



August 2019
Issue 382 - History
Edition

Royal Update

e-newsletter of the Royal Rosarians

Greetings, Rosarians and Friends,

Thank you for reading this issue of the Royal Rosarian e-newsletter first published in 2005 by Duke Peter Glazer and now published by Sir Knight Norb Murray (norbmur@comcast.net) with technical support by Sir Knight Tom Marantette.



A Rose in Portland Grows; a history of the beginnings of the Portland Rose Festival and Royal Rosarians



Portland Rose Festival

The first place float in the 1909 parade, a horse drawn fire wagon decorated with roses.

In the last issue of the Royal Update was the story of the Mission Rose coming to Oregon and thriving in the climate so well suited to roses. In June of 1889 the newly formed Portland Rose Society held its first exhibit of roses. To this exhibit goes the credit for the birth of the Rose Festival idea.

On June 10, 1904, the Rose Society held its first floral parade. The flower-decked vehicles, bicycles, carryalls were fine; horses pranced and paced, with roses woven in their bridles. There were twenty automobiles in the line of march, carbon arc lights flickered on 3rd Street, and the business part of the city was near the famous Skidmore Fountain. The parade was witnessed by large crowds of enthusiastic people.

In 1905, on the last day of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Mayor Harry Lane made a proposal to have a festival. The proposal was for a rose festival to be held at some time between June 15 and August 15 of each year..

"It is nothing more than a wild dream," said Mayor Lane as he suggested that money from the Exposition be used to buy a park surrounding the Forestry Building and that all manner of roses be grown and displayed there. "It would be," said the mayor about the proposed festival, "the greatest permanent advertisement for this city that was ever attempted and would make Portland's fame as a Rose City world-wide." He added, "Let the civic improvement spirit take hold of the people; let them plant roses which will grow here in summer with little care; let them park in the streets and plant hedges of fir trees."

In May of 1907, a citizens meeting was called to meet at the old Commercial Club, and was addressed by Frederick Holman, president of the Portland Rose Society, suggesting the formation of a Rose Carnival. Three days later a larger group voted to hold a two-day rose show and fiesta. E.W. Rowe of the Elks Lodge was elected president, E.B. McFarland was elected Secretary, and George Hutchin, float builder, was elected Festival Manager.

The dates of the first carnival were Thursday and Friday, June 20th and 21st of 1907. During the first festival there was no monarch at all. The rose alone was ruler. The festival deemed almost informal - just "every body's festival." The committee had raised \$8,000 for it.

It was decided that grade school children should march as the fiesta's opening event. School children entered the rose festival scene the first year. Two thousand children from 23 grade schools marched in the parade. To Portland's astonishment they even executed neat and difficult squad movements under the tutelage of beloved drillmaster Robert Krohn.

Miss Carrie Lee Chamberlain, daughter of Governor Chamberlain, was Queen Flora of the 1908 Festival. She occupied an artistic rose flower float in the floral parade, drawn by four white horses. She was attended by four maids of honor.

Organizers wanted their annual Portland party to echo Mardi Gras, so from 1909 to 1914, a mystery man reigned as Rex Oregonus, his identity under wraps until a big reveal at the end of the festival. There was no queen during this period.

Rex Oregonus would step ashore without a Queen at the Stark Street wharf, masked and mantled in mystery. Great crowds, estimated at 150,000, greeted his arrival and saw the stately floats glide by, among them Queen of the Nile, the Palace of Perfume, King of the Arctics, Fountain of Youth, Queen of the Flowers, and Father Time. The festival's floats achieved national fame for beauty and cleverness of design.

In 1914, a year of war and shortage, organizers deposed Rex Oregonus to restore the queen - with a twist: Votes could be purchased, 10 for a penny, as a fundraiser for the festival. With over 2.2 million votes, Velma Hollingsworth became the Queen of Rosaria. She was invited to ride in the Rose Festival Parade for many following years known as the first "elected" Queen.

Night parades also began in 1907 with the spectacular Electrical Parade, when Streetcars were decorated with electric lights. For a number of years, this parade was known as the Merrykhana Parade. The Merrykhana was decidedly offbeat, a deliberate counter to the pomp and poise of the Grand Floral Parade. In place of the Royal Rosarians, the Merrykhana had its Rainmakers, a civic group that innocently squirted spectators from floats and waved inverted umbrellas. The parade was discontinued in 1973. Apparently, some of the Rainmakers were having too much fun making the crowds wet. The parade made a comeback in 1976 as the Bicentennial Starlight Parade.

