

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Flower Girl'

Courtesy Monrovia Nursery Company

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One Dollar

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

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

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. Hybrid 'Flower Girl'

This month's cover flower is one of the three 'Narumi-Gati' X *Reticulata* crosses, known as "The Girls", that Howard Asper first bloomed in 1960. They have been kept out of circulation, the only people who have seen them being visitors to the Asper nursery at Escondido, California. He has now released them through Monrovia Nursery Company of Monrovia, California, nursery wholesalers who will distribute them through their retail outlets.

'Flower Girl' is a cross of 'Narumi-Gati' X 'Cornelian' (previously known as 'Lion Head'). The flower is large to very large, having reached 5½" in diameter and 2¾" in depth, and blooms singly along the branches from early Fall into Winter. The color is Scarlet 19/2 throughout. Growth habit of the plant is vigorous, upright and branching.



THOUGHTS

from the editor

I quote from an issue of the ACS *Camellia Journal*.

“Poor seedlings”, says one of our knowledgeable nurserymen, ‘are like bad breath—even your best friends won’t tell you.’ Some one else said that ‘most seedlings are like a child whom only a mother can love.’ Seriously there are many fine seedlings being produced. With the thousands upon thousands flowering this year there are sure to be a few outstanding ones. Most are not distinctive or are too similar to varieties already available. Enter your seedlings in shows, find out whether they can compete successfully with the other entries. Keep trying. Don’t be discouraged in the first show you enter. If your entry is just as good as ‘Tomorrow’, that isn’t good enough. We already have ‘Tomorrow.’”

It is appropriate to write now about seedlings because in the few weeks ahead thousands upon thousands of seedlings will be blooming for the first time. It is human nature that the parent will be pleased with his progeny. And it is equally true that, as stated in the quote above, people are prone not to be critical of camellia seedlings that are developed by other people. For these reasons, *Camellia Nomenclature* is full of listings of varieties that should never have been registered.

I suggest that all the people who have new seedling blooms this year think of the following considerations before deciding that the flower is worthy of being named and registered.

First, is it really a good flower, in the sense that other people will desire it? It need not be able to compete with ‘Tomorrow Park Hill’, for example. It should be good enough, however, that people who see it will say, “I’d like to have that when you decide to release it”.

Second, even though it is a good flower, does it add something to camellia collections. As stated above, “we already have ‘Tomorrow’”. Does it bloom early, thus filling a gap in our blooming cycle? Is it a new form or shade? ‘Dr. Burnside’, for example, adds nothing to form and it doesn’t reach, in Southern California, the size as described in other areas; it has a shade of red, however, that makes it a definite addition to my collection.

Third, how long have you seen it bloom? Sometimes the first year’s bloom tells the story but as often a new seedling needs more time to give the final decision. If the seedling looks good the first year, graft it and wait a couple of years to see how the bloom looks on grafted plants.

We all seek good new varieties of all species of camellias. We are getting tired, however, of all the new varieties that are coming out and then fail to stand the test of competition with present varieties. If you like the new seedling even though it does not stand tests such as listed above, by all means keep it in your collections. But please don’t put it out in the mainstream.

Harold E. Oyler

THE ART OF GRAFTING

Alvin L. Gunn
Lynwood, California

The season in which most Camellia hobbyists do their grafting is here. The summer growth has hardened months ago. Now is the time to graft the varieties which were show stoppers. Don't be shy about asking one of the big collectors if they can spare wood on a particular variety. You will find if you visit these collectors they will probably give you more scions than you want.

To save scions wet the inside of a plastic bag then pour out the water. This will leave small beads of water on the bag. Put the scions in the bag and press the bag flat to get as much air out of the bag as possible. Then tie the open end closed with a wire tie or a rubber band. This may be kept in the refrigerator for an indefinite time or until you have time to graft them all. There is some unconfirmed talk that *Reticulata* and some Hybrid scions won't keep long.

The selection of understock is the next step. We usually say don't graft on recently fertilized understock and don't graft on sick or weak understock. Seedlings or rooted cuttings make good grafting stock. Better still, cut off a plant in your collection which doesn't do well in your area, or isn't as good as it was touted to be, and heaven knows there are plenty of those. Be sure that the reason is not because of an unhealthy plant.

You will need sharp clippers or a saw to cut the plant off four to six inches above the soil level. (Fig 3). A sharp knife or a single edged razor blade is used to trim off any ragged or bruised edges caused by the clippers or the saw. (Fig. 4). Place a knife across the center of the understock forcing the knife to split the undersock about one and one half inches. (Fig. 5).

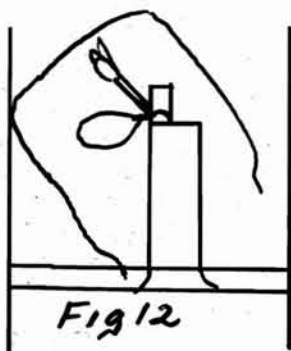
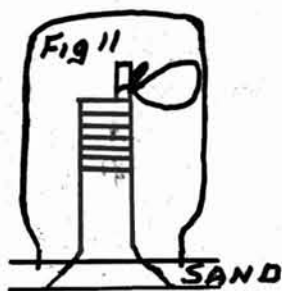
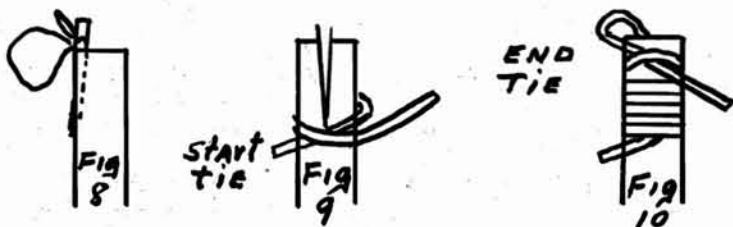
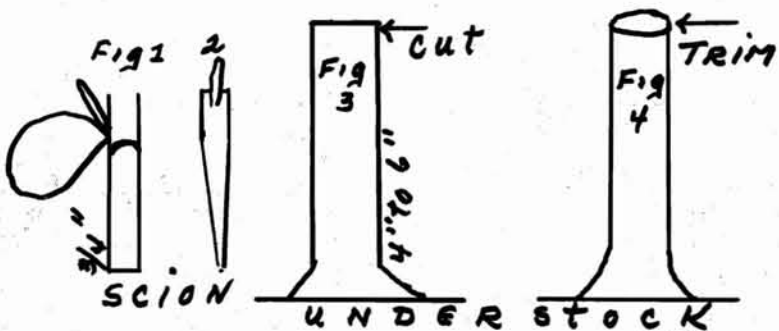
Cut the scion wood about one inch

or three quarters of an inch below the bottom leaf. Then trim the scion into a wedge shape starting just below the level of the leaf. (Fig 1 & 2). Be careful not to touch the cut parts of the scion as the oil from your fingers could hinder a take.

Now for the accurate part of grafting. Force the tip of the knife or a thin long handled screw driver into the top split of the understock and pry it open so the scion may be put into place. While you hold the split open, place the scion into the split far enough to leave about a quarter of an inch of the trimmed part of the scion above the top of the understock. (Fig. 7). The bark of the scion should be flush with the bark of the understock unless the bark of the understock is very thick, then match the cambium layers (the dark green just under the bark). Some of the old timers tilt the scion just a little. (Fig. 8). That way the cambium layers cross which is enough to get a take. Remove the knife when the scion has been placed just right. I use a magnifying glass to check it.

