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 that 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 society? Yes. But this group went about it systematically, and the show was a success. The society had agreed a dahlia society was needed and its Editor, J. Harrison Dick, wrote an article with the above title. This was immediately acted upon.

A show was planned for the following fall, 1915. But, business was not flourishing, and the society was conceived as a National one.

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The meeting was well attended. Invitations were read inviting the members to a second meeting.

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, Westminster, R. L., "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 Storm's Trial Garden) wrote in 1951, 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."

A NEW DAHLIA ERA—In this period, 50 years ago, dahlias were just coming into American gardens. Most of the varieties grown and exhibited in shows were originally found in Europe. But, American introductions were getting into the spotlight. John Sheeppers, gardener for Judge Marean, of Greens Farms, Conn. early in the 1908's had succeeded in developing a new strain of large decorative, 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 pompons 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 meeting privileges. Each Participating member receives a copy of the Bulletin, 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. (Continued on page 26)
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 each other. 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 purring 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 test 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. Pack. 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 dahlia varieties 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 for it several years on a trial basis at these Official Trial Gardens, which in this year, 1961, number eight. It was first illustrated in the July, 1929 Bulletin. Its main categories were: Color, Stem, foliage, Form, Size, and average, allow points in basic figure.

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

It was again revised one year later (1955) 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 some column with the "B." 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, their hey-day, over 40 of these Medals were awarded by the publication to new dahlia in some 30 shows.

DAHLIA NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION LIST—The first list of dahlia varieties was published in 1919 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, type, and also the names of the originators. Several other lists were published by Prof. Norton and were issued later as Official A. D. S. Lists.

Beginning in 1950, the Norton List, with many deletions and yearly additions became the A. D. S. Official Master Nomenclature List. Until 1970, the List was kept by Dr. Marshall A. Howe, Director of the New York Botanical Garden. At his death in 1970, the list was placed in the keeping of Dr. Charles H. Conners, head of the Ornamental Plant Department at Rutgers Experimental Station, later to become a unit of Rutgers University. When Dr. Conners passed on in 1980, the List, which he had grown to about 5,000 names, was turned over to the present Chairman of Nomenclature, Wild J. Stone of Woodstock, 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 being on 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 1929, the Central States Society of Chicago, published a list of varieties, such as were being exhibited in the mid-west. These 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. Mayrott of Vineland, N. J. from the "Master List." Those varieties were included which, in his knowledge of catalogued dahlia, 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 1978, 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. W. V. in 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. 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 demands 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 was divided into 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.
To Stimulate Interest In Dahlias

(Continued from page 27)

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 them 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. associate societies by the committee. * * *

THE SEEDLING SWEEPSTAKES—Before 1950, the only major award for new varieties in shows was the American Home Achievement Medal. This was started about 1929 by Dr. Fred C. Sargent, an editor of the American Horticultural Society. 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 11 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. Knueck, 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.

The BILL & COO Gardens
Way Up in Washington
If you expect to have weddings or funerals in your family this year, you should grow our new
SNOW WHITE—B. P. D. White
10 Bucks per Root
BILL & COO GARDENS
1498/56 Ave. X Y Z. Edmantine, Wash.

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.

RESEARCH—In 1951 and 1952, 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 Institute 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, 1953 issue. It was a basic study and has been quoted for years by later studies and their pathologist researchers. * * *

ANOTHER STUDY OF DAHLIA DISEASES—In 1959, Rowland A. Miltner, a graduate student 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 Miltner 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.

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.

* * *

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 Prices 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 fears. Bugs swarm—there's virus doubt, Then! Bloom's 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 crow's feet!"
Dahlia Diseases A Menace

In several articles in this Golden Year Dahlias Record there are references to the grave problem of Dahlia viruses. We reported on those by Warren Maytrott, and Dr. Frederick Knolcke, past and present Chairmen of the A. D. S. Research Program, and the one by C. E. E. Wiltson. 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.

Dr. Varney and his associates have been directed towards isolating "antigen" (pure dahlia mosaic anti-serum) through this study, which 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 1963.

Dr. Knolcke said recently that Dr. Varney hopes to separate the virus, with the aid of electrical iontophoresis or with any other physical or chemical purification soon. It has been 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 antiserum. We hope at that time he will be able to describe the process in the A. D. S. Bulletin. We'll see 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 viruses. Without adequate spraying, aphids, thrip, leaf hoppers, white fly, and other sucking insects, the viruses from these plants spread to the healthy plants very rapidly.

Many growers rogue out the diseased plants as fast as they are discovered. 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 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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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 Swoboda, Ruscher, Dewey Mohr's late partner), I also met you and Warren Maytrott.

