GREETINGS! Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable year with your roses in 1956. I hope the Denver Rose Society may continue the successes of past years and grow to even more usefulness to its members.

I have been thrilled by the ideas and suggestions already proposed by members of the Executive Board. This new form of bulletin is one of them. What do you think of it? When busy people can come up with new and better ideas we cannot help but progress. There will be more articles in the coming months that will interest you.

This is the time of year that our society must be membership conscious. Each and every one of you should get your dues paid. And what is wrong with inviting some of your neighbors and friends to join? Your help may be just what is needed to make our society grow. It has been proven, time and time again, that you get out of an organization only what you put into it. Let us all put in a little bit more and we will reap our rewards in better fellowship, new ideas, solved problems, and pure fun of growing better roses.

Your Executive Board promises more information on roses through this new bulletin, the best programs possible for our meetings, and ample time for swapping suggestions. To get the most out of the society you have to attend the meetings, offer to help, grow and show your roses, and be a definite part of the group. If you do this, then I will not worry about a wonderful year in 1956.

E. A. Anderson, President

FIRST MEETING OF 1956

February 9th, 8:00 P.M., Room 186, City and County Building.

George and Sue Kelly will talk to us about The Place of Roses in Landscape Architecture in Colorado. Every rose grower is interested in different ways to use roses, and when presented by this well-known team the subject will be interesting and entertaining.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS:

"Congratulations to the Denver Rose Society on this the first issue of THE ROSE WINDOW. I am sure it will let in the light on rose growing and the doings in the world of roses in such a manner as to be of much assistance to all who read it." W.M. Keller, Salt Lake City, Utah

"It was good news to learn you plan to publish a District Periodical. I am sure it will be a great success." Mrs. Nat Schoen, Vancouver, Washington.

"I would like to wish you lots of luck with your ROSE WINDOW. Incidentally, that's a very interesting name and I wish that I had thought of it first. You will find it really isn't a matter of 'love's labor lost' but that it will help to keep your group together." Lois Spencer, Chicago, Illinois.
Our friend W. M. Keller sends us an article from Salt Lake City, Utah. Walt is a gardener of long experience and is well known throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. His article points out the pitfalls into which beginners often fall when raising roses by the "hear-say method."

FOR THE BEGINNER

Since it is the novice with whom we should concern ourselves, for they are the recruits who are going to make up the membership of tomorrow, it would afford a happy situation if we could put over to them a few simple fundamental rules and perhaps defer the time when they begin to take up with the catch-all remedies that come to their attention, and which are guaranteed to produce graceful blooms to attract the critical eyes of show judges.

I say it would be a happy situation for the reason that there are many prospective rose hobbyists who go through two or three years failure and give up by saying they just do not have the "touch" for growing roses. Let's take an example: John Doe's wife loves roses. He likes them but only as a passing interest. They buy a dozen good bushes of well-known varieties which are planted in whatever spot is available. Time goes by and he gives them little thought until blooming time, when he finds two or three throwing buds and blooms in color (probably red) which so completely captivates his imagination he talks of little else when roses are mentioned. He watches them with great interest, and the beginning-bug begins to bite. However, the rest of them turn out poorly and he begins to wonder why. Assuring himself he has failed to do something that should have been done, he immediately assumes an inquiring attitude among his friends and reads up on a little current literature. There he finds many simple "twist-of-the-wrist" methods and remedies, and is sure some of them are just what he is looking for, all of which are more understandable, and as a rule more interesting than the scientists, because they tell how to make the sick ones well and the well ones do better by doing something that is so simple there is no need for further waste of time on it.

Symptomatically, he discovers a case that appears in every detail to match his own troubles - a few plants not doing well and how they were brought out of it by a routine foliage feeding, a shot of "Slugo", a little "Magic" mixed with a copious dose of epsom salts, etc. He tries them out but, alas, without success. The good ones of the first year are not doing quite as well. He even tries another year with the same result, and finally gives up by saying he just doesn't have the green thumb to grow roses.

All these little tricks he has learned are likely based on true experiences, but they are predicated on one basic factor that is all too often omitted with the beginner, namely, SOIL. None of them will work on plants struggling along in toxic soil or one lacking in nutrient elements.

Our beginner not only loses two or three years effort, but the money he has spent on catch-all remedies would more than pay for a little digging and a load of good soil in the first place, besides assuring good returns from the start.
The importance of at least fairly good soil, and the assurance that most yard space around new homes as well as some of the older ones, is unfit for modern rose stock is not stressed enough when rose troubles arise. Three or four inches of good top soil is not sufficient to produce good roses year after year, for there is not sufficient nourishment to all the roots, besides unwholesome conditions that may be present farther down.

