

THE *Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Annette' Gehry'

*Courtesy American Camellia Society*

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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.

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

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## **THE CAMELLIA REVIEW**

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## CONTENTS

VOL. 25

MARCH 1964

NO. 5

A. C. S. Awards . . . . .	30
Camellias: Their Feminine Protagonists, Part IV. <i>Margaret Howard Thompson</i> . . . . .	11
Experiment in Moving Camellia Plants . . . . .	24
Fertilizing Camellias . . . . .	21
"Happiest Men on Earth, The" <i>Harold E. Dryden</i> . . . . .	8
Huntington Camellia Collection, The. <i>Myron Kinnach</i> . . . . .	28
John Robinson Talks About Miniatures at Temple City Society January Meeting . . . . .	18
Landscaping With Camellias. <i>Mrs. Maria Wilkes, Reported by Roy T. Thompson</i> . . . . .	27
Orchid Show at Huntington Hotel . . . . .	15
Pomona Society Camellia Show . . . . .	31
Report of A. C. S. Convention at Jackson, Mississippi. <i>Caryll W. Pitkin</i> . . . . .	3
Show Results . . . . .	4
Temple City Camellia Society . . . . .	30
Temple City Society Show Pictures . . . . .	16
Thoughts From the Editor . . . . .	2
What To Do? <i>W. F. Goertz</i> . . . . .	20
Who Killed the Goose? <i>Hamilton Fish</i> . . . . .	26
Winning Blooms at Society Meetings . . . . .	23
Women Man the Store . . . . .	32

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## THE COVER FLOWER

### **C. japonica 'Annette Gehry'**

This month's cover flower is a large anemone form japonica that was introduced in 1960 by Dr. E. L. Gehry of Orangeburg, S. C. Color is light lavender pink shading to white at the center. It has not yet made its appearance in California.

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

This issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW is late by design, not by accident. Your editor decided that since there is no issue in the month of April, it would make sense to have the March issue come out midway between the February and May issues. By doing this we have been able to report results of camellia shows that under schedules previously followed would not have been reported until the May issue.

As I have been visiting around this season and looking at camellia shows, I have been alert for suggestions for further leveling off competitive opportunities for exhibitors in shows. Two rules have been adopted to this end — limitation of number of blooms that can be entered and the provision that a blue ribbon will not count toward Sweepstakes unless the variety has at least three entries. The latter takes care, of course, in leveling off the collector who is particularly interested in having the new varieties.

Other thoughts occur to me that might help in this direction. The best step to take, in my opinion, would be to exclude from competition in the Los Angeles area shows the exhibitors from other areas who seem to have climatic advantages that, it is said, produce better blooms than we can grow. I refer to such areas as the San Joaquin Valley and possibly Santa Maria. A look at the Show Results on page 4 will support this view. Weather should not be used as a stepping stone to awards.

Another item worthy of study is the quality and characteristics of the exhibitor's soil. This thought came to me as I watched Cecil Eshelman dig a hole in the virgin oak leaf soil in which he is planting his camellias at his new home in San Diego County. The soil is just as good two shovel lengths down as it is on top. I am sure this is not an isolated case and it would seem possible to generalize on a rule that would cover such situations without making it appear that we would be picking on one person who is fortunate in his soil content.

These are just a couple of ideas that I think merit further study. Certain it seems that we should be alert to steps that will further equalize the opportunities to earn Sweepstakes Award and thus encourage everybody to enter their flowers in show competition. It is unfortunate that all the pleasures of entering a show — the personal associations, the desire to compare oneself with others, the exhilaration that comes from producing and showing a really first class bloom — are not enough to cause camellia hobbyists to continue to show their blooms even though they never win a Sweepstakes Award. But it's the age in which we live and we camellia people must face it.

*Harold E. Gaylor*

# REPORT OF A. C. S. CONVENTION AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino

A. C. S. State Director

It was still winter in Jackson, Mississippi in February. The trees were bare, the lawns brown and the breeze chilly, but the welcome given the visitors to the A. C. S. Convention was warm and friendly. No question about it, Jackson was glad to see you.

Delegates returning home after a Convention usually tell of the fine times they had, about the parties, shows, dinners and the many friends they met. This I shall do first, but there was also a serious and important side to the Convention and that I shall report last and leave those thoughts with you.

The high light of the Convention was the Thursday tour. Although there was a slight mist falling it didn't dampen the spirits of the seven bus loads of folks who visited the Vicksburg Battle field, a beautifully restored ante bellum home, the U. S. Waterways Experiment station (wish I had room and time to tell more about that) and the old stern wheeler boat "Sprague". The Sprague is the largest river boat ever to ply the Mississippi. We boarded it for a cocktail party, a real old southern dinner, including deep fried cat fish, and later a presentation of the hilarious old melodrama "There's Gold in Them Thar Hills". The audience played a part too by hissing the villain, throwing peanuts at him and cheering the hero. We'll not soon forget that day.

Preceding the opening of the Convention the Governing Board and their wives were entertained at the fabulous Jackson Country Club and fabulous is the right adjective. The entire Convention was invited to a beautiful formal tea at the Governor's mansion and was graciously received by the first lady of Mississippi. We

visited the old Capitol with its most interesting museum, Brent's Nursery and the well known Mynell's Gardens. Visitors were kept busy night and day until the show on Saturday.

And what a show! Nearly everyone has either a glass greenhouse or what is becoming increasingly popular, a plastic covered house to protect plants and blooms from cold weather, wind and rain. And what blooms! People were also encouraged to bring outside grown blooms and it was a revelation to see what a camellia can do in below freezing weather. Outdoor blooms and protected blooms were entered in separate classes but since almost everyone uses Gibberellic no distinction was made here. And if protection and Gibberellic can do what we saw nobody can stop either. The flowers were perfect with an ethereal quality. 'Donckelarii' was the best of show and 'Carter's Sunburst' was runner-up. Twenty-five flowers remained on the honor table, nineteen large flowers and six small ones. Each received a silver bread and butter plate. Quality blooms rather than quantity seemed to be the important thing both in the show and in the awarding of trophies.

Col. Frank Reed of Pasadena and Gib fame spoke on his experiences and Dr. William S. Stewart of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was the banquet speaker relating the work of the Research Committee in a talk entitled "Frontiers in Camellia Research".

Business sessions of the Board of Directors were well planned and smoothly run. Reports revealed that despite some drop in membership in the South due to four consecutive years of freezing weather A.C.S. operated in the black and published the

*(Continued on page 22)*

# Show Results

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**San Diego, California — February 8-9, 1964**

## SUPER SWEEPSTAKES DIVISION

*(Open to former Sweepstakes winners of any camellia show)*

- Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. Reg Ragland, Orange  
Best Japonica — 'Carter's Sunburst', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield  
Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Clarise Carlton', Amos W. Kleinsasser,  
Bakersfield  
Best Reticulata — 'Chang's Temple', Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa  
Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Purple Gown', Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton,  
Santa Maria  
Best 3 or 5 Japonicas — 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Mr. and Mrs. Caryll Pitkin,  
San Marino  
Best 3 or 5 Reticulatas — 'Lion Head', Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton,  
Santa Maria  
Best Miniature — 'Pearl's Pet', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield  
Best Hybrid or Species — 'E. G. Waterhouse', Mr. and Mrs. Peter Folino,  
Arcadia  
Blooms on Court of Honor — 'Betty Robinson', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme',  
'CoEd', 'Guilio Nuccio Var', 'Lucy Hester', 'Marie Bracey', 'Mark Alan',  
'Mathotiana Supreme', 'Mattie O'Reilly', 'Onetia Holland', 'R. L.  
Wheeler', 'Rosea Superba', 'White Empress'

## AMATEUR DIVISION

*(Non-winners of Sweepstakes Award)*

- Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Dekker, Glendale  
Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George, La Mesa  
Best Japonica — 'Coronation', Dr. J. H. Urabec, La Canada  
Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Judge and Mrs. Byron  
Lindsley, San Diego  
Best Reticulata — 'Lion Head', Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George, La Mesa  
Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Chang's Temple', Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George,  
La Mesa  
Best 3 or 5 Japonicas — 'Alba Plena', Mr. and Mrs. John Movich, Pomona  
Best 3 or 5 Reticulatas — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. J. V. George, La Mesa  
Best Miniature — 'Pearl's Pet', Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe, Upland  
Best Hybrid or Species — 'Howard Asper', Mr. and Mrs. Howard Asper,  
Escondido  
Blooms on Court of Honor — 'Angel', 'Clarise Carlton', 'Drama Girl', 'Elegans  
(Chandler)', 'Glen 40', 'Guest of Honor', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Kramer's  
Supreme', 'High Wide'n Handsome', 'Mark Alan Var', 'Reg Ragland',  
'Tiffany', 'White Nun', 'Wilamina'

