

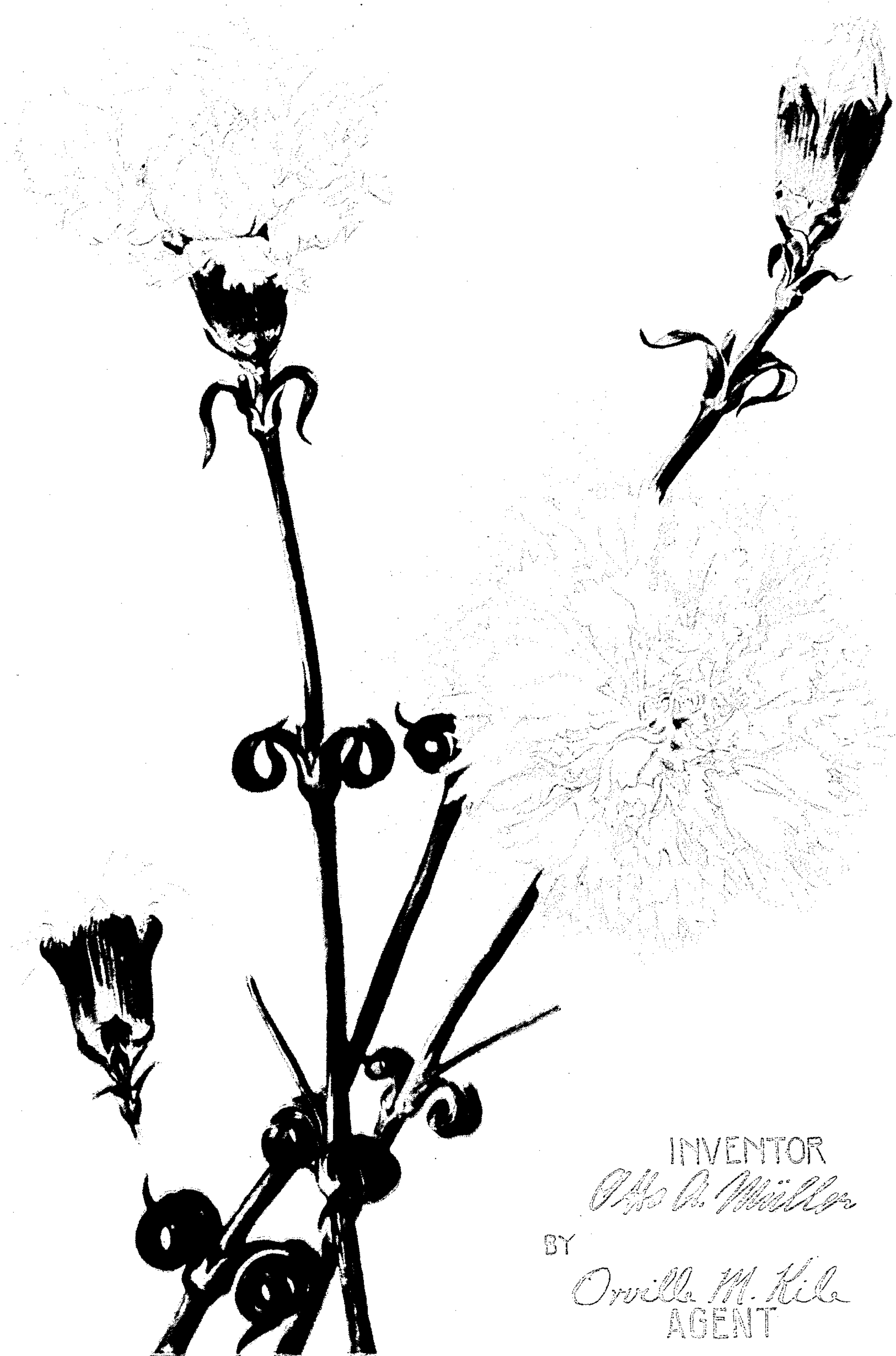
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Plant Pat. 3

CARNATION

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CARNATION

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My invention relates to improvements in
fragrant, white carnations of the type ordi-
narily known as perpetual blooming or green-
house forcing carnations. The object of my
improvement is to provide a white carnation
of the type mentioned having unusually large
size, heavy petalage and full, high centers;
having a calyx so constructed as to support
this type of flower without bursting; having
a stiff, unusually long stem capable of sup-
porting such a large and heavy flower; and
having superior qualities of productiveness,
reproduction and long retention of its fresh
appearance when cut, as well as other desir-
able qualities.

