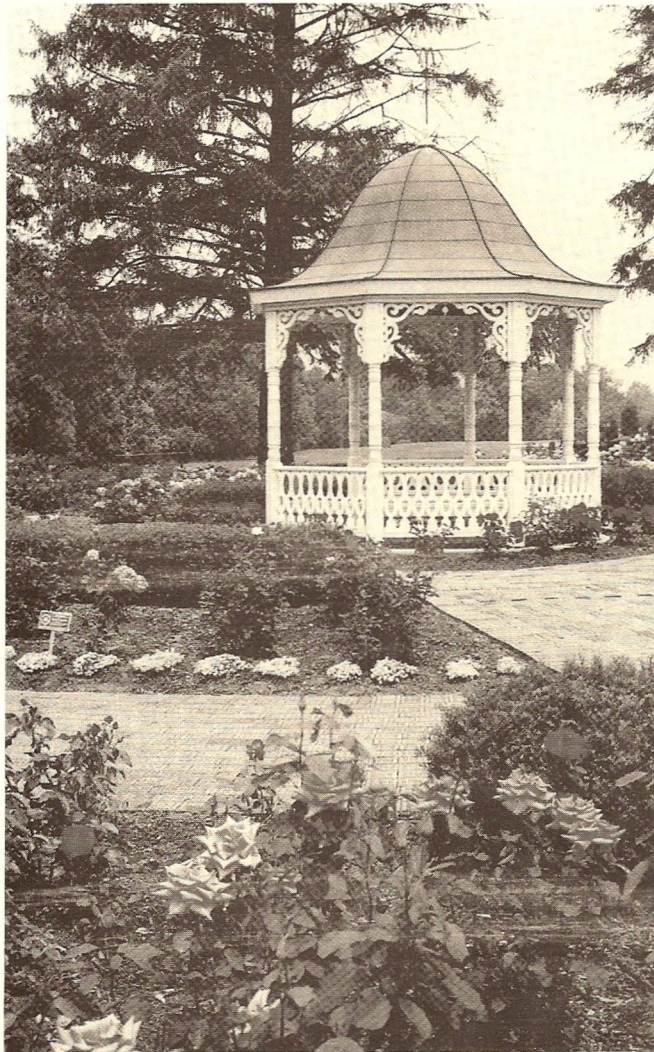


# History of Richmond's All-America Rose Garden



## Acknowledgments

While the author's participation in planning for and establishing Richmond's All-America Rose Garden in the early and mid 1980s, and his role as a Board member ever since have provided the overall framework of the booklet, Jim Fisher and John Pemberton should also be cited for their contributions. Their voluminous files containing Board meeting minutes over the years and countless news articles from the *Graphic* and *Richmond Palladium-Item*, written by Sue Peters and Dick Reynolds, helped provide both the factual and illustrative material needed to make this historical account a reliable and, hopefully, interesting one.

Others who provided useful material or helped with the editing of the booklet included John Connelly, Dr. Jim and A.J. Daggy, Clara Knight, Sue Shafer, Jody Turner and Ruth Wickemeyer.

Donald M. Royer  
Richmond, IN  
October, 1998



# History of Richmond's All-America Rose Garden

## Laying the Groundwork in the 1970s

After the tragic 1968 explosion had destroyed the core of Richmond's business district, a way had to be found to present a positive image of the city to the public at large, especially to the corporations who were looking for sites to locate, to potential residents from other areas, and to the thousands of travelers who passed Richmond on I-70 on a daily basis.

While the new inner-city Promenade provided an attractive centerpiece, something more was needed -- a magnet to lure the business and the public generally to the city which had just suffered such a body blow.

Consequently, the Chamber of Commerce with the support of Mayor Byron Klute's office, decided to capitalize on the internationally known century old rose growing industry here. By the early 1970s, the E.G. and Joseph H. Hill companies were sending 25,000,000 cut roses annually to distributors throughout the country and abroad. Why not designate Richmond the "Rose City", and why not sponsor an annual Rose Festival to present the public at large with a positive image of the newly rebuilt city? These decisions carried the seed of the All-America Rose Garden which was finally established some fifteen years later in 1987.

Soon the Rose City logo appeared throughout the city on signs, billboards and on publicity issued by the Wayne County Tourism Bureau. The Rose Festival drew thousands of people to the city, some of whom were among the 8,000 or more travelers who passed by the city on I-70 daily. Some of these travelers had been to Portland, Oregon, a "City of Roses" with its spectacular public rose garden. Others had been to the fabulous Butchart Rose Garden in Vancouver while others had visited public rose gardens in Shreveport, Louisiana along with public gardens in Ft. Wayne and Columbus, Ohio. Consequently, more and more tourists were asking the Tourism Bureau's Rose Festival staff, "Where are the roses?". When told that they were under glass at the westside greenhouses open to tours at designated hours, there was general disappointment among those who had visited beautiful public rose gardens across the country.



## The early 1980s, a vision, visits to German Rose Gardens and the groundwork for a public rose garden

In the early 1980s, Prof. Don Royer, then a teacher at Ball State University, volunteered to help the Tourism Bureau attract more visitors to the "Rose City". After manning a booth at a Tourism Convention in Cincinnati, he wondered why many more attendees stopped at the Brookville Reservoir booth than the Wayne County booth. On returning to Richmond, Royer suggested to Mary Walker that Brookville had a better "mousetrap" than Richmond. He reminded her that Ralph Waldo Emerson had once said that "if you want the world to beat a path to your door, you must build a better mousetrap." What would that "mousetrap" be? Having taught in Germany for Ball State in the 1970s, Royer had been overwhelmed by the beauty of a thirteen acre public rose garden in Zweibrucken with its 60,000 rose bushes of 2500 varieties along with annuals, trees, a lake, fountains and a performing arts center. He suggested to Walker, who was then Associate Director of the Tourism Bureau, that the "mousetrap" could be a public rose garden like Zweibruckens which attracted over 250,000 visitors annually. In order to give the city's leaders a vision of what a public rose garden might look like, he suggested to Walker that they work together to publicize a "Rose Garden Trip" to Germany in 1984.

After some months of publicity, Jim Fisher who was then a member of the Chamber of Commerce along with his wife, Pat; Sue Peters, then a columnist for the Richmond Graphic Press and her friend Joanna Hamilton along with Royer visited the Zweibrucken Rose Garden. While they visited several other German Gardens on that 1984 trip, Zweibrucken's impressed them the most, and they returned with a vision of the form a Richmond Garden might take. In September, 1985, another group visited Zweibrucken, along with Rose Gardens on the Island of Mainau and Dortmund. This group was composed of Janelle Foust of Rose City Nursery, John and Jean Pemberton and Ruth Wickemeyer, then director of the Wayne County Foundation, along with Hamilton, Peters and Royer from the previous trip. This group also returned with a vision of a public Rose Garden in Richmond patterned after the one in Zweibrucken. In late 1985 and 1986, members of these first two groups along with John Connelly visited Rose Gardens in Columbus, Ohio, and Ft. Wayne, then the only All-America Display Garden in Indiana. When the time came, in late 1986, however, to give the contract for the Garden's design to Rose City Nurseries, it was the Zweibrucken Garden with its rose plots in various shapes and sizes, and the mixture of roses along with annuals and perennials that prevailed.



By January, 1986, the Richmond Rose Garden Project emerged as an incorporated entity with a set of by-laws and with the Wayne County Foundation as its financial arm.