## SPECIAL CULTURE BLOOMS

- Best Flower — 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Mr. and Mrs. Caryll Pitkin, San Marino  
Best Flower Runner-up — 'Mathotiana', Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa  
**BEST NEW INTRODUCTION—SEEDLING OR SPORT**  
'Seedling K-2', entered by Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa

## CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS—BLOOMING

- Over 3 ft. in height — ‘Onetia Holland’, entered by Miss Edna Francis,  
San Diego  
Under 3 ft. in height — Seedling, entered by Ray Greer, Spring Valley

### POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

**Pomona, California — February 15-16, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — George Kalin, La Mesa  
Sweepstakes Runner-up — Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield  
Best Japonica Over 4" — ‘White Nun’, William E. Woodroof, Sherman Oaks  
Best Japonica Over 4" Runner-up — ‘Evalina’, E. J. Alvarado, Ontario  
Best Japonica Under 4" — ‘Fimbriata’, Mary Thomas, San Dimas  
Best Japonica Under 4" Runner-up — ‘Charlotte Bradford’, Paul McClett,  
Pomona  
Best 3 Japonicas — ‘White Nun’, William E. Woodroof, Sherman Oaks  
Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — ‘Vedrine’, Frank Anderson, Bakersfield  
Best ‘Kramer’s Supreme’ — Mr. and Mrs. John Movich, Pomona  
Best ‘Hawaii’ — Mr. and Mrs. John Movich, Pomona  
Best ‘Guilio Nuccio’ — Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Irvine, Reseda  
Blooms on Court of Honor — ‘Emmett Barnes’, ‘Herme’, ‘Julia France’,  
‘Onetia Holland’, ‘Pink Diddy’, ‘Tomorrow’s Dawn’  
Best Reticulata — ‘Purple Gown’, L. R. Shuey, Temple City  
Best Reticulata Runner-up — ‘Chang’s Temple’, George Kalin, La Mesa  
Best 3 Reticulatas — ‘Buddha’, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon  
Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — ‘Chang’s Temple’, Harry S. Putnam,  
Long Beach  
Best Miniature Japonica — ‘Fircone’, Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino  
Best Miniature Japonica Runner-up — ‘Fleurette’, Edwards H. Metcalf,  
San Marino  
Best 3 Miniature Japonicas — ‘Hopkin’s Pink’, Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield  
Best 3 Miniature Japonicas Runner-up — ‘Miss Muffet’, Judge and Mrs. Byron  
Lindsley, San Diego  
Best Hybrid — ‘E. G. Waterhouse’, Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa  
Best Other Species — ‘Dawn’, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Shuey, Temple City  
Best Seedling — ‘Howard Asper’, J. Howard Asper, Escondido  
Best Special Culture Japonica — ‘Spring Sonnet’, W. F. Goertz, San Marino  
Best Special Culture Japonica Runner-up — ‘Laura Walker Var’, W. F. Goertz,  
San Marino  
Best Special Culture Reticulata — ‘Capt. Rawqs’, Fred Byers, San Marino  
Best Collector’s Table — Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace, Upland  
Best Collector’s Table Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa

### PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

**San Mateo, California — February 15-16, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
Sweepstakes Runner-up — G. M. Stillens, Los Altos  
Sweepstakes for Miniatures — Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr., Carmichael  
Best Japonica — ‘Mrs. D. W. Davis’, Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
Best Japonica Runner-up — ‘Herme’ (gibbed), W. F. Goertz, San Marino  
*(Continued on next page)*

## **SHOW RESULTS** (Continued)

- Japonicas on Table of Honor — 'Shiro Chan', 'Gigantea', 'Destiny', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Alpine Glow Var', 'Nagasaki', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Spring Sonnet', 'Lallarook', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Helen K'
- Best 3 Japonicas — 'Coronation', Roy Tess, Orinda
- 3 Japonicas on Table of Honor — 'Southern Charm', 'Drama Girl', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'R. L. Wheeler'
- Best 7 Japonicas, All Different — Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria
- Best Reticulata — 'Confucius', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley
- Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley
- Reticulatas on Table of Honor — 'Lion Head', 'Chang's Temple'
- Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Chang's Temple', Jack Mandarich, Menlo Park
- 3 Reticulatas on Table of Honor — 'Lion's Head'
- Best Miniature — 'Pearl's Pet', Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Hansen, Sr., Sacramento
- Best Hybrid — 'Diamond Head', S. B. Davi, Pittsburg
- Best Seedling — Japonica Seedling #6255, Harold L. Paige, Lafayette

### **TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY** **Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, California** **February 22-23, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield
- Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed, Pasadena
- Best Flower in Show — 'Cornelian', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
- Best Large Japonica — 'Reg Ragland Var', Dr. Leland E. Chow, Bakersfield
- Best Medium Japonica — 'Ballet Dancer', Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley Pace, Upland
- Best Small Japonica — 'My Darling', Wilber Foss, San Marino
- Best Miniature Japonica — 'White Boutonniere', Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino
- Best 3 Japonicas — 'Guilio Nuccio Var', Mr. and Mrs. Caryll Pitkin, San Marino
- Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Helen K', 'Guest of Honor', 'Barbara Woodroof', 'Almorinda Corneira', 'Iwane', 'Clarise Carlton Var', 'Reeves Sweetheart', 'Julia France', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Alice Morrison', 'Mark Alan', 'Reg Ragland', 'Tiffany', 'Johnny's Folly'
- Best Reticulata — 'Cornelian', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon
- Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood
- Reticulatas on Court of Honor — 'Buddha', 'Moutancha', 'Chang's Temple'
- Best Specially Treated Bloom — 'Spring Sonnet', W. F. Goertz, San Marino
- Best Hybrid — 'Phyl Doak', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
- Best 'Hawaii' — Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
- Best 'Kramer's Supreme' — Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland
- Best New Introduction — 'Howard Asper', J. Howard Asper, Escondido
- Best Collector's Table — Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa

### **LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA COUNCIL** **Descanso Gardens, La Canada, California** **February 29-March 1, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — Dr. Leland E. Chow, Bakersfield
- Sweepstakes Runner-up — Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria



Sweepstakes for Miniatures — Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino  
 Best Japonica — 'Reg Ragland Var', Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla  
 Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Clark Hubbs', Mrs. Clark Hubbs, South Pasadena  
 South Pasadena  
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Destiny', Amos Kleinsasser, Bakersfield  
 Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Clark Hubbs', Mrs. Clark Hubbs,  
 Best 5 Japonicas — 'Glen 40', Mr. and Mrs. John Movich, Pomona  
 Best 5 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Adolphe Audusson', Elmina M. Edwards,  
 South Pasadena  
 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Richard Nixon', 'Tomorrow', 'Clarise Carlton  
 Var', 'Coronation', 'Julia France', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Drama Girl', 'Betty  
 Sheffield Supreme', 'Angel', 'Indian Chief'  
 Best Reticulata — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Gunn, Lynwood  
 Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Moutancha', Martin A. Johnson, San Marino  
 Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Pagoda', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon  
 Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. Carey Bliss,  
 Temple City  
 Best 5 Reticulatas — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon  
 Best 5 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Lion Head', Dr. Clark Hubbs, Jr.,  
 San Marino  
 Best Miniature — 'Pearl's Pet', Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe, Upland  
 Best Miniature Runner-up — 'Little Man', Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Rowe,  
 Upland  
 Best Hybrid — 'Phyl Doak', Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Pace, Upland  
 Best Hybrid Runner-up — 'Bonnie Marie', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
 Best Seedling — 'Howard Asper', J. Howard Asper, Escondido  
 Best Japonica Seedling — Frank W. Maitland, Sylmar  
 Best Reticulata Seedling — Frank W. Maitland, Sylmar  
 Best Sport — 'Tomorrow' sport, Mrs. Ralph Peer, Hollywood  
 Best Specially Treated Bloom — 'Mary Wheeler', Frank Anderson, Bakersfield  
 Best Specially Treated Bloom Runner-up — 'Lady in Red', M. W. Abramson,  
 Tulare  
 Collector's Table, Japonicas — Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
 Collector's Table, Reticulatas — Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
 Collector's Table, Miniatures — Edwards H. Metcalf, San Marino

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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

820 Winston Ave.  
 San Marino, California

## "THE HAPPIEST MEN ON EARTH"

Harold E. Dryden

Editor's Note: This article was written in January for the February issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW but space limitations prevented its use. With an understanding of the timing in writing, it is appropriate as originally written for the March issue.

