

The Old Texas Rose

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THREE GOOD LANDSCAPE ROSES

Dr William C. Welch
Pres., Brazos Symposium

The promotion of new thornless rose varieties this spring is both interesting and amusing. The concept is hardly new to growers of old roses. 'Zepherine Drouhin' (Bourbon, 1868), 'Marie Pavie' (?Polyantha, 1888), and Lady Banks (Species white, 1807, yellow, 1824) are some prominent examples.

The idea of shrub and hedge roses seems also to be in the process of being "rediscovered" by rose promoters. Recently, I was reading the question/answer section of the Feb, 1986 issue of The Rose (publication of the Royal National Rose Society) and was pleased to see their Hon Scientific Advisor recommend 'Marie Pavie' as a 4'hedge. The response went on to suggest that 'Marie Pavie' would do best on its own roots, but since it was probably unavailable as an own root plant in England, the homeowner should buy a few plants on laxa understock then root cuttings for the hedge. The Hon. Advisor went on to say that 'Marie Pavie' was disease resistant, highly fragrant and bloomed twice!

I will heartily agree with all but the last statement. My plants here in College Station bloom constantly from mid-March till the first hard freeze. Sometimes they flower in such profusion the handsome, dense foliage is nearly obscured.

'Ballerina' (Hybrid Musk, 1937) first caught my eye in the Palo Alto, California garden of noted old rose expert Barbara Worl. Her plant was a perfect mound 3 to 4 feet tall growing in partial shade and literally covered with clusters of single pink and white flowers. Fragrance is typically good hybrid musk. If the old flower heads are removed the plant reblooms profusely. If allowed to ripen or if even some of the fall flowers are allowed to mature, they set large clusters of red fruit. Mine were a bit larger than nandina berries and of similar color. Floral designers have raved more about the fruit than the flowers. Some have considered growing 'Ballerina' commercially for the fruit alone.

'The Fairy' (Polyantha, 1932) is my third candidate for "landscape plant of the month". The spreading character, shiny, disease resistant foliage and prolific clusters of waxy pink flowers give it instant appeal and enduring popularity. A 2 year old, twelve foot long hedge has stayed under 3 feet with minimal pruning and care. 'The Fairy' starts blooming later than most roses with the first big flush coming in late April. The flowers have unusually good substance and lasting quality but fragrance is not outstanding. They rebloom until winter.

The bottom line is that there are numerous older roses that have significant landscape appeal. Masses, hedges or even single specimens of the three varieties mentioned can be grown by any novice gardener. They should, in my opinion, be used as frequent and welcome changes from the miles of ligustrum, photinia, dwarf hollies and euonymus that characterize our typical suburban landscapes.

TEA ROSES
G. MICHAEL SHOUP, JR.
THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM

Tea roses were once a part of every fashionable Southern garden. Cottage gardens of the 19th century were also likely to contain a wide assortment of Tea roses which were known for their cool tea-like fragrance and almost year round bloom.

The famous English gardener and writer William Robinson in his 1907 book The English Flower Garden wrote "These (Tea Roses) are in so many ways superior to all other roses that we might place them first, yet there is room for a great extension of their culture in gardens both large and small." It seems that the English were so enamoured with the performance of Tea roses in their glass greenhouses that they sometimes overlooked their use in the landscape.

Tea roses are of oriental origin and descended from Rosa odorata. They are less cold hardy than their later Hybrid Tea cousins but rarely receive cold damage in the south. Teas are known for their resistance to troublesome blackspot disease, long life and handsome shrub form. Old specimens may still be found on abandoned homesites, cemeteries, and in the gardens of families who have passed them from one generation to another. Most Tea rose varieties are best grown from cuttings instead of budded onto a common rootstock.

Cuttings of most varieties are not difficult to root. Bouquets of Tea roses were often exchanged among friends and cuttings sometimes rooted from the spent flower stems. They do make good cut flowers although stems are weak and blossoms often nod from the weight of the flowers. This was considered an elegant trait during the Victorian era.

