

THE

# Camellia Review

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



High Wide 'N Handsome  
*Courtesy McCaskill Nurseries*

Vol. 22

February, 1961

No. 4

*One Dollar*

# *Southern California Camellia Society Inc.*

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$6.00.

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## THE COVER FLOWER

### C. japonica 'High, Wide 'N Handsome'

This flower is one of the several new varieties being introduced this year by Vern and Billie McCaskill. It is a very large, mid-season blooming semi-double. Color is a warm luminous pink shading to warmer pink that tones down in the heart of the flower. Markings — “finely pencilled at the edges of the enormous fluted petals with smokey pewter.” The flower is built high, grows to six inches and more, and is “dashingly handsome.” Growth habits of the plant are very good and foliage is excellent.

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February is Show Time in Southern California. We start off with the Pomona show on February 4th, then without a break, have every week end until we conclude with the Descanso Gardens show on March 11th. I was going to say that the big one would be the Disneyland show, which will be held in connection with the A. C. S. meeting. But that would not be a correct statement. Every show will be the big one for that week end. The blooms that will be good for the Pomona show on the 4th will be gone by the time the San Diego show rolls around on the 11th. And so on throughout the 6 weeks of Show Time. If we want to show the full results of our work since last April, we'll have to do it as the buds open up, and that means at all the shows. And there's another reason. The people in the local societies who put on the shows need all our help in making their shows the success for which they are working.

When I read Edna Schoof's story on flower arranging (see page 14), I smiled all over. Everything she says is about using camellias and other foliage to bring out the beauty of the flower. Not a word about bottles or rocks or drift wood. I wonder how many of the arrangements at the Disneyland show will feature camellias and how many will feature the accessories, with a camellia blossom or bud thrown in to qualify the entry for a camellia show. It would be interesting to have the public participate in the judging (after, of course, the ribbons have been awarded) to see how closely their ideas agree with those of the professional judges.

Frank Reed's story on page 20 in which he tells about his use of gibberellic acid to hasten blooms interested me in two ways. First, the story is newsworthy in that it tells of his experiment and gives all the specifications so that others can try it if they are interested. Those of us who attended the November and December SCCS meetings and saw him walk to the front to receive blue ribbons will attest that he did something to get his early blooms. Second, he called me and asked if I would like to have the story for CAMELLIA REVIEW. That's what will keep the REVIEW rolling.

*Harold E. Dwyer*

# LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL HOSTS 16th ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

By **Alton B. Parker**

Chairman, ACS Convention Committee

February 23 through the 26th will be important days for camellia enthusiasts everywhere. The 16th annual meeting of the American Camellia Society will be held in Southern California, with headquarters at the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California.

Hotel reservations may be made directly to the hotel, Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California or to Alton Parker, 6121 N. Rosemead Blvd., Temple City, California. There are many motels in the area for those wishing to stay at motels. Brochures will be sent upon request.

Registration is time consuming and considerable delay can be avoided by pre-registration. If you send in your registration fee of \$20.00 per person, which includes all events outlined in the program, your registration kit will be ready upon your arrival. Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman, 14287 Roblar Place, Sherman Oaks, California, is registration chairman. In the event of a necessity to cancel your trip, your fee will be refunded. Advance registration for those attending Saturday, February 25th only must be in the hands of Dr. Eshelman by Wednesday, February 22nd. Fee for all Saturday events will be \$10.00. Visitors arriving before February 23rd will have no difficulty in finding things to do. Transportation and guides will be furnished to provide an opportunity to visit points of interest in the Los Angeles area.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

General Chairman .....	Alton B. Parker
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Thursday Evening .....	Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Pitkin
Friday's Tours .....	Douglas G. Thompson
Friday Evening .....	Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Foss
Temple City Camellia Parade .....	Pete Folino
Annual Banquet .....	Edwards H. Metcalf
Sunday's Tours .....	Dan H. Roberts

## Schedule of Activities THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 8:00 A.M. Registration in hotel lobby.
- 9:00 A.M. Leave hotel in private cars for an all day trip. First stop to be at the world famous Huntington Gardens. Guide conducted tours through the gardens in small groups. Then to the Descanso Gardens where a box lunch will be served. After lunch you will stroll through the largest mature camellia planting in Southern California. 100,000 plants under large native oaks. If time and your endurance permit, a trip will be made to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

*(Continued on next page)*

- 6:00 P.M. A.C.S. officers and wives reception.  
 7:00 P.M. Buffet Supper. After a short intermission there will be an Inter-Society meeting, with speakers from principal camellia growing areas, talking about society activities and the new and worthwhile varieties in their section.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 8:00 A.M. Registration in hotel lobby.  
 9:00 A.M. Chartered bus leaves hotel for a major movie studio that is in production.  
 9:00 A.M. Those not desiring to go to the studio will leave in private cars for the points of interest they desire such as: Lake Arrowhead, Santa Barbara, San Juan Capistrano, San Diego, Laguna Beach, Harbor trip, Marineland, Palm Springs, Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, Westwood, Bel Air, The Farmers Market.  
 2:00 P.M. Disneyland or Knotts Berry Farm.  
 Disneyland has made available, at a special convention rate, books of tickets for rides in the park. These tickets will be honored during and for 10 days after the meeting.  
 6:30 P.M. California Camellia Societies Hospitality Hour, in the Pool-Side Room.  
 8:30 P.M. Meeting in the Pool-Side Room for a showing of slides.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 8:00 A.M. Registration in hotel lobby.  
 9:00 A.M. Leave hotel in private cars for Temple City Camellia Festival and Children's Parade.  
 10:00 A.M. Shopping at Fashion Square, Santa Ana.  
 2:00 P.M. Camellia Show — Disneyland Hotel.  
 All registered guests will be permitted to have a preview of the show from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
 6:00 P.M. Governing Board Reception — Anaheim Bowl.  
 7:00 P.M. Annual Banquet — Anaheim Bowl.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Tours of private gardens and local camellia nurseries.

## CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE, 1961

- February 4-5 — Pomona Valley Camellia Society at Pomona  
 February 11-12 — San Diego Camellia Society at Balboa Park, San Diego  
 February 18-19 — Temple City Camellia Society at Temple City  
 February 25-26 — Los Angeles Camellia Council at Disneyland, in conjunction with annual convention of American Camellia Society  
 February 26 — Camellia Society of Santa Clara at San Jose  
 March 4-5 — Kern County Camellia Society at Bakersfield  
 March 4-5 — Sacramento Camellia Society at Sacramento  
 March 5 — Central California Camellia Society at Fresno  
 March 11-12 — Los Angeles Camellia Council at Descanso Gardens, La Canada  
 March 18-19\* — Northern California Camellia Society at Walnut Creek

\*This date is a correction from the date shown in the January 1961 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW.

# CAMELLIA WONDERLAND — 1961

By Ken Newerf

Chairman, Disneyland Camellia Show

Wherever camellias are growing and blooming, a small part of our world is transformed into a wonderland. Every new plant — every new flower — makes our world a better place in which to live.

So it is fitting that we honor this magician of the realm of flowers by putting on display all of the minor miracles which come to our gardens each fall and winter. We provide a stage upon which all these stars may appear and we call it a "camellia show."

If camellia shows just happened — like New Year's Day — we could sit back and wait for its arrival — prepared to enjoy it with the sure knowledge that there would be a multitude of flowers, lovely arrangements, a place to display them, beautifully decorated and with all the facilities to make things easy for the participant and the audience. But camellia shows don't "just happen." When the honored (?) few are chosen the previous year to present the next show a year hence, their work and effort begins. Perhaps an account of the preparation for "Camellia Wonderland — 1961" is the story of every show but if it is, it's time the story of the behind-the-scenes workers was told.

On April 15 last year, a staff was chosen by the chairman and the basic duties were divided among them. Assistant chairman was Bill Goertz and he assumed the task of ticket sales, without which, the show which we envisaged could not be accomplished. Plans for the sale and means by which it would be successful were approved by the Los Angeles Camellia Council and we were on our way. By this time you all know that we provided a fabulous door-prize for ticket holders—a 1961 Plymouth station wagon.

This provided an incentive to sell tickets to people who might not otherwise be interested in attending a camellia show but it served a double purpose. Not only did it help to defray advance expenses of the show but it gave us an opportunity to talk camellias with an untapped source of new members for our societies.

Of course, another bit of salesmanship was necessary to not only attract advance ticket buyers, but to insure a large attendance at the show. Publicity, the advertising of any promotional activity, began with articles in the *A.C.S. Journal*, the *Camellia Review*, the California Garden Clubs' "Golden Gardens," the *Pacific Coast Nurseryman*, posters and letters to garden clubs and women's clubs. These have all been productive and have aroused a great deal of interest throughout California.

