

# BULLETIN

*of the*

## AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY



Photo, Courtesy Dahliadel

### THE POPULAR COLLARETTE FOR ARRANGEMENTS

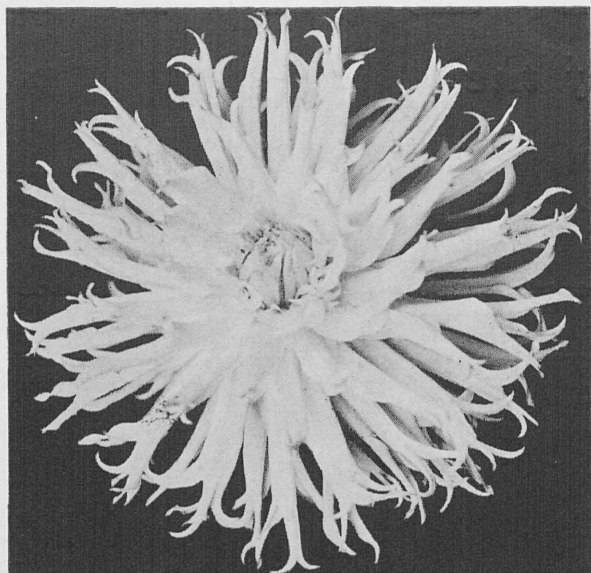
An outstanding one-tone clear lemon yellow contrasted with the deep pollen yellow center.  
Holds up well and easy to grow.

Published Quarterly: February, May, August and November

Issue of May, 1943 . . . . . Second Quarter

(Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office in New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879)





RHYTHM

# DAHLIAS

JUST THE RIGHT TIME TO PLANT DAHLIAS AND STILL TIME TO BUY THE DERRILL HART GOLD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1942. Rhythm won the highest award a Dahlia can receive for its good behavior and high scoring in the various Official Trial Grounds. It scored 85 at Storrs, 85 at East Lansing and 86¼ at West Virginia and Certified at Maryland Trial Grounds in 1942.

Rhythm was awarded an Achievement Medal at Camden, 1941, and was a winner in several Seedling Classes in Baltimore and Camden.

An exquisite beauty of unusual cameo pink suffused soft rose with soft lemon shadings at the base of the petals and center of the flower. Not one of those giants but a Dahlia that just appeals to you with its beautiful color and unique form, with its double serrated tips.

Root, \$15.00; Pot Root, \$10.00; Plant, \$7.50

Our 1943 *Supplement* fully describes Rhythm and JOHN W. SHERWOOD, another 1943 Dahliadel Introduction which is really different, and 20 other 1943 Introductions.

SPECIAL OFFERS are a feature of this SUPPLEMENT and you will find collections listed from \$1 to \$12.

## TRY OUR SPECIAL

**8 Exhibition Dahlias \$3**  
Value \$5.00

CHEROKEE ROSE  
GOLDEN PRINCE  
KILGORE'S KING  
LIMELIGHT

MILTON J. CROSS  
MISS OAKLAND  
MRS. GEO LeBOUTILLIER  
WATCHUNG GIANT

*We suggest you buy your favorites this season as we are reducing our acreage of Dahlias to help in the War Effort, and have so far grown 38,000 vegetable plants for Victory Gardens which are sold locally, and we will grow over 20 acres of soy beans. Get your Dahlias this year while stocks are still good on most varieties to be sure of them.*



## DAHLIADEL NURSERIES

Warren W. Maytrott

Box 14

Vineland, N. J.

\* \* \*

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American Dahlia Society

## Contents for May, 1943

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Subscription Rates \$2.00 per year in advance. Please send all subscriptions and dues to the Secretary, Gordon F. Waaser, 150 Front St., New York, N. Y., or 269 So. Grand Ave., Baldwin, L. I., N. Y. Receipts will be promptly sent.

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<i>Editor, A. D. S. Secretary</i> - -	GORDON F. WAASER
269 South Grand Avenue, Baldwin, L. I., N. Y.	
<i>Associate Editor, "Personals"</i> - -	OLIVER SHURTLEFF
1264 Bryant Street, Fairmont, West Virginia	
<i>Associate Editor</i> - - - -	GEORGENA HUMBLE
232 Ridge Road, Douglaston, L. I., N. Y.	
<i>Associate Editor</i> - - - -	F. V. VEIRS
718 Linwood Avenue, S. W., Canton, Ohio	
<i>Associate Editor</i> - - - -	LYNN B. DUDLEY
18 Interlaken Drive, Tuckahoe, N. Y.	

# "It's Planting Time, Son!"

From a Self-Made Dahlia Man—Hoping for the Best

Oh, boy, if I could only be there with you for a couple of weeks right now! You tell me the season is a month late for gardens in the East. Well, that won't affect the Dahlia season, or shouldn't, because you remember we used to plant, beginning about May 15. The weather ought to get stabilized by that time. But remember to exhibit for the New York Show on September 23rd and 24th. You should plant some hills of choice ones about June 1st. Also, you can time them for the Show, even if some are backward, by pinching back about July 20th. If you are not sure about when to time them, ask that printer man, Mr. Taker; he will be glad to make suggestions, not because he likes me (and I hope he does), but because Dahlias are so much in his blood he is always glad to help young fellows get started in following his own hobby. He could also tell you how to spoon feed them to get 15-inch size, if there was anything to feed them.

But as usual, I'm ahead of my story. I hope you have gone over the stakes and repointed some of them, because you will recollect that we had an early frost last fall, unfortunately before we had all the roots dug, and we didn't have time to get all the stakes out before it froze solid for several inches. So, I know, from past experience, that a number of the points were broken off.

I assume that you have the garden ploughed by now, because you said you were putting in some vegetables as I suggested. I hope you have room for some potatoes because they are so scarce. We don't even get them so often in the Army now. I guess the K.P.'s don't feel so bad over that, either. I can recall, not so long ago, when I had to help peel a couple of truck loads of them for a meal. I think they will be high priced, too, this summer. At least the first of the early ones shipped in will be. So I hope you planted some.

It was great news that you got a couple of neighbors to go in and garden on shares with you. I think that the two best ways to really find out what's inside men and how good guys they are or vice versa, is to go camping with them or make garden with them. Some men seem to like to shirk their fair share of a partnership job. Not all the "soldiering" is done in the Army, son. But most of my friends, thank goodness, have a sense of balance, give and take, or whatever you call it and want to do more than their part. And you can always "tie to" fellows who want to do part of your job.

And just for your book, I can truthfully say that I don't know of a Dahlia grower today who would put one over on you. There is something about Dahlia growing, in the case of the hobbyist grower, particularly which seems to bring out the best in a fellow.

So it will be a wonderful experience for you to see just what these "garden partners" turn out to be. I'll bet you really get to know how fine men they are just out there in the garden. And don't forget to do some of their jobs occasionally. Sort of pile up your credits for good turns out there in the garden, son. I want to hear about your experiences with them some day.

Don't forget, son, that out in the garden you can get to know people as well as flowers and vegetables.

But to get back to the Dahlias. Set the stakes for the large varieties at least 3 feet apart (I like 4 feet even better). Drive them in first, after laying out the rows and measuring the distance between for at least the first row. After the stakes are in, dig the holes and don't be afraid to dig deep. Turn the dirt over so it will be loose, for the root structure of either plant or root can form more quickly and spread out to suck up the plant food from the soil, far easier if the soil is soft. Leave the hole only partly filled in. In other words, son, set plant or root down so roots will be about 5 inches below level of soil. Some say set them shallower and some say deeper. But that depends on the soil structure. If sandy they can be 6 inches deep, or if it is clay soil probably  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches is enough depth.

Be sure to put the tar roofing paper strips around plants to ward off the cut worms. After plants are hardened off—say 3 inches—you can remove the strips.

I forgot to say, but I'm sure you remember that as the stalk grows, fill in the hole you have left below surface.

When you put in the Dahlias I suggest you drop a handful of that tobacco dust I left, in each hole. There's a lot of nitrogen in tobacco dust and it helps to keep wire worms and other underground grubs and chewers away from feeder roots when they are forming.

You won't be able to fertilize as much as I used to do. There's some left over and I think you ought to use it sparingly, because you are not able to buy balanced fertilizer for flowers, only vegetables, during the war. And nitrogen is going into ammunition and we can let the fertilizer and cover crops of rye and vetch I've been putting in there for a good many years do the Dahlia feeding this year. We need that nitrogen out here pretty bad right now. I wish we had more of it for the big job we've got to do. Yes, I might even say, doing.

I know I've told you a lot of things here that you probably know, but I thought I might as well give you the whole story rather than only part of it.