Pest and disease remedies are held up to the beginner on every hand. If he buys standard brands and follows directions he can accomplish about everything a rosarian might recommend for those difficulties. But the basic trouble, SOIL, is not emphasized enough if we are to hold beginners who are giving up for the reasons stated. It has been said where weeds grow roses will do likewise. Assuming that were literally true, even weeds make a poor showing in some soils.

Greater benefits would accrue to rose growing if the industry would join with rosarians in emphasizing the importance of good soil to the beginner. There is more meticulous detail put out concerning how to plant roses than there is about the growing medium in which they should be placed.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

"The art and mystery of growing better roses is the art of knowing when to break the rules. No one can advise another person as to that, but there is no hallowed tradition that cannot safely be violated, and there is no law that cannot at times be broken with profit."

G.A. Stephens

Lois Spencer, Chicago, Illinois, author of "How to Grow Roses in 7,000 Easy Lessons," contributes the following lively little sketch.

THE CONSTANT MYTH

I have been a hypocrite, a prevaricator, a renegade...and a rose grower! I was the first three mentioned things because I was the last mentioned thing - and I hasten to say so before someone else beats me to it. I only found it out just recently, when I sold my house and was attempting to move some of my old roses to a new location. The hard hearted people who bought the house took a dim view of this proceeding and as my daylight operations were not successful I tried digging by the dark of the moon. I emerged with a sprained ankle, a brush with the occupants of a squad car, and one Crested Rose with a mighty stubby root system. Which proves the so-called harmless hobby of amateur rose growing can become downright perilous.

However, that isn't the real reason for writing this; the real reason being to prove the importance of rose growing as an occupational therapy and thereby vindicating myself somewhat. It wasn't that a psychiatrist had suggested I take up rose growing either, as my family always comes complete with built-in love for roses, but it indicates roses themselves take the place of the psychiatrist and the outcome amounts to much the same thing as being hit over the head by the analysts' couch.
When I gathered my catalogs together to start planning my new garden, I found out immediately I already had some very definite ideas, worked out no doubt by my subconscious while I was sleeping. It was then I realized what a mixed up old kid I really was. In my first list of 102 "must haves" there was no sign of the big three: Peace, Charlotte Armstrong, and Crimson Glory. In the past, I had been plugging them to new rose growers by day and dreaming of Charles Nallerin, Mirandy and Grand Duchess Charlotte at night?

I have always considered myself rather partial to yellows, but my lists to date only include Lowell Thomas. I recalled with horror how I had always recommended Eclipse, with its beautiful bud and fast ever bloom. I thought over a couple of other yellows whose praises I had sung - but can it be as yet there is not a good garden variety in this color?

Narcisse is on all my lists and so is Grand Duchess Charlotte. The first is never really a light yellow and the latter is in a color class all her own; and if I had my way she would never be placed on the show table in the same class as New Yorker, Crispomper Stone, Poinsettia, etc. I shudder just thinking about it. Moreover, I'm the one who at rose shows kept reiterating, "Stick to the A.R.G. color classification."

In all this talk about I's, I have forgotten to mention I ordered nary a one until after had listed a dozen Carryalls and a half dozen Queen Elizabeths for foundation planting. Then came a dozen Fairy, which is worth its room and board for cutting alone. I also indulged myself in a dozen Madele Stearnes, not only for dooryard planting, but to peg down over stones. I kept constantly in mind there would be plenty of Betty Priori available locally.

By the time I reached the end of the first list I realized there was to be no more growing of roses in rows like cabbages or beets. I blushed with shame when I remembered my past cultural advice, which amounted to nothing less than maintaining rose beds under such a high degree of control it was just one step less than growing them under glass. Evidently I had known all along exhibition quality blooms could be achieved in a graceful setting, as well as in a straight series of little plant factories, and that such tactics do not necessarily achieve a rose garden.

It's high time I explode the myth which I've been constantly spreading, so from now on whenever I'm asked what and how to plant I'll just answer with, "Any rose that appeals to you in the catalogs or by description, buy it and try it and plant it anywhere you please." The chances are that with the exception of placing a rose in the bottom of a bog, in the middle of a desert or under a large white pine, it will grow and bloom.