Their first project was to revive the former All America Rose Selections (AARS) Test Garden, the E.G. Hill Rose Garden in Glen Miller Park. With the leadership of Joanna Mikesell, descendent of Joseph H. Hill, and Wanda Hayes, for many years involved in the rose industry with her late husband, John Lemon, with Conard Pyle Co. and Star Roses of West Grove, PA, the dream became a reality. The Company made a gift of 230 rose bushes to the then moribund E.G. Hill Garden.

Early in 1986, a "Neighborhood Rose Garden Competition Committee" was established to encourage citizens to plant roses around their homes as a means of publicizing Richmond as the "Rose City" it purported to be. This effort had limited success. The idea was presented by Sue Peters and others who had been on the 1985 trip during which the group visited Schmittshausen, a "Rose Village" which had won an award in national competition for the most beautiful display of roses around private residences and in public places. Such rose displays were also visible throughout the city of Zweibrucken. Other Committee members had seen such public displays in private and public plots in Thomasville, Georgia. Later, a citywide Beautification Committee was established, but the idea of neighborhood rose growing competitions has fallen by the wayside.

During these early years from 1984 to 1986, the *Palladium-Item* and the *Graphic Weekly* played an important role in publicizing the Rose Garden Project. Dick Reynolds wrote numerous columns in the *Palladium-Item* in support of the Project, as did Vic Jose and Sue Peters of *The Graphic* through their extensive reporting of the early trips to German Rose Gardens. The Chamber of Commerce played a key role by taking the Project under its wing, and Mayor Frank Waltermann, along with Richmond Parks Director at the time, Nancy McCartney, supported the Project in every way possible.

Warren Aiken, Joseph H. Hill Co. Rosarian, played an important role during 1984 and 1985 in helping the Committee make sound decisions concerning size and site of the Garden. In a three-page letter to the Committee in 1984, he recommended that the Rose Garden "must be easy to locate and have plenty of parking. It should be on or just barely off a main thoroughfare". We took his advice.

John Connelly, former Wayne County Agricultural Agent, began to play a key role in the Garden's development and maintenance of the Garden in 1985, a role he has continued to play throughout the years.



## **1985-1987 Vision become reality after months of planning by Rose Garden Committee volunteers**

One thing should be understood about Richmond's All-America Rose Garden. It was planned by volunteers from all walks of life in the Richmond area. It has been maintained and developed since its inception by community volunteers, and it has been a privately financed project. The public input was important also. Were it not for the action of the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board to grant a 99 year lease to the newly incorporated Rose Garden Project at its present location in Glen Miller Park, the dream may not have become a reality.

During the planning stages, Mayor Frank Waltermann also played a key role by supporting all of the efforts of the fledgling Rose Garden Committee.

What preceded the action of the Richmond Parks and Recreation Board, however, were two years of committee meetings comprised of those who had visited German rose gardens, along with Warren Aiken, Rosarian, and John Connelly.

The first meeting of the Rose Garden Committee was called by the Tourism Bureau on November 15, 1984, in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room, just two months after the initial trip to Europe. The initial group, inspired by the 60,000 rose bush, thirteen acre garden in Zweibrucken, originally hoped that a garden of nearly similar size might be established here. After months of viewing ten and eleven acre sites in the Richmond area it was decided that the cost of establishing a garden on Zweibrucken's scale was prohibitive. Finally in 1986, a site selection committee composed of Warren Aiken, Nancy MacCartney, Richmond Parks Superintendent, Joanna Mikesell, Don Royer and Ruth Wickemeyer recommended the present site along National Road. The Glen Miller Park site was chosen over three other sites rated by the committee for the following reasons: accessibility and visibility, security, attractiveness of surrounding area, potential for multi-purpose uses, and quality of soil.

Two other factors were the proximity to the E.G. Hill Rose Garden and the realization that the Garden site selected, though small by comparison with other public rose gardens across the United States, was financially manageable.

Soon thereafter in the summer of 1986, the Rose Garden Committee invited designs for the projected Rose Garden from various individuals and landscape architects in the area. After reviewing the designs, the contract for the Rose Garden was let to the



Rose City Nursery owned by Lorrie W. Foust. The plan submitted by Foust envisioned 2,000 rose bushes, 2,000 annual flowers and 1500 perennials along with 100 herbs. In 1985, the Rose Garden Committee, flush from a second trip to European rose gardens envisioned a Garden with 20,000 rose bushes, just a third of Zweibruckens but ten times larger than Foust's proposal. In actuality, the All-America Garden seldom exceeded 1600 bushes. So the dreams became reality, but on a small scale. We realized that a privately funded Rose Garden in Richmond could not begin to match the grandeur of the publicly funded thirteen acre Zweibrucken Garden. It was with some shock that the Committee discovered by late 1986 that our three-quarter acre Garden would cost at least \$100,000.

The final design for the All-America Garden, however, reflected the "rose room" design of the Zweibrucken Garden with its intermixing of annuals and perennials. Janelle Foust who had made the 1985 German rose garden trip played a key role in helping her husband Lorrie draw up the final design which exists today.

### **All-America Garden dedicated - 1987**

After nearly three years of arduous planning, ground was finally broken on March 15, 1987. The ground breaking ceremony included the following: Jim Fisher, Rose Garden chairman, Lorrie Foust, Jim Rush, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mary Walker of the Tourism Bureau and Mayor Frank Waltermann. Also attending the ceremony were Rick Armstrong, John Connelly, Wanda Hayes, Don Royer, Sue Peters and Ruth Wickermeier of the Rose Garden Committee, along with Lindley S. Mann, President of the E.G. Hill Company, and Duane Kinyon and Joanne Mikesell representing the Joseph H. Hill Company.

Four months later on June 27, 1987, the Garden was opened to the public. On that same day, Mayor Frank Waltermann dedicated the newly replanted E.G. Hill Gardens which had been dedicated at its inception fifty years earlier by his father, Mayor Joseph Waltermann.

The dedication of the All-America Garden finally occurred on September 12, 1987, with John Pemberton Master of Ceremonies. Other speakers on that occasion were Jim Fisher, the driving force, along with wife Pat, behind the Rose Garden Project during the first five years beginning in 1985. He was followed by Jim Rush, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Dana Weigle, President of the Convention



and Tourism Bureau, and donor of the Gazebo which graces the center of the Garden. Final presenters were President Richard Wood of Earlham College and Lorrie Foust.

In his final comments, Pemberton said:

At this time I am extremely honored and very proud to present members of the Richmond Rose Garden Committee. Their numbers are small for such a gigantic undertaking but they surmounted all odds to do it. As I introduce each one they will receive one of our bright red roses, the Europeana. They are:

Warren Aiken	David Hogg	Manfred Schreyer
Rick Armstrong	Clara Knight	Mary Walker
Norma Carnes	Debi Meyer	Frank Waltermann
John Connelly	Joanna Mikesell	Ruth Wickemeyer
Jim and Pat Fisher	John and Jean Pemberton	
Lorrie and Janelle Foust	Sue Peters	
Wanda Hayes	Don Royer	



## 1987 - 1990 The Formative Years -- Financing and maintaining the Garden and some unexpected gifts

The first three years (1987 - 1990) were the “make or break” years, the period when sound planning and community support would determine the future of the newly established Garden. The fact that the project is flourishing after twelve years of hard work and unexpected gifts validates the vision that the leaders had in the formative years. Concerning the unexpected gifts that gave the Garden its jump start, the following should be mentioned:

- ◆ The financial support from individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations that enabled the Committee to reach its ambitious \$100,000 goal.
- ◆ The contribution of thousands of Star Bricks by the City Administration with Mayor Frank Waltermann at the helm.
- ◆ The gift of a gazebo as the Garden’s centerpiece from Dana Weigle, President of McDonald’s Richmond area operations.
- ◆ The recognition of the Garden in 1989 as an All-America Display Garden by the All-America Rose Garden Selection Committee (AARS).

