

THE *Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

*Gift Issue also 1965 yr. book*



'Guilio Nuccio Fimbriated'

Courtesy American Camellia Society and Tammia Nursery

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# *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 COVER FLOWER

### C. japonica 'Guilio Nuccio Fimbriated'

This month's cover flower is the sport of 'Guilio Nuccio' that Mr. and Mrs. Sam Zerkowsky of Tammia Nursery in Slidell, Louisiana announced last year. As Mrs. (Ferol) Zerkowsky stated on the jacket of the 1964 A. C. S. Year Book, they will assure themselves that it will bloom true before releasing it to the public. We understand that they feel this assurance from last season's blooms, and will release it when they have enough plants ready, hopefully in 1964.

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# THOUGHTS

*from the editor*

Probably the most exciting thing to happen in camellia growing in recent years has been the use of gibberellic acid to enhance early blooming and, by some, larger flowers. People looked at Frank Reed through the corners of their eyes when he started only four or five years ago to use it with significant results. Opinions were divided on whether it should be used, and among some people with regard to the "ethics" of its use. With the establishment of a separate division for gibbed blooms (called Special Culture) in Southern California camellia shows and for competition at society meetings where such is conducted, "ethics" has ceased to be a factor in Southern California.

It seems appropriate to close out the 1963-1964 camellia season in CAMELLIA REVIEW with some articles about gibberellic acid that bring the facts up to date, tell why some of the users of gib are using it, and suggest questions on which further knowledge should be sought before closing the book and saying "that's it". There are no takers on a suggestion to write against its use. Frank Reed supplies most of the facts, based on information obtained in his quarterbacking of a project to get facts. Bill Goertz, accepted as the King of gib artists in Southern California during the past season, Harvey Short and Dr. John Clare of Danville, Virginia tell why they have used it and give reasons that are bound to cause others to use it. Douglas Thompson closes out the group of articles with a recital of questions that, in his opinion, require further study.

The question "To gib or not to gib" is no longer one for debate. It's one for the individual to decide for himself.

\* \* \* \* \*

My undertaking to emulate Jonathan Swift, the great eighteenth century English satirist, received a serious set-back in the wake of my page in the last issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW concerning the imposition of artificial restrictions to equalize competition in camellia shows. I could think that camellia people have lost their sense of humor in their quest for honors; that, however, would not be sound thinking. Nor should I surmise that the vogue of fast reading has caused readers' eyes to light only on words that obscure the abstract meaning of a sentence. I may write an essay sometime on whether the show and the honors received there should be the end objective of growing camellias as a hobby or whether the purpose should be self-pleasure with the competition of the show serving as only one of the incentives for growing championsip blooms. If it is the latter, artificial restrictions to equalize competition are not necessary

*Harold E. Dieder*

# EARLY BLOOMS WITH GIBBERELIC ACID

Frank F. Reed  
Pasadena, California

Since there has been no significant change in results during the past year there seems to be no reason for changing my old reliable title. Gib insures large and earlier flowers and some tough varieties are induced to open properly.

The use of a 1% (10,000 parts per million or "ppm") aqueous solution of gibberellic acid still appears to be adequate. Racoff and associates in the Carolinas find that 5,800 ppm and 8,600 ppm appear to be the weakest solutions that should be used depending on the variety. Doug Thompson showed that 2,000 ppm and 4,000 ppm definitely inferior to 10,000 ppm.

Reed again finds that much stronger solutions work as well as 10,000 ppm and do no apparent damage to his bloom buds or plants. He treated some 30 terminals with 100,000 ppm last February 1st and the median group bloomed in 33 days. This is consistent with the curve shown on Figure 1. The blooms were excellent, especially 'Herme' and 'Special Tribute'. The lower limit may be approximately 7,500 ppm but the top limit with no damage to flowers may be well above 100,000 ppm or 10% solution!

We are still happy with the method of knocking off the vegetative bud at the terminal and filling the remaining cup with 1 drop of the gib solution. (High powered speculation is given later).

Again the gibbing during June, July and August did provide some early blooms but some were not good. Generally they were lighter color as is often the case with any early blooms. Practically all later gibbing was satisfactory in obtaining earlier and larger blooms. I have no new data on increased keeping qualities of gibbed blooms. Again there has



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed

been no noticeable damage to gibbed terminals. (I usually cut two leaves with each bloom.) Gib still proves useful in opening some tough formals like 'Morning Glow'.

## Cross Country Tests

There was simultaneous treating of terminals of 30 plants with 10,000 ppm gibberellic at various places on September 7 and November 23, 1963 weekends. Among others there were two sasanquas, 2 reticulatas and 1 miniature. One measure was to determine how long it took to bloom half of the varieties each person had. This is recorded below and on Chart No. 1 as the time for the "median" to bloom for the September 7 gibbing:

Place and Person	Days
San Jose, Calif. (Tomlinson)	60
Hollywood, Calif. (Doug Thompson)	53
Altadena, Calif. (Nuccio)	69
Pasadena, Calif. (Reed)	62

(Continued on next page)

Waco, Texas (Trice)	69
Jackson, Miss. (Brooks)	66
Memphis, Tenn. (Smith)	67
Columbia, So. Carolina (Racoff)	68
(Bush)	64
Goldsboro, No. Carolina (Hamil)	61

The "shot gun" averages for some varieties on the Sept. 7 gibbing:  
 'Hiryu', 'Little Gem' — 35 days  
 'Daikagura', 'Alba Plena', 'Debutante', 'Tinsie' — 40 days  
 'Adolph Audusson', 'Gigantea', 'White Empress' — 45 days  
 'Finlandia', 'Mrs. Tingley', 'Rosea Plena', 'Elegans' — 50 days  
 'Herme', 'Nagasaki', 'Mathotiana' — 55 days

Note that 55 days from Sept. 7 takes you to Nov. 1 and 69 days goes to Nov. 15. The median values at different places were fairly close together except for Thompson who was low man. This is astounding since he has only 'Alba Plena' among those shown above as the earliest bloomers. (Clean living and right thinking may be the explanation.)

Due to another deep freeze down South we did not get much data on Nov. 23 gibbing. This time we omitted the two sasanquas and added 'Chang's Temple' and 'Purity'. Results are plotted on Fig. 1. Again, Trice and Smith were together in having their plants bloom in 52 day. Thompson was high man with a median of 72 days. (That's Hollywood, you know.) If Reed had used the Sept. 7th list of plants, his median for Nov. 23rd gibbing would have been practically on the curve at 43 days.

With limited data available, there is no significant difference in results due to location. However, when a deep freeze was involved, the flowering was clobbered as usual.

## Results Plotted

On Fig. 1 we have plotted data by showing the date on which a group of plants were gibbed and how many days it took for half of them to bloom. Generally, each date involved 60 or more terminals. An explanation of the symbols is definitely in order.

The two circles with an internal dot and labelled "RAC" refer to Racoff's results of gibbing in August 1962. The "SH 30%" on August 20 means that 30% of Harvey Short's sprayed with 50 ppm on Aug. 20, 1963 bloomed within 102 days. Harvey had knocked off the growth buds adjacent to the bloom bud so there was an intake of gib there as well as through the leaves and the bloom buds themselves.

The plus marks with "T" are Doug Thompson's, "G" for Goertz and "R" for Reed.

The circle with "20" beside it refers to the group of 60 odd terminals treated with 20,000 ppm gib on Oct. 28 and "40" to the group treated with 40,000 ppm gib on Dec. 2, 1962.

"A" in the circle refers to the group of terminals treated with the most important auxin, Indoleacetic Acid, in a strength of 2,000 ppm on Sept. 25, 1963. The Indoleacetic Acid appeared to expedite the flowering on several terminals but on others, no effect was noted.

"M" in circle is used for the group of terminals which were treated on Sept. 14 and Oct. 25, 1963 with an aqueous mixture of 5,000 ppm gib and 1,000 ppm Indoleacetic Acid. This aqueous mixture gives results approximating 10,000 ppm gib results.

The curve which has some validity, says that half of the terminals gibbed Nov. 1 should bloom in 47 days or 8 days before Christmas and only 3 days before the standard deep freezes that start Dec. 20th. This is cutting it too close. Better start your gibbing

(Continued on page 6)

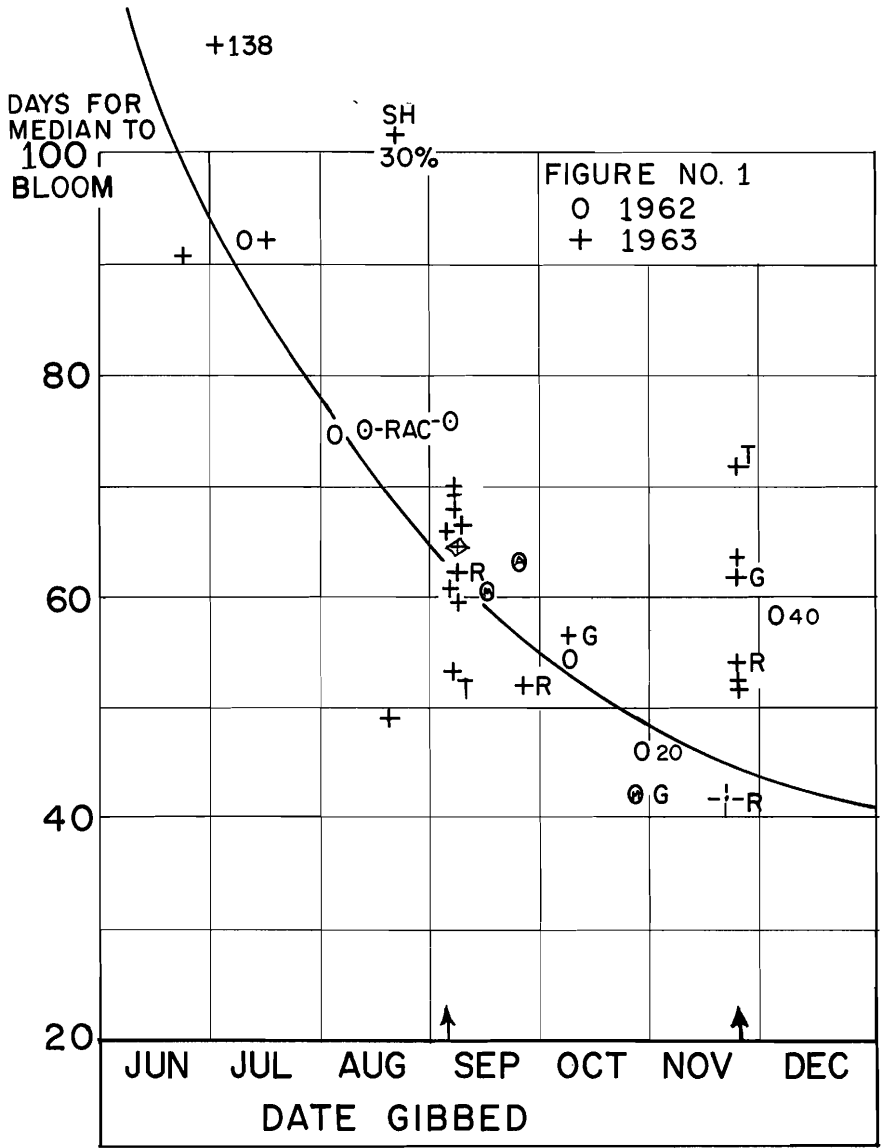


Figure 1

about Sept. 1 if you want to beat the Arctic weather that has ravaged the Southeast and Gulf Coast in recent years.

