

HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

Charles A. Walker, Jr., Acting Editor  
1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606, U.S.A.

Volume 1, Number 1.

April, 1987

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IN CONTEMPLATION

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I am wondering if the many, many people who admire and collect the Old Garden Roses have given much thought to the significance of the start-up of this new organization, The Heritage Rose Foundation. I would like to review what this Foundation means to me and to old roses.

Thinking back to an earlier generation of old rose collectors, I would like to recall two well known persons whose efforts in collecting and propagating "found" roses were the basis of much research and renewal of knowledge about them and the use of old sorts in an effort to produce new roses. These two people, Ethelyn Emery Keays and George C. Thomas, Jr., worked on their respective collections at opposite sides of our nation, one on the east coast in Maryland and the other on the west coast in Southern California. The more old roses they collected the more they came to realize the value of these sorts that had stood the test of time. They shared their discoveries and delight with other rosarians through articles in the American Rose Society Annual and they became well known. But like all things mortal, they have passed from this worldly plane, and those collections of old roses that they worked so hard to gather and identify are gone. Although we are still able to share in a portion of their knowledge through their published writings, much of their research was lost forever.

These are just two examples of profound losses and set-backs for the cause of old roses. Obviously what is needed is an on-going organization that is dedicated to:

- 1) The gathering of information from past and current researchers and gatherers of old roses.
- 2) The establishment of permanent gardens of preservation.

This is the hope that The Heritage Rose Foundation holds out to me -- that what has been done and what will be done shall not be lost, but find a permanent residence for the benefit of the old roses and future rosarians.

To accomplish this goal will take an on-going effort on the part of all of us who admire, collect, or sell old roses. It is an effort of love and dedication. I thank Charles Walker and all the persons who have worked with him in setting up The Heritage Rose Foundation, that I might have this opportunity to support the preservation of old roses and a gathering place for the knowledge we have about them.

--VIRGINIA HOPPER, Branscomb, California

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FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF  
THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION

Date: Sunday, May 10, 1987

Place: The Burwell School

Churton Street at West Union Street

Hillsborough, NC

Time: 1:30 p.m.

P. Bly Hall

Secretary

The Heritage Rose Foundation

The Burwell School is the site of the re-discovery in the U. S. of the Double Musk Rose (*Rosa moschata plena*) by Mrs. Helen Watkins of Hillsborough several years ago. This rose still grows at the school and is almost certain to be the origin of the plants later discovered in Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte, NC, by Carl Cato of Lynchburg, VA, and Ruth Knopf of Rock Hill, SC. The Charlotte plants are the source of those now available from Pickering Nurseries and the Antique Rose Emporium.

Although the Double Musk normally blooms in late spring here, we may be fortunate enough to see a few flowers. Bring your camera.

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THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION PURPOSES

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1. To collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture. 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 Directors of this corporation to have historic, educational, or genetic value.
2. To establish a garden or gardens wherein heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
3. To 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.
4. To publish and disseminate information about heritage roses as well as the results of research conducted or contracted by the corporation.
5. To establish and maintain a collection of books, research papers, and other items relating to heritage roses.
6. To conduct seminars, meetings, forums, panels, lectures, tours, exhibits, and other appropriate means to foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.



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\* "MYSTERY" ROSES--- WHAT'S IN A NAME? \*

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One excellent way to acquaint the public with heritage roses is to exhibit them in rose shows and displays. However, since the rules for many such shows require that the roses be properly labeled by variety name, it is often not possible to exhibit unidentified roses, even though they may be very desirable specimens.

Bermuda has several such roses whose original names have become lost over the years. Long realizing the value of these "mystery" roses, The Bermuda Rose Society has created a special class for them in their shows and members exhibit them under newly assigned names, which are as well known in Bermuda as those of other roses. On a recent visit to Bermuda, Peter Beales was impressed with the Society's unbiased appreciation of the "mystery" roses and has donated a perpetual trophy for this special show class.

The "mystery" rose system used in Bermuda can be adopted elsewhere. It provides a workable means of giving a new identity to an old rose without creating confusion as to its original name. In contrast, attempts to discover the true identity of "mystery" roses have often resulted in incorrect naming and subsequent confusion with one or more other varieties. Consequently, a difficult problem becomes unnecessarily more complicated.

Such confusion can be avoided completely by the assignment of a new name in a prescribed manner similar to that now used for registering a new rose. Once this is done, a "mystery" rose can be exhibited, distributed in commerce, and discussed without bias or confusion. If its true identity is ever proven, then all the better; the newly assigned name can then revert to a synonym. Meanwhile, the rose can be utilized and enjoyed by ALL concerned and its future existence will be better assured.

If you are interested in exploring the possibilities of instituting such a system for "mystery" roses and would be willing to help work out the details, please let us know. This is one area where Heritage Rose Foundation members can serve as a much-needed clearing house for rose information.

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One of the Foundation's pressing needs is a personal computer and printer to handle the mailing list, produce educational materials (including the newsletter), and develop various rose data bases for research.

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\* A REPOSITORY FOR TENDER ROSES \*

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As noted in the February issue of Heritage Roses in Australia and the April issue of The Yellow Rose, plans are going forward for a repository for Teas, Chinas, and Noisettes in Australia. Peter Beales will aid in assembling those from English and European gardens where winters often prove too harsh for the more tender varieties. The Heritage Rose Foundation applauds this effort and we hope that our members can help in collecting. As plans for the repository continue to develop we will keep you informed.



