HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

1512 Gorman Street Raleigh, NC 27606-2919 U. S. A. (919)834-2591 Charles A. Walker, Jr., Acting Editor

Assistant Editors: Linda Gardner, Malcolm Manners, Evelyn Sanders, Stephanie Smullen, Teri Tillman, Paul Zimmerman

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January, 1996

Old Garden Roses at Goodwood

Weej Broderson writes: "Goodwood, in Tallahassee, Florida, is the site of the Foundation's Annual Conference, April 19-21, 1996, and restoration there is moving into high gear. We received a grant of \$449,000 from the state last year to restore the main house. The roof and cupola now look like a gorgeous new hat with a hand-me-down coat. The rebuilt "piazza" and columns are nearly done, fresh paint will have us shining by spring, and work has begun on the interior. Goodwood wraps around a courtyard bordered by "dependencies" as the Virginians say, and these and the outlying buildings are also in various stages of resuscitation - anywhere from "maybe next year" to "done and back in use".

"The garden is our pride and joy - We are restoring according to all the strictest recommendations, researching, recording and archiving as we go along. We've started on our FOURTH old rose garden (Goodwood had 900 rose bushes in the 1920s). The first went in three years ago, quickly followed by the long front border. Last year we recreated beds by the swimming pool, where there was once a marvelous pergola, long gone. Windee Willoughby has completed the plans for the next step, a 12' × 220' U-shaped border in a fine, high, sunny location. It has been tilled and amended, and as soon as the weather cooperates we'll begin planting. Bring us your roses! All contributions gratefully received...plants if you can, cuttings for our mister if you can't. If you'd like a list of what we have and what the archives say we should have, drop a note to Mrs. E. C. Broderson, 2469 B Grassroots Way, Tallahassee FL 32311-9013, and I'll be delighted to send it to you. We're looking forward to seeing you all in April!" See pages 5-7 for registration information.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Heritage Rose Foundation News needs a steady supply of articles about your firsthand experiences and thoughts relating to heritage rose preservation, history, and closely related topics. Please share what you have learned with our other members.

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From the Mail

Peter Harkness, editor of *The Rose*, the quarterly publication of The Royal National Rose Society, would like to know if anyone in the U. S. grows 'The Queen Alexandra Rose', introduced by McGredy in 1918. If you know of a source, please write to him at 7 Cloisters Rd., Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3JR, England.

Katsuya Hagiwara writes from Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan in response to a question about the name of his prefecture and about the Cherokee Rose (Rosa laevigata): "Ibaraki is to be divided into two words - Ibara (4 15 5) and ki (\$\dagger\$). The former means briers (one of the species native to Japan) and the latter indicates an ancient fort or a fastness, while the common pronunciation of \$\dagger\$ is "shiro" and that means "castle" nowadays. Ibaraki is named after the legend that in ancient times - as far back as 3C. A.D. or so - there was a big fort armored with thorns of briers in this area.

Rosa laevigata. We Japanese call this rose "Naniwaibara" ($\uparrow = \neg \uparrow \land \land \lnot \ni$). Rosa laevigata is, as you know well, said to have been brought into Japan from Taiwan (Formosa) or China in the Edo period, and disseminated by a gardener in Naniwa ($\uparrow = \neg \ni$), which is the old name of Osaka. Now, Rosa laevigata grows wild in some areas in Shikoku and Kyushu Island of Japan."

Introducing the Youngsters

Allison Magee of Kentville, Nova Scotia, uses Heritage Rose Foundation News in her work with a local 4-H Club. We'd like to hear from other Foundation members who are introducing young people to the study of heritage roses and their preservation. Please write us about your efforts.

Susan Stahl

Hermitage, Tennessee

After enjoying this newsletter for many years it's time to contribute some of my impressions of rose growing and favorite roses. I've been a gardener at the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee, for seven years.

My previous experience with roses had been only with the cut and boxed variety. What a vast world I had been missing and am only beginning to explore. Growing old roses is an emotional and poetic response to history. These flowers evoke the past. By growing them I demonstrate the sustainability of nature, the comfort of the seasons and joy in its beauty.

Three of my favorite roses are Sweetbriar (Rosa eglanteria), Chestnut Rose (Burr Rose, R. roxburghii plena), and R. virginiana. Part of my pleasure in growing them is their ease of maintenance. They demand so little from me except space and an appreciation for their distinctiveness.

Each is a little different from the other roses. The Sweetbriar's scent comes from the foliage and is especially strong after a rain. Peter Beales says in Classic Roses that Sweetbriar has "probably been appreciated for its perfumed leaves since civilization began." I'm glad to carry on its appreciation.

The Chestnut or Burr Rose is scentless but very disease resistant in my garden. The flowers recur throughout the season. I have the double pink form that has not changed since being introduced into America from China perhaps as early as 1820.

Then there is our native R. virginiana, which seems so demure in the spring with its single pink blooms. Who would guess that in the fall the foliage has a purplish cast flaming into yellow and accented with orange-red hips. Does anyone know a common name for this rose?

These roses aren't flamboyant but are certainly worthy of my time and attention.

A Letter about a Family Heirloom

Elizabeth Conklin Wilding Ramsey, New Jersey

I am writing to you concerning an old rose which has been in my family for as long as I can remember. Here is the history of it to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

My paternal grandmother was Anna Hallock Conklin. The Hallock family received a grant from Oueen Anne in 1710 on a certain tract of land at Milton (on the Hudson), New York. grandmother came into possession of some 53 acres in 1910. On the property was an old mill which had ground wheat to help feed the Army when it was at Newburgh. Also on the property was a pre-Revolutionary house, and this rose came from the garden at that house. We lived in Milton from 1917 until 1923, when we moved here to Ramsey. I was a small child, but I vaguely remember seeing them in the garden. When we moved we still owned the farm and did not let it go out of the family until 1956. Early on, when we moved, my mother dug up some of the rose and brought it to Ramsey, where it continued to flourish.

I would like to add that my Hallock ancestors came from England about 1640, landing on Long Island. Some of the family must have moved to Westchester County, New York, and then on to Milton, because I remember my mother telling me that the family lived in Westchester County and brought the rose with them to Milton.

The rose is the first one to bloom in June. I have pictures that were taken of it last year on June 6th, in full bloom and just starting to drop a few petals. It has a lovely fragrance; I guess you would say it is a Damask rose. The buds are very pretty and nicely formed but open up very quickly. Some are one per stem, but mostly they are in clusters. When picked and brought into the house, they fade and do not last more than a couple of days, three at the most. The buds are a lovely shade of pink and get lighter as they open. The plant spreads very easily. I have learned from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden rose specialist that it dates back to 1750 and

came originally from Holland. Its name is 'Celsiana'.

I am very grateful to my friend, Hedy Leutner, who followed through on learning the name and history of the rose. My thanks also to Alan Detrick who pursued the matter further. I am happy to know that this beautiful rose will be perpetuated in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It would be nice if the Hallock name were somehow connected with it. There is a Hallockville Museum Farm at Riverhead, Long Island, and I hope I can get some of my rose out to them for their garden.

1991 Conference Journal

This 64-page perfect-bound collection of articles and talks from our 1991 Conference is educational and enjoyable reading, enhanced by full-color reproductions of 6 plates from late 19th- and early 20th-century rose catalogs. Don't let all the copies get away before purchasing yours. Dues may be included in your check. See page 8.

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Air Layering Roses? Why Not?

Pearl Blalock

Zephyrhills, Florida

This air layering is not like the old way of circling around the stem twice with a sharp knife. Instead, scrape around the rose stem just below a node, leaving about ½ inch of white all around the stem. Leave on the little curled shaving of bark that forms as you scrape upward. That is where the first roots start.

Make a 4- to 5-inch square of aluminum foil. Fold up one side (bottom) by 1/4. Wet some peat moss completely, until it is soupy. Put a handful

onto the foil and wrap it around the stem of the prepared rose. Do your best to make the wrap snug. Tie the bottom and twist the top closed. Take a large square of kitchen plastic wrap (about twelve inches). Wrap it around the foil and tie it tightly to the rose stem above and below the foil. This is to keep birds from pecking holes in the foil. The best months to try this are May, June, and July when the humidity is high. Rooting takes six weeks to two months, until the ball feels firm. Don't press hard. Practice will help you succeed. Keep trying.

[Ed. Note: Pearl Blalock began in the nursery business about fifty years ago. Although now in her nineties, having "retired" about 1985, she still roots hundreds of cuttings of old roses. Yet she finds an excitement in air layering and hopes that others will enjoy it, too. She used to purchase Gallicas, Mosses, Centifolias, Damasks and Albas but found they did poorly in her Florida climate. Now she has mostly the Teas, Noisettes, Musks, Chinas, and a few other types that grow well.]

Timely Rose Tips

[If you would like to make this column a permanent feature of HRF News, send in brief tips you have found to be helpful in your own garden.]

Caged Roses

Lynn Shumway

Drummond, Wisconsin

When purchasing peony cages last spring it occurred to me that they would make excellent supports for roses with a lanky, arching growth habit. The cages were carefully sunk around 'Mme Hardy', 'William Lobb', and a mystery rose which arrived mislabeled but looks identical to 'Duchess of Portland' except for its tall, thin nodding canes. The system worked perfectly to keep the plants in bounds and prevented them from flopping over onto their neighbors.

Once the plants were in bloom and later in full summer growth flush, one hardly noticed the cage supports. Any new and exuberant growth up and out from the sides of the cages was loosely tied to either the uprights or the hoops of the cages when necessary.

The cages were carefully slipped off the plants and removed in the fall, since our Zone 4 winters are so cold I didn't want the freezing metal to rest against the canes and add to the winter stress. I would imagine that in milder climates you could just leave the cages in place to better accommodate the plants in longer growing seasons with fuller growth.