### Other Results

The results of treating terminals with a modest aqueous solution of 250 ppm Chlorophenoxyacetic Acid ("4-CPA") were questionable in expediting the blooms. Next fall, I expect to try the champion growth expediter (also weed killer) "2,4-D" (Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid). Don't be surprised if it causes roots to sprout on my redwood tubs and egg cans. Note picture on page 114, ref. 5.

When terminals were treated with an aqueous solution of 0.52-34 fertilizer, no effects were noted.

Jim Shinoda, who raises camellias for the cut flower trade, treated one side of some 300 large bushes (mostly 'Debutantes' and 'Alba Plenas') in the latter part of last November with a 10,000 ppm solution in the manner indicated in the 4th paragraph above. On many terminals there were 2 or 3 flower buds. The treated Debs were earlier, larger and evidenced a deeper pink color. The petals seemed to have more uniform color overall than the normal ones. The 'Alba Plenas' seemed to have a pinkish hue. Both of these effects were attractive.

The anomaly of the year happened on New Year's Day when Long Beach won the Sweepstakes of the Pasadena Rose Tournament with a float covered with 7,000 'Debutantes'. These were raised by Shinoda and most of them were gibbed.

Plakidas of LSU stated at the recent ACS Meeting that gibbing to get early blooms would help beat the petal blight which is at a maximum in January.

### Speculation

Gibberellin generally interacts with auxin, usually Indoleacetic Acid, to break dormancy, elongate stems, induce flowering and set fruit (2,3,5).

Both are hormones and growth regulators, but auxin is different in that it often inhibits growth and Indoleacetic Acid is found more generally in plants than Gibberellin (2,5). Auxin is generally made in apex or terminal and travels down where it inhibits the growth at lower leaf axils (2,3,4,5). Sixteen different Gibberellins have now been identified in plants (6) and are being found in more flowers, seed and fruit. Nichols reported the dry weight of gib in barley increased until flowering and then decreased. The amount involved was of the order of 10 to 50 parts per million (ppm). (6).

It has been known for a long time that knocking camellia growth buds off terminals made better blooms from the adjacent bloom bud. The obvious guess is that the growth regulating auxin is not then available to inhibit the flowering. If we provide a positive growth regulator like gib, then we can assure there is enough for the flower whether the leaves are capable of providing enough growth hormone such as gib, florigen, kinin or other natural regulator.

It seems that gib is normally in the camellia flowering since the plants can readily handle concentrations up to 100,000 parts per million. With these strong solutions, the plant apparently uses what it needs and rejects the rest with no apparent damage to the plant. Incidentally, some experiments have been made using only 1 part per billion of gib.

The facility with which camellias use added gibberellin in expediting and improving flowers seems to indicate that gib may be a growth regulator of this class of plant. The camellia, which is basically a seed plant, probably contains gib like many other such plants. (p. 75, ref. 4)

It is hoped that City Hall, in its attempts to prove a case against the use of gib, will determine the normal amounts of this and other hormones in camellias.



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## A CASE FOR "GIB"

W. F. Goertz

San Marino, California

My experience with the use of gibberellic acid on camellias covers the last two blooming seasons, and although the results have not been 100% perfect, it has given me a new outlook on my hobby.

A large plant of 'Purity', which I had been planning to saw off and graft, is now a prize possession, and it's a great delight to see these blooms now which are really worth picking. I agree with many of our friends who have said of gibbed 'Purity's': "The prettiest camellia I have ever seen". Previously these blooms would come out very late in the season, immediately become rusty around the edges and drop and shatter. This is just one example. Having previously decided to cut off 'Te Deum', 'Elena Nobile', 'Prince Eugene Napoleon' and possibly 'Kumasaka', 'Glen 40' and 'Herme' to graft on earlier blooming varieties — we now treasure these plants and the blooms they produce as a result of gib. These blooms now come out beginning at Christmas time, hang on longer, remain in good condition longer — both on the plant and after being picked.

As described in an earlier article in *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, I have been gibbing a few buds on most all plants beginning in early October, and followed almost every week end until the

middle of December. In addition, a few buds were treated in late January. The late blooming varieties mentioned above were gibbed almost 100% during October.

When cutting the blooms, I do so back to the second or third growth bud. No bad effects have been noticed on any of the plants to date; neither have I noticed any particular influence on non-gibbed blooms on plants where other buds have been treated. These seem to bloom at the normal time and be of normal size.

For us, some varieties have responded to gib much more effectively than others. For example, 'Shiro Chan', 'C. M. Wilson' and others of the Elegans family were adversely affected. Gibbed buds of 'Winter Morn', 'Angel', and 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' have bull-nosed and dropped off. 'Drama Girl', 'Coral Pink Lotus' and 'Tomorrow' have not done well with gib. With Reticulatas, I have had only one successful result from about 25 attempts — this being a beautiful 'Willow Wand' treated on October 12 and blooming February 15 this year. Other Retics have either come out distorted, bull-nosed, or bloomed normally; in other words, the effect of gib was nil or adverse.

*(Continued on next page)*

My program this season included gibbing on eight different dates, the gib being applied with an eye dropper after removal of the growth bud at the base of the flower bud. The mixture consisted of one gram of gibberellic powder to three ounces of distilled water (see exception described below). Dates of application were October 12, October 19, November 2, November 9, November 16, November 24, December 22 and January 25. Records were kept of the number of days between treatment and bloom — also the quality of the bloom — for each application date. On October 26, instead of the standard gib solution, we mixed this 50/50 with indolaecetic acid (which had been previously mixed on a 2,000 per million basis according to Frank Reed, who provided same). On December 22 we used a straight indolaecetic acid, with no gib added. A chart was prepared, tabulating the results as to time and bloom quality as follows:

- #1 — Bad, bull-nosed, dropped off, etc.
- #2 — Good, ordinary, no effect from gib.
- #3 — Very good, typical top show quality.
- #4 — Excellent, unusual in size, (lots of help from gib).

Averaging out all the blooms for all the dates in October and November, the time required was 65 days. The #3 and #4 blooms from all treated on October 12 totaled 62%; from the October 26 treatment 70%;

the next three dates 80%. The results of the October 26 indol application were quite disappointing since there were only three of the #3 category blooms out of a total of twenty recorded. The late gibbing of January 25 resulted generally in the #3 quality blooms — with an average time required of only 46 days. Apparently there wasn't enough time before their normal blooming date to build them up to super size.

There are still many angles to clear up, much to learn about the use of gib. During the next few years, with many more hobbyists experimenting with this stuff, it's going to be very interesting to see what happens. For my money, gib is here to stay — but we must solve some of the problems relating to the showing of these treated blooms in camellia shows. One thing is certain: It is very important to "advertise" the use of gib — don't keep it a secret and mislead the public with its resultant headaches to the professional growers. Anyone who would show a gibbed flower and let the public believe it is of normal culture is surely going to spoil a wonderful hobby, not only for himself but for many others. Perhaps one of these days, in the near future, a simple method of application will be developed and gib will be generally used by most of the camellia people — and then there will be no need to restrict "special culture" to a separate division.

## **GIBBED FLOWERS IN PIEDMONT, VIRGINIA**

**John L. Clare, M.D.**

Danville, Virginia

The use of Gibberellic Acid in the treating of camellia flower buds in this section of Virginia is about two years old and dates back to the first work of Col. Frank Reed. Dr. Herbert Racoff of Columbia, S. C., wrote an excellent article in "Carolina Camel-

lias" (vol. XIV, No. 2, Spring 1963) giving full credit to Col. Reed, and, in turn, giving real impetus to the use of gibberellin in this area during the past season. In the winter of 1962-63 gibbed flowers were the exception in the average show; in the

1963-64 shows gibbed flowers were very common. As more people become familiar with its use and see the results I believe it will become extremely popular. In spite of the ruling by the American Camellia Society that the individual show may or may not separate treated and untreated flowers, very few shows in this area have so separated them, and those that did ended up with large confused numbers of classifications. One show had 21 separate classes and confusion was compounded.

The vast majority of treated flowers in this area are greenhouse protected. We have very few fall shows, though this may change with the advent of Gibberellic acid. The spring shows seem to average about 75-85% greenhouse flowers, and of course it is here that gibbed flowers are at their best. The usual method of treatment is that outlined by Col. Reed or Dr. Racoff — using about 8500 to 10,000 parts per million, applying one drop to the broken-off growth bud base or else dropping the solution directly on the bud. I have followed the first method and it has been most satisfactory. Like all new things there are certain bugs that have to be worked out, but time will answer most of the questions. The serious users of this drug are keeping notes, and before long we should know when to apply gib to meet such-and such show, what varieties respond best to treatment, and what ill effects, if any, can be expected from heavy or prolonged usage.

Certain changes following the use of gib are obvious and others may be more in the nature of impressions and may have to be changed in time. The following list mentions a few.

1. *Date of bloom.* There can be no doubt about the early blooming effect on gibbed flowers. All varieties can be made to bloom earlier, and some respond very quickly. An ALBA PLENA I gibbed August 29 bloomed

September 29. As the normal date of bloom is approached the flower can be made to bloom much more quickly. A week before show time is probably not too late to apply gibberellin.

2. *Size.* There is no question in my mind that size is greater in treated blooms, sometimes spectacularly so. Medium flowers become large and large become very large. The only group that seems to remain unchanged is the miniature.

3. *Holding qualities.* All treated flowers seem to hold much better than untreated flowers. Those which have a tendency to shatter are much improved; even ALBA PLENA and CHRISTMAS BEAUTY stayed on the plant longer and fell intact most of the time.

4. *Color.* Many growers have reported that a purple or muddy discoloration is noted in some of the reds, especially the Mathotiana family. I have not noted this in MATHOTIANA, PRINCESS LAVENDER, or GULFPORT PURPLE. But then the temperature in my greenhouse never drops lower than 35 and cold may well be a factor.

5. *Change in flower form.* Certain changes in flower form, not always the best, occur. This past winter I have had singles on MASTERPIECE and FRIZZLE WHITE, pretty but definitely not true to form. DISNEYLAND has bloomed without the mass of petaloids in the center which make it so attractive, and BARNEY DIAMOND has always been formal. I have not seen lop-sided flowers reported by others.

6. *Pruning effect.* Almost always when gibberellin is applied the nearest growth bud will spring into activity and suddenly shoot out long deformed new growth. The leaves are tiny and the shoot is unsightly. This should be pruned off, and by so doing the laterals lower down will be thrown into activity and a bushier

(Continued on next page)

and more attractive plant will result.

7. *General Circulation of Plant.* The use of gib on the broken growth bud seems to introduce the drug into the general plant circulation. I have seen flower buds well below the gibbed bud bloom much earlier than usual, and conversely, a gibbed flower bud well down on the stem may cause a growth bud several inches above it to start growing. I have noticed this many times on GUILIO NUCCIO and MISS CHARLESTON.

Gibberellic acid in the camellia world is definitely here to stay. Like the income tax, we must learn to live with it. I think it has many definite advantages, and all things considered it has added a great deal to camellia culture and interest. It has many unknowns, things that must be resolved over the years. How it influences plant fertility is uncertain as is its effect on overall vigor. But at the moment, my feeling is to use it on all plants and as many buds as possible.

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## GIBBERELIC ACID ADDS TO THE GLORY OF YOUR GARDEN

Harvey F. Short  
La Mesa, California

The axiom that "we live by the light of our own experience" has proven for me a significant one for the camellia season of 1963-64. Our season which is now ending has been one of the most pleasant and rewarding of the twenty or more years since I started flowering the *Camellia Beautiful*. The basic good care consisting of proper soil mixtures, fertilizer, water and a happy climatic atmosphere, combined with an added feature in culture this year, produced these marked results.

