

The Old Texas Rose

Vol. VI

SUMMER 1987

No. 1

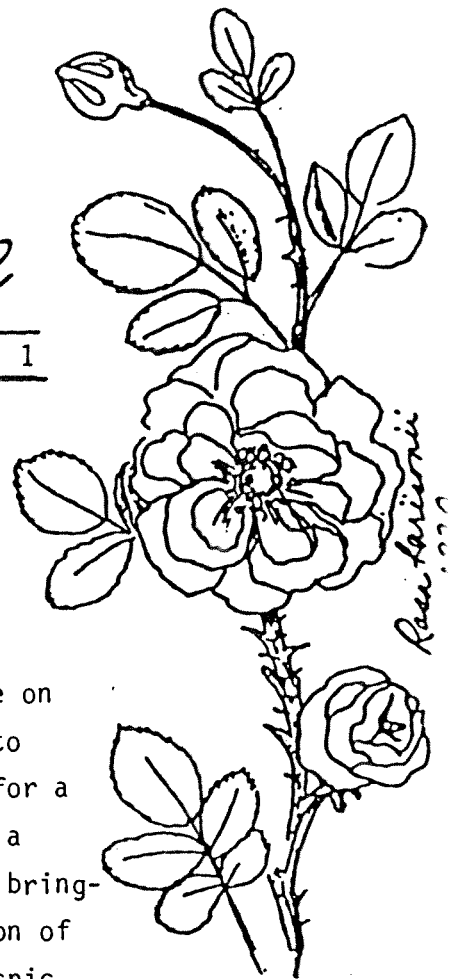
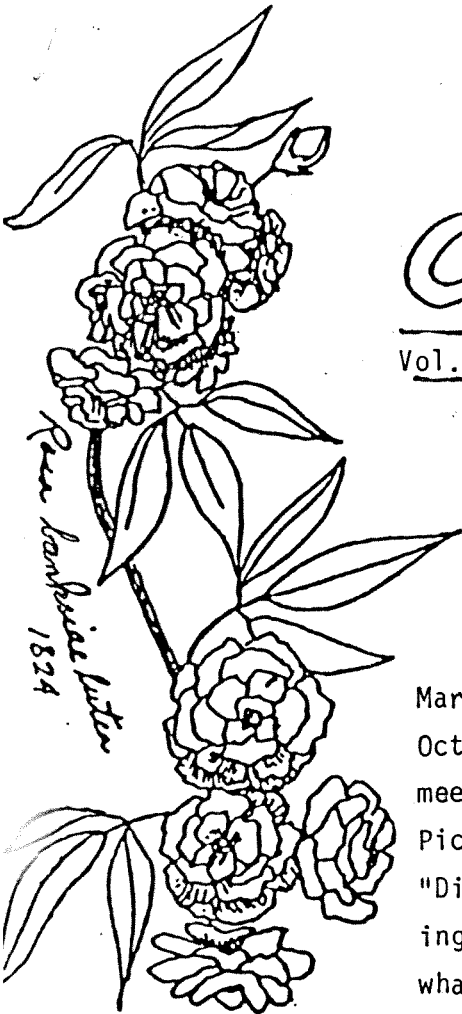
ANNUAL RUSTLE & SYMPOSIUM DATES SET. OLD ROSE SHOW TO BE HELD

Mark your calendar for our Annual Rose Rustle on October 24th, Saturday, at 11 A.M. We plan to meet at Washington-On-The-Brazos State Park for a Picnic Lunch and Cutting Swap. This will be a "Dinner on the Grounds" affair with everyone bringing enough for themselves and one other person of whatever they choose to contribute to the picnic table. Drinks will be furnished. We will hold our

famous cutting exchange while we are there and after our picnic lunch we will be given a choice of two places to travel for the Rustle. These will be announced at the Picnic. Let us pray for a day of pleasant weather. Some of us well recall Rustles in rainy weather where we had to sit in our cars and eat cucumber sandwiches! But we found a few great cuttings that paid off! In case you are not familiar with the location of Washington-On-The-Brazos State Park, it is on State Highway 105 about 5 miles west of Navasota on Farm Road 912. It is well marked on SH 105 so it can scarcely be missed. Come one come all, bring the friends, neighbors and the kids, and even the pets if you want to.