Put the labels on the stakes carefully. Because it's only by looking at the flower and noting the name that you will some day be able to name Dahlias you see on the Show table—or in some one's garden. And knowing the various varieties by their coloring and formation of petals will be valuable to you some day when you get to be a judge. Photograph each different Dahlia in your mind so you can tell some day if a new and similar variety is as good or doesn't quite measure up to the one you know has won in stiff competition.

As the plants grow, begin to tie them up as they get about 2 feet high. Be sure only one eye produces a stalk at each hill. If more come up cut them off carefully below the surface and as near the root as possible. Of course, in case of small types, you can let two shoots come up if you want a spreading low bush—say for a border plant. But be sure in this instance to

(Continued on page 13)



# Victory Garden Classes Added to A.D.S. Show Schedule

With the approach of planting time, our thoughts are not only centered on cut worms, borers, beetles, and where do we get our fertilizer; but we hold many a prayer meeting—if necessary a revival meeting—on this root and that plant with which we fully expect to win at the Hotel Shelton in September.

Your Show Committee is completing plans for our annual exhibition on September 23rd and 24th at the Hotel Shelton, at Lexington Avenue and 49th Street, New York City. Facilities for staging and exhibiting are assured us which, together with the ideal setting of the Hotel Shelton's banquet hall, promise to produce one of our outstanding shows.

Our schedule has been revised downwards as to number of classes, to meet the reduced floor space. We have also made a change in the number of classes calling for one bloom, which we hope will be of interest to exhibitors. We especially invite your attention to the special classes in Section H. These classes appear for the first time in one of our exhibitions, and their continuance depends upon the amount of interest which they arouse.

Mrs. Van Hoesen and Doctor Preas have drawn up a brief schedule for Victory Garden products, which we feel will be of much interest since we are all doing our bit in that direction. The egg plant with which Doctor Preas won eleven gold medals at eleven separate shows last Fall, is still in a state of exhibition perfection, and he will no doubt lay this same egg for blue ribbon hatching on September 23rd. We are hoping to have a few poultry classes for Past President Frey but fear that the election laws of New York City forbid feathered chickens in the hotel banquet hall.

Your Society needs your efforts now as never before. Your Show Committee knows that it will have your complete cooperation.

HENRY OLSEN, *Chairman.*

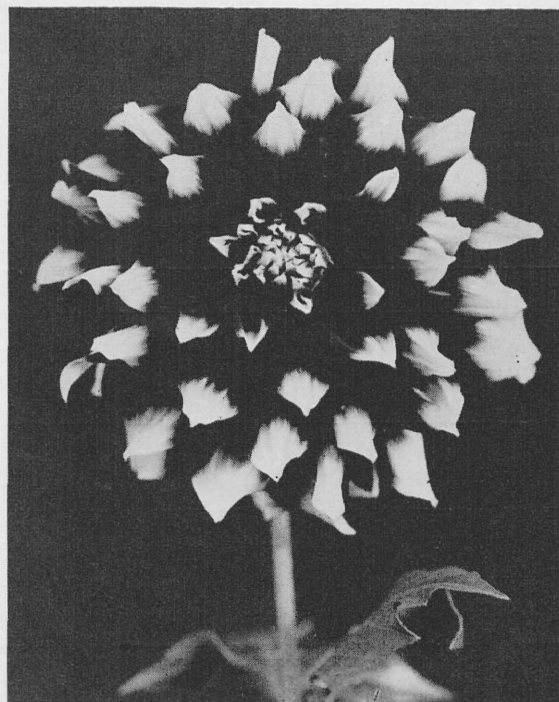
## Vegetable Classes

OPEN TO AMATEURS—MUST BE GROWN  
BY EXHIBITOR

*Paper Plates Provided. All Entries One Variety*

### Class

1. Beans, lima,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint shelled.
2. Beans, green, shelled other than lima,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint.
3. Beans, green snap, 12 pods.
4. Beans, yellow snap, 12 pods.
5. Beets, 5, tops off.
6. Cabbage, 1 head.
7. Carrots, 5, tops off.
8. Celery, 1 stalk.
9. Chinese cabbage, 1 head.
10. Cucumbers, 12 small pickles.
11. Cucumbers, 3, slicing condition.



WANDA MEADE—The Bi-Color which the New York Florists Club honored with their Bronze Medal.  
Introducer: Parrella Dahlia Gardens

12. Eggplant, 1.
13. Kohlrabi, 3, not over 3 in. in diameter.
14. Lettuce, 1 head.
15. Onions, 5 mature, dry scales.
16. Parsley, 1 plant.
17. Parsnips, 5 tops off.
18. Peppers, 3.
19. Pumpkin, 1.
20. Rutabagas, 3.
21. Squash, summer, 1, shell not hardened.
22. Squash, winter, 1 mature.
23. Tomatoes, 5, large variety.
24. Tomatoes, 10, small variety.
25. Arrangement of vegetables in a basket or hamper, 5 or more varieties.
26. Arrangement of vegetables in a flat dish or bowl suitable for a table centerpiece.

Sweepstakes—\$5.00 cash.

Outstanding entry—\$5.00 cash.

Best display of vegetables—open to all—\$10.00 cash.

# 1942 Winning Varieties

By J. Louis Roberts

Real busy, are you? Forgot to order that Dahlia you saw at the show last year? Can't remember what it was? Well, here is a list of blue ribbon winners of the principal classes at the Chicago, Milwaukee and Indianapolis shows. It may help you.

For several years I have kept my own records. I notice that sometimes a Dahlia drops out, but later reappears. "Pride of Milwaukee" is one that hasn't been on my records for several years. It won last fall.

Missing from this list are such good Dahlias as

"La Reina"—Autumn F. D.; "Murphy's Masterpiece"—Red or Crimson I. D.; "Katie K"—Pink I. D. All are well known. They will probably come back. "Cherokee Brave" and "Jean Trimbee" seem to be in a class by themselves. At least, my lists for the past few years show no competition.

The new Dahlias being introduced this year are not on the list. I find it takes from one to three years for their names to appear.

I hope this list will be useful to you.

## J. L. Roberts' List of 1942 Winning Varieties

Color Class	Formal Decorative	Informal Decorative	Semi-Cactus	Cactus
White	Darcy Sainsbury Croydon Cream	Alice May Mother's Day Mother Hendricks Peace	Edith Willkie Michigan White Link's White Majesty	Jersey Dainty Ballego's Surprise Josephine Klimpt Snowball
Yellow	The Governor Yellene Class	Lord of Autumn Norman Morton Ginger Rogers	Yellow Comet Tops Kay Francis	Yellow Giant Frau Ida Mansfield
Autumn	Beau Nuance Heart of Milwaukee First Lady	A. J. Parker Mrs. C. J. Sowton Rita Wells Sun Ray Wm. Shinkfield	Evelyn Chandler Amelia Earhardt Columbia	Golden Standard Stephen Foster
Scarlet or Flame	Mrs. C. E. Wildon	Margrace Trojan	Satan	Nancy Ann Mitchell Bernice Tylman Angelus
Red or Crimson	Oakleigh Monarch Fire Ball American Victory B. B. Carroll	Red Pilot Dean Shurtleff Sheldon Louise Velvet King	Red Jug Lynn Fontaine Maffie	Son of Satan Louise Arduini Dulcinea Thunderbolt Kilgore's Lucifer
Maroon or Dark Maroon	Mavis Tierney A. E. Heil	Cherokee Brave	Virginia Rute Mary Lynn Dudley	Eemland
Purple	Gloria Bacher Deep Purple	Eventide Hi-Speed Croydon Chief	Jean Trimbee	Zenith Kardinal Von Rossum
Lavender or Mauve	Croydon Acme Blue River Ruth Nicholas	Progress Robert Ripley	Bette Davis	Miss Ohio Madame C. Jussiant
Pink or Rose	Marie Gillman Beauty Victory	Marion Smith Pink Giant Molly B	Pink Amelia All-American	Moonbia Andreas Selecta Julius C. Bunge Jessica King
Blends	Leah Pearl Mrs. Duncan Guy	Silver Lady Maid Marion Hillside Sunset Freda George	Enkart's Prima Consul General Quist Chappaqua Sunset	Mary Taylor Greater Glory Crowning Glory
Bi-Color	Prexy Jeanette	Power House Kentucky Sportsman	Koki Figaro	Flash



# President Ed Lloyd and Dewey Mohr Honored at Scranton, Pa.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society held its annual banquet at Scranton's Hotel Casey on April 3, 1943. Many events have been held by this organization in the past. They were the social events of peace times. This belated gas and food rationed banquet took on a martial aspect. Invocation was offered by Mr. Earl Holmes. Dr. Ralph Armstrong handled the role of toastmaster. At the beginning of the banquet he asked the guests to stand in silent tribute to the memory of William Nunneville, who recently passed to his heavenly reward. National President Lloyd reminded us that the A.D.S. is now a gold star organization because of the tragic news concerning President-elect Smith of the New Jersey Dahlia Society who had been reported as missing in action in the North Atlantic. Dewey Mohr discussed the wartime schedule of the A.D.S. He advocated the judicial planning of victory gardens. He advised against wasteful seed planting and excessive purchase of seeds and advised his listeners to wait for the proper time for planting. He announced that the A.D.S. schedule for 1943 would have ample sections and classes for victory garden displays, but that the schedule would be predominantly for Dahlias, as in the past.

