



VOLUME XIII

WINTER 1994

NUMBER 3

### NEWSLETTER RECOVERS

You have, I'm sure, almost given up on receiving this issue of THE OLD TEXAS ROSE! We were a bit slow in starting to write it in mid January, I'll admit, but when time to type up the material came the word processor refused to type several keys. We took it to the technician who put the machine in line to get worked on and it came back home on Valentine's Day!

You will be getting your next issue, Spring 1994, about March 15th. It will give you details of the spring events but **mark your calendar now for:**

MARCH 26 (Saturday) We're gathering at Eunice Roberts' for a fun meeting.

APRIL 16 ROSE RUSTLER SYMPOSIUM at the Community Hall in Brenham.

MAY 8th (Sunday) another Fun Gathering at Marion & Frances Brandes' in Huffman.

Maps will come in the Spring newsletter.

### LAURA LOTT PURYEAR 1921 - 1994

Laura ("Missy") Lott Puryear, lifelong resident of Navasota, TX, expired on Tuesday, February 1, 1994. She is survived by her daughter, Miss Pamela Ashworth Puryear.

### RUSTLERS TO MEET ON MARCH 26th

at

Eunice Roberts'

6845 Cayton, Houston TX  
713/643-8704

(Exit Gulf Freeway southbound at SH36, on Reville. South to Belfort, cross Belfort [on Telephone Rd.]. Fourth street on your right is Cayton, turn right to 6845, which several blocks on the corner of Cayton and Santa Fe streets - Key Map page 574 C) \*

Between now and March 26th please call the above phone number and let Eunice know if you are bringing cake or cookies or what so she will know what to plan.

Bring your cuttings, rooted or not, any rose you have potted for swapping, any questions you have or interesting things to show or tell us. WE WILL BE HAVING A PROGRAM, TOO! Bring friends with you, and remember to bring a folding chair for yourself and them too!

\* YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAP BEFORE  
MARCH 26th. \*

There are no other survivors. Cards and letters may be sent to Pam at her home, 708 North Holland, Navasota TX 77868. Graveside services were held on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 11 am. "Missy" was in the hospital at the time she expired unexpectedly.

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



## RECALLING ROSES FOUND ON THE LAST FOUR RUSTLES

Marion Brandes

In case you are now growing some of the roses we have seen on the field trip portion of our recent Rose Rustles, you may be wondering if any have been identified.

All of the roses listed below are outstanding in our local area and you can get some cuttings for your own propagation from me or other members who have them.

### 1989 Victoria (Evergreen) Cemetery

'Victoria Evergreen Red' - This dazzling red China has not been identified, but it's the same as the many red Chinas seen in 1988 in New Braunfels. It may also be the same as the one The Antique Rose Emporium (A.R.E.) sell as "Louis Philippe." It has a globular bloom opening with cupped (incurved petals) with the petal reverses much lighter. In early Spring it can show a purplish red. Foliage is small and very dark green. The bush can be easily kept to 3 ft. tall, but the old bushes in New Braunfels and Victoria were 5 ft.

'Tip-Top' (1909) - This three-colored buttonhole rose was growing at the Olga Urban grave and was 4'x 2.5'w. This Polyantha has spiral-shaped small roses with canary yellow petal reverses. The petals are pink edged creamy white. They're almost thornless and are very disease resistant. After 3 years mine are still under 2'. This rose is still out of commerce.

### 1990 San Marcos (and San Pedro) Cemetery

'San Marcos Red Perpetual' - This constantly blooming rose has not been identified, but the class is certainly Hybrid Bourbon. It is an ideal pillar rose since it is upright, narrow, and blooms after every 3" to 4" of growth. In cooler weather the color is purplish, and in the summer heat the color is red. Greengate Nursery in Seguin TX sells this rose as 'Purple Cabbage.' In Houston it suffers from blackspot if not kept sprayed and gets mildew as easily as "Maggie."

'San Pedro Pink Cluster' - This exceptional rose found in the San Pedro Cemetery has been identified as "Gartendirektor Otto Linne"(1934). A Polyantha with enormous clusters of carmine pink rosettes that hang like grape clusters from pendulous branches. The foliage is long, narrow, and extremely glossy. It can be grown as a climber or like a Hybrid Musk, but in the first two years it is very lax and will need upright support. It is a very healthy, vigorous rose.

'Texas Centennial' (1935 HT) - This rose found during the Rustle, but is still isn't in commerce and is one of the healthiest, most vigorous easiest to grow roses I have encountered.

'White Moss' - This San Pedro Cemetery rose is not a Moss. The fragrant blooms are white with buds tapered to a point; leaves are unique; occasional twin thorns in a "V" led to identification as "Banshee", a once bloomer that thrives everywhere in North America.