France was famous for its Tea rose introductions. The cool, damp English climate was less ideal than the South of France, Southern United States and other hot climate areas of the world where Teas seem to do their best.

Teas were superceded by their more cold hardy Hybrid Tea relatives in the early nineteen hundreds but Southern gardeners are once again seeking these handsome shrubs for their soft, subtle colors, unusual fragrance, disease resistance and historical interest.

Some of the Tea varieties available from the 1984-85 Antique Rose Emporium catalogue include the following:

Safrano - (1839) Lovely semidouble fawn colored flowers with apricot buds. Generally credited as the first rose created by hand pollination.

Bon Silene - (1839) Deep rose colored buds, vigorous growth and profuse flowering.

Sombreuil - (1850) (sohm-BRUH-ee) Beautifully quartered, highly fragrant white blossoms born on a healthy climbing plant.

Gloire de Dijon - (1853) (glwahr duh dee-ZHOHn) Magnificent climber with profuse pink, salmon and apricot colored flowers all season.

Duchesse de Brabant - (1857) (Doo-SHESS duh brah-BAHn) Flowers on a compact shrub all season. Highly fragrant and famous as a favorite of President Teddy Roosevelt.

Catherine Mermet - (1869) (kah-tuh-REEN mehr-May) A profusion of large, pink blossoms ideal as cutflowers.

Marie van Houtte - (1871) Large globular flowers of lemon yellow with pinkish, lilac tips washing the edges of the petal.

Reine Marie Henriette - (1878) Named for the Queen of Belgium. Unusual cherry colored blossoms and strong fragrance. Makes a large, handsome plant.

Mrs. Dudley Cross - (1907) Almost thornless with prolific quantities of delicately soft yellow flowers with pink edges. A favorite among Tea rose collectors.

Lady Hillingdon - (1910) Lovely pointed buds of rich apricot contrasted with purple young shoots. Very fragrant.



The tea-roses, that everybody has now discovered to be so hardy and self-reliant, both against the house and in their specially allotted beds, decorated June with unprecedentedly lavish and vigorous bloom; and now, in their later efflorescence, they are less astonishing in size, it is true, but more numerous and rich-hued than ever. I can assign the palm to none, there are so many that deserve it, and they have not yet assumed the pathetic look they gradually put on when the penumbra of winter slowly advances over landscape and lawn, and casts shadows of sad anticipation over their once all-unclouded faces.

Alfred Austin, Haunts of Ancient Peace, 1902.



Conrad Topp, Harris.

Grace Tabor, Old-Fashioned Gardening: A History and a Reconstruction. New York: McBride, Nast and Co., 1913. Illus.

It is not enough for us, in reconstructing, that we should know what was done in the old gardens; we must know why, as well. For the spirit of the ancient garden lies not in its outward form, by any means, except in the sense that all outward form expresses an inner. We shall not arrive at this inner, however — this soul — unless we work from the without back into this within, carefully and patiently. And all efforts at building, here and to-day, a garden in the old fashion that shall embody the charm which rests within and upon old gardens — a charm apart from the mellowing of Time — will come to naught unless, through having done this, a sound and sympathetic conception of the kind of living and thinking which prevailed in the old days, and found expression then in gardens and whatever men made, is first acquired. We must get into the spirit of "then", in order to create anything more than a blank form and a lifeless shell. For a garden is the subtlest and most sensitive of things.

