

REQUIRED READING –

1. "The Peonies" by John C. Wister, \$3.50  
from American Peony Society.
  2. The Bulletins of the American Peony  
Society.
- The PAEONIA is authorized by Miss  
Silvia Saunders.
- Our leader and teacher in hybridizing is  
Roy Pehrson.
- Editors are Chris and Lois Laning,  
553 West F Avenue, Kalamazoo,  
Michigan, 49007.

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OFFER FROM ROY PEHRSON

I have about 550 lacti x lobata (several pollens), lacti x '**Lady Bird**', lacti x Little Reds F2, and a very few lacti x '**Good Cheer**'. Almost all of these are coming in their 5th year and I should be able to till them out this fall to make room for replanting. It looks like a number of these won't bloom, even at 5 years age but I think I'll just assume that the slow ones are also weaklings and till them out. I may find it painful to destroy many plants which some would find to be nice ornamentals, but I don't know how to give them away. I'd gladly send them around but the offer would have to appear in June as I'd want to start digging by mid-August.

BOOK REVIEW - "Create New Flowers and Plants"

If you are looking for a book that is easy to read and full of practical suggestions, obtain a copy of the book by John James, "Create New Flowers and Plants", price \$4.95 (that's almost \$5.00). I bought this book about seven years ago, at a time when I was thinking about trying my hand at hybridizing peonies.

Information from the book's jacket --- "Whether through discovery, selection, hybridization, or mutation, the creation of a new flower or plant is for many the greatest thrill a gardener can experience.

"Chance, the author points out in his introduction, is the great leveler; the odds of creating or discovering (even in one's own back yard) a new variety are as much in favor of the layman as the professional. There are no secret processes involved, no special skills necessary. The only prerequisites are a deep interest in flowers and plants, patience, and a plot or pot — indoors or out.

"With vigorous — and infectious — enthusiasm, and with the aid of exceptionally fine photographs (including many by the author, who is also an expert photographer), Mr. James introduces the reader to the flowering process, the mystery of the living cell, and the fascinating world of genetics, demonstrating how to discover, create, and even merchandise brand-new varieties of flowers and plants. This book is the definitive, non-technical work in the field of creative gardening.

"ABOUT THE AUTHOR — John James (who has been referred to as the "Frankenstein of the flowers" for his advanced experiments with radioactive plant mutation), has created hundreds of interesting new plant varieties on two test farms in northern Ohio — among them a plum-sized sweet cherry and a rose whose scent seems to repulse Japanese beetles. In addition, he has written for radio, television, and motion pictures; contributed to the development of color photography; pioneered in both radio and TV production; and patented several mechanical inventions. Mr. James was born and educated in Cleveland, Ohio."

- Chris Laning

## IN SEARCH OF THE MOUTAN

C. Graham-Jones, Gloucestershire, England.

The opportunity arose in early October to have a holiday which was organized by a hotel on the edge of Dartmoor East Devon) and consisted of a gardener's week in the Devon/Cornwall area, with a qualified guide to lead the way. This was something new for my family and self, so we left Churchdown (Gloucestershire) in thick fog with a mind clearly as thick on what was in store for us; however, as the saying goes "The first impression is important". This is very true, when we arrived at the hotel the situation, accommodations and evening meal were first class. Our guide, a charming person, introduced herself and invited the members of the party numbering twenty-five to the games room for coffee. Here we all had to introduce ourselves, outlining our interests; after this we all knew each other and the scene was set with our guide supplying a programme for the week, ending with the words, about 10:30 p.m., "We leave at 10 a.m. in the two mini-buses which will be waiting in the morning. All was set -- an early breakfast, packed lunches, flasks of tea were loaded into the buses and we were away.

Our first stop was a modern bungalow in a wonderful setting, overlooking a large lake surrounded with a wooded area containing many new plantings. The lake was well stocked with *Nymphaea marliacea-rosea* (waterlilies) and wild life to charm it, but alas no Moutans, only *P. lactiflora* with leaves browning after a long season. From here we went to the coast - Exmouth - to have lunch on the sea wall and to our next stop, a residential property in this town, but here the mood changed, a large detached house well shaded from the road by trees and shrubs in about two acres of ground with a shallow fall from the house to a large clump of trees, with the view extending past the trees. This garden was full of rare plants *Bellerdiora Longeflora*, *Lapageria Rosea*, *Cotoneaster Frigidus*, *Camellias*, *Callistemons*, just to name a few, but again only a few *P. lactifloras*. We returned back for dinner - coffee - illustrated talks by our guide - cup of tea - bed. This has outlined the pattern.