"Banshee" is of unknown origin and its class is not discernable, but it was listed with the American Rose Society in 1928. There were several others not in bloom during this Rustle and some members took home suckers we were digging up. Most all of these are probably Hybrid Chinas since they bloom well even in Houston, rather than Gallicas, Damasks, etc. One of these was 'Canary Islands', a pale lavender (almost blue) rose not being sold by A.R.E. Another of the Hybrid Chinas was one that blooms large purple roses, "Big Purple". The only member I know to be growing this one is Lera Barlow.

### 1992 Industry, Fayetteville and Schulenberg

"Kubena House Poly" - This tall 4 ft. Polyantha was growing at the corner of the garage in the back yard of the large Greek Revival house in Fayetteville. I might be a 1923 polyantha which is currently being sold at the A.R.E., 'Mrs R. M. Finch'. Whoever has this rose growing in their garden should compare it to help resolve its identity. The rose named Mrs. R. M. Finch is for sale by Greengate Nursery (Seguin) under the name of "W. Kresdorn"(Kresdorn is the name of a street in Seguin.)

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'Joe's Rose' - The pink Tea rose at the front of the St. Rose of Lima Cemetery we named in honor of Joe Woodard, is still unknown. This rose bush died during last year's drought, So Everyone Growing this Rose must preserve it.

Little White Pet (1897) - The white rose also at the front of the cemetery is identified. It is in commerce under this name and listed in the A.R.E. Catalog and makes an exceptional rose. Across the street from the Schulenberg cemetery at a radio station were five 6 ft. roses growing in the shade with many small single white blooms. We saw a row of these same roses growing in San Marcos, also growing in shade, at the next to last house we visited. It is definitely a Musk rose related to Nastarana in some way.

### 1992 San Felipe, Frydek and Wallis

'San Felipe White Noisette' - No clue as to its true identity, but quite a few members are growing it. We took cuttings of this one at the Mayor's garden and it has many good qualities. You should be able to grow it as a climber or a large bush. The 'Big Purple' once blooming rose we saw in the San Pedro Cemetery in 1990 was growing at the country store in San Felipe. The Tea rose growing under the tree in the Mayor's back yard turned out to be a very vigorous Maman Cochet, rather than Catherine Mermet.

'Wallis Fragrant Creme Cluster' - No progress on identification for this one either. This cluster-flowered climber is a puzzle since it doesn't resemble closely Noisettes. Climbing Polyanthas, or Hybrid Musks. I have not heard that any one's propagated cutting bloomed at any time during the first year. We'll have to wait until Spring '94.

'Aloha' (1949 Cl HT) - Very double, large bloom (40+ petals) highly fragrant, rose pink with deeper reverse (3½"- 4" dia.) The rose we found in the farmyard at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Blazek, at Frydek, between San Felipe and Wallis. Makes fine and vigorous pillar rose to about 10 ft. Quite disease resistant and cuttings root readily. May be bought from A.R.E; Teas; Heirloom OGR; Heritage Rosarium, etc.

PLEASE PASS YOUR COMMENTS ALONG TO THE OLD TEXAS ROSE newsletter ABOUT THESE AND ANY OF THE OTHERS WE HAVE COLLECTED ON OUR RUSTLES. I DO NOT FEEL WE SHARE ENOUGH OF THIS INFORMATION BY WAY OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

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### NEW ORLEANS OLD GARDEN ROSE SOCIETY

We have been trying to keep you up-to-date on the progress of this group since they are somewhat a "Rustler Baby." One of our members, Maureen Detweiler, moved to New Orleans 3 or 4 years ago and, with the help of some of her Old Rose Lover friends organized an OGR Society of NO. Maureen's enthusiasm for Old Roses is most infectious so the group has grown and the published their "Inaugural Issue" of their newsletter, "*La Rose d'Orleans*." It is a most beautiful and impressive letter, on pale pink paper and with red ink, photos, information, all beautifully graphically designed and well written.

If you wish to treat yourself to this new gem in Old Rose enthusiasm send a check for \$15 annual dues to N.O. Old Garden Rose Society, P.O. Box 51416, New Orleans LA 70151-1416. Ask for the Fall 1993 issue.

It is interesting to note that Maureen has written a wonderful article in this issue on Georgia Torrey Drennan, her favorite author. She points out that Mrs. Drennan's book, **Everblooming Roses**, was the best known book and the most widely read on rose cultivation in the Gulf Coast South until **Antique Roses for the South** written by Dr. William C. Welch in 1989. It turned out Maureen had known Torrey Drennan in New Orleans and that he is Mrs. Drennan's greatgrandson. He has an original copy of her book and was able to give Maureen much little known information about Georgia and provide leads for her to research more. She was born on her parent's plantation in Holmes County, Mississippi, December 1843. When she was 18 she married William A. Drennan and in 1895 they moved to New Orleans. In 1997 her husband died, but she continued to live in New Orleans with their seven children.

