

# The DAHLIA

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Central States Dahlia Society



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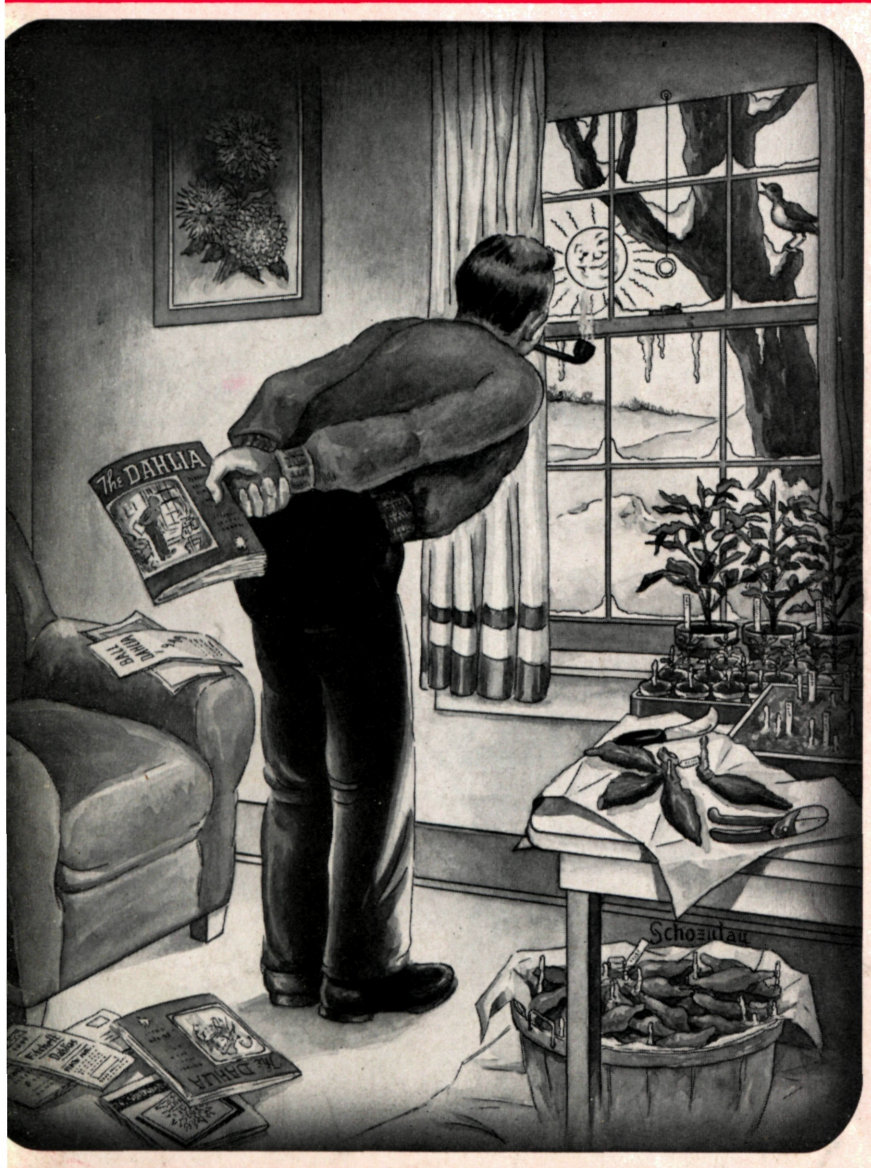
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VOL. 18 . . . . . No. 1

**SPRING 1949**



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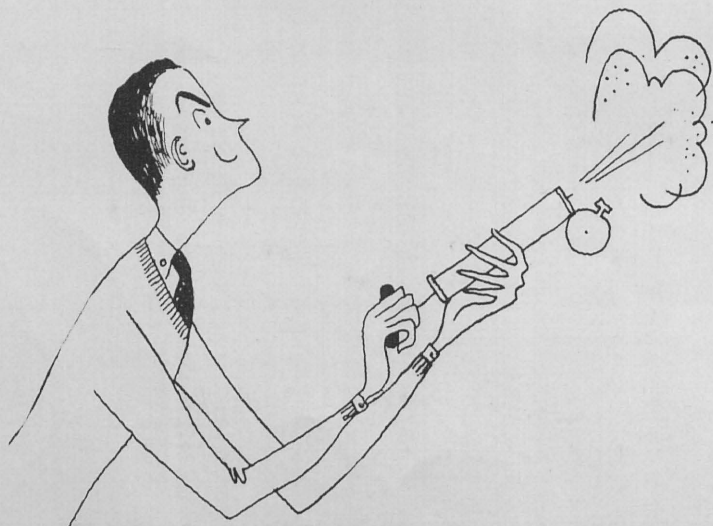
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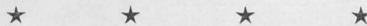
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**Organized February 7, 1932**

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Two issues of this publication are issued each year one in April and one in December to all members of the Central States Dahlia Society. Therefore, send \$2.00 covering one year's dues to the Secretary, Spencer J. Fairhead, 10411 S. Wood St., Chicago 43, Illinois, and you will receive the April and December, 1949 issues.

## We Thank You - -

Members one and all of the Central States Dahlia Society for the many favors extended us in the past and hope to serve you better than ever this coming season. Write at once without delay for a copy of our new folder "The Truth About Dahlias" issued in January.

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# HOW I GROW DAHLIAS

By HENRY C. PARKER

I was asked to write an article on this subject and to make it a short one so I will have to merely touch on the high spots without much explanation as to the why's and wherefore's and without giving credit for the many suggestions of others which have been adopted after testing for value. By way of background, I have been growing dahlias only 14 years and do not pretend to be an expert. But during this 14 years I have tested practically every method "in the book" and many which are not found in books. My space for growing dahlias is limited and all work is done by hand which accounts for the fact that I space them as closely as possible in order to save labor and to make the best use of the space available.

This subject falls naturally under the headings of soil preparation, planting, cultivating and fertilizing, insect control, timing for the show, and digging and root storage. These subjects will therefore be discussed in the order indicated.

*Soil Preparation.*—This begins in the fall of the preceding season. Instead of sowing a cover crop in the fall I spread leaves raked from the yard in a rather thin layer over the dahlia beds and cover with soil. This is done after the clumps are dug. The leaves partly decompose by spring and they can be chopped up with a shovel and mixed with the soil when the beds are turned over. The beds are spaded deeply early in the spring and then shortly before planting time I broadcast crushed limestone and a fertilizer—a rather light application—and mix this with the soil, using dried cattle manure and bone meal, or a "mineralized" 8-8-8 for the fertilizer. My beds are 3 feet wide with 2 foot strips of grass in between. They are made high in the centers with a shallow trench along the edges. This assists in watering and preventing "drowning out".

*Planting*—I start planting about May 15 and try to complete it by June 1. The yard is partly shaded and for this reason it is necessary to plant early in order to get blooms by show time. I plant two rows of dahlias in my 3 foot beds with rows spaced apart only 18 inches which leaves, with the 2 foot strips of grass between the beds, 3½ feet between every second row. The first job is to set the stakes and these are spaced a minimum distance of

28 inches apart when the dahlias are planted 1 to a stake or 36 inches apart when planted two to a stake. The stakes are staggered in the two rows. By trial and error I have found that dahlias cannot be planted any closer in my yard without difficulties from mildew. If more space were available I would make the beds 4 feet wide.

In planting holes are dug with a shovel close to the stakes and from 4 to 5 inches deep. These are filled with water before planting begins. Tubers are planted with the eyes about 2½ inches from the stakes and covered with about 2 inches of soil leaving craters about 1 to 2 inches deep around the tubers. My plants are grown in 3 inch pots and these are planted without disturbing the ball of earth in such fashion that the ball is covered with about ½ inch of soil and is surrounded by a crater about 1 to 2 inches deep. I always plant about a dozen spares in 6 inch pots and use these to replace poorly growing plants up until about July 1.

*Cultivating and Fertilizing.*—For the first three weeks or so after planting I water about twice a week in the absence of rain, then once a week up to July 1, then twice a week during the cutting back period of July 1 to 15, once a week until Aug. 15 and then twice a week until show time. In watering I run the water down the trenches along both edges of the beds or employ a "Water Wand" or a porous hose to prevent getting water on the foliage.

I cultivate about once a week from planting time up to about August 1, gradually filling in the craters about the plants and finally hilling them a little. About August 1 cultivating is stopped and a mulch of grass cuttings or the like is applied around the plants.

In addition to the fertilizer which is broadcast at planting time I apply a small dosage about July 1 to enable the plants to recuperate from the cutting back operations. I prefer a 4-8-12 or a 8-8-8 "mineralized" fertilizer at this time and use about 2 - 3 teaspoonfuls per plant applied within a radius of about 4 to 15 inches around the plants. This is raked in lightly to prevent washing. It should be mentioned that in a direct test between a "mineralized" and a non-mineralized fertilizer this past season I found that the mineralizing produced an in-

creased growth of both plants and roots amounting to about 20 per cent; hence I am "sold" on mineralized fertilizers. A small dosage of fertilizer can be applied again about August 1 and then starting about August 15 I apply weekly dosages of about 2 teaspoonfuls of a high potash fertilizer—preferably 4-8-12 or a potash enriched mineralized fertilizer, switching to pure potash about 2 weeks before show time. The potash—applied in somewhat smaller dosages—helps to stiffen the stems and promotes root growth. After the show I continue the application of potash at longer intervals until frost since this is the time of maximum root growth.

*Insect Control.* — I rely entirely upon dusting with a 25% DDT dust mixed with either sulfur or "Fermate" (to control mildew) until either red spiders or aphids appear. It is necessary to make weekly inspections with a magnifying glass to be certain of detecting the start of a red spider infestation. At this time I make up a one-shot spray using to one gallon of water 2 teaspoonfuls of emulsified DDT, 1 teaspoonful of "Vaportone" (or other insecticide containing hexaethyltetrphosphate or tetraethylpyrophosphate) and 2 teaspoonfuls of a wetting agent. For the latter I usually use one of the insecticides which contain 98 to 99 per cent active ingredients, such as "Rotocide" or "Bug-a-Boo". This one-shot mixture is sprayed under the leaves from top to bottom of the plants and a follow-up application is made 5 to 7 days later. This usually eliminates red spider. From August 1 to about September 15 I keep the tops of the plants well dusted with a mixture of DDT and sulfur to kill the corn borer. Blooms are lightly dusted with straight 25% DDT, to repel Japanese beetles and to kill cucumber beetles. If all blooms are dusted lightly it is not necessary to cover them. I am now looking for a dust to kill red spider. Azobenzene is not effective for this purpose but I am hoping that "Alpha-Mite" or "Vapo Phos" containing "Thiophos 3422" as the active ingredient will solve this problem.

The old fashioned stem borer is the only early pest which insecticides apparently will not kill. Flaming the grass in the vicinity of the beds helps to control this pest and collars around the plants help to protect them. Frequent inspections are made and at the first sign of wilting—at the tip or a leaf—this part is cut off. If the borer is not in the part cut off, it is necessary to fish for it with a fine wire having a hook at the end. If the wire is jiggled up and down the borer will usually climb out in a hurry.

*Timing for the Show.* — I use a double topping method for plants which have been planted before June 1, except for known late bloomers. All plants are initially topped after the appearance of three pairs of leaves. As soon as the side canes have grown an inch or two all but the four best ones are removed. The remaining 4 side canes are then topped at spaced intervals over the period of from July 1 to 15 at a point between the two lower pairs of leaves. The cut stems are covered with aluminum foil to prevent access of rain. As soon as two side shoots appear one is removed which again leaves 4 canes per plant. These 4 final canes are disbudded by removal of side buds as soon as the latter are large enough to remove. With poorly growing plants, with late bloomers and with plants which have been planted late I usually let two or more of the original 4 side canes go to flower without topping. Flower buds should first appear (in triplets) at the tops of most of the canes from 4 to 5 weeks before show time, the center bud being about the size of a match head. When this occurs the two side buds are removed and the center bud is left to bloom. If a flower bud appears earlier than 5 weeks before show time one of the two side buds—preferably one having a pair of leaves in addition to the flower bud—is allowed to develop, the other two buds being removed. This causes a delay in blooming of from 1 to 2 weeks. It is possible to repeat this delaying tactic several times if necessary but it is important to remove the buds while very small in order to prevent the stems from being crooked. A toothpick is useful in this operation. When these timing operations are conducted carefully it is usually possible to obtain on the average at least one bloom for the show to every two plants grown.