With the American Camellia Society holding its annual convention, in conjunction with the show, we wanted to spare no effort to make this an event to be long remembered by our visitors from the South. Without the natural scenery to which we've become accustomed at Descanso Gardens, the interior of the show area would have to provide a fitting background for the bloom and arrangement display. The services of Mildred Bryant Brooks, the leading figure in floral shows and decorations, were secured and her plans will, indeed, make the show a veritable fairyland of flowers.

Of course, the casting director of the show, the one who signs up the "talent," is the man who handles the registration of entries. This not only involves all of the details of registering and cataloging the entrants and

(Continued on next page)

their flowers, but in making sure that the necessary forms and cards are in the hands of everyone who might wish to enter. It also involves the solicitation of people, whose entry would add beauty and prestige to the show. This sort of task requires a man who has the widest possible acquaintance in the camellia world, who knows camellias, who has the talent for organizing and correlating all of the voluminous paper work and who is dedicated to camellias as a hobby. "Impossible to find," you might say. And you would be near the truth; but fortunately we have such a man in Reg Ragland.

His work is assuring Camellia Wonderland of not only the largest number of blooms (weather permitting) ever shown in the West but also the most wide-spread representation of entries. San Diego to Lafayette in California, and hopefully, we may have some Southern entries.

The Arrangement Section, under the direction of Juanita Garat and Rose Gish, is already assured of a "first." There are four professional flower-arranging guilds in Southern California, and for the first time in any show, all of them will be represented by non-competitive arrangements. A total of fifty displays will be in this category and they should provide our amateurs with a complete course in this field. The organizations represented are, The Posy Wranglers, The Flower Arrangers Guild of Southern California, The Floral Designers and Las Artistas de Flores del Valle de San Gabriel. In addition to these, there will be a record number of competitive entries in various classes and, according to Mrs. Garat, it may be necessary to set a dead-line on entries as so much interest has been evidenced that the available space for 150 arrangements may be taken very quickly. Some of you may have had experience in arrangement shows and know the work

that has gone into providing the proper table locations, backgrounds for the arrangements, necessary lighting and facilities for the arrangers to use in making their preparations. All of these are ready.

The regulations for the show are ready to go into the mail to everyone who has entered flowers at Descanso at any time during the past four years and to others who have already requested them. If you plan to enter one or more blooms and do not receive these regulations by February 1, write to Mr. R. W. Ragland, 555 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, and he will be happy to send them to you. This is another service that he provides in connection with registration.

Now we come to the reception on the morning of the show. Directions for reaching Disneyland Hotel and the service parking lot have been mailed to the prospective registrants. So we assume that they will arrive. At the parking lot they will be met by a show page boy who will assist them in transporting their blooms to a reception tent. There a group of qualified members of the council will check the flowers for correct nomenclature, condition and numbers of varieties. When cleared, the flowers will be taken to the tables by a show page girl and delivered to a table captain for placement in the correct area. These captains have been chosen by the committee and are qualified in recognition and handling of show blooms. This provides insurance against flowers being disqualified for being mis-named or mis-placed.

As soon as the show area has been closed for judging, Bill Woodroof and his all-star team of judges take over and start that most thankless task — choosing the most perfect, the most beautiful flower in each variety from many perfect, beautiful blooms. And then choosing the best of all the

*(Continued on page 8)*





**Terri Janson, "Miss California," sells first ticket to "Camellia Wonderland" to Sheriff Peter Pitchess as Ken Newerf, Chairman of the Show, looks on.**

## CAMELLIA WONDERLAND

(Continued)

champions; certainly, a job requiring the wisdom of Solomon and Job combined. These judges do not just happen to be there. They have been chosen months before and their qualifications as certified judges of the American Camellia Society were not gained easily. Usually years of study and work with camellias have preceded their appointment and the one characteristic they all have in common is integrity. The judges make the decisions but their assistants — the judges' clerks — are the ones who do all the work. Placing the ribbons, entering the placement on the entry card, providing any assistance requested by the judges, accumulating and delivering all of the information to the tabulating center requires training and practice. Mrs. Frances Butler, of the Orange County Camellia Society, has a team of clerks well qualified to handle this task.

When it is considered that the judging, the marking and tabulating of over 5000 individual blooms is done in the course of three hours, it can be understood that the show at this time is no place for people who have any tendency to confusion or panic.

The time comes for the doors to be opened but, because of our out-of-state visitors, we have planned a preview for their uninterrupted enjoyment. For an hour, prior to the admittance of the public, there will be only registered "convention-ites" permitted in the show rooms. They may roam at will and drink in the beauty of camellias at their best.

At 2:00 p.m. on February 25 will come the climax of all the months of effort. The show is opened!

Here in the show area, all of the tasks that have been performed over the past months, come into focus. The table arrangements, the lighting, the

room decorations, the traffic flow, the special events, and, most important, the audience, combine to present the finished performance.

If nothing has been forgotten — if no accident befalls — if everyone, including the blue ribbon winners, are happy and satisfied — all the work will be forgotten and we will look forward to the next year — (with someone else having the honor!)

This story of building a show is one that could be told by many others. It is the story of dedicated people — all summed up in the schedule of events:

### FEBRUARY 25

- 1:00 p.m.—Preview for Convention Registrants.
- 2:00 p.m.—Formal opening by Walt Disney  
Disneyland Band  
Parade of Disney Characters.  
Introduction of Queen and Princesses.
- 2:30 p.m.—Presentation of the new camellia seedling 'Disneyland' by Julius Nuccio.

### FEBRUARY 26

- 9:30 a.m.—Special camera hour
- 10:30 a.m.—Doors open
- 2:00 p.m.—Presentation of new seedling 'Miss Anaheim'.
- 2:30 p.m.—Introduction of Queen and Princesses
- 3:30 p.m.—Craig Stevens and Alexis Smith in "Peter Gunn Solves Great Camellia Mystery."
- 7:30 p.m.—Presentation of trophies
- 8:00 p.m.—Drawing for station wagon
- Closing.

# SOME OBJECTIVES OF THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Joseph H. Pyron

Executive Secretary, ACS

Tifton, Georgia

"The purposes of this Society shall be to promote interest in the Genus *Camellia L.*, scientific research in its culture, standardization of its varietal names, certification of new varieties, dissemination of information concerning the above, the creation of a foundation to further these purposes, and to promote the organization and affiliation of local Camellia Societies in the United States." — from the Charter of the ACS, Sent. 29, 1945.

Although the ACS is not the oldest camellia organization in the U. S., from its founding in 1945, it has been the largest and the widest in scope of membership and objectives. It is now not only national in scope, but also international. There are some 150 foreign members.

At its first annual meeting on Feb. 9, 1946 in Savannah, Ga., 683 members were reported. At the present time ACS membership exceeds 7,000. We feel that the full potential is several times this number since there probably are 100,000 camellia growers in the U. S.

Information concerning news and scientific research in camellia culture is disseminated through publications of the ACS, chiefly a 300 page Year-

book and 36 page Journals issued at least four times per year to all members. Special publications are issued at needed.

Local and regional camellia organizations have been recognized as a vital part of the ACS from its founding. Every effort is made to assist the local organizations in planning programs, furnishing slides of new varieties, and in putting on shows.

Standards or rules for competitive shows held in cooperation with the ACS are modified from time to time based on suggestions from local show committees. Judges are accredited and certificates are provided without cost. Advance publicity is given to shows and the results are published in the Journals. The nation-wide arrangement contest is sponsored by the Society and appropriate prizes are awarded.

Camellias were exhibited in Boston and Philadelphia as early as 1829. Charleston, S. C. exhibited camellias in 1839 or before, and San Francisco in 1854. Camellias became popular outdoor plants in the South prior to the War Between the States, then were almost forgotten except for a

*(Continued on next page)*

## ALL NEW

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few isolated growers until the 1920's and '30's.

With increased demands, nursery-men in widely separated localities began listing old lost label varieties according to local names, or else coined names for them. Thus, there grew up a duplication of names, without any concerted general effort to untangle these. Many growers assembled collections from various sources only to find that they had the same variety under as many as half a dozen names. The ACS founding fathers thus saw the necessity for a single organization broad enough in scope to deal with this nomenclature confusion. The ACS attacked this as one of its primary objectives. The job is far from complete, but we have set up controls which, if followed, will prevent further confusion in the naming of varieties.

Acceptance of a new variety for registration by the ACS in no way constitutes an endorsement or evaluation. The Society serves rather as a central clearing bureau to check and publish names and assure accuracy of descriptions. No attempt is made to "evaluate" the worthiness of the variety, other than that it differs sufficiently from other varieties to merit registration. The \$2 fee of course does not cover the cost of clerical work, postage, and publication in both the Journal and Yearbook. The first variety was registered on August 5, 1948.

