

Volume XV

W I N T E R 1 9 9 5

Number 3

15TH ROSE RUSTLE ALMOST WASHED OUT

The October 22nd Rose Rustle held at Peaceable Kingdom was almost a washout due to a few days of heavy rainfall in the entire Houston area up to the night before our meeting date. While roads around Peaceable Kingdom are kept well graded the flooding creeks and washouts caused by their overflow posed a challenge to reach our Rustle site to all but natives and members who had frequently traveled the roads to it. None-the-less, attendance was very good and we had quite a display of rooted cuttings in pots for drawing-prizes after the cuttings were exchanged. There were many cuttings available of about 40 different varieties, which, like the rooted cuttings in the drawing, were free to the lucky members and guests.

A brief business meeting was held, as it is the only meeting during the year at which any business is discussed with the membership. We ratified the election of our Chairmen, who had all agreed to stay. The Program Chairman will remain only under condition that he have one or more assistants to help effect the programs and the Editor requested assistance in typing the Newsletter and printing the mailing labels. The Editor has assistance at this time but may need more later. The Program Chairman needs more assistance. If you wish to volunteer or know someone who would like to serve in either of these capacities please contact the General Chairman, Cal Dempsey, listed below.

We were to go to the Texas A&M Rose Testing

(Continued over)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Since we missed out on our October Rustle you will be happy to know that our Program Chairman has some great things in store!

Set aside **March 25th** for a small meeting. The time, place, and subject will be sent to you later via post card. This will be on a Saturday.

The Spring Symposium is being scheduled for **APRIL 29th**, Saturday. Members will bring their exhibition blooms, as usual, tagged with the exhibitor's name and with the name of the rose, if known. More about this meeting later, about April 1st. In the afternoon following the Symposium we hope to make a field trip to A&M Rose Gardens to see their 200-250 roses in bloom. These roses have been collected from all over the world! We hope to be able to take cuttings from them **under supervision**. There may be an additional rose garden to visit that many may want to stay overnight to see.....

We hope to offer members a bus trip to see rose gardens in Texas and Louisiana on October 14-15. Vera Wyatt is trying to set it up for us at a very nominal cost. It is to include the ARS Gardens at Shreveport, LA Natchitoches ("nak-a-tish"), LA, Hodges Gardens, Many, LA, and more. Our Fall Rustle will be November 4th at the ARE Fall Festival. Surprises! Mike Shoup suggests an all cutting swap on the grounds there!

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

(15th Rose Rustle continued)

gardens to see the experimental roses that are currently under test. Just before leaving we received word that both highways available to reach them from where we were still had not drained enough to pass over them. We had to cancel that wonderful part of our Rustle in hope we can make it this Spring. Many of us drove to Winedale, just out of Round Top, where they were having their first Festival celebrating that historic community. They were having a PLANT SALE of seedlings and cuttings of native annuals, perennials and ROSES. We had just enough time to get there before closing. Many Rustlers were able to obtain nice rooted specimens of the Climbing 'Cramoisi Superieur' that Bill Welch found at Williamsburg, VA, last summer, which is somewhat different from some of the same named varieties we have here. Bill's were rooted by Greg Grant so you know they were GREAT! Greg and Dr. Welch are long time members of our Rustler group.

We now have a mystery to solve: we must ask, "Will the REAL Climbing 'Cramoisi Superieur' please STAND UP?"

MORE MYSTIQUE ABOUT 'MARECHAL NEIL'

Some months ago a request was made for a source for the Tea 'Isabella Gray'. The Heritage Rose Group publication, "Heritage Roses", November 1994, carries a most interesting account of a response from Brent C. Dickerson, author of the valuable book "The Old Rose Adviser."

Both 'Maréchal Neil' and 'Isabella Gray' are officially classified in "Modern Roses 10" as Noisettes, derived from seedlings from the 1843 popular yellow Noisette 'Chromatella'. In the same year another popular yellow Noisette appeared named 'Solfaterre'. In 1864 Henry Pradel (French nurserman) introduced 'Maréchal Neil' and classified it as a seedling from 'Chromatella'. Other growers agreed with him because 'Maréchal Neil' shared "the birthmark of indented petals" not present in the other choices. But where did 'Isabella Gray' enter into the picture? She was introduced in 1854 and was more fragrant than 'Chromatella', not vigorous or floriferous but the same yellow petals. To separate 'Isabella Gray' from

(continued page 3)

PETER BEALES INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE OLD ROSES ON VIDEO

Fred Kurz, General Manager of ARK enterprises has informed us that the USA release of the video, "A CELEBRATION OF OLD ROSES", by Peter Beales, is available to us through ARK Enterprises. It was made available to the public in mid 1994. A copy was sent to our Treasurer, Deanna Krause, and we have viewed it finding it to be superbly taped, exceptionally clear and the colors outstanding.