*Digging and Storage.* — I dig my tubers as late as possible—shortly before the ground freezes—cutting off the dead stalks about a week before digging time. This causes eyes to develop. I use two forks, one being an 8-tined corn fork, working them spread-eagle fashion to lift the clumps vertically. The dirt is washed off and the clumps are dipped into a dormant strength solution of lime sulfur (calcium sulfide) left to dry in a cool cellar for a week or two and then packed in shallow boxes in a single layer with stems up. Sand is added to cover the tubers and then vermiculite is used to cover the crowns and the lower parts of the stems. Fermate is dusted on top. The boxes are stacked with sticks between to permit access of air. The rule to follow is to keep the tubers from drying out while permitting the crowns and stems to breathe.



# THE MEANING OF THE DAHLIA

By MORGAN T. RILEY

Suppose somebody asked, "What meaning does the dahlia convey?" You'd ask yourself "Well, what does the dahlia suggest?"

Before you try an answer, see what these have found that the dahlia suggests.

"Mme. Charlotte de la Tour" is the first to see meaning in the dahlia. Her *"Le Langage des Fleurs"* says in 1819 "The dahlia means: 'My gratitude surpasses your cares.'" And this is her reason: "The botanists set themselves to cultivate it . . . soon they saw the dahlia in gratitude not only infinitely varying its colors, but doubling, tripling and quadrupling its petals and varying its appearance and form, taking at times the rose's aspect, at times the carnation's splendor, and at times the peony's rich luxuriousness and brilliance . . . but who shall ever tell its infinite variety of colors, dark, rich, splendid, striking." The dahlia's great variability causes Mme. Cortambert to find its meaning "Gratitude," for "Charlotte de la Tour" is Louise Cortambert, wife of the eminent geographer Pierre-Francois-Eugene Cortambert. In modesty distrusting herself, she confided her manuscript to Aime Martin to place with a publisher. In some editions Aime Martin's name is on her title page. Yet her *"Le Langage des Fleurs"* was so successful it went into perhaps twenty editions in France, the latest appearing in 1881, was printed in Belgium and in Germany, was translated into English and into Spanish, and it influenced strongly most of the later writers on the language of flowers.

But English Henry Phillips, though knowing Madame Cortambert's book, did not follow her lead. A different meaning came to him because of this circumstance—"The first introduction of this Mexican flower marked the year when France became revolutionized and these plants were lost until again introduced in the year that saw Napoleon made emperor of the French nation, on which account it was made the emblem of instability." His first two events are of 1789, his second pair of 1804, and are events in the progress of the dahlia in French politics. They made him see the dahlia meant "Instability." Henry Phillips, a former banker living in retirement on the Channel in Brighton, brought out in 1825 his *"Floral Emblems."* His emblems are "a kind of parable which speaks to the eye and through that medium is transmitted to the heart." In-



Clariam Fancy, beautiful B size cream and pink S. C., winner of the Leonard Barron trophy at the 1949 A. D. S. show in New York. Originated by Wm. Wolbert and introduced by Rocky River Dahlia Gardens.

dustrious Henry Phillips in three years brought out *"Sylva Florifera," "Flora Domestica," "Flora Historica,"* and *"Floral Emblems."*

But popular as she was, Madame Cortambert did not gain full following in her own France. Madame Louise Pignet Leneveux knew Madame Cortambert's "language" but the dahlia gave her a different meaning. She saw novelty. Mme. Leneveux's *"Des Fleurs emblematises, ou leur Histoire, leur Symbole, leur Langage"* says in 1827: "These (the gardeners) obtained from it an immense number of varieties all more beautiful each than the others, and the growing of the dahlia became all of a sudden a la mode, disputing place with the rose and surpassing the carnation, the primrose and the tulip." This fact suggests to her this meaning of the dahlia: "Novelty often takes the place of merit."

Upon an American the dahlia made a still different impression. Dorothea Lynde Dix's excellent *"The Garland of Flora"* says the dahlia means "elegance and dignity." A single line of anonymous poetry "Graceful - - yea, regal

- - worthy of a crown" points up the selecting of this meaning. Miss Dix's meaning took hold, eleven other authors, all American, also said the dahlia means "elegance and dignity." Dorothea Lynde Dix was an extraordinary woman. She taught school at fourteen; by twenty-seven she had written seven books - - one went through sixty editions; became so inflamed by the brutal treatment of the insane that she caused hospitals to be built and brought about a change in the whole method of this treatment; and at fifty-nine, in 1861, Lincoln appointed her to be superintendent of women nurses in military hospitals. In 1829, when she was twenty-seven, Miss Dix had looked upon the dahlia and saw in it "elegance and dignity."

In this same year of 1829, Mrs. Elizabeth Wirt, wife of the able Attorney General of the United States, William Wirt, finished her "*Flora's Dictionary*." The eight of her twelve children surviving, all in 1829 fairly grown, may have stirred her up so constantly that she had to write. Mrs. Wirt learned that the dahlia had been "named by the late Professor Cavanilles in honor of Andrew Dahl, a Swedish botanist, author of a little volume of botanical observations." Therefore Mrs. Wirt says the dahlia means "Forever thine." Mrs. Wirt is right—the dahlia is forever Dahl's.

Other givers of meanings notice still other characteristics of the dahlia. Frances Sargent Locke Osgood wrote much and brought out in 1840 her often reprinted "*The Poetry of Flowers and Flowers of Poetry*." She says, "Heartless Beauty — Dahlia. The gorgeous flowers of the dahlia allure only to disappoint us, for they are without fragrance."

Dahlias differ and people differ even more; it is no matter of wonder that people who differ come out with meanings for the dahlia that are not the same. Another Frenchman, Pierre Zaccone, brings out in 1858 his "*Nouveau*

*Langage des Fleurs avec leur Valeur Symbolique et leur Emploi pour l'Expression des Pensées*." His title, "New Language," implies he has taken account of the meanings others have given. He tells of the dahlia, "Varieties have multiplied infinitely. Their height varies from one to six feet. 'For twenty years,' says Alph. Karr, 'people have sown twenty acres with dahlia seeds without being able to have a blue dahlia.'" Blackeyed Zaccone, finding no blue dahlia in acres of changeful seedlings, spits "Sterile Abundance."

And what does the dahlia seem to a Spaniard? Ovidio Zorilla's "*Diccionario del Lenguaje de los Flores*" of 1865 assigns gratitude, instability, elegance and dignity to the dahlia. He has read the others—he adds "pomp." Then he catches sight of a rose dahlia—its color entrances. This dahlia means to him "delicacy." And who, seeing the light pinks, would not say "You're right, the dahlia is 'delicacy.'"

So these then—Gratitude, Instability, Novelty, Elegance and Dignity, Forever Thine, Heartless Beauty, Sterile Abundance, Delicacy, Pomp—are all meanings given the dahlia. These may help you to see what the dahlia suggests. Most authors have found that the dahlia means "Elegance and Dignity." Do you agree?

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# 1949 SHOW DATES

- August 4th - 7th —Pacific Dahlia Society, Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, California.
- August 13th - 14th —San Diego County Dahlia Society, Silver Gate Masonic Temple, Utah and Wightman Streets, San Diego, California
- August 20th - 21st —Orange County Dahlia Society, Y.M.C.A. Gym, Santa Ana, California
- August 20th - 28th —Wisconsin State Fair, Horticultural Bldg., Wisconsin State Fair Grounds, West Allis, Wisconsin (Dahlia entries on August 20th, 23rd and 26th)
- August 27th - 28th —Inglewood Dahlia Society, High School Study Hall, Inglewood, California
- August 27th - 28th —Snohomish County Rose and Dahlia Society, Floral Hall, Forest Park, Everett, Washington.
- September 4th —Yukon Growing Grounds Show, 17240 Yukon Avenue, Gardena, California
- September 4th - 5th —Badger State Dahlia Society, Madison Community Center, 16 East Doty Street, Madison, Wisconsin
- September 9th - 10th —Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society, Y.W.C.A. Auditorium, Scranton, Pennsylvania
- September 10th - 11th —Dahlia Society of Toledo, Show Rooms of Jim White Chevrolet Co., 13th and Monroe Streets, Toledo, Ohio
- September 10th - 11th —Dahlia Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Gas Light Company Building, 626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- September 10th - 11th —Dahlia Society of New Jersey, Branchbrook Greenhouses, Branchbrook Park, Newark, New Jersey
- September 11th —Rochester Dahlia Society, Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, New York
- September 12th - 13th —Dahlia Society of Ohio, Higbee Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio
- September 12th - 13th —Minnesota Dahlia Society, Northwestern National Bank Lobby, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- September 16th - 17th —Burholme Horticultural Society Dahlia Show, Burholme Motors Showroom, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- September 17th - 18th —1949 Mid-West Dahlia Show under the auspices of Central States Dahlia Society, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Illinois.**
- September 17th - 18th —East Liverpool Dahlia Society, Memorial Auditorium, East Liverpool, Ohio
- September 17th - 18th —Portland Dahlia Society, Sunken Ballroom of the Masonic Temple, Southwest Main and West Park Streets, Portland, Oregon
- September 17th - 18th —Bergen County Dahlia Society, Lincoln School, Englewood, New Jersey
- September 17th - 18th —Irvington Dahlia Society, Clinton and Linden Avenue, Irvington, New Jersey
- September 18th - 19th —Baltimore Dahlia Society, Sears Community Building, North and Harford Avenues, Baltimore, Maryland
- September 21st - 22nd —American Dahlia Society, Hotel Statler, New York City, New York
- September 23rd - 24th —Camden Dahlia Society, Vocational School, Merchantville, New Jersey
- September 24th - 25th —Wellsville Glad-Dahlia Club, Beacom Memorial Gymnasium, Wellsville, Ohio
- September 24th - 25th —Dahlia Society of Kentucky, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky
- September 24th - 25th —Southtown Dahlia Club, Hamilton Park Field House, West 72nd St. and South Normal Blvd. Chicago, Illinois
- September 24th - 25th —Ohio Valley Dahlia Association, The Paramount Theatre Bldg., 930 East McMillan St., Cincinnati, Ohio
- September 24th - 25th —The National Capital Dahlia Society, U. S. Botanic Garden, Maryland Avenue and 1st St., S.W., Washington, D.C.
- September 24th - 25th —Tri-City Dahlia Society, Masonic Temple, 420-18th Street, Rock Island, Illinois
- September 24th —The Long Island Dahlia Society, Plattdutsche Park Hall, Franklin Square, Long Island, New York
- October 1st - 2nd —Southern States Dahlia Association, Administration Building at the Southeastern Fair, Atlanta, Georgia
- October 1st - 2nd —Indianapolis Dahlia Society, Brookside Community House, Indianapolis, Indiana
- October 1st - 2nd —Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri
- October 8th - 9th —Dahlia Society of Alabama, Thomas Jefferson Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama

# WIDENING OUR HORIZONS

By R. G. HUEY

Collecting dahlias from foreign sources has more than one compensation. Although we claim the Western hemisphere as the original home of the dahlia, the first interest in its development took place in Europe. During the development of types and colors and varieties has been rivaled only by its increase in popularity. Today, it is to be found, not only from Alaska to Argentina in the Western hemisphere, but from Ireland to Russia, and from Scotland and Norway to Italy in Europe; from Egypt to Capetown in Africa, from Japan to India in Asia, in Australia, and in the islands scattered throughout both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Hardly a nation but where it blooms, and where there are local and national societies interested in its culture. The dahlia has deservedly become a cosmopolitan flower.

The first interest lies in finding outstanding new dahlias being produced in every land where it is grown. The tastes and uses in types in one country may differ from those in other countries, but the author has yet to secure dahlias from any country that did not include some that were superbly beautiful and meritorious and which were equal, and sometimes superior to those of like type produced in other lands. No grower has a collection of "the best" dahlias unless it includes "the best" from all lands, for no country or nation has a corner on outstanding dahlias, and no dahlia garden can, without the best from all countries, present a true picture of color and type and charm and infinite variety that the dahlia is capable of.

