

# *The Camellia Review*

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 13

OCTOBER, 1951

No. 1



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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, November to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibit is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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## DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Central California Camellia Society.....	Fresno, Calif.
Meeting Place: Fresno High School Auditorium	
Secretary: Frances F. Lennox, 4622 Wilson Ave., Fresno 4	
Date of meeting: 2nd Friday of the month	
Camellia Society of Kern County.....	Bakersfield, Calif.
Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adobe Motel, Union Ave.	
Secretary: Mrs. Tracy Harkness, 1101 Pershing Drive, Bakersfield	
Date of meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May	
San Diego Camellia Society.....	San Diego, Calif.
Meeting place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park	
Secretary: Mrs. W. E. Peyton, 3065 C St., San Diego 2	
Date of meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm	
Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....	Pomona, Calif.
Meeting place: Ebell Club, Pomona	
Secretary: Lynn Honaker, 2775 N. San Antonio St., Pomona	
Date of meeting: 1st Thursday of each month	
Temple City Camellia Society.....	Temple City, Calif.
Meeting place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City.	
Secretary: Lynn Timm, 2936 Daines Drive, Temple City	
Date of meeting: 1st Monday of each month	
Camellia Society of Orange County.....	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Santiago Park, Santa Ana	
Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange	
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month.	

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## AS I SEE IT...



by

*Arthur S. Kane*

AS I SEE IT . . . the quality of patience is a sine qua non for the camellia fancier. You say "three years from now" and the average person gets no concept. But to a camellianist, accustomed to waiting as he is from two to five years to observe the results of his latest experiment, "three years from now" carries a definite picture. Your camellia fancier has learned, or had it knocked into him the hard way, that hustle-bustle, high-pressure and stewing get you exactly nothing in the land ruled by ol' mammy Nature. The only way to find out quickly whether a seedling or a graft is any good is to wait until "three years from now."

Even with the sense of patience highly developed, though, your true camellia man is not the type to let things in his hobby life just drift along. He will work hard and long for improvement not only in plants, but for progress and betterments in his organizations, societies and inter-society relations—anything that will lend more fun and solidity to his hobby.

He is enthusiastic—but his quality of patience serves to balance his too-sanguine hopes for miracles. As a rule, instead of jumping to a quick conclusion as to the worth or lack of worth of a new idea, he takes it calmly enough. He knows that it depends on what happens "three years from now." He can wait.

Combining pleasure with pleasure, Mrs. Kane and I rolled the Chevrolet down to the southern end of the state during our vacation, and took that opportunity to get acquainted with some of the delightful camellia enthusiasts around San Diego.

At Escondido we stopped and chatted with "Doc" E. W. Miller for several hours, going through his lath-houses and rambling around the place; listening to "Doc" tell about some of the new stuff he is nursing along, and getting as good an education in the fundamentals of camellia-growing in general as I have had since I was initiated a year ago.

On to call on Dr. and Mrs. Tellam, in Ramona, at their beautiful home across from the high school. What a wonderful place to live in, Ramona! My kind of town—where you can park your car in the middle of Main Street, and nobody even notices. Dr. Tellam's lay-out of lath-houses, green-house and growing grounds were the most extensive I'd ever seen up to that point. It was raining a slight drizzle during our visit, and we didn't get to explore them quite as thoroughly as I wished. How I wished it were January or February and the blooms were out!

On to call on Harvey and Mrs. Short at their Hacienda. Before going over Harvey's extensive—that's the correct word—grounds and lath-houses located in three or four areas of his property, we sat around his living-room passing the color-viewer back and forth while Mrs. Kane and I feasted our eyes on the g-e-o-rgeous kodachrome collection of all his newest varieties, and, of course, the standard ones, too.

We had to hurry along from the Short's, where we could have spent days on end, just looking.

*(Turn to page 21)*

# ELEMENTARY CAMELLIA BREEDING

By JAMES S. BRADFORD

Bradford's Wayside Nurseries, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

IN STARTING to write an article about the development of new varieties of Camellias through seedlings produced from the crosses of selected plants, as your editor has requested me to do, I think it would be well to begin by remembering that the average camellia grower is not a Botanist. Most of them are not particularly interested in such things as Chromosome counts, different leaf margins and the like, so I will eliminate, in so far as possible, the Botanist's professional jargon and try to convey my meanings in simpler language.

I suppose that every plant breeder has his own pet theories as to how to achieve the most direct road to his objective. What one would consider the most effective method, someone else might never think of; or even might consider that method objectionable. Strangely enough, too, methods followed by one breeder, when adopted by another, often lead to entirely different results. Let us grant at once that uncontrollable factors sometimes come in to upset the equation.

To illustrate; if a certain cross is made, the resulting cross will contain a certain number of seed, and each seed will produce a different camellia. These seedlings might resemble each other closely, or they might be radically different as to bloom, foliage, shape of plant, and so forth. The cause of such strange performance can be traced to the ancestors who hide behind the mask of both parents. If the plant breeder knew the whole family tree, his work would be simplified. But nearly all the camellias that we have today have no pedigree to refer to. Past crosses made to produce those camellias were made, not by man, but by bees, insects, wind and other means not known to us. The resulting babies may turn out to be singles, giants, dwarfs or . . . monstrosities.

If one tries to breed a new camellia to be as good as, or better than, those we have today, his crosses of two given parents must be in great number—about two hundred and fifty. (See American Camellia Society Yearbook, 1949; Sawada, George.) This great number is required because of several factors beside those already mentioned. When it is considered that the following questions condition the work, it is obvious why such a large number must be made. First: "How many of the crosses will produce fruit?" Second: "How many of the seed will germinate?" Third: "How many of the seed germinated will grow to maturity and bloom to show the result of the cross?"

Having reconciled ourselves to making this large number of crosses, we must now decide what parents we want to use in the experiment. Let us say, for instance, that we want the result to be a pink and white variegated, of good substance, large flower, good foliage—and with a plant shape of the medium bush type.