Mr. Frank Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Parks of the City of Scranton, paid tribute to the organization for its assistance at the Nay Aug Park Dahlia Gardens. "Were it not for these blooms the citizens of our city would be denied the beauty of these latest originations," he said, and expressed the hope that Nay Aug Park would continue to be the civic center of Dahlia display.

Gold medals of the N.E.P.D.S. were awarded to President Ed Lloyd and Mr. Mohr. The medal was awarded to Mr. Mohr for his sincere devotion to our local organization and for special merit in the selection of new originations. The gold medal of the society was awarded to President Lloyd for his personal contributions to the success of our program and for outstanding work in the American Dahlia Society.

The entertainment was provided by Miss Lottie Schrive, and Earl Holmes, Jr., soloists, and Herman Bonnett, magician. The banquet committee consisted of Dr. E. F. McDade, Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Charles Huesner, Mrs. Ralph Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lewis and Mr. Earl Holmes.

EDWARD F. McDADE, M.D.,  
Secretary.

## Timing Blooms for Show

It is no secret that successful exhibitors of larger flowering Dahlias prune very severely, permitting only one to four blooms to develop on each bush. Also that a great deal of water, used at the right time, has more to do with size than any so-called force fertilizer.

But the real trick in getting that bloom ready for the proper date of the show is timing.

If your plants are large at planting time, pinch at the top immediately and as the sprouts emerge only permit two to grow. In the case of smaller plants, do not pinch at the top.

For the average variety, final pinching out is done about two months before show date or mid-July. As the branches appear, permit only one, two or four to grow. Buds will show about mid-August. Disbud by removing small side buds and permit the center bud to develop. If the bud cluster appears a little too early do not disbud right away but wait a week or so until the buds get larger and then remove the center bud and save just one side bud. Result will be to retard blossoming and produce longer stems.

Inverted peach baskets secured to three stakes are good shades for the blooms. Place them in position when bud shows color. If the bud is a little early for your Show requirements, shade earlier, but it will make the color paler.

Generally speaking, a tiny bud will require thirty to thirty-five days to fully mature into an Exhibition flower. A bud showing color takes one week.

## Col. Eddy Will Grow Dahlias!

Many of us feared that our good friend and Pacific Coast Honor Roll scribe would have to forego growing Dahlias when he entered Uncle Sam's service last Winter.

Col. Eddy commands a crack regiment in Wyoming and will plant his patch at the camp.

Most of his root stock was lost, due to moving. Those who would like to have Col. Eddy test their new seedlings are invited to send two roots or strong plants not later than June 1st, to Col. Richard T. Eddy, 4th Q. M. Tng. Regt., Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyoming.

In a recent letter the Colonel relates, "I am able to obtain necessary space in our greenhouse to carry on some Dahlia propagating, and can have all the help (also horse manure) I need. However, the wind blows so strong out here that unless it is planted in a sheltered spot, the dirt just blows away from the roots. Young trees must be staked and tied. It presents a very serious problem for our Regimental mascot (a \$300.00 English bull presented to us by Bette Davis). Trees are so few and far between he is getting sore feet making his rounds twice daily. We will probably have to put up a few 'relief posts' between the trees."

## Correction

In our Show Schedule published in the February BULLETIN, Class 276:

Flower Grower Award should read "Certificate of Award is offered for the best *Undisseminated* variety, etc." Exhibitors will please take careful note.

## William H. Nuneviller

At the time when Bill's heart failed he was within two, perhaps just one generation away from being able to produce what type, what color of Dahlia he wished.

Bill aimed for the top; he aimed to produce "the Grand Giant Showroom Champions of all times."

Did he?

The leading prize-winners throughout the United States—as I have each year compiled them—totaled 215 varieties in the years 1938 through 1942, five years. These varieties are from Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, England, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the United States—from the whole world. But twenty-four of Bill's were among these 215. Bill competed against the world; came off with his varieties over 11 per cent winners. Bill led the world. Eight of his varieties won twelve American Achievement medals. He won as well the Leonard Barron medal and his Everybody's Favorite in 1939 took the Futurity. His fellow commercial growers also gave Bill first place, for out of the 1942 Experts' Dahlias—a list I annually compile—Bill had eight out of this list's sixty-four, more than any other grower.

And both prize-winners and leading Dahlias were Bill's originations—not his introductions, his originations.

And what for the benefit of all Dahlia originators, all Dahlia growers, all Dahlia lovers were Bill's methods?

His production of seed:

He planted early. "This coming year," he wrote me December 29, 1941, "I am going to get my seeds early, during the months of May and June. You can easily cross what varieties you desire out of doors and there will be no interference from some unwanted variety as that variety will not be in bloom. This will work out as I gathered quite a few seeds this last Spring." "In later years," his brother Jo wrote me this Spring, "he would plant his matings in flats, using only sand and peat, where he could control his pollination in a more exact manner. Most varieties will give a few seed when planted in flats and allowed to bloom there. When the seedlings were large enough to spot he spotted them in flats and later they were put in the field. He never used fertilizer on seedlings; many a good one has been ruined the first year by too much feeding." And then Bill himself said in the BULLETIN for May, 1939, "In gathering seeds it is necessary to pull out all the outer petals of the bloom you have selected for seed purposes as soon as these petals have wilted or died. Several 'pullings' may be necessary before the dead petals are all removed and the pod has closed. The pod should be left on the bush until it commences to turn brown, then removed before it becomes too dry and opens or you are very apt to lose your seeds. The pods should then be dried out and the seeds removed." Again from Brother Jo, "He kept his seed in a cool dry place until planting time."

And then Bill had a patch in Australia, the "Salem Seed Patch." "Every other plant in the patch is the parent while the crosses are such Dahlias as—" and then he names a list of the most outstanding Dahlias.

This handling technique is not the heart of Bill's success. What was the parentage Bill used?



"The first Dahlia we experimented with," Jo writes, "was Casper G. Ware. This responded to our plans so readily that we were encouraged to go on." And in the BULLETIN Bill said: "It is not always the most outstanding Dahlias that produce the new winners. At least 50 per cent of the crosses were originated from the seeds of my parent Dahlia. My parent was Sonny Boy, which was the son of Aztec Glory. You can trace practically all my originations back to the old Aztec Glory blood." "Sonny Boy," says Jo, "was the foundation of his strain."

What were Bill's great Dahlias? Listing them in the order in Experts' Dahlias, in the order of the number of catalogs into which they have attained, there are: Robert L. Ripley, Glamour, Blue River, Royal Purchase, Greater Glory, All-American, Progress, America's Sweetheart, Everybody's Favorite, Sonny Boy, Stephen Foster, Clara Barton, Crowning Glory, Flash. Was Crowning Glory Bill's own favorite? He called it "probably the largest and most beautiful incurved cactus to date."

Bill won. Bill told his methods, his strains. The Dahlia is progressing, is a more dependable, a better-stemmed, a larger flower than twenty years ago. Yet, in general we know nothing of the basis of all flower progress, we know next to nothing of parentage. I have a list of over 11,000 Dahlias. Of these only 444 have known parentage, and that only on the seed side; the pollen parent is almost wholly unknown. What a contribution to Bill, what a monument to Bill that we should record and publish the parentage of Dahlias! He who was so generous, so wise in his giving out of information would feel he had done well were his accomplishments to result in that Dahlia strains, such good characteristics as he combined to make better in Dahlias, should be known.

*(Continued on page 15)*



# Are You Putting Your Shoulder to the Wheel?

By F. V. R. Veirs, A.D.S. Vice-President

Some time ago I visited an old friend who is a well-known and highly respected Dahlia grower. I asked what he thought about an article in a recent issue of the A.D.S. BULLETIN. He told me he neglected to get his advertisement in that issue. It developed he had also neglected to pay his dues in the society and consequently received THE BULLETIN only when his advertisement appeared.

I read THE BULLETIN from cover to cover and there is never an issue that does not contain an item or article that does not have interest for me. I believe that to be the case with most of the fans. If you miss reading one issue, maybe you have missed the best article of the year or, at least, the one which would have interested you most.