The varietal registration program of the Southern California Camellia Society was combined with the ACS program in 1957 since there was considerable duplication.

The ACS recognizes *Camellia Nomenclature* edited by Mr. William Woodroof, and published biennially by the Southern California Camellia Society, as the authority for spelling, synonymy and brief descriptions of varieties, whether registered or not. This publication serves an entirely different purpose from the ACS Regis-

tration Bureau.

Rating or evaluation of varieties is being sponsored by ACS through the Camellia Rating Plan with David L. Feathers as Chairman. The first results were published in the ACS Yearbook for 1960. In addition, numerous articles in the Journal and Yearbook discuss new varieties, cold hardiness, and special uses.

The activation of a camellia foundation remains to be accomplished. With such a foundation, many interesting projects could be undertaken — research, plant exploration, films, slides, publication of books and sets of color plates. A book on greenhouse culture of camellias is needed. Several years ago the ACS was approached concerning the financial underwriting of Sealy's A Revision of the Genus *Camellia*. Since there were 16 paintings in addition to numerous line drawings and maps, the cost was estimated at \$9,000. The ACS was unable to finance its publication. This scholarly work was finally published in England with only one color plate.

The need for an international registration authority has been recognized for many years. In some cases a particular variety may bear a different name in the U. S., Japan and the British Commonwealth. The ACS lacked funds to support such a project. Fortunately, the Bailey Hortorium of Cornell University interested the Longwood (DuPont) Foundation in providing \$60,000 for this work. The Camellia Advisory Group of this project is largely composed of members of the ACS. When the project is terminated, the manuscript will be presented to a camellia society willing to accept the check list for publication. Only with an endowed foundation can ACS accept this manuscript. Whichever society inherits the manuscript and records will be expected to maintain the international registry for camellia names. The ACS cannot manager this without additional funds.

(Continued on page 29)

# When? Why? How?

R. FLINN DICKSON SR.

## **Pruning**

Sharpen the shears. Even before your plants finish their blooming you can start to prune and you should get it done by the time the next growth cycle begins. You owe it to the plants and to yourself to clean out useless branches and shape the bushes. Once I was out of circulation from late February to early June; due to hospitalization and convalescence, and though the family and friends did much in my garden, pruning was just casual. This was all I needed to forever impress on me how very important it is to prune timely and with thoroughness.

Camellias will tolerate pruning all through the year but right before the growth cycle begins is, I think, the most rewarding time for doing it.

## **Mold On Your Grafts?**

Have you had trouble with mold on your grafts before getting the jars off? I did before I began using GREENOL which is a mold inhibitor supplied by Ortho. You mix with water as directed on the container and here is the way I use it. After the graft is all completed I start by spraying the soil, the root stock and scion; then the inside of the jar. By doing this I have had no mold problem except on a very few grafts where I got an excess amount of exudation from the root stock; and this almost always happens when you have to use a root stock that is too wet.

## **Protecting Grafts from Rain**

If you do your grafting out of doors, as I do, there is another very important factor to prepare for — rainy weather. Since keeping one's grafts protected by a convention roof subjects them to excess shade, I put a temporary sloping shelter in one corner of my lath house. This is just a light weight frame covered with transparent plastic. In this way there is little chance of getting the grafts too wet. You do have to use care and not let them dry out completely. If this happens chances are the scion and root stock are a complete loss. In other words, try to plan so as to protect your grafts from getting real wet, but don't let them dry out. All of the above presupposes that you are grafting on root stock that is damp, not wet.

# THE TEMPLE CITY STORY

By Mrs. Dorothy H. MacIntosh

Publicity Chairman, Temple City Camellia Society

Temple City's annual Camellia Festival and parade is an ever-growing tribute to camellias and to a city's faith and pride in its youth as well.

In 1945 Mrs. Dan Crowley, President of the Woman's Club, originated the idea that the slogan "Temple City, Home of Camellias" should be put to work; not only to beautify the town but also to inspire entire families to participate in the affairs of the community.

It was in recognition of the significance of family life to its residents that the Camellia Festival was founded. The original Festival Parade started with a tiny Queen — 8 months old Sharon Ray Pearson — riding in an open car down Las Tunas Blvd. while a handful of Camp Fire Girls gave camellia blossoms to pedestrians.

In 1949 the Temple City Chamber of Commerce asked the newly formed Temple City Camellia Society to give a show in conjunction with the Camellia Festival and Parade. With only ten days to get ready and with a very small membership, the task of giving a show seemed almost insurmountable. Yet, all members worked and recruited helpers as well as financial backers for the show. This first show, housed in a tent on a corner lot at Baldwin and Las Tunas Avenues in Temple City, lasted three days and was a financial success.

The Temple City Camellia Show this year promises to be an even greater success and will be held on February 18th and 19th, 1961 at the Temple City Woman's Club, 5954 Kauffman Ave., Temple City.

All amateurs are invited to enter even one blossom. You may be the winner of one of the awards.

Today, the Temple City Camellia Show and Festival Parade has grown until it is considered a must for

flower lovers.

The Festival Parade, which has been viewed on television and which has attracted national recognition, is held the last Saturday of February each year and is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The prime purpose of the parade is to encourage every youngster in the community to belong to one of the recognized youth organizations. The child, in order to be eligible to participate in the parade, must belong to one of these recognized youth groups.

A royal court of six happy First Graders reign over the festivities. The royal court is chosen from this age group of children in order to acquaint them with youth activities.

Each year the parade has grown in size and significance. This year at least fifty floats built and decorated by the children, as well as merchants' windows, will be beautifully decorated with camellias and carried out in this year's theme "All Our Fifty States." There is such deep civic pride in the Festival that no commercial float is allowed in the parade and business houses close during this event in order that everyone may enjoy this outstanding community achievement.

Community minded persons, Service and Civic Organizations are assigned specific duties to assure efficient operation of the many facets of the festival. The whole community goes all out for the benefit of its children.

All of this started sixteen years ago when a group of civic minded individuals recognized the community's major roll — that of preserving a family-centered community and of developing in children desirable attitudes, fine appreciation, and accept-

*(Continued on page 31)*



# FLOWER ARRANGING - - A SATISFYING FORM OF SELF EXPRESSION!

By Edna Schoof

*"From where to where? Who Knows?  
But as you pass, pause where a flower grows.  
And with form, color, texture, scent  
Deepen your souls content!"*

This anonymous couplet was brought to me recently by one of the pupils in a flower arranging class I was teaching, and it expresses so completely the thought that I try to emphasize in my classes that I thought I would like to share it with the readers of this short article on Flower Arranging.

Of course, right now, with our National Camellia Convention almost upon us, all of us in the Southern California Camellia Societies are hoping for a good display at the Flower Arrangement section of the Flower Show at Disneyland. And I am sure we will have it, as there is an extremely active group of teachers, lecturers and talented amateurs who will be on hand to share with all their original designs and ideas — all, of course, using our fine camellias.

It has been a wonderful experience for me over the last fifteen years to watch a new and different approach to flower arranging being developed here in our Southwest. About that long ago a group of devotees of what was, at that time, little more than a hobby, began using the same approach to Flower Arranging that an artist uses when he starts a picture. Instead of an artist's inanimate canvas, paints and brushes, however, they had at their disposal the infinite variety of plant and floral materials that Southern California provides in such quantity. They began by discarding the old stylized type of arrangements such as a triangle, crescent, circle and the outmoded "Hogarth" curve. With the same dedication to truth that an artist has for his art, they too went to the Art Principles for guidance and

threw out the window all the rules and regulations that had formerly governed the "building" of a Flower Arrangement. These six Art Principles have since become a way of life to all of us who have had the joy and satisfaction of following in the footsteps of those pioneers in this Art expression. There was another approach that is directly traceable to one or two of those fine teachers: that is, the using of all foliage and flowers in the Way They Grow! By this I mean, using a branch or flower the way it has grown on the bush, and placing it in our arrangement in a natural manner instead of distorting it out of all resemblance to nature.