To tie the scion in place firmly use a grafting rubber. Start the tie below the bottom of the scion crossing the first loop of the rubber (Fig. 9) to hold it in place while the rubber is wound around the understock until the top is reached. Put your finger under the last loop and pull it out enough to thread the end of the rubber under the last loop. (Fig. 10), then run your finger around the last loop as you pull on the end. Try it a couple of times for practice, it is easier than it sounds. If there are no grafting rubbers available, cotton string, plastic tape or almost anything which has a little give to it may be used.

(Continued on Page 5)



The next step may be omitted but it appears to serve two functions. One, to suppress the formation of mildew and two, it seems to cause a faster and heavier callusing of the understock when a rooting powder with a fungicide added is dusted over the cut portions of the graft. Another step which may be omitted is pouring a layer of sand over the soil surface. When a quart or gallon jar is placed over the graft the mouth of the jar sinks into the sand and makes an air tight seal. (Fig. 11).

Moisture should form on the top inside of the jar in a few hours, which lets you know there is a good seal.

The graft may now be placed where it gets light but no direct sunlight as the sun will burn the leaves. If the graft cannot be moved to a suitable location place something over it to shade it.

Little needs to be done to the graft until it starts to grow, usually in three weeks to three month depending on the time of year the grafting was done. If moisture forms on the top of the understock, blot it dry with kleenex and leave the jar off for an hour when it is cool. Wet the inside of the jar before replacing it. The graft needs very little water. If it looks dry pour a cup of water on the soil.

When the growth bud has grown enough that the form of the new

leaves can be seen, remove the jar. Look at the graft occasionally to be sure the new growth hasn't started to wilt. If it does wilt wet the inside of the jar and replace the jar for a day or two, then tilt the jar (Fig. 12) to let a little air under the jar. If it wilts again cover it again and repeat in a couple of days. When the jar has been tilted for a few days without the new growth wilting you may remove the jar. Watch it closely for a few hours. Once you start to remove the jar give the plant a good drink of water. The new growth will need it. When the graft has been free of the jar for a week the plant may be placed in the lath house. Usually we graft on unfertilized understock so I like to put a tablespoon of cotton seed meal to a gallon sized container when placing it in the lath house. Most hobbyists will disagree with this procedure. I find that I get a stronger, healthier plant.

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SELECTING UNDERSTOCK

David Cook

(Reprinted from December 1948 issue of Southern California Camellia Society Bulletin, since renamed CAMELLIA REVIEW. This article is reprinted to illustrate that basically, many of the principles of growing camellias have not changed in the last twenty years.)

Much has been said in praise of the virtues of grafted camellias, reams have been written about the ease of performing the operation that can transform an ugly duckling camellia into a highly desirable and valuable new garden camellia. But when I was first approached concerning this article, I immediately started wondering to whom I could turn to "lift" some good sound information relative to the importance of proper understock for grafting. Nobody seems to have given this phase of the subject more than cursory mention, unless you could count a few hurried remarks about the necessity of choosing "vigorous" understock. Therefore, with practically no reference or research to fall back on, I am forced to draw some conclusions of my own.

Camellia understock, desirable commodity that it is, is hard to come by. Nurseries are not overly anxious to part with any; indeed, most of the camellia growers are actively engaged in pursuit of all they may get wind of for their own use. Several large growers, realizing the potential market, have undertaken the growing of greater amounts of understock material, but still the demand exceeds the supply. The average amateur consumer, good prospect though he may be, is largely forced to go far afield, or to cast about in his own collection for some variety he feels he can manage to part with. Therefore the reason for this article.

-Your natural impulse, particularly as regards some non-performing or

otherwise unsatisfactory camellia, is to avenge yourself by "wringing" the offending camellia's neck. If the plant has stubbornly refused to grow, or if it has been otherwise unsatisfactory, why not whack it off about two or three inches above the ground and tie on a scion that you can mooch from some source, and gain for yourself at little or no expense something new and desirable? As a nurseryman I perhaps shouldn't answer this question. Go ahead and see what happens, and then next year you can come around to me and buy the plant that you tried to make a graft of for yourself.

Perhaps you find that in your estimable collection you have no offending camellias, none that are not excellent performers, highly satisfying in every regard. You want to try your hand at grafting, so you go out to several nurseries on the search for understock. No understock, offered as such at any rate, so the next best bet is to try for some overgrown sleepers, great big one or five-gallon plants with thick trunks on 'em. Triumphant, you relieve the nurseryman of some of his overgrown material in rusted-out containers, and scurry about trying to make contacts for some "hot swaps". A brief, sweet session with the grafting tools, a long and anxious sweating-it-out period and no success. Heh, Heh!

Perhaps I shouldn't go so far as to say "no success". You quite possibly may succeed in getting your graft to start off well, or passably well. In a few years time, however, you may expect your understock to be incapable of matching the rate of growth of the top of the plant. Outgrown its roots, so to speak. You've set your precious gem in a mounting of pot-metal. If you would only stop to think for a moment, you would

realize that you have behaved in a way that no intelligent farmer, or livestock breeder, or seedman, or husbandman, or parent, or any other producer would do. You have chosen for that part of the union that must perform the most important duties the weakest, sickliest, scrawniest plant you could lay your hands on. A potbound, clubfooted, flint-hearted, bud-dropping camellia that you didn't want or the nurseryman didn't want, or else he wouldn't have allowed it to get overgrown and unsold in his bins. But don't feel that you're the only one who has committed this error. You're just one of the brotherhood now, brother, we've all done it.

Now comes the part where some reference works on the subject would be very handy. None being at hand we'll grope our way along, and in passing, perhaps we can unearth a few leads that will prove of some sort of value. We came to the conclusion a few years back that the variety

'Sarah Frost', for one, made excellent understock. Here are several reasons: easy to propagate from cuttings, vigorous grower, long lived, wide cambium layer, easily worked wood, ability to callus quickly, not strongly inclined toward virus influence. Another variety, suitable for practically identical reasons, is 'Blood of China'. As for seedling material, most of this would likewise fit into the category very neatly. Better yet, cuttings grown from seedlings.

Undersock material should be grown as carefully as the finest named variety. Regular feedings, sprayings, transplanting, root expansion, all the practices commonly observed in the production of varieties grown to be sold as named plants, are necessary for maximum success with grafted camellias.

In closing, mention should also be made of the suitability of the *Camellia*

(Continued on Page 19)



The layout of the March 1968 camellia show of the Modesto Camellia Society was one of the most attractive of the show season.

WHAT'S WINNING THE SYDNEY RACES?

Jim Fisher

Camellia Grove Nursery, St. Ives, N.S.W., Australia

I wrote in the May 1967 Review on the comparison of camellia conditions Los Angeles-Sydney, pointing out that;

(1) Whilst our humid climate gives us problems with fungus die-back we are free of petal blight and thus do not view shatterers with such distaste.

(2) That the majority of our camellia growers have reasonably large gardens and plant for enjoyment both as landscape subjects and for decoration in the home rather than with the show table in mind.

(3) That Gibberellic acid is not widely known or used, very good results being obtained without it, since most parts of Sydney are ideally suited to camellias.