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## EVERBLOOMING ROSES, Georgia Torrey Drennan,

1912 copyright expired.

### *"Garden Culture of Roses"*

Everblooming roses are the most admirable of flowers in their adaptability to treatment. They make the science of rose culture easy to acquire. The Teas, Bourbons, Polyanthas and their Hybrids, and the ever-blooming varieties of the Hybrid Remontants are amenable to the same mode of culture, except that the Teas and Hybrid Teas require a milder climate than the others.

After careful selections of kinds, the situation dominates every other consideration. An eastern exposure is decidedly the most favourable. So situated, the roses get the morning sun, which is the most powerful agent for good. Soil can be made, but neither soil nor cultivation will overcome the disadvantages of an ill chosen position. I have never known roses to fail because of other than an eastern exposure, but they bloom earlier in the spring, better through the summer, and continue later in the fall with their faces to the sunrise.

Resist the temptation to plant roses in the most conspicuous positions regardless of other considerations. Positions near trees decidedly unfavourable. Just at a corner of a building is a poor place. The winds scurry around corners and whip the rose branches. It is a position frequently adopted because it is conspicuous, being visible from two sides at once.

Shaded angles or corners are not good places. Rose bushes develop symmetry from equal atmospheric pressure on all sides. Therefore, plant them far enough from the buildings or obstructions of any kind and from each other to admit a free circulation of air and sunshine all around.

Rose vines can master more difficult positions than bushes, though they require double length of time to become established. The roots can be bedded on any side of whatever support the vine is supposed to climb over. The pliant branches can be trained up and around so as to get the benefit of the life-giving morning sun, which will compensate for whatever unfavourable position the roots may have.

I have found that any mellow, good garden soil with a basis of clay is fine for all kinds of roses. I have never paid regard to the oft repeated formula of excavating so many feet wide and deep, and filling the bottom with bricks, potsherd, oyster shells, etc., and then composting so many parts of so many kinds of fertilizers. That roses do best in clay soil is well known. The bottom stratum, or body, of the soil should be of clay, or other adhesive, alluvial deposit. Clay has the power of taking up and retaining substances with which it does not chemically combine. My preference is for clay bottom with cow manure, leaf mould and sand for the upper stratum.

Cow manure is the best of all fertilizers for the flower garden. It is rich in humus, and even when old and dry is almost as great a conservator of fertility as clay. It is the only kind of stable manure that should ever be used for roses. Leaves are rich in phosphates, and make black, aromatic soil, just rich enough for surface feeding roots. Sand has excellent mechanical effect upon mixed fertilizers. Combined leaf mould, cow manure and sand on a clay basis makes arable soil upon which the finest roses will flourish. Commercial fertilizers answer good purposes, but in a different way. It may be observed that a broadcast application of cow manure over a lawn shows its effect for years, while on the same ground commercial fertilizers will be consumed and exhausted the first season.

"HOUSE and Garden" says: "Humus in the soil has seldom been taken at its worth. The mission it fulfils is second in importance only to that which is fulfilled by the presence of plant food in the soil. Humus is helpful in keeping the soil in proper mechanical balance; in binding soils inclined to blow, increasing the power of soils to absorb water, and in making more effective the action of fertilizers. Humus may be put in the ground by cow manure, which is fibrous itself,



and when composted with the straw and leaf bedding, conveys still further supplies. Sod from old pastures, clover and grass roots, green grass mulches, any and all kinds of vegetable matter, always including forest leaves. Mix and give it time to mellow.

For quick action in producing bright green succulent growth and many flowers commercial fertilizers can scarcely be dispensed. Bone meal and bone flour are equally efficient, but bone flour is most readily assimilated. "The Southern Cultivator" so strongly advocates the use of cottonseed meal that I gave it a trial. In the waterlily tank handfuls of the meal were put in little piles on the bottom. Through the clear water the roots were seen in a short time to be formed in a matted network, greedily feeding on every little heap of the meal, and the water lilies bloomed with extraordinary profusion.

Always have a rich top soil for roses. As an old-time cotton planter's daughter, my first knowledge of plants and how to grow them was gained from observation of my father's methods with flowers, fruits and cotton. Roses and cotton alike were grown at their best on his plantations, and one of his sayings was, "God put the richest soil on top, and He knows best." Neither dairy compost, leaf mould, clover, legumes nor commercial fertilizers will produce fine roses without constant cultivation. Who that loves a garden but enjoys the sweet aromatic smell of the upturned earth, the separate elements thoroughly incorporated, under the action of sun and air, exhaling ozone, and combining with the hydrocyanic base the honeyed scent of flowers, as a whole antiseptic wholesome? The conversation between Paul Dombey and Florence, his nurse, comes to mind: "They have put my mother in the cold, dark ground," "Not the bold, dark ground," his nurse said, "but the sweet, warm earth, where hard, dry seeds turn to beautiful flowers."