The first call on the second day was in the moors near Okehampton and off the beaten track to a very dainty exposed garden which had been created by two Londoners who had decided to retire here. The layout covered beds of heather -*Ericas* - *Calluna* and *Daboecia*, many in bloom, plus a glorious bed of *Gentiana* - *Gina* - ornate, but no peonies of any type. Leaving here we had lunch on the moors and on to a house at Stiklepath named "Staplers". This house was about 700 years old and was an old wool receiving house for the moor sheep farmers. This contained a very small garden, but full of plants from all over the world, with many rare lilies, the lady owner being an expert on this subject, and here we had our first success, two tree peonies with foliage highly coloured, and both labelled. The first was *P. Shereffiae*, which I have not yet traced, and the other just read "T.P. 100 years old". I enquired from the owner the history and was informed *P. Shereffiae* was in the garden when she bought the house and the other was a division from a plant which had existed in a very old estate for a hundred years, colour and flower size was not obtained as with twenty-five people in a small garden, communications were difficult. We returned for dinner with a late night final word from our guide, "In the morning we start early, as we have a long way to go." Interest was increasing as we had found our first Tree Peony.

Leaving at 9:30 a.m. we headed across the moors and stopped at a large new dam — "The Meldon Dam" which had just been completed, having lunch during the stop and stretching our legs over the moors to see the view, before heading north to Torrington to "Rosemoor" the home of Lady Ann Palmer who we found was the tours director of the Dendrology Society

(Trees and Shrubs). This was the site for the specialist, with many fine trees and shrubs to be seen, many under-planted with *Cyclamen Neapolitanum* and *Colchicum speciosum*. Items noted *Euonymus canutus*, *Pratinea* var. Red Robin, *Berberis thunbergii* var. Roseglow, and the herbaceous peony *P. Veitchiana*; however, a tree peony was located in the woods, which remains unidentified, although our host presented me with some seed from another plant in the estate. Unfortunately this seed was only shell with no kernel or should I say "a dud seed with no embryo". We left after a welcome cup of tea served by our host, and arrived late and tired for dinner.

The following morning was Sunday so things wore easy but after lunch we became organized again and motored to Gorquay to Cackington Hall, which is a very old house and estate containing its own church and now owned by the Gorquay Corporation. Here my search was more rewarding as we came across two very old tree peonies, one on the edge of a large lawn was extremely old with a central stem about four inches in diameter and the surrounding branches drooping umbrella fashion with age. I asked the attendant for information, but all he knew was it did produce seed and the other did not, the seed not lasting very long, just my luck.

Monday, being the first week day, our programme was revised, visiting two stately homes, the second being National Trust property -- however, this was my best day, finding some very large tree peony seeds in pods which were just opening, again with no identification, and the present owners were new with little knowledge of the old estate's contents apart from the new plantings with some fine specimens of *Eucalyptus-gumii*, pollarded to shape. Our next call was Saltrac House near Plymouth which contained very knowledgeable guides to conduct the party through the house, and after a pleasant tea in the old kitchen, of newly baked scones, where the original cooking facilities were still to be seen with the grate measuring 10' x 8', we returned for the evening; programme.

The next day, Tuesday, was our last, with the sun shining once again. This time we headed west across the moors to Endersleigh House near Tavistock, which for many years was the home of the Dukes of Bedford, a fine old property, surrounded by a very large estate, with the river Tamer running through the grounds. Our guide, who obviously knew the area, advised the use of Wellington boots, so we all changed. This turned out to be good advice as the terrain was very wet in the overgrown woods, which reminded one of the South American jungle conditions, with water from the previous day's rain dripping from the trees. We found examples of Victorian splendour, such as the Shell House (a garden house with the walls covered in shells), the Yew walk (a long path lined with trimmed yews), etc., before we returned to the wonderful old architecture of the house to have lunch. After lunch the expedition entered the semi-forest of the estate in the opposite direction where streams, waterfalls and lakes, in that order, were found, with many fine specimens of trees and shrubs, also the bog loving *Gunnerii* and the Giant Hog Weed made us seem small in comparison. We did find a clearing in the path and came across one solitary worker with a scythe trying to keep at bay the ever rising growth, and this chap was 68 years old, did somebody say a job for life! One great asset in this very large estate was all the old trees were identified with the botanical name, variety and country of origin, with many containing the planting dates, which ranged from the early to mid 19th century, but alas not a trace of the genus *Paeonia*. However, the week did outline that all the Moutans found were of 19th century and earlier vintage which seems to have been the heyday in this country, and with very little sign of survival in 1972.