I recently spent a couple of days down San Diego way and among other things visited two "expatriates" who are so well known and were so active among the camellia group in the Los Angeles area—Howard Asper and Harvey Short. Both of these men were always of amiable disposition, with no outward sign that anything in life bothered them. I have visited with Howard before since he moved permanently to Escondido late in 1962, and have noted his relaxed bearing after leaving the day by day requirements of his job as Superintendent of the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. This was my first visit with Harvey, however, other than during the hurry and bustle of his helping to put on last year's San Diego camellia show. After this recent visit, I conclude that both men are among that group which can be described as "the happiest men on earth" because they are both doing what they individually want to do.

Howard's life at his Escondido ranch is a combination of what he and his wife Hazel call "making a living" and following his hobby of camellia hybridization. It looks as though the latter might contribute to the former, because some of his hybrids that are coming into bloom seem destined to popularity among camellia growers. He and Hazel have owned the ranch for many years, back to his days as Superintendent of Descanso Gardens, so their move to Escondido was no spur of the moment act. At present his principal living making activity is growing camellias for the cut flower market, and in this activity Hazel plays an important part

in picking and packing the blooms. Needless to say, his selection of varieties of camellias for this purpose does not follow the formula of the blue ribbon seeker, although 'Debutante' fits into the cut flower market as well as it does in the collector's favorites. Camellia foliage goes along with blooms in this market. I shall probably have a twinge when I throw into the trash can the tops of the plants that I shall use for understock in grafting.

He isn't staking all his future on camellias, however. He is growing stralitzia (bird of paradise) for marketing the blooms. Last year's freeze set back his plants but he has a good sized plot of them and looks forward to the future. His newest project is growing proteas, a South African plant that Dr. William Stewart of the Los Angeles County Arboretum talked up so enthusiastically after his 1962 visit there. He has a good sized plot of young plants that will have their first blooms this year. He also has several flats of young seedlings just coming up from the thousands of seeds he imported from South Africa. The interesting part of the protea project is the lack of knowledge in this country of their culture and their blooming habits. He is a pioneer in this project.

Of interest to camellia growers, of course, is his hobby, camellia hybridization. This hobby became active following his participation in the introduction of the Yunnan reticulatas in the late 1940's. His principal interest has been to combine in a single plant the beauty of the reticulata bloom and the plant and foliage characteristics of the japonica and sasanqua. He never did subscribe to the view that was held by some people that these different species could not be successfully crossed, so proceeded

to make crosses. His cross of *C. japonica* 'Coronation' X *C. reticulata* 'Lionhead' produced the beautiful flower that over the protests of his natural modesty has been named 'Howard Asper'. This hybrid first attracted attention in the 1961-1962 season and was beautiful. The freeze of the next season killed the buds, and Howard has been on the anxious seat awaiting this season's blooms to see whether the first year's quality will be repeated. I saw the flower the other day and on the strength of what I saw bought one of the plants. (He is selling plants for delivery in September and will sell scions for next year's grafting.) It can't fail to click with camellia people. He has another cross of which he has just started to build up stock, a cross of *C. sasanqua* 'Narumi-Gata' X *C. reticulata* 'Lionhead'. This year's blooming was a cluster of reticulata-like flowers on a sasanqua-looking plant, a combination

that people have talked about but never seen. Howard told me that the blooms I saw had been on the plant for over a week. He picked this same cluster and brought it to the January 14th meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society. It is durable.

His regret is that his "living making" activity does not give him as much time as he would like for making crosses, although he will make this year what sounds to me like a fabulous number. He is now getting organized in his operations so that he looks forward to more time for the hobby part of his work. He has enough new hybrids blooming that appear to have market possibilities that the proceeds from the hobby may be a goodly part of his income, although he is steadfast in his statement, and I believe it, that he will never introduce a new hybrid just to sell some plants. And with it all —

*(Continued on next page)*



**Hazel and Howard Asper, and the view of the North San Diego County hills which they see from the terrace of their home.**

feeding the cut-flower market, pioneering in proteas, and replacing the bees as camellia hybridizer — he is living the best years of his life.

Harvey Short's daily life is different from Howard Asper's, because Harvey is not setting out to build a new business or to pioneer in phases of camellia hybrids and species. His interest in camellias has been largely in producing beautiful new japonica blooms, and I believe that his pleasure in this activity has been largely in his own enjoyment of these new blooms. He has mostly let the bees do the hybridizing work for him, and in his own words has been lucky in what the bees have brought forth. His 'Masterpiece' was among his first introductions and set a pattern for beauty in white formals. Despite the fact that most people in the Los Angeles area can't grow it, he grew good looking plants with exquisite flowers while he lived in Pasadena. Every one

of his seedling introductions is a personality to him from the time that he decides it is worth keeping, and his friends sometimes think that he must impart some of this personal feeling to his plants so that varieties such as 'Masterpiece' will flourish when other people nearby can't make them grow.

Now he has all of his time to devote to these "children" of his that are growing in his lath house at La Mesa, a San Diego suburb. Over half of his plantings are his own varieties. Every variety has a name even though it has had no distribution to others. As he stated it to me, a name is just as easy to remember as a number and a number is so impersonal. He does not register these names unless he plans to market the variety. He grows many of them because of characteristics that he and his wife Margaret like and sees no

*(Continued on page 32)*



**Harvey Short is as animated as he always has been as he tells Berkeley Pacz (left) and Fred Hamilton about his new seedlings in his La Mesa lath house.**

# CAMELLIAS: THEIR FEMININE PROTAGONISTS

## IV

Margaret Howard Thompson

In our tour of the world to visit women who are extending camellia interest in a variety of ways, we leave the continents down under and board a jet transport for the eastern shores of the United States. Our plane lands at Idlewild Airport in New York where the first flowering camellia arrived in 1800 from England. These early arrivals were grown in greenhouses since New York is north of the camellia belt for outdoor cultivation. Between 1835 and 1860 the flower reigned as the most popular of greenhouse plants in all the principal cities of the North. At this same time interest in the camellia was beginning in the South. Today in 1964 the Southern states are known as the "camellia center of the United States" because of the vast number of plants grown in almost every garden in all of the twelve states.

Naturally, the evidence of such widespread interest in camellias includes the activities of many women who enjoy the hobby of camellia culture for itself or because of their husband's interest. I'd like to include in this article all of the Southern camellia ladies I've heard about, but distance makes it impossible to gather first-hand information about them. Bill Woodroof tells me that Rea Hayes of Thomasville, Georgia, is "the sweetest lady in the world." Edwards Metcalf recalls his visits to the homes of Sari Henri of Savannah and Mrs. Felix Revere of Mobile. Vera Parker speaks of the magnificent gardens of Mynelle Hayward of Jackson, Mississippi. Each Southern California visitor to the South speaks of memorable impressions of gracious camellia ladies. Since space is limited, let me share with you a few highlights from the lives of four women.

My nomination for the title of Camellia Lady of the South is Mrs. Sigmund J. Katz, better known as Jessie Katz. The beautiful fimbriated red semidouble named for her by Norwood Hastie of Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, South Carolina, reminds us of her charm and friendliness which we feel when we meet in Southern California during her frequent visits at show time. Interest in camellias began in early girlhood for Jessie, and with marriage to a camellia fancier she developed an intense love for the flower. The Katz collection at Covington, Louisiana, started around 1933 after seeing McIlhenny's imports of new varieties. She was challenged by the supposed difficulty of growing the plant and was intrigued by the hunt for new varieties. As early as 1944 their planting had become one of the finest collections of camellias in the country according to many growers. During her husband's lifetime, she shared the hobby equally with him. All camellia problems were of interest: nomenclature, culture, adaptability of species and varieties within species to their particular locality, propagation, control of diseases and insects. Today she is the sole grower of 1000 plants on a 5½ acre estate. She continues to graft new varieties but no longer raises seedlings. Years ago several of her seedlings were registered and named: 'Dave C. Strother', 'Duchess of Covington', 'Dr. Frank Cato', and 'Dr. Newsom'.

Jessie belongs to almost all of the camellia societies and is especially proud of her membership (in violation of Article IV) in a men's camellia club. Members of the American Camellia Society elected her a Director-at-Large, and she served on the

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Publicity, Peer Award, and Camellia Show Judges Committees. The outstanding contribution of time and effort of Sigmund and Jessie Katz to the American Camellia Society was recognized by the dedication to them of the 1957 edition of the *ACS Yearbook*. Thus, Jessie Katz became the only woman in the camellia world to share this honor with her husband. The dedication says in part:

"Only an optimist would attempt to relate, within the confines of a relatively few paragraphs, all the endeavors, achievements, and contributions of this remarkable couple, or attempt to pay tribute to the two characteristics so thoroughly ingrained in their souls, personal integrity and insistence on honest dealings among mankind, which place them in that category upon which rests the future and success of the camellia industry."