This new carnation was first discovered by
me on or about March 1, 1929, as a result of
careful and systematic observations made by
me for such purpose. This new variety was
found as a sport on a plant of pink Sophelia.
I immediately took steps to reproduce and
develop this new variety and have done so con-
tinuously since that time. In constitution,
growth and size of bloom as well as in other
qualities it greatly surpasses its pink parent
Sophelia. This new carnation has not yet
been offered for sale.

The accompanying illustrations show in
full color and about natural size, a bud, a
half opened flower and a fully opened flower
of my new carnation.

The following is a detailed description of
this new carnation:

An upright, vigorous growing plant 3 to
4 feet in height, a splendid producer and of
strong constitution resistant to disease.

Flowers: Pure white to the casual observer
but upon close inspection one to five petals
in nearly every flower are found to have a
slight edging or flecking of pink, also a
slightly creamy tint on some of the central
petals is noticeable to the artist skilled in
analyzing color and shadow values; under
ordinary good culture blossoms grow $3\frac{1}{2}$ to
4 inches in diameter, the size being attained
partly by unusual length of outside petals
and partly by the great number of petals;
petals number about 75 to 80 in a normal
blossom if all small petals are counted; edges
rather deeply and irregularly toothed and

partially folded and longitudinally curled
so as to give a crinkled appearance, petals
are exceedingly numerous and close together
in central portion of flower completely filling
the center and generally concealing the styles
although occasionally the tops of the two
curved white styles are visible among the
closely set petals. Two styles arise from the
seed pod or if considered as a single style it
branches into two parts just as it emerges
from the seed pod. The flower has a high
center making it practically semi-spherical.
The petals are of a texture not easily dam-
aged or bruised. Moderately fragrant.

Calyx: The calyx is relatively short and
wide at the top, measuring an inch or more
across at the top. It consists of a single tube
one and one-quarter inches long, made up of
five subdivisions or lips separated at the top
by moderately deep indentations. This gives
a spreading or open mouth effect which aids in
preventing bursting of the calyx, an impor-
tant point due to the extreme fullness of the
flower. Each of the five calyx lips is pro-
vided with a humped spring-like develop-
ment which, while tending to hold the flower
together in a compact mass, gives the neces-
sary elasticity to prevent the bursting of the
calyx cup. The calyx cup is further rein-
forced by well developed bracts at its base
which reach up one third the distance to the
top of the calyx cup.

Buds: Relatively short and wide. When
half opened the center of the flower has a dis-
tinct cream tinge which lessens as the flower
opens further and when full blown the
creamy tint is scarcely noticeable except to a
color artist.

Stems and foliage: Stems are from 36 to 43
inches long, smooth, stiff and amply capable
of supporting the heavy flower; deep dark
green in color although overcast with a gray
bloom, and having rather short blunt leaves,
characterized by their tendency to roll or curl
extremely and tightly. The last four or five
pairs of leaves nearest the flower roll into
curls consisting of one to two and one half
turns and lie close up to the stem. The
fourth pair of leaves below the flower are

usually not over $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and about $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide at their widest point.

The more important features which I believe distinguish my new carnation from all other known varieties are:

First; the flower is very large—larger than any other white carnation known to me and larger than most colored carnations.

Second; it has a larger number of petals than any other existing white carnation known to me. When the small petals are all included the number runs 75 to 80. Omitting the smallest petals and comparing with other white varieties on the same basis, the relative counts are as follows:

	Petals
My new variety-----	66
Arctic-----	57
Senator-----	42
White Matchless-----	41

Third; the flower has a fuller, higher center than most other white varieties, thus giving it a somewhat hemi-spherical appearance, a character much desired by florists.

Fourth; the calyx cup is short and wide and has much more pronounced developments for preventing splitting, than do most other varieties. This is highly important in a carnation as full and heavy as is my new variety. Chief among these improved calyx-cup characters are (a) the short, wide-mouthed, stout structure (b) the moderately deep, well-formed slits between the lips of the calyx cup (c) the unusually large humped, spring-like developments on the lips of the calyx cup which give a high degree of elasticity and prevent bursting.

Fifth; the leaves beginning some four inches below the flower and including the next four or five pairs below, are rolled much more tightly than in any other white variety known to me. These leaves are also relatively short and blunt as compared to most other varieties.

Sixth; flowers cut and placed in water will under ordinary conditions retain their freshness of appearance ten days to two weeks—a period much longer than that of the usual carnation.

Seventh; this variety is an exceptionally easy propagator and makes a noticeably vigorous growth as compared with rooted cuttings of other varieties grown alongside. Other desirable qualities are great length of stem and satisfactory quality of flower production.

I claim:

The carnation as shown and described, characterized particularly by its white blossom slightly flecked with pink, unusually large in size and having a high center; its strongly constructed calyx; its stiff, unusually long stem; and its superior reproductive and keeping qualities.

OTTO A. MÜLLER.