I have for several years watched with interest the findings of Col. Frank Reed's experiments with gibberellic acid. I had occasion to do some testing for the Camellia Research Committee under the supervision of Mr. Carl Tourje while at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, seeking the overall effect on plant growth using various strengths. I personally checked behavior of Gibrel on soft wood plants, such as the annual zinnia, which spelled out some rather amazing results.

This year I accidentally found prepared containers of a light dilution of gibberellic acid, 50 p.p.m. Immediately I was caught with the idea of testing this strength on all my 175

varieties, embracing the very earliest to the last May straggler. Said application was first applied August 20th, 1963 on 3 to 6 buds on every plant. The growth bud beside the flower bud was snapped out and a quick spray of the gibberellic acid into the space so exposed was the procedure. Within 20 to 30 days the treated buds in most plants showed more prominent development, evident to anyone observing them. Mr. and Mrs. Al Dekker in early November were among the friends who without hesitation could easily select the treated buds. From this point on interest mounted. The early varieties produced their first blooms, normal and well developed, within 45 days from time the application was made. This was 30 days earlier than these plants would normally bloom. I enjoyed eleven varieties in bloom during the month of October. By December 1st 50 varieties had produced several to many flowers, and in this group 50% never were in flower earlier than February 1st in most years. By January 1st or 130 days after application, practically 90% of all varieties including the very late March and April stragglers had come forth with excellent quality blossoms. To my surprise the 50 p.p.m.

solution did *not* exaggerate the size of the bloom or tend toward any deforming. Oddly too, many buds made early expansion then apparently came to a standstill in further development, and at this date, April 1st, 1964, remain unmoved. The calyx of said buds are very green; little or no tendency to drop treated buds has been noticed. Growth period is now at hand and the usual vigorous growth bud is extending at all treated tips, so I am not able to detect any particular shock to the new growth or note any defoliation.

December 15th I made further experiments with the Gibrel stepped up to 10,000 p.p.m. as has more generally been used and treated 2 to 4 buds per plant again. As before some varieties have given no response, some responded by February 1st with flowers above average in size.

Out of this program I can glean these few points of added interest to many growers: 1st, the breaking of the regular cycle of the flowering

period to encompass color and beauty in your collection from October 1st to May 1st, and double the length of blooming of the individual or favorite variety. 2nd, the keeping quality of the flower seems unusually good.

For the grower who enjoys his garden to its full value, I can see where our Southern friends will welcome this opportunity to beat Jack Frost with an abundance of early fall and winter flowers, to enjoy perfection before flower blight strikes, and best of all to revive interest in many of the forgotten beauties and with Gibrel spark their glamour anew.

Surely anything that adds to the glory of your garden and reduces the wasted energy placed year after year on varieties that you so much admire but with which you achieve only mediocre results, such as many of the 'Elegans' and 'Lotus' strains and many of the prized formals, will seem rewarding. The show table is surely not the only call to grow camellias.

---

## GIBBER-WACKY

Douglas G. Thompson  
Los Angeles, California

"'Twas brillig and the slithy toves  
Did Gib and gibber in the wabe  
They mimsy made camellia groves  
And show awards outgrabe."

My apologies to Lewis Carroll for assigning another kind of guileless nonsense to his immortal poem. But there is an unreal Alice-in-Wonderland quality to the gibberellin story; a sort of "Eat Me" and grow bigger. Like the White Rabbit we are all fussed with too late, or too early, or too few, or too shrivelled. With the Mad Hatter it is one perpetual tea party of "advantage, advantage who's got the advantage" for a snip of ribbon or a shiny gew-gaw. Like Alice, some of us are inclined to exclaim "Why they're all just a pack of cards." And it does seem that among the flowers cabbages *are* kings.

We are falling into a laziness which endangers the recognized standards of flower judging. The easiest thing for the lazy eye to perceive is the difference in size between two blooms. But the very while we are beguiled by size we continue to pay lip service to a judging formula which speaks of color, form, texture, perkiness, and overall true representation of the variety. If this formula refers to anything, it refers to a representative outdoor, naturally grown plant — no flower of which has been specially treated. It is far from clear how we can pretend to adhere to such a judging standard and then come all unglued in the presence of an overlarge flower, perhaps off-color, possibly poor

(Continued on next page)

in texture, not necessarily true to form, and in all conscience not representative of the variety. It would seem that an obviously over-sized flower in any variety should be labelled a monstrosity — not worth a judge's second look: especially if he is told to use the *Camellia Nomenclature Book* as the official standard of size. Here is the basis for a rip-snortin' controversy. If one should argue for *two* standards, treated and untreated, he opens the lid on the need for two nomenclature descriptions. That is, he teeters dangerously close to admitting that these should be handled like *two different varieties*.

I have heard some folks say that the public becomes confused seeing a smaller flower of a variety favored over a seemingly comparable larger one. We are warned that we should credit size, all other things being equal. Ah, there's the rub. When gibberellin is involved, all other things are not equal by a long shot. That's why the controversy is such a rip-snorter.

We each need to take a sobering long look at the kind of woe gibberellin brings with it. What has it done to our hobby; to us? We are not yet able to evaluate whether we should feel totally amused or completely abused. Many facts are not yet before us. Many factors of human relations need to be reconciled. We have been exposed to the not sufficiently documented ecstasy of a few amateur enthusiasts. They may not have considered all the side effects. We have reacted in two ways. Some of us have hailed gib as the best thing that ever happened; the cure all! These include many of our top collectors. Others of us have decried it the worst thing that ever happened; the curse all! These include the rest of our top collectors. None of these good folk would knowingly sacrifice good human relations and priceless friendships on the block of flowers an inch or so bigger!

What makes the size issue even more "contrariwise" is that many of these same collectors — the miniature fanciers — are interested in keeping the little fellers even smaller. Paranthetically, they swear by the *Camellia Nomenclature Book* to differentiate between miniature and small.

I was prepared to toss off some statistics on the results of gibberellin, variety by variety, time of application, concentration, percent of this and proportion of that — scientific jargon based on my own experience during this last season. Nice orderly studies like that appeal to me. But they beg the real questions. So, I shall not publicize my results. Privately, anyone is welcome to information I have accumulated.

Several thoughts crossed my mind and made me change from my original plan for this article. First, gibberellin in itself is neither good nor bad. Next, gibberellin will be used by some people regardless of how other people may feel about it. Its unregulated use may prove to be divisive. Third, the use of gibberellin challenges accepted standards in the appraisal of individual blooms. Fourth, the gibberellin controversy bids well to stretch friendship to the breaking point, reduce fellowship between hobbyists, cast show judges into despair, and tempt competitors to barter honor for a bauble. Fifth, it threatens a vast disservice to the public, our commercial growers, and camellias around the world.

Gardening is a peaceful pursuit. The fruits of his labors should be sufficient delight for the mature person. His reward is a highly personal pleasure. What anyone does in his own private garden for his pleasure is inviolate to criticism. We may only allow ourselves concern with the effects of gibberellin when these effects leave the serenity of the private garden and impact upon the rest of us. The impact is on us, not as indi-

viduals, but as a social order developed collectively around the camellia. The more highly we are organized, the greater the impact of any impact of any important innovation. I should like to ask some questions about some effects. Satisfactory answers to these questions seem to me more important to our *collective camellia interests* than many of us realize as individuals.

#### 1. *Effects on flowers*

- a. If some buds are treated, are other buds on the same plant affected? Are they also stimulated to earliness and increased size; or are they sacrificed into inferiority as the plant concentrates energy on the treated buds?
- b. If faithful records are kept, what percent of treated buds form acceptable flowers — judged as usual but not necessarily of extra size?
- c. If faithful records are kept, are treated midseason blooms of more merit — judged as usual — than blooms from well cultivated plants *on which no buds have been treated?*
- d. Does treating buds on a poorly grown plant produce flowers superior to those from a well cultivated plant *on which no buds have been treated?*

#### 2. *Effects on plants*

- a. Will the plant respond well or poorly in successive years to the introduction of gibberellin into its system? Will the plant eventually deteriorate?
- b. Does the effect of treatment, good or bad, carry over from year to year?

#### 3. *Effects on flower competition*

- a. Is mere increase in size a sufficient justification for fostering argument, recri-

mination, dishonor and public confusion?

- b. Is the production of earlier blooms an advantage on outdoor plants in California where public shows are held in mid-season?
- c. If other blooms on the plant may be vicariously affected by those which are treated, is it proper to enter any flower from such a plant in untreated competition? How can a judge identify it?
- d. What is the good of producing a stimulated whopper just as a stunt? Can it be called a contribution to culture if permanent improvement does not result?
- e. Is it fair to nurseryman or customer to display treated flowers either together or separately with like untreated flowers in competition for the public eye if nothing more?

#### 4. *Effects of communications and nomenclature*

Camellia culture and nomenclature exchange are world wide. Heroic efforts have been expended to standardize varietal descriptions. We may well ask the following questions:

- a. If some new introductions are registered and classified based on treated flowers and others on untreated, how do we preserve the integrity of nomenclature standards?
- b. If treated blooms come to be regarded as improvements over untreated ones, should there be separate descriptions to distinguish between them?
- c. Should descriptions of new introductions be required to specify whether they are of treated or untreated blooms?

*(Continued on next page)*

Should they be so classified in the *Camellia Nomenclature Book*?

- d. How do you regulate new seedling certificates and awards?
5. *Effects on human relations*
- a. When camellia societies finally divide into treaters and non-treaters how long will they survive?
- b. Will future exhibitors be forced to treat or take a back seat?
- c. Will prospective new members be discouraged because accepted standards of good culture are deemed insufficient and artificial treatment with a growth stimulant is advocated?
- d. If it becomes feasible to expose cheaters in competitions and this is made a practice, how many tender-souled flower lovers will quietly and forever steal away?

Well, there they are. I don't pretend to know the answers. But it seems very important that we should work together for them, hopefully by next camellia season. We need to blow in the fresh air of some good common sense to offset all this gibber-wacky nonsense, or it will be too late to matter. As one anonymous rhymist so aptly (?) put it:

How often in the stilly night,  
I toss and turn and ruminate.  
O! Tell me — do I wrong or right  
When I Gibberellin-ate?

## **Goertz and Reed** ✓ **Win Honors in** **S. C. C. S. Competition**

Bill Goertz and Frank Reed won the honors in the bloom competition that has been conducted at S. C. C. S. meetings during the past season and were given their trophies at the April

14th meeting. In the division for gib treated blooms, Goertz was first and Reed was second. In the non-treated division, Reed was first and Goertz was second. These two men dominated the competition.

## **Winning Blooms**

Following are bloom winners in the S. C. C. S. meeting competition.

### **March Meeting**

Japonica — Large and Very Large  
'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Coronation', 'Clark Hubbs', 'Reg Ragland Var', 'Hawaii'

Japonica — Medium and Small  
'Spring Sonnet', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Billie McCaskill', 'Bambino', 'Otome Pink'

Japonica — Special Culture  
Large and Very Large — 'Glen 40'  
Medium and Small — 'Herme'

Japonica — Miniature  
'Fleurette', 'Fircone', 'Angel's Blush', 'Wilamina', 'Fircone'

Reticulata  
'Crimson Robe', 'Moutancha',  
Reticulata Seedling, 'Butterfly Wings', 'Tali Queen'

Hybrids  
'Brigadoon', 'E. G. Waterhouse',  
'Jimmy James'

### **April Meeting**

There were no entries in the Special Culture Division.