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DOCUMENTING HERITAGE ROSES

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Assembling documentation on heritage roses is an important function of the Foundation. "Documentation" is just a shorter way of saying "what you know and how you know it." It does not always involve documents, per se.

Virtually no one living today has had continuous first-hand knowledge of century-old roses from the time of their introduction to the present. Therefore, all of us must depend on references of one kind or another for information about our older roses.

However, written references such as books are not our only sources of documentation. Persons with clear and detailed memories of certain named varieties from their childhood are in a unique position to help with the Foundation's studies in identification. For example, Cleo Barnwell of Shreveport, LA, distinctly remembers the Tea 'Lady Millington' (1910) from the time when it was a new rose, so her memory serves as strong documentation for this rose. In addition, she was taught by her mother to recognize the Hybrid Tea 'La France' (1867) by its distinctive fragrance. Thus, Cleo's memory serves as a bridge to bring first-hand information on this rose from the 19th century into the 20th. Such experience can be very helpful in sorting out an accidental mixup in identities, as has been the case with 'La France'. If you know of others with similar long-term experience, please encourage them to help the Foundation with identification.

Many people can participate in documentation. Here are a few examples of the activities involved in it:

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

While the information gathered and recorded by one person may seem meager and unimportant, it can be useful when combined with that gathered by many others. Please do what you can to ensure that this part of our rose heritage is preserved.

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The month and year shown on your mailing label refers to the renewal date for your membership. A reminder notice will be included in your final issue of the newsletter.

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FROM THE BOOK SHELF

A GARDEN OF ROSES, containing 70 of the 132 plates from Ellen Willmott's The Genus Rosa with descriptions and introduction by Foundation member Graham Stuart Thomas, is due to be published in England in late April. The U.S. publisher for this work, Salem House Publishers, 462 Boston St., Topsfield, MA 01983, telephone (617)887-2440, will have it available about July. Price is \$29.95 (hardbound). This is apparently the first substantial reprinting of plates from The Genus Rosa and it should prove enjoyable as well as valuable for comparative study.



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\* 'LYS YR RHOSYN': THE TRAGEDY OF A PRIVATE GARDEN \*

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After reading a note in the February issue of The Rose Letter of The Heritage Roses Group about 'Lys Yr Rhosyn', we contacted Barbara S. Lesko, President of the Committee to Save the Rose Garden, for further information. Here is an update on its status.

This five-acre private rose garden was created almost 50 years ago by Mr. Karl P. Jones in Barrington, Rhode Island, and contains about 7,500 plants of more than 1,000 cultivars. Recently, due to a greatly increased tax valuation, Mr. Jones sold the land to real estate developers. A Committee to Save the Rose Garden was formed and has attempted to buy it. So far, the developers have refused this alternative and have begun to sell off parcels. It is estimated that at least \$750,000 would be needed to obtain the parcels most intensely cultivated with roses, but the Committee has been unsuccessful in obtaining funds. Ironically, Mr. Jones, age 91, has insisted that the garden should not outlast him because no one would be capable of looking after it properly.

We are grateful to Ms. Lesko for sharing this information. Though the situation is desperate there is at least one bright note; the owner of the house now being built on one of the parcels has transplanted some of the existing roses so that they would not be damaged by the construction. We have inquired about the fate of the remaining roses and whether there might be rare varieties among them which should be preserved. As more information becomes available we will keep you informed.

'Lys Yr Rhosyn' was enjoyed by three generations of local residents. Unfortunately, it was taken for granted and not fully appreciated until it was lost. That loss happened so suddenly that there was no time to gather funds or support to prevent it. This tragedy points out the vulnerability of private gardens, underscoring the need to provide heritage roses with permanently endowed sanctuaries of their own, ones which will last beyond the foreseeable future. Let's all work together to meet this goal.

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#### "HOW TO" INFORMATION NEEDED

To facilitate heritage rose preservation activities among those who are interested, the Foundation will be compiling basic "how to" information on several fundamental topics such as searching for roses, collecting and rooting cuttings, growing plants, and photographing for identification. Volunteers are needed to assist with this. Please indicate which topics you can help with.

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#### IN SEARCH OF A LOGO

The Foundation needs its own original symbol or logo to be used on its stationery, publications, etc. This should represent its functions of heritage rose preservation, research, and study. Members are encouraged to submit appropriate designs for consideration.



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TAKING STOCK-- A ROSE INVENTORY

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The first and foremost purpose of The Heritage Rose Foundation is to preserve heritage roses. Since the Foundation does not yet have any gardens of its own it must depend on its members' gardens to serve initially as "Foundation" gardens. Although many of its members have been growing heritage roses for a number of years, apparently there has been no single systematic effort to record the names and origins of the varieties grown by a large group of people, or to coordinate the preservation efforts of such a group.

So it seems prudent that we should "take inventory," so to speak, as a beginning point. If you wish to participate in this phase of the Foundation's work, prepare a list of the roses you are growing along with their origins.

It is especially important that "found" roses be included in your inventory, as these represent potentially rare roses which may be in greatest need of preservation. For these, include the class (e.g., Gallica, China, etc.) if known, color(s), general description, and source. Eventually we hope to set up a Foundation data bank of such roses, including slides and/or photos and pressed specimens. Members may then use the data bank to determine which of their "found" roses are the same as those of other members. Expanding the data bank to include known roses will provide opportunities for eventually identifying found roses.

The more participants in this pioneering effort, the better it will work. Start compiling your inventory as soon as possible. Your ideas and suggestions for setting up the Foundation's data bank will be most welcome.

