

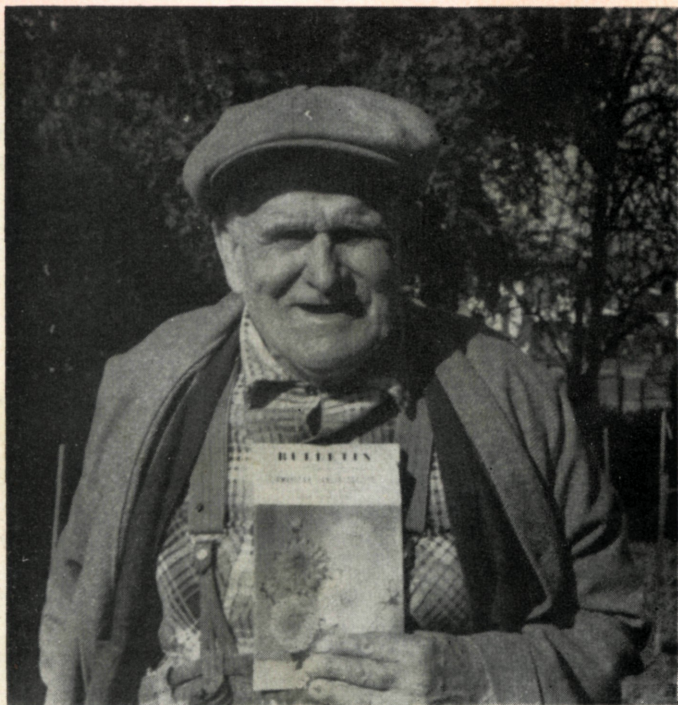
BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

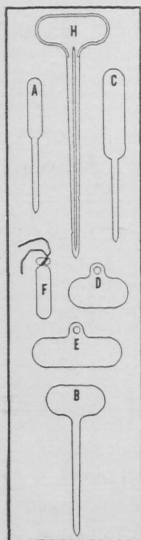
MAY — 1956

Published Quarterly — Second Quarter



CHARLES GARRITY

"Father" of the San Leandro Dahlia Society, 83 years young, and still growing dahlias. He has helped more people to start the dahlia hobby than any other man in California. He holds a copy of The A.D.S. Bulletin for which he was a correspondent for many years. (See story Pages 5-6.)



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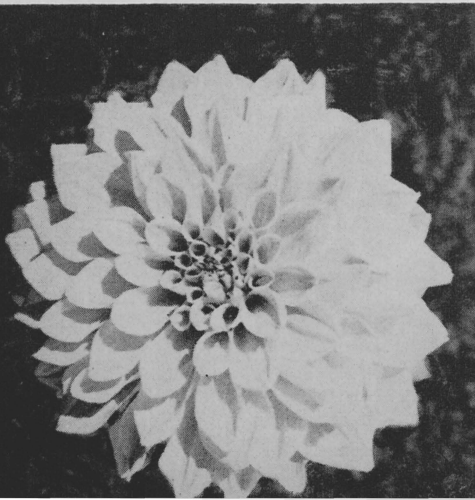
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Editor - - - - - LYNN B. DUDLEY
25 Irving Place, New Rochelle, N. Y.
(See list of Associate Editors on another page)

San Francisco Bay Area Dahliasts

Roll Out the Cardinal Carpet for the Editor

There must be something about Dahlia growing that makes people warm and friendly towards other Dahlia folks. It is true all over this great land.

The editor, with Mrs. Dudley, took a T. W. A. Constellation to San Francisco March 28 for a few weeks visit with Lt. Col. Brice Pace and family, who moved to Mill Valley, just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, from Ft. Dix, N. J., last August.

Mrs. Pace (our daughter Doris), with the three grandchildren, met us at the San Francisco Airport, which by the way, is one of the finest airports at which we ever landed, after an interesting 13 hour flight across northern U. S. A. The trip was intended to be a visit and a vacation. But it turned out to be much more than that, as you will see, if you read on.

We had only written to two men that we were coming west. They were R. E. Harter, of Walnut Creek and Dr. Julian R. Brandon, Jr., of San Francisco. They were just casual expressions of the hope that we could meet and have a good old dahlia talk with them. But, by so doing,



Photo by Harold Winder, Courtesy Oakland, Cal. Park Dept.

MEETING AT LAKESIDE PARK TRIAL GARDEN

On April 4, 1956, these men gathered at the Pacific Coast A.D.S. Trial Garden to go over plans for the 1956 Trials and Display planting. L. to R.: Stanley O'Connell, nurseryman, Oakland Park Department; R. E. Harter, supervisor of Pacific Coast Trial Ground for Dahlias, Lakeside Park; Carl O. Lundvall, president, San Leandro Dahlia Society; Lynn B. Dudley, editor, American Dahlia Society Bulletin; Robert J. Ammerman, head nurseryman, Oakland Park Department; Richard Trotter, chairman of Display Garden, Lakeside Park.

we opened up a whole new vista of contacts and wonderful meetings with the dahlia people in the "Bay Area" of the Pacific Coast.

Lakeside Park Trial Gardens

On Monday, April 2, we went by bus to meet Mr. Harter for lunch and then drove with him to Lakeside Park, Oakland, where the Official A.D.S. Trial Garden is located, and of which Mr. Harter is chairman. Our route was across the long Bay Bridge over Treasure Island, with Alcatraz Prison on our left. The aerial view of the entire Bay area from this bridge is breathtaking to even an easterner who is used to George Washington, Whitestone and Throughway crossings.

We had supposed that Mr. Harter would take us there and show us the Trial Garden as a twosome. But when we arrived, to our surprise, a delegation from the San Leandro Dahlia Society, headed by C. E. Lundvall of San Leandro, President of the society, Richard C. Trotter, Chairman of the display part of the garden, with Mrs. Trotter; R. A. Freestone of Oakland; Robert J. Ammerman, Head Nurseryman of Oakland Park Department and Stanley O'Connell, Dahlia Expert of the Park Department. Harold K. Winder, Park Dept. Gardener, who "doubles in brass" as Park Photographer, took our pictures. We are indebted to him for the illustrations used here. He operated our Leica as well as his own Press camera.

The entire Dahlia Garden is located at one of the main entrances and occupies about four acres. It is divided into several plots. In one, near the entrance, is located the A.D.S. Trial Garden. In the others, standard or disseminated varieties of Small, Medium and Large types each have their own section. In all, there are over 2,000 hills and in our imagination we could see it in full bloom. What a sight it must be. Last year (1955), 33 new varieties were tested and six received A.D.S. Certificates of Merit, each having scored 85 points or over on an average of all season judging. These winners were reported in the Nov., 1955 BULLETIN.

Planting was to be started about April 15 and the soil was all prepared with a top dressing of 5-10-10 or acid phosphate. The texture of the soil seemed to be ideal. The Dahlia plants were in flats in the lath house, that was later to house the Tuberous Begonias.

A New Dahlia Fertilizer

In between the snapping of the pictures, Richard C. Trotter showed us a strange new dahlia manure he had discovered and collected in the woods of northern California. It was composed of fibrous material of some sort in small cylinder shaped funnels about 2 inches long. He said it

was guaranteed to make dahlias grow faster at night, after the sun was down. He further claimed that it would supply not only the three main food elements but also organic material and calcium to Dahlias. When we explained to Mr. Trotter that Dr. Bruce Preas, President of the A.D.S., had done considerable research, from time to time, on strange and bizarre fertilizers including elephant manure for the giant size, biggest-in-show dahlias, he asked us to please take the sample box of his new discovery to Dr. Preas for trial in his garden, which we did. We can also report that neither Dr. Preas nor any member of the Executive Committee, meeting on May 27 in New York was able to identify the material. If our readers wish samples and want to learn the nature of and source of this revolutionary new manure, you may write to Richard C. Trotter, 382 West MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, California.

We expressed to the San Leandro Society group present and to the Lakeside Park officials our interest in the Trial and Display Dahlia Garden and complimented them on the fine layout and cultural plans for it. We said that after almost 30 years of visiting A.D.S. Trial Gardens in six states, we could not recall a finer location or more ambitious plans for a Trial Garden, than this Lakeside project. We hope that all Dahlia originators in California and nearby states will avail themselves of the opportunity to have their Dahlia Seedlings tested in this garden. As before mentioned, the all-season checking and scoring is under the able direction of R. E. Harter. (The Display part of the planting is under the direction of Mr. Trotter.) Both Mr. Harter and Stanley O'Connell, Park Nurseryman, assured us that they could accommodate up to 500 Dahlia seedlings instead of the less than 50 on trial last year.