If I could, I'd set up a press of my own in order to reprint all the gardening books of past years that I like best, and near the top of the list would be Mrs. Tabor's Old-Fashioned Gardening. It's true that Ann Leighton's authoritative studies of American gardens in the 17th and 18th centuries have gone far beyond Mrs. Tabor's work, and it's obvious that no serious gardener with an interest in the gardens of the past will ignore them. However, Mrs. Tabor's book was a pioneering effort of the greatest merit, handsomely illustrated with plans and photographs, and it occupies a particular place in American gardening literature. In Part I, Mrs. Tabor discusses in separate chapters the Spanish gardens of the Gulf Coast, the plantation gardens of the Middle South, the Dutch gardens of New Amsterdam, the dooryard gardens of New England, the gardens of Catholic Maryland and Quaker Pennsylvania, and the avant-garde design of Mount Vernon and Monticello. All in all, then, the developments of 175 years. Part II deals with reconstruction: the nature of the old-fashioned garden, its design, its plants, and its ornaments, together with a bibliography of source material. Not an inconsiderable achievement, I think.

In her plant list, Mrs. Tabor notes the following roses. Those marked with an asterisk, she says, were the most popular.

- R. alba; white, single and double.
- R. Borbonica; Bourbon rose; purplish, double.
- R. oavina; dog rose; light pink.
- *R. Chinensis; Bengal rose; white, yellowish, pink, crimson.
- *R. Chinensis, Indica; monthly rose; whitish to pink.
- *R. cinnamomea; cinnamon rose; purplish, sometimes double.
- *R. Damascena; Damask rose; white, pink, red, sometimes striped.
- R. Eglantheria; single yellow rose.

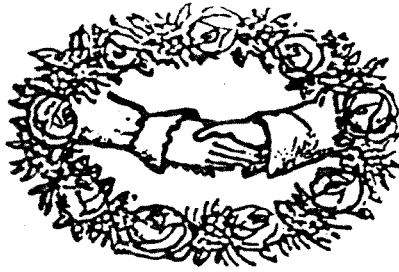
- R. Eglasteria, plena; double yellow rose.
- R. Eglasteria, puricea; yellow, scarlet inside.
- *R. Gallica; European wild rose; deep pink to crimson.
- *R. Gallica, centifolia; cabbage rose; deep pink to crimson.
- *R. Gallica, officinalis; Provence rose; double form of R. Gallica.
- R. Gallica, muscosa; moss rose; rose, white, "mossy."
- R. moschata; musk rose; white, not hardy north.
- *R. rubiginosa; sweet briar rose, eglantine; bright pink.
- R. spinosissima; Scotch rose; white, pink, yellowish.

Nostalgia aside, perhaps we should ask ourselves why the gardeners of the late 19th and early 20th centuries concerned themselves so enthusiastically with questions of horticultural archeology. Possibly at some future time, the Honorable Editrix will allow me to write on the old-fashioned garden, as it was perceived, and its more-or-less contemporary, but not entirely similar, phenomenon, the cottage garden.

It is not enough that we should know what old-fashioned gardens in general were like; nor that we can restore them, from data in hand, as builders restore a temple of the ancients. Beauty is the first requisite always; only the old gardens that were beautiful when they were made, and still more beautiful, perhaps, when they fell into ruin, are worthy of the consideration and investigation of today. Let me emphasize the fact, too that all gardens of this old time were not beautiful; not more than half of them indeed — possibly not that number — could lay claim to any merit whatsoever, as garden achievements. It is Time's silvery enchantment which has made them seem so, which has held us spellbound, so that no doubt has ever entered into the modern conception of them. By reason of their antiquity we have accented their beauty as a matter of course: it were heresy to question where veneration was so obviously the due. Hence, I think, the glamour of the term by which they have been designated.

*

Long since trussed-up in my first dinner jacket, and in an effort to pass the time, I wandered into the garden. There I picked some of my mother's standard roses which thrived so well in our clay soil; I would take these roses to the theatre and perhaps be able to throw them from our box at the star of the evening. These roses became somewhat wilted by the time they had been clutched in my hot hands during the excitements that followed....once more Pavlova curtsied slowly, the arms weaving, the eyebrows raised, the eyelids lowered: the tremulous, flickering smile was a tragic farewell, followed by another farewell kiss to all out there in front. Not a flower was left to throw — except my roses fatigues. This was my moment. In spite of my appalling embarrassment I stood up in the box and threw with all my strength. Caroline Testout fell limply through the air, followed slowly by Madame Abel Chateney. Down, down, down they went, and miraculously they landed at the pointed toes of the ballerina assoluta.