The variety of Jessie's contribution to the camellia world can be seen in many ways. For instance, the Southern California Camellia Society has capitalized on her interests in clearing the confusion in nomenclature and judging rules, in scientific horticulture, and in bringing camellia growers together from all sections of the country by making her a member of their Nomenclature Committee and obtaining her help in editing *Camellia Culture*, their latest publication. The *New York Times* and other newspapers have published her articles on grafting, and the *ACS Yearbook* carried five of her articles (two co-authored with her husband and one with D. C. Strother) from 1946-58. Since becoming an accredited ACS judge, our Camellia Lady of the South has judged at approximately 100 shows.

Like most camellia women, Jessie Katz enjoys all forms and colors of the flower except perhaps for minor interest in formals. Size is not of major importance to her since her list of ten favorites contains a sasanqua and 'Dr. Tinsley'. According to Jessie, she does not have the typically feminine viewpoint toward the camel-

lia. She cares far less about picking, wearing, or arranging blooms and more about gardening, discussing and promoting the fellowship inherent in the hobby, straightening out tangled nomenclature, and helping to standardize show and judging rules. As sharers of her love for camellias, we are grateful for her thirty years of contribution to the hobby. In countless ways and to seen and unseen audiences, she has spread the love for camellias through lecturing, writing, growing, experimenting, encouraging, and cooperating.

Our next stop is Lake Charles, Louisiana, to visit a newcomer to the hobby, Mrs. Theodore L. Moon, who has been raising camellias for six years. In a very short time, her blooms took awards at shows. For example, in 1959 at the Southwest Louisiana Camellia Society show, several of her blooms on the honor table received the gold certificate for camellias grown in the open. At the Houston Camellia Show in the same year, she had the best bloom in show grown in open, best bloom under 4½ inches, and received the silver certificate for sweepstakes grown in open. You'll agree that Jane Moon must have that green thumb we hear so much about — and I imagine her father, the late Judge Thomas Porter, gave her sound advice about camellia culture.

Jane Moon represents for us the young homemaker who besides caring for her family finds time to enjoy her garden through the love of camellias. Our "young homemaker" is atypical though. She also writes, is a deep sea fisherwoman, dreams up delicious new recipes, and grows prize-winning flowers. Jane is blessed with boundless energy as demonstrated by her professional ice skating ability. To be a good ice skater, one must practice hours on end to achieve the perfection and grace necessary to be chosen as a performer in an ice revue or to win

the Gulf States Senior and Eastern States Junior Skating Championships. Our camellia homemaker won these contests and skated in Sonja Henie's Ice Review, Skating Sensations, a Canadian production starring Barbara Ann Scott; and other shows. Now that she is a wife and mother she has transferred her expenditure of energy to other channels.

Just a minute picture of her varied activities can be given here. First, as a camellia hobbyist, I should tell you that she became an ACS Judge in 1959 and has judged at many shows in Louisiana and Texas since then. Her home displays approximately 47 trophies and 23 silver spoons won at various camellia shows for the outstanding blooms she is able to grow in her garden. One of these trophies, a lovely etched tray donated by Judge and Mrs. C. M. Moss of Lake Charles for sweepstakes in the 1961 show, was given by Jane to her alma mater, Marjorie Webster Junior College in Washington, D. C.

Second, as a writer, Jane Moon has added to the camellia literature through articles in the CAMELLIAN and the ACS Journal. She has also written on other subjects for newspapers and her college. An honor which she values most is recognition as one of the seven winners of the monthly contest sponsored by the Academy of American Poets in the December, 1962, issue of *Poetry Pilot*.

Third, as a gourmet, Jane concocts delicious culinary dishes for her family and friends. Recently, her artistry as a cook was recognized when she was awarded first place in both the Sweet and Dairy Division of the "Lovely Louisiana Foods" contest in the Fall, 1962. Her prize-winning recipes were Southern Charm Camellia Cake and Creole Cheese Balls. Her cake recipe was created when flowers and dessert ordered for a party failed to arrive. Jane innovated by taking

an angel food cake, preparing a pink gelatin mixture with raspberries to fill it, and placing two camellias on the top to ornament it.

Fourth, as a fisherwoman, she demonstrates her prowess by occasionally catching the largest fish and walking away with the honors while the men wonder how she did it.

Our youngest camellia lady of the South shares her interest with people wherever she or her husband goes. Friends in ice shows receive blooms back stage; audiences at shows where Jane skates see the flower on her costume or in her hair; local friends, clubs, and schools use her blooms for decorations; and Armed Services friends in far off places, such as North Africa and Goose Bay, Labrador, are happy to see Lt. Col. Moon fly in because he brings camellia blooms when in season. Our thanks to Jane Moon for her enthusiastic enjoyment of camellias which undoubtedly attracts others to the hobby.

On to Mardi Gras country and our Grand Dame of Camellias. Attracted by an article in the 1954 *ACS Yearbook* entitled "Camellias a la Sardines," I read further and discovered that the author, Mrs. J. David Wirth of New Orleans, Louisiana, was writing about her own garden. The Wirth collection of over 500 plants representing 140 varieties, together with 100 or more seedlings, is housed on a lot 50 feet wide by 120 feet deep. Their first plant, a 'C. M. Hovey', was planted approximately 50 years ago.

When I met Aunt Tillie, as she is affectionately called by her many Southern California friends, in Los Angeles two years ago, I was impressed by her vast knowledge of camellia culture and nomenclature. To me she represents the many Southern women who intimately know and love the camellia for itself and who actively enter into the many facets of camellia growing.

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Aunt Tillie and her husband enter their blooms in the camellia shows in their area and win many ribbons and other awards. To commemorate their support of camellia shows, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society dedicated their 1964 show to the Wirths, who have been exhibiting for over 25 years. At times they have taken as many as 400 blooms to a show, transporting them on aluminum trays made especially for this purpose. There is a 'Tillie Wirth' camellia, a large pink and white flower which blooms late in the season and which was introduced by the former Mayor Fritchie of Slidell, Louisiana.

Sharing her plants with gardening friends is one of Mrs. Wirth's pleasures. Also, the New Orleans City Parks boast of many large plants from the Wirth gardens. We in the West cherish our memories of New Orleans' friendly "Mrs. Camellia" and look forward to seeing her in the 64-65 season in her crowded garden or in our western gardens.

Our last Southern camellia lady reflected the sincere feeling of all the women I contacted for this series of articles. All feel that their contributions are too minor to be publicized. While this may be true, my feeling is that each person or event which strengthens the interest in camellias is worthy of note. You can imagine my disappointment last year when I received a letter from Mrs. M. J. Witman of Macon, Georgia, in which she wrote "I am tremendously flattered that you (at the suggestion of friends) want to speak about me and my work with camellias, and I do thank you very sincerely. However, I strongly feel that what I have accomplished to date does not warrant talking about. And I would frankly be embarrassed if anyone talked about me as if I were "important" in the camellia world, which I am not." My reason for asking for her story was that I had noticed in the *American Camellia*

*Yearbook* that Mrs. Witman had authored many articles about the hobby. In fact one of the most interesting articles appeared in the 1960 issue. Interesting to the readers of this treatise on women because it tells of her visit to the home of a famous American explorer, Miss Louise Arner Boyd, who lives in San Rafael, California. Miss Boyd, one of our nation's outstanding women, is a member of the American Camellia Society and grows many camellias — particularly the lovely white 'Lotus'. The article by Mrs. Witman is fascinating reading — borrow your husband's 1960 edition of the *ACS Yearbook* and read it for yourself.

Fortunately, the Witmans visited the Southern California Camellia Society a few weeks ago, and I was able to interview Mrs. Witman and gain her permission to tell you about her contribution to the camellia world. When I noticed in the table of contents of the *ACS Yearbooks* for the past ten years that at least five to ten of the articles in each one were written by women, I began to look for a woman to represent this unique contribution which we females are making to our husband's hobby. Lilette Witman of Georgia is the representative of the feminine authors. She has written for the *Yearbook* and for the *Northern California Camellia Bulletin*. Unlike most of us who are amateur writers, Lilette is a Vassar graduate in journalism and wrote for several years for fashion newspapers in New York City. Upon her marriage she moved to the South where she and her husband became interested in camellias. Mrs. Witman does all the grafting and hybridizing for their collection which now contains a large group of species. The Witmans enjoy traveling to visit camellia friends, and we in the West have come to know them through their visits to California. When our members "go South" (as the saying goes), they



find the gates of Lorraine Farms wide open as the Witmans enjoy sharing their beautiful gardens with camellia friends.

