

Grandmother's Flowers

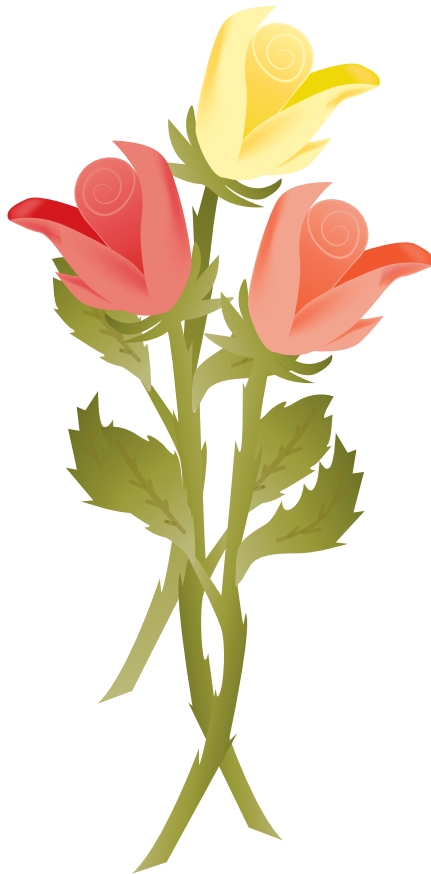
by Jeannette Ray for a class project in Bible School - Feb. 4, 1957

Flowers galore is the thought which would enter anyone's mind as they pass by Grandma Ray's house, which is literally swamped with flowers. Everyone in the neighborhood knows her as, Grandma Ray, and everyone knows about her flowers.

On one side of the house are some roses, on the other are some lilac bushes, with lilies of the valley beside them. Out by the barn she has planted some beautiful chrysanthemums, morning glories, violets, and hollyhocks. Pink Nose the old family cow, joyed in breaking grandma's heart by eating those hollyhocks when someone forgot to tie her to a post. Also the little girls of the neighborhood liked to make hollyhock dolls, so between the cow and the little girls, the hollyhocks didn't last long.

In the garden she has an assortment of flowers; tulips, iris, marigolds, sweet williams, gladiolus, and others. It is from this large patch that she picks bouquets for the neighbors. She takes them to the people, personally, and any passerby might think she is a poor old lady trying to make a living by peddling flowers. When she thinks someone needs a fresh bunch, they get them, and free delivery each time.

The neighbor kids and dogs enjoy immensely the patch of tall orange flowers which form a circle around a walnut tree in the front yard. Grandma got her exercise by running frantically out to shoo the kids out of her poor mashed flowers. It did seem as though, when they played 'Pussy wants a Corner', that they had to use that tree, and to think that there are four other trees and a telephone pole which they could use. Also these flowers got mangled when they played "Blind Man's Bluff", because



it tickled them to see the blindfolded one wander into those flowers, and it was against the rules of the game to lead him out.

To add to this list was another large patch of tulips, pansies, snapdragons, sunflowers, gladiolus which she called "glads", and a few other kinds. These were the flowers from which Tommy picked his bouquets. The only trouble was, he picked just the flower with no stem. Grandma tried her best to get him to pick only dandelions, but he couldn't seem to see things the way she did.

Not yet mentioned are the potted flowers which she placed around the edge of the porch, and the ones which crowded every table and stand in the house, For special occasions people usually got Grandma Ray flowers in some form, and she loves them all.

Grandma's favorite flowers are her "glads". Every may Grandma Ray can be found sitting on her back steps preparing her glad bulbs for planting. One year she helped Tommy plant a flower garden of his own because he helped her with her glad bulbs.

It's no wonder her flowers are the best to be found; she beats the sun rising and works for hours every morning during the summer on each of her flower beds to keep the weeds from even showing a fraction of an inch above the ground.

If flowers could talk, it would probably take a book or two for them to tell all the interesting things about the flowers' life at Grandma Rays.