There were also the expected challenges including financing, maintaining and publicizing the Garden. During the 1987-1990 period Jim Fisher provided the leadership for the development and guidance of the “Richmond Rose Garden Project” as it was then called. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, he brought the Rose Garden Committee under the wing of the Chamber and, therefore, received the support of the City’s business and professional leadership. Overall, without his dynamic leadership in the formative years, the All-America Rose Garden would not have developed as quickly and successfully as it did.



## **Unexpected Gifts -- The All-America Display Garden citation, the gazebo, the Star Bricks and the Community's financial support**

Possibly the biggest boost the newly established Garden received was its designation as an All-America Display Garden in 1989 just two years after its establishment. The All-America Rose Selection Board (AARS) based in Chicago, made that decision after a careful investigation of the Richmond Garden's eligibility for such a prestigious award. It helped, of course, to have Warren Aiken as a member of the AARS selection committee. Aiken had worked closely with the local Project since its inception in 1985. The Richmond garden followed Ft. Wayne with the second AARS Display Garden in Indiana, joining nearly 150 others across the nation. One of the benefits of its newly acquired status is that the Richmond Committee receives free All-America rose bushes annually. The AARS Board designates one or more new rose varieties each year which have stood the rigors of testing over several years for hardiness, quality of bloom, disease resistance, and fragrance, along with other qualities. Since 1990, Richmond has received 20 to 30 free bushes annually. Among the most showy of the hybrid tea varieties have been the Rio Samba (1993), a rose which changes colors as the bloom matures, and Carefree Wonder (1991), a showy disease resistant shrub rose. Other All-America selections from previous years that have attracted the attention of tourists have been the Peace Rose (1946), Double Delight (1977) and Touch of Class (1986), all hybrid teas. One of the largest and most fragrant hybrid teas is the Dolly Parton which attracts a great deal of attention but lacks the AARS designation. There are many other AARS annual winners in the Garden including the Bonicas (1987), small shrub roses which line the south wall of the Garden.

The All-America Display Garden award has not only enhanced the prestige of the Richmond Garden, but has also increased the flow of tourists, many of whom read about the All-America designation in the AAA Tour Books.



## The Gazebo as the Garden's centerpiece

All of the walks in the newly established Rose Garden in 1987 converged on a center circle. The question was, what shall grace the circle? Shall it be a fountain like the one in the adjoining E.G. Hill Memorial Garden? It couldn't be a lake, obviously, like the one in the center of the Zweibrucken Garden. So, the idea of an elegant Gazebo emerged as the Committee's choice.

Duane Kinyon, president of Joseph H. Hill Co. at the time and John Connelly were designated to choose a suitable gazebo. Their choice, a prefabricated, copper-roofed structure 12 feet in diameter is the one that now graces the Garden's center. With the Garden on a tight budget, Dana Weigle, president of the local McDonald's operations, came to the rescue. He had heard of the gazebo plans in June at the rededication of the E.G. Hill Garden, and he also knew that the \$16,000 needed to complete the project was not in the Board's budget. Consequently, he offered the gazebo as a gift from the McDonalds corporation. In making his presentation at the gazebo's dedication in September, 1987, Weigle observed that Ray Kroc, the late founder of the McDonald enterprise, "left a legacy to his operators, and certainly with me . . . that we should give back to our communities some of the benefits we receive from them". To this day, the gazebo is the most sizable gift received by the Rose Garden Committee.

Not only does the gazebo serve as an elegant centerpiece for the Garden, but over the years has hosted many wedding ceremonies annually.

## Star brick walkways

Having visited rose gardens in the United States and Germany, the Committee was confronted with a number of choices for the type of walkways to be used in the Garden. Should they simply be grass paths as in Ft. Wayne's All-America Garden? Should they be fine gravel walkways, or should they be made of materials that would require low maintenance? At this point, Mayor Frank Waltermann suggested that the City had a stockpile of century-old Star bricks which the city might contribute to serve as walkways. Given the uniqueness of the Star bricks, it seemed like a logical choice for the Garden paths, given their low maintenance and aesthetic qualities. Today Richmond has the distinction of having the only All-America Rose Garden with Star brick walkways.



Star bricks had been used for sidewalks in Old Richmond beginning in the 19th century. Such sidewalks are still in use in certain older neighborhoods in the City's southside. In time, however, many Star brick walks were damaged by tree roots and were gradually replaced by cement ones. Gradually, the City accumulated a large quantity of the distinctive century-old bricks, and fortunately, the Rose Garden Committee was the recipient of several thousand of them, thanks to Mayor Waltermann's interest in the success of the All-America Garden.

## **The Community's Financial Support**

Having planted and dedicated the Garden in 1987, the first order of business was to finance the project. While containing only 1600 rose bushes, a limited number of trees and annuals on a plot of less than an acre, the Committee decided that, at least \$100,000 would be needed to adequately finance the undertaking. The campaign for funds began during the first week of March, 1987, when Mayor Frank Waltermann declared March 8 through 15 "Richmond Rose Garden Week". In his proclamation, he "asked all residents to promote and support the Rose Garden with their interest and contributions". Citizens, businesses, corporations and foundations were given four options, ranging from "rose bud sponsors" with contributions of from \$5 to \$25 to "Chapter Rose Garden Benefactors" with gifts of \$100 or more. This group of contributors also had their names recognized on an Information Board erected at the Garden's entrance. Under Ruth Wickemeyer's leadership at the time, the Wayne County Foundation agreed to be the receiver of funds. Wickemeyer, coincidentally, was also treasurer of the Rose Garden Committee, a position she held until her retirement from the Foundations's directorship in 1996. By June of 1987, over 100 individuals and nearly that many corporations, businesses and foundations, among which the Wayne County Foundation was the largest contributor, had made a big dent in the \$100,000 goal. By that time, the Garden's costs had reached over \$72,000, including \$30,000 for the landscaping and planting done by the Rose City Nursery. One year later \$112,000 had been raised in gifts and pledges and over \$88,000 had been spent to operate, maintain and beautify the Garden.

All contributors to the Garden received a quarterly Newsletter, "Rose Ramblings" in which they were kept abreast of developments in the Garden. Contributors were also encouraged to make donations of \$100 or more in honor of or in



memory of a friend or family member. All such contributors have been listed each year on the Information Board. These annual memorial or honor gifts continue to be a major source of funding for the Garden.

During these formative years and into the 1990s, Ruth Wickemeyer, with her fund raising and money management skills, played a key role in keeping the Garden's financial house in order. It was fortuitous for the fledgling Committee to have her as treasurer during the first decade of the Garden's development.