Harold Dryden has asked me to write on Australian camellia varieties but I am conscious of our different outlook on camellias and of the fact that our seedling growers are few and far between. Were I to give glowing descriptions of shattering decoratives or other Australian varieties I know have proved unsatisfactory in your climate I should not be at all constructive. Your American varieties have upgraded our listings to such an extent during recent years, I think you will find it more interesting if I draw some comparisons. I would particularly ask you to remember that there are horses for courses—our best performers in Sydney may not necessarily be yours!

The reds, 'Emperor of Russia' and 'Great Eastern' (Aust.) have long been and still are firm favourites in Sydney where their strong foliage and flowers stand up to the sun so well. 'Great Eastern' needs disbudding and even then the early blooms are often small but later blooms on lusty young plants can be spectacular. 'The Czar' (Aust.) has similar attributes and

bold, striking flowers but is a more compact grower. 'Moshio' is also quite sun hardy, similar in form to 'Magnoliaeflora', a glowing red which should prove an eye-catcher in Los Angeles if not a show winner. 'Prince Eugene Napoleon' (Pope Pius IX) a reliable mid-season formal with foliage asking for shade but an excellent decorative with long stems. 'Grand Sultan' (Te Deum?) must be grafted for vigour and then requires a few years of patience before good blooms are achieved—the magnificent formal blooms full-blow quickly or immediately in milder areas but perfect formal blooms from an established, grafted plant leave all other formal camellias away behind and are show winners.

Of the more recent introductions 'Clark Hubbs' is fine but buds show a fringe of colour weeks before opening, tending to give the edges of opened flowers a blackened look. 'Dixie Knight' has most desirable colour—variable, uneven flower form. 'Guilio Nuccio' extremely fine but unfortunately rather subject to fungus die-back. 'Kramer's Supreme', with its bold, rounded flowers, lacks brilliance of colour with us. 'Tinsie', a most popular miniature but not an easy grower on own root. 'Tomorrow', a bit of a cabbage for the Australian taste, throws occasional superb blooms, almost as good as it is when "gibbed". 'Grand Slam' and 'Wildfire' show great promise and 'Tom Knudsen' should demand a place for colour. Best seller 1968, 'Great Eastern'. Then 'Prince Eugene Napoleon', 'Emperor of Russia'.

'Edith Linton' (Aust.) shatters but is a fine semi-double deep silvery pink of excellent growth habit and the best deep pink we have grown for many years. 'Drama Girl' is now be-

coming firmly entrenched with her big, bold, beautiful and completely reliable flowers but, like me, she is a lanky grower! 'Carter's Sunburst Pink', lovely and long lasting, not sufficiently well known yet to be fully appreciated. 'Elegans Supreme', just about to break into this colour range, is gorgeous. 'Virginia Robinson' looks like a future hope. Best seller 1968, 'Drama Girl'. 'Edith Linton' follows.

The lighter pinks seem to cover a wide range of colour to blush pink and always seem to have to include those shot colourings such as 'Lady Loch' and 'Nancy Bird' which can hardly be regarded as variegated. 'Can Can' (Aust.) sister of 'Lady Loch', can be very attractive but varies in charm with the weather as does 'Cho Cho San', a shatterer but, an exquisite decorative at best. 'C.M. Wilson' has the edge on 'Lady Loch' for refinement but can be a temperamental opener on younger plants and a rather twiggy grower. 'Debutante' vies with these two, clearer and better for colour but tending to be a lanky grower and a leaf shedder with us. 'Hawaii' the same twiggy grower as parent 'C.M. Wilson' and shows colour for weeks before opening but is so different and so attractive. 'Laurie Bray' (Aust.) a long flowering seedling of 'Edith Linton' and a lovely shade of pink, of variable form and the colour deepens as flower ages, has unfortunately performed badly in Los Angeles. 'Magnoliaeflora' a superb decorative of perfect flower form in Sydney. 'Mrs. D.W. Davies' big, beautiful and incredibly reliable under our mild but varying weather conditions. 'Nancy Bird' (Aust.) sister of 'Edith Linton' and another shatterer but of attractive, shot colouring with fine plant form and a free bloomer. 'Otome' (Pink Perfection) a sweet formal but irritating in flowering too early or too late with a gap when you want her. 'Prince Frederick William'—we do seem to have an earlier strain—

an excellent formal. 'Spring Sonnet' superb at best but, oh, so pernickety. 'Tiffany' really lovely but in Sydney, as in the American South—fungus die-back. Moving into this group are 'Julia France', breathed on by an angel but doesn't like the cold, and 'Tomorrow Park Hill' which closely approximates 'Tiffany' for colour, is tough and the softer colour pulls one out of the cabbage patch. If you "gib"—oh, brother! Lurking in the mists of the future are 'One Alone', a contender for the 'Julia France' stakes and 'Cheryl Lynn', capable of giving 'Prince Frederick William' the cold shivers. Best seller 1968, 'Magnoliaeflora'. Then 'Laurie Bray' and 'Prince Frederick William'.

The lovely formal whites 'Alba Plena' and 'Fimbriata' are difficult growers and great friends of fungus die-back. 'Ecclefield' a bit rangy with wonderful large blooms, sometimes a little too bold. 'Kamohonami' has lovely foliage, a very long flowering period, is so obviously ikebana and most endearing. 'Margarete Hertrich' a lovely and reliable mid-season formal, ideally suited to Sydney but leans a little towards fungus die-back. 'Pukekura' (N.Z.) an open grower, damages rather easily but a superb decorative—the white filaments are most desirable. 'Shiragiku' late but lovely and reliable everywhere. 'Shiro Chan' is beautiful at best but throws a lot of mediocre blooms and on young plants can bull-nose. 'White Empress', a good long bloomer but is, perhaps, losing ground. 'White Nun' is exquisite and appears unmatched amongst the larger flowered whites. Knocking at the door for entry are two off-white formals—'First Prom', a long flowering pearly white with great potential and 'Twilight', a most attractive blush. Other stand-outs looming up are 'Charlie Bettes', 'Silver Chalice', and the formal 'Pope John XXIII'. Best seller 1968, 'Margarete Hertrich'. 'White Nun' follows.

(Continued on next page)

Variegated have never been overly popular in Australia but the comparative newcomer 'Carter's Sunburst' is making itself felt. Its large, soft, long-lasting loveliness ranges from formality to informality and it is obviously here to stay. 'Elegans', faithful old-timer but liable to bull-nose on young plants, is giving ground to 'R.L. Wheeler Variegated' which is bigger, bolder and better. 'Emperor of Russia Variegated' tough as nails and tops for landscaping. 'High Jinks' most attractive but can follow its name and bull-nose. 'Hikarugenji' (Herme) good but losing ground. 'Jean Lyne' (Aust.) parent of 'Edith Linton' and 'Nancy Bird', a lovely shatterer that takes a hold on one. 'Tomorrow's Dawn' big and beautiful but we are back in the cabbage patch nine times out of ten, unless we "gib". Best seller 1968, 'Carter's Sunburst'. 'Emperor of Russia Variegated' follows.