We Meet An Old Friend

After the garden visit, Mr. Harter took us on a tour. Our first stop was at the
(Continued on following page)

THE PACIFIC COAST TRIAL GROUNDS

This view of the grounds just before planting was taken April 4, 1956. Over 2000 hills of dahlias were to be planted. Here in Lakeside Park, Oakland, Calif., is an almost perfect setting for a Trial Garden.



home of our long time friend and correspondent, Charles Garrity, in San Leandro, whom we had never met face to face. He was exactly as we had pictured him, however. A genial, kindly Scotsman who, through the years, would much rather give a man some dahlia roots to get him started in the Dahlia hobby than to make a dollar or two off of a new customer. He started his horticultural career in England as an apprentice, then went to Australia and later came to California. Charlie is 83 years young and still full of Dahlia enthusiasm. He has a host of friends and we met scores of growers who told us that Charlie was the one who got them started in Dahlias. He had some "back trouble" this winter and could not dig his roots and Mr. Harter offered to bring some of the "boys" over to do the digging, cutting up and replanting. He seemed pleased at the offer and this will probably be done. Dahlia people everywhere like to help each other. We met Mrs. Garrity and their granddaughter, Nancy, 8 years old. We took their pictures and then resumed our tour. (Mrs. Harter later told us that she was working on a biographical sketch of Mr. Garrity and would send it to us for publishing in the BULLETIN. It should be an inspiration to all younger Dahlia growers, when it appears.

English Walnut Country

Our next stop was Walnut Creek. On the way we saw thousands of acres of English walnuts, and almonds. Some of the nut ranches comprised thousands of acres. In some sections, big 60 foot high walnut trees were between the road and the fence. In our naive way we asked Mr. H. who harvested those nuts. He replied that the owner of the adjoining property was supposed to, but sometimes automo-

bilists from out of the state, who didn't know any better, stopped and gathered some. He looked sideways at us, but as it was out of season for nuts, we made no suggestion to stop.

We arrived at the new home of the Harters, which was being built at the time. They will grow their Dahlias in some very fine black loam, which as we said, also grows a bumper crop of nuts every year in this locality. He had field peas planted ready to turn under for green manure, the type of plant which has the nitrogen nodules. Mr. Harter had searched the Bay area for over two years for a place with this type of soil.

Next, Mr. and Mrs. Harter took us over their valley and down several others. Just before dinner, we arrived in Berkeley and visited the beautiful campus of the University of California. The great variety of trees, mostly unfamiliar to us, was most interesting, as were the various buildings. Then we partook of some Pacific crab at Spencer's Fish Grotto. (Drew Mulcahy should have been along.) Then way back across both the Bay and Golden Gate bridges to Mill Valley. It was almost midnight and the Harters had at least a 40 mile trip back to Walnut Creek, but this seemed to make no difference, if they could be kind to a Dahlia man from "down East," that was their pleasure.

The San Leandro Dahlia Meeting

The next evening, April 3rd, Col. Pace, our son-in-law, drove us in to S.F. to the office and home of Dr. Julian R. Brandon, whom we will tell you more about later on. He drove us to the beautiful San Leandro High School where President Lundvall had asked us when we were at the Trial Gardens, to talk at the regular meeting of the San Leandro Dahlia Society. There were nearly 100

present and they generously cut short the business part of the meeting to give us more time. Dr. Brandon introduced us and he was so complimentary in his remarks that, no matter what we said, we could not possibly live up to his "advance billing." We conveyed greetings from President Bruce Preas and all members of the A.D.S. to their society. We further complimented them on the splendid layout and planning for the Lakeside Park Trial Garden. We said we hoped that they would have at least 100 seedlings there on trial this season. Then we described cultural practices in the east, the climatic conditions, including hurricane devastation in the last few years, pest control, mulching and similar subjects.

Because of the interest of the audience in Trial Gardens and Honor Rolls we explained the reasons back of the arrangement between the A.D.S. and the Flower Grower H. R. Testers, with an equal testing fee of \$3.00 per variety for 1956. There were many questions about eastern shows, fertilization and the like.

Refreshments were served after the meeting and to our great surprise, we found that Mrs. Richard C. Trotter, whom we had met the day before at Lakeside Park, had baked a huge, beautifully decorated cake, with the legend across the top, "Welcome to Lynn B. Dudley." This epitomized, more than anything we could add, the real friendliness and cordiality which was extended to us by all the dahlia folks in the Bay area. There was a big lump in our throat when we beheld Mrs. Trotter's cake. It was as exciting as an extra birthday, but at our age, we do not need any extra ones.

A Specially Conducted Tour

The next day, Wednesday, April 4, having given his patients some kind of a delayed action appointment arrangement, called for us at 9:00 a. m. in Mill Valley and took us visiting. First stop was at the Presidio, the most beautiful Army Post that we have ever visited. Here Charles White, Head Gardener of the Post, and Chairman of the Program Committee of the Dahlia Society of California greeted us and showed us the Dahlia terrace, where the planting was about completed. He had a large bed of Calla Lillies which he said had been blooming all winter. (We rarely see Callas similarly planted in the East.) Many of the other plants and shrubs were new to us, as were most of the hedges and trees.

Mr. White asked us if we would speak before the Dahlia Society of Calif., meeting the following Tuesday, April 10. We

couldn't refuse after the way the red carpet had been rolled out for us, and anyway he bribed us with some roots of some choice Calif. varieties which we did not grow. We took pictures of Mr. White on the Dahlia terrace amid his fine planting, a selection of foreign and domestic favorites, then we were on our way South.

Down the Peninsula to Palo Alto

It was a beautiful day, temperature about 68, and we remember that the weather man had said they had had a 10-inch snow the day before, back home. With the Bay at our left and the Coastal Range on our right we reveled in the scenery before us. All during the trip Dr. Brandon was not only pointing out things of interest along the way, but was filling us in on the case histories of Dahlia growers in the area, and believe us he knew them all. He also covered a lot of points wherein Dahlia culture differed there from practices in the East, and there are quite a few of them. I was learning all the time.

California Dahlia Roots

At 4309 El Camino Real we found Charles W. Ballay at home, sitting on a box out in the back yard, cutting up roots. We visited his root storage room, a shed like building, which permits air to enter around all sides. The roots were in piles around the walls and in the center. None had labels on them but the names or seedling numbers were plainly written on the roots with indelible pencil. Some of the piles of roots were covered with damp burlap to start the eyes. We might inject the comment here that all Dahlia roots grown in California which we saw on the trip were strong, mostly thick, and with sturdy necks. Their skin is tough and seemingly harder in texture than eastern grown roots. This hard surface is evidently caused by the practice of Calif. growers of leaving the roots in the ground for 9 or 10 months. They are completely cured. Some in the east claim that this tough skin retards eyeing out in green house benches for propagation, and even when planted in the ground. In reply to this, we can only say that we have been receiving roots from Mr. Ballay and others every year for many years and have never had late blooms, except on a few naturally late varieties.

Root Storage Variations

We could not help but contrast the casual, almost open-to-the-air method of storage by Mr. Ballay with our digging
(Continued on following page)

early some years to avoid freezing in the ground, drying out troubles, too hot basements and other problems which we have to preserve the roots from one season to another here.

Mr. Ballay was another long time correspondent of ours whom we had never met. And again he was almost exactly as we had pictured him. His large yard was planted with many varieties of trees and shrubs, including beautiful Belle of Portugal roses in bloom, olives, oranges, lemons, etc. His Dahlia field covers about two acres. He specializes in large Dahlias, having introduced only one "B" Medium Dahlia in many years. This was Torch, a very beautiful Flame blend straight cactus. (This one was on our Eastern Honor Roll of 1953.)

His more recent introductions include *Las Laureles*, *Rosario*, *Sequoia*, *Yosemite*, and *Alcazar*. Mr. Ballay is highly regarded by dahlia growers as one who knows what big dahlias have a chance of winning at the shows. We had a very pleasant and profitable half hour with him and wished it could have been longer. We may be able to give a more complete word picture of Mr. Ballay, with the assistance of Dr. Brandon, in a later issue.

Our next stop was at the home of Emil H. (Pete) Magnuson at his home at 1879 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Mr. Magnuson was recovering from a major operation but was very cheerful. Because of his illness his right, or digging arm was stiff and painful. Planting season was only a week away, but he was not at all discouraged. He said "I'll be out there gardening before you know it." He added that his Dahlia friends had offered to help with the planting and he might let

them. Mr. Magnuson has originated many fine Dahlias. His latest one, introduced by Ballay, was *Arguello*. We were inspired by the courage and fortitude of Mr. Magnuson in so cheerfully surmounting so serious an illness and planning his garden future. As Dr. Brandon so aptly observed, "Isn't that just like a Dahlia nut?"

The Fog Rolls In

As we left Palo Alto and drove north on Route 101, we observed a phenomenon, new to us, but one taken as a matter of course by all San Franciscans. We refer to the miles long fog bank rolling in from the Pacific, up and over the Coastal Range. We could look down from our vantage point on a ridge and see the homes and business places, in their whites, pastel greens and pinks, with the late afternoon sun shining on them. No fog there yet. But the bank kept rolling in and down into the valleys. Soon it would be 15 or more degrees cooler, overcast and quite moist where that sun was now shining. To an easterner it was really awe inspiring.

Yes, the San Franciscans take the evening fog very casually, but the Dahlia growers among them look on it as a blessing. Without rains through the summer months, it is necessary to water the Dahlias every three or four days. And the cool, damp, foggy air definitely aids Dahlias in their growth, as Dr. Brandon explained it to us.

