the Vintage rose

FALL 2024, ISSUE 35

THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

NOTE: *please change your pdf view to landscape mode for optimum screen viewing.*

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES Fall 2024, Issue 35

TABLE OF CONTENTS

'Janet's Pride' 3

Apparently the orignal name for 'Janet's Pride' was 'Clementine', a rose bred by Jacques Louis Descement . . .

The Rose of Richard III 4

Richard III (Oct. 2, 1452–Aug. 22, 1485), King of England from 26 June 1483. . . .

'Mme Caroline Testout': The Rose that Made Portland Famous . 5

In 1905 when they arrived for the Lewis and Clark Exposition, visitors were astonished by the rose-lined streets of Portland. . . .

Old Roses on the River Bank 11

The Owen Rose Garden in Eugene, Oregon is an eight-acre municipal garden. It was established . . .

Banking on Roses in the Gene Bank 15

POM, Sweden's Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants, is a gene bank of Sweden's Agricultural University whose goal . . .

About My Rose Collection 19

I proudly identify as a dedicated rose collector because I enjoy the unique colors, forms, habits, and scents . . .

Remembering Notable Rosarians: Ruth Knopf 22

ON THE COVER: *'Erik' (photo by Darrell Schramm)*

FROM THE EDITOR

Of the six rose articles in this issue, we begin with three historical stories, two of them brief, one lengthy and worthy of historical archives. They tell of roses that trail the past behind them yet enfold us in the present within their petals and scent, within their beauty. The last three of the six discuss what is being accomplished today in the kingdoms of the rose: the efforts of an ever-evolving public garden in Oregon, the variety of an equally ever-evolving private garden in Iowa, and the wise preservation of roses in a Swedish gene bank. The endurance and reverence of such old roses from the time of 'Alba Semiplena' to 'Janet's Pride' and 'Mme Caroline Testout' and those of our modern times present us with hope and gratitude. For we, each human being, may come and go, but these roses grew glowingly and steadfastly for our forebears and, with our devotion, will continue to bless our posterity. It is, then, as these articles show, our duty to preserve such grace given to our lives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

General questions: *info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Re: the rose collection: *curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Re: donations: *treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Volunteering: *volunteercoordinator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org*
Newsletter editor: *schrammd@sonic.net*

'Janet's Pride' (photo by D. Schramm)

'JANET'S PRIDE'

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Apparently the orignal name for 'Janet's Pride' was 'Clementine', a rose bred by Jacques Louis Descement before 1815. It was re-introduced by George Paul in 1892, having been found in England along a Cheshire lane by the Rev. C. Wolley-Dod (for whom a rose was also named). It is an eglantine, i.e. a *Rosa rubiginosa*. When Ellen Willmott wished this rose to be painted by Alfred Parsons for her unique and voluminous book *The Genus Rosa*, he was obliged to travel to the north of England to locate it, which he did. His depiction of the rose appears opposite rose #145, *Rosa Eglanteria*, in Willmott's tome. This rose, pink and white, semi-double, proves to be shade tolerant. ■

'Alba Semi-Plena' (photo by D. Schramm)

THE ROSE *of* RICHARD III

Andrea Donahue

Richard III (Oct. 2, 1452–Aug. 22, 1485), King of England from 26 June 1483 until his demise in 1485, was the last Plantagenet and Yorkist King. His death by the future Henry VII in the Battle of Bosworth marked the conclusion of the Middle Ages in England.

I belong to a Facebook group that is of the belief that Richard III was a good king who was framed by Henry VII. When Richard's remains were found in a car park in Leicester, and the facial reconstruction was completed, and we saw his countenance, we were excited and in awe.

One of us, Griffin (last name withheld) did a beautiful digital drawing of the king, and included a white rose, supposedly the White Rose of York. Of course I recognized it as a modern Hybrid Tea rose, and explained that the rose of Richard's time looked quite different. I asked if he would consider swapping it. He was absolutely gracious, and intrigued, and when I sent him a few images of 'Alba Semi-Plena', he substituted it in the drawing. I think the result is lovely. I obtained his permission to share this little brush with the past: a lesson in history, roses, art and friendship. ■

above: Digital drawing of Richard III holding 'Alba Semi-Plena';
left: holding a Hybrid Tea Rose, not in existence during his lifetime.

above: 'Mme Caroline Testout' (photo by Elizabeth Potter)
right: A fence of roses

'MME CAROLINE TESTOUT': *the* ROSE *that* MADE PORTLAND FAMOUS

Laura King

In 1905 when they arrived for the Lewis and Clark Exposition, visitors were astonished by the rose-lined streets of Portland. Rose euphoria was under way, and Portland became internationally known as the Rose City. The year 1907 saw the beginning of the Portland Rose Festival with hedges and home gardens providing millions of roses for floats, women's hats, and anything else

that could be covered in roses. By the mid–1920s rose fervor was dying down, but dedicated citizens issued passionate pleas to keep the streets lined with roses and keep Portland the Rose City. The following decades saw rose planting revivals, but the glorious era of rose-edged streets had passed.

Mrs. Georgiana Pittock (1844–1918), wife of Henry L., publisher of the *Oregonian*, learned about English rose gardens and rose shows from a lecture at the Unitarian church near her home. She then traveled to England to see for herself and realized Portland would be an ideal place for rose shows. In 1888 she invited friends to show off their best roses in a large tent set up in her back yard. Her informal gathering was the forerunner to the first official rose show and the founding of the Portland Rose Society in 1889. Attendee C.E.S. Wood stood on a chair and enthusiastically declared a rose show should be held every year. With these words, the Portland Rose Society grew from this beginning to become the first and oldest rose society in the United States. Mrs. Pittock served as its first president. The society was organized with its own charter and membership on February 18, 1902. Rose show rules and categories were based upon that of the National Rose Society of England.

Like today, early 20th century Portland business and civic leaders were seeking ways to boost growth and recognition of their city. Following the success of the Oregon state exhibit at the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, local Portland civic leaders began thinking about having Portland host a world fair. In December 1901 George H. Himes of the Oregon Historical Society had suggested an exposition to be held in 1905 to celebrate the centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition which had explored the land between

1911 rose walk

St. Louis, Missouri, and Astoria, Oregon, from May 1804 to September 1806. Renowned rose fancier Frederick V. Holman was asked by the Lewis and Clark Centennial committee what could be done to beautify Portland for the 1905 event. He recommended planting colorful varieties of roses.