The "sweet-pea" or picotee types seem to have come upon us all of a sudden! It is not long since 'Dr. Tinsley' was away ahead of anything else in the field and the Doctor is still a dashed fine camellia, reliable and most appealing, if a little shy as a youngster. 'Ballet Dancer' long flowering, lovely colouring and good growth habit but loses points on flower form. 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' a winner in Sydney, despite the brown patch one frequently observes on an outer

petal or two and a touch of bull-nosing here and there. Good blooms of this one really upset the opposition. 'Margaret Davis' (Aust.) sport of 'Aspasia MacArthur' and sister of 'Lady Loch', outstanding in a dry year and could be a strong contender for show honours in Los Angeles although she often lacks size. Some variation in depth of colour and width of the picotee border which seems to tie in with climatic changes. 'Sawada's Dream' a little late to bloom most seasons and form varies from rounded petals to water-lily pointing but we have never struck anyone who didn't love it. Our own 'Tiptoe' (a second generation williamsii and C. saluenensis hybrids are usually prone to fungus die-back in Sydney) is a smallish beauty who romps in sunshine and is mostly free from trouble. 'Erin Farmer' is just about to make her run and they will know she's there! 'China Doll' faded out in trials. The future holds 'Amabel Lansdell', different and desirable, and 'Commander Mulroy' who just could interfere with 'Sawada's Dream'. Best seller 1968, 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' with the others having a neck-to-neck battle many lengths behind.

The reticulatas grow and look well in Sydney. 'Captain Rawes', 'Crimson Robe', 'Lion Head' (Cornelian?) and 'Willow Wand' are the "big four". 'Noble Pearl' and 'Purple Gown' are
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POINTS SCORED IN 1967-1968 S.C.C.S. MEETINGS COMPETITION

	Japonica Gibbed	Japonica Non-Gibbed	Miniature	Retic. & Hybrid	Total Points
Reed	33	28	17	26	104
Goertz	43	31	0	29	103
Shney	13	10	6	22	51
Summerson	15	18	0	14	47
Pitkin	35	2	0	6	43
Rowe	5	17	16	5	43

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE 1968-1969 SEASON

Date	Sponsor	Location
Jan. 4-5, 1969	Los Angeles Camellia Council	Hospitality House, Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Feb. 8-9, 1969	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 15-16, 1969	Peninsula Camellia Society	Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City
Feb. 15-16, 1969	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona
Feb. 22-23, 1969	Delta Camellia Society	Pittsburg High School, Pittsburg
Feb. 22-23, 1969	Temple City Camellia Society	L.A. County Arboretum Lecture Hall, Arcadia
Feb. 23, 1969	Camellia Society of Santa Clara	Student Union Bldg., San Jose City College, San Jose
Mar. 1-2, 1969	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium 15th & J Sts., Sacramento
Mar. 1-2, 1969	Los Angeles Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens La Canada
Mar. 8-9, 1969	Camellia Society of Kern County	Bakersfield High School Cafeteria, Bakersfield
Mar. 8-9, 1969	Northern California Camellia Society	Sun Valley Shopping Center, Concord
Mar. 9, 1969	Central California Camellia Society	Cafeteria, McLane High School, Fresno
Mar. 15-16, 1969	Camellia Society of Modesto	Palm Court of E. & J. Gallo Administration Bldg., Modesto
Mar. 22-23, 1969	Sonoma County Camellia Society	Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa

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PRESERVATION OF CAMELLIA BLOOMS

Mrs. Laurence (Vi) Shuey
Temple City, California

To grow fine camellias is a very rewarding accomplishment; however, as cut flowers, they seldom last for more than one or two days. This is particularly disappointing to the florist, the flower arranger and show exhibitor.

We, who endeavor to grow high quality blooms, are interested, of course, in prolonging the life of such blooms for as long as possible. I have tried for several years to obtain data that would enable me to extend the life of my cut flowers and now I have a formula that is quite acceptable.

I scarcely know where or how to begin my remarks concerning the preservation and refrigeration of camellias, when there are so many others more qualified, who have been collecting data and researching this matter for a considerable period of time. From personal demonstrations and articles which have been written, I was able to commence this all-important work with our camellia blooms. All of you who are interested in preserving your camellia blooms for show, festive occasions and for floral use in the home are again reminded to read the following articles: Quote from the CAMELLIA REVIEW:

March 1955, Page 20 — Treatments for increasing the life of cut camellia flowers. By James Bonner and Shigeru Honda.

Jan. 1966, Page 16 — Treating for increasing life of cut blooms. By Frank F. Reed.

Nov. 1966, Page 24 — Increasing the life of cut camellia blooms. By Frank F. Reed.

Jan. 1967, Page 22 — More about refrigeration of Camellia show flowers. By Harold E. Dryden.

I am indeed grateful to several of my friends, who so generously gave me the knowledge and tools with which to work. Most of us try to add just a little bit more to what we have

already learned from the pioneers in this field, and I am no exception.

It is a well known fact that the life of the cut camellia flower can be extended by low temperature treatment. The greatest extension of life for the camellia flower has been obtained when flowers were stored in a saturated water atmosphere of a refrigerator, also the life span can be increased by the application of Naphthaleneacetic Acid.

My method is outlined below:

FIRST — *The refrigerator* — I believe that the refrigerator should be kept, if possible, at a uniform temperature of 38 to 40 degrees F. The refrigerator must be a wet type box.

SECOND — *Naphthaleneacetic Acid (NAA)* — 25 grams may be purchased at a cost of \$2.50, which is enough to last for about 25 years. This acid may be obtained from Calbiochem Corp., 3625 E. Medford, Los Angeles, Catalogue Number 4773.

Formula: To a quart of warmed distilled water, add one tablespoon of High Bloom, one tablespoon of Vitamin B1, and one scant fourth of a teaspoon of NAA (size of a pencil eraser). Shake this solution well, after which place in the ice box for future use.

THIRD — *Plastic Boxes* — size 10"x14"x4". Place a layer of cotton (or any absorbent material) in the bottom, lightly dampened with water, then a layer of shredded cellophane, and last, place small containers filled with cotton and saturated with the above mentioned NAA solution. These containers will accommodate the number of blooms to be placed in the plastic box. I might mention that I use aluminum jelly containers, as well as small tart tins from Van De Camps. The jelly containers measure 2" x 3/8" and tart tins measure 3" x 5/8".

I prefer shredded cellophane because it does not mash down and in time become soggy; also the cellophane can be washed in warm sudzy water and will retain its usefulness.

FOURTH — *Picking Camellia Blooms*. As I have stressed before, I believe that every phase of picking and storing camellias should be a condition of coolness and dampness; therefore, the time for picking blooms should be very early in the morning. I prefer the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Each bloom, as it is carefully picked from the plant, is immediately placed in a container filled with cotton and *cold NAA solution*. As soon as there are enough blooms to fill a plastic box, the lid is tightly secured and the box of blooms is stored in the refrigerator. Make *very sure* that the stem of the bloom is in contact with the wet, saturated cotton in the container.

When it is time to exhibit the blooms, whether it be at a monthly meeting or a show, these blooms are then transferred to much larger boxes. This is done after the sun is down, sometimes late in the evening. But at least when the *temperature is cool*.

I use larger boxes which were originally wax-coated meat boxes. To prepare each large box, aluminum foil is placed in the bottom of the box, then a dampened piece of cotton or absorbent material, and finally an inch layer of shredded cellophane. After this process is completed, the blooms, while still in their containers, are transferred from the plastic boxes in the refrigerator to my larger boxes. These boxes are allowed to remain open to the air until time for storing in the car to be transported to their final destination. And I might add here, PLEASE do not make the mistake of having your very best show bloom *packed on the bottom of the pile*. ALWAYS place your very best blooms on the show table first.

