

THE *Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Dorothy James'

*Courtesy James Rare Plant Nursery*

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*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.

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## **THE CAMELLIA REVIEW**

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## THE COVER FLOWER

### Hybrid 'Dorothy James'

One of the good new hybrids is 'Dorothy James', developed and propagated by James Rare Plant Nursery of Aptos, California. It is a cross of the hybrid 'Robbie' X C. japonica 'Dr. Tinsley'. It is a medium sized formal double that is white at the base and shades to pale flesh pink, with one-quarter inch rose band on the petals.

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

I could not help but think as I sat in last night's meeting of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Camellia Council how the approach to the management of camellia shows conflicts at times with the aims and actions of the camellia collector in the pursuit of his hobby. All members of the Board would call themselves camellia collectors. They seek new varieties and look forward to the first bloom on the plant of a variety they have not seen or of which they have only vague recollections. Ed Metcalf, for example, took me into his lath house after last night's meeting (it was after eleven o'clock) to see his first bloom of 'China Doll', which he had not seen prior to this year. While most collectors are happy to pass on a scion of a new variety, this graciousness is usually after he has established that variety in his own collection and thus is "first with the latest".

Most of the time of last night's meeting was devoted to the discussion and adoption of rules for the camellia show at Descanso Gardens on February 29-March 1. In the deliberations, these camellia growers for fun and competition had to subordinate their collector objectives to the aim of the Camellia Council to encourage participation in the show by people with a moderate number of plants and whose pleasure comes largely from the older varieties that constitute the majority of their collections. These older varieties have keener competition in the show and blue ribbons are less certain than with the newer varieties where only one or two blooms may be entered. So the Council directors took two steps toward equalizing competition.

They decided that while blue ribbons will be given in all varieties, provided, of course, that a bloom in a variety merits a first place ribbon, such blue ribbons will count toward Sweepstakes Award only when there are three or more blooms entered in a variety. Thus the grower of the newer varieties must take his pleasure largely in the joy of having the variety and of letting others see the new flower if he happens to have a good bloom at show time.

The Council also continued the limit on the number of entries that can be made in the Japonica Divisions — 60 in the specimen bloom class and 10 in the two multiple bloom classes (total, not each). This puts a competitive crimp on those with large collections. It means, of course, that they must and can be highly selective in their entries. But from a competitive standpoint it conflicts with the urge to add and add to their numbers of varieties. It does make it possible for people with fewer varieties to compete for Sweepstakes Award, and that was the aim of the Los Angeles Camellia Council in their deliberations as a group and not as separate individuals.

*Harold E. Duzick*

# TWO EXPERIMENTS IN MOVING LARGE IN THE GROUND CAMELLIAS

Frank B. Anderson  
Bakersfield, California

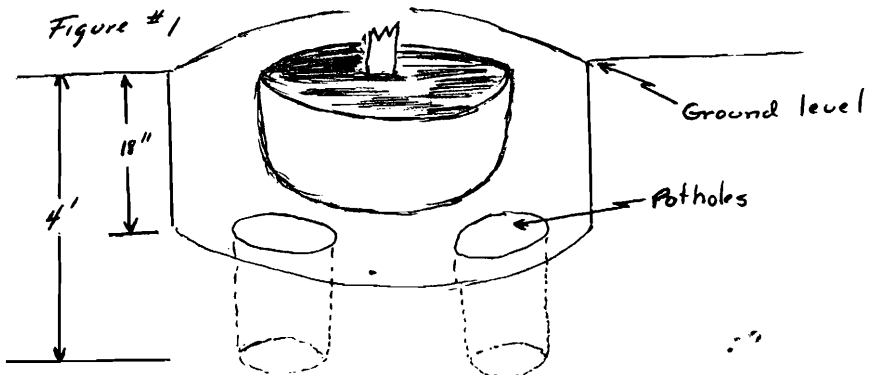
I think that all of us, one time or another, have wished that we could move large old camellia plants. Usually this situation arises when someone relocates his home. Quite frequently there are valuable in the ground plants twenty or more years in age which are too large, too old, and too well established to move. Moving one of these large old plants, so goes the opposition argument, would be a tremendous amount of work and detrimental, if not fatal, to the plant. I must confess that I am not in accord with this type of thinking. I am in favor of moving large valuable plants. However, I think I should qualify my argument. I do not believe that there is any plant that is too large or too old to move. In truth the problem of moving large old plants is not so much one of will the plant live or survive transplanting? Rather it is what special equipment will be needed to lift and haul the plant once it is freed from its present location. For the purpose of this article I shall deal with plants which are six to eight feet tall and whose main stem does not exceed three inches in diameter six inches from the ground. The

reason I wish to limit the size of the plants discussed in this article is that no special equipment is needed to dig or handle these plants once they are removed from the ground.

Over the last several years I have had the privilege of working with a number of people who were vitally interested in moving in the ground specimen plants. I would like to cite two situations which I encountered. Both of these situations were similar in most respects except that in the first situation the plants had to be transported a short distance to new locations. In the second situation, the plants had to be hauled about 120 miles. Before getting down to cases I would like to point out that by tradition the ideal time of year to move camellia plants is in the winter when the plant is in its most dormant state.

The first situation came in June 1962. Mrs. Diane Adams called me one night and said she had sold her home; she therefore needed help in moving her collection of plants, most of which were planted in the ground. Mr. George Priest and I went over to

*(Continued on next page)*



her home within a day or two to evaluate the possibilities. It was necessary to move the plants immediately; our deadline for moving was only one week. With a hot summer about to start we had to find a way to dig these plants and still preserve the root system. The only way this could be accomplished was to bare root these specimens. Limited time and manpower eliminated all other possibilities.

To remove a plant from the ground we dug a trench at the drip line about eighteen inches deep. In several locations in the bottom of the trench we dug pot holes about four feet deep. The purpose of these pot holes was to absorb the heavy material which was to be washed away from the root ball. In practice, if these pot holes are not dug the heavy material will settle around the lower roots of the plant and hold it securely in place. When the pot holes are dug the lower roots of the plant remain free, hence the plant can be dragged from the hole. (See figure #1 on page 3.)

All plants which were moved were placed in large containers immediately after digging. Our container mix was the U. C. soil mix composed mainly of equal proportions of rice hulls, peat moss and sand. This mix was poured into the containers dry because dry mix is easier to pack among roots. If the plants required staking, it was considered desirable to place the stake in the container before all the roots were covered. By so doing we avoided breaking any roots. Our reason once again was to avoid root damage. After the containers were filled with the dry mix they were loaded on a pickup truck and moved some ten city blocks to the new location, then set down and watered. The reason for the short delay in watering was that if the containers had been watered they would have been too heavy to move.

About twenty large plants were moved by this method. The results were 100% successful. These plants have gone through two hot summers now and have showed no damage. I would like to point out that temperatures which exceed 110° are not uncommon for Bakersfield in the months of July, August and September. If a moved plant can survive the month of August it can almost be considered in the bag. From this first experiment I drew the conclusion that if a large plant is removed from the ground by the described method it could be moved successfully even under adverse conditions.

The information gained from the first experiment is directly applicable to the second or current experiment in which I am attempting to move some three dozen large plants from Temple City to Bakersfield, about 120 miles. This situation arose as a result of Mr. Alton Parker's decision to relocate his home. There were many possibilities considered on how to move these plants; however, most ideas were considered impractical. As a result of thought and discussion between Al Parker and myself a method of bare root transportation was developed. The problem was mainly, how could one transport a large plant bare root and still keep it from de-



**Bare rooted plant was laid on a polyethylene sheet.**

hydrating? Basing our theory on the idea that one can transport scions in a plastic bag, it was reasoned that one might also transport whole camellia plants in a like manner. We therefore set about doing just that. To accomplish our ends we cut heavy weight black polyethylene sheets twelve feet long by ten feet wide. We used black so as to eliminate sunlight reaching the inside of the package once the plant had been wrapped. The removal of the plants from the ground was identical to the method described in the first situation. Once a plant was taken from the ground it was laid on a polyethylene sheet. The sheet was then tied around the trunk of the plant between the root ball and the first branches. Fir bark was then poured over the root ball and the plastic was tied securely about the root ball. The foliage of the plant was then drenched with water and the top of the plant was rolled up inside the plastic sheet. Care was taken to see that the whole package was as airtight and compact as possible. The packaged plant was then allowed to stand upright on its root ball in the shade so as to allow the excess water on the foliage to drain down onto the fir bark surrounding the roots of the

plant. When an automobile load of plants had been dug and packaged they were then loaded into the car. No lost time was allowed in the transportation of these plants. They were brought directly to Bakersfield non stop and replanted in containers immediately on arrival. I believe care should be taken to keep the packaged plants as cool as possible, hence on several occasions I found it desirable to utilize my automobile refrigeration in aiding this purpose. The container mix was identical to that used in the first experiment. However, this time the containers were set in place and partially filled at an earlier date. The mix at the bottom of the container was prewatered so as to settle it as completely as possible. After the plants were in, the containers were filled with the mix and thoroughly soaked with water. According to my records the first group of six plants arrived in Bakersfield on September 20, 1963. Shortly after this date both Bakersfield and Temple City were engulfed in an unseasonable heat wave of about a week's duration. The day time temperature in Temple City reached around 110° and in Bakersfield we escaped with a milder 107°. Needless

*(Continued on next page)*



**The author**



**Plants wrapped and ready to load**

to say, I somewhat feared for the welfare of this group of plants. However, they were placed in deep shade and were kept extra wet. Around the hottest part of the afternoon each day the foliage was sprinkled liberally. At the time of digging several of these plants had some soft new growth. A few of these branches were as much as six inches long. Daily inspections prior to sprinkling revealed that the new growth did not wilt even at the extreme temperatures mentioned.