So you see, providing one grows roses long enough, one is quite likely to become a thoroughly honest person, one who can face facts and adjust herself nearly as well as a rose.
"The wrong principle is supposing because a plant is the strongest in the bed it therefore wants the least fertilizer. On the contrary, it wants, because it can use, the most. The stronger the plant the stronger the food; and the weaker the plant the weaker the food. To violate this rule in the latter case is almost certain to cause trouble."

DENVER ROSE SOCIETY'S HALL OF FAME

Doctor John S. Bouslog, our last past president, was awarded the 1956 gold medal award from the Radiological Society of North America for "outstanding contributions to the medical specialty of radiology". Doctor Bouslog is a former president of the Colorado State Medical Society, the American College of Radiology, and the Radiological Society of North America.

In spite of his extremely full schedule he has found time to devote a portion of his valuable time to the rose, and last year piloted the Denver Rose Society through another successful year.

Our very able rose show chairman, Clyde T. Learned, retired after 37 years service with the United States Bureau of Public Roads. He is credited with initiating the construction of concrete pavements in the Rocky Mountain Empire. Berthoud Pass highway, built under his direct supervision in the 1920s and 1930s, remains one of his enduring accomplishments. The Department of Commerce silver medal for meritorious service was awarded Learned two years ago for his work as assistant engineer on the Alcan Highway project through Canada.

He not only knows his concrete but also knows his roses and holds the distinction of being the only member of the Denver Rose Society to have won the grand sweepstakes award three times. Last year Clyde and his hard working committee put on the greatest rose show Denver has ever seen. He is still chairman and we think he can do it again.

THE GRAPEVINE

Maurine Bush, affectionately known as "Rose" Bush, is now residing at 1721 Pine Village Drive, Houston, Texas... Mina Jorgenson is located at the present time at Valley, Nebraska, R.R.1, care of Mrs. Fritz Akerland. Both of these girls will be glad to year from their many rose friends. George Kelly suffered a severe back injury, but he scammed out of the hospital before we had time to send him a get well card... Mr. Kean Griffith, our Rose Tour Chairman, is getting ready to retire and will have more time for roses.

ENOUGH IS PLENTY

"It is a proved fact that over manuring and too rich soil tend to reduce the normal ability of hybrid teas to remont. On the other hand, it has been often noticed roses in lean soil have a tendency to bloom more frequently, although the blooms are of poorer quality."

Jean Nicolas.
AN INVITATION

The Denver Rose Society is a rose study club dedicated to furthering interest in the rose. It is a non-profit organization that has for its slogan, "Let's Raise Roses for Fun." Meetings are held once a month. The best available speakers are obtained and throughout a year's time almost every phase of rose growing is discussed.

Within our ranks we have many of the best known horticulturists, nurserymen, and advanced amateurs in Denver. There are no secrets of sensible rose-growing and those who have achieved proficiency are always willing and glad to impart all they know to those who are less familiar with its principles. Bring your problems to the meetings, button-hole one of our specialists, and take him off in a corner.

Weather permitting, one or two shows are held each year, where amateurs compare the results of their accomplishments and compete for trophies. Each year garden tours are arranged, where members have the privilege of visiting from 15 to 20 gardens. There is no charge for tours. "If you are satisfied with the methods you are now using, keep on with them" -- but first, get out and see what the other fellow is doing.

Because we raise roses for fun the Denver Rose Society has an ever widening social calendar. Here are a few of the outstanding events enjoyed last year by those who took full advantage of their membership:

An outdoor pie social at the beautiful home of Ruth and Scott Wilmore. . . Through the generosity of Sue and George Kelly, an old fashioned corn roast, with corn fenson from the stalks. . . The September picnic and tour of the municipal rose garden at City Park is an annual affair, and the banquet at the end of each year is a fitting climax to the year's social activities.

Membership offers education, sociability, competition and a world of good fellowship. One man's meat is another man's poison, it is said, but here you can talk about avocation to your heart's content, to FACERlisteners with kindred souls.

Membership is but $3.00 for a single person and $1.00 for each additional member in the same household. And remember, you don't have to be an expert to belong to the Denver Rose Society. Tear off the bottom of this sheet and send it in. You will receive a neat little card that will open the door to a whole year of gardening pleasure.

Mrs. Verlie Albera, Secretary-Treasurer
782 Holly, Denver 20, Colorado

I most certainly do want to belong to the DENVER ROSE SOCIETY. Enclosed is my check for $________ for myself and members of my family as listed. Please rush membership card.