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THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION INITIAL TRUSTEES

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Helen M. Watkins, Chairman of the Board, is a founder of The Piedmont Heritage Rose Society and has been an avid collector and student of old roses for many years.

Charles A. Walker, Jr., President, is a doctoral candidate in horticulture at North Carolina State University with an interest in heritage rose conservation and study.

William L. Hunt, Vice-President, is a noted horticultural author, lecturer, and founder of the Southern Garden History Society.

P. Bly Hall, Secretary, is an attorney and clerk for a North Carolina State Supreme Court justice and is a member of The Heritage Roses Group.

Rudolph Pate, Treasurer, is a former Vice-Chancellor for Development and University Relations at North Carolina State University and is a member of the Raleigh Rose Society.

Judy A. Holley, Trustee, is a Research Psychologist at Research Triangle Institute and is a specialist in industrial/organizational psychology.



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# FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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The Heritage Rose Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation in November, 1986, to collect, preserve, and study heritage roses, with particular emphasis on those cultivars which are not known to be in commerce.

Membership in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in sympathy with its purposes and goals.

## ANNUAL DUES:

Organizations (all countries)	\$25
Individual (U.S.) Regular	\$10
Family	\$12
Student (under 21)	\$ 8
Senior (over 65)	\$ 8
Individual (Outside U.S.)—	
Canada, Mexico	\$12
Other Countries	\$15

Note: Members outside the U. S. should pay dues with an international money order, a bank draft, or a personal check drawn on a U. S. bank. Make all checks payable to The Heritage Rose Foundation and mail to 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606 U.S.A.

Members will receive a periodic newsletter reporting on the Foundation's activities as well as topics related to heritage rose conservation. Submission of manuscripts on these topics is encouraged. Overseas newsletters will be sent via air mail.

When sending an inquiry to the Foundation, please include 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.

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## LOOKING FOR A NAME

This publication needs a good title, one which can be readily identified with the Foundation and its work. Please send us your ideas for one.

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## WE NEED YOUR INPUT

In keeping with the Foundation's purposes, this publication will emphasize heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies. If you have articles, notes, ideas, or questions on these topics, please submit them.



## HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

Charles A. Walker, Jr., Acting Editor

1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606, U.S.A.

Volume 1, Number 2

July, 1987

\* **THANK YOU!** \*

We take great pleasure in announcing that The Bermuda Rose Society has donated \$1,000.00 to the Foundation. This is the largest single gift received to date and represents much hard work by the Society members. We are indeed grateful for this most generous contribution and for the Society's strong support of the Foundation's goals. For 33 years the Society has had an ongoing program to preserve the old roses growing in Bermuda. We trust that their commitment to the Foundation's efforts will inspire others to assist in its work, both physically and financially, for the ultimate benefit of heritage roses.

We would also like to thank other Foundation members who have made contributions in addition to their dues. In a future issue we will list their names unless they wish to remain anonymous.

\* 1988 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING \*

The Board of Trustees is considering the possibility of holding the 1988 Annual Membership Meeting in conjunction with the Third International Heritage Rose Conference at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Clair Martin, horticulturist at the Huntington, has indicated that this is feasible and we will continue to pursue the possibility. Suggestions for the meeting agenda will be welcome. Please send them as soon as possible.

\* \* SPECIAL NOTE \* \*

If you are attending the ARS Fall Convention in Shreveport and would like to meet other Foundation members at that time, let us know and we will try to arrange a get-together. Convention dates are October 19 - 22.

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## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

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At its meeting in May, the Board of Trustees voted to accept as Charter Members all persons who join the Foundation on or before March 14, 1988. This will allow more equitable participation in the beginning stages of the organization by interested persons both in the U.S. and abroad.

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## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

The Foundation now has 174 memberships, summarized as follows:

By type of membership

Organization - 10

Senior - 20

Family - 35

Individual (U.S.) - 93

Individual (outside U.S.) - 16

By state and country

California - 26; North Carolina - 19; Texas - 13; South Carolina - 12; Virginia - 11; New York - 10; Bermuda - 8; Florida, Georgia, & Maryland - 7 each; Louisiana & Washington - 4 each; Alabama, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, & England - 3 each; Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Australia, & Canada - 2 each; Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, South Africa, & New Zealand - 1 each.

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## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

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A good way to share the news of the Foundation's efforts is to give a gift membership to someone who is interested in heritage rose preservation, and several of our members have taken this opportunity. We would particularly like to have members in France, West Germany, East Germany, China, Japan, and other countries with a long history of rose cultivation. We also need broader participation here in the States. With increased contacts, we can keep our members better informed about rose preservation efforts worldwide.

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## SHARING OLD ROSES

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One of the sad things about being an old rose collector is seeing an old plant that has survived neglect and the passage of time disappear beneath the wheels of "progress." After seeing this happen a number of times, Joyce and I decided that a little awareness education might come to the aid of these old beauties. Over the years we have recorded many of the roses found in our county on slide film. Even in their neglect and old age they were so beautiful. If only we could help others to see them too.

To this end we put together a slide program. The diversity of roses in it was a surprise even to us and made us rather proud of our local rose heritage. We notified all the garden clubs, senior groups, historical societies, etc. within traveling distance that we were willing to provide them with an interesting and provocative program for one of their meetings. The requests came back, "Yes, please show your old rose program." Since then we have put a few miles on the old jalopy and a lot more people know about old roses.