The Royal Rosarians

In 1911, the Golden Potlatch committee of Seattle, while attending the Portland Rose Festival with their decorated float, invited the Portland Commercial Club, which later merged with the Chamber of Commerce, to be represented at the Seattle Potlatch celebration that year.

The Commercial Club appointed a committee of which William J. Hofmann was chairman. The committee was able to create enough interest that a special train made the trip to attend the ceremony of the Potlatch celebration. By reason of being chairman, Hofmann was dubbed "Duke of Portland" and as such was royally entertained by the King of Potlatch. The enthusiastic visitors promised to return in 1912, and bring "Rex Oregonus" with them. Realizing that other cities had their marching bodies and uniformed entertainment organizations, and believing that Portland should respond to the challenge and play her part in extending hospitality to her neighboring cities, the matter was discussed on the train returning home by W.J. Hofmann, C.C. Craig, Fred Larsen and others.

It was decided to form an organization which would represent Portland especially during Rose Festival week. A few days later Hofmann, Craig and Larsen presented the matter to Julius Meier, who invited them to lunch to continue the discussion. It was decided that an organization consisting of 100 business and professional men should be formed and the committee of four selected the names of the men to be invited. It was decided to ask George Hutchin, Manager of the Portland Rose Festival Association, to issue a command to attend a meeting for the purpose of forming an organization for the object stated above. The request was granted, and a proclamation issued.

Seventy guests assembled and the objects of the command were discussed with much enthusiasm and a unanimous approval. The organization was tentatively consummated, and officers elected at a later meeting.

In the beginning there were 12 Royal Rosarian officials; Fred Kribs was Rex Oregonus and W.C. Bristol was Crown Prince. The executive authority was



vested in the Crown Prince (the name was subsequently changed to Prince Regent), who became the real head of the organization.

A Privy Council was made up of nine of the 12 officials and the Prime Minister for the tenth member. The Prime Minister was W.J. Hofmann, great-grandfather of Sir Knight Tom Hofmann and great-great-grandfather of Dame Kristin Hofmann.

Every member was endowed with a title. There were 60 Peers of the Court with titles such as Master of Gymnastics, Master of the Wine Cellar, Custodian of the King's Jewels, Keeper of the Royal Stud and Court Embalmer. Then there were 34 Yeomen of the Guard and Peers of the Rose with titles such as Earl of Papa Gontier, Baron Ardsrover, Count Jubilee, and Duke of Tea Rose.

In conjunction with the new organization known as the Royal Rosarians, a band was organized in June 1912 by John C. Boyer. George E. Hall was the first Drum Major. The band members were all volunteers. Eventually the musicians were unionized, and the band was forced to give way. For awhile a band was hired and furnished with Royal Rosarian uniforms.

In the above photo from 1917 the Rosarian marching unit executes a vee formation in the Rose Festival Parade.

Note: The preceding early history of the Rose Festival and Royal Rosarians is condensed from *History of the Royal Rosarians* by Dr. William E. Ruggles, Rosarian Historian.

Culture of the Royal Rosarians



Steeped in History

The adopted culture of the Royal Rosarians is adapted from the romantic reign of Henry VII, King of England at the termination of the 30 Years Wars of the Roses, the ushering in of the glories of the Tudor reign, the abolition of tyranny and oppression, and the establishment of free thought and equality before the law, as set forth in the Royal Rosarian Knighting Ceremony. To this end, the new organization sought to emulate those virtues of love of liberty and country so valiantly portrayed in the annals of the history of Britain and our own land; to love and cultivate the rose, to cherish its traditions, to seek to promote harmony and goodwill among our people and so to try to make the world a better place in which to live.

The titles of the officers of the organization were copied from the list of the Court of Henry VII of

England.

In adopting the uniform, it was decided to choose a modest, simple suit devoid of military adornment, pure white throughout, with a rose embroidered on the left sleeve. Other decorations or colors and the wearing of flowers or badges is not allowed.