Once one of these large plants is in place in its container it should be pruned. All superfluous inside branches were removed as well as were those branches which needed to be removed to improve the shape of the plant. No really severe pruning practices have proved to be necessary thus far. Fertilizer has not been used on any of these plants. It was not added to the planting mix nor was it applied to the plants by any other means during the growing season. I feel that perhaps this is a conservative approach; however, until it is otherwise demonstrated by experiment I believe it is far safer to eliminate any fertilizer for a period of one year. I have not found it necessary or desirable to use vitamin B or other root growth stimulants. Hence you might say that these plants have been moved under con-

ditions that leave the plant to its own resources. One of the plants, a highly variegated 'Daikagura' moved in the first experiment, has bloomed profusely this year. A high percentage of these flowers were show quality flowers. Using this one plant as an indicator, apparently no fertilizer is needed.

In this second experiment, 25 of the 36 plants have been moved to date. 19 of the plants which have been moved were taken from the ground in late October and November. I can see no difference in the health of the plants at present; however, one cannot draw any firm conclusions at this time. By the fall season of 1964 we shall be able to see some definite results. I hope that I can say at that time that it makes no difference what time of year you dig plants as long as the following conditions are met:

1. The plants to be moved are in excellent health.
2. Root systems have not extended themselves appreciably beyond the drip line of the plant.
3. Plants are removed from the ground by the method described.
4. Plants, once moved, are placed in deep shade for a period of one year and kept moist.
5. No fertilizer is used for a period of one year.

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# What to Do

by W. F. GOERTZ



This is "fun time" and the month when the results of what we have been working on will "Show" up — because this is also "Show Time". For those of you who have just recently started the Camellia hobby, if you are timid about entering your blooms in any or all of the shows coming up the next six weeks, *don't* be! You may not win sweepstakes the first time or two but *any one* can win Best of Show — it just takes one good flower. One very interesting activity, which affords a condensed course where you learn about camellia shows, is to volunteer for a job on the Show Committee.

— Start now, and with your pruning shears and a pocket full of wooden clothespins, survey your "crop" every day or so. Cut away interfering leaves or branches where they are superfluous and pin back the leaves of the swelling buds so that the bloom, as it opens, will be entirely free from touching anything. I have tried paper clips, bobby pins and other devices but there's nothing as effective as wooden clamp type clothespins.

If you have a good bloom ready a few days before the show, cut it with one or two leaves (preferably) and put it in a box on wet toweling or shredded paper, fog lightly, cover the box completely with a plastic bag and put it in a refrigerator. Never cut any blooms in the warm part of the day, because they tend to be soft and stay that way. If you have lights and don't mind getting up early, the choicest blooms usually are cut the morning

of the show. (For a good fogger, use an old Windex bottle.)

Good boxes for carrying blooms can be obtained at any print shop — (they purchase their paper stock in such boxes). Line the bottom and sides of the box with waterproof paper or aluminum foil, put in one to two inches of shredded white paper. Just before packing the blooms, thoroughly soak a piece of sheeting or paper toweling the size of the box and lay it on top of shredded paper. The blooms carefully laid on this, not too close together, then lightly fogged, should stay fresh for quite a while.

Be sure to keep all old blooms on the ground picked up at all times. Continue with your grafting this month. If you have any large plants in the ground with which you are not too happy, this is the time to saw them off and graft on some scions of 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Reg Ragland', 'White Nun' or any one of the real good proven varieties. In two or three years your plant will be almost back to original size with the variety of blooms you like best. Large plants are easy to graft. Cut them off 12" to 18" above the ground, according to how the main branches start spreading from the bottom. Plastic bags work fine on this large understock — be sure to tie on a couple of sticks to support the bag to prevent its resting on the scion. Pound a few stakes alongside to protect the graft for at least a year. (Don't forget to cover all the bare wood with rooting powder.)

See you at the shows.

# CAMELLIA GARDENS: THE GARDEN OF MILO AND AGGIE ROWELL

Charles E. Ahrens  
Fresno, California

Fresno, California is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo E. Rowell. This home of Milo and Aggie, as camellia people know them, is surrounded on all sides by the finest collection of botanical material to be found in the San Joaquin Valley. These gardens are filled with material common and rare, beautiful and exquisite. As you might suspect, Milo is primarily responsible for the gardens but not to overlook Aggie it must be said her contributions have been many and varied. While Milo's first interest is in camellias, his gardens are not made up primarily of them. His gardens have been the result not only of his inherent interest in horticulture but also the extensive travel of Milo and Aggie both in the United States and foreign countries, especially in the Far East and down under where they have visited camellia people of the world and principal gardens and benefitted therefrom. One of these gardens was the one where the present day Japanese constitution in part was developed and written, to a considerable extent by Milo, the dean of

camellia growers of the Central California Valley.

Approaching the Rowell home by the circular drive way, large flowering crabapple, magnolia and citrus trees and other large plants screen off parts of the garden, giving one the impression of entering a park. About the center of the drive an Oriental Garden invites you to enjoy its inner beauty. There are few words that can describe the peaceful feeling one receives standing on the oriental bridge, listening to the sound of water falling and watching the gold fish swimming lazily among the lily pads. Many kinds of plant materials complement this garden. Azaleas, trailing pine trees, maple trees, weeping cherry trees, dwarfed conifers and a blue Atlantic cedar (*Cedrus Atlantica glauca*) growing out over the water add their part. Your eyes drift from the Tea House at one end of the pool to the dwarfed and gnarled pine trees and the oriental bamboo torii gate at the other end. Black bamboo, cycads, ground covers, stone lanterns and other Oriental accessories make Milo



Rowell's Oriental Garden one of the few authentic ones on the West Coast.

Throughout the gardens are paths which are made of different materials. Some are made of adobe brick, some of red brick, and some of natural stone. These paths lead to different points of interest in the gardens. Milo is very interested in succulents and cacti, many of which he keeps in the glasshouse. Others, more hardy, are planted in a rock garden near the lath house.

Camellias are planted everywhere and yet they do not always stand out because they are used very well with other plant material. Large oak trees give filtered shade to hundreds of large camellias which are the older ones of Milo's collection, and to many smaller ones. Milo has more than 500 varieties of camellias and one of the better collections of hybrids and species. The camellias are complemented by other plant material surrounding them such as: Sapuim sebifern or Chinese tallow tree, ascanthus mollis or Grecian acanthus, Irish yew, Aucuba japonica or Gold Dust Aucuba, Grevillea nollii, azaleas, annuals, perennials, bulbs, all of which display many unusual and interesting foliage and color combinations.

It would be impossible in this

article to mention all of the species of plant material found in these gardens. There are many collections of material worthy of mention, however, because of the number of species and varieties present: Bonsai's, Oriental magnolias, Japanese peonies, and clematis. Many nurseries in the country have been the source of this very large collection of plants. To name a few: Toichi Domoto Nursery, Henderson's Experimental Gardens, and Nuccio's Nursery.

The camellia lath house shades most of the more recent camellias and species plus other favorites. Other facilities are a heated cold frame, a glasshouse, and a head house (covered work area). Milo has many hybrid seedlings (past), hybrid seed (present), and many (already this year) interspecifically hybridized flowers (future).

Some of the recent camellia introductions found under the lath house are: 'Gus Menard', 'Blush Sheffield Supreme', 'Leonard Messel', 'Wildfire', 'Carl Tourje', and 'Midnight'. Some of these plants look as though they were grafted on 10 year understock.

Milo has facilities which enable him to graft in any month of the year.

*(Continued on page 31)*



# VILLE DE NANTES WAS THE TOP WINNER DURING 1963 SEASON

Mansfield Latimer

*Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the Fall 1963 issue of CAROLINA CAMELLIAS, a magazine which is published for the members of the North and South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia Camellia Societies. Mansfield Latimer, the author, is Chairman of the Publications Committee of the magazine, was at one time its editor. He is State Director for the State of South Carolina of the American Camellia Society.*

In 1957 the sensational Tomorrow burst on the camellia scene and the beloved Ville de Nantes became an "also ran" when Tomorrow won 11 Best In Show awards to Villes 10. From then on it became a "nip and tuck" battle between these two varieties with Tomorrow having a slight edge. However Ville won the title in 1962 with a score of 11 to 9 and holds on to the title again this year by a score of 9 to 7. Ville is an all around champion winning 4 times under glass and 5 times in the open. Tomorrow's strong point is as an underglass flower where it won 6 times but only won once out doors.

## **New Contender**

Golf has its "big three" and the camellia world has had its big three in the Best Show arena. These have been Ville de Nantes, Tomorrow, and Giulio Nuccio. Now a new contender has taken over third place in a big way. Betty Sheffield Supreme now becomes number three in '63 with six wins. This new sport of an old variety is living up to the predictions that were made about it and now that it is more widely distributed we predict it will be here to stay as one of the top winners.

## **Fall By Wayside**

Several of the varieties that were top winners last year failed to make it this year. Tomorrow's Dawn, a new sport, had a sensational 8 wins last year but the best it could manage

this year was two wins. Carter's Sunburst, another new variety, made the top list last year but could manage only one win this year. Others falling by the wayside were the old favorites Donckelarii, Wildwood, Emmett Barnes, and Coral Pink Lotus.