Bear in mind what our great naturalist, John Burroughs, says: "There are no morals or ethics in nature." The coarse grasses and rank weeds will outgrow and crowd out the choicest roses unless the hand of culture is applied. Professor Bailey of Cornell says, "Cultivate. Cultivate. Cultivate."

Cultivation prepares the soil to receive the air, which cleanses and purifies. The consistency or fertility of a soil depends largely upon the amount of pure air it holds, and upon its condition to receive the sunlight and heat. Soil thus prepared is wholesome and hungry plants feed upon it greedily. Moderate applications yearly of fertilizers make the garden rich; cultivation mellows the soil and keeps it sweet and the plants rejoice evermore.

Drainage is of vital importance. Stagnant moisture is fatal to roses. The advantages of an elevated or depressed bed depend upon the natural drainage. Where the subsoil is well drained, a bed lower than the surrounding soil will keep roses in fine condition in dry weather, and during the winter the roots will be less exposed to cold than where the bed has been elevated. In constructing a bed where there is almost no drainage it should be raised high enough to allow fully two feet to settle after rains have fallen, which will leave it at a normal elevation. Whatever the shape or size of the rose bed, have it accessible and convenient to the walks so the roses can be easily reached.

The mammoth rose garden in St. Louis, during the Louisiana Purchase in 1904, embodied every true principle of the garden culture of roses. Fifty thousand rose plants were set in beds eighteen inches deep, dug in stiff clay soil, filled with sandy loam and rich top soil. The plants were set out the year preceding the Exposition. This is an item worth recording for no rose does itself justice under less than one year of growth; generally, two years of growth is required. Amateurs with less than a dozen roses may be guided by the method adopted for the 50,000 World's Fair roses. The location was on the eastern side of the Agricultural Building, where the roses had morning sun.

Plant life is at its lowest ebb between New Years and March. This is the season in which water-sogged, poorly drained soil is destructive to roses. Mulching is a great safeguard. A fertile mulch applied in November or December carries the plants through the most trying time of the year.



It prevents the destructive effects of upheavals of the soil from alternate freezing and thawing. In spring the mulch of dried cow chips crumbled over the surface, around and as far out as the roots extend, is advantageous. One must beware, however, of giving advice subject to two modes of application:

"Could a tale unfold whose lightest word  
Would harrow to thy soul;  
freeze thy young blood;  
Make thy two eyes start from thy spheres;  
Thy knotted and combined locks to part;  
And each particular hair to stand on end."

An experienced rosarian was once consulted about a languishing bed of roses. He diagnosed the case and prescribed treatment, which was to loosen the sun-baked soil, drench it with water, and, although in mid summer, to spread a mulch of dried cow chips broken in bits, over the surface. The outcome was that lovely Letty Coles, sweet LaFrance and fair Bessie Brown sweltered knee deep in a steaming mulch of rank compost, fresh from the horse stable.

The venerable Dean Hole relates some such experience with his English roses: "Some, having heard that a free circulation of air and abundant sunshine are essential elements of success, select a spot which would be excellent for a windmill, a beacon, observatory or a Martello tower; there the poor rose trees stand or wobble, their leaves like King Lear's silver locks, rudely blown and drenched by the to-and-fro contending wind and rain."

Situation, soil and drainage duly considered, the time to plant is next in importance. "Floral Life" devoted an entire issue to the experiences of amateur and professional rosarians as to the best time to plant roses. Without exception, spring for the North and fall for the South was thought best. This entirely agrees with my own experience, extending over many years.

Two year old plants are the most advisable. They had better be cut back by the florist, but if not done before leaving his hands I know of no better rule than that given by Mr. P.J. Berkman, to have one bud and two roots rather than two buds and one root.

Budded or grafted roses should be set low enough in the soil to cover the junction of

rootstock and graft. Otherwise, the hardy stock will outgrow and ruin the graft. When it was the custom to bud the Marechal Niel upon Manetti root stock, it was not uncommon for spurious branches to put forth and bear pink roses. This condition arose from too shallow planting. It need not destroy a rose for the Manetti branches can be trimmed off close to the junction and enough soil bedded over to prevent growth.

Everblooming roses do better on their own roots, with but with few exceptions. Among the Teas, Perle des Jardins necessitates budding. Although the blooms are so nearly like Marechal Niel as to be frequently substituted, wet for amateurs, Etoile de Lyon, Yellow Maman Cochet and Coquette de Lyon answer better purposes than Perle des Jardins.

