

# Half A Century Of Dahlia Progress

"WANTED: AN AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY"—In the October, 1914 issue of Florist's Exchange, its Editor, J. Harrison Dick, wrote an article with the above title. This suggestion was immediately acted upon.

An active, enterprising, wholesale florist, one Richard Vincent, Jr., operating a big stand of greenhouses in White Marsh, Md., and ardent dahlia grower, read the editorial and started calling some of his colleagues and customers. He asked them to go to New York and meet with J. Harrison Dick and himself and discuss starting a new dahlia society.

At that first meeting, it was quickly agreed a dahlia society was needed in the eastern part of the U. S. although there were less than half a dozen in the U. S. at that time. Mr. Vincent was chosen Chairman and all agreed to send out letters to all their friends who grew dahlias, inviting them to a second meeting.

SOCIETY STARTED IN A DEPRESSION YEAR—The year, 1914, was a "depression year." Many firms in and out of the florist's trade were failing. Bad time to launch a new society? Yes. But this group went ahead with their plans anyway. Temporary officers were elected. A show was planned for the following fall, 1915.

THE FIRST AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY SHOW—Business was not flourishing, but the show was a success. The society had no funds except a few contributions by the tradesmen members. Invitations went out to dahlia growers to

join the new society and exhibit. George L. Stillman, of Westerly, R. I., sent some 1,500 double post cards at his own expense, to secure new members and exhibitors.

The show was staged at the Museum of Natural History in New York, on September 24th. Undoubtedly this location was selected because there was no charge for space and the facilities, including tables, water and porter help. Milk bottles were used for vases. "Premiums dispensed amounted to \$325.00 in cash and also about \$100.00 worth of medals and ribbons." It was estimated that over 35,000 persons viewed the show.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING was held at the Museum on the second day of the first show. Officers were elected: President, Richard Vincent, Jr.; Secretary, Joseph J. Lane, Mamaroneck, N. Y.; Treasurer, F. R. Austin, Tuckerton, N. J. The meeting was well attended. Invitations were read inviting the society to show in 1916 at Philadelphia and Rochester.

A NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY FROM THE START—The society was conceived as a National Organization. Evidence of this was the election of Vice-Presidents from different areas. They were: W. W. Wilmore, Denver, "representing the west"; Professor. J. B. Norton, of University of Maryland, "representing the south"; Leonard Barron, Garden City, N. Y., "representing the east"; George L. Stillman, Westerly, R. I., "representing the north-east."



Before the show, membership numbered 158. After the show, it had grown to nearly 200. President Richard Vincent, Jr., then past 60 years, was the "sparkplug" of the group. As George Fraser, of Willimantic, Conn. (and the second Superintendent of The Storr's Trial Garden) wrote in 1954, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the society, "Despite his advanced years, Richard Vincent was very active. Not one of us, and most of us were younger, could keep up with him at shows and in gardens. He had energy and enthusiasm to spare and continued on as leader and President for fifteen years."

THE A. D. S. BULLETIN—At its first business meeting, all members present agreed that, in order to prosper and grow, the society should have a publication. Its purpose was to carry news of dahlia people, promote shows, and print cultural information. At first, it was a small, 5" x 7" eight page pamphlet. Joseph J. Lane was its first editor. He was followed soon by Edward C. Vick. Beginning in 1923 William G. Rathgeber was Secretary and Editor, until his death in 1932. Beginning in 1932 and until 1937, Lynn B. Dudley edited the Bulletin. Then Gordon Waaser became Editor for the longest "hitch" of anyone (for 17 years). He resigned on account of ill health and retired to Marlowe, N. H., where he lives today. This put L. B. D. back in the Editorial harness, where

he "fought the reins" strenuously until 1962, when the present, and by no means the least skillful of these scribes, Editor Edward B. Lloyd took the job and edits and "lays out" the interesting A. D. S. Bulletin you read today. It has always been a quarterly, except for the years 1952 and 1953, when only two issues per year were published. Always of interest to members, its pages are filled with the latest news of dahlia people, shows, Trial Gardens, cultural data, and reports of the doings in the associated societies.

A NEW DAHLIA ERA—In this period, 50 years ago, dahlias were just getting into American gardens. Most of the varieties grown and exhibited in shows here were originated in Europe. But, American introductions were getting into the spotlight. John Harding, gardener for Judge Marean, of Greens Farms, Conn. early in the 1908's had succeeded in developing a new strain of large decoratives, all with closed centers. One was named JUDGE MAREAN and many others were known as "Marean dahlias." Up to then, most dahlias exhibited were singles, duplex and peony types, except the ponpons and miniatures.

ASSOCIATED DAHLIA SOCIETIES—The Society had the character of a national organization from the beginning. Other dahlia societies were invited to join with it to advance the knowledge of dahlia culture, standardize sizes, colors and types, nomenclature, show procedures, and many other things which would help all groups with the same objectives.

Originally, these societies, in joining the A. D. S., were designated as "Branch Societies." But many thought that this title denoted secondary status. In 1935 the plan was revised as suggested by this Scribe, then President of A. D. S., to include two categories of member societies. The first were "Participating Societies," and their membership in whole or part (20 or more) are members of the A. D. S. with full voting privileges. Each Participating member receives a copy of the Bulletin, the Judging Manual, an annual copy of the Joint Classification List and all other literature. The Participating Society receives an A. D. S. medal for its show, and many other privileges and services.

The second category is known as an Affiliated Society, and pays an annual fee. This entitles it to 6 copies of the Bulletin to be rotated among its members, an A. D. S.

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(An Advertisement Which Appeared in the Bulletin, Oct. 1922.)

## Marean Dahlias

THE MAREAN DAHLIAS are conceded to be the most magnificent under cultivation. At all Exhibitions from which we have reports, the MAREAN varieties stood out above all others, in size of bloom, in quality of flower, in color, in size and strength of stem and neck. In every way they proved their superiority over all other varieties.

MAREAN Dahlias won the greatest number of Blue Ribbons and First Prizes at the Wonderful Exhibition of the American Dahlia Society, exhibited as they were, by Amateurs and Professionals alike.

The MAREAN varieties, "FIRELIGHT" and MRS. JOHN T. SHEEPERS were considered by those who know, the finest two dahlias in the show. Ask the growers who won with them.

### JOHN SHEEPERS

Original and Exclusive Introducer of  
MAREAN DAHLIAS

522 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

# A Capsul History Of Accomplishment

Medal yearly. Both types of societies are privileged to conduct the A. D. S. Seedling and Achievement Competition in their shows. The Presidents of both are automatically Vice-Presidents of the A. D. S. The news, elections, shows, etc., of each Associated Society is reported, as sent by its Secretary, in the Bulletin.

As this is written, early in 1964, some 67 Dahlia Societies are thus associated with the A. D. S. and the number is growing each year.

## TESTING NEW VARIETIES—

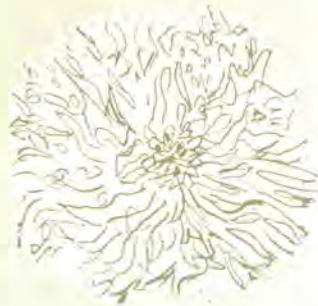
At this period, 1916-1917, so many growers were putting new varieties on the market, in order to supply the increasing demand, that many inferior seedlings were being offered. It was decided in 1917 that the society should have the new introductions grown under as near ideal conditions as possible, and evaluated by competent judges.

The first A. D. S. Trial Garden was established at the then Storrs Agricultural College at Storrs, Conn. Its first superintendent was William H. Sweeney. Its second was George Fraser, and its third and last for 26 years, was the late Rowland L. Patch. In its early days, a group of A. D. S. judges went to the garden each fall and examined the entries. Their decisions determined which of those on trial would be "officially approved." There was no score card as such in use by the judges then. In the 46 years since then several thousand new dahlias have received an A. D. S. Certificate of Merit.

**THE FIRST OFFICIAL SCORE CARD**—It was about 1928 when William Sweeney, Superintendent of the Storrs Trial Garden, designed the first A. D. S. Score Card. He, and others, had used it for several years on a trial basis at these Official Trial Gardens, which in this year, 1964, number eight. It was first illustrated in the July, 1929 Bulletin. Its main categories were: Color, Stem, Foliage, Form, Size. Even in this first Score Card, there was a space for "Distinction." This was described as: "For Form and Color values, above average, allow 5 points in basic figure."

The "Sweeney" Score Card was used until 1934. Then it was revised under the direction and suggestions of Warren Maytrott. This Card was used in Trial Garden judging (or Field judging and, in some instances, in shows), to evaluate the then only award for Achievement Medal Awards offered for new varieties by the American Home Magazine.

It was again revised one year later



(1935) with three columns, instead of two, so that judges could designate three categories of size: Small, Medium and Large. The characteristics were listed as: Color, Form, Size, Stem, Foliage, Substance, Floriferousness Uniformity. This is substantially the Official A. D. S. Score Card as used today. In 1956, a new Official size, the "BB," 4" to not over 6" was added in same column with the "B's." It was in 1940 that a new or second Score Card was designed, for "Bench Judging." This is still used to evaluate new varieties on the show tables. A need for such a Score Card had been established in connection with the American Home Achievement Medal Awards. In one year, in their hey-day, over 40 of these Medals were awarded by the publication to new dahlias in some 30 shows.

**DAHLIA NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION LISTS**—The first list of dahlia varieties was published in 1915 by Dr. F. H. Hall at the Experimental Station at Geneva, N. Y. The second Dahlia Variety List was compiled in 1923 by Professor J. B. S. Norton, a Charter Member of the A. D. S. It was more a list of names of some 7,000 of the then current varieties than a Classification List. Its title was, "Ten Thousand Dahlias in Cultivation." This was in keeping with the fantastic growing popularity of the dahlia at that period. Most commercial firms grew thousands of seedlings and, because of the demand for new forms and colors, could, and often did, list most of them in their catalogues.

**THE FIRST CLASSIFICATION LIST**—The second Norton list was published in 1928, and contained less than half as many varieties as the first one. But most of them were described in what could be called the first classified dahlia list. Most of the varieties were listed as to color and type, also the names of the originators. Several other lists were pub-

lished by Prof. Norton and were issued later as Official A. D. S. Lists.

Beginning in 1930, the Norton List, with many deletions and yearly additions became the A. D. S. Official Master Nomenclature List. Until 1940, the List was kept by Dr. Marshall A. Howe, Director of the New York Botanical Garden. At his death in 1940, the list was placed in the keeping of Dr. Charles H. Connors, head of the Ornamental Plant Department at Rutgers Experiment Station, later to become a unit of Rutgers University. When Dr. Connors passed on in 1960, the List, which by then had grown to about 5,000 names, was turned over to the present Chairman of Nomenclature, Will-J Stone of Westwood, N. J. Additions of new varieties to the list are made on the basis of Winning Certificates at Trial Gardens, winning in Seedling Sweepstakes, and on being catalogued. Deletions are made every year, also. Any person, by paying a fee of \$1.00, may have a name checked, cleared, and registered. An A. D. S. Code of Nomenclature outlines what type of names are acceptable for registration.

**THE FIRST MODERN CLASSIFICATION LIST**—Naturally, a large "File" List, such as the "Master" List is too large and unwieldy to be published annually. Yet there was need for classifications detail to aid show judges. In 1939, the Central States Society of Chicago, published a list of varieties, such as were being exhibited in the mid-west. Types, sizes and colors were included.

In 1940, the A. D. S., which had



been planning such a list for some time, issued its first, short, current, list of standard varieties. This list was selected by Warren W. Maytrott of Vineland, N. J. from the "Master List." Those varieties were included which, in his knowledge of catalogued dahlias were being grown and shown currently in various sections of the country. This first A. D. S. Current Official Classified List was published in the Bulletin. For the first time, too, in any list, there was an explanation of Color Types and a Definition of Form Types. For the first time also, Size types were listed

as "A," Large; "B," Medium; also Dwarf, Miniature (Small).

**A JOINT CLASSIFICATION**—Until 1948, there were two Classification Lists. Then the two societies, A. D. S. and Central States, combined their lists and issued a Joint List. This eliminated confusion for exhibitors and judges. It has become a standard operation and is handled by a committee composed of members of both societies. The Joint List is used by over 100 exhibitions each fall. Yearly revisions keep it up to date.

**A JUDGING MANUAL**—Standardized and coordinated judging procedures had been discussed by the A. D. S. officials for years. In 1953, the late Dr. Ward Cook, a most meticulous judge, consulted some eight other judging authorities in the society, and then compiled a Judging Manual. It was authorized and published by the American Dahlia Society. Qualifications and demeanor of judges as well as pointers for the use of score cards were included. Colors were divided and explained. In fact, the manual was not only the first one ever devised for dahlias, it is still about the only one-flower complete treatise on judging. It quickly came into use in many societies as a text book for judging schools. It is given without charge to a member when joining the society. It is sold to others at \$1.00 per copy. Several editions have been necessary to supply the demand for them.

**ACCREDITED JUDGES**—Back in 1936, the then editor of the Bulletin penned an article titled: "Why Not A. D. S. Certified Judges?" It suggested qualifying tests, with demonstrations and written tests, with qualifying grades. Nothing was done about it then.

But with the Judging Manual—with many students taking the judging courses, the Accrediting of judges by the A. D. S. was the next logical step. Bert Pitt was president and he presented a plan which, through the cooperation of the several dahlia conferences and local societies also, a list of judges in three categories: Apprentice, Regular, and Senior Judges would be authorized by the A. D. S. Mr. Pitt was assisted in the preparation of the plan by Lawrence Palminteri, who was named Chairman of the operation.

That such a program was needed was evidenced by the instant response by conferences and societies.

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# To Stimulate Interest In Dahlias

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Each group was asked to name a Senior Judge Committee, and when authorized, that group would then pass on the qualifications of the other judges from that society and recommend their status to the A. D. S. As of 1963, over 600 judges had been accredited under this plan. A list of these judges has been published and distributed to members and A. D. S. associated societies by the committee.

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**THE SEEDLING SWEEPSTAKES**—Before 1950, the only major award for new varieties in shows was the American Home Achievement Medal. This was started about 1920 by Leonard Barron, a Charter member of the society, and Horticultural Editor of American Home. It was continued until 1961 by his two successors, E. L. D. (Ned) Seymour and Ted Weston.

It was awarded to other flowers than dahlias, but they seemed to capture the majority of the Medals each fall. In one year, over 40 of the Medals went to some 30 new dahlias in 41 shows. However, some thought that the one, supreme award, in a show left behind many worthy dahlias which the public would like to grow and show.

It was in February that a committee composed of Dr. Knocke, Conrad Frey and Lynn B. Dudley proposed a new competition for new varieties in shows. It was called, "A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes." It was made available, without cost, to all Dahlia Societies associated with the A. D. S. The awards included Rosette Ribbons, Medal Certificates, and, for the highest scoring variety in each of the four size categories (if shown in at least three shows in one year), an A. D. S. Gold Medal. A new Medal of Bronze, honoring the Originator of the competition, Lynn B. Dudley, will be awarded to the supreme award winners beginning with this, the 50th Anniversary year.

In the first year, only eight societies asked to schedule these awards.

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Five years later, in 1954, 32 societies wanted it. Today, in 1964, over 60 are cooperating in the Seedling Sweepstakes. It supplements the Trial Garden awards for new and worthy dahlias. Unlike the Trial Garden testing, however, it does not provide the all-season observation and checking under varied cultural and climatic conditions.

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**RESEARCH**—In 1931 and 1932, Dr. Phillip Brierly, Plant Pathologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, conducted a two-year study of Dahlia Mosaic and Stunt. This was done at the Boyce-Thompson Insti-



**GAMBI — GIRL — STONE**

Usually these two gentlemen who form the dahlia firm of "Gamston Gardens" in Riverdale, N. J. are seen with other men. Here they made an exception and were "taken" with this beautiful blond, who, at the time, in 1956, was "Miss Patterson."

At left is Joe Gambi, right, Will-J Stone. The dahlia was their LAWRENCE WELK, then winning many awards as a seedling. It was a BB—F. D. a blend of lavender and white. Mr. Stone is Chairman of the important A. D. S. Nomenclature Committee and keeps the Master List of Registered Dahlia Varieties.

tute for Plant Research, Yonkers, N. Y. His findings were: No. 1, "that Green Peach Tree Aphids were the vectors for the Mosaic," and, No. 2, "that there was no known cure for a plant infected with Dahlia Mosaic." These truths have never been disproven.

The Bulletin was privileged to publish the Brierly report and the fine photographs of the leaf-banding symptoms identifying mosaic. This was in the July, 1933 issue. It was a basic study and has been quoted for years by later studies and their pathologist researchers.

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**ANOTHER STUDY OF DAHLIA DISEASES**—In 1959, Rowland A. Mildner, a graduate student at Michigan State, undertook a study of all known authorities on Dahlia Diseases. It was his Thesis for a degree at Michigan State University. Dr. C. E. Wildon, for 34 years director of the A. D. S. Trial Garden at Michigan State, and head of the Nursery Department there, helped to secure

the exclusive publication of the study for the Bulletin. Some fine photographs were taken by the college photographers and also made available to illustrate the leaf bandings in the five different virus diseases which Mildner identified. The report appeared in the 1959 May and August issues. It was the most exhaustive record of dahlia disease research ever made.

It was because of this article, which came at a time when viruses were becoming a greater menace to growers than ever before, that the A. D. S. determined to start a serious study and research into dahlia diseases. Plans were begun to raise a fund for necessary grants to researchers. About this time, J. Louis Roberts, long an advocate of disease research passed on. As a Memorial to him, the money being raised among members and associated societies was named "The J. Louis Roberts Research Fund." His "home" society, Southtown Dahlia Society, Chicago, raised over \$1,000.00 for the fund.

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**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY UNDERTAKES STUDY**—In May, 1960 an A. D. S. Committee, with Warren W. Maytrott as Chairman, Dr. Frederick Knocke (present Chairman), and Lynn Dudley, met with Dr. B. H. Davis, Chairman, Plant Pathology, and Dr. Eugene Varney, at Rutgers University, to discuss the problem of virus diseases confronting the dahlia growers in America.

In reference to a future study particularly in Dahlia Mosaic, Dr. Davis said that Rutgers was then conducting research in Tobacco Mosaic and a study of Virology in dahlias would fit into that study. Further, the Plant Pathology Department would be glad to undertake the A. D. S. project. Both Dr. Davis and Dr. Varney pointed out that such a study could not be rushed and no estimate could be made as to the time involved. They were inclined to the belief that a Serological Test, such as had been developed in Europe, would be the first logical step.

This Research Project, with grants made from the J. Louis Roberts Research Fund, is being continued in 1964. Hope is expressed by all connected with the project that soon an announcement will be forthcoming of definite progress which will benefit every dahlia grower. As Dr. Brierly said so truthfully, 30 years ago, "There is no known cure for Dahlia Mosaic." All members of the Society and its associated societies are anxiously awaiting the means of detecting Mosaic Virus in both plants and roots, other than visual indications

on leaves, which, at best, is often unreliable.

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**IN THIS FIFTIETH YEAR**—The American Dahlia Society is grateful that its members and officials, over the past half century, have been able to put into action, the purposes to which the Society was dedicated by its founding fathers.

In Section II of its By-Laws in 1915, the objectives stated were: *The Society is formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in, and the promotion of, the culture and development of the dahlia—to establish a Standard Nomenclature—to Test New Varieties and to give them such Recognition as they Deserve—to Study the Diseases of the Dahlia—and find Remedies for same—and to Secure Uniformity in Awarding Prizes at Flower Shows—and to Give Exhibitions When Deemed Desirable.*

This was the "Constitution" on which this Society was founded half a century ago. From the abbreviated record of its accomplishments under these objectives, as listed herewith—all members of ALL Dahlia Societies everywhere may judge and determine if and with what fidelity the American Dahlia Society has attained its goals.—L. B. D.

## Fancied Grievances?

May all our fancied grievances be banished from the mind, and may we greet each other with a wish that's good and kind. May nothing false creep in to spoil the perfect harmony, and may we speak sweet words of love and peace and harmony.—Roy Webb.

## Did Wordsworth Write This?

"When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A very host of Golden Dahlias,  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees  
Waving to me—dancing in the breeze.

## Who Wrote This?

God Bless Thy Dahlia Year!  
Plants go in—weeds come out,  
You live with joys and fear,  
Bugs swarm—there's virus doubt,  
Then! Blooms bring hope and cheer,  
Sunshine bright, puts fear to rout,  
God Bless Thy Dahlia Year.

An aging dahlia grower observed: "They just aren't making mirrors like they used to. The kind I buy now are full of wrinkles and crows' feet."

# Dahlia Diseases A Menace

In several articles in this Golden Year Dahlia Record there are references to the grave problem of Dahlia Viruses. We refer to those by Warren Maytrott, and Dr. Frederick Knocke, past and present Chairmen of the A. D. S. Research Program, and the one by Dr. C. E. Wildon.

The Society has been conducting a study of Dahlia Mosaic Virus, in conjunction with the Plant Pathology Department of Rutgers University at New Brunswick, N. J., since September 1961. It has been in charge of Dr. Eugene Varney. The efforts of Dr. Varney and his associates have been directed towards isolating "antogen" (pure dahlia mosaic anti-serum). Although this study has been in progress for nearly three years we do not have word from Dr. Varney that the pure anti-serum will be available to growers in 1964.

Dr. Knocke said recently that Dr. Varney hopes to separate the virus with the aid of electrical iontophoresis or with other physical or chemical purification soon. It has been a long, and at times a discouraging project. A. D. S. members have shown patience unlimited in awaiting the solution of the identification angle for this growing menace of virus diseases in their gardens. We are told that when the process is perfected, Dr. Varney plans to publish an article describing the various steps in obtaining the dahlia mosaic anti-serum. We hope at that time he will be able to describe the process in the A. D. S. Bulletin and tell how it can be put to practical use in determining if a plant or root contains the dread virus.

There is no question about the fact that today, from 10 to 25 percent of the dahlias in every garden in America have at least one or more of the five known dahlia viruses. Without adequate spraying, aphid, thrip, leaf hoppers, white fly and other sucking insects are spreading the viruses from the diseased to the healthy plants very rapidly.