I recall that Dahladel 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 a lot. I am unable to set down all the things you have done for me. We made Col. Little better known by listing it on your Honor Roll, when I airmailed them to you, and this apparently "healthy carriers," or those varieties which seem to be resistant to virus. (And there are a few). Would you then be eventually able to breed a virus resistant race of dahlia?

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. If 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. Aphids 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 persist in other places in some areas and in some countries.
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 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 dahlias, 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 not with the application of rules and measures. It is certainly not an exact science. It requires highly developed knowledge, 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 Lousford.

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.

That 'Coca-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 was 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 breath 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—temp łuż—next day some wilted.

After the judging, Dr. Rike "col­lared" 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 "do how" win. I wonder sometimes if it pays to have a reputation for sobriety.

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.
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 extravagance—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 exhibitions taken 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:

“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, War, Mayorrost of Dahladel said sensed this increased interest by just the average type of gardener, several years back. Since then he has been listing in his catalogues as 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, Thost-As Edson, Lois Walcher, Garry Hook, etc., are increasing every year. They stock some 500 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.”

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At the show this afternoon, the New Jersey Tercentenary 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 200.”

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 TV Programs. The subjects chosen covered broad cultural suggestions for many programs, 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 camera, 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 Mr. 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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bessie Boston (Decorative),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate, Yellow, each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countess of Kenmore (Cactus)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure Umber, each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Duchesse (Marie), Show</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novel introduction, 1911 and very popular,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admiral (Cactus), Independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Philip (Paony), Cramine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants dwarf, each</td>
<td>$1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan Beauty (Show),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very large, stems 18”, red, each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritou (Decorative), Large Yel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf, each</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princess Juliana (Decorative),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large, Pure White, each</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalty (Decorative)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very large, Royal Purple, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Roosevelt (Holland Paony),</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creamy White, each</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaera (Cactus), Incurved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Gold, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian (Paony), Rose Pink, . . . . . . . .</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Emma (Paony), Rose</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Wilhelmina (Paony), White</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfactory, each</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>America (Cactus), Pink, striped           Carmine, each</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. D. Levonia (Show), Finest Pure Pink, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber Queen (Pompon), Pure Amber, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride (Single), Pure Waxy White, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle of Springfield (Pompon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson, Tinted White</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comet (Cactus), Rose, speckled Crimson, each</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal (Cactus), Fine Crimson, . . . . .</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colosse De Balcoeur (Decorative), Plants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dwarf, Flower large, Violet, Tipped White,</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delice (Decorative), Very large, Pure Pink,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long stems</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emersonella (Show), one of the best,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Yellow, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Childs (Cactus), Rich, Deep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Duke (Show), one of the best,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, each</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan of Arc (Cactus), Sulphur Yellow,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaded Pink</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennie Cauveaux (Cactus), Soft Pink,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaded Heliotrope</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiser Wilhelm (Show), Deep Yellow, Tipped</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Grand Manitous (Decorative), Largest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in cultivation, Lavender White, Should be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in Your Garden, each</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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**Garnet Huey at Pine Top**

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

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**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.
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 Pattle, white. Mary Elizabeth, red. Orfeo, purple.

This point is overlooked by many. When told that the peach-colored Surprise and the lavender-pink 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 it 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 sets 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 group 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 how to expect, yet there's no certainty. To the uninitiated—we, we've all tried describing colors to our friends.

**Heimatland**

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.

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**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 EDGE—examples, White, Tipped Edge 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 Linester LILAC—examples, Daishki, Victorian, Queen of Perpetuals PURPLE—examples, Picnie, Prometheus PEACH LILAC—examples, Rose d'Amour

DARK SHADED—examples, Raphael, VanGuard

SCARLET OR CARTE—examples, Nonpareil

CRIMSON & ROSY CRIMSON—examples, Breezeway Erectum, President of the West

DARK CRIMSON & MA ROON—examples,Queen of the Gypsies, Octavian

ROSE—examples, Adonis, Rosette, Exenia, Queen of Roses

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**COLOR STUDY**

By Frederick McKelvey, Santa Monica, Calif.

A Survey of the Color Situation in Dahliadom

PRAISE THE LORD! and "EAGLE E"

A 10½ INCH BIRD

On the Certificate Winning List in Trial Garden in Ohio.

Score 85 — Price $5.00

That's 17 Points for a Buck!

Write Me Today

REV. J. DANGLE

Rt. # 1—Little Creek, W. Va.

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.

