

To
American Carnation Society
European Ramble 1967

Dear Friends,

These lines are especially prepared for you in order to make the very day of Saturday October 7th, 1967 more enjoyable and educational. The Author is a stiff Swede with some experience of Portugal.

Official figures says there should be about $8\frac{1}{2}$ million portugeses living in the Portuguese mainland, which cover 88.419 sq. kilometers - you may convert this into sq. miles if you wish. Portugal is member of Nato and EFTA (The free market of the "Outer Seven").

The idea of growing mother stock for producing good winter cuttings in the South, began in 1960, when some big propagators in Europe tried to find ideal southern locations. Well known Knud Stormly went all the way to South Africa, Sparkes of England conquered the Island of Malta. His ~~nabo~~ ^{neighbor} Framptons and Hilverda of Holland went to the Canaries and DCK settled later on Sardinia. Small fellows like Len Håkansson also looked for southern benefit and discovered Portugal as ideal virgin country (for carnations).

Part of the game was the very lucky occasion, that a good personal friend of Len, Gunnar Granström got tired of cold and dark Swedish winters, left the old country and started a new business as seed man in Portugal. Soon open air trials was started in Evora, but later Vila Franca de Xira seemed to be a much better location.

In the fall of 1961, 30.000 stock plants was started on a field in the fertile deltaland of River Tagus near the town of Vila Franca de Xira. When heavy winter rain started, we soon discovered the need for rain protection. Next season, plastic houses were built in Californian style, which ment of lot of improvement. Due to several reasons, no electricity, salt problems in irrigation water and poor roads, we were looking for new and better areas.

The ideal place (we think) have been found near the town of Obidos, in a small fertile valley near the Atlantic coast. It has a typical coastal climate, very mild winters (very seldom frost) and cool summers, temperatures above 85° F are very rare. The latitude is almost similar to Northern California Denver, Colorado and North Wales Pennsylvania (the later comparison is ment to be special honor to my very good friend Ed). In Europe you will meet ~~near~~ southern Sardinia and Ankara, Turkey.

Our new place in Obidos, which you are going to visit, was started July 5th, 1965 and soon afterwards, to be exact, on July 21th, the first carnation stock plant was put in the soil. Plastic houses of the same Californian style as in Vila Franca de Xira was erected soon after planting.

Today, the place in Obidos is largest of its kind in Portugal, with a covered area of about 220.000 sq. ft. 11.000 sq. ft. are clear glass house, Scandinavian style, 120.000 sq.ft. are covered with corrugated PVC and the rest is plain polyethylene. Hot water heating in under process together with low pressure steam for soil disinfection.

PVC - Portugal made

New buildings have been erected, which consists of office, packing rooms and cold storage for cuttings and flowers. The total refrigerated space is 4,000 cu.ft. Cuttings are stored at 34° F in plastic bags.

Planting of mother stock normally take place in the middle of July, but sometimes as late as end of September. The stock plants are given two pinches. Cuttings are harvested from end of October until late spring. Motherstock average 20-22 cuttings per plant and season, depending on the length of the harvesting period, most of them are sent to Sweden for rooting. Occasionally surplus in put in the European Propagators "Cuttings Bank" and sold direct to other propagators.

We have found portugese stock quite ideal for midwinter planting in the North. Direct planting as late as end of February will easily make Mothers Day, which happens to be the third Sunday in May. The benefit of Portugese stock is, that its combines earliness, stem length and good branching. Due to the even and low temperature, soft and fat cuttings can be harvested as late as May.

Mother plants is only used one season and the second and third year they are used as flowering stock. Lower grades are sold locally and better grades exported mainly to Norway and Sweden.

The cooperation between Gunnar Granström and Len Håkansson is probably unique in the world. Management and investment is done by Gunnar exclusively Mother stock, technical assistance and selling is supplied by Len. Surprisingly, this system have been in force for seven years without any kind of contracts or written word. Gunnar and Len are still very good friends and are both looking forward with confidence.

We hope you will find the visit to Obidos interesting and we are fully prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely

LEN

Lisbon, October the 7th, 1967

Madison House

Marques y Bomba - Chapo rabbit's teeth

pg 1, 4000
chip writing - cork - 52% w/olds
junk note
Vendetta picture

June 21
Vapor

- Oxyphora desini - name but can't find what animal it is
just here - like Laddie - mermaid shell sent to SF

book ill - state is day apart

PVC gutters used find enough for roofing + nuts & bolts
body material used to patch auto parts at home
8' workday

2 complete parts the like alloy

Tripods - high Ca low Fe - water yel poly
40 lbs Eucaris (Don Surin in Hawaii)