THE STATE OF THE STATE

EASTSIDE. Mrs Pauline Mueller writes:

I live about twenty miles southeast of Houston. I would like to know if there is any old rose group near me?

It seems to me that some of our enterprising "east-siders" really should get together and begin their own sub-group. Doug and Rose Mitchell, Peggy Keener, and Marsha Donovan are names which spring to mind! Will everyone who is fairly close write Mrs Mueller at 2823 Heritage Blvd, Webster 77598, whom we shall appoint secretary pro tem? Perhaps you-all could then get together and plan future meetings?

(I am jealous that you-all could assemble enough members. Mrs Whitten and I are the only Navasota devotees. We can meet at Stolz' in Old Washington every 4th Saturday night, drink Big Red, and discuss thrips, I guess!)

IDENTIFICATIONS. See my report of the ARE festivities above. Cleo and Charles were our house guests, and I really wanted to steal their shoes so they couldn't leave! Their dialogues with Mike and Tommy at the nursery over questionable IDs should settle some of our on-going controversies -- and create some more! Among ARE and our Rustle roses with very tentative new names are:

1. Caldwell Pink is pretty certainly Pink Pet
2. Dorothy Perkins is perhaps Climbing Pink Pet
3. Tommy's collected Del Cuerto has a shot at Paquerett
4. " " " Lindee may be Mignonette.
5. The pink Tea rose from the Polish lady on the

Bryan Rustle this year has a good chance of being Catherine Mermet, as does one at Mrs Carl Meyer's in Brenham.

6. The ARE Favier from the Huntington is perhaps misnamed. Cleo and Charles vote that Martha Gonzales -- the small red single China Joe Woodard liked so, from the Navasota gardener of that name -- may be the real one.

7. The large shrubs we got cuttings from on Piedmont, Road which everyone assumed were the Cecille Brunner "perplex" (Conrad's word!) turn out to be Noisettes!

All of which goes to prove that if you want certainty in your life, forget old rose collecting!

MARKER DEDICATION. Thomas Affleck, whose old rose descriptions have oft graced these pages -- (See his Bourbons & Chinas July, 1983 OTR 2/2 and Teas & Noisettes, Dec 1983 2/4) -- died at New Gay Hill north of Brenham in 1868. On April 12th, his gravesite at Glenblythe Plantation was marked with a Texas historical medallion. Our member Mrs Elinor Jacobs who lives nearby spearheaded the effort, and my co-author, historian Nath Winfield Jr of Chappell Hill gave the address. Affleck is most often remembered for his "how to" plantation books, and not so much for his two famous nurseries.

VANSANT. One name missing from amid those attending the ARE dinner is Heritage SW CO Mitzi VanSant, who operates an old rose landscaping service and is ARE rep from Austin. She flew to Arizona to be with her seriously-ill mother. Our prayers and thoughts of course go with her.

SESQUICENTENNIAL GARDENS. Prexy Bill Welch's article in this number reminds me to mention and compliment his series in The Lone Star Gardener, the newsletter of the women's federated garden clubs. The first part was on cottage gardens, the second on roses, the third on perennials. These may appear later in a glossy-type magazine.

One interesting item from his research was a comment by a visiting Englishman in 1844 of the gourds that grew wild on New Years' Creek in Washington County: the pioneer women made sun hats out of the largest of them, thus they were called "bonnet gourds." The imagination boggles.

