply existed, and at the end of summer had not one more leaf or shoot than when he was first put out in April."

As 'Dr. Grill' is an American rose, he may have been afflicted in the German Garden with homesickness; or not acclimated. In the face of the fact that Dr. Grill is one of the freest and finest Tea roses in existence the probability is that Elizabeth had hold of a plant rooted from a sickly cutting. Such weak or diseased plants should not encumber the ground. They should be uprooted and destroyed. Sound, healthy specimens prove Mr. Peter Henderson correct in saying there is not a poor relation in the Rose family.

Through the works on husbandry of Varro, Columello, Pliny and Theophrastus, the rose receives marked attention. Both methods, budding and rooting from cuttings, were practiced by the Greeks and Romans for propagation.

Growing roses from cuttings was the only method recommended by Varro, who wrote elaborately on the cultivation of roses, as well as other matters connected with Hortus, or the garden, "a place where the Gods are willing to meet and commune with man."

PRUNING ROSES

The kind of roses to prune, as well as the time and method of pruning, must be borne in mind. The Hybrid Tea, Polyantha Simplex, Bengal and Bourbon require less pruning than Hybrid Remontant and Hybrid Rugosa roses.

Thinning out, or cutting away weak and unfruitful branches and clipping off any outgrowth that gives the bush a bad form, is necessary once a year at least, with everblooming roses of every group. Diseased branches are infectious. They should be cut off, down to one or two buds from the roots, if they are main

branches; if superfluous, they should be cut off entirely and not allowed to sprout again.

Perhaps it is better to err on the side of too severe pruning where roses are kept under exitinc culture. As a rule the strong growing Tea, Hybrid Tea, Polyantha Tea, Bourbon and Bengal roses bushes should be less severely pruned than those of weaker growth. A little at a time but often is a good rule during the season of blooming; every withered cluster, panicle or individual rose should be cut off, with several inches of stem. Weak plants should be pruned severely.

There is never much hope for weak or diseased roses. They had better rotate the ground to some healthy plant of another class as a rule but there are exceptional cases. Cut down to the first or second bud from the ground and given a rest, rose bushes will sometimes make vigorous new growth and become perfectly healthy. It is best to apply fertilizers to such plants in proportion to growth, being careful to give no more at each stage of growth than can be assimilated.

The strongest plants of the Hybrid Remontants need the most severe pruning. They are inclined to rampant growth, and are sometimes straggling and uneven. Pruning in all such cases should be done on sound wood, even it but a stump of the plant is left. The deadened top does not indicate the true condition of the plant. The vigour of the plant lies in the roots. Any rose bush with a vigorous root system will make vigorous growth and soon recover branches that were cut away. What is first an effect afterwards becomes a cause. Thrifty root growth produces luxuriant branch growth; then the foliage of the branches conveys to the roots the carbonic acid derived from the atmosphere, which supports the heavy growth of summer. This is the final balance between root and branch growth. The size of the rose bush is proportioned to the surface of the organs which are destined to convey food to it; a new mouth and a new organ for assimilating food is gained with every new fibre of root and every new leaf.

The uninitiated wonder at the prodigality of florists in cutting away branches covered with buds and apparently in fine condition, to produce roses. The florists know that the

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part of the rosebush which makes the clump or shrub in the spring does not bear the roses, but buds that grow into branches of new wood which will be set with flowers. When dormant the rose bush will show these buds all along the stems. The number of incipient buds being too great, the nourishment as they develop, furnished by the roots, is so divided that each bud receives too little and, consequently, its growth into new wood is slow and unproductive of fine roses.

One object of pruning is to get rid of the buds and at the same time admit light and air to the foliage of the plant. Almost every amateur has been impressed with the superior size and vigour of roses grown by commercial florists. The plants seem reduced to sticks and stumps in autumn, but in mid-winter, in hothouses, and in summer in the garden, glorious roses are produced. It is well to remember that florists use sharp knives or shears in pruning roses. Rough and ragged cuts heal slowly and consume too much sap in making recovery. Make the cut smooth and clean.