Mathotiana Supreme, one of the old standbys returned to the top list after an absence of one year. Julia France, a new variety, which made the list in 1961 but failed to score last year also returned.

It is interesting to note that each year about the same number of varieties make the Top Winner list. There were 8 this year, 11 in 1962, 8 in both 1961 and 1960, 10 in 1959 and 9 in 1958. However, these were not always the same varieties. Only four of these have made the list every year. These four "super" varieties are Ville de Nantes, Tomorrow, Giulio Nuccio and Mrs. D. W. Davis. The others come and go or have their hour of glory for a year or two and then like an old soldier just "fade away."

Note:—For the purpose of this study solid and variegated forms of a variety are counted as one variety. Sports are counted as different varieties.

## **Two Time Winners**

This year varieties winning Best In Show two times were as follows: Sawada's Dream, Dr. Tinsley, Charlotte Bradford, Coral Pink Lotus, Don Mac, and Tomorrow's Dawn.

## **One Time Winners**

Varieties winning Best In Show once are as follows: Beau Harp, Susan Stone, Clarise Carleton Var, Florence Stratton, Kitty, Adolph Audusson Special, Pauline Winchester Var, Carter's Sunburst, Rosea Superba Var, Tiara Var, White Nun, R. L. Wheeler

Var, Francis McLanahan, Alison Leigh Woodroof, Eugene Bolen, Moonlight Sonata, Ballet Dancer, Tinsley Smith, Mrs. Hooper Connell, Willie Hite, Frosty Morn, Jessie Burgess, Joshua E. Youtz, Katherine Maryott, Dixie Knight Supreme, Claire Renee, Donckelarii, Flame, and Vulcan.

### 43 Varieties

In 1963 there were a total of 43 varieties winning Best In Show one or more times. This compares with a total of 38 in 1962, 54 in 1961 and 56 in 1960. The smaller number winning the past two years is due to the fact that the cold weather cut down on the number of shows held. In 1963 there were only 46 shows reporting as compared with 59 in 1962, 79 in 1961 and 76 in 1960.

### Hybrids

More and more interest is being shown in hybrids and more and more shows are providing special divisions for hybrids. Last year there were 16 hybrid winners and this year the figure has jumped to 25 with an increase in the number of hybrid varieties exhibited.

That old standby in the hybrid field, Donation, was again the top winner with a total of 8 wins. A new one, Leonard Messel, took second place with 4 wins and Brigadoon was third with 3 wins. Citation won twice and the following varieties chalked up one win each: Phyl Doak, Fluted Orchid, Pale Beauty, Royal Robe, Felice Harris, Waltz Time, Blue Danube, and Diamond Head.

## Temple City Camellia Society

The Society's next meeting will be held on Thursday evening, February 27th at 8:00 P.M. in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Mr. Fred A. Gilley, of the Ortho Division, California Chemical Company, will show two exceptionally fine films entitled "How to Grow Beautiful Camellias and Azaleas" and "Orchids of Hawaii". Following the films, Mr. Gilley will answer questions concerning the subject matter of his films.

All Camellia Society members and their friends are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

### Reticulata

Not all shows had a class for the Reticulata but in the shows that did Buddha edged out Crimson Robe, the big winner for several years, by a score of 7 to 6. Noble Pearl was third with 4 wins, Moutancha fourth with 3 wins and Prof Tsai next with 2 wins. Varieties winning once were Pagoda, Tali Queen, and Chang's Temple.

### Conclusion

It is interesting to note that the winners have been consistent in winning through the years with the top 8 varieties winning 46% or almost half of all the Best In Show awards in 1963. This is in line with their record from previous years and Ville de Nantes and Tomorrow continue to dominate the field with not a serious challenger in sight.

### TOP WINNING CAMELLIAS OF 1963

Variety	'63	'62	'61	'60	'59	'58	Total
Ville de Nantes	9	11	11	13	13	4	61
Tomorrow	7	9	13	18	21	7	75
Betty Sheffield Supreme	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
Guilio Nuccio	3	6	11	7	6	0	33
Mrs. D. W. Davis	3	3	9	4	5	5	29
Reg Ragland	3	4	2	2	3	4	18
Mathotiana Supreme	3	2	4	2	10	3	24
Julia France	3	0	3	0	0	0	6

# ODDS AND ENDS

Marjorie Washburne

Port Arthur, Texas

## Economy

A right-handed camellia grower is likely to accumulate an excess of gardening gloves for the left hand, while a left-handed grower will find that he has worn out a lot of gloves for the left hand with those for the right hand still in usable condition. A swap of left for right gloves can sometimes be arranged, but less complicated is the turning inside out of some of the good gloves. Thus a left-handed glove becomes one for the right hand, or vice versa, and the life of the gloves extended. The seams on the outside of the turned glove would not be desirable for a formal social function but are not objectionable in a pursuit such as gardening.

For the container grower of camellias, weight of the pots used becomes a problem. With the use of light-weight potting mixes, such as recommended by the University of California, some reduction in weight of container plants is achieved. Clay pots are notoriously heavy, while green painted cans, used extensively, are lighter in weight, but rust out within two to three years. Recently available are inexpensive plastic pots in both one and two gallon sizes, light in weight, and rust is no problem. They will last until the plastic breaks, either because of age or being handled carelessly when moved during cold weather. Another type of plastic container in one gallon size is available which can be obtained without cost. The top portion of a Clorox jug can be removed with a sharp knife and drainage holes made at the bottom, when it becomes an ideal container for a small camellia. The top portion makes a good funnel, in case you need a funnel. Containers made of Clorox jugs are a little too flexible, and should be handled with

both hands from the bottom when in use. Jugs can be secured cost-free from restaurants or laundries in any reasonable quantities. Purex, a competitive product, is sold in similar containers.

## Disbudding

It has been observed that when a single bud is formed on the terminal of a camellia branch, the growth bud is between the flower bud and the last leaf. When removing one bud on a terminal with two buds, remove the one between the growth bud and the last leaf, on the theory that this one is the extra bud. There will occasionally be a reason for removing the other bud, such as nearness to an adjacent leaf or branch which might interfere with opening of the recommended bud. The flower bud between the growth bud and the last leaf is more easily removed than the other, and normally will come off without difficulty when only one hand is used. When two buds have formed on a terminal easy removal of one can be accomplished in late summer while watering, the hose being retained in one hand while the other is busy removing the unwanted second buds. Later on plants should be given a more thorough study and buds poorly positioned, those on small twigs, and those in excess of the number the plant can sustain carefully removed. Varieties that normally have large, heavy-textured flowers should be allowed fewer buds than those with flowers of smaller size or with fewer petals. When performing final disbudding, carry a pruning tool or sharp knife for removing small twigs too weak to support a good blossom.

## Seeds

Camellia seeds are frequently germinated in glass jars using a medium

of damp spagnum. To avoid need for frequent examination, place seeds only in the top of the jar about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch below the surface of the spagnum. When the first growth terminal appears above the surface, remove sprouted seed for potting.

### Pruning

This camellia grower has acquired a number of pruners over the years, but not one of them is suitable for pruning camellias. Recently a small pocketknife is being used exclusively, except for removal of branches too large for this type of tool. The conventional pruner does not allow removal of branches without leaving a spur, is awkward to use in the interior of a plant, and likely to damage the bark near the cut. When using a pocketknife, the most important item is that the knife be kept sharp, while the next most important is that the cut must always be made in a direction *away* from fingers and hands. Serious injury to the grower may result unless care is taken to cut the plant in a manner consistent with safety. Small, unvigorous shoots should be removed, including those with buds, as flowers on this type of growth never are of good quality. If a spur remains, it can be trimmed flush with the branch from which the twig was removed. While performing this task, note how many spurs remain from previous prunings with tools marketed for the purpose, and remove as many as possible. Note also that normal healing has been prevented because of the spur, and that cuts made flush with the branch will most probably have healed completely over the original wound. If keeping the pocketknife sharp is a problem, obtain a piece of fine opencoat garnet sandpaper, lay it on a flat surface, and draw the knife blade cross it, moving in the direction of the cutting edge. This method is quick and effective.

### Pre-Pruning

While working with camellia plants, the grower may eliminate a portion of future pruning requirements by removing recently formed growth buds which will grow in an undesirable direction or form branches not needed. Sometimes a vigorous terminal, particularly on some varieties, will form three or more growth buds. In order to promote a compact plant on the perimeter, two buds should be sufficient, although sometimes only one is preferable. Removal of these excess growth buds during the winter while plants are partially dormant will decrease future pruning jobs, and at the same time strength will be channeled to the tips remaining when the spring growth flush begins.

### Culture Vs. Chemicals

Growing fine camellias through cultural practices appears to me (at this time) to be more of a challenge than tampering with natural processes. It is probable that all camellia growers have observed that flowers from buds on strong, vigorous shoots are almost always of blue ribbon quality, while those on slender stems are invariably sub-standard. Some remarkable flowers have been grown and shown that cause many of us to believe that of all flowers, the camellia is supreme without the assistance of chemicals applied externally. Whether it is possible for gibbed flowers to surpass top quality flowers grown under ideal natural conditions — I just don't know. That fine flowers can be produced earlier with gib is a proven fact. In the case of some of the inferior varieties, perhaps gib could not produce sufficient improvement for a flower to reach the honor table. In the case of seedlings being shown for the first time, it is hoped that none will be exhibited except those grown under natural, if controlled, conditions.