The flag of our Country and the beautiful Rosarian banners always accompany the organization on all occasions.

In conferring Knighthood upon distinguished guests, as well as regular candidates, the rose suspended from the ceiling and illuminated, is used as in the old Roman days of the emperors as a symbol of secrecy. It was the custom of the Roman Emperors to decorate their favorite generals with a rose.

In the above photo 1951 Rose Festival Grand Marshal, William Boyd (aka Hopalong Cassidy), is knighted by Queen Gloria Krieger.

Rosarian Code of Conduct

By Duke of the Realm James W. Nielson (1979)

Royal Rosarians believe the following principles are essential and timeless:

- Royal Rosarians recognize and affirm the singular and fundamental significance of each individual.
- Royal Rosarians conduct themselves at all times with compassion and kindness.
- Royal Rosarians act with total honesty, integrity, fairness and humility in their association with others.
- Royal Rosarians pledge to always treat one another with loyalty, respect and dignity.



What is Expected of a Royal Rosarian

By 2020
Prime Minister
Kimberly
Bown



Expectations of a Rosarian in 2019-20:

- Follow the Rosarian Code of Conduct.
- Promptly acquire the White Uniform during your knighting year.
- Attend membership meetings.
- Participate in VIP greetings and rose plantings.
- Attend at least two out-of-town festivals and march in local parades to the degree you are physically able.
- Work on at least two committees and assist as needed during an event.
- March or marshal in Rose Festival parades to the degree you are physically able.
- Purchase the Royal Rosarian Hospitality Packet.

Royal Rosarians escort the Royal Court in 1923.

Royal Rosarian Activities

A year in the life of a Royal Rosarian

The Royal Rosarian calendar is a full one. The following is a summary, listed by type of event, of the activities Rosarians participate in.

General Activities

- Membership Meetings
- Council Meetings
- Foundation Board Meetings
- Rose Plantings
- VIP Greetings
- Memorial Rose Ceremonies





- Tour de Rosaria
- Rosarian Family Picnic
- Prime Minister's Trip

Special Events

Special events are specific to or involving Royal Rosarians during the year that are not part of the Rose Festival Hospitality Weekend or parades and out-of-town activities.

- Prime Minister's Ball
- Christmas Brunch
- Purely Social Potlucks
- Foundation Auction
- Newsmakers Awards Banquet
- Blessing of the Festival
- Dragon Boat Eye Dotting
- New Member Knighting
- Rose Garden Contest
- Milk Carton Boat Race
- Ride for the Roses

Rose Festival Hospitality Weekend

- Honorary Knighting
- Queen's Garden Party
- Hospitality Room
- Fun Night
- Coronation of the Queen
- Grand Floral Ball
- Farewell Breakfast
- Queen's Plaque Laying



Parades

- Veterans' Day
- Fiesta San Antonio
- 82nd Avenue of Roses
- Apple Blossom Festival, Wenatchee*
- St. Johns
- Lilac Festival, Spokane*
- Hyack Festival, New Westminster, B.C.*
- Starlight**
- Junior**
- Grand Floral**
- Strawberry Festival, Marsville, WA*
- Tillamook Dairy Days
- Good in the Neighborhood
- Hillsboro 4th of July

- Battle Ground Harvest Days
- Capital Lake Fair Festival, Olympia*
- Seafair, Seattle*
- Astoria Regatta
- Peach Festival, Penticton, B.C.*
- Autumn Leaf Festival, Leavenworth*

*Northwest Festivals Hosting Group Festival

**Official Rose Festival Parade

Wars of the Roses

The Wars of the Roses were a series of English civil wars for control of the throne of England fought between supporters of two rival branches of the royal House of Plantagenet: The House of Lancaster associated with a red rose and the House of York, whose symbol was a white rose. Eventually, the wars eliminated the male lines of both families. The conflict lasted through many sporadic episodes between 1455 and 1487, but there was related fighting before and after this period between the parties. The power struggle ignited around social and financial troubles following the Hundred Years War, unfolding the structural problems of feudalism, combined with the mental infirmity and weak rule of King Henry VI.