In color. According to the explanation as given in the Joint Classification List, there may be more than two colors. Variegated dahlias are those dahlias that are 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.

So, let's take up those fourteen color classifications 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.

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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)
The first listing of dahlia varieties, but was probably the most comprehensive since far back as 1915, F. H. Hall of the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., added an index of dahlias containing 4000. Then in April 1921 the A. D. S. began publishing a list, but Norton's index that began in 1916, that's a high order list to be found in dahliadom. In addition to a variety's name, it's color was given. Prof. Norton's 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 flowers 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 crimson, 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 (Po), purple (Pu), red, white, bicolor, light blend 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 "blending of 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 written 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 a form of a fan. When unopened it measures 7½ inches long by ½ inches wide, and cost five dollars.

To get colors that are between the samples given, a numerical system has been devised. Therefore 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.

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 catalogues.

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 meaning of color is not yet settled either in this country or abroad. With the large number of apprentice judges coming along and an 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 of a "light brownish salmon, edged purplish lavender, lighter at base." What color is it? It's 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 don'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 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 catalogues. 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.

**Surprise**
Pck—Peach

**Pony Lady Y**—Dresden

**Jody Gregory**
Pck—Coral

**Miss Liberty**
Bl—Scarlet R & White

**Miss San Diego**
Lt Bl—Lemon Y, Tyrian Pk

**Eleanor Lundgren**
F—Currant R, Dresden Y

**Sundown**
Dk Bl—White, Tyrian Pr

This presupposes, of course, that everyone will have 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 Bt  
Gypsy King .................... L Y Var  
El Dorado .......................... O Bic  
Salmon Glory .................... O Bt  
Ohio Maid .......................... W Bt  

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 stores? There's just about every color imaginable. We don't know where their work was done, but it could be adopted 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 dahliadom. 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 big elephant trainer. Then they put me on this job of judging the small dahlias."

The Popularity of the Dahlia 50 Years Ago
By J. Harrison Dick, Editor
Gardeners Chronicle, 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 pleased 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. Soremon, 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 Wakanen Wood, Southport, Conn.

"The A. D. S. Golden Year Dahlia Record

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 horticultural 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 Dahlia 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, "than 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 'Noibles' 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."

"Can it be too, continued enthusiast Sayer, "that in the eastern part of floriculture, America keeps a slower pace with Europe, than in the closer culture of any other class of florists' flowers. It is only within a dozen or twelve years that any new specimens of dahlias were seen in this neighborhood. Nor do I believe they 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 Hallett's Cove, near Harleem. 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, uplifted and attractive to every observer. By the roadside it invites and cheers the weary traveler, and in the city it gives a lively conception to every passer by."
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 commemoration of the Fifty-year span of wonderfull 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, Rev. 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, the 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 illuminating bunch, all of them, and your visit to Yellin at 1455-20, 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 Dahligram, monthly publication of the National Capitol 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 your 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. KEMP

1939
GEORGE W. FRASER

1941
JOHN HARDING
PROF. ROLLAND PATCH

1942
C. LOUIS ALLING
LYNN B. DUDLEY
CONRAD FREY

1943
WARREN W. MAYTROT

1946
EDWARD B. LLOYD
JOHN VINCENT

1947
MRS. GEORGE GREEN

1948
WALTER L. W. DARNELL
GORDON WAASER

1949
MRS. FRIEDA FISHER
HARRY FRANZEN
WILL HAMP

1950
HON. GEORGE R. CURRIE
J. LOUIS ROBERTS

1951
E. L. D. SEYMOUR
PROF. W. E. HADDON

1952
MRS. SARAH W. WOOD

1953
PAUL FRESE
MRS. GEORGENA HUMBLE
M. DEWEY MOHR
LEO L. POLLAK
DR. E. F. MCDOW
HENRY A. OLSEN

1956
ANDREW J. MULCAHY

1957
CHARLES GARRITY
JOSEPH J. LANE

1958
DR. BRUCE B. PREAS
CHARLES J. DIFFENDERFER
THOMAS LEAVITT

1959
WILLIAM NOONAN

1961
STANLEY JOHNSON
ROY W. WEBB
DR. H. G. RICE

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 insects are of great use to gardeners and home owners. I deposited a few of your several times their weight daily in my yard, 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 handed to the mailman that something was loose; he made no comment, but continued his speedily retraced course.

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 warming 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 day's 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 boxes were deposited in the dehydrator section of the refrigerator. I took 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 found 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 smile. Ladybugs did not prove to be an efficient job of riddling the area of aphids, red spiders, etc., and that I sprayed less than a year before (I might add ladybugs are still in great evidence in our neighborhood) further, I would not dare redirect ladybugs for the sake of my marriage, but would recommend them to people who might have immediate use for them, in the garden—those "experts," but are single.