Many growers rogue out the diseased plants as fast as they are discovered. Unfortunately others do not, and in their gardens today, the percentage of diseased plants often runs from 25 to 50 percent. The big problem is in the recognizing or identifying those plants which are infected. Leaf banding and patterns of two-toned leaf areas help, but many varieties tend to conceal the symptoms. In other countries the disease menace is just as great as in America. Here is an article on the subject by Mr. George Brookes of England which is published by permission here. (See next column)

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"I don't believe 'Grace' will be necessary, said Mr. H. O. (a successful and highly respected dahlia exhibitor,) as he eyed the meal of leftovers. I'm sure everything here has been blessed before."

## Virus Diseases Of the Dahlia

By George Brookes, England

It has been admitted in competent quarters, that no less than six different virus diseases affect dahlias. Briefly, and not in order of importance, they are: 1. Dahlia Mosaic Virus. 2. Cucumber Mosaic Virus. 3. Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. 4. Dahlia Ringspot Virus. 5. Dahlia Yellow Ringspot Virus. 6. Dahlia Oak Leaf Virus.

### Dahlia Mosaic

Of these, we find the most prevalent to be the Dahlia Mosaic and Cucumber Virus and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. The most often seen in England is Dahlia Mosaic Virus and it is easily recognized by pale yellow vein banding against the darker color of the leaf. Taking the center vein of the leaf and its side veins, if these are light or pale yellow, it is almost certain to be Mosaic Virus. Sometimes the marking fades and fluctuates. The leaves will also curl downwards, blister and wrinkle; also one-half of the leaf will be short and stumpy, as against the longer and more regular shape of the leaf on the other side of the central leaf vein. The growth in general will be short and stumpy in between nodes. In fact, the plant, when half grown, is frequently broader across than it is high.

This type of virus is passed from infected to healthy plants by sap sucking aphids, who feed on an infected plant, fly to the next plant and start to feed again. In so doing, they transmit the virus by injecting it into the plant. Happily, this virus does not effect seeds saved from infected stock. Neither will it affect the soil.

**Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus** is rampant in many other countries besides England. The reason for it being so widespread, is because it has many host plants, which include: asters, chickweed, chrysanthemums, primulas and tomatoes, besides one or two other host plants. The thing to look for in this virus is leaf spots and patterns in the leaves, also concentric rings. The leaves, as with Mosaic, are often deformed. In this case, the transmitter is an insect called thrip.

**Cucumber Mosaic Virus** is not quite as severe as the two previously mentioned type of virus. In this case, leaf distortion is very small and is reflected by light green and sometimes dark green mottling. This virus can be transmitted from dahlias to other host plants, being carried among plants by aphids.

It is a wise move for individual growers to learn these types of virus for his, and other people's satisfaction. Once a general guidance is obtained detection is fairly easy. Virus is spotted in the early stages of a sprouting tuber or young plant, but

detection is far easier when plants are past the half grown stage.

The most certain way to ensure control, commences with one's ability to keep to a minimum, the activities of all types of aphids and thrips. This should be followed by the grower rouging all suspect plants if one bears in mind, that to propagate from only healthy stocks, then other onerous affairs will become less. It is that person's duty to his fellow grower, to keep his stocks clean.

**Carriers of Viruses.** Another point to bear in mind is, there are a few known varieties and, maybe lots of unknown ones, that are classed as "carriers of virus." These varieties are known to have virus, but never show it. To all intents and purposes they are healthy plants, yet they have been found to pass virus to other varieties via. aphids, etc. This is very disturbing and it is as well to find out from a reliable source the name of these varieties. I will not attempt to list any here, but I wonder what the result would be, if someone commenced to breed from

these apparently "healthy carriers," or those varieties which seem to be resistant to virus, (and there are a few). Would we then be eventually able to breed a virus resistant race of dahlias?

### Importing Viruses

Growers who import varieties from overseas, are strongly urged to grow all stocks of such imports in a section that is as far away as possible from his own proved stock. In effect, this could be designated a new stock quarantine. It follows, that for satisfaction of all concerned, it is your duty to call in the plant health inspector, who will give every co-operation. I urge everyone to avail themselves of this service. Grow these imported stocks at least one season in strict quarantine.

Concluding. Aphid and thrip must be eradicated as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Press home the attack with great regularity, at least every ten days here in England, and perhaps oftener in some areas and in some countries.



## Charles Ambrose Recalls -

"I can remember back in 1933 when I attended my first A. D. S. show in New York. It was the thrill of my life. I met many of the dahlia men there, some of whom have passed on. I remember, for instance, Daddy Kemp, Derrill Hart, Michael Batto, Swoboda, Ruscher, (Dewey Mohr's late partner). I also met you and Warren Maytrott.

I recall that Dahlidel had a large display and **Anne Benedict**, almost blood red, was featured. The next year (1934) **America's Sweetheart** came out. Also **The Millionaire**, **Thomas Edison** and **Jane Cowl** became all the rage.

Yes, when I look back, Lynn, I realize that time has made many changes in all our lives and in the dahlia world. But the wonderful friends we have made with our dahlia hobby mean so much to us.

Many of these friends, beside the ones mentioned above, are sadly missed. There was Merrill Brown, and William Elkins, and now in July, our own Dick Cross. They added so much to our lives and interest in dahlias.

Your friendship over the years has been a highlight for me. You helped me make Col. Little better known by listing it on your Honor Roll, when I airmailed them to you. And

I thank you for the grand write up of your visit to my garden under the floodlights September 1962.

I have had several heart attacks in the last year, and retired from my paper company job last December. I am taking it easy now and I have a pension and Social Security. Mrs. Ambrose and I are doing all right, and I'll continue to grow as many dahlias as health will permit. I miss you at the shows since you went to California, but I hope you and others will write as you can. Charles B. (Col.) Ambrose, 631 W. 26th St., Norfolk, Va.

## I'M A WISE OLD BIRD! The Oldest in the West!

And, after 52 years of Dahlia growing I have learned a lot—forgotten many things too, thank heaven—Should have celebrated my 50th Anniversary in 1962.

But congrats to the A.D.S. on theirs.

A Post Card Will Bring My List—Fast.

**Whiterock Dahlia Gardens**  
Pabstown, Oregon

# Judging Is Not An Exact Science

By Andrew J. Mulcahy  
A. D. S. Chairman, Judging

Editors Note: "Drew" Mulcahy is a dedicated dahlia judge. In 1961, he succeeded Conrad Frey, dean of A. D. S. judging for two decades, as chairman of judging in the A. D. S.-N. J. joint exhibitions.

It has been the writer's privilege, over fifteen or more years, to "team up" with Drew on dahlia judging pilgrimages, driving usually, to many conferences and other exhibitions. We have journeyed often to Birmingham, Chattanooga, Washington, Pittsburgh and other places. We have made hundreds of visits together to A. D. S. Trial Gardens.

We can testify, therefore, that no dahlia judge is today more dedicated, to helping exhibitors and originators, to receive unbiased, fair and competent judging. That is Judge Mulcahy.

He has often said that the responsibility which a judge assumes in evaluating the cherished entries of growers is almost overwhelming. He admits also that too many exhibitors have come to take the unselfish efforts of judges as their inherent rights—too much a matter of course, as it were.

Drew and the writer have often discussed judges as a "breed" of dedicated dahlia enthusiasts. Did you ever ask yourself, Why do judges travel hundreds, even thousands of miles, by car, train and plane; stop at the best hotels, (or motels); buy their own meals, (and beverages); donate trophies; all without remuneration?

Drew writes herewith some of his views about dahlia judges, with the obvious desire, of helping exhibitors to understand modern dahlia judging techniques. There is much more which, from his long experience, he could have said.—L. B. D.

## JUDGES ARE MADE — NOT BORN

By A. J. Mulcahy

"In order to ascertain the best exhibits at a Dahlia Show it is necessary to have each entry judged by either senior or junior judges, except in the seedling classes, which should be judged only by senior judges."

"Dahlia Show Judges are "made" not just born. They have grown and exhibited dahlias. Probably they have "lost out" in some contests. Their status as a judge has been earned.

"Most exhibitors accept the judges' decision, good or bad, but some, however, have strong feelings about which entry should have won and do not hesitate to criticize the judging of real or imaginary errors on



**Andrew J. Mulcahy**  
is dedicated to helping dahlia exhibitors get an accurate and fair evaluation of their exhibits.

the part of the judges. Some of the criticism results from disappointment when a specific entry has not won. This is due to lack of understanding of the technique and principles followed by the judges.

### Judges Are Not Infallible

On the other hand, some judges, being human beings, may occasionally commit errors in procedure, judgement and/or the art of diplomacy. This is why it is preferable to have at least three judges, some at least from another society is possible, for each specific class in dahlia shows.

Judging is mainly a matter of comparing and evaluating an exhibit and comparing the exhibit against a theoretically "perfect exhibit." The perfect exhibit is described in detail in the point scoring system and since there are numerous kinds of exhibits, there are different point systems. But generally, the scale used for evaluation of a specific exhibit is quite universal and is used with only slight variations by all qualified judges.

The judges' team sees the exhibits before them in relation to the "perfect exhibit," scores them accordingly and then moves on to the next exhibit to be judged. They are not concerned with how nearly perfect is an exhibit. That is only incidental through the scoring procedures and then the exhibits are awarded first, prize, second prize, etc. The blue is the best one and red ribbons are next to the best. The difference between the two however, may be only one percentage point.

A judging team follows procedures and applies principles standards in all dahlia circles, taking into consideration classifications, requirements and restrictions imposed on the show by the show schedule or the show management. These principles are applied to their best ability under show conditions.

### Qualifications of Judges

In order to qualify as a senior or regular judge the individual must have proven his or her knowledge of dahlies, but regardless of similar training judges do not all see the exhibit alike. What would be a muddy color to me, would appear as an attractive color to you.

Subsequently, classification, vigor, etc. are difficult to measure. Balance, harmony, rhythm, etc. are largely matters of reactions, emotions and feeling, so naturally there may be different evaluation of them.

Principles and procedures can be taught, but balanced judgment cannot be. It is something acquired according to each person's ability, after study and training and many years of practical experience.

### Judges Often Disagree

It is little wonder that those who

judge are not always in complete agreement, but be assured that, in this writer's humble opinion, each judge considers many factors before deciding which entry, in his opinion, should receive the first, and lesser awards.

Summarizing, good judging is more than the application of rules and measures. It is certainly not an exact science. It requires highly developed knowledge and skills. It must be remembered that judges very seldom receive any remuneration and pay their own expenses, and before anyone criticizes them, be certain that it is not due to a biased opinion.



## Pen and Ink Drawings By Doris Dudley Pace

The editor's daughter, who appears below, is the artist who drew the pen and ink sketches of dahlias which appear as decorations in this "Record." She lives in Fairfax, California, north of San Francisco, with her husband, Col. Brice Pace, U. S. Army, retired.

They have two sons, Jon and Scott, who live with them. Their daughter, Pamela, is married and also lives in Fairfax, with her husband, Jim Lonsford.

Doris, who has painted many oils and watercolors, including portraits of people and dahlias, asked to help her dad in illustrating this Golden Year Dahlia Record. Naturally, we could not refuse her assistance. We hope you like her interpretations of dahlia forms.



**On the Bulletin Cover, 1937, the title read, "Miss Doris Virginia Dudley, lovely daughter of Pres. and Mrs. Lynn B. Dudley, admires the New Ruschmohr Introduction, "Straights White." It was winner of the Derrill Hart Medal for 1937.**

**As the item above reveals, she is now Mrs. Brice Pace and lives in Fairfax, California.**

## That 'Coco-Cola' Breath A "Hot Lips" Story by John Metzger

Last fall, at the Birmingham, Ala. Show we had, as usual, a wonderful time with the typical southern hospitality and entertainment. The feature, of course, was a dinner at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Rike. They are real hosts, with friendliness emanating from every corner of the spacious home, yard and dahlia garden.

Dr. Rike had cut his show blooms for the next day's show and put them in containers in a cool room to absorb water. He is formidable in show competition as well as a genial host. The blooms were in fine condition, and, wishing to keep them so, he remarked to the "drinking guests," "I'm afraid that the scotch on your breaths will wilt my blooms, but I will let John Metzger, who is full of Coca-Cola only, go in and come back and report on the variety and condition of my winning kind of dahlias."

I went in, and looked over the blooms, came out and reported that there were undoubtedly many winners parked in the room. But, unfortunately it was a hot day and—tempus fugit—next day some wilted.

After the judging, Dr. Rike "colored" me and said: "You damned Yankee! I kept those scotch drinkers out of my cooling room. But you—with your Coca-Cola breath, blew some open centers on my best blooms."

You see, friends, you can't always, "no how" win. I wonder sometimes if it pays to have a reputation for soberness.

P. S.: Ed. Lloyd, another abstainer, did not go in the room. President Dryer and Caroline, I'm sure they were teetotaling, and did not get blamed for the wilting. Possibly I looked too hard at the blooms.—John Metzger, Irvington, N. J.

## Promote Dahlias More For Garden Decoration

Written and/or Inspired by Arthur S. Mason

I plead guilty to being a competitive dahlia showman, Arthur (Bill) Mason might be heard to say. Perhaps you would spell it "Show-off." It is estimated that there are less than 3,000 fellow male dahlia exhibitors in the country. And, there are probably 2,000,000 male gardeners.

Men do like to display their garden triumphs and win awards for them. It may be egotism—or a pattern for extroverts—call it what you will. There are nearly 100 dahlia shows staged in the U. S. each fall, where most of the exhibitors are men. They "exert their superiority" by producing blooms which can win over their neighbors and friends.

There is good clean competition in business, in sports, in gardening, Arthur once told us. On the exhibition tables in the shows, the public can see the wide variety of sizes, form, height and colors in today's dahlias. Most gardeners who see the exhibits wish they could grow flowers the equal of those they see. Some of them try to do it, but without cultural guidance and the expert touch, many fail to equal the exhibits. Mr. Mason wrote us recently as follows:

"Since I quit editing the *Dahlia* gram, the publication of the National Capitol Dahlia Society, I have taken an interest in writing for horticulture sections of newspapers."

"I have found in the correspondence in their files that there is today a wealth of interest in dahlias as a garden 'cutting' flower. Newspaper files are full of inquiries about this. My friend, Warren Maytrott of Dahliadel sensed this increased interest by just the average type of gardener, several years back. Since then he has been listing in his catalogue many garden and florist type of dahlias. The result, a surprising increase in sales of these types of dahlias."

"One of the largest seed and bulb firms in the country confirms this revival of interest in dahlias for decoration in garden and home." They say their order is for the "good old varieties like *JERSEY BEAUTY*, *THOMAS EDISON*, *LOIS WALCHER*, *GARRY HOOK*, etc., are increasing every year. They stock some 300 varieties. Their sales are increasing." The demand for the medium and small size dahlias is increasing. The average gardener just wants the older, lower priced varieties. He does not have to have the latest introductions. It's color and beauty in his garden and home that he wants.

"So, as one dahlia showman to the 2,999 others in America," concluded Mr. Mason, "Let's help people with gardens to grow 'cutting' dahlias."

## A. D. S. Service To Dahlia Growers Much Appreciated

I am deeply appreciative of the fine work accomplished by the A. D. S., all during the years since its organization. I am, and have been, a member through local and branch societies for many years.

Many of my first dahlia friendships were formed with A. D. S. members in the East, and are still cherished. I have the highest admiration and respect for the officers of the A. D. S., as well as all other mem-



Garnett Huey at Pine Top

bers. Surely no dahlia lover could but appreciate the unselfish service that has been given by the Society and those who have so capably guided its actions during the years.

All of us at Cincinnati sincerely appreciated the presence of the representatives of the A. D. S. who visited the Mid-west Show there; on several occasions, when I lived just over the river in Kentucky.

If health permits I expect to be at the Golden Anniversary meeting in September. You possibly have been told that for several years I have been handicapped by diabetic neuritis and had to give up growing for several years. However, the change to this White Mountain climate seems to have given me a new lease and I am feeling much better. Grew three hundred hills last season and am planning on the same for this year.—Garnett Huey, P. O. Box 95, Pine Top, Arizona.

— o —

Robert Louis Stephenson wrote: "Everybody, sooner or late, sits down to a banquet of consequences." We hope this one tonight is not such a one.

## N. J. Tercentennial Award Made By Phillip Alampi, Secretary of Agriculture, N. J.

At the show this afternoon, the New Jersey Tercentennial Award of its Medal was made to its winner by Phillip Alampi, New Jersey Agriculture Secretary.

Because of early press requirements, we cannot name the winner of this award. It was made to a resident of New Jersey for the most meritorious exhibit of the fine big red dahlia originated by Secretary Edward B. Lloyd, General Chairman of this celebration, called "New Jersey 300".

A word about Mr. Alampi. Before being appointed in 1956 to this important New Jersey state job, Mr. Alampi headed the American Broadcasting Garden Weekly T. V. Programs. The subjects chosen covered broad cultural suggestions for many products, including dahlias.

This editor was privileged to appear on several occasions on these

programs first with "Phil" and later with Mrs. Ruth Alampi, who continued the programs after her husband became Secretary. In front of the cameras, we planted roots and plants, tied them to stakes, sprayed them, dug the roots—all in a large box of soil provided for the purpose. Whether we helped people to become dahlia growers is a conjecture. But, personally we enjoyed our contacts with Mr. and Mrs. Alampi. On one occasion we also recall he came to the A. D. S. show with the late "Jack" Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, who was "Betty Blossom" as a writer, and, when a name was wanted for the new winner of the Achievement Winner, grown by our friend, Herman Rindfleisch, of Mamaroneck, N. Y., "Phil" suggested **Betty Blossom** and the dahlia which we still grow, was given to it on the spot.

## Dahlias of 1915

If you grew, or even remember these dahlia varieties, which were in style as "Novelties" the year of the first A. D. S. show, then you are older than you think. The list below were a part of some of the 200 varieties offered for sale in the catalogue of Geo. H. Walker, Dighton, Mass., copy of which was given to the editor by Louis Alling, former Secretary and a Past-President of the A. D. S. The figures are in cents.

<b>Bessie Boston</b> (Decorative), Incurved, Yellow, each	.50
<b>Countess of Kenmore</b> (Cactus), Pure Umber, each	.35
<b>Grand Dutchess Marie</b> (Giant Show), a novelty introduced in 1911, and very popular, Rich Carmine	.75
<b>King Philip</b> (Paeony), Cramine, plants dwarf, each	\$1.50
<b>Manhattan Beauty</b> (Show), Very large, stems 18", red, each	.50
<b>Manitou</b> (Decorative), Large Yellow, dwarf, each	.75
<b>Princess Juliana</b> (Decorative), Large, Pure White, each	.75
<b>Royalty</b> (Decorative), Very large, Royal Purple, each	\$1.00
<b>Alice Roosevelt</b> (Holland Paeony), Cream White, each	.35
<b>Damera</b> (Cactus), Incurved Petals, Old Gold, each	.50
<b>Vivian</b> (Paeony), Rose Pink, ..	.50
<b>Queen Emma</b> (Paeony), Rose Pink, ..	.20
<b>Queen Wilhelmina</b> (Paeony), White Very satisfactory, each	.25
<b>America</b> (Cactus), Pink, striped Carmine, each	.75
<b>A. D. Levonia</b> (Show), Finest Pure Pink, each	.10
<b>Amber Queen</b> (Pompon), Pure Amber, each	.10
<b>Bride</b> (Single), Pure Waxy White, each	.50
<b>Belle of Springfield</b> (Pompon), Crimson, Tinted White	.10
<b>Comet</b> (Cactus), Rose, speckled Crimson, each	.15
<b>Cardinal</b> (Cactus), Fine Crimson, Very large, each	.30
<b>Colosse De Balcour</b> (Decorative), Plants dwarf, Flower large, Violet, Tipped White, each	.35
<b>Delice</b> (Decorative), Very large, Pure Pink, Long stems	.35
<b>Esmerelda</b> (Show), one of the best, Clear Yellow, each	.25
<b>George W. Childs</b> (Cactus), Rich, Deep Yellow, each	.10
<b>Grand Duke</b> (Show), one of the best, White Tinted Lav.	.15
<b>Joan of Arc</b> (Cactus), Sulphur Yellow, shaded Pink	.35
<b>Jennie Cayeux</b> (Cactus), Soft Pink, shaded Heliotrope	.35
<b>Kaiser Wilhelm</b> (Show), Deep Yellow, Tipped Red	.20
<b>Le Grand Manitou</b> (Decorative), Largest in cultivation, Lavender White, Should be in Your Garden, each	.75

You will note that some dahlias, of much later date, were named the same as some of those above. **Bride**, **Comet**, and **Cardinal** are three that had namesakes in later years. It was the discovery that growers were naming their new varieties after ones already on the market, which prompted the A.D.S. to early established a Registered List of Varieties.

The act of selecting a name of a named variety, is known as an act of the sub-conscious mind, and it happens very often in many phases of life, other than that in horticulture. But that's another story.—L. B. D.

## Time to Grunt

A familiar saying tells us that stairs get higher as we dahlia folks get older.

Lately I've noticed that electric wall outlets are a lot lower too.—Roy Webb.

# COLOR STUDY

By Frederick McKelvey, Santa Monica, Calif.

A Survey of the Color Situation in Dahliadom

The following article deals with dahlia color descriptions and classifications as they are found today, to tell how this came about, and to see what lies in the immediate future together with a few suggestions. It is neither a technical article on color nor is it exhaustive on the matter it does cover.

My thanks are extended to all who helped in its preparation and there were many. However, I would especially like to thank Garnett Huey, E. Henry White and Lynn Dudley for their assistance.

## PART ONE

### The Present Time—1964

Dr. Ward Cook in his manual "Judging of Dahlias in Shows" stated that color is the most important single attribute of a dahlia. Why is it then that there is so much variation in attempting to describe and/or classify color in dahlias?

Surely, anyone would think that the most important single attribute of the dahlia would have been thoroughly tabbed by this time, but we learn that such is not the case.