The second interest lies in the contacts made with foreign growers. Growers may speak and write no language other than their national one, yet all these languages become a universal tongue when the dahlia is the subject. Warm and understanding friendships can develop

although oceans and continents may separate the writers. When men like Robert Menzies and Jan Smuts and high government officials in India and other great countries take time out to grow and talk of dahlias, they not only add to dahlia progress, but help to cement stronger bonds of international friendship and understanding. The Indian missionary in Alaska, the Australian back country rancher, the herdsman on the Argentine pampas, the peasant in the Soviet Republic, the thrifty Netherlander and Dane, the voluble Frenchman, the Swiss Alpinist, the hunger pinched German, the hard headed British Islander, the dark complexioned Sahib of India, the bronzed South Africaner, and the Mid-Westerner from the United States meet in a common brotherhood in their interest and appreciation of dahlias.

Among other new sources from which the writer is securing dahlias for this coming season is a grower at Leopoldsville in the Belgian Congo; the Director of the two National Trial Grounds of Denmark, who is sending the twenty best varieties of Danish origin; the Director of the Swiss Trial Grounds at Unterengen, who has collected the cream of Swiss dahlias; and an Argentine breeder who has produced some startlingly beautiful cactus and decorative varieties. From these, and those others coming from India, from New Zealand and Australia, from Czechoslovakia and Italy, from Germany and the British Isles, and from the Netherlands, experience leads us to anticipate new beauty and new pleasure when they open their bloom for the first time in this country, the coming season.

It may be of interest to know that the three following botanical species will be in the writer's garden, the coming year, — *Dahlia Juarezii*, *Dahlia Imbriata Splendens* and *Dahlia Merkii*.

## Baker Dahlia Gardens

15 Edgewood Ave.      Toronto, Canada

Write for our descriptive catalogue listing the newest prize winning varieties from Australia, England, Holland, etc. for 1949.

## Grower of Prize Winning Dahlias

We are carrying a complete stock of American and foreign dahlias for this coming season, so drop us a line, and we will send you our complete catalogue.

Just received a large shipment of fine dahlia seeds from Czechoslovakia — 100 seeds - \$5.00

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# DAHLIAS BY DAHLIADEL



*Don't overlook DAHLIADEL COLOR CHART, and our other 1949 Introductions, Red Velvet, and Jennie A. described in the last issue.*

Increasing interest in Garden Mums is due to the recent development of new varieties that are easy to grow, bloom safely ahead of frost, and a number of varieties stand the frost that usually gets the dahlias. Finish up the season with a garden full of color.

**CHIME** (Johnson-Dahliadel). A fine European Cactus dahlia sent to this country for Introduction. An unusual shade of soft Jasper red with a light apricot undertone that gives it distinction. Easily grows 10 x 6 without disbudding. First attracted my attention in Mr. Dudley's garden last season and has proved very fine. Early and profuse.

Root \$5.00 Net    Plant \$2.50



## HARDY GARDEN CHRYSANTHEMUMS

6 DECORATIVE MUM.....POT PLANTS \$3.00  
12 DECORATIVE MUM.....ROOTED CUTTINGS \$3.00

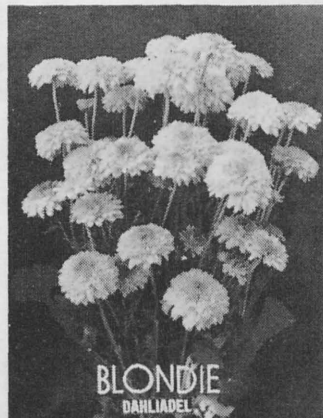
**BETTY**—Bloom 3 in. Bright rose pink. Fine sprays for cutting.  
**CHARLES NYE**—2½ in. Beautiful rich yellow. Fully double.  
**CONQUEROR** (English)—4 in. Currant red, buff reverse. Very showy.  
**GOLD STANDARD** (English)—5 in. Best Incurved rich lemon yellow.  
**LEDA** (English)—4 in. Pastel mauve, lighter shadings. Strong grower.  
**ORIENTAL GLORY**—3 in. Orange red and bronze. Good for cutting.

4 POMPON MUM.....POT PLANTS \$2.00  
8 POMPON MUM.....ROOTED CUTTINGS \$2.00

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**ERMALINDA**—1½ in. Clear old rose. Very attractive.  
**ETHEL**—1 in. Popular reddish bronze.  
**PINNOCHIO**—1 in. Fine new white, small and uniform.

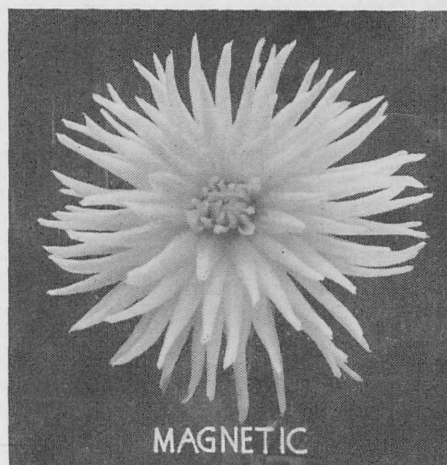
Mum Rooted Cuttings are so satisfactory for our customers as they stand shipment well and produce such wonderful plants. We have reduced the price on many varieties by selling them only in multiples of two of a kind. Rooted cuttings may be planted direct in your garden or potted and held for a few weeks. Labeled, guaranteed, and regular postage paid on orders of \$2.00 or over.

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Root \$5.00 Net    Pot Root \$3.50 Net    Plant \$2.50



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## DAHLIADEL NURSERIES

Warren W. Maytrott

Box C. S.

Vineland, N. J.

# THE MID-WEST SHOW, 1949 VERSION

By G. L. PIERCE, Show Chairman

The Central States Dahlia Society has the pleasure of inviting all readers of *The Dahlia*, and all others interested in visiting a really fine dahlia exhibition, to attend the Sixteenth Annual Mid-West Dahlia Show to be held in Chicago's Garfield Park Conservatory on September 17th and 18th. Central States will be staging its eighteenth annual show in addition to acting as host to the Mid-West.

Our first meeting of the full show committee was held the night of March 9th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Baer of Chicago. At this meeting discussions were devoted to all phases of show preparations, but details to be decided upon later were left to be worked out by various sub-committees, which later were duly appointed in the course of the evening's deliberations. A few topics of major importance, involving such items as selecting hotel and banquet headquarters, determining show policies, etc., were decided on definitely, however.

The LaSalle Hotel at the edge of Chicago's Loop was designated as headquarters for out of town guests as well as for the banquet to be held on Saturday night. While there are hotels nearer the park that might have been selected it was brought out in discussion that these are residence hotels that do not offer as attractive facilities to itinerants as would a loop hostelry. It was also argued that persons visiting Chicago always want to do some shopping or visit other attractions near the heart of the city, and that these will then be more readily accessible. On the other hand, dahlia fanciers who are willing to travel hundreds of miles to attend a dahlia show certainly will not object to an additional fifteen minute trip via bus, cab, street car, or elevated (and all these provide service to Garfield Park) to reach the actual site of the show.

Those planning to attend should write to S. J. Fairhead, 10411 S. Wood St., Chicago 43, Illinois, and he will send you a card provided by the hotel on which you may make your room reservations and indicate the accommodations you will require. The card is stamped and addressed to the hotel; drop it in the mail box, and you are all set. But do it as soon as you possibly can. These cards are ready right now.

We will try to keep someone on hand at the hotel Friday evening and Saturday morning to spot out-of-town arrivals and get you lined

up for judging and clerking assignments. In this connection you will probably see J. Louis Roberts flitting about the hotel lobby. (Please stay out of the bars so Louie can find you.)

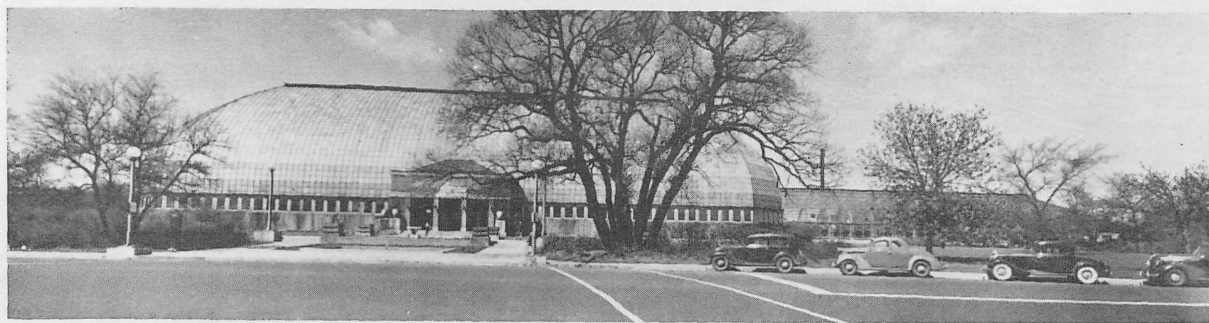
The question of whether we should plan definite shopping or sight-seeing tours for visiting wives resolved itself in the decision that we had best permit them to disport themselves as they see fit individually. A question of similar nature was that of deciding upon having or not having a conducted tour of dahlia gardens. To have such a tour in Chicago would present a problem of transportation that would be difficult to overcome. Distances are generally greater to Chicago suburbs than to those of other cities where recent Mid-West shows have been held. It was also argued that in some past shows the local committee had planned so many extra-curricular activities that visitors who attempted to get in on these found themselves with insufficient time to "do" the show itself properly, and after all, the show is the main thing.

However, for those who do have the time and desire to travel further a-field we expect to offer you suggested gardens to visit where you will see dahlias in the raw, unscathed by the exhibit-mad fiend, and where fellowship and hospitality will be dispensed. These off-the-record tours will likely take the form of a "North-Side", a "West", and a "South Side" circuit.

The annual meeting of the Mid-West Dahlia Conference is scheduled to take place at 5:00 P.M. Saturday after judging is completed. The meeting will be held in one of the rooms at the conservatory in order to promote the best possible attendance. Most of us will still be at the show at that hour, and will not have had time or opportunity to become scattered.

After this meeting, however, we will break up for a quick trip to home or the hotel to freshen up for the banquet, scheduled for 7:00 P.M. in one of the banquet rooms of the LaSalle Hotel to be announced later. Stanley Swanson will be in charge of banquet and entertainment features. Full details have not been worked out yet, of course, but a couple of matters were definitely decided. One is, professional musical entertainment will be provided; another, time will not be consumed by awarding trophies to the lucky few at the expense of causing ennui to the general assemblage, nor will a local





Garfield Park Conservatory at Chicago, where the 1949 Mid-West Dahlia Show will be held. The conservatory proper and the propagating houses have 184,765 sq. ft. of glass and 134,462 sq. ft. of floor area, and it is the world's largest conservatory under one roof.

dignitary be asked to appear on the program. However, we do hope to have a toastmaster and a feature speaker, both selected from the ranks of dahlia notables. The identity of these latter cannot be announced at this early date, though. Our main objective is a good meal and a good time for all.

Speaking of eating, let us not forget the customary C.S.D.S. box luncheon that will be served to judges and workers in the back room at the show Saturday noon just before judging begins. This is a time honored custom at Central States shows, and visiting judges who will be the society's guests at this affair are certain to enjoy this function that fulfills two requirements: that of satisfying the inner man (and woman) and of affording a brief respite of fellowship and conviviality preceding the arduous tasks of the afternoon. Mrs. James Marsh will be in charge of this social.

Members of the C.S.D.S. Classification committee, whose chairman is Harry Franzen, will be on hand at the show to determine the classifications of varieties not listed in the new 1949 Classification jointly sponsored by the A.D.S. and the C.S.D.S. Such unclassified blooms are

required by show rule to be submitted to this committee for determination prior to placing on show table. Exhibitors, please bear this in mind. It is expected that the committee will get a terrific work-out, for judging from grape vine reports and ear-to-the-ground observations there will be a lot of foreign dahlias putting in their first appearance locally.

