



*Celebrating the*

**Golden Anniversary**

*of the*

**AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY**

**1915–1965**

*and featuring the*

**World's Dahlia Congress**





## Welcome....

**O**N behalf of every member of the American Dahlia Society, I welcome you—to New York—to America—to the Golden Anniversary of this Society and to this First World's Dahlia Congress, held in commemoration of that Anniversary.

The growing of this flower—the dahlia, which was discovered some 400 years ago in Central America, is a real key to friendship, the world over.

It is as good friends of yours, then, that our Society greets the members of dahlia societies from other lands and from every part of these United States.

We have held many lengthy meetings, over the past two years, planning for the reception and entertainment of you, our guests. Looking back, we see many other things which we might have done, to make you happier and more comfortable. But you are here and it is our hope that any omissions on our part will be forgiven.

Perhaps it is fortunate that there is another attraction to visitors, not far from here. It's the greatest World's Fair ever presented in America, perhaps in the world.

Whatever the reason for your presence here, we, the members of the American Dahlia Society are happy indeed to have this "Golden" opportunity to look each of you in the eye—shake your hand—and talk together about our mutually favorite subject—DAHLIAS. Truly, this is the "Golden Year of the Dahlia."

Thank you,

*Harry Dreyer*

President, American Dahlia Society

TO A TRUE DAHLIA FRIEND HARRY RISSOTTO 6-3-89  
MAY THE GOOD LORD BE AS KIND TO GRACE AND HARRY RISSOTTO  
AS HE HAD BEEN TO MY HARRY AND ME IN OUR TIME  
OF GROWING DAHLIAS. GOOD LUCK AND MAY GOD  
BLESS YOU BOTH. ALWAYS MY LOVE FOR DAHLIAS!  
Marie Anderson



# The Golden Year Dahlia Record

A Souvenir Edition

New York, N. Y., September 19, 1964

A Historical Document

## TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT!!

**We Break Bread – We Cement Friendships**

Many dahlia growers from many lands and many states are gathered here tonight to assist the American Dahlia Society to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

The World's Dahlia Congress, held in conjunction, has discussed many problems of International importance and solved some of them. These discussions were, and will continue to be, in the areas of Standardization of Nomenclature, Sizes, Forms and Colors.

The Show being staged here in the New Yorker Hotel for the first time, is, without doubt, one of, if not the largest ever staged by the American Dahlia Society. In total number of entries, in the number of entries in the almost 500 classes, it undoubtedly exceeds any flower show ever held in this city. It is also "tops" in the number and character of entries shipped by air from foreign countries and, indeed from all over the United States. Many of the nearly 75 societies associated with the A. D. S. have sent blooms and awards. Certainly, in vivid and varying colors, it is superlative.

The number and character of the special Awards also exceeds that of any dahlia show by the American Dahlia Society. Nearly seventy societies have contributed their Medals or sent Trophies. Several fine prizes have come from societies overseas. Individual donors of unusual and costly Trophies, Bowls, Vases, Etc., are in greater number than ever before, in an A. D. S. Exhibition.

YES! Tonight is the BIG NIGHT! It is the culmination of many months of planning and work by members of this society. But of perhaps of greatest importance, is that this evening is the occasion for the fruition of many friendships formed in person and by mail over the last fifty years, with Dahlias as the generative nucleus.

We break bread here tonight together with a smile and a prayer that this occasion may be the epitome of greater understanding and co-operation between dahlia people all over the world. It is the hope of everyone gathered here that this will be a milestone in the relationships and close friendships of dahlia people everywhere.

Enjoy yourselves – every friend of the Dahlia – this is indeed THE BIG NIGHT. It is truly THE GOLDEN NIGHT of the "GOLDEN YEAR of the DAHLIA."

## GREETINGS

*From The Secretary, Bulletin Editor  
And General Chairman, Edward B. Lloyd*

We are this year presenting the Golden Anniversary Exhibition of our Society. When one looks back over these past fifty years and evaluates what some of us believe are accomplishments, or feeble attempts towards that end, we hope it will be found that although results have not been possibly spectacular, they have originated from the heart!

Here and now it is fitting that we pay tribute to those loyal and devoted members without number, whose individual and collective performances have contributed to whatever successes the American Dahlia Society has attained. I refer particularly and call to your attention one group for special commendation. This is that group of outstanding leaders and pioneers which our So-



ciety has been privileged to call upon, starting with our first President Richard Vincent, Jr., and continuing through to the present with Harry A. Dreyer.

The prime characteristic moving all our leaders has been "work" which with their wide capabilities and broad experience has created what measure of success we can claim. These leaders have been and are our chief resource, and not only today but in long range planning have managed our Society to its present position of leadership in dahlia planning. The driving spirit which our first President Richard Vincent, Jr., and his fellow Charter Members implanted, is still with us and it is that premise upon which we base our optimism for the years ahead.—Ed. B. Lloyd, Secretary.



**Dewey Mohr —  
Speaking . . .**

It is possible that, as Chairman for the Entertainment and Banquet committee, my carefully prepared speech may be eliminated.

In fact, if something goes wrong here, or our esteemed president does not like the food, it may be difficult for you to locate me.

So, I take the opportunity afforded by Editor Dudley, to say that I honestly and sincerely hope you are enjoying your visit in New York. Also that you like the show, the bus and boat rides — the contacts with our members — at least some of them.

It is possible that there are other trips or visits to dahlia gardens in this area which you would make. Because of time involved and long distances between gardens in three states, it was not practical to schedule more. But, if I can be of service in arranging car-pool dahlia garden tours, procuring World's Fair tickets at discount rates, or trips to places of interest in or near New York — please call upon me.

I have been fortunate to be elected a Vice-President of the American Dahlia Society for, I was going to say 50 years, but it has not quite reached that period yet. I'll just conclude by saying, as a long time officer of the A. D. S., may your visit here, in this Golden Year of the Dahlia, be a most happy and memorable one.

—DEWEY MOHR

**The Menu and Program for Body and Mental Fare  
Extraordinary Will Be Found on the Back Cover.**



## GREETINGS FROM N. D. S.

To President Harry Dreyer, and Members of the American Dahlia Society:

"This is certainly a historic occasion for all of our dahlia friends in America. I am very sorry to say that I shall not be with you for this celebration, however, you will be having Mr. Jonnie Brown, the Chairman of the National Dahlia Society, Mr. "Steve" Newsom, our Secretary, and Mr. Gordon Medlen, the Chairman of Classification, besides several other members of the Council, and all high in the British Dahlia World.

"I wish to give you greetings and offer my heartiest congratulations to you Mr. President, and to the American Dahlia Society, on attaining its 50th year of continued operation. Long may it continue to thrive."

Signed, **STUART OGG,**

President of the National Dahlia Society of England



**Mr. Stuart Ogg,**  
President, National Dahlia  
Society, England

### Regrets From France

Edward B. Lloyd, General Chairman, received the following from Robert Turc, Angers, France. "We should have been very glad to come to your Golden Year Anniversary Exhibition, but, unfortunately, at this time of year, we are in the busiest part of the bulb season with Tulips and Hyacinths, so we will be unable to come. A month ago we were there and visited New York, Florida and California. Sorry not to meet with you on this occasion, but hope that you can come here soon to see our dahlias.

We should have enjoyed to be in New York for the 50th Anniversary, and thank you very much for your kind invitation.

Very sincerely yours,  
Robert Turc

### Brother Simplicius, Dahlia Specialist

Brother Simplicius is the gardener for the Order of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers at Leicester. He comes originally from Venlo in Holland where his family have market-gardened for generations. Giant vegetables and dahlias are his specialty—seven of his new dahlia varieties were selected for Wisley last year.

"We filled a wheelbarrow with a cabbage that fed the whole Community of 25, and still there was a quarter left over. But dahlias are my great specialty because they make good decoration for the church, and because they produce results in a year. Twenty-four of mine are registered at the National Dahlia Society. Last year I grew 1,200 seedlings and labelled 60 for trial. You see, what I'm looking for is good color, long stems, nice formation and full centers. When you raise a new one, you know it's the only one of its kind in the world. I get pleasure in observing things, how they germinate, how they come up—that's beautiful."

### Greetings To A. D. S.

Dear Editor Dudley,  
Golden Year Dahlia Record:

From the Midlands, the very heart of England, I send you and all the members, my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the American Dahlia Society. May it prosper and spread joy in companionships as well as in success in Dahlia growing.

I take great interest in your work. For years now I have been following your progress and rejoicing in your fine results. Sometimes even envying those beautiful flowers which you produced. It is especially your fine spirit of brotherhood which pleases me, for I have made some wonderful friends from among the members of the American Dahlia Society.

It is impossible for me to be at your celebrations but you have my sincerest wishes and my humble prayers. God bless you all. Sincerely yours, Rev. Brother Simplicius, S.S.S., Eymard House, Gooding Avenue, Leicester, England.

## EXTRA!

### Visitor Gets Excited And Creates Big Disturbance Over Color Discussion

A flustered, dishevelled man, believed to be a delegate to this World's Dahlia Congress (and he certainly was 'at large' for a time) rushed out of the meeting of the several Classification Committees from England, Holland, and America this afternoon, and ran, waving his arms and muttering, down the corridors of the hotel.

Your reporter tried to catch up with him to get his name. But he went down the aisle so fast that neither name nor his nationality was ascertained, unfortunately.

He talked like an American, but quite obviously was not. His hair was not over long, and he wore no bowler. Yet he did not appear to have the calm, reserved demeanor of the usual Britisher either.

Your reporter got close enough to him, to hear him say in a loud mutter, "They cannot do that to us. Autumn, what's that? It's no color. Just a jumble of colors." He was really excited. We could not get close enough to smell his breath, but he surely did appear unsober.

He continued to mutter, although

not as loudly as at first. It sounded as if he said: "It's not a color at all. They cannot adopt 'Autumn' as an International color standard. In my country, the trees and bushes, after frost, have every color of a rainbow. Perhaps they have different hues there than in America. How can we say that a Salmon Pink Dahlia is 'Autumn' when it's obvious to everyone that it's 'Buff Pink'?"

We did not hear more, and when the gentleman was last in our vision, he was headed towards the room in the corner of the lobby floor, marked "PUB."

As a news gatherer, your reporter regrets that the proceedings behind the closed Classification Meeting door had not been witnessed by him. We could only guess from the excited gentleman's remarks, what caused him to run amok, as they say in the tropics. But we considered it fortunate for us that we were on the job and able to write this spot news for this Golden Year Dahlia Record. The presses were held up so that this item, which we trust is of great interest, could be recorded for posterity.



### ABE N. BALLEGO distinguished by H. M. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands

On the Queen's Birthday, April 29th, 1964, ABE N. BALLEGO, senior partner of the Ballego-Leiden-Holland Dahlia Nurseries, has been distinguished by H. M. Queen Juliana, for his meritorious activities in the dahlia field.

The Queen's representative, Burgomaster Du Boeuff, on the left, said that Mr. Ballego who is now 71, has been active in the melioration of dahlias, over 50 years, and he is a well-known person all over the world, wherever dahlias are grown, and so are his dahlias.

The Order of Knighthood of the Royal House of Orange Nassau is a recognition for the creditable work of the Ballegos, and the great importance of their dahlias for the Netherlands horticulture.



## Introducing Some Distinguished Guests From Overseas

- MR. STUART OGG, V.M.H., President of the National Dahlia Society and head of one of the largest nurseries in England. Tall, silver haired and elegant, Mr. Ogg is loved by all who know him. Three years ago he was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest award of the Royal Horticulture Society. A member of the Royal Horticultural Society Council until this year, and in 1960 he received the National Dahlia Society's highest honor—a Gold Medal. The following year he received the supreme British award in horticulture, an enrollment as one of the sixty-three holders of the Victoria Medal of Honour. Private address: E. Stuart Ogg, Esq., "Farnleigh," London Road, Ditton, Nr. Maidstone, Kent. Mr. Ogg sent his regrets.
- MR. E. F. (STEVE) NEWSOM, Secretary of the National Dahlia Society. Known as a thorough and competent administrator. He lives at Barnet in Hertfordshire, on the outskirts of London. His dahlia first-love is the pompon. He has been most successful in exhibiting them.
- MR. A. T. (BART) BARNES, one of the foremost dahlia journalists in Britain. A regular contributor to the leading horticultural magazines, particularly "Amateur Gardening." He is well known for fine "raisings" (seedlings), of which "LAVENGROW" is perhaps the most famous. His home is in Bedford, about 50 miles from London.
- MR. JONNIE BROWN, Chairman of the N. D. S. has been growing dahlias since a lad. Now-a-days he only grows seedlings, having had to sell his business recently "to satisfy the Building Gods." His introductions have won countless awards at Wisley Trials. His seedlings have a name prefix of "Perran." His home is in Maidenhead.
- MR. JAN BALLEGO is head of one of the largest dahlia nurseries in Holland, and is known as "BLOEMHOVE" located at Leiden. Their catalogues in English have wide circulation in England, Australia and America. (See article and picture on another page.)
- MR. W. H. (PI) ENSUM, one of the most successful exhibitors. His "raisings" include "TU TU," "HAMORI GIRL," "HAMORI BOY," "HAMORI DREAM." All of these have received high honors in London shows in the past three seasons. His home also called Hamori, is in Worcester Park on the Surrey side of London.
- MR. AND MRS. D. EVEELEYN MAARSE, of Baarn, Holland. One of the largest Dahlia Nursery exporters on the continent. Their planting of many acres includes thousands of seedlings each year. The best of these often go to Wisley Trials and to the American Dahlia Society Trial Gardens. Their catalogue has wide circulation in Europe, America and Australia. (See pictures on another page.)
- MR. T. R. H. (TERRY) LEBAR. Has been for many years Assistant Editor of the National Dahlia Society Yearbook. On the death of George F. Drayson in 1962, its long time Editor, Terry became its Editor. He is also author of a fine book "Dahlias for Everyone." A skilled and successful showman. He resides at Erith in the County of Essex.
- MR. FRANK W. HARRISON, Secretary of the North of England Dahlia Society and has dahlia friends all over the world. He started the Northern Dahlia Show last year in his native Manchester. This exhibition brought the "World's Best Dahlias" for the first time to the "Northern Hemisphere" and undoubtedly increased the growing of dahlias in that section.
- MR. ARTHUR LASHLIE, one of the leading dahlia writers in England. His worthwhile contributions to the monthly international review, "Dahlia and Chrysanthemum" which is published in London. He is also Editor and general factotum of the massive multi-flower society, "Rosescarpe." Home, Newcastle on Tyne, up in northeast England.
- MR. HERBERT L. RAINBOW, from Kenilworth. Secretary of the Midlands Dahlia Society and is well known as a National Judge and lecturer.
- MR. RONALD M. HATFIELD. He is Assistant Editor of "Garden News," a national horticultural weekly. He is a regular exhibitor as well as a National Judge. Also a correspondent for many other publications. His home is in Cambridge.
- MR. THOMAS HORTON, Secretary of the North of England Dahlia Association (N. E. D. A.). He is also a well known National Judge. Lives in Stourbridge. He will be accompanied to America by his daughter Susan.



- MR. PHILIP DAMP, F.N.D.S., President Midlands Dahlia Society. Phil really needs no introduction to A. D. S. members. As a long time friend of Editor Edward Lloyd, Mr. Damp has become familiar to Bulletin readers as a regular contributor. He is also a Vice-President of A. D. S. and Associate Editor of the Bulletin. His picture and also those of some members of his family has been seen in the Bulletin. He is a member of the Publication Committee of the N. D. S. Editor Lloyd has disclosed that Philip is 43 years of age, is happily married to the charming Joan and they have three sons. His business is as an accountant with Lockheed Hydraulics. He organized the Midlands Dahlia Society and is its President. It is affiliated with the A. D. S. We will all be glad to meet this energetic and likable dahlia man from Britain.
- MR. GEORGE BROOKES, President of the Birmingham Dahlia Society, Editor of its publication, and author of "Growing Dahlias." He is a member of some eight societies including New Zealand, Alabama, Connecticut, and others. He is accompanied to the Anniversary by Mrs. Brookes, their daughter, son and son's friend.



### Mr. George Brookes, President Birmingham Dahlia Society Here

"On behalf of our Birmingham Dahlia Society, we send to all our dahlia friends in the U. S. A. our sincere greeting. We hope that the American Dahlia Society Anniversary and Show is a bold success, with world-wide influence on dahlia progress," wrote Mr. George Brookes, President of the Birmingham Dahlia Society of England, in March.

"We hope to see also some dahlia varieties at the show, where we have been asked to judge, which are also raised by myself here in England," said he. Mr. Brookes is here in New

York with Mrs. Brookes, their daughter, and son with his fiance. Besides being president of his society, Mr. Brookes is editor of its publication, "The Dahlia News," and author of a booklet, also published by the society, called "Dahlia Growing." He sent us copies of both and we find them most interesting to a dahlia grower. He also gave us permission to re-print any of their contents. One article appears herewith in part on the subject of "Virus Diseases."

Mr. Brookes concluded his letter with this statement. "More important than all, I am thrilled beyond all dreams at the anticipated pleasure of meeting all my many friends in America, and I have many. May I wish you well, and to see and speak with you at this A. D. S. celebration, will be my pleasure."





## Meet The Toastmaster!

Our toastmaster tonight is a modest and handsome gentleman. He was president of this society for a longer period than any other, except Richard Vincent, Jr., its first leader. This was from 1948 to 1953. He also was president of the Dahlia Society of New Jersey, our "side-kick society."

Leo Pollak probably will not tell the dahlia people gathered here tonight all of his business connections and history, nor, we are afraid, ALL of his experiences in connection with growing dahlias. (We hope not, because he has grown them for 45 years and that would take too long—no one else could speak—Editor.) So we must tell some things he will omit.

Leo Pollak is a quiet, introspective man. He likes people. People like him. He has a deep religious feeling and conviction, which he frequently communicates to others. He sometimes writes poetry, as you will see later.

Leo does not often look back. He is a forward looking man—but he really unburdened his soul and jogged his memory to dictate his reminiscences, over the almost half a century of his close connection with dahlia people and the American Dahlia Society. He told us to delete any part we wished. But we think you will agree that there is so much of the kindly, human touch mingled with fond memories in his story, that little could be left out.

One item Leo left out, and upon which we fear, he will be silent tonight. This is how he divided his dahlia clumps early in 1963. He took them to his garden in the trunk of his Cadillac, one day in April. He took out the cartons containing the roots, set them beside the road, while he went to the potting shed to change to his garden jeans. (Did we

say jeans? Sorry, our mistake. He never wore such things in his life. They were silk lined slacks.)