So what do we find? All nationally accredited judges use twenty points as perfection when judging the color characteristic of dahlias, and are guided by the fourteen color classification as given in the joint American Dahlia Society and Central States Dahlia Society Classification of Dahlias List.

Let's take up those fourteen color classifications first. They are: white, yellow, orange, flame, autumn, red, dark red, pink, lavender, purple, light blend, dark blend, bi-color and variegated.

#### Color Groups

It is well to remember the above as classifications only. Think of them as groups of colors. Within each classification are specific colors that more accurately describe the dahlia bloom. In the Classification List, dahlias are listed by their "group" color, and not by their "specific" color. However, it MAY happen that a specific color and the group color turn out to be just about everybody's mental conception of that color, as for instance Nagel's Solidite, pink. Or Lulu Pattie, white. Mary Elizabeth, red. Orfeo, purple.

This point is overlooked by many. When told that the peach-colored **Surprise** and the lavender-pink



Frederick McKelvey  
Color Specialist

**Heimatland** are both classified pink, they begin to wonder what gives. Apprentice Judges have asked how you judge quality of color in a pink dahlia when there's a lot of yellow (Surprise) in it or a lot of lavender (Heimatland). Pink is pink and why not stick to it. If it's got other colors in it, it's not "pure". It shouldn't be labelled a "pink" dahlia, or if it is, knock off points.

The answer is to turn to Cook's manual and on Page 9 (1953 Edition) look at the color diagram. See how the pink classification, or pink group of colors let us say, extends from salmon through tyrian rose (lots of lavender as it's near the lavender group of colors). Therefore, **Surprise** and **Heimatland** are both correctly labelled pink.

Regardless of whether the judge settles in his mind the specific color of the dahlia or not before awarding points on color quality, the point here is that the dahlia itself is listed as pink no matter where it falls within the pink color range.

White, yellow, orange, red, dark red, lavender, purple as with pink above, aren't so difficult to grasp once the color "grouping" is understood. Perhaps the dark red-purple area will give some trouble, especially if no color chart is used. Under certain light, even experts have had difficulty distinguishing these colors.

Continuing with the fourteen color classifications, we come to some difficult ones—flame, autumn, the light and dark blends. What colors are they?

#### Descriptions Sound Odd?

To the initiated, they know about what to expect, yet there's no certainty. To the uninitiated—well, we've all tried describing colors to our friends.

You'll find almost all the commercial dahlia catalogs going beyond the color classifications. They try to be specific in their endeavor to give their customers an accurate color description, but here again there's no uniformity in terminology, and we're off again.

Bi-color. According to the explanation as given in the Joint Classification List, there may be more than two colors. Variegated dahlias are the ones that get described by what the colors do rather than the colors themselves. Perhaps when these terms were proposed and adopted as classifications, the understanding was the listing would include the specific colors. We checked the Classification List and for the most part, specific colors are mentioned, but there are some exceptions. We have a suspicion the fault is not a printing error nor with the Classification Committee, but with the source of the material, the reporting societies.

Sound muddled? Off hand, it is. Yet we realize that many good people have pondered this subject in the past and we have them to thank for what order de do have. It has not been an easy task.

One apprentice judge, after looking at some blooms and hearing a lecture on color, stated it appeared as though some dahlias had gone in one end of Nature's palette and come out the other, and there were't words to properly describe the resultant mess! Many have tried, and that's the crux of the matter. In trying to convey descriptive terminology one man's sunset color is another's rose gold, or autumn, or tannish old rose, or ochraceous orange ad infinitum. It would appear that there was no common meeting ground. Even a wheel radiates outward from a hub!

In other countries the situation isn't much different. Other general classifications, other terms for specific color descriptions, but no real improvement, and surely no system worthy to replace 'en toto' the one now in use in this country.

How did all this come about? Why don't we have a good color classification of dahlias? Is it so difficult to accomplish?

For answers, let's turn now to the historical angle and see what has been done through the years that has brought us to the point where we now find ourselves.

## PART TWO

### Color Through the Years

1810 Mons. DeCandoll in his "Memoirs" lists five colors of dahlias—red, purple, lilac, pale and yellow. This appears rather simple and uncomplicated and from a cursory survey of available material of the early days dahlia colors were not so mixed as at present. White was also a color at this time having appeared in a dahlia, a single, at a nursery of Berlin.

1817 Pink appears. The Botanical Magazine (England) portrays

in color the first known dahlia of decorative form and labels it as "pink."

1847 By this time, it appears all manner of crossings have been made and color is rampant. Below is a listing of the color classes as used for the English exhibitions. Note the "Dark shaded" and "Black" classes. WHITE—examples, Queen of Sheba and Empress of whites WHITE, TIPPED EDGED and SHADED with CRIMSON—examples, Star and Emily WHITE, TIPPED or EDGED with PURPLE or LILAC—examples, Alice Hawthorne YELLOW—examples, Cleopatra, Gold, Yellow Standard ORANGE and BUFF—examples, Gloria Mundi, Golden Fleece, Lady Lincester LILAC—examples, Dasinki, Victorine, Queen of Perpetuals PURPLE—examples, Picwic, Prometheus PEACH LILAC—examples, Rose d'Amour DARK SHADED—examples, Raphael, VanGuard SCARLET & ORANGE SCARLET—examples, Nonpareil CRIMSON & ROSY CRIMSON—examples, Beeswing, Erectum, President of the West DARK CRIMSON & MAROON—examples, Queen of the Gypsies, Octavian ROSE—examples, Adonis, Rosette, Exemia, Puen of Roses



1900 In our country, during the first third of the twentieth century, color description was sectionalized, oftentimes with one locality not knowing what another was talking about, except in a general way. Commercial growers likewise had no common standards. During this time some used Ridgway's Color Chart as a standard, and some used the Royal Horticultural Color Chart, and still others used terms that were not to be found in either of the foregoing charts. There were other color charts with other terms for specific colors.

1923 This year J. B. S. Norton, a professor at the U of Maryland and a charter member of the A. D. S. published and copyrighted his book SEVEN THOUSAND DAHLIAS IN CULTIVATION. It was not

(Continued on opposite page)

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the first listing of dahlia varieties, but was probably the most comprehensive. As far back as 1915, F. H. Hall of the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y. had an index of dahlias containing 5000. Then in April 1921 the A. D. S. began publishing a list, but Norton's included just about everything to be found in dahlidom.

In addition to a variety's name, its color was given. Prof. Norton states: Color—given after the class, in the most general terms without attempting to make fine distinctions. Two color names together, as "yellow-pink" mean an intermediate color or the latter color modified by the first. Two colors joined by "and" indicate the two colors distinct in different parts of the flower whether blending or not.

**1938** The first classification of dahlias by color and form was published by the Central States Dahlia Society. This was copyrighted but the society gave permission to any other dahlia society to issue a like classification provided it made not "by courtesy of the C.S.D.S." The original classification provided for eleven color classes: red and crimson, yellow, maroon and dark maroon, white, purple and violet, pink and rose, flame, lavender and mauve, blended, bicolor, and autumn shades which included gold, bronze and buff.

**1942** Meanwhile the A. D. S. had its color classification. There were nine color classes: lavender, orange, pink (Pi), purple (Pu), red, white, yellow, bicolor and blend. A blend was described as blended, no clearly distinct color, a blending of two or more.

**1945** The A. D. S. added Variegated to the above list.

**1947** A committee was created by the A. D. S. and C.S.D.S. to endeavor to work out a Joint Classification.

**1948** On Sept. 11, 1948, an agreement was reached and thirteen color classes established, as follows: white, yellow, orange, autumn, red, dark red, pink, lavender, purple, light blend, other blends, bicolor, variegated. Light blends were to include "blends of the lighter tints and tones of pink, yellow, lavender and other pastels. Also to include purple, violet and other supplementary colors." Other blends "include blends of red, orange, yellow and other supplementary colors."

Some years later flame was added as the fourteenth color

class and the "Other blends" changed to "Dark blends" while the definition of blends was clarified and rewritten in the present form of the Joint Classification of Dahlias.

About this time, 1948, Warren Maytrott brought out his pocket edition of the Royal Horticultural Color Chart which includes some colors from the Ridgeway and Repertoire de Couleurs charts. It contains 175 color blocks neatly arranged in a loose leaf binder.

**1958** The Nickerson Color Fan appears. This chart contains 262 color samples and is arranged in the form of a fan. When unopened it measures 7½ inches long by 1¾ inches wide, and cost five dollars.

To get colors that are between the samples given, a numerical system has been devised. Thereby the color limitations of this chart are extended. There are conversion tables that have been made to convert both the Ridgeway and RHS Colour charts to their corresponding equivalent on the fan. Some dahlia fans have used this and like it, claiming it to be practical, cheaper, and easier to use than the pocket edition of the RHS chart..

**1963** Warren Maytrott proposed to the Joint Classification Committee that a fifteenth color class be added to the fourteen now in use. This is it: "Blend, no clearly distinct color but instead two or more intermingled colors of different color classes which gradually merge but each of which can be distinguished at a distance of six feet. A single color shading lighter, does not constitute a blend."



In addition, he recommended a reshuffling of some specific colors within the general color classes so as to more nearly reflect the public's conception of certain colors. Both he and E. Henry White have done this in their catalogs.

From overseas, we learn the National Dahlia Society (England) and others are considering the question of an International Color Classification and agreement on the color charts to be used for this purpose. The RHS Colour Chart is becoming exhausted and it is not known whether a reprint will be made. New charts from Germany and Sweden are being considered.

The foregoing shows that the matter of color is not yet settled either in this country or abroad. With the large number of apprentice judges coming along, the ever-increasing number of exhibitors we have at our shows each year, and with the difficulty of getting enough charts for future use, there is a need for the settlement of the color question. Besides, if growers, introducers, exhibitors and the general dahlia buying public all spoke one language, wouldn't it be to the benefit of all?

### PART THREE

We now come to the place where we turn to the future to try to see what's ahead.



From among those queried on present dahlia color description and classification, we find responses ranging all the way from "it's OK to it's punk." That, we suppose, was to be expected. Until such time as there is agreement on this subject there will remain this division of opinion.

One thing we learned from the historical part of this article is that an attempt has been made to settle the color question. The greatest strides have been made since 1945, and we learned further that the matter is still being considered.

#### World Dahlia Congress Topic?

The need for settlement is apparent and now is the time to be thinking.

We believe this subject will be touched on at the coming World Dahlia Congress in New York this September, but what is expected to be accomplished specifically, we haven't heard. We do know, however, that if anyone has any ideas, suggestions, or even recommendations to make, now is the time to get them aired. Later when decisions have been made and the color question is a 'fait accompli,' it will be too late.

There follows several suggestions to start the ball rolling. Whether or not you agree with them doesn't matter. The point is to get all dahlia fans united on helping to solve the color matter.

We believe there should be agreement on:

1. Specific color names.
2. A comprehensive, easy-to-use color chart.
3. A general color classification for dahlias.
4. A more explicit listing of dahlia colors than we now have.

Now let's take these up one by one.

**Item one.** Specific color names. It would appear that different color charts have been used in the past with each having different descriptive color names. Some used this chart, some that, while some didn't use any chart at all but used their own terms to describe color names. Here's an example: 'light brownish salmon, edged purplish lavender, lighter at base.' What color is it? This is extreme, but you can cite others.

What is obviously needed is one authority on dahlia color, one set of color names so that when a person says a bloom is such and such color everyone (at least, those who have studied the charts), will know what he's talking about, and if he doesn't, that leads into

**Item two.** A comprehensive, easy-to-use color chart. We won't dwell long on this here, except to say that whenever a color chart is made "official," it should follow that it be speedily available to all and uncomplicated in its arrangement of colors. We grant no chart is going to match the magnificent array of tints, tones and shades dahlias present, but a pretty good start has already been made.

**Item three.** A general color classification for dahlias. At present we have fourteen general color classifications and should the Classification Committee act on Warren Maytrott's suggestion before this is printed, we would have fifteen.

#### We Venture to Suggest:

We would combine "Red" and "Dark Red." We suggest "Light" and "Dark" blends be eliminated. Should appear under one heading "Blends."

We rather like "Flame" and are undecided about "Autumn" as a general color classification.

In recording all the above general classifications we would propose changes, and that leads us directly into:

**Item four.** A more explicit listing of dahlia colors. Supposing we start this off with a glance at the ten leading 1964 catalogs. What do we find? Every one of them going beyond the general color classification in the description of a dahlia variety. Why don't we have this in our Classified List? We could—and without using a great deal of space.

For instance, after each general color classification add a dash, then give the specific color. Thus:

<b>Surprise</b>	Pk—Peach
<b>First Lady</b>	Y—Dresden
<b>Jody Gregory</b>	Pk—Coral
<b>Miss Liberty</b>	
	BiC—Scarlet R & White
<b>Miss San Diego</b>	
	Lt Bl—Lemon Y, Tyrian Pk
<b>Eleanor Lundgren</b>	
	Fl—Currant R, Dresden Y
<b>Sundown</b>	
	Dk Bl—White, Tyrian Pr

This presupposes, of course, that everyone will use one set of names for specific colors and will know what's being talked about.

(Continued on page 34)

## COLOR STUDY (Cont'd)

Or, as an alternative to the above in the case of blends, bicolors, and variegated, state the dominant color. Thus:

Fresco.....Pk B1  
Gypsy Kiss.....L Var  
El Dorado.....O Bic  
Salmon Glory.....O B1  
Ohio Maid.....W B1

This is the way they're doing it in the National Dahlia Society (England) Classified List.

### Change the Color Chart?

Here's something else to think about. Instead of an annual dahlia Classification List such as we now have, publish one master list with annual supplements. The supplements to contain the current years introductions and changes.

Publish a new master list every 5-7 years.

Since the life of many dahlia varieties is short, this would cut down on much repetition that we now have when certain varieties appear for a few years in the List then disappear.

If the foregoing were to be adopted aster List and Supplements) beginning with the supplements would be a relatively easy way of change-over. To start, just the supplements would be used and would give the more detailed color descriptions. Then when it was time for the Master List to be prepared, much of the work would already be done.

Here's still something else. What about filling in the blank spaces on the chart that Cook gives in his Manual (fig. 2, page 9, 1953 Edition) with names of specific colors. You could see colors in relation to each other. Then color the chart with good ink as near as possible to the adopted dahlia colors and blends and use that as the dahlia color wheel?

Have you seen the new paint chip cards with six colors on them that Sears Roebuck now has in the paint department of their stores? There's just about every color imaginable. We don't know where their work was done, but if this could be adapted to the color wheel, we think it would be wonderful.

It surely would make a fine research project!

### Pardon Our Presumption!

Well, there you have it. This article was not intended to be 'pro or con' anything, but just to survey the color situation in dahlidom. Perhaps we stepped over the line in a number of cases, especially in Part Three, but we hope you'll forgive us.

Now let's hear your thoughts on color!!!!

To paraphrase Earl Wilson: An elephant trainer who became a dahlia judge, tried to explain how he was assigned to judge only Poms and Miniatures. "I could only see the big ones when I began to judge, but my eyesight began to fail, and I tried being a flea trainer. Then they put me on this job of judging the small dahlias."



Ohio Dahlia Society Founder's Day celebrated at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kovar at Southington, Ohio, on July 21st, 1963. A happy time was had by all.

## Flowery Phrases Describe Dahlias in 1838

If one who does not grow dahlias today, (and there are a few,) thinks that dahlia enthusiasts in the last 50 years have waxed too strong in their descriptions of this flower, read on.

The late Dr. Charles Connors, about a year before his sudden death, presented the writer with two priceless dahlia books. One was written by Joseph Paxton, S. L. S. H. S., Editor of the magazine of Botany, in England, in 1838. The title was, "Paxton on the Culture of the Dahlia." It was quite a complete description of dahlias and their culture in Great Britain in the early 1800's.

But the second book is the one we will describe more fully. It was written by B. Sayer, in Boston in 1839. This was 125 years before the A. D. S. was organized. It was acknowledged by its author, who was also author of the "Garden Companion," a horticulture magazine of its time, to be almost a copy of the Paxton Dahlia book.

In its preface, Author Sayer wrote: "The general desire of lovers of choice flowers to improve the beautiful tribes of the Dahlias and the Cactus, has induced the writer to compile this little treatise. He does not pretend that the following pages are entirely original. He acknowledges his obligation to the late works of Mr. Joseph Paxton.

But before Mr. Sayer started to copy the words of Mr. Paxton, he had a few words to say about dahlias on his own. He said: "Perhaps no flower was never more diversified and improved in a floricultural view, than the Dahlia. For, within a few years, (remember the year was 1839.) we have been made acquainted with hundreds of varieties, proceeding from a few."

"Nor are they more remarkable," continued Mr. Sayers, "for their number, than for their brilliant and diversified shades and colors, which

give every variety of contrast, from self, or distinct shades, to the most mingled and variegated—from clear white to dark purple."

"This beautiful flower, too, has been found to possess such qualities as will admit of being shown to correct modification and colors, that are considered by florists as the 'ne plus ultra' of their art. The success of the culture of the dahlia, within a few years, has been such as to gratify the sanguine desire and the most refined taste of the amateur."

"Taking the dahlia in a general view as ornaments of the flower garden, they may be considered as the 'Nobles' of their season. For certain it is that no flower of their season adds so much brilliancy to the flower garden as a good collection of the dahlia."

"Certain it is too," continued enthusiast Sayer, "that in the eastern part of floriculture, America keeps a closer pace with Europe, than in the closer culture of any other class of florists' flowers. It is only within ten or twelve years that any fine specimens of dahlias were seen in this neighborhood. Nor do I believe this were true of any other parts of the States."

"I might say, further, that no person has done more for the introduction and advancement and culture of the dahlia than George C. Thorburn of New York. He has many thousands of plants at his place in Hallet's Cove, near Harlaem. The show of dahlias in his garden in the flowering season is a rich treat for flower lovers. Other men like Mr. T. Hogg, William Reed, and Mr. Harvey of Cambridgeport, have also bestowed much pains in collecting yearly, the choice kinds of dahlias from every source where they could be obtained. These men have shown as that there is no flower of such decorating character as the dahlia.

"Whether the dahlia finds a place," concluded Mr. Sayers, "around the limited ground of the city residence, or the open exposure of the rural cottage, its brilliant flowers shine, unrivaled and attractive to every observed. By the roadside it invites and cheers the wearied traveler, and in the city it gives a lively conception to every passer by."

## The Popularity of the Dahlia 50 Years Ago

By J. Harrison Dick, Editor  
Gardeners Chronical, Oct. 1915

"The increasing popularity of the dahlia as a favorite flower for the garden, was again confirmed by the interest manifested in the first annual show of the newly formed American Dahlia Society.

"The show was held at the Museum of Natural History in New York, September 24th to 26th. The value of the dahlia, as a decorative flower, was prominently demonstrated at this show. The displays of individual varieties were never before equaled at a dahlia show in this country.

"It was no uncommon sight to see men and women passing among the rows of exhibits, note books in hand, taking notes of the different varieties that appealed to them, and from which to make their selections to grow next year.

"Among the private growers who carried off honors for their exhibits were: E. M. Townsend, Oyster Bay; (James Duthie, Gardener, and in 1927, President of the A. D. S.); Mrs. H. Darlington, (P. W. Popp, Gardener, Mamaroneck; William Shiaber, (J. P. Sorenson, Gardener) Essex Falls, N. Y.; Wm. J. Matheson, (James Kirby, Gardener) Huntington, N. Y.; Mrs. Edna Fullerton, Medford, N. Y. Miss Elizabeth Morehouse, Fairfield, Conn.; Mrs. C. A. Stout, Short Hills, N. Y. John F. Anderson, Bernardville, N. J. and Mrs. Sarah Wakeman Wood, Southport, Conn.



"As a result of the show, more and more people are adding dahlias to their garden plantings. The large Estate Gardeners, as you can see by the partial list of winners above, are most interested in dahlias and several said they are planning to plant many of the new varieties and will enter them in their exhibits next year.

"As the cultivation of dahlias is no difficult task, requiring only a little more time and care than some ordinary flowers, it is not to be wondered that the dahlias are becoming such a favorite among garden lovers."

(Editor's note: Among the names of the winners above are several who were officers and/or were charter members and helped to guide the affairs of the society in its early years. These included James Duthie, President, 1927; Mrs. Charles Stout, author of the book on dahlias; P. W. Popp, Mrs. Wood and James Kirby were very active in the society's progress in the 1920's.

## Good Tidings To The American Dahlia Society Golden Anniversary

The National Capital Dahlia Society of Washington, District of Columbia, joins with all other affiliated member societies in commemorating the Fifty Years of the wonderful work of the American Dahlia Society. It is a privilege, too, for us to be able to take a small part in the Golden Anniversary Celebration.

We, down here in Washington have not been in business as a society as long as our American Dahlia Society, but we are now in our 28th year.

The National Capital Dahlia Society had an unusual beginning in that a band of hardy Dahlia pioneers held a show first, in 1935, and then organized a Dahlia Society. The first meetings began in 1936. One charter member, Mrs. John L. Bishop, who was present at the first meeting, is very much an active member today; a member of our Executive Committee; and excellent Certified Senior Judge; and a grand gentlewoman.

The National Capital Dahlia Society is also the home base of Dahlia operations of such well-known Dahlia "experts" as Arthur Mason, who needs no introduction wherever Dahlia folks gather; Ed Phillips, an originator of many of our standard varieties being grown today; Leslie Bowling, once very active exhibitor who has now retired to the hills of Pennsylvania to grow more of his beloved Dahlias; George Dodrill, who originated the basic number system of class entries used in many Dahlia shows today; and many others.

An illustrious bunch, all of them, and your visit to the A. D. S. Golden Anniversary Show and the World's Fair in New York will not be complete without a visit also to the Nation's Capital. Here, in the shadow of the Capitol itself, at the United States Botanic Gardens, First and Maryland Avenue, S. W., we will stage our 29th Annual Show on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, 1964. This is just a week after the Golden Anniversary Show so it would not keep you from home too long.

Stop in and see us, we will be happy to welcome you.—Clarence G. Phillip, Editor, The Dahliagram, monthly publication of the National Capital Dahlia Society.

