

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY



BI-COLORS FROM THE GARDEN OF PRESIDENT LYNN B. DUDLEY

Arrangement—Georgena Humble

Photo—Albert Humble

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The A. D. S. BULLETIN

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If four consecutive advertisements are contracted for in advance, a discount of 10% is allowed, providing bills for space are honored when due.

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Growing Green Plants Successfully

By Gordon F. Waaser



AT LEFT: Strong, well rooted young plant—as it is received from the grower.

Photo Courtesy A. T. de la Mare Co.

Careful Attention to Fundamentals Essential

This is the season when we delve eagerly into the pages of our Dahlia catalogs, hoping to select the varieties which will give us the utmost return from our investment.

And since most Dahlias are offered in green plants at half price, there is naturally an incentive to select plants rather than tubers.

But along with this apparent saving there is also a risk involved, since more attention must be given a green plant, after setting out in the open ground, than is required for a tuber.

The primary essential is that we must start out with a good healthy plant; well rooted and properly hardened off. Obviously, our only control at this point is to order from recognized growers, who have built a reputation for supplying good stock.

Having done this, we await the arrival of the shipment. Let us consider meanwhile—just what is this material we intend to work with, this so-called "green plant."

Briefly, it is a sprout which has been cut from a tuber and rooted in a greenhouse where the temperature is maintained at a point where growth continues steadily. This tender sprout is shaded carefully at first, and in a couple of weeks begins to take root. It is then potted in good soil, and after becoming established, is grown under

glass in full sunshine for several weeks. Then it is transferred to a cool house or cold frame, where it is gradually hardened off (in other words, partially acclimated to outdoor conditions).

After successful packing, it is sent on its way to the purchaser.

As soon as the package arrives, it should be opened very carefully. Give each plant as much water as the soil will take up and sprinkle the foliage. Allow a resting period of several hours—away from sun or wind.

This tender plant has not had to battle extreme weather conditions as yet. It has been protected from chill, storm and INSECTS.

It is not difficult to realize that this plant should receive a little special attention in being set into its permanent place in the garden.

Its root system has been given every opportunity to develop because a good grade of finely pulverized potting soil was used when it was transferred from the sand bed. Hence, we must consider carefully the soil into which we plan to place the plant in the garden. The ground should be spaded as deeply as possible and the earth pulverized. Add a liberal shovelful of well rotted cow manure (not fresh) and mix thoroughly. Good drainage as well as mellow soil, containing a good percentage of humus are advantageous. Drive a stout stake two or three inches in back of the position you wish to set your plant.

The best time to complete the planting is just before sun down. Dig a hole, cup like, fifteen inches in diameter and six inches deep at the center (just in front of the stake). Remove the plant from its pot and place the ball of earth in position. Fill in and pack the earth very tightly around the roots to within a couple of inches of the surface level of the soil. As the plant grows, this depression may be filled in. Note that the bottom of the roots are about six inches deep.

Water thoroughly, and as a precaution against cut worms, place a band of cardboard around the stalk of the plant—an inch in the ground and two inches above it. It is a good plan to shade the plant with an inverted peach basket for a day or two if the weather is sunny.

It has been the writer's practice to spray Dahlia plants the day after setting out. Red Arrow or any good dual purpose spray will be found satisfactory.

Specimen Exhibition Blooms

Specimen exhibition blooms are not difficult to produce if a few simple rules are followed regularly.

1. *Control insect ravages* by spraying your plants once a week. Spray under the leaves as well as on top using

a good insecticide. One hundred plants can be properly sprayed in less than a half hour!

2. *Cultivate the soil* to a depth of several inches, keeping the top pulverized at all times.

3. *Fertilize* with a good grade garden or potato fertilizer (analysis 4-8-6). A scant handful should be sprinkled on the soil (as one would pepper a steak) commencing six inches from the stalk in a circle, three feet in diameter, for each application. Rake well into the soil. Conditions will vary somewhat but dressings about July 1st and August 15th should suffice.

4. *Water.* This is very essential. Mark your calendar and water every five days if there has been insufficient rainfall. When watering set the sprinkler for a fine mist and allow the water to drench the soil before moving the sprinkler to the next section of the garden. This requires about one to two hours at a given point. We place our sprinklers high above the plants (atop of a seven foot ladder is a good suggestion). Thus the fine mist also drives air into the soil producing a double benefit.

When the plant is about a foot high pinch out the top, stopping its growth at that point and forcing the plant to branch. Early plants will have to be topped back again about July 15th in order that the first flowers will not be too early for the mid-September shows. After final topping, allow but four canes to develop.

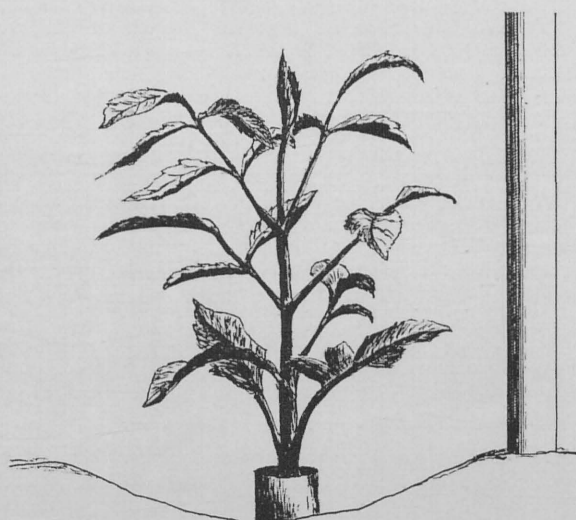
Live with your Dahlias—watch the plants each day and learn by this fascinating method just what each plant requires.

In a subsequent article, the matter of extra feeding, mulching and shading will be explained.

Meanwhile, study the catalogs and place your orders before the disappointing "Sorry, sold out." Join the ever increasing number who follow the fascinating hobby of growing Dahlias better!

The same plant, properly set in the garden. Roots are concealed six inches deep. Note collar to protect from cut worms.

Illustration by Avery Nesbit



Indiana Society to be Host to Mid West Dahliaists

The Dahlia Society of Indiana will act as host to the members of the various societies affiliated with the Mid West Dahlia Conference at their fourth annual Mid West Show, which is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 18th and 19th, at Indianapolis, to be staged in the spacious Manufacturers Building on the Indiana State Fair grounds.

Due to Indiana's central location, with the center of the U. S. population being located within its boundaries and Indianapolis being nationally known as the "Crossroads of America," the 1937 Mid West Show will unquestionably gather together the widest range of Dahlia personalities that one can ever hope to assemble. Many enthusiastic letters are being received by President Curtis alone expressing intentions of not only attending but to bring along exhibits to help make it representative and outstanding. Such assurances have come from not only members of mid west affiliated societies but also from distant Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts.

The show building is ideally located and situated, easily accessible from any direction, is perfect in arrangement with splendid equipment and has so many desirable advantages and conveniences that it is proclaimed as most suitable for such a large and comprehensive Dahlia exhibition. The genial and efficient show supervisor in the person of Paul T. Ulman of the Indiana State Entomology division has been assigned competent and capable committee assistants and much preliminary work and detail is vigorously being handled and completed.

With the proceeds of the show being designated for the benefit of the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children and being enthusiastically supported and encouraged by the Riley Memorial Association and the hospital's numerous auxiliaries and with ticket sales committees being organized in every county of the state, an unprecedented attendance is anticipated. Many new and novel sections and supplementary classes have been provided and arranged for the advantage of the large number of large and small exhibitors that are expected, and it will be of particular interest to the commercial growers to know that like the old army game, they "will have their cake and eat it too," all trade space fees will be paid back, to them only and 100%, as prize money. Competent committee will be provided to receive and display efficiently and in due time at the show, such Dahlias as may be sent by air mail or other speedy conveyance and transportation.

A typical Hoosier invitation and welcome is extended to all enthusiasts, be they commercial growers or amateurs from far and near, to exhibit, or at least attend this year's Dahlia classic. The Dahlia show visitors will find here the best of hotel and restaurant accommodations, yes, luxurious accommodations if you desire them, but clean comfortable hotels at reasonable rates are available too. Again we urge you—plan to come; don't miss, or be missed at this year's Mid West Show in Indianapolis. We'll be looking for you.

The dates of the A. D. S. Annual Show are September 23rd-24th-25th. Place: Hotel Pennsylvania Ball Room Floor. Both large Ball Rooms are air conditioned and this is expected to keep the blooms in good condition for the entire three days.

Touring Dahlialand

By George A. Richardson

Are you open-minded, are you progressive, are you democratic? Then let's climb on the great American Dahlia bandwagon and tour the Ohio valley. Lots of advance information tends to create a yearn to go and see. One year's apprenticeship as a plain dirt gardener validates your ticket to this important section of Dahlialand.

Points of interest along the way include gardens on highlands, others in low, some by the brooks, others on the side of the hills. Then the broad open spaces present a picture of vast acres of Dahlias, row after row, a riot of color, these cultivated acres are basic to the Dahlia industry.

Our pilot and guide has learned by experience just where the rendezvous of these beauties are to be found. Slower now we travel but with increasing interest. We are in the more private environs of our growers, those sacred plots studded amid the dwellings, where the Dahlia kingdom has registered many a superb variety. Yes, we are in hobbyland. All along this panorama of travel we note the natural beauty of this great Ohio valley, Blessed with the four seasons, indeed extreme at

times, yet no greater area invited a prospector to try his hand.

With notebook and searching eyes we record the outstanding novelties, the huge decoratives, the exquisitely beautiful cactus, the colorful minatures and pompons. Yes, we are on a trip, a neck-stretching Dahlia bandwagon tour. There is the blending of tone, the leading soloists, the blaring of horns, the hum of drums, the entire ensemble is a harmonious, thrilling rendition, with nature re-echoing in encore, her approval.

We are traveling far, no time to waste, attention now, pencils, and pads to record our findings we jot down *Epler's Gold*, color of cadmium orange, glowing with a beautiful sheen, further qualifications rates good stems, excellent substance, vigorous growth, medium sized blooms, truly beautiful. This semi-cactus rates a solo part. Sharpen up for the next one. A visitor from a long ways presents itself by the name of *Pacific Splendor*. Having met this elite in two widely spaced areas it was most inviting and its radiant beauty just captivates a person. Its dress of light lavender shading lighter to nearly white at base of petals. Yes one that just cannot be overlooked. Its scintillating beauty and excellent form of informal pattern makes this ladies debut most auspicious. Quality of stem, habit of flowering, growth of foliage and vigor of bush meets the requirements of a thoroughbred. On trial this variety has proven its case.

Now for one of the heavy parts, *Volcano* by name and rightfully so, from a volcano we expect color, this is an orange flame self color and a sturdy set-up variety. Its parents must have been blue-bloods, it having such qualities as heavy firm substance, enabling defiance of the elements, vigorous growth of foliage, developing a perfect stem which supports blooms of massive formal to informal formation. An addition to this color class with keeping qualities that gives this Dahlia distinction. Watch the shows for this "Son of the Soil."

Now a princess from fairyland. Straight cactus of slightly larger size than minature, daintily colored an orchid lavender. Beginning early this *Fairy Princess* blooms throughout the season. Adding to its beauty is a background of serrated foliage of low growth. Erect stems and rightly faced blooms ranks this variety as a good one.

Yes, we are in the midst of the trial grounds of the Ohio valley where humidity, quick changes of weather and shifty winds tries them all with a survival of the fittest as the quotient.

Digressing from the more curving, long and broad flat petaled sorts to a ball type, we sharpen up to declare for *Charlotte Caldwell*, large in size, very formal in its tight quilled formation. Bright orange with shades of

VOLCANO. Fiery Orange Red; winner at Washington, D. C.



Terra Cotta this variety is a change from the usual solid colors. You like others, want plenty of blooms, well here is a leader in that respect. Free blooming, fine stems and extra heavy foliage ranks this an excellent ball Dahlia.

Intermission

Conversation here reverts to one or more of the older celebrities that have again made the grade and rightfully so. Such names as *Mrs. Herbert O'Connor*, a vigorous and reliable semi-cactus of soft rose pink, *Milton J. Cross* an informal which responds to reasonable culture and sets a pace hard to surpass. *King of Whites* a noble formal white that looks like a huge mum on its great long stems. This variety develops upward to six blooms at a time of perfect form. Then for the beautiful *Ballegos Surprise* which in all its purity and beauty stands out supreme. Just before resuming our journey an orchid shaded lavender entitled *Buckeye Glory* arrested our attention with its beautiful formed flower, sturdy growth of bush and foliage. Just one that could not be overlooked.

Intermission ended, we continue, everyone eager to see more and more. What a wealth of beauty. We note the vigor of plants, excellence of foliage which bespeaks good culture and soil conditions much to the liking of King Dahlia. A white, yes, a beautiful white of informal make-up created many an "oh" and "ah," and its name, *Peace*, how appropriate. Could it be that such a flower as the Dahlia should bring real peace and good will among mankind. Now for a stage start from the sunny south, *Grace Moore* in semi-cactus dress of a deep shade of lavender, excellent quality with garlands of green that look just right. A little late in showing its beauty, otherwise first class.

An Indian by name, *Cherokee Rose* captivates attention with its mallow pink and lavender, good habits and rigid stems, growing tall with healthy foliage, and average sized blooms makes a warrior fit for action.

Then so many that have excellent qualifications but only to be identified by a number or code. These to be dubbed later with names of some celebrity, relative, friend or noun. Leaf after leaf of our note books relate in script the qualities of color, form or growth that suits us best. Diverse sorts of fancies makes every specimen a possible acquisition. But before closing our note book for this tour one or two others in secluded gardens gains attention. A bi-color that takes you in, regardless, *Kentucky Sportsman* is the regal one, a dainty miss, not so loud, *Whisper* is its title, *Buckeye Star* another of the famous buckeye family, that is good to look at, and finally we exhaust our praise and zeal in seeing the splendid *Mad River Chief* with his red dress that just glitters with class. A chief indeed in every respect. What a capping climax this new red makes in concluding the tour of the great American Dahlia bandwagon from which we have observed some of the really great performers for years to come. Most of them originated in the soil of this fertile land to eventually find lodgment in various gardens throughout the nation.

Even in our relentless search for the best, there are some that have been overlooked. Hidden either by purpose or still too undeveloped to appear before the public only the ever forward movement of time will bring them to the front. More years rest upon the achievements of our California section, and the Atlantic seaboard area, but the Ohio valley section is fast coming to the front with its magnificent and vigorous growing Dahlias.

Note books closed, comfortably seated at home we reminisce—DAHLIAS, DAHLIAS.

Ohio State Dahlia Society

With spring rushing down upon us at an alarming rate we are startled to find that many of the tasks that we had planned for the winter months are still undone. However, the advent of the season of renewed life instills us with greater enthusiasm and a will to do. Past experiences have taught us that tasks which seemed great while thinking of them besides our firesides, become far less formidable under the influences of a bright spring day.