Back to the story. While Leo was absent, the big juggernaut garbage disposer came along, the helper picked up the dahlias and heaved them into the "maw." No dahlia clumps were ever more completely divided. He decided not to plant them.

This editor came to know Leo Pollak well indeed during World War II. Mr. Pollak headed his own manufacturing company in Kearney, N. J. This company made steel and aluminum products for the Navy. There were ammunition cases, structural units for aircraft, including wing bomb holders and the like.

Towards the war's end, the company began to design aluminum utensils for the home. Our adver-

tising agency in New York, of which I was an officer, was asked by Mr. Pollak to prepare a campaign for the new products. We did this, but changes in the company's structure made the marketing of the utensils impractical. During this business association, we came to respect and admire Leo Pollak for more than his devotion to the hobby of growing prize winning dahlias.

Now a sad note. Leo Pollak did not grow dahlias in 1964, the first in some 45 years. Further, he and his good wife, Virginia expect to soon move to Washington. We, in the American Dahlia Society, will miss his sage advice and counsel on society affairs. He has long served the society with honor and distinction. We hope he will reutrn on occasion, to render an invocation or to toastmaster again.—L. B. D.



### Jan M. Ballego Third Generation of the Ballego-Dahlia-Tradition



I have never been in the United States before, and I am extremely happy to come to address my Golden Anniversary Congratulations in person to the members of the American Dahlia Society—and to meet the many friends of the Ballego Family, over here.

The very loaded program for September does not permit me to stay in the U.S.A. as long as I desire. And that is a great misfortune, the more whilst I shall not have the opportunity to accept all of the many invitations of friends (it would take a year or about!!!) and get acquainted with the proverbially hospitality of the American Dahlia People.

As a member of the Council of the Netherland Dahlia Society, member of the Committee of Judges, The Classification - Nomenclature Committee, the Society takes a good part of my time. I only mention my work for the co-operative exhibits of the N. D. S. in various countries of Europe: England, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the weekly Shows of the Royal General Bulb-growers Association and the fortnightly of the Royal Horticultural

Society, as well as the weekly meetings of the Committee of Judges at the various Trial Gardens, during August and September.

In addition, of course, there are the many expositions in Holland and abroad, where I demonstrate the new Ballego-introductions.

It is not otherwise—but I gladly make the promise that whilst traveling about at expositions and trial grounds, I shall keep my eyes on the new varieties of the international world - assortment. So that my American friends will hear of those shortly.

The novelty blooms that I bring to your Golden Anniversary Show, give, of course, only a modest impression of what is blooming at the nurseries and trial garden in my home-town of Leiden, Holland, where over 350 newcomers from all over the world, are tested this year.

The blooms you will see in the A. D. S. show in New York in September, travel, tightly packed, over 4,000 miles from nursery to show, and are some 28 hours out of water. But you will be most pleasantly surprised at how fresh they will be, soon after they are unpacked.

### Meet Them in New York

Hope you all meet some of the Portland folks. Dick and Hazel Beyerle of Sellwood Florists are here. Sellwood Glory, born of Ballego's Glory are in the same class and still, after many years, meet each other on the show table. Maybe the Ballego's and the Beyerles will meet again.

—"Bing" Chambers

### President Moes of the West German Society Sends Regrets

A letter to Secretary Edward B. Lloyd, under date of March 11th, President D. Moes, of the "Deutsche Dahlen - u. Gladiolen Gesellschaft E. V." from Dusseldorf, Germany, sends sincere regrets that he will not be able to attend the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the American Dahlia Society. This is due, he said principally to financial reasons.

He expressed hope that the A. D. S. Officials "will post to him and his society on the events which transpire at the International Dahlia meeting in New York in September. Also that the World's Dahlia Congress will make history in in arranging an accord on many problems before its body."

He announced that he and the West German Society agree "in principle with the aims and plans of the British Dahlia Society on matters of Classification and Color."

This all with the best wishes of the German Society for a most excellent and successful celebration of the Anniversary. — Signed, D. Moes, President.



# Hopes Expressed For International Accord In Classifications

A meeting was held this afternoon attended by members of the Classification Groups or Committees of the Dahlia Societies of all the nations present at this "World's Dahlia Congress."

Your reporter was not present and therefore this cannot be a verbatim report. Yet, some who were present gave some information which forms the basis of this story.

Mr. C. Gordon Medlen, the present Secretary of National Dahlia Society Classification and Mr. John Brown, Chairman of the National Society of Great Britain and Mr. E. F. Newsom, Secretary of N. D. S. Mr. Frank W. Harrison, Secretary of the North of England Dahlia Society and Mr. Philip Damp, President of the Midlands Dahlia Society were present. They reported on the progress to date, towards an International Agreement on Dahlia Names, Types and Colors.

Mr. Stanley Johnson, of Philadelphia, Secretary of the Joint Classification Committee of the American Dahlia Society and the Central States Society, was present and introduced the visitors from overseas. Also present were Committee members Mr. Charles M. Diffenderfer of Baltimore, Honorary Chairman; Dr. Bruce Preas; Mr. Henry Olsen; Mr. Andrew Mulcahy, all of Long Island; Dr. C. H. Rike of Birmingham, Ga.; Mr. Paul Hale of Brighton, Illinois; Dr. William Van Horn of Milwaukee, Wis., and others. They were introduced.

## International Reclassification, 1966

Mr. Medlen told of the progress in Britain on the reclassification under the International Horticultural Congress Agreement, which, it is expected, will be implicated in the 10th Edition of the Classified List to be published in 1966.

Unofficial talks, it was stated, were being carried out, on this subject, with other countries throughout the world, to a point where great hopes are expected for an ultimate agreement. This could take place at the International Horticultural Commission meeting in Washington, D. C. in 1966. The last meeting of this body was in Brussels, held August 31st, 1962.

At this meeting in Brussels, Mr. Medlen reported, the Chairman, Dr. J. S. L. Gilmore and the Secretary, Dr. H. R. Fletcher, were elected to deal with the subject of International Nomenclature and Registration. Messrs. John Brown and C. Gordon Medlen formally sponsored the design for an accord on behalf of Great Britain. At this Brussels meeting, it was also reported, that it was apparent that the delegates from Belgium, France, Sweden, and West Germany supported the recommendations of the delegation from Great Britain in principle. It was hoped that the U. S. A. would also concur.

Among these recommendations were:

- (1) Substitute "Group" instead of "Section" in various categories.
- (2) Omit "Section XI" — Dwarf Bedding Dahlias.
- (3) Omit "Group" "Show and Fancy."

Another recommendation adopted was that the Secretary of the Horticultural Commission make every endeavor possible to persuade Dahlia Societies throughout the world to take over the duties of National Registration and to also prepare National Check Lists of cultivar names, which will be available not later than six months prior to the meeting of

the International Horticultural Congress in Washington, in 1966.

## American List of Cultivars Has Been Available Since 1948

Mr. Stanley Johnson, Chairman of the Joint Classification List in America at this point, stated that he believed that the American Classification List and that of the National Dahlia Society were started about the same time, in 1948, and in his opinion it would be a simple act for each society to furnish a list of cultivars to the International Horticultural Commission. In fact, this had been done by the American Dahlia Society, even before the Brussels meeting.

## Steps to Date in Great Britain

One decision has already been taken in England, it was reported, which will aid in settling accord in types. This is the deletion of the "Show and Fancy" as a Group from the list. Further, this Group has been incorporated with the large and medium Pompons into a new Group with the title of "Ball Dahlias." It was pointed out by the American Committee that this is in line with the present American Classification grouping. In their Joint List, it is established procedure to divide the various groups above the Miniature and Pompon Group. In the Ball Group, divisions are made between the miniature Balls (4½ inches), and Balls (over 4½ inches). Also, the Decorative and Cactus Groups are each divided into two size Groups: "B" Medium and "A" Large. Just what will be decided as to this practice for the International Standards was not discussed, we were told. But, this latter division in Decoratives and Cactus Groups is also the



practice in Holland, by most of the commercial firms.

## The Modified Classification of Dahlias in Britain

At the Brussels meeting, Mr. C. G. Medlen proposed and was seconded by Dr. B. Boom, of Netherlands, that the International Commission for Horticulture Nomenclature strongly recommend that all National Authorities adopt, for cultivators, the Classification scheme compiled jointly by the Royal Horticulture Society and the National Dahlia Society (United Kingdom). This resolution was unanimously adopted. The Modified Classification of Dahlias were:

- Group No. 1 — Single Flowered
- Group No. 2 — Anemone
- Group No. 3 — Collarette
- Group No. 4 — Peony
- Group No. 5 — Decorative
- Group No. 6 — Ball
- Group No. 7 — Pompon
- Group No. 8 — Cactus
- Group No. 9 — Semi-Cactus
- Group No. 10 — Miscellaneous

There will be considerable discussion of such grouping, before they are adopted by the American Group, in all probability. Members of the American Committee stated that the practice of long duration, and sentiment in favor of, dividing Decoratives into Formal and Informal Groups here is deeply rooted. Another question undoubtedly, would be about Group No. 10, "Miscellaneous." One Committeeman remarked that this seemed to him like having a big waste basket, into which are dumped all types that cannot be described or classified at the moment. It is evident to this reporter it will take more than one meeting to amalgamate the standards of Nomenclature

long rooted in the procedures and action of the societies here and abroad.

## New Color Charts?

The Royal Horticultural Society (United Kingdom), has recently appointed a Color Chart Committee, it was reported. This is under the Chairmanship of Sir George Taylor, D. S. C., V. M. H. (Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew). Messrs. Stuart Ogg and Mr. C. Gordon Medlen also serve on this committee.

It is proposed to print an entirely new Color Chart. Many Color Charts have been examined, including those in foreign use, such as: (a) Plangenfarber Atlas (Biesalski), Germany, 1957; (b) Colors in Color (Wanscher), Denmark; and (c) Nickerman Color Fan (American Horticulture Color Council).

No mention was made of the Maytrott Color Chart, based on the dahlia applicable colors, adapted from the Royal Horticultural Color Chart, which is now used by most dahlia judges in America. Nor was the Ridgeway Color Chart, by Hoen & Co., Baltimore, which was used until out of print in 1941, but the "bible" of most horticultural groups in America for more than two decades.

## Thirteen Color Classifications Approved in Britain

The National Dahlia Society has approved thirteen color classifications and have submitted them to the joint Dahlia Committee. If these are approved finally, they will, we are informed, be recommended to the Horticulture Council meeting in 1966. These are:

- Group No. 1—White. Group No. 2—Yellow. Group No. 3—Bronze. Group No. 4—Orange and Flame. Group No. 5—Red. Group No. 6—Dark Red. Group No. 7—Light Pink. Group No. 9—Lilac, Lavender and Mauve. Group No. 10—Purple. Group No. 11—Blends. Group No. 12—Bicolors. Group No. 13—Variegated.

Flame was added to the Orange Group because it was favored and used in America and Australia. It was expressed though, at the committee meeting, that "Salmon" would be included but that sentiment met with opposition. It was also suggested that the term "Autumn" as a color, as used in the American Dahlia Society Color Chart, be eventually deleted from International Nomenclature. Both "Salmon" and "Autumn" are difficult to describe and to recall or memorize in a flower. It was not stated that there had been any consultation with the American Dahlia Society, originators of the Color Classes now used in America. (While this discussion of "Autumn" as a color was in progress, there was a disturbance, with some loud voices heard, near the door. It did not last

(Continued on next page)



## HOPES EXPRESSED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCORD IN CLASSIFICATIONS (Cont'd)

long and is reported in another column.)

However, the late George F. Drayson in 1962 made the statement, "There are many dahlia growers who consider that the American color classification with its fourteen color classes is, in several respects, superior to our own. That might well be born in mind, if and when our (N. D. S.) color classification is reconsidered."

### No Light and Dark Blends

Whether the American Groups will insist on retaining the "Autumn" as a color is conjecture. The same is true of Dark and Light Blends. The combining of Orange and Flame seems quite logical. Also having two classes for Pink—Light and Dark is good, so say many here. The Lilac, Lavender and Mauve Group fits the American Classification, which describes Lavender to include Mauve and Phlox Pink.

### The "Names" of Colors

Any change in Color Charts usually involves inserting some wholly new color names. Changing names of colors leads to much confusion on the part of judges. For instance, in the listing of the new N. D. S. Color Classification in the 1964 N. D. S. Yearbook, we note "Ruby Red" listed in the Purples. And why does Rose Opal belong in the Red Group? Color No. 0027 is also entirely new to us. It is "Erythrite" and, in the dictionary is defined as "Cobalt Blue." Then how can Erythrite be red? We also confess that we cannot distinguish between Mauve and Mauvette. But your reporter is thankful that most of the names in the proposed Color Chart are the same as now used in the Maytrott Color Chart which he has used for the past 25 years. But we stray from our job of reporting and go into editorializing, which is not good journalism.

### Conjecture?

As a matter of fact, to all you good people who read this, we drop the pretense that we have been reporting an actual meeting of Classification Committee members from many lands. This article was written back in May, 1964, in advance by five months, of any meeting held in New York in September. It was, shall we say, concocted from many sources, some of which we trust, were authoritative. It is your reporter's hope, may we add, that some of these things really were discussed and possibly settled at the Classification Meeting. Further, we hope that none of our guests from abroad take offense at anything printed here. We might be more than the 3,000 miles from the actual discussions and conclusions as well as on the attitude of the U. S. A. at this minute.

We should add this. In our opinion (again editorializing) that much more thought and planning for an International Accord on Classifica-

## Looking Back and Forward

By George W. Fraser

Charter Member and Past President, A. D. S.

Like the bird which flew backward to see where he had been, all dahlia growers should look back now and then.

When I look back on the progress that has been made by this society in the past fifty years, (and I have been with it all along the road, altho' not as active of late) I am really amazed at the evolution in dahlia breeding, growing, testing of new varieties and exhibiting.

### Let's Go Back 50 Years

The types of dahlias grown fifty years ago, were mostly small to medium, (as we now rate them), decoratives, cactus, 'show,' pompon, paeony, collarettes and singles. Stems were weak and short. Many decoratives had open centers. In the shows, they were exhibited in fruit jars or milk bottles. The mouths of the jars helped to support the weak stems so the visitors could look the flowers in the face.

Classes in the shows, in those days, sometimes called for say 100 varieties by name. There were also classes for 50, 25 and so down the line—some classes were exhibited in baskets, where wiring of the stems to help support the blooms was permitted. And sizes were so generally small, that one could carry many of them in a large basket or cardboard box and take the train or street car or even a taxi and set up many exhibits. Not many of us had automobiles then, and certainly there were no airplanes to ship blooms fast to the shows, say from coast to coast or from Europe to an American show, as is done today.

When the first A. D. S. show was held in the Metropolitan Museum, most of the exhibitors in competitive classes were gardeners from the big estates in Connecticut and Long Island. They spared no expense or space to grow thousands of the varieties of the period, many of which were imported from Europe. There were hundreds of the most famous imports "Stredwick" and "Rider" cactus varieties shown.

### One of Our Objectives

"The purpose and recommendation of the Judges on the first A. D. S. Executive Board, which, by the way, included many florists, was that we should encourage people to grow

dahlias to compete with chrysanthemums in the shows, and use for fall decoration. Dahlias, they told us, should be bred for longer stems, and stiff enough to hold the blooms straight. Also to keep longer when cut. So, you see, the 'professionals' of our early days did realize some of the drawbacks of the early days of this society.



Mr. Richard Vincent, Jr.,  
First President of A. D. S. with  
George Fraser, on the Balcony  
of the Penn. Ball Room

"That endeavor to find a real competitor for 'Mums,' as a florist's flower, was one of the original objectives of the group heading the American Dahlia Society in the early 1900s. And, I might add, it was successfully accomplished, as all gardeners and florists well know. I regard it as one of the turning points in the popularity of the dahlia.

### Improving the Dahlia

"There were some dahlia breeders at that time working with the Paeony *Geishia* which was a good seed and pollen parent. Pat O'Mara was another good parent which came from Holland about that time, too. From those efforts came many new dahlia varieties with the better stems that all breeders had been looking for.

"John Harding, gardener for Judge Marean, of 'Greens Farms' (his es-

tate in Connecticut), produced in this period many excellent closed center, stiff stemmed dahlias, Bessie Boston of San Mateo, Jessie L. Seal and Alice Maussdorffer, San Francisco; Carl Salbach, Oakland; C. W. Ballay, Los Altos; J. J. Bromall, Eagle Rock, were some of the western growers who at this time also began to breed larger dahlias, with better stems. But we had the R. Vincent & Sons, W. W. Kennedy, John Scheepers, Louis Alling, Peacock, J. K. Alexander, and many others in the east who were coming along with new and improved varieties, also.

At any rate, this improvement in dahlias continued until 1923, when William H. Waite, down in Rumson, New Jersey, produced a new and super dahlia, which he called *Jersey Beauty*. It proved to be the greatest commercial dahlia of all time. It sold originally for \$50.00 per root and is still available today and because of its beautiful pink color and long keeping qualities, more blooms of *Jersey Beauty* have been sold in America than those of any other dahlia.

"So, I repeat, the progress and improvement in size, colors, stems and formations in the past 50 years has been truly amazing. In the east, middle west and on the Pacific coast, breeders have produced new varieties which were the vision and hope of the pioneers who started the American Dahlia Society in 1915.

### Looking Ahead

"With these accomplishments behind us, it is rather difficult for us to foresee what new progress will be made in dahlias in the next half century. But I'm sure there will be innovations and changes for the better. One thing, progress never stops in horticulture. I guess we just have to want better varieties and more cooperation between dahlia people and work hard and they will come.

"Gone are the slapstick—unrelated methods of exhibiting dahlias—gone are the milk bottles as containers. In place of the badly planned, poorly scheduled shows, there are today nearly 100 fall dahlia shows in America, with splendidly arranged, carefully scheduled dahlia exhibitions. Please recall that all of these are based on American Dahlia Society Size, Form and Color Classes. They may vary in Artistic Arrangement, Basket Displays and other details, but in the main they follow A. D. S. Official Exhibition Rules, which had their birth back in 1915."

"I believe the future of the dahlia is bright—that more and more gardeners will start to grow and show them. Its actually a competitive flower. Men, particularly when they wax enthusiastic about dahlias, just have to prove that they can grow them better (and bigger) than their neighbors. Let's keep up that spirit. I'm certain that the American Dahlia Society will continue to have the leadership to enable it to continue to 'promote the advancement of dahlia culture and popularity' which always has been its objective. Long live the 'Queen of Autumn Flowers, the Dahlia'."—G. W. F.