Friends, you need the A.D.S. and THE BULLETIN and they need you. Be loyal to the society nearest your home because you want to help your society and see it thrive, but do not forget the fact that if we do not have a strong A.D.S. our home society is very likely to suffer. In the A.D.S. BULLETIN you get real information as to the new and old varieties, the results of the various trial grounds, articles written by those who know Dahlias, the news about the best Dahlias in foreign lands, and the ads of the leading and trusted growers. Let your friends read THE BULLETIN and induce them to join the society. It will help to make real fans of them and help the A.D.S. to push a better BULLETIN. It will give encouragement to our President, Edward Lloyd, who works hard at improving the A.D.S. It will help our editor, Gordon Waaser, who is doing a wonderful job, and I understand his only compensation is in believing and hoping he is doing a hard job well. He is glad to have you make suggestions on how to improve the Society and THE BULLETIN. Come on you good old "backsliders." Put your shoulders to the wheel and let's go to town.

## Ohio State Show

It is with regret that we inform our friends and Dahlia fans that the Ohio State Show will not be held in Wellsville next September. We asked for the show last fall, but owing to the shortage of tires, men and women working shifts and other things unforeseen at the time we asked for the show, it will have to be cancelled. Our local show will be held as usual.

We think the war will not affect the fogs on the river or on the hills around Wellsville and East Liverpool. These towns are only six miles apart and the conditions are just the same in both.

All of the exhibitors are amateurs and we have been told by many visitors and judges from a distance that our flowers have been pretty good. We want to grow better flowers, so we are getting a book from a famous authority and judge with the hope that our friends will

really see some good blooms next fall. The fogs have helped in the past but when we learn the proper technique we hope to exhibit some real blooms. The writer lives in Canton, but is a member at Wellsville and East Liverpool and has done a good deal of bragging about the flowers grown at both places. The good people from Wellsville and East Liverpool invite you to both shows next fall. *They want to show you.*

I was very sad when I read in last issue of THE BULLETIN that my friend William Nunniviller had passed to the great beyond. I think he was successful as a Dahlia grower but he never told me so. I think he was the greatest originator of Dahlias in this country or for that matter in all the world, but he did not brag about it. To me, he was Bill, my sincere friend. He sent his new ones far and wide for trial and they were seen in every part of the land and in most every show. He trusted his friends to send the stock back and I think they did in every case. All the Dahlia fans in the Middle West that I have seen, had a good word for Bill, and we join in sending our sympathy to his wife and family, and we certainly wish them success in carrying on where Bill left off.

## "WANDA MEADE"

### For Your Victory Garden

This marvelous bi-color dahlia received a first and a special at the A. D. S. show in New York, 1942, also received a bronze medal from the New York Florists' Club. It is truly a deserving prize winner!

*Wanda Meade* has beauty as well as grace. It has long keeping quality on the bush, as well as after it is cut. In fact, one of the members of the N. Y. Florists' Club, who had the pleasure of taking a few blooms home, reported to me that *Wanda Meade* lasted for ten days in the vase and outlasted any other variety.

Please note: *Wanda Meade* is on two Honor Rolls. Your garden will not be complete without it. Do not overlook the rest of our 1943 introductions, namely: *Frances Decey*, *Vin Well Dainty*, *Anna Aldrich* and *Mrs. Cortis Ray*.

Send for our free illustrated catalogue listing nearly 300 varieties, large and small; reasonably priced.

## PARRELLA DAHLIA GARDENS

3380 Ely Avenue

Bronx, New York

# 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."

EDWARD B. LLOYD, *President*

10 Crestmont Road, Montclair, N. J.

GORDON F. WAASER, *Sec.-Treas., and Editor*

269 South Grand Avenue, Baldwin, New York

## EDITORIAL

It is pleasing to report steady growth in our Society notwithstanding the serious war conditions.

Since our last issue we have one new Branch Society, many new members and quite a few new names added to our regular Participating Society lists.

Much credit belongs to the secretaries of some of the societies who are doing outstanding jobs.

One instance, in particular, should be related—it may be just the sort of service your local Society needs:

The Western Pennsylvania Branch is using unique mailing pieces, created by Mrs. L. D. Hislop, one of the country's outstanding Dahlia secretaries. News letters of general interest are conversationally phrased and beautifully set up on lithographed letterheads, depicting patriotic themes—quite the nicest communications your editor has seen in a long time.

If you are having difficulty arranging meetings in your local Society, due to transportation difficulties, here is a means of keeping member interest to a marked degree.

The A.D.S. needs another thousand members—not just anybody who will send in a check, but real enthusiastic Dahlia lovers, who will be willing to help put the Dahlia in its proper place in American gardens.

This magnificent flower of ours in its myriad of colors, forms and sizes, should be seen in every good garden. The surface has not been scratched as yet. A small group—no matter how willing—cannot do this job. Won't you please go a little bit out of your way to send in memberships—and for those few who have overlooked remitting for their own dues—how about sending that check now.

## Dahlia Society of Toledo Becomes a Branch of the American Dahlia Society

Dahlia Society of Toledo becomes a Branch of the American Dahlia Society.

Another link in the ever-strengthening chain of important Dahlia Societies was forged in March when the Toledo Society decided to become a branch Society of the A.D.S.

Our officers for 1943 are as follows:

President—John A. Saalfeld.

1st Vice-President—Carl A. Sattler.

Second Vice-President—Herman Bunder.

Third Vice-President—Harold M. Smith.

Secretary—Hazel J. Winey.

Treasurer—Mrs. John Schroeder.

September 11th and 12th are the dates of our Show. Mr. Charles H. Smith is Chairman, and H. E. Winey, Secretary.

## Rooted Cuttings Are Not Difficult to Handle

Growers who have cold frame facilities have an easier time growing on cuttings than those who do not have such convenience.

Today shippers know much about preparing cuttings for shipping right out of the sand and if rules are followed through, success will crown the efforts of the purchaser.

When rooted cuttings are expected, have ready a basket of good potting soil, kept slightly moist, and a supply of clean three or four-inch clay flower pots. Upon arrival carefully remove the little packages from the carton.

Each paper package contains the cutting packed in damp moss.

Do *not* remove the cutting at once. Simply loosen the paper at the top of the ball of moss and with a small pitcher, give each about two spoonfuls of water. Stand in a cool, dark place for a couple of hours to allow the cutting to take up the moisture and harden up a bit.

Then very carefully untie the little package and remove the moss—do not injure the feeder root.

Plant the cutting in flower pot and firm the soil very well.

Fill the soil to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of the top of the pot, then water well.

Place the pots on the cellar or garage floor—away from draughts.

For the next three or four days it will only be necessary to sprinkle the cuttings lightly—do not over water.

Then sink the pots outdoors in a protected spot. Nail several laths to a couple of strips on 4-inch centers. Support them with stakes a foot above the plants to give partial shade and afford wind protection. At night throw heavy paper or a frame cover over the lath.

After the plants have become accustomed to the outdoors, the lath may be removed during the daytime and used only at night to support the cold protecting covering. In two to three weeks from the time of receipt you will have splendid plants for setting out permanently in the garden.



## Mid-West Show

As we go to press it is practically certain that the Mid-West Show will be held in connection with the Annual Exhibition of the Central States Dahlia Society at Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, September 18th and 19th.

While gas rationing and travel regulations do place limits on our ability to get around, we ask all who can, to exhibit and participate, and we feel sure the Show will be a very creditable one.

## Central States Dahlia Society

Show time again—that is, as far as planning and getting out schedules, etc. Central States is deep in making plans for its annual show September 18th and 19th at Garfield Park Conservatory.

At our annual election in January, the following were elected as officers and directors for Central States Dahlia Society:

President—Dr. S. D. Tylman, 123 S. Elizabeth Street, Lombard, Illinois.

Vice-President—James L. O'Brien, 38 Ashland Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

Vice-President—Leo D. Garis, 900 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois.

Secretary—Mrs. H. J. Bluhm, 4723 Lawn Avenue, Western Springs, Illinois.

Treasurer—F. C. Gossweiler, 2222 Lunt Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Director—F. J. Clifford, 1028 So. Washington Street, Park Ridge, Illinois.

Director—H. L. Cummings, 9944 S. Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Director—E. A. Schoenlau, 841 Bradley Place, Chicago, Illinois.

Director—Earl L. Weinstock, 672 Center St., Winnetka, Illinois.

Mrs. H. J. Bluhm.

## Dahlia Society of Kentucky

Plans are being made for our Annual Exhibition in the Ship Room of the Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Ky., September 25th.

Mrs. W. F. Kleinjohn.

## Insecticides Scarce?

In many localities Dahliaists will not be able to procure their favorite insecticides.

To such we suggest spraying your plants as soon as set out with arsenate of lead and repeating every few weeks. Alternate with nicotinic sprays. Even soapy water will be helpful in controlling certain insects.

A very successful Long Island gardener practices this with regularity and also controls insects in his victory garden in the same manner. Cabbage and leafy vegetables are sprayed with arsenate just once when the plants are young—never when near the heading stage. He also sprays with nicotine once a week.