Japonicas — Large and Very Large  
'Tinsey Smith', 'Glen 40 Var',  
'Elizabeth LeBey', 'Clark Hubbs',  
'Dixie Knight'

Japonicas — Small and Medium  
'Frances McLanahan', 'Margarete Hertrich', 'Charmelle', 'Hishi Karaito', 'Purity'

Japonicas — Miniature  
'Little Man', 'Baby Sis', 'Tinsie'

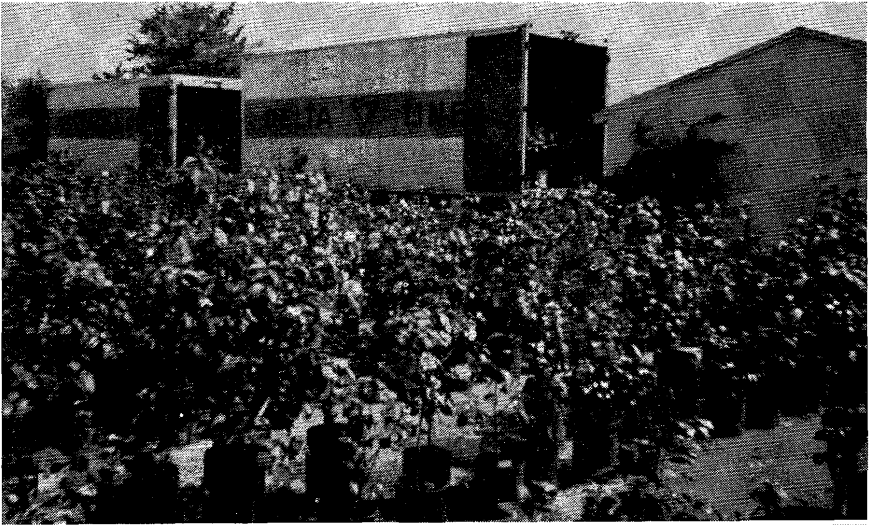
Reticulatas —  
'Lion Heaid', 'Moutancha',  
'Crimson Robe'

Hybrids —  
'Galaxie', 'E. G. Waterhouse'



## ALTON PARKERS MOVE CAMELLIA COLLECTION

The Alton Parkers took with them their collection of about 450 container grown camellias in their move to Santa Rosa, California. The move required two 24' household moving vans, shown below in the Parker yard. Friends helped with the loading and it was a job of only a few hours to get them loaded to the rear doors of the vans. Alton Parker retired from the U. S. Navy August 1, 1946. He joined the Pacific Camellia Society in February 1950 and has been a dedicated camellia enthusiast ever since. His Southern California camellia friends wish happiness to the Parkers in their new home.



# Descanso Gardens



The feature that makes the annual camellia show in Descanso Gardens distinctive is the outdoor display of cut flowers amid the surroundings of growing and blooming camellias under the oak trees. The flowers are no better than in other camellia shows. Outdoors, however, and in the surroundings of growing camellias, they take on a lustre that makes the Descanso Gardens show the "Big Show" of the Southern California camellia season.

# Camellia Show



Upper: The exhibitors have ample room to spread their boxes for review by the registration committee: Lower: The Court of Honor is covered only by the roof that protects from the sun and possible rain.

Opposite page: The display tables are covered with a plastic material that protects the flowers from sun and rain and may be rolled down if necessary so that the viewers may be protected. This year, 19,161 people saw the two-day show.

# CAMELLIA GARDENS: THE GARDEN OF STANLEY AND ALICE MILLER IN EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

Alice M. Clark \*

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\*The author of this article is Assistant Editor of CALIFORNIA GARDEN, the magazine of the San Diego Floral Association of San Diego, California. The article is reprinted from the February-March 1964 issue of the magazine.

Showtime for camellias means beautiful blooms. We are carried away with such enthusiasm for the flowers that we forget to consider the plants itself. For those whose main interest is in competitive display the flower is of paramount importance. This article is not for them. But for those who want handsome ornamentals for the garden, few shrubs in the plant kingdom serve successfully as many purposes as do camellias. They can be trees, hedges, bushes or ground covers, with leaf patterns from small pointed overlapping forms to broad types suggesting magnolias. And always they look as if they had been told to "rise and shine." They not only look clean — they are clean. Camellias have fewer pests than most plants. Some are fast and some are slow growers. Discover which is which before you plant. The flowers are just a wonderful bonus.

Visit camellia shows this year with your empty garden spaces in mind. Check your favorite colors and forms on the entry lists and then set about choosing those that will best fit your landscape. Study plants as a whole in a friend's garden or in nurseries because it is the shrub rather than the blooms that you will be enjoying most of the time.

To point up this interest in camellias as decorative material we visited the Stanley Miller garden in El Cajon. After winding up the hill through citrus trees laden with fruit we were greeted on the front terrace by our hostess. There we paused for a view

over the purpling hills of Jamul into distant Mexico and again for a glimpse of El Cajon valley from the living room — a vista accented by the corrugated limbs and seedballs of a bare liquidambar tree that etched their way across the window. Looking into the rear garden, just one expression, "sylvan glade," seemed to describe the sight of a velvet green lawn beneath a California live oak on one side and a large deodar cedar on the other. Beyond, up and around the hill interspersed with azaleas and ferns, stretched the Miller collection of camellias, a perfect place to study their growth habits.

A spreading camellia to the right of the oak tree was an eye stopper. The slim pointed gray-green leaves seemed to flow over each other as they covered the rounded boughs. 'Briar Rose' is a slow-growing early-blooming sasanqua variety aptly named for the flower it resembles. It is a graceful filler for a good size space. At its feet were others of the sasanqua type that bring the first flowers of the camellia season, 'Hugh Evans,' a pink single, and 'Cleopatra' are trained down for a border. They have a commendable habit of seeding themselves to make more or thicker edgings. Some of these species have lilted Japanese names. The Millers use 'Yae-arare,' a large single white with a pink edge, as a ground cover.

There were many tall camellias to choose from. A large spreading specimen of the popular 'Elegans' (Chandler) near the patio was exuberant with rose pink blooms of anemone form that have a high tuft of small petals in the center. An excellent plant for an accent but a slow grower. Midway up the hill we stopped before a tall rangy camellia covered

with very broad dark green leaves and big full strawberry-red flowers. We were told that it originated in the garden of a southern lady. Those who admired it constantly asked when she would name it. She always gave the same answer "Tomorrow" which eventually became the name it bears today.

'Mattie O'Reilly' has made a tall compact pyramid of slow growth. The very large rose-pink camellias vary delightfully from semi-double to peony form, an advantage when there is not room for many plants. 'Yuki-botan' (Pride of Descanso) is a fast growing upright with the same large variable blooms in white.

Noticeable for its open willowy habit and long slender leaves is 'Imura,' suitable for an espalier along a path or wall. A prolific bloomer, it is covered in mid-season with large semi-double white flowers that boast showy golden stamens.

Where the view must not be obstructed, plant slow growers. One of these is 'Glen 40,' compact and upright, with clear green foliage. It has fine large deep red camellias, formal to double rose form, middle to late season. 'Alba Plena' is slow and bushy with early large formal double white blooms. Its sport, 'Fimbriata' has fringed petals. For a pale pink flower in this location try 'Barbara Woodroof,' a west coast sport of 'Elegans.' It has similar flat outer petals with creamy raised petaloids in the center. Its early and mid-season blooms are striking against deep green compact leaves. Incidentally, no camellia of 'Elegans' strain should ever be topped.

Amidst the plethora of bloom on the Miller hillside it is difficult to keep a landscape objective in mind. A black and white photograph would show the pointed oval leaves and close-knit habit of 'Reg Ragland' but it takes color to convey its floriferousness. The big semi-double red blooms have large outer petals and

smaller ones inside among the yellow stamens. There is also a variegated form, with white blotches. They bloom early and late. 'Richard Nixon' is a new camellia with dark green leaves on a shapely bush. Large pale pink anemone form flowers, occasionally striped rose-pink, have a long season. It was hard to see the foliage on 'Mrs. Maria Keating' through its mass of rose pink peony blooms, which splurge in mid-season. The petals are lighter on the outer edges.

The blush pink semi-double blooms on 'Mrs. D. W. Davis' are so large they seem to weigh the bush down. It has a distinctive core of stamens sometimes interrupted with petaloids. Its broad strong leaves on a sturdy shrub point up Mrs. Miller's remark that the habit of growth seems to resemble the leaf shape. The very large clear red semi-double flowers on 'Clarise Carlton' are a real stop sign. This camellia was a San Diego introduction named for his wife by A. P. Carlton, both well-known to garden folk in this area. The shrub is noticeably strong and upright. A variegated form of this camellia is available.

One of the most dependable beauties of the last decade is 'Guilio Nuccio,' named for his father by the Altadena hybridizer. It is a tall vigorous bush with long heavy leaves, pointed and serrated. The flower, five inches or more across, with wavy petals of heavy texture often puckered into rabbit ears, is a glowing coral rose pink. The high center core of thick waxy threads, stained red at the base, is crusted with golden stamens at the top. It is a generous bloomer and keeper, a camellia to own.

The climate of El Cajon is most favorable for camellia culture. However, plants that flower well there may be difficult elsewhere so buyers should inquire about local conditions. For instance, the white camellia, 'Masterpiece' by Harvey Short, does not

*(Continued on page 24)*

# Show Results

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hills, Calif.

February 29-March 1, 1964

Sweepstakes — Newton Pratt, Sacramento

Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. Sal B. Davi, Pittsburg

Best Japonica — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr., Carmichael

Japonica Blooms on Court of Honor — 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Flame', 'C. M. Wilson', 'New Horizons', 'Conquistador', 'Moonlight Sonata', 'Southern Charm', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Elegans (Chandler)', 'Finlandia', 'Kay Seritch', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Dr. John D. Bell', 'Snow Chan', 'Miss Universe', 'Spring Sonnet'

Best 3 Japonicas — 'Reg Ragland', Larry Oatfield, Sacramento

Groups of 3 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Charlotte Bradford', 'Monjisu', 'Juanita Smith', 'C. M. Wilson'

Best 7 Japonicas — 'Spring Sonnet', A. S. Eckendorf, San Jose

Groups of 7 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Coronation', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Lallarook', 'Finlandia'

Best 12 Japonicas — 'Magnoliaeflora', Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Carnie, Jr., Carmichael

Groups of 12 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Mathotiana'

Best group of 12 Different Japonicas — Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr., Carmichael

Best Reticulata — 'Willow Wand', Lillian Kelly, Martinez

Reticulatas on Court of Honor — 'Pagoda', 'Buddha'

Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Crimson Robe', Mr. and Mrs. George A. Stewart, Sacramento

Groups of 3 Reticulatas on Court of Honor — 'Buddha'

Best 7 Reticulatas — 'Willow Wand', Jack L. Mandarich, Menlo Park

Groups of 7 Reticulatas on Court of Honor — 'Lion Head', 'Noble Pearl'

Best Miniature Japonica — 'Fleurette', Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman, Sacramento

Miniature Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Sugar Babe', 'Ginger'

Best Hybrid Camellia — 'E. G. Waterhouse Var.', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley

Hybrid Camellias on Court of Honor — 'Brigadoon', 'Margaret Waterhouse', 'Waltz Time'

Best Hybrid Seedling — Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Paige, Lafayette (A.C.S. Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificate)

Most Outstanding Plant in Container — 'Magnoliaeflora', Mrs. Howard Diller, Lafayette

## CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY Bakersfield, California — March 7-8, 1964

Sweepstakes — Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

Sweepstakes Runner-up — Berkeley M. Pace, Upland

Best Japonica Over 4½ Inches — 'Tomorrow', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

Best Japonica Over 4½ Inches Runner-up — 'Frosty Morn', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield

