

Gardening In The Golden Belt Area

By Mrs. E. L. Hilliard



Today I take this opportunity to write about roses for I have been quite busy making out the order for roses for the Pratt Municipal Rose Garden and I am sure have roses on my mind. Each year the percentage of roses that are weak and will not withstand the weather either cold or hot, are few and we must order to fill the vacant spaces.

As we were given two roses last fall and they have had wonderful care this winter I am anxious to peek under their covering and see if they have survived the winter, but I will not disturb the covering while it stays so cold. We have had some severe weather but like the usual Kansas weather, it is not very dependable. Either warm enough one day to encourage seed planting then do an "about-face" the next day and be severe cold. Only time will tell what effect it has had on our roses.

This year two very lovely roses have been introduced and one of them the "Apollo" is planted in my garden now. Besides the Apollo the other introduction made this year is the "Partrill" a very lovely delicate pink with a splash of white making the petals change each day. Of all the many roses in this test for the 1972 honors only these two withstood the severe tests. The result of all this testing for the Partrill was started in the summer of 1958 and all but the best seedlings were rejected and only the healthiest and sturdiest were pulled and only the best remained.

In 1961 Mr. Meyer, the hybridist, had eliminated all but the best and in 1964 he sent a few of his best to professional nurserymen to grow and determine which could stand the many weather changes they would be subjected to in the two years of testing. The testing was completed in 1968 and were introduced into the All-American test trials to be judged, this was eleven years after the first cross was made. The remarkable thing about this test as this is the first and only time a non-professional man

has ever perfected a new rose. He is a pipe-fitter by trade but his work shows his great love for roses and the technique required for this perfection.

If you are a new roses grower then I suggest you start with one or two good roses, never cheap roses or you may become discouraged the very first year. Cheap roses do not perform as good roses purchased from a reputable nurseryman or rose house. Another thing I object to very much is the paraffining of the stems. This is fine for the storage period but when they are planted outside the warm sun may soften the wax allowing the buds to swell. Then when a cold day arrives, as it is sure to do, the buds are injured for they are weak and very tender and cannot stand any severe change of weather.

If you purchase roses that are soft going to a few days will start some growth for the first burst of growth is there just waiting for warmth and light.

As soon as the weather permits I suggest you prepare the ground where you plan to plant roses, if you did not do so last fall. As the ground freezes and thaws it has a tendency to mellow and thus aerate the soil making it mellow and easy to work. No food should be added the first planting or you may



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force all the strength to send out buds that the root system cannot support.

Make sure that when you trim the latter part of March you clean-up every leaf and bit of debris in the rose garden and spray with a dormant spray before the weather gets too hot or above 80 degrees. This can eliminate or help control disease and get rid of insects that have harbored in the debris all winter.

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Constance Cummings - 45 Years Making Comebacks

LONDON (AP) — Constance Cummings has spent 45 years on stage and screen making comebacks.

Every time it seems Miss Cummings is all but interred among the theater's dusty costumes, yellowing programs and old memories, she manages to pop up again center stage.

Now, at 61, she's done it again. She's currently the toast of the critics as the drug-addicted mother in "Long Day's Journey Into Night." Eugene O'Neill's cathartic probe into his own family.

With Laurence Olivier as the father, the National Theater

Company production is packing them in each night and the critics are tossing garlands.

Kenneth Hurten wrote in "The Spectator": "I can say only that this is the finest, deepest and subtlest performance of her whole distinguished career, and I doubt whether I or anyone else who sees it—will ever forget it."

Yet, only a few months ago, Miss Cummings ended up on the floor in her role as Jane's aunt in a new film version of "Jane Eyre." Miss Cummings just shrugged.

"They'd simply cut me right

out and started the story at a later stage," she said. "I didn't mind. I thought it was jolly good, an absolutely spiffing beginning that made good sense."

That was a heavily British sentence for an actress who came out of Seattle, Wash., and made her stage debut with the Savoy Stock Co. in San Diego, Calif., in 1926.

She was 16 when Columbia Pictures hustled her from New York to Hollywood to costar with Ronald Colman. After 10 days shooting Miss Cummings got the boot.

Right after that she came to Britain, married an English

playwright, Benn Levy, and bore two children. "Now I regard myself as English," she said, admitting to a lingering American accent.

After this sojourn into theater limbo, Miss Cummings constructed a fine career in the British theater. She played both with the Old Vic company and in the West End in a succession of top plays.

Then came the recurring Cummings hiatus until she joined the National Theater Company with Olivier a year ago. She did well-received performances in "Coriolanus" and "Amphytrion" before Olivier

asked her to do "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

"Long before the first night we all knew we had a hit on our hands," she said. "I hope they'll keep the play in the repertory for a long time because there's nothing quite like being in a success."

The geographical center of North America is in Pierce County, N.D., six miles west of Bala.

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