During the past winter the Dahlia Society of Ohio formulated many plans which it seemed then would be more than the work of a season. With the approach of spring and its stimulating influence, we find most of our program well started and gaining impetus with each passing day. President F. V. R. Veirs is to be congratulated upon the way in which he has developed his committees and their capacities for work.

The show committee, of which Mr. E. V. Newton is chairman, has, perhaps, made the greatest showing to date. For those who missed our previous announcement we repeat the dates for our show, September 25th and 26th. Hotel Statler, Cleveland, has been selected as the site. Our friends will recall two previous successful shows in this popular hotel in 1932 and 1933. Since that time the ballroom has been remodeled and an air conditioning system installed. Conditions for the exhibitor should be ideal. Add to that, the fact that our shows have always brought out many of the best new Dahlias and attracted more than their share of prominent Dahlia enthusiasts, and you will find the reason for our great confidence in the coming show.

A membership drive under the direction of Mrs. C. L. Seith, 1700 Rushton Road, South Euclid, has added many new members to our rolls. More are in prospect when the big push starts.

In the interest of the new members as well as in the interest of the show and other activities of the society, we are now publishing a monthly bulletin. Mrs. John Zipp, Jr., is the editor and to date has done a very creditable job, with her promise that there will be steady improvement. Aside from the news it is her intention to have at least one timely Dahlia topic discussed in some detail each month.

Members of the society have agreed to grow not less than two hundred Dahlias in tubs this year for the Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland. An effort will be made to have them in bloom early and set into a special Dahlia Society of Ohio garden in the beautiful Horticultural Gardens. These gardens were one of the greatest drawing features of the 1936 show. The development of this wonderful work of landscape art, on a site which formerly was a city dump, can only be appreciated in full by those of us who saw and helped with the transformation. At the close of the Exposition next fall the gardens are to become a permanent part of Cleveland's park system.

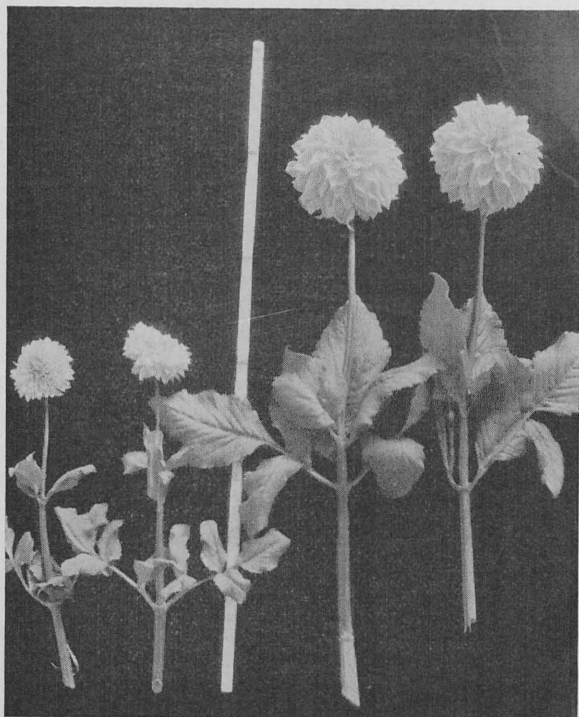
In closing, let me say that I have not yet given up hope of having Dr. H. H. Smith write this column. Possibly he will be with you in the next issue.

E. J. Wind, North Olmsted, Ohio.

Contributors and advertisers are asked to furnish material for next issue of the BULLETIN before July 1st if possible. Some late articles had to be omitted from this number.

Dahlia Experiments at the Cornell Test Gardens

By Prof. R. C. Allen



At Left: Jersey's Beauty. Flowers at left grown in the open; those on the right, grown in cloth house.

Photo by R. C. Allen

Every one who is interested in the Dahlia is already familiar with the problems connected with growing them. While there have been a number of very fine books and bulletins published on the subject, there is still a considerable lack of specific scientific information about some of the difficulties in the growing of Dahlias—difficulties which if solved would no longer be limiting factors in the amateur growing of Dahlias. It is with the hope of obtaining scientific information on some of the problems that certain experiments have been started at the Cornell Test Gardens of the New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

To my mind there is opportunity for a tremendous increase in the use of Dahlias in home gardens. In my work with home gardeners, I am very frequently asked to recommend plants for growing in certain situations. Often I suggest Dahlias since, in my opinion, Dahlias are very desirable plants when correctly used in a landscape design. But I find many people decidedly adverse to the use of Dahlias. The criticisms are many, the flowers are too large, the plants are too tall, the roots can't be wintered successfully, they are too much trouble to grow; to mention only a few. To any one who

knows Dahlias, these criticisms are completely invalid. The wide range of magnificent colors from the softest pastels to the most fiery brilliance, the variation in form, height, texture, are but a few of the values which commend the Dahlia for use in garden plantings. We have become so accustomed to seeing Dahlias grown in the open tilled field as practiced by the fancier that we have overlooked to a large measure the almost inexhaustible possibilities of using them in any other way. However, it is not the purpose of this paper to discuss landscape uses of Dahlias but it is an idea worth emphasizing.

Storage of Roots

One of the problems which confronts the average home gardener is how to keep the roots over winter. This is a real problem in many homes where ideal storage conditions are impossible. Certain aspects of this problem, of course, effect the commercial grower. There have been a few scientific papers published on the subject, perhaps the most important of which is one by Hitchcock and Zimmerman of the Boyce Thompson Institute at Yonkers, N. Y. However, since most of the work so far has been preliminary or incomplete, experiments were started at Cornell in the fall of 1935 to determine the optimum storage conditions for Dahlias and to devise practical means for supplying optimum conditions in the average suburban basement.

In working out the optimum conditions of humidity and temperature, Dahlia roots were stored in containers in which a series of humidities were maintained and these containers stored at various temperatures. The humidities used were approximately 0, 25, 50, 75, and 90% relative humidity. The temperatures were 35°, 50°, 65° and 80° F. Of course, the relative humidity of the chamber in which Dahlia roots are stored affects very decidedly both the rate of and amount of water loss from the roots. Very close check was kept on the water loss by weighing the roots at monthly intervals. While

the data is not conclusive from the single year's work, it does indicate that a humidity of 75° is necessary to insure good keeping through the storage period. A temperature of approximately 45° F. proved most satisfactory.

Some work was done in testing some of the practical methods for storing Dahlias where the relative humidity of the storage chamber was rather low and several new ideas were tried out. These experiments are being continued this year and at the suggestion of Secretary Alling a number of horticultural waxes are being tried by dipping the clumps and divisions in them and measuring the extent to which the water loss is cut down in various humidities. In last year's tests waxing with paraffin, and wrapping with various kinds of tissues such as waxed paper and cellophane were tried along with packing the roots in various materials such as peat, soil, etc. The results showed that coating the roots with wax greatly cut down their water loss and proved to be quite successful in preventing the roots from drying out to an injurious degree. Of the storage media tried, granulated peat moss (German) either in an air dry or slightly moist condition gave by far the best results. (See illustration.)

In connection with these experiments, one difficulty came to light which seems to explain a trouble which has been reported several times which had occurred when Dahlia roots were stored in barrels or other tight containers. The injury became apparent when in certain tests the roots were closed in airtight containers. When the roots were taken out they appeared to be in good condition at least as far as their plumpness was concerned but upon cutting the roots open most of the tissue was brown and the crowns were entirely dead. It appears more than likely that the injury was due to a lack of oxygen supply or too high a content of carbon dioxide which had accumulated during the storage period.

Shade Cloth Houses

For the past several years, Dahlias have been used extensively as a test plant in experiments in utilizing the shade cloth house for commercial cut flower production. In most instances, Dahlias have shown a very decided improvement in color, size, length of stem, and production when grown in an aster cloth house. (See illustration.) This improvement is due largely to the protection the cloth affords from insect pests, high temperature, the ravages of wind and rain and many other environmental factors. While the blooms produced are of superior quality, the root production is usually decidedly inferior. Since the use of a shade cloth house is being recommended quite extensively for the produc-

tion of exhibition blooms, it seemed important to study the problem of root formation under the cloth. The experiments have been carried on for two summers, but unfortunately no conclusive results are available. From the test, however, several interesting points have come to light, the most interesting of which perhaps is the fact the storage conditions of the roots prior to planting apparently have some effect on subsequent development of roots. The problem is to be studied further.

Fertilizers

Another problem which is of considerable importance is that of fertilization of Dahlias and during the last year certain tests were carried out to obtain information on this subject. Some of the more important phases which are being investigated are

(1) The effect of the various nutrient elements when applied in separate carriers. (2) The most desirable percentage combination for complete fertilizers. (3) The rate of application of fertilizers. It is seldom if ever possible to draw any conclusions from one year's experiment with fertilizers but it is hoped that after several years some of the underlying principles of Dahlia fertilization will be better understood.

Insect Control

One of the big problems in Dahlia growing in many regions is controlling the insects. Perhaps two of the most common and most devastating are the Tarnished Plant Bug and Leaf Hopper. In certain localities the prevalence of these insects completely prohibits the growing of Dahlias. In order to help solve this problem and to test spray and dust materials regarding their effectiveness in killing and repelling the insects, a very extensive experiment was set up. The work on insect control is being carried on in cooperation with the Department of Entomology, the work being under the immediate supervision of Dr. W. E. Blauvelt. Since he can best describe the experiments in insect control and give the results to date, no discussion of this phase is included here. Dr. Blauvelt has consented to prepare a separate article on this subject which will be found in an early issue.

The American Dahlia Society through its officers has been exceptionally encouraging and cooperative in this experimental work. Most of the Dahlia roots have been supplied by members of the society and many very useful suggestions concerning the work have been given. All this is greatly appreciated by the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture of Cornell University.

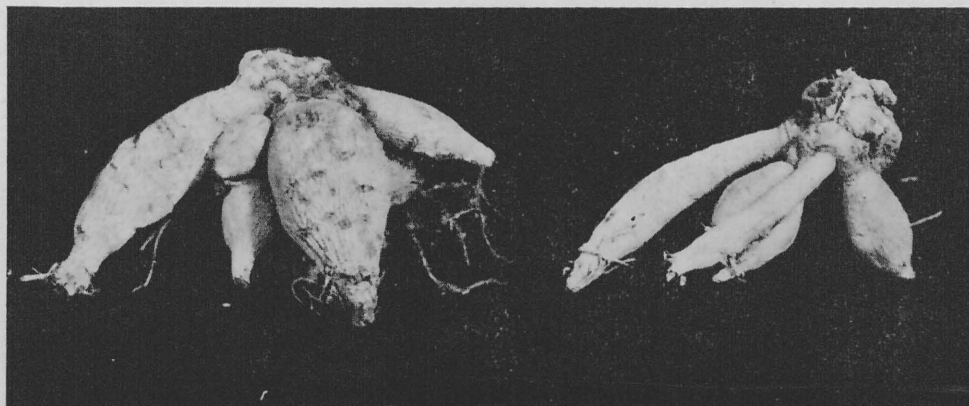


Photo by R. C. Allen

Clump at left stored through winter in slightly wet peat moss. Clump at right in air dried peat moss.

The American DAHLIA SOCIETY, Inc.

ORGANIZED MAY 10, 1915



"The Society is formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the culture and development of the Dahlia; to establish a standard nomenclature; to test out new varieties and give them such recognition as they deserve; to study the diseases of the dahlia and find remedies for same, and to disseminate information relating to this flower; to secure uniformity in awarding prizes at flower shows, and to give exhibitions when deemed advisable."

LYNN B. DUDLEY, *President*
18 Interlaken Drive Tuckahoe, New York
C. LOUIS ALLING, *Secretary and Treasurer*
251 Court Street, West Haven, Connecticut
GORDON F. WAASER, *Vice-President and Editor*
269 South Grand Avenue, Baldwin, New York

Editorial

In keeping with the Editorial policy of serving every Dahliast, we publish in this issue an article on "Growing Green Plants Successfully." On so many occasions I have received letters advising that plants purchased from "so and so" have failed. . . . Upon investigation, it developed that in many instances the plants in question had been supplied by very reputable growers, but were improperly handled by the purchaser. In fact, in most cases, the plants became victims of insect ravages.

Some of our commercial growers will recall instances where these investigations have restored customer goodwill and a revival of interest in Dahlia growing by those seemingly discouraged.

We hope the current write-up will prove of material advantage to many amateur Dahlia fans and improve that confidence in sincere commercial growers so much desired for the advancement of the Dahlia.

The February issue of the BULLETIN was published on time—this current number several weeks ahead of our regular schedule. We believe this will prove advantageous.

It is our intention to place the BULLETIN in your hands exactly on time and we will strive to have each issue brimful of the latest Dahlia news. We must have full cooperation of those who contribute material; also the secretaries of affiliated societies, and our advertisers. Please make it a matter of special attention to send your copy to the Editor in ample time.

Our summer issue will be in our readers' hands August 1st, which means that all forms must positively close

July 10th. If this appeals to you, say it with friendly cooperation.

Another well known personage has gone on. Mr. Charles Reed, introducer of some of the largest and most spectacular Dahlias died on March 27th after a brief illness of pneumonia.

Mr. Reed had joined the group of Dahlia fans at the Lido dinner just one week before his death.

In the course of his after dinner talk he said that while he realized he was out of step with certain programs of the A. D. S. in years gone by, he found the plans for 1937 and the future so completely in line with his views that he had already "taken off his coat and would keep on working with all the energy at his command."

Charlie, that thought will be your lasting memory and we who remain will carry on to achievement the plans promulgated with your help.

The Dahlia season is not as yet under way, but already there have appeared in a number of newspapers and magazines stories of Dahlias and Dahlia interest.

I am reliably informed that in some instances this is the first time the subject of Dahlias has been discussed. This should awaken in the minds of countless flower lovers a desire for a Dahlia planting.

Every Dahliast should become publicity minded! With this additional incentive, if each of us, between now and June 1st would be responsible for just one more person growing Dahlias what progress would result.

Hats off to the Dahlia Society of Ohio on the occasion of the initial publication of their *Dahlia Bulletin*. Volume 1, number 1, dated February, 1937, features the announcement and details of their Fall Show, also an article on "Stem Rot" by Dr. H. H. Smith.

This Society is fortunate in having as its President, one of Dahlia's choicest men, Mr. F. V. R. Viers, affectionately known to his host of friends East, North, South and West as "Val." We of the A. D. S. wish you continued success and stand ready to cooperate with you.

We are appreciative of the contributions, in this issue, of Mr. Avery Nesbitt, Lynbrook, Long Island. His illustration of a green plant, also his report of the Lido Dinner recall his "out of the ordinary" posters which proved so effective in the publicity campaign for last year's New York Show.