RARIFIED. The Smithsonian called me last month to ask about our old rose collecting, and I sent them the information. This will appear as articles in national newspapers, so everyone keep an eye out. However, I was not very impressed. Now, when the National Archives called that time

NEW RUSTLER. We were so pleased to learn that Tom Christopher, our garden writer friend from NY, was marrying and moving to Bryan. Tom took to rustling like a duck to water and should prove a stalwart addition to our numbers.

THREATS. After this readership has become spoiled rotten by Conrad's elegant book reviews, you-all must tolerate mine. Anyone who protests will be assigned a topic for the Sep issue.

MEMBERS. Welcome to new members Charlotte Fonseca of New Orleans; W W Santor of Miami; Sarah Roberts of Brenham; W L Bennett of West Lake, La; Margie Dunn from Iowa City, Tx; Nell VanHelden, Houston; Mary Jones, Castroville; M N Mitchell, San Antonio; Joan Oglesby, Houston; Constance Stevenson, Houston; and Gregg Williams, Houston. We're glad to have you, and hope we can be of help in your old rose hobby.

Most of our recent inquiries and new members are from a plug Bill Adams gave us in February in the Chronicle.

If any of you would like membership applications for friends or garden clubs, drop me a postcard.

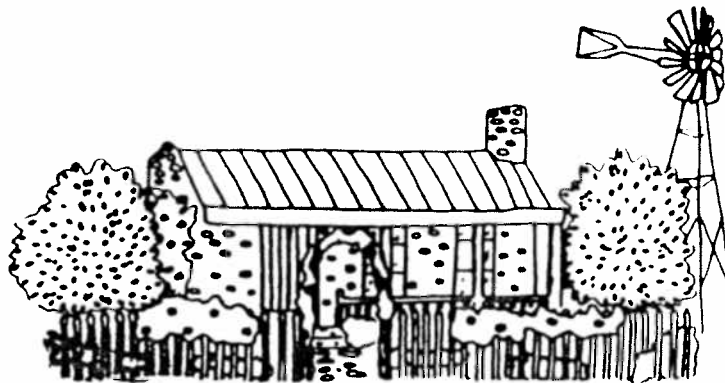
FUN. Mrs Margaret Sharpe is still offering her booklet "Fun With Roses" for \$2.75 -- write her at 9426 Kerrwood, Houston 77080. She has been forced to reprint once already. "Fun" contains intriguing recipes for food, potpourri, and suchlike from rose petals. RECYCLE your roses today!!!

THE A.R.E. OPENING and THE SOIRÉE

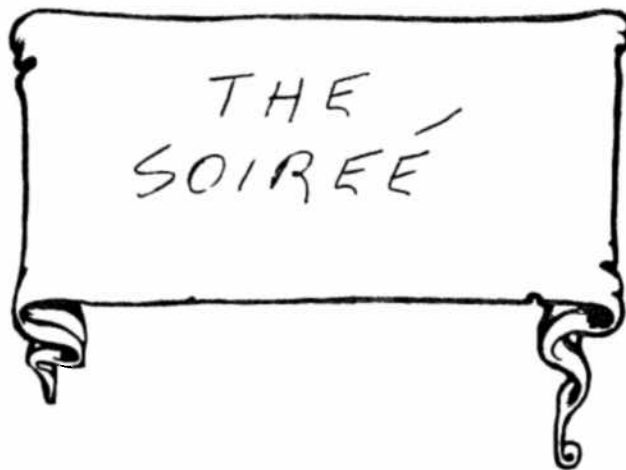
Though he has been desperately working since February, Mike Shoup Jr "officially" opened the new Antique Rose Emporium retail center Friday, April 11th. The Brenham Chamber of Commerce was on hand in full force, and Mike gave a few appropriate remarks on the hopes he entertains that ARE would educate modern gardeners in the joys of the old and species roses. (The occasion was highlighted by Master Randy Shoup discovering the water feature first-hand!)

