

Hispanic Open House
 September 8, 1997
 7 P.M.
 292 MSC
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Dionel Aviles,
 Texas A&M University System
 Board of Regent
 Come and visit with
 Hispanic organizations on the
 Texas A&M campus.
 Call Erica Flores at 695-0835 for more information.

EMPORIUM

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Shoup said because of the traditional sit-in-a-vase long stemmed rose, old roses have received an unfair shake in the garden world. But Shoup's emporium is dispelling that myth. His idea is to bring back the fact that roses are indeed garden friendly.

"We want to show off how people can use roses in a garden setting," he said. "The older roses are very low maintenance and are survivors."

The atmosphere is straight out of an English garden, fully equipped with a wood-paneled cottage and a garden gazebo.

Visitors can walk the trails, enjoy the outdoors and if they wish, purchase a plant they would like to add to their own personal garden.

Henry Flowers, retail manager of the Emporium, who feels his last name has no connection to his profession, said the atmosphere gives visitors a first-hand look at what plants look like in a garden setting.

"You can come and see things planted in the ground," he said. "Many nurseries just have potted flowers, and you have to know what you want. At the botanical gardens you can just look, and then have to go search for what you like later. So we are really a cross between a nursery and a botanical garden."

There is another location of the Emporium in San Antonio that takes on a Spanish theme. In Georgia, there is a version of the Empo-

rium with a true southern flare. All emporiums sell through mail order and sell plants at whole sale to nurseries.

Shoup said giving a theme to a personal garden is one of the beauties gardening brings.

"If you are inside someone's house and they have chosen a certain wallpaper or paint color, that is like looking into a window of their personalities; the same is with gardening," he said.

Calm and serene during the hot muggy days of the summer, the emporium attracts few passers-by in the late season, a contrast to the 2,000 visitors they receive daily in the spring.

Edith Perry, a customer of the Antique Rose Emporium, traveled from Dallas to purchase an old rose plant, despite the humid weather. She has accumulated about 30 varieties of antique roses and said their low maintenance and constant bloom enticed her to collect.

"They have a wonderful perfume and color," she said. "They are really very soft and much different than the long stemmed roses."

Shoup said though the spring traditionally attracts garden lovers, the winter provides an equally beautiful atmosphere.

Shoup said roses' sweet smell evoke emotion and truly have a soul. But he did not reveal any tips as to which type of roses one should buy their sweetheart on Valentine's Day.

"She (his wife) is bored with all the roses I give her," he said.



Above: Customers are invited to walk around the porch and retail area to browse the potted plants.

Below right: Mike Shoup, owner of the Antique Rose Emporium, stands in the gardens.

Below left: This building, called "The Corn Crib," is surrounded by wildflowers.

Photography by Dave House

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