Mrs. D. Eveleens Maarse  
(Bruidegom)



Mr. Maarse,  
Baarn, Holland

## Congratulations

### From the Maarses In Holland

"We wish to congratulate the American Dahlia Society on its Golden Anniversary. It is a great occasion for everyone, members and visitors alike. We hope we will be in New York in September to help you celebrate.

"This will be our first visit to the United States of America. We will be moved by the fact that we at last visit in a country whose dahlia grow-

ers came to our rescue in some very hard times. We are also aware that the history of this mighty metropolis, New York, started three hundred years ago, with the settlement of some 2,500 people from our low countries. There is a kinship between our two peoples, beginning three centuries ago.

"May your country and your society continue to move towards a still greater future."—Mr. and Mrs. D. Eveleens Maarse (Fa. D. Bruidegom), Baarn, the Netherlands, June, 1964.



### FROM THE LONDON HUMORIST — 1931

Prison Visitor—"I know you are not entirely bad, because I've heard that you took most of the sweepstakes at your local dahlia show."

Prisoner—"Course I did. That's why I'm here."

## New Jersey Tercentennial Pavilion Ventelated

The New Jersey Tercentennial Building at the World's Fair occupies a two-acre space. It has a variety of exhibits from various institutions and sections of the state and is well worth a visit by those who are attending the 50th Anniversary of the A. D. S.

It has hollies and azaleas from Rutgers University. Displays by the States' Garden Clubs, Parkway and Turnpike Commissions. It is located adjacent to the Theme Center, near the Grand Central Parkway, so it is easy to find.

But it's really too bad that the New Jersey Dahlia Society and the A. D. S. were not invited to plant dahlias in the grounds surrounding the Pavillion. Its "open-air" situation would have favored a dahlia planting. Also the predominance of the dahlia as a garden flower in New Jersey would have fully justified such a planting. Ed Lloyd adds: "Soil and climate conditions worked against this angle of the project." (See his explanation below.)

The Tercentenary Pavilion, according to its architect, Phillip Sheridan Collins, is an open air structure because the state Commission could not afford to wall it in.

The budget started out with one million dollars in the "kitty". A subscription campaign, late in the planning, added \$400,000.00—but it is still minus walls. It was originally intended to have air-conditioning, which would have added another half million to the cost. Not having the where-with-all for this luxury, it has ended up with just natural air conditioning—because of no walls.

Our A. D. S. Secretary, Edward B. Lloyd was a member of Tercentennial Committee. But he has been strangely silent about the whole project of late. See note below. But The Pavilion has 21 open sided, canopy covered, exhibit areas, each with a display depicting some facet of life in New Jersey. But, alas, no Dahlias. But our guests, who are interested in various horticultural planning will be well rewarded in visiting the New Jersey Pavilion. There is nearly a million and a half dollars worth of building and displays to observe and adopt ideas about horticulture and other production material of one of the greatest states in this Union.

Bulletin Editor Lloyd adds a note: "Soil exploration revealed a tremendous amount of money would be required to make the grounds surrounding the New Jersey Pavilion suitable for dahlias. The expense was beyond us! Another big feature in your Golden Anniversary Committee's decision not to promote this planting was the thought of proper care for the dahlias and by whom? For rewarding results to us and to our visitors we required a certain amount of protection and care from

the World's Fair Corporation. This was left to us 100%, and the present lack of protection to the horticultural exhibits indicates our fears were well based. Also, the "natural air-conditioning" of this pavilion could easily have proven fatal to a dahlia exhibition, and we could not justify any proposal or plan for attempting such a questionable exhibition. It was therefore decided mutually that our World Dahlia Congress Exhibition would feature the Tercentenary Dahlia on September 19th, with the Governor or his representative in attendance to present the Medallion of the Tercentenary Commission to the winner. Please note page 12, Class 4 of the Show Schedule. This, the 300th Birthday of New Jersey, the 50th Anniversary Exhibition of our Society; and the year of the 50th annual Father's Day—together with the latest invasion of New York by the British will prove to be quite a party! We hope we see you!"—E. B. L.

### "Bing" Chambers Out of Dahlia Selling

Maybe I can get a word in the "Record" that I am no longer in business—and friends in the A. D. S. please don't ask for price lists—because I have neither the time, energy or money to notify all who wrote me this year that I cannot comply. But I will still grow some dahlias for personal pleasure—and maybe a few seedlings, too. (Portland, Ore.)

### These Men Guided the A. D. S.

In the first half century of its operations, this society has had eighteen elected Presidents. There would have been eighteen individuals, except that one of them, Andrew J. Mulcahy, was elected to the post twice. The net is seventeen men. There are thirteen still living, and most of them are still active in the society's affairs. Here is a roster of the men who have guided the affairs and destiny of the society over the 50 years just past:

1915-1926	Richard Vincent, Jr.
1927	James Duthie
1928	N. Harold Cottam
1929	C. Louis Alling
1930-1931	Thomas Leavitt
1932-1933	Warren Maytrott
1934	Derrill W. Hart
1935-1936	George W. Fraser
1937-38-39	Lynn B. Dudley
1940-1941	Conrad Frey
1942-43-44-45	Edward B. Lloyd
1946-1947	Gordon C. Waaser
1948-49-50-51-52	Leo L. Pollak
1953-54-55	Andrew J. Mulcahy
1956-57-58	Dr. Bruce Preas
1959-60-61	Bertram Pitt
1962	Andrew J. Mulcahy
1963-1964	Harry A. Dreyer



# A Look Forward

By Warren W. Maytrott, Vineland, N. J.

As one grows older, looking back is quite easy and most of us indulge in it. In fact, writing about dahlias today, without discussing the accomplishments of the American Dahlia Society in its first fifty years is most difficult. Especially is this true for one who has been so closely identified with it, as I have.

Others have, I am sure, covered in these pages, the events and progress of the Society's record. So I will try to look ahead for a few paragraphs. I do not expect everyone to agree with me. Yet perhaps some of my predictions will come to pass even though they may be based on hope.

## Why People Buy and Plant Dahlias

Without trying to boast, we here at Dahliadel, have grown up to 40 acres of dahlias and have sent out up to 25,000 catalogues yearly. Always the catalogue has contained culture suggestions to help gardeners to take up and make a success of growing them. Our files are full of appreciative letters from customers, both old and new. These we treasure. From them we have felt the pulse of success, and in some cases, failure. From them too, we have learned much about the gardening aims of thousands of people in the fifty years we have been in business.

One very important thing we learned from the correspondence, was that the smallest percentage of our customers bought roots and plants with the announced objective of growing them for exhibition purposes. The majority bought for, let us say, practical purposes. These included just garden planting schemes—for borders—for special color massing and for cutting for home decoration. We encouraged this general use of dahlias by including in earlier catalogues, plot layouts with suggested varieties, for height, sizes, and colors.

## JOIN NEXT WEEK!

### Announcing

## A New Dahlia Growers Club

Any Dahlia Grower Can Join This New Club—IF—they have a "Tired Streak"—If they Invariably Put Off Till Tomorrow—the Important Tasks That Should Have Been Done Last Week—OR—If they Are Just Plain Lazy.

Are you constitutionally tired? Do you invite your friends in to help spade your garden? Do you leave the heavy tasks like weeding and cultivating to your wife? Do you sit in a chair or hammock when you water the dahlias? Are you allergic to hand blisters?

If so, you are a logical candidate—perhaps for an officership, in this new Club. Incidentally, we forgot to mention that it is called "DAHLIA GROWERS PROCRASTINATION CLUB."

National Procrastination Week would have been observed in your locality last week except that we "put off" notifying you about it. You probably "ducked out" of a lot of important jobs that week, anyway.

There are no rules or by-laws. No advice will be offered to members on how to avoid doing the things they should do. But any member who "invents" new ways to "stall," should report (when they get around to it) to headquarters. Any member so reporting a really new way to procrastinate, will automatically become a Vice-President of the Club.

Join Next Week \* Write For Entry Blank, Perhaps

Dues? Oh, yes we forgot to mention that there is a slight cost attached to membership. If you wish to join, send \$1.00, check or cash, to Mrs. Caroline Meyer, 165 Harcourt Avenue, Bergenfield, N. J. She will deposit same in the J. Louis Roberts Research Fund—when she gets around to doing so.

It is our belief, based on the many letters telling how the plantings were made, and liked, that the real basis for continued dahlia popularity in America, lies in promoting them as a decorative adjunct to garden and home decoration. We heartily recommend that course, in the future.

## Dahlia Shows Important

We do not wish, in this connection, to detract from the importance of dahlia shows. They have their important place in the dahlia world. For one thing, shows have generated better culture, if only because some one made certain that his friend or neighbor would not "beat him out" again in the classes they most often entered. Shows also interest visitors to try to grow dahlias for the first time. But this involves the advertising or exploiting the show to the general gardening public to a point where more than just the same old group of dahlia exhibitors "go against" each other on the tables.

## Get Amateurs to Exhibit

Most dahlia shows do have classes for novices and/or amateurs. All should feature them. I predict that in the future the "beginners" in growing dahlias will have more classes available to them and in many cases Special Awards which they will show to their other young home and garden makers and thus interest them in also growing this most versatile of all flowers. I also believe that show managements will do more publicity in their local newspapers and with signs and advertising to attract the general public to the exhibitions. It is essential to a growing preference for dahlias in the gardens of America that this be done.

## Trial Gardens Will Expand

One of the greatest steps forward by the A. D. S. was the establishment of its Trial Gardens in different sections of the United States. I have judged in nearly all of them and helped to design the A. D. S. Score Cards, which all will agree, I am sure, made possible the almost scientific evaluation by the judges of the new varieties.

Another thing which the Trial Gardens accomplished was the joint co-operation between the A. D. S. and the societies at scene of each, to supervise and arrange for competent judges to score the entries. This made a close bond between the National society and the societies associated with it to improve the strains of new and better varieties. No other flower group has made such a success of new variety testing. I predict that the importance of the Trial Gardens to dahlia progress will be increased immeasurably in the next fifty years.

## Society Cooperation

I am told over sixty dahlia societies have contributed Medals and Trophies as awards for the A. D. S. Fiftieth Anniversary Show. To me, this is a real indication that there is a oneness in the aims of the many dahlia societies and Conferences which operate in America to further the popularity of this flower. There

is probably (and fortunately, too), less politics in these groups than in any garden society set up. Their one objective is patterned after the A. D. S. original goal, which is: "To stimulate interest in, and promote the culture and development of the Dahlia."

I venture the prediction that more societies will be formed in America with this avowed purpose, in the next 50 years, than in the one in which we have taken a small part. And I believe also that the new ones will, as have the majority in the past, be associated with the A. D. S.

## Culture

This subject has always been close to our hearts. We have published up to ten pages of culture instructions in our catalogues. There was a purpose of selfishness in this. We knew that some dahlia beginners became discouraged after one or two years of trying to grow dahlias, for one or more reasons. Chief among them was lack of knowledge of how to treat them differently than other plant material. And dahlias do require some special care and attention.

It is also regrettable that many of today's gardeners do not like to spend a lot of time, or too much back bending labor, in their yards and gardens. And, let us admit it, dahlias do take more attention and work than say, roses or petunias. Salesmanship is needed to convince gardeners that growing good dahlias takes more effort, but that, if they persist, they can produce more amazing results than with any other flower. If we can concentrate harder on this objective in the future, than in the past, it is our belief we will make many dahlia enthusiasts—and increase the membership and number of the dahlia societies.

## Research

It was not our intention at the start of this effort of prophecy to go into details of culture. But we believe that the success of dahlia growing in the future is so coupled with the health of our gardens, that we must speak about the one thing which has the most to do with keeping our dahlias healthy. This lies in the control of the insects which carry virus diseases from diseased plants to the healthy ones.

On this subject of dahlia diseases, there is more to discourage the growing of better dahlias than we like to admit. We have followed the growing incident of virus damage to dahlias over the past 30 years. Again, the American Dahlia Society took the leadership in trying to solve this problem. In 1962 it inaugurated a program of Research into these diseases with the plant pathology department of Rutgers University at New Brunswick, N. J. I was chairman of the society's committee on Research when this study began and have followed its progress since then. The present Chairman is our friend, Dr. Frederick Knocke, who is Assistant Director of the Princeton Hospital.

Dr. Knocke is the authority for  
(Continued on opposite page)



## A LOOK FORWARD (Cont'd)

the progress of the study, which is still going on. He believes that a serological test method of determining if a plant is infected, will soon be determined. If it takes still longer to find the answers to this virus disease problem, it is our opinion that the A. D. S. will pursue the study to a successful conclusion. We are also of the belief that much will be done in the next few years to help dahlia growers eradicate the diseases from their gardens.

### Resistant Strains

Now, we are of the belief that much can be done in reducing diseases of dahlias by developing new strains which are resistant to the diseases. Some present varieties are "carriers" of virus and should be discarded. We have eliminated from our plantings all such dangerous "Typhoid Marys."

### Pre-testing New Varieties

The growing of seedling dahlias is becoming more fascinating every year. It is my hope that in the future such new dahlias will be grown for several years before they are offered to the public. The practice of making many plants from a new one in the second year and rushing it on the market, before its resistance to disease is determined, is a dangerous procedure. We should first prove their ability to resist the several dahlia virus diseases, to which they will be subjected, when placed on the open market.

Many introductions do not last more than a couple of years. This

is very apt to discourage not only the novice grower, but also those more experienced ones who wish to place the gorgeous new variety on the show tables. Let all introducers and originators resolve to offer the public only the most resistant and healthy varieties.

### Spraying

The control of the insects which carry the poisons of virus is becoming more important than ever. Today, such insects as Aphids, Thrips, along with Spider Mites, Leaf Hoppers are not only doing much damage to plants and retarding their normal growth, but the first two do much greater damage by carrying disease infected plant juices from one plant to another thus spreading the viruses. We now have spray materials with greater killing range than a few years ago. But the insects build up immunity from the sprays. Other, and more effective chemicals will be developed for greater effectiveness in the future. But, because the cycle of reproduction for some of the insects is five days or less, frequent spraying is essential to control them. The chemicals must have the power to kill eggs as well as live predators.

It is thus becoming more apparent each year that the control of insects and the diseases spread by them is imperative if we are to have healthy dahlia gardens in the future. I feel sure that growers will, in the dahlia's tomorrows, take greater pains to rogue out diseased plants as soon as detected as dangerous to all the healthy plants in their gardens.

When Serology tests are available, as we in the American Dahlia Society are hoping that they will be, then diseases of dahlias will be easier to eradicate.

### Let Us Look Forward

As we said in the beginning, it is easy to look back. We can get some satisfaction by doing it also. But to look and plan ahead for greater achievements and the overcoming of difficulties in the promotion of dahlia culture is more rewarding. The American Dahlia Society, being blest over the years, with competent and understanding leadership, can have a future which will far surpass in accomplishments the half century past, if everyone resolves to do his or her part.—Warren W. Maytrott, Vineland, New Jersey. (P.S. We acknowledge the help, in preparing this, from a certain "ghost writer" now living in California.)



## Norman Williams Reports On Newcastle, Aus. Shows

Here are a few general comments on all classes of Dahlias, covering all shows in and around the Newcastle and Cessnock districts, in Australia, in 1964.

The shows began on February 18 and continued to March 4. I should mention that the Cessnock district embraces a large coal mining area.

Weather conditions prior to the shows was often cloudy, which had the effect of not giving the bright eyed brilliance of color during the best half of the season.

The Grand Champion awards were well deserved, as were the Champion Awards. Some of the latter awards went to: ANNETTE LEAH, a new seedling miniature cactus, size 4 3/4" under 6". MRS. M. SPENCER, a new charm cactus release, size 3" by 4 3/4", color lilac; WHITE ROBIE, a charm cactus; JACK ROBERTSON, charm cactus, lavender with white center; HARVEST MOON, medium cactus, 6" by 7", creamy yellow, fimbriated petals; SHANGRILA, medium for. dec., pale pink, overlaid deep mauve, size over 6"; GOLDEN MELODY, large F. decorative, over 7" diameter; LEW, large, F. Dec., mauve; MINNIE JACKSON, large cactus, over 7", yellow; GAIL MARGARET, large cactus, over 7", golden amber.

Awards to pompons were: PAM, creamy white overlaid pink; WILLOWS VIOLET; JOSEPHINE MARKS, color cyclamen; LADY LOOKOUT, maroon; GOLDEN WILLOW, gold, buff yellow; LINDA HARRIS, pale pink.

### GRAND CHAMPIONS, 1964

The new varieties selected by the judges, with top ratings were: AN-



**NORMAN WILLIAMS — AUSTRALIA**

The originator of the "Willow" strain of Pompons, taken among his 2000 pom plantings. This was taken in April, 1964 in his garden in Newcastle, Australia.

NETTE LEA, pink min. cac.; DIANNE MEEHAN, pink exhibition cactus, over 6"; JACK ROBERTSON, charm; MRS. M. SPENCER, yellow cactus.

Some good Pompons received awards besides PAM, described above were: GRAND WILLOW, MARGARET WILLIAMS, WALLSEND WILLOW, WALLSEND JUBILEE, and RED JUBILEE.

(Editor's note: Norman Williams, author of this report, is the acknowledged champion introducer of fine pompon dahlias. He is the originator of all of the varieties in the paragraph above. All of them won certificates in Australian trial gardens.

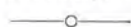
We hope that Mr. Williams will keep on in the work of originating these excellent poms which have contributed to the winning of so many awards all over the world—L. B. D.)



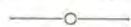
## You Are Invited To Visit Another Show

The first show of a new A. D. S. Affiliated Society The Mid-Island Dahlia Society, will be held September 26th, and all visitors to the A. D. S. 50th Anniversary Celebration and show are cordially invited to attend. It will be staged in one of the best exhibition halls on Long Island about 30 miles from the New Yorker. Locale, the Dime Savings Bank, Greenacres Shopping Center in Valley Stream, N. Y.

The Mid-Island Society was recently formed by a group of Long Island Dahlia Enthusiasts. It may not be as big a show as the A. D. S.-New Jersey show, but the quality of our blooms will not be lacking. Many of our members exhibited at this show here in the New Yorker (and won awards, too) and you are assured of a good exhibition, when you come.—George Stein, 28 Canturbury Rd., Woodbury, N. Y.



Middle age for a dahlia man is when he doesn't care where he goes just so he is home by 9 P.M.



No dahlia man is completely worthless. He can always serve as a horrible example.

## AUTOMATED DAHLIAS

Let's face it. We live in a machine age. Our dahlias are machine produced.

We design all our own devices to speed up production of "Automated Dahlias."

Our planting is done with Dillydel Planters. We dig the roots with a big Special home designed digger. We use water with overhead sprinklers, from our own deep wells with powerful Dillydel pumps.

We use our ashes from greenhouse heaters after steam sterilization, for potting soil.