The center is laid out around three buildings: the 1855 kitchen of the Hairston house displays the Republic of Texas Collection roses and cottage garden plants, the office-erstwhile-cowshed, and the gift shop log house, whose official designation is "Trellises and Treasures." The area around these buildings is crossed by gravel walks; the interstices are each filled with a different class of rose. The SE corner houses the species and their hybrids, the S an area of Teas, and the SW, the Polyanthas. Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons live under the windmill. Perennials are sold east of the office and native trees beyond.

All the permanent plantings are as of yet small, but by fall should be achieving the proper overgrown look. If you would like to visit them, write or call for a brochure. Nancy and Sharon "man" the office from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Saturday, and 11:00am to 5:30 pm on Sundays. Their phone is (409) 836-5548, and their address is Rt 5 Box 143, Brenham 77833.



THE HAIRSTON KITCHEN. This cute sketch by Greg Grant shows the cottage garden around the old stone kitchen at ARE's Retail Center in Independence.



THE SOIRÉE

The evening of April 19th, and appreciation dinner was held at the retail center for those who had worked on it and a few members of the press. Tables were set beside flambeaux on the grounds. Native Texas wine was purveyed on the porch of the kitchen. Of course, Mike Shoup Jr and his beautiful wife Jean presided, and Tom Adams, Glenn Austin, and the staff and their spouses were on hand. Among the worthies attending were Sara Jean Derby, our recording secretary and ARE's rep in Houston. She wore a chintz print skirt of pink cabbage roses! Joe and Helen Woodard drove down from Dallas for the event. (He is the "other" editor -- of the Dallas Historical Rose Group's monthly newsletter The Yellow Rose!)

My special friends, Margaret Sharpe, our VP, and Ethel Orr, well-known rose arranger of the Houston Rose Society came in, Margaret with a rose and pictures for Mike and Tom to identify! Tom Christopher, presently with Columbia University, came down from College Station to meet some of the Rustlers of renown.

Mother, I, Cleo Barnwell, and Charles Walker Jr attended from Navasota. Cleo knows just about all there is about Teas and Chinas; her collecting exploits appeared in QTR Sep 1984 3/3 under the title "What is My Name?" Charles is SE CO for the Heritage Roses Group with phenomenal knowledge of plant physiology. (His dissertation at North Carolina is on blueberries!) He and Cleo's major project is a future home for collected old roses: one place where all rose history might be seen. (I hope to re-print his article to SHGS in the next number).

The progress of the meal was marked by rising wind and lightning from a Norther. Someone reported that the area was under a tornado watch! Then, just as everyone was finishing their food, the bottom literally dropped out. The guests scurried for their cars. I later accused Mike of an unbeatable finale to a memorable evening!!

I tried to recall the song that Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra sang in the film "Philadelphia Story" to describe this affair, but the only verse I remembered -- a satire on the talk one hears at parties -- was:

Have you heard? It's in the stars.
Next July we collide with Mars.
What an elegant party this is!

How To Make A Victorian Rose Pillar

Pamela Puryear
Corres. Sec., Brazos
Symposium on Old Roses

There are many roses which lend themselves to training on a single pillar, a common Victorian expedient for those kinds described as "mannerly climbers." The rose may be viewed in bloom much better at human eye level, and, as they often climb to the top and cascade off, the pillar has a nice "drippy" look as well.

The pillar is a hardwood sapling from six to ten feet tall with its branches cut ten to twelve inches from the trunk. (Fig. 1) This should be set in concrete where the pillar is placed. Treating the portion which comes in contact with the soil or concrete is a good idea; it will certainly last longer. The site should have at least six hours of direct sun each day for the rose to do its best. On one side of the hole, make sure the trunk is close enough so that the rose may be planted in dirt.

Add humus or compost to the rose hole before planting, plus bone meal or a high phosphate fertilizer. As the rose will remain in place many years, this will help feed it. Stir and mix the soil so that the roses' roots do not touch the fertilizer. Plant the rose, water, and firm the soil well.