All the foregoing remarks lead directly to the point I am going to make: use your camellias in a natural way! First: how do camellias grow? Why upright, and on bushes if it is a japonica. And they have nice long stems in many cases too. Second: the sasanquas are the exception to the rule with their lovely curving stems and flowing branches. These we use primarily for their beautiful lines, dotted with just opening buds showing color. They will last several days if you pick them like this. But who of you has ever seen a Queenly Camellia floating (that is, naturally) in a pond? So please, please don't just head them and float them in a platter of water that will soak and rot their exquisite petals! All right, I know that the head of the house is usually the camellia grower and exhibitor. But surely not ALL of his blooms are prize winners and he certainly should be able to spare you a few of the



lesser, in size and quality, and let you pick them with at least SOME stem. Better still, plant some of the wonderful new varieties that are being developed for the Flower Arranging side of the family. The under 3" type for instance and the delicious miniatures. Who could want anything more lovely than one or two 'Fir Cone' flowers with their small leaves used with an interesting piece of wood or a lovely rock?

Right here, let me give you a tip about the picking of your camellias for their use in arrangements. When I know I am going to teach a class or give a program using camellias as the featured flower, I see to it that my many camellia plants are thoroughly watered at least 48 hours before I need to pick them. They will last at least two or more days than if picked when the plants are dry. Then I see that the foliage is sparkling clean and that the picked material has been thoroughly water soaked before I start designing an arrangement. I use no prepared cleaning solution on camellias (or on any other foliage materials for that matter). I

wipe each leaf clean and then polish it gently with a tissue. This leaves the plant clean and the pores open and able to breathe, instead of all filled with cream or some other prepared mixture.

Then, with your materials picked as far as the camellias are concerned, combine them as you work out your arrangement with compatible foliage and flowers. Even in a "Specialty Show" where one particular flower is to be featured it is, of course, permissible and necessary to use other things to work out an original approach to a specific arrangement classification. If I had the space I could give you a list as long as my arm of foliage and flowers that are most happy to be used with camellias, but as time and space will permit of only a few basic ones, let me list a few as follows: Ternstroemia Japonica — a close relative of the camellia that will last, cut, for a month. Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina domestica). Pearl Bush (Convolvulus cneorum) with its silvery slender pointed leaves that act as such nice transitional

*(Continued on page 28)*

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# OBJECTIVE — THE PERFECT CAMELLIA

David L. Feathers  
Lafayette, California

The title of this article properly describes what a number of camellia breeders throughout the world are working toward at this particular time. It is a goal that probably never will be reached but the conscientious person cannot strive for anything less. Being a member of this ambitious group and dedicated to the concept that our strongest motive should be improvement, proceeding through orderly methods, rather than the pursuit of novelty, perhaps I should begin by giving my views as to the specifications for such a camellia. This will at least involve some discussion of what I was asked to write about — my own work in pursuit of a better camellia.

It has been said that experience is the best teacher; also, that the key to the future lies in a thorough knowledge of the past. Taking our cue from this, perhaps the secret of "the perfect camellia" really lies in a study of the long-term popular camellias. What have been the particular attributes of those varieties that have survived the rigorous test of time? An answer to that question necessitates the enumeration and analysis of at least a representative group of the more outstanding and popular "old-timers". To name some of the more prominent that are still with us, we have:

ALBA PLENA  
ADOLPHE AUDUSSON  
DAIKAGURA  
ELEGANS  
HERME (Hikaru-Genji)  
KUMASAKA  
LADY CLARE  
MAGNOLIAEFLORA  
MATHOTIANA  
PINK PERFECTION  
VILLE DE NANTES

The most complete analysis I know

of regarding these camellias is their national average rating as reported in the A. C. S. 1960 *Yearbook*, which is given for the first ten of the above camellias (excluding 'Ville de Nantes'). An average of the ratings of these ten perennially popular camellias sub-divided according to the natural point groupings is as follows:

PLANT:  
81.2% (in the lower bracket of "Superior")

FLOWER:  
85.4% (in the median bracket of "Superior")

FLOWERING HABIT:  
83.7% (in the median bracket of "Superior")

DEMERITS:  
-2.1% (well below the danger point of 4%)

NET RATING:  
81.3% (overall rating equals the lower bracket of "Superior")

What this all adds up to, then, is a consistently high rating in all departments, including better-than-average freedom from faults. (Of course, the "perfect camellia" would have scored 100%-100%-100%, 0 demerits, and a net rating of 100%).

Now, then, how do we go about eliminating the discounts from 100% which all of the above camellias have been subject to in some degree? Well, let us begin with the Plant. To get a perfect score, it must first lack nothing in the way of Vigor — meaning not rapidity of growth but good health characteristics and disease resistance. How do we get Vigor? By breeding with healthy, sturdy parents, just as is done in the case of live stock or anything else. Next we have Growth Habit. Here, again, we must look to pedigree. In my own case, numerous efforts at plant breeding

have involved the use of the japonica LADY VANSITTART RED, which has just about all the fine attributes of Plant characteristics that one could wish for — slow, sturdy growth, good roots, a beautiful, naturally-compact growth habit and above-average foliage. In addition, this variety's unique twisted-tip leaf constitutes a valuable tracer element that seems to show up almost continuously in the progeny. This camellia is also almost entirely free from diseases and, additionally, has better than average cold resistance. All this adds up to a strong recommendation insofar as the Plant is concerned.

The next category to consider is Flowering Habit, where most of the demerits occur in a camellia — bull-nosing, dropping buds, etc. No trouble here. As to Bloom Duration, with LADY VANSITTART the blooming season is about average in length but the individual flower life is shorter than the average. What one would seek here would be improvement through combining with a better flower which lasts much longer on the bush. There are many mates that would fill the bill but the Reticulata readily suggests itself. (Thus we are now in the second generation of this hybrid combination). Insofar as Garden Effect is concerned, this is a weak point with the Reticulatas but an unusually strong point with LADY VANSITTART, thus another good reason for trying this cross.

We come now to the all-important category — the Flower. Here is where we run into real difficulty. Almost nothing is known of what the result is likely to be from crossing a semi-double red of conventional form with a large, rabbit-eared semi-double red (CRIMSON ROSE). Actually, almost all the seedlings from this cross have had flowers that are distinctly retrograde. However, this merely means the loss of time involved in one generation (three years) because all the sought-after qualities are inherent and must assert themselves in the second and succeeding generations. Because LADY VANSITTART RED originated from a camellia having a naturally-variegated flower, it is almost certain that some of the "grandchildren" will have striated blooms, although most are likely to be reds of different shades. It will probably be another year before any of the second-generation hybrids from this group bloom. Meanwhile, indications are that we have at least accomplished this much:

- 1) greatly improved foliage, larger, thicker and glossier
- 2) stronger growth, with a magnificent root system
- 3) the compactness has been largely retained
- 4) the iridescence, or "frosty" look of the reticulata petals has been preserved and the petals are thicker

*(Continued on page 27)*

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# WHY THE HYBRID CAMELLIA

By Vernon R. James\*

Aptos, California

If one is perfectly content with the traditional camellias, which include the long list of wonderful japonica varieties, the many sasanquas, and the spectacular reticulatas, he may ask the question: "Why the hybrid Camellia?" While admiring the breathtaking splendor of the many varieties of blooms displayed at any Camellia Show, we have the feeling that this is the acme, that nothing could be added to this display to make it more desirable, more beautiful. Then an Englishman, in developing a camellia which would perform better in the cool climate of the British Isles, destroys that state of contentment, and proves that desires are limited by what one knows. It takes something new to fire our imaginations, and the introduction of the J. C. Williams hybrid camellias fired many inquisitive and querious ones. They kindled a mental image of something more desirable in camellias. Nature in her never ending way opened up new garden paths to follow and to explore. These paths are being explored rapidly and enthusiastically. The spectacular display of FLIRTATION, DONATION, SPANKED BABY, ROBBIE, in full bloom; the soft, tender, mellow, pink shades of EDNA RALEY, SALUTATION, JIMMIE JAMES, BONNIE LASSIE; the exquisite forms and shadings of BONNIE MARIE, FLUTED ORCHID, CREATION; the pronounced shading of JULIE; the glowing red color of MONTEREY SUNSET, with its swirled petal center, fan the imagination until it bursts into a conflagration.

Just what has the hybrid camellia contributed toward the betterment of all the camellias? In this early stage of development, I believe it has surpassed our wildest hopes (in its con-

tribution of mass bloom, clean plant, flower texture, and "weather resistant" flowers). I do not mean to say that all hybrid varieties will have these desirable features, but as far as I know the Saluenensis x Japonica, the Saluenensis x Cuspidata, and the Saluenensis x Cuspidata (clone) x Japonica do carry these much desired features, and to a marked degree.

Many new shades of pink have been developed, and now new red shades are being added. It is not beyond a possibility, in fact I would say it is probable, that in the near future the purple and the true orchid shades will be available. The most promising gift of the hybrids are the new shades, and the esthetic beauty of the shaded colors teamed with the dewy texture of their petals. The warm glow of the reds, as found in the begonias, is another promise of the hybrid camellias. Orange red shades mean orange pigment, perhaps; and if so, will the yellow follow? Perhaps the yellow color can be brought into our lath houses via the back door easier than it can be enticed to enter through the front gate. Exciting thoughts such as these add large logs to the already blazing fire.