Holman said, "If there is space for but one variety of roses [sic], I urge the planting of Madame Caroline Testout; it lacks the perfume of La France, but maintains its exquisite pink color, even in the hottest days of August. . . [N]o city in the United States has as beautiful a site as Portland. We can give a color beauty and a color-effect to every yard in Portland. . . Portland has not yet a distinctive name like San Francisco, . . . but we can, if we will, give to Portland the name of the 'Rose City' during the Exposition of 1905."

Master plans included beautification of the city. The Portland Rose Society canvassed neighborhoods asking residents to plant roses. People in northwest

Woman admiring 'Caroline Testout' rose hedge NW 25th & Lovejoy

Portland planted hedges of 'Caroline Testout' and 'La France' roses along the Exposition's gateway streets, which became a blooming wonderland. In September 1904 two-year-old 'Caroline Testout' bushes were used to fill in any gaps. The pink rose hedges made a spectacular show for the opening day of June 1905. It was a citywide undertaking never seen before or thereafter. Landscaping included 7,000 'Caroline Testout' roses. Attendance exceeded expectations with about two and a half milllion visitors in less than five months. After the Exposition, 'Caroline Testout' roses would continue to play a key role in shaping Portland's new identity as the Rose City. The love affair with Portland and its roses spurred population growth and real estate booms.

A special Rose Day had been set aside for June 3. The Portland Rose Society held a lavish show in Auditorium Hall on the grounds. The Society expected 100,000 roses from 15,000 home gardens to be delivered for show entries and decorations, and they were not disappointed. The community response was stupendous. The fragrance and beauty of more than 400,000 roses greeted visitors at the doors. The next morning the *Oregonian* reported, "It fixed . . . in everyone's mind that the Rose City of Oregon is the prettiest place in the United States. . . . A huge bunch of Caroline Testouts on Mrs. (Herbert) Holman's table were cut from her hedge, which is over 100 feet long, and which is grown from the cuttings of the first Testout bush ever brought to Portland. This rose, which is the most popular one grown in Portland, was raved over by visitors."

At the farewell banquet, Mayor Harry Lane proposed an annual citywide Festival of Roses. The Rose Fiesta and parades promoted by the rose society starting in 1904 thus evolved into the the celebration known as the Rose Festival founded in 1907.

"Roses Fragrant, Roses Rare, Roses Roses Everywhere" was the slogan for the second annual Rose Festival. 'Caroline Testout' was the official rose and "cover girl" for the schedule of events. Euphoria over the rose was seen in 1908 with city streets, gardens, and women's attire decked out in roses. 'Caroline Testout' made her presence known in magnificent displays for decoration of automobiles, horse-drawn carriages, and marchers in the dazzling street and river parades.

Incidentally, in the late nineteenth cenutry, ladies' hats were often decorated with colorful wild bird feathers. Some native bird species neared collapse under this pressure. Public concern over this bird slaughter took many forms. For example, Oregon in 1903 adopted a Model Bird Law to protect native birds from being shot. The Audubon Society of Portland grew out of this concern and remains active today. In Portland, roses and other greenery soon replaced feathers. Portland women proudly wore hats with freshly picked 'Caroline Testout' roses, saving many birds from falling victim to fashion.

On June 19, 1912, the Royal Rosarians formed with a membership of 100. Each member is linked to a particular rose and pledges to promote the Portland Rose Festival and the realm of Rosaria to the rest of the world. The Kingdom of Rosaria is based upon English monarchy, which includes a prime minister, a court, and knights of the rose. The Royal Rosarians

began traveling to events in other cities to promote Portland and its roses, On July 17, 1912, they marched in Seattle's Potlatch Festival with each member carrying a 'Caroline Testout' rose. In December they planted a 'Caroline Testout' bush in front of the Hotel Oakland in Oakland, California. Inspired by the Rosarians, Oakland then organized a group called the Royal Oaks. A 500 member delegation of Royal Oaks traveled to the 1913 Portland Rose Festival where they marched wearing 'Caroline Testout' roses in their lapels. The Royal Rosarians became the official Greeters and Ambassadors of Goodwill for Portland and are dedicated to community service in charitable projects.

For over 100 years the elected Queen of Rosaria has reigned over Portland. She appears in person during Portland Rose Festival activities with her entourage of princesses. Some of her duties include participation in parades here and abroad, dedicating rose plantings, and welcoming all into the Kingdom of Rosaria. The first official Queen was elected in 1914 from a slate of candidates presented by various business and philanthropic organiztions. From 1931 to the present, queens have been selected from seniors in high schools of the Portland area.

Miss Thelma Hollingsworth, a 17 year-old file clerk, on May 19, 1914, was the first elected queen. That year the Portland Rose Festival Association arranged a goodwill railroad tour of western states. A special Pullman car left Portland the evening of May 29th. The queen and her eleven princesses planted a 'Caroline Testout' rose at each of the ten stops and invited all to attend Portland's annual festival. The royal party was showered on June 8th with hundreds of 'Caroline Testout' roses at their last stop in Salem, Oregon.

Children have participated in the Rose Festival from its Rose Fiesta days beginning in 1904. A parade of 2,000 children from 23 schools took place in downtown Portland during Rose Carnival Week in 1907. Some of the school children marched in white uniforms bedecked with pink 'Caroline Testout' roses. The Junior Parade became an official Rose Festival event sponsored by the Hollywood Boosters in 1936. It is the nation's oldest and largest children's parade. The parade route is along Sandy Boulevard through the Hollywood District.