## PEONY HYBRIDISTS — ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL

Silvia Saunders

I have for several years now compiled a list of Peony Hybridists, Actual or Potential. Names of those of my customers whom I estimated to be at least "potential" if not "actual", since they had ordered from my nursery either my "Hybridists Headstart" Collection, or individual hybrid plants, which because of their bloodlines I reserved for Breeders Only, and placed in a separate listing.

I came to, in the fall of 1969 and suddenly realized that we had 50 Peony Breeders! They seemed to be sprouting up out of every crack in the ground; or so it seemed, compared to the drought up till then. So I made a list of their names and sent a copy to each one. Laboriously arranged, it started in Massachusetts and worked westward in a sort of zig zag fashion, clear to Oregon. This was done with a view to greater neighborliness. Each person could readily pick out the member living closest to himself, or herself, and perhaps exchange questions, findings, or even plants!

Then the idea of a Breeders' Newsletter was born. For the first year, The Kozaks ran it: Lois and her fine young husband, Don (now, alas, no longer with us). But this is a somewhat arduous task, and we felt that no one person should be too long burdened with it. After the Kozaks had inaugurated it and gotten out four excellent issues the first year, Chris Laning and his wife, also a Lois, took it over. They too are doing a splendid job; the Newsletter has been modestly named "PAEONIA". It runs articles really aimed for Breeders, elementary, intermediate and advanced. Technical problems are discussed, and the newcomers to breeding can listen in on the old pro's as they tussle with the Ins and Outs of the Ito Cross — the peony world's latest dramatic break-through.

In 1970 and 1971 more people appeared, and in the Peony Bulletin for December, 1971, a list of the eleven new members of that season was printed. Last year, ten more brought the total list to over 100! 102 to be exact. Of course, some of these are more actual than others; some are even more potential than others. There may even be a few with No Interest At All. They will have to forgive this enthusiasm on my part. I trust that at any rate it has not brought them much Junk Mail.

Because my nursery was officially closed in November, 1972, there will be no more names, actual or potential, from this corner of the peony world. And because the list was ever only typewritten, and like a private club, was issued only for the benefit of those in it, I am of the feeling that it should now be printed. Certainly in "PAEONIA" and perhaps in the Society's Bulletin as well. The fact that not all are members of the Society is neither here nor there. Even though we do number 102, we are a long way from our nearest neighbor, and who knows, the name of someone, even in the next state, and even if only potentially interested, just might strike a spark of friendship and togetherness.

The task of arranging 102 names in neighborly fashion, as the first 50 were done, proved too great, however. So here we all are, simply in alphabetical order. And what use is a List without accompanying Statistics? Here are a few:

1 each, from France, Switzerland, West Germany and New Zealand  
6 in Canada, from Ottawa to Saskatchewan.

All the rest are in the United States, From Massachusetts and New Hampshire to California, Oregon and Washington, from North Dakota and Minnesota to Natchez, Miss. Twenty-six are women, including the GrafIn (Countess) von Zeppelin; but not including "hidden" women (that wife, mother, or even daughter, working beside a man, urging him on, and tidying up after him).