Not enough can be said about the texture of the petals found on most of the hybrids. There is an iridescence and frosted "glass-beaded" surface which tends to give the blossoms great depth and a living vibrancy all their own. It has the same appeal as apple blossoms in the spring, and is a very much desired contribution to the camellia world.

*\*Among his other accomplishments, Mr. James introduced 'Bonnie Marie', one of the two 1961 All-America camellia selections. See October 1960 CAMELLIA REVIEW. —Ed.*

Mass bloom, as mentioned before, is a gift of the hybrid camellia that should not be overlooked. This type of plant will not bloom over as long a period as other camellias, but the display of bloom is unsurpassed. Have you ever seen a FLIRTATION or a SYLVIA MAY in full flower? For sheer startling beauty they can be compared to our finest flowering trees. Many people drop into my home to ask what variety of flowering dogwood I have that is blooming in January. Their faces reflect amazement when I tell them it is a prized gift (from the late Doctor Walker Wells) — the Camellia hybrid SYLVIA MAY. FLIRTATION displays its mass of bloom wonderfully well in full hot sun, and this feature is a welcome addition to any garden.

Then there is foliage. Some of the new hybrid varieties (and this is a personal opinion) have leaves that are far more handsome than any other camellia group.

All these more desirable features are a promise toward better and more beautiful camellias. Considering the very short time that the western world has become interested in hybridizing camellias, I believe you will agree it is fantastic progress.

What can we look for or expect from the hybrid camellia of the future? Of course this is only a guess on my part, and perhaps a wish or dream, but I truly believe the future "most popular" group will be the

hybrid, not the japonica. Needless to say, competition will be very keen for a good many years.

Getting a hybrid blossom as large as any reticulata or as large as the largest japonica is only a matter of a little time. Add all the present desirable characteristics of the hybrid to this, and it leaves but one answer. Of course everyone does not believe that size is the all important feature, and I am inclined to believe that those who say so are among the minority.

As to flower forms, the japonicas do not leave much undone in this category, but new blossom forms are appearing among the hybrids. More will appear, such as rolled petals as found in mums, and the swirled circling petals that lay flat to the center of the flower, as already mentioned.

In striving for better and more beautiful camellias, I believe we should consider more fully the value of the plant itself, as an evergreen shrub. It does not matter how splendid the flower is; if the plant is of poor growth habits, as being woody, straggly, or sparse of foliage, this variety can only become second rate. The desirability is lessened and it cannot have the GENERAL APPEAL that is necessary for any variety of plant to reach the winner's circle as "one of the best." Pleasing foliage is important, but not to the degree that flower and habit are.

(Continued on page 30)

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# EARLY BLOOMS AND GIBBERELIC ACID

By Frank F. Reed

It is now obvious that properly timed applications of gibberellic acid can cause camellia plants to speed growth of treated floral buds and that larger blooms may result as compared to the flowers from untreated buds. Fully open blossoms of 'C. M. Wilson' that had been treated with gibberellin (salts of gibberellic acid) to open early, lasted 4 to 6 days on the plant as compared to 2 to 3 days for fully open untreated blooms (3). However, it should be noted that the treated blooms were open in November and December while the untreated blooms were open in January. There is no definite data regarding the lasting qualities of cut blossoms that have been treated with gibberellin to hasten opening.

There are several methods of applying gibberellins. North (2) has applied drops of 20,000 to 30,000 parts per million ( $\frac{2}{3}\%$ ) gibberellin directly to the outside of the flower buds as shown in Fig. 1B. He also applied single and repeated sprays of 50 to 7,500 parts per million gibberellin to the leaves, buds and branches and finally placed gibberellin directly into the vascular system of the plant.

The vascular system of a plant is a specialized system of cells through which water and dissolved nutrients flow to all parts of the plant. In general, water and dissolved substances

flow or are "translocated" upward in the xylem or woody part of the stem, while sugars and other organic substances are translocated downward in the phloem or bark. The vascular cambium (1) lies between the wood and the bark. It is a meristematic or dividing (from the Greek "meristo," meaning divisible) tissue, commonly in the form of a cylinder around the stem. It produces wood cells on the inside and bark cells on the outside. The cambium produces vascular tissue but does not contain vascular tissue.

North (3) has cut the stem bark near the shoot tip, Fig. 1C, to insure the entrance of a given quantity of gibberellin into the vascular system in the region of the floral bud. This writer has accomplished the same purpose by removing a growth (vegetative) bud adjacent to a floral bud and applying a drop of 10,000 parts per million (1%) aqueous gibberellin solution to the cup left by the growth bud removal, Fig. 1A. Since many persons hesitate to cut into the stem of a plant, this growth bud removal method may appeal to them. North assures me however, that his cut stem method has not been detrimental, providing the cuts are protected from drying or disease infection by covering them with plastic tape or grafting compound after the gibberellin has been absorbed.

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HITE'S NURSERY

MARION, S. C.

Local applications of gibberellin to some 70 camellias during the fall of 1960 has resulted in blooms appearing 2 to 8 weeks ahead of the normal untreated buds. This effect is exemplified by having 'Thos. D. Pitts', 'Forrest Green', 'Eleanor Hagood', and 'E. G. Waterhouse' blooming in December. The size and quality of the blooms have been pleasing to this writer and to the judges at monthly meetings of the Southern California and Temple City Camellia Societies.

No ill effects have been noted as yet on the camellias treated at a terminal when aqueous solutions of gibberellin were used. Apparently no vegetative bud below a treated terminal has shown any material growth. Alcohol solutions of gibberellic acid have damaged plants treated with them.

This writer announced (Jan. 1960 Review) that he was giving a 1959 Christmas present of 4 milligrams of Gibberellin to nine camellias with the idea of obtaining blooms in the summer of 1960. The alcohol solution was injected into the vascular system of a 24 inch branch of each, in a manner similar to that described by

North (2).

Noticeable damage was done to practically all of these camellias, the worst being to 'Sparkling Burgundy'. In several cases, a large number of leaves fell off and damage was done to some terminal vegetative buds. This damage was probably due to the alcohol in the solution. A few scrawny growth shoots appeared at some terminals. Early blooms came on only three camellias. 'Special Tribute' had a very nice 4½ inch bloom on July 20. There were creditable blooms on 'Captain Rawes' and 'Cinderella' on Labor Day. These latter blooms were made available for pollen from the yellow camellia *Tutcheria Spectabilis* which had bloomed in Descanso Gardens. The 'Cinderella' cross has probably taken. Thus, the noble Christmas experiment was not without some merit.

If you wish to treat an entire camellia plant or a large branch with Gibberellin, you are referred to North's article (2) and to the literature cited therein. You are cautioned against using an alcohol solution and advised that the vegetative buds will be accelerated as well as the bloom buds. This new growth may come when it will be adversely affected by weather.

Probably the easiest and most rewarding technic would be to knock off the vegetative bud at a terminal where there is a bloom bud ⅜ inch in diameter or larger. Put a drop of 10,000 or 20,000 ppm aqueous solution of gibberellic in the stump of the vegetative bud and await results. There is practically nothing to lose and an excellent chance of considerable bloom improvement. You can doubtless force the opening of some of those toughies which practically refuse to bloom.

### Mixing

For a 10,000 ppm aqueous solution, put 300 milligrams (mg) of crystal-  
(Continued on page 30)

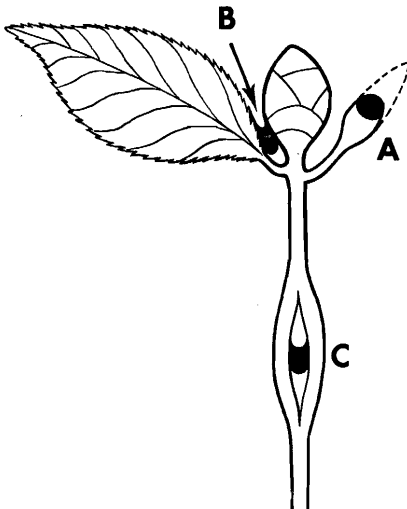


Fig. 1

Terminal application of gibberellic acid



# NEWS OF SOCIETIES

## **FRESNO (Central California)**

Last Spring the Paul Keanes, members of the Society, visited Australia and New Zealand, where they took many pictures of interest to camellia people. Members of the Society saw these pictures at the January meeting.