THE SYMPOSIUM will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at the new Harris County Extension Service Building, Abercrombie Drive, Houston. This is just off State Highway 6 at Patterson Road, next to Bear Creek Park. It will also be our first Old Rose Show, and you will be asked to bring roses to enter. A show schedule will be published in next Old Texas Rose newsletter. Most of the entries will be 3 or more to the container, and bouquets, etc., and some singles. This will be more of an educational show than a display of perfection roses. We will have several speakers of great interest to bring us programs and a goodly smattering of slides, too. We will open the show entries at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, and also the Symposium registration. The entries will close at 10 a.m. and the Symposium program will begin. At noon we will break for a catered lunch and to view all the ribbons we have won on our roses. Bring your cameras to get pictures! At 1:30 we will resume the Symposium until 3:30 p.m., at which time we will adjourn to view more of our FIRST ROSE SHOW, take it down and leave the building as clean as we found it.

While the building does not require us to pay rental, we will be serving a catered lunch. This will require that we make some kind of a reservation if we plan to eat. Members in good standing who send in reservations will receive an acknowledgement and will only be required to pay \$2 for their lunches. Non members may send in reservations and pay \$5 per luncheon plate. We regret that couples who are joint members must choose which one may eat for \$2 and which one for \$5. The same is true of complimentary members who receive the Old Texas Rose newsletter.



DR. BILL WELCH HONORED

Last Spring in the entrance foyer of the new Horticulture Building at Texas A & M a very beautiful silver punch bowl was prominently displayed. It was a 3 gallon sized bowl, engraved with the name "ARP NURSERIES AWARD". An engraved plaque accompanied it on which was imprinted "1987 ARP NURSERIES AWARD Established in 1942 by the Arp Family, Arp, Texas. To be presented to the person who has done the most each year to advance the Texas Association of Nurserymen."

Dr. Welch is the current chairman of the Texas Certified Nurserymen and has been very instrumental in the writing of the Texas Certified Nurserymen's Manual and in putting together the TCN Examination for members' certification. He also is recognized for his efforts in organizing and conducting Landscape Design workshops to increase public awareness of the importance of good landscaping.

We are proud that Dr. Welch is a loyal and effective member of the TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS. Although we are a bit late in saying it, we CONGRATULATE you, Bill! We are selfish in taking a tiny bit of credit in showing him that some Roses make the MOST SATISFACTORY landscape plants.



CHEROKEE TRACE & CHEROKEE ROSES

History buffs, scouting the famous Cherokee Trace that crosses East Texas, followed the trail that was originally marked by Indians with Cherokee Roses. Upshur County has a marker noting the blazing of this trail but there are evidences that the famous Indian Highway extended from Nacogdoches to northern Arkansas. The marker on the courthouse lawn in Gilmer, Texas, explains the trail:

"Near this site the Cherokee Indians blazed an early Texas trail. They wanted a road from their settlements near Nacogdoches to their home reservation on the White River in Arkansas.

"About 1821 the Cherokees selected a man known for his uncanny sense of direction. Mounting a horse and dragging buffalo skins behind him, he set a northward course. A group of Indians followed, blazing the trees to make the trail. Another group cleared away the heavy underbrush and trees. A third group established camping grounds by springs and planted Cherokee roses which still mark the route today."

Each spring the wild white, purple or pink Cherokee Rose blooms inspire many who are interested to try to retrace the old Indian Highway. Honeysuckle was also planted to help keep the trace permanently marked. It was used for landmarks to establish boundaries. Settlers coming from Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky often used the trace. Pioneers sometimes used runners from the Cherokee roses to tie packages or bundles and to make temporary mendings.

(This is from a resume of an article from *The Shreveport Times* sent in by Burlene Anderson, Timpson, TX.)

I long to see a lot of old roses flourish at Moon Cottage, all sorts of climbers, particularly scented, and to grow some lilies. I have been warned off old roses by a lot of people. They are prone to every disease, I am told, temperamental and touchy, scarcely worth the trouble. That alone presents me with a challenge, but there is more to the matter than that. Old roses have character, and romance lingering in their pasts. They are like faded old beauties of Victorian and Edwardian country houses. I love their names and their rarity and the way they are ever so slightly blousy, and yet paper-frail, too. They have resilience, come with no guarantees about their hardiness, or their eagerness to bloom non-stop from June to Christmas, if only you dead-head them. I shall have to restrict myself to varieties which do not mind being exposed, do not have to be pampered with a southwesterly aspect. I doubt if I shall ever be able to achieve the old rose garden I dream of so long as we are at Moon Cottage, but I shall make a start."

Susan Hill, *The Magic Apple Tree*,
1982.