W. C. Fields once gave some advice which would apply to dahlia growers. "If at first you don't succeed (in growing better dahlias than you neighbor,) try and try again. Then quit. There's no sense in being a damn fool about it."

### RECIPIENTS of American Dahlia Society's Gold Medals for Distinguished Service

1936  
WILLIAM W. WILMORE\*  
J. A. KEMP\*  
MRS. CHARLES A. STOUT\*  
DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE\*  
J. A. KAMP\*

1939  
GEORGE W. FRASER

1941  
JOHN HARDING\*  
PROF. ROLAND PATCH\*

1942  
C. LOUIS ALLING  
LYNN B. DUDLEY  
CONRAD FREY  
WARREN W. MAYTROT

1943  
JOHN W. JOHNSTON\*

1946  
EDWARD B. LLOYD  
JOHN VINCENT\*

1947  
MRS. GEORGE GREEN\*

1948  
WALTER L. W. DARNELL\*  
GORDON WAASER

1949  
MRS. FRIEDA FISHER  
HARRY FRANZEN\*  
WILLIAM SWEENEY\*

1950  
HON. GEORGE R. CURRIE  
J. LOUIS ROBERTS\*

1951  
E. L. D. SEYMOUR\*  
PROF. C. E. WILDON

1952  
MRS. SARAH W. WOOD

1953  
PAUL FRESE  
MRS. GEORGENA HUMBLE  
H. DEWEY MOHR  
LEO L. POLLAK

1954  
DR. E. F. McDADE  
HENRY A. OLSEN

1956  
ANDREW J. MULCAHY

1957  
CHARLES GARRITY\*  
JOSEPH J. LANE

1958  
DR. BRUCE B. PREAS  
CHARLES J. DIFFENDERFFER  
THOMAS LEAVITT\*

1959  
WILLIAM NOONAN\*

1960  
STANLEY JOHNSON  
ROY W. WEBB  
DR. H. C. RIKE

1962  
BERTRAM PITT

1963  
MRS. LOUISE KLEINJOHN

1964  
HARRY A. DREYER

(\*Deceased.)

## Ladybugs — Plus!

By E. Brooke, Jr.  
(Dahlia Society of Georgia)

White recovering from a minor operation, I was passing the time one day by reading garden magazines, as gardening is my favorite avocation. I read, among others, an article about Lady-Bugs. I was fascinated at the description of how these little spotted insects could devour several times their weight daily in other, more harmful insects; I immediately wrote a check and ordered a supply.

The applicable use of ladybugs may not be familiar to you, so let me explain. Ladybugs are a ravenous creature which devours aphids, red spiders, mites, and other small garden pests. It was my intent to rid the garden and greenhouse of such pests, and to reduce the amount of insecticide spraying that would have to be done.

A period of time passed, and the ladybug order was forgotten. While working at the office one day, a frantic telephone call was received from my wife who advised me the ladybugs had arrived, but something was amiss. The ladybugs were delivered by special messenger from the Post Office Department who handed a mail sack to my wife and said, "These belong to you!"; and swiftly departed.

My wife, feeling something on her hand, noticed there was a bug crawling from the sack which had been so promptly deposited. She hollered to the mailman that something was loose; he made no comment, but continued his speedy retreat.

Inside the bag teeming with ladybugs was another mail sack teeming with ladybugs, inside of which were two 4th class packages also teeming.

Further study into the habits of ladybugs, revealed they normally hibernate in the winter; however, when these were brought into the main post office building for assortment and the usual prompt 4th class delivery, the warm temperature was mistaken for spring, and the awakened ladybugs began to investigate their new surroundings. The visual picture of the post office clerks dispensing with this swarming group of ladybugs is easy to conceive, and the results that followed are equally as frantic.

After several hours of exhausting effort, the wife succeeded in trapping some of them in mayonnaise jars, and, frustrated, she retired to the house to dispense with those in her hair, and take a bath.

She calmly informed me of the days activities, when I arrived home and casually suggested I take some immediate steps. Having read the instructions on "Care of the Ladybugs Until Needed," the remaining bugs were deposited in the dehydrator section of the refrigerator, thinking the damaged boxes had been satisfactorily repaired. I proceeded to take the specimens my wife had captured and, much to her chagrin, dispatched them around the yard. Shortly thereafter I answered an S.O.S. from my wife who had discovered the ladybugs not only in the dehydrator but throughout the entire refrigerator. She suggested, not so calmly this time, that I take immediate steps. The escape

routes were promptly sealed and the balance of the bugs held for future use.

For the next three days we brushed, swept and cleaned ladybugs from the light receptacles; chairs and upholstery; and the refrigerator (more particularly, the lettuce).

Sitting back now recollecting the event, I can say the ladybugs did an efficient job of ridding the area of aphids, red spiders, etc., and that I sprayed less than ever before (I might add ladybugs are still in great evidence in our neighborhood); further, I would not dare reorder ladybugs for the sake of my marriage, but would recommend them to people who might have immediate use for them, in the garden—that is—but are single.

Oh! yes: Where did they originate you ask? The address is "Ladybug Sales Co., P. O. Box 771, Marysville, Calif. Their ladybugs are the teeming best. (Not an advertisement.)"

## Thirty-four Years With Dahlias

By Dr. H. C. Rike, Birmingham

We have grown dahlias since 1930. I realize there are many who have grown them longer. Also, I realize there are many more who have not grown them this long. Since 1936, we have been members of the American Dahlia Society, a fact for which we are most proud. Each year, since 1936, we have attended shows or meetings in the South, Mid-West or the East, including many A. D. S. Shows. We have seen many dahlias come and go; but most important is that we have made many friends in all parts of the country. They come and go too, to see dahlias growing or exhibited. (Or to the Great Beyond.)

A typical example—many years ago, we were passing through Fairmont, West Virginia. We had heard of the late Oliver Shurtleff, as he was a regular contributor to the A. D. S. Bulletin. We went to the college where he was a professor and sent our names into the class which he was teaching. He immediately dismissed the class and spent the rest of the day with us, visiting dahlia growers and gardens. Mind you, he had never seen us, but realized that we loved the dahlia. Until the day of his death we were good friends and he visited several of the southern shows. I could cite other numerous similar incidents.

I have practiced medicine longer than I have grown dahlias, but feel that I have made more friends from dahlias than with medical associates.

From my thirty-four years with dahlias I have learned two outstanding facts: Dahlia growers are true friends and, when it comes to their flowers, they often become bigger liars than fishermen.

Editor's note: Clarence R. Kallquist, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was one of our good friends until his death in 1956. He was the U. S. Weather Man in Tennessee, but he was an ardent dahlia man, all his life. On one occasion, he spent one whole day and evening showing four men from New York the battlefields, the mountains and the Rock City Wonderland. They were Dr. Ward Cook, Drew Mulcahy, Dewey Mohr and the writer. One of his hidden talents was poetry, and the one below, we were privileged to publish in the November 1955 A. D. S. Bulletin. It is herewith published for the second time.

## Dahlia Show

By Clarence R. Kallquist

"Another year, another show,  
The dahlias all arranged in rows;  
Dahlia lovers from near and far,  
Bringing blooms by plane and car,  
Making entries proper place,  
Hustling so to win the race,  
For ribbons, Gold, Blue and Red,  
Hoping they are far ahead,  
The judges, busy as can be,  
In groups of two and even three;  
Blue ribbon here, a Red one there,  
Whose they were, they didn't care,  
They picked the best ones of the lot;  
All deserving what they got,  
The judgings through, the visitors come  
To see the Dahlias, one by one,  
And now's the time for breaking down,  
The exhibitors have all left town,  
We pack our "stuff" and home we go,  
Ready—for another year, another show."

### Did You Know That Dahlias Have Sclerenchymatous Cells?

We acknowledge, with much thanks, the loan of seventeen "archive copies of the "Bulletin" of the Dahlia Society of California by Mr. Glen T. Mack. The reason we asked for the loan of these was a reference in the October, 1926, issue of the New Jersey Dahlia News, edited by the late Dr. Charles H. Connors. This New Jersey Dahlia publication contained the startling news for Morphologists that in this August issue of the "Bulletin" of the Dahlia Society of California, was an article by Donald A. Johnsen, of Stanford University, on the "Structure of the Dahlia Tuber."

Mr. Mack graciously loaned us the

#### RAY WEBBER REPORTS IN THE "DAHLIA"

That Rebus Dahlia Introductions  
Are "THE BEST YET"

We have delicate, pearl, speckled giants—and the itty-bitsie dahlias too, which will do your garden good. And keep your eye on Your Neighbors, after you plant them.

#### REBUS DAHLIA GARDENS

Tillycome, Illinois

"Bulletins." But the article in question, although undoubtedly most authentic and in great detail, could only be understood by a PhD in botany. Dr. Johansen did say, in explanation for the use of so many technical terms, thusly: "Plant anatomy is an exact science, bristling with technical terms, some of which, of necessity must be used here, but the author will endeavor to make their meaning clear." He did try.

Here is a sample: "Immediately below the cortical cambium is a single layer of cells known as the endodermis (sheath), and following this, another, the pericycle. Both are only slightly differentiated in the Dahlia Tuber." (If we had been around at that moment, we would have explained to the Doctor of Botany that there is no such thing as a Dahlia 'TUBER.' The dictionary defines a tuber as a root with 'eyes' for reproduction, only appearing on the root. Dahlia roots have eyes only on the stem. They are defined as "Tuberous roots.")

The article went on to say that "dahlia tubers have peculiar cells, known as sclereids, whose origin and function is an intriguing problem in evolution. These sclerenchymatous (stony) cells are generally regarded as relics of a thick, stony shell which was fully developed in some ancestral form. This gives us an incite into the nature of the 'tuber' possessed by the common ancestor of the present-day Dahlias." (Right here was where we lost our 'Incite' and quit.)—L. B. D.

## From Southern California Dahlia Society

Long Beach and Lakewood

### SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS

The Southern California Dahlia Society wishes to congratulate the American Dahlia Society on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary. Fifty years of well-directed organization and enthusiasm, which have resulted in its becoming the parent center of a close-knit, nation-wide group of Societies, all working for a common purpose—the growing and showing of the Dahlia—a hobby unsurpassed by any other.

Under the advice, guidance and control of the A. D. S., the many Societies have been able to operate under uniform conditions, where uniformity is desirable, but each still retaining its own individuality and personality. The A. D. S. sponsored Trial Gardens and Seedling Sweepstakes competitions have done much to aid the developing of new and superior varieties. The A. D. S. system of accrediting judges, together with the resulting Judging Schools—unofficial but approved—has led the way toward much improved judging standards at the many shows throughout the nation.

The A. D. S. sponsored reference guide, "The Judging of Dahlias at Shows," has been an invaluable assist in the training of new Judges,

and in refreshing the old Judges. The A. D. S. and Central States D.S. Classification List has given us world-wide uniformity of nomenclature, definitions and variety listing, eliminating, to a large extent, the confusion of duplicate naming. A. D. S. backed research activity has done much toward the elimination of disease. The fine quarterly A. D. S. Bulletin edited by Edward Lloyd has bound all the Societies together, into a singleness of purpose and activity, with the many cultural articles, news of the other Societies, and other features too many to mention.

Last, but far from least, is our appreciation of the friendly and experienced cooperation, which we of the many Societies receive in our dealings with the parent organization—a group whom we are proud to call our friends, and whom we thank for the many courtesies received.

We wish many more years of success for the American Dahlia Society, and for the dozens of Societies, and hundreds of Dahlia hobbyists, who make up the whole of the organization.—R. L. Pyle, Corresponding Secretary.

### Bruce Collins Last Message To Dahlia Growers

Bruce Collins of Utica, Michigan, a prominent figure in Michigan dahlia affairs for many years, died November 29th, 1963. He was 74 at that time and had grown dahlias since the year the American Dahlia Society was founded. (Mr. Collins was one of my best dahlia friends. I often visited him at his farm in Utica.—L. B. D.)

He was President of the Michigan Dahlia Society and in 1936, at the height of a depression, staged one of the largest dahlia shows ever held in cooperation with the General Motors Corporation. It was held in the large assembly room in the General Motors Building. Admission to the show was 50 cents, but some \$5,000.00 was offered in prizes. That brought out more entries than were ever seen at a Michigan show, and rarely anywhere else.

We are indebted to Mr. George Brookes, Editor of the Birmingham Dahlia News, of Birmingham, England, for the following article, which appeared in the Spring issue, 1964, of that publication. It was the last article ever written by Bruce Collins and sent to Mr. Brookes only nine days before his death.

### The Best Dahlias For Me

By Bruce Collins

My favorite, in the large cactus dahlias now, is the pink blend, DANNY. In my opinion it is the best America dahlia in its size and class ever introduced.

Some of the others which have caught my fancy are: MARGE ISRAEL'S PRIDE, a much overlooked variety; TU TU, by A. T. Barnes of England; KRIJNEN'S JUBILEUM; DEBORAH JEAN, a Min. Cactus, a U. S. raising, cherry red and yellow; KING'S ROBE, a big U. S. red; VIOLET SPLENDOR, a large purple decorative; the bicolor OAHU, from California. The Holland varieties JOCONDO VACATION and COLOR SPECTACLE and DRAKENBURG, a large cac. of salmon-mauve-orange blend. But the one I thought best from Holland last spring was VUURVOGEL, which translated, means Firebrand. The colors of flame, red and yellow make it vibrate before your eyes.

After mentioning many more of his present favorites, most of them popular in America and Europe, Bruce added: "I cannot finish this list without mentioning the best formal yellow for me. It is ALVA'S SUPREME, a new New Zealand variety. This one for me, is faultless. Many good wishes to dahlia growers everywhere."

— o —

At some dahlia meetings—factions speak louder than words.

# A Salute To The American Dahlia Society

By Stanley Johnson

Chairman A. D. S. Classification Committee

My father, Albert Johnson, was an avid dahlia grower. In the spring of 1924 he gave me a packet of seed obtained from a California hybridizer named "Pop" Fenton. I had never grown dahlias, but always admired them. The seed produced a red seedling which I entered in the Burholme Dahlia Show. It won a blue ribbon—my first blue ribbon—I was then 21 years old. This success led to a more serious interest in the dahlia. I started to grow the leading exhibitors varieties and did fairly well at winning ribbons and prizes at local shows. At that time I had just started to work and was still interested in sports. However, I found growing dahlias more relaxing than playing baseball.

### I Join the A. D. S.

Through association with experienced local dahlia growers I learned about and joined the American Dahlia Society. After attending several of the big American Dahlia Society New York shows at the Commodore Hotel and Madison Square Garden, I concluded that the only way I could meet the fierce competition of these shows was to plant more dahlias. This I proceeded to do and in 1935 entered my first worthwhile seedling which I believed had the possibility of making a name for itself. That seedling was my dahlia **Milton J. Cross** which won the American Home Achievement award at the American Dahlia Society show held in the two big ballrooms of the Hotel Pennsylvania. Since that time I have been exhibiting, developing and introducing new dahlias regularly.

Although I am fond of many other flowers, the dahlia is still my favorite. With proper culture perfection in this flower is not too hard to obtain, and a nearly perfect dahlia is a sight to behold.

I have been a member of the American Dahlia Society for 40 years. It has done much for me and for the furtherance of the dahlia

throughout the world. I am most grateful to the early pioneers of the Society and hope they still enjoy their dahlias.

What has the American Dahlia Society done for me? Probably most important is the many friendships I have made which I will cherish forever.

### Looking Back to 1935

I have just reviewed the American Dahlia Society Bulletin of November 1935. The front cover shows three blooms of "Milton J. Cross." I'm sure some of the oldtimers would like to reminisce a bit. The Editor was our still very active Lynn B. Dudley. (My half page ad appears on page 36.) Also, listed is my pompon **Betty Ann** which is still winning ribbons and is widely grown. A total of 74 advertisers appeared in the issue. Fifty-six of these are no longer in business. Several photographs show the two flower filled and crowded ballrooms and the commercial displays. These included W. Atlee Burpee and Fisher & Mason with exhibits occupying over 300 square feet; Dahliadel 200 feet, C. Louis Alling (American Dahlia Society Secretary) and Peter Henderson & Co., 150 feet, Ruschmohr and Albert Parrella 100 feet and S. Yohe Viele 50 square feet. All who saw these, I know, will agree that they were indeed magnificent displays. Our American Dahlia Society President in 1935 was George Fraser and I still look forward and enjoy seeing George at show time and at the 50th Anniversary meeting.

And now, after participating in American Dahlia Society Shows for almost 30 years, I am looking forward to the big show of all dahlia shows, the 1964 American Dahlia Society Golden Anniversary Show. I am sure that it will be one of the highlights of American Dahlia Society activity of this century.

## Thanks to the "Sponsors" Of the Celebration

The American Dahlia Society saved its money and allotted certain sums to the Fiftieth Anniversary Budget over the last several years. The Executive Committee hoped that such an advance budget would be sufficient, with registration fees included, to cover all necessary expenditures for entertainment of many guests.

But alas, the registration fees were provided to guests at less than cost to the Society. Unforeseen expenses mounted. More guests than were ever hoped for, sent registrations. The scope of the affair spread to new areas. And these things delighted the General Chairman, Edward B. Lloyd and all of his committees.

But the added budgetary requirements which were immediately involved, plus some unforeseen contingencies, made the problem of major significance. Mr. H. Dewey Mohr, Chairman of Finance, wrote to some friends of the Society and asked them to become "Sponsors" of the Celebration, with checks. The response was immediate and, in the words of Chairman Mohr, "beyond our expectations and most generous."

The sincere thanks of President Harry Dreyer, Chairman Mohr, and every officer of the Society go to the "Fiftieth Anniversary Sponsors" listed below.

- Bergen County Dahlia Society, Hackensack, N. J.
- Dahlia Society of New Jersey, Montclair, N. J.
- Dahlia Society of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tenn.

- Charles M. Diffenderffer, Towson, Md.
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Dreyer, Glen Rock, N. J.
- Lynn B. Dudley, Lennox, Cal.
- Col. Richard T. Eddy, Encinitas, Cal.
- George W. Fraser, Willimantic, Conn.
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Gaines, Birmingham, Ala.
- Mrs. Georgena Humble, Douglaston, L. I.
- Stanley Johnson, Cheltenham, Pa.
- Dr. and Mrs. Fred J. Knocke, Readington, N. J.
- Mrs. May Knocke, Readington, N. J.
- Edward B. Lloyd, Montclair, N. J.
- Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Maytrott, Vineland, N. J.
- Mid-Island Dahlia Society, Freeport, L. I.
- H. Dewey Mohr, Rockville Centre, L. I., N. Y.
- Andrew J. Mulcahy, Floral Park, L. I.
- North Jersey Dahlia Society, Wayne, N. J.
- Albert Parrella, The Bronx, N. Y.
- Bertram E. Pitt, Richmond Hill, L. I.
- Leo L. Pollak, New York, N. Y.
- Dr. Bruce B. Preas, Rockville Centre, L. I., N. Y.
- M. Y. Thomas, Erlanger, Ky.
- S. Yohe Veile, Easton, Pa.
- E. Henry White, Milwaukie, Ore.
- Williamsburg Dahlia Society, Williamsburg, Va.
- Mrs. Sarah W. Wood, Southport, Conn.



## The Four "Honor Rollers"

For Nineteen Years They Wrote The Flower Grower Feature



Left to Right — Dudley — Roberts — Eddy — Faust

These four men were the testers and writers of the Flower Grower Magazine Dahlia Honor Roll—from 1937 to 1956. From right to left: Lynn B. Dudley (Eastern); the late J. Louis Roberts, Chicago (Mid-west); Col. R. T. Eddy, Encinitas, Cal. (Pacific Coast); and Conrad Frey, Atlanta (South). They grew and evaluated seedlings from all over the world. To be listed on one or more of the Flower Grower lists was the difference between an unknown dahlia and one which was

generally accepted and sought for (and at top prices). They listed and scored on A. D. S. cards over the 19 years over 4000 seedlings. Probably one fourth, or some 1000 dahlias received their printed approval, with descriptions of form, size and color. The Honor Rolls were discontinued in 1956.

The photo was taken at the Southtown Dahlia Society Show in Chicago in 1949 by Stanley Swanson, to whom we are indebted for the print.—L. B. D.

## DAHLIAS

By D. Holland (England, 1883)

Dahlias, you come too late, the mirth is over,  
Do you not see the pageant has passed by?  
Gone is the music, lover fled with lover,  
And the darkened garden hushed beneath the sky.

Your rubies glow along the dusky borders,  
You spill your tourmalines and amethysts;  
Rash Dahlias, of your treasure you're no hoarders  
Who squander beauty on the autumn mists.

Do you not see the butterflies are banished,  
The lawns deserted and the swallows flown,  
The revellers gone, and the last minstrel vanished?  
Do you not see the faun has turned to stone?

## These Are The Donors Of The Many Special Awards At The "Fiftieth"

Here is the list of regular and Special Awards, numbering nearly eighty which will be awarded at the "Golden Year of the Dahlia" Show at the New Yorker Hotel, tonight, after the Banquet, by Louis Culp, Chairman of Awards, and Diedrich Meyer, Show Chairman, where recipients are present. If not present, winners will receive them by mail.

It is by far the most extensive array of Medals, Plaques, Trophies, etc. which have ever been awarded at an American Dahlia Society Exhibition. They are by courtesy of individuals and Dahlia Societies all over these United States, from Great Britain, Holland and other countries.

Twenty-five societies gave their medals. Twenty-three societies gave trophies. Two plaques and two medals came from England. One Dahlia Conference gave a trophy. One society, Inglewood, Cal., gave a trophy and their medal.

The officers and members of the A. D. S. hereby express their appreciation to the many donors of these awards. Those who win them will treasure them more because of the special significance of this 50th Anniversary of this society. Also there was more competition this year than in ordinary years. But let us remember that it is the generosity of the donors of the many awards which has helped to give this anniversary show the success which it has achieved.

TROPHY—Mid-West Dahlia Conference.  
PERPETUAL TROPHY—Mr. Harold Beals.  
(In memory of Mrs. Beals.)  
A. D. S. Gold Medal.