Filmed entirely in England, Peter Beales leads the viewer through his personal rose gardens and nursery and the moated walled gardens of Elsing Hall, in Norfolk. He begins with species roses, discussing each of the old varieties right through to the modern Teas. He picks out some of his favorites telling the fascinating stories of them in an entertaining blend of horticultural know-how peppered with anecdotes of literary and historical interest.

Sir Edward Elgar's lyrical music accompanys him most appropriately on the tour and the enthusiasm and vast knowledge of roses is captured beautifully by Vivian Russel. She is an award-winning garden writer, film maker and photographer, with a passion for Old Roses.

Copies are available for \$24.95+ \$4.95 s&h from ARK Enterprises, "Roses Video", P.O. Box 166, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery, rush shipping available. Phone orders and inquiries call 1-800-978-7737. Group discounts are 10 or more @ 20% discount; 25 or more @ 30% disc.+ shipping & handling costs. Let Deanna know if you would like a copy by Feb. 28th and we will order some if over 10 members are interested.

This rose video is well worth the price. My only suggestion is that I would like to hear in in "American." The film is so great that the speech really doesn't lose anything. 57 minutes.

('Maréchal Neil' continued)

'Maréchal Neil' it is necessary to compare the degree of variations. 'Isabella Gray' is much less vigorous in flower and growth than 'Maréchal Neil', which has large, markedly attractive and enduring foliage. Also the foliage is rich green, reddish tipped, like smooth kid and undulate as well as tenacious and a strong natural fragrance. If the rose does not have these characteristics it must likely be 'Isabella Gray' instead of 'Maréchal Neil'.

What happened? You probably have already guessed. When 'Maréchal Neil' was introduced by Henry Pradel in 1864 it sold out so fast that Pradel, not wanting to miss a sale, supplied 'Isabella Gray' roses with 'Maréchal Neil' labels on them. Who knew the difference? Only French rose growers, and few of them. As was the custom then, as now, cuttings were exchanged and few of them grew because most were the weaker rose 'Isabella Gray' disguised. Growers began budding "Isabella" to root stock and they didn't grow well there either, so finally the real 'Maréchal Neil' all but faded away. It is a question in our mind about how much a "virus" prevented the cuttings from making roots when it is more likely that the "over-propagation" of weak growing plants destroyed good budwood. Only responsible rose growers have been careful to select proper buds to propagate; most growers leave the bud selection to employees who strive for quantity instead of quality.

This same "over propagation" accounts for the old time favorites not being like the roses originally introduced that became popular, 'Nocturne', 'Tiffany', 'Mme. Chiang Kai-shek', 'Gene Boerner', 'Rosenelfe', and even 'China Doll', and that old rose of 1926 popularity, 'Briarcliff' HT. These declined varieties teach us to keep a rose in good health after you get it from a reliable grower in its first five years of introduction. Your chances of having a true example to share with other rose enthusiasts in later years will be excellent. Never forget that 7 to 10 years are needed to allow a seedling rose to reach enough maturity to produce strong enough buds to grow a rose bush that will produce strong and typical roses true to variety. - perhaps longer. The large growers that introduce fine, brand new varieties each year are not interested in propagating old favorites over 4 or 5 years because they are in the business of selling roses and they watch their sales carefully. ¶

We have mentioned before that we need to plant ahead to make our own rose gardens a real success and pleasure. First, we ask ourselves "what kind of an old rose garden do we want?" Most of the Texas Rose Rustlers, new to old roses, probably answer, "I want one that is fragrant and blooms all the time, has no troublesome diseases and pests and doesn't take 2 or 3 hours daily and all the time on week ends." By choosing the right rose varieties, you can have that by educated planning. Get one of our 1989 rose survey lists that suggests varieties easy to handle here in Houston, Texas. Forget the pictures of fancy old roses you have seen in catalogs. Contact one of the long time members of the Rose Rustlers to advise you, and forget the insecticides, and read your Old Texas Rose regularly. Keep a file of them to refer back to articles.

Perhaps your goal is to grow a specialized rose garden, like a Biblical Garden, or one of highly fragrant roses, or roses with quartered centers, one of only roses that do not blackspot, mildew, have no prickles (roses have no thorns because what stabs you only comes from the outer bark and not from the inner core). Be prepared to do a lot of reading and inquire of knowledgeable old rose growers as well as experienced. There IS a difference. We cannot grow many old roses we might like to grow because some kinds (Albas, Centifolias, some specie types, some Bourbons, some Damasks, some Hybrid Perpetuals, etc.) and there IS quite a limiting climate difference between here and Conroe, or Antique Rose Emporium, and even Galveston.