These hand painted posters provided the motif for some of the attractive window displays in leading flower shops.

We hope, from time to time to take further advantage of Mr. Nesbitt's generosity—all for the advancement of the Dahlia.

Will you do your full part to help make the BULLETIN so informative that all will eagerly await each succeeding issue? Send your views to the Editor—also material which you believe will be of wide interest.

Our mail box does not receive, too often, a publication as interesting as the March issue of the *Bulletin of the West Virginia Dahlia Society*.

Replete with informative articles, it sounds a note of friendliness which is indeed desirable.

We note the West Virginia Dahlia Show and The Court of Flowers, "Two Gorgeous Days" will be held September 17th and 18th at Fairmont.

This Society, at its own expense, donated advertising space to announce the A. D. S. National Show at New York City September 23rd, 24th, 25th.

Congratulations to Editor Shurtleff and his group of hustling Dahliaists: we wish you continued success and a grand Show.

Recalling Mr. Nick Koenig's spirit of coöperation in supplying blooms for last season's New York Show, it does not surprise us to learn that he has suggested now the donation of stock to amateur and commercial growers who have suffered serious losses in the flood zones. The matter is being given attention by the Michigan Society. Mr. Koenig would be the first man to think about such a thing and to use Bruce Collin's phraseology—"Nick has a heart as big as a tombstone."

A complete list of show dates will be published in our August BULLETIN, which we hope to have in the mails by August 1st. Secretaries of affiliated societies are requested to notify us promptly when dates are set as we are frequently asked for this information.

Please notify the secretary promptly of any change of address. The BULLETIN is mailed second class and this type of mail is not forwarded to a new address by the post office.

Are your due paid Postage for follow up notices is a large item of expense and can be eliminated if our members will coöperate.

Catalogs have been streaming in—the Dahlias which you and I were glad to pay ten dollars each to procure a few short years ago may be purchased today for a dollar or less. And some of these varieties are still unbeaten in their classes.

What an opportunity for the novice! Some varieties are already scarce, if not sold out. So better hurry and place that order to avoid disappointment.

New Variety Registrations

Application has been made, with the customary fee of \$1.00, to register the names of each variety mentioned below. If no prior rights exist, and there is no valid objection voiced within a reasonable length of time, registration will be considered made.

MISS INNOCENCE. Semi-cactus to incurved cactus. Pure white. By F. L. Purrington, 203 West Prairie Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois.

DON WILSON. Informal decorative. Colonial buff, tinted rosolane purple to tyrian pink, almost white reverse. By Albert Parrella, 3380 Ely Avenue, Bronx, New York City.



National Association of Commercial Dahlia Growers Incorporated

This Association is an incorporated organization and is composed of reputable and financially responsible Dahlia growers and dealers. Their prices are fair, but they are not cut raters. Consequently the stock you received from any of them is guaranteed as to quality, trueness, and replacement. Every root is guaranteed to sprout and grow. Every root is guaranteed true to name. Any failure will be replaced without cost.

This emblem in the catalog, stationery, or advertisement of a Dahlia grower signifies his membership in the NACDG. It stands for Integrity, Reliability, and a Square Deal.

C. Louis Alling, 251 Court St., West Haven, Conn.
W. A. Angell, 33 Westminster St., Providence, R. I.
Babylon Dahlia Gardens, Babylon, L. I., N. Y.
Badetty Bros., 40 Prospect St., Huntington, N. Y.
C. W. Ballay, Palo Alto, Calif.
Baumann's Dahlia Gardens, R. F. D. 3, Birmingham, Mich.
W. E. Birrell, Summerville, Ontario.
W. Atlee Burpee Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
Chautauqua Dahlia Fields, Mayville, N. Y.
R. L. Crigler, 324 Iris Rd., Covington, Ky.
Dahladel Nurseries, Vineland, N. J.
Edgar W. Darling, 212 Washington St., Fairhaven, Mass.
W. L. W. Darnell, East Moriches, L. I., N. Y.
Delight-U-Gardens, Irvington Sta., Indianapolis, Ind.
F. E. Dixon, Scotch Plains, N. J.
Major James B. Eastman, Laurel, Md.
Adam Felsinger, R. 2, Lancaster, Pa.
Fisher & Masson, 121 Abernethy Drive, Trenton, N. J.
Fraser's Dahlia Gardens, Willimantic, Conn.
F. W. Galloway, Limestone Dahlia Gardens, Maysville, Ky.
Gerkin Brothers, Rt. 12, Lancaster, Ohio.
J. A. Kemp, Little Silver, N. J.
Keystone Dahlia Gardens, Hickville, L. I., N. Y.
Kit Gardens, 9 Irvington St., Springfield, Mass.
Knollwood Gardens, 222 N. Trade St., Winston-Salem, N. C.
Ruth C. Kunzman, Kunzman Dahlias, New Albany, Ind.
Thomas Leavitt, Assinippi, Mass.
Locust Valley Dahlia Farm, Cold Springs Harbor, N. Y.
Mad River Gardens, D. Paul Wickersham, Urbana, Ohio.
Mrs. Jennie E. Mendham, Box 185, Easton, Pa.
Old Trail Dahlia Gardens, 1305 Forsythe Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
Parkway Dahlia Gardens, 1012 East 178th St., N. Y.
L. K. Peacock, Peacock Dahlia Farms, Dahlialand, N. J.
Harley T. Peck, Golden Rule Farm, Lebanon, Ohio.
Pioneer City Dahlia Gardens, W. T. Buell, Marietta, Ohio.
Premier Dahlia Gardens, 31 Mertz Ave., Hillside, N. J.
Richwood Dahlia Gard., G. A. Richardson, Cincinnati, O.
Orman P. Roach, 113 Empire St., E. Lynn, Mass.
Roosevelt Dahlia Gardens, Mrs. J. W. Hood, Roswell, Ga.
Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens, Rockville Centre, L. I., N. Y.
Carl Salbach, 657 Woodmont Ave., Berkeley, Calif.
Scarboro Gardens Co., Ltd., Scarboro, Ontario.
Dr. S. S. Shattuck, 162 Elm St., Everett, Mass.
Dr. H. H. Smith, Rocky River, Ohio.
James Smith, 700 Somerset St., Plainfield, N. J.
Southern Bulb Farm, North, South Carolina.
Strasen Floral Gardens, Austinburg, Ohio.
Stephenson Dahlia Gardens, Santa Monica, Calif.
Success Dahlia Gardens, Lawrence, Mass.
Milton F. Untermeyer, Jr., Elberon, N. J.
R. Vincent Jr. & Sons, White Marsh, Md.
H. Jay Welcher, Newark, N. Y.
W. W. Wilmore, Denver, Colorado.

Any reputable and reliable commercial Dahlia grower is eligible to membership in this Association. Full particulars may be obtained by addressing Secretary Thomas Leavitt, Assinippi, Mass.

Dahlia Forum and Exchange

If there's something you would like to know—
or some cultural or historic lore you would like
to pass along—or if you have the itch to write
about Dahlias—then this is your department.
Address Sec'y Alling.

Conducted by

Secretary C. Louis Alling

251 Court Street, West Haven, Conn.

Reminiscences by Eighty-Three Year Old Dahlia Fan

You will recall the picture of the Dahlia Old Timers, shown on page 35 of the last (February) BULLETIN. In the center of this picture was Nathan A. Miller, charter member of the A. D. S.

We are in receipt of a letter from friend Miller which says in part: "I appreciate the picture and write up, which shows the good feeling always shown between Dahlia lovers. I like to be remembered for what I have tried to do to advance the Dahlia. If I had kept notes perhaps I should be able to write up some of my Dahlia experiences but as I am eighty-three years of age my memory is not as good as it was thirty years ago.

"The A. D. S. has taught people to grow better Dahlias. Thirty-five years ago there were not many people who grew them here in the east. There was more ignorance about this flower than knowledge then. I little realized then what a society such as ours could do for better Dahlias. At that time W. W. Wilmore, of Denver, was the leader in Dahlias. Many of the varieties he originated are still grown today. But today they are grown under better conditions than we grew them, because now study and experiment has taught us what to do and what not to do to get the best results. I remember that years ago Wilmore wrote me that he had a lady customer who complained that his Dahlias had not given results. Upon inquiry he found that she had punched holes in the lawn with a pointed stick large enough to accommodate the root and stuck them in the holes. She expected a lot of nice blooms. That was quite typical of the Dahlia culture knowledge in those days.

"The sad part of Dahlia friendship comes when those with whom we have been associated pass on. I read in the papers recently of the death of Tarbox, of East Greenwich, R. I., at the age of ninety-seven. Truly there was a veteran of Dahliadom. One fall years ago he hired a whole railroad train from Newport, R. I., to take a group to visit his Dahlia farm, people from along the shore line. It's true it did not cost as much to do this forty-five years ago as it would now. He also hired a large tent and invited four hundred people of Newport to visit his Dahlia farm and partake of an old-fashioned clam bake and chowder. Tarbox was one of the first men in the east to make the Dahlia popular with those who had money to spend to make life happier and full of more beautiful things.

"Years ago there were a lot of Dahlias grown around New Haven and John Slocombe had a nice house made of lath, the forerunner of wire and cloth houses of today, which have recently been shown in the BULLETIN. This lath house was built in sections so that he could turn the roof up edgewise to let the sunshine in and then turn it flat to protect the plants he grew.

"The Dahlia *Mad*, *Vandan Dail* was new then and produced beautiful blooms on long stems. Under the lath house the plants did not grow so tall, but they certainly bloomed freely. I recall that an early frost came one fall and Slocombe covered the top of the lath house with asparagus tops and as a result he had blooms nearly a month longer than those grown outside.

"Sometime I will write a story for you on how I studied the habits of bees in order to make a perfect cross of two varieties of Dahlias and have the bees do all the work. The resultant crosses produced some fine varieties which got good scores at the A. D. S. Storrs Trial Grounds. I got the bees to operate on the pollen for me on the *King of Autumn* as the seed parent. I used this one on account of its splendid habits of growth.

"I'll tell you more about that next time, it's another story."

Nathan A. Miller, Wallingford, Connecticut.

• • •

NEW YORK SHOW,

September 23, 24, 25

We return this year to the Grand Ball Room of the Hotel Pennsylvania, where so many successful A. D. S. shows have been staged in the past.

This beautiful auditorium will be air conditioned, making possible a three-day show, which is being planned.

Mr. Edward Lloyd is show manager, much to our gratification. He is an exponent of the axiom, "Action, not Words." Indeed, his is a dynamic of action and level headed efficiency. He possesses that rare quality of ability to remain calm under pressure. During the excitement of setting up the show, he is perhaps the coolest man on the floor and his mind functions unmolested.

Mr. Lloyd requests your suggestions for changing our regular plan of "lay-out" for the show, if an improvement can be found. Write him and explain your views. His address is 2 Upland Way, Verona, New Jersey.

Should the weather treat us kindly during the early weeks in September, this should be the finest Dahlia show ever staged.

It is not too early to begin planning vacations so as to be with us at New York on these gala days. Those who are not too far distant should arrange to exhibit. (Mr. Webb, of Scranton, is a consistent competitor at New York, and wins his share of prizes from growers comparatively close to our city.)

Michael A. Batto Dies February 27



Mr. Batto in his garden, where so many happy hours were spent.

By Edward A. O'Keefe

Many have said that Michael A. Batto was rare among princes in the realm of Dahlias.

And since he has gone the way of pollen which, under his tender guidance, brought into glorious being such famous blooms as *Adirondack Sunset* and *William J. Rathgeber*, admiring hosts in Dahliadom today speak eloquently of him.

Michael Batto was a grand person to all who shared his friendship. To them, and to a world of flower lovers, the geniality of his every mood and generosity of his acts shall long be cherished. Their affection and esteem were well deserved.

It was Michael Batto's devotion to his myriad bright-hued subjects in what was known as the Parkway Dahlia Gardens, that hastened his untimely end. In a sense, he sacrificed his life for his flowers for had he not worried so much about them, his health may not have been so impaired.

During the fifteen years Michael Batto devoted to the Dahlia cause he won countless friends not only for the rare beauty of the blooms he introduced but the fine character and lovable personality that were his. The tragedy of it all is that he should have died so young. He was 51 years old, having been born on December 13, 1886, in the city of New York.

Growing Dahlias was Michael Batto's hobby. He loved all flowers—all growing things but no man can concentrate on all things. He chose the Dahlia, and watching it unfold its beauty, grubbing with his bare hands in the soil surrounding the plants, offset the sordid daily grind of tracking criminals to their lairs, beating city pavements in the glare of a nooday sun, or the watchful waiting at some windswept corner in sub-zero weather.

For twenty-seven years Michael Batto was a member of the police force of New York City. The esteem in which he was held was evident March 1st this year when he was laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery with mem-

bers of the Police Honor Legion in attendance, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a patrolman. More than 100 policemen in uniform escorted his body to the grave.

He had received recognition, when living, in the form of five gold stars for bravery and courage won in the face of great personal peril.

In one instance Patrolman Charles H. Reilly was slain by a bandit. Michael Batto, shunning all regard for his own chances captured the thug, together with three who were harboring him—without outside assistance.

Michael Batto's first citation was won in 1914 when he stopped a runaway horse with wagon before it plunged into a group of children in front of Public School No. 32 in Brooklyn. He had to go to the hospital from his own injuries but he had saved the lives of a group of terrified children.

There was a citation for his bravery in entering a burning tenement before the firemen arrived and his single-handed rescue of five small children. The mother and three other children perished in the flames.

The arrest of three notorious gunmen November 19, 1918, won Michael Batto another gold star.

Just a year later, October 25, 1919, he arrested two criminals after being stabbed by one of them.

Five stars and countless other one-man achievements which didn't make front page news but carried with them protection for thousands of helpless and innocent and plenty risk to the patrolman. There was the woman who was struggling with a drunken coachman for possession of a butcher's knife, Batto's prompt action alleviated the situation. He chased a pair of horse thieves from the Bronx to Bridgeport, Connecticut, which is quite a step. He captured both of them and sent them to jail. Another chase resulted in the capture of a Russian spy, George L. Provost who had skipped a \$30,000 bail bond.

There were other public rewards besides gold stars. In June, 1925, Michael Batto was made Sergeant. Before he donned the uniform, while having trouble finding the hangout of a white slave ring, he spent a week trailing through a certain section with his pushcart yelling "Bananas," being particularly persuasive with his wares when some passerby, whose face he wanted to study, needed urging. The red bandanna and big dark eyes helped the delusion and Batto was a good actor when the occasion demanded.

He solved a very baffling murder mystery and had the distinction of giving the evidence which sent the first woman to the electric chair in New York State.

Turning to his Dahlia proclivities, his introduction of *Adirondack Sunset* with "50,000 people can't be wrong" slogan will long be remembered.