Pink Star, in my thinking, would make a good male parent because of the color of bloom, the shape of the plant and its excellent foliage. For the mother parent, I must select a plant that sets seed in abundance. The



color must be white and the foliage must be good. I think of *Leucantha* (*Wakanoura White*; *Tricolor Sieboldi White*) as it has all of these qualities and its blooming time is right. The crosses are made, the time factor is satisfied and we see the bloom of these seedlings. If they turn out to our liking, fulfilling the objective which we had in mind, the work is finished. But suppose that we are not satisfied—that we have not quite reached our aim. What are we now to do to obtain it?

Well, subsequent proceedings might go something like this. First, we set up these two camellias, *Pink Star* and *Leucantha*, as reservoirs of color, to add to or take from as we desire. For instance, let us say we have one of the seedlings to which we wish to add more pink. We re-cross this seedling with *Pink Star*. But to gain our objective, we must follow the same pattern as we did in the first crosses. Tints and shades are put into the objective plants in this manner.

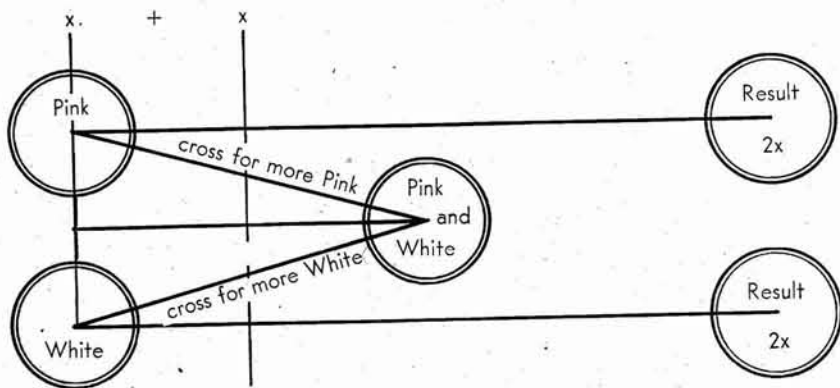
The average time from cross to bloom is seven years. This can be reduced to four by grafting the young seedlings to large understock, as they generally set buds the second year from grafting.

Most of us have too short a span of life on this planet to work overlong at one objective, and perfection is never obtained. If you set your sights too high, you are in for a great many heart-aches. Remember, you cannot produce a rose on a camellia—or in other words, don't attempt the impossible. You cannot put in, or take out, anything in a crossing that is not inherent in the parents. That's Mother Nature's law, and man can't repeal it. Any plant breeder will tell you this is so.

Here are a few hints that might help the beginner in his crosses. Be sure, before you start the cross, that the flower has not been fertilized by insects. After the cross has been made, cover at once. Let your covering remain until the fruit is set. You can tell this by a swelling, generally green in color, of the ovary. The pollen, when taken from the anthers, must be dry—no mixture of rain, dew, or other water.

Sow your seed as soon as it drops to the ground. Do not let it dry out. Allow plenty of time for the seedlings to germinate. Some of them come up at once, but others may take their time—3 months or more is

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# Camellia Japonica Anemonaeflora Alba

BY CAMILLUS

ONE OF THE finest and most interesting Japonicas to cross our camellia horizon in recent years is that which comes to us from Australia under the very descriptive title of *Anemonaeflora*<sup>1</sup> *Alba*. It is precisely what the name implies. It is *anemonaeflora* form in the same sense as is *Chandleri Elegans*, and is, of course, white.

Before proceeding further with the description, let us digress at this point to say that this splendid camellia should not be confused with the "*Anemonaeflora Alba*" listed in the 1949 edition of "*The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature*"<sup>2</sup> with "*Warratah White*" given as a synonym, no effort has been made to trace back the origin of the old time White Warratah nor of the name *Anemonaeflora Alba* as applied to it. Suffice to say that Mr. Walter G. Hazelwood of Epping, N. S. Wales, Australia, informs us that this variety has been listed in the catalogues and other literature of Australia for many years under the name "*Anemonaeflora*<sup>1</sup> *Alba*". It was from Mr. Hazelwood's gardens that this Australian *Anemonaeflora Alba* came as one of the group of extensive imports made by Mr. William Wylam of Pasadena, California.

According to Mr. Hazlewood his original plant of this variety came from nearby Rookwood Cemetery and the source of most of the plants there found was the famous collection of Sir William Macarthur whose estate, Camden Park, at Camden, near Sydney, N.S.W., saw most of the early importations of camellias into Australia in the first half of the nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Hazlewood is strongly of the opinion that this camellia is one of the Camden Park seedlings to which Sir William gave the name "*Leila*". Mr. Hazelwood does not know, however, when nor why the name became *Anemonaeflora*<sup>1</sup> *Alba*. If, indeed, this camellia is the *Leila* seedling grown by Sir William then the time, reason and place of change in name might well be lost in antiquity inasmuch as it first bloomed nearly a century ago (1852).<sup>4</sup>

Due to the fact the Wylam Australian importations were the first made, so far as Camillus is informed, and the fact that these imports are both difficult and costly, not many Australian camellias have been brought into this country since Wylam's successful efforts succeeded his earlier failures. It is therefore believed that few plants of this rare variety are in existence in this country, and none in commerce. It is hoped, however, that in the not distant future *Anemonaeflora Alba* will become available to all fanciers of the new, the beautiful, and the unusual.

But let us return to the description. The only two flowers appearing on Camillus' plant during the 1950-51 blooming season (it is heavily budded in the fall of 1951, indicating that it is normally a profuse bloomer) measured a trifle over four and one-quarter inches in breadth. In each instance the cluster of petaloids in the center of the blossom measured over one and three-quarters inches across, and was of considerable depth, although no measurement was made of this. The petaloids were white and so closely packed that the stamens interspersed with them were scarcely observable. The effect was that of a slightly cream colored center surrounded

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## To The Ladies!

By EVELYN W. JOHNSON

It is time to visit our friends' gardens and our Camellia Nurserymen to see the Sasanquas in bloom.

I shall report to you the conversations I have had with Billie McCaskill of McCaskill Gardens, Julius Nuccio of Nuccio's Nursery and Mr. Cundy of Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens. Time does not permit calling on all of our good nurserymen friends in this area.