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Jellies, Tenn. 37762, or  
1451 Gulf Blvd, Bayside Gard.  
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Armatys, Mr. Leo  
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Auten, Mr. Edward, Jr.  
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Easton, Md. 21601

Banziger, Mr. Richard  
R.R. 2, Box 209  
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Bartos, Mrs. Armand  
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Bennetch, Mrs. Paul  
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Bock, Mrs. Claude V.  
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Bowling Green, O. 43402

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1131 Woodland Drive  
Newton, Iowa 50208  
Cazel, Mr. Fred L., Jr.  
Gurleyville, Rte. 3  
Storrs, Conn. 06268

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Darrah, Mr. Stewart  
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Dennis, Mr. George  
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Denton, Mr. Howard L. Jr.  
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Drake, Miss Frances  
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1212 Mission Canyon Rd.,  
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105

English, Mr. Caraeron  
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Medina, Ohio 44256

Fischer, Mr. Hubert  
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Hinsdale, Ill. 60521

Gilbertson, Mr. Ben  
Kindred, N. Dakota 5305L

Goodrich, Mrs. Hunter  
Cobb Isle, Water Mill  
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Guest, Mr. W. F. C.,  
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Springfield, Mo. 65803  
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Rte 4, Box 136  
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Iowa 50636

Klehm, Mr. Roy G.  
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Arlington Hts, Ill. 60005

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Michau, Mr. Edward Lee  
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Wister, Mr. John C.  
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Canada

#### LETTERS FROM OUR READERS - REPLIES TO "BLACKMAIL" ARTICLE ———

Dear Mr. Pehrson,  
April 2, 1973

I am embarrassed and in truth elated to tell you that at last, after two years, I have a few peony seedlings. Three years ago Miss Saunders sent to me 3 hybrids - '**Sanctus**' x '**Roselette**', Quad F2 x '**Rushlight**', and No. 4992; last year she sent albi x lobata F2, Little Reds, Windflower, Quad F2, and a fertile early F2 macro hybrid. From the first three (I smear pollen, everything on everything) I got some seed, planted them immediately in a tub with a light mixture of perlite, peat moss and soil, at frost into the garage they went, watered enough to be moist, not wet — and last month they came up — 12 mixed hybrids (I hope). I know I am not being very scientific but my knowledge and experience is that of a beginner — any direction you might wish to give to me would be greatly appreciated, and followed.

I have a small garden in Brooklyn but use my friend's acre in Connecticut for my seedlings — 500 daylilies get planted out next week. The peonies (seedlings) I'll keep here for another year, and move out in '74. Any spare seed, seedlings, or plants you might send would be a delight to receive.

From one Taurus to another (I was born on the 16th of May), may I wish you not a happy birthday but a happy everyday.

- David Hochstein, 1114 E. 48th St., Brooklyn, New York, 11254.

Dear Roy -

Thank you for making this Paeonia possible. I have been reading the wrong book — "Peonies Outdoors and In" by Arno and Irene Nehrling. Today I will send for the book you suggest by John C. Wister. I know very little but hope to be learning and doing some planting soon. In the meantime, Happy Birthday.

- Celeste G. Bartos, 778 Park Ave., New York City, N.Y. 10021.

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#### LETTER TO CHRIS LANING FROM BILL SEIDL

April 26, 1973

Dear Chris,

Who would ever think that the hi-lite of the peony season would come in late March?! But the receipt of Dr. Tod's seeds from a mloko-delvayii hybrid was just that. Five seeds were put (March 28) in damp vermiculite compressed firmly around the seed, with the intention of obtaining "quick" germination, and kept at about 65-70 degrees. The other 12 were left in the loose, barely-moist vermiculite and the see-thru bag you mailed them in, the intention here was merely to keep them from drying out until they were planted outdoors in June. Last week (April 22) I looked at the five and found one with a long root (an inch or more), the other four in various beginning stages of root growth. The real surprise was the other 12 — three had long roots and a couple others were beginning to grow roots. I suppose I should've known from Roy's many descriptions of the "quick germination" method that loose vermiculite was a suitable starting medium. I had always compressed the vermiculite around the seeds in pots of some sort. This makes it a chore to investigate whether germination has begun and to what stage it has progressed. As I see it now, the damp vermiculite in the closed plastic bag is needed only to insure a high humidity; the seed could rest on top of the vermiculite and, without any handling of the bag, germination could be observed. Very convenient.

I really didn't want to chance more than five seeds to the quick germination method because in the past I've not taken the extra pains to give them the close attention they demand and lost quite a few. And I didn't want to lose any of these mloko-delv seeds thru careless attention. I'm not sure what the next stage should be; 3 of the 4 seeds with long roots have been refrigerated at about 35 degrees. I'm hoping they will sprout by June or early July and that the remaining growing season will be long enough to permit development of a root and dormant eyes that will survive the next winter season. Of course, some suitable protection from hard freezes will have to be devised.

