

VOLUME XI

FALL 1995

NUMBER 2

ROSE RUSTLERS TO MEET TO PLAN THE ANNUAL MEETING

The only time The Rose Rustlers discuss any organizational business is at the last meeting in the Fall, when we have our Annual Rose Rustle and the Annual meeting. This is the members' chance to speak up and express constructive ideas and suggestions; we vote on new executive board members at the end of the even-numbered years to take office at the beginning of the coming odd-numbered year; and any special items that concerns all of us. The Executive Committee has a problem we want to share with you that could possibly entail voting on some of our committee members and our organization. We will have copies of our Bylaws for you at our coming meeting, or you may dig out your copy of the September 1990 issue of *The Old Texas Rose* in advance of the meeting to find your copy.

Sunday afternoon, October 29th, '95, we will have an Executive Board meeting to which you are all invited. It will be held at the Hickory Hollow Bar B-Q in Houston, on the corner of Heights Blvd. and Center Street, one block north of Washington Avenue. This is where we viewed the Peter Beales' video "In Celebration of Old Roses." Next to it is a parking lot and beside it is JOSHUA'S NURSERY. The parking lot may be entered from either Center Street or the west lane of Heights Blvd. The meeting will begin at 5:00 P.M. Joshua will be open from 4 to 5 p.m. for the Rose Rustlers to come in to purchase any old garden roses they wish at a 50% discount! Also, **HICKORY HOLLOW** will be open to serve you an early dinner provided you can finish it by 5 pm!



Our Secretary, Mrs. S.J. Derby, moved to the Chicago area this summer since our last meeting. Marion Brandes also resigned as our Program Chairman. He discussed it with us at the last Rustle at Peaceable Kingdom, so we were aware he might resign. He is very tired after several years of working hard to give us fantastic programs. He became quite discouraged when the bus Tour he had planned did not materialize. We owe him a debt of gratitude and can sympathize with him.

Replacement of these two members does not call for an election unless the membership chooses. Chairmen are elected at the last Annual Meeting in even-numbered years and take office at the beginning of the odd-numbered ones, hence, they serve two years. If a member of the Executive Committee finds it necessary to resign the Committee simply replaces him with another volunteer to finish the term. Chairman Cal Dempsey will be open for volunteers to contact him to fill either of the jobs, but if two volunteer for the same job it may require an election. If none volunteer we could also

have to elect by asking for nominations from the floor. Please remember to get permission from your nominee prior to nomination.

We have been informed by several members that they are willing to form a committee to plan and organize our programs, but none will act as chairman. If one would agree to speak for the group to let us know what to anticipate it might work. After all, that is all a chairman does. **Please bring your cuttings & plants to trade in the parking lot Sunday!**

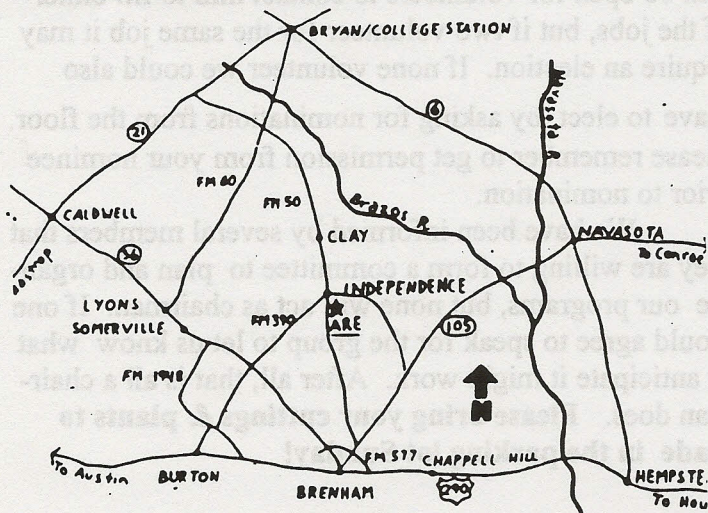
ANNUAL ROSE RUSTLE NOVEMBER 4TH AT THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM

By now you have probably heard or read that our Annual Meeting and modified "Rose Rustle" will be held at the A.R.E. Spring Festival on Saturday afternoon following the last speaker, "Wee" Broderson. She might be finished by about 4:00 p.m. We have been given permission to meet in the rear area inside the tent, where tables will be set up for us to place our items for exchange.