There is some inherent weakness in a rose that does not grow upon its own roots. It has become a settled fact that Marechal Niel grown better on its own roots than when budded, but the discovery was late in being made. All tender young roses sent through the mail should be kinds that grow fast on their own roots. Even among the Tea roses some grow faster than others. Bride, Queen, Bridesmaid, the Cochets, and Souvenir d'un Ami are remarkably free. Champion of the World and LaFrance will grow almost like softwood bedding plants. There is a marked difference in the Hybrid Remontants in this respect, Madam Charles Wood, Paul Neyron and Mabel Morrison root the quickest and grow the fastest of any of this group. Champion of the World will begin to bloom when a few inches high and continue to bloom as fast as it grows, and it matures a large, handsome bush.

While the mailing sized plants are the least desirable, there is yet a good deal to be said in their favour. Railroad and express facilities are not enjoyed in many frontier mountainous and remote rural localities, both mails come regularly and plants come from the mail bags in good condition. Homes are brightened with roses that would otherwise have none. The postal law for the transmission of plants through the mail at nominal cost is one of the wisest and most beneficent laws that ever blessed a large and populous country. Uncle Sam's mail bags carried the first peach tree to the now famous Pecos



Valley. Roses and strawberries, plums and lilacs, seeds, bulbs, tubers ad infinitum, small fruits and flowers, come and go to the delight of thousands of people far removed from cities and nurseries who could or would not pay express rates.

Even where there are roses already in the garden, it may be the only available way to get new kinds. Orders through the mails are promptly filled; distance counts for naught. Explicit directions are given in all catalogues for the treatment of these tender young roses. Following these lines there are several things yet that each amateur must personally consider. The climate for instance. South of Washington City, March is a safe month to order roses to plant in the open. April is equally propitious. The only advantage March has over April is that the florists are not rushed with orders quite so early. May is not too late. North of Washington City I would advise May and early June. North of South, it is well to remember to err on the side of being too early rather than too late in the season, for plants suffer more disastrously from overheating in the passage than from cold.

There are two opposite methods of cultivating the soil for roses. When rains are frequent or water otherwise plentiful, the soil is worked in a manner to keep it rough and uneven. Water easily penetrates such soil, and drenching the roots near the surface carries nutrients from the top soil down to the roots. The ground is kept in this condition by frequent use of the hoe, and by application of rough compost to the surface. The other method is the dust mulch, which under certain conditions is highly advisable. When water is scarce and the weather dry, the best method is to pulverize the soil by frequent use of the hoe and rake; this forms the dust mulch. Every day, without fail, the soil should be gone over and never be allowed to settle into a crust. If the surface soil gets thick and compact moisture from the subsoil will have difficulty in rising up and the conditions will be decidedly unfavourable to the roots of the plants. The finer the soil is pulverized the better. It facilitates capillary attraction. The dust mulch system applied to the arid lands of the West has resulted in wonderful crops of grain independent of irrigation. Reduced to the rose garden, the result will be equally good.\*  
[Dust mulches=Dust Bowls of 1920's - Ed. note]

It is, of course, secondary to water, which, of all agencies, is the most immediate in effect. Roses on poor ground with water still do better than roses on rich ground without water.

Roses flourish in heat and moisture together, but never when only one element surrounds them. If in a cold, partially shaded place give them little moisture. If in a hot, sunny place, give an abundance of water. Never water roses when the sun is shining on them, for obvious reasons. The evening twilight is an ideal hour for watering flowers. Plants evaporate more moisture than they absorb, hence, the cool of the evening gives the roots opportunity to absorb the water in proportion to the evaporation by the leaves. Also the humidity of the atmosphere all through the night is of much benefit to the plants and to the blooms in every stage of development. The temperature of the dewpoint is obtained by watering after sunset when the soil and air are cooled; temperature and humidity balancing each other, the sap circulates evenly, not subject to sudden falls and rises. One of the fundamental principles of success with the rose garden, in the first, continued and last planting is to select strong, healthy plants of the classes best suited to the climate in which the garden exists. Vigorous plants of the best classes are the only kind that will prove grateful and make good return for kind treatment.

Above all, I will say again, in cultivating the garden follow the dust mulch method in dry weather when water is hard to be had. On the other hand, regulate the supply of water to the degree of fertility of the soil and the capacity of the plant to consume water. All vegetation takes food in a water solution through the roots by osmosis. Upon the extreme ends of roots of all plants extending back over the fractional part of an inch, there are fine roots like hair. These fine roots are single cells filled with a cell sap and through these cells, by osmosis, pass the plant food which is found in the water in the soil around the plant roots. As this is the only way that plants receive food, it is evident that the necessity exists of furnishing an abundant and regular



supply of water then the ground is enriched, so that the solution may not be too strong for the hair-like roots to absorb and convey to the plant. The physical law of osmosis is that when two solutions of unequal strength are brought together the denser tends to absorb the lighter. Water lightens, modifies, and vitalizes the solid particles of rich soil, rendering the soilwater less dense than the sap in the rose bush. Otherwise the plant could not be fed. Considered in all its bearings, water is the most important medium of health, beauty and prolonged life of plants. Sacred and secular literature abounds in records of gardens not subject to limitation of time. These gardens are beside living waters that run from perennial sources.

