

The Old Texas Rose

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NO. 4

This issue tells of the coming Symposium, which is scheduled for April 16th, Saturday. It will be at the Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Garden just north of Houston in Humble, TX. You will find a map of its location on the bottom of the schedule and program, page 5. This will also be our first Spring Rose Show and it is hoped all of you will have lots of roses to share with us. The show will be in another building separate from the one in which we will have the Symposium in order that the public may view the rose exhibits without disturbing our program. Details are explained on pages 5, 6 and 7.

COMBINED ROSE LIST 1988

We are very happy to receive our copy recently of Bev Dobson's new Rose List. Many interesting roses are listed and some have, alas, disappeared. To quote her from her recent *Rose Letter*, "The various editions of the CRL only indicate what might be done. They are never complete, and never could be, but each edition falls sadly short of what it might be with more consistent participation from nurseries abroad." Even though she claims it is easy to put together, many of us find it a wonderful help that we would be at a loss to find rose sources anywhere else. You may order yours from her for \$10 + \$1.50 shipping: Beverly R. Dobson, 215 Harriman Road, Irvington, NY 10533

STANDING RULES OF THE TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS

These Rules, approved by the membership annually, may be changed at any time at a regular meeting, approved by a simple majority present and voting, or a poll of the membership via *THE OLD TEXAS ROSE*. We would like proposed change(s) submitted to the Editor for publication prior to voting, two months in advance, if possible.

1. The annual dues of this organization shall be \$7.00 for a 12 month period of membership.
2. An annual Treasurer's Statement of financial status shall appear in the official publication annually following audit of the books.
3. Club membership in non-profit organizations embracing the same objects and interests of this organization shall be permitted. Such decision shall be that of the officers, who will report to the membership of any such decisions.
4. Payment of expenses involving the official publication, *THE OLD TEXAS ROSE*, shall be the first use of dues money collected. Any remaining funds may be used to defray any expenses of an annual meeting and to eliminate or lessen any assessment of the members in good standing.
5. No officer or member shall receive financial profits from this organization for either goods or services.

"NO WAY!"

OR

"HOW TO MOVE ROSES IN APRIL & MAY AND SURVIVE" (Me & the Roses)

Ron Jorgensen

In mid March we decided to move to the farm and I would retire. I looked out the back door saw 150 old garden roses in the ground beginning to bud or bloom and thought to myself, "You sure goofed in your timing!" What should I do? (1) I could delay my retirement until

next December when it would be easy to move the roses "NO WAY!"

(2) Leave the roses here. . . . "NO WAY!"

(3) Take a chance and dig them up.

"Not too smart at this time of year when buds were breaking everywhere."

Numbers 1 & 2 were out, so how was I going to do Number 3? I wanted so much to see a full bloom covering the back yard with all the sweet aroma floating in the air. But, if I waited for blooms I would be back to No. 1. "NO WAY!"

I finally decided what to do. I heavily pruned all the bushes (Believe me, that hurt!) and put Elmers's Glue on the cuts to help keep the bad guys out. A week later I used a narrow long-bladed garden spade and cut the roots in a circle approximately 6 inches from the base of each plant. I immediately watered very heavily almost floating the bushes away. I let the roots harden off for two weeks, dug them, pruned some of the roots to match the tops, put them in pots and watered again. The pots I used varied to fit each bush as best it could. The size of the pots were from 1 to 3 gallons but, if I had to do it again, I would use 3 to 5 gallon pots. At times all the dirt fell off the roots as I dug them. I used dirt out of the same hole, packed the dirt and the roots into the pot, making sure not to leave any air pockets. I moved the pots to an area that only got morning sun and kept the soil damp all the time, using a root stimulator in the water.