*(Continued on page 19)*

# **RULES AND CLASSIFICATIONS SET FOR DESCANSO GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW ON FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 1**

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Camellia Council met in Hospitality House of Descanso Gardens on January 22nd, with Council President Edwards H. Metcalf presiding, to adopt rules and classifications for the camellia show that will be held in the Gardens on the weekend of February 29-March 1. It was decided that registration will start at 7 A.M. and close at 10 A.M. Judging will start at 11 A.M. Entry information and cards will be sent by mail to all exhibitors who participated in any Southern California show in the 1962-1963 camellia season.

All Southern California camellia show committees have adopted the plan of uniform registration numbers for exhibitors that was introduced last year. Under this plan, exhibitors in the Descanso Show will show on their entry cards the same number that they have used in the prior shows: namely, San Diego, Pomona and Temple City shows. These numbers will be the same from year to year, thus simplifying entry details. Show committees are also adopting uniform entry cards.

Four decisions were made with regard to rules and classifications that should be borne in mind by exhibitors

as they prepare their blooms for entry. They are:

1. Number of entries in the Japonicas Division are limited to 60 varieties in the specimen bloom Class and a total of 10 varieties in the two multiple bloom Classes (in total, not for each Class).

2. In placing these limitations on number of japonica entries, it is the intent of the rules that an exhibitor will not enter more than the prescribed number of blooms with the intention of reviewing his blooms at a later time and removing a sufficient number to qualify him within the prescribed limits. Any exhibitor who violates this rule shall not be entitled to any ribbon or award in the Class where the violation occurs.

3. A new Sweepstakes Award has been established for Miniatures, thus removing miniatures from the general Sweepstakes competition. Under this new classification, the general Sweepstakes Award will be based on number of blue ribbons (or red ribbons if there is a tie in blue ribbons) in the Japonicas, Reticulatas and Hybrids Classes. There will be no limit to the number of entries in the Miniatures Division.

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4. All seedling entries must be identified by a name or number. That is, an entry card cannot show only the word "Seedling". Under the new rules of the American Camellia Society\*, Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificates will be given to as many new seedlings in competition as merit it on the basis that each such seedling, in the opinion of two-thirds of the judges, is likely to make some new and valuable addition to camellias.

The classifications will continue the plan, adopted for the first time in 1963 for any camellia show, of a separate Division (Division X) for Special Culture Blooms. There will be two Classes — one for blooms grown under cover and one for artificially or chemically treated blooms. This Division will be open to both amateur and professional growers.

The new 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE will be the authority for varietal name, description and classification as to size. This is particularly significant with respect to eligibility for entry in the Miniatures Division. Varieties listed in the 1964 edition are identified as "miniature" or "small" and this description will be controlling. There have been some changes in this respect from the 1962 edition.

The Los Angeles Camellia Council also reviewed plans presented by Assistant Show Chairman Bob Dickson for the no-host dinner that will be held Saturday evening, February 29th, at the La Canada Country Club. This affair will be under the chairmanship of Betty Robinson. Cards for making reservations for the dinner will be sent to all exhibitors with the registration information. The price of the dinner will be \$6.00 per plate, which will not include cocktails.

The wives of men who will judge or will otherwise be busy during Saturday morning will be hosted on a shopping tour so that they will not be required to sit around and wait for their husbands to be free.

Show Chairman Ernie Pieri gave assurance that he will have plenty of helpers to man the registration tables and to assist in placement so that no one will be faced with delays in entering blooms. It was emphasized that entries will close at 10:30, otherwise judging could not start at 11 o'clock. Since Descanso Gardens is a public park and the show is outdoors, it is difficult to hold back the people who start to arrive soon after lunch time to see the show.

\*See January 1964 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, page 3, for details of the new rules.

## **MARSHALL'S CAMELLIA NURSERY**

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# JUDGES DISCUSS RULES AND PRINCIPLES FOR JUDGING AT CAMELLIA SHOWS

About 25 accredited camellia show judges met on October 25, 1963 at the home of Al and Rose Marie Dekker in Glendale, California to discuss the rules and principles for judging at camellia shows. This was the second such meeting to follow the initial Southern California area meeting of this kind that was held January 30, 1959 and reported in the March 1959 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. The October 25th meeting was opened with a reading of the notes on the 1959 meeting. All agreed that these notes basically cover conditions as they exist today; however, discussion developed refinements that are reported in the following paragraphs.

## Condition of Bloom

There was considerable discussion of "condition" as related to the second day of a 2-day show. All agreed that a wilted flower on Sunday with a blue ribbon that was awarded on Saturday creates a bad impression in the minds of the public. It was the consensus that judging must be on the basis of condition at the time of judging and that judges should not attempt to judge in anticipation of what they think Sunday might bring. Some judges present reported they had seen blooms removed from competition on "suspicion". All agreed this should not be done. In response to the hypothetical question "What would you do with a flower that is outstanding except it looks as though it might collapse"?, the answer was given: Use the scale. This will answer most of the questionable cases. Condition on the A. C. S. judging scale gets only 20 points. Conclusion: (1) we cannot judge flowers for tomorrow; (2) Chairman of Judges should instruct that flowers will be judged by scale and no more.

It was pointed out that the Show Committee has the right and obligation to remove wilted flowers. It was suggested that this right includes a review of the tables on Sunday and the removal of wilted flowers and associated ribbons.

## Best Flower

Many flowers are equal or nearly equal on points. How is the Best Flower selected under such condition. The answer: it's largely a matter of personal preference of the individual judges.

## Judging Seedlings

There was consensus that judges should distinguish between the award of a blue ribbon to the best seedling on display and the award of an A. C. S. Certificate of Merit. Sometimes there is no worthwhile seedling — neither something new or outstanding. The best one gets the award of "best seedling", although some people questioned whether it is necessary that there be a "best seedling" in a show if there is no worthy entry. The judges should be very strict, however, before giving a Certificate because the Certificate cannots that the flower is more than just the best in a show. As stated by one person, "We are judging a seedling on the basis of the flower being shown. In giving Certificates, however, we should go beyond the one flower at the show." While it would be unusual not to award "best seedling", there is no obligation to give a Certificate. Also, 2 or 3 Certificates can be given if merited.\*

It was suggested that in the interest of fair appraisal of seedlings for the award of Certificates (1) there be different classifications for those grown outdoors and under cover or with special treatment and, (2) an entry of a minimum of 3 blooms be

required for consideration of award of a Certificate. One bloom would be sufficient for award of "best seedling". It was pointed out that the award of a Certificate is used in advertising the introduction of new varieties, which places an obligation on judges to award Certificates only to meritorious flowers.

It is not the function of judges to differentiate during the show with regard to growing conditions. Judges make decisions on blooms that are placed under the rules, on the honor of the exhibitors that the rules are being complied with. It is up to the Rules Committee and the Placement Committee to follow through on questionable cases.

### **Size**

Judges should judge against the standard of perfection. Judges have sometimes been told improperly that too big a flower is as bad as too small a flower. If all other points are equal, the large flower should get preference. "This is what the flower can do".

### **Typical Flower**

Several points were raised or made: Are you judging the "typical" flower or what it will do?" It should be judged against the description in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. A. C. S. judging notes say the flower must be typical but do not define the word "typical". We should be governed by the form that the flower assumes in the area in which the flower is judged. The discussion was summed up as follows: Judges should know the forms that varieties take in the areas that contribute to the show as well as the description of the var-

\*See page 3 of January 1964 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW for statement of revisions made by American Camellia Society in connection with awards of Certificates for "best seedling." It will be seen that these revisions have lessened the possibility of a Certificate being awarded to a flower not worthy of the honor. This does not relieve judges from the responsibility of awarding Provisional Certificates only to worthy blooms.—Ed.

ieties in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE, and should be guided in their judging by this knowledge. It is the freakish flower, not the unusual flower that should be ruled out.

### **Detached Blooms**

What should be done when there is suspicion that the bloom has become detached from the stem? Answer: judges should move the flower to verify. In this connection, show rules provide that a bloom can be wired on.

### **Selection of Blooms For Honor Court**

The question was raised, "what about sending some smaller flowers to the Court of Honor, just to get a balance between large and small blooms? The purpose of the Court of Honor is to select the best blooms and put them together on the head table. Judges have an obligation not to overlook smaller varieties when the blooms are outstanding. If the Show Committee wants a display of the best smaller blooms, however, there should be two classifications.

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## **A. C. S. Meeting at Jackson, Mississippi February 13, 14, 15**

The annual meeting of the American Camellia Society will be held February 13, 14 and 15, 1964 at Jackson, Mississippi. On Thursday the 13th, visitors will tour the Jackson area, followed by a buffet supper and a command performance of "Gold in the Hills" on the Steamer Sprague. On Friday the 14th there will be visits to greenhouses and gardens in Jackson, to the Governor's Mansion and to the recently restored "Old Capitol" which is now a Confederate Museum. Saturday will be taken up with the Camellia Show and the Annual Banquet. The camellia people in Jackson are going all out to make this annual meeting a memorable occasion for all who attend.

## JANUARY S. C. C. S. MEETING FEATURES PANEL

The formal part of the January 14th meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society consisted of a panel discussion of what Moderator Edwards H. Metcalf called in introducing the subject "Camellia Problems". The panel consisted of Howard Asper, Mrs. Marian Burckey, Harold Dryden, Bill Goertz, Fred Hamilton, Mrs. Billie McCaskill and Pat Novak. Mr. Metcalf first asked members of the panel to discuss a subject of camellia culture which from their own experiences presented a problem to be met. Following this phase of the program, questions were solicited from the audience and answered either by the panel or by people in the audience. The following points were brought out in the hour's discussion.