Frank Lamphier and a complete staff of assistants will endeavor to supervise the placing of blooms and arrangements in each and every competitive section in such a way that all will be in their proper places come judging time. And we hope, in this connection, all tables will be well filled but not crowded to the detriment of any worthy entries.

Once the closing deadline for entries has been reached the show will be in the hands of Lew West, Chairman of the Judges, who, with the assistance of such talent as that of Fred Trauth, Lucille Bluhm, Dave Radke, Louis Roberts, and Harry Beals, will assign the judges and clerks. It should be stated at this time that out-of-town visitors will be given an opportunity to express their pleasure before the show is judged as to whether they would like to judge, and, if not, whether they would care to volunteer to act as clerks. All out-of-town growers are cordially invited to assist with the judging.

The over-all picture of the show will exhibit little digression from the customary pattern of former C.S.D.S. shows. We will not try to "keep up with the Jones" by emulating all the innovations that have been conceived in the minds of other Mid-West show committees and born in their shows of recent vintage. We concede that several of these new ideas have merit, though, and will employ some of them in our show, and will also likely come up with something new and different ourselves.

The show will be divided into its usual several specimen bloom sections, each calling for blooms

Our new list of

### **MINIATURES and others**

is yours for a postal. (We are proud of the list we are offering.)

### **Fitchett Dahlia Gardens**

Milton Avenue

Janesville, Wisconsin

from gardens of a certain category based on the number of hills of dahlias grown therein. Thus, there will be a Novice section, one for exhibitors growing 50 hills or less, and so on up through a section calling for blooms from gardens of over 250 hills. There will be a section for all the small type dahlias, a very comprehensive arrangement section, probably two, in fact, if we continue our new policy established last year of having an arrangement section for neophytes and another for the more intrepid.

We look forward, also, to having a fine section of 3-year old seedlings vieing for the American Home Achievement medal. If we should be rewarded with an array such as we saw at Milwaukee last year we would be more than satisfied. We also liked the way these entries were judged at Milwaukee, too, and we shall do likewise here. That is, there will be no break-down into type classes. All entries will be presented for judging in a single class, and each will be considered on its own individual merits. Conceivably all may then receive "Meritorious Award" ribbon, or only a few, or none.

Although our schedule committee has not met yet to draft the complete schedule, I believe

it is safe to prophesy that it will see fit to include some other "Special" sections in addition to our usual Big Six, Big Ten, and Little Ten. As show chairman, I hope so, for these extras at Milwaukee last year were intriguing to me, and I think others go for the new angles too.

At our general committee meeting two decisions pertaining to the schedule were adopted as a matter of policy, however. First, we will give separate recognition to B size dahlias this year, but we will not go all-out for them to begin with by adding B classes to each exhibitor section. Instead, we will set up an Open-to-All section for B dahlias in which there will be competition for all four types and eleven color groups. If the B's look sufficiently good to us this year in such a showing we may see fit to branch out in the future. Meantime, if exhibitors prefer to concentrate their resources in a single section to the end of attaining sweepstakes they may continue to enter their B dahlias along with the A's in the section in which they are entitled to compete. Second, we shall continue as last year in grouping the Oranges and Other Blends in a single class, and in combining Bicolors and Variegated, resulting in 11 different colors per section rather than the 13 provided for in the new Classification.

We plan a meeting of the schedule committee at an early date with the hope of having same printed by early summer. Persons desiring copies may address their requests to me, G. L. Pierce, 436 S. Summit Avenue, Villa Park, Illinois.

Once our schedule is finally drafted the various other sub-committees of the show will whip into action so that a successful and attractive show—one that you cannot afford to miss—will be assured. You are cordially invited to come. Remember the dates: September 17th and 18th, at Chicago's Garfield Park Conservatory. Headquarters: Hotel La Salle.

## FOR YOUR NEXT SHOW

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*They are designed especially  
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We specialize in manufacturing Dahlia bottle covers. You can be assured of courteous, prompt service.

When you send your order, please specify whether you want pint or quart sizes, and whether you plan to use the round or space saver type of bottle.

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Semi-cactus to cactus when fully opened. A consistent winner at shows, also special awards and best 1948 semi-cactus introduction. At the Ohio State Show at Wellsville, Ohio, it won best bloom under 8 inches in entire show, also special award for one of two best entries. It can also be grown for the over 8 inch class.

**A good division — five dollars (\$5.00)**

**The Lasch Floral Gardens**

1435 Dill Ave.

South Euclid, Ohio

# EACH ONE START ONE

By J. RALPH BERRY, President, Dahlia Society of Ohio

**A** while ago we moved into a home where a dozen or so nondescript dahlias were growing in the back yard. Who could then foresee that in a few short years this single file of dahlias was destined to expand its ranks to battalion strength? Mine to command; theirs to obey (if they feel like it).

Each year finds me a little more responsive to the dahlia's beauty. Each year we draw a little closer. Early in my dahlia days this fatherly interest prompted me to look around to see how the dahlia was faring elsewhere. Were gardens generally giving the dahlia the recognition it deserved? What I saw was not good. In many otherwise fine gardens there was practically every flower but the dahlia. I discussed this disappointing discovery with my dahlia friends. Several told me my eyesight was bad; that dahlia plantings either blended with the landscape or were hidden from view. A few said it was the gardener's own hard luck if he passed up the dahlia with a sort of "am-I-my-brother's-keeper" attitude. Mostly they regretfully admitted it was so, but could offer nothing encouraging.

"Wouldn't this be a matter of proper concern for a dahlia society?" I asked myself. Sure enough, copies of several society constitutions available did have clauses stating as one of their prime purposes the stimulating of interest in the dahlia. But what are we doing about it? Very little. Somewhere along the line we have gotten sidetracked. Originally one of our primary objectives, we are now passing it up in favor of more emphasis on dahlia shows, new introductions, etc. True, every show that is staged, every new variety introduced, to a degree acts as a stimulator for the dahlia. But this stimulus is largely internal, serving chiefly to keep our own ranks intact. The real field for stimulation is within the ranks of the casual growers. A casual grower is defined as one who grows a few dahlias along with other flowers. He makes no specialty of the dahlia. It is from their ranks that we, the hobbyists, must look for our recruits.

From time to time the following statements are made: No flower has the range in size, color and shape of the dahlia; none grows as large; none excels in beauty. These are not hollow statements. They should be shouted from the housetops! Blazon them across the

pages of the floral catalogs! How else are the uninitiated to find out about the dahlia?

Let's look over the fence at the rose. The American Rose Society has adopted this slogan, "A rose for every home; a bush for every garden." Note this, "A rose for EVERY home; a bush for EVERY garden." This symbol of their objective clearly indicates they believe in this "stimulating interest" idea. What's more, they are working at it. In several years' time they have more than trebled their membership. Yes, we know the rose, veteran that she is, easily outstrips the youthful dahlia. We will have to set our sights a little lower, perhaps rallying to "One dahlia for every apartment house; one plant for every block."

At least you go part way along with me in my desire to see more dahlia growers, and here is why I know this. Now and again all of us recommend to our friends a movie we have enjoyed, a good book or a favorite radio program. Why do we do this? Simply because there is an inborn desire in everyone of us to see others enjoy the same things we are enjoying. You enjoy the growing of dahlias. Therefore it follows that you, too, would like to see more people enjoy this pastime. Closely paralleling this, though not the same, is the satisfaction we always feel in seeing proper recognition given to anything of merit.

Every time we give a root to someone who has never grown a dahlia, we contribute our mite to this objective. By so doing, in a sense, we discharge an obligation we owe this flower for the hours of pleasure it has given us. A good fan doesn't throw his left-over roots on the compost pile while neighboring gardens are dahlialess.

Down Mexico way they are trying out a scheme aimed at reducing illiteracy. Each one taught agrees to teach someone else. The plan, reported to be working successfully, is called "Each One Teach One". Why couldn't this idea be used with the dahlia? Everyone given a start with a few roots would be asked, in return, to start someone else the following year—and so on. We could call it "Each One Start One". Such a program diligently carried on each year by all the dahlia societies in ten years' time would account for—let's see now, 5000 new growers the first year, 15,000 the second—well, anyhow, a lot of new growers.



Let us assume we have adopted this plan. Most of us are familiar with the parable of the sower of seed—some falling on rocky places, some on fertile ground, etc. The sowing of a dahlia root is much the same, as it, too, prefers fertile ground, aided and abetted by a friendly hand. In selecting such spots be as discriminating as you would be in selecting a home for a household pet.

Some thoughts on the technique to be followed are offered for your consideration. Gladly give your friends and neighbors all the roots you can spare, but count them out on this for you just can't easily impress a friend with the obligation to start someone else.

This summer look over the gardens in your neighborhood and select one that is well-kept, with plenty of space, and without dahlias. Make a note of its location. In the fall when your garden is in full bloom, drop in there and introduce yourself. Compliment the owner on his garden. Invite him to go along with you to see your dahlias. As first this one, then that one, takes his eye, casually mention the list price of the newer ones, thereby giving value to the gift you are about to offer him. While he is still raving about what he has "missed all these years," soften him up with "Although they are a little tough to raise, a good gardener like yourself would do well with dahlias." Don't tell him they are easy to grow, and next year he will be that much prouder of his success. When making your "Each One Start One" proposition, it will help your later follow-up to associate the program with your dahlia society.

In the spring select roots of good varieties to give him—and not those you are discarding because the plants grew lousy for you. Always bear in mind that strong growers are more important than show flowers. When you give him the roots, be sure to furnish written instructions on the essentials of dahlia culture.

**Central States Dahlia Fans**--Times a-wastin', better hurry along with that order for roots and plants. And of course, there is no better place to send it than to Kerr Dahlia Gardens. Last season was good and 1949 will be better. Our effort to serve you will be doubled this year.

Sincerely,

**KERR DAHLIA GARDENS**

392 N. Washington Ave.,  
Battle Creek, Michigan

Give him oral instructions also, in case he loses the written ones. Have your directions on root storage as simple as possible, and *emphasize their importance*, for it is here that the novice is the weakest. He loses his roots.

Visit this new convert several times during the season to see how he is getting along, being sure to compliment him on the fine health of his plants, if such praise is warranted, or if perchance his plants show insect damage, recommend the proper insecticide for him to use and how to apply the same. On your mid-summer visit, inquire if he has selected the next link in his chain, adding, "Our society keeps a record of these names, etc." If he hasn't gotten around to it as yet, it would be a good idea to disclose how you went about it when selecting him.

This entire program need not consume more than an hour or two each year. It will be time well spent and, what's more, you will enjoy it.

Some of the things recommended here have worked satisfactorily for me. However, the central idea based on the "Each One Teach One" plan is too new to have had a trial. It will be proposed to our society with the confident hope that it will have our members' wholehearted support.

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### Our Silver Anniversary Special

1 **Bishop Clare Purcell** — 11 in, orange cactus — the biggest true type cactus we have ever seen.

1 **Miss San Diego**, a lovely large pink cactus with gold center.

1 **Michael Black**, a big 10 inch dark purple informal.

1 **Silver Meteor**, a ten inch Mauve silver formal.

1 root each for \$6.00, 1 plant each for \$4.25

Send for our Dahlia Book. It is ready now.

**Golden Rule Dahlia Farm**

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Lebanon, Ohio

# THE DAHLIA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA SOCIETY

VOLUME 18

NUMBER 1

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## EDITORIALS

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### Dahlia Evangelism

**T**he Dahlia Society of Ohio is most fortunate in having as its new president, Mr. J. Ralph Berry. In February the writer had the enjoyable experience of being entertained in the Berry home at Rocky River, Ohio, and it would be difficult to find a greater dahlia enthusiast anywhere than he. Mr. Berry's enthusiasm runs in the direction of encouraging the wider growing of our beloved flower and stimulating other gardeners not now growing dahlias to try them.

Anyone reading Mr. Berry's very fine article "Each One Start One", appearing in this issue, cannot help but catch some of his enthusiasm to go out and do something practical in the way of spreading the gospel of raising of dahlias. He is undoubtedly correct in his view that it is not enough merely to give a beginner a few of our spare roots to grow. Without following this gesture up by furnishing the recipient with detailed cultural directions followed by on the spot guidance and suggestions given on occasional visits to the garden of such a beginner, poor and discouraging results are almost certain to be the outcome of his first venture in growing dahlias, and a likely convert to the field of dahlia raising be permanently lost to the cause.