Our thanks to Mrs. Witman; Mrs. L. W. MacDowell, Lakeland, Florida; Mrs. Clarence Sample, St. James, L.I., New York; Mrs. Fred J. Hay, Dillon, South Carolina; Mrs. P. H. McEachin, Florence, South Carolina; Mrs. Irene D. Nehrling, Boston, Massachusetts; Mrs. Rufus N. Garrett, El Dorado, Arkansas; and all the other Eastern ladies who write about camellias and the people who grow them. Their contributions help to enlarge the historical records of the influence of the camellia on the lives of people around the world.

Although three of the ladies I've told you about are from Louisiana, I'm not intentionally being partial to that state. In fact, I'm partial to North Carolina because it was in Wilmington that my husband and I saw the beauty of the camellia in mass plantings. During the war years, Mr. Thompson was stationed at Camp Davis, the Anti-Aircraft Artillery School. As residents of Wilmington, we had the privilege of meeting the Lippitt and Sprunt families and visiting their lovely plantations on the Cape Fear River. Clarendon Plantation is remembered as a stately red brick colonial house surrounded by huge camellia trees or bushes. Inglis Fletcher, author of *Raleigh's Eden*, who was with us on one of our visits

to Clarendon, used this plantation for some of the scenes in that book. Orton Plantation is a lovely white colonial house with four tall columns in the midst of fifteen acres of carefully landscaped gardens. The setting is one of handsome live oaks, broad lawns, a terrace overlooking the rice fields to the river, the black water of the lagoon, cypress and tall pines, many exotic and native plants and trees in formal and informal gardens which feature azaleas and several hundred camellias. These gardens remind one of the South's grandeur. As we leave this part of the United States, let's all resolve to visit one day soon the Southern camellia people and their beautiful gardens.

### **Orchid Show at Huntington Hotel**

The San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyist are hosting the Tenth Western Orchid Congress and its accompanying orchid show, "Orchids on Parade," at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena, on March 20-22, 1964. The orchid show, to be held in the hotel's Grand Ballroom, will be open to the public from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. March 20th and 21st and from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. March 22nd. The hours 7:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on all three days are reserved for photographers who may at that time use flash equipment and tripods. Admission to the show is \$1.00.

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# Temple City Society



Upper: From left to right, Ernie Pieri, Wilber Foss and Wilkins Garner. Pieri was Show Chairman of this year's Descanso Gardens Show, is an active member of the Temple City Society. Foss is a past president and Garner is now president of the Southern California Society.

Lower: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller of El Cajon, a San Diego suburb, members of the San Diego Society.

# Show Pictures



Upper L: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamilton of Santa Maria.

Upper R: David L. Feathers and Harold L. Paige of Lafayette in Northern California. Mr. Feathers is Editor of the Northern California Society's CAMELLIA BULLETIN.

Lower L: Mr. and Mrs. Caryll Pitkin of San Marino.

Lower R: Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Dekker of Glendale.

## JOHN ROBINSON TALKS ABOUT MINIATURES AT TEMPLE CITY SOCIETY JANUARY MEETING

John Robinson decided before others that since he could not compete in growing large camellia blooms (at least that is what he says), he would grow the little ones where largeness is a penalty. Because of the early start and his keen interest in miniatures, he has acquired one of the largest miniature collections in Southern California and has won at least his share of miniature trophies. He receives scions of new miniature introductions from all parts of the United States and, in effect, runs a miniature test garden. Consequently he had a good turn-out to hear him talk on his favorite subject at the January 23rd meeting of the Temple City Camellia Society in the Los Angeles County Arboretum Auditorium.

He first asked the question, "why miniatures?" He answered his question by saying that in the personal enjoyment of camellias, miniatures are especially good for corsages, particularly for smaller people, and for flower arrangements.

He gives his miniatures the best cultural treatment. Don't try, he said, to get miniature blooms by lack of treatment. He does not disbud, which in his view is one of the pleasures of growing miniatures. Many of them will shed their excess buds. 'Frances' and 'Snow Nymph', for example, bud heavily but by blooming time their buds are normal because of their having dropped the excess.

He reviewed the reclassification from Miniature to Small in the 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE of some of the varieties commonly thought of as miniatures. The rule for acceptance of miniatures in Southern California shows of previous years has been that at least 60% of the blooms on the plant be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches or less in diameter. This created a problem of uncertainty with

exhibitors. For some varieties, some entries have been in the miniatures division and some with the small blooms. Careful attention was given in the preparatory work for the 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE to the proper classification of all the smaller varieties as between Miniature and Small. Growers with large collections of miniatures were consulted and on the basis of such consensus, varieties were classified in the new nomenclature book. It was brought out during Mr. Robinson's talk that the rules for the Descanso Gardens Show of February 29-March 1 will provide that entries in the Miniatures Division will be accepted strictly in accordance with the varietal classification in the 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE; that is, even though an exhibitor's plant may produce blooms with the substantial majority under  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", such blooms will not be accepted in the Miniatures Division unless the variety is classified as Miniature in the 1964 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. Mr. Robinson commented that he would hope all camellia shows would follow this rule.

He told his audience that because of the public interest, many new japonica varieties have been brought out as miniatures. As the plants of these varieties have grown, however, the flowers have become larger. He cautioned, therefore, against reaching early conclusions on classification of the smaller flowers. This is particularly true for grafted plants, which will do their best in the first year or two after grafting, particularly on large under-stock. He said that the real test of whether the flower will be under  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches is from plants grown on their own roots. He thinks that some of the newer varieties in his collection that he thinks of as

Miniature and are so classified in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE will change to Small.

He devoted the last half of his talk to showing slides of camellias that in the recent years have been thought of as miniatures. He separated them into two groups: those now classified as Small and those now classified as Miniature. As he showed the pictures he commented on the good and poor qualities of the varieties.

Following are the varieties he discussed that are frequently thought of as miniatures but are classified as Small in the 1964 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. Varietal names followed by an asterisk were classified as Miniature in the 1962 edition of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE.

ALISON LEIGH WOODROOF  
BAMBINO  
BUDDY  
CAMEO GEM  
CARDINAL'S CAP\*  
CATHY  
FAIRY FOUNTAIN  
FLORENCE DANIELL\*  
FRANCES\*  
HIDDEN TREASURE  
JINGLE BELLS  
JOHNNY'S FOLLY  
KIMBERLY JR.  
KITTY  
LANDRETHII  
LITTLE BIT\*  
PETITE\*  
ROSY POSY  
SAM BARRANCO PINK  
SNOW NYMPH  
STARLET

TINKER BELL  
TINY BUD\*  
TOM THUMB  
WILAMINA

Following are the varieties classified as Miniature in the 1964 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE that Mr. Robinson displayed and discussed.

ANGEL'S BLUSH  
BABY SARGEANT  
BABY SIS  
BIMBO  
DEMI-TASSE  
DRYADE  
ELFIN CHARM  
FIRCONE  
FLEURETTE  
GINGER  
HOPKIN'S PINK  
LITTLE DAVID  
LITTLE MAN  
LITTLE UN  
MARION DARSOW  
MEMENTO  
NANCY LEE  
PEARL'S PET  
RED BUTTON  
ROSY POSY  
SNOW FAIRY  
SUGAR BABE  
SUZIE  
TINSIE  
TINY TOT  
TRUDY  
WHITE BUTTONS

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The new hybrid seedling 'Howard Asper' has won four Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificates this year (at the Pomona, Temple City, Descanso Gardens, and Bakersfield shows).

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# What to Do



by W. F. GOERTZ

A rather ancient pamphlet on gardening I stumbled onto the other day, on camellias, says: "Do not pick stems or you will remove growth on which next year's flowers form. Prune only lightly in spring after flowering season if any pruning at all seems necessary". I guess this is the way a lot of folks learned it and still follow. This is a hard way to grow show type flowers, since heavy pruning is one of the most important phases of camellia culture. Right after the March camellia shows is the best time to get started. Don't be afraid to do some drastic cutting back, thinning out, eliminating dead twigs, inside growth, crisscrossing branches, and at the same time bring the plant into proper shape.

It is not too late to graft *reticulatas* — in fact, I think March and April retic grafts do better than the earlier ones.