Best Japonica Under 4½ Inches — 'Iwane', Mrs. William McDonald, Bakersfield

- Best Japonica Under 4½ Inches Runner-up — 'Ballet Dancer', Tom Stull, Bakersfield  
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker, Glendale  
 Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — 'R. L. Wheeler', Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria  
 Best 5 Japonicas — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield  
 Best 5 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Iwane', Mrs. William MacDonald, Bakersfield  
 Best Miniature Japonica — 'Fircone', Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Krumm, Altadena  
 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Professor Charles S. Sargent', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Peter Pan', 'Mercury Var', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Sawada's Dream', 'Kitty', 'Wonderland', 'Charlotte Bradford', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Pink Perfection', 'Herme', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Emmett Barnes', 'Viva', 'Clarise Carlton', 'Destiny', 'Cardinal', 'King Size', 'Onetia Holland', 'Vulcan Var', 'General Le Clerc', 'Glen 40', 'Glen 40 Var'  
 Best Reticulata — 'Buddha', Tom Stull, Bakersfield  
 Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Noble Pearl', Tom Stull, Bakersfield  
 Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Noble Pearl', Caryll Pitkin, San Marino  
 Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Buddha', Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Krumm, Altadena  
 Reticulatas on Court of Honor — 'Crimson Robe', 'Tali Queen'  
 Best Chemically Treated Bloom — 'Onetia Holland', M. W. Abramson, Tulare  
 A. C. S. Provisional Highly Commended Hybrid Seedling Certificate — 'Howard Asper', J. Howard Asper, Escondido

**CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO**  
**Sacramento, California — March 7-8, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — Thomas J. Sertich  
 Sweepstakes Runner-up — A. M. Peterson  
 Best Japonica — 'Carter's Sunburst', Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman  
 Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Wildwood', Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr.  
 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Angel', 'Lady Kay', 'Kramer's Supreme'  
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Flame', Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carnie, Jr.  
 Best 3 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Reg Ragland Var', Mr. and Mrs. Larry Oatfield  
 3 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Bryan Wright'  
 Best 6 Japonicas — 'Shiro Chan', Mr. and Mrs. Erwin E. Nowak  
 Best 6 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Pink Star', Mrs. M. V. Sarkisian  
 Best 12 Japonicas — 'Guilio Nuccio', Mr. and Mrs. Larry Oatfield  
 Best 12 Japonicas Runner-up — 'Pink Star', Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart  
 Best Reticulata — 'Willow Wand', Jack L. Mandarich  
 Best Reticulata Runner-up — 'Buddha', Carson P. Sheetz  
 Reticulatas on Court of Honor — 'Crimson Robe', 'Noble Pearl', 'Butterfly Wings'  
 Best 3 Reticulatas — 'Professor Tsai', Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart  
 Best 3 Reticulatas Runner-up — 'Tali Queen', A. S. Eckendorf  
 Best Miniature Japonica — 'Fircone', Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman  
 Best Miniature Japonica Runner-up — 'Pearl's Pet', Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Hansen, Jr.  
 Best Hybrid Camellia — 'Citation', Herbert Martin

*(Continued on next page)*

- Best Hybrid Camellia Runner-up — 'E. G. Waterhouse', Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette  
 One Bloom Each of 15 Different Cultivars — Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr.  
 One Bloom Each of 30 to 40 Different Cultivars — Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman  
 A. C. S. Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificate — Harold L. Paige  
 Flower Arrangement Division —  
 Most Outstanding — Mrs. William Kinney  
 Second Best — Mrs. William Kinney  
 Third Best — Mrs. Benjamin Frantz

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**Fresno, California — March 8, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — Mr. and Mrs. Warren Addicott, Menlo Park  
 Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla  
 Best Japonica — 'Sawada's Dream', Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Munger, Fresno  
 Best 3 Japonicas — 'Reg Ragland Var', Mr. and Mrs. Rey Merino, Fresno  
 Best Miniature Japonica — 'Tinsie', John C. Reily, Fresno  
 Japonicas on Court of Honor — 'Barbara Woodroof', 'Angel', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Onetia Holland', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Betty Sheffield Pink Var', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Vulcan', 'Richard Nixon', 'Tiffany', 'Reg Ragland', 'Tomorrow Var', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Clark Hubbs', 'Juanita Smith', 'Cherry Blossom', 'Donckelarii'  
 Best Reticulata — 'Buddha', Silas A. Jones IV, Fresno  
 Reticulata on Court of Honor — 'Purple Gown'  
 Best Hybrid — 'Phyl Doak', Mr. and Mrs. Milo E. Rowell, Fresno  
 Best Hybrid Seedling — 'Howard Asper', J. Howard Asper, Escondido

**CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF MODESTO**  
**Modesto, California — March 14-15, 1964**

- Sweepstakes — Newton Pratt, Sacramento  
 Sweepstakes Runner-up — Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Patterson, Concord  
 Best Japonica — 'Ville de Nantes', Dr. D. Jackson Faustman, Sacramento  
 Best Japonica Runner-up — 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Roberta Peterson, Modesto  
 Best Tray of 3 Japonicas — Amos W. Kleinsasser, Bakersfield  
 Best Tray of 6 Japonicas — Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Carnie, Jr., Carmichael  
 Best Miniature Japonica — 'Fircone', Warren Addicott, Menlo Park  
 Best Reticulata — 'Moutancha', Thomas Stull, Bakersfield  
 Best Tray of 3 Reticulatas — Thomas Stull, Bakersfield  
 Best Hybrid — 'E. G. Waterhouse', Mrs. William R. Breuner, Orinda  
 Best Seedling — C. C. Wright, Sacramento  
 Best Collection of 15 — Warren Addicott, Menlo Park  
 Best Arrangement — Mrs. Mary Baxter, Manteca



# SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY HAS 40th ANNUAL SHOW

Mrs. J. Carroll Reiners  
Sacramento, California

The annual Camellia Show sponsored by the Camellia Society of Sacramento was held in the Memorial Auditorium on March 7 and 8, 1964. It did not set a new record for the number of blooms displayed, but for excellence of display of the many thousands of flowers shown, the exhibition has never seen greater success.

Specifically, we could set forth the features and discuss them to better advantage. The Show Committee used the whole of the Auditorium facilities in order to spread the blooms for better general appearance and upkeep, as well as aiding in the problem of placement on the morning of the first day. This was probably the most important favorable choice made, from the viewpoint of showmanship.

That scourge of the camellia world, petal blight, was, for the most part, completely absent to the viewer. Dry northerly winds and cold weather worked for us, by holding the damage to the lowest possible under California conditions.

The mid-season flowers took over the show due to current weather patterns. Late season blooms were not heavily represented. There were 730

varieties of *C. japonica*, 22 varieties of *C. reticulata*, 24 of Hybrid classification, 22 cultivars of miniatures, and 85 separate seedlings in the amateur section. Nine courtesy exhibits by outstanding amateur growers were displayed with professional virtuosity. The total of all blooms was 8,556.

Immediately following the conclusion of judging, the winning blooms were placed on silver trays near their respective trophies on an elevated table-terrace. Nearby was a similar feature for the runners-up to the top awards. The Ribbons and Awards Committee also placed special stickers on the registration cards of those blue ribbon winners brought to the judging tables for last consideration and voting for trophies. Acknowledgment of such serious consideration is important to the exhibitor.

Plans for the 1964 Show were begun many months ago when Dr. D. Jackson Faustman was chosen as Chairman. Mrs. M. S. Derr was Assistant Chairman and Coordinator; layout and planning of the floor space was done by Mr. E. E. Nowak. The City of Sacramento is always generous with its assistance at this time, as are the Sacramento Festival Associ-

*(Continued on next page)*

## MARSHALL'S CAMELLIA NURSERY

(AT THE SIGN OF THE CAMELLIA)

RETAIL

WHOLESALE

**Camellias — Azaleas — Rhododendrons**

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ation, members of special committees, Judges, clerks, representatives from the De Molay, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. The number of placement workers was near 100.

For two years, the Show committee has had the cooperation of the Camellia City Ballet Company led by LaVanche Forbes. Representatives of her corps de ballet, dressed in costumes designed on named camellias (such as 'Debutante' and 'Chang's Temple'), have been trained to blend with the large crowds who would like to touch the blooms, and offer camellias from baskets. Mrs. Forbes' group distributes at least 5,000 flowers during the Show, and the beauty and grace of the girls add warmth to the large Auditorium.

Special ceremonies, such as cutting a ribbon barrier to open the Show, were planned with the cooperation of the Camellia Festival Association. The Show itself is the core around which Camellia Queen banquets, parades, and concerts proceed for a nine day period. Camellia Society members and the Festival Association cooperate fully, while the two organizations retain their separate identity.

Special educational and cultural instructions were offered at scheduled hours throughout the duration of the Show. Horticultural demonstrations were presented by members of the Camellia Society and lessons on corsage making were given by courtesy of East Lawn Florists.

The Flower Arrangement Division under the supervision of Mrs. Iva Gard Shepard and Mrs. John Traub followed a theme called "Adventure and Romance." The demand for space in the competition here is so heavy that it must be reserved long in advance. The schedule is divided into three segments: Section I, experienced arrangers; Section II, novices and beginners; and Section III, juniors. Judges for this Division were Mrs. Mabel Atree of Stockton, Mrs. Stan-

ley Burton of San Francisco, and Mr. Donald Van Riper of Sacramento.

The list of Horticulture Division Judges follows:

Mr. Newton Pratt—Sacramento  
Mrs. Marie Erwin—Sacramento  
Mr. Carroll Reiners—Sacramento  
Mr. Ray Soehren—Sacramento  
Mr. A. E. Morrison—Sacramento  
Mr. Fred E. Wickard—San Carlos  
Mr. Woodford Harrison—Berkeley  
Mr. C. A. Roberts—Alameda  
Dr. Ralph Gladen—Modesto  
Mr. K. O. Hester—Stockton  
Mr. Fred Wittsche—Roseville  
Mr. T. J. Moniz—San Jose  
Mr. Vernon James—Aptos  
Dr. John D. Lawson—Antioch  
Mrs. John D. Lawson—Antioch  
Mr. D. L. Feathers—Lafayette  
Mr. Harold Paige—Lafayette  
Dr. Fred Heitman—Lafayette

As a gift from the Society, 5,000 programs of the Show were distributed from the information desk and books and membership table.

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### **MILLER GARDEN** (*Continued*)

bloom well in some places but seems happy on a cold shaded terrace in La Jolla.

The Miller garden is a happy combination of talent, climate, and topography. Stanley Miller knows how to raise camellias. Because they grow on a hill, drainage is assured. Built-up areas are retained by curved logs. Every year the beds are mulched with two or three inches of mixed wood shavings, preferably redwood. It is then top dressed with nitrogen to offset that which is used up in decomposition. In time the soil becomes as springy as that of a natural forest. Summer suns can burn so the area is covered with a seran plastic netting that gives 50% shade.

For the continuous work which this means, the Millers' reward is pure pleasure; but further, how reassuring it must be to have so many prize-winners among their camellia blooms.

# CAMELLIAS: THEIR FEMININE PROTAGONISTS

V.

Margaret Howard Thompson

Mrs. Monique Peer-Morris links together in a chain of friendship camellia women around the world. She is truly our International Lady of Camellias, widely travelled and universally recognized for her contributions to camellia lore. With her husband, the late Ralph Sylvester Peer, she scoured the globe during fifteen years of hunting and classifying rare varieties and new species. They tracked the yellow camellia to its native lair — only to be denied entry past the bamboo curtain. Now the questers for the yellow camellia will inevitably draw into their ranks David Henry Morris of Hong Kong and London, husband to Monique Peer. The Morrisses were married in San Francisco on February 4, 1964. They expect to be in South East Asia this spring to continue the search for unusual species and intend to acquire, if at all possible, the elusive yellow camellia from its natural habitat in the remote escarpments north of Viet Nam.