Among his most recent introductions were *Adirondack Sunset*, *Adorable*, *Miss Sunshine*, *On Parade*.

In the last few years, at a great expense, he imported the best foreign varieties. Our foreign growers have lost a friend. His place will be difficult to fill. At the time of his passing he had the sole rights for *Arachne*, *Croix Du Sud*, and *Directeur Plumcocq*.

The past year has taken a very heavy toll among the Dahlia fraternity.

We shall all miss you Michael, miss your beaming personality at the meetings and at the shows. How we shall miss those long interesting letters only you could make so welcome. Our fondest hope is that you are growing Dahlias in that Great Beyond.

What's Being Ordered This Year?

Not an Honor Roll—Rather a Statistical Report of the New Dahlias which A.D.S. Officials will grow in 1937.

Note: The figures in parenthesis after each description denotes number of votes for that variety.

It looks like autumn shades have the preference with eleven. Yellows come next with eight. Whites, reds and purples tie with five each. Bi-colors with two choices, come before orange, lavender, and rose with one each.

These form the color preferences among forty-eight large type new Dahlias which A. D. S. officers, to the number of twenty-nine, say they like best and will grow this season.

Among these selections, there are twenty-eight A. D. S. Certificates of Merit awarded at the Trial Grounds at Storrs, Connecticut, and East Lansing, Michigan. This seems to substantiate the claims that official ratings, made after careful checking throughout blooming season, by several teams of judges, is the best known method of evaluating the worth of a new Dahlia variety.

As one who has visited the Trial Grounds once or twice a season during the past seven or eight years, I have come to the conclusion that this system, though not perfect, is the best yet devised.

I make no claim that our scoring system used there is perfect. I make no assertion that everyone who judges on the teams at the Trial Grounds is infallible. But under the present plan of frequent scoring by different judges and a final check-up and averaging of total scores, we have the best structure for an unbiased honor roll that has yet been suggested. Of course, we might add six more judges in order to be more certain of a "good deal" decision.

Now and then, I'll admit, I have been flattered when several growers have suggested that I make an honor roll selection. I have enough self-confidence to think I could pick a pretty good list—but I don't believe I should, at this time, anyway. If for no other reason, I don't believe that a President of the A. D. S. should start an honor roll just because he is President.

Understand, I think honor rolls are helpful. With Derrill Hart, I hold that any discussion, report, selection or writing regarding Dahlias help the cause of Dahlia progress. Honor rolls are the opinion of one man or woman. Maybe his or her judgment is good. Maybe not. But from opinions, good or bad, comes knowledge—and the more we learn, the better we will love this greatest of American garden flowers.

When several requests for public discussion by me of the new Dahlias were received, I'll admit that my determination not to make a personal selection caused a momentary dilemma.

But, being used to employing research in the advertising business, I decided on this plan of finding out (in the past tense) what new Dahlias were actually going to grace the gardens of our A. D. S. officials.

The experiment proved most interesting, as I think you will agree—and it also developed its humor. One officer

said he thought his two introductions were the best—and he hadn't found any seconds. One said, I'll bet you a new hat you don't get another selection like mine—and he would win the cast iron derby too. Another, whom I positively know attended most of the larger shows, said he hadn't seen any that he would trade for some of the older ones. Another said: "We purchase (really buy, and not trade for) new varieties of the other growers and we try to follow the honor rolls. Since Derrill Hart's death, it is increasingly difficult because we used to follow his selections pretty closely. Now, we try to pick the best flowers, *provided they have the proper publicity* back of them. It naturally follows that the growers in whom we have the most confidence, plus the best varieties, will get our orders. This year, I am giving more attention to trial ground reports, perhaps belatedly, but I believe that they are, at present, the best means that we have of judging the new Dahlias before growing them ourselves. I commend to all growers, the trial ground reports. Theoretically, you should be better enabled to select the best 1937 introductions from these reports. And actually, I, for one, believe they come nearer to the real facts than any one person's opinion."

Nearly every official agreed that I had given him or her a tough job. I asked only for five selections. The five they were going to buy to augment the standard varieties they are now growing. Here are the results of the research, with descriptions and some comments. Naturally, I cannot reveal the names of the officers and what varieties they will buy individually. That's a secret that even a sit down strike could not wring from me.

Note—(C) indicates the variety has won a certificate; (CC) indicates two certificates and the number in parenthesis at the end shows the number of times each variety was selected.

Greater Glory (Salem Dahlia Gardens). Quite evidently this one is another one to give judges pause. A borderline between semi-cactus—cactus—and possibly recurved and straight cactus. Before maturity it is a semi-cactus. Color, deep rose pink with some blooms showing cream. This will also occasion some comments at shows over "true to color" scoring. Grows to good size. Habits and stem satisfactory. (8)

Robert L. Ripley (Salem Dahlia Gardens). Informal decorative. Color, rhodamine purple according to Ridge-way. In effect, it is rose pink to lavender. I saw this displayed in a basket at the Detroit Show. The blooms were not in the best of condition but it was plain that this Dahlia had both large size and interesting form and color. It was also shown at New York and looked good. (9)

American Purity (American Dahlia Farms). Semi-cactus. Pure white. Stems are straight and strong. Won many prizes, including an Achievement Medal. Shown very large. Good substance. This one ran high in number selecting it. (9)

(CC) *William J. Wyllie* (Greenough-Ruschmohr). One of the new big formals. Color, sulphur yellow shading

to buff. Has an overlaid color of pinkish tone which adds interest. Certificate at Storrs, 1935, and at East Lansing, 1936. Can be grown very large. (5)

(C) *Great Eastern* (Kemp). Informal decorative. Color, greenish yellow to lemon yellow, tinted amaranth purple. Early bloomer. Good heavy foliage. A big one. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (5)

Jimmy Fox (Johnson). Informal decorative. Coppery red with henna overlaid color. This won Derrill Hart Memorial Medal and American Achievement Medal at New York in Seedling Class. Very large. Stem is rather heavy detracting somewhat from poise of flower. (4)

(C) *Dream Girl* (Lee). Informal decorative. Salmon and coral pink with blending of pale gold. Said to be one to grow very large. Won Achievement Medal, Tacoma, 1936. Scored 84 M at East Lansing, 1936. (6)

Mrs. James Roosevelt (Parrella). Semi-cactus to informal decorative. Another border line variety. Color, grenadine red with yellow base of petals and blending of yellow as flower matures. It is different in form and grows large. (3)

(C) *Miss Ohio* (Parenica). Incurved cactus. Magenta, with tones of listerine purple according to Ridgeway. Prolific bloomer. This won as best seedling at Detroit, including Derrill Hart Memorial Medal. Certificate at Storrs, 1936. (5)

Mad River Chief (Wickersham). Informal decorative. Carmine to purplish red at center. Very large. Early bloomer. Good keeper. (4)

(CC) *Miss Oakland* (Hook Koenig). Informal decorative. White with faint sulphur yellow at base of petals. Won many firsts at 1936 shows. Was originated by Theodore J. Sjoberg, Oakland, California. Early bloomer. Good keeper. Won certificate at Storrs, 1936, and at East Lansing, 1935. (5)

(C) *Purple Mist* (Emmonds). Formal decorative. Dark violet carmine. Early bloomer. Good keeper. Certificate at East Lansing, 1935. (3)

(C) *Rudolph's Giant* (Rudolph-Ruschmohr). Informal decorative. Pinard yellow splashed with flesh. Blooms late. Due to shortage of stock, this variety has been withdrawn until 1938. Certificate Storrs, 1934. (3)

(C) *Red Victor* (Strasen). Informal decorative. Spectrum red, outer petals, lighter tips. Foliage beautiful and well cut. Stems okay. Compact grower about four and one-half feet. I saw this growing at Storrs when it received a certificate. Also in originator's garden where in rows it was most impressive. Certificate Storrs, 1936. (4)

Wachung Giant (Smith). Informal decorative. Light yellow with suffusion of old rose. An autumn variety of interest and size. Have seen it growing in originator's garden, and show in color classes at New York. It has good winning possibilities. (3)

(CC) *Television* (Straight-Dahliadel). Informal decorative. Ridgeway says alizarine pink with yellow sheen, and back petals and center spinel pink. Very interesting. Size around eight inches. Certificates at both Storrs and East Lansing. (3)

Royal Pennant (Fenton Kemp). Formal decorative. Almost a royal purple—rich tones and said to be resistant to heat. (2)

(C) *Pacific Splendor* (Ballay-Success). Informal decorative. One of the all too rare pastel shades. A delicate lavender pink. Artistic formation of petals. Certificate at Storrs, 1935. Achievement Medal winner at Cincinnati. (3)

Miss Indiana (Dr. White, Indianapolis). Formal decorative, delicate pale pink. Excellent keeper. Won medal at Indianapolis. (1)

(C) *Freckles* (Kemp). Informal decorative. Lemon yellow to greenish yellow, splashed scarlet. Good substance. Flowers medium size. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (3)

(C) *Fireball* (Bissell). Formal decorative. Scarlet red. This is a seedling of *Dwight W. Morrow*. Size not so large, but it's a vivid Dahlia anywhere. Saw it in originator's garden and at Detroit Show. Profuse bloomer. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (4)

(C) *Incandescent* (Litz). Informal decorative. Martins yellow tinted rose pink, with tyrian pink center. Late bloomer. Not large, but interesting form and color. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (1)

Kemp's Monarch (Fenton-Kemp). Formal decorative. Brilliant salmon orange, chrome yellow at base. Petals rounded tips involute margins. Foliage thick and resistant. (2)

Kentucky Sportsman (White, Louisville). Informal decorative. A bicolor, center lemon yellow, most of outer petals a rich amber and white tips. Old rose reverse. A very fine coloring. Good substance. (2)

(C) *Lehmann's Madonna* (Lehman Chemar). Semi-cactus to informal decorative. White, base of petals greenish white. Good substance. Stem strong stiff. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (1)

(C) *Mother Maytrott* (Berwick-Dahliadel). Informal decorative, white with base of petals light green yellow which enhances beauty. Good keeper. can be grown large. Profuse bloomer. Certificate at Storrs, 1936. (5)

Mary Tallmadge (Ailing). Informal decorative. Color, smoky old rose with deeper center and reverse, long stems with flower facing side. Good keeper. I have grown it and like it for its unusual coloring and form. (1)

Maryland's Autumn King (Maryland Dahlia Gardens). Incurved cactus with some semi-cactus leanings in early blooms. Amber with buff reverse. Good substance and stem. (1)

(C) *Mrs. Ida Chase* (Fenton-Kemp). Straight cactus. Picric yellow shading to amaranth pink at tips. Pale lavender reverse. Very beautiful coloring. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (3)

(C) *Betty Lingren* (Preas-Ruschmohr). Semi-cactus. Pale lemon yellow to light greenish yellow. Outer petals tinted salmon. Good habits, profuse bloomer. Stems good. Not a large Dahlia but interesting. Certificate at East Lansing, 1934. (2)

Cherokee Rose (Dahliadel). Informal decorative. Lilac pink shaded rose pink. Seedling of *Jersey Beauty* with parents' good qualities. Profuse bloomer. (1)

(C) *Opal* (Berwick-Dahliadel). Informal decorative. Soft salmon rose with lighter shading and center lemon. Long, broad, wavy petals twist and curl. Can be grown very large. Good keeper. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (1)

Three Foreign Varieties Listed

Bauer's Masterpiece (Bauer). Informal decorative. Color, golden bronze with purple violet reverse. Bush four feet. Cross between *Jane Cowl* and *Copper King*. Can be grown large. A foreign variety which has found friends here. (1)

Bauer's Ideal (Bauer). Formal decorative. Brilliant carmine. Flower large, stems long, stiff. Does not fade

(Continued on following page)

What's Being Ordered—Continued

or burn. Said to be an excellent garden, exhibition and florists' Dahlia. (1)

Directeur Plumcog (Pizant). Rich old gold shaded brown. Said to be one of largest Dahlias ever grown, and winner of innumerable cups and medals abroad. Scored 98 out of possible 100 points in France. Featured by several growers this year including the late Michael Batto, who died suddenly February 27th last. (2)

Virgo (G. A. Richardson). Informal decorative to semi-cactus. Earlier blooms are semi-cactus. Color, yellow with amber shadings. Form good. Size not so large. Grew in my garden. Saw it at Trial Grounds. I could not score this one 85 but it has a lot of merit. (2)

(C) *Buckeye Star* (Harley T. Peck). Semi-cactus. Lemon yellow tinted lightly deep rose. Profuse, good substance. Size five to six inches. Certificate at East Lansing, 1936. (2)

Buckeye Glory (Harley T. Peck). Informal decorative. Rosaline purple or deep lavender with lighter tones. I grew this in my garden, saw it in Derrill Hart's garden, and check with other A. D. S. officers that it is most attractive. (2)

(C) *Rex* (George W. Fraser). Informal decorative. Baricum yellow with straw yellow and tints of jasper red in center petals. Grows tall and flowers large. Grew it in my garden and scored it at Trial Grounds. (Also photographed it.) (2)

(C) *Haslerova* (Alois Jones, Czechoslovakia). Formal decorative. Bicolor, white or pale lavender with irregular streaking of carmine. Abundant bloomer, good keeper. Received certificate East Lansing, entry by Success Gardens, 1936. This won the vase offered by me for the most outstanding bicolor at the New York Show. (2)

(C) *Autumn Sunset* (Wells-Lakeside). Informal decorative. Cross between *Champoe* and *Yellow Princess*. Lemon yellow tinted spinel red and rose. Flowering habits good. Profuse. Flowers to ten inches and over. Certificate at East Lansing, 1935. (3)

Lemon Glo (Lee). Semi-cactus. Lemon color without shading. Has good size with depth. Long stems. Won as best semi-cactus at Tacoma. (2)

(C) *Golden Beauty* (Silverdale-Oakleigh Gardens). Informal decorative. Center petals apricot yellow, decidedly splashed with jasper pink, according to Ridge-way. Also petals become faintly tinted with Alizarine pink. General tone pinkish yellow which makes it lively. Habits good. Improved by disbudding. Size big, nine and one-half to twelve inches. Certificate at Storrs, 1936. (3)

Leland Stanford (Ballay-Success). Informal decorative. Brilliant cardinal red. Clear, glistening without shadings. Petals velvet-like. Can be grown to twelve or fourteen inches. Early and profuse bloomer. On order of *California Idol* except color. (4)

Lily Pons (O'Keefe-Veile). Informal decorative. Pure soft orange without any shading. Attracted a lot of attention at New York. Very large, ten to twelve inches or more. Very attractive and a needed color. (2)

Ramona (Redfern). Semi-cactus. Cerise, suffused with rich tints of violet and maroon. Won Achievement Medal at San Francisco. (1)

(C) *Kilgore's King* (Kilgore). Informal decorative. Lemon yellow in center, outer petals tinted flesh with

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Additional 'Test' Garden at Storrs

The American Dahlia Society and the Department of Horticulture of the Connecticut State College, Storrs, Connecticut, are cooperating on a new experimental demonstration garden where the leading exhibition varieties of the various type of Dahlias will be grown under the "so-called forcing" conditions of fertilizing and disbranching. There will also be a collection of other varieties suitable for garden and landscape use, all under the personal direction of Prof. R. Patch.