### **The All-America Garden as a private-public project**

Having emphasized the fact that the funding for the All-America Garden was entirely from private sources, it should be noted that the city of Richmond, through its mayor, Frank Waltermann, and the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, played an important role in the Garden's founding and development. The City leased the land on which the Garden was developed to the Rose Garden Committee for ninety-nine years. The City has provided the water for the Garden's irrigation and, as mentioned earlier, the Star bricks for the paths. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department directors over the years, beginning with Nancy McCartney in 1986, along with their staffs, have provided their expertise and services in the Garden's maintenance. The relationship begun in 1986, has become even stronger in the 1990s with a member of the Park's staff serving on the Rose Garden Committee. In addition, a member of the Mayor's staff has also served on the Committee.

### **Challenges during the early years -- publicizing and maintaining the Garden**

Did the newly established garden prove to be the "better mousetrap" that the Rose Garden Committee had hoped for in the early 1980s? One can say modestly that by 1990 we had built at least half a mousetrap. Several thousand visitors annually were visiting the newly established All-America Garden by 1990. Most of those visitors were travelers or tourists from across the country who had read about the Garden in their AAA Travel Books, or had picked up Wayne County or Rose Garden brochures at visitors centers along the I-70 interstate which skirts Richmond. A smaller number of rose lovers, in particular, had read about the



Garden in the AARS publicity. On the basis of frequent interviews with Garden visitors, however, it was the AAA Travel Books which led more tourists to the All-America Garden than any other source. The Committee had published thousands of brochures during the early years which, with the help of the Tourism Bureau, reached thousands of potential visitors.

Locally, Sue Peters probably did more than any other Committee member. Sue had visited Zweibrucken three times before 1990 and in the process produced slide shows from her hundreds of photos which she showed to scores of civic groups during the early years. In her many presentations throughout the city and county, she not only conveyed her enthusiasm for the Zweibrucken Garden but also for the more modest one along National Road. As a result, some hundreds of local citizens not only visited the Garden but many of them became volunteers helping to maintain the Garden. She also promoted the Garden through her weekly columns in the *Graphic* as did Dick Reynolds in *Palladium-Item* articles between 1984 and 1988. As early as September, 1984, Reynolds featured a first page article in the *Palladium* with the headline, "Big Rose Garden Envisioned Here". Again in June, 1985, he penned another article, "They'd Like to Promise Richmond a Rose Garden". All of this publicity has attracted the several thousand visitors annually, but not the 100,000 or more who tour the Zweibrucken Garden annually, or the thousands who visit the larger better known American Gardens such as the ones in Shreveport, Louisiana, Tyler, Texas, and the famed Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. In short, if Richmond were able to afford a 60,000 bush garden spread over 13 acres, we might have the "world beating a path to our door". Obviously, our resources will not allow it, so we must use our time, money and personnel to properly maintain the modest All-America Rose Garden that Richmond now has. Properly maintaining a rose garden is, by far, the most challenging and frustrating task that a maintenance crew faces. If done properly, visitors will come and admire the results. If done poorly, the Garden will die on the vine as it were.



## **The most difficult challenge -- maintaining 1600 roses with volunteers**

Maintaining a 1600 bush Rose Garden may seem like “small potatoes” to the owners of larger public gardens throughout the country, but when the care of the Garden depends entirely on volunteer help, the job becomes a new challenge. In fact, it became the greatest challenge the Committee faced. Without funds to pay for gardeners, it was left to Committee and Board members to do the maintenance, and any local rose lovers who might volunteer to help. As happens in most cases when a grand plan is in place, the task of caring for the Project falls into the hands of the few who have the interest, dedication and time to get the job done.

Maintaining the All-America Garden has many facets, but the following ones were the most important:

- ◆ Frequent watering during the growing season
- ◆ Spraying each rose bush to curb the pests and diseases that afflict the showy hybrid tea varieties which dominate the garden
- ◆ Winterization to prevent winter kill
- ◆ Mulching the Garden to retain soil moisture
- ◆ Deadheading or pruning spent blooms weekly during the growing season
- ◆ Weeding around each of the 1600 bushes weekly during the growing season

During the early years from 1987 on to the present day, John Connelly headed the maintenance crew such as it was. John had been the Wayne County Agricultural Extension Agent from 1945 to 1978, and in that capacity had learned about all there was to know about the care of plants and trees. He was, therefore, a natural for the position. He received recognition from the Rose Festival Committee in June, 1988 as the “Outstanding Volunteer” among the many volunteers throughout the city that year.

Connelly was not alone, however. John Pemberton, vice chairman of the Board at the time, spent countless hours each week in caring for the Garden as did Clara



Knight, the Fishers who were then prime movers of the Project, and other Board members. By 1988, Clay Clark, a community volunteer, had joined the maintenance crew.

At the end of the 1988 growing season, President Jim Fisher presented a personal Star Brick to Connelly, Clark and Pemberton for their volunteer efforts during 1988.

## **The need for an automated sprinkler system**

At the Garden's dedication in 1987, the head rosarian of the Columbus, Ohio AARS Garden remarked to John Pemberton that "unless you apply mulch to the bare soil in your new Garden the ground will simply not hold the moisture." Pemberton carried this concern to the Board. Even though September, 1987 was the hottest and driest one of the 80s, the money was not available for the needed mulch and the Garden suffered the consequences. Scores of bushes weakened by the drought and the Japanese Beetle attack followed by winter-kill, needed to be replaced in April of 1988 and again in 1989. However, mulching did begin during the 1988 growing season when \$500 was set aside for wood chips from Richmond Power and Light Co., but it became quite clear that despite extensive hand-watering by Connelly, Pemberton, Clark, Knight and others, the Garden could not flourish and continue to attract tourists and rose-lovers without an automated underground sprinkler system. Finally, in 1989 such a system was approved and Rose City Nursery of Richmond installed the underground sprinklers at a cost of nearly \$13,000. The system was automated in the sense that water turned on whenever the soil needed it. Despite some malfunctions and breaks in the water lines brought on by errant shovels, the system has served its purpose and has saved hundreds of hours of scarce volunteer labor each growing season.

## **Winterizing the Garden**

There is probably no greater threat to a Rose Garden's survival in the northern United States than winter-kill. Roses simply need to be protected during the harsh winters to survive. Early on the Board decided to use foot-high plastic collars filled with mulch to provide the needed protection. Even then, replacement roses each spring sometimes reached 150 during the 1980s.



While caring for the Garden fell on a handful of Board and Committee members during the 1980s, the 1990s brought relief to the overworked volunteers with the Adopt-a-Plot program which will be discussed in succeeding paragraphs.

## 1989 in review

1989 marked the last year of Jim Fisher's dynamic leadership of the All-America Garden Project and at the Annual Meeting in October of that year he noted the accomplishments achieved in the final year of his leadership. From his perspective, they were:

- ◆ Accreditation by the All-America Selection Committee (AARS) as an All-America Display Garden.
- ◆ 180 new roses planted as replacements for those lost to winter-kill.
- ◆ Much improved moisture conditions due to mulching made maintenance easier.
- ◆ Three wooden and one antique iron bench added to the Garden for the pleasure of visitors. The iron bench was the gift of Mary Lane Charles.
- ◆ Increased use of Gazebo for weddings.
- ◆ Ground-cover roses, red and white Meidillands, added to replace black-eyed susans. Meidillands were hybridized by Meilland of France, and are a very hardy and disease resistant shrub type rose.
- ◆ 5000 additional Rose Garden brochures printed and distributed by the Tourism Bureau and for the information of Garden visitors.
- ◆ Stronger financial base shown over 1988, including payment of a \$5000 loan from the Chamber of Commerce for the installation of the sprinkler system.