Billie McCaskill is an enthusiastic friend of the Sasanqua. She sparkles with so many wonderful suggestions that I begged her to write this column for you. My own limited experience with the subject does not entitle me to write with any authority. If you will be patient I shall faithfully record for you the information I have gleaned from the people who do know the subject, but who are too busy to write about it!

Mrs. McCaskill states that Hugh Evans (Hebe) is usually in blossom by the latter part of August. This season, however, it will probably begin the latter part of September. The months of October and November should mark the peak of Sasanqua bloom.

The McCaskills have planted Sasanquas in full sun and in dense shade surrounding their home which adjoins their Camellia Gardens. Their Tanya hedge planted in hottest sun next to the driveway should be at its loveliest in November.

Suggested uses for Sasanquas by the McCaskills are for espalier against walls with reflected heat from driveways, on fences, pillars, as ground cover, around pools reflected in the water, and as matched specimens in containers on either side of the house entrance. They have seen Sasanquas used in win-

dow boxes and in hanging baskets with great success.

I am charmed with the poetic thought for use of Sasanquas around a pool, with the prospect of viewing the lovely blossoms reflected in the calm waters. I recall having seen Oleifera in blossom at the Boddy estate. It is planted beside a bridge which spans the lovely stream which courses beneath the Oak trees.

\* \* \*

Julius Nuccio expects Momazono Nishiki to come into bloom in October. It is a beautiful Sasanqua introduced by Toichi Domoto. Showa-no-sakae (Usubeni) and Hugh Evans (Hebe) are also expected to be in full bloom during mid October and November. Mr. Nuccio likes Hiryo (Red Bird) very much for its good blossom texture and characteristic longer blooming period.

I especially value a small plant of Hichifukujin from Nuccio's. It is a striking pink single with great flower substance and lasting quality. It is even more beautiful as the blossom fades to sea shell pink. This one is also a Domoto introduction and you should look for it in December and January.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cundy's lecture on Camellia Sasanqua a year or two ago was excellent. Altho he is preparing for an extended trip to Hawaii he generously gave time for a discussion of the Sasanquas which are his personal interest. He states that Coolidges' have set out examples of the best varieties near the sales area to demonstrate their versatility.

Showa-no-sakae showed one blossom September twelfth at Coolidges' and should be out in full bloom from mid October thru November.

Mr. Cundy advises that plants having darker colored flowers should be used for Sasanqua plantings in full sun. Hugh Evans (Hebe) and

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# SUMMER TRIP THROUGH THE SOUTHLAND

RALPH PEER, LOS ANGELES

FACED with the unpleasant task of spending the summer months in the New York area, Mrs. Peer and I decided that our trial would be more endurable if we had an automobile available in which to get around freely. After considering the possible routes, we felt that the most practical course would be to proceed through the southern States to Jacksonville, Florida, and then to turn northward up the Atlantic Coast. A personal friend was kind enough to drive the automobile to Houston, Texas, and we reached this "advanced base" by plane in one day.

After a pleasant night's sleep at the air-conditioned Shamrock Hotel we departed on June 3rd to create new camellia history—I doubt that any other camellia fan has had the temerity to visit the principal southeastern camellia centers during mid-summer. We feel, however, that we made a wise decision, first, because we acquired first-hand knowledge about the effects of the Big Freeze, and, second, because we had a marvelous opportunity to cheer up our friends who were at that time very much depressed by the aftermath of the cold spell.

During the afternoon of the first day we reached Orange, Texas, and inspected the magnificent estate known as *Shangri-La* which is being developed by Mr. and Mrs. Lutchter Stark. The site can best be described as reclaimed wild bayou country—a natural jungle. The Starks have acquired many very large specimens and have successfully transplanted them to this Texas paradise. They have made a hobby of gathering in the original or parent plants. To secure adequate drainage many of the trees have been planted on mounds.

The Starks have a fine collection of rare camellia literature and a very notable assortment of new varieties.

The next day we had the pleasure of lunching with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Godchaux at Abbeville, Louisiana. Hundreds of camellias have been planted during the past ten or fifteen years under the oak trees found on the Godchaux property. Many seedlings have been raised, and, amongst the lot, the new variety *Agnes of the Oaks* was discovered. The blossoms are pink, variegated in white and similar in form to *Lady Clare*. The petals are crepe-like and the blossom has a slight fragrance. Flowers up to a diameter of  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches have been produced. The flowering season is November, December and January.

Here we saw our first bad cold damage. Dozens of new grafts had been destroyed and, in fact, tender plants of all ages had been withered as though by a hot flame.

The following day we visited the fabulous *Jungle Gardens*, the estate developed by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny at Avery Island. Mr. McIlhenny, during his lifetime, personally imported thousands of camellias from both European and Asiatic sources. A great many varieties now popular in this country first arrived here via *Jungle Gardens*. Today many of these original plants

(Continued on page 19)

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## "All American Camellia Selections" Formed

Announcement of the formation of a camellia growers' organization to be known as All America Camellia Selections will be good news to camellia lovers throughout the United States. The organization is patterned after the eminently successful All America Rose Selections, Inc., and is intended to function in much the same manner.

A considerable portion of the incentive for the founding of such an organization was furnished by the amateur societies dedicated to the advancement of a greater public appreciation of camellias. Setting up the very comprehensive testing and evaluation program posed a problem obviously beyond the scope of other than camellia nurserymen themselves. And so, to these nurserymen who most enthusiastically agreed to procure the test garden sites, to enlist competent judges, to finance the entire project, to commit themselves to hybridization programs and to induce hobbyists and growers alike to enter their finest camellias for trials, must go the lion's share of the credit.

New camellia varieties, never before sold or distributed, will be judged for performance and reliability in test-garden sites strategically located in every important camellia growing district in the United States. At the conclusion of a very rigid three-year test period the camellia that has performed in an eminently satisfactory manner in every test garden may be designated by the governing jury as an All America Camellia Selection.

By this fall it is hoped that camellia entries for the first three year competition may be sent to test sites in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, Oregon, Washington, Central and Southern California. It is also hoped that test sites in still other sections may be available later. Highly qualified and unbiased judges have been and are being appointed to observe and score the entries both during the blooming and the growing seasons.

Award winning camellias will be identified by a distinctive label, and will be propagated and distributed for sale by camellia nurseries throughout the United States.

