

California Nursery HISTORICAL PARK

By Paul Zimmerman

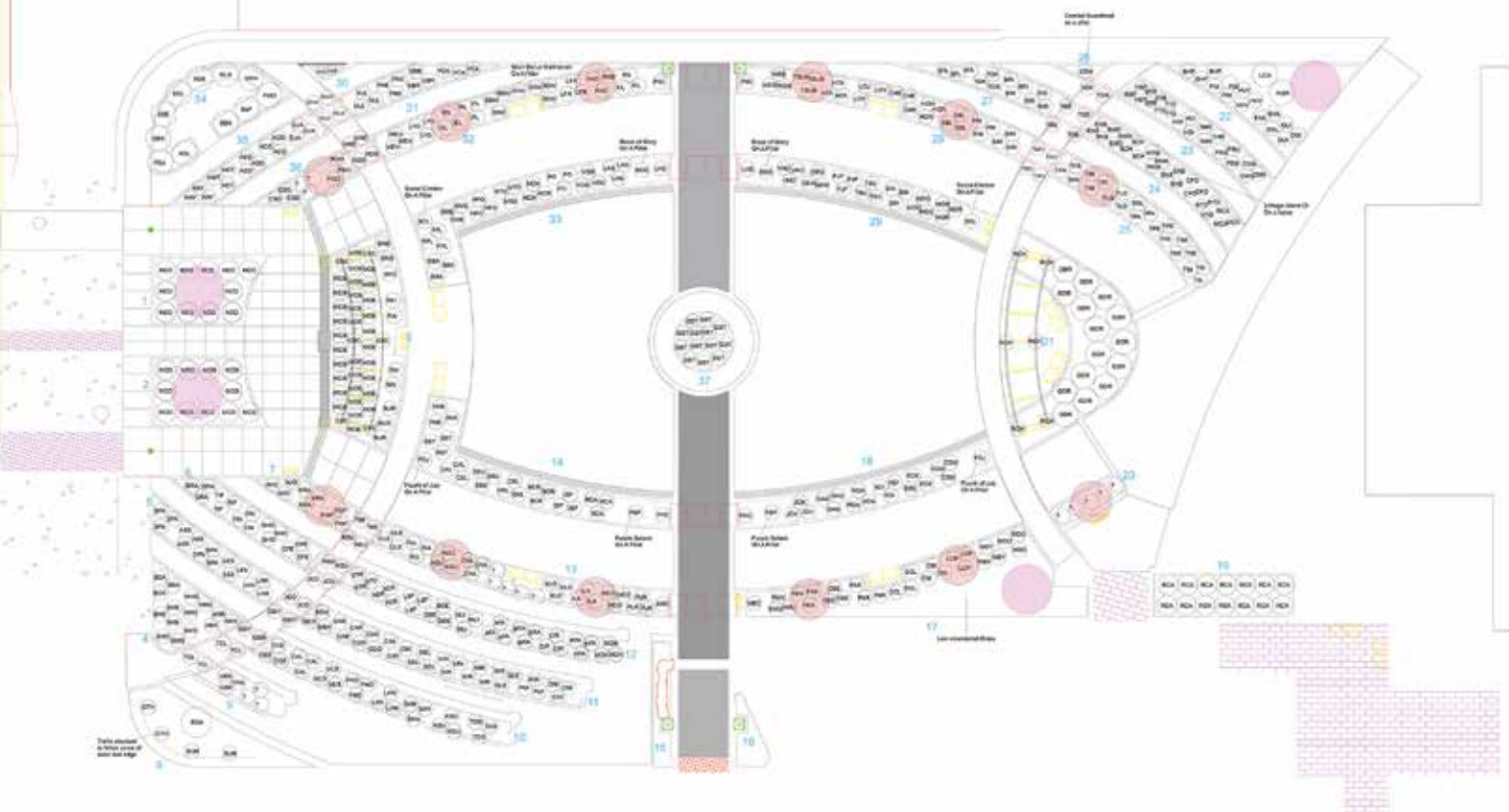
WHEN I WAS APPROACHED by the City of Fremont to help with rose selections for the new rose garden at the California Nursery Historical Park, my first thought was to tell the story of the rose in California. Fortunately, they had the same thing in mind. The logical place to begin is with the rich history of rose breeding in California. It stretches back well over a hundred years and is still going strong. My inspiration was the Fineschi Garden in Italy where all the roses are arranged by rose breeders. I thought this would translate well to telling the story.

Yet, that was only part of the story. Nurseries in California in the latter part of the 1800s were instrumental in bringing in many roses from Europe and beyond. Before

there were California Rose Breeders creating their own roses, these nurseries were the backbone of the rose industry in California. Darrell Schramm's book *Rainbow* gave me a great historical overview of the subject. Additionally, I had many conversations with other people about roses but my conversation with Gregg Lowry Of The Friends of Vintage Roses really helped crystalize the important role of the nurseries in the development of "rose culture" in California.