If you want to try your hand at raising a few plants from cuttings in a very inexpensive "greenhouse", get a box about 10 inches deep, fill it about one half with a mixture of 50/50 sand and peat. Soak it well and then with a pencil size stick poke holes about two inches apart. Prepare your cuttings, exposing one or two growth buds, trim off half of each leaf, stem should be cut on a slant, dip stem in rooting powder and insert in holes. Another watering will firm the soil. Cover box with a plastic sheet and tie or tack around the sides. No further watering will be necessary. The cuttings should be calloused,

rooted and ready to transplant into individual containers next Fall.

Fertilizing your camellia plants should start around April 1st and continue every two months during the summer. This subject will not be elaborated on here since this issue contains a lot of detail on camellia fertilizing.

Like the man said, you can make a lot of mistakes in caring for camellias and still produce blooms — but if you make the mistake of forgetting to keep them watered — "you're dead". In the hot summer days with temperatures above 85 it is very desirable to sprinkle the foliage and ground every day — with a good soaking at least once a week. It is particularly important not to let the soil get dry for several weeks after applying fertilizer.

When watering your small container plants, especially the metal cans, you will note water sometimes disappearing immediately. Sometimes this is due to a hole in the can, but most usually it's due to a channel under the surface along the side of the can to the drain hole. Poke all along the inside of the can, find the vacancy and pack it with soil — otherwise the roots will dry out.

You will be uncovering your grafts during the next several months. Be sure there is a good callous before raising the jar. If the graft seems to wilt after letting the air in, replace the jar for several days and try again in the cool of the evening. A good

*(Continued on page 29)*

## FERTILIZING CAMELLIAS

It is axiomatic in growing camellias that the plants must be fertilized to produce ribbon-winning blooms. Even if people do not grow camellias for showing but derive their pleasure from the blooms in their own gardens, proper fertilization will add to the pleasure because of the better looking foliage and the larger blooms. The question, of course, is what fertilizer to use. There are many views and theories on this subject. Fertilizer companies market brands of fertilizer that contain the elements that camellias need for proper growth. Some people use such camellia food with good results. Other people like to mix their own.

The Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW decided in presenting the 1964 article on fertilizing camellias that he would ask successful camellia growers to tell their fertilizing programs, from which people in doubt regarding their own programs could obtain ideas for their own use. Following are the fertilizing formulas of five such successful growers whose names are usually found among the Table of Honor winners at Southern California camellia shows. All have presented their programs with modesty because all recognize that there is no one best program. And, as Caryll Pitkin points out in his opening sentence, fertilizing is only one part, although an important part, of growing camellias. Any one of the following fertilizing programs will be adequate based on the results they are producing for their users.

### **Caryll W. Pitkin, San Marino**

As you know very well, the use of fertilizer is only one part, although an important part, of raising nice camellias. Pruning, debudding, watering, proper planting and shading — they all play a part in putting a bloom on the Court of Honor. I use nothing but cotton seed meal and apply it

three or four times during the year. I put a rather heavy feeding on about the first of the year with this thought in mind: Cotton seed is slow to take effect and won't have much influence before the weather gets warm, so I like to put it on in the winter and let it decompose and work into the soil. In the spring when the plants start the new growth and need nourishment the fertilizer is ready and waiting. I fertilize again in June but in smaller amounts before the plants start the second cycle of growth. Then in the fall when the buds are growing I feed again once or twice with small amounts of cotton seed.

I realize that the words "heavy feeding" and "small amounts" are not very precise but it is impossible for me to describe the feedings more accurately. So much depends on the size of the plant, the number of leaves and the vigor of the plant. On some of the large old plants in the ground I use as much as a quart at a time; on others in 2 gallon containers a quarter of a cup would be enough.

I use only cottonseed meal for two reasons: I have never burned my plants with it because I was too generous and it seems to work for me better than any other fertilizer I have ever used.

### **Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria**

Here is my camellia feeding program. My first feeding is the last of March. I use 6 parts cottonseed meal, 1 part hoof and horn, 1 part sulphur and 1 part blood meal. I have been told that the blood meal is not effective at this early feeding because it needs warm weather for best results. The second feeding is made about the 1st of June, when I use 6 parts of cotton seed meal, 1 part hoof and horn and 1 part blood meal. The third feeding comes about August first with

*(Continued on next page)*

6 parts cottonseed meal and 1 part hoof and horn. In October I feed potash and phosphate in equal parts.

**Peter Folino, Arcadia**

Fertilization of our camellia plants is a must. Living in an area where drainage is very good, we have used a liquid fertilizer (Liquinox) as directed and found that within a few hours our camellia plants have started to absorb the fertilizer. There is no set amount to be used. Some plants are larger than others and your experience with camellias will tell you the right amount to give each plant. Container plants are fed the same way as those in the ground, only often-er and not so much at one time.

Alkalinity in the soil is ever present and we have found that if we use iron chelate twice instead of once a year, the camellia plant will not be harmed in any way. We use the iron chelate in between the feedings, once before the hot weather sets in and once after.

**A. H. Dekker, Glendale**

We fertilize 3 times a year, at approximately April 1, June 1, and August 1. We use cottonseed meal, occasionally mix in a little commercial camellia fertilizer or acid fertilizer. In recent years we have used some hoof and horn. We give gallon cans about a teaspoon of the mix and use a tablespoon of it on the 5 gallon cans. For plants in the ground we scatter it around and gently work it in, using from 1/2 cup up according to the size of the plant.

**W. F. (Bill) Goertz, San Marino**

I have used mostly Camellia Grow and cotton seed meal during the past 10 years. Lately I have used mostly cotton seed meal. Year before last I added considerable blood meal and hoof and horn for one feeding. I over did it a bit and got some bad burn. Last year I used cotton seed meal except that on the last feeding I added a small amount of blood meal and hoof and horn. I intend to use the following formula in 1964: cotton seed only for two feedings then one feeding with 6 quarts cottonseed meal, 1 pint hoof and horn and 1/2 pint blood meal. I use the maximum amount, just so it doesn't burn. I can't tell you how much. I don't measure, just play it by ear and give them plenty. I scrape it in lightly. I fertilize approximately the first of April, June and August.

**REPORT OF A.C.S. (Continued)**

usual fine Year Book and Journals. Much of the credit, of course, goes to Aubrey Harris, the retiring president and Joe Pyron, secretary.

Mr. Harris, because of the press of personal business, did not choose to be a candidate for reelection but according to a change in the by-laws will remain in office until the fall meeting in November. The President is now elected at the annual meeting but does not take office until Novem-

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ber. This allows him time to get his committees organized and plans made before the camellia season begins. Charles Butler, attorney, of Mobile, Alabama was the unanimous and popular choice for President. He will assume office in November at New Orleans. Spencer Walden, Albany, Georgia was elected Chairman of the Board.

Albert H. Dekker of Glendale was elected vice-president for the West Coast replacing Alton B. Parker of Temple City who is of the opinion that a vice president should not serve for more than two consecutive years. Dr. Chester Kitchens of Texarkana was re-elected for the Golf Coast and William P. Kemp of Goldsboro, North Carolina became Vice-President for the East Coast. Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith of McRae, Georgia were re-elected Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. The re-election of this popular and efficient couple will probably be automatic for as long as they care to serve.

Joe Pyron will continue as Executive Secretary and Editor. Except for the Executive Secretary, which is a full time job, no Officer or Director of A.C.S. receives any compensation or even expenses.

Committees on membership, awards, finance and others met and reported recommendations to the Governing Board. Minor modifications in

show rules will be published in the Journal.

All officers from California were present and all agreed that future Conventions will have a hard time equalling the 1964 meeting at Jackson, Mississippi.

## Winning Blooms at Society Meetings

S. C. C. S. February 11

Japonica—Large and Very Large  
‘Tomorrow’s Dawn’, ‘Mathotiana Supreme’, ‘Coronation’, ‘Geisha Girl’, ‘Guest of Honor’

Japonica — Small and Medium  
‘Ville de Nantes’, ‘Spring Sonnet’, ‘Finlandia Var’, ‘Jean Marie’, ‘Prince Eugene Napoleon’

Japonica — Miniature  
‘Bimbo’, ‘Tiny Tot’, ‘Poppy Sans’, ‘Tinsie’

Reticulata  
‘Chang’s Temple’, ‘Butterfly Wings’

Hybrids  
‘Brigadoon’, ‘Donation’

Japonica, Special Culture —  
Large and Very Large  
‘Guilio Nuccio Var’, ‘Mary Ann Houser’, ‘Flame’, ‘Betty Sheffield Supreme’, ‘Thelma Dale’

Japonica, Special Culture —  
Small and Medium  
‘Purity’, ‘Ballet Dancer’, ‘Prince Eugene Napoleon’, ‘Herme’, ‘Spring Sonnet’

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## EXPERIMENT IN MOVING CAMELLIA PLANTS

The accompanying pictures illustrate another experiment in moving in the ground camellias. Late in last camellia season, Edwards Metcalf obtained some *reticulata* plants from Howard Asper in Escondido. Mr. Asper was going to pull out the plants to make room for other plants when Mr. Metcalf came along. So they literally pulled out the plants, using only moderate if any care in protecting the roots. They wrapped the roots as shown in the picture below and loaded them into Mr. Metcalf's station wagon. The top picture on the opposite page shows how the ten plants looked in the station wagon.