At any rate, many thanks for remembering me when distributing Dr. Tod's seeds. I suppose no one knows yet the true value of these seeds but they could well be (if they are of the reported parentage) of even more significance than the Ito hybrids or Ito-type hybrids (diploid herbaceous x triploid lutea hybrid.) inasmuch as sterility appears not to be a problem. Doesn't it appear that diploid hybrids are involved here? And if so, would they cross with all those beautiful lactis we have now? What an inducement that would be for the non-hybridizer peony-lover to take up hybridising!

I don't know as you owe me anything, especially after sending those mloko-delv seed, but since you asked about what plants you had (PAEONIA, #-4:II) that interested me, I must mention one — the red 16350-F3. This attracted my attention because of its color and parentage. I have no red tetraploid hybrids (not counting the lobata or lobata-offici hybrids). With respect to parentage, I also have a 16350 seedling (labeled an F2, from Silvia S.) that's always bloomed as a single fertile light pink, but last season it came double (actually semi-double; it looked double but had stamens interspersed). If you can spare a few eyes next fall, I'd like to

cross the two. Maybe you'd like a piece of my 16350-F2; I divided it last fall but can divide again. My Ito's are all showing a good increase in clump size and could be divided ... if you want some others besides '**Yellow Dream**'. All four are very similar and none of the four has set seed (pollinated by '**Moonrise**', etc.) and — you asked about pollen production and fertility — I've never noticed a single grain of pollen on any of them. Maybe this will change when they are well established. Although "clumping" well, none of mine has been in one place for more than three years and many stems in a clump are often "blind", not producing a flowerhead. These have always bloomed shortly after the national show; but this year with a slightly later date, I'm hoping to exhibit some blooms.

You have also mentioned that you have '**Tria**', Saunders F2A, Daphnis hybrids 294, 253, 222, 293, 324, and '**Gauguin**' II. You offered scions but I don't know how to graft. I've grafted apples, pears, lilacs, etc, but never peonies. Of course I've read how-to accounts in *The Peonies*. Perhaps I'll experiment with some of my own stock next autumn to gain some first-hand experience before I ask you for scions. By then you will have more top growth. I have Daphnis hybrids 222, 223, 224, 324, and '**Gauguin**' II. You'll note three are the same as yours. I do not know the parentage either. All bloomed last season but none set seed or, as pollen parents, seemed effective. As I recall, 222 is greenish-cream, 324 is similar but larger (both have about ten petals); '**Gauguin**' II is light yellow heavily flushed dark rose deepening to almost black flares or a solid dark center, about ten petals.

In your last letter you asked about my Ito-cross attempts. I've made in the neighborhood of 100-200 attempts for the last two seasons (each season). This may sound crazy but both seed crops are still in storage. Can't make up my mind if I should keep all the different crosses separate (a very discouraging task) or throw 'em all together... equally discouraging; why make separately-labeled crosses if the seed is mixed in the end? I need to compromise somewhere. Perhaps I've already discovered what was meant to be discovered; no one lutea hybrid seems to be particularly effective. Actually, the pollen I've used least is that of '**Alice Harding**'. This coming season I should have two blooming size plants in bloom and so I may have a good fresh source of pollen.

Enclosed is my promised explanation of why certain attempted Ito crosses were successful and many others failures. Hope to see you in Milwaukee.

- Bill Seidl

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### ITO-CROSS CONTRADICTIONS EXPLAINED By Bill Seidl

Since our hard-working editor has trouble reproducing Japanese characters, this explanation will be in English. (Actually, Chris, those "words" were a bunch of made up turkey-tracks which, presumably, would not make sense even to a Japanese).

Before revealing my explanation outright, let me recount briefly the story of the two known successful Ito and Ito-type crosses to date, exaggerating (perhaps) those aspects that seem especially puzzling or contradictory. In that way, the same explanation may suggest itself to you before I spell it out.

Mr. Ito's assistant brings from a distant prefecture a single bloom of '**Alice Harding**' and pollinates x number of blooms of '**Kakoden**'. Now '**Alice Harding**' does not produce pollen in the same quantity like, say, '**Moonrise**' produces pollen. In fact, by comparison, it's downright stingy; so you know "x" represents a smallish number. Yet nine true hybrids result, even more than one from the same seed pod. Duplicate crosses in later years are complete failures.