It is to aid and encourage the dahlia beginner

that especially motivated us to request Mr. Henry C. Parker to write his most instructive "know how" article on cultural methods for this issue, although even the veteran grower will undoubtedly garner a pointer or two from it also. Mr. Parker is a small backyard grower like most of our readers who has put much study and successful experimentation into his dahlia raising, with the result that he is today recognized as one of the most skillful growers and successful exhibitors in the Washington, D. C. and Baltimore area.

Speaking of experimentation, while at Mr. Berry's home, he took us down into the basement to show us methods of simple storage of dahlia roots he was testing out this winter, which could be communicated to beginners in the field in order to better insure that they would be able to successfully store and keep their first crop of dahlia clumps. As pointed out in his article, he believes that failure in this respect is the cause of more beginners failing than any other single reason.

The writer, on the other hand, is of the opinion that failure to effect proper insect control is an equal, if not greater, cause of discouragement to the beginner than winter losses in storage. However, if we follow Mr. Berry's advice and take under our wing and give proper personal guidance to those we induce to give dahlias a try, there will be far less chance of failure and discouragement from either cause.

## The Joint Classification An Accomplished Fact

As this is being written, the new Classification of Dahlias jointly sponsored by the American Dahlia Society and the Central States Dahlia Society is in the hands of the printer and the readers of this editorial may have already received their copies by the time this issue of The Dahlia reaches them. This marks another great step forward in the advancement of the dahlia and demonstrates that unity can be achieved among the dahlia raisers of widely separated parts of the country as a result of persistent effort and an attitude of mutual respect and consideration for the views of the other fellow.

The objective of achieving uniform standards of classification and terminology is, however, but half achieved by the printing of the new Classification. The extent to which it is entirely achieved now rests with the many dahlia societies throughout the country and with the commercial growers. Dahlia societies can play their part by making their color classes in their show schedules conform to the color classes of the new Classification (this doesn't mean that societies sponsoring the comparatively smaller shows should not combine color classes of the Classification if they find it desirable to promote competition, although such a step should be followed with moderation), and by adopting a show rule that blooms will be disqualified if not entered in the color and formation classes specified for the same in the new Classification. If such a show rule is adopted no judge should ever be granted the power to disqualify a bloom correctly entered according to the Classification. Once a show is operated under such a show rule, the exhibitors will insist on its future retention, if past experience of societies who have tried it out is any criterion.

It cannot be urged too strongly that commercial growers in their catalogues list each variety as to size, formation and color according to the new Classification. Many fans will be watching to see which commercial growers revise their 1950 lists to do so, and we are afraid that those who do not are likely to be considered to be out of step with modern dahlia progress.

Too much credit cannot be given to the members of the Joint Committee: Dr. Edward F. McDade, Mrs. Lucille E. Bluhm, C. M. Diffenderfer, H. L. Franzen, Edward Lloyd, James E. Marsh, Andrew J. Mulcahy, H. L. Cummings, and H. Dewey Mohr, for their untiring work in making the new Classification

possible. The writer, while a member of the committee, lived too far distant from the other C.S.D.S. members of the committee to attend most of the meetings or contribute much to the work of the committee.

In addition to the members of the committee, many others made substantial contributions to the work of producing the new Classification. The C.S.D.S. members of the committee undertook the assignment of preparing the Glossary section, and in this undertaking were assisted by Dr. Stanley D. Tylman, Mr. F. J. Lewis of the Botany Department of Lyons Township Junior College, and Dr. C. H. Conners of the faculty of Rutgers University. Others who assisted from the C.S.D.S. were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Swanson, Edward F. Schampel and Mr. and Mrs. Julius Rich, who helped greatly with the classification of poms and miniatures; Mrs. H. L. Franzen, Mrs. H. L. Cummings and Mrs. James Marsh for long hours in checking lists and reading proofs; and Mr. and Mrs. David Radke, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Schoenlau, Mr. Lewis J. West, and Mr. J. Louis Roberts. The A.D.S. members of the committee had the benefit of the valuable assistance of Mr. Warren Maytrott, Dr. Fred Knocke, Mr. Lynn B. Dudley, Mr. Andrew F. Doermann, Mr. Roy W. Webb, Mr. Henry Olsen, Mr. E. J. Wind, Mr. Ernest Lewis, Mr. Stanley Johnson and Mr. George Swezey.

The new Classification discloses a few cases of duplication of names, such as, for instance, *Michigan Orchid* and *Commando*. This would be avoided if any introducer of a new variety would first apply for registration of the name of the same with the American Dahlia Society, which application, together with a fee of \$1.00 for each name selected, should be sent to Mr. Andrew J. Mulcahy, Secretary of the American Dahlia Society, 20 Marshal Avenue, Floral Park, L. I., New York. Any names so submitted are checked by the A.D.S. against the list maintained by Dr. C. H. Conners of Rutgers University, and if the name is not already in use, the registration of the new name is granted and published in the ensuing issue of the A.D.S. Bulletin. If any grower would like to know in advance of making such application whether the proposed name is already in use, we would recommend that he contact Mrs. Lucille E. Bluhm, 400 Blackstone, LaGrange, Illinois, who has in her possession a list of several thousand names which she has compiled in connection with her classification work for C.S.D.S. of existing varieties, as she will be glad to check her list to see if such proposed name is already in use or not.



## Elmer E. Shepard

Mr. Elmer E. Shepard, one of the best known dahlia growers in the Middle West, died suddenly at his home in Cincinnati on February 9, 1949, at the age of 57 as the result of a heart attack.

He was a veteran of World War I and came out of the service with asthma which became increasingly more severe and affected his heart to the extent that he was obliged to retire March 1, 1942, from his position with the Cincinnati Fire Department. He had completed twenty-five years of service in that organization and was Chief Engineer at the time of his retirement.

Elmer began working with dahlias twenty-five years ago, first growing them at his summer camp, a short distance out of Cincinnati. He became increasingly more interested in them as the years went by, and after his retirement in 1942 made them an outstanding hobby that brought him hours of pleasure and interest. For some years prior to his death he had corresponded with two of the well-known Australian growers, Cowley and Menzies, and had purchased the best of the Australian varieties they had to offer. He also had imported some of the better English originations from Stredwick.

Mr. R. G. Huey, superintendent of schools at Ludlow, Kentucky, just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, was Elmer's close friend. Mr. Huey, although only an amateur dahlia grower, probably maintains more extensive contacts with dahlia raisers in foreign lands than any person in America. When Elmer became keenly interested in foreign varieties, Mr. Huey set out to gather all the best foreign varieties that his connections permitted from India, Germany, Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and Denmark, and some of the other Cincinnati growers joined in these importations. This group imported 349 new varieties from these foreign countries for the 1948 season.

Elmer entered the commercial dahlia business in 1948 and issued his first catalogue which listed 58 of the best of the foreign varieties, and prior to his death had issued his 1949 catalogue, which also was confined to the cream of the new foreign importations. In a letter to the Editor he stated that he had discarded 250 varieties tested by him in 1948, which was typical of the sterling integrity which endeared him to all who knew him. A dahlia simply had to be good, or it didn't find its way into



ELMER E. SHEPARD

Elmer's catalogue! He didn't enter the commercial dahlia business for the sake of making money, but stated that he was entirely satisfied if he merely broke even, his objective being to share with others some of the pleasure he derived from growing these fine dahlias from distant lands.

He also was interested in growing seedlings and in 1948 his excellent miniature, *Norma Jean*, winner of the Derrill Hart medal, was introduced, and he was planning on introducing his large white S.C., *White Magic*, in 1950, which won a Certificate of Merit at Rutgers Trial Garden this past season. He also had a number of other promising seedlings which he hoped ultimately to release.

He was an active member in the Ohio Valley Dahlia Association and an ardent supporter of the Mid-West shows and attended many of them including the 1948 show at Milwaukee.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Norma Shepard, and by three sons, Robert, Gordon and Donald. Robert and Donald are engaged in the landscaping business, and it is their intention to continue their father's commercial dahlia business with the assistance of their mother.

We close with the following memorial tribute written by his close friend, R. G. (Garnett) Huey:

"In the passing of Elmer Shepard into 'that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returneth' the Ohio Valley Dahlia Association suffered an irreparable loss.

"Yet, it is as a man and as a friend that we shall miss him most. Of impeccable integrity in his personal and business relations, a keen student and judge of the flower he loved so much, a grower par excellence, intensely loyal to his friends, unswerving in his stand for what he believed to be right, yet charitable in his judgments, an appreciative

host, contagious in his enthusiasm and a friend to all who grew dahlias, he presented an unforgettable and colorful personality to all those who knew him personally and through correspondence, both in this country and in others. His counsel, his friendship and his warm handclasp were for all.

"Generous, open-hearted, big-souled, he was a man's man and a man's friend. In the hearts and memories of those of us who loved him, he will always live as just 'Elmer!'"

---

## **Invitation To Commercial Growers**

Space will be available for commercial displays at the Mid-West show staged by the Central States Dahlia Society in Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago. There will be no charge for space. Park rules forbid straight sales and orders but literature may be distributed. All entries must be applied for by August 1st. Priority will be given to early applications. Send applications to

E. F. Schampel  
709 Greenwood Rd.  
Glenview, Illinois

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Choice Selected Roots, Rooted Cuttings  
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**Clarksburg  
Dahlia and Floral Gardens  
CLARKSBURG, INDIANA**

## **Recent Activities of our Society**

**By W. H. WICKHAM,  
Corresponding Secretary**

**A** year which promises to be full of activity for Central States Dahlia Society opened with two fine meetings.

At the meeting on January 9, at Garfield Park, Mr. George Currie of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, showed color slides. Included were pictures from his own garden, from other gardens and from shows throughout the country. The 1949 introductions were of particular interest. Mr. Currie pointed out that there is an unusually large number of promising introductions this year. Recent foreign introductions also appeared attractive. Some of the slides received from Australia showed that they too have some good ones. Mr. J. T. Fitchett of Janesville, Wisconsin furnished some nice slides of miniatures. The large group present at the meeting gathered much information to assist them in selecting varieties for the coming season. Several out of town members and guests were present and were introduced.

Announcement was made that Mr. Glenn Pierce has accepted the chairmanship of the 1949 show. At present writing plans are well under way, as reported elsewhere in this issue, and we are looking forward to a fine show and a grand time as host to the Mid-West Show.

The eighteenth annual Birthday Party was held on February 13 at the Hotel Stevens. Always a highlight in our year's program, this party was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. President Trauth opened the meeting by reading greetings from our distant members. Past presidents were introduced. Mr. Stanley Swanson, Birthday Party Chairman, then took charge of the festivities. Featured in the program was the showing of the new John Nash Ott Jr. film on dahlia growing. Several of our own members and their gardens were shown. Sequences employing the time lapse photography technique were especially interesting. Generous donations of prizes assured the success of the auction and raffles. Prominent in the list of prizes were many 1949 introductions. There were orchids for the lucky ladies and many other attractive gifts. The party was successful in every way and the proceeds give us a good start on the needed funds for our 1949 Mid-West Show.

# Before You Buy . . .

COMPARE **Clariam Fancy**, **Edna D.**, **Golden Treasure**, **Mary Jo.**, **Prairie Sun**, **Ronky**, and **Purple Velvet**, Rocky River introductions for '49, with the varieties they will be competing with on the show tables. Each is pictured and fully described in our free **DAHLIA BLUE BOOK**. All are on Honor Rolls. Among them, they won: eleven American Home Achievement Medals, eight Certificates of Merit, the Leonard Barron Trophy, and a Derrill W. Hart Medal. They are the winners of tomorrow.

## THE RECORD

**Black Monarch**, **Jane Lausche**, and **Mrs. Hester A. Pape**, three of our recent introductions took the top three places in the 1948 Central States show. **Great Lakes** placed fifth, the highest of any 1948 introduction. Add to these, the fine records of our other introductions such as: **Windlassie**, **Mrs. E. J.**, **Kirsten Flagstad**, all the **Clariam** dahlias, **Hiawatha**, and a long list of others, and you will realize that without Rocky River introductions you are half beaten at the shows before you start.