Roses in Winter

Rosemary Sims

New Orleans, Louisiana

It is such a beautiful time now [late November] in Really, winter is our summer. New Orleans. 'Mme. Lombard' just finished a spectacular flush, and 'Mrs. B. R. Cant' and 'Mrs. Dudley Cross' are preparing for Christmas blooms. 'Felicia', and especially 'Moonlight' are dramatic with all the blue flowers blooming right now and the early nightfall that shows off their pale colors. Mrs. Jekyll was right about 'Gloire des Rosomanes' and his winter bloom, as my poor neglected plant, in full shade, has just put out the first blossoms of 'Clotilde Soupert' has just winter-long bloom. begun her winter excesses, and 'Ducher', 'Louis Philippe', and the rest of the China clan are jumping out of the ground. Even the Rugosas, usually a dormant disappointment for us at this time of year, are spurting out with some bloom. 'Souvenir de la Malmaison', both the bush and the climber, put on their most spectacular and lush growth right now. I do believe it a grave mistake to prune these two in other than late summer, maybe September. 'Souvenir de St. Anne's' is in full flush right now, as is 'Kronprinzessin Viktoria'. It would do grave harm in our climate to prune by the book with these - spring bloom buds are already formed in January! We do tend to forget that each rose is an individual with individual patterns of growth. Anyway, it is a wonderful gardening time of year for us in New Orleans now, and my envy of the cool natured plants, like peonies and mountain laurel, is greatly tempered.

THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION

Tenth Annual Meeting and Conference

Goodwood Plantation

Tallahassee, Florida April 19-21, 1996

General. The conference is open to the public and will be filled on a first-come basis. We welcome all persons with an interest in heritage roses and their preservation and culture.

Registration. Advance registration is required: Deadline March 22, 1996. Meals are included in the registration fees as noted on the form.

Lodging. The Radisson Hotel in downtown Tallahassee is holding a block of rooms for us. Be sure to mention the Heritage Rose Foundation when you make reservations. Nightly rate: \$79 double or \$69 single plus tax. NOTE: Last date this rate is guaranteed to us is March 22, 1996, and we encourage early booking because the legislature will be in session. For reservations call (904)224-6000 or (800)333-3333.

Travel. Delta Airlines has numerous flights to Tallahassee from Atlanta. When purchased through Silver Beare Travel, Havana, Florida, (800)376-9242, there is a 5% discount on 21-day advance purchase fares and 10% on regular fares.

Shuttle. For those arriving by air, there is an airport shuttle for the Radisson Hotel. Inquire about service when reserving rooms.

Friday, April 19, 1996

Pre-Conference Tour of Regional Gardens

For those who wish to arrive early, there is a wonderful optional trip to significant gardens in Thomasville and Bainbridge, Georgia.

- 9:30 a.m. Bus departs from the Radisson. Planned stops include:
- MACLAY STATE GARDENS (Tallahassee)
- PEBBLE HILL PLANTATION (Thomasville, GA)
- MILLPOND PLANTATION (Boston, GA)
- PRIVATE GARDEN OF OLINE REYNOLDS (Bainbridge, GA).

A box lunch will be provided on the grounds of Pebble Hill Plantation.

4:30 p.m. Return to the Radisson

Other Friday Options

For those who arrive later in the day on Friday or do not wish to take the pre-conference tour, the conference registration packet will include a list of downtown Tallahassee attractions and options.

Reception and Registration

5:00-6:00 p.m. Registration and get acquainted hour. BROKAW-McDougall House, an antebellum mansion located two blocks east of the Radisson in the Calhoun Street Historic District.

6:00 p.m. Dinner on your own.

6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Dinner and Meeting.

Saturday, April 20, 1996

9:00-9:45 a.m. Welcome and Annual Meeting.

9:45-10:40 a.m. GREG GRANT:
"The Good Companions: Heirloom Bulbs and Old Garden Roses."

10:40-10:50 a.m. Break

10:50-11:45 a.m. LIZ DRUITT:
"Growing Old Garden Roses Organically."

11:45 a.m. Bus trip to Goodwood

12:15 a.m. Lunch at Goodwood, courtesy of the Margaret E. Wilson Foundation.

12:45-1:15 p.m. LARRY PAARLBERG, Director of Goodwood: "History of Goodwood and its Restoration."

1:30 p.m. Simultaneous events:

- Irrigation and mist system workshop
- Tours of Goodwood
- Dedication of the newest Goodwood rose garden and ceremonial planting.
- 3:30 p.m. Bus to Wakulla Springs with a stop at Heidi Clifton's rose garden.
- 5:00 p.m. Boat rides at Wakulla Springs. Cash bar reception and social hour at Wakulla Springs Lodge following.
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet at Wakulla Springs.

 Featured speaker DR. MARY LOUISE

 ELLIS: "Why We Say That Tallahassee is

 Florida with a Southern Accent."

8:30 p.m. Return to Tallahassee.

Sunday, April 21, 1996

9:00 a.m. Bus departs from Radisson.

Tour private Tallahassee rose gardens.

12:00 p.m. Box lunch provided by Goodwood garden volunteers. **GEORGE STRITIKUS** will talk about how and why he researches old gardens and plants.

3:00 p.m. Return to Radisson.

Our Speakers

LIZ DRUITT co-authored Landscaping with Antique Roses with Mike Shoup, and her new book, The Organic Rose Garden, will be out in May. A recent project of Creative Plots, her design and consulting business, was a garden restoration for historic Somerset Plantation near Edenton, North Carolina. She is a part-time co-host for the environmentally focused PBS garden show "The New Garden" and is a member of the HRF Board of Trustees.

DR. MARY LOUISE ELLIS holds a doctorate in history from Florida State University, having written her dissertation on some of the regional problems of the nineteenth century. She has published numerous articles on the history of Tallahassee and Leon County and co-authored the book Favored Land.

GREG GRANT is a horticulturist, garden historian, consultant, speaker, writer, and photographer whose work has appeared in numerous magazines and books. He is co-author with Dr. William Welch of *The Southern Heirloom Garden*. Gregg is national director of the Garden Writers' Association of America and Adjunct Director of Education and Product Development at Lone Star Growers in Texas.

GEORGE STRITIKUS has many years of experience with the Alabama Agricultural Extension Service and is currently working with the Birmingham Botanical Garden. He is well known for his research on early plant material and horticultural practices in the deep south. He co-authored the book *Heritage Gardens* with Dr. Edgar Givhan.

THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION TENTH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Tallahassee, Florida, April 19-21, 1996

REGISTRATION FORM

PHONE (
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PURPOSES. The Heritage Rose Foundation is a non-profit corporation created in November, 1986 to

- Collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture, with particular emphasis on those varieties which are not known to be in commerce. For purposes of this corporation, heritage roses shall consist of those types, classes, and varieties of roses which originated in the nineteenth century or earlier, and those varieties which are deemed by the Board of Trustees of this corporation to have historic, educational, or genetic value.
- Establish one or more gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- Conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses, to include but not be restricted to
 their history, identification, genetics and breeding, propagation, diseases and pests, and suitability for landscape use.
- Publish and disseminate information about heritage roses as well as the results of research conducted or contracted by the corporation. Such information shall include characteristics of certain classes and varieties, methods of propagation and culture, and similar topics consistent with the purposes of the corporation.
- Establish and maintain a library of books, periodicals, research papers, manuscripts, catalogs, and other items to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- Conduct seminars, meetings, forums, panels, lectures, tours, exhibits, and other appropriate means to foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

MEMBERSHIP in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in sympathy with its purposes and goals. The Foundation is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are tax-deductible.

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL DUES

Category	U. S.*	Bermuda, Canada Mexico*	Other Countries*
Organization	\$25	\$25	\$25
Individual	\$10	\$12	\$15
Family	\$12	\$14	\$17
Senior > 65	\$ 8	\$10	\$13
Student < 21	\$ 8	\$10	\$13

^{*} For your convenience, 2-year memberships are available at double these rates.

<u>DUES PAYMENT</u>. Make all checks payable to The Heritage Rose Foundation and mail to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-2919, U. S. A. Members outside the U. S. should pay with a draft or check <u>payable in U. S. funds and drawn on a U. S. bank</u>. Dues, meeting registrations and other payments may be included in a single check.

<u>OUARTERLY NEWSLETTER</u>. Members receive *Heritage Rose Foundation News*, published in January, April, July, and October. Overseas newsletters are sent via air mail. <u>BACKISSUES</u> are available for \$2.00 each (overseas members add \$1.00 per issue for postage). Volume 1 (1987) has three issues, later volumes have four.

<u>INQUIRIES</u> to the Foundation: Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to expedite your reply. Persons wishing to mention the Foundation in newspapers, magazines, or other news media are requested to contact the Foundation prior to such coverage.

MANUSCRIPTS in keeping with the Foundation's purposes and emphasizing all aspects of heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies are invited. Submissions may be on paper or, preferably, on computer disk. Manuscripts of a scholarly or scientific nature will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee prior to publication.

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Assistant Editors: Linda Gardner, Malcolm Manners, Evelyn Sanders, Stephanie Smullen, Teri Tillman, Paul Zimmerman

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April, 1996

Thank You!

To all those persons whose myriad efforts made our Conference in Tallahassee an overwhelming success, we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude. They outdid themselves to make us feel welcome and convinced us that Tallahassee hospitality is unsurpassed. Our thanks go to the following. Transport: Rayanne Mitchell; Publicity: Rayanne Mitchell, Susan Osteryoung; Lodgings: Weej Broderson; Printing: John Richbourg; Banquet: Nancy White; Private Gardens: Windee Willoughby; Public Gardens: Peg Richardson; Sunday Lunch: Jovel Smith, with Gloria Versurah, Mary Maude Sharpe, Sally Hiett; Garden Guides: Jovel Smith with Jean Midyette, Beth Weidner, Linda Williams; Dinner for Board Members: Clara Jane Smith, Linda Williams; Dinner for Greg Grant and others: Nancy White, Windee Willoughby, Ward Broderson; Saturday luncheon: Margaret Wilson Foundation (owners of Goodwood Plantation), Larry Paarlberg, Administrator; Conference Packets: Larry Paarlberg; Flower Arrangements: Oberly Brown; Garden Owners: Oline Reynolds, Phil Brown, Annette Folsom, Mary Maude Sharpe, Anna Price, Heidi Clifton; Speakers' expenses: Barnette Bank (Debra Hunt) and Tallahassee Nurseries (Gene Ellis).

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

Heritage Rose Foundation News needs a steady supply of articles about your firsthand, previously unpublished experiences and thoughts relating to heritage rose preservation, history, and closely related topics. Please share what you have learned with our other members. NOTE: We want to publish only original material and to avoid confusion, so please tell us if you also have submitted or plan to submit your article elsewhere.