A considerable number of seedlings died during the grower's absence and while some one else was caring for the plants. Investigation developed that the cans had rusted or dirt had packed around the drainage holes and the plant had received improper drainage. Answer: Watch for these things as a regular part of camellia care. Re-can seedlings as one would re-can varieties in a collection. There is sometimes a tendency to put seedlings on their own, to the detriment of the seedling plant as it grows.

Buds are drying on the plant this year to a greater degree than usual. Answer: The hot weather and probably the extremely low humidity that has prevailed this season has caused this.

Thrips are showing up on camellias for the first time, appearing as soon as the flower tissue shows. They are particularly hard on whites and such as 'Debutante'. Treatment: spray with malathion. This led to a discussion of pests and sprays. Spectricide was suggested for aphids, crawlers

and spiders. One person said he uses a strong spray of water for aphids, in the same manner that he uses a strong spray of water for aphids on roses. Another said that "fingers are a sure way to treat aphids". Cygon was also mentioned as a spray, but one member of the panel said he still has thrip and aphids after three sprays of Cygon. Chlordane was mentioned as a good spray for worms.

2-year grafts that do not look healthy are being bare rooted. When the roots look good, they are replanted in the regular soil mix. When the roots are not healthy looking, the plants are thrown away. Last year's grafts all look healthy, due probably to the fact that in the fall of 1962 all the seedling stock to be used for grafting had the roots examined and where it seemed desirable were bare rooted. In this manner it was determined that the 1963 grafts were made on healthy roots. It was pointed out in this connection that the new plastic cans with slanting sides make it easy to examine the roots before grafting because the plant can be removed easily from the can and put back in without damaging the contents.

In discussing the moving of large plants, Howard Asper told about his assignment in such work at the time Descanso Gardens were first planted. Manchester Boddy had bought these plants and it was Mr. Asper's job to plant them and have them grow, which he did successfully. He pruned the plants severely. They were beautifully shaped plants after 3 years, with flowers twice as large as those on plants that had not been pruned.

Reticulatas had virused leaves. Applied iron sulphate (too much for the gallon cans, it developed) and the plants defoliated. Some of the plants died, some came back. Suggested

cure: Use cotton seed meal, let water leach out the plants.

When should camellias be watered? Answer: whenever they are dry to touch. During the discussion it was brought out that a mulch makes it difficult to determine when plants need water.

If a plant is not perfectly healthy, do not fertilize.

One member of the panel catches rain water, through the down spouts of the house, for use on sickly plants.

Water on the leaf when the plant is in the sun will not burn the leaf, contrary to the view held by some people. It will cool the leaf and thus save leaf burn. It was brought out that the people with the least leaf burn during the extremely hot weather in early October (as high as 112° in some places) were those who kept their plants wet. Some of these people sprayed during the daytime.

About care of *reticulatas*: Howard Asper grows them in the ground under lath with about 50% sun. He said they are easier to grow in the ground than in containers. He does not cut flowers with stems and does not prune the plants. He has good looking plants. In response to a question regarding pruning back to force dormant buds, Mr. Asper said he had not done so. Some in the audience have done this with good results. *Reticulatas* do not like too much fertilizer. Some people are growing *reticulatas* in full sun satisfactorily, with good looking plants and good blooms.

Following the panel discussion, Mr. Metcalf on behalf of Mrs. Frank Storment, presented to the Southern California Camellia Society, through President Wilkins Garner, the trophy which is emblematic of the Frank L. Storment Award for *Reticulatas*. Mrs. Storment presented this trophy to the Society in memory of her late husband who was so enthusiastic about

*reticulatas* and was so successful in growing them. The awards will be under the administration of the Awards Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society and will be made for new *reticulata* seedlings of merit. Mr. Garner then presented to Howard Asper the Frank L. Storment Award for 1963 for the *reticulata* seedling 'William Hertrich'.

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## ODDS AND ENDS (Continued)

### Storage of Blooms

Some blooms stored for 7 to 10 days before showtime will not only win blue ribbons, they will retain their freshness until the second day of the show. Others, in prime condition when judged, will collapse after a few hours, even though refrigerated storage was no longer than 3 or 4 days. Last season I noted that flowers cut with several inches of stem (to be reduced to about 1½" before the show) lasted better than those cut with short stems. Much to my embarrassment, an outside-grown 'Tomorrow' cut two days before a show was given a blue ribbon, only to collapse within a few hours. However, that 'Tomorrow' was cut in the afternoon of a sunny, bright day, while flowers cut during periods of high humidity and stored longer retained their appearance of freshness satisfactorily. If no natural fog occurs when flowers are ready to be cut, it is helpful to use a fogging nozzle late in the day before cutting flowers in the morning. Here on the Gulf Coast, we may have to depend on stored flowers for our shows, as we are exposed during all of December, January, and February to the possibility of a hard freeze that would destroy all open flowers, partially open buds, and even tight buds. Other than greenhouse protection, we have found no answer except to cut and store flowers when a hard freeze is forecast just before showtime.

# THE SEARCH FOR FRAGRANCE AT PARK HILL

Basil Neptune, Park Hill\*  
Hollywood, California

One day while walking near the CALIFORNIA camellia tree at Park Hill I noticed a distinct fragrance. Further investigation of the source of this fragrance revealed that it came from two bushes of *C. miyagii* growing a few feet away. These plants are about five feet tall and they set many flower buds at each leaf axil. They bloom from August until April or May. This species, if it could be crossed with a species with a flower of better size and substance, might give us the bloom we desire. During the 1962-63 season several crosses using *C. miyagii* were made and a few were successful. These include:

- C. miyagii* X *C. japonica*  
(one pod)
- C. miyagii* X *C. saluenensis*  
(three pods)

Evaluation of this work must wait several years and may possibly produce no results until second generation seedlings are ready to flower. Other crosses were made which did not set any seed but they will be attempted again this season.

Other species available at Park Hill for this program include the very fragrant *C. lutchuensis*. No successful crosses with this as seed or pollen parent have been made to date. This species should be one of the better prospects for producing the fragrant hybrid. The Park Hill garden contains several large plants of *C. wabisuke* v. *Sukiya* which has a delightful perfume and this plant is fertile. A number of crosses with it as seed parent were made last year and the effort is continuing this year. Crosses of *C. wabisuke* V. *Sukiya* with *C. miyagii* and *C. japonica* x. *TER-RINGA* have produced viable seed.

\*Park Hill is the Hollywood home of Mrs. Ralph Peer.

Several of the japonica flowers have a slight fragrance and some of these such as *SERENAIDE*, *KRAMER'S SUPREME*, *HERME*, and *FRA-GRANT JONQUIL* are yielding pollen for use in the search for the fragrant flower. Not too much is known about the inheritance of fragrance but the next few seasons of work should give some valuable knowledge that will enable us to understand the why and how of fragrance in the flower of camellias. No matter what the results, the hybridizer's life is never a boring one for who knows but just around the corner lies something new and exciting that will make it all worthwhile.

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## Another Idea on Scale for Judges

Estelle Lindsley of San Diego, one of the many good camellia show judges in Southern California, wrote the following Letter to the Editor:

"You might be interested in the judging scale I worked out some years ago which I have found most efficacious in judging with men. I always teach this point scale to neophyte women judges and heartily recommend it to all women judges.

### Judging Scale

Is it BIG?	20%
Is it RED?	20%
Is it a favorite of <i>mine</i> ?	10%
Is it just exactly like I grow it? (If not, it's not typical)	20%
Is it NEW?	10%
Do I like the person who grew it?	10%
Miscellaneous, like condition, texture, etc.	10%

I hasten to add this is a "spoof" or I won't be very busy this season!"

# KNOW YOUR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA NURSERYMEN

## PART 9 — HARRY NOVICK

Ernest (Ernie) Pieri

Did you know that Harry Novick started to work for the New York Central Railroad as a telegraph operator and eventually rose to the position of station master?

Harry is a transplanted Arizonian. He is the last of the Novick family and the fourth generation of Arizona Homesteaders. He was born in western Arizona and attended the University of Arizona, graduated in 1931 with a Liberal Arts degree and a minor, but later to become a major vocation, in Horticulture. It was during the depression years, and after graduation, that Harry left Arizona for New York and work with the New York Central Railroad. It was also during this time that he met and married Leonora, his charming wife. World War II put a stop to his railroading as he enlisted in 1941 and spent most of his six years in the service in the Pacific Area.

However, prior to the Philippine Invasion by the Japanese, he was with the Military Intelligence Service with headquarters in Hawaii. He was given an opportunity to remain with this branch of the service, but decided he liked the climate out of the Armed Forces and was given his discharge in 1947. He returned to New York and to railroading.

The spell of the West Coast, and the fact that his folks were living in Southern California, and the fact that fifteen years of railroading was enough, convinced Harry and Leonora that they should come to California and make their home in this area. Harry decided to put his horticultural knowledge to work and started his first nursery when he purchased the Country Gardens Store Nursery in

North Hollywood. In turn this property was purchased by Sears, Roebuck and Company for their present North Hollywood Store.