There have been many articles written about refrigeration of camellia blooms for show and monthly meetings. In my opinion, there are many reasons why refrigeration, plus the use of NAA should not be overlooked by the exhibitors. A few of these are listed below:

1. Many times camellia blooms reach their best stage of blooming too early for exhibition. I believe that these particular blooms should be picked at their peak of blooming and promptly refrigerated.

2. By following this procedure, we will have more and better blooms for our show tables.

3. Flowers picked at peak condition and refrigerated will be strengthened by the use of NAA, and therefore, will be better flowers than if they were left on the plants and picked after the optimum blooming period.

4. Many blooms would never be exhibited unless they were preserved by NAA and refrigerated.

This is my final bit of advice and recommendation to all of my camellia friends:

- a. Apply NAA solution to the floral axis of camellia blooms. The purpose of the NAA is to strengthen the bonds between the petals and the stem and delay the petals dropping off.

- b. Maintain fairly high relative humidity in the plastic boxes while stored in the refrigerator.

- c. Keep the stems of the blooms in the NAA solution with saturated balls of cotton.

Over the past few years, much of this information has been presented to you in various articles in the *CAMELLIA REVIEW* and other Camellia magazines. *Take Heed*, my friends, apply this knowledge. You will have much more fun with your "hobby of camellias", and we will have finer shows by being able to see "THE BIG ONE THAT ALWAYS GOT AWAY."

THE SYDNEY CAMELLIA SHOW

Peter Duly

President, New South Wales Branch
Australian Camellia Research Society

The camellia show in Sydney was first held ten years ago in 1959. The original concept was to provide a display of camellias to demonstrate to the people of Sydney what beautiful flowers camellias are and how they could be grown.

It was decided the best way to do this was to have a completely organised decor rather than stage a competitive show. The interest aroused by this first display has been wonderfully gratifying to all camellia lovers and the original concept of a non-competitive show has been retained. There are now a number of competitive shows held in Sydney by other horticultural groups, so it has never been necessary to alter our thinking on this matter.

For the first shows the basic theme was designed by the famous camellia artist Paul Jones. He planned the colour scheme and the central decorations and the show was staged around this. During the first planning period when investigations were made as to where to hold the show, our New South Wales Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society was approached by Farmer's Ltd., a large Sydney-based department store chain, to hold it in their Blaxland Gallery. It has been held there ever since, much to the happiness of all concerned.

The organization of the show is controlled by a show committee headed by the show manager. Their work starts about seven to eight months before show time, which is during the last week in July. This time coincides approximately with the peak blooming time in Sydney. Flowers come from as far afield as 69 miles away. The show is staged on Sunday evening and runs Monday through Wednesday. During that time any

blooms that wilt are replaced.

On Sunday morning teams of "pickers" go into the camellia gardens and gather the flowers, either picking them or gathering those that have been picked by the owner of the garden. The flowers are brought to a receiving site in Blaxland Gallery, where the receiving committee sorts them and places them on tables by variety. Flowers that have been bruised or are otherwise unsuitable for display are eliminated, having in mind that none of the flowers on the display table will be identified by the name of the grower and that the prime objective is to have flowers of display quality.

Individuals, usually women but possibly a husband and wife team or two, are assigned to decorate the show tables. Specific varieties of camellias have been assigned to these decorators for their respective tables, the purpose being that every table will be colorful and harmonious. The varieties are of course identified on the tables. Under this plan, a variety may appear on two or more tables in the Gallery. The decorator goes to the receiving room and obtains her blooms as she needs them.

Usually 2000 to 3000 flowers are displayed and some 20,000 people see them over the three days, including Monday evening. The fact that the decor and arrangement has been completely planned beforehand allows the best available camellias to be shown to the best advantage and produces a wonderful spectacle. Always included is a large educational exhibit with many people in attendance to advise prospective camellia growers what to do for optimum results.

For most shows in Australia, proceedings start with an opening ceremony.
(Continued on Page 17)



UPPER: At the table from left: Mrs. John (Annette) Riddle, Show Manager; Peter Duly; Mrs. John Gorton, American-born wife of Australia's Prime Minister who opened the show; Professor E. G. Waterhouse; Mr. L. Byrne, Managing Director of Farmer's Department Store where the show was held; and Mrs. Peter (Pat) Duly.

LOWER: Left, Illustrative of the plan of table decoration; Right, Mrs. Gorton and Professor Waterhouse at one of the tables.

COMPANION PLANTS FOR CAMELLIAS

Mark J. Anthony

Superintendent, Descanso Gardens

(Excerpts from a talk that Mr. Anthony made to members of Pacific Camellia Society.)

All shade loving plants seem to like an acid soil condition. They can be planted, therefore, in the same type of soil and fertilized with the same general type of fertilizer that we use for camellias. We place these different plants among our camellias under the oaks in Descanso Gardens, thus having color throughout the year as the different plants bloom. What I say is directed, of course, to people who grow their camellias in the ground in their gardens.

Azaleas are probably the most popular and satisfactory companion plants for camellias. Many people think they are hard to grow but they are not if they are planted properly. We particularly like the *Indicas* (sun azaleas) because they bloom over such a long period. The popular variety 'Mrs. Fred Sanders', for example, blooms from September to May. We like to plant azaleas in beds at Descanso. In single plantings the dirt washes over the roots and they are more inclined to die off. We dig out a place for the bed and fill it with a rough 100% German peat moss that will last. We have found that azaleas thus planted will do well for about seven years, then we dig

them up and replant them in new peat moss. We wash out the roots well when we replant them.

Don't try to doctor a sick azalea. Rip it out and replant it in new peat moss after thoroughly washing the roots. Or get a new one if the old one is so far gone that it will take too long for it to recover.

We fertilize our azaleas with four parts cotton seed meal and one part sulphate of ammonia. Sulphur is bad as it kills beneficial fungus.

A beetle that eats the roots may give trouble. We dust the peat moss with a 5% Dieldren solution.

Acuba stands more shade than camellias and is good for that dark corner.

Fern, Maiden Hair, Australian Tree and New Zealand Tree, goes well with camellias.

Bilbergia is good for a spot of color between camellias. It can also be cut for use in arrangements.

You can fool people into thinking you have fragrant camellias by using *Daphney* or *Osmanthus Fragrance*. They take the same care as camellias. They are both easy to grow if left alone. Avoid breaking the roots. Do not fertilize. Water when the camellias are watered.

Clivia blooms well in the shade if

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it is not disturbed. There are both the wide strapped variety with large flowers and the narrow leafed variety with smaller and more profuse flowering. They love leaf mold. They may freeze but we usually get the flowers.

We obtain color in the foreground in winter and spring with *Primula Malicoides* and *English Primrose*. We plant them in drifts rather than as border plants (in line). Sow bugs like them but Dielren will control.

We like to plant bulbs among the camellias — *Scilla*, *Grape Hyacinth*, *Daffodils* and *Tulips*. We plant them in little groups or drifts. We learned from the daffodil people who hold their annual show in Descanso Gardens to plant the daffodil bulbs nine or ten inches in the ground and to cover the plantings with two to three inches of horse manure. As you know, La Canada is a "horsy" area and we have many people who are glad to keep us well supplied with manure. We use it as it comes off the pile.