Winning blooms at the bloom table in December were as follows: Japonicas over 4 inches, first 'Daikagura', second 'High Hat'. Japonicas under 4 inches, first 'Alba Plena', second 'Debutante'. Winning sasanqua was 'Hinode-Gumo', with 'Mine-No-Yuki' ('White Doves') second.

## **POMONA**

The 14th Annual Show will be held at the usual place, California Bank, 321 East Holt Ave., Pomona, on February 4 and 5. The theme will be "Holiday in Japan." Kyle H. Bottoms is Show Chairman, with Mack Dinwiddie handling publicity and C. D. Cothran in charge of placement and nomenclature. Registration and placement of blooms will be between 7 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. Judging will start at 10:30 A.M. and will be concluded at 12:30. Lunch will be available for exhibitors, judges and guests at Jade Palace, 4620 Holt Ave., but reservations should be made in advance. The Show will be open to the public without charge on Saturday, the 4th, from 2 P.M. until 9 P.M. and on Sunday from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M.

The Pomona Society has advanced its show date this year because of conflicts in previous show date schedules. It invites members of all Southern California societies to participate in the 1961 show, particularly since the date is somewhat early on the basis of normal blooming dates in the Pomona area.

## **SAN DIEGO**

Harvey Short was speaker at the January 13th meeting. Having been an active member of the San Diego Society for several years, in fact, his early introductions came into being during these years, the meeting was well attended and interesting. People from the Los Angeles area who attend the San Diego meetings report that in some manner this society obtains a spirit of friendliness at its meetings that other societies could well strive for.

The annual Show will be held at the usual Balboa Park location on February 11th and 12th. Ferris Jones will be Show Chairman.

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY**

Dr. Leland and Mrs. Chow of Bakersfield will present the program at the February meeting on the 14th. Mrs. Chow will read from a book published in Chinese on reticulatas. This will be a dissertation on how to raise reticulatas by the people who originated them, the Chinese. If the number of blue ribbons that Leland and Mrs. Chow have won at camellia shows is indicative of camellia knowledge (and people who know say it is), the February meeting will be both interesting and instructive to all who attend.



# JOHN ROBINSON TALKS ABOUT MINIATURES AT DECEMBER SCCS MEETING

By Harold E. Dryden

John Robinson, former President of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, told the people who attended the SCCS meeting on December 13th that he became interested in miniatures because the camellias he was growing for size did not size up, and if he was going to grow small blooms he wanted them to be small in a way that would make points for him. So around the middle of the 1950's he started to look for the small varieties that we now call miniatures. Actually, he was not that kind of a camellia grower. But regardless of the reason, he set out to acquire a collection of miniatures, before others got their steam up. He won hardware with his miniatures at the 1959 Descanso Gardens show and since that date he has been looked to as the dean of the miniature collectors in Southern California.

The word "miniature" as descriptive of a class of camellias was first used in the Southern California Camellia Society Nomenclature Book in the 1958 edition, which listed them as being under 2". Prior to that issue, there was a "small" class defined as those under 2", followed by a medium class 2" to 3". The 1960 Nomenclature Book defines a miniature as a bloom under 2 1/2" in diameter and a small one as 2 1/2" to 3". This definition is not precise when applied to a variety since a number of the miniature varieties will sometimes produce flowers over the 2 1/2" limit. The miniature class at the Southern California Camellia Council shows will be defined as: "A single specimen of japonica of a variety at least 60% of the blooms of which are less than 2 1/2" in diameter when grown normally. No specimen will be accepted which cannot be passed through a 2 1/2" ring."

There are 36 miniature varieties

listed in the 1960 Nomenclature Book. Robinson said that there are probably 60 or 70 others around that have not been registered, many of them standing the test of blooming to make sure they are worthy of being registered. He emphasized how important it is that this be done, otherwise in the desire to build up the number of miniatures on the market, it can be flooded with second-rate blooms. Some people have suggested five years as the minimum blooming time to prove in the good ones, but Robinson believes some varieties will not take that long.

The 1957 Descanso Gardens show was the first to have a miniatures class. The number of entries has increased every year and there was a good group of entries at the 1960 shows. He predicts that the number of entries in the 1961 shows will be four or five times the number entered in the 1960 shows.

The first three varieties available to us in Southern California were 'Tinsey', 'Hishi-Karaito', and 'Kuro-Tsubaki', which were seedlings from Japan. Bill Wylam of Pasadena and Lucian Atherton of San Diego showed an early interest in the miniatures and Vern McCaskill was the first in Southern California to introduce new varieties commercially. Now both commercial and amateur growers are showing interest, which argues well for the future.

Robinson named the following varieties of miniatures as the ones he would consider if he were to start to build a collection of miniatures.

## FORMAL

White — 'Kitty'  
'Little Man'

*(Continued on page 29)*

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## JANUARY 1961 MEETING

SCCS brought to the January 1961 meeting the principle of the New England town meeting: let the public participate in arriving at the answer. It did just that by voting, in "secret ballot," what everybody individually thought was the best flower on the table. Voting was in four categories: japonicas over 4 inches, japonicas under 4 inches, hybrids and miniatures. Preliminary screening was done by judges selected from the audience, most of whom are not accredited for show judging. Eight judges chose what they thought were the best japonicas over 4 inches and under 4 inches. (That is, the best that were left after those who got there first had made their selections.) Two other judges chose their two best in the hybrids and miniatures groups. The blooms were placed on a table in front of the audience and all the judges made speeches in praise of their own selections. During intermission everybody voted his favorites by dropping metal slugs into jars which were identified with the respective blooms.

Japonicas over 4 inches that were selected in the preliminary screening were 'Mrs. Freeman Weiss', 'Reg Ragland', 'Claudia Phelps', 'Reg Ragland-Var.', 'Frosty Morn', 'Tomorrow', 'Kramer's Supreme', and 'Coronation'. Voting gave first place to 'Coronation', second to 'Tomorrow', third to 'Reg Ragland', fourth to 'Frosty Morn', and fifth to 'Mrs. Freeman Weiss'.

Japonicas under 4 inches that were selected in the preliminary screening were as follows: 'Margaret Ratcliffe', 'Sweetheart', 'Iwani', 'Debutante', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Bleichroeder Pink', 'Lallarook', and 'High Hat'. The audience gave first place to 'Sweetheart', second to 'Debutante', third to 'Lallarook', fourth to 'Dr. Tinsley' and fifth

to 'Bleichroeder Pink'.

Choices among the hybrids and miniatures were limited because blooming was just getting under way. Hybrid selections in the screening were 'Citation' and 'Robbbie'. 'Citation' won the vote. Choices in the miniatures group were 'Tinsey', 'Florence Daniell', 'Fircone', and 'Wilamina'. First place went to 'Wilamina', second to 'Florence Daniell' and third to 'Fircone'.

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### Bakersfield Society In Bankruptcy—Almost

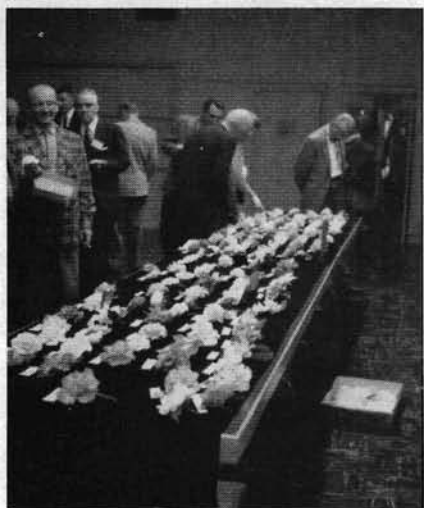
CAMELLIA REVIEW took preliminary steps in the January 1960 issue to put the Bakersfield (Kern County) Camellia Society in jeopardy of bankruptcy by stating (page 17) "Bakersfield has issued a special invitation this year to Southern California Camellia Society and American Camellia Society members who attend their show, to be their guests at a noon luncheon." The editor used license in interpreting the word "visitor," overlooking the old California concept that no one who lives in the state, no matter how far away from home, can be thought of as a visitor. So, to put the record straight, visitors (guests from out of California who are attending the A. C. S. Convention) can leave their wallets home insofar as lunch is concerned. The home folk, however, should take their wallets along if they want to participate in the "good old camellia get together" at the Bakersfield Inn.

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**Camellia Wonderland**

**Disneyland Hotel**

**February 25-26, 1961**



Upper, one of the tables of blooms.

Center, the voting "booth." Metal slugs were dropped into the jars.

Lower, Caryll Pitkin holding his blue ribbon 'Coronation'. Frank Storment, program chairman, looks on.