## DAHLIA BLUE BOOK

Our **DAHLIA BLUE BOOK** of fifty-two pages is profusely illustrated. Upwards of 300 of the finest varieties on the market today are simply and adequately described. It contains the most complete, authoritative, and up-to-date cultural directions of any dahlia catalog. It describes most of the common dahlia pests and the damage they do. It tells you how to control each of these pests, with special emphasis on "red spider". All this—and, it's **free**. Just send us your name and address for your copy.

## DAHLIA SEED

We offer only the famous Pape dahlia seed which has produced most of our recent introductions. Only fresh 1948 crop seed is sold. Plant indoors until May 1st. We can still supply at **\$5.00 a hundred**; your choice of types: cactus, semi cactus, decorative, or a mixture of all or any two.

# ROCKY RIVER DAHLIA GARDENS

E. J. WIND (owner)

19111 Story Rd.

Rocky River, 16, Ohio



# AS I SEE IT

By "THE RIBBER"

At the end of my last column, in the December issue of THE DAHLIA, I tossed in a comment on prices charged for new dahlias being introduced. This was done with full confidence that a storm of comments would be aroused. It was expected that our noble commercial growers would rise to the defense of present introductory practices, and that everybody else would set up a clamor for lower prices. Yes, there are some pretty good arguments on both sides of the question,—but what happened? Absolutely nothing! No one took the trouble to express a single thought on the matter, at least not in writing as was expected. Two conclusions are possible: (1) everybody is satisfied, or, (2) nobody reads this stuff.

\* \* \*

Word has seeped back from the annual meeting of the American Dahlia Society held in New York, of the intention to establish a new trial ground on Long Island. The Ribber has had something to say about trial grounds in recent columns. More trial grounds are not the answer to any of the problems discussed, but the Ribber believes that if another trial ground were needed it should be on the West coast.

Just why a trial ground in the New York area is needed isn't plain, especially so, since there is one at New Brunswick, N.J., only about forty miles away. The Ribber recalls that one of the objections to the establishment of a trial ground at Cincinnati, some years ago, was that it would serve the same territory as the one at East Lansing. These two are about two hundred and seventy five miles apart. Now, with the one proposed on Long Island, there will be three within about two hundred miles of one another; the third being at College Park, Md. Add to these another in Georgia and we have four in a narrow tier of eastern states. In the vast area between the Appalachian and Rocky mountains there are two; west of the Rockies, there are none.

Looking at the matter from another angle: Where do the trial ground entries come from? Taking the published reports of the entries at the trial grounds in 1948, we find 116 varieties listed. Forty of these were from the East (using the same geographical divisions as above), seventy from the central area, and six from the West. The Ribber still fails to understand the need for the new trial ground in that section.

Trial grounds are a natural, and necessary, function of the American Dahlia Society. The Ribber is as firm a believer in them as anyone. His criticism of them in recent columns have not been of principle, but of the fact they were not performing as complete a job as we would like, and as we believe possible. He also believes it would be wiser to distribute them more equitably geographically than they are under the proposed set up.

\* \* \*

During the first couple of months of the year, it is almost impossible to pick up a newspaper or magazine, and not see where "so & so" has been selected as the outstanding man of community, the greatest athlete, number one actor, best dressed, etc. on down thru many lines of endeavor, and pulchritude. Some of these selections are downright silly, but some serve an interesting purpose. The Ribber would like to propose a committee to select the person who has done the most for the advancement of the dahlia during the preceding year. This could be on a sectional or national basis.

We are aware of the commendable practice of the American Dahlia Society of making awards to "old timers" who have been a credit to this great hobby, but the recipients of the awards usually go back beyond the memory of present day fans. Some of those doing the most for dahlias at present will not live long enough to receive their merited awards! The Ribber reluctantly admits to an aging and failing memory, but trying his best, he fails to recall any such award going to anyone west of the East. If this is correct, it is probably because organized dahlia events of the hinterlands date back only about twenty-five years!

\* \* \*

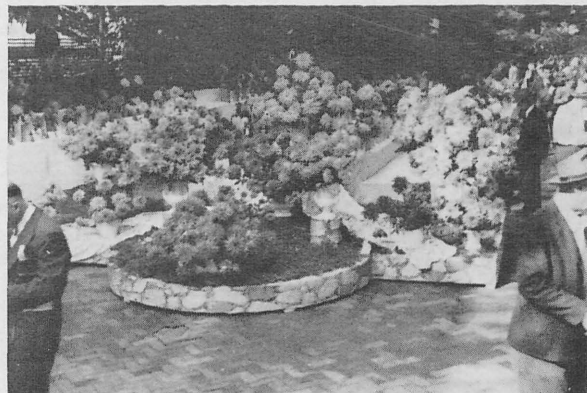
If the Editor doesn't read this column any more than the rest of you seem to, I'll be back in the next issue. (If he reads it, I'm open to offers paying at least as well.) In the meantime, I'll be seeing many of you at the Midwest show, come Sept. 17th and 18th. I have forgotten what town the show is to be in, but elsewhere in these pages, you can get that detail. This time, I do not have to ask the girl friend for permission to go,—she'll be there too. Come early on Friday, there'll be "doings".

## FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

While the weather at times during the 1948 growing and blooming season was far from ideal for dahlias, nevertheless it proved to be a very successful year for most dahlia growers in the Middle West. In our own home garden our dahlias were as good or better than they have ever been.

The writer is firmly convinced that much of the improvement in quality of bloom and foliage to be seen in the dahlia gardens and shows visited is due to the better insect control resulting from use of the improved insecticides now available to dahlia growers. In our own garden we sprayed once each week with a mixture of DDT and Hexcide from the time the leaf hoppers first made their appearance in June until the cool nights arrived in September, and achieved perfect control of leaf hoppers and red spider, and the dahlia foliage was the healthiest in appearance we have ever had. Our spray mix consisted of one heaping tablespoon of Deenate 50-W (a powder) to each gallon of water, and two teaspoons of Hexcide (a liquid) to each three gallons of water. We washed the sprayer out with clean water after use each time to be sure that no harmful effects could result to the equipment, a precaution we would recommend no matter what spray material is used. During the show season we used several sprayings of Chlordane (a liquid) at the rate of one tablespoon to the gallon of water, and this can be sprayed directly into the face of the blooms (even white varieties) with no discoloration resulting, and it is most effective against thrip, aphids, cucumber beetles, grasshoppers and leaf hoppers.

It was the writer's good fortune to attend five excellent shows in 1948; the Badger State



Amateur mass display of Bennett and Beckmann at 1948 St. Louis show. All blooms in this display were undis-seminated seedlings of their own raising.

Dahlia Society show at Madison, Wisconsin; the Mid-West show at Milwaukee; the Central States Dahlia Society show at Chicago; the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Show at St. Louis; and the Dahlia Society of Alabama Show at Birmingham.

At the Badger State show which opened at Madison on September 5th, instead of having an award for the most perfect bloom in the show, there is an award for the most perfect flower in each of the four formations of Formal Decorative, Informal Decorative, Semi-Cactus and Cactus. *Pop Harris* won as best F. D., *White Pop Harris* as best I.D., *Buccaneer* as best S.C. and *Nancy Ann Mitchell* as best C. There were six good entries in the class for undis-seminated dahlias three years old or older, the winner being George Baker's great red S.C., *The Cardinal*.

The Milwaukee Mid-West and the Central States shows were fully covered in the last issue of *The Dahlia*. The St. Louis Show is held in a conservatory under glass the same as the Central States show. A special feature of the St. Louis show is the amateur mass displays which in quality would outshine most of the best commercial displays in our leading shows. Both the Rees Dahlia Gardens of Tilden, Illinois, and the Ward Horticultural Co. of Webster Groves, Missouri, had creditable commercial displays. In the Rees display *Mrs. Rita Campeau*, a dark red S.C. of an attractive formation, and *Bulldozer*, a large light pink S.C. with a creamy white center, both of which were new to the writer, looked worth growing. The Ward display contained the largest blooms

### GREENFIELD GARDENS

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of *Hilda Fioretti* yet seen, huge vases of *Mrs. Hester Pape*, *California Pageant*, *Carol Lee*, *Sally Klein*, *Clara Hook*, and *Sarett's Pink Flamingo*, and a vase containing five blooms of the excellent red and white F.D. bi-color, *Miss Liberty*.

It was left to one of our Wisconsin growers, Dr. L. J. Steuber of Prairie du Sac, to win the award for the largest bloom in the St. Louis show with his lavender F.D. seedling *Lois Steuber*, the bloom measuring 12 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches. *Bride's Bouquet*, a beautiful 10 inch white F.D. of George Baker of Moline, Illinois, won the American Home Achievement medal, with the judges awarding a special meritorious award ribbon to the runner-up, *Silver Tips*, the attractive Chinese red S.C., with a silver reverse showing at the petal tips, of L. C. (Pat) Bennett and Fred Beckmann, who also had a large vase of it in their amateur mass display.

The evening of the first day of the St. Louis show (October 2nd) we attended the banquet of the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society held a few miles out of the city at an eating place noted for its good chicken dinners where a floor show program especially procured for the occasion by Ray Grass rivaled in quality the excellent program staged in connection with the Mid-West show banquet at St. Louis in 1946, which will long be remembered by the many in attendance on that occasion. It was a most enjoyable evening.

The trip to Birmingham was so planned as to have the entire day of October 8th in Cincinnati, which day was spent in the company of Andy Doermann and Elmer Shepard, and it would be hard to find two more enthusiastic dahlia fans. Our first stop was at Andy's garden, which is famous the country over as the home of the ball dahlia. Here were 5,000 dahlia plants, the vast majority being balls. Here we saw a nice purple ball, *James Cocker*, which Andy explained had been originated in 1871. The ball variety which had the greatest appeal to the writer was *Tom Jones*, a deep cream tipped phlox purple. Other good balls were *A. D. Lavoni* (pink), *Clara Clemens* (red and white bi-color), *Prospero* (old rose), *Red Gold Medal* (flame), *General Haig* (light red), and *Tucker's Red* (red).

There is probably no other dahlia grower in the United States who imports more new varieties each year from foreign countries than Elmer Shepard. In his exhibition and field planting we saw importations from Australia, England, Holland, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany and India, and for 1949 is also importing from Denmark, Italy, Argentina,

and Belgian Congo. It is difficult to put on paper the thrill received that day in seeing so many really fine dahlias of exceptional quality among these foreign importations. The writer saw more new good dahlias at Shepard's which he would like to grow in his own garden than seen in any single planting visited in the past half dozen years or more. Because Elmer's own exhibition planting isn't large enough to permit growing plants of all of these new ones, he has his next door neighbor, Dr. F. G. Swing, grow some of them.

Those which had an especial appeal as having top-notch exhibition quality were: *Sri Chandra* (India), a bright light pink blended with yellow F.D. having graceful long narrow petals 8 to 9 inches in diameter facing the side on good stems (this was Andy Doermann's No. 1 choice); *Jubilejny* (Czecho-Slovakia), a large variegated S.C., red stripes on a yellow background with a good stem, which can be grown to 11 inches in size; *Lillias Thompson* (Australia), a wide petaled bright scarlet I.D., 10 inches in size, of a most attractive formation facing the side on excellent stems, the color not fading in the sun (there is nothing in sight in the Red I.D. class which can defeat this on the show table when right with the single exception of *Dean Shurtleff*, which is not widely grown); *Doris Setterberg* (Australia) a 10 to 11 inch tangerine I.D. with blooms facing at a 45° angle on good stems, which looks like a sure winner in the new Orange I.D. class; *Majestat* (Germany), one of the blooms of which measured 13 inches, a blend of dark lavender pink and yellow, I.D. in formation, facing straight up on a strong growing bush, its one defect being a short stem, but its size is immense, a most spectacular variety; *Ville de Bourges* (Belgium), an 8 inch F.D. bi-color, having much the same color as *Kentucky Sportsman* (dark amber with white tips); *Barbara Marshall* (Australia) has nearly

## BALL DAHLIAS

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Cheviot (Cincinnati — 11) Ohio

The Home of the Ball Dahlia



the same scarlet color and size as *Lillias Thompson*, but petals are narrower and more pointed; *Tharon Plage* (Belgium), a bright rose pink S.C. 9 by 5", which looks bigger, having lacinated petal tips and a high center on nice long strong stems (this was seen in Dr. Swing's garden and the writer's favorite of all); *Pavel Svaty* (Czecho-Slovakia), a 10 inch I.D. to S.C. of a bright rose red with white tips and good stems; *Naren Boy* (India), a large fuschia purple I.D.; *Dandy Snow* (Australia, an origination of Mr. T. W. Cowley, whose article appeared in the December issue of *The Dahlia*), a 9 inch wide petaled white cactus on good stems, which reminds one of *Bill Jack*, only is true cactus and not S.C.; *Moeder Toebaert* (Belgium), a beautiful B sized lavender incurved cactus with white center having tightly quilled petals and grand stems; *Warrior* (Australia), a beautiful 10 to 11 inch red I.D., a First Class Certificate winner at Burnley, which will be especially desirable if officially classified Dark Red instead of Red; and *Madam Elizabeth Sawyer* (Belgium), a B sized clear pink straight cactus which should prove a certain winner in its class; and *Bronze-wing* (Australia), an even shade of golden Buff F.D. which can be grown to 12 inches having a rather low growing bush (should be side-budded to get proper stem length); and *Cheerio* (Australia), a beautiful purplish red cactus with tips of light lavender, almost white, the prettiest new miniature seen in many a moon.