TROPHY—Dahlia Society of New Jersey.  
(Donated by G. Everett McMillen.)

MEDAL—Dahlia Society of Alabama.  
MEDAL—Inglewood Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Dahlia Society of Kentucky.  
MEDAL—Minnesota Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Rochester Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Dahlia Society of Tennessee.  
MEDAL—Dahlia Society of Wisconsin.  
MEDAL—Badger State Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Bergen County Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Central Valley Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—East Liverpool Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Hagerstown Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Indianapolis Dahlia Society.  
GOLD MEDAL—The Dahlia Society of New Jersey.

MEDAL—Mid-America Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—North Jersey Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Southtown Dahlia Society.  
HAND BLOWN GLASS TROPHY—Donated by Mr. C. W. Stewart, Kentucky.  
TROPHY—Donated by Mr. George Fraser in memory of Richard Vincent, Jr., founder of the American Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—San Diego Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Colorado Dahlia Society.  
AWARD—Greater Kansas Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Greater Patterson Dahlia Society.

MEDAL—Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Orange County Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Sciota Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Washington State Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Irvington Dahlia Society.  
PLAQUES (Two)—Midlands Dahlia Society of England.  
TROPHY—Williamsburg Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Alice M. Dudley Memorial Trophy.  
TROPHY—By Past President & Secretary, Edward B. Lloyd.  
"Amateur Gardening" Medal. (Great Britain) (The Amelia Green Memorial.)  
TROPHY—Inglewood Dahlia Society. (California.)

TROPHY—Ray Smith Memorial Award, by Dahlia Society of New Jersey.  
SILVER MEDAL—By Leo L. Pollak, Past President A. D. S. and Dahlia Society of New Jersey.

MEDAL—Dahlia Society of Toledo, Ohio.  
MEDAL—Michigan Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Mid-Island Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Long Island Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Seattle Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Memorial by Friends of William L. Tilton.  
TROPHY—D. H. J. Meyer, Bergenfield, N. J. Show Manager.  
TROPHY—By Gordon Waaser, Memorial to Margaret Gordon Waaser.  
TROPHY—By Gordon Waaser, Memorial to Rose Linder Waaser.  
COPPER VASE—Donated by Mrs. Sarah Wood.

MEDAL—Central States Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Southern California Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Virginia Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Snohomish Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Southern Tier Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—San Leandro Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Connecticut Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Fundy Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Southeastern Dahlia Society.  
TROPHY—Sacramento Dahlia Society.  
MEDAL—Dahlia Society of California.  
MEDAL—Ohio Valley Dahlia Association.  
TROPHY—Yazoo Dahlia Society.

TROPHY—Dr. Ward H. Cook Memorial Trophy donated by Dr. Frederick J. Knocke.  
TROPHY—President's Award, by President Harry J. Dreyer.  
TROPHY—Earnest E. Tooker Memorial Trophy.  
MEDAL—New Jersey Tercentenary Award.

CASH AWARD—Added Award in Seedling Sweepstakes Achievement, \$50.00. Offered by Lynn B. Dudley.

TROPHY—Donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Metzger.  
TROPHY—Donated by Mr. and Mrs. D. H. J. Meyer.  
SPECIAL AWARD—1965 Introduction (Root), by Gamston Gardens.  
SPECIAL AWARD—1965 Introduction (Root), by President Harry A. Dreyer.  
SPECIAL AWARD—1965 Introduction (Root), by Secretary E. B. Lloyd.  
SPECIAL AWARD—New Jersey Dahlia President's Award.  
TROPHY—Silver Vase, by A. D. S.  
SPECIAL AWARD—Donated by Mrs. C. V. Smith.  
MEDAL—Medallic Art Company.

MEDAL AWARDS—This show will participate in the Seedling Sweepstakes "High Score Awards" which this year will be the Lynn B. Dudley Medals for four official size categories.

The above awards are in addition to the Blue, Red, Yellow and Tricolor Ribbons awarded in most classes. They are also in addition to the Special A. D. S. Medal Certificates awarded in the Seedling Sweepstakes. Also the four Special "AMERICAN" Class offered by Past President Bert Pitt in Choice Dahlia Roots, are an added class each year in A. D. S. and other affiliated society shows.

It should also be noted that the American Dahlia Society and the Dahlia Society of New Jersey combined their exhibitions. Therefore some of the prizes listed above are exclusively for New Jersey exhibitors. (Section G.)

## The King of Flowers

By William Scott Doig  
Boise, Idaho (1958)

The Dahlia! King of autumn shades  
Which turns our thoughts from  
sylvan glades,  
To thy great majesty!

Faunting bright colors far and wide,  
O'er garden, farm and countryside,  
King by royal decree!

A king in color, size and worth,  
Proclaiming Royalty, standing forth  
In flashing harmony;

But yet, the humblest in the land  
May reap his riches, for his hand  
Is stretched forth honestly.

His rugged beauty shows his strength  
In all its joy, until at length,  
Charms mere man by his powers;

Till loved by rich and poor alike,  
His giant or his smallest spike  
Is crowned by regal flowers.

His sparkling beauty ever bright,  
Endowed with honor and with might,  
Evanescence glints enthrall;

As buds burst forth a brilliant flame,  
To spread o'er all the earth his fame,  
Great Dahlia! King of All!

## On Being a Namesake

Did you ever have the good fortune to have a superlative dahlia named after you? If the answer is yes, you will agree that it brings you both friendships and publicity.

My good friend, Henry Retzer, of West Bridgewater, Pa., was, until his death, a well known grower and originator of many very fine varieties, some of which are still being shown, after ten or more years. Back about 1941, Henry named a large lavender informal decorative after me.

Rudolph Motznick became a familiar sight on the show tables and in the lists of winners. And, it sort of changed my life, too. When I visited a show, members and visitors knew me quickly, because of the dahlia by the same name. I received many letters, some from foreign lands, saying, "You are growing in my garden." In effect, I was popular, because they liked my namesake.

So, my friends, if you happen to be an originator of dahlias, give a thought to naming some of them (its often done) after your good friends. It may gather friends for them around the world, as it did for me.—Rudolph Motznick, Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society.—L. B. D.



## The New Lynn B. Dudley Medal

This is the new Medal which will be awarded to the highest scoring, new variety in each of the four official size categories, if it scores over 85 points in at least three shows in one year.

Both sides of the medal are new and were sculptured by Miss Elizabeth Schaeffler, of New Rochelle, N. Y. She spends her summers on Nantucket Island, from where she makes a special trip to the 50th Anniversary Banquet to assist in unveiling this new medal.

The medal honors the originator of the A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes and Achievement Awards. This Competition is now scheduled in over sixty dahlia shows each fall.

## Garden Griefs

By Edgar A. Guest

He never said: "Your back will ache  
When long you've toiled with hoe and rake,"  
That friendly neighbor never told  
The pain of growing marigold  
Or hinted at the pests which come  
To roses and delphinium.

'Twas five and thirty years ago  
When first I watched his dahlias grow  
And saw him in his garden small  
Train climbing things upon a wall  
Or setting red geraniums out  
The while to chat I stood about.

But one bright Sunday morn I said:  
"I think I'll start a dahlia bed."  
"Why not?" said he. "'Tis quickly done  
And all your life 'twill give you fun.  
You've no idea the pleasures found  
By working in a patch of ground!"

I might have known that sacrifice  
Is every worthwhile pleasure's price;  
That man must battle what is bad  
If something better's to be had,  
But garden griefs he hid from me  
Lest frightened off the ground I'd be.

Editor's note: The late Edgar A. Guest, Poet Laureate of Detroit and Michigan for so many years, was one of our cherished friends. When Editor of the A. D. S. Bulletin, he gave me permission to reproduce several of his poems. This was written in 1940 and he sent it to me and said go ahead and print it. We believe that Dahlia Gardeners will appreciate its sentiment.—L. B. D.

## Some Things We Don't Know About Dahlia Breeding

By A. G. Goodacre

Recently I was asked (1924) to a Southern California Dahlia Society meeting to talk on "Hand Pollenization of Dahlias." I told them at the beginning that, of necessity, such a talk by me should rather be captioned, "What I Don't Know About Hand Pollenization."

We all know that many articles are written and spoken of on this subject. Some are evidently produced with the idea of making a good story regardless of the real knowledge of the subject by the writer or speaker. Mostly in these cases there are many overdrawn statements.

Nature takes care of her own. Man, in his ancient wisdom, likes to improve on nature—and thinks he is using nature and her laws to make his own improvements. Perhaps he does. But undoubtedly it's nature using man as a vehicle or instrument in her enlarged scheme or the future.

We are all good at guessing, and oftentimes we "guess" we have

hand-pollinated a new variety into being, when perhaps we had nothing whatever to do with it.

Our stumbling block is that the dahlia is a composite flower. It is made up, as you probably are aware, of a whole cluster of small flowers. Each of these, in theory at least, is capable of producing a single seed. Each is capable of being fertilized with pollen carried by any of one of hundreds of agents which may spread it from one flower to another.

Here is what I told the California meeting along this subject:—

### Care and Patience

Dahlias may be crossed in the following manner. First, purely by nature's method of using bees, flies, moths, wind, etc. Second, man steps in and throws his influence in the path of fertilization. He may only plant certain varieties adjacent to each other, which he wishes to be crossed. He may just take one flower and place it near another which he hopes may receive pollen in nature's way. Again, he may haphazardly clamp one flower head, which is in right pollenating condition, on to a growing flower of another variety of bloom with a rubber band. He may take two flowers growing near each other and tie two heads together, and consider that system partation.

But, if he has a lot of spare time

and be quite painstaking, and wishes to work in the best possible way to assist nature, he takes the bloom of the variety whose characteristics he wants to reproduce or improve and, when the pollen on its is ripe, he transfers that pollen to the anthers of the stigma of another variety which has proven to be a good seed maker. This must be done when that stigma is receptive or his work has been in vain. The actual transfer of the pollen may be done with a fine camel's hair brush or soft wood splinter. To be as certain as possible that the proper result is accomplished and a definite cross made, this operation must be repeated many times—on the same blooms, and, of course kept capped.

I might say here that the best article I ever read on hand pollenization was published, probably probably prior to 1921, in the A. D. S. Bulletin. I became a life member of the Society that year and E. C. Vick was our secretary. I believe it was written by an expert from Long Island. I wish that that article could be re-published to refresh our memories. (Editor's Note: Mr. Frank P. Quimby's article to which we believe Mr. Goodacre refers to was published in the A. D. S. Bulletin, January 1921.)

### "Hoarding" Is Recommended

In the above described methods one can perceive some definite results in some of them. In others it is really only guess work and those practicing them certainly cannot claim to have hand-pollinated the varieties. It is but common sense to observe that the more care we take in preparing the pair of blooms to cross, and the more precautions we observe to prevent various agents from contaminating our particular blooms with accidental pollen, the better are our chances for reasonable success in definite crosses. Certainly the last named method of pollen transfer, with hooding of blooms for several days at least, until after the pollen, or male stigma, has completed its process of fertilization, is the only real way to get intelligent results.

The modern dahlia is so involved in its ancestry, that some of our present varieties are what Mr. J. J. Broomall terms "mules"—or incapable of producing seed (or offspring). On the other hand, some varieties are particularly receptive to male pollen. For instance, one grower wrote me recently that the Jersey Beacon seed sent him was not Jersey Beacon seed, but Golden Goblin seed. That made me smile, for it is a fact that characteristics of the blooms of the male, or pollen parent, are the ones which appear strongest in the offspring. Some say, too, that the female, or stigma parent, furnishes the plant and habit characteristics to a greater degree.

### Improvement of Strains

I will mention one instance where I know what nature accomplished in getting a desired cross. Perhaps

you can plan a similar result. I had a select garden of decoratives on the west side of my place which was the "prevailing wind" side.

Here I had a row of tall growing Golden Goblins on the outside. Inside, next, came a row of low growing Jersey Beacons. Goblins will run five feet high while Beacons average three and a half feet. The plan was to get a Beacon with all its other fine qualities to grow "up in the world." Goblin works fine as a male or female parent, being a good pollinator and quite receptive to other pollen. It is receptive, in other words, to take improvement or pass on its good points. The result in this instance, as my friend told me about the seed resulting—was that his new variety, while from Beacon seed, had the color and height of Goblin.

### Heredity—A Mixture

Much has been written about the Mendelian theory of heredity. If this applies to dahlias, then the crossings have been so intermingled and re-crossed again that they are quite amazingly removed from the original show or ball dahlia which was so popular back a few years. There is such a conglomeration of types and sub-divisions of types that one cannot predict what will be popular a few years hence. We just go on our happy-go-lucky way, revealing in Nature's wonders and, while trying to assist her, hope for more and more startling results.

While on this breeding topic, may I say, in concluding, that the craze for size alone is not altogether a sane idea. We have found in breeding live stock that there should be a limit to inbreeding. If we breed for one characteristic, we sacrifice others. For instance, in dahlias, the larger the flower, in most cases, the softer they are.

So, whether it be best for us, as true dahlia lovers, to go on ad infinitum interfering with natural crosses—to obtain some characteristic we think we need in dahlias—well there's a big question mark? And I'll leave it with you to ponder on. I've told you what I don't know, with a dash, perhaps, of knowledge born of experience. I would be glad to learn more.—A. G. G.

Editor's Note: The late A. G. Goodacre of Gardena, Calif., produced many fine dahlias in his day—back 30 years ago—and he offered "Gold Crown" dahlia seed of high quality, at \$1.00 per packet. He was a much sought after speaker on dahlia topics in California and elsewhere, because of his knowledge and long experience. This article on hybridization, in which many then and now are interested, was published in the May, 1935 issue of the A. D. S. Bulletin—L. B. D.

Many a dahlia grower who is proud of his right to say what he pleases, wishes he had the courage to do so, in the meetings of his society.

## Our Thanks to the "Patrons" Of This Anniversary

Every extraordinary effort to stage a big show or celebration by any dahlia society involves money. It also follows that no one, even the most wise among us, can foresee all the contingencies and expense, items for a big gathering like this of the "Golden Year." Trouble is, dahlia societies, like churches, must be supported beyond the collection boxes, in order to continue their services.

The American Dahlia Society is no different in these respects from any other society. What seemed to the officers of the A. D. S. in the early stages of the planning, like adequate sums were deducted from the treasury and set aside for this big celebration. But, alas, these sums proved to be less than the needed budget.

And, as always, in such cases, no one in the A. D. S. wanted it to cost each guest a major sum on top of their traveling and other expenses, to enjoy all the planned entertainment and the banquet on September 19th. So, H. Dewey Mohr, Chairman of Finance for the 50th Anniversary, began writing letters asking the "tried and true" to become 'Patrons' and 'Sponsors' of the big affair, and, send checks.

That the response was extraordinary does not adequately describe it. This large list of 'Patrons' of the A. D. S. 50th Anniversary is proof of the support given the society by its members. Every name below should be printed in GOLD ink. It is really an 'Honor Roll.'

Pablo L. Abellfra  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilford H. Adams  
Charles Albanese  
George E. Alderson  
Mark W. Alger  
Rev. Lyle W. Anderson  
J. Fraser Anderson  
Marie and Harry Anderson  
John Baer  
C. W. Ballay  
Harold Beals  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Beck  
Homer L. Beck  
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Bennett  
Ralph and Ruth Berry  
Emil Berzau  
James Bezat  
Thomas Biddle, Jr.  
Frederick J. Binstadt  
Peter J. Birgy  
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Bivens  
Eugene H. Boeke, Jr.  
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Alexander S. Borson  
C. H. Bowen  
J. L. Bowling  
Mrs. Anna Bremer  
Job M. Brewster  
Conrad V. Brieger  
George Brookes  
C. Stuart Brown

J. C. Broyles  
George and Gen. Brunjes  
Mrs. Ellen S. Bullus  
Rowena D. Burgman  
Arnold and Elizabeth Burnette  
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J. Adrian Chabassol  
Florence C. Clapp  
Morris P. Clarke  
Monroe and Marion Clayson  
Emelene M. Cole  
Lloyd and Charlotte Cole  
Willis W. Collins  
C. Louis Comito  
R. Paul Comstock  
Robert P. Connal  
Arthur E. Crowe  
Lewis M. Culp  
Hon. Judge George R. Currie  
Dahlia Society of Wisconsin  
William J. Deal  
D. J. De Bastolo  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Degner  
Frank L. Deichler, Jr.  
Mrs. Anna C. Dod  
P. A. Donnally  
Mrs. Charles Doscher  
John H. Eagal, Sr.  
East Liverpool Dahlia Society  
John L. Eberle  
Jack Eccleston  
Barton W. Elliott  
Connie and Betty Faust  
Hazen H. Finner  
Helen G. Fisher  
William C. Foy  
Harry Franciscus  
Harry and Elsie Frank  
Paul F. Frese  
Conrad Frey  
Michael Fried  
Joe Gambi  
Wendell Games  
Arthur Garretson  
Glenn W. Giddings  
Helen C. Goodwin  
Harold Graham  
Carl M. Gray  
Noel E. Greenlee  
Richard E. Gregson  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Greimel  
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Louis A. Gurney  
Mary and Martin Guttler  
Karl Haas  
Paul and Vicki Hale  
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Rodman Hansbrough  
Dorothy E. Hansell  
Walter Hardisty  
F. Palmer Hart  
Grace and Pete Harter  
Glenn R. Hawkins  
E. K. Henderson  
Harry B. Hertzog, Jr.  
Derek Hewlett  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Hornby  
Dr. J. Wm. Hurt  
Illinois-Missouri Dahlia Society

Indianapolis Dahlia Society  
Sam Impicciche  
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Dr. Peter J. Kessler  
Raymond B. Keuper  
James A. Kidston  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kimmell  
Kingwood Center  
Fred and Louise Kleinjohn  
Frank Knapp  
Charles Konzelman  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kovar  
Z. W. Kosmela  
Morris L. Koss  
Charles M. Lambert  
Roger F. Langley  
Charles Lasch  
Carol and Jim Lawless  
Carl E. Lundvall  
John Lyons  
M. G. & D. Eveleens Maarse  
A. H. Mac Andrews  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Makowski  
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Arthur S. Mason  
Emil Mauer  
William A. Mc Clain  
Peggy McGrath  
Donna and Everett McMillan  
Charles E. McNamara  
John Meister  
John C. Metzger  
Caroline and Dick Meyer  
Leo and Catherine Miller  
Bob Mohr  
Charles F. Mosser  
Rudolph D. Motznick  
Abram R. Moyer  
Hazel Moyer  
Joe Mugno  
Tim Murphy  
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Frank N. Richmond  
Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Rike  
Herman Rindfleisch  
Harvard W. Rivel  
Charles and Betty Robbins  
Chauncey A. Rogers  
Howard R. Rolph  
C. A. Russell  
William W. Ryther  
Roland Schlett  
Helena Schmitz  
Frank J. Schoeler  
Helen I. Seaman  
Seattle Dahlia Society  
Vance Sellers  
John S. Setescuk  
Edward J. Sheron  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Simbritzki  
M. Etta Simmonds  
L. L. Sisk  
Mrs. Charles V. Smith  
Southtown Dahlia Club  
Spokane Dahlia Society  
Judy and George Stein  
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leslie Stephens, Jr.  
C. W. Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stoeckel  
John and Millie Stine  
Will J. Stone  
Suburban Dahlia Society of Md.  
Clifford A. Taylor  
Garvin P. Taylor  
Al Tedesco  
Toledo Dahlia Society  
O. C. Tanning  
Alex Toth  
Herman Tresch  
Richard and Hazel Trotter  
Dr. J. W. Troxell  
Dr. William Van Horn  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Vaughn  
Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Wadsworth  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wagner  
Magnus Wahlstrom  
Fred D. Ware  
Charles Watson  
Nellie and Roy Webb  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Webster  
Irene G. Whigham  
Elizabeth and Hershell Whittaker  
Ethel H. Wiederman  
Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Wildon  
Stephen Wilhelm  
K. K'. Williams  
E. J. Wind  
Marion Irene Winkler  
Mrs. N. L. Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wulf  
Katy and Tom Yano  
Anonymous



Walter B. Gaines, of Birmingham, Ala., contributes this one: "The 'old timer' was conducting several visitors on a tour of his large garden of beautiful dahlias. During the usual 'ooh-ing and aahing' at the wonderful display, one young lady asked him if he could possibly tell her which one was the most beautiful of all the blooms. Sure, he replied: 'It's always the one you are looking at'."

## The Oldest Dahlia Societies

The oldest dahlia society in this area and probably in the United States is the Snohomish County Dahlia Society in Everett, Washington. This society celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1959 and now is in its 55th year. It continues to flourish and was one of the first to work toward organizing the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference.

Another group that is over 50 years old is the Washington State Dahlia Society of Tacoma, Washington. It celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1960 and is now in its 54th year. This society is also very active in the activities of the conference and with the A. D. S. Trial Grounds which is located in Point Defiance Park in Tacoma.

The oldest dahlia society in Oregon is located in Portland. The Portland Dahlia Society is holding its 37th annual show this year. Its shows have continued to grow in number of exhibits by both amateur and commercial growers. This society was also instrumental in the organization of the conference in 1955.

In the Pacific Northwest we have a number of "old timers" in the Dahlia World; E. Henry White, owner of White's Dahlia Gardens, 2470 S. E. Creighton Avenue, Milwaukie 22, Oregon, has been a commercial grower since 1912. That adds up to fifty-two years, although they were not all spent at the present location, they have all been in the Portland area. Henry has always grown the kind of dahlias that his customers wanted and he is continually adding new varieties as they are introduced. He is vitally interested in growing clean stock and is constantly roguing his planting for dahlia disease infection. He has made some introductions of his own and grows some seedlings each year.

Mr. White is one of our Senior Judges and always has excellent displays in the shows. He has a fabulous memory for both varieties and

people connected with the dahlia throughout the entire country.