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

Thirty-four Years With Dahlias

By Dr. H. C. Rike, Birmingham

We have grown dahlias since 1920. 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 1920, we have been members of the American Dahlia Society, a fact for which we are most proud. Each year, since 1920, 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 the 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 gardeners. 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 fans than fishermen.
Dahlia Show

By Clarence R. Kallquist

"Another year, another show,
The dahlias all arranged in rows,
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.

When they were, they didn't care.
They picked the best ones of the lot:
All deserving what they got.
The judgments 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, New Jersey Dahlia Society, was an article on the subject of California, was an article by Donald A. Johns, 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, spokelled giants—and the Hybride dahlias too, which will do your garden good. And keep your eye on Your Neighbors, after you plant them.

REBUS DAHLIA GARDENS
Tillicome, Illinois

"Bulletins!" But the article in question, although undoubtedly most authentic and in great detail, could only be understood by a Ph.D. 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 Californian Dahlia Society

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS

Long Beach and Lakewood

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 it's 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 it's 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 towards 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 assistant 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 recently.

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 1950, at the height of a depression, staged one of the largest dahlias 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 ever were seen at a Michigan show, and rarely anywhere else.

We are indebted to Mr. George Brooks, 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 Peno, a much overlooked variety; Tu Tu, by A. T. Hodges of England; Kleijn's Jubilee; Deborah Jean, a Min. Cactus, a U. S. raising, cherry red and yellow; King's Rone, a big U. S. red; Violet Splendor, a large decorative; bi-color Oahu, a much overlooked variety.

These are the colors of flame, red and yellow; the bicolors; the bicolor decorative; the bi-color Oahu, a much overlooked variety.

The colors of flame, red and yellow, 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."

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 Burholt 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. I was 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 old timers would like to reminisce a bit. The Editor was our still very active Lynn B. Dudley. (My half page ad appears on Page 86.) Also, listed is my pompom Betty Anna which is still winning ribbons and is widely known. A total of 74 advertisers appeared in the issue. Fifty-six of these are no longer in business.

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.

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. After attentive Committee hoped that such an advance budget would be sufficient, with registration fees included, to cover all necessary expenditures for entertainment of many guests.

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 authors 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 (The Evergreen); Col. R. T. Eddy, Encinitas that 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 Show in Chicago in 1949 by Stanley Swanson, to whom we are indebted for the print.—L. B. D.
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—Mid­West 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 McMellon.]


The King of Flowers

By William Scott Doig

Boise, Idaho (1958)

The Dahlia! King of autumn shades
Which turns our thoughts from
Flaunting bright colors far and wide,
His rugged beauty shows his
In all its joy, until its length,
His sparkling beauty ever bright,
Flaming colors far and wide,
Draped beauty shows his
Endowed with honor and with might,
Dashed forth in brilliant flame.
To spread o'er all the earth his fame,
King by royal decree!
Is crowned by regal flowers.
For me.-Rudolph Motznick, Greater
May reap his riches, for his hand
And on the show tables and
In flashing harmony;
Charm, at the same time with his name;
His fiery beauty shows his
Heard with honor and with might;
Evanescent glints enthralls
And his fiery beauty shows his
That it is the generosity of the
A king in color, size and worth,
For a superlative dahlia
Graced by regal flowers.
One Dahlia Conference gave a
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
Boise, Idaho (1958)

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, Retser, 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 a dahlia, 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.
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.
"What?" he said. "That 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 ever worthwhile pleasure's price;
That man must battle what is bad
If something better's to be had.
But garden griefs I hid from him
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 my 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 Dahila Gardeners will appreciate its sentiment.—L. B. D.

Some Things We Don't Know About
Dahlias Breeding
By A. G. Goodacre

Recently I was asked (1924) to a Southern California Dahlia Society meeting to talk on "Hand Pollination 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 Pollination."

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 in her laws to make his own improvements. Perhaps he does. But undoubtedly it is 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-pollinized 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 the many agents which will 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 take his chance and leave to nature his varieties which are evidently receptive, and let nature do the rest. This is in right pollenating condition, on to a growing flower of another variety of bloom with a rubber hand. He may take two flowers growing near each other and tie the heads together, and consider that this system parturition.

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 stigma is ripe he transfers that pollen to the anthers of the stigma of another variety which has proven to be a good seed producer. 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-pollination was published, 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 article could be re-published and we could all remember our memories. (Editor's Note: Mr. Frank P. Quimby's article to which we believe Mr. Goodacre refers was published in the A. D. S. Bulletin, January 1921.)