COTTAGE GARDENS

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

The widespread interest in Cottage Gardens has grown on us as we find the ease and thrift of time and money it lends. Not to be overlooked is the landscape colors we can have so easily year around when we study and plan our gardens. We have something happy to occupy our minds in planning what we want to grow and where it will fit into our area of planting to grow and prosper. We are again indebted to J. Conrad Tips for the reviews following of books describing cottage gardens. It is hoped they will give you insight as to new ideas and ways to blend in native and common garden flowers to compliment our roses and our living areas.

Suzanne Slesin. Caribbean Style. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1985. Illus.

A cottage garden is a cottage garden, apparently, wherever it may grow. Locale matters little in the great and general scheme of things; the same impulses are busily at work around the world with much the same result. Curious, isn't it? Chapter nine of Miss Selsin's sumptuously illustrated book, which will make the reader pine for a holiday in the sun, is devoted to the gardens of the islands; but the volume welters with photographs of places big and little, simple and grand, many of them with touchingly oaf or naive, rather amusing attempts at ostentation. Imagine an unexceptionally conventional cottage embowered in mangos and banana trees, or a Jekyllite design, definitely up-scale socially, carried out in orchids, bougainvillea, and bird-of-paradise, or a stately home of England glimpsed down an avenue of coconut palms. The mind Boggles, but how pleasantly!

Quote from Jessie Macgregor, Gardens of Celebrities and Celebrated Gardens In and Around London. 1918.

"...some thirty years ago a craze set in for cottage flowers, old English flowers, to the exclusion of foreign ones. Up to a certain point the preference was explained, since no one can deny the peculiar attractiveness and sweetness of such - but it ran to absurd extremes. The glorious scarlet geranium, for instance, was voted vulgar, although the vulgarity only lay in the bad taste which could plant it in a "ribbon" border, or contrast it with the peculiarly inharmonious yellow of the calceolaria....and those who in the last generation pretended to special culture, and arrayed themselves in sad coloured serges, and art muslins of secondary and tertiary tint - although they highly approved the daffodil, did not altogether despise the violet, nor quite taboo the rose - mostly shunned flowers of indefinite form, and of positive color, and sat up all night worshipping lilies!"

Marcus B. Huish. The Happy England of Helen Allingham. London: Bracken Books, 1985. Illus. This edition is a replica of Happy England, published by Adam and Charles Black, 1903.

Hellen Patterson was born 26 September 1848 in Derbyshire. Determined from an early age to be an artist, she struggled against a bias within the profession against her sex. Overcoming it with the help of a strong minded aunt, who forced the opening of the Royal Academy's school to persons of the female persuasion, she began her formal training in 1867 and soon found herself frequenting the most advanced artistic circles of London - exactly Gertrude Jekyll's milieu. In 1874 she married William Allingham, a poet, and went to live in the country, which thereafter was her subject. An exhibition in 1886 established her position as a painter of rural life. Miss Jekyll, who admired Mrs. Allingham's work, invited her neighbor and fellow artist to paint views of Munstead. These are of great historical importance, of course, as are the watercolors of the cottages of Surrey and their gardens. Mrs. Allingham saw exactly what Miss Jekyll saw and depicted it in much the same spirit - not drooling sentimentality, by any means, but as if haloed in a golden light hardly of this world and not really of the time. The ladies were blatantly disinterested in the squalor of poverty - the diseases, the dirt, the wretchedness of it all - and they could well afford to be.

SUMMER COLOR IN THE COTTAGE GARDEN

BLUE PLUMBAGO

Plumbago auriculata

Hot, dry summer weather takes its toll on many ornamentals, but established plants of Blue Plumbago will keep on blooming with a minimum of care. In the southern half of Texas, Plumbago is a dependable perennial, but in the northern areas it requires replanting each spring.

The major value of the plant is its almost continuous display of clusters of blue, phlox-like flowers from May 'till frost. Flower color varies from clear light blue to pure white, therefore, it is a good idea to select plants that are in bloom if color choice is critical.

Blue plumbago appreciates good drainage but will do well in fairly poor soils. Plants may be slow to start but are tough and long lasting once established. Full sun or partially shaded exposure work well and mass plantings are an effective way to use the plant. They may also be used effectively as cover on slopes and as background or filler plants. The graceful, arching growth habit has a softness that blends well in a variety of settings.

Mature height is usually 3 to 4 feet with a similar spread. Heavy frost blackens the foliage which should be removed to ground level. Plants that are set out in spring usually have ample time to become sufficiently established to return the next spring.

Propagation is from seed or cuttings. Small potted plants are economical and ideal for setting out in early spring, but gallon container or larger specimens are best for midsummer to early fall plantings. Since cold damage is likely for most parts of Texas it is best to not set out new plants after October 1st.