'Caroline Testout' rose hedge and rose archway at NE 25th & Lovejoy. (Cross & Dimmit photo post card)

Portlanders were enthralled by a spectacular sight in late February 1908. A parade of rose-bearing children escorted by the Oregon National Guard and decorated wagons loaded with 5,000 rose bushes made their way through downtown to the South Park blocks. The idea for Rose Planting Day was initiated by the *Oregonian*. Mayor Harry Lane set aside three city blocks along Park Avenue for "one of the most unique [sic] civil demonstrations ever planned in the United States." Half of the roses planted were 'Caroline Testout'. Archbishop Christie of the Catholic Church in Oregon blessed the roses. The first bush was planted by the Superintendent of the City Park Board with countless volunteers planting the rest. The roses bloomed for a number of years until increasing shade from park trees led to a slow demise of this grandiose plan.

In 1909 the official flower of Portland was sent to United States President William H. Taft and his wife as an offering of goodwill during the third Rose Festival. In 1913 the White House Rose Garden was established by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. The *Oregonian* reported that a 'Caroline Testout' rose bush was placed in the garden in the presence of President Wilson the following year.

In 1909 a number of new homeowners moved into the area of Ladd's Addition where they planted trees and 'Caroline Testout' roses along the sidewalks. A beautiful mosaic of more than 3,000 roses planted in four square garden blocks radiate from a center circle in the neighborhood. The East Rose Garden contains the largest collection of 'Caroline Testout' roses of any Portland park. The roses bloom from spring through fall and are found on the east side of the East Garden. Volunteers with Friends of Ladd's Addition Gardens help the city maintain the roses though an extensive Adopt-A-Bed program.

left: Rose parade fire engine float (photo by Fr. George Schoener); right: rose child

The Irvington neighborhood also had rose-lined streets. A 100-year-old 'Caroline Testout' hedge presumably still blooms on NE 21st near Knott. The Montavilla Rose Association, established in 1909, planted 5,000 rose bushes along Montavilla neightborhood streets. Hedges of 'Caroline Testout' roses were placed curbside on NE Glisan Street circa 1918.

A German-born Catholic priest, Father George Schoener, "Padre of the Roses," was inspired by the 'Caroline Testout' roses he saw blooming in northwest Portland in October 1910. He then experimented with open-air cross-pollination of this rose and others in his churchyard garden at Assumption Church in Brooks, Oregon. Eight-inch diameter blooms from his 'Caroline Testout' rose tree helped garner a Medal of Honor for his exhibit in the Oregon Pavilion at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

From its start in 1919, the Women's Advertising Club of Portland promoted civic involvement and the Rose Festival. The Mystic Order of the Rose in 1924 formed as an auxiliary to focus on the rose as Portland's symbol of identity. They pledged

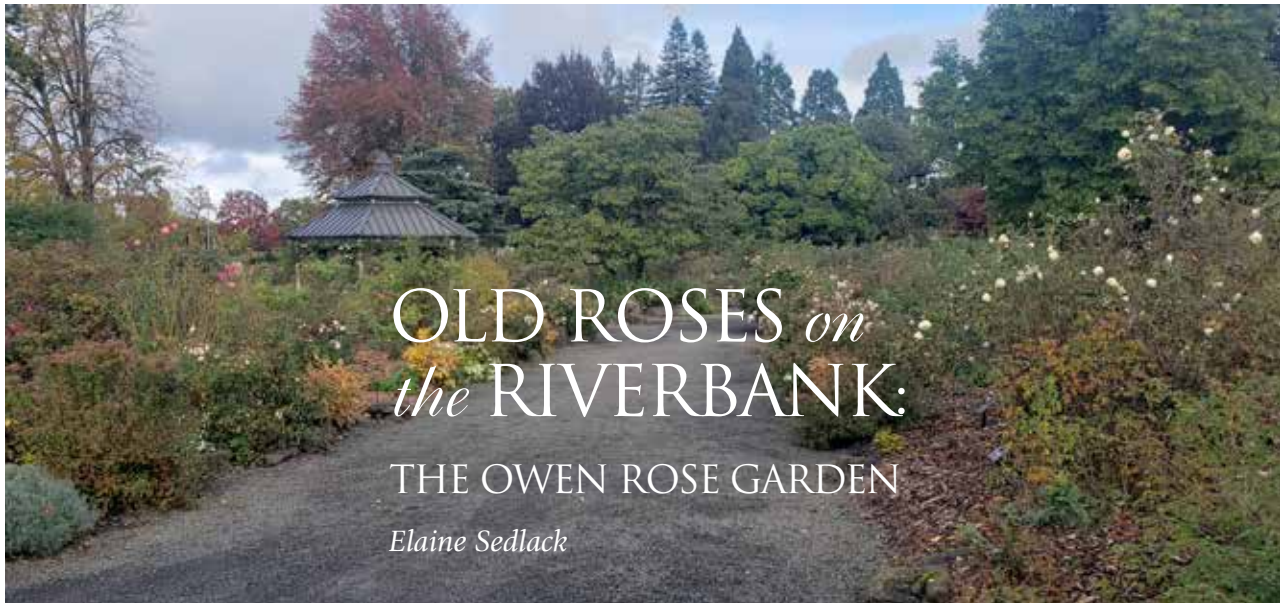
above: Portland rose hedges 1910; right: 'Mme Caroline Testout' (photo by Elizabeth Potter)

to foster a "spirit of roses" by extolling Portland as the City of Roses at every opportunity. The women began greeting visitors to the city with gifts of roses. They also became involved in the balloting campaign for 'Caroline Testout' when the Portland Chamber of Commerce asked the public to pick either the 'Caroline Testout' or another rose as Portland's rose. Mail-in coupons were published in the May 1933 *Oregonian*. Though it had declined in popularity after World War I, the rose readers voted overwhelmingly to keep was 'Caroline Testout' as Portland's signature rose.

Who was Caroline Testout? She operated a fine dressmaking shop in Paris and London. The shop Madame Caroline is listed in an 1890s London commercial directory; it was located on Queens Road. According to rosarian author Jack Harkness, "[S]he saw the rose . . . as an advertisement for her business." As the story goes, it was ordered by the dozens and lavishly set about Madame Testout's shops as a decorative backdrop for her new seasonal styles. Her society clients swooned over the rose. As passersby saw the enormous buds and silvery pink petals in her salon window, the rose became the talk of the town. How much of this excitement parlayed into dress orders is unknown. Ultimately, the fame of the rose eclipsed that of the person, and no sketches, photographs, or scraps of fabric have been found that can be linked to Madame Testout or her shop.