Our last stop of the day was at the home of John Gaylord, 285 Douglas St., San Francisco. Just as we arrived, another Dahlia grower drew up in his car to get a supply of roots. He was Col.

DAHLIAS AT AN ARMY POST

Charles White, head gardener of the Presidio, at San Francisco is shown as he planted dahlia display at this Army Post. Mr. White is active in the Dahlia Society of California, also.



George Mayo, (retired) living at St. Helena, up in the grape district near Napa.

A 1500 Hill Back Yard Garden

John Gaylord is a sort of dahlia institution on the coast. He, with Mrs. Gaylord, are hard working members of both Dahlia Societies in the Bay area. He has a garage under the home which is both a car repair shop as well as Dahlia storage and mailing room. He is an Automobile Engineer and with that training he is systematic and precise in everything he does. (We noted that his garage was ever so much neater than ours at home.)

He showed us his several garden plots in the rear of the home. As in the case of other Dahlia growers in many areas he also gardens the backyards of several of his neighbors. The gardens are terraced and he grows about 500 large types, some 250 pompons, 250 miniatures besides about 500 seedlings each year. His originations have included: *South Pacific*, *King of the Whites*, *Gaylord Bally*, *Calif. Centennial*, *Calif. Pageant*, *Frieda Gaylord*, *Portola* and about 20 other successful varieties. We hope to be able to tell you more about the Gaylords in a future issue.

And so our day's trip over the Bay area to visit with Dahlia people came to an end. It must have covered a route of about 150 miles and was one of the most pleasurable Dahlia jaunts ever experienced by the editor. Dr. Brandon was a gracious and interesting pilot. He is Editor of the Pacific Coast Dahlia, now grown to a 24-page, "two-process" publication. If you wish to subscribe to a most informative little Dahlia magazine, send \$1.50 to Dr. Julian R. Brandon, 609 Clayton St., San Francisco. You will get more than your money's worth.

Dahlia Society of Calif., Meeting

This was our last public appearance in California. Dr. and Mrs. Brandon took us to a meeting where about 150 members were gathered. This society is 41 years old, being established in 1915, the same year that the American Dahlia Society began operations. The Society has over 200 members and what interested us about their roster was that more than half of the membership are Mr. and Mrs. memberships. This situation, where both husband and wife enter into the spirit of the Dahlia effort and hobby is most admirable. It would be wonderful if all Dahlia society families could have the same mutuality of interest in the garden and in exhibiting.

Quite a few faces were familiar, as

we had met some of them at the San Leandro meeting and in our ramblings. In addition, we again met Mr. and Mrs. Glen T. Mack, whom we had met in New York several years ago.

We were introduced by Charles White, entertainment Chairman, with Dr. Brandon assisting. We will omit here the lavish pen picture of editor in the April issue of Pacific Coast Dahlia by Dr. Brandon advertising the speaker. We tried to compare the cultural problems in the East and West. We had noted that Peter Greenleaf in Garden Page in the S. F. Examiner had said that earwigs and gophers were the only pests which bothered Dahlias in California. So pest control in the Bay area must be very simple, we said, as compared to our struggles with Jap Beetles, stalk borers, corn borers, leaf hoppers, aphids, cucumber beetles, red spiders and many others in the East.

We covered other growing conditions in the East, rains, drouths, hurricanes, watering, fertilization, etc. We praised the Trial Garden operations at Lakeside Park, Oakland, and urged all present, who grew seedlings, to send them there for trial. We told them why the entry fee at the Trial Gardens had been set at \$3.00 this year, with the same entry fee for Honor Roll testing. That it was a co-operative attempt to try to increase the entries at the five A.D.S. Trial Gardens. If the plan accomplished this in 1956 it might be continued.

Then we mentioned the Joint Classification List and said we hoped that soon more of the Pacific Coast varieties would be found there, told of the objectives of the A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes and recommended that more of their introductions be registered with the A.D.S. Nomenclature Committee to help prevent duplication of names. We explained what Branch and Affiliate Societies of the A.D.S. received in service and expressed the hope that they would join the A.D.S. to help further the interest in and knowledge of the Dahlia. We concluded by thanking everyone who had helped to make our visit there such a milestone in our Dahlia experience. Many questions followed which we did our best to answer. Refreshments were then served.

Our trip taught us one thing—that the Dahlia makes every one kin—and kind, too. Thank you, California Dahlia friends.

The other side trips to Muir Woods among the Redwoods, along the Sky Line Drive to Carmel by the Sea, to Lake Tahoe and Reno, have no place in this Dahlia story. But they were interesting, too. — L.B.D.

30 YEARS LATER

By **CHARLES H. CONNORS**

Chairman A.D.S.

Nomenclature Committee

Recently there came to our attention a publication entitled "1926 Dahlia Ratings," assembled by Professor J. B. S. Norton, who was chairman of the nomenclature committee of the A.D.S. It was in 1924 that Professor Norton published the monumental "Seven Thousand Dahlias in Cultivation." He then began to speculate how gardeners could have some sort of yardstick to evaluate the varieties that are offered in the catalogues, and came up with this scheme.

Professor Norton requested and received from 48 persons interested in dahlias, including the trial gardens, a list of favored varieties with scores. These persons included two from Nova Scotia, with representatives from Maine to North Carolina in the east, the central states to Tennessee, the northwest and California, and one from Holland. Some individual varieties were rated as scoring low, some high, so the compiler, in making up the average scores, weighed the trial garden scores as 3, leading judges, not dealers, at 2, and all others at 1. This is a good scheme. In the publication, the score of each participant for each variety is given, so no alibis.

More than 2500 variety names were submitted but only about 700 were listed, the rest having had only one or two scores or none.

What came to my mind was this—how many of those varieties have survived? Since I had recently eliminated from the A.D.S. nomenclature file the dahlia varieties considered obsolete, it was not too great a task to make a comparison.

In the current file are 21 or 22 of the varieties listed in 1926 Dahlia Ratings. The oldest one in time of origin is *Catherine*, yellow pom, Vicks catalogue, 1887. If this is the same *Catherine*, yellow pom, listed by Vaughan 1940, it may still be considered alive. The next in point of age is *A. D. Livoni*, pink, show 1890; *Nerissa*, rose pom, 1895; *Countess of Lonsdale*, cactus, 1896.

The Poms lead in survival with 9. Next are Decoratives with 4 *Jersey's Beauty*, *Mrs. I. de Ver Warner*, *Elite Glory*, *Jean Kerr*, sometimes listed as ball). Then come Collarettes with 3; Show with 2 (*Livoni* and *Maude Adams*); Hybrid Cactus with 1 (*Mrs. Ethel F. T. Smith*);

Cactus with 2 (*Ambassador* and *Countess of Lonsdale*); Single with 1.

There can be no doubt that more than these of the 30 year varieties are still grown in some gardens, since this report came at a time when the Judge Marean-John Harding originations out of "Hortulanus Fiet" were just being effective in the productions of other growers. So the standards in the large types were in process of change at the time of the survey. It is not surprising that the poms have survived. The standards for this type have not changed much and there are not as many being raised as seedlings, so we still have *Amber Queen*, *Neatness*, *Nerissa*, *Joe Fette*, and so on.

How many varieties that we are growing today will survive until 1986?

The 30 Year Old Dahlias

Here are the complete lists, in addition to the few firsts which are dated above:

Poms — *Aimee*, 1923; *Amber Queen*, 1904; *Eileen*, 1911; *Gretchen Heine*, 1914; *Joe Fette*, 1919; *Little Beeswing*, 1909; *Neatness*, 1913.

Collarettes — *Geant de Lyon*, 1913; *Maurice Rivoire*, 1906; *San Mateo Star*, 1918.

Singles—*Notepoint Wonder*, before 1921.

TEN HIGHEST DECORATIVES

Jersey's Beauty, *Mrs. I. de Ver Warner*, *Sagamore*, *Mrs. Eleanor Martin*, *Al Koran*, *Champagne*, *El Dorado*, *Shudor's Lavender*, *Ben Wilson*, *World's Best White*.

TEN HIGHEST HYBRID CACTUS

MacGregor, *Mariposa*, *Daddy Butler*, *Mrs. Richard Lohrman*, *Jean Chazot*, *Ester R. Holmes*, *Violetta*, *Ebenezer*, *Siskiyou*, *Gladys Sherwood*.

TEN HIGHEST CACTUS

Ambassador, *Papillon*, *Gladys Bates*, *Warren S. Scip*, *Ballet Girl*, *Rene Cayeux*, *Oberon*, *Amber Glow*, *Countess of Lonsdale*, *Wolfgang von Goethe*.

TEN HIGHEST POMPONS

Belle of Springfield, *Nerissa*, *Amber Queen*, *Snowclad*, *Gretchen Heine*, *Glow*, *Little Beeswing*, *Aimee*, *Ganymede*, *San Toy*.

TEN HIGHEST SHOW AND "HYBRID SHOWS"

General Miles, *Maude Adams*, *A. D. Livoni*, *Mrs. C. D. Anderson*, *Vivian W. W. Rawson*, *Miss Helen Hollis*, *Stradella*, *Dreer's Yellow*, *Cuban Giant*.

