artist got into the legislature and he brought in a bill which pro-
hibited such advertising and called for the removal of that which
was already there. It was almost lost in the ridicule. When he
got an opportunity to speak, he said, "Gentlemen, Colorado has
two things to sell. One is silver, the other is scenery." Those
signs were painted out and I have not yet heard that Colorado
has gone bankrupt.

When we see what we have in the way of beautiful scenery,
wasn't it natural that the highway commission said, "After we
have left, the tourists will be here." Are they coming year after
year to see the same billboards? How long will people come
when the landscape is covered up? They want to have the
scenery where the tourist can see it. In a few years from now
it is going to be so that our Wisconsin roads—the ugliness—is
going to increase in our state, and people are not coming here
just to see our billboards.

HINTS TO THE AMATEUR WHO EXHIBITS
FLOWERS AT FAIRS

MRS. C. E. STRONG

(From Reporter's Transcript)

I really feel as though it was sort of superfluous to speak on
exhibiting flowers at the state fair, but it is only because I am
so very much interested in the state fair and in the amateur
department especially. It does not seem to me that people realize
what flowers do at the state fair, and because I was an exhibitor
there seventeen years before I took charge, four years ago, of
the amateur department, I think I can talk from both sides.

First, read the premium list. So many come there with flowers
and say, "Why, it was in the premium list a year or so ago,"
when I tell them there is no place for their exhibit. We are en-
deavoring to make our department much better and in order
to do that we must change things, and we do; so that every year
the premiums are different. So it is perfectly necessary that
anyone should read the premium list thoroughly and find out just
how many of the varieties and what sorts of exhibits are going
to be on display, just how many different flowers are to be put in
each vase, unless it is specified just a display of flowers. Then,
of course, the day has gone by when most any kind of an exhibit will win a premium, or even notice in the amateur department of the state fair, I am glad to say.

Every exhibitor should be very careful first, that they buy the very best seeds, take excellent care of their flowers during the summer and then pick out the biggest blossoms with the longest stems, the most perfect blossoms, and carefully arrange them in the really beautiful vases. (We don’t put up our flowers in fruit jars any more). We have very artistic green and glass vases in which we put up our display of flowers.

It is well to bring the flowers there early enough so that you have sufficient time to put them up properly. One of the things we are quite careful about is that the vases should not be overcrowded and that if you have a display of annuals that you try to get those that are lasting. Some of the newer varieties are very beautiful and are lasting if they are picked very early in the morning. In fact, all flowers for exhibit I think should be cut very early in the morning before the sun shines out very hot, and the foliage stripped off. When we arrange them for our homes we do not care about having all the foliage stripped off, but your flowers will last longer. Bring some extra foliage, don’t have it on your blossoms. If you live near Milwaukee it is well to put your flowers in water. If not so near, it is better to bring them earlier without having been in water at all, so that the wet stems will not spoil your blossoms.

I think that everything I have said with the exception of reading your premium list, was told in a very excellent paper last year by one of the exhibitors, so I am not going to say much more about exhibiting flowers, but I want to tell you a little bit about our annual exhibit. Our exhibitors now are not thinking so much about the premiums as when I was an exhibitor. They are thinking now about how beautiful the exhibit can be, how beautiful the flowers are and there is a very keen but friendly competition among the exhibitors. They are better friends. They have found they have something in common. All come with the idea that they are going to win if possible, but with the best kind of spirit and should they lose they go home with the determination to come back another year. So any time that I make a suggestion that we change our exhibit so that the people coming there get the most out of it, my exhibitors are glad to cooperate with me. As the other exhibits are educational, we feel our flowers
are also. We want people to grow more flowers. That is one reason why I was glad to take the amateur department because we had always been under the supervision of the florists and, while we are good friends, they want people to buy more flowers, not grow them; and while we really work together the amateur department wants people to grow more flowers. We want to see more flowers grown in the cities, on the farms. Make real homes of them. The brightest and the sweetest memory I have is the flower garden that my mother had and I want others to have that same feeling. I am glad when the children come there and talk about the flowers; when they say to their parents, "Aren't those beautiful. Couldn't we have a flower garden at home?" And sometimes their mother will say apologetically to me, "We have considerable to do on a farm and we have not time." But there are many easily grown and we are specializing at present in showing those that are very easily grown, that last all summer long without very much care. We know that once they begin to grow flowers that they won't stop and the home will be more beautiful; the children will enjoy it more and there are few women who do not love flowers. I am glad that more of the men are becoming interested also. In the amateur department we are trying to put up our flowers in "displays." Displays of annuals, of perennials, trying to induce people to grow more perennials because there are lots of people who say they cannot have perennials, they do not own their home or homes. Those are just the sort of people we want to reach. We want them just to grow perennials. We don't want them to move so much. We want them to have a home of their own. Anyone who gets the perennial craze proceeds immediately to get a home of their own, they don't want to grow them for a landlord.