In 1890 rose breeder Joseph Pernet-Ducher of Lyon had started a rose from seed that was sold to a Madame Caroline Testout. This award-winning silvery pink Hybrid Tea quickly became a sensation in France and England. The rose was then shipped to America by the thousands, drawing accolades at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exhibition where it caught the eye of visiting Portlanders and was afterward planted by the hundreds of thousands along Portland streets. In December 1921, General Ferdinand Foch, Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in World War I, visited Portland. The Portland Rose Society presented him with an enormous basket of more than 100 roses. He accepted the roses, not for his own efforts during The Great War, but on behalf of fellow French citizen, Joseph Pernet-Ducher, for the creation of the 'Madame Caroline Testout' rose.

Portlanders continue to "Keep Portland the City of Roses" by planting and caring for new and historic roses and by volunteering at public parks and gardens. By participating in Rose Festival and Rose Society events, they keep the Spirit of the Rose alive. ■



OLD ROSES *on the* RIVERBANK:

THE OWEN ROSE GARDEN

Elaine Sedlack

The Owen Rose Garden in Eugene, Oregon, is an eight-acre municipal garden. It was established in 1951 on land George and Ethel Owen donated to the City. Mr. Owen had entertained thoughts of it becoming a sports facility, but at the urging of Eugene Rose Society member Winston C. Carnes, it was agreed instead to develop a rose garden, and the Society initially donated 750 modern roses. According to legend, the gigantic bird cherry, *Prunus avium*, at the north end of the garden was planted on the property in 1847 by City of Eugene founder Eugene Skinner. In 1977 this heritage tree was dedicated to Mr. Carnes, who, by convincing Mr. Owen to dedicate the land to a rose garden, most likely prevented it from being cut down!

The Garden is fortuitously situated on the south bank of the magnificent Willamette River. The adjacent river path provides easy access to the Garden for the walking and bicycling public. It is unfortunate that a freeway ramp to the east opened in 1970, changing the character of the surrounding residential neighborhood. Nonetheless, the garden is a much visited and peaceful place.

The garden-esque charm of the place is enhanced by several large beds containing interesting shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Besides the cherry tree, there are fine specimens of Asian magnolias, an old dove tree, a huge native bigleaf maple, and a number of mature conifers, including several native cedars and the Himalayan *Cedrus deodara*. These frame the landscape.

A fine 60 foot specimen of Brewer's weeping spruce, a very rare conifer native to Oregon and California, claims the SE corner. There is also a linden, sheltering the Albas, and a tall English oak, under which grow the eglantines. Most of the trees were planted by Paul Heard, who was the second gardener to work at the Owen, at first under Glen Thompson, then later as the lead gardener when Glen retired. Several of us were able to interview him two years ago and learned much history of the Garden's development from him. For instance, he told us that the decision to plant the parking lot with Polyanthas was made because the public was less inclined to pick them.

left: old roses in late October; above: Rosa willmottiae in species bed (photos by Elaine Sedlack)

Although change is intrinsic to gardens, this one has survived various attempts to 'improve' it—sometimes by benign neglect. It is now one of the very few remaining rose gardens in the U.S. that is open to the public in which a good number of old European roses are still displayed. These are planted informally in the southern half of the garden. Some of these date to the initial planting of the heritage rose beds in 1967, when the garden staff made numerous trips over a two-year period to dig altogether 1000 plants that were otherwise slated to be destroyed after Roy Hennessey's rose nursery near Portland closed. A wide expanse of lawn separates these beds from the formally planted modern roses at the north end of the Garden. In the center of the Garden a pergola and gazebo were installed in 1998 with funding provided by the local Rotary Club. Then, in 2018, at the instigation of gardener Daphene Sampson, the organization also contributed to the purchase of 450 new roses, all heritage varieties. These are planted in tiered beds around the gazebo, arranged by volunteer Suzanne Lewis, who also helped choose the varieties. With this development, the focus on heritage roses has grown in proportion to the modern roses, both of which are exhibited nicely in the Garden.

Several rose classes are well represented at the Owen, but even among those whose numbers are minimal, visitors are given a good sampling of the old varieties, including an array of Gallicas, and a six foot-wide plant of 'Empress Josephine'—which someone had the presence of mind to give her own place to in the lawn. I intend to plant 'Chapeau de Napoleon' in another, more isolated island bed, 'in exile', as it were. One of the most delightful Gallicas to my mind is 'Cramoisi Picoté'. It has very small, almost spherical flowers, the tiny petals a blend of rose pink and ivory. Another striped Gallica is 'Perle des Panachées', along with, of course, obligatory Gallicas in any respectable collection of old roses: 'Rosa Mundi' and 'Officinalis', the Apothecary's Rose. 'Autumn Damask', 'Celsiana', 'Leda' and 'Mme. Hardy' comprise a small group, augmented by 'Hebe's Lip', 'Stanwell Perpetual' and a number of Damask Perpetuals.

Among the species collection, two massive plants of the rarely seen Japanese *Rosa hirtula*, are growing in a remote corner of

top left: 'Empress Josephine'; top center: 'Cramoisi Picoté'; above 'Leda' (photos by D. Schramm)

the parking lot; they are probably 20 feet tall. This is a close relative of the chestnut rose from China, *Rosa roxburghii*, both forms of which are here, along with our native Oregon *Rosa nutkana* and *R. pisocarpa* and a few eastern U.S. species. From Europe the uncommonly cultivated *R. sempervirens* and the musk rose 'Nastarana' have only recently been identified (many names were lost during the construction of the pergola). Fall hips are displayed on *R. pendulina*, the Chinese *R. moyesii* 'Hillieri', and lacquer-red hips on *R. hugonis*. This latter plant with its fine ferny foliage spans an area at least 15 feet wide.

There is a nice selection of Teas, with multiples of 'Duchesse de Brabant', 'Lady Hillingdon', 'Monsieur Tillier', and two statuesque plants of 'Etoile de Lyon', which grow exceptionally well in the Willamette Valley. Three newly planted 'Mme. Antoine Rébé' flank the climbing 'Souvenir de Mme. Léonie Viennot'. Several 'Marie van Houtte' and 'Jean Bach-Sisley' are thriving alongside 'Clementina Carbonieri'.

