

RED ROSE RENT

Good day everyone...it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

When William Penn made land grants to new Pennsylvanians in 1682, he included a portion of Chester County in those grants--one to a family which included the original holders of the world famous Rose Gardens--the Star Gardens of Chester County--and to the historic Red Rose Inn. On this day of each year, one Red Rose is paid in rental to a descendant of William Penn in memory of the grant. This payment precedes even that of the Manheim Red Rose Rental, occurring in early June. Whenever a descendent of Penn is not available a Governor of Pennsylvania or Delaware, close by, or another citizen, accepts the rose in the traditional ceremony. When the people who now operate the world-famed Star Rose Gardens took over in 1927 they dug up the records of the original deed, and in 1937, Sidney B. Hutton, a distinguished Chester Countian re-instituted the payment of the one red rose. Today marks the 240th anniversary of the Red Rose Rent Deed. It occurs at Star Roses in West Grove and the occasion is always open to the public. There are luncheons to be enjoyed, and history buffs and rose lovers have an outing in Chester County. Star Roses, in this corner of William Penn's landscape have been prominent since 1896. From the dormant rose planting time between March to May until the deep-fielded blooming of the rose gardens which last until late September--the Star Rose area at West Grove becomes the biggest flower show in the east. From Maine to

Florida, there is nothing more beautiful to be seen on this earth than the millions of colorful blooms--one of nature's most dazzling displays. Convenient roads through the fields allow close-up views and unusual photographic opportunities. Picnic groves or the famous Red Rose Inn provide foods as they have since 1744. The area features the "Living Rose Catalogue", much more impressive than a printed catalog. Or you can visit the Robert Pyle Memorial Rose Garden, a lovely formal garden containing over 3500 roses. The garden is open to the public daily. Star Rose maintains two modern Garden Centers as well. This is truly the Rose Center of the East--it is a wholesale rose area for those who provide you with flowers when you wish them. Beyond that, it is historically famous because of the one Red Rose still being paid as traditional tribute to the grant made by William Penn in 1682. Star Roses of Chester County. Come and see them.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.