We have troubles growing Gallicas and also Rugosa type roses because of our hot soils. We have not found any way to make the cold loving Rugosas grow except to bud them to Fortuniana rootstock. It is not the tops of Rugosas that dislike heat but the roots! The leaves of Rugosas are very rough and they are prone to blackspot and mildew, altho they like dry weather. Some of the Hybrid Rugosas have smoother leaves than others and survive a few years sometimes but they are not suited to our climate. Hybrid Gallicas seem to do best on the Fortuniana rootstock also, if planted in a semi shaded, cool location. Staying with the China roses is the safest! ¶

COUNTRY HERITAGE ROSES
HAVE NEW OWNERS

Long time members of the Rose Rustlers, Ron and Myrna Jorgensen, became so interested in old roses eight years ago that they went into the wholesale growing of them. It was to be a 10 year project and all was going well.

They began to look forward to selling their business, knowing that it might take some time to sell it. Word traveled around that it would soon be for sale, and they looked forward to their total retirement in two more years. Mike and Charmaine O'Roark went to see Ron and Myrna, fell in love with the idea of being a grower of old roses, and bought the business outright!

They have agreed to stay wholesale and to maintain the current customers for a one year minimum. Ron and Myrna agreed to stay on as consultants until Mike and Charmaine feel comfortable with it. They have a great collection of roses and many of us have wanted to mail order from them in the past but couldn't. The O'Roarks do not yet know if they will ever get into retail sales but have not ruled it out after this year.

We have had a great interest in Ron and Myrna's adventure as rose growers and we welcome the O'Roarks into the "family" of "Old Rosers"!

Country Heritage Roses address is now:
10020 FM 1390, Scurry TX 75158-3785
Ph. 214/452-3445

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION
1995 ANNUAL MEETING

Dahlonega, Georgia, will be the site of the Heritage Rose Foundation's annual conference on Saturday, May 20th, 1995. Dahlonega, GA is the location of the newest Antique Rose Emporium retail center that opened last year and promises to be an interesting event. Dahlonega is the site of our nation's first Gold Rush, in 1828, and a museum there marks the mining event.

During the week end the community's wild flower festival will be in progress so it will be possible to see the spring diverse flowers in North Georgia. May 21st. on Sunday, there will be a tour of Barnsley Gardens, near Adairsville, GA. Built in 1840 as "Woodlands", it was spared during the Civil War but left in ruins by a tornado in 1906. In 1988 the mansion was restored. A rose garden is featured in the restoration as will be a collection of heirloom fruit trees.

All meals and transportation will be on your own this year, making registration less costly than in the past. As always, the conference is open to the public. More information will be announced at a later date. In the meanwhile, plan to attend this most interesting event on the week end of May 20-21, 1995.

REQUEST FOR CUTTINGS

Our good members in New Ulm, the Turners, are interested in the Austin Roses (English Roses). Nell wants to try as many of them as she can get cuttings to root. You may recall their wonderful rose garden from the tour of their grounds at a Rose Tour about 2 years ago. They were building a **huge** rose arbor about 100 ft. long and some 10 ft. wide. There were 11 supports about 10 ft. apart, each to accomodate 4 climbing roses. This would total 44 climbers!

Nell wants cuttings you might send her of only the English (Austin) Roses to try in her garden. Call her at New Ulm, TX, at 409/992-3617. She will give you instructions on mailing them in zip lock bags with wet paper towels, etc. Rt. 2 Box 267A, New Ulm, TX 78950.

T H A N K S

FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON

The 1994 Bulb and Plant Mart was a **Great** success! Very special thanks to the Mart Rosarian, Conrad Tips and other wonderful "Rose Rustlers" who so graciously contributed their time and expertise to the project.

Happily, our combined efforts will bring more old roses to Houston as Mart funds are invested in many community horticulture and conservation projects. See you all at the 1995 Bulb and Plant Mart!

/s/ Suzanne Loomis, Gen. Hort. Chmn.

CULTIVARS, REGISTRATIONS and TRADEMARKS

The American Rose Society is the international authority for roses. All roses introduced should be registered with ARS to be assured that no other rose has ever had a similar name. If the name is acceptable according to the rules it is approved. Formerly, if a rose was declared extinct its name was given to another applicant **but this is no longer true**. The name cannot be used again. A "cultivar" is simply a "variety" of a plant. 'Peace' is one cultivar or variety; 'Climbing Peace' is another and 'Flaming Peace' is still another, because they are not identical to 'Peace.' Note that the accepted name of a cultivar is enclosed with single quotation marks and is capitalized. Also the name may be preceded by the abbreviation cv. Peace, meaning "cultivar", but the single quotes is the most popular. We might write 'Cecile Brunner' and also "The Sweetheart Rose" to show the alternative nickname, which needs double quotes to distinguish it from the correct and acceptable name.