*Our Thirty Acres of Automated Dahlias are visited by thousands of satisfied customers each season who are fascinated to see roots come out of hoppers, all ready to plant.*

### BOTTOM DOLLAR VARIETIES

**RESULT:** We can sell 2.00 and \$3.00 dahlias for \$1.00 each. — A Machine Age Triumph.

*Did you get our 50th Anniversary Catalogue? They are Collector's Items now, YES — and we thank our 25,000 Customers for their patronage —*

## ITS TRULY "A GOLDEN YEAR" FOR DILLYDEL GARDENS

Vinewood, New Jersey



# The Mid West Dahlia Trial Garden Completes It's Cycle

By Dr. Carrick E. Wildon



The Mid West Dahlia Trial Garden was established in 1934. When the A.D.S. approved the establishment of the new Trial Gardens, I made a careful study of the operation of the trials at Storrs. I had known Prof. Roland Patch for many years and when I was at Rhode Island we visited back and forth many times. I realized that it was the enthusiasm and faith of Geo. Frasier and Prof. Patch which made Storrs an important Trial Ground for dahlias and while the membership gave them full support there did not seem to be a sufficient number of trained judges to help them with the scoring.

When we started the trials here at Lansing, I decided that my first job would be to secure 15 to 20 well trained judges who could be depended on to judge the trials each year. With this in mind we decided on a dahlia field day with instructors to help the judges in the technical details. We invited Warren Maytrott to help us in this and he very kindly consented. He spent a good portion of the day going over the trials point by point, with our people.

## Judging a Responsibility

A field day with judging instruction was held every year thereafter. New judges were called apprentices and were given instruction by regular judges. They were required to

judge the trials each year until in the opinion of the supervisor they had become expert judges. Not until the scoring of new judges had the approval of the supervisor were the scores counted in the final scoring.

## Virus Diseases a Big Problem

Within a few years, I realized that virus diseases of the dahlia were prevalent all over the country. Fearing that the practice of returning clumps to owners at the end of the season was serving to spread these diseases still further, I finally prevailed upon the A. D. S. to allow the trial grounds to destroy dahlias at the end of the season. This eliminated much work for the trial grounds supervisor and prevented spreading of disease from the trial grounds back to producers of new varieties. In recent years the A. D. S. has changed the rule to allow owners to get their clumps back at the end of the season. This is a definite mistake and is bound to spread disease. No grower who obtains clumps from the trial grounds is likely to be free of virus diseases.

I would advise the supervisors of Trial Grounds to do everything possible to eliminate virus diseases by carefully roguing out diseased plants as noted and to work to have A. D. S. rule against returning clumps from the trial grounds.

## Double Judging With Slides

From the first year we took color pictures of the dahlias on trial. When the judging was completed, usually in October for us, we brought the judges together to go over the scoring. Each dahlia picture would be projected on the screen and the scorings discussed and, if necessary, corrected.

Our further advice to supervisors of Trial Gardens is that they make every effort to maintain a group of not less than 15 expert and reliable judges that they can depend on year after year.

## After 34 Years—We Sign Off

The closing of the Dahlia trials here at East Lansing after all these

years is a distinct disappointment to me. However, the growth of Michigan State University has been so great (one of the 10 largest universities in the U. S.) that space for these trials has become increasingly difficult. Increasing duties of staff members, and a limited staff, makes it that much more difficult to find some one willing to take on the extra work required to properly maintain the trials.

My thanks to all the judges, the trial grounds committees of the A. D. S. and the Michigan Dahlia Society, and dahlia growers for the splendid cooperation I have received over the years. Some of my finest friendships have resulted from my work with dahlias.—Dr. C. E. Wildon, East Lansing, Michigan.

## Dr. Carrick E. Wildon Retires

As he has said in the above article, Dr. Wildon, after 34 years, the A. D. S. Trial Garden at Michigan State University, East Lansing will be discontinued. That is in itself a great loss to dahlia growers who have come to expect the fairest and most professional judging of new varieties, there under Dr. Wildon's direction.

But there is more to the story. Dr. Wildon retired from Michigan State U. on July 1st, 1964. He said in a letter dated April 20, last, that he expected to keep his former home address, which is: 823 Huntington Road, East Lansing, Mich. He plans to do consulting work on his favorite business vocation, horticulture. In fact, he already is serving one firm. He will also teach Continuing

Education classes at Michigan State University, also around the state. But the best news in his letter was that "I will continue working with the dahlia groups and will continue to publish the Michigan Dahlia Bulletin. I will also judge dahlia shows and conduct Dahlia Judging Schools. Of course I will miss not having my Mid-West Dahlia Trial Garden, but even without it to work and worry over, I hope to be busy." A recent letter from Dr. Wildon tells us that, beginning July 25, he conducted the Southeastern Michigan Judging School for five weeks. As one member of the American Dahlia Society, and I believe I speak for all its officers, this society owes Dr. Wildon much gratitude for his devotion for 34 years to the evaluation of new varieties sent to him for trial. In that time he has helped thousands of dahlias to secure just recognition. Originators and introducers of new varieties know of his organization of competent judging groups and I'm sure thank him for the aid given them by the Mid-West Trial Garden, under C. E. Wildon's direction, to obtain A. D. S. Certificates for their entries.

Yes, all dahliaedom owes a vote of thanks to Dr. Wildon. If you are here at this celebration, you may thank him in person, for he is here somewhere, we're sure. But if you 'couldn't make it,' then his address is above. Please write him a note with expression of your own appreciation for the half a lifetime he has spent helping others to know and love dahlias more. When the cheers for Dr. W. start, you will see this editor trying to lead them. —L.B.D.

## That Will Be The Day

When aphids and beetles and cutworms too,  
Will learn our dahlias to eschew;  
When timely heat brings timely rain  
And there's no need to rack your brain,  
That will be the day.

When the scientist with his microscope  
Full armed with miticides can cope  
With the dreaded virus and the mites,  
And spare us many sleepless nights,  
That will be the day.

When no longer the scourge of a hurricane  
Will strike yon hill or peaceful plain  
And dahlias will unmolested grow  
Four feet apart in every row,  
That will be the day.

When the dahlias you planted so hopefully  
Will grow perfectly, not awfully;  
When the dahlias you timed for the show  
Do bloom on time and not too slow,  
That will be the day.

When dahlia dealers can be trusted  
Before our bankroll they have busted,  
To accurately report the true size of a bloom  
As a bride vows her faith to the groom,  
That will be the day.

When all exhibitors on show day  
Set up their blooms without delay  
And all decisions of the judges  
Leave pleasantness and no grudges,  
THAT will be the day.

Lawrence Palminteri, Long Island, N. Y.

## WE SEARCH THE FIELD !

Every Fall, we travel hundreds of miles to find BETTER INTRODUCTIONS to offer to our many customers.

We really serve as "Messenger Boy"  
to important dahlia growers on these trips.

AND — the record of wins for Our Offerings is second to NONE.

Write for our list.

DEWTHEE MOOR

Invincible St., Rockbound Centre, N. Y.



# Those 50 Years Were The Best

By Sarah Wakeman Wood

Charter Member A. D. S.



In September, 1915, my cousin, who was growing dahlias and knew about the proposed Show in New York City, at the National History Museum, asked me to go with her, as she had never been to the "City."

At that time, I was growing choice perennials in my garden, and did not know anything about dahlias and was not in the least interested in them. When we reached the Museum, we were assigned to a table on which to work. Nearby were C. Louis Alling of West Haven, Conn., and Harold Cottam, of Wappingers Falls, N. Y. Both of these men were to become Presidents of the American Dahlia Society later.

Finally, as it turned out, I had to help arrange the dahlias and put them in their proper classes. We did win several prizes with them. Then, we had a meeting of the Society which I believe had been started the previous April by George Fraser of Willimantic, Conn., and others, at which I joined and became a Charter member.

The next year, in 1916, I started buying dahlias and have been growing them ever since. I think the highest priced varieties have been for me, **Jersey Beauty**, \$25 per root; **Mrs. I. der Ver Warner**, also \$25, **Lulu Pattie**, \$20; and this year the new **Jody Gregory**, also \$20. Richard Vincent, Jr., of Maryland, was elected the first President of the new society. He was a very interesting man and I enjoyed my many talks with him.

Many of the exhibitors at the first A. D. S. show, were New York florists. One of them showed a bridal bouquet of white miniature decorative, called **Corona**, one of Willmore's, out in 1910.

At a nearby hotel, we had a suite with Mrs. Chapman, of Westerly, R. I., and she had entered a large exhibit of her **Newport**, a single. I still have her **Newport Wonder**, and the **Corona** in my garden. George Stillman, of Westerly, was also an exhibitor and for years we visited his garden on the Watch Hill Road. His dahlias were very colorful, but

did not have the stiff stems our good varieties now have. His **Millionaire** and **Billionaire** were well known. The soil of his garden was sandy, much like that of the Maytrott's at Vineland, N. J.

As my dahlia garden grew, we began exhibiting at the New Haven Horticultural Society and the A.D.S. shows in New York, at which I won many prizes. At one time, I was growing 25,000 hills of dahlias. Also put out a dahlia catalogue and sold the surplus stock. Our exhibits at the Danbury Fair helped out, where we took a table in the tent, and immediately replaced the current milk bottle containers with our own vases and baskets.

For our dahlia exhibits, I selected, and got the flowers ready, but my husband, John Bulkely Wood, was the one who always made the arrangements for me. Mr. Wood never did any gardening, as he had his own business, but he loved to take me to the shows, and fix my flowers. Since his death, in 1947, I have made only one local exhibit.

In the early days, I raised my own dahlias and my **Southport Pride** and **Yankee King**, decoratives, both received A. D. S. Certificates of Merit at the Storrs Trial Gardens. Some of my later seedlings have been **Pequot**, yellow single; **Woodland Peach**, S. C.; **Woodland Nymph**, Cactus; **Peggy Lindley**, Min. Dec.; **Mariette Randal**, A. I. D.; **Little Playmate**, Min. BB and **Red Favorite**, Min. Dec. I never succeeded in getting a good pom seedling. The orange miniature, **Peggy Lindley**, was first shown in my display at the 1939 World's Fair.

However, now it is no longer possible to get garden help, so I have been obliged to cut down my planting to about 1000 hills, as I have only one gardener. I try to get and grow a few of the best new varieties, in all the different types, for display.

Five years ago, our Connecticut Dahlia Society was started with shows in Waterbury, Elizabeth Park, Hartford, and this year, the show was held on Aug. 29th and 30th in our own town, at the Roger Ludlow High School, Fairfield, Conn.

"Now that our Connecticut Society has had such a fine 'second start,' I am hopeful that it is well represented here at the A. D. S. 50th Anniversary celebration and show at the New Yorker Hotel now in progress. Many members of the A. D. S. have given our society good support and have come to our shows and helped in the judging. It seems that 'turn-about-and-fair-play' has always been a part of the A. D. S. program for half a century. The fact that over sixty societies have become associated with it and look to it for leadership is a pretty good assurance that the practice of the



## Slow, But Sure Method of Dahlia Garden Cultivation

Our own, much loved, "Aunt" Sarah Wood describes this type of plowing dahlia gardens in the early 1900s as follows: "My father had a gardener (I believe he had just lately come here from Germany) who could not handle a team of horses, however gentle. So father Wakeman bought this prize winning yoke of oxen at the Danbury Fair. The oxen were used to plow and cultivate our garden for many years. This picture was taken about 1917. We could really plow deep with this kind of power."

helpfulness in dahlia society work is in itself rewarding."

"Many of the pioneers who helped get the A. D. S. operating in the formation years to help all dahlia growers everywhere, have gone to their rewards. But its official ranks have been ably filled in the later

years, so that its work has gone on to success. I am most grateful that I have played a small part in its progress. And I acknowledge that the American Dahlia Society has done much to make my life happier and my garden more interesting." —S.W.W.



## IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS — AT HOTEL PENN

This is to remind old timers of the "Golden Days" of the big A. D. S. shows staged in the immense ball room at the Pennsylvania. This main ball room was hardly roomy enough to accommodate all the entries. It was filled with blooms and visitors. Perhaps, if you are at least 'three score and ten,' you can recall these halcyon days. Possibly too, you may recognize some of the judges 'doing' the basket class at lower left.

## YOUR GARDEN MAY BE WORTHY OF THE BEST

### But Are You?

We cater to the Discriminating Gardeners who know how to get the same colossal size (as we do) from B sizes.

If you lack the NTH degree of "Super Dahlia" culture knowhow — we are sorry, BUT our "Giants" are not for you. It takes more than Nitrogen.

*But send for our Catalogue, anyway.*

*Time you learned how to stretch 'em.*

## PENNYWISE GARDENS

STANLEYHAM, PENN.



## Ramblings of an Ex-Trial Gardener

By R. E. Harter



### "GRACE" AND "PETE" HARTER AT DAHLIADEL

The Harters made a flight to eastern dahlia shows in 1957 and visited the Editor and Mrs. Dudley in New Rochelle. Trips were made to many gardens in the east. One such took us to Vineland, N. J., to visit the Maytrotts. Picture shows the Harters with Warren Maytrott between them, standing at the end of the 600 foot 'walk in' cold frame where plants are 'hardened off.'

To begin with, we would like to express our deep appreciation to two great men of the A. D. S., Lynn Dudley and Ed Lloyd for their untiring efforts in bringing us this most beautiful Golden Anniversary Souvenir Edition of the American Dahlia Society. We members will be privileged to each have a copy as a memento to remind us of our many pleasant associations, as well as a progress report on the first 50 years of the A. D. S.

What the A. D. S. means to my wife, Grace, and me personally, is not just to keep us informed on dahlias, which it has always done so effectively; but, and this seems more important, it has brought us so many cherished friendships and associations with people of kindred spirits.

My first introduction to dahlias was through a friendly gesture. I was in bed with the 'flu, and a man I hardly knew brought me a bouquet of large purple and yellow dahlias. The effect of such huge flowers in complimentary colors simply "sent" me. I immediately became infected with dahlia trouble, so forthwith ordered a DahliaDel catalog and soon thereafter joined the A. D. S. and bought W. H. Waite's book on dahlias.

#### A. D. S. Trial Gardens

Then, through working in two different trial gardens, one of which was very short lived, we became pen pals or personally acquainted with literally hundreds of people who sent their seedlings for trial or visited in the trial gardens. One of our visitors at Lakeside Park was the Secretary of Agriculture of India. Once, when looking through the guest book at Lakeside Park, we noticed the signature—Harry Truman, and opposite this signature in column for "Comments" was "Democrat." We were not sure it was

the H. T. signature, but he was in the Bay area at the time.

It is unlikely that I would now be teaching a course in gardening at Contra Costa College here, if it had not been for my connection with the Trial Gardens and Display Gardens in Lakeside Park in Oakland. In this connection, Ed Lloyd recently conferred the Degree of D.D.T. on me—by mail?

Several years ago when our son John was in the American Consulate in South Africa he visited the dahlia show there and met and later married a wonderful daughter of one of the principal exhibitors.

Another son, Dave, walking by the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Barnes in Bedford, England, while he was in the Air Force during W.W. 2. He was invited into their home for tea and a visit and this incident started many years of correspondence between Mr. and Mrs. Barnes and ourselves. As most of us know, both Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are among the leading writers on dahlias and exhibitors of dahlias of our time.

#### We Find Dahlias In N. M.

Some years ago, while passing by the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe, New Mexico, we noticed that the grounds were filled with a very fine collection of dahlias. Upon telling the man on the other side of the high fence that we also grew dahlias, we were invited into the gardens to see the flowers and visit and talk about—guess what?

#### The Maytrotts and Others

When Lt. Elsie Maytrott was married to Bill Greenhalgh at the Presidio in San Francisco a few years ago, I had the honor of giving her away in marriage in the absence of her parents, Warren and Aileen Maytrott. Incidentally, there are no finer people on this earth than the Maytrotts.

For years I was privileged to know the late Charles Garrity as one of my best friends. In my opinion, the City of San Leandro should erect a monument to his memory because of his generous gifts of dahlias and other flowers and services in the city, which were a major factor in San Leandro becoming known as "The City of Flowers."

Because of his many years as Editor of the Central States Bulletin, practically every dahlia grower everywhere knows our good friend Garnett Huey. Grace and I have known the gracious hospitality of visiting in the home of Garnett and Hallie Huey.

The San Francisco Folwer Show would never have become one of the most beautiful flower shows in the country but for the efforts of Glenn Mack and the Dahlia Society of California.

Through the personal efforts of Madge Kershishnik and Bob Pyle and their comprehensive schools of judging, the Northwest and Southwest Conference groups have moved very rapidly in recent years in develop-

ing uniform judging skills of very high calibre. The Southwest Conference knows Larry Sisk of San Diego as a leading judge, indispensable sparkplug, parliamentarian, hard worker, and all around good egg.

#### And Many More

If space would permit, we could go on and on listing the names of people we have known over many years who have contributed much of their time and effort just for the satisfaction of services rendered to the A. D. S. and their local societies.

It would not be possible for Grace and me to measure the satisfaction that has come to us through our many associations with dahlia people and with the A. D. S. So, to all our dahlia friends we would like to say—thanks for the memories, and thanks to all the officers and members of the American Dahlia Society who have piloted us through the first 50 years so well. It would be very interesting to stick around for another half century and see how well the next generations compare with the past ones.—R. E. "Pete" Harter.



### OAKLAND TRIAL GARDEN ATTRACTS VISITORS

This is one of the most spectacular pictures ever taken of an A. D. S. Trial Garden. The scene was Lakeside Park, Oakland, Calif. taken in 1957. Besides the new varieties on trial, there was a planting of some 8000 named varieties. Peter Harter was superintendent for the East Bay Dahlia Society at the time.—Photo, courtesy of the Lakeside Park Department.

## NO ONE CAN BEAT ME!

I advertise new introductions of other growers two years in advance, even before they decide to put them on the market. I read their minds.

### YOU HAVE HEARD OF "FUTURES"?

Say in Allied Oil? Well, just see me about "FUTURES" in Allied Dahlias. I may not "deliver" either—but see me after dark some night.

ALFRED PARALELL

Bronx 699999, N. Y.





Mr. Bert Pitt, Chairman of A. D. S. Trial Garden Operations, is a bachelor, address 9730 123rd St., Richmond Hill, N. Y.

## The Trial Gardens

By Bert Pitt, Chairman

The eight official Trial Gardens are intended primarily to evaluate the merits of new varieties before they are offered for sale, and to give recognition, through the awards made, and through publicity, to varieties of superior quality. In doing this, they also perform a secondary service. Growing seedlings is one of the most fascinating aspects of dahlia culture, and many growers with only limited space grow a few. Such a grower does not want to use much needed space to grow seedling varieties which are not needed, and so he sends them to a Trial Garden. Then if they are awarded a Certificate of Merit, he can use his limited space to build up stock for introduction later. Most varieties which are awarded a Certificate of Merit are offered for sale the following season, but, frequently enough, we get one which has to be held back in order to build up sufficient stock for introduction.