Amateurs are more independent than commercial rose growers. Amateurs have only themselves to please. Florists must have what the public demands; they must grow what people want and have roses that last well and ship well; their business is very much confined to cut roses, which must be perfect in form and size. Amateurs prefer roses in rich profusion, reasonably perfect when cut but beautiful by bright and varied colors for garden ornamentation. The florists are the teachers yet amateurs must modify their rules for pruning, adapting the means to the end. There is an old Latin proverb; "In media est veritas" - Truth is between extremes. Not to prune at all or not enough makes badly balanced bushes and shabby roses. To undertake to prune as florists do may defeat the end, by reason of the misapplication of the fertility, water, sunlight and air which amateurs rarely understand or take pains to regulate, but which professionals adjust with precision to the severely pruned rose bush.

Sir Reynolds Hole's finest roses, he asserted, were produced the season following the night when a hungry donkey by chance was shut in the rose garden. Had the fact not been already well known that roses bloom better for severe

pruning the hungry donkey and the Dean's "rose trees" might have become a classic among the great accidental discoveries of science.

The time to prune in southern gardens is from October to midwinter. When frost falls, and the dead annual flowers, herbaceous and soft wood plants have their tops cut away, fallen leaves raked off and the garden enriched and put in prime condition, the roses ought to have their annual pruning.

"Severe" and "generous" are terms used for the methods of "short" pruning, which is to cut away every branch almost to the lower buds near the ground.

"Long" pruning is simply to cut away all wood that is old, diseased, or dead, and merely clip the ends of the healthy growth of the current year. This method is applied to the Tea strain of roses. Every withered rose of every class should be cut off except where hips are wanted to ripen for seed.

The old Moorish method of inducing roses to repeat their blooms in autumn was to burn the bushes to the ground. Ebu Alwan quotes the Chaldaie and Arabian writers on this: "If you wish roses to bloom in August, burn the old branches to the ground, moisten the soil for eight consecutive days and then suspend watering. Alternate these periods of moisture and drought as many as five times and in about sixty days vigorous branches will shoot up from the roots and in due time be loaded with roses, without impairing the ability of the plant the following spring."

The above applied to the almost frostless climate of southern Europe and to roses that bloomed but once a year. To know that such tedious methods were resorted to brings us to a realising sense of the blessings we enjoy in the numerous and beautiful everblooming roses with autumn as truly their bloom time as well as spring and summer.

No rose can do itself justice without free circulation of sunlight and air. Left too much to natural growth they form too many central branches that are weak and profitless for want of sunlight and air; thinning out the central branches is lifegiving to rose bushes and rose vines.

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Everblooming Roses.

Climbing roses require more or less pruning according to environment. If they have space and it is not necessary to restrict them in climbing, once a year is often enough to thin out the branches. It is better to cut unnecessary branches entirely off close to the body of the vine than to cut them back so they will multiply new shoots. Climbing roses suffer in the end by too close training indoors and out.

At Reading, England, a famous Crimson Rambler was trained in the shape of a gigantic crown. The third year the branches had to be cut out and the plant trained to a high, wide support that admitted air and sunlight. In the whilom (archaic for "former"- ed.) gardens of the old south climbing roses used to be trained in basket forms, round and oval, each with an arched handle of long branches. They were bright baskets of roses and green foliage for a few years. After that the wood died out and had to be cut away.

Other considerations favourable, it is the severerly fall-or-winter pruned roses of the out-door garden that bloom most profusely and that have the largest and finest flowers.

The 'Lord Penzance' Hybrids, like all the Briars, are difficult subjects for pruning. Some experts recommend two sets of plants in the garden, pruned on alternate year's growth for the Briars to recover their loss of wood. In Colonial grandmother's time I judge the Sweetbriars were seldom, if ever pruned, for in an old spelling book long out of print are these lines: "I passed by the garden.

Saw the Sweet Briar, the Thorn,
The Woodbine grow higher and higher."

The rule with raspberries, country cousins of the Sweet Briar, is to cut out every shoot that has borne and cut back or crop the new growth. There is now an everblooming 'Queen of the Prairie' (*Rosa setigera*) and the same rule holds good for it as for 'Baltimore Belle', 'Maines's Blush', 'Fortune's Double Yellow' and others of the spring blooming climbing roses. The vines should be pruned in July, just after the heavy floresence of June. The oldest branches should be cut away leaving only the vigorous shoots and branches that are disposed to throw out new growth.