FIG. 1 PILLAR IN CONCRETE

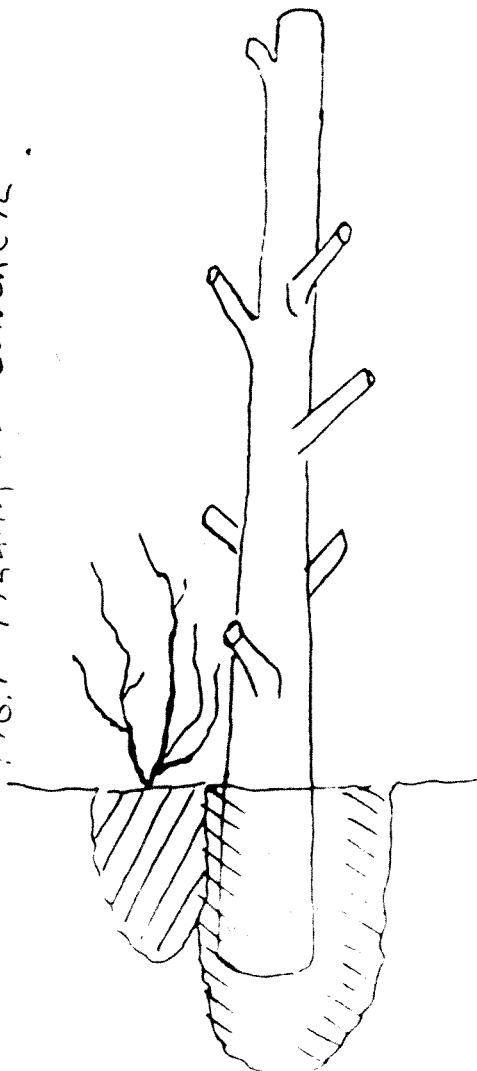
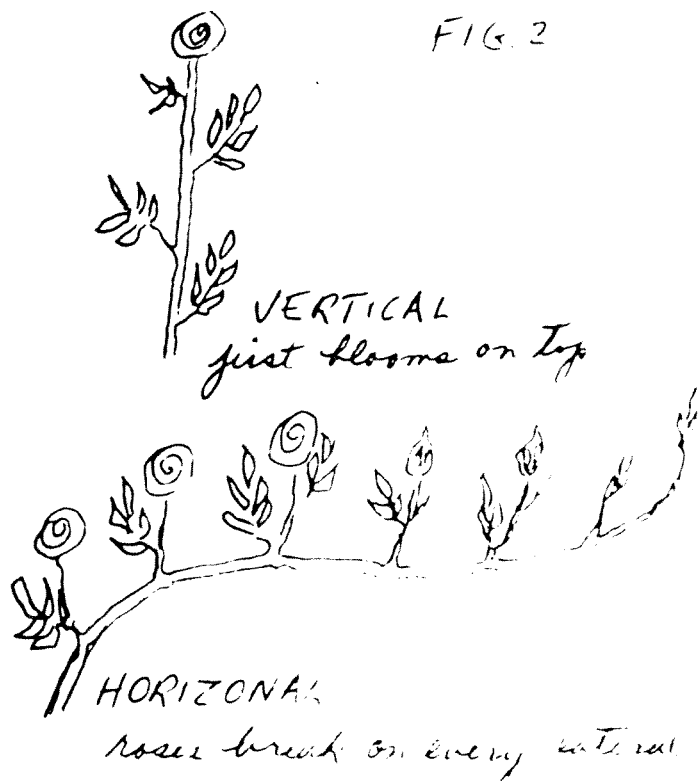


FIG. 2



Pillar, Cont.