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THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION 1995

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1995

			December 31	1775
Support and Revenue Dues		\$6,218.00		
Contributions:		0,210.00	Assets	
Antique Rose Emporium			TASSEES	
Found Rose sales	2,309.00		Unrestricted	
Other	1,057.00		Cash	
Total contributions	1,037.00	3,366.00	Checking Acct	\$60,287.46
		3,300.00	Petty Cash	9.86
1995 Conference:			Checks	20.00
Registrations 4,375.00			Corporate Stocks	231.25
Less refunds <u>-175.00</u>		4,200.00	Corporate Stocks	
Net registrations			Restricted	
Interest		1,416.22 194.00	Garden Fund	\$12,000.00
Backissues		170.00	Garden Fund	\$12,000.00
1991 Conference Journal				
Journal postage		21.25	Total Assets	\$72,548,57
Dividends	anneel of the	15.00	Total Assets	\$12,340.31
Returned check fee reimbu	irsed	4.00		
Total Support and Revenue	e	\$15,604.47	Liabilities	-0-
Expenses				
Other than 1995 Confere	nce:		<u>Liabilities</u>	and the construction
Postage		\$1,113.33	and Net Assets	\$72,548.57
Printing		605.36		
Office supplies		74.25		
Computer/printer		52.95		
Telephone		166.03		
Journal postage		17.36		
Returned check fee		4.00		
Miscellaneous		11.00		
Bus Deposit for 1996 Co	onference	300.00		
1995 Conference:				
Catering	172.25			
Room rental	175.00			
Telephone	54.16			
Postage	44.48			
Printing	85.35			
Speaker expense	319.99			
President's travel	345.68			
Total 1995 Conference		1,196.91		
	on land of the	E-1		
Total Expenses		\$3,541.19		
Excess of Support and		.910 7 00		
Revenue over Expenses		\$12,063.28		

Thank You!

The Antique Rose Emporium has again donated \$1.00 from the sale of each Found Rose listed in their catalog. At our banquet in Tallahassee, Glenn Austin presented us with a check for \$1,587.00, representing the portion of these sales up to that point, with the remainder to follow once a final tally is made. We are most grateful to the Emporium for its continuing encouragement and financial support of the Foundation.

After the Freeze

During much of the south and southeast this winter and spring, unseasonable warmth followed by severe cold has wrought rose havoc not often witnessed. Despite the damage, this event provides opportunities to observe important differences among heritage roses and to better understand their adaptation to long term survival. A brief survey of member experiences in several states may be of interest to others.

John and Marie Butler, Chesterfield, Virginia, recorded -2°F on February 5, and the Tea roses, except for 'Safrano', 'Isabella Sprunt', and 'Général Galliéni', were devastated. However, since they are own-root plants, they are growing back and will bloom later in the season. Hybrid Chinas, Gallicas, and other European roses were unharmed.

Bill Buck, Edwards, Mississippi, reports similar results: Teas and Chinas suffered the worst damage but Noisettes were not so badly hurt. The only roses killed were five young plants that had been set out late last season and had not become established; the remaining plants will recover. Gallicas, Damasks, and Hybrid Chinas were not hurt.

Wesley Carroll, Slidell, Louisiana, suffered less freeze damage since the temperature did not go as low, only to 13°F. Tender roses were not killed to the ground, but the Noisette 'Rêve d'Or' was set back a good bit. 'Gardenia', 'Dr. W. Van Fleet', 'Hiawatha', 'Russelliana', and similar roses came through completely unscathed.

John Osier of Waldoboro, Maine, Yvonne Snyder of Dover, Pennsylvania, and Sharon Hudson, Elkhart, Indiana, all reported late freeze damage on a few roses but no warm period in the winter like that farther south. Susan Stahl, Hermitage, Tennessee, had a lot of dieback on Moss roses this year but no late freeze.

One thing noted from this occurrence is the advantage of own-root plants. Tender varieties rooted from cuttings have the ability to regenerate themselves fairly rapidly after severe freezes in warm climates, whereas budded plants of the same varieties are more likely to die. Another is the ability of Hybrid Chinas, old European roses such as Gallicas and Damasks, and similar types to avoid injury by remaining dormant longer. A third is the value of growing newly rooted cuttings for a while in containers and then planting them early in the season so that they can become established.

What should be done now? Cut out dead and damaged canes as soon as possible to give new basal growth room to develop normally and to reduce the spread of stem canker. Be ruthless; freeze-damaged canes will never heal. Instead, they offer an excellent entryway for disease.

Tie new basal canes to temporary supports for several weeks, perhaps months, until they have developed sufficient strength. Otherwise, they are likely to be broken off at their bases by the wind.

Rose Rooting Workshop

The Heritage Rose Foundation is offering a local workshop on rooting rose cuttings to its members and their friends on Sunday, June 9, at 2:30 pm, at a private garden about four miles from Louisburg, North Carolina. This garden features a number of heritage roses and other heirloom plants and is about an hour north of Raleigh.

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn for yourself how easy it is to root heritage roses and to facilitate their preservation. The workshop is free, but donations will be accepted to defray the costs of materials.

Participants will need to bring "gallon" size plastic nursery pots, secateur (scissor-type; not blade-and-anvil) pruning shears, a fine point permanent marking pen, and waterproof bags or trays to carry their finished pots home. Rooting medium (peatmoss and perlite mixture) will be furnished, as will a very limited amount of rose cutting material. Participants are encouraged to bring cuttings of heritage roses they wish to root. If needed, information on how to take cuttings is available from Foundation headquarters.

Participants will need to register on or before Friday, June 7 by writing or calling Foundation headquarters. Directions to the garden will be provided. Since the workshop is being held outdoors, it will be canceled in the event of rain. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other members and share rose experiences. We hope to see you there!

WHAT: Rose Rooting Workshop
WHEN: Sunday, June 9, 1996, 2:30 pm
WHERE: near Louisburg, North Carolina
REGISTER BY: Friday, June 7
BRING: gallon size plastic nursery pots,
secateurs, rose cuttings, fine point permanent
marker, and waterproof containers for
transporting finished pots.

Central Florida's Mystery "Pink Cracker Rose"

John Starnes

Denver, Colorado

Sprinkled throughout the city of Tampa, Florida, especially its older neighborhoods like Seminole Heights and Hyde Park, is a very desirable, everblooming, virtually indestructible semi-climbing pink rose that the locals have for decades referred to as "Cracker Rose". I've decided to take Malcolm Manners' advice and call it "Pink Cracker Rose" so as to differentiate it from "'Louis Philippe', long the bearer of the "Cracker Rose" nickname. "Pink Cracker Rose" is very garden worthy in Tampa, where the heat, humidity and

lack of winter dormancy can make growing Hybrid Floribundas, English Roses, Hybrid Perpetuals, Bourbons (in fact MOST roses!) a struggle, whether grown organically as I do, or with a full regimen of toxic pesticides, grafted or own-root (which I strongly prefer). In a longabandoned or neglected Tampa yard, "Pink Cracker Rose" insists on sending up throughout the year long, smooth, maroon basal sprouts that mature into thick, robust canes bearing sparse, nearly diseaseproof semi-shiny foliage and sparse but brutal downward-curved, flattened prickles (thorns). Each cane, first at its tip and later from maroon lateral new growth, produces broadly pyramidal clusters of pink blooms numbering from three to twenty, with the biggest clusters being produced by the dramatic basal shoots of late winter and early spring. Each individual bloom expands from a hard, dark pink bud framed by long leafy sepals; when newly opened it is very (and charmingly) cupped, a warm medium pink that reminds of certain inner portions of a conch shell, similar to the tones found in 'Old Blush' but clearer and more refined. In summer's heat the petal count drops to 30 or fewer; in winter it rises to 60 or more. The fully expanded bloom reveals a heart of yellow stamens framed by somewhat imbricated petals that darken in the intense Florida sunshine (a crucial indicator of its China rose origin). Center petaloids often display the white striations also typical of the Chinas. The scent is moderately strong and fruity. Unlike 'Old Blush', the "Pink Cracker Rose" very rarely sets hips; I've seen only about five small ones in fifteen years, and those contained no seeds. As a native Floridian turned rose hybridizer, I have long recognized "Pink Cracker Rose" as THE logical parent to use in my efforts to breed a new race of fragrant, repeat-blooming, disease-free "Florida Roses," but to date it has been sterile for me both as seed and pollen parent. But remembering the perseverance of Pernet-Ducher I will keep trying!

When well-fed with alfalfa pellets, micronutrients, clay cat litter, ample dolomite, Epsom salts, "Ringer Lawn Restore" (for valuable microorganisms), cottonseed meal, and a LIGHT sprinkling of feed grade urea, the "Pink Cracker Rose" becomes a true "gorilla rose" in Tampa's

sandy, acidic, "nematodey" soil, capable of being trained into a stout-caned almost self-supporting climber or a small umbrella-shaped "tree." If cut back to three feet each February and September, it becomes a big, dense specimen of hedge plant nearly always in bloom. Starved specimens may get a touch of blackspot in summer, and budding terminal growth may mildew a little during Tampa's winter foggy season. But neither affliction threatens the plant or does much to mar its appearance. For the last dozen years I have mulched every landscape garden I have created for my Tampa clients with an 8" to 10" layer of seedfree Coastal Bermuda hay, sold in local feed stores. In addition to suppressing annual weeds, reducing evaporative water loss, increasing humus formation, cooling the soil, and fostering beneficial soil organisms, this hay mulch nearly eliminates the soil splash-up that can spread blackspot spores. Tough as it is, "Pink Cracker Rose", along with other Chinas, Teas and Noisettes, enjoys this organic regimen as much as its wimpier modern counterparts do. It survives neglect admirably but becomes stunning when cared for.

I close with the question that many Tampa rosarians have long asked: "Just what IS "Pink Cracker Rose"?" In 1982 the Tampa Rose Society told me that their research indicated that it is a China and that all the specimens around Tampa Bay were propagated (it roots VERY easily) from original plants sold for Mother's Day in 1932 by the now-defunct Holmes Nursery north of Tampa. Kathy Bartlett, rose-growing friends and I all agree that it is not 'Old Blush', "Pam's Pink", 'Archduke Charles', or 'Napoleon'. Perhaps Malcolm Manners is correct in suggesting that it is an unnamed seedling of one of those roses. I have recently come to suspect that it carries Rosa multiflora genes due to its ability to occasionally produce very dramatic pyramidal clusters of blooms, each cluster being a complete bouquet. I have promised Malcolm and Mike Shoup each a specimen for their own examination and analysis. Whatever it is, "Pink Cracker Rose" has given many Tampa home owners, neophyte rosarians, and gardeners a lot of carefree rose growing pleasure in a climate that is very hard on any rose cultivar

needing winter dormancy or lacking disease resistance. In fact, researching its identity for an article in my organic gardening newsletter, *The Garden Doctor*, is what turned me into a virtually obsessed rosarian! Establishing its true identity and its northernmost range will be a fun challenge for any rosarian willing to wrestle this "gorilla"!