"Hooding" 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 practising them certainly cannot claim to have hand-pollinized 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 the dahlia lover's success in definite crossings. Certainly the last named method of pollen transfer, with hooding of flowers for several days at least, until after the pollen, or male sex, element, 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. Browne calls "parents"—or incapable of producing seed (or off-spring). On the other hand, some varieties are particularly receptive to new strains. So, we dahlia lovers do in finite interfering with natural crosses—to obtain some characteristic we think we need in dahlia—well there's the market! 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 current varieties of dahlia, 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. Abellina
Mr. and Mrs. Wilford H. Adams
Charles Albright
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 Bickel
Thomas Biddle, Jr.
Frederick J. Binstadt
Peter J. Birgy
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Bivens
Eugene H. Banko, Jr.
William P. Boland
Alexander S. Borson
C. H. Bowen
J. L. Bowling
Mrs. Anna Bremer
Job M. Browster
Conrad V. Brieger
George Brooks
C. Stuart Brown
J. C. Broyles
George and Gen. Brunjes
Mrs. Ellen S. Bullus
Rowena D. Burgman
Arnold and Elizabeth Burnette
Mr. and Mrs. Ollie L. Burton
Dr. and Mrs. Herman Cappell
Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Cason
J. Adrian Chabassol
Florence C. Cleapp
Morris P. Clarke
Marie and Marion Clayton
Emeline M. Cole
Lloyd and Charlotte Cole
Willis W. Collins
C. Louis Comito
R. Paul Comstock
Robert F. 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. Donnelly
Mrs. Charles Doscher
John H. Eagel, 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
Paul and Vicki Hale
Mrs. James E. Hall
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 Impicciiche
M. S. Jacobsen
George W. Jacques
Robert A. Johnson
Joseph Kaim
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Keck
Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Kershinsky
Dr. Peter J. Kessler
Raymond B. Keuper
James A. Kidston
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kimmell
Kingwood Center
Fred and Louise Kleinjohn
Frank Knapp
Charles Konzen
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kover
Z. W. Kosmela
Morris L. Koss
Charles M. Lambert
Roger F. Laneley
Charles Lasch
Carol and Jim Lawless
Carl E. Lundvall
John Lyons
M. G. & D. Eweleens Maarse
A. H. Mac Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Makowski
Joseph Marinello
Arthur S. Mason
Emil Maurer
William A. Mc Clain
Peggy McGrath
Donna and Everett McMillan
Charles E. McNama
John Meister
John C. Metzger
Caroline and Dick Meyer
Leo and Catherine Miller
Bob Mohr
Charles F. Mossier
Rudolph D. Motznick
Abram R. Moyer
Hazel Moyer
Joe Mugno
Tim Murphy
John Musso
Dr. A. E. Nash
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Neal
Pauline and Bill Neckerman
Jack Newstead
Arlington Nice
Dr. and Mrs. O. H. Nolan
Frank A. Novell
Albert Offerdinger
Edward J. O'Keefe
Bea and Henry Olsen
Irene Owen
Pacific International Livestock Exposition
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Palmer
Lawrence Palminteri
Mrs. Hector A. Pape
Edward V. Patrick
John J. Patrick
Alden Pearson
Harry Pfuhl
Clarence G. Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Phillips
Joe Pighini, Jr.
Joe Platisha
John Plewinski
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Popp
Herbert Priest
R. L. Pyle
David Reese
Stanley R. Reagan
Frank N. Richmond
Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Rike
Herman Rindfleisch
Harvey W. Rivel
Charles and Betty Robbins
Chauncey A. Rogers
Howard R. Rolph
C. A. Russell
William W. Ryther
Robert Schlett
Helena Schmitz
Frank J. Schoeller
Helen L. Seaman
Seattle Dahlia Society
Vance Sellers
John S. Setescuk
Edward J. Sheron
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Simbritzki
M. Elita 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 Stone
Will J. Stone
Suburban Dahlia Society of Md.
Clifford A. Taylor
Garvin P. Taylor
Al Tedesco
Toledo Dahlia Society
O. C. Tonning
Alex Toth
Herman Tresch
Richard and Hazel Trotter
Dr. J. W. Trowell
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 Hershel Whittaker
Etheil H. Wiederman
Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Wildon
Stephen Wilhelm
K. E. 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 ahhing' 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. Brighton Avenue, Milwaukie, Oregon, has been a commercial grower since 1912. That adds up to 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 rugging 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 doing 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. McDuffie 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, dahlia types. After her son, Richard McCarter, took over the business it 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. Kozlowski, 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 scrapbook 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
Dahladel, Vineland, N. J.
Firma D. Brudigem, 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, Columbus Station, Ohio.
Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens, Rockville Centre, L. I.