The principle involved in training roses on pillars and trellises is to wrap the rose shoots up the pillar horizontally, so that blooms break on every lateral node. Like all plants, roses grow upwards to the light. This method insures solid blooms -- and not just on the top. (Fig. 2)

When the roses' shoots are long enough, wrap the branches spirally in one direction only, using the lopped-off pillar branches to hold them. You may have to employ a few ties. Be sure the rose canes are near the base of the pillar so that the whole length will be covered with roses! (Fig. 3)

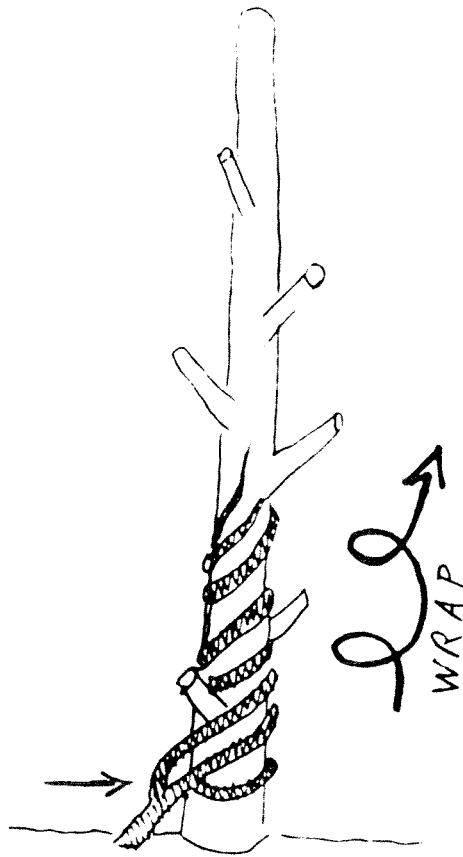


Fig. 3 TRAINING THE ROSE

Some of the best roses for pillars are the ⁴mannerly climbers and ramblers: *Those starred are especially recommended.*

Old Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals (very hardy):

★Cl. American Beauty	dark rose red	15 ft	1909
Cl. Peace	cream with pink edges	15 ft	1950
Cl. Crimson Glory	deep red	15 ft	1946
★Reine Marie Henriette	cherry to carmine	8 ft	1878
Dr W VanFleet	light pink	20 ft	1910
Cl La France	pink	10ft	1893
★Paul's Lemon Pillar	pale primrose	10 ft	1915

Noisettes and Teas (tender): Do not plant above Mason-Dixon Line.

Lamarque	white with lemon	15ft	1830
Jeanne d'Arc	white	15 ft	1848
Amiee Vibert	wh, clusters	10 ft	1828
Jaune Desprez	butter yellow	15 ft	1830
Mme A Carrierre	wh & pink	20 ft	1879
★Celine Forestier	cream yellow	15 ft	1842
★Reve d'Or	butter, thornless	12 ft	1869
★Sombruiel	white	10 ft	1851
★Glorie de Dijon	buff pink	20 ft	1853
Safrano	apricot & buff	8 ft	1839
Lady Hillingdon	apricot yellow	6 ft	1910
★Cl. Old Blush (Ch)	pink	10 ft	?

Ramblers: These all have clusters of small flowers, and bloom only in the spring.

Excelsea	bright rose red	20 ft	1909
Dorothy Perkins	shell pink	20 ft	1901
Lady Godiva	rose to pink	20 ft	1905?
May Queen (Hrup)	pink,	15 ft	1898

Other Classes:

★Cl. Cecille Brunner	(Paly) repeats		
"The Sweetheart Rose"	lt pink	20ft	1894
Rosa multiflora	carnea XSp lilac pink	30 ft	1804
"Seven Sisters"	XSp pink-mauve-purple	20 ft	1815
★Fortune's Double Yellow	single, cream with violet edges	30ft	1845

{ Rosa moschata	"True Musk" (wh) →	30ft	1540
{ R m Brunonii	"Himalayan Musk" →	15 ft	1822

also fall bloom

★Lady Banksia	Sp {stray yellow white	20 ft	1824
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American Pillar	HSet single, pink, wh eye	15 ft	1902
Fortunata	white	20 ft	1844