From the Mail

Barbara Kirkpatrick, P O Box 57, Linden, Indiana 47955-0057, is searching for flowers of 'The Bride' and 'Killarney' to use in a family reunion of descendants of her grandmother. These varieties were used in the wedding of Helen Schuffler and William Satler on September 20, 1916, in Lafayette, Indiana, and Barbara would like to feature the very same ones at this reunion. If you grow either of these varieties and would be willing to furnish some of their blooms on Sunday, August 18, 1996, please write to Barbara or call her at (317)339-4274.

A "burnt-orange" rose remembered as "Cariler" is being sought by Ms. Patricia Paciocco, 5040 Cottage St, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124. This unrecorded name is most likely to be a garbling of 'Carillon', a Hybrid Tea from 1935 that is no longer in commerce but is listed in the fourth edition of Sangerhausen's Rosenverzeichnis. Is there a U. S. source?

E-mail anyone? Several members are interested in discussing roses electronically. If you'd like to participate, send us your e-mail address to be published in a future issue of *HRF News*.

Roses Equal Romance

Catherine C. Davidson Charlotte, North Carolina

Humankind has taken the wild roses of the world and bred the many-petalled beauties now on the market, always taking advantage of the accidental matings of roses engineered by Mother Nature. Thank the Lord that China has been largely agrarian for centuries, so that the Chinese hinterlands still harbor wild roses that repeat bloom. Herbicides have not diminished their health or beauty, but the overuse of these chemicals has destroyed many wildflowers in our own country. Roses reflect world history, beginning before written record. The color catalog of The Antique Rose Emporium is a history lesson written in rose petals.

I am proud to have in my back yard the gorgeous pink rose named for Empress Josephine, who collected roses from all over the world and created a foundation for France's early lead in marketing roses. 'Empress Josephine' perfumes the spring air just as it did about 1800, and the memory of Josephine is not dead.

A former neighbor of mine, a widow and devoted gardener, presented me one spring with a magnificent bouquet of pink 'Mary Wallace' roses, a once-blooming climber raised by Dr. Walter Van Fleet in the U.S.A. At that time I was not too knowledgeable about "old" roses and did not know the origin of 'Mary Wallace', but that did not inhibit my enjoyment of those sweetly fragrant roses. Now the rose-growing widow is dead, and I am getting old. The 'Mary Wallace' in the widow's yard has been destroyed by rose-ignorant folks who kept a very neat but sterile yard. But still, anyone with some means can purchase 'Mary Wallace', plant it, and enjoy the same blooms.

All one needs to know to enjoy a rose's distinct charm is the name it bears in the trade. Plus, of course, a spot of sunny, well-drained soil, some "elbow grease," and some time. Like humans, every bred rose has a separate identifying name. Quite a nice system, don't you think?

My favorite rose breeders are those who propagate healthy, vigorous plants that produce highly fragrant roses. Whether or not such roses have thorns is, to me, immaterial.

Yours for the continued and expanded enjoyment of "old" roses and the modern shrub roses.

Tallahassee Conference

The Foundation's Tenth Annual Meeting and Conference was held in Tallahassee, Florida, Friday, April 19, through Sunday, April 21, 1996. On Friday, a pre-conference tour of significant regional gardens gave participants an opportunity to view a number of different settings featuring roses and to visit beautiful Maclay Gardens, a state historic site. The Conference proper began Friday evening with an enjoyable reception held at the Brokaw-McDougall house in the Calhoun Street Historic District. It is always good to see members again and to meet new heritage rose enthusiasts from different parts of the country. This year's ninety-four participants came from Alabama, Bermuda, California, Canada, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Saturday's activities began with a brief membership meeting stating HRF's purposes, summarizing the finances (see page 2 for a complete report), welcoming Teri Tillman as a new member of the Board of Trustees and expressing thanks for the services of Liz Druitt, Mike Shoup, and Dr. Robert Doyle, who rotate off the board this year. Next year's meeting site will be determined

soon, and Denver is one possibility.

Greg Grant got the morning off to a rousing start with his highly entertaining talk on heirloom bulbs as durable companion plants for roses. Greg, coauthor with Bill Welch of The Southern Heirloom Garden, has combined his knowledge and experience as a plantsman, photographer, and author in a way that not only gets his points across but also makes his delivery memorable. Equally informative and entertaining was Liz Druitt's talk on growing roses organically. Her second book, The Organic Rose Garden, due from the publisher in May, will doubtless prove to be as successful as her first, Landscaping with Antique Roses, coauthored with Mike Shoup. Following a delicious lunch furnished by the Margaret Wilson Foundation and prepared by Goodwood volunteers, Larry Paarlberg, Goodwood's director, gave us a brief but fascinating history of the plantation and its former

residents. Participants then chose from several simultaneous activities: tours of Goodwood, an irrigation and mist system workshop, and the dedication of Goodwood's newest rose garden in honor of the Foundation's tenth anniversary.

At Goodwood, there is a strong emphasis on preservation of both the physical structures on the property and the surviving plants in the landscape. Restoration is evident, too, in the various gardens, where roses that once grew are being re-established, thanks to the efforts of the volunteers and the many donors of plants. As a part of the garden dedication, roses brought by Foundation members were planted, according to the plan developed by Windee Willoughy, in the well-prepared and heavily mulched beds.

During renovation, workers in Goodwood's attic discovered a small notebook containing a memorandum of the roses growing in the garden in February and March, 1931. Although the garden then was predominantly devoted to the newer Hybrid Teas of the day, it was good to see some old familiar names on the list as well: 'Clotilde Soupert', 'Duchesse de Brabant', 'Bon Silène', 'Maman Cochet', 'Isabella Sprunt', 'Louis Philippe', 'Souvenir de la Malmaison', 'Mrs. B. R. Cant', 'Marie Van Houtte'. These and others now grow there again.

As we toured the main house, it was exciting to see its various architectural and decorative features and the progress being made in restoring them. Bill Kerber showed us the mist system used to propagate Goodwood's old roses, the sale of which raises money for the garden. The exceptionally vigorous plants being produced are a reflection of the skill and dedication of Bill and the other volunteers who help with this project.

The Saturday afternoon trip to Wakulla Springs provided an opportunity to stop and enjoy the immaculately kept garden of Heidi Clifton and its large collection of roses. The boat ride on the Wakulla River offered close-up views of an astonishing variety of wildlife and their habitats - waterfowl and other birds, alligators of several sizes, turtles, and snakes. Most unusual was a deer that had appropriated the hollow base of a large tree as a bedding site, good protection against the many

predatory alligators. Thickets of the native *Rosa* palustris were just coming into bloom, and we were offered a glimpse of sites where scenes in a Tarzan movie had been filmed. The springs are the world's largest and deepest (185 feet), arising from several underwater caves not yet fully explored, and have an outflow of 600,000 gallons per minute. A mastodon skeleton and many other artifacts have been recovered from their depths. The evening concluded with a delicious banquet and a most interesting talk on Tallahassee's history by Dr. Mary Louise Ellis.

Sunday found us touring in the Tallahassee area, enjoying the beauty of the gardens of Anna and Bill Price, Phil and Barbara Brown, Annette Folsom, and Bill and Mary Maude Sharpe. A sumptuous buffet lunch, prepared by the Goodwood volunteers, was enjoyed under the trees at the Sharpes, where George Stritikus then spoke about his experiences in searching out sources of information on roses and other old plants. The Sharpes have one old rose that they had not been able to identify, a puzzle to many visiting rosarians. Several in our group recognized it as 'Manettii', a vigorous, onceblooming hybrid Noisette, once widely used as an understock and still found often in cemeteries.

The Tallahassee conference was by every measure a great success, in spite of the fact that many of the roses had been damaged or delayed in bloom by unseasonable cold weather. But there were so many other garden features, entertaining lectures, and enjoyable visits that we hardly missed them!

Is It Renewal Time?

Check the date on your envelope to see when it's time to renew your membership. For your convenience, we enclose a conspicuous notice with your last issue of the newsletter, but early renewals save us lots of office time and are most welcome.

PURPOSES. The Heritage Rose Foundation is a non-profit corporation created in November, 1986 to

- Collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture, with particular emphasis on those varieties which are not known to be in commerce. For purposes of this corporation, heritage roses shall consist of those types, classes, and varieties of roses which originated in the nineteenth century or earlier, and those varieties which are deemed by the Board of Trustees of this corporation to have historic, educational, or genetic value.
- Establish one or more gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- Conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses, to include but not be restricted to their history, identification, genetics and breeding, propagation, diseases and pests, and suitability for landscape use.
- Publish and disseminate information about heritage roses as well as the results of research conducted or contracted by the corporation. Such information shall include characteristics of certain classes and varieties, methods of propagation and culture, and similar topics consistent with the purposes of the corporation.
- Establish and maintain a library of books, periodicals, research papers, manuscripts, catalogs, and other items to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- Conduct seminars, meetings, forums, panels, lectures, tours, exhibits, and other appropriate means to foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

MEMBERSHIP in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in sympathy with its purposes and goals. The Foundation is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are tax-deductible.

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL DUES

Category	U. S.*	Bermuda, Canada Mexico*	Other Countries*
Organization	\$25	\$25	\$25
Individual	\$10	\$12	\$15
Family	\$12	\$14	\$17
Senior > 65	\$ 8	\$10	\$13
Student < 21	\$ 8	\$10	\$13

^{*} For your convenience, 2-year memberships are available at double these rates.

<u>DUES PAYMENT</u>. Make all checks payable to The Heritage Rose Foundation and mail to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-2919, U. S. A. Members outside the U. S. should pay with a draft or check <u>payable in U. S. funds and drawn on a U. S. bank</u>. Dues, meeting registrations and other payments may be included in a single check.

<u>OUARTERLY NEWSLETTER</u>. Members receive *Heritage Rose Foundation News*, published in January, April, July, and October. Overseas newsletters are sent via air mail. <u>BACKISSUES</u> are available for \$2.00 each (overseas members add \$1.00 per issue for postage). Volume 1 (1987) has three issues, later volumes have four.