With the expansion of the Woodland Hills Area, he felt that the family-farmer type nursery would have a better chance in Woodland Hills and so moved his nursery to its present location on Ventura Boulevard in Woodland Hills. Harry became entranced with camellias when he saw the possibility of their use in home landscaping. He has continued growing more camellias and seedlings and this fall is introducing three new and lovely camellias, namely: 'Novick's 7', a medium-sized, loose peony, pink bloom; 'Pouf', a creamy-white, peony form miniature and 'Red Bugle', a very large, semi-double, red flower with golden stamen.

If, during the season and you would like an afternoon drive, a short trip to Harry's Nursery Mart will be very rewarding. Take the Ventura Freeway to Winnetka Boulevard off-ramp, turn left on Winnetka Boulevard to Ventura Boulevard, turn left on Ventura Boulevard and drive east to 19847 Ventura Boulevard and the Nursery Mart. Turn left again and park alongside the nursery grounds, visit the nursery and I am sure you will have a wonderful time talking to Harry about camellias, or some phase of home landscaping. It will be a rewarding experience.



### CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

New 1964 Edition

\$2.25 per copy

Obtain from S. C. C. S. Secretary

# FINGERPRINTING CAMELLIAS\*

Dr. Clifford R. Parks

One of the problems encountered in attempts to develop new flower-color variations in *Camellia* is the fact that we do not know the manner in which flower color is inherited in camellias. The breeding behavior for color is only remotely understood for a very few cultivars. In attempting to breed new color variations, it would be useful if we knew the potential colors carried by the different cultivars. Actually, in most cases the flower color that we observe is a mixture of several pigments — rarely a single pure pigment. Each color that we observe in camellias is the product of a particular pigment mixture at a particular pigment concentration. The precise chemical mixture is very characteristic of a plant and may be considered its "fingerprint." This mixture is exactly controlled by the hereditary mechanism of a particular plant; and unless the hereditary mechanism is changed in some way, the plant will continue producing the exact same pigment mixture and concentration (a "sport" that produces a color different from the parent plant simply carries a hereditary mechanism that is changed from that of the parent plant). If we know the precise flower-pigment construction in a given cultivar then we can better predict the color of the flowers of offspring from that parent.

The "fingerprint" is determined by a process called chromatography. In a very general way chromatographic analysis is carried out by first extracting the pigments from flower petals in acid-alcohol. This alcohol extract is then applied to one end of a strip of filter paper. The filter paper is then put into a closed chamber, and an organic solvent is allowed to run

over the filter paper. Although the group of red pigments found in camellia flowers (anthocyanins) are all rather similar, they nevertheless have slightly different properties and thus move at different rates on the filter paper. (As the organic solvent moves over the filter paper, the pigments previously applied to the paper move at different rates with the solvent.) The pigment mixture originally applied to the paper is now distributed over the paper strip, and we can observe the individual components of the color of camellia flowers. The common *C. japonica* usually has a mixture of two pigments in its flowers, a purple-red pigment and an orange-red pigment. In certain cultivars the purple-red pigment (probably a form of cyanidin) predominates, and so in such varieties as 'William Penn' and 'Princess Lavender' we observe purple-red flowers; in other cultivars the orange-red pigment (probably a form of pelargonidin) predominates, such as we observe in the orange-red flowers of 'Yosemite'. The typical deep-red color of many camellia cultivars, typified by 'Donckelarii' is the result of a more or less equal mixture of the two anthocyanin pigments.

With this information about the pigment composition of the cultivars, we can reasonably predict the color of hybrids from plants of known pigment constitution. It is well known that the purple-red combination is not particularly favored by camellia growers, while the softer pastel colors of *C. x williamsii* hybrids are more popular. It would seem likely that if the purple-red pigment of *C. japonica* was combined with the softer colors of *C. saluenensis* (different but related anthocyanins), then we could develop good lavender- and orchid-colored camellias. These pastel shades of purple are likely as close to blue

\*This article is based on a talk by Dr. Parks at the December meeting of S. C. C. S.—Ed.



as can be secured with the camellia, since true shades of blue are unknown in the Theaceae family.

Chromatography can also aid us in efforts to develop a camellia with flowers more yellow than those presently available. Chromatography is not required to determine which of the cream-white varieties have the most yellow pigment in them, since the amount of yellow pigment is proportional to the amount of visible yellow color. Potential for yellow color is not limited to cream-colored flowers, however, since many pink- and red-flowered cultivars have yellow potential masked by the red or pink color; and if yellow pigment occurs in such cultivars, then chromatography will demonstrate the presence of such masked pigmentation. Once the presence of masked yellow pigment is determined for a cultivar, it then becomes possible to incorpo-

rate this parental material in a breeding program for intensification of that desirable pigment.

There are many more pigments than the anthocyanins both in the leaves and flowers of camellias; this wealth of pigments found in the plant is characteristic and constitutes its "fingerprint." In a general sort of way, the amount of the closeness of relationship of two camellia plants is proportional to the amount of similarities in the "fingerprint"; so not only does this "fingerprint" provide clues to the development of new color variation in the camellia, but it also helps in determining if hybrids can be made between two types of camellias.

A camellia expert is one who can make a decision and stick to it — no matter how wrong he may be.



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P.O. BOX 465, TIFTON, GEORGIA

## SOME COMMENTS ABOUT PRUNING

Harold L. Paige  
Lafayette, California

*Editor's Note: We think that every now and then a camellia grower should read a sound basic article about pruning camellias. We scheduled such an article for this issue and started to think about whom we should ask to write it. Our mind went back a few years to the one we ran in the March 1961 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW, written by Harold Paige, which was a re-run of an article that he wrote for the October 1955 issue of the Northern California Camellia Society's THE CAMELLIA BULLETIN. We read the article again and decided to save our latent authors for call at a later time. It is just as sound today as it was in 1955.*

Camellia hobbyists often grow camellias with completely different objectives. One may grow them for the sake of the flowers, without giving much thought to the plant itself. He will be happiest when he can put several hundred beautiful blooms on the table at show time. He will go to considerable trouble to protect his individual blossoms and get them to a show in good condition when stormy weather has ruined the flowers of other growers. Many a show has been saved by these lovers of camellia blooms — and they, in turn, are highly regarded by the harassed Show Chairman who cannot sleep for wondering if there will be enough flowers to stage a show. However, it often happens that this singleness of purpose causes neglect of the plant, since it is common knowledge that very fine flowers can come from ragged and unkempt looking plants. It may also be somewhat significant that the winner of a sweepstakes award seldom takes home with him the cup for the best grown plant in the show.

Another type of grower, just as enthusiastic about beautiful blooms, enjoys the plant for its own beauty, even when not in bloom. His idea of a camellia collection is a group of

well groomed plants, not so many that their care becomes an impossible task, but still enough to give variety and at least some acquaintance with the best of the new varieties as they appear. To him nothing can be lovelier than a well grown, symmetrical plant, with its shining green leaves, just as it reaches the peak of its bloom, disbudded so that all flowers have room to open, all spent flowers removed, no fallen petals and enough protection from the blasts of winter to maintain this condition for several weeks. Unfortunately this picture of a perfect plant cannot be achieved without a deliberate program of pruning and shaping over a period of years.

The subject of pruning has been discussed before very ably. C. Norman Hastie, Jr. wrote an article entitled "Sharpen Up Those Rusty Shears" in the 1947 American Camellia Yearbook. Reading this article gave me the courage to prune heavily on various occasions when the condition of our plants seemed to demand it. The results obtained have borne out the truth of the statements made by Mr. Hastie. In his article he differentiated between "pruning" and "shearing," pruning being, he said, "for the health of the plant while shearing is for the pleasure of the owner who desires some special effect." Since he chose not to go into the subject of "shearing" at that time, it might be well to include "shearing" or shaping (which I think is a better word to describe what I have in mind) as well as pruning in this discussion.

If we are to have a perfect specimen plant we need to start early in the life of the plant. I prefer to start with a cutting or graft with a single stem.

There are too many multiple-stemmed plants six feet or more in diameter taking up too much space in our lath house. If we had an acre or two of high shade under pines or oaks we would not need to be so particular. We do have ample shade in the summer (thought rather dense) under walnut, pear and chestnut trees, but being deciduous these trees offer little protection to the flowers in the winter season. Having, then, to resort to lath houses for protection, we soon found such space to be an expensive item — that is, of course, if the lath house is to be at all good looking as well as utilitarian. So in our situation the single-stem plant proves to be the most desirable shape for most varieties. After all the camellia is a tree, not a shrub.

Beginning, then, with the small plant, it is usually found to be a very erratic grower. A few varieties will grow upright and take a symmetrical shape without much assistance but they are the exception rather than the rule. Most varieties have to be staked almost from the beginning and until the plant reaches a height of six or seven feet. This applies especially to the specimen plant in a container. Fortunately, the season's growth usually hardens down to a point where the stake can be removed at show time or during the blooming season but each season's new growth will require attention if symmetry is to be maintained. As the plant reaches its desired height it is more easily controlled. Stakes are no longer necessary. If wild growth appears in any direction it can be slowed down by pinching out the growth bud if discovered soon enough or by cutting back to a latent side bud if discovered after growth has made considerable progress. Long branches that hang close to the ground should be removed. Never worry about sacrificing wood in order to shape a plant. If the plant has a good root system it

will soon replace this wood with fresh and vigorous growth that needs only to be directed in the way it should go. Removal of wood already budded may seem a real loss. Actually the potentialities of the remaining buds are being increased to a point where a "Best Flower in the Show" may be the direct result. No one should object to that.