Tomatoes, beans, etc., are sprayed with arsenate just as they blossom—then with nicotine every week or so.

- - - NOW IS THE TIME - - -



*All the newest and finest varieties are described in our catalogue, which is free for the asking. . . .*

With summer just around the corner, now is the time to order your new Dahlias.

We all need the Dahlia to brighten up the long days ahead.

As we are still operating our greenhouses to their full capacity, we are well prepared to give our usual good service and deliver our usual fine stocks.

**Golden Rule Dahlia Farm . . . Lebanon, Ohio**

# What Happens When You Send Your New Varieties to the Trial Grounds

If you knew what a lot of love's labor lost, or something, goes into cultivation, spraying, fertilizing and the like for your varieties to help them do their best at the four official A.D.S. Trial Grounds, you would realize that the privilege of sending them there for test is real and rare—and all in your favor.

Three dollars you pay for the testing don't begin to pay for the labor even which is lavished on them in normal times, but labor at Trial Grounds now is something to whisper about and hope will be available.

And the judging. Some of you may have complained about because it didn't turn out as you hoped—it's all done on time given free by Dahlia lovers who travel many miles, even with gas rationed now, to judge your flowers. Yes, they pay their own expenses also when they go up to spend weary hours judging, so you may reap the reward if your Dahlia scores 85 points or more.

So, friends, these Trial Grounds are something special, just made to order, and serviced unselfishly just to make more interest in Dahlias and help you. Cash in on your new varieties.

The men who run them have for years given freely of their time, solely as a way to improve the quality of the new introductions. Nobody makes any profit out of the Trial Grounds but the originators, whose new undissemminated varieties, at least two years old, are sent for testing.

So if you have a new one or two, which you honestly believe to be better than any existing varieties in their classes, send them to the Trial Grounds in time.

And if you would like your new ones to compete for the Derrill W. Hart Medal, send them to three of the Trial Grounds listed below. *But most important, please*, enter them in all Trial Grounds under the same number. Then if you receive a certificate, send the name you have chosen for it immediately on receipt of notice of score, *to each Trial Ground* to which you send it.

This is necessary so that essential records can be kept simultaneously at all Trial Grounds and proper reports made to the Derrill Hart Memorial Medal Committee which check scores to determine which varieties in each classification score highest in all three or four Trial Grounds, for best average score to determine winners in Derrill Hart Medal competition.

## THE FOUR OFFICIAL TRIAL GOUNDS

*Eastern*—University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., Prof. Rowland Patch.

*Midwest*—Michigan State College, East Lansing, Prof. C. E. Wildon.

*Ohio Valley*—Cincinnati, Ohio, O. W. Mills, 3628 Kroger Ave.

*Mid-South*—Fairmont Teachers College, Fairmont, W. Va., Dean Oliver Shurtleff.

LYNN B. DUDLEY,  
Chairman Trial and Test Garden Committee.

## SUGGESTION

A few new dahlias will "pep up" that ol' garden of yours. A better garden will pep you up too.

**BUT**, most new dahlias need a lot of extra care. Now that you are working beyond your normal capacity, you won't "feel like" pampering your dahlias after a hard day's work is finished. Ever try our plants? They need less attention and give greater enjoyment.

Better lay the foundation for that "satisfied feeling" by sending for our **DAHLIA BLUE BOOK** today. It is full of useful information, and in it are listed most of the "great" dahlias of today. You'll want to keep it for reference. A post card will bring you a copy **free**.

**Rocky River Dahlia Gardens**  
19111 Story Road, Rocky River, Ohio

## THE BULLETIN

### Integral Part of the A.D.S.

The BULLETIN has been—somewhat appropriately—called the blood stream of the American Dahlia Society—the tie that binds us as members to a common cause.

Its importance was recognized by the organizers and charter members who made sacrifices in order that it might be published regularly.

Today thousands eagerly await its receipt every quarter.

Perhaps you would like to know something about how it is planned and prepared.

First and foremost, it is under the capable direction of President Ed. B. Lloyd, and it reflects his purposes for the advancement of the Dahlia and the Society. The Editor is appointed by the Executive Committee and serves without compensation on a voluntary basis—likewise the associate editors contribute in the same category.

Each issue is planned many months in advance. More material is always prepared than actually used since we are governed largely by the amount of advertising the particular issue carries.

Unfortunately, commercial Dahlia growers are not as a rule good business men—they are not trained to the



value of continued good advertising—hence they do not use BULLETIN space as much as would prove wise. It is obvious that our regular advertisers soon become the leaders in the Dahlia industry. Each issue of the BULLETIN is read by a certain number of new fans yet how few commercial growers cater to their favor! No commercial grower should fail to have his name before the membership of the A.D.S. in every issue of the BULLETIN. None can afford to be without this representation—particularly in view of the fact that a matter of \$16 per year would provide a 1-inch ad in each and every issue! And yet how few take advantage of the opportunity.

The editorial matter is prepared with the viewpoint of interest to the greatest number of readers and does not favor one section over another.

Each issue contains cultural information pertinent to the season.

Your Editor spends many hours and is engaged in voluminous correspondence months before publishing date.

However, we must remember that our writer contributors and our advertisers are not paid employees and while we follow up and urge cooperation so as to publish on time, it is very difficult for all to line up.

This current issue was prepared by our printers for issue the first days in May, but five or six items not received on time, held us back twelve days!

Ordinarily the average magazine sets a dead line and goes to press on that date. However, in our case frequently several of our largest advertisers are late with their copy. Were we to close without it, it would be necessary to delete much valuable editorial copy, thereby greatly reducing the effectiveness of the BULLETIN.

Fortunately we have a first class printer and a very efficient mailing house. When the green light is flashed they get the issue into the mail mighty quickly.

Uncle Sam's mails are heavily congested and non-deliveries are on the increase. We ask the secretaries to notify us if any member who is entitled to receive the BULLETIN does not get his copy in due time. We check our mailing lists for additions and corrections twice weekly so as to avoid as far as humanly possible errors which might cause inconvenience and delay.

### “IT'S PLANTING TIME, SON!”

(Continued from page 4)

pinch the tops out of these early, in fact several times.

I hope your seedlings are up. I wrote a Dahlia guy you know and asked him to grow a couple of hundred seedlings in his greenhouse and deliver them to you. They should be ready to set out about June 1st. And son, I want you to watch those very carefully. It was from similar seed that I got those last two I introduced and one of which was named for your sister, remember it?

If there are any real swell ones in this lot, they are your property. If you think they are better than any others which approach them in color and size, send them to the A.D.S. Trial Grounds after the second year and see if you can get a certificate of merit. If you do they will be worth, no, I won't say exactly they will be worth it, but you can get at least \$10 per root in that event.

Don't forget to spray the plants as often as you can.

## “SHANGRI-LA”

### *The Dahlia with a glorious future*

A strikingly beautiful yellow dahlia deeper in color than “Lord of Autumn”, richer and more brilliant. Formal Decorative type with plenty of 6" x 3" blooms poised beautifully on straight, stiff wiry stems. Artistic holly green heavy, insect resisting foliage. In actual tests “Shangri-La” kept equally as well as “Jersey Beauty” and “Michigan White.” Cut blooms positively will not shatter. Root production is good, wintering well and propagating very easily. “Shangri-La” was enthusiastically received at the New York cut flower market, the most critical market in the world, where it was much sought after by leading New York Florists. An Honor Roll Dahlia that won in the New York A.D.S. Show and the Rockville Centre Dahlia Show. Because of the insistence of several American Dahlia Society officials we are releasing “Shangri-La” this year.

Root \$10.00

Plant \$3.50

## THE RAINBOW GARDENS

(JAMES BURNS)

8 Prospect St. - - Baldwin, N. Y.

Use what is left of the Dorris root (Rotenone) spray. Then get any good commercial spray for leaf hoppers and aphids. I don't think you'll be able to get any more Rotenone until after the war, as it is now restricted for sale to farmers and only for three types of crops. But spray as much as you need to, to keep the hungry insects off.

Well, son, I better sign off 'cause I've got to roll out about daylight tomorrow morning. Probably I've missed something I should have told you, but I'll cover some more do's and don'ts in my next missile, if I'm still around.

Bye Son, good Dahlias.

DAD ATURE.

## Growing Pompons and Miniatures for Exhibition

The real secret of ability to win in stiff competition is to have a goodly number of blossoms to choose from.

Poms and Miniatures may be planted before Decoration Day. Plans or roots should be two and a half feet apart. Use good soil and only a small quantity of fertilizer.

When the plants are a foot high, pinch out the tops and pinch again about July 1st. Then, as buds form, let them bloom along from about August 1st on.

By mid-September you will have large bushes, each containing many blooms of greater uniformity.

A partially shaded location will usually produce longer stems and better color.

In selecting Exhibition specimens, perfection and uniformity in size and color are to be desired.