First we must call as many together as we can to begin our meeting. We must resolve our business of a new Secretary and Program Chairman/Committee. You are requested to bring some constructive ideas to be **WRITTEN DOWN ON PAPER TO BE GIVEN TO WHATEVER PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP IS RESOLVED.** We are anxious to steer the Rustlers' Program to include the types of things you are most interested in doing or hearing. Please let us know!

Be sure to bring lots of cuttings, preferably in zip-lock bags marked well with a grease pencil or lead pencil on an attached paper tag the name of the inside contents. Kindly make cuttings that have bud eyes to produce growth both above ground and below - it can't be done with only one. Also see that the cuttings are kept moist with wet paper or similar media and that they are kept cool! Bring rooted cuttings in containers if you wish, or well started cuttings to exchange. Even potted roses you must give up for more of other kinds.

It was most generous of Mike Shoop to allow us to use his premises at this super-busy time for him, and to permit us to bring in our own cuttings and plants. We owe him a tremendous "Thank You." Be sure to try to thank him personally. He has been our benefactor in many ways since we organized.



WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE FALL FESTIVAL OF ROSES

Parking, Seminars, Tours Free
Food Vendors - Picnic Areas for Your Own Food
Kids Welcome With Families

NOVEMBER 3,4,5 9 a.m.- 6 p.m

Friday, Nov. 3

- 10-11am Concurrent Sessions
 - Stephen Scanniello, Brooklyn Botanic Rose Garden; Pruning; tour.
 - Glenn Schroeter, Brenham, Propagation Techniques for rooting.
- 1:30 pm Neil Sperry, McKinney TX, "Getting the Most From Your Landscape."
- 3:00 pm Malcolm Manners, Lakeland FL, "Taking the Mystery Out of Rose Classification."

Saturday, Nov. 4

- 10 am Bill Fontenot, Carencro, Louisiana "Gardening for Wildlife."
 - 11:30 Leola Tiedt, LaGrange, TX "Graandma's Garden."
 - 1:30 pm Bill Grant, Aptoos, CA "Structures for Roses"
 - 3:00 pm Janet (Wee) Broderson, Tallahassee, FL "Restoration of an Old Garden."
- (Rose Rustlers Meet after this)**

Sunday, Nov. 5

- 10 am Lucia Bettler, Houston, TX "Aromatherapy - Enhancing Body, Mind, Spirit."
- 11:30 Dr. David Byrne, Texas A&M "Adventures In Rose Breeding."
- 1:30 pm Penelope Hobhouse, Dorset, England "Penelope Hobhouse on Gardening."
- 3:00 pm Tim Kiphart, Brenham TX "Natives Preferred."

TOURS THROUGH GROWING FIELDS

10 am - 11 am - 2 pm - 3 pm - 4 pm

Daily

THE BOOK OF ROSES, Francis Parkman. Published by J.E. Tilton & Co. 1866, reprinted 1871.

Of all the interesting monographs on "Rosa" written in the USA during the 19th century (there were few) Francis Parkman's "**THE BOOK OF ROSES**" is the most longed for of all. In fact, it is lost completely. This is sad because no other rosarian presents as complete a view of a single aspect of the horticulture world at the time of writing. He wrote for his countrymen despite influences of foreign authors on the subject. His text falls into two sections: Part I is a discussion of rose culture in the open (North, but who's perfect?) and how roses, generally are best handled in that climate; pot culture; forcing; propagation; hybridizing; cleanliness; and so on.... The fascination is, perhaps, a bit mitigated below the Mason-Dixon Line, but Part II brings us to the heart of the matter.

After warning the reader that puttering around the borders is not the cheerful recreation it might seem but a serious business with aching knees, back and all, one gets the idea. He then discusses **pure blood** and **legitimate** offspring, leading to the species roses and the old summer blooming varieties. These were hybridized, but legitimate, characterized by the distinctive features of the type. Hybrids of hybrids, he contends, are bastards and must be classified by appearance only, which can be deceptive. To the Southern Gardeners the chapter on ever-blooming roses, however illegitimate, is magnetic! Chinas, Teas, Musks, Noisettes, Bourbons, Mosses, Damasks and Scotch roses are described. Hybrid Perpetuals, *R. bracteata*, *R. laevigata*, *R. microphylla*, *R. spinissima*, and their hybrid variations are all depicted by vivid descriptions of the best variety of each, their strengths, weaknesses and foibles, cultivation, pruning and training.