Our program is made up of the old roses in our county, but anyone wishing to rent this set of 100 slides may do so. It is mounted in a Kodak carousel tray and is accompanied by a short narrative for each slide. The charges for the program are as follows:

Rental Fee (one half donated to The Heritage Rose Foundation):	\$10.00
Security Deposit (refunded upon return of the program):	15.00
Shipping (Air mail Parcel Post) & insurance:	7.00
Total:	\$32.00

Send your desired rental date (including alternates) and check to Virginia Hopper, 40350 Wilderness Road, Branscomb, CA 95417, phone (707)984-6959. Please return the program by insured mail within 5 days after showing.

--VIRGINIA HOPPER, Branscomb, CA

(Ed. note: This program seems like a very enjoyable way to encourage people to get out in their own localities and find the old roses before they disappear. We might also note that Joyce is Virginia's sister, Joyce Demits).

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## NEW BRITISH GROUP PLANNED

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In the May issue of The Rose, published by the Royal National Rose Society, is an announcement of the Society's plans to establish a special interest group relating to heritage roses. The Society's publications have long provided coverage for heritage roses and we are particularly pleased that they will be undertaking this new project. As plans are finalized we will keep you informed.



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FROM THE BOOKSHELF

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At long last, The Charm of Old Roses by Nancy Steen will be back in print on September 1st. This classic work on heritage roses has been virtually unobtainable for many years and now appears in a new edition. The text is that of the original but most of the plates are new, though they are largely of the same rose varieties as in the 1966 edition. An effort has been made to improve the color balance of the 48 plates and many are quite good. We are all indebted to Mrs. Elizabeth G. Stevens for her fine work in getting this book back into the hands of old rose lovers at an affordable price. U. S. residents may order The Charm of Old Roses from Milldale Press, 1718 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009, (202)232-7933. Price \$24.95 plus shipping. In New Zealand the book will be distributed by Reed Methuen Publishers, 39 Rawene Rd., Private Bag, Birkenhead, Auckland 10, NZ.

Salem House Publishers, 462 Boston St., Topsfield, MA 01983, has indicated that A Garden of Roses, a reprinting of 70 plates from The Genus Rosa which was mentioned in our last issue, will not be available in the U.S. until November. The price will be \$29.95 plus \$1.25 shipping. Unfortunately, this publisher cannot accept orders from outside the U.S., which should be directed to Pavilion Books, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL, England. Royal National Rose Society members may order as noted in the May issue of The Rose.

Old Garden Roses in Bermuda is still available from The Bermuda Rose Society, PO Box PG 162, Paget PG BX, Bermuda. Fifty-six pages, 47 beautiful color photos, including several "mystery" roses. Remit \$9.50 by bank draft or international postal money order (no personal checks, please).

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ROOTING RECIPE

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Malcolm Manners, who teaches horticulture at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, recommends the following mix as a rooting medium and for growing roses in pots.

- 2 gallons Canadian peat moss, thoroughly moistened before adding.
- 1 gallon perlite, moistened (2 gallons if rooting under mist).
- 1 cup dolomitic (agricultural) lime, not quicklime.
- 1½ teaspoons Micromax (dry micronutrient mix), if locally available.
- 1½ teaspoons triple superphosphate.

Blend thoroughly, sprinkling with water until uniformly moist but not soggy.

For rooting cuttings, the last two ingredients can be omitted. It will take several weeks for the lime to raise the pH, so prepare the mix in advance. This is a well-aerated mix which promotes a good fibrous root system but it tends to dry out quickly. Be sure to keep it evenly moist.

For use as a potting mix, garden soil may be added to the rooting mix as desired. Use a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 to keep the roses growing well.



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\* A PRESERVATION EFFORT \*

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Systematic conservation of the old roses in Edenton, North Carolina, is underway. Mrs. Frances Inglis has spent many hours enthusiastically scouting out roses in this eastern NC town which was incorporated in 1722. Doug Ruhren of Durham, NC, and I went there in June to collect cuttings from those which seemed most in need of preservation.

We concentrated on the gardens at four of the fine old homes in town. At Hayes, built between 1807 and 1817, there were several Teas as well as a strongly scented pale pink China/Tea and a glowing red China similar to Bermuda's "Spice" and "St. David's", respectively. In the now shaded garden at Charlton House, dating from the 1760s, we collected additional Teas, including one nearly enveloped in boxwood. Some of these roses are thought to have been planted in the 1880s. The grounds at Wessington, circa 1850, yielded a small pale pink China/Tea (also similar to "Spice"), while mid-nineteenth century Pembroke Hall provided an interesting single lavender pink Shrub-like rose with maroon stamens. Pembroke Hall also boasts a magnificent climbing form of 'Old Blush' which an earlier visitor had remembered from his mother's garden as 'Empress of China'.

For insurance, duplicate budwood from the smallest plants was mailed the same day to Malcolm Manners in Lakeland, FL, to be budded onto virus-free understock. Doug placed the remaining two dozen or more lots of cuttings under mist at Mrs. Helen Watkins' garden in Hillsborough, NC. As of this writing, many of the cuttings have rooted already and the budded roses are doing well. Frances also has rooted cuttings of additional Edenton roses. The surplus plants from these efforts will be distributed among individuals who are willing to maintain them.

This is only one example of how several people working cooperatively can help ensure the survival of "found" roses. If similar efforts are underway in your area, please let us hear about them.

--CHARLES A. WALKER, JR., Raleigh, NC

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\* MORE ON MYSTERY ROSES \*

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Peggy Nicoll has provided some additional information on Bermuda's mystery rose class, noting that the real credit for it goes to Peter Harkness, who was invited to Bermuda in 1979 as the guest of the rose society on its 25th anniversary. Being impressed with the mystery roses, he suggested that they have a class of their own and he even provided a new show schedule to accommodate it. The new class, "Mystery Roses whose original name or provenance is unknown," was approved by the society's Executive and by the Bermuda Department of Agriculture for use in their respective shows and has been used since 1980.