The California Nursery was established in Niles, California in 1884 by John Rock on 463 acres of land previously part of the Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda Park. In 1917 it was purchased by George C. Roeding. In 1926 his son George C. Roeding Jr. took over management. In





1929 it was noted the nursery grew half a million roses and shipped all over the world, not just to the United States. The nursery closed in 1972. Twenty acres of the original 463 acres including the 1830s Vallejo Adobe from the Rancho was turned into what is now the California Nursery Historical Park.

Roses were part of the nursery from the start. The 1888 catalogue offered roses such as 'Baroness Rothschild', 'Maréchal Niel', 'Duke of Connaught', 'La France', 'Souvenir d'un Ami' and many more. The archives including old catalogues are housed in the old nursery office and are maintained by the Math Science Nucleus. It is open to visitors and is a short distance from the actual garden. The catalogues of 1898 and 1915 were my guides for selecting roses from this era. I wanted to feature roses in this part of the garden that were grown and sold on the site by the California Nursery.

Of the approximately 206 roses I selected for the garden about 40 are old garden roses. Almost all the roses will be planted in minimum groupings of three for display purposes, except for the larger roses. These early roses will be near the main entrance of the garden and then as you move through the garden you move through the history of roses in California right up to current rose breeders. But it begins with the old roses.

From the 1898 and 1915 catalogues I selected roses

such as 'Devoniensis CL', 'Duchesse de Brabant', 'Etoile de Lyon', 'Marie Van Houte', 'Safrano', 'Rêve d'Or', 'Mme Caroline Testout', 'Paul Neyron' and 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' both the shrub and climbing version. I wanted to balance what the nursery grew with the broad range of roses that make up old garden roses. Two species roses are also included. *R. Californica* and *Rosa x anemonoides* 'Ramona' aka 'Red Cherokee'.

The California Nursery Garden Club maintains the historic garden including this new one. Additionally, I learned from them, who in turn learned from Bruce Roeding, born in 1928, there were some "featured" roses in the garden so they were included in the new design as well. For example, on the original property there stood many lath houses that were covered in climbing roses. The roses were 'Paul's Scarlet Climber', 'Mme Butterfly Cl', 'Lady Hillingdon CL' and 'President Herbert Hoover CL'. These four roses will be displayed on a series of four trellises on a path that runs through the center of the garden. We were also able to source four early bred California roses and they are 'Rainbow', 'Santa Rosa', 'Burbank' and 'Cécile Brunner CL'. The latter will get a pergola all her own with multiple plants being allowed to cover it.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Miracle on the 'Hudson Field'. 'Wild Blue Yonder', by Patti Jacko. 'Golden showers', by Kimberly Locke.



At the entrance to the garden 'Maman Cochet' and its sport 'Niles Cochet' will be mass planted. 'Niles Cochet' was originally called 'Red Maman Cochet' but this was changed to name it after the town of Niles about 1911/1912. Niles is now a district of the City of Fremont. This shows the history but is also educational in that it illustrates what a rose sport is. 'Gloire Des Rosomanes' was also a featured rose of the nursery, was often used as a rootstock. It will have its own mass planted bed in the garden. Cuttings provided by the California Nursery Garden Club have been taken from an existing hedge of it that has been along the nursery entry road, in front of the existing Show Gardens since 1934.

With the historical California Roses in place, my attention turned to the breeders and their roses. I used many sources such as Help Me Find, my own personal library and knowledge and also turned to friends such as Tom Carruth and Keith Zary. Both important parts of California Rose Breeding over the past 30-40 years. They also knew and worked with many of the breeders. The Park is putting out signs for each breeder with a brief bio and I want to thank Tom and Keith for their help in that. Also, the other breeders who contributed their own bios.

The list of breeders is extensive and starts close to a hundred years ago. I included as many as I could but as with any gardens such as this it's impossible to include them all. The breeders who are included are (in no particular order). Captain George C. Thomas, Frank

Strickland, Joe Winchel, Dennison Morey, Dr Walter Lammerts, Herbert Swim, Jack Christensen, Robert Lindquist, Fredrick Huber Howard, O. L. Weeks, Tom Carruth, David Armstrong, Keith Zary, Bill Warriner, Christian Bedard, Ping Lim, Ralph Moore, Jim Sproul and Robert Rippetoe.

Of the breeders who are still alive, I asked them to select up to 10 roses they felt best represented their career. Not an easy endeavor but they willingly did so. Of those breeders no longer alive Tom Carruth, Keith Zary and Jim Sproul helped me with selections. It was not an easy process but we hope we have ended up with a good cross section of roses that tells the history of roses and rose breeding in California.

Sourcing the roses has been a challenge but with the help of many nurseries we have found plants of much of what we are looking for. For the rest that are not in commerce, The Friends of Vintage Roses, The Huntington Botanical and some private individuals will provide budwood. It will be sent to the Ag Center at LSU where it will be budded on to VI Dr. Huey rootstock from UC Davis. LSU is a partner with Jackson & Perkins and in my role as an independent consultant to Jackson & Perkins I help oversee that program. All the roses, be they bareroot, container or budded plants will initially go to Otto and Sons who will grow them on in preparation for delivery and planting in the garden this spring and summer.