Parkman concludes with a list of over 20 pages of the roses "most approved by the best cultivators of the present day." The illustrations are merely decorative vignettes, which are attractive, but likenesses of his favorites would have been prettier and more useful.

Francis Parkman was a very interesting personality. He was born in Boston, Mass., September 16, 1823. Frail and sickly, he was carefully educated and eventually

entered Harvard University. He did reasonably well when he chose to attend lectures; otherwise, as he professed in later years, he did best in horses and pretty women. Following a European tour and graduation (in that order) he was accepted into Harvard Law School. Then, in 1846, he embarked on the greatest adventure of his life: a journey along the Oregon Trail! His friends and relatives were dismayed and surprised! It was one thing to be well-bred into appreciation of the more charming manifestations of nature, observed from the deck of a yacht or the terrace of a country place, but to gad about the uncivilized West living among the Sioux, mixing with trappers and such persons must have seemed to them a bit excessive.

It all resulted in Parkman returning in a state of collapse. Frustrated by his unsound physical constitution, he overtaxed himself, no doubt in anger and defiance, by trying a self-cure of strenuous exercise. This was the worst method he could have chosen. In pain, and with his eyesight failing, he turned to dictating books. His most enduring popular success was "The California and Oregon Trail," after which he began the epic history of the rivalry between French and English for possession of North America. By 1850 he recovered sufficiently to marry, have three children, perpetrate a romantic novel, and to take up gardening in a large way. This idyll ended with the death of his wife and infant son.

Somehow Parkman continued. Although blind and wracked by morbid disease, on a good day he often managed to compose a few lines. The last volume of the cycle finished, he died in 1893, at 70 years old. Circumstances isolated him from the world but he enjoyed a circle of devoted friends. Twice he was the Overseer of Harvard University, and also was a teaching Professor of Horticulture there; he was a Fellow of the Corporation and helped found the Archeological Institute of America as well as the American School of Classic Studies in Athens, Greece. He was elected President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and he remains our pre-eminent Historian.

-- J. Conrad Tips

THE BOOK OF ROSES, by Francis Parkman. J. E. Tilton and Company, Boston, Mass., 225 pp. 1866.

Introduction

IT IS needless to eulogize the Rose. Poets from Anacreon and Sappho, and earlier than they, down to our own times, have sung its praises; and yet the rose of Grecian and of Persian song, the rose of troubadours and minstrels, had no beauties so resplendent as those with which its offspring of the present day embellish our gardens. The "thirty sorts of rose," of which John Parkinson speaks in 1629, have multiplied to thousands. New races have been introduced from China, Persia, Hindostan, and our own country; and these, amalgamated with the older families by the art of the hybridist, have produced still other forms of surpassing variety and beauty. This multiplication and improvement are still in progress. The last two or three years have been prolific beyond precedent in new roses; and, with all regard for old favorites, it can not be denied, that, while a few of the roses of our forefathers still hold their ground, the greater part are cast into the shade by the brilliant products of this generation.

In the production of new roses, France takes the lead. A host of cultivators great and small --Laffay, Vibert, Verdier, Margottin, Trouillard, Portemer, and numberless others-- have devoted themselves to the pleasant art of intermarrying the various families and individual varieties of the rose, and raising from them seedlings whose numbers every year may be counted by hundreds of thousands. Of these, a very few only are held worthy of preservation; and all the rest are consigned to the rubbish heap. The English, too, have of late done much in raising new varieties; though their climate is less favorable than that of France, and their cultivators less active and zealous in the work. Some excellent roses, too, have been produced in America. Our climate is very favorable to the raising of seedlings, and far more might easily be accomplished here.

In France and England, the present rage for roses is intense. It is stimulated by exhibitions, where nurserymen, gardeners, landed gentlemen, and reverend clergymen of the Established Church, meet in friendly competition for the prize. While the French excel all others in the production of new varieties, the English are unsurpassed in the cultivation of varieties already known; and nothing can exceed the beauty and perfection of some of

specimens exhibited in their unnumberable rose-shows. If the severity of our climate has its disadvantages, the clearness of our air and warmth of our summer sun more than counterbalances them; and it is certain that roses can be raised here in as high perfection, to say the very least, as in any part of Europe.