No dahlia fan should ever go to Cincinnati without making a visit to the beautifully landscaped dahlia beds of Mr. E. R. Heitzman, 3289 Observatory Road, and the tribute Mr. Lewis J. West paid to this garden in his article in the December issue of *The Dahlia* is well deserved. Mr. Heitzman is very fond of poms and miniatures, as well as the large exhibition types, and grows them extensively. *Sweetie*, a little bright red pom from England, *Leslie*, a small lavender pink pom from Australia of excellent formation, and *Golf Ball*, a small yellow tipped rose red pom, in this garden looked especially good. Many foreign introductions, both large and small, are grown by Mr. Heitzman. *Marion Tate*, an immense blend of rosy lavender and yellow I.D., facing the side on strong stems, a recent importation from England, was particularly outstanding. Excellent blooms of *Lord of Autumn*, *Colonel Little* and *Lakeside Beauty* were also seen here.

The A. D. S. Trial Garden in Ault Park, Cincinnati, is the most beautifully situated of any of the Trial Gardens the writer has visited, and the dahlia plants there gave every evidence of receiving excellent care. The outstanding variety in the Trial Garden on the day of our

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visit was *Beauty Queen*, entered by J. R. Carlisle of Amelia, Ohio. The blooms were a deep dark rose pink with a white center, S.C. in formation, some facing the side and some at a 45° angle, on good stems, the size being 10" by 6". This same variety won the American Home Achievement medal at the 1947 Cincinnati show. Other entries doing well were *Clariam Fancy*, *The Cardinal*, *Bride's Bouquet* and *Stake No. 30*, a cream colored F.D., deeper cream at center, 9" by 6", having heavy foliage, a new and unusual color, entered by Dixie Gardens, Clio, Michigan.

The adjacent beds of named varieties at Ault Park contained many times the number of plants in the Trial Garden. Here we saw a 12 inch bloom of Carlisle's recent yellow I.D. introduction, *Jack Francis*, that was just about the finest dahlia bloom seen all season. Other named varieties doing well in this planting were *Sunburst*, *Axford Triumph*, *Colonel Little*, *Jane Lausche*, *Mother Ballego*, *Class*, *Autumn Blaze*, *Jersey's Dainty* and *Chermar's Dahliamum*.

While in Cincinnati we also visited the excellent backyard dahlia garden of Miss Alice Mattick, 4223 Dane Avenue, where we saw excellent blooms of *Frieda Gaylord*, *White Pop Harris*, *Kemp's Purple Triumph*, *Dandy Snow*, *Mrs. Hester Pape* and *Terry*.

The next morning (October 9th) on the train from Cincinnati to Birmingham the writer had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Bishop Clare Purcell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in whose honor the 1948 beautiful orange cactus introduction of Peck's Golden Rule Dahlia Farm was named.

The Dahlia Society of Alabama show in the beautiful ballroom of the Tutwiler Hotel far exceeded in quality of bloom anything your editor had anticipated. In fact, the quality was every bit as good as that at the Mid-West

and Central States shows. One of the highlights of the show was a big vase of 25 blooms of *Golden Treasure*, an orange colored B sized F.D., exhibited by T. M. Floyd, an additional three bloom entry of which also won the American Home Achievement medal. A magnificent bloom of *Mrs. Hester Pape*, exhibited by Mrs. A. M. Brothers, was adjudged the best bloom in the show over 8", while an exquisite bloom of the old timer, *Jersey's Beauty*, exhibited by Harry Kee Brady of Chattanooga, was the best bloom in the show under 8". A special feature was a trophy offered for the best bloom in the show over 8" of a variety introduced 10 or more years ago, which was won by Dr. H. C. Rike, with a 12" bloom of *Lord of Autumn*, that reminded one of the old days when this variety could be counted upon to win regularly as best bloom in the show. Mr. C. G. Goodwin exhibited a vase containing six huge blooms of *Mrs. Hester Pape* and six of *The Real Glory* which were a knockout.

A bloom of the 1948 introduction, *Frances Hanna*, entered by Norman Lefkovits, was the finest red and white bicolor the writer had ever seen. The next day we had the opportunity of seeing the plant in Norman's garden from which the bloom was cut. If anyone likes bicolors (and we do) this is one which should be placed on your "must list" for 1949. Another variety seen in this show for the first time, which made a hit with us, although it has been on the market for several years, was *Great Divide*, a 10 inch peach colored S.C. with a yellow center, having excellent formation and a good stem.

The Artistics Arrangement section of this show was outstanding and much of the credit for this is due to Mrs. Rike, who had charge of this section. Mrs. Rike in the schedule assigned these titles to various classes: "For the Busy Woman", "Inexpensive Glamour", "Pink Fantasy", "Cool and Tranquil (a study in green and white)", "Fall Crescent", and "One Alone", and the entrants used their own imagination in devising appropriate arrangement entries which would fit such titles.

There were quite a number of dahlia "bugs" present from Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Nashville, and the delicious judges' luncheon served after the completion of judging, proved a most pleasant get-together. The next morning (Sunday, October 10th) the out-of-state visitors were taken on a tour of gardens, which was thoroughly enjoyed, and was further convincing proof that the Alabama growers do not have to take a back seat to any when it comes to growing good dahlias. In fact, we were royally

entertained throughout our two day stay, and were so favorably impressed by this taste of Southern hospitality that we are already formulating plans to attend this year's Southern States Dahlia Association show at Atlanta on October 1st and 2nd.

The writer cannot recall another year in the past when so many excellent new dahlias were offered for introduction in a single season as are being introduced in 1949. We grew more new ones on trial this past season than ever before and of those we grew we can recommend the following as being really good: *Bride's Bouquet*, *Clariam Fancy*, *Emma Caroline*, *Edna D.*, *Forty-Niner*, *Mayfair*, *New Look* and *The Cardinal*. *Mayfair* has had practically no publicity and yet we consider it the most beautiful dahlia the veteran grower, Mr. C. W. Ballay, has ever put out; the blooms are a beautiful clear rose pink with a lighter center, the petals having almost a translucent appearance, with the tips nicely lacinated; the size is 9" by 6", and the formation is on the borderline between S.C. and I.D., with grand stems and perfect bush growth. Most every bloom of *Edna D.* attained a diameter of 13 inches. *Emma Caroline* is the finest white we have ever grown, the blooms having that waxy appearance so few whites have that adds so much to the beauty of a white flower. If scored by a score card *The Cardinal* would come out on top, because it is practically without fault of any kind.

Of the named varieties in our garden in 1948 the following were outstanding: *Axford Triumph*, *Buccaneer*, *Crowning Glory*, *Darcy Sainsbury*, *Essie Smith*, *Great Lakes*, *Kelvin*, *Lord of Autumn*, *Lovely Jewel* (the finest introduction from Holland we have yet seen and the tallest growing bush in the garden), *Lynn Fontanne*, *Mandalay*, *Mrs. Hester Pape*, *Pop Harris* and *Sunburst*.

(NOTE: The foregoing was written prior to learning of the death of Mr. Elmer Shepard which occurred February 9, 1949).

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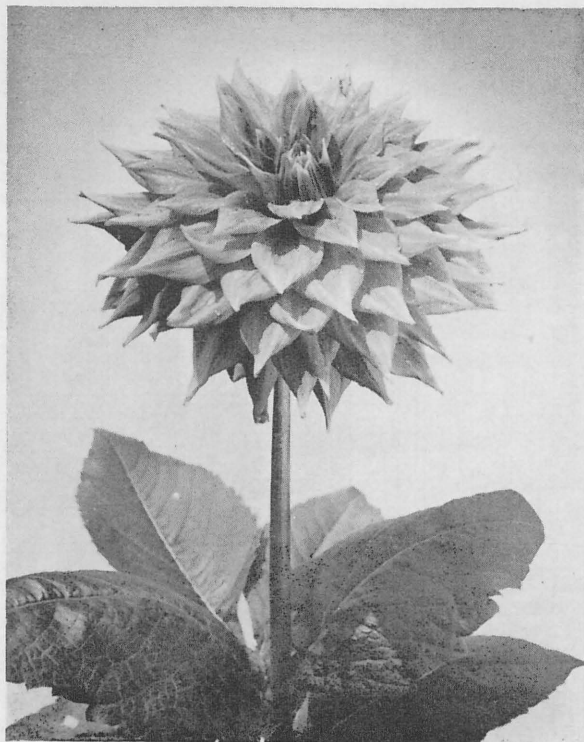
## Hanna Dahlia Gardens

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# Northbrook Dahlia Gardens

## *Introduces for 1949*



**FLAMING SUNSET**

An outstanding variety with medium sized flowers 7-8" in diameter and 5" depth. Here we have a new color in dahlias—a pleasing soft orange flame.

An early and free flowering variety, a tall rugged grower with good heavy foliage and excellent stems.

On the Mid-West and Eastern Honor Rolls, with many winnings to its credit including two Certificates of Merit (Rutgers and Ault Park, 1947), and winner of Meritorious Award ribbon at Mid-West Show at Milwaukee and Bronze Medal Certificate at 1948 A.D.S. Show.

**Roots \$10.00 net**

**Plants \$5.00**

Our new 1949 catalog is now available. Your copy is free for the asking.

## **NORTHBROOK DAHLIA GARDENS**

Ellis J. Asther

**NORTHBROOK, ILL.**



# DAHLIA NEWS AND PERSONALS

Colonel Richard T. Eddy, author of the Pacific Coast Dahlia Honor Roll articles, left early in May of 1948 to visit European dahlia growers. He visited England, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Germany. He visited friends in Chicago and New York both coming and going.

One of his interesting experiences occurred in Scotland where, while inspecting a dahlia planting where the grower had a large number of new European varieties growing on trial at his place, the grower asked him to make his selections of what he liked. As he went along he picked out various dahlias and stopped at one planting and said, "These look like so-and-so's seedlings" (naming a dahlia grower of Europe). He was told that he was correct and that his selections agreed with the results of the European judging.

On his return in October he viewed some of the dahlia plantings around New York City. In Chicago the dahlias had just frozen, but in speaking at the Southtown Dahlia Club at Hamilton Park on October 19, 1948, he was surrounded by dahlias that the members had cut just before the frost. He returned to California in time to write his Honor Roll for the December issue of the "Flower Grower." In December he left for a trip to South America. Word has just reached us from Chile that he will be back in California by April first. If growers of seedlings would like him to grow the same on trial in 1949, he would like the roots to be sent so as to reach him at that time, and, if plants are sent, so he receives them by April 15th. His address is: Colonel Richard T. Eddy, Encinitas, San Diego County, California. He is now contemplating a trip to Alaska this summer.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. R. Carlisle of Amelia, Ohio, in recent years has established an excellent reputation in the field of producing worthwhile dahlia seedlings, and has to his credit such excellent introductions as *Jack Francis*, *Barbara Lee* and *Beauty Queen*. However, he also has a world-wide reputation for making excellent violins and was recently honored in this field by being extended an invitation to exhibit two of his violins at the **International Show** at The Hague, Holland, this coming summer. A team of woodworkers and varnish experts will judge the workmanship, and then the violins entered



Colonel Richard T. Eddy, photographed while in attendance at the Nuremberg Trials

will be played in a dark room before a committee of the world's greatest violinists, who will pass on the tone. The winning violin will be played in concerts in Europe's largest cities and music centers.