Once a cultivar is approved it receives a registration with the International Rose Registration Authority. A patented rose must be a Registered rose to receive a plant patent from the U.S. Patent Office, which gives the applicant a patent number for that cultivar. It does not have to be patented but must be Registered.

Trademarks are another thing altogether. Roses do not need to be trademarked or patented but must be registered. Three points are necessary for a rose to carry a trademark:

1. The trademark must never be the same as the registered cultivar plant name.
2. If the trademark becomes associated with only one specific cultivar by the public the trademark becomes invalid.
3. If the public fails to associate the trademark with the owner of that mark, it becomes invalid.

Legitimate trademarks indicate a **brand** of roses, such as Star®, J&P®, Tops in Roses®, for examples. The little symbol following the trademark name shows the name is registered with the U.S. Trademark office. The "TM" following English Yellow, currently seen in some advertising of 'Graham Thomas' is not a trademark; neither is ('AUSmas'), and other

strange combinations of similar type names being seen following cultivar names. They are only names used by growers to readily distinguish their stock on an order list, for example. They are not a part of the cultivar's name.

It was recommended at a symposium that a code word be registered as the official cultivar name. Nurseries could then use trademarked terms in marketing but still not referring to only one cultivar.

Cultivars have slipped through with the cultivar being trademarked, such as the rose 'Graham Thomas'® ('AUSmas') being sold in one nursery and English Yellow™ in another. English Yellow has no legitimate trademark but the owner claims it anyway.

It is a confusing mess that cannot be solved overnight but it must be solved else rosarians of the future will not be able to ever identify all the "legal names" of cultivars.

In the meanwhile we should go ahead like we always have, calling roses by their accepted names according to MODERN ROSES 10 and let the fortune seeking growers and marketers cook in the mess they have created. ¶

N O A D V E R T I S I N G

We do not solicit or charge for ads in "The Old Texas Rose." We recommend some books and items that members have found to be beneficial. Thus far we have had no reports that a recommendation we have passed along to anyone has proven to be a big error or disappointment. If it has been we can only say we are sorry and would like to be informed about it.

A publication that we exchange with each quarter is one that many of you would enjoy. It is "The Historical Gardener", a newsy quarterly publication of articles about old gardening and farming practices and accounts of great interest. It is published by Kathleen McClelland, who is also the Editor while her husband, Bill, is the Co-Editor. ISSN 1067-5973. \$12. per year (4 issues) USA. \$14. yearly Canada. 8½"X11", 12 pp.

THE HISTORICAL GARDENER
1910 North 35th Place
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-8981

HEALTHY SOIL - HEALTHY PLANTS

by Mary Walker

[Mary is a Consulting Rosarian for the ARS and well known grower of all types roses. She and Vince have been members of The Texas Rose Rustlers for some time. This excellent article on growing roses she gave us permission to use and we thank her very much. -- Editor]

It is a fact that roses can grow in any garden anywhere. At the same time, it is equally a fact that in some gardens it is necessary for complete success to give preference to one site over another and give special preparation to the soil.

If you expect long straight canes with healthy green foliage topped by high-centered buds be prepared to back up the above-ground growth with the same healthy underground growth. Roses appreciate a well-prepared rose bed. The soil should be loose, friable and full of organic materials.

Roses are no different than humans. They have to eat, drink and breathe. These functions take place in the root zone.

The interchange of water and air in the soil is vital to the root system. You need a soil that is moist but drains well so the natural air spaces in the soil do not remain filled with water for any length of time. Roots need oxygen to function properly. The plant depends on a healthy root zone with ample water to supply nutrients to the plant. No roots can take up solid fertilizers; the nutrients must be in solution for the plant to assimilate them.

Clay soils are compact and roots have trouble penetrating the soil. Clay soil holds water with resulting poor drainage. Sandy soils have large particles and large pore spaces. Sandy soils drain well, but lose moisture and nutrients by leaching.

Knowing your basic soil types gives the theme upon which you can make variations to satisfy roses.

The general formula that the Houston Rose Society has recommended for some time is: 1/3 top soil + 1/3 river sand + 1/3 organic matter. (River sand is sand from a fresh water river, NOT "bank sand" or calache.) Most of Houston area soils are clay, so you must add gypsum to deionize the clay particles (CaSO_4) to make them separate, break apart. This improves permeability and also

supplies Calcium. Gypsum does not immediately cause the pH to change and will not harm roots. To apply gypsum, spread it over the bed using about 20 lbs. per 10' square (100 sq.ft.). Work it into the soil with a small tiller or by hand.

Sand needs to be sharp sand usually called "builders sand" or "mortar sand". Bank sand stratifies and compacts and is to be avoided for several reasons. You can use perlite for part of the sand, the coarser the better.