I am pleased to say that out of some 206 varieties we are looking for so far there are only four we have not been able to source. That is far less than I was expecting. Signs will accompany all the roses and there will also be signs telling the history of the California Nursery and the rose breeders we have included.

My hope is that once completed this is not just a typical rose garden. While it will be that, it will also be a rich, visual history that will tell the story of Roses in California. Be sure to put it on your list of must visit rose gardens.

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: St Patrick, photo Ron Shaw; Pristine, photo Ron Shaw; Pop Art, photo Rich Baer; Oklahoma, ARS Files; Morey's Pink, photo Sharon Van Enoo; BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Los Angeles, ARS Files; Pope John Paul II, photo Tom Mayhew; Honey Dijon, photo Ron Shaw; Bloomfield Dainty, photo Anne Belovich; Double Delight, photo John Mattia.

Roses Included

Breeder • Varieties

CAPTAIN GEORGE C THOMAS

Bloomfield Dainty
Bloomfield Abundance
Victoria Harrington
Captain Thomas
Bishop Darlington
Sungold

FRANK STRICKLAND

St Patrick

JOE WINCHEL

Ain't She Sweet
Dolly Parton
Louise Estes
Lynn Anderson

DENNISON MOREY

Avon
King's Ransom
Morey's Pink
Popcorn
Royal Sunset

DR WALTER LAMMERTS

(Carruth)
Bewitched
Charlotte Armstrong
China Doll
Chrysler Imperial
Golden Showers

Minuette

Mirandy

Queen Elizabeth

Sierra Glow

HERBERT SWIM (Carruth)

Double Delight
Mister Lincoln
Angel Face
Brandy
Circus

Joseph's Coat
Pink Parfait

JACK CHRISTENSEN (Carruth)

Brass Band
Fragrant Plum
Gold Medal
Henry Fonda
Midas Touch
Mon Cheri
Purple Tiger
Voodoo
Lagerfeld

ROBERT LINDQUIST (Carruth)

Granada
Tiffany
Friendship
Showtime
Command Performance

FREDRICK HUBER HOWARD

(Carruth)

Mrs. Lovell Swisher
The Doctor
Fred Howard
Los Angeles
Santa Anita
Apricot Queen
California
California Centennial

O. L. WEEKS (Carruth)

Paradise
Bronze Star
Calico
Sweet Surrender
Oklahoma
Ink Spots

TOM CARRUTH

Julia Child
Fourth of July
Good as Gold
Memorial Day
Neil Diamond
Easy on the Eyes
Cinco de Mayo
Moonstone
Wild Blue Yonder
Life of the Party
Purple Splash





DAVID ARMSTRONG (Carruth)

Ole'
Allspice
Aquarius
Cherry Vanilla
Eiffel Tower
Kentucky Derby
Lemon Spice

HARVEY DAVIDSON

KEITH ZARY

Veterans' Honor
Gemini
Pope John Paul II
Tahitian Sunset
Sweet Intoxication
Moondance
Mardi Gras
Walking on Sunshine
Tuscan Sun
Hot Tamalee
Social Climber
Blaze of Glory

BILL WARRINER (Zary)

Love
Honor
Cherish
Sheer Bliss
Pristine
Simplicity
Sun Flare

Signature
Brigadoon
Tournament of Roses

CHRISTIAN BEDARD

Celestial Night
Coffee Bean
Dick Clark
Frida Kahlo
Ketchup & Mustard
Koko Loko
In Love Again
Miss Congeniality
Pop Art
Pretty Lady Rose

PING LIM

True Delight
True Devotion
True Friendship
True Gratitude
True Inspiration
True Love
True Passion
True Perfume
True Serenity
True Sincerity

RALPH MOORE (Sproul)

Rise 'n' Shine'
Scarlet Moss'
Sweet Chariot'
Stars 'n' Stripes'

Magic Wand'
Cal Poly'
Crested Sweetheart'
Gina's Rose™'
Halo Today'
Linda Campbell'
Magic Carrousel'
Moore's Striped Rugosa'
Queen Crest
Persian Sunset™'

JIM SPROUL

Honey Dijon'
Thrive!'
Eyeconic Mango Lemonade'
Heather Sproul'
Sam Trivitt'
Ouida'
Brick House™ Pink'
First Impression'
Honoring Vietnam Veterans'
This Is The Day™'
Robert Rippetoe
Miracle On The Hudson
Pink Miracle
Coral Miracle

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT:
Louise EsteS, photo Cindy
Dale; St Patrick, photo Sally
Estee; Granada, ARS Files;
True Love, Ping Lim; BELOW,
LEFT TO RIGHT: Ole, photo
Ken Lovely; Purple Tiger, ARS
Files; Magic Carrousel, photo
Neil Evans.

*Can
You
Help?*

We are looking for a few
more roses. If you have
these and can supply
budwood please contact

Paul Zimmerman

paul@

paulzimmermanroses.
com

'Temple Bells'
bred by Dennison Morey

'Mme Butterfly Climbing'
Climbing hybrid tea

'Bing Crosby'
bred by O. L. Weeks

'Crested Marvel'
bred by Ralph Moore