Officers and trustees of All America Camellia Selections are: Herbert C. Swim, President; Elwood Stephens, Vice-President; David Cook, Secretary and Treasurer; C. N. Hastie, Jr., K. Sawada, Edward Arnesen, Owen Blackwell, Rene Casadaban, Sam Hjort, Tom Dodd, Walter Lammerts, Paul Doty, Vernon James, John Edwards, Martin Usrey, and Toichi Domoto.

Inquiries pertaining to the entry of new camellias for trials, and for further information should be addressed to: David Cook, Secretary, All America Camellia Selections, 11239 Ventura Blvd., North Hollywood, California.

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## Reactions . . .

Probably nobody deeply engrossed in camellia culture doubts that there is a long-felt need for some kind of a rating body, or "steering committee" to sort out, pass upon and evaluate the masses of new varieties which constantly appear. Like the "Book-of-the-Month" club, All America Camellia Selections will function to guide the camellia fancier toward the worthwhile, as judged by impartial experts. Like the book clubs, too, nobody

is going to force the consumer to consume the selections of the judges, if he happens to prefer other types of literature, or camellias.

The formation of All America Camellia Selections by the group of eminent camellia-men who constitute its roster is a welcome step in the direction of sanity and order. The majority of the camellia world understands and agrees that AACS can perform a much-needed and useful service; although there has been some adverse comment, ranging from the skeptical "Well, I wish them well," to the frankly out-spoken "That bunch of pirates wants to dictate to us," the opinion of most seems to be, "Let's wait and see."

Like all instrumentalities of human beings, the AACS is not perfect in all its aspects. If it can produce "the greatest good to the greatest number" it will earn enduring laurels.

To All America Camellia Selections, CAMELLIA REVIEW wishes wisdom, freedom, long life and every possible success.

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## NOTE TO OUR ADVERTISERS AND WRITERS

Because our printers now print so many magazines, each one cannot be printed at the end of the month; deadline schedules on CAMELLIA REVIEW have now been moved forward. Effective with the November issue and thereafter, our deadline will be, both for advertising and editorial matter, the 12th of the month preceding. Closing date for the November issue is October 12th.

# BOORMAN'S CAMELLIA GARDENS

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# TRANSPLANTING SPECIMEN PLANTS

By ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN

LATE in June of 1950, we moved 10 large specimen plants from the west lath house to various other locations one late afternoon. We put a lovely Gigantea and a Gaiety—each over ten feet tall—out in front under the walnut trees. They did not even drop their leaves, and bloomed well last blooming season. I took cuttings from them this June and the Gigantea has one big fat seed pod on it now. The plants suffered no ill effects from the moving and had no set back.

Last March we took up a large California Donckelari and a variegated Kumasaka and put them in tubs. We also took up a fair-sized Debutante to take to a show. Just before this we had made a new lath house on the place, and moved a Col. Firey, a Chandleri, an Alexander Nowlin and two Mathotianas out to this lath house. Every plant that we moved in the winter and spring dropped its leaves and during this last growth cycle put out very little new wood. Their blooming was also impaired and I could not take cuttings from any of these bushes; every plant was put back at least a year by the move.

From results obtained in these two cases, and others in my experiences, I've evolved the theory that June is the month for moving large plants in the ground to new locations, or into containers. This does not apply to container-grown plants, of course, which can be moved equally well at any time.

Plus water. I suppose I'm a "nut" on watering your plants; at least my friends say so, but to me the most important thing in transplanting is keeping the ground damp after the plant has been moved. That for us here is more easily done in summer than in winter, because we tend to water thoroughly at that season. Where there are hundreds, or thousands, of plants to look after, one can easily be missed in the winter. This, of course, is not so likely to happen in the home garden, where not enough plants would have been moved to bring on forgetfulness.

When we bought the place we have now, it had been very badly neglected, due to illness in the family of the previous owner. There were over 500 large (some over 15 feet tall) camellia trees covering about a half-acre. In a 50 x 60 lath house on the west were 240 specimen plants alone, so you can see that something had to be done. (We've been doing "something" ever since!) This meant new lath houses and the utilizing of unused space under the many large trees we are fortunate in having. So the transplanting of many specimen plants began, and goes on, and on, and on!

I might insert here, in self-defense, that we have lost only two plants out of all the ones we have moved. In November of 1949, we moved an Aunt Jenny, and last winter we moved an H. A. Downing. In both cases, I claim, neglect in proper watering was the cause of the loss. They both dropped their leaves and never regained consciousness, poor things.

This June we moved a huge seedling (Jane Doe) out in the front of

*(Continued on page 18)*



## ELEMENTARY BREEDING . . . (from page 4)

not uncommon. Don't transplant until your plants are at least six inches high.

If you want to make sure that your crosses are true, be sure to cover before pollination. This is double work, but worth it.

As proof that the above theory, simple as it is, works, I offer in evidence camellias Morning Glow, Mrs. Baldwin Wood, White Butterfly, Margaret Bardsley, Stephen Foster, Gardenia and many others that we have produced here at our Wayside Nurseries. Anyone with the plant material, time, and plenty of work, waiting and patient tending can produce comparable results.

Seedlings have a tendency to sport, and some of the sports are even more beautiful than the plants from which they came. So keep a sharp lookout for pink sports on white, variegated flowers from red, and the pink and light reds on variegated camellias.

For instance, Thelma Dale is a pink sport which we found on a Mrs. Baldwin Wood. It is a white with pink stripes.

Graft mutations, of course, can also produce a change in the color—and also the structure—of a camellia. As proof, if any is needed, I give you Crusader, a four-inch, dark red flower. Its mutation in grafting produced a six-inch flower dark red with heavy white splashes.

Well, as we agreed at the beginning, these are my theories. You may have some others that work for you. But if you can get a hint or two out of this, I'll be very glad.

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# NOTES, NOTICES and NEWS

---

## DUES INCREASED

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors in September, it was voted to increase the membership dues to \$5.00 to meet the increased costs of running the society, publishing the CAMELLIA REVIEW and other publications. Effective, therefore, for the 1951-1952 season will be this increase in dues for all members; affiliate membership will be increased from \$2.00 to \$2.50 for the current season.