<u>INOUIRIES</u> to the Foundation: Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to expedite your reply. Persons wishing to mention the Foundation in newspapers, magazines, or other news media are requested to contact the Foundation prior to such coverage.

MANUSCRIPTS in keeping with the Foundation's purposes and emphasizing all aspects of heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies are continually invited. Submissions should be exclusive (not previously published or submitted elsewhere) and may be on computer disk (preferably) or on paper. Manuscripts of a scholarly or scientific nature will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee prior to publication.

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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A Conference in Denver Next Spring...

John Starnes and Dr. William Campbell are moving ahead with preparations for the Foundation's 1997 Conference, to be held in Denver, Colorado, probably in early June. We'll keep you informed as plans are firmed up, and a registration form will appear in the April issue. In addition, we have received inquiries concerning Dallas, Texas, and Manassas, Virginia, as future conference sites.

... and an Old Rose Exhibit in South Carolina This Fall

Each year since 1950, the Palmetto Garden Club has sponsored an exhibit of Old Roses, for the purpose of encouraging more people to grow and preserve them. The club extends an invitation to all enthusiasts to enter specimens of their old roses so that the public can learn more about them. For many years the exhibit has been held in conjunction with the South Carolina State Fair, in the Ellison Building at the fairgrounds in Columbia. This year's date is Saturday, October 12. Please lend your support to this important educational effort, tell your friends and neighbors about it, and consider starting a similar one in your own area. For more information write to Mrs. Joseph D. Jones, 1433 Sunbury Lane, Columbia SC 29205.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

Heritage Rose Foundation News needs a steady supply of articles about your firsthand, previously unpublished experiences and thoughts relating to heritage rose preservation, history, and closely related topics. Please share what you have learned with our other members. NOTE: We want to publish only original material and to avoid confusion, so please tell us if you also have submitted or plan to submit your article elsewhere.

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Les Roses Anciennes and Their Charm

Nicole M. Jordan

Chester, Virginia

Old roses have a special attraction for me. Raised in France one block from the Château of Versailles, I experienced early the pleasures of gardens in a grand style. From the formal garden of this majestic castle I learned that beauty can be created to live forever. I do not remember seeing roses at the Château of Versailles, but I clearly remember the grand parterres, the beautiful fountains, and all the marble Roman deities lining the allées and playing in the basins.

The roses were earlier, before my mother and I moved to Versailles. In his garden and around his house, my grandfather grew roses with great attention and affection. "My roses," he would say, "are my passion." Against the south wall of the house he had his favorites. The only one of these that I remember was 'Gloire des Mousseuses'. His roses gave him great pleasure, not only while blooming but also because he liked caring for them. Why he liked 'Gloire des Mousseuses', I do not know, but I do know why Château d'Yquem was his favorite white Bordeaux. That wine is one of the very best wines of France.

Later we lived in the small southern town of Pontonx-sur-Adour, close to Spain and not far from the Bay of Gascogne. The climate is very moderate, with mild winters. I don't remember ever seeing snow; that was something that happened in the Pyrenees or the Alps. The little walled French gardens all had roses, the ancient ones. They bloomed for the most part once and then "fini" until next year. Ah! But while they bloomed exuberantly everyone noticed the beautiful roses, the climbers, and their intoxicating perfume.

My grandmother, Bonne Maman as I called her, would take me with her when she visited her friends. I remember "le tour du jardin pour voir les roses." Yellow, white, rose, pale pink, violet, and red are the beautiful colors I remember. I was too little to recall the names, which were so fitting, but how I wish I could recall them now. I do

remember the feeling, the atmosphere of those little tours. Powdered faces bent to smell the delicious scent, white gloved hands caressing the bloom gently. Serenity and happiness was with us. Being little, I would wander from the adult and would reach for the roses we had already passed. A rain of petals would fall, making the ground all pretty.

Years later when I was attending Catholic school in Louveciennes, the nuns one day sent several of us to a large estate to collect rose petals in wicker clothes baskets for a religious holiday. To me the garden seemed immense. Old roses stretched along trellises, climbed pergolas, and danced a ronde around the walled garden. Under the watchful eye of the estate gardener, we worked diligently filling our baskets, not minding the scratches one bit. I still can feel the warmth of this sunny morning and recall the intoxicating perfume. Our baskets were soon full, their contents pretty, fluffy, and sweetsmelling. Back at the convent the divine cargo was divided into small boxes. The next day, dressed all in white, with a ribbon around our necks holding the boxes close to us, we marched in a procession, showering the ground with rose petals, while the priest in full regalia followed us into the cathedral.

My grandfather's family lives near Lyon in the department of l'Isère, a region of France that is a rosarian's paradise. My aunt has a rosebush that goes back to her great-grandmother. The house has been in the family 200 years, and what was planted by the ancients stays and is cherished. Once I saw a beautiful vigorous climbing red rose audaciously reaching for the top of a grey stone stairway. As I was exclaiming over its beauty, I was told that Mademoiselle Genêt had planted it when she got her first teaching assignment in this village in 1920. Many old French stone houses give shelter to an antique rose with name long forgotten, but the remembrance of the one who first planted it there is engraved in the memory.

Long ago one of my teachers took me to the Château de Malmaison, the home of Josephine de Beauharnais, wife of Napoleon. She was the rosarian extraordinaire of her time, who saw the merit in those ancient plants and their indestructible beauty. The château I remember well, but the gardens are a blank; since it was winter, not much

was to be seen. I am sure vestiges remained even in those days.

Nothing can surpass the beauty of old roses. Early in spring, the side of my house becomes carpeted with an explosion of 'Climbing Cécile Brunner'. Madame Pompadour would be jealous. Since many of them bloom only once, you make a point not to miss their display. You try to capture the beauty with all your senses and store it within you so that you can patiently wait for the next season, when old roses remind you once again of times past and of people from long ago.

Well, It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time

Bryan T. Skinner Ashton, Northampton, England

Having moved into our new house in December, 1976, the following year we looked forward to seeing what had been planted by the folk who lived here before us. There were a large number of conifers and numerous shrubs - Mahonia, Berberis, Potentilla. Plenty of green but not a lot of colour and we do like a lot of colour! I had dug out some hundred rose bushes from our previous garden, so I set to work digging out beds, enlarging borders, and ordering more roses. Hard work, but I was twenty years younger then!

A bank at the back seemed to cry out for a vigorous trailing shrub, so what better than the Hybrid Rugosa 'Max Graf'. The book said "excellent ground cover," so I bought one and planted it that year. Unfortunately, I overlooked the fact that the adjacent shrubs had had a head start and, although not mature, grew at a greater rate than poor little 'Max'. Within three or four years it had been completely covered over.

Having a fairly large garden with plenty of work to do, I forgot 'Max Graf' for a further year or two, when by chance looking out from a bedroom window I saw pink flowers blooming away. It was certainly not a Berberis or Mahonia. 'Max Graf' had not given up under the growth of its neighbours, as could reasonably have been

assumed, but had turned itself into a climber, forced its way 12 to 15 feet up into the sunlight, and proceeded to flower. And today, as I write, it is doing well and will flower fairly early in the summer, despite my lack of forethought.

A Question About Mexican Roses

Raymond Goggan

Pineland, Texas

On pages 20 and 21 of The Southern Heirloom Garden, William C. Welch quoted some passages about roses from History of the Indians of New Spain, written by Toribio de Motolinía, a Spanish missionary to Mexico in the late 1530s. According to him, the Indians between Veracruz and Mexico City used great numbers of fragrant everblooming roses of different colors and shapes on their feast days. An example was the Feast of Corpus Christi in 1538, in which 1,068 processional arches each had in excess of six bushels of roses. Welch states that roses of this type are of Asian origin and did not appear in Europe until the eighteenth century, when they were introduced from China.

I hope that some of the members of The Heritage Rose Foundation may be able to shed some light on these early Mexican roses. If not, this subject should be looked into.

It is possible that these roses are still grown in Mexico, possibly well known there. Locally, their origins might be assumed to be of European import but possibly known to be native in some locales. These roses might also be known to us by direct introduction to the U.S. South and Southwest by either Spanish or Mexican settlers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Another possibility is that these roses might have been taken to Spain and from there to the rest of Europe; by the time they were recorded, they were assumed to be of Asian origin, just as the turkey (a native American bird) was at one time thought to have come from Turkey after the Spanish took these birds back to Europe.



From the Mail

Tracey Rollison of Indianapolis, Indiana, who has been trying to identify an old rose for two years, writes:

"It appears to be an Alba. It is nearly cherry red in the bud, with sepals as long as the bud, extending above the bud, but it opens palest pink - more a white tinged pink. Wonderful scent, kind of like baby powder with oranges. It blooms after my 'Autumn Damask' but before my 'Honorine de Brabant'. Lots of medium prickles.

"Years ago, my 70-year-old neighbor Myrtle got it from an 85-year-old neighbor who had lived all her life on a farm just off the National Road, and had taken the rose with her when she finally was unable to take care of the farm. She died about 15 yrs ago. It suckered, and Myrtle gave several away, but I have the main bush now. She wanted her baby to go to someone who would appreciate it."

If you'd like to offer a guess as to what this rose might be, write to Foundation headquarters and we'll publish the replies we receive.

Kate Parish, now of Gray, Tennessee, was a participant in research to determine the hardiness and disease resistance of roses at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a project culminating in the publication of Roses for the North by K. Zuzek, M. Richards, S. McNamara, and H. Pellett. She offers the following notes from her experience for those members in cold climates.

Rosa gallica officinalis, 'Charles de Mills', 'Madame Hardy', and 'Pompon Blanc Parfait' showed cane injury when the temperature fell below -30° F if not covered with snow or leaves.

R. glauca (evaluated for only one year) was

uninjured even though left uncovered during record low temperatures.

'Souvenir du Dr. Jamain' was marginally hardy, losing 30% of its canes even though planted in a protected place and covered by leaves.

A 'Mme. Isaac Periere' grown by a friend in the southeast ell of the house, laid on the ground in the fall, and covered with two bales of straw, survived with no injury, but a second one, planted in the open by another friend, died back to the ground.

Dr. Marvin Stern, Box 725292, Berkley MI 48072 is the Director of the Rosemary Hodges Rose Garden of Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan. About 80-85 roses have been put in, including many old ones. Dr. Stern would like to know what other university rose garden directors are doing.

Mrs. J. S. Rand, 2123 NE 181 St, N. Miami Beach FL 33162, is searching for a source for "Pink Cracker Rose" as mentioned in our last issue. Please contact her if you can help.

