

Why Wind Chimes?

By Ada Allcott

The Central Florida Rose Society newsletter is named "Wind Chimes". I have often been asked how, when and why it was so named. Well, you are sort of asking which came first, the chicken or the egg. So here goes. I'll try to answer your question.

The name "Wind Chimes" came first in the form of a rose we grew in our garden many years ago. Soon after, Charles and I started exhibiting roses and we became interested in old garden roses and shrubs. We ordered the shrub, Belinda, from a Canadian nursery. We received *Wind Chimes* instead. According to the Handbook for Selecting Roses, it is listed as a medium pink Hybrid Musk. It is a large, sprawly shrub with clusters of small, medium pink blooms on the end of very thorny canes. (A drawing of the *Wind Chimes* rose is always on the cover of our newsletter if you are curious to see it).

Central Florida Rose Society came second. Dee Downham and I sat at the Allcott kitchen table in Mount Dora and filled out the application sent to us by the American Rose Society for starting a rose society. That day we wrote the original By-Laws of the Society, our goals and divided up the responsibilities for getting the society "off the ground". Dee would be the President; I would be 1st Vice President and Ron Kast 2nd Vice President. Two of our major goals were to publish a newsletter and have a rose show. Charles and I were responsible for writing the newsletter and I was to be chairperson of the rose show. We received the charter for the society soon afterward. That was in 1986.

The issue of the newsletter was our first priority. Charles was responsible for the horticulture content and the two of us collaborated on the remaining articles. I was responsible for naming the newsletter and the format. A lovely older member printed and mailed the newsletter for us.

The shrub, *Wind Chimes*, was in full bloom in our garden about then. Sitting at the table, wracking my feeble brain for a unique and appropriate name for the newsletter, I came up with the "Wind Chimes" over the letters C.F.R.S. I tried to draw a truss of the flowers for printing – That drawing is still used today on the first page of this newsletter.

So ladies and gentlemen, that is how our newsletter got its name. It was conceived on the same table as I am now writing this brief history ... by the same feeble, but much older and now much more forgetful brain!

The Wind Chimes has changed little over the years. The content is more important than the name, although I still have a sentimental feeling about it. The major purpose of any newsletter is to inform the members of the society how to grow beautiful roses successfully. I believe we have always accomplished that goal.