Another of our faithful members has been active in dahlia doings both as a commercial grower and now as an amateur in that she is no longer actively engaged in dahlia growing. The first garden that Mrs. Frances S. McDuffee had a commercial business called the Rex Dahlia Gardens and this business eventually became the Portland Dahlia Gardens. She was instrumental in introducing the pompon as a cut flower to the florist trade in Portland. It is still her first love in dahlia types. After her son, Richard McCarter, took over the business it was renamed Swan Island Dahlia Gardens. She did more to make dahlias popular as cut flowers than any other grower in the area. She is also one of our Senior Judges, and lives in Salem, Oregon.—P. F. Kershisnik, Editor of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia News.

### More About the Oldest Society

Mrs. John O. Linstrom, of Everett, Washington, contributes these additional facts about this early dahlia society. "From an old scrap book presented to the 'Snohomish Dahlia Society,' we learn these things: The Snohomish County Rose & Dahlia Society, (as it was named originally) was organized in 1909 by a group of local women. Mrs. F. P. Sawyer was elected the first President. Other officers were: Mrs. D. R. McCamley, Vice President and Mrs. A. Boyer, Secretary and Treasurer. Mrs. Sawyer held several other offices after she had been President for two years. She grew dahlias until two or three years before her death in 1961.

The society held its first show Sept. 9th and 10th, 1910. At the first show, according to a newspaper clipping, at the first show, roses predominated.

## Want to Win a New Variety?

Some guests and members of the A. D. S. gathered here tonight may become the owners of new 1965 Introductions. Each dinner ticket will be numbered. Be sure to retain that stub with the number. It may turn out to be valuable.

Mr. H. Dewey Mohr, who has been an indefatigable worker for this Anniversary, also sponsors this feature. Among his many accomplishments, Dewey has become adept at "putting the squeeze" on his competitors and contemporaries. Because of that faculty of his, you may be the gainer tonight.

Ten commercial dahlia firms, all introducers of new dahlia varieties, have, at Mr. Mohr's request, each contributed "Gift Certificates" which in effect is a memorandum "Due

Bill," calling for one 1965 dahlia introduction. (The choice is left to the donor, but is quite likely to be worth \$15.00.) Many thanks to the donors of these valuable Gift Certificates, who are listed below.

Anderson Dahlia Farm, Bowie, Md.  
Ballego, Leiden, Holland.

Dahliadel, Vineland, N. J.

Firma D. Bruidegom, Baarn, Holland

Nat C. Lundgren, Santa Cruz, Cal.

Arthur S. Mason and Thomas Yano,  
Washington, D. C.

Albert Parrella Dahlia Gardens, The  
Bronx, N. Y.

Pennypack, Cheltenham, Pa.

Rocky River Dahlia Gardens, Co-  
lumbia Station, Ohio.

Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens, Rock-  
ville Centre, L. I.



## I Work My Garden

I work my garden, not alone for flowers,  
But for so many, many other things,  
For leaves that glisten after summer showers,  
For tiny butterflies with tiny wings.

I work my garden, not alone for flowers,  
But for the joy—the peace such working brings,  
For drinking deep of long and sunny hours,  
And for a thrush that comes to me and sings.

—Ina B. Forbus



## Congratulations, A. D. S. Dahlias Breed Friendships

From Morris P. Clarke, Says Robert C. Connal

Private Bag, 8, Yarrigon, Victoria

"I am very pleased that the American Dahlia Society will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary in September, 1964.

"I am sorry, though, that I will be unable to be there. I only know of one person from Australia who expects to be in the United States at that time. I hope that one or two others will also attend.

"You say that you will publish a Souvenir Edition of the 'Golden Year Dahlia Record.' And I am sure that the guests will appreciate it greatly. Is there any way by which I can obtain a copy of it? I would be glad to pay for a copy or make a contribution to your celebration expense fund, if that would insure that I can have one.

"That show you plan and the dinner you promise to guests, with the other entertainment features, make it really difficult for me to stay away from America this fall.

"Please convey to all members and officers my greetings and best wishes for a most successful Dahlia World's Congress."

(Editor's Note: In the next mail, following this letter, we received a postal order for One Pound from Mr. Clarke which was sent to the A. D. S. Budget Committee. Mr. Clarke will receive a copy of the "Record," that is certain.)

"I started growing Dahlias, back in '34, planting several hills in a rear corner of my lot, forming a backdrop for my rose garden. From such a start a competing interest developed. In three gardens, in 1963, I had around 150 named varieties planted, in addition to seedlings. Now retired, due to age 70, given the strength, health, and space, my planting in 1964 equals or possibly exceeds that number."

"I have tried to help in the progress of the Rochester Dahlia Society. I first served as treasurer, then as chairman of the Constitution and by-laws committee. I also served two years as president, three as a Director. My membership in the American Dahlia Society goes back to the early forties through the urging of the late Prof. Brown. Ultimately this brought an invitation, and election as one of its Vice-Presidents in the late 40's. Its most recent honor was delegation as one of its Senior Judges."

"A tribute I greatly cherish came in 1960, when at its annual banquet, on the occasion of its 21st annual Show, my friend of many years, Phillip Kimmel, then Show chairman, on behalf of the Rochester Society, presented me its medal."

"As I ponder those years, many major satisfactions derive from my three decades with Dahlias. The 25 years my local Society for me, has been a functional part of Dahliadom, and my association with the American Dahlia Society for many years has resulted in many lasting friendships."

  
**ALL'S WELL**  


*Dahlias are messages of Love  
sent to us from the Almighty.*

  
*They are ready to receive us  
with open arms and yielding lips.  
Their caresses are  
sincere and natural.  
Their message is of peace  
and tranquility and confidence.  
All's well —  
God is still in His Heaven.*

  
*When days are darkest  
when hope is faintest  
go among the dahlias  
drink in their message of peace  
and be comforted.*

  
*We need dahlias now,  
as never before.  
We are just beginning to realize  
their true meaning.*

  
*Dahlias!  
Heavenly messengers of Peace!  
May God give us more of them.*

JOSEPH J. LANE  
*First Secretary, A. D. S.*

(Editor's note: We changed four words, with author's permission. Guess which.)



**Know Anyone Who Wants  
To "Join Up" Tonight?**

Seems like there are a lot of 'New Faces' (I would not go so far as to call them strangers) here tonight.

As the so-called Chairman of the A. D. S. Membership Committee, I hope that all you (I mean "you-a-a-I") have seen and heard, while attending this here now affair, has made everyone within the reach of my eyes want to be an intimate part of this great organization. Being what you might call an 'arm chair chairman,' and being away a lot traveling around, I think that it's best to 'corner' all 'unmembers' right here tonight. (Come to think about it, if you're not a member, how'd you get in here?)

I have arranged to have several beautiful, exotic, and I hope energetic feminine helpers, who can write English (as it is written, anyway), and they will pass among you (not the kind of 'pass' you mean either), and take your application and money to enable you to become one of the 'workers' in this 'vineyard.'

Just signal to me with a wave of the hand. Raise it high (I'm short), hold the palm outward (as if pushing) and you'll be surprised how soon the membership blanks will reach you. (P. S. Don't have a drink in your pen hand, when you sign, please, it might spill and make a blot on the schutchen (I mean signature).

—Signed, John Metzger,  
C. M. A. D. S.

firsts at the Radio City Show: Won the Earnest B. Tooker Trophy seven times; won 10 American Home Achievements and many sweepstakes at Peekskill, Long Island and New York. I even made the Ripley "Believe It or Not" broadcast once. That was a thrill.

Received letters from all over the world, asking me how I got the blooms up to 13 or 14 inches in some cases. I could not answer all of them.

I am glad to report that Mrs. O'Keefe is improving rapidly, now that the strain of attending court, where her case against State of New York was tried. No verdict rendered yet though.

After being out of shows so long, perhaps I have lost the "knack" of growing them big. But have a nice planting, with 90% new stock, due to losses from stem rot. But I'm going to try to take some blooms to this show.

I'll see you in New York.

—Ed. O'Keefe

**Come to Portland October 10**

Dick Richards has been honored by Portland Dahlia Society with a local and an A. D. S. membership although he never grew a dahlia and probably never will.

Dick is Manager of the Pacific-International Livestock Exposition in Portland, Oregon. Last year he named dahliaman Larry Bateman as "Floral Superintendent" of the livestock show with the thought in mind that Fat Beef and Floral Beauty can be mighty attractive together. The dahlia society and the chrysanthemum societies supported a show that Dick hopes will be an annual event and Portland Dahlia Society, making up a dahlia division of the show will go all out for several hundred dollars of cash awards made possible by the P-I.

Portland wants to see all of the best new seedlings, too. A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes will be held and everyone is invited to send blooms to compete not only for A. D. S. recognition, but for a \$25 top award and \$5 to all other A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes winners, providing there are 15 or less. This is minimal; higher awards may be made.

Address air shipments to Larry Bateman, Floral Superintendent, Pacific-International Livestock Show, P-I Building, North Portland, Ore.

Request Air Line to call him at 285-8301 upon arrival and he will have a qualified Society member pick them up, condition, groom and stage them for you.

The date? Judging, 8:00 A.M., October 10. Get them there in time for the handlers to do their best for you. The show goes on until October 18, so y'all come see the livestock, the purty flowers and the other land products; from 100,000 to 300,000 other folks will see you there.—B. S. "Bing" Chambers.

**Dahlias Grown on Both  
Sides of the Atlantic**

My first interest in Dahlias goes back to 1912 in England, on being taken by a friend to see a local Dahlia Exhibition put on by district growers in keen, but friendly rivalry.

The Dahlias were displayed on a board approximately 2 ft. 6 in. by 7 ft. Short stemmed blooms drooped in glass cylinders with just the face of bloom showing. Type much like our old Dreer's White, but varied colors, called Show Dahlias.

The following Spring, I was given a few plants, roots were never planted there due to cold wet climate.) I continued to grow the same ones until I left England in 1923.

My first years in my adopted country kept me busy establishing a home for my family in Ohio. In 1926, East Liverpool, Ohio, put on its first Dahlia Show. On seeing it, I was amazed by the size of the blooms so beautifully displayed. Yes, my interest was awakened again, but as yet I was not ready to grow anything.

After the 27th Show, things had improved for me and the bug was biting deeper. So, in the Spring of 1928, I bought a few—Mrs. I De Van Warner, Jersey Beauty, Dreer's White and others. By 1930 I was ready (I thought) for the good big ones, Jane Cowl, Kathleen Norris, Josephine G., Woodrow Wilson, etc.

East Liverpool by now was really a hot bed of growers and keen competition. The Dahlia was making wonderful strides in improving size, color, types, and beauty, until today, we have the only flower that has a size, type and color to suit most everyone's taste.

The Dahlia, through its culture, has brought more understanding, more respect, and good fellowship to its growers than any other flower group. So, let all its growers here today from many countries shout its praises to the world.—Jack Eccleston, R. D. No. 2, St. Clair Ext., East Liverpool, Ohio.

**Meet the Kershishniks**

Pete and Madge Kershishnik know their dahlias and dahlia people. They will renew many old acquaintances and make many new ones. Between them they have something to make them attractive to everyone. If you want to "talk" dahlias, Pete will listen. If you want to hear about them, Madge will talk. Pete is Editor of Pacific Northwest Conference organ, The Pacific Dahlia; Madge heads up the Conference Judging schools. Both are Charter members of the Conference and Life members of Portland Dahlia Society.

**Bees and Grubs**

Where the bee seeks—come seeds,  
But I grub where the grub grubs,  
Butterflies flit from hour to hour,  
While I, with grubby hands, grow dahlias.



**CHARLES F. PAPE —  
ORIGINATOR**

Here the late Charles Pape is shown at the Southtown Show in Chicago. The variety is his most popular introduction, named after Mrs. Pape, MRS. HESTOR A. PAPE. Mr. Pape grew many seedlings from his own selected seed, first at Serena and later at Santa Barbara, Calif. Besides Mrs. Hestor A. Pape, some of his best originations were: Pape's Pink, Pape's Yellow, Black Monarch Gold Coin, Mrs. E. J., Miss Santa Barbara. He grew dahlias up to the time of his death in 1955. One of his pet projects was the distribution of dahlia seeds to school children, to get them interested in growing them at an early age. Mrs. Hestor A. Pape lives with her niece and husband, Mrs. E. W. Fowler in La Jolla, Calif. She often travels to some of the shows in the mid-west and there meets many friends which she met with Mr. Pape on his frequent trips.

**Ed. J. O'Keefe Says:**

You asked me about the fertilizer I used to grab a few sweepstakes, for the "A" sizes, in the shows over the years.

Well, L. B. D., it came from England, like a lot of our guests tonight. Name, just "Clay's Fertilizer." I used it for many years and it helped to up the sizes for the show tables, I'm certain. Sometimes our friends from Britain do produce excellent products. But, came World War II, and the supply was cut off. After that I used "Wilson's Eureka."

You asked about my winnings. Well I can't list them all. I started showing in the A. D. S. show in New York in 1928 — and took the Grand Sweepstakes the first year I showed. That did it. I was "hooked" to keep on showing "A's." That is, up to 1960, when I had to stop, due to a severe accident to Mrs. O'Keefe in an automobile.

But before I desisted, here are a few of my triumphs. Sixty Blues at the 1933 New York World's Fair; 37

**WILLIAM G. NECKERMAN,  
A. D. S. Assistant Secretary**



This gentleman is more than a typical dahlia man. His immediate job with the society is to keep harmony and interest at top level with the over sixty societies which are associated with the A. D. S. In addition he is Chairman of the Publicity Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

His business connection is with the N. Y. Telephone Company. He and Mrs. Neckerman, have raised a fine family of three children.

Along the way, he has been a member, and for several terms, president of the Norwood, N. J. Board of Education, the Committee of Regional High School Board, the District Chairman of the Boy Scouts and several other organizations of civic and educational purpose.

In between his regular job and these public groups, he has also headed the Bergan Dahlia Society for three years. He and Mrs. Neckerman have, together, managed to grow some 1000 hills of dahlias, and operated a small greenhouse in connection. In the midst of these jobs and service to the public, he laid out his large garden with terraces and concrete paths, and dividers. You must deduce from the above that "Bill" is a most efficient as well as busy fellow. It is certainly true.

**Dahlia Friendships**

Have you ever stopped to think just what is the meaning of Friend or Friendship? Friend is "One attached to another by affection, regard or esteem, a supporter or favor of a cause."

I think we will all agree that through the Dahlia years we have created many friendships—some casual—and some have developed into very close friendships.

Each year as we attend the Dahlia Shows, we meet many new folks and Dahlia Fans all interested in the same common cause—"The Dahlia" and then again, we miss some of the familiar faces who have been called to their heavenly home whose memory we cherish, and then too, there

are some who have reached the age where traveling long distances are too much for them, but you can bet one thing, they are with us in thought and wish they could still be with us enjoying the many friendships they have made over the years and we miss these folks too.

A Minister once told me—people who love and grow flowers, which is one of God's gifts to us, are in general good people and from past experience, I must agree with him.

We all have our differences and opinions and often express them, some may not be to our liking, but if we all agreed with one another, this would be a funny world to live in and life would be dull and meaningless—we would have nothing to talk about.

Our Friendships should be valued and all efforts put forth to keep peace and harmony as life is a short span for all of us, so let's enjoy what the Good Lord has given us while we can and are able to do so.—Louise Kleinhohn, Secretary, Midwest Dahlia Conference.

**Taylored Pests**

If we were to put words into the mouth of Cliff Taylor, T. G. Super at Tacoma, Wash., they might go something like this:

"Sure we have pests in the T. G. but we do something about them, probably more than most growers but what can be done about these?"

1. The Chewers — They chew out everyone about how the T. G. is run.
2. The Borers—They work within, never coming out into the open to destroy the hard work of others.
3. The Suckers — They suck the strength and vitality out of every program.
4. The Carriers — They pass destructive viruses.
5. The Slugs — They want to slug it out with you right now.
6. The Snails — They have a hard shell that instructions cannot penetrate and they move too slowly to meet the deadlines.

(On the guy that wrote this is the worst of the lot.) Cliff is here, too. He's probably in the showroom taking pictures.—"Bing" Chambers.

**And, as for Cows!**

Henry White's problem is with a neighboring cow who likes dahlias as well as Henry does. It seems the cow is especially attracted to the finest blooms which grow at proper height for her to stick her head over the wire fence and eat with little effort. Now Henry plants root stock along the fence row, Bossie keeps them pruned, Henry harvests healthy roots.—B. S. C.

**Hoping You Are Better**

It may have been the heat, which has plagued the East this summer—or—as my dad used to say, "just the Humility," but some of our friends have had visits to hospitals this year.

Probably by the time this is printed, all of them will have recovered. We hope this is the case. And, if there were others who were "under the weather" as they say, and whose indisposition was not reported to us, we regret the same. (Both the absence of the report and their illness.)

Louis Alling, of West Haven, Conn., charter member of the A. D. S., had a nervous breakdown and went to the New Haven Hospital twice in July. He is, so reports Aunt Sarah Wood, now at the home of his nephew and is recovering. His doctor told him, that he could not live alone any more. Nephew Frederick and his wife have taken Louis in to live with them. Frederick says that if "Uncle Lou" improves sufficiently by September, he will see that he gets to the 50th Anniversary. Hope to see you, Louis on the 19th.

Louis Culp of Dover, N. J., Executive Committee member, was reported by Mrs. Culp, to have entered the hospital early in July. We hope it was a brief stay.

Conrad Frey of Nutley, N. J., was Past President, and Chairman of Judging for many years. He had not attended those Sunday morning "gripe" and "praise if due" sessions with Secretary Edward Lloyd for quite some time. Therefore, we can only deduce that he is not as spry as he used to be. In fact, it was reported as of August 15 that "Connie" was in Clara Maas Hospital in Belleville, N. J. for observation. But it's a ten to one shot that he will be there at the 50th.

Warren Maytrott, of Vineland, N. J., spent seven weeks in June and July taking an 80 mile round trip to Philadelphia, for X-Rays and Electrical Energy Machine therapy. He lost considerable weight, because of the travel schedule and other reasons, but Mrs. M. reports that he is gaining weight and feels much improved (as of August first). We hope that Warren gets back in "fighting trim" by the time of the big celebration in New York. (The Editor probably enjoys fighting, or at least disagreeing with Warren, more than with anyone in the Society.) See you in New York Warren.

Mrs. Georgina Humble, of Douglaston, N. Y., Life Member and member of Executive committee, long time Chairman of Arrangements at A. D. S. shows, was hospitalized for a couple of weeks in May. She is now home, and feeling fine, she writes.

President of the dahlia society, after expounding for a long time on his ideas: "That is only a suggestion, ladies and gentlemen, but let's not forget who has made it."

George Brunjes, the big grower and heavy exhibitor in the Elmira, New York, Southern Tier Dahlia Society area for many years, has had a series of heart attacks. He left the hospital in January last, "for his last bout," wrote Mrs. Brunjes in March, last. She continued, "the doctor has given permission for George to do anything he feels like doing, even to driving the car. He is even planning his garden at this point, altho' he has to get a lot more strength and will undoubtedly need a lot of help if he has one. You see, George is carrying around one of those heart regulators, a mechanical implant. He has to go slowly to recover from those several brushes with death. And, God willing, we will be in New York for the big affair in September. Hope to see you all then. George is looking forward to seeing all his old friends. That alone can make him better."

There was a rumor that reached the west coast in early August that Mrs. Pauline Neckerman, who has been so efficient in handling the registrations for this celebration, was ill. We hope this was in error. And if there was any grain of truth in it, it is the sincere wish of her many friends, including this editor, that all is well, recovery made.

Now if there have been others who were ill or indisposed, in the large group of workers in the fields of dahlias and Dahlia exhibitions, in New York or elsewhere, we're sorry we did not hear about it. Think of it! Your name could have been printed here with our regrets. There are those who would not think it worth while to get sick, just so they could read their name in this once-in-a-lifetime publication. But we can honestly tell such skeptics—they are wrong.

Ever hear of "Bicolor Measles"? That's what Dr. Frederick Knocke diagnosed as the editor's ailment in June. We broke out in a rash. Before the dermatologist could determine our trouble, we wrote to Dewey Mohr that we might have the measles. Evidently he reported that statement at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, or possibly while dining before the meeting. Anyway, we received a card of condolence signed by everyone present at the meeting. Dr. Knocke wrote on the card, "It is undoubtedly that severe malady known as 'Bicolor Dahlia Measles.'" P. S. It was later diagnosed by Dr. Elton Perry, as 'Strawberry rash.'—L. B. D.

We have not heard from Arthur Mason, former Editor of the National Capitol Dahliagram, in Arlington, Va., lately, but in a roundabout way we heard that he was "recovering" from an indisposition or something. If this has any basis of fact, we surely hope that Arthur is much improved and attending this Celebration.

# "Gardening Is a Way of Life"

By Lew Sarett

For better or for worse, I am an inveterate amateur gardener. I shall die one, I am a bit "touched" about every green-growing thing on earth. This queerness has not put me in any institution; it has kept me out of one.

Dahlias are my specialty. Annually I grow over a thousand plants from seed, with the hope that I may turn up a new one now and then, fit to go into commerce. Sometimes I do. But the profit on it pays me only a fraction of what it costs me to produce it.

Then why bother?

I can tell you why bother. I bother because gardening is a superb way in which every man who has the use of a patch of ground can solve many of his personal problems in living. Gardening is a way of life, a profoundly happy way of life.

## Gardening Is An Exciting Sport.

Growing anything — strawberries, cauliflower, roses, even cabbage—is an intensely exciting competitive sport. It is a game in which you pit your strength and your wits against Nature; you match them against her sometimes grudging soil, her bitter winds and weather, against her drouths and floods, her bugs and blights. Her fickleness and perverseness. A man gets a big kick from outmaneuvering Nature when she tries to throw him for a loss with epidemics and blights, with hordes of leaf hoppers, thrips, and red spiders, with unseasonable weather.

Take the soil in your garden, for example, when you set out to build a high-powered garden. It is on top of a hill. It is miserable yellow clay, stiff and poor.

Gardening Is a Series of Adventures. There is something of primitive man in the human being; he likes a fight and he likes adventure.