The plants were placed in containers with proper soil mix and with proper regard to planting techniques. They have had only the same care that Mr. Metcalf's other plants have

had. In this connection he was away from home during September and October and these plants were cared for by a gardener. They were not given special pruning when transplanted to the containers. The lower picture on the opposite page shows how eight of the ten look now. One plant died and one does not have the foliage such as shown on the four plants in the picture.

It is not intended to suggest that this is the way to move camellia plants that are in the ground. Mr. Metcalf says that the move in this manner is strictly an experiment and additional time will be needed to draw conclusions. The eight plants are all healthy and there is every indication now that they will be full foliaged plants after next growing season.



This is the way the plants looked when they were taken from the station wagon a year ago.

# Moving Camellia Plants



The plants were placed in the station wagon and without protection were hauled the 90 miles from Escondido to San Marino.



This is the way the plants look now — thrifty with every indication of good growth ahead.

## WHO KILLED THE GOOSE - - ?

Hamilton Fish  
San Jose, California

It is so easy to point the finger in accusation at everybody else. In this case, it would seem that almost everybody is guilty of the crime. The question of "who killed the goose that layed the golden eggs" must be decided by each camelliophile to his own satisfaction. However, directly or indirectly we would say the blame belongs to all. While the crime was slow in being committed the lack of "golden eggs" in the future might be of concern to a number of us. Production of new camellia varieties, particularly hybrids, is the issue. A loss of sources is the problem.

During the past several years in northern California we have witnessed unfortunate events. The only major camellia specialty nursery closed its doors, due to lack of adequate business. It was well on the way to becoming a major producer as well as introducer of hybrid camellias. Then the outstanding wholesale camellia nursery of the area closed its doors. Many and varied were the hybrids produced here. Not all of them reached the market. While a few of the better varieties will be marketed by mail, many worthwhile specimens will never be seen in your garden.

In Oregon, a commercial grower and camellia hybridizer disposed of his fabulous collection of species and hybrids. Not enough interest in commercial circles was the reason given. In Washington, an amateur grower, plagued by rising costs and lack of time without hired help, disposed of a wonderful selection of hybrids and species.

Again in northern California, in many backyard camellia collections which occupy too much space in proportion to lot size, many superior, beautiful camellia japonica seedlings

are doomed to blush unseen, as nurserymen will not invest money in them. Why? Because camellia sales are not worth the expense of maintaining the plants throughout the year. Why? Because camellia hobbyists have been too busy killing the goose which laid the golden eggs.

How did all of this come about? Very simply — instead of buying the new and choice plants as they come on the market, the hobby grower saves a few dollars by scrounging cuttings or scions. One plant sale no doubt provides the variety to dozens of collections. Consequently the hybridizer who produces an outstanding new variety, and the nursery which introduces it, find the effort not worth while. Because this trend is so prevalent, articles such as the one on page 25 of the CAMELLIA REVIEW for October 1963, become necessary. And we should all take shame.

We have seen this activity in action among organized groups of so-called camellia lovers. The group chips in to buy a plant and from it all members receive scions. Friends become recipients of such scions too. In fact, while visiting a major camellia nursery in Altadena last season, we overheard one well known figure in the camellia world talking a novice camellia enthusiast out of purchasing a newer hybrid. "I have some 'dogs' which can be used for understock and I'll graft one for you from my plant" was the clincher.

The ill-fated "All America Camellia Selections" went down the drain partly due to this activity. We know that any serious hobby camellia grower can afford to buy desired varieties. It is such short sighted policy to do otherwise. And immoral, to boot. The "ACCS" did not meet the approval of

*(Continued on page 27)*

## LANDSCAPING WITH CAMELLIAS\*

Mrs. Maria Wilkes, Horticultural Consultant

(Reported by Roy T. Thompson, Glendale)

The camellia has far more forms of growth than we usually realize, and individual varieties should be chosen because of their growth habits. *Reticulatas*, for example, do well in the sun; *sasanquas* can be used as ground cover; tall *japonicas* can be used as background. *Reticulatas* especially should have a carefully selected background, otherwise they look "woody." Even miniatures have a place in borders, especially if they are low-growing. (Men should go in more for miniatures as lapel ornaments.)

Camellias can be easily shaped, and should be. In landscaping consideration should be given to the effect of their blooms when seen at a distance, as, for example, on hillsides. These should have several stems, not just one, and the plants should come right down to the ground. If "headed" camellias are desired, they should be kept 6 to 8 inches off the ground and something like primroses planted underneath.

Camellias can also be "pleached," that is, grown on trellises and shaped according to the needs of the site. These are useful in arbors, and against buildings. Arbors should be high enough to walk under and pleached camellias planted along the sides. Camellias can also be espaliered, i.e., artificially shaped, in hanging baskets, wall pockets, etc. Camellias can be made into pyramidal forms in pots or tubs. One can even give them topiary shaping, in squares, cubes, or otherwise. These are useful in camellia shows.

Camellias can also be formed into small trees in tubs like rose trees. To do this, one has to keep nipping off buds, and seeing that the stem is kept close to the stake. The 'Covina' is

good for this as it is easily shaped and grows well. 'Berenice Boddy' is delightful as a semi-sweeping plant.

Camellias can be made into hedges. *Sasanquas* are good for this, but, of course, they require constant trimming. All plants in a hedge should be of the same variety.

Bonsai is another possibility; one can be quite an artist here in creating an effect, say, with a single odd branch. Small-flowered varieties are best for bonsai treatment.

Christmas roses go exceptionally well with camellias. It is a fascinating opportunity for artistic achievement when one can make use of walls, fences, lanai, and decorative pots, in an effort to make a unified effect from these various means. (Containers should be kept strictly off the ground to prevent roots from getting in the soil. Containers, also, should be of a uniform pattern, not of many types.)

The importance of mulches should not be overlooked, especially in years when temperatures are above normal and rain scarce, and don't forget that blue whale fertilizer keeps a plant in good condition without any forcing.

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### WHO KILLED (Continued)

everybody, but at least it was a start. We did not agree with all selections, but felt that time would bring improvement. Regardless of personal feelings, we *needed* the "ACCS" to further interest among that huge group of gardeners who fail to appreciate our favorite plant.

If you want to give a friend a gift of a new variety, go the full distance and buy a gift plant, don't "sneak" a scion and graft it for the purpose. Specialty nurseries are folding every season, and among them, camellia nurseries which deserve support.

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\*Condensation of a talk given to the Pacific Camellia Society, Feb. 27, 1964.

# THE HUNTINGTON CAMELLIA COLLECTION

Myron Kinnach, Superintendent

The camellia collection at the Huntington Botanical Gardens has varied considerably over the years, and readers of the Review may be wondering about its present status. The purpose of these notes is to confirm that these beautiful plants are still very much "in" at the Gardens.

In the 50's the camellia collection actively took form under the initiative of William Hertrich. There was a large area available, and two of the earlier superintendents, Ronald Townsend and Howard Asper, enthusiastically filled in the space with great numbers of plants, largely donated by the Southern California Camellia Society; they were assisted by two other camellia men on the staff, Harvey Short and William Wylam. Mr. Wylam, now in charge of the camellia collection, is an avid fancier, and he will certainly see to it that high standards prevail in its maintenance and further development.

At present nearly all the area suitable for camellias is filled. The shaded areas on each side of the North Vista cannot be expanded and are as full of camellias as is practical; in fact, to the average visitor this area would be more interesting if it contained more of the other shade plants, such as fuchsias, azaleas and rhododendrons, not only for variety, but also to give color at other times of the year.

In the area adjacent to the Japanese Garden only a portion at the northern end, not yet open to the public, still remains to be planted to camellias. South of the Japanese house an undeveloped, shaded canyon is reserved for expansion of the Japanese Garden, including plants native to that country and perhaps new buildings and garden structures. This is an important part of this institution and its design must not be dominated

nor its future expansion restricted by an over-planting of camellias on all sides.