The component of the formula that is most beneficial in effect on the soil is the organic matter. "Organic matter" is decomposing plant and animal materials. Fully decomposed organic matter is "humus." A large variety of this is readily available: animal manures, fine milled pine bark, pine needles, cottonseed meal, mushroom refuse, and decomposing leaves are inexpensive compost materials.

Decomposing leaves will produce a soil full of earthworms. Animal manures are the best organics you can add to any rose soil. Also, if you keep a compost bed or bin you already have great organic material in your yard!

Compost prevents compaction of clay soils and enhances air circulation. A sandy soil with organic matter retains water and nutrients, but organic matter breaks down rapidly and must be added frequently on top.

If you are building a small rose bed or rose planting site you may prefer to purchase a rose soil mix, such as Teas Nursery sells. The American Rose Society sponsors a product called "Mills Magic Rose Mix" that is available throughout the country that has proven to be a good organic additive/fertilizer.

Fill your rose bed with the basic soil mix. To enhance it add the following soil amendments: To a 10 ft. sq. (100 sq.ft.) add 15 lbs. of Fish Meal; 20 lbs. Alfalfa Pellets or Meal; 5 lbs. Superphosphate; and 20 lbs. of Gypsum if you have not tilled it in to the soil base; if you are using undecomposed manure (like horse manure fresh from stables) add 5 lbs. Bone Meal. Among rosarians you will find a wide variation in the types and amounts of amendments used. Filling the bed with your basic mixture + amendments till well and water thoroughly. Allow the bed to settle for 10 days to 2 weeks; then till again and water again.

(Continued next page)

HEALTHY SOIL - HEALTHY PLANTS (continued)

Alfalfa and Fish Meal are soil conditioners that make nutrients more readily available. They result in live, active organisms that do not burn roots. Some rosarians prefer to add superphosphate at the time of planting near the root zone. Phosphate does not move readily through the soil. Superphosphate is readily available to the plants. Bone meal needs about 6 months in the soil to become gradually available to roots. Phosphate rock needs several years to break down so it lasts a long time and rather expensive.

The end result, when all ingredients are mixed is a soil structure that is light, airy and porous with good drainage. The soil has a slightly acidic pH factor and contains balanced amounts of nutrients that will support healthy plants.

With the need for water conservation, soil polymers are creating a lot of interest. Polymer granules or crystals absorb many times their weight in water and nutrients, releasing them slowly into the roots as they are required. Polymers are especially effective in sandy soils and in containers. The advantages of using polymers are: reduced water requirements; reduced nutrient loss by leaching and increased soil aeration. Discuss the use and application of polymers with rosarians who have used them. Polymers do not last indefinitely but different brands begin breaking down after different lengths of time.

These are some of the "tricks of the art of growing roses" that you may consider on your way to winning the Queen of the Show. ¶

NEW NOTE PAPER AVAILABLE

Beautiful new notepaper 5"x7" folded with matching envelopes. Each has a lovely real photograph mounted with gold edging on the front of each note fold. Created by Scott Brennecke, P.O. Box 3330, Glen Ellyn IL 60138. Please write him for prices and details.

Scott does his own photography, which is, of course, in color. The paper is of eggshell embossed cover stock. Different! Beautiful!

PLANTING SITES FOR OWN ROOT ROSES

Most of us grow own root roses and it should be remembered these can be planted at any time of the year. We think they get a much better start if planted in the ground about December but many of us have had great success planting them in the summertime, most especially the china roses. Heavy mulching and ample water with good healthy rose soil and perhaps partially shading some varieties produces wonders!

Most of our own root roses grow quite well in open ground situations but this doesn't their planting soil can be nothing but field soil. They must be located in an area where they can get proper amounts of water and sun light. Unlike modern roses grafted to hardy rootstocks that need labor intensive care, they do not need to be planted in beds where they can be cared for carefully. Old roses should be planted in appropriate single sites where they can be seen and enjoyed.

The only old rose I know that does not need to be planted in a raised bed or site to assure protection from drowning in this flat area is the "Swamp Rose", *Rosa palustris scandens*. If using regular face brick, like Mexican brick, for edging a planting site it should be 3 courses high; cinder blocks need be at least 2 courses high; landscape timbers should be 3 courses or more high. Masonry bricks or blocks **should not** be secured by mortar to hamper free drainage. It is most satisfactory to use no mortar at all so they may be readjusted when necessary. Mortar creates a most undesirable frog pond that defeats growing roses, and most other plants.

Preparing sites for old roses during the spring and summer is an excellent idea for you will have plenty of time to develop good soil in the planting locations and a place to compost grass clippings and other organic materials collected as they accumulate. It often looks good if a potted rose sits in the site until December planting time. It is an ideal location to set established rooted cuttings in pots to grow until they are ready to set in the ground after they are 1½ years old.