'Queen of the Prairie' is a rapid, robust vine and the new growth advances so rapidly

The 'Lawrienciana', or 'Picayune' rose, with four to six, ovate-acuminate leaflets, not evergreen but persisting until freezind weather, may be pruned into almost any fancy form. Cut, a little at a time all through the summer, the dark shining foliage and bright pink roses put forth again and again with undiminished vigour. Clipping every shoot that is longer than another and keeping the rose bush perfectly symmetrical whatever the shape this "picayune" rose makes an ornament for the garden so striking that the wonder is that it has ever fallen out of popular favour and is not seen elsewhere but in old gardens with other old fashioned plants that are still there just because they are naturally hardy and long lived.



About 1799 into 1800 AD French and English nurseries listed "fairy roses". A famous botanical artist, Mary Lawrance, was honored by having the fairy rose type named for her, *Rosa Lawrenceana*. The name "picayune" is a french word meaning trivial or small and at one time a Spanish coin representing half a real was currency in Louisiana and also other southern states that people called a "Picayune." In an 1815 botanical magazine the little rose was described as being *Rosa semperflorens minima* (an everblooming little rose) of many kinds and colors.

While the first miniature roses has not been found documented in writing botanical evidence traces it back to China. Pictured on ancient oriental drawings, they were cultivated hundreds of years. Taxonomists agree they were derived from seed selections, and blooms from single to double and white to deep pinks. No miniature roses has ever been found growing in the wild. So it is that the classification has today been changed to *Rosa chinensis minima*. Traders brought these "picayune" rose plants from the Orient by way of ports on the island of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean.

This island was a French possession and was used as an agricultural experimental station.

A RESUME OF PUBLIC ROSE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Gardens on public lands are ultimately controlled by public officials. Rose organizations offering to contribute to their supplies and maintenance sounds so wonderful in the beginning and it is rare that such offers are not accepted, and with much fanfare they are received gladly. But when the mention of using public funds that were once promised by officials something appears to destroy the project. It is bad enough when the lands are on private property and the owner also owns the roses or can legally claim them. There are gardens of Heritage Roses that are maintained by the municipal park department with the cooperative assistance of a rose group that has agreed to provide financial and labor. One day the City or County Council notes that the Rose Club members doing free work in the public rose garden as a gift to the municipality do not have insurance coverage required and they are "invited out." This raises something else, gifts of covering financial costs of fertilizers and fungus control products used on the roses. Products financed by the rose group are not approved by the governing municipal group or USDA so the decision is made to refuse all help and advice and make their own decisions using public funds to finance all rose care.

In the past 40 years I have worked with some four different efforts at public lands planting of rose gardens and have seen many things it is hard to believe. Private subdivision rose plantings and maintenance, all donated, are highly appreciated by the residents but turn into private clipping gardens for them to obtain daily flowers for their homes and even a source of supply for yard landscape roses! But the most amazing is the events now taking place in the Houston Texas Hermann Park Rose Gardens. The Gardens were offered Houston City Council by the Houston Rose Society at a time political battles were getting fomented and the rose gardens were used as a political football, so the Houston Rose Society withdrew from the scene for some years. Ultimately the Rose Society made arrangements to obtain roses at no cost to the City and supply certified engineers to supervise the making of the rose beds and pouring the sidewalks and curbing for raised rose beds. They also furnished a full time rose caretaker, a retired nurseryman, and weekly labor crews to maintain the roses.

The Rose Garden became a Public Display Garden for contributing rose growers over the country and also an All American Rose Selections Committee display garden, which it is to this time.

Recently a group has formed to renovate Hermann Park to improve its appearance and upgrade its use by the citizens. While it has grown into a very great park all has been developed under the supervision of the City Parks Department and their hired well qualified park landscapers. There has never been a certified professional company of American Society of Landscape Architects evaluate and study the park and recommend improvements and necessary changes. The new group has undertaken to make Hermann Park a state-of-the art public park and to study it closely and make educated evaluations and recommendations. To help solve drainage and parking problems there is some current talk of moving the Rose Garden from its present location to nearer the interior and provide much needed parking area more accessible from the street.

The Rose Garden is a beautiful attraction to visitors as well as Houstonians almost year around. It is widely publicized and free to visit anytime. It has taken a long time and considerable expense to make it so nice. It will be interesting to see the response of the public to the relocation of the beds. It is questionable how long it will take for new beds to produce the blooms the old ones built by rosarians display each season.