The fertilizing and disbranching will be carried on under the able supervision of Mr. E. E. Tooker, of Rockville Centre, L. I., N. Y., one of the leading amateur growers in the east, who knows how to "dynamite" Dahlias if anyone does.

The purpose of the garden is to demonstrate to the public the methods employed to obtain the large flowers that they see at Dahlia Shows, and to determine, if possible, the amount of fertilizing a variety will stand to attain its greatest size and perfection of bloom, also the effects on the keeping of the roots in storage, and the growth the following season from the various formulas of fertilizers.

The garden will contain the leading newer exhibition varieties in the various types and colors planted in blocks for comparison. These will be donated by several growers to the garden. However, if any grower who has a variety entered in the 1937 Trial Garden at Storrs, wishes to have it tried out in this garden under the following conditions they might communicate with Prof. R. Patch.

A fee of \$3.00 per variety, 3 roots or plants, with a limit of two varieties to each grower. Separate roots or plants must be sent for this garden.

THIS IS NOT A TRIAL GARDEN and no entry blanks are required to fill out, but a description as to color and type of the variety will be a great help in placing it in the right section at planting time.

It is distinctly understood that no report of how a *Seedling variety* does in this garden will be published in the BULLETIN, but a confidential report will be made to the owner covering the full details. This is necessary to avoid conflicting with the official Trial Gardens. No roots will be returned at the end of the season as it will be necessary to have them to check up on the effects of the fertilizing on the keeping in storage, and growing the following season, by the Department of Horticulture of the college, with the distinct understanding that no root, division, plant or cutting of any new variety so donated shall be given to anyone whatsoever without the written consent of the owner. If the owner does not wish to donate them for this work, then the clumps will be destroyed in the fall when dug.

Address all communications to Prof. R. Patch, Connecticut State College, Storrs, Connecticut.

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We welcome to our editorial staff Mr. George Richardson of Cincinnati, whose interesting contributions appear in this issue. Mr. Richardson's material will be a regular feature of the BULLETIN and will reflect the high-lights from the Mid-West.

Charles G. Reed Passes Away

Introducer of "the Margaret Broomall" (2nd U. S. Patented Dahlia), "Satan", "Murphy's Masterpiece", and Many Other Outstanding Varieties. "He died in the midst of Dahlia Activities."



Charlie Reed with one of his "Giants of the Show Room".

By Thomas A. Leavitt

(who was his friend—Ed.)

Charlie Reed is dead. He was one of the most dynamic, one of the most colorful personalities that has been known in the Dahlia world. His heart and soul were wrapped up in his flowers, in fact his very life teemed with reverberations of the Dahlia. And he died in the midst of Dahlia activities, as would have been his wish.

Saturday morning, March 20th, we attended the morning and afternoon sessions of the American Dahlia Society in New York. He took an active interest in the proceedings and at their conclusion in company with Dr. Charles H. Connor we journeyed to Long Beach, Long Island, there to take part in the dinner of the Long Island Dahlia enthusiasts. Here he made, what were to be, his last remarks on Dahlias to Dahlia men.

Sunday afternoon on the way home Charlie was seized with a severe chill and after his arrival home everything possible was done for him so far as medical science was concerned but to no avail, and his life passed out on Saturday evening, March 27th, at 8:45 o'clock.

It was given to few, to really know Charlie Reed. His was a wonderful career. Born of fine New England stock in the small town on Hyde Park in the Green Mountains, he was orphaned when a young boy. Kind relatives cared for him and tried to supply the leadership of a proud father and a loving, tender mother. Reaching early manhood he yearned for the activities that were necessary to satisfy his energetic and restless nature.

Finally he left the little New England town and struck out for himself. Hardship and privation only spurred him on to greater effort and more than thirty years ago he decided to make Lawrence, Massachusetts, his home. He obtained employment in the large establishment where he was still active at the time of his death, and it was not long before he became an outstanding employee because of his ability, promptness, alertness and keen mind. He seemed to make it a rule to always finish the day's work even though it was more than that of an ordinary day.

Naturally such fidelity and faithfulness attracted the attention of the management and he was elevated quickly, step by step, until he became the production engineer of the largest baking establishment in Eastern Massachusetts. This position makes for the success or failure of any similar enterprise and is therefore one of the greatest responsibility. The continuity of his employment in this establishment over all these years attests to his ability and personality.

He was strong in community spirit. No major activity in his city was ever projected that he did not give the full measure of his ability and time to its success, and his election to high office in the local Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations of his trade were a tribute to his zeal.

He was active in his church, serving in important offices and giving all time demanded of him freely.

He became interested in Dahlias some twenty years or so ago. Having been a poultry fancier, it was not hard for him to pick up the outstanding points in Dahlias and soon he was exhibiting his own seedlings. Then he made an arrangement with the famous J. J. Broomall of the Pacific coast and for several years was the introducer of this gentleman's varieties. Then he became associated with Ballay of California and has since been the introducer of this famous originator's seedlings in the territory east of the Mississippi River.

He has exhibited at every exhibition of the Dahlia Society of New England since he became a member of that organization and also was a frequent exhibitor at the New York Show of the American Dahlia Society.

During his time he has introduced many especially fine Dahlias. He knew a good Dahlia and all the requisites that went to make up a good one. If it did not meet the standard he set, it was never sent out. He was a fluent writer on Dahlia subjects and nothing gave him more pleasure than this line of work. He was interested in

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Long Island Dahlia Dinner

Dr. Bruce B. Preas Arranges Another Successful Get-together

By Avery Nesbit, Lynbrook, L. I.

Surrounded by the simple elegance of the Lido Beach Club, the group of Dahlia men from Long Island gathered for their annual dinner on Saturday evening, March 20th. It would be a mistake to say that the attendance was confined to Long Island men for we saw and heard from representatives of seven states, all the way from Massachusetts to Ohio and West Virginia. It is also wrong to suppose that this yearly event is attended by only professional growers, because in this group of over eighty men were to be seen not only large, commercial growers but also week-end gardeners who plant only a few dozen hills. The purpose of this dinner was best described by Chairman Dr. Bruce Preas who, in his opening remarks, referred to "The fourth annual dinner of men who love flowers."

The dinner was prepared in a style one might expect of the Lido Beach Club and was served in a private dining room reserved for us. As the dishes from the last course were being cleared away, Chairman Preas drew aside a cloth hanging behind the speaker's table and disclosed the new emblem for the Long Island Men's Dahlia Association. This emblem, in the form of an oblong picture, consisted of the gold letters LIMDA imposed upon a map of Long Island; under the letters was painted a large, red Dahlia.

In a brief address the President of the National Organization, Mr. Lynn Dudley, requested our coöperation in his plans for the growth of the Society. He especially emphasized the need for Long Island men to assist in the Dahlia exhibit at the coming World's Fair.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Charles Connors, of Rutgers University, was introduced by Mr. Warren Maytrott. Dr. Connors, who is an authority on horticultural research, an entomologist and former President of the New Jersey Dahlia Society, had prepared for us a talk on the subject of balanced plant feeding. It was delivered in such an interesting manner and with such authority that the attention of everyone was held to the very end. In his opening remarks, Dr. Connors reminded us that we do not always fully appreciate the natural elements required by growing plants, some of these being rainfall, light, atmospheric conditions and

soil composition; he urged us to utilize them as much as possible. The entire text of Dr. Connors' address was illustrated with picture slides and as he went from one illustration to the next our interest increased by the startling results shown in the effects of sunlight and feeding. Continuing with the theme "balanced feeding," one of the pictures showed a series of tomato plants which had been grown under the speaker's care but each one fed differently. The first plant, vigorous and healthy, had been given a balanced diet but each of the other plants lacked, in order, magnesium, phosphorus, potash, nitrogen and calcium and the result could be seen either by rank growth or scrawny plants. We also saw in the illustrations how a plant can be forced to a large size and still not be healthy because its flowers did not last nor could it produce suitable roots. In passing to the subject of soil texture Dr. Connors pointed out that this important condition of the earth governs the aeration and exchange of gases in the sub-stratum, and showed us that plants growing in poorly cultivated soil must perish or become sickly because of suffocation. In his closing remarks the speaker reminded us that all conditions of land are different, depending upon the location, and that what might be good for one locality would not suffice for another; therefore, with a basic knowledge of what each plant requires we must each work out our own feeding and growing requirements. The applause accorded Dr. Connors showed with what appreciation his remarks were received.

During the period of fellowship and conviviality which followed, we were shown motion pictures illustrating the manner in which some growers plant and raise their Dahlias. You can well imagine the discussion this caused among a group of Dahlia men as each grower has his own theories on this subject and is not likely to be influenced by the other fellow's methods. Interesting for many of us were the colored motion pictures showing some of the Dahlia exhibits as well as some local and California gardens. It was a treat to see pictures of some of the west coast gardens, with their abundance of growing Dahlias.

At the close of the evening it was generally agreed that we had had a time of profitable experience and memorable fellowship.

Field Day at Storrs September 11th

The wise selection of the date September 11th assures a large attendance at the Storrs Trial and Test Gardens this Fall.

An outstanding speaker will be invited to address those present on the subject "Dahlia breeding."

Since the new plan for test garden (details appear elsewhere in this issue) will be tried out, increased interest is already manifest. This is another date which should have careful consideration in your vacation plans.

William H. Tarbox

At the age of ninety-six, Mr. Tarbox, one-time nationally known Dahlia specialist, died February 15th, at his home in Oakland Beach, R. I. He and his twin brother, who died nine years ago, developed the Tarbox Dahlia Farm, East Greenwich, R. I.

Dahlia Personals—and Personalities

By Oliver Shurtleff

Secretary, West Virginia Dahlia Society

Vice-President, American Dahlia Society

1264 Bryant Street, Fairmont, W. Va.

Some few days ago I was honored by being invited to attend a meeting of the Westmoreland Dahlia Society at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of talking Dahlias. I didn't have much to give to the members of the organization except words, but I brought back with me some fine new friendships. I account myself way ahead on the deal.

In writing these personals I could say, if our Editor-in-Chief had not ordered me to fill a full page: "Here's to the Westmoreland Dahlia Society—a fine group of Dahlia minded men and women who grow and know and love Dahlias," and let it go at that. But there is more to say.

In the group is Joseph A. Gruebel, vice-president and general factotum of the society. They call him "J. A." He has been growing Dahlias for so long that he refuses to tell when he started. I think it was about the time when the United States thought a Dahlia was the name of a tribe of people down in the sister republic of Mexico. In his ten acre patch he has grown just about every known variety and color of this wonderful and gorgeous flower. He has grown all of 'em except a blue! It is thought though, in this connection, that he has been attacked by the blue virus!

He has seedlings as a side issue. Each year he grows several hundred seedlings and some of them have been good ones. To date, however, he has never released a seedling to the market. He is just that careful. When he releases a seedling "J. A." wants it to be a good 'un.

If you really want to see Gruebel at his Dahlia best slip in on him some time when he is working on a Dahlia show or a meeting of his Dahlia society. He is everywhere and doing everything. And doing all of them well. At show time, when all is in readiness, he stands back and watches the judges pin the blue ribbons on his entries. Why, that man has enough blue ribbons to piece a bed quilt!

Does he know Dahlias or does he just grow them? He knows Dahlias. He knows them so well that many shows have used his services as a judge.

In between times, he grows Glads and works in the home post office. If you should call on him at his home in Derry, Pennsylvania, he can be found, either at the post office or in the Dahlia field. The odds are in favor of the Dahlia field. His fine wife, Mrs. Gruebel is the reason, of course, for all of Mr. Gruebel's Dahlia successes.

Mr. Gruebel is not the only "Westmorelander" who is a real garden fan. I want, also, to introduce to the A. D. S. family, Mr. H. W. Leyh, of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, who is the president of the Westmoreland Dahlia Society.

Mr. Leyh started growing Dahlias when a few stalks of the ball Dahlias made a complete garden. But that isn't true with him now. As the art of growing better Dahlias improved, Mr. Leyh improved with it and today his garden is not a complete affair. Each year he "just has to" add as many of the newer varieties as he

A Department Devoted to the Idea that Worth While Achievement in the Dahlia World Should Be Recognized, Even Tho' The Achiever is Not Often in the Headlines in the Dahlia Magazines.

can afford. His garden is one of the beauty spots of his community.

He literally lives with his flowers both day and night. Since his community weather man only allows ten or twelve hours of daylight during the Dahlia season our friend has wired his Dahlia garden for electric lights so that the loveliness of the flowers may be enjoyed for a longer period. Your personal editor could not find out when he did his sleeping. Perhaps his flowers give so much restfulness that he does not need to sleep! Who knows!

Mr. Leyh also grows Glads and is most proud of a blue ribbon which he won at Pittsburgh during a National Glad Show.

I tell you, these "Westmorelanders" are flower growers with a purpose. I wish that you might meet them all, talk and visit with them as I did. Then you would like them, as I do.

For the American Dahlia Society I extend best wishes to the members of the Westmoreland Dahlia Society for a fine successful season which will close out with a wonderful show.

And I hope that they do not have too many beetles and borers!

What's Being Ordered—Cont. from p. 16

yellow tips. Size six and one-quarter to ten and one-half inches.

Although we did not request choice of miniatures, the following were named as being selected by A. D. S. officers.

Three Small Sizes

Baby Francis (Alling). Miniature. Pink and dainty in form and color. Admired at New York. (1)

Little America (Dahliadel). Miniature. White with yellow center which forms halo. Petals roll. Plant three feet high. (1)

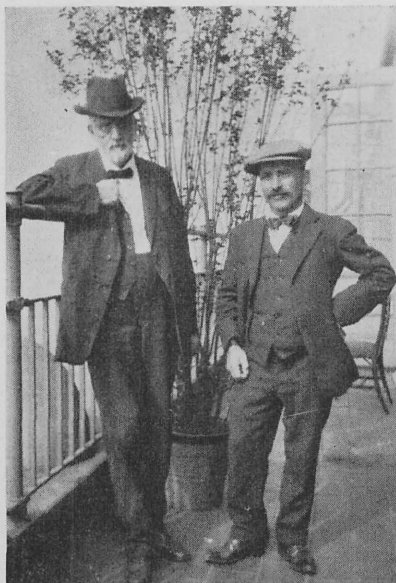
(C) *Julia S* (Scheel). Miniature semi-cactus. Tyrian pink, or mallow pink. Center darker. Three inches to four and one-half inches. Height four to six feet. Prolific. Healthy, good color. (1)

Statistics. Two varieties were chosen by nine officers; one was selected by eight; one by six; five by five and five were chosen by four. In other words fourteen out of the forty-eight varieties were preferred by thirty-two A. D. S. officers. Also, comparisons with other honor rolls, shows that twenty-two of these selections appeared on one, twenty-four on another and twenty-six on another.