There are some problem children in the camellia world that almost defy the grower to make anything of them. Some of the most beautiful varieties seem to have many of the qualities of a vine. This is all to the good if there is space enough or a location suitable to espalier the plant. But having used up all such space, what can be done? Again the solution is to stake and tie. After growing a good sturdy leader long enough and strong enough to become self-supporting, the plant may be permitted to assume an umbrella shape. This type of pruning will often make a very beautiful plant. I have seen crippled plants that have become too tall and leggy worked over to become very lovely specimen plants. Incidentally, it takes two or three growing seasons to achieve this result, but it is worth the effort.

Figures 1 and 2 — a "before and after" sequence—illustrate the points which have been made above with reference to the need for shaping a camellia plant. The variety, **Dr. H. G. Mealing**, is one that is inclined to be spreading in habit. At the present stage of its growth it is a healthy, culturally well-grown plant, with a form that could be described as picturesque. However, given one or two more years of unattended growth it is apt to be a mass of snarled branches much too close to the ground to be beautiful. By staking the main leader, cutting off low-growing branches and shortening some of the longer ones, we can expect — with a little additional pruning the next season or two

*(Continued on next page)*

— to have a beautiful plant which will present its blooms more nearly at eye level. This plant was pruned in mid-September, not the best time for heavy pruning but certainly it is much better to do it now than wait until another season has passed.

We who live in California are quite apt to have a considerable proportion of our plants in containers. They fit into our way of living. They can be moved in their blooming season to patios or porches to be replaced by later varieties as they in turn come into bloom. They provide a continuous parade of color from October until May. However, plants in containers are quite vulnerable to neglect and because of their tough, leathery leaves this season's neglect may not be apparent until next season arrives. Insects are not much of a problem and neither are diseases. The chief difficulty is lack of water during extremely hot, dry weather. One failure to water during intense dry heat may cause the root ball to shrink away very slightly from the side of the container. Subsequent waterings may then escape around the root ball in-

stead of through it and soon serious trouble ensues, with loss of the fine feeder-root system. The following season finds us wondering what is wrong with the plant when its leaves begin to fall. Pruning now becomes a very real necessity. To be sure the plant could be left to struggle along by itself with a fifty-fifty chance of survival, meanwhile standing as a silent rebuke to our unrealized carelessness. Rather than this, take a look at the root system. If the plant is badly rootbound (and these are the ones most likely to suffer damage) repotting is called for. A new supply of humus is the breath of life to a container-grown camellia. Washing away the soil mixture from the outside inch of the root wall will reveal the extent of damage and indicate the amount of pruning necessary.

Usually severe pruning is called for. Probably from one-third to one-half of the top should come off. This may seem drastic but remember that an overgrown top with a weak root system is a constant liability. Cut back the long, thin branches first. If the wood is old with no latent buds



Fig. 1

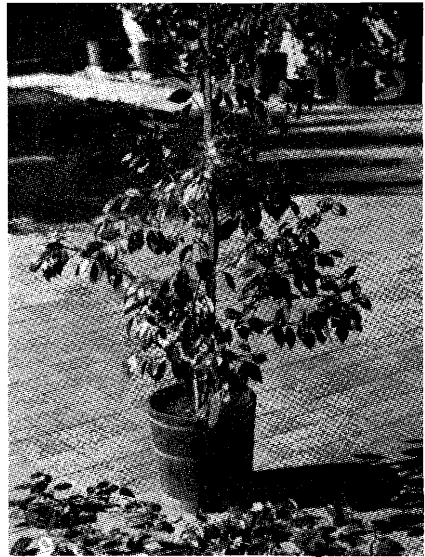


Fig. 2

showing and of small diameter, cut back to the main trunk. Heavier branches should be cut back to a strong lateral, keeping in mind that a future tree is now being shaped. If all but the last season's leaves have been lost, it may be necessary to keep some of the better branches, to be cut back later. Camellias are good-stump sprouters as we all well know from our grafting failures. But leaves are necessary if a new root system is to grow quickly. Some adventitious buds will appear on the trunk and larger branches. Select the desirable ones and rub off the rest, keeping in mind again the future shape of the tree. In two growing seasons the plant should begin to look normal again.

Pressures connected with building a new home and moving a camellia collection into a new climate provided the unhappy experience from which two basic lessons (illustrated in Figures 3 and 4) were learned: (1) drastic surgical pruning may be needed to save the life of a damaged plant; (2) more than one season is needed to reshape the pruned invalid so that it becomes again a beautiful plant. These pictures show the progress being made by two plants — 6 weeks and 2 years, respectively, after drastic pruning.

A number of large plants in containers were badly damaged by 100-degree weather shortly after they were moved to their present location in Lafayette. Coming from the mild coastal climate of Oakland we were quite unprepared for the suddenness with which high heat and drying winds could wreck a container-grown camellia. Even after the lath house was built, damage continued until the lath spacing was narrowed and plants were more meticulously watered. The two plants shown in Figures 3 and 4 were all so badly damaged it was hard to decide whether an effort should be made to save them

or they should be thrown out and burned.

No. 3 (**Shira Tama**) lost all but this season's leaves. It was badly root-bound, not having been repotted for five years. Pruned about 25% in August 1955, now just six weeks later it has over 120 latent and adventitious buds developing. These will be watched and selected for vigor and for position of future branches. The remaining buds will be rubbed off. The plant will be repotted in October when the weather cools off. More pruning and shaping will be done at that time.

No. 4 (**Duncan Bell**) was cut back well over 50% in August 1953. It was repotted at that time. Now, two years later, it is nearly, though still not quite, back to normal. It is well budded and we look forward to good flowers this season.

These are, we hope, the last of our damaged plants. At least a careful effort will be made to prevent future damage through drying out.

Large, older plants in the ground are almost always in need of pruning. Many small branches in the interior become shaded out each year. The whole center of the plant should be kept clear so that spray materials can reach every stem and twig. Most varieties grow so many laterals that the outside of the tree is just a mass of leaves and buds. If quality of bloom is desired it will pay to thin out branches each season. Any well kept orchard is a visual reminder that even mature trees growing in the ground need continued pruning if they are to avoid that rough, ungroomed look and continue in full production.

A recent article in the American Camellia Society Quarterly written by Roy T. Thompson of Glendale, Calif., laid considerable stress on maintaining "plant momentum." The point was made that a plant should never

*(Continued on next page)*

be permitted to stand still. The rose grower looks for and expects several new canes to come up each year from the base of each rose bush. When the plant fails to renew itself he wonders if it is not time to pull it out and replace it with a new one. This process of plant renewal is easily seen in a plant that sends out shoots as long in one week as a camellia sends out in a whole season. It is not so easy to know when a camellia is standing still — when it has lost its “momentum.” Its growth cycles are so slow that it is hard to see the whole picture. Any plant, however, that fails to put out vigorous growth each year should be looked upon with suspicion as being a candidate for repotting or pruning, or both.

This matter of plant renewal is an important factor to consider in growing camellias. We know the leaves remain on the plant for about three seasons. After that they have lost their usefulness and nature sees to it that they drop off. Likewise many laterals have become so atrophied and hardened that they could not possibly produce a good flower at their tips. The

sap has too far to go through a weakened cambium layer. Such poor wood is only a liability to the plant. Whether we prune to shape the plant or for the sake of the health of the plant, we should take satisfaction in knowing that the plant is being doubly benefited; first, in the removal of useless wood and second, in the increased flow of sap to the vigorous wood. Furthermore, the relationship of root system to the top growth is improved, especially if for any reason the root system has not grown in proportion to the top.

For pruning equipment two sizes of snap-cut shears should be used. When laterals are cut off at a main stem, stubs will be left which should be removed with a sharp knife. All cuts of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or more should be covered with a sealing compound. It is a good idea to have an assortment of stakes and a roll of tie wire on hand to correct wayward stems or branches.

The ideal time to prune or shape is at the close of the blooming period. Few of us, however, can spare the time to do a big pruning job then. I

*(Continued on page 30)*



Fig. 3

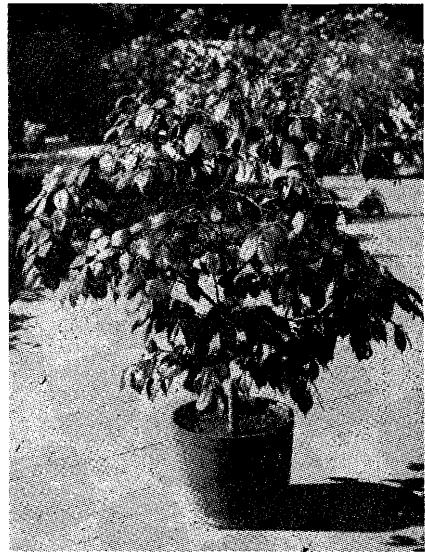


Fig. 4

## IN SUPPORT OF SIDE GRAFTING

Ralph E. Winchester

Altadena, California

Being convinced of the disadvantage of top grafting and the use of glass jars led me to try side grafting and thus save the root growth and secure rising sap around the graft wound to hasten the healing process. Several new techniques had to be used. Instead of having the root stock dry before grafting, it needs water to maintain normal growth and humidity. Two gallon glass jars could not be used so plastic tubing of two diameters had to be secured — one to draw down over gallon cans and the second size for egg cans and gallons. These are cut to length for tying around the stock above the graft. In egg cans where proper size tubing could not be obtained to fit tight around the container, it was tied with string. The problem of watering, needed only at long intervals because the only evaporation is through the leaves, is done by placing the containers in a basin of water or in ditches in the ground which are flooded. Both of these methods save the trouble of lifting the plastic covers at time of watering.