The American Rose Society main offices were located in Harrisburg, PA. As the Society grew the space became too small. Columbus, OH, was anxious for them to move into a new building in a special location in a large new park. The building would be built to their specifications and rose beds would surround it. Columbus would build a new "Columbus Park of Roses" and maintenance of both building and roses would be FREE! The American Rose Society moved into the lovely new home in December 1953. All went well for about fifteen years and things started declining. The American Rose Society decided to purchase 110 acres of land near Shreveport and build new offices and plant new rose beds for a home of their own! So far all has gone well twenty years later.

(See next page)

RESUME CONTINUED.....

Had it not been for the Shreveport (Louisiana) Rose Society the move to establish The American Rose Center would not have been possible. It always requires good planners and business minded people to make things work.

For several years the city of San Jose, CA, has been trying to develop a large parcel of land into a park called Guadalupe Gardens. No doubt the most tireless group has been the San Jose Chapter of the Heritage Rose Group who planned a world-class Heritage Rose Garden to occupy a large area in the park. In 1993 the City Council voted to allow the rose garden to be planted at the end of 1994. Many thousands of dollars have been spent on the project, and members of the South Bay Rose Group have spent many thousands of hours bringing the collection of heritage roses to the point where they should be ready for planting this winter.

The Guadalupe Gardens Project is on land that is controlled by the Federal Aviation Authority of the San Jose Airport. A disagreement has arisen between the FFA and the City Council regarding the future development of other parts of Guadalupe Gardens. The City Council has frozen funds allocated for the park until the question is settled. Meanwhile, propagating materials that have been painstakingly collected must have been used by June or lost forever!

The 1000 varieties growing in the Watsonville growing fields and the 3000 varieties in cold storage awaiting budding make up the largest collection of roses ever assembled for an American public garden. Many are from famous gardens overseas. Visitors will come from far and wide to view such a collection, a source of pride, enjoyment and income for any city. Let us hope that the San Jose City Council has not been foolish enough to wreak their power of destruction on this productive project, especially after making so many promises to the San Jose Heritage Rose Group.

This is a perfect example of the irresponsible thinking of governmental groups that handle valuable public funds, property, and cultural improvements. The South Bay HRG has raised funds to allow as many of the endangered rose varieties and rare imported ones as possible to be budded. They ask for our help by sending contributions to help with this unforeseen expense. After all, this will be a world-class heritage rose garden and South Bay HRG is a

non-profit organization in California. Checks should be made to "Guadalupe Gardens/SBHRG, P.O. Box 611991, San Jose, CA 95161-1991." You may note CA tax I.D. #77-0229267. If you wish to write a protest letter to the San Jose City Council or the FFA at the San Jose Airport you may send them to Tom Liggett, 1206 Curtiss Ave., San Jose CA 92125.

The South Bay HRG will greatly appreciate your help. After their initial experience with municipal double talk I am sure they will be alert henceforth to the wiles of politicians bent on destruction.

* * * * *

The above accounts of rose plantings are true when the support for a public rose garden is removed for whatever reasons. There is also the singleness of a private garden when it goes into wrack and ruin. Look at Gertrude Jekell and Ellen Ann Willmot & Warley Place! Sad wastes. A happier future resulted in the closing some of USDA Brookeville, MD, Rose Gardens and Rose Research fields. Part of the land once belonged to Bobbink & Atkins Rose Growers, a famous rose grower that closed in the early 1950's. The fields were not maintained and most of the old roses were cleared from the land, but the brambles grew back frequently. Nick Weber, a nurseryman, purchased the land and has been able to recover many famous old rose stock to establish a nice rose business. All roses are grown on their own roots, as many rose growers are doing today at public request. Unless he has a good supply of all varieties ordered it may require some back ordering while the rose cuttings grow. The HERITAGE ROSARIUM, 211 Haviland Mill Road, Brookeville, MD 21833. Send SASE for reply and \$3 for a catalog or listing available. It is good that this treasure of heritage roses are being so well restored and saved from oblivion for us and future generations.