Lynn B. Dudley.

Ye Olde Timers' Corner

Conducted by George W. Fraser



Our first President, Richard Vincent, Jr., and 1935 and 1936 Executive George W. Fraser.

Photo taken 1918.

Ye editor of the corner has been brought to task by several of the "Boys" for adopting the above title for this page. They refuse to be termed "old timers" although they have been growing Dahlias for more than a quarter of a century. More power to them. "Boys will be boys," but we will continue the heading just the same.

From two different sections of the country I have had almost identical letters complimenting us for giving our newer members a better understanding of the beginnings of our Society, and the man who founded it, and strange as it may seem, both made the suggestion that we should give a brief outline of our first officers. This I will try to do to the best of my ability.

Our first President, Richard Vincent, Jr., of White Marsh, Maryland, was a self made man if ever there was one. Born at Rugby, England, December, 1842, he came to this country in the fall of 1856. Shortly after his arrival he went to work for Gabriel Marc, florist and nurseryman, at Astoria, L. I. He was then about fourteen years of age, a friendless youth, with very little education, and as he jokingly used to tell it, he learned to write by inscribing labels. His hours were from 6:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. in summer with half an hour for lunch; in the winter time it was from 6:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M. or later, having to stoke the fires. All for the magnificent sum of \$2.50 per week. Think that over, you who want a 30 hour week.

After working for several nurserymen thereby gaining valuable knowledge, Mr. Vincent, in 1867, decided to go in business for himself as a market gardener, near White Marsh, Maryland. This first venture resulted in disaster leaving him in debt up to his head, as he used

to put it. He had also married about this time so the young couple had to begin all over again.

Here the fighting characteristics instilled in him during his early struggles helped him to overcome the many difficulties that presented themselves and by sheer hard work and determination he built up a business second to none in the horticultural world.

In addition to being the President of our Society for ten years Mr. Vincent was a Past President of the Society of American Florists; The Florists Club of Baltimore; New York Florists Club and the Maryland Horticultural Society. Also President of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Hartford County, Maryland. How fortunate we were to have a man of his vast experience to guide our footsteps during our infancy.

Mr. Vincent was known as a leader in the horticultural world in all parts of the globe. He made several trips to Europe, the last one just a year before he died in 1926. He counted amongst his friends several Presidents of the United States and the Governors of Maryland.

We who were associated with him in the early days of the Society used to wonder how he could keep going at the pace he did when on a trip to some Dahlia grower or working at the Shows; when night came he would be the least tired of the crowd. I used to ask him how he stood it so well at his age (in the 80's) and he would reply that if hard work ever killed anyone he should have passed out before he was 10 years old as he had always had to keep going at that pace and had become used to it. His recipe for success was "Hard work and plenty of it." Space does not permit us to relate the many fine things about this great leader, and his many activities, but this much can be said that anything he set his mind to, he carried through to a successful finish. His love of flowers was profound, especially the Dahlia. His dream was to see them growing in every garden in our country. This was the torch he handed us to carry after he had passed to his rest. May we prove worthy of his trust.

An item of interest to our members, both old and new, is culled from BULLETIN, Volume 1, No. 3. "Since the previous BULLETIN was published in March, the membership has been added to very steadily. At the last meeting of the executive committee in April it was resolved that the dues for active membership from April 30th until the annual meeting in September be \$2.00; in other words, the initiation fee is cut off. After September the annual dues will be \$1.00 and \$2.00 for associate and active members respectively, with \$1.00 initiation fee for new members in each class." From this you will see that it cost more to belong to the Society in the good old days than it does now, and they did not have more than a four page BULLETIN in comparison with our splendid publication.

Apologia

We regret the omission of the names of Mr. Edward M. Keck, White Haven, Pa., also Mr. R. H. Webb, of Scranton, as coöperators for the 1936 Show as published in our February issue. These gentlemen are regular contributors to this Prize Fund.

Three Official Appointments

Dr. Charles Connors—Nomenclature

Dr. Charles Connors, of New Jersey Experiment Station, New Brunswick, an authority on ornamental horticulture, and an expert in Dahlia culture for many years has accepted the A. D. S. chairmanship of nomenclature. He succeeds the late Marshall A. Howe in this most important post. The list of varieties, compiled under the direction of Dr. Howe will be sent to Dr. Connors, who will direct its future compilation.

The A. D. S. is most fortunate to secure one who has such a wide experience in horticulture and Dahlias to head the committee which will settle disputes as to borderline varieties, name selection and classifications. Any queries by members regarding name permission should be referred to Dr. Connors direct.

We thank Dr. Connors for accepting this appointment.

Professor H. H. Knight—Entomologist

Professor H. H. Knight, in charge of entomology at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, has kindly consented to serve the A. D. S. as official entomologist. Dr. Knight is an ardent Dahlia fan and many will recall the article which he contributed to the BULLETIN about a year ago regarding Dahlias which thrived in his garden during a drouth, with temperatures around 102 degrees.

Dr. Knight requests that where members request identification of pests should send samples of the injury incurred—cut from the Dahlia plant. Also dead specimens of the insects should be sent. A copy of the request and his answers will be sent to the BULLETIN for publication, so that all A. D. S. members may profit from the findings of Dr. Knight.

"Only in that way can he be certain of what causes the trouble," says Dr. Knight, "and be able to give the proper control recommendations. I will be glad to examine materials of this kind whenever received."

Again the A. D. S. is fortunate and we offer through Dr. Knight's acceptance, this service to our members.

Professor Ray Nelson—Pathologist

It is a pleasure to announce that Professor Ray Nelson, Research Associate in Plant Pathology of Michigan State College, has accepted the appointment as Pathologist for the American Dahlia Society for the coming year.

Professor Nelson suggests that specimens of diseased plants for determination should be sent directly to him at the College in East Lansing, Michigan, since delay is sometimes detrimental to the specimens and it is much easier to identify those in fresh condition.

The officers and members of the A. D. S. welcome Prof. Nelson, who is already well known to many Dahliaists.

When you propound a question to the above officers about Dahlias, please send copy of inquiry to Editor Gordon Wasser.

Classification and Schedule

The A. D. S. Schedule Committee is busily engaged weighing the desirability of certain proposed changes for the coming Show.

It is quite likely that there will be separate color classes for pompons in Section A—that miniatures will continue

as to size, under three and one-half inches, with the proviso that they may be entered in competition if they are as large as four inches, without disqualification, but will of course be scored down on this point.

Definite information, and complete schedule will be published in the Summer issue. Meanwhile, if you have any constructive suggestions, or would like specific information on some point for your guidance in planting, drop a line to the Schedule Committee. Its personnel includes Warren Maytrott, Chairman, R. W. Webb, Conrad Frey, Leonard Barron, Edward Lloyd and Secretary C. Louis Alling.

Prof. C. E. Wildon Re-elected

Florists from throughout Michigan assembled at the Michigan State College, East Lansing, February 10th, for the annual business meeting of the Michigan State Florists Association.

Mr. Wildon was reelected Secretary and was called for a talk on "Dahlias for the Florist." His remarks were received enthusiastically by the large attendance.

This matter of placing the Dahlia to the forefront with florists is indeed important and Mr. Wildon has done much in this direction. Briefly, Professor Wildon recommended the following varieties for cut flowers in that section:

Large-flowered: *Cavalcade*, *Michigan White*, *Nathan Hale*, *Mona Gold*, *Autumn Sunset*, *Detroit*, *Marshall's Pink*, and *Miss Oakland*.

Small-flowered: *Baby Royal*, *Fairy*, *Fairy Princess*, *Lorna Wildon*, *Orchid Beauty*, *Little Nemo*, *Jacques*, *Persimmon*, *Barbara Ann*, and *Rapture*.

4 NEW BALLAY-SUCCESS DAHLIAS for 1937

"LELAND STANFORD"—Best and Brightest Big Red, possessing many of the fine characteristics of its yellow predecessor, "California Idol." **\$15.00 Net**

"PACIFIC SPLENDOR"—A true pastel shade, nearly white at the center with the body of the flower delicate lavender pink. Winner of the Achievement Medal at the big Mid West Show. **\$15.00 Net**

"SUNLIGHT"—Bright yellow straight cactus, a cactus of the Ambassador type. **\$10.00 Net**

"SONOMA"—Cream, flesh pink and amber. Informal decorative. **\$10.00 Net**

These varieties are of the same quality as our former introductions which you already know. "California Idol" appears to have been the 1936 Show Room Champion, "Miss Glory," "California Peach," "Azura," introduced in 1936, already have been outstanding. You all know "Satan," "Palo Alto," and our other Giants of the Show Room.

SEND FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

BALLAY DAHLIA GARDENS

PALO ALTO

CALIFORNIA

Dahlias that Still Can Win at the Shows

By Conrad Frey, Nutley, N. J.

Mr. Frey, Chairman of Judges for the 1937 New York Show is recognized as a leading authority and is eminently qualified to write on this timely subject.—Editor.

I have been asked to name approximately fifty medium priced Dahlias, introductions of 1935 and prior which may be dangerous contenders in this year's competitions. There will, of course, be many that I have overlooked, but these are varieties that I am more or less familiar with and probably with proper culture still measure up with some of the best of the later introductions.

Jane Cowl—In my estimation, can measure up with the best of the present day varieties. It is a wonderful flower. Can be grown to at least twelve inches across by about eight inches in depth. It has a splendid color, good stem and foliage and has all that can be asked of a good Dahlia.

Kathleen Norris—Another of the older ones which is hard to beat, having all the characteristics of the former but a little more temperamental in the garden. Nevertheless, it is worth taking the chance of getting a good bloom. This and *Jane Cowl* were the runner-ups at the New York Show for the best vase of the New Jersey origins.

Murphy's Masterpiece—Up to date, I consider this one of the best if not the best red.

Mrs. George Le Boutellier—Another magnificent red, which will make *Murphy's Masterpiece* step in order to win.

Amelia Earhart—One of the big magnificent semi-cactus apricot buff which has good character. Large foliage. It is somewhat difficult to grow.

Hunt's Velvet Wonder—A big monster which needs special culture in order to get good stems. It is advisable to side-branch and let the side lateral come to bloom. This is another one to compete with *Murphy's Masterpiece* for the largest flower at the Show. Color rosy magenta blending to purple.

Jersey's Beauty—Most outstanding pink which is a little undersized to win in the large size classes, but is outstanding in the medium size.

Astec Glory—An old timer which is also one of our best yellows.

American Legion—When grown properly under shade or a cloth house, I believe it is one of the best Dahlias to date. As we all know, this is a very temperamental plant. Color, clear light lemon yellow.

Satan—One of the giants in the semi-cactus class. Color, scarlet. It is also hard to beat.

Ambassador—Soft yellow buff. Still one of the best straight cactus winning consistently year after year.

American Triumph—The best bright red incurved cactus to date.

America's Sweetheart—Another huge yellow. Little temperamental to grow but if right will give stiff competition.

Dahliadel Gold—Grows large and massive. Has good stem and considered one of the best in the gold classes.

Dorothy Stone—Compares very favorably with *Kathleen Norris*, but not so temperamental in growing.

Dr. John Carmen—One of the monster varieties. Formal decorative of tyrian rose.

Eagle Rock Fantasy—Compares very favorably with *Kathleen Norris* but believe that it is a little difficult to grow and requires a little more coddling. Believe it can be grown to a larger size than *Norris*.

Edna Ferber—The parent of *Amelia Earhart*; has the characteristics of the former but there are times when there will be a crook in the stem. Glistening coral color.

Eva Hunt—A medium sized white, but grows well with long stem and has plenty of substance.

Fort Monmouth—Still one of the old standbys. Informal decorative; claret red.

Frau O'Bracht—This is an imported variety of primrose color, varying as to classification from semi-cactus to cactus depending on culture. Still one of the outstanding Dahlias to be contended with.

F. W. Fellows—Old but one of the most beautiful fine incurved cactus—tawny orange.

Golden Standard—A seedling of *Jane Cowl*, with its fine characteristics. A rich gold color and can win in hot competition.

California Idol—Another monster for the yellow class and can win for the best Dahlia in the Show.

Sultan of Hillcrest—Immense golden yellow. It can also win for the largest flower in the Show.

Watching Sensation—An informal decorative with lacerated petals. This has all good qualities and is also very large.

Monmouth Champion—One of the older varieties, but still very popular, due to its color, brilliant scarlet orange.

Palo Alto—Another good semi-cactus; apricot buff. Stems tall and straight.

Myra Howard—Another monster informal decorative and easy to grow. Ochreous orange.

Golden Sonne—This resembles *Ambassador* a lot and is also one of the contenders in the straight cactus class.

Color Sergeant—Has good form and odd color, but if not shaded the color fades out. Otherwise a wonderful exhibition flower of deep salmon bronze.

Imperial Pink—Large rose pink, very shy bloomer but a worthwhile Dahlia.

Jersey's Beacon—One of the good old reds and very reliable in the garden, but does not quite measure up with some of the reds already mentioned.

Jersey's Dainty—A white incurved cactus which up to date is one of the best.

Josephine G—In about the same class with *Jersey's Beauty*, this being a rose pink.

Kemp's Violet Wonder—Still the outstanding violet color and can be grown very large.

Lilac Glory—One of the prettiest cactus Dahlias that we know of. Soft violet rose with silver shadings. Stems are slender but strong. Ideal for basket arrangement and grows very well in the field.

Lord of the Autumn—Considered one of the best yellows of the day. Also a temperamental plant but when properly grown can win for the most perfect and largest bloom in the Show.

Lady Moyra Ponsonby—A Dahlia we don't see or hear much about but one of the most beautiful yellow Dahlias in existence.

Rudy Vallee—Semi-cactus and still one of the outstanding ones. Reddish apricot, golden center.

Sanhican's Camco—A Dahlia sufficiently different in color to justify its existence. Coral rose color shaded pink on reverse with golden sheen, glowing beautiful under artificial light. Sturdy growth and blooms keep well.

Treasure Island—One of our best cut flower varieties. Apricot with gold.

Adirondack Sunset—Another good monster informal decorative; scarlet red with golden tips.

Aiko—A most spectacular semi-cactus Dahlia, cardinal red or deep carmine with a silver reverse at the center of the tips. One of the most attractive Dahlias in the garden.

Andrea Erickson—One of the good informal decorative whites. A runner-up to *Margaret E. Broomall*.