Gardening is a succession of adventures. It is a quiet emotional adventure when your needs begin to germinate in the seed flat and the first frail green pops out of the soil. It is a disastrous adventure when some of them damp off. It is a dark adventure when you find a young green plant of one of your most expensive varieties cut down at the base of the stem by a cutworm—because you forgot to sink a paper collar around the stem.

It is a sweet moment when you harvest your luscious Pride of Wisconsin melons and the Golden Jubilee and Scarlet Pritchard tomatoes. It is a rare adventure when you walk thru your dahlia patch in September and note the cascades of white flowers, the pillars of flame-colored blooms, the banks of orange and yellow. And you pause a moment before the pompon varieties loaded with 2-inch blooms that look like perfect buttons—like shining brass buttons, white buttons and pink buttons, gold buttons and ebony buttons. You experience a thousand adventures with beauty when you grow anything that has roots in the earth.

We are sustained and renewed constantly in body and spirit because we know and we follow a road into an amazing and lovely world, one of the oldest and one of the richest roads in human experience.

Editors Note: The late Lew Sarett was Professor of Speech at Northwestern University for many years. He wrote and lectured about dahlias often. This article was published in the A.D.S. bulletin, reprinted by permission, from Better Homes & Gardens.

But this version of it was suggested for these columns by Lew's friend, Ralph Berry, of Rocky River, Ohio.

## A NEW TRIAL GARDEN SERVES THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES

The PACIFIC SOUTHWEST TRIAL GARDEN, located in the sub-tropical climate of Southern California, has a unique distinction. It was born into a brand new botanic garden and is growing with it. The dahlia trial garden is situated in a prime site in this large facility, being developed by the County of Los Angeles on the beautiful Palos Verdes Peninsular. The botanic garden started its initial operations in 1961 and the dahlia trial garden began its trial period in 1962. Great plans are developing for the botanic garden and the future looks equally good for the Pacific Southwest Trial Garden with its official recognition by the American Dahlia Society in this GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

Cooperation by the botanic garden staff has been exceptional and consistent these past three years and has done much to get the garden off to a good start. Even more encouraging has been the hard work put in to maintaining the special dahlia culture by members of the Inglewood Dahlia Society (the local sponsoring Society) with assistance from members of the nearby Orange County and Southern California dahlia societies. Many have helped at planting and lifting times when most dahlia growers are themselves quite busy. Some have even driven from as far as 80 miles at these times to lend a hand.

This trial garden and the member support it has gained has made it a model which the County of Los Angeles is using for other specialist societies who want to set up trial grounds in the new botanic garden. The rules drawn up for the conduct of the dahlia trial garden have been officially approved as a basis for the conduct of future specialist test gardens within the facility.

Perhaps the best promise for the future is the rapidly growing region this new trial garden serves. The region has a present population of over 7 million; to the three dahlia societies serving it, a fourth was added 5 years ago. The membership of all four is on the increase and the shows they stage seem to get bigger and more successful each year. And that success includes the addition of new enthusiasts to the ranks of dahlia growers.—Alan True.

## I Shouldn't Recall —

Says M. Y. (Tommy) Thomas

I can recall many things which happened at shows and meetings that couldn't be printed. Here's just a sample. It was at the Mid-West Conference winter meeting at Ft. Wayne, Ind. I forget the year. After the dinner the real talkfest began.

Roy White, of Louisville, the originator of the old favorite bicolor, Kentucky Sportsman, which both you, Mr. Editor, and I grew for

many years, decided that George A. Richardson was really too dignified for a dahlia gripe session. George was a churchman, and further, thought that strong drink was abhorrent. Roy White, on the other hand, thought that a "spot" of the old corn juice was a boon to dahlia men, and he had had several.

He proceeded to give George a shampoo with bourbon. And the real sterling character of Richardson came to light. Sober as a judge, he was a good sport, and thereby earned a free root of Kentucky Sportsman, and laughed with the others.

I also recall the first time I placed a dahlia on the show table. It was way back in 1922, which was the year I joined the American Dahlia Society. I grew my first dahlias in 1919. Gosh! That was a long time ago. I had six plants that year. The "bug" really bit me then and in 1922, I grew fifty plants. There were not many big ones then. I recall *Delice* a nice pink about 5½ inches, not much bigger than our miniatures, today. At any rate, I took three well matched blooms of it and won a first and a silver vase with them. Another of my entries were three blooms of *Millionaire*, George Stillman's origination. It was among the earliest of the larger sized dahlias.

Hope to see "you-all" in New York in September, and I'll be looking for a proper shampoo. Maybe with a mint julep.—Tommy Erlanger, Ky., March 9, 1964.

## NITA Made Dahlia History Says Glen L. Pierce

In 1958 Paul Hale of Brighton, Ill., and Editor of the "Dahlia" for the Central Dahlia Society, found one variegated branch on a plant of the very popular *Juanita*.

He made as many cuttings from this branch as possible, then made cuttings from those, as they developed. The result was about 100 new plants of the color mutation of *Juanita*. Paul called it *Nita*.

Glen L. Pierce, of Glen Ellyn, a friend of Paul's, was a commercial grower. Paul was just an amateur. He asked Glen to introduce the new variegated. That year, 1959, following the discovery of the "sport," they, together won 22 Home Achievement Awards in shows across the country.

*Nita* also won the A. D. S. gold medal for the highest scoring "B" size in the Seedling Sweepstakes competition and many other awards.

Result, an unprecedented sale of a new "B" variety. It was sold at \$5.00 per root, because of the large quantity of roots which had been made by the "forced" method of plant marking. It was an achievement in dahlia dissemination. Credit to both Paul and Glen. Glen had a heart attack soon after this and retired from the business.



# Ideas on Gaining and Holding Dahlia Society Members

By Alan True (Hermosa Beach, Calif.)

The question of how to get and hold new members confronts every dahlia society. After some study and observation of this problem, here are a few ideas which I have seen, and in some instances, helped put into practice at several dahlia societies.

First—Potential members have to be attracted, or invited, to join the activities of the society. This is done by (a) individual members with the growth of the organization on their minds, inviting other gardeners to attend meetings. (b) Notices in local newspapers about the affairs of the society, which are followed up with personal invitations to come to drawings at the meetings of dahlia plants or roots, or in blooming season, of bouquets of dahlias, and the newcomers are somehow (?) the winners. (d) Have a registration book or cards at the show, where guests are asked to leave name and address. They can be invited afterwards to come to the future meetings. (e) Ask members to watch for gardens with dahlias in them, as they travel around the locality, and to stop, talk about dahlias and invite the gardener and his wife to come to the next meeting.

Second—When a newcomer arrives at a meeting, that shows interest. Members should not gush over him. But rather sit near him, make him feel welcome. Find out about his main interest in gardening. It may not be dahlias, at this juncture. Chat about the success, or failure of some members of the society, related to his or her chief interest.

Third—If the society is successful in attracting new members, then the programs of the meetings should be arranged so that newcomers receive practical suggestions about dahlia culture. The business side of the organization detail is kept at a minimum. More time is thus allotted for experienced growers, with a flair for imparting their knowledge, and, hopefully, an ability to "project" their voice so that everyone present may hear them. They should not "talk down" to beginners. No note of "patronage" should enter into the picture. Helpful program material can include visual aids such as color-slides of dahlia culture and planting techniques. (Members with photographic bent could help here by providing slides of their gardens or of Trial Gardens where good culture is essential to proper growth.) And views of new introductions are always interesting to all dahlia growers, new and old.

The high point of any dahlia society program of events is their annual show. Near show time, judging schools, lectures on flower arrangement, exhibit staging, transporting blooms and similar topics can be introduced into the meeting programs.



ALAN TRUE

But new members invariably believe they have little chance of winning awards when competing with more experienced exhibitors. But here, some psychology is suggested. Have older members "drop by" the gardens of the new members. And, without exhibiting superior wisdom, they can show the novice some of the finer points of preparing blooms for exhibition, transporting of them to the show and staging them for exhibition.

The show schedule should have divisions for the Novice, the Amateur, and if possible, the Advanced Amateur. By having these three sections, the new exhibitor can find a place for his or her exhibits, and, if he wins in the first two in the first years of exhibiting, he can still exhibit in the Advanced Amateur, the division for the more expert.

Some societies have "Junior Divisions" for youngsters under sixteen years of age. This is a fertile field for young people to get the "feel" of show competition. It gives them confidence in growing and showing ability when just getting started in gardening.

It is also important to create jobs for new members. By helping, they can see how a society progresses. Every society has many such jobs and if such a job places responsibility on the new member, he or she can early feel that they are a part of the organization.

Finally, it should be stated that if a society is to remain vigorous and effective, it should never cease to experiment and seek new ways to help its members, particularly, the new ones.

Those who talk loud and long at dahlia society meetings should adopt the old sea captain's saying, "the horn that's tootin' loudest is the one that's in the fog."

What "retirement" means to a dahlia grower's wife is—twice as much husband—on half the income.

If a dahlia grower listens to too much advice—he winds up making other fellow's mistakes.



GORDON WAASER WRITES:

Lynn: I recall the first time that I had a real serious conversation with you. It was at a Storrs, Conn. Trial Ground Field Day—the year, 1936.

You told me that the A. D. S. nominating committee had asked you to accept the Presidency. You said you did not see how you could accept and operate your Honor Roll Test Garden, act as president and continue on as editor of the Bulletin.

You asked me if I would take over the editing job. That was the beginning of a friendship that I have cherished ever since. You wished quite a job on my shoulders, for the next seventeen years—but I really enjoyed doing it.



PAST PRESIDENT  
DR. BRUCE PREAS

Here, with his 12 year old introduction and off winner in the Bi-color St. Cac. Classes, PREAS PRIDE. It is a mutation of Jane Lausche, and is deep purple, with white tips, instead of lavender like its progenitor.



A. REES, Tilden, Ill. . . .  
Originator of Many Fine Dahlias

MRS. CAROLINE MEYER.  
Treasurer

In any dahlia society, the holder of the money, the receiver of checks for membership and advertising (and delinquents in both occasionally,) is a most important person.

Mrs. Caroline Meyer, A. D. S. Treasurer, is the wife of Mr. Diederich Meyer, Show Chairman in 1964, mother of Margaret, and grandmother of four daughters of Margaret, is also a very important person in their home in Bergenfield, N. J.

Also, in the business world, Mrs. Meyer is employed by the Bergen-



field Lighting and Fixture Co. She is an expert accountant.

The Meyers, besides being working members of the A. D. S., are both staunch supporters of their local dahlia society, the Bergen Co., Dahlia Society. Frequently, they entertain this group for a "cookout" in their spacious garden area. Anyone fortunate enough to be present and to partake of the food spread at one of these society affairs is just livin', that's all, livin'.

From the above, readers may gather that Mrs. Meyer is a busy lady. And kind, and sweet, too, to all her many friends and associates in several states on the eastern seaboard.

## In The German Tradition

"While attending one of the major Dahlia shows in Wisconsin, my husband and I were introduced to several notables in the dahlia world."

"As the exhausting day wore on, the minds and tongues of show people become confused. One introduction was as follows:

"Mr. and Mrs. Makowski, have you met Mr. \_\_\_\_\_? He is one of the consistent 'weiners' at our shows.—Mrs. Esther Makowski, 3705 So. Hermon Street, Milwaukee, Wis."

The glass that cheers an old dahlia grower is not a full length mirror.

Some dahlia folks would not hesitate to drive up to the gate of heaven and honk.

# Hunting Wild Dahlias

## In Their Central American Home

By Marion Storm, Hotel Progressor, Irapan, Mexico

It is the rule, in beginning a biography, to go back to the great man's birthplace and there find out very little about him. Just so, wild Dahlias baffled me for a year, when I came to their old home—the more southern highlands of Mexico. Dr. Howe, the Dahlia specialist of The New York Botanical Garden, wanted a few seeds and tubers of never-cultivated Dahlias, and I thought I couldn't have a simpler request to fulfill. I would find Dahlias blooming off in the fields, on afternoon strolls. How little I knew!

On a visit to Uruapan, Michoacán, in July, 1933, I asked how to hunt for Dahlias and was promptly referred to the more elegant gardens, where some were responding to devoted care—where tall lavender tree-Dahlias, single and double, shaded the rarer kind. "But wild Dahlias—they must grow in the fields here, just as zinnias and cosmos do?" No one could make out what I meant by wild Dahlias!

That mid-November I came back to Uruapan for a long stay, and at once took up the trail. "There aren't any now." "But when can I find them, then?" "In the rains." "July and August?" "Yes, cómo no?" "But everyone has said, late in October." "Yes, after the rains. In October." I presently understood that the Indians were trying to tell me whatever I would prefer to hear, so that I would feel contented! Memories of the now world-famous Dahlia in its old mountain home were vague. No one, today, "knew it when." I must learn as luck let me. Winter and spring went, with no wild Dahlias reported. But one day Don Silvano, the carpenter, brought me a big, handsome yellow Dahlia. "I don't know what this pretty flower is," he said. "It came up in the patio from a root we had, and we saved it for a present."

In May, Ramiro, an Indian boy, walking thirteen hours over the ranges from his home in Peribán, brought me some roots of Dahlias that his mother had planted. "But she dug them up in the sierra." These should be virtually wild, so I mailed them to Dr. Howe, and when set out in the Dahlia border at the Garden one almost bloomed, the summer of 1934, but gave up at the last minute.

Slowly, by asking over and over, I learned that nobody knew what I was talking about when I asked for wild "Dahlias" because that name is given only to the garden flowers, like Don Silvano's, and these are not very common in Michoacán. Even Tarascan Indians from the remote sierra, who speak no Spanish, use it for these tame plants. Uruapan is a small town at the end of the rail line, and both hill and hot country Indians trudge in on Saturday to market what they have raised or made, to

bring a turkey under one arm, a flat basket of fruit on the head. I persuaded everyone who had contact with country Indians who came to the hotel to ask those who spoke Spanish what they called the Dahlia, and invariably the answer was "dalia-tzitziqui" or more rarely "guarás-tzitziqui." "Tzitziqui" is a Tarascan suffix meaning "flower." It appears in the phrase for Spring. Like other Indian languages, this one is adapted to one-word descriptions, and after floral attributes have been named the word for flower is added. Thus one does not say "rose," but uses a long compound that means a yellow, single, fragrant flower, if that is the sort of rose the speaker has in mind. "Guarás" is Tarascan for **camote**—edible root or tuber. While this word usually means sweet potato or sweet potato candy, one may speak of "dalia-camotes," or of the "guarás" of the **chayote** (the "chinchayote").

For wild Dahlia flowers, I discovered, the only names known in Michoacán today are these two: **dalia-tzitziqui** and **guarás-tzitziqui** (Dahlia-flower and edible-root-flower). Even allowing for the astounding rapidity with which Spanish spread over conquered America, it seemed incredible that the aboriginal name of a native plant so familiar could have been utterly forgotten in primitive villages where no Spanish is spoken even now. The word "dalia" could not have antedated the latter part of the eighteenth century, since the seeds first reached Europe in 1789, and the name Dahlia was created in 1791, yet it was now the only

name applied to the flower, at least in its cultivated form, in this part of Mexico. What word had the people here used before Andreas Dahl received his honor? I became obsessed with a mania for discovering the Tarascan name for Dahlia. Among the water-gardeners of Xochimilco, up at the capitol, no Indian name was any longer used, I had found—Azteca and Chichimeca were as forgetful as Tarascos.

I would stand by our charcoal stove in the kitchen and poke a bunch of garden Dahlias at some suspicious and trail-weary Indian. "What do you call these, **por favor**, up in the sierra?"—and always was discouraged to hear "dahlias." I felt still more desperate when I learned that one of exquisite airs played by our favorite mountain violinist, on the rare occasions when he descended Uruapan, was called "La Dahlia," beginning:

"Dahlia, dahlia, dahlia-tzitziquin jimbo.

Ja qué picuni, ja qué picuni,  
Por pi-cugxo, tia."

A lovely old Tarascan sierra song, which is from Ychan, one of The Eleven Villages. Up in the state of Coahuila I noticed a railroad station named La Dahlia! How the Spaniards spread!

Suddenly it dawned upon some of my Uruapan friends that—what a joke! I was trying to find charahuescas to send to New York. I'd been going around asking for "dahlias del monte" and "dahlias silvestres" when all I wanted was **charahuescas!** In glee I demanded, "Then **charahuesca** is the name for Dahlia?" "It is the name of the **camote of the dalia**—and yes, of the plant, if you like."

Wild Dahlias **per se** are unknown in Michoacán. I now learned, but their tubers, for unrecorded ages,

have been so prized as food that the plants are almost used up. So even though at last I knew what to ask for, it was not easy to find them.

The oldest vendor in the market could not remember when they had brought him in any **charahuescas** for sale. Others assured me that even if I found them in the "puestos" they would certainly be cooked. On the other hand, a native girl of twenty said that she and her companions had preferred **charahuescas** to **jicamas** or **chayote**-root when they were but little younger and that they could always buy them "en las lluvias" (the rainy season), and looked forward to them. "We'd peel them like this—**muy sabrosas!** Yes, of course one eats them raw, just like **jicamas**. There used to be plenty in Uruapan, but everybody would go out digging **charahuescas** in big family parties, and camp where they grow, so naturally they're scarce nowadays." Forthwith I set a price on **charahuescas**, but people could not take me seriously. Surely I might buy enough other refreshing roots to eat!

But this was their season—the time of the heaviest rains: August and early September, I must hurry! "Where can I find **charahuescas** myself? I want to ride till I come to them, if nobody will bring them in." "Oh, there are none now." "But when?" "In October," they said. In the market, in the kitchen, on the roads, everyone now assured me that "later" there would be **charahuescas**. Although I had to go to the capital, I made up my mind that I would not be lulled again. I would be back in Uruapan in October, this year, since that was the one month! Last year, in November, I apparently had been just too late.

Up in the capitol a thrilling triumph was waiting. As usual, I was chasing old books about Mexico from library to library, always hoping to come upon the Tarascan word for Dahlia. I was not in Maturini's big *Diccionario*, which gives Tarascan names for the Rose of Castile and the Flor de Granada (though there is no knowing what flowers are meant by these phrases). It was not in León's priceless "Silbario." Then, one rainy afternoon, I was leafing over the familiar two volumes of "Michoacán: Leyendas, Paisajes y Tradiciones" by Eduardo Ruiz—a fascinating work, imaginative but full of racy information about Uruapan to be found nowhere else. And there on page 228 stood a footnote relating to the prehistoric gardens of Pátzcuaro: **Saluen-tzitziqui** is the name of the **dahlia**. It is probably the only Tarascan word with the letter l. The name implies 'many bright colors.' I could hardly keep from jumping and shouting. Perhaps I was now the one person among the Tarascans who knew their aboriginal name for Dahlia!

I made a special effort to get back to Uruapan and the hunt for wild Dahlias by mid-October. "I must go for **charahuescas**," I explained, the

(Continued, Bottom Next Page)



Miss Storm Finds Cosmos Growing Wild, Alongside "Charahuescas"

Miss Storm wrote: "I saw this same charming over "Charahuescas" (for Dahlia) growing with wild Cosmos." The above photo, (taken by the editor in his garden, where he was growing nine species dahlias) shows Cosmos on left, and Dahlia Mercii on right. Flowers of both were identical in form, color and number of petals. Only differences were in size and foliage. This would indicate that Dr. Lawrence was right in stating that Dahlias when first discovered in Mexico in 1547 by Hernandez, were hybrids.

# The Earliest Known Illustrations Of The Dahlia

By Dr. Marshall A. Howe

In connection with Miss Storm's fascinating account of her search for really wild Dahlias in Mexico and with Dr. Connors' lucid interpretation of Dr. Lawrence's important studies of the genetics of the Dahlia, it may be interesting to see reproductions of the first published drawings of a Dahlia. The very first sketches, so far as is known, of anything that modern botanists are willing to accept as representing a Dahlia, were made in Mexico somewhere between 1570 and 1577—more than two hundred years before the word "Dahlia" was invented. The artist-naturalist was Dr. Francisco Hernandez, a Spanish physician, who was sent by King Philip II, with a credit of 60,000 ducats (about \$138,000) to study and report upon the natural products of this "New Spain." The doctor remained in Mexico for seven years, collecting and studying the plants, animals, minerals, and antiquities of this new, yet old country. He carried back to Spain sixteen folio volumes of manuscript and drawings and deposited them in a large building known as Escorial near Madrid, where nearly a century later, long after Hernandez' death, they were destroyed by a great fire. But, fortunately, a copy of a considerable part of his manuscripts and of some of his drawings

reached Rome, where they were published in 1651, in Latin, the language of the learned of that day. (An abridged edition, without illustrations, was published in Mexico, in Spanish, in 1615.) The title of the large quarto of more than a thousand pages of 1651 was "Nova Plantarum, Animalium et Mineralium Mexicanorum Historia," which means, in a free translation, that it was a "natural history" of Mexico. In this, one page 31, were printed figures and a brief description of what, doubtless, is now known as a Dahlia, under the native Aztec name of *acocotli*, which is said to mean also a pipe or waterpipe, evidently in allusion to the hollow stems of the plant, which, in the autumn, as all modern Dahlia growers know, often sarry notable quantities of free sap.

It is important to notice (Fig. 1) that the flowers of this first-figured *acocotli* or Dahlia were semi-double—a fact that the modern plant-breeder would be very sure to interpret as meaning that Hernandez found it in somebody's garden—that it did not represent a "wild" plant—in other words, it was already a "hybrid." It is more than probable that if Dr. W. J. C. Lawrence had been able to subject Hernandez' plant to microscopic examination, he would have found its cells "octoploid," with 64 chromosomes.

## Hunting Wild Dahlias—Continued

day after my return. "Where will be a likely place?" "Oh, there are none now. This is not the season." "When is it?" "In the rains." "In August-September?" "Yes." "They were in the market here then?" I rushed to the old vendor. "Did you have *charahuescas* in the rains, and save me none?" "Charahuescas—who knows? They would be bad now. I have nice oranges."