Small rose groups that have never been declared a non-profit group can safely write letters of complaint to city councils that may be acting to destroy rose gardens that were given to be permanent

(next page)

RESUME CONTINUED....

park plantings on a public land as they cannot be accused of voicing a political opinion. We need to stand as watchdogs over the destruction of rose plantings and act to preserve heritage roses, both as groups (petitions) or as individuals interested in preserving our heritages. Non-profit corporations must be careful as to their protests for fear of endangering their charters. Clubs with small "fruit jar" bank accounts are freer to speak out quite effectively. Please take the opportunity of writing the San Jose, CA, city Council and FAA at the addresses listed above to "chastise" them for even thinking of stopping funds at a critical time, thereby biting the hand that feeds them by punishing the wrong benefactors. May they never do such a thoughtless money handling practice again!

GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON'S

HOUSTON BULB & PLANT MART

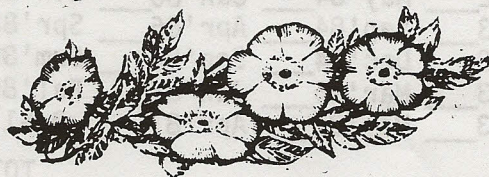
SEPTEMBER 22-24, 1994

This year the "Bulb Mart" will again be held at the Metropolitan Service Center at 1475 West Gray, about two blocks west of Waugh Drive. this is the same location it has been held for the last 3 years.

We have again been asked to cooperate in the handling of the Antique Roses Sales and Conrad Tips has agreed to chair our efforts and help with the sales and information. This is our way of cooperating with the community by doing all we can to educate the public about roses and sell all we can to increase the profits the Garden Club of Houston puts into public landscaping, City beautification, parks maintenance, and the many city improvements they initiate and maintain.

This is a real fun event and if you would help us with the sales and visitations one of the 3 days of the "Plant Mart" PLEASE give your name to Conrad Tips that he can keep track of our volunteers and their chosen schedules. We were graciously thanked by the sponsoring Garden Club for all the volunteer work we gave last year. They supplied cold drinks and snacks during the days and there were lots of people to enjoy. Be sure to sign up with Conrad any time from now until September 22nd. ¶

TRADERS' CORNER



The following members wish to have cuttings of the listed roses to add to their rose collection. Willing to exchange cuttings.

BOBBIE McKENNA - 713/682-4365

Climbing 'Étoile de Hollande'

'Guinée', 1938 Climbing HT, dark red & F.

Climbing 'Hermosa' ('Setina')

Cocktail, 1961 Shrub (Not MEImick)

'Susan Louise', 1929 Shrub

Climbing 'Iceburg', 1968 Floribunda

"Darlow's Enigma", pictured in Heirloom

Old Garden Roses, p.50 1994 cat.

¶ 'Lanvin', 1986 HT, AROlemo

'Mother's Day', Orange polyantha, sport of 1937 white HT

LUCILLE IDOM - 713/453-1274

13106 Blythe, Houston TX 77015

Would like plants or cuttings of Griffith Buck roses for the October Rustle.

ROSE RUSTLER

LAWN CARE??

A few weeks ago it was called to our attention that an advertisement was running in one of the neighborhood newspapers that is circulated in Bellaire that a company with the name of "Rose Rustler Lawn Service." We called the telephone number given to request an estimate to service our ½ acre lawn area. In no time at all a truck appeared in our driveway from which emerged a very large man who introduced himself as Michael Dugie, with his partner.

We inquired whether he was a member of the Texas Rose Rustlers or not. Of course we knew he wasn't on the roll and he readily admitted he was not, but did I know how he could join? He was told the procedure and we asked if his business name was registered in Harris County. He picked up on this very quickly and responded that he had never applied for his "DBA" permit. We told him the Rose Rustlers had and advised him to change his business name. ¶

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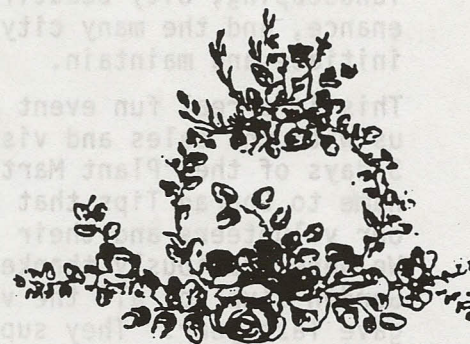
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