There are many Hybrid Perpetuals, including the dark red ones, such as 'Henry Nevard', 'Eugene Fürst', and 'Pierre Notting'. Some of the most commented upon by the public, especially by people who are not that familiar with the flower forms of the old HPs, are the voluptuous 'Enfant de France', 'Arrillaga', 'Sydonie', and the large peony-like flowers of 'Paul Neyron'. The Portland class includes a new plant of 'Pamela Temple', now joined by HP "Miriam Wilkins"—old friends who are becoming reacquainted here. They are situated across from a hedge of 'La Reine', with a backdrop of three Bourbons, 'Zephirine

top left: 'Jean Bach-Sisley'; bottom left: 'La Reine' (photos by E. Sedlack);
above: 'Ducher' (photo by Jeri Jennings)

Drouhin' and the two shell roses, 'Reine Victoria' and 'Mme. Pierre Oger'. Other Bourbons in the collection are 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' and her sport 'Kronprincessin Viktoria von Preussen', 'Louise Odier' and "Honorine de Brabant'. 'Mme. Isaac Pereire' and 'Mme. Ernst Calvat' scent the air on the path leading to the gazebo. At the southern end of the Garden is a hedge of 'Gloire des Rosomanes'.

The Chinas are a little tender here; we are learning to lavish extra care on them, especially after the recent ice storms. 'Hume's Blush', 'Slater's Crimson' and 'Old Blush' are grouped together, aiding the docents to easily share the history of their introductions. (Weekly docent tours of the Heritage roses are offered between May and September.) Several plants of the infrequently seen white China/Tea 'Ducher' line a path, while

above: 'Fortune's Double Yellow'; right: 'Crepuscule' (photos by D. Schramm)

'Mutabalis' and 'Comtesse du Cayla' anchor the centers of the two China rose beds. Climbing 'Old Blush' is one of the first roses to greet people on the pergola. Tea-Noisettes and Ramblers arch over the curved walkway, and the reliable 'Phyllis Bide' frames either end. True Noisettes are represented by 'Blush Noisette', 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and 'Mary Washington', the latter commonly found around town. Hybrid Musks are grown in many areas of the Garden, with a tall display of 'Bishop Darlington' trained on the east fence just off the parking lot.

The newly planted roses filled in rapidly, and many were becoming crowded. Some of them are climbers that require support, so in the fall of 2022, gardener Annie Paskey had the brilliant idea to contact Justin Hoffman, the welding instructor at Lane Community College, with a proposal to have his class build ten steel structures for these roses. The Garden paid for materials, and the class gave of their labor to produce ten eight-foot pillars. On a foggy February day in 2023, 12 students came to install the finished pillars, amazingly, all within one day! It was a positive experience for them, and I'm sure that they will be bringing their families to admire this substantial contribution to the Garden long into the future. Now, some of the roses that are displayed to full advantage on these structures include 'Fortune's Double Yellow', *Rosa setigera* 'Serena', 'Harison's Yellow', 'Climbing White Maman Cochet', 'Souvenir de Mme. Léonie Viennot', a rampant 'Crépuscule', and the climbing form of the first designated Hybrid Tea, 'La France'.

The current Garden staff consists of only two permanent employees and one seasonal. Amber Stich, Becca Carnaby and Bokju Choi are responsible for maintaining the entire garden, including the lawn and irrigation systems; for deadheading all the roses; for training all the climbing roses; and for pruning the extensive Polyantha collection. A dedicated group of volunteers comes two days a week, helping to keep the beds weeded and mulched and to care for the roses. The mature old European cultivars that are here have been freely growing in this beautiful garden setting for over 50 years. They begin blooming in May, three weeks earlier than those in the modern section. The large lawn and wide paths' pleasing proportions provide ample space for the roses, and for visitors to enjoy the relaxed charm of the classic old garden roses. Please visit! ■

BANKING *on* ROSES *in the* GENE BANK

Darrell g.h. Schramm

POM, Sweden's Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants, is a gene bank of Sweden's Agricultural University whose goal is to preserve, conserve, and sustain a cultural diversity of trees, berry shrubs, vegetables, and ornamental plants , which, of course, includes roses. Since about 2005, the gene bank has identified, inventoried, and documented old Swedish and Norwegian garden roses and those imported to Scandinavia before 1950. In addition to elderly women who have provided much history and knowledge of the roses, rose catalogues and price lists have provided information. POM also makes intensive DNA studies of its roses.

Most of the roses in the gene bank are of the hardy kind, foremost among them Gallicas, (about 55 of these), Albas (the second most commonly found in Sweden), Spinosissimas (about 60 in the gene bank), as well as Rugosa and species hybrids. Centifolias follow in number. Modern shrubs ('Munstead Wood' comes to mind. Note: The Austin company has now withdrawn it from commerce.), early Hybrid Teas (such as 'Etoile de Hollande', 'Mme Caroline Testout', and 'Prince Bulgarie'), Floribundas ('Frau Astrid Spath' is one), and Polyanthas ('Lady Reading' and 'Katherine Zeimat' are two) are scarce in the collection. Only about six per cent are recurrent blooming roses. Seventy-nine roses in the gene bank are probably Swedish roses. Provenance is not certain of a few.

left: 'Hovby'; top right: 'Erik' (photos by D. Schramm)

Among the many familiar Gallicas in the gene bank, such as 'Duc de Guiche', 'Duchesse de Montebello', 'Jenny Duval', and 'Rose du Maitre D'Ecole', we find many less familiar. 'Hovby' is one, pink with paler pink outer petals, a large, very double rose, cupped yet flat, on a bush that can reach five feet. A mystery Gallica found in about 20 Swedish gardens acquired the study name of "Ulla's Rose." Its rich rose-pink, pleated petals seem to emerge from a tight button eye, not always discernible. Floriferous, the thickly full flowers appear somewhat rumpled yet elegant.

top row, left to right: 'Ulla's Rose', 'Hypathia', 'Gudhem', 'Suaveolens'; bottom row, left to right: 'Centifolia Major', 'Smakarr's Inger' (photos by D. Schramm)

Between 1850 and 1890, 250 varieties of Gallica were in Swedish commerce. Today that number is a mere 57, yet that is substantially more than offered in the USA.