## Rose Garden Board and Committee members from 1985 to 1990

### 1985-1987 Board of Directors

Jim Fisher, President  
 Don Royer, Vice President  
 Ruth Wickemeyer, Treasurer  
 Debi Meyer, Secretary  
 Rick Armstrong  
 Jay Fager  
 Pat Fisher  
 Janelle Foust  
 John Pemberton  
 Sue Peters

### 1987-1988 Board of Directors

Jim Fisher, President  
 John Connelly, Vice President  
 Ruth Wickemeyer, Treasurer  
 Debi Meyer, Secretary  
 Rick Armstrong  
 Jay Fager  
 Janelle Foust  
 Sue Peters  
 Manfred Schreyer  
 Mary Walker

### 1988-1989 Board of Directors

Jim Fisher, President  
 John Connelly, Vice President  
 Ruth Wickemeyer, Treasurer  
 Karen Hamilton, Secretary  
 Rick Armstrong  
 Joan Bartel  
 Tom Docherty  
 Steve Helmich  
 Carol Kimbrough  
 Clara Knight  
 Mike Nottingham  
 John and Jean Pemberton  
 Sue Peters  
 Don Royer  
 Mary Walker

### 1987-1988 Committee Members

Norma Carnes  
 Virginia Clevenger  
 Pat Fisher  
 Duane Kinyon  
 Clara Knight  
 Joanna Mikesell  
 John and Jean Pemberton  
 Don Royer

### 1988-1989 Committee Members

Warren Aiken  
 Dean Bostrom  
 Debi Brim  
 Norma Carnes  
 Pat Fisher  
 Wanda Hayes  
 David Hogg  
 Duane Kinyon  
 Randy Kirk  
 Gary and Bev Kreider  
 Nancy McNew  
 Joanna Mikesell  
 Jean Pemberton  
 Bob and Sue Shafer  
 Dana Weigle



**1989-1990 Board of Directors**

John Connelly, President  
John Pemberton, Vice President  
Ruth Wickemeyer, Treasurer  
Karen Hamilton, Secretary  
Carol Kimbrough  
Clara Knight  
Sue Peters  
Don Royer  
Bob Shafer  
Mary Walker

**1989-1990 Committee Members**

Debi Brim  
Virginia Glover  
Wanda Hayes  
Helen Honschopp  
Harriett Killion  
Carol Kimbrough  
Duane Kinyon  
Nancy McNew  
Jean Pemberton  
Sue Peters  
Don Royer  
Sue Shafer



## Major developments in the 1990s -- Adopt-A-Plot program and the Richmond - Zweibrucken Friendship Garden

### The Adopt-A-Plot program

Without question one of the most significant developments in the All-America Garden in the 1990s was the creation of the Adopt-A-Plot program which involved community groups adopting one of the fourteen plots for care and maintenance. Sue Shafer, wife of then Board President Bob Shafer, was responsible for the plan. Sue had seen the success of such a program in other groups with which she had been involved. It did not take much to persuade the Board to support her idea. The maintenance load had fallen on a few Committee members who had become overburdened. They were led by John Connelly and Clay Clark, Clara Knight and Helen Honschopp along with the late Bob Shafer who was president from 1991 to 1993. Other Board and Committee members helped when able to do so, but the aforementioned five carried the heaviest load. So, it was a welcome relief when the Adopt-A-Plot program got underway in 1992. The first groups to respond to the invitation to participate in the program were the Harley Ladies, Golden K Kiwanis, the Noon Kiwanis, the Noon Lion's Club, the Petal and Stem Club and the Wayne County Genealogical Society. Five more individuals and clubs responded later to care for the remaining beds. By 1998, the following persons and groups had assumed responsibility for the following plots:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| A. Petal and Stem Club       | H. Clara Knight                                   |
| B. Noon Kiwanis Club         | I.A. and I.B. John Connelly & Lion's Club         |
| C. Ladies of Harley          | J. Helen Honschopp                                |
| D. Golden K Kiwanis Club     | K. Beautification Committee - Jim and A.J. Daggy  |
| E. Howard Earlywine          | Gazebo Circle - Ginger Redwine and AARP members   |
| F. John and Mary Jane Meyers | Bonica Roses along south wall - Dr. David Ferrell |
| G. John and Jody Turner      |   |



As a result of the Adopt-A-Plot program, the Rose Garden Board has established an annual recognition luncheon at the Charles House adjoining the three rose gardens. All volunteers, Board and Committee members have attended these gatherings since 1994.

While the Garden would likely have survived the 90s without the Adopt-A-Plot program, its maintenance and beauty would have been diminished, and for this we have to thank Sue Shafer, her husband the late Bob Shafer, and the Committee members who played a key role in organizing and managing the Adopt-A-Plot plan. They were: John Connelly, Clara Knight and Helen Honschopp. Knight and Honschopp also managed the ordering of thousands of annuals planted each spring.

## **The Richmond - Zweibrucken Friendship Garden**

Possibly the most significant addition to the All-American Garden in the 1990s was the establishment of the Richmond-Zweibrucken Friendship Garden in 1992. The two cities had officially formed a Rose City Partnership in 1991 when mayor Frank Waltermann and Lord Mayor Werner von Blon signed an "Official Declaration of the Rose Partnership". Richmond became Zweibrucken's second Rose City Partner, after Goteborg, Sweden, one of that country's historic cities.

The idea for the Partnership apparently began as early as 1984. After our Richmond delegation made its first trip there, Lord Mayor von Blon wrote in a letter to Mayor Waltermann, "I am glad that Richmond as a Rose City wishes to establish a relationship with our City of Roses, Zweibrucken." Evidently, someone in our tour group made the suggestion at the reception the Lord Mayor had for us in June of that year. That tour group included, as mentioned earlier, Jim and Pat Fisher, Joanna Hamilton, Sue Peters and Don Royer. Other trips to Zweibrucken followed in 1985, 1988, 1990 and 1992. It was at the Lord Mayor's reception for the Richmond group in October 1990 when he suggested that Richmond and Zweibrucken form a Rose City Partnership. Why did he suggest such a Partnership? A primary reason he told us was that the E.G. Hill and Joseph H. Hill rose nurseries were famed throughout Germany for their accomplishments. He pointed out that at least ten varieties in the Zweibrucken Garden had been hybridized by rosarians such as Robert Jelly and Robert Catron from the two



## The Peace Rose

One of the features of the Friendship Garden is the circle of twelve Peace rose bushes around the sculpture. These bushes, of course, symbolize the Rose City Partnership, but they symbolize something more. Hybridized in the early 1940s by the French firm, Meilland, the budwood for the rose had been brought to the United States by the U.S. Consul in Lyon on the last plane out of Paris, France before the German occupation in 1944. The name Peace was given the rose by the Pacific Rose Society in April 1945. At that point, Robert Pyle, noted hybridizer and co-owner of Conard-Pyle Rose Nursery, West Grove, PA, suggested that the Peace Rose be presented to the head of each delegation at the San Francisco Conference on World Organization which was meeting later that year to create the United Nations. This was done by the American Rose Society. Ten years later, a single Peace bloom was presented to each delegate at the United Nations meeting in San Francisco with this inscription: "This is the Peace Rose, a flower that has become an international favorite and a spontaneous symbol of the hope for peace between nations."

In the 1985 rose garden trip to Germany, the Richmond delegation came upon a large sign in Dortmund's Rose Garden which detailed the family history of the Peace Rose. To the group's amazement, the Joanna Hill rose was part of the family tree.