Peggy will present the Society's new slide program, "Bermuda: Its History and Its Roses," at the American Rose Society's Fall Convention in Shreveport, LA, on October 20. Convention participants will get a closer look at many of the Bermuda "mystery" roses.



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WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

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Several members have asked about the relationship between The Heritage Roses Group and The Heritage Rose Foundation, so a few words of explanation are in order.

The Heritage Roses Group was formed in 1975 as an informal fellowship of persons interested in old roses. The Group has no formal organization, by-laws, or officers, but seven regional Coordinators handle the membership dues and mailings for their respective geographical areas. The Group publishes a quarterly, The Rose Letter, under the direction of the Editor, but it does not hold meetings or sponsor specific projects.

In contrast, the Foundation is a non-profit corporation with a Board of Trustees and officers. It was formed for specific purposes of preservation, study, education, and permanent garden establishment as listed in the last issue of this newsletter.

There is no formal connection or association between the Group and the Foundation. However, the two have some members in common and have complementary roles where heritage roses are concerned. The Foundation is interested in working cooperatively with this and any other group which promotes the preservation of heritage roses. Please share with us your specific thoughts and ideas about such interaction.

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A special thank-you to Ralph Cook of Durham, NC, for setting up our membership records on a computer and for printing our mailing labels. A great help!

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Watch the next issue of the newsletter for possibilities for one or more Foundation-affiliated gardens. We hope to have some good news for you.

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SPREAD THE WORD

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The Foundation has been mentioned in several publications, including The Rose Letter, The Yellow Rose, The Old Texas Rose, The Bermuda Rose Society Newsletter, Heritage Roses in New Zealand, and the catalog of Heritage Rose Gardens, each of which has brought us new members. Our sincere thanks go to the editors of these publications for providing this valuable coverage.

If you know of other appropriate periodicals, please let us know. In addition, Virginia Hopper has donated funds for mailing individual notices about the Foundation. If you know of persons who should receive these, please send us their names and addresses. We want everyone who is interested in old rose conservation and study to learn about the Foundation.



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## TIPS ON SEARCHING FOR OLD ROSES

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- (1) Spread the word that you are looking for them and that they are valuable. Tell neighbors, friends, family, and anyone who travels a lot in residential areas, such as mail carriers, route delivery personnel, utility meter readers, social workers, etc. Ask them to make notes of the locations of any that they find.
- (2) Visit cemeteries and record the locations of any roses you find there. It may take several visits to cover the whole cemetery and to look especially closely for plants which aren't in bloom or have been severely pruned. Take along an interested friend or two to share the fun and help make notes.
- (3) Contact your state department of agriculture and ask about subscribing to its free farmers' or consumers' market bulletin (if one is published). Place a free want ad for old-fashioned roses. Contact people who respond to the ad and find out what roses they have for sale or trade. Many of these may be unidentified or mislabeled, but they are likely to be well adapted to the local area and therefore valuable. You may not want to acquire all the roses you find this way but you will be making important contacts with people who are interested in preserving them. You will also be letting other people know that there is widespread interest in these roses and that they are worth keeping.
- (4) Prime old rose habitats are older residential sections, less affluent neighborhoods, rural areas, and other places where people are likely to have saved and shared plants.
- (5) Keep careful records on all your acquired roses, showing the source and history of each, as far as can be determined.

Ag Alert?

"Finding Roses Where There 'Aren't Any'" by Evona Thomson (The Rose Letter, May 1982, pp. 14-16) is an excellently told account of one person's experience in searching. For additional inspiration read the classic book Old Roses by Mrs. F. L. Keays, reprinted recently by Earl Coleman Enterprises, and the new edition of Nancy Steen's The Charm of Old Roses, mentioned on page 4 of this issue.

Old roses are in an ironic situation. They have survived for a long time in many of their present locations because they have been left alone. However, modern circumstances dictate that we can no longer leave them alone if we expect them to be preserved. We must all do our part to help gather in and propagate those that are left. What tips do you have to add to the above list? Please share them with us.

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## ROSE INVENTORIES

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Members have begun sending lists of the roses they grow. We appreciate this response and hope that all will participate in this effort, since record-keeping is an indispensable part of preservation and documentation. Kathleen Summers of Denville, NJ, has volunteered to help with compiling this data base if a suitable computer program can be obtained, and we are grateful for her offer. Please send us your list of roses and their sources, including any "mystery" roses you have.



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# TRY AN EXHIBIT

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The Palmetto Garden Club of Columbia, South Carolina, is interested in the conservation of old roses and has been staging an exhibit of them since the early 1950s. This exhibit is held in the Ellison Building at the South Carolina State Fair each fall, this year on October 17. Old roses introduced before 1950 may be exhibited by anyone who wishes to do so. There is also a class for unidentified roses.

Such exhibits provide much-needed exposure for old roses and they help the public to realize their value. A great deal of advertising is used to promote new roses, often with the underlying theme that new is better. However, this is not always the case and the public needs a balanced view of what roses are all about, not just today's but yesterday's as well. Why not sponsor an old rose exhibit in your area and share the results with us?

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## FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Membership in the Foundation is open to any individual or organization who is in sympathy with its purposes and goals.