A good summer combination planting is Blue Plumbago and Madagascar Periwinkle such as the variety Little Blanche. The total effect is cool and refreshing while both plants tend to be highly heat and drought tolerant. Although not perennial like the plumbago, the periwinkles often reseed each year in sufficient numbers to supply the whole neighborhood. Started plants of both species are usually at garden center and nurseries.

Dr. William C. Welch
Extension Landscape Horticulturist
Texas A&M University System



New Everblooming Rose,

CLIMBING PERLE des JARDINS

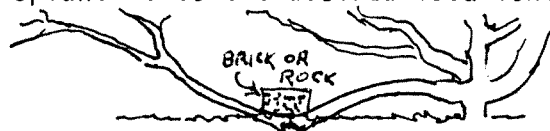
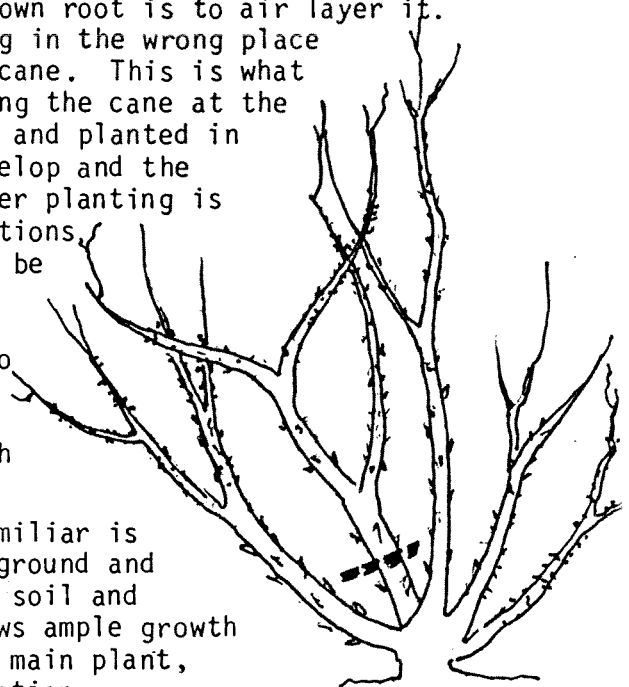
Few Roses have as firm a hold in popular favor and are so highly prized by the professional and amateur Rose grower alike as the Perle des Jardins. It is not only admirably adapted for forcing, but thrives well in the open air, blooming freely in either case. Its large, full, well-formed, golden-yellow flowers, borne stiff stems, make this variety especially desirable for bouquets and artistic floral decorations, while the dark and glaucous foliage of the plant furnishes an excellent setting for the fragrant, delicately hued blossoms. It will no doubt be as much a surprise to our readers as it has been to us to learn that this stately Rose has recently evolved itself into form which, while retaining the excellent qualities of its progenitors, has assumed a climbing habit. On the original plant the lateral growth is eighteen feet in each direction from the stem, and the plant has carried at one time over one thousand buds and flowers. The climbing habit of this sort was so firmly fixed from the start that not one of all the cuttings taken from it has reverted to the original type, and if there is any perceptible difference between the two it is only that the Climbing Perle is even more vigorous and floriferous than the bush form. Climbing Perle will supercede Marechal Neil as the bud and flower are as large and the color as deep as a golden-yellow as that variety, while it is as vigorous a climber, and will produce one hundred flowers to Neil's one. A most remarkable Rose, and without doubt the best yellow Rose ever seen. Shown at top of first page of cover of Spring Catalogue of 1891. Price, 35 cents each; large two-year-old plants 75 cents.