It should also be noted that John and Wanda Hayes Lemon of Richmond had a long association with Robert Pyle and the Conard-Pyle Company. Both Wanda Hayes and Joanna Mikesell played important roles in the development of all three of Richmond's Rose Gardens from the 1980s into the 1990s.

## Other Additions in the 1990s -- The Memorial Wall

The building of a Memorial Wall was the most significant addition to the All-America Garden during the decade just ending. Since the Garden's inception a long line of tall evergreen trees had protected the Garden's south boundary from the fumes and winter salt spray from traffic along nearby National Road. By the mid 1990s however, the trees themselves began to suffer from the years of exhaust fumes and winter salt spray from passing traffic. The decision was made in 1996



Nurseries. Among the varieties were Better Times, Yuletide, Class Act, Charisma and Joanna Hill, named for Richmond's Joanna Hill Mikesell. Another reason was the fact that Richmond had been designated a Rose City based on the fame of these two rose nurseries. Finally, though modest in size, Richmond's Garden had achieved All-America status by 1990.

The Partnership led to the establishment of the Friendship Garden in 1992 with its 100 American hybridized roses along with 70 from Germany. At the same time Zweibrucken was dedicating a corner of its thirteen acre Garden to Richmond with a bed of some fifty bushes.

Richmond's ground breaking ceremony occurred on October 13, 1991, and the dedication of the newly established Friendship Garden occurred on June 20, 1992. Dr. Peter Beerwerth, Deputy Consul from the German Consulate in Detroit, was keynote speaker for the ground breaking ceremony. At the same time, Mayor Waltermann read a Proclamation calling on the citizens of Richmond to help support the newly formed Partnership with Zweibrucken.

At the Dedication ceremony nearly a year later Bill and Jeanne Magaw, creators of the sculpture which graces the south end of the Garden interpreted the meaning of their work: two arms in the form of an arc symbolizing friendship with a rose in the middle. The Friendship Garden designed and planned by James Brower of Gaar Nurseries combines some of the features of the Zweibrucken Garden with two rose beds bordered by annuals and perennials with a grass walkway through the center leading to the Friendship sculpture.

Financing the Friendship Garden proved, at first, to be a problem, but through the efforts of Rep. Dick Bodiker and Mayor Waltermann, \$20,000 was included in a \$200,000 Build Indiana Fund grant from the State to Richmond. This grant along with private funds proved sufficient to establish and maintain the Garden. In June of 1992, a Richmond group composed of Jim Brower, the Garden's architect and his wife Joyce, Vic and Faye Jose, Bill and Becky Niersbach, Sue Peters and Don Royer visited Zweibrucken, exchanged city flags and dedicated the new partnership at a champagne reception with Lord Mayor Werner von Blon.

Maintaining the Garden has been in the hands of four men who had made trips to the Zweibrucken Garden in the 1980s: John Pemberton, Dick Reynolds, Don Royer and Charlie Wolfe. They constitute the Friendship Committee.



to build a decorative retaining stone wall to replace the trees. The wall was built in 1997 by Ludwig Contractors from Hagerstown, IN.

At the outset the thought was that the Memorial Wall should be dedicated to the memory of the late Bob Shafer who had played an important role in the leadership and maintenance of the Garden during the early 1990s. He had served as Board president between 1991 and 1994 and spent many hours weekly in the Garden's maintenance. Sue Shafer, his widow, had also played an important role in the Garden's leadership during that period. It was her suggestion, however, that the Memorial Wall be dedicated to all those who had played an important role in the Garden's development since its inception in 1986. Her suggestion was accepted by the Board. In addition to Bob Shafer, Clay Clark, one of the Garden's key maintenance workers in the 1990s also passed away in 1996. His name will also be on the Memorial Wall.

Another 1997 addition to the All-America Garden was the installation of an attractive natural stone handicap accessible drinking fountain. Dr. Jim Daggy played a key role in promoting and selecting the fountain for the Garden.



## The All-America Garden in retrospect

Richmond's All-America Rose Garden established in 1987 has been a success thanks to the astute leadership by the Board of Directors; the help of scores of community volunteers who have helped care for the Garden and community's financial support. On the other hand, without the City's granting a 99 year lease for the land and the continual support by the Parks and Recreation Department with its annual supply of mulch and thousands of annuals among other contributions, the Garden Project's success would have been seriously diminished. It has been a prime example of what public-private partnership can do to enhance the beauty of a city like Richmond.

In retrospect, we have not realized the "Better mousetrap that would cause the world to beat a path to our door" but we have attracted thousands of tourists from most of the states in the Union and from many foreign countries over the years. In addition, several thousand Richmond area residents have enjoyed the new All-America blooms from year to year. One might argue that beautification itself is a success. The combination of three well-cared-for Rose Gardens with over 2,000 colorful hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribunda and shrub roses providing a riot of color from white to yellow, orange to deep red should in itself be considered a major achievement.

But since one of the major reasons for establishing the All-America Garden was to attract more tourists to the Richmond area, one cannot ignore numbers as a measure of success. Clara Knight has kept records of visitors to the Gardens since the early 1990s. According to the sign-up sheet at the All-America Garden's entrance, 1994 was the peak year with 2747 visitors from 46 states and 16 foreign countries. Clara estimates that on a given day only three out of ten who enter the garden see the sign-up sheet which is above eye level to deter vandalism. If her estimate is correct, there were probably 7,500 to 10,000 rose lovers in the three Gardens that year. In his 1994 annual report, John Connelly stated that "The Richmond Rose Garden has continued to be a very strong influence on the Tourism business of this area. During the month of June alone, 18 tour-bus groups enjoyed the Gardens." This figure has declined somewhat since 1994. Why? In the first place, 1994 was the last year of Joseph H. Hill's existence. The "Rose City" was named for Joseph H. Hill and E.G. Hill rose growers. They were a prime attraction for tour buses. One could also argue that the annual June Rose Festival was still attracting thousands of tourists in the early 90s. In the past few



years, that has not been the case, and the number of tour buses visiting the Garden dwindled after 1994. By 1997 there were still nearly 2,000 visitors signing their names. That year, rose lovers came from over 40 states and 13 foreign countries to enjoy the three Gardens. Given the limitations of the voluntary sign-up sheet, this means that as many as 7,000 probably visited the Gardens.

Concerning the financial soundness of the All-America and Friendship Gardens in the late 1990s, Ruth Wickemeyer reported the following in her 1995 report: "Our annual expenses consistently run between \$6,000 and \$8,000 depending on weather conditions, wear and tear on equipment and necessary improvements. Each year we need to purchase new roses, annuals, mulch, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, signage, tools, and electricity." Her observation is still true as we near the millennium. On the other hand, she observed at the time that contributions to the garden continued to cover costs with a modest balance remaining each month. This is true three years later.

In her 1995 summary, Wickemeyer alluded to signage. Identifying each rose variety bush by bush has been a problem since the Garden's inception. Finally in 1994 signs were erected at each plot identifying the varieties in that bed. Unfortunately, some bushes have to be added after winter kill and new varieties are added so, in time, the signage becomes dated. Proper signage still remains a problem. Fortunately, each All-America rose added annually to the Garden carries with it a metal nameplate so signage is not a problem with the twenty or more All-America varieties added since the early 1990s.