We seed *Virginia Stock* and *Baby Blue Eyes* over the bulbs.

After the winter flowers are finished, we clean out the beds and plant bedding *Begonias* and fancy leaf *Begonias*; also *Impatiens*, *Coleus*, *Ageratum* and *Lobelia*.

Coral Bells do well in partial shade and are a good colorful perennial. *Companula* is a good ground cover with color.

Rhododendrons are satisfactory if you have good soil, high shade and humidity and good water. They do well in Northern California but not generally in Southern California. They will grow at Descanso Gardens and in the Huntington Botanical Gardens where the water is good and where there is much watering and therefore humidity.

We have planted *Cymbidium Orchids* at Descanso on mounds of rough bark, peat moss and oak leaves. They need quite a bit of light and

we have broken a Descanso rule that prohibits cutting out live oak branches to make more light for our cymbidiums.

Duchesnia (mock strawberry) is a fine evergreen plant for a low ground cover between camellias. *Ajuga reptans* can also be used, but should be kept a foot or two from the camellia plant. *Helxine moss* grows too fast and can damage camellias. Ground covers should be kept away from the base of camellia plants.

Northern California Camellia Council

The Northern California Camellia Council will hold its fifth annual dinner and unofficial show on Friday, February 7, 1969 at 8:00 P.M. Carmen's at McHenry Village, Modesto, who prepared a fine buffet last year, will do it again for \$3.00, tax and tip included. There will be an executive business meeting from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Dr. J. Holtzman of the Modesto Camellia Society has stated that camellia people from both ends of the State, Southern as well as Northern, are invited to attend.

SYDNEY SHOW (Cont.)

mony. A person of note outlines the reason for the show and then proclaims that the show is officially open. The Sydney show has been opened in different years by the Governor General's wife, the Prime Minister's wife and by some of our American friends, Milo Rowell and Harold Dryden. On the first occasion it was opened by Professor E. G. Waterhouse.

The show manager has, in the past, been a male or a husband and wife team. This year, however, a new precedent was established in that a sole lady, Mrs. John Riddle, was the manager. The result attested to the beautiful effect of a woman's touch.

THE SINGLE CAMELLIA

Roy T. Thompson
Glendale, California

In the last half century the popularity of camellias has experienced a remarkable rise, as witness the number of camellia societies over the country. Our California societies, particularly, are vigorous and healthy. Among the committed enthusiasts who hold membership in them, the single camellia has, at last, come into its own; this form is now recognized and appreciated for itself, irrespective of its position among other forms. It is no longer, as it was in the mid-nineteenth century, looked upon as an ugly duckling hardly worth the name of camellia.

The chief reason for this change, undoubtedly, is that the camellia public has been freed from the stylistic inhibitions which prevailed in previous periods; camellias are now approached from a fresh point of view. This change has given single camellias an even chance with the other forms, and naturally, they have gained much in the re-evaluation which has taken place.

The chief appeal of the single is its relative simplicity; one quick look at such a flower produces an almost instant psychological effect: a circle of petals around a golden center. In this arrangement the stamens play a far larger part in the flower's total effect than is the case in other, more complicated forms. The glowing, yellow gold of the center sets off, and immensely embellishes by its obvious contrast, the surrounding ring of petals. Contrast is one of the accepted means of establishing æsthetic effects, and in this regard the single has every advantage. Semi-doubles, for example, present all sorts of combinations of petals—the big rabbit-eared ones are simply stunning in their æsthetic appeal—and there are many other effective combinations of petals and stamens, but in none of them is there

anything like the drawing power of the solid gold center of the single. Nor do I wish to disparage such big balls of color as are produced by *Noble Pearl* flowers; I'm simply pointing out that there are great *differences* in their appeal. The big peonies are explosions of color; the singles are an artist's painting. It might well be that the æsthetic effect of the singles is deeper and more lasting because it has definite intellectual qualities, such as balance, proportion, symmetry, unity, and definition—qualities which the big peonies do not regularly display. The big peonies are dazzling emotionally, but they are also far more complex and less easy to understand.

Over the years since 1927 (when I became interested in camellias) there have been a great many changes in public taste. Forty years ago *size* was the all-important requirement for a top camellia. A hundred years ago *regularity* was the first requirement; only the rigidly regular formals had status; no other kind of flower seemed to count, or to deserve the name of camellia. Today no one type of flower rules the roost so completely as at that time; all types make their innings today, and this, probably, is the most important development of all. Today we have a much saner base for flower appreciation, and a much wider field for æsthetic activity. In an age when there are wider opportunities for all sorts of applications of the laws of beauty, the single camellia has naturally assumed a more important place.

An interesting example of the growing vigor of the camellia hobby is the recent wide interest in small flowers—the miniatures. Camellia shows now have a special classification for them. Up to a decade ago these

(Continued on Page 20)

UMBRELLAS TO PROTECT FLOWERS

It's a strange sight to the casual passer-by but not to the neighbors. They have become accustomed to the annual umbrella sprouting in the garden of Mr. F. L. Thompson in Homebush, NSW, Australia.

Mr. Thompson, a keen camellia show competitor, devised the following method for protecting his blooms during the show season. Large umbrellas, some with plastic windows near the center top, are opened and the handles placed in a long length one-half inch diameter black conduit.

At first the wind was a great problem. Umbrellas took off. Mr. Thompson has solved the problem by using small concrete stands which are pinned to the ground with a tent spike. The conduit is set into the stand and the umbrella is weighted with large lead sinkers. The salesman in the sporting goods store remarked "you must be after some pretty big fish" when Mr. Thompson purchased the entire stock of these outsize sinkers.

As the plants grow taller the umbrellas can be raised by using a slot pin or screw placed into holes drilled opposite one another in the conduit. There is many a Show Manager who has been grateful for Mr. Thompson's protected blooms, and from time to time he catches a big one.

SELECTING (Cont.)

Sasanquas understock. It is likewise easily rooted, fast growing, and well-adapted as "feet" for the less hardy or rare varieties of Japonicas. Before you waste good scions, spend some time in search of vigorous, well-suited understock, rather than utilize some trash you may have at hand. You will be rewarded with a grafted plant that will continue to grow thriftily even after the top has caught up with the understock. The grafted top can not be expected to do justice to itself if you limit it by tying it onto poor, weak, stunted roots.



CAMELLIA RESEARCH RESUMED AT ARBORETUM

Dr. William Stewart, Director of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, has announced that research work with camellias will be resumed at the Arboretum with the appointment of Dr. George P. Hanson as Plant Geneticist, Dr. Clifford Parks for six years did extensive work in camellia hybridization, working primarily toward the development of fragrance in camellias, more cold hardy varieties and hopefully, a yellow camellia. Because of Dr. Stewart's inability to obtain an appropriation for continuance of the position of Plant Geneticist, the work was discontinued and the thousands of camellia plants under study were passed out to different institutions and people for follow-up study. Dr. Parks assumed new duties at the University of North Carolina.¹

While Dr. Hanson has had no experience with camellias (he admits that he saw his first camellia after arrival in Southern California), his background fully qualifies him for the work that he will do with camellias at the Arboretum. He graduated with a B. S. degree in 1956 from South Dakota State University with an Agronomy major; Crops & Soils. He received his M. S. at South Dakota in 1958 with an Agronomy major; Plant Breeding. He received his Ph.D from Indiana University in 1965, his Thesis being on the subject "The effect of accessory chromosomes on crossing over in maize."