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	Family \$12
	Student (under 21) \$ 8
	Senior (over 65) \$ 8
Individual (Outside U.S.)--	
	Canada, Mexico \$12
	Other Countries \$15

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Persons wishing to mention the Foundation in newspapers, magazines, or other news media are requested to contact the Foundation prior to such coverage.

In keeping with the Foundation's purposes, the newsletter will emphasize heritage rose preservation and closely related topics such as propagation and identification studies. If you have articles, notes, ideas, or questions on these topics, please submit them. Manuscripts may be typed or handwritten but should be double spaced, with wide margins on all sides. Articles of a scholarly or scientific nature will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee prior to publication.

# HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION NEWS

Charles A. Walker, Jr., Acting Editor  
1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606, U.S.A.

Volume 1, Number 3

October, 1987

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## A BEGINNING

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We are pleased to announce the creation of the very first Foundation-affiliated garden for warm-climate heritage roses. Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees voted to ask the Bermuda Rose Society about the possibility of establishing such a garden and their response was enthusiastic. Working with the Bermuda National Trust, the Society selected a site at "Waterville", the headquarters of the National Trust, and a plan for a lovely informal garden has been kindly drawn up by Mr. Robert Duffy.

Work has progressed quickly and the garden has already been prepared for the first of the 150 plants which it will eventually contain. The Bermuda "mystery" roses will be featured as well as others appropriate for the climate. It is especially desirable to include those warm-climate heritage roses which appear to be rare or not widely grown. If you know of any of these, please inform us as soon as possible. A procedure for exporting roses to Bermuda is being worked out.

We are very grateful to the Bermuda Rose Society for the fine work they have done in getting this garden off to such a good start and we hope that their efforts and enthusiasm will inspire other groups toward similar goals.

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\*      THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!      \*

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A number of persons have assisted the Foundation by making contributions and giving gift memberships as follows:

Contributions

The Bermuda Rose Society  
Janet M. Watlington  
The Palmetto Garden Club of South Carolina  
Virginia Hopper  
A Friend of the Foundation  
Miriam Wilkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Holley  
Henrienne Slattery  
Barbara J. Worl  
Lily Shohan  
Maxine McFall  
Robert Pimentel  
James M. Bell  
Janet M. Bosshart  
Bly Hall

Gift Memberships

Mrs. Fred C. Alexander  
Mr. & Mrs. John Butler  
John Helmer  
William L. Hunt  
Mrs. C. Heath Manning  
Daisy B. Thorp  
Charles A. Walker, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Walker

In addition, Mary Anglin has provided a table and desk lamp and Daisy Thorp has contributed a book to the library.

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\*      MARK YOUR CALENDAR      \*

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"Rose Gardens and Historic Restoration" is the theme of the combined Third International Heritage Roses Conference and Seventh Huntington Symposium on Old Roses, to be held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1, 1988. Events include an exhibit of rare botanical books illustrating roses, wine and cheese receptions, programs on various topics, banquet with a keynote speaker, workshops, clinics, displays, a rose sale, and a generous amount of free time, including opportunities to visit and photograph the extensive rose study plots. An optional post-conference tour to Northern California will start Monday, May 2 and end Thursday, May 5.

Approximate registration cost is \$175-\$200 and will include bus tour, reception, continental breakfasts, lunches, banquet, and symposium papers and materials. Questions and requests for Registration Forms should be addressed to the Conference Chairman, Clair G. Martin, III, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108, USA, phone (818) 405-2162.

This is the first International Heritage Rose Conference to be held in the U. S. and we can think of no better place for it than the Huntington. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet with other enthusiasts to exchange ideas and we hope that many Foundation members can take advantage of it. See you there!



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\* BACKISSUES \*

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The two previous issues of this newsletter are available for \$2.00 each (overseas members please add \$1.00 per issue for postage). Alternatively, in lieu of payment, we can adjust your membership expiration date back 3 months for each issue desired. The newsletter will be published quarterly initially, but we hope to increase its frequency as resources permit. Sent for 11/22/87

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\* NEWS FROM MEMBERS \*

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Daria Phair of Baltimore, Maryland, notes that we need more publicity to counter the widespread belief that all heritage roses are huge, once-blooming plants. It is amazing that this misconception is so common. People seem less familiar with Teas, Chinas, Polyanthas, etc. than with other old roses.

The home of Pamela Byrne-Daigh in Goochland, Virginia, was a bride's dowry in 1790. This farm has roses which have been there since the early 1800s and Pamela is willing to share them with anyone who will provide a good home. One of her neighbors is a 4th or 5th generation resident with a number of old roses. Surprisingly, she knows the provenance of each one! Pamela's wildflower photography hobby seems likely to be extended to old roses, and we look forward to seeing what she captures on film.

Connie Sherer has also been busy with her camera and has photographed about 30 old roses in the area around Walla Walla, Washington. There is a nice assortment of repeating and once-blooming types, some of which are familiar but others are mysteries.

Dr. Gwen Fagan of Capetown, South Africa, has been involved with heritage rose conservation for the past eight years and has established gardens of these at various historic sites, one dating from 1685. She offers visits to these gardens to any Foundation members who travel to South Africa. We look forward to her book on the old roses growing at the Cape, due to be published within the next few months, and to future news of her preservation efforts.

One of our Oregon members, whose rose interest dates back to her childhood in the Himalayas and the plains of India, has proposed that we make a collection of American species roses and a collection of roses developed in America. This is especially appropriate now that the rose is our national flower. She also suggests that we seek out the catalogs and lists of rose nurseries in our own locales for information about the varieties sold there in years gone by. In addition, she urges us to label the roses we find and propagate and to record information about their history and location.