Another problem that still plagues the Garden is the malfunctioning irrigation system. This is especially true in the All-America Garden where underground rubber tubing can be easily ruptured.

Having mentioned the few problems that still exist, on balance, the pluses far outweigh the minuses. Among the pluses that go unnoticed is the community's involvement in the care and maintenance of the Garden. In the 1980s, the Garden's care fell on less than six workers. In the 1990s, thirty to forty volunteers from the Richmond area care for the All-America and Friendship Gardens each week. Since the inception of a volunteer appreciation lunch held annually, as many as forty Garden workers were attending the event by 1997. This fact alone is a tribute to the success of the Richmond Rose Garden Project.



## The Garden's Leadership

Don Royer "planted the seed" for the two Gardens, in a sense, by providing the Community's leaders with a vision of what a truly beautiful public rose garden would do for Richmond. He did this by leading five different groups to visit Germany's finest public rose gardens between 1984 and 1992.

He also provided the leadership for the Rose City Partnership with Zweibrucken, Germany, and for the Friendship Garden which resulted from that Partnership.

On the other hand, between 1985 and 1990, Jim Fisher provided the leadership and John Connelly the maintenance skills which together made the Garden a success. Connelly's right-hand man, John Pemberton, played a key role during this period in the Garden's maintenance.

During the early years and into the 1990s, Sue Peters was the Garden Project's chief publicist and Ruth Wickemeyer its astute treasurer. Without the support of the Chamber of Commerce and the Wayne County Foundation, as the repository for the Garden's funds, however, the Project's success would have been diminished.

During the early 1990s, Bob and Sue Shafer played key leadership roles. Bob's untimely death in 1995 led to Connelly's resuming his role as Chairman of the Board and head of the maintenance crew. Apart from the forty or so volunteers who joined the Adopt-A-Plot program, Clay Clark, Helen Honschopp, Clara Knight and, more recently, Jim and A.J. Daggy, along with Dick Ludwig, have played important roles. The Daggys not only care for a plot as members of Richmond's Beautification Committee, but he led the move to install a public drinking fountain in the Garden, while A.J. is now serving as editor of the periodic newsletter, *Rose Ramblings*. They are also both Board members.

After 1991, John Pemberton and Don Royer became increasingly involved with the care of the 170 rose bushes in the newly established Friendship Garden which lies between the E.G. Hill and All-America Gardens. Finding the task a bit daunting, they called on volunteers from previous tour groups to European gardens. The response was immediate from Dick Reynolds and Charlie Wolfe who had visited Zweibrucken Garden with the 1988 tour group. Five years later, this crew of four has spent several hours weekly during the growing season caring for this newest of the three Gardens.

Overall, however, John Connelly, our former Agricultural Extension Agent, stands out as the key to the All-America Garden's success. Without his leadership both as chairman of the Board and head of the maintenance crew over the years, the Garden would not be the lovely addition to Richmond's treasures that it is today.



## Board and Committee members - 1994 - 1998

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President - John Connelly  
 Vice President - Clara Knight  
 Secretary - Sue Peters  
 Treasurer - Ruth Wickemeyer  
 Helen Honschopp  
 Norma Carnes  
 Don Royer  
 Esther Manser  
 Lil Mendenhall  
 Bob Shafer

### 1994-95 Committee

John Pemberton  
 Nancy Crowell  
 A. J. Daggy  
 Jim Daggy  
 Fred Talbot  
 Martha Burton  
 Emily Kramer  
 Florence Talbot  
 Ada Turner  
 Clare McQuiston  
 Bob Mendenhall  
 Bob Gabbard  
 Delola Dees  
 Ethel Renschler  
 Sue Shafer

### 1995-96 Board of Directors

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 Secretary - Jody Turner  
 Treasurer - Ruth Wickemeyer  
 Helen Honschopp  
 Norma Carnes  
 Don Royer  
 Esther Manser  
 Lil Mendenhall  
 Bob Shafer

### 1995-96 Committee

John Pemberton  
 A.J. Daggy  
 Jim Daggy  
 Fred Talbot  
 Emily Kramer  
 Bob Gabbard  
 Delola Dees  
 Ethel Renschler  
 Sue Shafer



**1996-97 Board of Directors**

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 Vice President - Clara Knight  
 Secretary - Jody Turner  
 Treasurer - Ruth Wickemeyer  
 Helen Honschopp  
 Norma Shroeder  
 Don Royer  
 Esther Manser  
 Jim Daggy  
 A.J. Daggy

**1996-97 Committee**

Emily Kramer  
 Delola Dees  
 Stan Lambert  
 Dick Ludwig  
 Ruth Mapp  
 John Myers  
 John Pemberton  
 Bob Gabbard  
 Sue Shafer  
 Fred Talbot  
 Ginger Redwine  
 Laura Winchester  
 Peg Darby

**1997-98 Board of Directors**

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 Vice President - Clara Knight  
 Secretary - Jody Turner  
 Treasurer - Ruth Wickemeyer  
 Helen Honschopp  
 Debbie Berry  
 Don Royer  
 Esther Manser  
 Jim Daggy  
 A.J. Daggy

**1997-98 Committee**

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 Peg Darby  
 Laura Winchester  
 Dick Ludwig  
 Fred Talbot  
 Mary Jane Myers  
 John Myers  
 Ginger Redwine  
 Clare McQuiston  
 Sue Shafer  
 Ruth Mapp  
 John Pemberton  
 Ruth Vandevord

**1998-99 Board of Directors**

President - John Connelly  
 Vice President - Clara Knight  
 Sec./Treas. - Jody Turner  
 Helen Honschopp  
 Debbie Berry  
 Don Royer  
 Jean Webb  
 Jim Daggy  
 A.J. Daggy

**1998-99 Committee**

Fred Talbot  
 John Myers  
 Mary Jane Myers  
 John Pemberton  
 Ginger Redwine  
 Sue Shafer  
 Priscilla Hawley  
 Clare McQuiston  
 Howard Earlywine



# "We Promise You A Rose Garden"

## Richmond Rose Garden Project

### The Following Are Your Neighbors Who Have Already Contributed To This All-America Project\*

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Thornburg's Quality Foods  
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### *Groundbreaking Signals Rose Garden Start*

**SPECTATORS WITH a special interest at the Rose Garden Ground Breaking, March 15, 1987, are, left to right Duane Kinyon, Chairman of the Board of the Joseph H. Hill Company, Donald M. Royer, Wanda Lemon Hayes (Mrs. Brice), Rick Armstrong and John Connelly, Rose Garden Board Members, Lindely S. Mann, President, E.G. Hill Company, Inc. and Joanna Mikesell, Vice President, Joseph H. Hill Company.**



**MAYOR FRANK Waltermann gets a round of applause for his ground breaking abilities on March 15, 1987 from, left to right, Mary Walker, Executive Director of the Wayne County Convention and Tourism Bureau, Jim Rush, President, Richmond, Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce, Jim Fisher, President, Rose Garden Project, and Lorrie Foust, Contractor, Rose Garden Project.**



# This Is The Year . . . 'We Promised You A Rose Garden'

By . . . **Jim Fisher and Sue Peters**

**T**HE IDEA FOR THE All-America Rose Garden was planted in the Wayne County Convention and Tourism Office early in 1984. Dr. Donald M. Royer, retired professor, was telling Tourism Executive Brian Marshall that Wayne County needed a "Better Mousetrap" to bring in large numbers of tourists into the area. Royer's "mousetrap" idea turned out to be a large Rose Garden, the likes of which he had seen on the European continent . . . especially in West Germany.