### Eight Gardens — Coast to Coast

The eight Trial Gardens are located in dahlia growing areas from coast to coast, and are sponsored by local dahlia societies operating under uniform rules in accordance with a written agreement with the American Dahlia Society. All are in public gardens open to anyone. The American Dahlia Society sets the standards and provides score cards for judging purposes. The judging is done by teams of Senior Judges provided by the local sponsoring society, and are accredited by the American Dahlia Society. The judges visit the Trial Gardens throughout the blooming season, and score their impressions

of the merits, or faults, of each variety. At the end of the season these scores are collected and an average score taken for each variety. This average score is the official score given to each variety at each Trial Garden. Those varieties which receive an average score of 85 or more points are awarded an American Dahlia Society Certificate of Merit from the Trial Garden where the score was made.

But this is not the end. Each Trial Garden Director sends his report to the Chairman of the A. D. S. Trial Gardens Committee where a report is compiled showing the scores of all of the winning varieties at all of the Trial Gardens together with a brief description of each for publication in the November issue of the A. D. S. BULLETIN.

### The Supreme Award

When a variety has been awarded a Certificate of Merit in three or more Trial Gardens, these Trial Garden scores are averaged using the three highest scores. These final scores are used in determining the winners of the Derrill Hart Memorial Medal Awards. Four such awards are made, one in each of the four classes recognized by the American Dahlia Society. So the Derrill Hart winners may be considered to be the best of the best, and because they have done well in a variety of soils and climates, may be reasonably expected to do well wherever dahlias can be successfully grown.

We take pardonable pride in our Trial Gardens, and in the men and women of our Associated Societies who give generously of their time and energy, and sometimes money, to make them a success for the benefit of all.

## Dahlias

By Si Tanhouser, Long Island

Poet Laureate (1933)

Of all the floral riot in the garden  
I like best  
When evening shadows lengthen  
And the sun flames down the west,  
To spend an idle hour  
Where dahlias lift their plumes  
And glory in the gorgeousness  
Of their majestic blooms.  
The peach tree flouts her robes of pink,  
The iris lifts her head,  
The sweet pea climbs the willow whisp  
In purple, white and red,  
The lady slipper in the shade  
Is dripped with dew—but where  
Are flowers that in splendor  
With the dahlias can compare?  
The gladiolus' flaming spear  
I cherish and I prize;  
The columbine, the mignonette,  
The rose of paradise;  
The honeysuckle drifts its golden petals  
From above;  
But the flaring, blazing dahlia  
Is my first and only love.  
Serene and vivid, solid, splashed,  
So vital and intense,  
The dahlias in my garden  
Grow along the picket fence;  
Of all the blooms that riot there  
In robes of splendor dressed,  
The stately, flaming dahlias  
Are the flowers I like best.

Editor's note: The above poem was one of some of forty-six poems written about flowers and published in 1933 in a copyrighted book by George Flatow. This dahlia poem was published, by permission of the author and the publisher, in the A. D. S. Bulletin in May, 1934. It is here re-published for the second time by this editor.  
—L. B. D.

## A Horse on Him! Etc.

By B. S. Chambers

Speaking of livestock, Carlton Richter and Henry White of Portland may not be too sympathetic. Carlton tells of a planting at pinching out height which suffered during a commotion in the night. Awakened by a dragging, brushing sound in the dahlia patch he rushed out to

see in the full moonlight, a neighbor's horse in the middle of the planting. Still carrying the tether chain, the end of which had become lodged somehow, the horse was running in circles, the chain cropping off the dahlias at ground level. Carlton never pinches out that close, but wonder of wonders, nearly all sent up new strong shoots and as usual, Richter had as fine blooms as anyone at showtime.



## THE JUDGES LOOK AT "SKYROCKET"

The New York Times took this picture of four judges at the A. D. S. show at Hotel Pennsylvania in 1946. From left: Conrad Frey, in charge for many years of Judging at this, and many other shows in the area; Warren Maytrott, who is now recovering from a long illness at his home in Vineland, N. J.; Lynn Dudley, and Charles Diffenderffer, of Baltimore, for many years in charge of A. D. S. Classifications.





The many friends of George Currie of Madison, Wisconsin will be pleased to learn that in January 1964 Mr. Currie became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin. Congratulations are certainly in order.

Judge Currie has been growing dahlias as a hobby since 1933. During these years he has not only been a keen competitor in various dahlia shows every year but is also recognized as a most capable dahlia judge. At the different shows of the mid-west area Mr. Currie is usually on the team that judges seedlings and the special classes.

Besides tending his own garden Justice Currie supervises an official American Dahlia Society Trial Garden sponsored through the cooperative efforts of the Badger State Dahlia Society and the Park Board of the City of Madison.

Mrs. Mac E. Freudenberg, Madison, Wis.

## Great Contributions On Behalf Of The Dahlia

By George R. Currie,

Chief Justice Supreme Court, State of Wisconsin

My own contact with the American Dahlia Society goes back to 1933 when I first became a member. Warren W. Maytrott was then president and Lynn B. Dudley editor of the A. D. S. Bulletin. In my youthful enthusiasm for my new found hobby of dahlia raising, I eagerly looked forward from one quarter to the next for the coming of each new issue of the Bulletin. At the 1933 Century of Progress dahlia show in Chicago one of my friends pointed Mr. Maytrott out to me, but I did not personally meet him until three years later at the Detroit A. D. S. show when I clerked for the judging team of which he was a member. The day before that 1936 show I also had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dudley at the dahlia gardens of Nick Koenig at New Baltimore, Michigan. Over the years I have come to know both of these gentlemen as friends, and the dahlia world is deeply in-

debted to both for their great contributions in behalf of the dahlia.

In 1935 I visited the Mid-West Trial Garden at East Lansing for the first time and met its superintendent and guiding genius, Dr. Wildon. On the same trip I attended my first Mid-West show at Cleveland, whose fifteen fine commercial displays have never come close to being equaled at any subsequent dahlia show visited. Then in 1939 I saw my first A. D. S. show in New York, and through the courtesy of Dr. Bruce Preas and Dewey Mohr was taken on a memorable day-long tour of dahlia gardens on Long Island. A few days later I visited the famed A. D. S. Dahlia Trial Garden at Storrs, Connecticut, and was shown about by Professor Roland Patch, its superintendent.

The Bulletin — The Trial Gardens  
In retrospect, what have been the

outstanding accomplishments of the American Dahlia Society during the thirty-one years of my membership? First and foremost I would put the publication of the A. D. S. Bulletin. Under the able editorship of Lynn B. Dudley, Gordon Waaser, and Ed Lloyd a very high standard of excellence has been maintained. Secondly, I would put sponsorship of the trial gardens which provides the best method yet devised for testing the worth of undisseeded dahlias prior to introduction. In 1949 the A. D. S. joined with the Central States Dahlia Society in sponsoring the first uniform Classification to receive nationwide acceptance. This was of invaluable assistance in ending the worst aspect of the chaotic confusion that had often existed prior to that in exhibiting and judging of dahlias. Another notable advance in this field was the publication by A. D. S. in 1953 of the Judging Manual authored by the late Dr. Ward H. Cook. Two years ago the sound step was undertaken of accredited dahlia judges. The initiation of the A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes awards, some years ago, which are available to any Affiliated or

Participating society staging a show, filled a real need when the American Home magazine discontinued the awarding of its American Home Achievement medals.

### Research

The sponsorship of its dahlia research project may prove to be one of the greatest of the society's accomplishments. It certainly will if out of it is devised a simpler test for detecting dahlia viruses and mosaic so that the dahlia grower can do roguing at a time before insects have spread disease to healthy plants.

### A Regional Show?

Great as has been the progress made there is one further forward step which should be taken by the A. D. S. This is to make its annual show a truly national show and not a regional show as is now the case. One possible solution would be to divide the country into four regions and rotate the annual show so it is held once every four years in one of such regions. The Mid-West Dahlia Conference has had remarkable success over a thirty-year period in rotating the location of the Mid-West show.

## Honesty Is The Best Policy In Regard To Dahlia Diseases

By Dr. Frederick Knocke

Chairman A. D. S. Research Program

When I started growing dahlias 37 years ago, they suffered from "stunt," and "poor growing conditions," and insect damage. But mostly they showed the same symptoms of mottled leaves and weak growth that we now diagnose as virus diseases—mosaic and spotted wilt. The knowledge of which specific viruses cause what symptoms has been gradually worked out. The insect vectors which transmit the diseases are known. But we still have a long way to go to rid our gardens of diseased plants.

It is necessary to be completely honest, and to admit that slightly mottled foliage, perhaps just a little lightening of color along the veins, means that the plant is diseased. Second, we must be ruthless, and destroy all plants about which there is any question, regardless of how rare or expensive the stock may be.

Even if the above measures are taken, it is frequently not possible to have a completely disease free planting. Some varieties are very tolerant of virus infection, grow well, and show little or no signs of disease in spite of infection.

To discover these carrier cases, Dr. Varney of Rutgers University department of Plant Pathology, is working on a serological test, which, it is hoped, will be diagnostic of the presence of mosaic virus in dahlia tissue. If this test can be perfected, then an additional tool will be available to guarantee disease free propagating stock.

Other methods are already available to detect the presence of virus in dahlias; such as, demonstrating inclusion bodies (small dark granules) on microscopic examination of stained plant cells; also by innoculating index plants, which are known to be susceptible to the virus, with tissue fluids from the plant to be tested, the presence of the disease is confirmed.

These tests may be time consuming and expensive to do, but we must be willing to expend the extra effort to guarantee disease free stock with reasonable certainty. If diseased stock continues to be distributed, growers will be discouraged by poor results, and the popularity of our hobby will certainly suffer.



# Classification Of Dahlias

By Stanley Johnson

Chairman A. D. S. Committee



It is my privilege to submit herewith a sort of progress report on A. D. S. Classification. In this connection it is not what you can do for the American Dahlia Society, but rather what it has done for you, the exhibitors and judges at the many shows held annually every fall across America.

Today all our current, modern type exhibition dahlias are classified as to size, type and color in the joint list. This did not just happen—it was the culmination of years of study and practice by members of the A. D. S., and the Central States Dahlia Society. The result gives the exhibitor all the information required to enter any dahlia in its proper class.

## Purposes of Classification

This classification of today's dahlias enables the judges to fairly and

expeditiously evaluate every exhibit. Because of this, all entries will receive proper recognition. Much of the confusion and dissatisfaction which occurred in the earlier exhibitions is gone from modern shows.

Let us go back, for a moment, to the early days, when the dahlia was classified in four or five form types, with only a few basic colors named. It was in 1920 that the American Dahlia Society decided that there should be an official size division of dahlias. Also a more complete nomenclature listing all current varieties. This was considered necessary to assist all dahlia growers and introducers with listing of definite formation and type classification.

The A. D. S. Committee which was appointed to accomplish this was composed of Messrs. Derrill W. Hart, Warren Maytrott, Edward Lloyd, George W. Fraser and Lynn B. Dudley. Their recommendations were adopted immediately. Only a few basic changes in Classification procedures since then.

## Today's Size, Type, Colors Defined

We now have four size groups and fifteen Formation or Type classifications. Each of these is clearly defined in the List. The next forward step by the A. D. S. was the classification and description of all colors, shades, tints and combinations of them, known to be found in the cultivated form of dahlias.

Mr. Warren Maytrott and the late Dr. Ward H. Cook presented a combined report on Color Divisions to the A. D. S. Executive Board in 1937. It was accepted with but few changes. As a result, the A. D. S. has dahlias grouped into fourteen color classes. The Dahliadel Color Chart, based on the Royal Color Chart of Britain, was made the official A. D. S. Chart in 1948. It is considered the Standard Color Chart Guide to determine the color of the current list of varieties.

## The First A. D. S. List

An A. D. S. Official Classification of dahlia varieties was first printed and released for the year 1942, by Dr. Ward H. Cook, Chairman of the Committee. This publication defined size, type, form and color. It also contained an alphabetical listing of named dahlias appearing on show tables in America.

Dr. Edward F. McDade of Scranton, Pa., became chairman of the Classification Committee in 1947 and carried on in that capacity until 1957. The A. D. S. honored Dr. McDade in 1954 with its gold medal for the services rendered by him in this connection.

## Score Cards Now Included

The current Classification List contains the two A. D. S. Official Score Cards, with explicit explanation as to their use. The Field Card is used in judging new varieties in the eight A. D. S. Trial Gardens. The Bench Score Card is used in judging seedlings in the A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes which competition is used by associated societies in over 60 shows each fall.

## We Salute

The two societies owe much to members who have served on the Joint Committee through the years. Thanks should be given to these: J. Louis Roberts, Mrs. H. S. Blum, Henry A. Olsen, Dr. C. H. Rike, Hon. George R. Currie, Dr. Bruce Preas, Andrew J. Mulcahy, Edward J. Schampel, Paul Hale, Stanley G. Swanson, Bernard L. Wright, Dr. William Van Horn, the late Fred L. Trauth and many other true friends of the dahlia.

They have spent untold hours of their valuable time, and paid their travel expenses to the meetings over the years to keep alive the list of current dahlia varieties with proper descriptions. Every dahlia grower, every introducer, every judge all over America, have benefited from their labors and fidelity to this important work.

It will be our endeavor to carry on the job they have so efficiently accomplished since the middle 1940's.

## Two Societies Join Efforts

In 1948 a Joint Classification Committee meeting was held, in Milwaukee, Wis., between representatives of the A. D. S. and the Central States Dahlia Societies. It was agreed there that the two societies would publish an annual Joint Classification List. This began the friendly relationship between the A. D. S. and the Midwest group. Mr. Harold L. Cummings, of Chicago, who was one of the original C. D. S. committee members, has served for over ten years, either as Chairman or Secretary of the Joint Committee. The same format, with a changing personnel, is in use today.

Mr. Charles M. Diffenderffer of Baltimore, Md., was appointed late in 1957 to be A. D. S. Chairman of this committee. He only just retired from this post in 1963 with honors. He was presented with an A. D. S. Plaque and made Honorary Chairman. Mr. Diffenderffer had served the A. D. S. most diligently in previous years in other capacities, before assuming the responsibilities of the Classification Committee head. In 1958 he was given the society's highest award, its Gold Medal.



## PRESENTING AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT

Martin Guttler, of Huntington, N. Y., a master grower and frequent winner of top awards, won an American Home Achievement Medal in 1948 with the new variety, NEW LOOK. Here E. L. D. Seymour, Hort. Editor of that publication, presents Mr. Guttler with the medal. The A. D. S. officials who assisted in the ceremony in the picture were, from left: Gordon Waaser, then Editor of the A. D. S. Bulletin; Mr. Guttler, Mr. Seymour. Top row, left, Andrew Mulcahy, Chairman of Judging; Dewey Mohr, Chairman Entertainment & Finance of the 50th Anniversary and Lynn Dudley. (This award was made yearly for over 40 years to new Dahlia Varieties. It was the forerunner of the A. D. S. Achievement Awards.)

## WHY BUY THE NEW ONES?

### When We Sell All the Old Ones?

You know, as well as we, that the (Claims?) made that the New Introductions will Beat Anything on the Tables is just "Windbagging."

We have accumulated a lot of Surplus of the Old Babies which always win and we have to unload them. Might as well be you.

Name one or a dozen—we got 'em.

Write for List

## GAMBLE GARDENS

Wildwood, N. J.



## Reflections On The Fifty Years

By Joseph Lane, First A. D. S. Secretary

It was enthusiasm, rather than money or numbers, which got the American Dahlia Society started in 1915. I can't go along with some who claim that there were visions of a great National Dahlia Society right from the start. We had trouble even keeping going locally in New York right in the middle of a National depression.

The complexion of the times in which the society was born, was evidenced by the editorial in the Florists Exchange, in 1915, entitled "The Prospects Ahead." In part, it said: "Early in August last, when projected enterprises collapsed with many an audible thud, and even the major portion of established industries were shaken to the core. Work ceased entirely with some, but with most there was every portent of a real panic."

"Economic disaster to the nation was averted through the emergency measures taken by strong financial interests. Dull times succeeded, however, after the first crushing realization of what the great clash of arms in the recent World War and the loss of vast material and millions of men had meant to the entire world."

It was early in this momentous year that I was assigned to sell garden advertising in the old Garden Magazine and Country Life. The late Leonard Barron and E. L. D. (Ned) Seymour were my associates. Both of these men were to distinguish themselves in Horticulture and dahlias before their careers ended.

But the depression never seemed to daunt the pioneers of the A. D. S. Our President Richard Vincent, Jr., for the first fifteen years was himself a powerhouse of energy and ideas. Between the preliminary meeting which Mr. Vincent arranged and our first show, or just after it, we succeeded in getting nearly 200 members. That was between May 10 and

October 15th. This was, as I look back on it, quite an achievement for any horticulture group, and I have been connected with many of them in my lifetime of calling on horticulture men and organizations.

In spite of tight money, we had \$325.00 for premiums and over \$100.00 for medals as well as other prizes for the winners. And, believe it or not, we had about \$200.00 left in the treasury. Generous contributions by our determined officers made this possible.

Among the stalwart members and officers who made this first show of the society successful were, besides our president: George Fraser, Prof. J. B. Norton, James Duthie, George Stillman, Louis Alling, William Rathgeber, J. Harrison Dick, Edward C. Vick (the latter two followed me as Editor of the Bulletin), Leonard Barron, W. W. Wilmore (of Denver), George W. Kerr, I. S. Hendrickson, P. W. Popp, Prof. F. H. Hall, James Kirby, Warren Maytrott, L. K. Peacock, F. R. Austin, Mrs. Sarah Wood, and Mrs. C. H. Stout. Most of these have passed on except Mrs. Wood, George Fraser, Lou Alling, Warren Maytrott and myself.

It was from this group that the judges for the first show were chosen. We were honored by the presence at the show of Mrs. Gertrude Dahl Mordecai, of South Carolina, a descendant of the great Swedish botanist after whom the dahlia was named, by Father Cavanilles in Madrid, about 1797.

I will not attempt to name any of the varieties which won at this first A. D. S. show, as I am informed that there is such a list of current (1915) dahlias on another page of this "Golden Year Dahlia Record." But this I know, the crowds of people, some said over 25,000 of them, proved to be very interested, and many were busy making lists of the dahlias they wanted to grow.