Just missed again? No one could understand why I felt so bad. I rode up into the mountains, toward a high and legend-haunted pond, along a forbidding trail, hoping against hope for even one left over Dahlia. We did find, and dug up, a rosy flower that resembled equally a Dahlia, a cosmos, and a bidens, and this I proudly showed to my friends in the kitchen. "See, I got a few *charahuescas* after all!" They said yes, but in a day or so I found out that they knew this was no *charahuesca*. "That is the *dahlia*," Lupe patiently explained. I thought I should go mad.

On other rides I saw that this same charming flower, growing with cosmos, adorned the sides of our mountain trails, especially on Charanda hill, from October through December, colored rose to maroon, its leaves never seeming twice alike—and different even on the same plant! But everybody called it "aceitilla." "Isn't *aceitilla* always white?" "Yes." We had white *aceitilla* in the patio,

and it looked very unlike this, and in "Medicinal Plants of Mexico," by Martinez, *aceitilla* was described as white or yellow. Maybe this really was a wild Dahlia! I set some out in an *olla*, to keep it handy.

It was a gay Sunday in early November. I heard excited steps on the stairs. Lupe, the waitress, was running up with a tray on her head, and on that tray, topped by a few vivid flowers, were clusters of Dahlia roots—wild Dahlias from the mountains around San Lorenzo! A week ago she had quietly sent her young man, then out of work on this mission, and he had hunted *charahuescas* for three days, bringing back, too, the last of their small flowers. "Of course it was very dangerous—the worst scorpions live under rocks that the plants grow out from. But Ernesto is brave." She flipped the *carachuescas* disparagingly. "In my home, Taretan, they get much bigger. Nothing like these."

I stared in joy at the flowers I had been hunting since July, 1933, and was seeing for the first time in my life. They shone like burnished metal in the sunshine—a lucent orange-red with bright gold centers. I pressed them to send to Dr. Howe, along with all the sound tubers, and they reached New York November 14, 1934. I kept out one

(Continued on next page)



"Acocotlis"

This is the original dahlia plant species, discovered by King Francisco Hernandez, Physician to Philip I of Spain, in 1570 in Southern Mexico. It was then called "Acocotlis" by the natives, but was named two centuries later "Dahlia" by Abbe Cavanilles, Director of the Royal Gardens of Madrid. Note that the flowers are "semi-double". This indicates that they were a cultivated flower when found by Hernandez.



Dahlia Pinnata—Cavanilles

The first plant described and illustrated in the Library in Madrid under the name "Dahlia" in 1791, by Abbe Cavanilles. It was a half double flower; color red.



"Dahlia Rosea"

Three years after naming and describing Dahlia Pinnata—(Figure 2) Abbe Cavanilles caused this illustration to be drawn of a then new rose-colored seedling which he called "Dahlia Rosea."



"Dahlia Coccinea"

This single, grown as a seedling in the Royal Gardens of Madrid about 1793 by Abbe Cavanilles.



Dahlia Variabilis

This Species Dahlia, as grown by the editor in his garden in 1958, in New Rochelle, N. Y. Dr. Connors wrote "This species Dahlia Variabilis is the probable source of most, if not all, of present varieties of dahlias."

# Research On Dahlia Origins

## Variations in the Dahlia

By the Late Dr. Charles Connors

A study of Dr. W. J. C. Lawrence's "The Genetics and Cytology of the Dahlia" which proves that *Dahlia variabilis*, the parent of most of our Garden Varieties of Dahlias, known to be Hybrids, is in itself a Hybrid.

The garden Dahlia exhibits about as wide a range of color as may be found in any garden plant, including some peculiar color distributions. The color range is probably rivalled only by the tulip, and in the tulip are found color combinations that are almost analogous to those found in the Dahlia. For many years members of the staff at the John Innes Horticultural Institution at Nerton, England, have been working upon the genetics of flower colors, including primulas, snapdragons, stocks, roses, and so on, and had discovered that color relationships need to be traced back, if possible, to the primitive species, if these can be found.

The color of Dahlias attracted one of these workers and a preliminary paper, "The Genetics and Cytology of Dahlia Species" by W. J. C. Lawrence appeared in the *Journal of Genetics*, Volume XXI, No. 2, August, 1929.

Lawrence secured as many wild species as were available and grew these in a garden; and he also studied the color descriptions of a number of others. With one exception, all the species fell into two general color classes.

In the Dahlia are two series of soluble pigments — flavones and anthocyanins. The flavone series consists of an almost continuous gradation from ivory to deep yellow, and these colors respond to chemical action with ammonia. The anthocyanins are classed in three groups, (a) magenta to deep purple, (b) pale orange to deep scarlet, and (c) colors intermediate between (a) and (b). In some cases there is entire absence of pigments, and in such cases the rays will be white. This latter occurs most often when the normal flavone would have been ivory.

Lawrence grew and studied all of the available species of Dahlias and found that, with one exception, all fell into two groups for flower color: Group I (ivory — magenta-purple, where the ivory flavone forms the foundation color upon which is overlaid the anthocyanins) *Dahlia merckii*, *D. mazoni*, *D. imperialis*, and several others, all of which have lilac to mauve rays except *D. imperialis* which is white flushed with lilac-pink. Group II (yellow-orange-scarlet, which would have a yellow flavone for the foundation color, which might be overlaid with orange to scarlet anthocyanins) *Dahlia coccinea*, *D. coronata*, and two others, which have yellow to scarlet rays.

The one exception, the so-called species, *Dahlia variabilis*, is the prob-

able source of most of the garden varieties of the Dahlia, and is unique, in that it unites both the color series within itself. All variations of color are found, due to the presence or absence of the soluble pigments. When the present-day varieties are inspected, it is noted that the magenta-purple group have ivory ground color and that the orange-scarlet group have yellow grounds. This is clearly shown when streaks or flecks occur, permitting the ground color to show. The one chance for confusion is in the case of white, a sport of ivory, which might be confused with ivory as the full color or as the ground color. This can be distinguished by a chemical test with fuming ammonia, the ivory changing to yellow, while the white remains unchanged.

Lawrence further observed that anthocyanin can develop only when a corresponding flavone is present. There seem to be two anthocyanins: geranium red and purple. So, a scarlet flower will probably be a yellow flavone ground with the geranium red anthocyanin, and variations will occur with various concentrations of the anthocyanin pigment.

In late years, much progress has been made in the study of the inheritance of characters of plants and animals. This study is an entrancing one, finally come from the field of speculation into one of more or less reality. It is very definitely established that inheritance is carried out through the medium of exceedingly small bodies called chromosomes, which are found in the germ plasma of all living organisms. Each species has a characteristic number of chromosomes. For example, the common bean and the currant have 16; the calla lily, 32; tobacco, 48; iris, 24 and so on. Man has 48; the monkey, 54; the horse, 38; the dog, 22 and so on. The rose has 14 in some species, while others have 21, 28, 35, all multiples of 7. It has been found that sometimes multiplication of chromosomes to unbalanced numbers resulted in sterility. This was discovered to be the reason that viable seeds were not produced when certain varieties and species of roses were crossed.

Lawrence found that the normal chromosome number in Dahlia species is 32, except that *D. Merckii* has 36. *Dahlia variabilis*, however, has 64, or twice the normal number.

It is evident, therefore, that this relatively sterile form is a hybrid, the result of crossing a species of the ivory-magenta-purple group with a species of the yellow-orange-scarlet

### Three Articles On Dahlia History

Dr. Marshall A. Howe and Dr. Charles H. Connors were two men whose interest in, and knowledge of, dahlias, was acknowledged by everyone who knew them. At the time of his death in 1936, Dr. Howe was Director of the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Dr. Connors was head of the Ornamental Nursery Dep't at Rutgers University and had only retired shortly before his death in Nov. 1960.

It was the privilege of this editor to have known these men as friends and to have worked with them on a variety of dahlia projects. Both were interested in Dahlia History. Both were authorities on Dahlia Origins. The accompanying articles by them were published in the May, 1933 A.D.S. Bulletin when we were its editor.

The article by Miss Storm was written for the Bulletin at the request of Dr. Rowe. We wish we knew where she is today, and if she has made further research on the original dahlia species.

group, with a resultant peculiarity of chromosome behavior that resulted in a doubling of the normal number.

What, then, does this mean? We are, of course, awaiting a further report from Dr. Lawrence. In the meantime, what has happened? We have been assuming that *Dahlia variabilis*, the parent of most of our garden varieties of Dahlias, is a valid species, because it appears to be spontaneous in Mexico. But now that we know that it is a hybrid, what species are responsible for it? If we were to find the species, we could only be certain if we found the hybrid growing with it. Such happen-

ings are chance, or as the geneticists call it, fortuitous. If we had the parental species of *Dahlia variabilis*, could we reproduce that sort? Again, it would be fortuitous. But why speculate, for where are the species? It may be that some day, someone who is a botanist and who is interested in Dahlias will make a search in Mexico and adjacent parts of Central America. If he finds the parents, he will satisfy the curiosity of the inquiring mind, and there is always the possibility that new material will result in further improvement of the existing stocks. (Read how Miss Storm searched for original species.)

### Hunting Wild Dahlias (Continued)

small *charahuiesca* to peel and nibble, but it wasn't sweet, now so late.

Soon after, I rode toward El Chino hill with old Mr. Hurtado, who rents horses, and we met two men eating their tortillas at the roadside. "Have you seen any *charahuiescas* up this way this year?" "Oh yes. There are still some—and down in the malpais of San Pedro. But they are no good for eating now. They lie rotted in the ground. Look—two big withered plants." I thought my heart would stop! Wild Dahlias, still with seed, were leaning against the rock—the first I had ever seen growing!

We jumped down and dug them up. They were six or seven feet tall, and I got the men to carry the great plants back to Uruapan for me, where I have them planted in a box, just on the chance that they will come up. The seeds, now falling, I collected into an old cigarette packet and mailed to Dr. Howe.

On came fate. The very next afternoon I went for a walk in the Quinta Ruiz, where an old lane leads into piny badlands. Beyond the rim of possible cultivation runs a high stone wall, and first on the left, then on the right, I saw a wild Dahlia, growing out from the base and still in flower. I came back with a trowel, climbed over and dug hard, but the roots were so far under the wall

that I couldn't even get near them. However, I know where they are, for another year, and I now felt fairly safe. Eighteen authentically "wild" tubers and a few seeds had gone to Dr. Howe. Here were two veteran plants *in situ*. A cluster of roots from El Chino were planted. And yet, what about my other puzzle—the plant that looks like a Dahlia and isn't a *charahuiesca*, although a mountain woman said that it sometimes did have little tubers? I sent some badly dried specimens to The New York Botanical Garden and others in better condition to the Instituto de Biología in Mexico City. The New York authorities identified my *aceitilla* as *Cosmos diversigolius* Otto, with *Bidens dahliaoides* S. Wats. as a synonym; the Mexican, as *Bidens rosea* Schz. Bip., var. *aesquisquamosa* Robinson. Anyway, it is blooming beautifully in an old brown jar on the roof, now in March.

However pampered under cultivation, it is clear that the Dahlia, here in its aboriginal home, prefers lofty badlands.

Even in that real wilderness, where so few ever pass, the original Dahlia is hard pressed. Every summer it is being hunted deeper into the lonely hills. In its old home it is already rare.

# Dual Purpose Dahlias

By Phillip Damp

President and Founder Midland Dahlia Society

Reprinted from "Garden News" February 1964

Possibly the greatest single point in favour of growing the dahlia is its adaptability for a dual role. The embryo exhibitor asks, quite naturally, "Is showing an expensive hobby?" . . . The answer to that is that it is only as expensive as you wish to make it.

Extra equipment such as canes, fertilizers, insecticides, labels and tying materials come little higher than the expenditure should you have chosen some other subject.

It follows then, for the beginner to ask "Can I make exhibiting pay?" . . . The answer to this is a definite NO! At least, not from prize money.

There are, however, other compensations. Not least amongst these is the fact that many varieties, well known as gold standard show-bench winners, produce great quantities of cut flower bloom throughout July, August, September and October.

Most of the more popular dual purpose dahlias fall into the small and miniature groups of the decorative and cactus formations.

The small flowered section (bloom widths between four and six inches) and the miniature group (widths up to four inches) are the darlings of the cut flower nurserymen.

The classified list of dahlias contains over 60 varieties with the prefix **Jescot**—a famous name in the dahlia world. **Jescot** dahlias are all the creation of Mr. Cooper from St. Albans (Hertz), and his raisings shows up and down the country.

John Crutchfield, from Sussex, regularly contributes his raisings to the dual-purpose group, and his miniature decorative, **Doris Duke**, soft pink and formationally perfect, annually makes its appearance at shows up and down the country.

Of the very new, the long stemmed, ball-shaped **Flamenco** in flaming red, raised and introduced by the Thomas Horton dahlia nurseries at Stourbridge, Worchestershire is already on many showmen's wanted list for 1964.

Still with the newcomers, northern raiser Arthur Lashlie from Newcastle offers us his trial-winning **Joan Collins**, another of the popular formationally-perfect ball types. A bright, clear yellow, **Joan Collins** scored some notable successes at top shows last year in addition to its Trade Trials award.

There are but a few of the wonderful dahlias with a dual role. If you are a little unsure about taking the plunge into the show world then why not grow these "two for the price of one" varieties this season?

It is really a safe bet, because you will have a great deal of satisfaction, no matter what your method of cultivation.



## J. Louis Roberts Wrote: In "Modern Dahlias" Published in 1938

"Many lasting friendships are made at flower shows. They usually start with the discussion of a bloom—how was it grown—in what kind of soil—with what kind of fertilizer, etc., etc."

"I have actually had people stop me on the street, when I was carrying a bloom, and with their questions, thereby starting a garden friendship."

"During the late summer and autumn the dahlia, in my opinion, is the most important flower in the garden."

"The dahlia is so popular that a National Dahlia Society, (the American Dahlia Society) has members in almost every state devoted to its interests. This society maintains a number of official Trial Gardens for the purpose of testing and rating new seedlings. Participating societies, associated with the A.D.S., supervise these gardens."

"There are many other local dahlia societies in different sections of the country and abroad. Some of these also have their own trial grounds."

"To the amateur gardener who takes pleasure in operating his own garden, the dahlia proves to be an admirable subject for his care. Their wide range of form, size and color, furnish so great a range that any personal taste can be gratified."

"In the March, 1930 issue of the Bulletin of the Baltimore Dahlia Society, (with color picture of Thomas A. Edison on cover) Editor, the late Carl P. Collar wrote:"

"Every member of this Society should realize that it is as much his (or her) privilege as the other mem-

# Dahlias Grow More Popular

Wrote J. W. Johnston, Horticulture Editor,

New York Herald Tribune, 1961

The dahlia is a sadly neglected plant so far as general planting in American gardens is concerned. Maybe it is the fault of the men garden makers. The American Dahlia Society and many other dahlia societies, local and state, have kept the dahlia alive over the years.

This is the work of men, and maybe that is what is wrong. We as men have been interested in the flower from an exhibition standpoint. To grow and show dahlias has been a great thrill for this writer and many other dahlia lovers.

Right here it should be mentioned that men like a plant that responds to care and culture to the point that one may take part in local, state or national shows. We have heard many women damn large dahlias, but their growth has kept the dahlia alive to go on to greater achievements.

The turn of things happened some few years ago when men became interested in the smaller types such as miniatures, poms and the other smaller kinds. This holds great promise for the future.

## Win With Dahlias

It has been my good fortune to see them in their natural habitat in Central America and to see thousands of plants ready to set out at Kew Gardens, London, for bedding, an art we have not yet developed in this country. In the mountains of Guatemala we observed dahlias in the wild some four feet high and, in the case of the tree dahlias, as tall as twelve feet. Then we arrived at a village with an altitude of 8,500 feet and witnessed a park planting of modern varieties with huge and beautiful flowers. It seems here that the prophet came home.

Then at Kew Gardens in England I saw several thousand bedding dahlias ready to plant outdoors in early May. These are sadly neglected in this country, perhaps because we are not as bedding-conscious as the English. Here, in my opinion, we are truly missing something.

Even the bedding types furnish

bers, that he not be bashful about expressing his views."

"It has been the tendency in organizations such as ours, (even lodges and clubs) to eventually have it's affairs get into the hands of a few members, who run things to suit themselves."

"This must not be the case in our Dahlia Society. It will never be so, if every member takes an active part in the meetings."

"Only by argument and friendly discussion can problems be settled. If any question comes up, in which you are not in accord with the trend, get up, ask for recognition by the chair—and speak your piece. Have all the arguments—and/or criticisms out in the meeting—on the floor. Don't be an 'I told you so' member."

"It does not take an intellectual great to see something is not feasible, after it has been tried out."

lots of material for indoor flower arrangement, and they must be cut to keep them flowering. Many of the smaller varieties flower profusely and must be cut constantly to keep them flowering.

Our poms, miniatures and other small flowering varieties hold great promise to introduce us into the bedding varieties which are so dwarf they need no special support.

## Need Plenty of Air

Dahlias, no matter how they are grown and no matter what the type, need free circulation of air, else mildew will develop.

Stake all tall growing varieties no matter what their type, and in this the range is wide as some of the smaller kinds grow tall. Study your favorite catalogue and adjust your plants accordingly.

The dahlia likes a neutral soil or slightly on the acid side. Organic matter is a must, mixed well with the soil. Feeding should be held off until the plants are located where they are to grow, and then should be applied with care.

Dahlias, when the season is dry (a crazy thing to bring up at this moment), will need artificial irrigation. As they mature, the feed roots will naturally come near the surface of the soil and cultivation should stop to avoid feed-root damage. At this point some form of mulch should be applied, but not before a final feeding and watering.

Large and small flowering varieties are handled in different fashion. With the large types the object is to restrict flowering, and with the small types to increase flowering. This is simply a matter of pruning. With the large flowers, the center of the plant is pinched out at four pairs of leaves. Then each branch or lateral has the side growth pinched but the bottom pair of leaves are left on. These will furnish the second crop of flowers.

With the smaller flowering types, two to three pinches are made. Make the first one in the center when three to four pairs of leaves develop, and again on each lateral tip as they develop. If the plants are ahead of their proper flowering period, a third pruning will be advisable. This will make for shorter plants covered with flowers and more in keeping for their type.

For home use, cut flowers in early morning or preferably late afternoon and plunge them immediately in cold water. Keep them in a draft-free place for a couple of hours. Then they may be made into arrangements.

If exhibiting, early in the morning the day of the show boil the ends of the stems in water for thirty seconds, holding the foliage out of the steam. Place them back in cold water for an hour.

In packing such flowers for transmission to the show, pad the box with tissue but place wax paper between plants and tissue so that undue drying out does not occur. Watch your show schedule for what is called for and do not violate.

The dahlia, you and I should know, is a real fun flower, with the rewards commensurate with what you put into it.

## These Have Gone Before Us

During the past half century, the American Dahlia Society has lost many members through death. Among them are those men and women who devoted a great deal of time and effort to the betterment of the Dahlia and this Society.

We regret that they are not with us to celebrate this great milestone—The Fiftieth Anniversary. We are dedicating this part of the Golden Year Dahlia Record to them. May they Rest in Peace. Pax Vobiscum! (This list was compiled by H. Dewey Mohr.)



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# These Workers Made The Fiftieth Anniversary Possible

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The following committees were organized to serve and assist in 1964. Note that the SHOW SCHEDULE and ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT committees are listed under and among the Golden Anniversary Committees.

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### "The Golden Year Dahlia Record"

This publication, a historical document of the 50 Year History of the American Dahlia Society, was designed as a Souvenir to be presented to the guests at the Anniversary Dinner at the New Yorker Hotel, the night of September 19th, 1964.

One copy is to be presented to each guest. It will be found at their place at the tables.

To the "Patrons" and "Sponsors" of the Anniversary, who were unable to attend, a copy of the "Record" will be forwarded by mail.

Other copies of this publication, to the limit of the edition printed, may be ordered by members and their friends, at \$3.50 each. We are sorry, but no free copies will be distributed.



AND SO ENDS  
THE GOLDEN STORY  
OF THE A. D. S.

*Lynn B. Dudley*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1964

## Greetings

By Mr. Edward B. Lloyd, General Chairman  
Introductions and Credits

By Mr. H. Dewey Mohr, Chairman Entertainment  
Enjoy Yourselves Tonight

Invocation — Rev. Lyle W. Anderson

## PRANDIAL

'Medlen' Honeydew — 'Dreyer,' Too  
With 'Lloyd's' Lemon Wedges

Cream of Mushroom Soup — 'Sarah Wood'  
With 'Fraser's' Croutons

Hearts of Celery — 'Lane'  
'Damp' Ripe and Green Olives  
'Edsum' Crumpets — 'Brookes' Butter

'J. Brown' JOINTS OF ROAST BEEF  
'Newsom' Yorkshire Pudding  
'Barnes' Oven Roasted Potatoes  
'Maarse' Broccoli — Polonaise

Ice Cream Delight — 'Ballego'  
Cafe 'Lebhar'

## POST PRANDIAL

Welcome to Guests — President Harry A. Dreyer

Introduction of Mr. Leo Pollak, Toastmaster

By President Dreyer

Address by Mr. Pollak

## Introducing

Mrs. Barbara Black, of Popular Gardening

Dr. C. E. Wildon, Retiring Superintendent, A. D. S. Trial  
Garden, East Lansing, Mich.

Mr. John Brown, Chairman Executive Council, N. D. S.

Mr. Lynn B. Dudley, Editor, Golden Year Record

Mr. H. F. Newsom, Secretary, National Dahlia Society

Mr. Philip Damp, President, Midlands Dahlia Society, Vice-  
President A. D. S.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Eveleens Maarse, Holland

Mr. Frank Harrison, Secretary, North of England Dahlia  
Society

Mr. Jan Ballego, of the Netherlands

Mr. Ronald Hatfield, Ass't Editor Garden News, England

Mr. George Brookes, President, Birmingham Dahlia Society

Miss Elizabeth Schaeffler, Nantucket, Mass.

Presentation of Awards to Show Winners by Mr. Lewis M. Culp, Chairman of Awards  
and Diedrich Meyer, Show Chairman

Distribution of 1965 Dahlia Introduction Door Prizes by Mr. Dewey Mohr, Chairman

"May Your Visit Here Be a Most Happy and Memorable One"