Liesbeth Cooper of the Bermuda Rose Society asks us to help inform other Foundation members that Bermuda's area code has changed to 441.

Mississippi Old Garden Rose Society Organizes

Teri D. Tillman

Natchez, Mississippi

Gardeners from around the state gathered May 5th in Raymond, Mississippi, for the first monthly meeting of the newly organized Mississippi Old Garden Rose Society. After a brief welcome by Bill Buck, owner of Eden's Antique Roses in Edwards, Rosemary Sims, founder of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society, presented an illustrated talk on "Gardening with Old Roses in New Orleans." Any gardener uncertain about the desirability or practicality of growing old roses could not help but be convinced by her enthusiastic recommendations. Most members left the meeting

ready to root their first old rose, thanks to Rosemary's generous donation of 'New Dawn' and 'Red Cascade' cuttings.

Susan Haltom, writer, designer, and current Project Director for Eudora Welty's garden, also presented an informative slide lecture on "Old Roses in Mississippi." Susan offered many reasons to grow old roses: they don't require a lot of chemicals, they tend to fare better in Mississippi than modern Hybrid Teas; and they are versatile landscape plants. Most compelling, however, was her suggestion that growing old roses, particularly those known to have been growing in the state for many generations, lends our landscapes a genuine sense of place. By including old roses and other heirloom plants in our gardens, we help to preserve an important aspect of Southern history to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

Both speakers emphasized the importance of planting and maintaining old garden roses in public places for several reasons: it is a great opportunity for members to get to know each other, and for novice growers to learn from more experienced gardeners; it offers the group a real sense of purpose; it is an excellent way to demonstrate the beauty and hardiness of heritage roses to a still somewhat skeptical general public. After the meeting, volunteers signed up to help maintain the old roses planted at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson. Bill Buck, organizer of the new group, announced plans to meet the first Sunday afternoon of each month. Since the New Orleans group meets the first Tuesday of each month, the two groups may try to share speakers and speakers' expenses.

The Bookshelf

RACHEL'S ROSES

by Karen Christensen with pictures by Bernadette Watts, 1995, hardcover, 29 pages, ages 2 - 6.

Books that encourage children to grow roses seldom appear, so it is refreshing to find this one. Rachel's grandmother brings her cut roses, which

she enjoys for several days, but she becomes inconsolable when they inevitably wilt and die. After mother's phone call to grandma and a visit to a nursery, Rachel obtains her own potted rose, which she plants, tends, and watches through the fall and winter. Spring soon rewards Rachel's attentive patience, and again she has her own roses.

In all a charming, well-written book with an added bonus - instructions for growing one's own rose bush. I would like to encourage the author to write another, one that carries a young gardener through the successive steps in rooting roses from cuttings, perhaps inspiring a child to learn how to preserve grandmother's roses, ones to be enjoyed in later years by his or her own children as well.

[Copies can be obtained from Berkshire Reference Works, 120 Castle Street, Great Barrington MA 01230, (413)528-0206, fax 528-5241. \$16.50 per copy, including postage; additional copies \$15.00 each. Checks payable to Berkshire Reference Works.]

E-mail Addresses

If you'd like to contact other members via e-mail, send us your address for publication.

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Is It Renewal Time?

Check the date on your envelope to see when it's time to renew your membership. For your convenience, we enclose a conspicuous notice with your last issue of the newsletter, but early renewals save us lots of office time and are most welcome.

Digging in Alabama Garden History

George R. Stritikus

Birmingham, Alabama

[from a talk delivered at the Annual Conference in Tallahassee, Florida, Sunday, April 21, 1996]

You know, it really is so. Most of us live in our own little worlds! They are so very different that it is a real miracle we can communicate with another person at all. But our lives do intersect with other people, at specific points. An interest in old roses is the reason our lives have intersected here today.

I am to speak to you on how and why I have researched old gardens and roses of Alabama for the last twenty years. Let's begin with the more abstract aspect - Just why do I do this? There are several reasons that come to mind. Let's look at each and see if they are a part of your world.

We need to step back and look again at the age old philosophical argument between heredity and environment - nature and nurture - are you born with it or do you acquire it? I knew I acquired my interest in flowers at an early age. My earliest memory is of my father helping me plant some nasturtium seeds in a flower pot on the porch steps. The earliest photo I have of myself, besides baby pictures, was taken when I was about four years of age, sitting in the grass beside our house, with a few daffodils in my hand.

I have always attributed the development of my interest in plants to my third grade teacher, Ms. Marguerite Page. She was the librarian at Baker Elementary school in Ensley. She had us bring flowers from home, which she would grow on the window ledges and sell at the PTA Fair to get money to buy new books. Last year, I recounted that story to the newspaper journalist who was doing a feature story about me and the 1-800 Garden Information Line I am responsible for at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Within the week, I got a thank you note from Ms. Page that left me quite puzzled. She said the sparking of interest was actually the other way around; my enthusiasm had inspired her to continue the project for several years after I had gone. Point of fact, she gardened in her

front yard every morning of her retirement until she died last year.

It appears that I was born with the interest in plants, as well as having the interest stimulated within me. If truth were told, I think any answer to the question "Why" will be a mixture of both heredity and environment. But there is another question: What reward do I experience so that I continue the activity?

To try to answer this, we need to go back to the Middle Ages for a minute. Classical theology said that God had certain attributes, among which were creator, redeemer, preserver, and sustainer. Part of our being made in the image and likeness of God is that when we participate in activities that possess these attributes, something deep within ourselves resonates, saying "Yes! This is what life is all about!" At least, this is the way it is for me!

While we are speaking of theology, all of us are said to have inherited Adam's nature, but some of us have inherited more. Deep within me, I love tending to a garden. I would venture to say all of us here get the same sense of satisfaction interacting with Nature. We each possess our unique visions of that First Garden, and our gardens reflect that aspect of our own little worlds.

But I have inherited another trait from Adam, one that can really be a curse! I must know the name of all the plants around me. I hate not knowing! Those of you who share this affliction will know how I feel. You may have noticed that the names for the most common of plants can often be the hardest ones to find!

All of these things have a lot to do with why I love gardening and why I research garden history.

About twenty years ago, shortly after moving to Montgomery, I went to the Alabama Department of Archives and History and asked to see anything in the files on Alabama gardens. The lady came out with only one folder. In that folder were only two sheets of paper! I said to myself, "No, no, no. This will never do!"

Today, the updated bibliography I have handed out to you lists all the items I have generated thus far, which comes to about 650 pages dealing with Southern gardens and roses in particular, and I still have more to write up!

It concerns me that the casual observer might say that I have been able to accomplish so much through nothing more than "connections" and "luck." But that is really a very superficial view and doesn't portray the complexity of what has been going on these twenty-odd years. When I step back and reflect on just how I assembled this body of information, I arrive at three basic principles. My advice to you would be to practice these for yourself and see what happens:

- 1. Follow your heart. Listen to the inner voice that nudges you to turn down a particular road when you are out driving, or to examine a particular book when you are doing research. Serendipity is everywhere. In actuality, it seems that information is just waiting for somebody to uncover it. This is another way of saying that there is something bigger than just your brain that is operating and it can be utilized very effectively in your search for information!
- 2. Share your enthusiasm for what you are doing. Carry a few old roses with you when you go to do research and share them with the staff. You will make an impression that is worth a great deal. When asked cold turkey if they can recall any gardening materials in the files, most librarians will say, "Not really," because they haven't been thinking about the materials in that way. But as time goes on, things will pop into their heads, and out of their treasures they can bring forth wondrous things to show you! I really didn't find all these materials myself. Many of them found me, came to me from people who knew of my interest.
- 3. Publish the information and give credit where credit is due. The stereotype of a southern historian is one who is secretive about information, wanting to do more research in greater detail before publishing anything at all. Historical research is never completed, never reaches the finishing point that scholarship sometimes seems to demand! It is better by far to get the information into circulation while you're alive to dialogue with it than to become a reference source yourself after you've gone!

In conclusion, I would like to go back and look again at why I love plants in general and old roses in particular. I rescue and research old roses because it enriches my life. Having them around me and researching them in books add a richness to life that it would otherwise not possess. I dare say many of you feel the same way.

Roses in Maine

Charles A. Walker, Jr. Raleigh, North Carolina

If you want to see some dedicated rose growers and their beautiful roses, go to Maine in late June or early July. I had the privilege of visiting with members of the Mid-Maine Rose Society and speaking at their meeting last month, and it was a welcome contrast to the largely ended and rather disappointing winter-damaged spring and summer rose season here. And the cool, cloudy 60-degree days gave refreshing relief from Raleigh's searing humidity. Even the intermittent rain could not interfere with the enjoyment.

The gardens of Charles Barnes, Jean and Charles Bibeau, Gary Boutin, Soren Christensen, Regina Davey, Benjamin Kirkland, Jean McFarland, and John Osier collectively house a wide assortment of roses, old and new, that manage to make it through Maine's winters, at least most of the time. Some require considerable protection while others shrug off every weapon in winter's arsenal.

Collecting found roses is a popular activity among several members, and it was exciting to see fragrant, naturally healthy roses that don't seem to have survived farther south, if they ever were able to grow there at all. It was an excellent opportunity to appreciate the regional differences in old rose survival that climate creates.

The Mid-Maine Rose Society is unique in my experience. It has a genuinely broad interest in The Rose; it does not hold rose shows or focus its energy toward exhibiting Hybrid Teas, activities on which the great majority of rose societies concentrate. I applaud its members for their keen and eclectic interest, and I recommend their philosophy to other groups.

PURPOSES. The Heritage Rose Foundation is a non-profit corporation created in November, 1986 to

- Collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture, with particular emphasis on those varieties which are
 not known to be in commerce. For purposes of this corporation, heritage roses shall consist of those types, classes,
 and varieties of roses which originated in the nineteenth century or earlier, and those varieties which are deemed by
 the Board of Trustees of this corporation to have historic, educational, or genetic value.
- Establish one or more gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- Conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses, to include but not be restricted to
 their history, identification, genetics and breeding, propagation, diseases and pests, and suitability for landscape use.
- Publish and disseminate information about heritage roses as well as the results of research conducted or contracted by the corporation. Such information shall include characteristics of certain classes and varieties, methods of propagation and culture, and similar topics consistent with the purposes of the corporation.
- Establish and maintain a library of books, periodicals, research papers, manuscripts, catalogs, and other items to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- Conduct seminars, meetings, forums, panels, lectures, tours, exhibits, and other appropriate means to foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

MEMBERSHIP in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in sympathy with its purposes and goals. The Foundation is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are tax-deductible.