*The Good & Reese Co., Florists & Seedsman
Springfield, Ohio 1893*

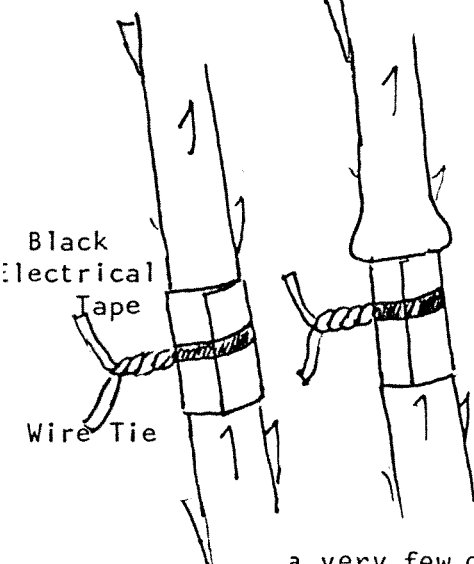
AIR LAYERING A ROSE BUSH

The quickest way to get a nice size rose bush on its own root is to air layer it. Below right you see a bush with a cane that is growing in the wrong place and needs to be removed, even though it is a healthy cane. This is what should be chosen to make a new plant. By air layering the cane at the dashed line roots may be started and the cane removed and planted in a container or in the ground for the new roots to develop and the top will continue to grow and perhaps bloom. Container planting is preferred as the plant may be moved to desirable locations and cared for better. It is important that the plant be well staked so that it cannot possibly move and break the tender new roots. Bright light is important but full sun is not desired. It is important, however, to keep the soil in the container as cool as possible as well as moist. Low or filtered light does not encourage bloom and the plant will spend more strength making underground growth instead of top growth.

We air layer in different ways. Probably the most familiar is the ground layering where we pull a limb down to the ground and make a cut or break in it, cover the fresh break with soil and weight it so it will not move. After the tip end shows ample growth indicating it has rooted securely, we cut it from the main plant, dig up the roots and transplant it to the desired location.

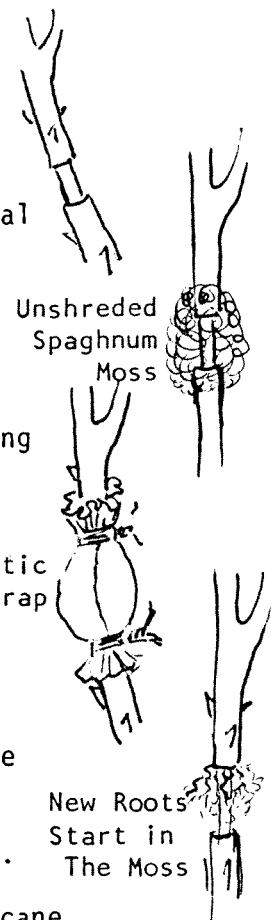


GROUND LAYERING



The TAPE METHOD of air layering is one used world-wide under different names. Electrical tape may be used, either the vinyl or the coated cloth. The Cloth may be best as one can pull it tighter and secure it better. The object is to wrap the tape around the cane so tightly that the fluids just under the bark (phloem) is blocked and cannot descend to the roots. This causes a swelling just above the wrapped area that appears in

a very few days - if it does not appear in 5 days it has not been wrapped properly and should be removed and redone. The swollen area looks like it is very tender in about 3 days after appearing and like it is about to burst. It is. At this point cut the cane off through the wrapping and remove the tape. Plant the cane in a container of appropriate soil for rooting. Follow the procedure described above in staking and caring for it. New roots will burst from the swollen area, so it is important that the cane be well watered and the top misted daily for a while. Keep growing in the container about one year before planting it in the garden.



The MOSS METHOD is the most commonly used on woody plants of all kinds. With a razor sharp knife cut a collar of bark off the cane where you desire roots. The collar should be no wider than the diameter of the cane and not over one-half and inch in any case on any plant. The cut must go into the pithy core area of the cane, down to the white wood area all around the cane. If any green tissue is left to join the top and the bottom parts of the "collar" the new roots will not form and the entire cane may have to be destroyed. We recommend that

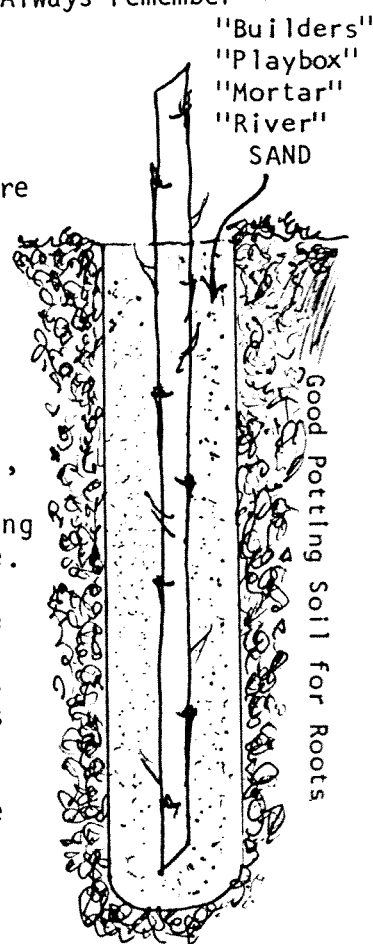
the area where the collar of bark was removed be scraped vertically to assure the absence of any green tissue (cortex, phloem and cambium layers). This will force the plant to send out roots from the upper portion of the cutting because the plant fluids cannot descend in the plant. If a very scant fleck of Rootone® is dusted into the scraped area, a handful of unshredded, damp sphagnum moss wrapped around the cane and secured by a wrapping of plastic that is firmly applied so it will not shift or fall from the cane after a wind or rain. Wire ties are best for this, but not applied tightly enough to choke the cane, as in the Tape Method. After a few days the wrapped area may be observed. It may be noted that roots can be felt inside the moss. It would be remiss if one did not "take a peek" and gently unwrap the plastic to see if roots were present. If they are not present the wrapping may be left on the plant for as long as desired. If they are present the cane may be cut below the spot where the collar of bark was removed and planted in a container as described above.