International in birth, education, and residence — Monique Peer-Morris was born in England of Danish parents; travelled the world since childhood; matriculated through the Cambridge exams; and studied at the Universities of Liege, Heidelberg, Munich, Lausanne, Sorbonne, Madrid, Mexico, and Columbia. Along the way she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. After college she developed a strong interest in radio which led to her participation in the first scheduled international broadcasts for the Radio Corporation of America and the National Broadcasting Company. She is a member of the Pioneer Radio Club.

Monique's interest in camellias began in 1944 when the Peers returned



Mrs. Monique-Peer Morris

from Europe to Park Hill and were shown a shrub purchased by her mother. Its bloom so captivated them that they decided to investigate camellias further. Thus begun, their interest never lagged and Monique is still investigating twenty years later. That first camellia plant is still at Park Hill — 'Blood of China'. Ralph and Monique began their own propagation of camellias with Ralph doing the gardening, grafting, and hybridizing. Today approximately 6000 plants grow in a natural setting on the five hillside acres of Park Hill. The view from the estate in Hollywood is one of spectacular beauty at night. The lights of Los Angeles can be seen for miles. In the daytime the motorists who use Laurel Canyon as a route to and from the San Fernando Valley can see the beautiful stone-terraced gardens and wooden areas. As one walks through the gardens, lovely

*(Continued on next page)*

plantings greet the eye at each turn. The natural setting of a flagstone swimming pool at the mountain side with its 100-foot waterfall is breathtaking, especially when lighted at night. No wonder the ever-open gates of Park Hill receive a steady stream of visitors from near and far.

Monique shares credit for many firsts as she helped Ralph encourage interest in camellias. Together they fostered the formation of national camellia societies in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and Japan. Their help in renewing Japanese interest in the camellia was commemorated with a poem of appreciation by the Emperor's poet. During World War II most of the Japanese gardens and camellia plantings were neglected and destroyed. The Peers sent plants, scions, and seeds. You will find the Park Hill Camellia Gardens in the hills around Otomi, Japan, where a commemorative plaque cites the Peers for their generous contributions and continuous interest.

Scions and plants from Park Hill have been flown all over the world to individual collectors and botanical gardens. Many famous people and places are now growing plants which had their beginnings on a Hollywood hill — H. M. Queen Elizabeth, H. M. King Baudouin, Kew Gardens, Windsor Castle, Wisley, Puketii (New Zealand), the Botanical Gardens of Melbourne, Formosa, Saigon, Hong Kong, Capetown, Versailles, Nantes and Grasse in France, and even the Botanical Gardens in Moscow. Also, the American Embassy Gardens in Cairo boast of plants from Park Hill. Even as they sent out plants around the globe, the Peers brought in new ones to us. Some were imported from the gardens of Europe and others, such as the Kuming *reticulatas*, came from Asia and the Orient. To encourage competition among American hobbyists, the Peers donated a cup for the best *sasanqua* to the American

Camellia Society. They gave another cup to the Royal Horticultural Society in England for the best *reticulata*. Just recently, Mrs. Peer-Morris presented 25 rare species to Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California, in memory of her late husband.

The research projects begun with Ralph Peer will be carried on by Monique and new ones will be started as the opportunity arises. Park Hill is an international historical garden of every available camellia in the world. The present Superintendent of Camellias, Basil Neptune, is an expert who is as devoted to the task of maintaining the historical nature of the gardens as are Mrs. Peer-Morris and her son Ralph. Some of the plants must be grown at their home, White Firs, at Lake Tahoe in the High Sierras. Here the *Camellia Rusticana*, the Snow Camellia, has been cultivated for the last four years. The first experiments failed after the third year, primarily because the *Rusticana* scions were grafted on *japonica* understock. This last year small *Rusticana* plants grown from their own seeds were planted and appear to be doing well. Monique is hopeful that these plants from her garden at an altitude of 6,700 feet above sea level will be forerunners of countless Snow Camellias across the United States. Zero or below temperatures do not seem to affect them once the ground is covered with snow.

Another project under way at Park Hill is the arduous task of cataloging by subject the camellia correspondence of Ralph Peer. Monique estimates that this classification will take from five to six years. When completed the records are to be micro-filmed and placed in an appropriate depository. In this way students of horticulture will be able to study a more complete picture of camellia culture around the world.

Much more could be written about Monique Peer-Morris and her interest

in camellias. I could tell you about her membership in eighteen camellia and horticultural societies; her activities as a member of the Camellia Research Advisory Committee; and her duties as President of the Southern Peer World Organization which send her on numerous business trips to New York, London, Hong Kong, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, and other cities of the world. Most of all, though, I would like you to feel the warmth of her personality, her humor, her generosity, her friendliness, and listen to her stimulating conversation on a wide range of topics from children, education, horticulture, business to politics. Plan to visit her lovely garden when you are in Los Angeles or invite her to visit you when you hear that she is in your part of the world. You will make a charming new friend. As we leave our gracious and beautiful International Lady of Camellias, we extend to her our wishes for happiness with her husband and our thanks for her valuable contributions to camellia history, research, propagation, and fellowship.

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## **Popular Varieties**

### **Throw Sports**

Some of the popular varieties, A.C.S. Ilges and S. C. S. Margarete Hertrich Award Winners, are throwing sports that are sure to be popular among camellia fanciers.

Tammia Nurseries in Slidell, Louisiana has a sport of Ilges and Margarete Hertrich Awards Winner 'Guilio Nuccio' that they call 'Guilio Nuccio Fimbriated'. It is the cover flower of this month's issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW and the picture describes it better than words would. Sam and Ferol Zerkowsky will introduce it as soon as they have sufficient stock — hopefully but not surely next season.

'Tomorrow', Ilges Award Winner, has already established itself as parent of a mutant with 'Tomorrow's Dawn', which received the A. C. S. Sewell Mutant Award for 1964. Park Hill, the home of Mrs. Monique Peer-Morris in Hollywood, has announced another 'Tomorrow' mutant which they will call 'Tomorrow Park Hill'. It is a sport of 'Tomorrow Variegated', with form of the flower and plant identical with 'Tomorrow'. The color of the new sport is a light soft pink generally deepening toward the edge with some white varietation.

Reports of sports of 'Carter's Sunburst', 1963 Margarete Hertrich and 1964 Ilges Award Winners, have come from different parts of the country, suggesting the possibility of an interesting array of sports from this popular variety. Pink sports with the form of the parent have been quite common and are known as 'Carter's Sunburst Pink'. Kramer Bros. Nursery of Upland, California have a sport which is deep pink with white splotches in contrast with the stripes of the parent. Its first public appearance was in the Bakersfield, California show of March 17-18, 1962 where it won the award for Best Sport. It has been named 'Carter's Sunburst Pink Variegated'.

## **CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE**

**1964 (9th) EDITION**

**In quantities of 1 to 11 copies:  
\$2.25 per copy**

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\$1.70 per copy**

**SOUTHERN CALIF. CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

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San Marino, California 91108**

## NEW JAPONICA VARIETIES EVALUATED BY BILL WOODROOF

Bill Woodroof gave his annual evaluation of new japonica varieties at the March 5th meeting of Pacific Camellia Society. This has become an annual event and camellia hobbyists look forward to his report of the results that he and others obtain in growing the new varieties. In former reports he has included varieties that have originated in Southern California as well as those coming from other areas. This year he reported only on varieties that originated outside Southern California because, as he stated, his audience all have had opportunities to obtain the local originations and to draw their own conclusions. He stated that the testing of new varieties is one of his main interests in growing camellias. He receives scions of new varieties from their originators. In some cases he receives scions of all the new varieties, in others only scions of varieties that the originator thinks will have high potential. Sometimes he gives a scion to someone else for additional testing. Most of his judgments, however are based on his own results from blooms on vigorous plants in 2-gallon containers or larger.

Here is how he goes about his testing. He checks the flower with the originator's description as given in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. If it does not come up to this description he watches it for another year. This checking process includes measurements with a ruler over the period of the bloom's development. He also checks similarities with other known

varieties, because he believes that new introductions should have something new to offer if they are to have a "good" rating. If he does not see something new or different he "looks for the saw" and the root stock is used for testing another new one. He receives about 100 new varieties a year and since his space is limited he must get rid of 100 to make way for the new ones.

He commented on the experience of many local people that the size of imported varieties does not come up to the descriptions in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. He said that these descriptions are those received from the point of origin and are not his own evaluations or those of others on the nomenclature committee. In some cases the plant requires size to produce large blooms, and the preliminary evaluations do not allow sufficient time for the plants to reach such size. In other cases, different climatic and growing conditions undoubtedly influence the size of the blooms from which he draws conclusions. He made it clear that the blooms at the point of origin may be better than those grown locally, in fact may very easily reach the nomenclature book description. Sometimes he wonders, though, whether the descriptions sent by the originator might be based on glass house grown flowers or, currently, on flowers that have been gibbed. With a final caution that the evaluations are his own on the basis of his results in Sherman Oaks, California, his comments were as follows:

APACHE — Light red, 4" semi-double to loose peony. Needs size. Comment: More time required for judging.

ARTHUR WEISNER — Deep red, 4" semi-double to loose peony with intermixed petaloids and stamens. Good possibilities but needs size to attain its potential. Has not yet attained such size.

- AUBREY HARRIS — Red spotted white, 4½" to 5" semi-double. It looks like 'David Wirth Var'. Has poor variegation. Comment: doesn't contribute anything new.
- BERTHA FAYE HOWELL — Listed in nomenclature book as large, semi-double with thick, wavy, upright petals and red stamens. He gets 3½" semi-double with few petaloids in center. Comment: good color but adds nothing.
- BILL MURA — Listed in CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE as large. He gets 3" loose semi-double light rose pink. Comment: no value.
- CARE FREE — Rose pink, 4½" semi-double to loose peony with intermixed petals and stamens. Comment: has possibilities.
- CHINA DOLL — Sweet pea color, 4" irregular semi-double. Comment: good. ✓
- DOTTIE LYNCH — Phlox pink spotted white, 4" loose peony. Not as large as listed. Comment: question value.
- DR. BILL HARRISON — Deep to coral pink, 4½" semi-double with upright petals. Not as large as listed. Comment: has possibilities with good color and form.
- DR. PAUL SANDERS — Deep pink, semi-double. Similar to 'Rev. John Bennett'. Comment: no value.
- ELIZABETH DOWD — White marked pink, 5" rose form double to peony. Comment: looks good.
- ERIN FARMER — Sweet pea color, 5" semi-double to loose peony. Comment: ✓  
Excellent, best of the sweet pea type.
- FIRSTBORN — Bright red, 4½" semi-double with upright petals standing apart. Comment: may have possibilities. Good color but needs size.
- FIVE STAR GENERAL — Medium red, 3½" loose peony. Comment: no value.
- FLETCHER PEARSON CROWN — Rose pink of unusual shade, 3½" anemone form. Listed in nomenclature book as large. Comment: Could be good if larger than he gets.
- FUNNY FACE BETTY — Sport of 'Betty Sheffield'. Pale pink, sometimes with deeper markings. Same as 'Charming Betty'. Comment: Excellent. ✓
- HOUSE PARTY — White, marked and striped red with yellow stamens intermixed with petaloids marked red. Comment: interesting but not good enough.
- JENELI — Light pink, 4½" semi-double with large tufted petaloids. Comment: good.