The object of this book is to convey information. The earlier portion will describe the various processes of culture, training, and propagation, both in the open ground and in pots; and this will be followed by an account of the various families and groups of the rose, with descriptions of the best varieties belonging to each. A descriptive list will be added of all the varieties, both of old roses and those most recently introduced, which are held in esteem by the experienced cultivators of the present day. The chapter relating to the classification of roses, their family relations, and the manner in which new races have arisen by combinations of two or more old ones, was suggested by the difficulties of the writer himself at an early period of his rose studies. The want of such explanations, in previous treatises, has left their readers in a state of lamentable perplexity on a subject which might easily have been made sufficiently clear.

Books on the rose, written for the climates of France or England, will, in general, greatly mislead the cultivators here. Extracts will, however, be given from the writings of the best foreign cultivators, in cases where experience has shown that their directions are applicable to the climate of the Northern and Middle States. The writer having been for many years a cultivator of the rose, and having carefully put in practice the methods found successful abroad, is enabled to judge with some confidence the extent to which they are applicable here, and to point out exceptions and modifications demanded by the nature of our climate.

Among English writers on the rose, the best are Paul. Rivers, and more recently Cranston, together with the vivacious Mr. Radelyffe, a clergyman, a horticulturist and an excellent amateur of the rose, and a very amusing contributor to the "Florist." In France, Deslongchamps and several able contributors to the "Revue Horticole" are the most prominent. From these sources the writer of this book drew the the instructions and hints which at first formed the basis of his practice; but he soon found that he must greatly modify it in accordance with

American necessities. There was much to be added, much to be discarded; and much to be changed; and the results to which he arrived are given, as compactly as as possible, in the following pages.

Jan. 1, 1866

PART I CULTURE OF THE ROSE

Chapter I Open Air Culture

THE ROSE requires high culture. The belle of the parterre, this "queen of flowers," is a lover of rich fare, and refuses to put forth all her beauties on a meagre diet. Roses, indeed, will grow and bloom in any soil; but deficient nourishment will reduce the size of the flowers, and impair the perfection of their form. Of all soils, one of a sandy or gravelly nature is the worst; while, on the other hand, a wet and dense clay is scarcely better. A rich, strong, and somewhat heavy garden loam, abundantly manured, is the soil best adapted to all the strong-growing roses; while those of more delicate growth prefer one proportionably lighter.

Yet roses may be grown to perfection in any soil, if the needful pains are taken. We will suppose an extreme case: The grower wishes to plant a bed of roses on a spot where the soil is very poor and sandy. Let him mark out his bed, dig the soil to the depth of eighteen inches, throw out the worst portion of it, and substitute in its place a quantity of strong, heavy loam: rotted sods, if they can be had, will be an excellent addition; and so, also, will decayed leaves. Then add a liberal dressing of old stable manure: that taken from a last year's hot-bed will do admirably. It is scarcely possible to enrich too highly. One-fourth manure to three-fourths soil is not an excessive proportion. Now incorporate the whole thoroughly with a spade, level the top, and your bed is ready.

Again: we will suppose a case, equally bad, but of the opposite character. Here the soil is very wet, cold, and heavy. The first step is to drain it. This may be done thoroughly with tiles, after the approved methods; or if this is too troublesome or expensive, simpler means may be used, which will, in most situations, prove as effectual. Dig a hole about five feet deep and four feet wide at the lower side of your intended bed of roses: in this hole place an inverted barrel, with the head knocked out; or what is better, an old oil cask. In the latter case, a hole should be bored in it, near the top, to permit the air

to escape. Fill the space around the cask or barrel with stones, and then cover the whole with earth. If your bed is of considerable extent, a drain, laid in stone or tile, should be made under or beside the bed, at the depth of three feet, and so constructed as to lead to the sunken barrel. Throw out, if necessary, a portion of the worst soil of the bed, substituting light loam, rotted leaves, and coarse, gritty sand. Then add an abundance of old stable manure, as in the former case.