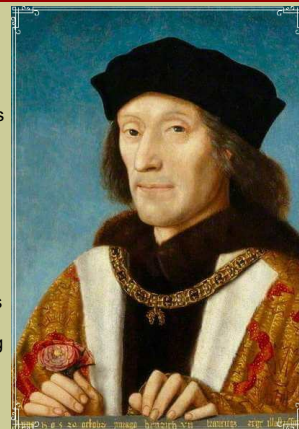
During this chaotic period fortunes changed many times as the Yorkist and Lancastrian forces exchanged victories with no less than six claims to the English throne depending on the outcome of a particular battle.

The last of the Lancaster leaders, Henry VI, was murdered in the Tower of London following his defeat by Edward IV in 1471. Upon Edward's death in 1483, his brother Richard assumed the throne as Richard III.

A distant Lancaster cousin, Henry Tudor, returned from exile in Brittany at the head of an army of combined Breton and English forces to challenge Richard. The two forces met on August 22, 1485 in the Battle of Bosworth Field, recognized as the last significant battle of the War of the Roses. During the battle Richard was killed and his forces defeated. Henry assumed the throne as Henry VII and married Elizabeth of York, the eldest daughter and heir of Edward IV thereby uniting the two houses.

The House of Tudor ruled the kingdom until the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. The wars heralded the end of the medieval period in England and the movement towards the Renaissance. Large baronial armies were suppressed, and the Tudor court became a place where baronial squabbles were decided with the influence of the monarch.

Henry VII shown above. He united the houses of York and Lancaster.





Lancaster Rose



York Rose



Tudor Rose

The Tudor Rose

The name "Wars of the Roses" refers to the heraldic badges associated with two rival branches of the same royal house, the White Rose of York and the Red Rose of Lancaster. The title "Wars of the Roses" came into common use in the 19th century from a novel by Sir Walter Scott. Scott based the name on a scene in William Shakespeare's play Henry VI, Part I set in the gardens of the Temple Church, where a number of noblemen and a lawyer pick red or white roses to show their loyalty to the Lancastrian or Yorkist faction respectively.

The Yorkist faction used the symbol of the white rose from early in the conflict, but the Lancastrian red rose was introduced only after the victory of Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Henry, having been acclaimed King Henry VII, strengthened his position by marrying Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV and the best surviving Yorkist claimant, uniting the two royal houses. Henry merged the rival symbols of the red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York into the new emblem

of the red and white Tudor Rose, which symbolized the union of the two houses.

Prime Minister's Ball

Saturday, September 14

There is less than three weeks until the Prime Minister's Ball on September 14 at the magnificent Sentinel Hotel. This will be the installation of the 2019 Prime Minister, Royal Rosarian Council and Royal Rosarian Foundation Board. The black-tie event begins with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. and the program beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m.. Registration deadline is September 10, but you should get your tickets now to make sure you have a seat at this wonderful event full of pageantry, tradition, and splendor. You can register on the Royal Rosarian web site by the link below, or by returning the registration card enclosed with your mailed invitation.

The Sentinel Hotel, located at the corner of SW 11th Avenue and Alder Street, has hosted Portland visitors and events for over 100 years. The property is a combination of two buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Seward Hotel built in 1909 and the Elks Temple built in 1923 were joined in 1992 and became the Governor Hotel. After extensive renovations, the hotel was renamed the Sentinel Hotel in 2014. The name is in reference to the robot-like sentinel sculptures along the roofline on the east side.

This year's PM Ball features food by Jake's Grill with amazing meal options:

- Jake's Stuffed Salmon; filled with Brie, crab, and shrimp, topped with a citrus cream sauce. Served with garlic potatoes and vegetables.
- Brandt Flat Iron Steak; topped with a Thai basil chimichurri sauce. Served with mashed potatoes, and ginger-glazed carrots.
- Mushroom Stroganoff Ravioli; filled with mushrooms and caramelized onions, topped with Marsala cream sauce. Served with vegetables.

Contact Duke Adam Baker (ab33842@gmail.com or 503656-0896) for information.

The Grand Ballroom of the Sentinel Hotel will provide an elegant setting for the Prime Minister's Ball



[Click here to register for the Prime Minister's Ball](#)

Prime Minister Bown's Plaque Laying & VIP Rose Plantings

Saturday, September 21



Help Prime Minister Kimberly get her year going with the Prime Minister's Plaque Laying at the International Rose Test Garden. **When:** Saturday, September 21 9:30 a.m.