## Western Penna. Branch Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Our regular November meeting was held the 19th at the Garden Center, in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, with a fine attendance. Mr. L. D. Hislop was added to our list of officers as 2nd vice-president. Two five-minute talks were given by our own members: one by our president, Mr. A. G. Banks, on "New Dahlia Introductions" and one on "Making Cuttings at Home," by Mr. G. E. Heil. After a lively question and answer period among the members we had a splendid illustrated nature talk by Mr. Phillip Walker, naturalist at River View Park, Pittsburgh. In spite of rationing, the ladies served coffee and cake to top off a most enjoyable and instructive evening.

Weather, distances, rubber conservation and gasoline rationing all considered, we substituted a "News Letter" to our members, for our regular January meeting. It read as follows:

Western Penna. Branch  
AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

February 15, 1943.

Dear Members:

In these war times difficult situations arise and we mustn't let them get us down. Gasoline and weather being in the state they are, the Executive Committee decided a January meeting would be inadvisable, so we'll just settle down in a comfortable chair at home close to a radiator or fire and pretend we're at a Dahlia meeting.

Perhaps some of you were not able to get out to the October and November meetings. Too bad, for they were both interesting. The officers elected at the October meeting for the coming year were: Pres. Arthur G. Banks; 1st Vice-Pres. Henry Retzer; 2nd Vice-Pres., L. D. Hislop; Treasurer, R. D. Motznik; Secretary, Mrs. L. D. Hislop. Board Members: Mrs. C. E. Stoner, F. E. Kording, C. R. Isherwood and J. G. Barry.

In November, short talks were given by our own members on Dahlia subjects, followed by a delightful colored illustrated nature talk by Mr. Philip Walker. War or no war, coffee with sugar, and cake with frosting were served.

We must not forget our Dahlias. Catalogues are beginning to come in already. It is best—for full enjoyment when reading them not to look out the window, but select a cosy spot where you'll be nice and warm. Maybe you'll want to try some new introductions or some you saw at the show.

Does your patch need more variety in size or color? It does no harm to think about it now even if the thermometer is at zero. Perhaps you feel somewhat as the small child in the following poem:

"The snow clings to my mittens,  
It will not brush away—  
It stiffens up my woolly coat  
And makes it hard to play.

My leggings are all covered  
With sticky flakes of snow;  
I'm not so very comfy,  
If you would like to know.

Just where I am now standing  
A garden blooms in spring,  
With crocuses and tulips  
And every sort of thing.

I wondered if the flowers,  
Who cannot walk or see,  
Are all stuck up together,  
And feel as mad as me!"

It's remarkable how different a garden can look in summer and in winter.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to poke an investigating finger into the packing in which you've stored your tubers, just to see if they feel firm and smooth. Any decayed or badly dried out tubers should be taken care of. Cut out the decayed tubers and sprinkle a little water on the dried up ones. They may plump up if not too far gone.

Perhaps the decay is due to poor circulation of air or ventilation in your storage place. It's a good idea to figure out your space—look over your stock and see if you have the makings of a well balanced patch as to size, color and variety. You may need to order some new Dahlias or replace favorites you've lost.

If you plan to grow from seed, it is time to order now and be sure to get them from some reputable dealer. There are two

kinds of Dahlias grown from seed: "Unwin Hybrids", often referred to as "annual" Dahlias, which produce innumerable blooms of little or no lasting value, or the other type, representing the results and efforts, by hybridizers, to develop new worthwhile Dahlias; here's another suggestion: sharpen up on your tools—a dull cutting knife or spade aren't much good.

Don't forget your fellow Dahlia enthusiasts or your Dahlia Society.

"Since you have already grown Dahlias, just keep it up—the Dahlia is a flower you can brag about."

ELIZABETH HISLOP,  
Secretary.

At our last meeting, held at the Garden Center in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, on April 1st, no foolin', we carefully went over a list of new Dahlia introductions compiled by our president, Mr. A. G. Banks, giving all the details dear to a Dahlia grower's heart, about each Dahlia. A very practical talk on "Soils and Soil Conditioning," was given by Mr. J. R. Stech, Naturalist, Bureau of Parks, Pittsburgh. After the long winter it was good to get together again and we had a good attendance and a sociable period over refreshments after adjourning.

ELIZABETH F. HISLOP,  
Publicity Chairman.

## Care in Handling Plant and Cutting Shipments

Commercial growers exercise much care in packing to insure arrival in good condition.

Examine the box and ascertain where the final closing aperture is and open at that point. Then clip any strings or thread which may have been used to hold individual plants tightly in place. Remove carefully each plant. Give the plant water and place in shaded place, away from draught or wind.

Plant in the evening. If you have time to give your plants a little extra attention, place a peach basket over each plant during the hot sun and remove in the late afternoon. After three days the baskets may be removed entirely.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society plants Nay Aug Park Dahlias as a Society activity. The seedling section is supplied annually by our commercial friends. If you wish to add, send three (3) of any variety, seedling or disseminated. Ship stock to Earl Holmes, Chairman, Park Commission, 1121 St. Ann Street, Scranton, Pa.

**\$2.00**

### SPECIAL OFFER

Your choice of any two plants for only  
\$2.00, or all four plants for \$3.75.

Top Flight—S.C.—Crimson Red	\$2.00
Clara E. Peth—S.C.—Pink-White	1.50
Enchantress—S.C.—Orange Buff	1.50
Lady in Red—S.C.—Scarlet Red	1.50

**ORDER NOW**

**Geneva Dahlia Gardens, Geneva, O.**



## Dahlia Society of New Jersey

We are faced with the sad news that President Ray Smith is reported "missing in action" since February.

It is difficult for us to realize that Ray Smith will no longer be with us. And the manner of his taking makes it more difficult. When a person approaches a "natural" death, he at least has had some chance to fight it off. But to be struck down as with a knife thrust in the back in the dark, without warning, with no chance for succor—this brings home to us more clearly the horrors of a ruthless war.

Ray was a reticent chap, almost painfully inarticulate, except on the subject of Dahlias. When discussing these, he would warm up. As one of the younger generation coming along, he and we were just beginning to realize his capabilities. He had successfully run the exhibition of the Dahlia Society of New Jersey in 1941 and was elected president for 1942. He directed the show of that society in 1942, and was reelected president for 1942, even though his approaching absence made it apparent that he might not be able to complete the term actively. He rendered valiant service in staging the exhibition of the American Dahlia Society in 1942 and gave promise of being able to take over the show management in a few years.

As his own business was first curtailed and then eliminated through the necessity of war-time restrictions upon materials, he saw an opportunity to serve his country in a civilian capacity and was on his way to his post of duty when his ship was torpedoed and sunk. Thus the tragedy of war comes home to us.

So Ray Smith is gone from among us. We may be sure, since he strove for beauty on earth, that where he is is beauty. And if it was to be that he would have come back to us, he would be looking for Dahlias. So let us, in memory of him, keep alive the Dahlia, to the end that others, perhaps more fortunate than he, will find upon their return that we have not let them down, that we have, amid all the turmoil brought about by war, maintained that beauty in our gardens that is inspiring to us and that has become part of our normal lives. Let them come back from the sordidness of war to a beauty that is not an expression of apathy but is a significant exemplification of our need of flowers for completeness of living.

\* \* \* \* \*

The date of the Dahlia Society of New Jersey's annual exhibition has been changed to avoid a conflict in dates with the Kearney & Arlington Garden Club, from Saturday, September 18th, to *Saturday, September 11th*, at the Garfield School, Kearney, N. J. Let us all cooperate to make this, and every show, a tribute and a memorial to Ray Smith.

### WILLIAM H. NUNEVILLER

(Continued from page 8)

William H. Nuneviller was born in Salem, New Jersey, March 5, 1876. In Salem he lived his life. His first business was ice. In 1923 he and his brother Joseph entered the Dahlia business. This partnership was later dissolved, Joe taking the name American Dahlia Farms, Bill retaining Salem Dahlia Gardens. Bill has one daughter, Mrs. Mildred Weisgerber. In Salem, Bill died February 8, 1943.

MORGAN T. RILEY.

### FRANCES DEWEY A Tooker Origination

OUR NEW 1943 INTRODUCTION

The Dahlia you have been waiting for!

A 14" x 9" Scarlet Red, semi-cactus Dahlia. Grows on fine stems, with flowers both top and facing.  
PLANTS ONLY—1 Plant \$10.00—2 Plants \$15.00 net

### EDITH WILLKIE A Tooker Origination

The greatest white Dahlia of all time. Undefeated in 3 years of the toughest competition. A pure white semi-cactus Dahlia which grew 14" x 10" in our gardens this year.

Fine divisions—\$5.00 each; 4 green plants \$5.00; 2 green plants \$3.00; 1 green plant \$2.00.