---

## CORRECTION

The name of Ralph Peer, our 2nd vice-president, was inadvertently omitted from the list of members of the Nomenclature Committee, in the list of Committees published in our last issue. Please correct your list accordingly.

---

## SECOND APPEAL TO PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN

Please see that the editor of this magazine gets copies of all publicity relating to your society; a copy of your bulletin, if you publish one, and any other matter which will give your society full representation in our *Camellia Review*.

---

## SANTA CLARA SOCIETY

Duly elected officers of the Camellia Society of Santa Clara county who will serve during the 1951-1952 season are: Viggo Haugaard, president; Don Hughes, vice-president; Ray T. Col, secretary-treasurer, and K. L. Boosey, corresponding-secretary. All officers are residents of San Jose. The corresponding secretary's address is 119 Cleaves Ave.

---

## PACIFIC ROSE SOCIETY NEWS

If you happen to be a subscriber to the Rose Society News, you have some good reading in store, because in the coming Fall number, Fred Walters is publishing a very informative article on "What Makes 'Dirt' into 'Soil'." If you're not a subscriber, it would pay you to get hold of a copy, if you want to know about compost heaps, and how to make topsoil.

---

## OUR COVER FLOWER

*Camellia Review* is greatly indebted to Dr. S. Lehman Nyce of Norristown, Pa., for his graciousness in lending to us the beautiful color plates of S. Peter Nyce camellia which grace our cover this month. The picture is from an actual size color photograph by K. E. Bosler, of Norristown, Pa.

## ANEMONAEFLORA ALBA . . . (from page 5)

by guard petals having the alabaster white of the Alba Plena. The combination was very pleasing and the flower had a warmth unusual in a white of such purity. Mr. Wylam confirms the description here given and states that measurement of Camillus' blossoms is a fair average inasmuch as the ten or a dozen blossoms on his two plants ranged in size from something under four inches to well over four and a half inches in breadth. As to form, however, Mr. Wylam states that an occasional flower on his plants showed slightly irregular centers although most of the blossoms opened in the form as here given.

Added to its natural beauty the combination of color and form of this camellia blossom makes it unique. *There is nothing like it in commerce in America at the present time.*

The fact which most impressed Camillus was that the first flower had opened just in time to catch a rain fall. This was followed by a half day of bright sunshine before it could be rescued and brought to a place of refuge. This treatment is enough to discourage almost any camellia, and particularly a white one. In its sheltered place, however, it continued to bloom for several days with no evident ill effects of the combination of rain and sun, and remained firm on the stem for ten days after opening.

In addition to all this the plant of this variety has a sturdy upright growth of sufficient strength to display its heavy blossoms without drooping, and has attractive foliage. The plant as a whole, both in, and out of bloom, makes an excellent appearance.

The report by Camillus on this variety predicated on two blossoms on only one plant would be weak evidence, indeed. There are, however, three known additional plants of blooming size in Southern California, all of which have been checked by Camillus. All abundantly confirm his observations as above recorded, and this, together with the confirmatory evidence from Australia, seems to justify the prediction that when this variety is distributed generally it will quickly reach and hold a position of highest regard by all who see and know this delightful camellia.

Author's note: Since this article was first drafted a letter has arrived from Mr. Walter Hazlewood which contains convincing information worthy of publication:

"This is the description of Leila given by Sir William Macarthur. 'Beautiful large, white flower, two rows of outer petals, entire, undulated and inclined to be fimbriated, inner petals very numerous, crowded, erect,

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of yellow tint. Beautiful and new, first flower very large, 4½ inches across. Anemonaeflora (spelled by him "Anemoniflora") Alba is one of those camellias which comes out early and continues in flower for a very long period. It is a good clear white with a contrasting cream center which makes it very attractive and distinct. It is a vigorous grower and free bloomer."

(1) The name is spelled "Anemoniflora Alba" in Australia.

(2) Southern California Camellia Society.

(3) Hazlewood "Introduction of Camellias into Australia", Camellia Review, Vol. 12, Number 8.

(4) Professor E. G. Waterhouse, Gordon, N.S.W., "Camellia Quest".

## An Interesting Letter From Australia

(Courtesy of Ralph Peer)

Readers may possibly be interested in the following extract from a letter of August 9th which Ralph Peer recently received from Prof. E. G. Waterhouse, Gordon, Australia:

"We have just returned from a trip to Melbourne to attend the Camellia Show, the first held in the state of Victoria for thirty years. It was a huge success and will now become an annual event. I addressed a large audience in the Town Hall. Many had to stand as all the seats were taken. It was a fine display and all were enthusiastic. The organizers did not foresee the success that would be achieved and will make more efficient arrangements on future occasions.

"From American descriptions it would appear that Strawberry Blond is a different sport of Aspasia, from Aspasia Variegated which in color (white and blotchy) is very like Elegans, but with Aspasia flower form. In the Melbourne area I saw the largest and oldest LADY LOCH'S I have ever seen—very old plants. The surprising thing about old established camellias is that they often bear bigger and better flowers than young, well tended plants. When a camellia is well established it thrives without any pampering. In Melbourne I saw the original stock tree of CZAR. It is twelve feet high and sixteen feet across with hundreds of the largest CZAR blooms I have ever seen. It receives no attention whatever and could not possibly do better. The tree must be fifty years old but no one can tell me where it came from or how it got its name. It is, of course, distinct from ADOLPHE AUDUSSON."

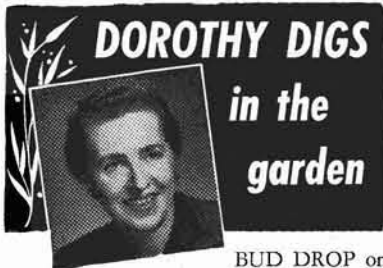


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## TO THE LADIES (from page 6)

Hiryō (Red Bird) are notably successful used against a pillar or hot wall. Place a light wooden trellis so that there are one or two inches of air space between the wall and the framework. Plant the Sasanqua and allow it to grow naturally as a vine.