Where: International Rose Test Garden., Washington Park, Portland

Attire: white suits, capes, hats, gloves - ladies wear pants

Following the Plaque Laying ceremony there will be two VIP Rose Plantings. The first will be for the Portland Rose Society President Emily Hastings, and the second for Prime Minister Kimberly Bown.

First Rose Planting: 11:30 a.m. at the home of PRS President Emily Hastings, 3430 SW Primrose St, Portland, OR 97219

Second Rose Planting: Home of PM Kimberly Bown, 749 NE Hazelfern Place, Portland, OR 97232

2019 Prime Minister Don and First Squire James at the Prime Minister's Plaque Laying in 2018.

Announcements

For the Good of the Organization

Foundation Fiesta Party

Join Colleen and Mike Ware for a fun evening at a Mexican "Fiesta". This event will feature amazing Authentic Mexican Food with some surprising delicacies from Southern Mexico. There will be live entertainment featuring a Mariachi Band, margaritas and great fun!

The cost is \$100 per person, payable on the day of the party. Please make checks out to the Rosarian Foundation. Please note that if you signed up at the Foundation Fiesta of Flowers Event, please register on the Rosarian calendar so they can have a head count.

When: Saturday, September 7, 4:30 p.m.

Where: Home of Mike & Colleen Ware, 835 NE Rogahn Street, Hillsboro,

Greeting for Mayor of Bologna

Help welcome the Mayor of Bologna, Italy to Portland. Bologna is a sister city to Portland and the destination city for the first few days of the 2020 Prime Minister's trip.

When: Monday, September 23, 11:20 a.m.

Where: Portland International Airport

Attire: white suits, capes, hats and gloves - day skirts preferred

Airport parking validation now available.

There is a new procedure for greetings at Portland International Airport. You can now park in the airport's short-term parking and have your parking ticket validated, so there is no cost to you.

1. Greeters need to register on the Rosarian calendar for the greeting, so the airport has a sense of the number participating. This also provides a means to communicate with the greeters for possible changes.
2. Park in the short-term parking and bring your ticket with you.
3. You can get your parking ticket validated either before or after the greeting at the Conference Center.

The Conference Center is on the main concourse (where all the stores are) across from the clock tower.

Calendar

Rosarian Membership Meetings - The membership meetings for the 2019-2020 Rosarian year will be held on November 7 (Life Members, Spouses), February 13, March 5 (Dukes & Duchesses), April 9, May 7, May 21 (Court, Sec. of State Speeches), June 11 (Elections). All meetings will be held at the DoubleTree Lloyd Center Hotel.

Rosarian Council Meetings - Final Council Meeting for the 2018-19 Rosarian year will be held September 16 at the DoubleTree Lloyd Center Hotel.

Rosarian Foundation Meetings - Will be held at 6:00 pm on September 25 at the home of Duchess Marilyn Schultz.

Foundation Fiesta Party - September 7, Casa Ware, Hillsboro

Prime Minister's Ball - September 14, Sentinel Hotel, Portland

Prime Minister's Plaque Laying & VIP Rose Ceremonies - September 21, Portland

Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival - September 27-29, Leavenworth

Prime Minister's Trip - October 3-15, Calgary to Victoria, British Columbia

Veterans' Day Parade - November 11, Hollywood District, Portland

Prime Minister Wine & Purely Social - November 13, home of Michelle Veentjer, Happy Valley

Christmas for Kids - December 4, Hollywood District Fred Myer

Christmas Brunch - December 8, Benson Hotel, Portland

Detailed information for each event can be found online in the calendar section of the Royal Rosarian website. Click the link below.

[Click here to view the Royal Rosarian website.](#)



Jim Nielson's Truisms



This Issue's "Truism"

"Ideas shape the course of history. "

-John Maynard Keynes, British Economist

(The late Jim Nielson, Prime Minister in 1979, was famous for his "truisms" which he happily shared in each issue of the Royal Update from its launch in 2005 until his death in 2011. Jim was knighted under the rose Sutter's Gold, pictured. Truisms now are either from Jim's archives or are quotations Duke Peter thinks Jim would like. If you'd like to suggest a quotation please email it to Peter.)

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