And never forget that all roses can be grown in containers. At the end of the 3rd year they need to be repotted or be planted in the ground.

EVERBLOOMING ROSES

by

Georgia Torrey Drennan

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

ROSES FROM SEED

Single-flowered and semi-double roses are valued for their fruitful properties. They are rich in pollen, the very gold dust of roses.

A rose petal under the microscope will show very simple cellular construction compared with the green leaf from the same plant. The structure of the stamen and pistil is even more simple and the pollen grains are seen to be merely detached cells and nothing more. Under the microscope, every grain of pollen shows the membranous coat, Nature's simple mode of preservation. Collected from one rose, it can be kept dry until the pistil of another rose is ready for its application. This method of fertilising roses, and collecting and crossing certain kinds, is not beyond the skill of amateurs. The rose to be operated upon should have the stamens clipped out with a fine pair of scissors. Then the pollen from the other rose should be collected with a camel's hair brush and applied to the pistil of the rose deprived of its anthers. The everblooming roses of the Tea strains are the most hopeful subjects. Those most distinguished as parents of new and improved varieties are of these classes.

Adam, the same as President, is the seed parent of Duchess of Connaught, Jean Sisley, Pearl, Michael Saunders, and Viscountess Falmouth.

Alba rosa, the semi-double white Tea, is the seed parent of the Beauty of Stapelford and Nancy Lee.

Bon Silene has produced Annie Cook, Charles Rovalli, Flag of the Union, Souvenir de Woolton, and White Bon Silene.

Flavescens, the old semi-double Yellow Tea, has produced La Pactole and Devoniensis.

Sombreuil has been used to fertilise Polyantha Simplex, with the result of the phenomenal Polyantha Tea roses. Violet Bouyer is also a seedling of Sombreuil.

Gloire des Rosomanes, the lovely semi-double pink Tea, has not been very prolific, but has the great distinction of being the seed parent of General Jacqueminot.

Bardou Job and Duchess de Brabant, Francisca Kruger and Safrano have produced many famous seedling roses. From Safrano has sprung America, Caroline Cook, Isabella Sprunt, Madam Falcot and Red Safrano.

Some superb double roses are seed bearers and, while not as rich in pollen as the single, are yet productive. Catherine Mermet, for instance, has produced Bride, Bridesmaid, Jules Finger, and Waban. Madam Falcot is the parent of Yellow Rambler and Madam Azalie Imbert, Mlle. Blanche Durschmit and Marie van Houtte.

Gloire de Dijon is the parent of Belle Lyonnaise, Miss May Paul, Mlle. Berton, Madame Trifle, Reine Marie Pia and Celine Forestier. La Marque is so double that it is rarely the case that a stamen or pistil shows in its centre, yet it has produced Cloth of Gold, which, although quite a double, produced Isabella Gray, the parent of Marechal Niel.

It must be borne in mind that seedling roses are different from sports. Almost all everblooming roses sport a climbing variety. It is so general now that when a climbing rose springs from an everblooming bush, it is regarded as a matter of course.

The Tea and the Bourbon roses have given life to some of the most famous roses of the world by chance. Bon Silene, General Jacqueminot and Souvenir de la Malmaison are chance seedlings. Bon Silene sprang from a bird- or wind-sown seed, in a cleft at the base of a stone monument. General Jacqueminot was discovered close beside a hedge of roses to which it bears no resemblance. Crested Moss sprang from a stray seed that lodged in a convent wall.

American Beauty, Gloire de Dijon, La Marque, and Marechal Niel are glorious examples of roses that either came from miscellaneous collections of unnamed seed, or volunteers of unknown origin, the seed parent not known.

All of this is encouraging to amateurs to take hold and grow roses from seed. It is one of the most fascinating subjects connected with floriculture. There are no secrets. Nothing is withheld from those seeking information. Even Mr. Luther Burbank, the Prince of Hybridisers, gives his methods and invites followers. The everblooming roses seem to have been created to woo and win. They are so prolific of new varieties that a novice can scarcely fail, if the attention is turned to the formula of selection, crossing, planting and bringing seedlings to the maximum.

If but one fine rose, if but one worthy variety, results from dozens of seedlings, the time and patience will be amply rewarded. Nature is a powerful ally. Notwithstanding this open sesame to amateurs, it is well to consider the patience and skill required to produce a rose by hybridisation. There must be enthusiasm born of love for roses. Patience must have her perfect work. The fertilising should be done at the exact time the flower is strongest and the pollen most fertile; the action of the sun is necessary. The seed apple, slow of formation, demands ever watchful care for months; in some instances, almost a year elapses before it ripens. Then, other careful processes must be observed with ripe seed. Extreme care must be exercised in planting the seed. The soil and the atmosphere must be neither too dry

nor too damp; either extreme is fatal. The soil of the seed bed must be regarded with a certain reverence.