Margaret E. Broomall—This is the outstanding white to date. It has size as well as color. This Dahlia can be grown I believe to the largest Dahlia in existence. Have seen this Dahlia grown to fourteen inches and a perfect specimen. This is also one of the temperamental varieties in the field but it is worth taking the chance of getting "the bloom."

Prince of Persia—A striking bright red exhibition Dahlia with large flower, glowing cardinal. Very attractive.

Jersey's Majestic—As the name implies, this Dahlia stands above most varieties on long erect stems, blooms immense size of coral, shaded and suffused with orange at the center.



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DAHLIAS

Chas. A. Reed Passes Away—

Cont. from p. 17

hunting and owned a large string of fine English setters. During the hunting season he was in the habit of taking a dog and driving up to the New Hampshire woods, to get his bag.

How he ever found time to engage in all his activities was the wonderment of his friends. But he moved quickly. He was a quick thinker, a fast mover, and hours meant nothing to him. But no matter how late he was up at night, he was always astir the next morning at 6:30. Thus he lived the waking hours of two ordinary mortals.

In his home life he was especially fortunate in being very happily married. He was a home lover and liked nothing better than to spend his evenings in the company of his family. A fine son and splendid daughter completed the family circle, the son aiding his father greatly in the Dahlia work. This is indeed fortunate as Harold Reed will carry on with the Success Dahlia Gardens. Thus have been recited, rather briefly, some of the accomplishment of Charles G. Reed. It is just another story of the orphan boy from the country who came to the city and made good. History is full of such achievements. And yet, as I have said early in this story, it was given to few to really know Charlie Reed. Those who did thus know him mourn him as a brother. He was a straight shooter, as the saying goes. He had a fine sense of humor. He loved his fellow men and the commoner they were the better he liked them. He despised high brows and puffed countenances. He had a heart as large as an ox. He was a liberal entertainer and his friends were always welcomed to his home as well as his heart. And to those less fortunate than himself he gave more than a passing thought. He bulked large when averaged with those of this world. Thus do we, who really knew him, think of him today.

The high esteem and affection in which he was held by the citizens of the city where he lived and which he loved, was forcibly manifested by the great outpouring of persons in all walks of life who attended the funeral services in Calvary Baptist Church, Lawrence, on Tuesday afternoon, March 30th, at 2:00 o'clock. The entire west side of the church in front of the pulpit was banked high with floral tributes, a veritable conservatory, and we carried Charlie into the church and placed him in the midst of all this beauty and fragrance.

The Rev. George F. Beecher conducted a beautiful service, simple as would have been Charlie's wish, but impressive and helpful. The singing of favorite hymns added to the solemnity of the occasion.

From Charlie's establishment came countless employees, many of whom had toiled from early morn to complete their work, so that they might pay their last tribute to their friend. And they came in their working clothes. How this would have pleased Charlie.

The National Association of Commercial Dahlia Growers, which Charlie was instrumental in organizing, was represented by the President, George W. Fraser, of Willimantic, Connecticut, and the Secretary, Thomas Leavitt, of Assinippi, Massachusetts. Both of these men, who are Past Presidents of the American Dahlia Society represented this organization and William Kavannah, President, and M. H. Heaphy, Past President, represented the Dahlia Society of New England. All the civic

and trade associations as well as the Masonic lodge to which Charlie belonged, were represented by delegations.

Following the viewing of Charlie by the large assemblage we wended our way to the beautiful cemetery and here we lifted him tenderly and carried him to his last resting place. Good bye, Charlie. May perfect peace attend you.

Alfred M. Miller

Tramp, tramp, tramp the army marches on; its path like a huge spider web invades the very recesses of mankind. Always recruiting time, this vast army knows no set time to summons. The call goes forth these many centuries, be ye prepared and ready. Our ears are not attuned to this incessant call, we heed not until close at hand a dear friend, a relative, a favorite is enlisted. Then what; do we understand, do we meditate, do we check up? Boast not of the morrow for we know not what a day will bring forth.

For quite a long time the call has been sounding until on March 5th during the night he enlisted in the great army of the deceased. He was among his fellowmen for forty-seven years.

Al, as he was familiarly known, was the supervisor of the famous Fleischmann Gardens, officer in the Cincinnati Horticultural Society and Associate Secretary of the Ohio Valley Dahlia Association. His vocation was that of growing beautiful flowers for others to enjoy. A great memorial to his skill will be forthcoming when tulip time with its marvelous display of color and magnitude of twenty thousand blooms, lures tens of thousands of persons in all walks of life to admire.

At other times of the seasons a respite in the usual duties of life is enjoyed, to just meander o'er the serpentine walks through the dedicated gardens for humanities sake, the handiwork of God is on all sides, nurtured by the one time skilled hand of Al. Miller. All this will go on but guided by another hand.

The most direct place where Al. will be missed is in the Dahlia Association. From its beginning, five years ago, he was an enthusiastic officer. Three years ago he was appointed Supervisor of the Ohio Valley Dahlia Trial Grounds. His skill and interest was quickly noted and thousands will remember his gorgeous displays of Dahlias assembled at the O. V. D. A. shows.

Employed by the Cincinnati Park Board, this civic organization suffers a distinct loss for here was a man that loved his work and demonstrated his life's calling in many ways. Always ready to help, advise and listen, he at times seemingly overtaxed his strength. Thousands shall remember Al. Miller for his humanitarian interest, his frankness, and his personality. Shall we say he was a martyr to his profession.

He leaves a kindly, faithful wife and a son, Alfred, Jr., who was only privileged for eight years to enjoy the companionship of his dad. Our deepest sympathies are with these bereaved. Time heals such wounded lives, but the memories of affection and companionship will go on forever, even into eternity. A great heritage is ours as a people for the achievements of this friend, Al. Miller.

G. A. Richardson.

The Dahlia—official Bulletin of the Central States Society, March issue, is just received. As usual Editor L. Louis Roberts has many interesting and helpful articles.

News and Notes of the Affiliated Societies

Secretaries of Affiliated Societies are requested to send their notices as early as possible. Your news should appear in the BULLETIN.

• • •

The Akron Dahlia Society, Inc.

Ross T. Dane, Secretary

Our only unpleasant task at this time is to speak of the death of one of our leaders, and certainly one of our most dearly beloved members, Mr. Claude E. Benedict.

Claude E. Benedict

Claude E. Benedict, 60, Vice-President of The Akron Dahlia Society, Inc., and member of the Dahlia Society of Ohio, died Saturday, February 20, 1937, at his home, 2164 15th Street SW., after a very short illness. Our Dahlia Society can ill afford to lose such a grand member. "Ben" as we all knew him, was loved by all. His words of wisdom and counsel were approved by everyone. We loved him not only as a member and friend but more so because he dearly loved one of God's greatest gifts—Flowers. In death as in life that same spirit still prevailed, marked by many beautiful floral pieces symbolic of the love he held for things created by the Almighty.

•

We really believe that we are no longer looking for the proverbial "Corner" around which lurks prosperity and so many other good things. It actually seems to us that we have rounded the "Corner" and that we are now beginning to enjoy some of the good things we have been forced to forego for so long as individuals, and this individual prosperity is being reflected in the general improvement in our society and its accomplishments. We feel this general improvement to the extent that we are making plans for one of the most elaborate local shows staged in this part of the country for years. Of course we are not expecting to equal the great Mid West Show which is to follow ours immediately, but we do expect to put on a show that would be a credit to any local society.

No doubt some will wonder why we are so optimistic. Well, for one thing we are already doing things and that is one way to predict that we will be able to keep on doing them. We have a new president who seems to be able to get the most out of his committeemen (no reflection is intended toward any of our past presidents either) and these committeemen, possibly due to the seemingly better general conditions have been inspired to pitch right in and go to work. This has resulted in our being in far better shape with our work than usual at this time of year.

We might also state that our membership has increased about fifty per cent, our attendance at our meetings has about doubled, and interest at this time is at a high pitch. As this is generally a hard time to develop interest (this is being written in March) we anticipate but little trouble in holding this interest when we can get out in the garden and start raising some of those wonderful Dahlias.

We have already arranged for the spacious auditorium of the new M. O'Neil Company building for our show. This building is located right in the heart of the metropolitan district, and is easily found by strangers in town, and easily reached by local transportation. It is said to contain about 20,000 square feet of floor space and will

afford ample room for many commercial displays as well as our competitive classes. We might add also that we have already arranged for a rather extensive radio broadcast program to be run just before the show dates. This is to be over station WADC in Akron, which has a fairly large carrying radius so there is no reason for people not knowing about the show. From past experience we expect a very large attendance. So let us suggest, Mr. Commercial man, that you not only reserve some commercial space early, but arrange for an ad in our premium schedule. Contact our secretary for these reservations, or for rates.

We also wish to state that we have broadened our premium schedule to include nearly every known type and variety Dahlia grown. We do not want anyone to leave their blooms at home because we have no classes for them. This schedule will also include a very complete classification for seedling awards. And we are doing all we can to encourage the raising and exhibiting of seedlings.

It is our intention to pay cash awards this year in all divisions, in addition to the customary ribbons and cups. In the commercial division please note that seventy-five per cent of the total entry or space charge will be paid back to the first and second prize winners. At the present time we are angling for the services of some nationally known men for judges at our show. It seems right now that we have a nibble or two. We expect that our judging will be as good as the show, and if it is we expect to be satisfied with both the show and the judging.

Our publicity committee is now publishing a small four page bulletin which is published and mailed just before the monthly meeting to members and prospective members. We look for this to be a really big factor in helping to maintain the present interest, and in building up interest among those we have not been able to interest by other means. We believe it is a good idea and we believe now that it is probably a permanent fixture for our society. We might suggest that if other societies are looking for a way to build up interest, that if you will write our secretary, he will be glad to mail you a copy of this bulletin, so long as they last. We call it the *Akron Dahlia Society News*. As it is not copyrighted we have no objection to any other society using the idea.

We have a very efficient program and lectures committee which is securing a prominent speaker for each of our monthly meetings. In January we had the pleasure of listening to one of our own members, Mr. Dayton Bond, speak on "The Culture of Dahlias." Mr. Bond is qualified and able to discuss this subject and surely gave an interesting talk. In February we had the extreme pleasure of having our good friend Mrs. C. L. Seith, of Cleveland, as our speaker, or should we say instructor. She spoke on "Organization Work" and judging by her talk she knows her organizing. Her talk was certainly enjoyed by all present. For our April meeting we have secured a well known educator and lecturer, Dean W. J. Bankes, of Akron, who is to talk on "The Making of a Life" in connection with flowers. It is too early to comment on this talk except to say we expect to have a good instructive lecture.

Yes, we really believe that we are headed for the best year and the best show in the history of the Akron Dahlia Society. But if you still think we are just blowing off some excess steam we again say: "Come over and

(Continued on page 21)

News from Affiliated Societies—Continued

see for yourself in September." Don't forget that the dates are September 15th-16th, just ahead of the Mid West Show. We'll be looking for you! So long!

In Memory of Alfred M. Miller

Maybe I'm wrong—still I don't know,
I hope I'm right and my heart says so,
That somehow, somewhere, up there above,
There's a corner reserved for those we love.
And in a seat devoted alone for our pal
We will find there waiting, our old friend "Al."

George A. Brayton, Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

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Haledon Floral Society, Inc.

The annual get-together social of the Haledon Floral Society was held Thursday evening, January 21, 1937. Speeches and songs and music and refreshments were enjoyed by all present.

At this meeting it was announced that our Fall Flower Show would be held September 18th and 19th.

Bertha Watson, Secretary.

Michigan Dahlia Society

The regular monthly meeting of the Dahlia Society of Michigan was held at the Statler Hotel on March 31st at which time we had the pleasure of hearing a lecture on soils by Professor C. R. Tyson, of the staff of Michigan State College. This lecture was one of the finest that any of our members have ever listened to on soils and we plan to have it repeated some time in the near future for the benefit of those who were not in attendance.

The plans for the 1937 Detroit show are well under way and we are hoping to have the coöperation of Chrysler Motor Company, in staging this show in their beautiful Jefferson Avenue show room on September 24th and 25th.

Nick Koenig, Lakeside Gardens, has a new greenhouse under way and a week ago had over ten thousand cuttings rooted. This new greenhouse has a capacity of one hundred thousand plants and is perhaps the largest of its kind in the state. He has many new seedlings on trial from many different sources including one hundred or more from Europe. Surely his garden is going to be worth a trip from many Dahlia fans in the United States and Canada, when these new novelties come into bloom.

The Detroit News, Garden editor Ruth Mosher Place, expects to run a full page in the Sunday edition of *The Detroit News* on or about May 16th which should create a good deal of interest and incidentally some business for our commercial growers within a radius of one hundred miles of Detroit. This same thing was carried out in 1936 and resulted in considerable amount of business for commercial growers who advertised in the *News* that Sunday.

Michigan Society Officer Visits Tacoma

On his recent trip to the coast, Mr. Bruce D. Collins spent an afternoon and evening with Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lee of Tacoma, Washington.

Mrs. Lee is one of the great artists in the Dahlia world. She has been scientifically hand hybridizing Dahlias for the past dozen years.

Mr. Collins enjoyed very much their hospitality and attests to the fact that these good folk are a great credit to Dahliadom and that he is proud to know them.

The Dahlia Society of Michigan had a very fine planting of Dahlias at the Zoological Gardens last season, as stated in the November BULLETIN. The Society has made arrangements to make this a permanent planting, and it is our hope to make it equally as important as the famous Dahlia planting at the New York Botanical Gardens. We are fortunate in having a young man in charge of this Dahlia planting who graduated from Michigan

State College, under the tutelage of Prof. C. E. Wildon of Dahlia fame, and who understands and loves Dahlias.

Our planting at Belle Isle will also be continued and with these two plantings at our best known parks, we expect to interest a large number of people in growing Dahlias this season.

Bruce Collins.

Winter Meeting of the New England Dahlia Society

*Report of the Derrill Hart Garden Committee,
Interesting Feature*

The mid winter meeting of the Dahlia Society of New England was held Sunday, March 7th, in Horticultural Hall, Boston. Al Cavannah, of Beverly, president, was the presiding officer. He introduced Charles W. Reed, who spoke on general conditions the past season and Dahlia shows in the east, covering the Boston exhibition and the A. D. S. Show in New York.

Mr. Reed then introduced Lynn B. Dudley who delivered a talk on "Progress in Dahlias—and Dahlia Friendships." He said it was a pleasure to speak about Dahlias in the city which history says was the scene of the organization of the first Dahlia Society in America, in 1907. And where there was considerable activity in Dahlia culture between 1907 and 1909. The Tacoma Dahlia Society was the second society to organize and the American Dahlia Society third, in 1915. The late L. K. Peacock wrote that a National Dahlia Society was organized in 1900, but there is no record today of such an organization.