In the great majority of gardens, however, such pains are superfluous. Any good garden soil, deeply dug, and thoroughly enriched, will grow roses in perfection. Neither manure nor the spade should be spared. Three conditions are insispensable,-- sun, air, and exemption from the invasion of the roots of young growing trees. These last are insidious plunderers and thieves, which invade the soil, and rob its lawful occupants of the stores of nutriment provided for them.

A rose planted on the shady side of a grove of elm or maple trees is in one of the worst possible of situations. If, however, the situation is in other respects good, the evil of the invading roots may be cured for a time by digging a trench, three feet deep, between the trees and the bed of roses; thus cutting off the intruders. The trench may then be filled up immediately; but, if the trees are vigorous, it must be dug over again the following year. It is much better to choose, at the outset, an airy sunny situation, at a reasonable distance from growing trees; but, at the same time, a spot exposed to violent winds should be avoided, as they are very injurious and exhausting.

PLANTING

Roses may be planted either in spring or in autumn. In the Northern States, the severity of the winter demands some protection, when planted in autumn, for all except the old, haardy varieties. Plant as early as possible, that the roots may take some hold on the soil before winter closes. October, for this reason, is better than November. The best protection is earth heaped around the stem to the height of from six inches to a foot. Pine, cedar, or spruce boughs are also excellent. When earth alone is used, the tip of the rose is often frost-killed; but this is usually of no consequence, the growth and bloom being only more vigorous for this natural pruning. Dry leaves heaped among or around the roses, and kept down by sticks or pieces of board,

or by earth thrown on them, are also good protectors. In spring, plant as early as the soil is in working order; that is to say, as soon as it is dry enough not to adhere in lumps to the spade.

In planting, prune back the straggling roots with a sharp knife, but save as many of the small fibres as possible. If you plant in spring, prune back the stem at least half way to the ground; but, if you plant in autumn by all means defer this operation till the winter is over. The ground around autumn-planted roses should be trodden down in the spring, since the plant will have been somewhat loosened in its place by the effect of frost; but this treading must not take place until the soil has become free from excessive moisture. Budded roses require a peculiar treatment in planting, which we shall describe when we come to speak of them.

PRUNING

Next to soil and situation, pruning is the most important point of attention to the rose-grower. Long treatises have been written on it, describing in detail different modes applicable to different classes of roses, and confusing the amateur by a multitude of perplexing particulars. One principle will cover most of the ground: *Weakly-growing roses should be severely pruned: those of vigorous growth should be pruned but little.* Or, to speak more precisely, *roses should be pruned in inverse proportion to the vigor of their growth.*

Much, however, depends on the object at which the grower aims. If he wishes for a profusion of bloom, without regard to the size and perfection of individual flowers, then comparatively little pruning is required. If, on the other hand, he wishes for blooms of the greatest size and perfection, without regard to number, he will prune more closely.

The pruning of any tree or shrub at a time when vegetation is dormant acts as a stimulus to its vital powers. Hence, when it is naturally vigorous, it is urged by close pruning to such a degree of growth, that it has no leisure to bear flowers, developing instead a profusion of leaves and branches. The few flowers which it may produce under such circumstances, will, however, be unusually large.

The most vigorous growers among roses are the climbers, such as the "Boursaults" and the "Prairies." These require very little pruning: first, because of their vigor; and, secondly, because quantity rather than quality

of bloom is asked of them. The old and dry wood should be cut wholly away, leaving the strong young growth to take its place, with no other pruning than a clipping off of the ends of side shoots, and a thinning out of crowded or misshapen branches. In all roses, it is the young, well-ripened wood that bears the finest flowers. Old enfeebled wood, or unripe, soft, and defective young wood, should always be removed.

Next in vigor to the climbers are some of the groups of hardy June roses; such, for example, as those called the Hybrid China roses. These are frequently grown on posts or pillars; in which case they require a special treatment, to be indicated hereafter. We are now supposing them to be grown as bushes in the garden or on the lawn. Cut out the old wood, and the weak, unripe, and sickly shoots, as well as those which interfere with others; then shorten the remaining stems one-third and cut back the side shoots to three or four buds. This is on the supposition that a full mass of bloom is required without much regard to the development of individual flowers. If quality rather than quantity of bloom is the desideratum, the pruning both of the main stems and of the side shoots must be considerably shorter.