\* \* \*

Since November, 1948, Ed Keck, formerly of White Haven, Pennsylvania, and known throughout the dahlia world as the originator of *Refugee*, has been employed by the Rocky River Dahlia Gardens, Rocky River, Ohio, and is enjoying his work there immensely. Ed has grown dahlias since 1925 and should prove a most valuable assistant to Mr. E. J. Wind, the proprietor, in his rapidly expanding dahlia business. Instead of growing winter vegetables in his large greenhouse this coming winter, as has been customary in past years, Mr. Wind is planning on growing dahlias in the greenhouse as a commercial cut flower, planting them in October. This experiment will be watched

with much interest and we hope to be able to report on its success in some future issue of THE DAHLIA.

\* \* \*

Andrew Eide, formerly of Lake Forest, Illinois, now residing at Naples, Florida, in a recent letter to the Editor states that from his limited experience in growing dahlias in Florida this past year he sincerely believes that very fine dahlias can be grown there, provided they are planted in November and December. By planting then, the dahlias have the fine weather of January, February, March and April, and can be dug in May before the rainy season starts in June. In spite of not getting his dahlias planted till the middle of February this past season, Andrew had some nice blooms in April and May. *D-Day*, *Pink Mum*, *Michigan White*, *Bette Davis*, *Refugee* and *St. Therese* proved the best performers, with *D-Day* the best of all. While residing at Lake Forest Andrew was one of the best growers and exhibitors in the Chicago area, and the results of his experiment in growing dahlias in Florida should be of value to any dahlia grower who contemplates retiring to that state and continuing with the growing of dahlias.

\* \* \*

Mr. George Swezey, the well known veteran dahlia grower and proprietor of Premier Dahlia Gardens, Hillside, New Jersey, and Mrs. May Parkhurst were married at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on November 24, 1948. Mrs. Swezey is also an ardent dahlia enthusiast, and Mr. and Mrs. Swezey were among a large group of New Jersey people who attended the American Dahlia Society annual meeting and dinner at New York City on January 18.

\* \* \*

We are sometimes shocked to find how different our standards with respect to desirable characteristics in a dahlia differ from those of growers in foreign countries. Mr. V. G. Bennett of Surrey Hills, Victoria, Australia, in an article published in the July 1, 1948, issue of the magazine "The Australian Garden Lover" comments that the American semi-cactus introductions grown in Australia (referred to by him as "hybrid cactus") show a tendency towards "*lacinated petals and consequent lack of refinement.*" Here in the United States the great majority of our growers consider lacinated petals as a desirable trait which adds beauty and grace to the bloom.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Morton M. Towle of Dewey Lake, Dowagiac, Michigan, on Christmas Day, 1948, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary and were entertained at an open house

in their honor by their nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Bolls of Hammond, Indiana. Mr. Towle, whose father was one of the founders of Hammond and its first mayor and postmaster, retired as cashier of the First National Bank in Hammond twenty-seven years ago. For many years Mr. Towle has been an ardent dahlia enthusiast and his dahlia gardens at the Towle home, "Larchmont Gardens," at Dewey Lake, are considered among the finest in the Middle West. The Towles generously open their gardens to the public every fall and some 5,000 or more visitors avail themselves of this privilege every year. Mr. Towle is a loyal member of the Central States Dahlia Society and Mrs. Towle and he have been frequent visitors at the Central States and the Mid-West Dahlia Shows, having attended the Mid-West show at Milwaukee this past September. Their many dahlia friends extend their very best wishes and congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Towle on this happy anniversary.

\* \* \*

The many friends of Mr. Harry L. Franzen, Maywood, Illinois, former president of Central States Dahlia Society, will be glad to learn that he is recovering from a serious operation which he underwent in January. "Harry", as he is familiarly known to most members of C.S.D.S.,

### INTRODUCING FOR 1949 "PACIFIC QUEEN" (S. C. to I. D.)

An outstanding dahlia of real merit. The 10 to 12 inch blooms are held at a nice angle on very good stems and it is a free and continuous bloomer throughout the season. The color is orchid and white, with the white most pronounced near the base of the petals, making a beautiful color blend that attracts immediate attention.

It won Grand Sweepstakes and Sunset Medal at the Washington State Dahlia Society Show in 1948.

Roots only, \$10.00 net.

**Pacific Dahlia Gardens**  
1115 So. Anderson St.  
Tacoma 6, Washington

is the newly elected chairman for 1949 of the Joint Classification Committee set up by the American Dahlia Society and Central States Dahlia Society to make revisions and additions in the new joint Classification now in the hands of the printer, which is a much merited honor in view of the fact that Harry fathered the idea of the original classification issued by C.S.D.S. in 1938.

\* \* \*

The Dahlia Society of Georgia will be host to the third annual show of the Southern States Dahlia Association, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the sixteenth annual show of the Georgia Society. The show will be held on October 1 and 2 in the Administration Building at the Southeastern Fair. A total of 20,000 square feet of space has been allotted to the show. Out-of-state entries are especially invited.

From information which has been received, many dahlia lovers from the Association's three societies, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, will be attending the show, as well as many dahlia growers of national fame and dahlia enthusiasts from a number of the Northern and Eastern states.

Among the entertainment features planned will be a banquet for our visitors, a tour of dahlia gardens, and a barbecue at the South Atlantic Trial Grounds located in Atlanta. An invitation is extended to seedling growers to enter their seedlings in the Trial Grounds. Secure application blanks from Mr. C. E. Faust, 3532 Piedmont Ave. N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Send the entries to Mr. Nelson Crist,  $\frac{1}{2}$  A. G. Hastings Company, 180 Mitchell St. S.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

\* \* \*

Mr. C. E. Lundvall, formerly a leading dahlia grower of Rockford, Illinois, and an active member of Central States Dahlia Society, now resides at 655 Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro, California. 1948 was his first season of growing dahlias in California, and at the 1948 San Leandro show he won the Chamber of Commerce \$30.00 cup for the best dahlia in the show, also seven firsts, three seconds and the award for the largest dahlia in the show, which speaks well of his prowess as a grower of exhibition blooms.

In addition to retaining his membership in C.S.D.S., he is now also a member of the San Leandro Dahlia Society and Dahlia Society of California.

\* \* \*

There is always something fascinating about a big dahlia, and the Indianapolis Dahlia Society

plans to encourage its members to grow them big by setting up a class in its 1949 show schedule called "The Speedway Classic." This class is to cover the largest bloom, depth times diameter, and the bloom must be a good specimen and worthy of a Blue Ribbon, but will not compete for any other award in the show. The entry fee will be \$1.00 and will be open to members of the Indianapolis Dahlia Society only. No entries will be received after July 15. The purse will be awarded 60-30-10% for first, second and third.

The 1949 schedule has also been improved by the addition of several three and five bloom classes, and eight artistic arrangement classes, in which other flowers are permitted, but in which dahlias must predominate. The Garden Flower section has been rewritten in accordance with Rules of Flower Judging, which should improve this section. A fine list of trophies and ribbons have already been secured and competition promises to be keen.

The Dahlia Society of Kentucky has a class similar to the Speedway Classic which it calls "The Kentucky Derby."

\* \* \*

Dr. Stanley D. Tylman of Lombard, Illinois, past president of Central States Dahlia Society, and former editor of *The Dahlia*, and a member of the faculty of the Dental School of the University of Illinois, was in Argentina the fore part of the winter where he lectured on crown and bridge processes at the University of Buenos Aires, his specialty in the field of dentistry. While there he was called upon to treat President Juan Domingo Peron and had the honor of pulling several of the president's teeth. President Peron was so pleased with Dr. Tylman's work that he invited him to dinner at the presidential residence, and when Dr. Tylman left for home President and Mrs. Peron drove out to the Buenos Aires airport to bid him farewell. Time magazine covered these events in an interesting news story appearing in its issue of January 10, 1949 (page 30).

\* \* \*

The Minnesota Dahlia Society, at its meeting of March 16th, voted unanimously to extend an invitation to the Mid-West Conference to hold the 1950 Mid-West Show at Minneapolis, and Mr. C. H. Rose, President of the Society, has forwarded a formal invitation to Mrs. F. W. Kleinjohn, Secretary of the Mid-West Conference, extending such invitation. The Minnesota shows are held in the block-long lobby of the Northwestern National Bank Building, which would provide an ideal setting for a Mid-West Show.



# RUSCHMOHR PRESENTS

## The Big Dahlia Winners Of The Year

**BRIDE'S BOUQUET** (Baker) F.D. Pure white with no trace of any other color in bloom. Size 10-12 inches. Stem 7-12 inches long and straight. Robust grower. Winner of The American Home Achievement Medal in St. Louis. Winner of American Dahlia Society Gold Certificate at N.Y. as worthy seedling. Winner of Meritorious Award Ribbon in seedling class at Midwest Show.

**Roots \$15.**

**Plants \$7.50 3 for \$20. Net**



**THE CARDINAL** (Baker) S.C. Color cardinal red. Blooms 10-12 inches, facing, on long cane like stems, well above the foliage. Bush 6 ft. Winner of 4 American Home Achievement Medals, at The Midwest Show in Milwaukee, Central States Show in Chicago, Tri-City Show, in Moline, Ill. and The Southern Dahlia Conference Show at Chattanooga. Winner of Gold Medal as best seedling, in Madison, Wis. Winner of 3 largest and best blooms in Southern Conference Show in Chattanooga. Winner of the Derrill W. Hart Medal with an average score of 85.5 in 3 A.D.S. Trial Grounds. Being certified at Atlanta 86, East Lansing 85.5 and Cincinnati 85.

**Roots \$15. Net**

**Plants \$7.50 3 for \$20. Net.**



**BRIDE'S BOUQUET**



**NEW LOOK** (Guttler) S.C. Empire yellow, very large blooms, running 12-14 inches. Long stiff stems. Bushes 6 ft. tall. Winner of The American Home Achievement Medal in American Dahlia Society Show in New York, also in N. E. Penn. Show in Scranton, Pa. and L. I. Dahlia Soc. Show in Jamaica, N. Y. Winner of Meritorious Award Ribbon in Seedling Class at Midwest Show in Milwaukee, Wisc. Winner as largest and most perfect bloom in L. I. Dahlia Show in 1947.

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### CHOICE DAHLIA SEED FROM CALIFORNIA

Some of leading Honor Roll and Achievement Medal Dahlias have been produced from our seed. Prices are as follows: **20 for \$1. 60 for \$2.50. 125 for \$5.00**

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NOTE: Root stock of the above Baker Originations can be either obtained from us or direct from the Originator, Mr. Geo. L. Baker, 1808 34th St., Moline, Ill.

# Giant Ballay Dahlias

- Since 1920 -

## *Our New Introductions For 1949*

**FORTY-NINER** — Semi-cactus. Bright yellow. Large full flower with all petals definitely incurved. Excellent growing habits with attractive fern-like foliage. Award of Merit in the Seedling Class at the 1948 Mid-West Show at Milwaukee and on the Eastern Honor Roll.

**KING OF THE WHITES** — Informal Decorative. Clear glistening white. Very large full flower of fine form. Blooms early and freely. Especially desirable in that it is not soiled by heat or moisture. Another and a better Gaylord white.

**MAYFAIR** — Informal Decorative, sometimes S.C. Bright true pink with white center. Petals are lacinated which gives it an unusual and beautiful appearance. Fairly large flower with all good habits.

**SAVINA** — Incurved cactus. Bright salmon with golden yellow center. Bloom is of good size for a cactus and is well colored. Prolific bloomer. On Eastern Honor Roll.

**PRICE** per strong division, \$15.00 NET each, or one strong division of all four for \$50.00 NET.

Our 1949 illustrated catalogue, giving full descriptions of these and many more leading varieties, is free on request.

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