CUTTINGS started in the ground are different from air layered cuttings as the ground started cuttings are from clippings removed from the parent plant. Always remember that ROSES ROOT QUICKER IN MOIST SAND better than any other medium.

On the right is the diagram of a hole made in a container of soil as it may also be made in the open ground. Cuttings may be put in this type hole, made with the handle of a hoe and builders' sand poured around them. When the roots form in the sand the cuttings grow and send their roots through the sand into the soil when they're big and strong enough.

There are techniques to this, too. Best to root cuttings when rose roots are the most active, which usually means the mid to late spring. Wood used should not be soft and green, or should it be grey and old. Rule of Thumb is the later in the spring and summer the greener the wood - the closer to winter the older the wood.

All cuttings for this method should have a minimum of 5 leaf joints, or "Eyes". Three of these (bottom 3) are placed underground for roots and two above ground for leaves and canes to grow. The cutting should be cut back at the top end to within 1/4 inch of the top eye. This can be done with the bottom eye also - cut 1/4 inch below the bottom eye. Put all but the top two eyes underground. Whether the cutting is to be grown in a container or in the ground we cannot stress soil cleanliness enough, for soil fungus kills more cuttings than anything else. For this reason container planting of cuttings is safest. It is recommended that the cuttings be protected with either a glass fruit jar or a plastic bag over the container. The plastic 2 liter soft drink bottles with the top portion cut off are excellent to use by inverting them over the cuttings. Place them in a shaded, protected area, keep them moist at all times and providing good drainage so there is never water standing around them to drown them.



The first set of leaves are from strength in the cane and are not signs of roots formed. The second set of leaves are from new root growth. It may take a while for the second leaves to appear. As long as the cane does not darken just above the soil line the cutting is alright, but darkening or blackening of the cane shows the cutting has died below ground. As the weather permits, after the leaves are growing well the covering giving the "greenhouse effect" may be tilted to allow air to reach the leaves. If a cool night is coming it is wise to tilt the cover back upright until the temperature settles. After a week or so of this the cover may be removed entirely, but continue growing in a shady area for at least 8 or 9 months, or until the cutting is big and strong enough to introduce to bright light and/or sunshine.

-- Margaret P. Sharpe
Houston, TX 1987

Old Tales of an Old Old Rose Collector

When I first began my (in)famous career as the Central Texas Old Rose Rustler, I bought one of those blank bound books and optimistically wrote therein, "The Rose Book, 1979." My first photograph I pasted opposite, showing a bare expanse of cultivated flower bed; this I labeled, also optimistically, "Before."

In re-reading this little book I was struck by how much encouragement I was given. Vera Hein, of New Franklin, Missouri, wrote me of her escapades in local cemeteries. I remember being jealous of her husband (who drove the getaway car!). Vickie Jackson, the Regional Heritage Rose Group coordinator, wrote long and helpful letters.... I wonder now how she ever found the time??!!

September 1, 1979, Mother and I found one of my favorites. It graced the corner of a gray cottage with aqua shutters on the back street in Anderson, the home of Mary Minor, a dear black grandmother. Mrs. Minor, who could root roses by just poking pieces in the ground, generously gave me - and later the Rustlers - at least five starts of her Bourbon Rose namesake, very like Souvenir de la Malmaison (1843).

On September 3rd, we found Mr. Perez's white rambler behind a service station on West Washington Avenue. Mr. Perez lives in an interesting old house and had collected unusual plants in his yard. This rose was rooted on a porch pillar and had climbed over the porch roof and garage so he could not get the car into the garage! It was blooming well at the time so we thought it was a Noisette. Now, I believe it to be Prosperity, a Hybrid Musk.

Another local discovery of this period was a once bloomer on my great aunt's house. After much thought, I conclude "Blake" is really Felicite, and the famous "Boat Rose" is the ancestral pink rambler. "Blake" is a woody climber to 20 feet with double pink flowers about the size of a half dollar. Bill Welch grew it over an old well at his farm, while it never achieved the spectacle his front gate did, it was still a fantastic show. In November, 1979, Diane Stewart, wife of A&M English Department head, Dr. David Stewart, joined me for The First Rustle. Diane and I got "Camp Inn Rambler" (viz. Excelsa) and the famous Old Blush in the Anderson Cemetery.