The fifty years of continued enthusiasm and unselfish work by the men and women who followed the pioneers has been unique, in my opinion. Through these 50 years my connection with horticultural societies, firms and people, I have attended many flower shows and conventions. Few, if any, of the many flower societies have had a half century of success comparable to that of this society.

I know I will be happy to see again the old friends and associates of by-gone days at this Anniversary Celebration. See you tonight, the 19th of September 1964. Gosh, how time flies!



### The Saga of C. Merrill Brown

By "Bob" Connal, Rochester

C. Merrill Brown, a professor of Chemistry at the University of Buffalo for many years, resided in Williamsville, N. Y. "Bus" as his intimate friends called him, fell in love with Dahlias about 1925, and over succeeding years, became one of the most widely known dahlia-growers and judges of his time. He loved to show his dahlias, and would seldom visit a Show without calling on one or more growers enroute to, from, or locally situated, to view his, or her garden. This was one reason for his wide personal acquaintance with dahlia people. Not infrequently, he would allocate some of his late summer vacation time after summer school closed, calling on growers in the East, or Mid-West and even in Canada. Many close to him marvelled how, with his many professional duties, he found time for the very extensive correspondence he carried on, but from such he derived much satisfaction. Older readers of publications like "The Bulletin" or "The Dahlia" and others, will remember his periodic articles, another way in which he became known to dahlia people.

Several new introductions, starting with **Kirsten Flagstad** kept his name in the catalogs during the last decade of his life. **Imperial** and **Ambrosia** were his last two contributions. Excepting **War-paint**, these and **Cymbie** (after his initials, C. M. B.), **Vision**, **Tiara**, and **Spectacular** are still in commerce. His main seedling interest was the "A" size.

At the time of his untimely death (in his garden), he had several others undergoing trial, and he was almost hyper-critical, when it came to the point of launching one.

Merrill was for many years a Vice-President of the American Dahlia Society, and a sought after judge. He knew his dahlias, so to speak, and had personally introduced many foreign varieties to American commerce. In his garden one would see the best of American introductions of recent release, some of the best of the older ones, his own introductions, and some adjudged as "tops," from acquaintances overseas.

In 1955 the Rochester Dahlia Society honored him with its Medal for his personal inspiration and help.

## Satan Goes to Japan

C. W. Ballay,

Originator of Satan,

Finds this Old Photo

C. W. Ballay, one of the pioneer commercial dahlia growers in California, has originated many fine dahlias over the past half century. He was a contemporary of Jessie Seal, Bessie Boston, J. J. Broomall, Alice Musserdorffer, and other great dahlia introducers back in the early 1900's.

He was first located at Los Altos and later he bought a place on El Camino Real in Palo Alto. (The Editor visited him in Palo Alto in 1956.) He not only originated many dahlias which were very popular, but also introduced many which were originated by John Gaylord and other growers.

Some of the remembered outstanding varieties which Mr. Ballay introduced in the middle 1950's were: **SHOWBOAT**, A—F.D.; **TORCH**, A—St. C., red, yellow; **GAYLORD SPECIAL**, A—I.D., Pink; **SEQUOIA**, A—I.D., Yellow; **LAS LAURELES**, A—S.C., Pink; and **YOSEMITE**, A—I.D. (The editor is still growing that grand big white formal, **SHOWBOAT**, and grew **SEQUOIA** in his last garden in New Rochelle in 1961.

About 1933, Mr. Gaylord introduced the old time favorite and perennial winner, **SATAN**, the big red Semi-Cactus. Sent all over the world, one of the plants went to Japan, where it attracted great attention. In March of this year, Mr. Gaylord, who still lives in Palo Alto, but has retired from the dahlia commercial end, sent us the above picture of **SATAN** with a young Japanese maiden taken in Sapporo City.

The growers were Yoshida Dahlia Gardens. There was only this one bloom on the plant and it measured 14 inches in diameter. Naturally it created a sensation as shown in the Hokkaido Annual Dahlia Show. It was the largest bloom in the show and won the highest award. That was in 1934. Oh yes, the girl, now probably a grandmother, was Minako Yoshida, daughter of Mr. Yoshida.



## Our Dahlias Score!

The A.D.S. helps us bring you **BETTER DAHLIAS**—by Awarding Certificates of Merit to most of those we grow.

Our name on the tag bewitches the judges—Result—Many, Many Awards.

*Ray Webber lists them on his Pre-view, too, because we name them after him and his.*

**ALDERSHOT  
DAHLIA FARM**

Bowieknife, Md.



# Good Dahlias and How to Grow Them

By J. Louis Roberts, (1943)

As published in the "Home Garden"

(The late J. Louis Roberts was a grower and breeder of dahlias and one who was interested in helping others to get the same satisfaction from a dahlia garden which he did. He was author of the book, "Modern Dahlias," published in 1938. And, on occasion, he wrote articles about dahlia culture. This is the only article on culture in this "RECORD." We publish it in the abbreviated form, omitting lists of the then current varieties which he recommended to his readers. L. B. D.)



J. LOUIS ROBERTS

is remembered for his unfailing good humor, and his devotion to the hobby of dahlia growing. He wrote about dahlias as well as growing and showing. He also originated many fine varieties.

## Wrote Mr. Roberts:

"The dahlia enthusiast, even though he may be getting on in years, will never want to give up entirely the culture of his favorite flower. But the more he reduces the number of the plants he raises, the more certain he will wish to be that the ones he does grow are the best of the current ones. Therefore he will read all the catalogues and lists available to help him purchase the new stock. No real dahlia enthusiast ever is satisfied with the ones he grew last season. He also visits all the dahlia shows possible to see the new ones which win honors on the seedling tables.

To those who have not yet grown dahlias, it may be pointed out that this flower of a thousand forms and every color and combination of colors, except a pure blue, is by no means restricted to the expert. Some diligent care is required, its true, in order to produce the super-blooms that carry off blue ribbons at the larger dahlia shows. But any beginner, by following a few simple rules of culture, which are easily obtained, can provide him or herself with an abundance of blooms for home and garden beautification.

Dahlias can be planted in most sections of the country, until the middle of June. Many growers prefer the late planting because it brings the plants into flower when the weather is growing cooler. This is the condition they like best.

## Planting

If one is planting roots from last year's garden, be careful to leave an eye, (at the base of the old flower stem) with each division of the clump. These roots are set out in well prepared holes. In friable,

(loose) soil, they can be set in a hole about five to six inches deep, with soil loosened at bottom. When growing plants, (from shoots started in the greenhouse in early spring), the ball of roots with plant above is placed 2 to 3 inches below the surface; pinch off the lower leaves if they are yellow or dried. (See the illustration.) We might add that many growers prefer plants to roots, as they come into bloom earlier than when planting roots. The plants make just as many roots, or as big a clump, as when roots are planted.

## Staking

Most dahlia plants should be staked. They should be in place before the planting is done. The label, bearing the name of the variety is tied to the stake. As the plants grow, they should be tied firmly but not too tight, so as to bend the stalk, to the stake. There are "bedding types" of dahlias, which only grow to about two feet in height, which do not need stakes. These are used for borders in landscaping. The four most used for this type of gardening, are old ones, but still good for this purpose. They are "Easter Greeting"; "Fred Springer"; Bishop of Landaff" and one known as the "Jap Bishop" which is a seedling of "Bishop of Landaff."

## Pinching Center Shoots

All dahlia plants, regardless of size of the flower, should be "pinched back." This is done by carefully pinching the center shoot at the top of the plant, when several sets of leaves have developed. For the large dahlias, this is usually done when two or at most, or three sets of leaves are showing and well developed. For the medium size, usually six sets of leaves are left on plant when center is pinched. This makes the plant spread and side branches develop faster. With the miniatures and pompoms, plants can be pinched back two or more times.

## Keep the Plants Growing

The greatest precaution in the culture of dahlias is to avoid their receiving a growth check after they are well started. Such a check, whether due to neglected cultivation, lack of plant food, or dry spells, without being watered, results in a hardening of the stems and tissues. Once this occurs, it is very difficult to get them growing well again, but with work and extra care, it can be done.

## Watering and Fertilizing

The dahlia grower, therefore, should take pains to keep the soil

around the plants about them well cultivated and moist, to provide ample food, and it should be stated that dahlias do take more fertilizer than most flowers. This is because the plant has to make the new plant, while, at the same time it is storing up reserves of renewal food in the roots for the next season's planting. The fertilizers can be of organic or chemical origin. Good cow manure or a balanced commercial fertilizer of 5-10-5 formula are most often used. The 5-10-5 is composed of 5 parts of Nitrogen, 10 parts of Phosphate and 5 parts of Potash. Growers who wish to "push" the plant to produce very large blooms for exhibition, feed oftener and use more nitrogen, but this is not for beginners. Only experience and trial over years, can guide this method.

Fertilizer should be applied as "top dressing," and not too close to the stalk, but sprinkled around the plant several inches from it; then raked in and watered. No plant food is available to the dahlias unless and until it is mixed with water.

## Sizes and Forms

I have mentioned the different sized dahlias. The American Dahlia Society of which I have been a member for many years, has officially classified fourteen dahlia forms. They are: Single; Mignon; Orchid-flowering; Anemones; Collarette; Paeony; Incurved Cactus; Straight Cactus; Semi-Cactus; Formal Decorative; Informal Decorative; Ball; Miniature; Pompon. These form types are divided into four size groups; "A" or large, over 8 inches in diameter; "B" or medium, 6 to not over 8 inches; "BB" or small medium, 4 to not over 6 inches and "M" or small under 4 inches.

## Colors

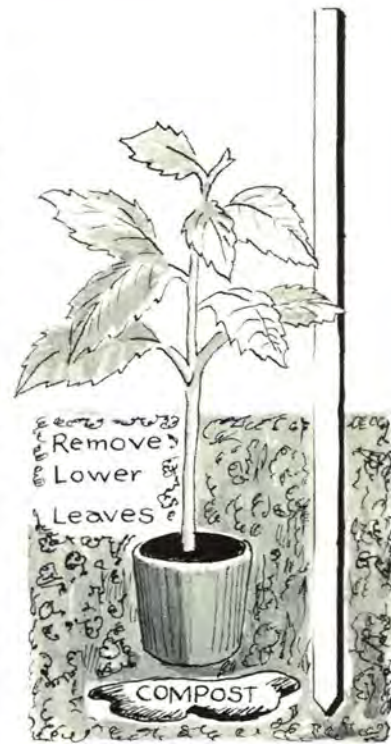
For the purpose of dividing the main color divisions into which dahlias fall, for exhibition purposes, the American Dahlia Society and the Central States Dahlia Society, which issue an annual joint Classification list of some 1600 varieties, dahlia colors are divided into 14 classes.

In some, colors are mingled. These are called Blends, either dark or light. The official colors are: White; Yellow; Orange; Flame; Autumn; Red; Dark Red; Pink; Lavender; Purple; Light Blend; Dark Blend; Bi-color; Variegated.

## Dahlia Shows

In most dahlia exhibitions there are color classes within the divisions of form classes. When a grower gets to the point where it is important to win awards for his gardening efforts, and that usually does not take too long, then he or she should study show rules and try to grow the sizes and types of the classes to be entered. In all shows there are amateur classes which even first year dahlia growers may enter their blooms.

While the large flowered dahlias are grown best as individual plants or bushes, many of the smaller ones, especially the pompoms and minia-



The above drawing is reproduced in a new drawing by Doris Pace from the one used to illustrate the article. It is self explanatory.

tures, can be used in rows, as a border for the vegetable patch, or along a walk, drive or fence. These smaller dahlias are usually compact and "bushy" in growth. They produce an abundance of flowers, without the necessity of two much disbudding or special care.

So, friends, go to the next dahlia show you hear or read about. Study the varieties and decide which types and what colors you would like to grow next year. If you know a friend who grows them, visit his garden. Ask him all about them. Even if you see a dahlia garden, and don't know the grower, you will be most pleasantly surprised to see how easily you will become acquainted and form a new friendship. Dahlia growing is the greatest breeder of firm friendships which we know of.—J. Louis Roberts.

## Why Shouldn't You Grow COMMONSTOCK SEED

We own our own Bee Hives. Our bees follow instructions and spread the BEST POLLEN where we tell them.

We furnish our bees more sugar. Why shouldn't we charge you more for the Super Seed they produce?

Blue Cross Bee Seed,  
100 Seed — 10 Bucks

COMMONSTOCK  
Dahlia Gardens  
Dahliaville Beach, Calif.



## Let's Practice What We Preach. . . (Or Vice-Versa)

Presented in the form of a two act play

### Act One:

*Enter the two characters, one, a very important looking gentleman with a Joint Classification List in one hand, and an Accredited Judges Directory in the other. This important looking gentleman could just as easily be you or me, the "experienced" dahlia growers. Character number two is a glassy eyed, breathless, drooling, potential new dahlia grower who has just had the pleasure of a conducted tour of "our" dahlia patch. First question from the glassy eyed, novice is as follows:*

"How can I grow beautiful dahlias like these?"

"Ye gods, what a question to ask one of us" . . . eh boys?

"The important looking gentleman, (you or me) takes a deep breath, places the Joint Classification list and the Accredited Judges directory in his pocket. He carefully folds the list so his name is shown as a A. D. S. "senior judge" and says: "It's not at all difficult son." "There are a few minor details you'll have to learn and I'll confide in you that I've been growing dahlias for over 50 years and I'm still learning. . . Let's see now, first you must have your soil analyzed because as you know, there are three major elements and seven minor or trace elements in the soil and dahlias need some of all the elements, but in different amounts.

"Oh you don't know what the elements are, you don't even know how to take a soil sample. Well now, here are the elements and what they will do for your dahlias . . . bla, bla, bla, blabla . . . and this is exactly the way you take a soil sample . . . are you listening? . . . better make some notes . . . bla, blab, blab, bla, do you have that all down son?

"Now your soil is in perfect condition and ready to plant your dahlias and just think boy, you've only spent \$38.88 on fertilizers, soil tests and fumigants. (We'll not count that \$150.00 rototiller all dahlia growers must have.) By the way, take my word for it. . . "Madam Queen" will win all the awards at the big show this year, she's a seedling of mine, she's a cross between Amos and Andrea. Boy! Is she a beauty; a heavy feeder, luxuriant "insect re-

sistant" foliage, stems like steel rods, long lasting blooms, heavy root maker and she faces perfectly, providing you disbranch and disbud her at the exact time of the growing season. She costs only \$25.00 this year son, how many do you want?

"You don't know what it means to disbud and disbranch? No trouble at all son, here's how it's done . . . bla, bla, blab, . . . You say \$25.00 sounds a bit steep? Oh you could grow 'cheapies' in your patch, but the new introductions, especially those that the trial ground boys haven't had their hands on are much more dependable.

*(At this time the scene changes to the novice grower who is not breathless, glassy eyed and drooling any more.)*

*He is now assuming a blank stare, his mouth and throat are dry and a slight twitch has appeared at the left corner of his mouth. He takes a deep breath, hesitates and blurts out.*

"If I grow some nice blooms could I bring them to the show this fall? . . .

*The important one (you or I) smiles and assumes a benevolent look.*

"Why certainly son, you'll be very welcome, the side door is real handy and no one will see you when you sneak in. Of course I'll be there and if I have the time, I'll help you make your show tags and classify your blooms. Now don't be disappointed if I'm busy, so many big shots will be there, pre-judging and feeling of the substance of the blooms before judging time—(it helps them make up their minds while judging.) I never have any trouble myself, because I like red blooms and I'll always give them preference. My gosh son, you don't know about A size? B size? BB size? miniatures? You don't know about Cactus, Semi-Cactus, Informal and Formal shapes?

"I'll be brief as possible, its a shame you don't have one of those new fangled portable tape recorders, son . . . got your pencil, here goes. . . An A size dahlia measures, blab, blab, blab, bla. . . Sure you can join our Dahlia Society son, I'll recommend you myself, come to our next meeting but let me give you a tip. . . DON'T ASK ANY SILLY QUESTIONS! At the meeting the regular members will be busy arguing parliamentary rules, discussing Roberts Rules of Order and they resent being interrupted. Just sit in the back and save your questions for me later.



Paul Hale assisted by "Vickey" packing the Station Wagon with blooms to take 500 miles or more very often at show time. And distance and travel does not keep them from winning many awards. You'll see them arranging blooms at the Fiftieth Show, we are sure.

"You'll be expected to run the hamburger stand this time at the meeting and most members bring 150 of their plants to the sale, don't let it worry you if you can only bring 125, everyone knows you are a beginner.

"Now you want to know when to cut down your plants, divide your clumps and store the roots. Better get out your pencil and notebook again son, here goes; bla, blab, blab and bla bla . . . and you store the divisions in VERMECULITE."

Where are you going son? What's wrong anyhow . . . why are you getting in your car? (Gosh, I ust don't understand, that novice grower just drove away without even saying "thanks").

### Act Two..or (Vice Versa)

Gentlemen, let's forget all the complicated data we love to expound and instead put our arm around the newcomers shoulder and say softly. .

"Forget or disregard all the advice these experts dish out son. . . Don't plant over 50 dahlias your first year, 25 would be even better . . . plant them in full sun, and don't worry about the soil, put a stake by each plant, tie it and water it once a week. Buy up some plants or roots of some good old dependables, Mrs. Hester A. Pape, Golden Treasure,

Juanita, Kidds Climax, Croyden Masterpiece, Kelvin, Arab Queen, First Lady, Mary Elizabeth, Earl Wood and Golden Heart. . . None of these varieties will cost over \$1.00 each. They are "tried and true" and always win their share. Let your plants grow and thrive son, spray or dust with some common insecticide . . . keep all the buds pinched off your plants till August 15th then select the best 6 or 7 buds and let 'em develop.

Call me up anytime, son. Better yet, stop in at my place anytime, you'll be welcome, ask questions, don't be bashful, I'll answer them the best way I can. Say, by the way, why don't you ride to the show with me this fall, I'll set up my blooms first and then help you, then we'll stroll around so you can meet some of the other growers."

"When the shows are all over, call me up. I'll help you dig your roots and show you my way of dividing and storing. Glad to help you. Remember, I was a novice once, I asked questions, too. And by golly, I won some awards too. You say Cloth House son? You've never lived till you've owned one. Now here is where you get the cloth and personally. . . I like a wooden frame like this. . . Scribbled by Paul Hale, Brighton, Ill., Editor of "The Dahlia"—Central States Society.