'Hypathia' (also 'Hypacia'). sometimes considered a Gallica but likely a Centifolia, is adorned in dark pink or light red, speckled with white flecks and freckles. Both semi-double and double, this very fragrant rose was bred before 1844 by the famous Alexander Hardy. Another Centifolia is listed as 'Major' in Sweden, which apparently is 'Rose des Peintres'. A strongly scented, large double rose in clear, vivid pink, it grows to six feet and dates back to the 1590s. It was often portrayed in Dutch floral paintings. Like most Centifolia, it bears both straight and hooked, large and small prickles.

The gene bank contains such well-known Albas as 'Alba Maxima', 'Alba Semi-Plena', 'Belle Amour', 'Chloris', and 'Pompon Blanc Parfait'. 'Gudhem', on the other hand, a Swedish sport discovered in the 1980s, is an Alba bearing single flowers, white with a yellow boss encircled by tall stamens whose anthers brown becomingly with age. Tall and bushy, it climbs to eight feet. It hints of a light scent. Also an Alba, 'Suaveolens', double, light rose-pink aging to white, was found, too, as a sport, this one of 'Great Maiden's Blush'. Another sport of 'Great Maiden's Blush' appeared in 1950, 'Smakarr's Inger', named for the woman who owned Smakarr Nursery.(The accompanying photo was taken in a drenching downpour of rain at Alnarp.)

Damasks such as 'Celsiana', 'Pink Leda', and 'Blush Damask' grow in the gene bank. But so do lesser-known Nordic Damasks. 'Belle Catherine' is a name given this rose in 1918 by

top to bottom: 'Belle Catherine', 'Jonstorp', 'Great Western'

top right: 'Farmor Selma'; bottom right: 'Blomsterhult' (photos by D. Schramm)

a Carl Dahl of the Alnarp Garden Nursery. But the Swedish Rose Society of Northern Sweden prefers the name 'Minette'. The rose is believed to go back to the 1840s. It is not clear that it is a Damask; it had also been classed as a Centifolia, and one nurseryman considers it the longest-lived and toughest of Albas. For decades this rose has been found on abandoned Swedish farms. A full rose, lilac pink and strongly aromatic, with scarcely a prickle, 'Belle Catherine' can reach five feet in height.

'Jonstorp' was discovered in east-central Sweden, a pink, very full Damask with a light, sweet scent. Upright and arching, it can attain six feet or so. DNA indicates it closely related to 'Celsiana'. It's been known in Sweden since the 1930s.

An unknown rose first encountered in Norway by a man named Erik and since found in more than a hundred locations along the western and southern coasts of Sweden and in east-central Sweden is the Damask rose 'Erik'. A deep pink, very full, medium-sized flower, it flourishes on a four to five foot bush armed with prickles. But its outstanding trait, surely, is its fragrance. To my nose it produces the most deliciously incredible scent of any rose in my experience. The floral incense of 'Erik' is simply nothing short of a beatitude. The rose has been known in Sweden through Peter Osbeck's herbarium since 1788.

Of course the gene bank contains Bourbons, such recognizable roses as 'Louise Odier' and 'Great Western'. In fact, in the 1800s, many young settlers moved to Norway, taking with them 'Great Western' and sharing it. Today it is quite commonly found in western Norway. It should be noted, however, that the Scandanavian 'Great Western' appears in two

varieties, that of smooth or clear petals and that of striped petals. Both have been known in Sweden since 1867.

'Farmor Selma', a Bourbon in Sweden since before 1910, shows rich rose-pink petals, the central petals upright and darker in a very ruffled flower. It is probably an imported

left to right: 'Strömsro'', 'Skeda', 'Klippsta';
bottom right: In the rain (photos by D. Schramm)

rose first marketed in Sweden about 115 years ago. Another Bourbon in the gene bank is called 'Blomsterhult', a name given it by POM. A very thickly full rose in pink, the outer petals pale, the larger ring of central petals almost red, it has been familiar in Sweden since between 1900 and 1910. A lovely rose, but its three to five leaflets sometimes invite blackspot.

'Strömsro', a Bourbon in Sweden since the 1890s, bears light pink flowers, often in a pinwheel of petals but sometimes more relaxed. Rather without prickles on its smooth stems, the plant's leaves are large and semi-glossy. Blossoms yield a spicy scent. Found in fourteen locations throughout Sweden, this old-fashioned rose bush was named for the place where it was first discovered. 'Skeda' is a found Bourbon, a cluster-flowered beauty in violet. It can reach seven feet. Some similarities to 'Great Western' exist in its genes.

Because Rugosas are so cold hardy, the POM gene bank contains an overdose of these roses (if such a thing as "overdose" exists in the rose world). Of course it holds such Rugosas as 'Conrad Ferdinand Meyer', 'Hansa', and 'Moje Hammarberg'. One unknown Rugosa in Alnarp's gene bank is 'Klippsta', probably a Swedish rose. It has made its home in Sweden since the 1940s. A five-petaled rose in purplish pink with straw-yellow stamens, it develops in small clusters. The flowers I observed (in a downpour) grew on a low bush; perhaps it grows no taller than two or three feet.

The visit to the National Gene Bank at SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) in Alnarp was somewhat curtailed because of a strong deluge from the sky. But on the tour bus I had been fortunate to sit across the aisle from the botanist Lars-Åke Gustavsson, recently retired head of the Gene Bank. Naturally, I plied him with questions. I had hoped to speak to him more at length in the garden, but the rain hampered that intention.