Sasanquas will lend themselves to the formal espalier technique—but are even more lovely as a graceful vine subject. Just tie the branches in a pleasing pattern upon the trellis, and use the profuse longer branches as foliage with roses, and any garden flowers which need graceful small leaf material in your flower arrangements.

Sasanquas do not need special training or care. They are useful as a specimen vine and take the place of unwanted coarse woody shrubs which get out of hand too rapidly for the space available.

Mr. Cundy suggests the use of Hugh Evans, Hiryō, Oleifera, Mine-no-Yuki (White Doves) or Showano-Sakae in a box on a wall or planted in baskets or containers. Allow the Sasanqua to grow freely for a year then tie the branches with a good garden twine to screw eyes which have been secured to the base of the container. Do not tie close to the branch tips for this will inhibit growth. Training the plant in this manner will encourage downward growth to achieve a pendant or weeping habit. The effect should be breathtaking when the plants become well established.

Tanya was used at Forest Lawn as a ground cover over banks of rocks. "Hairpins" of wire were employed to secure the branches to the soil between the rocks in a spreading effect.

Mr. Cundy reports Oleifera is a very vigorous plant. It should be de-

(Turn to page 21)



# SOME NOTES ABOUT SUN TOLERANCE

By MRS. WILLIAM VINEY

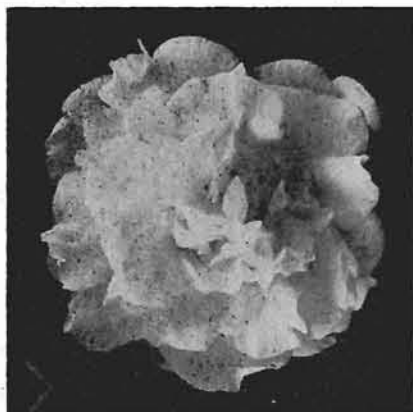
Out here in Covina, the weather has been hot, so I had ample opportunity to test the sun tolerance of camellias. I agree whole-heartedly with Bill Wylam, only his article in the July CAMELLIA REVIEW was not positive enough!

In my garden, a very large oak tree that grew southwest of several camellias just quit living and had to be removed. The bushes were four to seven feet high and too big for temporary shelters, so there was nothing I could do to relieve them. At noon the leaves have been almost too hot to touch. I wish I could take the heat as uncomplainingly as they!

I mulched with peat and weighted that down with a brick. Every night I sprayed heavily—that is all that they asked. Quite a few leaves are burned, but nearly all the plants are in good condition. In the group are Mrs. Josephine Hearn, Elena Nobile, Pope Pius, Mathotiana, Bella Romana and Te Deum. Near by are C. M. Hovey, Blood of China and Dai Kagura. All have so many buds I am constantly disbudding. An Arejishi and Yokei Haku have bloomed already! Who can appreciate blossoms when the temperature tries to reach 100 degrees?

A Finlandia in Covina that is over 40 years old, and some think may be the original one in Los Angeles county, is planted at the corner of a very light grey house. It faces south and west. It has taken a beating, but produces hundreds of lovely blossoms every year.

Nearly all the varieties that Bill Wylam lists as preferring light shade will tolerate full east sun, if they get shade in the afternoon.



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## TRANSPLANTING SPECIMEN PLATES . . . (from page 11)

the place and you cannot tell by looking at it that it has ever been moved. When we finished the new lath house in June, we moved an Audusson Special, a Catherine Cathcart, a Col. Firey, a Fanny Bolis Red and a Lotus into, and around, it. The only one which shows signs of the move is the Lotus, which does not look quite as happy as it did; but it has not dropped its leaves and now seems to be coming around all right.

To enlarge on the subject of water for a moment, Camellias are native to China, where, in those areas where they grow best, the summer rainfall is quite heavy. They are happiest when you, as nearly as you can, duplicate the ways of their native land. If camellias have plenty of summer water—the rain helps the watering here in the winter—they thrive. I have seen plants withstand almost any kind of adverse conditions—they will grow in sun, dense shade, poor soil, heat, cold, even without the aid of fertilizer or mulch, if they have water. Even sickly, spindly, unhappy plants 6 and 8 feet high which have never bloomed properly, if given a summer diet of plenty of water, can become healthy, happy bushes covered with blooms the following winter. And, of course, shallower planting than is practiced by most, plus good drainage, are essential—and subjects I could discuss at length, but not here.

So, summing it up, and speaking from my own experiences, I find that June, beside being the month for brides, honeymoons, rare days and vacations is also by far the most favorable for transplanting your camellias.

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## SUMMER TRIP THROUGH SOUTHLAND . . . (from page 19)

have grown into trees and the entire property is enriched by hundreds of camellia trees.

Mr. McIlhenny took a great interest in seedlings and mutations, and has developed many new and important varieties. *Virgin's Blush* came from these gardens. During the present season two new items have been released—*Nina Avery* and *Kelerec*. Thousands of seedlings are being grown and no doubt many more fine varieties will be found.

After a side trip to New Orleans we stopped for several hours (and a very fine luncheon) at the home of Sig and Jessie Katz at Covington, Louisiana. Here we ran into more plants destroyed by cold, and from then on to North Carolina found casualties wherever we stopped. The Katzes have one of the most beautiful camellia gardens to be found anywhere. A plot of many acres is covered by lawn, around the edges of which a belt perhaps thirty feet deep is devoted to camellias. This is one of the largest and finest camellia collections in the country and is especially notable because of its magnificent setting.

That evening we stopped at *Bayou Gardens*, the home of Mr. Richard W. Leche. Hundreds of acres of virgin pine forest have been turned into a magnificent estate. Dick Leche, a camellia expert of many years standing, has created one of the most efficient nurseries in the southland, largely to supply the rare varieties which he uses to beautify his grounds. This magnificent camellia development is at Lacombe, Louisiana, just south of Covington.

The next day I had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. James Bradford, with whom I have been corresponding for several years. Apparently he makes a living out of the Bradford Wayside Nurseries, but as I talked to him I wondered if this was not just an illusion. He seemed much more interested in developing new and unusual varieties from seedlings than in the actual drudgery of the camellia nursery business. We saw various parent plants of famous varieties, for example, *Morning Glow* and *Crusader*. Several new seedlings are undergoing final tests—an as yet unnamed variety "99" will probably be the next Bradford "sensation."