When seedlings appear, the part of the bed that has not produced any must be kept moist and warm enough to encourage development of every dormant seed. It is curious how some seeds come rapidly to life, and others from the same heap, under like conditions, tax the patience by remaining in the soil for six months, a year, and sometimes longer. Every seed is liable to produce a fine rose, to bring forth a wonder. Then, again, after the best efforts, after watching and waiting and tending with care, the seedlings may be exactly like the parent rose, or worse yet, poor and inferior.

Under the wisest treatment, a seedling rose is somewhat a matter of chance. It takes time to test the merits of a new rose. Sometimes, a bloom will appear in six months, but the average time required is from four to six years. (The now-famous Charles Dingee was five years under culture before it was developed; its popularity was so great that eighteen thousand roses were used to decorate the rooms where a coming-out ball was held in Washington City, the first year of its introduction.) Then the seedling rose must be proven absolutely new and distinct from any other; colour, form, size, habit of growth, time of blooming, are all taken into consideration, and several years are required to build up a stock and launch it upon a popular career.

Volunteer plants of all kinds of seed-bearers are common in early spring, also late summer, and the second growth of vegetation in early autumn is always marked by prolific volunteers from self-sown seed. Roses are not exceptions to this rule. Volunteer roses may be found in the grass or among the weeds, here and about, and sometimes a tiny rose bush will spring up in some eligible place in the border, where it can be left to become an ornament, as if the place had been selected for its occupancy. In every instance, a volunteer, seedling rose should be regarded as a treasure. Transplanted, cultivated and cherished, until the bloom makes the revelation of

colour, caste and kind, it may prove to be the equal of the Malmaison, Bon Silene, or any of the famous roses that were chance seedlings.

Volunteer plants should not go to waste, it is true, but the better plan is to gather seed from prolific roses and sow them in pots or beds, made especially for the purpose. Roses that show both stamens and perfect pistils, as for instance, Reine Marie Henriette, Safrano, Bon Silene, Sombreuil, and Rosomanes, everbloomers, should be planted near together, and the heps taken from either rose that bears the most perfect ones. A greater variety of colour and diversity of kinds of roses may advisably be grown in close proximity, for the purpose of seed bearing and natural hybridisation. The roses just mentioned are but representatives of the many of fruitful nature that exist.

The heps from mid-summer roses will ripen in November or the early part of December. Remember that when a pericarp separates itself from the parent plant or when the valves open, the fruit has ceased to vegetate; as with leaves toward the close of autumn, it has lost its vital principle, and is subject to the laws which govern matter. This is true of the rose and of all other seed. By careful selection, crossing and complex recrossing, rosarians are bringing glad tidings, year by year, of kinds of roses that combine the best points of the various classes.

It is not possible to produce a new rose except from seed. Rose seeds are hard and slow to germinate. The sooner they are sown after the heps are cut, the sooner the plants will appear. It is not worthwhile to expect plants from a fall-sown seed before summer. Some seeds lie dormant one or two years. For this reason it is best not to disturb the bed too much in transplanting the seedlings. Keep it in good order and watch for the little plants. They will be sure to come up.

A nice little bed off to one side, in a sunny part of the garden, or on the floor of the hothouse, will be more easily managed by

amateurs than pots. In the garden the bed will be benefitted by a mulch of confifer leaves, cypress or cedar; they lie flat and are not disturbed by the wind. During the heat of summer, the seedling roses must have a light shade; the sash over the hothouse bed can have a coat of whitewash, and the garden be can have an awning or cover of leafy green boughs. On and off, is the rule. Lower the sash and put the awning on about two hours after sunrise; raise the sash and remove the shade in the afternoon, leaving the plants exposed to the nightly dews.

The seeds, when picked out of the shells, are cracked or crushed to hasten germination. If it is is not convenient to sow the seed as soon as ripe, they may be kept in sand, which will prevent the heps from shriveling or drying. Seed sown in spring will come up in August or September and on until later.

Give the young roses time to do themselves justice. Cut off every bud and slightly clip the plants, for the first season. As said before, no seedling will produce perfect roses before the third, fourth, or fifth year. They should not be discarded for imperfections until they are old enough, and have the strength to produce the best flowers within their capacity.

The three classes of roses of the greatest value are the everblooming, the winter-blooming, and the iron-clad. A great boon to the world would be a class of true everblooming roses developed from some iron-clad stock, such as the nurserymen of Scotland grew from seed of Rosa spinosissima, the Scotch, or Burnet rose. In 1803, there were eight varieties in white, yellow, various shades of pink and deeper red. They still command a price, for nothing quite as beautiful can be found to fill their place. No wind-swept shore of northern lake, no plateau of mountain top, no country so cold, but these pretty, once-blooming roses herald the approach of summer year after year, with profusion of blooms. If the everblooming, winter-blooming, and iron-clad roses are ever united in one strain, it will be the result of seed production. ¶

NEWSLETTER STAFF GROWING

Following the Editor's request for help with publishing The Old Texas Rose at our Annual Meeting in October at the Rose Rustle in The Peaceable Kingdom, a few members indicated interest in helping, for which we are most grateful.