This past spring, Bonnie Raymond of Shohola, Pennsylvania, rooted 26 pots of old roses from cuttings taken from an old cemetery in Easton and wants to know how to identify some of them. Her visit to the cemetery was a memorable one, with roses cascading everywhere. Now she's constantly on the lookout for old roses - and her husband John is hooked too!

Please share with us your comments, suggestions, and ideas related to heritage rose conservation. We'd like to hear from you.



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\* BABES IN THE WOODS \*

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When Joyce and I decided to become old rose nurserymen seven years ago, we wanted to offer all the beautiful old roses we had collected that generally were not offered by other nurseries. Some of them were old and some not so old, but where could you get fondly remembered roses like 'Dorothy Perkins', 'Mme. Grégoire Staechelin', or 'Beauty of Glazenwood', to name a few. So we entered our business with a great deal of enthusiasm, energy, and a generous share of naiveté.

Some of our collection was purchased, but many roses we had found, later spending hours and even years in research to find their original names. It was a slow but rewarding process, adding unusual and previously unoffered roses to our inventory. Then there arose a plan that seemed to promise rare and unusual roses without the lengthy process of research. We could import old roses not offered in the U. S. and, once they had finished their 2-year quarantine, put them right into our catalog.

Since I did not have a proper place to quarantine roses and was up to my ears in unknowns, Joyce moved swiftly and with a keen sense for picking out some real beauties. Soon she was guardian of a huge shipment of plants from the largest old rose nursery in England. But, as the British have a way of saying, it wasn't long before the rot set in. Right away Joyce noticed that the rose sent as 'Cl. Devoniensis' was actually 'Lamarque'. Oh well, a mislabeled rose now and then is to be expected. She would just order another 'Cl. Devoniensis' next year and everything would be all right ... next year she received another 'Lamarque'!

About this time we were visited by Phil Edinger and Fred Boutin, who took a look at the imports. Some Fred had seen or grown before and knew well, some he could only compare with descriptions he had read, and others he was not familiar with at all. We got a real lesson in how many of those "authentic" imports we could depend upon. By this time, plants from the earliest shipment were out of quarantine and had been added to our inventory, so we had some apologizing and back-tracking to do.

But we still had our "donor" roses - ones that come to us from wonderful and generous people with name attached. Since my workload of researching unknowns had become quite heavy and time-consuming, these plants were especially welcome. A dear friend approached with a long, bud-laden branch and said, "You really must offer this rose. It is a Climbing Tea, but so vigorous; you don't have to hover over this one! And it is just gorgeous!" We accepted 'Elie Beauvillain' with open arms. Our friend was right - the plant had amazing vigor and was just gorgeous, but 'Elie' turned out to be 'Souvenir de Mme Léonie Viennot'.

One day Joyce received a bundle of 'Vicomtesse Pierre de Fou' from a kind and generous sender who said, "It is so vigorous, a heavy bloomer and such a beautiful thing, you must have it in your catalog!" Our kind friend was right about its vigor, bloom, and beauty - but it turned out to be 'Souvenir de Mme. Léonie Viennot'. Well, by this time all we could do was have a good laugh. Why? Because I had already received 'Mme. Léonie' as 'Etoile de Portugal' from yet another source! Obviously, a sense of humor is the very best thing to have in this business, next to being able to observe, analyze, and make corrections.

We will continue to import roses and to accept all those wonderful "donor" beauties with open arms. But we're not quite the babes in the woods that we once were. Experience, along with generous assistance from more knowledgeable friends, has broadened our education.

—VIRGINIA HOPPER, Branscomb, CA

(Ed. note: When the same rose is received under several different names, how does one determine the correct one? As it collects roses from many sources, the Foundation will be faced with resolving such questions. Members' suggestions are welcomed.)



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## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

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Climbing Roses by Christopher Warner (Century Hutchinson, Ltd., London, 1987, 64 color plates, 12.95 pounds) is beautifully illustrated and contains a number of the older climbers. Descriptive notes on 100 climbers are divided into groups by age and a helpful appendix sorts them by growth habit, fragrance, hips, etc. A delightful book.

Even if you don't read Swedish, you'll enjoy Rosen, Blommornas Drottning (The Rose Queen of Flowers) by Foundation member Göte Haglund. This book contains 153 color plates with a very heavy emphasis on the old roses. Of special interest is the story of the new Rosarium in Gothenburg, and this book serves as a sumptuous visitor's guide to the historic arrangement of the plantings there. Mr. Haglund hopes to have his book published in English and we'll keep you informed as plans develop.

The Complete Flower Paintings & Drawings of Graham Stuart Thomas. The title alone is enough to get the attention of old rose enthusiasts. One-fourth of this magnificent volume is devoted to roses and the large format gives the reader a greater appreciation for the exquisite and accurate depictions of the 56 roses from Mr. Thomas' earlier books. Published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc./Sagapress, Inc.; \$45.00.

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## LABELS THAT LAST

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The August 1987 issue of HortScience contains an article on "permanent" labels for plant materials. These labels were 1 mm thick, made with high impact styrene (vinyl benzene) and Ritchey marking paint and attached to the plants with 14-gauge plastic-coated electrical wire. They were still flexible and legible after 6 years in the field. The styrene is available in sheets in various colors from several plastic companies and can be cut with scissors. If you cannot find the paint at your local farm supply outlets, contact Ritchey Mfg. Co., 13821 Sable Blvd., Brighton, CO 80601, phone (303) 659-0681. Cost of materials is about \$11.20 for 100 labels. If you've had trouble keeping your roses labeled you may want to try this system.