Due to his location at Ocean Springs, Mississippi, not far from the Gulf, cold damage was at a minimum. Later that day we by-passed the famous *Bellingrath Gardens*. Having visited this great beauty spot the year before, during the blooming season, we thought it best to avoid the anti-climax of temporarily destroyed beauty.

It is always a thrill to visit the Overlook Nurseries near Mobile, operated by the famous camellia horticulturist, Mr. K. Sawada. We found extensive cold damage here and actually noted the complete destruction of one-year grafts of many popular varieties originated at Overlook.

The Flowerwood Nursery, south of Mobile, was likewise hard hit, and will certainly have trouble filling its orders next season for one-year grafts and young cutting-grown plants.

Continuing our tour in the Mobile district, we called on Mr. E. Lambrakis, owner of the Malbis Nurseries at Daphne, Alabama. This is one of the cleanest, most efficient and most modern camellia nurseries in this country. Mr. Lambrakis is a great camellia enthusiast and raises thousands of seedlings in an effort to develop new varieties.

For those who admire *Lady van Sittart* I recommend highly a seedling from

this variety which has just been introduced by Malbis Nurseries named *Clara Brooks*. No two blossoms are alike in color scheme (rosy pink and white).

We were only a few miles from Pensacola, and took advantage of our proximity to spend an evening with the famous Wilkinson family. From one small group of seedlings Harp Wilkinson obtained three of the best modern camellias—*Beau Harp*—*Marjorie Magnificen!*—*Elizabeth le Bey*. In addition, he has *Rox Cowley*, *Princess Lavender* and other unnamed seedlings showing great promise. All of this came from a very small quantity of seeds imported from Japan, and constitutes a small miracle.

Camellias are strictly a hobby with Harp Wilkinson. He is a civilian expert employed by the Navy, and during the past few years has been called upon to devote most of his leisure time to Naval engineering problems. We found him in somewhat of a disgusted frame of mind because many of the one-year grafts of *Elizabeth le Bey* which he was preparing to offer this fall were destroyed by the freeze. We convinced him that he might have had worse luck, had a pleasant family dinner at the Country Club, and then continued our journey.

The residence of John Illges (donor of the Illges Award) at Columbus, Georgia, is high up on the list of famous American homes. Neither Mrs. Peer nor Master Ralph had ever before experienced a real "Deep South" dinner. We certainly left no doubt as a family that we appreciated the Illges hospitality.

*Plumfield*, as this wooded area is known, now contains hundreds of camellias, some of them grown to tree size. No branch of the camellia art has been overlooked. There are hundreds of seedlings. There are grafts of rare mutations. Plants are grown from cuttings. Greenhouses are provided against exceptionally cold winters.

A new white seedling *Plumfield White* originated here and is now being propagated. Last year a very good semi-double red *Max Goodley*, named for the young man who for many years has been in charge of the Illges horticultural developments, was offered through the nurseries. Many more fine new varieties are being tested and some will no doubt meet the exacting requirements.

We might have spent a week in and around Macon, Georgia, but instead found it necessary to push ourselves in order to maintain our schedule. For the first time we had an opportunity to see the cozy home built by Bill and Mary Wood in a beautiful woodland section near the edge of the

(Continued on page 23)

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## TO THE LADIES (from page 16)

sirable for use on a space five by eight feet, or from ten to twelve feet in height.

I recall having seen Mine-no-yuki planted near the low post which secured the large guy wire of a telephone pole. The Sasanqua had been tied at intervals to the wire and was happily extending its lovely self upward some four feet at that time. Trees and large azaleas masked the unsightly pole. Oleifera would be an attractively beautiful alternate for this problem.

Remember the Sasanqua Hiryo, that small dark bright red little beauty for a man's lapel flower.

\* \* \*

Let us all support Mr. Ronald B. Townsend's generous interest in the Kodachrome Library. If you have any transparencies which you can donate for this very interesting project, please telephone Mr. Townsend's office at the Huntington Library and Art Gallery. The telephone numbers there are Ry-an 1-6601 and Sy-camore 2-6141. Arrangements can be made for delivery of the slides. If it is inconvenient to telephone, please bring your slides to a meeting of the So. Calif. Camellia Society and leave them with President Clairmont or with Col. Gale, the Secretary, for delivery to Mr. Townsend.

For additional information concerning this very fine project for a Kodachrome Library please turn to page 9 of the Camellia Review, Vol. 12, No. 8, July 1951. There is an excellent article by Mr. Townsend featured in that issue.

And now I hope that many friends of the Society will respond with duplicate transparencies and that you will all enjoy making new friends among the beautiful and versatile Sasanquas.

## AS I SEE IT . . . (from page 2)

Regretfully, we had to miss contacting Larry Boyle, Lucien Ather-ton, Vic Wagoner, Stanley Miller, and lots more of the San Diegans, for one reason or another.

Incidentally, if you want to become a neighbor of Harvey Short, there is a nice 10-acre place across the road from his, buildings, barns and everything complete, at about the price you'd pay for a modest 2-bedroom place in Glendale.

It might pay off for a camellia fancier—because Harvey, being the good sort that he is, would probably coach you on how to produce the blue-ribbon beauties he grows!

\* \* \*

Things I never noodle now: There's a Trailer court-Motel down in El Cajon called the Camellia Garden Trailer Court. I didn't get a chance to investigate it while I was down that way, but saw the signs along the road. Next time I'm down there I want to find out about that. Have you ever been there?

\* \* \*

One of my good friends, Dr. Thomas J. Barrett, claims that if you've got plenty of earthworms in your soil you don't need to plow or fertilize or harrow or do anything except plant, and you'll grow fruits and vegetables and flowers twice as big and three times as good. Evidently he knows whereof he speaks, for he's listed in "Who's Who" as an international authority on the earthworm.

But now I've just found out about Ceres Sponge-Rok, which acts on soil like an artificial earthworm, aerating and conditioning it. It is a 95% aluminum silicate material, with a built-in system of pores which do not break down. This allows it to absorb and retain moisture readily, and when mixed with your

(Turn to next page)



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**AS I SEE IT . . .** (from page 21).

regular potting mixture, it allows the right amount of porosity for water nutrients and oxygen to get at the root system. And that's what makes for healthy growth, and eliminates the failures.