Jackie Fischer has been keeping our label list for several years. As she is now working full time she requested someone else take over printing it each quarter, or whenever we need to do a mailing. It was agreed that Twyla Garce, 2115 W. Riviera, Cedar Park, TX 78613 would run them off on her computer. As we have been doing before, Deanna Krause, our Treasurer, will keep her up-to-date with the memberships and correct addresses of all members.

Twyla lives near Austin, TX, and Deanna lives in Pasadena, TX, and the Editor lives in Houston. We had a little delay in having all the information forwarded at the usual time for our January Old Texas Rose this issue which accounts for it being a bit late, but not very much. We expect to have the next issue to you about March 15th. It will inform you of our March 25th "neighborhood" gathering as well as the details of the Spring Symposium scheduled for April 29.

Be sure to see the code number on your mailing label when it arrives. If you do not receive a newsletter by March 22nd your subscription may have expired with this issue, **Winter 1995**. The code on your label will read **W 95** and your membership number above or below it. Send in your renewal as soon as possible so we can mail the **Sp95** issue to you well before April 15th anyway. Watch for your expiration date being marked with a pink highlighter if the issue is the final one under your current subscription. We do not mail notices out regarding member subscriptions. Our volunteer mailing service only has the time and energy to mark the final membership labels. Any newsletter you miss please let us know and we will send it A.S.P. Direct your request to the Editor, Margaret Sharpe.

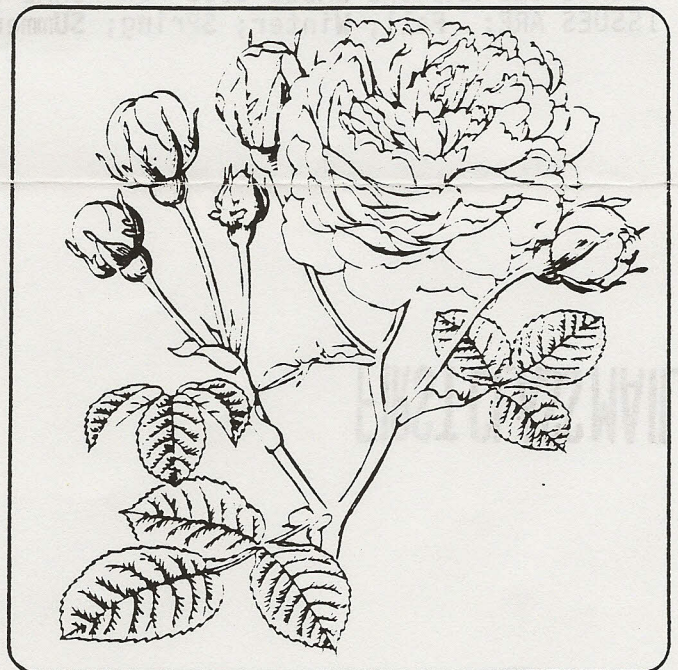
TYPING ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

With some foreboding, Audrey Beust McMurray offered to try doing some typing for the Editor. She was very fearful that she might not get things like they were needed to be reproduced. After a little job description her typing turned out very **good!** She types beautifully and very accurately, and fast!

We owe both Audrey and Twyla a huge round of "THANKS"! If any one of you would also like to help occasionally and have your own word processor or computer let the Editor know your thoughts and drop her a note. She will send you a format for the pages to go by and also some paper we like to use because of its weight and contrast of black and white. We have to use a black film ribbon to achieve good registration from our printing method. Cloth ribbons give us trouble due to lack of density of the type. All our texts are printed on 8½"x11" white 20 lb paper stock.

We are always grateful for articles from members on old roses if you wish to share one or more of yours. We ask for editing permission if it is needed. Send them directly to the Editor.

Again, we wish to thank Audrey and Twyla!



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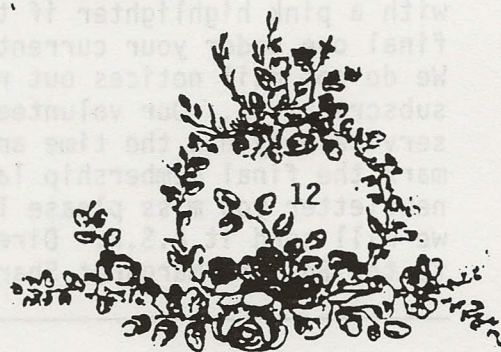
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