SCIONS  
OF THE



TIMES

MERLE  
GISH

### 'Lady Macon'

A very large vivid pink which was first known as #459 has been named and released by Wheeler's Central Georgia Nurseries of Macon, Georgia. Mr. Carl Wheeler feels it is their best seedling since 'R. L. Wheeler'. (Note: 'R. L. Wheeler' has the distinction of being the first American variety to be recognized by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, England and to be given the Award of Merit.) Reports more than back up the sentiment of Mr. Wheeler for those who have seen flowers claim this introduction will be hard to beat.

In searching for a name it was decided to place an advertisement in the Journal of the American Camellia Society offering a two year budded plant of this unreleased seedling for a name worthy of this fine flower. Mr. Wheeler received over six hundred replies from all over the United States and three entries from Foreign Countries. The name 'Lady Macon' was selected and this entry was submitted by Mrs. M. D. Hodges of Milledzeville, Georgia.

'Lady Macon' reportedly will be a very large flower with bloom size from four to seven inches for it seems to mushroom with a little help. Flower form will vary from incomplete semi-double to peony. The rich, vivid pink petals are very long. Plant does not have the tendency to over bud and has medium to dark green longish leaves. Listed as a midseason bloomer it usually flowers out of doors in

February or March.

### 'Disneyland'

With the American Camellia Society holding their 1961 Meeting on the West Coast and, especially since the session will be held in the Disneyland Hotel, it was decided and probably only fitting and proper that they name a camellia honoring this famous and world renowned show place Disneyland.

A seedling selected from the fine group of unreleased camellias of Nuccio's Nurseries was decided on for the flower to be known as 'Disneyland'.

A rather full, deep pink, semi-double that will measure up to 6" in diameter, 'Disneyland' is a different and most unusual flower in that the center is full of small inner petals which are streaked with white. It is the size of blossom and the flashing on the inner petals that make this a real showy flower.

### 'Red Button'

Always on the lookout for good and unusual miniature camellias which may be used both as a corsage flower and a bit of floral or live material in mother's arrangements. A chance miniature seedling first originating with Mr. John Andrey but now being propagated by Mr. Alpha Hartman of Hartman's Nursery in San Fernando, California has been registered and is now available under the variety name of 'Red Button'.

This is one of the best new miniature camellias we have seen. A very dark red, well formed anemone flower with tight petaloid center. Usually 1½" and not more than 2" in diameter with a flower depth of ¾ of an inch. Foliage is average and not too large with plant being an upright grower. Flowers are midseason.

So often we find miniature camellias that will and can outgrow their size class we identify with the miniature while others do not perform too consistently either in form or texture and are often inclined to be a little malformed as to shape or design. We feel 'Red Button' has all those desired qualities of size, form and good keeping qualities, especially if you like little red camellias.

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## GIRL SCOUT GARDEN TOURS

Do you peer over garden walls and peek around the fences? If you do, here is your opportunity for a close look at some of those gorgeous gardens that you have longed to see.

The Pasadena Area Girl Scouts are having their Garden Tours again this year. There will be three different tours including fifteen gardens. On February 25 and 26, La Canada and Altadena gardens will be featured. On March 18 and 19, and on April 15 and 16 San Marino and Pasadena gardens will share the spotlight. There will be gardens of all types and sizes.

One feature of these tours is that unusual plant materials are all labeled so that you can reproduce an area that finds your fancy.

All of these tours are included in the price of a ticket — \$1.00 per person. Not only do you see these lovely places but you also contribute to an excellent cause and help the Girl Scout camping program. Tickets are available from Betty Robinson, SY 0-1756 or from the Girl Scout office, SY 5-4271.

## OBJECTIVE (Continued)

- 5) the color has been consistently red in the first generation
- 6) only one seedling had a flower of unusual form — chrysanthemum-like

Another series, involving MRS. BERTHA HARMS x CRIMSON ROBE, has yielded some 25 seedlings, about 8 of which will have bloomed by the end of this season. Some are going to be white. The only one that bloomed last year had a large semi-double bloom of orange-red, very flat, with unusual stamen formation, on a rangy plant with large foliage. This was an out-and-out effort for size and a less rangy plant, leaning heavily on the Mendelian law of genetics in the hope that the influence of the grandparents, LADY CLARE and LOTUS, and the parents of CRIMSON ROBE, whatever they may be, would come to bear upon the offspring, which would then have a two-generation background of massive size in both flower and foliage.

A great many other and perhaps more unlikely interspecific combinations have been tried, with all indication of success, including: *C. saluenensis* x APPLE BLOSSOM, *C. saluenensis* x *C. hongkongensis*, both *C. reticulata* CRIMSON ROBE and BUDDHA x *C. fraterna*, *C. saluenensis* x BERENICE BODDY, *C. sasanqua* x *C. reticulata*, *C. oleifera* x *C. reticulata* and many others including, of course, *C. granthamiana*.

This is but a peek into our camellia breeding efforts and, while we certainly entertain no hopes of "the perfect camellia", at least the foregoing may suggest a more or less systematic breeding program and a hint of the general lines we believe should be followed.

## FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

(Continued)

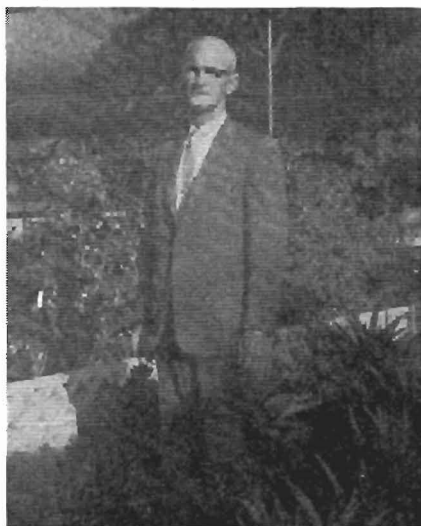
material. Corokia cotoneaster with its black stems, tiny silver and grey leaves and lovely curving branches is fine to use with sasanquas. Myrsine Africana or African Box with red stem and small neat bright green leaves. Then if you have only one or two short stemmed camellias to work with, get your basic "design" line with our wonderful evergreens such as pine, native cedar, yew, deodar or juniper. Add a small amount of transitional materials and you have it made! As for other flower to use, any of our florabunda roses adapt themselves nicely to the camellia as do the early blooming members of the narcissus family, Saxifrage (Bergenia), tulbaghia fragrans (the fragrant garlic) and many others.

Camellias lend themselves to such an infinite variety of Flower Show Classifications, too. The very best of our Southern California Arrangement Shows have simplified their classifications so successfully that they are both a challenge to an experienced arranger and a decided help to the beginner. The simpler the classification, the more chance there is to use originality, self-expression and a daring approach! Take a chance! The winner will be the one whose designer took a chance and tried something on her own! Remember, the classification that tells you exactly what to use and

how to use it leaves little in the way of an inspirational approach.

So start now and try out your ideas so that by the time the Show at Disneyland is ready to go on you will be all ready for it with your Camellia Arrangements. The very best of designing to you!

Even if you don't want to win a \$50 plant of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', you can pay your own admission to the "Camellia Wonderland" show at Disneyland, and have a free chance on the Plymouth, by selling a book of ten tickets. Call Bill Goertz on AT. 2-5665 or write him at 1835 Carlisle Dr., San Marino, Calif.



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Chmn., A.C.S. Meeting

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**AVAILABLE NOW!**

Silver Anniversary, Cara Mia, Dazzler, Ballet Dancer, Magic Moments and  
1961 All-America Winners, King's Ransom and Bonnie Marie.

**NUCCIO'S  
NURSERIES**

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Altadena, Calif.  
SY. 4-3383

**JOHN ROBINSON** (Continued)

- Pink — 'Wilamina'
- 'Sam Barranco'
- Red — 'Sugar Babe'
- Var. — 'Dryade'
- SEMI-DOUBLE
- White — 'Frances'
- Pink — 'Angel's Blush'
- 'Allison Leigh Woodroof'
- Red — 'Kuro-Tsubaki'
- Var. — 'Fir Cone'
- ANEMONE
- White — 'White Buttons'
- Pink — 'Florence Daniell'
- Red — 'Red Buttons'
- 'Jingle Bells'
- Var. — 'Tinsie'
- 'Johnny's Folly'
- PEONY
- White — 'Ginger'
- 'Powder Puff'
- Pink — 'Cameo Gem'
- Red — 'Kimberly Jr.'
- Var. — 'Little Bit'

Robinson concluded with a plea to those who after waiting many years for their seedlings to bloom only got a "little stinker" not to chop off its head but to save it and maybe it would be a "big winner" some day. He also said he would appreciate hearing about any new varieties anyone knows of.

Have you paid your 1961 SCCS dues? They are due now. Write your check now and send it to the secretary.