*(Continued on next page)*

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- LUCKY 13 — Rose red, 5" loose peony. Comment: adds nothing new.
- MARION HARRISON — Deep pink to red, 4½" full peony. Comment: good possibilities with more size than he gets.
- MARK CULVER — Deep red, 4½" semi-double with upright center petals. Comment: has good possibilities.
- MATTIE GRAYSON — Rose red, 3½" to 4" rose form. Comment: no value.
- MRS. BENNIE FERAY — Rose pink, 3½" to 4" semi-double to anemone form. Nomenclature book lists as large. Comment: good form and color but needs size.
- MRS. MARSHALL FIELD — Soft pink, 3"-4" semi-double. Comment: no value.
- NICK ADAMS — Dark red, 3½" semi-double to peony. Comment: not good enough.
- REMEMBER — Blush pink, 4" semi-double with semi-upright petals. Comment: good form but similar to and not as good as 'Julia France'.
- RED ELEPHANT — Dark red, 4" full peony. Comment: has possibilities but needs size.
- SERENADE — Cream white, 3½" semi-double to peony. Comment: no value.
- SINGING WATERS — Clear pink, 4" semi-double to loose peony. Comment: has good possibilities but needs more size.
- WAR EAGLE — Scarlet, 4½" semi-double to loose peony. Comment: good color but needs more size.
- WINGS OF SONG — White, 3½" to 4" loose peony with large petaloids. Comment: not good enough for a white.

He closed his talk with his list of his favorite 10 "as of this minute", making it clear that the next day his list might be different. Here they are.

ADOLPHE AUDUSSON SPECIAL  
 BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME  
 CARTER'S SUNBURST  
 GUILIO NUCCIO  
 LAURA WALKER  
 MRS. D. W. DAVIS  
 REG RAGLAND  
 SPRING SONNET  
 TOMORROW  
 WHITE NUN

was forced to omit such outstanding varieties as the following:

BALLET DANCER  
 DEAR JENNY  
 DISNEYLAND  
 ECCLEFIELD  
 ERIN FARMER  
 GRAND SLAM  
 HAWAII  
 KRAMER'S SUPREME  
 MARIE BRACEY  
 MATHOTIANA SUPREME  
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## THE FINGERPRINT IN A CASE OF DISPUTED PATERNITY

*From a talk given to the Northern California Camellia Society by*

**Clifford R. Parks**

While the camellia is not noted for the fragrance of its flowers, no one would question the fact that some types of camellias have a noticeable scent. This scent is best known as the musty odor of *C. sasanqua* and its relatives. Some cultivars of *C. japonica* even have a pleasant scent, which is quite different from the sasanqua odor. This japonica odor is quite noticeable if the morning is warm and sunny, the air is moist and clean and the "sniffer's" psychology is in a very positive state. Quite recently the species *C. lutchuensis* was introduced, and this has proven to be very fragrant. *Camellia lutchuensis*, however, has such a small flower and fine texture that it hardly appears to be a camellia. It was hoped from the outset that the sweet stock-like fragrance of the flowers of *C. lutchuensis* could be transferred by hybridization to the larger-flowered more typical type of camellia cultivar.

In 1961 the first pollen of *C. lutchuensis* was available for hybridization, and at that time Mr. Howard Asper used the trace of available pollen on the stigmas of *C. saluenensis*. A couple of seedlings resulted from his efforts. The following year pollen was available to Dr. A. E. Longley and myself, and we attempted crosses primarily with *C. japonica* cultivars. From our crosses a few seedlings resulted. Since that time much more pollen has become available, and a very large number of crosses have been attempted with *C. japonica*, *pitardii*, *saluenensis* and *reticulata*. We now have a number of plants from all of these crosses except the *C. reticulata* crosses, and these latter crosses have been repeated this last winter; young capsules are presently holding.

In February of 1964 Asper's *C. saluenensis* X *C. lutchuensis* cross bloomed for the first time. The F<sub>1</sub> hybrid between these two species was as fragrant as the *C. lutchuensis* parent. There is little doubt of the hybridity of Asper's seedling since the flowers carried the fragrance of the male parent, *C. lutchuensis*, while the flowers were a pale pink — a dilution of the color of the flowers of the *C. saluenensis* parent. (*Camellia lutchuensis* has white flowers with red markings on the outer petals and these red markings occur on the outer petals of the hybrid.) With respect to flower size and form, plant size, plant texture, and leaf size and shape, the hybrid seems to be intermediate between the two parents.

As of yet, the *C. japonica* X *C. lutchuensis* has not flowered, but superficially this plant also suggests hybridity. The plant texture and the leaf size and shape all suggest both parents. Recently some authorities have suggested that these hybrids, *C. japonica* X *C. lutchuensis* are not hybrids at all, but rather they represent rare events of seed production without fertilization (types of parthenogenesis). In this case it was suggested that a seed developed in a *C. japonica* fruit which was solely from *C. lutchuensis* pollen; thus the resulting progeny would be purely *C. lutchuensis*. The *C. japonica* aspect of the seedling was explained off as the result of high vigor resulting from greenhouse conditions and a very vigorous understock.

It occurred to the writer that we needed some non-personal test or referee to determine if the seedling was a *C. japonica* X *C. lutchuensis*

*(Continued on next page)*

hybrid. Since both species are diploid, chromosome counts would yield us no information, and the seedling is not big enough for a statistical test. It has been demonstrated by many researchers that hybrids carry the pigments of both of their parental species. Since the seedling is quite small, the analysis had to be limited to a couple of leaves; therefore, our test was on leaf pigments. Our test was limited to the phenolic components of the leaves. So it will therefore be determined whether the hybrid seedling has the leaf constituents of both parents or just one of the parents. If it has only the pigments of one parent then it is unlikely that the seedling is truly hybrid, but if the seedling has the phenolic constituents of both parents then it is likely that the seedling has originated by a hybridization between the two supposed parent species.

The test is carried out by grinding up the leaves of the parents and the seedling with methyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) in a Waring blender. The solid materials are discarded and the clear filtered solution is saved. The pigment makeup is determined by a process called two-dimensional paper chromatography. This process is carried out by applying our clear alcohol solution from the leaves to the corner area of a large sheet of filter paper. The filter paper is then put into an air tight cabinet, and twice solutions of organic solvents are allowed to move across the paper. The pigments which we extracted from the camellia leaves become distributed over the filter paper according to the chemical and physical behavior of the component pigments. Any one given pigment applied to a filter paper will arrive at the same point after separation on the filter paper every time if the test is carried out the same way each time. This means that our test is reproduceable, and any given plant

will always yield the same pigment makeup if we carry out our test in the same manner. Without going into the technical details, it is possible to understand in general that since a given plant will always have the same pigment makeup in the same part of the plant it will always yield the same results from a chromatographic separation. The results of such a separation can be symbolized by charts such as Figures 1, 2 and 3. These charts show the major pigments symbolized by labeled spots. The pigment spots are studied under ultraviolet (black) light, and under black light we note that the pigments are of two types — shades of blue or black. On the charts the blue pigments are shaded and have the letter F, while the black pigments are unshaded and have the letter B. The total chart is the pigments array or “fingerprint”.

Even if the chemical aspect is not clear to the reader, it will be possible for him to compare the charts and note the intermediacy of the supposed hybrid. Compare the charts now and note that pigment spots B1, B2, B4, B9, F1, F3, F4 and F10 are common to both parents and the hybrid. These pigments then yield us no information pro or con. Note that the *C. japonica* pigments F2, F8, F9 and F11 all occur in the hybrid as well as *C. japonica*. The *C. lutchuensis* pigments, F2 and F5, occur in the hybrid as well as *C. lutchuensis*. B6 is the most prominent pigment in *C. lutchuensis*, while B6 is a minor component of *C. japonica*. In the hybrid B6 is relatively much more concentrated than in *C. japonica*, but this pigment spot is relatively much less concentrated than it is in *C. lutchuensis*. The same type of relationship hold for the pigment spot B8.

This analysis as well as the appearance of the *C. japonica* X *C. lutchuensis* hybrid leaves little doubt that

(Continued on page 38)

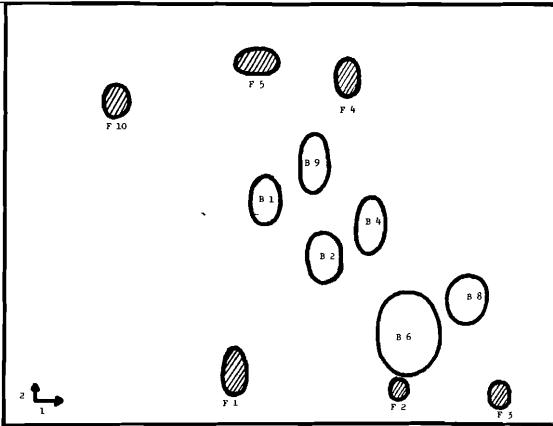


Figure 1—Pigment array of *C. japonica* CV. 'Snow Bell'

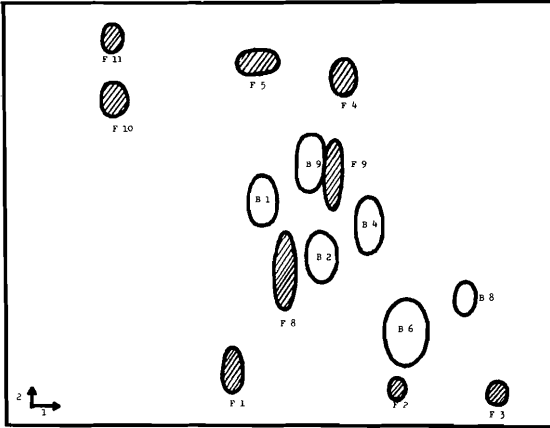


Figure 2—Pigment array of the hybrid *C. japonica* X *C. lutchuensis*

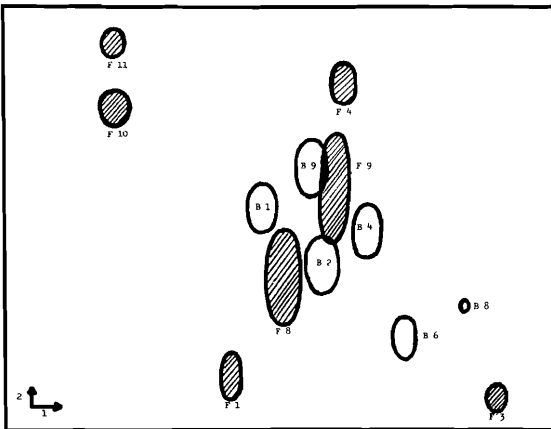


Figure 3—Pigment array of *C. lutchuensis*

## PESTS AND DISEASES OF CAMELLIAS

Report of Talk by M. Leslie Marshall of Marshall's Camellia Nursery  
at Pacific Camellia Society March 19, 1964 Meeting

Mr. Marshall opened his talk with the statement that we should be glad that we live in Southern California because other areas have more trouble with pests and diseases than we do. We should be alert to their appearance, however, and should be prepared to combat them when they show up. He first talked about insects and related pests, then covered miscellaneous camellia diseases.

### Aphids

Aphids come with new growth. They feed in colonies on immature shoots and foliage in the spring and summer by sucking the plant juices. They are relatively easy to control when effective insecticide are used. Since they have sucking mouth parts and do not consume plant tissue, an insecticide has to be used that kills by coming in contact with the insect's body or by being absorbed into the plant juices by systemic action and then being taken into the insects' bodies through feeding. Insecticides that kill by contact, such as malathion, nicotine or lindane, either as dust or spray, are more generally used.<sup>1</sup>

### Plant Tissue Consuming Pests

The most troublesome to many camellia growers are the plant tissue consuming pests—*leaf-feeding beetles*, *weevils*, *caterpillars* and to an extent, *grasshoppers*. *Fuller's rose beetle* is quite common. The adult feeds on the edge of the leaves during the night, leaving irregular holes along the margin. The *strawberry root weevil* and the *black vine weevil* feed on camellias in both the larvae and adult

stages, the adult eating irregular holes along the margin of the leaves and the larvae feeding on the underground parts of the plant. The latter occurs in many localities in California where it feeds on a number of other plants.