Two trips were subsequently made to the Continent in 1984 and '85 by interested area residents and yes, Royer was right! We did get ideas and lots of inspiration for a Rose Garden for Richmond.

Late in 1984 a Rose Garden Project Committee was formed with Fountain Citian Jim Fisher as its President. With his enthusiasm and with the supportive umbrella of the Wayne County Foundation and its most helpful and cooperative Executive Director, Ruth Wickemeyer, the committee has patiently picked and plodded its way through design ideas, site locations, budgets, contracts and deadlines until today, the Richmond All-American Rose Garden is a reality!

The Rose Garden Project Committee will remember 1987 as the "Year of the Rose Garden."

## **Extra Roses Ordered**

January 1987 was the deadline for ordering the roses. The Garden Executive Board decided to order 1,000 rose bushes in addition to the 325 that had been ordered late in '86. This decision was a brave one for we had less than \$10,000 in the bank and we hadn't even decided on the Garden site. The present Garden site in Glen Miller Park, just east of the E.G. Hill Garden on National Road East, was chosen though we still needed Park Board approval. Committees were quickly formed for finance, construction and maintenance, and a



**LEADERS OF BUSINESS SECTION, Sunday, January 17, 1988 Page 17****Sue Peters****Jim Fisher**

committee to present our case to the Park Board.

On February 11 we received the blessing of the Park Board and a long term lease was drawn up for both groups. The Park Board emphasized that they had no funds to help us and we would be on our own. Care and Maintenance of the Garden was their primary concern for us.

Timetables were set and the plan was put into action. On March 6 a press conference was held to announce our plans to the community and to kick off a fund drive to raise the needed \$100,000.00. On a cold, blustery March 15, 1987 ground-breaking was held. From that time to the present, all of the planning and hard work of the past three years have brought us successfully to our goal . . . a Rose Garden for Richmond.



# Richmond Area Rose Festival


REG.  
T.M.

## HONOUR BREAKFAST

### Volunteer receives recognition

By **NORMA CARNES**  
Palladium-Item Staff Writer

John Connelly received the outstanding volunteer award during the Richmond Area Rose Festival's Honor Breakfast this morning at Miller Cafeteria.

The letter of nomination was written by Jim Fisher, who cited Connelly's accomplishments as Wayne County extension agent from 1945 to 1978.

During his career, the 73-year-old Connelly also was active with the Rural Youth Club, the Wayne County Fair, the building of Kuhlman Memorial Center and was president of the state's county agent association.

In accepting the award, Connelly said he has had fun helping make Richmond a place to be proud of.

"In one year and three days I'm proud of what we've done at the Rose Garden," he said. "I appreciate what you've all done to make Richmond what it is today."



**John Connelly**

Presenting the award, Roger Bucher said Connelly is "a quiet man, a gentle man who would not blow his own horn . . . Somebody has to do it for him."

Connelly is a member of Central United Methodist Church, where he is on the board of directors and has contributed numerous volunteer hours.

He was awarded two Purple Hearts during World War II, where he was a captain with the 82nd Airborne glider outfit in Africa, Italy and Holland.

He served many volunteer hours as a 4-H leader and helped organize the Golden K Kiwanis Club.

He still is a member of American Red Cross board of directors and serves on the Richmond Rose Garden Project Committee board. Connelly also oversees maintenance of the year-old Rose Garden.

Connelly and his wife, Vera, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August.

— ADMIT ONE —  
to the

### HONOUR BREAKFAST

MILLER  
BANQUET CENTER  
WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 22, 1988  
7:00 A.M.

\$6.00 Person Not Refundable

Richmond Area  
Rose Festival


Reg.  
T.M.



# Building A Bridge To ZWEIBRÜCKEN



By . . . Sue Peters

I enjoyed a conversation with a charming man at the Area 9 Luncheon in the Fountain City Senior Center recently who was rejoicing over the opportunities young people have these days. Where high school senior classes used to take trips to Washington, D.C. or Kings Island — now seniors travel to European countries and live in the homes of host countries.

We are becoming much more comfortable travelling and learning about those in other countries. The ability of foreign hosts to speak English makes it much easier for Americans to travel. World peace and a better understanding among nations is certainly the result of more travel.

Countless trips to Germany for area residents have helped to build the foundation of a bridge of friendship with the city of Zweibrücken, Germany. When the trips began in 1984, we identified Zweibrücken as being in West Germany. The joy of Reunification has made that designation unnecessary.

The purpose of the trips was to get ideas and inspiration for building a Rose Garden in Richmond. The Richmond Rose Garden along East Main in Glen Miller Park is the beautiful result. But even with our successful garden, built entirely by volunteer funds and volunteer efforts (and knees), we felt something was lacking.

Our friendship with Zweibrücken (it means two bridges) was so important that we felt the need to go further.

Result: This spring, a narrow plot of land between the Richmond Rose Garden (the one with the gazebo) and the E.G. Hill Memorial Garden (the one with the fountain) is being prepared for a Friendship Garden to honor our friendship with the citizens of Zweibrücken. The German City Garden is sending German hybridized rosebushes for them to plant in a similar Friendship Garden plot inside

their 11 acre garden.

We hope to include the flag from the city of Zweibrücken that was presented to our group in 1985 by their Mayor and we're planning to include some statuary, symbolic of our friendship with this German city.

An interesting sidelight is that German high school students have begun a correspondence of friendship with Richmond high schoolers.

It had been hoped that Richmond could enjoy a sister city relationship with Zweibrücken but as they already have two sister cities (with Yorktown, Va and Goteborg, Sweden) they couldn't have a third. In 1988, their Oberbürgermeister, Mayor Werner Von Blon, suggested a Rose Partnership. At the time of the groundbreaking for the Friendship Garden last fall in Richmond, a representative of the German Embassy in the U.S., spoke to us regarding the unique friendship we have forged in roses.

As events have rapidly brought the downfall of communism throughout the world, we are recognizing daily the exciting opportunities for world friendship that are all around us.

When we traveled to Germany a few years ago, one of our number who had fought against Germany in World War II, questioned in his own mind, just how far he could go to be friendly with his former enemy. Fortunately, the doubts and uncertainties immediately melted away when we were warmly welcomed by these new friends.

Perhaps it's a case of "beating swords into garden trowels and spears into pruning shears" that make this Friendship Garden so

dear to the hearts of all who love flowers . . . and peace.

Rejoice with us in the progress of the new Friendship Garden. Watch it grow and if you'd like to be a part of world peace, get on you knees, and help weed! ♦



Richmond Rose Garden Project





# CERTIFICATE

## OFFICIAL DECLARATION

of the

## ROSE PARTNERSHIP

between Europe's Rose City

## ZWEIBRÜCKEN

Federal Republic of Germany

and

America's Rose City

## RICHMOND, IN.

United States of America

on the occasion of the recognition of the  
City of Richmond as the Rose City within the framework of the

**"ALL AMERICAN ROSE SELECTIONS 1990"**



This Rose Fellowship was formed for the purpose  
of strengthening and deepening the German-American relationship,  
and to intensify the effort to make the ROSE the international symbol of  
Peace and Friendship  
and to draw together German and American Rose Lovers.

Zweibrücken, November 1990

Richmond, IN. November 1990

Werner von Blon  
Oberbürgermeister

Frank H. Waltermann  
Mayor