President Dudley said: "Dahlias are supposed to feed on various kinds of fertilizers—but the truth is, Dahlias really feed on friendships. How many people would attend a meeting like this, to hear a speech like this, if the beauty of the Dahlias in one's garden could not be shared with others?"

"Surely it is not the big profits to be made in Dahlias which keep so many people growing Dahlias—and increases the interest in Dahlias across the country in truly an amazing manner each season. And who would be a Dahlia hobbyist and exhibit them at shows if they had only one form and only a few colors to attract? Lots of people like Zinnias and Lillies of the Valley, but did you ever hear of a Zinnia Society or exhibit at a Lilly of the Valley show?"

"And who of us would care much about the Dahlia if it was easy to grow? If there were no climatic reverses, no voracious pests, no diseases to make it difficult and oftentimes discouraging to grow them, many of us would not spend very much time on them.

"Harry O'Brien, self-styled 'Common Dirt Gardener,' and author said at the dinner of the Michigan Dahlia Society last September in Detroit: 'It seems to me that if it were all easy going in Dahlia culture, you people wouldn't get a kick out of it. It's actually the challenge of difficulties in growing and exhibiting Dahlias which makes so many of us keep on growing them.

"The truth of the matter is," continued President Dudley, "that we can't enjoy Dahlias by ourselves. We've got to meet and discuss them, and even discuss other growers, and we just have to have competitors and problems to overcome. And we have to share our joys of culture with others, even if it's only the neighbor across the way."

And I'm glad that this is so. That's what makes Dahlia societies. That's why we have Dahlia Shows.

Why we drive or travel hither and yon every fall, visiting gardens, shows, and trial grounds, making new friendships.

"The Dahlia seems to be an extraordinary magnet which draws people together. I shall always cherish the Dahlia for the friendship between Derrill Hart and myself. For it was the Dahlia which drew us together and continued our friendship until his death last July 6th. Without this common interest we might never have met. It is in memory of that friendship with Derrill Hart that I offer you the following selection of new novelties for 1937 which grew in Derrill Hart's garden."

The Derrill Hart Garden Committee Reports

Derrill Hart originated Honor Rolls for Dahlias. He frankly said: "Certainly, it is my idea to commercialize Dahlias. Exploitation never hurt a worthy variety. I would not refuse to put a Dahlia on my honor roll because the originator would not advertise it. I have put many on, believing that the variety might not have any other publicity. But those I place on the list are, to my best knowledge and belief, worthy of being advertised. They are the kind of new novelties, I think, the world will appreciate and purchase. All things being equal, I am more anxious to place on the roll those better Dahlias which will receive their merited publicity."

Derrill Hart thus frankly described his motives in making his selections. And thousands of Dahlia fans depended on his judgment as to the qualifications of a new novelty.

Derrill Hart died June 16, 1937, and his planned honor roll for 1937 was never completed.

When he lay gravely ill at the hospital he asked the writer to see that any recent Dahlias which arrived at his office were planted. He requested that we confer with his sister, Mrs. Wyld, and if her garden was filled up, to take the late arrivals to my garden, as I had done in previous years. We assured him we would do so and did later. Before leaving him, we thought that he wanted to speak to us alone, and when the nurse left the room, he said: "Lynn, I've been having a bad time. I probably will pull through all right, but if anything happens to me, I want you to see that those who have entrusted their Dahlias to me, get a report on them. You may not want to go as far as an honor roll, but they ought to know what their Dahlias are doing and how they turn out."

After Derrill died, this conversation was recalled many times. And also the thought came about our many trips together to gardens and shows to see the new varieties. Every fall, during recent years, we made many excursions.

(Continued on following page)

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News from Affiliated Societies—Continued

sions and had numerous discussions about this and that Dahlia. Always I read his story in manuscript and the proofs of his honor roll articles before they were published.

Therefore this request of Derrill's became a solemn and sincere trust.

So, on October 18, 1936, at my request, a meeting was held in Derrill Harts' garden at the home of Mrs. Wyld. Present were E. E. Tooker, Dr. Bruce Preas, Dewey Mohr, Leonard Barron, and the writer.

This group scored every Dahlia there on the A. D. S. official score. And, in giving the results, those who participated felt that in some way the approval of their absent friend was included in their decisions.

Here are those Dahlias which we believe Derrill Hart would have listed on his honor roll for 1937. No attempt is made to list those Dahlias which Derrill would have listed from observation at shows and other gardens.

Miss Ohio. Frank's Dahlia Gardens, Bedford, Ohio. Incurred cactus. Orchid lavender. Healthy habits. Flower five inches. Stem strong. Clear color, does not fade as do many this color.

Autumn Sunset. Lakeside Dahlia Gardens, New Baltimore, Michigan. Informal decorative. Lemon yellow center with spinel pink-red outer petals. Very healthy plant. Flower faces side, stem good. One of best autumn colored among new ones. Exhibition type. Size nine inches and over.

Katherine Koenig. Lakeside Dahlia Gardens, New Baltimore, Michigan. Informal decorative. Red, amber and orange with a yellow tip. A color combination which is unusually attractive. Center is fine. Commercial type.

Bissell's No. 136. Bissell's Dahlia Gardens, Austinburg, Ohio. Semi-cactus. Clear white in color. Has good substance and can be grown large with disbudding. Growth habits excellent.

The Gateway. B. & B. Dahlia Gardens, Port Huron, Michigan. Informal decorative. Color, gold and red. Petals have a red edge giving it quite a distinctive appearance. Good substance, and foliage healthy and resistant. Exhibition.

Honey Dew. Greenough Dahlia Gardens, Braintree, Massachusetts. Formal decorative. Peach, amber and yellow with some pink blending giving unusual effects. Flower faces side. Form true. Foliage helps the flower, stem excellent. Exhibition type.

Following the reading of this list of new varieties which grew in Derrill Hart's garden, President Dudley read a report of the selections from among the new Dahlias, which the officers of the A. D. S. say they prefer and will buy for their gardens. (This selection, under the title, "What's Being Ordered This Year," appears on another page—Editor.)

President Dudley concluded his remarks by urging all present to work for the common good in the New England Dahlia Society and make it an outstanding organization. Then he invited all present to join the A. D. S. and take a real part in making Dahlia history in America. He outlined the program and aims of the A. D. S. and expressed the wish that the first Dahlia Society in the U. S. and the National Society might work together the kindred interest and common problems in Dahlia culture.

Following the talk, President Cavannah spoke briefly, advocated the plan of testing varieties at the A. D. S. Trial Gardens, and invited everyone present to join the New England Society. There followed an open meeting, with questions and answers, several of which were answered by President Dudley.

A reporter was present and a story about the meeting appeared in the *Boston Herald* on Monday, the 8th.

• • •

Ohio Valley Dahlia Association

Annual Fall Show

The Ohio Valley Dahlia Association fall show will be shown at the Hotel Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio, for two days, September 25th and 26th. At this show will be displayed the blooms grown at the Cincinnati Parks, also one of the finest seedling classes, the leading monsters of informal and formal type, the beautiful cactus sorts, the dainty and colorful miniatures and the trim little prompons. Great progress has been made in the development of the little Dahlias. Perfection itself is being found in many of these types. The influx of foreign Dahlias, especially cactus varieties has stimulated interest as never before in growing and showing Dahlias.

Ohio Valley Trial Grounds

The Ohio Valley Dahlia Trial Grounds will be situated in the spacious and beautiful AULT PARK where the last word in soil, equipment, and locality will be found. For the past two years the experts of the Cincinnati Park Board have been pointing toward this ideal location. Now without question, all Dahlias submitted for nurture and testing will find every opportunity to make good. This should encourage growers from all over the country to send their seedlings for trial. Blanks can be procured from the Trial Grounds Secretary, Raymond Moffet, care of the O. V. D. A., 1105 Elm Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

• • •

Peekskill Dahlia and Gladiolus Society

Our Second Annual Banquet was held in the Recreation Room of the Presbyterian Church of Peekskill, N. Y., on the evening of February 9th with some of the foremost authorities on Dahlias and Gladioli as our guests. This event was a continuation of an auspicious

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beginning for the year 1937, as our annual meeting at the Valeria Home Clubhouse in January (reported in the previous issue of the BULLETIN) was also an affair to commemorate, we hope, a successful season.

After a short regular monthly meeting which was held in the chapel of the church, over one hundred members and their guests entered the "Dining Room" attractively decorated with flags and bouquets of pussy willow and forsythia and were seated at the tables to enjoy a repast known only to those who have participated in a meal prepared by the Women's Society of the church.

Rev. Robert H. Blackshear pronounced the invocation after which the dinner consisting of turkey with all the fixings was consumed, which apparently satisfied the most fastidious appetites.

President O'Keefe, acting as toastmaster, introduced the following speakers:

Mr. E. L. D. Seymour, Horticulture Editor of the *American Home* presented the Achievement Medal to Mr. Wilke Todd for winning with *Miss Peekskill* in the seedling class at the 1936 Peekskill Show.

Mr. Lynn Dudley, President of the American Dahlia Society.

Mr. Conrad Frey, Chairman of Judges of the A. D. S. New York Show.

Mr. F. F. Rockwell, Garden Editor of the *New York Times*, who was assisted by Mrs. Grayson in an illustrated talk on "Arrangements."

Mayor James Mackay of Peekskill, who, in a talk, congratulated the society on the progress made during the short time of its existence.

Mr. J. W. Johnston, Horticulture Editor of the *Herald-Tribune* sent his regrets at not being able to attend on account of illness. We missed "Bill" at this enjoyable gathering.

Representatives were present from the following organizations: American Dahlia Society, Metropolitan Gladiolus Society, Dutchess Co. Horticultural Society, New Jersey Dahlia Society, Long Island Dahlia Society, Neighborhood Garden Club, Shrub Oak, N. Y., Highland Garden Club, Cold Spring, N. Y., Tiaronda Garden Club, Beacon, N. Y., Garden Club of Peekskill, N. Y.

We were also honored by the presence of our show managers and judges of the 1936 show, who highly praised the quality of show sponsored in Peekskill. President O'Keefe availed himself of the opportunity to thank all who helped make a success of this affair and also the splendid work done by our show managers and judges at the 1936 show.

Our 1937 show will be held the week-end previous to the American Dahlia Society Show in New York. Look for further announcements in future bulletins. We invite you to Peekskill, where you will see a Flower Show worth attending.

R. A. Vogel, Secretary-Treasurer.

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The Dahlia Society of Toledo

New officers have been elected and show committees chosen by the Dahlia Society of Toledo, which already is preparing for its annual Dahlia display September 18th and 19th in the New Secor Hotel.

Ernest Balcombe, veteran grower, was elected honorary president. The following active officers were chosen: Fred W. Payne, President; A. J. Schlagheck, First Vice-President; Dr. E. W. Kelly, Second Vice-President;

Mrs. Fred Payne, Third Vice-President; Mrs. Hazel B. Hart, Recording Secretary; A. C. Schlagheck, Financial Secretary, and H. B. Mellott, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Balcombe was appointed honorary chairman of the show committee, with A. J. Schlagheck as active chairman and H. C. Bunde, Victor Meinert, Mr. Mellott, Dr. Kelly, and A. C. Schlagheck as members. Publicity committee members are M. Balcombe, W. H. Hart, A. J. Schlagheck, J. Schroeder and E. Lininger.

The following are members of the entertainment committee: Mrs. H. Robens, Mrs. Edna Hanson, Mrs. E. R. Nowicke, Mrs. Roy Crum, Mrs. George Shawley, Alma Mellott, Mrs. Henry E. Bryan, Mrs. J. Schroeder, Mrs. H. B. Mellott, Mrs. W. A. Coy, Miss M. Lewicki, Mrs. L. G. Bistner, Mrs. John Foster, Mrs. H. A. Hacker, Mrs. Victor Meinert, Mrs. H. W. Bunde, Mrs. Hazel B. Hart, Mrs. A. J. Schlagheck, Mrs. Mark Ellis, Mrs. R. J. Plain, Blanche Salkowski, Mrs. B. V. Zamore, Mrs. L. C. Doren, Mrs. Val Thomas, Mrs. E. Lininger, Mrs. A. C. Schlagheck and Mrs. Fred Payne.

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News from Affiliated Societies—Continued

Society of San Leandro, California

The Dahlia Society had their monthly meeting on March 11th. It was decided to give a donation to the flood fund and also to take fifty tickets for the whist party which was being originated for the benefit of flood sufferers by the societies of the various associations. The parent-teachers association; the Soroptimists club; the dads club—and in fact all the clubs sponsored the whist party. Quite a nice sum is expected to be raised. The Dahlia Society also contributed in other directions towards the relief of flood sufferers.

Charles Garrity, Secretary.

• • •

Virginia Dahlia Society

Richmond, Virginia, March 25, 1937

The annual meeting of the Virginia Dahlia Society was held on Friday evening, February 19, 1937, at the home of Mr. R. P. Liphart, 3501 Brook Road, Richmond, Va., at 8:00 P. M., and presided over by the President, Mr. W. L. Elkins, a good attendance was present and after disposing of the regular business of the evening, the society proceeded to elect the officers for 1937, which resulted in the re-election of Mr. W. L. Elkins, President; R. O. Smith, First Vice-President; Dr. A. S. Brinkley, Second Vice-President, and E. Guy Williams, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. H. A. Williams was elected as Third Vice-President.

The speakers of the evening were our esteemed members Mr. A. B. Bauer and Mr. R. P. Liphart, who have lovely gardens, and who grow the outstanding varieties, and who have given many years to the culture of the Dahlia, as well as other flowers and who have both contributed much to the Virginia Dahlia Society. Mr. Liphart spoke at great length on the subject of Dahlia culture, while Mr. A. B. Bauer prepared a wonderful paper on the Dahlia of the future, and from the wonderful exhibition blooms grown last season, despite the bad weather, they certainly are an authority on their subjects.

Door prizes were Dahlia seed donated by an outstanding nationally known seed grower, to whom we are very grateful.

The meeting was a very pleasant one, as well as very enthusiastic, and from the comments already received, looks like a step forward towards a very successful year, and a great show.

Refreshments were served by our host, which was greatly enjoyed.

*E. Guy Williams, Secretary-Treasurer,
3238 Woodrow Avenue, Richmond, Va.*

• • •

New Jersey Society Helps Dahlia Progress

The Dahlia Society of New Jersey, always awake to opportunities, provided one of the most interesting exhibits at the Spring Flower Show of the International Horticultural Society, Grand Central Palace, New York City.

On display were seedlings in the various stages of their growth, as well as cuttings. Miniature Dahlia plants in full bloom created much favorable comment. Members of the society explained to the many visitors the phases of Dahlia culture.

Officers and members of the Executive Committee of the American Dahlia Society, (foregathered for their Spring meeting), attended the Flower Show and this fine display of the New Jersey Society.

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