Because Sponge-Rok is light and porous, it allows the finer root hairs to grow into and around the material, and thus you get a root-ball as is a root-ball, which doesn't break up under transplanting. Those who are using Sponge-Rok are enthusiastic about it.

Move over, Doctor Barrett, the machine age has caught up with you!

\* \* \*

Here's something the kind secretary of the Los Angeles Society was good enough to pass along to me, and I thought it might be of interest to you. The piece appeared in the little 4-page monthly paper of the Bohemian Distributing Co., "Bohemian Life."

*Note on Salad Oil*—That mention of olive oil brings to mind the plaint of a friend recently back from Japan who observed that frequently the salads and fish he had in Tokio appeared to be heavily scented. It must have been the oil, expressed from the camellia tree, the well-known *Camellia japonica*. Just as the garlic is of the lily family the camellia is of the tea family, and the oil of the particular tree variety is known as tea-oil. Once this oil, bereft of its perfume, was commonly used as an adulterant in olive oil, chiefly because for a long time chemists had a hard time detecting it.

Olive oil in the American market keeps to a rigorous standard of purity, and it must be all of 20 years since the customs-house analysts have run across in this oil a lacing of the false camellia.

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## SUMMER TRIP THROUGH SOUTHLAND . . . (from page 20)

city. Under the majestic evergreens one of the finest camellia collections in Georgia has been assembled. In the process, Bill Wood has become known throughout the country for his magnificent work in providing suitable judges for camellia shows. He is renowned as a nomenclature expert and has contributed a great deal to the world of camellias.

Dr. W. C. Lee, whose name has been given to one of our finest red camellias, has built a large and elaborate home not far from the center of the city. Actually, his property is in the wooded section of an old Civil War battlefield, and adjoins a public park set aside to commemorate the bravery of the Confederate Army. Dr. Lee, an inveterate collector, has most of the well-known and rare varieties on his property, but there are still many acres of virgin forest awaiting development. He is also greatly interested in creating new varieties from seedlings, and has had considerable success.

Dr. Lee was kind enough to take me to the Central Georgia Nurseries (Mr. R. L. Wheeler) which are propagating his discovery, the variety named *R. L. Wheeler*. Dr. Lee also called my attention to a very fine camellia originating in the Macon area *Emmett Barnes*, which is being distributed by the Ingleside Nurseries (Mr. Pat Brown).

About thirty miles south of Macon one arrives at the unique camellia garden designed, constructed and maintained by the fabulous Dave Strother. Thousands of people visit his garden annually, and he has been called upon to provide a parking space. It is not generally known that Mr. Strother does not live in the attractive house alongside of his camellia garden. The farm where the garden is located is too far from Mr. Strother's business in Fort Valley, and consequently he is not often to be found at the Garden.

The Strother collection of camellia rarities contains large plants of most of the new varieties which have become popular during the last ten years. This quiet, unassuming camellia fan is generally rated as our best judge of camellia values, and the success of the large number of new varieties which he has sponsored seems to prove the point.

We found Dave in a somewhat discouraged frame of mind as practically all of the grafts of new and old varieties which he had started in the Spring of 1950 were frozen. Most of his understock was destroyed and he felt that his plans for development had been set back many years. Actually, however, he was able to start many new grafts during the early part of 1951, and no doubt the success of the current year's crop will erase from his mind the 1950 failures.

The road south from Fort Valley is lined with camellia trees on both sides, and we saw many very old and large specimens in nearby towns.

At Cordele, Georgia, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Fletcher produced concrete examples of family interest in camellias. The gardens around their attractive home are filled with old and new varieties. Later we learned that the gardens of the home owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher's parents were likewise filled with camellias. When we visited the Fletcher farm on the outskirts of Cordele we were taken through what seemed a miniature commercial nursery containing hundreds and hundreds of plants of new varieties assembled by the Fetters. As we drove through the residence districts we found camellias growing around every house, and many times we noted that front and back yards had been completely filled with small camellia trees.

I had agreed to address a small meeting at Thomasville, Georgia, but we were hardly prepared for the banquet which we attended the evening of our arrival. Mr. Sam Hjort, owner of the Thomasville Nurseries, has introduced many valuable new varieties. We were greatly interested to be able to inspect hundreds of one-year grafts of his sensational new japonica *Frank Gibson*. Color pictures of this variety indicate that it will be almost a yellow camellia. It is a medium-sized white anemone type with an enormous mass of yellow stamens and yellow-gold petaloids in the center.

Before leaving Thomasville we visited the home of Captain Harold White, who has devoted many acres of the huge lawn in front of his house to camellia trees, thus creating a really magnificent collection.

Gainesville, Florida, the most southerly point of our journey, has become a sort of camellia shrine because it is the home of Dr. Harold Hume, and the headquarters of the American Camellia Society are on the campus of the University of Florida. The ACS Test Garden is a part of the horticultural and agricultural division of the University. Most of us think of Dr. Hume as an indefatigable camellia expert and a pioneer in camellia research. Actually, these activities are the least of his accomplishments. He has had a great deal to do with the spectacular development of Florida as an agricultural State during the last forty years. It is difficult to assess properly the results of horticultural development, but it is quite certain that the plants, trees and new varieties introduced or developed by Dr. Hume now result in agricultural production within Florida running into the tens of millions of dollars annually.

Mr. Sam Harn, the hard-working Secretary of the American Camellia Society, and an old resident of Gainesville, selected as a site for his home a large plot containing many evergreen trees and a ravine which is very effectively shaded. Here he is creating an outstanding camellia garden. Mr. and Mrs. Harn were kind enough to have us for lunch, with Dr. Hume and Mr. Austin Griffiths, Jr. as additional guests. Later we visited the Test Garden and noted various species of camellias successfully propagated by Mr. Griffiths and Dr. Hume. Of particular interest to me was *C. rusticana*, the "snow camellia" from Japan which is found in a mountainous region having a climate very much like New England. There was much discussion about the possibility of crossing this species with *C. japonica* to produce a race of hardy hybrids.

(To be continued in November)

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