Roy Pehrson collects pollen from various lutea hybrids at a national show, mixes the pollen, and pollinates 582 blooms of various lactifloras. About 60 true hybrids eventually appear. Subsequent crosses, practically zilch, although there are scattered successes of one or two.

For Roy's crosses, since the pollen was mixed, the first thought that comes to mind (recalling Ito's initial success) is that the potent pollen in the mixture may well have come from a single bloom. Of course, Roy could not obtain again a similar unique bloom. But Mr. Ito could, having used pollen of a named variety. Yet when he did, '**Alice Harding**' subsequently proved a fizz.

The explanation? — it's contained in the word "unique". Both of these men, when they were successful (coincidentally, on their first try), were using pollen of unique, perhaps one-of-a-kind, flowers, that is, a flower that arose from a bud-mutation. This mutation affected not the appearance of the flower but its chromosomal makeup so as to allow compatibility with lactifloras. The twigs or branches that arose from these bud mutations probably no longer exist, having died or been pruned away to be replaced by fresher, more vigorous, normal growth. On the other hand, if buds from these mutated branches were used in grafting to produce new plants, these new plants would produce nothing but these now-no-longer-unique blooms, But who would know it? Perhaps the entire plant producing Ito's first-used A.H. blossom was unique? it may have been a grafted plant, the scion with its mutated bud having been taken from a plant exposed to the radiation of the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima or Nagasaki. In later attempts, Mr. Ito's assistant did not take blooms from this unique plant.

Of course, if one does not have one of these unique blooms or plants, you can still be successful but THEN you have to WORK and make hundreds of crosses to obtain one or two true hybrids. This would account for the limited success that Roy has obtained by using Corsair or Thunderbolt pollen. The point may be made that bud mutations occur too rarely to account for the two singular successes described. Although not common, they are not all that rare either. There are commercial apple and rose varieties that arose from bud mutations. Certain gladiolus varieties (Picardy, Elizabeth the Queen, Burma) have mutated or sported (from bulblets) a dozen or more times. These are just mutations that were noticed because visible characteristics were affected. There must be many more that have gone unnoticed that affected invisible traits, for better or worse, such as health, hardiness, or ..... chromosomal makeup and behavior of the parent organism.

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ANOTHER "BLACKMAIL" LETTER —

To - Chris Laning

April 8, 1973

Just a note of appreciation for the excellent "Paeonia". My good friend, Muryle Kostiuik gave me a subscription for Christmas and I find it most interesting. Being retired now, I can devote a lot of time to working with peonies. Muryle gave me a nice selection of seeds from her crosses last summer and I have them planted in cat food tins (with the bottoms cut out) — as per the enclosed listing. Some of the approximately 200 seeds were my crosses. Quite a few of them are up a couple inches now, mostly '**Roselette's Child**', '**Hit Parade**', '**Rushlight**' F2", Species 12-812", '**Moonrise**', "Quad F2" and one "Hotsu Hinode". Rather surprised me, since some seeds Muryle gave me three or four years ago just showed up this year. (I had already planted a daylily and some iris on the spot, thinking the seeds were sterile!) — and here are these tiny peonies trying to grow right in the middle of them.

Would be quite happy to have some seeds this autumn as per the "blackmail" item in Paeonia. Began gardening here in 1950, so I'm rapidly running out of space, but Muryle has promised to take many of my plants to her acreage, so I can try something new. Thanks again for the informative Paeonia.

- Jeanette S, Dunlop, 513 S.W. 50, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109.

P.S. Is the peony variety named '**Jeanette**' available commercially? Or do you know? It intrigues me, being my first name, and I would like to have a plant just to see what it looks like, if nothing more. It was mentioned in your listing of the Saunders' Lacti-Lobatas.

Dear Mr. Laning,

April 14, 1973

I'm sending you my \$2.00 dues and my accounting of my favorite pastime.

My interest in peonies began eight years ago. A neighbor across the street had a lovely white tree peony I was fascinated with. One day I was quite anxious to get a glimpse of its huge blossoms. My son being newly born, I didn't want to leave the house, so I got out our binoculars and began focusing. All of a sudden something blocked my view — I jumped — a bit startled. Our friendly mailman stood right before me shaking his head in disbelief, scolding me. After a convincing effort to explain my actions, I decided he never would believe me, but I'm sure you will.