The intention of POM program is to make the gene bank available to all for use in breeding new roses for cold climates, for restoration of period gardens, for cultural landscapes, for nurseries and the general public who may request—for a nominal fee—plant material to propagate. Given the frequency in the world today of wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and other devastating climatic occurrences, we should be grateful for the wisdom of the Swedes in their preservation efforts. The very efforts of the POM demonstrate the worthiness of The Rose. ■

ABOUT MY ROSE COLLECTION

Andre Carl

I proudly identify as a dedicated rose collector because I enjoy the unique colors, forms, habits, and scents they offer us. Currently, my roses are grown at my quarter-acre plot of land within the city limits of Des Moines, Iowa. Winters here are cold while the summers are hot and humid. While I have around 700 rose varieties listed on my helpmefind.com page, I grow many more as I also have a good number of seedlings too. My roses are somewhat cramped for space, but there is always room for more.

My rose journey began at the age of 18 when I purchased a few roses from a nursery selling Brownell Sub-Zero Roses. At that time, finances were limited, so these cheap Brownell roses were perfect! I was so excited when they arrived. I had 'Dr. Brownell', 'Charlotte Brownell', 'Lily Pons', 'Maria Stern', 'Arctic Flame', 'V For Victory', 'Queen o' the Lake's, 'Senior Prom', 'Helen Hayes', and 'Curly Pink'. I was unaware that they were not highly rated varieties or that the nursery I purchased them from had a questionable reputation. But they grew well for me and they would spark a lasting interest in Dr. Brownell's roses. I was ecstatic to discover an online rose nursery

top left: 'Dr. Brownell' (photo by Cass Bernstein); above: 'Helen Hayes' (photo by Margaret Furness); top right: 'Country Doctor' (photo by Andre Carl)

located in California that carried harder to find Brownell roses. Fifteen years later, I still grow many of the Brownell varieties I purchased from Vintage Gardens — 'Lafter', 'Pink Princess', 'Apricot Glow', 'Shades of Autumn', 'Break o' Day', 'Orange Ruffels', 'Pink Pillar/Eternal Flame', 'Golden Arctic', and the amazing 'Country Doctor'! I love Brownell roses and hope to find more of them. In fact, I love them so much that I have included them in my own rose breeding. My first two seedlings came from an open pollinated hip of 'Senior Prom' and I still grow them.

A gift of cuttings from 'Prairie Lass' introduced me to another breeder, Griffith Buck. I admit that I did not really think much of growing shrub roses before 'Prairie Lass', but I changed my mind. With its unique stippling, good form, constant bloom, and excellent disease resistance, I was hooked

far left: 'Carefree Beauty'; left: 'Prairie Star'; bottom left: 'Persian Yellow' (photos by D. Schramm)

and searched for as many other Buck roses as I could find. 'Carefree Beauty', 'Prairie Princess', 'Prairie Star', 'Prairie Sunset' and 'Prairie Sunrise' were some of the first Buck roses I grew. In one year alone, I purchased every Buck variety that I did not already have listed on Chamblee's website. Sadly, a few were lost during a move, but I am slowly finding the varieties lost and rebuilding my Buck collection again. Because much of Dr. Buck's breeding philosophy aligned closely with my own breeding goals, it was easy for me to incorporate his varieties into my own rose breeding. Indeed, one of the favorite seedlings that I produced, 'Prairie Lady', is a cross between 'Carefree Beauty' and 'Lasting Love'. The proximity of where he conducted his breeding and trials to where I currently live is definitely a positive thing, and I love visiting Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa to see their collection of Buck roses

Naturally, my rose collection has grown beyond these two breeders and includes varieties from many other breeders. Eclectic is the best word to describe my collection. I have roses from most recognized classes: Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Miniatures, Modern Shrubs, Polyanthas, Large-Flowered Climbers, English Style, Hybrid Perpetuals, Bourbons and Portlands, Gallicas, Moss, Damasks, and Ramblers, and many species and their crosses. I also grow varieties from the more tender classes like Chinas, Teas, and Pernetianas — they may not be ideal for my location, but I have found ways to get them to thrive. I have lost many varieties along the way, some of which have proven to be nearly impossible to replace like 'Neige Parfum' (both forms) and 'Nimbus', but most have flourished. Happily, my eclectic rose collection provides me with a stunning array of colors, scents, and forms throughout the growing season.

My rose collection will always be growing so, to keep sane, I try to focus on a few categories of roses at a time. One category I am currently focusing on is the yellow

left: 'Fragrant Plum' (photo by Beth Hana); center: 'Etoile de Hollande'; right: 'Crimson Glory' (photos by D. Schramm)

species roses. Many have unexplored breeding potential and offer unique chacteristics amongst the species roses — both in color and form. I love *Persian Yellow* and want to grow the single form. I also appreciate *R. xanthina*, but want the double form. And of course I would really love to grow the difficult-to-find ones like *R. hemisphaerica* and *R. ecae*. Lavender, purple, and russet roses form another focus for growth in my collection. I love 'Fragrant Plum', 'Paradise', 'Night Owl', 'Ebb Tide', 'Stephen Rulo', and 'Stainless Steel' but would love to add the difficult classics like 'Grey Pearl', 'Sterling Silver', and 'Grey Dawn'. I was so happy to finally get a copy of 'Lavender Pinocchio' this year! It is hard to grow, but I am grateful for the challenge. Additionally, I am always looking for the older red Hybrid Teas. I am proud to grow both 'Etoile de Hollande' and 'Gloire de Hollande', and will always have a plant of my favorite rose, 'Crimson Glory', in my garden. But I still am working on replacing my 'Château de Clos Vougeot', 'Hadley', 'Lissy Horstmann', and 'Christopher Stone'. And of course, because they are so special to me, I continue to collect and preserve as many of the Brownell and Buck roses as I can.

I am working to have my own acreage in the next few years and this will allow me to give my collection more room to grow and thrive. My collection will definitely be expanded then, with a focus on the groups listed above. I am hopeful that my collection will be a reliable source for rose material for those who want it. I am happy to do my part in aiding The Friends of Vintage Roses in preserving a small piece of its collection and look forward to years of furthering its mission of preserving and sharing historic roses. ■

REMEMBERING NOTABLE ROSARIANS

Ruth Knopf

I first met Ruth Knopf in 1988 at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California. The occasion was a conference organized by the fledgling Heritage Rose Foundation. On the great lawn near the rose garden we sat eating our box lunches when her sister, Tutta Mood, struck up a conversation with me. Tutta was a vivacious Southern woman, and by her side the quiet and mischievous sister listened calmly, and then gently corrected Tutta on the names of several roses she had mentioned. That was the Ruth that I came to know as one of my closest friends over the many years that followed.