TEN HIGHEST PEONIES

The U. S. A., *The Oriole*, *Bertha Von Suttner*, *Gorgeous*, *Mme. Bystein*, *King Albert*, *Mrs. Jessie Seal*, *Dreamlight*, *Diana*, *Uncle Sam*.

SEVEN HIGHEST COLLARETTES

Achievement, *San Mateo Star*, *Geant de*
(Continued on bottom of next page)

How We Keep Our Dahlia Fields Growing In The Early Summer

We begin our plantings as early as the season permits, usually around April 15th, if we have an open spring, we plant roots as early as April 1st. Plants must wait awhile, for we are apt to have a late frost. Two years ago, we had just planted about 1000 plants, and it dropped below freezing. We had not turned the water lines on as yet, so we carried water and washed the plants off before the sun hit them, and they came through nicely. However that is a bit unusual.

We feel the soil preparation before planting is the most important part of starting and early growth of our plants in the fields. In planting fields of the size that we do, it is not always possible to get plants out at just the right moment as the Hobby grower can, so we start with thorough preparation, while the plants are growing off in the Cold Frames. Fertilizer is broadcast on the field, and every three years, we broadcast lime at the same time. Then as soon as possible, the field is plowed deeply, then gone over with the cutting harrows. We do this operation at least twice, and if possible, three times before we feel it is ready to plant. When the plants and stock are ready, the field is recut with the harrows, laid off, rows fertilized, and well mixed by tractor listers.

Plants are placed in the rows, 12 inches apart by one man, another comes behind him, removing the bands or pots, and covering at once, so that the sun does not dry the earth balls out. We use a patented band, that slips off at a touch, and since all plants are placed exactly the same in the flats, and thus the same in the rows, it is a mechanical operation, one that goes very fast. With this type of setting and growing, there is no stoppage of growth, unless the sun is too hot, and then we fill the rows before planting, with water, until there is good moisture, and then continue planting as above. We do this

operation, because we cannot water the fields that early. Rarely do we have a check in growth this way.

As soon as we see the tiny weeds begin growth in the newly planted field, the tractor cultivator is run through, set very shallow, so that we do not turn any new weed seeds up where they can start growth. By planting as close as we do, the plants begin to shade their own roots shortly, and it is cool roots that grow the best. That is where mulching comes in, but we must depend on dust mulching in the size fields that we plant.

The tractor cultivation is used as long as we can go over the plants without injuring them, or breaking them down, and as soon as the plants are large enough, we begin to hill them up, again by tractor, again adding coolness to the roots, and also support for the growing plants, for most of our fields are not staked, and thus must be supported. Another point that we feel is a great help to us, is spraying and foliar feeding each flat of plants as it is brought to the planting area. Where thousands of plants are growing in beds, it is not always easy to keep all pests off, so we have practiced this method for a number of years. We keep a tank mixed, where the men are working, and as each flat is set on the ground ready to be carried to the field, it is very easy to do a thorough cleaning job, as well as a good light feeding, which starts the plants off nicely.

We like foliar feeding very much, tho we do not depend on it altogether. We plant as always, with fertilizer in the rows, but for a quick shot in the arm, the foliar feeding will do what a fertilizer in the ground cannot do in a dry season.

Here in this climate, with mountain elevation, we must spray about every two weeks, and in every other spray, we add a complete foliar feeding, if the plants seem to need a boost, or if it is hot and dry as it has been for three years now. I think this will give you an idea of what we do to keep the fields growing, however I have failed to add the most important item, after thorough preparation, correct planting, cultivating, spraying and feeding, pray to the Good Father and have Faith.—M. E. Simmonds, Happy Cabin Dahlia Gardens, Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

Lyon, Ami Nonin, Maurice Rivoire, Owenego, Mme. Poirer.

FIVE HIGHEST DUPLEX

Etendard, Camille Frachon, Golden Sunshine, Mme. Coissard, Philadelphia.

FIVE HIGHEST SINGLES

Rose Pink Century, Newport Wonder, Helvetia, Twentieth Century, Dahliadel Century.

Will Inspection and Roguing Control Virus Diseases?

C. A. Boyer, Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry,
Michigan Department of Agriculture

(Editor's Note: This fine article reached us too late to publish in May, 1955, with the other educational dahlia features of Dr. C. E. Wildon's Michigan State College Symposium in Feb. of that year. We are glad to publish it herewith.)

The topic, "Will Inspection and Roguing Control Virus Diseases" as given to me by Dr. Wildon, can be answered in one word, and the answer is "yes," but I would like to make some additional comments in regards to your most important industry. In the first place, it should be remembered that inspectors serve as umpires — they call it as they see it. Our work is quite different than that of a doctor, as the doctors are in a position to bury their mistakes while inspectors are only privileged to pass judgment on the stock as they see it, and it may live on year after year for people to gloat over the error committed on diagnosis.

I am happy to relate to this group that we have, in our estimation the finest staff of inspectors of any State in the Union, for all new inspectors are required to pass through a 2-year training program before they are permitted to operate independently. Likewise, our inspectors who work on dahlias have been especially trained by the staff at Michigan State College. In our humble estimation, they are the best trained dahlia inspectors within the country.

May I likewise call to your attention the fact that I know of no man who is capable of detecting virus, bacterial or fungus in dahlia tubers, although our good people in this country continue to import dahlia tubers in their dormant stages, and no one knows whether or not they are infected with disease.

Now, the real reason why your Bureau of Plant Industry renders inspection services to the dahlia growers of this State is due to the fact that some 30 States list dahlias as nursery stock, and as a result, you are required to accompany your sales of tubers with a certificate granted by this Department. I do not hesitate in saying that we are rather jealous of the use of this certificate for my name appears on the same, and at no time do we have any desire to grant this certificate

to an individual or individuals who will not fully appreciate the benefits of the certificate to see that only apparently clean stock is sold under the use of the certificate. I would not be surprised if as many as four million certificates are used in this State per year bearing my signature covering plant materials, and I would like to have everyone know that this certificate stands as a badge of merit and it actually means what it states.

I have oftentimes pointed out to the dahlia growers of Michigan the necessity of compulsory inspection for at the present time dahlia tubers can be given away or sold in this State without inspection or by means of certificate and license, and the same can be said about dahlia materials coming into the State. Until such time you people in the dahlia business are willing to impose rules, regulations, and quarantines pertaining to this industry, it will be difficult to give satisfactory protection to this highly specialized industry. You definitely should work out the salvation of your own industry by having rules, regulations, and laws passed which will give you adequate protection. We have been successful in our endeavors in inspection work with brambles, strawberries, and peaches which are shining examples of what can be done for the garden industry.

In this connection, may I relate that the latch string in our Department is always out for you people in Michigan to converse with us and work out a suitable program which will give you adequate protection from the standpoint of insects and diseases.

Those in other states may write us and we will be glad to advise about our methods of inspection and roguing.

Garden Club of Jersey City

The Garden Club of Jersey City will hold its Annual Fall Flower Show on Saturday, September 15 and Sunday, September 16th. The show will be held in Murdock Hall, Medical Center, Jersey City, N. J. Admission is free. — (Mrs.) Harry Lohmeyer, Publicity Chairman, 69 Irving St., Jersey City, N. J.

News From Pacific Coast Trial Grounds

Three years ago in the spring of 1953 the Oakland Park Department was informed by the American Dahlia Society that its Dahlia display garden in Lakeside Park had been selected as the only official trial ground for Dahlias on the Pacific Coast.

The Dahlia display garden has been developed by the Oakland Park Department through the cooperation of the San Leandro Dahlia Society. There are two distinct divisions of the Dahlia gardens in Lakeside Park: the official Pacific Coast Trial Ground for Dahlias, where tests are made of seedlings which are sent from such distant countries as Australia, Holland, England, France and Africa; the other, the display garden where 90 per cent of the Dahlias are grown for display, which do not go through tests.

All seedlings in the trial ground are grown and judged under rules established by the Trial Grounds Committee of the American Dahlia Society and scoring is done by experienced judges. A recent visitor to the Dahlia display garden was Lynn Dudley of New York, editor of the American Dahlia Society BULLETIN and past president of the society, who met with Richard C. Trotter of Oakland, chairman of the display garden; R. E. Harter of Walnut Creek, superintendent of the Pacific Coast Trial Ground for Dahlias; Carl E. Lundvall, president of the Leandro Dahlia Society; Robert J. Ammerman, head nurseryman, and Stanley J. O'Connell, Dahlia expert with the Oakland Park Department. Plans for preparing the garden for planting were discussed, in preparation for the fall Dahlia show, with Dahlia Day in Lakeside Park set for Sunday, August 19.

"The establishment of the trial ground for Dahlias has brought to the attention of home gardeners of the Bay area that ideal weather conditions exist in this area for growing fine quality Dahlias for cut flowers and mass bloom effects," Dudley told the committee working on the project.

(Editor's Note: The above story was released to Pacific Coast publications by the Lakeside Park (Oakland, Calif.) and San Leandro Dahlia Society during our recent visit there.)

Plan now to exhibit at the ADS Show Sept. 18-19 at Essex House, 160 Central Park South. Lots of fine trophies, cash and other awards.