Cousin Jane Lott introduced me to what we now call "Morton-Gorce." Her neighbor, Mrs. Morton, got it from Mrs. Gorce (the dentist's wife) when she married fifty years ago, perhaps. "Morton-Gorce" is a thin foliaged, woody bush, reminiscent of Hume's Blush, an early Tea. I realize now that it was the same as another we found in two yards in Bellville. Bellville was our first real bonanza, and I still regret "the ones that got away." These were in a wonderful yard at 405 N. Cochran, belonging to Raymond Fisher. Mr. Fisher was descended from early Austin County settlers and had inherited the roses he grew. On his walk he had Cramoisie Superieur, and a small flowered polyantha (like Lindee, in the Antique Rose Emporium catalogue), Paul's Scarlet on the back fence, "Morton-Gorce" on the west fence, and a peach colored Tea on his vegetable garden fence. No telling what I missed! He died about two years later and the whole lot was bulldozed. That 1981 Rustle was the one where Margaret Sharpe fixed our car battery with a knowledgeable thump, and Sara Jean Derby dug Mr. Fisher's rose roots with a tire iron. (You really get to appreciate people on a Rustle, and all the company proved magnificent in adversity!)

In February, 1980, we staged a wonderful "scout" to the Brazos River Tidewater. It was a mild year, and from Bellville south, nothing had frozen over the winter. All the roses were blooming! At East Columbia on the Brazos, we found Fortuniana and the Burr, Rose, R. roxburghii, at Amon Underwood's 1839 plantation house. In front of the old Masterson- or Smith - home, I spotted a Tea rose growing tall in too much shade. It was huge and fat, pink with round buds. I could hardly wait to go back, but when we did all we found was a hole. Someone else had admired it!

(Continued over)

(continued from p. 7)

In April, 1980, I spotted the light pink shrub roses at Hall's Triangle Store, in Navasota. Last summer I finally got cuttings to Mike Shoup; we named it "Charlemagne" in honor and appreciation of Charles Walker, who identified it as a Noisette. Charles is the Heritage Rose Group's Southeast coordinator and, more recently, founder of the Heritage Rose Foundation, and he is a fine botanist. The buds of the rose greatly resemble those of Cecille Brunner. November that year Mother, Buddy Harrison and I Rustled and he found a still unknown rose we named "November Surprise", at Melinda Hemann's house in Navasota. It is the pale yellow Tea with purple-red foliage we have found ALL OVER Christendom. "Christina", another finding, proved to be "Maggie".

It was November of the next year that I first found "Pam's Pink" at a rent house in Navasota. (We later spotted it in North Zulch, TX - if you can believe it). Bill Welch and I went out on this short collecting trip and discovered Martha Gonzales's rose-adorned cottage in Navasota. At Anderson Bill got the Tea we named "Baptist Manse" from behind the Baptist Church. "Maggie" was growing at the doorstep. Later that month, on November 29th, Sunday at 11:00 a.m., the 1981 "Hunt" got off to a moist start. Michael Harrison and Joe Woodard joined Buddy, and S.J. Derby came with Margaret. After discovering the devastation at Bellville, we rode in two cars all the way to Brazoria - in the driving rain! We finished the soggy cucumber sandwiches out of the car trunk in Sealy in a Deluge of water. Some Lunch!

Ah, The Good Old Days!!

Pamela Ashworth Puryear

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION

Our last issue of *THE OLD TEXAS ROSE* pretty well outlined the purposes and goals of The Heritage Rose Foundation. In reading the above account of the experiences Pam encountered in Bellville, where Raymond Fisher's wonderful collection of old roses inherited from pioneer family members were bulldozed, and the disappearance of the Tea rose in the yard in East Columbia..(not just a cutting, the WHOLE BUSH!) does one see what happens to valuable plants before an appreciative collector can salvage and preserve them.

We have received Volume I, Number 1 of the *HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS* since our last issue. It is a most interesting publication of 7 pages, in which a wide variety of subjects are touched. The first Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, May 10, 1987, at the Burwell School, Hillsborough, North Carolina. This is the site of the rediscovery of the Double Musk (*R. moschata plena*) in the U.S.A. The rose still grows at the school and is certain to be the origin of plants later discovered in Charlotte, NC, by Carl Cato and Ruth Knopf. The Charlotte plants are the source of those now available from the

Antique Rose Emporium and from Pickering Nurseries in Canada.