His teaching experience has been as follows: At Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania in botany, genetics and microbiology, 1962-1965. At Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, in botany, genetics and plant physiology, 1965-1967. At Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, in botany and biology, 1967-1968.

Dr. Hanson spent August 20-30, 1968 at the Arboretum with Dr. Clifford Parks in reviewing the work

that Dr. Parks had done. He assumed full time Arboretum staff duties as Plant Geneticist on October 1, 1968.

¹See CAMELLIA REVIEW, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Nov. 1967), "Observations on Camellia Research Activities at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum Through July 1967" by Dr. Clifford R. Parks.

SINGLE (Cont.)

small flowers had no place in popular acceptance or in shows. This broadening of taste in camellias and the creation of a new classification in camellia shows is a most hopeful sign that the hobby is growing, that it has remarkable vigor, and, above all, that it has promise of a long life to come.

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PEST CONTROL FOR CAMELLIAS

Cecil Blumenthal
Sydney, NSW, Australia

On the art and practice of growing camellias I can only speak of my own area, Sydney, Australia.

The New South Wales Branch of The Australian Camellia Research Society has about 400 members in Sydney who practice a similar number of differing systems of cultivation, all of them the best. Camellias are extremely hardy plants which, once established, fend very well for themselves.

The climate is favourable for growing camellias and gardening in general. The rainfall is about 50", somewhat erratic but when it rains it usually pours. The worst aspect of the weather is the hot summer westerly winds and the cold winter westerly winds. There are few frosts, some of us being in frost free areas, and the humidity is usually high. We are well supplied with soft water, slightly acid because of the dissolved Carbon Dioxide from the air.

Because of the long hours of sunshine it is necessary to disbud some varieties several times a year particularly if show blooms are required. Most of us leave all the buds on the singles and semi-doubles in the garden to gain a better show of bloom.

With the mild climate insect pests are prevalent. Many of them cause little damage. The Loopers, Leaf rollers, night flying bees (which cut off parts of leaves to make their nest) and the Psyllids (Leaf hoppers) come in this category. The psyllids may be vectors of the colour breaking virus as they have been shown to spread the tomato and potato leaf wilt viruses.

SCALES of various kinds can be injurious to the plants. The so called tea scales, one rod shaped the other round, are leaf suckers and cause leaf mottling and much cell damage. These produce young, with overlapping generations, during the whole of the year

so to achieve good control it is necessary to spray whenever any trace of them is found. The Pulvinaria scale is a stem sucker and being partly buried in the bark is almost invisible until the female starts to enlarge greatly in the mid and late spring. It then moves up towards the new growth where it lays its eggs under the leaf with a long cottony tuft to protect them. Spraying should be done after hatching in late December or early January. There are two suitable sprays. White oil or lime sulphur. Either but not both.

MITES are particularly troublesome. With the mild winter they breed and multiply the whole year. Control of these is complicated by the presence of alternative hosts in the garden. With the exception of the Brevipalpis or false spider mite which is found in the Brisbane area, all the mites are the 4 legged Eriophyid species. The authority on these mites is H. H. Kieffer of the California Department of Agriculture.

Two of these mites affect the foliage.

Calacarus Adornatus (Keiffer) is a purple mite with 5 rows of white spots and distinctive head markings. These cause the underside of the leaves to become reddish or rust coloured and the tops of the leaves silvery. Early infestations can be seen as a light dusting of cast off skins on the leaf, seen when the leaf is looked along against the light. This mite is also found on fuschias and viburnum.

ACAPHYLLA STEINWEDENI is an orange coloured 4 legged mite which causes the leaves to look dry and papery and with a heavy infestation causes defoliation. It is not so common on camellias as the Calacarus adornatus but can be very troublesome if an alternative host, the pitto-

(Continued on next page)

sporum, is growing nearby.

Lime sulphur or Kelthane are both very effective when applied with good spray equipment.

More insidious is the third mite, ACERIA CAMELLIAE which lives in the flower bud scales. There is no doubt in my mind that most of the camellias which open very late, or open very few buds, or fail to bloom at all, are infected by this mite. In thousands of examinations of blooms affected by this mite I have never seen any sign that the flower is damaged except that it may be deformed. The singles and semi-doubles open well even in the presence of the mite but the fuller flowers are definitely affected. The hairyness of the inside of the bud scale seems a critical factor, for it is here that the mite dwell amongst the filaments lining the bud scales. Varieties such as 'Spring Sonnet,' 'Sawada's Dream' and 'Mariana' are ones which can be prevented from blooming as also can 'E. G. Waterhouse' from the C. Williamsii group. The usual effect is for later and poorer flowers, although some varieties may bloom well before the mites build up large colonies or on random mite free buds.

After several years trial it seems that some control may be achieved by regular spraying, at least once a month and after rain, with Kelthane or lime sulphur, the spray to be directed particularly at the terminals where the flower buds are. The idea is to prevent the mites entering the flower bud which they seem to do some short time before March (1st Month Autumn) so it is necessary to spray from early January. I do not know where they come from but I am certain they do not come from a carryover on the plant from the previous year.

(It must be remembered that because Australia is in The Southern Hemisphere, their seasons are the opposite of ours in The Northern Hem-

isphere. "December or early January" in this instance would be "June or early July" for us.—Ed.)

Using this spray technique, we have been able to flower 'William Bull', prolifically, early in the season and to flower 'Hikaru-genji' (Syn. 'Herme') which had hardly opened a flower for several years while the untreated sport, 'Spring Sonnet' flowered poorly and very late.

APHIDS are some trouble on new growth and developing flower buds but they can be easily disposed of with one of the many commercial sprays.

CASE MOTHS are seen as the caterpillar which lives in a case to which it attaches pieces of leaf and or twig to afford it additional protection. These can be picked off when seen or sprayed with arsenate of lead. One variety Saunders Case Moth grows to 5 or 6".

The hot summer westerlies can play havoc with the new growth particularly if the winds are early as they have been this year. Good cultural practice can improve the root spread of the plants thus ensuring that they can get up enough water to keep the plant turgid even on the hottest driest day. Generally it is essential to terrace the garden beds so that the soil is level with no chance of the water going any place except down. Terrace by building up, not by levelling, and build up with sand having first weeded the bed and dug the natural soil thoroughly. Then dig in the sand adding some peat or compost to help retain water. Plant the camellias, stake well and give the ground a light dressing of well rotted cow manure worked in to the top 2" of soil. Look after the plants for the first 6 months or until they are well established. From then on a light mulching now and then, perhaps a little cow manure or other animal manure once a year and water on occasions as required. Never water lightly except perhaps

to drench the foliage. Water thorough and deeply, the roots should be kept 2 to 3 feet below the surface where the temperature and moisture are fairly stable. Artificial fertilizers are useful to correct manifest deficiencies if they should occur but with plants in the ground these fertilizers are likely to cause more troubles than they cure. After all, camellias are a slow growing evergreen plant with modest nutrient requirements.

Die-back involving the *Glomerella Cigulata* fungus is a problem for some of the growers here although we have not experienced any as yet. Experiments are being carried out using 'Griseofulvin' in the hope that it will control this disease. It should. Some of us are using it to control petal blight on Azaleas which is similar to Camellia Petal Blight. It should work well.