Name Correction

Because the name furnished by its originator, Nat. C. Lundgren, of 123 Wood St., Santa Cruz, Calif., for a variety which scored at the Pacific Coast Trial Grounds was not deemed acceptable by the A.D.S. Nomenclature Committee, it has been changed.

The original name as listed in the Trial Ground Report on page 14 of the Nov. 1955 BULLETIN was *No. 1 Beauty*. It is now named *Giant Beauty*, and is described as A, FD, Spirea red veined and suffused Dresden yellow. Size, dis-budded 15 in. by 8 in. and 13 by 6 inches grown natural.

(You may see this giant in the Editor's garden in 1956, if you're interested in big ones.)

Again this emphasizes the necessity of having one control registry for dahlia names. Dr. Charles Connors, address 115 North Sixth Ave., Highland Park, N. J., is chairman of this committee and custodian of the A.D.S. Nomenclature List. Dahlia names may be registered with him, even before they are disseminated. The cost is \$1.00 per variety at time of registry. Dahlias which score 85 points or over at the A.D.S. Trial Gardens are automatically registered without a fee in addition to the Trial Garden Fee (\$3.00 per variety for 1956 only). Varieties which win medal certificates in the A.D.S. Sweepstakes at shows are not automatically registered. For protection to the originators, they should be registered with Dr. Connors as soon as they win an A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Certificate.

All other seedlings should be registered with the committee before they are catalogued, in order to protect the grower and to avoid the use of names which are already in use.

NEW DAHLIAS

Still time to buy and plant the BEST.

If you don't have my '56 Catalogue, write today for your copy.

STANLEY JOHNSON
Pennypack Gardens
CHELTENHAM, PA.

Soil Preparation Is the Key to Good Gardening

Proper Composition and Good Drainage Are Among The Factors Needed to Obtain High Productivity

By LYNN B. DUDLEY

(Reprinted with permission from The N. Y. Herald-Tribune, Home Garden Section, March 11, 1956, featuring the 1956 International Flower Show)

Gardening in America has changed in recent years from just a pastime to a real way of life. Today, we want to know why a neighbor's garden can produce more and larger flowers and more tasty vegetables than ours.

The spirit of competition and such exhibitions as the International Flower Show and the some 60 dahlia shows each fall have probably led many gardeners to inquire into better gardening practices, the latest gardening devices and the enrichment of soils.

Soil is a substance composed of rock particles and organic matter. The proportion of these substances in any given soil is a matter of worth-while study by any gardener. Such study, followed by experiment, can help to improve any soil and make it more productive.

Furnishes Minerals

While it is true that plant life depends largely on a combination of air and water for nourishment, it is also a fact that for most plants soil is essential. It provides a medium for the roots; it furnishes the necessary mineral elements and food combined with water to sustain life and promote growth.

The composition of soil is a mixture of sand, silt, clay and organic matter. In the proportion that any of these substances predominate, we call them by the terms sandy soil, silty soil, sandy loam or clayey soil. When a soil has too much sand, water sinks into it freely and carries plant food with it, away from the roots. When a soil contains too much clay, it packs easily and prevents passage of water and food. If the content is largely silt, it is fine grained, inclined to run like cement when wet and to be compact and hard when dry. This condition occurs in bottom land and river and lake valleys.

In any of these situations the gardener should adopt procedures to correct them. What the gardener needs is loam. Adding

sand to clay or silty soil helps to make it more porous and friable. Adding some clay to sandy soil retards the passage of water through it, which is helpful.

Organic Matter

But before a satisfactory loam can be attained, organic matter must be added. Here is the reason: there is an eternal conflict going on in nature. Plant life flourishes and dies. The putrefaction of this living matter, aided in its process by the bacteria in the soil, brings by its chemical change, more plant food to sustain new plant life. Thus, it is that decayed vegetable matter, organic in nature, becomes the most reliable soil conditioner for yard and garden. It not only promotes plant life but it has other essential qualities. It permits air to enter the soil and it helps to retain moisture in the soil. It is used up rapidly and should be renewed every season.

Compost is quite easily produced in any back yard. Those who realize its value never burn their leaves or throw away cuttings. It can be made in a bin or box constructed for the purpose. Or it can be produced in a depression in the ground or a pile in the corner of the plot. Leaves, garden refuse, grass cuttings, straw and the like are all usable.

Composting Products

It helps if such materials decompose rapidly. If possible the compost should be turned over occasionally. It aids the process and makes a better all-around plant food if chemical aids are spread between one-foot layers of material. These can be one of the several composting products on the market, such as Adco or Mako. Or alternate applications of lime and high-potency nitrogen fertilizer help to heat the pile and aid decomposition as well as add plant nourishment. Even without adding the chemicals it is good to add lime to compost because the natural chemical



COMPOST

Making compost from leaves, yard and garden waste, lawn cuttings, etc., is not too difficult. It can be done in "piles," depression in ground or in a specially built bin as is the case here. Mako or Adco helps decompose and supply fertilizer to the material.

change in the compost is inclined to make it too much on the acid side.

In other instances a soil can be improved without a special compost pile or bin. The roots of dead plants, sod, mulch and above-ground growth, including most weeds, can be worked into the soil with a spade or fork. This makes a compost within the soil. Some gardeners use mulch or ground dust or similar material.

Others plant cover crops of rye, vetch or cow peas to improve the condition of the soil. Sown in the fall and turned under in the spring such crops add natural fertilizer to the soil.

Mulching is helpful in many ways. After a garden is planted and early cultivation is done, layers of straw, hay, grain hulls, tobacco stems, peanut hulls and the like are spread between rows and hills. Mulch conserves moisture, saves labor, keeps roots cool in hot weather, and serves a gardener in many ways.

Good drainage is of major importance. When the soil is friable and has a sufficient content of organic matter, drainage is usually no problem. In sandy soils

(Continued on following page)

Associate Editors of the A.D.S. Bulletin

The following editors are doing a fine job of writing the kind of articles we believe our readers appreciate. If you have any suggestions as to future articles, write the editor and, or any of his associates listed below:

- J. Louis Roberts,
12147 Harvard Ave.,
Chicago 28, Illinois
- Dr. Ward Cook,
c/o Little Falls Hospital,
Little Falls, New York
- Col. Richard T. Eddy,
Box 638, Encinitas, California
- Dr. Frederick J. Knocke,
P. O. Box 13,
Readington, New Jersey
- Henry C. Parker,
6142—30th St., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.
- John Metzger,
126 Allen St.,
Irvington, New Jersey
- Leo L. Pollak,
Hotel Delmonico, Room 3117,
Park Ave. and 58th St.,
New York, New York
- Mrs. Loise Kleinjohn,
726 Barret Ave.,
Louisville, Kentucky
- Conrad E. Foust,
3532 Piedmont Rd.,
Atlanta, Georgia
- Dr. C. H. Rike,
1146—41st St., Balview Heights,
Birmingham 8, Alabama
- Dr. C. E. Wildon,
823 Huntington Rd.,
East Lansing, Michigan
- Professor C. Merrill Brown,
102 Oakgrove Dr.,
Williamsville, New York
- Noel O. Scott,
1436 Stanley,
Glendale 6, California
- Ralph and Ruth Berry (Mr. & Mrs.)
2835 Wagar Rd.,
Cleveland 16, Ohio
- C. R. Kallquist,
3607 Monte Vista Dr.,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

**The A.D.S. New York Show
for 1956 will be staged at the
Collonades Ball Room, Essex
House, Tuesday and Wednesday,
September 18 and 19.**

Soil Preparation—Cont'd.



MULCH

The use of mulch, in this case straw, is a great help to dahlia growers. It conserves moisture, retards weeds, protects roots from excessive heat, allows feeder roots to come to surface for air and plant food.

water flows off rapidly, often too rapidly. In heavy clayey soil, water remains on the surface or near it, and frequently causes root rot. Bulbs, tubers and tuberous roots are often lost because the clayey soil retains water and excludes air for too long periods. In other words, drainage becomes more acute in proportion to the texture of the soil.

All soil improvement endeavors require that water, in excess of plant needs, must have a means of escape. This became very apparent in the east last September when the hurricane Connie deposited from ten to fourteen inches of rain in some sections. If a garden had good drainage then, as this writer's did, little damage resulted. But many spring bulb and dahlia plantings in low ground were heavily damaged or destroyed.

One important thing to remember is that when there is an excess of moisture in the soil, air is excluded from it and then the vital soil functions are retarded. The growth of living things depends on air and water as well as soil. Also, when

a soil is too moist, fungus can form and killing disease may result.

Whenever possible gardens should have a slight slope which gives natural drainage. If not possible and the surface is flat, ditching should be done between rows or hilling done around plants. Tile can also be installed to carry off excess water. If the slope in a garden is too great, or if tile or ditches help to remove water too rapidly, then organic matter and commercial fertilizers can leach away and be lost to the plants.