For the next twenty years our friendship was fed by a mutual love of the old roses, their many beauties and the histories that surrounded them in the places we each lived. As I established my nursery in California, Ruth collected old roses and old Southern garden plants where she lived and wandered in the Carolinas. She made a garden of Tea roses at the rectory near Rock Hill, South Carolina where she lived with her husband John and daughters Caroline and Karine, for whom she named roses, one a ruffled peony-flowered sport of Mme. Joseph Schwartz, the other a seedling Ruth found in her garden, of dwarf habit and clusters of single pink blooms.

After the sudden death of John Knopf, Ruth and Karine moved permanently to Sullivan's Island, a barrier island beside Charleston. She was in the process of moving her plants to the old island house when hurricane Hugo struck, lifting the house and knocking it off its foundation. Shortly afterward, when the house had been righted and patched, I went to visit her for the first time. The delights and beauties of Charleston helped me to see the connection between roses and history. And Ruth and I developed a bond over the old Noisette roses, whose history was in need of retelling.

Ruth launched into a new life. While Karine finished school and began her studies as a childrens' librarian Ruth started consulting on historic garden-making and proposed the creation of a new garden at Boone Hall to replace a 19th century parterre at the entrance to the house. Her creation was stunningly beautiful and drew

above left: Ruth at the Berkeley Botanical Garden (photo by Malcolm Manners)

above: 'Miss Ruth' (photo by Gregg Lowery)

left: Ruth German Rose; right: Boone Hall (photos by G. Lowery)

visitors to see a collection of roses known to grow in the area beginning in colonial times. She set the roses in a planting of old perennials and annuals that had once adorned those old gardens. Her collections of plants from waysides, cemeteries and gardens found a new home and brought new respect for plants of the past and their adaptability for modern gardens. Among the treasures Ruth revived was 'Fanny's Aster,' a hybrid native aster with very fine flowers—a plant collected in the wild by her mother's gardener Fanny in Sumter where Ruth grew up. It took the hardy perennial world by storm in the late 1990s.

Her work in Charleston culminated with the creation of the Noisette rose walks through the old city. In these 'rose walks' were planted dozens of found old Noisette roses, discovered at historic sites throughout the Carolinas and Georgia, supplemented by foundlings from the Northeast and from California. They told a story of how new rose plants were created and grown in America's past. A Noisette rose garden was proposed for Charleston's Hampton Park which Ruth had encouraged since arriving in Charleston. Then Ruth began to plan for a conference on the Noisette roses of Charleston.

In October, 2001, three years of work preparing for it were nearly lost by the devastation of September 11th, when attendees feared to fly. But, the International Heritage Rose Conference on the Noisette roses went forward. Charleston minds were changed, and visitors from around the world came to share and to learn about a small, fragrant, blush-pink rose and its origins at the start of the American experiment. Champneys' Pink Cluster changed the world of roses forever, ushering in a new age of climbing roses that bloomed repeatedly. And one soft-voiced, self-effacing and persistent woman used her passion to make the world a more beautiful and honest place.

In 2005 Ruth Knopf was the first recipient of the Charleston Horticultural Society's '1830' award. And in 2011 I was honored to introduce Ruth and her passion for old roses on the occasion of her being named 'Great Rosarian of the World' at the Huntington Gardens, where we first met. We lost Ruth to this world on October 17th this year. Karine and Caroline remained at her side through years of loss of memory and declining health.

These milestones in Ruth's life in roses tell an important story about sharing. In her passion for roses, the most important thing to Ruth was the sharing—always the plants, always the true story that is lost in the whirl of time. What I hope to describe more fully in a future article is a more personal story of my friend Ruth who I knew and loved and laughed with every day I that spent with her.

I'd like to share that experience of Ruth, and I ask those of you who knew her to share your memories with us for the next chapter of this story dedicated to Ruth Knopf, Great Rosarian. Please send your thoughts and memories of Ruth to me. We'll welcome the Spring with your stories and mine here in our newsletter.

—Gregg Lowery
curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Vintage Roses exists to preserve and enhance the unique and extensive collection of historic roses developed by Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson, to establish the collection in a garden, and to share the collection with other public rose preservation efforts, all for the purpose of educating the public about the importance of the rose to human history, cultures, technology, and science.

below: view of the San Francisco Bay Area from Mt. Tam (photo by G. Lowery)

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Gregg Lowery, Curator & President
Darrell g.h. Schramm, Editor-in-Chief
Joan Olson, Layout Design Editor & Secretary
Steve Dunatov, Business Manager
Pamela Temple, Facebook Editor
Andrea Donahue, Treasurer
Susan Feichtmeir, Fundraiser
Trang Bui, Fundraiser
Jody Doss, Volunteer Coordinator
Cindy Lopicollo-Giles, Volunteer Coordinator

ROSE COLLECTIONS CURATORS

John Bagnasco, CA—Hybrid Teas, Pernetianas & Floribundas
Erin Benzakein, WA—Old European roses & Hybrid Musk roses
Trang Bui, CA,—English roses
Andre Carl, IA—Brownell and Buck hybrids, yellow Species roses
Susan Feichtmeir, CA—Modern Shrubs & Polyanthas
Greta Gladney, LA—Old Roses of New Orleans
Pam Greenewald, FL—Hybrid Giganteas
Beth Hana, CA,—Pernetianas
Cindy Lopicollo-Giles—Moss roses
Julie Matlin, CA—Damask Perpetuals (Portlands)
Mark Mason Taylor, UT—Bourbons & Gene Boerner Hybrids
Felicia McManamy, GA—Found and Favored roses of Ruth Knopf
Susie Sedlacek—Tea roses
Pamela Temple, CA,—Ramblers & English roses
Ralph Tran, CA—Hybrid Perpetuals & Damask Perpetuals (Portlands)
Cydney and Art Wade, FL—Chinas, Teas & Noisettes
Miles West, CA,—Large-Flowered Climbers