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL DUES

Category	U. S.*	Bermuda, Canada Mexico*	Other Countries*
Organization	\$25	\$25	\$25
Individual	\$10	\$12	\$15
Family	\$12	\$14	\$17
Senior > 65	\$ 8	\$10	\$13
Student < 21	\$ 8	\$10	\$13

^{*} For your convenience, 2-year memberships are available at double these rates.

<u>DUES PAYMENT</u>. Make all checks payable to The Heritage Rose Foundation and mail to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-2919, U. S. A. Members outside the U. S. should pay with a draft or check <u>payable in U. S. funds</u> and drawn on a U. S. bank. Dues, meeting registrations and other payments may be included in a single check.

<u>OUARTERLY NEWSLETTER</u>. Members receive *Heritage Rose Foundation News*, published in January, April, July, and October. Overseas newsletters are sent via air mail. <u>BACKISSUES</u> are available for \$2.00 each (overseas members add \$1.00 per issue for postage). Volume 1 (1987) has three issues, later volumes have four.

<u>INQUIRIES</u> to the Foundation: Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to expedite your reply. Persons wishing to mention the Foundation in newspapers, magazines, or other news media are requested to contact the Foundation prior to such coverage.

MANUSCRIPTS in keeping with the Foundation's purposes and emphasizing all aspects of heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies are continually invited. Submissions should be exclusive (not previously published or submitted elsewhere) and may be on computer disk (preferably) or on paper. Manuscripts of a scholarly or scientific nature will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee prior to publication.

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

1512 Gorman Street Raleigh, NC 27606-2919 U. S. A. (919)834-2591 Charles A. Walker, Jr., Acting Editor

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Heritage Roses in the Rockies

The Foundation's Eleventh Annual Meeting and Conference is slated for Friday, June 8, through Sunday June 8, 1997 in Denver Colorado. John Starnes and Dr. William Campbell are hard at work putting together what promises to be an educational and enjoyable experience for us. This will be our first conference in a mountainous area, and we are looking forward to seeing what heritage roses have survived and thrived there.

In addition to lectures and a hands-on workshop, the conference will feature tours of 122-acre Fairmount Cemetery, home to numerous old roses; a large rose garden in Golden, Colorado, with a stunning view of the Rockies; and Bill Campbell's own collection of over 600 varieties. And more activities are in the planning stages. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Registration and program information will be published in a future issue.

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

Heritage Rose Foundation News needs a steady supply of articles about your firsthand, previously unpublished experiences and thoughts relating to heritage rose preservation, history, and closely related topics. Please share what you have learned with our other members. NOTE: We want to publish only original material and to avoid confusion, so please tell us if you also have submitted or plan to submit your article elsewhere.

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IN MEMORIAM

CARL PORTER CATO

It is with deep regret that we note the death of Carl P. Cato, 83, formerly of Lynchburg, Virginia, on October 24. Carl was a Charter Member of The Heritage Rose Foundation and one of the first four Regional Coordinators of The Heritage Roses Group, an informal fellowship of persons interested in old roses, as well as the longtime editor of its newsletter. It was he who kept that publication on a steady course for its first eleven years, setting a standard that his successors have striven hard to keep. In appreciation for his many years of dedicated service, the group honored Carl with a Life Membership in May, 1988. The Foundation recently was entrusted with a group of Carl's papers, which will provide future researchers with unique insights into the history of renewed interest in old roses. Carl's passing leaves a void, but his intense interest in the old roses lives on, an inspirational bequest to all who share his dedication to heritage rose preservation. It is most fitting that his final resting place in Pageland, South Carolina, bears the name Rose Hill.

WILLIAM LANIER HUNT

We are saddened to learn of the death, on October 19, of William L. Hunt, 90, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, one of the founding trustees of The Heritage Rose Foundation and its initial Vice-President. Bill was also active in the formation of the Southern Garden History Society. His donation in 1961 of 100 acres of prime native plant habitat made possible the establishment of the University of North Carolina's Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill. Among the many accolades he received over the years was his selection as one of the first American Fellows of the Royal He was well-known Horticultural Society. throughout the South as a writer, lecturer, and enthusiastic patron of horticulture. Bill's unique presence will be keenly missed by all who had the pleasure to know him.

Old Roses Revisited

Barbara A. Dodson Yadkinville, North Carolina

I recently obtained the October, 1993 issue of Heritage Rose Foundation News and read an article by Evona Thompson entitled "Finding Roses Where There Aren't Any." While I find most articles about the search for old roses interesting, what really caught my attention was that the areas spoken about were almost in my back yard. husband and I set out bright and early one Saturday to see if these roses were still around. We found Joppa Cemetery in Mocksville, North Carolina, and easily proceeded to walk around looking for old Since the old part of the cemetery was unmowed and full of all sorts of interesting vegetation, we decided to begin our exploration for lost treasures there. We found old boxwoods, iris, and violets among the ancient stones, but no roses. As we continued on into the newer section, which was properly mowed and cared for, as all modern cemeteries are, we were surprised to find an old rosebush not only surviving but thriving. It was just as Evona had described it, with fragrant, pale pink, one-inch double flowers and nary a blackspotted leaf. A bush with no blackspot in August is impressive indeed! I took a small cutting to try my luck with rooting it and went on searching for more botanical finds. I always get excited when I come upon a remontant rose in our part of North Carolina, as the vast majority of old roses I've found have been spring bloomers.

We were so encouraged by the ease with which we found the Joppa Cemetery that we set out to find the other cemetery mentioned in her article — Rose Cemetery. After asking around, we obtained directions and proceeded to it. Despite its promising name, one look at its neatly mowed grass raised doubts that any roses would be found. After traversing the entire grounds, we saw what looked like a rose cane growing out of the middle of a boxwood. Unbelievably, it was still surviving, no doubt because the mower or clippers couldn't reach it. It wasn't blooming, so I made a note to return next spring to see what it looks like. I found a

small sucker at the base of the boxwood to take home and nurture.

The amazing thing to me about these two roses is that Evona Thompson wrote about these finds in 1982, and they are still thriving! Certainly the rose growing out of the boxwood has not been cared for, yet it still keeps growing year after year. It is this tenacity that makes old roses so fascinating and worth preserving for future generations. My successful expedition that Saturday has only served to increase my zeal for searching for lost and forgotten roses along the country roads of my part of North Carolina.

The Rose Still Blooms

Thera Lou Adams

Camden, Arkansas

Beside an isolated rural road in northern Louisiana there grew a rose near where my sister lives. When I pointed the rose out to her she wondered aloud if this could possibly be the rose that grew so many years ago by the one-room school that she had attended. She went on to describe it as a single white rose, quite beautiful, and to say how much she enjoyed seeing it bloom.

The rose did not cross my mind again until a few weeks later. While driving by, much too fast, I realized that the rose was in bloom. As I shifted into reverse, hoping against hope that this was it, my sister exclaimed, "It is the rose!" After seventy-two years, there it was, half a block away, blooming in all its glory! I hope to find its name next spring.

The Rosy Monster That Could Have Eaten Tokyo

Gil Hunt

Hudson, Florida

The chain link fence to separate my roses from my neighbor's two Great Danes was installed with due forethought for Robert Frost's question about what I was fencing in as well as what I was fencing out, and all seemed in good order.

But that is one ugly fence.

As a member of HRF in good standing, of course, I had the answer. Put an old garden rose on the fence. Maybe a dozen old garden roses to cover the whole thing.

While I mulled over the problem of which roses to plant, my good Coast Guard Auxiliary buddies returned from visiting relatives in East Texas. I had taught them how to cut spent blooms to get a twig for me to propagate. They rolled the twigs in wet paper towels and inserted them into baggies. About two dozen such twigs, a treasure they had gleaned from several East Texas gardens, were in the trunk of their car. I was ecstatic. Here was my fence cover! Two dozen Texan mysteries!

I planted all the twigs in four-inch pots with bottomless Coke bottles atop them to create individual greenhouses. I placed the collection in the reflected light from my white house, under a large grapefruit tree to prevent our Florida sun from steaming them into soups. I started the six- to eight-week wait period for the production of my 24 roses. When the nursery period was over, I transplanted them into gallon pots. Then three gallon pots. A year went by, and I put them all out on the fence line in their pots, to be planted the next day.

Man proposes, but God disposes.

March 13th of that year was the date of the No Name Storm that doused my property with several feet of very dirty Gulf of Mexico salt water. The storm surge swept my three-gallon pots away and deposited them in the bottom of the canal. Wonder what the garfish thought? When I finally got our property cleaned up, insurance-claims people out of my hair, and repairs completed, I took the sad trek to find my two dozen babies.

I found just one. Lucky to get that many, I guess. I drenched the soggy plant further with fresh

water to rid it of the salt in which it had lain for a week, planted it at the foot of the fence where the thorns would not attack us as we went by on the driveway, and, without much hope, waited.

That plant grew! So much for the thought that roses are not salt resistant, or that they hate wet feet.

The plant climbed the four-foot fence, and I started a long period of weaving its developing canes in and out of the chain link fence. I made close friends of the two Great Danes (remarkable what a few bits of hamburger will do for friendship), and they great-heartedly permitted me on my neighbor's side of the fence to weave from there, too. Obviously the heat of West Central Florida's sun would fry the canes on that metallic fence, right? No way. The rose thrived. And thrived.

It covered the fence, top to bottom, and spread out in both directions. I measured the longest cane — fifty-eight feet! The fence now was covered in small bright green leaves. The ugly fence looked a part of the natural landscape, and was redeemed. Thank the deity of roses!

A year went by, with the rose staying green and very healthy. Zero black spot. Zero powdery mildew. Zero any other disease. Zero blossoms.

I kept the rose because of its foliage, secure in the knowledge that few climbers or ramblers do well the first year. I'd get blossoms the second year, wouldn't I? No, it turned out, I wouldn't.

The third year was a revelation. Sort of. I had four blossoms in that rich expanse of greenery. Four tiny, medium red very double blossoms in pompon form. I sat down by the rose, had a long heart-to-heart, and warned that major production the following year was required or shovel-pruning loomed.