The importance of documenting Heritage Roses was discussed, listing the following steps to take if you have some truly old and unusual varieties you have "lived with" for a decade or more:

1. Write EVERYTHING you can find about a certain rose, with the source for each item of information.
2. Interview persons who have grown the rose for a number of years.
3. Find out how long a rose has been passed down in a certain family or grown in a neighborhood.
4. If the rose has a name, find out how it got it. Who identified it? When? What references were used to document the name given it?

Even though information gathered and recorded by one person may seem meager, it can be valuable when combined with many others. Please do what you can to ensure this part of our heritage is preserved.

The Foundation Trustees elected named Helen M. Watkins Chairman, and Charles A. Walker, Jr., President, and 4 other members.



Propagation Hints: Pick a windless day to hybridize roses. Choose a bud that is just opening, remove all petals before pollinating. It is unnecessary to cover pollinated hips once dusted with pollen.

Last spring one of our Rose Rustlers, Mrs. Jackie Fischer, visited in New Braunfels where she visited the historic Locke Nursery. Once a grower of large quantities of roses, and many other ornamentals, it is the oldest nursery in Texas still in operation. Jackie managed to supply us with information and a reprint of an article in the Southern Florist & Nurseryman of July, 1965. The story of this nursery is worth telling.

Following the Battle of the Alamo and the War of Independence, a major colonization movement took place. In 1844 Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels came to Texas with the German movement as an agent for an immigration company to direct colonists to a central spot in which to settle. To each colonist he gave a half-acre town lot and 10 acres to farm outside of town. Johann Joseph Locke purchased two of these that were within the city limits of the new town of New Braunfels. The plots were bordering the Comal River and had spring of crystal clear water. Mr. Locke ("Loaky") saw the immediate need for a supplier of fruit shade, ornamental trees and shrubs. Thus was born the "Comal Springs Nursery" in 1856.

In 1886 his son, Otto Locke, operated the business and issued an annual catalog of their ever increasing varieties of fruit, nut and arbor trees as well as improved flowers, vegetables and berries, and Roses. The nursery stock was grown on the acreage that by then was irrigated with water from the Comal River. Large wholesale shipments of rose plants were sold each year, since the Comal Springs Nursery was considered a major supplier of a wide variety of nursery stock. They also developed new varieties of many things. Still very popular is their Bonita Arbor Vitae. Others are the Heidemeyer apple, Strington apple, Comal cling peach, Dixie peach, November peach, the Ferguson fig, Daisey pecan, Locke's Pride pear, Perfection pear, Summer Beauty pear, Honey nectarine, Old Favorite pomegranate, McCartney plum, Guadalupe dewberry, and the Germania Rose.

The 1911 catalog carried a message from Otto Locke in celebration of their 25th Annual Nursery Catalog. They were the oldest nursery in the Southwest at that time, and had supplied many large orchards, vegetable farms and city

parks throughout Texas and the Southern States as well as Mexico. The four sons of Otto Locke, Emil, Herman, Walter, and Otto, Jr., followed their father in the business and established themselves in New Braunfels, San Antonio, and Poteet, Texas.

Today, 131 years later, Otto M. Locke, youngest and only surviving son, and his wife, continue the nursery business in New Braunfels. In 1928 they acquired a plot of land fronting on the old San Antonio road and 100 ft. They still serve the public with good nursery stock and plants as well as related products. Even though Mr. Locke and his wife are in their eighties they still operate the "store" as many hours and days as they are able. They have no children to help them and so far as we know, they have no partners in the business. Jackie tells us he can be a little testy with people who come in with no intention to make a total purchase worth his time. So, if you go there to make a small purchase make it brief! She tells us that she made several pretty good rose purchases there, as well as other plants.

There are roses planted in New Braunfels that were originally placed by the Locke Nursery years ago. Pam Puryear reports that she hopes to someday locate some of these to see if we might "rustle" up something. In the meanwhile, if you're visiting that area, try dropping in the Locke Nursery and seeing a bit of Texas history.

(See top of back page to order)

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For the next few months you may obtain the NEW revision of our collection of propagation articles from both the Editor and from Pam Puryear, our Corresponding Secretary. We hope to have a supply at the Symposium. Only the NEW listing is available from both sources. until after the Symposium & Rustle 1987.

Our Symposium planned for November 21st will be free to our membership in good standing. We will welcome non-members, who will be asked a fee or to join as a member. There is "no free lunch", as you know, but members will only have to pay \$2 for their lunches while non members must pay \$5 -please spread the word!
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