We are trying to feature table decorations. The florists, of course, have them in their own way. The amateurs have simple ones that anyone can have. I think the dining table decorations help. I was standing listening one day, people are very interesting to me, when a mother with two children came along. One little girl said, "Aren't they pretty!" "Yes, but it's lots of work," the mother answered. The children stopped, but she walked on for a way, and then waited for them. I followed slowly around and one little girl said, "Looks like a party table, don't it?" and the other answered, "Yes, just exactly. My, it must be just lovely to eat at a party table every day."
The mother looked at them and then at me. She went back to the children. "Do you think it would be lovely to eat at a party table every day? We have some flowers, we might grow more," and the little girl answered, "I don't think I would care for anything else if we could have flowers every day. She looked at me and said, "I did not think my children cared for anything else except what there was to eat. I am glad I came to the fair today." I said, "Do you remember what sort of a table your mother had? Your children are not a bit different than you. Just the kind of a home you had, the kind of a table, your children will remember it. They will think back the same as you used to do."

And that is what we are trying to have people do, not just let the best part of their lives go by. Life is not making a lot of money, it is being happy every single day and a beautiful home does not mean an expensive home, it does not mean wonderful furniture and expensive dishes and the finest of linen and all that sort of thing. It just means really beauty, just like flowers. You can have them in your home and that is the lesson the amateur department is trying to teach. And I really think we are succeeding. I think we are teaching men and women in that part of the fair.

In traveling about the country we see so many, many farms with new houses and barns and big orchards and a very neglected dooryard. Those are the people that we are trying to influence to think that they have time enough to have a few flowers. Last year we had a very beautiful display of Celosia. A man and a woman came in. I followed them up one side and he never looked at the tables. She did. He looked at the apples; never glanced at the flowers; never looked at anything until he got to the end and happened to notice the Celosia. He stood and looked at it, eyes as hard as nails, as though he cared for nothing but money. She didn't look that way, but she looked as though he thought that was all there was in life. She finally said, rather timidly, "Pretty, isn't it?" "Yes," he answered "Mother used to have a bed like that in the front yard. Is it easy to grow?" "Yes, seeds very inexpensive and lasts a long time." "I wouldn't mind if you had a bed like that in the front yard, mother always used to have them." So, as I say, I really think the amateur department at the state fair is educational and
helpful and we hope we are going to have a lot of new exhibitors. I hope there may be somebody here today who will come and help us and help other people.

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AMATEUR ROSE GROWING

MRS. CARL B. LIEDERSDORF, Milwaukee

It is, I think, presuming of me to try to tell you who know so much better, how to grow roses, but our success with a few varieties is my excuse for being here. I said "our success" quite intentionally, for I wish to include my husband, to whom the credit for our wonderful roses is almost entirely due.

Perhaps the chief reason why there are not more rose gardens in the vicinity of Milwaukee is due to the fear that the soil is too heavy, but our experience is that given wood ashes, leaf mold, pigeon manure, plus a little labor, that fear is not justified.

Our beds, most of them not in particularly well sheltered places, but well drained, are dug either in the spring or fall to a depth of about 18 inches, and filled in with two or more inches of leaf mold. Then the soil is mixed with wood ashes and pigeon manure, because we happen to have it, using as much of the top soil as possible. In the spring of the year, and as early as the weather will permit, we carefully plant our roses about 12 to 18 inches apart, first cutting off any bruised or broken roots. After planting, we prune back all main stems, leaving about 6 or 7 inches, and cut away entirely the weak ones. Each plant is then given a thorough soaking.

We think that it is advisable for amateurs to buy only the best stock, and plants that are at least two years old, otherwise one has to wait too long for results. To beginners that is discouraging.

Let me say here, in regard to watering, that during the entire season we resort to artificial watering only when absolutely necessary. Give plenty of water when needed, then let that suffice until needed again, when another thorough soaking should be given.

As the plants develop, the ground is cultivated frequently. When the buds appear, more pigeon manure is dug in between the rows, and a little later a top dressing of wood ashes is added.