### Dr. Cook Thumped the Stem

Several years ago, at Paterson, N. J. Charles Stoeckel, Chairman of Judges, assigned me to help judge the "A" blooms in Open to All. I told Charlie that I had entries there and would rather not, but he insisted and told me that any class in which I had an entry I should step out and Dr. Cook and Jennie Mendham would judge that class, with

this understanding I went along. When it came to picking the best "A" from the four specials, two of which were mine, my Croydon Masterpiece was very much in the running, the late Dr. Cook tunked the stem up and down, hitting the bottom of the stem several times and said "Well it did not shed any feathers, so I guess we will have to give it to you."—Roy Webb.

### Johnnie Stovall Says:

Two—(2)—Twin—Scores for our "Jewell" proves it is a rare heirloom.

The scores were made by the same team of Judges, at Lakeside Park, and next in the East Bay Show. At both they gave it the A.D.S. Award.

*If you are not growing it this year, that's a loss to both of us.*

*Just write me Care of*

**"Mathilda"**

Supup, Calif.



## You Should Tell Me!

You, maybe, could tell me, why a guy, who has been in the dahlia business for almost fifty years, should sit down and philosophize? Tell me too, why a guy, nearly 80, should be so weighed down with multiple plantarosis that he can no longer figure all the angles of life. A Jewish woman said: "How lonck shall you live?" Here I am, growing too many hills to even take the good care of them, that I have always thought necessary. At my age, I can't seem to "take it" any more from 5:30 A.M. till dark. I try to rest a bit around about noon this time of the season. Also I admit that some of my "rest" involves a glass or two of that purple colored nector, with my lunch, that is a part of an Italian gentleman's living. But as soon as we try to relax, someone (probably a customer), rings the doorbell, or the phone starts peeling. At that moment I have visions of putting up a sign on the "big lot" across the road, which will read: "FOR SALE." I tell myself that, in case I do that, I will just continue with the greenhouse and the "local lot" and take care of local customers.

So I sit here on my tired fanny tonight, after 14½ hours in the garden and greenhouse, and ponder on the ups and downs of a commercial dahlia man's life in this "Golden Year of the Dahlia," and the fiftieth Anniversary of the American Dahlia Society. That society has been a very big part of my dahlia life. I have many friends amongst its many members.

Did I say "ups" in a dahlia man's life? Really, there are too many "downs." Then I recalled what a Pope said on his death bed, "There's so much yet to be done." That is very true of all oldsters who do not



**ALBERT PARRELLA**

Baron of the Bronx

From dawn till dark, seven days a week (unless he goes fishing in the Sound), this man works with and for dahlias. They bring him his entire income and his "trade" is among his many friends of long standing. He likes a joke, too, even when it's on him.

wish to leave behind them, the unfinished business of "live and let live."

There are still some things in the pattern which are hard to understand. The pattern is there, but knowledge of why, is elusive. For instance, it's been so dry around this man's garden (for over a week, it's been 89 to 99 degrees of heat and no rain for weeks). Some of our dahlia plants dried up while we were planting others, because we could not get to them with water. In fact, we and the plants, have been getting well fried.

Then, there was a very heavy rain over at Coney Island. A million or so bathers had to run fast for shelters to keep from getting wet. They needed that rain like a hole in their life belts. Without a belt, I could have used some of that rain in my garden.

While I am reflecting about all these elements and things in general, and trying to grow blooms and roots and plants for my customers—I am wondering just what they would do —IF I did cut my garden down to one-fourth, or less, of its present planting of ten or so thousand plants. Some of them, I'm sure, would very soon find another supplier. That's the way customers are, even if they have been buying from you for many years. (Some of them, anyway.)

With so many years behind me—with so many hours per day of caring for my precious dahlias—regardless of how tight these old muscles get—what should I do? I'll guess that you would answer, "get some help to do part of the work." Let's talk about that for a minute. I'll admit that I have done most of the manual labor alone over the years. In earlier days I could get boys, with strong backs to come and help me. They seemed to like to do it. And, the cost per hour was not great. But that was long ago. Boys today don't

want to work hard, at any price per hour. And men?

Men today, who will work with their muscles, take so much time out to light and smoke cigarettes, for coffee breaks, or just "time out" breaks to rest are so costly, no matter what the hourly wage is, that we dahlia sellers just can't afford them. Yes, my friends, it has been mostly my labor and my back bending, that has gone into my dahlia products. And now, I am beginning to realize that my muscle work has been cheap labor.

Why have I worked so hard over these fifty and more years? Well, truthfully, it has been for more than money. I have built my business on friendship and mutual trust. As I come to the days when my back and knees creak more, I'm glad that these friends have been with me so long. I must have made a part of their life happier.

As usual, I said a prayer for the garden at the beginning of the "Golden Year of the Dahlia." I am hoping that the weather will be favorable for the many blooms which I and others can take to the biggest

show that the American Dahlia Society ever staged.

I also hope that there will be no pesky storms or hurricanes. We have had one of those latter things right in the middle of one of our A. D. S. shows. I hope that there will be many visitors to my garden in 1964. I want them to see the best blooms that I, and the favorable forces of nature can produce. After all, I will admit that I do sell a few blooms during the season. I also get a big kick when visitors to my garden exclaim with pleasure when they see something which I, at least helped to create. So, with those kind of feelings, you should tell me, "Quit, man, before you have to say, 'There's so much yet to do.'" And, before you also add, "Why, that old fossil could not write that," I'll confess that my granddaughter Linda, who is a very bright girl, took my thoughts and put them in your kind of English. (And maybe the Editor of this "Record" who knows me pretty well, over many years, twisted some of my words around, just a little, too.)—Albert Parrella. Meet you at the New Yorker, September 19-20, 1964.

## DAHLIAS

### PRIZE POEM

By Robert Hilyer



### Dahlia Poem — Thirty Years Old

Mrs. Charles Stout, dahlia grower and author of the book, "The Amateur's Book of the Dahlia," in 1923, was an ardent promoter of dahlia lore and literature. In 1954 she offered a substantial cash prize for the best dahlia poem. The one below is the first prize winner in this competition.

Mrs. Stout gave the Editor permission to publish this poem by Robert Hilyer. It was published in the A. D. S. Bulletin in 1934, but has never been put in type since that time. It is here published for the second time in thirty years and by the same Editor, named Dudley. We do not know if the author is alive.

(1)  
Vanquished by the threat of night  
Spreading wild wings the day  
takes flight.  
Pledging the armies of the light,  
Not to surrender;  
And in our westering world appear  
Dahlias, the sunset of the year,  
Kindling the misty atmosphere  
To sudden splendor.

(2)  
Soon will the summer leaves be  
be tossed  
Where summer's memories are lost,  
And, bound in iron bands of frost,  
The earth will harden;  
But in this final hour there gleam  
Banners of glory, to redeem  
The lingering hostages of dream  
In summer's garden.

(3)  
Not only do our eyes behold  
Their pageantry of red and gold  
Now when the twilight shudders  
cold  
With fears unspoken;  
But shining centuries to rout  
The hazes of autumnal doubt  
While proudly summer marches  
out,  
Her ranks unbroken.

(4)  
Recessional in robes of power,  
A sunset folded in a flower  
When first the gray horizons lower  
With sullen warning,  
They are the pledge of things to be  
After the snow; a prophesy  
To rive the bounds of night, and  
free  
Another morning.

### WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BETTER BALLS?

Then send for some seed from  
the little darlings. \$1.50 per 100  
cash on the line.

Their parents won 5 Scores of 85  
points or better in the A. D. S. Trial  
Gardens in 1963.

Yours Can Win Too. Try Our Seed.

**E. MAUMAU**

Ballinterra, Calif.

### BALLYHOO!

Lightfen, Holland

We have the low-down on  
high health stock.

Write for complete informa-  
tion on how we can sell them at  
such low prices.

Ask For Our New Good  
Will Catalogue



# The American Dahlia Society Accredited Judges Program

(The Merit System for Selection of Dahlia Judges)

It has long been recognized that competent judges rendering impartial decisions, inspire confidence in exhibitors and contribute immeasurably to improve the quality of a show. Concern over the quality and shortage of dahlia judges throughout the nation led to serious discussion and search for a solution. Sporadic attempts to cope with these problems were being made on a local level and it was the feeling of these pioneers that the problem was so vast that it should be tackled by the American Dahlia Society.

Early in 1961 A. D. S. President Bert Pitt invited all societies that had done some preliminary work in this field to submit their ideas. President Pitt and the author of this report, carefully studied these suggestions and added some of their own. Together they developed a model list of Questions and Answers based on the Judges Manual, the official score card and the Classification List for use by teachers of judges schools, and formulated rules for Accreditation of Judges. This plan was submitted to the A. D. S. Executive Committee which discussed it and made helpful suggestions. Out of these deliberations the merit system for selection of judges was born, based on what you know, not whom you know.

## The Plan Is Put in Operation

Notice of the creation of an A. D. S. Accredited Judges Program first appeared in the May, 1961 issue of the Bulletin while our then editor, Lynn Dudley, was still on the job. The primary aim of the program is to standardize and thus improve the judging of dahlias. Standardization is achieved by making it a requirement for accreditation that a student judge pass a written examination based on a knowledge of the Judge's Manual, the score card, and the Classification List. In this way all accredited judges are using a common yardstick for evaluating dahlias.

## Lundgrow Introductions Always Grow!

I have named my new introductions after my relatives — because I am proud of both. You will make my family very happy, if you have their namesakes in your garden this year.

When you write for my Catalogue, you endorse Family Co-hesion. That's good, in people AND in Dahlias.

## LUNDGROW DAHLIA GARDENS

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Wooden St.,  
Santa Claus, Calif.

Two grades of judges are accredited by the American Dahlia Society, regular and senior judges. To qualify as a regular judge a candidate must (1) be a member in good standing of a dahlia society, (2) have exhibited dahlias for at least five years, (3) have served as apprentice judge in five shows in a period not to exceed two years, and (4) have passed a written examination, as noted above.

Promotion to senior judge occurs when a candidate demonstrates to the local senior judges committee his or her ability to judge seedlings. A good seedling judge must have a wide knowledge of dahlias to be able to recognize those characteristics in it which are distinctive and superior to any disseminated varieties. Certification of a seedling by competent judges protects the consumer and inspires confidence in the judges.

## Administered Locally

For practical reasons the program is administered locally by a senior judges committee representing a dahlia conference or a dahlia society. These area committees composed of the best judges available are responsible for training and examining student judges and for submitting lists of candidates eligible for accreditation to the A. D. S. Accredited Judges Committee which issues accredited regular and senior judges cards. The American Dahlia Society is responsible for policy making, such as enactment of the rules for accreditation. It assists societies in organizing schools for judges, supplying them with free copies of a model list of Questions and Answers based on the Manual, score card, and Classification List. (Copies of the Manual and Classification List may be purchased from A. D. S. Treasurer, Mrs. Caroline P. Meyer, 165 Harcourt Avenue, Bergenfield, N. J.) As an additional service, especially to chairmen of judges committees, the A. D. S. Accredited Judges Committee published a 1963 Directory of Accredited Judges. A supplement to the 1963 Directory was published in the February 1964 issue of the A. D. S. Bulletin.

## A. D. S. Plan and Efforts Justified

Judging from the numerous reports received by this Committee, the results of this program have justified the efforts and money put into it. This Committee is grateful to all societies, to the senior judges committees, to the devoted teachers and friends who have cooperated through their schools to train student judges to make this movement a contribution toward the improvement of the quality of dahlia judging. As a result of this cooperative effort there are now more than 600 accredited judges serving dahlia societies throughout the United States. — Lawrence Pal-

minteri, Chairman, A. D. S. Accredited Judges Committee.

## Roy Webb — Editor

Roy Webb is chairman of the A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes Committee. He is carrying out that assignment to the satisfaction of all the nearly seventy societies associated with the A. D. S. Some sixty of these societies participate in this chief Seedling Show Competition each fall.

But, now, Roy has taken on another job. He is editor of "Dilly Dahling" of the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society. And there is much evidence in each succeeding issue, that he takes the job seriously. He is getting a lot of people to write articles for it.

The publication at present is a 24 page, 5 x 7 inch pamphlet, reproduced from typed copy. To receive it, one should join the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society. Dues are \$2.00. You may send dues to Howard R. Ralph, 409 Myrtle Avenue, Cheltenham, Pa. (There is no charge for this promotion.) Roy, like most of us dahlia editors, receives no pay in money, only in the satisfaction of helping the cause of dahlia growing. Such devotion too, is somewhat rare.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Webb of Scranton were guests of honor at the Ohio Dahlia Society Founder's Day ceremonies, July 21st, 1963, at the Jerry Kovar Farm in Southington, Ohio.

## Roy Webb Reminisces —

One of the first meetings with the Editor in Chief of this Souvenir Edition was at Peekskill, N. Y. many years ago. After the judging was finished he went outside to take kodachrome pictures of some of the prize winning blooms, so I tagged along to take some pictures for myself as well as to help Dudley carry blooms out and in. He was equipped with various colored backgrounds, and there being a little breeze it was hard to keep the background in place. I don't know how many times I straightened the background, but we both got some splendid pictures. For several years after that we always took blooms out on the ledge outside the top floor of the old Pennsylvania Hotel and took many pictures together. Peekskill was the beginning of a long and satisfying friendship, as we have judged on the same team many times since then.

Believe it was in 1946 at East Liverpool, when they were host to the Mid-West Show. Five of us were assigned to judge the seedlings, plus pick all the specials in the show. We worked through till about six o'clock to finish the seedlings, when we split up and went to supper . . . planning to return afterwards to pick the specials, but only two of us returned, Judge Currie and I. We finished the job just in time to go to the so-called banquet at a little past 9 P.M. I never did learn where the other three went, as I don't recall even seeing them at the banquet. (Names on request.)

At one of the A. D. S. Shows, say in the early 1930's, three of us were assigned to judge the "A" blooms in "Open to All." In those days, there were no "one bloom" classes, but the schedule called for three formal blooms, regardless of color, three informals, etc. One of the Judges was a woman, and as soon as she saw the entries in one class she covered her face with both hands and cried "I hate Red." Needless to say the reds were there upon awarded the blue, I believe they were **Murphy's Masterpiece.**

Just last year friend Dudley and I were on the five man team assigned to judge Seedling Sweepstakes at Milwaukee. One of the Judges insisted that the longer the stems the better, using the idea that he could better use the blooms in basket work (possibly to weave baskets). The rest of us failed to agree with him, as we liked to work along the lines outlined in Dr. Cook's Manual, which while perhaps not perfect, is still the best guide we have at this time.

Perhaps my greatest thrill as an exhibitor was the year that Eddie O'Keefe came up to me while I was judging in one of the Amateur sections and extended his hand and congratulated me. I did not know for what and asked him. He said that I had won over him in the "Open to All."

At Cleveland some years back, one of the Judges scored a dahlia entry much lower than the other four men. In checking his scores we found he had nothing down in two of the spots on the score card, we called attention to this and his response was "that is my score, take it or leave it." Needless to say we left it, as he was more than three points below the average of the others.

At Philadelphia a few years back there was a wonderful entry of a real orange colored collarette. Four of us scored it well over 85. But one Judge, just did not like collarette's and his score was down in the 70's. The point I am trying to make is that some people only like big ones, while others like little ones. And if at all possible, assignments for unbiased Judges should be made accordingly, not only for seedlings, but all through the show.



# May I Relate Some A. D. S. History?

Asks Leo L. Pollak

Since we have reached the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the American Dahlia Society and since I have grown dahlias for about forty-five years, I believe I am in a position both from age and from my interest in our favorite flowers to relate some of the facts that have been instrumental in the success of the A. D. S. and the men who, through the years, have been the guiding spirits in the society.

I was born and brought up in New York City where, as most people of that time lived in apartments or flats depending on their income. Until I moved to New Jersey in 1919, the only flowers that I could identify were the rose, chrysanthemum, pansy and the daisy. When we set up our home, we had a house around which there was quite a bit of land, on which there was growing a number of shrubs and bushes, none of which I could name.

My first task in the new abode was to develop a flower garden and in order to get a proper start I arranged with a horticulturist to plant a number of different perennials. In my first year I had much pleasure in watching them grow, and nursing them along, as described in a number of books and pamphlets that specialized in disseminating this kind of information. One day in the spring, when I was working in the garden, one of the neighbors, whose acquaintance I had cultivated, gave me three clumps of what he called "dahlias."

There must have been from 8 to 10 roots on each clump and being a neophyte I planted these in their entirety, in the best sunny place in the garden. This was about April 15, and the weather being mild they started sending up shoots almost immediately and continued growing, and growing and sending up more and more shoots till by the middle of June I had bushes that measured from ten to fifteen feet high. Almost at once blooms started popping, and by the first of July I had plants with literally hundreds of blooms. Of course they were no prize sized

blooms but were the ordinary garden variety of small ball type flowers, but they were flowers, and that was all that counted.

I then and there decided to find out more about the plant that gave so many fine blooms and decided I would try to find out more about this wonderful flower. I contacted all the dahlia growers in the neighborhood and for the next year, I bought a number of roots from a grower named Parish in Nutley, New Jersey. In the meantime I studied their culture, whatever was available in catalogues, etc. The second year I had a pretty good collection of blooms, having learned in the meantime about cultivating, feeding and disbudding the plants as they developed.

Checking further, I found that there was in our state a New Jersey Dahlia Society, and soon I became a member. I met with a number of people who were not only interested in the New Jersey Society but in the American Dahlia Society as well. With such people as Conrad Frey, Ed Lloyd, Daddy Kemp, Mrs. Stout and Mrs. Faintout, I was thrown in at once with the leading lights in the Dahlia World and I cultivated their friendship. I learned from them a good deal about all of the fine points in growing dahlias.

## I Join the A. D. S.

The next step in my advance in the dahlia world was to join the American Dahlia Society, and soon I became an active member. When show time came in September, I was usually prepared with a number of blooms all of which I entered, but seldom was awarded a top prize. But I enjoyed growing them and more than that, I enjoyed meeting with, and getting to know men like Lynn Dudley, Dr. Preas, Ed Lloyd, Connie Frey, Gordon Wasser, Warren Maytrott, Dr. Cook and Dr. Connors.

In the early days of my association with the A. D. S., Derrill Hart was one of the leading men in the society and it was a thrill to be able to associate with him, Jack Johnston, George Frazer, Roy Webb, Warren Maytrott, and Dewey Mohr; I soon found that although they were all top men in the society, they were never too busy to discuss the pros and cons of any flower, its growing habits, and their likes and dislikes. It was "always a pleasure" with them.

Thru' the years, the A. D. S. has been fortunate in having men like Richard Vincent, Jr., C. Louis Alling, Thomas Leavitt, Derrill Hart, George Frazer, Lynn Dudley, Conrad Frey, Warren Maytrott, Ed Lloyd, Gordon Wasser as Presidents, and in later years Drew Mulcahy, Bruce Preas, and Bert Pitt. By the dint of hard work under such

leadership the Society has grown from a small initial membership to one having several thousand members and 67 participating and affiliated societies through all part of the country.