Something To Think About

It seems at this time of the year, Dahlia Activities are starting up again. We check our Stock to see what we have or what we haven't and sometimes we are shocked to see what old Man Winter has done to us. Needless to say that the past three or four seasons have been very bad and due to the dry seasons, many of our plants did not produce roots with sufficient substance to hold them over the winter, but if you are a real Dahlia Bug, you will dig in and start all over again. Don't get discouraged and be a quitter, for surely we will get a break in the seasons and then you will wish that you had never stopped growing Dahlias. You will not only miss your Dahlias, but also the many friends that you have looked forward to seeing each year at the Shows. Many folks say that Dahlias take too much care and work not to have any good results, but have you ever stopped to think that perhaps these times come to all of us to test our faith and see how strong we really are and what things really mean to us. Is our interest only on the surface and we can't take a set-back? Think about it. To my way of thinking, growing Dahlias is a wonderful hobby and a mighty good hobby to have.—Louise Kleinjohn, Associate Editor.

The Dahliagram is now edited by Dr. Henry C. Parker, who has contributed many fine articles in the past as Associate Editor of the A.D.S. Bulletin. He succeeded Thomas Yano, who has done a great service to the National Capital Dahlia Society for the past three years as its Editor. The Dahliagram is a multi-graphed 6-page publication now of folio-legal size paper but will be changed to 8½ x 11 letter size. It is full of excellent society and cultural articles.

Early to bed and early to rise, and all the fun's had by other guys who grow better dahlias than yours.

A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes

To date, approximately one half of all of the Branch and Affiliated Societies have made application to include American Dahlia Societies Sweepstake Awards in their show schedule this year.

Each Branch and Affiliate were advised in March to file their applications for this award not later than the end of May and those Societies that have not already filed are urged to do so immediately and unless the applications are received by June 1st, this particular award can not be included in your show this year.

The applications and any inquiries regarding this award should be forwarded to Andrew J. Mulcahy, Chairman, 20 Marshall Avenue, Floral Park, N. Y.

The necessary judges score sheets and ribbons, in due course, will be forwarded to each Society whose application has been approved.

Alabama Dahlia News

With Mr. A. H. West as president, the Dahlia Society of Alabama is having a good year. Officers assisting him are: Vice-President, R. L. Vaughn, Sandy Nelson, Gregory Christopian, H. L. McLane, Walter Gaines; Recording Secretary, E. K. Henderson, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C. G. Goodwin; Treasurer, Mrs. F. M. House; Show Chairman, C. O. Mitchell and Co-Chairman, Sandy Nelson.

The programs have been both interesting and instructive. Colored slides of the various shows along with those of the new, recent and the "tried and true" varieties have been greatly enjoyed. The Walt Disney movie, Nature's Half Acre, was an outstanding attraction. To help the new growers there have been talks at each meeting on every phase of dahlia culture along with a monthly feature, "What to do in your garden for the next month." Guest speakers from Tennessee and Georgia have added much to our programs.

Our schedules will soon be ready, our gardens are planned, our chores are well in hand and we are looking forward with great enthusiasm to our twenty-first show, October 6-7 at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel, Birmingham. — Maude Goodwin, 2612 Ave. S., Ensley, Birmingham 8, Alabama.

If you have a gardening neighbor Ask him to join the A.D.S. The Membership Blank is omitted from this issue. It will be back.

Publications and Catalogues Received

Dr. Julian R. Brandon Jr., editor of the "Bulletin of the Society of California" has just sent us the entire file of issues from Vol. 1, No. 1, April, 1954 to Vol. 2, No. 11, August, 1955. This is an 8-page, 7 x 8½ inches, multigraphed publication full of good cultural material. As its platform announces, "We shall seek to offer educational articles that should help the beginner not to make the same heart-breaking mistakes so many of us have made." Which is negative, but a fine objective.

"The Dahlia," official Bulletin of the Central States Dahlia Society, Dec. 1955 issue received Jan. 17, 1956. It is now edited by R. G. Huey of Ludlow, Ky. The Assistant Editor and Business Manager is Paul Hale, Brighton, Ill., who is a V.P. of the A.D.S. The issue was full of interesting articles and dahlia news, including Roy Webb's Dahlia Review. (See advertisement of The Dahlia on another page.)

Will Peigelbeck, national garden authority and broadcaster on garden subjects on radio and TV, in this area for many years, has just published "The Complete Book of Gardening and Lawn Care," published by the MACO Magazine Corp., 480 Lexington Ave., N. Y. It has a paper cover and is sold at newsstands and is profusely illustrated. Many helpful hints on all phases of gardening, including dahlias are covered

What you don't know may not hurt you—but what you suspect about the perfection of your neighbor's dahlias which will compete with yours at the show can be awfully disturbing.

**3 Big Beauties for
1956**

PERRY COMO

A-F.D. Light Blend

LARRY HESLIN

A-I.D. Yellow

Above 2 Plants for \$10

PRIVATE SECRETARY

B-S.C. Purple, Plants only \$3

W. L. TILTON—42 Forrest

GLEN COVE, L. I., N. Y.

The AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY, Inc.

ORGANIZED MAY 10, 1915



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

DR. BRUCE PREAS, *President*
387 Merrick Rd., Rockville Centre, N. Y.

EDWARD B. LLOYD, *Secretary*
10 Crestmont Road, Montclair, N. J.

HENRY A. OLSEN, *Treasurer*
45 Clement Ave., Elmont, N. Y.

LYNN B. DUDLEY, *Editor, Bulletin*
25 Irving Pl., New Rochelle, N. Y.

Editorial

This is planting time. From April 15 in the west and some points in the south up to June 1st in the East, growers will be busy getting their plants and roots in. In the past few issues we have tried to include cultural suggestions to help everyone. We have had appreciative comment from many of our members for this effort. Most dahlia growers are glad to get help

and hints from others. May none of us ever get too old or self satisfied to learn some better way or some shorter cut.

Our apologies for writing so much of the material in this issue. Next issue, when they are not quite so busy, we would like our Associate Editors to take over and give you the Dahlia news from their sections and their thoughts about growing better Dahlias.

We hope that you will send in some late orders for roots or plants to our advertisers. Don't have any blank spaces in your garden. And we hope that you will try some of the "Life Time" Markers advertised in this issue. We are trying to prove to the manufacturers of material and garden accessories that this little publication does produce results. We sincerely believe that our members buy a lot of fertilizers, tags, sprays and the like, so we hope you will help and buy from BULLETIN advertisers. Thanks.

Not the Editor's Error, This Time

Rt. 2, Gaithersburg, Md.
December 30, 1955.

Dear Mr. Ramsburg:

In the November issue of the Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society, I noticed two errors made in your report of the Hagerstown Dahlia Show. You listed the Governor's Trophy as being won by F. L. Miner. I won it with a *Mrs. Hester A. Pape* dahlia. You named Mrs. P. L. Carper as winning the 1955 cactus introduction. I won the best 1955 cactus introduction with a dahlia caller *Marvelous*. The person who won second prize in this class had a *Prince Noire* dahlia and could have been Mrs. Carper.

Forrest T. Minor.

Thanks Mr. Hulin

March 23rd, 1956

Dear Mr. Dudley:

The Feb. BULLETIN came yesterday and our Society meeting was same evening. I gave a little pep talk urging the members to join the A.D.S. but it is awful hard to pry a few dollars from any of them. Did get one membership which I am enclosing. We all liked the BULLETIN very much. I'm getting a few orders but not near as much as I am putting out. You mentioned on one of your cards that you might have some surplus after you observed the keeping of your roots

and picked out the planting stock. If you care to send anything along send it by express collect—I can use anything that has a name.

Many thanks for the nice article about a Western Grower. — J. E. Hulin, Rt. 3, Box 150, Port Orchard, Wash.

He Likes to be Thanked, Too

I read with interest your comment on page 35 regarding the note you got from the Rochester Dahlia Society thanking you for your services as a judge.

For years I have been talking to garden clubs on horticultural subjects especially roses, dahlias, glads and rock garden plants and I have been amazed at the way they take things for granted. In fact there have been times when I have felt downright peeved at the way they acted. I finally reached the stage where I sat down and wrote up a record of some of the things that have happened to me over a period of years as a garden club speaker. Naturally these things don't bring credit to the garden clubs but as they happen time after time it would seem to me that the garden clubs need to get educated on this subject and then they won't have to bemoan the fact that they just can't get speakers to come to their clubs any more.

Though these experiences have to do with horticultural talks rather than the judging of shows the principles still apply and I wonder if you would be interested in the article. Your comment brought it to mind and encouraged me to get it in shape for publication. If it doesn't appeal to you as suitable for the A.D.S. BULLETIN, I think I will consider submitting it to the bulletin of the Men's Garden Clubs of America—A. H. MacAndrews, 206, DeWitt Rd, Syracuse 3, N Y.

(Editor's Note: Yes, Mr. MacAndrews, we would very much like to see this article. It might parallel the experiences of other speakers and Show Judges.)

That Busy Editor

The Editor was invited to speak about and show Kodachromes of new and old dahlias at the one day Home Gardener's short course March 1, conducted each spring at the University of Delaware, at Newark, Del. There were some 400 gardeners in attendance and from questions asked after the lecture and slides, they were interested in growing dahlias. Professor Charles W. Dunham, assistant professor of Horticulture, was in charge of

the program. R. F. Stevens was chairman. We enjoyed the event, probably more than the audience. We also lectured on dahlias and their culture before the New Rochelle Garden Club, May 10, and showed the slides.