That Fall I ordered three tree peonies and during the winter we were transferred to Houston, Texas, having to leave the peonies behind, A real disappointment!

Being back in the Midwest again, we've established these plants;

3 White Japanese Tree Peonies (Here is my greatest interest, also my biggest failure. I've lost six  
2 Pink Japanese Tree Peonies plants. Anyone having a special formula for their success, please pass it along.)

1 Lutea Hybrid Tree Peony

5 Herbaceous ('**Laura Magnuson**', '**Carolina**', '**Cream Delight**', '**Great Lady**' F2, 4992)

Last year I gathered about a dozen firm seeds from '**Carolina**' and '**Cream Delight**', using pollen from a white tree peony. They were carefully planted, only to see our son's pet hen scratch them up and feast herself. This year the chicken is confined, but the late frost this week hasn't helped my plans. Maybe next year!

The advanced generation lutea hybrids and Ito type crosses receive my attention. Enjoy reading of everyone else's crosses and especially Roy's pictures.

Jackie Janson  
1206N.E. 84th Terrace  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Pehrson:

I have just retired from Dept. of Agriculture, where I worked for over thirty years. I have bred daylilies and iris (bearded, spurea and Siberian) for 28 years. Lately I have become interested, in breeding peonies, particularly hybrids. I have a greenhouse.

I would be interested in your offer in the "Paeonia". I would be particularly interested in working toward yellow and white. The following is a list of hybrids I have now: 'Laddie', 'Salmon Glow', 'Commando', 'Great Lady', 'Reward', 'Brightness', 'Black Monarch', 'Golden Glow', 'Flame', 'Paula Fay', 'Red Charm', 'Ludovica', 'Burma Ruby', 'Gillian', 'Prairie Moon', 'Henry Bockstoe', 'Firebird', 'Rosalie', 'Carol', 'Postilion', 'Victoria Lincoln', 'Red Red Rose', 'Rose Tulip', 'Alexander Woollcott', 'Coralie', 'Laura Magnuson', 'Moonrise', 'Cytherea', 'Lustrous', 'Julia Grant', 'Papilio', 'Rushlite', Saunders Fertile White, Saunders (albi x Lob x 10) and 'Little Dorrit'. I have an abundance of space and considerable time. Send what you think I should have. Do you have a price list (especially breeders and species), if so please send. Enclosed please find \$2.00 for annual dues to "Paeonia".

H. E. Briscoe  
Route 1 White Hall  
Illinois 62092

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Dear Mr. Pehrson:

April 26, 1973

My good friend, Leo Armatys, sent me a copy of "A Bit of Black Mail" from "Paeonia" and asked that I write you. Leo has been so generous and helpful to me that I am happy to write though I doubt the value of the letter to you. However, I am enclosing a copy of a letter I wrote sometime ago to Leo that expresses some opinions that I still hold. (ED: LETTER WILL BE PRINTED IN SEPTEMBER "PAEONIA")

I have been raising and propagating rhododendrons, azaleas, etc., for about fifteen years, just for pleasure — not commercially. Before that were roses and now I am trying my hand at raising tree peonies, though not doing too well. I got off to a bad start but that is another story. Fortunately I heard of Leo and he has come to my rescue so I do have hopes of success.

Because of the expense of tree peony plants and my ability to propagate from cuttings, I thought I would attempt propagation of tree peonies from cuttings. I explored tissue culture — running into an apparent or supposed dead end. Last summer I tried sweat box propagation with indolebutyric acid, bottom heat and lights — no success. This summer I will work with misting, it having been suggested by expert propagators to be the most likely successful method. I am hindered by having very limited material with which to work. I just don't have enough for controls, to experiment with various strengths and types of rooting hormones, with or without bottom heat, with or without heels, etc. Under any circumstances I will grope my way along and if I am lucky enough to hit upon a dependable method of propagation from cuttings I will have made a contribution to tree peony lovers as tree peonies are magnificent plants.

I enclosed \$2.00 to get on "Paeonia" mailing list.

Sincerely yours,  
Don J. Jenkins  
P.O. Box 192  
Brevard, North Carolina 28712