



**BEAUTY IN THE GARDEN**

**Dr. Benbow Finds Dallas Good Spot for Rose Culture**

By Wes Sherman

Dallas, Aug. 8—You think in superlatives when you visit the unique rose garden of Dr. Earl William Benbow, Presbyterian pastor in Dallas.

It's the sweetest-smelling spot in town, and among the most beautiful with over 150 varieties of roses on one of the smallest spaces—less than 20 by 60 feet. In the rear of the church manse. It's about the neatest garden one can find, weedless, clean and free of disease.

There are roses to delight all tastes—large, flowering climbers; hybrid teas; old-fashioned ones from "grandmother's garden"; and flora-bundi with their many clusters. Among the hybrid teas are charming single roses, such as the Mrs. Frances Ashton, Cecil, Betty Prior, and Dainty Bess.

None makes such a fine boutonniere, in the opinion of the rose-growing pastor, as the single Lulu in bud. A delicate pink, its bud is long and decorative.

For table decorations and mantel pieces, Dr. Benbow considers single roses almost unexcelled.

In 35 years of growing roses, the minister, whose very congenial personality harmonizes well with the beauty of his blossoms, has left a trail of color and joy as he moved from one pastorate to another. His first garden was at Onslow, Iowa, when he set out to beautify the manse at his current charge in 1914. Since then, he has had five other gardens. Prior to coming to Dallas four years ago, he grew roses in Seattle where he was pastor for Presbyterian students at the University of Washington for 15½ years.

While the Seattle garden was larger, he considers the one in Dallas the best that he has started.

Dr. Benbow shies away from all claim to being an expert with roses, but his friends and fellow-growers consider him an authority and they have much on which to base their contention.

Dr. Benbow has been a member of the American Rose society for 33 years and for three years served as one of 12 on the board of directors. At present he is a member of the society's nominating committee. His articles have appeared in the organization's periodical upon various occasions. He served as president two years of the Seattle Rose society.

For a number of years Dr.

Benbow has maintained a test garden in his small plot for nurseries and at the present time has seedlings from three large firms, Jackson and Perkins of Newark, N.Y., Armstrong Nurseries of California, and Conard-Pyle company of West Grove, Penn.

"Fashion," a salmon-pink hybrid tea rose which he now has in his garden from the New York nursery, is to be introduced this fall, and the minister believes that it is destined to be one of the most popular varieties among growers.

The best of Dr. Benbow's roses have won many prizes in exhibits but he has never made it a policy to enter them in shows away from his own locality. He has exhibited in Salem where he is a member of the rose society and past president.

Dr. Benbow has been called upon to judge in many shows, including the Rose Festival in Portland and the Seattle exhibits.

If he was forced to select just one rose from his garden—and he would consider such a requirement heartless—he would pick the large and beautiful Peace rose, one that was developed during the last World war. Its delicate shadings of pink and gorgeous full blossoms make it outstanding.

As a class, the climbers are perhaps the favorite of the enthusiastic grower. When treated right, they will bloom all summer and thus make the rose one of the most desirable of flowers. Prominent in the garden is the yellow climber High Noon. Dr. Benbow himself developed a white climber which he named after a rose-loving physician friend in Seattle, Dr. Faris Blair. A novelty in the plot of beauty is what the pastor calls "The Weeper," a climber that he budded six feet high. It is the Bloomfield Courage and its blossom is a single red with a white center. From the six-foot height its foliage drops towards the ground on all sides, hence the name.

As to the technique of maintaining his garden, Dr. Benbow uses lots of barnyard manure



Dallas—Dr. Earl Benbow, Presbyterian pastor, can meditate on matters of theology as he works in his rose garden at the manse of the church he serves in Dallas. Here he admires the single rose, "Mrs. Frances Ashton," which he terms "a honey." At the left is the climbing rose, "Phyllis Byde," which comes out an orange color and fades through several shades to white. Although his garden plot is very small (most of it shown in the photo) it includes 150 varieties and over 200 plants. Below—The gorgeous "Peace" rose is one of the most beautiful in the garden of Dr. Benbow. This photo was taken a few days too late to catch the rose at the height of its beauty, the minister says. It has passed its peak and opened too widely. (Abel Photo)

and mulches his beds for the summer. Tanbark paths give it a neat appearance, keep down weeds and are dry and clean to walk on.

Mildew is a perpetual threat when days are warm and nights are cool, but good sprays pretty much take care of it. Aphids cause some trouble, too, but they may be easily controlled with the spray for such insects.

Near to the heart of the Dallas rose-lover is his "Sally," a seedling of his own that he named after his daughter. He knows that it isn't among the best and would not be successful on the commercial market, but it is a pretty white tea rose and graces the garden. Another that he especially enjoys is the deep-red Mrs. Miniver, one of the most famous red roses.

For a profusion of blossom the Harmony climber, a pink one, is one of the favorites. In the Benbow garden two are trained as pillar roses.

The Willamette valley enjoys the reputation of being one of the best spots in the nation for growing roses. Dr. Benbow says. His average from three to four feet high and even in the "bad month" for roses, August, many lovely bouquets could be pick-

ed from the garden. In September, when the days are cooler, they will come back in profusion.

**Fall Special Election Date Set by Council for October 14**

Friday, October 14, instead of Friday, September 30, was fixed as the date for Salem's special election this fall in ordinance bills introduced at the city council meeting Monday night. September 30 had been the tentative date, and it so appeared in the council agenda, but the bill was changed before it was introduced. The September date would require feverish haste in getting the measures and possible referendum petitions on the way and the last day of a month is an inconvenient election date because of other city month-end business.

The election will be to vote on the West Salem merger, already approved by West Salem; to create a new eighth ward and increase the number of aldermen from seven to eight; and to vote on any other measures that

may come up by initiative or referendum. A referendum of the Baldock plan bills is anticipated.

And it developed Monday night that one other annexation measure probably will be on the ballot. At a previous meeting a month ago the council barred from the fall ballot another attempt to annex the large area south of the city that was defeated previously by five votes, but the legality of which was challenged. Last night the council rescinded the action of a month ago and will permit the annexation to be voted on if presented.

The three ordinances covering the Baldock plan were again tabled Monday night without opposition from any council member, but it was definitely said they would be voted on at the next meeting, which will be August 22.

Two other ordinance bills were introduced. One is to accept deeds from Marion county and a deed from E. T. Waring and wife, to premises that will

become a part of Alice avenue. Unionville—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Church have had as their guests for several days their nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Crenshaw of Roanoke, Va., who were enroute on a vacation trip to Seattle and British Columbia.

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