One week later I borrowed a 20 ft. trailer that had 4 ft. solid sides and started the three trips to transport the bushes. I stopped half-way to the farm (2 hrs.), watered the tops of the bushes and did the same thing again when I unloaded them. I placed the pots so they would get only a few hours of direct sun in mid morning and filtered sun the rest of the day. During the hot, hot days (above 95°) I would water the pots daily, otherwise every



other day. In the morning is the recommended time to water but I did it in the evenings sometimes with no difference in the bushes noted. When I watered I also washed the bushes off. In about 3 or 4 weeks we started to see breaks appear and I started to breathe again. The longest time between watering was every other day. If I went 3 days I could see some of the bushes start to droop.

BLOOMS: Everything bloomed within 3 months, even some of the once bloomers.

SPRAYING: I sprayed with a fungicide before any breaks started and did not spray again until September. I did not spray for insects. We have a nice breeze here all the time.

FERTILIZING: I fertilized a minimum of once a week due to heavy watering (no salt build-up) I used Carl Pool water soluble 20-20-20 at first, then switched to 8-55-6 when buds started. I also used Osmocote 18-6-12 for 9 months in the pots. All the pots had about 1 inch of bark mulch on the top.

In November 1987 I still had all the bushes in pots as Myrna's rose bed wasn't built. All the pots were put in a 12 inch wide by 10 inch deep drainage ditch and covered with oak leaves for the winter. None of the pots were in as much as 6 to 8 hours of full sun. I feel the hot sun dries out the soil and the bush too fast, especially when using the black plastic pots.

Did I lose any, you ask? I was very LUCKY! I only lost 2 old garden roses and 2 Hybrid Teas. Lady Luck and Mother Nature takes care of fools I guess. In the fall of '88 I will let you know how all the potted roses and I survived the winter and spring.

Would I do it again? "NO WAY!"

Nancy Steen: The Charm of Old Roses (Second Edition). Washington, D.C.: Milldale Press, Inc., 1987. (250 pages, 48 color photos, 8 black and white photos, \$24.95)

Nancy Steen's 1966 classic book on Old Garden Roses has recently been reprinted in the first edition to be published in the United States. Since it was first published, this book has developed a well deserved reputation for the wealth of information it contains about the history of roses and practical advice about growing the older varieties. Until now, it has been scarce in this country, with second-hand copies sometimes selling for hundreds of dollars when they have become available.

In this book, Mrs. Steen (who died in 1986) traces the historical development of the major classes of roses that are now considered to be old-fashioned varieties. She also provides detailed information about growing roses of the different classes and incorporating them into landscape plans. Michael Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham would agree with her observation that many varieties of old garden roses are valuable plants in settings that require hardy plants with minimal maintenance requirements. She and her husband spent years collecting and identifying roses that were originally planted around farms and villages that were first settled in the 19th century and later abandoned, leaving only the roses and other plants as survivors to mark their passing.

I found her advice on cultivating and pruning old garden roses to be potentially of great value to gardeners along the Texas coast. The climate of New Zealand where Nancy Steen lived and did most of her work is marked by cold, rainy winters followed by summers with hot dry spells mixed with periods of rainy weather. This is similar to the weather found in coastal areas of Texas, and her experience with many varieties parallels my own experience with the same roses. Contrary to the usual advice given for pruning old roses, she suggests that some varieties (for example; the Damask York and Lancaster, and the Moss rose Crested Moss) may benefit from hard pruning after they bloom in the Spring. She reports that she has been successful in growing many of the once-blooming old European roses (Gallicas, Damasks, Albas and Centifolias) that have a reputation for doing poorly in the warm Texas climate. Her suggestions make sense, and may improve the success of Texas gardeners in growing many varieties of old roses.

This is a book that is definitely worth buying. It is well written and does a very good job of describing the historical development of roses as we know them today. It is the best source of information I have found for growing old garden roses in conditions similar to those which prevail in most areas of this state. It is very good as a single reference guide to old garden roses, or as a companion volume in a library well stocked with books about them. It can be ordered direct from Milldale Press, 1718 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20009 (Phone 202-232-7933) or many bookstores will special order it at your request.

-- Roy F. Morgan

Claire Joyes. Claude Monet: Life at Giverny. New York: The Vendome Press, 1985. Illus.