\* \* \* \* \*

## HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR SURVEY?

Many of our members have completed and returned their Survey of Activities and we are very encouraged by this helpful response. By compiling the results, we can better determine how the initial preservation work of the Foundation can be carried out. If you have not yet returned your survey, please do so as soon as possible. Even if your efforts seem small or you cannot participate in all the listed activities, your help is needed. Let us know what you can do, and please make any comments or suggestions that you wish. We're looking forward to hearing from you.



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\* THREE MEMBERS FEATURED \*

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Two Foundation members have articles in the November 1987 issue of the American Rose Magazine and the work of a third is prominently featured. The cover is a lovely bouquet created and photographed by Barbara Worl of Palo Alto, California, and another of her bouquets graces the fine article about this multi-talented lady.

Malcolm Manners of Lakeland, Florida, writes about the heat treatment program being used at Florida Southern College to free roses of rose mosaic disease. A number of heritage roses have been treated and confirmed free of this virus disease and others are scheduled to be treated soon. This program is a great benefit to heritage roses in providing a source of virus-free material, and we hope that all nurserymen will take advantage of it.

Like many of us, Connie Lapham of Seaside, California, hates to spray with poisonous materials. Having learned of a new way to prevent powdery mildew, she was anxious to share the news. It seems that anti-transpirants, normally used to prevent water loss from plant foliage, are useful in guarding roses against this fungus disease when used at the rate of 3 to 4 teaspoons per gallon. Connie's article deals very informatively with this topic and will be of interest to those of us who prefer an organic approach to disease prevention.

The Foundation is fortunate to have members with such diverse skills and interests which they are willing to share for the benefit of heritage roses.

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\* IMPORT LIST \*

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Although the Foundation's primary emphasis is on collecting and preserving heritage roses not known to be widely available, there will be a need eventually to import and study roses from abroad. Brent Dickerson is interested in compiling a prioritized list of roses to be imported to the U. S. If you wish to help work on the list or have suggestions for roses to import, please write to him at P. O. Box 387, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-0387. Your input will be appreciated.

*Write 11/22/87*

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\* THE WORD GETS AROUND \*

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The Foundation has been mentioned in the pages of Magnolia (the journal of the Southern Garden History Society), Bev Dobson's Rose Letter, and Australian Vogue magazine, with responses being received from each. We are grateful to the editors of these periodicals for giving the Foundation a boost.



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\*      DISAPPEARING ROSES      \*

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An article by Clare M. Simpson in the July 1987 issue of Heritage Roses in New Zealand recounts a disturbing situation. She had found a neglected and dying plant of 'Lamarque' in a church cemetery and, after obtaining permission from the sexton, had cared for it at weekly intervals until it had grown again into a healthy plant. On a later visit she was shocked to find that the entire plant had been removed, leaving only a few broken stems.

In the U. S., we have noted many disappearances of roses from cemeteries but these seem largely due to the actions of severe winters, deepening shade, or uninformed cemetery workers. We sincerely hope that an increased interest in old roses does not entice anyone to collect entire plants, especially those planted in cemeteries. If cuttings are rooted from such roses, then the survival of that variety can be assured. If the whole plant is dug up, it may not survive being transplanted and the variety may be permanently lost.

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\*      HALLOWED GROUND      \*

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In May, I had a unique opportunity to visit the site of a garden which figured prominently in heritage rose history in America. Through the kindness of Nick Weber, I spent several hours at what was once "Creek Side", the Calvert County, Maryland home of Mrs. Ethelyn E. Keays, author of Old Roses (1935). Into that garden Mrs. Keays gathered many old roses from the surrounding countryside and from correspondents throughout the U. S. In her book and in at least 36 articles written for various periodicals, she told the stories of these roses and her study of them, all of which is interesting and inspiring reading.

The visit to "Creek Side" was bittersweet. The house burned many years ago and all traces of a garden have vanished, but several old roses still cling to the shaded roadside, some competing with ubiquitous poison ivy. Spectacular plants of an undaunted Musk Rose relative have taken command of the trees at one bend in the road which now encircles the site. These may be the variety which Mrs. Keays refers to in her writings as 'Snow Bush'. Apparent hybrids of this rose with Rosa multiflora are also growing there.

In an effort to perpetuate her collection, Mrs. Keays gave plants propagated from it to the University of Maryland, but these were later discarded. All that is left of her efforts are the few struggling plants at "Creek Side" and the ones propagated from them several years ago by Douglas Seidel in Pennsylvania and more recently by Nick Weber in Maryland. It is indeed unfortunate that there is no garden to memorialize the work of the woman who did so much to popularize the old roses. Perhaps one will be created someday, with a prominent place given to the roses gleaned from "Creek Side".

Sharing collected old roses is both pleasant and prudent. In doing so, we not only add beauty to another garden but also increase the chances that the rose varieties will be preserved. With your help, the Foundation can keep records on each rose grown in many gardens and assure the continued existence of those varieties. If we all work together, the tragedy of Mrs. Keays' garden will not be repeated.

--CHARLES WALKER, Raleigh, NC



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\*      DON'T FORGET YOUR INVENTORY      \*

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Now that outdoor gardening activities are slowing down for most of us, why not take some time to make a list of the roses you grow and send it in. Include the source and history of each as far as you know, especially any "mystery" roses you may have. This information will be compiled into a data bank to aid in the Foundation's preservation efforts and every member's input is important. We look forward to receiving yours.

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