There is one last problem but not the least—space.

WHAT'S WINNING (Cont.)

slow but rewarding. The local seedling 'Ellie Rubensohn' is large and of unusual colouring, somewhat variable in flower form and very fine when at best—a rampant grower, reminiscent of Jack and the beanstalk! The true 'Howard Asper', 'Lila Naff' and 'Fire Chief' are yet to be tried. 'William Hertrich' is prone to fungus die-back and 'Buddha' seems constitutionally unsound in Sydney.

The sasanquas are a joy here. Our local seedlings 'Exquisite', 'Lucinda'

and 'Plantation Pink' are all good, particularly the latter, and they will soon be joined by others including 'Edna Butler', 'Jennifer Susan' and 'Bert Jones', which is quite outstanding. Our Australian 'Hiryu' (Kanjiro), 'Mine no Yuki', 'Setsugekka', 'Shishi Gashira' and 'Showa no Sakae' are the best of the rest, to date. We look forward to still further improvement in this field.

The word *saluenensis* is like a red rag to a bull, as far as I am personally concerned, due to its alarming tendency to fungus infection, a fault which appears to have been handed on to most of its progeny, including the *williamsii* varieties. We persist with 'Donation', undoubtedly the finest landscape variety ever grown in Sydney, but restrict to grafting as this accelerates production and thus reduces the chance and incidence of infection.

An American reader with an eye to the show bench will, I fear, have gained the impression that we have very little of our own raising to offer. On the other hand, camellia lovers the World over have very good cause to thank America for her bounteous and beautiful camellia productions and it is with this in mind that I have written these notes. We may have lost the initiative but our interest and enthusiasm are unbounded. I guess the Melbourne Cup winner to be 'Margaret Davis' but she just may not stay the distance!

KININS

Harold E. Dryden

We have been hearing about the use of kinins to cause cut camelli blooms to last longer. Mel Cum visited in Modesto, California where the offices of Shell Development Company are located. Shell has been doing development work in chemical compounds which have been of benefit to the agricultural people of California. Bob Dorn, a member of the

Modesto Camellia Society, works for the Shell Development Company and told Mel about kinins, in fact gave him a laboratory sample which Mel has been using with success. I scented a story and asked Bob if he would get one together for me. Here is what Bob reported.

The compound which Mel has used
(Continued on next page)

and which he calls "kinins" is a synthetic member of a class of plant regulators known as kinins. Applied near harvest, it delays yellowing and other manifestations of senescence that occur during transit and storage of a number of leafy green vegetables. Tests at Shell also indicated that the compound extended the bloom life of certain cut flowers. It thus functions as a maintenance hormone stimulating protein synthesis after the plant has been cut off from its normal source of supply.

When it looked like the compound had a chance as a senescence inhibitor for vegetables such as lettuce, brussel sprouts, etc., which would present a potentially large market in California, Shell discussed with the Food and Drug Department of the U. S. Government the question of a petition to use the product commercially. A number of road blocks were placed before Shell, so much so that the cost of development of the compound would far exceed potential sales that might result. So, reports Bob Dorn, the compound remains a laboratory curiosity until things change, either with Shell or F. & D. The Company's plant physiologist told Bob that in his opinion kinins will have very little future with camellia people as the possibility of one being marketed is very remote.

First Northern Cal. Camellia Show

The First Annual Camellia Show of the Northern California Camellia Society was held at the Twentieth Century Club in Berkeley on Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24, 1946, opening at noon on Saturday and closing at 6 P.M. on Sunday. The Show was generally deemed to be outstandingly successful, for which major credit was given to Show Manager Harold Paige and his committee of volunteer workers. Show winners

were as follows:

Semi-double white—

'Ethlington White' (now known as 'Waterloo')

Semi-double pink—

'Grandiflora Rosea'

Semi-double red—

'Wakanoura Red' (now known as 'Tricolor (Siebold) Red')

Semi-double variegated—

'Candida Elegantissima' (now known as 'Nagasaki')

Double white—

'Alba Fimbriata' (now known as 'Fimbriata')

Double pink—

'Francine' (now known as 'Elegans (Chandler)')

Double red—

'Pope Pius IX' (now known as 'Prince Eugene Napoleon')

Double variegated—

'Paeoniaeflora' (now known as 'Aspasia Macarthur')

Best bloom in the show—

'Alba Plena'

Vol. 1, No. 1 issue of Northern California Camellia Society Official Bulletin.

His Camellias

We have camellias round our door,
We have them front and back,
And all my friends, they envy me
The blooms I never lack.
But what they do not know is this;
I cannot cut at all.
He must see how high they grow,
And if the flowers ball.
He must check the bush for strength
And then the flower's hue
The whites for one that is so pure,
The reds that do not blue.
But soon the season passes by,
Alas, not all is lost.
I'm sure to get a *bucket full*
The night before a frost

The above is a plagiarism of a poem "His Roses", by Myrna Dunham Jung, in "Horticulture", publication of Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The only change has been to substitute "camellias" for "roses" in the first line and "season" for "summer" in the fourth from last.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk () are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: Frank Anderson; Secretary, Melvin Canfield, 2709 Scott Pl., Bakersfield 93306
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through April in Police Bldg., 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Ronald Cowan; Secretary, Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 97205
Meetings: 1st Thursday October through April in Orange County Farm Bldg., 1916 W. Chapman, Orange

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Dr. Roy O'Neal; Secretary: Mrs. Martha Derr, 6454 Oakridge Way, Sacramento 95831
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Robert Kellas; Secretary, Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave., Fresno 93702
Meetings: Nov. 20, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19 in Mayfair School, Fresno

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Wm. H. Hayes; Secretary: Mrs. Juanita Luther, 3408 Camby Rd., Antioch 94509
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Adm. Bldg., 510 G St., Antioch

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Karn Hoertling; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 N. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: James Tuliano; Secretary: Mrs. Joe L. Vendracek, 13176 Fenton, Sylmar 91342
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Anthony F. Pinheiro; Secretary: Mrs. Hazel Grosso, 1424 Encina Ave., Modesto 95351
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Harvey L. Morton; Secretary: Robert C. McConnell
Meetings: 1st Monday November through May in Claremont Junior High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Albert H. Dekker; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 91208
Meetings: 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: R. E. Bernhardt; Secretary: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley, 65 Robles Drive, Woodside 94062
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Walter Harmsen; Secretary: Mrs. Janet Meyers, 744 E. Dover, Glendora
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Charles B. Persing; Secretary: Mrs. William Schmitt, 101 Minot St., Chula Vista
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Abe D'Innocenti; Secretary: Miss Pat McIntyre, 1810 Olive Ave., Apt. 4, San Jose 95128
Meetings: 2nd Thursday at Willow Glen Branch, American S/L, San Jose

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: James Grant; Secretary: Mrs. Inez Tryon, 614 Forest Dr., Sebastopol
Meetings: 4th Thursday, except Nov. (3rd Thursday) and Dec. (to be decided) in Redwood Empire S/L Assn., 1201 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Grady L. Perigan; Secretary: Mrs. Marie Perigan, 1147 Daines Dr., Arcadia 91006
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of Nov., 4th Friday of Dec. and 4th Thursday Jan. through April in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

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CAMELLIA

Society, Inc.

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