Monet and Miss Jekyll were contemporaries of the same generation, both were artists imbued with canons of Impressionism, both suffered poor sight, both had an almost mystical reverence for the soil, both created superb gardens derived from the humblest traditional practices of their respective countries -- the cottage garden and its French counterpart, le jardin de curé. How interesting, then, to compare the work of these formidable eccentrics, but that Monet painted every leaf of his garden and Miss Jekyll did not, to the eternal regret of those who sigh for a glimpse of lost Munstead. She wrote, though, and she drew and she photographed indefatigably. Hope springs eternal. Giverny, after all, was rescued from the last stages of ruin. The Japanese bridge is covered with wisteria again, crimson and yellow tulips rise from the ground cover of forget-me-nots as they used to do, and Monet's roses bloom on the arches spanning the Grande Allée, their tender colors challenged by the gorgeous nasturtiums on the ground below. No tasteful reticence at Giverny. How

many of us would have the courage to clump pink, red, and white (gasp!) geraniums (oh horror!) around our pink, red, and white rose trees? Monet's palette was high noon to Miss Jekyll's moonshine. Being that as it may, they looked for inspiration, not in vain, to the modest efforts of the people and evolved from their observations gardens no peasant could have made or would have if he could.

It should here be noted that Monet's favorite rose was Belle Vichysoise, a Noisette introduced by Lévêque in 1897. It is a small pink and pinkish white cluster of 20-50 blooms, abundant bloom and vigorous growth, and, of course, fragrant. It is available today from the Heritage Rosarium, 211 Haviland Mill Road, Brookeville, MD 20833 and from Trevor Griffiths & Sons Ltd, No. 3 R. D. Timaru, New Zealand.

-- Conrad Tips

Sean McCann, All the World's Roses. London: Leslie Frewin Publishers Ltd., 1974. Illus.

Though not even remotely important in the great eternal scheme of things, Mr. McCann's book is in its gossipy way amusing. Of special interest to us here in Texas, however, are the bords below:

"Great research into the rose in these parts has been put in by Margaret Sharpe, of Houston, a consulting rosarian who is steeped in lose-lore. She tells me that every poor shack in south and southwest Texas, as well as Mexico, has growing within the bare front yard at least one rose bush. Each is planted with a rim of soil around the base about two feet in diameter; even in the most arid sections, the rose bush gets its cupful of water daily. Roses are said to bring good health and fortune and the giver of them to change from a feared stranger to a revered friend. They are as much a part of the Mexican as are his physical features. 'There are many fabulous roses growing in Mexican village squares that are peculiar to Mexico and have never been identified,' she says. Indeed, she feels that if a rose is ever found that is unquestionably a native of the American continent it will be found in Mexico.

She tells the story of a nurseryman, Ray D. Goodwin, who bought some wild roses from an old man who had brought a truckload of plants from Mexico. Among them was one rose that no one could name and about which no one could tell him anything. He tried using it as a budding-stock and found that many modern roses grew well with it as the understock. More importantly still, they grew well in the Rio Grande area where other root stocks were notorious for their poor performance. He now grows a limited number of roses for residents in the area - all the time using his unknown Mexican rose as the stock.

Searching in and around her home city of Houston, Mrs. Sharpe found that, while it is a relatively new city, it still harbours many old roses which had to be taken from the wagon trains and, rather than leave them to die, the travellers planted them in the area. In South Texas she has found the true Seven Sisters rose (*R. multiflora platyphylla*) growing rampant and the old rambler, Veilchenblau, once called the blue rose, happily living on farmhouse walls."

Could Mrs. Sharpe be induced to tell us more? I am more than willing to believe that lots of curious roses blush unknown in Mexico. Who knows what the padres, keen horticulturists all, brought with them from Spain? And then there is the interesting question of Mexico's trade with China in the 18th century. *Rosa banksiae*, it is said, came into Mexico's Pacific ports via the Philippines and thence to what are now the western states. This, a gardening tradition of some antiquity in California, may be found in Slosson's Pioneer American Gardening.