The Editor was asked to show his Kodachrome slides of dahlia gardens and new and older Honor Roll dahlias at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Dahlia Society, Friday evening, January 27, at the Robert Treat Hotel, Newark. About 150 slides were screened.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

The 23rd Annual Midwest Dahlia Conference will be held in Moline, Illinois on September 22nd, 1956 at the LeClaire Hotel with the Tri-City Dahlia Society as Host.

All Affiliated Midwest Dahlia Conference Societies will please appoint their delegate or delegates and send their names to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Have you made your plans to include the Midwest Dahlia Show which will be held in Moline, Illinois at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on September 22, 23, 1956? A good time is in store for all. LeClaire Hotel will be Hotel Headquarters. — Louise Kleinjohn, Secretary, Midwest Dahlia Conference, 726 Barret Avenue, Louisville 4, Kentucky.

Vol. 1, No. 7, December, 1955 of the Michigan Dahlia News. C. E. Wildon, director of publications. Happenings and progress of the Michigan Dahlia Association and its component Societies are included. Also articles by Michigan State experts on Nematodes, Virus Diseases, 1955 Shows and Trial Gardens. It's a worthwhile publication. We congratulate C. E. Wildon on it.

RETZER'S Dahlia Garden

Foreign and Honor Roll
Dahlias—THE BEST

Write for List Today

Henry Retzer
West Bridgewater, Pa.

Nationwide Dahlia Society News

Michigan Dahlia Association

We are very sorry to report the passing of one of our members, William C. Behl. Notice is attached herewith.

Our Michigan Dahlia Association show for 1956 will be held in the I.M.A. Hall, Flint, Michigan on the 1st and 2nd of September. The Show in conjunction with the Yard and Garden Club of Flint, Mich.

Another event looked forward to by our members is the Annual picnic to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cadwell, Wayne, Mich., the date this year being July 29th.

Our new issue of the Michigan Dahlia News will be mailed to members in April. — Mrs. David Millar, Secretary, 15848 Pinehurst Ave., Detroit 38, Michigan, March 29, 1956.

William C. Behl, Deceased

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to call WILLIAM C. BEHL to his final resting place, and

WHEREAS, WILLIAM C. BEHL was a charter member of the Michigan Dahlia Association, and

WHEREAS, WILLIAM C. BEHL has been an active and respected member of the association for many years. A lover of the flower "The Dahlia" to which he gave his interest, to improvement and development.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Michigan Dahlia Association does hereby express its deepest regret at the passing of WILLIAM C. BEHL; extends it sincere sympathy to the members of his family and to his numerous friends; and hereby orders that this resolution be permanently

incorporated in the minutes of the proceedings of the Michigan Dahlia Association, and that public expression be given hereto. Signed: A. J. Wulff, President; Miss Ann Pedlow, Vice-President; Mr. James Bramble, Vice-President, Mr. Walter Sprague, Vice-President; Dr. C. E. Wildon, Publicity Director; Mr. B. H. Bottom, Treasurer, Mrs. D. Millar, Secretary; Mrs. A. Toth, Assistant Secretary; Mr. H. C. Rhode, Trustee; Mr. H. Rasmussen, Trustee; Mr. V. Steckle, Trustee.

San Diego County Dahlia Society

The San Diego County Dahlia Society wishes to advise you of their current officers, elected for the year 1956.

President, G. C. Kern; Vice President, Dr. J. W. Troxell; Treasurer, Mrs. W. F. Booker; Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Bishop; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. D. E. Hughes.

Beginning this year, a newly adopted plan is being carried out to have a meeting each month instead of the former bi-monthly. Every other meeting will be a dinner meeting with the ensuing months an informal evening discussion. It is hoped this will promote more interest and better fellowship. Also, a drive for new members is being processed.

The date of the 16th Annual Dahlia Show has been set for August 4th and 5th, in the Recital Hall, Balboa Park. It is the desire of the Society for more outside participation from other Dahlia Societies by this early announcement of the date. — Mrs. D. E. Hughes, 3663 Riviera Drive, San Diego 9, Calif.

Washington State Dahlia Society

The Washington State Dahlia Society will have their show September 1st and 2nd, Saturday and Sunday, at Normana Hall, 1502 South K St., Tacoma, Washington. The show chairman is Mr. J. A. Meneghel.

We hope everyone will have dahlias at their prime the first of Sept. since we had to move our dates ahead so it wouldn't be the same time as the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference.

With all the freezing weather this past winter so many of us had a great loss of tubers. Hope you did better back there. —Mrs. Charles Ayler, Corresponding Secretary, 1121 South 59th St., Tacoma 8, Washington.

DAHLIAS

The planting season is here again, and we have the plants you need, and as vigorous as can be obtained anywhere. Those who are located close enough to call and pick up plants will be rewarded with extras. Catalog on Request.

PARRELLA DAHLIA GARDENS

3380 Ely Ave., N. Y. 69, N. Y.

DAHLIA SHOWS ACROSS THE NATION

Note: If the Show of your Society is not listed below, or if listed and is in error, advise Editor for revision of same for the August issue, please.

Date	Society	Place	City
Aug. 4-5	San Diego Co. Dahlia Soc.	Recital Hall, Balboa Park	San Diego, Cal.
Aug. 18-19	Orange Co. Dahlia Soc.	Huntington Beach Mem. Hall	Huntington B., Cal.
Aug. 23-24	Kitsap Co. Dahlia Soc.	Civic Center	Bremerton, Wash.
" " "	Dahlia Soc. of California	Rotunda, City Hall	San Francisco, Cal.
Aug. 25-26	Snohomish Co. R.&D. Soc.	Floral Heights, Forest Park	Monroe, Wash.
Aug. 27-28	San Leandro, Dahlia Soc.	Veteran's Memorial Building	San Leandro, Cal.
Sept. 1-2	Washington St. D. Soc.	Norman Hall	Tacoma, Wash.
" " "	Minnesota Dahlia Soc.	Minnesota State Fair	St. Paul, Minn.
" " "	Michigan Dahlia Society	I. M. A. Hall	Flint, Michigan
Sept. 2-3	Badger State D. Ass'n	Madison Community House	Flint, Michigan
Sept. 8-9	Portland Dahlia Society Host to Pacific	Masonic Temple Northwest Dahlia Conference.	Portland, Oregon
" " "	North Jersey D. Society		Paterson, N. J.
" " "	Dahlia Society of Toledo		Toledo, Ohio
" " "	Dahlia Soc. of Wisconsin	Mitchell Pk. Community House	Milwaukee, Wis.
" " "	Dahlia & Plant Specialists	Cleveland Garden Center	Cleveland, Ohio
" " "	Suburban Dahlia Society	Sudbrook M. E. Church	Reistertown, Md.
Sept. 14-15	Burholme Hort. Society	Jardel Recreation Center	Philadelphia, Pa.
Sept. 15-16	South. Michigan D. Soc.	Cannon Memorial Gym	Detroit, Michigan
" " "	Central States Dahlia Soc.	Garfield Park Conservatory	Chicago, Illinois
" " "	East Liverpool D. Soc.	Memorial Hall	E. Liverpool, Ohio
" " "	Indianapolis Dahlia Soc.	Brookside Community House	Indianapolis, Ind.
" " "	Baltimore Dahlia Society Host to Mid-Atlantic Dahlia Conference.	Turner Armory	Baltimore, Md.
" " "	Garden Club of Jersey City	Murdock H'l Medical Center	Jersey City, N. J.
" " "	Irvington Dahlia Club	Irvington High School	Irvington, N. J.
Sept. 16	Rochester Dahlia Society	Rochester Museum Arts Science	Rochester, N. Y.
Sept. 17-18	Dahlia Society of Ohio	Higbee Auditorium	Cleveland, Ohio
Sept. 18-19	American Dahlia Society	Essex House	New York, N. Y.
Sept. 22-23	Tri-State Dahlia Society Host to 23rd Annual Mid-West Dahlia Conference.	Scottish Rite Cathedral	Moline, Illinois
" " "	N. J. Dahlia Society	Commonwealth Club	Montclair, N. J.
" " "	Southtown Dahlia Club	Hamilton Park Field House	Chicago, Illinois
" " "	Long Island Dahlia So.	Plattdeutsche Park Hall	Franklin Sq., N. Y.
" " "	Greater Phila. Dahlia Soc.	WEAU Radio-Tel. Center	Philadelphia, Pa.
Sept. 23-24	Dahlia Soc. of Tennessee	East Ridge Town Hall	Chattanooga, Tenn.
Sept. 24-25-26	Virginia Dahlia Soc.	Miller & Rhodes Store	Richmond, Va.
Sept. 29-30	National Capital D. Soc.	U. S. Botanical Gardens	Washington, D. C.
" " "	Dahlia Soc. of Kentucky	Kentucky Hotel	Louisville, Kentucky
" " "	Ohio Valley Dahlia Soc.	Cincinnati Art Museum	Cincinnati, Ohio
" " "	Greater St. Louis D. Soc.	Missouri Botanical Gardens	St. Louis, Missouri
" " "	Dahlia Soc. of Georgia Host to Southern States Dahlia Conference.	Southeastern Fair	Atlanta, Georgia
Oct. 6-7	Alabama Dahlia Soc.	Thomas Jefferson Hotel	Birmingham, Ala.
" " "	Central Valley D. Soc.		Bakersfield, Cal.