ANNE TOOKER

100 Windsor Avenue, Rockville Centre, N. Y.

## San Leandro

The San Leandro Dahlia Society will hold their Annual Show on Saturday and Sunday, August 28th and 29th.

The Society held its election of officers on January 12th and the following are the officers for 1943:

President, Paul W. Brannon; first vice-president, F. Zell; second vice-president, Mrs. J. Parle; directors: A. Arbini, J. F. Groves, Stanley Allen, T. L. Sjöberg, Al. Nashman, Chas. Perry; secretary and treasurer, Chas. Garrity.

Our Society is in a flourishing position and it was decided to offer prizes for collections of vegetables grown in Victory Gardens. Classes for children as well as grown ups. The Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the Boy Scouts in their Victory Gardens.

The secretary read a letter from Lt.-Col. N. W. Armstrong, somewhere in Great Britain, in which he mentioned the gardens of England, and it was the opinion of all the members that we should name him our International Representative. The city of San Leandro, known as the City of Sunshine and Flowers, is now well on its way to become the City of Vegetables, as the whole city recently turned out at a meeting of the Home Food Production, which the city is backing, as well as the Chamber of Commerce.

In the BULLETIN for November I was interested in the article, "Save the Root Crop." I am of the opinion that it would be a great idea to be able to send our roots to our Dahlia-loving friends "Over There."

In storing my roots, I have found that to cover them with newspapers helps to preserve them, and, if there is a tendency for them to shrivel I place a container of water in the cellar or shed where they are stored. I also, when digging, leave about 9 inches of stem, then when they dry a bit I cut it down to 3 inches and turn the roots upside down. This, in my opinion, allows the water to come from the hollow stem which, if allowed to remain, would set up the stem rot. I have frequently found that the eyes have rotted when not turned upside down. Of course I am referring to our California climate, but I think this system will answer anywhere. I hope this may help some of our newcomers.

Yours for better and more Dahlias.

CHAS. GARRITY.

## Portland Dahlia Society

Thank God for the Dahlia. Just a wee bit of retrospection. A year without a parallel in the history of our country has just run its course; a year filled with heartaches and disappointments, one in which we took our destined place in the great struggle for freedom and seen our loved ones go forth perhaps never to return. A year of enlightenment as we who stay at home take our place in the defense lines and begin to learn what war really means in terms of manpower, taxation and shortly the deprivations which a rationed food supply is bound to bring. Rationed gasoline and rubber have eliminated most of the forms of relaxation to which we are accustomed. Recently a lady who has always been an "attender" was asked why she never came out any more. She literally threw up her hands and said all she could think of nowadays was the war. Does she take an active part in Red Cross and like activities? No. Does she raise flowers and Dahlias? Again no. As I look over the people I know I find the ones who raise flowers and, of course, Dahlias, are not only taking an active part in all defense work (not considered in terms of dollars) but are approaching their tasks with an equanimity, a freshness of body, spirit and mind that is utterly lacking in those who can "think of nothing but war." To the man or woman who comes home from a long, hard day in the defense plant, there is a wealth of beauty, dignified stateliness and withall strength in his "Dahlia patch" that cannot help but refresh him mentally, physically and spiritually. So, again, I say, "Thank God for the Dahlia."

I referred to disappointments. The Dahlia grower on the West Coast has had his share the past winter. After raising what was probably the finest crop of roots grown in many years we had the worst rains on record here. Not that they were so unusually heavy, but were so incessant that the ground remained saturated at all times. It was impossible for many to dig their roots even if help had been available, and many lost their entire plantings. This includes both amateur and commercial growers. But do you see them throwing up their hands and quitting? Not so you could notice. Quitting is a vice unknown among real dyed-in-the-wool Dahlia fans. This spirit is reflected in our Society. Regular monthly meetings are being held as usual with a good attendance, even if we do have to take the bus instead of our cars and out of town members even have to stay over night to attend. We even get so interested in comparing notes and discussing the new varieties we are going to get to replace those lost, that it takes a strict disciplinarian to get us settled down sufficiently to transact the routine business of the evening. All are going in heavy for Victory Gardens, but the Dahlia is a "must" with all of us.

Perhaps our loss is a blessing in disguise. Our President, P. F. Kershnik (K for short), is a nut on disease recognition and eradication. He can talk the hind leg off a mule on that subject and make it interesting. In fact he has got the rest of us as nutty as he is. The State Horticultural Inspectors and the Research Department of the Oregon Agricultural College are co-operating with us in this work and we hope eventually to make this section of the country famous for its disease-free stock. And I mean disease free. I have visited plantings where the grower bragged that his planting was such and really felt I should visit a fumigating plant before venturing into my patch again. Even with consistent heavy roguing there are always a few old standbys that we feel we must keep a plant of. Well, they are gone now and our consciences are clear.

Plans for our annual fall show are already under way. The date is not definitely decided but we expect to hold it the latter part of September. It may not be quite as extensive as usual, gas and tire rationing prohibits that, but anything that is lacking in size will be more than made up by the quality of the exhibits. Many of our commercial growers are in the service and lack of help and transportation will prevent those remaining from putting on their usual large displays.

Our monthly meetings are fully up to the standard set by our President the past two years. This is his third term. We won't let him resign. The January meeting was devoted to a discussion of Dahlia storage. G. A. Westgate, one of our pioneer growers of exhibition stock, was the principal speaker of the evening, his talk being followed by a round table discussion of individual methods and their success (or failure).

The meeting on February 8 featured Dean Collins, the genial editor of the Oregon Journal Garden Section, in a talk on "Flowers in the Victory Garden." He urged the members to save at least a skeleton stock of their choice bulbs and ornamentals, as these will be needed when the war is over and people again turn their attention to beauty in the garden. He stressed the care of garden tools and asked all to be particularly careful not to waste any seed. Dean Collins has an inimitable way of presenting homely truths and his statement that our soldier boys are all thinking of their homes as they were when they left, gave us all a new incentive to keep our gardens beautiful.

The March 8th meeting was devoted principally to a discussion of fertilizers, with Mr. R. V. Sleeman as the principal speaker. He reminded us that with both nitrogen and potash allocated to the manufacturers of war materials, we were going to have to depend on manures, and cover crops to provide this important item. He specially called our attention to the question of the acidity or alkalinity of our soils as regardless of the food elements in the ground, if the ground does not have the acidity or alkaline reaction necessary to the particular plants we are raising, they are not able to assimilate the food that is there.

The April 12th meeting will feature the annual sale of bulbs by the society. Members bring surplus bulbs of their better varieties and these are auctioned off either as single roots or as collections, according to the desire of the bidders.

The Grim Reaper has again visited our ranks. At the turn of the year our genial treasurer, F. S. Gannett, lost his wife, while the snows of mid-January saw the passing of one of our oldest and best beloved members, Mrs. M. Tarditi, mother of our assistant secretary, Ernestine Tarditi. Mrs. Tarditi was never so happy as when working in her Dahlias and we are going to miss her gentle smile at our monthly meetings. She culminated her years of exhibiting in the amateur class by winning the Sweepstake prize at the 1942 Show.

## Stem Rot—What Will We Do About It?

From all parts of the country come reports of excessive loss of root stock this winter due to stem rot.

Even new introductions, the stock of which is watched with especial care, has been hard hit this year and sales have had to be cancelled due to inability to fill the orders.

Small amateurs in a number of cases have reported complete loss causing discouragement indeed.

Your Editor believes that no other problem confronts the Dahlia industry as a whole with the serious aspect as stem rot.

Means must be found to minimize or eliminate this scourge unless serious inroads to the progress of growing Dahlias are to be encountered.

It is most natural for a flower lover to become imbued with the Dahlia bug.

And usually there is little hesitancy in buying fairly expensive varieties.

By following cultural directions carefully, results in growing are usually good.

Then comes the thrill of digging rich dividends from the investment—roots which if wintered successfully would be worth more than the purchase price.

A few weeks after the clumps are placed into winter storage the dreaded stem rot commences.

More experienced growers watch their stock at regular intervals and cut down the loss percentage.

What is stem rot?

How may it be avoided?

Can it be eliminated?

These are questions we must find answers for and that right soon.

The A.D.S. does not have the sizable funds necessary to defray investigation by plant research specialists. Our commercial growers are not organized to do a co-operative job—yet it is decidedly in the interest of these that suitable solution be found.



## Have We Access To the Right Kinds of Dahlias?

The following remarks are prompted by the contributions of Bruce Collins and Charles Garrity in recent issues of the BULLETIN.

With some of their conclusions I agree, but others are in error and show a lack of perspective.

Briefly stated, they make a plea for cut flower Dahlias, and, while they do not condemn the growing of very large flowered varieties, they believe that these can only be grown satisfactorily under cloth to obtain the results seen at the various shows. Also it seems, though not definitely stated, they do not approve of the large number of new varieties which the growers try to foist on the public at ridiculously high prices.