Clearly, roses listen when spoken to in the stentorian tones of a former Combat Infantry Company Commander. The rose spent the winter gathering its strength and, when late May came finally by, bloomed magnificently. The fence was covered with a spectacular showing of dozens of clusters of up to nineteen tightly packed blossoms that held for a month. My fence was, understandably, the talk and wonder of the neighborhood. Cars slowed as they went by. Other fence owners asked where I got that plant.

The wonder has died down, now that blossoms have all been dead-headed, and the rose has returned to its vegetative phase. I eagerly anticipate next May and June. After all, four years are invested in that rose.

I am totally in the dark for identification of The Monster. Details are as follows: Leaves small, slender, with seven pointed leaflets each (three pairs and a longer terminal one). The leaves are placed alternately on the cane, medium green and slightly cupped. The prickles are slightly re-curved, light green to yellow. One prickle appears just below the base of each axil, with one or two between the axils. Blossoms are an inch to an inch and a half. tightly tied to other blossoms in a very compact inflorescence, ranging from almost flat-topped to very rounded. Twelve to nineteen flowers appear Color of blossoms is in each inflorescence. medium red, lasting about three weeks and fading to a dull white. The plant blossoms in late May and early June in West Central Florida. Aroma is, unfortunately, weak to non-existent, although my allergy-ruined sense of smell may be at fault here. Lamentably, I dead-headed totally, hoping to stimulate more blossoms, so I have no information on hips. The plant has no discernible center at ground level; there are 32 separate canes emerging from the soil. My more knowledgeable readers will, of course, identify The Monster for me. Email at gilhunt@machighway.com

I have, of course, propagated a couple of plants for my Texas-visiting Auxiliary buddies. They won't need more than one, however. Two of these rosy monsters might attack. Even metropolitan Tokyo is not safe.



From the Mail

Due to a misinterpretation of handwriting, a previous query should have been for the Hybrid Tea 'Cavalier' (1939), described in *Modern Roses 10* as burnt orange to cream buff. It is a sport of 'Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt' (1933), described as golden yellow, which is in turn a sport of the famous rose 'Talisman' (1929), which produced many sports. 'Cavalier' is not listed in either *Combined Rose List* or the holdings of Sangerhausen and Roseraie de l'Hay. About 30 years ago, it was seen at a public

garden not far from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, by someone who recognized it as a rose he had known in childhood. If you know of a source, please contact Ms. Patricia Paciocco, 5040 Cottage St, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124. She wants to give this rose to a friend who used to grow it and would like to have it again.

Jane Cox of Richmond, Virginia, has been given permission by the Executive Committee of Hollywood Cemetery to maintain the roses planted by the Foundation at President's Circle in the cemetery during our 1994 conference. While removing excess mulch and pulling wiregrass from the plants, she was offered cobblestones by one of the cemetery workers to build low walls around them to protect their canes from weedeaters. In early September the work was completed and all four roses were blooming well. We appreciate Jane's persistent dedication to this planting.

Another Garden Destroyed

Evie Douglas of Snohomish, Washington, one of our new members, recently wrote to tell us about the fate of a rose garden in her area. Evie lives near Edmonds, which was the home of the late Edith Schurr, former chair of the American Rose Society's Old Garden Rose Committee and one of the founding coordinators of the Heritage Roses Group. Edith's enthusiasm for and promotion of the old roses were unflagging, right up to her death in January, 1983.

Evie sent copies of Edith's writings from the May and August, 1977, and August, 1978 issues of *The Rose Letter*. They show that, prior to selling her house, Edith had donated her entire collection of old roses for a Heritage Garden at nearby Edmonds Community College. There were about 200 plants, about which Edith said, "Many are rare, one of a kind, and some are irreplaceable." She put the collection into the hands of her friend **Dennis Thompson**, a member of the horticulture faculty at the college, and the garden was a project of his classes.

About 1988, while Dennis was out of town for a

short trip, the entire collection was bulldozed without any prior notice by the college — to build a parking lot for a golf course.

When Dennis returned, he and Evie desperately attempted to salvage some viable cuttings from the huge pile of rose debris, but Evie was able to root only five: 'Lady Banks' (Rosa banksia lutea), 'Ballerina', 'City of York', 'Henri Martin', and an unidentified one, possibly 'Russelliana'. Three years later, Dennis died, and now Evie is the custodian of this tiny remnant of Edith's once large and interesting collection. Evie remarked that there is only one good aspect of this catastrophe: Edith was not alive to witness it.

Unfortunately, this is not the first occurrence of such a tragedy. Others collectors have either entrusted their roses to unreliable custodians or failed to make adequate provision for their preservation. For example, Ethelyn E. Keays, author of the book *Old Roses* (1935), left the collection that she had gathered bit by bit from the rural Calvert County, Maryland, countryside to the University of Maryland, but it has since vanished without a trace.

Ruth Knopf, of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, has documented a number of smaller private collections that have disappeared when their owners died. And even her own collection was bulldozed when, after the untimely death of her husband, she had to move from the parsonage near Edgemoor where she had assembled hundreds of roses gathered from old South Carolina homes and gardens. She was able to save some of them but many were lost.

In our first issue (April, 1987) we noted that the garden of **Karl P. Jones** in Barrington, Rhode Island, containing a thousand varieties of roses, was sold to real estate developers. Three generations had enjoyed this garden and had taken for granted that it would always be there, yet a greatly increased tax valuation prompted the sale of the property and the loss of the garden.

These disheartening examples merely underscore the fact that the Foundation must have complete control of the collection that it will accumulate. At the very least, it must own the property where it will be housed. Not only must we preserve the roses of the past, we must take to heart the valuable lessons taught by prior attempts at their preservation. Although certain institutions, gardens, and plant collections may seem at first glance to be excellent repositories for long term preservation, they are all too often tied to the tenure of one individual — one horticulturist or plant breeder who has assembled or maintained a large variety of plant material and whose persistent efforts keep it intact. When that person is assigned to a different project, moves to another institution, retires, or dies, the collection is often discarded. When we learn of such an event, we can protest its occurrence, but very often we do not know until after the deed is done.

An exemplary contrast to these tragic losses has been the creation and initial endowment by Dr. Robert Basye of the Rose Germplasm Repository at Texas A & M University, with a substantial increase in endowment to be made upon his death. Dr. David Byrne is continuing and expanding Dr. Basye's breeding work.

We must remember that each horticultural entity has its own purposes and its own relationship with its physical location, both of which, however firm at present, may be altered in the future — to the exclusion of permanent preservation of roses. While we might depend upon such entities for the short term, we cannot afford to continue making the costly preservation mistakes of our predecessors. Better to establish a truly secure haven than to invest in one whose agenda we cannot control and which is subject to change without much notice.

E-mail Addresses



If you'd like to contact other members via e-mail, send us your address for publication.

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Is It Renewal Time?

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Obsessed with 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose'

Lisa S. Tennant Southern Pines, North Carolina

In March, 1996, my husband and I spent four days in Atlanta attending the NASCAR races. Since we would be passing by Laurens, South Carolina, on our way home, we (I) decided to take a day and stop at Roses Unlimited. Clearly, I now had to spend every waking moment that we weren't

at the race track studying my rose books and catalogs. I made a list of what I wanted and matched my list to Roses Unlimited's list. That way, theoretically, when I got to the nursery, I'd know exactly what I was going to buy. While poring over my books, I read about 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose' in Heirloom Old Garden Roses' catalog. When I saw the word "rare" in its description, I knew I had to add it to my list, even though Roses Unlimited didn't carry it.

Roses unlimited was the first greenhouse I'd ever been in that contained nothing but roses. Well, to see all those roses in full bloom on one of the coldest days of the year...I thought I had died and gone to Portland! Of course I bought more roses that were *not* on my list than were *on* it. And, although 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose' was not on Roses Unlimited's list, it was in their greenhouse. Thus begins my obsession.

I'm fixated on this rose because I think it has sported. The problem is that the only description of it that I have been able to find is in Heirloom Old Garden Roses' catalog. It says, "This variety produces semidouble blooms of several different color combinations at the same time — red shaded white, pink and red, white shaded red and more." Well, my rose was all white, tinged pale pink, with an occasional fleck of dark pink. The catalog description matched my rose about as well as most catalog descriptions match most plants. On my next trip to Roses Unlimited, I asked a woman who worked there about 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose' and she said that hers, like mine, was basically white.

I now have an entire branch on which the blooms are different from the others on the plant. The tight buds are red where they are exposed to the sun, white under the sepals, and they open pale pink. The fresh bloom, which is mid-pink and fades to red, looks remarkably like 'Old Blush', but it fades darker than 'Old Blush'. The foliage on this branch is also different from the rest of the plant. Its new growth is a much darker bronzy red than the rest of the plant and the petiole stays red long after the leaflets turn green.

I can't find anything else on 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose'. When I ask most plant people (such

as garden center personnel) about this rose and its mutation, they have a tendency to roll their eyes and tell me that the understock is taking over the plant. I must admit, I get a little kick out of telling them that it's growing on its own roots, because then they have to concede that they, like most mortals, have never heard of 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose'.

I finally got some information from the owner of Roses Unlimited. She told me that it may be the same rose as the Bermuda rose, 'Smith's Parish'. With some help from Dr. Charles Walker (thank you, Dr. Walker) and the Antique Rose Emporium, I have since learned a bit about 'Smith's Parish', and my rose seems to be showing many of its characteristics. Both 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose' and 'Smith's Parish' have a tendency to throw out a red-blooming branch. In the case of 'Smith's Parish', when you root cuttings the bloom reverts to white after a couple of years. I don't know whether the same is true of my rose, because my cuttings have not bloomed yet. Dr. Walker sent me a copy of his article in the January, 1994, Heritage Rose Foundation News, in which he cautioned that since there is no conclusive evidence that these two roses are one and the same, we should consider them to be different. Unfortunately, no one seems to listen to him.

If anyone knows anything about 'Fortune's Five-Colored Rose' please write to me at 175 East Vermont Ave, Southern Pines NC 28387, or e-mail to either *ltennant@ac.net* or *Paulneyron@aol.com*. In the meantime, I'll keep rooting cuttings and hoping for red blooms on them.

The Bookshelf

Coming in the January issue:

THE ORGANIC ROSE GARDEN by Liz Druitt

reviewed by Dr. H. Brent Pemberton, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University PURPOSES. The Heritage Rose Foundation is a non-profit corporation created in November, 1986 to

- Collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture, with particular emphasis on those varieties that are not
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- Establish one or more gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
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