-- Conrad Tips

ABOUT THE LUNCHEON

Since we are having a catered lunch, as we had last fall, it is MANDATORY that we know how many to plan for. We have a limit this time of 50 people, so it will be first come, first served. Members tickets will have to be \$3 ea. for the usual reasons. It will be the same menu as before, bar-b-que, and just as delicious and generous. Please understand that each paid membership covers part of each luncheon cost, so dual memberships (e.g. Mr. & Mrs.) and complimentary members must pay the full cost of \$5 per plate.

Send your registration to the below listed Registration Chairman, Jackie Fischer. She may be reached by telephone evenings only this time, as she is now working full time. Her telephone number is 713/721-2356.

There is no charge for the Symposium and it is open to the public. Luncheon, however, is another story, as you can see. It is very important that EVERYONE REGISTER so we can have your name. Current members and luncheon participants will receive their lunch tickets at the Registration Table upon arrival in the morning. New members will also receive their lunch tickets and everyone will have a name tag. This is important so that our group may be identified in order to keep our activities contained and avoid curiosity seekers from disrupting our symposium and activities. The Mercer Arboretum is quite a popular Saturday public rendezvous and we are unable to welcome people who are only following the aroma of bar-b-que, for example!

Please come and have fun like we had last November at the '87 Symposium!

ABOUT THE ROSE SHOW

You have noted the Show Schedule and have seen the classes listed. We hope there is a place for every rose you will be able to enter. If it is not listed we will provide a spot. We expect to have this show judged by trained old garden rose judges, give appropriate award ribbons for the best in each category that is of show quality. The Arrangement section will be awarded ribbons by popular vote, as we did in the fall and had so much fun choosing. There were many excellent arrangements there!

You will bring your roses in to enter when you arrive between 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. You will Register in the new building, which is the Information Center, as you enter the front gateway. Following your own registration you take your roses down the path to the north of the Information Center to the Staff House, that is the original Mercer House, where there will be someone to assist you in making your entries and showing you where they are to be placed. The space is rather small compared to the large area we had last fall, but it will be adequate, we hope. You must be through entering by 9:45 and in the Symposium room in the Information Center building. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. and should be complete by lunch time. Voting on the Arrangements will be during the lunch break.

The public will be free to view our show and there will be some of our members watching the roses and the arrangements at all times. Please leave your exhibits on display until 5 p.m. if you possibly can. Take this chance to view this beautiful botanical display of plants and decide where OGR's may be planted.

TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS

1988 SYMPOSIUM LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

- ☐ Enclosed find \$2.00 to cover cost of one member-in-good-standing luncheon. \$ 3.00
(Label on back of this form)
- ☐ Enclosed find \$5.00 to cover cost of one Dual or Complimentary member. _____
- ☐ Enclosed find \$5.00 each for _____ Non-Member lunches. (For Membership see other side) _____
Make checks payable to *THE TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS* _____

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Mail on or before April 11 to:

MRS. JACKIE FISCHER, Registration
4807 Benning, Houston TX 77035

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___ Revised list of commercial sources for Old Roses @ 50¢ ea.

___ List of Rose Source Books @ \$1 ea.

___ List of related societies @ 50¢ ea.

___ Starting Cuttings & Propagation @ \$2 ea.

For OTR Mailing List make check to
THE TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS and mail
to the Editor, listed below: \$1 ea. ___

STENTING: The Heritage Rose Foundation News, Jan.88 issue, notes that in a future issue of the newsletter they will give instructions for stenting, a method of quickly grafting small cuttings into root pieces. This offers possibilities for roses difficult to root, as well as a way to produce own-root roses. You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending in dues of \$10 (\$8 under 21 & over 65) to: *THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION*
1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606

4 Issues
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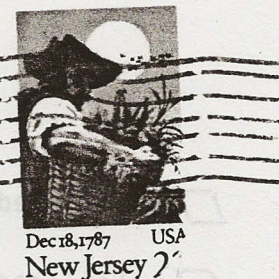
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