When Palestine was the "Garden of the Lord" it was "a land of brooks of water, of pools of fountains that issued from the valleys and hills." The traditional site of King Solomon's imperial garden is near Bethlehem. He says, "I made me great works; I made me gardens and orchards and I planted trees in them; I made me pools of water that bringeth forth trees." The pools of water "to water therewith" proceeded from the Fountain of Whom and at the present day there is a beautiful garden watered by the fountain that has never run dry.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon - "those airy gardens which yon palace vast spread round to the morning airs hand forth their golden fruits and dewy opening flowers; while still the low mists creep in lazy folds o'er the house tops beneath" - built by the mighty monarch for Amytis, his queen, who was homesick for the halls of her native Media, covered four acres square. Pier upon pier, arch upon arch, of solid masonry the structure rose to a height of four hundred feet.

Upon the summit of this artificial mountain was a large reservoir, which was filled with water pumped from the Euphrates for the irrigation of the gardens and their numerous fountains. Trickling rills of water kept green the hills, with their shrubs, vines and flowers. Roses were there, for all ancient gardens were known to have been adorned with roses.

Washington Irving forever cast a spell around the old "Garden of Linderaxa" in the

Court of Alhambra: "No written or oral legend reveals the history of the old garden. The tangled roses bloom beside the basin where the sparkling water of the fountain fall, but have no tale to tell." Simply the garden of the Andalusian Princess Linderaxa, who for centuries has slept in the shadow of the ruined palace of the old Moorish kings. What but the ceaseless flow of water has kept the old garden alive and in bloom?

Probably in this wide world there are no more romantic, suggestive and picturesque locations than those of the Mission gardens of old California. They are of a period in the history of America that has no parallel; of the Spanish possession that lasted eighty years. That has forever passed away; on a diminutive scale, the rise and fall of an empire. The early Spanish settlers were lovers of fruits and flowers and were tillers of the soil. Modern prospectors, with every facility for making favourable choice locations, guided by the most advanced engineering skill, with admiring wonder, have regarded the farseeing wisdom of the early Spanish settlers in locating the missions and their surrounding gardens, orchards, vineyards, fields and pastures. Invariably, the locations were near some kind of natural water supply.

Traversing vast areas of alkali, sunburned lands afoot, with no guides but the Indians who spoke not a word of Spanish, the wonder is whence they derived their knowledge of the far reaching chain of locations favoured by subterranean sources of water. As far as my knowledge goes, the earth stethoscope was not known then. The "divining rod," a forked witch hazel stick in the hands of some rural sage was generally relied upon to locate wells of water.

By boring to great depths, the Spanish settlers brought waters to the surface. Methods that would be crude in this day were resorted to, causing water to flow over the Mission grounds. For their purposes, the system was about as effective as modern irrigation. Reservoirs, conduits, fountains, pipes and windmills sent water wherever needed.

When every other reminder of that period of phenomenal wealth and pastoral prosperity wears signs of hoary age and slow decay, the gardens beside the living waters are



fresh and green, bountiful of flowers and prolific of fruits; the Rose of Castile yet merits the description given in the old chronicles of this wild rose of California, Cargodas de Rosas - "burdened with roses." The grapes yet furnish wine and the olive trees yield olives and oil.

The world wonder of the vegetation of southern California in the present day is due to the action of water. Until hydrolic engineering effected the good work of irrigation, California was not essentially different from Colorado or Yuma Desert. Alkali, cactus, sage, sand, dry and dusty ground; not a blade of green grass; water as precious as in Palestine of Biblical days, and like then, when water was made to flow, the dusty earth drank and gave in return fruits, flowers, grasses, and grains surpassing ancient Egypt, proving fertility inexhaustible.

The great power of water as a natural agent is demonstrated by the city of Damascus, the garden city of the world. In the midst of burning, dry and sandy Syrian Desert, Damascus is one vast garden, blooming brilliantly, fragrant, green and fruitful. Its roses, grapes and figs, sparkling fountains and splashing waters, its cool and humid air with never a wave of the dry desert heat, are prophetic if life yet to come, as unending and bouyant as the waters of the two rivers from whence it has drawn its life of everlasting verdure.

The old gardens of the South were cultivated by plantation methods. Indications of the weather governed plantation work to a great extent. The weather prophet on our own plantation was Uncle Solomon, the old head gardener. When he predicted rain the cotton fields were gone over and put in readiness. At the same time, the broad and ample front yard, the plantation name for flower garden, was beset by champion hoe hands from the cotton fields. Well drilled for the work, they hoed, raked, chopped, pruned, and trained until not an uneven blade of grass, a weed, or a stragglng vine remained. The rain never fell upon grassy cotton fields or unkempt gardens. The lawn mower and watering hose had not been invented, or modern waterworks instituted. Rain upon the garden was the great factor and charm, looked for with hope and hailed with joy. In times of drought the windmill and "old oaken bucket" were in daily use. Uncle Solomon, in the might of his young manhood, had helped lay off the grounds

when the plantation was a wilderness. He never did anything else in his long life but tend the flower garden, which developed into one of the famous gardens of the Old South - the like of which will probably never be seen again.