Congratulations, A. D. S.

From Morris P. Clarke, Private Bag, Yarragon, Victoria

"I am very pleased that the American Dahlia Society will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary in September, 1961.

"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 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.'

(Editors' Note: In the next mail, following this letter, we received a special 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.)

Dahlias Breed Friendships

Says Robert C. Connal

"I started growing Dahlias, back in '34, planting several hills in a rear corner of my lot, forming a buck- drop 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, Philip 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 Dahladiom, and my association with the American Dahlia Society for many years has resulted in many lasting friendships."
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 Chairmen of the A. D. S. Membership Committee, I hope that all of you (I mean "you-a-1") have seen and heard, while attending this here now affair, that 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 of it, 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.  

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 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 didn't. I was lucky to keep on showing "A's." That is, up to 1969, when I had to stop, due to a serious accident to Mrs. O'keefe in an automobile.  

Before I desisted, here are a few of my triumphs. Sixty Blues at the 1933 New York World's Fair; 37 firsts at the Radio City Show; Won the Earnest R. Tooker Trophy seven times; won 10 American Home Achievements and many sweepstakes at Peekskill, Long Island and New York.  

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 they will pass among you (not the 'workers' in this 'vineyard.'  

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. Lanx  
First Secretary, A. D. S.  
(Ed. note: We changed four words, with author's permission. Guess which.)  

Ed. J. 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 married Larry Bateman, author of "Floral Superintendent" of the livestock show with the thought in mind that Pat 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 take several hundred dollars in 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, there being 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 268-3301 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 all come see the livestock, some purty flowers and the other land products; from 100,000 to 300,000 other folks will see you there.—B. S. "Bing" Chambers.  

Meet the Kershinskis  
Pet and Madge Kershinsk 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" dahlia, 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 charter members of Portland Dahlia Society.  

Chances and Grubs  
Where the bee seeks—come seeds,  
But I grub where the grub grubs,  
Butterflies fit from hour to hour,  
While I, with grubby hands, grow dahlias.
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 Fiftyieth 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 this way, he has been a member, and for several years, 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 Begoniera Dahlia Society for three years. He and Mrs. Neckerman have, together, managed to grow some 1000 bills 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 an 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 is 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 kind 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 and we can and are able to do so. —Louise Kleinjoh, 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 I 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 talking 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. Boskie 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—Joe Bradfield used to say, "Just the Humidity," 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 illness 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 early 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 50th.

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 "grape" and "praise if due" sessions with Secretary Edward Lloyd for quite some time. Therefore, we can only deduce that he is not as spry in his health as he used to be. In fact, it was reported as of August 15 that "Connie" was in Clara Maas Hospital in Belle­ ville, N. J. for observation. But it is 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 1st). 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. Georgenia Humble, of Doug­ laston, N. Y., Life Member and member of Executive committee, was ill as of August 9th. We hope that Mrs. M. reports that she 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 Belle­ ville, N. J. for observation. But it is a ten to one shot that he will be there at the 50th.

There was a rumor that reached the west coast 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 the 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 New York. 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 highly unlikely 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 Dahlagram, in Arlington, Va., late but in a roundabout way we heard that he was "recovering" from an indisposition of some sort. We send our wishes that Arthur is such an 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 queeress 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, to go into commerce. Sometimes I do. But the proof on it pays me only a fraction of what it costs me to produce it.

Then why bother?

I can tell you why. 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 in a tremendously exciting competitive sport. It is a game in which you confront the challenges of weather, of droughts and floods, of bugs and blights. Her fickleness and perversion are a challenge to man's will and endurance. A man gets a big kick from winning this battle against Nature.

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

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 mental adventure when your needs begin to germinate in the seed flat and the first frail green pops out of the soil. It is a discovery adventure when some of them dump 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 dahlias patch in September and note the cascades of white flowers, the glibbers of blemish-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 amusing 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 and did much to expose and popularize dahlias. This article was published in the A.D.S. bulletin, reprinted by permission, from Better Homes & Gardens.

Gating this way, it does seem that a great deal of effort should be put into the cultivation of dahlias and the promotion of their cultivation. The Pacific SouthWest Dahlia Society is a fine organization and one that deserves more attention than it has received in the past.