Roses of more moderate growth, including the greater part of the June, Moss, Hybrid Perpetual, and Bourbon roses require a proportionable closer pruning. The stems may be cut down to half their length, and the side-shoots shortened to two buds. All the weak-growing roses, of whatever class, may be pruned with advantage even more closely than this. Some of the weak-growing Hybrid Perpetuals grow and bloom best when shortened to within four or five buds of the earth. The strong-growing kinds, on the contrary, if pruned thus severely would grow with great vigor, but give very few flowers.

The objects of pruning are threefold: first, to invigorate the plant; secondly, to improve its flowers; and, thirdly, to give it shape and proportion. This last object should always be kept in view by the operator. No two stems should be allowed to crown each other. A mass of matted foliage is both injurious and unsightly. Sun and air should have access to every part of the plant. Six or seven stems are the utmost that should be allowed to remain, even on old established bushes; and these, as before mentioned, should be strong and well ripened, and should also be disposed in such a manner that, when the buds have grown into shoots and leaves, the bush will have a symmetrical form. In young bushes

("Book of Roses" continued)

three, or even two, good stems are sufficient.

Pruning in summer, when the plant is in active growth, has an effect contrary to that of pruning when it is in a dormant state. Far from increasing its vigor, it weakens it, by depriving it of a portion of its leaves, which are at once its stomach and its lungs. Only two kinds of summer pruning can be recommended. The first consists in the removal of small branches which crowd their neighbors, and interfere with them: the second is confined to the various classes of Perpetual roses, and consists merely in cutting off the faded flowers, together with the shoots on which they grow, to within three or four buds of the main stem. This greatly favors their tendency to bloom again later in the summer.

When old wood is cut away, it should be done cleanly, without leaving a protruding stump. A small saw will sometimes be required for this purpose; though in most cases a knife, or, what is more convenient, a pair of a pair of sharp pruning-shears, will be all that the operator requires.

To Be Continued

In The Next Issue

*Beginning with Climbing Roses and Six More Sections to
CHAPTER II*

CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION

To determine when you are to renew your membership/subscription to *THE ROSE RUSTLERS* and to *THE OLD TEXAS ROSE*, see your address on the mailing cover of this current issue. To the right of your name you will see one of the following:

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New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society *is sponsoring a* *Heirloom Plant Symposium*

Tuesday, November 7 at

Pavilion of the Two Sisters, City Park, New Orleans
9 AM - 4 PM

*Five guest speakers will explore the romance, charm
and practicality of heirloom plants for southern gardens.*

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Gregg Lowrey Phillip Robinson

Stephen Scanniello

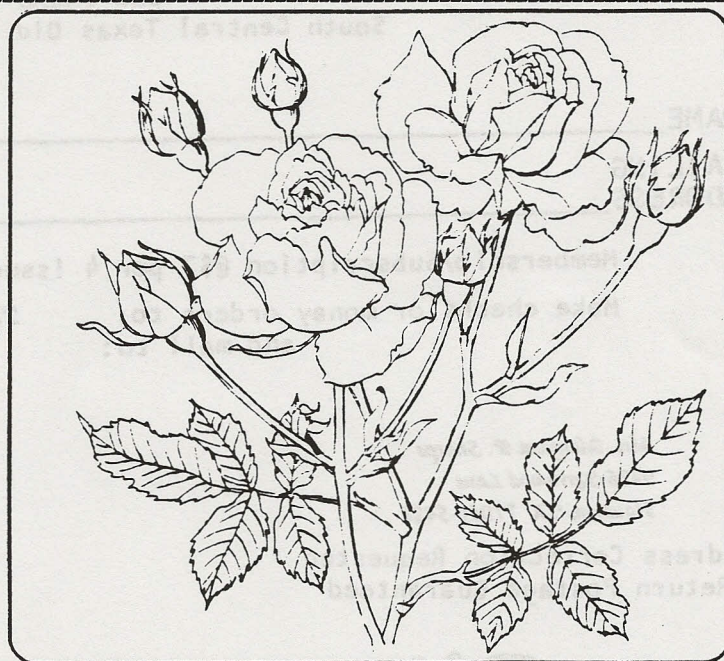
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THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION **ANNUAL MEETING**

The meeting will be on April 19-21, 1996
at the Goodwood Plantation, Tallahassee FL

Contact Ms. Susan O. Stayoung at the above address.

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