*Caterpillars* are the larvae of moths and butterflies. Although a number of species are known to attack camellias, the group as a whole is relatively unimportant as a pest. Caterpillars appear to be more injurious on the West Coast than in other areas. The *omnivorous looper*, often referred to as a measuring worm because of its method of movement, causes damage by the larvae eating holes in the leaves and flower buds. They do this as the leaves start to unfold, so that when the plants look bad by summer with their unsightly leaves it is a couple of months late for taking action. The *celery leaf-tier* attacks the growing tips of camellias, feeding in the fold of the leaves before they open which makes it difficult to determine the presence of the worm until after the damage has been done.

Since beetles, weevils and caterpillars have chewing mouth parts and consume plant tissue, a stomach poison is used for controlling them. Lead arsenate or cryolite applied either as spray or dust is suggested. Since they attack the plants as the leaves start to unfold, this treatment should be done during the growing periods if there is evidence or reason to believe that these pests are present.

### Scale

Scale is probably the most common and major problem, the one most likely to bother camellia growers. For convenience the scales are divided into two groups: armored scales and soft scales. The soft scales usually are easier to control than the armored

1. When infestation is minor, a strong water spray with the hose will be effective.—Ed.

scales and are more subject to parasites; consequently, camellia growers find the armored scales the most difficult to control. Since only the males have wings, scale insects are dependent on other agencies for help in dissemination and establishment of new infestations. The biggest factor is through the movement of infected nursery stock. They may also be carried to new locations by animals, flying insects, birds, ants, wind and rain.

The destructiveness of scale insects is due indirectly to their ability to reproduce rapidly, producing dense populations in comparatively short periods of time. They may infest any part of the plant above the ground, the part affected depending on the species. Their presence usually is indicated by the appearance of yellowish spots on the leaves, or dead or dying twigs and small branches. Plants may be so weakened from the withdrawal of the plant juices and by the entry of diseases through the punctures made by the beaks of the insects that with severe infestation defoliation and even death of the plant may occur. Once scale starts, it can spread fast.

An emulsion of highly refined, medium-light mineral oil is the number one material recommended for control of scale on camellias. Mr. Marshall uses a 2% solution of Volck and malathion (2 tsp. per gallon of water). Camellias should not be sprayed while deficient in moisture or during periods of high temperature.

The plants are more susceptible to spray injury during periods of dry weather than they are when soil moisture is plentiful. This is particularly true for oil sprays; therefore, plants to be sprayed for scale should have ample soil moisture available several days prior to treatment. Treatments of oil place a certain amount of strain on plants; therefore, the num-

ber of applications should be kept to the minimum to give the necessary protection. One application per year, in early spring as soon as possible after the danger of freezing temperatures is past, is usually sufficient to control and keep suppressed light to average scale infestations.

## Ants

*Ants* are chiefly injurious to camellias because they spread scale and aphids. They are controlled by effective ant sprays that are available at garden supply houses and contain chlordane, aldrin and dieldrin applied as dusts or sprays.

## Flower Blight

Probably the most serious disease of camellias is *flower blight*. It first appears as small tan or brown spots which gradually enlarge until the petal and eventually the whole flower turns brown. The spots, which may occur singly or in large numbers, usually appear in the central part of the petals, in contrast to injuries resulting from wind or frost, which usually appear at the tips of the petals. When diseased tissue is rubbed lightly between the thumb and forefinger it disintegrates, whereas tissues injured by wind or freezing remain intact when rubbed in such a manner. Another characteristic symptom is that as the tissues change color, the veins become darker than the surrounding tissues, thus giving a nettled effect to the diseased flower.

After the disease has progressed about two weeks, hard, resting bodies of the fungus, called sclerotia, are produced in the lower parts of the petals, usually after the flowers have fallen to the ground. These sclerotia are extremely resistant structures which are important to the fungus, surviving in the soil when there are no camellia flowers to infect. With the return of conditions that favor

*(Continued on next page)*

flowering of camellias, they cease to be dormant. Sacs are formed, each containing a number of spores, and under favorable environmental conditions these sacs rupture and the spores are forcibly discharged upward into the air where they are picked up and carried by air currents. These spores, after landing on camellia petals, will germinate in the presence of free moisture and will infect the flower tissues. In most parts of the country, the disease may be found from January to April; however it is most serious during the heavy blooming period of February and March.

These spores constitute the only means of infection and there is no spread of the disease from flower to flower. After the disease has become established, control is difficult. The best approach to control is a thorough sanitation program, to include the removal and destruction of all flowers suspected of infection. Removal of fallen flowers is especially important. Since the sclerotia do not germinate the same season they are formed, it is not necessary to remove the flowers immediately as they fall, but they should be removed and destroyed before they disintegrate as this would allow the sclerotia to remain in the soil. Disposal of the infected flowers

is important. If possible they should be burned or buried. They should not be added to garbage except where it is known that the garbage will be burned.

In addition, certain chemicals applied as ground sprays or in dusting will aid in its control. Among such chemicals are fermate and terraclor (a trade name adopted by Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation).<sup>2</sup>

The sclerotia are known to remain alive and produce spores for as long as five years. Continued attention is necessary, therefore, to eradicate flower blight once it has infested a camellia garden.

Mr. Marshall summarized his talk by suggesting a general spraying schedule. Use a malathion and 2% oil spray just before the new growth unfolds. Every plant should be sprayed systematically and thoroughly. Best results are obtained by directing the spray upward so that the undersides of the leaves will be thoroughly wet. Don't spray when it is too hot or too cold. One good spray after the flowers are gone and the new growth pop outs should be adequate. After that, only spot sprayings are given as necessary.

2. For a discussion of this subject see February 1963 CAMELLIA REVIEW, page 6, "Camellia Flower Blight" by A. H. Dekker.

## California Redwood Plant Tubs

There is more fun in gardening — better results, too, when you can control the soil, shade and water conditions. Doubling in duty and decoration.

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# KNOW YOUR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA NURSERYMEN PART 10 — AUGUST KRAMER Ernest (Ernie) Pieri

Did you know that August Kramer was such a wonderful salesan in the early days of the automobile that he might have become Mr. Big in the automobile agency business in Fresno in 1915?

August started his nursery career in 1895 at the tender age of 15. He started as a salesman, riding a bicycle, taking orders for nursery stock. He covered quite an area, some 10 miles distance from his home in Farmdale, Long Island, New York. He was quite successful in this venture. The following year he bought flowers from a greenhouse grower in New York and delivered them to his customers with a horse and spring wagon, later adding potted plants and daisies which he raised himself. It was from this greenhouse grower, the R. P. Jeffrey Greenhouse in Waughtauk, New York that he started his first growing experiments with camellias. Mr. Jeffrey gave him some cuttings of a red camellia, similar to 'Prince Eugene Napoleon'. He was successful in starting them, but there was not the interest on the part of the public to make it appear to be a successful venture.

As his business began to increase, his brother Otto joined him. They built their first greenhouse and started raising geraniums and miscellaneous plants. Additional greenhouses were built, large flowering mums and cut flowers were added to their nursery program. In 1899, the brothers raised stock for cut flowers and sent them to the New York flower market. The flower commission houses didn't know what the flowers were and telegraphed August for the name, stating they would buy all that the Kramer Brothers could supply. Today, stocks are one of the popular items in the flower markets. The brothers continued to

add more greenhouses as their business grew, finally selling out in 1914. August handled the sales and promotion of the new items, his brother Otto was in charge of the growing of the cut flowers for the New York Flower Markets.

A few years earlier, the doctor had ordered August to move to Colorado for his health. He settled in Colorado Springs and while there worked for the Clarke Nurseries. He stayed in Colorado Springs only six months before returning to New York to continue with his brother in their greenhouse business.

His health caused him to come to California. He had contacted tuberculosis and his doctor ordered him to come to California as he felt that the Southern California climate would be beneficial to him. August was thirty-four years old when he arrived in Colton, California on the night of December 12, 1914. A real California rainstorm greeted him as he got off the train. He stopped over long enough to get a ticket to get out of Colton, but did have time to see the San Bernardino Mountains covered with snow. His train ticket took him as far as Ontario. He later took a trip to Arizona thinking that the climate in that state would be beneficial to him. During the summer of 1915 he travelled to Fresno. While in Fresno he got a job selling cars for Mr. J. C. Phelan who had the Ford and Oldsmobile agency for the San Joaquin Valley.

He did very well selling cars, but the urge to get back into the nursery business was too strong, and he returned to Ontario. He got a job working for Mr. Armstrong, the founder of the Armstrong Nurseries. After

*(Continued on next page)*

three months with Mr. Armstrong he went back to Arizona, but later returned to Ontario and bought property on Oak Street where he is now living, in the house that he had built on the property.

He also paid a visit to San Diego during 1915 with the hope that San Diego would be good for his health, but returned in favor of Ontario. It was during this same year that his brother Otto came out to Ontario.

August and his brother Otto purchased a ranch in Chino where they established their first nursery, specializing in fruit and citrus trees. They eventually gave that up because a virus attacked the trees and many of them died. They also tried to grow Plumosa Fern, Scotch Heather and decorative greens for the eastern markets. In 1917 they sent their first consignment of heather to the Chicago markets, which was sold at a good price. To August's knowledge, like the stocks this was the first cut heather to be raised commercially for cut flowers. In 1921 they decided to venture into the bulb business and had a bulb ranch at Oceanside. Again the call of the inland country was too strong and in 1925 the brothers bought fifty-three acres of land on Red Hill in Cucumunga, the location of their present growing grounds for camellias and azaleas. They later purchased property in Upland where their present nursery is located.

August's interest in camellias had not been lost. About 1920 he bought his first camellia plants from the Peterson Ranch in Chico, California. Soon after their first purchase Mr. Peterson decided to sell his camellia stock, and the Kramer Brothers made quite a purchase of these plants. They were now on their way toward a successful camellia business.

August claims that Mr. Wilson, who had a nursery in Monrovia brought the first camellia plants to Southern California about 1895. In

1921 the Monrovia nursery was importing seeds from Japan and raising seedlings, selling the small plants in two inch pots. In 1922 August bought camellia seeds from Japan and started to grow his own seedlings, but recalls that they were nearly all single flowers when they bloomed. He also purchased camellia seeds from England in his attempt to grow better and newer varieties of camellias.

August and his brother Otto have been responsible for introducing many new varieties of plants during his nearly seventy year horticultural career. He was a promoter of the early Elberta Peach, hybridized and promoted many new chrysanthemums during the 1930's and 1940's, the most popular being the Elsie Kramer which brings top prices on the flower markets today. He introduced two lovely Azalea seedlings, 'American Beauty' and 'Rosalie'. His most recent achievements have been with camellias with two popular seedlings. 'Kramer's Supreme', a large red, semi-double fragrant camellia bloom was introduced in 1956 and was the winner of the Frank Williams Award for that year. 'Miss Universe', a large white semi-double camellia bloom was introduced in 1957. It was named to honor the Miss Universe competition that was held annually at Long Beach.

We, the younger generation of camellia enthusiasts must doff our hats to this grand old gentleman, who once was given up as a possible invalid, came back and has been very successful doing the thing he loved to do, *Grow Beautiful Flowers*.

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### THE FINGERPRINT (Continued)

the seedling is a hybrid between the two specified parents. We now only have to wait to see if the seedling will carry the fragrance of its paternal parent as the *C. saluertensis* X *C. lutchuensis* hybrid did.



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 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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