The Pacific SouthWest Dahlia Society has been successful in promoting the cultivation of dahlias in the Pacific SouthWest region. The society has held several trials of dahlias in the region, and these trials have resulted in the selection of many excellent varieties. The society has also published a bulletin, which contains information on the cultivation of dahlias, and this bulletin has been widely distributed to members of the society and to the public.

The Pacific SouthWest Dahlia Society is an organization that is dedicated to the cultivation and promotion of dahlias in the Pacific SouthWest region. The society is an excellent example of the kind of organization that can help to promote the cultivation of dahlias, and it is to be hoped that the society will continue to be successful in its efforts.

NITA Made Dahlia History

Says Glen L. Pierce

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

He made 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. The sale of the new "B" variety, in 1960, was unprecedented, with an unprecedented price of $3.00 per root, because of the size and quality of the plants. The variety was made by the "forced" method of plant marking. It was an achievement in dahlias dissemination. Credit to both Paul and Glen. Glen had a heart attack soon after this and retired from the business.

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 Peninsula. The botanical 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 botanical 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 by maintaining the splendid 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 the 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 membership support it has gained has made it a model which the County of Los Angeles is using for other specialist 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 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.

New Dahlia Varieties

Says M. Y. (Tommy) Thomas

In 1959 I was at the Mid-West Dahlia Show in Wisconsin. George Richardson, a churchman and botanist, was there and told me about a new variety of dahlias. George was a churchman, and further, thought that strong drink was acceptable. Roy White, on the other hand, thought that a bit of the old corn juice was a boon to dahlias 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. Good! 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 Delica a nice pink about 3/4 inches, and pin美景 about 3/4 inches. Today, at any rate, I took three well matched blooms of it and won a first at a silver vases with them. I thought that a bloom of Millionaire, George Stillman's origination, 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.
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 helping season, of bouquets of dahlias, and the newcomers are somehow (?) the winners. (c) 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 push 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 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 to 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 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.

PAST PRESIDENT
DR. BRUCE PREAS

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

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. Dietrich 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 Bergenfield 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 'winners' at our shows—Mrs. Esther Makowski.

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 knock.
Hunting Wild Dahlias
In their Central American Home
By Marion Storm, Hotel Progresor, Irapuato, Mexico

It is the rule, in beginning a biography, to go back to the great man’s birthplace, for there find out very little about him. Just so, wild Dahlias baffled me for a year, when I came to the old field, with the hands of the more southern highlands of Mexico. Dr. Howe, the Dahlia specialist of The New York Botanical Garden, wasted 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 another long stay, and at once took up the trail. “There aren’t any now.” “But when can I find them, please?” “In the rains.” “July and August?” “Yes, cómo no?” “But everyone has said, late in October.” “Yes, after the rains.” In October. I pressed on, and with indignant I-Dahlias 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 a fact, and learn it. Winter and spring went, with no wild Dahlias reported. But one day Don Silviano, 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 form his home in Peruán, 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 Silviano’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 along the edge of the rail line, and both hill and hot country Indians trade 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 very long ago that it was 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-triziqui” or more rarely “guaras-triziqui.” “Tiziqui” 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 the 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. “Gauras” 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 the “guarizin” of the chayote (the “chinchayote”).

For wild Dahlias, I discovered, the only names known in Michoacán are these two: dalia-triziqui and guaras-triziqui (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 1802; 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, where the caption of my picture reads, “Dahlia—the great man’s birthplace and there find out very little about him—the more south ern highlands of Mexico,” did the Dahlia does not say Azteca and Chichimeca were as forgetful as Tarascan. I would stand by our charcoal stove in the kitchen and poke a bunch of garden Dahlias and poke of some suspicious and trail-weary Indian. “What do you call these, por favor, up in the sierra?”—and always was discouraged to hear “dahlia.” 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—tiziquin—tiziquin—dahlia. Jà que picuni, ja que picuni, Por pi-ecco-ya, taba.” A lovely old Tarascan sierra song, which is from Ychan, one of the Eleven Villages. Up in the state of Michoacán 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 up in the mountains, mid-November, and was only to send to New York. I’d been up in the mountains, and I could hardly keep from joking! I was trying to find charahuescas! In glee I demanded, “Then charahuesca is the name for Dahlia! It is the name of the camote of the dahlias—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 could not be lured again. On the other hand, a native girl of twenty said that she and her companions had preferred 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 look 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, and even young people could not take me seriously. Surely I might buy enough other refreshing roots to eat!