There is no problem of mould with this method. I have grafted hundreds of plants and have never seen one

case of mould. In order to double the chance of takes, two scions can be grafted on each plant, the upper one first for convenience in doing the lower one. When the grafts have healed, some air is allowed to enter between the container and the plastic cover. The top tie is not released, however, until growth starts, the new growth being allowed to grow up through the opening that has been released. In order to keep the covers from interfering with the new shoot and to facilitate watering, a two pound coffee can with both ends cut out is slipped over the plant and shoot and inside the cover, resting on the soil. There is no die-back with this method. The jar storage is eliminated and the plastic covers are used over and over year after year.

When the shoots start to grow with a full root system feeding them, the growth is rapid. Many form buds and blossom the first year on six inch and under growing scions. Seedlings held for blossoming may have grafts already a year or two old, thus giving an opportunity to cut the seedling or the graft as desired. Several years' growth for the graft may be enhanced without damage to the seedling.

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## Refrigerating Blooms For Shows

Bill Goertz tells on his page WHAT TO DO how he keeps early picked flowers for shows by keeping them in a refrigerator. Here is Frank Reed's formula. He uses suit boxes about 20" X 15" X 5". He fits aluminum foil in the bottoms of the boxes, with side boards coming up on the sides about 1½", then fits absorbent cotton on the bottom. He says it takes about a glass and a half of water to wet the cotton down properly.

The next step is to cover the bottom with a layer of chopped wax paper about an inch thick, then spray it with water from a windex type bottle. He starts cutting about a week ahead of time when dry weather is in prospect, unless he can be certain of more blooms on the plant before show time. If the early bloom is particularly good, however, he will put it into refrigeration and compare it with those that bloom later when he packs his blooms for the show. When the stem does not touch the wet cotton, he places a wetted wad of cotton around the stem. Quite often he uses these wetted wads any way.

He sprays the petals with water from the windex bottle, trying to avoid spraying the stamens. In this connection, some people use a fogger which avoids the dilemma of dampening the petals without getting drops of water in the center of the flower. Recently he has been putting a few drops of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> or Superthrive in the windex bottle of water, both compounds containing naphthalene acetic acid and Vitamin B<sub>1</sub>. The view has been expressed that naphthalene acetic acid is an excellent preservative for camellias and Mr. Reed is experimenting with it.

He has solved the problem of competition with Mrs. Reed for use of the refrigerator by buying a used refrigerator for his own use. He sets it

at the highest possible temperature. When closed for some time it may get as low as 38° but generally it is 40° or higher.

The consensus of important points in refrigerating camellia blooms is: (1) Don't have the temperature too low; (2) provide good humidity in the container; (3) don't pick the bloom too far ahead of show time. When it is done right, the flowers that bloom a little too early are available for the show and they will last so that they will not cast reflections on the exhibitor for entering blooms of poor quality.

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### SOME COMMENTS (Continued)

have found it necessary to extend my own pruning and shaping throughout the summer and fall months. Thinning out excess material can perhaps be done better at this later time. Some varieties such as the **Finlandia** group, **Mrs. Tingley** and many others send out too many closely-spaced laterals which are usually about the same length, crowding each other to a point that leaves little room for a perfect bloom to develop. Old, stringy wood that has outlived its usefulness and crossing branches that have been shaded out in the center of the plant should be removed whenever found, regardless of the time of year.

Yes, "Sharpen up those Rusty Shears" and carry them in your hip pocket the year round.

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### Camellia Show Schedule

San Diego — Feb. 8-9  
Pomona — Feb. 15-16  
Peninsula — Feb. 15-16  
Temple City — Feb. 22-23  
Santa Clara — Feb. 23  
Descanso — Feb. 29-Mar. 1  
No. Calif. — Feb. 29-Mar. 1  
Bakersfield — Mar. 7-8  
Sacramento — Mar. 7-8  
Fresno — Mar. 8  
Modesto — Mar. 14-15



# WINNING BLOOMS AT CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETINGS

## Pomona Society—Jan. 9

Japonica—Over 4"  
 'Sawada's Dream', 'Mrs. Josephine Hearn', 'Reg Ragland'

Japonica—Under 4"  
 'Debutante', 'Margaret McCown', 'Professor Charles S. Sargent'

Species  
 'Dawn', 'Granthamiana', 'Dawn'

Sasanqua  
 'Showa-No-Sakae', 'Shishi-Gashira', 'Little Gem'

## S. C. C. S.—Jan. 14

Japonica—Large & Very Large  
 'Tomorrow's Dawn', 'Reg Ragland', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'White Nun'

Japonica—Small & Medium  
 'Kathryn Nuccio', 'Sweetheart', 'Majorette', 'Emily Wilson', 'Carolyn Tuttle'

Japonica—Miniature  
 'Sugar Babe', 'Dryade', 'Fleurette', 'Fircone', 'Kathy'

Japonica, Special Culture—  
 Large & Very Large  
 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Guest of Honor', 'Onetia Holland'

Japonica, Special Culture—  
 Small & Medium  
 'Purity', 'Lallarook', 'General

George Patton', 'Elena Nobile'  
 Sasanqua  
 'Shishi-Gashira', 'Little Gem'  
 Hybrids  
 'Waltz Time', 'Fluted Orchid'

## Temple City Society—Jan. 23

Japonica — Large to Very Large  
 'Guest of Honor', 'Ville de Nantes', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Sultana', 'Guilio Nuccio'

Japonica — Medium  
 'Margarete Hertrich', 'Finlandia Var', 'Candy Cane', 'Nina Avery', 'Emperor of Russia'

Japonica — Small & Miniature  
 'Fircone', 'Blackie', 'Wilamina'

Sasanqua  
 'Little Gem', 'Dazzler', 'Hiryu'

Hybrids & Species  
 'Dawn', 'Waltz Time Var'

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## CAMELLIA GARDENS (Contd.)

He has many field grown sasanqua seedlings awaiting their turn to be grafted.

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## S. C. C. S. Feb. Meeting

The February 11th meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society will feature a discussion of how to make camellia blooms presentable for show competition. In the January meeting, emphasis was on the camellia plant. The next logical point for discussion is the care of the flower from the time the bud shows signs of opening until the bloom is cut and placed on the show table. What do the judges look for? What problems are faced in producing perfect flowers and how are these problems met? How are the blooms prepared for transportation to the show? What about refrigeration of blooms? These and other questions will be answered by people who know the answers from their own experiences.

Douglas Thompson, Chairman of Inter-Society Relations, has announced that members of all Societies in the Los Angeles area are specially invited to attend this meeting, since it will be interesting and helpful in regard to preparing blooms for the shows ahead.

Plants in the drawing will include such favorites as 'E. G. Waterhouse', 'White Nun', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Bettie Sheffield Supreme', 'Ecclefield', 'Clarise Carlton', 'Hawaii', 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Tomorrow' and others.

## Earth's Dryest Spot?

The Los Angeles Times reported recently that Los Angeles was probably the driest place in the world during January. According to the local weather bureau, it is not possible to measure an absolute zero humidity. At 3:14 A.M. (not P.M.) one morning, however, the humidity at the Los Angeles Civic Center was slightly less than 1%, a record for Los Angeles and probably as dry as it ever got anywhere on earth. The weather bureau reported that previous record low humidity in Los Angeles was 3%, recorded many times in former years and several times since the first of the year 1964.



Lollie Ragland places blooms at S.C.C.S. meeting under Reg's supervision.

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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

820 Winston Ave.

San Marino, California.

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## Directory of Affiliated Societies

- Camellia Society of Kern County.....Bakersfield  
 President: Melvin G. Canfield; Secretary: Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, 1902 Niles St.,  
 Bakersfield.  
 Meetings held 2nd Monday of the month, October through April, in Police Building,  
 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield.
- Camellia Society of Orange County.....Santa Ana  
 President: Paul McClelland; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1121 Orange, Santa  
 Ana.  
 Meetings held first Thursday of month, October through April, in Orange County  
 Farm Buerau Building, 1916 W. Chapman, Orange.
- Central California Camellia Society.....Fresno  
 President: Mert Weymouth; Secretary: Mrs. Karen Ahrens, 1144 Saginaw, Fresno 4.  
 Meetings held at Heaton School, Del Mar Ave., Fresno on Nov. 20, Dec. 18,  
 Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 25.
- Huntington Camellia Garden.....San Marino  
 Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Oxford Road, San Marino.
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society.....Pomona  
 President: I. John Movich, 932 N. Park Ave., Pomona  
 Meetings held 2nd Thursday of each month, November through April, in the  
 Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Bldg., Garey Ave. & Center St.,  
 Pomona (1 block South of Holt).
- San Diego Camellia Society.....San Diego  
 President: Mrs. Althea T. Hebert; Secretary: Mrs. J. O. Henry, P.O. Box 522,  
 Chula Vista.  
 Meetings held 2nd Friday of the month, November through May, in Floral Associ-  
 ation Building, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Southern California Camellia Society.....San Marino  
 President: A. Wilkins Garner; Secretary: Harold E. Dryden, 820 Winston Ave.,  
 San Marino.  
 Meetings held Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the  
 San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino.
- Temple City Camellia Society.....Temple City  
 President: Harry S. Putnam; Secretary: Mrs. Peter Folino, 708 W. Pepper Dr.,  
 Arcadia.  
 Meetings held Friday, November 29th and thereafter December thru March on 4th  
 Thursday in Lecture Hall of L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

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