Under his directions, a sturdy corp of half grown boys went to and from the well with watering pots and buckets, drenching the soil and showering the plants. On a low wheeled carriage, he had an improvised punctured watering apparatus and his own system of hydraulics, probably inherited from his African ancestors. With his watering cart, every summer evening he went up and down the carriage drive and garden walks, sprinkling and keeping them cool and dewy. The grass was moist and green; mocking birds sang from the Cherokee hedges; the gay and valiant popular roses of the day - Cloth of Gold, Baltimore Belle and Giant of Battles, Glory of France, Damask and Triumph of Luxemburg, held ponderous heads above moisture-laden foliage, bloomed their royal best and shed perfume on the humid air; from cool and dewy borders, ten thousand flowers turned bright faces to the sky, and overhead, Magnolias bloomed.



The above reproduction of one chapter of Georgia Torrey Drennan's book on **EVER BLOOMING ROSES** was selected for this issue of our newsletter because it is most timely. The "Garden Culture of Roses" passes along many ideas and facts in the selection and culture that need to be known and practiced today. We have let cultivating around roses drop, for example, and have not provided another modern method to incorporate adequate air into the rose root area; we know that roses need water but have forgotten how much and when; we forgot that roses will grow in poor soil that has good moisture but will die in rich soil that is dry. Her book is available to American Rose Society members (who are patient) from the ARS Lending Library. EDITOR



## HISTORIC ESTATE FOR SALE

**Chatwood**, former residence of the late Mrs. Helen Watkins, has been placed on the market according to the provisions in her will. The 217 acres of land is located on the Eno River, near Hillsborough, North Carolina, in the beautiful Piedmont region of the state. The historic residence dates from 1808 has beautiful gardens enhanced by a fine collection of heritage roses, which have been featured in several national magazines. Mrs. Watkins specified in a letter of instructions to her personal representative a year before her demise that, "It is my wish and intention to prevent or discourage the commercial or residential development of this beautiful land, and to prevent unnecessary changes to this historic residence." Covenants have been drafted to restrict the use and emphasize its preservation.

This is an excellent opportunity for a concerned preservationist to acquire a beautiful estate and preserve its unique historical ambience, enhanced by a fine collection of roses. **Chatwood** is being offered at \$1,000,000. Interested persons may contact Ms. Carolyn G. Hicks, Nations Bank, Trust Real Estate, P.O. Box 27287, Raleigh NC 27611. Ph. 919/829-6749

This would be a wonderful place to use as a Heritage Rose Foundation Rose Preservation Garden in the eastern part of USA. The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., has the right to set restrictions on the sale of the property.

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VINTAGE GARDENS  
3003 Pleasant Hill Road  
Sebastopol CA 95472

If you have not yet obtained a copy of their catalog (\$4) with hand drawings of roses by James Sagemiller you should get on before they are gone. This is the most informative OGR catalogue of their fantastic collection. This is one of the Keepsake Catalogues, and we understand the plants are too! Some of their plants are on own roots but most are on rootstocks. They only ship bare roots and it is too late for us to order from them this year - get a catalogue, though, and order in the Fall 1994 for fall planting. Plants are \$9 ea. + nominal UPS shipping. No credit card orders or telephone orders.

## "A WORLD OF ROSES"

Some of you may have received a flyer this spring announcing a new rose source, "A World of Roses", P.O. Box 90332, Gainesville FL 32607. The proprietor was listed as Barbie Allen. When Joe Woodard, of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society received his price list he contacted one of the members of their group who lives in the Gainesville FL area. The member found where Barbie Allen worked and asked to speak to her. Barbie refused to come out and talk to her.

Mattie Westfall, Fort Worth, send an order for plants to be rooted and delivered in the Fall 1993. In September '93 she wrote asking about the status of her order. Mattie had sent \$5 per plant deposit the check having been cashed. Her letter of inquiry was returned marked "Return to Sender. No forwarding order on file." It seems that Mattie just lost her \$15.

Joe inquired about the nursery to a friend who is on the staff of the American Rose Society. The report was that several complaints on non-delivery of orders and inferior quality of plants as well as a reluctance to correct deficiencies. He also spoke to Bev Dobson about this and she related his report to Peter Schneider, who handles these correspondence matters for her. He, too, will be investigating Barbie Allen's business tactics.

In the meanwhile, I hope none of our Rustlers have been caught in this tangled web. Let us hope it gets satisfactorily resolved. If any of you have similar experiences with rose mail order firms please let us know so we may try to get a satisfactory solution. We are very anxious to close down these types of businesses. Some may recall, we have had a little experience with this before.....