It is only natural for enthusiasts of any group of plants to wish their favorites featured in a public garden, but in such gardens it is necessary to keep a balance, and our aim at the Huntington Gardens is therefore to grow a very wide range of decorative plants suitable for Southern California.

To improve the camellia collection, then, we cannot enlarge its area, but we can certainly revise its contents. First, considerable thinning is planned, for overcrowding is already apparent. Many old plants which are unnamed and of no horticultural value must be eliminated, though a few are tree-sized and will be kept for that reason alone. In addition, due to space restrictions we cannot grow every available named variety, interesting as such a collection might be; because we desire to obtain excellent varieties still not present in the collection we therefore must eliminate some named ones of little value. During last year and this we obtained some of the best new varieties, these being donated as usual by the Society.

Some replanting is also scheduled: the cultivars of *C. reticulata* in front of the Japanese house are already obscuring it and, because they become large trees eventually, we shall have to move them to a new area where they can be grouped together. The species collection just north of the house must also be moved, for the sunny location and poor soil are doing these rather finicky plants considerable harm. We hope to add to this collection, though few that we lack seem obtainable. Perhaps a separate planting of hybrids will be attempted as well, for this group is becoming popular and it would be of

interest to have them grouped together for easy comparison.

Another planned project is to construct a path through our *C. sasanqua* collection so their labels and small flowers can be more easily examined; at present it is necessary to view them from the road below the high bank on which they are planted. We are also accumulating a collection of camellia allies, such as *Gordonia*, *Stewartia* and *Franklinia*, to place throughout our camellias for contrast. These plants seem to be more adverse to alkaline conditions and a few precautions will have to be taken.

We will continue to raise seedlings and make a few crosses of species, but, as we cannot hope to compete with commercial interests who pursue this activity on a vast scale, this will not be one of our major programs. Other forms of research can hardly be carried out under present conditions, but, as in the past, we will do everything possible to assist, and furnish plant material to qualified research workers elsewhere. The Huntington Gardens now issues occasional grants for botanical research and such work may someday be applied here to camellias.

When the collection is more stable and most of the replanting completed, we hope to publish a booklet which will discuss the collection, and list all the varieties and their locations, so that those interested may find a specific plant.

No, the Huntington camellia collection is decidedly not deteriorating. It is merely going through a period of inevitable re-adjustment after its initial expansion. Our aim still is to refine and improve the collection as far as possible, so its beauty and usefulness will increase each year.

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### WHAT TO DO (Continued)

soaking after the graft is finally growing should be followed by a minimum of watering until the plant is well sprouted.

If you will thoroughly spray all of your camellia plants early in June and again about six weeks later you will probably avoid having the leaves chewed up. I have good luck with a spray containing chlordane.

They say you get out of life what you put into it. The same goes for camellias: the "chores" you do the next eight months will be very rewarding next Fall and Winter.

---

Al and Vera Parker will cut their Southern California roots this month and move to the San Francisco Bay area. Al has just completed two years as A. C. S. Vice President for the West Coast. He is a former president of the Los Angeles Camellia Council and the Pacific Camellia Society.

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## A. C. S. AWARDS

A.C.S. award winners for 1964 were announced at the Jackson, Mississippi annual meeting. 'Carter's Sunburst', a West Coast introduction and winner of many best of show awards, received the coveted John Illges Medal which has been awarded only ten times since it was established in 1949. This award is made to outstanding japonicas. Thus 'Carter's Sunburst' joins other such outstanding flowers as 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Reg Ragland', 'Tomorrow', 'Guilio Nuccio' and 'Marie Bracey' in the winner's circle. It was introduced by Mr. Eldon Carter of Monterey Park, Calif. in 1958. In 1963 it won the Margarete Hertrich Award given by The Southern California Camellia Society for an outstanding seedling.

'Tomorrow's Dawn' was selected to receive the Sewell Mutant Award. To be eligible a sport or mutant must have been grown for at least three years. As sometimes happens this soft pink sport of 'Tomorrow' appeared simultaneously in two places. Since it was registered by both Mr. L. W. Ruffin, Jr. and Mr. R. E. Allums, both of Ellisville, Mississippi they were given duplicate trophies, Paul Revere silver bowls.

Meritorious sasanqua seedlings are rare so 'Miss Ed', awarded the Ralph S. Peer trophy, will be viewed with much interest. It was developed by Dr. T. K. McKnight of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, now deceased. Dr. McKnight was alumni secretary and in charge of student aid at Louisiana State University for more than 20 years. He was admired for his work with students and loved by hundreds of them. His hobby was flowers and he grew over 1000 varieties of camellias as well as an extensive collection of orchids, amaryllis and cactus.

'Miss Ed' is a shell pink formal flower, which may attain a size of

four inches. It holds its bud center, lasts for days and grows on a strong upright bush. Dr. McKnight's wife is named Edwina but is addressed by their long time gardener as Miss Ed so this seemed an appropriate name for this lovely flower.

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## Temple City Camellia Society

The Society's next meeting will be held on Thursday evening, March 26, 1964, at 8:00 P.M. in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

Mr. J. N. (Jimmy) Giridlian, owner of Oakhurst Gardens in Arcadia, will be the guest speaker of the evening. Mr. Giridlian will discuss his recent trip to Mexico on which he procured many rare botanic specimens from the interior regions of the Country. He will illustrate his talk with many beautiful slides. Mr. Giridlian is a professional speaker and is in great demand by many Garden Clubs in Southern California. All Camellia Society members and their friends are cordially invited to hear this interesting talk.

On April 23rd, the Society will hold its annual dinner meeting in the banquet room of the Alhambra Y.M.C.A., 605 E. Main Street, Alhambra, which is its last meeting of the year. The caterer has planned an excellent menu at a nominal cost of \$2.50 per plate. Dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M.

At this meeting, the Society hosts the membership of all Southern California Camellia Societies and will say farewell to a very successful 1963-1964 season. Reservations can be made with Margaret Folino 287-7598, Violet Shuey 286-6219, Delphine Kreuger 282-1873, or any other Society member.



## POMONA SOCIETY CAMELLIA SHOW

One of the fine camellia shows of the Southern California camellia season is the one produced by the Pomona Valley Camellia Society at Pomona. This Society is the smallest in the area to undertake a show. The members are hard working, however, and every year they come up with a good show. It is held in the lobby of one of the Pomona banks. While the lobby is a large one, the space is limited to the extent that exhibitors seem to concentrate on quality rather than quantity of blooms.



Upper: Setting up the show. Lower: Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Witman of Macon, Georgia look around during the setting-up period.

## **Women Man the Store**

Every camellia season at Pacific Camellia Society the wives of the Directors take over a meeting and run the show. This year the occasion was the February 6th meeting. Florence Noyes, wife of President Raymond Noyes, presided and Helen Briggs, wife of Vice President Bob Briggs, was program chairman. Irene Dickson talked about the blooms on the tables and Aimee Roberts handled the ticket sale for the plant drawing. Since the refreshment table at intermission is regularly staffed by women, men served the refreshments at this meeting.

The program was a long ways off from camellias, possibly a suggestion from the women that they tire of hearing about camellias all the time. Helen Briggs produced a hootenanny, with Bill Noyes on the guitar and Ginny Pettis singing. As Bill Noyes explained it, the songs that were sung by the audience were selected to conform to the ages of the society members. They included When You Wore a Tulip, Home on the Range, She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain, Daisy Bell, The Band Played On, Red River Valley, Good Night Ladies, The Old Oaken Bucket, and I Wish I Was Single.

As some of the men expressed it, "At least it was different".

## **THE HAPPIEST (Continued)**

reason for registering a name under such circumstances. He has an added interest this year — gibberellic acid to bring in earlier blooms. If anyone has any doubts about the use of gibberellic acid on camellias to increase his own enjoyment, he should listen to Harvey Short for a few minutes. To use his words, "now I can have good camellia blooms for seven months of the year." He doesn't use as strong a solution as those who seek bigness use. His interest is in advancing blooming time and he has achieved this is a big way in the current camellia season.

He has not lost his interest in beautiful new camellia varieties. He has some that I would be pleased to have in my collection, all named of course. But I don't think he is nearly as interested in the marketing prospects as he is in his own enjoyment of these beautiful flowers that are the result of his having planted the seeds that produced them. Harvey Short is also living, in his retirement in La Mesa, what must be at least among the happiest days of his life.



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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 Association 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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### INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Marshall's Camellia Nursery .....19	Patio Wood Products .....29
McCaskill Gardens .....15	Surina's Camellia Gardens .....23
Nuccio's Nurseries .....22	S. C. C. S. ....7, 32

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