Dahlia Society News—Con't.

Kitsap Co. Dahlia Society

The Kitsap County Dahlia Society will again hold their annual show at the Civic Center in Bremerton, Wash., on August 23rd-26th.

Each year this Society holds their show in the Auditorium at the Fair grounds and as this attracts great crowds the Fair management is very willing to provide the space and furnish nearly all the money for prizes as well as printing the show program in the general Fair Premium List. With this generous set-up the Society is very grateful. — J. E. Hulin, Publicity.

Long Island Dahlia Society

Perhaps no time of the year is more subjective to our aims and ambitions than the Springtime. Errors and omissions have been analyzed after which new plans are laid. Here at Long Island at a recent meeting we did all of this and then some.

Without trying to be too repetitious we placed the Trial Grounds at Farmingdale, L. I., as number one on our list. Pres. James Lawless, Jr., emphasized the importance of this year's trials in co-operation with the A.D.S. and Flower Grower Magazine.

Chairmanship of the Trial Grounds Committee at Farmingdale, L. I., will be in the capable hands of Mr. Martin Guttler with the utmost support of LIDS. Much can be said of Mr. Guttler and his ability as a dahlia grower but more can be said for his uncanny knack of making friends who willingly work with him.

It is a bit of news out of Farmingdale that the seedlings for testing this year will be grown on a new location, this is a step in the right direction. Professor C. Rissmeyer is real earnest in his desire to give all entries every opportunity to prove their merit. By rotating the dahlia beds the only thing left to chance will be a hurricane or two. Remember? Last year and the year before we had some bad ones.

In conclusion our Show Chairman states our Show Schedules (Show dates Sept. 22-23) will be off the press about the first of June. Anyone desiring a copy or desirous of competing in our show this year write: Mr. Robert Pape, No. 115-62 202nd Street, St. Albans 12, N. Y.—C. D. Francis, Secretary, 51 Willis Avenue, Syosset, N. Y.

Use Blank on Opposite Page

*To send Seedlings for trial in 1956
Send Before June 1*

TRIAL GROUND ADDRESSES

EASTERN TRIAL GARDEN

Prof. C. Rissmeyer, Long Island Agricultural & Technical Institute, Farmingdale, L. I., New York.

MID-WEST TRIAL GARDEN

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Dr. C. E. Wildon, 823 Huntington, Drive, East Lansing, Michigan.

SOUTHERN TRIAL GARDEN

Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. E. E. Montgomery, 1017 South McDonough Street, Decatur, Georgia.

PACIFIC COAST TRIAL GARDEN

Lakeside Park, Oakland, California. Mr. R. E. Harter, 2769 Danville Highway, Walnut Creek, California.

OHIO VALLEY TRIAL GARDEN

Ault Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. Miss Alice Matick, Secretary, 4223 Dane Avenue, Cincinnati 23, Ohio.

Entry fee for 1956, \$3.00 per variety at each garden entered. Payable at time of entry—Bert Pitt, Chairman, Trial Garden Committee, 9730—123rd St., Richmond Hill, L. I., N. Y.

Deceased

A. W. Adams of Louisville, Ky., died April 14, 1956. For many years he was a member of the Dahlia Society of Kentucky and had served on its Board of Directors. He was known to his friends as "Steve" and the dahlia hobby and dahlia friends were close to his heart. Each year he grew many new varieties but kept some of the older varieties, his favorites. He grew many seedlings also.

The Dahlia Society of Kentucky has suffered a great loss in his passing and he will be long remembered. Until his retirement a year ago, he was Advertising and Sales Promotion Manager for Sears, Roebuck & Company here. He lived at 1918 Richmond Drive. A native of Malden, Mass., he came to Louisville 20 years ago. He was a member of the American Dahlia Society. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Virginia Adams, a daughter, Mrs. Myron Lewis, Pittsburgh, a son, Alden W. Adams Jr., now with the Navy and eight grandchildren.

USE THIS BLANK FOR A.D.S. TRIAL GROUND ENTRIES

A.D.S. OFFICIAL DAHLIA TRIAL GROUNDS



At

(see list of Trial Ground Addresses)

ENTRY BLANK

For Official Trials of Dahlia Seedlings, Sponsored By

The American Dahlia Society

Name of Variety

Second Choice Name

Code Entry Name

Your Classification of Variety: ☐ S—Small ☐ B—Medium ☐ L—Large
☐ Miniature ☐ Pompon ☐ Single ☐ Collarette ☐ Orchid ☐ Peony
☐ Anemone ☐ Star ☐ I.C. ☐ St. C. ☐ Semi-C. ☐ F.D. ☐ I.D.

Parentage: Seed Parent

Pollen Parent

Chance Seedling

or Color Spot of What Standard Variety?

Year First Grown Height of Plant

Description of Variety, Including Any Oddities

What Do You Consider Its Color?

Solid Color? Blend of? Bicolor? Variegated

Name of Originator

Address State

Was It Previously Entered for Trial?

If So, Where, What Trial Grounds?

The above variety will be accepted for trial on receipt of above information and payment of entry fee of \$3.00 and upon receipt of three roots or plants in good condition by prepaid delivery and providing that it has not been commercially disseminated. If variety is not named when entry is made then name must be supplied before it receives a Certificate (score 85 or higher) before name can be listed in List of Awards in February issue of the A.D.S. BULLETIN and the February FLOWER GROWER. If named after a living person, evidence must be furnished of his or her consent to use of name. After clearance of name chosen, the scoring of 85 points or over at this official A.D.S. Trial Grounds, constitutes registry of name without payment of usual \$1.00 Nomenclature Registry Fee. Roots will be destroyed and not returned unless you request same and forward sufficient postage for return. *If plants are found to be diseased, they will be immediately destroyed.*

Entered By

Address State

Date to be Shipped Mail Express

DAHLIAS

By *Dahliadel*

With the idea of popularizing the Dahlia in home gardens we are developing a selection of dahlias that do not grow too tall and produce multitudes of blooms of medium size suitable for home decorating.

The National Capital Dahlia Society as well as many other Societies will this year have special classes for these medium sized dahlias.

With the hope of interesting you in growing dahlias for garden decoration as well as for cutting we are offering the following collection:

6 GARDEN DAHLIAS \$3.85

2 Collections \$7.00

Charmant, lavender; *Gypsy Girl*, variegated; *Kathie M*, pink blend; *Miss Rose Fletcher*, clear pink; *Shirley Westwell*, scarlet; *Zuiwn*, dark red.

5 MINIATURE CACTUS DAHLIAS \$4

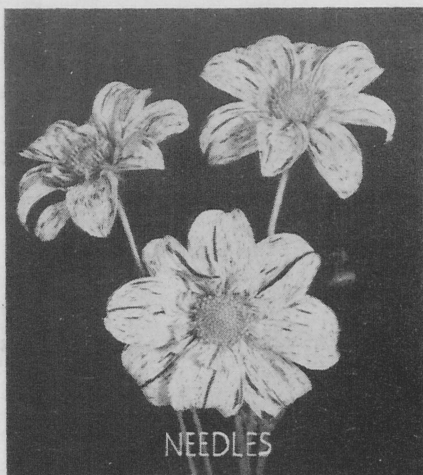
Collection MC

Value \$5.50

Chips, yellow suffused red; *Hazel Harper*, pleasing pink and white blend; *Snowsprite*, best glistening white; *Sunrise*, beautiful yellow; *T. Tjiske*, lovely blend of yellow and amaranth rose.

All roots labeled and delivered postpaid. We still find no better Insect Control than BHC and Vapatone listed in our Catalog.

Catalog on request—listing Dahlia Grower Supplies and full Cultural Instructions.



NEEDLES (*Dahliadel*). The one and only variegated *Collarette* as far as we know. Certainly most striking $4\frac{1}{2}$ blooms of white, suffused, striped and speckled Rhodamine or peony purple with collar petals of the same color. Strong erect bush grows about $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. tall. Wonderful stems, good keeping qualities, profuse and fine for cutting. A four star Flower Grower Honor Roll Dahlia and on Mr. Webb's Review.

Root, \$5.00 Net Plant, \$2.35 Net Postpaid.

Ten other *Dahliadel* Introductions, 600 of the best in Dahlias, and 130 Garden Chrysanthemums fully described in our 1956 Catalog.

FIVE AUSTRALIAN DAHLIAS Collection G

Value \$9.00

Roots, \$6.50

Bessie Hardress, light blend of yellow with mauve shadings; *George Wilson*, attractive light phlox purple with lighter shadings; *John Butterworth*, pleasing light blend of rose and buff; *Noelle Watson*, camellia rose shading darker with gold in the center; *John Curtin*, massive pure white. All wonderful large exhibition Decorative Dahlias.

DAHLIADEL

Warren W. Maytrott

Box 14 Vineland, N. J.