## **"Potpourri"**

(The newsletter of The Antique Rose Emporium)

Failure of our word processor, causing us to be late in getting this issue of The Old Texas Rose, also interfered with the scheduled Gardening Study Course of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., for which your editor is also the state chairman. When about half way through the typing of this letter it had to stop in order to effect the organization and teaching of the horticultural courses. With this interruption we were unable to get information to you from the Winter news of the Spring Seminar held on February 19th.

**STEPHEN DOMIGAN**, an Austin TX landscape architect, spoke on "Unconventional Gardens for the 90's; Taking a Clue From Nature." Also, **MARY WILHITE**, Co-owner of Blue Moon Gardens, Chandler TX, presented a most interesting program, "Hardy Herbs for Texas Gardens."

Their **SPRING OPEN HOUSE** will be held on **APRIL 23-24**. The Spring issue of "Potpourri" will give details about the Photo Contest Rules. If you do not receive the newsletter send your \$5 subscription to them. If you purchase roses from them regularly you should be getting it; be sure to let them know.

Mail order bareroot roses are not shipped after February, but container roses are sent from March 1 to mid May. Also your selection of their wonderful book selection. They have the new book by Steve Bender and Felder Rushing entitled, **PASSALONG PLANTS**. It is a book of essays concerning plants that have been passed from neighbor to neighbor, family member to family member and generation to generation. Perhaps you know of some such plants, and you are sure to find this book charming, informative and humorous, with a pinch of eccentricity for seasoning. 220 pages with color photographs, hardback, it mail orders at \$29.95. One of the authors, Felder Rushing, who will be a Special Guest at the April 23-24 Open House.

### **ENGLISH ROSE GARDEN TOUR**

Led by **BILL GRANT**  
June 21-July 7

Send \$400 deposit to **PORT OF TRAVEL**, 9515 Soquel Drive, Suite 102, Aptos CA 95003. Cost, information and itinerary will be sent to you.

## **"A DAY IN THE ROSE GARDEN"**

If any of you happen to be in the New England states during June please be aware that the New England Rose Society is presenting a great event on June 19th at the gardens of Malcolm (Mike) Lowe. Mike has quite a collection of some 1000 varieties and over 4000 bushes. Most are old and rare species but many are Modern Shrubs. His location is at 6 Sheffield Road, Nashua, N.H., 03062-3028.

The morning Tour will be conducted by Susan Gauthier assisted by Bev Dobson. The afternoon Tour, which alternates with morning one, will be conducted by Peter Beales, from England, and Bill Grant, from Aptos, California, as well as Bev Dobson. This will last until about 4 p.m. There is only room for 126 attendees. The registration of **\$35** each is required. Tour and Lectures will begin at 9 am and will close about 4 p.m. Make all checks payable to the N.E.R.S. at 6 Sheffield, Nashua N.H. 03062-3028. Registration includes lunch of Boston Chicken, served at Noon to 12:45 pm. Get your reservation in A.S.P! Request program & directions.

### **ROYAL NATIONAL ROSE SOCIETY German Rose Tour - June 7-14th**

The Historic Roses Group of the RNRS is organizing a most interesting tour to France and Germany when roses should be at their peak. They will fly from London to Cologne, spend 2 nights right beside the great rose garden there. Then drive to Kassel, home of the brothers Grimm, and stay 2 nights beside the rose garden where roses cover a 100 ft. slope to the river. Then on to Sangerhausen to visit the famous rosarium which has the greatest number of varieties in the world. From there the tour will fly from Leipzig airport to London. Rose tours cost about \$26, hotel about \$806 ea. double occupancy, with B & B all hotels, flights 7 bus transfers. Last booking March/early April.

Contact: Sarah Coles  
Western Court  
Bishop's Sutton,  
Alresford, Hants SO24 0AA,  
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- Revised set of "Cuttings & Propagation" \$2. pp
- Texas Rose Rustler membership list \$1. pp
- Revised Bibliography of recommended books on old roses @ \$2. pp
- List of related societies .50 pp
- Commercial list for OGR's .50 pp

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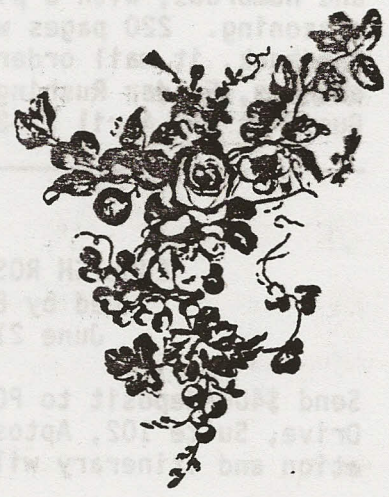
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