

A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE CORVALLIS ROSE SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 2010

Emery Castle, President Corvallis Rose Society

Good things happen when members of an organization reflect on past accomplishments, consider where they are at present, and then decide what they wish to emphasize next. The Corvallis Rose Society (CRS) is starting a new year, a new set of officers are in place, many accomplishments exist and there are numerous opportunities for greater service. I share a few thoughts with you in the following paragraphs, but my thoughts are not necessarily your thoughts. To the contrary, I hope each member will think about what they would like for the CRS to become.

A member of an organization has a right to ask: What can this organization do for me that I cannot do better for myself? Your Board will strive to have the kind of CRS that will cause you to say your CRS dues are the biggest bargain in the family budget. If this is to happen, your Board needs to know what you expect from our meetings, and other activities the CRS should have. In the meantime, we will arrange programs about rose culture in the broadest sense, and provide as much exposure as possible to the beauty of roses and companion plantings.

Community Service

Since the CRS came into existence in 1955, community service has been an important part of its mission. During its first year, the CRS and the City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department made plans for the creation of the Corvallis Rose Garden at Avery Park. This joint activity has been a major community service from that time to the present. Healthy organizations, as well as individuals, need to have something larger than themselves as they live and work. The rose garden at Avery Park would never have happened without the cooperation of the City of Corvallis and the Corvallis Rose Society.

The renovation of the Corvallis Rose Garden at Avery Park, begun about the time of the CRS 50th anniversary, has accomplished a great deal. Most of the Garden will be wheelchair accessible by the time the roses bloom in 2010, and many pavers will be inscribed by that time. The CRS can justifiably take great pride in this significant community service, even though much remains to be accomplished.

Membership

The CRS acquired six (6) new members in 2009. This is indeed good news, but we must not rest on our laurels. Many rose societies elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest District feel stress because they are attempting to carry on activities assumed when their membership was greater and younger. Fatigue and "burn out" are common, and affect Corvallis as well as other places. This can be avoided only if we continue to attract members. And new members will be attracted only if have worthwhile activities, and every member assists with recruitment.

Rose Shows

On June 12 and 13, 2010, the CRS will sponsor its 70th annual Corvallis Rose Show. Our show is one of the older shows in the Pacific Northwest, and attracts entries from many

excellent out of town exhibitors. They not only grow outstanding roses, they also know how to show them! Our arrangement section of the Show has often been praised highly by arrangement judges that have come to Corvallis to evaluate entries. When I first began to attend the Corvallis rose show in the 1950s, the show was very much a community activity. The local newspaper carried news articles about when and where the show would be held, and many non-members attended. The competitive exhibition of roses is now emphasized more, relative to community service and education, than was true approximately 50 years ago.

The CRS should take great pride in hosting its 70th annual show. This year's show will be at Linus Pauling Middle School, and we cannot expect attendance to automatically be as great as would be the case in a shopping center. It will be advertised and planned as a community service. Entries will be encouraged from junior, novice and experienced exhibitors. We hope there will be many arrangement and horticulture entries. When this year's show has become history, I hope CRS members will appraise thoughtfully what our annual show is accomplishing and what we would like for it to accomplish in the future.

In Conclusion

It is an honor to be president of the CRS again in 2010. We have a talented and willing Board of Directors. They believe the CRS is an exceedingly important organization. Not one person said "no" when they were invited to be on your Board. To do the best job possible, *we need your thoughts, and your help.*