## Trial Gardens

Shortly after the founding of the Society, the Charter members decided that to best evaluate a new bloom there should be established an Official Trial Ground in which could be judged the work of the many new varieties that were continually coming on the market. Accordingly, such a trial garden was established at the Connecticut Agricultural College, now the University of Connecticut. Professor George Frazer was Professor of Horticulture at the college, and he volunteered, with the assistance of Wm. Sweeney and later on Professor Patch to watch the growing habits of each specimen. Several times each year, some of the most knowledgeable men from the society would travel to Storrs, and judge the blooms, using as a score sheet one prepared by the Committee for trial grounds of the Society.



Working Wife — "Why don't you join that new Dahlia Society?"

Watering Husband — "What new society?"

Wife — "They call it the Porcrastinator's Society. They give you a permit to sit down when you water the garden."

Storrs continued to be the principle trial ground, (for many years the only one), until the Committee decided that others should be established in different parts of the country, where climate and growing conditions are different from Connecticut. Accordingly, a trial ground was set up at Michigan State College, under the jurisdiction of Professor C. E. Wildon. The Dahlia Society of Georgia next set up a Trial Garden at Atlanta. Judge George Curry started one at Madison. The Pacific Northwest Ground was set up at Tacoma, Washington and another at Oakland and Los Angeles, Calif. Today there are in operation, eight different trial grounds, all under the instruction and guidance of the Trial Ground Committee of the A. D. S.

In the meantime, when Storrs had to be discontinued and a new eastern ground was set up at Rutgers University under the guidance of Dr. C. H. Connors. This proved to be one of the most used of all our Trial Grounds. Unfortunately, expansion of the college facilities and the failing health of Dr. Connors necessitated the abandoning of this establishment, but we were fortunate in

having the Long Island Agricultural College take over the east, with the assistance of the Long Island Dahlia Society. Since then, this trial ground had to be discontinued and we are now proving dahlias at the Bronx Botanical Park under the direction of Mr. Louis C. Politi.

## A. D. S. Awards

The executive committee of the A. D. S. later, with the consent of the society, established the Derrill Hart Medal which is awarded to one new bloom in each of the four size classes whose average on the score card, in at least three trial grounds establishes it as the best of the new introduction in its particular class. This high honor is keenly competed for and to win such an award assures the blooms of a place in commerce.

Thru' the years there were added a number of medals and sundry prizes given for the best new introduction at shows throughout the country, the principal ones was for A. D. S. years the Home Achievement Medal, the Flower Growers award and lastly, but not least, the A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes Awards. The latter are given for the best undisseeded flower two years or more old which must score 85% or more as judged on the bench score card. Another prize much competed for is the A. D. S. Achievement Award, which is competed for at any show by an associated society of the A. D. S., the blooms in any of the five major classes that make a designated percent as given on the bench score card is awarded a society medal. This year, for the first time it will be the new Lynn B. Dudley Medal. It honors him as the originator of the A. D. S. Seedling Sweepstakes.

## Research for Disease

At the urgent request of a number of members, a Research Committee was set up in order to enable studies to be made of virus diseases that effect the growing of dahlias. Accordingly, there was set up the J. Louis Roberts Research Fund, the donations to which are all voluntary. The money thus obtained is used to defray the expenses of conducting the research work. At the present time this work is done at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. There have been obtained a number of reports from this work, and the reports are distributed among the members of the society, as well as to all of the affiliated and branch societies.

## The A. D. S. Bulletin

The American Dahlia Society issues (four times a year) a Bulletin in which is given all the happenings in the dahlia world, and all of the new introductions and worth-while dahlia news. This usually has about 30 to 40 pages and is regarded as the foremost publication on the dahlia in the entire world. The original editor of the Bulletin was Joseph L. Lane, then Wm. Rathgeber, who was succeeded by Lynn Dudley who

(Continued on page 24)

## We Win in U. S. A.

American Trials Just Suit Our Dahlias — TEN Winners Last Year. And, we win twice by naming them after American cities and places. The old home town spirit, you know.

72 Pages of these Beauties in our Catalogue. Ask for it.

BY AIR MAIL

Eau D. Brudesome  
Barren, Holland



## MAY I RELATE SOME A. D. S. HISTORY? (Cont'd)

managed it for many years. He was followed by Gordon Wasser. Then back to Dudley again. Last year when he changed his residence to California, the honor fell to Ed Lloyd, who is now successfully editing the same.

### Exhibitions

Each fall the American Dahlia Society has a show which is regarded as the top exhibition for dahlias in the country. For many years this show was held in one of the larger hotels in New York City. In recent years, in order to conserve the society's funds the show has been held in conjunction with the Dahlia Society of New Jersey. At these shows there gather dahlia growers and lovers from all over the country. Much dahlia information is disseminated besides giving men and women who have an interest in the dahlia an opportunity to talk over all happenings in the dahlia world.

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the A. D. S. is usually held in New York during the month of January. At this meeting, which is usually very well attended by growers from all over the country, all of the recommendations made by the executive committee are approved and all pertinent dahlia problems are discussed and passed upon. The meeting is always followed by a dinner, whose attendance is well above the hundred mark. At the conclusion of the dinner there are shown slides of all the new and prominent dahlias that have come into commerce during the year.

I started to write a short resume of the work of the society, but being an ardent lover of the flower, I may have exceeded my allotted space. I conclude with these lines:

### Father, Bless This Flower

Of all the beauteous flowers  
that grow,  
Upon this mudane sphere below,  
'Tis hard to choose, where nature's hand  
Alike her many gifts bestow,  
Where every flower on which we  
gaze  
Has beauty, sheen and richness  
all in phase,  
Though most, some admiration  
claim,  
And many aspire to queenly fame,  
Still far above them all we hail,  
The Dahlia, Oh! how kind has  
been,  
The Father of all men, to place  
Such loveliness upon one stem.  
The flower with the most graceful  
fold  
So many sparked like purest gold  
(This Golden Year of the Dahlia)  
With shades from white to dark-  
est red,  
From pink to sum up colors  
spread,  
Such is the flower we all adore,  
Kind Father, bless it, guard it,  
keep it ever more.

—Leo. L. Pollak



## THESE CALIFORNIANS ARE WANDERING IN NEWYORK STREETS

Somewhere in this vast Metropolis are the four people shown above, from Oakland, Calif. They are, from left: Richard C. Trotter, Carl Lundvall, Mrs. Lundvall and Mrs. Trotter. Mr. Lundvall was president of the San Leandro Dahlia Society in 1956, and, at the time of this picture, 1963, was president of the East Bay Dahlia Society. His nickname is "Seabiscuit" due to his extra speed on the Freeways, just as he approaches a turnoff, or where he should turn off. The Trotters are noted for growing fine dahlias in mid-winter, in their front yard. Anyone seen these four wandering in New York or at the Fair? If so, just introduce yourself and you'll be among friends.

## Memoirs Of Garden Club Section American Dahlia Society Beginning 1931

By Georgena Humble

The day Mr. Derrill W. Hart came to my home in early 1931, requesting me to take charge of the Garden Club Section of the American Dahlia Society, was the beginning of one of the happiest and most enjoyable experiences for me to be carried on with great success over a long period of years. To have been associated with all the Presidents and Executive Boards since then, has brought a delightful and enviable record to me, with greater knowledge of the Dahlia and an association of lifetime friendships.

Starting the Garden Club Section with the selection of a fine staff of capable women to assist in securing exhibits from New York, Westchester, Long Island, Staten Island, Connecticut and New Jersey, the success of this part of the Society's Show was assured. For many years, it gained constantly in attraction, prestige, beauty, interest and friendships, through the love of gardening with display exhibits of accomplishment.

Our first Garden Club participation was at the Society's 17th Annual four day show in September 1931 at Hotel Commodore, New York City. Mr. Lynn B. Dudley's caption at the top of the Bulletin story was:

SOCIETY'S SEVENTEENTH SHOW

A SUCCESS

GARDEN CLUB DISPLAYS SURPASS  
ANY PREVIOUS PRESENTATION

It may be noted here that on September 8, 1934, Field Day at Storr's Trial Garden, as recorded by President Derrill Hart, that a severe and most disastrous storm was experi-

enced when he and Mr. Leonard Barron drove home through it to Long Island.

At the September 20-21, 1934 Show, held at Hotel Pennsylvania in two large ball rooms, the Garden Club Section had an ideal setting in one of these, with drapes and wall mirrors as perfect background to reflect the colorful Dahlias and fall flower exhibits. At this show, Miss Mabel Bollerer of the Newington, Connecticut Garden Club, won the most coveted award and honor, the silver medal of the National Dahlia Society of England, for the best arrangement of Dahlias in the entire show, with orchid flowering seedling Dahlias, grown from seed by Mrs. George E. Green, of the same garden club, who was a consistent winner in the Garden Club Section for many years following, receiving the A. D. S. Gold Medal in 1947 for her distinguished achievement with Dahlias.

Numerous successes followed with shows in New York City's popular hotels, the Museum of Natural History, Gardens of the Nations, at Rockefeller Center and the "Gardens on Parade" at the 1939 World's Fair. This was a particularly distinguished show, the A. D. S. Silver Anniversary Exhibition, at which Mr. Lynn Dudley was one of the competent judges of the arrangement classes in the Garden Club Section.

At Grand Central Palace in 1942, the 28th Annual Exhibition of the A. D. S. was combined with the New York City Victory Garden Harvest Show, where our Garden Club Sec-

tion displayed ingenious uses of vegetables, artistically cut as flowers and ornamental compositions. Various stages of corn from tassel to ear with the leaves dripping over the sides of a harmonious container, caught the admiration of the judges and won the tri-color for Mrs. Herbert L. Conover, a consecutive winner of clever and original displays. The awards were simple and secondary to the delight of the winners, some of whom, including the Conovers came very early at 7 A.M. from New Jersey and left their exhibits to be staged by the committee, while they went on to their jobs, then returned during their lunch hour to check their entries. Who could be more enthusiastic and have more fun?

The Victory Gardens A. D. S. Show was held September 23-24, 1943 at Hotel Shelton on Lexington Avenue, New York City. On September 21-22, 1944, the thrill of holding the A. D. S. Show at the Roof Garden of Hotel Pennsylvania will long be remembered for the spectacular view enjoyed of the East and Hudson Rivers around the southern tip of Manhattan Island with New York City's skyscrapers towering in the midst.

Our original committee was maintained over the years, looking forward to show time each year for the get-together. The judges enjoyed the privilege of judging, continuing to honor us. Mrs. Jules E. Rosenthal with her calm, composure, efficiency and untiring effort served in later years in the capacity of Assistant Chairman.

Many beautiful covers of the A. D. S. Bulletins represented the photographic work of Mr. Albert Humble, designated official photographer for the Society's exhibits. Exquisite compositions displayed by Garden Club members in the shows, also distinctive arrangements by Mrs. Georgena Humble, using special Dahlias from Mr. Gordon Waaser's and Mr. Lynn Dudley's gardens for these demonstrations, grace the pages and front covers of back issues, which today would challenge the most clever at this art of flower composition.

From time to time articles of interest on horticulture, ways to use Dahlias in gardens, treatment for keeping them in condition, arrangements using Dahlias, color harmony, Dahlias for small gardens, work with juniors stimulating interest in growing Dahlias, distributing Dahlia seeds, and descriptions of shows with details of these exhibits, reveal through these writings an inspiration to any who read them. These years of interest, encouraging progress and work for the American Dahlia Society in helping to enrich the Bulletin, may be recorded as Memoirs of the Garden Club Section—Georgena Humble, Vice-President and A. D. S. Life Member.



## Yes, They Were Tough Years

By C. Louis Alling

(One of five living A. D. S. Charter Members)

Others will give you all the historical facts about this society, although I have lived through most of the events, and have taken an active part in most of them until late years. Some of the early years were really tough.

Our President for the first fifteen years, Richard Vincent, Jr., was a hard taskmaster and it really kept us on our toes to keep up with him. He just knew that if we watched our step and worked like mad, this society would be a leader in dahlia culture and showmanship.

Times were really bad, when we started. Business firms were failing, including nurserymen. Looking back, I guess it's a big wonder how and why the old A. D. S. succeeded in weathering the first five years. But it did. We had to learn as we went along.

### We Had Financial Troubles

Perhaps the society had visions of grandeur. Perhaps it was predestined to attract other societies into its plans for better dahlia growing and showing, all across the land. We wanted to, and did help any other society which asked for it. Perhaps we could have gone further and faster with some wealthy "angels." But we had our troubles with short finances. We had to keep the Bulletin going to members, and often this publication took large "bites" out of our finances. I'm very sure this policy paid dividends, even though we did not have the nerve to raise our dues so that the expense of operating and giving shows would be covered. Some officers had to "dig down" and make up the deficits in some years. But more and more people began to grow dahlias and join the society and exhibit at the shows, so that in the late 1920s the society was quite prosperous.

### On Being Secretary

The Rathgebers, "Will" and "Mable," Editor and Treasurer, respectively, or many years, gave freely of their time and did much to keep up the interest in the society. Not many of us gave them the credit they deserved, I'm afraid. When Will passed on in 1932, I succeeded him as Secretary. That's when I found out how much time he had

been devoting to the affairs of the A. D. S. It was then, too that Lynn Dudley took over the Bulletin Editorship the first time. One of my jobs was to take printer's proofs from New Haven, where they were printed, down to Lynn in Westchester County, N. Y. and we made up the dummy together. I would then take them back to the printer. I recall that I was driving an old Buick, and quite often I would have a radiator leak or some other mishap to the old bus and I would arrive late with the proofs. Then we would work most of the night to put the issue together. I would hop in a bed at the Dudley's and start out early next morning. I also usually drove down to New York to attend the Executive meetings every month.

### A Word About Trial Gardens

I believe that the establishment of the Trial Garden at Storrs, and with the devotion to that phase of the A. D. S. program of men like Bill Sweeny, George Fraser and Roland Patch was the most significant part of our progress. Then later on after it had proved helpful to growers, the establishment of other Trial Gardens was the keystone of the Society's progress.

The Trial Gardens were really responsible for the development, in my opinion, of standards in judging, score cards and even classification of dahlias.

### Good Fortune Came

The society has been fortunate in many respects over the half century. It had leaders with vision. It attracted workers and exhibitors who helped to put on fine exhibitions. True, some of them labored under the mistaken idea that there were fortunes to be made in the commercial dahlia business. Hundreds of small commercial firms were born to sell their surplus roots. But they lacked the selling knowhow and did not advertise in the Bulletin, and soon faded. Result, lots of competition, and not many firms made money, with so much competition in a new and untried field. But there were many new growers interested in growing and showing dahlias. The advertising in the Bulletin increased in the late 1920s to a point where the publication did not need to be subsidized and prosperity came to the A. D. S.

### Dahlia Business Changes

I guess I am one of the oldest commercial dahlia men still in business. But because of ill health, I cannot grow as many as I used to. Also the main source of my customers, was my display at the Danbury Fair each fall. And the interest in floral exhibits has shifted to other types of flowers, so that does not bring the business as of yore. But I've sold many roots to many people over the past fifty years and

I hope they all got their money's worth.

### Getting the Record Straight

There is one matter which I would like to clear up, even 44 years after it happened. In the October 1920 issue of the Bulletin, it was reported that I had lost my order book, in which I had recorded the names, addresses, and lists of dahlias which many customers had ordered at my display in the 1920 A. D. S. Show. I want to, even at this late date, tell you that I did not lose that order book. It was stolen. Somebody must have filled those orders. But it was not me.

I have my own ideas where the book went, but I had no proof and made no charges, then, or since.

The real facts are: I put the order book in my satchel, and put the satchel in my car, in front of the

Pennsylvania Hotel. Then I went back to get my vases. In the few minutes I was away, someone, a dastardly sneak thief, stole the satchel. I offered a reward, but the miserable thief never returned it. I have always wondered if my customers secured any of the fine varieties which they had selected from my display. It is possible that the thief has gone to his reward. And I wonder if St. Peter asked him about the orders for dahlias which he stole that day from me.

I hope and believe in spite of that experience, that commercial people over the years, helped to keep up the public interest in dahlias, and this society. If I have contributed even a small part in the success of the A. D. S. over these fifty years, I am most happy. I have met many dahlia people in these years, whose friendship I hold very dear. Thank you friends.—C. Louis Alling.



### J. W. JOHNSON GETS SECOND GOLD MEDAL

The late 'Jack' Johnston, when Horticulture Editor of the N. Y. Herald Tribune, received his second A. D. S. Gold Medal for his services to the dahlia world. He was the only man to have received a second such medal. Reason: The first one was "extracted" from his apartment without his consent. He thought so much of the honor conferred upon him in its presentation, that he asked if he could have 'a second.' It was awarded to him at the A. D. S. Annual meeting by Past President Lynn Dudley, with Andrew Mulcahy (left), and Dr. Bruce Preas assisting.

### The Largest Dahlia Show Staged By the Late J. W. Johnston

In America, most shows are localized, due to packing and transportation difficulties.

The American Dahlia Society Shows, staged for so many years in the Ball Room of the hotel, then known as the Pennsylvania, were the largest in number of classes and blooms.

The late Jack Johnson, for many years, horticultural editor of the Herald Tribune, decided in 1930 to stage a super flower show in Convention Hall at Atlantic City.

The auditorium of this building contained 168,000 square feet. The first show was staged September 9th to 14th inclusive. Other flowers beside dahlias were included, but dahlias formed the main exhibits. Many commercial displays were staged and competitive exhibits, with many cash prizes, as well as ribbons, included. It was certainly the largest flower show in America up to that

time. At this show the late Charles Reed first exhibited Margaret Broomall a big white dahlia originated by J. J. Bromall in California. It won many firsts in many shows, for years.

Attendance was numbered in the thousands, and visitors from many states came to see. It was so successful that first year that it was repeated in 1939, but the second year was not as good. Mr. Johnson told his friends, regretfully, that after all the work and promotion, the two exhibits ended in the loss of several thousand dollars.

But Jack Johnson did not stop growing and exhibiting dahlias. He purchased a farm in Delaware and grew exhibition type dahlias for many years. He wrote the "Dahlia Review" which was a sort of "Honor Roll" which was published for many years in "House and Garden." He also wrote many excellent dahlia articles, published in the Sunday Herald each fall. After a long illness, Jack passed on in 1963.

### Yea, They're Rare,

The Three New Dahlias we introduced this year are growing in many nice gardens—"Nothing like them" are the reports. Thanks for the patronage, A.D.S. members.

### THE BATTMANS

6911 Andrew St. Portobello, Wash.