**SOME OBJECTIVES** (Continued)

Thus a foundation is highly desirable.

The ACS is a non-profit organization devoted to the enjoyment of camellias; it is primarily a hobby organization. The \$6 annual membership fee now barely covers the cost of the publications and other services.

With the exception of the full time Executive Secretary and clerical assistants, the officers and directors serve without salary or expenses; in fact, they go to considerable personal expense to serve.

Our Society is dedicated to the promotion of good fellowship among the fine people who are bound together by our favorite flower.

Camellias have so many interesting facets that a short article on ACS objectives, such as this, cannot possibly touch on all of them. New avenues are constantly opening.

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Tell your friends that Mildred Bryant Brooks will decorate the room at Disneyland Hotel in which the "Camellia Wonderland" show will be held. That alone will be worth the price of admission to those who know her and her work as a decorator. The camellia blooms, the flower arrangements and the chance to win the Plymouth will be plus values.

**SURINA'S CAMELLIA GARDENS**

*Growers of Distinctive Plants*

**JAPONICAS**

**SASANQUAS - - - - - RETICULATAS**

**SEEDLINGS FOR ROOT STOCK**

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**Large assortment of Azaleas**

**16054 Parthenia St.  
Sepulveda, Calif.**

**Wholesale - Retail  
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**3/4 miles west of Sepulveda Blvd., in the heart of the San Fernando Valley**

## WHY THE HYBRIDS (Continued)

Disease resistant plants, cold hardy plants, more flower production under adverse conditions, more sun tolerance, are some of the many worthwhile traits that should be demanded by the hybridists. Of these characteristics, the first two are the most important. The term "cold hardy" is a relative term and to arrive at a true cold hardy camellia for the northern States, it must be, by necessity, a deciduous plant. The beautiful *Stewartia Korean*a would contribute much to such a camellia. Disease resistant camellias would be most welcome to the South Atlantic States where "die back" is of major concern. To the West Coast, a flower that is resistant to petal blight would be welcomed with open arms.

The most amazing, and a very interesting, aspect of hybrid camellias is the tremendous interest shown by nurserymen and the general public. It follows that the rabid gardener as well as the camellia hobbist would naturally show interest, but the other groups have been a complete and pleasant surprise to me. People who could see nothing but rhododendrons and azaleas are fascinated by the camellia hybrids. Many nurserymen have shown more interest than the average Camellia Collector.

One feature of the hybrid camellia that one must become accustomed to, is the opening stages of the flower. It will come into full open form within a few days after the petals begin to unfurl, then continue to enlarge for the next four to six days. It will stay on the bush from about ten days to two weeks after reaching full size, and then will drop clean, still in good condition.

If it seems to the reader that I am discussing my own hybrid varieties more than others, it is true. I have not had the time or opportunity to visit others who are working on hybrid camellias. A great wish of mine

is that I might be able to do so.

What hybridizing I have done, and am doing, is a great adventure. It is an adventure in the appreciation of nature, it is an adventure of wonderment and of reverence to be able to see, a little closer, and just a little bit clearer, the Guiding Hand of God at work.

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## EARLY BLOOMS (Continued)

line (powder) gibberellin into a fluid ounce of water. If you have a gram of the powder, you can pour it out on a paper and separate about one-third for 300 mg. Exactly one-third of a gram would give a 11,000 ppm solution. If you add approximately 15 drops of household ammonia the crystals will dissolve readily. North and I are definitely of the opinion that the solution can hold its strength for several weeks if kept in a household refrigerator. Some dissenters believe that it will lose its strength in a few days even though kept in a refrigerator.

## Equivalents

These equivalents will be useful especially if you desire to make up other concentrations of gibberellin.

1 ml (milliliter) water =

1 gram = 1000 mg water.

1 fluid oz. = 30 ml =

30,000 mg water.

10,000 parts per million (ppm)

gibberellic or 1% solution would require 300 mg gibberellin in 1 oz. water.

1 ml = 20 drops. Then 10,000 ppm gibberellic solution would have .5 mg gibberellin in each drop.

A "Five and Dime" eye dropper holds approximately 30 drops.

This would be 15 mg of gibberellin at 10,000 ppm.

I wish to acknowledge the valuable advice of North during my limited experiments and the extensive editorial help in this article. (You do not get an E for Effort unless you guess



the source of the 4-bit words used above).

### Literature Cited

1. Esau, K. Plant Anatomy. John Wiley and Sons. 1953.
2. North, C. P. Some Effects of Gibberellic Acid. The Camellia Review 21 (2) :3. 1959. Also 1959 ACS Yearbook.
3. North, C. P. Unpublished Information. 1960.

One SCSS member wrote as follows: "I have just waked up to the fact that I have not renewed my membership. I can not find any notice but do see that my membership card has expired and I just don't want that to happen. I am sending my check for the same amount that I sent last time so if not correct please let me know. I want to get back in good standing and quick." Are you in the same situation?

### TEMPLE CITY (Continued)

able patterns of behavior through desirable youth organizations.

Temple City is rightfully proud of its Camellia Society and its Festival Parade which has served to stimulate interest in youth activities which promote good citizenship and which has created an ever-increasing interest in camellia culture.

### To the Flower Arrangers

Antique inkwells, garden hats,  
Bean pots, shells, and china cats;  
Driftwood, baskets, old tin molds,  
Teapots, cups, a fan that folds,  
Jewel boxes, sconces, mugs,  
Sugar scoops, and old stone jugs,  
Pans, miniature sleighs, tin pails,  
They even use old brass scales.  
Their ingenuity amazes.  
How come they don't use flower  
vases?

*Shirley Nadine Harkins*

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN

# AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The American Camellia Society is a worldwide scientific, horticultural and hobby organization of more than 7000 members in 42 states and 15 foreign countries. The Society was founded as a non-profit organization in October 1945.

Among other benefits, membership entitles you to four issues of CAMELLIAS, the Journal of the American Camellia Society issued in January, March, September and November. Each issue of 36 to 40 pages of interesting articles, news and photographs, has a four-color reproduction of a new variety on the cover.

Each December members receive a handsome cloth bound Yearbook of some 300 pages, containing the latest information in culture, pest control, history, descriptions and new varieties. There are several full color plates of new varieties in addition to numerous photographs illustrating the articles. A roster of members is published in each Yearbook.

The American Camellia Society will welcome you to its program of mutual pleasure and interest.

Annual Members.....\$6.00

Sustaining Members.....\$12.00

## AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 465

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## Directory of Affiliated Societies

- Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield  
 President: Tom Stull; Secretary: Mrs. Frank B. Anderson, P.O. Box 183, Bakersfield.  
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month, October through April, at Cunningham Memorial Art Gallery, 1930 R St., Bakersfield.
- Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana  
 President: Ken Newerf; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa Ana.  
 Meetings held second Thursday of the month, October through April, in Spurgeon Memorial Room of New Santa Ana Public Library.
- Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno  
 President: Rey Merino; Secretary: Mrs. Karen Lee Aherns, 1144-E Saginaw Way, Fresno.  
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of each month, November through March, except March meeting which is held on 4th Wednesday, at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno.
- Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino  
 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona  
 President: Walter H. Harmsen; Secretary: Mrs. Kyle H. Bottom, 5913 Riverside Drive, Chino.  
 Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, at Claremont Women's Club, 345 W. 12th, Claremont.
- San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego  
 President: Clive Pillsbury; Secretary: Mrs. Ferris H. Jones, 4545 Dana Drive, La Mesa.  
 Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City  
 President: Peter P. Folino; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Glen Dr., Arcadia.  
 Meetings held 4th Monday of the month, October through April, at Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kaufman, Temple City.
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Inside back cover, \$40.00. Full page, \$35.00. Half page, \$20.00.  
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# IT'S TIME NOW

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## TO SECURE A NEW MEMBER FOR THE SOCIETY ANNUAL DUES \$6.00

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Dues for 1961 .....	\$ 6.00
"Camellia Culture" by Tourje .....	11.50
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Regular price .....	\$17.50
Special offer, both for .....	\$13.50

### A MEMBER OF S.C.C.S.

**ENJOYS** the Camellia Review (6 issues per year). The magazine that gives the serious and light side of camellias and camellia people all over the world; that is full of news of new varieties, new camellia products and new and proper methods of propagation and cultivation.

**RECEIVES** the latest revised 1960 Nomenclature Book; more than 100 pages of classified varieties. The standard reference for camelliaphiles everywhere.

**ATTENDS** the Society meetings monthly November through April if he lives in Southern California. If not, read reports of them in the Review.

Follow the easy way to Camellia loving and living

SEND YOUR CHECK FOR RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBER TO:

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Southern California Camellia Society  
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