Let me take the first item—a plea for more attention to the production of cut flower varieties. Here the grower is hardly at fault as there are scores of moderate sized flower varieties on the market, so much so, that even if a new one does not make its appearance for another generation there will be a large number of exquisite subjects from which to choose. I am reminded of a little story that emphasizes what I want to bring home. A newly wed bride complained to her grocer about the flour he had sold her. "It was tough," she said. "Tough, madam," said the grocer. "Yes," said Mrs. N. W. haughtily, "I made a pie with it and it was so tough my husband could not eat it." Many of us in the Dahlia world are like Mrs. N. W. We blame the introducers, but do not see that we are at fault for not rounding up what we want when it is there in abundance.

Now to take the second point. I do not concede for a moment that the large flowered varieties can be grown to perfection only under cloth, nor do I believe that any large percentage of run of the mill exhibitors use this material. At our own St. Louis Show we usually have exquisite blooms, carefully grown, and well exhibited, large varieties and small ones, new and old, yet there is not one exhibitor who grows under a cloth house. We have in this Society a number of crazy nuts who think of little else but Dahlias, and give all their spare time to producing marvelous flowers, in a climate that is perhaps the worst in the country for Dahlia culture. I have also seen, and grown, these big ones in the open field, where they have not been subjected to any particular care, produce blooms as exquisite as any that have been specially cared for. To produce Dahlias with the same ease as zinnias, however, is impossible. It is a specialist's flower and requires attention. One reason the average backyard grower fails is that he dumps his plants into ground permeated with tree roots. This is the greatest source of failure with the backyard grower.

Nobody, outside a madhouse, would have the desire, or need, to purchase any but a very small fraction of the new Dahlias each season. If he needs any at all, however, he should use judgment and discrimination, and read between the lines. For instance, we see such a statement as this—"sometimes the size of the flower makes it so heavy that the stem will not always remain upright." Surely this means that the variety has a weak stem, and if it will not support its flower it is worthless. Then descriptions of color and form, show-

ing more or less duplications of other varieties, could readily bar them from purchase. It is not possible to obtain something different so easily.

A recent BULLETIN gave the names of 65 new varieties. How many of them are outstanding acquisitions? The time has come when the raiser must realize that he has killed the goose that lays the golden eggs. It is much to be doubted whether any among half the introductions will be ordered, and the proportion may well be much lower. Much of the stock of new varieties passes from grower to grower by exchange, and is sent out, for a year or two after, at reduced prices. This I know from actual experience. It adjusts itself in time, as the majority of these high priced wonders are soon down and out.

Honor Rolls as published, at present, are not like the ones so painstakingly compiled by the late Derrill Hart. Not only did he give the best novelties each year, but he told of the subsequent performances of their predecessors. The awards of merit of the Dahlia Society would be good indications of the value of a variety, if, before being offered to the public, it was subjected to trial, which would, of course, not always be possible. Also all varieties could not be exhibited at the National Show, but the fact that no variety shown at the last Exhibition was deemed to be worthy of the American Home Achievement Medal, points the way the wind blows.

I believe a Dahlia should be grown, not for its size only, but for its beauty also. A variety producing 8-inch flowers, with beauty, poise and substance, is the equal of one-half as large again. While personally I like them big, the smaller ones are more useful in my cut bloom trade, though I have many customers who will always buy the large flowers.

Bruce Collins writes of the production, each year, of seedlings, and infers that many of these are such that most backyard amateurs will rave about them, even if they only produce 8 or 9-inch flowers. This is true, and I have, each year when sending out my green plant list, included an odd one or two in this way. They are readily bought, and give pleasure to my customers. Many of these varieties are equal to those advertised at high prices.

I wonder how far your correspondents would agree with me that the following Dahlias, some of them purely cut flower varieties, are among the best ever raised: Bette Davis, Brilliant Lady, Amelia Earhart, California Idol, Carl Dahl, Chautauqua Dawn, Cherokee Brave, Discovery, Frau Ida Mansfield, Gillman's Beauty, Good Night, Jean Trimbee, Kentucky Sportsman, Lord of Autumn, Michigan White, Milton J. Cross, Pink Giant, Rita Wells, Robert L. Ripley, Rudolf's Giant, Sunrays, The Governor, Virginia Rute, Sonny Boy and Waite's White Jersey's Beauty. None of these is very new.

I am afraid this is pushing my neck out!

H. E. WARD,  
Webster Groves, Mo.  
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## Humus—Soil Builder

Humus, which is decayed organic matter, is undoubtedly one of the major factors in the growing of plants. Humus is especially necessary where the soil micro-organisms are plentiful and so active as to make applications of organic matters necessary.

Many gardeners believe in the theory that manure is applied to the soil for its nutritive value. This idea is not correct for if it were, it would be a very expensive and inconvenient method of incorporating the nutrients into the soil. A complete fertilizer is less expensive; it is applied with greater ease, and it supplies a greater quantity of plant nutrient to the soil. However it is also wrong to believe that manure does not contain any nutrients, as it does. Nevertheless, the nutritive value is secondary to the colloidal and bacterial action of the manure.

### IMPROVES ACIDITY

Soil reaction, or pH, is influenced by the amount of humus in the soil. This is particularly true because the pH is due to the relation of the bicarbonates to the carbonates. This means that in a very alkaline soil humus provided by decomposed peat, muck or manure will improve the pH value of the soil by making it a little more acid.

One of the chief values of humus is its ability to improve the physical properties of the soil. Humus binds the particles of a sandy soil closer together, thus reducing the rapid drainage and aeration; it spreads apart the fine particles of clay soil, which enlarges the pore spaces and improves drainage and aeration. A gardener's problems are much less difficult when the conditions of drainage and aeration are optimum.

Soil chemistry affects plant growth immensely, and the use of humus for the part it plays in soil chemistry is essential. Humus acts as a soil buffer or protector for plants. It keeps excess minerals and toxic materials from harming the plant roots; in this case humus helps to make gardening more fool proof. Humus aids in making soil nutrients more readily available to the plant because of its production of organic acids and carbon dioxide. It is to be remembered, however, that the nutrients must be in the soil before humus can do this work.

### TOO MUCH HARMFUL

Because of the loose granular structure produced in a soil with adequate amounts of humus, and the texture of the particles of humus themselves, as soil has better absorption properties, and yet drains well. There is a closer relationship between soil air and soil water when the humus content is right. Too much, of course, tends to hold water and the soil takes on the properties of pure peat or muck.

Organic materials such as manures of all types have very little plant food value. In fact, a good grade of cow manure contains only three-fourths of a unit of nitrogen, one-half unit available phosphoric acid, one-half unit of potash and practically no minor elements. Certainly the value of organic matter and humus does not lie in the amount of plant food it contains; it is valuable for its physical properties.

Argonomists have proved many times that grass (as

well as many other plants) make its own humus when it is properly and regularly fed. Every year about 15 per cent by weight of these fine roots die and remain in the soil to decompose and form humus. Humus added to the soil in this manner is automatically placed right where it is most needed. One needs only to think back to the early days in conquering the Western plains to visualize the kind of a soil found with dense vigorous growing sod, soils loaded with humus because of the root activity. This same condition can be seen even today when the sod along a fence row is plowed for the first time.

## To a Hitler Victim On Christmas

### FEUD

*By Lew Sarret*

Poor wayworn creature! O, sorely harried deer,  
What drove you, quivering like a poplar-blade  
To refuge with my herd? What holds you here  
Within my meadow, broken and afraid?

Tilting your nose to tainted air, you thrill  
And freeze to wailing wolves! Fear you the sound  
Of the coyotes eager for a tender kill?  
Or yet the baying of the hunter's hound?

Let fall your anguish, harried one, and rest;  
Bed yourself down among your kin, my cattle;  
Sleep unperturbed, no spoiler shall molest  
You here this night, for I shall wage your battle.

There was a day when coyotes in a pack,  
Wolves of another hue, another breed,  
With lust upon their lips, set out to track  
Me down and drop me for my outcast creed.

O, hunted creature, once I knew the thud  
Of padded feet that put you into flight,  
The bugle-cry, suffused with thundering blood,  
That trembled in the brazen bell of night.

I knew your frenzied rocky run, the burst  
Of lungs, the rivers of fire in every vein;  
I knew your foaming lip, your boundless thirst,  
The rain of molten-hammering in your brain.

Bide with me then, against the wolves' return,  
For I shall carry on the feud for you;  
And it shall be, to me, of small concern  
If the wolf-hearts walk on four soft feet or two.

Oh, let them come! And I shall burn their flanks  
And whistle molten silver through their ranks  
With a blast of hell to end their revelry  
Laughing—one round for you and one for me.

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