It was this season—the time of the heaviest rains: August and early September. I must hurry! “Where can I find charahuescas myself? I can come to them, if nobody will bring them in.” “Oh, there are none now.” “But when?” “In October,” they said. In the market, 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 full again. I would go 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 capital a thrilling triumph was usual. 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 reading Maturin’s big Diccionario, which gives Tarascan names for the Rose of Castile and the Flower of 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 rare information about Uruapan to be found nowhere else. And there on page 228 stood a footnote relating to the prehistoric gardens of Pátzcuaro: Saluen-triziqui is the name of the dahlia. It is probably the only Tarascan word with the letter “S.” The name implies “many bright colors!” I could hardly keep from jumping and shouting. Perhaps I was now the one person among the Tarascan who knew their aboriginal name for Dahlia! After much special effort to get back to Uruapan and hunt for wild Dahlias by mid-October, “I must go for charahuescas,” I explained, the (Continued, Bottom Next Page)
Hunting Wild Dahlias—Continued

day after my return. "Where will be a likely place?" "Oh, there are none now. This is not the season." "What is it?" "In the rain." "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 none 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.

Dahlias Pinatas—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 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 1856, in New Rochelle, N. Y. Dr. Conners wrote. "This species Dahlia Variabilis is the probable source of most, if not all, of present varieties of dahlias."
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 rivaled 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, all 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 the 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 XVI, No. 2, August, 1929.

Lawrence secured as many wild species as were available and grew these in a garden, and he also studied a large number of possible cultivated species as were available and grew these in the garden near the staff's residence, if these can be found. It is evident, therefore, that this work presents an important contribution to the study of the genetics and cytology of the Dahlia species, if these can be found.

There seems to be two anthocyanins: geranium red and purple. So, a scarlet flower will probably be a yellow ground with red anthocyanin, and variations will occur with various concentrations of the anthocyanin pigment.

In the Dahlias are two series of soluble pigments — flavones and anthocyanins. The flavone series consists of almost an continuous gradation from ivory, to deep yellow, and these colors respond to chemical action with ammonia. The anthocyanins are classified 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 of them fell into two groups for flower color: Group I (ivory — magenta-purple, where the ivory flavone forms the foundation color upon which are laid the anthocyanins) Dahlia merckii, D. mazoni, D. imperialis, and several others, all of which have bluish to many 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 cocinea, D. coronata, and two others, which have yellow to scarlet rays.

The one exception, the so-called species, Dahlia variabilis, is the probable 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 when the full color is as a 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 ground with 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 is from the field of speculation into one of more or less reality. It is very definitely established that inheritance is carried out through small bodies called chromosomes, 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 little form is the result of crossing a species of the ivory-magenta-purple group with a species of the yellow-orange-scarlet small charahuesca to peel and nibble, but it wasn't sweet, now so late. Soon after, I rode toward El Chino with old Mr. Hurtado, who rents horses, and we met two men eating their tortillas at the roadside. "Have you seen charahuesca up this way this year?" "Oh yes. There are still some—and down in the malpais of San Pedro. But they are not so 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 may be from the wild species, because it appears to be a hybrid growing with it. Such happenings are chance, or as the geneticists call it, fortuitous. If we had the parent species 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 and in the new lands. If he finds the species, 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.)

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. Dr. Connors who died 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 authors 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.
Dul Purpose Dahlias

By Phillip Damp
President and Founder Midland Dahlia Society

Possibly the greatest single point in favor of growing the dahlia is its adaptability for a dual role. The speciality 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 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 (Herts), and his raising shows up and down the country.

John Crutchfield, from Sussex, regularly wins with his dahlias as to the dual-purpose group, and his miniature decorative, Doris Duke, soft pink and formationally perfect, annually makes its appearance as to shows up and down the country.

Of the very new, the long-stemmed, ball-shaped Flamencro in flaming red, raised and introduced by the Thomas Horton dahlia nurseries at Stourbridge, Worcestershire 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 formational-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" dahlias?

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

Dahlia 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 from 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 free dahlias, as tall as twelve feet. Then we arrived at a village with an altitude of 8,500 feet and witnesses a park planting of modern dahlias 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 really missing something.

Even the bedding types furnish bery, that he not be haughty 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 anyone question comes up, in which you are not in accord with the trend, it is wise to keep your mouth shut, keep the chair—and speak your peace. Have all the arguments—and/or criticisms out in the meeting—on the floor. Don't tell me 'I told you so' member."

"It does not take an intellectual great to see something is not feasible, after it has been tried out."
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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The A. D. S. Golden Year Dahlia Record
These Workers Made
The Fiftieth Anniversary
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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.

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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’

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Introduction of Mr. Leo Pollak, Toastmaster
By President Dreyer
Address by Mr. Pollak

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